

# THE BENT TREE

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CCSU STUDENT NEWSPAPER



## The Great SLAC Debate

**Editor's Note:** *This article was submitted by an anonymous source. The Student Life Activities Committee (SLAC) has been given an opportunity to respond to the allegations presented in a published article if they so choose.*

If you have attended Clayton State for more than a semester, then you likely know of the existence of the Student Life Activities Committee, commonly abbreviated as SLAC. What you may not know is what the purpose and activities of this committee is and what role it plays on campus.

And this is where the debate begins, as many students will attest to. An unnamed SLAC representative was quoted as saying that the purpose of the group is to "...bring diverse activities to campus" and the official website for the committee states that the purpose is to "...to provide programs of a cultural, recreational, social, and educational nature to the Clayton College & State University community."

The question must therefore be asked, is SLAC performing their duties and fulfilling their purpose? The answer is an overwhelming no, and one that has

brought a multitude of reactions from various students interviewed on campus.

How can such a statement be made though? A quick examination of SLAC's recent activities will show that they have sponsored a number of events around campus including various movie nights, a comedy show, fashion show and variety show in the recent months. However, how many of these events have truly appealed to the student body as a whole? With the exception of the movie showings, it is a certain fact that the other events have appealed to a very narrow demographic of the student body.

For example, the so-called "Variety Show" last semester was a disgrace to both the campus and the student body. Not only was it poorly planned, it also featured only a single non-black performer. What kind of representation is this? How can this be allowed to be a campus sponsored event.

Other events on campus have been the same, including the recent comedy show, which featured an entire cast of black performers.



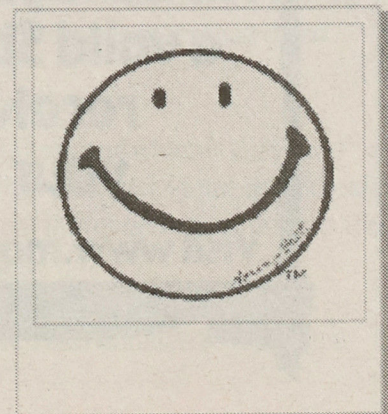
Some may say that these were the only performers available, but anyone who is a clear-thinking individual will know the truth.

Other events are the same, with little to no racial diversity, and often poorly planned events that often times are not worth the time and effort to attend. A recent egg hunt on campus was not only confusing, but scarcely advertised. Once again this is a clear signal of the negligence of SLAC.

As anyone could tell you, the student body at the school is quite diverse, with a large amount of minority and exchange students as well as white, African-American and Hispanic races also being prevalent. The activities sponsored by SLAC however focus primarily on the urban and African-American demographics within the school, which while prevalent is not an overwhelming majority of students on campus. If racial diversity is common on campus, then why are the activities not also representing said diversity? Why is that at nearly every event, the same music, from Usher, Little John and Nelly is always broadcast?

One must look no further than the office of SLAC itself. At any given time, an observation of those within the office will reveal a complete under-representation of anybody other than African Americans. Is it because SLAC does not accept them? There have been reports of harassment due to race within the very office. Another explanation lies in the slate of activities scheduled, as few people will have any interest in joining unless they fit the narrow demographic catered to by SLAC.

**Speak Out: What is your view on SLAC? Submit your comments to the News Editor: [jeffbenttree@hotmail.com](mailto:jeffbenttree@hotmail.com)**



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# around campus...



Clayton State's second annual edition of *Cygnets*, the campus's literary arts magazine, launched April 11, 2005, at 7 PM in G-132 with the Faculty/Staff Poetry Night. Our faculty and staff turned out to read original works and to celebrate *Cygnets*'s release. *Cygnets* features original works of poetry, prose, and art by CCSU students. Several of the students' works of poetry were recognized at Poetrypalooza as winners and honorable mentions. Those students are:

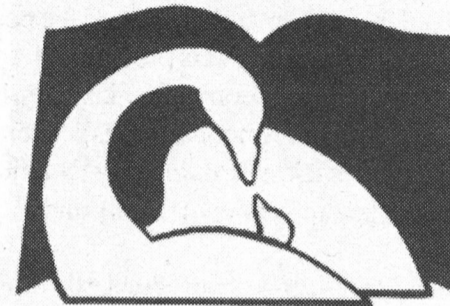
**First place:** "A Clever Affair via the Tedious Grading of English Papers" by Will Melton

