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Competitive job market puts heavy pressure on up-and-coming graduates

Economic Forecasting Center predicts upturns by 2004 and advises students to stay current on technology trends over next 10 years

Kevin Langston

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The declining job market throughout the nation have analysts encouraging students and other adults to strengthen Unless students have a job set up before graduating, it may be advisable to stay in school and take a few more classes to hone your skills instead of graduating this winter.

According to Dr. Rajeev Dhawan, the director of the Economic Forecasting Center, there will not be a stronger job market until 2003 where close to 55,000 jobs should be added. Even then, the job market will not rise to its previous heights until sometime in 2004.

Since the start of the recent recession, Atlanta has lost close to

75,000 jobs. Thus, Atlanta has suffered a year's worth of job losses.

Dhawan says that the market is especially tight for graduating students because there are skilled workers who have been laid off. These skilled workers have job experience and may have a proven work record while recent graduates are still raw and in many ways untested.

Currently, there is no true job security in the private sector.

"Don't take any occupation for granted," Dhawan said.

In the early 1990's, the large growth of the technology market provided for many jobs. Now, the tech bubble has burst and many people who had to turn offers down in the past are struggling to keep or find a job in the present.

Today, some areas in the field jobs to get, including many of the jobs related to airlines.



Rob Bishop | Signal
Workin' for a livin': Not only are students, but businessmen like these are also feeling the heat of Atlanta's declining job market, as 75,000 jobs have been sacrificed since the beginning of the recession.

On the other hand, the science and tech field that is currently growing and will continue to grow is that of aerospace engineers. With all the conflicts the United States is currently involved in, and will later become involved in, Defense money being spent has allowed this field to grow. According to Dhawan it should be a good growth industry for the next ten years.

Health related employment should also have strong growth.

Dhawan advises the fresh graduate to go back to the basics of their parents' generation when trying to find a job. A clean well groomed appearance and the graduates' ability to sell themselves will probably be key factors in their hire.

The one prominent feature in

See ECONOMY | Page 8

Flooding damages Kell Hall, but does not shut it down

Hall sustains heavy water damage, but operations continue to run on schedule

David Freeman

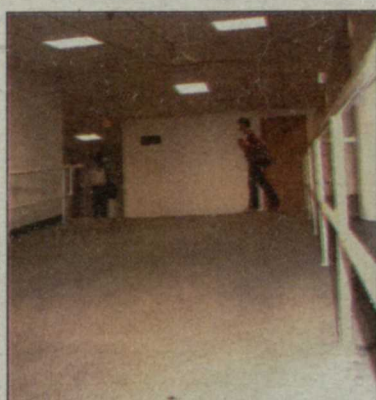
Staff Writer
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Kell Hall has closed temporarily due to flood damage during the first week of school.

This has even been reported on the Georgia State website where it stated, "Kell Hall closed indefinitely." The Director of Maintenance and Operations corrected the announcement and

assured students that the building is open and all damages were repaired immediately.

These reports are



Rob Bishop | Signal
Despite recent announcements, Kell Hall has and will continue to operate this year.

incorrect, as the building itself has not been closed, but merely a few parts that have been damaged by a flooding incident.

The Hall has been temporarily shut down until repairs can be made. The vast majority of Kell Hall was unaffected by the flooding and parts of the damaged areas are already up and running.

According to William John McCullum, the Director of Maintenance and Operations for the Facilities Management Services Division, a drain line for the fire sprinkler system ruptured at approximately 11 a.m. on Sunday Aug. 18.

"The sections of the building

See KELL | Page 12

Graduation confusion deserves clarity and offers suggestions

Kelley Caner

Amanda Van Fleit

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A number of students at Georgia State are missing their graduation date due to a combination of poor planning on their part and general misunderstandings between the student and the University.

To many students, the concept of graduating may only be a glimpse into the future, too far away to even begin thinking about. So they don't think about it.

What most students do not

know is that graduation day may be closer than it seems.

"They don't tell us when we have to submit our application, and everybody is always late. Some people don't even know they have to submit it," said Stacy Makarenko, a B.B.A. Marketing undergraduate who just graduated with the class of August 2002, about the University's involvement with upcoming graduates.


"What every student should know that most don't," Sue Seago, Assistant Registrar in the Graduation Officesaid, "is that every student must fill out an application [for graduation] two to

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PANTHER PROWL 6

“Welcome Back to School”

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30, 2002

Schedule of Events

CLIMBING WALL

| 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM | STUDENT RECREATION CENTER

“MAKE YOUR OWN MUSIC VIDEO”

| 6:00 PM - 12:00AM | STUDENT CENTER BALLROOM

THE MOVIE, “SPIDER-MAN”

| 6:00 PM - 8:00PM | SPEAKERS AUDITORIUM

DROP IN SOCCER

| 7:00PM | OMNI GYM, STUDENT RECREATION CENTER

DROP IN VOLLEYBALL

| 7:00 PM | MAIN GYM, STUDENT RECREATION CENTER

COMEDIAN, “TESS DRAKE”

| 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM | SPEAKERS AUDITORIUM

ILLUSIONIST, “CRAIG KARGES”

| 9:00 PM - 10:15 PM | STUDENT CENTER BALLROOM

THE MOVIE, “SPIDER-MAN”

| 10:00 PM - 12:00PM | SPEAKERS AUDITORIUM

FREE FOOD

10:30 PM



Students must bring GSU I.D. to be admitted. GSU students are allowed 1 guest.

All events are held in the Student Center & Student Recreation Center.

Free: Food, M-Deck Parking, & Shuttle Service from the Village provided.

For more information, please contact 404.263.9031.

page three

calendar of events

If you have information for the calendar of events or any other section on this page, contact the News Editor, Kelley Caner, at events@gsusignal.com. Find more online at www.gsusignal.com.

ampersand

August

27 The Georgia State chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, the National Honors Accounting and Finance Fraternity, will be hosting a pledge social with recruiters, food and numerous raffles from 4:30-5:30 p.m. on the 14th floor of the Commerce Building. This is open to finance and accounting majors with a 3.0 GPA. For more information contact April McFarland at april_mac@yahoo.com or call (404) 271-9150.

The Georgia State chapter of the American Marketing Association will be holding their Fall 2002 membership drive in the Library plaza and will be featuring guest DJs on stage, including Soul Brotha, Tabone, DJ Melodic, and DJ Doug Boogie.

28 The Office of African American Student Services and Programs will be hosting a Fall Welcome Carnival in the the Unity Plaza from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. There will be food, entertainment and giveaways. For more information call (404) 463-9000.

The Georgia State Talkers/Toastmasters will hold its weekly meeting in Classroom South room 609 from 12:20-1:20 p.m. to learn how to overcome your fear of public speaking, how to earn even better grades, and how to get a better job.

30 The Georgia State Spotlight Programs Board will host Panther Prowl VI "Welcome Back to School" in the Student Center and Student Recreation Center from 6 p.m. to midnight. Events include the climbing wall, volleyball, soccer, comedian Tess Drake, illusionist Craig Karges, the movie *Spider-Man* and free food. Students must bring GSU I.D. to be admitted and are permitted to bring one guest. M-Deck parking and shuttle service from the Village is provided. For more information call (404) 463-9031.

You work hard on your events, don't you?

It's no fun when no one shows up.

Solution: Add your event to the Calendar of Events.

To submit an event email the location, date, time and nature of the event to events@gsusignal.com, or stop by the Signal office in Room 203 of the Urban Life Building and fill out a Calendar of Events form. All events must be submitted by 4 p.m. the week before the event.

50 billion | Number of Cheez-Its manufactured each year.

Food Network

1,200 | Number of Americans who wear Global positioning System monitors as a condition of parole.

Harper's Index

About 27,000 | Estimated number of species (mostly plants and insects) now disappearing each year in rain forests alone.

National Geographic

75 percent | Percentage of all computers ever sold in U.S. sitting idle in basements, closets and garages.

Playboy's Raw Data

14,235 | Average annual miles driven per vehicle in the U.S.

U.S. News & World Report

505 | Number of national and regional TV networks that are currently measured by Nielsen.

Fortune

1.1 billion | Number of people worldwide who have a body mass index higher than 25, which classifies them as obese or overweight.

Discover

About 1 million | Estimated number of marketing messages the average consumer sees in a year.

Permission Marketing

More than 300,000 | Number of children, some as young as seven years old, who are fighting as soliders around the world.

salon.com

18 | Number of years it would take to reach the sun in an airplane traveling 600 mph.

Maxim

"The great and invigorating influences in American life have been the unorthodox: the people who challenge an existing institution or way of life, or say and do things that make people think."

Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, 1958

"What has been the effect of religious coercion? To make half the world fools, and the other half hypocrites."

Thomas Jefferson

"Go into the street, and give one man a lecture on morality, and another a shilling, and see which one will respect you the most."

Dr. Samuel Johnson

criminal activities

August 14

Possession of Marijuana with Intent to Distribute/ Criminal Trespass/ Obstruction of Officer Report

A Possession of Marijuana w/ Intent to Distribute/ Criminal Trespass/ Obstruction of Officer report was filed by an officer in Classroom South. The officer observed two non-GSU subjects engaged in suspicious activity at 11:45 a.m. The male subject pulled out several bags of marijuana, passed them to the female subject, and attempted to flee the area. The subject was detained and admitted guilt to also damaging the door of Classroom South. A criminal history check was done on both individuals with negative results for one and positive results for an active warrant on the other subject. The subjects were arrested, processed, issued CTWs, and transported to Fulton County Jail.

Contraband Weapon Report

A Contraband Weapon report was filed by a student in the University Village. The complainant stated that a pistol was located in another student's room. Officers arrived on the scene and identified the weapon as an air pistol. The weapon was confiscated.

Deposit Account Fraud/ Criminal Trespass Warning Report

A Deposit Account Fraud/ Criminal Trespass Warning report was filed by a staff member in the University Bookstore. The complainant stated that a non-GSU male subject attempted to return two books purchased in a short time span with a check from an account that had been closed for several months. The subject was arrested, processed, and transported to Fulton County Jail.

Prices of PCs fall as laptops gain power

Mike Musgrove
Nicholas Johnston

Washington Post

Murphy Meng already had a computer. But then last week he went and bought a second PC. Not another desktop like the one he has at home -- Meng, 28, bought what more and more Americans have been buying, a laptop.

Desktop computer sales remained flat in recent years, even dropping 4 percent over the last quarter, but laptop sales have boomed -- up 9 percent over that quarter, according to market researchers Gartner Dataquest. And laptop sales are expected to keep climbing in the coming years, growing twice as fast as desktops'.

Regular consumers are snapping up portable computers now, according to Charles Smulders, a vice president at Gartner Dataquest.

This is happening in spite of laptops' higher prices -- their average selling price of \$1,548 is almost twice the figure for desktops of comparable performance, according to NPD Techworld.

But a growing number of manufacturers have discovered something that can both narrow that price gap and make almost

every computer user a potential laptop convert: Many consumers only need "outlet to outlet" portability. These are generally not the road warriors but home users, who do their computing in a handful of fixed locations, all of which have a power outlet.

That realization has led to a curious hybrid machine. Starting this year, many companies have been building laptops around standard Intel Pentium 4 desktop processors. Desktop processors cost less than mobile processors, so the resulting designs have brought forth a whole new class of cheaper laptops that deliver performance close enough to a desktop's to tempt many buyers.

"The only thing you can't do (on a laptop) right now is DVD creation," said Andy Klopstead, Gateway's marketing manager for mobile products. Klopstead said laptops are even catching on among gamers -- a subset of computer users who once steered clear of laptops but who are now attracted to the possibility of using wireless networking to go head-to-head against their friends.

The trade-off is that these low-priced, high-powered machines usually exhibit shorter battery life.

See LAPTOP | Page 8

Aderhold Center brings positive and negative feedback among students

Celissa Wynn

Staff Writer

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The Aderhold Learning Center officially opened last Monday and

Starbucks every day."

Although many students enjoy the convenience of eatery shops, some students hate the long trek from the main campus to get to Alderhold Center.



Rob Bishop | Signal

Students who have classes in the Aderhold Center are still getting used to the trek from campus to the building.

is a convenient hot spot to some students. For others, it symbolizes another long walk in the hot summer heat.

The Fairlie-Poplar district, an area that used to be concentrated with business officials will now be shared equally with students.

Many students like the location of the Aderhold Center because of the numerous deli shops and fast food places that surround the area.

Starbucks, Subway, Reubens's Delicatessen, Pizza Hut, KFC, and Taco Bell are cleverly situated around the perimeter of the building.

"I love coming over here," said Allison Jager, a student at Georgia State University. "It's much better getting food over here because the lines are not as long. It's nice shade in this area, and I can go to

Depending on which way one goes to the building some students may have to cross through Woodruff Park. Police are on patrol around the area, but students should still be careful of purses and wallets.

"I don't like walking in this area because of the bums that hassle me at the park," said Adriane Council, a student at Georgia State. "Also, I only have 10 minutes to get to the Alderhold Center from my other class, and by the time I get there, I'm tired and sweaty."

Besides the location of the building, the building itself is clean, spacious and comfortable to those who enter.

Sofas and vending machines are placed throughout the building, giving it a relaxed atmosphere.

The open outlook and the slightly twisting stairways give

the building unique design flair. The building's balconies also give one a pleasant view of the city streets below.

"This building is really nice for the students. Most of them come in smiling, loud and hungry," said Linda Fowler, a security guard at the facility. "[However] I do get some students complaining there should be a shuttle bus to the Center."

Businesses are also benefiting from the high influx of students to the area because students coming in add to the usual lunch crowd.

"There is word that the businesses in the area may stay open later to cater to the students," Fowler said.

The Aderhold Center opens at 7 a.m. and closes at 10:45 p.m. Most businesses in the area close around 5 or 6 p.m.

Whether one likes the building it is here to stay. No phones are in the building yet, nor are there any major food courts inside.

However, time will soon change this. Phones will be placed in the building and Smoothie King and the Landmark Diner will be other amenities added to the building soon.



Rob Bishop | Signal

Pay for what you get: the Aderhold Center does offer spacious amenities, making it an attractive place for students to go, despite its somewhat distant location.

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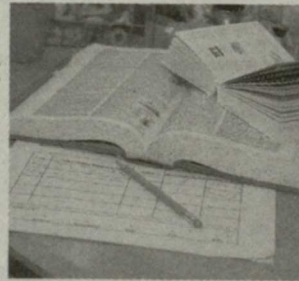
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West Nile virus calls for concern but not alarm

Drug used against hepatitis approved for testing against virus by FDA

Amanda Van Fleit

Associate News Editor
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The West Nile virus has infected 2,903 birds, 269 humans and 87 horses from 35 states so far this year. The virus has been confirmed in 12 Georgia counties this year with 16 mosquito pools

here, it will be here for good."

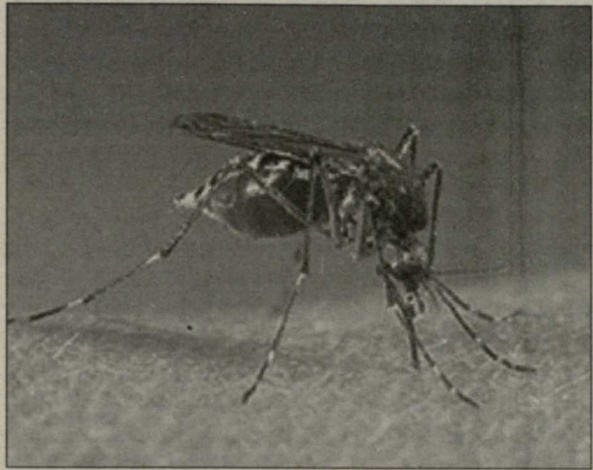
The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that people wear long-sleeved clothes, stay inside at dawn and dusk and use insect repellents containing permethrin or DEET to prevent being bitten by mosquitoes.

"[Avon's] Skin So Soft is not a good mosquito repellent."

Quartarone said.

The symptoms connected with the West Nile virus are usually mild, and the virus sometimes occurs without any symptoms. The strength of the infected person's immune system determines the level of severity of the symptoms.

Special | Signal



Shoo, Fly: Be sure to wear bug repellent when outdoors, especially in the morning and at dusk, as mosquito bites are the only way through which humans can contract the West Nile Virus.

testing positive.

Richard Quartarone, Public Information Officer for the DeKalb County Board of Health, advised Georgia residents, "to be concerned but not alarmed. Think about how many mosquitoes there are and how many people there are. Your chances of contracting the virus are very unlikely."

With that said, it doesn't mean that people shouldn't be concerned."

A total of 15 people died after being infected with the West Nile virus in the United States, with two of those deaths from Georgia.

The West Nile virus is a vector-borne virus, meaning that the only source from which humans can contract the disease is through mosquitoes, or the vectors.

It is noticed that the disease is spreading farther west throughout the duration of summer.

"The virus is endemic," said Quartarone, "That means once it is

People over age 50 need to be most concerned," Quartarone said because of the weakened immune systems of the elderly.

There are no specific treatments available, although the FDA has approved the testing of Alpha-interferon, a drug used to treat hepatitis, to be tested at New York Hospital Queens.

Quartarone added, "This is usually not a severe disease, so by treating the symptoms your body will fully recover in most cases."

Limiting the breeding grounds for mosquitoes will help to control the mosquito population.

"Cleaning gutters, removing containers of all sizes from wheel barrows to bottle caps, dumping out water, and throwing away trash will not only make your yard look better but will also destroy mosquito breeding sites," Quartarone suggested.

Mosquitoes are the only known carriers of the virus. There is no evidence to suggest that the virus can be spread from person to person or from animal to person. The CDC urges people to report any dead birds to state and local health departments to be analyzed.

One source for mosquitoes that is unknown to some and overlooked by many are old tires. Scrap tires are a haven for mosquitoes to lay their eggs. The DeKalb Health Department is currently working with the rest of DeKalb County through a grant from the Department of Natural Resources to eliminate scrap tires and to educate scrap tire generators. The removal of them helps control the mosquito population.

"We've been able to catch people that have been illegally dumping scrap tires," Quartarone said of the success of the program.

Symptoms of the West Nile Virus:*

- Headache
- Body Aches
- Sudden Onset of Fever
- Paralysis
- Disorientation
- Muscle Weakness
- Tremors
- Neck Stiffness

*symptoms may vary

Egyptian says he's no terrorist

Glenn Frankel

The Washington Post

LONDON -- Yassir Sirri rattles off the three prison sentences he has received in absentia from Egyptian military courts: 25 years' hard labor for helping smuggle armed terrorists into the country, 15 years for aiding Islamic dissidents and the big one, the death penalty for plotting to assassinate the prime minister.

"I wonder," he mused with a slight smile, "which one they would carry out first if they got me back."

Egypt isn't the only country that wants him. A federal grand jury in New York has indicted him on three counts of providing material support for terrorism and soliciting crimes of violence. And it's alleged that he played a key role in the conspiracy to assassinate Afghan guerrilla leader Ahmed Shah Massoud, who was blown up by two al-Qaida operatives two days before the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Egyptian security officials characterize Sirri as a crucial link between Egyptian terrorists and the al-Qaida network. But Sirri tells a much different tale. In his first interview with an American news organization, he said he belongs to no terrorist group but operates an independent human rights organization and media outlet. While he said he opposes Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's authoritarian government and is fiercely critical of the United States, he said he has never engaged in terrorism, abhors the Sept. 11 attacks because they killed innocent civilians, and is distrusted and ostracized by al-

Qaida because of his independent positions.

So far, Britain seems to believe him.

A practicing Muslim, Sirri, 39, said he first became active politically at a university in Port Said, where he became a leader of the student union and got a degree in social services. He was first arrested as a teenager in a roundup of 1,500 activists in September 1981, a month before Islamic radicals assassinated President Anwar Sadat, and held for nearly six months.

In 1988 he fled to Jordan, then Yemen, where he worked as a social worker in the education ministry. His wife and two children joined him.

Then, in October 1993, he was tipped off by a friend in the Yemeni government that Egypt was seeking his extradition. "This man is dangerous," an Egyptian official told the friend.

"The whole Arab world was dangerous for me," he said. "I went to London."


Sirri arrived in April 1994 on a false Yemeni passport and immediately requested political asylum. He was detained for eight months, then allowed to remain as a temporary resident. During this time, the British government provided living expenses for him and his family.

He decided to devote himself full time to political work as a journalist and human rights monitor, he said. With small contributions from individuals opposed to the Egyptian government, he set up the Islamic Observation Center.

His connections in the Muslim


"The whole Arab world was dangerous for me. I went to London."

See TERROR | Page 9



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Night senator abruptly resigns from SGA

Internal pressures and misunderstandings force senator and VP of PR forced to resign

James Butler

Senior Staff Writer
jbutler@gsusignal.com

An enrollment misunderstanding caused a Student Government Association member to publicly vacate his position last week.

SGA's Vice President of Public Relations and one of two night senators, Dominique Huff, left both positions last Wednesday.

Huff left his letter of resignation on the desks of SGA President Kimberly Smith and Executive Vice President Justina Emmanuel, as well as sending copies to friends and media outlets.

"I hate to leave my night students," said Huff, who is in his third month on the job. "There's a lot I felt that was going to get done."

