

# The Bent Tree

Monday, March 19, 2007

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## Lady Lakers Are Elite!

By **ROLAND BENOIT JR.**  
Sports Editor  
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The Clayton State Lady Lakers (28-5) are on their way to the "Elite Eight". What is the "Elite Eight" you ask? The "Elite Eight" is comprised of eight basketball programs that have competed and succeeded at the highest level possible during the 2007 basketball season. Our Lady Lakers are proud members of this group. So, the next time you see a Clayton State Lady Laker basketball player, make sure you congratulate her on a stellar 2007 basketball campaign. Our Lady Lakers secured their first ever trip to the NCAA Division II "Elite Eight"

with a thrilling overtime win over Georgia College on March 12th, securing the South Atlantic Regional Championship. The "Elite Eight" round of the tournament will be held on the campus of the University of Nebraska at Kearney, with tournament action beginning on March 21st. The Lakers will face Texas A&M Commerce (28-8) in the Quarterfinal round on Wednesday, March 21st at 7 PM EST. If you are not familiar with basketball, and the significance of making it to the "Elite Eight", allow me to explain. The Clayton State Lady Lakers need to win "3" more basketball games, and they will be the 2007 NCAA Division II Women's Basketball Champions.



Kevin Pratt/The Bent Tree

The HUB shows it's support for the Lady Lakers.

The award for the Most Valuable Player during the South Atlantic Regional was awarded to Shantel Ragin, and Sharon Wiles was selected to the All-Tournament team respectively. The physical, personal, and mental rigors of making it to the "Elite Eight" are hurdles which this team has conquered again and again this sea-

son. I wish the Lady Lakers continued success, and here is what I was dreaming during physics class today: Tickets to basketball game in Nebraska, \$35. Flight and hotel room, \$400. Greeting the 2007 NCAA Division II Women's Basketball Champions at the University Center, priceless.

## EDITOR-IN-CHIEF ASHLEY SPILLERS SAYS GOODBYE

By **TONY AUSTIN**

Here at the Bent Tree, Ashley Spillers, the outgoing Editor-in-Chief, has handed the reins (and title) over to Kevin Pratt. Hardly just a title, she passes along the duties and responsibilities of the paper, as well as the task of improving the quality of the paper.

Ashley joined the Bent Tree Staff in the spring of 2003, and became Editor-in-Chief the following spring. It was a "growing experience and a learning experience.... I was more or less thrown into it,

and I wasn't really sure what to expect. I definitely learned my strengths and weaknesses," she explained.

"As an Editor-in-Chief, you're a Jack of All Trades," she said. "There's a lot of proofreading, content approval, calling meetings; basically, overseeing everything related to running the newspaper." This includes acting as the spokesperson for the Bent Tree.

As for the memorable experiences, Ashley said, "I think it had

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY DR. CLARK

By **TONY J. BERRY JR.**  
Web Editor  
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Dr. Randy Clark, Professor of Communications turned 50 the week before spring break and we here at The Bent Tree would like to wish him a happy birthday. But, who is Dr. Clark anyway?

If someone were to do an internet search for Dr. Alan Randall Clark, they wouldn't find much (curse you Google).

Who is this enigmatic man? Is he a possible cult leader out of Midwestern America or is he a writer weaving tales of mystery and intrigue in Northern America?

He's neither. Dr. Clark, in his nearly two years at Clayton State, has become one of its most be-

loved professors, has just recently become Chairman of the brand new Student Media Board, and serves as the advisor for The Bent Tree.

While at Clayton State, Dr. Clark has appeared on *American Eats* twice. During the first show,

*Continued on page 2*



Roland Benoit/The Bent Tree  
Cheerleader Kimberly Grey goes airborne.

## Running for Election

### SGA President Explains the Process

By **EMMANUEL SHEPHERD**

In last year's Student Government Association (SGA) elections, President Adetoke (Toke) Adetayo won with just 346 votes, and Vice President Jessica Charles won with only 291 votes out of the 5,924 students on campus.

The election process is not complex. If someone wants to run for office, he or she simply completes an application and begins their campaign. Then, in a school-wide vote, the person receiving enough votes, wins. In April, the student body elects the president, vice president and senators-at-large. Other SGA positions are annually appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate. Currently, there are 29 senators with 50 total positions within SGA.

Besides being the obvious resume builder, the office of President comes with many benefits. As current President, Adetayo feels that the office has helped her grow personally, and that she has "played a bigger role as a student on this campus in the position." The SGA President becomes an associate of University President, Dr. Harden. She explains that they work together to "increase student input on issues on campus." Some of the more recent projects they have worked together on were campus student

housing, Student Activity Center construction, and the Higher One program. She also receives a monetary stipend and a parking space in front of the UC.

According to Adetayo, her main responsibility is to lead SGA in its efforts "to reach out to the students on campus." The SGA website elaborates, "It is the goal of the SGA to cultivate leadership on campus through various activities and to maintain and enhance all areas of learning." It continues, "The basic function of the Student Government is to provide for the general welfare of the student body by providing appropriate student activities...a means for student input and opinion in the organization and operation of student affairs. Furthermore, the SGA shall work to facilitate communication between the students, faculty and administration."

The last major event sponsored by the SGA was the Student Forum, on November 1, 2006. President Harden answered questions from the students and addressed concerns about the proposed Student Activity Center. According to Adetayo, there was substantial involvement from students and faculty.

Asked about future SGA projects, Adetayo mentioned two upcoming fund raisers and two

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# Public Safety Digest

By EMMANUEL SHEPHERD

## Possible Email Hoax

Students have reported receiving emails to sell their textbooks, according to the Clayton State Public Safety's website. However, upon entering the website, they are asked to provide lengthy amounts of information, as one student reported. The Clayton State Bookstore, who is unfamiliar with the company, believes that this is not a legitimate website. Please be wary of any unfamiliar emails that may not be associated with Clayton State University.

## Safety First

Lt. Duke suggests it is best to keep an eye on your belongings at all times, especially when you are in the University Center. In addition, Lt. Duke asks students to record your serial numbers on both your laptops and cell phones. Also, to prevent vehicular theft, keep personal belongings out of sight in your vehicles.

## RideShare

Started in November of 2001,

RideShare is a program to help employees, and Clayton State students, find alternate ways to commute. Recently, the program received a grant of \$62,000 from the Atlanta Regional Commission, according to Joan Murphy of Public Safety.

RideShare is associated with the Clean Air Campaign; upon applying one can take advantage of the "Cash for Commuters Program," which rewards users \$3 a day for usage (See Public Safety for more information). It is strongly encouraged by Public Safety that students register for RideShare.

## New Officers

The Department of Public Safety has 12 certified officers currently, according to Joan Murphy, which includes a police chief, a lieutenant, a sergeant and nine police officers. In addition, they have two full-time and three part-time dispatchers, two University Center Safety Ambassadors, two security guards at the Georgia Archives and one Parking/Communications Manger. This well-trained staff is available to the campus 24 hours a day.

# Who is Dr. Clark?

Continued from page 1

he discussed hot dogs as one of America's favorite foods. In his subsequent appearance, he was asked about the Cola Wars (Pepsi vs. Coke); although in his own opinion, Pepsi is the obvious winner.

Here are some of the accolades that his past and present students have given him, starting with myself:

The man has knowledge on almost every facet of communications. From comic books and movies to magazine and radio, he seems to know a lot about everything. I remember when he told me the story of why he became an educator. He explained that he had some bad experiences with school and he just wanted to make that experience as enjoyable as possible for his future students...and believe me, he does. -Tony Berry, current CSU student

Dr. Clark understands his students; he often relates our studies to the real world. -Christian Bowen, current CSU student

Being a CSU alumnae and former CMS [Communications & Media Studies] student, one of the things I enjoyed about Dr.

Clark was the overall work experience and passion that he had for public relations. He talks about it all the time. He always encourages his students to look at everything as a potential PR opportunity. During graduation, he even suggested that I use him as a resource for a recommendation letter.

-Chinye Enurah, CSU alumnae

Dr. Clark has a certain tranquility about his demeanor that makes him very easy to talk to.

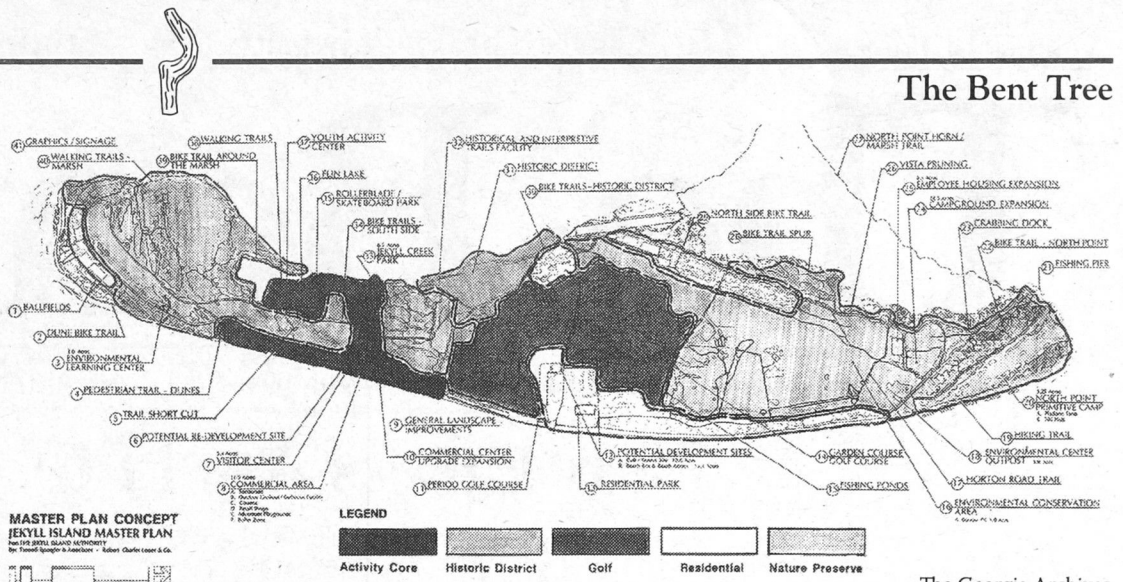
-Wilfredo Morales-Prince, CSU alumnus

The best part of [learning from] Dr. Clark is that you don't feel like you're a student and he's the authority. It's like you and him are friends having a conversation, of course, you're learning at the same time. -Colette Watkins, current CSU student

Highly knowledgeable professor, his interest and enthusiasm with student's welfare makes him a great educator.

-Kamau Waweru, current CSU student

I'd often take notes in awe as Dr. Clark would nourishingly feed his knowledge, expertise, & wisdom to us, his starving writers. -Kandis Webb, CSU alumnae



In this graphic, taken from the Master Plan created for the Ga. legislature, land use on the island is clearly defined. The South End includes a primitive camp and conservation centers.

# Jekyll Island Habitat in Danger of Development

By ASHLEY HORN

In a recent public hearing, State lawmakers met to discuss a lease extension to the Governor's Jekyll Island Authority (JIA). The original lease, which runs out 42 years from now, would be extended to almost a hundred years if the House bill passes.

Although the purpose of the bill initially was to quell developer's fear of investing in land under the short-term lease, it has shifted to protecting the island's South End.

Jekyll Island, deemed a Georgia jewel, is home for much of the wildlife characteristic of Georgia's coastal region. Popular with birdwatchers and 4-H Club members, the South End is the most ecologically sensitive part of the island.

Frank Marisola, representing the citizens of Jekyll, says the bill covers all major concerns but something needs to be done to ensure the habitat of Georgia's wildlife.

"Large developers, who are in the United States, who are interested in working on Jekyll Island, are going to want to develop the Southern End of the island. We are going to fight that. We are going to fight that as far as we can possibly take it," said Marisola.

Without the lease extension to the JIA, developer's investments will not be guaranteed

## SGA Elections

Continued from page 1

promotional events, which will "reach out to students and make them aware that SGA doesn't exist without the student body." She encourages everyone to participate in the recruitment drives at the beginning of every month, starting this month.

long enough to make profit. Ed Boshears, a member of the JIA, wants investors to redevelop the island's original hotels.

