

# The Georgia State University Signal

Student Newspaper

gsusignal.com



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Visits  
Georgia State  
University**

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**Expect  
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Lindsey Stephenson | *Signal*  
The University Career Services  
Office works with the Career  
Development courses.

## Georgia State offers classes to help prepare for the future

By **BRYAN ALPER**  
balper@gsusignal.com

Georgia State students have begun to expand their horizons this fall semester as their journey of self-discovery helps create meaning in their lives.

Many have enrolled in what may become the most important class of their lives: Career Development and Life Planning (CPS 2500), which is offered

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CJ Bargamian | *Signal*  
Group discussions are becoming popular.

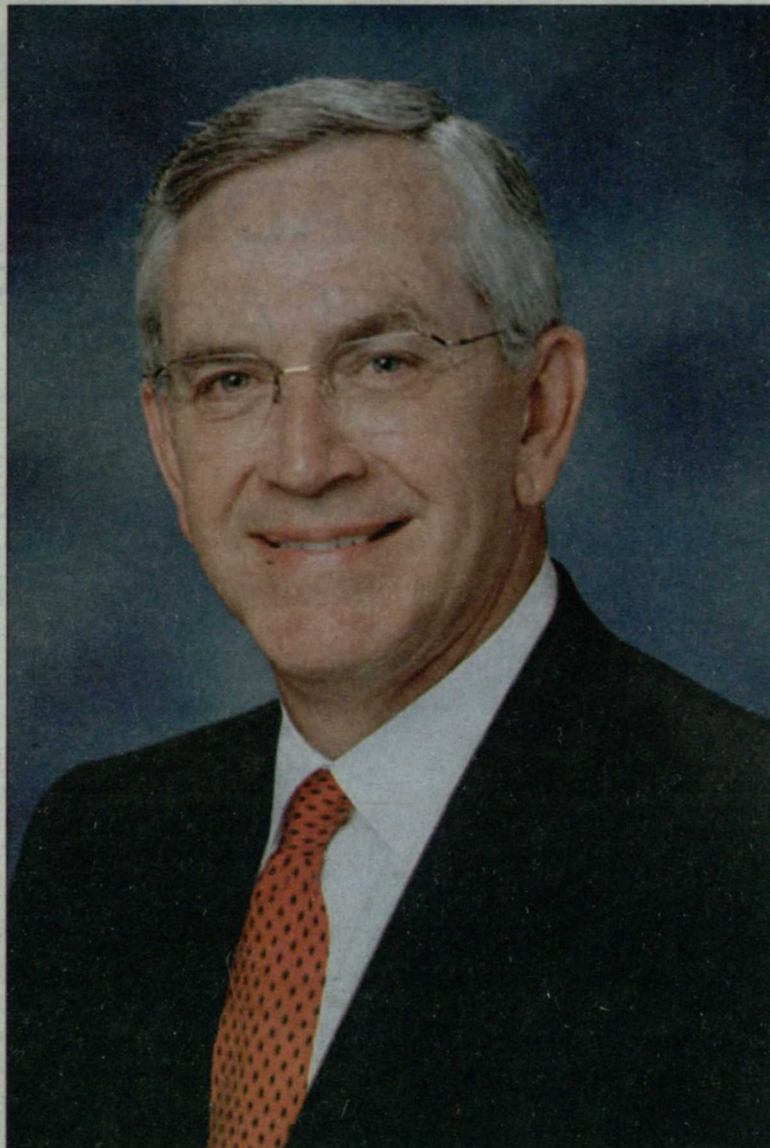
## Debate - newest method of teaching

By **JENNIFER KIMMITT**  
jkimmitt@gsusignal.com

Professors are constantly trying to get students to participate in class, but students are usually daydreaming about what they are going to do afterwards. Well, there may be a way to make everyone happy while increasing the amount of learning that takes place.

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# Mid-year tuition increase likely



Special | *Signal*

**Dr. Thomas Meredith is the Chancellor for the University System of Georgia.**

By **THOMAS LYMAN**  
tlyman@gsusignal.com

Georgia public colleges and universities might see an increase in tuition, possibly as soon as January, despite dissent from state lawmakers.

Larger enrollment numbers and state educational budget cuts have caused the proposed increase, according to University System Chancellor Thomas Meredith's statement last Wednesday. The Board of Regents, however, must approve it. If so, the hike would be applied to Spring 2004 tuition at Georgia universities and colleges.

A mid-year increase has never been applied in Georgia, but it remains unprecedented on a nationwide level.

California and other state universities have seen such mid-year rises in tuition.

California state colleges and universities, for example, have seen a dramatic change in tuition costs over the past few years. University of California-Berkeley, for example, incurred a 15 percent rise in tuition this year. Tuition has risen 50 percent over the past three years at Berkeley, a public, state university.

A 10 percent increase would raise tuition \$337 a year at research universities in Georgia, including Georgia State. Other state schools will face smaller increases.

Chancellor Meredith was quoted in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution last week, saying: "We must increase tuition

faster than in current years to make a part of the shortfall or reduce academic quality, which is necessary to maintain the quality of the university system."

Over the past five years, the University System of Georgia has had a 28 percent increase in enrollment, but only an eight percent rise in state funding, which are not unusual figures for other state colleges and universities around the nation.

Criticism of the proposed increases comes from lawmakers, especially Lt. Gov. Mark Taylor, president of the Senate, who called the tuition proposal "an awful idea."

The University System has been frowned upon by many in the state government for not being more frugal in budgeting and spending. Many lawmakers believe that when revenue is needed to cover a deficit, the system simply suggests a tuition increase. In addition, last month, in a move that sparked more dissent from lawmakers, the regents approved a raise of \$180,000 to Medical College of Georgia President Daniel Rahn, bringing his yearly salary to \$527,000.

Gov. Perdue asked the regents to keep any fall 2004 increase to five percent, despite many university presidents wanting more, amid larger enrollment.

On Sept. 7, Chancellor Meredith warned of layoffs and a raise in tuition if the University System did not receive a budget of \$1.76 billion. Gov. Sonny Perdue has told the system that they would receive no more than \$1.69 billion, an increase of \$80 million over the current year's budget.

Many Georgia State students say they can survive any proposed increase. "It's not going to stop me from going to school," said Junior Amy Censi.

See TUITION | Page 6

## African American Studies Program Celebrates 10th Anniversary

By **KRYSTLE JOHNSON**  
kjohnson@gsusignal.com

The Georgia State Student Center was the backdrop for the 10th Anniversary Celebration of the Department of African-American Studies from Sept. 17-19.

The event featured a variety of scholars from many different disciplines within the concentration, including Molefi Asante, professor of African-American studies at Temple University and former president of the National Council for Black Studies, and Maulana Karenga, founder of Kwanzaa and professor of black studies at California State University, Long Beach. Conferences over many different topics were conducted throughout the two days and followed by a dance to close the ceremony.

It had been ten years since the formal inception of the department at Georgia State, and twelve since the student activists fought for social change at Georgia State by participating in a sit-in.

In November of 1992, a racial slur made by a historically white fraternity on campus ignited protests as well as the fact that there were few classes offered in the field of African-American studies. The gathering took place in the university's administration building as well as President Carl V. Patton's office.



Special | *Signal*  
**OSSAP organizes many programs throughout the year.**

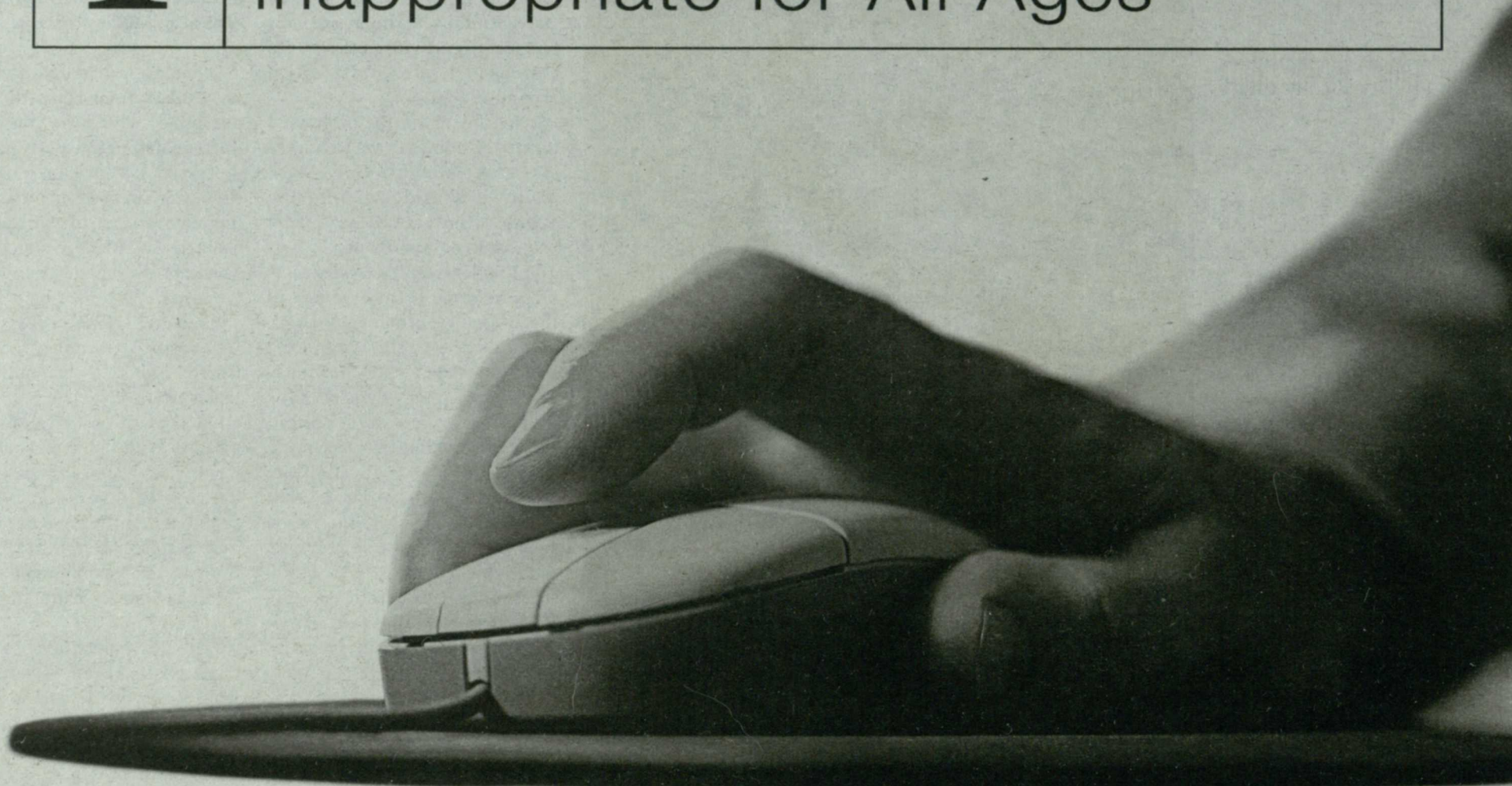
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# page three

If you have information for the calendar of events or any other section of this page, please contact Lindsey Stephenson, News Editor, at: [lstephenson@gsusignal.com](mailto:lstephenson@gsusignal.com)  
Find more online at [www.gsusignal.com](http://www.gsusignal.com)

## Calendar of Events: September

## ampersand

**22** 6 p.m. - Ethics in Film Series: "The Manchurian Candidate." The film screening will be followed by a discussion of the themes in the film related to ethics. Sponsored by the Jean Beer Blumenfeld Center for Ethics. Georgia State University Village, Rooms 108/109, Olympia. Free admission and pizza. Info: 404/654-5815.

**23** 4 p.m. - Geology Speaker Series presents "Tales from the Tertiary: Clues Fossil Floras Provide for Unraveling the History of Southeastern Forests," a lecture by Melanie Devore, Georgia College and State University. Room 314, Kell Hall. 3:30 p.m. reception in Room 340, Kell Hall. Free. 404/651-2272.

7 p.m. - Men's Soccer. Panthers vs. Gardner-Webb. Forsyth Complex. Call ticket manager at 404/651-3166.

**24** Culture on the Plaza African American Celebration  
Uhuru Dancers, Inc.  
12:15pm - 1pm  
Speaker's Auditorium  
For more information, 404-463-9031  
Sponsored by Intercultural Relations

**25** 7 p.m. - Men's Soccer. Panthers vs. Campbell. Forsyth Complex. Call ticket manager at 404/651-3166.

**26** 7:30 a.m. - National College Debate Tournament, hosted by the Georgia State University Debate Team, brings over 200 of the nation's best college debaters to the campus for two days of competitive argument. This year, students will be discussing our nation's energy policy. The tournament also raises funds for the National Debate Project, a program to support Urban Debate initiatives. Sparks Hall and General Classroom Building. Rooms TBA. Free. Info: Joe Bellon, [joujmb@langate.gsu.edu](mailto:joujmb@langate.gsu.edu).

**28** 12- 1:30 "Career Conversations in Economics." Rm 245, Univ Center. A Panel of Professionals in the world of economics and related areas. Discussing opportunities in economics. Contact: Phil Rockwell, [prockwell@gsu.edu](mailto:prockwell@gsu.edu)

**28 & 29** 10 a.m. - Blood Drive. Free. Veterans Memorial Hall. 404/463-9043.

"Those who dance are thought to be quite insane by those who can not hear the music."  
- Anonymous

"Smoking kills. If you're killed, you've lost a very important part of your life."  
- Brooke Shields

"I can resist everything except temptation."  
- Oscar Wilde

"When a stupid man is doing something he is ashamed of, he always declares that it is his duty."  
- George Bernard Shaw

"What would men be without women? Scarce, sir, mighty scarce."  
- Mark Twain

"Jimmy Carter should have stuck with peanut farming."  
- Matt Cochran

## The Exclamation!

**1094 is our average SAT score?** Wow, they should pay me mega bucks to go here!

**Note to teachers-** If you're going to cancel class, let me know *before* I get to your 8am class.

**Lance Armstrong** left his wife for Sheryl Crowe, Jerk.

**You aren't really** moving to Canada, so stop threatening.

**FLC's are a flop!** I wasted three course hours on GSU 1010.

**Where is John Edwards?** I haven't seen him in the news for weeks.

**Why does Tiger** so sad? He freakin' rocks! He needs to learn that he can't stay on top forever.

**I gave a homeless** man a dollar the other day. A few minutes later I met up with him in again, in the grocery store buying a beer.

**Here's a novel idea:** don't have sex and you won't have to worry about birth control or STDs!

**The French are** wrong again. They've taken it too far with the banning of Hijabs.

**Everyone needs to get** off the Braves. They're almost always in the playoffs so let's give them the credit they're due.

**It's a good thing** that SAT averages are on the rise. I'm not sure how much more I can take of all these stupid people.

**Ivan the terrible** wasn't terrible enough to Atlanta to get me out of school on Friday.

**I just hate how** my hands get all black and dirty after I read the *Signal*.

Want to make a witty comment? The best way to respond to an exclamation is to send one to Lindsey Stephenson at [lstephenson1@student.gsu.edu](mailto:lstephenson1@student.gsu.edu).



# Black Student Alliance raises awareness about the War in Iraq, voter registration and the 2004 general election

By VANDREENA COTTON  
vcotton@gsusignal.com

"I am somebody," is one of the many inspiring messages the legendary Reverend Jesse Jackson, Sr. encouraged at the Black Student Alliance's (BSA) "Stand Up" rally on Sept. 14.

Speaking to a capacity crowd, Rev. Jackson brought the audience on its feet without speaking a single word. His presence alone was enough satisfaction for many students. However, Rev. Jackson came with a message: "You have the power to change the course of our country."

Although the rally was originally scheduled to take place in the Veteran's Hall of Alumni Hall, the facilities were eventually moved to the ballroom of the Student Center to house the large crowd. Once situated, the audience was anxious to be in the presence of one of the great leaders, as well as speakers, of the last 50 years. His message was clear as well as relatable to everyone in the crowd.

"In every state, there are more black men in jail than there are in college," said Jackson. "Your generation must come alive and address the issues of your day."

Although that statement alone received agreement from much of the audience, he also spoke directly to those who felt that addressing the issues did not benefit them.

"One could ask, why should high-school seniors vote? Why should college students vote? What's in it for you?" Jackson asked. "Pell grants are in it for you. Lower tuition is in it for you. A job when you graduate is in it for you. Medicare for your grandparents is in it for you. Decent public housing is in it for you. Ending the war in Iraq is in it for you."

His primary message was, "vote for your interest, not your fears." As he spoke those words, many in the audience felt compelled to applaud in agreement.

Reverend Jackson continued his speech by emphasizing that things will not differ until someone changes their mind. "Whenever we change

our minds and are sober and serious and focused, we make great things happen.

When we come alive, we change the country," he said. "We don't just set clothes styles and singing styles and athletic styles and hip-hop styles. When we speak with model authority, it affects the whole world."

