



MANIFOLD DESTINY

WHAT DIVERSITY MEANS FOR CLAYTON STATE UNIVERSITY



By **Tony J. Berry Jr.**

SuperSENIORS:

Leandra de Los Angeles



Lameka Nalls

Todd Denson

Miss

Tony J. Berry Jr.

BLACK & GOLD

Townhall: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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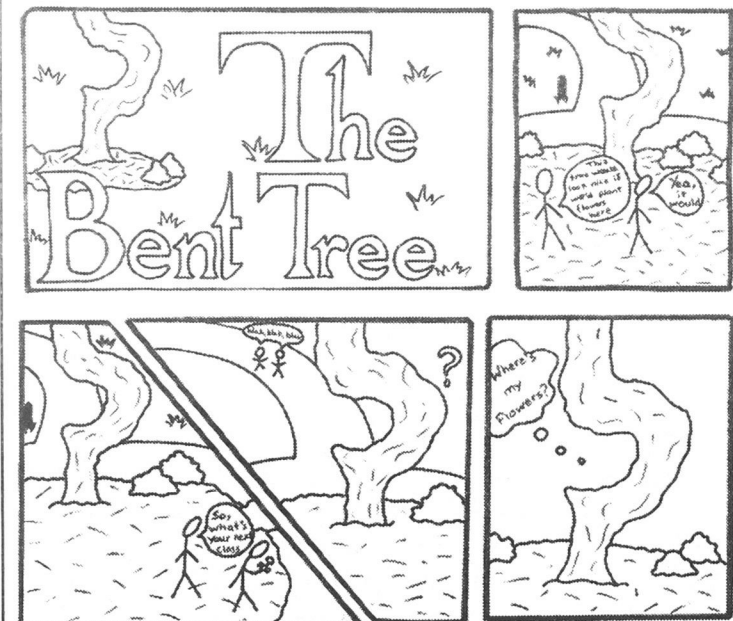
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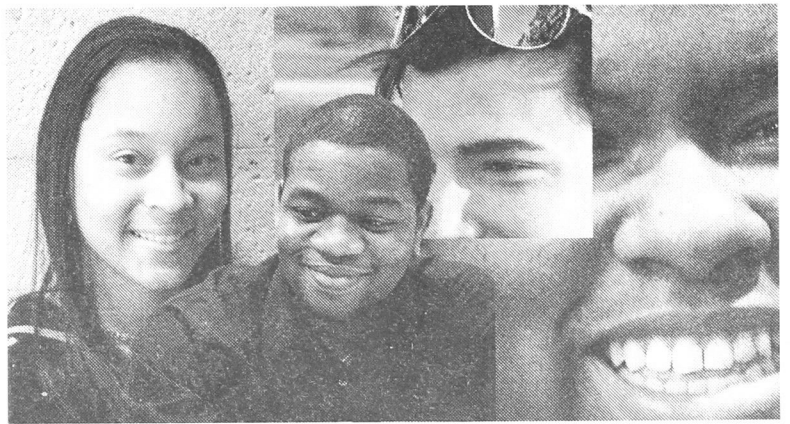
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SUPER SENIOR



She is a rarity. She is distinguished. She is determined. Leandra de Los Angeles has done what few students here have been able to do in the amount of time she has. Not only has she completed her courses in the traditional four year period, but she has done so with her eyes set keenly on her criminal justice career. So much so, the Super Senior has a job as probation officer at the Dekalb Juvenile Court already lined up.

In preparation for this noble vocation, Leandra has taken and enjoyed her criminal justice classes. In particular, she loved those taught by her favorite professor, Dr. Shabazz. It was the class discussions and debates she remembers most fondly about his classes, and this allowed her the opportunity to work with others which brought her to the criminal justice major in the first place.

Outside of school, she balances caring for her five year old daughter with spending time with friends, participating in community service, and fellowship with her sorority sisters. As a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., she considers joining the organization one of her best moves at Clayton. She appreciates the opportunity her sorority offers her to meet new

people, network, and build her community. Besides being a devoted member, she also considers herself a student leader and advocates campus involvement because "it is what college is about," and she urges everyone to "also [do] what you have to do."

Though not a Georgia Peach by birth, Leandra does think the standard of living is better here compared to her home state of New York. Growing up in Jersey, she migrated here in 2000, but New York will be where her heart is. For the rest of her family, the Dominican Republic is where they hail from.

Of course juggling all of these activities is no easy task. Yet she has, over these past four years, learned to "stay focused because there are a lot of things that can take you away from where you want to be." She has learned that procrastination is perhaps a college student's worst enemy. If she could do anything differently, she explains that she would have taken her classes more seriously, especially during her freshman and sophomore years which includes, "actually reading the books."

Whether she has read them all or not, she is picking up her bachelor's this fall.

— CHRISTINA SEMPLE

Taking names and getting it done.

LEANDRA DE LOS ANGELES

Lameka Nalls *The Humble Hero*

The past few years have found Lameka Nalls doing many things she never thought she would. She's taken on new leadership roles, familial responsibilities, and opportunities to broaden her view of life and her role in the community.

Before 2003, when she became a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc., she considered herself shy and introverted, but then she blossomed into the charismatic and focused woman I saw in front of me. She walks into a room smiling for seemingly no reason at all, other than in remembrance of one of her favorite

quotes, "Smile. The world is yours and everything in it is yours to conquer."

Although convenience was the main selling point that drew the Cleveland native to Clayton State, it is her sorority and her psychology classes that have anchored her here.

As an Integrated Studies major, she is currently taking abnormal psychology, one of her most challenging classes. No fear though, she is a self-proclaimed nerd. Along with the "realness" of Professors such as Dr. Bridges and the compassion of teachers such as

Dr. Ragsdale, she

will

graduate Fall 2007.

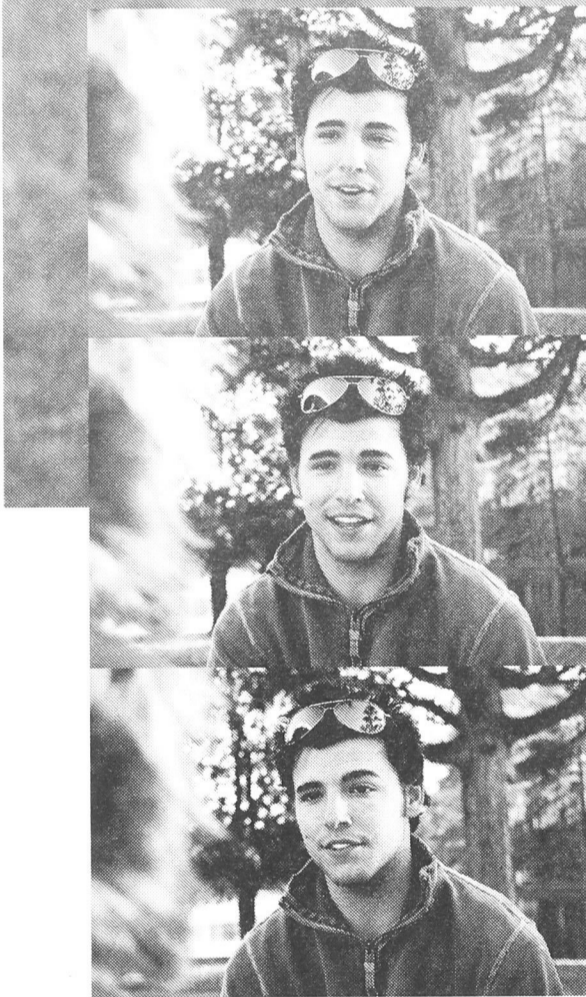
After graduation, Lameka Nalls plans to follow her "higher calling" and teach eighth grade English in Clayton County or South Fulton. She has always had an innate passion and drive for education and she also credits her uncanny resemblance to a middle-schooler as an influence. Middle school was some of the best years of her life.

She recalls, "It was the first time I made an 'F.'" What was so life-altering about this event was that she was able to persevere and continue her education in spite of the minor setback. She recalls the words of her former pastor, "The person that has never made a mistake, is the person that never tried." This was one case where she practiced what she preached, and as a mature woman, has tried to instill this same drive and inspiration in her sixteen year old brother whom she became guardian for since her mother's death in August 2006. She also urges upcoming seniors to never give up, "no matter how long it takes. And do your work, don't procrastinate."

Between her employment with Public Safety for three years and becoming President of Zeta Phi Beta, Lameka Nalls has worn many hats while attending Clayton State. Her friendships and associations have become invaluable to her and although she only spoke briefly about the matter, in the softest tone, she spoke of her mother in a way that made it obvious, at least to me, that perhaps her higher calling may be coming from her.— CHRISTINA SEMPLE



TODD DINSON



EXIT STAGE LEFT

How he discovered a love of theater and where he's going next.

guys," he says as he thinks back on his time with the team.

Of course, a large part of Todd's recognition stems from his tireless work in the Theatre Department on campus. He confesses that his first performance in "Coffee Girl and the World of Tomorrow," remains his favorite show to date. However, you may have also seen him in: "The Conference of the Birds," "City of Devils," "Three Sides to Every Story" and/or "Supernatural Shakespeare."

Recounting a funny occurrence at one performance held at an area high school, Todd laughs to himself before continuing, "I was sitting out in the audience [as a part of the play] wearing these shades and the principal gets on stage to introduce us. Towards the end, he looks right at me and says '...and

anyone that wants to keep their sunglasses should take them off, NOW!' The kid sitting next to me looks at me and asks 'are you a part of the play?' And I nod. The principal walks by, stops, and says, 'by the way, that sunglasses comment was meant for you.' The kid looks up at him and says, 'sir, he's part of the play.' So, I'm just sitting there like, 'thanks a lot for bringing attention to me.'"

His acting ability carries over to the large and small screen including roles in the feature film *We Are Marshall* (2006) and the television series *October Road* (2007-?).

Todd is graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Integrative Studies with a concentration in Communications and Media Studies. He has enjoyed learning from several of the professors here (he feels that we have excellent film studies

courses), and is especially thankful to Dr. Philip DePoy and Dr. Randy Clark for their inspiration and encouragement.

He plans to further his education by attaining NYU's Masters Program in Acting. He is currently due for a call back audition in New York. Looking to catch him one last time? You can find him at the Red Clay Theater in Duluth (www.redclaytheatrearts.com). He'll be playing in *It's a Wonderful Life* from Dec. 6th - 23rd and *Arsenic and Old Lace* from Jan. 24th to Feb. 18th.

Todd ended the interview by offering up advice to incoming freshman and other underclassmen, "make sure you pick a major you love, because when you get to your 3rd year that's pretty much all you'll be doing. I only regret not getting into theater my first year."

— REBECCA JACKSON

Clayton State is losing one of its most talented students this semester as Todd Dinson prepares to graduate this month. In addition to his many stage performances at Clayton State, including his most recent performance as Macbeth in "Supernatural Shakespeare," Dinson is also a celebrated soccer player and teammate.

In an interview, he sincerely expressed his regard for the brotherly bond that he would soon be giving up. "I'll miss the camaraderie and the feeling of brotherhood with the

The "Go To" guy. The Listener. The one that you don't know is there until you know he's there for you. That guy is Tony Berry and he is leaving us December 13th.

