

THE BENT TREE

Volume 36, Issue 10

October 5, 2005

CSU STUDENT NEWSPAPER



Where do our Student Fees go?

By Redd Horrocks

In an environment where gas prices are skyrocketing and textbooks costs have no release in sight, students are continuously worried about their lack of money and where what little they have may be going. When we look at our mandatory school fees, some are pretty self-explanatory. However the questions begin when we look at the two highest fees; Student Activities and Athletics.

I met with Mason Barfield, Director of Athletics and Jeff Jacobs, Director of Student Life and Orientation in order to better understand where the fees are going.

For the Fall 2005-2006 year the Athletics fee is \$117. For the whole year, the Athletics Department is projecting that they will receive \$1,619,280 from our fees.

The two primary areas that this money goes to are Staff Salaries and Scholarships.

I asked Mason Barfield to explain about the scholarships, since they account for 44% of our fee distribution. According to Mr Barfield, Athletics Scholarships serve the whole school and not just



The Student Activities fee for the 2005-2006 is projected at \$910,992.

the Athletes themselves. Sports are vital to a college because they help promote the college across the country. When you are looking for a job and Clayton State University is listed on your resume, it looks more impressive if it's a school that your future employer has heard of. Most colleges are recognizable because of their Athletics teams. Last year Clayton State went to Nationals in Women's Cross Country,

Women's Soccer, Men's Soccer, Women's Tennis and Men's Track and Field.

At Clayton State we have 125 student athletes and just 59 athletic scholarships to distribute. Because of this, many athletes only receive partial scholarships to contribute towards Tuition, Books, Room and Board.

According to Mr Barfield, 40% of his Student Athletes have over a 3.0 GPA. These athletes also have to be full-time students

and most of them spend 20 hours at practice or training, as well as working part time jobs. Right now Clayton State has 21 All-Americans.

So what does the future hold for Clayton State Athletics? Well, Mr. Barfield is hoping that soon we will have Fast Pitch Softball and after that, Baseball. In order to afford these sports on campus our enrollment retention needs to be at 6500 and 7000 students respectively.

The Student Activities fee for the 2005-2006 is projected at \$910,992. There was also an undistributed surplus of \$528,000 from the previous Academic Year. The Advisory Committee for Campus Life (ACCL) distributes the Student Activities fee. ACCL is made up of Students, Faculty and Staff. All clubs on campus must submit a yearly, itemized budget to the ACCL in order to obtain any funding. The ACCL reviews it and gives a tentative recommendation back to the clubs. They may then appeal before a final recommendation is issued. (Cont'd: Fees Pg.4)

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Coming in the next issue:
The return of *The Bent Vent!*

Submit your frustrations about school, work, or life in general to btree@mail.clayton.edu

Is Crime Coming to Clayton State?

By Dana Staves

In recent news there have been reports of vandalism, drive-by shootings, and other forms of violent crime tainting Clayton County. Most alarming is the fact that high school students and young adults out of high school have committed many of these crimes. The question must be asked whether these crimes are coming to Clayton State with the recent graduates. Bruce Holmes, the head of Public Safety for Clayton State, was most willing to respond to questions I had concerning the matter. To the query of whether violent crime is going to invade our campus, he answered diplomatically that those who choose to attend

college "often do not appear to be involved in criminal activity, to include violent crime." Statistics provided by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation's 2003 Summary Report state that individuals in the age brackets spanning 22-29 and 30-39, generally the age after one would graduate from college, commit most violent crimes. Instead, students should be sensitive to the fact that violent crime is not the biggest concern at Clayton State. "Unfortunately, theft is the largest concern on University campuses across the United States, including CSU" Holmes states. As shown on the (Cont'd: Crime Pg.4)



entertainment

Scaring the Ratings out of us

By Megan Lawrimore

After the success of shows like *Lost* and *Medium* last season, the networks have developed an obsession with all things creepy and unexplained. Capitalizing on the viewers' apparent fondness of fear, ABC, NBC, FOX, and the WB have begun a race to see who can produce the most chilling scare. For the most part, it's a close call; many are more suspenseful than actually frightening, but there are seven mysterious new shows that are all competing for our attention.

ABC has created two new mystery series, *Invasion* and *Night Stalker*. *Night Stalker* follows a hardened and determined reporter (Stuart Townsend) as he investigates nighttime horrors and the murder of his pregnant wife. The main character is painfully depressing, but the show has potential; it will follow *Alias* at 9pm as part of ABC's Thursday night lineup. However, ABC's Wednesday night programming may prove even stronger, with *Invasion* scheduled to follow the monstrously successful *Lost*. Filling

the block from 9pm to 11pm, the two mysterious creature shows make a good match. *Lost* fans are already familiar with the indeterminate "monster" lurking on the island, and they're likely to stick around for *Invasion*'s extraterrestrial threat that endangers the Florida Everglades. *Invasion* centers around a group of people connected through marriage and divorce and the ways in which this new arrival affects their lives and threatens their world. The characters and their histories are intriguing, and the unfolding plot is sure to keep viewers guessing.

