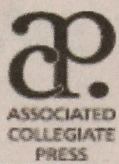


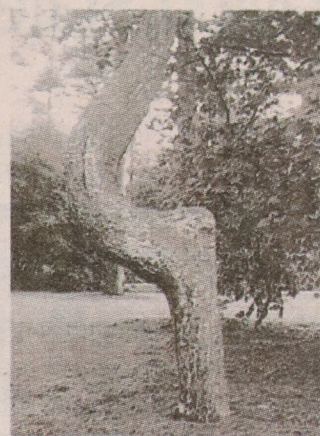
THE BENT TREE



Volume 36, Issue 11

November 10, 2005

CSU STUDENT NEWSPAPER



Homecoming 2005

You voted, now here they are... your 2005 Homecoming King and Queen



Lisa Earls and DeAngelo Evans

Our King

By Jason Thomas

A very fun and successful homecoming has come and gone, but it would be unfortunate if we officially made Homecoming 2005 history without getting to know our newly voted king. This afternoon I had a quick Q & A with DeAngelo Evans, Homecoming King 2005, and asked some questions.

BT: What's up DeAngelo? Thanks for your time, congratulations again on your victory. We'd like to give our readers (hi grandma!) the chance to get to know you a little better by asking a few questions.

DE: What's up? Thanks. Shoot.
BT: I noticed this year it seemed like everyone had a unique campaign strategy. Did you have one, and if so what was yours?

DE: No, not really. I believe though that a hard work ethic paid off, and that I received what I put into Clayton.

BT: Right on, right on. Do you mind a few more questions?

DE: No, you're good.

BT: Great...ok, where are you

from originally?

DE: Well I was born in Ohio, but I was raised in Decatur, GA.

BT: Any hobbies?

DE: I like the usual, you know, music, movies, poetry, fashion, but I love event planning.

BT: Do you do bar mitzvahs?

DE: (chuckles)

BT: Ok, ok I know you're a busy man. Favorite class so far at Clayton?

DE: I had a few good ones, but I'd have to say Fashion Merchandising with Dr. Johnson.

BT: Ok... cliché question, but a goodie... what's your favorite movie?

DE: (After intense pondering)... "Jason's Lyric" is the first one that comes to mind.

BT: Favorite color?

DE: In general, red.

BT: Now about the ladies...

DE: (laughs)... Single!

BT: Okay, but do you have a type?

(Cont'd Pg.6)

Clayton State Studnets logged on and cast their votes for a new King and Queen. The Ben iTree was there to capture the excitement, and interview the new Laker Royalty!

Our Queen

By Dana Staves

This year's Homecoming game was held on October 15 and the festivities included a 5K run, a dog-walking parade, and of course, the traditional Homecoming Court festivities following the parade. I had the opportunity this week to ask Clayton State's 2005 Homecoming Queen, Lisa Earls, a few questions about her reaction to winning this competition.
BT: What was your initial reaction when your name was called for Homecoming Queen?

Lisa: The first thing I thought was, 'Wow, I can't believe it. We did it!' I think I am still letting it sink in.

BT: Do you have any particular responsibilities on campus as queen?

Lisa: I haven't been told of any specific responsibilities, but I want to work on getting Chick-fil-A sandwiches offered in our University Café as a regular menu item. I got a lot of feedback during the campaign from people who would like

Chick-fil-A to be offered on a daily basis. I assume the responsibilities I may have will be communicated to me as they become available.

BT: What campaign strategies did you use? Do you believe they paved the way for your being crowned queen?

Lisa: After seeing the campaign strategy used by the 2004 queen of offering candy to those who voted, I used my connection with Chick-fil-A and offered a free chicken sandwich to those who were willing to vote. After I ran out of sandwiches I gave a coupon for a free Chick-fil-A sandwich that could be used at any Chick-fil-A restaurant. As the week progressed, I came across more and more students who had already voted and as a 'thank you' for them voting, I gave them a coupon even if they did not vote for me and my running mate [Stephen Hamby]. Most people do not
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Clayton State Visiting Writers Reading Series

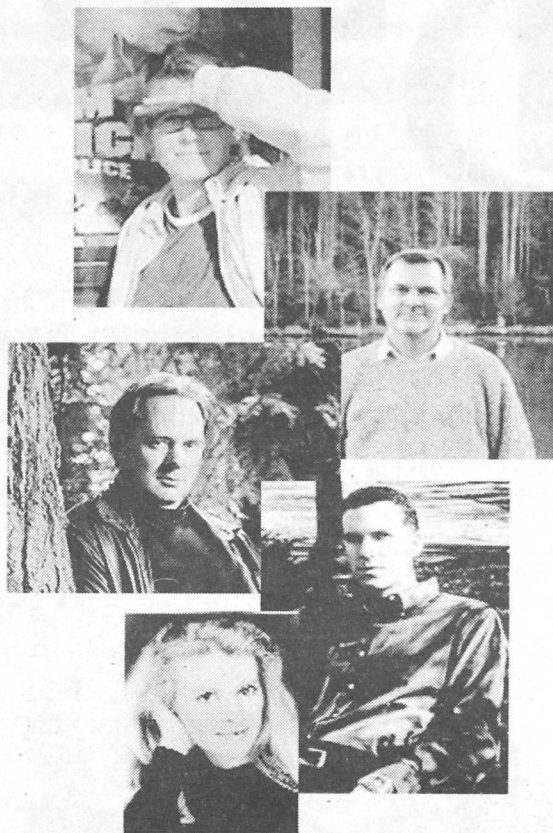
By Dana Staves

Clayton State's Visiting Writers Reading Series debuted on October 11 as a small group of students and professors gathered to hear from Carrie Bennett and Dr. Brigitte Byrd, CSU's creative writing professor, a reading of their respective works, *Biography of Water* and *Fence Above the Sea*. The series, in affiliation with Lyceum, will feature an array of authors who will do readings and book signings.

I sat down with Dr. Byrd to find out a little more about the series and her collection of poetry. Her book, *Fence Above the Sea*, is about loss and the everyday trials involved with being a woman (not to mention a daughter). Two of her biggest influences are Gertrude Stein and Emily Dickinson for their resistance to patriarchal traditions and experimentation with syntax. As pieces of advice to aspiring writers, Dr. Byrd encourages people to read avidly and to learn the rules and conventions before trying to break them. Dr. Byrd, in addition to serving as creative writing professor for the Department of Language and

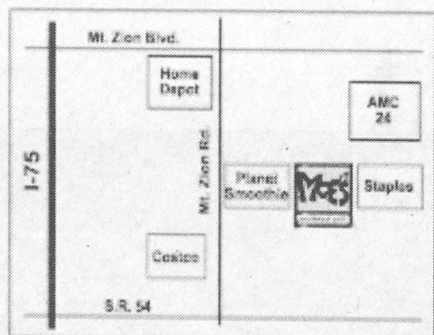
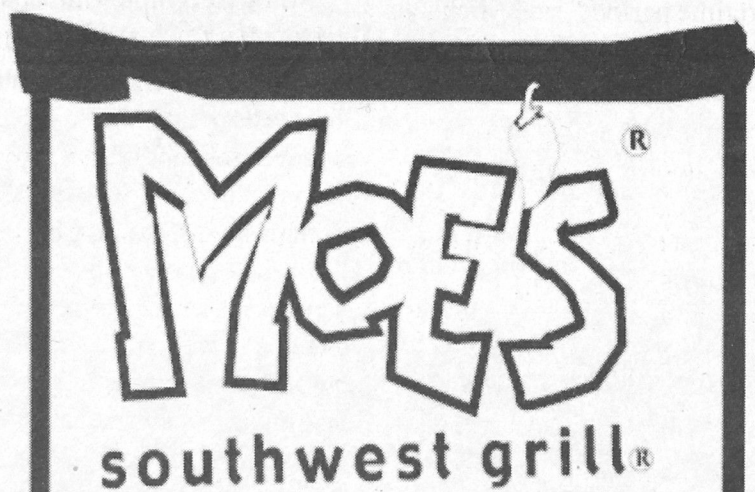
Literature, will serve as one of the editors for *Cygnets*, CSU's literary arts magazine, as well as the coordinator for the Visiting Writers Reading Series.

