

Signal



Looking towards upcoming season Sports, p17



Woodruff Park better than ever Living, p9



GSU Bookstore not the best option Perspectives, p 19

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Thieves run rampant on first day of classes



Andrea Kelly | Signal

Students took a risk by leaving their bags unattended outside of the University Bookstore during the first week of school.

By DOMINIQUE HUFF
managingeditor@gsusignal.com

As students returned back to school for another year, so did the thieves. Six students lost over \$2500 worth of valuables in the University Center and General Classroom Building.

Four patrons placed bookbags on the floor outside of the University Bookstore on August 21 around 3:40p.m. before walking into the store to shop for books and supplies. Upon exiting the store, four students noticed their bags were missing from the assorted variety of bags tossed on the

floor.

"I would think that somebody grabbed the wrong bookbag by mistake as there were no real items of value in my bag," stated James Schmidt, one of the victims. "I overheard someone who stated their bookbag was stolen and then the University Police were called." Schmidt's bag contained textbooks and various notebooks. The bag was a grey Jansport bag.

Linda Billings, another victim of bag theft admitted she did not feel comfortable on leaving her bag in front of the store. "The only thing we were told were not to bring bags into the store. You assumed that with people at the

door, your bag is being watched," she said. "I didn't know where the location was so I just left my bag on the floor."

Billings' bag contained her wallet, which contained her check-card, drivers' license, and social security card. In addition, her bag contained a TI-83 calculator and a textbook.

The University Bookstore management stated that they provide a safe place for students to secure their bags. Wade Douglas, Store Director insisted that lines can get long in the Panther Place

See THEFT | Page 6

One Stop Shop improves customer service, extends hours to weekends

University Registrar knew they did it right when there were no long lines during the week prior to classes starting.

By DOMINIQUE HUFF
managingeditor@gsusignal.com

In seeking to avoid the confusion and chaos of last year, the One Stop Shop provided longer hours and plans to open up new locations for students to tie up any loose ends regarding fee payment, financial aid and other services prior to the start of classes.

Previously, the university was audited by the state that demanded that owing students be dropped from class rosters. Prior to the audit, students were given holds on their accounts until balances were paid.

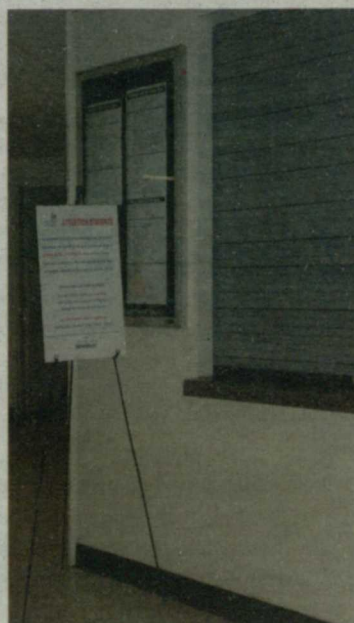
To add complexity to matters, the University unveiled the One Stop Shop during that same time and, students accused the new system of dropping them from their classes.

"Many students perceived that we were dropping them through the One Stop Shop," Associate



Andrea Kelly | Signal

The One Stop Shop initially had long lines around this time last year. This year, lines were reduced, e-mails were responded to more quickly and students were happier. The addition of the Kell Hall location was a sigh of relief to the Sparks Hall location.



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Library construction underway



Andrea Kelly | Signal

University Library is about to undergo a major gutting of the first and second floors of Library North to serve students better in the future. See story on page 2.

School of Policy Studies creates additional degree

By BRITTANY OWENS
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Last week, Georgia State University's Andrew Young School of Policy Studies (AYSPS) approved a degree in public policy, which will give students an opportunity to study a wide variety of policy areas.

When asked why the program was added, Gregory Streib, department chair of Public Administration and Urban Studies said, "The goal was to get a degree that focused on policy more broadly."

According to the AYSPS website, the B.S. in Public Policy allows students to branch out and

explore all areas of the diverse field.

Some other schools that offer this program require students to select an area of specialization. This selection limits students to one area and could make it difficult for them to go into other areas of the field.

"I think this is a really exciting option for students; it's something I would've done had I known about it," said Streib.

According to Streib, many people are unaware of what policy is. "We're in a sea of policy," he said. "When students ask what's policy it's like a fish asking what's

See DEGREE | Page 5

Library transformation continues, main entrance closed through 2007

Fully operational during construction

By DOMINIQUE HUFF
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While the noise of welcome week is coming to an end in the plaza, the noise from the renovations of Library North is just beginning. A major phase of the construction for the \$20 million library transformation project is underway. The project will yield new technology and improved services for students and faculty.

The main entrance, along with the first and second floors of Library North have been closed for the project, which includes a new classroom, additional study and computer space and a learning commons. Visitors must use the Library South entrance until the completion of the floor renovations, scheduled for spring semester 2007. Reference services and student computers have been temporarily relocated to the third floor of Library North, accessible from the third floor bridge that connects the two buildings.

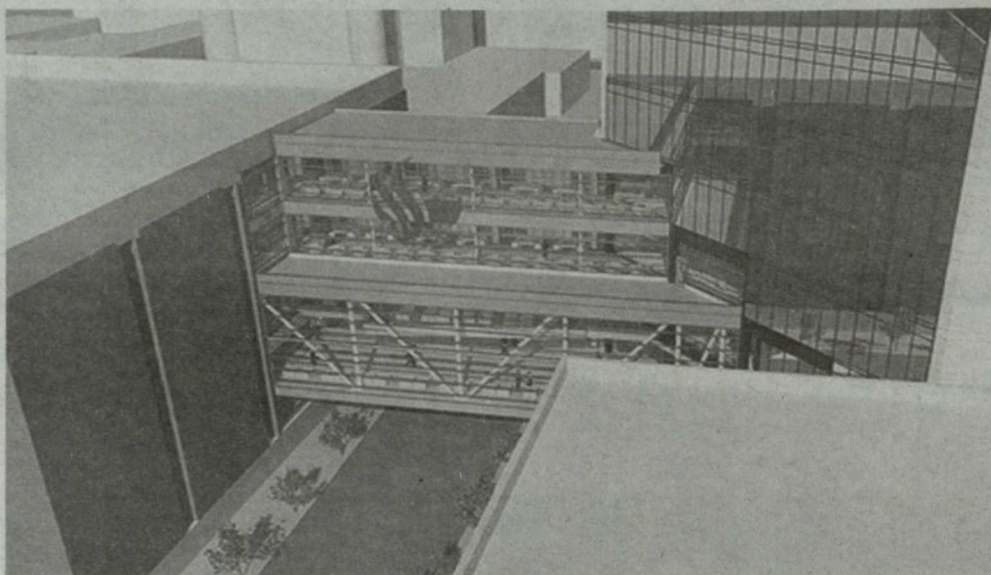
Dean of University Libraries Charlene Hurt boasts about the improved offerings for students that are coming. "There will be more computers and better technology access. There are going to be good workstations for students to work at," she exclaimed. "A help desk will be staffed by people who will be able to assist students with the technology."

Previously, students complained about the deteriorating facility with dated furniture, limited number of group study rooms and overall unpleasant architectural appearance. According to Hurt, new furniture and more study

rooms are on the way. "We are getting new furniture that will be lighter looking and we are going to build several booths that are similar to what you will find in a restaurant," she added. "55 more group study rooms are on the way. We want to improve the areas to where students can continue to work together and collaborate on class assignments."

Faculty will be impressed as another classroom is being constructed to allow for classes to take visits to learn about library offerings. Many Freshman Learning Communities GSU1010 courses, English composition courses (ENGL1101 and ENGL1102) and others use the room to hold classes in for a day. The growing population of the university community has created the demand for the new classroom. "We get so many requests to meet with classes, it becomes difficult to accommodate all the requests," Hurt commented.

During the semester, the first and second floors of library north are making way to become the new learning commons area of the university. The commons area will provide the student with a comprehensive learning space for research, wireless internet access and study spaces for individuals, groups and visiting faculty that do not have offices within their departments. An information commons is destined to be a quick stop destination between classes and co-curricular activities where students can grab coffee and snacks, catch up on national and world news and print out term papers.



University Library | Signal

The popular bridges will be expanded and renovated to accommodate more students seeking to study while having a view of downtown Atlanta. A second floor bridge will be added along with study rooms on the bridges.

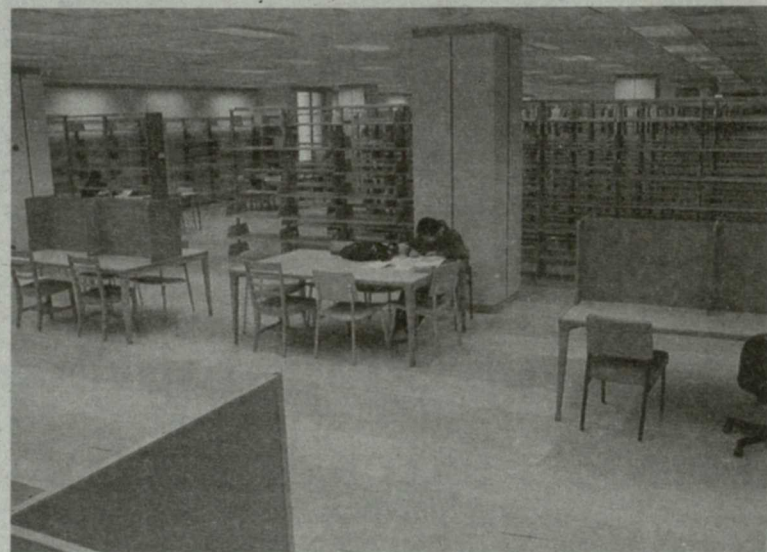
"We are hoping that someone will build out the coffee shop in that area and it will eventually become part of our proposed 24 hour study area," Hurt stated. "We will have to look at the demand from the students and our budget to go 24 hours for that part of the library." Up until 2001, students had a 24 hour computer lab where late night and last minute research and studying could be done. The lab hours were cut after renovation due to budgetary constraints and lack of student demand.

Still fully operational during construction

Many members of the university community were misled by the closed off entrance thinking there was no library this semester. Hurt is proud that the library will still be fully operative despite not having two floors available in Library North. Students quickly adapted in 2001 when Library South was shut down completely due to structural issues and one building to work out of. "We are going to employ some of the same mechanisms we used back then to provide the least amount of interruptions to the students," she reported. "Packets will be sent out to faculty informing them that we are open and ready to serve."

Signage and maps have been installed informing students where items are temporarily located and how to get in the library. The Library North security desk has been installed in Library South to assist in getting patrons in faster. Most importantly, no books will be placed in storage. "A lot of libraries place their books in storage but we are going to keep ours out. We believe this collection is valuable to students so why would we store it away for a year," she explained.

As with any construction or renovation project there will be some distractions to the students and one noticeable is the number of computers available for stu-



University Library | Signal

Crowded study areas will be a worry of the past once renovation projects are completed. The renovations are going to beautify and modernize areas to encourage students to study more.

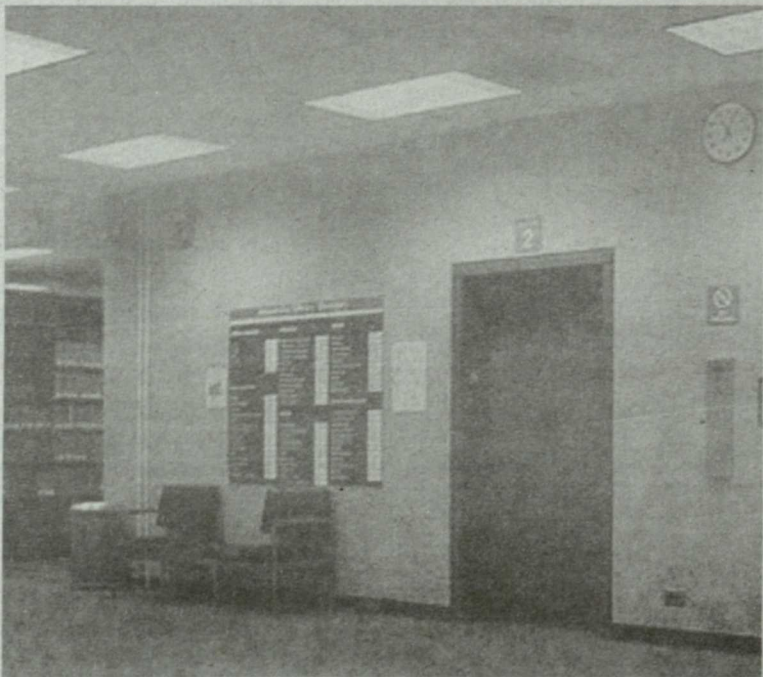


dents to use and the frequent moving of books. "There has been an increase in the number of laptops checked out by students and we are definitely concerned about making sure we have enough computers available for students to research and work," she commented. "By the time this is over, we would have moved a million books."

Student input has been a significant part of the library renovation and the SGA drafted and passed legislation in fall 2003 that called for the creation of the library facility fee. Focus groups were formed of concerned and interested students to seek out ideas and feedback. Hurt remembered the

SGA debate as if it was yesterday. "I became teary-eyed to see so many students were concerned about renovating the library," she recalled. "I believe this library can make a big difference in being a student here at Georgia State."

The transformation of the library is expected to be complete by August 2007 with minor touch up working being done during the beginning of fall semester. "With the completion of the [library] transformation, the University will have enhanced the traditional library with unique learning spaces designed to support the needs of today's university student," Hurt concluded.



University Library | Signal

The first noticeable aspect of renovating the library was faster elevator service for patrons. Previously, elevators were slow and often would break down during peak periods of use. Hurt wanted students to see progress throughout rather than waiting to do everything at once.

It's your campus, so get involved!

August 29

Career Fest 2006

The University Career Services Fantastic Four will help open the door to your career for you! We can assist you with career counseling, career employment, part-time opportunity program, internships and co-ops.

Come out and meet representatives from the following companies: UPS, Buckle, Nationwide Insurance, Pure Water, ESPN Zone, Intuit, AirTran and Haverty's.

Plus you could win a bag full of goodies and plenty of giveaways!

Time: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Place: Library Plaza

Interview Skills

Prepare to 'ace' your next interview by attending an Interview Skills Workshop. Cut through the crowd to your best opportunities! Learn how to apply for jobs, post resumes and more on the new Panther Career Net system.

Contact: 404-651-2223 or www.gsu.edu/career

Time: 12:30p.m.
Place: Room 245 University Center

August 30

REC Fest-Birthday Bash

Join the Student Recreation Center for their 5th year birthday bash. Come and participate in twister, limbo, inflatables, cake, popcorn, t-shirts and prizes.

The event is free..students bring your panther I.D.

Time: 11:30.m.-2:30p.m.

Future Black Law Student Association

The Johnnie Cochran chapter of FBLSA is planning to take a trip to Dallas, Texas to participate in the Second Annual Pre-Law Conference. This will be an interest meeting to discuss information, costs and questions about the trip.

For more information contact Quitina Cole at futureblacklawstudents@yahoo.com

Beanies for Baghdad

Collect Beanie Babies to ship to the US troops in Iraq. The Troops hand out the Beanies to children in Iraq to keep them from playing with guns and to reassure them that democracy is a good thing

Time: 1p.m.
Place: Office of Community Service, Student Center

August 31

FREE HIV TESTING

Get tested and know your status. Same day results!

Time: 10 a.m.-3p.m.
Place: Room 460 University Center

Volunteer Meeting for interested volunteers seeking to help the Office of African American Student Services and Programs (OAASSP)

Time: 12noon-1p.m.
Where: OAASSP Office, 3rd Floor Student Center

If you are unable to attend, contact Eric Blacknall at stdevbx@langate.gsu.edu

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Public Service Announcement

Did you know that you can advertise your club or organizations meetings and events here in our calendar for FREE??

Let the Signal help you help the student body by advertising your events and meetings here in our calendar. Contact Elijah Sarkesian at news@gsusignal.com with the dates, time and location of your event. Be sure to provide a brief description of your event. We will take care of the rest. All submissions must be received by Friday at 12 noon.

No late submissions will be accepted.

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 vmigliore1@student.gsu.edu 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.

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The deadline for advertising is the Thursday prior to the desired issue for publication. The advertising office must be in receipt of any graphics, text, or prepared ad on CD-Rom, or as a PDF file emailed to signal.urbanite.advertising@gmail.com, (or delivered to the office), by 5 p.m.

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News

Editor: Dominique Huff

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Bookstores renovate to serve students better

By DOMINIQUE HUFF
managingeditor@gsusignal.com

The University Library isn't the only book facility in the university community excited about their new look. The University Bookstore and Georgia Bookstore have completed extensive renovations to accommodate student demands and wants within their businesses.

"We did a total remodel," David Greer, store manager of the Georgia Bookstore explained. "We have gutted our store with all new shelving, flooring and new fixtures." According to Greer, the renovations went over so well with students that many thought his business was new.