**Second place:** "Snow Globe" by Kristen Torres-Toro

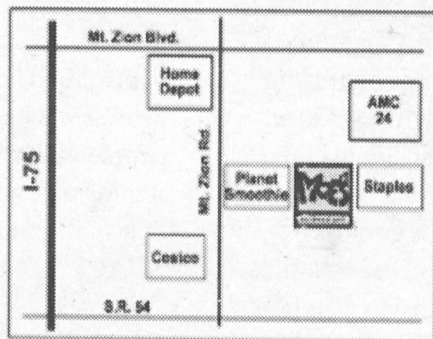
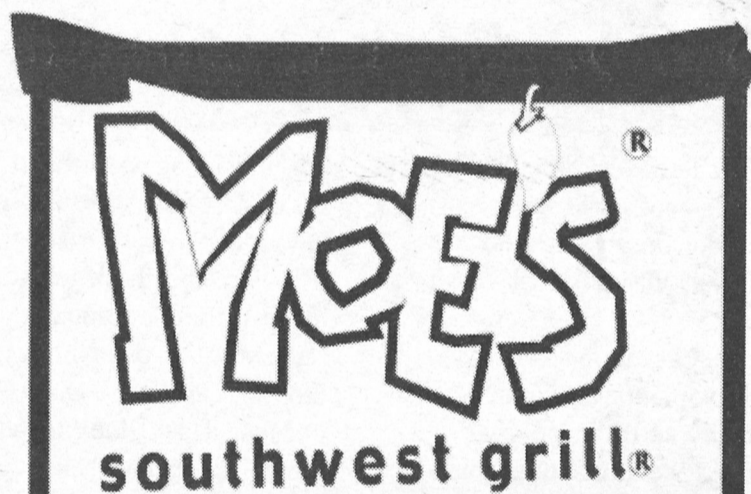
**Third place:** "Maternity Beach" by Emily Smith

**Honorable Mentions:** "Christmas '89" by James Carswell Jr.; "Close Encounter" and "Girls' Night Out" by Sonya Knight; "Bath" by Dana Staves; "Ballerina" by Joshua Smith.

Copies of *Cygnets* are available for free on tables throughout Arts & Sciences. Please pick up a copy to see what fellow students have written and come to the Faculty/Staff Poetry Night to hear original works by our professors and administration.



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# around campus...

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## National Poetry Month

By Dana Staves

National Poetry Month was kicked off on Wednesday, March 30, with Clayton State's Poetrypalooza, a student poetry contest featuring works by students in this year's edition of *Cygnets*, Clayton State's annual literary arts magazine. Performance poet Ayodele Heath, who was present at the Poetry Slam held this past September, judged the poetry.

The Academy of American Poets proclaimed April as National Poetry Month in 1996. National Poetry Month (NPM) serves to "bring together publishers, booksellers, literary organizations, libraries, schools, and poets around the country to celebrate poetry and its vital place in American culture" (Academy of American Poets). There are readings and events held nationally in celebration of the growing world of poetry.

Clayton State will be taking part in the celebration. The Faculty/Staff poetry night, which will be held on April 11 at 7 PM in G-132, will showcase poetry written by our very own faculty and staff. In addition, this event will celebrate the launch of the aforementioned literary arts magazine, *Cygnets*.

There are also events off campus. As part of the Poetry at Tech program, Robert Bly and Heather McHugh, published poets, will be reading at The LeCraw Auditorium on Georgia Tech's campus at 7 PM on April 7. This event is free to the public. On Sunday April 10 at the Norcross Barnes & Noble, there will be an Open Mic poetry reading hosted by Lisa Allender. On Tuesday, April 12, at 7 PM, there will be a poetry workshop at Jake's Ice Cream on Highland Avenue. On Friday, April 15, at 8 PM, there will be an All Women's Open Mic Night at Charis Books and More. In addition, there will be a reading by David Bottoms, Alan Shapiro, and Natasha Trethewey on April 25 at the Woodruff Arts Center. For more information on events near you, visit <http://www.georgiapoetrysociety.com/events.htm>.