Boshears feels the extension on the lease is a good thing for Jekyll Island. "We explained to them the difficulties and the problems we have negotiating with people about building new hotels when there's a limit on how long a lease we can give them."

The South End is valuable beachfront property. Developers are looking into not only "redeveloping" the current living areas, but developing new parts of it as well.

Neil Herring, a lobbyist for Georgia's chapter of the Sierra club, concluded there would be a boom for the developer initially but in the end, they will lose money.

"They'll make plenty of money

in the short run, but the natural environment, which has become a unique natural environment because all the other places like it have been destroyed by development, will be lost," Herring said. "It becomes a place like most other places along the southern coast."

Rep. Terry Barnard (R.) feels that not much of the South End can even be developed because of the island's natural layout. "I think this concern about overbuild up on the South End is warranted but I think it's a little more hyped up than necessary because you can't do that much development on the South End anyway."

So far, no decisions have been made by the Jekyll Island Authority or the Georgia Legislature on the development of the South End.

## Want to Find a Carpool Match at Clayton State?

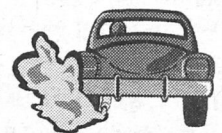


The University RideShare Program helps students and employees find a carpool match.



### Why Carpool?

- ❖ Saves money on gas and wear-and-tear on your vehicle.
- ❖ Helps relieve traffic congestion and parking problems.
- ❖ Promotes clean air.
- ❖ Allows use of HOV lanes.
- ❖ Reduces Smog.
- ❖ Is a GREAT way to meet new friends!



Public Safety offers discounted monthly MARTA U-Passes (MARTA Breeze Cards coming soon) to current students and employees. Clayton State uses the Atlanta Regional Commission's 1-87-RIDEFIND database to match Clayton State University students and employees.

For more information about student or employee programs, stop by or call Public Safety at (678) 466-4050, located upstairs in the Student Center.

# Stockbridge Rallies for Peace

By CARRIE MARTIN

It has been said that the Southside of Atlanta is hardly a place for peace loving liberals but that was hardly the case on January 20. As the Saturday afternoon traffic rolled through Stockbridge at the intersection of N. Henry Blvd. and Hwy. 138, a group of about 15 stood on both sides of the busy intersection to make their opinions known.

The Stockbridge Peace Vigil was only a prelude to the rally scheduled for the following weekend in Washington, D.C. This rally, which promised to remain peaceful, was optimistic of swaying not only the public opinion of the war but the opinions of numerous government officials as well.

As with most protests, there were parties representing both opinions of the war. From high school teens to veterans, these men and women had much to say in support and opposition of the current administration's dealings with Iraq.

Duel Willard, a Stockbridge High School junior, was at the rally with a classmate and his father. The Willard's, standing with posters reflecting the horrors of September 11, 2001 were at the rally in support of President Bush's decision to send more troops to Iraq.

"The reason we are over there," Duel said, "is because we can't wait for another one of these to happen," as he points to his homemade sign of the World Trade Towers engulfed in flames. "I think the reason we are over there is justified but,

I don't know why we are [still] over there now."

Only a few feet away were a group of veterans deep in debate over President Bush's plan. Armed with books, e-mails and memories of military service, Mark Olrich calls himself a "veteran for peace."

Another veteran, who wanted to be known as a soldier protecting his "brothers," served during the 1973 Arab-Israeli War. He would return to service in a "heartbeat" but asks, "why are our priorities are so messed up...where are our values?"

These men believe big business is at the heart of this war. They believe that the war machine is running things, not the government and that since everyone is making money, the war will continue.

Oil was another issue on the minds of many.

They were quick to note that oil was one of the main reasons the war was started, not terrorism. Olrich and other veterans believe the "war on terror" is nothing more than a smoke-screen by Bush to start another war with Iraq.

There was fervent debate over the impact of fossil fuels on the environment and what alternative fuels could be produced to help eliminate the need for oil. The International Action Center's (IAC) Atlanta chapter was represented at the rally. Two of their members held signs calling for an end to troop deployment, soldiers killed in action, the administration's Middle East protocols and the amount of money being spent on the war.

## First Year Graduate Student Talks About New Program

By TONY J. BERRY JR.

Web Editor

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"The MALS program is wonderful," said Dolores Cox about the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Program at Clayton State University. "It was a great honor to be accepted into the MALS program as one of the first graduate students at Clayton State University."

In addition to being a student, Dolores Cox is the Communications Coordinator for the Office of University Image and Communications. This gives her a unique perspective on the program. It's "like selling a product and buying the product simultane-

ously," said Cox.

From this perspective, she has garnered a new level of respect for Clayton State's students, technological environment, and faculty.

"It is an advantage to work here, know everyone, and know how to seek help," said Cox. She has not decided what she plans to do with her new degree but looks forward to exploring her options once she has completed the program. For now, she is focusing on each individual class and enjoying the experience. "I want to do well in the program, because fulfilling the expectations of success is positive for me and for the University."

"The strongest impression I have

# Student Media Fair a Success

The Bent Tree, the Art, Film, and Video Club, and The Cygnet joined Clayton State Internet Radio (CSIR) Feb. 23, 2007, as they hosted the first of many joint efforts by campus student media. Each organization attracted new members in the push for publicity and The Bent Tree gathered valuable new information through student surveys.



Emmanuel Shepherd/The Bent Tree

CSIR Manager Stephanie Cooper organized the event, bringing in participation from other student groups and coordinating setup.

Jimmy Rainer, of the IAC, knows that "people are beginning to see the foolishness of the war."

"Even if it was based on anything legitimate, the realization that they were lied to, to get into the war...but the war is going so badly. It's just a bloody mess."

Gloria Tatum, also with the IAC, plans to go to the peace rally in Washington, D.C. Tatum is concerned with the way the United States was led into the war.

"He [Bush lied] about Iraqi having a nuclear program," Tatum said. "He should be indicted for war crimes. He is a criminal."

Although the expressions from motorists were mixed, the group felt they had accomplished their goal. "We are here to have our voices heard...everyone is entitled to having their opinions heard."

after the first semester is the enthusiasm shown by the outstanding professors in the MALS classes such as the professors in my two classes, Dr. Susan Henry and Dr. Alexander Hall."

Cox stressed that the apprehension she felt when she first faced the course load was soon replaced by enthusiasm and excitement.

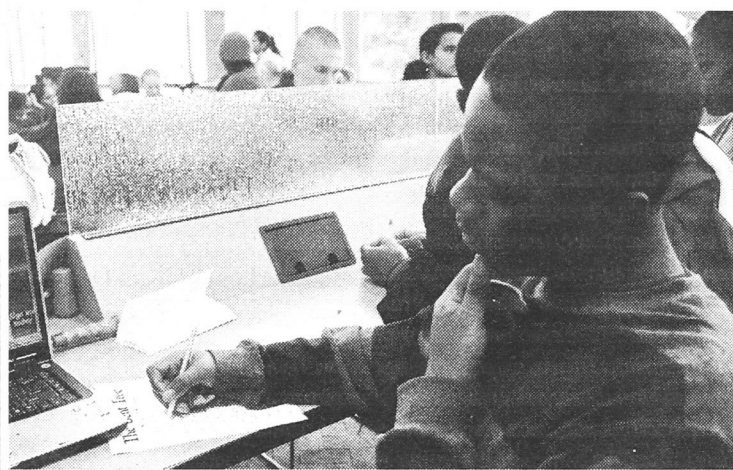
She offered the following advice to any students interested in the program:

- Apply and get started.
- Contact Dr. Tom Barnett and he will convince you that you can do it.
- Be prepared to balance work and class.
- There are several tracks of concentration/course variety.
- Take the GRE (Graduate Records Examination).



Crystal Wright/The Bent Tree

CSIR second-in-command Princess Threatt created a display board for the fair. Here, a student reads more about the organization.



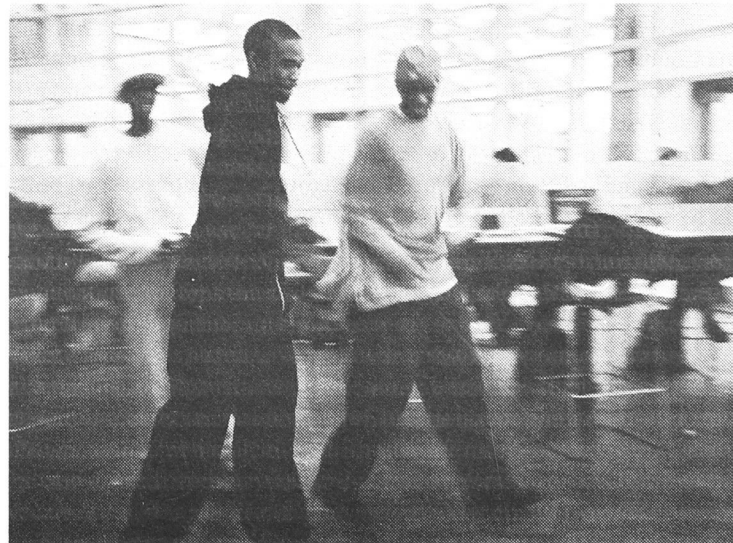
Crystal Wright/The Bent Tree

A student fills out a survey from The Bent Tree. The survey asked questions about content and distribution.



Ciji Fox/The Bent Tree

DJ and CSIR member Theo Celeste spun hip-hop at the fair. He hopes to do more events at Clayton State.



Ciji Fox/The Bent Tree

Students Brad Twyford (left front) and A.D. Dixon (right) weren't shy about dancing to DJ Theo's beats.

# We Are Marshall Crew Taps Local Talent

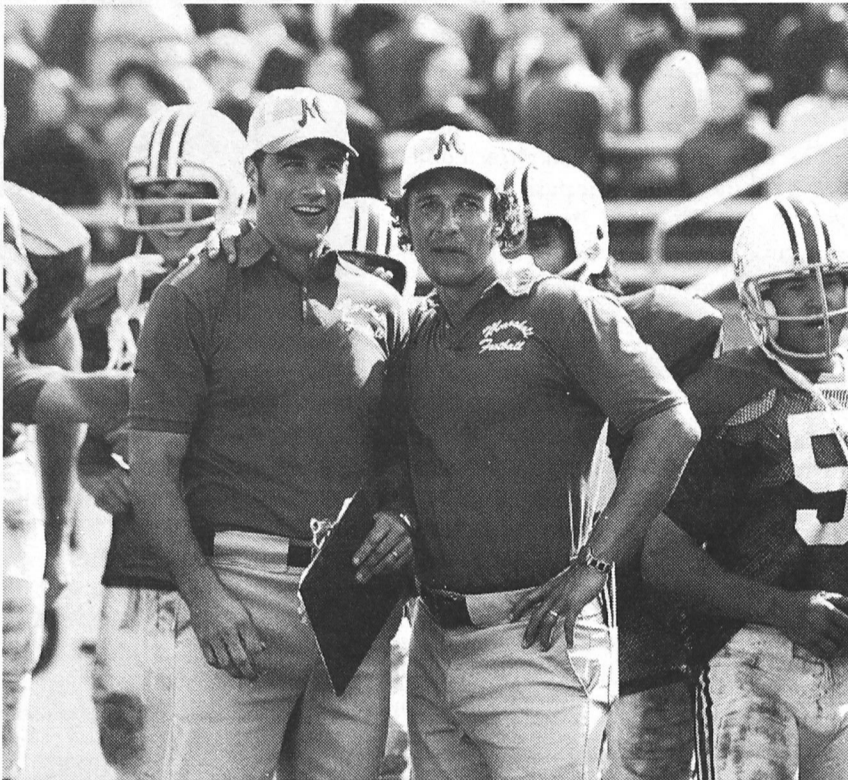
By KELLEY ATKINSON

*We Are Marshall* tells the story of a town shattered by the loss of their local university's football team, its coaches, and prominent members of their community in a plane crash. The school is Marshall University of Huntington, West Virginia. The movie is based on the real plane crash on November 14, 1970 where 75 people died, leaving behind only one member of the coaching staff.

