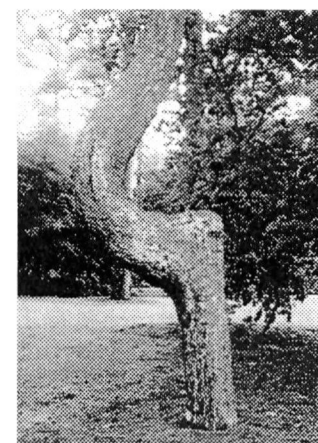


THE BENT TREE

Volume 36, Issue 1 August 27, 2004
CCSU STUDENT NEWSPAPER



Fall Semester Opens at Clayton State - So Does the University Center

By John Shiffert, Director of University Relations

From



Picture taken from clayton.edu

A much-anticipated fall 2004 semester opened August 23rd at Clayton College & State University, along with the \$19 million, 131,000-square foot University Center (UC).

Day One of the University Center saw no less than 83 separate classes held in the University's new signature building. Although such a schedule will be typical for the University Center over the coming weeks, the building's official grand opening and dedication will be held later in the fall.

The new building, which serves as a combination student center,

classroom building and administration building, and which is without precedent in the University System of Georgia, opens at a key moment for Clayton State. Enrollment projections for the new semester have placed the current student population at more than 6,000 for the first time in the University's history, and the building's 17 new classrooms and more than 2,000 data drops will be needed to accommodate Clayton State's growth. Indeed, the first day of classes saw groups of students scattered about the building,

To



Photo taken by Ashley Spillers

most taking advantage of the numerous internet connections in virtually all of the UC's public places.

The University Center also houses technical and software support for the students' and faculty's 6000+ notebook computers, an information desk, faculty offices, the College of Information and Mathematical Sciences, meeting rooms and student organization offices as well as the offices of Campus Life... all helping to make the UC the central focus for campus life, thanks in part to the University Bookstore, Dining Services

(which will open in October), as well as numerous study and eating areas... which are "wired" as well.

The University Center is a four-story steel frame structure with masonry exterior walls, and features state-of-the-art audio-visual technology in all the classrooms, in addition to its other amenities.

Clayton College & State University, "Your University" for Atlanta's "Southern Crescent," is a state university of the University System of Georgia, located in Morrow.

More pictures of the University Center inside page 8...

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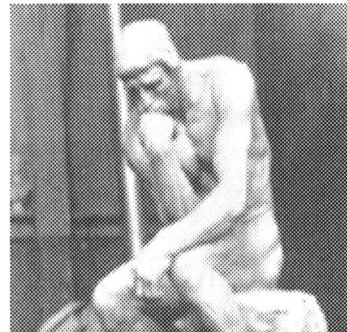
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Points of View



Cleaning Up the Mess

By Jeffrey Rozier

If you have ever broken an egg then you know how difficult it is to clean up. When you try to scoop it up it slips and slides through your fingers. Just when you think that you have control of it, it oozes out of your grasp.

This is the situation that the U.S.A. finds itself in in Iraq. Just when the U.S. thinks it has the situation under control, the yolk of reality slips through.

Instead of controlling events on the ground (ex. the post war looting, the guerrilla insurgency, and the prison abuse scandal) the U.S. is reacting to them to no avail. These events are alienating the Iraqis from the U.S. occupation forces. Like a broken egg, the Iraqi situation is sticky and messy, but with a little creative and forward thinking it may be possible to fix.

The merits of the U.S. invasion of Iraq are open for debate and will be so for some time to come. What is done is

done. I would like to focus now on how to begin to repair a broken Iraq.

My three proposals for fixing this mess are: gradual withdrawal of U.S. forces; increasing security forces from Arab and Islamic nations; promoting semi regional autonomy.

First, the U.S. must begin a gradual reduction of its forces in Iraq. The presence of a western military occupying force only reinforces the insurrectionists and gives legitimacy to their cause. It endangers Iraqis who are seen as associates of the Americans. From politicians to plumbers, those who are employed by the U.S. become targets of the guerrillas. Therefore a withdrawal of American forces would deny legitimacy to the cause of the insurrectionists who attack Americans and Iraqis alike.

Secondly, a withdrawal of American troops will leave a security vacuum.

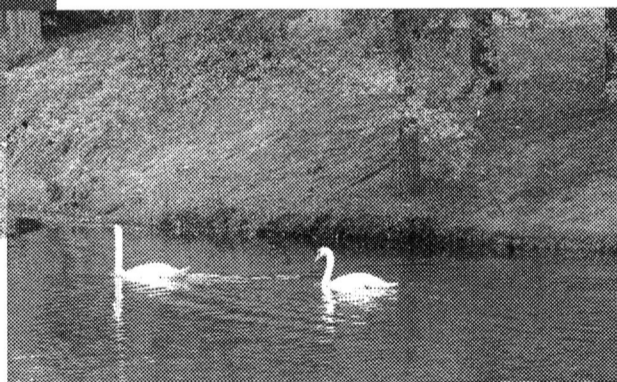
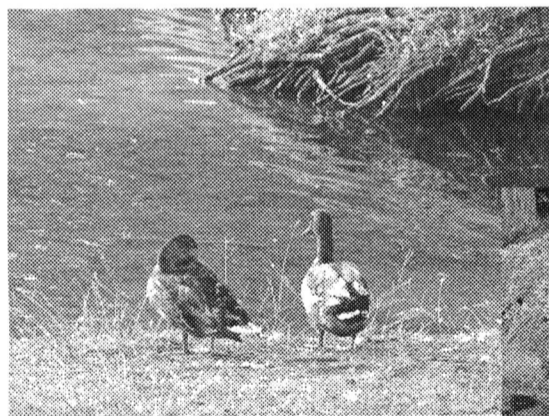
Without security for the Iraqis, all other efforts and endeavors to rebuild Iraq will fail. To fill the security void that will be left by the withdrawal, President Bush must request that nations from the Arab League and other Muslim nations such as Pakistan and Indonesia provide security forces for Iraq. An Arab and Islamic presence will show Iraq and the world that the U.S. did not invade Iraq to conquer and control an oil rich Arab state. This would deny legitimacy to those who say they are fighting against western colonialism and imperialism.

Lastly, the U.S. should focus on promoting semi-autonomous zones rather than a centralized Iraqi government. Different areas of Iraq are more stable and politically more developed than other areas. For example, the northern Kurdish region was protected from the former Iraqi government since the first Gulf War. This led to semi-autonomy, which has

led to a semblance of democratic institutions. This is not a call for the break up of Iraq, but democracy is in its infancy in Iraq and one-size fits all policy is doomed for failure. Kurdish and Shia regions may be discouraged if they feel unstable areas are slowing their political and economic development. Progressive regional development will hopefully encourage volatile areas to follow suite.

These are three ideas that I believe would help stabilize a very difficult situation. Are they a panacea for all of Iraq's problems? No. But the situation in Iraq with the Bush administration appears to have no end game and a rudderless policy with no course to stay.

Views Around Campus



Pictures taken by Ashley Spillers

Protecting the Planet

By Redd Horrocks



Image taken from google.com

As the human race continues to grow, so too does the strain on our fragile planet. We cut down trees and burn them, we dig up natural fossil fuels and use them to power our machines, we smoke poisonous chemicals, we create polymers that refuse to break down naturally and just pile up as refuse, and we destroy animals for food, for fashion and for fun.

Slowly, we are turning the planet into a giant garbage can and leaching all of the aesthetic beauty out of it.

As we cut down or burn forests, we allow gases to be released into the air that damage the ozone layer and other aspects of the environment. We fail to replace these forests and the useful oxygen they provide the atmosphere with is gone. As the human race increases, there are more of us to breathe in oxygen and expel carbon dioxide. This oxygen normally comes back to us from plants. So, if we cut the plants down, there will be less around to produce oxygen and counter the growing level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. This can contribute towards global warming, which can melt the ice caps and severely endanger the fragile ecosystem of the world.

As we tap into fossil fuel resources, we risk a significant amount of harm to the environment. Oil refineries, rigs and wells are built upon landscape that may once have played home to many animals. We then risk the animals lives when we spill that oil, causing ocean dwelling creatures to die or become ill. We risk natural gas explosions that can kill humans



Picture taken by Ashley Spillers

as well as animals, and decimate livable areas. Our manufacturing plants spew chemicals into the air as they attempt to refine these products for our use. We use oil to make gasoline, which then is emitted from all the cars we insist on driving, causing even more pollution and damage to the air. Not only that, but these cars often kill people and animals.

When we create plastics, not only is the factory causing damage to the atmosphere, but most of these plastics cannot be broken down quickly when we are done using them. These plastic items then are either burned or buried. This causes pollution in the air and problems for future plants and creatures that wish to live or grow in that area.

When you buy fur, meat or other animal products, you are encouraging

the death of that animal. You are keeping the profit coming in for the slaughterhouses and the fur farms. While there is demand, these animals will continue to die. You may say that you are just one person, but one person can make an enormous difference. If each vegetarian in the world influences another person to become vegetarian, or at least to just try it for a week or a month, then slowly it will encourage more vegetarian products to become available and reduce the production of meat products.

Hunting is a sport, and not a necessary one. You can shoot at targets instead of animals. Or you can play paintball and hit a consenting being, instead of a frightened one. The notion of population control is understandable, but nature takes care of that itself. We shouldn't intervene.

Many animals have gone extinct because of us. Lets stop it from happening again.

I know that this is a harsh article, but if it helps just one person to jump on the bandwagon and help the fight against pollution and animal cruelty, then isn't it worth it?

What can you do?

Say paper when asked paper or plastic.... It may come from trees but at least it is both recyclable and biodegradable.

Sign up for rideshare and walk instead of driving when possible.

Clayton Place IS walking distance.

Buy a plant, or plant a tree.

Look into a hybrid car, and don't buy an SUV.