Check with bookstores near you for featured books on poetry in celebration of NPM. Most locations will also offer a poetry reading of some kind during the month as well. Poetry is an art form that is growing in popularity and National Poetry Month is just one way of showing readers what is out there for them to enjoy. The events listed here, as well as ones on the Internet, makes poetry more accessible to readers. Take advantage of the chances offered to master your craft, or just enjoy what others have done!

Academy of American Poets. "National Poetry Month 2005." 2005. <http://www.poets.org/npm/>. 4/1/05.



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**UniCef** would like to thank everyone who participate, volunteered and donated to the recent tsunami relief drive. With your help and donations, over \$2,000 was raised for relief efforts.

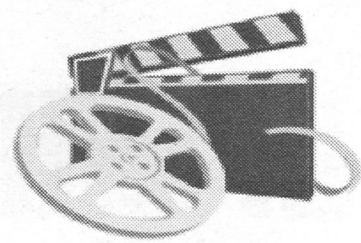
**Sigma Pi Fraternity** has recently colonized and become officially recognized within the National Interfraternity Council. For more information on the fraternity, please visit: <http://studentweb.org/sigmapi>

**The Bent Tree** has been permanently installed outside the University Center. The tree is a replica of the original campus "Bent Tree", one of the most known objects on campus. It was unfortunately removed for construction of the University Center, however the replica was created and installed.

**ClaytonPalooza 2005** has been set for April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2005. The event, featuring local artists Kaiser Soze, Makeshift, Jynx and more is to raise money for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Local sponsors Sigma Pi Fraternity, Little House Productions, The National Multiple Sclerosis Society, BellSouth, Peachtree Music Stockbridge, and Taco Mac Stockbridge have all assisted with the production of this event. Admission is free, however a donation of \$5 or more will allow for entrance to a special after-party to be held at Taco Mac Stockbridge.

**The International Awareness Association and UniCef** would like to thank everyone who participate, volunteered and donated to the recent tsunami relief drive. With your help and donations, over \$2,000 was raised for relief efforts.

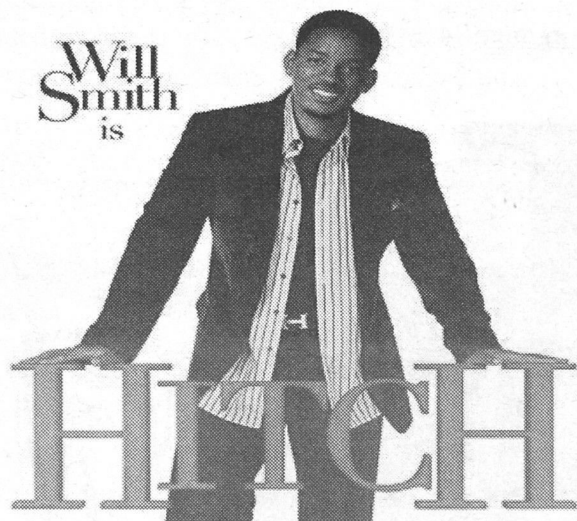




## Love for Hire vs. The Date Doctor

By Kristen Torres-Toro

Several movies made it big recently and two of them were the romantic films *The Wedding Date* and *Hitch*. *The Wedding Date*, starring Debra Messing and Dermot Mulroney, is the classic chick flick. The plot is completely predictable: a pretty, slightly clumsy girl is recovering from a broken heart, meets an incredibly handsome guy with whom she is “just friends” at first, they fight, she realizes she’s in love, and . . . I’m going to save the ending for those who haven’t seen the movie, but just know that it is an utterly textbook plot. There are, however, some poignant scenes with excellent dialogue, and several moments of overwhelming humor. The actors are both funny and believable in their roles, pulling the audience into their story despite the ordinary plot. Overall, this movie was interesting and will make a very good movie rental for a rainy Saturday night, complete with chocolate-chip cookie dough ice cream and girl talk. It is not, however, a good date movie – unless a guy has a secret crush on Debra Messing. In contrast, *Hitch* was entertaining, smart, and hilarious. Starring Will Smith, Kevin James, and Eva Mendez, this is the ultimate date-worthy chick flick, if there actually is such a thing. Will Smith plays Alex Hitchens, a “date doctor” who helps guys get the girl they like – yet he can’t get the girl he likes for himself. The dialogue is quick, intelligent, and funny, the characters’ situations are original and hysterical, and the characters themselves are beyond endearing. Best of all, the plot is not typical – although the ending is not a true stretch of the imagination. Both movies took a very unique approach to the topic of love and relationships. The love scene in *The Wedding Date* seemed out of place, like the writers put it there just to have a love scene in the film. There didn’t appear to be any reasoning or communication between the characters before the scene to set the story for it. On the other hand, every kiss, every hug, and every sexual advance in *Hitch* is timely, fitting, and enhances the storyline. If *The Wedding Date* is just a good movie (and it truly is worth the money to see), then *Hitch* is a brilliant one. The writers leapt outside of the box when writing this script and the actors brought it to life. It’s a guaranteed hit for a date, because the romance is not sappy or unrealistic. Instead, it is hilarious, creative, and fun. What *The Wedding Date* lacks in originality, *Hitch* makes up for a hundredfold. So next Friday night at the movie theater, remember you have a choice: just another chick flick that is funny but not very memorable, or a truly brilliant comedy about love, relationships, and the intricacies of everything in between.