Not only does *We Are Marshall* have Hollywood star power with Matthew McConaughey and Matthew Fox, it features local extras as well. Several scenes of *We Are Marshall* were filmed here in Georgia. Atlanta's Varsity drive-in restaurant is featured along with some familiar faces from surrounding communities. We interviewed one of them, Mr. Hoby Davenport, Principal of Cowan Road Middle School in Griffin, GA.

**The Bent Tree:** What is it like to appear in a major motion picture?

**Davenport:** It didn't seem like a lot at first, but once you sit and see yourself on the big screen it's really exciting.



Courtesy of Warner Brothers Pictures

Head Coaches (William Dawson and Matthew McConaughey) rebuild a team.

**The Bent Tree:** How were you approached to be in the film?

**Davenport:** A former student of mine from a school that I previously was a principal for was recruiting extras for the film. He called and told me that I was always a positive influence in his life as a young man, so I asked, "What do I have to do?" He an-

swered, "Be a head football coach and die on an airplane."

**The Bent Tree:** Did you actually meet Matthew McConaughey and Matthew Fox? What were they like?

**Davenport:** I didn't meet Matthew McConaughey because his appearances were in scenes that followed the plane crash and

that's where my role ended. I did meet Matthew Fox; he wasn't as friendly as I thought he would be, but then again, he had a lot more on him than I did.

**The Bent Tree:** Would you ever appear in a major motion film again in the future?

**Davenport:** Yes. Actually Clint Eastwood will be filming a movie in March with Robert Redford and Paul Newman. I was asked if I'd like to appear in it as well. This film is said to be Newman's last movie.

**The Bent Tree:** What was your favorite part about being a part of this film?

**Davenport:** Actors speak of their roles or parts; it was very emotional and exciting. During the film, the football team chants, "We Are...Marshall!" The chant becomes a part of you. I was

lucky to meet one of the original coaches of Marshall's freshman team and I got to hear interesting stories of Coach Tolley. Again, it was very emotional.

**The Bent Tree:** Being based on a true story, what was it like knowing that you helped keep someone's memory alive while aiding to tell a school's story?

**Davenport:** Again it all ties into the emotionality. We're sitting on the airplane and the coach starts to lead into the chant, "We Are..." And you get emotionally caught up in the meaning of the film and what it must have been like to rebuild the team and the community.

**The Bent Tree:** Do your friends, family, and your community treat you like a local star now that they recognize you in this major film production?

**Davenport:** Well it's funny that you ask that. I have students at school say, "Mr. D, you're a movie star, how much money did you make?" Only they don't realize that the big actors like Matthew Fox and Matthew McConaughey are the ones that make the real money.

**The Bent Tree:** Are you a big college football fan and if so, who do you root for?

**Davenport:** Surprisingly I'm not a college football fan. As a teenager I watched Vanderbilt and if I root for anyone it would be them. They're normally the underdogs but I was happy to see them beat the Bulldogs this year.

**The Bent Tree:** Again, *We Are Marshall* is a very emotional and heart touching film. After seeing the final cut, what are your final thoughts about the film and are you pleased with the way it turned out?

**Davenport:** I believe that *We Are Marshall* is a great movie, one of the best I've seen in a long time. It had to be devastating for families who actually lost their families. I was emotional watching the final cut. I was told that about 27 kids lost both parents in the actual crash and it's hard to imagine that something that tragic could happen. It makes you thankful for all that you have and take for granted.

## Film Review

### RARE AND UNCUT...

By J. LEE JONES

"Blood Diamond" has one of the best endings of all the movies that I have seen. Director Edward Zwick has produced a film that is not only entertaining, but deals with current issues.

The film is uncompromising in the way it depicts the late 1990's civil war in Sierra Leone. During the war, it is hard to determine who are the "bad guys," the government or the rebels. Diamonds, one of Africa's largest exportable commodities, are being smuggled out and purchased on the open market, despite an international ban on the purchase of these so-called "blood diamonds."

"Diamond" stars Leonardo DiCaprio as Danny Archer, a South African mercenary. While in jail for diamond smuggling, Archer overhears a fellow prisoner, Solomon Vandy (Djimon Hounsou), a Mende angler, discovered a rare pink diamond while working for the Revolutionary United Front, in the diamond fields.

Once released from jail Archer has one of his associates bond

Solomon out. Archer makes a deal with Solomon; he will help rescue Solomon's wife and children in exchange for part of the profit from the diamond.

Both men are African, but their histories set them apart until their fate joins them in a common quest to recover this rare pink diamond. To achieve this, Archer seeks out American journalist Maddy Brown's (Jennifer Connelly) help. Her price is an exclusive from Archer about how the illegal blood diamonds are made to appear clean and are then sold in the world market.

The movie depicts the mass slaughter of innocents as both the government and rebels shoot down men, women and children seemingly indiscriminately. We also see how the rebels recruit young boys and indoctrinate them through torture and drug use, turning them into hardened killers. It is disturbing to watch a 10-year-old boy fire an automatic rifle into a crowd of unarmed people.

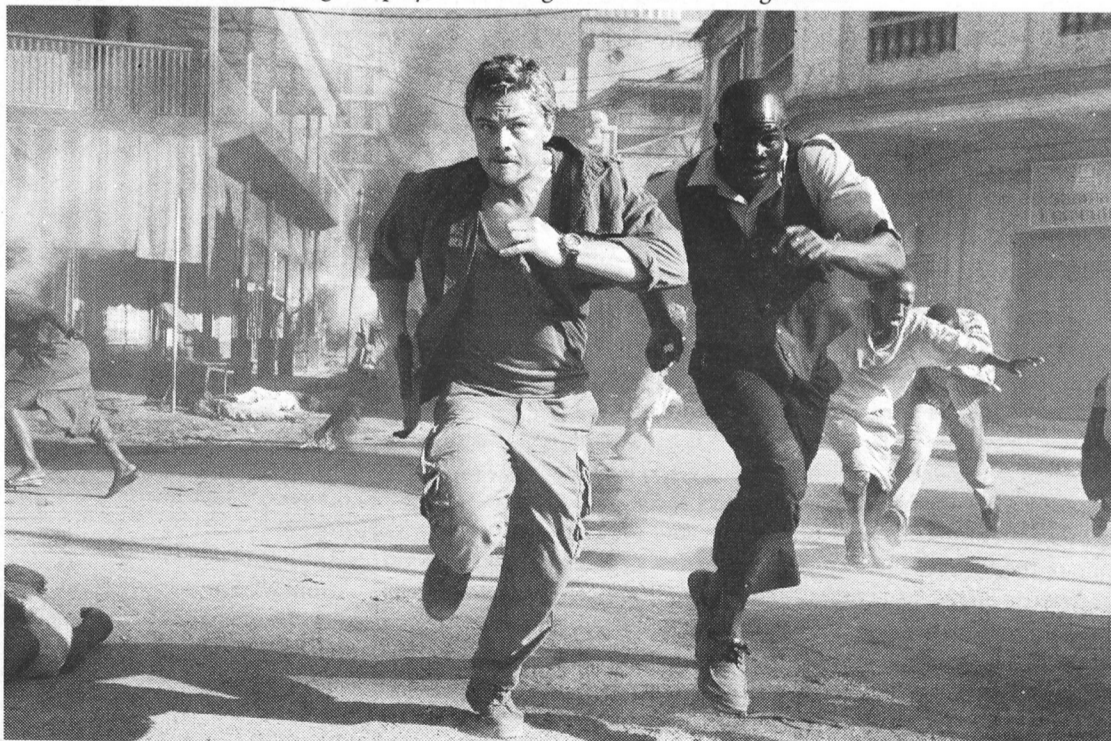
"Blood Diamond" is effective at depicting the corruption of innocence, as well as, the painful hell

of this kind of war. It also highlights the greed and manipulation that characterize the international diamond market.

To an extent, "Blood Diamond" is a victim of its own length. While the film includes a number of disturbing political and sociologist

insights, the story loses momentum as it begins to bog down.

"Blood Diamond" looks and sounds great, but it may have been a more remarkable film if only Zwick's mastery of the medium had extended to the screenplay and editing the results.



Courtesy of Warner Brothers Pictures

Danny Archer (Leonardo DiCaprio) and Solomon Vandy (Djimon Hounsou) try to escape civil war in Sierra Leone.

## Technology Review

## Zune vs. iPod

By EVA JONES

Variety Editor

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For the past few months, people have been exposed to commercials advertising the Zune.

What is the Zune?

Isn't it something like the iPod?

At first glance, the Zune and iPod look nearly identical. They both have a circular control pad (the iPod's rotates and the Zune's clicks) and can fit comfortably into the average person's hand. That same person who knows nothing about electronics would probably say that the iPod is better simply because everyone has one. To some, this may be the case, but the point here is to see what's different.

The worst part of the iPod is iTunes. iTunes must be installed on the user's computer in order to put music on their iPods. This contrasts to the Zune's use of the already installed Windows Media Player (at least for Windows users).

If you want music in addition to what you currently have access to, we can pay for it through the iTunes' music store. It is normally around 99 cents per song, and the browser can play a 30-second clip before a purchase.

In the Zune Marketplace, the browser can play the entire song up to three times in three days before they have to purchase it. Both iTunes and the Zune Marketplace suffer from bugs and are continually improving.

Another problem with the iPod is that some files must be converted by iTunes before they can be placed on the device. These are mainly Microsoft's WMA music files.

Since the Zune is made by Microsoft, any music, video, or picture

file that is natively compatible with Windows Media is compatible with the Zune. This includes WMA, MP3, AAC, .MV, MPEG-4, H 264 and JPEG's.

What does this mean? Less time consumption converting files for the Zune if your library is already in WMA format.

Another feature of the Zune is its wireless capability. Even though it must be connected via USB to exchange files with a computer, the Zune does have wireless Zune-to-Zune capability. It has a range of about 30' and can exchange music with another Zune.

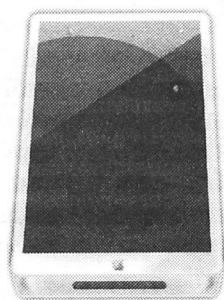
Even though these files will only remain on the Zune for 3 days and many files from the Zune Marketplace cannot be shared at all, the buyer still gets to hear new music and can find it online to add it to their Zune.

It is rumored that the Zune is planning to get gaming capabilities in the future, as well as a USB gaming controller.

Currently, the Zune and iPod cost about \$250 for the 30GB model. The iPod is available in black and white while the Zune comes in black, white and brown.

The Zune also has a built in FM tuner. Apparently, the tuner cannot pick up many stations in Atlanta due to the abundance of smaller radio stations, but it will pick up the major ones. The Zune also comes with a variety of music and videos preprogrammed on it, which are removable, as an added bonus.

Both products are around the same price, have nearly the same programs for computers and have random variances in their capabilities. As of right now, it seems that the Zune is a better model, but the iPod may have more to offer in the future.



