

Meet the Candidates

Candidates for the 2014 SGA Office
share their campaign platforms PAGES 3A-6A

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INSIDE



THE NEW SGA BUDGET

SGA spends 59 percent of its budget, more than \$9,000 spent on public relations

NEWS | 7A



TUITION ON THE RISE

With a steady and forceful rise, tuition takes priority over education in colleges

OPINIONS | 11A



BRACKET BUSTED

The men's basketball team came up short in the postseason last weekend

SPORTS | 13B

Photos by Candra Umunna | The Signal

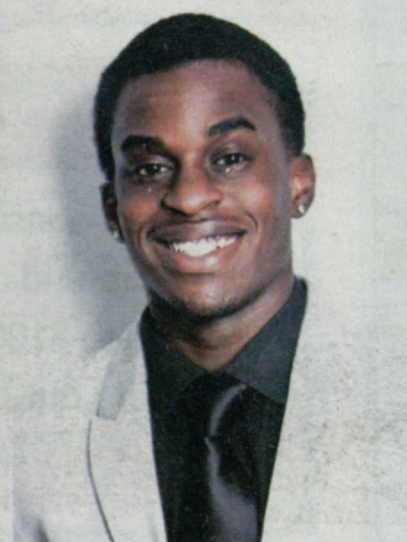
Candidates from left to right, top to bottom: Lanier Henson, Osato Uzamere, Victoria Davis, Matthew Altman,

Cameryn Bradley, Olivia Hightower, Breeana Minton, Drake Greer,

Sebastian Parra, Rena Smith, Kyael Moss, Joash Thomas,

Garret Koehler, Teara Mayfield, Fortune Onwuzuruike

For more details, flip to page 3A.



SPECIAL FEATURE NEIGHBORHOOD GUIDE PART III

Discover the best restaurants, shops and venues in East Atlanta

SECTION B

last week...

LOCAL

\$14.5 million to be added to state budget for weather responses

There will be \$14.5 million added to the state budget for improvements on responses to winter weather, according to CBS Atlanta. A majority of the money will be used for facilities and equipment, such as purchasing new plows and adding temperature sensors on roadways. CBS also said that the state plans to build new salt bans as well as expand the size of current storage facilities.

NATIONAL

Microsoft defending rights to read customers' emails

Microsoft admitted in federal court documents to entering an ex-employees Hotmail account in 2012, CNN reported

on March 21. The company did this due to their former employee leaking sensitive software to a blogger. CNN also said that although Microsoft could be seen as breaching the trust of their customers, the company says that their decision was justified.

GLOBAL

Big-name credit card companies stop providing services to Russia

Visa and MasterCard have stopped providing credit-card services to a select group of Russian bank customers due to U.S. sanctions, BBC News reported on Friday, March 21. BBC also said that one of the banks that would be affected by the change is Bank Rossiya, Russia's 15th largest bank with assets of \$12 billion. Russian banks have called the decision unlawful, because the credit-card services stopped without warning.

NOTE ABOUT FRONT PAGE:

Due to limited space, only executive candidates have been interviewed. To see full list of executive and senate candidates, visit www.georgiastatesignal.com.

blotter

MARCH 10

Citizens Trust Building

A Georgia State staff member left her office on March 4 at 5:30 p.m. and returned the next morning to find her door unlocked and business cards scattered on her desk. A report was filed for non-criminal damage to property and the case is now being handled by investigations.

Piedmont North

A Georgia State staff member left her jacket under a cabinet on March 6 and found it gone when she returned on March 10. A report was filed for theft and investigations is currently handling the case.

University Plaza

A student found her debit card missing and later noticed someone trying to deposit a check into her bank account. She reported the incident to the bank and a report was filed for theft. Investigations is currently handling the case.

Langdale Hall

A student misplaced her wallet somewhere in the building. A report was filed for lost or mislaid property.

University Plaza

A report was filed for lost or mislaid property. A student misplaced her Georgia ID.

MARCH 11

Edgewood Ave. SE

A Non-GSU affiliate was arrested by Georgia State Police for driving with a suspended or revoked license, which was confirmed after a criminal history check. The driver was originally stopped on a traffic violation. The individual was arrested and taken to Fulton County Jail.

Urban Life

After noticing a man asleep in the auditorium, a Georgia State officer ran a criminal history check on the individual and found an active warrant out of Conyers, Ga. The Non-GSU affiliate was arrested for an outstanding felony warrant and taken to Fulton County Jail.

Broad St. NW

A Georgia State student was hit in the head with a glove by an unknown man but was not injured. A report was filed for simple battery and the case is being handled by investigations.

Piedmont Ave. NE

After a Georgia State staff member noticed that a tap access pad was damaged, the police filed a report for non-criminal damage to property and investigations took over the case.

Sparks Hall

A man loitering in Sparks Hall was issued a CTW and escorted off the property by the police. A report was subsequently filed for a Criminal Trespass Warning.

MARCH 20

Library North

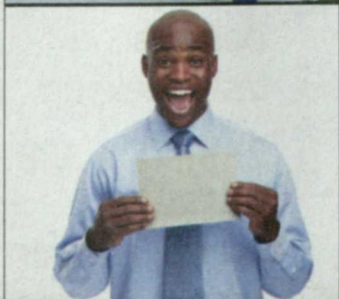
A Georgia State student left his laptop unattended and found it stolen when he returned. A report was filed for theft and investigations took over the case.

MARCH 21

Sports Arena

Georgia State Police noticed a verbal dispute and issued a CTW to a Non-GSU affiliate. He was escorted off the property and a report was filed for a Criminal Trespass Warning.

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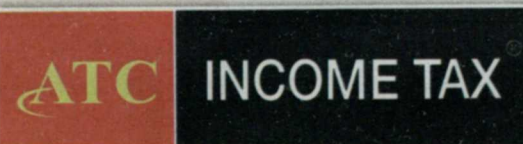
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Getting to know THE SGA CANDIDATES pages 3-6A



**Lanier
Henson,
President**



**Victoria
Davis,
President**

Why did you apply for this position?

I applied for the position of President on the SGA Executive Board after a great deal of consideration for what I thought would be best for the Student Government, and then in turn, the student body as a whole. I believe that as President of the SGA Executive Board my ability to fairly represent the greatly varying students who make up the GSU community.

How do you plan to manage the pressure and responsibility that comes with representing over 32,000 students?

Being a Representative for over 32,000 students creates a great deal of pressure and responsibility, but I plan on handling it the same as I have this year as Vice President of Student Services. The key to properly managing this pressure is recognizing your personal limitations, while simultaneously being willing to make the sacrifices necessary to meet the needs of the student body.

How do you believe your time as a member of this year's executive board helped prepare you for this position?

The Student Government President has many responsibilities such as co chairing University Committees, organizing Organization united, and fairly representing the student body as a whole. In the last year I have served as voting members on

these committees, helped with the planning and running of Organizations United, and met with faculty or staff to explain the student body's point of view on various issues. Because of my involvement with these tasks this year I believe the transition to president will be made easily.

What do you think sets you apart from the other applicant?

I believe that my wide range of involvement with organizations across campus and my experience within the Student Government since freshman year set me apart from the other applicant. Understanding the needs and concerns while having the experience with the Student Government will allow me to best serve the student body.

On a lighter note, who are you? What's your background and what do you like to do in your free time?

I was raised not far from Georgia State in Snellville, Georgia for most of my life after my dad decided to retire from the Army allowing us to stop relocating every four years. While I was still at South Gwinnett High school, I was heavily involved with my youth groups at church, marching band and becoming an Eagle Scout. Since joining college I joined Kappa Sigma, and through this experience, I have become involved with organizations across campus such as black sophomore society, colleges against cancer and other greek chapters.

Why did you apply for this position?

Since transferring to Georgia State I have come to love the university for the opportunities and privileges it presents to its students. I hope to play a role in the continued growth of our support for athletics programs, student organizations, and student representation.

How do you plan to manage the pressure and responsibility that comes with representing over 32,000 students?

It is important to have a solid team behind you when taking on a leadership position of such magnitude. Luckily, I have an experienced executive board and Senators running with me who share the same values, and we are united in our view of how to best achieve our goals.

As captain of the Pantherettes, I learned how to make high-impact decisions under pressure and plan ahead for our team's long-term needs. That position has really prepared me to juggle responsibilities and competing obligations in the moment.

What previous experiences prepared you for this position and how?

As I alluded to before, I was captain of the Pantherettes, which has been a powerful learning experience in leadership. For the past year I have also served as an Ambassador in the 1913 Society, working closely with our University's President, as well as interacting with key figures in our

school's administration. The 1913 Society has significantly helped to cultivate my passion for Georgia State University and my motivation to effect change.

I am also the current President of Chabad Jewish Student Association and have served on the boards of several other organizations—cultural, political, and community service—throughout my college career. Each of these has required my constant focus and organization skills as a leader in order to ensure that the groups reached their respective goals. The challenges I faced in each role helped me learn to advocate for myself and for others, communicate with all types of individuals, and to troubleshoot. As difficulties arise, it's important for a leader to be flexible and confident and my time spent in these positions showed me first-hand how to appropriately handle any situation in coordination with my peers.

What do you think sets you apart from the other applicant?

It's a strength that I'm coming into this election with an outside perspective. I have a background in leadership from a diverse set of groups and non-traditional experiences, which prepare me to bring a new critical eye to SGA operations in hopes of reaching a broader cross-section of the student body. Through 1913 Society I also have had direct experience with the inner workings of the University's operations, so I have the ability to leverage connections in a way that effectively meets the needs of our various student organizations and the student body as a whole.

EXECUTIVE BOARD CANDIDATES

Victoria Davis
President
Q&A on page 3A

Matthew Altman
Executive Vice
President
Q&A on page 4A

Lanier Henson
President
Q&A on page 3A

Osato Uzamere
Executive Vice
President
Q&A on page 4A

Jessica Burnett
VP of Academic Affairs
Did not respond for Q&A

Breeana Minton
VP of Academic Affairs
Visit website for full Q&A

Sebastian Parra
VP of Academic Affairs
Q&A on page 6A

Lakshay Gilja
VP of Budget &
Finance
Did not respond for Q&A

Corey Sams
VP of Budget &
Finance
Did not respond for Q&A

Jovan Paige
VP of Student Life
Did not respond for Q&A

Cameryn Bradley
VP of Public Relations
Q&A on page 5A

Olivia Hightower
VP of Public Relations
Q&A on page 4A

Drake Greer
VP of Student Services
Q&A on page 6A

Teara Mayfield
VP of Student Services
Q&A on page 5A



Osato Uzamere, Executive VP

Uzamere is on the same ticket as Lanier.

Why are you trying to get this position?

First, I am already the current Executive Vice President and just with the different things me and Andrew Whyte, the current president, has enacted, I would still like to see things be taken further. For example, we passed new bill templates for different resolutions that need to come in through the Senate. We have piloted Organizations United. We have collaborated with campus events to try to get the students together. And now that Andrew is graduating in May and me and Andrew always being together and working together all the time, it would be really good to see the questions and the concerns of the students be answered next year. I just on what was already started in my short term of Executive VP.

What concerns did you see from the students?

At town hall meetings we saw different concerns. It's kind of more so that students want in the know about money for our credits, different student fees, co-sponsorship form, different housing questions they have. There were numerous questions that they had asked me at the town hall meetings that kind of brought us in to things like, "I didn't know you guys were in the positions that you are in." "I'm in a class with you every Tuesday and Thursday and I didn't know that you was in SGA. It's just making us more visible, making us more tangible, making sure that the office is friendlier and inviting so people can submit complaints, concerns and suggestions.

The number one goal is definitely to make us more united as a campus. Organizations United had our first meeting last and basically and its kind of because every organization on campus works for separate entities. Our main goal is to once a month bring the presidents of every organization we could pos-

sibly touch and meet Georgia State chartered organizations. When we come together we put our events on a calendar to make sure that some events aren't doubling up others. We are changing times to make sure that we support each other's events as panther family. Doing things like to make SGA more inclusive.

What would you say is your most notable accomplishment?

Even though I know SGA has a lot of work to do just as any other organization and government, I would say two things. One, when we represented Georgia State at the Capitol and heard President Becker and lots of high profile people that with Georgia State and now work with the Capitol. They said that they were pleased with us and we represented Georgia State well. They said that all of the VPs, including President Whyte, spoke eloquently and represented Georgia State in a great way. That was the highlight of the term, because as a government type of organization we get a lot of complain. We a lot of letters, people submitting emails about things they want to change. And we very seldomly get commended for what we do.

Check it once is Organizations United. This was eventually President Whyte's idea. This is what he ran on when he ran in last spring. To actually see it come into fruition. To go to the first Organization United meeting. To see all the organizations of so many divisions come together in one accord. To make Georgia State more inclusive was a notable accomplishment.

How do you plan on fostering more student interest in SGA?

I remember when I was a freshman and I was in an FLC called Emerging Leaders. The thing that I loved was when older upperclassmen student leaders came and talked to us about opportunities that lie ahead. It goes to show that me and President Andrew were both in Emerging Leaders when we were freshmen. Isn't it now a surprise that we are both on the Executive Board of SGA? And many others.

For example, the previous president before Andrew Whyte, Marcus Cummerband, was also an emerging leader. It's just making sure that we reach out to freshmen. Whether we are collaborating with housing to go to RA programs and to make sure that we are fostering people to become more active. I really believe that it starts with freshmen.

Like, Last year President Whyte was speaking at Incept. Just things like that to make sure that transfer students and freshmen students understand the different opportunities as far as student involvement in campus life. Another thing we did was especially for freshman students to get positions. We created 12 positions all together. Usually freshman students never get to be on SGA, but now we let them plunge in and become a volunteer and things like that to kind of get their feet wet to how SGA works.



Matthew Altman, Executive VP

Altman is on the same ticket as Davis.

What do you hope to bring to SGA if you are chosen for this position?

Georgia State University's Student Government Association is supposed to be the democratically elected, representative body of the students of this amazing institution. The Senate represents the actual individual Panthers while the executive board represents the link between the University (the administration and the President, Dr. Becker.) My Presidential Candidate, Ms. Victoria Davis, and I have a proven track record of these such connections and accomplishments that can help us positively represent the students of Georgia State to the best of our abilities.

Victoria and I both have not been Panthers our whole college career. We have both transferred here and have learned to take advantage of all of these amazing opportunities Georgia State has offered us. We believe it is now our responsibility to help our fellow Panthers to reach the levels they are so capable and yearning for. We are the Students' First Party, we believe in putting student first. We believe that we must go "Back to the Basics" to truly help the students grow and thrive in their collegiate career.

Describe what you previously did while being a part of SGA.

I have been apart of Student Government here at State since I was elected my first semester Spring 2012. Prior to being at State, I served on College of Charleston's SGA, which is my previous college. From my time there I had rose to become Chairman of the Community Outreach committee. This truly was my first encounter with holding a leadership position and it helped make philanthropy and community involvement a huge part of my life. When I go elected as a Senator for the Robinson College of Business, I began serving on

the Budget and Finance committee helping Former B&F VP Theo and current Budget and Finance VP, my good friend, Tyler Lewis form the SGA budget and help divert money to as many student organizations as possible. I then served on the Diversity Fee Council helping some of the most inspiring and active community/campus organizations receive funding to help my Georgia State such the amazing university it is. I learned how to see which organizations helped and positively effected the university and our fellow students to a great extent. This has helped me understand how to work with the Budget and Finance and other student org to have amazing programming on campus.

What sub-committee are you planning on serving in if you are given this position and why?

As Executive Vice President. I believe by the connections I have made with those who are running for all Vice President positions as well as serving in a few of the current committees as well as helping President Andrew Whyte create the first Community Outreach committee. Breanna Minton, my ticket mate and fellow Andrew Young Senator this past fall, massively helped President Whyte and I with this bold endeavor. I have to tell you it was very difficult to convince current SGA members to attend the events we had planned. I want to help those senators and students take more notice and responsibility for these committees. Which is why I want to create subcommittees.

Name one thing that sets you apart from your competitor.

Something that sets myself and Victoria apart is that we have these connections with our respective positions that we are running for in our daily lives. Victoria works in the Provost's office and is a Pantherettes and has connections with the administration and athletic's currently. In regards to Executive Vice President, I intern at the Georgia State Capitol watching how our state government functions and the actual legislative process that should be implemented in our SGA. I want to run for political office one day, maybe Governor of Georgia. I understand how a Student Government should be run and can help positively and fruitfully help my fellow students in this endeavor.

Why are you trying to get this position?

Georgia State has given so much to me. From being able to serve in the actual representation of this amazing institution to be selected to The 1913 Society, the most prestigious organization on campus. The greatest honor for me is to be able to represent my fellow Panthers in the best of my abilities. These opportunities have given me a way to help my fellow peers in a successful way. It is now my responsibility to give back to this school. I really just want to help anyone.



Olivia Hightower, VP of Public Relations

Why are you running for this position?

I am running because I want to represent the student body of Georgia State University as VP of Public Relations by being available to listen to students' needs, concerns, and wants; and to contribute to the overall student life wellness and school spirit. I also want to create and maintain the image branding of Student Government Association and adhere a level of professionalism; and to coordinate promotional events that add to the university experience of the students. I also want to maintain excellent communication with all media groups at Georgia State University and relate information from SGA to Student Organizations.

What ideas do you have to bring to SGA for your given position?

As VP of Public Relations, I have two key plans to accomplish my goals while serving:

1. Social Media ShoutOut--giving students the voice through social media. Students will have the opportunity to utilize social media communication to actively stay connected with SGA.

2. SGA days--competitions and giveaways for the students following the GSU SGA social media links.

Were you a member of SGA before applying for this position? How did you participate? (i.e: duties)

Although I have not had the pleasure of serving as a member of SGA for Georgia State University, I have served as a senator at my previous college.

