

THE BENT TREE

Volume 36, Issue 4 December 2004

CCSU STUDENT NEWSPAPER

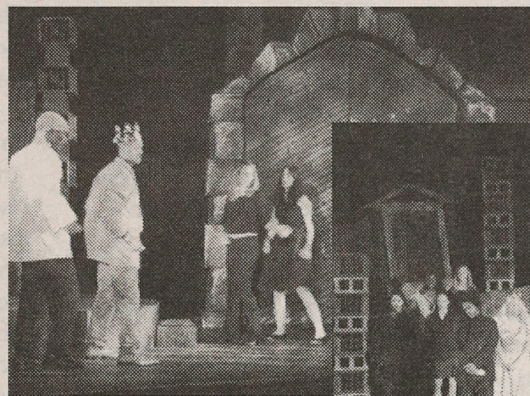


'Hamlet... The Musical' Opens at Clayton State

By Ashley Spillers

'Hamlet... The Musical' opened at Clayton State on Thursday, December 2nd. The idea that 'Hamlet' could be carried out as a musical comedy may be a preposterous idea at first, but once the audience sees the characters in comedic form, it all begins to make sense.

Hamlet maintains the intense nature of the title character from the Shakespearean tragedy throughout the play and addresses the audience in dramatic asides, yet adds some modern twists to the plot. For instance, Hamlet reads from Cliff's Notes and his loyal friends, Marcellus and Bernardo, are "college friends." Hamlet's intensity is foiled by the other characters' comedic performances. Hamlet's intensity is effortlessly played by CCSU actor, Eric Lee Usher.



Photos taken by Ashley Spillers

Polonius is played by Adrienne Gauthier and she dually plays the more dismissive and unconcerned mother to her daughter, Laertes (energetically played by Keishundra Terrell) and the more overprotective and overbearing mother to the needy, child-like Ophelia (played by Redd Horrocks). Even through the laughter of the two sisters'

craziness—Laertes as an independent, militant daughter and Ophelia as the ethereal and charmingly off-kilter daughter—the characters are endearing and fun to watch.

Wyatt Lowe provides much of the comic relief throughout the play, considering he is doubling up on his duties as two characters. He plays the fun-loving, loyal friend of Hamlet, named Horatio, and attempts gracefulness and gender-bending in true Shakespearean fashion as Gertrude, the Queen and Hamlet's mother. Lowe manages to keep the characters separate and equally funny.

Claudius, played by Phil Collins, maintains the cunning and deceitful nature of the Shakespearean character, yet Collins has the ability to deadpan obvious statements and make them humorous.

The other characters, like Osric and Gravedigger, (played by Zaylin Greene and Adebayo Sulaimon, respectively) are also quite humorous. Greene plays his character with a funny, "feminine" touch and Sulaimon has gruffness to his character.

The rest of the cast provide many more funny moments throughout the play, but what really makes the play entertaining is the music. The songs tell the story; "Blasted" is from Hamlet's point of view. "Poison" adds an upbeat beginning to the play and also gives insight to the plot. "Doomed" is entertaining while adding a bit of dramatic irony. "Mother's Prayer" has a tongue-in-cheek element to the song, and adds a bit of sarcasm and laughs to the plot.

This production marks the first official project for CCSU's new Artistic Director of Clayton State Theater and 'Hamlet' Director, Phillip DePoy. He comes to Clayton with an extensive history in literature and theater. His play Easy won the Edgar Award and he has seven published books and two published plays; thirty-seven of his pieces have been in theater productions throughout the country.

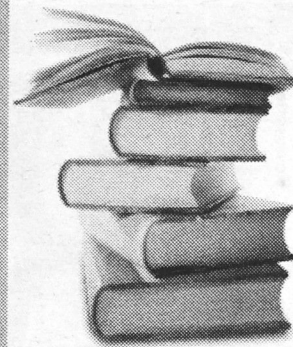
'Hamlet... The Musical' is entertaining and comical. It is definitely worthy of time. The last night to see it is Saturday, December 11th at 8 p.m. Your Laker Card gets you in free at the door.

More info on 'Hamlet' on page 9

Table of Contents	<p>Happy Holidays!</p>
History.....Page 2-3	
Sports.....Page 4	
Food.....Page 5	
Winter Movie Preview Entertainment..Page 6-7	
Entertainment..Page 8-9	
Campus Question...Page 10	
Around Campus...Page 12	

Hamlet:
Thursday
12/9
Friday
12/10
Saturday
12/11
at 8 p.m.

History



Fifty years of Brown:

A three-part series reviewing race and education in the United States and at Clayton College and State University.

By Stanford Strong

Part I: Before Brown, Plessy, Gaines, Sweatt, and McLaurin pressed the U.S. for equal access

Race. Education. The 14th Amendment. The fight on 14th street for equality in education has been perhaps the most polarizing legal and social cause of our time. The institution of education is quite personal, for it provides us with the tools to survive in a brutal capitalist society and affirms all the things we consider to be as good as apple pie – our very lifestyles and self expressions. We have lived under 50 years of *Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*, the most significant

Supreme Court decision of the 20th century (what other case can you quickly recall from your history class – *Roe vs. Wade*, perhaps?) The *Brown* ruling in 1954 gives equal access to public school education to all races, but there were previous cases of race and education that began to chip away at segregation. It is interesting to review the cases and events of the time that lead to the *Brown* decision.

The first Supreme Court interpretation of the 14th Amendment was in 1896 *Plessy vs. Ferguson*, a case that began as *Homer Adolph Plessy vs. The State of Louisiana*. Plessy, a 30 year-old colored shoemaker who was one-eighths black and seven-eighths white (and back in the day, he might

be considered an “uppity negro” by both blacks and whites for the color of his skin and the mere fact that he had the nerve to challenge the law), was jailed for sitting in the “white” car of the East Louisiana Railroad. Under Louisiana law, Plessy was considered black and required to sit in the “negro” car. Plessy sued, claiming violation of his 13th and 14th Amendment rights but lost. Appeals all the way to the Supreme Court failed.

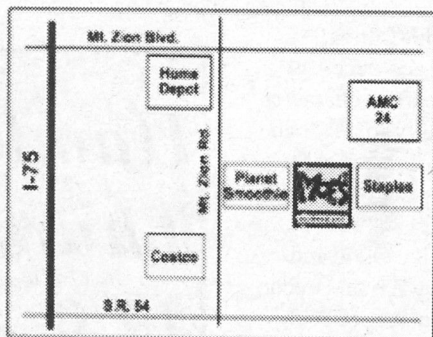
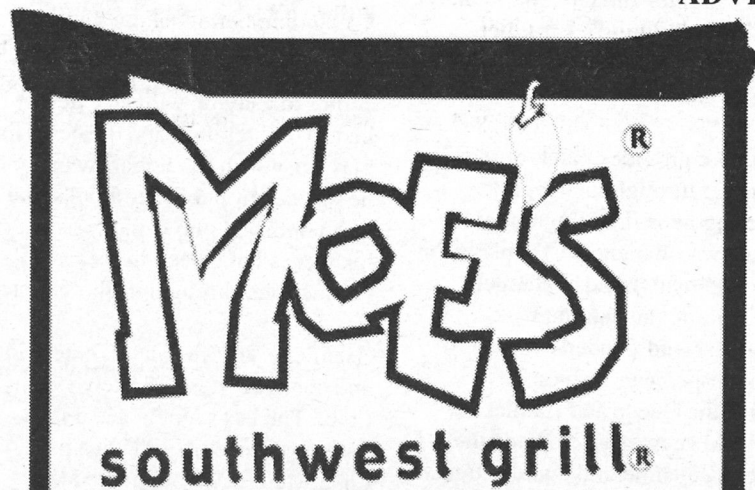
In the *Plessy* case, the Supreme Court ruled that the 13th Amendment abolished slavery. Plessy was not enslaved, so that argument was tossed. However, the Court began its first landmark interpretation of the 14th Amendment when it stated “The object of the Fourteenth Amendment was undoubtedly to enforce the

absolute equality of the two races before the law, but in the nature of things it could not have been intended to abolish distinctions based upon color, or to enforce social, as distinguished from political equality, or a commingling of the two races upon terms unsatisfactory to either.”