The authors students can look forward to hearing from are Cynie Corey, George Singleton, Josh Russell, Clayton State's own Philip DePoy, Elizabeth Dewberry, and Reginald Shepherd. The next reading will take place on November 15, and a full list of dates, as well as the authors' biographies, can be found at <http://a-s.clayton.edu/langlit/writersauthors.htm>. The series looks to be a worthwhile event for anyone interested in poetry, or even writing in general. Be sure to watch your email for updates on times and places for these readings, or look for posters around campus. Poets and patrons alike will be glad they came out for these inspiring readings.



Photos taken from <http://a-s.clayton.edu/langlit/writersauthors.htm>

Cynie Corey, George Singleton, Josh Russell, Clayton State's own Philip DePoy, and Elizabeth Dewberry



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News & Views

Query to the 21st Century: Are you Listening?

By Shelley Chinnan

I sense a common thread in my humanities classes. Over the last few semesters, I have learned about many important theories and their historical contexts. For example, by studying Impressionist art, I learned that during the late 1800's, there was a major shift in popular thought which included ideas about the industrial revolution and modernizing Europe. While many history books triumph the industrial revolution and all of the wonders which it brought, there was simultaneously a powerful movement against it. Intellectuals like Hugo fought hard against the capitalists who were pushing for railroads to trample the countryside and destroy pristine environments and uproot villages all for the profit of then-small corporations looking to expand. In our age of capitalism, the industrial revolution was a time of great achievement, but often, the outcry of the public and intellectuals is ignored. Similarly, the Romantics and American Transcendentalists were writing around the same time and argued for a return to our natural state of living and to reject the State and the progressive, developer's ideals.

Next, I learned about modernism in the early 20th century and how intellectuals all over the world were making a statement against WWI, hoping to find an answer to the senselessness of war and capability of mass destruction. In Parisian circles, many artists gathered (such as the Surrealists) to discuss what could be done about preventing another such war. The state of confusion, desolation, and outcry against the status quo often goes unnoticed in history books but is instead documented in the art, literature (and consequently poetry) of the time. Writers like T.S. Eliot spent their energies trying to make sense of the changed modern times and tried to explain the "wasteland" which was becoming the developed world, devoid of feeling and consciousness. Later, after WWII, although the US enjoyed

prosperity as a result of the war, much of the world was wounded and needed time to heal. We see the results of this in film – like with the Italian Neo Realists and French New Wave directors – who tried to document similar sentiments of futility and rejection of pre-war linear reasoning. Instead, they express fragmentation, confusion, open-ended questioning and an unwillingness to accept the baseness of human nature.

History is repeating itself. Whether it is an protest against the Industrial Revolution (which Monet, Manet, and others address in their Impressionist paintings), confusion about the potential for mass destruction through automated weapons of war (as in modernist poetry during the post-WWI era), discussion about preventing WWII (as in Surrealist Art), or a sense of nihilism (as shown in post WWII film), it is the collection of creative work responding to world events which often say the most about thought of the time. The real question is...does it make any difference? The surrealists and other bohemians discoursing in European cafes were actively looking for an answer to preventing another world war, and yet it still happened. Activists, like Hugo, Thoreau and Emerson were staunchly against industrialization and yet urban sprawl was unstoppable. Eliot and Pound reacted to the first war which had the potential of mass destruction and yet, we still continue to wage wars on such a grand scale. Most currently, there is a war in Iraq. The media is reacting, thousands of people are marching in the streets, landmark documentaries are making political statements in 24-screen cineplexes all over the country. The public protests eminent domain, the courts still rule in favor of corporations. The question I pose to historians, to the media, and to the masses: Is anyone listening to contemporary creative wisdom?

Bubble Sheets Are Becoming a Thing of the Past with More College Students Taking Finals Online

WASHINGTON — (COLLEGIATE PRESSWIRE)—Nov. 8, 2005—

As the use of online learning continues to expand across the higher education sector, Blackboard Inc. (Nasdaq: BBBB), a leading provider of software and services to the education industry reports an increase in the number of exams being offered and taken online.

In a recent study by polling, market and statistical research firm, Zogby International, commissioned by Blackboard, data indicated that more than 16 million tests were taken via The Blackboard Academic Suite™, in the spring of 2005, for just a sampling of Blackboard clients.

"The way people teach and learn has changed drastically in a very short time period," said Michael Chasen, President and CEO of Blackboard. "Taking exams online represents only a small portion of how technology is enriching the academic experience, yet it provides a clear example of how education is no longer definitively tied to a physical classroom space. Blackboard is thrilled to be part of this evolution, enabling innovation among academic institutions all over."

The ability to take final exams online provides greater convenience to students, enabling them to beat the holiday traffic jams and take their tests from any location with internet access. It is also provides added security for professors, who no longer have to print out multiple copies of exams and can easily shuffle exam questions in an online format, discouraging cheating among students.

Students who miss exams on the assigned date, due to illness or unforeseeable circumstances, can easily take an online exam at a later time, even after a campus shuts down and professors have left for holiday recess.

The University of Missouri –St. Louis, opened an online testing center on campus in the Spring semester of 2002. Since then, more than 25,000 exams have been taken at UM-St. Louis.

"The online testing feature available through Blackboard has enabled many of our classes to offer students the convenience, flexibility and accessibility of online testing as an integral part of their academic experience," said Robert Keel, Lecturer, Department of Sociology, and Specialist for Information Technology Services at UM-St. Louis.

At Temple University, in Pennsylvania, The School of Pharmacy administers two competency exams online in the computer lab, including a medical terminology exam for students in their first professional year, and an exam for students in their third year, on the most commonly prescribed drugs. Students must pass both of these competency exams to continue in the program.

According to Temple University's Director of Instructional Technology, Eileen Aitken, students love the ability to take tests online.

"Students responding to a recent anonymous survey just about unanimously agreed on the benefit of online assessments available through Blackboard," said Aitken. "The students really expect to be able to access all their educational materials online and appreciate getting grades on their exams almost immediately after they submit them."

The concept of online final exams is also trickling down to high schools. In Baltimore City Public Schools, Janet Purnell, a teacher at Digital Harbor High School, explains how a student who needed to travel to South America last holiday season to visit with family was able to complete her Exploring Technology class by taking the final online.

"We communicated via email and she kept up with all the online assignments which I posted in Blackboard," said Purnell. "I simply told her the time when the midterm would be available and she was able to take the exam in South America. She received her grade upon completion. Both the student and her parents were pleased that she could keep up with the work, even though she was out of the country. This would not have been possible without the technology we use today."



