

# JOB BOARD

How a financial aid procedure change could mean More Money for You - RIGHT NOW!

SGA 9/11 and Katrina Vigil

Involvement Fair and Performances

Women's Basketball Q&A

Huge changes in School of Nursing

Clayton State Theater Update

## DISCRIMINATION

Sexual orientation protected under new policy.

## JENA 6

What do students have to say?

**BTREENEWS.COM**

**OCTOBER 10, 2007**



The to-do list in Beth Hoyme's purse  
will never get done because a drunk driver  
convinced his friends he'd be fine.

**Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk.**



Photo by Michael Mazzeo



# Bent Tree News

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 (678) 466-5436  
 Info@BTreeNews.com  
 Clayton State University  
 2000 Clayton State Blvd.  
 Morrow, Ga 30260

ADVISOR  
 Dr. Randy Clark  
 RandyClark@Clayton.edu

ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR  
 Jamal El-Amin  
 JamalElAmin@BTreeNews.com

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
 Kevin Pratt  
 KevinPratt@BTreeNews.com

SALES ASSISTANT  
 Kimberly Gray  
 KimberlyGray@BTreeNews.com

MANAGING EDITOR  
 Roland Benoit Jr.  
 RolandBenoit@BTreeNews.com

GRAPHIC DESIGNER  
 Chelana Davidson  
 ChelanaDavidson@BTreeNews.com

ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
 Christina Semple  
 ChristinaSemple@BTreeNews.com

EVENTS TEAM LEADER  
 Ceisha Parks  
 CeishaParks@BTreeNews.com

OPERATIONS MANAGER  
 Ciji Fox  
 CijiFox@BTreeNews.com  
 EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS  
 Alexandra Shular  
 AlexandraShular@BTreeNews.com  
 Sunita Caton  
 SunitaCaton@BTreeNews.com

WEB TEAM  
 Veronica Ingram  
 Kathleen Williamson  
 Stephanie Cooper

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT  
 EDITOR  
 Carrie Martin  
 CarrieMartin@BTreeNews.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:  
 Bernadin Carzo  
 Seanna Williamson  
 Nichelle Lenton  
 Kelley Atkinson  
 Shehnaz Haggani  
 Melissa Rolle  
 Vicki Fair  
 Alecia Brown  
 Monique Faulkner

FEATURES EDITOR  
 Stephanie Jones  
 StephanieJones@BTreeNews.com

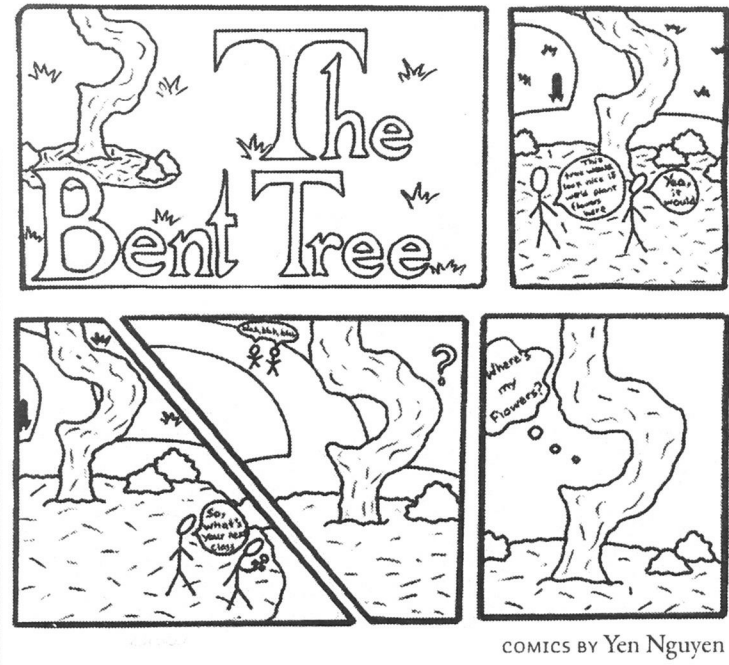
CONTRIBUTING  
 PHOTOGRAPHERS:  
 Courtney Wesley  
 Bernadin Carzo  
 Melissa Rolle  
 Corianne Turnage

SPORTS EDITOR  
 Shane McCrary  
 ShaneMcCrary@BTreeNews.com

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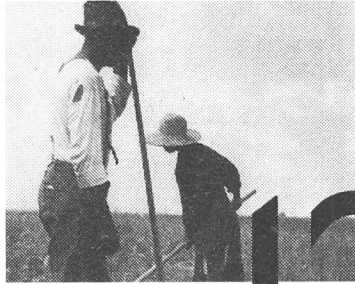


# CONTENT



Theater

10



12

Archives



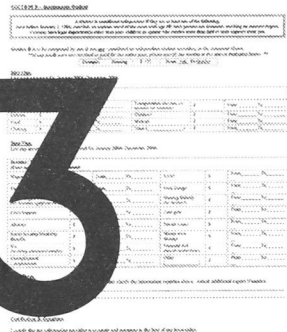
18

Advice



Jena 6

16



13

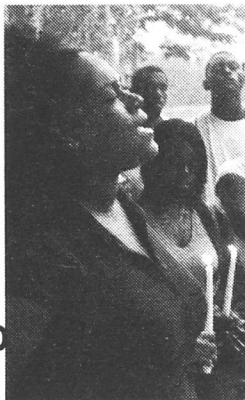
Financial Aid



6

Basketball

3  
Vigil



GAY?

14

Discrimination



9  
Involvement

Spotlight



17

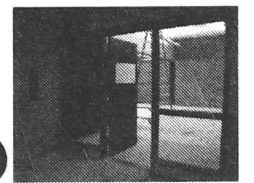


Vick

5



Dragon\*Con 2



6

Nursing

41.01



# HEADLINE



Every Labor Day weekend, fans, geeks, gamers, role-players, cos-players, furies, storm troopers, comic lovers, writers, readers, artists, performers, freeloaders, and pretty much everyone else who isn't a bank executive descends on Atlanta to attend the annual Dragon\*Con Convention.

2007 marked the twenty-year anniversary of the convention. Over 20,000 people attended this year, a dramatic change from the 1987 figure of 1,400. The convention is one of the largest in the nation, rivaled only

## Dragon\*Con

by ComicCon in San Diego with 125 thousand swarming the city.

One of the highlights of the convention is the Saturday morning parade where nearly everyone with a costume marches. Groups of storm troopers, Hogwarts wizzards, vampires and SG-1 platoons make their way down Peachtree Street. Tickets are cheap now for next year and prices increase steadily until the event. Give it a try, you won't regret it.

[www.dragoncon.org](http://www.dragoncon.org) — KEVIN PRATT

PHOTOGRAPHS BY Kevin Pratt

## Mayor Franklin Leads Freshman Convocation

Monday August 27th was the second annual New Student Convocation and Reception at Spivey Hall. This year, the Office of Orientation and New Student Programs invited Mayor Shirley Franklin to be the keynote speaker. Her speech, "Leadership and Civic Engagement" was a call to action to all incoming freshman to be their best—to become the leaders of tomorrow.

Guest speaker Judge Gail Buckner is a Clayton State Alumnus and Democratic Representative for Jonesboro. Her charge was the importance of graduation, and with great spirit, she shared fond memories of her matriculation at Clayton State.

The Convocation ended with a student procession through faculty and staff led by Dr. Tom Barnett. Freshmen were applauded for their accomplishments thus far and to serve as a sign of support from faculty for their matriculation at Clayton State University.

— CHRISTINA SEMPLE







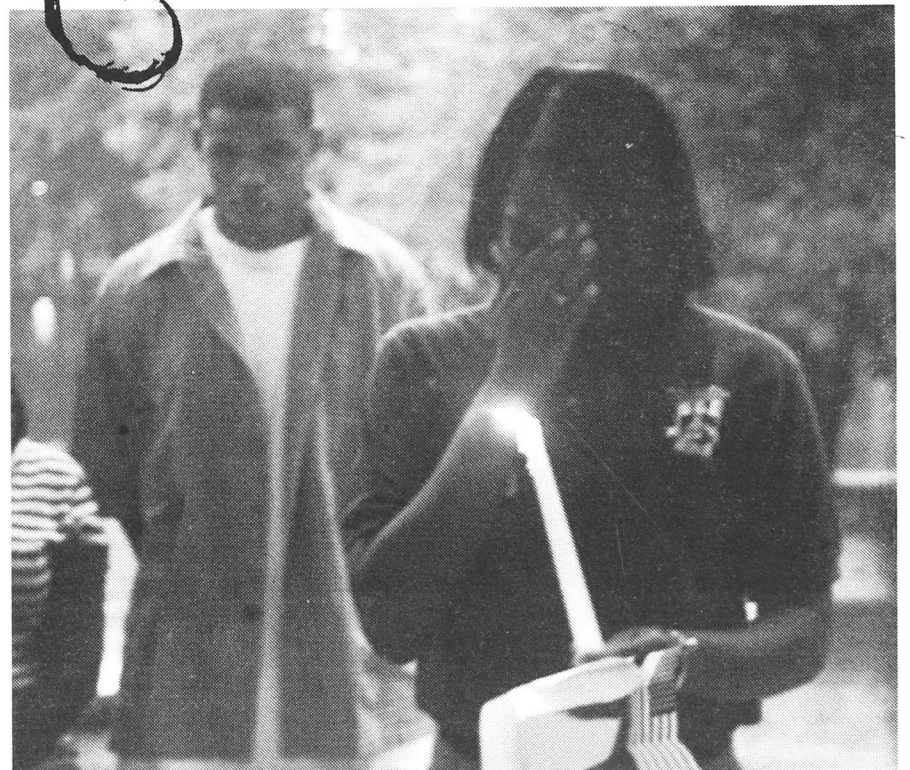
On the 6th anniversary of Sept. 11th, members of Clayton State and the surrounding community came together to reflect on the tragedies of 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina. This program was hosted by SGA and organized by the SGA Student Affairs Chair, Chevonder Caesar. She quickly introduced important guests in attendance, including Company 13 from the Clayton County Fire Dept.. The event began with a tribute performance by the Clayton State gospel choir, and continued with opening remarks by SGA president, Williams Azubeke. He reminded us to, "keep the families of those that lost their lives in our prayers."

The Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Elaine Manglitz, spoke about how much Clayton State had grown since these disasters occurred. A member from Company 13 of the Clayton Co. Fire Dept spoke on behalf of the men and women that protect our country. "September 11th is a day that affected everyone," he said as he told us how members of the Clayton County Fire Dept. were affected indirectly by the attack.

Caesar stepped forward again to give an emotional epilogue on her journey to Clayton State University after the Hurricane Katrina disaster. "They didn't have to accept me here," she explained while she held back tears. Dr. Brian L. Haynes, Vice President of Student Affairs, closed out the ceremony with insight into how September 11th was "a defining moment of this generation of college students." He concluded that it would be up to this generation to decide how Sept. 11th will affect everyone. Avis Adams, a Clayton State student, closed the ceremony in song, allowing all in attendance to reflect on the tragedies of September 11th and Hurricane Katrina. — B. CARZO

Hurricane Katrina. — B. CARZO

## Gathering to Remember







PHOTOGRAPH BY Ciji Fox

# Ready, Set, Build!

August 24th marked the ceremonial beginning of the housing and student activity center construction projects, expected to be complete fall 2008. The groundbreaking ceremony, held indoors in Spivey Hall, was used to remember the purpose of the facility: "to meet the higher education needs of this region," said Clayton State President Dr. Thomas

Harden. "To fulfill that purpose we have to do more all the time to insure student success... We need to provide a residential experience for the first time to full-time freshman. There also needs to be more opportunities on campus for activities for all students." He continued, "This is a major, major change on this campus."

— ALECIA BROWN

## We the People

of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, insure domestic Tranquillity, provide for the common Defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

### Article I

Section 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a

The room was packed with students lining the glass walls of the Main Street Pod on Wednesday September 19th, notebooks ready to take notes on the day's 'Times Talk'. Dr. Gene Hatfield and Dr. Joe Corrado, the event leaders, stood in the middle of the room observing the students while engaged in a quiet conversation. Within moments more chairs had to be brought in to accommodate the twenty-five interested students. Once everyone was seated Dr. Hatfield welcomed them, indicating that he wished for the first discussion to center on the Patriot Act and just how far we will allow the government to go in bending the constitution before the war is over.