Tony has acquired many skills and

"Most situations in life come down to laughing or crying, and that's why I laugh in the face of adversity."

talents during his matriculation at Clayton State as a Communications and Media Studies major. He started his educational career at Gordon College in 1999 and has decided to complete it here at Clayton State because of its better professors and larger campus. The professors who have eagerly accompanied him down this academic path include former Clayton State professor Dr. Godlasky, whose refreshing passion for teaching ignited his lust for learning. "Dr. Spence acts like a guide-he doesn't spoon feed you and is willing to let you express yourself." Lastly, it was the encouragement from Drs. Bonner and Clark that made him want to learn as well.

After describing this laundry list of all-star professors, he naturally spoke about his love of the film classes offered here. He attributes these classes and professors with showing him his path.

After graduation, he plans to work for an accounting firm and develop a new film in the spring and the fall will hopefully find Tony Berry at Georgia State pursuing his Masters in Communications with an emphasis on Film/Video & Digital Imaging.

When his time is not monopo-

lized by watching film or contemplating the effects of media on society (and vice-versa of course), Tony enjoys reading, writing, spending time with his friends and of course, offering advice to anyone in need of it. The Griffin native, who affectionately referred to his hometown

as "the place where dreams come to die," thinks

about his legacy here. He hopes to leave his words of wisdom, including the belief that the most important thing any of us can do is what is in our best interest, even if it does not seem like it is in our best interest. In retrospect, he laments that he had the whole college thing backwards. He wishes he would have "taken things less seriously in the beginning, and then more seriously in the end."

He is known for his wit and wisdom, but Tony cannot take sole credit for his ability to tell a story at just the right moment, in just the right way, to just the right person. He collects these stories. He collects quotes to hammer a point home whenever his friends seem to turn on the listening filter when asking ad-

vice about a relationship or school problems. Flipping through Facebook at all the million and one quotes, he stumbles across a few of his favorites and wants to share them with the students of Clayton State University.

"No race can prosper till it learns there is as much dignity in tilling a field as in writing a poem." -Booker T. Washington

"One Man can not hold another man down in the ditch without remaining down in the ditch with him." - another Washington quote

But perhaps the most personal of them all, are those uttered

from his mother's lips, "Most situations in life come down to laughing or crying, and that's why I laugh in the face of adversity."

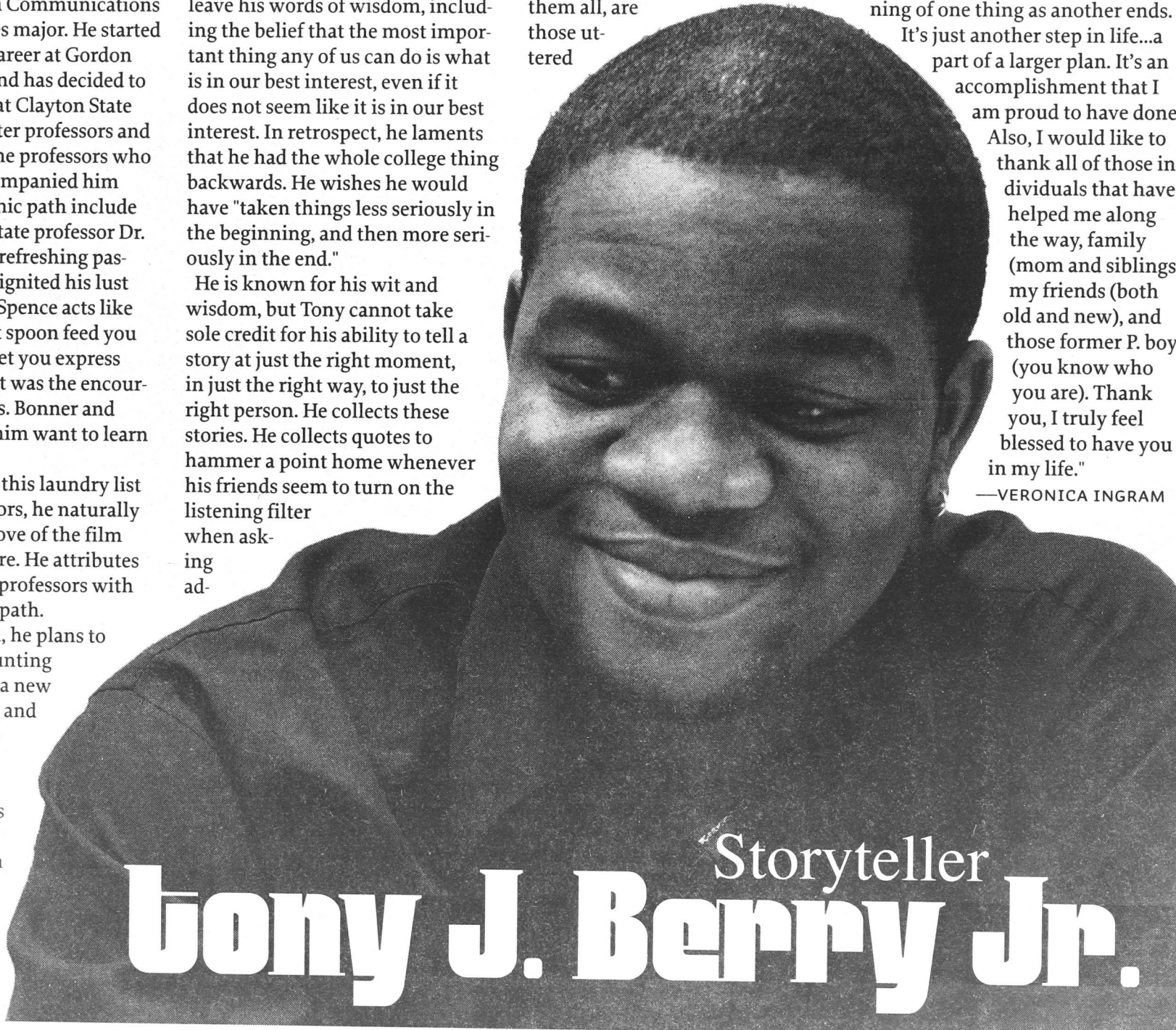
Graduation is typically the most exciting and saddest time in any student's life. It is a time to reflect on your mistakes, rejoice in your accomplishments, and give thanks to all of those who have played a part in the movie of your life. Tony is no different.

"I honestly don't know how I feel about graduation. I truly think the apt title for this event is commencement because it truly is the beginning of one thing as another ends.

It's just another step in life...a part of a larger plan. It's an accomplishment that I am proud to have done.

Also, I would like to thank all of those individuals that have helped me along the way, family (mom and siblings), my friends (both old and new), and those former P. boys (you know who you are). Thank you, I truly feel blessed to have you in my life."

—VERONICA INGRAM



Storyteller

Tony J. Berry Jr.

Fall Commencement

For the first time ever, there will be two graduation ceremonies for the fall semester. With 460 students eligible for graduation, having only one ceremony would limit the amount of guests that could attend. Even with the expected amount of actual graduation attendees being estimated at only 300, the space available will still be limited. Graduates will be allotted six tickets for family and friends. However, there will be additional viewing options available.

This event signifies a growth for our small college that before 1999, only one ceremony was held per year. On November 5th, graduation candidates were sent infor-

mation about the ceremonies including the times and where to pick up guest tickets. The first ceremony will take place at 3 p.m. and will award graduates from the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Information, and the College of Mathematical Sciences. It will be followed by the 7 o'clock ceremony which will award graduates from the School of Business, School of Nursing, and the College of Professional Studies. Both ceremonies will take place on December 13, 2007, in the Athletics and Fitness Center. More information concerning the ceremonies can be found online at the Registrar's Web page. —SEANNA WILLIAMSON



BOOTHIE CAN YOU LEND A HAND?

Volunteering at Clayton State University

American Universities have a long history of finding ways to have a positive impact on the communities that sustain them. This semester, Campus Life has implemented a new initiative to bring that tradition here. As of November, they have organized two outings to assist Atlanta area charities, and according to Assistant Director Eric Simon, they were successfully implemented.

To some students, it seems like turnout for these events has been low. However, Mr. Simon would beg to differ. He explained that the partner organizations involved in these events often place a cap or a limited number of volunteer spaces that they allow each school. With nearly 6,000 students on campus, the fifteen participants at "Boo at the Zoo" may have seemed small. This was a limit imposed by the Atlanta Zoo and Mr. Simon was glad to have filled all of the spaces.

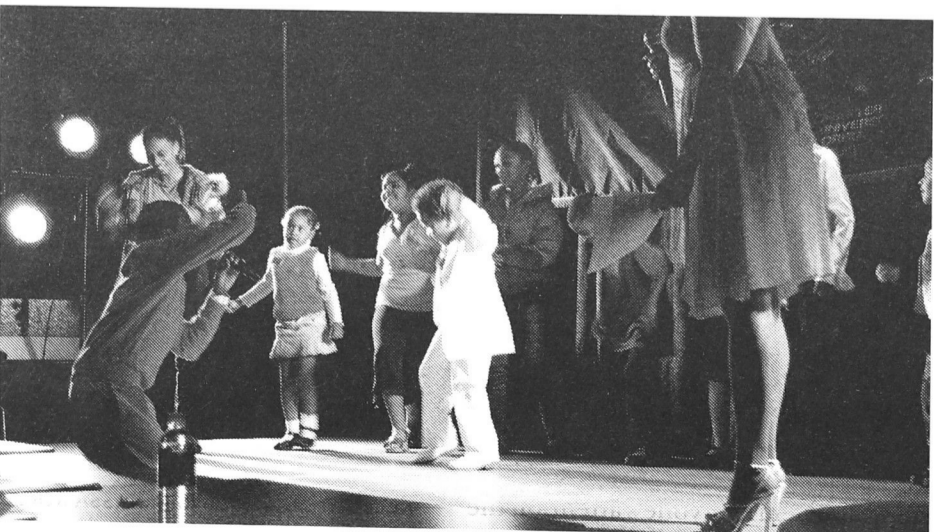
Likewise, the St. Francis's Table event in November was limited twenty-five volunteer spots. Not only were these spots filled, Campus Life was left with a waiting list of students wishing to be involved in future events. Campus life is working hard to build new relationships with other organizations in the area. Simon hopes to have the events

happening regularly and with enough frequency to avoid waiting lists. A few particular programs in development include partnering with a retirement community and with Habitat for Humanity.

Campus Life is currently doing research on how to get more male student participation. According to studies done across the country, there is a downward trend in male involvement in any kind of volunteer work. Clayton State has a larger hill to climb with male students being only 30% of the student body.

In the meantime, student organizations are not sitting idly by. Gamma Beta Mu had a large showing at this year's AIDS Walk Atlanta, and Bent Tree News Managing Editor Roland Benoit Jr. organized a group composed of newspaper staff and Mock Trial Association members as well. Students can also volunteer individually or in small groups using online resources like Volunteer Match (volunteer-match.org) where individuals can learn about and sign up for local initiatives like Hands On Atlanta events.