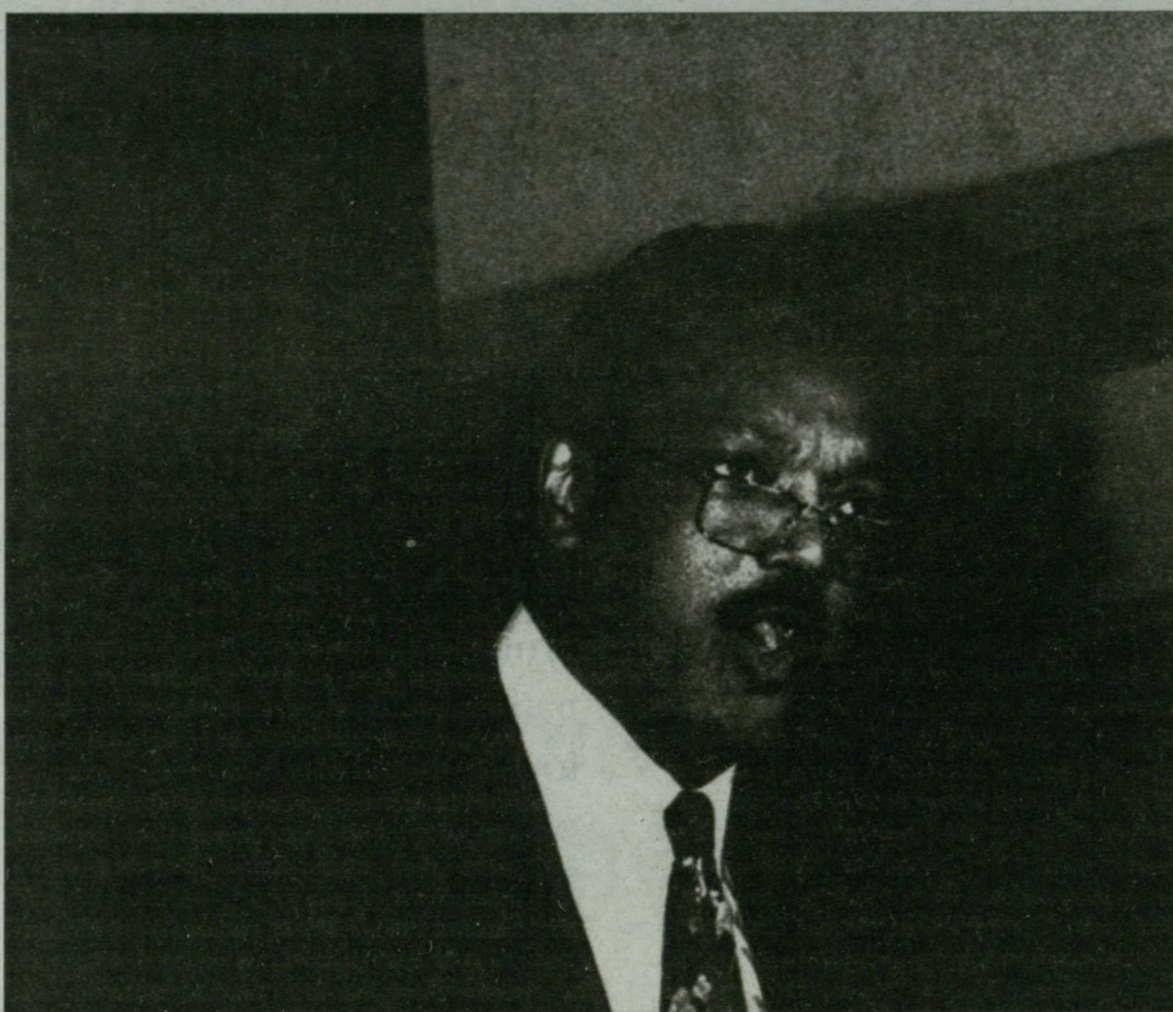
Jackson explained that "none of us are secure until all of us are secure," and that one event or tragedy can affect many different people of many different ethnicities. He supported this statement by giving the statistics of cities outside the metro Atlanta area. "Sixty percent of all Georgians make less than \$25,000 a year. Around New Brunswick, people make less than \$8,000 a year. Most of these people are the working poor people." He continued by emphasizing that although these people are the working poor, they still work everyday and have little to show for it.

Another moment that inspired the awe of the audience was when Rev. Jackson acknowledged how previous generations "shed blood for what they believed in," while current generations "won't even shed sweat." He stressed this message by presenting the statistic of one million African-American disenfranchised votes during the 2000 presidential election.

He emphasized that everyone should do more than vote; they should protect their vote. This also became evident when Rev. Jackson informed the audience of when he registered students at Florida A&M University and Bethune-Cookman College to vote, but their names were not on the voting list at the polling facility. A similar incident occurred when the Haitian-American students he was helping were threatened with deportation.

Before closing, Rev. Jackson gave the crowd something to think about. To some, it was a self-evaluation. "What do I think about a college student sitting here today that is not registered [to vote]? That's my issue. What do I think about somebody who can't go to college next

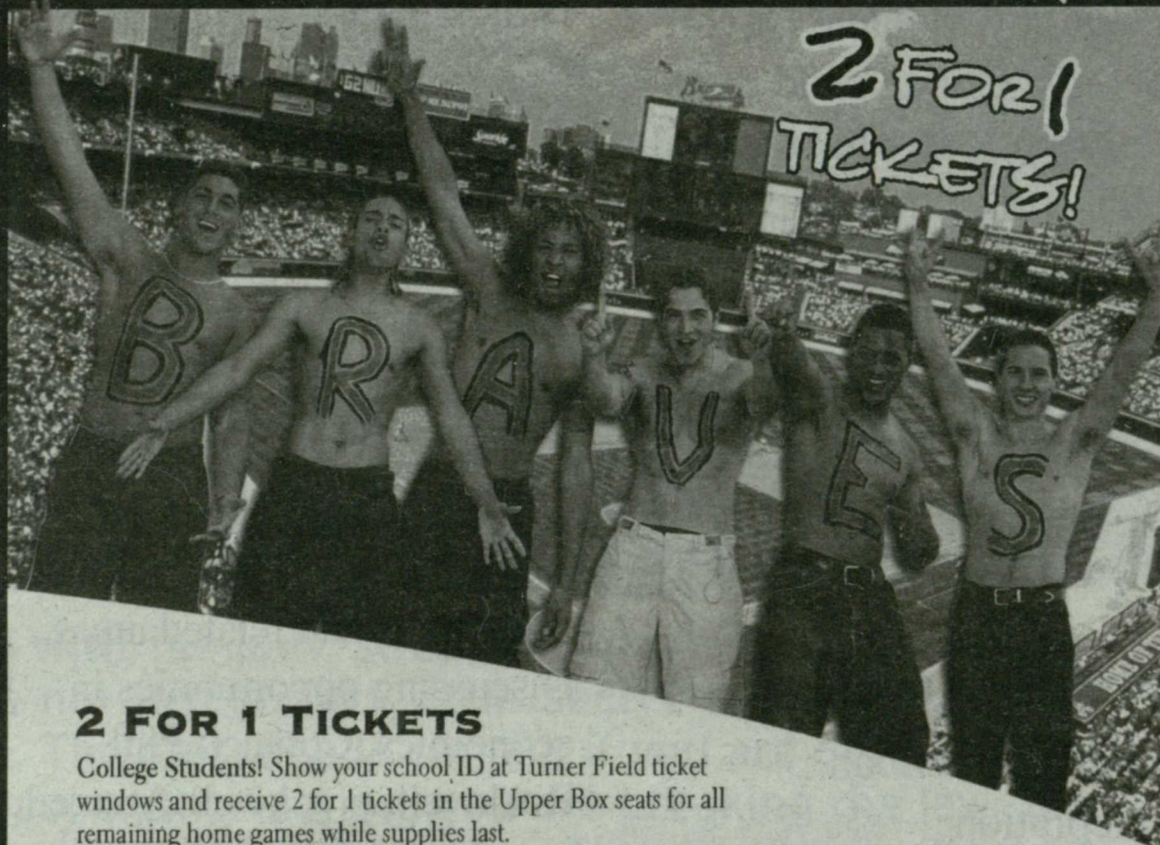
See BSA | Page 7



Rev. Jesse Jackson was the keynote speaker at the BSA event on Tuesday.

Special | Signal

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Sunday, 9/12 1:05 Montreal Expos  
Tuesday, 9/21 7:35 Cincinnati Reds  
Wednesday, 9/22 7:05 Cincinnati Reds  
Thursday, 9/23 7:35 Cincinnati Reds  
Friday, 9/24 7:35 Florida Marlins

Saturday, 9/25 7:05 Florida Marlins  
Sunday, 9/26 1:05 Florida Marlins  
Monday, 9/27 7:35 New York Mets  
Tuesday, 9/28 7:35 New York Mets  
Wednesday, 9/29 1:05 New York Mets



# CPS a gateway to University Career Services Resource Center

From CAREERS | Page 1

through the Georgia State University Department of Counseling and Psychological Services.

"I've already begun to develop new skills such as the ability to visualize success through positive affirmation," says Satori Henderson, a Georgia State student.

Rhonda Raglin, another Georgia State student, approaches each Tuesday afternoon class as an entrepreneur. She has plans to open a staffing agency for nurses.

"This class will evaluate my strengths and weaknesses," she said. "I am motivated to learn more about myself and apply it to my business venture."

CPS 2500 helps students learn how to manage their career development and life planning based on relevant theories, practice, and trends in the economy and technology, as well as labor market development. Students learn skills for career decision-making and life planning and to adapt to the rapidly changing world of work. The goal is to facilitate personal fulfillment and satisfying interpersonal relationships through career and life planning, with special attention to multicultural issues in the workplace.

Henderson and Raglin both believe that their class instructor Ann Landes, has had a significant impact on them so far this term. According to them, her coverage of class topics highlighted the importance of values when choosing a career path, having a healthy self-image and diversifying in the workplace.

"Incorporating what students learn in class into their daily lives is

one of my main purposes with teaching this class," says Landes. "It's not your typical test-taking class. We focus on work skills and life skills and the real test is life itself."

Career assessment inventories for self-exploration purposes are taken throughout the semester to assess personality, interests, skills, and values. One of these is the Meyers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI). These inventories are used as learning tools, rather than for grading purposes.

CPS 2500 is an excellent gateway to the new University Career Services Resource Center. This facility is in the business of helping students make career decisions, gaining the practical experience necessary to getting a career off to a good start, successfully getting through the all important interview stages, and lastly, surviving the first year on the job. Students will visit the facility throughout the semester as part of the class regimen engaging in various assignments.

Throughout recent history, students linked only The Counseling Center with their job hunting. However, mental health issues were became a common diagnosis, placing many students on a lengthy waiting list to see career counselors according to Career Counselor Elias Rudd.

The new Career Recourse Center has filled this gap. Henderson and Raglin are aware that it's only the beginning of their journey into self-awareness. Every Tuesday for the rest of the fall semester will be approached with an open mind of endless possibilities and most definitely both will leave each class period with hope of a bright future within their careers.



Special 1 Signal

Spotlight organizes activities for Georgia State University students.

## Spotlight: new board, new advisor, new attitude

By DOMINIQUE HUFF  
dhuff@gsusignal.com

The official programming board for the Georgia State University community, spotlight is looking at past mistakes aiming to reinvent themselves and reach out more to the students.

Spotlight Programs Board consists of the following committees: Panther Prowl, Homecoming, Speakers, Special Events, Public Relations Concerts and Cinefest. Each committee has a director and associate directors.

Last summer, Spotlight was put to the test that many organizations often go through when they experienced rough transitions.

"We had no copier, one

computer for all the committees to use, no advisor or any office supplies to work with to prepare for the upcoming year," stated Sheonny P Miller, current director.

Dwayne Elliott, the group's former advisor resigned his position prior to the end of the spring semester to pursue other options. Stephanie Coyle was hired to replace him in those duties.

"Stephanie is new, which gives us a chance to start anew with new advisement and eradicate past problems and issues," added Miller. Coyle, who is a recent UGA graduate, has programming experience that she brings from UGA. She was involved with homecoming there and Dawgs After Dark, a

program similar to Panther Prowl.

Miller has an improvement plan for the organization. "We have several student complaints about our programming and promotions. Many think we only cater to certain people and we don't do enough to inform the community about our events," Miller mentioned.

To solve that problem, the board initiated an open forum that will allow students to voice concerns, complaints and suggestions for the organization. They also created a "Street Team," an asset to publicize events.

"The Street Team will be a group of energetic individuals

See SPOTLIGHT | Page 6

## GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP CONCLAVE



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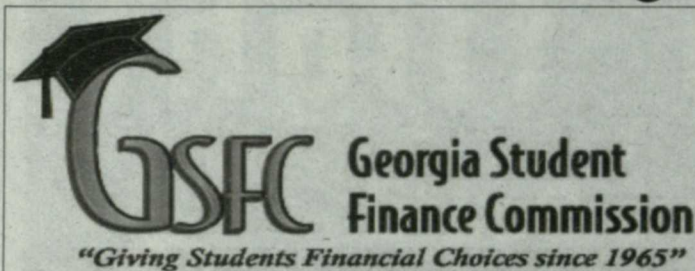
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# Mid-year tuition increase viable for first time in Georgia



The Georgia Student Finance Commission handles many of the financial obligations of the Board of Regents.

Special | Signal

From TUITION | Page 1

Others, however, are concerned with the increase, not just for themselves, but for other students as well.

"I won't be affected by any tuition rise, but would be concerned about other students having to pay," Junior Katie Heinmiller states. "I would like to know where the extra

money will be going."

The national average tuition increase for the 2004-2005 school year is nine percent, according to the USA Today. This is up from an average of 14 percent last year. The University of Alabama-Tuscaloosa saw a 12 percent increase in tuition, and is up over 30 percent since 2002. Georgia State's tuition is up 20 percent since 2002.

## New goals discussed at 10th anniversary of OSSAP

From ANNIVERSARY | Page 1

Before this, there were only four classes dealing with African-American studies at State. Now there are over fifty in the curriculum, and between 25 to 30 sections given each semester.

The majority of the faculty currently running the program has been with the Department since the induction in 1994. During its ten-year run, the department has compiled a long list of accomplishments under its belt. They have hosted seven academic conferences and sixty lectures. The Black Panther Party hosted one of the most noted conferences in 1996.

The African-American Studies Department has given roughly 65 interviews to the media, including CNN, BBC, NPR, Canada TV and many more.

Faculty representatives have also spoken at conferences about their research in foreign countries including Australia, Japan, Columbia and South Africa. Since 2002, the department has also been the national headquarters of the National Council for Black Studies, which is considered one of the most renowned professional associations of the area of study.

Leading scholars from universities across the nation directed the two-day conference. They were chosen by their significance, contributions, stature and activism in the professional world.

For this event, the speakers decided to forgo their honorarium, which according to Dr. Charles Jones, founder and Chair of the department, "speaks highly on how they view our department."

Some topics discussed were about New Approaches in Africana Studies, Gender Issues in African Studies, and Varieties of Public Opinion.

Dr. Jones believes that many goals have been achieved since the department's creation, and he hopes to bring a Masters and Doctorate program in the next decade. In addition, he wishes to expand the department, faculty-wise and student-wise. African-Americans need not be the only students in the program.

"We've had students graduate from the program who were not African American," Dr. Jones said. As for African-American students, Jones said taking courses in African-American studies would help them "learn about themselves and their culture, and give back to those who fought to make the department possible."

While no formal dedication was made, a somber remembrance of former undergraduate student and W.E.B. DuBois/Anna J. Cooper scholarship winner Renata Hicks graced the ceremony. Hicks graduated with honors with a B.A. in African-American studies and would matriculate to UCLA, but tragically died in a car accident. The scholarship is given to the student with the highest G.P.A. within the department at a special graduation celebration called Student Appreciation Day.

# Debate helps students to understand their mistakes

From DEBATE | Page 1

It is a program called debate across the curriculum (DAC), and it was created about 15 years ago by Melissa Wade, director of debate at Emory University, and Larry Moss, an associate professor at Georgia State.

The theory behind DAC is that debate can be used to teach any subject by allowing students to engage in meaningful, educational and thought-provoking discussions with their peers, while professors serve more as mediators rather than dictators. Studies show that students who are taught debate are prone to doing further research after school hours because they learn to relate their school curriculum with real life situations. In turn, they are able to help others with problems, and they tend to be more successful after graduation.

"The purpose is to not only involve students in the class, but also to improve on their communication skills by making them think about what they are going to say, and then being able to

back it up," said Michael Jablonski, a communications instructor at Georgia State who uses a version of DAC to teach his classes.

DAC designs each class to be a forum of learning where students discover how to argue their opinions using background information they have obtained.

The objective of DAC classes is not only to learn how to do things, but also why they are done. Professors concentrate more on helping to organize their student's thoughts, and less on what is the "right" or "wrong" answer.

According to Jablonski, the practice used in most traditional classes is students hand in their assignments, their instructors make red marks on them, give out grades and expect that students learned something.

"I don't understand how that works," he said. "I allow students to make mistakes by giving them minimum guidelines on assignments, and then I let them correct the assignments over and over without penalty." The purpose of this is to allow students to learn why their assignments were wrong.

By doing the assignments over again, students learn to how to make their assignments correct, and more importantly, the reason for the correction.

With this method students are supposed to be less likely to forget the information.

According to Joe Bellon, communications professor and director of debate at Georgia State, because students are put in the passive role in class, and teachers do most of the talking, it is the teachers, not the students who "get most of the practice in using the English language and using communicative and academic skills."

However, by training students with debate techniques it helps improve communication competence and critical thinking. DAC allows students an opportunity to develop real world skills as well as social skills.

"Debate- intensive instruction has the potential to improve human relationships in the larger community and in the classroom," said Bellon in his research paper for the justification of DAC. "It is our job to see that potential fulfilled."

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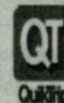
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# Spotlight's new leadership revamping organization

From SPOTLIGHT | Page 7

who will be everywhere the students are to inform them of our events: They will be in the plaza, the Village, everywhere."

Miller also provided information that each of the committees will be working on this year.

The Speakers committee chaired by Alicia Watson, designed to be the educational outreach of Spotlight, will have a forum where student leaders can talk to the Student Government Association.

"As student leaders, we view the university from other students, this program will allow student

organization leaders to assist the SGA coming up with solutions for student complaints and concerns" said Miller.

The committee will also host a seminar for freshmen students highlighting downtown crime prevention.

"Many of our freshmen students are new to the downtown, urban setting. This will provide team street smart tips for safety," added Miller.

The Concerts committee chaired by Michael "Sola" Lambert, focuses on music entertainment. Every Tuesday and Thursday, the committee hosts concerts in the plaza, ranging from rock bands to hip hop groups, to entertain students

during the lunch break.

The committee is also planning another major concert this year for the student body.

"This committee not only plans our musical entertainment but they sponsor other events as well through technical support and setup," said Miller. "This year they worked with Freshmen Convocation."

The Panther Prowl Committee, chaired by Ijeoma Uzochukwu, strive to cater to everyone during monthly events. During these events, students have two movie options, free food, novelty activities, performances, dances and parties. During these events, the committee likes for students to have

something they can take back home with them.

Over the years, they created their own music videos, bumper stickers, wax hands, candles and such.

"This year, we plan on doing different things to build excitement to the event, not just the same thing that was done back in 2001 and so on," Miller said.

The Special Events Committee chaired by Tamara Asbury is the free-for-all committee. "This committee has a lot of creative control since there is no set definition for special events. A lot of our successful events such as the Steppers Ball came from this committee in the past," stated Miller.

In the past, this committee hosted the Spring Fling and Octoberfest, and they have collaborated with other campus organizations such as TheaRadicals. Currently this committee is bringing the Ryan Cameron Morning Show radio program to campus on October 1.

The Homecoming Committee chaired by Christine Collier, who is also an SGA Senator, is responsible for coordinating the activities of the annual homecoming.

"The purpose of homecoming is for the entire university to come together and a tribute to the basketball team. This year we want every organization on campus involved in the activities," cited Miller.

Activities planned for this year's homecoming include the coronation, an expanded version of the Golf Cart Parade, the Greek Step Show in a new venue, and several university wide activities for all to take part. Collier adds, "I sit on the SGA Student Life Committee this year and we plan on involving them with some of Homecoming plans."

The Public Relations Committee, chaired by both Christopher Bruce and Amorete Strickland, focuses on getting the word out about all of Spotlight's happenings. The committee works with all media outlets on campus and devises several creative ways to inform the campus of activities of the organization. The major project of this committee this year will be the "Street Team."

Spotlight also controls and manages daily operations of the campus theatre, Cinefest, which is located in the University Center. Movies are free for all students with GSU ID's and \$3.50 for the public. Movies that are scheduled to be aired this semester include: Super Size Me, Princess Bride and Fahrenheit 911.