CBS explores the fear of alien attacks as well with its new series *Threshold*, airing Friday nights at 9. The two-hour premiere on September 16th introduced instantly likeable characters that are quirky and relatable – even if you're not a genius analyst. The show provides the opposite perspective from ABC's *Invasion*. Rather than focusing on regular people fighting the government to discover the truth, *Threshold* shows government analysts struggling to keep the

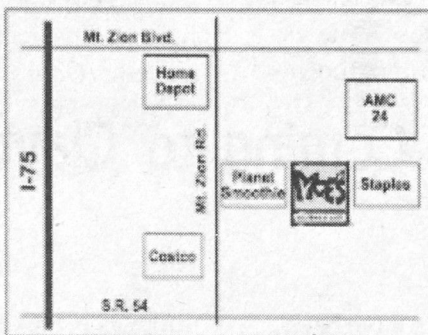
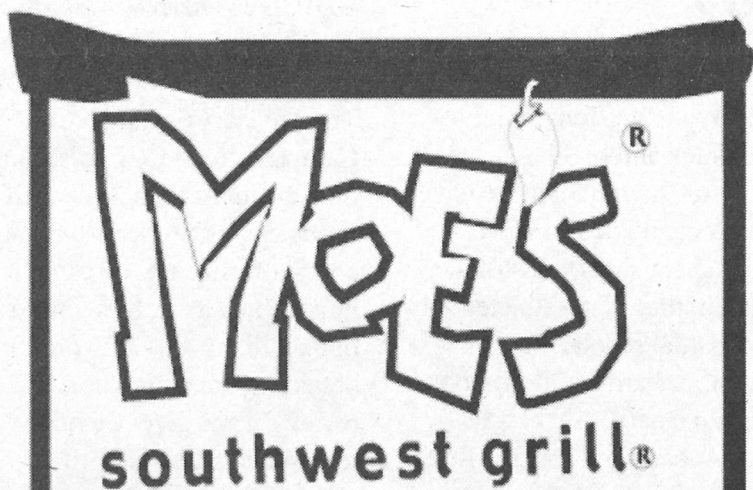
attacks a secret and being forced to sequester themselves. This show is well developed, provides ample suspense, and has some of the smartest writing of the season – (you know you've found quality television writing if the dialogue is slightly over your head at times.) CBS's other new show, *Ghost Whisperer*, which airs at 8pm on Fridays right before *Threshold*, is a tad derivative, but it also has promise. It stars Jennifer Love Hewitt as a newlywed who can communicate with ghosts; she helps them to fulfill tasks that will enable them to finally leave Earth. Though eerie at times – (who wants a shadowy spirit creeping into your bedroom in the middle of the night?) – the show has a lot of heart, and Love Hewitt challenges the previous uncertainty about her range of talent.

While ABC and CBS explore the otherworldly (aliens, ghosts, etc.), NBC takes us into the depths of our own world with its new creation *Surface* on Mondays at 8pm. The interesting thing about *Surface* is that it does not have one central locale; this newly disturbing underwater creature begins to show up throughout the oceans, troubling characters in California, Louisiana, Maine,

and even Antarctica. The show centers on an oceanographer, a fisherman, a government scientist, and a young boy, all of which are affected by the sea creatures in some way or another; for example, the fisherman's brother is killed by one and the young boy naively brings one (and its subsequent destruction) ashore. It will undoubtedly be a difficult task to establish a firm foundation for so many characters and settings, but if *Surface* can pull this off, without getting too confusing or seeming too insubstantial, the show will deserve major praise.

Back on dry land, FOX is surprisingly making only one attempt at the creepy genre this season; its new show *Bones* will fill the 8pm slot on Tuesday nights. *Bones* doesn't try to shock viewers with unfamiliar, invasive enemies; it deals with human crimes, and it chills us by prompting fear of other people's wicked capabilities. The show focuses on truly disturbing crimes – acts brutal enough to leave victims unrecognizable – and the shows

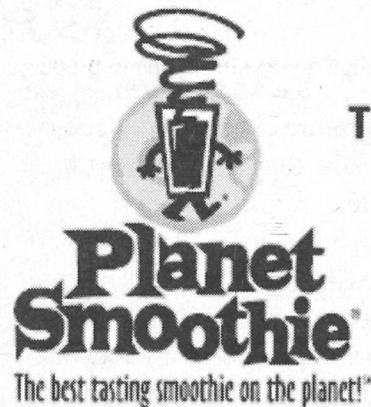
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Summer Movie Reviews

