

## Regents take aim at gun bill

By Kevin Liles  
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The University System of Georgia's Board of Regents is "deeply concerned" about legislation before the Georgia Assembly that would allow guns to be carried on college campuses.

Twenty-six of the 37 presidents of universities that make up the University System of Georgia recently signed a letter urging lawmakers to

keep the law as it stands.

There are similar bills in both the House of Representatives and the Senate, but the letter sent by the Regents targets the Senate version, introduced by Senate Majority Whip Mitch Seabaugh (R-Sharpsburg).

Seabaugh said his bill seeks to clarify the current Georgia law concerning where guns can be carried. It would change language in the bill that would make it legal to carry in guns in most public buildings, includ-

ing churches and college campuses. Currently, it is illegal to carry a gun within 1,000 feet of a college campus.

"I want to be clear that this is only concerned with individuals who are properly permitted and licensed to carry guns," he said in a phone interview. "Extensive background checks are completed on anyone who is licensed to carry a gun."

To legally carry a handgun in Georgia, a person must be 21 and have a clean record. There are about 300,000

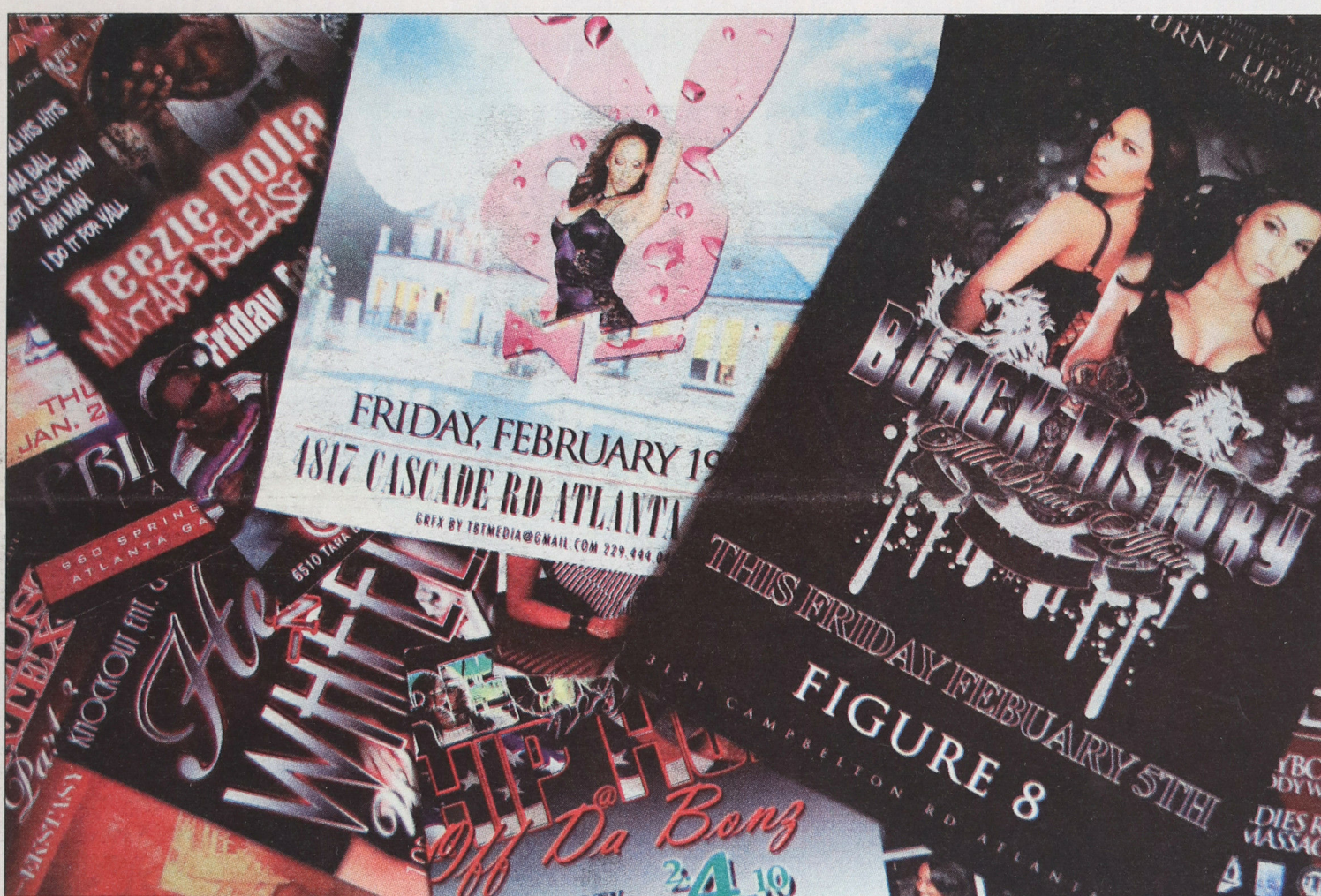
people licensed to do so in Georgia.

CSU President Tim Hynes was among the group of presidents who signed the Regents' letter, but was unavailable for comment.

SGA President Darius Thomas said he has met with Hynes concerning the matter and talked about issues they both have about campus safety.

"What if you have a scenario

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KEVIN LILES/THE BENT TREE

Flyers such as these are distributed each week to students in Laker Hall. School officials say doing so violates university policy and want it to stop.

## Unwanted Solicitation

By Kevin Liles  
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Many have half-naked women on them. Others advertise mixed-tape parties. They all promise good times and cheap drinks.