Quit smoking, or try and encourage someone you know to quit smoking.

Go vegetarian for a month.

Don't buy fur, leather, or bone items.

Recycle plastic instead of throwing it in the garbage. Same with glass.

When using natural gas to cook with, be mindful of leaving it on too long.

Turn it off as soon as possible. Don't turn the oven on to preheat until you need to. No point leaving it on for an hour before you even start cooking.

Don't hunt or fish. If you need mindless destruction, play paintball.

Drive carefully, soberly, and brake for animals. Protect your pets from being able to go places where they could be run over.

Adopt a grown animal instead of buying a puppy or kitten. You can even foster animals so that they can be found homes without risking being put down.

Go to www.veganoutreach.org and sign up for their newsletter.

ADVERTISEMENT

UNIVERSITY RIDESHARE

Are you looking for an empty parking space?

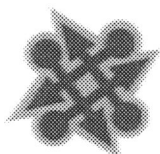
Are you using too much gas?

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://adminservices.clayton.edu/ps/ehsnewprogram.htm>.



1-87-RIDEFIND
Atlanta Regional Commission



Photo taken by Ashley Spillers

Remember that there are designated places to fish on campus. The ducks inhabit the area closest to the campus.

Campus Question

The question we asked was...

*What do you think about the death penalty?
Do you think there are alternative punishments
or is this a justifiable punishment for crime?*

A coworker asked me this question two years before my mom was murdered by three men who were strung out on drugs. My answer that day was the same as the day that my mom died. I do not believe in the death penalty. I don't support killing another human being for the murder of someone. Yes that statement may sound absurd but one thing that my mom said before she died was that "should something happen to her we should forgive the person responsible and pray for them to change their lives".

During the trials it was evident that my family didn't support my beliefs but eventually they began to see my point, we have no right to judge someone for they will ultimately be judged by God. Taking their lives does not bring my mom back. I understand the system and yes I believe every person has the right to a fair trial. If the state of Florida decided that death penalty was the correct punishment I'm not sure how I would have felt. Tough laws provided each with sentences they deserved. Two received life without the possibility of parole and the other one received a sentence of twenty years.

My prayer for each of them is that they give their life to the Lord and accept His unconditional forgiveness before their time comes to an end.
Tammy Wilson

I feel that the death penalty is completely hypocritical, and therefore should never be implemented. To say that it is wrong to kill in one breathe, and then kill a man with the other is barbaric and primitive. Also, as humans, we cannot deny that it is not only possible, but with our convoluted judicial system also likely, that an innocent man will be wrongfully convicted and declared guilty of a crime he did not commit. I feel that to those two arguments, there is none greater. It is wrong to kill. It is human to err. These are two fundamental truths that our pseudo-Christian society has accepted. The death penalty ignores them both and undermines the very morals that we pretend to have here in this country.

It's just that simple. If we have a death penalty, then how are we different from any terrorist that believes that those who do not share his/her ideals should be put to death. Sort of like seeking out to kill a group of people based on their ideals. Sort of like.... Oh, wait, didn't our president come from Texas where the death penalty is in full force. Hmmm.

John Brown

I think that the death penalty is a necessary form of punishment in the United States. With the growing population and the increasing amount of criminals roaming the streets, crime is becoming a huge problem. Many of the criminals free today are repeat offenders. If our justice system implemented the death penalty more often it would send a message to repeat offenders. Not to mention the fact that the jails are overflowing with people. Our tax dollars go towards paying for their cable TV (and they really have it in jail), exercise equipment, and air conditioning. If someone committed murder and was sentenced to life in prison, it is the honest, hardworking Americans that end up paying the price. We have to pay for that criminals' everything until he dies of natural causes. From a criminals' standpoint, that sounds like a pretty good deal-free food and cable TV. Many criminals commit crimes to get caught on purpose so they can get sent back to jail and get "taken care of" by our tax dollars. If we implemented the death penalty more often, we could use our tax dollars for more worthy causes, and lessen crime. I think we should learn a lesson from China's justice system. If you commit a crime, no matter if you steal a pack of gum or kill someone-you get a mulligan, one year of community service. But, if you are caught committing a crime for the second time, whether it's stealing a pack of gum or killing someone-you are executed. No questions asked. I think that's justice.

Christy

On December 22, 1975, a woman was at work in an accounting office on Glenwood Road in Decatur. She

was alone, with the door unlocked, waiting for her brother-in-law, who was her supervisor to arrive.

Instead of her brother-in-law, a young man, on Christmas furlough from a "rehabilitation" type program for youthful offenders came in. When the brother-in-law arrived, the woman had been strangled to death, with her pantyhose wrapped around her neck with one leg and her hands tied behind her back with the other.

This woman was my mother-in-law. Because the death penalty was being challenged before the Supreme Court. The killer, Walter Dunaway, is in Valdosta State Prison, without chance of parole.

A few years later, Jean Buice was stomped to death in a park in Decatur. Amp Wiley, the killer, could have been sentenced to death, but instead was given life without parole. If ever someone deserved to be put to death, it was this man. Even more than Walter Dunaway.

Do I support the death penalty? Yes. But until that sentence gets all the Amp Wileys and Walter Dunaways, it shouldn't be applied. If a person is convicted of capital murder, he or she should be put to death, period. Until then, no one should be. It isn't fair to my family, to the Buice family, and to all of the people who lost family in the Oklahoma City Federal Building bombing. Funny how one was put to death and we'll be feeding the other for years to come.

Pam Criswell

In response to the question regarding the Death Penalty, I personally do not feel that it is our "society's" judgment to place death on another's life. Whatever his or her crime may be, we as fellow human beings have not been given that judgment option. The question really relates back to, do two wrongs make a right? The answer to that question is NO! In murder cases, does killing the offender bring the offended back to life and the answer to that is NO! Many would beg to differ by stating the fact why should a person be

allowed to live life even in a jail cell after he or she has taken life? Well that is a good argument and many would lose trying to defend it; I am more compelled to allowing God to do His job in judgment then place a double portion on Him. Once He either forgives or condemns the offender, then does He come to judge you or me for breaking a commandment as well. Well to me it is food for thought!

Monique L. Aguirre

Like many questions, this one can not be answered with a simple 'yes' or 'no'. The use and application of capital punishment is necessary in a just society. Unfortunately, recent events have illustrated far too clearly that our current method of applying that penalty is fundamentally flawed. Far better that a thousand wanton killers languish at tax-payer expense than a single innocent man be executed by the state. Until we find a way to be more certain that we are not executing the wrong person, we have a moral obligation to suspend all executions.

Gary Lee

This country has ignored the victim for too long. People who kill other people and are proven guilty do not need to sit in jail for the rest of their lives. There they have time to get educations, file unnecessary lawsuits, etc. I believe that death by injection is the only true justice for our country.

Robert Coulter

This is in reference to the Death Penalty. I believe that the death penalty should indeed be used. But, ONLY IF the evidence proves, beyond a reasonable doubt, that the person is guilty. If there is any possibility that the person didn't commit the crime, then that person should be put on life without parole with a continuation. (Until it is decided one way or the other).

Robyn Lane

As horrible as it may sound. I think the death penalty should be used more often. I also think that when someone is sentenced the death penalty, they

Campus Question Cont.

should be put to death immediately. It's not fair for the tax payers to have to support the person for 10 or 12 years in a prison until his death. If he's going to have to die anyway, then what are they waiting on? If the death penalty was used more often, people would think twice before they committed crime. Why not kill a few murderers for the sake of saving some innocent people? After all, they still have a chance for a better life after their death here on earth if they decide to repent and accept Christ, but that is their choice.

Allisa Walker

I believe that the death penalty is an appropriate means of punishment for certain individuals. The decision to prosecute a person where the sentence is death is weighed very carefully. It must meet certain criteria before it can even be considered, which is rarely the case for the accused when he or she committed his or her act of violence. As a legal secretary for the District Attorney in the Griffin Judicial Circuit, I have seen where this sentence is highly justifiable and fits the crime. Many of the people that seem to have a problem with this punishment don't even know all the facts of the case. If the public knew all the facts of what these people did to their victims, they might not be so apt to let them sit.

Tonya Silver-Ryefield

One good thing about the death penalty (once carried out) is it has no repeat offenders.

Dirk Morrell

I believe that the death penalty is a necessity only because I do not want to pay to feed, clothe, house, and entertain all of the murderers, rapists, and child molesters who have committed such an awful crime that the jury believes they should die for it. Even though this may seem cold, I think that the government's money could be better spent improving the lives of the hard-working innocent people of this country.

Christina Patterson

Yes, I believe it is necessary because a lot of people don't think twice about the things they do, and I believe that if the punishment was more extreme people would. For example in some countries if you still chop off your hand, I bet the theft rate is very low. If you can just out right kill someone than I believe you deserve to be killed. But remember there are always exceptions to the rule.

Leah Baker

Wow, I've not much thought about it. Hmmm! Maybe if I can find some "spare time" amongst studying and family life, then I'll think about it. In the meantime, I'll pray about it. Thanks for the bug!

Wendy Marlow

There are two common sayings that come to mind when it comes to

consequences. Those are "an eye for an eye" and "turn the other cheek". Neither of these responses seems to fit completely. How can we justify killing someone for killing someone else? Then we would be guilty of the same crime that the convicted committed. Although, the death penalty has proven to be affective in reducing the amount of crime in states where it is legal. The crime rate in the states that has legalized the death penalty has drastically dived.

Kathryn Moore

I oppose the death penalty (at least in all but the most extraordinary cases). There are two reasons which are decisive for me:

1. There is no doubt that sometimes (even if rarely) persons are put to death for crimes of which they are not guilty. The state's wrongful taking of an innocent life can never be justified by any purported overall social benefits of the death penalty.
2. Even if innocent persons were never executed, there is also no doubt that, at least in the US, the death penalty is applied unfairly. Members of racial or ethnic minorities are much more likely than members of the majority white population to be executed for similar crimes. This blatant racism (not to mention class and gender prejudices) in the application of the death penalty makes its use unacceptable—at least, unless and until some procedure can be introduced which would eliminate this unfairness.