This will be a busy year for the Spotlight Program Board as they keep the students busy with programs and activities. Everyone is invited and encouraged to participate in all events.

"We always have an open ear for suggestions from the students," Miller concludes.

For more information about the committees, programs, activities or becoming a volunteer call the office at 404-463-9088 or online at [www.gsu.edu/~wwwspb/](http://www.gsu.edu/~wwwspb/).

## BUSINESS CAREER EXPO Georgia State University

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RESUMES, RECRUITING, AND RESULTS  
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**When:** Friday, September 17, 2004  
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**Who:** All students who plan to attend EXPO  
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**For employer information go to:**  
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# Jewish community at Georgia State larger than once believed

By JOSEPH ESTEBAN  
jesteban@gsusignal.com

The Jewish community celebrated Rosh Hashana, the Jewish New Year, last week by feasting on apples dipped in honey and praying for a sweet year to come.

With increasing membership in Jewish student groups, a charter in the works for a Jewish Student Union, and a new Jewish Studies program, the New Year for Georgia State's Jewish community is looking sweeter than ever.

All of this is evidence of the growth of the Jewish community at Georgia State, and of the growing numbers of Jewish students coming together to become a larger voice in the melting pot that is our school.

Georgia State's Hillel, a Jewish organization for students and young adults, is working with Jewish groups on campus to build a stronger Jewish community. Laurel Snyder, the group's new program director, estimates that about 1,500 Jewish students study at Georgia State.

"The population of Jewish students has always been here," said Snyder. "We are just working to help provide a sense of community within that population at GSU."

Snyder is working on a charter for a GSU Jewish Students Union, and is opening an office at 402A University Center for students seeking information about the various Jewish groups on

campus. Snyder also runs a website, [www.jewishgsu.blogspot.com](http://www.jewishgsu.blogspot.com), where she posts various events and programs being held by Jewish organizations across the entire metro area.

One of the groups working together with Hillel is Chabad of GSU, a student run Jewish organization that provides religious and social programs for Jewish students. Since its inception last year, Chabad has had nearly 100 students participate in its events according to group representative Michael Friedlander.

"There is definitely a need for more Jewish programming on campus," said Friedlander. "Everyday I am meeting more Jewish students who are interested in learning more about their heritage."

Offering an academic perspective on the concept of Jewish heritage is the new Jewish Studies program. This program works with multiple departments on campus to provide classes that expose students to the Jewish experience across different areas of academic study.

The program currently offers an interdisciplinary minor in Jewish Studies and also sponsors lectures and film screenings on Jewish themes, which are open to all Georgia State students. According to program director Michael Galchinsky, future plans for the program include offering opportunities for students to study abroad.

"As a Jewish student," said undergraduate Lisa Yarbrough, "I've found that the instructors in the Jewish Studies program are very capable of keeping the Jewish students satisfied with the presentation of Judaism without alienating the non-Jewish students."

One such non-Jewish student is Nicole Smith, who is majoring in Middle Eastern Studies and is taking classes offered by the Jewish Studies program to another perspective to her coursework.

"It's a very embracing group," says Smith of her classmates in the Jewish Studies courses. "I ended up making a lot of friends I never thought I'd make when I first started taking these classes."

While it is still early to measure the success of the Jewish Studies program, Modern Hebrew professor Tsipi Wagner is very pleased with the turn out for her classes. "Without even knowing how things would go at first," said Wagner, "I now have 18 students in my first 1001

class, six in my second 1001 class and six more in my 2001 class." This is Wagner's second semester teaching the class at Georgia State, and she hopes to add a 3001 level course by next year.

For more information about Chabad at GSU, visit [www.chabadofgsu.org](http://www.chabadofgsu.org). For more information about Hillel of GSU, email Laurel Snyder: [laurel@hillelsofgeorgia.org](mailto:laurel@hillelsofgeorgia.org). For more information about Jewish Studies courses, visit [www.gsu.edu/js](http://www.gsu.edu/js).



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From BSA | Page 4

year and has to go to Iraq, but is not registered to vote? What do I think about somebody who has a chance to go to college and won't study diligently? What do I think about you?"

This caused murmurs of agreement from the attentive audience, but he continued. "What do I think about a student whose parents sacrificed so much, the mother sometimes wears stockings with runs in them so that you might have matching clothes and not be embarrassed? What do I think about you who have been so blessed and won't use your blessings?" That brief statement stuck a chord in everyone and immediately caused overwhelming agreement and applause. After his speech, Rev.

Jackson called all unregistered voters to the stage to register at that moment. Over twenty people participated. Afterwards, he closed the event in prayer and followed it with questions from the audience. He even offered to assist a young man in receiving a scholarship so he can return to college. Once leaving the Student Center Ballroom, Rev. Jackson left for an event in Florida. However, he did ask a brief question regarding mentorship and community service groups.

"[The organization is] Push for Excellence and we want you guys to get involved. We have a seven part parent pledge, student pledge, teacher pledge and they could be real meaningful material for [Georgia State] to work with." The event, primarily

organized by the Black Student Alliance, was an overwhelming success. Not only did it involve one of the greatest public figures of the past 50 years, but it also included many Georgia State organizations.

Some of the other organizations affiliated with this event were: Minority Graduate Student Alliance, the Office of Intercultural Relations, the Student Government Association, Conscious Collective, Tighter Grip, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Zeta Phi Chapter and the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. Pi Alpha Chapter. Some of the other individuals involved in organizing this event were: Pastor Chris Pickett, Dr. Charles Jones and Janice Mathis, who presented the opportunity for the BSA to work with Rev. Jackson.



Sports Editor:  
**Bobby McMillin**

# Sports

Reporting on  
**Georgia State  
University Athletics**

## Women's volleyball falls to Jacksonville State

By **SONATA KOGAN**  
skogan@gsusignal.com

Georgia State University's volleyball team, the Lady Panthers, played their first home match of the season on Tuesday Sept. 14. Their opponent for the evening was Jacksonville State University's Gamecocks. This very close match was intense and brought fans to their feet.

The Panthers began the first game with high energy and full impact. Yet, right from the start the two teams were trailing each other very closely. The first game was a split. It began with the Panthers and the Gamecocks literally scoring at each round, as soon as Georgia State scored 10 JSU scored 11, but towards the end of that game Georgia State took the lead and Junior Danielle Gonzalez scored big bringing the score 29-19. The tough competition was obvious from the start, and the hitting error by the Gamecocks gave the Panthers the point they needed to take lead with 30-22.

The second game was a little tougher for both teams as they continued to point counter point each other from the start. Jacksonville State was leading with 14 points as Georgia State was trailing behind with a mere five. Yet, the Panthers

game. It was a close call and Junior Ana Paula Ferreira received some high fives from her teammates a few times, but the game ended in favor of the opposing team up 30-26. Making some fans very disappointed, but still cheering on with hope for the Panthers to win the following game. Yet, JSU took the next game as well, with a lead of 30-26.

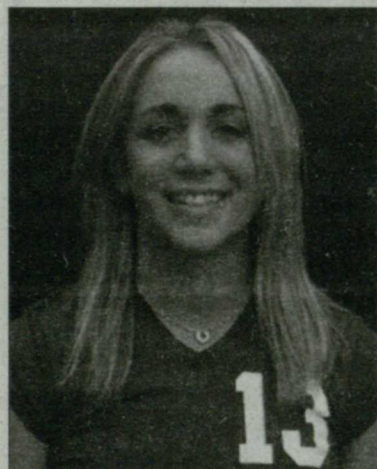
By the concluding game of the match both of the teams were in high gear, and the Lady Panthers scored the first few points as quickly as the first game. As the rules for the last game of the match require that each team needs to score only 15 points, the team that takes the game has to be ahead by two. But as long as no one team has the lead by two points after the first 15, the game goes on until the requirement is met.

As the room was filled with anticipation, both sides of the room had fans standing on their feet.

"This is the first volleyball game I've been to at Georgia State, but the final round of the game is my favorite part," commented John Palmer, a Political Science student at Georgia State.

When the scoring continued in to the late teens it looked like the Panthers were going to take the game, but the Gamecocks were a tough team to get ahead of. Jacksonville State University took the game with a two-point lead of 23-21 and won the match.

When head coach of the Lady Panthers Mike Webster was asked if he had any comment about the game, he responded "Basically, we could have knocked it out in three games, but with a team like Jacksonville State University's you can't let them get ahead. And tonight the girls hopefully learned that lesson."



Special | Signal

Portis did fairly well in his new colors as well. He thrived in Joe Gibbs' old smash-em-up style of football.

came back towards the end and took the second game with only two points ahead 30-28. This meant that Georgia State was ahead of JSU by two games, and only needed one more game to win the match.

As the Georgia State fans were getting excited and cheering the team on with high spirits during the third game, the JSU team came back strong and took the

## Men's soccer shuts out Wofford 4-0

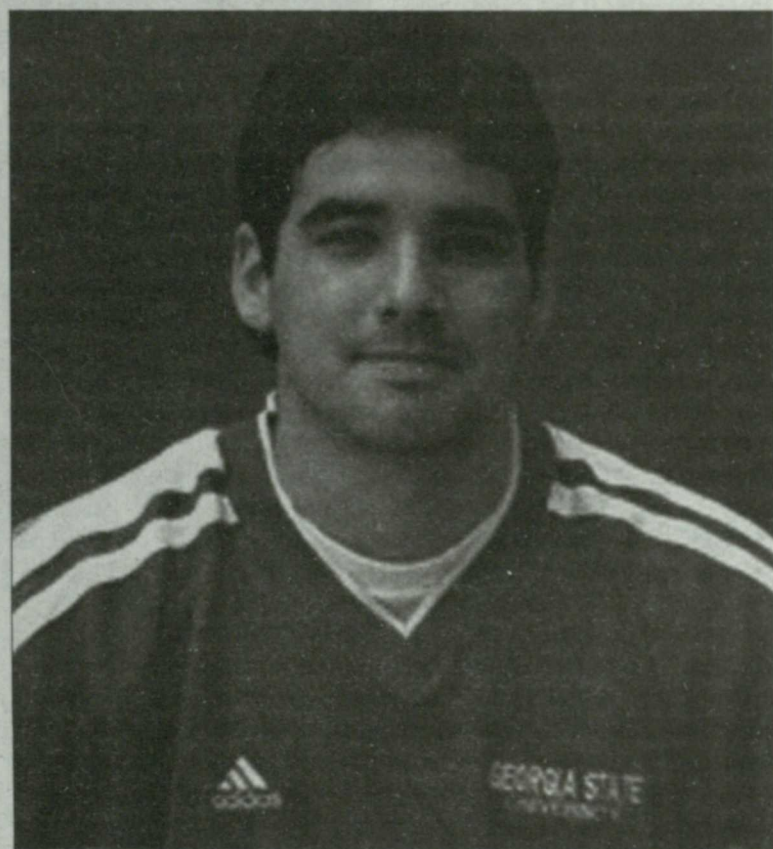
By **NORMAN ROBINSON**  
nrobinson@gsusignal.com

The Georgia State University men's soccer team improved to 2-2 on the season last Friday with a 4-0 win over the Wofford Terriers. Despite being several players short due to injury (Jamie Hargather & Ben Link), the Panthers were still able to put up a win due to dominant efforts on both sides of the ball in the team's first shutout this season.

Even though the onslaught began when senior Hemal Patel scored just seven minutes into the game off of an assist from freshman Jeremy Johnson, the second half was when the Panthers really began to pour it on. Johnson, junior Alvin Gray and senior Jason Rivers each scored goals in the second half. According to head coach Karem Daser, "We had three great goals in the second half."

This dominant offensive performance by the Panthers highlighted a very important facet of the team's style of play: outstanding play by the bench. The bench contributed greatly to the winning effort, posting six shots, a goal and two assists. Speaking of assists, this was an area of Georgia State's game that the team struggled with entering last Friday's game, with just one assist in their first three contests. The team stepped up their ability to share the ball against Wofford, however, as three of Georgia State's four goals came off of assists.

It wasn't just about goals, though. This was a shutout victory so credit must also be given to wonderful defensive play on the part of the Panthers. Goalkeeper Paulo Gutierrez saved the Terriers' only two shots-on-goal in the first shutout of his college career. The Panthers held Wofford to just five



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The rest of the defense helped give GK Gutierrez the first shutout of his career.

shots the entire game, as opposed to the 21 shots registered by the Panthers. This is not rare as the Panthers soccer team has outshot their opponents 64-55 so far this season.

With this victory, Georgia State improves to 2-2 on the season while the Terriers drop to 2-4. The Panthers remain undefeated at home, with the team's only two losses having occurred during Mercer's Wingate Invitational.

Daser on the Panthers' win: "It was a great win...It came down to our seniors, Paul Schwak, Jordan Davis, Jonathan Scraggs, Tyler Hamilton, and Justin Towns, playing big."

The Panthers are averaging 2.25 goals per game with a .141 shot percentage. They have also

managed a shots-on-goal (SOG) percentage of .562 on the season while holding their opposition to an SOG pct. of just .364. Schwak still leads the team in points with six, followed by Johnson with three, and five players tied with two points apiece.

The upcoming week will be a big one for the Panthers as they begin Atlantic Sun Conference play with not one, but two A-Sun opponents. The team hosts Gardner-Webb Thurs., Sept. 23 at 1 p.m. and Campbell just two days later, Sat., Sept. 25 at 7 p.m. After this short, two-game home stand the Panthers will take a five-game road trip that begins with Mercer on Oct. 2, and ends against the Georgia Southern Eagles on Oct. 17.

## U.S. Open - bad for U.S. - better for Federer, Kuznetsova

By **MARK EDELSON**  
medelson@gsusignal.com

On a pleasant Sunday afternoon in Flushing Meadows, New York, Roger Federer showed the world that his Wimbledon victory was no fluke. Fourth seed Lleyton Hewitt put up a valiant effort but in the end Federer was just too powerful. This win makes Federer the only man ever to win his first four major finals; and the first man since 1988 to win three grand Slams in a single year.

Having just come off his sec-

ond straight Wimbledon win, Federer must have been feeling like this was his year, his was not wrong. Hewitt served first only to be run off the court but a far more skillful Federer and soon found himself one break down. This foreshadowed the rest of a very frustrating final for Hewitt. Federer took this momentum and went on to win this first set in a mere 18 minutes with Hewitt not holding serve once. Federer began the sec-



Special | Signal

The rest of the defense helped give GK Gutierrez the first shutout of his career.

See OPEN | Page 11



# Bonds hits 700, Ruth and Aaron next

By DAVID DORSEY  
ddorsey@gsusignal.com

Barry Bonds finally did what everyone had been waiting for him to do for nearly a week. He hit the 700th homerun of his career, the 42nd of the season, and he did it at home off of pitcher Jake Peavy of the San Diego Padres.

It wasn't one of his powerful blasts into McCovey Cove that sent people splashing into the water after it but it did cause quite the scuffle among the fans in left center field that probably never thought they would have a chance at a Bonds homerun.

He has reached a level that only two other men in history have reached. He joined two of the most famous homerun sluggers to ever step foot on the diamond.

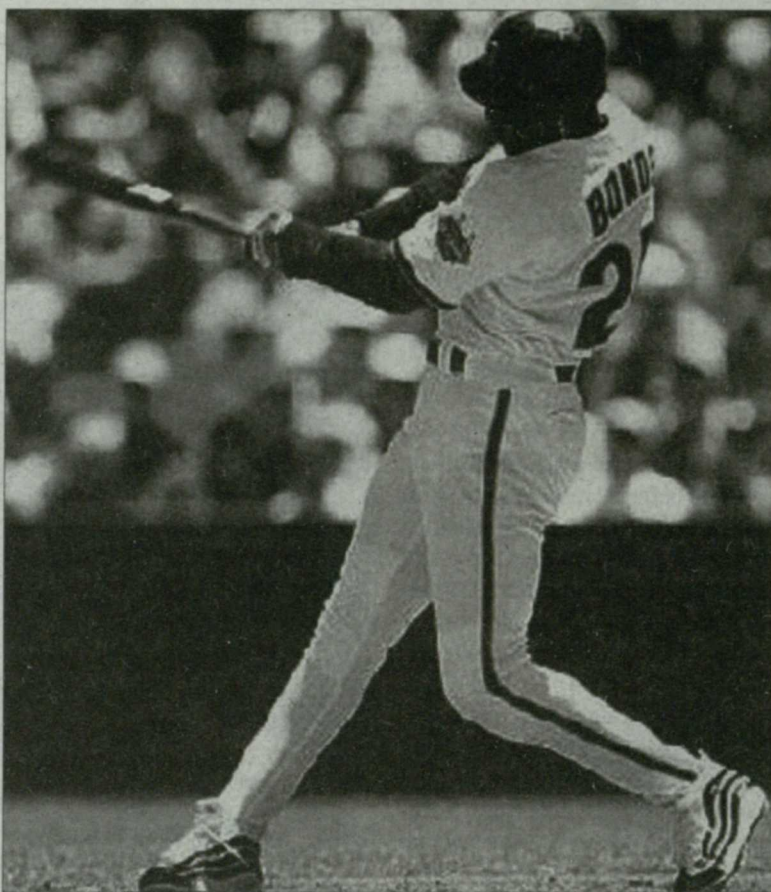
They are of course Babe Ruth, who set the standard for others to follow, and Henry Aaron, the man Bonds hopes to ultimately overtake as the all-time leader with 755 homeruns.

There are many people who do not want to see Barry achieve this milestone. Among them there is a feeling that Barry Bonds has never been very out going towards the public or in giving interviews. He is a man known for shunning reporters,

especially after a bad game and it has led to many stories, be them true or not, about the type of person he is off the field.

Really though, think about

what Bonds has done for baseball over the past few years. He not only is looking at breaking the most well-known record in all of sports but he has already



Special | Signal  
Bonds is now in the elite 700 Club. After next season, he'll likely be in a class by himself.

surpassed his own season walk total and now sits at 207 with about half of those coming intentionally. He has now walked 2277 times in his career. That is an incredible statistic. He also has a career on-base-percentage of .442, which means that he gets on base nearly half the time he comes to the plate. He is an incredible player who is feared by opposing managers because he can single-handedly change the outcome of a game with one swing of the bat. And for that matter without his bat because he can hurt you just by showing up to the ballpark because most of the time he is standing out there on a base somewhere waiting for one of his teammates to drive him in.

The man is a force to be reckoned with. The only problem I can see in Bonds' game is the lack of talent surrounding him. Sure he will eventually make it to Aarons 755 homeruns but he would probably like to have a World Series ring as well, which I'm sure is what all who play the game ultimately play it for. A World Series ring would go fit nicely in with all the other feats he has accomplished.

