

The Bent Tree

Monday, April 2, 2007

SGA CANDIDATES TAKE THE STAGE

By KEISHA JENNINGS

The petitions were signed, posters were made, and "vote-for-me" slogans were yelled throughout the University Center.

The word was out; Clayton State is looking for a new SGA president and vice-president to be a spokesperson for the student body during the 2007-2008 school year.

On March 28, *The Bent Tree* held a live debate in the dining area of the University Center. Tony Berry, Web Editor of *The Bent Tree*, mediated. So, who are these potential candidates? Williams Azubike, Darius Thomas, Roland Benoit and Jeanne Brooks are running for president, while Brandon Johnson and Lawrence DeShields are running for vice-president.

The vice-presidential candidates received the first set of questions. One question, in particular, drew a reaction from the crowd, "How do you plan to assist the president with their duties?"

Brandon Johnson's response was had the food court pedestrians yelling and clapping.

"If I can become informal for a moment and become the Scottie Pippen of SGA. What I mean by that is Michael Jordan did not win all of those championship rings alone; it took the help and assistance of Scottie Pippen to win those championships rings."

"So as an assistant to the president, he will not be able to be in every location every time, 24/7, 365 days out of a year. So, as the vice president, I will fill in the holes of his legacy as if he was there and carry out his goals and plans a hundred percent."

Another question posed to the potential candidates was, "What experiences have you had, that you think, qualify you to be SGA Vice President?"

Lawrence DeShields, a man whose powerful voice contrasts his gentle nature, responded that "not only am I active in SGA, but also other organizations and clubs on campus."

"I assisted SGA on many events that they had and filled my duties...as the vice-chair of one of the subcommittees on SGA. I am also a member of track and field and the Pan-African Forum. So, I think that in order for us to be there for them, we have to



Michelle Melton/The Bent Tree

Composite Image - SGA Presidential Candidates (from left) Darius Thomas, Jeanne Brooks, Williams Azubike, and Roland Benoit Jr. answer questions at a debate hosted by *The Bent Tree* on Wednesday, March 28.

know what the students want." The presidential candidates followed the vice-presidential hopefuls. To begin, moderator Tony Berry asked, "There is a natural tendency for members of any organization to recruit their friends. Considering that the SGA is a representative body, how do you plan to combat this tendency and make the SGA representative of the campus?"

Roland Benoit responded, "If I am elected, it will be a beautiful process. I will look at all of your skills."

"If I needed a secretary, or if I need a treasurer [I will ask], what is your background, what do your skills say? Again, this is a position where you are not going to get a lot of people to like you. Either you are going to be loved or disliked," Benoit said with precision and seemingly "a man on a mission."

"My hat is off to you, acting president, and we do see what you go through, but a lot of people don't know what goes on behind the scenes. Again, being in this position you are going to make enemies, but you have to put Clayton State University first and foremost in whatever you do."

The second question asked, "To continue on this topic, students are often in the dark about who their representatives are. How do you propose to create a stronger link between senators and the student body?"

Jeanne Brooks, the only female candidate responded, "Honestly, I actually experienced this; I was in the dark about SGA."

"And when I came to find out what it was about and got involved and interested on my own accord. I decided that it would be the best interest in students to get out there and encourage involvement and speak up. Don't sit there in the classroom with your hands in your lap and not say anything. Introduce yourself, talk to people, and engage in conversation, make yourself known through word of mouth and get it done," Brooks said.

Benoit used up his allotted time (the only candidate to do so) describing his plan to break up the senators according to class and school so that freshman or nursing students know exactly who their senators are.

The next question asked, "In the

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Michelle Melton/The Bent Tree



Michelle Melton/The Bent Tree

Lawrence DeShields (top) and Brandon Johnson (bottom) participated in the debate as Vice-Presidential candidates. Vice-presidents are elected separately.

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VOTE NOW!!

POLLS CLOSE FRIDAY AT 8 A.M.

HTTP://ADMINSERVICES.CLAYTON.EDU/SGAELECTIONS

Benoit Delivers YouTube Message

By KEVIN PRATT

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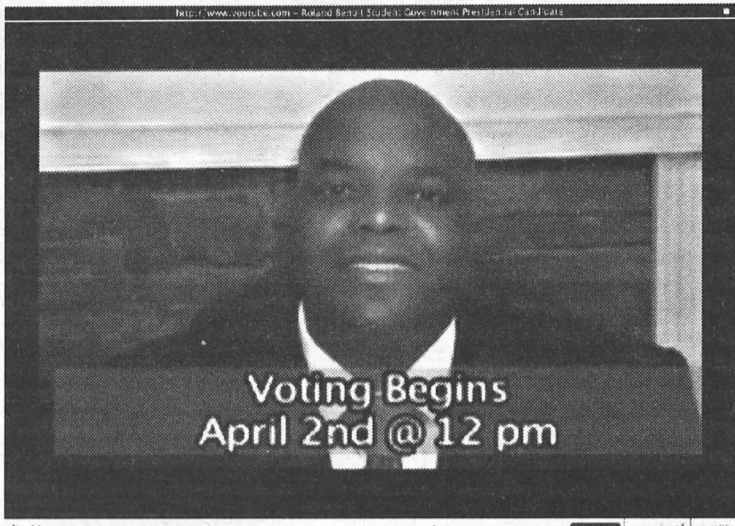
Thursday, March 30, an e-mail with a YouTube.com link began to be circulated. It led to a campaign video by Roland Benoit Jr., SGA presidential candidate, where he directly addresses the students of Clayton State.

With just a camera and a laptop Benoit became a one-man campaign machine.

He's not the only candidate to go virtual in this year's campaign. Willams Azubike and Brandon Johnson moved early to establish a presence on the popular (especially with college students) website Facebook.com.

They created a group with several members and even posted what look like official endorsements from existing student leaders. Current SGA Vice-President Jessica Charles was surprised to learn she was listed among those who have endorsed that campaign, she said she had not made a public announcement of support.

Darius Thomas and Lawrence DeShields soon had their own page up and built membership. Both groups have just under 100 members.



Roland Benoit Jr. tells the viewer when voting starts.

However, this is no indicator of voting as many members belong to both groups. Jeanna Brooks has a MySpace.com page, but does not seem to be using it to campaign.

Having an online presence is essential, and Mr. Benoit's video address took online campaigning to a new level with its emotional appeal. However, the more pressing question is how useful any of

these approaches are compared to tried and true campaign techniques.

Techniques such as current SGA President Toke Adetayo's secret weapon during last year's election; giving away candy. "People will vote for you if you give them candy. It's sad but true," she said. A few seconds of my time online in exchange for a Snickers bar? Seems like a deal to me.

Links: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qME4Z93P0h4>
<http://clayton.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2256950084>
<http://clayton.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2257650534>

Daylight Saving Time: Curse or Cure?

By CARRIE MARTIN

Daylight Saving Time could be the most misunderstood bits of world history. Daylight Saving Time is actually the proper name for the time change, a little different from the common pronunciation of Daylight Savings Time.

Although several countries do not participate in the changing of clocks twice a year, which is largely due to their climate and position on the globe, for most Americans Daylight Saving Time has been a part of our past since we can remember.

During World War I, there was an enormous need throughout Europe and the United States to conserve energy. Austria was the first country to begin the use of DST in 1916; a number of European countries soon followed suit. The U.S. also began using DST during the war but it was dropped soon after the war ended as the population disliked the change. Again, during WWII, President Roosevelt instituted "war time" law to help conserve energy. And, again the population of the U.S. voiced their opinions on the time change and the proposed "war time" only lasted until 1945. From 1945 to 1966, there was no federal law concerning DST and state and local officials could set their clocks either way.

By 1966, there were 100 million Americans who had made DST

a semi-annual tradition, but the confusion created by the absence of a federal law to help standardize the time caused Congress to step in.

The result was the Uniform Time Act of 1966, signed by President Johnson. The only states that were exempt were the states that decided to remain on standard time by way of vote. All other states agreed that DST would start the last Sunday in April and conclude on the last Sunday in October. The law was updated in 1986 to move the start of DST to be the first Sunday in April and the beginning and ending time was set to 2 a.m.. Finally, there was a law in place that created consistency for clock owners throughout the country.

Nevertheless, while there were many arguments against DST, there are many good reasons that we continue its use today. "Summer time" gives us longer days that keep people out of the house and enjoying the weather. Families outside, out of the house, enjoying the warmer weather equals less energy use which makes for a happy Department of Energy.

On the flipside, a proportionate group of the population believes that the longer days that keep people outside and running errands helps to waste fuel, which would in turn cancel out any possibility of longer days helping to conserve the use of energy in our homes.

Another factor is the loss of one hour of daylight in the early morning hours. Studies show that most Americans, around 70 percent, rise before 7 a.m.; which means that a majority of the population is using more energy in the morning to start their day since daylight during these hours is limited. This statistic backs the argument that energy is not being conserved since the people who are using energy early in the day would cancel out any conservation done in the evening hours. There are also the issue of traffic related deaths, which are a factor with the darker mornings and later evenings that drivers are out. The sleep disruption alone tends to affect people for days reeking havoc to their personal and professional lives.

In 2005, President Bush signed the Energy Policy Act of 2005, which, starting this year, changed the dates of the beginning and end of DST to March and November instead of April and October. The effects of the change will be reported to Congress, which will then decide to revert to the old schedule of DST or make DST the standard time of the United States. With Washington adding the three weeks to the schedule of DST they hope that this small gesture might be able to save the country considerable amounts of energy, which will be determined by the results of the Secretary of Energy's report.

BIO-PRIVACY

Should companies have your most basic form of identity, your body?

By ASHLEY HORN

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An employee of Crook's little-town grocery store purchases an item, but she is not reaching into her purse or pulling cash out of her pocket. Instead, she presses her index finger on a little pad that looks something like a credit card machine and then types a four-digit code. Susie Turner of Senoia, Ga. pays with her fingerprint.

"It's going to be a thing of the future. If you leave your purse at home or your wallet at home, you're in luck because you don't have to loose your finger!" said Turner.

The Crook family's stores are the only ones in Ga. that offer the newest in purchase technology, BioPay. You pay with your fingerprint and a PIN that is linked directly to your checking account, just like a debit card.

Greg Crook says he began using BioPay as a way to save the company money since credit cards charge around two percent of each purchase where as BioPay charges a 15 cents flat rate. But for now, Crooks thinks it is the future of shopping. He says people simply need time to get used to the idea of paying with their finger.

"I say it's similar to when plastic bags came out when I was a small child. People were reluctant to use plastic bags because they always used paper bags," said Crook. "So we suggest that they try this new form of payment. But again, it's something totally new. I think it's just a social change."

However, the idea of social change looks bleak. Despite the shopper's convenience and the merchant's bottom line, very few people know about BioPay. In Georgia, the Crook's stores are the only ones that make it available.

Tony Freuler, a regular customer at the Crook's grocery store, is one of the few people who has seen the fingerprint machine.

"I am shocked to find out that we have the only BioPay in the state. I have seen it but I know nothing about it. I'm usually a cash buyer so I don't get into that type of thing," said Freuler.

Currently, there are no laws that control a company's use of biological information, whether it is for the government or for the commercial market. In addition, for many shoppers, the fear of losing personal information outweighs the time saved when paying for items.

Tina Gann, a Crook's gas station employee, views customer's re-

actions to BioPay first hand. She says that people are naturally reluctant to give up personal, biological information to check out at the grocery store a little faster. "We only have one customer that uses it and nobody else seems to want to use it. Because of the finger thing, I think half the people are scared of it," said Gann.

Whether BioPay becomes socially accepted or not, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is focused on getting the state government to protect citizen's unique information. According to Maggie Garret, a lobbyist for the ACLU, even though it sounds neat to walk into a store and scan your finger, personal privacy is at stake.

"If somebody steals your credit card, you can change your credit card number; you can get different information. If someone steals your fingerprint, if someone takes your DNA, that's it. You can't change your DNA; you can't change your fingerprint...it's out there, you can't get it back," said Garret.

Georgia's lawmakers are heeding the warnings. For the first time, they are discussing limits on the use of biometric information, which includes all biological traits: from how you walk and talk to your DNA. Legislators are trying to find ways to protect citizens from the ultimate form of identity theft: the re-creation and misuse of your eyes, your hands and even your DNA.