In simple and more familiar terms, we know that one sentence to be called “separate but equal,” and this one case became the standard for how society operated, particularly in the South where public facilities were divided between whites and “coloreds.” Some historians regard separate but equal as a compromise between Northern interpretations and Southern Jim Crow lifestyles.

In the 1938 case of *Missouri vs. Gaines* (properly titled *Missouri ex rel. Gaines*

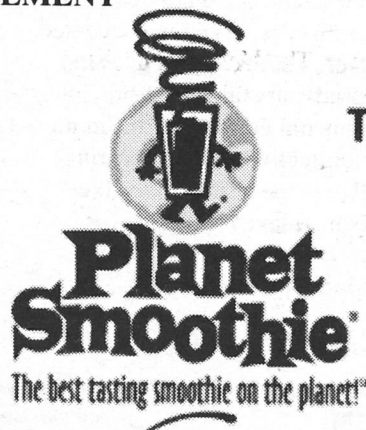
ADVERTISEMENT



1853 Mt. Zion Rd. - Morrow, GA 30260
PH 770.968.6671 / FX 770.968.6674

All College Students show a valid Student I.D. and receive 10% OFF your purchase.

Visit www.moes.com for Free Stuff!



Located in
The Moe's Southwest Grill
Shopping Center
1841 Mt. Zion Road
Morrow, GA 30260
PH 770.961.1899

All College Students show a valid Student I.D. and receive 10% OFF your purchase.



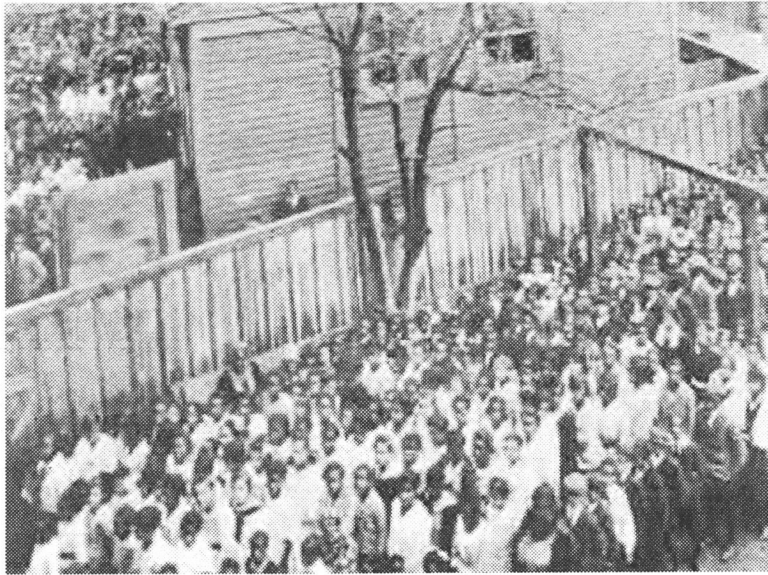


Photo courtest of google.com

vs. *Canada*), Lloyd Gaines sued to be admitted to the University of Missouri Law School when he was denied based on race. He argued there was no separate but equal law school in Missouri accepting blacks. The Supreme Court ruled in his favor, and the State had to pay tuition for Gaines to attend an out-of-state school.

Sweatt vs. Painter, first contested in 1946, was brought by Herman Sweatt, denied admission to the University of Texas Law School based on race. However, the twist in this case was that Texas did have a law school for blacks, but it was proved to be incredibly inferior which ran afoul of *Plessy*. The Supreme Court granted Sweatt's admission to Texas.

In 1947, *McLaurin vs. Oklahoma State Regents* presented yet another twist in separate but equal educational facilities. George McLaurin sued after being denied admission to the University of Oklahoma PhD program in Education due to his race. Using the *Gaines* precedent, the Oklahoma Supreme Court ruled in McLaurin's favor. The University of Oklahoma, complying with the decision, required him to sit in the hall outside of his classrooms and to sit in separate sections of the library and cafeteria. He had to use these facilities at different times.

McLaurin was unhappy, and he sued again. This time his case went to the Supreme Court. The Court, using *Gaines* and *Sweatt*, decided "the conditions under which the appellant is required to receive his education deprive him of his personal and present right to the equal protection of the laws...."

Gaines, *Sweatt* and *McLaurin* were shocking cases against segregation. But why didn't they have national precedent-setting value? Because these cases were considered state problems, and their results were viewed as the resolutions of three "uppity negroes." In other states, Blacks dare [not] challenge the law for fear of lynching. If you were Black and lived in the Deep South, you knew your place, "lest you get a lashing."

However, The *McLaurin* decision addressed something that previous decisions did not. It addressed the condition of the person, instead of merely the guarantee of equal facilities.

The socio-political climate of the 1950s also contributed to the success of *Brown*. According to the American Bar Association Journal's article *Brown at 50*: "The Brooklyn Dodgers' Jackie Robinson had integrated baseball, and President

Truman had desegregated the armed forces." Also, Blacks had moved to northern and western cities, where they had the right to vote even though they followed an unwritten code of segregation, and they began to pressure the Democratic Party for change. The Cold War gave the indecency of segregation an international vulnerability. The Soviets could defend their communist rhetoric by accusing the U.S. of maintaining abusive and hypocritical caste societies while trumpeting its philosophies of freedom and equality.

In December 1952, *Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas* was brought as five different cases that had been filed in five states (Washington, DC, Kansas, Virginia, Delaware, and South Carolina). But the case was not decided during the 1952 term because Justice Felix Frankfurter wanted time to lobby the other Supreme Court justices to vote in favor of *Brown*. The justices gave both sides a list of questions in June 1953 to consider for rearguments in October, but in September Chief Justice Vinson died and was replaced with Earl Warren.

President Eisenhower thought he had selected a conservative judge in Warren. In fact Warren, as Attorney General of California, led the effort to place Japanese Americans in concentration camps during WWII, thinking they couldn't be trusted while the U.S. battled Japan in the Pacific Ocean. By the time Warren made it to the Supreme Court, he felt segregation was bad for the country, and he and Frankfurter worked together to lobby the other judges – they wanted a unanimous decision to drive the point home on a subject matter that was so volatile.

Thurgood Marshall was as equally important to the victory of *Brown* as was the posturing in the Court's chambers. A brilliant attorney who later became the first black Supreme Court justice, Marshall, representing *Brown*, turned the focus away from the concept of arguing that black students weren't getting the same number two pencils as whites, but that the mere fact that the only reason why segregation was implemented in the first place was because the all-powerful White race thought the Black race was inferior and did not want to mix with it. This created an inferiority complex, impeding the learning of Black students, and Marshall argued this impeded learning was not equal.

To illustrate this point, Marshall used the research of psychologist Kenneth Clark in his argument. Researching the effects of discrimination, Clark gave children brown and white dolls with which to

play. The children, both White and Black, did not play with the Black dolls. They called the Black dolls ugly and bad, but they called the White dolls pretty and good.

