

Veterans Assoc. Educates About PTSD

By Vonetta C. Thornton
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Soldiers throughout time have long suffered with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), but it has only been recognized and entered into our system of diagnostic categories of the American Psychiatric Association since 1980. According to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs' National Center for PTSD, PTSD is an anxiety disorder that can occur after you have been through a traumatic event. If these feelings don't go away or get worse, you may have PTSD. These symptoms may disrupt your life, making it hard to continue with daily activities.

Anyone suffering from PTSD is in a constant struggle to preserve normalcy in their lives. Soldiers who have experienced the tragedies of war, sometimes suffer the invisible wounds resulting from seeing and doing things far outside of what most human beings

PTSD continued on page 8

Service Through Leadership



KEVIN LILES/THE BENT TREE

Family, faith and life experience have helped shape incoming SGA President Kamille Rigsby into a natural leader. Her term begins in the fall.

By Kevin Liles
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For Kamille Rigsby, service is a calling.

The 21-year-old Lubbock, Tex. native has been helping others most of her life.

"Service has always been a big part of my life," she said. "It drives me."

So serving as Student Government Association president for Clayton State was the next step for her. She was elected by the student body last month.

Working with SGA is not something that is new for

Rigsby, who is a senior. She has been involved since her freshman year, when she served as a senator. Her sophomore year, she was the secretary, and last year, she served as the vice-president.

"I've done it all, at all different levels," she said. "I've done the foot work, the (student) surveys, and have served as the secretary, which has made me very familiar with the administrative procedures involved with SGA."

Rigsby originally didn't plan to come to CSU, but applied one week before

classes started when her housing fell through at Valdosta State University. But it didn't take her long to fall in love with the campus and students at CSU.

"After my first semester, I really started liking it," she said. "I was content here."

Rigsby's dedication to service began after she became homeless for a short time when she was young, living in shelters for a few months.

"It was a very hard time," she said of the ordeal. "But I know what it's like to be on the other end, having people be of service to you."

Besides serving with SGA, Rigsby is a member of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. and the Loch-in-Leadership Institute. She is also a Campus Life volunteer, serves as a resident assistant at Laker Hall, something she has done since her freshman year, and works at the Student Affairs welcome desk.

As SGA president, Rigsby said she hopes to accomplish many things, including getting a larger portion of the student body involved in campus organizations. Other goals include expanding the role of SGA's Internal Affairs division to do more advertising and recruiting.

"I also want to provide more information to the student body about the university committees that the SGA Cabinet sits on," she said. "And I want to revamp the SGA web site so students know more of what is going on."

Rigsby said her biggest motivator has been her grandfather, who defeated pancreatic cancer last year.

"He's always been my No. 1 supporter and helped me through everything. His strength is impeccable, it's what helps me stay strong."

As for her new position, Rigsby said she's honored.

"It feels great," she said. "This is the next step in my leadership."



KEVIN LILES/THE BENT TREE

CSU student Whitney Smith participates in "The Fight of a Lifetime" candlelight vigil, honoring victims and survivors of cancer on April 26. The event, held at the Student Activities Center, was cosponsored by AmeriCorps and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.



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MISSION STATEMENT

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.

Campus Events

- May 3-11** Textbook buyback in the bookstore. Laker Card required.
- May 4-10** Final Exams
- May 7** Graduate Hooding Ceremony. 3:30 p.m. in Spivey Hall
- May 8** Graduation: 9 a.m. and 12 noon in the Clayton State gymnasium. Admission is free.
Track and Field: Georgia Invitational @ University of Georgia in Athens
- May 10** First day of Study Abroad and May Session
Last day to use Dining Dollars
- May 14-15** Track and Field: Georgia Tech Invitational @ Georgia Tech in Atlanta
- May 14** Spivey Hall Young Artists with the Spivey Hall Children's Choir 7 p.m. in Spivey Hall. \$20 for adults and \$10 for children.
- May 15** Spivey Hall Children's Choir 3 p.m. in Spivey Hall. \$20 for adults and \$10 for children.
- May 16** Spivey Hall Children's Choir 3 p.m. in Spivey Hall. \$20 for adults and \$10 for children
- May 21** Last day of May Session
Cheerleading pre-tryout clinic. 1 p.m.-4 p.m. in SAC Dance Studio 1. \$10.
- May 19-22** NCAA Division II National Championships in Noblesville, IN.
- May 21** Staff Appreciation Day. 10-2 on the lawn by Swan Lake and the Library.
- May 22** First day of weekend summer classes
- May 24** First day of weekday summer classes
- May 27-29** NCAA Division II Outdoor Championships in Charlotte, NC
- May 29-31** Campus Closed for Memorial day