Entertainment

Movie Reviews

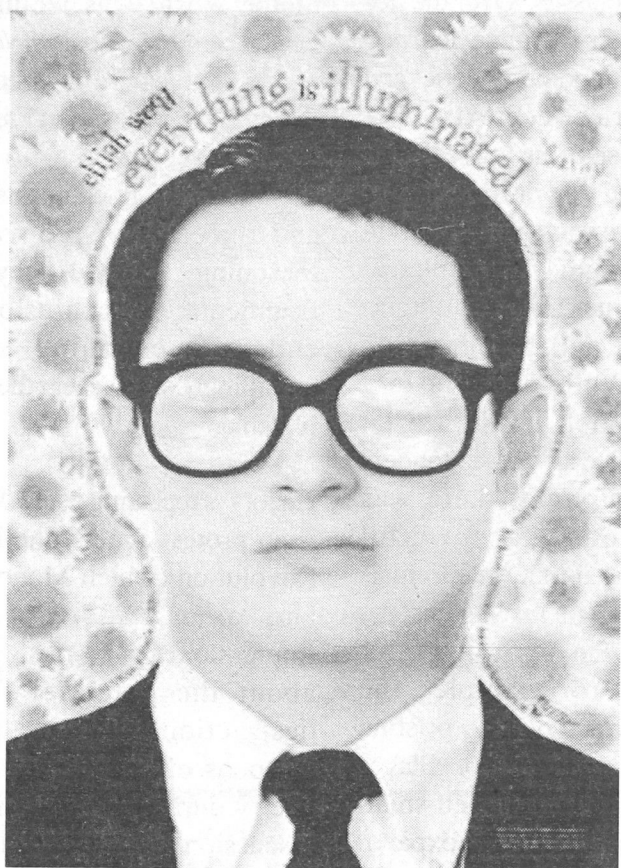
"Everything is Illuminated"

Reviewed by Auzelle Epeneter

"Everything is Illuminated" follows Johnathan Foer's (played by Elijah Wood) pilgrimage to his father's home in the Ukraine. Jonathan's father, fearing the Nazi invasion of his town, fled to America, bringing the only evidence of his past life in a photograph of him and a young woman named Augustine. The film opens with Jonathan's grandmother passing the photograph to Jonathan on her deathbed. Johnathan, who since childhood has been what he describes as a "collector" of memories, decides to track down Augustine and the tiny, almost non-existent town they came from. Upon arrival, Johnathan travels with a harshly anti-Semitic widower, who refers to Johnathan as "the Jew," his almost ridiculous American culture-loving grandson, and their "Seeing-Eye Bitch." They drive the family's

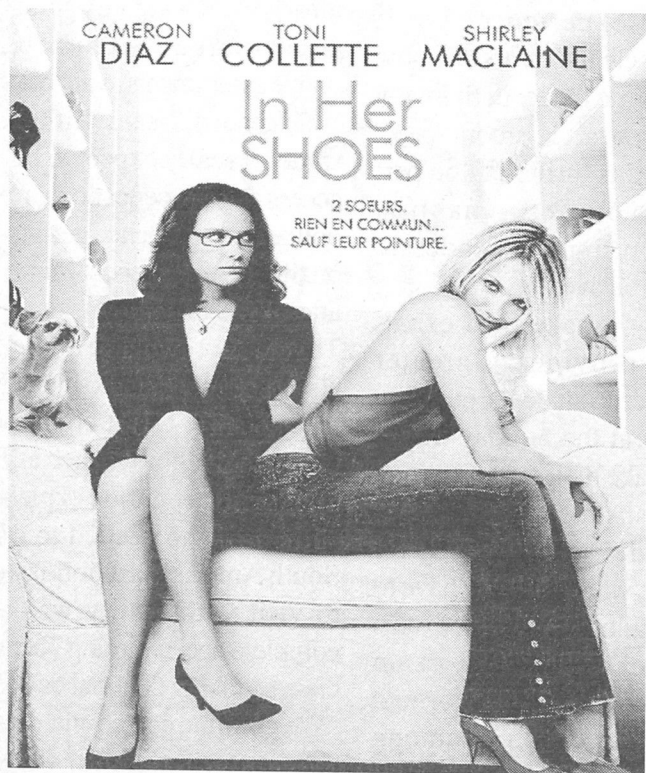
powder blue sedan through the Ukrainian countryside, each dealing with cultural, ethnic, and urban-rural conflicts along the way. Inevitably, the film 'illuminates' connections not only for Jonathan and his family, but for his guides and their history as well.

As a whole, "Everything is Illuminated" deals with finding and embracing heritage in a both empathetic and humorous way. Liev Schreiber, taking on Jonathan Safran Foer's novel of the same title as his first movie to direct, breaks everything open with scenes in bright, vivid colors. I recommend this for anyone who enjoys Jewish humor, Elijah Wood looking slightly creepy, or simply craves a glimpse of the surprisingly beautiful Ukrainian countryside.



'In Her Shoes:' The Chick-Flick that Wasn't

By Dana Staves



Curtis Hanson's latest project, *In Her Shoes*, is a beautiful tribute to sisterhood and personal growth. With titles like *8 Mile* and *L.A. Confidential* under his belt, Hanson seemed bound for box office success with this new project based on the novel by Jennifer Weiner. Although the film has been grossly neglected at the box office, it is definitely one worth seeing. Susannah Grant, who also wrote the screenplays for *Erin Brockovich*, *28 Days*, and *Ever After*, wrote the screenplay for *In Her Shoes* as well.

Cameron Diaz and Toni Collette play drastically different sisters, Maggie (Diaz), a free-loading but beautiful young girl with a reading disorder and a charming ability to get whatever she wants from whomever she meets. When she is cast out of her father and stepmother's house, she turns to her sister, Rose (Collette). Rose is a straight-laced attorney who is slightly overweight (compared with the extremely thin Diaz) and begins having an affair with Jim Danvers (Richard Burgi), an attorney at her

firm. Collette actually gained 25 lbs. for the role, which she lost over the duration of the film to coincide with her character. The relationship takes a turn south when he sends Simon Stein (Mark Feuerstein) to Chicago with Rose, a weekend that should have been a romantic interlude between the two. When soon thereafter she catches Maggie in bed with Jim (wearing her boots, no less), Rose sends Maggie away. Rose quits the law firm, takes up dog walking, and begins to lose weight. In the process, she finds herself and a love interest in Simon Stein, who by his own admission, becomes "her bitch" and admits that he has wanted to be for some time. Meanwhile, Maggie makes her way to Florida to find a grandmother that has been hidden from her and Rose since their mother died. Their grandmother (Shirley McLain) encourages Maggie to start working at the hospital in the assisted living community where she lives. In the time she works there, she masters her disability by reading to an old blind man.

While this movie seems to reek of sappy sentimentalism, the picture does defy some of the rules. Instead of the picture perfect Cameron

Diaz's character landing a man by the end of the movie, the more average-shaped Toni Collette finds the enduring romance. When the opportunity for a suitable boyfriend for Maggie, the doctor/son of the man she reads to, presents itself, the script passes on it, allowing Maggie time to become her own person and settle into a success that she has finally earned. There is also a lot of comedy to the movie, featuring hilarious quarrels between the daughters and their stepmother, Sydelle (Candice Azzara), and witty commentaries by the old ladies in the assisted living community. While it can't be said that this movie defied chick flick rules of decorum, it definitely is a movie worth seeing. It is also worth mentioning again that the movie is based on the novel by New York Times best selling author Jennifer Weiner, who has a cameo as one of the two women (the other is her agent) walking behind Rose and her best friend in the Italian Market scene. So if you're not into going to see this movie, a good idea might be to pick up the book when you have a break from classes. Either way, it is a story that must be enjoyed.