The Georgia Bookstore completed their renovation about a month over the summer. Business remained open through the construction and work was done in phases to provide the least amount of disturbance for students patronizing the shop for the summer semester. The bookstore serves students from John Marshall Law School and St. Leo in addition to Georgia State students.

Floor space was altered to allow for more merchandise such as clothing and school supplies to be more accessible to shoppers. Greer sums up the new renovation as a modernization and revitalization. "It is more friendly to shop and easier for students to locate their books," he stated. "We have a larger merchandise area to accommodate for clothing items and we have brightened up the store."

In regards to any additional services and offerings, Greer stated that services will remain the same and inventory for clothing and school supplies has increased. Part two of the renovation will focus on the exterior of the store. The front will be renovated completely and the larger windows will be installed to provide for street viewing and merchandising. The exterior renovation is expected to be completed in the late fall.

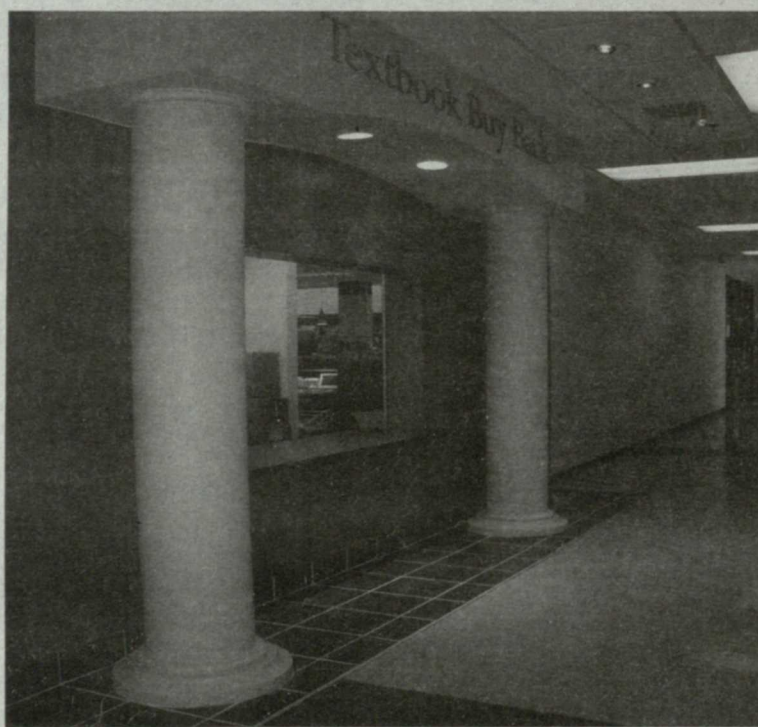
Coming up the street, the University Bookstore spent their summer renovating and improving to serve students better. The textbooks have been relocated to the second level of the store. The store's new design includes an expanded entrance and display windows that enable customers to view beyond the displays into the store. New flooring was installed and new paint was applied to the walls.

"Our overall objective was to provide a more appealing, invit-



Andrea Kelly | Signal

The University Bookstore installed sliding glass doors, ceramic tile floors and wood panel walls to create a more inviting atmosphere to patrons to shop.



ing, and accessible Bookstore for students, faculty, staff and visitors to enjoy, with improved overall quality of design, reflective of the university's vision," Wayne Reed, Assistant Vice President for Auxiliary and Support Services stated. "Follett Higher Education Group, the contract operator of the University Bookstore provided approximately 65 percent of the project funding with the University providing approximately 35 percent of the overall project budget."

The tone of the color has changed within the bookstore to feature the Georgia State blue throughout the entire store. New cash register counters, information

desk and a variety of new fixtures, accent walls and lighting for merchandise displays and redesigned textbook buyback area were constructed to provide patrons with disabilities ease in shopping in the store.

Reed stated that the bookstore will now start selling Apple computers and iPod's for the first time.

"We have put in a lot of extra hours to get ready for the students," Wade Douglas, Store Director concluded. "We wanted to make our store look more upscale and really raise the bar to make our store look the best for our students."



Special | Signal

SGA President Joan Collier

Collier calls for visible, unified SGA

By ELIJAH SARKESIAN
news@gsusignal.com

As the students of Georgia State University begin a new academic year, the Student Government Association is undergoing a transition to a new administration. Last spring, students elected senior Joan Collier as the new SGA President. Despite this being Collier's first time in SGA, she is clearly connected to the campus and has a clear vision of where the SGA will head in the next year.

Joan Collier might be new to SGA, but this does not mark the beginning of her participation in student life at Georgia State. Collier has previously worked as an Inceptor, which led to accepting the position of Associate Director for the Incept team. She has also participated in an FLC, worked with Evolving Experiences, and is a proud member of the Greek community.

In addition, she has completed an Americorp internship, is a member of a professional fraternity, and is a member of NASPA Undergraduate Fellows Program. With such associations under her belt, Collier feels that she is in a great position to connect various groups of organizations and better serve the university.

As President, Collier plans for the student body to see a "very visible and united SGA this year." Collier and the SGA will be creating new relationships with the various offices and organizations on campus.

Among the recent topics of discussion among SGA members

have been creating two mandatory advisement sessions for students with under 60 hours of credit. One of the sessions would be with the Student Advisement Center, while the other would be with a representative of the particular college to which the student belongs. Further discussion has been made on establishing a uniform policy for the new plus/minus system at Georgia State. Collier believes that "students need to know what they are dealing with up front. A 92 shouldn't be an A- in one class and an A in another."

Furthermore, SGA hopes to have a community service project and an event outside of its regular meetings each month. Such actions are part of Collier's desire for SGA to visibly be the leading student organization on campus. Welcoming students back for the new academic year was a major part of getting SGA into the public eye. SGA maintained a high profile with its involvement in Welcome Week activities and the Convocation ceremony.

To accomplish the various goals, the SGA officers conducted a retreat in July to outline its objectives, goals, and strategies both as a unified body and for each college represented in the SGA. "Each month a different committee will present a program for the student body," Collier noted as part of the continued presence of SGA this semester. She added that contacts have already been made around campus for program ideas.

When it comes to campus life, there are a few areas where Collier

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Andrea Kelly | Signal

The School of Policy Studies hopes their new degree program will yield more future policymakers for the world.

Degree

from page 1

water." Streib continued by saying, "Policy is about how society works, the rules of society, and how we deal with them."

Streib believes that this program is an excellent option for students interested in policy because everyone is affected by policy.

When describing the many aspects of public policy, Streib reaffirmed that policy is everywhere. There are people who work in health policy, education policy and so on. So many areas of life are considered policy; working on solutions to the homeless problem

and solutions to the eating habits of the nation are both considered working in public policy, Streib explained.

An advisor to the program, Sue Fagan, said, "The number one biggest benefit of the program is the faculty resources in the major. There is a good network in the community. There is also a need for non-profit in the government; this program is filling a need."

Career options with this degree are diverse. Many graduate students have gone on to work for non-profits such as C.A.R.E., World Hunger, and even MARTA. Streib added, "Every time you turn on the news you see people working in policy."

Some Georgia State students also work for the state and city

governments. Speaking of government opportunities, Fagan said, "60 percent of government employees will be retiring within the next year." Streib added that the turnover rate was so small that many of the people retiring now were hired during the baby boomer period in the 1960s.

"There is always a need for people with this particular skill set and I believe we have the faculty to give it to them," commented Fagan.

Students wanting to obtain a government job with the policy degree will have the opportunity to work in almost any organization, from the C.I.A. to the E.P.A. There is even a G.O.A., the Government Accountability Office, in Atlanta.

A professor for the program, Christine Roch, spoke about the new Public Policy program in an interview for the Advising Connection, "You're connected to this great school where things are happening." According to Streib, Roch is responsible for taking the lead in the direction of the program. "There's more of a connection between what's going on in the classroom and in the city," Roch said.

For more information, an AYSPS open house will be held Tuesday, Sept. 5 from 5:30 p.m. until 7 p.m. The school is also hosting a "Pizza and Policy Lunch" on Thursday, Sept. 14 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Executive, Global Leadership programs move to Buckhead

By DOMINIQUE HUFF
managingeditor@gsusignal.com

The College of Business is on the move. With the Alpharetta Center being a success, the college is now going to Buckhead.

The internationally ranked Executive MBA (EMBA) program will now be located in the heart of Atlanta's financial district. As of this semester, the Office of Executive Education and Center for Global Business Leadership at the J. Mack Robinson College of Business will be headquartered at 200 Tower Place on Peachtree Rd.

"Robinson has always had a distinct advantage by being in the heart of Atlanta's downtown business district," Fenwick Huss, Dean of the college stated. "Now in addition to our downtown presence, offering executive programs in the thriving Buckhead business and residential areas will give managers greater access to our world class programs and facility."

The Buckhead Executive Center's location provides easy accessibility from Interstate 85 and Georgia 400, Peachtree and Piedmont Roads, will provide a convenient location for managers and executives to pursue a degree and professional development opportunities. The faculty of the college will support the expansion

of activities. Huss stated that relocating the Office of Executive Education is part of the strategic vision to make the College's executive programs more accessible. The new facility currently being renovated for Robinson, will house executive classrooms, team facilities, event and conference space and administrative offices.

"The new location enables us to expand our offerings and help area businesses executives expand their careers," Dave Forquer, Assistant Dean for Executive Programs said. "We look forward to being an active part of the Buckhead community."

In 2005, the college opened the Brookhaven campus, located five minutes from Buckhead. That campus offers the nationally ranked Flex MBA program for students during the day, evenings and weekends. The campus serves over 300 students and continues to grow.

Other off-campus locations for the college include Henry County for business professionals residing south of downtown Atlanta. The Henry County facility offers the Professional MBA (PMBA) for students unable to quit working full time to attend school. The Center for Global Business Leadership also has initiatives in operation in China.

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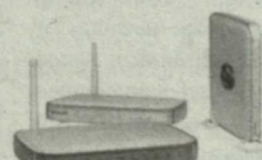


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Regents proposes two billion dollar budget for 2008

By T. KEVIN DAVIS
tdavis@student.gsu.edu

University System of Georgia Chancellor Erroll B. Davis Jr. positioned the System's Fiscal Year 2008 Operating and Capital Budget Request today by conveying to the 18-member Board of Regents that it reflects his plan to align the System's resources with the board's identified strategic priorities.

The regents then approved a Fiscal Year 2008 Operating Budget Request totaling \$2 billion in state appropriations, along with a Capital Request totaling \$285 million in cash and bonds. The budget request reflects an increase of 5.7 percent, or \$111 million, over the current fiscal year's \$1.93 billion state appropriation.

The regents' action followed the presentation of the Fiscal Year 2008 budget request to the board's Committee on Finance and Business Operations, which met as a Committee of the Whole.

Joining Davis in the presentation were Vice Chancellor for Business and Fiscal Affairs William Bowes and Vice Chancellor for Facilities Linda Daniels.

"While these requested state funds will be critically important in helping us meet our operating costs, we will intensify our efforts to generate revenue from other sources to maximize state support and tuition," Davis said. "We intend to be more strategic and more enterprising in allocating and securing funding." Davis noted that while he is still conducting an assessment of the University System's resources and beginning the process of updating the University System's overall strategic direction, some key priorities already have been identified. These include a focus on improving retention, progression and graduation rates and meeting workforce shortages in the health-care professions.

In addition, Davis has focused attention on identifying areas in

which the System can be more efficient, increasing the level of private support for the System's institutions and initiatives, increasing the flow of federal research dollars, and implementing Gov. Sonny Perdue's Customer Service initiative, which Davis plans to use as a tool to create a culture of "continuous process improvement" throughout the System.

Earlier this year, the regents approved a guaranteed tuition plan, which goes into effect this fall. The plan freezes tuition rates for four years at the System's four-year institutions and for three years at the state and two-year colleges. The move is part of an overall strategy to maintain Georgia's historic low-tuition status.

Tuition rates are connected to the level of state funding, with the state appropriating 75 percent of the System's instructional budget

See DOLLARS | Page 8



Andrea Kelly | Signal

The Regents plan to allocate more funding to construct facilities such as the Recreation Center at other campuses.

Theft

from page 1

Lounge for bag dropoff, but the average wait time is usually one minute or less. "We used the inceptors as door greeters to discourage people from putting bags on the floor and some students still refused to do so," he mentioned.

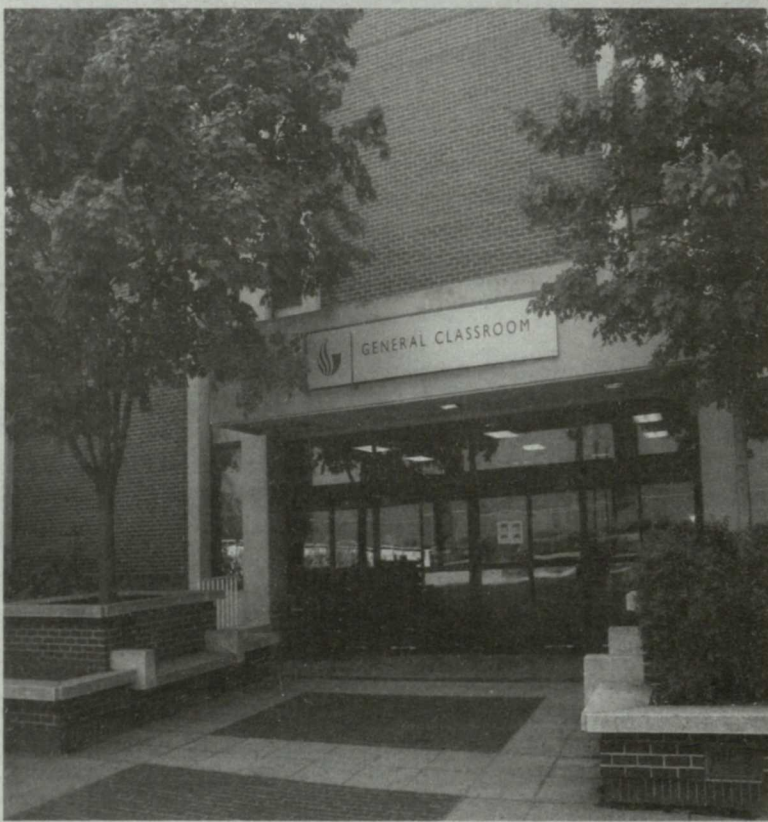
Douglas reported that he worked the front door himself and students wouldn't take his warnings seriously about putting bookbags on the floor. "We had one situation and there was a police officer watching. The officer told the students not to put their bags on the floor," he recalled. "The warned students simply went to the other hallway and placed their bags on the floor."

According to Billings, there were no signs informing students where bags were supposed to be placed.

Schmidt thinks management should have been more upfront about the high theft risk outside of the store. "One student had his iPod stolen and another student had her keys stolen," he reported. "Somebody announced on the intercom that the bookbags had been stolen. Before the situation, I haven't heard anything."

Across the campus in the General Classroom building, two students reported a wallet and purse missing. Both thefts occurred during the morning of August 21. Each student stated that they left the items unattended and when they returned between 15 to 30 minutes later, the items were gone. According to the police report, the purse theft was valued at \$740.

"I know that there is a video camera in the hallway and I just



Andrea Kelly | Signal

While students were having bookbags stolen in the University Center, the General Classroom building was the location of two thefts during the same day last week.

don't think there is enough effort being down to resolve these matters," Billings replied.

The University Bookstore sits on the third floor of the University Center and is located close to the Courtland St. entrance of the building. Schmidt stated that the responding officer informed him that the suspect could have taken the items and trashed the bags. "He told me he was going to search the trash cans in the area to see if a bag was dumped is similar to one of the missing bags from the bookstore," he added.

Sgt. James Porter from the University Police stated that the department has stepped up patrols in the area to cut down on thefts. "We encourage students to secure

their belongings as much as possible. With that being said, the bookstore often during peak times of the semester such as the first week of classes offers a counter in the Panther Place lounge," he stated. "I know sometimes the line backs up but it is worth the wait as someone will be there with your items the entire time."

The cases are being handled by the Investigations Department of University Police. At press time, no suspects have been named or apprehended. Anyone with information concerning either incident is urged to call the University Police at 404-651-2125. The Signal will report any updates in future editions.



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Four individuals arrested during the month of August in the vicinity of Georgia State



The University Police stopped a suspect in the act of breaking into a vehicle at the University Village.

Special | Signal

Attempted car burglar caught at University Village

By DOMINIQUE HUFF
managingeditor@gsusignal.com

University Police made four arrests during the month of August for various offenses ranging from criminal attempt/entering auto to trespassing on campus property after receiving prior notice.

William Couch of Marietta, a non-Georgia State affiliate was caught with an active warrant from the Marietta Police Department on Aug. 6. Couch was riding in a vehicle that was traveling the wrong way on Gilmer St. The driver of the vehicle, not identified in the report was cited for the offense of wrong way driving. The other passenger in the vehicle had a negative background check. Couch was transported to the Fulton County Jail, who processed him back to Marietta to service the

warrant.