House Rep. Ed Setzler (R-Cobb) wants to create basic restrictions that take both privacy and business into consideration because so many companies already use this type of information.

"We are not looking to be overly constraining with either governments or business. You know, we want to enhance the marketplace here in Ga.," said Setzler. "With the advance of emerging technologies [that can] track individual's movements through their daily lives, we just want to make sure, as a committee, that Ga. law is aligned with the expectation of everyday citizens."

The bill, if passed, will make it mandatory for all persons receiving biometric information to tell the donor what they are using it for and guarantee its safety. The bill will also prohibit full rights of the information to be released so a person will always be in control of their biological information.

As of now, there are no laws protecting citizen's biometric information. A company can ask for it, and do what it wants with it. However, you do not have to give it to anyone.

Presidential Candidate Interviews

Roland Benoit, Jr.



Michelle Melton/The Bent Tree

By CHRISTINA SEMPLE

It's anyone's guess whether his military background, politically involved family, or admiration for Malcolm X has served as an inspiration for SGA presidential candidate Roland Benoit, Jr. to run, but one thing is made painfully clear: if he is elected, he has every intention of leading the Student Government Association of Clayton State University to new heights.

Born in Chicago and reared in New York, Mr. Benoit has assimilated quite well into southern life.

Since Clayton State is his future Alma Mater explaining that the deciding factor for choosing CSU over other regional schools was the welcoming and friendly atmosphere. He was also drawn to the low student-teacher ratio and demanding curriculum. His motivation for running for SGA President is that there seemed to be a lack of SGA presence at school functions and events. This planted the seed for this candidate. He decided to ask students if they knew who the current SGA President was and learned that approximately 50 percent of them did not, and those who were familiar with the organization seemed to have a misguided perception of it. He found that students noted that every time they saw the SGA office, it was like a party or had a club-like atmosphere. To remedy this, Roland feels the students need a leader to usher in the organization and promote steady progress on this "cusp of an explosion" of increased enrollment and student housing development. He feels that it is paramount that the chosen leader has a sense of duality, being empathetic to student needs and simultaneously driven to lead and meet those needs.

Roland Benoit was called to politics at a young age. With an uncle involved in his ancestral Haiti's political arena, Roland has always felt a natural affinity to represent those who may not have a voice in mainstream society. This affinity fuels his passion to right the wrongs humans have committed such as genocide, failed public school systems, neglecting our environment, and failing our youth. His life's work will involve mobilizing people and one day he plans to do that as an attorney practicing here in Georgia. Though he will be practicing law, as a politician at CSU he expresses an intimate understanding of the goal of political leaders to understand that they are given their political power by the people and therefore should respect that every individual counts. Losing this perspective, he warns, is an indication that one is ill-equipped to remain in office.

In continuation of his political interest, he believes Bill Clinton is among one of the best political leaders of our time. He praises Clinton's ability to transform the economy, and lower the unemployment and crime rate. But perhaps what Roland finds most admirable is Clinton's ability to speak cross-culturally, to appeal to

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Darius Thomas



Michelle Melton/The Bent Tree

By CHARLIE SHERMAN

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Freshman Darius Thomas may be relatively new to Clayton State, his first semester was fall 2006, but he has wasted no time diving into the flow.

"[I] came in and got immediately involved," said Thomas.

Currently, as an SGA member, he is the vice chairperson of their internal points system. Essentially, according to Thomas, he monitors the points senators earn each month for attending general meetings, committee meetings, maintaining office hours and other SGA events.

It is a competitive incentive program to encourage senator participation. Despite having

only completed a full semester at Clayton State, Thomas is involved in many organizations around school.

Thomas said he is in the Gamma Beta Mu Leadership Society, Inc., a New Student Orientation leader for the 2007-08 school year and is Interim President of the Pan-African Forum. Also, he boasts a 3.57 GPA, even with such a full plate.

When asked why he was running for president, Thomas said he simply has "love" and "concern for the student body."

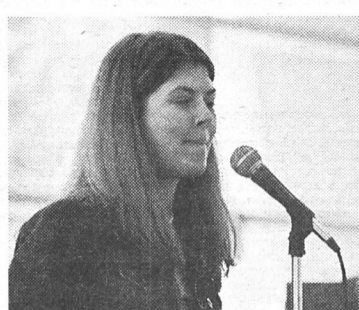
He feels his "experience with various [school] organizations" will benefit him as the next SGA president. "I personally support...new things."

Thomas wants to be the "spokesperson" for Clayton State as SGA President and is "excited about change." He is interested in the "students' welfare" and wants to create the "best possible experience [for a student] at Clayton State."

His feelings about SGA are that it is "indeed a representative body and in order to make SGA representative of the campus it is important that all students feel the need to get involved in their student government."

Thomas also wants "its current members" to foster "an atmosphere that is conducive to hard work and dedication and that the atmosphere is welcoming to all students."

Jeanna Brooks



Crystal Wright/The Bent Tree

By CHARLIE SHERMAN

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Probably, like most of Clayton State's students, Jeanna Brooks considers herself a "nontraditional student." As the only female SGA presidential candidate, she feels she has the opportunity to bring a unique perspective to the office.

Currently, Brooks teaches ballet and is active in her church. "I also strive to maintain academic excellence with a good record behind me to show for all my hard work."

She will earn her bachelor's degree in Administrative Management next spring.

"After graduation, I am excited about going on the Literary London tour."

When asked why she was running for president, she responded, "My

thought process for deciding to run for president of the SGA developed over a short amount of time," Brooks said. "I started out as one of those many students who are in the dark about what the organization does, or even knows that it exists at all."

Upon receiving and reading the e-mailed announcement requesting nominees for this year's election, "I thought that I would go to a meeting and check it out," she said.

"In the back of my mind I considered that it would be a great place to start getting the word out about the new Writers' Studio 224...opening in the fall of this year."

Brooks said, "there were a few moments that stood out [to her];" while at the meeting. "I realized that not only could I easily become involved in this group, but that I could make a difference for the students of Clayton State."

"With my highly attuned leadership skills, as well as, the fact that I am easy to get along with and very open-minded; I can lead this organization."

One of Brooks' goals, if elected, is to "develop the SGA to function at its highest capability."

"The first thing to do would be

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Williams Azubike



Michelle Melton/The Bent Tree

By CHRISTINA SEMPLE

Williams Azubike has spent the last few years working diligently to hone his leadership skills. Through keen observation of cadets in his ROTC program at Georgia Tech and political leaders in his native Nigeria, Williams Azubike has developed an eclectic method to governing and leadership, preferring to engage in democratic methods because it focuses on the needs of the governed and not the governing.

His strategies are modeled af-

ter a Nigerian political leader, whom he found, listened to and tried to, appease everyone on his staff instead of making logical and sound judgments to be his party's downfall.

Williams vows not to make that mistake.

By watching the pitfalls of not setting boundaries and being easily persuaded, he is able to see how paramount a strong, decisive and reasonable leader is to the success of any campaign or organization.

Two presidents, who showed this ability, in his opinion, were Dwight Eisenhower and Abraham Lincoln.

Williams admires Eisenhower's work, during World War II, as a five-star General because the position forced him to make clear and difficult decisions under immense pressure.

According to Williams, Lincoln kept America together and stood his ground in the face of adversity.

Though presently focused on his work at Clayton State, upon graduation he will be pursuing a career as a gynecologist. His career choice is grounded in the fact that there are few male gynecologists in Atlanta and specifically in the U.S. Air Force.

This calculated move, he ex-

plains, will insure his recognition in the field.

When asked who his hero is, Williams said that though he does not have anyone to whom he would presently give that label, he does have many who he admires and models his behavior after, his family.

Family for him serves as the backbone of who he is. He explains that his parents instilled the importance of integrity, honesty and diligence. These three ingredients make it possible for him to pursue confidently leadership roles including, but not limited to, becoming SGA President. One of his main objectives will be to make the opportunities available for traditional, or daytime, students as readily available for nontraditional, night and weekend students. He has found an imbalance between the two, and he will seek to remedy the issue once elected.

Further, accompanied by his passion to be the best in everything he does through diligence and focus, Williams expresses his ability to keep his word and this, he adds, if elected will be remembered as a time when excellence was achieved and Clayton State became a more inclusive and organized institution.



300

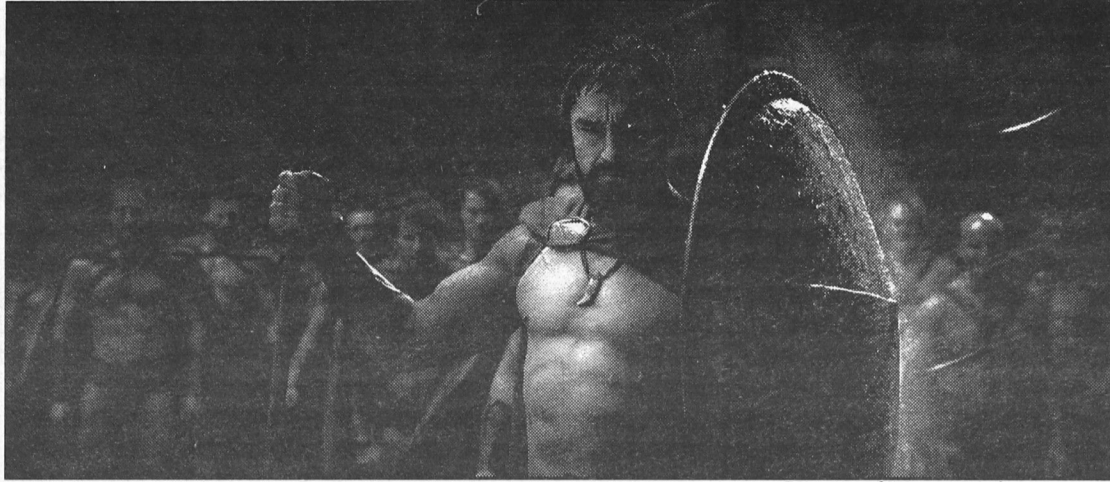
By KELLEY ATKINSON

300 is a film adaptation of the Battle of Thermopylae in 480 B.C. between Greece and Persia. Director, Zack Snyder worked closely with Frank Miller who wrote the comic 300.

Though the film has done well in theaters and exceeded the critic's expectations, the film has also been labeled as controversial.

The release of the film just prior to the end of the 4th year of the Iraqi war lead many to see an underlying connotation of East versus West. In an interview with *Wired*, Snyder replied that, "While he was aware that people would read the film through the lens of contemporary events, no parallels between the film and the contemporary world were intended."

More controversy over the depiction of the ancient Persians has led



Gerard Butler plays King Leonidas in this adaptation of Frank Miller's graphic novel. Courtesy of Warner Brothers Pictures

many to denounce the film, including the Iranian government. According to Warner Bros., the film was developed as nothing more than a fictional work.

Regardless of the controversy, 300 tells the story of the Spartan King Leonidas who goes to war with 299 of his Spartan men in the fight to maintain their freedom from the Persian King Xerxes. For sev-

eral days, the 300 men stand their ground and experience few losses while outwitting the Persians. In the end, Persian numbers outweigh the Spartans.

300 has visuals that have been compared and characterized much like that of the slow motion in *The Matrix*. If you like movies such as *Gladiator*, *Braveheart*, and the like, then you will enjoy 300.

Debate

Continued from page 1

past, building the university's foundation or money raised for special projects has not been a priority for SGA. With the campus growing rapidly, what do you plan to do to build this foundation?"

Darius Thomas, a well-known freshman answered, "The university foundation is an essential part of the university."

"I plan to personally explore different avenues and ways in which SGA can assist with help building the university's foundation, with working with other administrations and faculty and staff. Also, working with the division of student affairs and extend what ways SGA can help play a role in building the university foundation."

Another question aimed at the presidential candidates asked, "What was their vision for SGA next year and for the next five years?"

Williams Azubike, a man of few words but insightful information responded, "My vision for SGA is inclusiveness and leadership."

"That students coming into SGA should also draft excellence and hard work. So basically, we are going to be talking to a lot of student, sending emails and try to get them to come in."