This year there is an outside

chance that he could get one because the Giants are competing for the wild card but that race is looking to be a battle to the end between them and the Cubs. The Astros have also played some good ball of late and could still make a run at the end. For the Giants to make it deep into the playoffs and to the World Series, Barry would have continue doing what he has done all year; carry the rest of his team on his shoulders and the power of his bat.

Bonds has an outside chance of catching Aaron next year but he will have to put together one of those impressive displays of power and hit around 50 in one season which he has done only once in his career which was when he broke the single season record by hitting 73 homeruns. He more than likely will by get it early in the 2006 season and at that point he will probably feel he has contributed enough to baseball and to the record books and he may just retire at that point, although he has said he would like to extend his contract until 2007. No matter when he retires he will still have had an impressive Twenty-year career and a guaranteed spot in the Hall of Fame.

## NFL off-season acquisitions paying off already

By BRENT WEIRSON  
bwierson@gsusignal.com

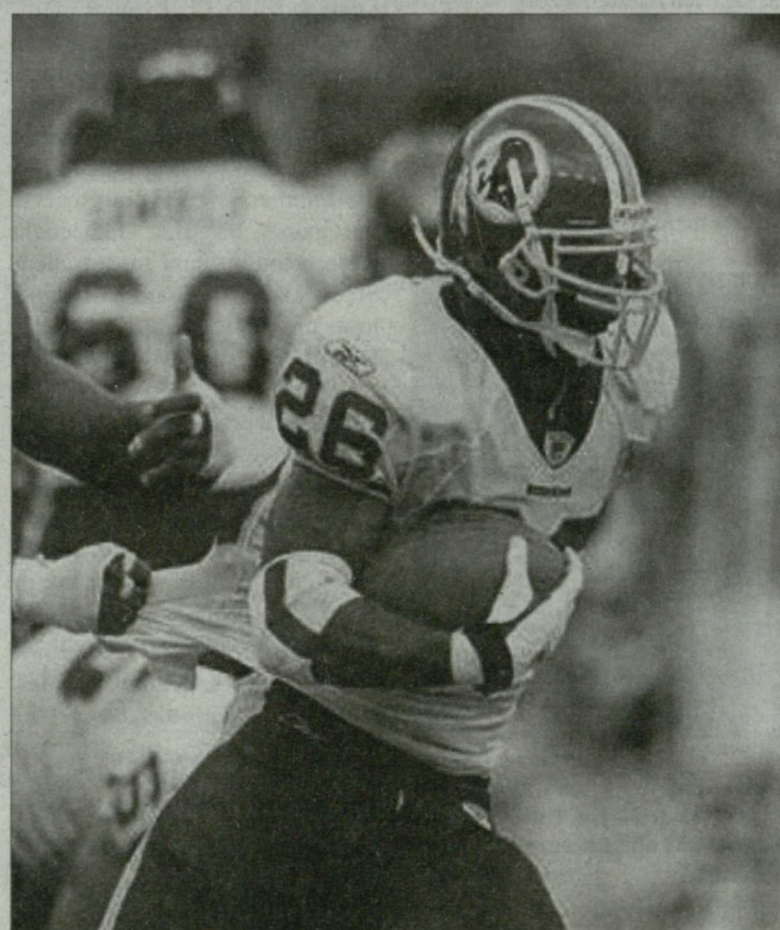
For many teams the off-season had a profound affect on the makeup of their rosters. The Dallas cowboys made a lot of personal changes picking up their starting quarterback and running back through free agency. The Cowboys hope the aging Eddie George will boost

their running game this year; however his last three years he has only averaged 3.3 yards per carry and in week one averaged a meager 3.1 yards. Vinny Testaverde, also a veteran, was acquired with the hope that he would provide consistency in the passing game. In Vinny's first week against the Minnesota Vikings he did just

that, finishing the game with a quarterback rating of 86.7.

One of the biggest stories of the off-season was the trade between the Denver Broncos and the Washington Redskins. The Broncos traded Clinton Portis, a star running back for Champ Bailey who is considered by some as the best shut down corner in the NFL. Champ contributed in week one with two tackles and four assists. Clinton Portis made a huge impact right away in Washington, rushing for 148 yards and a touchdown with a yard per carry average of 5.1. Both teams have benefited by the trade in week one and neither seems to have taken much of a loss. Washington has great depth a cornerback with Fred Smoot and Shaun Springs, while Denver's new starting running back Quentin Griffin had an incredible game in week one with 156 yards and two touchdowns. His run per carry average was an astounding 6.8 yards per carry as well. Neither team seems to have missed a beat in the transition between personal.

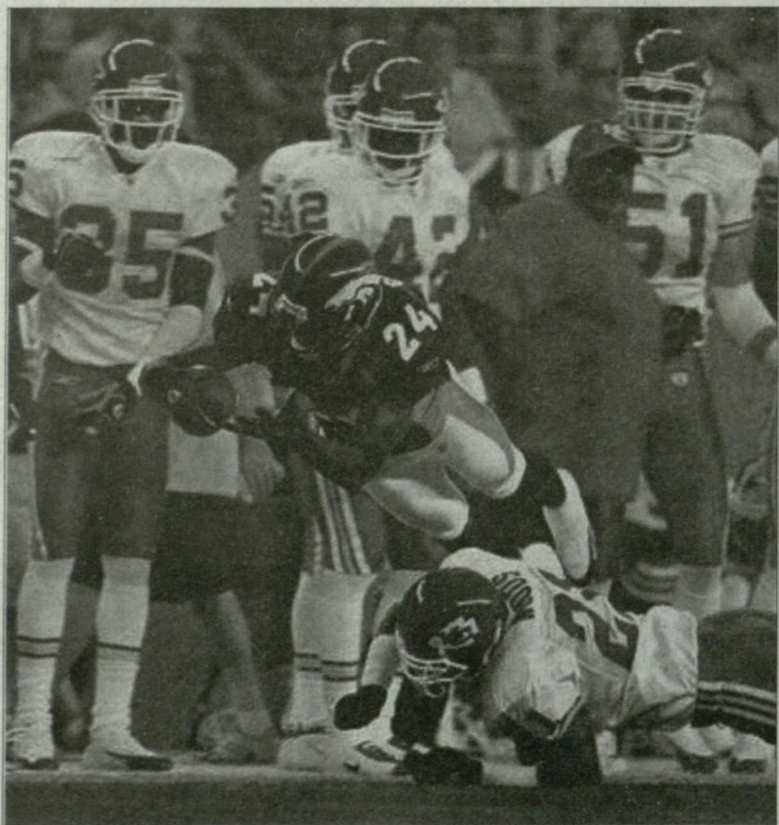
Closer to home, the Falcons acquired Dez White, who has become their second wide out. White did not contribute any receiving yards in week one however the falcons hope he will complement



Special | Signal  
Portis did fairly well in his new colors as well. He thrived in Joe Gibbs' old smash-em-up style of football.

Peerless Price on the other side of the field and give Vick a few better options while running the West Coast offense that the Falcons new Coach Jim Mora brought over from the 49ers (the Falcons beat the 49ers in week one). Mora

hopes to tap deeper into Vicks potential with the new offense and by giving him new weapons to utilize at wide receiver. One example is the first round draft pick Michael Jenkins and as I mentioned earlier, Dez White.



Special | Signal  
Bailey made his prescence appreciated his first week in Denver, and Quentin Griffin made Broncos fans forget about Portis.



# Athletes on lush fields of green

By **BOBBY MCMILLIN**  
bmcmillin@gsusignal.com

Everyone has heard about former Dolphins running back Ricky Williams and his exploits with marijuana cigarettes – that's right reefers. Last week, the lesser-known ex-Colts defensive end, Shawn King made some pretty shocking allegations about the rest of the NFL. Apparently, there are a good number of players eschewing the Hail Mary in favor of the Mary Jane.

King, in an eye-opening interview with ESPN, estimated that approximately a third of the men he played with smoked marijuana. Fifty-three men per team divided by three comes out to about 17 players. Multiply that number by 32 teams and that equals an awful lot of pot.

So why aren't more of these guys getting caught? How do they continuously escape the pee man?

Detoxifying shakes or cleansing agents are available at health stores and smoke shops all over town. Maybe that's how former Cowboys center Mark Stepnoski avoided positive tests throughout his 13-year career. He is now president of the Texas chapter of NORML (National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws).

Drug tests aren't the only way these guys are caught though. In 2000, Ravens cornerback Chris McAlister called the cops after someone broke into his house. Too bad the thief didn't take McAlister's sack o' fun because the police certainly did.

But looking at the world through green-colored glasses is not something exclusive to the NFL. Virginia Tech's Marcus Vick was pulled over for reckless driving, and the police found a

pretty pungent reason explaining his driving habits.

Canadian snowboarder Ross Rebagliati was nearly stripped of a gold medal at the 98 games in Nagano. He claimed it was second-hand smoke and escaped the pee man on a technicality.

Apparently, a fair amount of South African athletes hit the grass off the field as much as on.

"What we have found is that there are a high number of cannabis users among athletes across the board in South Africa," said Daphne Bradbury,

the head of The South African Institute for Drug Free Sport.

She would not reveal specific numbers or names. She just stated "that there are a high number of cannabis users among athletes across the board in South Africa."

"It's not that marijuana is performance-enhancing, but it is considered dangerous to the athlete's health," said a concerned Bradbury.

This reasoning does not sit well with many Americans. Actress/comedienne, Wanda

Sykes, echoed the sentiments of many when asked for her take on the Ricky Williams situation.

"If a brother wants to smoke weed, let him! If he can run 200 yards a game high, c'mon! He's an overachiever," she said. "He's like, Let me smoke some weed. If I play sober, I'm going to hurt somebody! So, just let me just slow it down, smoke some weed and at least give people a chance to tackle me."

Baseball players get a slap on the wrist for steroids, but

Olympians and football players stand to have medals revoked or monies lost for getting a little bit red-eyed. These athletes are expected to do more than play; they are expected to be the moral compasses for society.

It is no secret that a fair amount of athletes smoke the ganja. Some players manage to dance their way around the rules while others get caught and face fines, suspensions or even jail time. Either way, there's going to be a long line at the post-game buffet.



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The retired Williams will be spending less time running on the grass in Miami and more time smoking it.

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## Open Over

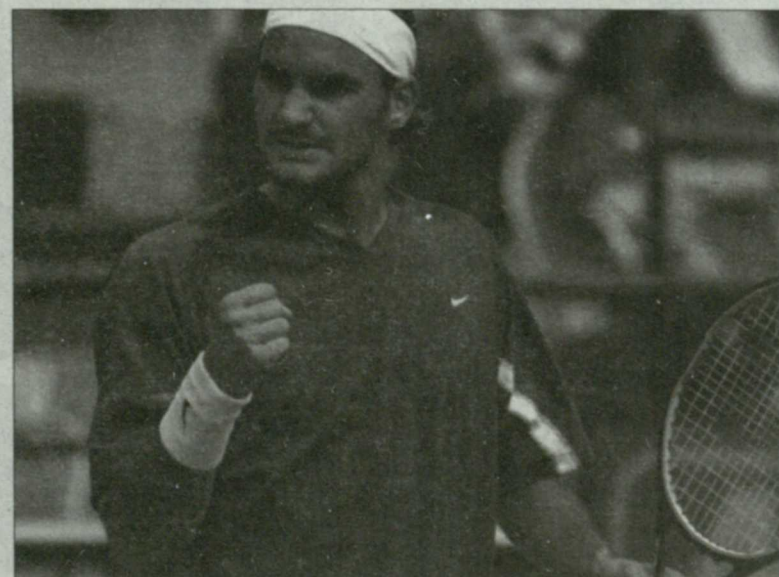
From OPEN | Page 9

ond set in similar fashion to the first and went into a quick lead, but Hewitt played with patience, and this patience paid off. He played with unwavering nerves and against all odds clawed his way back into the match forcing the second set into a tiebreak.

Unfortunately, all of Hewitt's energies had gone into saving the set, he had nothing left for the tiebreak which Federer easily won 7-3. If he was able to pull this game back it would have been Hewitt's second U.S. Open victory, but as night fell on the center court at Flushing Meadows it was obvious that this was not to be. Federer had no problem closing out the match, winning the third set 6-0, over a mentally and physically depleted Hewitt. With a Forehand winner the world number won put his name in the record books and collapsed to the floor in sheer euphor-

ic exhaustion. In Women's news the tournament was won by rank outsider, Russian Svetlana Kuznetsova. After losing the first game of the match she turned it around and never looked back, dominating Elena Dementieva, 6-3, 7-5. The deciding factor in this

match was Kuznetsova's ferocious forehand that proved too much for her opponent. This is the first Grand Slam win for the now top ten ranked Kuznetsova. When asked how she felt about the tournament, she summed it up with one simple thought "a miracle."



Special | Signal

After Roddick was eliminated, Federer was considered the favorite by the majority of sports enthusiasts.



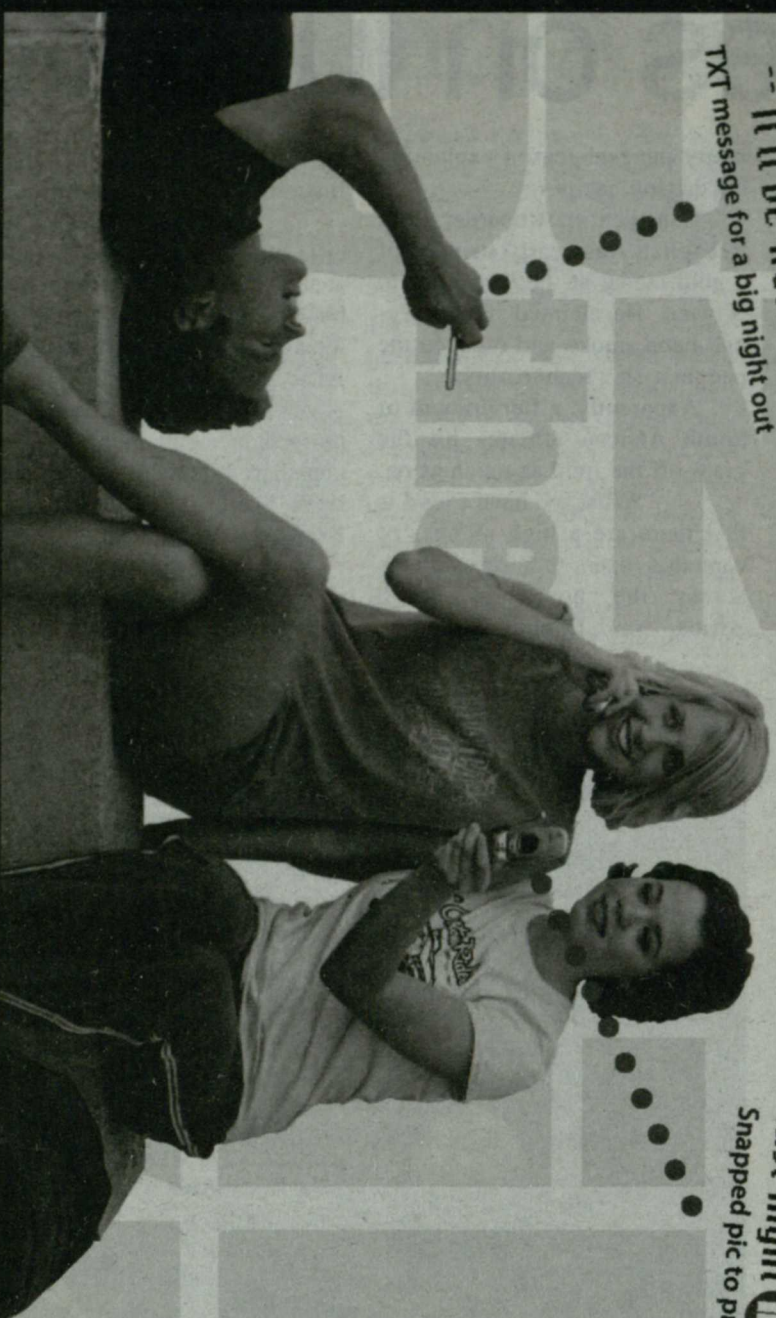
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# NHL lockout will kill American hockey

By MATT SIMMONS

msimmons@gsusignal.com

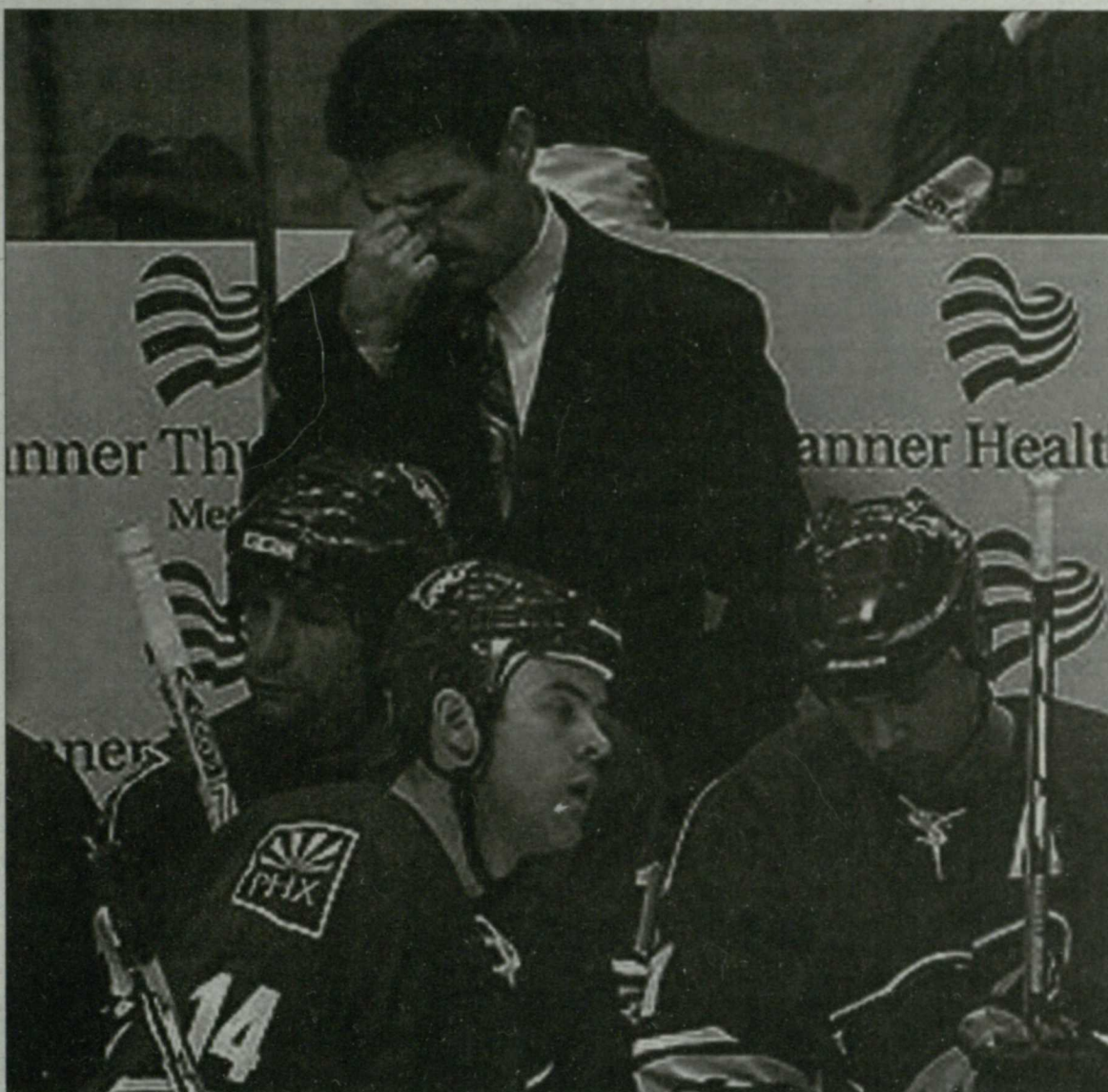
I genuinely hope everyone enjoyed Canada's 3-2 victory over Finland in Tuesday night's World Cup of Hockey Championship, since it's the last dose of hockey we'll take in for quite some time. The championship was a remarkably gripping game, Joe Sakic scored Canada's first goal only 54 seconds into the gala and Team Canada scored all three of their goals on the first shot of each period. Finland became the closing victim in a six-game shellacking Canada laid upon world opposition, thwarting massive competition including Russia, the Czech Republic and the United States.