In any case, Mr. Simon is optimistic about Clayton State's ability to become a force for positive change in our community. — LINDSAY KEELER



Tau Epsilon Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. Presents:

Miss Black and Gold 2007

On November 30, 2007 at 7:06 PM in the University Center Commons, the Tau Epsilon Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. presented the Miss Black and Gold theme: Nefertiti's G.O.L.D. With the lights turned low and soft music in the air, the hosts, Ms. Takeeia Williams and Mr. James Duval, took the stage to set the scene for the pageant. The contestants would later enter in the opening Fanfare.

Contestants were evaluated on overall demeanor, their responses to questions, general conversation, and the overall attractiveness, poise, personality, and expression as the contestant introduced herself to the audience. Categories included the swimwear competition, talent, and evening gown competition. The winner received a \$500 scholarship, Crown, Sash, First Place Trophy, and the chance to compete in the Georgia Miss Black and Gold in Albany, GA on January 12, 2008 at 7:06 PM.

The participants included Contestant #1, senior Miss Atawanna Royal, Contestants #2 and 3 juniors Ms. Princess Herron and Keyanna Simpson, Contestant #4 senior Fana Allaway, Contestant #5 sophomore La Donna Williams, and Contestant #6, freshman Shayna Bishop.

After the evaluations were complete, the ballots were tallied, and the crowd eagerly waited the results, Fana Allaway was crowned Miss Black and Gold 2007 and also received the academic award. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor's of Applied Science Degree in Administrative Management and plans to focus on Domestic Violence against men in her community. To prepare herself for Miss Black and Gold, Fana focused on increasing her physical strength and endurance by beginning a fitness workout and changing her eating habits.

She was inspired to compete in the Miss Black and Gold pageant after

participating in the Tau Epsilon fashion show. Fana humbly accepted her new crown and only wished that her parents were there to see it. Though her confidence has grown as a result of participating in the competition, she is still the same friendly and positive person she was before. She strongly encourages other young ladies to gain this experience as well by participating in future Miss Black and Gold competitions. She also wants your support at the regional Georgia Miss Black and Gold 2008 as her first step in claiming the National title.

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated was founded at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York on December 4, 1906. The Fraternity was founded by seven African-American men with a vision to provide a study and support group for minority students who faced racial prejudice, both educationally and socially, at Cornell. Alpha Phi Alpha's principles exemplify scholarship, fellowship, good character, and the uplifting of humanity. On April 23, 2002 the Tau Epsilon Chapter was chartered, making it the first undergraduate chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. to be chartered in Georgia in over 10 years.

Specifically, Miss Black and Gold is a National competition that originated within Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. The first Miss Black and Gold Pageant at Clayton State was in 2005. The purpose of the pageant is to uplift women, particularly but not limited to, African-American women. The Miss Black and Gold Pageant emphasizes interviewing, leadership, and public speaking skills and on-stage experience to help women achieve a higher level of confidence, discipline, and a winning attitude. Clayton State's Miss Black and Gold winner will compete at the regional level, and if she wins that will continue in her pursuit to claim the National Crown. —ALEXANDRA SHULAR



PHOTOGRAPHS BY KEVIN PRATT

GOING BARE CRAZY

Clayton State Hosts Shakespeare Extravanzas

Shakespeare on the Green was held Saturday, October 13th from 1-4 p.m. in the quad here at Clayton State. It was the first event of the day to kick off the theme of "Supernatural Shakespeare". Our own Dr. Gregory McNamara presented a video highlighting several different versions of the play "Hamlet."

Following the presentation, the winners of the Shakespeare Sonnet contest were announced. Dr. Kathryn Pratt announced the high school winner and runner-ups first which included Celia Sullivan of Starr's Mill High in 3rd place, Camille Byrd of Fayette High in 2nd place and Luke Leavitt of Dekalb School of Arts in 1st place.

The winner of Clayton State's sonnet was Scott Roberts. Kristina Bjoran won second place and Helena Peace won 3rd place.

Following the announcement of the winning sonnet, Dr. Artese of Agnes Scott College lectured on Shakespeare's supernatural characters and compared their identities between several plays.

The next item on the agenda was Clayton State's Music Program directed by Dr. Kurt-Alexander Zeller, who is also Clayton State's Opera Director. He acted as the historical coach for the singers including Christina Patterson who sang soprano, Katie Thackrey

who also sang soprano, April Greenway a mezzo-soprano, Jose Caballero a tenor and Afolabi Giwa who sang baritone. The singers are all Clayton State students who are majoring in either music or voice performance.

Dr. Zeller and his students performed several ensembles of the Shakespearean era and he noted that the selections would have been sung during this period after dinner. Dr. Zeller explained that normally a group of five to seven singers would have historically been the proper number to have performed together.

Continuing the mood of the event Dr. Pratt lead a group of students to perform Byron's Manfred, a play with strange acting of spirits, sorcerers and devils. The reading began promptly at 3 p.m.

The cast entered the stage from behind a sheer black curtain adorned with black robes, cloaks, and black masks. The extraordinary cast of faculty and students included Ivan Segovia (First Spirit), Terri Worley (Second Spirit), Garry Hollowell (Third Spirit), Drew Hubbard (Nemesis), Jared Dyer (Manfred), Lacy Barnett (Arimanes), Lawanda Campbell (Astarte) and Helena Peace (the Abbess).

"We wanted to bring a feast of words and music to the Clayton State Community," said Dr. Kathryn Pratt, publicity coordinator for the event. The

event was sponsored by The Georgia Humanities Council, and was created to coincide with "Supernatural Shakespeare," the play performed later in the evening.

Following the reading, Dr. Thomas P. Anderson, an English professor at Mississippi State University, delivered a lecture from his book "Performing Early Modern Trauma from Shakespeare to Milton." He expressed his views on Shakespeare's play, Macbeth, and analyzed the ideas of sixteenth century author, John Foxx. "Execution is a spectator sport," he claimed. "People look on as crime takes place," he added.

Anderson, who was invited to attend the event by his friend from graduate school, Dr. Pratt, expects to release his book soon. The event successfully concluded with a serving of refreshments to all those in attendance.

Later in the evening in Spivey Hall, Clayton State's Theater Department performed Supernatural Shakespeare, a play combining performances of different spirits and witches from Shakespeare's plays. In keeping with the style of Byron's Manfred, Clayton State's theater students performed with great exaggeration and variation in their voices and movements. The performance was less than an hour long and held everyone's attention the

entire time. From the changing of the lights, to moaning and growling of the performers and fists pounding on the stage, the performers danced and acted just like Shakespeare's characters in his plays. The audiences was captured by the astounding performance and applauded wildly to show their gratitude for a great evening.

The play was repeated November 29th and 30th in the Clayton State Theater. Along with a change of venue, these performances were done by an all-student cast. The stage allowed for a more dramatic staging and lighting that accentuated the play's use of live scenery made up of posed cast members. Without any physical props, the cast members served as sometimes stationary, sometimes eerily creeping sculpture.

While not easily captured by photography, the three actresses who played the furies (Jennifer Larsen, Marie Banks and Lora Farmer) were especially impressive with their expressive physical and facial movements. Veteran student actors Brittany Lofert, Todd Denson, David Henry and Kimberly McCloud revealed hard won depth of character after years of acting. For Clayton senior Tony Berry, this last production was bittersweet as it likely signaled his retirement from the stage. —KELLY ATKINSON AND MELISSA ROLLE

CREATE



Supernatural Shakespeare: a writhing world.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY Kevin Pratt





CAMPUS

Dr. Virginia Bonner, considered by many to be the foremost film scholar here at Clayton State University, teaches CMS core classes Intro. to Film and Media and Culture, along with electives such as Women & the Arts. We sat down with her to find out just how she became a core component of the Communications and Media Studies Department.

From 1993-96 she served as the Territorial Assistant for the Modern and Contemporary Curator at the High Museum of Art in Atlanta. Though she sometimes felt like she was a "glorified secretary," her many responsibilities included coordinating artists. During this time the High was most interested in the acquisition of contemporary art, so Dr. Bonner found herself on the cutting edge of the art scene. Of the many installations she was responsible for, the one she was most excited about was the "Equal Rights and Justice" installation which featured a series of eleven artists.

Exciting as these large exhibits and her relationships with local artists may have been, she came to believe "that teaching was (her) passion." She left to attend graduate school to explore her academic goals.

She might have continued in Psychology and Neurobiology (the study of how the brain and neurotransmitters affect the body) where she holds a bachelor's degree. She had always been interested in the mind/body connection, however she felt the animal testing required was unethical. Instead she moved on to the University of Florida to earn a Masters in Art History. During her time there, she wanted to learn more about art and its social context and found what she was looking for in a film class.

It was during this time also, that she encountered her husband and colleague, Dr. Steve Spence. Attending a seminar entitled, "Mutual Representations," the two found themselves in-

terested in the other's research projects at school. They were friends for over a year before they began dating, and married four years later.

Next, she earned her Ph.D. in Women's Studies and Film Studies at Emory University. As a college student there, she also "taught a lot." Now, as

has taught study abroad classes in Italy, Paris, and London.

She subscribes to online movie rental site Netflix.com, but that doesn't keep her from visiting her favorite movie rental store. She explains that Movies Worth Seeing (www.moviesworthseeing.com) "without a doubt, is the best video store in Atlanta." They have a broad selection of foreign films conveniently organized by country and director. Also, their "Sweeper's Wall" (section for movies people might not have heard of) is great for eager film students or fans. Generally, Movies Worth Watching "recognizes the rest of the world of cinema" that major chains ignore.

With so many films to watch in the Spence-Bonner home, they encounter one of the most difficult aspects of developing a critical eye for film. The ability to close it. To remedy this, the professors find themselves activating the "emergency brake" where they suspend their disbelief and simply enjoy the film.

Also on campus, she plays the role of educational advocate in her position as the institutional reporter for ACE, the American Council for Education.