Huff's problems started when he did not get financial aid for fall semester. At that time he was under the impression that he had to be enrolled in school two out of three semesters to maintain his office.

"I went to school summer semester. I was to sit out the fall

resignation letter and then it becomes official."

Technically this means that Huff still holds his senate position. The issue will be discussed in a special senate meeting on Thursday, Aug. 29.

Huff also voiced his displeasure about his work for SGA.

"The last two senate meetings we didn't have a quorum," said Huff. A quorum is referred to as two-thirds of the senate vote plus one member.

"A vote cannot take place without a quorum," Huff argued. "I was getting discouraged because we weren't having quorums and a lot of good bills were getting sat on."

He also said he was displeased about the Public Relations committee, which was not being receptive to his ideas and according to him, was not very active in legislation.

Huff said he became upset when only one member out of his two full-time committee members

"I hate to leave my night students. There's a lot I felt that was going to get done."

[because of no financial aid] and go back to school in the spring," Huff said.

"We would have had to either impeach him or he had to resign," said Kimberly Smith, President of SGA. According to Smith, it is true that office holders must be enrolled two out of the three semesters by SGA's constitution, but the student code of conduct says that students must be enrolled in school to hold an office.

"The past SGA administrations haven't changed the constitution, Smith said. "We wanted him to stay, but we had to abide by the student code of conduct."

Huff says that the statement in the student code of conduct was not brought to his attention or, to his knowledge, to any of the other senators' attentions.

"If I had known," said Huff, "I would have made other arrangements."

The public nature of Huff's departure, according to SGA, was against procedure.

"The senator has to resign on the senate floor for it to be official," Emmanuel said. "If he's not able to attend a senate meeting, I'll read his

and one part-time member showed up for a meeting.

Smith understood Huff's position, and in response to his concerns about the quorums said, "Some of our senators didn't know that SGA was year-round and went out of town over the summer. We still had enough people here to have quorum, but those people didn't put forth the effort to come to the meetings."

The SGA senate meets once a month over the summer and in December and twice a month during the rest of the year.

Smith said that getting members to attend the meetings so legislation could be passed was becoming a problem throughout SGA.

"Dominique was really dedicated to getting things done, [with it being the start of school]," Smith said. "I don't think his committee was ready to move at the fast pace he was moving at."

Huff was elected a night senator during the May elections. He was appointed Vice President of Public Relations by SGA after nominating himself. He is now pondering offers to work as an advocate for SGA.

Survivors say crisis prayers work, but some pastors disagree

Hamil R. Harris

Washington Post

Powerful testimonies have emerged in recent weeks from people who called on God while standing in the shadow of death.

In La Plata, Md., a father huddled his family on the floor and recited the Lord's Prayer as a deadly tornado passed their living room window and destroyed other buildings on the block.

In Kensington, Md., an Amtrak conductor dropped to his knees and prayed seconds after the Capitol Limited derailed and cars tumbled into a ravine, injuring the conductor and more than 100 other people. No one died.

In Somerset, Pa., ministers led families and rescue workers in prayer for three days until nine coal miners trapped beneath the earth were saved by efforts some called miraculous.

But what do these testimonies mean? In a crisis situation, do the chances of survival increase if you ask God to save you? Should

pastors preach or teach that the use of what some call "flare prayers" is the way to cope with disaster?

Survivors of the Maryland and Pennsylvania incidents believe that God interceded on their behalf. But some ministers and scholars disagree, saying it is impossible to know — or manipulate — divine will and that it's irresponsible for survivors or clergy to promote the use of flare prayers.

"Church leaders who teach this are setting up false expectations," said David Spradlin, an elder of the University Park Church of Christ in Hyattsville, Md. "What about the (more than 2,800) people who died

in the World Trade Center? Were not some of those people praying?"

The Rev. Edward Voorhaar, whose church's youth group



Sarah L. Voisin | Washington Post
The Rev. Jack Marcom, a former military chaplain, supports prayers in crisis if those offering them don't try to dictate the outcome.

probably survived April's tornado because it had canceled its Sunday night meeting, called crisis praying a "complicated theological issue."

The twister crushed La Plata United Methodist's empty

See PRAYER | Page 12

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Application Deadline is THURSDAY!!

Leadership Conclave is an annual leadership conference for Georgia State University students.

Conclave 2002 will be held October 19 at GSU!

The Planning Team will develop conference programs and activities, recruit participants, and work on-site at the conference.

Deadline to apply is August 29, 5:00 PM. Team will be announced August 30.



Apply today to join the Conclave Team! Applications and more information are available in the Office of Student Life and Leadership, 330 Student Center. Call 404-463-9039 or email rafsharpour2@student.gsu.edu if you have any questions.

Schools across nation respond to budget cuts

Melissa Lee

Daily Nebraskan

Those involved in higher education in America probably hoped they would return this year to campuses free of budget problems. Unfortunately, that's not happening. Universities nationwide, bogged down by a sluggish economy and fewer state appropriations, are facing the bad news together: More cuts are on the way.

So those who aren't ready for another round of cuts might want to turn right back around and head for home. In the meantime, though, here's a look at how the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a handful of its peer institutions are dealing with their budget cuts.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln community returns this week on the heels of an Aug. 15 legislative decision to reduce the University of Nebraska's budget by \$15 million.

UNL will shoulder about half of that burden, which brings its total cuts over the past year to about \$17.3 million.

"It's backbreaking. I don't even know where the money could come from," said Ryan Wilkins, Association of Students of the University of Nebraska president. "We're making all these cuts, but at what cost?"

That's yet to be determined. So

far, university leaders have tried to keep undergraduate education away from the knife. But that's becoming increasingly difficult.

UNL Chancellor Harvey Perlman has said he might consider consolidating or eliminating programs, laying off employees or increasing tuition to balance the budget.

Nothing's final, though, and Perlman expects to announce his proposals on Sept. 10.

After that, UNL's Academic Planning Committee will conduct public hearings to gauge reaction to the chancellor's cuts. The committee will forward its recommendations to Perlman, who will then announce the final cuts.

It's a process UNL has been through before, and Wilkins isn't looking forward to the next trip.

For one thing, the decisions are largely out of his hands. And for another, he's just plain frustrated.

"We're college students; we're poor," he said. "We rely on the university to ensure us a good education, but we're getting hosed over."

But not everyone sees it that

way. UNL Board of Regents member Drew Miller of Papillion is confident the university will remain a quality one.

Miller points to UNL's growing budget as evidence: Last fiscal year's budget was \$407.4 million; this year's is \$412.5 million — a 1.25 percent increase.

"Anybody who's thinking

said. "We've barely even started and we're already overwhelmed with them."

Two years ago, Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, began the school year with a base budget \$50 million more than its current one.

That hurts.

"It's been a difficult process," said spokesman John McCarroll.

"The years were dominated by a very negative thing."

In response, ISU has eliminated the equivalent of 209 full-time positions, cut course sections and degree programs and reorganized programs. Tuition, already up this year, will likely take another hike next

year.

The cuts have prompted officials to look at the little things, McCarroll said. For instance, the university was able to save \$1.4 million in energy bills last year. Several construction projects have also been delayed.

ISU's fall 2001 enrollment hit a new high of 27,823, which only compounded budget problems.

"You had more demands on faculty, and at the same time you had record numbers of students and fewer faculty," McCarroll said. "We're trying to cut back this year."

Now, he said, students and faculty can only hope things will get better.

"It was not a fun experience, and I don't think we want to go through it again," McCarroll said.

Brian Zink's evaluation of Purdue University's budget situation was pretty simple.

After rattling off the West Lafayette, Ind., university's problems, Zink, a spokesman, paused, then sighed heavily in frustration.

Here's why: Purdue's cuts over the past two years total \$100 million. That's meant sharp tuition increases, program reductions and \$3.2 million in reallocations. Also, all newly enrolled students must now pay an additional \$1,000 in fees, which will garner about \$8 million for Purdue.

On the bright side, Zink said, the university has not responded by laying off faculty. And funds earmarked for various purposes — financial aid, information technology and diversity programs — have come through.

One of Purdue's next steps will be to level off its enrollment at 38,000, Zink said, which will allow leaders to keep improving education.

"That's what a university is here for," Zink said. "We have to find a way to make the money we have go toward students. If we can't do that, then we're not doing our job."

"We're college students; we're poor. We rely on the university to ensure us a good education, but we're getting hosed over."

doom and gloom should take another look at the numbers," Miller said. "The rhetoric tends to get exaggerated."

As far as cuts go, Miller said he'd prefer to see entire programs eliminated over more across-the-board cuts, which UNL has chosen so far.

"We should be excellent at a few things rather than mediocre at everything," he said.

To Wilkins, any recent excellence is pushed aside by NU's constant budget battle.

"Everything good we're doing is overshadowed by these cuts," he

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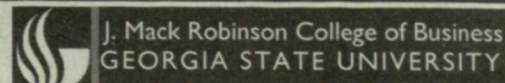
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Manufacturers work to improve laptop battery life

From LAPTOP | Page 4

"Desktop processors eat up power like there's no tomorrow," said Alan Promisel, a technology analyst with tech research firm IDC who estimates that laptops with desktop processors get about 1 1/2 hours' worth of life, compared with the three or four hours that processors optimized for laptops get from the same battery.

Some manufacturers are using more powerful batteries to compensate for power-sucking processors -- at an additional cost in dollars and weight.

Dell puts more powerful batteries in its laptops that use desktop processors. "We wanted to preserve that three-hour threshold in battery life," said

Ketan Pandya, Dell's marketing manager for consumer notebooks.

HP's conclusion, said Faulk, is that battery life doesn't matter as much if most of your time on the laptop is going to be spent within reach of an outlet. And most home buyers of laptops are far more concerned with computing power than with battery life.

That was the issue facing Brittany Matthews and her mother one recent afternoon as they looked at laptops at CompUSA in Rockville, Md. Matthews, 17, is starting college in the fall and wants to take a computer with her.

Promiseone, however, criticizes the way PC makers put desktop processors into laptops without informing consumers of the corresponding hit in battery life,

calling it a "car-salesman technique." But he concedes, "If you know what you're getting into, it's a great deal."

While the desktop market may be somewhat saturated, there is still room for laptops to grow.

The rise of cheap, relatively simple wireless networking may lead to laptops taking an even bigger chunk of the computer market down the line.

A series of deals on laptops from Dell, HP and Compaq have stayed in the top 10 of dealnews.com's "reader picks" for most of the summer. One current deal for a Compaq Presario alerts readers to mail-in rebates totaling \$250 -- taking the price of a notebook from \$1,099.99 down to \$849.99.

Consumer spending may have positive effect on market

From ECONOMY | Page 1

the new economy will be constant change according to Dhawan.

The director also believes that the graduate, after entering the job market, must be flexible and be prepared to switch jobs frequently. In order to retain a high value in the job market, the worker must keep up with the technology involved with his work skills.

Considering the nation as a whole, Dhawan has a positive outlook.

Barring any major catastrophe, he is optimistic about the nation's overall

economy despite the "crisis of confidence" the past two months have created amidst the market investors.

Dhawan believes that the consumer spending prompted by reduced mortgage rates, and tax cuts will have a positive effect on the market.

According to Dhawan's report in Southeast State Indicators, a publication for the Economic Forecasting Center, in the Southeast, the states that are more oriented to manufacturing should recover more quickly. These states include: Alabama, Arkansas, North Carolina, South

Carolina, and Tennessee.

The Economic Forecasting Center is a part of the J. Mack Robinson College of Business. The Center was established in 1973 for the research and development of models related to national, regional and local economies by the collection of economic data.



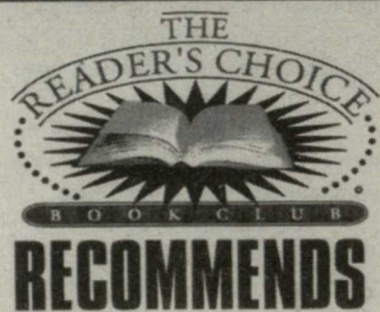
Rob Bishop | Signal

According to research done by the Forecasting Center, Atlanta seems to be recovering best from the recession than any other major technology-based city in the U.S.

Georgia seems to be handling the recession better than other major technology areas including Silicon Valley, Seattle and Denver. The Center publishes three quarterly reports: Forecast For the Nation, Forecast of Georgia and Atlanta, and Southeast State Indicators.

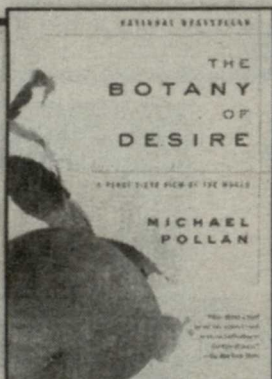
All three of the Center's publications are available in the Pullen Library.

For more information on the J. Mack Robinson College of Business or the Economic Forecasting Center visit the web at <http://www.cba.gsu.edu/robinson/home.asp>.



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Political activist alleges that all ties with al-Qaida have been "bad since 1996"

From TERROR | Page 5

world, he said, helped him break many stories. He provided such Western news organizations as Reuters and Agence France-Presse with reports on human rights violations against dissidents. The Islamic Observation Center's Web site also became a distribution point for a steady stream of communiqués from militant groups.

Sirri said he also became a conduit for small sums of money raised for the families of political prisoners in Egypt. "There are thousands of people in jail because of this oppressive regime," he said. "I wanted to help prisoners' families." He denied receiving any money from terrorist organizations such as al-Qaida.

Egyptian military courts have convicted Sirri of security offenses twice more in absentia: on charges of helping smuggle armed terrorists into the country and of aiding Islamic dissidents. The Cairo government has made a total of seven requests to the British authorities to extradite him, according to Sirri. Egyptian officials here would not comment on Sirri's status but pointed to the Web site of the State Information Service, where he is No. 25 on a

list of Egypt's Most Wanted. Seven people on the list live in Britain.

Egyptian officials have expressed outrage that dissidents such as Sirri have been allowed to reside in Britain. "Granting political asylum to killers under the pretext of human rights encourages terrorism," Mubarak said in a speech last fall. British officials say they want to crack down on terrorists in their midst but contend the courts sometimes are too protective. "We cannot have a situation in which it takes years to extradite people," Prime Minister Tony Blair said.

British press reports, citing law enforcement sources, have maintained that Sirri was a key al-Qaida conduit. But Sirri said his relations with al-Qaida have been bad since 1996, when he was one of the first to publish reports that the organization's military leader, Ali Rashidi, had died in a ferry accident in Kenya. Al-Qaida leaders mistrusted him, Sirri said, which may be why they used a forged letter from the Islamic Observation Center in the plot against Massoud.

The anti-Taliban leader was killed by a bomb hidden inside a television camera that was detonated during an interview with two men posing as journalists. The

men had gained access using letters of introduction purportedly written by Sirri.

Sirri said he never met the two men, who died in the attack. He said an Egyptian acquaintance named Osman called him and suggested he write a general "To Whom It May Concern" letter on their behalf. In return, he said, he would get a share of the distribution rights from the documentary they were making.

He said he faxed the letter to Taliban offices in Pakistan. That letter, he said, was doctored by someone at the other end to create a much more specific document that the assassins used to gain access to Massoud. "They took it and falsified it," Sirri said. purpose."

British police arrested Sirri last October on charges he was involved

in the assassination. After a four-day hearing in May, Judge Peter Beaumont ruled that Sirri had provided the reference letter for the two men "in ignorance of their



Glenn Frankel | The Washington Post
Egyptian officials characterize Yassir Sirri, an Egyptian dissident living in London, as a crucial link between Egyptian terrorists and the al-Qaida network.

charges that he conspired to help leaders of the Islamic Group carry out terrorist activities and solicit crimes of violence.

The U.S. indictment also accuses him of providing financial support for terrorism. He said the charge stems from the 950 British pounds -- about \$1,450 -- he helped funnel from Sattar to Abdul Rahman's son, Ahmed, who was fighting with the Taliban in Afghanistan and was broke and in poor health, Sirri said. The money was "because a father wants to help his son," not for terrorism.

Last month, British officials declared there was insufficient evidence to support the U.S. extradition request and a judge released Sirri. U.S. officials have said they will pursue the case.

Sirri said he knows he remains under a cloud of suspicion. He remains a vociferous critic of U.S. policy, maintaining that the government is violating the human rights of the Guantanamo Bay detainees and that any attempt to invade Iraq would bring down the wrath of the entire Islamic world.

"I have no problem with the American people," he said. "My main issue is American government support for corrupt regimes."

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A new tactic discovered in the download war

False downloads or "spoofs" discourage illegal online music traders and are considered a legal way for labels to deal with piracy

David Segal

Washington Post

The first time Travis Daub got "spoofed," he figured faulty software was to blame. Hoping to sample the new album by Moby, he downloaded one of its songs, "We Are All Made of Stars," from the Web site LimeWire.com. But what wound up on his hard drive wasn't what he expected.

"It was just 20 seconds of the song, repeated over and over," says Daub, 26, a design director who lives in Arlington, Va. "At first I thought it was a glitch. Then I realized someone had posted this on purpose."

The identity of that someone is a mystery--Moby's label and management team say it wasn't them. But in recent weeks, scads of "spoofer" files have been anonymously posted to the hugely popular sites where music fans illegally trade songs online. Spoofs are nothing more than repetitive loops or snippets filled with crackle and hiss, and thousands are now unwittingly downloaded every day from file-sharing services, like Kazaa and Morpheus, that sprang up after Napster's demise.

Record labels are reluctant to discuss spoofing, but their trade group, the Recording Industry Association of America, has called it a legitimate way to combat piracy. And at least one company acknowledges that it has been hired to distribute spoofs, although it won't say by whom.

All of this suggests that the dummy files are part of a second front in the record industry's war against illegal music copying. For years, the fight focused on Web sites and their owners. Now it's starting to focus on the fans themselves.

For the labels, any anti-piracy campaign that targets consumers is risky, since it could alienate many who also spend heavily on store-bought discs. But given a two-year slide in CD sales that the industry says has cost it billions, many executives and artists believe they don't have a choice. New file-sharing ventures sprout all the time, and 2 billion songs a month are now traded online, according to the RIAA, far more than during Napster's heyday. Meantime, sales of blank CDs, which can be used to copy songs on the cheap, are skyrocketing.

So labels are racing to develop uncopyable CDs and--if indeed they're behind the spoofs--employing guerrilla tactics that

complicate the unlawful uploading and downloading of songs. The labels are also supporting a bill, now under consideration in Congress, that would make it legal to "impair the operation of peer-to-peer" networks, such as LimeWire. That could be done, for example, by overloading file-sharing services with so many requests that they slow to a crawl.

"I think in the history of the music business, we've been, with regard to enforcing our rights, pretty generous with consumers," said Hilary Rosen, chairwoman of the RIAA. "But we're looking for a way to stop gross infringers, and there are measures we can take to prevent people from making 100 copies or uploading CDs for millions to take."

The strategy has generated plenty of skepticism, however, and not just among those who regard music thievery as a sacred mission. Some executives in the online music world say the majors--Sony, Universal, Warner Bros., BMG and EM---re wasting their time.

"All this smacks of desperation," says Eric Garland, president of BigChampagne, a company hired by major labels to measure online file-sharing traffic. "When you've got a consumer movement of this magnitude, when tens of millions of people say, 'I think CD copying is cool and I'm within my rights to do it,' it gets to the point where you have to say uncle and build a business model around it rather than fight it."

The record labels have been spurred to action by figures they find terrifying: The number of "units shipped"--CDs sent to record stores or directly to consumers--fell by more than 6 percent last year, and it's widely expected to fall 6 to 10 percent more by the end of 2002. Those drops are already hitting the industry hard. Labels are laying off employees, ditching artists, slashing budgets for tours and videos, and combing their back catalogues for reissues that cost almost nothing to release.

Labels claim that sales of CD-Rs spike during the same week a major new release hits stores--a sign that people are buying, say, the new Bruce Springsteen CD and making free copies of it for their friends.

Thus far, only halting, low-key steps have been taken to thwart mass copying. Just four titles, including an album by country singer Charley Pride, have been released in the United States with reconfigured coding intended to

render them unplayable in computer hard drives, which is where most CD burning and uploading to Web sites takes place. Even these tentative moves proved controversial, however, because buyers who merely wanted to play the CDs on their computers couldn't do so. And one congressman said the labels warning consumers that the discs didn't play on PCs were so small that he threatened legislation.

"The labels run the risk of angering millions of their best customers with these copy-protected CDs," Rep. Rich Boucher, a Virginia Democrat and Internet policy maven, said in a recent phone interview. "But I think there's a role for Congress to make sure that copy-protected CDs are adequately labeled."

For the labels, this first stab at safeguarding had an even greater liability: It didn't work very well. Hackers gleefully reported that they could defeat the security encryption with a felt-tip pen, and artists declined to release copy-protected albums, figuring that the discs would annoy fans without plumping their royalty checks. "It just doesn't work," said David Bowie, whose latest album, "Heathen," was released protection-free.

The majors seem to appreciate that these initial experiments were flawed. Though mum about upcoming releases with protection, they say they're hoping to devise software that allows legal copying (for personal use, such as a copy for the car), while blocking illegal activity (like sharing a song with millions of other fans on Napster-like services).