These messages, among others, appear on the thousands of glossy flyers distributed each week to the roughly 400 students who live in Laker Hall, CSU's only dormitory.

"We've seen a proliferation of these things going back to November," said Bryan Haynes, vice-president of Student Affairs for CSU. "We've gotten complaints from students, faculty and staff. They're everywhere — I'm tired

of seeing them."

Most of the flyers are advertisements for local clubs. One for the VFW Post in Jonesboro is titled "Love, Lust & Latex." A picture of a man holding condoms is shown over images of several scantily-clad women.

Demetrius Stinson, a freshman who's in his second semester living at Laker Hall, said the messages on the flyers don't bother him, but they clutter up his dorm. While he's never seen anyone distributing the flyers, they arrive like clockwork.

"I see them every week," he said. "But I just pick them up and throw them away."

Each week, a new batch of flyers comes gliding under his door, advertis-

ing the latest happenings at local clubs.

"There's a new party that they want us to go to. It doesn't personally bother me because I don't go to these parties," the 19-year-old said.

Haynes said Student Affairs, along with CSU Public Safety, have been trying to combat the problem, with little success. Distributing the flyers violates CSU's policies, he said, adding that anything distributed or posted on campus must be approved by Campus Life.

"We have done a number of things (to stop people from passing out the flyers)," Haynes said. "When we see the individuals doing this, we've asked them to stop. We've engaged public safety.

## CSTV coming to CSU

By Laurinda Wilson  
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Clayton State will soon get a television station.

Students Iesha Little and Yul Banks have laid the groundwork to get the station started. CSTV was officially recognized as an entity of the media program last month.

Little said she felt a television station was needed here at CSU, so its media students could compete with other colleges and universities around the country. After doing some research, she reached out to Banks, who has previous experience with television.

"This is an outlet for students to express themselves and give students experience before graduating," said Banks, who is working on projects with Tyler Perry as well as local churches.

CSTV will start airing on March 2. A table will be set up in the University Center that week for students who are interested in working for the station.

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As a student run publication, our goal is to entertain, educate and inform the campus, while also providing an opportunity for students to develop and enhance their journalistic skills. We strive to promote balanced reporting, while offering a platform for students to share opinions and concerns with the student body.

The Bent Tree encourages letters to the editor, as well as story ideas and submissions. To do so, submit an email to one of the editors (kliles@student.clayton.edu / jsawyer1@student.clayton.edu). The newspaper office is located in the Student Activities Center, room 205. You can reach us at 678-466-5436.

# C-TRAN to cease operations

By James Baxley  
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At the end of this month, C-TRAN (Clayton County's bus service) will end operations in Clayton County. Though more than two million people rode CTRAN last fiscal year, it only brought in \$2.5 million in revenue and continues to operate with a deficit of \$8 million.

How will this effect Clayton State University? CSU's Brian Haynes, vice president for Student Affairs, said the university conducted an online poll in December and found that about 11 percent of the student body relied on the bus system for transportation.

This will make Clayton County

the only county of the five core metro Atlanta counties to not have public transportation.

The Clayton County Board of Commissioners voted 4-1 to end service in Clayton County; The sole vote to keep it running was from Chairman Eldrin Bell. There have been many hearings since the county commission decided to end services. Many county and state officials have been present at these meetings, including representatives from Clayton County cities, business leaders, and educational institutions (namely Clayton State University and ITT.) There have been members of the Georgia House and Georgia Senate listening to citizens' concerns, but the biggest voice has been from the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus.

"The end of C-TRAN will be very hard on many of the citizens in the Senate District 44," said Georgia Senator Gail Buckner (D-Jonesboro), who represents district 44 and is a Clayton State student. "People depend on public transportation to get to work, the university and other essential daily trips. These citizens will certainly face a hardship. If C-TRAN is allowed to fail, it will impact the entire state because the federal government isn't going to be very accepting of this large urban county dropping mass transit."

One of those who will be affected by the closure of C-TRAN is CSU student Alex Adams, Jr.

"I will have to find friends and family members to help me get to school."

# Crime on decline for CSU

By Jennifer Sawyer  
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Crime is on the decline at CSU.

According to monthly campus crime reports, incidents have decreased from 67 reported occurrences in 2008 to 62 occurrences in 2009.

"The reason for the reduction in crimes on campus is probably due at least in part to the personal vigilance of the entire campus community, routinely adopting some of the security awareness practices referenced above, which we really appreciate," Bobby Hamil, director of CSU Public Safety, said in an email.

Incidents on campus range from harassing phone calls, small theft, and laptop theft to assault and battery, vehicle theft, and vandalism. The majority of crimes in 2009 were small thefts and laptop thefts, including iPods, parking decals, wallets, purses, books, backpacks, cellular phones, credit cards, and laptops.

The majority of the reported incidents took place in April and November of last year. This does not seem to be a yearly trend, considering

the two months with the most crimes reported in 2008 were July and September.

Recovery of items reported stolen also increased last year. There were three reports of having items recovered in 2009, up from two reported recoveries in 2008.

What these numbers do not reflect are the crimes reported from Laker Hall. Between January and October 2009, there were 20 incidents reported. Of those, seven were small thefts, three were arrests, and three were warnings for students in possession of marijuana.

Hamil had some advice on how to prevent thefts, especially of laptops, on campus.

"To better protect laptops, they should never be left unattended in unsecured areas," he said. "Also, laptop locks can be purchased to secure them in your absence. They even sell them in our campus bookstore."

His main tips to prevent theft concerned unattended items.