Batman Begins

By Tobey Manolis

I won't waste time giving you my verdict on *Batman Begins*, the latest feature film about the exploits of the famed DC Comics dark superhero. In short, *Batman Begins* is the *Batman* film we've all been waiting for. *Batman's* grand entrance to the big screen in 1989's *Batman* by Tim Burton for the most part seemed to be on track, as was the follow-up sequel *Batman Returns* in 1992. However by 1995, director Joel Schumacher had taken over the franchise and traded in good writing and authenticity for bright neon lights and campy storylines. In the aftermath of 1997's *Batman & Robin*, most of us were left utterly confused, unfulfilled, and severely disappointed.

Now in walks Christopher Nolan, whose solid resume includes films such as 2000's *Memento* and 2002's *Insomnia*. In *Batman Begins*, Nolan builds *Batman* from the ground-up, literally. Nearly half the movie went by before Bruce Wayne donned his *Batman* regalia, and the best part about that is how I didn't seem to notice at all. The reason? A focus on characters and acting, not super bat technology and bright lights. I enjoyed seeing Bruce Wayne as Bruce Wayne just as much as I did when he was *Batman*. The first half of the film is completely dedicated to the evolution of the character of Bruce Wayne, played by Welsh actor Christian Bale. Bale captures the essence of the troubled character of Bruce Wayne perfectly, as well as the physique. In building the character of Bruce Wayne and his eventual transformation into *Batman*, Nolan generously takes the time to explain every aspect of the *Batman* story in a very believable way. From his fighting styles, to his equipment and his high tech costume, it's all supported by explanations and effective back story.

Alongside Bale is an outstanding supporting cast. Michael Caine brings to the story the friendship and undying loyalty of the Wayne's trusted butler Alfred. Then of course is the always brilliant Morgan Freeman as Lucius Fox, who supplies the young *Batman* with all his bat-supplies. Also, true to the comic book stories is Gary Oldman's portrayal of Lt. Gordon, who is not yet the Commissioner of Gotham City Police. Cillian Murphy turns in an excellent performance as Jonathan Crane, AKA The Scarecrow, the villain of the film. Unlike previous *Batman* film villains who were often cartoonish and humorous, Murphy's portrayal of the Scarecrow is very eerie and at times terrifying. Katie Holmes plays Gotham City District Attorney Rachel Dawes, childhood friend and love interest of Bruce Wayne. I haven't followed much of Holmes' career, but in my opinion this was one of her best feature film performances yet. Also part of the superb supporting cast is Liam

Neeson, Rutger Hauer, Ken Watanabe, and Tom Wilkinson.

My only complaint worth noting about the film concerns the soundtrack. Two great film composers, James Newton Howard and Hans Zimmer, composed the score. The film score does the job, however I couldn't make out a recurring "Batman" theme throughout the film. Otherwise, the film is spectacular. True fans of *Batman* as well as the average moviegoer will not be let down after seeing this. *Batman Begins* is truly the *Batman* film to begin all *Batman* films. For the first time in *Batman* movie history, the star and focus of the film is *Batman* himself, not the villains. Fans can also rest assured that the future of *Batman* on the big screen is in good hands. Director Christopher Nolan, Christian Bale, Michael Caine, and Morgan Freeman have been confirmed for a sequel. They are currently casting for the villain who will remain unnamed for those of you who have yet to see this film.

War of the Worlds

By Jeff Schade

There is a certain stigma in Hollywood that films should not take too much nor too little time to produce. If a film is in "development hell" for too long, then expectations of moviegoers are greatly reduced, and too many delays generally means poor box office receipts. If a film is too quickly rushed into production though, it often means quality is being sacrificed for quick money returns. The latter seems to be a problem that plagues the next summer action film, *War of the Worlds*.

From the moment moviegoers step into the theatre and the lights dim, they are presented with an odd narration, delivered flawlessly by Academy Award® winner Morgan Freeman on the possibilities of another race of beings inhabiting our Earth. It is an eerie proposition that sets a masterful tone for the film.

Such is the basic plot of the latest Steven Spielberg helmed action film, *War of the Worlds*. It seems that Ray Ferrier (Tom Cruise, *Minority Report*, *Eyes Wide Shut*), a divorced father with two children (Justin Chatwin, *Taking Lives*, and Dakota Fanning, *Man on Fire*), who would rather stay with their step-father than him, is finally beginning to realize the extent to which his life is in disorder. When he finally tries to make a difference, fate has a different plan as a freak lightning storm descends upon their hometown. Minutes later, it is clear that this was no ordinary storm, as a massive tripod-like machine rises out of the ground and destroys everything in its path.