Yet following the remarkable game, the state of hockey is nowhere near merry and gleeful, quite the opposite indeed.

When the clock rolls around to 12:01 am Thursday, the National Hockey League will lock out its players as the current collective bargaining agreement ends, threatening to end the 2004-2005 NHL season. This inevitable work stoppage will be the third in the history of the league, the last occurred in 1994. The player's association and the owners have been attempting to work out an agreement for months, but have had negligible cooperation and success.

The main point of contention is a salary cap. The NHL Player's association has identified that they will in no way accept any proposal that places a cap on player or team salaries, stating teams with lower salaries such as the Wild and Lightning have remained competitive with free spending teams like the Maple Leafs and Avalanche.

The owners are desperate to



A holdout will be rough on the players, coaches, and an already dwindling fan base.

Special | Signal

limit and control the increasing NHL player's salary, which has more than tripled in 10 years while television ratings have plummeted to almost half of what they were eight years ago (the newest fad sport of poker has higher ratings than hockey currently). NHL owners cite net losses of over \$224 million from last season and Forbes Magazine reported that during the 2002-2003 season only 10 teams made

a profit. According to owner's, 76 percent of all revenue goes to NHL player's salaries, where as most major sports hover around 55 to 60 percent.

Both sides seem unwilling to compromise as multiple proposals have been presented, yet no feasible option has become available. Bob Goodenow, NHLPA Executive Director, claims the owners are at fault, presenting only "six concepts",

not proposals, each including some form of salary cap, which the players oppose, and "some as short as a quarter page in length". Last October the NHLPA presented a proposal including a five percent pay cut for players, a revenue-sharing plan, and a luxury tax for teams with high salaries; the owners rejected the offer.

Which brings us home to Atlanta, with no end in sight, the

2004-2005 NHL season has ended before it started, ensuring our young, talented Thrashers have no chance at all of winning Lord Stanley's Cup, or even making the playoffs. On Feb. 13, 2005 Atlanta was set to host the 55th NHL all star game, don't think that's going to happen now. I was personally hoping rising Thrasher's star Ilya Kovalchuk would have another shinning performance at this year's all star game, maybe even a game winning goal, possibly MVP of the game ... or season! Guess I'll be missing those as well this year. Too bad, maybe Ilya Kovalchuk will go home to Russia and play some hockey there, we can even follow him, watch a little hockey in Russia and Europe, because there won't be any in North America this season.

Following the 1994-1995 baseball strike it took years for MLB to recover, and baseball is America's pastime. How will hockey recover from a momentous work stoppage? We can only speculate, but it doesn't look pleasant.

The NHL is ensnared in a dizzying economic catastrophe, the definitive reason for this old-west shootout. The NHL Player's Association and league owners are standing anxious and tense, ten paces apart and ready to shoot down any proposal that doesn't meet either side's specific list of desires. Team's owners insist something must be done now, the players agree, and so do I ... learn to compromise and end this tomfoolery, ensure that we have hockey this season and that yours and my Stanley Cup Finals will not be in jeopardy, but oh, that's far to simple, how long will we wait for a conclusion to this face-off?

# Women's soccer settles for tie with Morehead

By MATT SIMMONS

msimmons@gsusignal.com

The game dragged on in a merciless gut-wrenching fashion, even with a 21-9 shot advantage the Georgia State Women's Soccer team couldn't secure a victory in Friday's double overtime scoreless tie against Morehead State.

Following a momentous win in the Georgia State University Marriot Invitational last week, in which the team scored seven goals in two games, the Lady Panther's offense often looked deplorable and sputtered in the clutch. With less than three minutes remaining in regulation, in what appeared to be a glorious ray of hope - a last chance for Georgia State to end the game,



Collins-Cepher took six shots, but neither her or any of the other Panthers could score against Morehead State.

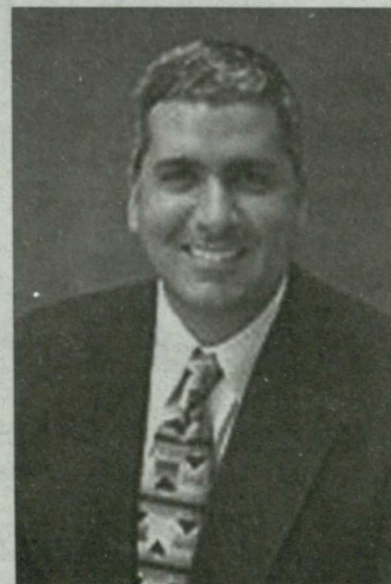
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sophomore midfielder Amber Collins-Cepher fired on goal, only to have her shot bounce helplessly off the post. Collins-Cepher, MVP of the Marriot Invitational, led the team with six shots.

"It was one of those games where we didn't click as a team and make things happen for us," remarked head coach Domenic Martelli. "It was a frustrating day for us on offense, we just couldn't score a goal."

Junior goalkeeper Alexa Pasquarelli prevented the loss, posting eight saves the Lady Panthers.

Georgia State, now 3-1-2, travels next to Statesboro to battle it out with cross-state rival Georgia Southern. The game will be played at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Sept 19.



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Martelli wasn't very happy with the tie, but he hopes the team learned enough from their mistakes for the future.



# Raymer devours World Series of Poker

By TYLER JONES  
tjones@gsusignal.com

Michael Jordan? Tiger Woods? Ray Lewis? Wimps. There's a new brand of athlete taking the ESPN-driven sports world by storm. The World Series of Poker champion. These stone-faced monsters of the buffet may eerily resemble your favorite plumber, but underneath their beer and chips encrusted bellies, beats the heart of a warrior. Barry Bonds may be able to drive a baseball 550 feet into centerfield, but can he bluff his way to over a half-million chips armed with only a high card of 8 and a set of steel-plated cajones? Or, would he buckle under the pressure of betting with only the river card remaining? Somewhere 2004 WSP champion Greg Raymer's head bobbles in agreement behind the yellow-tinted bug's eye sunglasses that became his trademark at this year's tournament.

But what exactly is this mistress I refer to as "Poker" you may ask. Well she takes on many faces

Hand	Definition	Example
<b>Royal Flush</b>	The highest hand in poker. Consists of the following cards: ten, jack, queen, king, and an ace all of the same suit.	10♥ J♥ Q♥ K♥ A♥
<b>Straight Flush</b>	Five cards in sequence, all of the same suit.	3♠ 4♠ 5♠ 6♠ 7♠
<b>Four of a Kind</b>	Four cards of the same denomination, one in each suit.	10♦ 10♠ 10♥ 10♣ 4♦
<b>Full House</b>	Three cards of one denomination and two cards of another denomination.	J♥ J♣ 7♥ 7♦ 7♣
<b>Flush</b>	Five cards all of the same suit.	2♥ 6♥ 9♥ Q♥ K♥
<b>Straight</b>	Five cards in sequence of any suit.	3♥ 4♣ 5♦ 6♣ 7♠
<b>Three of a Kind</b>	Three cards of the same denomination and two unmatched cards.	9♣ 9♦ 9♥ 6♣ 2♥
<b>Two Pairs</b>	Two sets of two cards of the same denomination and any fifth card.	4♦ 4♠ J♣ J♥ 9♥
<b>Pair of 10s or Better</b>	Two cards of the same denomination and three unmatched cards.	6♣ 10♦ 3♣ Q♦ 10♣

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is at this moment that everyone left in the game reveals their hand and the best five card combination wins the pot. It is this sequence of events that has captivated 1.2 million viewers who tune in to the series to cheer for fan favorites such as Southern Methodist University (SMU) student and online poker junkie David Williams (this year's runner-up) and his terminator-esque dark sunglasses.

At the same time jeering the likes of Atlanta's own Josh Arieh (he's just so SMUG (italics)) The 34 year old tournament's popularity was in full view at Tuesday night's championship round of nine. The entire casino was filled to the brim with friends, family, poker champion-wannabes, and poker-champion groupies (before you get too excited about the poker-champion groupies remember, these are POKER-CHAMPION groupies).

I personally entered the poker viewing experience a mere virgin (I still thought of "Omaha" as the city sixty miles northeast of where the Cornhuskers play). And I was not just any "newbie", but a skeptical "newbie". I consider myself a serious sports fan (3-time fantasy football league Western Division Champion) and scoffed at the notion that this petty card game was actually a sport. Let alone a sport worthy of ESPN coverage. But somewhere in between David Williams' 500th miraculous escape from elimination, and Mike Ditka's 5,000th commercial pimping of "Levitra" (what's UP with that?) I began to find myself becoming a member of the converted. I lived and died with every hand. Cursed every sarcastic remark that punk Arieh spouted out and became oddly amused at the strikingly symbolic way in which 400pound Greg "Fossilman" Raymer hungrily devoured (eliminated) three consecutive opponents one after another in the final round. It was like watching a killer whale at supertime gulping fish after miserable fish. In the end the "Fossilman" prevailed and received five million dollars in prize money.

and identities actually. There's "Omaha" poker, "Seven Card Stud", "Razz", and "Lowball" to name a few. But the ultimate test of poker prowess for the list of challengers in this year's event is "Texas Hold 'Em." The game begins with each player being dealt two cards faced down. A round of betting ensues as players decide for the first time if they are in or out. Next, the five community cards follow. These all count as part of the hand of every player at the table. However only the first three ("the flop") are initially facing up. It is up to each competitor to decide whether to stay in the game and place a bet or pull out fold and live to fight another hand. Those who play on are then allowed to see the fourth card ("the turn"). It is at this point that the game begins to heat up as those with a strong hand (the best possible five card combination, see chart below) often look to raise the ante of the pot. Those who move on have the fifth and final card ("the River") revealed to them. It

## "THE SEMINAL FILM FOR THIS GENERATION."

Claudia Puig, USA TODAY



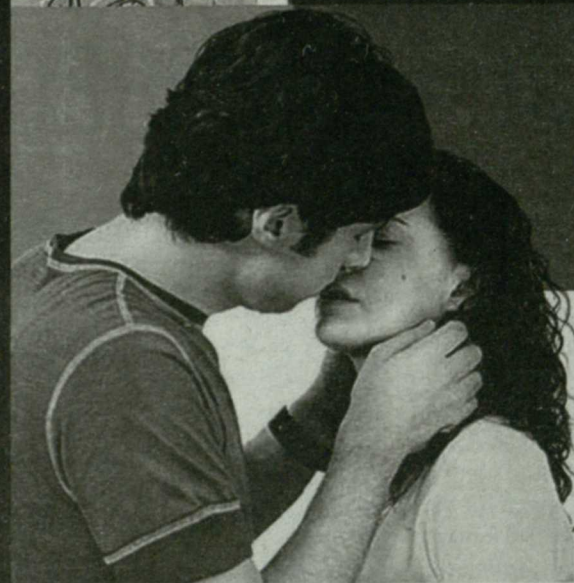
"Natalie Portman is a FRESH, FUNNY heroine with an emotional range... beauty at the surface, but a real glow from deep within."  
Thelma Adams, US WEEKLY



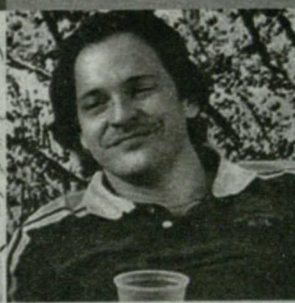
★★★★★  
Peter Debruge, PREMIERE  
"HILARIOUS AND HEARTFELT... a winner."  
Peter Travers, ROLLING STONE



"Writer-Director Zach Braff has a genuine filmmaker's eye and is loaded with talent."  
David Ansen, NEWSWEEK



"Peter Sarsgaard is CONSISTENTLY EXCELLENT."  
Jami Bernard, NEW YORK DAILY NEWS



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The larger-than-life Raymer, and his reptilian sunglasses, dominated the World Series of Poker.



Consumer Editor:  
**Erica Meyers**

A Monthly Look  
at Consumer Issues

# College Consumer

## Interesting Interest

Saving now may mean high returns in future

By KOYA BROWN  
kbrown@gsusignal.com

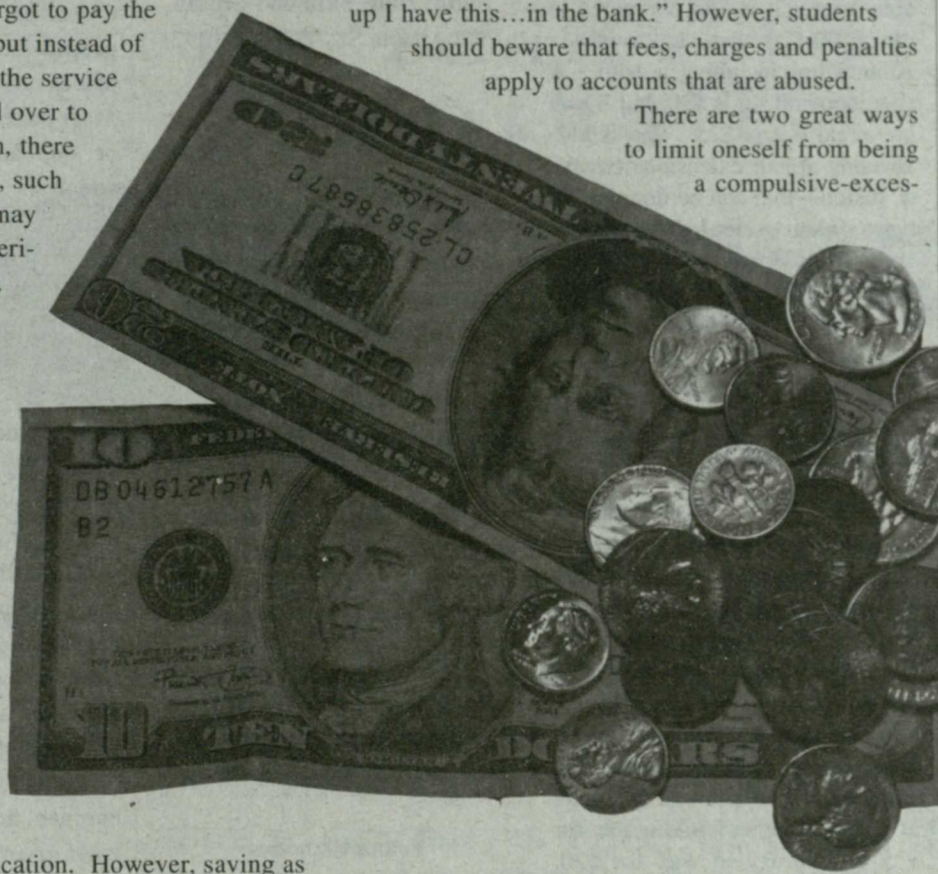
Many college students are afraid to open their bills because they talked way over their cell phone minutes and sort of forgot to pay the cable bill last month, but instead of "interrupting service" the service provider rolled the bill over to this month. In addition, there are other expenditures, such as new clothing, that may cause a student to experience a financial strain. This is a classic DR case, Deprivation of Resources, which should signal time for SI, Saving and Investing.

Being a student is hard, though being a student without money is harder. Students' budgets are tight, especially after tuition, fees, books, printing, food, entertainment, transportation, and beautification. However, saving as little as \$5.00 a week can yield \$260.00 per year; that is less than a dollar a day. Saving does not

have to be this huge amount of money or make pockets turn into rabbit ears. The same goes for investing allocating a house, stock, and mutual funds are not the only forms of investing. These are not the best for students because their budget needs something secure, moderate, and easy.

One of the quickest ways of investing is a savings account because it "matures" immediately and has no risks if insured. Minimum balances are affordable but taxable. Even though interest rates are higher at credit unions than banks, having a savings account allows students to keep their spending money separate from their investing money. The idea of saving is "If something comes up I have this...in the bank." However, students should beware that fees, charges and penalties apply to accounts that are abused.

There are two great ways to limit oneself from being a compulsive-exces-



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## The look for less

Looking "So fresh and so clean" without breaking the bank

By NATAYLE HENRY  
nhenry@gsusignal.com

For most, it is hard to go to school and work while keeping appearances up. Students want the look of a celebrity, but keep telling themselves, "one day it will hap-

pen." Most places in Atlanta offer great services for hair color, cut, facials, manicures and pedicures, but they come with a rather pricey bill. When it comes down to it, students can't afford to pay \$300 or more for a day of pampering.

However, there are several options for college students to look like a million bucks, but spend close to nothing.

At Eclipse Hair Studio, they look for nonprofessional models who would like to volunteer for their quarterly fundraisers and fashion events. If chosen, models get a free haircut, color and a headshot for volunteering. In order to be considered, students must fill out the profile card at the recep-

tionist desk. Contact information is listed at the bottom.

Cortex is similar to Eclipse, in regards to how they offer free services. With their apprentice program, they offer a free cut by booking volunteers on a day when they are possibly offering a style that you would like. If there is a color that you would like, then there will be a charge of \$10. Call the salon ahead of time and describe what your hair is like now and what type of style you hope to receive. The coordinators will handle everything else. Being that they are apprentices, it tends to take twice as long as normal serv-

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## Atlanta Apartments

The art of finding local apartments at student fares

By JENNIFER KIMMITT  
jkimmitt@gsusignal.com

Finding an apartment in Atlanta is not easy, especially for college students trying to balance school, work and something of a social life.

"The big problem is trying to find an apartment in an area where you want to live at a price you can afford," said senior Marnie Petit. "My roommate works full-time, so she can afford to pay more for rent, but I am in school full-time and that takes away from the hours I can work."