For example, Dr. Bonner sees the need for some type of childcare program at Clayton State, because "75% of Clayton State students are female," and "not all of them are eighteen with no job or children." She won't be on campus herself much in the spring. She is expecting a new arrival herself in early 2008 and will be teaching mostly

online classes. When asked what advice she

would give to students, she encourages them to "have fun in college!" For her, this translates to studying abroad, where students can actually live what they are learning. She will be teaching abroad again in the summer of 2008, and she would love for everyone who can to enroll in this exciting journey. Bring popcorn!—VICKI FAIR



DR. VIRGINIA BONNER FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

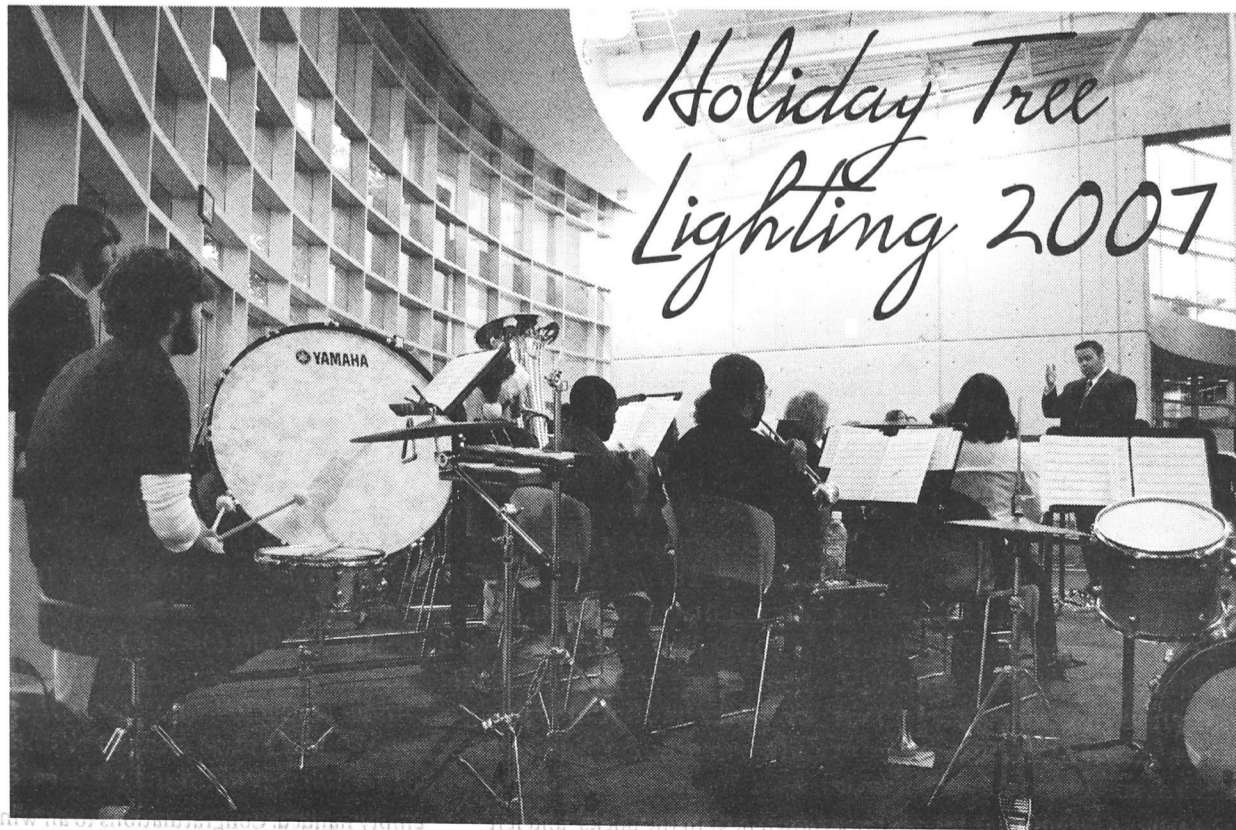
a cinema aficionada and expert, she sees film as "the public literature and graphic art of our time." It is perhaps fitting that she teaches "Women in Film" and "French New Wave Cinema" (both of which she developed at Emory) as a means to integrate one of the aspects she values in film: its global implications.

Her love of movies from cultures most obvious by her university website and office walls which are generously decorated with movie posters. Though she can speak four languages, she still needs help from subtitles when watching foreign films. Dr. Bonner loves to travel, and

Movies Worth Seeing "without a doubt, is the best video store in Atlanta."

different is made

PHOTOGRAPH BY Marquez Hardaway



and all those that participated. —MELISSA ROLLE

two costumes" the highlights also included the

PHOTOGRAPHS BY Kevin Pratt

Halloween Outfits

University Bookstore Hosts Costume Contest

Many of us can't wait for Halloween to arrive. It is the only day of the year that we can 'snap a picture' of a staff member dressed in an outrageous costume or be excused from skipping classes by our professors due to our supernatural appearance in a 'ghost' costume. On October 31st, 2007, the bookstore brought together the strange and wonderful with its Annual Halloween Costume Contest in the University Center.

Bookstore Manager Walter Moore served as the master of ceremonies, and vivaciously spoke as each contestant strutted down an invisible runway. Moore also conducted a little Q&A with each contestant resulting in an atmosphere of continuous laughter for everyone present.

Registration was open to all members of the Clayton State community, and fourteen contestants registered for the chance to parade their costumes, and their "psychotic" personalities, in front of the judges. The panel of judges included four students and four faculty members, who individually ranked each competitor's performance on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest. "I absolutely loved it. I thought it was a great way to get the student body involved," said Atawanna Royal, a senior who volunteered to be a judge at the event.

Sharon Bookmiller, an administrative assistant for Budget and Finance, was the first contestant to present her costume to the judges. Even though her black widow costume was enough to gain the interest of viewers, she thrilled the audience when she introduced her close friend, Oscar, a black spider clinging to the side of her dress.

Bookmiller was followed by another staff member, Delores Toothaker, who impressed the judges with her extravagant tooth fairy costume, which was conveniently inspired by her last name. Toothaker, an administrative assistant for the music department, sported a purple dress adorned with white luminescent wings and a purple 'fairy' tiara. When questioned about the inspiration for her costume, she replied, "I started working on it a month ago. I found the dress in a thrift store and went from there." The tooth fairy had toothbrushes and treats for the judges, but with no teeth lying around, she left the stage without handing out any cash.

As the competition unfolded, it became evident that some contestants spent more time with the scissors and glue than others. Sophomore Edward Lowry, referred to by Moore as "an escapee from the Dances of Wolves set," physically crafted his Medicine Man costume. "Most of it is homemade. The shoes took about a week because they are hand done," he claimed. Medicine Man was a term allocated by the English to spiritual figures of the Native American community, Shamans, who turned to the spiritual world for healing, protection, and harmony.

Other contestants like Tai Ghandi, the first black cat to walk on the runway, shopped far and near for parts of her costume. "The ears are my friend's own. She had them custom made. The mask I got from Party City, and the tail I got from Spencers," she said. The costume was also equipped with a long black tail she hooked on to her belt.

Not long after Ghandi left the stage, Olguin LaRoche impressed the judges with her catwalk as well. The junior and secretary of SGA told the judges that she was inspired by Halle Berry's version of "Cat Woman." She clarified, saying, "I am a bad girl, not a good girl. Halle Berry has got nothing on me." Her sassy attitude and boldness as she posed at the end of the runway earned her an overall score between 9 and 10.

Nonetheless, cats were not the only animal costumes exhibited in the contest, as Rebecca Jackson and Marcus Dickerson also competed in their animal costumes. "I am the bug on your windshield" said Jackson while she twirled in front of the judges and repeatedly went splat. Subsequently, Dickerson entertained the judges in his



ostrich costume. After he trotted before them, he made everyone laugh when he stated, "I am riding my ostrich because that's how we do it in the deep west."

The laughter continued as bookstore employees also gave the audience a dose of wickedness. "I had to work the graveyard shift," said staff member Sheila Bishop as she eagerly informed the crowd of the inspiration behind her vampire costume. Misty Nichols, another bookstore employee, chose to dress as a Mile High Captain because, as she stated, "I didn't want to be a fairy and I only had two costumes."

Highlights also included the



CATEGORY	PRIZE	NAME OF CONTESTANT	COSTUME
MOST ORIGINAL	1st	Delores Toothaker	Tooth Fairy
	2nd	Marcus Dickerson	Ostrich Racer
SPOOKIEST	1st	Rebecca Jackson	Bug on Windshield
	2nd	Randy Howard	Creepy Old Man
OH NO YOU DIDN'T	1st	Olguin LaRoche	Sexy Cat Woman
	2nd	Misty Nichols	Mile High Captain
HONORABLE MENTION		Bryan Payne	Captain Bryan Payne of the Blue Pearl
		Ashley Parsons	Esmeralda, the Russian Gypsy
		Edward Lowry	The Shaman

costumes of contestants Bryan Payne and Ashley Parsons. Payne was "Captain Bryan Payne of the Blue Pearl" and wore a spooky pirate costume that included red and black striped pants, black boots and his trademark, of course, the black eye patch. Though not quite a Johnny Depp, his demeanor as he sailed across the runway could have won him a casting call for "Pirates of the Caribbean."

Parsons, dressed as Esmeralda the Russian gypsy, wore a green skirt, white blouse, a multicolored head cloth, and fashionable jewelry. Parsons received her inspiration from a church murder mystery party where she went as a gypsy fortune-teller. When asked what Esmeralda does for a living, she explained that she "works down next to the docks" and left the audience to wonder just what that might be.

When the performances were over, the judges briefly convened before returning with the results. The jury—formed by spectators of the costume contest—had their own opinions. "The cat woman was my favorite costume" said freshman Hiba Elhag. Norman Grizzell, Associate Director of Auxiliary Services, said, "I like the ostrich guy. Just standing looking at him from straight on, he looks like he really is an ostrich."

Prizes were awarded to one winner and runner-up that were selected in each of three categories; Original, Spookiest, and Oh No You Didn't. Winners received two bookstore items such as drinking glasses, sweaters, laptop bags, key chains and Halloween baskets filled with treats. Ultimately, no contestant went home empty handed. Congratulations to all winners, and all those that participated.

—MELISSA ROLLE



PHOTOGRAPH BY Jamal El-Amin

Homecoming Weekend 2007

Pep Rally and the Unveiling of Clayton State's Fight Song

For the first time in Clayton State's history, a new sense of pride was established on Friday, October 26th, with the unveiling of our very own fight song.

After a live broadcast here at Clayton State by Hot-107.9's "A-Team Morning Show," the Pep Rally started off with a special performance by the Clayton State Cheerleading Squad, and the introduction of participating athletes from the fall season. T.O. Totty, head coach of the women's soccer team, did the honors. He named the players that were present and spoke about the type of season the women's team has had. The Lady Lakers were 9-5-1 overall and 4-4 in the Peach Belt Conference. Pete Petersen, head coach of the men's soccer team, was unable to attend the pep rally on Friday, but was concluding a wonderful season. The Lakers placed first in the Peach Belt Conference which leads to their fourth overall season victory within the last few years.

The Lakers were 12-3-2 overall and 4-1-1 in the conference.

After soccer introductions were complete, Mike Mead, head coach of the cross country team, introduced his runners and what their season had been like. The women's cross country team placed 9th in the Peach Belt Conference Championships while the men placed 2nd. This was Clayton State's 13th appearance at the Peach Belt Conference Championship meet. These athletes have been hard at work making a name for our diverse campus as a force to be reckoned with.