As Ferrier and his children attempt to escape, it becomes evident that this is no isolated event and is in fact the choreographed work of an alien race whose plans have been in place for thousands of years. It is also clear that

the alien race will not be satisfied until a complete extermination of the human race has been completed. From then on, it is all Ferrier and his children can do to race against time trying to escape the next attack. They set out for Boston to meet with his ex-wife, stopping along the way for safety. However, safety is only relative. While it will be no surprise to viewers who have seen any of director Steven Spielberg's previous films, including *A.I.: Artificial Intelligence* or *Minority Report* that it is a technical masterpiece. What may surprise some though is that beyond that it is really quite shallow. From about 20 minutes into the film onward, numerous plot holes are evident. Some that even the most casual of movie goers will not miss. However, there are also numerous strengths depending on which portion of the film is in discussion.

The first 45 minutes are breathtaking from the seamless CGI money shots to the flawless acting and pacing. However, a major plot change occurs and suddenly the film begins to lose a great deal of steam. The effects were mastermind by Hollywood stable mate *Industrial Lighting Magic* or *ILM* whose other credits include *Terminator 2: Judgement Day* among others. Therefore, it should come as no surprise to viewers that the CGI effects are some of the best ever shown on the big screen. The problem is that the film was advertised as a pseudo-disaster movie and unfortunately the special effects shots are few and far between. What Spielberg, with the help of writer David Koepp has chosen to do instead is focus on the family element within the story line.

While overall this isn't necessarily a problem, it isn't exactly up to the level that one would expect which is one reason why the film misses a great deal of its potential. Instead of focusing more on the invasion at hand, the writers decided to place the two main characters into a cellar with an insane patriot, played decently by Tim Robbins (*Mystic River*). All too soon though it becomes clear that even this stalling will not be enough to keep the film going.

While Cruise gives a typically solid performance, it isn't up to his usual level, and often times leaves the viewer wondering if he just wasn't trying hard enough. Dakota Fanning also disappoints, choosing to make her character one of the most grating personalities placed on the big screen in a long time. Justin Chatwin delivers a decent performance, but once again not as good as it could have been.

There are also numerous issues with plot holes in the film that, as stated, even a casual moviegoer will be able to spot. This

is where the film truly undoes itself as it feels rushed. Its shorter runtime, of 116 minutes including end credits also does little to allow the typical Spielberg character development.

The final issue is the ending that not only feels rushed, but is completely unintentionally funny. It isn't that it contains a slightly absurd plot twist, like this year's *Hide and Seek*, it is more that it simply ends with little explanation to why everything occurs. While too much explanation would drop the film even further into B-grade movie level, a little bit would not have hurt in the least bit. It is just more evidence that perhaps the movie was rushed into and out of production. Overall, while the film is far from bad, it definitely wastes a great deal of potential. Potential that could have easily made this one of the best films of the year. Because it doesn't though, the film grades as a **B**, and earns a recommendation solely on its technical and special effects achievements.

Cont'd from Pg 2

impressive leads, a forensic anthropologist (Emily Deschanel) and an FBI agent (David Boreanaz), work to solve these mysteries.

The only thing more alarming than the malice of humans is the malice of something intangible. The WB's *Supernatural* centers on exactly that, and it is by far the scariest of any of these new shows. We meet brothers Sam and Dean in the first episode; their mother was killed when they were children and their father has gone missing on his quest to find the unidentified evil that killed his wife. In the September 13th premiere, this woman's death proved to be one of the most unsettling scenes that network television has produced. The young mother puts baby Sam to sleep and later, wakes up to strange noises on the baby monitor. Her husband has fallen asleep with the TV on downstairs and she finds a shadowy figure standing over the child's crib. Curdling screams ensue, and the husband finds her ghastly white body hanging from the ceiling and engulfed in flames. As the show progresses and the goose bumps finally begin to fade, we have to collectively scrape our jaws off the floor again when years later, Sam's girlfriend meets the same fate. The rest of the show will follow these brothers as they attempt to locate their father and vanquish other evils along the way (all based on actual urban legends). Every Tuesday night at 9, *Supernatural* will definitely have you gripping the armrests and peeking through your fingers; for once, the WB has outdone all the other networks and has brought us one of the best new scary shows of the season. The network execs have realized that we like to be scared and they've provided us with a variety of choices. Each of these shows has the potential to be successful and the potential to haunt us; so this season, watch, enjoy, grab a pillow, and leave the lights on.