"A common location of thefts is vehicles. Items of value left in plain view inside a vehicle are attractive targets to thieves. The same goes for leaving personal items in common areas on campus. If you must leave personal items temporarily for any reason, please ensure that they are left with a trusted person." There were two computers stolen from CSU offices last week, prompting Hamil to send a campus-wide email.

"It is difficult to determine if the thefts were attributed to the economy, targets of opportunity, or other basis," he said. "There is no indication that laptops are becoming primary targets for thieves. However, without appropriate attention given to safeguarding one's personal property ... there is always a risk of loss or theft on campus as well as anywhere

**What are you doing for Spring Break?  
How does volunteering in a rainforest  
sound? What about helping to renovate an  
apartment for a homeless family?**

**Contact The Department Of Campus Life for  
more Information on the Alternative Spring  
Break Programs  
Student Activities Center  
Suite 223  
(678) 466- LIFE**



## Should guns be on campus?

GUN BILL *continued from page 1*

where there is a shooter on campus, but everyone is allowed to have guns?" he asked. "It would be hard to identify who the shooter is."

Seabaugh said this type of situation is very unlikely to occur.

"There has been a lot of hysteria created with people thinking that any student will be able to carry on campus," he said. "This simply isn't true."

The new legislation would prohibit guns to be in classrooms, dormitories, research facilities and athletic events.

Seabaugh said the impetus for the law was confusion concerning where guns are and are not allowed. For example, Georgia case law has made the parking lots of some public buildings an extension of that building, he said.

"And if you are licensed to carry a gun and have one in your car while you're at church, you would be in

violation of the current law," he said. "It creates a 'gotcha' type of situation."

CSU sophomore Christine Lengel said she doesn't have a problem with the proposed bill.

"I think that in general, it's not a bad idea," she said. "I'm OK with it to an extent — I think there needs to be more security (if the law passes). But I think college students are smart enough to be responsible."

But CSU junior Rajinder Balasuriya is not so convinced.

"I don't think you should be allowed to have guns on campus," the integrative studies major said. "If an argument ensued, there's a chance one person could take it to the next level."

The fate of the bill, the Common Sense Lawful Carry Act, currently lies in the hands of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Seabaugh said he is working with the Board of Regents to reach "some common ground" about their concerns.

## Delta Sigma Theta holds info session

By Vonetta Thornton  
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The Tau Epsilon Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. held an informational session on January 31 in the SAC Ballroom. Women of various ages, races, and backgrounds attended the informational session and learned of both the chapter and national history of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. This session also gave information on the programs the sorority has to offer, membership requirements, their D.O.N.T. policy, and allowed attendees to get to know members of the sorority.

Tau Epsilon was chartered at Clayton State in 2000. It became the 936th chapter of Delta Sigma Theta.

Nationally, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority was founded in 1913 by 22 collegiate women at Howard University. These students used their collective strengths to promote academic excellence and provided assistance to those in need. Today, membership is well over 200,000 college educated women. The sorority currently has over 900 chapters worldwide. The sorority provides an extensive array of public service initiatives through its Five-Point Program, Thrust of Economic Development, Educational Development, International Awareness and Involvement, Physical and Mental Health, and Political Awareness and Involvement.

One really important part of the informational session was the D.O.N.T. session. D.O.N.T. is an acronym for Delta Oppose Nonsense Totally. This program includes the Delta's Anti-Hazing policy and The Tau Epsilon Chapter's compliance with Clayton State University's anti-hazing policy. Because the sorority takes this subject so seriously, Natasha Hudson of Campus Life appeared as a guest speaker to further explain the University's policy on Anti-Hazing. According to the sorority, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. does not tolerate hazing in any form. Not only are members prohibited from engaging in hazing conduct or activities, prospective members are prohibited from submitting to hazing. Any member who has engaged in or failed to report hazing activities; and any prospective member who has submitted to hazing activities or failed to report such activities will be subject to strict punishment.

To learn more about The Delta Sigma Theta, sorority, view the national website at [www.deltasigmatheta.org](http://www.deltasigmatheta.org). To find out more about The Tau Epsilon Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority at CSU, Campus Life provides helpful information at <http://adminservices.clayton.edu/campuslife/chapters/deltasigmatheta.htm>.

## Need ideas for Spring Break?

By Janine Herrera  
Staff Writer  
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Don't have anything planned for spring break? Here are a few ideas.

For those students who like to have fun in the sun, Panama City Beach, Fla. is the place to be. And for the nature lovers who thrive on tranquility and scenery Gatlinburg, Tenn. is a good choice.

Panama City known for its having 27 miles of clean white sandy beaches and delectable seafood menus, also offers an array of spring break specials. For starters, free pancake breakfast is being provided to the public by Lifeway Christian Resources (850-249-2695) from 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. between March 9 -12 at the Rock-it Lanes.

Students who have a fondness for marine animals and exotic bird attractions the place to visit is Gulf World. Admission is \$27 dollars for an all day pass to watch the dolphins and sea lions shows and observe the shark, alligators, penguins and flamingo's exhibits. There are also plenty of activities to do and exciting attractions for students to see at the Shipwreck Island and Water Park, Zoo world and Ripley's Believe it or Not Museum.

Panama City Beach nightlife offers some of the most popular sports bars that stay open until the wee hours of the morning include the Backdoor Lounge, Big Kahunna, Spinnaker and Harpoon Harry's, with no cover charges and easy access for college students to gain entrance. But if none of this suits your fancy there

is always open space to lie out on the beach, or do some shopping for inexpensive items at the local gift shops.