Chelsea Snelgrove
Part-Time Instructor
Humanities Department

I feel that NO one has the right to take another's life regardless of the crime. I feel that when the death penalty is used within the United States or anywhere else, there is a higher power that those involved must answer to. I also feel that the death penalty is an easy way out, for one who has committed a severe crime. How many times can you die? It releases the guilty from all charges and penalties. Therefore I feel that No one has the right to take another's life.

Felicia Perry

I think that the death penalty is necessary as means of punishment. There are a few injustices in our court and justice system but that will never change. I think that the death penalty is a great way in dealing with these criminals. Most criminals are very optimistic because when committing a crime, they believe that they can "get away with it" and with capital punishment as a message, maybe these idiots will finally see reality.

Anonymous

Do you have ideas about what should be in your student newspaper? Write us with your ideas!



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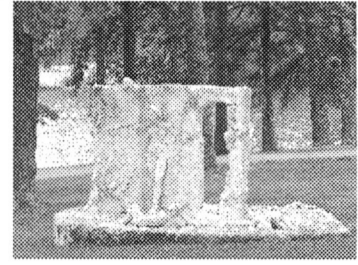
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Around Campus



Clayton State Welcomes Dr Kevin Rome

Interviewed by Redd Horrocks

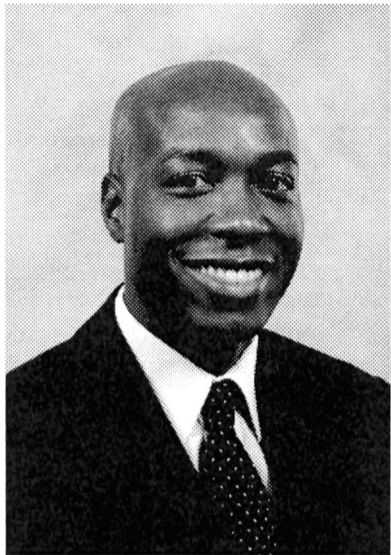


Photo provided by Dr. Kevin Rome

After rigorous interviews and some top notch candidates from across the country, Clayton State has finally selected a new Vice President of Campus Life. Dr Kevin Rome will oversee Student Life and Orientation, Counseling and Career Services, Diversity Services and Disability Services. With his eager enthusiasm and limitless energy, Dr Rome is becoming a familiar figure around the campus. The Bent Tree interviewed him to find out more about his plans and his position here.

BT: What attracted you to Clayton State?

KR: I have always wanted to return home and work with students from this area. I am particularly interested in urban institutions and institutions that represent the diversity of the community in which they exist. I found Clayton State attractive for many reasons!

BT: What does your job entail?

KR: It is simple, yet complex. I am here to assist the President with his vision for Clayton State and to serve the students attending Clayton State, while supporting the faculty, staff, and surrounding community. I will do this through my supervision of Campus life.

BT: What are your plans for the 2004/2005 Academic Year?

KR: I plan to learn as much as possible about Clayton State and to assist in the development of a plan for Campus Life at Clayton State. I also want to meet and listen to as many students as possible during the year in order to understand and respond to their needs.

BT: What excites you most about being here at Clayton State?

KR: The STUDENTS and the opportunity to be a part of a thriving campus excite me the most.

BT: What is the most important thing that students should know about you?

KR: I am student centered (meaning, I am here to serve students). Students are always welcomed to come by my office for whatever reasons they may choose.

BT: Are there any major changes in store for students as far as Campus Life is concerned, and if so, how would these changes directly affect students?

KR: Yes. We expect students to get involved in Clayton State. This is your university and you should act like it! If there are things that students would like to see happen here, we need to know and we need their assistance to make them happen. We are going to help more students realize how great Clayton State is and that they will have an awesome experience if they are willing to take an active role in the Clayton State community. For the next one to several years this will be the educational home for many students. Love starts at home and we want students to LOVE Clayton State!

Dr Rome's office is currently located in the Student Center room 223, and he can be reached at KevinRome@mail.clayton.edu

Look! Club Announcements

Campus Crusade for Christ will begin having a Bible Study every Thursday starting August 26. At every meeting, we have a free lunch. All are welcomed!

Society for Advancement of Management Interest Meeting will be held on August 31st at 12:00 pm C-10. Light refreshments will be served. We will have a new Member Picnic at Swan Lake on September 10th at Swan Lake at 2 pm.

Alpha Phi Alpha has an interest meeting scheduled for August 31, 2004 at 7pm.

The Ambassadors Team will hold an interest meeting on Thursday, September 9th at 12:00 in BHS room C-53.

Win a Pizza Party!!! Here's how...



That's right! Win a pizza party for you and fourteen of your friends. The Bent Tree and the Office of Student Life are sponsoring this contest. So is your next question "How do I win?" Simply submit an explanation of why you deserve the pizza party to the Bent Tree. With the explanation, please include your name, street address, and last four digits of your social security number. This information is to verify that you are a Clayton State student this fall. The first three students to submit their explanation will receive two tickets to see the Braves play the Florida Marlins on September 25, 2004.

The Explanation Guidelines:

- Should be between 100-150 words
- Must include submitter's name, email, & street address
- Must include last 4 digits of submitter Social Security Number
- Submission deadline is September 30, 2004

After your explanation is received, you will receive more the details about how to win the Pizza Party.

The Pizza Party will be near the end of the fall semester. Other winners could receive an intramural fee waivers or \$5 - \$10 on their Laker Card.

Clayton State Named Number One in Diversity... Again

By John Shiffert
Director of University Relations

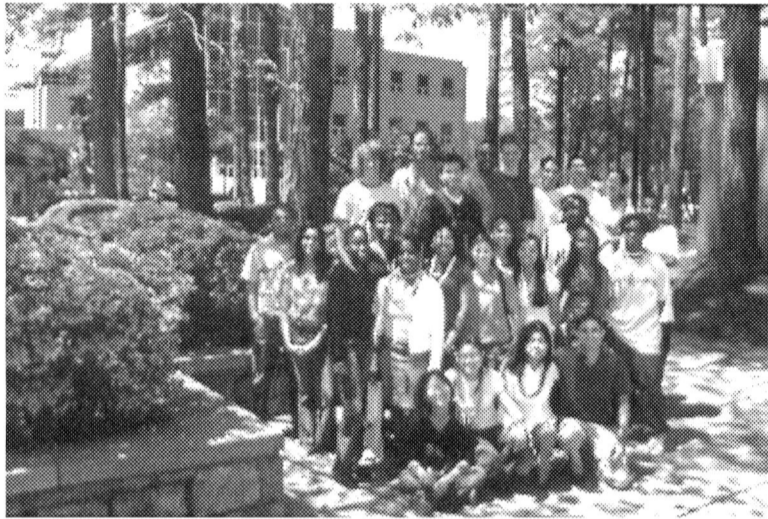


Photo provided by Dolores Cox

For the third time, the diversity of the student body at Clayton College & State University has been recognized by U.S. News & World Report.

In the 2005 edition of the magazine's much-heralded America's Best Colleges, Clayton State's fast-growing student body was recognized as the most diverse in the "Comprehensive College's - Bachelor's" category in the southern United States.

As explained on the magazine's website, "to identify colleges where students are most likely to encounter undergraduates from racial or ethnic groups different from their own, U.S. News factors in the total proportion of minority students - leaving out international students - and the overall mix of groups. The data are drawn from each institution's 2003-2004 student body."

U.S. News' diversity categories include American Indians and Alaskan Natives (Native Americans), Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders, African-Americans who are non-Hispanic, whites who are non-Hispanic, and Hispanics, producing a diversity index that ranges from 0.0 to 1.0. The closer a school's number is to 1.0, the more diverse is the student population. Clayton State's Diversity Score of 0.56 easily outdistanced Columbia (S.C.) and North Carolina Wesleyan, both with an 0.53 score. The 2005 Top 10 for the south...

Clayton State - 0.56

Columbia College - 0.53

North Carolina Wesleyan - 0.53

Limestone College - 0.52

Faulkner University - 0.51

Belhaven College - 0.49

Thomas University - 0.49

International College - 0.46

Methodist College - 0.46

U. of South Carolina Upstate - 0.45

U.S. News' southern region includes institutions in the states of; Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Florida, Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia and West Virginia.

Clayton State's student body, which is expected to top 6,000 for the first time for the fall 2004 semester which starts today, was initially recognized by U.S. News for its diversity in 2001. For the most recently-completed full semester (spring 2004), Clayton State's ethnicity breakdown was as follows...

African-American - 48.5%

White - 39.9%

Multiracial - 4.8%

Asian or Pacific Islander - 4.0%

Hispanic - 2.5%

American Indian or Alaskan Native - 0.4%

Come One, Come All Leaders *Student Life's* *Leadership Retreat*

The office of Student Life and Orientation is sponsoring a retreat for leaders on campus organizations and clubs. The Leadership Retreat is Friday, September 10 through Sunday, September 12, 2004. Everyone attending the retreat will get the scoop of what Student Life is planning for the year. Presidents and advisors make reservations for your group today!

The retreat will help individuals hone their leadership skills while enjoying the company of leaders from other campus organizations. This fun filled weekend includes icebreakers, games, and what else but leadership workshops. Club leaders and members will break personal boundaries while relaxing in the tranquil setting.

All this great fun and a fabulous place too. Attendees to this year's retreat will have the luxury of air-conditioning at the Papillon Resort, your gateway to a fun and stress-free vacation. The resort is

just an hour and a half from Clayton State in Whitesburg, Georgia. It is set on the banks of a creek with 50 acres of rolling terrain and offers nature trails, a pond, cabins, and two swimming pools. For more details about the Papillon Resort, check out their website www.a-papillonresort.com.