A few of my duties included assisting in coordination and execution of various events (such as the Welcome Back Bash, Talent Show, Poetry Slam, Cultural Fair) and leading a monthly film project

updating students about events on campus. I also edited and approved new club charters and constitutions. I believe this previous experience has given me the necessary skills to perform my duties as VP of Public Relations successfully.

What are you hoping that SGA accomplishes while you are VP of public relations? What are you hoping to accomplish, as VP of public relations or individually, within SGA?

I want students to feel like their concerns are being heard and taken seriously. As VP of Public Relations, I will help bridge the gap of communications between the students and the school.

Why do you feel that you should get this position?

I love Georgia State University and I want to see the student life thrive. I have the experience needed to be successful at this job and I would love the opportunity to serve.

Have you had any previous experience in a governmental organization?

Besides SGA, no.

Why did you choose to join SGA?

At my previous college I served on SGA and I loved it. I felt more connected with the students and felt like I tried to create a welcoming university experience for all the students.

Are you a member of any other organizations? If so, which ones?

Although I have only been at Georgia State for a little over a semester, I am already involved in the Student Alumni Association Board of Directors, the GSU Dance Ensemble and the Rock Climbing Club.

What are your career aspirations?

I plan to graduate from Georgia State in May 2015. Ideally, I will land a job as a producer for a small production company in Atlanta. I plan to work in marketing and public relations for TV shows around Atlanta.

What are you doing to prepare for the SGA elections?

My plan for my campaign is to actively engage with students and be available to listen to their needs and issues. Since we live in a modern age where social media is an excellent tool for communication, I also have my personal twitter available for students to address their concerns directly to me @OliviaHightower.



Camryn Bradley, VP of Public Relations

Camryn Bradley is the current SGA vice president of public relations. He is running for re-election.

Why are you running for this position?

I am running for the position of Vice President of Public Relations because I understand exactly what the student body needs. I am here to serve the student body, and while I have served them well this past year, I believe there is still much work that we started that needs to be completed within the SGA and in regards to the position. One years term simply cannot bring that to fruition. I need another term to really make an impact that students will be able to enjoy for years to come.

What ideas do you have to bring to SGA for your given position?

When I entered my first term in office as the Vice President of Public Relations, the biggest problem with SGA was SGA's Visibility and Transparency. I laid out a detailed plan to fix that issue, and I can say with confidence a year later that SGA is indeed Visible and Transparent. I increased SGA's Presence on social media by over 100 percent adding Instagram, expanding our Twitter following to the now nearly 2,000 followers versus the mere 200 when I first entered office, and I reinstated SGA's Facebook page which hadn't been touched in 3 years. That was only the first step to increasing visibility, I saw the need for SGA to expand it's signage, so we now have Pop up banners that tell students what's going on in SGA all around the student/university center. Recently, I have heard the concern of the student body that they are uninformed of the events and opportunities that are ongoing here at Georgia State. So the primary initiative that I started during my term in office and which I plan to continue to develop if re-elected is called the Informed Student Initiative or (ISI). This is the culmination of bringing every orga-

nization together through Organizations United, a entity of SGA which I assisted creating under the direction of President Whyte that brings all student organizations together and provides them the opportunity to voice their opinions and come up with solutions to concerns of student that the campus faces. I have also began creating a central calendar for all students to be able to access in a convenient location for them to view physically on campus and in cyberspace online. I have also been working in to replace orgsync with something more modern, easy to use, and accessible for students. I plan to continue the SGA bi-weekly newsletter that I started, The SGA Insider, as well as continue to brand SGA in ways it has never been branded and marketed before. SGA is in a great place since I began my term in office, but there is so much more we can do, and if I am re-elected, I promise to make sure these initiatives and any other initiatives the student body brings us is carried out.

What are you hoping to accomplish, as VP of public relations or individually, within SGA?

My first priorities are always making sure that the image of our SGA is upheld and making sure that SGA is visible and transparent. However, there is one more aspect that no one really discusses and I have observed to be something I really think the transparency and visibility questions originate from and that's SGA's approachability. So one thing I am currently working on and plan to continue working on is making sure that students feel comfortable coming to SGA with their concerns, especially since SGA is so visible now. I'll be the first to say that one way I have plans on doing that is through the renovation of our office to create a more welcoming space for students to come and meet with us, and not to mention picking up the ever so popular blue books and scantrons.

Have you had any previous experience in a governmental organization? If so, what was it?

In my position as the Vice President of Public Relations, I have also spoken to numerous state senators and visited the capital on behalf of the student body.

Are you a member of any other organizations? If so, which ones?

I am currently a member of The SGA, Tighter Grip, and Campus Pals. In the past I was the president of the Black Sophomore Society, I was on the 2012 Homecoming Court, a member of LeadTeam, A Resident Assistant in the Commons building A, and an editor for GSTV's Panther Report.

What are your career aspirations?

I want to entrepreneur a Marketing and Computer Information Systems consulting firm.



Teara Mayfield, VP of Student Services

Why are you running for this position?

Honestly, it's easy to complain about things. I want to enhance the overall student experience by improving or implementing services. After working in customer service, I know how difficult it is to make sure your "customers" are pleased. That same philosophy translates to the Vice President of Student Services position because I am trying to make sure the student body is pleased. We offer several services here at Georgia State and I want to make sure that we are capitalizing off the services provided. If we don't like something or feel that something could be improved, let's do that! I am passionate about making sure both myself and the student body are getting everything we desire throughout our collegiate experience. It doesn't last long, but let's make sure it's worthwhile!

What ideas do you have to bring to SGA for your given position?

Well, I would first and foremost like to continue the Service of the Month initiative following current VP Henson. He has received great feedback and been able to deliver that feedback to the appropriate department. In order to gain a representative sample, I want to spread my committee out over campus more thoroughly so we can accomplish that. Secondly, I would like to highlight the existing services by arranging them in stylish manner and distributing them consistently, beginning with Welcome Week. Lastly, I would like to incorporate my committee more by encouraging them to go out and actually talk to the students. I want them to feel included because as senators it is easy to take the job for granted. I want to prepare them to become better leaders because some of them will eventually be a part of the executive board.

Were you a member of SGA before applying for this position? How did you participate? (i.e: duties)

Yes, I am currently a member of SGA. I serve as a senator for the College of Arts & Sciences. My duties included serving as a voting member in the University Senate, sitting on various standing and University committees, and talking with students in hopes to translate their concerns into change.

What are you hoping that SGA accomplishes while you are VP of Student Services?

I hope that the students get a better feel of what SGA is doing for them. I want them to see us enact change that stems directly from their concerns.

What are you hoping to accomplish as (VP of Student Services/ or individually) within SGA?

I am hoping that we can make some changes that students have been complaining about for a while. Extending hours in the library, University offering partial meal plans, concerns with the University Advisement Center, etc.

Why do you feel that you should get this position?

The Vice President of Student Services position is primarily concerned with identifying discrepancies in current University services being offered. After serving as a senator and becoming well versed with the University through various organizations, I have had the opportunity to hear a lot of feedback from our students. In order to be efficient in anything, you must be passionate about it! I am passionate about Georgia State and I am avidly aiming to make our university the best that it can be. When talking to people, I provide a sense of comfort and that's necessary in this position. Besides just having experience, you must be personable and charismatic—and I have that.

Have you had any previous experience in a governmental organization? If so, what was it?

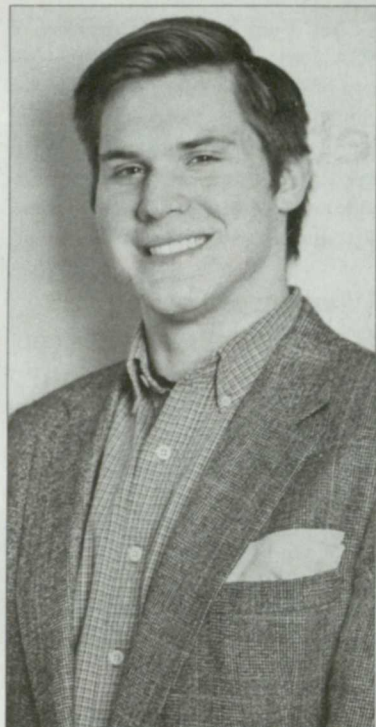
As previously mentioned, I currently serve as a senator in SGA. In high school, I was also Student Body President senior year. Therefore, I have a sufficient amount of experience in a governmental organization.

Why did you choose to join SGA?

I decided to join SGA because I had friends who were a part of SGA. I have always been very vocal about things that I do not like and instead of complaining; why not tackle things head on? Since being a part of SGA, I have a greater understanding of the intricacy of the University and I am now fully aware of the power that we have as a student body.

What are your career aspirations?

Following graduation, I hope to have a career as a marketing executive of a Fortune 500 corporation. Eventually, I would like to become an entrepreneur and own my own company, one day.



Drake Greer, VP of Student Services

Why are you running for this position?

There are many resources at a student's disposal here on campus. The problem is that not all of these resources are well known. Every now and again, I'll find myself reminding a friend that yes, there are phone chargers to rent from the library. Let's not only make these resources more widely known but improve on the ones we already have. In Georgia State's drive for innovation, we must not forsake these tools that we already have.

What ideas do you have to bring to SGA for your given position?

I would like to continue and expand on previous VP of SS and good friend, Lanier Henson's plan of addressing a monthly student service. However, I plan to also write up weekly reports on each of these services, available to the public. These reports would contain student opinions I have gathered as well as my own personal experiences and observations. Second, I am in support of a 24-hour library and look to push not only for that but increased parking at Turner Field. Our concern is fairness and pushing for student's needs in an attainable manner.

What are you hoping that SGA accomplishes while you are VP of student services?

Getting students involved. That's my platform and I will always put the students first. Let's help get students more involved with their school and give them better control of their own budget. We need more transparency; it's the student's vote so why should they not be able to see where that vote goes? Finally, I fully support the creation of more committees and sub-committees; especially with the recent acts by Mr. Ronald Cato empowering more freshman and transfer student involvement. These committees are the best choices to construct meaningful and impacting decisions and are usually open to any student willing. Such committees can serve as a boon for

Student Services.

Why do you feel that you should get this position?

There are two things any great leader needs: vision and empathy. Having one is good, but without the other, stagnation occurs. Vision is that goal, that drive for improvement and what that leader plans to do with their role. Empathy is an understanding of the people the leader works with and for. When I was campaigning last year, the first thing I asked students was "what do you want to see in SGA?". I made sure I sat down with each and every student that was willing and hear their ideas properly. Right now, I have my goals but each day, I look more and more to see what else can we do to make our University the best in the state.

Have you had any previous experience in a governmental organization? If so, what was it?

Other than my previous involvement in SGA, I've been in almost every Executive Board position, namely Brother-At-Large and Treasurer, for my fraternity, Alpha Epsilon Pi. I've also held the position of President for Greek Council and Vice-President of Internal Affairs for Interfraternal Council. Currently, I devote most of my time as a delegate for our internationally ranked Model United Nations team. We're prepping for our national conference in New York City in April.

Why did you choose to join SGA?

At first, I joined SGA so others would be heard. Myself and others wanted things done and done right so we ran for SGA. At first, my platform was very populist and reflexive; I listened to what the people wanted and reflected on the merits of these choices while making my decisions. As time went on, I began to push more for student involvement and awareness. Every student needs an equal opportunity for their voice to be heard.

Are you a member of any other organizations? If so, which ones?

That's a question I ask myself everyday. Currently, I am working with other Georgia State students on making a video game, Event Horizon, that we plan to release on Xbox Live and Steam in episodes. However, I also plan to continue staying involved with my school's government as well as start becoming more involved in local politics. In five years, I will either be making video games or working in politics.

Were you a member of SGA before applying for this position? How did you participate? (i.e: duties)

I was previously a Senator for the College of Arts and Science. I served on the Public Relations Committee with VP Camryn Bradley and the Athletics Committee and Information Systems & Technology Committee last semester. This semester, I served on the Budget and Finance Committee with VP Tyler Lewis as well as the Diversity Fee Council.



Sebastian Parra, VP of Academic Affairs

What has been your involvement in SGA as the current VP of academic affairs?

At Georgia State, I was chosen by the senate to fill a vacancy in January 2014 for the vice president of Academic Affairs position. I started my work by meeting with the Academic Affairs Committee members and assessing their past objectives and determining the relevance of such goals. It seemed like they had mostly focused on the "Plus/Minus Grading System," after determining that we had more important things to focus on we moved on to work on other issues like: Increasing research opportunities for undergraduate students, ensuring that the school starts offering Massive Online Open Courses and elevating GSU's academic reputation in general.

My biggest accomplishments have been creating the Student Government Association Scholarship Fund that will begin in the fall with a \$2,000 budget. Additionally, I helped Senator Justin Brightharp draft the legislation to create the Panther Mentorship Program.

I am very pro-active in my work, which is why I noticed that our legislature did not really have a standard form of drafting legislation. Therefore, I created a bill template that established the standard way for all of the senators to draft legislation. Although it has little to do with Academic Affairs, this bill template of mine has been implemented with outstanding success. All of the bills drafted after my introduction of the template, were drafted with my template.

Finally, as an Executive Board member, I have been a critical part in making decisions regarding the \$50,000 allocation for Pantherpalooza, establishing a legislative procedure that assigns to the relevant committees all of the bills that are introduced and the many other issues dealt with at the SGA's Executive Board.

What makes you a good candidate for the position in

Academic Affairs?

Being the current vice president of Academic Affairs makes me the best and most qualified candidate for this position. I have directed the Academic Affairs committee and re-aligned its attention to actual relevant issues. I have always cared a lot about academic affairs and I believe that the school's commitment to it starts at the budget. That is the reason why I joined the Student Library Advisory Council, to expand the operation hours of the Library. While there and at the SGA, I have been a strong advocate for funding our library, increasing research opportunities for undergraduates and offering Massive Online Open Courses (MOOCs). Unfortunately, due to the snowstorms, I only had two meetings with the Academic Affairs committee and two legislative sessions with the SGA's senate. Consequentially, my ability to accomplish my initiatives has been very limited. I believe that if I am given a chance to continue working on my goals, the student body will benefit greatly. I have a very specific agenda with clear goals and a way to get them done.

Finally, my personality, experience and legislative capacity to form coalitions in support of my bills makes me very efficient. I have served my campus in several organizations, which has given me the experience to know how to get things done and get the support of the people that will help me get them done.

What is your platform?

I am running with TEAM IMPACT. Our platform is:

- I - Increasing the value of every student's degree.
- M - Mobilizing the campus community.
- P - Promoting panther pride.
- A - Advocating for a 24/hr. study space.
- C - Creating a unified campus.
- T - Targeting safety concerns.

However, my specific goals are these:

A) Make sure that Georgia State University offers three Massive Online Open Courses per semester, this will help establish GSU as an elite research university by elevating its academic reputation and consequentially the value of every student's degree.

B) As the creator of the SGA's Scholarship Fund, I plan to at least double its budget to \$4,000 in order to help more students complete their tuition and/or pay for their textbooks.

C) I will advocate for more funding for our Library by increasing the current library fee of \$5 to \$15, which is less than half of the previous fee of \$35 which was being used to pay off a loan.

How has your past involvement with various organizations (SGA, Democratic Party of Georgia, Student Library Advisory Council and Latino Leadership Initiative) impact your leadership role on campus?

As a Student Leader in all of the organizations that I have been a part

of, I learned the value of the students' voices. Honestly, the faculty will always have the upper hand in any negotiation or project, they will always advocate for their interests. It is crucial for students to organize and promote their interests as well. However, I have learned that we can't always have what we want; we are all blessed to attend such a great institution at such low price. Therefore, I have learned to compromise with our faculty members and the leaders of our university in order to benefit both the student body and keep the school running efficiently. This piece of wisdom in SGA is key; unfortunately, I've seen many people ignore it when they run for student government with grandiose plans and unrealistic promises. When I applied to fill the vacancy for the Vice President of Academic Affairs, I went before the Senate and promised them nothing, I simply told them that I would assess their current and past goals in order to decide which goals were attainable and made the most sense. I hate making promises; I just recognize the needs of the student body as I perform the duties of my positions.