Gatlinburg is known for the blue Smoky Mountains. However, this March will be the grand opening of the Penguin Exhibit and the Carousel Gardens shopping, dining and cultural complex. The compound holds 77 shops, café, antique store and a cookie gallery. Nearby is the Gatlinburg heritage museum that holds interactive exhibits.

The five million dollar penguin exhibit showcases an indoor and outdoor habitat for the African black-footed penguins facing possible extinction. This facility allows viewing of the penguins from above and below water levels.

For the outdoor adventurer looking for an eco-friendly spring break, Gatlinburg offers eight hundred miles of hiking, rock climbing, and white water rafting starting at \$39 dollars and there is even the venture of floating down the river on an inner tube.

Jim Davis, public relations coordinator, Gatlinburg Department of Tourism says, "A lot going on, new things, many things to do free. The Smokies blossom during spring break time, hikes are free, memories are made here. Rates are low and the Smokies are free with a lot of dining options. There are even cabins available to hold ten people at a time."

However one chooses to spend their spring break the key is to indulge in quality recreation, entertainment and relaxation.



MEDEKA MCGREGOR/THE BENT TREE

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH SUPERBOWL: Participants pictured in the final round of the contest, held on Feb. 18. The event tested knowledge of African-American history.**



Weekly poll

# What is the biggest issue facing college students?

Every college campus faces issues, and Clayton State is no exception. A poll was conducted last week, asking CSU students what they thought were the biggest issues facing them. Here are their answers:

By Medeka McGregor / mmcgregor@student.clayton.edu



**Melovejah Garrett**  
freshman  
education major

"I feel the biggest issue is that we do not have enough activities for the students. The UC is not centralized enough, students don't feel like walking all the way to the SAC every time there are activities. I think if we have more activities students will be more involved in the school."



**Leanne Hilton-Clark**  
freshman  
health & fitness major

"I think that traditional students, like me, feel that this is not a college setting. Like it's a nontraditional college, it being such a small college of like 6,000 people. I'd rather attend somewhere like Georgia State and have more of a college opportunity and get the full experience out of it."



**Janei Ivey**  
freshman  
pre-pharmacy major

"I believe the biggest issue is that Clayton State is not a college atmosphere. It doesn't make you feel like you're actually in a college. There's not a lot of things to do, so it gets very boring very quickly and it doesn't attract people to want to come here. I think they should have more college activities."



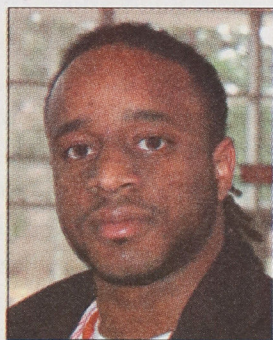
**Jennifer Sosa**  
sophomore  
political science major

"I guess it's laziness and lack of motivation that students have just to come to class, you know? They feel, well I'm already in school, I'm already, you know, I guess ahead of my class, why come to class anymore. They don't feel motivated enough to continue on and that's why a lot of people tend to drop out or fail"



**Gideon Melly**  
freshman  
liberal studies major

"I think it's money, finding a job, like being able to pay for school or once you get out of school trying to find a job and make money"



**Ronreaco Lee**  
junior  
computer networking technology major

"Being that we have renovation going on, parking is a major issue, which I think cannot pretty much be handled. But alternatives will be, could be, suggested to the problem."



**Dominique Trappio**  
freshman  
health & fitness major

"I think the biggest issue facing Clayton State students would be time management, being so close to Atlanta. Students have trouble just making time, staying away from parties and things like that."

**Got something to say?**

Submit it to  
**Get Bent at  
getbentcsu@gmail.com**

## Theme of SGA forum: "We're working on it"

By: Lindsay Keeler  
Contributing Writer  
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On February 11, the Student Government Association held its annual Student Forum. In attendance were the members of the SGA, including President Darius Thomas, who gave the introduction of the panel members and welcomed students to the event. On the panel was newly appointed University President Tim Hynes, Bryan Hayes, vice-president of Student Affairs, Robert L. Stephens, Jr, vice-president of External Affairs, Corlis Cumming, vice-president of Business and Operations, and several other members of the executive staff.

The student forum is the university's way of directly addressing questions from students about plans for the school and how those plans may affect students. About 50 students took advantage of the opportunity to voice their concerns.

The students who were in attendance expressed their concerns over issues ranging from parking to the CSU's financial health. The answers given by the panel seemed to follow a pattern. Almost every response was prefaced with "we're working on that." It seemed to be the mantra for the day. President Hynes took several questions from the audience and answered each of them graciously and in good humor. When the panel was asked about student housing options for

the growing campus population, Hynes suggested that the University was looking into contracts with surrounding apartment properties, but that they had no definite answer at the time. The school is "working on it" said Hynes said.

The connecting thread of concern among students is how CSU will accommodate a growing campus population while the university budget is shrinking. President Hynes was optimistic about the plans the school has and noted that "the business of [the] institution is learning" and assured those at the forum that the school executives are doing everything they can to keep state budget cuts from affecting the education and academic needs of the students.





MEDEKA MCGREGOR/THE BENT TREE

**LAKERS DOMINATE:** Katie White (above) returns a volley during her singles match against North Georgia on Friday. The Lakers defeated the Saints 9-0, including both doubles and singles matches. "I am very satisfied with how the match went," said head coach Tamas Szabados. "We hope to have a very good, top-ranking team this year." White won her match 6-1, 7-6. Their next matches are at 11 a.m. on March 4 and March 21.

## Lakers split games with N. Ga

*Courtesy of Clayton State Athletics*

Before last week, only one team in the history of Peach Belt Conference women's basketball had ever accomplished six straight 20-victory seasons.