Antonio Taylor, a non Georgia State affiliate was allegedly caught breaking into a vehicle belonging to Earl Griffin Shiloh, Georgia on Aug. 7. The incident took place in the turn-around of the University Village. Officer Thompson observed the suspect attempting to enter the car by pulling and sticking an object into the passenger side door. Upon discovery, Taylor made off and was apprehended by University Police. While detained by officers, Taylor admitted that he wanted the money he saw from the car for food.

Taylor was placed under arrest, processed and transported to Fulton County Jail. He was charged with criminal attempt/entering auto. He was released from jail on Aug. 23

according to records from the Fulton County Sheriff's Department.

Gregory Dixon of College Park, a non Georgia State affiliate was allegedly discovered in Kell Hall on Aug. 11 with an active criminal trespass warning on file. The arresting officer recognized the suspect from a previous incident. After apprehension, he was arrested and transported to Fulton County Jail.

Ryan G. Thomas, a non Georgia State affiliate was caught allegedly driving drunk on Piedmont Ave. on the evening of Aug. 16. According to the police report, Thomas drove through a red light nearly hitting the patrol car. During the traffic stop, it was observed that the vehicle had an expired tag and both occupants appeared to be under the influence.

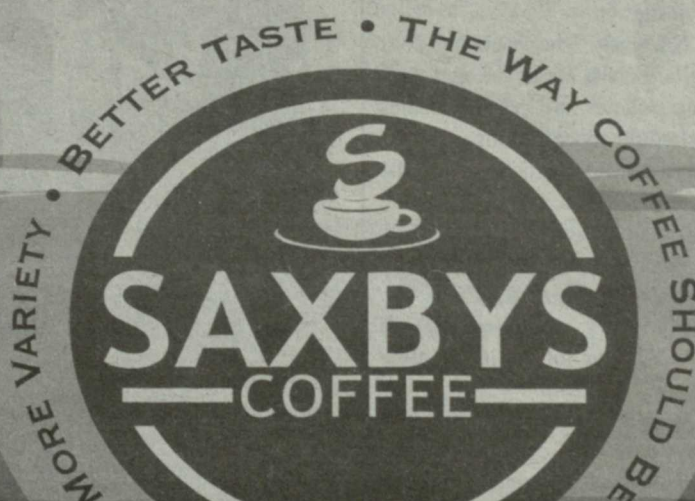
A background check reported that Thomas' license was revoked. The passenger admitted that he had some drinks during the evening but was unsure of the driver. The owner of the vehicle happened to be the passenger.

The vehicle was checked and later impounded. The story checked out of the two men having dinner as a 'to-go' plate of food from the restaurant was found during the search of the car. Thomas was charged with driving under the influence and with a suspended license prior to being transported to the Fulton County Jail. He was also issued a citation for failure to obey a traffic control device with a court date of Sept. 18.

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START YOUR DAY FRESH!

Collier

from page 1

and SGA would like to see improvement. Like many students already active in organizations on campus, Collier would like to see a wider amount of student involvement. She would also like to see more school spirit on campus.

Collier also sees integrating the university with the city as a major priority. She believes that such integration can lead to a greater amount of learning that can take place outside of classrooms.

With the new administration having a great deal of change from the previous administration, students interested in the student government have wondered about the ease of the transition. According to Collier, "The transition was smooth and cordial. The past president, Russell [Mildner], left a card offering words of encouragement and I appreciated it so much."

As for her future plans, Collier will only be serving in SGA this year. She graduates in May, and is planning on attending graduate school next year.

Improve

from page 1

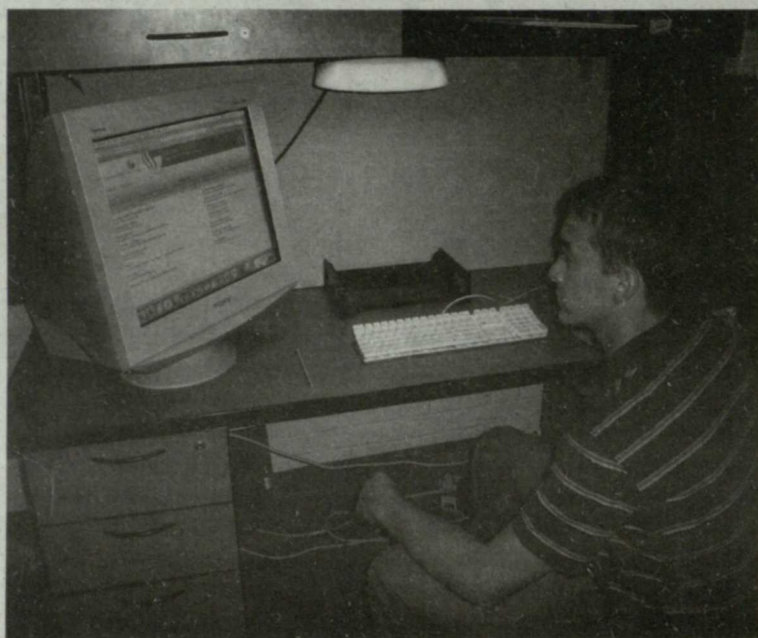
Provost of Academic Programs Bill Fritz explained. "We had to do what the state wanted while balancing the needs of students."

Over the year, the department was able to figure out what worked and what did not. The main focus was not to have long lines of angry, frustrated students. Help was sought from President Patton's office.

"We used students from the President's office to assist us with getting to students that had simple things to handle such as dropping of a form or just asking a simple question out of the lines," University Registrar Cherise Peters added. "Extended hours were another way we improved things."

For the past three Saturdays in the month, both the One Stop Shop and the Cashier's window were open to handle any last minute needs and to accommodate students who were unable to come in during the week. "Initially, when we opened up on Sunday, we were not expecting anyone to come in but we met with over 100 students," Peters mentioned. "While that may seem like a slow day for us, our staff still had plenty to do such as checking e-mails of concerns that we receive."

In between dealing with students in person, representatives were able to catch up on a backlog of e-mails from students. Nearly a



Andrea Kelly | Signal

With changes at the One Stop Shop, students will not have to worry about surprised class cancellations.

thousand e-mails are sent at any given time by concerned students. Wait time was also reduced on the phones for students calling in to the center. Peters quickly credits the quick response time to e-mails for keeping the lines to a minimum.

"Even if there is no one in line to physically speak to a representative, we were still responding to student concerns either over the phone or via e-mail," she said. "When I saw no lines of students waiting to be served, I knew what we did was right."

Fritz credits the improvements for keeping over 9,000 stu-

dents' schedules in tact for the fall semester. However, 2200 students did receive notice that their classes were cancelled. The drop date was originally set for Aug. 14. After that date, dropped students would not been able to register until late registration. Rather than do that, registration remained open until Aug. 25.

Future plans for the One Stop Shop is to open remote locations in other areas of campus. The tenure of these locations would be based on student demand. Such locations were opened in the Student Center and Aderhold Learning Center for a temporary basis. "We have to look at our budget and make sure we are using our resources where they are needed the most," Fritz analyzed. "I can't have a location where only one student only comes in for service."

Other plans include providing more information online for students to be in the know and plan accordingly. DeAnna Hines of University Relations referred to this as a Frequently Asked Questions guide. She went on to say that it would help free up phones and e-mails to allow the representatives to handle other student issues.

Currently, the website does provide details about the new academic policies and provides dates of schedule cancellations. At press time, no word on when the frequently asked questions guide would be online.

"In an ideal world, you would never have to go to the One Stop Shop," Peters mentioned. "We would have the information online for you."

While many students are happy with the changes, Peters stated the staff is happy. "When we announced opening up on the weekends, our staff was ready to come in and serve," she stated. "It made their jobs much easier during the week and students much happier."

Fritz assured that funding will be in place to allow for the One Stop Shop to offer extended weekend hours in future semesters.

Loan

from page 7

while tuition makes up the remaining 25 percent. Along with the new guaranteed tuition plan, the regents' Fiscal Year 2008 budget request also reflects a more conservative approach, with new funds requested only for dollars generated by the University System's funding formula.

The formula is a mathematical calculation based upon the number of credit hours students take, and costs for such expenditures as utilities and employee benefits. New formula funds totaling \$80.1 million were generated in the following amounts for the specified areas of the System's operation:

- \$38.9 million for an increase in credit-hour enrollment of 1.6 percent from fall 2004 to fall 2005;
- \$5.6 million for an increase in maintenance and operating funds for the System's 35 campuses;
- \$4.3 million for an increase in University System of Georgia retiree fringe benefits;
- \$14.5 million for an increase in utilities; and
- \$16.8 million to cover increased health-insurance premiums.

The \$285 million capital component of the budget request includes:

- \$70 million for major repair and renovation needs for the System's extensive network of facilities;
- \$6 million to purchase equipment for three new facilities constructed on the campuses of Georgia College & State University, North Georgia College & State University, and the

University of West Georgia;

• \$164.7 million for new facilities at:

• Savannah State University (\$12.7 million academic classroom);

• Macon State College (\$22.2 million professional sciences center);

• Fort Valley State University (\$16.8 million academic classroom);

• University of Georgia (\$37.2 million College of Pharmacy);

• Medical College of Georgia (\$5 million for School of Dentistry (design only));

• Kennesaw State University (\$42.5 million health sciences building);

• Georgia Gwinnett College (\$28.3 million library); and

• \$44.3 million for 13 "minors" projects (facilities costing \$5 million and less).

Included in the Board of Regents Fiscal Year 2008 budget request is \$38.7 million for the Georgia Public Library Service (GPLS), which comes under the administrative responsibility of the board. This reflects an increase of 1.9 percent, or \$738,144, over GPLS' current fiscal year budget of \$37.9 million.

The board also approved a \$10.87 million request for new construction, renovations or additions at eight public libraries, which is in addition to the University System's \$285 million capital request.

The budget request now moves to Gov. Sonny Perdue, who will consider it as he prepares his final Fiscal Year 2008 budget recommendation to the Georgia General Assembly for the January 2007 legislative session.



Andrea Kelly | Signal

Some Regents members are concerned about the guaranteed tuition plan and governor's budget for future capital projects at state colleges and universities. Many schools such as Georgia State have begun joint ventures with the private sector to handle such matters.

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EOE

Living

Editor: Rhonda Barnett

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Changes afoot in Central Atlanta: Renovation of Woodruff Park

By RHONDA BELSER-DAVIS
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If you've been past Woodruff Park in the last few weeks you may have noticed a drastic change in the environment. There is live music, chairs and tables, historic monuments, business people lunching and less homeless people than before. This has all been made possible by downtown Atlanta's business leaders and Central Atlanta Progress.

Central Atlanta Progress is a not-for-profit organization that strives to create a robust economic climate for downtown Atlanta. Together, Central Atlanta Progress and the Atlanta Downtown Improvement District are committed to a downtown for the diverse Atlanta community and all of downtown's property owners, employees, residents, students and visitors. One of the recent initiatives of the CAP and ADID is the revitalization of Woodruff Park. This renaissance is happening before our eyes.

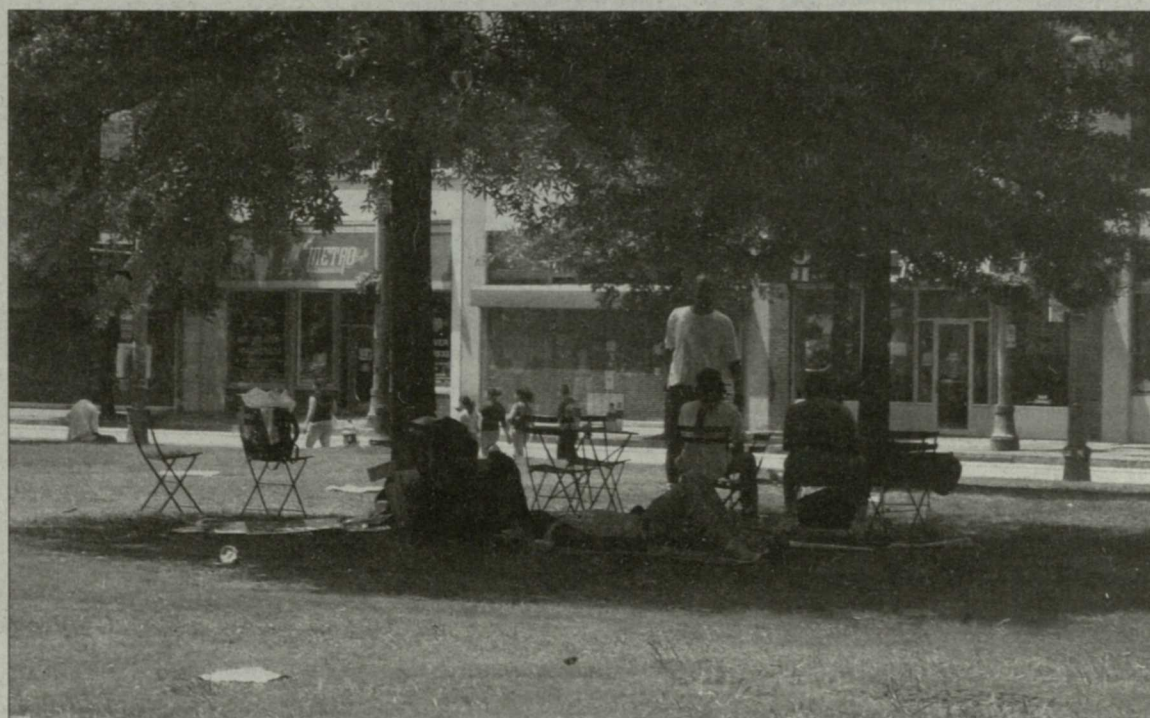
If we think back to what the Broad Street and Woodruff Park areas looked like before this initiative we will recall the streets and

the park filled with homeless men and women. Drug paraphernalia and litter could be found with every step. Before the Aderhold building was constructed on the Woodruff side of campus, many of

us had no reason to visit. Now it has become a midday haven for students and laborers. After several months of construction, Woodruff Park's improvements are designed to accommodate large

crowds on their lunch hour and for special events. Improvements include increased electrical power in the park, repaired drainage sys-

See PARK | Page 12



Woodruff Park has come alive for the summer with myriad entertaining activities for visitors.

Andrea Kelly | Signal

The irony of technology; Americans isolated despite online connection

By KATIE HAWKINS
jkhawkins8@student.gsu.edu

According to a recent study, Americans are more socially isolated than ever before, as illustrated by a rapidly decreasing number of close friends.

A study conducted by sociologists at Duke and the University of Arizona found that the average American had only two close friends whom they could confide in on important matters. In 1985, the average was three. The study, which was published in the American Sociological Review in June, also discovered that nearly one-fourth of the American population said that they have no such confidant.

"We don't usually see big social changes like this over a 10 or 20 year period," Lynn Smith-Lovin, one of the study's authors, told National Public Radio in a recent interview. "Most features of people's lives are fairly stable from year to year."

Some experts call the trend towards social isolation ironic, given the amount of technology available to keep people connected with friends and family. Others say

technology itself is to blame.

Although the authors of the study did not attempt to explain the drop in confidantes, a number of possible causes have been cited by others, such as an increase in work hours and stress, longer commutes, or internet use.

"We didn't find that using the Internet or email or the Web a lot influenced whether you had more or fewer close ties," Smith-Lovin told National Public Radio. Media

coverage following the study, however, has largely focused on the internet's social impact.

According to the Center for Internet Addiction, five to 10 percent of adults suffer from internet addiction. College students are believed to be at a higher risk than more Americans, having more free time and unlimited Internet access on campus.

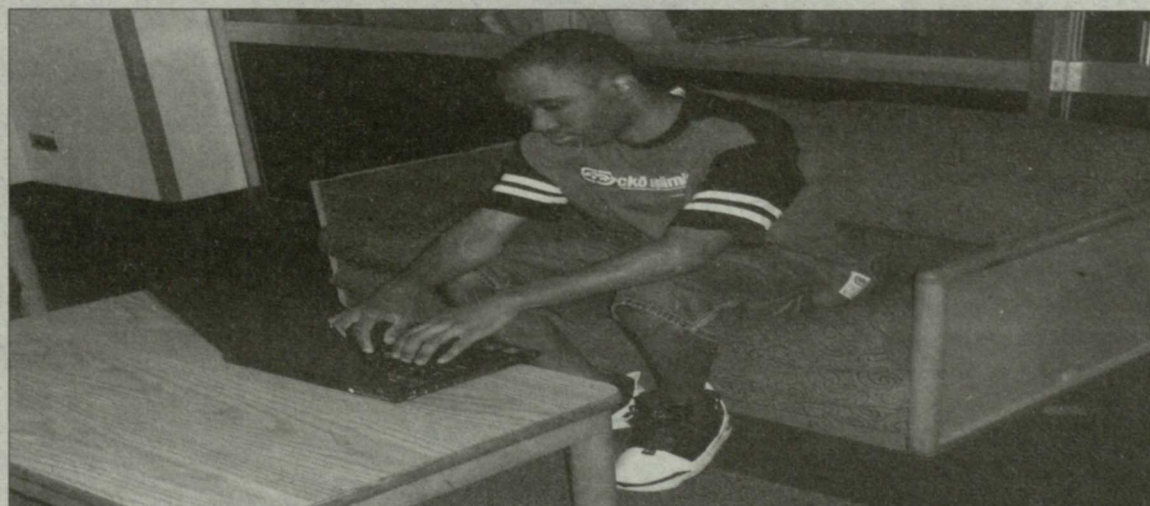
College students increasingly use the internet to communicate

with friends. In particular, online social-networking sites such as MySpace are a popular way to connect with friends and acquaintances. Through MySpace, users can add "friends" to an ever-growing group, post pictures of themselves, design their personal page, and compile detailed lists of interests, favorite books, movies, and so on.