"Just Like Heaven..." Kind of

By Megan Lawrimore

Just Like Heaven has definite high points. It's funny, it has a great cast, including Mark Ruffalo, Reese Witherspoon, and Jon Heder, and it has a lot of heart. Mark Ruffalo becomes increasingly more endearing in every role he plays, and he proves to be the perfect choice to play the charmingly quirky yet emotionally damaged David Abbott. He and Reese Witherspoon have great chemistry, both comedic and romantic, and this is possibly one of Witherspoon's best comedic performances – (watching her spirit belt out "Tomorrow" from *Annie* atop the coffee table is particularly amusing). As a confused spirit oddly bound to Earth and to her old apartment, Elizabeth Masterson (Witherspoon) must uncover why she cannot pass on and why she and the new tenant in her apartment, David Abbott, have such a surprising connection. Enter Jon Heder, the eccentric mystical expert whom David asks for help; we loved him in *Napoleon Dynamite*, and his character, Darryl, is almost as quotable as Napoleon, with Heder perfectly executing the awkward persona that he has mastered. These three actors provide a lot of laughs – the deep belly laughs that we wish more movies would deliver, and though the script indulges in a few too many sappy or unbelievable moments, the quality of the writing – owed to Peter Tolan and Leslie Dixon – is far superior to that of the growing number of substandard films being made today. It is by no

means one of the great literary works of our time, but it does provide clever humor and profound emotion. There is something strange about this movie though; as the film takes us through this imaginary world, with all of its loveable characters and hilarious moments, it grazes across some unexpectedly serious issues. The two most prominent issues are: 1) the question of life after death – what it's like, how/when people pass, etc. and 2) the right-to-die/right-to-live debate, along with the significance of having a living will. It would seem that movies have limited options when it comes to dealing with these issues: taking a serious tone, avoiding the controversy all together, or, apparently, brushing across them with laughter and a few tugs on the heart strings. Witherspoon's character is a sincere, passionate doctor before the unfortunate accident that traps her in limbo, and during her life, she had specified that she did not wish to be kept alive artificially, depending on machines for her body's vital functions. (For those interested in still seeing this movie, I'll try not to spoil too much.) When Elizabeth's sister, Abby, the closest living kin, is informed of this, she faces the difficult decision of respecting her sister's wishes or holding onto hope for recovery. Each of the main characters must cope with death – for some, the loss of a loved one, for others, the idea of that loss – and, therefore, among the laughs, we find some somberness, and we are

pushed into deep thought by an unexpected source. Maybe the manner in which *Just Like Heaven* deals with these issues agitates us; maybe it facilitates a false perspective of the world through rose-colored glasses; or maybe, it's a work of fiction, a comedy to be enjoyed and left to the individual to interpret as hilarious or tragic. In any case, it's worth seeing and may prove to be surprising.

Terror in Norcross

By Diane Raymond

Who says Halloween is just for kids? On the warm Saturday night of October 1st, a spotlight illuminated Norcross beckoning all who dare to partake in *Netherworld*, the ultimate terrifying experience in haunted house thrills. For the not so faint at heart, *Netherworld* is the perfect venue to prove your bravery and tenacity. Whether you're hanging with your buddies, or with your favorite guy or gal (I chose the latter), you will be clinging close to them as you weave through the darkest gloom of uncertain doom. Although most patrons of this thrilling attraction looked to be intelligent, sensible people (although some a bit inebriated), knowing there is no real threat to themselves did squash any fears. So, if you feel the urge to let out a wail, don't be embarrassed, you'd be in chorus with everyone else.

There are 3 haunted walk-through attractions that comprise *Netherworld* – Terror of Tiki Island 3D, Slaughterhouse and Abomination. For \$25 you can scream until you're hoarse by visiting all 3, \$20 will get you into 2 horrific nightmares, and \$15 into one.

If you are tight on cash as most of us are, Abomination is definitely the one to visit. This haunted attraction within an endless maze has a horde of actors in exorbitant monster costumes lurking behind doors, curtains, and darkened Plexiglas that lights up as you mistakenly walk into it. Halls of mirrors abound to trick you into monsters lairs. This horror could not be complete without its creatures with chainsaws and hatchets coming after you. Not only should you brace yourself for what lies ahead, and coming from behind, but also beware of what's up above. You can never let your guard down,

or you will be screaming like a 5 year-old girl.

Slaughterhouse would be my next choice for thrills. Although not as frightening as Abomination, this attraction has its fair share of zombies slithering out from the shadows. 3D Tiki Island is a much shorter walk-through maze not really worth the additional \$5 unless your money is burning a hole in your pocket. There are amazing 3D effects you can only see with the complimentary glasses, but there wasn't much that provoked fear.

Netherworld has mastered the art of fear. The vehemently creepy actors in eerie costume and the lurid special effects each make this a wonderfully chilling experience. National media such as CNN and The Wall Street Journal, along with several local Atlanta news media have highly praised the haunting at *Netherworld*. "Netherworld is one of the most creative and ingenious Haunted Attractions ever conceived. Each year the *Netherworld* team creates an unbelievably new and frightening environment for those of us who love to be frightened!" says Editor of Haunted Attraction Magazine.

Netherworld is located just off of Interstate 85/Jimmy Carter Blvd at 6624 Dawson Boulevard in Norcross. It runs from October 1 through Halloween, open 7-11pm nightly. For more information, visit www.fearworld.com or call (404) 608-2484.

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Around Campus

Homecoming 2005

Our Queen... (Cont'd from pg. 1) realize homecoming is an event on campus because of the lack of a football team, but by offering an incentive to vote, more people got involved and realized that their involvement is crucial to any activity on campus.

In addition to being treasurer for Phi Eta Sigma National Honors Society and actively involved in a number of other activities on campus (including SGA Council of Clubs, ACCL, and the American Democracy Project), Lisa is also the President of Society for Advancement of Management and told me that they would be sponsoring (in partnership with SGA Council of Clubs) a Teddy Bear Drive. The Teddy Bear Drive collects teddy bears to be given to children who are victims of accidents. This serves to break the communication barriers between response teams and traumatized

children. SAM will also be continuing the Career Enhancement Mentor Workshop, which is open to all students on campus. Lisa said, "the purpose of this event is to help students learn résumé writing skills, interviewing skills, and how to follow-up after an interview." A final event that the organization will be doing is the SAM BINGO event to be held the week before finals. The game will take place on December 1 in UC 416 and is open to all students. Prizes will include Chick-fil-A merchandise/gift certificates, gift certificates for other retail shops, and other prizes that will be determined at a later time. As Lisa said, "this activity is just meant to be fun and stress free during the time when finals are about to begin." Off campus, Lisa is Marketing Director of Chick-fil-A in Riverdale, Marketing Associate for Adidas, and she is

involved in a number of local volunteer projects.

Congratulations to all the members of this year's Court and to both the men's and women's soccer teams for their victories against University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

Our King... (Cont'd from pg. 1)

DE: I'd like to say I usually go for someone who's intelligent, classy, someone most envied, confident, with a sense of humor and fashionable.

BT: Hmm...good luck with that one. What's your favorite song?