Make that two.

With four players scoring in double-figures, the Clayton State Lakers got a much-needed victory on Wednesday with a 71-63 triumph at in-state rival North Georgia. Clayton State, which snapped a two-game losing skid, improves to 20-6 overall and 11-5 in the Peach Belt. It's the sixth straight 20-vic-

tory season for the 22nd-ranked Lakers, who join Columbus State (1999-2004) as the only two teams in the Peach Belt that have accomplished six straight 20-victory seasons.

"The 20-win mark is special," said Clayton State head coach Dennis Cox. "It's a honor because I remember how good those Columbus teams were during that time."

However, the Clayton State Laker men's basketball team lost to the Saints after they made two crucial 3-point baskets in the final minute and came away with a thrilling 82-79 victory over Clayton State at

Memorial Hall.

The defeat drops the Lakers to 14-12 overall and 7-9 in the Peach Belt Conference. Clayton State now leads Columbus State by only one game in the battle for the final position in the Peach Belt West Division for the Peach Belt Conference Tournament.

"It was one of the best comebacks any of our teams have ever made," said head coach Gordon Gibbons. "This team really battled. Now we have to win on Saturday, and it is the best situation to be in."

## CSU Track & Field has 22 top 10 finishes

*Staff reports*

SEWANEE, Tenn. — The CSU men' and women's teams racked up 22 top-10 finishes at the Sewanee Indoor Invitational on Feb. 20.

Monique Belmudes landed two of those finishes, with a 3rd-place finish in the 800-meter-run and a 5th place finish in the one-mile run (Belmudes also broke a team record with her 800-meter-run).

The other top finishes were: Paige Galvin (5th in 800 meters); Rene Mares (9th in 800 meters); Kourtney Aylor (9th in one mile); Megan Barnes (10th in one mile); Nathasha Gass (6th in 200-meter); The women's 4x400 meter placed third (Gass, Jasmine Madison, Omatay Adeshigbin, and Danelle Douglas); The women's distance medley placed third (Aylor, Belmudes, Mares, and Galvin); Edward Parks (2nd in 400-meter); Robert Spezzacatena (5th in 400-meter); William Parks (6th in 400-meter); Ayrton Azcue won two top-10 finishes (4th in 800-meter and 4th in one mile); Ricky Fort (5th in 800-meter); Jarid Casimir (7th in 800-meter); Eldin Veras also had two top-10 finishes (8th in 800-meter and 7th in 55-meter); Edward Parks (5th in 200-meter); William Parks (6th in 200-meter); Stephen Bowers (5th in one mile); Chuks Chinukwee (4th in 55-meter); and the mens 4x400 hurdle team finished second (Veras, Spezzacatena, Edward Parks, and Fort).

### Want to work for the Bent Tree?

Contact us at:  
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# Laptops, like children, need love too

## Tech talk

By Chris Baldwin

Dear college students, I implore you, please stop manhandling and being unkind to your computers. So many students carry their laptops by the screen and many of them walk around with their computers while they are running. I understand that you are in a rush to get to your class and become smart individuals ... or make it to Pizza Hut when the fresh cheese bread sticks are out, but stop treating your computers like an unwanted stepchild! Recently, a student brought her laptop into The HUB



to be fixed. It made a loud thud when she plopped it on the counter. I had the urge to say, "Well I think I can see what's wrong," but I would like to keep my job.

Let's get all the technical stuff out of the way first. Screens are relatively fragile; holding it by the screen will eventually crack it. Hard drives use flat platters that spin as an arm reads and writes to the disc. If these disc are in use and bump around while you walk there is a serious chance of damaging the hard drive

Now if all of that was Greek to you, that's OK. This is the important part. Being unloving to your computer will cost you tremen-

dously. Guess how much a new screen would cost. Go on, I'll wait. No idea? When we inform students that they need a new screen, it often can range from \$180-\$300. That's a steep price to pay for holding a computer incorrectly. In

**“ Being unloving to your computer will cost tremendously. ... treat it like a child. ”**

many cases, data is more important than money. The epic 12-page paper you wrote that needs to be turned in 3 hours can be more precious than gold when a hard drive is failing or under attack from a virus. Data retrieval services are very expensive. This is what makes walking around with your computer on such a dangerous gamble.

There are easy ways to avoid

all this. Treat your computer like a child ... a child you love and care for, I should point out. I've seen some children on campus get roughed up the same way while their parents wait for service. First, don't let your laptop hang out with the bad crowds such as viruses and spyware. Tell it not to download from strangers. Give it the guidance of anti-malware and anti-virus programs. Send it into standby and place it in a bag when switching classes. I'd go so far as to suggesting hugging it on occasion and telling it you love it. Of course this sounds silly at first, but when you consider the cost of repairs, it may not be so preposterous.

*Chris is a contributing writer for The Bent Tree and a technical support specialist at The HUB. He can be reached at [chrisbaldwin@mail.clayton.edu](mailto:chrisbaldwin@mail.clayton.edu)*



## Student Opinion

# Making communication personal again

By Briona Arradonda

I woke up on my 21st birthday expecting the usual cards, gifts and phone calls from family instructing me how to take shots. Instead, I got a "Happy Birthday" text message from my dad, an e-card from my sister and a wall full of "Happy Birthdays" on Facebook. It's highly disappointing that my own family took the easy way out, but it shouldn't surprise me.