In early 2006, more than 36 million unique visitors logged onto the website, with the average visit lasting 2 hours and 9 minutes.

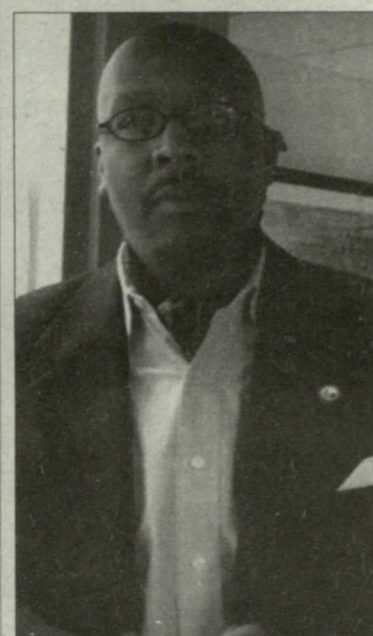
Georgia State student Ashlyn Thomas openly admits that she is

See ISOLATE | Page 11



More and more Americans find themselves communicating over email with "friends" instead of publically socializing.

Andrea Kelly | Signal



Special | Signal

Dhanfu Elston, leadership advisor for Georgia State University

Georgia State equips students with leadership tools for the future

By ERIN PATTERSON
epatterson@gsusignal.com

According to the Office of Student Life and Leadership website, leadership is "a visionary, values-driven, collaborative learning process that creates change for the greater good. This occurs within an individual's relationships, organizations, and local and global communities."

It is from this definition of leadership that the Office of Student Life and Leadership finds its core values for equipping students of the Georgia State community. The website can be found at: <http://www2.gsu.edu/leadership>.

"All students are capable of leadership," said Dhanfu Elston, leadership adviser for Georgia State. As the website states, leadership is a growing and continual process.

To begin this growth, the Office of Student Life and Leadership offers a Freshman Learning Community in order to foster leadership development. Known as "Emergent Leader," this Freshman Learning Community consists of about 100 students each year and starts off with "Panther Camp" – a two-day retreat where students are inducted into campus leadership. While this opportunity is only available to incoming freshman, it is not too late if current freshman want to begin leadership development.

"Surviving the Jungle" is a unique five-week program offered by the Office of Student Life and Leadership specific to new stu-

See LEADER | Page 11

Significant Atlanta attractions

By ERIK MCNEAL
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Once people visit all of the popular attractions in Atlanta, they are often hard-pressed to finding new and interesting tourist venues.

It is too often that someone has sat around the house on a nice day with nothing planned. This person most likely already visited Underground Atlanta, the Coca-Cola Museum, and the Georgia Aquarium, among other high-profile attractions in the city. However, there are many other museum attractions in and around the city, for those looking to enrich their minds and find something out of the ordinary.

A good place to begin the search for Atlanta's museums and tour adventures is the book "Museums of Atlanta" by Scott W. Hawley and Kevin L. Crow. The book lists sights, tours, and museums with information that would escape even a lifelong Atlanta resident's knowledge. Things like where one can find the world's largest peanut. In addition, the book also supplies readers with information about the more familiar tourist spots, such as the Fernbank Museum of Natural History and a tour of the birth home of "Gone with the Wind" author, Margaret Mitchell.

Some of the places require prior planning because they are slightly difficult to find. Fortunately, all of these happen to be free of charge.

Even if a visitor is broke, the first museum allows visitors to feel

processing cash through the Cash Overlook exhibit, operated by yellow automated vehicles that tote amounts of cash. Guests can handle a 27-pound brick of gold billion, worth an estimated \$279,000, while the brick remains enclosed



The Federal Reserve provides you a chance to touch 2.5 billion dollars.

rich. The Federal Reserve Bank Visitors Center and Monetary Museum on Peachtree Street offers a view through one of the nation's 12 regional reserve banks. Here, onlookers can see the process of

in glass. There are interactive games about loan applications and investments too. As a parting gift, the museum bestows guests a bag of shredded cash.

Located on the Georgia Tech

campus is the Robert C. Williams American Museum of Papermaking at the Institute of Paper Science and Technology. This exhibit allows for self-guided tours, but also for a guided group tour, and there is a small cost. This papermaking museum contains a colorful display of backlit watermarks from Italy's Paper and Watermark Museum, papermaking artifacts, raw, pounded bark books from Sumatra, and a hand-operated pilot machine. A popular part of the exhibit is "Paperworks!" where visitors can create paper out of cotton pulp. The museum also offers various workshops throughout the year with varied prices.

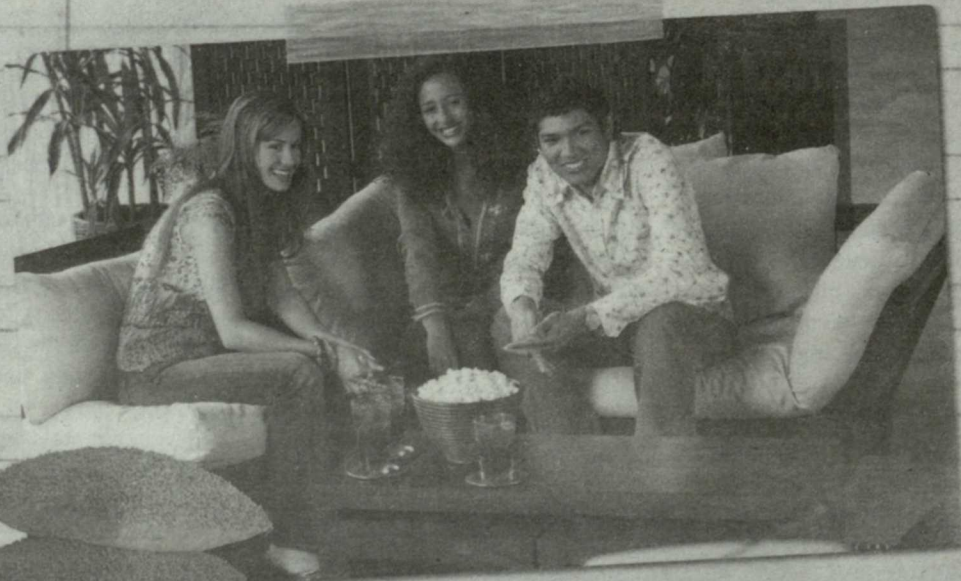
In Roswell, located on Alpharetta Street, Fire Station No. 1 displays the history of the city's fire and rescue department. Inside on display is a 1947 Ford LaFrance truck with wooden ladders on its side. In the first of a two-room display is firefighting equipment and memorabilia including axes, Geiger counters, and panoramic photos of the destruction from Atlanta's Great Fire of 1917. The next room holds "fire marks," which are wooden or metal plaques showing which residents used what insurance company. Accordingly, firefighters would then option to douse the blaze depending on whether they were affiliated with those residents' insurers. The main station is a functioning firehouse.

The Sweet Auburn Avenue

Historic District, is in itself, a self-guided walking tour down one of the most prolific areas in Atlanta. Stretching a mile and a half of present-day Auburn Avenue, the district is a living reflection of African-American history, heritage, and achievement. On this street, in the face of Jim Crow laws, African-Americans established businesses, congregations, and social organizations. The historic churches Big Bethel AME and First Congregational preside in the district. For an entertainment venue, the Royal Peacock nightclub holds the honors, formerly known as the Top Hat Club upon its 1938 opening, which in its history hosted B.B. King and Gladys Knight. Another significant establishment in the district is the Atlanta Life Insurance Company, being the second-largest black insurance company in the United States, founded in 1905 by Alonzo Herndon. The office for this company is in the Rucker Building, Atlanta's first black-owned office building erected in 1904 by Henry A. Rucker. Located in the same building is The Atlanta Daily World, the first African-American owned daily newspaper, founded in 1928.

These establishments are just a few of the interesting informational venues in the city, which is not surprising since Atlanta has the most museums in the Southeast region.

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Isolate

from page 9

"addicted" to the Facebook, a similar social-networking site that is open to college students. The 18-year-old says she spends anywhere from four hours on weekdays to seven hours on weekends on the website.

Although Thomas, a freshman, has only been attending classes for two weeks, she has nearly 400 friends on the site, 200 of whom are from Georgia State.

"Facebook is a good way to socialize and meet people," Thomas said. "I don't know how many people I've known [through Facebook] before I even came to Georgia State."

Thomas admitted, however, that she has only met half of her Georgia State Facebook friends in person. As for the remaining 100, she said, "I'm just waiting to see them around campus."

Thomas describes herself as outgoing, with plenty of acquaintances. However, like many Americans, she has only one close confidant.

"I only have one close friend. I try to keep a minimum of those," she said. "I used to have two, but she went off to college, so I really only have one."

Some psychologists consider online relationships, which can be formed through websites like MySpace and Facebook, misleading. Freshman beginning their college careers, for example, may find

it frustrating to have hundreds of friends on MySpace, but see no familiar faces on campus.

For now, it is unclear whether the internet is to blame for the trend towards social isolation. Advocates for social-networking sites argue that they do not detract from in-person relationships.

"I'm on Facebook more now that I'm at school," said Thomas. "I check the site all the time. Facebook has actually helped me to meet a lot of people."

Leader

from page 9

dents on campus. This is a once per week commitment, where each of the five sessions will deal with various aspects of leadership such as ethics, self-awareness, and integrity. Last year, "Surviving the Jungle" was held on Wednesday evenings in October, and will most likely be offered Wednesday or Thursday evenings this year as well.

While "Surviving the Jungle" is an excellent way for freshman to begin vital leadership development, Elston explained that this is the best way for commuting and other nontraditional students to work on leadership development as well. It is offered during evenings in order to be more convenient for students not in the area.

Students who are new to Georgia State or who have not oth-

erwise been involved are strongly encouraged to attend "Surviving the Jungle." More information will soon be available at the Leadership website or in the Office of Student Life and Leadership (Student Center 330).

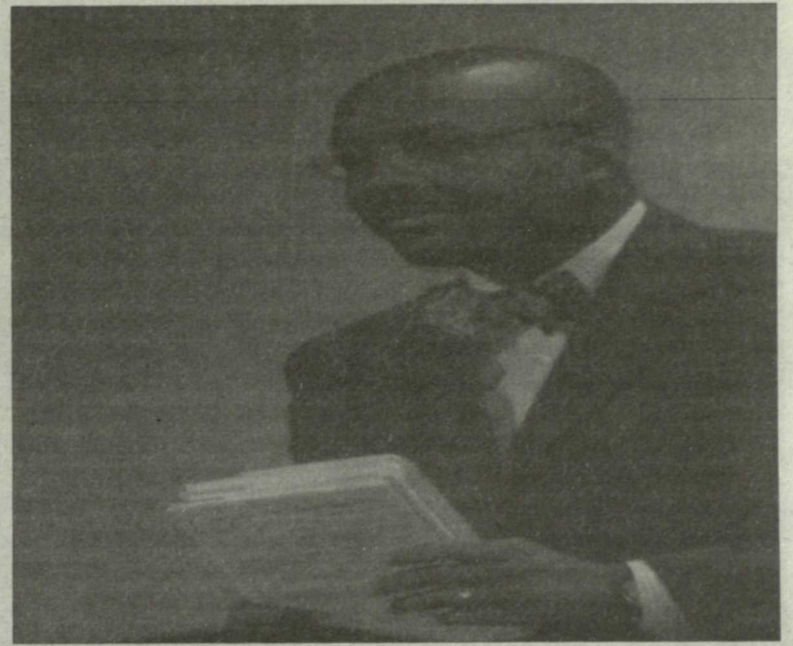
Most students would say that their education will serve them by providing a career in the future. Elston said that, in addition to good academic standing, employers often look for leadership skills.

"Employers will hire people who can work well with others, who have problem-solving skills, can be around other people from different backgrounds, and who are self-aware," Elston said. This is the information that the Office of Student Life and Leadership aims to equip students with.

"I want students to know that our office is a great place to start in leadership development. We can direct students on a path, and help find personal strengths." Elston added that this is not the only place to find leadership opportunities, but there are many avenues to pursue leadership on campus. The Office of Student Life and Leadership is a great contact and resource for students to get connected and learn how to develop personal skills.

"If a student comes to our office and says he or she is deathly afraid of public speaking, we can connect them with Toastmasters, a public speaking organization," Elston said.

One of the biggest events this fall, organized by the Leadership



Special | Signal

Dhanfu Elston sought out to train young adults to be leaders in whatever they choose to take on during and after college.

Office will be Leadership Conclave. This will be the event's 41st year at Georgia State University. It is designed each year to help develop students and become more proficient in their communication skills.

This day-long event will be held on a Saturday, where registered students will choose a track to follow. This track may be based on the department of school, for example. Professors and business leaders will be speaking to students on various subjects from their field.

Applications will be available mid-September on the Leadership website, and the event will be held toward the end of October.

Students are strongly encouraged to visit the website for information on leadership programs mentioned. Getting involved in on-campus student organizations is also strongly encouraged, and easy to do by visiting the website: <http://www2.gsu.edu/~wwwsta/organizations>.

Elston stresses the fact that leadership is more than holding a position or office, but that change can happen in the classroom as an active student, an active member of an organization as well as within a job that is either on or off-campus. "Students need to find their niches on campus that develop their skill sets," he said.

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Park

from page 9



Walking in Woodruff Park is more pleasant since recent improvements.

tems and refuse removal, and wireless internet.

Amongst all of these changes remain some of downtown's his-

toric monuments and places of interest. The pavilion created for the Summer Olympic Games, is a custom design that consists of an openwork strut cornice assembly supporting an impact-resistant, ceramic fitted glass dome. The Performance Pavilion accommodates performances by local musicians and students from the Georgia State University School of Music. The International Peace Fountain commemorates Atlanta's pivotal role in the Civil Rights movement. A geyser fountain and wall of water make a dramatic focus for the park, and a memorable gateway to Auburn Avenue and the M.L. King, Jr. National Park Site.

The bronze sculpture "Phoenix Rising from the Ashes" is by Gamba Quirino. The piece depicts a woman being lifted from flames by a phoenix in flight. The sculpture is allegorical in nature, symbolizing Atlanta's rebirth after a devastating fire during the Civil War. This piece of history given to Atlanta by the Rich Foundation in 1967 celebrated the foundation's 100th anniversary. The Phoenix, the symbol of Atlanta rising from the ashes, used to be perched at Spring Street and Martin Luther King Boulevard. It has been relocated to the Five Points entrance of Woodruff Park.



Andrea Kelly | Signal

Students, faculty and visitors play board games on a sunny day.

On recent trips Downtown, The Urbanite staff witnessed two new events, Wednesday at Woodruff and Friday on Broad. They were feasts for the senses. A double scoop of mint chocolate chip, live music, people watching and internet surfing are only some of the things you can experience during lunch hour. Starting at noon every Wednesday from May 3 through Sept. 27, 2006 performance groups will entertain lunchtime crowds in downtown Atlanta's Woodruff Park. Also on Fridays from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. one can enjoy the company of friends

and coworkers on your lunch break and feel the rhythm of live jazz, R&B, reggae, soft rock music and more. These events are sponsored by Starbucks Coffee and are often used as an opportunity to give passersby samples of new menu items. If you need something to do from noon-2 p.m., stop by Woodruff Park or have lunch on Broad. For more information about upcoming events and musician performances visit <http://www.centralatlantaprogress.org/WoodruffPark.asp>.



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Sports

Editor: Zettler Clay IV

sportseditor@gsusignal.com



"We are Georgia State"

An interview with Georgia State's Athletic Director

By: Zettler Clay
zclay1@student.gsu.edu

Editor's note: This is part one of a two-part interview. Please see next week's issue for the remainder of Mary McElroy's interview.

One glance around the room, and it looks quite peculiar. Peculiar, in the sense that it was refreshing. Walking into the room, one would notice several things. Amongst the plaques, pictures, innumerable amount of books, computer and printer, and posters of the new Panthersville, one sees three objects that stand out among the rest: a black panther statue, next to a plush leather couch, which is perpendicular to a desk.

This desk belongs to Mary McElroy, the exuberant, tenacious, maternal, and visionary director of athletics at Georgia State

University.