Later Dr. Hatfield confided that he was very pleased in the turnout, delighted that so many had showed up without prior knowledge of the refreshments being provided by THE NEW YORK TIMES. He said it was "a good number for a healthy vigorous discussion... we weren't trying for a large number."

This was just one of the Constitution Week 2007 events that went on during the week of September 17th. It started with Sylvia L. Lovely, president of NewCities Institute, a nonprofit

organization that encourages citizens to become involved in their 21st century communities and to build the kind of world and future that they desire. Dr. Hatfield remarked that her Keynote Address "How 'We the People' Can Become Community Patriots" had a wonderful turnout, that

they completely filled up the room. Tuesday followed with the reservation only Women's Forum Luncheon featuring LTC Stephanie L. Stephens, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, U.S. Army FORSCOM, Fort McPherson, Georgia. However, these programs were just leading up to the highlight of the week.

Wednesday, as mentioned above, was the first in a series of 'Times Talks' that will occur every two weeks in which they will discuss issues of importance in THE NEW YORK TIMES. The topics will range anywhere from Health Care, Economics, Science, to Politics. Dr. Hatfield hadn't decided on the topic for the next meeting at the time but encouraged attendees to purpose articles and topics, perhaps even spokesmen for upcoming meetings. These talks are sponsored by THE NEW YORK TIMES in their very active campus program 'The

American Democracy Project' which promotes civic engagement of public college campuses nationwide. In the future he hoped discussions will be facilitated by both students and faculty.

However, the most meaningful program in the opinion of Dr. Hatfield was the reading of

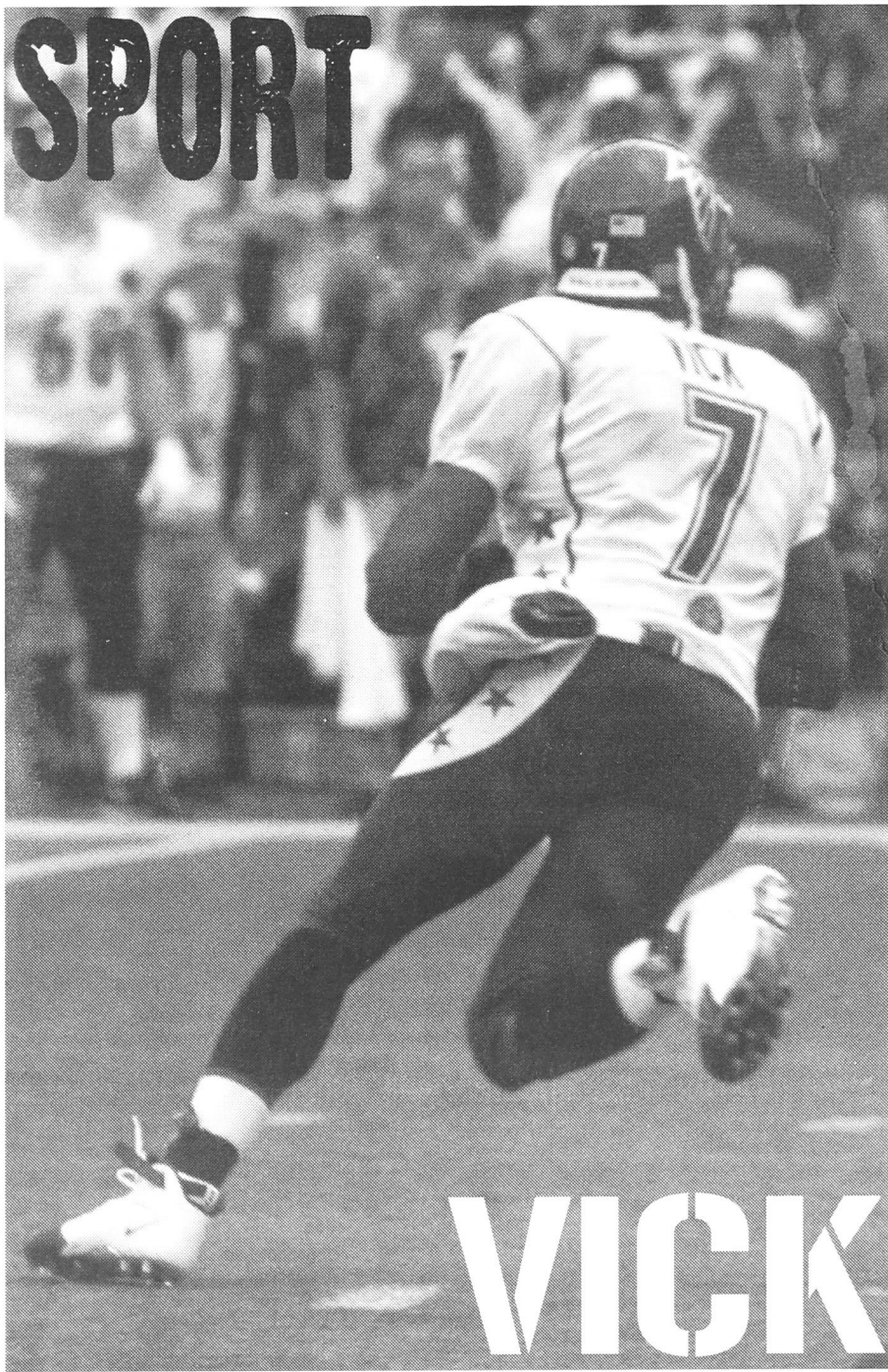
the constitution, which took place at the finale on Thursday. This event took place in the University Center Commons where Clayton State President Dr. Thomas K. Harden introduced it, followed by a wonderful performance of patriotic music by Mezzo-Soprano Lianna Wimberly. In addition, copies of the constitution were passed out to those attending or walking past.

With Congress now requiring all institutions receiving federal aid to have an event commemorating the constitution nationwide, students can expect to see similar events next year. "We want it to be fresh and different next year" says Dr. Hatfield, promising next year participants some of the same elements, while juicing it up with new ones. Constitution Week was reflective of the hard work of Dr. Joe Corrado, Dr. Mark May, and the Political Science Students Association. — SEANNA WILLIAMSON

*With Congress now requiring all institutions receiving federal aid to have an event commemorating the constitution...*



# SPORT



# VICK TIMIZED

If I could sit down and have a conversation with Michael Vick, I would probably ask him this question first, "Mike, do you think you have an under-developed frontal cortex?" He would probably stare at me for a

second, wondering why no other sports writer has ever asked him this question. Then, he would probably say, "Nah". I would then say to him, "Mike, the frontal cortex is located inside the place where you put your helmet on when you play football, and it is responsible for your decision making, of many things." Once again there would be the awkward silence, and then he would most likely say, "no comment."

Of course this conversation never happened, but this was one of the ways I tried to rationalize why such a gifted and wealthy athlete would jeopardize everything to fight dogs.

If you are not aware, Michael Vick has plead guilty to federal dog fighting charges. He has been sus-

handedly take apart the Minnesota Vikings, I immediately went to Foot Locker and purchased a Vick jersey. That is the effect this young man had upon the league and fans. The NFL saw dollar signs, and fans saw the second coming of Michael Jordan, only in shoulder pads and cleats.

You either loved him, or you hated him. There was, and still is, no gray area when it comes to the public's opinion of the dog fighter himself. If you listen to talk radio in Atlanta, as I do, one caller believes he is the greatest quarterback ever, while the next caller believes that Vick is not intelligent enough to be an NFL quarterback, and should simply run the ball for the Falcons. Wow, not intelligent enough! This is the polarizing effect Michael Vick has had on Atlanta, and now the country, because of the dog-fighting.

I feel victimized, because I paid \$59.99 for that jersey, and I can't return it to Foot Locker without a receipt. The fans feel victimized, because now they have to watch Joey Harrington quarterback their beloved Falcons. The National Football League feels victimized,

because one of their most recognized and marketable faces, is now going to federal prison. I

believe Michael Vick has finally begun to use his frontal cortex, albeit late, when he spoke these words at his press conference after pleading guilty to federal dog fighting charges: "I'm more disappointed in myself, if anything. It's because of all the young people, young kids, I've let down, who look at Michael Vick as a role model".

As any good reporter would do, I'd have followed up with Mike. I called him and asked, "Mike, it is all over the news, you tested positive for marijuana, you know they test you before trial, right?" Again, the awkward silence, and he replies, "I messed up, didn't I?" Yes Mike, you messed up.

— ROLAND BENTOIT JR.

ended indefinitely by the National Football League, and could possibly face a prison sentence of up to five years. His leisure activity of dog fighting has not only cost him millions in endorsements and salary, but he has now become the rallying figure for all animal rights activists to rail against. Did you know that notes from Vick's apology speech are being auctioned for approximately \$10,000? The proceeds from the sale are allegedly being donated to animal rights organizations. Americans truly love their pets, to the point where human beings are moved down the hierarchy for rescue missions; save the dogs and cats, we will come back for the human beings on the roofs of these homes—remember Katrina?

Since the day Michael Vick was drafted #1 by the Atlanta Falcons, I have been a fan. I am a New York Jet, but the day I saw #7 single

Roland Beniot Jr. is Managing Editor of *Bent Tree News* and an avid sports fan. Tell him what you think via email: [RolandBeniot@BTreeNews.com](mailto:RolandBeniot@BTreeNews.com)



The Clayton State men's basketball team is preparing for another winning season. The 2006-07 season was one of the best in Clayton State Men's basketball history. Clayton State started the season with a 17 game winning streak and ended the season with a 24-8 record. They were ranked No. 2 for eight weeks in the NCAA Division II polls, and made their first appearance in the NCAA Division II National Tournament.

To continue the success of the program, Coach Gibbons has signed eight new recruits. Among the new recruits are Division I senior transfer,

Armel Traore dit Nignan from Drake University. Traore dit Nignan is a 6-8, 240 pound power forward, who will add experience and size to the team. Also signing with Clayton State is local recruit freshman power forward, Torrin Green. This is a great achievement for the Clayton State basketball program in their efforts to recruit local high school players.

With the addition of eight new talented recruits and 6 returning players, there is no doubt that the men's team is looking to make their second appearance in the NCAA Division II National Tournament.

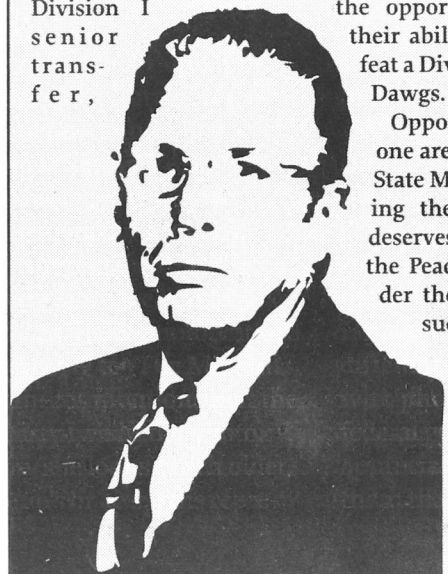
Clayton State is scheduled to open the season with an exhibition game against the University of Georgia. This is the first time the Clayton State Men's basketball team will face a Division I opponent. The Georgia match-up will allow Clayton State the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to compete, and defeat a Division I program like the Dawgs.

Opportunities such as this one are indicators that Clayton State Men's basketball is receiving the national notoriety it deserves as an elite program in the Peach Belt Conference. Under the guidance of the most successful coach in Clayton State Men's basketball history, this team will no doubt have their eye on the prize, the national championship.—

NICHELLE LENTON

Men's  
Basketball

Eye on the Prize







# Season to Remember

For those who think Clayton State is only known for academics, think again. The women's basketball team continued their winning ways by going 26-9, winning the Peach Belt Conference and Advancing to the NCAA Tournament, where they lost in the "Final Four." Coach Dennis Cox, the head coach of the women's team, sat down with us and gave the inside scoop on how last season ended in his eyes and what they look forward to achieving this season.

**BTN:** In your opinion how did the season end for your team?

**DC:** Obviously it was a dream season, because success like that doesn't happen every year, things fell into place with team chemistry and looking back, it was an awesome season.

**BTN:** What do you think contributed to team chemistry last season?

**DC:** Having a good group of kids that are evaluated not only in athletic ability, but also in character which is real important to us.

**BTN:** How does the addition of Brittney Hall and Tierra Yates change the dynamic of the team?

**DC:** I am not sure because Tierra Yates was a late signee but a great player and solid defender. Brittney Hall will not play this season which is a blow to us but we will red shirt her and look forward to seeing her playing for us. Shanrika Hardeman will make an impact for us (transferred from Columbus State) she knows this league and I am tickled that she is playing for our side now.