Before texting, e-mail and social media, people used to call each other to catch up and mail letters to one another. Now convenience dictates our life, and an email will suffice as a Thank You note for a gift. Technology, it seems, is replacing interpersonal courtesies that cultivated relationships for decades, and the way we communicate is less important for a tech-savvy generation.

A 2008 Nielsen Mobile study cited in Business Week states that text message use has increased 450 percent since 2006. That

number will continue to grow, without a doubt. However, if texting is going to be our first choice of communication, some general etiquette guidelines should be recognized. Before I suggest anything, let's reflect on why texting is so popular.

For starters, it's easier to get to the point with a text message. You ask for what you want, and they answer back. It's so simple! There is no shuffling of empty "Hi! How are you?" questions to mask the real reason why you are calling. Plus, the convenience of text messaging is conducive to our busy schedules; a text can be sent and answered at leisure, and no one's life is temporarily on hold. I admit that there are times when I'd rather text than call someone.

Then again, there are some conversations that should not take place over texting. I've had a few heated arguments over text messages, and it's tiring trying to type long-winded rebuttals back and forth whilst attempting not to

fling your BlackBerry across the room in frustration. So, to save us the trouble next time, here are some guidelines for using text messages versus calling:

1. Keep texting for short questions that require a short answer. If you know a friend is long winded, don't ask that friend for directions knowing you'll give a life history.
2. If your conversation is serious in tone, call the person instead of text. It's worthwhile to hear the person's voice than have to interpret emotions through text.
3. Smiley faces, LOLs, and ROFLMAOs should be used sparingly. They have many connotations varying from sarcasm to humor, and you don't want to guess which one your friend means.
4. From personal experience, call on the person's birthday instead of texting or sending a Facebook message. Knowing that you went out of your way to dial the person's number is more memorable and personal than a

text message.

5. Don't ask someone "How r u?" over a text and expect more than "nm" or "fine." If you want more, call or set a date to talk in person.

Hopefully these five simple guidelines can help save what is left of our limited personal interaction. If people continue to downgrade interpersonal communication, there could be problems in relationships. Certain nonverbal cues, like body language, give us implicit information important in face-to-face relations, and clearly, this is impossible with texts. Technology is great, but it has limitations.

The next time you receive a text message from someone, consider this: will you continue old habits or revive more personal communication?

*Briona is a staff writer for The Bent Tree and can be reached at briona.arradonda@clayton.edu*

## Cigarette talk: It's not always blowing smoke

By Adeshina Lawal

They call it cigarette talk; I call it conversation. You casually walk up to a stranger, merely looking for a cigarette or even lighter, and leave with so much more. The physical need for menthol or nicotine or the means to use them can stir up more conversation than the average hello or query of a stranger's day. You begin talk with the inquiry of fire; you leave with a lingering thought of what

could have been. Funny, the most crucial invention of mankind is the most rare for our kind.

"What's going on man, you got a light?" this is the question that many of our subculture begin this conversation with. A little weird at first, but you begin to grow. You make petty side banter until the issues become in depth with the actual underlying tone. What's going on in the world today? What's going on in their world? It is amazing what the

human mind will share with another just by asking for a cigarette, or even a lighter. Conversations are rare these days, people are so immersed in their own daily activities that they lose sight of making real human connections. They forget or put it in there "to-do" list. Sadly, the conversations that really matter are the hardest to find. These are the circumstances that precede the matter itself. Being forced to step out of a comfort zone by a craving

can open up a floodgate of emotions; that is, if you let it. The tone is usually hidden, whether it be hidden in pain, happiness, confusion, or merely in curiosity of another man. Whether you're 80 or 20, we all share one common interest... do you have a lighter? I have found that people who share a common interest will congregate together; To share a common pain with someone is to share a common interest. We used to ask about the weather, now we

talk about the economy. As I grow older, I have found that people these days like to complain about their economical status and not the color of their skin. A person's social stratification is now overshadowed their race difference. The cigarette they smoke can tell this.

Newports are the Cadillac of menthol cigarettes. Known to be smoked by predominantly black people, Newports

*SMOKE continued on page 7*

## Protests are about making a statement

By LaDonna Williams

We live in a "don't ask, don't tell" society. I will not ask, therefore you will not have to answer! We have allowed our lives to be controlled by text messaging, e-mails, Twitter, Facebook, all of which are void of emotions, expressions and individualism. We have become consumed with today's technologies and continue to hide behind these meaningless entities. Then we have the audac-

ity to complain on Twitter, Facebook and other respective blogs, without even taking the initiative to make a change. I too, have fallen victim hiding behind these ideas, with hopes that someday my words will make a significant change. Each time I pick up a newspaper, I am forced to see a world outside this imaginary one we've created.

We are in a rapidly evolving world, where our way of life is changing with each passing sec-

ond. Daily, the government is imposing new policies and setting the scene for a new society. As students, we fail to realize or simply acknowledge the fact that we do have the right to make a difference. We are losing control of our hopes, dreams and future.