## “No One Talks to Billy Idol That Way!”

by Dana Staves

Perhaps one of my favorite things to do is watch movies—I love it! My afternoon of choice on a weekend is to go shopping, get some good food, and settle in to watch a movie (regardless of the fact that I’ve probably seen it a hundred times already). One of the best movies I know is *The Wedding Singer*, starring Adam Sandler and Drew Barrymore. In this spoof of 80’s fashion, music, and lifestyle, we see a cameo from the 80’s icon Billy Idol. In one of the funniest, most heart-warming parts of the movie, Adam Sandler’s character, Robbie, is explaining his love for Julia, Drew Barrymore’s character, and his determination to find her and her fiancé in Las Vegas and stop them from getting married, to a group of first class passengers, including Billy Idol (as himself). Billy portrays the 80’s rocker wonderfully as he throws back drink after drink and laughs when an old woman innocently asks “What’s the mile high club?” In a touching sequence of events, Robbie finds that Julia is on the same plane and he sings the song he wrote for her. When her fiancé, Glen, jumps from his seat to stop Robbie, flight attendants deter him across the rows of seats to the other side of the plane. Billy Idol rolls along with a beverage cart, gets threatened by Glen and is rescued by an enormous man who doubles as a hard-core Billy Idol fan. When Robbie gets the girl, Billy Idol promises to tell the record executives about his song. It’s a touching scene, not only because the story works out in the end, but because it makes a person feel good that someone like Billy Idol can still get work every once in awhile.

As I was getting ready for school the other day and flipping from MTV to CMT to VH1, I noticed that the warm-hearted appreciation for Billy Idol on the part of America has been pushed a little too far. A new video for Billy Idol’s single, *Scream*, took over my screen and I didn’t know whether to burst out laughing or to change the channel and hope it was a mistake. I decided to let the disaster play out and to my great surprise, I was correct. Billy Idol has decided to make a comeback and he’s still trying to play the bad-boy rocker with the charming British accent. Coming to a girl’s aid at the end of the video when she has fainted at one of his concerts, he pushes his way through the crowd with kind words and an accent that would make a girl swoon—if only he weren’t old enough to be her dad!

There are certain performers who are allowed to make career comebacks without asking permission. Madonna can release a new album with a new personality any time she wants. U2 will hear no complaints from me each time they release a new album. Even The Eagles are free to tickle our ears with new tunes. I draw the line with novelty 80’s bands like Duran Duran and, especially, Billy Idol! I feel that for certain performers, such as the aforementioned groups, a special discretionary panel with the government should convene to decide whether or not to subject the American people to listening to 80’s rock attempts to pass off as contemporary rock music. It doesn’t work people, please stop trying! Some people might be Billy Idol fans, which works out great for them, since Billy’s new single, *Scream*, sounds exactly the same as many of his old songs, such as *White Wedding*. As for me, I think that groups like Duran Duran and performers like Billy Idol should get comfortable in the 80’s bargain bin and stay there instead of disturbing my morning television time with their most recent attempts at salvaging a career in music!