**BTN:** What do you think was the greatest challenge you had to overcome last season?

**DC:** There were a couple that come to mind, we lost a player to injury and with only 10 scholarships it can cause a concern for depth and the second obstacle was getting stale and dropping three of four conference games. It was a low point in the season, but we did some soul searching and went back to the basics and did not lose again until Nebraska.

**BTN:** What teams will be the biggest challenge on the 2007-2008 schedule?

**DC:** This will be the toughest Peach Belt Conference ever, but our two historically tough teams are Georgia College and Columbus State. However, Lander University will be our biggest challenge as they could be the most talented team in the division.

**BTN:** Describe some of the traditions you and your staff have outside of bowling and community service with the team.

**DC:** I think I have said this in every interview I have done when people talk about our success. The chemistry part is important, but there is something special about us that I cannot claim, and it is not something I brought but something I learned from Coach Gordon Gibbons and that is "The Press," the defensive style of play that we run. Coach G's insight has brought my team consistent success, which is something I have not had in my career. Every player that comes into the program knows that after Labor Day, they have to run 5 miles to measure where we are in conditioning and what we need to work on. The girls are in real good shape, we change bodies because of the way we play.

**BTN:** How do you replace the leadership of your top three scorers that graduated last year?

**DC:** We Graduated 6 seniors and I am not too concerned, we have 4 returning players in Roberta Phillips, Lynette Jackson, Shantel Ragin, Marie St. Fort. This is the worst cliché but we do not rebuild here, we reload. I worry about replacing the character on the team, but I feel we are alright; I am still getting to know these girls.

**BTN:** The school Web site has you slated to win the title this year.

**DC:** Don't misunderstand the headline on the school athletic site. The reason our schedule has a "national title" feel to it, is because we were playing the national champs from last year. Having a tough schedule gives this program attention and we accept that attention and could possibly be pre-season ranked.

I feel the right coach has the right team, and I hope that you will join me and the wrecking crew as we show our support for the women's basketball team. It's easy to support a team from a distance, but what's stopping you from being present the night history is made? Sometimes a little help can go a long way; the women's basketball team is proof of that. Show your face in the place and support our Lakers. — SHANE MCCRARY

SHANE MCCRARY (SPORTS@BTREENEWS.COM) is the Sports Editor for BENT TREE NEWS.



# CAMPUS

Faculty Spotlight

If you are one of the students privileged to have taken Dr. David Ludley's Art History (Art

3500) you may be interested in some art history about David Ludley.

Dr. Ludley began his career as a sought after artist when he was young. As an eight year old, he entered a promotional competition for the movie, "The Fly", and won first prize. If you remember the kid in school who drew amazing sketches, Ludley was one of them. You could say all artists have something up their sleeve, and for Ludley this is literal, because, from then on, he was often asked to draw 'tattoos' on his classmates' arms and hands. Although Ludley admits his parents may have been skeptical of this new hobby, he explains the skepticism "reinforced his interest in art considerably." However, as a high school student, he was discouraged from taking art because as was the belief at the time, "art was just for students who weren't going to college."

After high school, he set out on a journey to retrace the footsteps of famous explorer, Steven Mac. While in California, he received his first "A" in an art course, which directed him back to Illinois. There, he

began pursuing his passion for art. While a student at Illinois State University, he was awarded a commission to paint a series of murals in the student union. Ludley remembers his jeans, hair and especially his boots being covered in paint. He attracted so much attention, in fact, that he eventually had to work long hours at night and listened to Santana to complete the project.

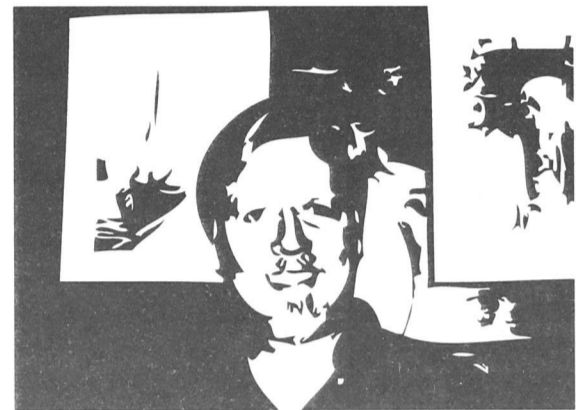
Like any great teacher, Ludley is always looking for new ways to make his lectures more effective. He practices what he preaches as well, as is evidenced by student comments. If you'd like a chuckle, it's worth checking out the comments about him on RateMyProfessors.com.

Ever a student of the arts, Ludley's continued research in art history has garnered him two Fulbright Scholarships, which have taken him to Thailand, Israel, and Egypt. These experiences enrich his lessons with a multi-cultural flavor. He has presented at numerous conferences, been published in periodicals, and was selected as "one of the foremost art historians of Georgia" to present at the Museum of Art. However, he does not ignore the other muses, for he is an avid writer and musician. He is currently writing a novel about his travels out west, which highlights Indian Mythology. After researching hu-

mor as a teaching technique, he published *From Snickers to Substance: Parody as a Pedagogical Tool*. Additionally he writes poetry, and for years, has been the advisor for the *CYGNET*. As a musician, Ludley played in "Kelly's Seed and Feed Marching Aboinables" in which he and his compatriots were voted the most mischievous band.

But what is most dear to him are his three children, Justin, Nicholas, and Marissa. All three are either teaching or studying math or science.

Perhaps in a way, you can relate to this story. Perhaps you have some talents that are bubbling up under the surface, and your experience here at Clayton State will be the fertile ground to unearth and develop your potential. Take the next step and discover what might be hidden up your sleeve. — VICKI FAIR



## Bookstore to Return to Student Center

In fall 2008, The Clayton State University bookstore will return to its original location; The Student Center. The move comes after recent plans were drafted to expand the University's dining hall. The relocation of the bookstore is one of many adjustments that have resulted from the gradual increase in student population, and subsequently, the development of freshman dormitories. ¶ As Clayton State University rapidly evolves, change is necessary. "Our goal is to serve the campus more effectively and efficiently," said bookstore manager Walter Moore. He explained his desire to be more effective with merchandising choices, goods, and products, particularly because of the addition of dormitories. "Stores at other universities have a lot more goods and services for students that board at the school," said Moore. ¶ The bookstore expansion and relocation project will be funded by The Office of Business and Operations. According to Moore, the organization spearheads the development of new facilities at the University. "They have the wallet," he said, although David Hefflin, Vice President of Business & Operations, makes the final decision. ¶ Currently, The Office of Business and Operations is waiting for approval from the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, before they can distribute any funds that would apply to the project. "We will build a better bookstore," explained Mr. Moore, who has held the position of bookstore manager since May 14th 2007, when he was hired to replace Jenny Godby, who retired. At the end of the interview, he requested that students and faculty continue to visit the bookstore Website, which will also be upgraded. ¶ Finally, he asks all students to "stay in touch, keep supporting us. Things will get better. In another year or so, you are going to like what you see." — MELLISSA ROLLE

PHOTOGRAPH BY Mellissa Rolle







# Nursing Builds Forward

Renovations, additional classes, and newscholarships are just some of the major changes in the building that now houses both the Continuing Education and Nursing Programs. Even a new graduate program has been added, taking students to new levels of success.

Some had the misconception that the Continuing Education would decrease in program size due to combined housing with the Nursing program; however, it is prospering and has also added a few more workshops, such as the Landscape-Horticulture Certificate Program that will meet at 10 a.m. on Wednesdays, from October 3rd through February 3rd, and the World-Class Practices in Manufacturing Organizations workshop that will be held Wednesday, October 17th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. A total of twenty classes will be added to the program.

Also, the lower level is making room for a new Simulation Lab scheduled to open this fall according to John Shiffert, Director of University Relations. Three rooms are being cleared while funding is sought in order to supply and install the equipment which is expected to "enhance clinical practice for undergraduate students," said Shiffert. The state of the art equipment will provide students with simulated patient scenarios that will give them an advantage upon entering the workforce. "Lab simulation and actual patient care scenarios help students become more attuned to problems they are likely to encounter in the clinical world before actually working with real patients," said Katrina Barnes, R.N., M.S.N. Assistant Professor of Nursing and Lab Coordinator.

The new lab will be divided into three sections. First, the far end has been established for critical care with resemblance of an ICU (Intensive Care Unit) that will have manikins with life-like features. The state of the

art manikins, named Sim Man and Sim baby, "actually talk and can be programmed with a variety of physiological problems," such as elevation in blood pressure. Additionally, to make them more realistic said Barnes, "other symptoms of hypertension such as the application of cheek blush to create a flushed appearance and having the 'patient' complain of a headache will add more of a reality dimension to the simulation."

The middle section is being designated as a health assessment lab where student nurses can practice giving physicals. "It will also have a classroom-type set up for lectures, presentations, and demonstrations," added Shiffert.

The section that will be towards the front will be set up similarly to the already present lab with hospital beds, where students will be able to practice procedures such as administering medications and the insertion of Foley catheters, along with injections, changing linens, learning the operation of Stryker beds, and other clinical techniques.

Significant financial additions will also be made to the Nursing program. The program received \$1.6 million in scholarship money for "Minority and Socially Disadvantaged Students," said Dr. Sue Odom, Coordinator for the Master of Science of Nursing program.

Also, additional financial aid will be available to disadvantaged students. The School of Nursing received a \$50,000 grant from the Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Georgia, Inc. Over the last five years, Kaiser has given our nursing students \$250,000 in scholarships to Clayton State nursing students. "This year, they wanted to do more. Evonne Yancey, Director of Government and Community Affairs for Kaiser, sent an award letter

to Dr. Lisa Eichelberger, Dean of the School of Nursing. "As you know, our organization has worked hard to improve the nursing shortage in Georgia by contributing over \$700,000 for nursing scholarships over the past five years. This grant will allow us to address this issue by providing support beyond nursing scholarships," the letter stated.

With this major financial support, grants can be awarded to nursing students with particular needs and meet the prescribed criteria. According to Eichelberger, "It's impossible to cover all the needs of the school in one proposal." Eichelberger also goes on to share how well the grant "dovetails with our Nursing Working Diversity grant," (recently awarded by the Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration). "It fills in a gap we were unable to subsidize with that grant."

Along with the Nursing program receiving more funding for grants and scholarships, a graduate program has been added where scholars can obtain their MSN (Master of Science in Nursing). The program also intends to sponsor a workshop for the other faculty grantees in the Atlanta area in the spring. This workshop is designed to assist nursing faculty with mentoring, cultural competencies, and strategies for teaching culturally diverse students.

Finally, the nursing labs are also undergoing a major renovation that will make them three times bigger in size, according to Odom. With new state-of-the-art equipment to make lectures more hands on and comprehensive, the completion of the renovation is highly anticipated by students and faculty. Odom said that the renovation should be done by October.