"You know why I have my room the way it is?," she asked. "I have a small desk because, for one, it keeps clutter off. But mostly, it's to make room for this leather sofa right here. I want my guest to be comfortable when they come in here."

For a year since her inception in June 2005 as Athletic Director of Georgia State, McElroy was the only black female AD at a non-historically black college or university (HBCU). She is now joined by Debi Gore-Mann, who is the AD of the University of San Francisco, as the only two black female athletic directors at non-HBCUs in the nation.

This past week, the Signal sat down with this gregarious woman, who was full of life and as charm-

ing as an Al Green record.

Signal: We saw what George Mason did last year, well earlier this year. We all know that they were the biggest team story of the year. But what a lot of people don't know is that they barely beat us in overtime in the CAA tourney last year. What are your thoughts on that? How does that affect the mood around here, especially on the men's basketball team?

MM: There's a quiet excitement about that, because what we did see in that game is that our team grew up some. Two of the players, one in particular who sparked that run (Herman Favors) graduated. But from what I heard there are some incoming freshman and transfers that are coming in this year that are as good as Herman, if



Zettler Clay | Signal

Mary McElroy, Athletic Director

not better. So what George Mason did was increase the level of student-athlete that is interested in coming to Georgia State now, and we are excited about that.

Signal: What do you think about the first year in the CAA for Georgia State's sports?

MM: Overall, I thought it was successful. We had two first place teams, our golf teams finished in

first place with 22 stroke victories. We had a softball team that darn near won the championship against Hofstra, who was won it the last five years. Hofstra has dominated women's softball, and we gave them a hard run for their money. We finished second there, and a lot of those players are coming back.

The men's and women's cross-country team both finished third in the CAA, so we're excited

See McELROY | Page 17

Volleyball team undefeated

By: Zettler Clay
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Last Friday, three Georgia State teams made their debuts, and one team in particular did not want to be second best. Or third best for that matter, as the Lady Panthers volleyball team beat Kennesaw State 3-0 in impressive fashion.

Taking place in the Georgia State University's Sports Arena,

the inaugural matchup pitted the Lady Panthers against the Kennesaw State Owls, fielding its first-ever volleyball team. The game marked the return of junior Anna Paula Ferreira, coming back from a season-ending knee injury.

Ferreira played with the fury of a woman whose playing time had been scorned-or, someone who just really was glad to be playing again. She led all scorers with 14 kills and two service aces tying her

with senior libero, Christen Garcia.

The three points were also contributed by teammates Leah Tenney and Jordan Thomas. Sophomore Michelle Trimble, who with 10 kills of her own, looked like she was in midseason form.

The combined play of these talented individuals translated into a three game sweep in the best of five, winning by scores of 30 to 16;

See UNDEFEATED | Page 17



SpecialSignal

Team huddling before the game

Multi-million dollar facility underway

By: Matthew Barbour
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Progress is being made at Panthersville with a multi-million dollar renovation, and the athletic department is very excited about it to say the least.

Panthersville, home to Georgia State's athletic fields, has been in great need of transformation according to Mary McElroy, athletic director. Over time she had "conducted meetings with the coaches and it (renovation) was a recurring theme."

McElroy goes on to explain in further detail the need for the reconditioning with some examples. "The men's and women's tennis teams have to play at 9 a.m. and be finished by 1 p.m. on Sundays because we play on a public court. We don't have a tennis court. We have a track team, but no track! So the renovation was something that had to be done."

Groundbreaking for the

renovation actually began earlier this summer, and when the three-phase Panthersville Plan is completed, 10 of the 15 teams at State will be calling Panthersville home; baseball, softball, soccer, tennis, men's and women's track and field and men's and women's cross-country.

Phase one of the project calls for a new soccer field to be positioned between the existing baseball and softball complexes. Completion for the new field is expected to be during the fall.

Phase two entails the construction of an eight-court outdoor tennis facility, another soccer field with a surrounding track, and a locker room facility for all of the teams to share.

In the final phase, a four-court indoor tennis complex is to be erected.

According to McElroy, the overall cost of the project is \$6.5 million and the expected completion date is in the summer of 2007,

with the exception of the indoor tennis facility, which is to be completed in 2008.

As stated in a press release, Clough, Harbour & Associates, LLP was chosen by Georgia State to take on the renovation after placing the winning bid. CHA Sport has "planned and designed athletic and recreational fields for schools, municipalities, institutions and international organizations."

It also should be noted that the fields will be in good hands under the care of the Sports Turf Company. Their 20-year record of success includes caring for the Olympic softball complex in Columbus, the Falcons training fields in Flowery Branch, the East Cobb baseball complex, as well as the fields at Auburn University and the University of Alabama.

Overall, McElroy and the rest of the athletic department look

forward to the developments to come. McElroy states she is personally excited because these renovations will "help with recruiting."

"New facilities lead to more recruits wanting to be here, because it adds credibility." She goes on to say, "Once we clear all of these hurdles [of construction], our teams should flourish [even more than they do now]."



Zettler Clay | Signal

Renovations of Panthersville, 6.5 million dollar facility which includes 8 outdoor tennis courts, indoor tennis courts, new parking lots, and a track field, amongst other things.

Men's soccer team falls short of a goal

Season opening win thwarted by early mistakes

By Patrick Cheney
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The Georgia State men's soccer season did not begin the way most had hoped. In a thrilling game that ended with Georgia State being stopped multiple times with the clock ticking down, the College of Charleston Cougars defeated the Panthers 2-1 in the home opener at the Silverbacks Park.

Despite the heat, many Georgia State fans braved rush hour traffic, both coming and going to the game, to see their Panthers open the season. With a crowd of over 125 people on hand, anticipation was heavy. It was clear that soccer was commencing.

The game opened with Cougars senior Darren Toby scoring less than one minute into the game. "It's disappointing to give up a goal that early in to a game against a good team like the Cougars," Georgia State Head Coach Kerem Daser said after the match. "They went to the NCAA tournament as the Southern Conference champions two years ago and are one of the top ten teams in the South."

From a player's perspective, it is not much different.

"It's always difficult to start off the game, as soon as you come out the locker room, down 1-0," senior captain Alberto Villarreal said. "But it was good to see the character of all the guys. We lost, but it was an exciting game."

Following a yellow card issued to Panthers sophomore Linus Warendh, the Cougars scored a second time in the first half. College of Charleston freshman Kareem Yearwood headed a ball into the goal that he rebounded off a shot blocked by Panthers goalie Felipe Carvalho.

Senior captain Alberto Villarreal scored the first goal of the season for the Panthers on a clutch penalty kick, shortening the Cougars' lead to 2-1. The goal marked Villarreal's team-leading record of 42 career goals.

During the second half, the Panthers looked much stronger on the field. There were more shot opportunities, but the set-up passes were almost always just a little too long for the forwards to score. Nevertheless, the Panthers were just unable to finish.

Defensively, the Panthers' second half was amazing. The Cougars were unable to penetrate Carvalho and the defense. Carvalho had a strong second half, with some major stops.

According to Daser, the Cougars are a strong team. Such opposition should help the Panthers in their preparation for conference play in the CAA, which begins on Sept. 22 at James Madison University. "We just have to keep working," Villarreal said. "We know what we have to do and we just have to improve in those areas."

The young Panthers started six sophomores in the game. However, Daser believes that the team is still very experienced.

"Alberto had a great game today; he played all 90 minutes and showed why he is a great captain," Daser said following the game. "Filipe had an outstanding second half in the goal and blocked a lot of tough shots."

On Tuesday, Aug. 29 at 7 pm, the Panthers will be playing the Clemson Tigers at Clemson, which will be another tough match-up. The Tigers are ranked fifth in the national preseason polls and their goalie, junior Phil Marfuggi, is a preseason All-American. However, according to Villarreal,

the Panthers will be motivated.

"We'll be ready. The rankings actually mean nothing at this point of the season. That is just extra motivation for us to go up there and try to beat them," Villarreal replied when asked of facing #5 team Clemson.

Junior defender Justin Davis understands the tough schedule the Panthers face at the beginning of the season. "It's difficult having to begin a season with back-to-back games against teams of the caliber that College of Charleston and Clemson are," he said.

The next home game for the men's soccer team will take place on September 29 at the Atlanta Silverbacks field at 7 pm. This will also be the first CAA home match up for the Panthers.



Weiss Tahmass Special | Signal

Women's soccer team downed 3-0 by Kennesaw in season opener

While one Kennesaw State team was getting handled on Interstate 75-85, another team was having its way on the other end of Interstate 75 North, as the women's soccer team of Georgia State dropped their opening game 3-0 to the Kennesaw State Owls.

Much like the men's soccer game, the Lady Panthers found themselves at a deficit early on. They soon settled down to make it a very competitive game before the Owls scored two goals late in the second half to ice it.

After the game, Coach Domenic Martelli complimented the Owls' performance. "They're a well-coached team," he said. "We played with a lot of heart and competitiveness, but we weren't technically sound. Hopefully we got all the first-game jitters out and I expect us to play better at Charlotte, but we're going to have to play better soccer to beat them."

In the first half, the Owls dominated on offense, out-shooting the Lady Panthers 9-3. However, they were only up 1-0, as the Panthers defense was played tough after giving up the early goal. Going into the second half, Coach Martelli knew he had to employ something different. He implemented a new offensive strat-

egy in the second period, enabling the Panthers to better attack, improving shot production by four in the later half. Unfortunately for them, the Owls shot production increased their by 3, as the Panthers were out-shot 21-10 for the game.

The closest the Panthers came to scoring was on a shot by senior forward Lauren Chavez, who had her shot ricochet off the cross bar. She went on to make three shots in the game, to lead the team. Panther goalie Charlotte Vargo compiled six saves in this loss, falling to 0-1, along with the team.

"We gave a good 20 minutes in the second half, a jolt from the new system, but first-game jitters caused some errors and we weren't able to recover," Martelli said.

The Lady Panthers have to recover quickly, as they turn around to face UNC-Charlotte in Charlotte, NC. UNC-Charlotte is ranked 11th in the Southeast, according to soccerbuzz.com. After this game, they roll through a seven game period before they arrive in Atlanta again to play on Sept. 22. This game is their first CAA match-up against James Madison. The remaining 10 games on the schedule thereafter all are CAA opponents.



Lauren Chavez weaves through defenders

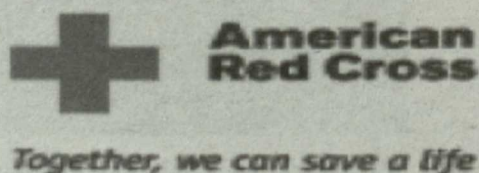
Special | Signal

Georgia State Athletics

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Signal Calling: AN NFC PREVIEW

By: Norman Robinson
nrobinson@gsusignal.com

Now for part two of our 2006 NFL preview. Last week, we previewed the AFC, so now it is the NFC's turn.

Before we get started, I should say that it's much more difficult to create power rankings for the NFC because there are a lot of teams in the NFC divisions that are equally good (and equally bad). Outside of the west, the AFC has a much clearer hierarchy between the "really good teams" and the "kind of good teams." Maybe it is so difficult because the NFC doesn't have any "really good teams" (Before you jump on me, note that the team representing the NFC has only won three of the last ten Super Bowls).

Alright, without further ado, here are the rankings.

NFC North:

1. Chicago Bears: Look at everyone else.
2. Minnesota Vikings: Remember how much you laughed when Jack Black's biker character punted Ron Burgundy's dog off a bridge in "Anchorman?" Go look at the Vikings roster on NFL.com and I guarantee you will laugh at least that hard, probably more. The funniest thing: they are the second best team in the division.
3. Detroit Lions: Mike Martz is there, so the offense is going to be excellent. But Mike Martz is there, so you cannot expect too much. Look out for a career year from Jon Kitna, though. He still has a lot to prove after the way Cincinnati treated him so that they could bring Carson Palmer in.
4. Green Bay Packers: The Packers' front office is obviously caught between a rock and a hard place. They are trying to rebuild,

but Brett is still there, so they can only take it so far. And they cannot force him out, because the fans would riot. It is like a dilapidated old landmark that is not even earning the city any money anymore, but if the mayor decides to tear it down to build a Wal-Mart, the citizens would go crazy. I do not see this ending well.

NFC East:

1. Philadelphia Eagles: With T.O. gone, they can go back to being one of the dominant franchises in the NFC. McNabb should return to form now that he is healthy, and he should continue to throw to up-and-coming wide receiver Reggie Brown. With the majority of the core cast returning, this should be a successful season for the Eagles. The only question is: how far can they go?
2. New York Giants: I do not see the Giants repeating last year's success. Part of me thinks it is because of the players' mutinous comments against Head Coach Tom Coughlin after last year's playoff loss. Another part of me thinks it is because this year, the NFC East is better than it has been in years, and I am not sure if such a young team can handle the pressure of a tight playoff race. But as long as Tiki is not fumbling and the phrase "Manning to Shockey" is being uttered at least seven times a game, they are still a contender.
3. Dallas Cowboys: Signing T.O. is currently number 17 on the list of "Worst Ideas Ever," sandwiched between the pet rock and "From Justin to Kelly." After the Dallas situation implodes, expect it to move up the list. (Look out, New Coke!)
4. Washington Redskins: I hate putting the Redskins at the bottom because they are a good team. They are loaded their talent at wide

receiver, Clinton Portis showed that he can be an asset at running back with or without Mike Shanahan's "system," and they proved that they can win the close games (something every great team could do). But the NFC East is just REALLY good this year. The Redskins might not even make the playoffs in this division, but if they played in the NFC North, they would probably have home-field advantage throughout the playoffs.

NFC South:

1. Carolina Panthers: The addition of Keyshawn Johnson will only serve to make the offense better. Even though they do not have a dominant run game, his presence will (more than likely) create a possession passing scheme which should be just as effective. Nothing further needs to be said about the defense. Until someone knocks them off, this is their division.
2. Tampa Bay Buccaneers: Now on to the team with the most absurd stadium prop in pro sports (Would not you have loved to have been in on that meeting when someone said: "You know what we need? A pirate ship!") Believe it or not, Gruden is slowly but surely building a great offense in Tampa Bay. The passing game is taking some time to develop, but Carnell Williams has proved that he is a workhorse back who can shoulder the load, so that is not too much of a concern. And just in case, there is always the perennially brilliant defense to rely upon.
3. Atlanta Falcons: Alright, the talent is there now, on offense AND defense. True, there are no standouts as far as wide receivers go, but White and Jenkins look better than half the wide receiver tandems in the league. We're in year three of the Jim Mora experiment. I don't want to hear any

more excuses as to why this thing isn't working yet. I'm serious. You are killing me here.

4. New Orleans Saints: I came THIS close to putting the Saints above the Falcons. But Brees is new to the team and coming off of a rather serious injury, and Bush is only a rookie (an amazing rookie, but a rookie nonetheless). That and they still have no defense to speak of. Joe Horn is getting older, and Donte Stallworth has never been able to produce on a consistent basis. On second thought, maybe I should not have come so close to putting them over the Falcons...

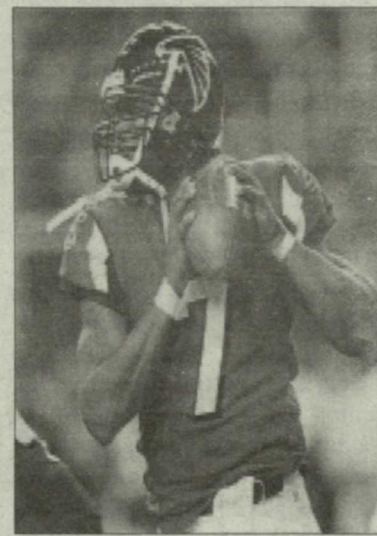
NFC West:

1. Seattle Seahawks: I am not sure why, but for some reason the team that loses the Super Bowl almost always does poorly the following year. And I have never associated the Seattle Seahawks with the phrase "mental toughness." Taking this into account, the Seahawks seem positioned to have an upstart squad dethrone them from their spot atop the NFC West. A team like the ...
2. Arizona Cardinals: On paper, this looks like one of the best offenses in the league, what with Kurt Warner, Edgerrin James, and the best receiving duo in the NFL (Fitzgerald and Boldin). The defense is not quite ready for the postseason, and I do not think Arizona fans are thinking Super Bowl just yet. They just want to be able to wear their jerseys in public. And this is their year.
3. St. Louis Rams: The Rams return with a new head coach (Scott Linehan) and more than likely a new offense no longer centered around Mike Martz's run-and-gun philosophy. Running back Stephen Jackson's fantasy owners will benefit, but that is about it. Last year, the Rams had the 31st

ranked scoring defense in the league, and the team made no real moves to improve that dubious distinction. The worst thing is, they always do just well enough to think that they are on the right track. St. Louis needs a 4-12 season like nobody's business (for the good of the franchise).

4. San Francisco 49ers: I honestly do not know what to say. No talent. No leadership. A rapidly dwindling fan base. Did you ever foresee the day when someone tried to embarrass you at Madden by beating you with the 49ers? Really, what happened here? Were Montana, Young, and Rice really good enough to the point where they masked an otherwise-awful franchise for well over a decade? The answer to this cannot be as simple as "Terrell Owens"...can it?