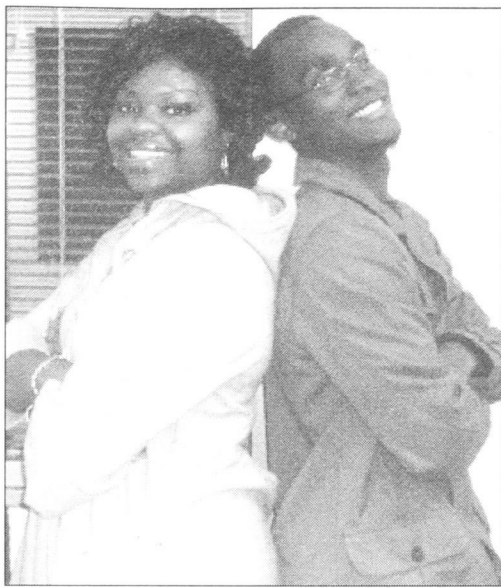
Around the world people utilize their freedom of speech and are willing to die to get their views across and prove a point. If these people are willing to risk their lives, why can we not simply

voice our opinions or stand behind and support those we agree with. Protests are about making statements and a way of expressing how we feel. What we do not understand is that we are slowly killing ourselves by not standing up, speaking out or better yet, having knowledge of what is going in our country. As stated earlier, we have become so consumed with these frivolous

*PROTESTS continued on page 7*



## CSTV to launch



Laurinda Wilson/The Bent Tree

### CSTV CO-FOUNDERS: Ilesha Little and Yul Banks

CSTV continued from page 1

A new student media website will be launched soon, where content from CSTV will be uploaded. Students are encouraged to submit stories and ideas, such as TV shows and talk shows. All types of story suggestions are welcomed at CSTV. Story ideas must be submitted to Little (illesha1@student.clayton.edu) or Banks (ybanks@student.clayton.edu).

Anyone interested in working for CSTV or providing sponsorship should contact Little or Banks. More information about the station will be forthcoming. Stay tuned ...

## Flyers violate CSU policy

FLYERS continued from page 1

We've contacted several establishments and educated them about posting policy. We're hitting this on two or three different levels."

But the flyers keep coming.

Hiba Elhag, a resident assistant at Laker Hall, said the flyers are commonly distributed by residents of the dormitory.

"I haven't caught anyone passing them out," she said. "But our supervisors here have, and I know they call the establishments listed on the flyers and explain that they're not supposed to be doing this."

Elhag said the flyers present a couple of problems.

"It's causing the environment (in Laker Hall) to be like a party-type of environment," she said. "And when we pass out informational flyers, the students pay more attention to the (party) flyers than the ones we pass out."

Haynes said the main reason the flyers are a problem is because they violate school policy, but the subject matter of them doesn't help the situation.

"To me, they're offensive, but I don't profess to legislate morality. Some of these are inappropriate," he said.

## Blowing smoke

SMOKE continued from page 6

are now smoked by people looking for that extra burst of insanity. It is the thing that gives us that legal relaxation we seek. The Marlboro Light is the pinnacle of nonsense cigarettes; people who smoke these know they are doing something wrong but don't want to hurt themselves too much. They can fix their lungs later. When a person lights up, you can learn a lot about them; Where they have been, the encounters they have faced, and even their general overtone about life. Clues to their style and persona can also be conveyed by the way they smoke. Some call it bias but I call it common sense. Of course, to every rule there is an exception. This is because there are no set laws. If there were set laws, we would all know the answer to the questions we seek and would always have a lighter for our habit. Yet, we walk up to strangers to know if they have a light: A path to our own questions and answers about life.

Adeshina is a contributor to Bent Tree and can be reached at alawal2@student.clayton.edu

## Protesting a privilege

PROTESTS continued from page 6

technologies that we have forgotten that we have freedom of speech and the right to freely express ourselves...in an appropriate manner.

We are the ones to blame for our current economic state. Change only occurs when we fight for it. If we pulled out our protest signs and fight for our beliefs, then change will certainly occur! We stood up to the British during colonial times, women stood up for voting rights, and African-Americans stood for equality. Nothing occurred overnight, but they held steadfast. Our generation has lost the drive and determination of those before us. We have fallen into the trap of social status and quickly losing who we are as individuals and a society. We need to take back our voices and use them to make a bold statement and make a difference!

LaDonna is a staff writer for The Bent Tree and can be reached at lwiliams70@student.clayton.edu

# 18-year-old CSU Student has Good Fortune

By Tekneshia Day  
Staff writer  
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Noni Carter, an 18 year old writer, started at Clayton State University as a dual enrollment student. Now she has published her first book *Good Fortune*. She is now a freshman at Harvard University. Noni Carter has been writing since the age of twelve. Aside from that, she plays the piano. During her time spent at Clayton, Carter participated in Model United Nations, the National Honor Society, and National Society of High School Scholars

Her goal is to motivate other readers to learn of their history. Carter's passion is for students to appreciate education and learning and to know of the value it takes to go forward. She hopes they will achieve that after reading her book. This book pertains to the inspiring life of an African-American slave girl in the 19th century. Her journey to freedom is no walk in the park. She has to overcome many obstacles.

There is so much more to discover of this talented young lady.

**Tekneshia:** How many copies of your book are in print?

**Noni:** Because we were published through a big company, we don't know this number at the time.

**Tekneshia:** Have you always wanted to be a writer?

**Noni:** Yes

**Tekneshia:** Do you write every day?

**Noni:** Yes. I write in my journal every day. I

write when I am inspired.

**Tekneshia:** What would you suggest a first time author do to overcome fears of "where to start" or if they feel paralyzed when they write?

**Noni:** Set a routine for themselves and stay committed to that routine. Start out jotting down whatever comes to mind- no matter how off-base or unprofessional it sounds. Things will eventually come together.

**Tekneshia:** What were you like as a teenager?

**Noni:** Loved to read, loved to write, played a few sports. In the home, grades were a big deal, so I put a lot of time into school work. And of course I hung out with friends from time to time. I had my difficult moments, but pressed through them.