As for my job with the Democratic Party of Georgia and my internship last summer with the ACLU:

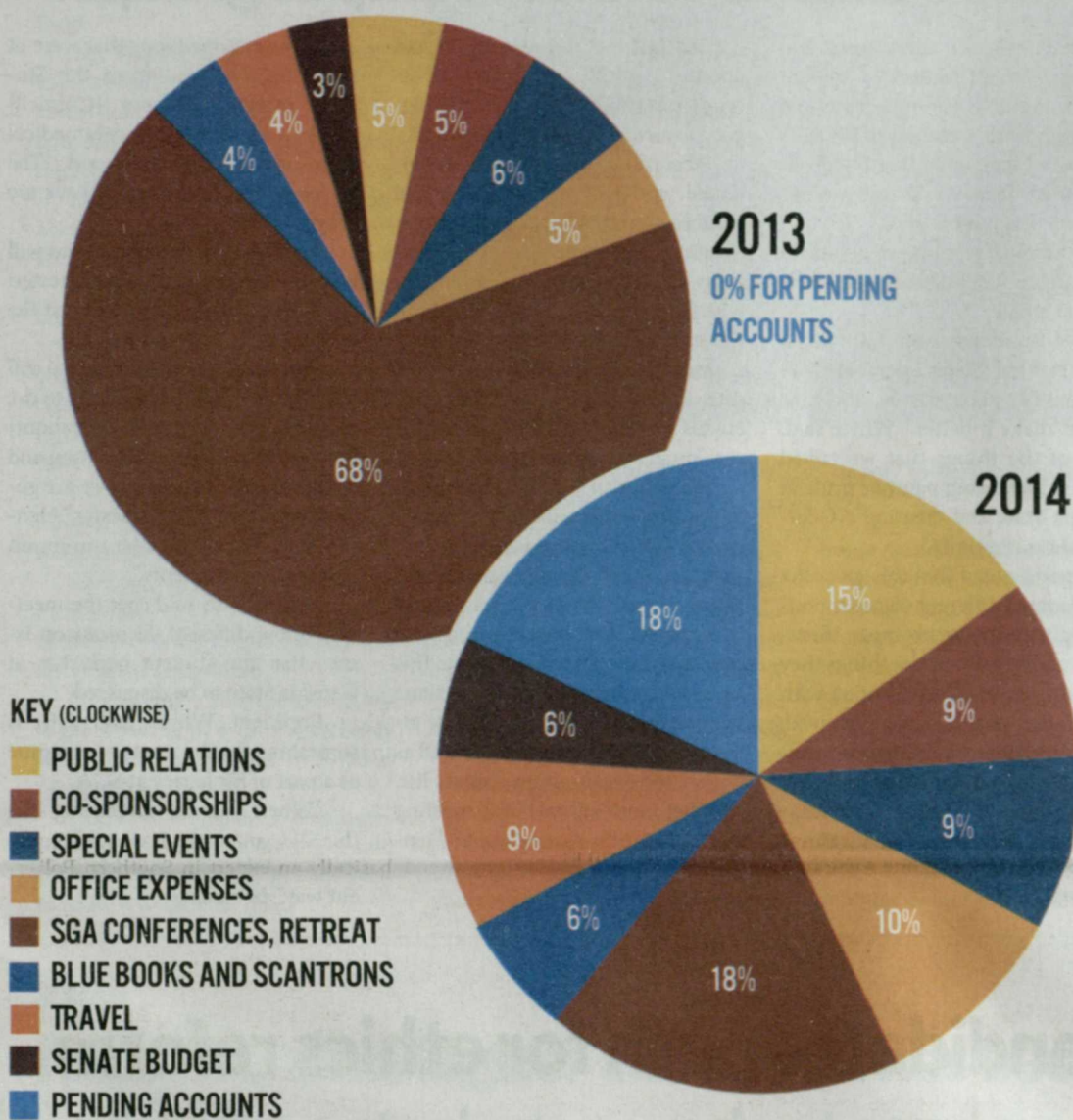
I would like to highlight my favorite thing about GSU: Its location. I found out about the job with the DPG and the internship with the ACLU through our Panther CareerNet. I love that Georgia State has incredibly qualified faculty such as Dr. Stephen Anthony (former Director of the DGP and a senior aide to Speaker Murphy, basically an expert in Southern Politics). Through my classes in Political Science I have learned so much and it has really prepared me for a job in the real world of politics. I compare our program to the program at Montclair State University where I started my college career, and GSU's political science program and faculty are certainly outstanding. Moreover, as a sophomore student of Political Science at Georgia State, I am the Field Manager of the Canvassing Team at the Democratic Party of Georgia, all of the workers under my supervision have graduated college from schools like: Emory, University of Miami and New York University; yet still, I am their manager. I credit my professors at Georgia State for that because I truly find it impressive all of the resources I've been given there.

In conclusion, as a student leader who has benefited so much from mentors, peers, and career resources from my school; I've found the essence of leadership: empowering others. I believe that a true leader is not selfish and does not keep all of the resources and opportunities to themselves. I have personally helped others to learn what I have learned and obtain the positions that I've held. In fact, I am currently applying to become a 1913 Society Ambassador and that is my main goal, to empower others and to create more leaders on my campus.

To read full Q&As from candidates, visit www.georgiastatesignal.com

SGA

About half of SGA budget spent, new categories created



CLEO DURHAM
Staff Reporter

As of March 13, the Student Government Association (SGA) has spent about 59 percent of its annual budget.

According to SGA President Andrew Whyte and Vice President of Budget and Finance Tyler Lewis, this year's budget included 11 categories. The budget allocated the largest amount of money to the category of Office Expenses (\$15,194), followed by Special Events (\$14,762), Co-Sponsorships (\$12,311) and Public Relations (\$11,285). The actual amounts of money spent are also the largest in these categories.

SGA has spent the most money on Public Relations, \$9,232 which is 81 percent of the category's budget. As Lewis explained, this category includes expenses related to increasing student awareness and knowledge of SGA. Compared to last year, the organization has spent about \$1,800 more on Public Relations in an effort to become more transparent to the student body,

Lewis said.

Of the four largest categories, the least amount of money has been spent on Co-Sponsorships. This category is meant to help other student organizations fund their programs. SGA has spent \$5,686 of the \$12,311 Co-Sponsorship budget, compared to \$7,429 of the same category budget last year. Thirteen co-sponsorships have been approved and 10 are in the process of receiving approval, which SGA is expected to decide by the end of the semester.

The remaining categories in this year's budget are Blue Books and Scantrons, the SGA Conference, Pending Accounts, Travel, Senate Budget, Election Commission and Mid-Year Fee Allocation.

Whyte and Lewis said they believe SGA's budget has been used efficiently so far. Whyte cited the reduction in the amount of money spent on the SGA Conference, a summer retreat that gives SGA members the chance to get to know each other and communicate goals before classes begin fall semester. Last school year, SGA spent \$7,457 on the conference

compared to \$5,012 for this year's conference.

Some changes are expected to be made to the budget for next year.

Lewis said a scholarship category, which will provide a need-based scholarship available for students not in SGA, will be added to next year's budget. According to Lewis, the change is more of a suggestion to next year's executive board but is likely to take effect.

Also, an Organizations United (OU) category will be included in next year's budget. OU is a project SGA created to serve as a platform where student organizations gather and brainstorm ways they can help improve Georgia State and give back to students. Whyte said OU has been a great success.

"Finding a way to reach as many students as possible through budget allocation is one of the things we had to talk about and we thought the biggest way to do that is through co-sponsorship," Whyte said.

Most of the money remaining in this year's budget will go towards helping other student organizations on campus.

SGA Meet the Candidates Debate

Students share what topics they would like to see discussed in the upcoming SGA Election debate

LATAVIA UPTON
Staff Reporter

On March 27, the Student Government Association (SGA) will host the Meet the Candidates debate. Students around campus were asked what topics they would like to hear candidates discuss at the debate.

Smoking Ban

In previous years, Georgia State passed a smoke-free policy that prohibits smoking in limited designated areas around campus. However, students have noticed the policy has not been enforced at all due to the number of smokers around campus.

"I would like to see the Smoke-Free Plaza policy enforced more," Mikala Baza, Clinical information major, said.

Academic Issues

Students hope SGA will develop more programs to benefit students around campus.

Biology major Christopher McCaskil said he believes knowing his grade during mid-point will be beneficial to students.

"Some schools post mid-term grades officially so students know exactly where they stand mid semester. Georgia State only post final grades," McCaskil said.

Another issue students said they

found was finals scheduling.

"I wish that that Georgia State would schedule the finals better. If I have a class at 10 AM, why am I getting up at 8 AM for the final exam? It just doesn't make sense," McCaskil said.

Biology major Nirali Patel wants to see improvements in the operation of the library.

"I hate it when I reserve a room in the library and someone takes it. I wish there was a better way of tracking room reservation," Patel said.

Kell Hall Demolition

During the State of Address on October 2, Georgia State President Mark Becker announced the demolition of Kell Hall. The building will be completely redesigned to incorporate a "greenway" in the middle of the Georgia State's campus.

English major Nisa Floyd said she feels the cost of rebuilding Kell Hall should be distributed to other existing organizations.

"I would rather have money go into something that will directly benefit me and my peers," she said.

Transportation

Monique Morganfield, political science major, said transportation has been a struggle on campus.

"It would be nice to see a commuter bus for Georgia State Panthers. That way, students will have a more reliable source of transportation for school," she said.

No changes made for notification of disqualification

FELICIA GARCIA
Staff Reporter

Following the disqualification of presidential candidate Christian Hill in 2013, the Student Government Association (SGA) has made no changes in how notification of disqualification is handled for the 2014 elections due to the claim that last year's disqualification was unavoidable.

"I do not think that there was anything from a processing standpoint that could have prevented the occurrence last year nor do I believe that anyone, including the individuals involved, could have foreseen the incident," SGA Adviser Daryl Holloman said. "The important thing to remember was that there were processes and procedures in place to ensure an equitable outcome."

Last year, Christian Hill was elected as president and later disqualified due to a violation of code of conduct when he was involved in a fight with his fraternity brother, Marcus Kernizan.

Hill continued with his campaigning throughout the process of the investigation of the case. He did

not disclose details of the incident nor was the issue brought up in either of the debates held on March 28 and April 1, 2013.

The day after polls opened, Hill was placed on probation from April 2 through April 28, which resulted in his disqualification of presidency for the SGA.

The incident proved to be a surprise to the voting student body and also resulted in mixed feelings from the other candidates. Many members of the student body wanted a re-election since Hill had received the most votes.

However, the constitution has no specific clause on how to handle such a case, leaving the decision-making process up to the SGA. As it stands, it is a rule that if a student is placed under probation, the student with the next highest vote will be placed in that position. This rule has not changed.

2014 election chair Samantha Schikowski said she believes that more people should have been informed about what happened with Christian Hill.

"We are not going to allow someone to receive votes when they are made ineligible," She stated. "As the chair, I want to ensure that everything will be made public."

GOVERNMENT

Georgia Legislature approves abortion ban bill

CHRIS JOINER
Staff Reporter

The approval of Senate Bill 98 by the Georgia Legislature on March 17 puts Georgia one step closer to becoming the 25th state to reject Obamacare to cover abortion cost.

The bill is waiting for approval by Gov. Nathan Deal after a house vote of 105-64 and a senate vote of 36-18.

This law enforces the "opt-out" clause, which is what allows states to prohibit using Obamacare to cover abortions, according to the Reality Check's website. The bill also states that taxpayers would no longer pay for the procedures, making women responsible for covering the expense of their abortions privately.

Senate Bill 98 authorizes Affordable Care Act coverage for abortions only in medical emergencies that would threaten the mother's life, making no exception for rape or incest.

"It is a tremendous statement for all Georgians that your House passed SB 98 by a vote of 105-64. The people of Georgia do not want their tax dollars used for abortions. I want to thank everyone who prayed for and worked so hard on this effort especially my friends at Georgia Right to Life," said Senator Judson Hill said about Senate Bill 98 on his website.

In an interview with WABE, Minority Whip Carolyn Hughley said the bill is anti women.

"From my perspective, what we're saying to young women who are walking around the capital, we love you but you better not get raped because if you do we are expecting you to bring this baby to term," Hughley said.

According to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution website, Hughley said that public citizens were not allowed to testify last week when (R) Rep. Richard Smith, chairman of the House Insurance Committee, allowed his panel to approve the bill in less than 15 minutes.

"People came and wanted to be heard but were not allowed to speak on the bill. If we are going to take up uncomfortable subjects we have to be willing to talk about it," Hughley said.

Heather Harton, a senior sociology major at Georgia State, said she doesn't agree with the bill because it is another way to take control of a woman's body.

"It's health insurance and abortion is a health issue. If a woman is raped it's not her choice," Harton said.

Georgia State senior political science major Adrienne Randolph said she's on the fence about the bill because she said some people use abortion as a substitute for birth control.

"The bad part about this bill is it doesn't look out for poor women. There are some women who are unemployed and they can't afford to pay for an abortion out of their own pocket," Randolph said.

CAMPUS

SGA seeks closer community for organizations

Organizations United aims to connect campus groups

JASMIN FIELDS
Staff Reporter

Organizations United (OU), a new bill passed by the Student Government Association on March 13, will foster greater community between student organizations.

"This bill was created so that student organizations can have a central place to come together and talk about that which they are doing, program together, work together, talk about co-sponsorships, and things of [that] sort, as well as bring the campus together," Whyte said.

According to SGA President Andrew Whyte, Georgia State previously did not have a central location of communication for its student organizations. The organizations on campus operated as separate entities.

OU is now an official part of SGA and has its own committee within the organization.

OU committee meetings began in the Fall 2013 semester. Dur-

ing that semester there were two meetings where leaders of student organizations at Georgia State met physically with members of the SGA executive board and other organizations over lunch to discuss a range of topics and issues.

Presidents of student organizations are invited to attend the meetings via email.

"We sit down and talk about how Georgia State operates from each entity's perspectives, and how we can make it better," Whyte said. "One of the things that we talked about is increasing panther pride at Georgia State and creating a Georgia State community."

He also noted that this gives the presidents of different organizations an opportunity to promote themselves and talk about the things they are doing on and off campus with which other people can get involved.

Lanier Henson, SGA vice president of Student Services, said that the number of student organizations present at the OU meetings have been increasing since the first meeting.

"At the first OU meeting, we had about 15 or 20 [organizations attend], but it's getting bigger and bigger as word gets out," Henson said.

According to Henson, attendance was poor due to the initial trouble communicating with organizations. Henson said organizations did not respond to his emails, which included information about the meeting and discussion points. Henson thinks this may have been due to them not checking their emails or him not having the accurate email account information.

Henson also said that in addition to sending out emails, he personally invites other organizations around campus. When he tells one organization about OU, that organization in turn tells other organizations that they may interact with about it. This causes the organizations to continue to spread the word and increase attendance in OU meetings, as well as update the organization contact list.

The most recent OU meeting was on Mar. 5. According to Henson, about 30 organizations attended.

"[The organizations that were in attendance] ranged from the Student Athlete Advisory [Council] (SAAC) all the way to pre-medical and Kappa Sig," Henson said. "The 50 [organizations] that we have are very diverse."

According to Henson, there will be two OU meetings each semester: one in the beginning and one at the end.

"In one of [the meetings] we will talk about things that we want to do, and the other one will be [about] what we did, what we did wrong and how do we fix it, and what we are going to do [the] next semester," Henson said. "Those are the minimum meeting requirements."

Henson also said that the meetings allow different opinions on issues that the student body has at Georgia State to be discussed.

President Whyte said OU is something that he wants to continue as a part of his legacy at SGA.

"When you do something like this OU, you are giving back [to students and the University] in a different way," he said.

CAMPUS

SGA Senate candidates push for ethics reform

Team of newcomers hope to change student accessibility to the SGA

ZOYA HASNAIN
News Editor

A group of candidates running for the 2014 election for the Student Government Association (SGA) senate have formed a campaign ticket called "Team Ethics."

According to candidate Joash Thomas from the College of Arts and Sciences, the primary issue the ticket observes is the lack of transparency and accountability the SGA has with the student body.

"While I do respect and appreciate the work and contributions of previous SGA leaders, I believe that a lot more can be done with respect to making the SGA actually work for the students it is supposed to represent," Thomas said.

Thomas said he was first inspired to bring ethics reform to the Georgia State SGA during his time at the capitol when he observed state representatives and senators actively advocating for ethics and transparency reform. He said he came to the conclusion that these same efforts could be applied at the local student gov-

ernment level.

"Team Ethics can play a huge role in helping the student body connect better with the SGA and vice-versa," Thomas said. "By introducing more honesty, accountability and transparency, we believe that we can help students see the SGA as a platform for them to voice their concerns about campus issues instead of just an office where they can get free blue books."

Garrett Koehler, candidate from the Robinson College of Business, said his reason for joining Team Ethics was to make the SGA more personal and accountable to the students who voted them into office.

"From my personal experiences as a student the SGA has never been as accessible as I would have liked. They have the student forums and the website but those are very impersonal ways for a student to voice an issue to the SGA," Koehler said.

The other members of the ticket are David Jackson Jr. from the College of Arts and Sciences and Jacob Poglioli from the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies. These four candidates formed the

Team Ethics campaign together. Their proposals include ways of increasing contact between themselves and students.

According to the campaign platform, the candidates will be hosting a weekly coffee where students can come in and speak with them about issues they want addressed on campus.

"While the SGA does have Town Hall styled meetings that we plan on attending, we believe that a weekly coffee (at least with the members on our ticket) is an efficient way to get students to feel comfortable to discuss campus issues concerning them in a casual and unstructured format over a beverage that most of us are addicted to anyways," the platform states.

The candidates will also be giving out their personal phone numbers so students can contact them about issues that concern them. According to the platform, the candidates hope that by making themselves accessible, the SGA will be made accessible and accountable.

According to the platform, if elected, the candidates plan on using social media to educate

students on what goes on in SGA meetings by posting on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram how they voted and a brief description of why they voted that way.

"These measures will help us be transparent with the student body that entrusted us with the noble task of representing their interests," the platform states. "This level of transparency will also prohibit us from resorting to petty politics and power-play while helping us to streamline our focus on effectively dealing with the issues at hand."

Thomas, Koehler, Jackson and Poglioli are all newcomers in the SGA. Their platform states that they are a group of ethnically and ideologically diverse students who seek to influence the way the SGA functions with their fresh ideas and unique perspectives.

"We aspire to provide GSU students with the opportunities and means for the student body to hold the SGA accountable," Thomas said. "It is time for the SGA and its leaders to pro-actively reach out to students and encourage them to hold them accountable instead of waiting for the opposite to happen."

UNIVERSITY

Georgia State commuters face parking issues at Turner Field

CHRIS JOINER
Staff Reporter

Georgia State commuters said that they have dealt with, and continue to deal with, parking inconveniences at Turner Field.

The Panther Express Bus arrives approximately every one minute between the hours of 7 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, according to the Georgia State website.

But according to Stephanie Joy, a senior Journalism major, the buses aren't running on schedule.

"The buses are often times three bus loads behind," Joy said. "There's a line in front of you. What are you gonna do, get in a fight just to get to class? They were there first so its only right you join the line and wait your turn."

Joy said parking in another lot on campus is not an option because of the high cost.

She said she arrives to Turner Field as early as two hours in advance of her class to reduce the stress of not arriving to class on time.

"If you have a 1:30 class, don't try to get to Turner by 1:00. You probably want to be there at 11:00 or 11:30 at the latest," Joy said.

Michelle Williams, a commuter who also parks at Turner Field, said she leaves home at least an hour early to make it to class on time.