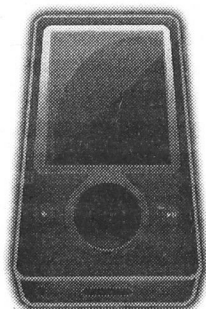
## iPod

Price: \$249-\$349

Capacity: 30-80 GB

Display: 2.5-inch

www.apple.com/ipod



## Zune

Price: \$249

Capacity: 30 GB

Display 3-inch

www.zune.net

## Lyrical Lounge

## Late Night Special a Daytime Hit

By SHAVAUN R. BREWER

Rated 4.5 out of 5

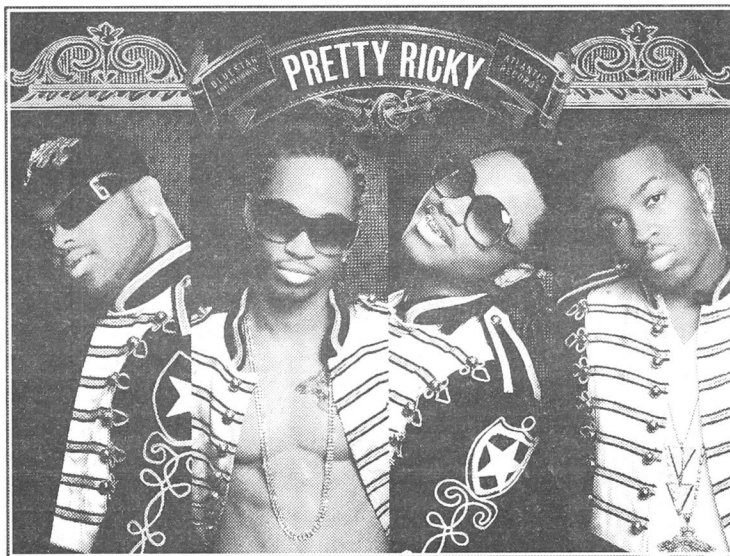


With new artists emerging daily, it may be shocking to some (me included) that Pretty Ricky has managed to not only succeed, but shine in a music industry, full of over-produced lip-syncing artist and recycled beats, struggling in sales. The urban quartet from Miami is comprised of Pleasure, Slick 'Em, Baby Blue and Spectacular who all also happen to be brothers.

They have maintained their status in the Urban/Pop culture world with a strong follow-up album, "Late Night Special," which hit stores January, to their debut album "Bluestars" (May 2005).

The band of brothers managed to assimilate a mixture of gritty "Dirty South" influenced tracks, while combining harmonious singing. While the whole CD is worth your keeping on repeat, the hit single "On the Hotline" is literally being repeated all day by the demands of teenage girls across the country.

Not all the songs on the CD are as catchy and easy to snap your fingers to as "Hotline," but they



Courtesy of Atlantic Records

Brothers Corey "Slick'em" Mathis, Diamond Blue "Baby Blue" Smith, Spectacular Blue Smith, and Marcus "Pleasure" Cooper make music.

tend to follow the same groundwork the single has set forth.

"Make It Like It Was" exudes the qualities to be the next single because of its ability to make you reminisce about the "good 'ole days" of puppy love and the jitters of that first kiss.

Not since the days of the Jackson 5 have a group of brothers been able to showcase as much talent, artistic creativity and ability as these four have.

If you are a fan of good music, unquestionably good production

and great vocals, you will not be disappointed.

For more information on "Late Night Special" or Pretty Ricky, go online to [www.PrettyRicky.com](http://www.PrettyRicky.com) or [www.Myspace.com/PrettyRicky](http://www.Myspace.com/PrettyRicky).

If you are a Clayton State student and would like to have you or your group's music reviewed by the Lyrical Lounge, please send an email to [LyricalLounge@BTreeNews.com](mailto:LyricalLounge@BTreeNews.com).

## RESTAURANTS

## I'M CRAVING... PIZZA

By MATTHEW A. DOBSON

As college students, we are all too familiar with the cravings that come with late-night studying. One of the most popular food students crave is pizza. In fact, in the United States alone, over three billion pizzas are sold each year.

Having eaten my share, I found myself tired of the pies from national chains. Instead, I scoured Metro Atlanta looking for what I consider to be a better pizza.

## Mellow Mushroom

(24 Metro Atlanta locations)

For over 30 years, Mellow Mushroom has been an Atlanta favorite. Started by two Georgia Tech students, Mellow Mushroom has been a popular spot for the poor college student. In recent years, Mellow Mushroom has expanded into the suburbs and into 12 other states.

The pie to try: The Jerk Chicken and Pineapple  
Also, try: The Parmesan Pretzels and the Greek Salads

## Johnny's Pizza

(41 Metro Atlanta locations)

First opened in 1977 in Forest Park, this chain offers traditional New York style pizzas as well as a wide variety of subs and calzones. Johnny's Pizza also has some traditional Italian fare.

The pie to try: Meatballs and Feta Cheese

Also, try: The Eggplant or Chicken Parmigiana

## Partners Pizza

(Peachtree City, Fayetteville and Newnan)

As a Fayette and Coweta county favorite for many years, Partners Pizza has become known as a popular pizza parlor for families and friends alike. Partners has become known for its wide variety of specialty pizzas such as the Big Kahuna (pineapple, mandarin oranges and bacon) or the Potato (sour cream, green onions, potatoes and cheddar cheese).

The pie to try: The Road Runner (smoked Gouda and provolone cheeses, chicken tenders, red and green peppers, and red onions)  
Also, try: The Southwestern Chicken Egg rolls

## Rocky Mountain Pizza Company

(1005 Hemphill Ave. Atlanta, GA)

Located just off 10th Street in Midtown, Rocky Mountain has catered to students from Georgia State and Georgia Tech for years. At nights, Rocky Mountain turns more into a bar atmosphere with great drink specials, sporting events, and trivia contests.

The pies to try: The Buffalo Chicken and The Black Diamond (black olives and white sauce)

Also, try: The Ski Poles or the Sweet Potato Fries

## Anthony's Pizza and Pasta

(Five Metro Atlanta locations including at 6518 Highway 85 in Riverdale)

Anthony's used to have a location right behind Clayton State, and ever since it closed, I have been mourning its loss. It was nice to be able to sneak over there in between classes and share a pie with a few friends for lunch. Anthony's still has several other Atlanta locations, and is worth checking out for its varied menu.

The pies to try: The Greek or the Veggie

Also, try: The Spinach and Cheese Calzone

# Civil Rights Historian Taylor Branch Speaks at Clayton

By EDMUND OUTLAW

News Editor

EdmundOutlaw@BTreeNews.com

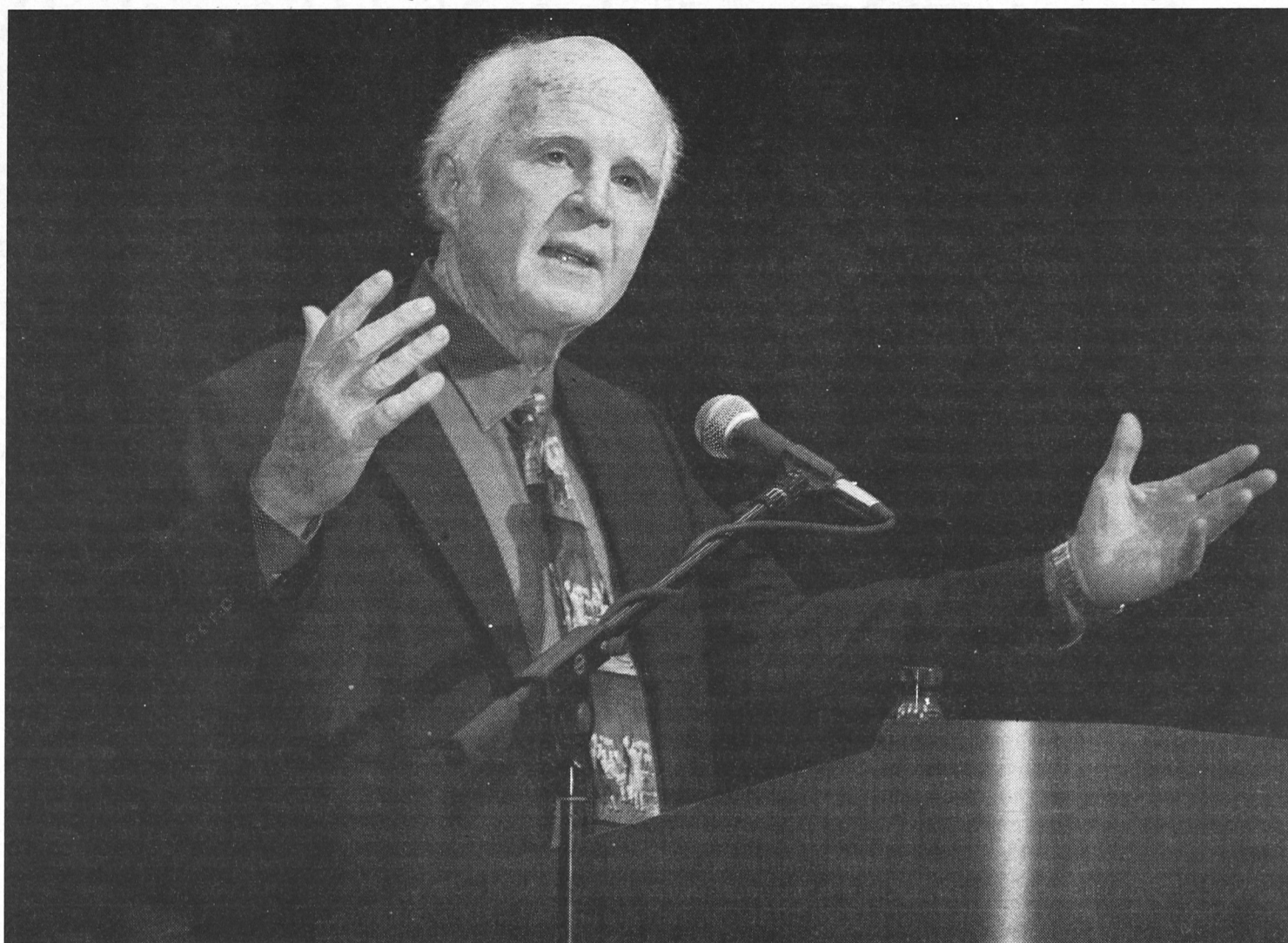
On January 19, 2007, Pulitzer Prize winning author Taylor Branch visited Clayton State University to deliver the keynote address about his 24-year involvement in the Civil Rights movement.

The evening started off with a brief introduction by Deborah Greer for the Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church Choir, directed by Dr. Kevin Johnson. Immediately following the choir's performance, was a brief speech from President Harden, summarizing the basic accomplishments of Mr. Branch who then took the stage for his delivery of "Myth and Miracle from the King Years."

Taylor Branch began by briefly telling his history before he began his work in the movement. He attended the Westminster School in Atlanta, the University of North Carolina, and then earned his M.P.A at Princeton University in 1970. Taylor Branch's initiation into the world of Civil Rights began when he was watching television and saw children being attacked by dogs and hosed down by riot police in Birmingham. He asked his parents what motivated these people to stand up against all of this, from the youngest eight year old to older adults. Neither of Taylor's parents had an answer, despite his mother's involvement with several civil rights groups.

While attending Princeton, Taylor Branch decided to find out why such a low percentage of black Americans were not registered to vote. While keeping a careful journal of events, he went to the "black part" of south Georgia towns and asked people why they hadn't registered. In one of these attempts he was arrested by the local sheriff while visiting a juke joint. The reason, associating with black people. However, he was soon released because the mayor said they couldn't keep a Princeton student in jail, "even if he is a communist."

After being released, Branch's work lead him to an old matriarch. When he found her, she was sitting in a rocking chair on her porch. She kept silent for the majority of the time, ignoring Mr. Branch's questions. Instead, the woman would ask him many offbeat questions like whether man really landed on the moon, among other things. Immediately following this



Civil Rights worker and historian Taylor Branch delivers MLK Week keynote address.

Leigh G. Wills/University Relations

fascinating yet frustrating encounter, he went back his motel room and wrote down everything that had happened, this was one experience he did not want to forget. His journal of these times was eventually published in the Washington Monthly.

Taylor Branch then went on to talk about many myths of the movement. First was that the race problem in America is "simultaneously solved as it is unsolved." It is apparent that many people believed this be-

cause shortly after Martin Luther King's assassination, the percent of black citizens registered to vote went from 1% to 2%. This continued to grow until 1988 where it began to fall.

Myth number two was that the politics of 1960 said that government is bad. Myth number three was that "violence is the true measure of stamina." This implies that values are sacrificed for strength when in actuality; values are true strength, which is what made the Civil

Rights movement so impacting even to this very day.

Myth number four was that there were no miracles in the Civil Rights movement. It was a miracle that Martin Luther King arose and was strong enough to lead the movement. He always had one foot in the church and one foot in the Bill of Rights or the Gettysburg address or the Declaration of Independence. "He always had one foot here, one foot there," as Mr. Branch put it.