The ultimate goal is to retire the so-called "Red Book" CD standard that was developed in 1980 by Sony and Phillips, and which is embedded in nearly every recorded compact disc sold today. The Red Book CD was one of the most successful entertainment products in history, but unlike the DVD, it was designed without virtual security bolts. Labels won't abandon the good old five-inch plastic disc--it's a medium that consumers clearly love--but in the coming two or three years, they'll phase in new and more secure audio

standards.

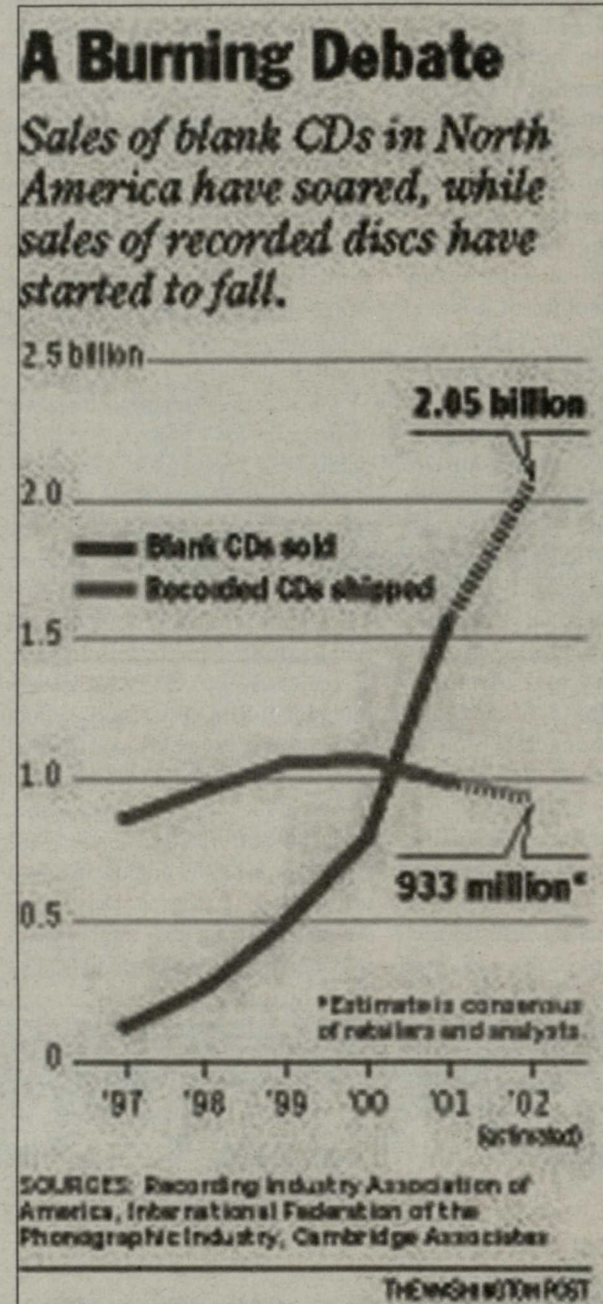
It's unclear, though, if labels can win a spy-vs.-spy game of technology upgrades against hardware manufacturers and hackers. On the market already are

In the past, whenever consumers swooned for a new music format, like CDs, the record industry made a fortune from the conversion. This time, millions of listeners are again getting their

music in a new medium--MP3s and other modern-friendly formats--but the labels aren't profiting from the revolution.

"Kids are consuming music, it's just that they're doing it in ways that aren't making money for the industry," says David Pakman, a senior vice president with Bertelsmann's BeMusic, the company's Internet music division. "Kids are saying, 'We want music, but we want it on different terms.'"

To a large extent, those terms were shaped by Napster, an early Internet star that drew millions of fans before being sued and shut down by the labels. Some of the terms are simply impossible for the industry to



Sales of recorded CDs have fallen in North America as sales of blank recordable disks have soared. Graph shows 1997 through current figures.

devices like the Ripflash. Plug the \$179 gadget into your stereo and it will convert anything that plays over your speakers into an MP3 file, the software format of choice for online song swappers.

"If you play it, we can record it in MP3," says Bob Fullerton of Pogo Products, which makes Ripflash.

meet. Competing against Kazaa and Morpheus on price can't be done, since those sites don't charge a cent.

CD singles are being phased out, apparently to push consumers to the far more profitable full-length CD. And the labels have only recently allowed subscribers to their

See TACTIC | Page 11



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Academic advisors suggest students meet with them each semester for review

Students are also advised to apply for graduation at least two semesters before intending graduation date

From GRAD | Page 1

three semesters prior [to the estimated graduation date] to give the student enough time to fix any problems in time in order to graduate."

The student must fill out the application form and include a processing fee with it as well.

With the form, a graduation audit is conducted between the graduation office and the college of the student's major field of study in an effort to ensure program completion upon graduation.

As Seago described it, a graduation audit is a process of "checks and balances" that is initiated at the college of the student's major.

The student receives the audit, which is similar to a PACE form, in the mail four to six weeks after filling out a graduation application.

The student should then make an appointment with the departmental advisor for an audit review.

If everything is complete and in order, the audit is signed and approved by the advisor and it is turned in to the graduation office for final approval.

The finished audit is sent back to the department, which in turn sends a copy to the student for his or her records.

If a class is missing from the audit, the audit is considered incomplete, and the student must fulfill the missing requirements before he or she can graduate.

Usually, a student is not aware of the missing classes until it is revealed in the audit or when they are nearing graduation.

happening," Seago said regarding the question of why students are being held back from graduating. "There are certain things that happen that can throw people off track."

Although it is not mandatory, it is highly recommended that students develop a knowing relationship with their advisors throughout college.

Every department offers

"Since we strive to help students to develop competencies, we do encourage self-reliance and independence"

Whether or not the student can fulfill what is lacking in time by the perspective graduation date depends on when the audit is conducted; hence the suggestion by Seago to apply for graduation far enough in advance.

"There's a reason for that

academic advisement at both the graduate and the undergraduate level.

Advisors are not the only one's who can evaluate a student's progress. PACE forms, similar to transcripts, give a summary of courses taken by the student and courses remaining.

These can be requested in each department with a valid student ID.

Dr. Ray Miller, an associate professor in the Communication Department, recommends that his students pick of a copy of their most recent PACE form each semester so they can be current of where they are at in their program and have an idea of what's ahead of them.

"I also encourage them to make an appointment with me or another faculty member each semester," Miller said, "not only to review their course work, but to also discuss internship opportunities, extracurricular activities related to their major or minor and so on.

The University of Georgia requires all students to schedule mandatory advisement every year.

When asked whether mandatory advisement may be a solution to the number of students being held back from graduation, Marenko said, "It would have been beneficial; a lot of people don't take the time to go see an advisor."

With approximately 30,000 students enrolled at Georgia State this year, most departments do not send out reminders to each student every time he or she is due for an advisement, however.

The J. Mack Robinson College of Business is no exception, but it, like other departments, provides general guidelines for seeking advisement.

The College of Business also sends out a package to students containing a "pocket advisor" that describes what types of services academic advisors offer.

Gary Miller, Director of the Office of Undergraduate Academic Assistance in the Robinson College of Business, explained that even though he and his colleagues strive at making themselves available as much as they can, help and effort must come from the students, too.

"Since we strive to help students to develop competencies, we do encourage self-reliance and independence," Miller said.

He advises that students apply for graduation three semesters in advance.

The College of Business is currently reorganizing for the purpose of creating an Office of Undergraduate Academic Assistance that, according to Miller, will "be developing new ways to assist our students and help guide them through their experience here at [Georgia State]."

Marenko looked back at her experience and gave this advice to students: "Start early to get it over with and to avoid last minute mistakes. Consult your advisor at least a semester in advance to make sure you have everything completed."

Burning same as stealing

From TACTIC | Page 10

pay-to-play Web sites, like Pressplay, to burn music onto discs.

"They've got a promotional system designed to implant a 30-second hook in your head, but it's difficult to buy just that song," said Garland of BigChampagne.

The industry counters that even if fans don't like their buying options, swiping songs isn't justified. "If I wanted to buy pants and the store will only sell it as part of a suit, I'm not allowed to steal the pants just because I'm (ticked) off," says the RIAA's Rosen.

Fans like Travis Daub don't think of themselves as shoplifters. He's running afoul of the law by downloading from LimeWire, but he's also the sort of regular CD buyer that labels adore. "I use it like radio," Daub says of the Internet. "It's easier to get hooked on an artist via MP3s."

It's getting harder now. Daub says that recent searches for an Eminem song turned up hundreds of hits that were obviously "spoofs," making it nearly impossible to find non-spoofed copies.

That delights Marc Morgenstern, CEO of Overpeer, a company that specializes in spreading spoof files over the Internet. Morgenstern won't disclose the names of his clients, nor will he discuss Overpeer's methods.

"We use various methods of disguise," he said. "When someone clicks on our file, they're not getting an illegal file. They receive what our clients want them to receive."

Spoofing is hardly a permanent solution to the file-sharing problem. The most downloaded album in Internet history--the recently released "The Eminem Show"--is also the best-selling album of the year, which suggests that at least some fans were spurred to buy the disc even though they already had it stashed on their hard drives.

At best, spoofing is an annoyance and one that some file-sharing sites are already working to outsmart through user rating systems that, in theory, will relegate unlistenable files to the bottom of search lists.

Long-term solutions to piracy, say experts, won't come through hurdles dreamed up by techies but in authorized Web sites and technology so irresistible, so loaded with extras and so convenient that it's more appealing than anything offered by rivals.

"They" come up with a compelling model, but the question is whether it will be compelling enough to win back consumers," said Orin Herskowitz of the Boston Consulting Group, a consulting firm.

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The power of prayer works on command, survivors say

From PRAYER | Page 6

education wing, harming no one, but killed a man across the street. Four other people died that night, and Voorhaar has no doubt every one of them was praying, "Lord, save me."

"It is impossible to know the will of God," Voorhaar said. "I am just grateful that more people in this community were not killed or injured."

Richard Yates, a professor at the Capitol Bible Seminary in Lanham, Md., said ministers shouldn't preach that God saves individuals simply because they ask him to spare their lives. It gives false hope and tells people what they want to hear, he said.

"People are basically materialistic and want God to make them happy," Yates said. "We can't think that God is a puppet. When we go through pain, maybe He wants us to repent and get right with Him."

Yates advises people in crisis to pray that God have mercy on them and that God's will be done, good or bad.

Yates said he learned this lesson in 1990 when his son died after an automobile accident in Washington state caused by a drunk driver.

answer the prayers for my son," he said. "But then I reflected on Romans 8:28: 'And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God.'"

Flare prayer proponents also can be found in the Pennsylvania mining town that was the scene of

"As soon as it happened, I got down on my knees and said, 'Oh God, not today!'"

last month's near-tragedy.

The Rev. Charles Olson, pastor of Grace United Methodist Church in Somerset, said he's sure that God spared the life of church member

Mark Popernack, the last miner hoisted out in the early hours of July 28.

Olson prayed with Sandy Popernack, the miner's wife, throughout the 77-hour ordeal while Mark Popernack was praying from Black Wolf mine 240 feet below the surface.

"We offered a lot of prayers down there," Popernack said this week, adding that the episode strengthened his faith and religious

commitment. "I was going to church, but now I plan to go more often."

Popernack declined to say more about the event because of a \$150,000 contract he and the other miners signed giving Walt Disney Co. and Disney's ABC network television and book rights to their story.

The third calamity, the July 29 derailment of an Amtrak train in Kensington, produced other

believers.

Amtrak officials have prohibited employees from talking about the accident while it's under investigation.

But a few hours after a heat-buckled track created what could have been a disaster, assistant conductor Stephen Smart spoke about how prayer saved his life.

"Prayer works," Smart said as he walked out of the emergency room of Holy Cross Hospital with a broken elbow. "I knew (the derailment) was serious. As soon as it happened, I got down on my knees and said, 'Oh God, not today!'"

Ruptured drain pipes damage carpets and threaten computer lab

From KELL | Page 1

and keep classes and the post office on schedule as usual.

"The entire building was not closed down, but only a few specific areas," according to Pamela Flores, Senior Scheduler for Georgia State. "101 Kell Hall was closed for the entire semester and all of the classes in that room were moved elsewhere."

under the Universities insurance policy."

Much of the damage and cost is related to the saturation of the carpets, which must be removed and repaired. Due to water damage, all of the computers had to be removed from the computer lab and were put into storage. The mail bins were lined up outside of the post

"The entire building was not closed down, but only a few specific areas"

According to McCullum, the rupture itself was repaired the same day it occurred. He also confirmed that the building was not shut down.

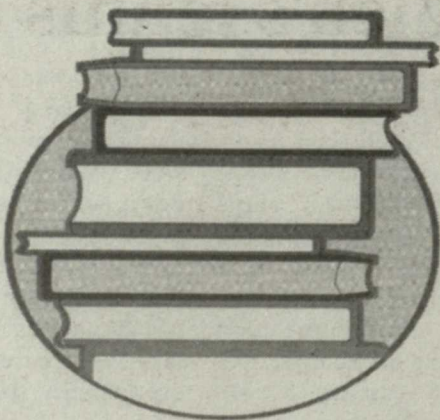
"Drain lines similar to the one that ruptured have been repaired," McCollum said, in order to prevent this from happening again in the future when it may cause more serious damages to classrooms and offices.

He also said that the estimated cost of repairs "has not been finalized. These costs are covered

office in large bins to keep the post office up and running, but at this point they have been moved back inside the post office.

The carpets in 101 Kell Hall sustained water damage and are currently being removed for repairs as the class itself has been moved to another room. The flooding did not cause any problems or inhibit any planned events for the school and also did not result in any major setbacks for the building.

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Sports Editor
Chris Martz

Sports

Reporting on
Georgia State University Athletics

What's Inside

VOLLEYBALL I Lady Panthers prepare for start of new season [see page 15]

COLUMN I Colin is back with his NFL predictions for the 2002-03 season [see page 21]

Cross country looks to make up for losses

Graduation hurts both teams as new season begins

Chris Martz
Sports Editor
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In college athletics, with the spoils of success comes the dooming reality that the success cannot last long.

Unlike professional sports, where dynasties can last for a decade at a time, the four-year eligibility rule keeps the roster door constantly revolving.

For Georgia State's men's and women's cross country teams, last year's graduating class left both teams decimated, leaving the ideas of prosperity for 2002 in the air.

On the men's side, both Giovanni Gentiluomo and Tee Mott, the team's top two runners in 2001, have moved on. Also departing from the team are Kenneth Martin, Matt Oates and Rashard Sanders.

Last year, the Panthers captured the Atlantic Sun Championship behind the finishes of Gentiluomo and Mott, who finished second and third, respectively.

Mott's third-place finish last year marked the fourth consecutive year that he had finished in the top 10 at the conference championship, while Gentiluomo's second-place tally marked the second time he had placed in the top 10.

Without Mott and Gentiluomo, the Panthers will rely heavily on junior Paul Rickard, who finished fifth in last year's Atlantic Sun Championship.

Head coach John Rowland will rely heavily on Rickard to

lead a team that will be devoid of seniors this upcoming season. With nine juniors and one sophomore this year, the Panthers have experience, but are missing their top runners from a year ago.

Also fighting the graduation bug are the Lady Panthers, who lost three seniors last year, including veteran Brittanie Hughes as well as Laurie Harris and Jenny Jones.

Once again, junior Jenn Feenstra will lead the way for the Lady Panthers. Already being called one of the greatest runners in Georgia State history, Feenstra leads a crew of five juniors who are looking to regain the Atlantic Sun Championship that was lost to Belmont last year at Panthersville.

After winning the title in 2000, the Lady Panthers folded at the conference tournament, losing to a Belmont team whose odd strategy proved the critics wrong.

With a majority of their runners grouped together, the team crossed the finish line together, enabling them to take the conference title last year.

Although Feenstra also failed to claim the individual conference title, her second place finish at the NCAA Regional enabled her to race in the NCAA National Championship, where she finished 44th, the highest finish ever for a Georgia State female runner. In her last two years, Feenstra has a chance at becoming the first-ever All-American runner from Georgia State by finishing in the top 30 at the NCAA National Championship.



File | Signal
The Lady Panthers will once again be led by junior Jenn Feenstra.

Joining Feenstra in leading the Lady Panthers will be junior Nigisti Negussie. Her sixth place finish in the Atlantic Sun Championship was the only other top 10 finish for Georgia State at the meet.

Head coach John Rowland will also be looking to continue a personal streak this year, as he will be shooting for his eighth-straight year of winning a conference championship, either on the men's or women's side.

The men are looking to become the first repeat Atlantic Sun champions since 2000, when Samford won the title after sharing the championship with Georgia State the previous year.

The Panthers have won four outright conference championships in Atlantic Sun history, as well as one shared title.

The Lady Panthers, meanwhile, have won the last two Atlantic Sun Championships held on even years, in 1998 and 2000.

This year's Atlantic Sun Championship will be held in Troy, Ala. at Troy State. It will be the first time that the Trojans will be hosting the championship.

New assistant coach expected to be announced

Chris Martz
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The Georgia State Athletics Department is expected to announce the hiring of Drew Catlett this week as the new men's assistant basketball coach.

Catlett's previous experience includes a stint as an assistant coach at West Virginia University. Working under his uncle Gale Catlett, Drew took over the Mountaineers as interim coach for the last five games of the 2001-02 season following the resignation of his uncle on Feb. 14.

In that span, Drew led West Virginia to an 0-5 record, leaving the Mountaineers with an 8-20 overall record, with a 1-11 mark in Big East play.

Following the end of the Mountaineers' season, Catlett left West Virginia to West Virginia Tech. On May 10, he signed a contract to become the head coach of the Division II school.

Catlett's term at West Virginia Tech would prove to be a short one, however, as he resigned on Aug. 1. At the time, it was reported that he left in order to pursue another Division I job, with wire reports stat-

ing that at the time he had already spoken with Georgia State head coach Charles "Lefty" Driesell.

Last week, Catlett was seen on campus with Panthers' assistant coaches Mike Perry and Travis Williams. Although no confirmation was given as to whether Catlett would indeed be the new assistant coach, the *Signal* has learned that he will be announced as the newest member of Driesell's assistants this week.

The assistant coach position became available this summer with the departures of Bobby Champagne and Lance Von Vogt.

Champagne left the team in late July to take an assistant coaching position at the University of Texas at El Paso. He left the team after only one season here.

Von Vogt, however, moved a little closer down the road, taking over the head coaching position at Emory at Oxford, in Oxford, Ga.

During his two years at Georgia State, Von Vogt helped coach arguably the two greatest squads in school history, helping guide the team to a 49-16 overall record during this time.

Von Vogt completed his masters degree in sports administration before moving on to the junior college.

Women's tennis team finds a new coach

Smith comes from new A-Sun rival

Staff Reports

The Georgia State athletics department announced last Monday the hiring of Andy Smith as the school's women's tennis coach.

Smith comes to GSU from fellow Atlantic Sun Conference freshman Gardner-Webb, where he had coached since 1995. He replaces Chuck McCuen, who served as women's head coach for the past five seasons.

At the Boiling Springs, N.C., school, Smith was the head coach of both the men's and women's tennis teams. He led both teams to the finals of last year's National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) tournaments.

The previous year, Smith was named NCCAA Coach of the Year after leading the Bulldogs to the men's national championship.

Smith also led the Lady Bulldogs to East Regional titles in 1999 and 2000 when the school competed at the Division II level.

While in college, Smith played No. 1 singles and doubles for UNC-Greensboro.

McCuen, who resigned his post during the summer, had been the director of tennis at GSU for 20 years. He resigned to take an assistant coaching position on the men's tennis staff at Clemson.

During his tenure at Georgia State, McCuen was named Atlantic Sun Coach of the Year five times while leading the men's team to three NCAA Tournament appearances in the past four years.

Smith takes over a team that finished 10-12 last year, and 5-2 in conference play, before bowing out of the Atlantic Sun Tournament in the first round, 3-2 to Belmont.

2002 Georgia State Cross Country Schedule

Date	Meet	Location	Time
Sept. 7	FALL ALUMNI MEET	ATLANTA	9 a.m.
Sept. 13	Tennessee Invitational (Pre-Region)	Knoxville, Tenn.	5:45 p.m.
Sept. 21	GEORGIA STATE INVITATIONAL	ATLANTA	9 a.m.
Sept. 27	Great American Festival	Rock Hill, S.C.	TBA
Oct. 5	GA. COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIP	ATLANTA	9 a.m.
Oct. 12	East Carolina (Southeast Regional Preview)	Greenville, N.C.	10:15 a.m.
Oct. 19	Auburn Invitational	Auburn, Ala.	TBA
Nov. 2	Atlantic Sun Championships	Troy, Ala.	TBA
Nov. 16	NCAA South Regional	Knoxville, Tenn.	10 a.m.
Nov. 25	NCAA Championships	Terre Haute, Ind.	TBA

Home meets in **BOLD**

All home meets will be run at Panthersville

It's the Time of the Season for -- Football?

Tony Kornheiser

Washington Post

WASHINGTON--This past week it was nearly 100 degrees outside my window. It has been nearly 100 degrees almost every day for the past month to month and a half. I'm schvitzing@ like an Airedale here. It's been so hot the TV weather poodles have referred to 92-degree days as a "cooling trend." Maybe I'm old-fashioned, but this doesn't feel like college football weather--unless you've scheduled a home-and-home with the University of Hell.