The last formal question asked what they would give up if their duties as President demanded it, was difficult for the candidates. In their efforts not to answer the last question, all of the candidates answered that they are so good at managing their time that they wouldn't need to give up anything. Student leaders like current SGA President Toke Adetayo and *The Bent Tree* Editor Kevin Pratt think the answer was unrealistic.

After the formal questioning, the candidates were each given time to give closing remarks and questions were then taken from the audience. During the debate, a group of current SGA members worked together to create a list of questions for the two candidates not currently members of SGA, Roland Benoit and Jeanne Brooks. One particularly striking question asked was why had they not been involved in the SGA before now.

Tailor-Made Radio

By Pandora

By EDMUND OUTLAW

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Imagine a world where radio played music that appeals to its listeners no matter who you are; where good music isn't worn out by constantly playing the same songs; and the radio is customized to your personal preferences based on tonality, effects and instruments used.

Pandora Radio has offered these features since 2005.

Pandora is an online radio service customized to appeal to the listeners' personal preferences. The song and/or artist, which is typed in on the home page, is then taken and broken down into musical components varying from melody, harmony, rhythm, tonality, and vocals to rhythmic patterns and influences. 15,000 songs are added to Pandora's archive every month, and a wide variety of musical genres are added, ranging between hip-hop and rap to metal, jazz, ska, reggae, and classical. At the moment there are at least 6 million satisfied, registered users of Pandora.com.

Pandora is powered by the Music Genome Project, created by Tim Westergren, one of the three founders of Pandora in 1999, the other two being Jon Kraft and Will Glaser. Tim was able to form this project due to his four year experience as a film composer.

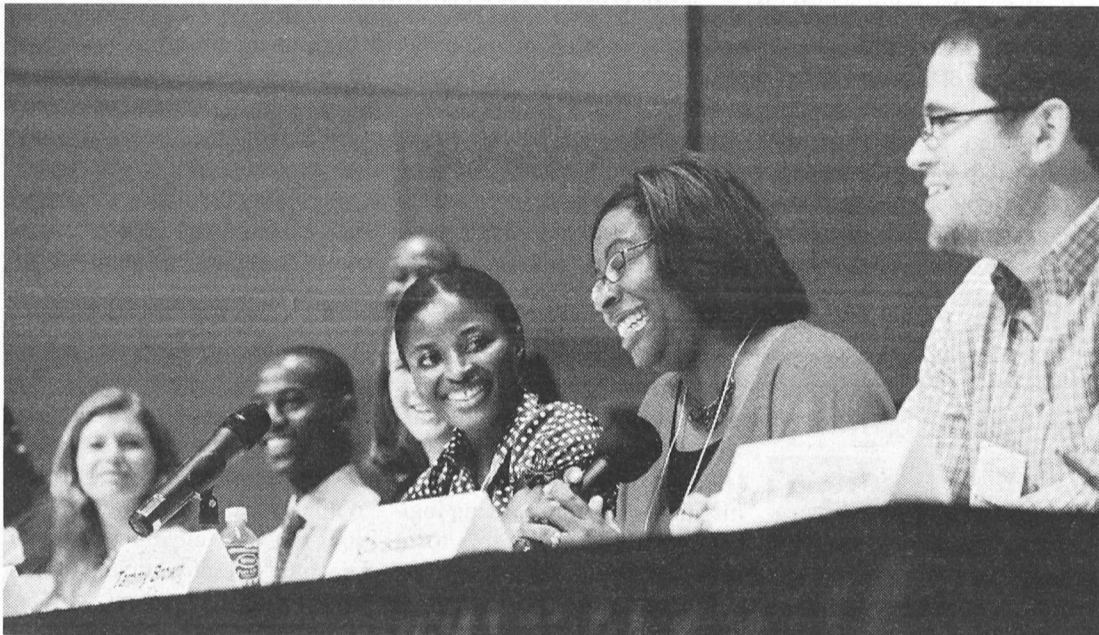
During his time composing music for film, Tim would sit down with the directors, bring a collection of his own CDs, the director would do the same; upon gathering this monstrosity of music, both the film composer and director would play music for one another.

During this time, since the job of film composer is to amend the compositions to the directors likings, the director would tell the film composer what he liked about certain songs and how they would fit into the film. All of this would be taken into account and applied to the music composed.

This is similar to the way the Music Genome Project works; giving users the option to either give thumbs up to the song being played, or thumbs down. This enables user to be interactive with the service as well as hear new artists.

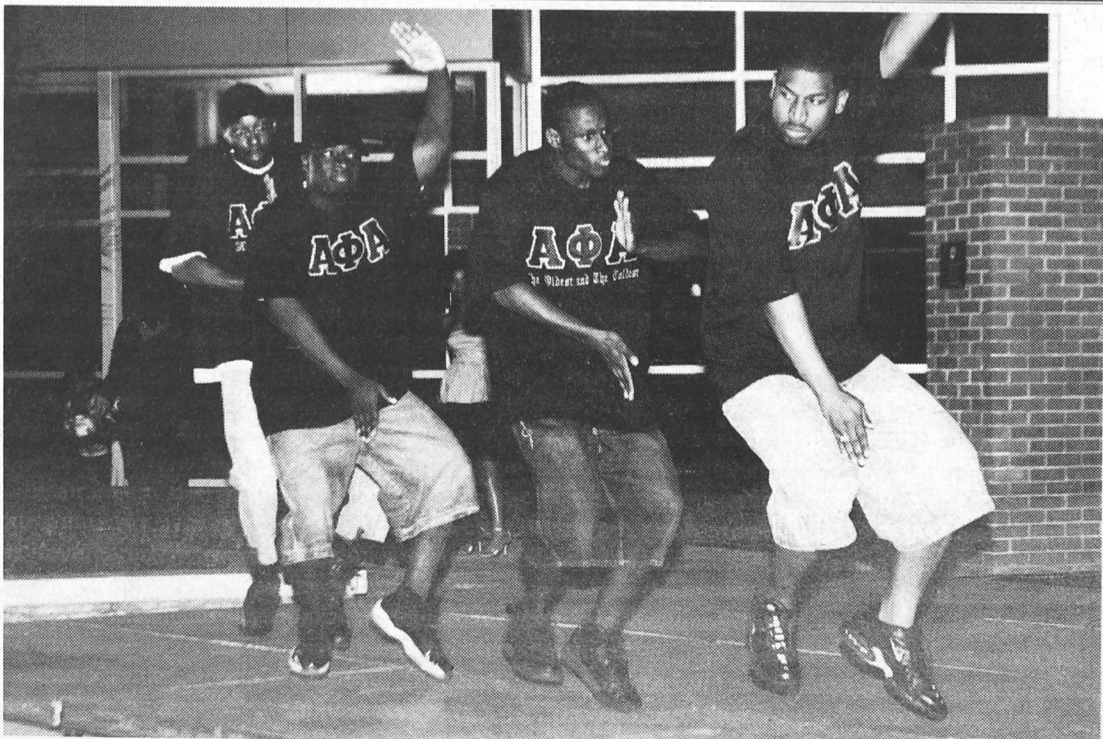
Both candidates gave similar answers about the SGA's lack of presence on campus, but Brooks summed up the sentiment by noting that, until recently, she "had three Senators in [her] classes and didn't even know it".

Now that you know the candidates' names, and how they feel about certain issues; who will get your vote? Think hard and remember; even though he or she might be a good friend, he or she may not be a good leader.



Michelle Melton/The Bent Tree

Tammy Brown has a comical moment while responding to why she likes Clayton State at the Student Success Forum.



Jerome Hawks

ΑΦΑ's (from left) Jarrett Holland, Joe Alexander, Reggie Darien, and Joseph Echols perform their stroll at The Greek Step Show.

FROM JEDI TO SAMURAI:

Samuel L. Jackson's New Role in Anime

By BONNIE DAVIES

A popular trend in American television is Japanese anime—such as the annoying *Pokémon*, the dramatic *Full Metal Alchemist* and the never-ending *Dragon Ball Z*. Here's a new one to add to the collection, *Afro Samurai*.

Afro Samurai takes place in an alternative reality during the Feudal Era in Japan when Samurai were most prominent.

The top warrior in this series is called Number One. In order for someone to become the next Number One, he must slay him in a duel.

The catch is that the only person able to challenge Number One to a duel is Number Two. Anyone can duel and slay Number Two to get his position.

Enter Justice, a powerful Number Two who challenges Afro's father, the current Number One. Justice kills his father and becomes the new Number One.

A few years later, when Afro is a man and the new Number Two, he goes on a quest to seek revenge against Justice, who is still Number One.

Though the *Afro Samurai* series is very short with grand total of five episodes, the anime seems to be pretty good. The series has made me want to check out the soundtrack and read the manga. What makes *Afro Samurai* unique from other anime series is the fact that the entire series was produced first in the United States instead of, the anime motherland, Japan.

This is highly unusual and is changing the face of anime. In addition, a major movie actor, Samuel L. Jackson, voices the main character.

While other anime series have had big voice actors, such as Caitlin Glass, Vic Mignogna, and Scott McNeill, or famous movie stars, such as Mark Hamill, Billy Bob Thorton and Gillian Anderson, it is rare to have a star of Samuel L. Jackson's caliber voice a main character in an anime series.

It is also unique that it is a short series, if not the shortest anime series that is out there.

Therefore, for all of those anime fans out there, *Afro Samurai* is definitely one show to check out.

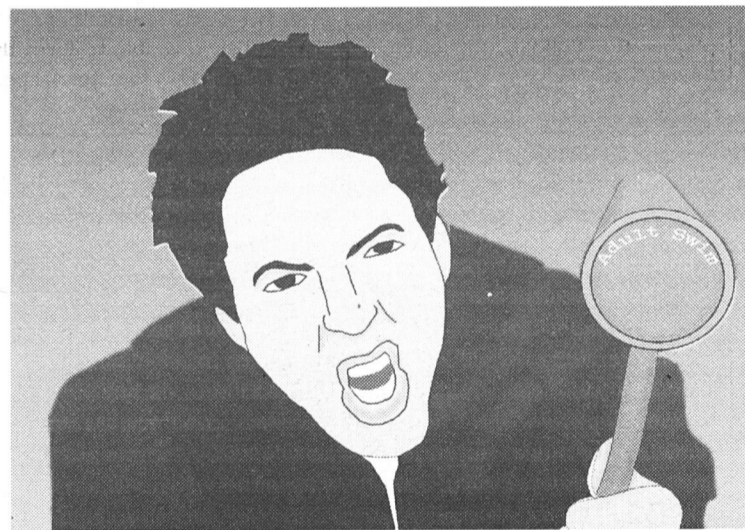


Illustration by Kamau Waweru

Film Review

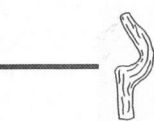
The Number 23

By KELLEY ATKINSON

The Number 23 is a new thriller in theaters starring longtime funny man, Jim Carrey. Carrey takes on a more serious role as Walter, a man whose life starts to unwind in every direction while reading a book called "The Number 23." As fate would have it, a dog named Ned, who's letters add up to 23, is blamed for Walter's introduction to the book which resembles his life almost exactly and begins to consume his every thought. The number pops up everywhere as the movie takes its audience for a ride. The number 23 haunts Walter as even he explains that 2 divided by 3 equals .666. In a

turning twist of events we find out that the author of *The Number 23* is Walter himself and his sinful past comes back to haunt him.

Though the movie is said to be a psychological thriller, I think it could have had a bit more thrill. Jim Carrey is known for movies like *Dumb and Dumber* and *Ace Ventura*, so it was hard to take him seriously. Several times I found myself laughing along with other movie goes. It was hard to keep myself on track and focus on the plot and figure out who is the killer. *The Number 23* was not a horrible movie, but I also don't think that I would pay \$8.75 to see it again.



