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Georgia State invests \$1 billion in expansion

By KELLY PETTY
newseditor@gsusignal.com

In an effort to make Georgia State University function as a traditional university, a \$1 billion, 10-year campus expansion plan has been established to potentially transform a 12-block section of downtown Atlanta.

According to an Atlanta Business Chronicle report, the university intends to add several buildings, including new on-campus student and Greek housing, a new convocation hall and expanded athletic center.

These new structures will help accommodate an extra 10,000 full-time students that are estimated to attend the campus by 2015.

Additionally, a new \$120 million four-building business and law school complex on Peachtree Street and a \$200 million research park at Piedmont Avenue and Decatur Street will solidify Georgia State as a premier urban research university.

Business school dean Fenwick Huss said the complex, which could open in the next five years, would help consolidate programs scattered across campus.

"Right now, we're spread

out," Huss said. "We have office space at Bank of America, we teach some classes in the Aderhold building...we even lease out some space downtown. This will bring everything under one roof."

Other improvements include lowering Courtland Street Bridge and other walkways and plazas to ground level to create a friendly walking environment for students. Two existing buildings will be razed and replaced with larger ones, including the humanities building, which will combine with the updated library to form the university's central hub.

The university plans to rely mainly on private funding and bonds, even though it expects to receive \$37.5 million in state financing.

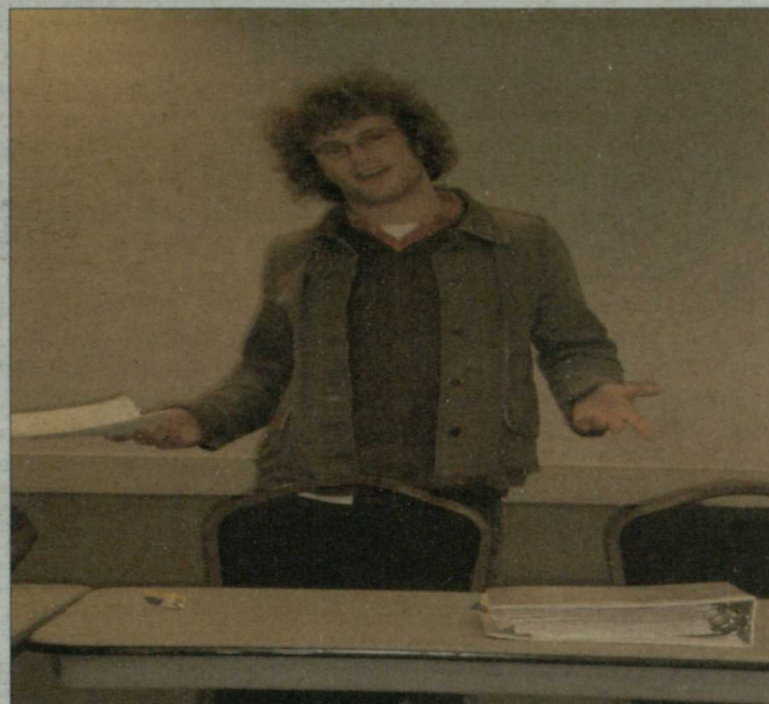
Patton sees this expansion reshaping and livening the city along Piedmont Avenue including areas in the Sweet Auburn district. He believes that more students in these areas mean an economic growth.

"It's going to put the critical mass of people on the street," said Patton, a longtime resident of downtown. "Our students have money to spend, and they'll spend it there."



President Carl Patton is in talks with new Georgia-Pacific owner Koch Industries Inc. to integrate a parcel, which currently serves as the entrance to the Peachtree Center MARTA station, into a new four-building business and law school complex.

Special | Signal



Andrea Kelly | Signal

Sen. Adam Lyons is in full support of the proposed policy while some of his other colleagues are strongly against it.

Withdrawal Policy divides SGA

By RHONDA BARNETT
chiefeditor@gsusignal.com

The proposed withdrawal policy that will limit the amount of W's a student can acquire in their collegiate career, led to a heated debate amongst SGA leaders and students at the town hall meeting Thursday evening.

The policy will limit the amount of withdrawals that a student can have to six, one per every 30 hours and two floaters; currently, there is no limit.

The retention rate at Georgia State prompted University officials to consider the withdrawal policy, among many other avenues, in an effort to keep more students here.

According to Senator Adam Lyons, "Our retention rate is 40 percent and according to our demographics, we should graduating 55 percent. This proposal is designed to help our retention rates as a university."

Lyons said that the policy discourages students from "course shopping," which he defined as students entering in courses just to sample it, and later taking a W if they decide they do not like, or can not handle, the course.

"[They are] holding seats in courses that prevent other students from getting in classes," which

according to Lyons is one of the "biggest complaints that student's have that leave Georgia State."

Lyons also stated that student's with excessive W's will run out of financial aid by their senior year and find themselves not graduating due to lack of funds. "They just stop. They don't graduate because they don't have the money and that also affects our retention rate."

According to his presentation, Lyons concluded that the implementation of the W policy will ultimately increase the value of Georgia State degrees.

"We are considered to be a fourth tier school; fourth tier is the lowest that you can be for a university. What is keeping us down is the fact that we have really poor retention rates. Moving up to the second or third tier will increase the value of your degree."

Senator Jeffrey Walker countered Lyons' position stating that, "This information presented seems one-sided. It does not include transfer students at all, only students that start here as freshman's and finish here as senior's. The statistics did not include the fact that we are in Atlanta or that we are a non-traditional school."

Hunt for Osama Bin Laden continues

By ANTHONY CASTILLO
acastillo@gsusignal.com

Since February 6, 1993, Osama bin Laden has been the most sought after man by the U.S. for his role along with Ramzi Yousef in the World Trade Center bombing.

The true manhunt did not really begin until October 7, 2001 after Bin Laden helped to orchestrate the September 11 attacks of 2001.

Osama Bin Laden is the son of a wealthy construction contractor Muhammad Bin Laden, who worked for the Saudi Royal family.

The Bin Laden family has since claimed to have nothing to do with Osama, as they still seem to have a great deal of power even in the U.S.

Christopher Hitchens of Vanity Fair reported that while all aircraft were grounded on

September 11th and 12th, the Bin Laden family was allowed to leave the U.S. and repatriate to Saudi Arabia.

In 1992, Osama Bin Laden was deported from his homeland of Saudi Arabia and had his citizenship revoked in 1994 because of his intentions to remove the Saudi Royal family and replace them with an Islamic regime.

The United States first began its war on terror in October 2001 with a bombing campaign on the mountain region known as Tora Bora in Afghanistan. The hunt then took place on the ground as U.S. forces landed in Afghanistan and began to scour the country looking for Bin Laden.

Since the hunt began in October '01, Bin Laden has managed to elude U.S. forces as well as occasionally put out a new video taunting the U.S. and renewing threats of violence against the

west.

For a long time it was believed that Bin Laden had been staying in his Tora Bora hide out which had been constructed during the early 1980s with help from the U.S., but after months and now years of searching, it has been believed that he had slipped away into Pakistan.

There has been no sufficient information provided to the U.S. in order to locate his whereabouts and capture him. "I don't feel that the U.S. has done everything they could to find him. If they find him [Bin Laden] then the war is over" said Vietnam Veteran Glenn McClure.

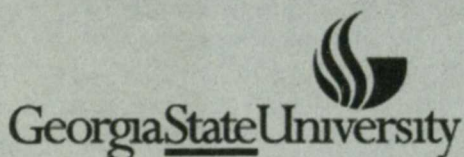
For over four years now, President Bush has named Osama Bin Laden as the number one target in the war on terror. He has dangled Bin Laden in front of Americans like cheese in front of a rat in what appears to be an



AP PHOTO

Special | Signal

Years before the 9/11 attacks, the U.S. trained, aided and armed Osama Bin Laden only to have him turn on the nation, which now has to resort to fighting against him.



Celebrating a World of Rhythm & Dance V: BRAZIL IN ATLANTA



Friday, March 24, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.

Rialto Center for the Performing Arts - FREE - Tickets Required*

The fifth anniversary concert features artists of the Atlanta Brazilian community blending music, dance, visual arts and ritual to perform samba, capoeira, bossa nova, and other musical expressions of Brazil.

*Tickets available for GSU students in person at the Rialto Box Office starting Tuesday, February 28th
Tickets for Georgia State faculty and staff available March 6th. Tickets for the community available March 13th.
One ticket per person (must show student ID) • Box Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. • 404-651-4727

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attempt to retain American support for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. "Why can't we find Bin Laden?" has been a question that has bothered many Americans.

Unlike the war in Iraq when the U.S. had a "clear" objective of capturing Saddam Hussein and removing him from power, the invasion of Afghanistan has yet to yield any visible results.

It was believed that capturing Bin Laden was the "clear" objective of the war on terror, but after seeing how the U.S. was able to enter Iraq, find and capture Hussein within about 6 months it leads many to believe that perhaps the U.S. is not interested in finding Bin Laden after all.

Like Saddam Hussein, the U.S. trained, aided and armed Osama Bin Laden only to have him turn on the nation, which now has to resort to fighting against him.

It was after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan on December 25, 1979 that the U.S. administration under President Jimmy Carter first began a campaign to provide training and support to the Afghan freedom fighters known as the "Mujahideen" or holy warriors.

This support effort was established by several different U.S. governmental agencies through both overt and covert funding operations.

The introduction of the shoulder fired anti-aircraft missile is what helped to swing the momentum in the direction of the Mujahideen.

The use of the "stinger" missile made it much more difficult for the Soviets to attack from the air as they began to lose jets and helicopters to these missiles causing a greater financial impact for the Soviets.

Now the U.S. must fight against its own weapons and training in the same territory that the Soviets were defeated.

It's your campus, so get involved!

February 28

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. Women's Health Awareness

Visit the Zeta's booth in the courtyard to get more information about women's health issues.

Time: 12:15-1 p.m.
Where: Table in the Plaza

"Qualities of a Good Mate: Part Two"

Come learn what makes a person a good mate. Co-sponsored by the "Kaptivating" Kappa Theta Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc.

Time: 7:31 p.m.
Where: Capital Suite (Student Center)

Coffee House

Meet and discuss ways to help black students succeed in college and graduate. Presented by the NAACP.

Time: 12-1 p.m.
Where: Lucerne Suite (Student Center)

March 1

"More Than A Lifetime Movie" Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. Special Event

Join the ladies of the "Lovely" Lambda Nu Chapter as the host their Z-Hope event to empower young women. Presented by the Student Health Promotion & Education Office. Business attire required.

Time: 7:20 p.m.
Where: Sinclair Suite (Student Center)

8th Annual Health and Human Sciences Career Fair

Find positions in top organizations in many medical and service-oriented fields. Sponsored by University Career Services and the College of Health and Human Services.

Time: 12:30-3:30 p.m.
Where: Student Center Ballroom

March 2

"Z-Sweets"

Purchase some tasty sweets and treats from the ladies of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc.

Time: 12:15-1 p.m.
Where: Table in the Plaza

Student Government Association

New Legislation will be introduced and discussions will talked about on important matters.

Time: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Capitol Suite (Student Center)

The Love Matrix hosted by Alpha Phi Alpha, Fraternity, Inc.

This is not a traditional love and relationships discussion but rather a quest to find your soulmate. Learn why we all fail in the quest for true love.

Time: 8:30 p.m.
Where: Lanier Suite (Student Center)

Black Student Alliance and Tighter Grip

Discussion on African American Male/Female relations in the community.

Time: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Court Salon

March 3

Mr. Zeta Phi Beta Pageant

Cheer on your favorite male at this year's pageant.

Time: 6:20 p.m.
Where: Speaker's Auditorium

March 4

Mission FUN with Operation Peace

Participate in this great community service project that serves a great purpose for the Atlanta community.

Time: 12-4 p.m.
Where: Student Center Ballroom 12-4p.m.

If you have an idea for a news story or you know of something that the news section should cover, please contact the News Editor at newseditor@gsusignal.com or call (404) 463-9328. Please leave your name, number and story topic and the editor will contact you as soon as possible.

Public Service Announcement

Night Student Concerns

If you are a night student and feel that there are resources that aren't available to you that would otherwise be available to day students, or if you have other concerns such as safety, unavailability of assistance for night students, etc., please contact April Stancliff at astancliff1@student.gsu.edu to voice any concerns.

If your student organization's New Year resolution is to get more people to actually show up to events and meetings, let the Signal help. Let us know what is going on, when and where and we can have it listed in our calendar of events. It is a free service and maybe somebody will actually show up to your event. For more information, contact Kelly Petty, News Editor at newseditor@gsusignal.com

Important Information About The Georgia State University Signal

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 of 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.

Letter Submission Guidelines

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.

- Letters must be submitted to perspectiveseditor@gsusignal.com and must include the text of the letter in the body of the e-mail.
- Letters should be 200-400 words maximum. The Signal will allow longer letters, but only in rare circumstances.
- 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.
- Letters will be fact-checked before publication. The writer may be obligated to make changes to the letter for publication.
- Letters will be edited for grammar, clarity, length, factual accuracy and adherence to Signal policy.
- The Signal reserves the right to reject letters at their discretion.

Advertising Information

PRICING: \$10 per column inch with \$95 for single-spot color and \$380 for four-color process. Inserts up to 8 pages are \$65 per thousand and inserts of more than 8 pages are \$80 per thousand with a minimum of 3,000. Deadline is Friday before publication at noon.

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Georgia State Law School not severely impacted by decline in applications

"We get the best and brightest, we don't compete with Emory, UGA and Mercer"

By **DOMINIQUE HUFF**
managingeditor@gsusignal.com

Recent trends indicate law school applicants are experiencing a downward trend. While most schools are reporting significant decreases, Georgia State Law is maintaining its competitive and lucrative edges.

According to the latest data, the number of students nationwide who applied to law school is down ten percent this month compared to this time last year. Penn State Law School is reporting a 12 percent decrease in applications received. "When the economy gets better, many people delay law school for a few years," Steve Marietti, director of pre-law programs for Kaplan. "This is notable because those numbers have come of an all time high and now we are experiencing a decline

in the number of applications."

Perceived competitiveness, the economy and financial factors are major factors that weigh in students' decision to apply to law schools.

Georgia State Law School Dean Steven J. Kaminshine agrees with the economy being a major factor in the decline. "As a general matter enrollment trends go up as economy levels go down and enrollment trends decline when economy levels go up," he mentions. "Law applicants have been on a steady increase for the last six to seven years. Our applicants received have increased during these years."

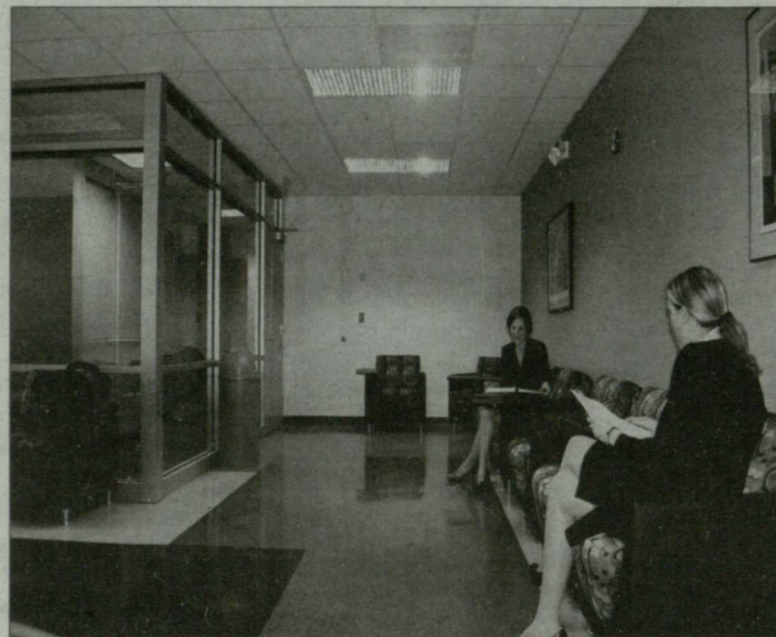
Kaminshine reports that Georgia State had an all time high of 3600 applications two years ago. After the high, applications have fell to 3400 to slightly over 3000 respectively. Despite the

decrease in applications received, Kaminshine remains optimistic about Georgia State Law School.

"There is clearly a downward trend. In our history we have not usually experience a downward trend as severely as the national norms," he indicates. "We generally start to experience the trend a little later after the others experience it but we are not immune to it."

Marietti reports that nearly 100,000 apply nationwide to get into law programs. In the past seven years, Kaminshine states that Georgia State has increased the size of the incoming classes. "We have received over 3,000 for the same number of slots we offer," he discusses.