Dates to Remember for Summer Sessions

- June 8** Midterm for Summer Session I
- June 24** Last day of summer session I weekday classes
- June 25** Midterm for full summer session classes
- June 28** Summer Session II classes begin
- July 4-5** July 4th Holiday
- July 13** Midterm for summer session II
- July 29** Lady day of summer session II and full summer session classes
- Aug 13** Fifth Annual New Student Convocation. 4 p.m.-5 p.m. in Spivey Hall.
- Aug 14** First day of weekend classes for fall
- Aug 16** First day of weekday classes for fall

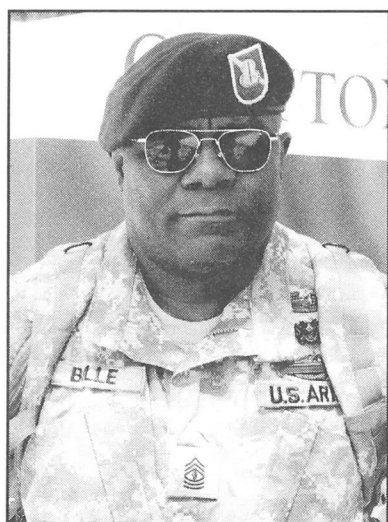
See Y'all in the Fall!

Senior Spotlight

Each spring, The Bent Tree introduces a couple of outstanding seniors who are a part of the diverse student body that makes up Clayton State. Tristan Santiago and 1st Sgt. Candi O. Belle are two we would like to spotlight. We hope you enjoy their stories.

1st Sgt. Candi O. Belle

By James Baxley
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1st Sergeant Candi O. Belle is an integrated studies major at Clayton State University. If you have not met him, you will certainly recognize him. He always wears his ACU's (Army Combat Uniform) any time he's on campus. He was born and raised in Derbyshire, England, which explains his British accent. One of the things Belle says he has come to realize through all of his experiences is, "it's important to understand that you don't leave this Earth without leaving your mark, your legacy." His goal is to eventually become a businessman and an entrepreneur in his community after graduation.

Belle originally enlisted in the United States Marine Corps after high school, which took him to Saigon for Operation "Frequent Wind" so he could help evacuate hundreds of Vietnamese to safety in the United States. After four years in the Marine Corp. and a tour of Vietnam, he then enlisted in the United States Navy in which he served in operation "Desert Wind-Desert Storm."

One would think that this would be enough adventures for one man, but not for 1st Sergeant Belle. He eventually enlisted in the United States Army Reserve after sixteen years of Navy life. In this capacity, he served two

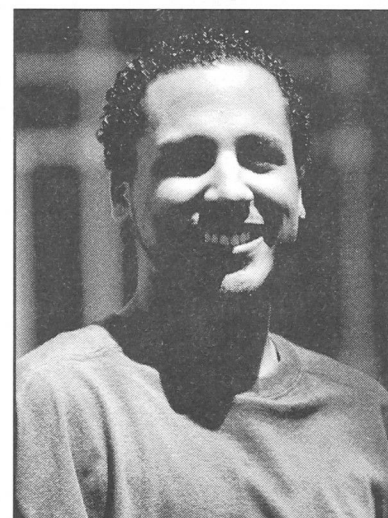
tours of Iraq and a tour of Afghanistan. He is currently serving in the United States Army, in conjunction with the United States Army Corps of Cadets as the Battalion Sergeant Major (adjunct out of Dobbins Air Force Base, GA).

Being in the military has taken him to many places through out the world: Germany, the Philippines, England, Italy, and South Africa, Iraq, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman.

Even though 1st Sergeant Belle was serving in the military and deployed to many locations, Clayton State is not the only school he attended. While enlisted, Belle attended training such as basic airborne training, senior airborne training, master diver classes, the Air Force's Survival Evasion Resistance Escape (S.E.R.E.) course, U.S. Army Infantry school, and the combat medic course in the Army.