## Music News and Reviews

### Featured Genre: R&B and Hip-hop

By Megan Lawrimore

This month, the world of R&B and hip-hop is extremely busy, and it's full of controversy, fresh voices, new collaborations, and more music from reliable favorites. Hot 97, the well-known New York radio station, is dealing with the repercussions of unsympathetic comments and jokes made regarding December's tsunamis. The "Miss Jones in the Morning Show" featured a parody of "We are the World," called "The Tsunami Song," which included offensive and insensitive lyrics; after the song aired, Miss Info (of *Best Week Ever*) immediately expressed disapproval and was answered with racist comments from her fellow DJs. The parties involved have been temporarily suspended and each lost a week's pay, which will in turn be donated to the tsunami relief efforts. As far as real music, it seems that molding "protégés" has become a profitable pastime for such respected artists as Dr. Dre and Kanye West, as both have recently produced debut albums of new artists. Dre's protégé, the Game, released his first album, *The Documentary*, mid-January, and it carries impressive collaborations featuring 50 Cent, Snoop Dogg, and Busta Rhymes. West's protégé, John Legend, appeals to a more R&B style and has already received excellent reviews from critics with *Get Lifted*; like the Game, Legend's debut includes the influences of many established artists and features notable tracks with Snoop Dogg and even West himself. Aside from chaperoning John Legend into stardom, however, Kanye West is involved in numerous other projects. West has been working with Lauryn Hill

on her long-awaited sophomore solo CD, as well as with John Mayer for tracks on his own sophomore CD, *Late Registration*, which is due out in the spring. Hill and West seem to be a perfect musical match, as both incorporate strong spiritual tones into their songwriting, and neither shies away from honesty and authenticity. Hill's 1998 solo debut, *The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill*, won five Grammy's, but her MTV Unplugged 2.0 special, and CD of the same name, proved even more impressive – (particularly tracks such as "Water" and "Oh Jerusalem.") West's initial venture, *The College Dropout*, was equally successful, establishing a firm fan base for the new artist, as well as a fearlessly spiritual reputation. As a result of his busy year, Kanye West is up for ten Grammys on the February 13<sup>th</sup> show, only rivaled by Alicia Keys, who is nominated for eight. Queen Latifah is slated to host, and the show will include a tribute to Ray Charles, who is posthumously nominated for several awards. Keys, recognized in categories such as Album of the Year and Best Female R&B Vocal Performance, is scheduled to perform at the awards as well; she'll also be bringing her music to the Bell Auditorium in Augusta, GA on February 27<sup>th</sup> and tickets are on sale now. Another tour in the works for 2005 is a possible collaboration between Eminem, 50 Cent, and Linkin Park. The initial idea for the tour emerged late last year, but is gaining increasing interest and could potentially prove to be one of the largest shows of 2005.

**Do you have ideas  
about what should  
be in your student  
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ideas!**



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# Opinion...

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## Uncovering the Truth, One Speech At a Time

By Terry Novak

In the past three years, I've learned a lot about myself. Like most people, if I knew then what I know now, my life would be completely different. Life lessons aren't cheap. I've paid for them with my career and my family. Today, most of what I own fits in my laptop or on my back. The rest, of course, belongs to Visa.

One of the many organizations I've found useful in college is Southern Crescent Toastmasters. At the ripe young age of 35, it's nice to be around folks in and around my own age. With the wisdom I've learned the hard way, it would be a crime to go through life not having the courage to share. In Toastmasters, you are among friends and colleagues who were just as scared when they first spoke before an audience. Twice a month, we speak and hear about the lives of those around us. We learn about ourselves, our colleagues, and a little bit about the human condition. We are mothers, fathers, teachers, executives, and sales people. Some of us are retired and most of us wish we were.

I'm starting to learn about what it takes to go through the ranks in order to become an efficient public speaker. The first step is to give what the Toastmaster group calls an "ice breaker" speech. Usually, it entails telling the rest of the group about your life and what you expect to accomplish. My first taste of public speaking will entail me breaking the ice among my new friends. I'm not sure yet, but most of my speech will be about my personality, my family bonds, my roots and my dreams about the future.

The first thing most people learn about me is that I lean democratically. If "bleeding heart" refers to a person who believes that the nation can't cure its ills by lowering taxes and raising the national debt, then I'm guilty as charged. I don't believe in "trickle down" economics. When the rich get a tax break, they end up saving money. On the other hand, if the rich get no breaks, they tend to spend money on tax-sheltered assets. This does more to boost the economy than a tax break could ever do. I'm sure that a lot of my colleagues may disagree, but that's the beauty of opinions. We're all entitled to disagree agreeably.