DE: (Again, after intense pondering)... "Slow Wine for Me" by R.Kelly.

BT: Favorite quote?

DE: "My daddy told me life is like a drum, I told my daddy I'm going to beat out my own rhythm!" by Nikki Giovanni.

BT: Well "D" (by now we've

bonded...) on a closing note, for our readers out there kind of on the fence about getting involved in school activities, what made you get so involved here at Clayton?

DE: Well actually as a freshman, I wasn't involved at all. Then...kind of on a whim I joined my first organization with a buddy of mine and I've been involved ever since. Angela Avery (Student Life & Orientation) played a big part too. She kind of opened my eyes to the fact that people should take the time to get a well rounded college experience. So get involved!

Regal words...regal words indeed.



Clayton State Through the Years

"If you're not happy in Thailand, You Won't be Happy in Heaven."

A Travel Blog by Shelley Chinnan

This summer, I spent 6 weeks in Thailand and Cambodia studying abroad and backpacking. Six weeks was enough time to shower with a pig, race in motorcycles on the wrong side of the road, and drink homemade moonshine with a hill tribe. I spent a weekend doing Tsunami relief, which was torturous and inspirational at the same time, and I experienced Khao Pansa Day, the start of the Buddhist Lent and watched a community of the deepest faith. While I was there, in an effort to reflect and keep my friends and family up to date with my adventures, I kept an online journal (or blog). Read on for excerpts from my blog. Thailand, oh, Thailand...

Enjoy,

Shelley



First Day in Bangkok!

Hi all, I just got to BKK last night.

It is hot as a MUG here! It's probably 97 degrees. Inside isn't so bad because there are fans everywhere and select rooms in the house have A/C. I'm off to the market in a little bit. I can't wait for some awesome road-side fruit.

This morning, I took a shower from a tub and bucket! It was AWESOME! it felt so adventurous! Like is it ok if the floor of the bathroom gets? How are you supposed to shampoo? If you have traveled to parts of the world where they don't have standing showers and porcelain bathtubs, then you might know what I'm talking about. Well, after some pondering, I decided to skip the shampoo for today and figure all that out in the hostel.

in other news, this morning, I woke up to the sounds of a rooster! A rooster! I've never even seen a rooster in the states, except maybe (maybe?) in the zoo, much less been woken up by its crow. I half-figured that the whole notion of roosters crowing at the crack of dawn was a myth, but believe me it's NOT. What is a myth, however, is the fact that they just crow a couple of times. It was a novelty at first, but when it wouldn't stop after 2 hours, I felt like walking across the street and taping its mouth shut. :D

anyway, stay tuned and keep sending me emails!

love,
shelley

posted @ 12:24 PM

7.01.2005

Khao San Road

Today, we ventured through a major market place in Bangkok called Khao San Road, and it is apparently

the backpacker central of Asia. It was insanity. Everything you can imagine was there from fake student id's to every size north face bag and so much more.

It was super touristy and really kind of fun! There were so many people there and so many odd smells. It was crazy. Lunch was awesome. I had my first Thai meal which I've been looking forward to.

more later, my internet session is about to time out.

:D
shelley

posted @ 9:12 PM



Our guide, Tommy, who was an absolute riot!

7.02.2005

Tour of the City

Today, our program officially started and I met all the participants. Amazing how open people are and we are all so excited about getting to know the city and experiencing Thai culture together. Today, we took a tour today of some beautiful Wats (Buddhist temples) including Wat Pho and the Grande Palace. They were so phenomenally gorgeous, so intricate, and they had so much gold. What's beautiful about Thailand so far is that with all the devotion, I've really felt reconnected to my own faith and values. The people are so kind, so gentle and have a generally pleasant disposition, so it's

wonderful! I also saw a Starbucks for the first time in a week today and all this westernization reminds me of how far removed we are. Anyway, today was full of contrasts. Like we went to a "Wal-Mart" sort of place and then we went to a local market which is the most fun I've had so far! Live chickens being sold right next to the hair barrette stall...is that the definition of adventure or what? :D it was awesome.

more later.

love,
shelley

posted @ 11:15 PM

7.03.2005

Kanchanaburi

Today, we took a drive out about 3 hours from the city to a small town called Kanchanaburi, which is just west of the city. It is the site of a horrible POW concentration camp from WWII, and we went to visit the memorials and museums which have been built in honor of the 16,000 (!) POWS who died here and in the area. It was horrifying and at the same time cathartic. Although I have seen human suffering and human life devalued, I have never seen or read

accounts like this quote I wrote down that I saw at the museum stated by a major:

"Never have I dreamt that I would see the day when human life would be held so cheaply."

Anyway, all of that aside, it was really a wonderful day. We at lunch on a boat! A private ferry, actually. Anyway...it's almost midnight and I'm off to bed!

:D
love,
shelley

posted @ 11:28 PM

This is my favorite spot in the whole city.



This is a photo from the Grand Palace, home of the first royal families of Thailand. Also, the Grand Palace has the Emerald Buddha (the only Buddha made of solid dark jade — not actually emerald). This is a statue of the green demon adapted from the myth Ramayana called Ravan.

7.17.2005

My sore bum

Today, I spent the day in Ayutthaya which is about 2 hours north of Bangkok and is a former capital city. It was the country's center from the 1300's to the 1700's so all that is left are ruins, but they are magnificent. All the accounts I have read tell that European countries were just beginning to open trade with Siam (present-day Thailand is formerly known as Siam) during this era and at its peak, the city boasted a population of 1 million, or twice that of London at the time. Although the buildings are just ruins and you can't see the once-gold facades, it is clear that the city must have been huge and prosperous; we could only go to 5 or 6 sites out of a suggested 20 or 25. Plus, it was scorching hot, so that slowed our progress from site to site. It is spread out and the modern city is built around the ruins, so major streets with lots of traffic cut right through old temples, which is shocking at first. I was with a friend of mine who is from Bangkok, which made the experience so different. For example, at a small cafe (where I had a delicious meal, I might add) a man told me that I looked like a Thai pop singer. And that I looked like I was 42! He should have stopped at the pop singer part. :D But anyway, it was a wonderful day trip. And oh yeah,

my bum is sore because we rented bikes and rode them around the city which was a fantastic way to experience Ayutthaya, but I think I might be feeling it for a few days to come!

Much love, Shelley posted @ 10:46 PM

Around Campus

Meet Dr. Wendy Burns-Ardolino

By Shana Latimer

Enthusiastic is the best way to describe Dr. Wendy Burns-Ardolino who, for future reference, prefers to be addressed as Dr. W. Her credentials are impressive—she received a BA in Politics and Philosophy from the University of Hull in the UK, and a MA in English and PhD in Cultural Studies from George Mason University. She is currently on staff as an Assistant Professor and Coordinator of Integrative Studies. Her passion, however, is Women's Studies. When I asked her why she was passionate about Women's Studies she became contemplative, and several seconds later she stated with conviction, "Because I believe in equality for all people, and social justice."

Currently Dr. W is teaching

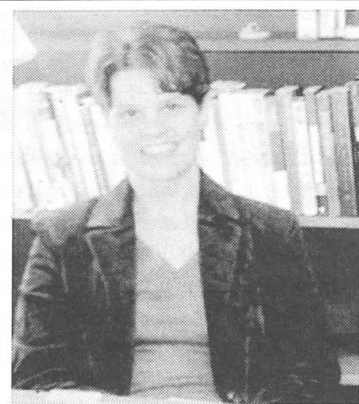
CMS 3810 Women and Popular Culture. The objective of this course is to educate students about the ways in which the media affects, reflects, and represents us and our daily lives. Within the class there is much discussion about how race, class, gender, and sexuality are portrayed in the media and who determines who is represented and in what capacity.