Tristan Santiago

By Janine Herrera
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Clayton State University senior Tristan Santiago will be graduating this summer with a Bachelor's of Arts English degree. He is originally from Los Angeles, California, but has lived in the state of Georgia for the past twenty years.

During the month of April 2010, Tristan had the privilege to perform at the Clayton State Theatre. His leading role as Frank Charles, was one of the many personae introduced in the first all African-American production "Flying West." He also succeeded in portraying three separate and distinct roles in the "Lamarie Project."

CSU's English Department has given the approval for Tristan to write an original screenplay for his senior thesis.

His accomplishments include being recently inducted into the International English Honor Sigma Tau Delta, as well as him serving as an active member of the fraternity Kappa Alpha Psi, Inc. Tristan has also received nomination from his peers for the office of presidency for the 2010 - 2011 school years.

Immediately upon graduation he is planning to continue his studies in the area of play development, political science and philosophy at CSU, while being employed

part-time as a writing center consultant at the university's Writer's Studio.

Director of the Writer's Studio Dr. Susan Rashid Horn said, "Tristan is an able writer, he's curious about the world, and he's adept at helping people articulate what they're thinking. For these reasons I anticipate he'll be an effective and popular tutor in the Writers' Studio come fall semester. I look forward to working with him."

Tristan also has an upcoming project for fall 2010, which will consist of working with Phillip Depoy on a theater production as he makes application to various law schools. He is considering Vanderbilt, the University of Georgia, Georgia State University, Baylor University and Harvard University as his options.

We wish him all the best in his endeavors.



BRIAN ROBERTS/THE BENT TREE

The Army Ground Forces Brass Ensemble performs during the 3rd Annual CSU Chamber Wind & Percussion Ensemble Concert at Spivey Hall on April 21. Other performers included many ensembles from the CSU Chamber, as well as special guests the Five Points Trio and the Atlanta Wind Symphony Clarinet Quartet.

Monthly poll

How can the University increase the fan base for the Athletic Department among Clayton State students and Faculty?

Though CSU has many nationally and internationally recognized sports programs, turnout for many of their events is less than stellar. So, The Bent Tree asked random students how this trend could be reversed. **By Medeka McGregor / mmcgregor@student.clayton.edu**



Verinique Cooper
junior
education

"We athletes need more publicity on the school website and in the school paper. For example, our schedules and achievements, etc. And pictures of all teams in the UC. We need support from the wrecking crew in all six sports, not just one."



Devin Wilson
sophomore
political science

"It would be great if they would get the crowd more involved during halftime, like 3-point contests or 2-ball contests."



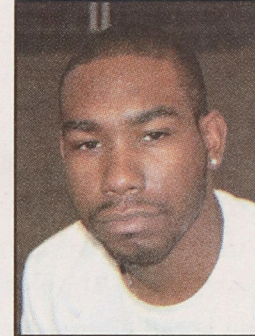
Andrea Loyd
sophomore
psychology

"I feel if the wrecking crew were to promote more, and also have different activities during half time, that will make the games more exciting."



Ellen Jo Fakour
junior
psychology

"I'm not that into sports, I'm a non-traditional student and have a large family."



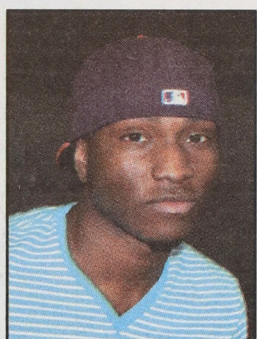
Harold Walker
senior
marketing

"We need a better homecoming and more dorms."



David Thornton
senior
business management

"Have more pep-rallies."



Derrick McFarlane
senior
marketing

"Get a football team."



Dominique Wright
sophomore
biology

"I'm not aware of the dates, so more advertisement is needed. Flyers posted around the school would help students become more aware."



Jessica Probianos
sophomore
nursing

"There's not enough advertising around campus."



Jasmine Williams
sophomore
nursing

"I'm not aware of when the games are, so I don't know in advance when to take off of work."

Sometimes Shoes Just Aren't Needed

By LaDonna Williams
Staff writer
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It's 8:40 a.m., and I'm looking through my closet. A pile of unworthy clothes is on the floor, and I have gone through a dozen outfits already just to end right back where I started. Once I've found the old trusty jeans and a great t-shirt to match, I'm on to the...SHOES. I mean clothes are great. Who walks out the house without them? But shoes, they protect your sole, or so I've heard. For me, a man's shoes tell me everything I need to know

about him. If you don't take care of the things that help you get from point A to point B, then I don't want to know your name. My grandma always reminds me: "No matter what your clothes look like, as long as your hair is combed and you shoes are clean and well taken care of, you will be just fine."