The *Brown* decision, read by Warren on May 17, 1954 to a room full of press, is only five pages long. Warren and the Court wanted a simple judgment that did not insult the South, who was bound to resist. Warren wrote the decision using education as an important force to U.S. development. He acknowledged that facilities were either equal or being brought to equal status, but "to separate them from others of similar age and qualifications solely because of their race generates a feeling of inferiority as to their status in the community that may affect their hearts and minds in a way unlikely ever to be undone."

"We conclude that, in the field of public education, the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place." The Supreme Court voted 9-0 in favor of *Brown*.

However, the verdict did not render a solution, which all decisions did. Again, strategy was key. While Marshall and the NAACP pressed the court for a plan of desegregation, others were nervous, fearing violence. The Supreme Court held the resolution of the case to the next term and invited each side and district attorneys to submit plans. This gave the nation a chance to absorb the idea of a changing educational system.

The Supreme Court was overwhelmed by the number of school districts; there was no way for them to develop plans for all of them. They decided to leave this to the local governments. This solution was announced as *Brown vs. Board of Education II*, where Warren wrote that schools should desegregate "with all deliberate speed."

"With all deliberate speed" turned *Brown* into more of a moral victory. It was actually 10 years after *Brown* before events leading to the March on Washington and the passing of the Civil Rights act of 1964 that real progress in desegregation began. Still, *Brown* was the milestone needed to get our nation on the right path – to freedom.

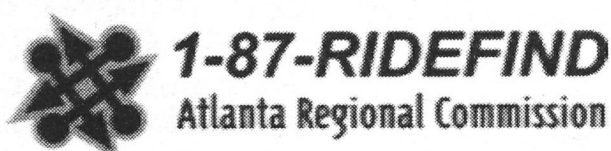
Look for Part II in our next issue, as we examine the 50 years since the *Brown* decision leading to the *University of Michigan* cases. You'll have the opportunity to answer the campus question "To remedy past discrimination, should universities consider race as a factor in the admissions process or are university diversity policies a form of legal racism?" which will be the focus of Part III.

ADVERTISEMENT

UNIVERSITY RIDE SHARE

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>.



Graphic courtesy of google.com

Sports



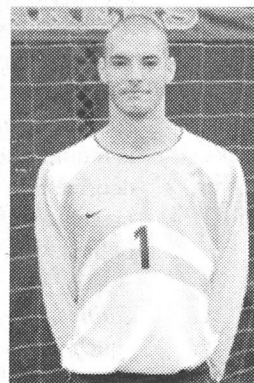
Dowling, Trujillo and Padgett named to Peach Belt men's soccer All-Conference team



Alex Dowling
Photo courtesy
of clayton.edu



Juan Trujillo
Photo courtesy
of clayton.edu



Heath Padgett
Photo courtesy
of clayton.edu

Courtesy of Gid Rowell

The 25th-ranked Clayton College & State University men's soccer team is gearing up for the 2004 NCAA Division II National Soccer Championships, and recently had three players recognized for their play from the Peach Belt Conference this season.

Junior Alex Dowling, junior Juan Trujillo and sophomore Heath Padgett were all named to the league's All-Conference squad, a first for all three players. Dowling, from Johannesburg, South Africa, led the Clayton State defense to a .69 goals against average this season, which ranks 10th in the country and best in the Peach Belt Conference. The Clayton State defense has allowed only 13 goals on the year. Trujillo, from Atlanta, GA, led the squad in scoring this season with 10 goals and three assists on the year, sixth best in the conference. He scored four game-winning goals on the year, including the game winner against the University of South Carolina Upstate earlier this season.

Like Dowling, Padgett, from Gainesville, GA, also led the Clayton State defense to a league-low, goals against average. He finished the season with a .70 goals against average, the second best in the conference. Padgett recorded almost five shutouts and played the most minutes of any keeper in the league at 1,633 minutes.

Clayton State Women Win Big on the Road

Gid Rowell

Clayton State women pick up impressive road win at Mars Hill; defeat Lions 61-56 Mars Hill, NC - December 3, 2004 - The Clayton College & State University women's basketball team picked up an impressive road victory Friday, downing previously undefeated Mars Hill College 61-56 in Mars Hill, NC.

The Laker women held off a late Mars Hill comeback, thanks to a timely three-pointer by sophomore Basia Bukowska with 42 seconds remaining in the contest. The three-pointer gave the Lakers a five-point, 59-54, lead. After two Mars Hill free throws, junior Carlie Anderson sealed the

victory with two free throws of her own with one second remaining.

"Basia's three-pointer was huge," said head coach Dennis Cox. "She has been struggling a bit, but she hung in there and delivered tonight. "We didn't shoot the ball that well. Our defensive pressure was the key."

Clayton State led by as many as 15 points early in the second half until Mars Hill battled back in the final five minutes. The Lakers led 35-20 at the 18:34 mark on a layup by senior April Taylor. Bukowska hit a three-pointer at the 12:36 mark to give the team a 40-28 lead, and the squad maintained its 12-point lead later on a basket by Cynthia Conseil with 5:20 remaining.

With the win, the Lakers improve to 5-2 on the season and will return to action on Saturday, hosting the University of North Alabama in a 5:30 p.m. contest. Mars Hill, who had wins earlier this season against Columbus State University and Peach Belt Conference defending champion Lander University, falls to 3-1.

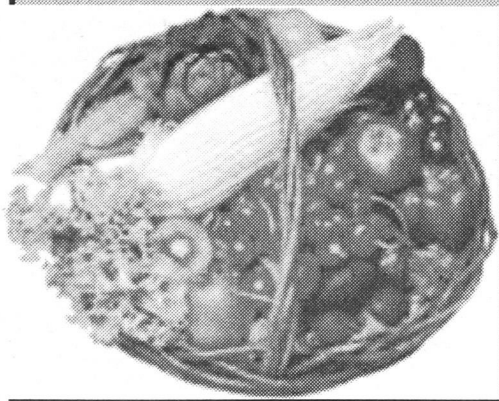
Clayton State never trailed in the game after Mars Hill opened the contest with a free throw. After Mars Hill tied the game at 13-13, the Lakers answered with a 10-0 run, capped by a jumper from Jasmine Patterson, pushing the Clayton State lead to 23-13 with 5:29 remaining in the half. Clayton State extended its lead to 31-18 on another basket by Patterson

with the 39 seconds remaining only to have Mars Hill answer with bucket to cut the deficit to 11 points, 31-20, at halftime.

Senior Jamika Hindsman led the Lakers with 17 points, hitting 8-of-16 shots from the field. She also led the team with six assists. Taylor also had a strong game with 16 points and 16 rebounds, hitting 6-of-12 shots from the floor. For Mars Hill, junior Kristi Ferris finished with 23 points.

Clayton State's defense held Mars Hill to 35 percent (20-of-58) from the floor and into 16 turnovers. The Lakers shot 36 percent (25-of-69) and out rebounded the Lions 48-42.

*Chris
Pangburn*



Food

Let's Have a Party!

By Dana Staves

Christmas is my absolute favorite time of the year. There are great movies, concerts, and most of all, great food! Clayton State students have all this to look forward to, as well as... a week of grueling exams? How fair is that? Before you contemplate suicide while you pour your eighth cup of coffee for the night, here are a few ways to make the holidays, and exams, a little brighter.

One fun way to liven up the holidays is to have a cookie swap! Any excuse to get together and have cookies involved is great, and I'm sure you'll love this.