Kick off this year with a memorable retreat and loads of fun for free! Yes, it is free and space is limited! The registration priority deadline is Friday, August 20. The final registration deadline is 5:00 PM on Tuesday, August 31, 2004. In order to include as many campus organizations as possible, each organization may bring a maximum of four members. Contact Angela Avery (angelaavery@mail.clayton.edu) or Cora Johnson (stulife3@mail.clayton.edu) in the Student Life Office at 770.961.3510 for reservations and more information.



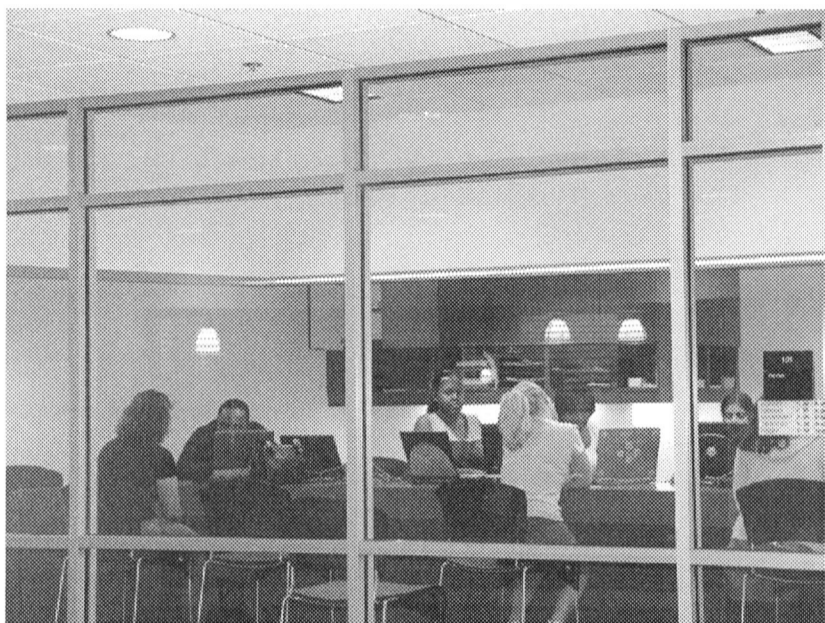
**Support
Clayton State's
Teams!
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Features

The New University Center... What is inside?

Continued from front page.

The Hub



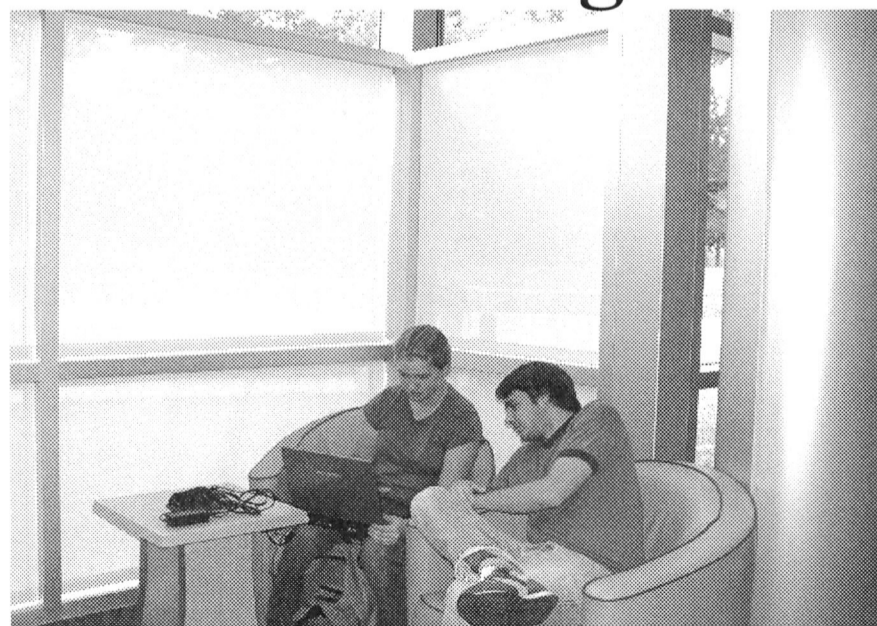
Campus Bookstore



Laker Card Office



Student Sitting Areas



...Plus many classrooms, the President's office, and even more sitting areas!

Pictures taken by Ashley Spillers

Smoking Bans: *Violation or Protection?*



By: Megan Lawrimore

Smoking bans are becoming more and more prevalent as they are put into effect in restaurants, bars, college campuses, workplaces, etc. Views regarding these restrictions differ greatly as debates intensify and conflicting members of society struggle to be heard. Are these bans violating the rights of smokers or are they protecting the rights of non-smokers? Obviously, an individual's personal habits and behaviors are not for others to control and regulate, as long as they fall within the limits of the law. Moreover, these characteristics should not be used for discriminating purposes, yet such prejudice is becoming more common in the workplace; in many states, employers may legally base their decisions to hire someone on whether they smoke or not. From the above information, it is apparent that the act of smoking is becoming severely limited. A person cannot smoke in places they normally would, and therefore must alter their lifestyle. No more kicking back

with a cigarette after dinner in a restaurant, no more lighting up outside after class, no more stress relief on the much needed break during a workday. However, it is important to review the perspective of the non-smoker as these smoking bans continue to emerge. The previously mentioned restaurants, schools, and workplaces of smokers are those of non-smokers as well. In many restaurants, the divisions between smoking and non-smoking sections are designated by an invisible line, possibly a doorway, but nevertheless, something that does not adequately prevent smoke from spreading. Is a non-smoking diner undeserving of protection against second-hand smoke? On college campuses, do non-smoking students enjoy walking outside to get a fresh breath of tar, arsenic, formaldehyde, etc.? Non-smokers have made the choice not to consume the 4000 chemicals in cigarettes, many of which are known poisons, and they are entitled to protect their health. Ultimately, smoking bans are likely to produce a positive



Photo taken from google.com

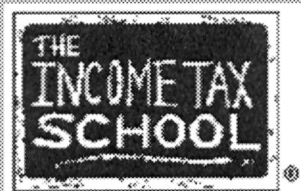
effect for both smokers and non-smokers, resulting in the protection of both groups. While it is true that smokers may have to reduce their smoking to avoid violating bans, such a reduction may be beneficial to them. First, the lack of public displays of smoking may prevent discrimination against smokers; people will be slower to say that smokers are detrimental to others and therefore, will be less likely to use their habit against them in

instances of employment, etc. Second, a reduction in smoking can only be good for a smoker's health (and it spares the severe withdrawal of quitting entirely); fewer cigarettes a day, fewer chemicals and poisons consumed, and maybe even several more minutes of life preserved to enjoy. As far as non-smokers are concerned, they get to enjoy smoke free establishments, breathe oxygen, and keep their lungs a nice shade of pink.

ADVERTISEMENT

Jobs for Students

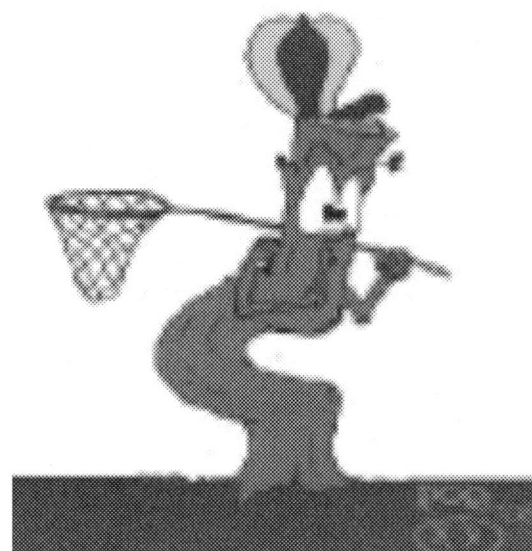
College students can get business experience and earn money from January through April at McRae's Tax II. There could be jobs for qualified students who attend McRae's low cost Income Tax Course. Classes begin August 30, 2004. For full information visit McRae's at 2763 Hwy 138 or call 770-478-3202.



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Can you relate?

Where Have All My Friends Gone?

By Andy Pippin

As a twenty-something, single male in the metro Atlanta area, I find myself asking, "Where have all my friends gone" on pretty much a weekly basis. After some careful observation and some long, alcohol induced thought, I've come to a pretty concrete answer to this question. They are married.

I know that a lot of people are scared of going to their mailboxes for fear of creditors, bills, jury duty notices, and those wasp nests that seem to only exist in the bushes around mailboxes in the South. But I have only one fear of what might reside in that dark aluminum can that sits atop a wooden post at the end of my driveway: wedding invitations. Now don't get me wrong. I love weddings. There's free alcohol, vulnerable thirty year olds who think they'll never get married, and a buffet that never seems to end. But I hate to see more and more of my friends settling down to what I can only assume is a happy existence. I mean, come on, you just met. I've known her as long as you have and I don't want to marry her. That has to mean something.

It seems that once people graduate from college, get an apartment or home of their own, buy a dog and a new car, they think the next logical step is to get married. So they go out to some bar, have thirteen gin and tonics, shack up with a complete stranger then propose sometime after breakfast and before lunch.