Imagine my surprise on April 8, when I saw fellow students Hannah Allen and Stephanie Dillard without their "sole protectors." Where were their shoes? Don't they understand how nasty the ground is?

It was time for us to have a

chat. They explained that they were participating in the third annual "One Day Without Shoes," an event advocated by TOMS Shoes, a shoe company that donates one pair of shoes for every pair purchased.

As I did my research, I found that many of these shoeless children are contracting diseases and bacteria through cuts and sores. Some are not allowed to attend school. It is hard to wrap my mind around the fact that there are children who don't have simple things like shoes. I must say that walking around barefoot is a little extreme for my taste,

but the fact that these students had the heart to walk a mile in someone else's feet is something I commend them for. I thank them for opening my eyes a little wider.

As you go throughout your morning rituals of outfit changes, and you go through the piles of shoes hidden away, the ones that you dare not wear, those ones you vowed would never see the light of day, think about the children in undeveloped countries that would love to have them.

Shepherd wins CSiR T-shirt Contest

By Laurinda Wilson
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Clayton State Internet Radio's first t-shirt contest was a success! The winner was education/English major, Emmanuel Shepherd. A junior and an avid listener of CSiR, Shepherd became interested in the contest because of his hobbies in graphic design and Photoshop. It took Shepherd about two days to design the logo. Shepherd said he feels honored about winning the contest. He is excited because winning gets the word out about his graphic designs. "I wanted something that would stand out," he said.

The purpose of the contest was to give students an opportunity to create the first t-shirt for CSiR.



member or become a supporter by being enlightened to go to claytonstateradio.com," said David Wilson of CSiR.

There were nine submissions for the contest and the winner of the contest received \$50. The t-shirts are only available to the staff, but some will be given away as prizes. T-shirts will be available for students at a later date.

The winner was announced via CSiR on April 23 on the Mr. Wilson Speakerbox Show. "The t-shirt will help visibility on campus. People will be able to spot a Clayton State Radio

Go For Your Dreams

Carolyn Boone
Staff writer
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I had a dream many years ago. That dream was to finish high school, work for a year, and then go on to college. Looking back on that dream, it was not realistic. Life got in the way: Work, marriage, children, and bills. No matter what, I still did not give up on my dream. I worked and went to school at night, earning my associate's degree. But my dream was to obtain a bachelor's degree.



This is my advice: Don't let your dreams disappear with age. Let them continue to live within you, and, with hard work, they will come true. Know within your heart that you will make it. Though you become frustrated at times, wondering "is this really worth it?" I know you will make it if you try. Philippians 4:13 says, "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me." The only limitations you have are the limitations you put on yourself.

Learning isn't easy. We all have to lose sometimes before we can win, hurt before we become strong, and cry before we can smile. If you have done everything in your power and fail, you still have won because you did not give up. When you reach for your dreams, no matter what they may be, you grow from reaching, you learn from trying, and you win by doing.

Deep within our souls, each of us carries a seed of a secret dream, and, if shared, someone can help it grow. But secret or shared, dreams should always be encouraged. We all carry within ourselves a light that can help seeds to grow and blossom into a beautiful reality. Langston Hughes says, "Hold fast to dreams for if dreams die, life is a broken winged bird that cannot fly." Fifty years after graduating high school, and after working for 30 years, my dream is about to come true. I am a senior here at Clayton State, hoping to graduate next spring to receive the bachelors degree that I have always dreamed of. Hold fast to your dream and it will come true.

Fashion: Summer Means Color and Fun

By Latia Dickerson
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The sun is out and the weather is getting hotter, so ladies and gentlemen, it's time to break out the new summer fashion! Summer is a time where people can show off their unique styles, whether it's t-shirts and shorts or long flowing dresses. Whatever your style is, just make sure it fits the trend. The beauty about the trends of today is that there are so many styles to choose from.