PHOTO BY TAYLOR BUSH | THE SIGNAL

Students board a Blue Route shuttle on its way to Turner Field. In recent weeks, commuters have complained about bus delays and other inconveniences.

"I live in Smyrna, which is only about a 15 minute drive from there to school, but because of my commute, trying to find a space at Turner Field, which takes about 30 minutes depending on the time of day, waiting for the shuttle and then having the shuttle take me to school, I have to leave my house at least an hour before class in order to make it to class on time," she said.

Maggie Haygood, another commuter student, said she also leaves her

house ahead of time to find parking.

"I live off campus, about seven minutes away, and parking is usually impossible. It's usually full. I have to leave at least an hour beforehand to get to class on time," she said.

Stephanie Kim, a junior Studio Art major, said that parking in the morning is fine at Turner, but parking in the afternoon is a much different story for her.

"I drove around for five or ten minutes before I could find a park-

ing spot," said Kim. "I was almost late for class because of the parking situation."

Joy was scheduled to graduate this semester but said she pushed her graduation date to the summer because she could not make it to class on time.

She said while some professors are really understanding when it comes to the parking difficulties commuters face when parking at Turner Field, others are not.

Advanced Media Desktop Editing professor Debbie George said when students show up late it can be a distraction not only to a teacher but also to the other students in class as well.

"Typically at the beginning of class is when I give important announcements about upcoming projects or test," George said. "When a student comes in late I have to repeat myself, which can be an annoyance not only to myself but to the other students."

George said she does keep in mind there is an issue with parking and construction, so she tries to be more tolerant than other professors may be. However, she also said that students should keep in mind this is an ongoing issue, which they should plan for accordingly.

"If a student is ten or fifteen minutes late for a job interview for instance they are automatically out of the running for that job regardless of the reason," George said.

George said she doesn't penalize students for being late but rather gives students points for showing up to her class.

She said if a student comes to her to explain they were late, such as a parking problem at Turner Field, it shows her that they are communicating, which helps her understand the issue.

Zoya Hasnain, news editor, contributed to this report.

MONEY

Report claims higher education has become a "debt-for-diploma" system

CIARA FRISBIE
Associate News Editor

Tuition rates for Georgia State as well as other schools in Georgia have substantially risen since the Great Recession in 2008, causing students to constantly worry about tuition prices.

"For me it's a big problem, because it's only my father that pays for my tuition," Intensive English Program student Adissa Bamba said.

A report titled *The Great Cost Shift Continues: State Higher Education Funding After The Recession* by Demos, a U.S. research and policy organization that focuses on economic security and alternative measures for economic progress, was released on March 6. The report states that public universities and colleges were once a debt-free system; however, the nation's higher education system has transitioned into what they call a "debt-for-diploma system."

"...More than 7 out of 10 of college seniors now borrow to pay for college and graduate with an average debt of \$29,400. Up until about two decades ago, state funding ensured college tuition remained within the reach for most middle-class families, and financial aid

provided extra support to ensure lower-income students could afford the cost of college," the report says.

The report further explains that The Great Recession led to tuition increases and declines for state funding in higher education.

On a national level, Demos says that the average tuition at 4-year public universities has increased by 20 percent in the four years since 2008. Prior to that it had risen by 14 percent.

"Nationwide, tuition at public 4-year universities has risen by an average of 20 percent or \$1,282 since 2008. The increase in total cost—including room and board—has been even greater, rising by an average of \$2,292 over the same period," Demos says.

Tuition at 2-year public schools has also risen by an average of 18.5 percent, or \$414 since 2008, Demos also reports.

Ndoutabe Melom Melodie, a student in the Intensive English Program (I.E.P.) at Georgia State, said that she feels as though that the price of college tuition is unfair.

"It's [college tuition] a problem. It is my parents who pay my tuition. I have four brothers and sisters, and they have to take care of them and send the money for school," Melodie said.

Melodie also said that the price of college in America is much higher in comparison to the school she previously attended.

"I was in a french school when I was in Africa, and my tuition was 2,000 dollars a year," she said.

All U.S. states except North Dakota have spent less per student for higher education in comparison to before the Great Recession, according to the report.

"In contrast, only 33 states cut per-student spending between 2001 and 2008, the period since the last recession. In many states, the cuts have been especially deep. Since the recession 28 states have cut per-student funding by more than 25 percent, compared to just one state - Michigan - that did so between 2001 and 2008," the report says.

According to the report, from a historical standpoint, public colleges and universities get a large portion of their revenue from state and local funding and tuition and fees.

"So, when states cut higher education funding, schools essentially have two options for closing the gap: raise student charges—tuition, fees, room, and board—or cut salaries and services," Demos says. "Most states have chosen to do both since the Great Recession, implementing steep hikes

in charges for tuition, room, and board, and cutting thousands of course offerings and positions."

The headcount for the fall 2013 semester included 309,469 students enrolled within colleges or universities in Georgia, according to a report released by the University System of Georgia. The report also stated that there were 314,365 students enrolled in college in fall 2012.

There are 32,000 students that currently attend Georgia State. Of the total population of students, 75 percent are undergraduates and 25 percent are graduate students, according to Georgia State's website.

The National Center for Education Statistics' (NCES) multi-year tuition calculator estimates that if a student was to attend Georgia State University starting in the 2013 - 2014 academic year, their total would be \$35,041 for in-state and \$93,313 for out-of-state.

NCES states on that for their multi-year tuition calculator, estimated prices do not include room and board or other various factors that may vary by program.

Bamba also said that other factors such as room and board, food allowance and other expenses are adding to what her father has to pay for her.

Demos concludes the report by referring to higher education as a

true public good.

"...Its benefits accrue far beyond the individual who participates directly in the system. This is why, since the founding of public higher education, our nation has moved progressively toward expanding the doors of access. It is no accident that today some of the best state universities are land grant colleges—a legacy from the 1860s when the federal government granted federally controlled land to states to establish public universities and colleges," the report says.

Demos also claims that federal financial aid is no longer providing the means enough to pay for the rising cost of college. The report states that the Pell Grant had once covered \$7 out of every \$10 that college cost, but now it covers \$3.

"And so, the costs of funding our higher education system have increasingly been borne by students and their parents, chiefly by going into debt. Yet, higher education remains a public good—with all of us relying and depending on the system not just for the education of doctors, nurses, teachers, accountants and other professionals—but to provide the critical thinking that is the lifeblood of our democracy," the report says.

One week is not enough

Why SGA candidates need more time to campaign



AMI DUDLEY
Opinions Editor

Ami is a senior English major and published flash fiction writer. "I've constructed my premier works on coffee napkins."

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On Monday, March 24, SGA candidates began the tradition of wooing students for their hand in political matrimony: campaigning. And on Monday, March 31, the polls will open and students will begin to cast their votes. This leaves candidates with one fleeting week to not only introduce themselves to us but also attempt to influence our decision making. One week is not enough.

To understand why candidates need more time to campaign, we must first have an appreciation for a right we have been given but other people have to fight for. Political campaigns (or electoral campaigns) are the blood of a democratic body. Democracy is derived from the Greek word "dēmokratia" which means "rule of the people," or, in our case, "rule of the student body." Among our many rights and liberties as students and American citizens is our right to elect our representatives and leaders, a right that not every student around the world shares.

On Wednesday, March 19, at least two students of Cairo University in Egypt were shot and killed during one of several student-led protests in universities across Egypt displaying disapproval of interim President Adly Mansour. These students, together forming SAC (Students Against the Coup) hope for the removal of Mansour and the reinstatement of Mohammad Mursi, Egypt's first democratically elected and civilian president. Mursi was imprisoned by the military and currently awaits trial.

As a result of the ongoing protest, which includes tear gas, fireworks and stone-throwing, the current semester at Cairo University was delayed a month. Wednesday's protest also resulted in the expulsion of 23 students who were cited for violence and vandalism. This continual vie for rights (or the lack thereof) and principle has resulted in over a thousand deaths and thousands more jailed. Yet students of Egyptian universities continue to risk their lives for the privilege.

Democracy should not be taken for granted. The key to democracy is the right to vote, the right to be heard. Even more important than the right to vote is the opportunity to vote. Many countries, like Egypt, have struggled for this opportunity. Campaigns are an integral part of this opportunity. They not only allow the candidates to be heard, but the voter's voice as well by the candidate. Stones and tear gas should not have to be thrown in order for a someone to be heard. Thankfully, you don't have to take up such actions.

There are also more concrete reasons and less sentimental ones for extended campaign time, most notably: money.

What some of you may not know is that the mandatory Student Activity Fee you pay every semester pays for SGA stipends. The fee, which provides your SGA president, executive vice president, and several other positions, with a monthly stipend for an entire year. The fee also pays for programs and services provided to students



"While not everyone views democracy in the light of a luxury, it is still a system that should be regarded as a privilege and one not to be taken for granted... students and candidates alike should fully immerse themselves in it."

(by students), like this very column you're reading.

Like SGA officials, I aim to "give you your money's worth." At a minimum, this means providing the student with everything they'd expect from the program or service. Students should expect a lot more than a week (really five days) of sheer campaigning. Our money is worth more than a handful of printed flyers and some Duncan Hines persuasion in the Plaza.

A little more effort on the candidate's part to take advantage of the campaign process is not only the voter's benefit. In fact, it is equally advantageous to the candidate. A candidate is a product. They've thrown themselves on the market, in the crowd of us, hungry student voters, who are shopping for someone who cares about our concerns. They're not the only product on the market, but feel that they're the best one. The candidate should have an ample amount of time to convince us of this.

While candidates aren't in the arena fighting for a chance to be the world's most powerful leader, they could learn a little from our country's past presidential campaigns, notably the races for the 2008 and 2012 presidential seats.

"Mitt," a Netflix production and new release, is a candid documentary that follows the exhausted campaign of Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney. Romney lost the Republican candidate ticket to McCain for the 2008 race but later won the candidate ticket for the 2012 race.

The film provides a raw and organic look into the

ups and down of campaigning. Romney's campaign began two years prior to the first election. While the race for the president of the United States is a whole different ball game, with different rules and referees, Romney's campaign should be noted for both its success and failure.

In an interview on The Today Show with Matt Lauer during his first campaign, Romney was hit with this statement from Lauer:

"Forty-three percent of Americans are not even sure who you are."

Romney scrambled for a reply to this and followed up with an uncomfortable chuckle. How many of us can say that we are sure of who the SGA candidates are? What they believe in? What their goals are? What their principles are? Or, what their names are? If you could answer any of these, did you know the answer before you checked the news section of this paper? Every candidate should take the appropriate time to make sure that each of us can answer these questions.

Preceding the interview, Romney's campaign ventured out across the country in hopes of what he called "building a brand."

"People will know me. They'll know what I stand for," he said.

Fortunately, candidates don't have to spend millions going from state to state to build a brand. They simply have to go classroom to classroom, organization to organization, door to door, face to face. And between schedule conflicts and just the sheer colossal size of our student body, one week is not enough time to build a brand.

One week doesn't allow space for every ingredient of a fruitful campaign, either. These ingredients include debates, forums, interviews and speeches. There's only one debate scheduled during the week of campaigning. Debates and especially forums where students can engage with the candidate are vital to the electoral campaign. The results of these platforms can have drastic benefits for both the voter and the candidate. Following the Fox Republican Presidential Candidates Forum, almost 80 percent more audience members claimed their support for Romney.

A few more additional weeks, months, or even a semesters time can be extremely beneficial to the candidate, the voter and to our electoral process. This will not only widen the channel of communication between voter and candidate but between student and government. Student and candidate alike, we all deserve to be heard, void of time constraints. We deserve a chance to voice our concerns and opinions without someone saying "cue the music and curtains."

For many students in Egypt, that voice has been silenced. Your voice hasn't. This is why the campaign element of democracy should be revered and students and candidates alike should fully immerse themselves in it. One week to do so, in the light of its significance, doesn't seem fitting.

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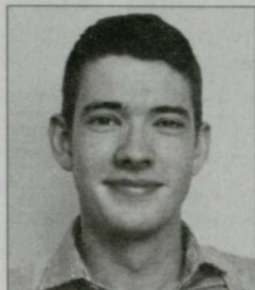
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DOLLARS AND SENSE WITH MITCH

The tuition is too damn high



MITCHELL OLIVER
Columnist

Mitch is a junior finance major and student financial advisor. "My goal is to have more college students financially literate." Leave your questions for him online at georgiastatesignal.com

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"Nothing in American Life has risen in price so quickly as the cost of college, up 500 percent from 1975," CNNMoney correspondent Christine Romans said.

Remembering the housing crisis of 2007-2008 and subsequent recession makes me wonder how the same thing could be happening again right in front of our eyes. Except instead of houses, it's something much more abstract—but all too lucrative: the college education.

It only takes some quick comparisons of student debt loan and sub-prime mortgages to see how we are headed into another financial bust. The symptoms are all here with us: student loans given out to a growing number of students who obviously can't afford them. They're easy to get, much like the sub-prime mortgages were in years past. What is worse, though, is there is no guarantee of ability to repay! Students do not know if they will be employed after college, or even if they are if they will be able to afford \$300-400 in repayment each month.

Now, more than ever, the American public is college crazy. More students are attending college now than ever before—and for good reason. They know it is essential in landing a job in the future. The problem, though, is that there is ever-increasing demand for a college education, while there is an almost stagnant supply. According to the Education Statistics database, only a little over 1,000 new colleges have been built since 1980, bringing the number to 4,500. Almost 22 million students enrolled in colleges in 2013, a higher demand than ever before. This means more and more students will be filling up over-crowded campuses and be

taking out more and more loans that they may or may not be able to repay.

It's a bubble waiting to pop. In the next 10 years, I would not be surprised if a record number of students defaulted on their loans, a sum total that passed \$1 trillion last year. This could mean another financial crises and recession, ironically caused by the higher education system we have touted as the only hope for a strong future economy.

"It's a bubble waiting to pop. In the next 10 years, I would not be surprised if a record number of students defaulted on their loans, a sum total that passed \$1 trillion last year."

If all of this sounds bleak and pessimistic, it is because it's the future if we do not change the course. If things continue to go the way they are now, the current cycle of more and more students taking on more and more debt will result in catastrophe. So what can be done to fix it?

First, extensive reform needs to happen with student loans as well as tuition costs in America. Steps are already in place to reduce costs for students. The Federal Pell Grant helped 9.7 million students last year lower the cost of college with non-repayable grants ranging from \$564 to \$5,645. Even if you don't think you qualify, it is still critical to apply anyways. You might be surprised since Pell Grants are based on a number of algorithms

other than simply your family's household income.

Further, grants and programs such as Georgia's HOPE scholarship offer direct cash incentives to students with good grades. This program is a life saver for thousands of students at Georgia State. But grants and scholarships only account for 30% of funding for the average college student.

But our country also faces a dilemma with running out of money. States can not simply throw tax money at programs like HOPE forever, especially with the rise in tuition costs. We must take a second look at the proposed system President Obama discussed last year in New York—before it is too late.

It is time to evaluate colleges and rate them based on quality, value based on cost and employment prospects. This would not simply be a more public "Forbes Top Schools" list. It would be a comprehensive evaluation of every college, complete with minimum requirements and statistics that can either be met or accreditation can be removed. Until there is drastic negative incentives to increase the quality of college, the system will continue to bubble and no progress will be made.

Once in place, this rating system would weed out some colleges. Mostly those colleges set out to relish in the goldmine of cash that prospective students give them, whether it is through state/federal grants or government loans. Maybe then, a truly competitive market will emerge in the world of higher education. A world where public universities would fight tooth and nail for your attendance much like cell phone companies fight to be your carrier. Until then, it looks like I've got another Sallie Mae payment to make...wish me luck.

EDITORIAL

Students deserve answers from those that claim to represent them

In American politics, during the campaign season especially, the media has played a historically important role in connecting candidates running for public office to the people they're supposed to represent.

Because campaign trail reporters are granted close access to candidates, newspapers and other media organizations can ask tough questions of vital interest to voters.

In this way, news outlets serve the public interest by acting as watchdogs that ensure that candidates run fairly and are accountable to the people.

At Georgia State, however, this ideal has been threatened by non-representative leaders and absurd bureaucratic rules that limit access.

With the Student Government Association election campaign just a few weeks out,

it was expected that candidates would want to begin using their student media as a way to reach out to students, though The Signal received nothing but silence at first.

When attempts were made to reach out to candidates, The Signal was told by front desk employees at the SGA office that no one would have any information on who the candidates even were until the night of the first debate, which was only four days before voting began.

Never mind that each candidates campaigns would have already begun by that time.

Since a few days is not enough time for a voter to make a decision on how to vote, The Signal made every attempt to meet with the SGA Adviser Darryl Holloman and this year's election chair to come to a compromise that would best ben-

efit the candidates and student body. Phone calls were made to the adviser but received no response.

Finally, an email was sent out on March 12 to Holloman and the election chair stating that, in the interests of students' right to know who they were voting for but out of respect for the SGA's existing campaign rules, we would be willing to hold off publication until the campaign season officially began on March 24. We requested to meet with them to discuss the issues at hand.

Adviser Darryl Holloman agreed to meet but changed the meeting time, after which he stopped responding to emails entirely. Election Chair Samantha Schikowski agreed to meet but did not specify a time or place until March 13, during which she agreed to allow The Signal to reach out to candidates and conduct interviews. She also said she would notify candidates that they were permitted to work with us.

Most of the candidates did not reach out to The Signal as would be expected of a candidate who wanted to speak to the voters. When reporters sent emails to the candidates with interview questions for them to answer, most did not respond at all. Reporters then went on social media websites such as Facebook and Twitter to ask candidates to respond to their emails.

It then took days before reporters finally began receiving responses from the candidates. It seemed the media was begging the candidates to speak to their student body, when it should have been the other way around.

In previous years, however, SGA has worked well with The Signal during campaign season.