Major selling points for Georgia State Law include its location, cost and the offering of a part time law study program. "We are



Kevin Daniel | Signal

These students are among those who made the cut to get admitted into the Georgia State Law School. Even amidst declining applications, the College of Law is still excelling.

the only public law school in the state with a part time program. We are more students first choice than ever before," he highlights. "With that extent, we get the best and brightest, we don't compete with Emory, UGA and Mercer."

The LSAT, the entrance exam for law school admissions, plays a major role in acceptance of a student into a program. Kaminshine reports that the average for Georgia State is 159 with a GPA of 3.3. Marietti reports the national average is 151-152 and GPA is based on the individual school. "Given the national decline of applications, we are encouraging students to take this opportunity and apply for law school," Marietti analyzes. "They may see an edge that they may not have seen before. Timing can be to the students' benefit if they take advan-

tage of it." Other universities such as John Marshall Law School allow applicants to apply without LSAT scores but no decisions are made until the scores arrive.

Georgia State Law has a rolling admission policy. The faculty admission committee begins to review files in January and continue to review until the class is full. Applicants are encouraged to apply early and to ensure that all supporting materials are received. A late admission file may jeopardize their chances of receiving full consideration. The college starts accepting applications in October. Marshall does not have a deadline but like Georgia State accepts until they are full for the entering class.

"We are blessed," Kaminshine concluded. "We have been able to attract diverse, quality students."



Dominique Huff | Signal

Students in the College of Law have several student organizations to keep them involved while pursuing their law degree.

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For more information, contact James Diedrick, associate dean of the college and director of summer school, at 404 471-6102, jdiedrick@agnesscott.edu, or visit the Agnes Scott Web site.

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University of Iowa students feel backlash because of political, religious affiliation

By MONA NASSEH
mnasseh@gsusignal.com

Students at the University of Iowa's Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine have recently spoken out about discrimination against conservative and religious viewpoints.

Many complaints have been made by these students and their families that members of the college's staff have belittled their political and religious beliefs.

Sources report that certain teachers have included cartoons and slogans opposing President Bush in their lectures, and have even gone so far as to incorporate suggestive questions regarding the Bush administration into their tests, with only the "left-winged" answer being correct.

These students reported that such behavior has caused them to refrain from sharing their opinions in class for fear of further degradation. The school plans to hold an open discussion between students and faculty to attempt to correct the situation.

The question that comes to mind is, is it okay for teachers to express their political beliefs in the classroom? If so, to what extent should they be allowed to practice these beliefs—how far is too far?

According to a survey of 1,643 full-time faculties at 183 universities in the U.S., seventy-two percent of professors are self-proclaimed liberals, while only fifteen percent claim to be conservative.

Furthermore, fifty percent of the staff members identify themselves as Democrats and only eleven percent as Republicans.

Could these overwhelming statistics be the reason that some teachers feel it is acceptable to push their political ideas on their students? Identical situations of opposition to conservative ideas



Students at the University of Iowa have cited incidents such as teachers dismissing their political opinions and using cartoons and slogans in lectures opposing President Bush as a form of discrimination.

have appeared in schools all over the country.

At Duke University, a student in the course entitled, "American Dreams, American Realities," asked his professor if he had any prejudices, referring to different styles of writing. The teacher, Gerald Wilson, unaware of what the student was really asking, replied, "Yeah, Republicans."

Wilson assumed that the class knew he was joking, but he later received an email from an unhappy student who stated that the comment was completely inappropriate and decided to drop the course.

Wilson later stated that he regretted the episode, remarking, "Everybody knows I'm very political, but dear God, I make jokes about Democrats as well..."

Should such attitudes of college professors be regarded as acceptable? By making the state-

ment, "Everybody knows I'm political," a teacher suggests that the content of his courses is going to go a certain way: according to his own beliefs.

Ruth Malhotra, a student at Georgia Tech who felt she was the victim of discrimination, stated, "I feel like professors abuse their power by using the classroom to

indoctrinate students. I'm not in class to learn their political agenda."

Two years ago, Ruth tried to express her personal approval of President Bush's healthcare policies in class. Reportedly, her teacher replied with this statement: "You don't know what you're talking about. George Bush isn't

doing anything for you. He's too busy pimping for the Christian Coalition."

Comments and actions such as these are raising many a questioning eyebrow among students across the nation. These students feel that the political views of their teachers should not be inserted into their lectures.

The decision to include personal beliefs of any type causes students to think twice before raising their hand to comment or asserting their thoughts in class discussions.

Knowing that a professor blatantly disagrees with one's viewpoint makes it difficult to state one's opinion openly. Teachers should help to guide students in investigating their own personal truths.

Eric Johnson, a Republican from Savannah, stated, "The professors ought to be teaching and not preaching. It ought to be about school and not about trying to turn students' values toward their own." Any college student, liberal, conservative or otherwise can surely agree.

Additional story contribution by Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Washington Post, The Chronicle of Higher Education and The American Daily.

The Georgia State University **Signal** Student Newspaper

The Signal is going on Spring Break just like the rest of you!

We are going to be gone for an extra week to give our hard-working staff some time to catch up on their school work.

We will see you all again on March 21st, but if anything happens be sure to log on to www.gsusignal.com for the latest info!

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Supreme Court case raises questions about censorship at universities

By KATIE HAWKINS
khawkins@gsusignal.com

The U.S. Supreme Court declined to review an appeal of a case last Tuesday which determined whether college and university administrators have the right to censor student newspapers.

The justices refused to hear an appeal by three students involving a lower-court ruling that college and university administrators can insist that student newspapers be reviewed before publication.

The case, *Hosty v. Carter*, has been widely debated since its ruling in 2000. Many advocates believe that it limits the scope of free speech protection for college students as guaranteed by the First Amendment.

Dr. Greg Lisby explained, "The Supreme Court really doesn't like to voluntarily accept or

hear cases on appeal unless it believes it has to hear them to clear up some area of the law."

Lisby has taught Communication Law and Regulation at Georgia State for 18 years. Part of his course focuses on the First Amendment rights of students, examining cases similar to *Hosty v. Carter*.

"I think all censorship is damaging," said Lisby. "However, college students are unique," he added, citing an example that if a newspaper were sued for libel, the school administration would pay the monetary damages.

Six years ago, students from Governors State University in University Park, Illinois, sued the university and other officials for placing a mandate of unconstitutional prior review on the school's newspaper, the *Innovator*.

After the *Innovator* ran a series of articles critical towards

Governors State administrators, Dean Patricia Carter ordered the publisher to stop printing issues before approval from a school official.

The students refused to submit their articles for review prior to publication, and Managing Editor Margaret Hosty, Jeni Porche, the editor in chief, and reporter Steven Barba filed a lawsuit against Carter and the university.

Lower courts dismissed lawsuits were dismissed against the defendants, including Carter. The appeals court cited a 1988 Supreme Court ruling that high school administrators can review school newspapers for content without violating students' First Amendment rights.

Multiple journalist groups supported the students' appeal, including the Society for Collegiate Journalists, the American Society of Newspaper Editors, and the Student Press Law Center. Fifteen organizations filed a friend-of-the-court brief.

The brief urged the Supreme Court to consider the appeal "because of the exceptional importance of this case for the future of free expression and thoughtful debate on public college and university campuses."

Kelly Petty, news editor for the *Signal*, describes college as "a time for us to speak our opinions, grow, and learn from our mistakes."

"Censorship is the last thing you want on campus," said Petty, a 19-year-old sophomore. "If any-



Katie Hawkins | Signal

An art exhibition at Georgia State currently explores the issue of censorship.

thing, the institution should be protecting students."

According to Petty, the student-run *Signal* is free from pre-publication review by the Communications Department and university officials. In terms of content, Petty said that "the Editor-in-chief and managing editor make the decisions."

Georgia State's Ernest G. Welch School of Art and Design Gallery is currently exhibiting "Potentially Harmful: The Art of American Censorship," a show featuring art from controversial artists such as Robert Mapplethorpe, Karen Finley and Dread Scott.

Curator Cathy Byrd recently told the Georgia State Villager that "it's really important for people to think about censorship, whether or not they agree with it, to think

about the results of societal or government or economic interest on art." The show is on display until March 10.

"One of the major dangers of censorship is not allowing students to have creative control," said Petty, adding that students may tend to censor themselves later in life.

Lisby explained that "many college newspapers, because they don't know what their rights are, will instead choose to limit their news coverage or to restrict student opinion."

Lisby added that many college students are unaware of their rights as compared to those of college students. "We should never expect others to defend our constitutional rights for us," he said.

The Supreme Court denied the students' appeal without recorded dissent or comment.



Dominique Huff | Signal

The *Signal*, while apart of Georgia State, is proud of independence.

Divide

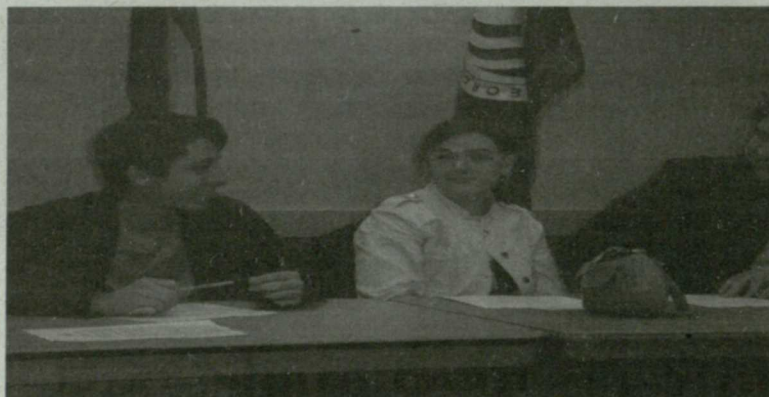
from page 1

President Russell Mildner and Executive Vice President Dominique Huff are outraged and have vowed to lobby against the policy.

"The university has declared war against our non-traditional students and night students with this policy," stated Huff. "Students simply don't drop classes because of simplistic reasons but personal reasons such as work and family related issues. If a policy is passed, we will be the second university with such in the university system."

Kennesaw State University implemented the policy in fall 2004 with the limit of W's at eight. Activists from the Disability Student Office opposed the policy as it could potentially serve as discriminatory for students with disabilities.

Students with ailments such as cystic fibrosis, A.I.D.S. or any other condition that can potentially flare up at any given time that may cause a student to miss weeks of class time will be asked to apply for a hardship withdrawal, which poses two problems: As of now,



Andrea Kelly | Signal

Sen. Brant Barber talks with other students during the meeting and thinks the Withdrawal Policy will be good for the university.

students only have two opportunities to apply for a hardship withdrawal and for these ailments, that may not be enough and according to the transcript of one of the representative's, there is no obvious difference between a hardship withdrawal and a regular W, so the extra procedures seem unnecessary for them.

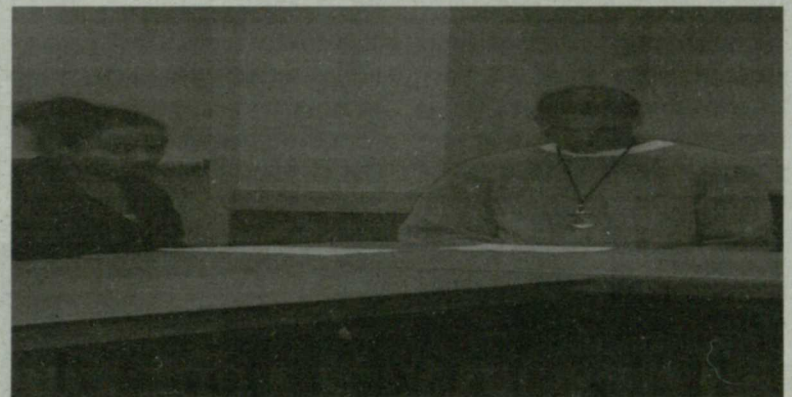
Hardship withdrawals give students with disabilities a possible back door to the policy, but not non-traditional students.

Currently, hardship withdrawals are not given for work related purposes. "I'm a working student and I had to take three F's one semester because I got promoted to manager and when I tried

to get a hardship withdrawal, I was told, 'Work doesn't count,'" said Huff.

During the recent SGA meeting, Dr. George Rainbolt, chair of the Admissions and Standards Committee hinted that other universities such as UGA are considering such policies and if UGA adopted such, it would be more restrictive than what Georgia State is proposing.

"The reason that we are jumping on board with this is because UGA is looking at a similar policy and Georgia State is always trying to compete with UGA, hence the Alpharetta center," he continued. "They [the administration] want to be first."



Andrea Kelly | Signal

Sen. Jeffrey Walker (r) did not hide the fact that he opposed the proposed policy and called the university's research one sided.

Others contend that this policy will help to put Georgia State in a different category than most other schools. "I don't think it's inappropriate for the university to consider this policy to differentiate Georgia State from other quality schools," said College of Law Dean Steven J. Kaminshine.

Other schools that have successfully applied the policy have also adopted a student bill of rights. Huff drafted a bill of rights for Georgia State students in the event that this policy passes. "You want to hold students accountable, give them some rights."

The purpose of the document is stated as: "The University continues to draft and pass policies

related to academic affairs and matters pertaining to students.

Often times, students are held accountable for policies that have changed or created without their knowledge.

In addition, students should be afforded basic academic rights in the pursuits of a degree at Georgia State University."

The vote for the policy will take place on March 16 at 3 p.m. in the Alumni Hall. The SGA has ten student representatives who are members of the University Senate that will be voting on the policy.

All students are encouraged to attend this very important meeting.

Graduate student is awarded Gilder Lehrman Research fellowship

By ATIYA AVERY
aavery@gsusignal.com

Sarah Brown, graduate of Georgia State University has been awarded a research fellowship by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

Brown, an M.A.T. and PhD in History from Georgia State University, has won numerous awards including two from Georgia State; the Distinguished Alumnus Award, which is awarded annually to a College of Education Alumnus who has distinguished themselves in their profession and community, as well as brought credit to the college.

She was also awarded the John A. Alexander Memorial Award, which is awarded annually to an outstanding graduate student in history as judged by the Department of History faculty.

Other awards and recognitions include a Research Initiation Grant and a travel grant from Florida Atlantic University, and a Moody Grant from the Lyndon Baines Johnson Foundation, which is awarded for research at the Lyndon B. Johnson Library. This grant ranges from \$500 to \$200 dollars.

She also received a fellowship from the National Endowment for

the Humanities, which supports full time work on a humanities project such as books or scholarly articles for a period of six months to a year.

Brown is currently an Associate Professor of History at Florida Atlantic University. She is the author of "Standing Against Dragons: Three Southern Lawyers in the Era of Fear, 1945-1965." Brown will conduct research at the Columbia University Rare Book and Manuscript Library, located in New York City.

This library houses over 4,000 years of unique and rare materials related to all subject matters anything from cuneiform tablets to early printing presses and everything in between.

Her project is titled "The Death of Southern Resistance: The War of Ideas in Congress and the Nation, 1963-1965."

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History was founded in 1994 to promote the study and love of American History.

To further support outstanding scholarship, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History awards short-term fellowships in several categories: Research Fellowships for post doctoral scholars at every faculty rank,

Dissertation Fellowships for doctoral candidates who have begun dissertation reading and writing, and Research Fellowships for journalists and independent scholars.

The Gilder Lehrman Fellowships support work in one of the five archives in New York City, which includes the Columbia University Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

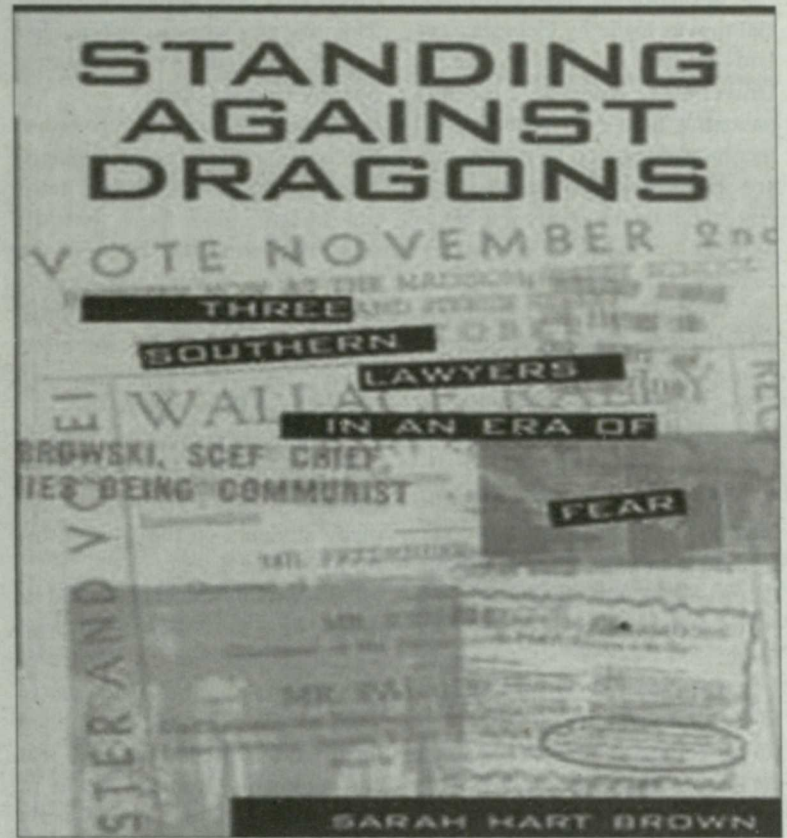
In 2005, the Gilder Lehrman Institute awarded a total of \$143,072 for sixty-nine fellowships. Since 1994, it has funded 390 fellowships.