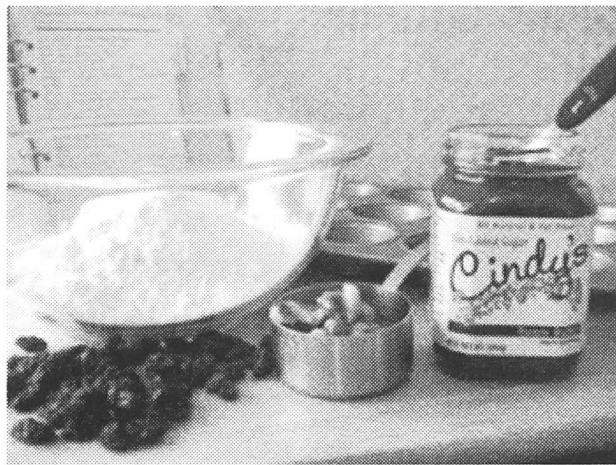


Photo courtesy of google.com

Cookie swaps involve inviting people to a location and having them bring two or three types of cookies that they've already baked. Then, you swap cookies. It works best with ten to twenty people, but obviously, the more people you have the more cookies you'll have. Plan accordingly! Or you can have a cookie baking party. These are slightly more time

consuming and stressful, but can be just as much fun. There will be a group to come and bake cookies. You can set it up like an assembly line, with prep people, bakers, and decorators. This would probably work better with a smaller group of people.

As for those pesky exams, there are ways to brighten the foreboding ritual of cramming. It helps to have

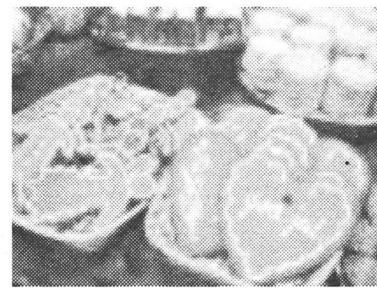


Photo courtesy of google.com

people bring food or drinks. Also, have a themed cram session, like disco or a costume theme. This way people can have fun. Obviously (before I get in trouble with professors), don't plan anything too distracting. I know I would enjoy studying for biology a lot more if I was in a costume or dancing to disco music, and it's a great way to get energy during your study breaks.

Good luck on your exams and have a safe, fun winter break. Don't forget to enjoy the food and entertainment and to make it fun!

Stephanie Evans

Redd's Kitchen

Well, I'm back with a brand new cooking column! Since "R'Eddibles Guide to Impressing People" finished in the Spring, I have become a full vegetarian. I am inviting you, the readers, to submit meat recipes for the newspaper so that we can mix it up a bit. Just email them in. So after my six-month hiatus to research new recipes, no doubt you want to know what's been cooking! Well, read on.

Redd's Mushroom Risotto

This easy to make dish is best when a combination of regular and Portabello mushrooms are used. You can make it with regular mushrooms alone and it will still taste yummy though.

Ingredients

- 1C Rice
- 2C Vegetable Broth
- 1C Mushrooms (1 Portabello and 3 Regular is enough)
- 4Tb Butter
- 1 Clove of Garlic
- 1/2C Fresh Grated Parmesan Cheese

First, wash and slice the mushrooms. Next, finely chop or grate the garlic. Heat 2Tb of butter in a shallow pan and lightly fry the mushrooms and garlic for about three minutes until the juices start coming out.

In a saucepan, melt the other 2Tb of butter and stir in the uncooked rice. Mix until the rice is coated with butter and shiny. Then add the vegetable broth. Bring to a boil and simmer for about 20 minutes or until the rice has absorbed most of the liquid and is tender.

Add the grated Parmesan and the mushrooms and mix well. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Makes two servings on a hungry students appetite.

Winter Movie Preview

A Section of Entertainment



Coming December 8th: "Blade Trinity"

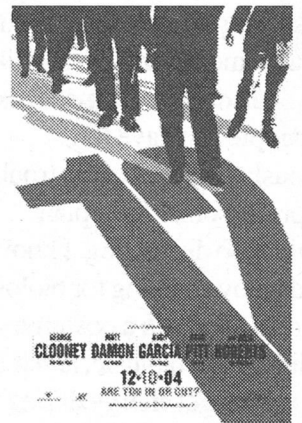
For years, Blade (Wesley Snipes) has fought a war against the vampires in the shadow of the night, with the world unaware of the vicious ongoing conflict. But now, after falling into the crosshairs of the FBI, he is forced out into the daylight where he is driven to join forces with a clan of human vampire hunters he never knew existed - The Nightstalkers. Along with Abigail (Jessica Biel) and Hannibal (Ryan Reynolds), two skillfully trained Nightstalkers, Blade follows a trail of blood to an ancient creature that is hunting him...the original vampire, Dracula. Also starring Kris Kristofferson, and Parker Posey.

MPAA Rating: R for strong pervasive violence and language, and some sexual content

Distributor: New Line Cinema

Directed By: David S. Goyer

Action/Adventure and Suspense/Horror



Coming December 10th: "Ocean's 12"

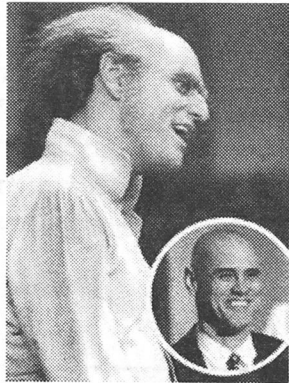
Danny Ocean (George Clooney), reignited flame Tess (Julia Roberts) and a new (some returning and some new), team up for another three big heists. And this time they're in three different locations - Rome, Paris and Amsterdam. In Amsterdam, the prize is Rembrandt's "De Nachtwacht" painting, which resides at the Rijksmuseum. Meanwhile, casino owner Terry Benedict (Andy Garcia), whom Ocean and crew schooled in the last movie, is hot on their tail, looking for revenge. Also starring Matt Damon, Brad Pitt, and Catherine Zeta-Jones.

MPAA Rating: PG-13 for language

Distributor: Warner Bros.

Directed By: Steven Soderbergh

Action/Adventure, Romance, Thriller and Crime/Gangster



Coming December 17th: "Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events"

This is the tale of the Baudelairees, three young orphans, Violet (Emily Browning), Klaus (Liam Aiken) and Sunny, searching for a new home, who are taken in by a series of strange relatives and other people, including Lemony Snicket (Jude Law), who is the narrator of the film, and starting with the cunning and dastardly Count Olaf (Jim Carrey), who hopes to snatch their inheritance from them. Violet is the oldest of the Baudelairees at 14, and is their fearless and fast-thinking leader. The only boy is middle child Klaus, 12, who is very bright and infatuated with words. The youngest is infant Sunny, who speaks in a language only her siblings can understand, and she has a tendency to... bite. Also starring Meryl Streep and Kara Hoffman.

MPAA Rating: PG for thematic elements, scary situations and brief language.

Distributor: Paramount Pictures

Directed By: Brad Silberling

Comedy and Kids/Family

• *Also Coming Dec. 17th: "The Aviator" and "Spanglish"!!!*



Coming December 22nd: "The Phantom of the Opera" (Limited Release)

This romantic musical epic is about a mystifying masked figure, Erik (Gerald Butler), who roams the undergrounds of 19th century Paris, concentrating his movement around the Opera Populaire, where he teaches a stunning young soprano, Christine (Emmy Rossum), who goes on to upstage the city's most famous opera singer, Carlotta (Minnie Driver). The Phantom thinks he's found love, until Christine's childhood love interest, Vicomte de Chagny (Patrick Wilson) comes back into her life. Also starring Alan Cumming.

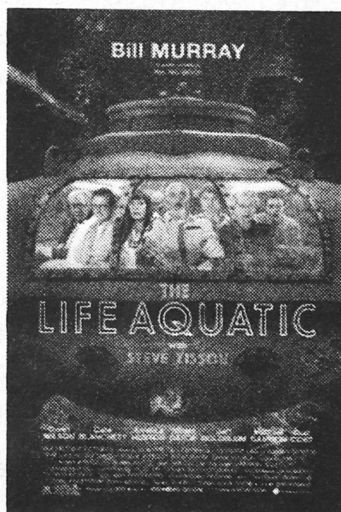
MPAA Rating: PG-13 for brief violent images

Distributor: Warner Bros.