At the end of his speech, he

was given a prolonged standing ovation. Then, Dr. Harden presented Mr. Branch with a gift bag, and the Lady of Lourdes Choir joined hands, as did the audience, and sang "We Shall Overcome."

Such an event as this is one to be remembered in the near future. Taylor Branch wants the student body to know that there is still subliminal racism in modern day America and that Civil Rights is not a model of the past, but a model of the future.

## Spillers Resigns

*Continued from page 1*

to have been the first couple of semesters....We kept the paper afloat with basically a skeleton crew." The paper had been resurrected only four years earlier after a being dormant for over a decade. It was a challenge to continue to publish.

Her most memorable experience was the controversy surrounding an article printed in the fall of 2005. Printed while she was away on vacation, the issue was as much a surprise to her as it was to the campus.

"It was more or less an editorial about one of the larger student organizations on campus," Ashley stated. "The article explained

that while Clayton State has a very diverse student population, the organization was only catering to one demographic group." However, "what was viewed as a negative article produced positive discussion, and prompted dialog between different organizations."

Ashley is happy with the new staff, especially in how it reflects the campus population. "This campus is very diverse and welcoming," she said. "The Bent Tree staff is a lot like the campus in that respect. We (the staff) used to be viewed as just one group of the same people, but if you look at us now, we have people representing different cultures, genders, and lifestyles."

When asked what she would like to see from the paper in the future she said that there should be more news, referring to the overabundance of opinion writing in past issues.

"Also, I think that we should get the readers more involved.... There are between 20 and 30 different countries and dozens of different cultures represented on our campus, so I feel that it's important to make the paper readable to everyone."

Working towards that goal, The Bent Tree has recently hosted a focus group of campus leaders, participated in the Student Media Fair, distributed surveys, and continues to recruit new writers.

"The addition of specific jobs should decrease the individual

workload and help the paper run more smoothly," she explained, and with an editorial staff of 12 so far, we are working hard to achieve this.

Nearing graduation, Ashley is now interning at Georgia Magazine and remains busy. However, she will still offer assistance and guidance to the new Editor, "I'll be that extra person to come to for advice."

To all the new staff members, she offered these words: "Use your time on The Bent Tree staff as a learning experience. Don't be afraid to ask questions; senior staff members are very knowledgeable and eager to help out. Also, use your time with The Bent Tree to develop relationships with other students and especially faculty members."



## MLK Week Essays

### Steps Toward the Dream

By BONNIE DAVIES

Imagine walking down the hall of the university, and you realize that second soda before class was probably not the greatest idea. You head over to the restrooms, but instead of two doors, there are four. They read "Men," "Women," and "Colored Men" and "Colored Women." After you finish your classes, you decide to head downtown to spend the afternoon. When you ride the bus, you see black people crowded into the very back of the bus, even sometimes having to get up for a white person boarding. You see many shops with signs that say "No Colored People Allowed," and while you see many white folks walking around freely, there aren't many other kinds of people. On Election Day, you do not see any Blacks, Hispanics, or Asians in line for the polls. Nor, do you see any minorities on the ballot. It's not the Twilight Zone or an alternative universe where Adolf Hitler won World War II. It's the American 1960's, before minorities won civil equality. In the 1960's, the country lived with the reality of segregation, and many blacks were beaten and most were publicly ridiculed. Then, the right man, in the right place, at the right time, started a movement. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was not content to sit by and let injustice

continue; instead, he answered when called to lead. Dr. King taught a people how to use non-violence to combat those in power. His speeches, along with his role in boycotts and marches, inspired a nation. His dream about racial equality became a goal for all of America when President Johnson announced that "we shall overcome." Though we still have a much to do to accomplish this ideal, we have moved, over the past twenty-nine years, in the right direction. Under past two presidential administrations, we have had African-Americans (for the first time) holding one of the highest positions in the executive branch of our federal government (the Secretary of State), and two Hispanics (as Secretary of Commerce and Justice) and an Asian (for Secretary of Labor) on the presidential cabinet as well. In addition, minorities have been elected in record numbers to the legislative branch (both as House representatives and Senators). According to the U.S. Census, 60% of all registered African-American voters voted the last presidential election, with Hispanics at 47% and Asians at 44%. Let us all take a moment and honor a great man, whose goal for all races to live together in harmony. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated, but his dream lives on.

### What's the Deal America?

By KEISHA JENNINGS

It is Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, and I am waiting to watch the annual parades and movies on the television. I take one click after another. There is nothing on. I pinch myself to make sure I am awake. I look at the calendar to make sure I was in the year of 2007 and not the 1800's. Today would be the first day I became aware of societies setback towards African Americans. I also feel that young children and some adults are not aware of their heritage. They might speak of black pride, but how many can tell you who was the first black doctor? This is just one question that I pondered during Dr. King's birthday. I reflect back to the day I was in elementary school learning about Dr. King and hearing his speeches. Today our children are lacking information about Dr. King. Some are even unaware of his famous speech, "I Have a Dream." According to a recent episode of *The Boondocks*, Dr. King would view today's world as uncivilized. I too would have to agree. Was it not Dr. King who said, "I have a dream?" Yet, we as a society has turned our

backs to him by putting his name in low-income areas where drug dealers and prostitutes gather. "Let freedom ring," said Dr. King; however, we share his freedom by removing half of the black history pages out of school textbooks. Therefore, who should we blame America, our government, our teachers, or ourselves? Again, I digress and refocus my attention back to the television. Finally, there is one show to reflect Dr. King's birthday, which is a ceremony at Ebenezer Baptist Church. I run to the phone and call all my friends so they too can enjoy this two-minute moment in history. As I hung up the phone, I think back to the parade my father marched in at downtown Atlanta to show his support for Dr. King and my mother who ushered all the children curbside to wave at local politicians and black activists that took part in the parade. Today our society is lucky if they even get a parade. Yes, I do know that events did take place over the past weekend, but where was the coverage? Did you attend any events? Speak out America for what you want because a closed mouth is a closed mind.

### Pushing for Change

*Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day*

By DARIUS THOMAS

When U.S. students have the day off from school for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the significance of this day often goes unnoticed. The birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. is a U.S. holiday observed on the third Monday of January each year. It is one of three U.S. federal holidays to commemorate an individual person. Even as we examine the lives and works of Abraham Lincoln and George Washington, Dr. King holds a rank among these two prestigious men. Like them, he was a revolutionary that fought to hold his country together at a time when it was twisted and threatened to tear itself apart. After Dr. King's death, Rep. John Conyers introduced a bill in congress to make his birthday a national holiday. Conyers stressed his proactive role on behalf of trade unionists, which supported Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Bill.

In 1976, Jimmy Carter was elected and he endorsed the King Day Bill. On November 2, 1983 President Ronald Reagan, although he opposed the King Day Bill, signed the bill creating a federal holiday to honor Dr. King. It was observed for the first time on January 20, 1986. Dr. Martin Luther King Day was officially observed by all 50 states on January 17, 2000. After examining Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech, how close has our nation come to what he envisioned for us. From this historic speech, are "the vaults of opportunities still insufficient for the people are color"? It is widely believed that as a nation everyone has an equal opportunity to succeed. "The bank of injustice" is no longer bankrupt; our nation now offers justice and freedom to all humankind. Has our nation truly reached the point where "justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream"? Justice is now a reality for all God's children; we now stand on

a solid rock of brotherhood and sisterhood. Dr. King fought for racial equality; he did not limit his efforts to the rights of blacks only. He envisioned a society that an individual's character, not the color of their skin, was most important, a society where diversity is critical to its growth. A society, in which our differences are celebrated, not used to divide us. This holiday marks achievement. It is a sign that society can take steps in the right direction. It is a sign that there are still good people in the world that care about others. Those individuals refuse to sit passively by while there is still injustice in the world. It continues to act as a call to all humanity to not allow injustice to happen again. This holiday challenges people to remove their indifference and to move towards a time when all humans are valued based on their character and individual worth. If only we could live in such a society, then we could truly say the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., "Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

## FROM OVER HERE....

### Social Change Through Christianity

By T. C. Cox

It seems to me that the man of the moment, the hour and the year for the "Movement" was Martin Luther King, Jr. I am referring to that movement which set many American citizens free to vote in any public election, take any available seat on public transportation and free to be served in any public restaurant or drink from any public water fountain, etc. Martin Luther King, Jr., fresh from receiving his doctorate and 26 years old, took responsibility for and leadership of an organization which had a righteous cause but had no one willing to be identified as the leader; the responsible one. The historic account of events has been documented very well by Taylor Branch in his prize winning series of books. Your education is not complete if you are not familiar with that series. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement changed for America that which has been wrong since America's beginning and truly set right our national attitude, including even changing the Constitution of the United States. How did this one young pastor, this preacher, this Christian accomplish so very much? This Martin Luther King, Jr. had

a legion of helpers. There were many who gathered to protest wrongs; there were many who marched and we saw them on the news. Yes, and there were many who fought for the precious freedoms I mentioned earlier. Legions of men, women and students who stood up in protest or sat down in protest or refused to stand up all in protest of what had long been wrong in this nation. Yes, they gathered, protested, marched and fought but not violently. Their leader called them to disobey certain laws but not all laws, civilly, non-violently. How could any man accomplish such a feat? First, the word went out to some American citizens that now was the time to somehow fight back and throw off the chains of injustice. That sounds like a revolution, a fight, a war. Then, Dr. King told them not to fight back, no violence. We must not be violent! Can you imagine the feelings of all these Americans, ready to fight, being told, "Yes, we will likely be attacked; we will likely be hit and hurt and jailed and maybe killed but we must not fight back. No matter what happens, we will stay in the news but we will not be violent!" It worked! It seems humanly impossible

that so many wronged and upset Americans would remain non-violent throughout the movement but, for the most part, they did. It was humanly impossible for any one man to have such influence, however Martin Luther King, Jr. called the people to realize the battle was that of the Lord's. This young pastor, this preacher, this Christian spoke using biblical terms and biblical examples preaching that the people should love their enemies and those who wrongly used them. He told the legions that one day all Americans would live not as enemies, but as brothers. You should read his words, his speeches, his sermons. He spoke as a man of God, a Christian (one who follows the teachings and the example of Christ). Martin Luther King, Jr. was a man, a human man, who chose every day to live as his Lord would have him live and he changed these United States of America and the world forever. We are much closer to being the land of the free and so America is better for all of us because Martin Luther King, Jr. was committed to serving God. Do you want to make the world better? From over here, Martin Luther King's way seems like a good plan.



## Sports

### Lady Lakers On Top of Their Game



Roland Benoit/The Bent Tree

Lady Lakers and Georgia Southwestern tip-off in Valentines Day home game.

By RHONDA BURNAM and  
KIMBERLY GRAY

While the men's basketball team gets plenty of attention, Laker fans should not take women's basketball lightly. On Valentine's Day, the Lady Lakers massacred the Georgia Southwestern Hurricanes. Their defense was fierce, shutting down the Lady Hurricanes and

keeping them below 50 points the entire game. The Lakers produced 43 points from turnovers alone while never losing the lead in the game. The final score was 107-47. The first half was a three-point contest among the Lady Lakers, averaging 43.8 percent. The overall game's three-point average was 38.5. The leading scorers were

Shantel Ragin, 18 points, and Roberta Phillips had 14 points. Phillips started the game with a three point shot, followed by a steal, which lead to an easy layup. The Hurricanes' defense was no match for the Lakers. The lack of support from the center and forward positions made it impossible to defend consistently well.

### Senior Night Basketball

By CANDACE LINEN

#### Women's game

On Senior Night, February 24, six senior Lady Lakers celebrated a victory in their final regular season home game Saturday night. From tip off to the final seconds, the Ladies dominated and beat the Georgia College Lady Bobcats with a final score of 85-69. The win gives Clayton State a 22-5 overall and 12-4 in the conference record to close the season.

Unlike the first meeting with Georgia College this season, Clayton State started out strong and kept the lead the entire game. After being down by 8 points, Georgia College rallied to tie the game at 15-15, but Clayton answered with a 15-2 run in a span of five minutes.