Because of this, the fellowship has increasingly gained national and even international recognition.

The purpose of the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History is to target audiences ranging from students and scholars to the public.

By creating history-centered schools and academic research centers, organizing seminars and enrichment programs for educators and collaborating with school districts to implement Teaching American History Grants.

The goal of the program is to support programs that raise student achievement by improving teachers' knowledge, understanding and



Special | Signal

In addition to research projects, Brown is the author of "Standing Against Dragons: Three Southern Lawyers in the Era of Fear, 1945-

appreciation of American history. Essentially, the grant was established to increase awareness of American History at the elemen-

tary and secondary levels in schools by promoting traditional American History as a separate subject.

what's the

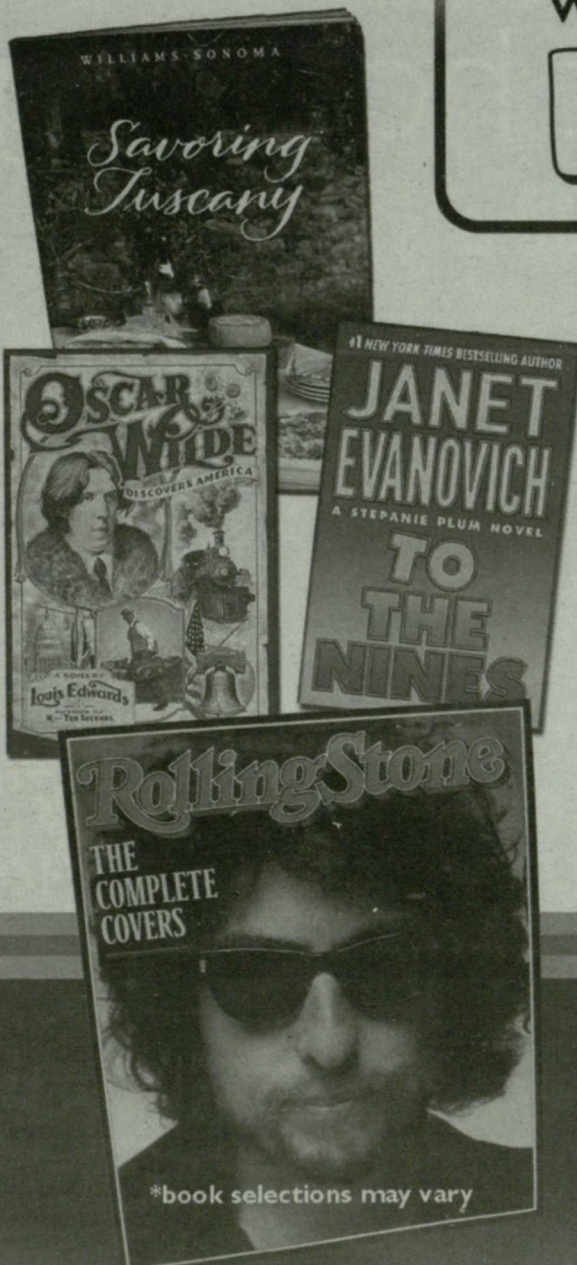
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Many Village students must now find alternative housing before next semester

By ELIJAH SARKESIAN
news@gsusignal.com

In one of the most controversial moves made by Georgia State University in recent years, University Housing recently passed a new rule requiring all incoming freshmen to stay in university housing, leaving many current students in a position to come up with new plans for living near campus.

While University Housing has given freshman students priority in entering housing at the Village in years past, the new regulations cause concern for current students who reside at the Village.

As of fall 2006, Sparta, Olympia, and Ithica will become freshman-only dorm halls, leaving Athina as the only place for rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors to live.

By restricting upperclassmen to Athina, which contains 658 rooms (minus rooms for CAs and ACAs), students are now scrambling to find other places to live. Student reactions have been mixed over the situation.

Jessica Rice, a Film/Video major, commented, "I was able to get housing at the Village for next year, so the new arrangement did not affect me directly. However, many of my friends who had wanted to live here won't be able to."

Erika Yates, a Psychology major, is another student who managed to get in after the lottery held for those who met the priority deadline of Jan. 17.

Had she not received a spot, though, she doesn't think she could've continued to attend Georgia State due to the higher costs of the University Lofts, the MetroPointe Lofts, or other alternate student housing options.

When it came to her opinion on the new rules, Yates explained that "it's not fair for Georgia State to infiltrate the Village with so

many freshmen. What about the upperclassmen who've already given their time to the university? This housing issue is just another way for students to get screwed over by Georgia State."

Jake Mize, an Exercise Science major who also managed to get a room from the initial housing lottery, also feels that the school is going too far with the requirement. "I think the decision to make three-fourths of the dorms freshman housing is ridiculous seeing as the upperclassmen should have first-come basis."

Not every student has been so fortunate. Joseph Vann, a Chemistry major, is one of the many students on the waiting list for a room next year.

Like many students, should he not get into the Village next year, Joseph plans to find an apartment somewhere else in the metro Atlanta area. Though he applied for housing, Joseph considers that not getting in might be a sort of blessing due to the occasionally dangerous environment at the Village.

Other students just refuse to go through the hassle of waiting for a glimmer of hope to stay at the Village for multiple reasons. John Thompson, a Marketing major, intends to rent a house next fall with friends.

His reason for moving out ultimately came down to the amount paid per month compared to living space, which is a popular reason among others not returning to the Village next year.

More students are expected to apply this year to some of the alternative housing options available to Atlanta college students, including the MetroPointe Lofts and 100 Midtown.

Since these places are privately owned and not controlled by any one university, the apartments available to students are more aes-

thetically pleasing than what can be found at universities around Atlanta, including Georgia State's Village and University Lofts.

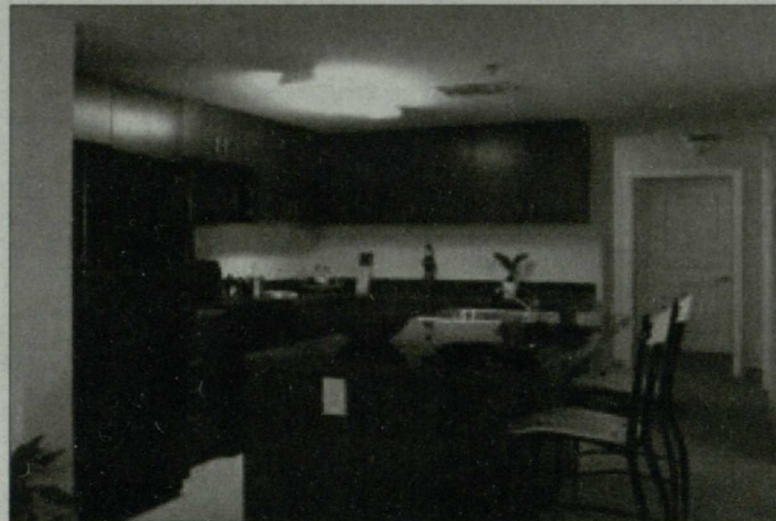
Two of the more popular alternative student residences, MetroPointe Lofts and 100 Midtown, offer several amenities not seen at most traditional apartment complexes.

MetroPointe Lofts offers fully furnished bedrooms and living room, including a 27" television in the living space. They also provide a shuttle to both Georgia State and AUC, which is uncommon at other residences that only offer shuttles to Georgia Tech.

100 Midtown is located in the heart of the city and offers hotel style bedrooms that overlook the 75/85 Interchange. Their kitchens include full-size appliances and a breakfast bar for those on-the-go meals. They also provide state-of-the-art facilities such as a gym and game room.

Both residences offer individual-leased bedrooms, a major perk for students who are first-time apartment dwellers.

However, leasing rooms at alternative student housing residences are limited. So if you are one of the students affected by the Village's new requirement, you are encouraged to find housing as soon as possible.



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MetroPointe Lofts (top) and 100 Midtown (above) are some of the options students can consider as new places to live next year.

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Living

Editor: Sabrina Buckwalter
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Black history year-round at the King National Historic Site

By OMUWA BRAIMAH
obrainmah@gsusignal.com

The Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site was established in 1980 to protect and interpret King's legacy for the benefit, inspiration and education of present and future generations. The center encompasses the places where King was born, lived, worked, worshiped and where he was buried. Exhibits of King's life are featured in Martin Luther King Center for Non-Violent Social Change and the National Park Service Visitor Center.

The Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Social Change has a peaceful and serene atmosphere. The eternal flame stands close to the entrance. This symbolizes the continuing effort to realize Dr. King's ideals for the "Beloved Community" which requires lasting personal commitment that cannot weaken when faced with obstacles. A flowing fountain surrounds the tomb of Dr. King that is now joined by Coretta Scott King's grave that lays on the opposite side surrounded by beautiful and colorful flowers. With her recent passing, banners, which featured pictures telling the story of her life, lined the walkway behind the fountain.

Freedom Hall features the King room, Gandhi room and Rosa Parks rooms. The exhibits in the King room give great insight into the lives of Dr. and Mrs. King.



Special | Signal

As Black History Month winds down, don't stop learning about the past of African-Americans, visit the King Center. While the Visitor's Center is most popular, don't miss the other five stops at the site.

Against the left side of the wall hung pictures chronicling the life of Dr. King from 1929 to 1968 when he was assassinated. Enclosed in glass cases were personal items of Dr. King such as the clothes he wore during marches for freedom and justice, his travel clock, the key to his room at the Lorraine motel in Memphis where he was shot, the wallet he carried in Memphis, his book on India and Gandhi, his jewelry case and cuff links, passport holders, the suit he was wearing when he was stabbed on Sept. 20, 1958, and his personal bible. The relics painted an intimate, private picture of the larger-than-life man who was Martin

Luther King Jr. They revealed that he was more than just a national icon-- he was also human.

On the right side of the room, pictures of Coretta Scott King were lined against the wall that told the story of her life from 1927 to 1992. Her personal items were displayed as well, such as her first passport, pictures of the birth of one of her children, medals presented to her and the gold dress she wore to an award ceremony.

The Gandhi room housed items that were used by Gandhi and presented various different pictures. Exhibits in the Gandhi

See CENTER | Page 10

The King Center: At a glance

• National Park Service Visitor Center

Open All Year from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Phone: 404-331-5198 ext. 3017

Location: 450 Auburn Avenue, NE

Special Programs: In the theatre, a 30-minute video shown on the hour, "A New Time, A New Voice", describes the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and his involvement in the civil rights movement. A 15-minute video shown on the half hour, "Courage to Lead", talks about the children involved in the civil rights movement.

Exhibits: Visit the six circular pods to read Dr. King's own words describing different periods of the first 70 years of the 20th century and watch the five-minute videos that highlight those periods.

• Ebenezer Baptist Church

Open all year from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Location: 407 Auburn Avenue, NE
Closures: The church is closed on Sunday mornings. The church may be closed to the public for funerals at the request of the congregation. The church is also closed prior to special events.

Special Programs: First Saturday Concert Series

• Dr. King's Birth Home

Open all-year from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Location: 501 Auburn Avenue, NE

Special Programs: The Birth Home of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., may be visited only with a park ranger led tour. Register for the tour at the National Park Service Visitor Center in person upon arrival to the park. Born here in 1929, this was the home of his maternal grandparents, where he lived with his grandparents, parents, siblings, other family members and boarders for the first twelve years of his life.

• Dr. King's Crypt and Gravesite

Open all year

Location: Outdoors

• The Eternal Flame

Open all year

Location: Outdoors

Brief History: The Eternal Flame symbolizes the continuing effort to realize Dr. King's ideals for the "Beloved Community" which requires lasting personal commitment that cannot weaken when faced with obstacles.

• Freedom Hall

Open all year from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Location: 449 Auburn Avenue, NE

Brief History: Freedom Hall is The King Center's primary exhibition facility. It contains a Grand Foyer, large theater/conference auditorium, gift shop/resource center and various works of art from Africa and Georgia

The preceding information was taken from www.thekingcenter.org

Move over Beyonce—Nigerian dance heats it up at GSUDE's "Third Thursdays"

By KESHA MILES
kmiles@gsusignal.com

The Georgia State University Dance Ensemble (GSUDE) presented the first of three "Third Thursdays" on Thursday, Feb. 16 in the University Center.

The lecture-demonstration sought to expose the Georgia State community to the diversity of dance as a performance arts genre. As one of the events offered for Black History Month, the affair illustrated the correlation between expressive dance and African culture.

The session began with GSUDE co-president and founding member Heidi Hernandez as she discussed African traditional dance as a communication method. "[Dance] is a tradition passed through generations as a story-



Jen Hayes | Signal

Guest performer with the GSUDE, Sebolatito Olorunsola swings double duty dancing as the Nigerian Dance instructor at the Georgia State Rec Center as well.

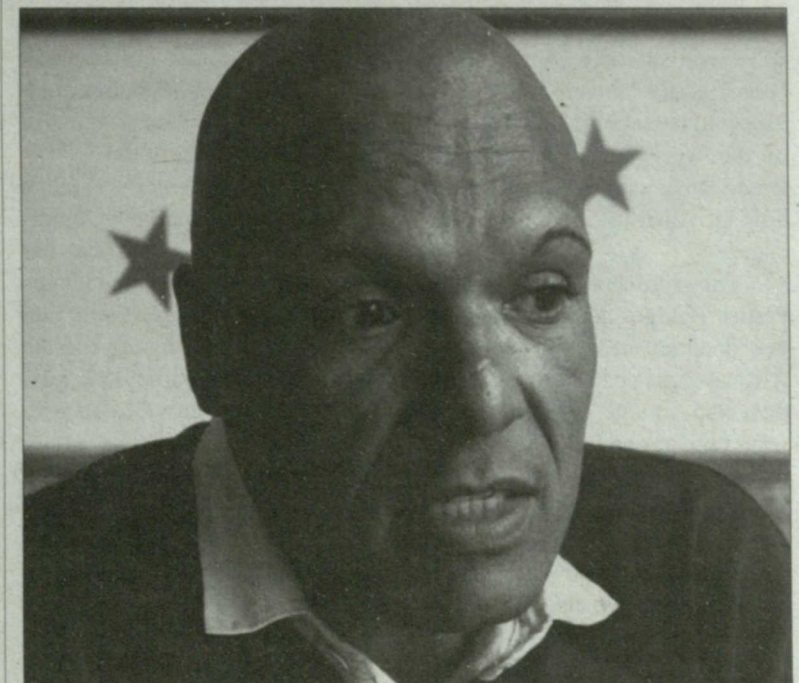
telling mechanism," she said. Hernandez concluded with the introduction of Sebolatito Olorunsola, a guest performer with GSUDE.

Olorunsola, also known as

"Tito," introduced curious audience members to what she called a "relatively new" dance performed by native Nigerians. According to

See DANCE | Page 11

Who is Bob Jamerson?



Alan E. Norman | Signal

The man behind the mystery: Bob Jamerson talks to the Signal. To read the full story, please turn to page 11.

Center

from page 9

room explained how Gandhi influenced King's philosophy of non-violent social change.

The Rosa Parks exhibit paid tribute to her life with pictures of the Rosa Parks story and a variety of items such as a beautiful hand-made quilt.

The mood at the Martin Luther King Jr. National Park Service Visitor Center appeared

reminded visitors of the harsh realities African-Americans had face not too long ago and how they had to live in constant fear of being lynched for little or no reason.