Directed By: Joel Schumacher

Drama, Musical/Performing Arts and Suspense/Horror

• *Also Coming Dec. 22nd: "Meet the Fockers"!!!!*



Coming December 25th: "Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou" (In L.A. and N.Y. on Dec. 17th)

World renowned oceanographer Steve Zissou (Bill Murray) and his crew — Team Zissou — set sail on an quest to hunt down the mysterious, elusive, possibly non-existent Jaguar Shark that killed Zissou's partner during the documentary filming of their latest adventure. They are joined on their voyage by a young airline co-pilot who is possibly Zissou's son (Owen Wilson), a beautiful journalist (Cate Blanchett) assigned to write a profile of Zissou, and Zissou's estranged wife/co-producer, Eleanor (Anjelica Huston). They face great complications including pirates, kidnapping, and bankruptcy. Also starring Willem Dafoe.

MPAA Rating: R for language, some drug use, violence and partial nudity.

Distributor: Touchstone Pictures

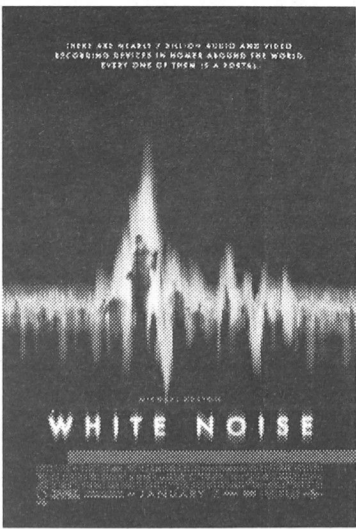
Directed By: Wes Anderson

Comedy

• *Also Coming Dec. 25th: "Fat Albert"!!!!*

Joana Cox

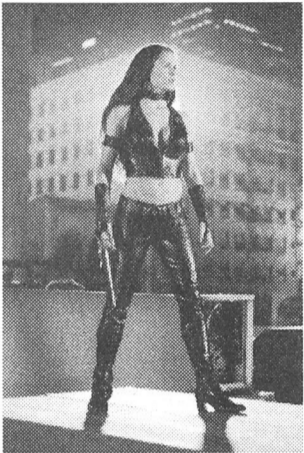
LorettaAshu



**Coming January 7th:
"White Noise"**

Michael Keaton portrays successful architect Jonathan Rivers, whose quiet existence is shattered by the unexplained disappearance and death of his wife, Anna (Chandra West). Jonathan is eventually contacted by a man (Ian McNeice), who claims to be receiving messages from Anna through EVP (Electronic Voice Phenomenon), the process through which the dead communicate with the living through household recording devices. At first skeptical, Jonathan then becomes convinced of the messages' validity, and is soon obsessed with trying to contact her on his own. His further explorations into EVP and the accompanying supernatural messages unwittingly open a door to another world, allowing something uninvited into his life. Also starring Deborah Kara Unger and Amber Rothwell.

MPAA Rating: PG-13 for violence, disturbing images and language
Distributor: Universal Pictures
Directed by: Geoffrey Sax
Drama and Thriller

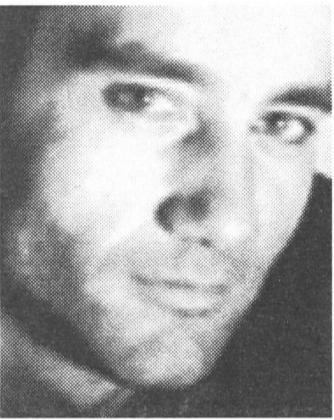


**Coming January 14th:
"Elektra"**

Following the events of "Daredevil", Elektra Natchios (Jennifer Garner), sai devotee and assassin for hire, is invigorated by the Order of the Hand, a group of assassins who assisted in her training. Assigned by the Hand's current leader, Kirigi, to kill a man, Mark Miller (Goran Visnjic), and his 13-year-old daughter, Abby, Elektra soon befriends them and decides to stand up to her ninja peers. Elektra is especially motivated to do so when she discovers that Miller's grandfather was an ally of her former mentor, Stick (Terence Stamp). Together, they must take on Kirigi's lethal quartet (which includes Tengu and Typhoid).

MPAA Rating: (Not rated at this time)
Distributor: 20th Century Fox
Directed By: Rob Bowman
Action/Adventure

• *Also Coming Jan. 14th: "Racing Stripes"!!*



**Coming January 21st:
"Hostage"**

A police officer is wracked by guilt from a prior stint as a negotiator. When a mafia accountant is taken hostage on his beat, he must negotiate the standoff, even as his own family is held captive by the mob. Starring Bruce Willis, Jimmy Bennett, Jimmy Pinchak, Jonathan Tucker, and Ben Foster.

MPAA Rating: (Not rated at this time)
Distributor: Miramax Films
Directed By: Florent Emilio Siri
Thriller



**Coming January 28th:
"Are We There Yet?"**

The fledgling romance between Nick, a playboy bachelor, and Suzanne, a divorced mother of two, is threatened by a particularly harrowing New Year's Eve. When Suzanne's work keeps her in New York City for the holiday, Nick offers to bring her kids to the city from Washington D.C. The kids, who have never liked any of the men their mom has dated, and are determined to turn the trip a nightmare for Nick. Starring Ice Cube, Nia Long, Aleisha Allen, Philip Bolden, and Jay Mohr.

MPAA Rating: PG for language and rude humor.
Distributor: Columbia Pictures
Directed By: Brian Levent
Comedy and Romance

• *Also Coming Jan. 28th: "Hide and Seek"!!*

Coming In February:

- "Boogeyman"- Feb. 4th**
- "The Wedding Date"- Feb. 4th**
- "Hitch"- Feb. 11th**
- "Because of Winn Dixie"- Feb 18th**
- "Constantine"- Feb. 18th**
- "Son of the Mask"- Feb. 18th**
- "Cursed"- Feb 25th**
- "Up and Down"- Feb, 25th**

Source : movies.yahoo.com

Coming Soon!

All photos taken from google.com

Starlett Joyner



Entertainment

'Finding' One of the Best Films of the Year

By Jeff Schade

Every once in a while, a film is released that teaches one about the value of life, friendship, and the power of a little pixie dust. *Finding Neverland*, chronicling the life of playwright and author J.M. Barrie has opened to rave reviews both domestically and internationally.

J.M. Barrie (Johnny Depp) is beginning to struggle as a playwright, and after the failure of his most recent play he begins to doubt himself as a writer. His personal life is no better as he is trapped in a loveless marriage, one that eventually ends with his discovery of his wife's (Radha Mitchell) ongoing affair. A chance encounter in the park with Sylvia Llewelyn Davies (Kate Winslet) and her four boys changes everything. The encounter soon develops into a personal relationship with Llewelyn Davies, and the inspiration to create his most famous work, *Peter Pan*.

While *Finding Neverland* begins slowly, in fact taking the first third of the movie to fully develop, it quickly becomes obvious that this is

not a typical film. The filmmakers have spent a great deal ensuring perfection in both the set design and the period costuming, and a high production quality.

The acting is also nothing less than spectacular, with Depp and Winslet both delivering strong performances, strong enough to be some of the best of their careers. A supporting cast featuring such screen legends as Julie Christie and Dustin Hoffman also fails to disappoint, providing outstanding characters and emotionally driven performances.

Overall, *Finding Neverland* is one of the few films of recent memory that excels in both story and emotional content. Easily one of the best films of the year, *Finding Neverland* rates as an 8/10 and receives a strong recommendation.