Once all athletic introductions had been made, Candace Henry, a recent graduate of Clayton State's Music Department, made her debut as Lady Loch. She sang the lyrics of our new fight song, "The Mighty Fighting Lakers." During her performance, the cheerleaders presented the fight song dance and members of the audience clapped to the

beat. "The Mighty Fighting Lakers" was made possible by members of the Fight Song Committee and composer Stacey Houghton, band leader for our Bleau Water Pep Band who can be seen during many home basketball games. Members of the song committee were as follows: Bobby Asher, Angela Avery-Jones, Dolores Cox, Elaina Chance,

Jeff Jacobs, and Mike Mead. This pep rally seemed to be full of firsts. It was the first time a pep rally was held in the gym and not outside, the fight song was released, and the attendance was the highest yet. Overall it was a huge success that sparked a new tradition for this campus.—KIMBERLY GRAY

PEP RALLY HOSTED BY THE AUTHOR OF ARTICLE

The Mighty Fighting Lakers

Chorus:

We are the mighty fighting Lakers
Fighting for dear old orange and blue
Faithful and brave, crashing like waves
Conquering with a healthy wealth of pride and spirit
We proudly stand for Clayton's glory
Drowning our rivals in defeat
We cheer, "Go Clayton State, fight Clayton State"
And we will not be beat

Bridge:

It's Loch the Laker, they can't escape his bite
Our green tail shaker, who wants a win tonight
So we'll serve him a helping of Laker bait!
[Repeat Chorus]

Homecoming Awards

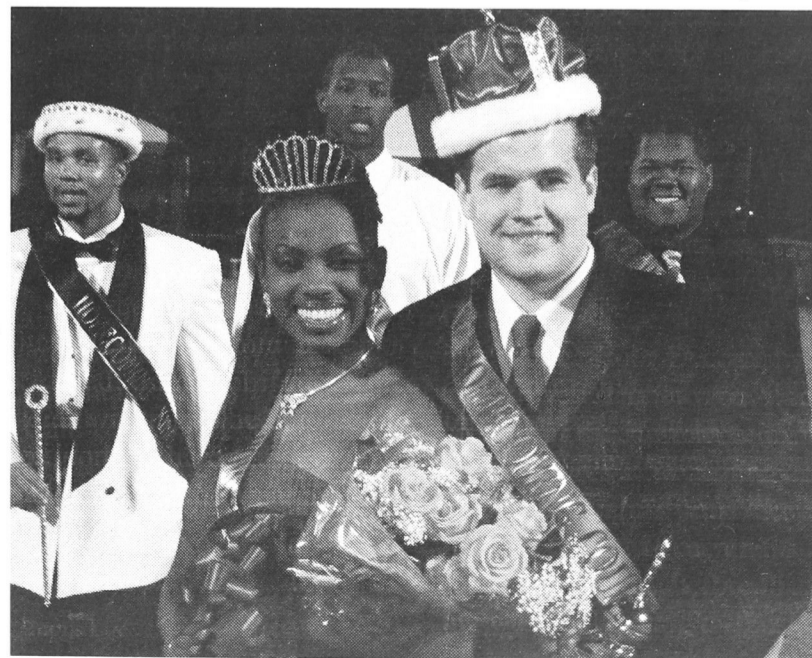
On October 27, Clayton State concluded Homecoming with the crowning of King and Queen Michael Ivie and Takeeia Williams. The ceremony was held during halftime at the men's soccer match that evening. Leandra De Los Angeles, Florencia Hernandez, Brian Kelly, and Darius Thomas rounded out the Homecoming Court. For the second year in a row, the HUB took home the "Homecoming Spirit" trophy for a campus department, and the Teacher Education Club took home the award's club or organization counterpart. The "Banner Competition" went to The Clayton State Science Association and the Center for Academic Success received top honors for the "Door Decorating Contest." Gid Rowell, Director of Alumni Relations and cochair of the Homecoming Committee, explained how Homecoming came to be so close to Halloween this year. "Since the year 2000, Homecoming has been held during the soccer season in the fall, before that year, Homecoming was held during the basketball season in

the winter," he explained. Because of this, the schedule has to work with the team's game times and they "grabbed the first home game date available." For example, Homecoming last year was "mid October from the 9th through the 14th," according to Mr. Rowell. When asked if he thought Homecoming on Halloween weekend would affect student turnout, he replied, "Clayton State has held homecoming during or near the Halloween weekend before. In 2002 we even had a Halloween theme...I don't think it will have an impact on the attendance outcome." This year, the theme was "Catch Us If You Can."

"The theme is geared toward all the development that is going on in and around campus. With the construction of the new student

center and new student dorms, along with the progression of the new Business building, we thought it was appropriate," concluded Mr. Rowell.—NIKKI HARRIS

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF Campus Life



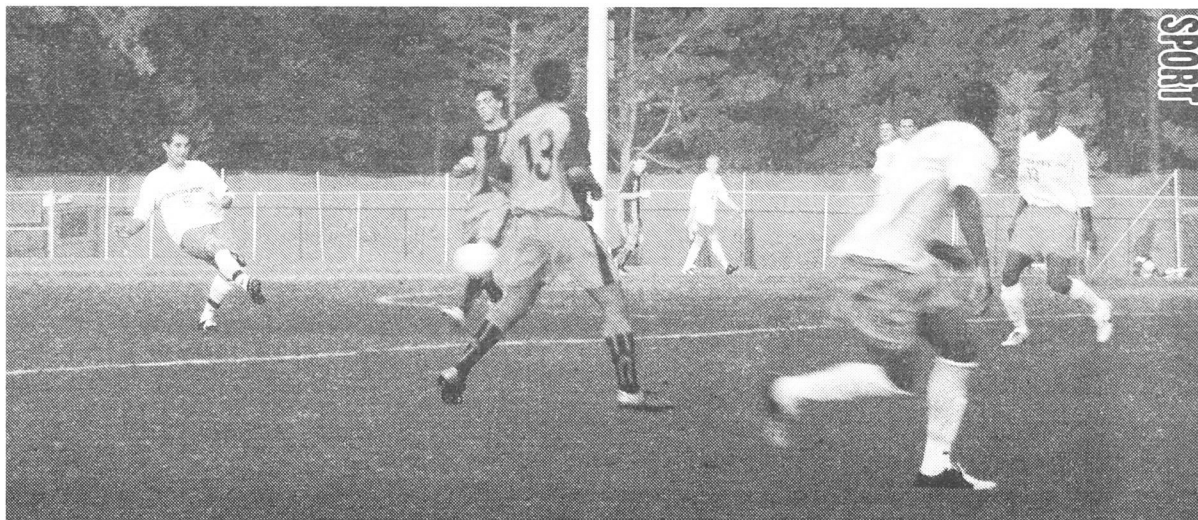
Fighting For Respect

MEN'S SOCCER

On a campus full of various activities vying for students' attention on any given day, the men's soccer team is fighting for respect within the student body and the Peach Belt Conference. How many times have you seen someone with a Clayton State Soccer sweatshirt? How many times have you recognized them without the soccer team apparel? I have only noticed a few, and many students do not follow what they consider to be a "not so popular sport."

Lead by Head Coach Pete Petersen, the team played a great season and fought their way to being ranked 14th and winning the Peach Belt Conference again with a record of 13-3-2. After another hard fought season, we are going to the play-offs, but this was no easy season. Battling low attendance and a tough schedule, the team lost 3-1 in what some are calling an upset to USC-Aiken. This game was very physical due to the combined 49 fouls and 3 yellow cards. They rebounded and won seven of the last eight regular season games to advance to the Peach Belt Conference Tournament.

One thing is sure about this team, fighting to gain respect comes naturally as the team is comprised of players from



different backgrounds, personalities, and locations. The roster is comprised of various countries such as South Africa, Antigua, Haiti, Germany, Kenya, England and Sweden. The captain of the team is South African Jarrid Nicholson, a senior midfielder who finished the season with four assists on the season. The leading scorer and most captivating player is Jamal Geathers, a defenseman who hails from Aiken, South Carolina. But don't get it twisted, he has assisted other teammates in scoring, and winning has been the mission.

Success is nothing new to this team; they are repeat league champions and conference tournament champions in 2005 and 2007. In 2004 and

2005 the team reached the NCAA tournament. Grades and brighter futures are the main reason we attend school, however, these men are carrying that load and more. So before you go out to hit the club, or start on that paper you waited too long to write, come see what the fuss on and off the field is all about! The Men's Soccer team is well on its way to becoming a soccer powerhouse. Join the growing support as we strive to solidify our championship season and take this fight to the national stage! —

SHANE McCrARY

SHANE McCrARY (Sports@BTreeNews.com) is the Sports Editor for *Bent Tree News*.

PHOTOGRAPH BY Marquez Hardaway

For Clayton State students intramurals may be all fun and games, but for Rashad Sanders, it is a lot of work. Fortunately for us, he loves his job. In his role as Asst. Director of the Recreational Sports and Intramurals Department, he strives to offer a well rounded recreational experience for students. He also gives students a social outlet in sportsmanship activities like 5-on-5 basketball, bowling, horseback riding, ski trips and exercise classes.

Sanders seems to be an intrinsic part of the university. In a there and back again saga, he left Clayton's Health Sciences Department in 2004 to work in advertising for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. He then left the AJC in September 2005 to make Clayton State history by becoming the first full-time Intramurals Coordinator.

Prior to Sanders taking over the position, intramurals was a function of the Office of Student Life and coordinated by a student. When asked why he returned to Clayton State, he replied, "I didn't like sitting in front of a computer all day, and I wanted a job that allowed me to interact more with people." Sanders says he enjoys "working here because of the family environment." This past spring, he again assumed a role new to Clayton State—Assistant Director of Recreational Sports and Intramurals.

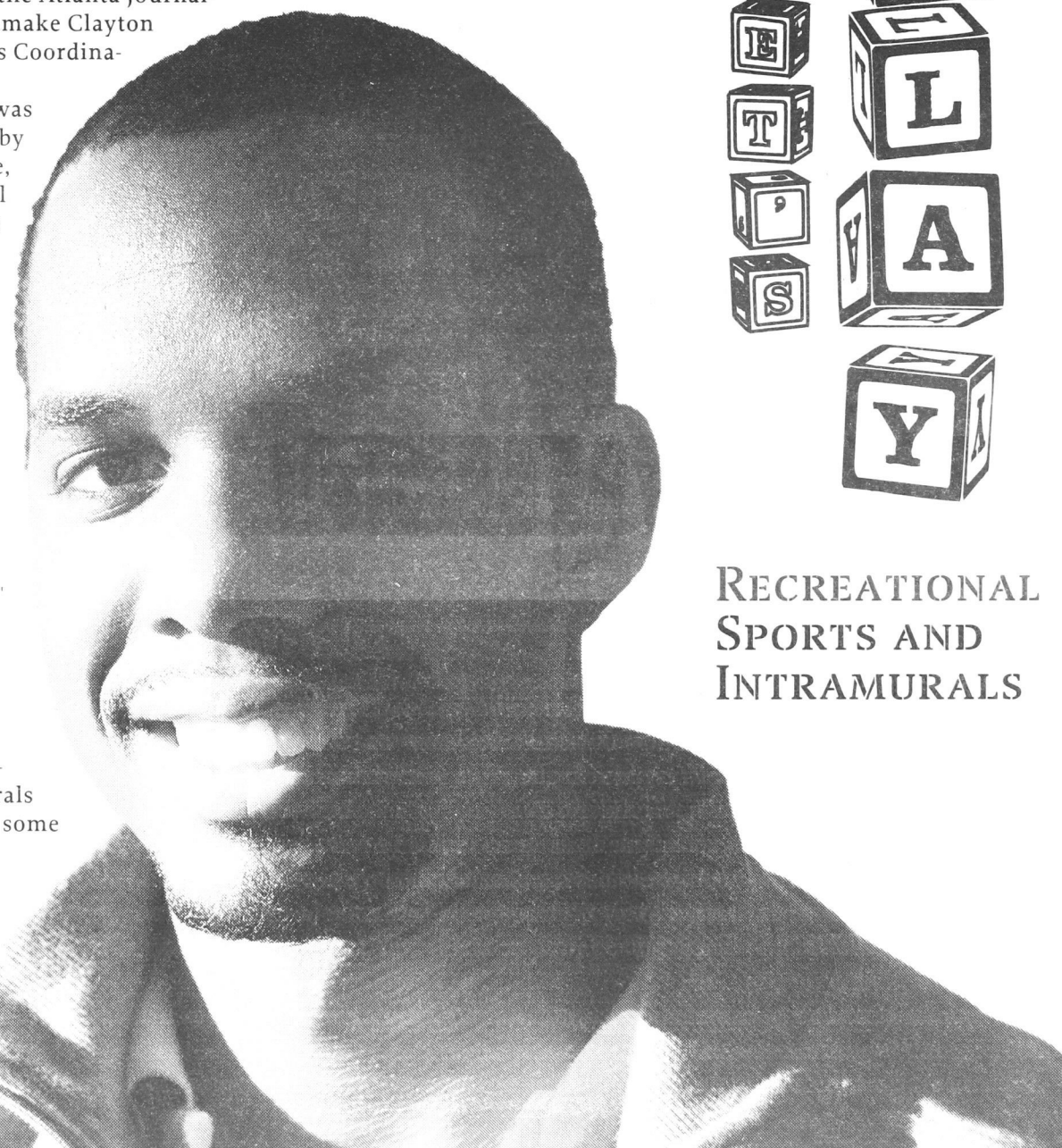
Sanders brought several programs to Clayton State including the annual ski trip which occurs every January. The ski trip has several fans such as Krysta Nelson, senior, who said that she fell while snowboarding, "but I was having so much fun that I went right back up the hill and fell down again." This year, he opened up the annual ski trip to recent Clayton State graduates at the current student price.