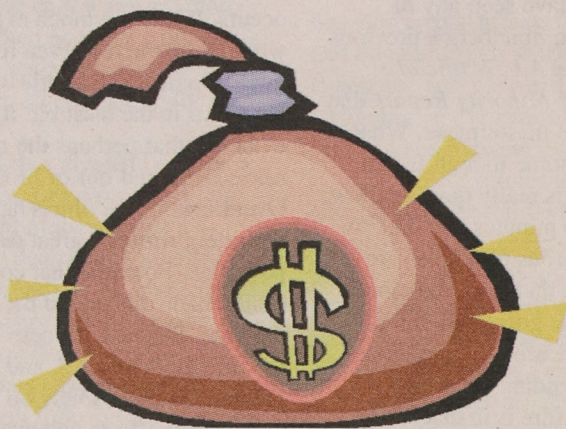
Around

Fees Cont'd...

The Student Life Office receives 60% and Lyceum receives 15% of the available funds. The other 25% is strictly for the clubs.

Jeff Jacobs, Director of Student Life and Orientation, seemed very confident in the decisions made by the ACCL.

Although he did state that he would like to see some kind of community service requirement for clubs receiving funding, he believes that the student activities fee is supporting initiatives for the students and that the majority of activities are open to all students.



Here are all the clubs that are receiving over \$5,000 for the next academic year:

- \$93,033 – Student Life and Activities Committee
- \$56,902 – Intramurals and Recreation
- \$49,410 – The Weight Room
- \$19,500 – Black Cultural Awareness Association
- \$12,243 – Volunteer Services
- \$10,591 – Society for the Advancement of Management
- \$10,418 – Student Government Association
- \$9,650 – Circle K Club
- \$8,800 – Delta Epsilon Chi
- \$7,400 – The Bent Tree
- \$6,650 – Student African American Brotherhood
- \$6,200 – Student Nurses Association
- \$5,800 – International Awareness Association
- \$5,650 – Vietnamese Student Association
- \$5,550 – Society of Composers
- \$5,320 – Ambassadors
- \$5,150 – Baptist Student Union
- \$5,058 – Al-Nour Islamic Student Organization



If you would like more information on the Public Safety Department, visit their website at <http://adminservices.clayton.edu/ps/> or if you would like to report suspicious activity or a crime call (770) 961-3540.

Crime Cont'd...

Clayton State Department of Public Safety's website, theft is among the most reported crimes. Some sure ways to protect yourself include "keeping items in your immediate control at all times," "ask friends to watch your belongings if you need to leave for a short time period," and "make a record of serial numbers for calculators, laptops and other such items" and keep several copies of those records within reach, for instance "in the glove box of your car" or with friends and relatives. Holmes asserts, "having this information immediately accessible increases the potential for locating and identifying property in the event it is lost or stolen." Among other services offered for student protection, the Department of Public Safety offers an area on their website to enter anonymous tips on suspicious or criminal behavior. Holmes also recommends that students store the Public Safety Department's phone number, (770) 961-3540, in their phones so that they can notify the department quickly if they feel uncomfortable or notice anything questionable. Utilizing these methods can assist officers in taking preventive measures before crimes actually occur.

One worry as fall approaches is the issue of leaving campus at night. The Public Safety

Department is one step ahead of those concerned about walking to their cars at night. If a student or faculty member does not feel safe walking out alone, an escort can be contacted through the aforementioned telephone number and an officer will be sent to the student's location. Holmes recommends asking for an escort when one "is leaving campus late at night after most of the students have left campus." Generally, Clayton State has some of the lowest numbers of crimes reported among Georgia universities. It is when one assumes that his or her safety is assured, however, that one brings danger on him/herself. It is best to be too cautious rather than assuming that nothing bad can happen. The Public Safety Department offers their services freely and encourages students to report any problems they anticipate. The Department also supplies information on Homeland Security and works with gang task forces to anticipate trends of criminal behavior in the area. In light of recent crimes in the county, Holmes did not seem to believe that it would have a great impact on Clayton State's campus, but of course, to be cautious anyway.

Campus

2005 Clayton State Poetry Slam

By Dana Staves

Once again this year, on October 4, Clayton State University will be hosting the Poetry Slam. The event will consist of two parts: the first, a "teaser" performance at 12:30 PM (note, this is a time change) in the University Center commons area. Ayodele Heath, one of the performers from last fall's Poetry Slam, as well as the judge for Poetrypalooza, held this past spring, will be performing his original works. He will also be featured at the second portion of the Slam, the student contest, to be held at 7:00 in A&S-132 in Arts & Sciences. Students will have the chance to perform their original works of poetry and the winning individuals will receive cash prizes.