On the walls of the center were depictions of the milestones in King's life such as his meeting with president Kennedy in 1962 and his Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. The original 2 mule-team wagon used as a caisson for King's funeral was also part of the exhibit. Posted next to the wagon was a quote from King, which said,



Special | Signal
Martin Luther King, Jr.'s crypt and gravesite is now joined by Coretta Scott King's crypt that lays just opposite of his. Plans are underway to finalize her grave's final resting site next to her hus-

more solemn and reflective. Each exhibit had a central theme and accompanying videos. Visitors gain a better understanding of the message of each exhibit when watching the video. The exhibits, titled Segregation, King Family, Call to Lead, Visiting the Mountain, Expanding the Dream and Overcoming Loss, offered deeper insight into each topic covered. They gave a better understanding of the work of King and showed old television footage of just how hard the struggle was in the 1960s.

The Segregation exhibit in particular had a glass panel on which the various laws concerning segregation were written. One law prohibited white nurses from attending to black men. There were at least three different laws that criminalized intermarriage. Many have heard about the existence of such laws, but to witness the actual law in its written form, to see how such legal mandates were worded makes history more concrete and tangible. It leads a visitor to become even more aware of the struggles of the African-American people in the past and how far America as a country has come.

The room named Edmund Pettus Bridge featured exhibits that documented the struggles of African-Americans in gaining their right to vote. A sample of the voter registration test, one that was required for all African-American voters, was posted on the wall. The test asked questions most Americans don't know the answer to today. The room also held a life-sized dummy of a Ku Klux Klan member and a huge picture on the wall, which featured Ku Klux Klan members posing behind a flag of the United States. It

"Every man must decide whether he will walk in the light of creative altruism or the darkness of selfishness. This is the judgement. Life's most persistence and urgent question is what are you doing for others."

In the lobby of the Visitor Center sat a testimony and response section, where visitors could write about how they felt after their visit to the center. A lot of the visitors expressed gratitude for the work of King and the insight their visit to the center gave them. Souvenirs were available for sale at both sites.

King was not only the most eloquent spokesman for racial justice of this time; he was almost the most successful. He discovered that it was far easier to secure basic civil and voting rights (as difficult as that was) than to remove from a society the racial prejudice and discriminatory practices by which it has lived for centuries. But, by his teachings and example, he infused his own and succeeding generation with a commitment to racial equality and a zeal to work diligently for it.

The Visitor Center's exhibits tell the story of a journey. A journey that has come a long way but is by no means complete. It tells the story of courage, faith and determination. It brings to life the struggles and the journey of a people. People who strove to achieve social change because they believed that all men are created equal. A visit to the King Center leaves one with a feeling of reflection and inspiration that there is still more to be done.

Never been to the King Center? Take some time to visit, it could be a life-changing experience. For more information, please visit www.thekingcenter.org.

The suspension of pricey "happy endings" leaves deputies disappointed

By TIMOTHY PERDUE
tperdue@gsusignal.com

In Virginia, sheriff deputies are now shaking their heads-obtaining the services of a "masseuse" at a spa is no longer permitted in prostitution investigations.

Under increasing public pressure, Virginia's Spotsylvania County Sheriff's Department suspended the tactic of allowing undercover deputies to receive sex services during prostitution investigations.

The Spotsylvania County sheriff, Howard Smith stated, "As the sheriff, I understand the feelings and concerns that the citizens of this county have expressed. And I empathize with those feelings. Because of the public's express response, I have suspended the practice."

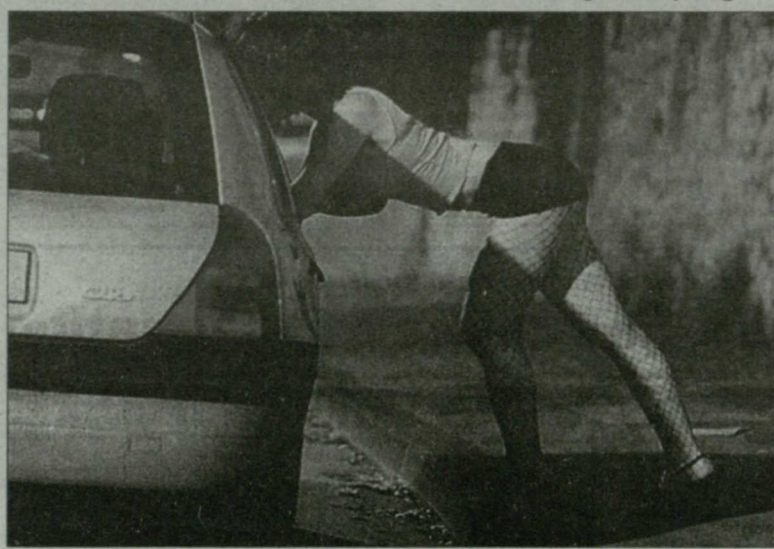
Just days earlier however, Smith defended his decision to

allow the practice. Smith, along with Spotsylvania's top prosecutor, William Neely, explained that undercover deputies needed to pay and receive the services in order to build a stronger case. According to Smith and Neely, the lack of English spoken by the workers at the Asian-ran Moon Spa massage parlor made it difficult to get the


workers to verbally agree to perform a sex act.

Deputies visited the Moon Spa massage parlor several times during Jan. as part of an operation to rid the Vir. area of organized prostitution. According to court documents, deputies received sex serv-

See DEPUTY JOHN | Page 11



Special | Signal
All in a day's work had a different meaning for some deputies from the Spotsylvania Sheriff's Department. That is until orders came that halted the prostitution-beat perk. Now, deputies must find their "happy ending" elsewhere.



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Dance

from page 9

Olorunsola, this West-African dance style is different from others because it focuses more on hip and back movements. Olorunsola danced to a song called "1'er gaou", from the "Premiere Gaou" album, by the Magic System.

With her red, green, and black fabrics accented with wooden beads and belts, Olorunsola began her performance. Spectators watched in awe as her body movements seemed to control the drum-accented melodies emitted from the speakers. Afterwards, audience members were invited to the front to learn the routine.

Olorunsola explained the basics and stressed that the "Hips must move in a clockwise position at all times." Illustrating the relationship between non-verbal expression and African culture, Tito taught a variety of moves, complete with hip-rolls, foot twists and additional "booty" movements. She revealed that the secret was not in "moving your butt," but in, "controlling your body and legs." Interestingly enough, some of the movements she taught can be found in today's hip hop dance culture, but are often frowned upon when expressed concurrently with other cultural components of Hip Hop.

As good things always come to an end – and fast, the 45-minute dance demonstration concluded with most participants out of breath and thirsty from the workout. Most of all, it left attendants with piqued curiosities wanting more.

Happy with the turnout, Hernandez remarked with obvious satisfaction, "I love how quickly people come together when dance is involved. It teaches us so much about one another and is one of the most primal forms of expression. It was really cool seeing how quickly Tito got everyone to do her dance."

Olorunsola, also a dance instructor, teaches Nigerian Dance at the Georgia State Recreation Center every Wednesday from 6:30 to 7:20 p.m.

GSUDE's next "Third Thursdays" session will be held on March 16 and feature Irish Dance. King O'Sullivan is expected to host the event that will occur just in time for the St. Patrick's Day celebration!

Though the March session will conclude the dance series for spring semester 2006, a spring show will be held in April to encourage performance arts at Georgia State. The event, with tickets available for \$5, will run from April 13 to April 15 and students are encouraged to come show their support.

In addition, GSUDE offers complementary dance lessons every Friday in the Sports Arena, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information, or past "Third Thursdays" highlights, please visit www.gsude.com

Deputy John

from page 10

ices four times and on one occasion, a \$350 tip was left for the "masseur." A total of \$1,200 was spent at the massage parlor during the investigation, but according to Smith, the funds spent came from money seized during drug raids and not taxpayer money.

Since the story first appeared in a Feb. 13 Washington Post article, the Spotsylvania Sheriff's Department has received much criticism from the public and from other law enforcement experts. Capt. John Crawford, an Alexandria police spokesperson, said that the city's detectives might go so far as to disrobe, but that once a suspected prostitute made a move to "the guy's personal area," she was arrested. Smith compared the department's tactics to undercover police officers who purchase drugs in order to build cases against drug dealers. However, many experts disagree. Drugs are often bought for evidence and police officers never use the drugs they buy.

Ironically, the Spotsylvania prosecution might find it difficult obtaining convictions with the evidence gathered by the questionable tactics. Steven D. Benjamin, a Richmond lawyer who is on the board of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers said, "I don't know if a jury would be real impressed with the conduct of an officer that engages in the very crime being prosecuted." In a similar 1995 case in Howard County, charges were dismissed because the prosecution did not want to expose the tactics in an open court.

The national attention Smith and his department received for its investigation practices might have been a surprise for them since they have executed similar investigations in the past. Smith and his department used the same tactics in a 2003 investigation at the Genex Therapeutic Massage parlor. The investigation led to a felony conviction against the business owner with four vehicles seized and more than \$35,000 in assets taken away. Smith said that his tactics went unquestioned in that case and had he received any objections from the judge or prosecutor he might have not used them in the Moon Spa investigation.

Once the story made national headlines though, objections were not hard to come by for the sheriff. "All of us [...] have been worried about this episode tarnishing the county and making us a laughing-stock of the nation," Spotsylvania Board of Supervisors Chairman, Henry "Hap" Connors told the Associated Press. Perhaps Connors should consider worrying about his sheriff as well.

In the end, it does make someone wonder how happy the Spotsylvania deputies were when it was time to "get off". Now that is funny.

Un-masking the mystery: Who in the world is...? Introducing Bob Jamerson as Baton Bob

By ALAN E. NORMAN
anorman@gsusignal.com

In the time since Sept. 11, 2001, our Marines, soldiers, sailors, and airmen on the battlefield have defined courage and integrity. Images of their bravery are shown on the news every night and published in the newspaper every day. But, more simply, courage and integrity can also be defined as doing the right thing, at the right time, for the right reason and without regard for the consequences. Local personality, Bob Jamerson brings those qualities to life not in what he does, but in who he is. A well-recognized figure in the midtown area, Jamerson personifies courage and integrity through his ultra-unique image.

Born in 1952, Jamerson grew up on a farm in Martinsville, Vir., a small town of roughly 60,000. He grew up with a traditional rural upbringing, learning from his parents and grandparents to tend a garden and raise cattle. Jamerson credits his humble beginnings as a major influence to his sense of right and wrong and his relationship with nature.

Around the time Jamerson was seven years old, he went to a football game and witnessed the majorettes twirling their batons at the half-time show. He was enthralled with the beauty of their routines using nothing more than a stick of metal. It was at that point he asked his grandmother to buy him a baton, but sadly, she replied that she could not afford one. Jamerson undeterred, cut off a broom handle and began to imitate the routines he saw on Friday nights.

In high school, Jamerson was a percussionist and the drum major in his junior year. In his senior year, he decided that the time had come to live out his dream of performing with a baton as a featured male twirler. The band director was supportive, but insisted that Jamerson provide his own costume. Jamerson got to work, purchased material to create his own uniform and began performing at football games.

After high school though, Jamerson did not touch a baton for 20 years. It was at a low point in his life, shortly after Sept. 11, 2001, battling with depression, that his therapist recommended that every time Jamerson felt depressed, he should do something that made him happy. Jamerson thought back to the happiest times of his life, put on a costume, hit the streets and twirled his baton around his neighborhood in St. Louis, Missouri.

Almost immediately, two police officers stopped Jamerson. He feared the worst, until the two police officers approached with big smiles and asked to have their picture taken with him. They even went further and asked if he would be willing to pose in a department photo. Jamerson realized he was

no longer depressed; he felt good making others feel good, laugh, and enjoy their lives.

Living in the Forest Park neighborhood of St. Louis, Jamerson enjoyed local notoriety and attracted crowds wherever he went. Soon, he was sought out by Jeff Fister, a reporter, who wrote an article titled "The Ambassador of Mirth." Jamerson felt the name called out to him, and adopted it as his character's name. "This came at the right time. Everyone was in a major funk after 9/11 and [the character] The Ambassador of Mirth came to me and I've been doing this ever since," Jamerson said.

Jamerson continued to walk every day with his route taking him through three hospitals in the St. Louis area. He never suspected that his daily walks, twirling a baton and blowing a whistle, would improve others' lives. He soon received word that doctors, nurses and patients looked forward to his daily walks and hospital staff reported that he improved the health of their charges. Jamerson became invigorated with a simple mission "to lift people's spirits, in the middle of their day, however they encounter it."

Looking back on his life, Jamerson shared that if someone told him six years ago that he would be twirling a baton to make people happy he never would have believed them. And now, The Ambassador of Mirth has achieved an international appeal. With passport stamps from London, Paris, Berlin, Sydney, Bali, Thailand, Bangkok and cruises to the Caribbean, everywhere The Ambassador of Mirth goes, a crowd soon gathers, eager to have a picture with him and watch him dance. It seems everyone throughout the world who encounters The Ambassador is touched with the warm happiness he strives to bestow.

After a vacation in Vail, Co. during the Fourth of July celebrations, residents fell in love with The Ambassador. Every year since then, the city of Vail has flown him in to participate as an active part of the Fourth of July parade.

Baton Bob, as he is popularly known, left everything in St. Louis and relocated to Atlanta approximately one year ago. Not surprisingly, he quickly established a reputation as a cultural icon in the city as many began to buzz, "Just who is the man with the baton?" He can be seen in the Atlanta Aquarium ad campaign and is frequently requested for appearances at parties, fashion shows, and other events. In the next few months, he'll be featured in a film documentary as well as still photo documentary.

Jamerson stresses the difference between himself and other eccentric performers in the area. There is a difference between him and 'drag queens' he says. His

attire is not limited to dressing in short and stylish skirts, as he explains, "I don't wear them to look like a woman; I wear them because I have great legs."

Those great legs are a result of nearly three hours of walking per



Alan E. Norman | Signal

Jamerson's mission: to lift people's spirits.

day, every day, weather permitting. His high-profile journey introduces him to well-wishers and gawkers alike—with some-



Alan E. Norman | Signal

Jamerson appears in the Atlanta Aquarium ad campaign.

times disastrous results: three auto accidents caused from distracted drivers watching him instead of the road.



Special | Signal

Baton Bob started twirling early as a drum major in high school

Jamerson's humor and mirth is not without its dark side however. The Ambassador of Mirth character came from his bout with



Special | Signal

"I don't wear skirts to look like a woman, I wear them because I have great legs."

depression as a gift to assuage the darkest part of Jamerson's soul. Baton Bob credits his happiness now to this gift—and with it, he seeks to share his unconditional joy with the world, one walk at a time.



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Sports

Interim Editors: **Dominique Huff**
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Freshman Golfer Leading Panthers to Another Solid Season

By: **DARREN BAYNES**
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The men's golf team finished fourth at the 29th Annual Sun Trust Gator Invitational on Sunday, Feb. 19. Freshman Mark Haastrup's third-place finish was the Panther's best finish, as he proved once again to be one of the most talented Freshman in the nation. The Danish native played consistently at the University Course to post his 4th top 5 finish of the year. Maintaining his status among the top 20 players in all of college golf.

The Panthers are coming off a 5th place finish in Jacksonville two weeks ago and Coach Clark is eager to get his talented team back in the winners circle. Perhaps one of the most overlooked teams in the past few years, this year's team in stronger than ever.

Haastrup is not the only player leading the way, the most important quality this team presents is that every player in the lineup on a given week can step up and win. European Palmer Cup player, and England native Steven Tiley has already claimed two career titles last year as a Junior. While Sophomore Joel Sjöholm has also shown why his Swedish swing will soon carry him to a collegiate victory. His 3rd place finish in Japan earlier this year helped the team to a 2nd place finish at the event.



GSU Athletics Department | SIGNAL
Freshman Mark Haastrup's third-place finish was the Panther's best finish of the event.

While every Panther golfer is capable of a great future in the game, it has been the play of Haastrup that has caught the attention of most. The twenty-one year old from Højby, Denmark arrived at Georgia State with little knowledge of the college life. It was close friend, and former Georgia State Golfer, Kasper Jorgensen who helped Head Coach Matt Clark secure this fine talent. Jorgensen, a 2004 graduate and academic All-American helped the led the Panthers to an 11th place finish at NCAA finals, the best ever result from a Georgia State

team at the time. Jorgensen, currently a member of the Challenge Tour based in Europe, recently visited Atlanta after his 10th place finish in Guatemala where he collected just under \$5,000. Jorgensen in regards to his Danish counterpart said, "he has done very well. I thought he would fit in well at GSU, and he is a very strong player. I benefited tremendously from my three years there, and however long he stays, I'm sure he will become a better player, and a better person for it."