"He [Sanders] has brought a great deal to Clayton State," says Sunita Caton, sophomore. "He's very approachable and accepting of new ideas."

Sanders had more to say about intramurals. "I want people to know that college has more to offer than an education. While education should be the focus of your college experience, it shouldn't be the whole of your college experience. I want students to realize that intramurals is an opportunity to have fun, meet new people, and get some exercise," he said.

On just the short list of activities Intramurals offered this past semester were volleyball, flag football, 3-on-3 basketball, bowling, and paintball. For a complete list of services and activities offered by the Recreational Sports and Intramural department and upcoming events, be sure to log on to their website at <http://adminservices.clayton.edu/intramurals>.

—TONY J. BERRY JR.

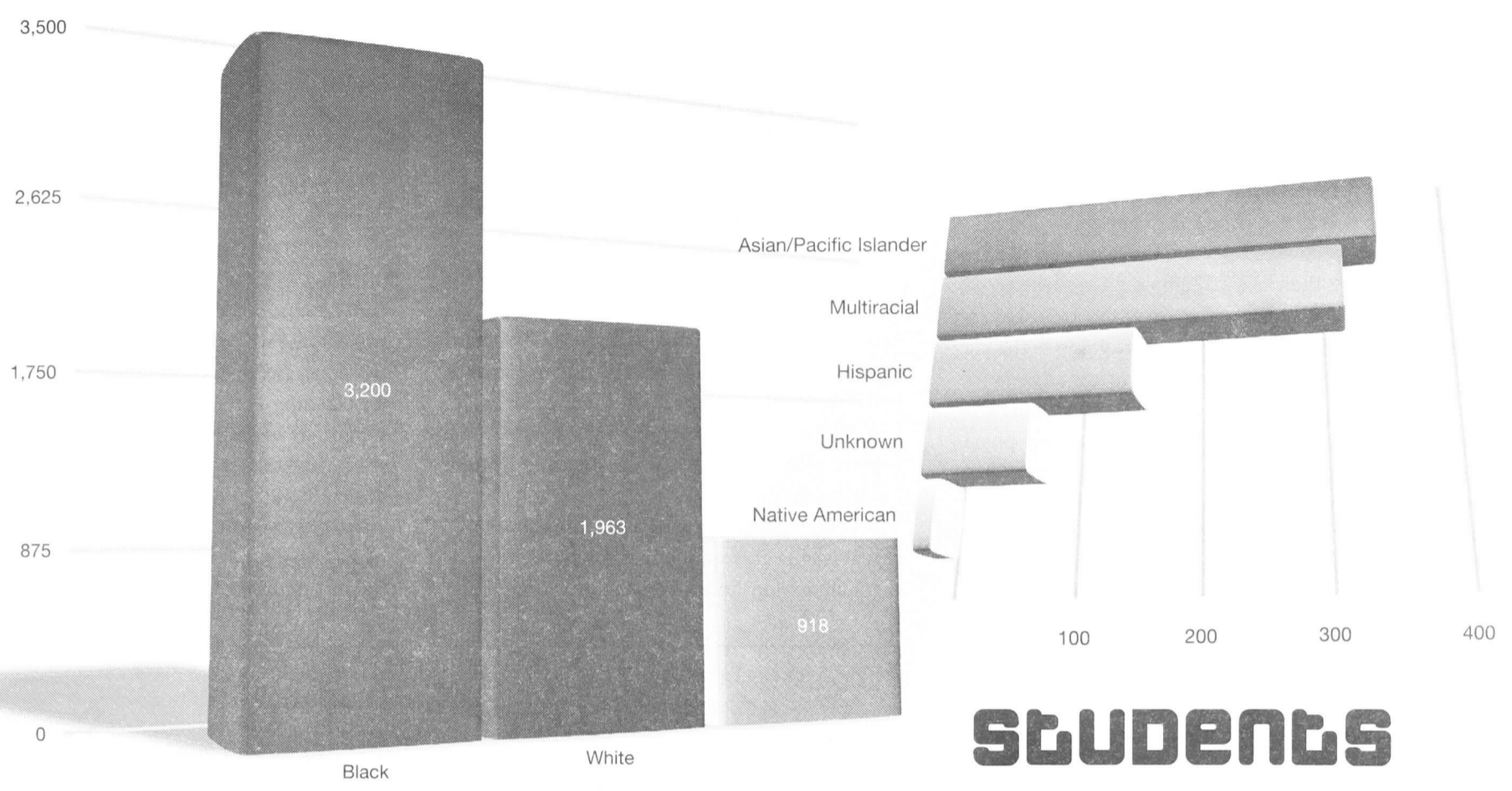


RECREATIONAL
SPORTS AND
INTRAMURALS

PHOTOGRAPH BY Kevin Pratt

DIVERSITY MATTERS

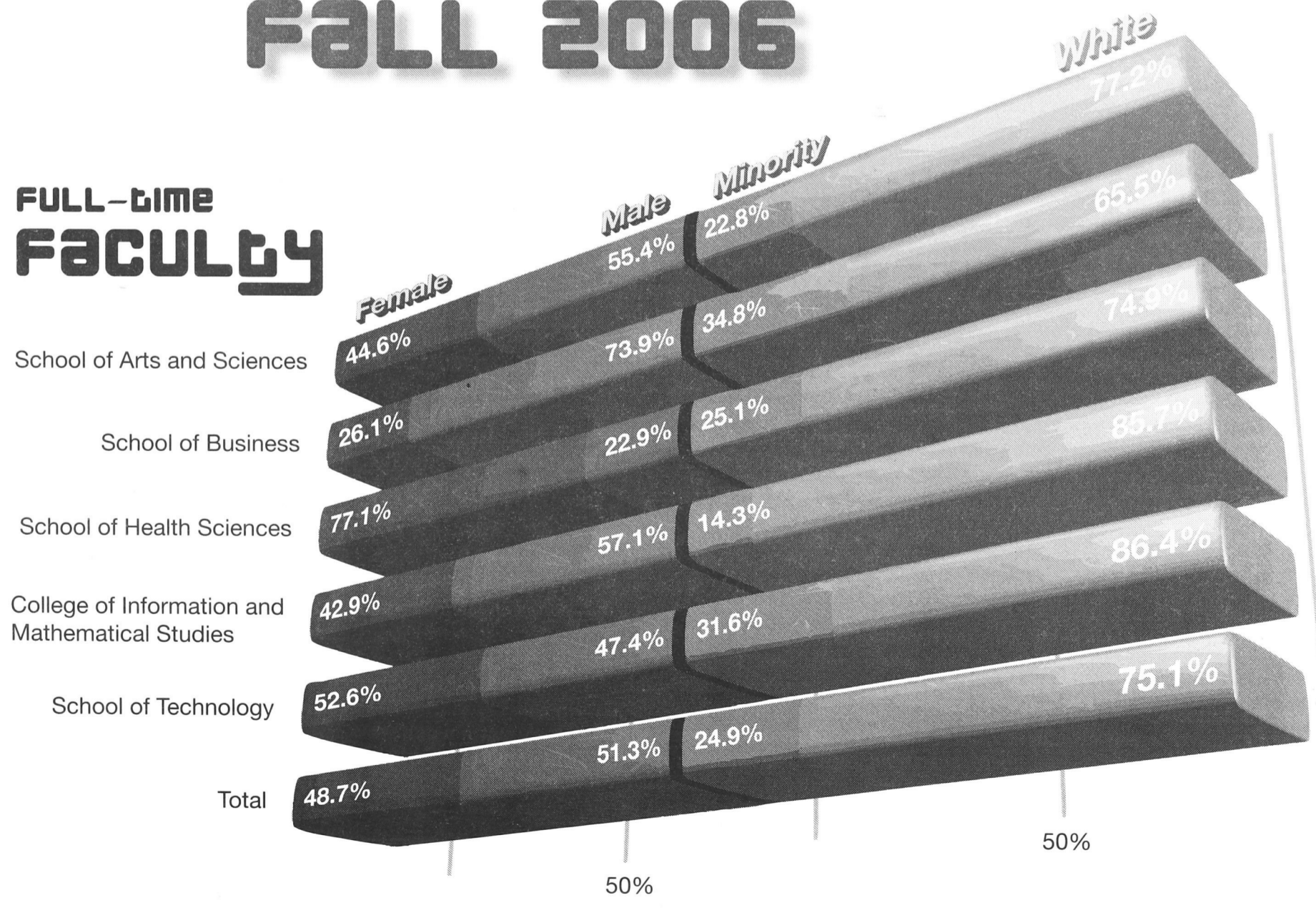
BY LONY J. BERRY JR.



STUDENTS

FALL 2006

FULL-TIME FACULTY



Providence has been pleased to give this one connected country to one united people – a people descended from the same ancestors, speaking the same language, professing the same religion, attached to the same principles of government, very similar in their manners and customs...
 – JOHN JAY, FIRST AMERICAN SUPREME COURT CHIEF JUSTICE

Providence, according to Chief Justice John Jay, has proven wrong. The United States has become a prosperous land largely due to the different races that compose our great nation. Clayton State University seems to be evidence of this error.

U.S. News and World Reports' America's Best Colleges 2008 issue claimed that, once again, Clayton State University is one of the most diverse campuses in Georgia. In fact, Clayton was named the most ethnically diverse baccalaureate college in the South. The categories used to calculate these rankings were American Indians and Native Alaskans, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, African-American who are non-Hispanic, whites who are non-Hispanic, and Hispanics.

This level of diversity is not a new occurrence here at Clayton State. For example, in the fall of 2005, with a total student enrollment of 6,212 students, the campus consisted of 64.6% minorities. These numbers break down to 4.9% Asian/Pacific Island, 51% Black, 2.7% Hispanic, 5.7% Multiracial, .2% Native American & 35.4% White. In 2006, these increased slightly to 66.4% minorities. The current enrollment on campus almost mirrors these numbers although exact figures were not available by press time.