In college I was in a fraternity and had nineteen pledge brothers. Of the twenty of us, twelve are married, one is divorced and married again, and one died. That wasn't due to marriage, although we are still awaiting the autopsy report. So thirteen out of twenty are married and I can't think of one of them who is happy. Every time I try and plan a get together for us I get replies like "Well, Cindy's mom is in town this weekend" or "Well, Susan and I really need to get to Home Depot this weekend to finish our



Picture taken from google.com

guest bath". If I ever do get an OK from the guys it seems that they have to run every little detail by their wives or fiancés. I think they actually have some sort of agreement or contract that they must sign before I ever even see them. I imagine this contract must look like this:

I request permission for a leave of absence from the highest authority in my life for the following period:
Date

Time of departure

Time of return NOT to exceed

Should permission be granted, I do so solemnly swear to only visit the locations stated below at the stated times. I agree to refrain from hitting on or talking to other women. I shall not even talk to people of the female persuasion except as expressively permitted in writing below. I will not turn off my cell phone at any time, nor shall I consume above the allowed volume of alcohol without first phoning a taxi AND calling you for a verbal waiver of said alcohol allowance. I understand that even if permission is granted to go out with my friends, my fiancé/wife retains the right

to be pissed off with me for up to but not exceeding one week for no valid reason whatsoever.

Alcohol Consumption Amount:

Locations to be visited:

Females with whom conversation is permitted:

Stripper Clause: Notwithstanding the female contact permitted above, I promise to refrain from coming within fifty feet of a stripper or exotic dancer. Violation of this Stripper Clause shall be grounds for immediate termination of said relationship. I acknowledge my position in life. I know who is in charge of the household, and I agree it's not me. I promise to abide by your rules and regulations. I understand that this is going to cost me a fortune in chocolates and flowers. You reserve the right to obtain and use all credit cards in my name whenever wish to do so. I hereby promise to take you to a Michael Bolton concert should I not return home by the approved time. Upon my return home I promise not to wake you or breathe on you or attempt to engage in the act of love with you.

Signed: *Whooped Pansyman*

Now I understand that marriage is a state entered into by consenting parties of the proper age who have filled out all of the proper paperwork. I assume that I myself will someday get married. I just don't feel that now is the time for anyone my age to be tying themselves down and leaving their friends behind. I can't find anyone to go out with, anyone to go to a ball game with, anyone to sit up late at night and watch "Wild On" with Brooke Burke with. If you have to get married at such a ripe young age, do so with your friends in mind. Think of how they are going to feel knowing that they can never call you to come them out of jail again. Think of how they will feel when Georgia scores a touchdown in the final seconds of the SEC championship against LSU to win the game and you aren't there to celebrate with them. If nothing else think of their health. If you aren't there to tell your friends not to put that two-month-old milk in their cereal what do you think will become of their stomach lining?

It's not just the fact that I can't hang out with my married friends anymore. It's also the fact that they seem to be getting along just fine. Oh sure, they say they miss the good old days and all but I know what's really happening. They've got new friends. Married ones. They get together and they talk about babies. "Have you seen the baby? Gotta see the baby." They talk about buying houses in the suburbs and driving their kids to soccer practice. They play board games and can name every character in the movie "Nine and a Half Weeks". It's pathetic.

For my single friends, I love you. Thank you for standing by me all this time. I look forward to going to Hooters with you for Thanksgiving. To my married friends, congratulations. You've not only managed to screw up your lives but the lives of your friends as well.

Food

R'Eddible's Guide to Impressing People

By Redd Horrocks

At the quest for an easy and inexpensive appetizer. This recipe was brought to my attention over the summer and has become a great staple in my repertoire. It's good as a quick dinner or an appetizer. You can vary the quantities as you like, so I haven't included any.

Bruschetta

Tomatoes, finely chopped
Sliced Mozzarella Cheese
Olive Oil
Fresh Basil
Crusty French Baguette

Slice the bread at an angle in inch-thick slices. Drizzle olive oil over one side of the bread and then heap on some tomatoes. Cover the tomatoes with cheese and a leaf of basil. Then, put in the oven on 350 or in a toaster oven for just a couple of minutes until the bread starts to go brown. Serve warm from the oven.

You can also add garlic to the tomatoes for an extra flavor kick.

The Old Mill Steakhouse, 1095 Highway 54 West, Fayetteville 770460-6455

By Leigh Duncan

What a gorgeous Saturday night. Everyone was in short-sleeves and flip-flops. The first warm day of the spring solstice and the first time in a very long time that this mother can remember spending some quality time with her now grown children. Of course, offering to pay for dinner surely wasn't the motive for the gathering; rather the opportunity for an enjoyable evening with mom and her boyfriend, and the added opportunity to try something new and different...yeah, right!

We hadn't made reservations, and it was getting late. When we got to the Old Mill Steakhouse overlooking Whitewater Creek and Crystal Lake on Hwy. 54 in Fayetteville, the parking lot was nearly full. The wait was less than ten minutes, so we decided to stay.

THE ATMOSPHERE: Below the wooden deck that leads to the front entrance, guests dined on glass tables that overlooked the lake. The sound of a waterfall created a relaxing ambiance, which was enhanced by the easy rhythms of an acoustic guitar. The inside of the restaurant was warm and cozy, with rich warm woods and soft lighting; more like an old Victorian house than a restaurant. It was divided into multiple nooks and crannies that helped muffle the noise of the

busy bistro, and each area accommodated no more than 3-4 tables. Our party of five sat near the door to another dining deck overlooking the creek. You could hear the muffled noise of the waterfall, which seemed to enhance the relaxing atmosphere. The lighting was low, but adequate.

THE MENU: The Old Mill Steakhouse boasted of their fine USDA Grade 'A' beef and their in-house aged cuts from Prime Rib to Tenderloin and everything in-between. The menu also included chicken, seafood, lamb, and pork entrée's.

The order of the evening was diversity. The five of us shared the stuffed mushrooms with crabmeat and jack cheese stuffing and the Southwestern egg rolls with remoulade sauce as starters along with the Southern Comfort pecan pie with Brandy whip cream, Sweet Potato cheese cake and Raspberry cheesecake for dessert. Blackened Chicken Alfredo, Rosemary Grouper, center cut Pork Chops, an 8 oz. Filet mignon, grilled and served with jumbo grilled shrimp, and a 14 oz. Ribeye rounded out our main course.

WHAT WE LIKED: Everyone loved both the appetizers, but the egg rolls were the showstopper, nearly melting in your mouth. The sauce was very light and creamy and had just the right blend of spices to complement them. It

was so tasty, one was tempted to just take a spoon to it all by itself. Hands down, everyone loved the Grouper. Once I let everyone have a bite, I had to fight just to get my fair share of it, and I finally lost the battle to my son at the end of the evening. The generous portion of Blackened Chicken Alfredo with its rich and creamy Alf redo sauce left just enough portion for Sunday's lunch, and the sides, including the shrimp, were all excellent, especially the grilled vegetable medley that I couldn't seem to get enough of. All three of the deserts left us wanting more, but we had run out of room.

NEEDS IMPROVEMENT: Disappointingly, both steaks, ordered medium on the advice of the waitress, had to be sent back for being too well done. The new steaks were cooked to perfection however, and the waitress allowed us to keep the others to take home. The chops were a little on the dry side, but had a good flavor, and the coffee, my favorite ending to a great meal, left little to be desired and wasn't very hot. The restrooms seemed out of place in this quaint pre-civil war millhouse. They were in desperate need of a facelift, a bit dirty, and there were no towels to dry your hands on. We were all a bit chilly, but discovered two air-conditioning vents, one overhead and the other at our feet that once covered, took the bite out of the air.

THE VERDICT: We all enjoyed the dining experience and thought the Continental cuisine was an appropriate choice for the diverse palates of the group. Even the steaks were good, once we learned how to order them. The Olde Mill Steakhouse has an ambience unlike any restaurant on the Southside of Atlanta. The pre-civil war building and historical setting on the banks of the Whitewater Creek add to the charm and aesthetics of the surroundings. The food was nearly excellent, but not perfect, but it wouldn't stop any of us from dining there again. The service was certainly exceptional, which from my perspective can make up for a multitude of sins. It was a bit pricey for my income, but not totally unreasonable. At \$161.00, including tip, we all walked away satisfied with the whole experience.

All major credit cards are accepted, and reservations are recommended for large parties. They have a children's menu, parking adjacent to the building and wheelchair access. The noise level is low and there is no smoking inside the building. The hours are Monday through Thursday, 4:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 4:30 p.m. to 11 p.m.; Sunday brunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 4:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Menu prices range from Appetizers \$4.95 - 7.95; Entrees \$9.95 - 22.95; Desserts 4.95 - 6.95.

From the Editor

To all of our returning students, faculty, and staff, welcome back to a new semester at Clayton State! To all of our new students, faculty, and staff, welcome to Clayton. I am positive that you, like me, will enjoy your time at this small, yet growing, community.

It is my complete pleasure to return to Clayton and the *Bent Tree* student newspaper. I am excited about all of the changes that are happening even as you read this column.

Due to the growing student body and the increasing diversity of opinion on campus, I realize that the *Bent Tree* has a huge responsibility. I want the *Bent Tree* to be a valuable resource for your opinions, entertainment news, and a good, reliable source of campus-wide news and information.



With that in mind, I'd like to extend a welcome to anyone that has any ideas about the newspaper and its material. I would also like to take this chance to ask for help from anyone that would like to give advice or help to allow the newspaper to expand and grow.

Our school is a school that encompasses a very diverse



group of students and I'd like the newspaper to reflect that diversity. If you have ideas on how to make this possible, do not hesitate to e-mail me at Btree@mail.clayton.edu.

Thanks, and I'll see you around campus!
Ashley Spillers
Editor-in-Chief
The Bent Tree

BENT TREE
EDITOR-IN-
CHIEF,
ASHLEY
SPILLERS



BENT TREE
ASSOCIATE
EDITOR,
REDD
HORROCKS

WELCOME!