Even with last year's election fiasco – where the leading candidate was removed from the results after the votes had already been tallied, leading to an appeal that upended the presidency for an extended time – The Signal still was able to interview candidates and even co-host the most successful debate in recent memory.

A debate where our reporters were able to ask tough questions. A debate which drew a record showing of students. And a debate that trended in Atlanta on Twitter – engaged more than 300 participants in total.

For whatever reason, however, SGA decided they didn't want to continue that partnership this year – compounding problems even getting in touch with candidates just two weeks before the election.

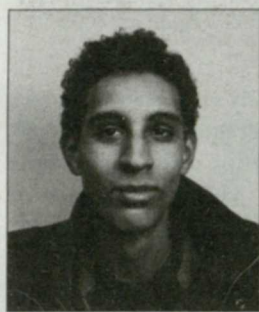
But this scenario sums up a much larger issue at Georgia State: refusal to work with the media or even talk to reporters.

On numerous occasions this year, other offices besides SGA have either refused to speak to reporters in one way or another or intentionally dragged their feet in responding to requests for interviews and information.

This presents a serious problem because newspapers play an important part in our nation's democracy and, as public employees spending taxpayer dollars and student fee money, representatives of the University have an obligation to speak with reporters to ensure that those funds are well spent.

SGA is no different and if candidates are going to run on platforms of transparency, we think it's only fair that they and the Election Commission do everything in the future to make themselves available.

Georgia State's salad bowl



CHRISTIAN WILKINS
Columnist

The melting pot is more like a salad bowl. America in pop culture is usually painted as a land of opportunity in which persons of all backgrounds and ethnicities can meld together in harmony. After all, it was a nation of immigrants. However, that notion could not be further from the truth. Rather than the All-American stew of School-House-Rock era glory, we could be better represented as a bowl of salad: lettuce, tomatoes and croutons; all with their own separate flavors, essentially independent of one another. Georgia State University, the most diverse campus in the South, shares this vegetable characteristic.

Though on campus, there are tens--and soon maybe hundreds--of student clubs and organizations and coalitions and so on, the general and blatant disconnection between most of them is disappointing. Often times, these student organizations will never meet, speak or discuss their plans and possible scheduling consequences. They may attempt to, but what is left is usually a mess.

There are also endless possibilities for productivity with a more connected network of student activities. It is highly likely the goals and purposes of many campus organizations overlap, in at least some ways.

Needless to say, diversity is important, especially on a campus boasting 35 countries and 4000+ students on its roster. So it makes sense that there are so many cultural clubs, political groups, and study based collectives scattered about the university. What does not make sense is that this plethora of groups has managed to avoid regular contact for so long.

It may be comfortable to have a cushion of individuals much like oneself, sharing at least one specific interest, far from the judging eyes of the biased

outside world. Who doesn't want to be in an exclusive circle? But, it is important to remember that the college experience is as much about focusing energy as expanding horizons.

If groups about the campus were in a better state of communication with each other, our students might have a choice between the two. The goal is not to lessen options' numbers in any way or have everyone come together and sing kum-bay-yah. It is simply to raise the level of cohesion between Georgia State's diverse palate of organizations.

Each exists because it offers its own support and safe haven for some swath of students some place on campus. But is there anything wrong with widening that swath through group connection, helping bond students who would have never met otherwise? Hopefully not.

Some solutions have been proposed to remedy Georgia State's scatterbrained ailment. About a month ago, at the SGA town hall meeting in February, a student from Georgia Tech visited to talk about a computer program called the Bubble, in which anyone could post and discover campus events and notifications online rather than in print.

Besides, even within Georgia's premier research facility, the most sophisticated systems for event promoting currently are still crowded bulletin boards in stairwells. It had already been implemented for our neighbors in Midtown, and seemed like an effective and viable option. However, their presentation was very near the end of the meeting, when the complementary refreshments were to be served, so both the audience and the former officers nodded hurriedly and the strained congregation continued on without a single inquiry to the messenger of good news.

There have also been attempts to unite at least a

portion of the student organizations in a meeting. Unfortunately, how much they may have accomplished is not clearly evident, as Georgia State's consistency of extracurriculars remains a crunchy mix rather than a homogeneous liquid.

One might wish the blame to fall on the SGA or the Division of Student Affairs but the fault may only be that of human nature. Most people have a need to feel welcomed somewhere, and if affordable, wherever they go. This is why student fees are paid and allocated to efforts making the campus both more useful but also more approachable to newcomers.

A niche in the vast plain of choices is one way to catch a college student, but to truly involve one, a network is in order. It may just be a matter of time before the student organizations themselves begin to melt themselves as they realize the need for concurrence.

I have already seen a few events hosted jointly by two or three chartered groups and a small step towards transparency made by the Student Government Association, whose seemingly symbiotic relationship with the 1913 Society is at least vaguely pointed in the right direction. With due time, the splashes of activity about this university may start to overlap without a necessary infrastructure push from the powers at be. This has the potential to open up an entirely new set of faces could form the upper crust of Georgia State's influential student caste.

I have seen a socialist and a libertarian shake hands, a scene that likely has never occurred in our state capital, the topic of street art reach the ears of the executive board of our student government and enough more to still keep some hope in the SGA, Georgia State, USA and beyond. I hope that this bowl of salad could one day become a pot of stew.

Why growing up is the most heartbreaking thing you'll ever do



MIA MCDONALD
Columnist

Mia does amateur photoshoots, maintains the title of bookworm and hands out with friends and family.

Follow her
@MiaMore09

As spring break comes to an end I finally have the time to reflect on what I did; the majority of my trip I was surrounded by kids. This probably isn't everyone's ideal way to spend the week, but I had a blast. Aside from the classics like "hide and go seek" and "freeze tag", my pupils created their own games; their imaginations and creativity played a huge part in my cheerfulness. After having the time of my life racing up and down on the field playing flag football, becoming a shade darker from jump roping in the sun, and growing tired after five minutes of activity I'm reminded that I'm not a child anymore. With that thought running through my mind I'm immediately saddened; my adulthood is not as fun as my childhood was. Why can't we as adults possess that same ingenuity and it be accepted and appreciated?

The number one thing we're robbed of as adults is our creativity. We go from having our artwork hanged on the refrigerator door at home to being made feel inadequate if our opinion doesn't match everyone else. We can't express too much joy

without being accused of being immature or acting childish. We're judged and criticized until we eventually fall into stereotypes and turn into bland clones.

When you're a child everything is simple; you're uninhibited, every accident is excused, and every mistake is forgiven. We're forced to trade that in to fit into categories based on religion or beliefs, political affiliations, social class, race, etc. Basically everything becomes complicated and systematic. We lose our individuality the moment we turn 18.

As a child everything is fun and an adventure, but over the years you begin to see the consequences and are held accountable for things that were once overlooked. We're pacified over the years and then WHAM! You're served a heap of responsibility with a side of demands.

Some of you may be reading this thinking we don't have a choice about growing up; we have to mature. I agree. It's unavoidable and some experience it sooner than others; it is the curse of adulthood. I'm not saying everything post childhood is

awful and there aren't enjoyable moments, you just have to make the transition from child to teenager to being grown. There are limits to your level of fun. You could chug chocolate milk and the worst you'll do is suffer a tummy ache as a child, but if you chug alcohol as an adult you could end up in jail.

There's absolutely no way to put off aging, but there doesn't have to be an end all be all. When was the last time you jumped on a trampoline, jumped rope, or played kickball? How many people took advantage of "snowmageddon" and built a snowman or had a snowball fight? Gather your closest friends and go to the park, go bike riding, or visit your Disney and Pixar movie collection.

We have the rest of our lives to be responsible adults, take advantage of your youth while you still can. Raise your juice boxes in the air and scream "I will not conform"! In all seriousness after you finish paying your bills make sure you reward yourself; treat yourself to your favorite dessert. There's no pressure. Now excuse me while I put on my onesie foot pajamas and finish watching Mulan.

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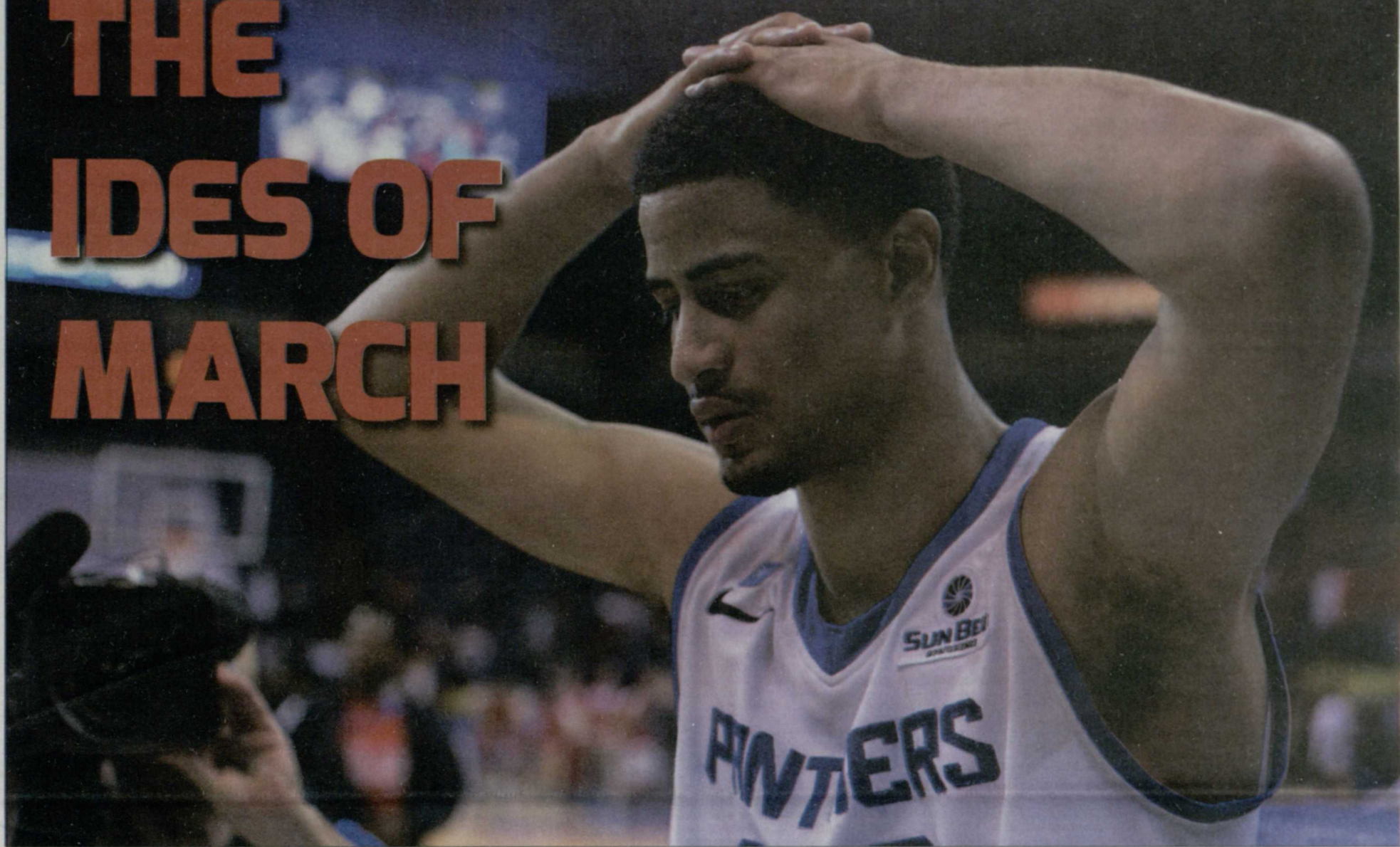


PHOTO BY CHRIS SHATTUCK | THE SIGNAL

Senior Manny Atkins' season ended abruptly after the Panthers were eliminated in the first round of the NIT tournament.

The men's basketball team missed an NCAA bid and fell early in the NIT

ALEC MCQUADE
Sports Editor

So many times this season, it seemed the basketball gods were in Georgia State's favor. Yet, when it came to March, they had a different plan for the Panthers.

Georgia State's season came to an end last Tuesday as it faced the stout defense of Clemson in the first round of the National Invitational Tournament (NIT). The Panthers lost an automatic bid into the NCAA tournament with a loss in the Sun Belt tournament final last Sunday.

"We're not going to let anything or anyone tell us we're failures," Head Coach Ron Hunter said following the Panthers' loss in the Sun Belt final. "In a short period of time, we've done a lot at Georgia State."

"Sometimes, you have to learn how to have pain before great things happen," he said.

The Panthers contended with Clemson, even getting a small lead in the second half, but Tigers' forward K.J. McDaniels was relentless scoring 30 points draining a tired Georgia State team.

When the buzzer sounded, it signified the end of the Panthers' best season since they made a NIT appearance in 2002.

Georgia State finished the season 25-9 and went 17-1 in Sun Belt games.

Hunter said he did not have to motivate his team to play the NIT game that came just two days following a devastating overtime loss to Louisiana-Lafayette in the Sun Belt tournament final, but it was evident Georgia State did not have the same energy and life in them at Clemson.

"I'm just so proud of our university," Hunter said. "When our crowd and our band and our cheerleaders are on spring break, to make this trip—that was motivation enough to play."

Hunter did say his team was extremely tired coming off only one day rest after their overtime effort.

It may seem hard for Panther fans to rid themselves of the displeasing taste the end of the season brought.

However, Hunter is quick to remind everyone about the accomplishments of this season's team and how it overcame a vast amount of adversity.

We had two goals at the begin-

ning of the year," Hunter said following the loss to Clemson. "One was to win a conference championship, and we did. The second was to go to post-season play, and we did."

After starting its season 3-6, including a 75-65 overtime loss to Southern Miss, Georgia State changed its tune going into Sun Belt play building a 14-game winning streak, the longest in the program's history. The streak was the sixth-longest in college basketball at that time.

Key victories in the winning streak included a home victory against rival Georgia Southern, a win over Troy in its first Sun Belt game since 1981, a win against Arkansas State off an R.J. Hunter jumper in the final seconds of the game, and a 101-91 overtime win against Texas-Arlington to break the program's record for longest winning streak on television, just to mention a few of this season's exciting moments. The Panthers were undefeated at home this season going 13-0.

Along with the winning success, accomplishments began to rack up.

R.J. Hunter went on a free-throw extravaganza making 38-consecutive free-throws across five games, the most consecutive made in school

history.

Hunter then reached 1,000-career points Feb. 15 against Troy to become the second-fastest player in the school's history to reach the milestone doing it in just 55 games.

In the following two games, Ryan Harrow then senior Manny Atkins were able to reach 1,000-career points joining Devonta White, who already had reached the milestone, to give the Panthers four starters with more than 1,000-career points. The Panthers were one of three teams to have that many 1,000 point scores as a part of their starting five.

Hunter was named the Sun Belt's Player of the Year with him and Harrow being named to the first All-conference team. Manny Atkins was named to the second and Devonta White to the third All-Sun Belt teams.

Ron Hunter was awarded Sun Belt Coach of the Year in his first year coaching in the conference.

Finally, the Panthers earned the Sun Belt title going 17-1 in regular season conference play giving themselves an automatic bid into the NIT tournament and a No. 1 seed in the Sun Belt tournament.

Ron Hunter said all season that

this team was changing the culture at Georgia State, and after Tuesday's loss, he was able to say the culture had been changed.

Hunter said the crowd that traveled to Clemson was larger than the crowd in his first game at the Sports Arena, and he thanked them for their support.

Four seniors played their last game as a Panther: Devonta White, Manny Atkins, Rashaad Richardson and Denny Burguillos. White and Atkins said while they were disappointed, they were proud of their team.

"We worked hard this season, and let's keep it going. Maybe next year these boys can come out and get this win and get a championship for us," Atkins said.

White said while he was disappointed, he and his team gave it all they got and, because of that, he can live with that.

It may be a hard pill to swallow for Georgia State, but once the pain wanes and the March craze fades, Georgia State fans will be able to look back the rest of lives and remember when they were a part of one of the greatest basketball teams in Georgia State history.

Unused fields sit abandoned

Georgia State's Recreational Services has left land it bought in 2011 sit abandoned

DAVID A. NORWOOD II
Staff Reporter

Georgia State has an on-campus project they've been working on for quite some time.

Not too far from the University Commons, there is a sign on the fenced-in area by the intersection of Irwin St., Fort St. and John Wesley Dobbs Ave. marking the construction site.

The sign donned the university's colors, the school logo on the far right and silhouettes of people playing various sports. It reads "Coming Soon!" under the university logo and at the bottom reads "Georgia State Recreation Fields."

However, it has been "coming soon" for quite some time now.

Scott Levin, Director of Recreational Services at Georgia State, said the University purchased an "L-shaped" parcel of the rectangle that is bordered by Fort, Irwin, Hilliard and Old Wheat Streets.

Georgia State paid almost \$3.6 million, according to Databank Inc., and the fields were expected to open for the 2012-13 academic year, per Atlanta Business Chronicle, yet the land is just sitting there nearly untouched.

Levin said Georgia State continues to be in negotiations with Wheat Street Baptist Church, the owner of

the land, regarding additional property for the project.

Wheat Street Baptist Church could not be reached for comment.

Meanwhile, the new project's purpose is not to replace Panthersville or move outdoor intramural sports closer to campus, as once speculated.

"The purpose of Recreational Services acquiring the property is not to replace Panthersville and all the intramurals, sport clubs and student organization events scheduled there, but to compliment what we have with an on-campus, walkable green space," Levin said.

Panthersville is the home of Georgia State baseball, softball and men's and women's soccer and is located roughly nine miles away from the downtown campus.

Levin said he's not aware of a definite timetable for development and that the University will continue to use Panthersville for tournaments and large events.

"We would also hope that other student groups and organizations could use Wheat Street for outdoor events (non-competitive fun games, team-building events, frisbee, and other drop-in kinds of activities)," Levin said.

Georgia State's current contract with Panthersville extends through July of 2017. Levin signed a five-year extension to the contract back in 2012.