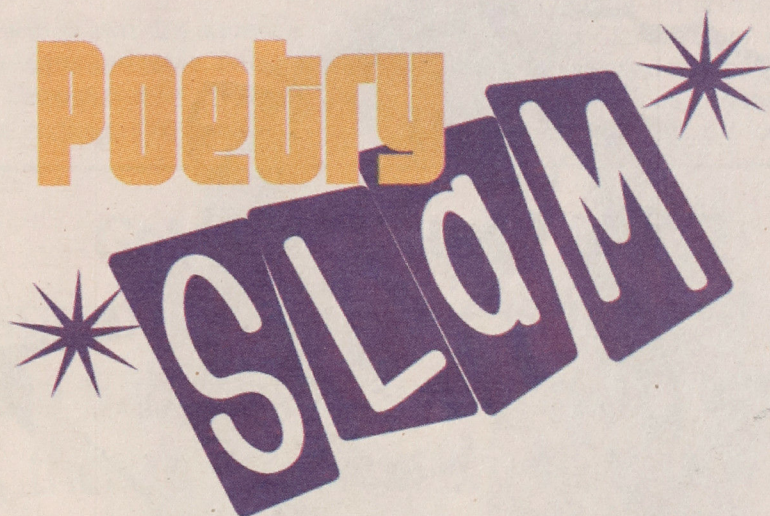
A poetry slam is a competition in which poets are allotted time to perform their works. After they finish, members of the audience judge the poet on a numerical scale. The lowest and highest

scores are dropped, and the three in the middle are averaged to give a score of 0-30. The poets with the highest scores at the end proceed to the second round, where the same process occurs. The rules are simple: the

poem must be original. The poet has three minutes, plus a ten-second grace period in which to read the poem. The poet may not use props, costumes, etc. When asked for a comment on

this year's Poetry Slam, Dr. David Ludley, the senior editor of Clayton State's *Cygnets* as well as the organizer for the Poetry Slam and Poetrypalooza, said, "In honor of the diversity of our campus, and the inspiration of Dean Ray Wallace, the Poetry Slam will provide a great night of entertainment by professional Slam Poets and students alike. Be sure to sign up on my door (A&S-105H) to perform and compete for the awards. Members of the audience will judge, and there will be a DJ. See you on October 4!"

Be sure to stop by and enjoy the "teaser" performance at 12:30 in the UC commons on October 4, and return at 7:00 in the evening for the official competition. Poets interested in getting their poetry out to an audience and possibly winning money should sign up on Dr. Ludley's office door. Good luck to the competitors and enjoy the 2005 Poetry Slam!



October 4th @ 7PM
A&S 132



Journey to Africa

By: Kristen Torres-Toro

It's taken several days, two plane trips, a twelve hour layover, and a three hour bus ride to get here, but it's all I can do to hold my eyes open as the bus drives the final kilometers towards Ekitangaala Ranch. My head bounces against the window with each bump in the dirt road, jarring me from potential slumber and inducing pain. The beautiful African countryside presses against the road and waves at the open sky. Corn fields, banana trees, savanna grass, palm trees, and native shrubbery compete for my attention and children dressed in tattered clothing run, yelling in excitement, towards the bus. The taller children reach out to touch the bus and my teammates extend their arms in greeting. I smile sleepily, amazed at how at home I feel on the other side of the world.

I'm not really sure what time it is or even what day it is. I left the United States on Saturday and now, many hours later, I am in Uganda, the country once called the "Pearl of Africa." Located on the equator, Uganda rests in East Africa. Sudan, Rwanda, the

Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania, and Kenya form its borders. Because of the nourishing presence of the Nile River and Lake Victoria, the Ugandan countryside is very green and appears lush and verdant in the June sun. Due to its location on the equator, Uganda doesn't have seasons like summer or winter. Instead, it endures two wet seasons and two dry seasons. Since the wet season has just ended, the landscape is very green. The influence of the equator is evident in other areas as well. The sun rises precisely at 6:30 a.m. and sets exactly twelve hours later at 6:30 p.m. The temperature is mild to hot, ranging from mid-nineties Fahrenheit in the dry season to mid-sixties in the wet season. I am here as a missionary to work with African Children's Mission (ACM), an organization in Uganda and Kenya that provides education, vocational training, village support, health services, and meals to the surrounding villages.

...Read more about Kristen's African Adventure on Page 6

Around Campus

Journey to Africa Cont'd

When a child receives sponsorship funds through ACM, he/she is able to attend school on the ranch. As long as a student brings a plate to school, he/she is fed lunch. If a student has passed the years of initial education, he/she is taught a vocational skill like carpentry or sewing. When a female vocational student graduates, she is given her sewing machine to take to the village to support herself. ACM also sends work teams out to help repair huts that are falling down and runs health clinics in neighboring villages to treat minor scrapes and illnesses.

This will be my home for the next few weeks. I will spend most of my hours at the primary school, playing and laughing with the children. I will also help with village repair, visit many homes, meet many fascinating people, and learn many customs along the way. As the bus enters the ranch, a grin stretches across my face and I wave at the excited children, knowing that for the next few weeks, I am home. •

Adventures in Africa

By: Kristen Torres-Toro

“Oleotea!”