Lyrical Lounge

Yoko Ono's Surprise Hit Album

By SHAVAUN R. BREWER

Rated 3.5 out of 5



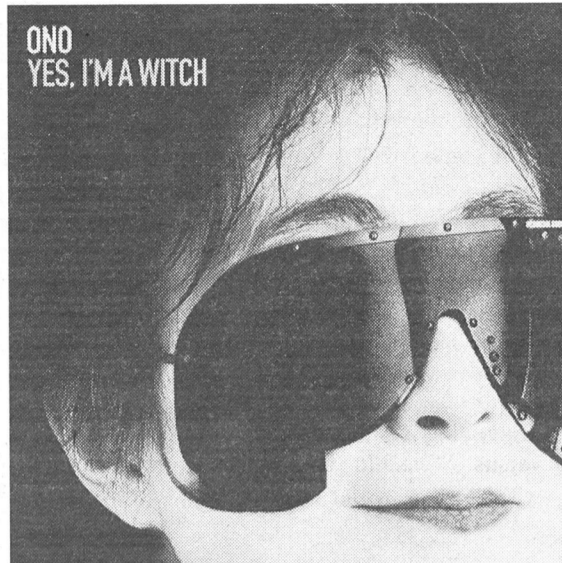
At first glance, you may think you're actually about to listen to Michael Jackson's latest album, then you look closer at the picture and see a nose and realize that it's actually Yoko Ono's latest Album: *Yes, I'm a Witch*.

From what I know about the sixties and that era has a lot to do with The Beatles and the lady that many believed would later break them up, Ono herself. Many people at that time, and even to this day, were not convinced she was capable of making good music, regardless of her husband's (The Beatles John Lennon) hugely successful music career. My words of advice to those Yoko hating, baby boomer, naysayer's would be this: Build a bridge...and get over it! Ono's music is hot. I can't believe that I'm actually typing this and not thinking about how I can re-wrap it and give it away as a gift. I was hooked as a fan of her art after seeing *Ceiling Painting*. I just thought I would need more

convincing to become a fan of her music.

Surprisingly, I was actually very pleased with most of the songs. The set includes contributions from The Flaming Lips, Cat Power, Antony of Antony and the Johnsons, The Apples in Stereo, The Sleepy Jackson and many more.

Throughout the album, the passion and kinship between all the artists and Ono is evident. They mesh very musically. Yoko chose all the artists on the album herself, and the musicians were asked to pick elements of songs from Ono's back catalog and rework them. Most chose her distinctive vocals and created new songs using them (shockingly, no one chose to work with "Mind Train" off her dar-



Courtesy of Astralwerks

Yoko Ono's newest album compilation.

ing 1971 LP *Fly*). Peaches chose to rework "Kiss Kiss Kiss," the infamous Double Fantasy song wherein Ono extremely vocal in an adult sexual manner. Jason Pierce from Spiritualized turns the dance-y 1981 number "Walking on Thin Ice" into a powerful drone/guitar workout percolating with a drum machine's pulse. The title hit "Yes, I'm a Witch" is my favorite.

RESTAURANTS

I'M CRAVING... MEXICAN

By MATTHEW A. DOBSON

Comedian Jim Gaffigan probably describes Mexican food the best. In his routine he would make fun of how, at many Mexican restaurants, no matter what you order it is all made from the same ingredients: "tortilla with cheese and meat and vegetables."

"What are nachos?"

"A tortilla with cheese, meat and vegetables."

"What is a tostada?"

"A tortilla with cheese, meat and vegetables." And so forth.

He's right. At so many different Mexican restaurants it doesn't matter what you order. Most of us consider Mexican restaurants to be a cheap dinner out. The food is inexpensive and the margaritas are cold. The Mexican restaurants in Atlanta are not all the same though. The flavor and hotness of salsa varies from one Mexican restaurant to another as do many other things. Jalapeños and chiles, guacamole and cheese dip, seasoned fajitas and zesty tacos, quesadillas and burritos, few cuisines are as enjoyable or as varied as Mexican. Here are some of my favorite Mexican restaurants in the Atlanta area.

1. **La Paz** (2950 New Paces Ferry Rd. Atlanta, GA 30339) – La Paz

is a chain of six restaurants in the Southeast, two of which are located in Metro Atlanta (Vinings and Woodstock). Since 1979, La Paz has been serving entrees that offer a unique twist on the traditional Mexican fare.

Try: The Banderas "Mexican Flag" Trio of enchiladas (a cheese enchilada with red chile sauce, a spinach enchilada with a white sauce, and a chicken enchilada with a green chile sauce) or the Texas BBQ quesadilla.

2. **La Fonda Latina** (4 Metro Atlanta locations) – La Fonda is a great hole in the wall dining experience. The Ponce De León location has an open air patio on the roof, a perfect place to spend a Sunday afternoon drinking Margaritas. The menu has a Cuban flare to it as they offer a variety of paellas and Cuban sandwiches.

Try: The Fish Tacos (available with either tilapia or salmon filets) with black beans and yellow rice or the Vegetable Paella.

3. **La Parilla Mexican Restaurant** (11 Metro Atlanta locations including Fayetteville and Newnan) – Since 1994, La Parilla has been offering great versions of traditional Mexican dishes. The Fayetteville location is great for larger groups and has a rather large patio. On the weekends, a mariachi band is usually present and will-

ing to take diners requests.

Try: The Spinach Quesadilla or the Taquitos (available in chicken or beef.)

4. **Pancho's Mexican Restaurant** (2641 Buford Hwy NE Atlanta, GA 30324) – Located just off of I-85,

Pancho's has become an Atlanta staple. Popular with college kids because of its awesome porch (a huge tree is growing through it!), Pancho's also serves up some of the best margaritas in the Atlanta area. During the Spring and Fall, there is often live music during the weekend.

Try: The Steak Burrito or any of the Fajitas.

5. **El Azteca** (6 Atlanta locations) – As a Mexican restaurant, El Azteca is great. Most of their locations are able to easily accommodate large groups and have mariachi bands playing during the weekend. El Azteca has also garnered a reputation as a great meeting spot and watering hole as well. At the Roswell Rd. and Buckhead locations college kids and twenty somethings mingle while the Margaritas, cervezas, and tequila flows. The Roswell Rd. location also has a large bar area that spills out onto the patio, (where oftentimes it feels there is more seating than indoors).

Try: The Chicken Nachos with guacamole, and the Fajitas.

Sex, Suicide and Do U DUI

Drinking, Driving and Death

By EVA JONES

Variety Editor

EvaJones@BTreeNews.com

Many college students drink and some are underage. The following statistics are not included to scare anyone into never drinking or to tell anyone not to drink (because obviously, you won't listen), but instead are provided to warn you about the possible repercussions of driving while even slightly intoxicated. They are also provided to remind you to be cautious for yourself and others while drinking.

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) reported that in 2004 alone, there were 43,543 alcohol-related driving fatalities. That comes to an average of about 119 deaths a day. A majority of the people that die in these accidents are between the ages of 16 and 44, which is an age group that includes almost all college students. You would think that most of the intoxicated drivers would be over the age of 21, but in actuality, there really isn't much

of a difference. In 2004, 22.5 percent of all alcohol-related fatalities in drivers under 21 were due to alcohol. For adults over the age of 21, the percentage was only 2.3 percent higher at 24.8 percent. Not only are underage people drinking, but they are driving afterwards.

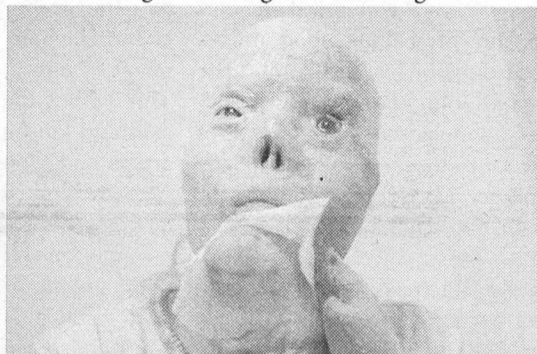
Here is a tip on how to avoid driving under the influence:

Instead of drinking and leaving where you are right afterwards, try to set it up so that you can stay at the place you're drinking at. If you happen to be at a bar/restaurant or cannot stay wherever you are, then have a sober friend be the design-

ated driver for the evening. By switching out the designated driver role, everyone can get a chance to have fun while still being careful and protecting themselves and those around them. It may not be as exciting to stay sober for the

night, but it's better to have your friends, yourself, and the people on the road alive.

Sadly, in many cases it's the sober victims that end up dying instead of the intoxicated driver. In some cases the victims survive, but remain forever mangled. In Jacqueline Saburido case, she was lucky to be alive. She lost her hair, her ears, her nose, her left eyelid and much of her vision due to being hit by an underage drunk driver. The man that hit her had to pay a \$20,000 fine and is currently spending seven years in jail. <http://fnnc.org/drunken-driving.html>



Rodolfo Gonzalez/Austin American-Statesman
Jacqueline Saburido was 20 years old when she was hit by a drunk driver.

College Students, Drinking, and Sex... Oh My!

By DARIUS THOMAS

Many college students are more likely to participate in unprotected sex, or not remember the next morning, while under the influence of alcohol. This cannot only lead to unexpected children, but can also lead to STDs. Some of which, even if you were sober, don't have an outward signs or symptoms until much later on.

Studies show that around 75 percent of traditional-age college students have engaged in sexual intercourse. While not all first-year students are sexually active, college seems to be a time when recent high school graduates begin to think seriously about sex and relationships.

Since the 1970s, premarital sex has become increasingly socially acceptable. However, the newest generation is still not properly equipped to deal with the sexual freedom that comes with it. The rate of STDs among college students has increased and unwanted pregnancies are common. Students who are in their late teens or early twenties often feel that they are invincible or immune from danger.

In general, STDs have continued to increase faster than other diseases on campuses today. Approximately 5 to 10 percent of student

visits to college health clinics are for the diagnosis and treatment of STDs. For those students that feel invincible and choose to be sexually active with one or multiple partners, exposure to an STD is a common possibility.

When starting college, students become aware of the fact that their parents no longer have power over their decisions. This newfound freedom can sometimes lead to regretful decisions among college students. The consequences of excessive and underage drinking affect virtually all college campuses, communities and students, whether they choose to drink or not.

College students often participate in drinking for social reasons, which leads to dangerous situations. College students who choose to drink are twice as likely to be forced to have sex while intoxicated. Studies have shown that college students who drink heavily are more likely to engage in unplanned sexual activity than students who do not drink heavily. Students are also more likely to have unplanned or unprotected sex after drinking. Four thousand students, between the ages of 18 and 24, had unprotected sex and more than 100,000 students in the same age group report having been too intoxicated to remember

if they consented to having sex. Many college students are unaware of the danger of choosing to participate in underage drinking, binge drinking, and drinking irresponsibly. College students do not realize that when they choose to drink, they are not only putting themselves at risk but also their fellow classmates. Alcohol use among college students is more likely to promote sexual intercourse when the male partner drinks or in situations involving new or infrequent sex partners. When college students drink prior to intercourse it is closely related to casual sex because risk-related topics are not discussed before having sex. More than 97,000 students in the same age group are victims of alcohol-related sexual assault or date rape. The age range depicts the traditional college students and places a face value on the risk of choosing to abuse alcohol.

The reality is that students are going to drink, but the important factor is educating students on how to prevent unsafe situations. Students are responsible for knowing how much is too much and how to keep themselves and others safe. It is important that students are aware of how to communicate about drinking issues.

The Bent Tree

Drowning in the Bottle

By BONNIE DAVIES

"I need my door, Mom! You give me back my door, or...or I will kill myself!" —Anna Coleman (Lindsay Lohan), *Freaky Friday*

While the previous statement is humorous when said by an overdramatic teenager in a classic comedy film, real life suicide is very serious.

Unfortunately, one of the top causes of death for teenagers and young adults is suicide. Depression, mental or psychotic disorders, and the pressures of daily life are some factors that influence people to commit suicide. Another major factor, however, is alcohol. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the number of people who commit suicide under the influence ranges from 40 to 60 percent.

Also, at least 18 percent of those who commit suicide have enough alcohol in their blood to indicate that they consumed alcoholic drinks on the same day.

Alcohol has many affects on the body, including intensifying the moods of the drinker themselves. For instance, a person who is cheerful while drinking tends to joke around more and act happier. Just like with people who are upset, drinking usually makes them more depressed than when they were sober. However, for those who feel better at first when drunk, this side affect of alcohol helps to create dependency because of the illusion that they are happier when they are drinking.