His experiences before college were almost unheard of.

Haastrup was a member of the Danish national team for six years, and his resume included a 10th-place finish at the World Amateur Championship, and numerous victories on the European Amateur Circuit.

A scoring average of 72.1 on a tough schedule speaks volumes of the freshman's potential, and a national ranking of No. 18 is reason enough to catch the attention of many golf enthusiasts. This top 20 ranking is a remarkable figure, as there are thousands of Division 1 players in the ranking system. When asked about his freshman

year so far, Haastrup said, "I am very happy with the season, I know what I am capable of, and so it hasn't really surprised me too much." His victory at the Carpet Capital Collegiate in Dalton, GA last November came at a pivotal time, as it also helped the team capture the prestigious event. In one of the most competitive fields outside of NCAA's, Haastrup fired an 11 under par total and joined a list of winners which include current and former PGA Tour players, Bill Haas, D.J. Trahan, Bryce Molder, which suggests great things are to come for this Panther.

One may ponder what there is left to achieve, however the "Great Dane" as he is often called, says, "We have a lot of work left to do, the season is just beginning. I want to win at least 2 more events, and have our team advance to Nationals again, and then be in contention to win the National Championship." And as for his future goals, beyond life as a Panther, "I definitely see myself on the European Tour in five years, playing with the best in the world." When asked about the play of his Danish Freshman, Coach Clark says, "I knew he would be a great asset for this team. It has just been a pleasure to watch him do so well not only on the golf course, but

See GOLF | Page 15

Men's and Women's track start outdoor season

By: **MATTHEW BARBOUR**
mbarbour2@student.gsu.edu

The men's and women's track teams will be opening up their outdoor season this weekend, at the Florida State Opener. Head Coach John Rowland and his teams are very excited because they will be competing in a new conference, the Colonial Athletic Association.

Rowland said he's eager to compete in the CAA because "it's a much more competitive conference than what we've been a part of in the past." Sprint Coach Eric Campbell echoes Rowland saying the teams are "ready to go into the new conference and make a lot of noise."

However, Coach Rowland reminded the Signal that the indoor season is not quite over yet. Georgia State will be represented in Boston, Mass. this weekend at the Eastern College Athletic Conference Championships. Rowland said the two team members to keep your eyes on are sophomores Sherice Willis and Jacob English. Willis will be competing in the 60-meter hurdles and English in the triple jump.

As for the beginning of the outdoor season, Rowland said that

Mark Steeds and Loris Hutterli, both freshmen, are key assets. Steeds, who was Freshman of the Year in cross-country during the fall, will be focusing on the 5000-meter event, while Hutterli, who had a great indoor season, will be focusing on the 1500 meter.

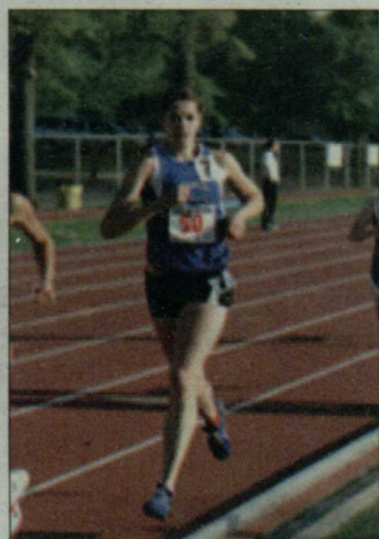
The men's and women's teams also have a set of shining seniors. Wes Hutcherson and Matt Wilpers help to represent the men's team. Hutcherson states, "As a team we

are looking forward to competing in the new conference since we have some formidable opponents." When asked about his personal goals for his last season, Hutcherson said he looks forward to having his "final and best race being at the CAA Championships in April."

As for the women's team, star seniors include distance runner Andrea Smith, and Ciji Canaby and Natasha O'Connor, who help lead the sprint and jump squad. Smith says that she is "definitely ready for the outdoor season. Indoor track for us is mainly just an indicator of what kind of shape we are in."

Apparently the women's team is in good shape, because according to Smith, "Myself, as well as many of my teammates have already set personal bests and we are only beginning!" She went on to say that this outdoor season should be a great one because "a talented group of distance runners will join forces with our many sprinters to ultimately be the best in the new conference."

As for personal goals, Smith says, "As a senior I hope to go out with a bang and improve in every race and leave it all on the track. I



GSU Athletics Department | SIGNAL
The track team hopes to impress starting this weekend.



GSU Athletics Department | SIGNAL

The Panthers will begin their outdoor track and field season this weekend.

am thankful for my four years at State and will especially miss Coach Jessica Raby (women's distance coach) and all of the distance girls."

Overall, Coach Rowland says that he has great expectations for this outdoor season and is already setting his sights on the CAA Championship meet, held this April at Virginia Commonwealth University. "Obviously, we want to come out on top, but our goal for the teams this year is to come out of the championship as one of the top four teams."

Coach Campbell also has high

hopes for the teams. "Last year the teams took eight [members] to the NCAA Regionals, and hopefully that number will grow this year."

The women and men of the Georgia State outdoor track team will travel to Charlotte the week after the Florida State opener to compete in the 49er Classic

Be sure to follow the success of the men's and women's track teams on Georgia State's sports website, www.georgiastatesports.com if you can't make it to the competitions yourself

Lady Panthers burned by clutch shooting

By: STEVE LEWIS

slewis1@student.gsu.edu

The George Mason Patriots made every shot they needed to on Friday night, beating the Lady Panthers 83-70. The Panthers lost the game despite an impressive defensive effort and out rebounding George Mason 46-38. The Panthers kept the game close until the final nine minutes of the ball game when the Patriots went on a 13-0 run that took the game out of Georgia States hands.

The first half featured some of

the Lady Panthers young, rising stars. Marcquitta Head and Vatai Smith both saw extended minutes. It was the first time this season we really got to see the two power forwards on the court at the same time. This presented a challenge for the Patriots, who had trouble attempting shots over the swat friendly Smith, who is currently ranked second in the CAA in blocked shots. An impressive accomplishment for Smith, considering her limited playing time this season.

The tenacious play of Marcquitta Head frustrated the Patriots, as they were given little opportunities to grab defensive rebounds inside the paint. Head continued to draw fouls inside and got to the foul line for nine attempts in the first half. It was a career day for Head. The freshman from Conley GA scored a career best 22 points in the game and picked up 12 rebounds.

"Grand Theft Basketball" Brittany Hollins added to Georgia States defensive effort as well. Hollins picked up four more steals Friday, three of which came in the first eleven minutes of the ball game. However, the Patriots continued to make big three point field goals. Jen Daniels struck with one with five seconds left in the half that gave George Mason a 32-31 advantage.

Daniels' half-ending three was just a preview of what would come in the second half. 40 seconds into the period, Lateisha Wade hit one, giving her team the lead once again until a couple of baskets by



GSU Athletic Department | Signal

Coach Henry-Manning talking strategy with her players.

See BBALL | Page 17

Hawks trying to end losing ways

By: MICHAEL KLEIN

mklein1@student.gsu.edu

Over the past twenty years, fans of professional Atlanta sports have had plenty to cheer about and loads of nforgettable memories. Baseball fans remember the Braves' unprecedented fifteen consecutive divisional titles and the World Series title in 1995. Football fans remember the improbable Super Bowl run in 1998, consecutive NFC

sons. Hawks fans have heard the phrases "Wait til next year" and "This is a rebuilding season" far too many times. It seems like the only person who could fix this dreadful franchise would be "The Wolf" from Pulp Fiction

Because the Hawks have been so bad over the years, it's hard to attract big name free agents to come play in Atlanta. In order to bring free agents to Atlanta, the price is not cheap. Last year's signing of guard Joe Johnson will



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The maturation of young players is the Hawks only hope.

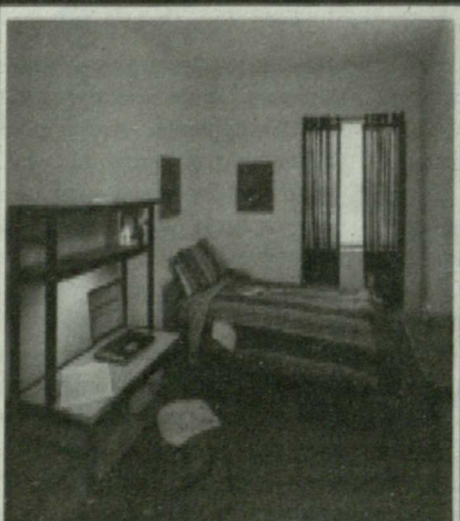
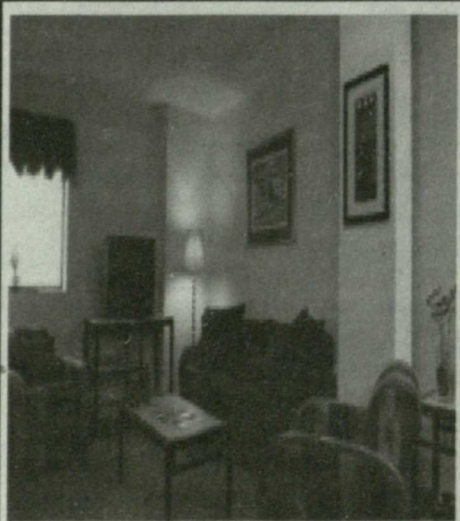
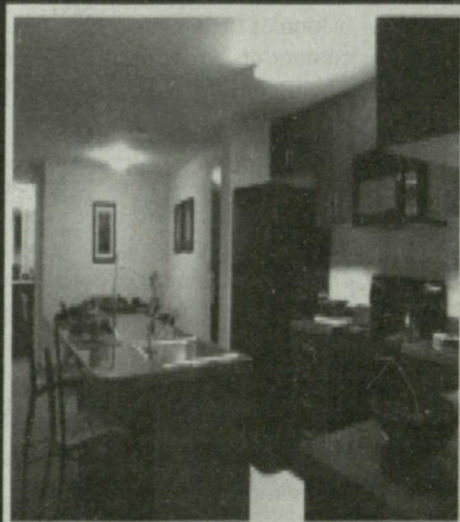
Championship games in 2003 and 2004, and the never-ending highlights of Michael Vick torching defenses. But, for fans of professional basketball and the Atlanta Hawks, it has been a different story.

Despite a few early playoff exits throughout the 90's, the Hawks have been a below average team, which is an understatement for their teams since 2000. Since the '99-'00 NBA season, the Hawks have won just 33% of their games and have finished the season dead last in the standings in just about every one of those sea-

cost the Hawks \$70 million over the next six years. So, in order to make a playoff contender out of the Hawks without spending inordinate amounts of money each year, the focus will simply be on developing the younger players, drafting intelligently, and making trades to fill holes in the roster.

To put an emphasis on how young this Hawks team is, Georgia State guard Malcom Manier is older than seven out of the twelve players on the current Hawks roster. But, the youth on this team does have great potential.

See HAWKS | Page 15



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What to expect from the 2006 Falcons offseason

By: STEVE LEWIS
slewis1@student.gsu.edu

There are two important dates coming up on the Falcon's calendar. The NFL free agency signing period, which starts March 3, and the NFL draft, which begins April 29. So what should the fans expect this offseason? Well there are many holes to fill for this team that finished just 8-8 last season. This will be a tough task due to the cap problems they are currently facing.

Team Needs:

The team's biggest need this season will be improvement to their secondary. The team lacks a legitimate starter at both the free and strong safety position. They also need depth at the cornerback position, which was quite depleted due to injury at the end of the 2005 campaign.

Another area of need will be defensive end. Current starter Brady Smith has had some serious injury problems as of late and is considering retirement. The ten-year veteran was only able to play in 5 games last season. Chauncey Davis started in Brady's most of last season and was ineffective. On the offense side of the ball, the Falcons will most likely be looking for depth in the offensive line and at Wide Receiver. Roddy White and Michael Jenkins will be back as starters, but look for the team to add a player since backups Dez White and Jerome Pathon will be departing.

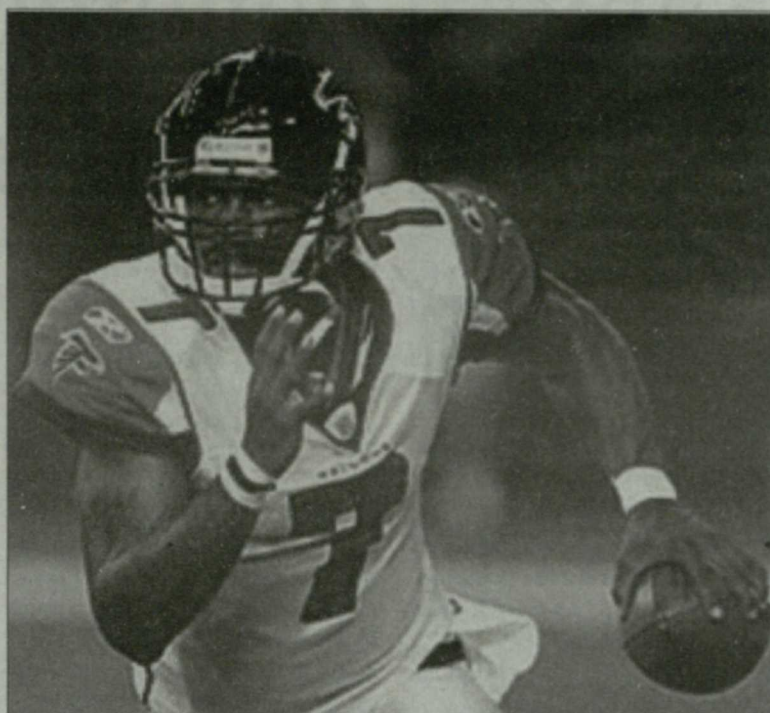
Potential Trades:

Expect running back T.J. Duckett to be traded this offseason. The Falcons are not happy with the production they have gotten out of their 2002 top pick (an average of 3.1 yards per carry). Duckett feels he would be able to produce more if he received more playing time, and would like to go to another team and pursue a job as a number one back. As long as Warrick Dunn is the starter, Duckett will have to continue to fill his complimentary role.

Duckett has two years left on his contract, so it would be smart to move him now, considering the latter years of an NFL players contract are always the heaviest against the salary cap.

The Falcons will also get a lot of trade interest for backup QB Matt Schaub. There are several teams that will be looking to acquire a starting QB, and in his two years in the NFL Schaub has shown some tremendous upside. Because of this, the team will likely add a backup QB in the middle rounds of the draft to back up Vick. Vick takes a beating on Sundays is known for missing a down every now and then.

A trade would likely give the team another draft pick in the early rounds or the possibility of moving



The Falcons will once again have Vick as their hurler.

Special | Signal

up from their position (15th overall) in the first round.

The Free Agency Market:

The Falcons are currently in some trouble with the salary cap. The team is projected to be close to ten million dollars over the cap for the 2006 season. If they are able to sign a big free agent, they might have to ask some of their big contract players like Dunn, Brooking and Vick to restructure their deals.

There have been many rumors floating around about Dunn's contract. The team has apparently stressed that he must restructure his deal or be released. The all-pro running back is scheduled to make 8 million dollars next season. There are also rumors that the Seattle Seahawks are looking to acquire him to replace Shaun Alexander, in the event that he signs elsewhere.

If the team is able to clear some room there are some big names at the Safety position that would be available. These include Pittsburgh safety Chris Hope, Vikings safety Cory Chavous, and Rams safety Adam Archuleta. At the defensive end position, some of the big names hitting the market will be the Jets John Abraham, Kyle Vanden Bosch of the Titans, Kimo von Oelhoffen from the Steelers, and Darren Howard of the Saints.

And the First Pick will be:

With the 15th overall pick, many of the experts expect the Falcons to select Tamba Hali, a defensive end out of Penn State. He would likely be the best player available at that position unless the team moves up. This would give them a chance to possibly draft Mario Williams from NC State or Mathias Kiwanuka from Boston College. Williams is expected to be drafted in the top five, and

Kiwanuka is likely to stick around until the top ten.

This is one of the deepest NFL drafts in years. This is a great opportunity for a team who got as far as the NFC title game a little over a year ago.