She is not alone. In fact, many students at Georgia State face similar problems. Students want to live close to campus, but the affordable apartments are either taken, or not very desirable, and the ones that seem perfect, rent for astronomical prices.

The average cost for a one-bedroom apartment in Atlanta is \$819. For a two-bedroom it is \$1059, and for a three-bedroom apartment the cost goes up to \$1342.

Many Georgia State students want to live in areas like

Buckhead, Midtown, Virginia Highlands or Decatur, and finding a place there is not an easy task. However, there is help for apartment seekers now more so than ever.

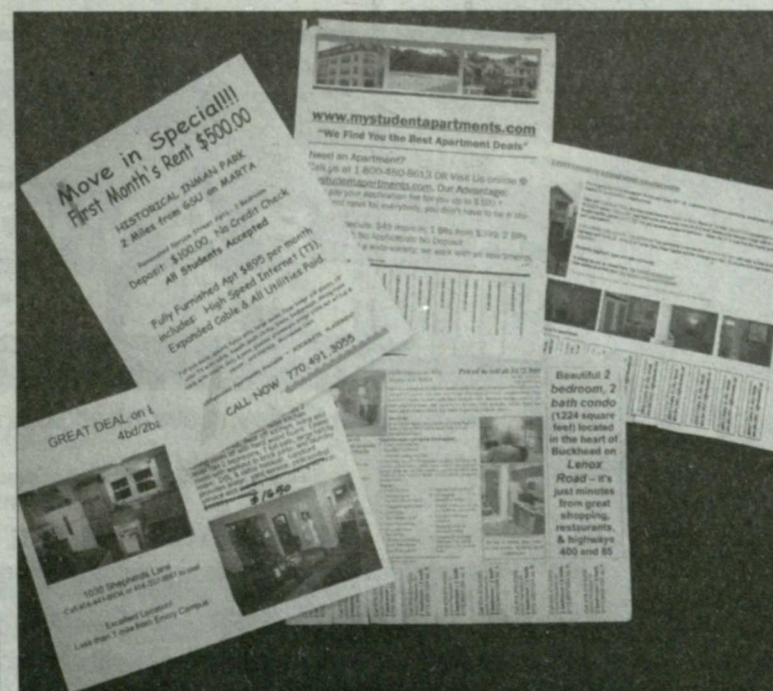
The fact is, there are affordable, livable and nice places in the metro area, they just take a little more time and effort to find.

For students, time is of the essence, so being able to go out, get in their cars and drive up and down each street looking for "For Rent" signs is not usually feasible although in most cases that is the best way to find those great places that may not be advertised anywhere else.

However, for students who do not have that kind of time, the Internet has proven to be invaluable for apartment searches. Web sites that host search engines that will match searching criteria are normally free of charge, and are extremely easy to use.

By simply entering a few key points, such as location, price range, number of rooms, etc., users get back a list of available places. This saves time, and does

See APARTMENTS | Page 16



Erica Meyers | Signal  
Apartment hunting doesn't have to be difficult. Advertisements like these are posted all over Georgia State's campus.



# Hair, nail students offer discounted services

From BEAUTY | Page 15

ices. And there is nothing to worry about because they are supervised.

For those of who are more daring, Soda: Hair, Skin and Studio offers funky cutting edge styles. Call and book a 15-minute evaluation. They will contact those who are selected and inform them of the particulars.

Van Michael Salon offers a few types of different services. Occasionally, they look for volunteers for their hair/fashion shows. They normally put ads out, but it might be better to call periodically to find out when they will be doing something like that.

Like with a few others, they have an apprenticeship program. They pick volunteers to get their hair cut at no charge. Volunteers have to call early because it books up fast. They will let it be known what cut they will be working on for that week. One cannot go in and ask for a trim, it has to be the cut that they are working on at that time.

Another service offered by

Van Michael Salon is their New Talents division (only at the Buckhead and Sandy Springs locations). There anyone can get a cut starting at \$19 and up. The people in the New Talents division are those who have recently completed the apprenticeship program. You get the same Van Michael quality hair cut and color, but at a fraction of the cost.

The Aveda Institute offers services like body wraps, facials, haircuts, color, manicures and pedicures at a fraction of the cost. Students perform all services but instructors supervise them. Cuts are \$12; color and highlights range from \$17- \$43. The Essential facial, which includes an hour-long facial, plus a head, shoulder and neck massage for \$32. Manicures start at \$11. Anyone who is familiar with Aveda products know that they are getting an awesome deal and being treated with amazing (and expensive) products. Call for more pricing and services.

At the International School of Skin and Nail Care, they offer some great deals. Supervised sen-

ior students perform the services. Package deals are offered at this school, which packs great services for an even better price. For example, they offer a facial, manicure, pedicure and ten minute makeup session for \$30; a body wrap is \$25; a spa manicure (which includes exfoliation and paraffin) is \$8.50; the classic one-hour facial is \$15; and an eyebrow wax is only \$4.

For those who have relaxed hair or are interested in great extensions (weave or fusion), the person to see is Stephanie Bates at Salon 20. She is located in Lawrenceville (I know it sounds far, but it takes me 30-35 minutes from school and 20-25 minutes from Buckhead. Either way it is well worth it). She does some of the best relaxers at a very reasonable price. It is \$55 compared to the \$100-120 that can found in Atlanta not including a trim. A shampoo and set is \$30, but if you go weekly, it is \$25. She is also amazing at hair extensions (weave or fusion—that can be done on all types of hair). Her hair extensions are half the price (or less) of those within the perimeter. Call to set up an appointment or to receive more information.

One frequently favored place is Prana Esthetics. Located in Sandy Springs (in the Spezier Chiropractic Office), Alicia Cheung offers a great array of relaxing services. She sets a very relaxing ambiance that immediately calms your senses. Former Van Michael esthetician, she has worked on some of the most prestigious clients. She does everything from microdermabrasion to massages. For those ladies who hate shaving, Alicia can take care of that with either a bikini wax for \$25 or a Brazilian wax for \$30. The Brazilian wax is quick, easy and virtuously painless at a fraction of the cost of many spas and

salons. Her massages are \$40 for half an hour, \$70 for an hour, and \$100 for an hour and a half. Call for more information.

Well, there it is. Great services at a fraction of the cost. Remember for most of these establishments volunteers have to call early to get the appointment they want.

## Eclipse Hair Studio

1 Puritan Mill  
404-815-7878

## Cortex

1177 Virginia Ave. NE, 404-874-6913  
1121 Peachtree Walk, 404-607-0700

## Soda: Hair, Skin and Studio

597 Atlanta St., 770-642-1392

## Van Michael Salon

Buckhead: 39 West Paces Ferry Rd., 404-237-4664  
New Talents 404-261-3965  
Sandy Springs: 220 Sandy Springs Circle, 404-255-0026  
New Talents: 404-266-0203

## The Aveda Institute

3402 Piedmont Rd., 404-649-7119

## International School of Skin and Nail Care

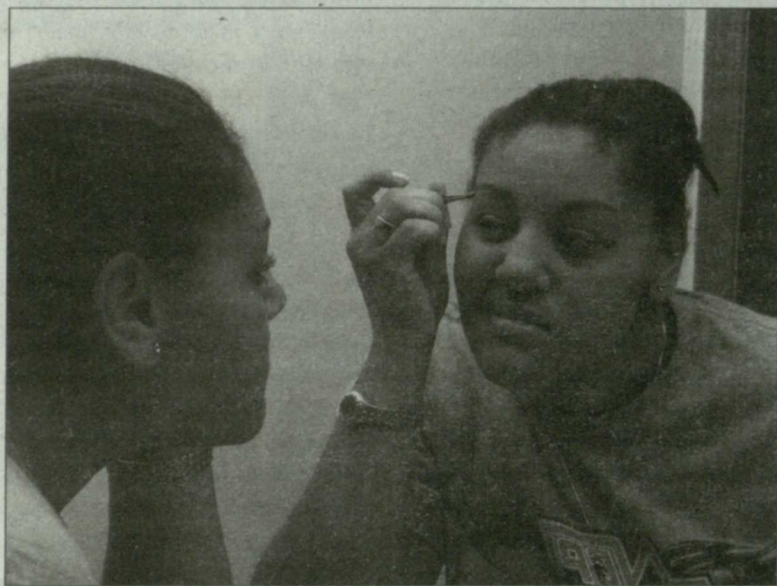
5600 Roswell Rd. NE, 404-843-1005

## Stephanie Bates (Salon 20)

884 Buford Drive, 770-309-2917  
Cell or 770-277-8388, Salon

## Prana Esthetics

220 Sandy Springs Circle, Suite 157A, 404-845-0068 Office or Cell 404-667-8455



Erica Meyers | Signal

Don't risk do-it-yourself brow jobs because going to a top salon is expensive. There are plenty of cheap salons right in town.

# Post aids apartment hunters

From APARTMENTS | Page 15

not cost anything, which is nice considering the monthly costs that will come along if the search is successful.

Even Post Properties, the biggest apartment renter in Atlanta, has a Web site listing of their available places. According to Post, a two-bedroom apartment in Buckhead or Decatur costs each roommate about \$500 per month. To live in Midtown or the Highlands the cost goes up to around \$600 per person per month.

Even students who cannot get online easily can get help. Newspapers are a great resource. Classified sections are full of people looking to rent out their places or looking for a roommate. Most papers only cost about \$.50 or so, and Creative Loafing, which is great for college students, is absolutely free.

Another free and helpful way to find an apartment is usually hanging on the wall right in front of most college students' faces. There are always postings up on bulletin boards around campus. There are also normally a few listings posted at coffee shops located around campus.

In other words there are many outlets to find just the right apartment for just the right price, well, at least an affordable one. Students just have to put in the time and effort to look into it.

Some great Web site search engines are [www.craigslist.org](http://www.craigslist.org), [www.apartments.com](http://www.apartments.com) and [www.ForRent.com](http://www.ForRent.com). Those looking to find a roommate should also try [www.roommates.com](http://www.roommates.com).

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A Special Information Session for all interested students will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 21, 2004 @ 7pm in the CAU Student Center.

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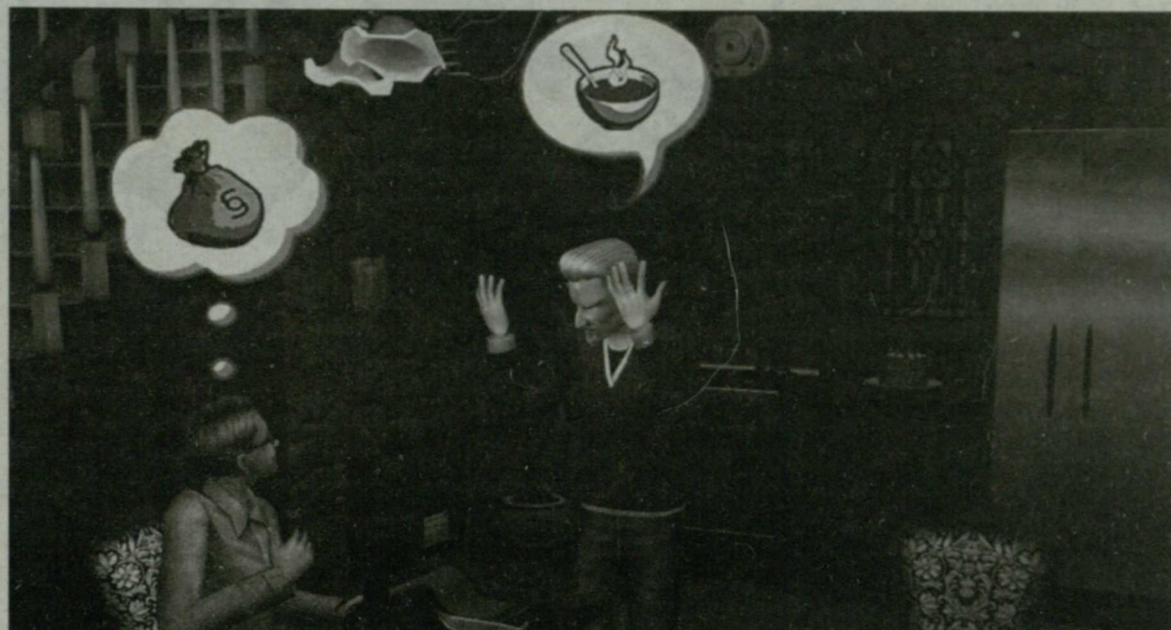
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[www.collegiatetours.com](http://www.collegiatetours.com)





# Sims back for more fun



Sims 2 promises to be even more entertaining and addictive than its predecessors. Not only does a player need to maintain a Sim's necessities, but the new Sims require knowledge of psychological processes.

Special | Signal

By LISA MITCHELL  
lmitchell@gsusignal.com

The Sims are back for more drama, more love, more laughs or anything else one may have in mind, in The Sims 2, EA games latest edition of the best selling pc game of all time. The Sims 2 is better than ever with 3-D views, clearer graphics and more living options to choose from.

For those who are unfamiliar with living a Sims lifestyle, the pc game is a simulation of daily life. First, players are allotted an initial \$20,000 to furnish and decorate a house for their Sims to live. Players have full control of almost everything from how much money a Sim makes down

to facial features.

The players main objective in the previous edition was to make sure their Sims are as comfortable as possible by making sure they eat, sleep, bathe, socialize and perform bodily functions on a consistent basis. Now, it goes way beyond maintaining the bare necessities of life. One new feature in The Sims 2 is being able to know what really makes a Sim tick through learning their wants and fears.

Players cannot win or lose but how well players look after their Sims determines how their lives play out. It is up to the player whether their Sim will fulfill their dreams of becoming a wealthy celebrity who can hail a helicopter for daily transportation. Or a Sim can end up with no job, money or social life ultimately leading to a nervous breakdown because of his or her inability to overcome difficulties in their childhood.

The new edition is all about getting closer to reality. For instance, romance goes a little further than a hug and a kiss. The bed is used for more than just a good night's sleep in this version. Players may find Sim lovebirds disappearing under the covers for a little "woohoo."

Now, as the result of "woohoo," Sims may actually become pregnant, unlike the old edition where the babies' crib mystically appears in the middle of the any room. Also, generations of Sims can be created with kids even inheriting the physical and psychological traits of their parents.

Another step Sims 2 tries to make toward reality is by letting the characters age. In the previous edition, Sims stayed one age their entire lives but now Sims can sprout into a toddler, struggle through teen angst, enter the work force as an adult and even die from natural causes as an elder.

Even though The Sims 2 is closer to real-life than ever, it still keeps things a little peculiar by throwing some extraterrestrial life and hair-raising ghost encounters into the mix.

Sims 2 will set buyers back about \$50 but true Sims fans will not think twice about the price. All the new features in Sims 2 are sure to delight old fans and even gain some new ones this time around.

## Are you ready for some football?



**GEORGIA STATE  
INTRAMURALS**



7 on 7 Flag Football returns to Georgia State Intramurals.

**WHEN:** Thursdays and Sundays starting Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**HOW:** A team representative **MUST** attend the Captain's Meeting on Tuesday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 12:25pm in SRC 215.  
\*Single players Free Agent list available at the SRC Service Counter or online at [www.gsu.edu/recreation/intramurals](http://www.gsu.edu/recreation/intramurals)

**DIVISIONS:** Men's, Women's, and Co-Rec

**SIGN-UP DEADLINE:** Monday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon

**MORE INFO:** Email: [intramurals@gsu.edu](mailto:intramurals@gsu.edu)  
Phone: 404/463-1515



# CDs, bonds good for young investors

From INVESTMENT | Page 15

sive spender—CDs and bonds. Certificates of deposit or CDs offer no risk if insured, contain no fees, and have higher interest rates than savings accounts. This means the bank pays a fixed amount of money, on a fixed interest rate, for a fixed amount of time. In 90 days or more, someone's CD will have matured and his or her SI is complete.

The same goes for bonds except they're "IOUs," in essence someone gives the government money because they're the safest, and on set terms they pay face value for the bond. However, bonds usually mature in 10 – 30 years, but even if the Federal Government goes bankrupt, they still have to pay. Ten to thirty

years may seem like a long time, so think about it this way. By the time a young college student reaches their thirties, they could have a paying investment.

On a "get started while you can" note, retirement investments will be one of the greatest contributions to oneself, besides college and a cell phone. A 401k is a good method of saving for your later years because employers will contribute, but there are other steps one can take in securing their future, for instance, IRAs and Roth IRAs. These are individual retirement accounts that are free from federal income tax until the IRA is withdrawn. However, there is a penalty charge if you withdraw money before retirement age.

These accounts are keepers

because if a student invests from ages 22-30 that's nine years at \$2,000 per year for a total investment of \$18,000. By age 65, one would have \$579,471 waiting for them. With the Roth IRA, at age 59 one can withdraw money if disabled, need more education or buying a first home. Another option for a retirement plan is for students to cut their cell phone off and save the money they would spend each month, which would probably be around \$2,000 per year.

Being in college will not exactly secure future financial goals. However, taking necessary steps now will aid in those first six months after graduation, when students are looking for a job and nothing is really popping out at them.

## The textbook travesty

By ERICA MEYERS  
emeyers@gsusignal.com

Textbooks. The word has great and painful meaning to college students. TEXTBOOKS. Those pesky things teachers require students to buy at the beginning of the semester for outrageous prices. The prices, even for used books, make them seem as precious as Faberge Eggs, when in reality they are cardboard and paper bound together with glue and string, not very exquisite at all.

Many students learn quickly that the convenience of shopping in the store is costly. As a result, online shopping has transitioned from a thing of the past to a thing of the now.

Popular websites, such as *barnesandnoble.com* and *Ebay.com* offer new and used textbooks at a fraction of the marked-up price students pay in bookstores. And forget trading books at the store for petty cash, many websites allow students to sell their used books online for competitive prices.

A recent survey done by *survey.com* reveals that among college students age 19-25, 64 percent spend between \$300 and \$600 on textbooks per semester. That is double to quadruple the amount allotted by the HOPE scholarship for books. And many Georgia State students do not have HOPE; they have jobs.

Online shopping offers an alternative to devoting an entire paycheck (or two), and often an entire day in line, each semester to books.

*Ebay.com* and its partner, *half.com*, offer students books as cheap as a penny, and *survey.com* reported that more

students have shopped on these sites. However, since these sites offer private buying and selling, there are no returns if the book is not exactly what the student wanted.

Two other alternatives include *barnesandnoble.com* and *borders.com* partnered with *amazon.com*. These sites also offer very cheap books, however, they often cost more than *Ebay.com* or *half.com*. However, buyers can return books that are not right to both of these sites.

One book was priced on all four sites. This time, *borders.com* advertised the lowest price at \$34.30, *half.com* advertised the same book for \$37.45, *Ebay.com* posted it for \$41.20 and *barnesandnoble.com* had the highest advertised price at \$49.95. The Georgia State Bookstore sold it for the same price as *barnesandnoble.com* minus shipping and handling.