There is not better way to express yourself than through the colors of your clothing. There are so many colors in this season, like yellow, blue, purple

and green. Men and women can wear these colors, no matter how masculine or feminine you are. Men don't be afraid of a little color; sometimes it separates the trendsetters from the trend followers. Women, choose colors that will compliment you—it will make your outfit look so much better. The great thing about clothing is the fact that there is so many to choose from. Wear the clothes that you are the most comfortable in—it will help your confidence as well.

Another interesting fact about the summer trend is that you don't have to match as much with your clothing. Although the non-matching trend has

been in for a bit, it's important to remember, matching too much can throw your outfit off. Try putting some colors together, like a blue top with yellow shorts or pants. Men, cargo shorts, graphic t-shirts, polo tops, just mix it up. Trying new things, can help expand your style, and nothing is wrong with knowing a little bit more about fashion.

Just remember to enjoy your summer and express your style. Don't be afraid to try new things, especially bright colors. Feel comfortable in what you wear and show your style, even if you are following the summer trend.

Coming Soon: Co-ed Cheerleading Tryouts

Staff Reports

The Clayton State University's Co-ed Cheerleading and Laker Girl Dance Team will be holding a Pre-Tryout Clinic on Saturday, May 8, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in Dance Studio 1 of the Clayton State Student Activities Center.

The Clinic is for athletes who are preparing for spring tryouts and want to get an idea of what is expected of participants in

the Clayton State program. Admission is \$10 per person, and the Clinic is open to high school juniors and seniors as well as Clayton State students.

"You will have a chance to meet with the coaches, as well as current and former members of the teams. Material and skills will be taught," says Darryl Lyons, head coach of the Clayton State University Cheerleaders. "We are looking for hard working, athletic males and

females to form our teams."

For more information, go to www.clayton.edu/athletics/cheerleading or contact Lyons at lyonsdarryl@yahoo.com or 678-357-5444.

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: killes@student.clayton.edu :
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Reviews

First CSU All African-American Production

By Janine Herrera
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Clayton State Theatre recently presented the first-ever all African-American production, "Flying West." The play was written by Pearl Cleage and directed by Shontelle Thrash, assistant professor of the CSU's Department of Visual and Performing Arts. The theme was constructed on the lives of four freed African-American women who migrated west in 1898, on foot from Memphis, Tenn. They inhabited unoccupied land in an all black community located in a town called Nicodemus, Kansas, in hopes of embarking on a new way of thinking and living.

There were two casts consisting of eleven performers. Nancy Jameson and Delicia Wells embodied courageously the role of Ms. Leah as the eldest sister. Her appearance was similar to the folklore image of Aunt Jemima, however her temperament was not as warm and appealing, but quite presumptuous.

Anissia Franks and Angel Devone enveloped the integrity of Sophie Washington, who was the political gun-toting sister, and the backbone of the family who had big dreams for her people and the community.

Mallory Wright and Jon B. Taylor embraced the nature of Fannie Mae Dove, who was the mild mannered and trusting sister amongst them all; however, her behavior in the end threw everyone for a loop.

Will Parish, noteworthy portrayed by David Phillips and Efrem Whitaker, was the debonair neighbor sweet on Fannie Mae in an old fashioned courtly way.



JAMAL EL-AMIN/THE BENT TREE

Brian Bryant (playing Frank Charles) and Krystina Lucas (playing Minnie Dove Charles) act a scene during the play "Flying West" on April 23 at Clayton State Theatre. The play was written by Pearl Cleage and directed by Shontelle Thrash.

The youngest and weakest sister, Minnie Dove Charles, played solely by Krystina Lucas was renowned. She truly portrayed the character of a true southern belle with her accent, mannerisms, dress and red hat. She was married to Frank Charles, a biracial writer. Brian Bryant and Tristan Santiago breathed life into the character of Frank Charles. He was an extremely arrogant man with a temper that was out of control, resulting in his demise.

The setting for the stage play was around the kitchen table. There was an old wood stove and a desk that sat against a back wall

that held up Sophie's shotgun. The family would have dinner together and discuss their past and future endeavors.

Early on, the dialogue was a bit lengthy, but as the drama progressed, the action increased with a surprising turn of events. This production is a must see for history buffs, especially those interested in the plight of African-Americans.