Dr. W is not shy about voicing her opinions, but to her credit she is open to listening to all points of view. Even when she's disagreeing with you, she does so with a smile and a gentle southern lilt that makes you feel a little less civilian in your approach to deconstructing the world in which we live. I am currently enrolled in her class, and I can attest to the fact that the material covered is controversial and thought provoking, yet the atmosphere Dr. W creates is one of respect.

As we discussed Dr. W's favorite

aspects of CSU, she immediately mentioned the students, saying that they were confronted with real life issues every day but were still seeking higher education. Her respect for us as students is evident, and in addition to that she's in touch with the issues we face on a daily basis. Her goals include helping students obtain grants, affecting change in core requirements, working to facilitate the opportunity of Women's Studies as a minor, and she would like to see CSU implement on-campus child care for those students who have children.

At the close of our meeting I asked Dr. W if she was able to share with us only one nugget of information about Women's Studies, what would it be? What does she want us to know? She answered sincerely, "Feminism is a social justice movement, a pro-human movement. It is for equal



relationships, for equal access to power, for equal economic status. It is against racism, sexism, classism and stereotypes." She wants to be clear that being a feminist and supporting feminist ideas isn't synonymous with man-bashing.

If you want to learn more about how our world is shaped, affected and represented in the media I encourage you to take CMS 3810. Next semester Dr. W will also be teaching COMM 3010 Research Design and Analysis. In whatever capacity you interact with Dr. W, don't be completely fooled by her wide, endearing smile. Know that she wants to rattle your worldview, and to varying degrees she will succeed.

The Spoken Word

By Dana Staves



You stand on an empty stage, no costumes, no set, and no props—and speak not the words of famous playwrights, but those of your own creation. Sound like your worst nightmare? It is precisely what characterized Clayton State's annual Poetry Slam, which took place October 4th. Hosted by Ayodele Heath, this event was anything but a nightmare as Clayton State students Mark Austin, Tiara McNeil, Alfred R. Dixon III, and Kineta Kelly competed with their original works in a slam poetry contest. A poetry slam is a contest in which poets perform

their works and are judged by five random members of the audience. They are scored on a 0-10 scale and the poet with the highest score wins (in their case, \$75 dollars). A brief "teaser" performance was held in the University Center during the lunch hour featuring internationally renowned slam poet Ayodele Heath, who recited several poems, one of which is my personal favorite called "Home." At 7:00 PM, the Poetry Slam geared up as professional poet Chezon Jackson did a reading of her poems, one of which was a reaction to the recent buzz surrounding Hurricane Katrina. Professional poet, John Goode, as seen on HBO's

Def Poetry Jams, took the stage as the sacrificial poet of the evening to set the pace for the student contestants to follow.

The students took the stage for the first round, some nervous and some bursting with energy. Progressing to the second round, following another reading from Ayodele Heath, the students once again stepped up to the microphone, for a close competition. The scores were totaled and Mark Austin won first prize, \$75. Tiara McNeil came in second for a prize of \$25. Alfred R. Dixon III took third and Kineta Kelly came in fourth, sharing the book with CD accompaniment, Spoken Word Revolution.

The practice of spoken word, and especially slam poetry, is becoming a popular art form. Students seeking more information about poetry venues in the Atlanta area should turn to Creative Loafing, which lists poetry events all over the city. If you missed your chance to compete in Poetrypalooza, Clayton State's literary magazine, Cygnets, is now accepting submissions. Bring three

copies of your original works (including your name, phone number, and email address) to G-210 (in Arts & Sciences) and turn them in to Jill Sears. Any poetry entries accepted to the magazine will be put in the Poetrypalooza contest, from which three winners are chosen for cash prizes. Poetrypalooza is an event that takes place in the spring semester and focuses solely on the poetry accepted to the magazine, so for a chance at those prizes, and to get your work published, be sure to submit your works to Cygnets by December 2. Congratulations to the poets who competed at the Poetry Slam and be sure to turn out next year for a fun, exciting event.



The Museum of Television & Radio Launches Satellite Seminar Series on Women in Television & Radio to Universities, Colleges Nationwide

Seminars Part of Groundbreaking Initiative "She Made It: Women Creating Television and Radio"; "She Made It" to Include 2,000 Hours of Programming, Educational Events for Scholars, Students, and the Public

NEW YORK and LOS ANGELES—(COLLEGIATE PRESSWIRE)—Nov. 7, 2005—The Museum of Television & Radio is launching a satellite seminar series to universities and colleges nationwide focusing on the role of women in the history of television and radio. The seminars are part of the Museum's **She Made It: Women Creating Television and Radio**—a three-year initiative celebrating the achievements of creative and business women in the television and radio industries. Spanning the generations from early trailblazers to current innovators, **She Made It** will honor writers, directors, producers, journalists, sportscasters, and executives. **She Made It** will preserve the legacy of women who have had an enormous impact on our most powerful media.

The seminars, which will include a live question-and-answer session between panelists and the off-site audience, is free of charge and will be sent via satellite to universities and colleges across the country as part of the Museum's Robert M. Batscha University Satellite Seminar Program. Universities and colleges may register for the seminars by contacting satsem@mtr.org or by calling 212-621-6726.

"The Women of NPR" will take place in New York on Thursday, November 10, 2005 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. (EST) Panelists include: **Melissa Block** (Host, *All Things Considered*), **Maria Hinojosa** (Managing Editor and Host, *Latino USA*), **Cokie Roberts** (News Analyst, NPR; Senior News Analyst, ABC News), **Susan Stamberg** (Special Correspondent), and Linda Wertheimer (Senior National Correspondent).

"From The Goldbergs to 2005: The Evolution of the Family Sitcom" will take place in New York on Wednesday, November 16, 2005, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. (EST) Panelists include: **Aviva Kempner** (Documentary Filmmaker, *Gertrude Berg: America's Molly Goldberg*); **John Markus**, *The Cosby Show* (Coexecutive Producer); *The*

Larry Sanders Show (Writer), *Gimme A Break* (Writer); **Bill Persky**, *That Girl* (Creator), *Kate & Allie* (Director, Writer, Producer), *Who's The Boss?* (Director); and **David Zurawik** (Biographer, *Molly's World: The Life of Gertrude Berg*).

"Taking the Lead: Women and the Changing Face of Television Drama" will take place in Los Angeles on Thursday, December 8, 2005, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. (PST) with panelists to be announced.

At the center of **She Made It** is a unique collection of radio and television programming created by women. The **She Made It** collection, a representative portion of which will be available when **She Made It** launches on December 1, will serve as a major resource for scholars, students, industry professionals, and the public. At the end of the three-year project, 2,000 hours of programming compiled both from the Museum's existing collection of over 120,000 programs and from new acquisitions will be available at both Museum locations, in New York and Los Angeles. Seminars, screenings, and an interactive website (www.shemadeit.org) will support this landmark collection.

She Made It will officially launch when the names of the 2005 honorees are announced at an event at the Museum in New York on Thursday, December 1, 2005. Additional honorees will be named in the following two years of the initiative.