Well, here we are again. Where did that summer go anyway? For some of you this is the first time that you have read this paper, so welcome to The Bent Tree. For those of you who have read us before, thank you for reading us again. It seems like there are so many more people on Campus now than in previous semesters. Maybe that's because the enrollment has gone up again, or maybe it's just culture shock from it being quiet all summer. Personally, I like the Campus when it's busy. I get to see so

many more people and hear a lot more news! This semester is going to be an interesting one, and *The Bent Tree* will be working hard to keep you up to speed on what is going on around here. If you see news happening, or know something you think we don't, send us an email. If you want to work with us, send us an email or stop by our new office in the University Center (UC205) and say hi. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you around and in class.

Write for the
Bent Tree!
Share your
ideas and
knowledge!

E-mail us @
Btree@mail.clayton.edu

Can you relate?

Where Have All My Friends Gone?

By Andy Pippin

As a fairly sombering, single in the Atlanta area, I find myself asking, "Where have all my friends gone?" on pretty much a weekly basis. After some careful observation and some a bit of alcohol-induced thought, I've come to a pretty concrete answer to this question. They are married.

I know that a lot of people are scared of going to their mailboxes for fear of creditors, bills, jury duty notices, and those nasty IRS notices that seem to pop up in the business arena like boxes in the South. But I have only one fear of what might reside in that dark aluminum mailbox that sits atop a wooden post at the end of my driveway: wedding notices. How do I get me wrong. I love weddings. There's free alcohol, venerable thirty-year-olds who think they'll never get married, and a buffet that never seems to end. But I hate to see the nervous grin of my friends settling down to what I can only assume is a happy existence. I mean, come on, you just met. I've known her as long as you have and I don't want to marry her. That has to mean something.

It seems that once people graduate from college, get an apartment or home of their own, buy a dog and a new car, they think the next logical step is to get married. So they go out to some bar, have three or four drinks, shack up with a complete stranger, then propose sometime after breakfast and before lunch.

In college, I was in a fraternity and I had a rather nice pledge brothers. Of the twenty of us, twelve are married, one is divorced and married again, and one is a cleric. That wasn't due to marriage, although we are still awaiting the autopsy report. So far, out of twenty are married and I can't think of one of them who is happy. Every time I try and plan a party, I get together with a group of friends for us. I get real as like "Well, Cindy's mom is in town this weekend" or "Well, Susan and really need to get to Home Depot this weekend to finish out



Picture taken from google.com

Signed: Whipcord Paragon

Now I understand that marriage is a whole entire idea by our wedding parties of the proper age who have little but all the proper paperwork. I assume that I myself will someday get married. Just don't tell that now is the time for anyone my age to be tying the knot. I've got to have my friends back out. I can't find anyone to go out with, you're to go to a ball game with anyone to sit up late on a night and watch "Will & Grace" or "The Dick Van Dyke Show". I have a girl married at such a young age, so we will have your friends in mind. I think you have them going to feel kiomg'ru. They can never call you to come to them out, I will tell you. I think of how they will feel when Georgia will be a lockdown in the final seconds of the SEC championship game. LSU to win the game and you aren't there to celebrate with them. I'm not sure I think of their health. If you want to see all your friends not to call. For two months or more in their career, but you think it will become a their stadium lining?

It's not just the fact that I can't hang out with my married friends anymore. It's also the fact that they seem to be going to a party just fine. Oh sure, they say they miss the good old days and all but I know what's really happening. They've got new friends. Married friends. They got together and they talk about babies. "Have you seen the baby?" "Gotta see the baby." They talk about buying houses in the suburbs and driving. "I'd like to soccer practice." They pay for their own cars and can't have a party without the movie "Hill and a Half a Week". It's painful.

For my single friends, I love you. I thank you for standing by me all this time. I look forward to going to Houston with you for their signing. To my married friends, congratulations. You do not only managed to screw up your lives but the lives of your friends as well.

request permission for a leave of absence from the highest authority in my life for the following period:
Date

Time of departure

Time of return VOT to succeed

Should permission be granted, I do so solemnly swear to only visit the locations stated below at the above times. I agree to refrain from talking to other women. I shall not even talk to anyone who is in the same situation as me unless I am invited to do so by a mutual friend of both of us. I understand that this is going to cost me a fortune in photocopies and flowers. You promise to abide by your rules and regulations. I understand that this is going to cost me a fortune in photocopies and flowers. You promise to abide by your rules and regulations. I understand that this is going to cost me a fortune in photocopies and flowers. You promise to abide by your rules and regulations.

to be placed with me for us but not beyond any good work for no valid reason whatsoever.

Alcohol Consumption Amount:

Locations to be visited:

Conduct with whom conversation is permitted:

Stripper Cause: Notwithstanding the female contact mentioned above, I promise to refrain from coming within fifty feet of a stripper or exotic dancer. Violation of this Stripper Cause shall be grounds for immediate termination of said relationship. I acknowledge my position in life. I know who is in charge of the schedule, and I agree to not me. I promise to abide by your rules and regulations. I understand that this is going to cost me a fortune in photocopies and flowers. You promise to abide by your rules and regulations.

Protecting the Planet

By Redd Horrocks



Image taken from google.com

As the human race continues to grow, so too does the strain on our fragile planet. We cut down trees and burn them, we dig up natural fossil fuels and use them to power our machines, we create poisonous chemicals, we create polymers that refuse to break down naturally and just pile up as refuse, and we destroy animals for food, for fashion and for fun.



Picture taken by SHAWNY SULLIVAN

Why are we ruining the planet into a giant garbage can and leaching all of the aesthetic beauty out of it? As we cut down trees for lumber, we allow gases to be released into the air that damage the ozone layer and other aspects of the environment. We fail to replace these trees and the useful oxygen they provide to the atmosphere with anything else. As the human race increases, there are more of us to breathe an oxygen and emit carbon dioxide. This oxygen naturally comes back to us from plants. So, if we cut the plants down, there will be less around to produce oxygen and erode the growing level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. This can eventually melt the ice caps and severely damage the fragile ecosystem of the world.

As we tap into fossil fuel resources, we risk a significant amount of harm to the environment. Oil refineries, rigs and wells are built upon landscapes that may once have played home to many animals. We then risk the animals' lives when we spill the oil, causing ocean drilling accidents to die or become ill. We risk natural gas explosions that can kill humans as well as animals, and destroy habitats. The most worrying problem, however, is that the carbon they attempt to release into the atmosphere for our use. We need to create something, which then is crucial from all the gas we use in driving, cooking, generating electricity and other things in the world. But, the carbon dioxide that is released into the atmosphere, which can melt the ice caps and severely damage the fragile ecosystem of the world.

Many animals have gone extinct because of us. Lots crop it from happening again. I know that this is a harsh article, but if it helps just one person to join on the bandwagon and help the fight against pollution and climate, exactly, then isn't it worth it?

What can you do?

Stop paper when asked paper or plastic. It may come from trees but at least it is both recyclable and biodegradable. Sign up for ride-share and walk instead of driving when possible. Clutter. Place 15 walking distance. Buy a planet, or plant a tree. Look into a hybrid car, and don't buy an SUV.

Quit smoking, or try and encourage someone you know to quit smoking. Go vegetarian for a month. Don't buy fur, leather, or bone items. Recycle plastic instead of throwing it in the garbage. Same with glass. When buying natural gas to cook with, be mindful of leaving it on too long. Turn it off as soon as possible. Don't turn the oven on to pre-heat until you need it. No solar leaving it on for an hour before you even start cooking. Don't hunt or fish. If you need midsize destruction, play softball. Drive carefully, soberly, and brake for animals. Protect your pet from being able to go places where they could be run over. Adopt a grown animal instead of buying a puppy or kitten. You can even foster animals so that they can be found homes without risking being put down. Go to www.veganaction.org and sign up for their newsletters.

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1-877-RIDEFIND
Atlanta Regional Commission

Remember that there are designated places to fish on campus. The ducks inhabit the area closest to the campus.

Photo taken by Ashby Sullivan

Campus Question

The question we asked was...
What do you think about the death penalty?
Do you think there are alternative punishments
or is this a justifiable punishment for crime?

A smoker asked me this question two years before my mom was diagnosed by them over who were sitting in the car. My answer that day was, "I don't believe in the death penalty. I don't support it for another human being, for the number of innocent lives that innocent may want to live, but not the day that my mom said before she died was that "I should something happen to her so that if they're the person responsible and pay for their crime for their lives".

During the trial, it was clear that my family didn't support my mother's but eventually they began to see my point, we have no right to judge someone for they will be finally be judged by God. Taking their own lives not being my mom's and I understood the system and yes, I believe every person has the right to a fair trial. If two out of three decided that death penalty was the correct punishment I'm not sure how I would have felt. Though I've provided each with sentences, they deserved. I've received it without the possibility of parole and the other one received a sentence of twenty years.

My prayer is that of both is that they see the error of their ways and accept His punishment. They deserve before their time comes to an end.
Tiffany Wilson

I think that the death penalty is a completely specific one. I believe that it is necessary. In my opinion, it is a way to get the bad guys off the streets and to prevent them from ever being a threat to anyone else. I think that it is a way to get the bad guys off the streets and to prevent them from ever being a threat to anyone else. I think that it is a way to get the bad guys off the streets and to prevent them from ever being a threat to anyone else.

It's just that simple. If we have a death penalty, then there are no different from the rest of the world. I believe that those who do not share the other ideal should be put to death. Sort of like sending out to kill a group of people based on their ideal. Sort of like... Oh, wait, didn't our president come from Texas where the death penalty is in full force. Hmmmm.