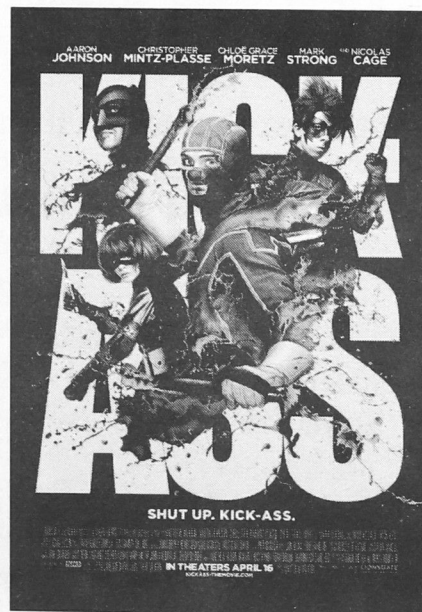
Overall, this production deserves a five-star rating for its authenticity in its portrayal of a loving family in search for independence, dignity and racial equality.

"Kick-Ass" — A Movie that Lives up to It's Title

By John Zinko
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On a whim, I recently decided to go see the movie Kick-Ass with my roommate. If you have been studying too hard lately or just aren't watching television, Kick-Ass is the movie about a high school teenager named Dave Lizewski (Aaron Johnson) not fitting in the way he wants and pondering the big question as to "why hasn't anyone thought of becoming a super hero?" Inspired by his comrades and comic books, Lizewski begins his quest as "Kick-Ass" to right the wrongs of petty thugs and drug addicts. This becomes rather difficult since Dave has no super powers or previous combat training. Kick-Ass is later joined by Hit Girl (Chloe Moretz), her father, Big Daddy (Nicholas Cage), and Red Mist (Christopher Mintz-Plasse). I am trying to stay as topical as I can because I do not want to ruin this movie for anyone! The bot-

tom line is: you have to go see this movie. I know that AMC has just raised its prices, but this movie is definitely worth the \$9.50. I am



ways throughout the movie. Protesters contend that since the actress playing Hit Girl is

actually considering going to see this movie again in the theater!

There are some protests against Hit Girl's character killing people in gruesome

only 12 years old, it isn't proper for her to be handling weapons and dropping F-Bombs. I have three valid points to counter these complaints: 1) The deaths are not "gruesome," they are "artistic." The choreography in Kick-Ass rivals that of John Woo's film, Hard Boiled. I nearly lost my popcorn watching that little girl handle a butterfly knife like a pro. 2) Hit Girl is killing bad guys. Last time I checked, the cocaine syndicate was a bad thing, so a little girl is cleaning up the streets for everyone. Hit Girl is also trained very well in martial arts, close combat, fire arms, and weapons by her father, so the proper precautions were taken before she was sent out to do what the movie title suggests. 3) Little girls using adult language is funny when used sparingly. From memory, I believe Hit Girl drops an F-Bomb twice in the entire movie and both were used quite

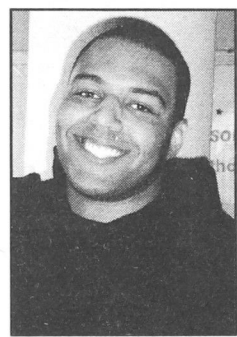
MOVIE REVIEW continued on page 8

Opinion

Spandex: Not to be Worn Outside the Gym

By Isom Beard

I know you all remember the



spandex phase of the late 80's and the early 90's.

It was

active wear that got transformed into everyday wear and has provided many comedians with great material. The classic image that I have is a rather older gentleman (who needed to go to the gym) wearing bright colored spandex biker shorts, a white tank top, and fanny pack. I must admit though, that I even wore a pair of biker shorts when I was a kid, but it wasn't my fault and I didn't know any better (and I assure you all evidence has been destroyed). We let a great advancement in work-out technology morph into

photo-book bloopers. I don't know how or when it became acceptable for just anyone to show off every unforgiving curve of their body, giving everyone a glimpse of the not so beautiful side of the human body, but I am glad we came to our senses and put it back in the gym.

However, over the past couple of years, there has been a rebirth of spandex in the form of tights and leggings. The only good part of this rebirth is that it is being brought about by women only. Initially, I enjoyed the curvy scenery and even wrote off the few bloopers, but bloopers are definitely on the rise. The man with the bright biker shorts has recently gotten some company. He has been joined by a grandmother, whom I saw in the grocery store, wearing black tights that were pulled up over her muffin top with a white tank top tucked in. It has gotten out of control and needs to be reigned back in.