— ALECIA BROWN

PHOTOGRAPH BY Veronica Ingram

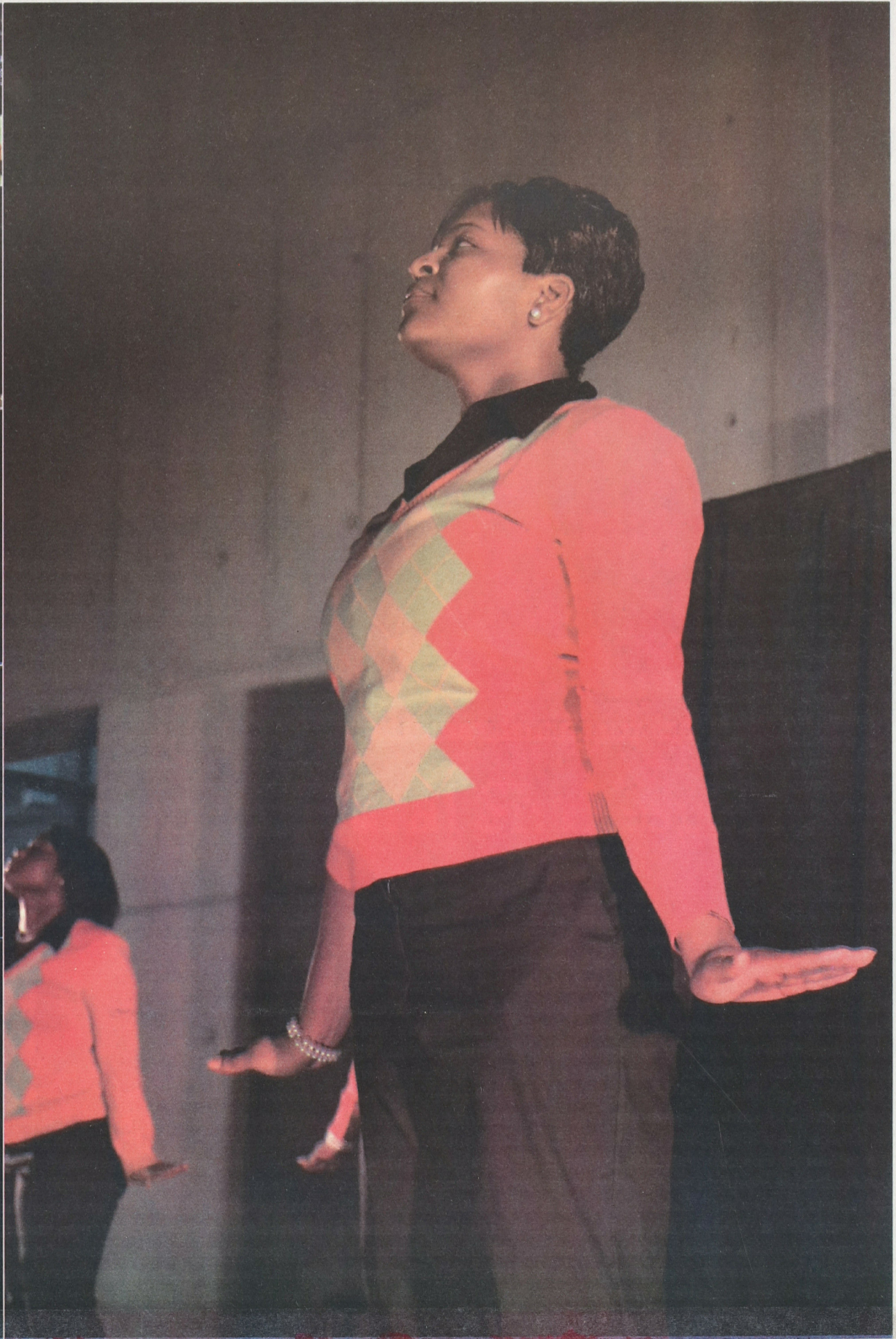
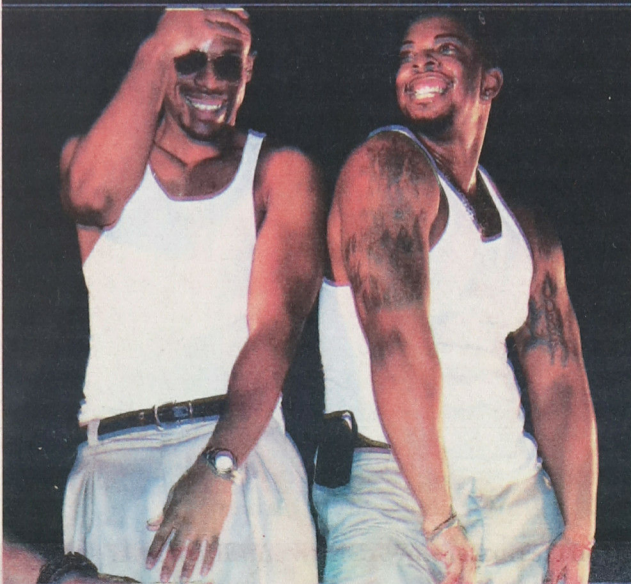
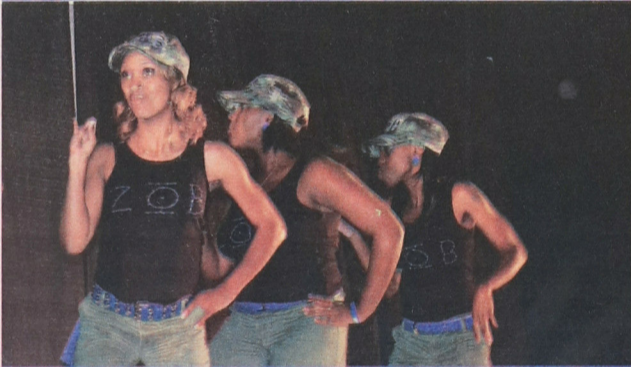
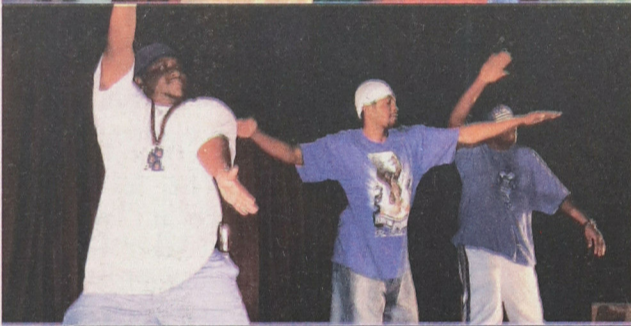




Organizations at the Student Involvement Fair and Cookout showed what they had to offer in the booths that filled the UC Quad on September 26th. The annual fair attracted over three hundred students. Later that day, following the soulful performances by the school gospel choir, a dynamic dance number from the trio that represented Illusions dance team and a death-defying show from the Laker Cheerleaders, fraternities and sororities put their best foot forward in a step showcase that held the audience captive. Public Safety estimated attendance to be over seven hundred.

— ALECIA BROWN

PHOTOGRAPHS BY Ciji Fox and Kevin Pratt





# CREATE



*How she became Clayton State's First star to claim a Theater Degree, and how she had a great time getting it.*

## Brittany Loffert

Her first play here with DePoy was "Hamlet the Musical." She says it was amazing to start with a show like that because it was a new approach and Prof. DePoy had written the music himself. She also performed in "Coffee Girl," which was a student production, as well as, "A Midsummer Night's Dream" in which DePoy brought in Jeff Watkins, the Artistic Director of the Shakespeare Tavern, to direct the show.

Loffert also performed in "The Conference of the Birds" and last semester's "A Little Girl in Green Shoes." Her favorite role (it was an impressive performance) was in "A Little Girl in Green Shoes." It was challenging and she's always played in comedic roles and light-hearted plays, but this was deeply emotional because it required her to explore the depths of a troubled character. The girl had grown up with an alcoholic mother and physically abusive father. Tapping into the serious, real life character of Bridget expanded her range and depth as an actress.

Loffert explained that her best experiences at Clayton have revolved around the Theater program and how it has grown year after year. She enjoyed having input on which theater classes would be offered and has seen her personal ideas have a real effect on the program.

Clayton State's first Bachelors of Arts in Theater will be awarded to Brittany Loffert, a true star of Clayton Theater. She has not only played the lead in plays on campus, she was popular in her professional role in Catherine Triechmann's "Crooked." She attributes much of her fortunes to the Theater Department here and, in particular, Prof. Phillip Depoy.

of theater," she elaborated. She especially appreciates his real world examples and that he brings working theater professionals to interact with the students. "I'm very lucky to have him as a role model for my career."

Loffert never thought she would be a part of something so personal nor that it would happen in her four years here. Theater has her see things

program. Loffert feels that the new program will allow students to be richly involved, grow, develop, and be appreciated for their thoughts and ideas.

She encourages other students to take theater and drama classes, and she hopes they are inspired by one of Clayton State's productions. Theater has more to offer than just being on stage, there is history and technology. She also hopes

**...she never knows what can be used when developing a new character.**

After graduating Eagle's Landing High in 2004, Loffert came to Clayton majoring in Communication & Media Studies. In what could be called a twist of fate, this was the same time Prof. Depoy joined the faculty here. She enjoyed taking his theater classes and it didn't take much convincing for her to minor in Theater (there was no major at the time). Prof. DePoy's personality and genuine concern for his students made her experience wonderful.

"His sense of humor is amazing! He really knows how to conduct a class so that his students have fun and learn at the same time. Prof. DePoy has really helped me to see outside of the textbook world

in new and different ways. She looks at people and studies everything because she never knows what can be used when developing a new character. She learned that it's not just about theater, but being a well read intellectual. History is learned from theater, literature, anything and everything that someone puts into a play, she wants to learn more about.

Ms. Loffert has acted from a young age, appearing in TV commercials, shows and print ads. As she got older her appreciations have turned to theater more, and she intends now to work mostly as an on-stage actress.

that others will experience her work and view theatrical pieces in a new way. She wants to help them discover new emotions and inspire them.

After graduation this spring, Loffert wants to work in or around Atlanta, a least for a while. She wants to work and help train others on the stage. Atlanta has so many opportunities and it just makes sense to start near home. If theater leads her to other cities, that will be great too. She would like to thank Prof. Philip DePoy and Dr. Tom Barnett for everything they have done to make it possible to graduate as the first theater major from Clayton State University.

— KELLY ATKINSON



Recently, we had the pleasure of sitting down with Clayton State University's Theater Department Director, Prof. Phillip Depoy. Depoy's enthusiasm for the theater, as well as his students, is part of his talent within the industry that is so celebrated. Depoy started getting paid as part of the industry in 1965 and has been at Clayton State University for the last four years.

His objective is to teach and open doors of opportunity within the theater department. The department gives students opportunities to get jobs in the theater industry—acting, producing and writing scripts. With the arrival of Prof. Depoy, students went from learning basic skills to actually making a living with them.

This year the department has several productions in queue that are sure to be a treat. *Supernatural Shakespeare*, October 13 @ 8pm in Spivey Hall, is the primary student production this semester. All acts will be based on scenes from Shakespeare's plays involving witches and ghosts, and will feature three professional actors from Atlanta: Hugh Adams, Shontelle Thrash and Jen Akin. If you are unable to attend the October 13th performance, the performance will occur again the week after Thanksgiving, November 29 & 30th, December 1st, inside the Clayton State Theatre.

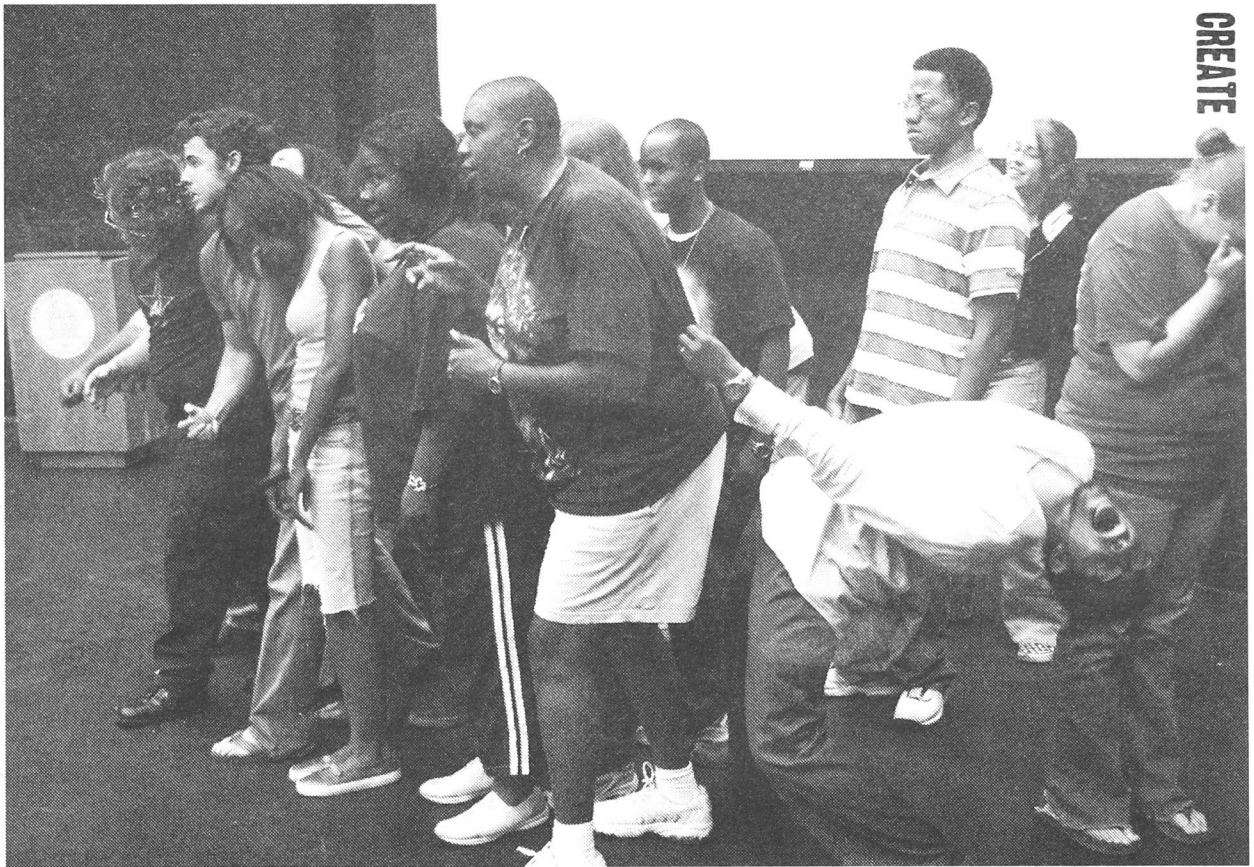
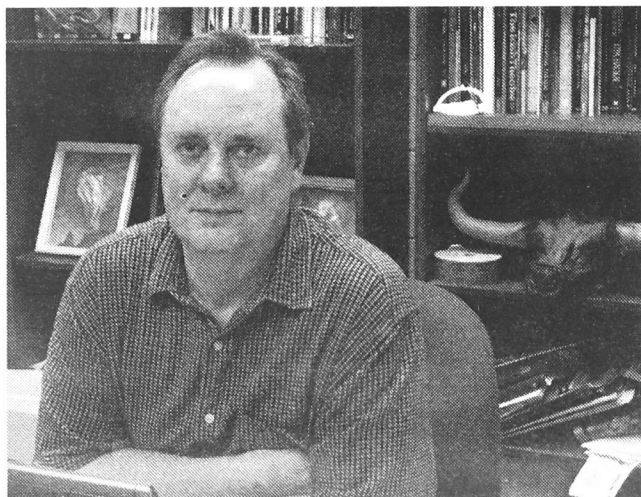
*Supernatural Shakespeare* will be choreographed by world-renowned Nicole Livieratos and will involve twenty five of Clayton State's theater students. The production at Spivey Hall will be free for all, and the production at Clayton State Theater will be free for students but \$5 for others. Students work all semester to put productions together and plays are vehicles for progress to theater majors.