DAVID A. NORWOOD II | THE SIGNAL

Georgia State's Recreational Services is letting land it spent more than \$3 million for sit untouched.

Timeline of other recreation fields

Indian Creek Recreation Area
Location: 900 S. Indian Creek Drive, Stone Mountain, Georgia

- Old Indian Creek Lodge demolished in 2012
- April 20, 2012: Start date of facility construction
- July 2013: Reconstruction of challenge course
- September 2013: End date of facility construction
- October 2013: End date of reconstruction of challenge course

Visit <http://georgiastatesignal.com/indian-creek-recreation-area-completes-new-challenge-course/> for more information

Leading the way

Lauren Coleman is leading the softball team and making the Panthers a feared name in their new conference



GEORGIA STATE ATHLETICS
Laura Coleman has upped her game and is leading the Panthers in Sun Belt play.

ERIC YEBOAH
Associate Sports Editor

First Basemen Lauren Coleman is on a tear this season as she has gotten off to a hot start.

Coleman is ranked in the top five in Sun Belt conference with five home runs while posting a batting average of .361 with 26 hits in 71 plate appearances.

Coleman is ranked third in the Sun Belt Conference with 25 RBIs, and Coleman's hot start earned her Sun Belt Softball Player of the Week of Feb. 10.

Coleman's effort is a part of a larger one from the Georgia State softball team that has started off its first season in the Sun Belt conference returning six starters and 13 letter winners.

The Sun Belt is one of the best softball conferences in the country, and the conference finished sixth in RPI last season. This season the conference featured two top 20 teams in the NFCA preseason poll heading

into this spring.

Coleman, the 2013 All-CAA second team recipient, received high praise from her head coach, Roger Kincaid.

"She has a great understanding of the strike zone. She is consistently one of the best hitters on the team and has developed into a very good power hitter," Kincaid said.

Kincaid described his first baseman as a "perfectionist" and a hard worker. He says Coleman will do anything to improve her game.

"I think that my hitting has gotten much better," Coleman said. "I have gotten better at handling the pressure at the plate."

Last season, Coleman displayed her calm and cool demeanor at the plate by setting a single-season school record, drawing 53 walks and finished fifth in the nation in walks per game.

Coleman understands the importance of her base percentage level and makes an effort to keep an eye on it.

Coleman has obviously had much individual success at Geor-

gia State so far, but her only focus is how well the team is performing and what she can do to help.

"I feel I bring different aspects to the team, and Coach Kincaid always tells us that our role is what we make of it," Coleman said. "How you want to contribute to the team is what your role is."

Pitcher Kaitlyn Medlam knows firsthand why it is hard to pitch against Coleman, calling her "driven."

"You have to be very selective throwing to her as she is really patient," Medlam said. "She's not going to swing unless it's a strike, and she's really good at waiting on her pitch."

Coleman has devoted countless time in the offseason conditioning, lifting and studying different aspects of the game which has led her to success this season. Coleman said her older brother, Adam, has the most to do with her success.

"My motivation comes from my brother always beating me at sports when I was younger," Coleman said. "It made me fight to win and know what hard work really is."

Coleman has not just improved at hitting, but has worked on increasing her on base percentage from .436 in 2012 to .480 in 2013.

More importantly, Coleman has noticeably improved at becoming a leader of the team, according to Kincaid.

"When she first got to Georgia State, she was 100 percent lead-by-example player," Kincaid said. "However, as a junior, she has developed into a much more vocal leader. We needed someone to step up and be another leader this year."

Kincaid said Coleman has risen to the challenge and her becoming a leader has been vital for the team.

"She's an upperclassman now, and she has really stepped up as leader on and off the field," Medlam said.

Coleman and her team have their eyes set on hoisting their first ever Sun Belt Conference championship as well as a NCAA Women's College World Series appearance, something Coleman called what could be the season's "perfect ending."

PANTHER OF THE WEEK



GEORGIA STATE ATHLETICS

NIC WILSON
BASEBALL

Nic Wilson racked up several awards last week despite the Panthers tough string of losses.

Wilson was named the National College Baseball Writers Association National Hitter of the Week after his five home runs and 15 runs the week before.

Wilson hit 11-for-19 while garnering a 1.421 slugging percentage and a .625 on-base percentage during the impressive stretch.

The string of impressive hitting also earned Wilson Louisville Slugger National Player of the Week and Sun Belt Conference Player of the Week last week.

This season, Wilson has nine home runs, 27 RBIs and 24 runs this season on top of his .449 batting average, which is the tenth-best in the NCAA.

Wilson's slugging percentage of .872 is currently the best in the NCAA.

Wilson is a senior infielder native of Decatur, Ga. Wilson transferred to Georgia State from East Arizona after his 2012 season.

GUEST PICK OF THE WEEK

Laura Apperson
Senior Editor of The Signal

On choosing South Carolina: At No. 2, the Gamecocks are riding high on their undefeated record. After playing their first conference series on the road against Kentucky, they are sure to come back strong against lower-ranking Tennessee.

On choosing Alabama: Though Alabama is No. 5 in the western division, they are coming off of four wins from Kentucky, Alcorn State and Arkansas. They are sure to have momentum.

On choosing Auburn: Auburn is ranked No. 2 in softball and is doing quite well.

NATIONAL
BASEBALL

Friday, March 28
South Carolina (1) ✓✓✓✓✓
vs
Tennessee (14) 3-game series

Friday, March 28
(3-game series)
Oklahoma State (20) ✓
vs
TCU (27) ✓✓✓✓

SUN BELT

MEN'S BASEBALL
Tuesday, March 25
(1-game series)
Alabama (28) ✓✓✓✓✓
vs
Troy

Tuesday, March 25th
(1-game series)
Louisville (7) ✓✓✓✓✓
vs
WKU

SOFTBALL
Tuesday, March 25
(1-game series)
South Alabama (13) ✓✓✓
vs
Troy ✓✓

Tuesday, March 25
(1-game series)
WKU ✓✓✓✓✓
vs
Murray State

GEORGIA STATE
BASEBALL

Friday, March 28
(1-game series)
Troy
vs
GSU ✓✓✓✓✓

SOFTBALL
Wednesday, March 26
(1-game series)
GSU
vs
Auburn (21) ✓✓✓✓✓

STAFF: ✓ David ✓ Jeremy ✓ Rhett

GUEST: ✓ Laura Apperson

THE SCOREBOARD

Baseball

Wednesday, Georgia State lost 9-4 to Georgia Tech at home. Pitcher Tyler McClure did not allow a run in the first five innings.

This past weekend, Georgia State opened a series on the road against No. 5 Louisiana-Lafayette on the road. The Panthers lost the opening game of the series 8-3 and lost the second 14-6.

Softball

Wednesday, Georgia State lost 3-1 to No. 9 Alabama on the road.

Last weekend, the Panthers opened a series against Louisiana-Lafayette at home dropping the first game 8-3 and the second 4-2.

Women's Tennis

Georgia State defeated Louisiana-Monroe 6-1 on Friday afternoon at Piedmont Park. The Panthers won five out of the six singles matches and the doubles point.

Men's Tennis

Georgia State defeated Bradley 4-1 at home Saturday. The Panthers won four singles matches to get the win.

Track & Field

Georgia State competed in the USF Bulls Invite at the University of South Florida in Tampa, Fla. Freshman thrower LaPorscha Wells finished first in shot put with 45-10.75.

Sun Belt Standings

STANDING

1st
2nd
3rd
4th
5th
6th
7th
8th
9th
10th

BASEBALL

UL Lafayette
5-0 | Overall: 21-2



Texas State
4-1 | Overall: 14-8



Arkansas State
4-1 | Overall: 12-10



South Alabama
3-1 | Overall: 12-9



WKU
3-2 | Overall: 13-10



Troy
2-2 | Overall: 13-10



Georgia State
1-4 | Overall: 10-13



UT Arlington
1-4 | Overall: 8-15



UL Monroe
1-4 | Overall: 8-16



UALR
0-5 | Overall: 10-10



SOFTBALL

South Alabama
2-0 | Overall: 24-3



Texas State
2-1 | Overall: 18-14



UL Monroe
1-2 | Overall: 14-9



UL Lafayette
0-0 | Overall: 17-6-1



WKU
0-0 | Overall: 16-8-1



Georgia State
0-0 | Overall: 12-12



Troy
0-0 | Overall: 14-15-2



UT Arlington
0-2 | Overall: 14-17







What's Happening

March-April 2014

Supported by Student Activity Fees

To request disability accommodations at this event, please contact the University Events Management at 404-413-1377 or events@gsu.edu. Please provide your name, event name, date and sponsor when making your request.



Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

MARCH 24

Ron Hunter (Men's Basketball) Radio Show
12-1 p.m.
Live from Courtyard Stage, Student Center

Student Media Leadership Applications Available
See details below.

Courtyard Music Series: Brandon Stiles - Rock
12-1 p.m.
Courtyard Stage Student Center

Open Mic Night
7-10 p.m.
Dahlberg Hall
See details below.

25

26

Slam Art!
7 p.m.
Courtyard Stage Student Center
See details below.

27

Atlanta Hawks Ticket Drawing
4 p.m.
Student Center Information Desk
See details below.

CALLING ARTISTS!

Campus Events will host April's Gallery Lounge exhibit with the theme of Your Personal Interpretation of a Hero. For information on exhibiting, pick up an application in 370 Student Center or email cecourtyard@gmail.com. Please return applications as soon as possible!

2

The Distinguished Speaker Series: Michele Norris
3 p.m.
Student Center Ballroom
See details below.

3

Congratulations to the 2014-15 Spotlight Programs Board!

All new appointees will begin in the positions this May.

President

Chauncey Walker

Vice President

Katie Bauser

Daytime Programs Director

DeLamoore Downie

Film Director

Shannon Brown

Live Entertainment Co-Directors

Olufemi BabOke

Ashley Dixon

Marketing Co-Directors

Eric Jones

Symeria Palmer

Membership Director

Avien Gober

Panther Prowl Co-Directors

Adonis Hill

Sophia Philemond

Special Events Director

Roldine Pierre

Traditions Co-Directors

Eugene Butler

Christina Collier

31

APRIL 1

Courtyard Music Series: Qriocity
12-1 p.m.
Courtyard Stage Student Center

4

PantherPalooza Spring Concert
7 p.m.
(Doors open at 5:30 p.m.)
GSU Sports Arena
See details below.

5

For event details, visit our websites:

Campus Events
studentevents.gsu.edu

Cinefest Film Theater
spotlight.gsu.edu/cinefest

Spotlight Programs Board
spotlight.gsu.edu

Student Government Association
sga.gsu.edu

Student Media
studentmedia.gsu.edu

Student+University Center
studentcenter.gsu.edu

Cinefest Film Theater

FREE for GSU students, faculty & staff with ID.

Guests \$3 before 5 p.m. & \$5 at 5 p.m. & after.

Inside Llewyn Davis, March 24-30

M-F: 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m., 9 p.m. (No 7 p.m. or 9 p.m. showing Tu-Th.)
S-S: 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m.

Science on the Screen, March 25-27

The Natural World • Tu: 7 p.m.

The Human Condition • W: 7 p.m.

Our Technological Future • Th: 7 p.m.

Her, March 31-April 6

M-F: 11 a.m., 1:15 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 6 p.m., 8:30 p.m.

S-S: 1 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 6 p.m.



TUESDAY MARCH 25 7-10 p.m. DAHLBERG HALL
Best performance to be featured in GSU Storytellers. Giveaway of two PantherPalooza Tickets.

Interested in holding a position in Student Media?

GSTV, New South, The Signal and Underground are putting their teams together for 2014-15! Applications are due in 360 Student Center by 5:15 p.m., Monday, April 7. For more information, visit studentmedia.gsu.edu or contact the Student Media Advisor at 404-413-1592.

MICHELE NORRIS

THE DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES
2013-2014

3 FREE p.m. THURSDAY, APRIL 3 STUDENT CENTER BALLROOM



Award-winning journalist Michele Norris is the first African-American female host of National Public Radio and a former correspondent for ABC News from 1993 to 2002. Norris has received numerous awards for her work, including an Emmy Award and a Peabody Award for her contributions to ABC's coverage of 9/11. She has also reported for the Washington Post, Chicago Tribune and Los Angeles Times. Her best-selling book, *The Grace of Silence: A Memoir*, was praised as one of the best books of 2010 by *The Christian Science Monitor*.

FOLLOWED BY BOOK SIGNING
studentevents.gsu.edu
404-413-1857 • campusevents@gsu.edu
Facebook and Twitter: [gsucampusevents](https://www.facebook.com/gsucampusevents)

SPOTLIGHT PROGRAMS BOARD, CAMPUS EVENTS AND THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION PRESENT

PANTHER PALOOZA SPRING CONCERT

SATURDAY APRIL 5, 2014 GSU SPORTS ARENA

DOORS OPEN 5:30 p.m. • SHOW STARTS 7 p.m.

GSU STUDENTS W/ID \$15 ADMISSION • FLOOR TICKETS \$20 GUEST ADMISSION GUEST \$25 • FLOOR TICKETS \$30

TICKETS ON SALE NOW AT CAMPUS TICKETS IN THE UNIVERSITY CENTER, MONDAY-FRIDAY, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. GUEST TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED BY A GSU STUDENT AT THE TIME OF STUDENT TICKET PURCHASE.

SLAM ART

Thursday, March 27, 2014 • 7 p.m.

SLAM ART! is a competition hosted by Campus Events for teams of one spoken word poet and one visual artist. Each team will have three to five minutes for the visual artist to draw or paint their best work of art to the words that are flowing through the spoken word poet. The winner will be judged by audience applause so make sure to invite your friends!

PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS:

- Visual artists must bring their own supplies (drawing paper will be provided).
- Poems and artwork may not be offensive.

Submit Applications by 3 p.m., Monday March 24, to Campus Events

370 Student Center, Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m.

Courtyard Stage, Student Center, First Floor

Win 2 Free Tickets to See ATLANTA HAWKS vs. CHICAGO BULLS April 2, 7:30 p.m., Philips Arena

Free drawing to take place Thursday, March 27, at 4 p.m.

Open to Georgia State University students with valid Panther ID. Two entrants will be selected to win two 100-level tickets each. Submit entry at the Information Desk, first floor, Student Center. Winners will be contacted by email and may pick up tickets at the Philips Arena will call window. For more information, call 404-413-1850.

Q&A WITH
JASON BATEMAN
The Signal interviews
Bateman about his
newest film, *Bad
Words*

PAGES 3B

WINNER OF CMF

Meet Jabriel
McIntosh, winner
of the Campus
Movie Festival

PAGE 4B

REVISITING
RESOLUTIONS

See if our staff
members kept
their New Year's
resolutions

PAGE 2B

NEIGHBORHOOD GUIDE PART III EAST ATLANTA VILLAGE

Tucked away in southeast Atlanta lies East Atlanta Village, home to trendy restaurants, unique shops and charming galleries.

PAGE 6B-7B

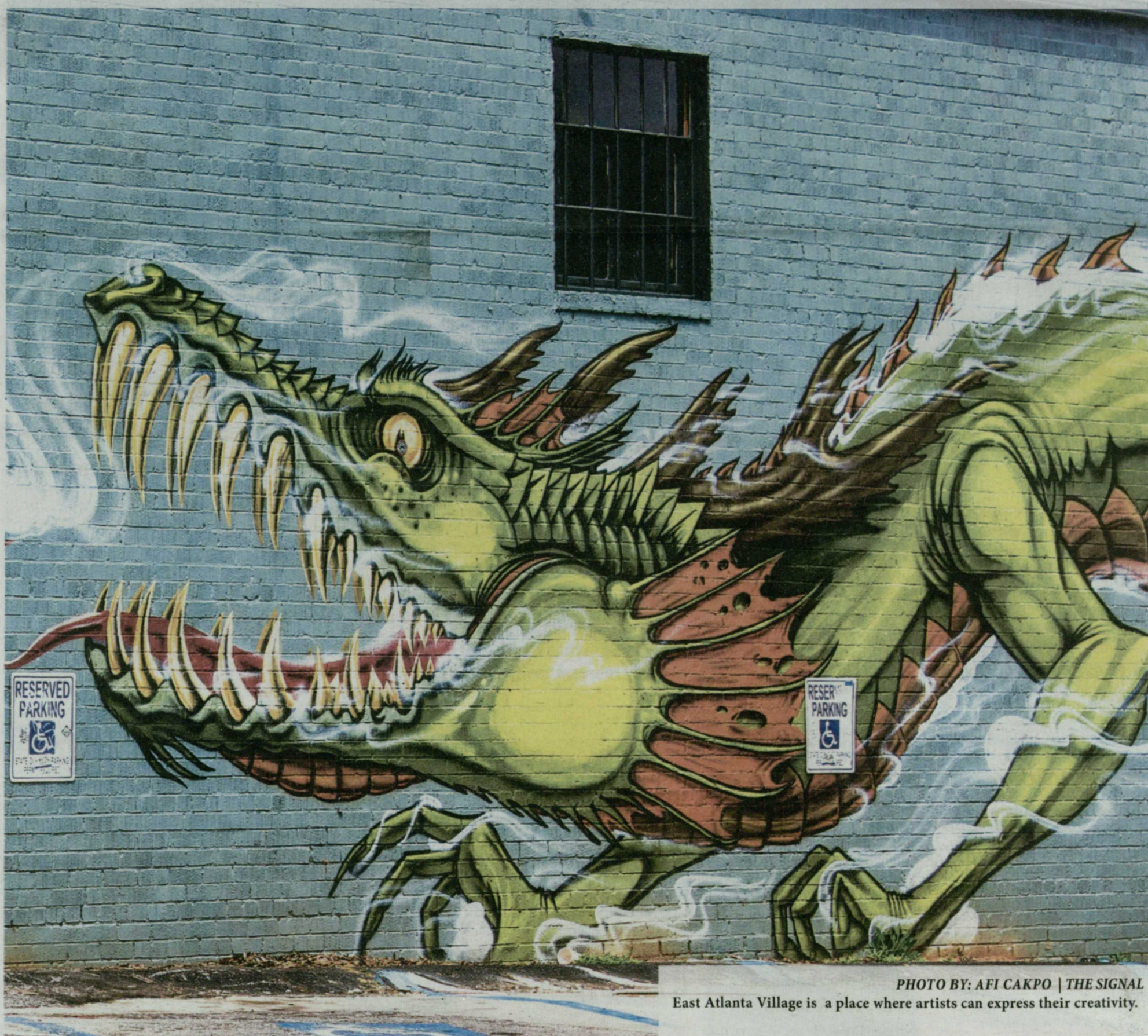


PHOTO BY: AFI CAKPO | THE SIGNAL
East Atlanta Village is a place where artists can express their creativity.