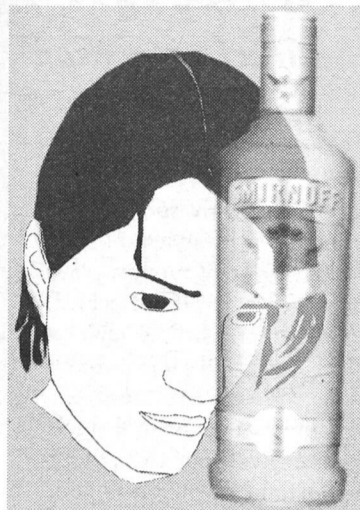


Illustration by Kamau Waweru

Yet, for the people who get depressed while drinking, becoming intoxicated makes situations worse. A person's depressive thoughts will magnify, like those of suicide.

Moreover, since the person is drunk, their inhibitors are lowered, and they actually start giving into the dark thoughts, seriously considering them or acting upon them.

The most important thing people need to remember is that drinking does not bring you happiness. A person has to find happiness within them, and if they are depressed, they need help.

There are counselors and hotlines available to help people dealing with thoughts of suicide. If you are having disturbing thoughts about suicide, you can contact the counselors here on campus, visit your doctor, or call the National Hopeline Center at 1-800-SUICIDE (1-800-784-2433).

CLAYTON STATE SGA PRESENTS SPRING FORMAL

"An Evening on the Nile"

April 20th 2007

University Center Commons

Dinner will be served 7:00pm to 9:30pm

Dance is from 9:30pm to 1:00am

Tickets

\$5.00 for
Singles

\$8.00 for
Couples

Buy your tickets
from the sga office
and from SGA
sponsored ticket
Booths

Tickets can be only
purchased with a valid
Clayton State Student ID

Students can purchase
up to 3 tickets with an ID

SEMI-FORMAL
ATTIRE
REQUIRED

No Jeans, T-shirts, Tennis shoes,
Ball Caps, etc.

DRESS CODE STRICTLY
ENFORCED

SPONSORED
BY STUDENT
GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION



Sports

SPORTS THOUGHTS

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

Did you ever wonder why we are so fascinated with sports, athletes, and their lifestyles? I know, they make a lot of money, playing games that we played as kids, and did I mention they make a lot of money. So this new column will take a look at the interesting things going on in our sport idols lives, and give you, the reader, an opportunity to express your views. Again, these are my opinions and questions, so think of your own!

on a new library or computer lab for the kids in your old neighborhoods.

5. Michael Vick, just give up the water bottle next time, dummy!! Michael Vick, your excuse was lame, dummy!!

6. Why did you not come out and support the basketball program this year?

7. You know you get in free with your Laker ID?

8. The NFL Draft is April 28th; make sure your wives or girlfriends don't schedule anything which will jeopardize the sanctity of your relationship if you are unable to attend that event.

9. Did you know that an NCAA scholarship athlete at UCLA was suspended from competition because he accepted free groceries?

10. He accepted the groceries because his scholarship money ran out and it was the end of the month.

11. Football and Basketball generate about four billion dollars a year, yet the kid is starving. Where's the justice?

1. Will the Braves finally get back to the World Series and win?
2. Now that Tiger Woods is going to be a father, do you think his son or daughter will be better than him at the game of golf?
3. I can't believe Pac-Man Jones was actually throwing \$81,000 in dollar bills at adult entertainers in Vegas.
4. I don't understand why athletes don't give back more to their communities, make it rain

Brooks

Continued from page 3

filling up the empty senator positions by engaging students in conversations about what SGA is, to create a stir of interest on campus."

Brooks' belief is that "the more

involved the students of Clayton State are with the SGA, the more successful SGA will be to make a difference for those students."

"We do not want to make a difference just for those involved; we want to make a difference for the university as a whole."

Clayton State Welcomes Home Final Four Lady Lakers

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

The Wrecking Crew, cheerleaders, staff, athletes and students welcomed home the Clayton State Lady Laker basketball team on March 26 in the University Center.

The Lakers are returning home from a Final Four appearance where they faced Florida Gulf Coast in the national semi-final round, losing by only four points. Their commitment to winning is

apparent in the following team accomplishments:

2007 Peach Belt Regular Season Champions

2007 Peach Belt Tournament Champions

2007 South Atlantic Regional Champions

NCCA Final Four

The pep rally was an opportunity to meet not only these outstanding student athletes, but also gave the University an opportunity to show how much the Lady Lakers are appreciated.

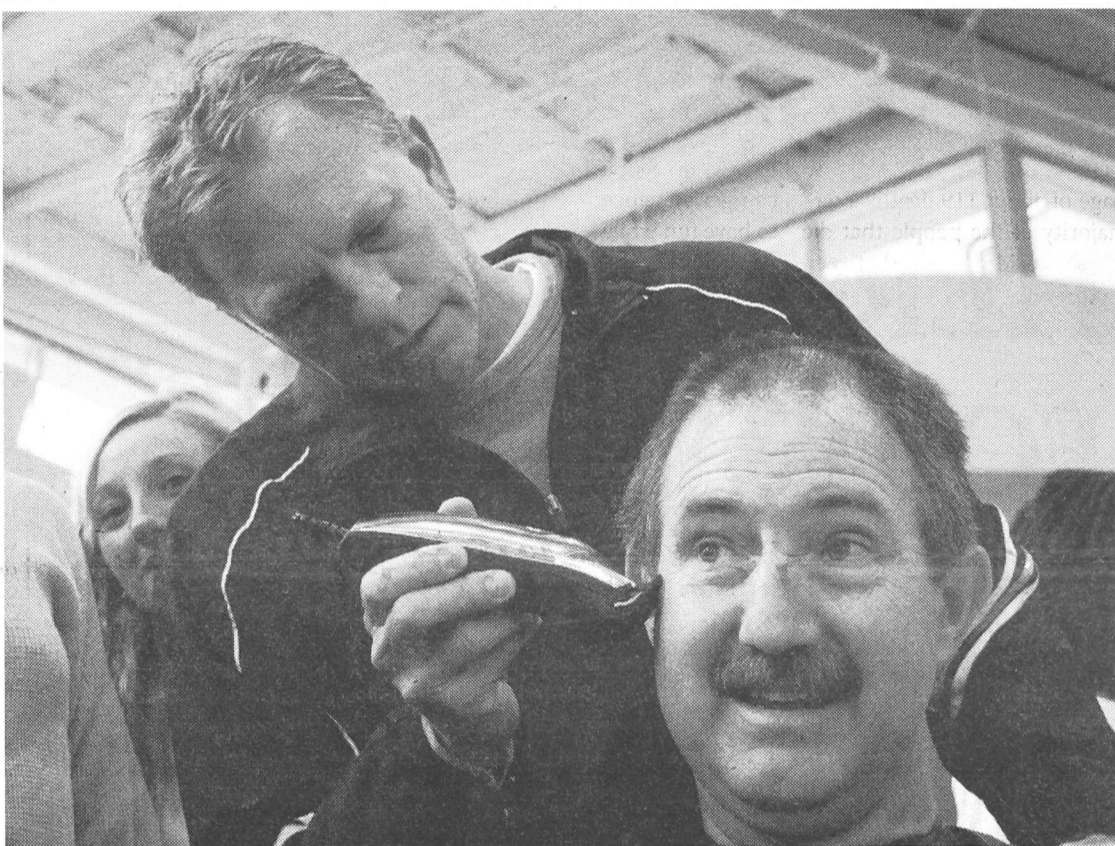
The senior players were acknowl-

edged by Coach Gibbons, and I would like to do the same:

- Kim Lloyd
- Alicia Humphrey
- Crystal Brown
- Sharon Wiles
- Basia Bukowska
- Tracey Browne

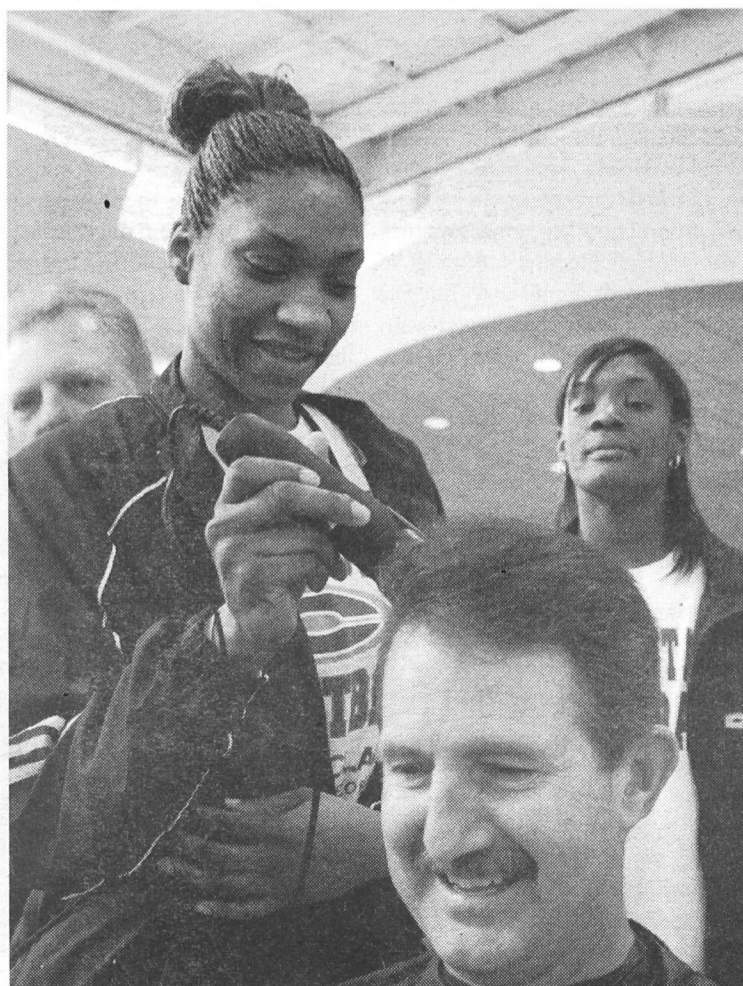
According to starter Shantel Ragin, the success of the Lady Lakers program will continue next year. "This is not the end. We promise you a season as good as this year."

I have to disagree with Ms. Ragin; next year we will be having a Championship rally in the UC, because these Lady Lakers are just that good.



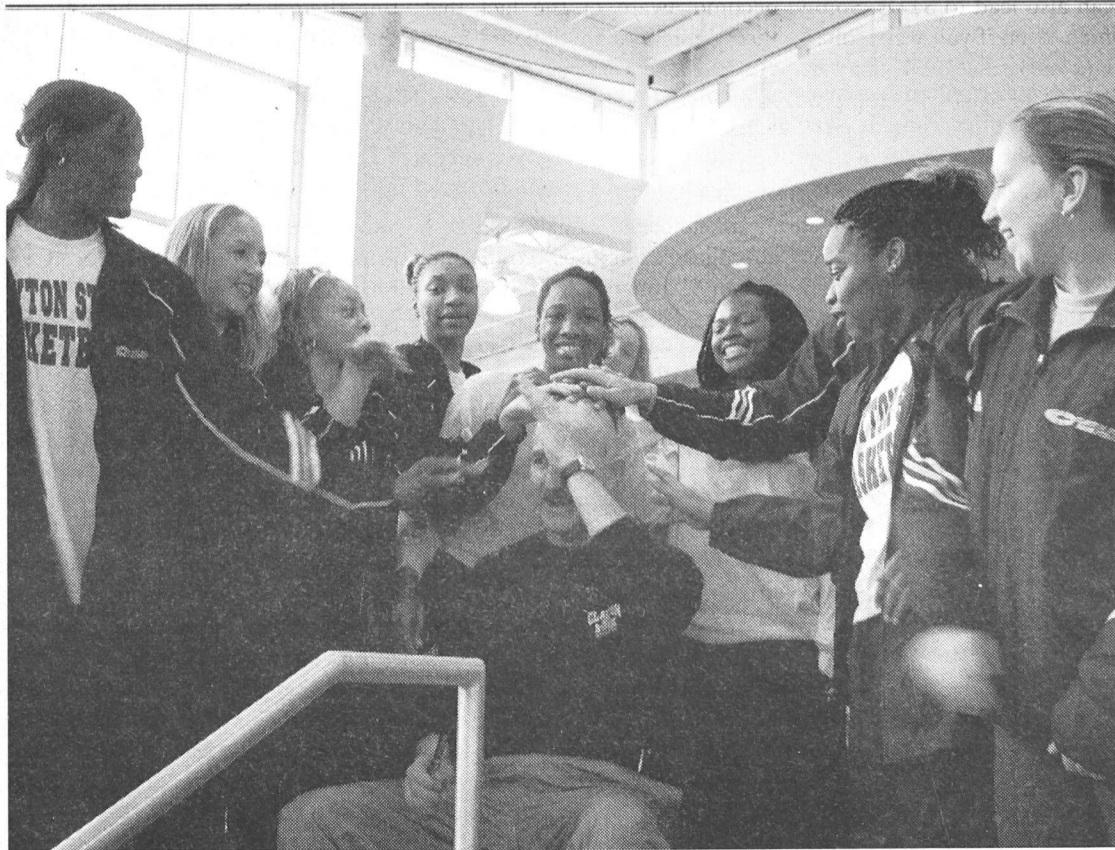
Kevin Pratt/The Bent Tree

Lady Lakers Basketball Head Coach Dennis Cox makes tracks in Director Mason Barfield's hair.