"The idea for **She Made It** was driven as much by the extraordinary accomplishments of the female trailblazers in the industry, whose history and identity we wanted to preserve, as by the fact that so many talented women have succeeded in all areas of television and radio today," Frank A. Bennack, Jr., chairman of the Museum's board of trustees, said. "What we will try to highlight in the context of our collection is precisely how women have impacted the industry as writers, directors, producers, journalists, sportscasters, and executives."

"**She Made It** speaks both to the success of women in the industry today, as well as to the achievements of pioneers, many of whom worked

against great odds and, just as often, without recognition," said Marlo Thomas, vice chairman of the Museum's board.

The honorees were selected for **She Made It** by the Museum in consultation with a steering committee comprised of some of the most prominent women working in television and radio today and respected scholars in the academic study of women in media. The steering committee is led by Loreen Arbus and Kay Koplovitz, co-chairs of the committee and Museum trustees, as well as Geraldine Laybourne, Dawn Ostroff, Nancy Tellem, and Marlo Thomas.

Other programmatic components of **She Made It** will include an interactive website at www.shemadeit.org—featuring biographies, photographs, and webcasts—as well as ongoing screenings celebrating and featuring the work of the 2005 honorees. The Museum wishes to thank the following foundations, corporations, and individuals for making **She Made It** possible: Loreen Arbus, Kay Koplovitz, Geraldine Laybourne, Marlo Thomas, Joan Ganz Cooney, A&E Television Networks, BET, The Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation, CBS Paramount Network Television Entertainment Group, Disney-ABC Television

Group, Harry Winston, James & Co., Dolly Lenz, Lifetime Entertainment Services, Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia, MTV Networks, The Rosalind P. Walter Foundation, Time Warner Inc., USA Network and SCI FI Channel, The Kaplan Thaler Group, Playboy Foundation, Terri M. Santisi, Barbara Walters, Carole Black, and BMI.

The 2005-2006 Robert M. Batscha University Satellite Seminar Series is generously funded by Dick Wolf. Satellite transmission is provided by GlobeCast and satellite time is provided by PanAmSat Corporation.

About The Museum of Television & Radio

The Museum of Television & Radio, with locations in New York and Los Angeles, is a nonprofit organization founded by William S. Paley to collect and preserve television and radio programs and advertisements and to make them available to the public. Since opening in 1976, the Museum has organized exhibitions, screening and listening series, seminars, and education classes to showcase its collection of over 120,000 television and radio programs and advertisements. Programs in the Museum's permanent collection are selected for their artistic, cultural, and historic significance.

American Humanics Refocus

By Auzelle Epeneter, VP of PR

Clayton State's American Humanics Campus Association is undergoing a revitalization. We are looking for new ideas and new energy. The club is affiliated with the nationally-based American Humanics organization, which serves as a support and guide for students of all majors interested in service and leadership roles with nonprofit organizations. Student membership provides the opportunity for eligibility in nonprofit management certification, as well as participation in nationally based conferences.

Currently the club is working on this year's election and fundraising for this year's projects. In January the

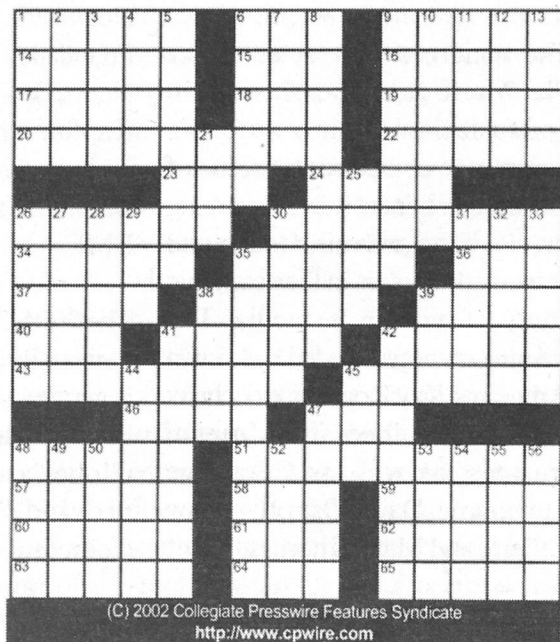
club will represent Clayton State at the 2006 National Management Institute in San Diego, California. Members will receive the opportunity for networking, internship and employment opportunities, as well as an extra vacation before the beginning of spring semester.

Biweekly general meetings are every other Thursday in Room 262 in the University Center. For more information visit: <http://www.humanics.org/> or contact the Interim President at NicolaTugwell@clayton.edu

Fun & Games

Food for Thought

Whoever said nothing is impossible, never tried slamming a revolving door....



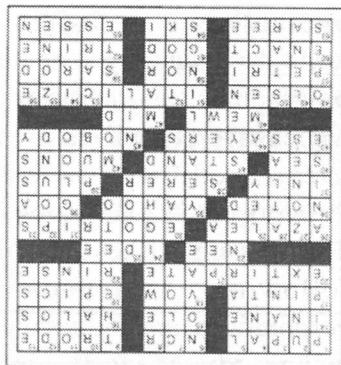
ACROSS

1. Insect stage
6. MD trail
9. Tennyson's trod
14. Lacks sense
15. Spanish cry
16. Auras of glory
17. Columbus ship
18. Marriage promise
19. Poems
20. Uproot
22. Carlton song
23. Maiden name indicator
24. Idee (freebie)
26. Shrub
30. Personality journeys
34. "Duly _____"
35. Do you?
36. Tibetan gazelle
37. Knowledgeably
38. Gambian language
39. Addition
40. Triton's domain
41. _____ by me
42. Murnesons
43. Ones who essay
45. Texas murder defense
46. Whimper
47. Naval Acad. student
48. Famous twins
51. Make stand out
57. Scientist's favorite dish
58. Neither
59. Played with plectrum
60. Congress action
61. Hotte
62. 120 degrees apart
63. Indian wrap
64. Type of bunny
65. German city

DOWN

1. Wind or bag
2. Computer lingo
3. Tired dog
4. Against
5. Erudite
6. Bright stars
7. Coagulate
8. Stepped on scale again
9. Furthermore
10. Double-edged sword

11. NC 28660
12. MDs
13. 65 across without "a"
21. Pod insider
25. Portal
26. Mediterranean herb
27. Time and loading, e.g.
28. Condemned Titan
29. Meadow
30. Acquires
31. Ice house
32. Puppy, e.g.
33. Chic
35. One year olds
38. Boil
39. Bar
41. Igneous rock
42. Donna or Calvin
44. Court punishment
45. Nothing
47. _____ gras
48. Poet's opens
49. 11 down actor
50. Celebrity
52. Seized
53. Autos
54. Purple flower
55. Diet
56. Garden



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S R C Z N B H R W K C W V O B X L Z S D
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C J J O E O C A L L U I B L I H X E N R
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The Bent Vent

What's up with all the duck @\$! on the walkways? Can someone please get a hose?

I'm not sure we needed all those extra faculty parking spots. So far the staff lot in front of Spivey is pretty empty, but I still can't find space in the student lot.

Heather Hale... next time use washable chalk, your name is still on the sidewalks:)

Just want to say "Thanks" to the custodial staff. We have some of the cleanest bathrooms I've ever been in.

What happened to the "Service" part of Food Service?

Can I use Financial Aid to buy sweaters? They're a school related cost. It's like a meat locker in these buildings!