People need to realize that not everyone can wear certain things, at certain times, in certain places, and at certain ages. I am not saying that women shouldn't wear leggings and tights but they need to remember the following criteria:

1. It is called active wear—if you are not active then you do not qualify.
2. It should only be worn to, at, or from the gym (and errands in between).

But with active wear being a billion-dollar industry, it is unlikely that the leggings and tights will be going anywhere soon. Some people feel as though none of the tight clothes or active wear should not be worn because it is too sexually revealing. This is not my issue, although the sexuality part is a little dangerous, because I do occasionally bump and run into things.

Isom Beard is a contributing writer for The Bent Tree and can be reached at ibeard@student.clayton.edu

Bullying is a Big Deal

By Millicent Benson

Many people think that bullying isn't a big deal. They think it's kids being kids. However, if it were your child would you see it the same way? No one should have to go to school afraid.

Phoebe Prince 15, Eric Mohat, 17, Carl Walker-Hoover 11, and Jaheem Herrera also 11 years old, were all victims of bullying. Today, their families are mourning their loss. Each of these children took their own lives because they could not take another day of abuse. They decided enough was enough, and what is sad is that these children could be alive today if one person had paid attention, and taken action to protect them.

An estimated 30 percent of U.S. teens are involved in school bullying as the victim, bully, and or both. In a recent national survey of student's ages 6 to 10, 13 percent reported bullying others. Eleven percent of students reported being the target of school bullies. Another 6 percent said they bullied others and the victims of bullying themselves. While bullying is much more likely with boys than girls, everyone is at risk.

Teen bullying can lead to feeling tense, anxious and afraid. It can affect concentration, grades and can even lead to teens avoiding school. In severe cases, depression can occur, as well as feelings of worthlessness. Victims can become socially isolated, withdrawn and insecure. At some point, teens can feel as though they need to resort to violence for protection. They think if they carry a weapon, bullies will not bother me anymore. In extreme cases, some victims even take violent revenge.

Talk to your children about bullying and the effects. Parents should get more involved in their children's education and happenings at school. Keep the lines of communication open at all times. Bullying can be preventable if everyone works together. Taking these actions can save lives. These children deserve to live and grow into prosperous adults, who can maybe one day make a difference in our world.

For more information on how to talk to your child or teen about bullying, visit: www.familyfirstaid.com

Millicent is a staff writer for The Bent Tree and can be reached at mbenson2@student.clayton.edu

To Spend, Or Not to Spend?

By Cintra Tucker

Have you ever been in a situation where you had a large sum of money but your spending went out of control and now you have nothing to show for it? Well now is the chance to turn your chump change into mega bucks. But where do you start this process when your financial world is spinning out of control?

First it would be necessary to establish some sort of account that can secure your funds, earn you interest, and may not be as easily accessible as that cash you have a hard time holding on to. To some, a savings account may be adequate, while others may prefer IRAs or Money Market accounts.

Despite being elated for possessing these types of accounts, during these harsh economic times these types of accounts will not provide a significant return. Currently, less than 1.5% is considered great.

After establishing an account, it's time to budget your finances. This one action gives you command over your funds. Set a target amount you are able to save each month, or even quarterly. Depending on your financial discipline it may be necessary to divide your money into categories: maybe a bill pile, emergency pile, investment pile and a play pile.

Remember, it's OK to reward your hard work, just don't make this your largest pile, this should actually be

your smallest pile. Budgeting your money will help you define your financial goals.

Now that you have accumulated enough money to invest, it's time to make your money work for you. Before considering any investment, it's best to thoroughly research and educate yourself on the type of investment and company.

It is very important to note, if a hasty decision is required, nine times out of ten it's not your best investment option. You may lose all your chips. It's better to have what you started with than nothing.

Before you know it, saving and planning for the future will become a habit.

Cintra Tucker is a contributing writer for The Bent Tree and can be reached at ctucker14@student.clayton.edu

MOVIE REVIEW *continued from page 4*

cleverly. So, if you are still against this film you should still go see the movie so you have something to base your complaints off.

Finally, the most important fact is that Kick-Ass is based from a comic by Mark Millar. So if you haven't gotten enough thrills, excitement, and high-fives from the movie, you should definitely check out the comic book series. I have read a few pages myself and found that the movie sticks very closely to the comic book without deviating much from the key points. Kick-Ass is sweeping the nation and you've already waited long enough to see a great summer movie and this one is waiting for you.