Yet here it is. College football season. The other night the University of Virginia opened at home against Colorado State. I'm not a member of the American Meteorological Society, but seeing as how one drives south from here to get to Charlottesville, Va., I'll bet it was every bit as hot down there as it was on my parched lawn--where, by the way, I'm no longer growing grass, I'm now growing stuff you can weave into a straw hat. I can't imagine playing college football in August. In this heat I don't even want to go watch it.

The college football season begins earlier and lasts longer than ever before. For those of you who wonder about the priorities of big-time athletics, there are true freshmen who have been living on campus for more than a month already, just practicing, who may play as many as two games before classes start. They could have a career-ending injury and drop out of school before attending a single class!

I love it when folks talk about "making the transition from college to the pros" like it's similar to climbing Mount Everest in a pair of flip-flops. Many colleges will play 13-game schedules this season, with their bowl game being No. 14. (Oh, you don't think a bowl game is so routine?

There are 28 sanctioned bowl games, including two fabulous showcase items called the "Continental Tire Bowl," and the "ConAgra Foods Hawaii Bowl." "ConAgra." That sounds really natural, doesn't it? This means 56 of the 117 Division I-A football teams are going to bowls. Eight teams in the Big 12 are guaranteed to go to a bowl. That's worse than the NHL playoffs. And two of the Big 12 are Kansas and Baylor, so give me a break.) At many schools it's just a question of which bowl game they play. Florida, Florida State and Miami are to New Year's Day what Dick Clark is to New Year's Eve. It will be interesting to see how Ron Zook fares at Florida, taking over for Steve Spurrier. Zook is a defensive specialist. Gators fans have become accustomed to seeing Florida score 50 points per game. Giving up 30 doesn't faze them. A 17-7 game might not endear Zook to Gator fans, even if it's Florida with 17. Spurrier's teams usually had 17 points before the national anthem was over.

Maryland is one of the teams that should end up with 14 games. (Yes, Maryland should be in a bowl game. Ralph Friedgen came in like a rainmaker, and made such expectations reasonable.) The Terrapins open with Notre Dame next Saturday in the Kickoff Classic at the Meadowlands. I'm told Maryland could be favored in that game, even without Bruce Perry. Imagine that. Yes, Notre Dame is down this year. But this is still Notre Dame! One year ago Friedgen took over a drowning program that was 37-73 over the past 10 seasons and hadn't been to a bowl game in 11 seasons. Now it could be favored over Notre Dame. Wow! The only miracle Friedgen hasn't worked yet is making 160 pounds disappear. He's reportedly shed about 40--which means he still has about 120 to go to catch Al Roker, who's shrunk so much he

might be asked to audition for the lead in "The Gary Coleman Story."

Fourteen games may not be enough for Nebraska. (Not to dredge up old news, but 13 was one too many last year. Ooooh, that Miami game was painful; 34-0 at the half. I don't want to say Nebraska looked slow against the Hurricanes, but you could have timed the guys in red with a sun dial.) The Cornhuskers have 13 games on their schedule. If they reach the Big 12 championship, that's 14. And a bowl makes 15. That's only one game under the NFL's 16. How in good conscience can the NCAA continue to stake out the inane position that they can't allow a college football playoff system because "it's too many games for college kids to play," and "it will take away too much study time"?

Too much study time? When are they supposed to study? At least when college football games were only on Saturdays a player might be able to budget some study time for weeknights. This season, there are college games scheduled for Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, too. Virginia Tech plays five of its 13 games on days (and nights) other than Saturday. The only day of the week I haven't yet found a college game is Tuesday. I guess Tuesday must be the day the NCAA reserves for studying, hahaha.

Honestly, how can you have teams playing 13, 14 and 15 games--and have those games decide absolutely nothing? You can't ask players to devote all their energy from August to December to winning every game, and then tell them, "Sorry, you aren't one of the two teams we picked for the national title game. But we were very impressed with your congeniality, and we have a great package of parting gifts for you. Please enjoy the Cotton Bowl."

It's simply not equitable to decide every other college football division with a playoff, and decide the biggest one of all with an Apple iMac. Nor is it equitable when some teams are rewarded for losing early in the season, and some other teams are punished disproportionately for losing late. Holding a playoff is the only fair solution. Ultimately, you could accomplish it without having teams play any more games than Nebraska might play this year.

Women's sports lack coverage

T. Lotshaw

The Lantern
Ohio State University

Women's Olympic sport athletes at Ohio State University put just as much on the line as their male counterparts, but are rarely recognized for it.

Olympic sports at OSU are recognized as every sport except football, baseball and basketball.

OSU has a lot to offer fans and participants of women's athletics, though the games are often forced to take a back seat to the constant recognition of higher profile sports.

"We have many of the best female athletes in the country playing in some very exciting games here at Ohio State," said Linda Kalafatis, the women's softball coach.

Kalafatis said that the women's athletics programs in Ohio have grown tremendously in recent years, and there is a sizable population of people interested in them, though local media often do not recognize it.

"When I first came to OSU I thought we would have all this community support, stands full of fans and steady coverage from local media, but sometimes that has not been the case," Kalafatis said.

"Since we work so hard and our successes are so big for us and our fans, it is disappointing when our most notable accomplishments go largely unnoticed," said Anne Wilkinson, the women's field hockey coach.

Kalafatis said it can be extremely frustrating when the softball team wins a big game or has a great season and there is very little in the way of coverage, except maybe a line score in the paper.

"We had local media come out last year to give us some coverage, but we often had to restructure our entire practice to better accommodate their interests. We put on a home run derby for them, which was fun for everyone of course, but we had an important game the next day and things we really needed to work on," Kalafatis said.

"A lot of us were upset when the media came out to cover our practices but then failed to recognize some of our biggest games," Chain said.

Sue Stimmel, the women's lacrosse coach, said she is glad the media are not at their practices all the time, because reporters would most likely break up or have a negative effect on the practices.

She does agree, however, that recognition in the community is nice when the team does accomplish things.

"The coverage is a double-edged sword. On the one hand, it's always great to be recognized for your accomplishments. Unfortunately, it often seems the more coverage you get the more critical, negative or obtrusive it becomes," Stimmel said.

One benefit of participating in a lightly covered sport is that players and coaches are not heavily exposed to opinions from outside sources in the media may know or care little about the sport, said Mike Scerbo, an assistant coach for women's lacrosse.

"I think the light coverage allows us to have a better relationship with our players, both on and off the field. We really don't have to worry about members of our team reading a lot of articles that say our players or coaches are doing a terrible job and that we should be doing this or that instead of what we are doing," Scerbo said.

Kalafatis said that most people involved with women's athletics are still free to enjoy the sports in their true essence.

"Relationships in women's sports have not become polluted in the way that a lot of the more high profile sports have been. Our girls come out and play for their true love of the sport and competition. They practice and play really hard without a lot of the hype," Kalafatis said.

"We'll go in and practice even when the coach isn't there. That is always our own decision and what it takes to be successful in the Big Ten," said Katie Virtue, a senior on the women's volleyball team.

Stimmel said any possible lack of coverage or support doesn't bother her because it leaves her players free to focus primarily on themselves and their competition.

"If people want to come out and see our games and reporters want to cover them that's excellent, but I think we enjoy the sport just fine whether people are there or not," Stimmel said.

Wilkinson said one of the biggest drawbacks of the sports receiving little coverage is that people in the community are missing the opportunity to see some exciting games played by outstanding athletes.

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NEXT DOOR TO THE BEER MUG

Volleyball team looks to retain recent success

Coming off back to back 20-win campaigns, a trip back to the NCAA Tournament is team's only goal

Chris Martz

Sports Editor
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The Georgia State volleyball team will head into their 2002 campaign, not only looking to replace a Lady Panther legend, but also looking to atone for a disappointing end to last season.

Last year's team, which blew through their Atlantic Sun schedule with a blistering 9-1 record on their way to the regular season conference co-championship, lost Anna Popenko, the reigning two-time Atlantic Sun Player of the Year.

Popenko will stay on with the team, however, serving as the team's assistant coach to head coach Dr. Richard Leonard, who will be in his fifth season at the helm of the Lady Panthers. In his four years as Georgia State coach, Leonard has compiled an impressive 93-47 record, including three 20-win seasons and one NCAA Tournament berth.

Heading into last year's Atlantic Sun tournament as the number one seed, the Lady Panthers were upset in the semifinals, losing to Florida Atlantic

3-2, ending their season.

This year's crew looks to regain the form that took them to the 2000 NCAA Tournament as Atlantic Sun champions. The team looks to add a fifth conference championship to the Sports Arena trophy case, and if the Atlantic Sun preseason poll is any indication, the Lady Panthers have a good chance of regaining the hardware.

Georgia State finished second in the poll, behind the team that the Lady Panthers shared the 2001 regular season Atlantic Sun title, UCF.

The Golden Knights, who return five starters from last year's team, also claimed the 2001 Atlantic Sun Tournament championship.

Florida Atlantic, last year's tournament runner-up, finished in third place in the preseason poll.

While UCF returns five starters, the Lady Panthers will be returning the same number, with the team being led by senior Randi Van Dam, junior Molly Sapp, and sophomore April DeCoste.

In Van Dam's first year at Georgia State, her accomplishments included being named to

the All-Conference second team. Her 109 blocks and 361 kills were good enough for first and second best on last year's squad.

Van Dam will be looked upon to lead a young team that contains five freshmen, including her younger sister Robyn.

Also returning for the Panthers will be Molly Sapp, and her twin sister Amanda. In 2001, Molly was named to the All-Conference first team, along with Popenko. Molly's 1164 sets were by far the most on last year's squad, proving her worth to the team.

Although the Lady Panthers have a young team, there's strength in their youth, as April DeCoste, last year's Atlantic Sun Co-Freshman of the Year will also be returning.

The Lady Panthers' schedule looks to be favorable, with the team hosting both UCF and Florida Atlantic, who look to be Georgia State's most difficult conference opponents this year.

The team's schedule is also highlighted by their appearances in three tournaments that will take them all over the country, from Colorado to Maine and back.

In the span of two weeks, the team will participate in tournaments in North Carolina and Colorado, before returning home for a mid-week doubleheader against Georgia Tech and Chattanooga at the Sports Arena.

Then the team will head on the road once again, traveling to Maine for the Maine Invitational.

Once the team returns from Maine, their following 13 matches include 11 conference opponents, testing the team's endurance while trying to balance their studies simultaneously.

At the close of the season, the team will head to Orlando for the Atlantic Sun Tournament in Orlando, where the conference tournament will be held for the first time since 1996. The last three Atlantic Sun tournaments have been held in Boca Raton, Fla., on the campus of Florida Atlantic.

The road ahead for the Lady Panthers will be long and hard, but from a program that has won a combined 52 matches the past two seasons, nothing less than excellence is expected from one of the hardest working programs in the Georgia State athletics department.

2002 Georgia State Volleyball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
<i>At Georgia Southern Invitational - Statesboro, Ga</i>		
Aug. 30	TBA	TBA
Aug. 31	TBA	TBA
Sept. 3	MORRIS BROWN	7 p.m.
Sept. 4	EASTERN WASHINGTON	7 p.m.
<i>At Catamount Clash III - Cullowhee, N.C.</i>		
Sept. 6	TBA	TBA
Sept. 7	TBA	TBA
<i>At Air Force Invitational - Colorado Springs, Colo.</i>		
Sept. 13	TBA	TBA
Sept. 14	TBA	TBA
Sept. 17	GEORGIA TECH CHATTANOOGA	4 p.m. 8 p.m.
<i>At Maine Invitational - Orono, Maine</i>		
Sept. 20	Oakland	9 a.m.
	Lehigh	4:30 p.m.
Sept. 21	Portland	11:30 a.m.
	Maine	7 p.m.
Sept. 27	GARDNER-WEBB*	7 p.m.
Sept. 28	Belmont*	8 p.m.
Sept. 29	Lipscomb	3 p.m.
Oct. 1	MERCER*	7 p.m.
Oct. 4	UCF*	7 p.m.
Oct. 5	FLORIDA ATLANTIC*	1 p.m.
Oct. 8	Jacksonville State*	8 p.m.
Oct. 10	Bethune-Cookman	6 p.m.
Oct. 11	Stetson*	7 p.m.
Oct. 12	Jacksonville*	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 15	Samford*	8 p.m.
Oct. 25	CAMPBELL*	7 p.m.
Oct. 27	COASTAL CAROLINA	2 p.m.
Oct. 29	Alabama	8 p.m.
Nov. 2	TROY STATE*	2 p.m.
Nov. 5	UAB	7 p.m.
Nov. 9	HIGH POINT ALCORN STATE	3 p.m. 5 p.m.
<i>At Atlantic Sun Tournament - Orlando, Fla.</i>		
Nov. 22-23	TBA	TBA

Home games in bold

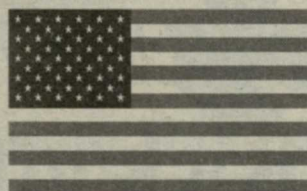
* denotes Atlantic Sun game

All home games will be played at the Georgia State Sports Arena



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Hackers slam New Mexico athletics Web site

James Barron

*Daily Lobo
University of New Mexico*

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. - Lobo fans and Web surfers might have had a hard time trying to view the University of New Mexico's athletics department's Web site, www.golobos.com, Monday because hackers successfully shut it down.

The site didn't come back online until Tuesday. About a month's worth of information was lost in the process, said Greg Remington, associate athletics director for media relations. Remington compared the incident to someone breaking into a person's house.

"You feel kind of violated," Remington said.

Wayne Johnson, president of Vista Media Productions, Inc., which provides the database system that the Web site operates on, said the company had been monitoring attempts to hack the site since March.

The hackers broke into the system a couple of times this summer, he said, and a new firewall was built to protect it. A firewall is a system designed to isolate and better protect computers and computer servers from the Internet.

Johnson said hackers managed to find a backdoor into the system on Monday and denied access to the site. The company tried to fix the problem and got the site back up.

But when workers visited the site at about 2 p.m., they received a forbidden access message.

"(The hackers) did a lot," Johnson said. "They didn't do anything as far as leaving anything in (the system). They were probably trying to do something with the server that they didn't want us to find."

Remington said among the information lost Monday were all profiles of the fall sports teams, including biographies and photos of about 120 football players and coaches.

"That probably takes 5-7 minutes per person," Remington said. "It's quite a task. It takes the same for volleyball and men's and women's soccer, in addition to updating certain staff members."

Johnson said Vista Media is working with the Athletics department to restore all the lost

data. Remington said he did not know how long it would take to return all the data onto the site. He said if he and his staff dedicated themselves solely to restoring the Web site, it would take about a couple of days to complete the task.

A statement explaining Monday's events is posted at the top of the Web site. It reports that the department was "in the process of evaluating and restoring the lost data."

Most sections for the 17 athletics programs at least have the coaching staff listings posted.

The football section has most of its press releases and a partial roster list.

The softball section lists former coach Susan Craig and her staff. The skiing, track and field/cross-country and women's tennis teams have nothing listed in their sections.

Johnson said the information that was lost since July may have been the result of previous hacking attempts.

He said the company has a backup system in Florida that saves data from the site on a weekly basis.

However, some of it was corrupted during the past four weeks and was not successfully saved. Johnson said the saving policy has since changed to a daily basis.

Steve Johnson, vice president of Vista Media Productions, Inc., said he worked about 36 hours straight rebuilding the system and installing the latest security software.

While it provides more safety, Steve said it is not a guarantee that the site will not be hacked into again.

Steve Johnson said hackers have a number of ways to break into a system. In this case, he said the hackers used a program that overwhelmed the system with thousands of requests of a normal service in a very short period of time.

Eventually, the system denied access to anybody who legitimately was trying to view the site. He said it left the system vulnerable to the hackers.

"Once they got access, they deleted information," Steve Johnson said. "Once access has been gained, you don't know what they have done to the server. The only alternative is to essentially rebuild an entire software service system."

Caught looking at another third strike

Joe Lemon

*The Stanford Daily
Stanford University*

I don't know why baseball gets more than three strikes. I mean, I know the rules of the game. Three strikes, you're out. But since 1972, Major League Baseball has endured eight separate strikes or lockouts. When can we finally declare the game of baseball out, over and done with?

Let's face it: Baseball is a terrible game. It's hardly athletic and it's painfully boring. Defenders of the game will appeal to your sense of tradition and refer to it as America's pastime. Heck, even Congress has made a special exception for baseball by excluding it from antitrust laws.

However, my suspicion is that baseball only narrowly beat out games like lawn bowling and watching paint dry to become America's pastime.

A lot of smart people have advocated a lot of stupid positions over the years. Benjamin Franklin wanted to make the turkey a national symbol. Just because someone decided some-

thing a long time ago doesn't necessarily make it the right choice.

Even modern observers can be misguided. Sure, political commentator George Will might think seball's pretty sexy, but let's remember that Will himself has probably never been described that way.

The childish disagreement between owners and players serves as a reminder that baseball is a game that should be played by children, not grown men. The focus of the dispute, of course, revolves around money. Owners with more money than God buy teams to round out their menageries of assets.

Players with personal salaries in excess of the GDPs of reasonably sized developing nations complain that they're indentured servants. In fairness, this is a bit of an exaggeration: Alex Rodriguez only makes about 60 percent as much money in a year as the island nation of Sao Tome and Principe and only 30 percent as much as Kiribati.

Who finances this battle of greed? Young parents who blow more than \$100 to take their family of four to a game and buy

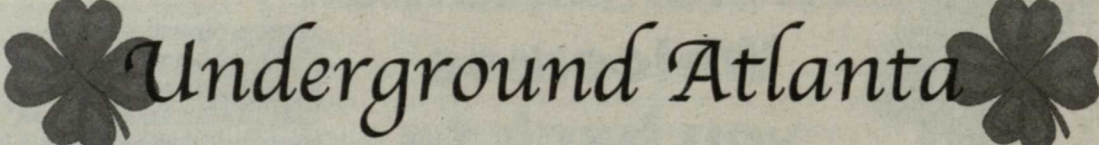
a round of hot dogs bear a significant proportion.

Another contentious issue currently is drug testing of the players. Increasingly, sluggers' physiques are swelling like they're jacked up on cocktails of steroids, creatine and bovine growth hormone. The balls may be flying out of the parks with unprecedented frequency, but the players may want to investigate the effects on their reproductive organs. There may be an inverse correlation to the increase in the mass of their biceps.

Owners generally support the testing, while players are resisting it. I saw a recent interview with home run specialist Barry Bonds during which he asserted that he supported voluntary, but not mandatory, drug testing of players. Uh, Barry, you can do the voluntary testing now -- that's what voluntary means.

It's not that I particularly care about Bonds's long-term physical well-being. What I do worry about are the school kids

See BOYCOTT | Page 23

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Exhibitions have soccer teams ready for season

Staff Reports

The Georgia State men's soccer team prepared for its 2002 season by splitting a pair of exhibition matches last week.

Tuesday, the Panthers traveled to Clemson, where they were handed a 3-1 defeat by the Tigers.

Clemson jumped out to a 2-0 lead early, getting goals from Fabio Tambosi in the 18th minute and Steven Rhyne in the 21st minute.

Justin Towns scored Georgia State's lone goal in the 75th minute off a pass from Jamie Hargather.

The Tigers sealed the game with a goal from Landy Mattison in the 88th minute.

Tambosi finished the game with one goal and two assists for Clemson.

Last year, Georgia State upset the Tigers at Clemson, by the score of 2-1, marking one of the biggest upsets in Georgia State athletics history. The Tigers were ranked twelfth in the nation at the time.

Saturday, Georgia State sprinted out to a 3-0 lead and held on for a 4-2 victory at Emory.

The Panthers will open their regular season this Saturday at 1 p.m. against Lipscomb.

The game will be the first home game of the season, and also the team's only home game

for more than three weeks. The Panthers will travel to South Carolina, Virginia, and New Mexico to compete in tournaments during this period. The team won't play again at home until Sept. 25 when it opens conference play against Gardner-Webb.

The Lady Panther soccer team fell 1-0 to Western Carolina Saturday in its only exhibition match before the 2002 season.

The Catamounts scored the winning goal with just 26 seconds remaining when Natalie Turgeon beat Georgia State goalkeeper Amanda Schneider off a corner kick.

Schneider combined with Kalli Forster to stop nine shots for the Lady Panthers, who were without their regular goalkeepers.

After an scoreless first half that saw both teams tally five shots, the Catamounts came out with a more attacking offense. As a result, Western Carolina outshot the Lady Panthers 10-4 in the second half, on the way to the winning goal.

Georgia State will open their season on the road this Friday against Southern Mississippi in the Ole Miss Invitational in Oxford, Miss., before returning home to host the Georgia Lady Bulldogs on Sept. 3 at Panthersville.



THIS WEEK IN GEORGIA STATE ATHLETICS...

Women's Soccer:

Friday, Aug. 30:
GSU vs. Southern Mississippi
at Oxford, Miss.
8 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 1:
GSU vs. Mississippi
at Oxford, Miss.
2p.m.