Have something you want to vent about? Send it to The Bent Vent: btree@clayton.edu, write Bent Vent in the subject line.

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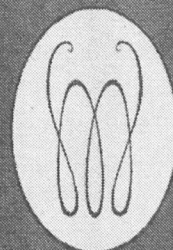
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Wat Arun, where the Buddha's ashes are buried (or so they claim)

7.18.2005

Motorcycle Adventures

Thursday, I was walking around at a market many blocks from the hotel. I got some *delicious* roasted corn from one of the street vendors. Then, realizing that I was hungry and couldn't wait until I got home to eat, I decided to venture into an alley and order from a street vendor. I nervously sat down, greeted the lady and by some miracle, ordered (I used this term very loosely) a meal. Bear in mind, this whole conversation was in Thai.

Shelley: Hello!

Vendor: Hello!

S: umm...something vegetarian?

V: Yes? With rice or noodles?

S: Rice, please!

V: For here or to go?

S: To go, please

V: *nod*

S: How much, ma'am?

V: 20 Bhat (US\$0.50)

S: Thank you!

V: Thank you! Have a nice evening.

And that was that! I did it! Then, feeling ever so adventurous, decided that instead of walking back or taking a bus back to the hotel as I normally would, I would take a motorcycle taxi. I escaped death 3 or more times in a 10 minute time frame! The concept of lanes is...well, nonexistent. Same is true for the concept of "oncoming traffic" Good lord, it was terrifying. I was clutching my bag with the food in it, hoping the claspless helmet would save me somehow. I nearly peed in my pants, but I'd certainly do it again! The driver was funny and flirty. What an adventure!

I got back to my hotel and enjoyed the food. I figured that if I made it home from the motorcycle ride, street food couldn't possibly pose more of a threat. :D

More later,

love

shelley posted @ 4:10 PM

Friday and Saturday's adventures continued...

Tonite, I went to see a Thai boxing match. It was, in fact, worth the \$25 to see it. We sat in the third or last tier, which wasn't even all that far away. There are two stadiums in Bangkok and one of them is Ratchadumnoen Stadium which is supposedly newer, nicer, and air-conditioned. (Basically for pansies) Instead, we went to historic Lumpini Stadium which is NOT air-conditioned (I can attest to this), older (they are celebrating 48 years), and the fights are more gruesome.

We figured that if we were going to do this just once, we might as well do it right. So, as I was saying, it was filthy. The bleachers were wooden and it reminded me of a rundown Six Flags Park. The crowd was full of unshowered, toothless spitters but watching them was just as entertaining as the anything-goes boxing match.

Anyway, then we hopped on a bus for 5.5 Bhat (about 12 US cents) and made it back home.

more later,
love

shelley posted @ 4:14 PM



Sunset at low tide

7.25.2005

Koh Phi Phi

Hi all, I just got back from Koh Phi Phi (a small island just east of Phuket) this morning.

Anything you heard about the Boxing Day Tsunami isn't nearly as bad as

it really was. The pictures from the media are poignant, but being there was very emotional and the devastation is...well, there are no words for it. My thoughts and prayers are with the victims and families who suffered loss from that awful tragedy.

much love,

shelley posted @ 11:58 PM

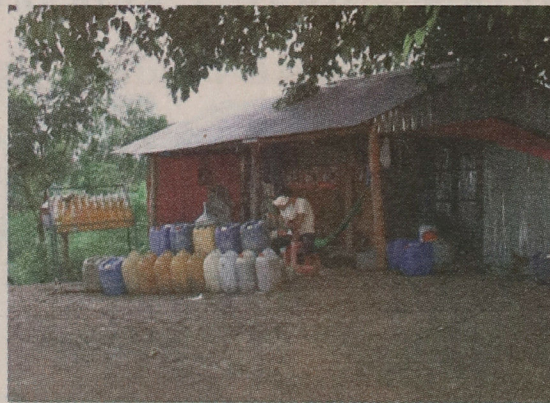
8.01.2005

After a long time...

Well, last week I was terribly homesick. I missed friends and good food. And cheese! For pete's sake! This country has NO CHEESE?! Even at the Western Pizza places, the mozzarella...well, leaves much to be desired. Anyway, Kelly is here now and we are getting ready for a couple of weeks of being in Cambodia and other parts of Thailand so it should be wonderful. :D

much love,

shelley posted @ 3:04 AM



a "gas station." The poverty in Cambodia was startling, especially since it's just across the border from Thailand, which is basically a developed country (perhaps contrary to what many people believe).

8.03.2005

Welcome to Cambodia

Hey hey. I'm here! Can you believe it? Well, the fact that I'm in Cambodia is fantastic given that it's a country that's just exotic enough to be considered a far off land, but not so obscure that no one's ever heard of it. :D *But*, even more amazing is that I am alive at all given our hellacious 18-hour should-have-been-12 hours nightmare to get here! What an *adventure*.

Kelly and I are in Siem Reap, Cambodia, home of Angkor Wat, one of the wonders of the world, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and 1000-year-old ruins of a thriving city.

So, we were supposed to leave Bangkok at 7 AM on a double-decker A/C bus and arrive in Siem Reap, Cambodia, at 6 PM, 11 hours later. Mistake #1: never assume. My experiences in Thailand have *not* taught me this, as everything has been so wonderful, easygoing, cheap, and honestly *comfortable* there. The worst is perhaps the squatter toilets, but all things

considered, I have survived much worse so even they are not so bad. So anyway, turns out that we aren't in a bus, but a minivan. This should have been a sign of things to come, but hey, 11 hours, of about as much personal space as you would have on Airtran is still not so bad. Then, we get to the border town of Poi Pet and wait and wait and wait in lines with our packs on to leave the Thai immigration stop and then again waited at the Cambodian immigration office for them to check our Visa, etc. So the plan is to cross the border on foot and then catch a bus on the other side of the border. Again, there is much less emphasis on "planning" here, so we got in "tuk-tuks" or motorbike-rickshaw things (3 wheeled) and we were suppose to be dropped off at the bus because the roads are bad. Even the tuk-tuk couldn't navigate the potholes, though, getting stuck at least twice where we had to get OUT of the vehicle, wade ankle-deep in mud and help get it unstuck. Then, we reached an impasse where the traffic was just awful of cars in

both directions and the entire roadway (if you could even call it that!) was just a muddy mess. We were instructed to get off, get our packs and walk to the bus...wherever that was ahead. We trekked *knee deep* in mud and walked and walked until we negotiated with

some guys on motorbikes to take us to the bus for US\$1 each. (In the larger cities in Cambodia, they use \$US as well as the Thai Bhat and weak Cambodian Riel.) Then, we didn't in fact get in a bus, but we loaded into the back of a pickup truck - not exactly an F150 extended cab, by any means - and 21 of us crammed into this small space (7 in front including the driver!!) bumped along for another five hours eating bugs and rain stinging our faces until we finally reached the guest house at Siem Reap at 1:30 AM. What an adventure! I can't say I loved every minute of it, but all i kept thinking was "We're in Cambodia!" What else to expect? :D The weather was beautiful and the sky was clear and full of stars which was a welcome change from Bangkok.

It was the ride of a lifetime and this morning, my bum is sore for the second time on this trip but this time, I think it'll need a couple of days to recover. Anyway, we slept in and had a great lunch and saw Angkor Wat and saw the sun setting over Siem Reap. Spectacular.

:D

shelley

posted @ 8:26 PM