Finding Neverland, a Miramax Pictures release, is rated PG for mild thematic elements and brief language. Currently in limited release, it expands nationwide on Christmas Day.



Photos courtesy of google.com



Movie Trivia

Guess what? It's that time again! Time for movie trivia!! Its fun trying to figure out some good movie questions for you guys. Makes me have to go back and watch the movie again.... Anyways, here is this issues trivia question:

Q: In the movie "Monty Python and the Holy Grail", how many characters does John Cleese play?

The first person who e-mails me the correct answer will get a "Saw" t-shirt! Also, if you have any good trivia question ideas, let me know. Please send all answers to (and please make sure it's from your CCSU mail account) ccsumoviedude@yahoo.com. That's all folks!
- Chris Duryea

CCSU Literary/Arts Magazine

Call for Submissions!

A GREAT opportunity to get published! *Cygnets*, Clayton State's journal of art and literature, is seeking poetry, essays, short fiction and art for its second annual issue.

Turn your work in to Jill Sears in Arts & Sciences G-210 by Friday, December 10th.

(3 copies, Times New Roman, font 12, single spaced)

For more information, contact DavidLudley@mail.clayton.edu

All poetry will also be entered into the POETRYPALOOZA Student Poetry Contest, unless you specify otherwise.

Contest prizes include monetary awards of \$150, \$100 and \$75



CYGNETS
art • poetry • prose

'Hamlet... A Musical' Cast and Crew

Hamlet, Prince of Denmark.....Lee Usher
 Gertrude, Queen and Hamlet's mother.....Wyatt Lowe
 Claudius, newly crowned King of Denmark.....Phil Collins
 Ophelia, ethereal daughter of Polonius.....Redd Horrocks
 Polonius, meddlesome courtier.....Adrienne Gauthier
 Laertes, militant daughter of Polonius.....Keishunda Terrell
 Horatio, Hamlet's loyal friend.....Wyatt Lowe
 Osric, the queenish courtier.....Zaylin Greene
 Rosencrantz, rich courtier.....Sharrisse Clark
 Guildenstern, rich courtier.....Brittany Loffert
 Marcellus, officer.....Sharisse Clark
 Bernardo, officer.....Brittany Loffert
 Gravedigger.....Adebayo Sulaimon
 Fortinbras, Prince of Norway.....Pedro the Puppet
 Mime.....Wyatt Lowe

Players: Dancers and Singers.....
 Marlana Appel, Reesie Clark, Redd
 Horrocks, Brittany Loffert, Keishunda Terrell

Blind Boys in "Doomed".....
 Adrienne Gauthier, Marlana Appel, Phil
 Collins, Zaylin Greene, Brittany Loffert

Singer in *Daven*.....Redd Horrocks
 School Girls in "Mother's Prayer".....Adrienne Gauthier, Redd
 Horrocks, Brittany Loffert

Crew and Staff

Director.....Phillip Deboy
 Stage Manager.....Colleen Welsh
 Assistant Stage Manager.....Marlana Appel
 Set Design.....Rochelle Barker
 Light Design.....Ken Yunker
 Light Board Operation.....**
 Box Office.....Todd Janke and Tequila Whitfield
 Programs.....Adrienne Gauthier
 Digital Video Filming.....Dr. Spence and CMS 4410
 Costumes.....The personal wardrobe stylings of our very own cast!

'Hamlet' Photos
 Courtesy of
 Ashley Spillers



Cassandra Moton

Bent Tree Staff

Editor-in Chief: Ashley Spillers
 Associate Editor: Redd Horrocks

Business Manager: Thomas Spurlin
 Layout By: Ashley Spillers

Staff Writers

Chris Duryea	Sibongile Lynch
Adrienne Gauthier	Fred Morales-Prince
Brandon Fowler	Shelley Morgan
Linda Godin	Dale Myers
Patrick Harbin	Jeff Schade
Jeff Hensley	Dana Staves
Lauren Huff	Stanford Strong
Merrie LaFrenier	Jason Thomas
Megan Lawrimore	Matt Todd

Contributors

Lauren Baker	Yasmin Neal
Gerald Heavens	LaKeisha Reaves
Stephanie Junca	Brandon Tucker

Campus Question

I think Mel Gibson would make a good president. He would be a nice Christian conservative.
Pam Hyaduck

Dave Chappelle with running mate, Jamie Foxx. Have you seen that skit on "Chappelle's Show"?
Sidney Eng

I think P.Diddy would be a good president. I think Mase would be a good running mate.
Crystal Harrigan

I think that John Stewart and Bill Maher would make a good President/Vice-President combination.
William Maroni

I believe the Celebrity President of the United States should be Ted Nugent with Tom Selleck as his running mate. They have the strongest beliefs in faith, family, values, and all 10 Amendments. They do not believe in flip flopping, just in what is good for the average American.
Alan Youngblood

Arnold Schwarzenegger! I think he will be a great president because he has the values and the view for a better America. As Governor of California, he has been doing a wonderful job. His running mate, Ben Affleck. Although, Ben is Democrat and Arnold is Republican, I think they will be a great team. Ben has the looks, the stamina and the values that Americans

want in a leader. Now that Ben is with the other Jen, he has his head where it belongs to. I see Arnold with Maria greeting the

He is loud, bold, and mean; makes for more realistic cowboy than Bush. For Vice-President, [I would pick] Morgan Freedmen 2008

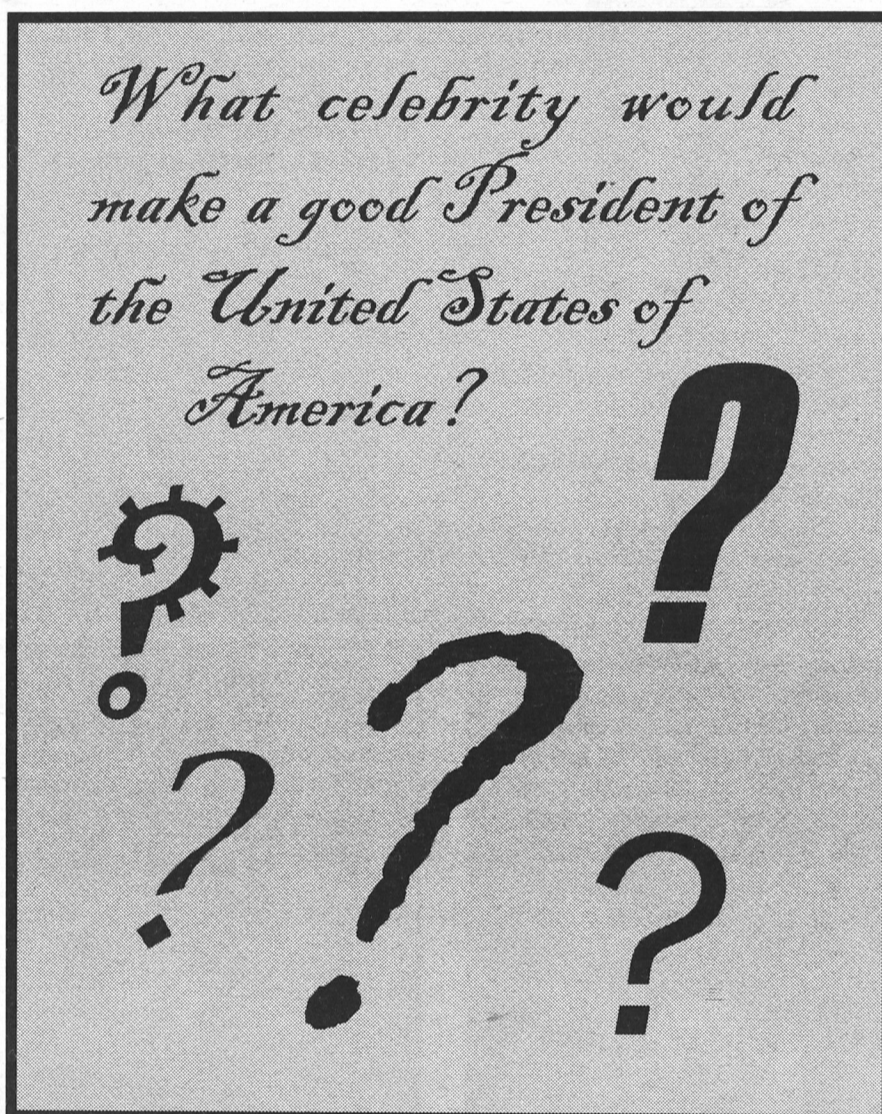
Robert Redford. Throughout his cinema career, Robert Redford has consistently demonstrated his tremendous insight into American life, getting his thoughts recorded and into our minds.