Volleyball:

Friday, Aug. 30 - Saturday, Aug. 31
GSU at Georgia Southern Invitational
at Statesboro, Ga.
Time and Opponents: TBA

Men's Soccer:

Saturday, Aug. 31
GSU vs. Lipscomb
at Panthersville in Atlanta, Ga.
1p.m.



how to get there...

Panthersville soccer field: Take I-20 East to Candler Rd. exit. Turn right and follow until Panthersville Rd. Turn right and follow until Clifton Springs Road. Turn right and follow until Georgia Perimeter College parking lot on the left. Soccer field is in the far right corner over the pedestrian bridge. Volleyball events are held at the Sports Arena on Decatur Street.



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The Teams:

A's, Mariners, prove you can win without huge payrolls

Peter Schmuck

The Baltimore Sun

It was so simple, but it took until just the last year or two to figure it out.

While large-market teams bid up the price of marquee players—and created the mess that has led to the current labor dispute—a couple of revenue-challenged franchises found a new formula for success.

First, it was the Seattle Mariners, who let go of three of the best players in the game over a three-year period and emerged as one of the strongest franchises in the industry.

Now, it is the Oakland A's, who couldn't possibly have expected to maintain their status as one of the best young teams in baseball after allowing Jason Giambi and Johnny Damon to become free agents last winter.

Maybe smart management hasn't become obsolete in the world of big-money sports.

A's General Manager Billy Beane has quickly made a name for himself as an intelligent and imaginative executive with a great eye for young talent. He focused the developmental efforts of the organization on pitching (which is not exactly a revolutionary concept) in the same way that the Atlanta Braves did in the early 1990s, the only difference being that Beane has had to do it without a net.

The Braves were able to spend big money to sign Greg Maddux in 1992 and pair him with homegrown Tom Glavine to build the best starting rotation of the decade. The A's drafted and developed the three top pitchers in their rotation, got 2001 13-game winner Cory Lidle as a throw-in in the deal to rent Damon for last year, and picked up promising Ted Lilly from the Yankees earlier this season.

Still, who would have expected the A's to enter the final week of August at the top of the AL West standings and on pace to win 98 games?

The loss of Giambi alone should have been devastating, but the A's gave up one of the most productive power hitters in the game and lost one of the best leadoff men, which isn't how you usually go about reaching the playoffs for a third straight year.

The Mariners already had proved it could be done. They traded away Randy Johnson in 1998 because of concern that they would not be able to afford to re-sign him. They did the same thing with Ken Griffey before the 2000 season. Superstar shortstop Alex Rodriguez left as a free agent a year later, and the Mariners responded by tying the all-time record with 116 regular-season victories in 2001.

During that strange shakeout, the Mariners moved into a new stadium and now are one of the top revenue teams in either league. The A's, forced to compete for Bay Area fans with the popular San Francisco Giants, may never be able to say the same, but Beane has proven that it isn't all about money.

Everybody loses if the 2002 season is interrupted by a work stoppage,

but the biggest victims of a players strike would be the fans on the West Coast, who have enjoyed one of the best races in the history of the divisional format.

The resilience of the A's and the impressive, exciting Anaheim Angels have created a three-way American League West run with the Mariners that figures to validate baseball's decision to go to an unbalanced schedule.

Two of the three teams are scheduled to play head-to-head every day from Sept. 9 until the end of the season, the only exception a day off for the entire division on Sept. 23. The Angels and A's play eight times. The Mariners and A's play six times. And the M's and Angels play six games in the final 10 days of the season.

Confidential to players and owners: You don't want to miss this!

OK, so the biggest victims might be the fans of the upstart Minnesota Twins, who are beginning to resemble the surprising 1994 Montreal Expos, who had the best record in baseball when the players began their 232-day work stoppage in August.

There's plenty of victimology to go around, though any English teacher can tell you there's no such word as victimology.

Well, at least the latest labor dispute did not come in a season with a lot of big individual subplots. The 1994 strike hit with Matt Williams chasing Roger Maris' single-season home run record and threatened the integrity of Cal Ripken's consecutive game mark.

There are a lot of players having great seasons this year, but nobody is threatening to make history in any major way. Fortunately, Mark McGwire eclipsed Maris and Barry Bonds overtook Big Mac during periods of relative labor peace. Bonds even got in under the wire with his 600th home run.

Be thankful for small favors.

They're still buzzing about Bonds' broken-bat home run last weekend at Pro Player Stadium. He isn't the first player to crack a bat and hit a home run, but he didn't just crack it—he shattered it.

"I saw him holding the stick of his bat in his hand," said Florida Marlins outfielder Kevin Millar. "I look up and it's two rows out of the park. I looked at (center fielder) Preston Wilson and went, 'Oh, my God.' I've never seen anything like that in my life."

Pitcher Josh Beckett could shake his head in similar amazement. "It was probably the only well-located pitch I threw him all night," Beckett said. "It probably looked like a beach ball to him. All I could do was pick up the rosin bag and laugh."

There is an old saying in baseball that "some of the best trades are the ones that are never made," a sentiment that should be very meaningful to long-suffering Angels fans.

The Angels came very close last winter to trading center fielder Darin Erstad to the Chicago White Sox for now-Orioles outfielder Chris Single-

ton, pitcher Jon Garland and prospects.

The deal was so close that the White Sox already had typed up a news release when the Angels backed out, fearful that giving up another marquee star would seriously damage the club's credibility with local fans.

It obviously was the right decision. Erstad, who signed a four-year contract extension Aug. 3, is a big part of the winning chemistry that has put the Angels in strong contention for a playoff berth.

Obviously, there is no such thing as a sophomore jinx. Second-year St. Louis Cardinals star Albert Pujols entered Friday needing one homer to become the first Cards player to hit 30 or more homers in each of his first two seasons.

Pujols also will be the fifth Cardinal to have back-to-back 30-homer seasons, joining Stan Musial, Mark McGwire, Jim Edmonds and Ray Lankford.

He's also very likely to become the second Cardinal to drive in 100 or more runs in his first two seasons. The other was Ray Jablonski, who did it in 1953 and '54.

That distinction is the only thing Pujols would want to have in common with Jablonski, whose career declined rapidly after his first two seasons.

The Players:

Labor Talks Center on Discussions About Random Steroid Tests

Laura Price-Brown

Newsday

Baseball players will be randomly tested for steroids, but the union and management still differ on several issues that must be resolved before a comprehensive plan is implemented.

Negotiators met twice Friday and the Players Association proposed changes to its steroid-testing plan seven days before baseball hits a strike deadline.

"They moved modestly in our direction but we remain apart in that area," Rob Manfred, management's labor lawyer, said of the union's new steroid-testing proposal.

The players are expected to walk off the job before Friday's games if an agreement is not reached.

Several significant issues remain on the table, with the most pressing revenue sharing and a luxury tax. Steroid testing is unresolved but is not expected to impede a deal. Negotiators said they will meet all weekend, beginning at 1 p.m. Saturday.

On the issue of steroid testing, the union earlier proposed a two-stage process during which players initially would be randomly tested only for survey results. If in either 2003 or '04, more than 5 percent tested positive, random testing would commence for two years. Management wants that threshold. With only a week to go before the strike date, the union has to be sure to time its concessions correctly. The union convened

a 90-minute conference call Friday to update its membership on how it will proceed.

It is believed the union's luxury-tax proposal is likely not to drop the threshold below \$125 million, with the number increasing over three years.

The previous proposal started at \$130 million and rose to \$135 million and \$140 million with a tax rate beginning at 15 percent and capping at 30 percent for repeat offenders. It is unclear if the new proposal will increase the tax rate.

Management's plan begins at a \$102-million threshold with provisions for cost-of-living increases in the third and fourth years. Tax rates start at 37.5 percent and top at 50 percent for a fourth-time offender. Manfred said the fourth-year tax is "very" important. Management wants to keep a wealthy team from overspending in the last year of the agreement because it fears that will set thresholds too high for the next collective-bargaining agreement.

Manfred declined to say what management considers significant movement on the luxury tax, but one official said anything less than a \$5-million reduction by the union would not be received favorably.

"They're going to make whatever proposal they are going to make. We'll react at the point in time they make it," Manfred said. "I'm not going to speculate over what is significant or how I'm going to react when I don't know what the proposal is."

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The Fans:

Fans Aren't Striking Back-- At Least Not Yet

David Wharton

Los Angeles Times

A nation of angry baseball fans has made its voice heard.

With the threat of an imminent work stoppage, the sporting public has lashed out on radio talk shows and the Internet, in letters to the editor and signs draped over ballpark railings. Critics have proposed everything from a silent protest in the stands to an immediate and outright boycott.

But in the language that speaks loudest to owners and players--the language of attendance and television ratings--all this talk has so far amounted to hot air.

Last weekend, in the 48 hours

after the players union set a strike date of Aug. 30, major league games attracted a healthy average of 31,540 fans and at least two teams drew unusually large crowds, apparently overcoming moral indignation with the offer of free bobblehead dolls.

Ratings for the Fox network's game of the week were similarly up 4 percent.

"It disappoints me quite a bit," said Greg Caldwell, a Houston public relations manager who recently formed the Baseball Fan Union, one of numerous organizations and Web sites that have sprung up with the aim of mounting a grass-roots revolt.

"How many times do the fans

have to see this take place?" Caldwell asked.

"The owners and players don't care about them, yet they continue to support baseball. The owners know that and the players know that, and that's why they didn't hesitate to set a strike date."

Negotiators met again Monday, their second set of talks since the strike date was announced.

Representatives from the two sides said they did not address the difficult issues of a luxury tax and revenue sharing, focusing instead on "legal, drafting-type issues."

In the absence of any encouraging news, Caldwell had figured the fan movement was gaining momentum as his Web site received more

than 45,000 hits in recent weeks. He was similarly heartened by the words of President Bush last week.

If play is halted, Bush said, "a lot of fans are going to be furious, and I'm one of them."

But a far different sentiment was expressed by San Francisco Giants outfielder Barry Bonds, who seemed confident the game could survive what would be its ninth work stoppage since 1972.

"It will come back," he told The Washington Post. "A lot of companies go on strike, not just baseball. And people still ride the bus."

Though attendance at baseball games is down 5.3 percent this season, the numbers from last Saturday and Sunday appear to support his contention.

The Philadelphia Phillies attracted a season-high crowd of 58,493 for a home game against the St. Louis Cardinals at which fans received a dual bobblehead doll of Hall of Fame announcer Harry Kalas and Hall of Fame player Richie Ashburn.

The Montreal Expos, among the worst-drawing teams in the league, had a respectable 24,872 attendance for a game against the San Diego Padres that featured Vladimir Guerrero dolls.

Leaguewide, the two-day average of 31,540 was significantly better than the 30,555 that baseball drew the weekend of Aug. 3-4.

It fell short of the 35,937 mark set Aug. 10-11, but that weekend featured Barry Bonds as a new member of the 600 home run club, Chicago Cub outfielder Sammy Sosa playing

two highlight-reel games in Denver and the New York Yankees drawing 54,000-plus fans to each of two home games against the Oakland Athletics.

Attendance the weekend of July 27-28, when many of the teams that were home Aug. 10-11 also hosted games, was a nearly identical 35,939.

Furthermore, last weekend's numbers remained strong even though the Yankees were on the road and the Giants, leading the National League in attendance, played against the Florida Marlins in moribund Pro Player Stadium.

"The fans talk a big game, but for 30 years they've never really backed it up," said David Carter of the Sports Business Group, a Los Angeles-based consulting firm.

"They've had a chance to be part of the solution, but they've been part of the problem because they haven't put their money where their mouth is."

Meanwhile, a new Web site called MLBfanstrike.com was pushing for an immediate boycott and urging season-ticket holders to demand a refund.

Baseballfanunion.com is trying to organize a protest in which fans remain silent during the third inning of Friday's games.

Despite the strong attendance numbers, Caldwell hopes that such efforts will catch the attention of owners and players.

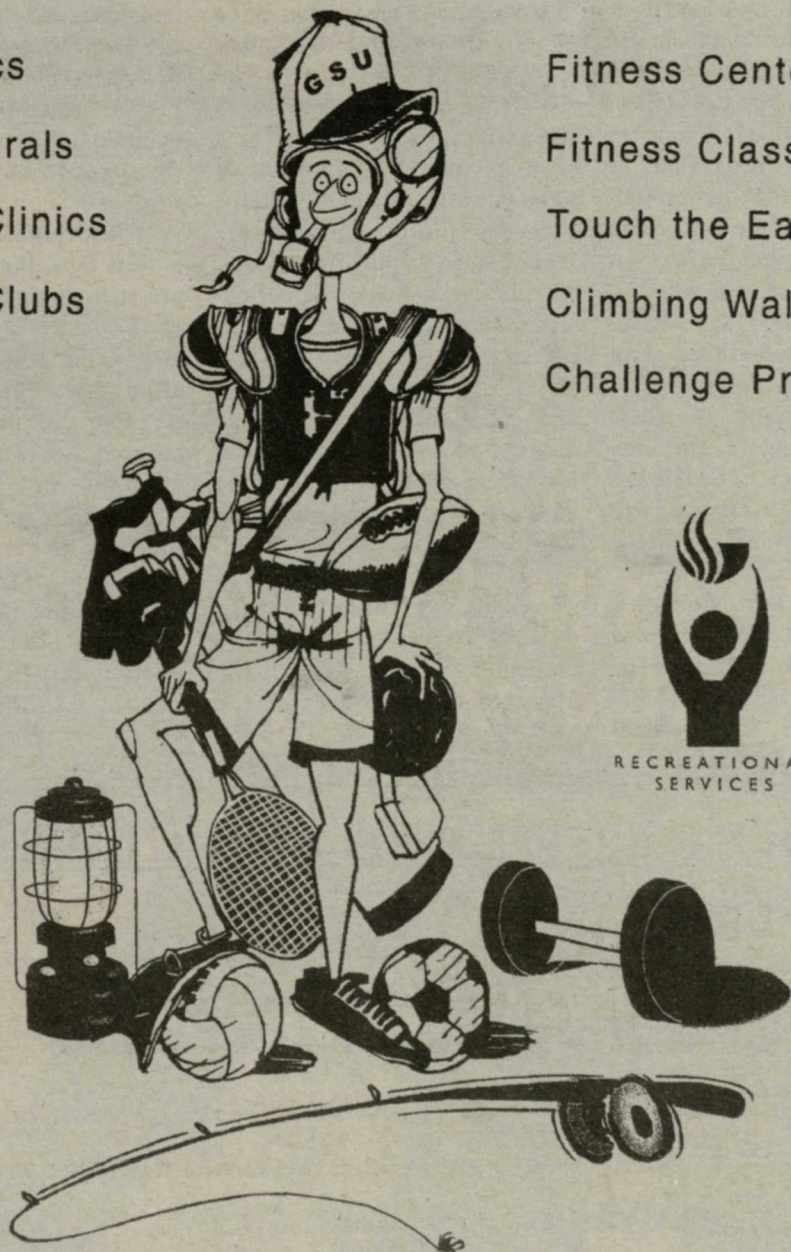
"My e-mail box is inundated with people telling me that if the players do strike, they're done with baseball," he said. "They're not coming back. People are really fed up. That's what I'm hearing."

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Baseball's Strike Countdown: 4 More Days 4 More Days 4 More

In Our Modest Neighborhood...



Although Chris has only attended one Braves game this year, it just happened to be the 16-inning marathon against the Dodgers. And yes, he stayed for the whole game.

by Chris Martz

The players strike, and I win!

I say, if the players want to strike, let 'em strike.

While the rest of America might feel differently, I for one realize the logistics behind the players' arguments and also have a personal stake in this strike.

Although the fans are threatening to never again support Major League Baseball, the irony is almost comical.

After the strike of 1994, there was the fear that the fans would not return back then. Yet, as we all know, the fans have returned, not making good on their threats.

And as we all know, the price of taking a family to a baseball game these days is higher than ever. Now, maybe the owners would actually listen to the fans if they stopped going to the games.

I mean, it happened to the Hawks, who promised to refund partial amounts of season ticket holders' money if the team doesn't make the playoffs this year.

But while the average fan gripes that prices are too high, their main complaints are at the players, which is absolutely unfair.

Living in Atlanta, we should all know the Jon Koncak phenomenon: Big white guy who was good for about four points and two rebounds—a game gets a huge contract thrown at him. When my father would explain it to me, all he would say is, "If that was you, would you turn the money down?"

The players, such as Alex Rodriguez, are having huge amounts of money thrown at them, and what are they supposed to do, say no?

I used to tell my ex-girlfriend that I wish I could hit a ball or throw a ball better than anyone else so that we wouldn't have to worry about money, and I was dead serious. It's almost sad sometimes, but that's the way the game works.

So whose fault is it? The owners. For every player that makes \$25 million a year, there's an owner that makes double that. And while the owners might gripe about how they're losing money during the current recession, they need to

look in the mirror and realize why they're losing money: Because during the economic boom of the late '90s, players were signed to huge contracts that today have created a market where the player's money is guaranteed, but not the owner's.

And revenue sharing, how can we forget about that? An NFL fan's favorite economic principle, it has communized the game.

Huh? Communized the game?

Yes, revenue sharing has made the NFL capable of having a different champion every year.

And is this good for the game? Sure, if you're a Cincinnati Bengals or Atlanta Falcons fan. But let's be real: Going from last place one year to world champions the next is just unfeasible. Yet, thanks to the NFL, every year it's a guessing game as to who will end the year on top.

Yes, kiss the dynasties of the Green Bay Packers, Pittsburgh Steelers, and San Francisco 49ers goodbye. Never again will we see a single team dominate the NFL for such a long period of time.

So what does this have to do with baseball?

Well, they say that baseball is our "national pastime." I say that it's more like "Our best example of capitalism."

Why do the Yankees win every year? Because they have a huge television contract with MSG that grants them incredible amounts of money to sign whichever free agents they choose.

So, for a team like Kansas City or Montreal, whose television contracts are miniscule in comparison to the Yankees', is this fair?

No, but that's life. Or as I should say, that's capitalism.

The better markets produce the better television contracts, as shall be dictated by location.

So if certain teams are eliminated before the season even starts just based on location, should we contract teams?

Absolutely. The early '90s expansion boom was one of the worst experiments in baseball history. I tell you what, if base-

ball does contract, but does not contract Tampa Bay, then I'll strike. And I mean it. What a pathetic excuse for a baseball team.

I think the players should go ahead and strike. While the owners are making hordes of money off them, who's on the players' side? I am.

Plus, if they strike this week as planned, I'll finish first in my fantasy baseball league. Strike and I win!

Sure, so many good story lines would be ruined, but the game has already had its share of great moments.

Barry Bonds' 600th home run, the horrific All-Star Game finish, and the amazing resurgence of the Minnesota Twins have left the fans with memories of the 2002 season.

If the players do strike, there will be more moments to look forward to next year, as Sammy Sosa will definitely break the 500-home run mark, and Roger Clemens will shoot for his 300th career victory.

Who knows? Maybe baseball is saving something great for next season. Whatever it could be, the same thing has happened once again: the long haul of a 162-game schedule has once again left this fan tired and disheveled, waiting for college basketball season to begin.

While some fans might be a little skeptical, I for one, know that come next March, we'll all be fired up for the 2003 campaign. And just like every year, we'll all be excited. For a little while.

All Day I Dream About Sports



Colin is actually against the strike. He just wants Vinny Castilla and Javy Lopez to go on strike.

Calling the fans' bluff

Remember the Major League Baseball strike of 1994?

If you don't, let me refresh your memory as to the causes of it.

The collective bargaining agreement between the Major League Baseball Players Association (MLBPA) and the owners of all 28 teams expired, forcing the two groups to negotiate the terms for a new one.

There were many issues facing the two sides in this attempt at reaching an agreement, but the major factor was money.

The major debate centered around two hotly-contested issues today: revenue sharing and a salary cap.

In 1994, the owners agreed to a revenue-sharing plan if the players would agree to a salary cap.

Because the players refused to agree to a salary cap (which would limit the amount of money the players made and the owners spent), the owners locked out the players on Aug. 12, the day the existing collective bargaining agreement expired.

While both sides meddled and cried foul, the final two months of the regular season were cancelled, along with the entire playoffs, including the World Series.

The strike eventually ended after 232 days, but not after the owners attempted to use replacement players to take the place of the members of the MLBPA.

After the players realized

that the owners were dead serious about not letting the MLBPA participate in games that would count in the 1995 standings, the United States Government interceded and essentially forced the two sides to reach an agreement. ANY agreement.

The unfortunate aftermath of this agreement is that none of the important issues was resolved.

The lingering effects will finally hit on Aug. 31, when the MLBPA will implement a strike.

During the strike of 1994, many fans voiced their frustrations with Major League Baseball, with the majority calling the players and owners "greedy" and "only in it for the money."

Some fans said they would never have the same passion they once had for the game they so dearly loved. Others said they would boycott the game forever.

Unfortunately for baseball and its fans, the echoes of 1994 are still ringing loud and clear. If the issues and opinions of 1994 and 2002 sound eerily alike, that's because they are.

The current situation in baseball is exactly like the situation pre-Aug. 12, 1994.

Owners and players pointing their fingers at each other, refusing to take any progressive action, while fans whine about issues most of them know absolutely nothing about.