The NFC, people. Love it or hate it. That just about sums up my 2006 NFL Preview. Numerous storylines and a wealth of talented franchises leave this season poised to be one of the more exciting in recent memory. I, for one, cannot wait.



Mike Vick

Special | Signal

Men's golf wants to continue upswing

By Matthew Barbour
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Head Coach Matt Clark and the rest of the Georgia State men's golf team are gearing up for another season.

With the new season approaching, Clark said, "Our main goal is to play good golf and represent this university with pride." He should have no trouble given the players that he has on his team.

Returning players include sophomore Mark Haastrup; junior Joel Sjolholm; and seniors Morgan Nix, Derek Oakey, and Ben Taylor.

Haastrup is expected to continue to be a great asset to the team. Last year, he led the team with a stroke average of 72.08. He also recorded nine top-20 finishes, receiving two individual medalist honors, and finished first in the CAA Championships. This past

summer, Haastrup also had great success as a member of the European team, competing in the Palmer Cup in Prestwick, Scotland.

Sjolholm completed last year with five top-15 finishes. He also opened last year's season with a career-best finish at the TOPY Cup in Japan, placing third with a 216 total. Another notable finish was placing in the top-five in the CAA Championships. For the 2005-2006 season he boasted a stroke average of 74.36.

Coach Clark is also pleased to have his trio of seniors returning this year and Nix, Oakey and Taylor are more than excited to be back.

Even though Nix only participated in two events last season, he is still fired up and ready to play. Last season he set a new career-best for three-round tournament score, with a 244 at the Hyatt Plantation Club Intercollegiate and

also had a new career-best third-round score of 79 at the Hyatt Plantation Club Intercollegiate. He finished with a season stroke average of 75.66.

Derek Oakey returns ready to go to work not just on the course, but also in the classroom. Besides being a good golf player, he also strives to be a good student. One of his goals for his final year is to repeat as an Academic All-American.

Last season Oakey boasted a top-20 finish in the CAA Championships and also accomplished a third-round personal-best score of 70 in the Hyatt Plantation Club Intercollegiate. He finished last season with a stroke average of 74.91.

Last season Taylor finished with a stroke average of 75.16 and a respectable top-five finish in the CAA Championships.

When asked about the upcoming year, Taylor said, "We're very

motivated this season."

With this being his last year of being on the team, Taylor said, "One of my goals is just to play the best that I can. I don't think that a national championship is out of our reach, and I want to help my team accomplish that."



Derek Oakey, a senior, leads an upper-class laden squad.

Special | Signal

Subway series inevitable?

Pennant races heat up as summer closes

By: Jon Zopf
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Normally around this time of year, sports fans around the country are putting away their favorite baseball hat and preparing themselves for the upcoming football season. This year, however, the majority of those fans have to postpone that yearly ritual and prepare themselves for something they are not used to: a pennant race.

With a little over a month left to play in the Major League Baseball season, all but eight teams are still alive in the hunt for that ever-elusive playoff birth. Of course there are only four playoff births available in each league, so I feel it is my duty to separate those pretenders from contenders.

Since we are in the A-Town, let's start in the National League (NL), where three of the four races have yet to be decided and where all but three teams are 6.5 games or less out of the wild card race. Not to mention the fact that Paris Hilton's new CD has a better chance of going platinum than any National League team winning the World Series.

The NL East is all but won, with the Mets cruising to their first division title since Vanilla Ice had a number one hit. So, there's no reason to take a look at that division. (Unless of course you want me to point out how that Paris's CD was the only thing worse than the Braves this year, but I'm sure no one wants to hear that, so let's move on.)

The battle for the NL Central has come down to a two team race. The surprising Cincinnati Reds find themselves just one game behind the struggling St. Louis Cardinals, who, without the incomparable Albert Pujols, would not even be in this discussion. The Cards are bad, but luckily for them, the Reds are worse. Winning the Central Division shouldn't be a concern for St. Louis fans. The fact that you have Jeff Weaver on the staff heading into the playoffs, however, should.

Out west all five teams are separated by 6.5 games, with the Los Angeles Dodgers leading the way. Of course, this division is the worst in baseball and three of the teams (San Francisco, Arizona, and Colorado) are under .500 so it won't be too long before L.A. pulls away and cruises through the playoffs on their way to meet the Mets in the National League Championship Series.

The last playoff spot in the National League up for grabs is the Wild Card spot. With ten teams still alive this is by far one of the most exciting races in baseball, but the race is likely to come down to who doesn't win the Central or the West. With the exception of the Padres or Reds, fans of the other teams should just say goodbye to

the baseball season and start preparing for their fantasy football draft. For argument's sake, I would like the Reds to win the wild card.

Over in the American League (AL), playoff births are all but locked up for the three division leaders, but the Wild Card race could come down to the final day of the year.

It is also in the American League where we find the best record in baseball, and no it's not the Yankees or the Red Sox, it is not even last year's champion White Sox. It is the Detroit Tigers. That is right, the Detroit Tigers. The Tigers have been in control on the AL Central since before the All-Star break, and while I doubted them early on, it's time for me to admit that they are for real and are poised for their first Division Title in 22 years.

Out west, everyone's pick to be the World Series Champs at the beginning of the season, the Oakland A's, have a comfortable five game lead and seem to have a stronghold on the rest of the competition. Of course, that competition includes the Rangers, Mariners, and Angels, so that does not really say too much. But winning a division title with a payroll less than the Gross National Product of a third world country is commendable, so I'll give them that.

A five game sweep of the BoSox in Fenway was pretty much the icing. The Yankees came to town and beat them down so hard that Big Papi's papi felt it. And with that drubbing, the Red Sox hopes of making the playoffs ended and while the Yankees were catapulted to World Series favorites.

Which team the Yankees meet in the first round of the playoffs comes down to who wins the battle between the next two best teams in baseball, the Twins and the White Sox. The Twins have been on overdrive since after the All-Star break behind the pitching of Johan Santana and rookie phenom Francisco Liriano.

The White Sox have been on a bit of a slide as of late and while their offensive numbers are up from last year, their pitching has been abysmal and that will not get them very far. Who wins the wild card is anyone's guess, but I will take the Twins just because I would love to see what White Sox Manager Ozzie Guillen says or does once the White Sox get knocked out.

With the defending champion White Sox not in the playoffs, a new World Series winner will be crowned this year. However, that new World Series winner will be an old face as the Yankees defeat the Mets in a rematch of the 2000 subway series. Sorry Braves fans, that's just how it goes.

Story of the lost Braves:

An analysis of a season gone wrong

By: Robert Sabbath
rsabbath1@student.gsu.edu

When you look in the Braves' dugout, the look on Braves Manager Bobby Cox's face is unmistakable. Cox sits motionless on the bench at Turner Field and the look on his face is not of anger or disappointment, but more of disbelief. His look shows a resignation and an end to their unprecedented streak of 14 division titles.

There is not just one reason for this sub par season. There are several.

For 15 years, Leo Mazzone put together solid pitching staffs that made up the core of the Braves' organization. He was Cox's best friend and right hand man on the field, but after last season, Mazzone left the Braves to join Sam Perlozzo, a childhood friend and manager for the Orioles. As a result, he received the biggest contract that any pitching coach has ever received in Baltimore.

Both the Braves and Mazzone went their separate ways, both thinking they just needed a change of scenery. Neither will admit it, but with the Orioles' current situation and the Braves' situation, both sides might be regretting the separation. Mazzone and the Braves had great chemistry throughout past years.

Along with the loss of Mazzone came struggles with the bullpen. The bullpen was obviously struggling from day one this season. Atlanta is currently number one in blown saves in the National League with 24. The Braves have been through five different closers and have now finally settled on one.

General Manager John Schuerholz worked his magic before the trade deadline to bolster the bullpen. The Braves acquired save specialist Bob Wickman from the Cleveland Indians and veteran reliever Danys Baez from the Los Angeles Dodgers in late July. Around these two are Oscar Villarreal and youngsters Ken Ray, Chad Paronto, Tyler Yates and Macay McBride. This group has finally settled down, and since the All Star break, have performed quite well.

As soon as the bullpen started looking better, the starting pitching then became a problem due to some serious injuries. In May, Kyle Davies, who looked so impressive at the start of the season, pulled his groin. He is expected to be back by the end of August. John Thompson and Horacio Ramirez have also been nursing nagging injuries all season.

They both have constantly been on and off the disabled list. And last season's 13 game winner, Jorge Sosa, proved that last year was a fluke. The young pitcher was

2-9 as a starter this year, and when moved to the closer role, he flopped again. Atlanta eventually dumped him off to St. Louis at the trade deadline.

Fans always seem to forget that Mike Hampton still has a Braves uniform, but he just won't put it on again until next season. Hampton had off-season Tommy John surgery and has been recovering all year.

With all of the injuries to the starting rotation, the biggest surprise and disappointment has been the performance of starter, Tim Hudson. At the beginning of the season, it was said that the Ace of the staff would be Hudson and that John Smoltz would be passing the torch to the Ace of the future. Hudson has not lived up to the expectations in Atlanta.

So far, he is 24-19 for the Braves with an ERA just under 4.00. He has been nothing short of disappointing here as he dominated several seasons for the Oakland A's before arriving in Atlanta. These are solid numbers for your normal, everyday starting pitcher, but in Atlanta our Aces cannot just be good, they have to be phenomenal. That's the Hall of Fame tradition left by the star pitching trio of Greg Maddux, Tom Glavine, and Smoltz.

Although it is painful to think about, Chipper Jones is not a young kid anymore. He is 34 years old. When he is in the lineup, it is a noticeable difference. He might have lost some power, but he can still drive in runs as well as anybody. But the key phrase is: when he is in the lineup.

For the past three seasons, Chipper has been on the disabled list multiple times. He can still help the Braves win ball games, that has not changed. What has changed is the number of ball games he is able to play in.

In spite of these things, Chipper is healthy as of right now, the bullpen looks like it has been fixed, Chuck James and Kyle Davies look capable of taking some of the workload off of Smoltz, and the lineup is full of hot hitters at the present time. So Cox is not giving up on that last Wild Card playoff spot and neither are any of the Braves. And we have learned over the years never to discount them.

The Braves have been in tough predicaments before; they were 10 games out in late July 1993 and won the division. Buster Olney of ESPN.com and ESPN's Baseball Tonight said, "I've learned my lesson and won't write off the Braves unless they are mathematically eliminated. We could do nothing less out respect for what Bobby Cox and John Smoltz and the other Braves have accomplished over the last decade and a half."

McElroy

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about that. Historically, there have been two very strong teams in the CAA, and we came in third place amongst 11 teams. The baseball team played their way into the tournament, where only the top six (out of 11) teams go. In the tournament, we upset the number two seed in Old Dominion. The soccer teams battled hard and had a lot of one point losses. Not having seen or having an idea what we were going up against and perform that well, proves that we are going to be fine. We are going to realize that vision of being competitive and dominating the CAA if the coaches continue to buckle down like they say they are going to.

Signal: Talking to the coaches around here, and I am picking up that they are expecting nothing less than a CAA championship. Was that confidence instilled here before you got here, or is that something that has been acquired recently?

MM: I wouldn't dare claim credit for that attitude of pursuing championships, but it definitely is in line with my philosophy. My personal philosophy is anything worth doing is worth doing right. And we see now that we can compete. Our athletes see that they can compete. So we are aiming for that CAA championship.

Signal: So what has changed since you have been here?

MM: Nothing! (Laughing) I would say that now we got a little bit of swagger about us, and that's good in an Athletic Department. We want people walking around confident in their abilities. When I first got here, I heard a lot of 'We can't do that, we're just Georgia State,' and that took me by surprise a little bit. I was thinking, instead of saying that, why don't we say, 'We can do that, because we are Georgia State,' because I do believe that Georgia State does have a rich amount of resources.

We have this huge student body (26,000) around here, we just have to get them inspired and excited to support our teams. We have a new video board in the gym for the basketball games, so I'm excited about that. We've brought in a new marketing assistant athletic director, who is full of exciting ideas. We came up with a strategic plan, and that plan is to be the student-athletes' first choice.

Sitting down with the coach

By Yarin Craig
ycraig2@student.gsu.edu

On Aug. 16, I had the privilege to sit down and talk business with the head coach of the Georgia State's men's basketball team, Michael Perry. Perry gave his view on several aspects of the team including switching to the Colonial division from the Atlantic Sun division, and how he incorporates the philosophy "thinking outside of the box."

I didn't have to Coach Perry many questions. With my first he summed up about all of my questions without me having to say them. I first asked him if I could get an overview of his thoughts on last season.

In his relaxed tone which would remain through the entire interview he told me, "It was an interesting year. It was really exciting being apart of the Colonial division which had great credibility. We just moved up from the Atlantic Sun where when a team finished around 500 they were considered good and had a chance to win the league. We finished with a 66 to 70 percent record in the Atlantic Sun division. We finished winning seven games this year and I view this year as a transitional period. For many of the kids the change in leagues was overwhelming. I reviewed tape and could see the difference in intensity between the two leagues," he said.

To close his statements he gave me an analogy, "A boxing fighter goes against a good champion, but doesn't realize how hard they're hit until they're hit. We experienced this first hand and had to go through the transition of switching divisions."

Perry went on to explain how towards the end of the season he liked how his team began to grow and show the proper intensity to thrive in the Colonial conference, especially after the showing



Coach Michael Perry has high expectations

SpecialSignal

against the Final Four bound George Mason in last years tournament.

This year, not returning to the Panthers are: D'Andre McGrew, Herman Favors, Boyd Copeland, and Malcom Manier. Perry expressed how each of them will be missed. "Favors embodied the University school spirit with his size and was 5'9 on a good day, he brought enthusiasm, and competitiveness. Malcom Manier was a double figure scorer and Boyd Copeland was a starter," he said.

"Three of the four have graduated, and the only one remaining is Manier who has one final class to complete. Favors has received offers from overseas and McGrew is working in his home state Kansas. They will definitely be missed. They showed the commitment to be balanced. They strived to succeed not only on the court but in the classroom, and to be successful," Perry continued.

The Georgia State Panthers will have to find a way to regroup next season despite losing four key players. inspite of the loss, the Panthers have seven veterans returning to the roster.

With one year of experience in the Colonial division containing an

upgrade of competition out of the way, the Panthers look to make some noise this coming year and making it in their own style by not thinking in what Perry calls a traditional manner.

"I encourage my staff to think outside of the box. Even as far as recruiting players, we think outside the box. We cant take a traditional road in this league, if you do so it'll be like your always trying to catch up, and always behind."

As the interview came to a close, Perry gave some of his final words, stating, "We don't want to play people tough, we want to play people and win. We want to win in the weight room, win on the track, and win everywhere. We have to be beyond competitive with these teams in the Colonial Conference and this year has to be all about beating the teams."

From my observations, Perry is ready for next season. He's ready to bounce back with a year of experience in the Colonial conference and improve upon the seven wins from last season. First and foremost, Perry says he wants to win, then he wants to win some more. I think we have the right guy.

mand of that game.

The second game started similarly, but stayed that way throughout as the Owls had a 25-21 advantage (going to 30). This sparked an 8-2 run by the Panthers to put them up 29-27. The Owls forced an extension of the game by scoring two points to tie the game at 29 all.

Noelle Byrd, a freshman, scored the final point on an ace to give them the win. The third game commenced auspiciously for the Panthers, and stayed that way throughout the whole game, as they were up 19-5 to start the match. Kennesaw State fought hard but was clearly no equal as the game-and night-was finalized on a Ferreira kill.

The next game for the volleyball team will take place on Tuesday, Aug. 29 in Jacksonville, Ala. The game will begin at 7 p.m.



Anna Ferreira SpecialSignal



SpecialSignal

Hall of fame coach Lea Henry-Manning focuses on next year

Writing their own story

An exclusive look into the women's basketball team

By Elisabeth Stephens
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Calling the Lady Panther's upcoming basketball season "exciting" may be an understatement. . Get ready for a combination of leadership and heart to add some flair to this unique team's tale.

The returning players hunger for more wins this year as they face their second season in the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA). This desire will most likely add a hint of drama to the upcoming season.

Leadership is expected be a key theme for the Panthers. The team's only returning senior, Kelcey Roegiers-Jensen, has more than enough experience and talent to lead her team on. "I'm pretty excited about this year. I don't look at age when it comes to leadership for this team," Roegiers-Jensen said. "We're building a program here and I'm looking forward to having a positive influence and teach the younger players what we're all about."

The team's juniors also will serve as leaders, as their well rounded understanding of the game adds to an undeniable strength found in the Lady Panthers. The team will not only will find direction through its upperclassmen, as newly-added players are no strangers to giving guidance. Eboni Fields and Danyzell McKeller are two of five freshmen who bring even more of an intimidating depth this season. Both players left their previous teams as leading scorers, and both had extremely successful high school careers.