Unfortunately, U.S. News did not include international students such as Native Africans, West Indians, Middle Eastern and Asians who are non-Pacific in their calcula-

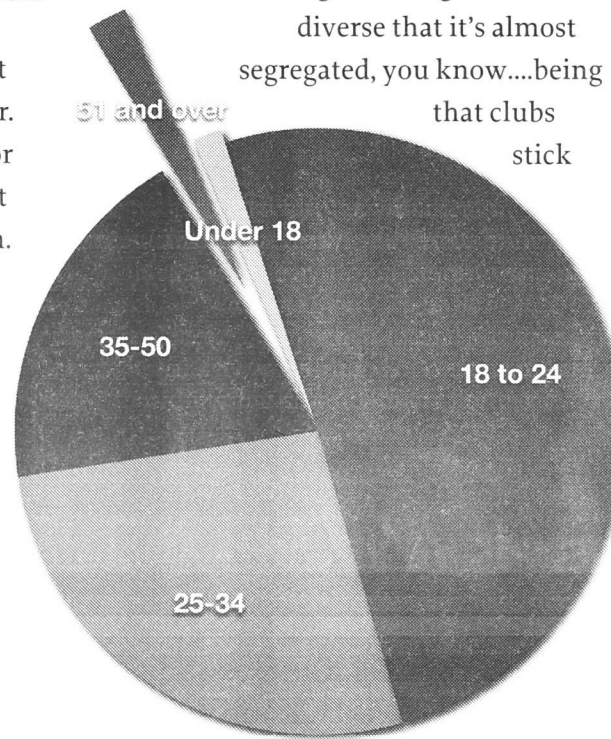
tions. There were several other groups that were not used to calculate diversity that Dr. Wendy Burns-Ardolino, Assistant Professor and Coordinator of Integrative Studies, felt should have been taken into consideration. "The article does not discuss any other types of diversity - e.g. non-traditional students, women, etc. I would like to see some data on these groups as well." For example, Clayton State's student body is 70.3% female and 48% are non-traditional.

The importance of diversity on campus was best summed up by Dr. Steve Spence, Associate Professor of English and Media Studies when he said, "one of CSU's real strengths is its diverse student body. Attending classes with people of different backgrounds, races, ethnicities, ages, religious beliefs, and sexualities benefits all of our students."

Many students on campus feel that being a diverse campus is a benefit to their education. "I prefer diversity. The benefits are the knowledge and the one on one personal experience with different cultures," says Phebe Rameau, a sophomore asked about her feelings on the article's findings. Krysta Nelson, a senior, did not share Rameau's enthusiasm towards diversity.

Nelson explained "that [the diversity on campus] was not what really attracted me to the college, but it may attract a lot of other people. I came here because I believe it was the best school for me."

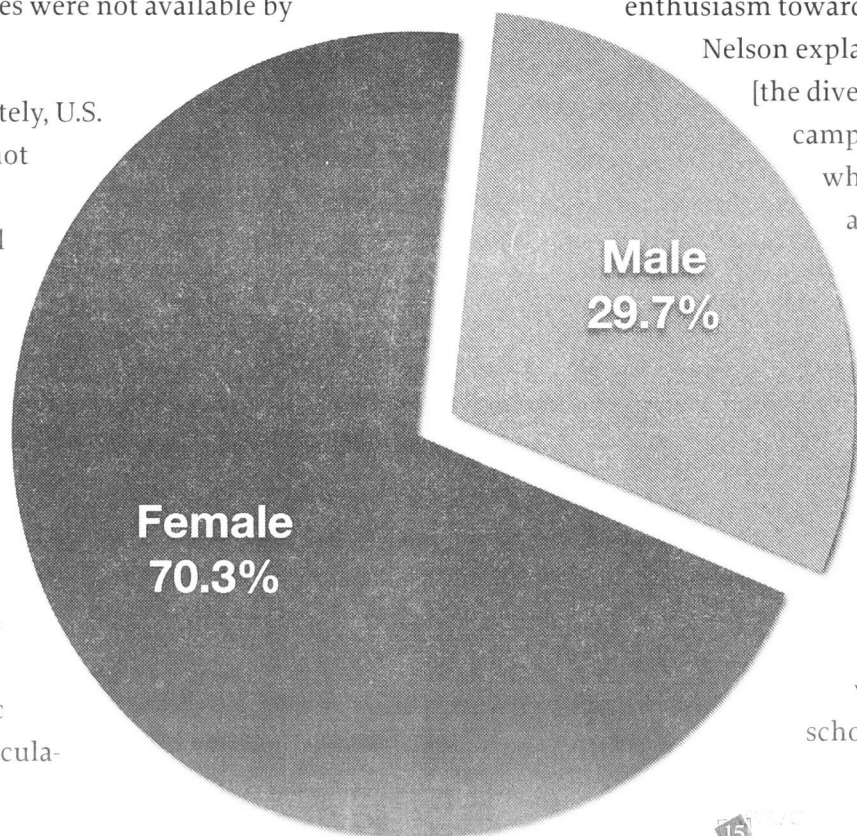
Not all students feel that the diversity on campus comes without difficulties all its own. Student Government Association (SGA) Vice-President & Sophomore Brandon Johnson adds that, "it's a great thing but it's so diverse that it's almost segregated, you know....being

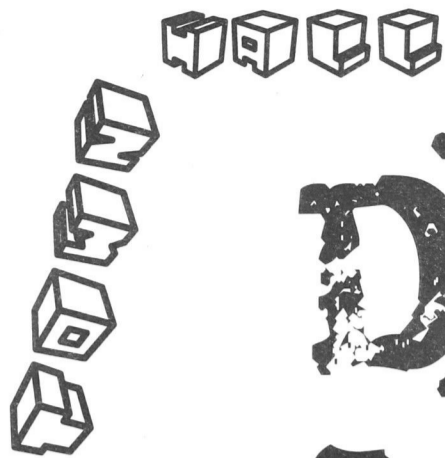


with clubs. Like the Vietnamese Student Association only stick with other VSA members. It's so diverse that each clique seems like its own country."

Jesseka Gooding, Junior & Campus Events Council (CEC) Entertainment Chair, responds to Johnson's statement by saying that she "agree[s] to some extent...academic wise, but when it comes to campus involvement...I don't feel that all the groups on campus participate. Maybe, it's because they feel that they don't have events that cater to them."

This reporter has no problem admitting that the make-up of the student body is very diverse; however, the numbers on the faculty at Clayton differ greatly from those of the student body or as Dr. Spence put it "in a word, we are much whiter." According to data provided by the university, our faculty was 81% white in 2005 and 75% white in 2006. Dr. Spence continued, "we should be working to change that, and we are. One encouraging recent change has been a move to begin searches for new faculty much earlier." Dr. Burns-Ardolino shared Dr. Spence's optimism towards the future asserting that "I can see that we are moving toward more diversity. Change of this kind is often slow, but it is palpable." ■





DOMESTIC MISUSE

by Alicia
Brown

COMMUNITY LEADERS SPEAK OUT ON DOMESTIC ABUSE

For the month of October, Bent Tree News partnered with Counseling Services to organize a Town Hall on domestic violence. Here we educated, empowered, and challenged every student and faculty member in attendance. The evening discussion was hosted by our own Roland Benoit, Jr. and Elaina Chance of Counseling Services.

While UC 272 was not filled to capacity as it ought to have been on October 17th, everyone present was exposed to much more than statistics, fliers and pamphlets. Our guest speakers, Patrice Altemus of Secrus House of Clayton County's Domestic Violence Shelter, and Dr. Bernard Francis founder of the Center for Behavioral Change, had plenty insight into those that abuse and those that are abused. Also able to share was Miss Mary, a student who is an advocate for ending domestic violence. Her testimony, along with the wealth of information offered by the panelists, inspired and urged students and staff to also be advocates for positive change in the community.

The evening began with an introduction of the panel and an opportunity for each of them to speak. Ms. Altemus was the first of the three.

Just the previous day she and the Program Coordinator for Secrus House had a discussion about whether domestic violence could really be stopped. "We work 24/7 to try and do those things [eradicate violence], but how can we when the general public is uninformed about what is actually happening with family violence?"

Altemus described the cycle of domestic violence, the different phases an abusive relationship goes through. First there is the physical or verbal abuse, and then there is the "honeymoon phase" where the abuser reverses tactics. They become a sweet talker after beating their partner and try to explain or justify their action. "When you asked me for money to go to Wal-Mart, it just got me kind of excited," said Altemus, giving an example of an abuser's justification for violence.

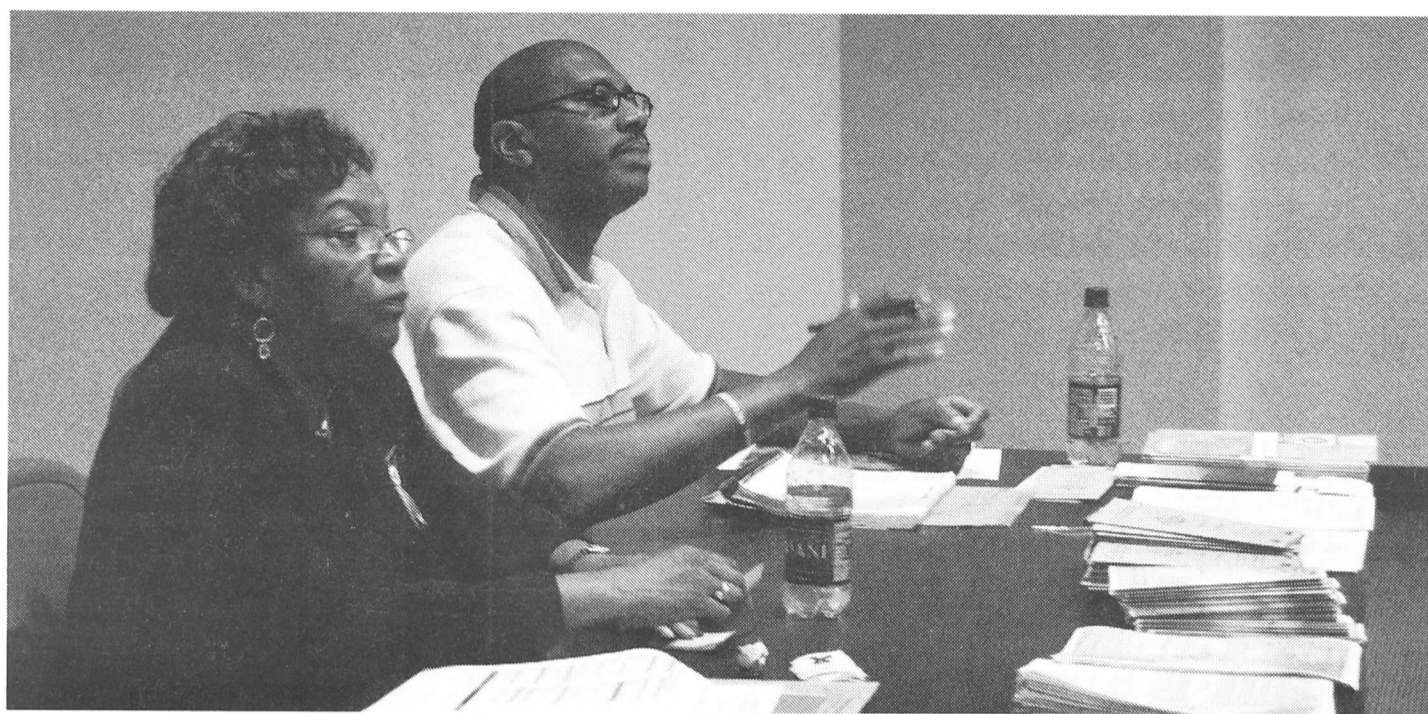
Just as abusers have patterns of behavior, so do the abused. For women, Altemus believes it is the surprising lack of education and practical skills that are used to exercise monopolistic control over their partner.