The next thing most people notice is that I'm not the typical student. I'm 35, which makes me older than most of my classmates. The number one question I am asked time and time again involves when I'm going to graduate. I don't see me quitting my academic career anytime soon. As a contributing resident of Clayton Place Apartments, I feel like a father figure to my roommates, but most of the time, I feel my age. If only I knew then, what I know now. Would my life be any different? The answer is a painful and sobering yes. As the old saying goes, life is wasted on the youth.

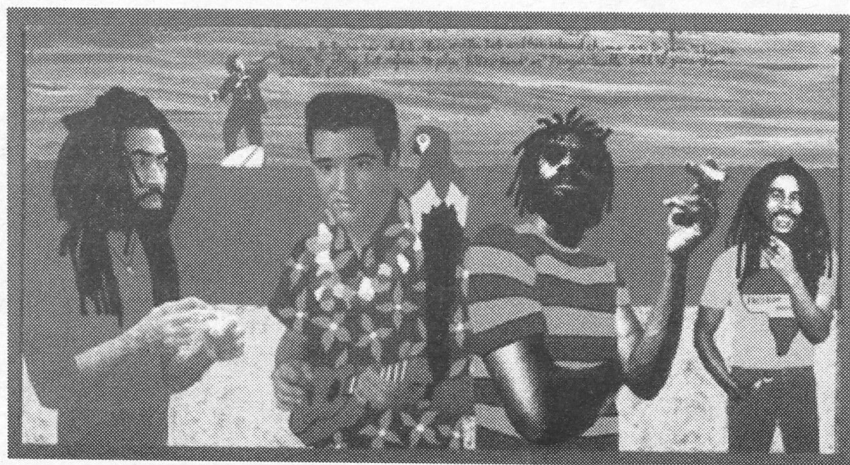
For the first time in my life, I'm starting to understand what makes me tick. I'm enjoying college for a different reason now. I'm not going to college just because I want a better paying job. I'm going to college for purely selfish reasons. In life, everything is negotiable, and nothing is guaranteed. My education is a sacred part of me that will only die when I breathe my last breath. I'm going to college because I want to build upon who I am as a person, and to make straight what is crooked. Every day, I explore my limits and expand my understanding of how and why things are the way they are. That's why I go to college.

I asked a professional speaker what advice he could give. He told me to leave the acting to the actors. He sees too many people talk as if they are Shakespearean stagehands. To say something worth hearing is the heart of any good speech. I can't remember his name, but his advice has stuck to me like glue. Shakespeare said it best in Hamlet, when he said "this above all, to thine own self be true". For example, I can't remember names, but admitting that is one thing; finding out why is quite another. My first step to remembering names is to care enough to try.

So to the man whose advice I remember, but his name I cannot, I thank you for inspiring me to explore my creative side. To my new friends at Toastmasters, I hope I can get through an Ice Breaker speech without boring anyone to death with the mundane details of my existence. For anyone else who is interested, Southern Crescent Toastmasters meets twice a month, every other Thursday from 12:00 to 1:00pm. What do we do in our meetings? We learn about ourselves, one speech at a time.

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## See these works, and others, at Cafe Tu Tu Tango!



Artwork by: Johnny Ace



Artwork by: Jeff Kerns



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# Dining...

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## Entrees and Entertainment: Café TuTu Tango