Adding to this story in the making is Head Coach Lea Henry-Manning's enthusiasm for her

players and the game. When asked what to expect this year Manning replied, "(This season) is going to be exciting. We've got young players mixed with a lot of leadership. This team is very athletic. They all play hard and to win."

Such a mix of talent leads to a very competitive season on and off the court. With 13 strong players, the team will have to battle in practice for playing time, inevitably making the Lady Panthers stronger.

Besides leadership and competition, a love for the game is part of any good sports story, and the Lady Panthers definitely possesses this. This passion is shown through Manning, and it obviously trickles down to her players on and off the court. "I love this game and specifically coaching because I get to see these girls become the best people and students possible," Manning said. "Watching a player mature and grow as a person through this sport is really what I love."

The passion surrounding this team has been embraced by Roegiers-Jensen after three years at Georgia State. "I love the energy from the fans and I just love how exciting they make the game," she said. "There is just such intensity and excitement out there that I've learned to love."

The Lady Panthers have a lot to look forward to in their story as they head for a second showing in the CAA. This season's team possesses old and new talent mixed with a hunger to win. With the unique combination of leadership and heart, the Lady Panthers just might be on their way to writing a happy ending.

Undefeated

from page 13

31 to 29; and 30 to 19.

Along with this being the first-ever team that Kennesaw State had, this was also the first time that Georgia State had won its season opener since 2003.

After the game, head coach Mike Webster was highly complimentary of junior Ferreira.

"I think a night like tonight just proves that Ana Paula has recovered fully from her knee injury of two years ago," said Webster, who won his first season opener as a head coach. "She's returned to the form that she had during her freshman and early sophomore seasons when she was so dominant."

The first game featured thorough domination on the part of Georgia State, well after being down 1-0, and only up 6-5 before going on a 10-1 run to take com-

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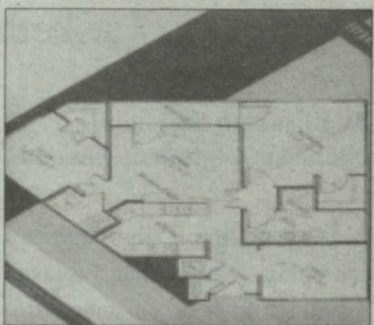
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Perspectives

Editor: Vincent Migliore

perspectives@gsusignal.com



Lawyer task force slams presidential signing statements

By: J. Aaron Brown
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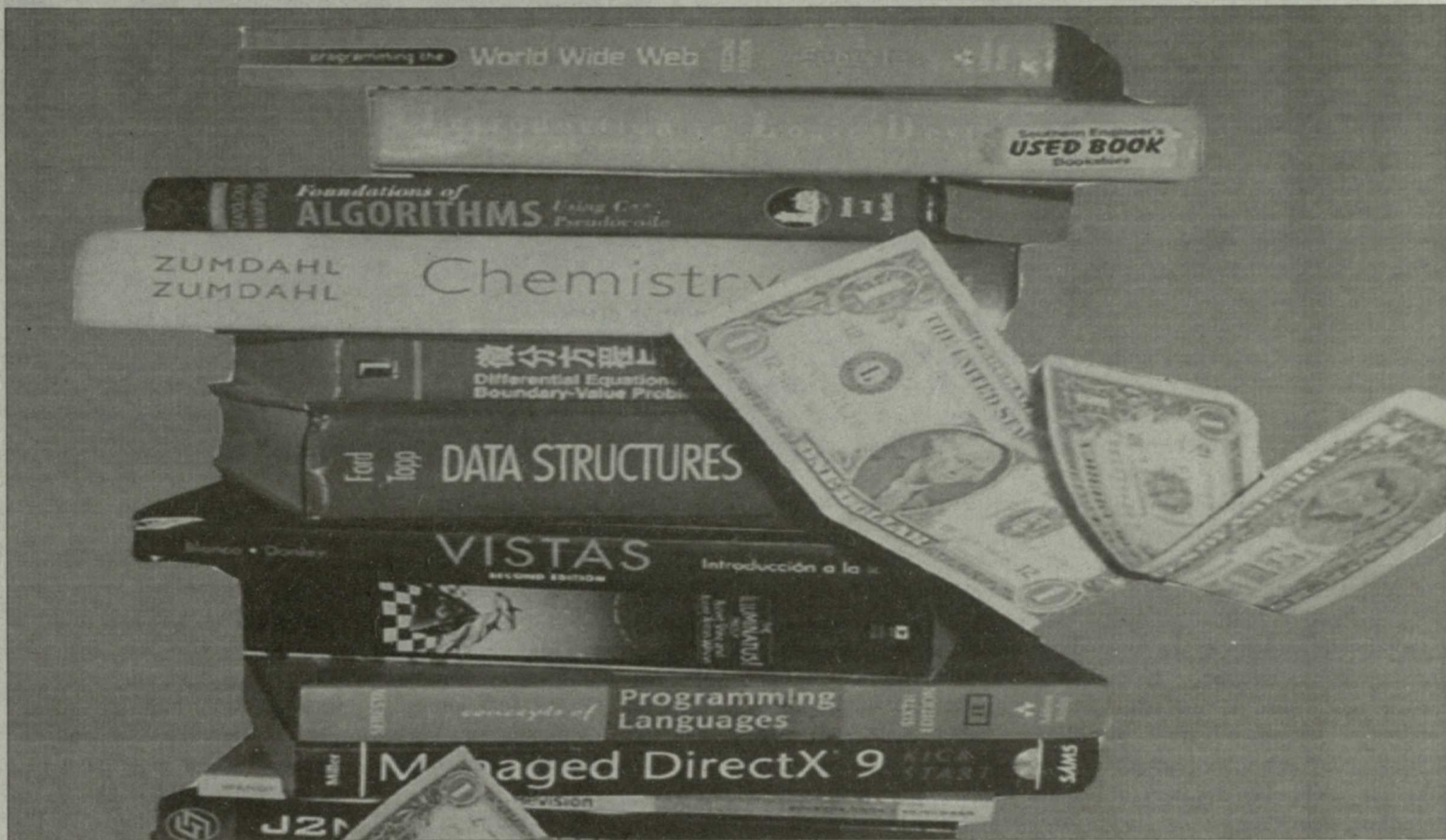
The American Bar Association is the largest association of lawyers in the nation, and is responsible for everything from law school accreditation to model legal codes. July 24, they released a report unrelentingly attacking the use of Presidential "signing statements" to distort the law. At the national meeting on Aug. 8, the ABA officially adopted the report as policy. That's right: the body of lawyers responsible for setting professional standards across the nation officially discredited the administration's legal theories.

The signing statement, now notorious thanks to more than 800 uses by Bush II in the course of his five and a half years as president, is a more versatile version of the line-item veto, a practice held by the Supreme Court in 1998 to be an unconstitutional invasion of Congressional lawmaking power. The president is now claiming the power to decline to enforce portions of laws which he deems unconstitutional.

The use of signing statements in this way makes the president a legislative agent, capable of amending laws after they have already passed Congress and been signed into law by the president himself. Minor civics review: making law is Congress' job, not the president's. The president gets to sign or veto the bill, and once it becomes law he's in charge making sure that the law is carried out. Now, though, Bush is claiming that he doesn't have to carry out unconstitutional laws, even if he just finished signing them with his own hand!

By signing laws and then refusing to enforce them, Bush is not only derelict in his constitutional duty to enforce the law but also stealing the power of Congress, which is responsible for deciding what laws should and should not be made. What happens if the rest of us, including the entire Congress and the Supreme Court, think he's wrong

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Syl Turner | Signal

Shop at any of the bookstores on campus and prepare to waste hundreds of dollars.

Do not buy textbooks at Georgia State

By: Vincent Migliore
Journalism/Film
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Everyone knows that textbooks are expensive, but a lot of Georgia State Students are paying way too much money for these books and still think they are saving.

The college textbook industry rakes in \$7.8 billion annually, and they have come under fire for years now for their rising costs. A part of the astronomical amounts that these publishers have the gall to charge are the numerous "updated" editions that the publishers are releasing. It always seems that every year a fair share of textbooks slap a new cover on the same old insides and call it updated.

By this time I am sure it

is too late, but please keep in mind for next semester that there is not anyplace on campus worth shopping for textbooks.

I know the University bookstore is in the middle of campus and convenient, but why would you want to buy your textbook there and get ripped off? The University bookstore should honestly be everyone's last resort, especially if you are hurting for money. You will probably wind up splurging on overpriced impulse items while your there as well so it's a better bet to just stay out of there altogether. I will have more on their morbidly obese pricing in just a moment.

A lot of people shop at the independent bookstores on campus. While the Georgia Bookstore and the Park Place bookstores are cheaper than the

University Bookstore, saving \$5 is not all that much of savings at all. Not to mention that you need to keep your eye out for what price rings up at the Georgia Bookstore. On two occasions I've had the new price rung up instead of the used price for a textbook here.

The internet is a great tool that, judging from the long lines at the bookstore, not enough people have heard of. There are plenty of websites you can visit in order to purchase textbooks at a low cost. My personal favorites are amazon and half.com. I did some price shopping and came up with some staggering numbers. One example is my theories of mass communication book. The

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Wal-Mart Supports Gays, but Only as a Publicity Stunt

By: Alexis Colvard
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Wal-Mart, in an apparent public relations ploy, recently joined the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. The group helps educate companies about diversity awareness in their practices and how to establish gay-friendly workplaces.

In addition, the

NGLCC, which also represents companies such as IBM, JPMorgan Chase, and American Airlines, "...is the largest LGBT business development and economic advocacy organization in the world," according to the group's website. The NGLCC has reacted positively to its recent partnership with Wal-Mart. The organization seems to look forward to helping to bring more diversity into the corporation.

"We are honored to have Wal-Mart's support of the NGLCC. Our partnership will not only provide more opportunities for the NGLCC, but the business community as a whole," Justin Nelson, the president and co-founder of the group, said in a press release.

While it is difficult to argue with any company supporting the idea of a tolerant and equal work environment, critics argue that Wal-Mart's participa-

tion is suspicious.

According to an article on Yahoo.com, Wal-Mart is currently involved in a class-action lawsuit filed on behalf of 20,000 past and present employees regarding payroll disputes. The company has also been sued in the past over sex discrimination.

According to a recent Labor Research Association article, the average Wal-Mart

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John Karr Adds New Twist to Jonbenet Murder

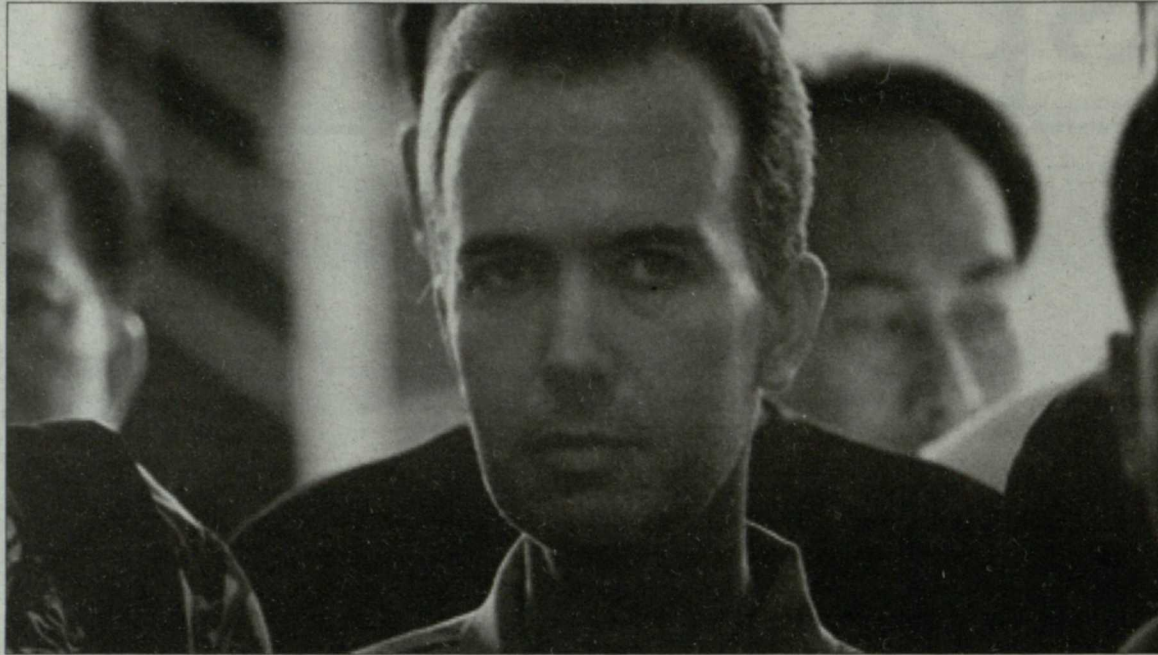
By: John Bagwell
Journalism
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The murder of JonBenet Ramsey was nearly a decade ago, and it is one that shocked the nation. The crime scene showed that JonBenet was murdered and left for dead in the basement of her parents' Colorado home. The time of her death and the location of her death raised many questions including, "Did one or both parents kill her?"

Now the mystery has hopefully come to an end with the confession of teacher John Karr. John Karr is a 41 year old divorced father of three boys who also lived in the Atlanta area where the Ramsey family lived before moving to Boulder. Was this obsession over the little girl?

This information makes a strange twist in the murder case. Reports have shown that there is no solid evidence tying Karr to Colorado through teaching, and Karr has never even applied for a teaching job.

Karr has stated that he was under a federal investigation for child sex crimes in four other states. Finally the exchanges of emails between a professor and Karr led to a war-



Special | Signal

Is John Karr the man behind the murder of JonBenet Ramsey?

rant that was issued from a judge in Boulder, Colorado for Mr. Karr. He was arrested in Bangkok, Thailand on suspicion for first-degree murder, kidnapping and child sexual assault.

When Karr was extradited from Thailand back to the United States the airline officials asked that he not be handcuffed while he was on the plane. It has made plenty of people angry that he was fed the finest foods while on the plane trip.

An air marshal sat on

each side of him while he was on the plane, and when he had to go to the bathroom they both would escort him and keep the bathroom door open. This man is being treated just about as bad as OJ Simpson and he has not been charged with anything yet!

When being interviewed Karr told reporters that JonBenet's death was an "accident." This was an accident? JonBenet was sexually assaulted and murdered! So my thoughts are after he sexually

assaulted her he had to kill her because JonBenet was so smart she would have had no problem giving a vivid description of the person. His only way out was to murder her!

Back in Thailand the information Mr. Karr gave Thai police made them back off and raise suspicion about if Mr. Karr was really telling the truth or just wanted to be a part of a high profile case. But why would he want to put himself through all this embarrassment and humiliation? He has shown

no remorse for this crime. While Karr was in Bangkok he went to have his facial hair permanently removed and when asked why he was doing it he told the doctor that "he was preparing for a sex change." When he has appeared on television it also looks as though he has his Adam's apple removed.

I do not believe a writing sample was taken from Karr to match it with the ransom note that was left at the crime scene. On the ransom note the initials "S.B.T.C." were signed and investigators retrieved a yearbook from a former classmate 20 years ago. In the yearbook a sentence with "shall be the conqueror" that was written by Karr has raised some questions.

According to a columnist that was familiar with the murder, Mr. Karr knew too many details about the location of the Ramsey home and JonBenet's murder. Was this just to show he was fascinated about the case and followed every detail?

In a statement to the police Karr said "he picked JonBenet up from school the day of the murder"; but how

See RAMSEY | Page 23

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Books

From page 19

book sells for \$86 new at the University Bookstore. I purchased the exact same book brand new from half.com for \$32 including shipping. This is a difference of \$54. The used copies of the same book are still \$65 and nowhere near the same price as the online retailer. For years the difference has been about the same no matter what the textbook. Bottom line: get online.

I hate to pick on professors, but it will only be for a second. It would be helpful if all professors would tell you flat out whether or not you will need the textbook. Normally it takes until the first test to figure out whether or not the textbook will be necessary for a class. By the time we complete that first test our refund

window is completely shut.

Professors shouldn't be weary about telling us that we don't need the book. Personally, I learn more from teachers who make their own notes and don't rely on the textbook.

All of that being said, professors do an outstanding job of selecting textbooks with the cost to the student in mind. They also do a good job of letting you know of the alternatives to the bookstores on campus and promote websites like Amazon. Professors shouldn't be looked at as the bad guys here, more like just the innocent henchmen.

You hear and read about high textbook prices every year, but very few of you try to do anything about it. All I ask is that you get online and give it a shot next time you need to buy textbooks. Whatever you do, don't buy textbooks from the University Bookstore.



Special | Signal

Over the years the cost of books adds up.

NGLCC

From page 19

employee makes about \$11,700 per year, about \$2,000 below the poverty line. It must be noted, however, that this salary is the result of 30 hours per week of work-the average number of hours Wal-Mart employees work-which would constitute a part-time job. Full-time hours would earn an employee \$15,600 before taxes, which, while above the poverty line, is hardly enough to support someone.