Depoy also filled us in on what's cooking for spring. The second production of the year will be "Writers to the Sea" written by Irish playwright, Synge, in collaboration with Burneau University. "Writers to the Sea" is a short play, lasting only forty minutes. Clayton State thespians will perform in the first act and Burneau University will perform an opera version in the second act.

Also, theater majors and other theater students, will present performance art pieces that allow for individual expression. Depoy particularly enjoys these because they allow him and audiences to see what styles students enjoy performing most.

Please join them as they prepare for another exciting year of theater here at Clayton State. For more information about upcoming productions this year, visit <http://a-s.clayton.edu/cstheater>.

— KELLY ATKINSON



## TRICKS n' TREATS

Clayton State Theater continues its transformation



## Supernatural Shakespeare

A Spectacle filled with ghosts, witches and spooky things.

October 13, 2007  
8 p.m.  
in Spivy Hall



**FREE! ONE SHOW ONLY**

Sponsored by Chris Tryba-Cofrin and David Cofrin, Patrick and Joanne Burke, and The Georgia Council for the Humanities





## Evidence of Absence: The Great Depression

From 1929 to 1933, the Great Depression rocked our nation and changed what it meant to be American for generations to come. It is hard to imagine a mother in the fields giving birth to a child and then getting right back up to work. The National Archive near campus is making it a little easier to understand. "The Migrant Mother" is just one of over 150 photographs from the Great Depression that is being showcased. The exhibition, "This Great Nation Will Endure: Photographs of the Great Depression", is currently on display until November 17th.

Karen Kopanezos, a tour guide at

the archive, explains that the exhibit "focuses more on the photographers, all of whom President Franklin Roosevelt hired for the Farm Security Administration (FSA) because he wanted people to get a general view of how Americans were living during the Great Depression since we didn't have TVs back then," than the photographs themselves. Pointing to "The Migrant Mother," Kopanezos mentions that the mother was thirty-two in the photo, "but notice how she looks much older, like in her late 40's or 50's. This repre-

sented a typical American mother during the Great Depression," she says.

Some photographers featured in the exhibit include Dorothy Lange, whose photographs are used the most; John Steinbeck, author of *GRAPES OF WRATH* (1939); Ben Shahn; and Gordon Parks, the only African American photographer for the FSA. They were sent to different regions of the US and return with photographs to be used by the federal government. "And people really appreciated this because it showed them that their president cared about

them, and sometimes when we have visitors here at the Archives seeing all this and remembering it from when they were really young, they tell me that Roosevelt was a savior," Kopanezos says. One photograph in particular, marked the people's feelings for President Roosevelt entitled "Negro Woman in Her Bedroom" as it depicts a woman's poignant reaction to his death.

The photographs bring to life the history and effects of the Great Depression as observed by their photographers. Stop by and visit, you won't regret it.

— SHEHNAZ HAQQANI



# FEATURE

# How last year's financial aid became this year's unreported cash income LOADING PELL AWAY

More than 2,000 Clayton State students could be getting more money from the federal government and access to other need based grants. As a result of a test case presented to Financial Aid by Bent Tree News, the office has changed its procedures for determining income amounts used to determine aid levels. In light of these changes, our test case was reviewed, and this student will be getting a larger PELL grant. They will have their refund in hand in a matter of weeks.

With a third of the campus already receiving some PELL grant money, many students should be able to increase their awards as well. It is unclear if any students not already receiving a PELL grant will now qualify.

The policy change only affects students who received financial aid (loans or grants) last year beyond the cost of tuition and books. Other students, however, may have made a mistake on their paperwork due to incorrect assumptions about the purpose of one form in particular; the Low-Income Worksheet.

Most students find the financial aid process frustrating and difficult, and mistakes can cost real money. For those students who are selected to complete our Financial Aid Department's Low-Income Worksheet, a mistake is easy to make.

According to Financial Aid Director Charlene Morgan, when a student completes their FAFSA and reports little or no income, this "raises a red flag" with the federal government. They assume that, unless you are living off the land, you have basic needs that require some sort of income to meet. The Financial Aid Office assists the government

by requiring some students to fill out this Low-Income Worksheet.

Morgan explained that the worksheet is used to find hidden sources of income. For example, someone who works odd jobs for extra income and didn't report it on their taxes.

Another source might be in-kind income provided by friends or family.

According to Financial Aid Counselor Krystal Houston, they determine your unreported income by adding up your total expenses and subtracting your wages and other excluded income. Our test case's total expenses added up to \$9,480, wages were \$327, leaving \$9,153 "to be reported on Worksheet B as money received not reported elsewhere on FAFSA," according to an internal Financial Aid document related to the case.

Our test case had reported \$6,000 in financial aid, including loans, but this was not used when creating the \$9,143 figure which was supposed to represent money used to cover expenses. However, this financial aid was used to cover many expenses and was, in fact, the student's primary source of income. Figured this way, student loans had made them too rich to qualify for a full PELL grant.

After an initial meeting about

the case, Director Morgan researched institutional, Federal and Department of Education policies. She found that information about expenses paid with previous financial aid could be gathered, but not used.

**EFC** The Expected Family Contribution (EFC) measures your family's financial strength, and is used to determine your eligibility for federal student aid during one school year. You receive an EFC based on the processing results of your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

According to Assistant Director Shannon Kelsey, the previous decision not to count financial aid as excluded income was a misinterpretation of the policy.

Director Morgan concluded that if anyone believes they might be affected by this change, they should contact the financial aid office. Cases will only be reviewed at the students' request, and only the current semester is eligible for revision. Again, if anyone feels they are affected by this issue or believes they made a mistake on their Low-Income Worksheet (or any other financial aid paperwork,) they should contact the financial aid office as soon as possible. They are ready to assist you.

— CHRISTINA SEMPLE

**Cash** support is given either in the form of money or money paid on your (the student's) behalf. You must report such cash received as untaxed income. For example if a friend or relative gives you grocery money, it must be reported as untaxed income on FAFSA Worksheet B. If the friend or relative pays your electric bill or part of your rent, you must also report those payments.

**In-Kind** support is income that is not in the form of cash or other objects that can be resold.

Examples

- Using a room at an aunt's house and eating meals with her family
- Free housing or a housing allowance provided to military personnel or clergy
- Housing or food allowances provided by an employer

Worksheets  
Calendar Year 2006

Do not mail these worksheets in with your application. Keep these worksheets; your school may ask to see them.

**Worksheet A**  
Report Annual Amounts

Student/Spouse For question 40

\$	Earned income credit from IRS Form 1040—line 66a; 1040A—line 40a; or 1040EZ—line 8a.	\$
\$	Additional child tax credit from IRS Form 1040—line 68 or 1040A—line 41	\$
\$	Welfare benefits, including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Don't include food stamps or subsidized housing.	\$
\$	Social Security benefits received for all household members as reported in question 90 (or 66 for your parents) that were not taxed (such as SSI). Report benefits paid to parents in the Parents column, and benefits paid directly to student (or spouse) in the Student/Spouse column.	\$
\$	— Enter in question 40.	Enter in question 84. — \$

**Worksheet B**  
Report Annual Amounts

Student/Spouse For question 41

\$	Payments to tax-deferred pension and savings plans (paid directly or withheld from earnings), including, but not limited to, amounts reported on the W-2 Form in Boxes 12a through 12d, codes D, E, F, G, H and S.	\$
\$	IRA deductions and payments to self-employed SEP, SIMPLE, and Keogh and other qualified plans from IRS Form 1040—line 28—line 32 or 1040A—line 17	\$
\$	Child support received for all children. Don't include foster care or adoption payments.	\$
\$	Tax exempt interest income from IRS Form 1040—line 8b or 1040A—line 8b	\$
\$	15b) or (here) or 1040A—lines (mers only) clergy and others	\$
\$	slency & Indemnity	\$
\$	as workers' Benefits, disability, equal pay if you are (ia plans)	\$
\$	on this form XXXXXXXX	\$
\$	r in question 85. — \$	\$

Parents For question 84

1040—line 50 or 1040A—line 50

State University  
Low Income Worksheet  
07-2008

(678) 466-4155 (Main)  
(678) 466-4159 (Fax)

Social Security # \_\_\_\_\_ Laker ID # \_\_\_\_\_

efficient to meet basic living expenses. Please complete the following a itemize your monthly expenses (regardless of who paid them) and I have a number on it even if it is 0. \*\*Additional information may n will be returned to you.

pendent student. Otherwise, if you are an independent student, go t

ear, please specify the months in the spaces indicated below. \*\* \$ 575 From Feb. To October

transportation (bus fare, car payment, car insurance)	\$	From	To	\$	From	To
childcare	\$	From	To	\$	From	To
medical	\$	From	To	\$	From	To
her ( )	\$	From	To	\$	From	To

number 2006.

TANF	\$	From	To
Food Stamps	\$	From	To
Housing Subsidy (Ex. Section 8)	\$	From	To
Cash gifts	\$	From	To
Private Loans	\$	From	To
Money from Savings	\$	From	To
Financial Aid (include student loans)	\$	From	To
Other ( )	\$	From	To

## SECTION B - Independent Student

A student is considered independent if they are at least one of the following:  
born before January 1, 1984; married; an orphan/ward of the court until age 18; both parents are deceased; working on masters degree; Veteran; have legal dependent(s) other than your children or spouse who receive more than half of their support from you.

Section B is to be completed by you if you are considered an independent student according to the statement above.

\*\*If any funds were not received or paid for the entire year, please specify the months in the spaces indicated below. \*\*

Example: Housing \$ 575 From Feb. To October

### Step One.

List your expenses for January 2006–December 2006.

#### Expenses for 2006

(Enter monthly amounts, not annual)

Housing	\$	From	To	Transportation (bus fare, car payment, car insurance)	\$	From	To
Utilities	\$	From	To	Childcare	\$	From	To
Food	\$	From	To	Medical	\$	From	To
Clothing	\$	From	To	Other ( )	\$	From	To

### Step Two.

List any income or resources received for January 2006–December 2006.