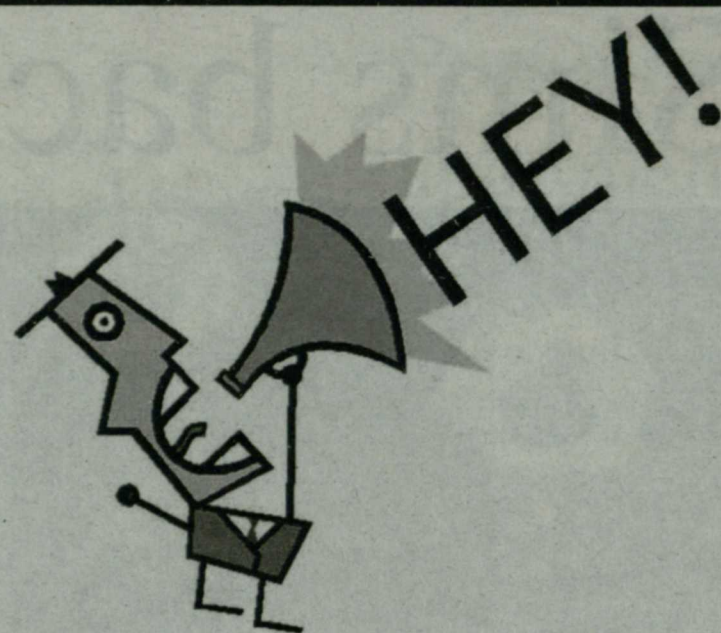
Another alternative is to buy direct from the publisher. Shipping

and handling must still be paid, but often the publisher does not have much markup, if any.

On the flip side of shopping for textbooks is selling textbooks. Many students go to the bookstore's cash-back window at the end of the semester to receive petty cash for their used books. All of the websites mentioned above offer sell back options, where students can sell their books for competitive prices.

The downside of selling online is that sometimes the book does not sell very quickly or at all, but often those are the same books for which the bookstore offers no cash back.

Shopping for textbooks is necessary, but it does not have to be dreadful. So, before using old textbooks to feed rabbits or as "educational wallpaper" check out the Internet for some wallet relief. B.F. Skinner said that instant gratification creates repetitive behaviors. So be forewarned, saving money may be repeated at will.



What do  
Consumer News,  
Living, Health &  
Technology  
have in common?

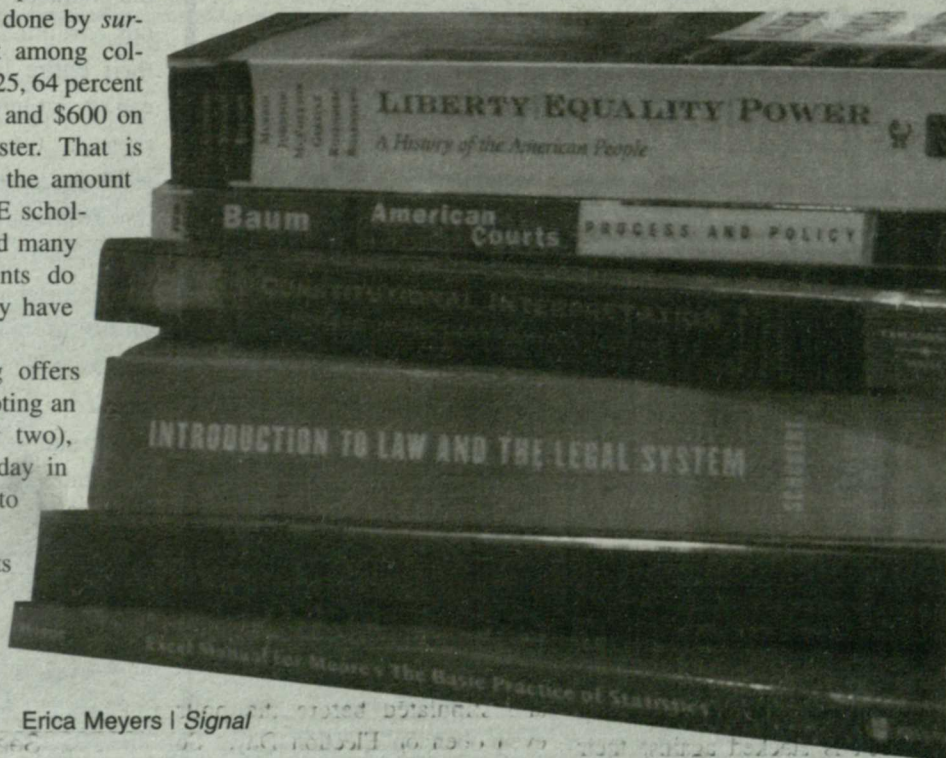
They will all be topics  
covered in the *Signal's*  
new rotating section!  
Each week, a new topic...

Next Week:  
College Living

Writers:

Are you interested in  
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or come by the *Signal* office.





Perspectives Editor:  
**Jonathan Springston**

Assoc. Editor:  
**Jill von Wedel**

## Stay out of students' pockets



**DOMINIQUE HUFF**

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Governor Sonny Perdue has announced that higher education will be taking another cut in the upcoming fiscal year. Given that, the universities, including us, will have to evaluate and examine their spending priorities. Usually, when an organization has to examine spending, it often has to make cuts to remain fiscally sound. However, many universities and the state Board of Regents have refused to comply and want us, the students, to continue to pay for their wasteful and unnecessary spending.

According to various officials including Georgia State President Carl Patton, University of Georgia President Michael Adams and Chancellor Thomas Meredith, tuition hikes are warranted to maintain the consistent quality of



Jonathan Springston | *Signal*  
Students can look forward to fee increases but less service.

academics and services students have grown accustomed to over the years.

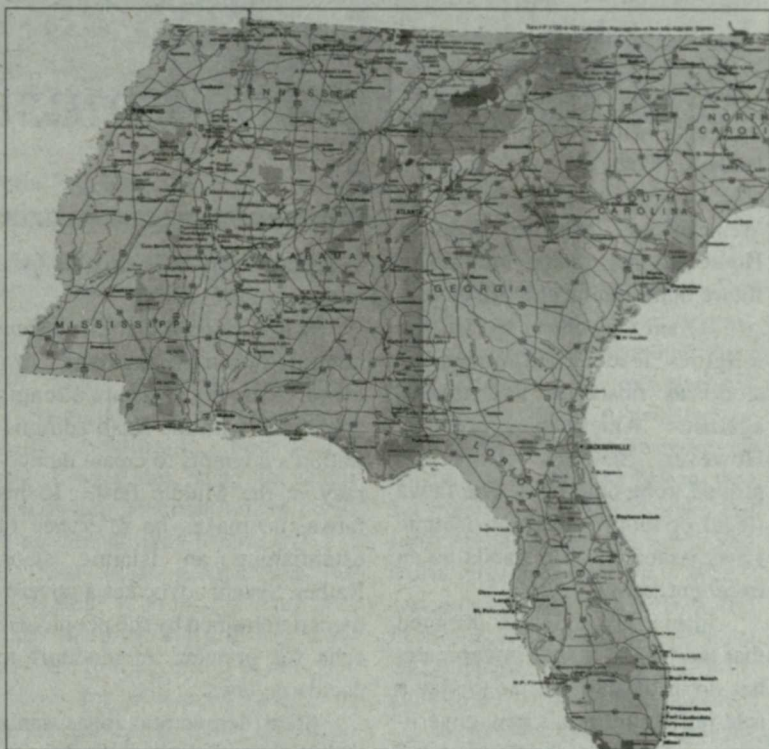
Quality of Services? Quality of Academics? Time to dissent on the above mentioned.

In fact, over the past couple of years, Georgia State has raised fees with the help of our puppet Student Government Association (SGA), and students have received less due to it. For example, the University Educational Technology Services, the department that operates our campus computer labs and panther print have taken away lab hours at virtually every lab and cut the print

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# Perspectives

## How America sees us



Special | *Signal*  
Southerners are stereotyped as being dumb and slow.

By **JENNY PAYNTER**  
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After two years ranking dead last in national SAT scores, Georgia has finally broken through to 49th place. According to reports in most major Atlanta newspapers, many people seem ecstatic with the improvement.

While it is nice to not have to report that Georgia ranked last again, perhaps it is a bit too soon to be celebrating.

At first glance, doesn't 49th place seem a bit laughable? Though other variables come into play when explaining the low

ranking (such as the number of students in each state that actually take the test), an average score of 987 out of a possible 1600 (with the national average at 1026) seems a little less than promising. It is especially discouraging when Georgia's climb out of the metaphorical gutter is not based entirely on our own academic improvements, but on South Carolina's loss of points. If South Carolina's scores had stayed the same this year, we would still be ranked 50th.

On top of these results being an embarrassment for the state, are they not also perpetuating a painful stereotype?

Everyone knows there is a stigma that follows not only Georgians, but any person who was obviously brought up in the south. When a person in the media is portrayed with a southern accent, they are almost always stereotyped as being slow or uneducated. This trend has spanned pop-culture from Green Acres to Jerry Springer to the new "Blue Collar TV."

It is even in the news. It seems that every time a journalist interviews a southern person at the scene of a crime or disaster, they typically have at least one or more of the following qualifications: thick accent, slow speech, and/or a lack of teeth.

Every time the aforementioned cliché does show up on the small screen, it is as if you can feel the entire South wince, saying, "God, they did it again. This is how America thinks of us." Of course, with academic achievements like Georgia's showing up in the national news, this might be how America thinks of us for quite a while.

The stigma doesn't stop at entertaining side of the media. At the Republican National Convention, Zell Miller delivered a speech that even his opponents would have to describe as "powerful" in the very least. He delivered his views with incredible conviction and authority.

But because the former governor has such an amazingly strong southern accent, more than one person has drawn the comparison between his speech and a southern Baptist minister preaching about

fire and brimstone. His address might have taken a completely different tone in the media had the accent not been present.

Perhaps we could counter this stereotype if our academic standards were a bit higher, but in listening to some parents around Atlanta, better education may not be a high enough priority.

In response to a recent article about a Georgia teacher who was cracking down on poor grammar skills in high school, particularly by teaching sentence diagramming, people quoted in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution's "vent" page had a few words of their own: "I've been out of school 45 years and I haven't had to diagram a sentence since."

"I got cold chills and the shakes when I read that article about diagramming sentences."

"I speak and write correctly without diagramming sentences. We must keep it simple for our children -- they're confused enough."

And the (hopefully) sarcastic, "I doesn't need in school no diagramming."

And no, the misspelling of "diagramming" is not an error on my part; the "vents" were printed that way.

The fact that the media do not usually portray southerners as intelligent or educated is bad enough without our own public school system reaffirming those ideas. Perhaps if a little more focus were placed on improving our educational system, we could do something to fight this reputation.

## Sympathy for the non-voter

By **BARRETT TOUPS**  
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Every four years there is a massive effort to encourage young citizens (18-24 years-old) to vote in the presidential election, and since 1972 (the year the voting age lowered to 18), the percentage of youth voting in the elections has steadily fallen. According to the Current Population Survey of the U.S. Census Bureau, 42 percent of young citizens turned out to vote nationally in 2000. In 1972, that number was at 55 percent.

But it'll be different this year, right? I mean, with everything

going on in the world today and all, it has to, doesn't it?

It is hard to see how things are different.

Once again, the country is relegated to choosing between the lesser of two evils. For one thing, today's youth need more choices. In 1992, when three candidates were in the mix, voter participation significantly increased among young voters. When potential young voters see third-party candidates that they like, they are told not to "waste their votes" by supporting such a candidate. Soon after, the potential voters see that the deck is stacked against their

candidate, and so they walk away from the process and into a dark world of apathy, disillusionment, and cynicism.

*Your vote counts. Every vote counts.*

Another factor contributing to such low turnout is the lies told to young people about the effect of their votes. Is it fair to tell a liberal in rural Nebraska that his vote counts? Is it fair to tell a Mormon in New York City that his vote counts? In at least 30 states this year the outcome of this year's presidential election will be known and stipulated before the polls even open on Election Day. So

why take time off from work or school to go and stand in a long line at the polls to vote in a presidential election with a predetermined outcome? Maybe there are other things on that particular ballot worth voting for, but someone watching MTV would never know it.

*You must vote to have your voices heard. Politicians will be forced to acknowledge a mobilized block of young voters.*

If politicians started to take actions that were spurred by young voters, what would that politician

See VOTER | Page 23



# Washington needs to shift focus



**RUKSHANA NAZU**  
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The fight is ongoing in Iraq. Long after officials in Washington declared that the war is over, troops and opposing insurgents are still exchanging gunfire in the streets. Anti-American sentiments exist more than ever. As these images and headlines dominate today's media, I am bewildered by the reaction from the Iraqi citizens.

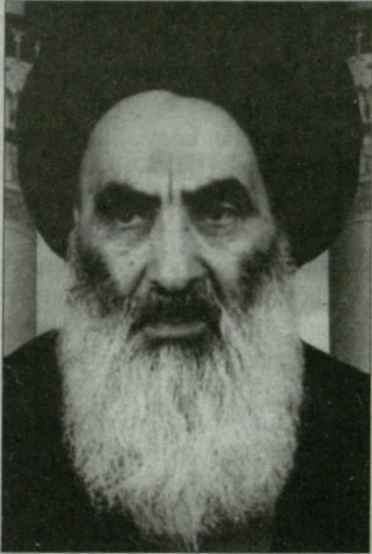
Why are the majority of the Iraqi people opposing strongly against the Bush administration's actions? After all, his policies liberated the Iraqis from their former tyrannical government.

No doubt, Saddam Hussein was a tyrant who used his power for careless and malicious intentions. His actions are strictly forbidden under Islamic laws and by the Qur'an. Thanks to the current administration, Saddam Hussein is removed from power and ready to be convicted for his crime in court.

However, the uproar of dissatisfaction from the Iraqis prevails over their appreciation. After scrutinizing this problem, I came to realize that it is not lack of appreciation. It is the failure of the Bush administration to provide the Iraqis with a trustful voice in the

political arena.

The interim government officials consist of a majority of men who are returning from exile with close ties with the United State's government. Many Iraqis' view these officials as American pup-



Special | Signal  
**Al-Sistani is revered by many Iraqis and he has significant sway on public opinion.**

pets. There is a need for a dependable leader who can exert influence and generate positive reaction.

If the American government wants cooperation from the Iraqis then an alternative road must be taken. The United States should reduce their focus from the interim government and place it upon Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Husseini al-Sistani.

Sistani represents Iraq's successful conversion to democracy. His actions and opinions have a profound influence over Iraqi public opinions. Sistani recently returned from a hospital stay in Europe. Most Iraqis revere him and many are willing to cooperative with him. Judging from current events, Sistani's efforts to bring peace in Iraq qualifies him for the position.

From a historical point of view, the American government and diplomats share uncooperative moments with Muslim religious leaders. They are more comfortable dealing with secularized or Westernized Muslim leaders. However, this should not hinder future opportunities for alliance.

Often views held by Muslim religious leaders are misunderstood as obstacles and threats against American policies. However, Sistani's effort has proved to be otherwise. The fatwa (legal opinion concerning Islamic Law) issued by him stands as an excellent example.

In his fatwa, Sistani declared that the United State's government has no justifiable reasons to play a role in shaping Iraq's new government. In addition, the fatwa stated that, "Accordingly, popular elections are necessary so that each Iraqi who is of voting age can choose his representative for a constituent assembly. And then any basic law written by this

**"If the American government wants cooperation from the Iraqis then an alternative road must be taken."**

assembly must be approved by a national referendum."

It is important that the current administration understand this fatwa. Sistani's ideas are strongly associated with the Bush administration's attempts to create democracy in the Middle East. In his fatwa, he makes no reference of establishing an Islamic state. Rather, Sistani advocates a government determined by the people. He calls for popular referendums to decide on laws.

Such democratic ideas sanctioned by a religious leader are very rare. Sistani's secularized idea does not subordinate Islamic laws established by the Qur'an. In fact, in my opinion, Sistani is reviving values and rights forgotten by many Muslim leaders,

which Islam grants its believers.

Sistani's does not direct his assertions toward the benefits of Shiite community in Iraq alone. Sistani has reached out to Sunni clerics as well. His efforts are to stabilize the political situations for all Iraqis.

The Iraqis do not want an Islamic revolution like Iran's; however neither do they wish to resemble Turkey. As best stated by Sayyid Ali al-Wazi, a senior Shiite cleric in Baghdad, "We are all agents of Sistani, who is our marja (source of emulation--the highest rank for a Shiite cleric). He is a rational religious scholar. He wants us to live religious lives, but not have religion dictate politics. We must have democracy, not revolution, in Iraq."

# People kill people



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Pissing Off the World, One Person at a Time  
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"Assault weapons" are killing our children. "Assault weapons" are killing our police. "Assault weapons" are weapons of mass destruction. "Assault weapons" have no legitimate use in the hands of a civilian. "Assault weapons" aren't assault weapons at all.

On Sept. 13, 1994, former President Bill Clinton signed HR496, the so-called Assault Weapons Ban, into law. This law defined assault weapons as any semi-automatic firearm with a military appearance, essentially banning firearms based on cosmetic and ergonomic factors and having nothing to do with ballistics or lethality. This basically means semi-automatic firearms designed to resemble fully automatic weapons. Due to provi-

sions within the bill, the law was a sunset law and expired on Sept. 14, 2004.

According to [www.stopthetra.com](http://www.stopthetra.com), which is associated with the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence and the Million Mom March, kids as young as thirteen years old will now be able to buy brand new American-made AK-47s at gun shows and through classifieds. In addition, they claim, it will not be possible for a person to bring concealed TEC-9 assault pistols, loaded with thirty rounds of ammunition, into bars, churches, sports arenas and public schools and universities.

Apparently, they also think that deliberately distorting the truth and scaring the masses is legitimate as long as it pushes their agenda. Despite what the anti-2nd Amendment groups would have us believe, the FBI may sell no firearm at retail without the purchaser passing a background check. Also, federal law mandates that no one under 18 years of age may purchase a firearm of any type and no one



Special | Signal

**Background checks must still be conducted to sell firearms.**

under 21 years of age may purchase a pistol of any type. Additionally, an AK-47 is fully automatic and was never affected by the Assault Weapons Ban. The ban also never affected whether a person could conceal a weapon and where. So again, the TEC-9, or any other firearm for that matter, will continue to be prohibited in places where alcohol is served and in places of public gatherings, depending on individual state laws.

It is interesting to note that the firearms affected by this bill were not the firearms that are correlated with crime. Data from police seizures around the nation show that these so-called assault weapons account for less than two percent of firearms involved in criminal cases. That statistic has not changed since the enactment of the ban.