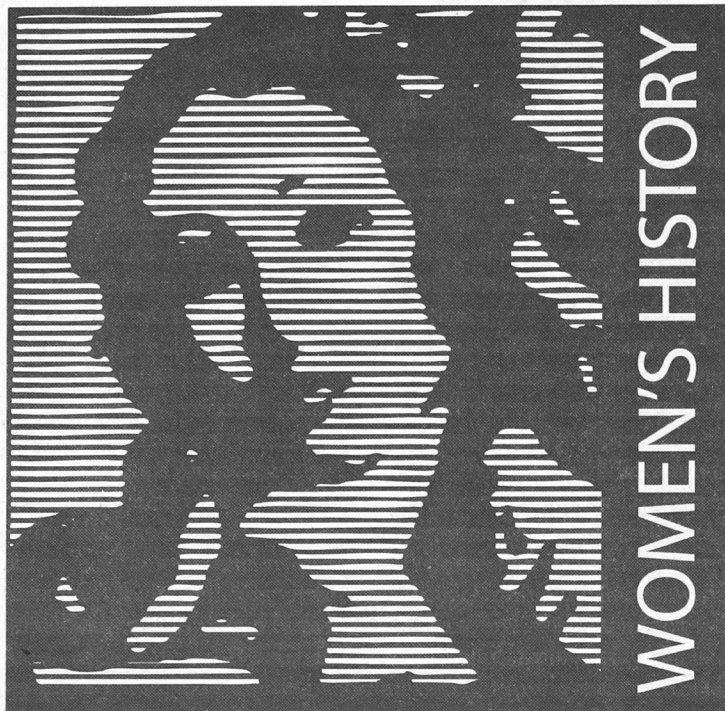
Kevin Pratt/The Bent Tree

Alecia Humphrey shaves Athletics Director Mason Barfield's head.



Kevin Pratt/The Bent Tree

Lady Lakers Basketball Team rubs Athletics Director Mason Barfield's bald head.



MOVING HER-STORY FORWARD

CORETTA SCOTT KING

By VICKIE JOHNSON

2nd
PRIZE

As a child growing up in rural Mississippi in the 1960's, life was very different from the life we live today.

The person that empowered me was Coretta Scott King. I saw her on television when her husband Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in 1968. I was about six years old. Keep in mind that in the sixties, the majority of African Americans on television were playing servant roles or were in black face. Although she was rarely portrayed in a positive light on television in the sixties before her husband's death, she always looked beautiful. In my mind, she was the epitome of a black woman. She set the standard for me.

As I grew older and was able to look back at how she handled herself in front of the world on national television at her husband's funeral, she became the benchmark for me. I was in awe of her elegance and grace. Growing up I was able to keep up with and appreciate her continued civil rights efforts. I saw how much she accomplished as a respected activist. Being married to a minister, I can relate to

how she was in the background and to how much Martin Luther King, Jr. must have really been indebted to her.

Watching her over the years as she established the King Center and Martin Luther King Day was made a national holiday, I realized that a woman in her forties still had a lot of gusto left in her to offer the world. I was a stay at home mom, living in the shadows. I decided that I had something to offer the younger generation and I needed to step up and make a contribution.

In my life today, I am still inspired by her because as a mature college student, it would be quite easy to give up. I can come up with a lot of excuses to turn back.

I think if Mrs. King had the strength to continue to work in the Civil Rights Movement after the death of her husband, I can go back to school and appreciate the second chance I have been given. She is still my benchmark as the epitome of not only a black woman, but of all women of every race, although Hillary Clinton is running a close second. My goal is to receive a degree in psychology and use the things I learn in the ministry. I would like to become a counselor and open a center to help young adults who have been victims of child abuse.

THE C WORD

By NANCY CAVENDER

I could hardly believe what I was hearing. "You are in good hands; I am calling to make the appointment for you to see the surgeon." How could this be? Even the doctor didn't say the words. She didn't even whisper it. I said it. "This must mean I have cancer."

Cancer, The C word. In one of the voices of my mind, I heard "you are going to die". Another part says "Things have come a long, long way and most of the cancers today are curable".

It's odd. I never felt sick. I couldn't feel a thing. I wanted to see the tissue from the biopsy; I guess I was trying to make it real. I wore a pink bracelet to help me not slip into denial. Surgery. Scars. Discomfort. It became more real.

"You have to have a mammogram twice a year for 5 years and see the surgeon the same." "You will need an MRI once a year." "You can never use a razor under your

arms again." "You can never take birth control pills again." "You should find a natural deodorant." "Sometimes the radiation can burn your skin." "Sometimes the tissue of the breast gets malformed and shrinks." Great.

I can't seem to stop crying at night.

What I learned was that cancer is just as much a battle in the spirit as the body. How could I make it stop?

People would say think of all the things you have to live for. Am I dying? No.

I felt trapped and stuck and gray. Where was the laughter, the silliness, the creativity? I was too emotionally raw.

When radiation was finally done, I was blistered and tender. My breast and arm pit looked horrible and burned. I joked that I must have been breast feeding a 35 year old man with a five o'clock shadow. Or that I know now what it must

1st
PRIZE

be like to wear sandpaper pasties. I was still crying a lot in secret.

A friend directed me to a cancer support group. It was there that I met a

group of women and one in particular that made a difference in how I saw my future. Linda Purdy. This woman had been leading this group for the last 10 years and dedicated her professional life to psychotherapy. I felt so embraced and gained much strength from her understanding and listening ears and the encouragement to heal. I needed someone to blaze a trail for me with a strong compassionate embrace and the tough visceral fortitude to see truth in a balanced way. She and other women in the group rallied to help me find resources when I had my 2nd cancer surgery 6 months after radiation ended. The strength of women is unlike any other strength. It is lasting, sturdy, secure.

My cancer was a lonely place. Because of Linda and the other women in the group, my healing is not.

The Women of Coopa Roca

By ELISA CALLEIRO ROBERTS

The Rio de Janeiro, slum flashed across the classroom screen, and Maria Teresa Leal became a part of my world. Dr. Harrison had sparked a vision of Social Entrepreneurship within me, and I wanted to know what my calling was as a woman within Clayton County. Maria's Coopa Roca project used the talents of seamstresses to pull the Brazilian women out of violently oppressed poor neighborhoods. She took their hobbies, and made them into a living. They even went to a runway show in which the garments were showcased before wealthy fashion industry representatives. Pride gleamed in broken-spirited women. They were living again.

I couldn't help but wonder what strengths are hiding within our own community. I had been substitute teaching for the past three years, and I saw the poverty and filth that overwhelmed me within special needs classrooms. I helped clean young girls who were not showered or taken care of at home. I helped them braid their hair, and they lit up inside. It seemed as if these young ladies with learning disabilities had never been noticed or valued. I held it inside until I got home and then I wept.

I decided that I would become a teacher in the Clayton County Schools, and make a difference in our home community. I also knew that I wanted to be a part of non-profits. This direction led me to Clayton State, and I left my private college to pursue social justice in our community. I found my way

to Dr. Harrison's classes as a part of Psychology, and I fell in love with human services. This love grew into an all out pursuit of knowledge. I couldn't stop asking Dr. Harrison about every aspect of non-profits. I have started prying open every closed door to know what it will take my even bigger vision to come to fruition.

My new vision is to develop an incentive program for parents of special needs students. I want to see the students in Clayton County Special Needs classrooms, bathed and taken care of in their home environments. My non-profit will provide scholarships for travel to special needs families within the cruising industry, equipped with adaptations, special needs classes, and fun as a family. I will network the strengths of my travel connections, principals, special needs teachers to elect families to the program. I will offer the educational travel program to those who can afford it as well, and this will help generate more availability of scholarships. I would not have the courage to pursue this massive vision if it were not for the teachers in this

2nd
PRIZE

college.

Drs. Harrison, Stillion, Deckner, and Miller are the strong, funny, smart women who are paving the path ahead of me to pursue grand scale visions. I really feared failure before I saw the individual hurdles each teacher had faced. I was feeling isolated and overwhelmed by busy work in my past college, but now I feel like the women of Coopa Roca. I am living again, and I have a strong purpose. It isn't an accident that I found my way here, and that all the tools I need to get my vision underway are at my fingertips. I won't be the only person that will benefit from my transfer. I continue to rely upon the instruction and follow up of my past teachers to pursue the finished product that they helped to inspire.



Chantis Evans

Essay winners (from left) Elisa Calleiro Roberts, Nancy Cavender, and Vickie Johnson, read their work at last week's Women's Forum.

Simone de Beauvoir

By DR. VICTORIA PASLEY

Simone de Beauvoir had been one of the most empowering women in my life. It was not so much her book *The Second Sex* that I was influenced by, but her autobiographies.

I came from a background where education was not valued beyond its usefulness in getting a husband and none of my siblings went to university. I yearned for knowledge, was good at school, and wanted to go to university but instead had to go on the job market as soon as I left school.

As I read Simone de Beauvoir's

autobiographies, I wanted her education, her wisdom, and her life. I had never wanted particularly to have children but there had been no role models of women without children that I admired. I also knew that I wanted a relationship with a man that was as much intellectual as romantic. I wanted a man to treat me as his intellectual equal. Yet I saw few relationships in which this existed. Simone de Beauvoir's relationship with Sartre empowered me to strive for that relationship as well as to keep searching for knowl-

edge and eventually achieve my dream of a university education.

As a teenager I knew that something was not quite right with the way men and women interacted. I had many male friends perhaps because I wanted to be

one of the guys rather than one of the girls they talked about.

Faculty
Entry

The second woman who empowered me was Germaine Greer's with her book *The Female Eunuch*. Greer articulated

everything that I had been feeling but couldn't understand. It was her chapter on "loathing and disgust" that most caught my attention. How then could we re-

construct gender in a way that empowered women and changed the way men looked at us?

This was the start of a long journey of questioning. What, for example, was natural and what was biologically determined? It became clear to me that biological differences were less important than the common humanity we shared. I read avidly from Kate Millet's *Sexual Politics* to Shulamith Firestone's *Dialectic of Sex* and Michelle Wallace's *Black Macho*. Each one of these women helped make sense of gender and articulate the feminist theory that had always been inside me.

I was fortunate to be nurtured by the women's movement and

read magazines such as *Ms*, then headed by Gloria Steinem, whose work and life also inspired me. It was important to know that I was not alone and that other women questioned gender roles in the same way that I did. Rebel women, such as Angela Davis, became my role models.

When I finally made it through college it was bel hooks who inspired me in graduate school with her analysis of the intertwining of race class and gender. These feminist women pioneers continue to empower me, and *The Female Eunuch* still remains pertinent today as gains made by the feminist movement slowly seem to slipping away.

Dear Mama Pearl,

By ANGELYN HAYES

Dear Mama Pearl,

In a few weeks, I will receive my Ph.D.! Although I was a young child when you died, somehow you have had a part in my achieving this goal. I have few memories of you, and those few include no mention of school or education. I do remember your gentle voice reprimanding my mother when she was correcting my sister and me for some misdeed. "Let the children be," you would tell her. In those few words I experienced your love and acceptance, a sense that you were my advocate.