Hawks

from page 14

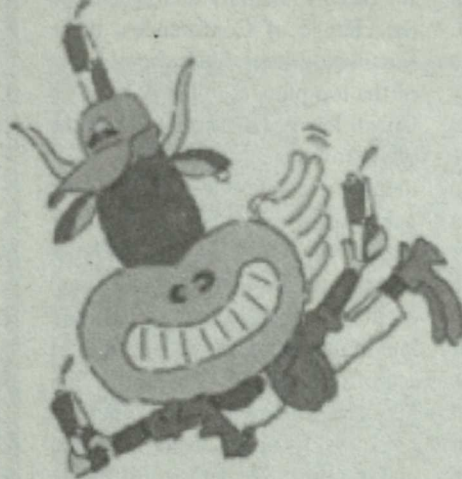
The successful Hawks teams of the past were lead by All-Stars like the "Human Highlight Reel" Dominique Wilkins and the shot-blocking machine Dikembe Mutombo. It seems like the Hawks tried to get a combination of these two players when they drafted 6'9 forward Josh Smith in the 2004 NBA Draft. Smith can dunk like 'Nique and block shots like Mutombo, but the 20 year old still has a long way to go to become a complete player. His jump shot was smooth throughout his high school career, but he has been hesitant to shoot and often forces bad drives. But once Smith regains his confidence, his game should go to the next level.

The youngest player on the Atlanta roster is the highly touted rookie Marvin Williams. The 19 year old showed great potential at the University of North Carolina, but has simply been overmatched in the NBA. At 6'9, his height forces him to play as a forward, but his young age keeps his body from being fully developed. Marvin's basketball skills had scouts drooling when he worked out for NBA teams before the draft. Once his body catches up, just about every scout would agree that he will be a force to be reckoned with on the hardwood.

Besides youth, one problem the Hawks have is that their roster is made up of mostly 6'7 to 6'10 guys who pretty much play the same position. This wouldn't be too big of a problem, but the Hawks lack a consistent point guard and another big man to help out current center Zaza Pachulia. Tyronn Lue and Royal Ivey have tried to play the role of point guard, but neither has been anything but mediocre at best. To fill this gap, the Hawks either need to draft a point guard or sign a free agent after this season. If they choose to use the draft to fill the hole, a player that would be a good fit would be University of Kentucky point guard Rajon Rondo. The 6'2 guard would compliment Joe Johnson very nicely in the backcourt and could finally give the Hawks a reliable ball handler. If the Hawks want to test the free agent market after the season, 5'11 guard Speedy Claxton would make a nice addition. Claxton has good court vision and plays excellent defense, averaging about two steals per game.

Hawks fans, or what's left of them, have endured many seasons of gawd-awful basketball. If the young players on the team continue to progress like they have been and the organization makes smart offseason moves, the future of Atlanta basketball should be in good hands and this should be the last time we hear "Wait til next year" for a long time.

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Panthers drop senior night thriller to Tigers



GSU Athletics Department | SIGNAL

Sophomore Forward Justin Billingslea looking to dish the ball out.

By: STEVE LEWIS
slewis1@student.gsu.edu

"We ran out of possessions," remarked Panther's coach Michael Perry as his team lost Thursday night's game 70-69. The Towson Tiger's three point heroics during the closing minutes ruined Georgia State's hope of ending the 2005-2006 home schedule with a victory. The Tigers pulled off the win despite making the trip to Atlanta without the Conference's leading scorer Gary Neal (27.2 PPG), who was forced to sit this one with a foot injury.

The first half was very back and forth. An early 9-4 Panther lead led to a 7-0 Tiger run, making the score 12-9 Towson. A few plays from Boyd Copeland would keep the Tigers from going on another substantial run. Copeland scored eight first half points and brought down six boards. With 9:20 to go, Copeland hit Justin Billingslea inside the paint. Billingslea dunked the ball with authority and the crowd of nearly 900 people erupted. Herman Favors then connected on three straight shots in the final three minutes of the half, as Georgia State would go into the locker room with a 32-27 lead.

The second half started much like the first half ended. After Deven Dickerson picked off a pass from Dennard Abraham, Herman Favors hit a three pointer, which sparked a 12-3 Georgia State run. State would lead by as many 14 points in this half until the hot hands of the Tigers began to strike. Towson would hit seven three points in the second half, each one continuing to silence what was an electrifying crowd.

State would continue to hold

them off with some three pointers of their own. Malcolm Manier struck twice from downtown and gave Georgia State a commanding seven point lead with eight to play. However, Towson fought back and forced a tie with a minute left in the final period. CAA rookie of the week Tim Crossin's three pointer with 49 seconds in regulation would be the final nail in the coffin as the Tigers went on to victory 70-69.

The Panthers four graduating seniors were honored before the game. Guards Malcolm Manier, Herman Favor, Boyd Copeland, and forward D'Andre McGrew each played their final game at the GSU sports arena. Copeland put together arguably his best performance of the season, scoring 17 points, pulling down 12 rebounds, and picking up six assists. After the game, coach Perry talked about how this was a challenging season for these four individuals. Before the change of Conferences, these four would have likely been some of the top players in the A-Sun. Coach Perry was surprised at how well Towson continued to shoot the ball towards the end of the game, especially without their star Gary Neal. As for Georgia State, he expected his team to make some of the open looks they attempted late in the game, which turned into opportunities for Towson. The Panthers attempted a season high 31 shots from three-point range, making just 25 percent of those shots.

The Panthers head to Richmond VA as they will compete in the CAA tournament, which begins on March 3. The Panthers will probably be the 11th seed in this tournament and most likely take on the Northeastern Huskies.

Seniors honored during Thursdays close game

By: Katie Hawkins
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Georgia State honored its four senior players on the men's basketball team Thursday night during a close game that the Panthers lost 70-69 to Towson University.

The Panthers (6-20/13-14) led the second half by 14 points, and were tied with the Towson Tigers (12-14/8-9) after a three-point basket by senior D'Andre McGrew with 1:08 remaining.

Seniors Boyd Copeland, Herman Favors, Malcolm Manier, and McGrew each scored double digits for their home finale. Copeland scored the most points, with 17 points and six assists, Favors followed with 16 points, and Manier and McGrew each added 11 points.

"We would have liked to finish the final game at home with a win, but we missed our chances," head coach Michael Perry told reporters.

Favors, who is listed as only 5'9", is known by players as Lil' King Kong. He is considered one

of the Panthers' strongest players, and holds a number of school records.

Thursday marked the 108th game for Favors, who has played four years at Georgia State and is number five among players in the school's history for the number of games played. Favors is also fifth in Georgia State history for number of career assists, with 290.

Copeland, who has played three seasons for Georgia State, holds the number eight record for career assists, with 277. Manier is tenth in the school's history for three-point baskets, with 100 in 53 games, and McGrew has a career average of 82 percent for free-throws.

Last week, the Signal reported that the athletics marketing department had increased its budget to boost attendance levels at home basketball games. Associate Director Jon McLamb said that Thursday night was a prime focus for marketing staff.

In honor of Senior Night, the

first 50 students to attend the game received coupons for Willy's Burritos. The first 100 attendees received Georgia State visors. Competitions for prizes such as a round-trip Delta ticket and an iPod Nano were held throughout the game.

The sorority Delta Zeta was recognized as the participation contest winners for the game, having the largest representation and most spirit, according to President Alina Birger.

"I had absolutely no idea it was Senior Night," said Birger. She noted, however, that the student turnout was better than previous games she had attended.

Delta Zeta attended the game as part of their Date Night. "We figured that going to the basketball game would be a good way to make a positive impact and get Greek organizations involved with athletics," Birger said.

"We had a blast," said Birger, a senior Speech major. "It was

See SENIORS | Page 17

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Georgia State University
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Bball

from page 14

Hollins tied the game at 46 with 12:18 to play. After a three by Monica Thomas, the Panthers took the lead for the first time in the half. However, the Patriots would bear down on defense, force some big turnovers and score six points in just 48 seconds.

By the six-minute mark, George Mason had a ten-point lead and the game in hand. Another big three by Jen Daniels put the game away as her team would go on to victory 83-70.

It was a tough one to swallow for the Panthers, who played a fine game except for about 3 minutes of the final period. The fact that George Mason was able to make ten three point field goals, all at crucial situations was just bad luck for the Panthers.

It is evident though that the team is improving, especially on the defensive side of the ball. Marcquitta Head is really showing that she has a better understanding of how to play at the college level. The increase in minutes for Vatai Smith is also something to look forward to going into the conference tournament.

Has life in the CAA been tough for the Lady Panthers? Well, with three games left on the schedule, the team has only eight wins. Quite a difference from their past eight season in the A-Sun, in which they averaged 19 wins a season. The team will return to the GSU Sports arena on Thursday March 2 to play VCU.

First season in new conference tough for Panthers

By: JON ZOPF
jzopf1@student.gsu.edu

With the conclusion of the 2005-06 Basketball season upon us, it's fair to say that for the Georgia State Panthers, both men and women, this is a season to be forgot. Entering the new conference, the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA), expectations for both teams were not set to high.

After a solid run in their former conference the Atlantic Sun, the Panthers (both male and female) realized that the CAA was filled with tough opponents filled with talented and experienced players and coaches.

Two years removed from playing in the NCAA Women's Tournament, the Lady Panthers struggled mightily in their inaugural season in the CAA. With an 8-16 record so far, with two remaining games, it doesn't look like this will be the year that the Lady Panthers make a return trip to the Big Dance. But their future looks bright. With only two seniors on the team, the Lady Panthers have a strong nucleus returning for year two in the CAA.

After leading the team in scoring this year, junior guard Kelcey Roegiers-Jensen will take over for the graduating Monica Thomas as the senior leader of the team. With the development of freshman center Marcquitta Head (who had two double-doubles this year), the two



GSU Athletics Department | SIGNAL

The lady Panthers will try and improve on their record next year.

should become a solid 1-2 punch in the conference next year.

Joining Roegiers-Jensen and Head will be ten other returning players, giving Coach Lea Henry Manning a solid core of lady ballers to attack the CAA next season.

On the other hand the men's basketball team looks like it may have a couple more bad years on their hands before they can make any type of impact in the CAA. This year's team consisted of solid play from all four seniors: Herman Favors, Malcolm Manier, Boyd Copeland and D'Andre McGrew,

who were 1-4 in team scoring and assists.

Coach Michael Perry guided his four seniors and his team through a very tough schedule, one that showed that the Panthers are not quite ready to be a part of the elite programs in college basketball. Three games early in the year against #15 Kentucky, in state rival Georgia and a solid Alabama team proved to be quite the learning experience for these Panthers.

Not only did they schedule three tough out of conference games, the Panthers had to deal with the tough competition in the

CAA, which includes an upstart James Madison team (ranked 25th in the country).

Two years removed from a 20-9 season and an almost trip to the NCAA Tournament, the men's squad are now a paltry 6-20 overall and 3-14 in their conference. With the season finale at UNC-Wilmington the Panthers will hope to end their season on a high note, and head into next season with something to build on.

However, with the four seniors departing at the end of the season and taking all of their scoring and assists with them, Georgia State and Coach Perry are going to have to rely on some young and inexperienced players entering next season.

With the difficult out of conference schedule, and the tough in conference opponents, Coach Perry has this program going in the right direction and in a couple years you could be talking about this Georgia State program as one of the solid mid-major teams we often hear about come March Madness.

Seniors

from page 16

great to have so many friends together at once."

According to the marketing department, Thursday night was also Panther Pride night for the Office of African-American Student Services and Programs. Many students reported that they were unaware of that fact. Representatives from OAASS&P were unavailable for comment.

In addition to Delta Zeta, other groups that attended the game included local Boy and Girl Scout troops, the Panthers track team, and Georgia State pre-dental majors and African-American alumni.

This season ended Georgia State's streak of 15 consecutive years with 10 or more wins. The Panthers finished the regular season at UNC Wilmington with a 68-55 loss last Saturday. The CAA tournament will begin Friday, March 3 in Richmond, Va.

Golf

from page 13

also in the classroom. He has handled both aspects very well so far, and hopefully he is the final piece to the puzzle and can help us win the National Championship."

Mark and the Panthers are back in action over spring break when they host the 3rd annual Hyatt Plantation Club Tournament at Dorado Beach in Puerto Rico. An event our team always looks forward to. Look for the team to bring home the title as they have finished in the top 3 in the previous two years.

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URBANITE

This week....

Exclusive Interview with Karen Handel

The Vagina Monologues at State

The Return of Theater Reviews

See you Thursday!



Perspectives

Editor: Jessika Toothman

Associate Editor: Vincent Migliore

Cold medicine industry finally fights meth

By MARIE TRAVIS
etravis@gsusignal.com

Ever wondered why the Sudafed is behind the counter at your local Walgreens? Never noticed? Go to the Walgreens on Piedmont and North and take a look for yourself.

There is a chemical in Sudafed and some other cold medicines as well called pseudoephedrine. This chemical has been used for years to make the highly addictive drug, methamphetamine, or just plain "meth" as most of us would call it.

Because of this chemical, many drug stores like Walgreens keep those medications behind the counter. Most stores also have a limit as to how many boxes each customer can purchase. But of course, there have been critics who

feel that the restrictions are unfair to those who truly need the medicine.

Those critics are in luck. There is now a new drug that has just been put on the market that won't have to be kept behind the counter! And even better, it can't be used to make meth.

This new drug, Sine Off, replaces the pseudoephedrine, which has been used to make meth, with phenylephrine, which cannot be used to make meth.

Chances are if you are a TV-watcher or listen to the radio when you are in the car, then you have probably heard commercials for Sine Off. The commercials proudly boast that Sine Off "works to fight colds, flu, sinus congestion, and the devastating effects of meth abuse."



Special | Signal
Sine Off is a recently developed drug that lacks the ingredient that is needed to make meth.

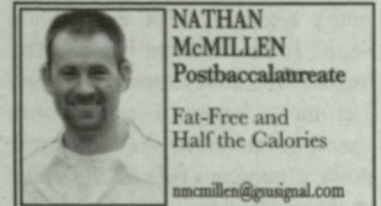
Their commercial draws you in because it is a medicine commercial and then, right from the beginning, the commercial says the word "meth." Your attention is automatically caught. It isn't every

day that medicine commercials talk about "real" drugs.

Now my question is: why didn't we come up with this sooner? A

See SIGN OFF | Page 20

Dogmatic party not living up to its dogma



Coretta Scott and Martin Luther King, Jr. forever changed the world. Though their inspirations for great social change were diverse, without question one of their roadmaps to action was the old family Bible. Regardless of one's thoughts on religion, it is evident that the Kings used religious messages to generate positive change in their world.

Similarly, our current presidential administration operates within a worldview that claims its foundation in the religious principles of the Bible. The Bush administration regularly employs Bible terminology when promoting its political ideals. Last month's "State of the Union Address" was liberally sprinkled with references to "God," "Our Creator" and "The Almighty." I am surprised that few people are stating the obvious: why not compare the overall Message and the overall actions?

Here are a few examples. "God blessed them: 'Prosper! Fill Earth! Take charge! Be responsible for fish in the sea and birds in the air, for every living thing that moves on the face of Earth.'" (Genesis 1:28, The Message Bible)

George Bush has waged a constant campaign to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and countless other protected lands, waters and monuments to oil development, mining and drilling. Decades-old safeguards have been removed to favor oil corporations. The world's leading scientists have unequivocally accused the administration of manipulating science to undermine environmental protection. Case in point: George Bush calls nuclear energy "safe." "Good people are good to even animals, but 'good-hearted' bad people kick and abuse." (Proverbs 12:10)

George Bush promotes human torture. His policy is to defend the justice, freedom and peace of America by mistreating prisoners of war. His theory is that chaos, violence and secrecy will protect Americans from chaos, violence

Wounded soldiers caught in expensive loophole



CANDACE FORBES
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If you are condemned to die in the Chinese courts, they take you to the execution grounds, shoot you, and send your family a bill for (the equivalent of) 6 cents to cover the cost of the bullet. If you don't pay, they refuse to return the ashes to you. That is about as ridiculous as charging soldiers who were injured in Iraq for their lost body armor.

I don't care how you feel about the Bush regime, the war in

Iraq, or the motive behind it - soldiers should be respected. They are fighting for their country and they are fighting for you. I would think that respect entails not charging them for their body armor when someone blew them up on the battlefield. In fact, this soldier should be honored for his bravery, not fined for a material item.

Eddie Redbrook had to pay \$700 for lost equipment and is now looking for work. He reports that many of his friends had to face the same ridiculous policy. The last time he recalls seeing his body armor was a year ago - he was lying on a stretcher in Iraq, with him arm shattered and covered in blood. A field medic tore off



Special | Signal
Soldiers are responsible for returning their armor or covering the cost, even when the Army knows it has been destroyed.