So what did the Assault Weapon Ban accomplish? Not much, considering that, pre-

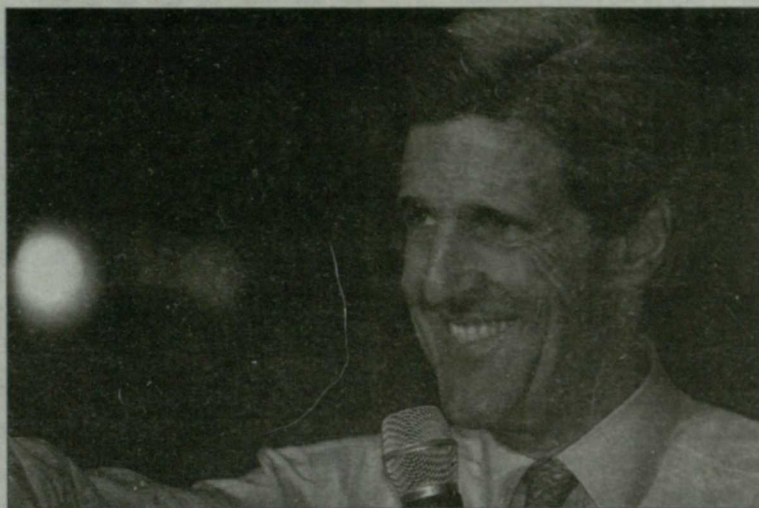
banned firearms and accessories were grandfathered in and could still be bought and sold at a relatively cheap price due to their prevalence.

The ban was the proverbial camel's nose under the tent. When bills are made into law, people tend to think there's a legitimate justification for it. This law was a symbolic victory for those groups whose ultimate goal is the eventual ban of all private ownership of firearms.



# Move on already

It's time to put the Vietnam issue aside and get back to the real issues



John Kerry has worn out his Vietnam record.

Special | Signal

**JILL VON WEDEL**  
Senior/Journalism

You Must Be Joking

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"Hey, did you know that John Kerry was in Vietnam?" "REAL-  
LY? I haven't heard that in the  
last 10 minutes!" Conversations  
similar to this have become a run-  
ning joke lately. Kerry can't seem  
to make a single speech any-  
where, about anything, without  
referencing Vietnam at least 15  
times. From the get-go, it looked  
to me like his four-month stint as  
a swift boat commander was the  
centerpiece of his campaign:  
"Vote for me, I served in Vietnam,  
and Bush and Cheney did not!"  
Though I find it a bit curious that  
the man trashing Bush and  
Cheney for not serving in Vietnam  
has recently begun taking cam-  
paign advice from Bill Clinton--a  
flat-out draft-dodger (Kerry actu-  
ally defended Clinton's draft-

dodging during Clinton's presi-  
dential campaigns).

But isn't it well past time to  
shift away from the Vietnam talk  
and focus on other matters? While  
military service certainly is  
worth mentioning, both cam-  
paigns beat the issue to death  
months ago, and continue to do so  
on an almost daily basis.

And while groups like the  
Swift Boat Veterans for Truth cer-  
tainly have the right to say what  
they did in their ads, it is not con-  
ducive for either campaign to  
keep squeezing every last drop  
out of the issue. Certainly, every-  
one knew everything about it  
months ago. Voters have made up  
their minds on the issue of  
Vietnam. Only the most earth  
shattering of revelations will  
change that. Even Bill Clinton  
has advised Kerry to back off

Vietnam.

And why not, since Kerry has  
done a pretty good job of contra-  
dicting himself on the matter any-  
way, from how he received his  
first Purple Heart, to whether or  
not he was in Cambodia and even  
the fact that Richard Nixon was  
not president in 1968? When the  
swift boat veterans published  
Unfit for Command, Kerry  
demanded that the book be pulled  
from shelves, rather than disput-  
ing accounts in the book with  
facts of his own and moving on.

As former New York Mayor  
Rudy Giuliani recently said, the  
focus should not be on four  
months out of Kerry's life, but on  
his record during nearly 20 years  
in the Senate. As I've said, voters  
have already made up their minds

See VIETNAM | Page 23

# Fees going up, services going down

From CUTS | Page 19

credits down to \$3.75 from \$7.50.  
Many students remember when  
the Main Lab was 24 hours and  
when Arts and Humanities used to  
close at 11 p.m. They want us to  
pay more but offer us less. This is  
just only one example of the  
hypocrisy. Logic like this makes  
the increases of fees and tuition a  
hard sell.

On the other hand, the admin-  
istration and the Board of Regents  
want to convince the students that  
funds are scarce for necessities but  
continue to wastefully spend. Carl  
Patton, who made nearly \$350,000  
in 2000-2001, is looking to make  
over \$700,000 this year, according  
to an August report in the *Atlanta  
Journal-Constitution*. He wasn't  
alone; Meredith and Adams have  
seen pay increases over the years  
as well. It's ironic that we lack  
resources for important things  
such as hiring for faculty and serv-  
ices but there is plenty when it  
comes to the university president's  
and chancellor's pay rates. This is  
a slap in the face to all the hard

working employees here at  
Georgia State and at other cam-  
puses.

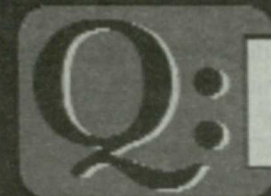
Also, don't forget about the  
chancellor's new \$2 million house  
with accessories purchased in  
February, according to an *Atlanta  
Journal-Constitution* article from  
the same month. For state legisla-  
tors, that is still an open wound.  
Unfortunately, we have real prob-  
lems facing educational funding  
in this state and we have Enron-  
like executives calling the shots  
on the spending. Instead of trying  
to come up with new revenue  
sources and re-prioritize spend-  
ing, we look to the customers to  
foot the bill through increased  
tuition, fees and even at the snack  
machines across campus. In fact,  
we may get hit again with 10 per-  
cent increase in tuition in January.

Furthermore, don't ask some  
of the current SGA members for  
their help in the matter. They  
have sold themselves on the fact  
that there is nothing they can do.  
Nothing? Some SGA members  
wouldn't want to jeopardize their  
recommendation letters the

administration has promised  
them. I recommend that a resolu-  
tion is drafted and passed asking  
the state legislature to intervene  
with the Board of Regents. How  
is that possible? Simple, the  
Board of Regents needs some  
checks and balances. They are  
starting to get careless, like the  
Fulton County Sheriff  
Department, and people know all  
about their problems. If the legis-  
lature has more control over the  
regents, then spending can be  
under more direct watch, and then  
they can stop asking for these  
bogus hikes. If legislation fails to  
pass, then President Tourgee  
Simpson should draft a letter on  
the student body's behalf demand-  
ing changes.

If people are becoming more  
careful about their spending, so  
should the Board of Regents.  
Mayor Shirley Franklin has  
proved that she can make due with  
less and even cut her own salary  
to put her money where her mouth  
is. It is time for Carl Patton,  
Michael Adams and Thomas  
Meredith to do the same.

# PANTHER POLL



Will healthcare improve if  
your OB-GYN loves  
you better?



Anima Bruderman  
Freshman

"Just don't come at me too  
fast with the instruments."



Kim Hadzick  
Junior

"Everyone needs love from  
their OB-GYN."



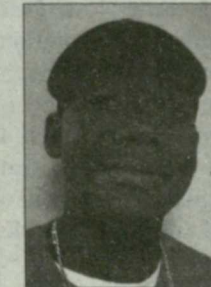
Nicolette Ryan  
Freshman

"He can like me if he's cute  
and gives a discount."



Sherry Shipskie  
Grad Student

"I don't know if I want that  
kind of love from my gyne-  
cologist."



Morgan Callender  
Junior

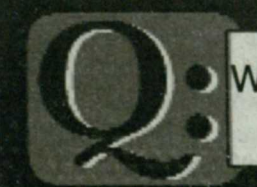
"Your doctor shouldn't like  
you too much."



Melia Malheto  
Sophomore

"If the doctor really liked  
you, you would get good  
health care."

For the next issue, tell us what you think...



What benefit do you want from  
a tuition increase?



# Feminists charged up at Battery Park

## Too many bushes in Battery Park



**MATT COCHRAN**  
Senior/Economics

A Voice From  
Outside the Cave

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Generalizations help us cluster people into groups so that we can pass mass judgment over them, attaching the stigma of a few extremists we hate to the more moderate fringe that we dislike. The liberal left hates the "extreme right-wing" crowd, and tries to paint the entire Republican Party as abortion-clinic bombers and snake-handling Baptists. The Republican Party is not these things. The liberals know it, the conservatives know it; everybody realizes the left is simply participating in a political game of guilt by association.

I say all of that in order to counter the inevitable dismissal of what follows in this column as conservative babblings on the subject of extreme feminism; extreme meaning a part of the modern feminist movement that mainstream feminism would renounce. What follows is a first-hand account of a little protest in Battery Park that occurred in New York during the

Republican National Convention. The feminists might tell you that it's a fringe group, a clan of outcasts representing the outlying weirdos that claim feminism as their own. This is not true. These protesters are the faithful lifeblood of the scary little movement called feminism. These protesters are not the fringe feminist. The fringe feminists are the moderate feminists who are uneducated about the group with which they associate themselves.

No, I'm not a chauvinist, although yes, I am a white male. But that's not my fault, so drop the ad hominem abusive arguments before you write back. I believe in women's rights. I believe that women should not be discriminated against on the basis of their gender (although they should never get any preferential treatment based on their gender). I believe in the universal equality of all humans, and the equal legal protection of all citizens of this country under our laws. Based on the loose definitions given by some of my Georgia State University instructors, this qualifies me to be a feminist. But I'm not feminist, nor will I ever associate myself with them. Because along with the dread title comes

the stigma of liberalism and, well, downright bizarre protests.

I inadvertently happened upon a protest of New York feminists in Battery Park. They were marching up and down the green space chanting several catchy, although confusing, slogans. The protest was sponsored by a feminist organization called "Daughters of Eve".

The Daughters of Eve ran around Battery Park yelling, "The panty lines are drawn, which side are you on?" Can anybody explain to me the reason behind this question? What in the world does a Presidential race have to do with women's underwear? I think I must be missing something. I'm just incapable of creating the mental link between panty lines and the defeat of the Republican President.

Protesters paraded around with panties (and in some instances, nothing else) painted across the front with the phrase "cherry for Kerry." I know John Kerry is desperate for votes right now, but is he specifically targeting virgins? Maybe this is something else that a republican white boy is incapable of grasping.

But as the protest progressed, from the amused and confused look of the NYPD, I knew I wasn't



Special | Signal

Many protesters gathered in Battery Park during the RNC.

the only person missing the connection between underwear and politics.

Slogans like "Bush get out of my bush" were chanted incessantly. President Clinton definitely deserved that insult much more than current President Bush, since Clinton was more likely to have been in more bush during his Presidency. Of course it probably wasn't hard for Clinton to get in feminist bush, considering many of the protesters wore shirts splashed with "weapons of mass seduction"...he probably didn't have to work it very long before he got some. A few more protesters wore nothing but panties and purple hearts painted over their nipples...interesting idea. I couldn't quite understand how that fit in with an anti-Bush rally, unless somehow those little purple hearts were meant to remind us of Kerry. Was Kerry scratched on the nipples in Vietnam; did he get his purple hearts from that? I haven't been able to look at Kerry the same since then. The rest of

the protesters contented themselves with messages like "cream bush" and "lick bush"...I think that's enough, I'll spare you any more detail.

This is not a slam on all people who consider themselves "feminists." This is a plea to those clueless "feminists" to educate themselves, understand their feminist roots and understand the people with whom they associate themselves. The people I have described are the people that organize feminist rallies, they are the people that organize pro-abortion rallies, and they are the people that are the loudest feminists. According to one girl's panties "this is what democracy looks like." You can believe in women's rights without joining their scary parade. Think twice before you tell anybody you're a feminist, the person may just remember a couple of old, undressed protesters shouting "Bush, get out of my bush" at a strange little protest in Battery Park.

"This is a plea to all those clueless 'feminists' to educate themselves, understand their feminist roots and understand the people with whom they associate themselves."

# "Nucular" child, Left Behind, OB-GYN loves her better



**ERICA MEYERS**  
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My Superior  
Opinion

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Of all the many reasons I can think of to dislike President Bush, one sticks out in my mind significantly. He does not care about education.

I am very passionate about the state of the education system, from kindergarten through college, so his disregard for it, and willingness to cut budgets without regard, while telling people that he is expanding them, unnerves me. But what can I expect from a man who seemingly did not value his own education—he still cannot pronounce NUCLEAR, he thinks the terrorists are trying to hurt our citizens...and so are we, he wants

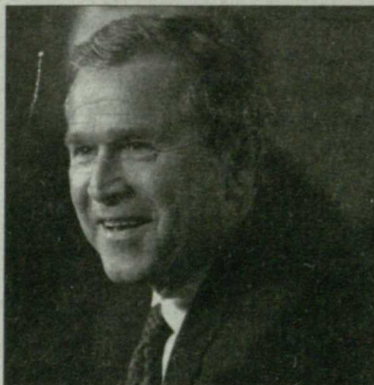
gynecologists to better love their women, and his administration admittedly never had enough information to make any decisions, but still did. The man was a "C" student at an institution that does not give grades lower than a "C" (Who said college grades do not matter?)

Georgia State University President Carl Patton has just announced plans to increase tuition mid-year (it is not final yet). Something that rarely occurs, and has not happened in the past three years at least. In addition, a fee increase is in the works for fall 2005 (the athletic department wants you to invest in them for the future, speculated benefit of a more prominent degree).

Why increase tuition? Because the state cut an additional \$7.3 million from our budget mid-year. And why did the state cut the budget? Because federal funding has reduced significantly since

Bush took office.

Georgia State has lost \$68.7 million since Bush took office. And recently, HOPE was capped, making several students scramble for money they did not expect to



Special | Signal

The No Child Left Behind plan has left some children behind.

Where did the money go? I do not have an answer for that question, but I'm betting some Iraqi

student is going to school with it (If they are back in school yet, since our coup).

Regardless, the president has decided that in order to fund his war, and finish his daddy's fight, education would have to take a back seat. Especially college education because, God knows, college students did not put him in office. But neither did senior citizens, parents, gays or minorities; that was actually the Supreme Court's doing, so Bush owes no constituent. How is that for accountability? However, he does need most WASPs to vote in his favor because the tallies have to be close in order for the Supreme Court to seat him.

Over the past four years, "No child left behind" has left several children behind. But it is only blacks and Hispanics and other minorities who can't afford to go to college anymore, so who really cares? Not our loving president.

Someone should tell him that going to classrooms and showing your face does not enhance a child's education in the least.

The entire Bush initiative is pitted with lies and shortfalls. His 2005 budget proposal increases Pell Grants by 47 percent since 2001 in order to help low-income students. But does it matter if tuition increases proportionately, and low-income students are in the same position they were in three years ago? Funding in Georgia has decreased 38 percent, which students have shouldered for the most part.

According to [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov), the president has made a commitment through "No Child Left Behind." Well, there's a tree bearing no fruit. In response, I've made a commitment to make sure that at least the popular vote does not add up in Bush's favor this election, even if the Supreme Court decides to seat him again.



# Voting for third parties sends message

From VOTER | Page 19

do? Does the current generation of 18-24-year-olds know what it



Special | *Signal*  
Young voters don't vote in large numbers like older voters seen above.

wants? Besides the obvious issue of education, what other issues are important to this block of young citizens? In 1972, the issue of the

draft had a major impact on the lives of young people (especially males). As a result, many felt they had a genuine stake in that election. The same sense of a need to participate has yet to present itself in 2004.

*Regardless of the system structure or the quality of the candidates, voting is your civic responsibility.*

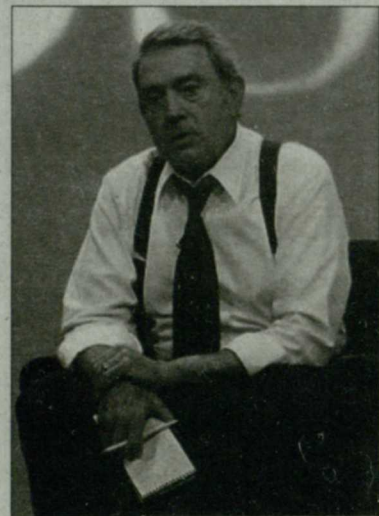
So, in other words, people should vote because it is important to maintain the guise of living in a democratic republic. That is absurd. There can be a value in not voting. By not voting or by "wasting your vote" with a third-party candidate, voters send the clear message that they are fed up with the two-party status quo. Someone who shows up to vote and then leaves the ballot blank sends a clear message indeed. And if Ralph Nader (or any other third-party candidate for that matter) gets enough protest votes this year to tip the election again, it would certainly cause a shakeup in at least one of the two major parties (most certainly with the Democrats if Nader is a factor again).

The youth who decide not to vote again this year should not feel guilty. It is probably for a really genuine reason, "wink wink."

# Everyone is pretty tired of hearing about Vietnam

From VIETNAM | Page 21

about Vietnam, but what do they really know about his work in the Senate--or even why he thinks he is qualified to be president? And Kerry complains that Bush does not talk about the "issues that



Special | *Signal*  
Dan Rather and CBS are under fire for allegedly faking records relating to the President's National Guard service.

matter," but all I've heard from Kerry are his complaints and, well, Vietnam.

But the latest onslaught of military service questions focus not on Kerry, but on Bush's National Guard service--another subject about which people have

pretty much already made up their minds. The twist on this, however, is that it's looking more and more likely that CBS produced documents that were forged. Typewriting experts from all over, including from the FBI, Microsoft and Adobe have said that the fonts and spacing used to type the disputed documents were not even around on the most sophisticated typewriters in 1972. In addition, the family of Lt. Col. Killian dispute the authenticity, saying that he never kept such files on anyone and he never signed any documents in the manner in which the disputed ones were signed. It appears that this story will become more about journalistic integrity and ethics than about Bush's National Guard service. At the time of this writing, neither campaign has breathed a word about the documents, and wisely so.

At any rate, there is more to both these men than their military service. While it definitely plays a role--the president in Commander in Chief, for crying out loud--the political careers of Bush and Kerry should be in the forefront of their campaigns. After all, how will a four-month stint in Vietnam possibly redeem a man who voted repeatedly to cut funding for defense and weapons while in the Senate?

## Mission Statement

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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The following guidelines must be followed when submitting a Letter to the Editor. Failure to follow them will result in your letter not being considered for publication.

1. Letters must be submitted to [letters@gsusignal.com](mailto:letters@gsusignal.com) and must include the text of the letter in the body of the e-mail.
2. Letters should be 200-400 words maximum. The *Signal* will allow longer letters, but only in rare circumstances.
3. Letters must include the full name(s) of the writer(s) and include their year and major. If the writer is a faculty member, they must include their title.
4. Letters will be fact-checked before publication. The writer may be obligated to make changes to the letter for publication.
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