See XXXX | Page 23

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All Day I Dream About Sports



Colin still can't figure out why anybody would pay to go to an NFL exhibition game. If anybody has an answer, please come by the office and tell him.

by Colin Martz

Oh no, Colin's back with his NFL picks

Well, well, well. All you NFL fans can soon rejoice.

Another action-packed season begins in just over a week, just in time to quell the withdrawal of the upcoming baseball strike.

With every new season comes the bombardment of predictions from the football gurus around the country, so why should the *Signal* be any different?

For the past five seasons, yours truly has been among the many to compile his or her preseason predictions, then pray that they come true so we can brag to our friends, family, and coworkers until the beginning of next season.

But after correctly picking the Super Bowl winners in my first two seasons of prognosticating, I have fallen on

hard times the past three years.

After completely missing the Super Bowl contestants in 1999 and 2000, my pick of St. Louis losing to an AFC team last year has given me a little bit of confidence heading into this season (let's forget the fact I had New England finishing dead last in the AFC East last year).

So, with a hint of confidence in my pocket, I boldly give you my 2002 predictions.

Now for the justifications.

Once again, the AFC looks to be another wide open conference. I can see eight teams who have a shot at winning the conference championship, but I'll stick with the safe pick and go with the Pittsburgh Steelers to take their first AFC

title since 1995.

The 2001 Steelers fell just short in their AFC Divisional Playoff against New England, proving they could hang with anyone in the NFL.

More importantly, Pittsburgh has not lost any key members of last year's squad while adding more offensive firepower, namely Antwaan Randle El.

Matching the Steelers stride for stride this season

will be the Oakland Raiders, who have the most balanced team in the NFL. They have one of the best nuclei in football with Rich Gannon, Charlie Garner, Jerry Rice and Tim Brown.

But while the Raiders' will have plenty of experience on the field, it is their experience in the booth that will

be their downfall.

First-year head coach Bill Callahan is the man-on-the-spot in Oakland, while his counterpart in Pittsburgh, Bill Cowher, has been to a Super Bowl and knows how to win.

As far as other contenders in the AFC go, all of them have too many glaring flaws to put your money behind.

Miami? You're never going to sell me on Jay Fiedler.

Tennessee? Derrick Mason as the top receiver is not good.

Indianapolis? Give Tony Dungy a year to implement his schemes.

New England? Look at what's happened to Baltimore after they won a Super Bowl.

On to the NFC, where the same old favorites will emerge come playoff time.

While every team has been chasing St. Louis for the past three years, some old perennial favorites are ready to retake the top honor.

Leading the list is Green Bay, who has been quietly reloading for another reign atop the conference.

The Packers have Brett Favre, a born winner and the toughest player in football, in the prime of his career lead-

ing their offense, while their defense has been retooled significantly since their 8-8 season two years ago.

Add to that the best homefield advantage in the league and you get another trip to the Super Bowl.

Hot on the revival trail are the San Francisco 49ers, who have the second-best offense in the conference. If their defense can win them one or two games, it could make for a banner season by the bay.

The Washington Redskins are easily the wildcard of the league, with all eyes on new head coach Steve Spurrier. While his offense will probably be among the league's best, his lack of a true winner at quarterback will cost them in the playoffs.

Don't forget about Tampa Bay. With Jon Gruden, the best young motivator in the league, leading the Bucs, the often-disappointing team has a shot as long as they can get some consistency at quarterback.

But in the end, I feel the Steelers will prevail over Green Bay in a very close Super Bowl. Pittsburgh's defense is one of, if not the, best in the NFL, while their offense is vastly underrated.

So get ready for the Steel City to celebrate a world championship for the first time since 1980.

AFC

East

Miami
New England
New York
Buffalo

South

Indianapolis
Tennessee
Houston
Jacksonville

North

Pittsburgh
Cleveland
Cincinnati
Baltimore

West

Oakland
Denver
San Diego
Kansas City

NFC

East

Philadelphia
Washington
Dallas
New York Giants

South

Tampa Bay
Atlanta
New Orleans
Carolina

North

Green Bay
Chicago
Minnesota
Detroit

West

St. Louis
San Francisco
Seattle
Arizona

Playoff Teams

AFC

Indianapolis
Miami
New England
Oakland
Pittsburgh
Tennessee

NFC

Green Bay
Philadelphia
San Francisco
St. Louis
Tampa Bay
Washington

Conference Championships

AFC

Pittsburgh over Oakland

NFC

Green Bay over St. Louis

Super Bowl

Pittsburgh over Green Bay

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MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SOCCER

Men Friday

Belmont at Vanderbilt
Brewton-Parker at Jacksonville
Florida Atlantic vs. Western Michigan
Gardner-Webb at Mt. St. Mary's, Md.

Saturday

Lipscomb at Georgia State
Mercer at UNC-Greensboro
Stetson at South Florida
UNC-Wilmington at Campbell

Sunday

Florida Atlantic vs. Wisconsin
Gardner-Webb at UMBC

Women Monday

Belmont at Vanderbilt

Friday

Georgia State vs. Southern Mississippi
Belmont vs. Murray State
Campbell at UNC-Wilmington
Jacksonville vs. George Washington
Memphis at Florida Atlantic
Mercer at Northwestern State

Quinnipiac at UCF

Stetson at Miami, Fla.

Western Kentucky at Samford

Saturday

Spring Hill at Troy State

Sunday

Georgia State at Mississippi
Belmont at Southeast Missouri State
Charleston Southern at Stetson
George Washington at UCF
Jacksonville vs. Quinnipiac
Jacksonville State at West Virginia
Mercer vs. Centenary

VOLLEYBALL

Friday and Saturday

Georgia State, Samford at
Georgia Southern Invitational

Belmont at
Arkansas State Classic

Florida Atlantic at
FAU Radisson Classic

Gardner-Webb, JSU at
Winthrop Invitational

Jacksonville at JU Invitational

Mercer at
High Point Invitational

Troy State at
Trojan Labor Day Classic

UCF at
Indiana State Invitational

CAFFEINE IS A GOOD THING

A Message From Your Brain

TOP 5 Reasons To Get Your Very Own Jazzman's Cool Blue Mug

99.5% of the rest of the campus won't have one [Mom I'm in the top half percent of the whole campus]

It's Blue Just Like That Panther Dude

A great way to get dates [Results may vary]

It comes with a Free Top [The bottom and sides are included too]

It's Less Than Free [See Legal Mumbo Jumbo & Various Other Rantings Below]

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we will give you coupons for twelve free cups of Jazzman's Coffee.

The Math says $[12 \times 1.39] = 16.68 - 15.99 = .69$

You Make .69 cents, Get a Cool Mug and Are The Envy of All Your Friends

Dining Services, The Folks That Feed You

Fans will always come back

Even after another strike

From CALLING | Page 20

The scare tactics used by all three sides today were the same ones used in 1994. And where did these tactics lead Major

League Baseball to? The longest, most expensive strike in professional sports history.

Back in 1994, the owner of the Milwaukee Brewers stated that a strike would be "cata-

strophic" for Major League Baseball.

That man, one Allan H. "Bud" Selig, is now the commissioner of Major League Baseball, the main man in

charge of averting a strike.

While many fans believe that Mr. Selig is one of, if not the, least knowledgeable people in sports, the reality is quite the opposite.

Because Selig is a former

owner appointed to the position of commissioner by the owners, he is essentially on the owners' side. Selig knows that the two sides can go on strike and still be able to save baseball because of one reason: the fans.

Back to 1994, where the longest strike in pro sports history, deemed "catastrophic" by Selig, wiped out the entire postseason.

While attendance dropped about 20 percent in 1995, the fans have slowly come back, whether it's attending a game, buying merchandise, or watching on television.

Because this "catastrophic" walkout by fans never really took place, all parties of the current disagreement refuse to act fast and hammer out a plan to help avert a strike.

Why should they? History is on their side and shows them that the fans will come back no matter what.

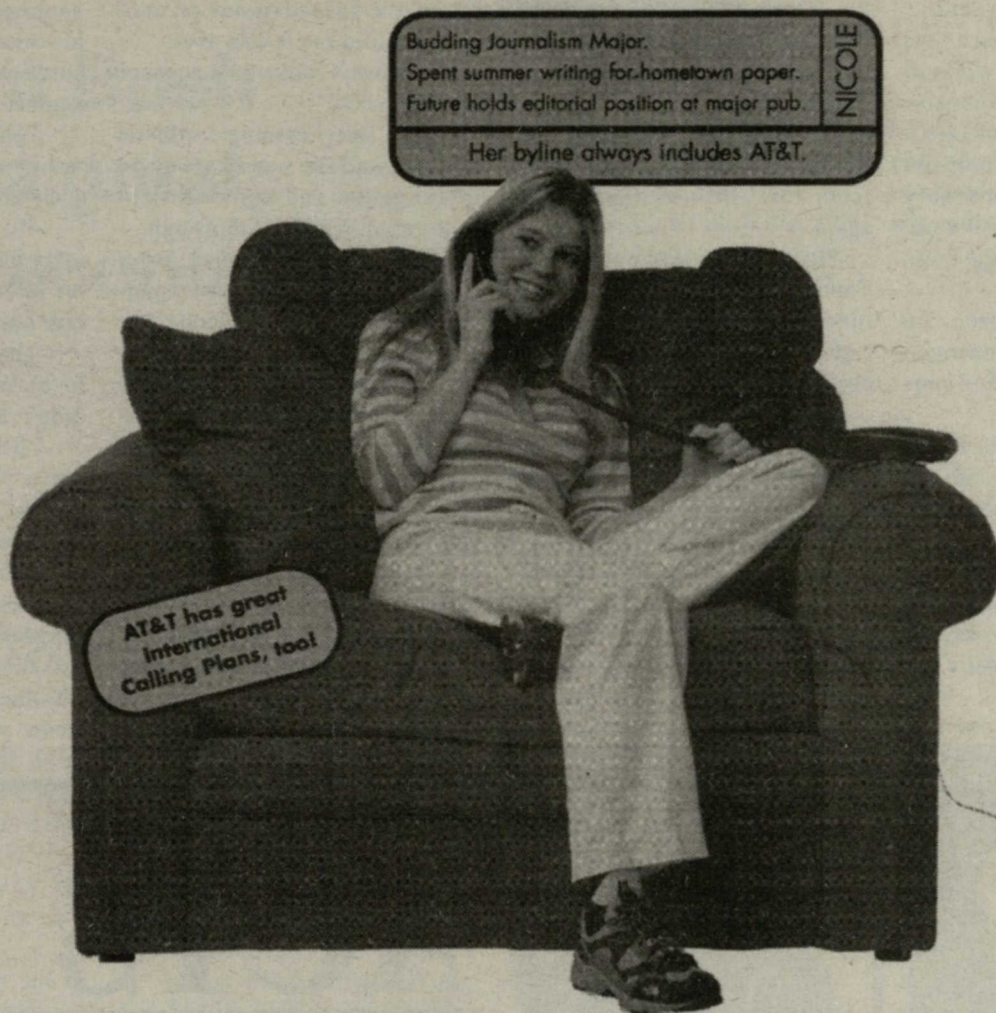
Some think another strike will kill baseball altogether.

You can never kill baseball. Why?

The fans, the same ones who will come back no matter how long the upcoming strike will last.

Here's to hoping the players and owners take as long as they need to iron out an agreement that will last for a long, long time.

Don't worry. The fans will be waiting for you.



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Boycott baseball now

From CAUGHT | Page 16

who look to these behemoths to replicate their training regimens in hope of hitting a few extra dingers of their own.

The timing of the potential strike is also disconcerting. As the first anniversary of Sept. 11 approaches and America continues to rely on familiar traditions as the country heals, do we really need a bunch of avaricious ego-maniacs mucking with this piece of Americana?

Let's teach the owners and players a lesson. Boycott the ballparks now. Go to a little league game or watch the WNBA, where players actually care about winning and not just their bank accounts. Maybe then the big leaguers will be more appreciative for the millions of dollars we foolishly throw at their feet.

Oklahoma State completes investigation against women's track coach

Complaint lodged against women's track and cross country coach not grounds for dismissal, athletic director says

Brandi Ball

Daily O'Collegian
Oklahoma State University

STILLWATER, Okla. - Following a sexual harassment complaint made by an Oklahoma State University athlete, the OSU athletic department has completed its in-house investigation of the allegations.

"We, in compliance with university procedures and rules, investigated the matter and included the university attorney's office, affirmative action office and the ombudsman," said Harry Birdwell, OSU athletic director. "We found no grounds for dismissal."

Matt Thomson, a member of the OSU men's track and field and cross country teams, made the complaint in late May.

According to Thomson, Catrina Acosta, OSU women's track and cross country coach made inappropriate gestures and comments toward him on several occasions.

Earlier this summer, Thomson told The Daily O'Collegian Acosta began harassing him in March.

"My girlfriend dropped me

off at the track one day, and the women's coaches were all standing outside," he said. "I stopped to speak to them and Acosta grabbed my ass."

Thomson said Acosta approached him in May, asking why he was ignoring her.

"I asked her why she couldn't act professionally, and it just blew up from there," Thomson said.

Thomson also recalled a time where he was finishing a workout session with some other runners.

"[Acosta] asked, 'Can I go a few laps with you?'" Thomson said. "I told her she probably couldn't keep up, and she said, 'That wasn't the kind of laps I was talking about.'"

According to Thomson, he and his teammates even changed their training times to avoid running into Acosta.

"There was always this sexual innuendo with her," he said. "It was a very uncomfortable environment."

Despite the allegations by Thomson, the athletic department's investigation did not discover any wrongdoings by Acosta.

"Our investigation did not

find anything that constituted grounds for dismissal," Birdwell said. "But, we have taken disciplinary measures, which are, of course, a personnel matter."

Thomson said he, as well as his teammates, went through separate interview processes with Associate Athletic Director Dave Martin.

"During the interview, I was just asked about the events that led up to my complaint," Thomson said.

After the initial interview, Thomson said, he never heard from the athletic department again.

Birdwell, however, said Thomson was debriefed after the investigation, and the department "advised the student of the avenues he should take legally."

Since the athletic department was unable to find proof of the harassment, Birdwell said, Thomson will have to approach the situation through the legal system.

"It all comes down to legal issues," Thomson said. "I didn't tell her to stop doing the things she was doing before I made the complaint to the athletic department."

"I have no time or date, no

written record. It is my word and my girlfriend's word against the coaches of the women's team," he said.

And, Thomson said, he never received counsel from the athletic department about seeking legal advice.

"Actually, I didn't even know the investigation was over. I thought it was still going on until you just told me it was over."

"I haven't spoke to them since my interview."

Ann Baer, associate athletic director, said she was aware of the investigation and knows the investigation was very thorough.

"It is a tough situation, it really is," Baer said. "It isn't a matter of not believing someone, but a matter of proof."

"There are legal hoops to jump through in investigations like this."

Thomson said he understands the position of the athletic department somewhat.

"I guess anyone can make wild accusations, but I didn't have anything written down. I never recorded any of the harassment on paper when it happened," Thomson said. "If I had, this situ-

ation would be really different."

Other members of the men's team back up Thomson's accusations and support his claims.

"They have all seen it [the harassment]," Thomson said. "They all didn't experience it firsthand like I did, but they witnessed it."

Baer said she wasn't in a position to say whether something happened or didn't happen, but historically, sexual harassment accusations have never been made against Acosta.

"I have been her supervisor for many, many years," Baer said. "This is the first incident I have heard of."

"I can't say that it unequivocally has never happened, but to my knowledge nothing of this nature has been reported before."

Thomson said he doesn't plan to press charges right now, but didn't rule it out.

"It all comes down to not having a written record of events, which I don't have," he said.

Since personnel files are closed to the public, the disciplinary measures taken against Acosta by the athletic department are unattainable.

When contacted by The Daily O'Collegian, Acosta declined comment.

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Perspectives

Housing the opinion of the Georgia State University community.

What's Inside

ELECTION PRIMARY | McKinney's loss marks the beginning of a new era. [see page 27]

SIGNAL CORRECTION | We messed up last week, but allow us to explain. [see page 30]

Radical Moderate



Mark is a senior majoring in Public Relations. After graduation he hopes to be a speech writer or to work in crisis management.

But That's Just Me



Jason is majoring in in Print Journalism. He is also the editor of the *Courier* newsletter for the Baptist Student Union, part of his five years of experience in student

A tale of two concessions

by Jason Smith
jsmith@gsusignal.com

President Bush puts on a great show at economic forum

by Mark Cornwell
mccornwell@gsusignal.com

A couple of weeks ago, President Bush held an economic forum in Texas. It was a staged event designed to make Bush look concerned about the economy.

I say that so cynically because the president brought scant few new ideas to the conference and spent most of his speaking time reiterating long-held Republican goals, such as a permanent tax reduction and more corporate deregulation.

This was a difficult task since being on the side of corporations and deregulation in this political climate is risky.

But Bush didn't become president with the help of teachers and unions, so he has to toe the party line.

In reality, the president wasn't there to get new ideas. He was there to sell his same old policy with the assistance of a few new rhetorical counterpunches.

The soft economy and corporate scandals have slowed the Republican agenda.

So to sell the same agenda that put us in this position to a wary public, the Republicans have to divert the blame somewhere else.

That was the other purpose of the conference--diverting blame.

In a session devoted to the issue of corporate responsibility, Bush said, "Our business schools don't want to teach right from wrong anymore."

What?

That's funny. I can't find anyone involved in these recent corporate scandals that is under the age of 35 (in other words, the guys who did this received the same education that Bush did when he got his MBA).

So what do business schools teaching right from wrong have to do with today's ethics problems? Nothing.

This is a right-wing talk-radio tactic: blame academia. Bush and the right want us to believe that the real problem with this country always leads back to liberals somehow.

So when corporate raiders get fat and leave people destitute, the Democrats blame the CEOs and the Republicans blame the so-called liberal teachers who don't teach the

There has been a lot of talk in the last week concerning the unsuccessful congressional bids of Cynthia McKinney and Bob Barr. Both are important members of the House of Representatives (not that any member of Congress is not important). Both have been, at times, highly controversial and outspoken individuals. Both were defeated last Tuesday - Barr a victim of redistricting and McKinney, a victim of crossover voting as well as Foot-in-Mouth Syndrome.

But, in looking at the two politicians who have been relieved of their duties, one must examine an important difference between the two individuals: the way each of them handled defeat.

Bob Barr and John Linder had an extremely competitive race that some would refer to as

being nasty at times. They played on each other's weaknesses, ran commercials ridiculing each other's voting records,

"Cynthia McKinney pointed fingers and figuratively said, 'They did this to me.'"

and all the other things that go into a political campaign.

In the end, as we all know, Linder defeated Barr. What did Barr do? He not only called Linder and congratulated him over the phone, but he went over to where Linder and his support-

ers were, and congratulated him in person. He followed that rare gesture by assuring Linder that he would help him in the coming months.

That's it. No sour grapes, no grandstanding. He humbly conceded defeat, and put the good of the Republican Party ahead of his own sadness in defeat.

Cynthia McKinney, by contrast, didn't appear quite as gracious. Granted, she has always been known for saying what's on her mind, but it seems that she often does so in an apparent effort to steal the spotlight away from whoever may have it at the time.

In her concession speech, McKinney painted a picture of a person who may be defeated in a congressional race, but will carry on without being defeated

See LOSS | Page 29

CEOs right from wrong.

Funny...I thought Republicans believed in personal responsibility.

"Sen. Tom Daschle (D-SD) said, 'A made-for TV economic forum isn't going to solve our problems or ease families' concerns.'"

I guess that's as conditional as their position on states' rights (see *Oregon v. Ashcroft*).

Bush and company also want elementary school kids to be educated about the stock market like it is a part of civics class.

Bush knows that half of the regular folks who pulled out of the stock market in the late 90's

will never re-enter the market again, because of the perceived level of corruption.

So, their solution to this problem is to indoctrinate children into the stock market culture, starting in grammar school.

If this were a plan to educate and not indoctrinate then I guess we should teach the kids about labor unions at the same time.

I mean, if we are going to teach them about Archer Daniels Midland Co., for instance, we should teach them about Cesar Chavez, right?

After all, he is the founder of United Farm Workers, and ADM is a corporate farming company.

We don't want to teach the capitalist system and leave one side out now do we? Bush

wouldn't mind.

So that's it. Those are the new ideas that came out of the economic forum. Quality stuff huh?

Sen. Jon Corzine (D-NJ) said, "The president is a great cheerleader, but I don't think there was any particular sign of leadership in dealing with economic problems."

Sen. Tom Daschle (D-SD) said, "A made-for TV economic forum isn't going to solve our problems or ease families' concerns."

But I think President Bush encapsulated the whole event when in his closing remarks he thanked Baylor University for "putting on a great show."

That's truly all it was, a show.

THE GROWL



If you've got nothing else to do on a Saturday night, go out and clean a gas station. No one else is going to do it.

Look, more massive metal plates on campus that no one's ever going to get around to fixing. Yay.

There's nothing quite like driving down I-20 and seeing a bunch of cars slowing down, only to find that the accident is on the OTHER side of the median.

School, work, long drives -- this must be part of that "real world" thing I've heard so much about.

Do they call it HOPE because you HOPE you'll get your money in time?

Send all your growls to the Signal at growl@gsusignal.com. They don't have to be sweet, but they do need to be short.