John Brown

I think that the death penalty is a necessary form of punishment in the United States. With the growing population and the increasing number of criminals roaming the streets, it is becoming a huge problem. Many of the criminals that today are repeat offenders. If our justice system implemented the death penalty more often it would send a message to repeat offenders. Not mentioning the fact that the jails are overflowing with people. Our tax dollars go towards paying for their cable TV and they really hate it, just, exercising equipment, and air conditioning. If someone committed murder and was sentenced to life in prison, it is the honest, law-abiding Americans that are paying the price. We have to pay for their criminal's everything until he dies of natural causes. From a criminal's standpoint, that sounds like a pretty good deal: eat, drink, and cable TV. Many criminals commit crimes to get cash or property so they can get away with it, and get "taken care of" by our tax dollars. If we implemented the death penalty more often, we could use our tax dollars for some worthy causes, and less on crime. I think we should learn a lesson from China's justice system. If you commit a crime, no matter if you steal a pack of gum or if you commit a more serious crime, you get a trial, and you get a sentence. But if you are caught committing a crime for the second time, whether it's stealing a pack of gum or if you commit a more serious crime, you get a trial, and you get a sentence. No questions asked. I think that's justice.

Christy

On December 22, 1975, a woman was at work in an accounting office on Greenwood Road in Decatur. She

was alone, with the door unlocked, waiting for her brother-in-law, who was her supervisor, to arrive. Instead of her brother-in-law, a young man, on Christmas for a "chubby" type program for youthful offenders came in. When the brother-in-law arrived, the woman had been strangled to death, with her pants were wrapped around her neck, with one leg and her hands tied behind her back with the other.

This woman was my brother-in-law. Because the death penalty was being challenged before the Supreme Court, the killer, Walter Dunaway, is in Valdeca State Prison, without chance of parole.

A few years later, Jean Bulce was charged to death in a park in Decatur. Armp Wiley, the killer, could have been sentenced to death, but instead was given life without parole. If ever someone deserved to be put to death, it was this man. Even more than Walter Dunaway.

Do I support the death penalty? Yes. But until that sentence gets all the Amy Wilson and Walter Dunaway's, it shouldn't be applied. If a person is convicted of capital murder, he or she should be put to death, period. Until then, no one should be put to death. It isn't fair to my family, to the Bulce family, and to all of the people who lost family in the Oklahoma City Federal Building bombing. Fifty-two people were put to death and we'll be feeding the other for years to come.

Pam Crivell

In response to the question regarding the Death Penalty, I personally do not feel that it is our "society's" judgment to place death on another's life. Whatever his or her crime may be, we as fellow human beings, have not been given that judgment option. The question really relates back to, do two wrongs make a right? The answer to that question is NO. In murder cases, don't killing the offender bring the offended back to life and the answer to that is NO. Many would beg to differ by stating the fact why should a person be

allowed to live, live even in a jail cell after he or she has taken life? Well that is a good question and many would lose trying to defend it. I am more compelled to allowing God to do His job. In judgment, there is a double system on Him. Once He either forgives or condemns the offender, does He come to judge you or me for breaking a commandment as well. Well, to me it is food for thought!
Monique L. Aguirre

Life many questions, this one can not be answered with a simple "yes" or "no". The use and application of capital punishment is necessary in a just society. Unfortunately, recent events have illustrated far too clearly that our current method of applying that penalty is fundamentally flawed. Far better that a thousand wrongdoers be hung than a single innocent man be executed by the state. Until we find a way to be more certain that we are executing the wrong person, we have a moral obligation to suspend all executions.

Gary Lee

This country has ignored the victim for too long. People who kill other people and are proven guilty do not need to sit in jail for the rest of their lives. There they have time to get education, file bankruptcy lawsuits, etc. I believe that death by injection is the only true justice for our country.

Robert Conder

This is in reference to the Death Penalty. I believe that the death penalty should indeed be used. But, ONLY IF the evidence proves beyond a reasonable doubt, that the person is guilty. If there is any possibility that the person didn't commit the crime, then that person should be put on life without parole with a re-entrance. That's it, it is decided one way or the other.

Rhyn Lane

As horrible as it may sound, I think the death penalty should be used more often. I do think that when someone is sentenced the death penalty, they

Smoking Bans: Violation or Protection?

By: Megan Lawrimore



Smoking bans are becoming more and more prevalent as they are put into place in restaurants, bars, workplaces, etc. Many regarding these restrictions differ greatly as to whether they are necessary and whether they are a violation of someone's rights. Obviously, an individual's personal habits and behaviors are not for others to control and regulate, as long as they fall within the confines of the law. However, those who smoke violate the rights of non-smokers. In many instances, just such a ban is necessary to protect the health of non-smokers. In many states, employers are required to provide a smoke-free workplace. This is not only for the protection of non-smokers, but also for the protection of smokers. Many smokers may have to reduce their smoking in order to get a fresh breath of air, or to avoid the health risks of second-hand smoke. In many states, employers are required to provide a smoke-free workplace. This is not only for the protection of non-smokers, but also for the protection of smokers. Many smokers may have to reduce their smoking in order to get a fresh breath of air, or to avoid the health risks of second-hand smoke. In many states, employers are required to provide a smoke-free workplace. This is not only for the protection of non-smokers, but also for the protection of smokers. Many smokers may have to reduce their smoking in order to get a fresh breath of air, or to avoid the health risks of second-hand smoke.



Photo taken from google.com

effect for both smokers and non-smokers, resulting in the protection of both groups. While it is true that smokers may have to reduce their smoking in order to get a fresh breath of air, or to avoid the health risks of second-hand smoke, this is not a violation of their rights. In fact, the lack of public displays of smoking may prove a deterrent to smokers, and people who are committed to others and their own health should be free to use their habit against them in instances of smoking bans. Second, a reduction in smoking can only be good for a smoker's health and it is a necessary condition of a just society. In fact, many smokers are concerned that they will lose their health if they do not quit. As an anti-smoker, I am concerned that they will lose their health if they do not quit. As an anti-smoker, I am concerned that they will lose their health if they do not quit.

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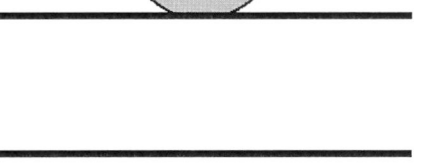
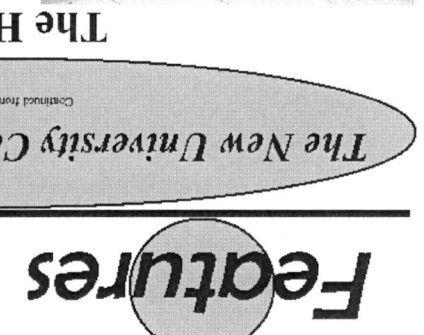
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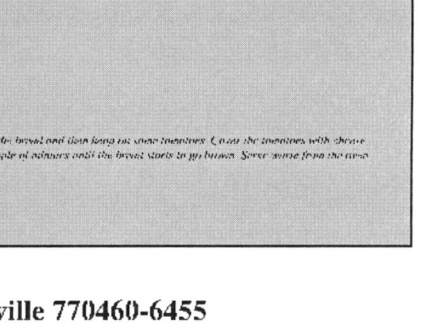
Student Sitting Areas



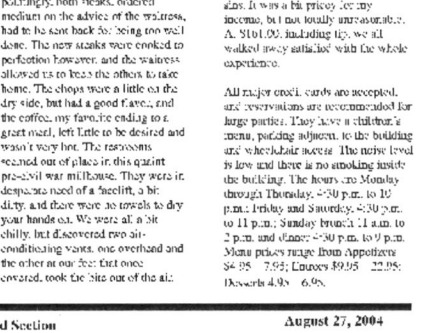
President's office, and even more sitting areas!



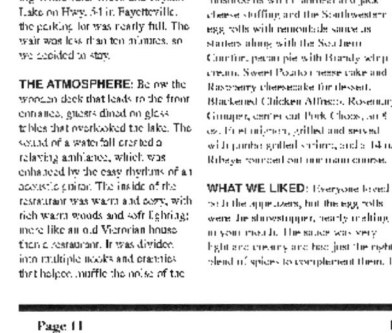
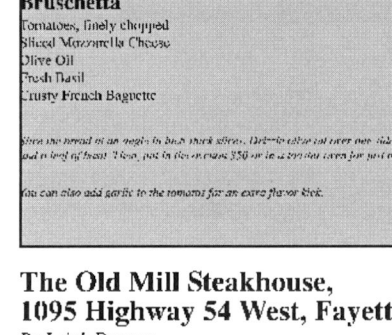
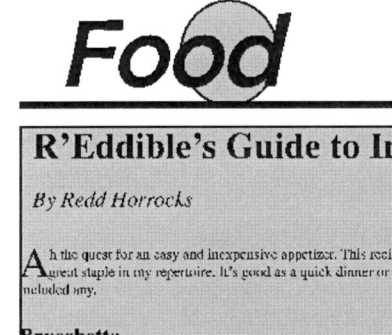
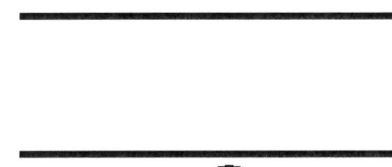
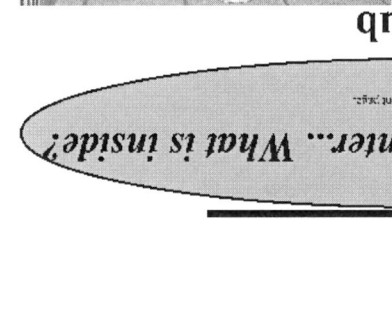
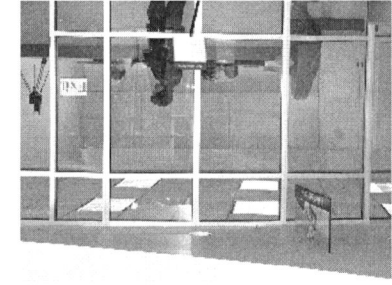
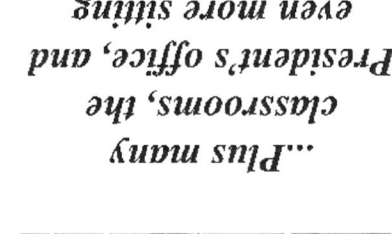
Laker Card Office



The Hub



Plus many classrooms, the President's office, and even more sitting areas!