#### Income / Resources for 2006

(Enter monthly amounts, not annual)

Wages	\$	From	To	TANF	\$	From	To
Parents	\$	From	To	Food Stamps	\$	From	To
Expenses paid by others (Ex. Relatives/significant others)	\$	From	To	Housing Subsidy (Ex. Section 8)	\$	From	To
Child Support	\$	From	To	Cash gifts	\$	From	To
Alimony	\$	From	To	Private Loans	\$	From	To
Social Security/Disability Benefits	\$	From	To	Money from Savings	\$	From	To
VA (excluding educational benefits)	\$	From	To	Financial Aid (include student loans)	\$	From	To
Unemployment Compensation	\$	From	To	Other ( )	\$	From	To

### Step Three.

Please explain any circumstances that would further clarify the information reported above. Attach additional papers if needed.

## SECTION C (Required by all)

### Certification & Signatures

I certify that the information provided is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Parent's Signature (Dependent Student Only) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Step Three (Parent's Information Only)

Please explain any circumstances that would further clarify the information reported above. Attach additional papers if needed.

\*\*Go to Section C on back of worksheet for signatures.

CHRISTINA SEMPLE (CHRISTINASEMPLE@BTREENEWS.COM) is Associate Editor of BENT TREE NEWS. Interested in writing? Email her.



# Petition for the Amendment of the Clayton State University Discrimination Policy

Toke Adetayo  
President

3

The administration should amend their Non-Discrimination policy to include religion, creed and sexual orientation. I believe that faculty, staff and students on campus should not be discriminated against because they might be gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered. I believe we should honor diversity and inclusiveness on campus and that a professor or staff member should not be fired simply for their sexuality, religion or beliefs.

TOKE ADETAYO	<i>Toke Adetayo</i>	Kevin Pratt	<i>Kevin Pratt</i>	Mark A. Robinson	<i>Mark A. Robinson</i>	Vanessa Douglas	<i>Vanessa Douglas</i>
Michael Harrison	<i>Michael Harrison</i>	Maya Hoover	<i>Maya Hoover</i>	Imanol Joffe-Eke	<i>Imanol Joffe-Eke</i>	Enca O'Neil	<i>Enca O'Neil</i>
Harsh Patel	<i>Harsh Patel</i>	Sarah Hoover	<i>Sarah Hoover</i>	Haimita Mod	<i>Haimita Mod</i>	Tracy Stief	<i>Tracy Stief</i>
Therese Nych	<i>Therese Nych</i>	De-N. Madock-Roberson	<i>De-N. Madock-Roberson</i>	Thuy H	<i>Thuy H</i>	Stephanie Harkin	<i>Stephanie Harkin</i>
Khanna LE	<i>Khanna LE</i>	Levi Jekis	<i>Levi Jekis</i>	Kelce Al	<i>Kelce Al</i>	Nyke Nelson	<i>Nyke Nelson</i>
Carrie Richards	<i>Carrie Richards</i>	Emily Springer	<i>Emily Springer</i>	Cater Gajda	<i>Cater Gajda</i>	Lara E. Jones	<i>Lara E. Jones</i>
Ashley Stewart	<i>Ashley Stewart</i>	Dimitra Mpanali	<i>Dimitra Mpanali</i>	Kelly Bush	<i>Kelly Bush</i>	Modena McFarland	<i>Modena McFarland</i>
Justine Chime	<i>Justine Chime</i>	Netasha Dixon	<i>Netasha Dixon</i>	Jaussen Au	<i>Jaussen Au</i>	Brittany Melcher	<i>Brittany Melcher</i>
Immaculata Cephal	<i>Immaculata Cephal</i>	Pragiel Neal	<i>Pragiel Neal</i>	Tonyy Givison	<i>Tonyy Givison</i>	Christina Rahn	<i>Christina Rahn</i>
SAMIH OLUKUNBO	<i>SAMIH OLUKUNBO</i>	Anthony Thompson	<i>Anthony Thompson</i>	Gina L. Gillis	<i>Gina L. Gillis</i>	Christy Mann	<i>Christy Mann</i>
Reginald Duran	<i>Reginald Duran</i>	Melissa McFarlin	<i>Melissa McFarlin</i>	Marissa Tonda	<i>Marissa Tonda</i>	Trimmer McCrean	<i>Trimmer McCrean</i>
Kristian Phillips	<i>Kristian Phillips</i>	Paul Cagle	<i>Paul Cagle</i>	Jessica White	<i>Jessica White</i>	Celeste Anderson	<i>Celeste Anderson</i>
Roy Taylor	<i>Roy Taylor</i>	Yolanda Holmes	<i>Yolanda Holmes</i>	Mark Wolfe	<i>Mark Wolfe</i>	Larissa Lamar	<i>Larissa Lamar</i>
AZURIE KUCIEMAS	<i>AZURIE KUCIEMAS</i>	Jaquar Dabbs	<i>Jaquar Dabbs</i>	Deanna Sawyer	<i>Deanna Sawyer</i>	SMILE MYNNE	<i>SMILE MYNNE</i>
Morganz Mackay	<i>Morganz Mackay</i>	Nadelle Atkinson	<i>Nadelle Atkinson</i>	Tony Barry	<i>Tony Barry</i>	Mark Parker	<i>Mark Parker</i>
Dominique Brumfield	<i>Dominique Brumfield</i>	Nadelle Atkinson	<i>Nadelle Atkinson</i>	Bernady Alden	<i>Bernady Alden</i>	Shannon Allums	<i>Shannon Allums</i>
Ashley Davis	<i>Ashley Davis</i>	Rahid Sanyal	<i>Rahid Sanyal</i>	Erika Bennett	<i>Erika Bennett</i>	Rachel Harper	<i>Rachel Harper</i>
Latrice Bamber	<i>Latrice Bamber</i>	Alvarez Thomas	<i>Alvarez Thomas</i>	Katrina Sanchez-Davis	<i>Katrina Sanchez-Davis</i>	Sheena Robinson	<i>Sheena Robinson</i>
Carlos Lopez	<i>Carlos Lopez</i>	Kass Halphen	<i>Kass Halphen</i>	Rich Ann	<i>Rich Ann</i>	Malonei Turner	<i>Malonei Turner</i>
Sheena Williams	<i>Sheena Williams</i>	Brendan Johnson	<i>Brendan Johnson</i>	Yara Craker	<i>Yara Craker</i>	Landi Olyallo	<i>Landi Olyallo</i>
James D. VA	<i>James D. VA</i>	Gianna Camargo	<i>Gianna Camargo</i>	Pia Torres	<i>Pia Torres</i>	Callie Montgomery	<i>Callie Montgomery</i>
Zachia Kelly	<i>Zachia Kelly</i>	Alex Higgins	<i>Alex Higgins</i>	Tiffany R. Buxton	<i>Tiffany R. Buxton</i>	amber williams	<i>amber williams</i>
Akshaya Subraman	<i>Akshaya Subraman</i>	Steven B. Russell	<i>Steven B. Russell</i>	Dana Stoves	<i>Dana Stoves</i>	Shawun Brewer	<i>Shawun Brewer</i>
Kesara Aladeh	<i>Kesara Aladeh</i>	Brandon Caldwell	<i>Brandon Caldwell</i>	Cristina Gray	<i>Cristina Gray</i>	Tony Austin	<i>Tony Austin</i>
Fani Jimenez	<i>Fani Jimenez</i>	Melanie Thomas	<i>Melanie Thomas</i>	Milia Bass	<i>Milia Bass</i>	Tenneh Freeman	<i>Tenneh Freeman</i>
Latoya Ferreira	<i>Latoya Ferreira</i>	Courtney Gibson	<i>Courtney Gibson</i>	Lin Williams	<i>Lin Williams</i>	Frances Adame	<i>Frances Adame</i>
Leandra De Los Angeles	<i>Leandra De Los Angeles</i>	Laura Baker	<i>Laura Baker</i>	Temperance Neal	<i>Temperance Neal</i>	Michelle Carter	<i>Michelle Carter</i>
Joseph Alexander	<i>Joseph Alexander</i>	Diara Walker	<i>Diara Walker</i>	Ashlea Doyle	<i>Ashlea Doyle</i>	Jesse Ford	<i>Jesse Ford</i>
Billy D Evans	<i>Billy D Evans</i>	Rachet Aquino	<i>Rachet Aquino</i>	Serena Childress	<i>Serena Childress</i>	Kunay Science	<i>Kunay Science</i>
Kamal O. Kasim	<i>Kamal O. Kasim</i>	Rahid Alexander	<i>Rahid Alexander</i>	Jessica Gardner	<i>Jessica Gardner</i>	Brittany Lott	<i>Brittany Lott</i>
Gary Garland II	<i>Gary Garland II</i>	Josh Weyfel	<i>Josh Weyfel</i>	Jessie Harrigan	<i>Jessie Harrigan</i>	Shartan Houston	<i>Shartan Houston</i>
Janita Harris	<i>Janita Harris</i>	Victoria Jensen	<i>Victoria Jensen</i>	Davidella Robinson	<i>Davidella Robinson</i>	Jennifer Jones	<i>Jennifer Jones</i>
Dimitra Mpanali	<i>Dimitra Mpanali</i>	TAKEVA DAVIS	<i>TAKEVA DAVIS</i>	Erin Deavens	<i>Erin Deavens</i>	Adam Bridges	<i>Adam Bridges</i>
Netasha Dixon	<i>Netasha Dixon</i>	Johnathan Williams	<i>Johnathan Williams</i>	Sonder Lanteau	<i>Sonder Lanteau</i>	Yolanda McKenney	<i>Yolanda McKenney</i>
Pragiel Neal	<i>Pragiel Neal</i>	Michelle Mullen	<i>Michelle Mullen</i>	Jenna Parker	<i>Jenna Parker</i>	Siya Knight	<i>Siya Knight</i>
Anthony Thompson	<i>Anthony Thompson</i>	Collette Watson	<i>Collette Watson</i>	Danielle Jennings	<i>Danielle Jennings</i>	Kunay Joe	<i>Kunay Joe</i>
Melissa McFarlin	<i>Melissa McFarlin</i>	Ashtley Spillers	<i>Ashtley Spillers</i>	Hosna Evans	<i>Hosna Evans</i>	Aisha Wright	<i>Aisha Wright</i>
Paul Cagle	<i>Paul Cagle</i>	Julia Jones	<i>Julia Jones</i>	Emden Lawrence	<i>Emden Lawrence</i>	Rocio Salomon	<i>Rocio Salomon</i>
Yolanda Holmes	<i>Yolanda Holmes</i>	Tara Johnson	<i>Tara Johnson</i>	Alan Soloway	<i>Alan Soloway</i>	Trina Pugh	<i>Trina Pugh</i>
Jaquar Dabbs	<i>Jaquar Dabbs</i>	Terene Hawk	<i>Terene Hawk</i>	Michelle Adeshina	<i>Michelle Adeshina</i>	Cute Kizaba	<i>Cute Kizaba</i>
Nadelle Atkinson	<i>Nadelle Atkinson</i>	Adam McCall	<i>Adam McCall</i>	Gina Fox	<i>Gina Fox</i>	David Wilson	<i>David Wilson</i>
Rahid Sanyal	<i>Rahid Sanyal</i>	Christian Bowen	<i>Christian Bowen</i>	Susan Oswald	<i>Susan Oswald</i>	Michelle Carter	<i>Michelle Carter</i>
Alvarez Thomas	<i>Alvarez Thomas</i>	Kelce Stewart	<i>Kelce Stewart</i>	Maria Oswald	<i>Maria Oswald</i>	Michelle Carter	<i>Michelle Carter</i>
Christian Dennis	<i>Christian Dennis</i>	Krishanada Das	<i>Krishanada Das</i>	Pranitha Prang	<i>Pranitha Prang</i>	Michelle Carter	<i>Michelle Carter</i>
Brenda Williams	<i>Brenda Williams</i>	Allison Williams	<i>Allison Williams</i>	Justin Pardo	<i>Justin Pardo</i>	Michelle Carter	<i>Michelle Carter</i>
Shanique Nunguh	<i>Shanique Nunguh</i>	Shanteria Starr	<i>Shanteria Starr</i>	Tania Aguilar	<i>Tania Aguilar</i>	Michelle Carter	<i>Michelle Carter</i>
Kayla Goss	<i>Kayla Goss</i>	Kelley Robinson	<i>Kelley Robinson</i>	Michael Fox	<i>Michael Fox</i>	Michelle Carter	<i>Michelle Carter</i>
Diana Williams	<i>Diana Williams</i>	Crystal Warr	<i>Crystal Warr</i>	Joe Cole	<i>Joe Cole</i>	Michelle Carter	<i>Michelle Carter</i>
Debra Neal	<i>Debra Neal</i>	Alexandra Shuler	<i>Alexandra Shuler</i>	Corochua A Parker	<i>Corochua A Parker</i>	Michelle Carter	<i>Michelle Carter</i>
Andrea	<i>Andrea</i>	Jordan Pole	<i>Jordan Pole</i>	Maria Cooper	<i>Maria Cooper</i>	Michelle Carter	<i>Michelle Carter</i>
Tyler Darroby	<i>Tyler Darroby</i>	David Beards	<i>David Beards</i>	Ryan Tompson	<i>Ryan Tompson</i>	Michelle Carter	<i>Michelle Carter</i>
Alissa Cummings	<i>Alissa Cummings</i>	Emmett Howard	<i>Emmett Howard</i>	Roderick Craft	<i>Roderick Craft</i>	Michelle Carter	<i>Michelle Carter</i>
Brian Jordan	<i>Brian Jordan</i>	Holly Hinton	<i>Holly Hinton</i>	Adri Lawson	<i>Adri Lawson</i>	Michelle Carter	<i>Michelle Carter</i>
Anna Hays	<i>Anna Hays</i>	RONDA COOPER	<i>RONDA COOPER</i>	Aluis D Smith	<i>Aluis D Smith</i>	Michelle Carter	<i>Michelle Carter</i>
Robert Place	<i>Robert Place</i>	Tiffany Allen	<i>Tiffany Allen</i>	Kasia Middleton	<i>Kasia Middleton</i>	Michelle Carter	<i>Michelle Carter</i>
Kisha Chaney	<i>Kisha Chaney</i>	Natalie Gilchrist	<i>Natalie Gilchrist</i>	Starrin McFerial	<i>Starrin McFerial</i>	Michelle Carter	<i>Michelle Carter</i>
Elizabeth Ganson	<i>Elizabeth Ganson</i>	Rameo Hamilton	<i>Rameo Hamilton</i>	Shana Latimer	<i>Shana Latimer</i>	Michelle Carter	<i>Michelle Carter</i>
Chris Panch	<i>Chris Panch</i>	Jessica Cash	<i>Jessica Cash</i>	Jennifer Wainett	<i>Jennifer Wainett</i>	Michelle Carter	<i>Michelle Carter</i>
Lawrence Deshield	<i>Lawrence Deshield</i>	Erica Bethel	<i>Erica Bethel</i>	Allie Peterson	<i>Allie Peterson</i>	Michelle Carter	<i>Michelle Carter</i>
Tiffany King	<i>Tiffany King</i>			Keisha Stene	<i>Keisha Stene</i>	Michelle Carter	<i>Michelle Carter</i>
Alfred R. Dixon, III	<i>Alfred R. Dixon, III</i>			Nathan Howe	<i>Nathan Howe</i>	Michelle Carter	<i>Michelle Carter</i>
Tymisha Holmes	<i>Tymisha Holmes</i>			Wira Giles	<i>Wira Giles</i>	Michelle Carter	<i>Michelle Carter</i>
Ahmad Kolic	<i>Ahmad Kolic</i>			Myra Hillard	<i>Myra Hillard</i>	Michelle Carter	<i>Michelle Carter</i>
Eric Simon	<i>Eric Simon</i>			Wendy Hillard	<i>Wendy Hillard</i>	Michelle Carter	<i>Michelle Carter</i>
Kyle Brown	<i>Kyle Brown</i>			Tyisha Anderson	<i>Tyisha Anderson</i>	Michelle Carter	<i>Michelle Carter</i>
Jenna Powell	<i>Jenna Powell</i>			Jonathan Campbell	<i>Jonathan Campbell</i>	Michelle Carter	<i>Michelle Carter</i>
Haley Padgett	<i>Haley Padgett</i>			Courtney Bell	<i>Courtney Bell</i>	Michelle Carter	<i>Michelle Carter</i>
				Christine Bell	<i>Christine Bell</i>	Michelle Carter	<i>Michelle Carter</i>
				Justin Pollock	<i>Justin Pollock</i>	Michelle Carter	<i>Michelle Carter</i>
				Alan Brown	<i>Alan Brown</i>	Michelle Carter	<i>Michelle Carter</i>
				Eric Robinson	<i>Eric Robinson</i>	Michelle Carter	<i>Michelle Carter</i>