Parents should leave the kids at home

by Kate Cotrona
kcotrona@gsusignal.com

Some students are bringing children to the classroom, and I am not talking about education majors working with children as part of the curriculum.

Instead, imagine a creative writing class, where topics of sex, violence, and other adult content are discussed on a normal basis.

Imagine that one day, a five-year-old child shows up with his mother and sits in while students are discussing stories of adult nature. Students begin holding back thoughts, the child is disruptive and noisy, and in a class of only 15 students, the child can't be hidden in the back of the room, sitting with some crayons and paper.

Those of you who are parents and who run into the occasional problem of the sitter not showing up or your husband or grandmother coming down with the flu may justify bringing the child (or children) to class.

You may argue that childcare is expensive, and if

you don't have an available relative that day, this is what you have to do. Unfortunately, in the classroom environment, the other students have more rights as students that you have as a parent.

Every student is entitled to the right to attend class without distractions.

If another student, for example, becomes disruptive or belligerent, more than likely, the professor will ask that student to leave the classroom. Some professors don't even allow food or drinks into the classroom because wrappers and soda cans are noisy disturbances.

Then why would children be an exception? They aren't.

There are other reasons that children should not be in the classroom (although all of these in some way or another relate to the "distraction factor"). As I mentioned earlier, some classes contain discussions on topics

Straight from the Hip



Kate, a Senior majoring in English-literature, has worked professionally in marketing and writing for the past three years. After school, Kate will pursue freelance writing so that she will have the freedom to move or travel.

that are not for children's ears.

But even if we say that it's the parent's responsibility to monitor what the child hears and witnesses, the students still hold back from saying something in order not to offend the child or the child's parent. This is an interruption to the normal flow of the class discussion, and this behavior harms students' ability to expand their knowledge, be forthcoming, and discuss topics of adult nature.

An argument could be made that if the child and the parent are quiet, a child should be allowed into the classroom.

Not true. The very fact that a child is in the classroom is a distraction in and of itself. Other parents, who are paying for daycare or who make arrangements for their children, will want to take their children to class as well. The university and professors should not allow this precedent to be set.

Every student (in one fashion

See MOTHERS | Page 30

Let Us Reason



Chris is a sophomore majoring in Accounting and Finance. His hobbies include reading at Caribou Coffee and backpacking on roads less traveled, both with fine cigars.

Reparations or justice: what are they truly seeking?

by Chris de Lastic
cdelastic@gsusignal.com

With a sense of dread I am writing this column, understanding the number of people I will invariably infuriate, but after what I saw last weekend, this issue needs to be addressed.

There was a march last weekend in Washington, D.C., called "Millions for Repara-

blacks are suffering from some racist white-power structure established through slavery.

Don't get me wrong. Slavery in America was evil and inexcusable, but when individuals get so caught up in blaming the past, they miss out on the opportunity and success now avail-

"Think for a moment: why do our immigrant rates from Africa exceed our emigrant rates to Africa?"

tions."

The gist of the march revolved around the concept of justice by payment in land or money, because of the "vestige of slavery" which still affects blacks in America today.

I'm sorry, but I must disagree with this statement for two reasons.

My first disagreement is about the vestige of slavery.

A series of articles entitled "Black Money" was recently written in the *Washington Times* by Steve Miller, describing the rise of black affluence in the last few decades, and after reading them, one cannot help but look at modern civil rights leaders and wonder what the heck they are talking about.

Black median income alone grew 15% in the last 10 years, as opposed to a 6% increase in white median income.

Black Americans are hardly being held back by these "vestiges of slavery" but are rapidly moving forward in unprecedented strides towards greater success and wealth.

I would argue that continually propagating this notion that blacks will never gain full equality in this country because of slavery only demoralizes and intimidates blacks from actually going out and achieving their dreams.

But being the sporting guy I am, let's say for a moment that

able.

Because the "vestige of slavery" argument simply does not work, I'd like to talk about the second part with which I disagree: this concept of justice being promoted.

Let me state that I wholeheartedly agree that justice for the atrocity of slavery demands reparations by the parties guilty of slavery to the parties harmed by slavery.

However, since both the slaves and the slave-owners all kicked the oxygen habit long ago, "reparations because of slavery" is rendered an invalid issue, at least if it is justice we are truly seeking. Allow me to explain.

The justice in reparations comes from the guilty paying the harmed. However, the civil rights leaders at this march are proposing an idea of "reparations" that forces the non-guilty to pay the unharmed, turning justice on its head.

Why should individuals who aren't guilty in any way for slavery have money taken away and given to individuals who never experienced slavery? Please explain to me what moral principle says that because of the fault of my ancestors, I ought to be punished.

This view of reparations contradicts the very concept of justice.

At least that's how I see it.

Out with the old, in with the new-age hippies of today

by Khristina Newman
knewman@gsusignal.com

A group of young adults sit around, hotly debating the latest capitalistic plot. They are clad with homemade rags and unkempt hair. Lollygagging around, they light candles and

"They cling to others like themselves, seeking justification in not taking a shower for weeks at a time."

meditate about peace, love, and freedom.

As they leave this piece of the 60's behind, their Birkenstocks carry them to the 4Runner their parents bought when they came to college. This was a reward for not joining the Peace Corps, which they had entertained doing for a minute before they realized they probably would not be able to listen to jam bands live.

These are the new-age hip-

pies. These middle-American youngsters want a taste of the hippie lifestyle they read about in *Time* and saw pictures of on old *Rolling Stone* covers.

Materialistic conveniences, which original hippies were not avid fans of, have allowed for the development of this subculture.

So, what happened? The Hippies of four decades ago accepted a universal belief system that transcended the social, political,

and moral norms of any established structure. They sought to change the world through reason and by living what they believe.

The hippies discovered alternative ways to make a living without being a drag on our planet's resources and humans. Numerous lifestyles and alternative businesses, including communes, cooperatives, holistic medicine, and health food were developed by the hippies. Hippies believed in peace as

the way to resolve differences among people. The way to peace is through love and tolerance.

Loving means accepting others as they are, giving them freedom to express themselves and not judging them based on appearances.

The new-age hippies are attracted like magnets to dreadlocks and such. They cling to others like themselves, seeking justification in not taking a shower for weeks at a time. They have no problem losing all control of themselves and flinging their bodies around unknowingly at festivals. The feeling of the music or the message has completely been wasted on them because they are just joining in the crowd.

It is not on their agenda to change the world at all through peace or any means. New-age hippies wallow in the conveniences America has allowed for them and disregard old ideologies of avoiding the entrenched system.

Perhaps these new-age hippies should put some effort forth in trying to understand why they feel so connected to a group of people that they so poorly personify to our society today.

A little reading and research could educate them on the identity they are connecting so closely with.

Obvious Subtleties



Steven is the Editor-in-Chief of the *Signal*. A Political Science major, he hopes to work for the *New York Times*, where he will use the power of the pen to take over the world.

Majette's win ushers in new era

by Steven Sloan
ssloan@gsusignal.com

As most of you probably know by now, Rep. Cynthia McKinney will be looking for a new job soon. Her outrageous comments after Sept. 11 probably helped lead to her demise.

Her opponent, Denise Majette, faces GOP opposition in the November general elections, but is expected to win.

As a new era begins in the 4th District, it is important to understand McKinney's failures and how they led to Majette's win.

McKinney has always been known as someone who spoke her mind. Even when she was a state representative, she took to the podium and expressed outrage at former President Bush's involvement in the Gulf War.

Although state legislatures cannot determine foreign policy, it was refreshing to see someone who could stand up for what they believed in.

After two terms in

Georgia's state politics, she was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, the first woman to be included in Georgia's congressional delegation.

In Congress, she continued to speak out on issues that concerned her, especially racism and prescription drugs for seniors.

Her comments were rarely received well, but they normally sparked needed debates on important issues.

As her time in Congress progressed, her comments became increasingly "loony."

She angered many people after her apology to a Saudi prince who donated money to former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani after Sept. 11, but then suggested U.S. foreign policy led to the attacks.

Perhaps the pivotal moment during her time in Congress was the radio interview where she questioned whether President Bush had advance knowledge of the Sept. 11 attacks, yet did

nothing to prevent them so his friends could make a profit.

Her error was not in her questioning of President Bush's motives, but instead the way she questioned them. Americans should have sought to find out what the president knew about the worst intelligence failure in modern history, but McKinney's outrageous accusations ended up placing the attention on her and not on the issue she was talking about.

Majette's success will hopefully bring in a new wave of prosperity to the 4th District. Although her campaign mostly painted her as the antithesis of Cynthia McKinney, it rarely focused on the issues of interest to citizens in her district.

As she continues her campaign and works on issues for citizens of the 4th District, she will hopefully learn from McKinney's mistakes. After ten years in Congress, Cynthia McKinney's career can be adequately described as "what could have been."

Letter to the Editor

Aderhold Building causes problems for disabled students

Dear Editor,

I am a student at Georgia State with a disability, which is a walking impairment. Thanks to someone or something, two of my three classes are in the new Aderhold Learning Center.

Don't get me wrong. This is a very beautiful building. Now this would not be so bad if my first class in the morning was not at the ALC.

Then when that class ends, I have to make it back over to the General Classroom Building in 10 minutes for my next class (at this time my leg has swollen to about the size of a squash from doing all this walking).

Thank God for lunch. That way I can rest up before having to go back to the ALC for my last class and then come back to General Classroom Building to catch the Panther Shuttle to get to my car.

Even students in motorized

wheelchairs and manual wheelchairs would not be able to make it over to the ALC and then back to the main campus within 10 minutes.

Was there any thought put into this project about disabled students

"Parking has and will be a problem at Georgia State."

having classes over in the ALC and the difficulties it imposes on them to get to and from the main campus?

How long is it going to take someone to get a solution to this problem? Parking has and will be a problem at Georgia State. Is there ever going to be a solution to this problem?

John Bagwell
Disabled Student
Bachelor of Science

PANTHER POLL:



What, if anything, did you NOT get to do this summer?



**Sirrius Aura/
Junior/
Education**

"Finish my recording session in Maryland and travel with my band."



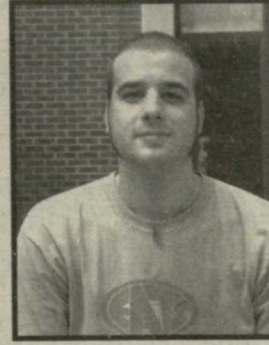
**Heather Mendenhall/
Senior/Film**

"I didn't get the chance to travel to Ibiza."



**Ismail Abukhdeir/
Senior/ English**

"Go to New Orleans."



**Justin Hall/
Senior/Film &
Theater**

"I wanted to go to New York City."



**Toddaryl Payne/
Sophomore/
Computer Science**

"Go to Cocoa Beach."



**Amy Starr/
Graduate/
English Education**

"I didn't get to go to White Water."

tell us what you think... Q for next issue

What CD or Radio Station were you listening to on your way to school today?

Responsible drinking starts at home

by Jessica Velez
Daily Texan
University of Texas-Austin

(U-WIRE) AUSTIN, Texas - Recently, the American Medical Association asked The Princeton Review to eliminate their "Party Schools" list from the Best College series, to the chagrin of many new alumni.

Not only did this list provide an easy reference for worried parents (now why did Johnny choose that school?), but it also showed prospective students at which universities one could find both an education and a social life.

But this sort of view is not one that educators joyfully endorse. They want to present parents with the image of a pristine center of education, where their child would study diligently for hours and make straight As with little effort thanks to the academic atmosphere.

A wake-up call is in order. To believe a student will go to a university and not attend at least one party with alcohol is naïve. Colleges have earned their alcoholic reputations, but college life is not a 24-hour binge party unless the student makes it so.

Parents need to wake up and take responsibility for their child's potential actions. If the student was raised in a home

where alcohol was treated as some sort of repulsive disease rather than the staple of human society it is, the child will have an immature view of the alcoholic world and is far more likely to indulge him or herself than a student who was raised in an alcohol-tolerant environment.

The ability to drink responsibly is not something that magically materializes on one's 21st birthday; it is something that must be learned and acquired.

But to think that parents will take a more tolerant view towards drinking, especially with the incessant drunken-driving murders that occur, is also naïve. Because of social taboos, alcohol has become what parents fear most: a lethal agent.

The United States is renowned world-wide as a stodgy country when it comes to drinking -- many other countries have younger legal drinking ages, some of which are younger than a child's driving age.

This gives a child the opportunity to learn his or her alcoholic limit and thus become a responsible drinker before potentially becoming a hazard on the road.

But because the United States treats underage drinking as the Forbidden Fruit, it has become a social taboo, practically a bragging

See DRINKING | Page 31

Some vice are good for the soul

by Eric Howerton
Daily Lobo
University of New Mexico

(U-WIRE) ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. - As a philosophy major I strive not to have any vices nor obsessive tendencies for the betterment of my existence.

But during my first year in college I was introduced to a couple in my psychology 105 class that has taught me to be aware of my social behaviors, prevent the roots of my frustrations from entrenching themselves deeper in soil of my mind, but more importantly, combat and control my addictions.

As far as the traditional sense applies Id and Ego breaks all preconceived notions of a couple because they are neither human nor living; they are conceptual. For the sake of coherency I will anthropomorphize them in hopes of making what transpired appear more lucid.

For as long as I can remember Id, the figurative male half of the relationship, and Ego, the overbearing motherly type, have been constantly at odds with one another.

It amazes me that, for my sake, they've stayed together for so long. No two "people" could be more dissimilar. Id most closely resembles the kid you went to high school with who rarely bathed and habitually wore moth-eaten band T-shirts. A regular Jeff Spicoli.

Ego, on the other hand, most closely resembles the dictatorial mother. The anal type who, at all times, needs to know where their child is, what they're doing and why. To put it frankly, Id is too irresponsible to be entrusted with the life of any living thing (including invertebrates) and Ego is

so stuffy that she can't relax enough to have fun. For further clarification go to www.psych.nwu.edu/~coriat/theories.htm.

Several weeks ago I was out for drinks with both Id and Ego and, as usual, the night started off under the atmosphere of an approaching thunderstorm. Fortunately, Ego started to loosen up after several drinks and Id became more confident and defiant in the face of authority. The usual subjects came up during our conversation: art, music, how to live a fulfilling life, etc.

"Addictions and vices," I said, "show signs of weakness. I can't afford to waste my time on such things."

"Ha!" laughed Id, nearly spitting up his drink.

"What?" I asked.

"I wanted to tell you this a long time ago, but she," his fingered pointed towards his life partner, "wouldn't let me."

"He didn't need to know," said Ego. "We can't tell him everything. It would be too damaging."

"Vices," continued Id, "and compulsive activities are a positive outlet".

"As long as I maintain what's an acceptable level of indulgence."

"What in the world are you talking about?" I asked.

Id proceeded to tell me that occasionally, when people are suffering, Id and Ego often go in, work together, and provide people with a manageable vice.

"But I pride myself on not having any vices," I said smugly.

"Everybody has a vice," chuckled Ego.

The evening ended soon after that and I went home to contemplate

on the following conundrum: do all vices have inherently detrimental effects? Could Id and Ego have been right? Can vices be a healthy outlet? What if (gasp!) I have more than one?

After heavy meditation a la Descartes, I realized that not only do I have a vice, but I have many - I am the pawn of knowledge, I am a slave to exercise, I overindulge in literature and neglect my friends and family, but the most powerful of all my vices, the most dangerous, I am a movie-holic.

But what is a vice? According to www.dictionary.com, a vice is a "defect; a fault; an error; a blemish," or "an imperfection" usually taking the form of "[a]n undesirable habit."

While no rational person will contest that one can be perfect, why, if a vice really is a pseudonym for flaw, did I believe that I could live without them?

So how did I overcome my despair? I used my vices to my advantage. After not being able to satisfy my insatiable desire to always do something, I stumbled across the Nietzschean concept of the *Urbemensch*, or, the Superman. Briefly, the *Urbemensch* is a new breed of man -- a superior being. Well, after wrapping my brain around this concept I had an epiphany: if the *Urbemensch* were confronted with the reality of having to have flaws, would not the stronger elect his flaws? Would he not choose where he was weak rather than having his weaknesses allotted to him?

After that night this is what I claim to have done. Who cares if my vices existed before I

See VICES | Page 31

Off the Wall

Seeking reparations half a world away in Zimbabwe

by Jay Wall
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There is a growing enemy to liberty and freedom in the world that must be addressed. At this very moment, Caucasian farmers are being evicted, arrested, and killed simply because they happen to be white.

In Zimbabwe a ruthless leader by the name of Robert Mugabe has declared that all farmland shall be seized by the government and redistributed among the poor blacks of that nation.

Mugabe said to the U.N. World Food Summit in Rome, "My government has responded to the people's cry for land."

Mugabe's self-serving claims, about correcting the past injustices that were perpetrated by English colonists on native Africans more than a century ago, ring hollow as children lose consciousness in class because of malnutrition.

The consequences of the massive theft of commercial farmland, imposed and executed by the hired thugs of Mugabe, will result in Zimbabwe's economy losing \$62 billion while six million people face starvation.

Where are the demonstrations of outrage that should accompany the persecution of a minority group? Is it because the victims happen to be white?

Perhaps the great great grandchildren of white colonists do not deserve the righteous protests that are so quickly organized by the left on behalf of non-white victims. Maybe the rest of the world has grown accustomed to the yearly atrocities against humanity that African leaders perpetrate on their own citizens.

Whatever the reason, an injustice of this magnitude should be condemned regardless of

which group or class of people is being mistreated.

The reality is that the vast majority of the victims of Mugabe's shameless and barbaric reparations program are black. There are approximately 60,000 white citizens that live in a nation of 13 million (that certainly qualifies for minority status). So far 100,000 farm workers, most of whom are black, have little hope of feeding their families this year.

As if this man wasn't bad enough, Mugabe as bought the logging rights to 85 million acres of rain forest in Congo. Congo needs the money to continue a war with rebels in the eastern part of the country that has already killed 2.5 million people in the last three years.

Where are the environmentalists holding the next protest to bring to the public's attention that the present-day African Pol

Pot is going to destroy a portion of rainforest that is larger than the United Kingdom?

Perhaps an additional 6 million people and a few 100 million trees need to die in the name of socialism and equality before the left will take notice and condemn the tyrannical rule of Mugabe.

Probably not, given that over 100 million people have died at the hands of socialist governments that claim to be champions of the "less privileged."

All Americans should voice their outrage and learn from the lesson of Mugabe's criminal seizure of lessson of private property. In this country there is a growing movement for the government to right the injustices of slavery.

Recently there was a march on the Washington Mall advo-

cating the very same policies that Mugabe has put in place in Zimbabwe. Chants of "Black Power" rained down from the podium, desecrating the site where Martin Luther King Jr. gave his immortal "I Have a Dream" speech. Malik Zulu Shabazz, the mouthpiece of the New Black Panthers, said that Christopher Columbus, George Washington and Rudy Giuliani are terrorists.

For now the absurdity of reparations for the descendents of slaves has not infected the mainstream American public, as evidenced by the minuscule size of the audience that listened to the race-baiting rhetoric in Washington two weekends ago.

Let us hope and pray that the horrific consequences of avenging the actions of individuals that have been dead for a century never become a reality in this country.

In the July 30 issue of the *Signal*, we ran a Clear Air Campaign story and miscredited the author of the story. We would like to take this opportunity to correctly attribute the story to staff writer Kevin Langston, and extend our apologies to him for the error. Thanks, Kevin, for all the hard work you do here at the *Signal*.

University Wire Column From Elsewhere

Smoking policy needs to be put out

By Christopher Scoville
The Chronicle
Duke University

(U-WIRE) DURHAM, N.C. - Last year's conflict between Duke Student Government and Campus Council over which group has authority over residential concerns unfortunately overshadowed one of the issues that spurred this debate in the first place -- smoking.

For the first time, smokers will not be allowed to smoke in their private dorm rooms. (I wonder what Washington Duke, a prominent tobacco baron and the University's namesake, would have to say about this.)

Even though a campus resolution last year supported the ban, the will of the student body should not be the first consideration of the University in this case. Like any policy, the ban on smoking is only as effective as its enforcement.

At the moment, the administration can hardly combat underage drinking, both on West and East Campus. After last year's dialogue on marijuana use at Duke, it is apparent that some students are smoking illegal substances in their dorm rooms and not getting caught.

I ask, then, how does the University plan to enforce a ban on smoking tobacco? The University has not answered this question because it knows it cannot effectively enforce the policy.

Upperclassmen are surely aware that both die-hard smokers and "social smokers" light a cigarette with every drink at parties on West Campus. Where do these parties take place? In common rooms and in dorm rooms themselves.

I can understand how residential advisers might be able to enforce non-smoking in individual rooms throughout the week, but it is simply preposterous to assume that the University can eliminate smoking at frat parties. Party monitors running around dormitories with squirt guns looking for the next blazing cigarette hardly seems like an effective use of University resources, though I must admit I would be entertained by the scenario.

Indeed, the ineffectiveness of Big Brother with a Super Soaker 2000 to take out smokers is reason enough not to implement this ban, but I am sure the health-conscious out there are concerned that lethal smoke will drift under their doors

and suffocate them at night. This is definitely not a reason to enforce the ban.