**Tekneshia:** How long were you writing before you became a published author?

**Noni:** I don't know- six years old maybe?

**Tekneshia:** Who are your favorite authors?

**Noni:** Tananarive Due, Khaled Housseini, Deepak Chopra....It changes all the time

**Tekneshia:** Where did you get the inspiration for the *Good Fortune*?

**Noni:** At 12, I combined my passion for writing with my desire to learn about my history into a story that could allow me to explore through fiction this time period while at the same time sharing it with other youth my age. Shortly after I began the project (which was supposed to be a short story), my great Aunt came to the house and told me the story of how my great-great-great Grandma Rose watched her mother sold across the river when she was

only 12 years old. After hearing this, I made a dedication to inspire youth through *Good Fortune* like Grandma Rose's story inspired me.

**Tekneshia:** To pursue an agent or not...that is my question! How important - if it was important at all - was having an agent when you were starting out in this business?

**Noni:** This depends on your circumstance. In most cases having an agent works well. In some, an agent may not be necessary. In my case, an agent was very necessary after I was picked up by S&S.

**Tekneshia:** Which would be more difficult for you, writing books or novels?

**Noni:** Neither one would be difficult for me.

**Tekneshia:** Your book pertains to an African slavery girl. Was studying history helpful for this book?

**Noni:** Studying history was essential. The book is historical fiction, so all of my facts had to be accurate and correct.

**Tekneshia:** Will this book be an ongoing series?

**Noni:** No it won't, though I plan on writing more historical fiction about different cultures in the future.

**Tekneshia:** What is the best piece of advice you got when you were starting out as a writer?

**Noni:** Stick to it! Don't allow rejection or a couple of failures to hold you back from your dream. When you have an intention, a dream, a goal, if you put all of your energy on it, it will manifest in due time.





**NEW BUILDING AND RENOVATIONS:** A construction worker moves broken concrete where the new Science Annex will be constructed. It will be located between the Arts & Sciences building and the Business & Health Sciences building. During construction, Caldwell Drive will be closed off and large portion of the faculty parking lot across from the Arts & Sciences building will be used for the construction crews.

## Snow Couldn't Put a Blanket on 3rd Annual Congress

By Michael Ratti  
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While I am not proud to admit that I've been chased off by the cops a few times, I'm not sure exactly how I feel admitting I was part of a group recently roused from our activities by campus police in broad daylight in the UC. I was even in the company of several notable professors and other learned, respected individuals. ... Let me explain.

February 12 started much like any other academically challenging day at Clayton State University. It was also the opening day of the 3rd Annual Southeast Philosophy Congress sponsored by the Philosophy Program at CSU. Attendees at the Congress heard presentations from a mixture of undergraduate, graduate and post-doctoral researchers in philosophy on a variety of topics, including "Determining Underdetermination," "Aristotle and Embodies Emotions," and "Heidegger's Poet, Haraway's Cyborg." The presenters, selected through a competitive process, hailed from a number of fine institutions such as Georgia State University, University of Kansas, and University of Edinburgh, UK. Each researcher provided a 20 minute talk on their topic followed by a 10 minute question and answer period.

Just after lunch, George Rainbolt, Georgia State University Professor of Philosophy and Chair of the Dept. of Philosophy, provided a stimulating keynote address. It was entitled "Rights of the Dead and Future Generations." Along with his thought-provoking remarks regarding the rights of the dead and future generations, Rainbolt provided some solid and sometimes humorous tips he adheres to when delivering presentations: 1) Use slides sparingly. 2) Keep background decorations/music to a minimum. 3) Don't turn the lights off especially right after lunch. 4) Don't try to cover too much. 5) Keep it simple but not too simple. 6) Be prepared to answer questions.

Later when asked of his reflection on the event, Rainbolt said, "It was a great honor to be selected as the keynote speaker for the 3rd

Annual Philosophy Congress. The papers given by the students were very impressive. It is a testament to the considerable reputation of the Congress that students came from institutions such as UGA, Savannah State, Emory University...."

As the afternoon presentations progressed, there was a loud knock on the door around 4 p.m. followed by the entrance of a member of campus law enforcement announcing "whatever it is you're doing you'll need to break it up—we've had our first wreck on campus due to the snow and captain wants everyone out."

OK, so it was not quite a full-fledged raid, but nonetheless it's a first being chased off by cops during academic instruction! True, the snow was now falling at a fairly rapid rate blanketing the campus as well as the roads. Driving past the dorms I noted the freshman already building snowmen.

Admittedly my snow bravery ended that evening. Not so with the additional 12 or so presenters and CSU Philosophy professors who continued the Congress on Saturday.

Ron Jackson filled me in on the second half of the event, noting that things did not

go exactly as planned for day two but "nothing beats ingenuity, and a little help from the kitchen." With a delayed start, the congress ran until 6 p.m. on Saturday. Eugene Leboeuf churned out pizzas for lunch. According to Jackson, "overall, things could hardly have gone better. Almost everyone stayed through to the end." Saturday's topics included "In Praise of Evil" and "The Heat is On: Dante's Inferno vs. Tolstoy's Expressionism".

Jackson added, "Clayton State is really getting a positive response and opinion from all participants, from around the world, the country, and, as importantly, from around the state of Georgia. Students from every graduate program in the state have presented at our conferences, and all have been very impressed with Clayton State as a serious regional university."

Our readers may be surprised to learn that we currently lack a philosophy major, but not to worry. At press time, CSU is on its way to acquiring a philosophy major and will be shortly submitting to the Board of Regents staff for review.



Above (from left): Ron Jackson (keynote speaker), George Rainbolt, Michael Ratti, Alexandar Hall and Todd Janke.

MICHAEL RATTI/THE BENT TREE