I wish I remembered more about you, and I wish I knew more about your life. Somehow, we lost you and those who knew you before we had heard your story. We know that you had a difficult childhood with both your father and your favorite brother dying before your teen years. We know that moving in with your grandmother and uncle after your daddy's death was not easy. And we know that somehow you managed to leave that home and live with other relatives in order to attend Locust Grove Institute. That must have been when and where the light of education turned on for you.

How did that happen, Mama Pearl? How did a poor teenager in rural Georgia find her way to an educational opportunity and a love of learning during the first decade of the twentieth century when female education was devalued and was so unavailable for someone in your socio-economic group? Was there a particular teacher who inspired you? Was it the contrast between those who taught you and those with whom you

had grown up that prompted a yearning for more? Was it your mother's financial helplessness when her husband died?

We will never know the answers, but we do know the results. You became an advocate of education for your daughters. When my own mother was about seven years old, you moved your family to town in order for your daughters to receive better education. You sold eggs and butter in order to buy material that you could sew into dresses for them to wear and fit in at school. You talked about education to your three daughters and felt disappointment when the oldest chose marriage instead of post-secondary education.

With your encouragement, the youngest daughter did attend Tift College. You instilled in my mother, your middle daughter, the indisputable belief that she could go to college and become a teacher in spite of financial restraints. Then you helped her find her way to Berry College. My mother's life story resounds with your legacy of encouraging education and enabling opportunities. Your vision became my mother's vision for your grandchildren. So, I too, love learning and school and education.

When I walk across a stage in a few weeks and receive the doctoral hood that symbolizes the highest educational attainment, I think you will know. If so, please know also that my dream started somewhere in your heart and mind. Thank you for your incredible legacy to your daughters and to all of us daughters who follow.

Lovingly,

Angelyn

Staff
Entry

A THOUSAND PIECES

By KELLY FORESMAN

My mother had been extremely poor growing up, the kind of poor that marks you forever, leaving a deep sense of longing for the comforts of materialistic possessions. She had been a collector of junk from as far back as I could remember; of course, the items she collected were not junk to her. They could be from anywhere: a church socialite who was doing a bit of spring cleaning; a garage sale that barely broke even and, in a last ditch effort, pawned their goodies off on the first person to pass by, which always seemed to be my mother; even the trash. She was not above taking something casually thrown away out to be cleaned, saving it for our home or giving it to our neighbors who would most assuredly remark on "the crazy ass folks that threw that little gem away...hmpf...rich people."

I remember coming home from school and seeing my mother, her brown ponytail swinging with pleasure as she bobbed back and forth over small bottles

of glass stained green and amber, medicine jars or maybe they were perfume bottles, she couldn't be sure.

I watched her tenderly gather the coarse treasures up and delicately wipe them, all the while remarking on how they could be truly valuable, perhaps worth money some day—her eyes glinting and growing brighter with every stroke. She'd proceed to tell me of how the lady who had given them to her said they were from some fabulous, far-away place. I would yell at her for bringing more things into our already cluttered home, and then eventually give in and admit that perhaps she had found something of real value.

It's funny how desire translates from one person to the next, especially from the people that imprint a bit of their souls onto ours. My mother's desire to possess something beautiful and not take for granted the little things so many people did, those who had never known real poverty, created a different language of desire in me. I wanted to travel

Honorable
Mention

and come back with trinkets from all over the world to fill her house. She would own things I bought with the intent of her possessing them; they would travel great distances to find their way into her hands—tons of them, so many she might even be inclined to throw some away.

I carry this impression with me daily; it is the one that generated the need to go out and see the world—to possess it firsthand in every way possible. My mother did not change the course of history for women everywhere, and her influence was more than likely only felt by a small number of people. Nonetheless, it was in a living room full of cast off pieces of furniture, various cracked mirrors, bugs shaped out of glass, mice who were caught in a tree reading books, clocks that didn't work, three legged chairs, etc., that her manifested longing surrounded me in a way as to create a sense of who I am—her lifetime hoarding of dreams collected through a thousand pieces in me.

Benoit

Continued from page 3

the masses and refrain from polarizing his constituents. In addition to Clinton, Benoit also models his political strategies after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Benoit also considers Malcolm X a hero who has shaped his perception of what defines us as strong individuals and in turn, a cohesive nation. It was Malcolm's undeniable transformation from an eager, studious, bright child whose dreams were shattered before him, to a convicted criminal and, finally, to an enlightened individual and illuminating character. As Malcolm had undergone, Roland also had a few life-altering experiences. One

of which occurred during his stint in Iraq during Operation Desert Storm. He saw his first casualty of war. In an irreversible, unforgettable, yet cliché form, this forced the issue of immortality to the surface of his being and showed him the horrors and enormity of war and he understood the power man has and how, if abused, it can destroy the lives of an entire nation.

Lastly, among some of the most crucial dilemmas facing Clayton students is a general lack of mobilization and in some cases lack of interest, which he plans to remedy by increasing awareness about the Student Government Association and its members. The cumulative effect of his past experiences, familial political ties, and campus

observation resulted in his hopeful legacy to leave Clayton State as a better institution than when he arrived just four years ago. In retrospect he hopes he will one day be able to say that through his leadership, CSU created more diverse Master's programs, provided more student housing, and increased enrollment.

So, perhaps when you see Roland Benoit, Jr. in the hallway you may see him talking to students, exchanging quips and ideas, or perhaps you'll be lucky enough to hear a story about his thirteen year old Goddaughter or his plans to write his autobiography appropriately entitled *Roland Benoit, Jr.: The Man that Refused to Accept What Life Gave Him*.

EDITORIAL

Georgia's Sex Laws

By CARRIE MARTIN

The southern part of the United States has long been thought of as "backwards" and "behind the times." Try as we may to forget, it is stereotypes like these that are once again rearing their ugly heads in a recent number of sex crime cases.

Why are lawmakers here in Georgia not trying to change the stereotype?

One of the most infamous and talked about sex cases in recent years has been the case of Genarlow Wilson.

Wilson was 17 at the time of his arrest. A good student and a sought after athlete, he was convicted of aggravated child molestation for consensual oral sex with a 15 year old at a New Year's Eve party. The charge, which at the time carried an automatic 10-year sentence in Georgia, has put the young man behind bars since 2003.

Many people believe that Wilson got what he deserved but others believe that he should be thinking about college instead of prison food. The charge, which sentence has recently been reduced to a misdemeanor, makes one wonder what the sentence would have been had the act not been consensual.

This unjust act by the court system of Georgia has brought about national attention. Dallas Mavericks' owner Mark Cuban is saying that he will boycott Georgia until legislation is passed that will help to free Wilson. Not only he is drawing attention to Georgia government officials but also so are Bill O'Reilly and 96,000 people who have signed a petition pledging their belief in Wilson's innocence.

Where is the justice?

Wilson is not the only one who has suffered from harsh District Attorneys and judges in Georgia. Calvin McGee was arrested, charged and jailed for molesting his girlfriend's then six and seven year old daughters; sodomizing the younger.

The DA at the time of the original charges allowed McGee to plead down the charges and the sentence was set at eight years of probation. McGee, who could not stay away from the children, was arrested again for violating probation in 1997 and sentenced to five years in jail and 13 years probation.

McGee is now suing the state for \$2.5 million for leaving him in jail for 22 months after his sentence was completed. Long

story short, a convicted child molester stands to win \$2.5 million of our tax dollars and a teenager convicted of consensual oral sex sits behind bars for another six years. It is easy to see why the stereotype stands.

So what are state officials doing now to change these laws? Not enough.

They stand behind their decisions. Even with the recent change in severity and sentencing for some of Georgia's sex laws, such as the reduction of mandatory 10-year sentence for oral sex, and the inclusion of Romeo & Juliet clauses making the offense a misdemeanor, lawmakers refuse to help the plight of their victims such as Wilson. They didn't even discuss the possibility of making the new law retroactive because they didn't want to extend the legislative session, leaving Wilson behind bars.

Referring to him as a "punk," Representative Dan Lakly from Peachtree City believes that Wilson was given a fair chance by Georgia's justice system and therefore has no right to debate the court's decision.

In the McGee lawsuit, former Fulton County Superior Court Clerk, Juanita Hicks, stepped down after McGee won his latest round of his case.

Who will take the responsibility?

In both cases, it is clear to see that there are many flaws in our state's sex crime laws. For a young man who participated in consensual oral sex to be given a sentence of 10 years in prison and then a man who has a clear problem with being around young children and now is allowed to sue the state, what is wrong with this system?

Who is to blame, lawmakers or the elected officials who govern these posts?

The answer lies in the tangled web of bureaucracy that is our state government. How can we make a change?

Do your homework about whom you are electing into office. E-mail and write your local congressperson. Sign petitions and start think tanks to undercover the injustices of our laws and lawmakers. Take responsibility for your citizenship and stay informed of current events that directly affect your family, money and neighborhoods.

Without the citizens, the checks and balance system will remain unbalanced and it is your duty to fight for change.

Attack of the Mooninites

By NATHAN COX

On Wednesday, January 31 around 1 p.m., several phone calls were made to the Boston police concerning some suspicious devices.

These incredibly suspicious devices were light boards depicting a Mooninite, with an upraised middle finger, from the Adult Swim show *Aqua Teen Hunger Force*.

Massachusetts Attorney General Martha Coakley thought the light boards "had a very sinister appearance. It had a battery behind it and wires." So, I imagine that since I think Transformers toys have a "sinister appearance," we should pull those off the toy shelves?

Boston bomb squads were called into action, and multiple transit arteries, such as I-93, Longfel-

low Bridge and Storrow Drive were shut down because of a glorified Light Brite®. The Charles River, which leads to Boston Harbor, was cut off to boat traffic for a greater portion of the day. Boston University was also closed; that Mooninite is one scary fellow.

Wednesday evening, Peter Berdovsky and Sean Stevens were arrested on the pretense of placing hoax devices to induce public hysteria, a felony, according to Coakley.

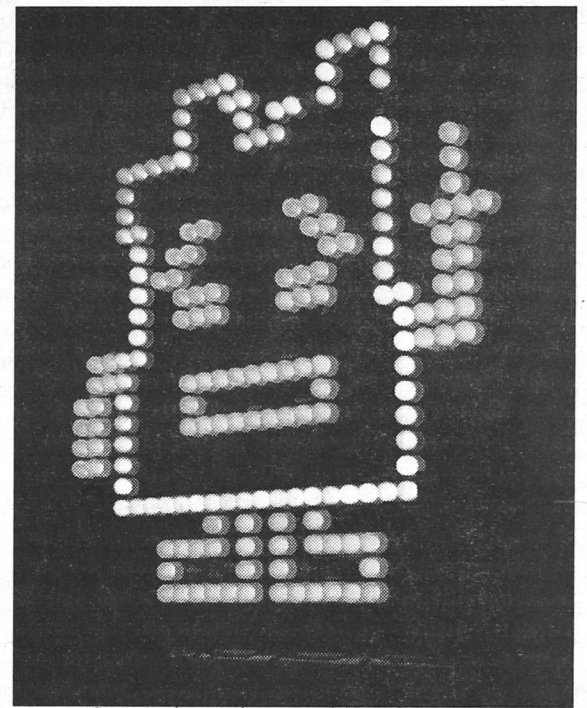
However, the presiding judge over their case said it appears that the two did not have malicious intent to cause panic.

If one were trying to induce public hysteria, would it be in the image of a rude cartoon character? I think not.

Turner Broadcasting, who runs and operates Adult Swim on Cartoon Network, said the Mooninite light boards were part of a marketing campaign that had been under way during the past two or three weeks prior to the Boston scare.

The light boards were used to promote the upcoming *Aqua Teen Hunger Force* movie. The Mooninite light boards had been placed in nine other large U.S. cities, including Portland, Seattle, Atlanta, New York and Chicago.

In Portland, no officers were dispatched with orders to remove the Mooninite light boards. Similarly in Seattle, officers did not consider the light boards a viable threat.



Scott Beale/Laughing Squid (www.laughingsquid.com)
Aqua Teen Hunger Force aliens terrorize Boston.

Yet, the CEO of Turner Broadcasting issued a public apology for the panic inadvertently caused in Boston.