The happy greeting startles me from my thoughts as I walk to lunch. I smile and greet the child who has grabbed my hand and matched my stride with her own. “Jindi, Christina. Oleotea?”

Christina beams at me. “Jindi.”

We just exchanged a typical Lugandan greeting, the standard phrase every person utters to everyone he/she meets in Uganda. “Oleotea” means “how are you” when the speaker is addressing a single person; however, it is not always asked in the form of a question. Often, it is used in place of “hello” as well and is more of an exclamation. If an individual is addressing more than one person, however, “mulimutea” is used instead. “Jindi” means “fine”. Christina speaks limited English. Most children don’t master the

language until they are preteens. Since I speak about five words of Luganda, our conversations are communicated through hugs, smiles, friendly tones, and chunks of time spent together. Christina was the first African friend I made because she was the first child to run to me at recess on that day I visited the school. She is the child I spend the most time with, mostly because she won’t let go of my hand when I’m around.

We approach a fork in the road, and Christina motions that she has to walk in the opposite direction. I hug her, pat her shoulder, and say, “Waleba, Christina.”

“Waleba!” She calls good-bye and beams at me before she runs in the direction of the primary school.

I continue to walk to the missionary house, marveling at the differences between Africa and the West. Africans, especially Ugandans, value relationships over anything else. They converse with everyone they see. If a person visits a family’s home unexpectedly, the family will drop

everything, welcome the visitor, and treat him/her like royalty. The family will sit in the dirt outside their mud hut while the guest rests comfortably on the only chair available. When the visit is over, the host will offer the guest gifts of maize or jack fruit, a sweet fruit that tastes like bubblegum, even if the family is close to starving. When the guest leaves, the host tells him/her, “You are welcome here,” and thanks him/her profusely for coming. This hospitality is tangible, sincere, and evident in every area of their lives. Because of the lack of distractions from television, telephones, computers, and the busyness of a fast-paced society, a Ugandan is able to savor each moment and treat each person with dignity and honor.

If there is one thing I hope to learn from these incredible people, it’s the ability to stop and be in the moment. In America, I rarely greet anyone I walk past, let

alone every person I see. I welcome people into my home and life with a smile, but not always with my heart. The people of Uganda greet every person with a smile, welcome him/her into their homes, and usher him/her into their lives. Ugandans offer their hearts in respect of all they encounter, which destroys every man-made barrier and creates a bond that is impossible to rip apart. Ugandans define hospitality with their lives. •

A Story of Hope

By: Kristen Torres-Toro

Africans are amazing people. They are very open about their lives, and this allows a visitor to know them on a more intimate level. One day, at village repair, I learned the story of the man whose house I was working on.

Muhammad was a very wealthy man in his home in northern Uganda. He was a devout Muslim with fifteen children. Though southern Uganda enjoys peace, the northern part of the country is ravaged by war. The same group that caused the devastation in Rwanda in 1994 has moved into the Congo, which borders Uganda.

Some ethnic groups are openly hostile to each other, and fighting is common there.

The Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) is one of the hostile presences in the north, and many Ugandans have fled for their lives. When the rebels came to Muhammad’s village, all of his children were killed. Muhammad escaped to the south with very little in material wealth. The day we were there, we were helping build his new house. But Muhammad’s horrifying story isn’t what inspires awe. Muhammad could have buried himself in grief, but instead, he chose to have hope. He adopted thirty more children, both Muslim and Christian. There is no division in this family; there is only love.

Muhammad’s adopted grandson is Innocent. I was surprised to learn that this young man who helped me mud the walls of a hut had experienced such tragedy. Innocent is also from the northern part of Uganda. He is an



Classifieds

T I 84 Plus Graphing Calculator. Paid \$100 new, used it once. \$69. 770-961-3406, Robert in CE.

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orphan, for his parents were killed by the LRA. When the LRA came to the school where he and his siblings attended, the rebels killed the headmaster, cooked him, and forced many of the students to eat the remains. Innocent and his siblings escaped before then, however, and now he lives with Muhammad and serves as groundskeeper for the ranch. He waits for the day when he is sponsored and can go back to school, and he longs even more to go to the United States. This is a common dream for many people in Uganda, because they believe the United States is "the land of opportunity," and that if they can just get there, life will be better.

Another man I met, Livingstone, inspires me just like Muhammad and Innocent. Livingstone was born with a disease called Rickets. His knees are three times the size of normal knees, and his legs are shrunken and twisted inward. Livingstone walks on his knees, and even rides a bike on his knees. He sits all day by a fire and makes knives out of scraps of metal, heating each scrap by hand and sharpening it with painstaking movements. This is how he makes his living, because Livingstone refuses to sit and moan about his situation. He sells

his knives in the village and his wife, Gladys, makes baskets to sell as well.