Clayton State extended their lead to 14 points with the help of Nikkisha Pritchett and Roberta Phillips both scoring two 3-pointers making the score 33-19 at 7:23 in the first half. With 2:22 left in the half, Georgia College narrowed the deficit to seven points. However, Clayton State went on a 12-4 run as Kim Lloyd sinks a 3-point basket at the buzzer to close the half with a score of 49-35.

At the start of the second half, Georgia College put the pressure on Clayton State with a 13-3 run to cut the lead to five points. Tiauna Brantley hit the jumper to

make the score 58-53 at the 11:50 mark. From that point on, though, it was the Lakers' game.

In less than four minutes, the Lakers increased their lead to 12 on a Sharon Wiles jumper for two. Two free throws by Roberta Phillips with 5:08 remaining in the game put Clayton State up by 19 points, a point differential that they reached four times.

In her last regular season home game, Sharon Wiles led the Lakers in scoring with 16 points and five steals puts her at 104 for the season. Alecia Humphrey also had a stellar performance recording a double-double with 12 points and 11 rebounds. Nikkisha Pritchett trailed Wiles with 14 off the bench. Roberta Phillips added 10 points off the bench as well. Clayton State's bench doubled Georgia College's with 46-23 points. The Lakers also out rebounded the Bobcats 56-46. Marquita Driskell led Georgia College (19-8, 10-6) in points and rebounds and also recorded a double-double with 19 points and 10 rebounds. Emily Bixler scored 15 points and Tiauna Brantley added 14 points.

#### Men's game

This Senior Night, there were over 900 fans in attendance, and the Clayton State Lakers wanted to send their six seniors out on a high note with a win to end the regular season over Georgia Col-

lege Saturday night at the Athletics and Fitness Center.

However, things didn't go as they anticipated. The Lakers suffered a heartbreaking loss at the hands of Bobcat's guard Shaun Keaton's 35-foot 3-pointer at the buzzer. The loss gave the 22nd ranked Lakers and overall regular season record of 21-6 and a conference record of 10-6.

Clayton State started out with a strong performance, leading the Bobcats the majority of the first half. But, ended the half trailing by one, 33-34. In the first half alone, there were five lead changes and 11 ties.

The tug of war with the lead continued throughout the remainder of the game. With only 3:40 left, the Lakers were down by eight. They regained their momentum with the help of Brandon Kelley's 3-pointer, which was the start of a 9-0 run. After a Lakers timeout, the Bobcats lost possession on a Michael Sloan steal. Sloan then passes to Kelley who is fouled going for a lay-up. He goes to the line and hits both free throws, closing the Bobcat lead to one point, 60-61 with 1:06 remaining.

After a Bobcat shot clock violation, the Lakers regain possession. Todd McLaurin charged the lane and kicked it out to Aritide Sawadogo, who finishes it with a dunk. The score is now 62-61, Clayton State with only 0:16 left on the clock.

The Bobcat's Shejdie Childs charges the lane for a possible game winning lay-up, but it's a miss.

### Freedom Run 2007



Michelle Melton/The Bent Tree

2007 5K/10K Freedom Run begins at Clayton State University on January 15, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

By ROLAND BENOIT JR.

Sports Editor

RolandBenoit@BTreeNews.com

On January 15th, Clayton State University hosted the fifth running of the Freedom Run on campus to celebrate the birthday of one of America's greatest civil rights leaders. The 5k/10k run consisted of runners from Clayton State, Metro Atlanta, and surrounding states. The attendance this year totaled 200 runners, who ranged in age from 10 to 65.

Mike Desmelik of Stone Mountain and Eric Heintz of Atlanta claimed the overall titles, 10K and 5K respectively. Particularly warm conditions (mid-60's) helped Desmelik, the runner-up in the 2006 Freedom Run 10K, set a course record with his time of 35:33 while Heintz finished the 5K in 16:53. The women's

winners were Lesley Champlin-Swann of McDonough in the 10K with a time of 41:43 while Janice Platt traveled from Amherst, New Hampshire to win the 5K title in 22:27. Champlin-Swann's time was also a course record in the women's race.

When asked how he felt about the significance of the run. Mike Desmelik, felt that Dr. King's teachings "are how everyone should live....Think of others before yourself." Freshman Clayton State track and field sprinter, Keisha Chaney felt that, "the race symbolizes that people of different races can run side by side, and not be segregated by the color of their skin...which would not have occurred during Dr King's time. It's amazing...the world can change by one person having a dream, and if he kept that dream to himself, would we be here right now?"



Michelle Melton/The Bent Tree

Sports Editor Roland Benoit, Jr. interviews 10K run winner Mike Desmelik from Stone Mountain.

Sawadogo grabs the rebound, but is fouled immediately by Aaron Clark. Sawadogo goes to the line for one with the chance of extending the lead to two, but he misses the free throw. The Bobcat's Clark pulls down the rebound and hands it off to Keaton. With only one second left on the clock, Keaton pulls up for the long range 3-pointer. The entire Center falls silent as the ball

lingers in the air. But, that silence is broken when the shot hits right before time expires and the Lakers lose 64-62.

In his final home game, Kelley led the game in scoring with 24 points and was also perfect behind the arch (4-4, 3 pointers) and at the line (4-4, free throws). Sawadogo finished with 14 points, eight rebounds, and four blocked shots.



# Lady Lakers Win Peach Belt Championship

## Men's Basketball Qualified for Nationals

By **ROLAND BENOIT JR.**  
Sports Editor  
RolandBenoit@BTreeNews.com

The Lady Lakers (25-5) defeated Columbus State on March 3, thus winning the 2007 Peach Belt Conference Tournament. As a result, they hosting the NCAA Division II South Atlantic Regional. This is the third straight year that the Lady Lakers have made a NCAA Division II National Tournament appearance. Coach Dennis Cox and his staff have set high standards for excellence and hard work.

**The "Valentine's Day Massacre" of Georgia Southwestern.**  
The Lady Lakers were up by 15 points, and made an errant pass to the low post. Coach Cox called a time-out. He delivered a few choice words to the team, and they proceeded to destroy Georgia Southwestern by 60 points (107-47).

### Lady Lakers

Coach Cox is the winningest women's basketball coach in Clayton State history, with a winning percentage of 82 percent and an overall record of 50-13. The triple-threat star, Sharon Wiles, has led the Lakers in scoring (12.6 points per game), assists (2.9 per game), and steals (3.8 per game) this season. The

warriors inside, who put their bodies on the line for every loose ball, are led by Shantel Ragin (6.5 rebounds per game) and Lynette Jackson (2.4 blocks per game). In addition, Ragin was selected as the 2007 Peach Belt Tournament MVP.

### The Men's Team

The Laker Men's Team (23-7) received their first bid to play in the NCAA Division II National Tournament. They will travel to Augusta State for their first round game.

The Clayton State Men's basketball team is led by Coach Gordon Gibbons, the winningest men's basketball coach ever at Clayton State, with a winning percentage of 66 percent. In his six years at the helm, the Lakers have posted a 97-49 record.

The leading scorer this season is Todd McLaurin, averaging 14.0 points per game. Brandon Kelly has been the giver and taker of the squad. He has brought the heat in every game, with an average of 3.2 assists and 2.0 steals per game.

Not to be forgotten are the warriors who get it done in the paint, John Beugnot and Aristide Sawadogo. Beugnot averaged 7.8 rebounds per game, while Sawadogo, our seven foot one inch center from Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, blocked an average 2 shots per game.

By **ROLAND BENOIT JR.**  
Sports Editor  
RolandBenoit@BTreeNews.com

I hate the Boston Red Sox because I am a New York Yankee to the end.

I hate the Detroit Pistons because I am a Chicago Bulls fan.

My hate for those teams is rooted in the dislike for the organizations, and the long-standing rivalry we have with each other. However, I harbor no hatred for the people of Boston or Detroit. Tim Hardaway, on the other hand, hates gay people.

On a radio show hosted by Miami Herald sports writer, Dan Le Batard, he was asked, "How would you deal with a gay teammate?" Hardaway responded, "First of all, I wouldn't want him on my team. Second of all, if he was on my team, I'd really distance myself from him."

He continued, "I don't think he should be in the locker room when we are in the locker room. I wouldn't even be a part of that. I'd ask for him to get traded. Something has to give. The majority of the players would ask for him to be traded, or they would want to get traded. Or just buy him out of his contract and let him go."

Now, at this point in the interview, I am not surprised at Hardaway's comments. He sounds like most people who have had limited exposure to different people,

## SPORTS EDITORIAL

# Hardaway Hates Gays

ideas, and lifestyles. What he says next, well, I almost ran into the 18-wheeler in front of me on I-285.

Le Batard attempts to give Hardaway an out, asking, "Tim, you realize that's bigotry and homophobia?"

Get ready for these statements by an angry former NBA player who needs some serious counseling. "I hate gay people," Hardaway fumes, "I let it be known. I don't like gay people. I don't like to be around gay people. I'm homophobic, I don't like it. There shouldn't be a world for that or a place in the United States for it. I don't like it."

**"I let it be known. I don't like gay people. I don't like to be around gay people. I'm homophobic, I don't like it. There shouldn't be a world for that or a place in the United States for it"**

Like you are thinking and feeling right now, how can a person feel such hatred and disdain for a particular group of people? What has the GLBT community done to Mr. Hardaway? What's fueling such inflammatory and

ignorant speech? I don't have answers, but I know how I feel.

I am disgusted by his comments, but I am more upset with his stupidity. He is obviously incapable of understanding what it means to be in front of a microphone with the entire world listening. He must not be aware of the message he sent to children who have his poster hanging on their bedroom walls. He certainly doesn't understand the public relations nightmare he created for the NBA, with the All-Star game being held the following week.

He definitely doesn't understand the awful power of hate, a force that lead to the extermination of over six million Jews. He surely doesn't understand that hatred for skin color, along with greed, held African-Americans in bondage for over four hundred years. No, Mr. Hardaway does not understand the power of hatred.

What he will now understand is that people will not remember him for his hustle and determination on the basketball court. People will not remember him for being the face of the Miami Heat when they were the cellar dwellers of the NBA. No, people will remember him as the ignorant, washed up basketball player, who hates gay people.

Send your questions, comments and feedback to sports@btree.com



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# Sex Talk

Where sex isn't a dirty word.  
Written by students like you.

## Sex Advice for Sexually Assaulted Women

By STAFF WRITER  
Sex@BTreeNews.com

Back in the fall of 2001, two men in my high school Health class attempted to rape me. While I was lucky and did not receive the full "treatment," the experience continues to haunt me even to this day, in almost all aspects of life. Especially with sex, or just intimate contact with my significant other altogether.

However, over the years, I have tried some things that have helped me progress in overcoming my tainted view on sex and I wanted to let other women, who have been in similar or worse situations, know some of my techniques.

First, I do not recommend having random sex with people to try to "get over it" or prove that you are still desirable. Usually women do not only suffer from the trauma of sexual assault/harassment but usually find sex to be even more unpleasant as well. What you need to realize is that this was a very traumatizing experience; you are not going to "get over it" overnight.

Second, you are still desirable; though what that person (or persons) did to you was disgusting and wrong, you are still beautiful, they cannot change that.

Scientists and psychiatrists suggest that women who are victims of rape, sexual assault or harassment

should seek counseling. You can visit one of the counselors here on campus or seek a professional therapist or psychiatrist. In addition, there are support groups in Georgia for women who are victims of such crimes; you can find them online.

Then, inform your dates or significant others about what happened. While you do not need to tell them on the first date (if you are dating someone when the attack happened, you should tell him or her as soon as you are able to talk to him or her), you do need to tell him or her soon.

This way, hopefully he or she will not become angry or impatient or hurt if you do not want intimate contact with them just yet. If a person is worth keeping, they will wait.

If they are angry with you, as painful as it might be, you need to leave them.

Finally, take things slow and gentle. While most fears can be conquered by just "jumping right into it," I have found that this is not the case here. Make sure that the first time you try to become intimate with another person it is with a person you trust. Also, do not be afraid to say "no" if it ever starts to get uncomfortable to you.