Why Boston was the only city in the U.S. to be swept with a wave of terror caused by the misinterpretation of a light board for something completely different is beyond me. Obviously, some Boston officials didn't have their coffee that morning. How someone could find the image of a Mooninite intimidating and dangerous is lost on me; I could find a Mooninite rude and offensive, but not scary.

None of the other U.S. cities' officials lost their minds. The fact that this made national news as it did goes to show the lack of leadership in the Boston situation. Hysterical civilians coupled with overzealous police officials will lead to a situation blown out of proportion.

The aftermath shows Boston looking very uptight and easily panicked. Whoever made the call to send out the bomb squads must have either lacked enough information to make an adequate decision, or common sense.

Either way, the whole episode was completely unnecessary and revealed the incompetence within Boston's top police officials.

In a post 9/11 world, which only means the U.S. is not invulnerable, not that the World has become a more dangerous place, some people are a bit too jumpy.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send yours to Letters@BTreeNews.com.

Dear Editor:

Thank you for covering so well our anti-war rally in Stockbridge. There were 27 of us, mostly local, who carried signs like "Troops Out Now" and "Honk for Peace." We were well received despite the area in which we live being so conservative.

Our peace vigil followed on the heels of a speech by Taylor Branch at Clayton State.

He told how Dr. King had linked his non-violent struggle for social justice to ending the Vietnam War 39 years ago. In holding our peace vigil during Dr. King's birthday, we recreated the same linkage.

Did you know that every 10 days over one billion dollars of funds that could be used for social services is diverted to fund the Iraq

war? And every 10 hours another American dies in a country that had nothing to do with 9/11. This must end.

Taylor Branch's message and ours is that, were Dr. King alive today, he would be the drum major to end this violent war of choice. He would be asking students of Clayton State to organize anti-war demonstrations on campus and in Clayton County. I think there are plenty of Clayton State students who will rise to the challenge. Are you one?

Roger Mills
Stockbridge resident & local organizer

Georgia Peace & Justice Coalition/Henry County
Racewalker57@wmconnect.com

Take My Advice

By CHRISTINA SEMPLE



Got a problem? Need advice? Ask me about it at Advice@BTreeNews.com.

I've been hanging out with this girl lately. Well, recently we began doing a little bit more than hanging

out, if you know what I mean. The thing is that before any of this even happened, I told her that I wasn't looking for anything serious, at all. She agreed and even said that she felt the same way and was worried that I might want more. Now, she's beginning to seem kind of, well...clingy. I want to tell her that we should just stop and maybe only hang out occasionally. I also want to tell her that when we hang out, I only want to hang out as friends. Can you help me with a nice way of telling her this, because I feel like I'm going to come across as an asshole no matter how I phrase. What do you think? -Amigo con Derechos (Friend w/benefits)

I think you should tell her that ya'll "should just stop and maybe only hang out occasionally and that when you do, you only want to do so as friends."

Sound familiar Amigo con Derechos?

You're considerate to be concerned with how you come across, so fortunately for you it seems as though you have safeguarded against coming across as an 'asshole' by stating your expectations and needs clearly: You told her you weren't looking for anything serious at all.

She entered into this relationship with eyes wide open. You have no control over whether or not someone becomes attached to you. You have no control over how someone will take whatever you tell him or her, nor are you responsible for any of that.

What you *are* responsible for and what you *can* control is being honest in expressing what you want and need in any situation, no matter how casual.

In my opinion, you have met those requirements fully. If she is indeed falling for you or becoming attached, there is no nice way to say any of this, the heart always breaks in a jagged line.

And yes, it is easier said than done. I'm sure you may be struggling with the idea of you losing some sort of physical satisfaction; but ask yourself dear; is the pleasure you receive inside the bedroom worth the discomfort you receive outside of it?

I have a friend that told me that he loves me. I love him too and I've told him that. In fact, we both tell each other that we love one another regularly. The problem is that he has a girlfriend. Not only does he have a girlfriend, he lives with her. We constantly tell each other how we feel about each other (I can't stress that enough) and we hang out a lot. I would love to be with him, but I don't think he has any intention on leaving her. What should I do? -The Loved One

Though I have addressed a similar situation in a previous letter, the frequency of this sort of situation among my peers warrants my re-addressing it.

Before entering into any situation, agreement or relationship, one should always assess their self-worth. When you go for an interview, determine beforehand what salary you will and will not accept. When looking for an apartment, determine what rent is simply too high to be reasonable for your budget. Similarly, when entering into a relationship, determine what are your deal breakers, what you can and cannot tolerate and, most importantly in all of these examples, *act accordingly!*

At this juncture, you can do nothing about your feelings for him. If you love him, you love him. However, as blind as love is known to be, there is no reason to walk around with shades as well.

You are right, the fact that he has a live-in girlfriend, whom he has no apparent intention of leaving, is indeed a problem. But as everyone will soon see, I am a fan of not making other people's problems your own.

So, in this case, let the burden of loving two women weigh heavily on his heart, not yours. Let the turmoil of loving one woman and living with another rest on his conscience, not yours. Give this issue back to him and leave it be.

Despite the many "I love you's" the two of you share on a regular basis he *has* made his decision. He can hang out with you and go home to his girlfriend.

This is one lucky guy. The both of you are enabling this behavior and I think enablers are as guilty as those they are enabling.

Remove yourself for one moment and see what I see: A guy goes to dinner and movie with a girl. They are holding hands, hugging, telling each other they love each other. After a few hours, he gets in his car leaving her dreaming of their next meeting, probably tomorrow.

He goes home and there, waiting on him, is his girlfriend. She asks him how his day was, how the movie was and what he had for dinner. After chatting, they decide to retire and spend the night cuddled in their bed and he feels like he is on top of the world. He is reveling in the fact that not only does he have two women who love and adore him but also he has variety, every man's dream. And what's best of all, neither woman asks him to choose so he doesn't have to. And all is right with the world...

What would you think of both of these women in the story?

I suggest that you determine your self worth and act accordingly. You said it yourself; he does not intend to leave her, so how *can* you be with him?

Sex Talk

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

Dr. Moss-Bouldin is Worried about Vaginas

By SUSAN MADDIX

Recently Clayton State University's campus has been painted pink with posters reading *The Vagina Monologues*. Shortly after being posted the signs were quickly taken down and reprinted with a warning label that can only be described as a blemish on a gorgeous design.

If you are a progressive student who admits to living in the 21st century then you may be asking yourself the same question that the entire production team of this play is asking. If this school is expected to be made up of mature students and professors, then why can we not freely say the word "vagina?"

Of course, women have come a long way in the last 50 years. Just by observing one's classes it is obvious to see that women are due to dominate the work force. This is also evident in the fact that America may have a female President soon. I wonder how Hillary Clinton would feel about an accredited, four-year university censoring its students when all they wish to discuss is a part of the female anatomy.

Perhaps the Arts and Sciences administration would be more comfortable with a more traditional approach to the female anatomy. Perhaps we should all go back to hiding our knees, calves or even ankles. Those body parts were once considered racy as well. Or perhaps we should accept that all women know that it is there, but we should not discuss it. This is a problem in and of itself however because not all women DO know

what they are working with!

It is a sad fact that many of my classmates, while in their twenties and discussing marriage and children, do not even know where all of their equipment is (and I am censoring myself here.) How can women be expected to take care of themselves if they do not even know what to look for? How can they know what to look for if it cannot be discussed? Dr. Moss-Bouldin is taking it upon herself to make sure that all of her girls (the cast of *The Vagina Monologues*) feel comfortable with freely discussing their bodies.

I personally feel much closer to my sisters after each of these discussions. Being able to talk about this sort of thing ensures that not only are we being healthy but also that we have a network of people we can trust. Even in the new millennium many, many women are abused by their spouses, (this includes lesbian couples so it is not just men!) The comfort that a woman can feel in being able to talk about her vagina leads to her being comfortable with telling her friends if she is being abused. This relationship is important for every woman to have. How can anyone have that relationship if he or she cannot even talk about his or her body?

On the bright side, the controversy surrounding this production happened to fall around the same time that a little high school in Cross River decided to have an open-mic night. This story, which has reached the national audience most recently by the *Today Show*, could not have come at a better time. Not only does it help the

cast of Clayton State's production know that they are not alone in facing adversity but it gives us leeway in publicity. When flyers are handed out, we receive fewer nasty looks and more "good lucks." This remark is not given with a slight hope for failure but with an enormous hope for success. For this, the cast is grateful to anyone who supports this show and goes home and talks about it with friends.

The controversy surrounding the whole concept is making people talk. It is getting people interested and it is sending a message. If anything, the production team of *The Vagina Monologues* does not blame the administration for censorship. We *thank* you! Now, more than ever, the community in and surrounding Clayton State University is interested in this little production. More people want to know why this play is causing such a stir. The show already has already had such a profound effect on everyone involved in it. To Dr. Moss-Bouldin, this show is no longer about teaching actors how to put together a show and sell tickets. This show is about overcoming all obstacles. We have fought wholeheartedly against censorship and our ignorance.

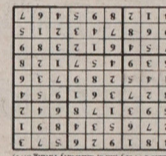
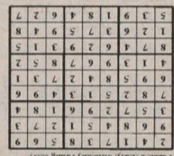
Even though we have not yet performed, our professor and Eve Ensler (the playwright) are both successful. Why? Because nine girls who started out this semester knowing nothing of each other have found sisterhood in each other and are now empowered. That is something to celebrate even if it is all we have.



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS PICTURE OF THE YEAR 2006

The Aurora Borealis, or Northern Lights, shines above Bear Lake, Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska. Edited version of a photo taken by Senior Airman Joshua Strang.

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Image:Polarlicht_2.jpg



Sudoku

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

Puzzle 1 (Very Hard)

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

Puzzle 2 (Easy)

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

Diversions

Fiction

Life According to Jayden S. Edwards

EPISODE TWO: "THE ROPES"

By KEISHA REAVES

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

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

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

"So, do you have any friends?" I asked him as I took a seat on my bed that sat parallel to his in the box-like room we shared. His glasses was on the tip of his nose and he pushed them back up with his index finger. He propped his foot, which wore a pair of old, black Converse sneakers, up on the bed reclining comfortably. His jeans were worn with strands hanging down from the bottom of them. He was a sophomore and I had expected so much more out of him. He wasn't giving me hardly anything to go by.

"My friend Mitch, but he doesn't go to school here. He goes to the technical college up the street. So, as for here at MSU, no. Not really," he said. I was slowly dying on the inside. Was this some sort of test? Was God trying to tell me that I was go-

ing to be a dork for the rest of my life no matter what I tried to do about it because it truly seemed that way.

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

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

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

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

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

"Ready as ever!" I exclaimed.

"Cool, I'll show you the ropes," he said, I followed him into the hall way. It was still crowded with many people unpacking their things and yelling back and forth at one another.

"This here is Brunkswick Hall. We are the only co-ed dormitory in the entire campus. Many people kill to get into this building because the other buildings are on lock. When I say lock I mean that they have tighter curfews and more rules about having guys in the girl's rooms and the other way around. Here, it's pretty laid back. Sure, we have to get parental

permission, but Jeff Hardswick is the R.A. and he's the coolest guy on campus," Seth said as we took the stairs instead of the elevator. He continued to babble off at the mouth giving me un-useful, but somewhat useful information.

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

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

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

"Most girls here are snobs, I must add. They're rich girls who have too much money and find themselves in love with the idea of being with a frat boy. If not them, an athlete. Athletes are big here too. Not the girls, though. The cheerlead-

ers, yes, but a lot of them are anorexic. I shouldn't say that, though. That would be judging. There is one cute one. Her name is Samantha Blakes. Aye, aye, aye. I had chem. lab with her spring semester. She'd come over to study with me from time to time, but my girlfriend had gotten mad about it," he'd said as we continued to walk across campus. Those few last words out of his mouth gave me some hope.

"Girlfriend?" I asked him.

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

"She's Goth?" I asked him.

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

"She has any friends?" I asked him.

"No female friends. Only guy friends, which irks me daily," he said as we continued to walk. As he continued to talk more and more about the social outings of the school I spotted a street full of mansions with tons of people walking it.

"What's down there?" I asked him.

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

"Is there parties going on here?" I asked him.

"I would assume. It's move-in day. There's got to be," he said.

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

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

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

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

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