Redford's tackled major issues, such as civilian and military prison reform with "Brubaker" and "The Castle Wall," which was taken off screens following 9/11. At that year's Oscar's, Mr. Redford gave a blistering anti-censorship speech, directed at Hollywood and government.

In conjunction with his Sundance Film Institute and son, Redford filmed a PBS special depicting modern conflicts between Native American and American cultures, entitled, "Skinwalkers," which airs frequently on PBS. He filmed "Three Days of the Condor," depicting a man's role as a CIA operative, targeted by his employer for extinction.

Redford's amazing political insight continues in "The Candidate." In The Candidate, Redford portrays a young idealist wanting to effect real societal change, instead, the candidate learns what politics can do to a person. The best way to get to know Redford is to watch his cinema plays then reflect on whom you want in the White House in 2008? His running mate should be a common man like you or I. In 2008, I may vote Independent or third party again. If Redford runs for office, I could vote for him as a man, not as a screen action hero. Food for thought.

Paul Hale
Non-Traditional Student



American people from the White House.
Aminta Soto

It would be funny to see Will Smith as President and of course Jada Pinkett-Smith as his Vice-President. They both seem to have that perfect mix of street-smarts and book smarts. They seem like pretty straight forward people who have no time to sugar-coat or to play both sides of the issues.
Sonya Knight

For President, [I would pick] Samuel L. Jackson 2008

Faye Myers

[He is] more intelligent, can keep Jackson's boldness in check.
Christopher Blackwell

Well, I am not sure if he is a celebrity or not, but I think Rush Limbaugh would be a great president. He is on the cutting edge as far as political reforms and foreign affairs. I think he would have a hard time trying to find a running mate.
Terry Gainer

There is one "celebrity" who can be considered presidential material –

Jennifer Maxwell

Life According to Jayden S. Edwards

Second Episode-“The Ropes”

By Keisha Reaves

“Winsdale, huh. There’s some pretty rich people there, right? Isn’t that, like, near the coast or whatever?” Seth asked me as I finished folding and hanging up my clothes.

“So, are there any parties going on tonight?” I asked him.

“Parties?” he said with this confused voice. He said it in a way as if he wanted me to recite the definition of party to him.

“Um, I’m not much of a party guy. I mean, I do my little here and there, but that’s about it. Maybe a rave. My friend Mitch took me to an awesome rave about a month ago out there at this abandoned warehouse. They were doing all sorts of things out there. I don’t do that kind of stuff, if you know what I mean. After my gramps came back from the war, he’d been on drugs real bad to try and get all of that stuff out of his head. He overdosed when I was six. So, I vowed to never do that stuff no matter how people say I would possess a better personality if I did,” Seth said. He’d practically walked all around my question. He’d taken me to the corner store when all I asked for was a brisk walk. I knew now that this was going to be difficult.

“So, do you have any friends?” I asked him as I took a seat on my bed that sat parallel to his in the box-like room we shared. His glasses were on the tip of his nose and he pushed them back up with his index finger. He propped his feet, which wore an old pair of black Converse sneakers, up on the bed reclining comfortably. His jeans were worn with strands hanging down from the bottoms of them. He was a sophomore and I had expected so much more out of him. He was giving me hardly anything to go by.

“My friend Mitch, but he doesn’t go to school here. He goes to the technical college up the street. So, as for here at MSU, no, not really,” he said. I was slowly dying on the inside. Was this some sort of test? Was God trying to tell me that I was going to be a dork for the rest of my life no matter what I tried to do about it? It truly seemed that way.

I pondered over the idea that college would be okay if I wasn’t popular. If my dreams of being this awesome guy that everyone knew were shattered, would I be okay with it? I laid down on the bed and started to run my hands through my thick brown hair. This was going to be harder than I thought.

“So, do you do anything interesting here at all?” I asked him.

“Well, I watch a lot of movies, read sci-fi books and I play in my band,” he said.

“Anything interesting as far as interacting with the campus? Like, do you know the who’s who of MSU?” I relayed to him in a way that broke things down better for him to comprehend.

“Last summer I worked with the Governor’s League. It was this

organization that helped the kids that would be coming in as freshmen this year, but only of the age of sixteen. They were advanced or whatever and would have a difficult time fitting in. My job was to tour them around campus and introduce them to the popular people here. It was to make them feel at home. Not so out cast, yah know. Well, anyway, I did that all summer. I could give you a tour now,” he said. Then, suddenly, a light went on in my head and things instantly seemed to lighten up. A smile crept across my face and I stood quickly to my feet.

“Ready as ever!” I exclaimed.

“Cool, I’ll show you the ropes,” he said,

I followed him into the hallway. It was still crowded with many people unpacking their things and yelling back and forth at one another.

“This here is Brunkswick Hall. We are the only co-ed dormitory in the entire campus. Many people would kill to get into this building because the other buildings are on lock. When I say lock I mean that they have tighter curfews and more rules about having guys in the girl’s rooms and the other way around.

Here, it’s pretty laid back. Sure, we have to get parental permission, but Jeff Hardwick is the R.A. and he’s the coolest guy on campus,” Seth said as we took the stairs instead of the elevator. He continued to babble off at the mouth giving me un-useful, but somewhat useful information.

“This building was called Virgin Hall back in the fifties because that was before it was turned over into a co-ed dormitory. Within months of the girls moving in that name would change to Seven Flights of Whores. You can see now why it’s co-ed. Can’t fight something that’s just too obvious,” he said as we walked down the steps of our building into the quad area.

“We are also the only dormitory to have a beautiful greenery right here out front. There are great times out here. There’s Battle of the Bands, Extreme Frisby competitions, volley ball, poetry slams, etc. Last year, there was even a Peace fest. It was suppose to resemble Woodstock. Its purpose was to blend all cultures and make this big peace festival. There was food from all types of countries and different kinds of music. There were even special guest bands like Hoobastank, Red Revolver, Yellowcard, The Roots, Outkast. I mean, the list went on, but by midnight some people wanted to recreate the seventy’s too much. They knocked over one of those fire hydrants, got undressed and danced in the middle of the streets. Streaking is what I think it’s called. A little too much of that movie “Old School.” Everyone got on probation for doing that. It was a funny sight, though. Never again a Peacefest, but our school goes down in history for it,” he said as we entered the cafeteria.

He showed me around to the different lounge areas. He told me who

sat here and who sat there. It was somewhat like high school, but fraternities and sororities ruled the campus here. If you weren’t in a frat, you were in the band. He even said that there was no party like a band party. He talked about the football games and how tailgating wasn’t just about getting smashed, but because when you were smashed you’d have the confidence of approaching girls.