In fact, *do* say it. Having to stop when you are trying the first time is not a sign that you are a failure or pathetic; it just means that it is

not the right time yet. A couple of things I found that helped me were these:

Just go for old-fashioned sex or, if you are not ready for that, then just making out and some "intimate" contact, no sex games or anything kinky. While some can be fun to certain people, I do not recommend it for the first time.

You first want to get used to the idea of having sex, and traditional sex is easier than including S&M, bondage or anything else. Take it one-step at a time. Again, do not be afraid to say "no" if it gets too uncomfortable for you.

Make the first move. While this may be hard, especially if you are a shy person, I found that this helped me greatly. By being the one to make the first move, *you* are the one in control of the situation and can direct it to go where you want to go. Making the first move does not mean you have to strip the person of their clothes, but it can be just a passionate kiss or an intimate touch.

In fact, making the first move does not require that you perform an action at all; you can just simply tell your partner that you want to try something. Keep in mind that you only do things that *you* are comfortable with; do not be afraid to stop if it is not.

There is no quick way to "get over it." I'm still dealing. I just hope that what helped me might help you.

## From the Trenches

We ask you the questions.

By KEISHA REAVES

Can a person be in a serious relationship and have a platonic friend of the opposite sex?

It is the age-old question, which bothers most of young lovers. Of course, no one wants to come across as being the jealous one in the relationship. You want to be cool and collected.

When that first meeting comes, you want the words, "Hey Dana, I'm so glad to meet you. Jared's told me so much about you, oh, and I love that dress."

But, you're really thinking, "I hate that dress because it looks better on you than it would ever look on me." And, "Jared talks so much about you that it makes me wonder if those late nights after the game were more than parties and laughs."

Meet Melonie, a Clayton State student who gives her opinion on the issue. "I couldn't deal with my boyfriend having a close friend that's a girl," she said. "We tried that once and it was a disaster."

"Her name was Cindy and he and she were friends before I came into the picture so I really didn't

have any say so on it," shared Melonie. "I remembered always going over to his apartment and him eating in his bed all the time."

"We'd sit up and watch movies lying under his covers and he'd eat cookies and all sorts of stuff. One day when Cindy came over while he was gone, I tried to straighten up his room and make up his bed."

"When she saw me she said, 'Oh, you should get him about having crumbs and stuff all in his sheets.' I flipped out and from then on he's never been allowed to have any female friends."

Does this technique work when in a committed relationship? Of course, if your significant other cannot have an opposite sex friend you cannot either, fair is fair.

Meet Wesley, a biology major who said it is all about trust. "As long as there's trust in the relationship, then nothing can go wrong."

"My girlfriend has tons of guy friends and I have more female friends than I have dudes. She calls me and tells me whenever her friend comes over and I'm

cool with it," Wesley said.

"I know she'll never do anything to jeopardize our relationship. We've been together for four years now, and we have something that's bigger than that."

Trust is often the foundation of any relationship. Perhaps the solution to the problem is if everyone were friends.

If you come into a relationship and your partner has a long time friend, it is better if you took that opportunity to get to know them. It should not matter if they were a boy or a girl.

Showing interest in who your partner hangs out with can gain you more knowledge on what type of person you are dealing with. It also allows you the chance to label your property without verbally doing so.

When he or she starts hiding their friends and not willing to share, then the problem arises and the battle begins.

Until then, let us all be friends, let us all have movie night, and let us all hang out. This way, if there is ever a break-up, you have won over all of their friends so that they will be left alone to suffer (just kidding).

# Take My Advice

By CHRISTINA SEMPLE



So, you thought the date went well, but still no call? Not even the, "Hey, I had a great time," message on your voice mail? Maybe your professor has made him or herself seemingly unapproachable this semester? Or, perhaps you're caught in the middle of an awkward love triangle and can't find your way out? Wondering how a woman really thinks or why men act that way?

Whatever is causing you stress and sleepless nights, write me and I'll offer you sound, compassionate and sometimes sarcastic advice. I may not be able to solve the problem, that's up to you, but at least, between the entire student body, and myself, you'll be heard.

*A younger co-worker has expressed interest in me, but I don't know what to make of his advances. I mean, I think he's attractive and he always has to hug me everyday. As I've stated, he's a couple of years younger than me so I don't know whether I should take him seriously or not. What should I do?*

-Co-dependent-worker

Let me first note that you felt the need to emphasize *has* when describing his hugging you. To me, this implies that maybe you're not so eager for the PDA. This is a boundary issue that can quickly snowball into a bigger issue. I urge you to evaluate how comfortable you are with his need to hug you everyday and use that as a gauge for how you really feel about him, not his age. Also, a common mistake I see among my peers and fellow classmates is the need to define a relationship immediately. Granted, this is useful and yes, at times necessary. But never underestimate the power in letting things just flow. If, and only if, you feel comfortable going out on a date a few times, see how he acts. Does he call you? Does he ask questions to show a genuine interest in your life, friends, background, etc.? Does he do what he says he will do when he says he will do it? If the answer to these questions are 'yes' then take him seriously. If not, maybe he's better suited as a non-hugging coworker or occasional movie (or whatever you see fit) buddy.

*I have a problem. I have a friend (honestly a friend) that thinks she's in love with her best guy friend. Her best friend already has a girlfriend, although he has told her that he does like her too. He doesn't want to break up with his girlfriend but he doesn't want to be without my friend either. I've tried to tell my friend that she needs to leave the guy alone because it could lead to trouble. She says she knows but doesn't know what to do because she cares about him so much. Can*

Got a problem? Need advice? Ask me about it at [Advice@BTreeNews.com](mailto:Advice@BTreeNews.com).

*you help me and my friend? -Friend-of-a-friend*

First, this isn't your problem it's hers. I would make it a point to not carry another person's burdens and claim them as your own. I may come across as insensitive here, but I'm not running for Governor so being popular isn't my objective here. What I do want to do, is warn you that by taking on her problem as yours, you may inadvertently take on the responsibility of her being hurt in this situation and that isn't yours to begin with. With that said, it seems as though you are trying to prevent your dear friend from hitting the brick wall she is driving towards at 100 mph. But sweetie, sometimes that is what it takes for someone to learn how to drive. Don't take this special opportunity for growth away from her. This relationship will teach her invaluable lessons about love, life, relationships, and friendships and these are things we all have to experience on our own. You have done all that you can as her friend. You have advised her to the best of your ability. It's up to her to listen. You can do nothing else. As for their relationship, he has made his decision painfully clear: by stating that he will *not* leave his girlfriend, he has chosen. This also says, "I'm not willing to leave my relationship for you or give up my girlfriend for you. So if you stick around then you know what the deal is." I mean really, why would he give up his girlfriend? He obviously doesn't have to. When we stay in a relationship like this (as your friend has) we are saying we condone and accept the behavior of the other person, therefore, they have no reason to change their behavior. But, have faith, we all have our breaking points and just be there when she finally reaches hers. She has to determine for herself if she wants to be chick #2 or if she wants to suffer the very temporary pain of separation and save her energy and attention for someone who is available to her.

## EDITORIAL

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send yours to Letters@BTreeNews.com.

Charles Read uses a wheelchair to navigate the campus.

Every single day I am late to every single one of my classes, and it is not my fault.

I depend on elevator service to transport me to all of my classes in the UC [third and fourth floors]; every single time I try to use the elevator I encounter a full elevator packed full of lazy, out of shape people dragging rolley bags that are almost as big as they are. It does not require work to walk down stairs and able bodied people that are able to take the stairs should not be allowed to use the elevators. For instance, I got out of class yesterday on the third floor of the UC at 9:15 and had a class on the fourth floor at 9:30. I had to wait for 22 minutes for an elevator to carry me up ONE floor.

I missed two elevators before one came by that I could squeeze into. Every elevator that I missed was packed full of people that are fully capable of taking the stairs and they do not seem to care that their pure laziness is making people, like me, suffer.

I realize that this is a matter not easily resolved, but I think something needs to be done. I feel like I am being discriminated against—not a good feeling. A large part of our school is becoming inaccessible—not very good for diversity.

I invite you and anybody else to personally see the problem with me. I am confident that you will be simply appalled.

Thank you for your ear,  
Charles Read

## Operation: Iraqi Failure

By NICHOLAS WOODS

Editorial Editor

NicholasWoods@BTreeNews.com

President George W. Bush, in a recent address to the world, claimed that an additional surge of 21,500 US troops would be force enough to lock down the insurgent violence in Iraq and empower the foreign government to protect its citizens and borders.

We cannot stop their insurgents from fighting in Iraq, for the longer we remain, the greater support they garner. The more support they receive, the harder it will be for us to leave. If the troop surge does not work, it is certain yet the ailing bureaucracy known as the Bush administration is currently homogenizing another desperate plan.

The initial problem is not that we are doing too little, too late; but that our counties' legislative and executive powers have fooled us into believing there was a problem in the first place. Now Iraq is on fire. If we throw a dozen buckets of gasoline on the fire and Iraq is still burning—then another couple of buckets more a few minutes later—common sense will show that the fire will still be burning and with greater intensity. That is Bush's best solution. We are stuck in the middle of Iraqi fire and the blur from the heat obscures the safest exit.

Do not think for a moment that the Democrats shall stand as our fearless firefighters.

The only strategy they have formulated is to strip our troops from the instability the current administration has created and once the last soldier has escaped their borders, they will call up Prime Minister al-Maliki, apologize for screwing up his Ramadan and wish him luck in the eminent genocide. Democrats will pat themselves on the back and legislate pay raises for being such polite imperialists. Once Bush's troop surge fails, he will be able to do little more than the Democrats for the simple matter that there are some ignited fires that cannot be put out.

As our failure creeps slowly to the end of our occupation, the countries of the Middle East grow parched for Iraqi oil, few as thirsty for it as Iran. The once proud Persian people of Iran want their ancient empire to flourish again. This means that they need resources to fund it and the power to reclaim it. Iran figures that if it can control more oil reserves and develop a nuclear arsenal, the world will take them seriously. Although our government understands this now, it has been at the expense of tens of thousands of human lives and the mistrust and disillusionment of the American people. Finally, with the blessing from al-Maliki for US forces to move on his lead supporter, radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr and his Mahdi Army, we have invited everyone in the region to the fires of Iraq. The RSVP reads as follows, "Iraq provides the gas; we will bring our own buckets."

## NoCare for Kids

By CARRIE MARTIN

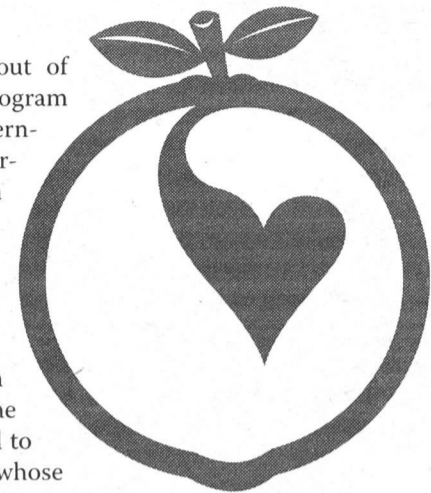
Georgia PeachCare for Kids is out of money. In fact, not only is the program out of money but Georgia government leaders are urging current participants to pay their premiums on time or risk their children being without insurance. How could a government program, which is partly funded by citizens, be out of funds?

PeachCare is an insurance program that was brought about during the late 1990's in response to the need to supplement Medicaid for people whose incomes are too high to qualify for Medicaid but too low to pay for individual insurance for their children. The federal government began giving subsidies to the states as a way to help bridge the gap between premium payments and actual money needed—which

was to keep the states from overcharging the poor parents and guardians of said states. Beginning in 1999, the State of Georgia started up their version offering PeachCare to families who met several criteria most of which are based upon salary and citizenship. The insurance program is only offered to children; making this situation of depleted funds, all the more dire.