Resolutions Check-in

By: Jewel Wicker, Naja McGowan,
Mahad Mousse and Paul Demeritt

In an effort to humanize The Signal writing staff (and because for one stupid moment, publishing our personal shortcomings seemed like a good idea), four staff writers from

the Arts & Living team published their 2014 resolutions last year. Now we're following up to see how the process is going nearly four months into the year.

Naja McGowan

1. Get a good internship

I'm doing some virtual internship work at the moment, but I'm still working to secure a "good" summer internship.

2. Stop procrastinating

I've consciously put more effort toward not procrastinating this year, but I still fall victim to it occasionally.

3. Stop drinking pop (soda)

I stopped drinking full calorie pop if that counts (it probably doesn't).

4. Blog more

I've done well with this resolution and have been committed to posting more quality material more consistently.

5. Get all aspects of my life more organized

I've taken many steps to get my

life more organized this year. I'm doing a lot better with scheduling and keeping my space organized.

6. Go to a concert at least once every two months

I guess I failed this resolution. I actually would have accomplished it had the Sam Smith concert I got tickets to not been cancelled.

7. Learn to create and actually follow a budget

What's a budget again?

Grade: B-

Mahad Mousse

1. Give soccer a chance, even if it is boring, has low scoring, rules I don't understand and seems to be played mostly by overpaid Europeans who think they're soooo much better than me.

I am now actually aware soccer's both 1) a thing and 2) pretty damn exciting once you get over the low scores. There's something magical to appreciate about a 90 minute game off non stop action with NO DAMN COMMERCIALS.

2. Strive to be less envious of others. Be it of their success, ablates, accomplishments or the fact that they happen to be wealthy European soccer players.

When I penned this way back when I was an sweaty, unemployed college student, relying on dwindling funds and glaring angrily at anyone who could afford reliable cell phone service. Since then I've gotten an average looking cell phone that comes with a free copy of Snake, have been turned down from two jobs and am still bothered by the fact European soccer

players, for the most part, continue to be good looking and overpaid.

3. Be more willing to have non crazy friends. Sure, it may seem weird, and different, but not every friend encounter has to be dominated by discussing what limbs you would be willing to sacrifice first if caught in a death trap.

On the plus side, I've since made more friends. On the downside, I've concluded that pretty much all of them are crazy. But flipping it back to the upside, I can't remember why

I ever thought this was a bad thing.

4. Learn to be more assertive when arguing for pay raises/keeping a job.

Still no job. But it's something I maintained assertively! So, a win then, perhaps?

5. Graduate by [YEAR TO BE DETERMINED]

I'm officially going to graduate in the Spring! All set to get on out of this place. It's been real Georgia State!Oh, that's actually made me a little sad.

6. Give Billy Corgan less of a hard time

Considering Corgan has yet to show any remorse or look less like a shaved Troll, it's only been easier to continue right on giving him a hard time more than ever before. At least last year you had a halfway decent Smashing Pumpkins album to hide behind. Corgan!

Grade: C+

Paul Demeritt

1. Gym six days a week. No exceptions.

Really, no exceptions? For some reason the new year always turns me into a masochist.

2. Get front row at an OutKast concert.

I don't care if I have to endure a third-degree sunburn and wear a diaper to keep my place, I WILL be front row for OutKast's triumphant return at CounterPoint.

3. Meditate twice daily.

I've come to include throwing the frisbee with my dog and staring absent-minded at my

ceiling for hours on end as valid forms of meditation, so I'm just gonna say I have excelled at this goal thus far.

4. Start growing more food in my backyard

After planting an absurd amount of carrots, kale, spinach and lettuce, I can successfully say I managed to harvest about enough for a depressingly small side salad. But I was the divine creator of that side salad so I'm going to call this goal a resounding success.

5. Start writing and recording music instead of just keeping it in my head

So far jamming out to songs

I make up in my head is still the closest I've gotten to playing Carnegie Hall. This goal is in dire need of revival.

6. Try to purchase as much food as possible from local sources

My heart was in this goal but my budget, however, was not. I'm amending this goal to "try to purchase as much as food as possible from local sources when my weekly food budget manages to break into the double digits."

7. Find a job that's actually relevant to my career

If by "job" you mean "unpaid

internship," then I have totally conquered this goal. But if by "job" you mean "work that could feasibly keep me alive," then I have a long, long way to go.

8. Travel somewhere new at least once a month

While my new adventures don't exactly involve the most exotic locales, I have been very faithful in indulging in spontaneous excursions that jive well with my meager adventure budget.

9. Work on an organic farm in some place I've never been to

Hopefully I'll be able to salvage some free time over

the summer to work on a farm somewhere in the Pacific Northwest - "hopefully" being the key word here. This goal is very much in progress.

10. Never take anything too seriously

I should probably just exclude this goal from any future resolutions because I'm way too adept at not taking things seriously to actually refer to it as a "goal." It's more of a perpetual state of immaturity.

Grade: B-

Jewel Wicker

1. Exercise regularly

I've done a pretty good job of exercising, although with the weather changing, I would like to get outside more. I also want to try a few classes at the Rec.

2. Cook more

I set a goal to bring my lunch to school more often, which means I have been cooking pretty regularly. I haven't been able

to try as many new recipes as I would like, though.

3. Take breaks when necessary

I must admit I have been less anal about sticking to my to-do list. Although, this usually just makes my next day more stressful.

4. Volunteer (more specifically, oversee a Relay for Life team)

I'm working on it.

5. Attend at least one music festival (preferably Coachella, because of Outkast)

I'm not going to Coachella, because I'm not made of money, but I do hope to see the duo at a festival a little closer to home. CounterPoint, here I come!

6. Become a published

music journalist

In an effort to remain optimistic about this goal, I'll just say it hasn't happened, YET. It's on my vision board, though, so it will definitely happen by December. Hopefully sooner.

7. Manage anxiety/stress

sigh

8. Keep a daily journal

I keep a weekly(ish) journal. It's a start.

9. Have fun

The crazy thing about my senior year so far is it has been both fun and exhausting all at the same time.

10. Meditate regularly

I've gotten much better with meditating, although I need to learn to set time aside more regularly.

Grade: B+

Q&A with Jason Bateman

Jason Bateman answers questions about his newest film, "Bad Words"

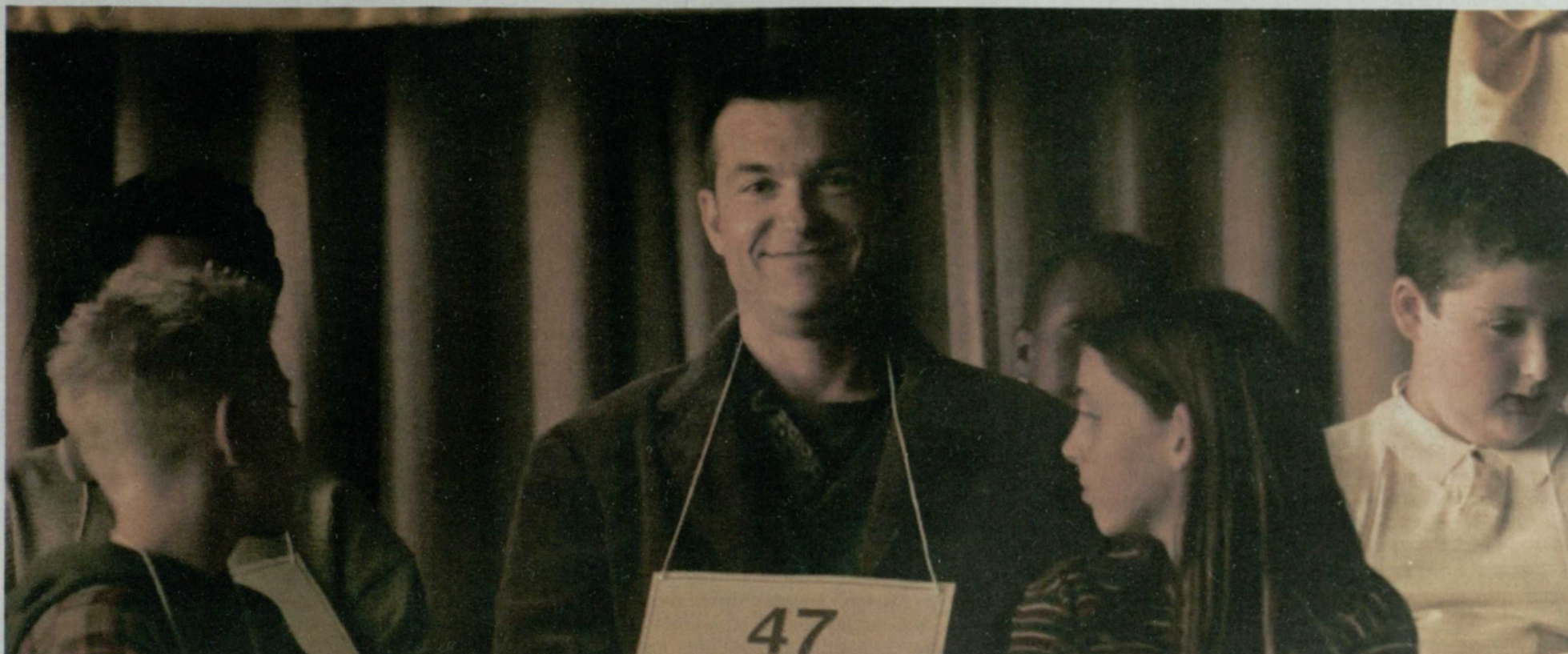


PHOTO CREDIT: [HTTP://WWW.HIGHSNOBIETY.COM](http://www.highsnobiety.com)

ALEX KUGACZEWSKI
Staff Reporter

Question: What convinced you to both act and direct in this project, *Bad Words*?

Bateman: It was just the first time I had to do it, and that the community would let me and give me money for a movie. I'd basically been acting mostly for the last 15 to 20 years with the goal in mind to create enough capital, enough relevance, enough of a profile in the business as an actor to ask for the directing reins.

Things have been going well for the past few years, so they let me, specifically, direct this script. I have the same dark sense of humor, fortunately or unfortunately. It just really made me laugh, but I also knew that with the dark humor in the script came the obligation to counter-balance that with something a little bit more sophisticated and more human.

You've got to earn those big, uncomfortable comedic moments for people. Otherwise it feels gratuitous or arbitrary. It asked me to do a lot as an actor and a filmmaker to strike that balance.

Question: Did you and your editors try to keep the film more PG-13 and less R for the kids on the set?

Bateman: No, not really. This movie is a hard R. We didn't surprise anyone on the set. Everybody gets the script before they decide they want to come in and audition for the movie. It's their own choice.

There are things that I would not want to expose a kid to because of my own personal philosophies and tolerances with x, y and z. The stuff in this movie...while it's eyebrow-raising at times...I have a bit of a violence issue. I think it's tough for kids to see violence done as well as Hollywood can do it. We can make it really convincing that a guy's head gets blown off his body, and a lot of kids go and see those movies. I don't know if kids can process mortality. But saying a dirty word here and there or looking at a woman's breasts? Come on. People are sunbathing without tops on in Europe, and that continent isn't pumping out a bunch of adolescent murderers left and right. There's a bit of a prudeness in this country at times.

Question: Was it hard to keep a straight face with a cast of such comedic talent?

Bateman: Yeah, it was very tough. Kathryn Hahn and I are really good friends, so it was kind of hard to hump away on your friend. There was a lot of nervous laughter there.

Question: Your character projects a tough-guy exterior, but seems to have a soft interior. Did you ever change the dialogue to fit these different sides of his character?

Bateman: There were times when we were acting the scene, and it felt like it was a so sweet that I could go a little bit harder, or it was a little too hard so I could go a bit sweeter. You just kind of feel that. After we cut it all together you see all these scenes back to back, and there's a rhythm to it.

Maybe you didn't realize it when you were shooting it or reading the script, but maybe this whole section feels a little too caustic. You're always trying to keep an eye on it. I didn't want this film to feel gratuitous and unsupported by emotion and the hurt that this character is going through.

Question: Did your vision for the character of Guy change when you decided to take on the role yourself?

Bateman: Not really, no. I was adequately confident that I could make him likable enough only because I've been playing the straight man for a long time. So I've got some tricks up my sleeve about how to look vulnerable, doubtful and nervous. I knew you'd need to see some exposure of his core to make his prickliness palatable.

Question: You said you usually play a good guy, sweet character. Was it difficult for you to switch gears to play such jerk?

Bateman: I know how to be jerk. We all have this guy in us. You hope that you can keep this person under wraps and you're not provoked to be like that. I understand a level of frustration and petulance that brings about your worst side.

I know what that is. I know what it's like to be taxed and not to be your best. That's just the part I had to get into before we shot each scene, and that's the way I play all my characters. I just find that part of me and open it up.

Question: Is directing something you plan to continue to do in the future?

Bateman: I would direct full time if they would have me. It's something that asks me to use everything I've soaked up in so many years of being an actor and to do everything that makes me really excited about what movies are, which is an experience for the audience. I'd love to do directing full time or, probably more realistically, what would happen if I could rub a genie bottle and get my wish, it would probably something like what Ben Stiller, George Clooney and Ben Affleck do in that they split their time between the two and do both at the same time.

Question: What films influenced *Bad Words* in terms of comedy and style?

Bateman: I'm a big fan of Paul Thomas Anderson Spike Jonze, David O. Russell, The Cohen Brothers and Alexander Payne. All of these guys have a muted sense of humor. Their films usually have an aesthetic that fits a subculture or a fringe society where people are a little more eccentric but are still believable - there's no winking going on.

They're dealing with pretty challenging, absurd situations where the stakes are very high. There's usually not a lot of jokes in those movies. It's just the cocktail between the eccentric people and absurd situation, and it's a drama to everybody inside the movie.

Question: Did being a child actor before help you when casting for this film with Rohan Chand?

Bateman: Being a kid actor myself, I kind of remember what I felt like when I was giving my best performance, which was basically playing a character that's close to me - somebody you don't have to reach too far to be. In this case it was vital that this character be super sunny, have no judgment and sort of counterbalance the cynicism of my character. This kid is the greatest kid you could ever meet. He was so sweet and so smart and non-judgmental and happy to be there. That was a pretty easy decision to make.

From Campus Movie Fest to Cannes

KAYLYN HINZ

Associate Arts & Living Editor

It starts with a song. This is how Georgia State senior Jabriel McIntosh began his film, "Music Therapy," which won best drama at the Campus Movie Fest.

Once the song was composed, it was then matched with the scenes in the short film. For McIntosh, the EDM version of Rhianna's song "Stay" was his inspiration. In the film, the song featured was Bosa Mix composed by Ink and Vonte Vendetta.

"It was like uplifting, but at the same time sad. I kept listening to the song saying dang, I like this."

The five-minute short film is based off of people's lives. It shows how some of these people are struggling, but once music comes into play, everything changes.

The idea came to McIntosh very simply.

"I just realized music really affected everyone around me."

Each person featured in the film has a story that relates to the arts. For instance, the break-dancer character wanted to be a doctor, but instead he chose his passion—dancing. The skateboarder could not get on the same level as his parents, so he now lives on his own.

Through music, their problems

are not resolved, but it helps all of the people featured in the film through their struggles—it's "music therapy." The film also took place on Broad Street around Tin Drum and Moe's.

This was not McIntosh's first year winning something. Last year, he worked with his brother on the film "Seven" and won best director, best editor, and best actor. They were then sent to Hollywood for the first time.

The short-film was such a success that it was featured at the Cannes Film Festival in France. They knew they would not be able to make it because of the expenses, but they were still proud nonetheless.

Since the movie fest had a set schedule, McIntosh did not postpone filming because of the "snow-pocalypse." But it did cause some issues in terms of production for Music Therapy, such as actors that needed to be replaced.

The longer the film was postponed, the trickier things became.

"The more you shoot, the more terrible things happen. People cancel. If you can just get people for two days straight, then you can just knock it out," McIntosh said.

"Music Therapy" took two days to shoot, with over 35 people helping with production and three to four days to edit.

McIntosh's love for film began when his brother overbooked two

videos. Not able to do both, McIntosh took over one video and it all started from there.

"Last year when we did it, my brother convinced me. [I was thinking] man, I'm not a filmmaker, I can't do this," McIntosh said.

But after working for several different companies that pay minimum wage, McIntosh decided he did not want to work for anyone.

"Just knowing whatever you get paid, it just drove me crazy," McIntosh said.

"I need to make my own path."

Film is not McIntosh's major, but considering the credits he already had, he did not want to change his major from marketing.

Today, he and his two brothers, Shakil McIntosh and Javier McIntosh, own and operate McIntosh Productions. They film and photograph weddings, commercials, short films and celebrities such as Kid Cudi, Gladdis Knight and Steve Harvey.

McIntosh explained that he grew up doing anything he set his mind too. He gives his parents credit for allowing him to use and show off his creativity.

"My dream is to direct a film, but I want to mix up the fashion with it," McIntosh said of his future plans.