“Most girls here are snobs, I must add. They’re rich girls who have too much money and find themselves in love with the idea of being with a frat boy. If not them, an athlete. Athletes are big here too. Not the girls, though. The cheerleaders, yes, but a lot of them are anorexic. I shouldn’t say that, though. That would be judging. There is one cute one. Her name is Samantha Blakes. Aye, aye, aye. I had chem. lab with her spring semester. She’d come over to study with me from time to time, but my girlfriend had gotten mad about it,” he’d said as we continued to walk across campus. Those few last words out of his mouth gave me some hope.

“Girlfriend?” I asked him.

“Yeah. Don’t you have one?” he asked me. Here I was, a much cooler guy than Seth. I didn’t read sci-fi. I didn’t play video games. I didn’t wear thick glasses that fell down my nose constantly and I definitely didn’t have a shirt that said I Hate Popularity in my wardrobe. Seth had a girl. She probably wasn’t stunning. As a matter of fact, I could see her being a little Goth, perhaps. Maybe dyed red or black hair with lots of piercing in her face. She’d be fair skinned and would have obsessions with Marilyn Manson.

“She’s Goth?” I asked him.

“Yea. How’d you know?” he asked me as he stopped in his tracks. He reached in his back pocket to pull out his wallet. He flipped through his photos and there laid a picture of her. “Her name is Willow. Gorgeous, right?” he said with pride. Right, indeed. She was hot. Gothic and hot. More like an Avril Lavigne hot. “We took it last Halloween. I was Satan and she was a whore,” he said. Would I be good enough for a sorority girl? Would I have to get a Goth girl? Would going Gothic even turn out bad? Perhaps it could be a plus. I mean, I’d never had a girlfriend in my life and it wasn’t like I could be picky. But Goths were always outcasts in school. Would I want to make my mark as being that already? Or would I make my mark as being a judgmental prick first? It was already proven just now that Goth could be absolutely hot.

“She has any friends?” I asked him.

“No female friends. Only guy friends, which irks me daily,” he said as we continued to walk. As he continued to talk more and more

about the social outings of the school I spotted a street full of mansions with tons of people walking it.

“What’s down there?” I asked him.

“Here? Oh, this is Greek Boulevard where all the Greek houses stand,” he said.

“Are there parties going on here?” I asked him.

“I would assume. It’s move-in day. There’s got to be,” he said.

“Can we check it out?” I asked already heading over that way. Seth protested, but followed not wanting to be left behind. It was like I was walking down the white tunnel to God. I could see the light at the end. My face would gleam more and more as I grew closer. We followed the big groups of people up to the main house that was crowded with all the people inside. The music was loud, people were yelling out obnoxious comments, vomit was everywhere and it was just the place where I wanted to be.

I dragged Seth inside and tried to look cool. I carried the face as someone that knew where he was. I nodded my head to people I didn’t even know and possessed a certain confidence that I’d observed from the popular guys in high school. We stood there for at least an hour laughing at things people would say just to uphold the image. The important image was vital. Constantly I scanned the party looking for a girl, any girl. I just wanted to make eye contact with one and have her come to me. I’d put on my charm. I’d be the Casanova of MSU. It would be hard to break girls hearts, but I knew that at least one would be heartbroken over me.

Soon, four hours had passed. The night was winding down and not one single girl had looked at me, approached me, or even seemed interested in the conversations I’d start. They’d laugh and walk off with their friends calling me a lame person with a capital L. Seth had ditched me to sit outside on the curb and draw pictures in the street. I was a wallflower and I would be known as that for at least the first month of school. Jayden “Wallflower” Edwards would be my name. Guys would shout out, hey, Wally! Next year this time Seth would be showing the ropes to another new guy. He would see me and say, there’s Wally Edwards. He’s called that because he’s the wallflower at all the happening parties. He doesn’t have a girlfriend.

I suck up the failure and attempt to turn and leave. I was going to call it a night and a battle lost.

“Hey, would you mind taking me back to your dorm,” a girl said to me as she fell into my arms. I then look down at down the most gorgeous face I’d ever seen in my life.

Features

Around Campus

Changing Lives : The Kristy Justus Story

By Redd Horrocks

It's amazing how your life can change in a split second. Just one movement, one motion can alter the course of your future in an unbelievable way. This happens to all us. Sometimes it's a little thing, like choosing to call a friend, or going to the store, or catching a football.

Wait, catching a football? How can that change a life? Well, that's how Kristy Justus' life was altered forever.

Kristy was attending West Georgia in 2002. She was active, athletic and popular. She loved people and people loved her. One day, while playing a game of Intramural Flag Football, she went to catch a pass. Another girl went for the same pass and landed on top of Kristy, breaking her neck. Kristy was instantly paralyzed from the neck down. Her C3 and C4 vertebrae were dislocated, causing severe bruising in her spinal cord. This caused a build up of scar tissues that prevent signals from her brain from reaching the rest of her body. In just an instant, Kristy's entire life changed. Confined to a chair, Kristy has lost her independence, something which she greatly cherished. She can't do the little things we take for granted, like turning the page of a book, or brushing her hair.

But, amazingly, she continues her life as normally as she can. She gets her hair done, she goes



to classes, she spends time on the internet. Kristy moves around gracefully in a chair that she controls by blowing in a straw. She believes that everything happens for a reason. Now, after some recovery time, Kristy is back in school and this time she is studying Psychology. Why? So that one day she can help people who have been through what she has been through.

But first, she has one more thing to get through. A few months ago, a friend of Kristy's family heard about a new surgery that is being performed in Portugal. It's so new that it isn't available in the United States yet. The surgery involves taking adult stem cells from the patient's nose and implanting them into the damaged area. This helps the body to repair itself. Kristy's family instantly researched this surgery, and after a trip to Detroit to meet with a doctor, they learned that

Kristy was a perfect candidate. Of the thirty or more people that have been through this surgery, all of them have shown some improvement. Kristy could gain the use of her arms, and she could even walk again one day with the help of this surgery. Her surgery is set for February, and after the surgery she must spend at least six months in Detroit undergoing intense physical therapy. After that period of time, she is hoping to return to school either next Fall or the following Spring. Since learning of the surgery, Kristy and her family have been trying very hard to raise the \$43,000 they need. They only have \$15,000 to go for the surgery. Kristy says that they are going to deal with the \$40,000 needed for the six months of therapy as it comes. Their primary focus is the surgery.

Talking to this amazing and beautiful woman, it is so amazing that she is a high-spirited and happy individual. There is no trace of bitterness in her voice, no anger. She says that she's never been a shy person and it doesn't seem as though she's starting now. After her accident, she changed her major to Psychology, so that one day she can help people through the same things that she has been through. Kristy believes that everything happens for a reason and that there is a plan for her. She has a purpose. In a note Kristy wrote in November, she says;

"At the time of my injury the doctors told me that I would not walk again. However, they did proceed to tell me I could still have a good life from my wheelchair. I refused to believe their prognosis from the beginning and to this day I still feel the same way."

Thank you, Kristy, for showing us what strength really is.

If you would like to help with Kristy's Portugal Road Trip, you can send donations made payable to:

"The Kristy Justus Fund"
410 Jordan Lane
Locust Grove, GA, 30248

Donations can also be left with Karen Blackburn in the Office of Disability Services in the Student Center.

Contact Information

"The Kristy Justus Fund"
410 Jordan Lane
Locust Grove, GA, 30248

Donations can also be left with Karen Blackburn in the Office of Disability Services in the Student Center.

* Contestants in the Pizza party contest should find their names within the articles in this paper, and the first contestant to find their name should contact the Bent Tree @ Btree@mail.clayton.edu and tell us where you saw your name and give your info in the e-mail.