# “This needs to change now; it should have changed a long time ago.”

The email was sent out quietly that Friday, August 17. Addressed to all faculty and staff, the email announced updated Nondiscrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy statements. Sexual orientation (a person's sexual attraction toward members of the same, opposite, or both genders) had now joined race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, veteran status, and disability as protected statuses here at Clayton State.

According to University President Dr. Thomas Hardin, the change was a direct result of a request by the Student Government Association (SGA). They voted in October 2006 to formally ask the administration to change the policy after the matter was brought to them by another student, Kevin Pratt. For Mr. Pratt, now a senior and Editor-in-Chief of Bent Tree News, enough was enough. “It was just time for a change,” he explained. He approached SGA after learning about an unsuccessful attempt the previous year to have the policy changed.

The students, as part of a Gay-Straight Alliance on campus had tried several channels in the administration, but were met with what they felt was a lukewarm response. Mr. Pratt, based on advice given by Gerald Heavens, a former SGA President, decided to bring the matter to SGA. After being granted time on the next meeting's agenda by then SGA President Toke Adetayo, he went, speech and petitions in hand, to persuade the senators to act.

His speech, which evoked the long history of students and student governments being at the forefront of civil rights movements, was persuasive according to SGA member Chevonder Ceaser. When asked why she voted for the measure, she explained her feeling that if the policy was not amended, some may fear discrimination. The proposal passed with an unanimous vote

after an agreement to add, religion and creed (also missing from the policy at the time) to the petitions.

Darius Thomas, also a member of SGA said regarding his vote, “Everyone here should have the opportunity to not be discriminated against.” Ceaser and Thomas, now serve as members of the SGA executive board as Financial and Student Affairs chairs, respectively. Ceaser hopes that the change in policy will have a positive impact “so that everyone will feel comfortable.”

Most of the senators gathered signatures and they were handed over to Mr. Pratt. Initially, he waited and tried to find out what he should do with them, “I sat on the petitions...I didn't know what to do.”

Eventually, he delivered the petitions to the Vice-President of Business & Operations, David Heflin. The matter was brought before the Cabinet by President Hardin and was easily approved. According to President Hardin, to his knowledge, no one has been discriminated against and any discriminatory acts will not be tolerated.

The change affects all Faculty, Staff and any other agencies acting on behalf of the University. Students were already protected under the 2006 Student Code of Conduct.

In the end, this serves as an example of how democratic change can work if the channels already in place can be mobilized. For Kevin Pratt, the problem and solution were simple, “This needs to change now; it should have changed a long time ago.” — CARRIE MARTIN

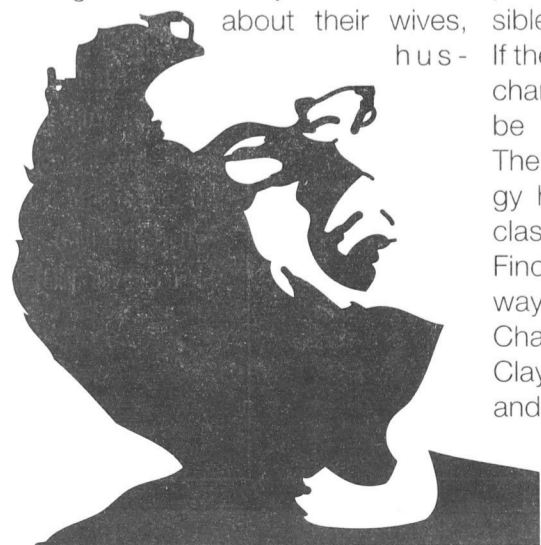
CARRIE MARTIN is Arts & Entertainment Editor for *BENT TREE NEWS*. Tell her what you think - [CarrieMartin@BTreeNews.com](mailto:CarrieMartin@BTreeNews.com)

It was all about the damn flyer. I just couldn't understand why they didn't want to use it. Before I became involved in the student newspaper, I was helping the Gay-Straight Alliance President, Iván Segovia get the group going in fall 2006. I thought it was a great flyer, everyone I showed it to thought it was a great flyer. But Iván and GSA adviser Dr. Maya Hoover, didn't agree. They thought it was too confrontational, that it would cause problems. I couldn't understand what they were afraid of. President Hardin mentioned that he didn't know of any active discrimination and he's probably right. I haven't heard of anything happening either. However, there's always been a fear that something might. Students and faculty were afraid to push sexuality here at Clayton State, a small college in what is still "The Bible Belt". They feared being branded trouble-makers who were "flaunting" sexuality. Many professors don't mention their sexuality to students, while straight faculty often talk about their wives,

bands and children in class. I've heard one professor say it's not relevant, not professional to discuss their sexuality in class. Are these valid reasons, or are they just a symptom of this fear? I hope my role in changing the discrimination policy will help change this dynamic on campus. I've heard there's a new GSA starting on campus now, I hope they have the courage to stand and be counted. I hope they find an adviser who is willing to help them make a difference. I hope they build the community that, as a gay student on campus, I've sorely missed. Fall was the semester I decided to graduate from Clayton State, the semester I decided to get involved again. When I did, I was perplexed by this idea that you, the students didn't care and didn't want to get involved. It seemed to permeate every aspect of student life. But, I've seen dramatic changes take place in this last year; they've underestimated each of you. You do care, you do want changes, you just have be shown what's possible.

If there's something you think should change, something you think could be better, stand up and say so. There's so much untapped energy here. Tell your friends, tell your classmates, tell your professors. Find other people who feel the same way, and make it happen. Changes might come slowly here at Clayton State, but with persistence and the voice of the students behind you, nothing is out of reach.

— KEVIN PRATT



## Editor's Note

Editor-in-Chief Kevin Pratt talks about how it all started.

Hint: It was this flyer.

# GAY?

# STRAIGHT?

# OPEN-MINDED?

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## UC 222

## MONDAYS

## 3:30-4:20

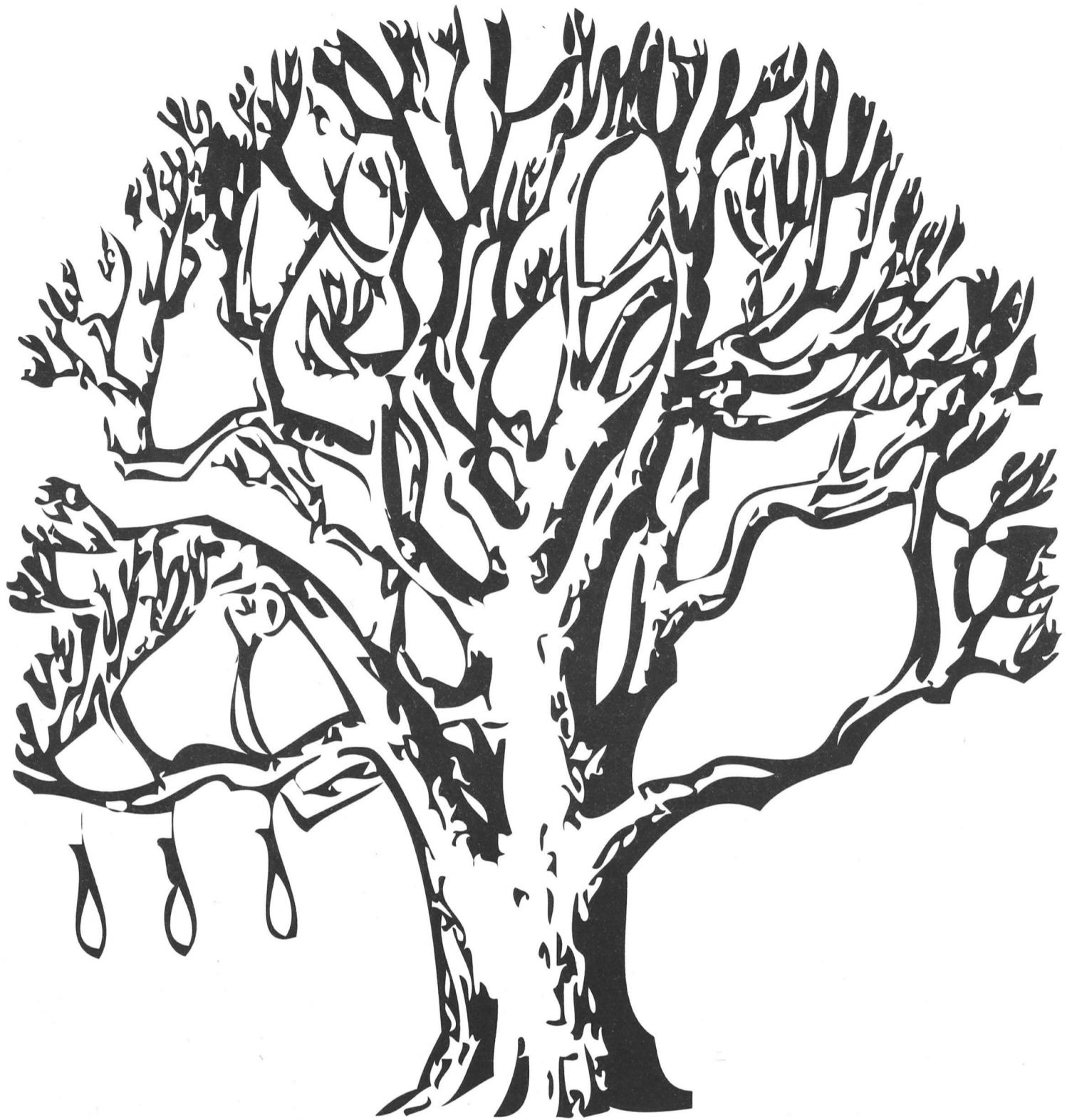
## FREE FOOD

The Gay Straight Alliance of Clayton State University would like to invite you to join us for our weekly planning meeting where we decide the fate of the organization (and fluffy bunnies). We generally have a good time, plan events, elect officers, plot to save all bunnies (well, only fluffy ones), and eat (food, not bunnies).

another bunny saved

The Gay Straight Alliance of Clayton State University is dedicated to building community, providing support and increasing awareness for the GLBTQ community and our straight allies. Students, faculty, staff and friends are welcome to attend.