By Megan Lawrimore

If you've never been to Café TuTu Tango in Atlanta, you are missing out on one of the most entertaining and culturally engaging dining experiences that Atlanta has to offer. I have only been to the restaurant a few times, but each time has been unique. The atmosphere always proves to be more fun than any other restaurant I've been to, and the entertainment is just as impressive as the food. The restaurant is designed to be reminiscent of an artist's loft in Barcelona, and the color scheme and layout reflect the thematic intentions; for example, the design incorporates many bright colors, exposed piping in the high ceiling, and metal-railed staircases leading to tables on different levels. To further enhance the environment, Café TuTu Tango invites artists to come paint in the restaurant while the costumers dine and observe. The walls are covered in art and everything is for sale, providing the opportunity to obtain a beautiful, one-of-a-kind piece of art at a fairly reasonable price. Browsing for art is a great way to pass the time while you wait for your food, but once it arrives, you'll be thoroughly engrossed in the cuisine. The entire menu is comprised of multi-ethnic appetizers; it's recommended that you go with a large group, order several different things, and sample a little of everything. However, it's a great place for just two people as well; it's easier to share dishes and to keep track of the bill – (in a group, it's easy to get carried away) – and the culturally rich surroundings supply continuous interesting conversation. Often, the staff will pace the food, bringing you just one or two of your dishes at a time, so you can savor the night. Some may assume appetizers mean small portions, but a couple of egg rolls here, a few stuffed mushrooms there, and a slice of gourmet pizza later, I guarantee you'll be full. In addition to the delicious food, the restaurant also boasts an impressive collection of wine, which earned the award for "America's Best Wine List" in 2003. There are even two full bars which can cater to every beverage desire – one on the main floor and one on the top floor. The entire top floor can actually be rented out for parties, which can accommodate large groups and provide the feel of privacy while preserving the view of the entertainment. Often, guests can watch performances of various types of Latin dancing while they eat, including salsa, meringue, and appropriately enough, the tango; they even offer lessons periodically. In addition to the food, the art, and the dancing, the restaurant provides several other unique touches, such as a palm reader; she's situated in an intimate corner of the restaurant, so pay her a visit for a glimpse into the future, or at least for a good laugh. Georgia is one of only three states in the U.S. that is home to this superior restaurant – (Florida and California are the other two), and we're lucky to have such a convenient location. So, the next time you head into Atlanta for entertainment, consider having dinner at Café TuTu Tango.



## Satisfying the Appetite and the Account

By Josh Burns

If you're looking for a great local place to eat, then there is a perfect restaurant right down the street from the Clayton State campus on Tara Blvd: Graffiti's; for the people that live a little further to the south, there is another one located in Stockbridge near the Wal-Mart. Graffiti's is great if you are looking to get something to eat and just wind down after classes, or if you are just going out with your friends. The atmosphere is very casual, and the restaurant actually has graffiti on the walls; at the one in Stockbridge, it is even encouraged that you leave a little note on the walls in the bathroom. Graffiti's is one of the best pizza places in the area. The food is great and the service is just as good. The menu offers a wide variety of food - not only pizza, but they also serve a wide variety of pastas. If you are really hungry, you should try a calzone, which is basically a medium pizza without sauce folded in half over itself. Also, the cheese pretzels are excellent, and if you have a sweet tooth and room left over after the meal, you can try some of their cheesecake as well. The restaurant is a fun place to go and provides some entertainment; they have free trivia at 7:00 on Sundays at the location in Stockbridge and at 7:30 on Thursdays at the Tara Blvd. location. However, if you're looking for a more upscale evening, consider heading into the city. Atlanta is a growing metropolis with many places for entertainment, and obviously, many wonderful restaurants to eat at. The heart of the entertainment is in Midtown, and no matter if you are going with the guys to see a ball game or taking your lady out for a night on the town, Atlanta is where you go. One restaurant that I recently had the pleasure of dining at for the first time is The Old Spaghetti Factory. The restaurant is very aesthetically pleasing and located in Midtown. When you first walk into the restaurant, you notice the plush lobby and the accompanying bar. If you're with a date, you might be thinking that you're going to spend more than you planned at this point, but that is not the case here either. The rest of the restaurant is designed very well and looks like an old train station. After the wait, which was not that bad for a restaurant in Midtown on a Friday night - (about 35 minutes for a party of three), we were seated in a comfortable booth. The service here is great. All the waiters have assistants, which means that if you're like me and drink about three to four glasses of tea before the meal even arrives, your glass will always be full. The wait staff is very nice and provides great service. The menu here can seem a little limited, mainly to pastas, but you were not expecting seafood at a place called The Old Spaghetti Factory. The Chicken Parmesan is excellent and would be my recommendation to anyone going. The meals contain large portions and all come with a choice of soup or salad and a dessert after the meal. You get a lot more food than you imagine you would just by looking at the price - about \$10 or \$11 per person if you were wondering. So gentleman, if your looking for a place to take a date out on a Friday night, before going to the clubs or wherever, head up to The Old Spaghetti Factory in Midtown.