Each of these men inspires me because they refused to give up when I probably would have. When faced with death, they chose to live, and their stories deserve to be told. These three ordinary men are extraordinary because they refuse to be defeated and believe in the power of hope, even in the face of death. •

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Sports

REMAINING HOME WOMEN'S SOCCER MATCHES

Oct. 1	Sat.	*Armstrong State	Morrow, GA	7 p.m.
Oct. 12	Wed.	Lenoir-Rhyne	Morrow, GA	6 p.m.
Oct. 15	Sat.	*UNC Pembroke	Morrow, GA	1 p.m.
Oct. 26	Wed.	North Greenville	Morrow, GA	4:30 p.m.
Oct. 29	Sat.	*USC Upstate	Morrow, GA	4:30 p.m.

REMAINING HOME MEN'S SOCCER MATCHES

DATE	DAY	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Oct. 15	Sat.	*UNC Pembroke (Homecoming)	Morrow, GA	3:30 p.m.
Oct. 26	Wed.	North Greenville	Morrow, GA	7 p.m.
Oct. 29	Sat.	*USC Upstate (Senior Night)	Morrow, GA	7 p.m.



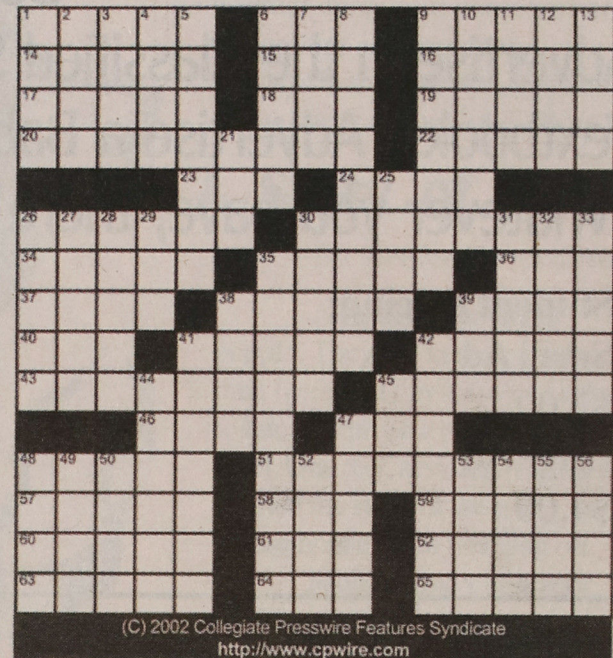
November 20, 2002

ACROSS

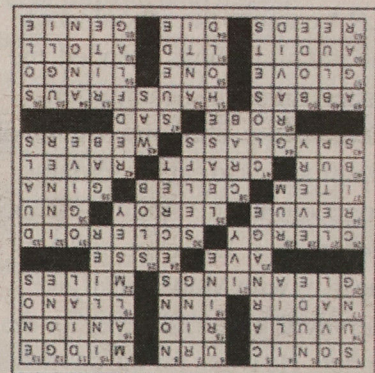
- Famous hedgehog
- Contains coffee or ashes
- Musician Ure
- Suspended from soft palate
- Duran Duran song
- Negative ion
- Lowest point
- No room at the
- Latin American plain
- Collected bit by bit
- Murphy Brown's boss
- _____ Maria
- Esse (freebie)
- Priests and rabbis
- Hard
- Variety show
- Painter Neiman
- Wildebeest
- Couple
- Celebrity (Informal)
- Actress Gershon
- Prickly husk
- Made by hand
- Tangle
- Small telescope
- Unit of magnetic flux
- After-shower garment
- Not happy
- Director Kiarostami
- Housewives
- _____ and Special Sauce
- Five minus four
- Dialect
- Exam of finances
- Limited company
- Ring-like coral island
- Tall grasses
- Cease to live
- I Dream of _____

DOWN

- Model Hi Lee
- Elliptical
- Naked
- Three ilium
- Massacre
- Waste product
- Piece of jewelry
- Not a secret
- Sweet wine
- Rock formation
- Soap
- Not here
- Son of Seth
- Poison
- Slovenly person
- MTV series
- Ease
- Not few
- Caribbean liquor
- Selves, improper
- Painted arch
- Opposite of outer
- Pairs
- Property by lease
- Maryland crustaceans
- Talk
- Places for clothes
- Pregnant
- No longer is
- Soft-napped leather
- Gelatinous material
- Fifth rainbow color
- Predict
- Against
- Ceremonial act
- Later
- Tangelo
- Shoe bottom



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