PTSD *continued from page 1*

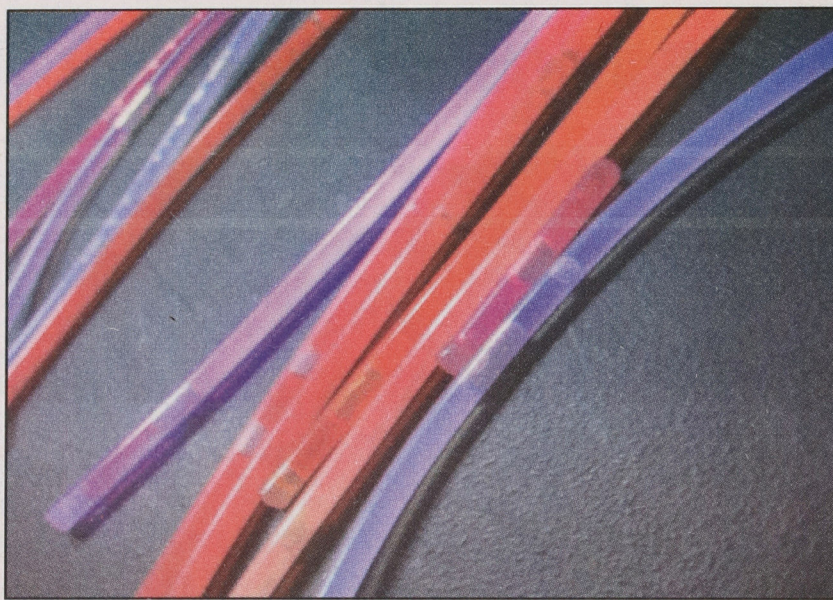
have ever experienced. This makes the struggle far more difficult than most could understand.

To help others better understand how veterans of war are suffering and what can be done in an effort to help, the Student Veterans Association here at Clayton State University recently welcomed Veteran's Heart Georgia, a non-profit grass roots organization of veterans and professional healers. At the presentation, Veteran's Heart Georgia representatives Bill Nixon, Vietnam veteran and sufferer of PTSD, and Kaye Coker, educated the audience of this dreadful disorder.

Armed with information, including handouts and Power Point presentations containing definitions of PTSD, as well as historical and present accounts of veterans that have suffered from PTSD, the two explained that the situation is not always addressed. This is due to a lack of education with the general public.

Veteran's Heart Georgia wants to help communities become more aware and help them understand that there is a need for involvement and participation in the healing of these veterans and their families.

For more information regarding this organization, contact the Student Veterans Associations here at Clayton State or visit the VHG web site, www.veteransheartgeorgia.org.



PHOTOS BY LOGAN BROWNING (TOP 2) AND ADJRI LAWSON/THE BENT TREE

CSU students enjoy themselves during the "Glow in the Dark Party" on April 22 in the Student Activities Center. The event, full of dancing and other activities, was sponsored by the Fraternity and Sorority Council. All the proceeds benefited the Haiti Relief Fund.

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JAMAL EL-AMIN/THE BENT TREE

Layla K. (right) was a guest speaker at Clayton State on April 22 to discuss her success in the fashion world. She is CEO of Haute.Lanta Fashion Week, which is Atlanta's official fashion week. Also pictured is CSU student Colby Wilson, who works as an intern for Layla K.



KEVIN LILES/THE BENT TREE

John Patrick, student programs coordinator for CNN, talks with students on April 29 in the University Center about internship opportunities. Students learned about what to expect when applying for internships with CNN and Turner Broadcasting, as well as how to gain media experience while in school.



KEVIN LILES/THE BENT TREE

On Earth Day, CSU's Go Green organization offered peanut butter and jelly sandwiches in an effort to raise awareness about the environment. According to a flyer passed out by Go Green, having one PB&J sandwich can save 12-50 square feet of land from deforestation, over-grazing, and pesticide/fertilizer pollution. Pictured above are Rukayat Busari (right), Go Green president, and Jessica Wade, Go Green member.

PLEASE RECYCLE



COURTESY OF CAMPUS LIFE

CSU student Rico Lee gets a little air time during the Thunder Spring Carnival on April 22 at the Student Activities Center. The event was part of the Spring Fling Safari, hosted by the Campus Events Council.