See ARMOR | Page 20

Don't hate Georgia State: It's not as bad as all that



ALEXIS COLVARD
Sophomore/Journalism
I CHOSE to live in Avondale.
everybodylovesrocky@yahoo.com

I do a lot of ranting in this newspaper, often not even in the opinion section. I complain to my friends and family about the injustices served to me by our beloved university. I have been known to bitch endlessly about everything from Album 88 (which, I'd like to contend right here and now, is overall a great and innovative station), to the godforsaken financial aid problems, to the Signal itself.

It's a habit we all get in sometimes: we're on a roll with some legitimate complaint and find ourselves a week later whining about

some entirely unrelated topic just because we've turned on the bitch switch and forgotten to shut it off. This article isn't like that. I thought it might be time in Perspectives to get a little non-sarcastic, stop delving so far into a semantic debate that I can't tunnel my way out of, and give our school a little - gasp - well-deserved praise.

As a transfer student to Georgia State, I came from a very liberal artsy school full of paper-writing and philosophy classes. While that's wonderful for some people, I view college as my opportunity to prepare for my future career (public relations) instead of a venue to get a broad understanding of a lot of different subjects.

I miss the writing I used to do at my old college, but I have found that, for true writers, you shouldn't

have to be forced to write on a teacher's deadline to find an outlet for that passion. I also know that, for my purposes, there is no better school I could be attending right now than Georgia State.

Going to a large school offers

"We know what we're doing; we know where we're going. The lack of community [...] is a blessing in disguise: we forge our own paths when we have no one to lead us."

me and other students the ability to be specialized in something, be it public relations, ceramics or southern literature. That will be a huge

asset to many of us when we enter the so-called real world and look for jobs. I know how to write press clips and how the media works, which is something smaller schools could never offer because they simply don't have the necessity, much less the funding.

Along with my major, I love the fact that Georgia State forces us to be independent. Most of us are commuter students, and many live on their own, even have full-time jobs. So for the most part, Georgia State students are not spoiled and we understand the value of hard work. In a lot of ways, I think that makes us appreciate our education that much more. We are not the society of Hummer-driving, completely parent-funded, often lazy students that

See SCHOOL | Page 23

See GOVT | Page 22

New minimum wage laws critical to decreasing poverty

By KOYA BROWN
kbrown@gsusignal.com

According to "Occupational Outlook Quarterly," in the decade of 2004 to 2014, America is expected to experience the largest numeric change in job growth. Here at Georgia State we are currently finishing up our degrees to head into the middle class; however, the fastest growing occupations are for retail salesperson(s) and registered nurses, behind these groups are college professors.

The anticipated wages for one year's work at "Moe Joe's Shoe Shop" is \$20,180 and below. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that there were 4.1 million job openings to start the year off. While companies filled 2.9 percent of those openings at a rate of 3.4 percent, the turnover on jobs was 3.1 percent. The prospects of getting hired and fired all in the same day are not so bleak.

If working in retail will leave one broke, imagine working at minimum wage. \$5.15 is the minimum wage directed by federal law. This wage leaves millions of Americans in poverty with a yearly salary of \$10,700. For a family of three, \$5.15 leaves three people \$4,970 below the poverty line. The current minimum wage has not been increased since 1997, nor has

it been adjusted for inflation.

13 states are aware of this fiasco and have a minimum wage higher than \$5.15. On the other hand, 29 states including Georgia match the federal wage. A wage this low is the demise of millions of women and their families. 11 million women work at this pover-



Special | Signal
The number of poor people is growing.

ty-stricken wage and at the same time are expected to maintain healthy lives. Along with this, many of these women are African-Americans and Hispanics.

Keeping wages this low restricts state funding for other social programs because people are forced to sustain their families with public assistance. Increasing wages redistributes state funding back to the companies, requiring the private sector to ante up. Georgia could definitely use some of these funds to refurbish their low-ranked educational program.

The Economic Policy Institute conducted a study that found increasing wages does not cost jobs. Wage increases are a pilot tool for increasing employee productivity. The loss of jobs plays a quintessential role in limiting the socioeconomic status of millions and this only blights the prospect of American lives.

In life we build social networks in hopes they'll pay off down the road; so we think. Upper-class white Americans are the leading group in forming these networks. The white middle class has taken the precedence for social norms and culturally, we begin to streamline decisions based on their assumptions.

But social capital is not an inalienable right and is devastated by socioeconomic status. We must take every precaution to ensure the well being of every American. Fellow Americans should not be living below the poverty line and still working 40 hours per week. Millions of people are working just to survive.

"Life is like a box of chocolate, you never know what you're gonna get." Meritocracy is an epidemic to thought and the surrealism to everyday life. We must make pacts with our neighbors just to sit down at the dinner table. "What's in your wallet?"

Sign Off

from page 19

product very similar to this has been sold in Europe for years and has been proven safe and effective. We preach about wanting to eliminate drugs and meth is one of the easier ones to produce: just stop on by your local drug store. (Yes, sarcasm is intended.)

We stopped selling products with ephedra in them because an unhealthy overweight person claimed their diet pills were what caused them to have a heart attack. Yes, the pills may have been a contributor, but most consumers also probably took more than the intended dosage. Note: When the bottle says do not take more than four pills a day - don't take more than four pills a day.

Yet we continue to sell products that can contribute to the already large drug problem that exists in our country? I guess that it isn't important enough - or more likely, it can't be sued over. I mean, who is going to sue a company because their homemade meth gave them a heart attack? You do that, and you are going to have a lot more problems to deal with than just a heart attack.

I commend Sine Off for its campaign against meth. They are taking a stand for a cause, and are trying to help make our society better. If you visit their Web site at www.sineoff.com you can see all their products, information about the products, and there is also a link called "The Meth Issue." And on top of all this goodness, it gets the job done, just like all other cold products! So go out and buy Sine Off next time you have a cold or flu, it's for a good cause: not only for your health but for our society too!

Armor

from page 19

Redbrook's armor to attend to the bleeding shrapnel wounds. This terrible situation occurred over a year ago and was the last time he saw the equipment.

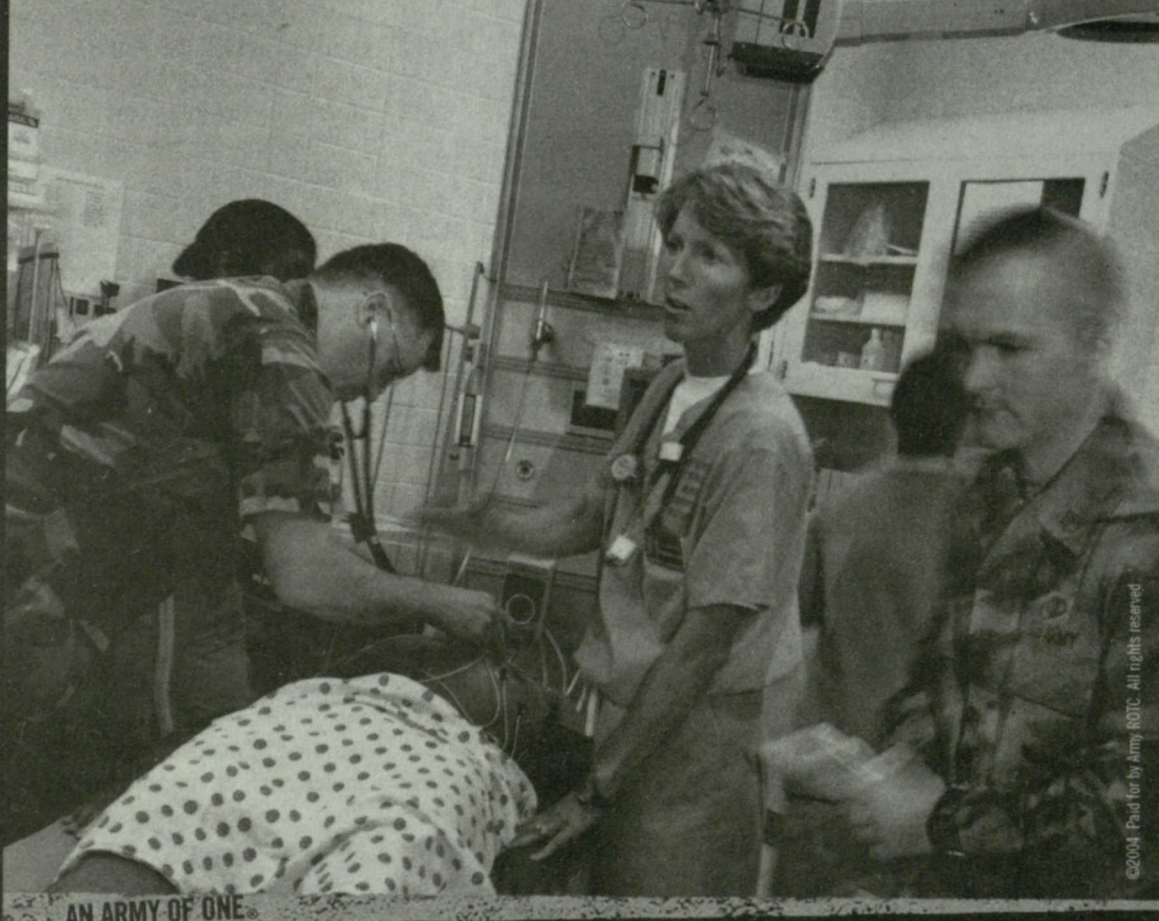
Fast forward to recently and Eddie Redbrook is leaving the army due to his injuries. He turned in all his gear at Fort Hood in Texas and they informed him that there was no record of the armor. At which point he was told he had to pay \$700 or face not being discharged for weeks or even months.

"I last saw the [body armor] when it was pulled off my bleeding body while I was being evacuated in a helicopter," Redbrook said. "They took it off me and burned it." Apparently the army has forgotten that it is their policy to burn such items as bio-hazard. It is inconceivable in this situation that anything else could have happened to it.

Soldiers serve their country, put their lives on the line and have to pay to do it. That is just ridiculous; they deserve better. What kind of a thank you is a bill? This isn't even an isolated case because Redbrook was discharged with others facing a similar situation. Meanwhile, the government pays ridiculous amounts of money for pointless things. People need to get their priorities straight if they don't see a problem with this.

One internet group saw how preposterous this policy is and in a matter of hours raised \$5000 for Redbrook and soldiers in a similar situation. The Bush regime thinks it's a good idea to throw money at everything else, so why in this situation is everyone being so stingy with the money?

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Airline seats: Sorry, but if one's not enough, you'll have to buy two

By MATT CORNELIUS
mcornelius@gsusignal.com

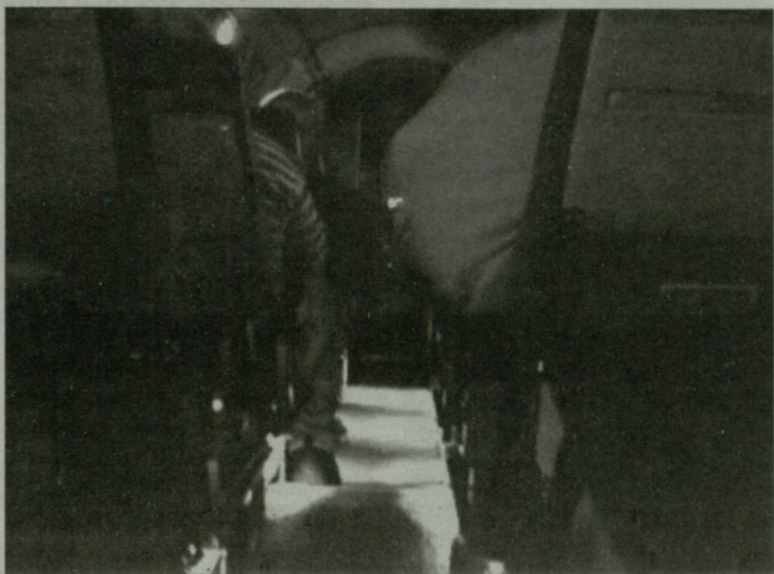
Obese Americans have become increasingly numerous over the past few decades, which has created problems in public venues where these individual simply do not fit.

This problem continues to creep not only into the waistbands of the afflicted, but also into the personal space of others as well,

and was told that she needed to purchase another ticket "for her comfort and safety." When she refused, she was escorted back to the Southwestern ticket counter by two sheriff's deputies and given a refund for her ticket.

Thompson was then placed on an American Airlines flight. She purchased only one ticket.

Thompson, while humiliated, was unable to prove her case in a U.S. District Court when the jury



Special | Signal

Because nobody really likes sharing on airplanes, especially their seats and armrests.

particularly on airplanes where personal space is already at a minimum. While the rights of these individuals must be defended, they should not be preserved at the expense of others.

So exactly how fat is too fat to fly?

The ongoing debate was re-sparked earlier this month when trial commenced in a case regarding a Southwestern Airlines passenger who was told she had to purchase two tickets because she was overweight.

Nadine Thompson, who weighed over 300 pounds at the time, claimed that she was harassed and unfairly singled out by the Southwestern employees not only because of her weight, but because she is a woman of color. Thompson sued Southwestern on grounds of racial discrimination following the June 2003 incident.

Southwestern defended its policy on passengers they affectionately term as "customers of size," stating that the policy had been in place for 24 years and that allowing these passengers to fly in a single seat jeopardizes the comfort and safety of all onboard the aircraft. They stated that the woman's race played no part in the incident.

According to Thompson, after taking her seat on the flight she was asked by a Southwestern employee to exit the plane and meet him on the jet way. She did so

found that racial discrimination was not a factor in her removal from the flight.

Juror Lance Hellman told reporters that he originally sympathized with Thompson, but as the trial went on it became apparent that she had no case.

Thompson has since stated that she did not receive a fair trial by a jury of her peers and that the all-white jury did not bring her justice.

Perhaps Ms. Thompson would have found greater consolation in her suit had she challenged the actual policy, rather than attempting to prove a highly subjective matter based on little more than individual perception.

Regardless, this is not the first time Southwestern's "customers of size" policy has come under attack by civil rights groups, namely the National Association to Advance Fat Acceptance. They claim that the airline's policy is discriminatory towards the obese and that airlines are simply not equipped to deal with large passengers.

In a conference hosted by NAAFA in 2002, the organization stated that they believed there to be inherent problems in the policy and how gate agents apply it.

Southwestern, one of several airlines invited to the conference, stated that obese passengers should take the initiative to make the air-

See AIRLINE | Page 22

Everyday is an opening day



VINCENT MIGLIORE
Journalism/Film
Cooler Than the
Other Side of
the Pillow
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With Spring Break coming up, a lot of people are getting ready to leave Atlanta and travel elsewhere. Have you ever thought about the people in other states that are going to come to Atlanta?

For years, well let's make that forever, Atlanta has been doing a terrible job trying to get people to vacation here. When people did come to Atlanta they would leave with a sense of regret that they didn't choose another city to visit. This was due to many factors. Outside of the world of coke, Atlanta didn't have very many places to entertain tourists. Also many people left the city once they found out the world of coke was actually a tour of the soda manufacturer.

I'll have to backtrack for a second. People would come to Atlanta for a Spring Break party known as the freaknick. However, because there was nothing to do in Atlanta everyone just stood in the street and got in the way. After years of coming to Atlanta to stand in the street, the freaknickers took

their party to another city where there was actually something to do.

I'm happy to say that Atlanta is finally starting to turn itself into a city that people actually would like to visit, and making its case for the freaknickers to return. With the recent opening of the Aquarium, Atlanta finally has a main attraction that people would be willing to travel across state lines to see. Its creation also thankfully lowers the Varisty on the list of must-see tourist attractions. All we need is one more big attraction to throw it off the list completely.

I'm sure most of you have seen the new ad campaign that the city is using to get people to visit. The new slogan is, "Atlanta, everyday is an opening day." While this is a horrible and inaccurate slogan at least they are trying. I also hope this commercial is airing in other places besides Georgia, but I guess its not a bad idea to try and get Atlantans to do things in Atlanta first and foremost.

A big problem with Atlanta is that it isn't very friendly to travelers. Street signs are nowhere to be seen and because the city is so fragmented its easy to get lost. Combine that with some of the worst traffic in the country and a public transportation system that

isn't very efficient and you have a city that is next to impossible to navigate if you are a newcomer.

There have been some improvements to MARTA recently. They finally have caught up to every other public transportation system in America and got rid of the awful token system. It is now so much easier to purchase MARTA fare, and no longer necessary to deal with those super friendly MARTA tellers. This is a great step in making MARTA less intimidating to use for newcomers of the city.