# Jena 6 Town Hall

Our first town hall this year focuses on Jena 6. Students come together to ensure that this issue is not "swept under the rug."



ONLINE VIDEO  
BENT TREE NEWS.COM

The first of many Bent Tree News Town Hall meetings hosted by Roland Benoit, Jr. was held on Wednesday, September 19 in the University Center Lecture Hall. Students were encouraged to attend the discussion where guest speaker Lonnie Richardson and audience members had an opportunity to share their opinions on discriminatory acts and social injustice relating to September's topic, the Jena 6.

The meeting began with a video presentation, exposing the lack of coverage of the controversy in Jena, Louisiana. Independent news sources seemed to cover the Jena 6 situation with much more scrutiny in comparison to the major networks. According to Sports Editor, Shane McCrary, "they simply brushed the story under a rug."

Next, Lonnie Richardson shared his unjust encounter with the law as a local high school student. He attended school in Morrow, where like most high school kids, would occasionally have problems with other students, his being a group of young men who constantly made violent aggressions towards him. Richardson decided to carry a pocket knife with him to school to protect himself, but was later reported by a teacher, whom he considered a confidant. The pocket knife was the size of your flash drive, yet he was placed in a cell with hardened criminals, who could not believe he was locked up for that. Mr. Richardson's story showed the audience that we are all in some way affected by the Jena 6, be it past or future.



"I did read that he had a prior record [of misconduct], although I don't think that matters. Giving him 22 years for basically a school fight I think is very unfair, because the same punishment was not given to the other students involved," shared Niassa Anderson, on the sentence given to one of the Jena 6.

The majority of the discussion seemed to be centered on the representation of the story and its key players in the media. As students of the information age, town hall attendees discussed how the Jena 6 story was depicted in the media, how we should determine for ourselves the story behind the story, and that we should then be proactive in making the changes we want to see.

"They don't really get in depth about that subject," said Bernadin Carzo, referring to the brevity in MSNBC's report of the Jena 6 case. "I guess they don't think that people are really ready for it, but it's up to the people to decide what they're ready for." Lonnie Richardson also shared his insight with the audience. "We forget quickly," he said, and then challenged the audience, "how many of you out of this room are going to keep up with this issue or are going to try and go further and try to join some organizations? That's why they play us. Our memory is like that," he said, snapping his

finger for emphasis. "So they show you the news, but they didn't say anything about the issue at all. It was just enough for you to know what's in the news. They're [MSNBC] talking about it, so they're not bad; however, they haven't said anything. So, it goes to you. How will you keep this alive? How will you keep this issue current? And that's the prob-



lem, we forget so easily. We'll leave here, and that's the last time we'll ever talk about it." "Imagine being given 22 years for a simple fight," Benoit described to the audience. "It's absurd. Again, there is still information that we don't know. They're trying to sentence a 16 year old to 22 years. If that doesn't make you sick...I really don't what will."

In regards to the lack of coverage from media until recently, student Kamau Waweru gives input. "I think another thing left to realize is that our whole lifestyle and our way of structuring time has become so saturated

that we on a daily basis are losing our capability to deal with complexity and the story of Jena 6 is very complicated. Waweru answered, "The more complex a story is, the less likely it is to really be covered. Michael Vick is not as complex a story, so it is easy to keep running with it."

Tony J. Berry, Jr. argues that "While our lives have become so much more complex, it has also become so much easier

for us to get information ourselves. We can't just say 'It's just the media', when really it just takes a couple of clicks—boom, boom boom, and you have all the information you need." Berry also mentioned the many sources that the public

can use to access information other than the Internet, like newspapers for example, and emphasized that it is our responsibility to process the information and practice discernment at all times. Carzo pointed out, "The media is showing us what it wants us to see, compared to what it doesn't want us to see...like everyone knows about the Michael Vick case. In another week there won't be anyone that doesn't know about the O.J. Simpson case, but compared to the Jena 6 case there are many that don't know."

Students also debated how we could become proactive in our community in the face of racial injustice or discrimination, in particular, how they would have handled the situation at Jena High differently to prevent the severe social unrest that is presently occurring there. Ideas spanned from discussing amongst school administrators and legal officials the notion of having a tree that is reserved for whites only on school grounds. Other ideas were to hold a PTA meeting to address community concerns about racial issues at the school.

Later the conversation centered on who is responsible for the turn of events. Some town hall guests felt it was the school, others the social and class dynamic of small town America.

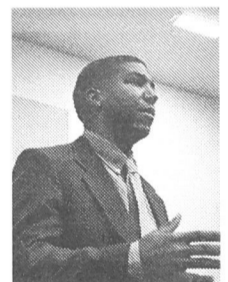
"I feel that the school is largely responsible for how this event escalated," added Milini Knox. "Because in schools there are policies and procedures in place, especially when it comes to student discipline and they suspended the students for hanging the nooses. Why didn't the school, the administrators do something or say something, or have a meeting, call parents in to even make it look like they were trying to avoid this getting out of hand. That's what concerns me and then the fact that the student had to ask to sit under the tree...it's almost like they turned a blind eye to it."

Shane McCrary explains his perspective, "... what happens is that, instead of being more proactive we are reactive to things...I don't even look at the news anymore, I refuse. I'll take three our four different sources, and compare them and make my own decision from there because the media saturates everything. He continued by saying we have to look for the facts that the media may have neglected to share with the general public, "we have to say that 'hey, there is a lot more going on than we are being told. Let's find out what it is.'"

Roland closed the town hall with a call to action, "It all boils down to you..you have a voice. If I could be a vehicle to help get the information out, then you past it on, and they past it on, until everyone you know, knows what is going on in Jena " as he pointed across the room. "That's the start of change."

The next town hall will be on October 17, in UC 272. BENT TREE NEWS, with the Counseling Services Department will be discussing issues surrounding domestic violence.

— ALICIA BROWN



At the beginning of the school year in 2006, a black Jena High School student asked school officials permission to sit under a traditionally "white only" tree on school grounds. His presence under the tree sparked racial unrest. So much so, that it prompted white students to hang three nooses, painted in school colors, under the tree. Although the students responsible were expelled, the school superintendent reversed the decision calling the hanging of nooses a mere prank. This resulted in a sit in protest under the tree by the black students

of Jena High, reminiscent of the sit-ins during the racially charged 1950's and 60's. Local DA Reed Walters allegedly responded by threatening them in a packed, segregated auditorium with one statement, "I can take away your lives with the stroke of a pen." A list of racially charged incidents followed. On December 1st, white students ganged up on a black student at a party and beat him. The following day, a white man pulled a shotgun on three black students at a convenience store. The man was not charged, but the three

students were charged with theft of a firearm. Two days later, a fight ensued between a white Jena High student, Justin Barker, and a black student (who had been beaten up at the party by white students days before) after Barker taunted him with racially degrading comments. Justin Barker was not arrested, nor expelled. Six black male students, ages 15-17, were arrested and charged with attempted second-degree murder and conspiracy. Since they are being tried as adults, some are facing up to 100 years in prison without the possibility

of parole. Justin Barker, who initiated the confrontation, was treated at the local hospital, released and was seen as at a party on the very same night of the fight. In the town of Jena, Louisiana, which is 85% white, the barbershop still refuses service to blacks. A vast majority of the white community fail to see the relationship between the hanging of nooses and racial discrimination. According to an interview with a local school board member, Billy Wayne Fowler, Fowler stated, "This is not a racial issue."

— MONIQUE FAULKNER



# LIFE

*I am currently in love. I feel amazing. We have spoken about marriage several times. However, I am not sure if it will ever evolve into a verb and not a noun. At what point is it time to move on? Is it okay to ask for action or set an ultimatum?*

From,  
Mrs. Ultimatum



I would first strongly urge you to rethink your ultimatum. Often times they backfire. And if you do decide to give one, be prepared that their response may not be to walk down the aisle. Ultimatums can make the other person feel like they are backed into a corner and when we feel that way, we react and not always in the most rational, mature way. Further, it may give you the appearance of being insecure. Why can't you wait? What is the rush?

And do you really want to wake

ultimatum say that they only feared being alone and having to get back in the dating game (which only sounds like cowardice and laziness to me), but do you want your partner to ever say their proposal was out of anything but love for you?

In terms of your asking for action, to your partner, talking may very well be action, or at least as much action as they have energy and heart for now. If you want a specific proposal or date, there is nothing at all wrong with that, but you need to ask yourself why now. And based on that evaluation, approach your partner with an open discussion about it. If your need is based on insecurity and fear that you will never be married, you have compared your relationship with others', or you are getting pressure from, say, family and friends, that's NOT your partner's problems, it is yours. Now, if they have been dragging their feet from your perspective, have been unclear, or their actions have not been in alignment with their verbal commitment to the relationship, then yes, approach them and come to some mutual understanding.

Best of luck always!

*to be just one of the guys she regularly flirts with. What do I do?*

From,  
No Flirting Zone

Though you have every right to be interested in her, you must understand that any agreement on her part to date you now may be more casual than what you want at this time. Not only because her behavior says that she is in a playful, flirtatious, and open place, but her recent break up dictates that she needs this time. You don't want to be a rebound as that is counterproductive to your expectations. Don't sell yourself short here. Be patient and wait for her to get to a place where she can and wants to settle with one guy again. And then, feel free to make your intentions known.

Also, just FYI, I would be more wary or on guard about the ex calling, for he has more influence on her behavior and availability in regards to dating than any of her random flirts do, depending on her response to his calling. I usually don't deal with the whole "X-Factor" because I have never seen a great benefit in keeping them around. Aren't they an X for a reason?

## Take My Advice

By  
**Christina Semple**

up one morning and wonder if he/she married you because you threatened to leave (or whatever your ultimatum stipulates) or if they did so because they truly wanted to spend the rest of their life with you? I have heard people on the receiving end of an

*A girl I am interested in just broke up with her boyfriend, he has started calling her again. Also, she often flirts with other men but I want to date her and be in a monogamous relationship with her. I do not want*

CHRISTINA SEMPLE (CHRISTINASEMPLE@BTREENEWS.COM) is Associate Editor of BENT TREE NEWS. Need advice? Send your question to Advice@BTreeNews.com

PHOTOGRAPH BY Jamal El-Amin



You've made it! We hope you enjoyed the brand new, redesigned ride. Isn't it shiny! And now it's time to say goodbye, to all our... oh wait, can't do that. Disney doesn't play.

Anyway, tell us what you think about the new paper and, well, anything else really. Letters@BTreeNews.com. See you next time!

— BENT TREE NEWS

...oh yea, if you haven't noticed yet, we have a new website. [www.BTreeNews.com](http://www.BTreeNews.com)