Also according to the Labor Research Association, only 38 percent of Wal-Mart employees receive health coverage. Needless to say, Wal-Mart has never been the poster child for ethical treatment of its employees.

Many Wal-Mart employees are not only supporting themselves. Many are single or married parents who are attempting to scrap together a living for their families. Offering benefits to homosexual

couples is a great idea, but why can't Wal-Mart also offer some benefits to families that could also use some recognition?

It will also draw more attention to the company to promote something as radical today as a gay-friendly workplace, of course. The ethical thing to do, though, would be to promote true equality by offering everyone equal benefits, regardless of sexual identity.

"We're not exactly sure

how Wal-Mart

fits into the L G B T - friendly business category,"

Jeremy Bishop, program director of Pride at Work, told Yahoo.com.

"In fact, we're not sure how Wal-Mart fits into anything worker-friendly."

Wal-Mart has also

been known to pressure workers not to unionize. If workers were to attempt to form a union in an effort to demand better pay and benefits, Wal-Mart's lawyers would be quick to stop its spread.

Additionally, one of the major complaints against Wal-

"Before Wal-Mart starts parading its morality float of tolerance and equality in the workplace, it must first recognize the poor conditions it offers its current employees."



Special | Signal

Is Wal-marts partnership with the NGLCC insincere?

Mart has been its brutal corporate mentality and shameless shark-like attempts to swallow mom-and-pop stores whole. A simple joining of forces with a liberal organization will hardly be enough to overhaul Wal-mart's image as a heartless, money-grubbing company in the

minds of most consumers.

Before Wal-Mart starts parading its morality float of tolerance and equality in the workplace, it must first recognize the poor conditions it offers its current employees.

While teaming up with the NGLCC is a step in the right

direction, Wal-Mart must first realize that its public persona will not be easily changed. The company must also consider changing its current employee relations practices before adding another dimension to soften the blow of more lawsuits.

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HAVE SOME PIZZA....START THINKING ABOUT POLICY....HAVE PIZZA....START THINKING....PIZZA....

Point/Counterpoint

There's more to life than "snappin' yo fingers" and "do ya step"

By: Turquoise Booker
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Malik is a 6'2 Black male. The jeans he wears are baggy and sagged down to the ground; hair in dread locks, diamond grills in his mouth along with a diamond chain that says, "M-Money." Is he trying to run for a leadership position in his community? Actually he is just another statistic of the typical young black male trapped in the "gangster thug for life" persona. A gangster's life consists of much more than baggy jeans, a grill, jewelry and dread locks. A gangster's mentality is centered on survival by any means necessary, even if the consequences are death or imprisonment.

These are the times when rappers are remembered for lyrics like, "money, hoes, and clothes are all a n**** knows," and "I want dead presidents to represent me."

Gangster rap music has become the stereotypical story line of young black life in the "hood." It reflects a negative influence on potential young black leaders.

Though the intention of rap music is to entertain, many young blacks have been psychologically manipulated to believe that being a gangster is cool and acceptable.

Recently, Rev. Al Sharpton said, "many young black leaders fall under the spell of the 'gangster mentality' and are preventing themselves from making a positive impact in politics." The birth of this "gangster mentality" is a direct result of Hollywood's glorification of criminals turned rappers. This glorification lays the psychological foundation into the subconscious minds of black youth, and relates that the only way out of the "hood" is to be a drug dealer aspiring to become a rapper.

Consequently, young blacks fall between the cracks

of the deception that drug money is the only money worth working for and that the life of crime is cool. Clearly it is easy for young blacks to be bamboozled into believing that they can only relate to drug dealers because positive black leaders are not living directly in their communities; therefore making it difficult to relate to anything outside of the "hood."

Another reason why there is a limited amount of young black leaders is that it is not socially accepted in the hood to have political awareness. According to Sharpton, "I think we've allowed a whole generation of young people to feel that if they're focused, they're not black enough. If they speak well and act well, they're acting white." Many young blacks tend to conform to what is cool in fear of social alienation amongst their peers. Potential young black leaders must snap out of the stereotypes and step into furthering their education.

Sharpton trying to even the playing field for young black leaders

By: Koya Brown
Journalism
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Many potential young black leaders fall under the spell of "being black"; which is to say he or she has experienced the struggle be it: racism, sexism, poverty, and any predisposition of the slavery aftermath. Many potential young black leaders are utilizing their resources and captivating their target audience. The image of black is that of a gangster; however this is primarily promoted by white American culture. white Americans are the dominating class seeking to maintain political power by exploitation of minorities.

To label potential young black leaders as having a "gangster mentality" is to demean and alienate these individuals from the ruling class; thus, to seek an advantage. Usage of any term similar to: gangster, gangster mentality and/or gangster rap leads to incarceration, racial profiling and segregation.

The Al Sharpton quote saying, "Many potential young black leaders fall under the spell of the 'gang-

ster mentality' and are preventing themselves from making a positive impact in politics" really meant top blacks are segmented in education, income and power as compared to their white counterparts. This allows positive advancements in black politics to be diminished.

Historically, black leaders have typically utilized radical democratic tactics to implement change within their communities. Harriet Tubman was gangster as she held guns to the heads of runaway slaves, ultimately freeing over 300 slaves. Rosa Parks was gangster, when she refused to give up her seat on the bus. Her refusal launched the 381 day Montgomery bus boycott and a Supreme Court ruling that segregation on transportation was unconstitutional.

The Panther Party was gangster as they bared arms to save young blacks from police brutality. The Panther Party was also the creator of the free lunch program currently implemented in public schools.

The "gangster mentality" has encouraged positive advancements in politics and

the social construction of "gangster" and the gangster vernacular. The potential of young black leaders should be categorized by the "content of their character," not by the precedence of blackness.

The art of a politician is to captivate their target audience, respectively. The homeboy image of young black leaders is the onset of acculturation for white Americans. In fact, in order to gain black support Bill Clinton was publicly praised

"Harriet Tubman was gangster as she held guns to the heads of runaway slaves, ultimately freeing over 300 slaves."

for: black friend(s), smoking weed (no inhalation), and receiving oral sex. Bill Clinton's homeboy image allowed him to seek an advantage over his opponents when seeking public support and it was OK.



Al Sharpton is no stranger to controversy.

Special | Signal

The perception of blacks are aggressive, hypersexual and impoverished; therefore recreating a gangster and a gangster's mentality.

The white middle class has depicted black culture to be immoral. Many potential young black leaders fall under the spell of "being black."

The assimilation of minorities is quintessential to white American culture and assimilated figure heads as they fight to keep political conservatism. The essence of black has remained un-assimilated, which increases the likelihood of derogatory labels typical from the white gangster vernacular.

black Americans and black leaders is socially constructed by the mainstream white middle class.

Replacing Bill Clinton's face with a black one is directly offensive to political power heads because

Bush

From page 19

in his interpretation? Not jack.

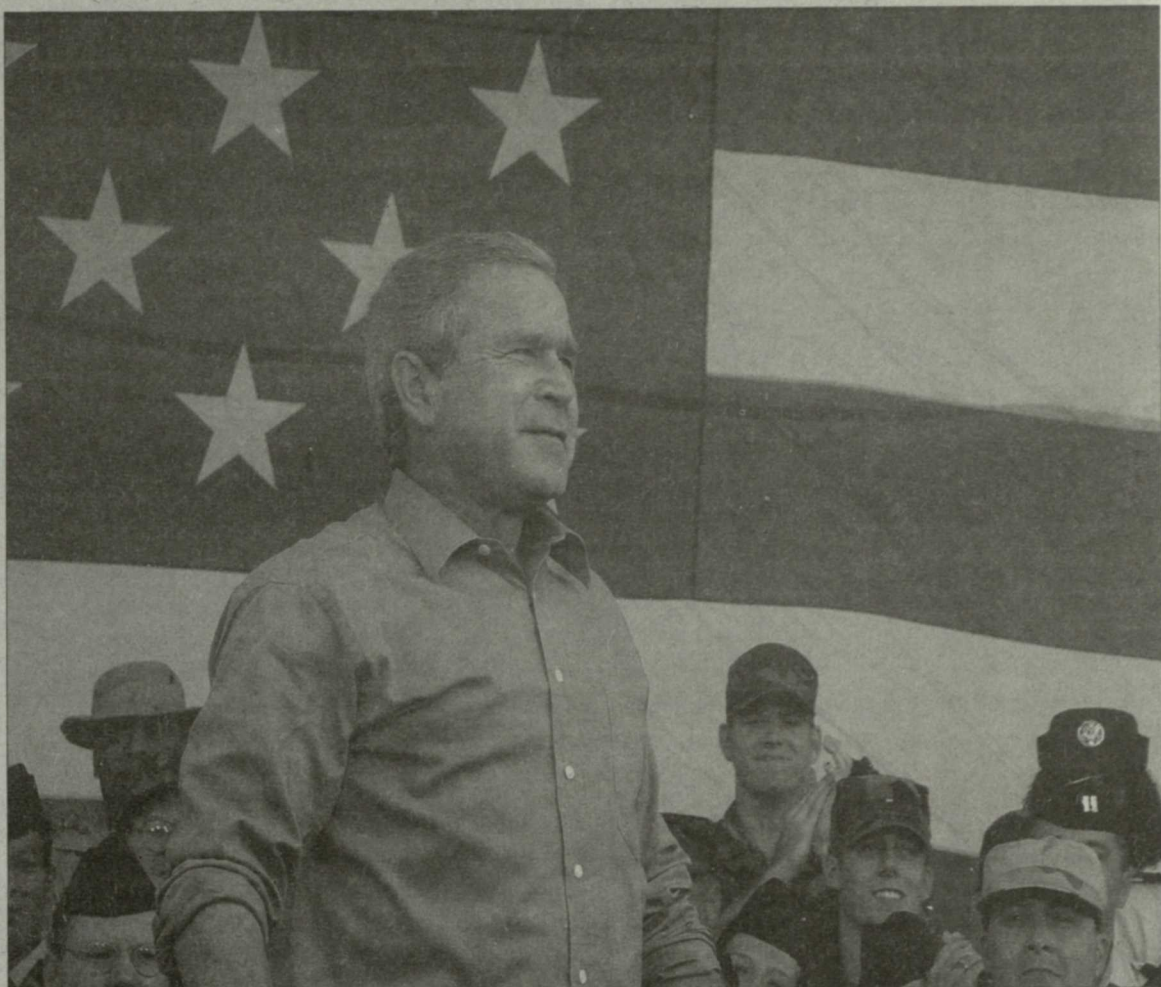
That's right, the president is not only changing the law passed by Congress, he's claiming full-fledged and independent authority to declare duly enacted laws to be unconstitutional, completely bypassing the Supreme Court. The President claims the authority to unilaterally suspend enforcement of laws he deems unconstitutional, without any judicial review. Further, he asserts that because these determinations are part of his Constitutional role as president, the Court cannot review them. No wonder he's only had to use his veto once since he was elected!

The principle that the executive, legislative, and judicial functions should remain separate is one of the cornerstones of American government. In the earliest days of the nation, James Madison said that the accumulation of all three in the hands of a single individual was "the very definition of tyranny." The President, by using signing state-

ments in this way, has appropriated to the executive branch portions of both Congress' legislative power and the Supreme Court's judicial power.

The theory of presidential power backing the use of signing statements has such far-reaching implications it has been used as the administration's defense in everything from the Abu Ghraib torture scandal to the current wave of NSA Wiregate trials, but the task force is very careful to emphasize that this is not a crusade against George W. Bush. Though he is the worst abuser, Clinton, Bush I, and Reagan all used signing statements in this way.

Several of the justices on the Supreme Court, including both of Bush's recent appointees, have been quite willing to give away congressional power to the executive. Their authoritarian stances may falter, however, when the time comes to support the president at the expense of their own power. This stance will be challenged, likely as part of the Wiregate trials, and with its own neck on the line, the Court might just do the right thing.



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President Bush is being accused of abusing line item vetos by the American Bar Association.

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Vincent Migliore | Signal
The new airport security rules specifically say "NO LIQUIDS"

Ramsey

From page 20

could that be when the murder happened on the holiday break from school? Her body was found in the basement of the Ramsey's home the day after Christmas. OK...it was an accident and he wanted to return her somewhere. This man is sick!

The immigration police quoted Karr as saying he "sexually assaulted the girl and had given her drugs," but the autopsy that was performed on

JonBenet did not show any signs of drugs in her body. He says that it "might have been drugs that were given but it was a blur."

The entire testimony Karr has given to police so far is just not making any sense. Karr's public defender, Patience van Zandt, has said the statements Karr has given to police "does not amount to a confession." I think here it comes. The next thing that will be said by his attorney is that he was "under duress."

Reports show that Karr was also arrested in 2001 for child pornography and had

used the same public defender. I would like to know the outcome of that child pornography case Karr had in 2001.

Ms. van Zandt believes Karr is "exhausted and under an extraordinary amount of pressure."

This man shows no reaction to the charges he is about to face when he appears on television. He just has a blank look. There are some good probable causes for arrest and then there are times when Karr's testimony is a little distorted. Is he in shock or is he hiding something about the case until the gavel goes down?

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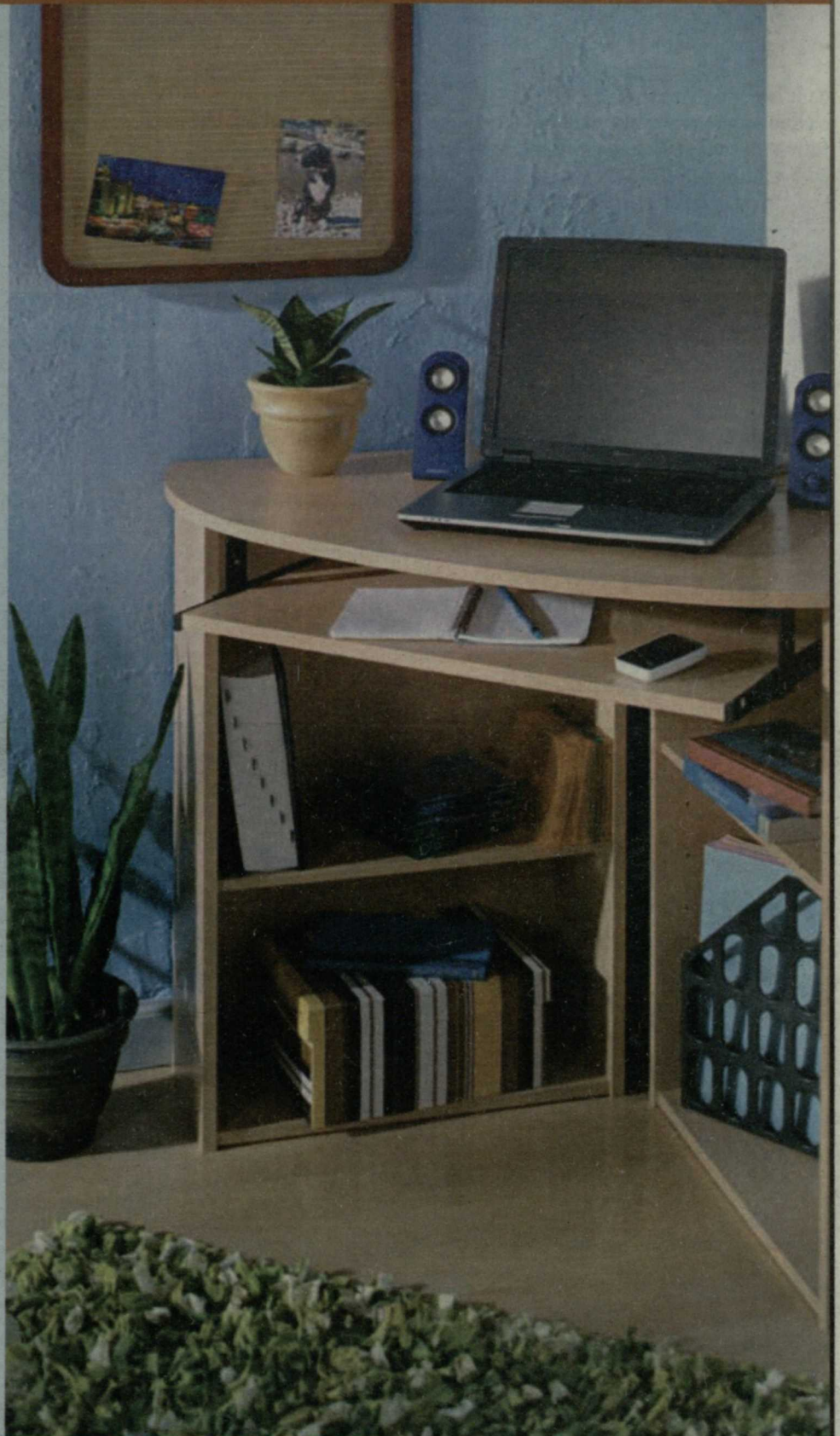
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