As far as I am aware, smokers have always been allowed to smoke in their rooms. Non-smokers next door who have been bothered by smoke have been able to talk to their smoker neighbors about it (promoting a community of non-smokers and smokers!).

Smokers, on the whole, tend to be self-conscious about their "nasty habit" and would be more than willing to stop smoking in the room or place a fan in the window to pull smoke outside if a problem arises.

If non-smokers are unhappy with this solution, perhaps the University could create "smoking dorms" or even non-smoking dorms, just as we already have a substance-free dorm on East. The fact that the University asks incoming students their smoking preference in the housing questionnaire indicates the University's ability to locate smokers and smoker-friendly students in the same dorms.

Frat houses could also be designated smoking or non-smoking. "A room for two? Will that be smoking or non-smoking?"

The last time I checked my mailbox, I noticed that Duke is still located in North Carolina. It is not located in Oregon. The surrounding city and state have not established stringent bans on smoking in public places. I can still walk to Vin Rouge and enjoy a glass of Shiraz and my trusty Parliaments.

You, yes you, can still jog around the loop on East Campus and puff on your Marlboro Light. Duke is again jumping on the university bandwagon. So what if other schools have banned smoking?

Each college or university has its own unique social environment concerning parties, drinking and smoking. Even so, do you really believe that smokers in smoke-free schools in California now congregate outside every time they need a smoke break? Highly unlikely.

Concealing smoke is not as hard as you might think. Consider all of the high school students out there smoking in their bedrooms and bathrooms without their parents' knowledge.

Now consider all of the college students at smoke-free schools (now including Duke) smoking in their bedrooms without their neighbors' knowledge.

See SMOKING | Page 31

University Wire Column From Elsewhere

I pledge allegiance to save my neck

by Taryn Fears
The Daily Vidette
Illinois State University

(U-WIRE) NORMAL, Ill. - It's quite ironic, really, how some American citizens claim stating the phrase, "under God," in the country's pledge is a violation of first amendment laws, but flag burning is an exercise of those same laws.

Year after year, many people seem to take this nation's pledge, its song and its flag for granted, ignoring these icons at their whim. But when disaster strikes and the government begins to track enemies from within as well as without, patriotism is all the rage.

We've seen this phenomena of "sudden patriot fever" many times before. Americans are known for falling back on the "we the people" act whenever any statements made to the contrary could prove detrimental to one's health.

Prime example number one: the Red Scare of the 1950s, where anything or anyone suspected of having communist sympathies was put on trial. America saw icons of the stage and screen, not to mention ordinary people, dragged before the court and their love of America questioned.

Innocent until proven guilty had gone out the window and all one could do was swear by every living creature and a few dead ones, to an undying love and devotion to the United States of America.

Now, I'm quite sure that many of the accused may have been communists, but the truth of their guilt or innocence is neither here nor there. Neither is whether or not being anything other than a capitalist in

America is right.

The point is, no matter what they may have believed, when the cameras were rolling as well as the heads, it was "America the Beautiful" all the way. People forgot about their right to free speech and proclaimed

"The events of Sept. 11 rocked this country to the core, changing our lives and turning us back to our principles."

not to be anything less than a loyal American. They smiled and thought, "If crossing my heart and hoping that all America's enemies will die will save me from ruin, hey.... What have I got to lose?"

And now we see the emergence of convenient patriotism as President Bush and Homeland Security race to find in-house terrorists and anthrax specialists.

Dr. Steven J. Hatfill, a former federal scientist who is suspected of having connections with an anthrax-tainted mailbox in New Jersey went the way of all others when faced with allegations of unpatriotic, even treasonous behavior. He proclaimed his allegiance to America! Were you surprised?

Once again, the guilt or innocence of the good doctor is none of my concern. It just seems funny to me how quickly the words, "I pledge allegiance to the flag," becomes a fail-safe, another way out.

If you find yourself in trouble with the government, just smile and wave a flag.

After a while, the symbols of our nation, the things our an-

cestors, friends and neighbors fought and died for, cease to be something Americans should believe in and uphold. Soon all that is left is a dyed piece of cloth and a jumble of well-meaning words. And if we no longer take our country seriously, why should anyone else?

We seem to forget that America could easily be a country struggling to survive under tyrannical rule. Our freedoms could be crushed. All-powerful leaders could dictate our lives to us. We could be a country living in desolation and constant fear, uncertain about our future.

Wait a minute...we are. The events of Sept. 11 rocked this country to the core, changing our lives and turning us back to our principles.

For a while, people didn't pledge allegiance and wave a flag unless they meant it. It was stained with the blood of American citizens -- not soldiers, but ordinary people, and it was too precious for hypocrisy.

But the debris has been cleared away, Homeland Security is on the job, the economy is looking up (as long as we can find an honest bookkeeper) and America seems to be getting back to the business of living.

I wonder if we'll treat the flag or our pledge differently now. I wonder if the Constitution will cease to be ammunition for radicals who want the national anthem to be "If I Ruled the World."

I wonder if we'll get back to that more perfect union at a more perfect time when we loved what this country stood for even if it wasn't perfect.

I wonder if we'll stop pledging allegiance to save our necks and start pledging allegiance to save our way of life.

McKinney owes her loss to herself

From LOSS | Page 25

as a person. I have no problems with that. I'm glad she hasn't allowed this defeat to dampen her spirit.

But, certain things that she said in her speech are reminiscent of those sour grapes of which I spoke earlier. Talking about how the Republicans wanted to beat her more than the Democrats wanted to keep her almost made McKinney sound like she was a kid pouting in the corner. Again, she manages to bring attention to herself, even

on her way out the door.

Also, as she was congratulating Denise Majette on her victory, she basically said, "I may not agree with the way she went about her campaign, but I wish her well."

That's hardly a ringing endorsement. I mean, I'm not expecting her to go and kiss Majette's feet or anything, but she could do more to help unite her party than saying, "I won't help the Republicans."

Bob Barr lost his race because his district was reconfigured into one that

largely supported Linder. He didn't whine about it, although I'm sure it didn't thrill him. He ran and lost, and accepted defeat in a way that gives hope that politicians haven't lost all their humanity.

Cynthia McKinney pointed fingers and figuratively said, "They did this to me."

No, Ms. McKinney. You did this to yourself. It wasn't just the Republicans' voting against her that brought her defeat. It was her own Democratic voters that didn't support who she had become, or perhaps had been all along.

Need to sound off?

Send a growl.

growl@gsusignal.com

The unrefined, uncool Bush message team

by Becky Waddingham
Rocky Mountain Collegian
Colorado State University

(U-WIRE) FORT COLLINS, Colo. - Everyone likes slogans. A snappy sentence, a phrase that pays or an old adage we frequently recite that carries meaning for us.

"I'll make him an offer he can't refuse."

"Are you ready for some football?"

"I see dead people."

"There are only two things I hate: those who are intolerant of other people's cultures, and the Dutch."

We all use them. And so does President Bush, who has a myriad of Texas-flavored bon mots he uses in nearly every speech with seemingly little forethought. They're usually things like "Let's roll" or "evildoers" or "Axis of Evil."

And then we have his intermittent verbal diarrhea, which the president himself has even lampooned. To wit:

"There may be some tough times here in America. But this country has gone through tough times before, and we're going to do it again."

"Do you have blacks, too?" (To Brazilian - President Fernando Cardoso)

"This foreign policy stuff is a little frustrating."

But none of these linguistic gems is as contrite as the creepy Orwellian catchphrases his message team has adopted.

Watch a speech on C-SPAN or look at the next day's newspaper photo, and you'll see these odd two- or three-word headlines behind the podium.

If the speech is about domestic security, it's a given that behind the President is emblazoned "protecting our

homeland."

If it's about accounting reform, you probably won't miss the words "corporate responsibility."

It's as if the Bushies realized how incoherent their boss can be and decided a big message board behind him would help Americans understand what the hell he's talking about. Or maybe they're just hints for the speaker.

Reflecting this trend of nerdy verbiage is the newest maxim of the Bush administration, possibly the lamest federal slogan to come along since "Just Say No." As part of Bush's obesity initiative, an effort to get Americans off their derrieres and into shape, the administration has crafted kid-oriented fitness messages commanding youngsters to become active.

And in a burst of creativity, they decided to use the word VERB -- which, as we learned in fourth grade English class, means an "action word!"

The slogan, starring in commercials on Nickelodeon, reads thusly: "Verb: It's what you do."

Commercials show children swimming with words like "run" and "jump" on the screen. I'm sorry, but since when did grammar become an effective child-attention-grabber? If anything, it will bore kids to death and remind them of lost hours of youth spent with Miss Levine learning proper English. For most kids, words are not sexy.

This obnoxious slogan is only the latest in the series of what can only be termed "Bushisms."

Maybe if the administration had a coherent, well-considered message, these silly reminders wouldn't be necessary.

Kids distract paying students

From MOTHERS | Page 26

or another) pays to attend this university and take classes. They do not spend this money in order to be unfocused in a class, whether by a child or another student.

It's not my problem if you can't afford childcare, your husband had to go to work early, or there's a waiting list to get into the university's daycare.

It is not my problem because as a student, I pay to attend school, and I have the right to learn, excel, and complete my degree program without distractions, such as children. I do not pay money in order to provide a supplemental daycare for your children in my classroom.



Special | Signal
Mothers with children in the classroom result in disturbances

A clarification on bombing Iraq

In last weeks Staff Editorial, "Bombing Iraq is not the solution to terrorist threat," the *Signal* made a mistake. In fact, we made a mistake that was not only incorrect, but could be considered inflammatory. Before we explain ourselves, we offer our apology.

In our editorial, we stated, "The ever-present threat of weapons of mass destruction has increased in recent years...but yet there are no talks in the Bush administration about attacks against nations like Palestine, for example."

Clearly, those who have taken simple geography classes understand that Palestine is not an independent state. However, the mistake made it into print.

If any of our readers have ever worked for a newspaper, they understand that when pressed against a tight deadline, glaring mistakes

are sometimes made. That was the case with last week's editorial.

The reference to Palestine was made in the original drafts of the story. During the copy editing process, the error was marked and corrected.

However, due to unavoidable technical difficulties, the correction did not make it to the final stages of production and the error was released in print.

The *Signal* maintains the basic argument of last week's editorial.

We feel that the Bush administration continues to limit its focus unnecessarily on Iraq when there are plenty of other countries harboring weapons of mass destruction and the war on terrorism is not yet completed.

However, production errors are the nature of the newspaper business, regardless of their magnitude. The *Signal* takes as many actions

as possible to avoid such mistakes, but they do occasionally occur. We sincerely regret that an error was made in regards to such a delicate and complicated conflict.

After the editorial was printed last week, our emails were flooded with complaints. We would like to commend our readers for their decision to interact with the newspaper.

The *Signal* exists to serve our readers and that is best accomplished through communication, including letters to the editor and emailing the editorial management. We hope that as the academic year progresses, you will continue to hold us to this standard of excellence.

So keep the comments coming, keep demanding the most accurate information from your newspaper. After all, that is the beauty of a free press and a testament to democracy.

University Wire Column From Elsewhere

After-dark recruitment unsafe for potential greeks

Staff editorial
Oklahoma Daily
University of Oklahoma

(U-WIRE) NORMAN, Okla. - This Monday, 948 potential new sorority members took part in the fourth round of fall recruitment. This phase, also known as "Pref night," is when women attend two sorority house parties, narrowing their selections from two to one. At the end of the night, they select their preferred house.

In previous years, fourth round recruitment took place during daylight hours. This year, round four did not begin until 6 p.m. By the 11 p.m. Panhellenic curfew, the potential pledges had spent nearly two hours walking around after sundown.

According to Beth Stathos, University Student Programs Specialist, this phase of recruitment was moved to the evening so that girls would not have to walk in the summer heat and would have a chance to rest during the day. The timing of the event is not fixed, and could be moved next year after evaluations of the activity are gathered.

We realize that safety was of the utmost concern to those planning the event. Both Norman and OU police departments were notified months in advance, and did not feel the activity was unsafe enough to discourage it. According to Stathos, Norman Chief of Police Phil Cotten drove through the area three times personally. No incidents occurred. However, the fact that nothing happened does not mean that nothing could happen. Campus crime, especially against women, is a national problem. Even if nothing happened, we still feel that af-

ter-dark sorority recruitment puts students in a more dangerous situation than a daylight activity.

Rush is highly publicized. Even during the day, passersby honk and make catcalls to the women as they trek from house to house. At night, the situation could be even worse.

While we do not doubt the desire to keep students safe in this situation, we doubt the ability. Sixty-eight recruitment guides helped the women from house to house. Recruitment guides are sorority members themselves. With 948 women taking part in the activity, the ratio of guides to potential members was approximately 1:14. It would be virtually impossible to manage nearly 1,000 people over the better part of a mile, to ensure that no groups split off or that women were not left by themselves. We feel it would be safer to conduct this event during the day, when small groups of students would be more visible.

If such crime was not a problem, there would be no blue safety phones on campus, nor would the university encourage students to use the Safewalk program.

The heat could not be truly prohibitive. By the fourth round, these women have already spent three days walking all over North and South greek. While their comfort may be a concern, we feel that their safety is more important.

Nighttime recruitment has its advantages, as it makes it harder for sorority members to celebrate the night before Bid Day. Individual sorority members cannot be put on social probation during rush, but holding fourth round recruitment later in the day keeps members attention from being diverted.

However, given that potential members stop participating in rush activities by 11 p.m., the after-dark activity would not really handicap those truly dedicated to going out.

As stated before, recruitment guides are sorority members. While they may know their way around campus and Norman, they are still not security professionals. In a hazardous situation, they might even be at as much risk as those they are assigned to guide. More professional security officers should be required. Sorority recruitment could work together with campus security officers, Safewalk and OUPD. Ideally, fourth round recruitment should be moved back to daylight hours, but the procedures discussed should be mandatory if summer heat forces pref day to evening hours.

The management of fall rush is already a Herculean task of human organization. While other campuses across the nation practice nighttime recruitment, OU's recruitment group is one of the largest in America.

Given this, why make the process even harder by adding darkness to the equation? Why put students in potentially unsafe situations when daylight fourth round recruitment has worked for years?

For the safety of those involved, potential recruits and recruitment guides, the fourth round of sorority rush should be moved back to daylight hours. Concerns about heat could be addressed in other ways, such as holding the event in the early morning.

If the danger posed by the sun and evening celebration is too great, more precautions need to be taken to ensure that these women are safe as they make decisions that could affect the rest of the college lives.

Identity versus ego

From VICES | Page 29

recognized them? Who cares if they existed prior to my knowledge of the Ubermensch? If Id and Ego gave me a vice as they say, because they are two-thirds of my psyche, I, unwittingly, chose my own vices.

And my defense mechanisms operate strongly enough that I can easily convince myself that everything I've said is true because that's exactly what I want to believe.

Nowadays, I have no problem sitting down with a bag of chips, a bowl of guacamole and four DVDs and purging myself on cinema. And how do I justify this? Because by perpetuating my flawed behavior, I continually remind myself that I was strong enough to chose how I would err.

Perhaps I can be a candidate in the next Ubermensch campaign.

Duke smoking policy 'unnecessary'

From SMOKING | Page 29

The past system of handling "smoke disturbances" through a one-on-one negotiation between neighbors has and can continue to be effective, and it has the potential to work even better now that there is campus-wide dialogue on the issue. In short, smokers are much more likely to respect the wishes of non-smokers if smokers feel this respect is reciprocal.

As I am perpetually kicking the habit, I understand that the University is simply attempting to promote a healthier lifestyle and protect the health of the student body.

However, the effectiveness of this policy is reduced to a symbolic gesture by the administration, whether for show in the university world or for the health of Duke students. Though it is kind, this is entirely unnecessary.

The administration needs to pursue practical policies that it can realistically enforce (to start, the alcohol policy).

The promotion of individual negotiations, which respect both smokers and non-smokers, seems like a more practical and much less bureaucratic way of handling offensive smoke.

If anything, with this new ban the administration will have to implement yet another policy. Who's going to monitor the cigarette monitors who find a new use for Aristocrat and the Super Soaker 2000?

Drink responsibly

From DRINKING | Page 28

right: "I got totally wasted at last night's party."

For many who have been refused the seeming privilege of drinking previously, their first time drinking heavily can be a terrible, even scary experience, complete with bingeing and eventually passing out.

The risk is far greater for these types of people than for a person who has been taught

"Even worse is when the parent tells the student they shouldn't drink at all."

from an early age to respect the potential effects of heavy drinking, and even come to realize their drinking limit.

First-time drinkers can make it a nightly habit, having suddenly discovered the hazy joy of being drunk. Some can even become addicted to this sensation, and this is far more fatal to one's academic life than an occasional drink.

A responsible drinker is taught to respect alcohol for the lethal agent it could become, not fear it or see it as some sort of far-away privilege that only others are able to enjoy. Both of the latter views only serve to make alcohol more enticing overall, a strange yet popular -- and therefore good -- product.

Even worse is when the parent tells the student they shouldn't drink at all. To tell a child not to do or say something only fills the child with a sudden insatiable urge to do or say just what they were told not to.

This reverse psychology does not disappear with age -- perhaps the ability to resist becomes stronger, but it is a well-known fact that peer pressure is the most powerful force on Earth, up to and including natural disasters. Therefore, a parent should simply know that words alone will not suffice. Teaching by example is the way to go.

This is not to say that all college students who were raised in an alcohol-free environment become incessant drinkers when they hit college.

Some of them develop an aversion to drinking in general, and some are mature enough to handle the entire situation without previous experience.

But parents cannot assume their child has this level of maturity; it is far better for the student's safety for parents to assume the opposite, and raise them to accept and respect alcohol for what it is, what it could become, and what it can be.

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The *Signal* shall provide, in a fair and accurate manner, news of interest and significance to the Georgia State University community and serve as a forum for the expression and ideas of members of that community. Furthermore, the *Signal* shall provide an opportunity for students to pursue experience within a professional newspaper environment. The *Signal* shall also provide truthful and ethical advertising of interest to the Georgia State University community.

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2. Letters should be 200-400 words maximum. The *Signal* will allow longer letters, but only in rare instances.
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4. Letters will be fact-checked before publication. The writer may be obligated to make changes to the letter for publication.
5. Letters will be edited for grammar, clarity, length, factual accuracy and in keeping with Signal policy.
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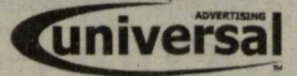
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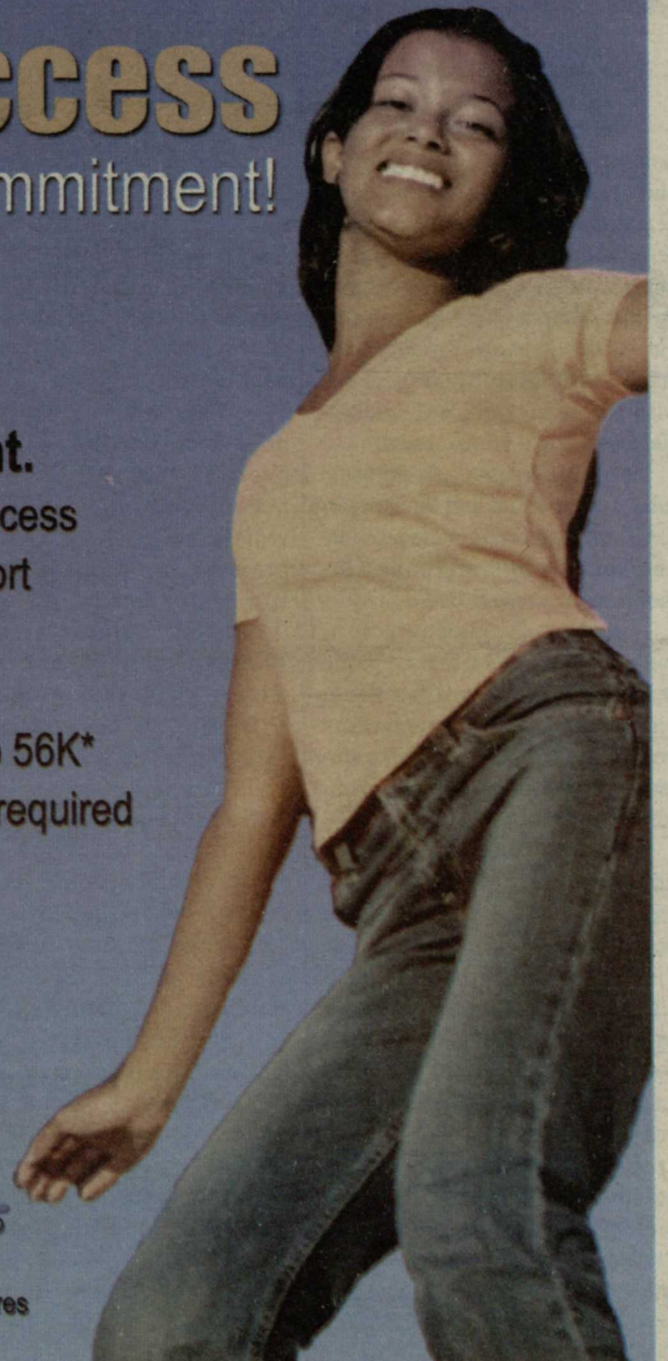
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