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## Recipes to win Friends and Influence People

Contributed by: Michelle Palan

Mother's Day is quickly approaching. If your pockets, like mine, are usually full of lint instead of money this time of year, then here is a great gift idea to put a smile on Mom's face... Cook for her! That's right! She's been doing it for you your entire life, now, return the favor. No worries, we're here to help.

If she's the breakfast in bed type, try my favorite **Banana and Pecan Pancakes:**

You could make these from scratch, but who has the time?

- Instant, Complete Pancake mix
- 2 Bananas, mashed
- 1/2 c. Pecans, smashed into bitty pieces.

Follow the directions on the box for the pancake mix, add the mashe up bananas and smashed up pecans. Mix, and ladle the mix onto a hot frying pan. \*Cook's note: The trick to perfect round pancakes is pouring all the batter in the same spot and letting it roll out to a complete circle.

Does she prefer a yummy dinner? Well you're in for more work then!

Try **Penne with Arugula and Walnut Pesto**

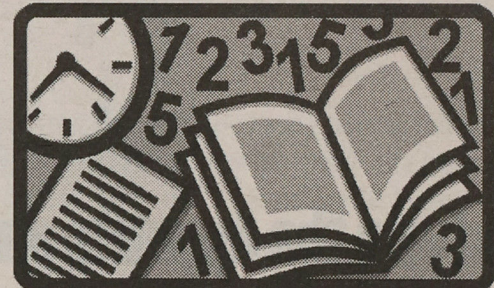
- 1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil, eyeball it
- 2 cloves cracked garlic
- 12 ounces arugula, stems removed
- 1/2 cup walnut pieces or 2/3 cup walnut halves, toasted
- 1/4 teaspoon ground or grated nutmeg
- Salt and pepper
- 1/2 cup grated Parmigiano-Reggiano
- 1 pound penne rigate (with lines) pasta
- 1/3 pound fresh green beans, cut into thirds

In a small saucepan over medium heat cook garlic in oil 5 minutes, then remove pan from stove top. Fill the food processor with arugula, loosely packed. Add walnuts and 1/2 of the warm oil and both cloves of garlic to the arugula in the processor. Add nutmeg, salt and pepper to the processor bowl, set lid in place and pulse grind the mixture into a thick paste. Add any remaining arugula to the processor and grind into the paste by pulsing the processor again. Transfer arugula paste to a large pasta bowl. Stir in the remaining oil and the cheese. Taste pesto sauce and adjust seasonings.

While cooking penne to package directions for al dente, watch the time. After about 6 minutes, add green beans to the pasta pot. The beans will cook along with pasta the last 2 or 3 minutes. Drain pasta and beans together in a colander then transfer hot pasta and beans to the pasta bowl with the pesto in the bottom. Toss pasta and beans with pesto for 2 to 3 minutes to combine and evenly coat the pasta and beans with the pesto sauce. Serve immediately.

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## Earn course credit by testing



By Lauren Huff

Do you want to graduate early? Do you want to skip a full semester of required coursework? If so, then this article is definitely for you! The CLEP (College-Level Examination Program) can allow students the opportunity to shorten the amount of time it takes to get a degree. You can earn college credit for 37 subjects by taking a 90 minute computerized CLEP test. CCSU accepts credit for 25 different subjects if a score of 50 or more is achieved. The College-level examination Program offers tests ranging from American Literature to Principles of Management. The exam allows you the option of taking a test in lieu of a semester of classroom sessions. The cost is \$75 for each exam, \$85 for exams requiring an essay. Compared to the cost of tuition fees and time, Ms. Sharon Long—Director of the testing center—wants more students to know about the great opportunity CLEP testing have to offer.

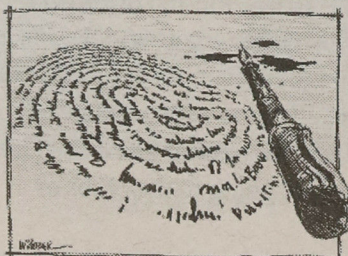
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For more detailed information about the CLEP Program at CCSU, go to [http://ctlclayton.edu/TestingCenter/CLEP/cleps\\_offered.htm](http://ctlclayton.edu/TestingCenter/CLEP/cleps_offered.htm).



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