It is due to this manipulation and control that the abused often times remain in relationships that are unsafe and unhealthy.

She believes childhood relationships are a contributing factor in the maintenance of an abusive relationship. Positive healthy childhood relationships serve as examples of how to honor and respect our partners. "We partner off with each other, and 'I love you and you love me, and baby make three and everything is going to be wonderful, and we're going to get the house with the picket fence and we're going to live happily ever after,'" said Altemus.



However, with the promise of all this bliss, important issues can be overlooked. The question of if one of the partners were raised in a household of domestic violence is something that is often times not thought about in relationships.



To offset this, initiatives to educate our youth are crucial to eradicating domestic violence. "If we are able to have some kind of dialogue starting with very young people, then we will be able to stop the violence," she continued.

According to Altemus, Clayton County reported 70 deaths due to domestic violence in 2006, "one is too many." In other words, there were 70 people whose lives were taken from them because someone chose to take out their anger, rage, and pain on another human being.

The next panelist to speak was Dr. Bernard Francis, founder of the Center for Behavioral Change. Located in Decatur, Ga., the Center is a place where abusers learn alternate ways to resolve issues. For example, they are taught how to feel empathy and sympathy for others.

Dr. Francis reminded the audience about the different types of abuse: physical, mental, and sexual. He also mentions the "honeymoon stage" referred to by Altemus, but adds that over time this honeymoon stage decreases and the abuse increases in severity.

"It's all about responsibility, and holding [oneself] accountable for your own actions," said Francis as he shared what he emphasizes most to participants in his program. Often times those in his

course feel that they have not done anything unjust. When doing a pre-assessment for the classes, many of the perpetrators "precede the incident with one word: 'just'," began Francis. "I 'just' pushed her. I 'just' shoved her. I 'just' put my hand

around her neck 'just' to show her you don't talk to me like that...and all these things are just too many 'justs.'" After completing their program, the abuser learns that there are other ways to express their anger and that non-violent relationships are feasible and healthy.

Regardless of the type of abuse, abusers share characteristics such as low self-esteem, lack of trust, low tolerance of stress, and the inability to take responsibility for their actions.

The last speaker on the panel was Miss Mary who proudly stated that she was not, "here as a victim. I'm here as an advocate. I have overcome domestic violence, and I didn't do it by myself."

She tells her story of an inspiring and prosperous female attorney who employed Miss Mary as a housekeeper at her mansion. The woman caught sight of her face and inquired about her blackened eye. Miss Mary explained what happened to her. "There was something about [her] that empowered me, because I grew up in a family of nineteen, and our daily entertainment was our father...we grew up with my

father beating my mother daily... pregnant, bare-footed...and in the kitchen. I promised myself I would not marry a man that was like my father. About two years after we married, I found out that I had married my father's twin."

"I came here tonight not out of grief...I came to empower you," Miss Mary explained. "I want to empower the males. I want to empower the females, and I want you to know that love does not hurt." She urged the audience, "The first time he hits you call 911." She said just two weeks ago an incident occurred at her neighbor's home that was most bothersome to her. While she was gardening she heard



the agonizing screams of a young woman, she came from across her yard to find out that this young girl was trying her hardest to get away from a young man who would not release her. She was desperately

trying to get away from him getting into her car and "he simply would not allow it." He hit her so hard she could hear the sound of his blows, "and every time he hit her, her scream lessened and got softer. There were at least twelve men witnessing this event, and not one would react."

She went over and urged the young man to stop hitting the young woman. "He stopped," she said, but only long enough to "tell me where my old behind should go." She attempted to use her home phone to call 911 but could not because her husband was purposefully occupying it. "I said 'okay, this is the way it's going to be.' I had to use the last resort, because he was beating her to death. I went to get a gun, and I told him, 'if they don't get a hold of you, they certainly going to pick your ass up today."

"I had to do it because I've been there," she explained. "I have lost jobs because I was beaten so bad I was ashamed. Every policeman in my neighborhood knew me, because I had to run. Pregnant, I had to run. You go and buy your husband a nice pair of shoes. You're six months pregnant and you look and he's stomping you with them. I've been through it. I don't want you to go through it. My ministry is to break the cycle: domestic violence

can be a generational cycle, and we must break it. When someone has control of you the one thing they don't want you to have is knowledge, because knowledge is power," explained Miss Mary. ■

Take My Advice

By CHRISTINA SEMPLE with guest ROLAND BENOIT JR.

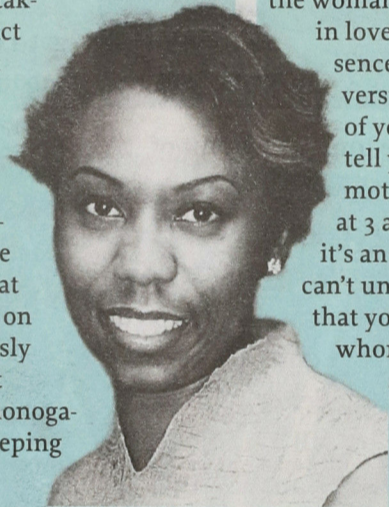
Am I wrong for continuing to converse with my ex-girlfriend even though she is married? We still love one another and she has told me she secretly wants my last name. What am I to do?
—Last Name

Well, there isn't anything you can do. You are certainly free to continue talking to her. But, do so with the understanding that she married another man for a reason. And though I may sound unsympathetic, in the days following Burning Bras and Women's Lib, we no longer HAVE to marry anyone we do not want to, at least not in America. So, assuming she is American, she could have married you. But in case you have not read before now, she didn't. She married another man. That is not you.

I say this repeatedly as your heart to this point has impeded your logical mind from taking over. So perhaps seeing this fact in black and white will assist that process.

In this situation, you both are equally 'wrong' for continuing this relationship. If this is a traditional marriage, then her conversing with you may be going outside of the bounds of her marriage. That therefore is her cross to bear. You, on the other hand, may simultaneously be sabotaging your own chance at wedded bliss from an available, monogamous (if you want) woman. By keeping your attention on your married ex-girlfriend, you are NOT paying attention to the single girl who has tried in vain to flirt with you and ask you out, the old flame who is single and now wants you back, or the woman at your job that you barely notice. The point is, you cannot move forward if you are constantly looking back. Leave her in your past and focus keenly on your future.

Best of luck always!



I need help! I am constantly the 'friend'. I'm also told I am too nice, which to me, translates into boring. While I disagree, I can't argue with the masses. I don't want to change, because I enjoy being nice. But at the same time, I've been single for four years. Can I have some advice beyond 'be patient' or at the very least words of encouragement. I'm attractive and do not think that is the issue.
—Mr. Nice Guy

Though I won't pretend to know what exactly you are experiencing, I do understand the conundrum: do you change to change your marital status, or do you remain the same and keep the same marital status?

My suggestion would be to never change because the woman who truly, willingly and sincerely falls in love with you will not be in love with the essence of you are, but some altered, superficial version of you and you will be doing the both of you a disservice in deed. I also would not tell you to be patient. Have you ever heard a mother tell her newborn baby to be 'patient' at 3 a.m. when it's hungry? No, and it's because it's an absurd suggestion, even to a baby who can't understand the request. What I do suggest is that you think about the caliber of women with whom you associate. If being polite and chivalrous is too nice, then perhaps she is not

considering herself worthy of such attention. Or perhaps

she is not used to it.

Either way, there is a disconnect between the two of you and THAT is why you are single. In other words, the woman who will appreciate you and all of you, has not yet arrived. Though I do believe there is someone out there for every one of us, I also believe that sometimes while we are looking or waiting for them, they are busy getting prepared for a relationship with us. They are busy learning about themselves, about relationships, and about life all of which is absolutely necessary for a relationship to sustain itself through turmoil, changes, and time.

In closing, I do think you will come across her, but do not miss her because you are looking at yourself in the mirror and wondering what to change. In the interim, just focus on yourself, that always makes it easier for others to focus on you as well.

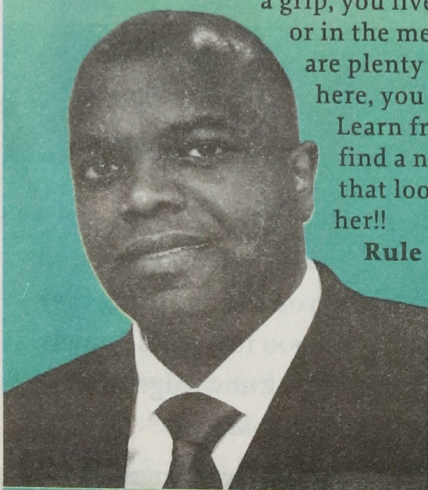
Good luck sweetie!

I love reading these advice columns, and Christina does an excellent job of giving helpful and thoughtful advice to everyone that writes in. But, I have noticed the advice has an overwhelming feminine point of view. She's graciously allowed me to join her here to give the male point of view!

So, here we go. Last Name, you got to let the ex-girlfriend go!! I can understand that she probably made your toes curl, but she is now doing that for someone else!! Is it wrong to converse with your ex-girlfriend, the answer is "yes" lonely guy. Get

a grip, you live in Atlanta, or in the metro area, there are plenty of woman out here, you lost that one. Learn from it, and find a new girlfriend that looks better than her!!

Rule number 1456, you always make sure the new one, looks better than the old one!!



Mr. Nice Guy, you are really getting on my nerves with this "I'm too nice". Please read the following very carefully and slowly! "I'm too nice" are code words woman use to explain that, "I don't like you," "I don't want to go out with you," or "you remind me of my little brother." Sorry dude, that is what they are telling you, and you probably already knew that. Woman possess the skills to cut us softly with their words. Maybe you like going shopping with this particular woman? Maybe you watch lifetime with her? Maybe you cry with her?

I don't know, but if you are doing anything that I just mentioned, please stop. It is alright, and required of you to be a gentlemen, even though many woman out here today do not appreciate those qualities. That is not your concern. What you should be concerned with is that you are complaining about being single! What is the problem? You claim to be attractive, so you can't find any woman to date? Ask the married guys out here if they have any sympathy for you. You seem to be the guy who does not feel he is validated unless he is in a relationship, understood.

Enjoy the bachelor life, because when it is gone, it is gone. You will meet her when you least expect it, trust me, I know!! As always, I leave with a Man Rule reminder.

Rule number 1002, you never wish to be locked down, they will arrest you sooner or later.

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