Dr. Rhonda Medows, commissioner of the state Department of Community Health, says, "I need them [Congress] to show me the money. It's past the point of placing blame." According to Georgian congressional representatives, the funding formula for the program is out of date and penalizes the states that actually abide by the rules and regulations of the program. The program only has enough funding to last into the first week or two of March. While the speaker of the House of Congress is begging for a sixteen-passenger jet to fly herself and her entourage around the country, Georgia's children are on the verge of going without healthcare. As our country debates the spending of a war that has no apparent basis, more than 273,000 school-age kids' parents in our state will have to forego routine care for their children.

With the current administration so



## PeachCare for Kids

wrapped up in a war that they do not even know why they are fighting, it is unlikely that we will see the appropriate funding anytime in the near future. Not only does it seem unlikely that Georgia will receive the funding it needs to continue the program but it is unlikely that the 5,000 children per month who apply for the program will be able to receive help anytime in the near future. As of mid-March that is exactly what will happen. The program will be shut down to new applicants and will only have enough money to support the children who are already signed up. This means that children, from birth to 19, whose parents are unable to afford insurance but do not qualify for Medicaid, will be turned down by our government for help. Georgia's children will have to start dying off in order for the need to be recognized...middle-class America loses again.

There are; however, a few things you can do to help. E-mail your Congressional representative and let them know how you feel. Enact your right to implement checks and balances on your government and elected officials.

Go to: <http://www.house.gov/>

Input your zip code for your congressman's website and make your voice be heard.

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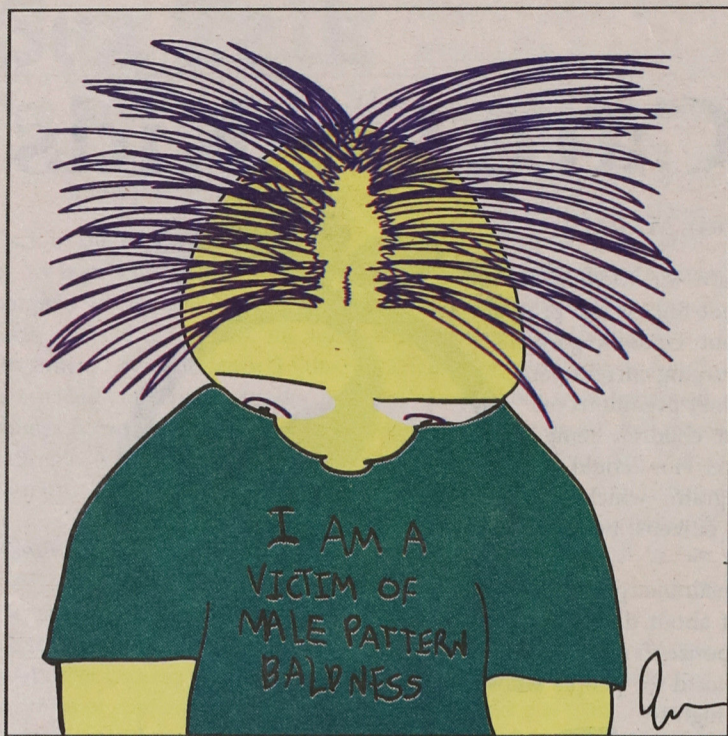
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By CODY WILSON

Fiction

Life According to Jayden S. Edwards

EPISODE ONE: "M.S.U."- MAYES STATE UNIVERSITY

By KEISHA REAVES

Norland, West Virginia - I listen to every single genre you could think of in music. I've watched almost every single film. I'm aware of anything that's involved in pop culture and if you doubt me then put me in that competition that runs on VH1. I'd win every time.

The name's Jayden Scott Edwards and no, I wasn't named after some great grandfather that fought in some legendary war. My parents were hippies and they wanted to take three letters from Jesus's name to come up with my initials. There you have J.S.E. Corny story, I know, but that's what my dad told me when I was in the second grade discovering who I really was.

My parents aren't your normal cup of tea. They're more like a latte mixed with a cosmopolitan topped off with some Tropicana orange juice to make up for my Father's obsession with the state of Florida. He's never lived there nor visited it, but he knows every single tad bit of information on the state including it's geographical measurements.

My parents dropped me off on my first day of college and I remembered that weird speech my father gave me.

"Are you going to be okay?" he asked me. He had that stern look on his face as if I'd packed up my bags and decided to dedicate my life to my country and fight in the war. My mom whimpered in the background while dad placed his hand on my shoulder giving me the serious eye. "We'll put money in your account monthly. Don't use the credit card unless it seems to be necessary, and when I say that, I mean an emergency. Don't start any drug habit while you're here. It'll kill your mother and you know how fragile she is already. If you do start a drug habit, don't put it on the card. The card is only for emergencies, I repeat. Emergencies like, if you go in to the hospital,

or if you're incapable of eating Ramen Noodles anymore, or if insects are the last thing to eat in the cabinet. Ya know, things like that. If you get a job, then you won't even have to worry about using the card at all because you'll have your own damn money. A job would be a choice a man would make," he said. He then pulled back and held out his hand for me to shake. I shook it feeling his tight, firm grip. "Just say no, son," he said to me. "I always have," I replied to him.

"Let's go, Mary," he said to mom, taking her by the hand to lead her off back to their car in the parking-lot. "Call me, Jayden! Everyday!" she yelled back to me. I watched them walk away as I mentally picked up my face of shame from the sidewalk.

College was my road to success. I had big plans for myself and I knew that I could conquer them. I didn't have many accomplishments in high school, but college was going to change all of that. When I say accomplishments I mean, girls, popularity, a great job or a ton of friends to hang out with. No, there weren't any O.C. moments, and I wasn't the badass of the school; I was more like the shadow that everyone walked through because they were too happy with their lives to pay attention to me. All of this was going to change though and I had the plan to do it.

I was Jayden Scott Edwards (I state again to make sure you remember my name this time) from Winsdale, South Carolina. It was a small town on the coast and it was the place I'd lived all of my life. I went to Winsdale High School where I took up most of the dork activities like theater, yearbook, Key Club and National Honor Society. I had a new outlook now that I was in college. I had this prospective where I felt like since no one knew me I could be this awesome person. There was the opportunity of starting over and actually being thought of as someone cool

here. I didn't mean that I was uncool, but I definitely didn't get the credit that I deserved. There were "the dorks" that I hung out with at school who thought I was God and cried when I moved away to harp on this opportunity. When I say they thought of me as God I don't mean it in a conceited way. I just want you to get the gist of where I'm going with this. We took road trips all summer following bands like Tool, Fall Out Boy, and I even caught that Fiona Apple show down in Atlanta. I studied under Vincent Morgan, an infamous writer who wrote for the Rolling Stones back when it first issued. I even started a website that counts down the seconds until Spiderman 3 opens in May. My overall point is I'm an amazing guy with tons to offer this narrow-minded world, and M.S.U. had better watch out for J.S.E!

The first step in my plan was to befriend my roommate. I envisioned having this amazing roommate who would be my Robin in this adventure of college. He would assist me in gaining my first girlfriend (we'll discuss this later), getting the "in" on all the campus parties, and scoring a once in a lifetime internship with an entertainment magazine where I could write all of my thoughts down on paper.

My closest friend in high school was Derek Kent, who had to be the inspiration for the show Jackass, because he was Jonny Knoxville in the flesh. He was so dense he only applied to one school, which he didn't get into, and by then he found out all deadlines had passed. He was stuck going to Wal-Mart University five days a week, taking on forty hours and majoring in produce. I hated the fact that I had left my right hand man Derek behind, but I was glad to be away from my parents' tight grip. No more Mom calling my cell phone every three hours to make sure I was alive. No more Dad stealing my porn collection. No more of my grandma making me eat her horrible mince meat surprise pie that she'd drop off on her way to her strip poker games with her fellow senior citizens. The Royal Tennebuams had nothing on the Edwards, really.

This chapter in my life would be phase three. Like how the Beatles started off as the Blackjacks and then to Quarry Men

# Sudoku

Complete the grid so that every row, column, and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusive

Puzzle 1 (Medium Difficulty)

		1		8		6		2
		8			6		7	
		6			5		9	
	1	7	4					5
		4				7		
2					3	8	4	
	4		1			9		
	7		3			5		
6		5		4		3		

Puzzle 2 (Medium Difficulty)

7				3				5
9				2	6	3		4
1		2						
8				3		6		
3		4				8		5
			1	4				3
						5		7
6		5	2	8				1
	8				5			6

9	3	2	5	1	7	6	8	4
1	6	4	3	8	2	5	7	9
7	8	5	4	9	6	3	1	2
3	2	7	6	4	8	1	9	5
5	1	8	2	7	9	4	6	3
6	4	9	1	3	5	7	2	8
8	9	6	7	5	4	3	2	1
4	7	3	8	9	6	5	1	2
2	5	1	8	3	9	4	6	7

7	1	3	2	4	8	5	6	9
4	8	5	6	9	3	7	2	1
9	2	6	7	5	1	3	4	8
1	4	8	3	7	5	6	9	2
6	3	7	1	2	9	4	8	5
5	9	2	8	6	4	7	1	3
8	6	1	5	3	7	9	2	4
3	4	7	1	2	8	5	6	9
2	5	1	8	4	6	3	9	7

Puzzle 2 (Medium, difficulty rating 0.50)

Puzzle 1 (Medium, difficulty rating 0.45)

Diversions

(that was me in high school). This was the paramount time in my life.

On this first day of school, the halls on my dorm room floor were only full of suitcases and trash. I had looked on the doors searching for room 24B. 24B was my dorm room with some guy named Seth Faulkner. He'd sent me an e-mail over the summer talking about how he'd just went to this battle of bands competition with his band called Sporadic. He talked about how they came in first place and won all of this money. He said that his favorite book series was Dune and he loved listening to Linkin Park. We didn't seem to have anything in common, but I had high hopes.

Now that I was at M.S.U. I had an opportunity to be that guy that I always wanted to be when I was in high school. I could be that popular guy with girls throwing themselves on him having tons and tons of friends. This was the guy that drove the big S.U.V. going to keg parties and dressing up for the games with his frat brothers. That was a big dream to conquer, but I had four years to do it. Secondly, I had to get a girlfriend. Yeah, never really had one of those in my life time, but nothing was impossible. It wasn't that I was an ugly guy; I always thought that I looked decent, but I never hung out with the right people. In high school it was all about who you associated yourself with. It was being around the right people. There was no way I was going to date the prom queen when I spent my down time in the comic book store excited about the new Spawn issue.

Hopefully my roommate would at first seem like a dork to me, but in the real world he would be this amazing dude who knew half of the campus. He would take me under his wing and show me the ropes. I would have girls over every night and they would think of me as this awesome geeky guy like Adam Brody or

something. Then again, if I had a girlfriend it would interfere with having girls over constantly. I guess, I'd just go with the flow and whatever happened would happen.

So popularity was the key in this great country. How would senators and presidents win elections? By popularity. How else did Britney Spears become the richest entertainer under 25? How else would I lose my virginity? I remembered the goddess of them in all high school, Amber Lawson. She was the best looking girl on campus, no doubt. She had this model frame and every guy wanted to just be in her presence. My friend Taylor once got the opportunity to be her lab partner junior year and they went over to each other's houses to study. He was the man of the moment and he knew it. The way she made everyone want her was due to the fact that she didn't date anyone. She said that she would only date someone she'd consider marrying because otherwise it would be a waste of her time. So, she was single all through out high school. She did, however, get caught making out with Justin Macklin at a party once, but she was drunk, so she claimed. Amber ended up going to UCLA and I doubted I'd ever meet anyone as beautiful as her again. But if I were popular, meeting gorgeous girls would be the least of my worries. Popularity would give me confidence, confidence, my great friend. My roommate would possess this same confidence and him and I would be Starsky and Hutch. BMOC's, for sure.

When reaching the room I opened the door to 24B and proceeded into the room where I saw a tall skinny that favoring Napoleon Donomite hovering over his desk doing some sort of sketching. He turned to look at me wearing these thick, huge glasses and a T-shirt saying I Hate Popularity. I dropped my bags on the floor and inaugurated my anxiety.