I love Atlanta and I think everything is slowly starting to come together for it. With some more improvements I'd actually suggest to others that they come and visit. Seriously though, there actually is enough in the city to keep people of all ages entertained. I mean any city that has two breweries that throw weekly parties on separate days can't be all that bad can it? The big attractions will draw the people in, but the small attractions are what will keep the tourists in the city for longer.

So for all of you Georgia State students who won't be leaving Atlanta for Spring Break, go do something in the city on the list of things you've never done before. I'm sure in the coming years, if trends continue, that list will grow.

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Pharmacists not accredited to make moral decisions



ALLISON WITHERELL
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Elvis Didn't Do
No Drugs
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I am continually given examples of why this is not the free country I'd like it to be. I was shocked to hear on the national news recently about a pharmacist who refused to fill a prescription for 'Plan B' (the morning after pill), and even more shocked to learn that he wasn't fired for inflicting his narrow-minded beliefs on an unsuspecting victim/customer.

When I looked further into the matter, I found that episodes like this are popping up all over the country, and not just with 'Plan B,' some pharmacists are now refusing to fill regular birth control prescriptions on the grounds that it conflicts with their religious beliefs.

First let me clarify that 'Plan B' is not an abortion pill; it is a high dose of the hormones contained in regular birth control pills that aims at preventing fertilization. It will not disrupt an existing pregnancy, and therefore does not in any way end a life. It's a preventative measure that all women should have the freedom to utilize.

Those who oppose emergency contraception, should, by the same logic, oppose all forms of preventative birth control methods including the more permanent means of vasectomy, hysterectomy, and tubal ligation.

A Missouri pharmacist recently lost her part-time job at Target for not only refusing to fill a prescription, but refusing to refer the patient to a pharmacy that would. Williams claimed she didn't want to become a 'link in the chain,' a chain, I suppose, of evil people not wanting to procreate.

Target asks their pharmacists to sign a 'conscience policy' in which they agreed to either fill or refer such a prescription to another pharmacy. Williams balked in an interview with the St. Louis Today, arguing that, "We had to make sure it was in stock and even give directions to the store. I would be a participant." Funny how her logic works because she is also quoted earlier in the interview as saying, "I'm not in judgment of anyone. I want my right not to fill something, much as they have their right to get Plan B filled."

Similar cases have occurred all over the country: at Target, Eckerd's, Walgreens, Wal-mart and CVS to name a few. Wal-mart recently ruled that their Massachusetts pharmacies are

required to carry 'Plan B' pills. That makes a whopping two states now for Wal-mart when combined with the already existing Illinois ruling. Wow, we're really moving forward here guys.

According to a comparable

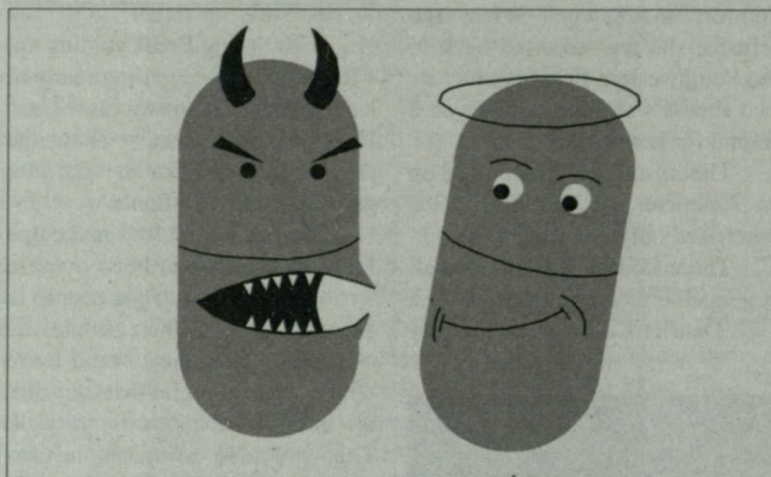
pharmacist is facing losing his license for refusing to fill a birth control prescription and refusing to transfer the prescription or even give the slip back to the customer to take elsewhere. In addition, a Texas pharmacist refused a pre-

policy supports stepping away but not obstructing."

Great, she acknowledges that this whole issue is negative, but why should their policy support stepping away? By no means do I think that someone should be forced to do something against their will, but I also do not believe that a woman should have to be inconvenienced by driving to another, more reasonable, pharmacy to fill her prescription. If a pharmacist is allowed to exercise their religious beliefs on a customer, then that store should perhaps be required to have another pharmacist on staff that will fill the prescription. A woman seeking 'Plan B' is already under enough stress without having to deal with a frowning Christian conformist behind the desk telling them that they're wrong and immoral.

The issue should be balanced in my opinion. If the American Pharmacists Association and most pharmacies allow for pharmacists to exercise their beliefs without worry, than it's only fair to allow women to employ rightful control over what we choose to put into our bodies.

As a woman, no one, whether it is a stupid pharmacist or the almighty government, has the right to tell me what not to do to my body.



CJ Bargamian | Signal

The morning after pill is causing a lot of problems in pharmacies across the country.

case covered in a USA Today article, "The American Pharmacists Association, with 50,000 members, has a policy that says drug-gists can refuse to fill prescriptions if they object on moral grounds, but they must make arrangements so a patient can still get the pills."

In Madison, Wisconsin, a

scription for an Eckerd customer that was a rape victim. Taking it a little far, aren't they?

Interviews with the spokeswoman for the American Pharmacists Association are somewhat disheartening. "The reality is every one of those instances is one too many," Winckler says. "Our

Govt

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and secrecy.

"You're blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of war or fight. That's when you discover who you really are." (Jesus Christ, Matthew 5:9)

George Bush stated, "I'm a war president. I make decisions here in the Oval Office in foreign-policy matters with war on my mind."

"Wisdom is better than weapons of war: but one sinner destroys a lot of good." (Ecclesiastes 9:18)

George Bush: "I did say also that our troops must be trained and prepared to fight and win war and, therefore, make peace more possible. And our troops were trained to fight and win war, and we did, and a second phase of the war is now going on."

"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress..." (James 1:27) Also, "Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees, to deprive the poor of their rights and withhold justice from the oppressed of my people, making widows their prey and robbing the fatherless." (Isaiah 10:1, 2)

The president will leave office with a record of under-funding veteran healthcare, cutting military housing and pay during war, and reducing Medicare support. At the same time as requesting billions of

dollars for war efforts, the administration reduces financing for schools and public works.

We should remain realistic about the fact that we live in a democratic republic with multiple political parties. The diverse and fascinating ideologies that compete daily in our social system assure for America a truly unique place in history. I am continually amazed however, that no one compares our administration's actions to the ideological - theological -

invoked Martin Luther King's sacred struggle against inequality, comparing it to his current campaign in Iraq. Unfortunately for him, Bush also said, "There is no peace in retreat. And there is no honor in retreat." He could demonstrate his commitment to peace by truly following King's great words:

"I am convinced that love is the most durable power in the world. It is not an expression of impractical idealism, but of practi-



CJ Bargamian | Signal

Bush's Pope hat is on a little too tight.

foundations they are purportedly based upon. Simply put, this juxtaposition is misleading, and as a result betrays any moral justification.

In last month's State of the Union address George Bush made frequent references to the religious principles that guide civilizations toward peace. Demanding America's support for his war, Bush even had the insolence to

cal realism. Far from being the pious injunction of a Utopian dreamer, love is an absolute necessity for the survival of our civilization. To return hate for hate does nothing but intensify the existence of evil in the universe. Someone must have sense enough and religion enough to cut off the chain of hate and evil, and this can only be done through love."

Airline

from page 21

line aware of their special situation just as passengers confined to a wheelchair would.

In this case the passenger would be required to reserve two tickets and be refunded the price of the second ticket if there were any empty seats on the flight.

The gauge Southwestern uses to determine just who is and is not a "customer of size," depends upon whether or not the passenger can lower their armrests, a safety precaution during landing and take-off.

Though Southwestern admits fault in the way their employees handled Ms. Thompson's situation; they firmly back the policy.

The airline has continuously defended their policy regarding "customers of size" stating that the policy has been upheld in court and is supported by the Department of Transportation's stance that the purchase of a single ticket offers the use of a single seat. Simply put, if you occupy two seats, you must pay for two seats.

No case to date has been found in favor of the plaintiff regarding such policy.

One of the defining factors here is whether or not obesity should be considered a disability. While there may be some instances in which obesity is the result of illness, an overwhelming majority of cases can be self controlled and the condition has rou-

tinely not been found to fall under the umbrella of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Therefore, for the purposes of airlines, self-inflicted fat people should not be granted a larger space than the rest of us who have paid the same price. If you are obese and want to fly, you must be prepared to pay for the space you occupy on the plane.

As for individuals who may be "of height" or "of length," they

"The gauge Southwestern uses to determine just who is and is not a 'customer of size,' depends upon whether or not the passenger can lower their armrests."

must also be prepared to pay the extra amount for seats with more head and leg room. There is no legitimate distinction between these situations and people "of size."

Perhaps someday airlines will restructure their cabins to accommodate the special needs of the obese, but until then, it looks like they'll be purchasing two seats.

Stupid Christians still can't keep their hands off my government



J. AARON BROWN

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The latest assault on the barrier between church and state is being mounted less than 500 yards from where I attend classes every day. The Georgia House recently passed HB 941 by a whopping 140 to 26 with the intent "to recognize America's religious heritage" by plastering a quotation from a holy book on courthouse walls next to political documents. The bill proposes to sidestep the prohibitions against posting the Ten Commandments in public buildings by sticking them in with the Mayflower Compact and the Declaration of Independence. Theoretically, tacking on some vague claptrap about the educational intentions driving this pathetic attempt to ram the Christian God down the public throat will camouflage its blatant illegality. What's worse, they expect you and me to pay for it when their pious crusade comes under attack.

I don't mean they expect us to finance the manufacture and installation of the displays; that much is obvious from the fact that it's in a public courthouse. No, in Section 2 of the very bill which enacts the displays, the legislature makes a provision requiring the Attorney General to "defend and bear the costs of defending any and all municipalities" that put up the document. Now why in God's name (ha ha) would the legislature insert such a provision unless they knew damn well that what they're doing is illegal? No reason to expect a flood of lawsuits if what you're doing is okay, right?

The argument that the Ten Commandments are somehow a historical document like the Mayflower Compact or the Declaration of Independence is a sick joke in the first place. The latter two were generated by settlers and pioneers of America for political purposes with the intent to draw together a community and provide the framework for a legal process. The Ten Commandments, on the other hand, were supposedly handed down from God to a wandering desert tribe thousands of years ago. Uh, and this is relevant to American law how?

The Code of Hammurabi from ancient Mesopotamia, the first written set of laws, would be more appropriate. It has religious overtones, granted, but it also prescribes punishments, methods of determining fact, rules for the behavior of the judiciary and a host of other much more relevant regulations than "Thou shalt not make

unto thee any graven image." The judicial system set forth in the commandments? Well, presumably God will strike you with boils or something if you screw up.

The first four commandments don't even relate to what we think of as ethical or legal behavior. First, there's "Thou shalt have no other Gods before me." This isn't a social law, it's religious law intended to enforce theistic purity. The second is a prohibition on idol worship, which serves the same purpose and the third specifically calls the Christian deity "thy God."



Special | Signal
Georgia legislators love causing trouble.

What's more insulting than walking into a public building and being told who "thy God" is? The final religious requirement is the most easily defended; we do have Sundays off from business and school, after all. When it's all said and done, there are only three of the commandments that one can actually be charged with a crime for breaking!

Hell, if we're going to equate the history of American law with the history of religious dogma, why not include some Catholic doctrines or Jewish kosher laws? Come to think of it, the Ten Commandments are in the Torah also; why all the talk in the accompanying statement about the Christian values of America, when the exact same code is followed by another religion that also fled to America to escape persecution? To top it off, most of the men who signed the Declaration of Independence weren't even Christians; they were deists! This is not only illegal, it's bad history.

But the legislature thinks that by playing Hide the Button it's going to get away with murder. The Supreme Court has backed Ten Commandments displays that place the document in a "historical context," but the Georgian attempt to squeeze its religious agenda under that umbrella is pathetically transparent. It will pass, though, and us taxpayers, Christian, Buddhist, Muslim, and atheist alike, will get stuck with the bill. So much for "we the people."

School

from page 19

much of the media portrays college students as being. While this certainly isn't true for the entire population of Georgia State, I would venture to say that a majority of us are not like many of the students you'd find at Emory or other private colleges. We know what we're doing; we know where we're going. The lack of community, for which we're always chided, is a blessing in disguise: we forge our own paths when we have no one to lead us. We make our own way when there's no crowd to follow. We reach our goals when we have no one to fall back on.

There are so many opportunities at this school, and those who do in fact long for a community can easily find one here. I have found my niche at the Signal, which has welcomed me with open arms. Others find their places at Album 88 or the Baptist Student Union. The Rec Center sponsors awesome trips and events: I just returned from a one-day, dirt-cheap ski trip on which I met the only other person at this school with my last name and made another friend.

Our gym is amazing, and once I finally got my lazy ass down there this semester (my third at Georgia State), I was able to real-

ize that we have, included in our student fee, something for which people in the "real world" pay thousands of dollars a year: a top-

and he responds by bumping me and a few thousand of my closest friends out of our classes for not paying on time. He tells me to kiss



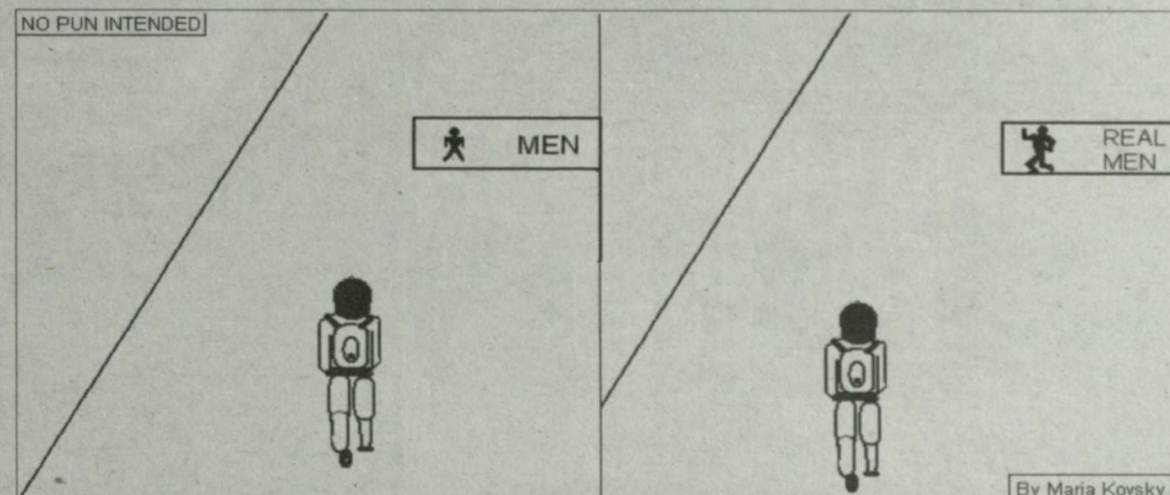
Markysa Clarke | Signal

Georgia State might not be perfect, but it has a lot going for it.

of-the-line gym, free fitness classes and rock climbing, among much more.

This may sound like some paid ad placement for Georgia State, but it's not. Much like "Annie Hall" was a love letter to New York, this is my small effort at a love letter to Georgia State. Like most lovers, we have our all-out brawls. I scream at Georgia State for forcing me to take four upper-level classes before I can receive credit for an internship,

his ass by making me take the asinine Regents test and screwing up my transfer credits; I write a nasty article about it in the paper. We all know the laundry list that any number of us could rattle off about what sucks at Georgia State. However, I truly do, in an honest and almost creepy way, love my school. And if you don't like it, you'll just have to take your concerns to the One Stop Shop. We all know how they handle things down there.



By Maria Kovsky

Hang ten, earn six*

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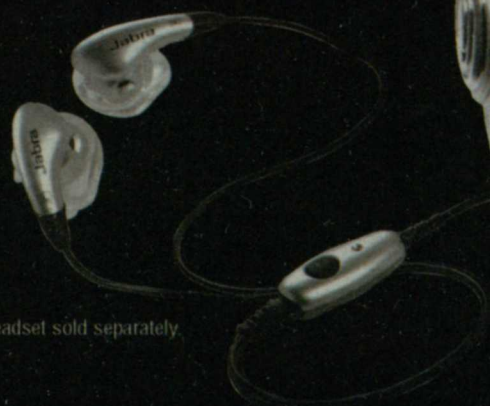
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