Features

The New University Center... What is inside?

Continued from page 2.

... Plus many classrooms, the President's office, and even more sitting areas!

The new University Center is a multi-story building with a modern design. It features a large central atrium with a glass ceiling, providing a bright and open space. The building is surrounded by a landscaped area with trees and walkways. The interior is divided into several functional areas, including classrooms, a library, a study center, and a common area. The design emphasizes natural light and ventilation, creating a comfortable and inviting environment for students.

Do you have ideas about what should be in your student newspaper?

Write us with your ideas!

E-mail us at Btree@mail.clayton.edu

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Layout By: Ashley Spillers

Campus Question Cont.

Alvin Walker: I believe that the death penalty is a just punishment for heinous crimes. The death penalty has existed for centuries and has been used in various forms. It is a deterrent to crime and provides a sense of justice for victims and their families. While some argue that it is inhumane, I believe that the death penalty is a necessary tool for maintaining law and order in a civilized society.

Dik Howell: One good thing about the death penalty is that it provides a permanent solution to the problem of capital offenses. While some argue that it is inhumane, I believe that the death penalty is a necessary tool for maintaining law and order in a civilized society. It is a deterrent to crime and provides a sense of justice for victims and their families.

Chad Baker: I believe that the death penalty is a just punishment for heinous crimes. The death penalty has existed for centuries and has been used in various forms. It is a deterrent to crime and provides a sense of justice for victims and their families. While some argue that it is inhumane, I believe that the death penalty is a necessary tool for maintaining law and order in a civilized society.

Points of View

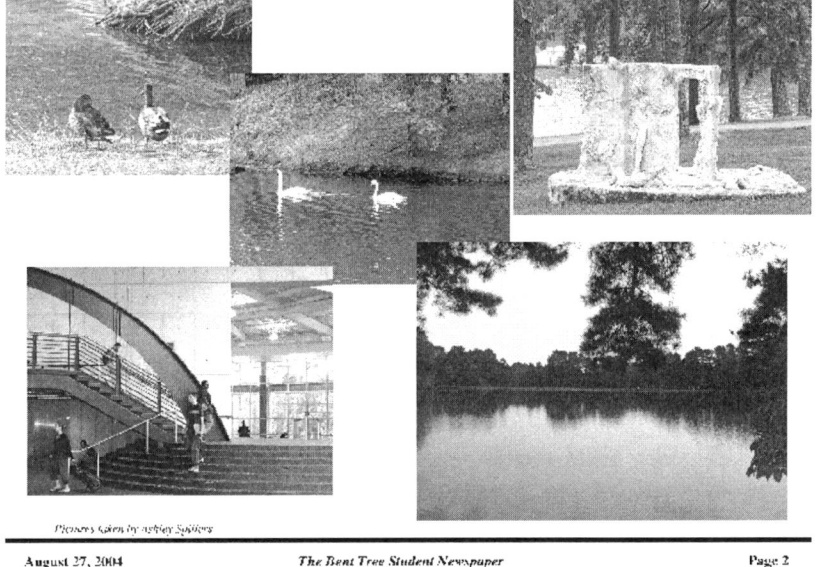
Cleaning Up the Mess

By Jeffrey Rozier

Without security for the Iraqis, all other efforts and endeavors to rebuild Iraq will fail. To fill the security void that will be left by the withdrawal of U.S. forces, Iraqis must receive training from Arab League and other Muslim nations such as Pakistan and Indonesia, provide security forces for Iraq, and Islamic presence in Iraq, and the world that the U.S. did not provide. Iraqis must receive training from Arab League and other Muslim nations such as Pakistan and Indonesia, provide security forces for Iraq, and Islamic presence in Iraq, and the world that the U.S. did not provide. Iraqis must receive training from Arab League and other Muslim nations such as Pakistan and Indonesia, provide security forces for Iraq, and Islamic presence in Iraq, and the world that the U.S. did not provide.



Views Around Campus



Support Clayton State's Teams! Go Lakers!




Student Life's Leadership Retreat

Come One, Come All Leaders

The office of Student Life and Leadership is excited to announce the return of our annual Leadership Retreat. This year's retreat is being held at the beautiful Lake Lanier resort in Georgia. The retreat is a great time for all leaders to relax, recharge, and build relationships with one another. The retreat is open to all leaders from all departments and is a great opportunity for you to meet and get to know your fellow leaders. The retreat is being held from August 28-30, 2004. The cost of the retreat is \$150.00. The retreat is a great time for you to relax, recharge, and build relationships with one another. The retreat is open to all leaders from all departments and is a great opportunity for you to meet and get to know your fellow leaders. The retreat is being held from August 28-30, 2004. The cost of the retreat is \$150.00.

Clayton State Named Number One in Diversity... Again

*By John Shiffert
Director of University Relations*



Clayton State has been named the most diverse university in the South Atlantic region for the 11th year. This recognition is a testament to the university's commitment to diversity and inclusion. Clayton State has a long history of being a diverse institution, and this recognition is a reflection of the hard work and dedication of our faculty, staff, and students. We are proud to be recognized as one of the most diverse universities in the region, and we look forward to continuing our commitment to diversity in the future.

Win a Pizza Party!!! Here's how...

Alpha Phi Alpha has an interest meeting scheduled for August 31, 2004 at 7pm. The meeting will be held in BHS room C-53. The meeting is open to all members of the organization. The meeting will be a great opportunity for you to meet and get to know your fellow members. The meeting will be held from 7pm to 9pm. The cost of the meeting is \$5.00. The meeting is a great time for you to relax, recharge, and build relationships with one another. The meeting is open to all members from all departments and is a great opportunity for you to meet and get to know your fellow members. The meeting is being held from August 31, 2004. The cost of the meeting is \$5.00.

Dr. Kevin Rome Welcomes Clayton State

Dr. Kevin Rome, President of Clayton State University, has been interviewed by Kedd Horrocks. Dr. Rome discussed the university's commitment to diversity and inclusion, and the challenges of being a public university in a competitive market. Dr. Rome also discussed the university's plans for the future, and the role of the university in the community. Dr. Rome is a highly respected leader in the field of higher education, and his insights are invaluable. The interview is a great resource for anyone interested in higher education and the challenges of being a public university in a competitive market.

From the Editor

To all of our returning students, faculty, and staff, welcome back to a new semester at Clayton State! To all of our new students, faculty, and staff, welcome to Clayton. I am positive that you, like me, will enjoy your time at this small, yet growing, community.

It is my complete pleasure to return to Clayton and the Bent Tree student newspaper. I am excited about all of the changes that are happening even as you read this column.

Due to the growing student body and the increasing diversity of opinion on campus, I realize that the Bent Tree has a huge responsibility. I want the Bent Tree to be a valuable resource for your opinions, entertainment news, and a good, reliable source of campus wide news and information.

Our school is a school that encourages a very diverse group of students and I'd like the newspaper to reflect that diversity. If you have ideas on how to make this possible, do not hesitate to e-mail me at Btree@mail.clayton.edu.

Thanks, and I'll see you around campus!
Ashley Spillers
Editor-in-Chief
The Bent Tree

THE BENT TREE

Volume 36, Issue 1 August 27, 2004
CCSU STUDENT NEWSPAPER

Fall Semester Opens at Clayton State - So Does the University Center

By John Shiffert, Director of University Relations

From



Photograph taken from Clayton State

To



Photos taken by Ashley Spillers

A much-anticipated fall 2004 semester opened August 23rd at Clayton College & State University, along with the \$19 million, 131,000 square foot University Center (UC).

Day One of the University Center saw no less than 83 separate classes held in the University's new signature building. Although such a schedule will be typical for the University Center over the coming weeks, the building's official grand opening and dedication will be held later in the fall.

The new building, which serves as a combination student center, classroom building and administration building, and which is without precedent in the University System of Georgia, opens at a key moment for Clayton State. Enrollment projections for the new semester have placed the current student population at more than 6,000 for the first time in the University's history, and the building's 17 new classrooms and more than 2,000 data drops will be needed to accommodate Clayton State's growth.

Indeed, the first day of classes saw groups of students scattered about the building, most taking advantage of the numerous internet connections in virtually all of the UC's public spaces.

The University Center also houses technical and software support for the students' and faculty's 6,000+ notebook computers, an information desk, faculty offices, the College of Information and Mathematical Sciences, meeting rooms and student organization offices as well as the offices of Campus Life... all helping to make the UC the central focus for campus life, thanks in part to the University Bookstore, Dining Services


(which will open in October), as well as numerous study and eating areas... which are "wired" as well.

The University Center is a four-story steel frame structure with masonry exterior walls, and features state-of-the-art audiovisual technology in all of the classrooms, in addition to its other amenities.

Clayton College & State University, "Your University" for Atlanta's "Southwest Crescent," is a state university of the University System of Georgia, located in Morrow.

More pictures of the University Center inside page 6

WELCOME!



BENT TREE ASSOCIATE EDITOR, REDD HORROCKS

Well, here we are again. Where did that summer go anyway? For some of you this is the first time that you have read this paper, so welcome to The Bent Tree. For those of you who have read us before, thank you for reading us again.

It seems like there are so many more people on campus now than in previous semesters. Maybe that's because the enrollment has gone up again, or maybe it's just culture shock from it being quiet all summer. Personally, I like the Campus when it's busy. I get to see so many more people and hear a lot more news!

This semester is going to be an interesting one, and The Bent Tree will be working hard to keep you up to speed on what is going on around here. If you see news happening, or know something you think we don't, send us an email. If you want to work with us, send us an email or stop by our new office in the University Center (UC205) and say hi. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you around and in class.

Write for the Bent Tree! Share your ideas and knowledge!

E-mail us @ Btree@mail.clayton.edu

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