"I want to inspire people and let them know they can do anything in life."



PHOTO BY: RAVEN SCHLEY | THE SIGNAL

Georgia State immigrant students speak on reform

NAJA MCGOWAN

Staff Reporter

Who gets in? On what terms? Who gets to decide? Most immigration reform debates can be reduced to these three questions. Though the questions are simple finding a solution has proven to be as complex and multifaceted as the population that immigration policy affects. The answers could effect the price of tuition and even admission into Georgia State for many immigrant and international students.

That is why the department of economics, the Jean Beer Blumenfeld Center for Ethics, and the department of philosophy chose the topic of immigration for their latest symposium.

"Getting people to talk about how significantly this issue is in shaping social policy will help to understand what we can contribute to the conversation about ethics and public policy in immigration," Andrew I. Cohen associate professor of philosophy at Georgia State said.

The Immigrant symposium held on March 11th brought distinguished scholars of economy, ethics and philosophy to have an honest discussion with the community and students about immigrant policy and the possible implications of reform.

Senior Manonh Soumahorro is one of the many students at Georgia State who has personal ties to the immigration debate. A double major in spanish and political science Soumahorro immigrated to America 11 years from Abidjan, a city in Africa's Ivory Coast.

"I think when people think of immigration right now they only think about the U.S. and Mexico but immigration is much broader than that. The scope on the conversation needs to be widen broadened to include all countries," Soumahorro said.

Soumahorro fled her country to escape impending civil war and her past has given her passion for immigration reform and the rights of refugees.

"Being an immigrant student gives me a broader perspective. I'm always thinking about the international viewpoint and it gives me some background to go from when I think about the issue," Soumahorro said.

Similar to Soumahorro, senior political science major Selomie Debesai Yakob fled from her country in the eve of war. Originally from Eritrea, Yakob came to United States at nine escaping a border war between Ethiopia and Eritrea. Yakob and Soumahorro past and current state as naturalized citizens gives them a unique dual perspective when it comes to immigration.

"As an immigrant I see people



PHOTO BY ANTHONY SIMMONS | THE SIGNAL

Manonh Soumahorro is from a city in Africa's Ivory Coast named Abidjan. She says that being an immigrant student gives her a broader prospective and she is always thinking about the "international viewpoint."

that come illegally, but not just because they want to, but because of the things happening in their country. From the other side I do understand that they are breaking the law," Yakob said.

"I see the argument but I feel when you restrict the amount of people coming through you put a block on the diversity and contributions made by immigrants. I just think that their needs to be an open dialogue between both sides."

According to Soumahorro, the real issue with the immigration debate lies in politics.

"The biggest problem with immigration is that partisanship clouds the conversation. If people would look at the facts instead of basing decisions off of rhetoric and the sound bites that they hear on television it would allow them a different perspective to discuss this issue," Soumahorro explained.

Soumahorro is currently working in government as a senate aide to majority caucus leader senator Butch Miller. She also, along with Yakob, founded an immigrant assistance organization here at Georgia State.

"Me and Monah used to volunteer at a Somali organization tutoring immigrant and refugee kids and we started talking about providing a service for immigrants or refugees to make it easier for them to find necessities."

Immigrant Outreach Services was the product of those conversations. The goal of the group is to serve as a middle-man between new immigrant families and existing establishments.

"What we try to do with our organization is to get people people involved who don't know much about immigrants and show them what it feels like and what immigrant go through on a daily basis," Yakob said.

"One of my hopes for Immigrant Outreach services is to have a discussion between the student who are immigrants and students who are not immigrants to talk about the stereotypes, perceptions, misinformation and the myths about immigration," Soumahorro added.

The state of Georgia's immigration policies has been evolving over the past few years and not always in a linear pattern. The problem seems to lie in the ability of both sides to be empathic to one another. Including more students like Soumahorro and Yakob who have experience as both immigrants and U.S. citizens can be the key to fair and long lasting immigration reform.

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Moreland Ave SE

Neighborhood Guide: East Atlanta Village

BY: SAMANTHA REARDON, JEWEL WICKER AND JOHNNY GIPSON

East Atlanta Village is a community with a chip on its shoulder. Its gritty streets and single gear bicycle riders give it a recalcitrant charm comparable to

none. For Part III of the Neighborhood Guide series, we highlight a tight knit community of entrepreneurs and artists not-so-quietly tucked behind Moreland avenue.

Glenwood Ave SE

Flat Shoals Ave SE



PHOTO BY: TAYLOR BUSH | THE SIGNAL



PHOTO BY: TAYLOR BUSH | THE SIGNAL

THE GRAVEYARD TAVERN

Graveyard Tavern is arguably the most well-known attraction in EAV. Boasting a wide array of nightly events for every demographic, Graveyard is impossible to miss while passing through, both literally and figuratively.

If the eerie black hearse guarding its front doors isn't intriguing enough, its unique interior set-up surely is. Situated as a restaurant with a full bar, couches and dance-floor, Graveyard blends every entity of nightlife into one.

"Everything we do is for the village," manager Drew Gillespie said. "We take pride in being an above average service bar."

Live music is taken very seriously at the Graveyard, with events nearly every night featuring premiere DJs and bands from Atlanta's music scene.

And offering five dollar pitchers, flavorful wings and handmade burgers, it almost feels wrong not to eat while there.

Go for: Unorthodox music mixes, cheap wings and an environment that can scratch that itch to party.



PHOTO BY: TAYLOR BUSH | THE SIGNAL

THE T-SHIRT LADY

Since moving to EAV from Jonesboro two years ago, the community has received The T-Shirt Lady well because she has something to offer everyone.

"[My customers are] real diverse. All kind of people. You have the young kids that just come in, you have the soccer moms that come, you have the people from family reunions, you have...rappers, artists."

The owner, who prefers to be called T-Shirt Lady, has been designing shirts for a decade.

She said she enjoys the community in EAV more than the Jonesboro community because it encourages the growth of local businesses.

"Where my shop used to be they didn't care. They're more involved in keeping the businesses here. Especially if it's a product that they want."

The T-Shirt Lady is a healthy blend of creating designs for customers and implementing the ideas they bring into her store.

Go for: Bringing custom t-shirt designs to life.



PHOTO BY: RAVEN SCHLEY | THE SIGNAL



PHOTO BY: RAVEN SCHLEY | THE SIGNAL

FLUFF AND EM FLORIST

James Morgan Jr., owner of 'Fluff and Em Florist', believes since "people thrive on the village lifestyle," he's been able to remain one of the cornerstone shops in EAV after 16 years of business.

"My mother showed me the power of flowers," Morgan said. "I would bring her dandelions and small flowers, and it always softened whatever struggles we were facing at the time."

Originally working out of his basement, Morgan expanded his business to EAV because he loved the tight knit community and saw great potential in the area. A current resident, Morgan says he can see the evolution right before his eyes.

"When we first came here, ...it was an area in transition with no stability. ...but we decided that nothing would overcome our dream."

Go for: Wide array of flowers and plants, antiques, peace letters and interesting abstract wall art.



PHOTO CREDIT: HODGEPODGECOFFEE/BLOG

HODGEPODGE COFFEE HOUSE

Lynne Tanzer co-owns and operates Hodgepodge Coffeehouse and Gallery, which is housed in a 70-year-old historical building just a few blocks away from the bustling EAV neighborhood.

And though Tanzer said that their space was more affordable than those in EAV or LSP, Hodgepodge makes it a goal to invest in local goods. Hodgepodge recently began incorporating pastries, cupcakes and sandwiches into their menu.

"We really wanted to make sure that we were... making everything here so that it was as fresh as it could possibly be."

Hodgepodge is also a haven for handmade local goods, which are situated throughout the space. Collections of paintings hang in the gallery and jewelry and candles stock the bistro, among others.

"We've got a little bit of a reputation as somewhere where you can get local and handmade."

Go for: Atlanta Zine Library open mic and monthly art shows, wake-you-from-the-dead espresso and conversation with local, creative-minded people.

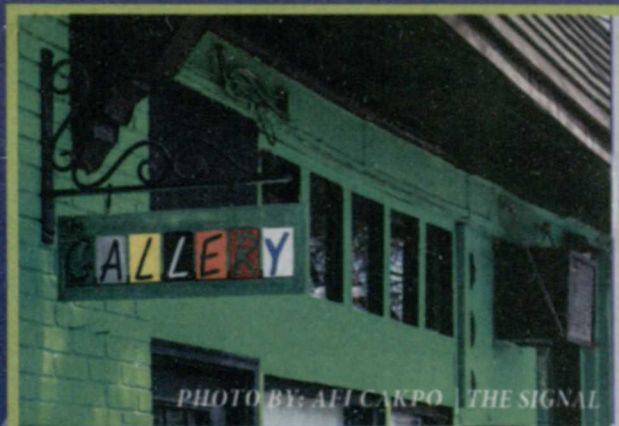


PHOTO BY: AFLAKPO | THE SIGNAL



PHOTO BY: RAVEN SCHLEY | THE SIGNAL

THE GALLERY EAV

T-Shirt Lady loved the EAV community so much that she decided to open a nonprofit art gallery right next door to The T-Shirt Lady last August.

Colorful paintings and brown masks from various artists line the brick walls in The Gallery EAV where art exhibits, community and private events are held.

"I decided to open up a gallery so that people could express themselves in different art forms. But not just art like on the wall. I mean rappers and musicians, dancers, anything that revolves around art."

The Gallery runs off of donations from visitors and a percentage of the art that is sold during exhibits.

"Even if they put a dollar in, [it's] the fact that they even gave and they know that this place exists and the artists are able to express themselves," she said.

Go for: Local art and performances, community fellowship and a place to host private events.

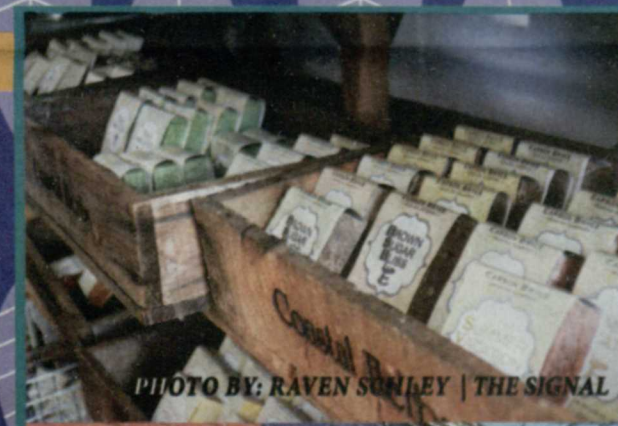


PHOTO BY: RAVEN SCHLEY | THE SIGNAL

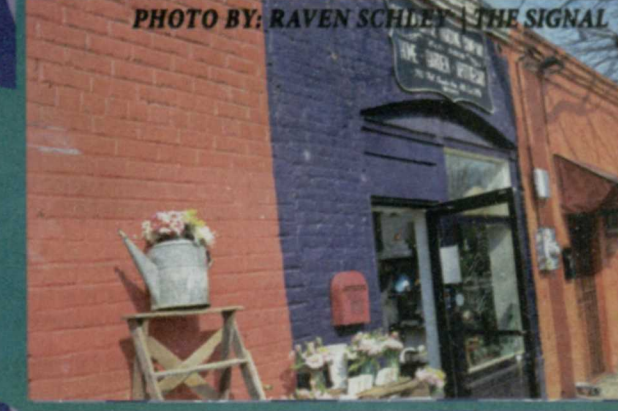


PHOTO BY: RAVEN SCHLEY | THE SIGNAL

CARSON BRYCE TRADING COMPANY

Carson Bryce Trading Company owner Carla Foster said her desire for true happiness and freedom from corporate strain inspired her to open up her eclectic apothecary store.

"I always wanted a mom and pop shop with treasures. I got tired of working in corporate America, so I started to develop a bit of a following through festivals."

Foster explained her products as a mix between bath and body goods and antique objects. She takes pride in having "one of a kind" objects, and creates natural home goods like body butter and organic soap while also selling women's clothes and home décor.

"I really like making a unique display. I like the way my shop matches the diverse environment that it's situated in. I just love the whole area, there's such a sense of community."

Go for: Bath and body goods, antiques, natural products.

ALBUM REVIEW

311: "Stereolithic"

Release Date: Mar. 11, 2014**Grade:** D+**Verdict:** In the space that exists between huffing white paint and beige paint, there is StereolithicMAHAD MOUSSE
Staff Reviewer

No, you didn't misread that. 311 is still a band and is still making music. 311, like most ridiculously dated phenomenon of the 90s, seems like the kind of band you'd have to constantly remind yourself that at one point wasn't just this vague idea of all things alt-metal, reggae-lite, bro and 90s.

There may have even been people who critically listened to said 90s records, praising them and wondering where these exciting lads could go next. Well, the mighty status quo wasn't having it. Since their 1990 debut, 311 has made exactly one record of all original material. And they were content to churn out the same remixing of that same formula until they were blue in their bro faces.

I am telling you absolutely nothing new by saying Stereolithic sounds EXACTLY how

you'd expect it to. I repeat: NOTHING NEW. Let's face it, you've long since made up your mind on whether or not you want in on what they are selling.

But this IS the first album they've independently put out since 1991's sophomore album "Unity." And it did receive some praises then for what at the time was a pretty innovative sound, blending crunchy quasi-metal riffs with reggae bass lines, funky drumming and dual vocals.

Since ditching Bob Rock and the big studio format, the argument could be made that 311 is done churning out the same inoffensive, syrupy feel-good vibes for radio-play. But it would be a poor argument, because, frankly, 311 didn't NEED a pop music hack like Bob Rock to make them inoffensive.

Stereolithic hints at something dark and -dare I say--aggressive with its heavy opening "Ebb and Flow." The lyrics suggest 311 are at their decidedly most un-chill, lashing out at their old record labels for jerking them around (or, perhaps, if they were more honest, about their record labels failing to get them any significant radio play since 2008).

It's a bit formulaic and predictable, but at least the 'tude is new. But it's not something that lasts long enough; "Five Of Everything" kicks off the rest of the album by retreading all their old staples: funky grooves married with metal riffs and the radically optimistic croon of Nick Hexum.



If there is something positive to say, it's that 311, as formulaic as they've long since become, still sound as into their brand of bro-tastic tunes as ever. For an independent release, the sound quality doesn't take any noticeable dips. And if you're a person who hates having to hit the skip button to get to the one song you like, you're in luck! You could spin the wheel of positive, reggae-lite tunes and find one that suits your preference because they are all THE EXACT SAME SONG.

Stereolithic is neither a bad album (unless the idea of 311 repels you) nor is it a good one (unless the idea of 311 enraptures you). In the space that exists between huffing white paint and beige paint, there is Stereolithic.

88.5 APPROVED

- 1 PERTH
What's Your Utopia
- 2 V/A-THE JOURNEY
V/A- The Journey
- 3 BLACK MILK
Glitches In The Break EP
- 4 FENSTER
The Pink Caves
- 5 WHEN 5 AM
HYSE EP
- 6 NEW ELECTRIC RIDE
Balloon Age
- 7 TRUST
Joyland
- 8 REAL ESTATE
Atlas
- 9 TEMPLES
Sun Structures
- 10 MAJESTICO
When Kingdom Come

MOVIE REVIEW

The Single Mom's Club

Rating: PG-13**Running time:** 111 mins.**Grade:** C+**Verdict:** Get a babysitter and go see this film.PEDRO ALVARADO
Staff Reviewer

"The Single Mom's Club" chronicles a few weeks in the lives of a group of disparate single mothers who are thrown together to plan a school dance as a punishment for their kids' behavior at an elite private school. The group of moms is made up of a corporate executive who's declining in favor, two stay-at-home moms whose ex-husbands hold the purse strings, a newspaper columnist and a Waffle House waitress. This motley crew of characters is the mine from which comedy gold should be extracted in abundance.

Unfortunately, because of extremely poor editing, the pace of the movie absolutely destroys any semblance of comedic timing. Huge gaps in the dialog abound. These gaps are the equivalent of watching a TV news anchor toss a story to a correspondent live in the field and there's the multi-second delay before the field reporter actually hears and responds to the anchor. This happened so frequently that it became painful to watch.

In addition to the horrendous editing, the acting was mediocre at best. It would have been great acting for a stage play, but on-screen it was way over the top. This is most likely because Tyler Perry, writer and director, comes from a theater background where actor movement and

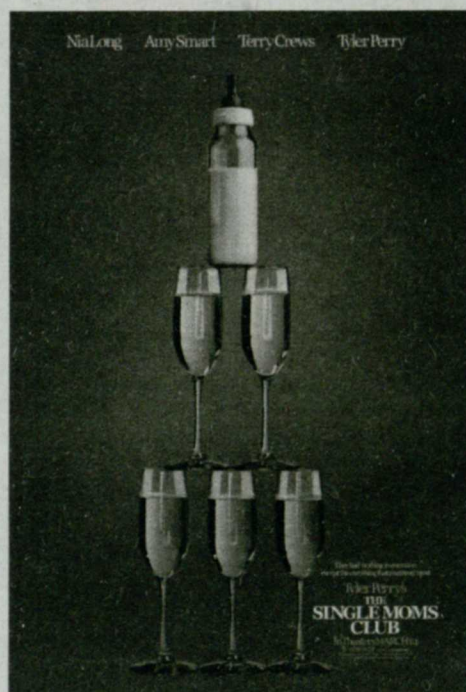
expression must be big in order to be seen and heard. Nevertheless, each of the actors in the film had moments where it was obvious that the acting choices they made were their own; these moments were just few and far between.

All of the acting wasn't bad, though. Terry Crews, who played Branson, was an absolute breath of fresh air. Crews is an extremely funny actor and in this picture he shows another level of comedic ability. Likewise, Cocoa Brown, who played Lytia, was a stand-out; particularly in her scenes with Crews.

The other standout performance was delivered by the man himself, Tyler Perry. As hilarious as his stock characters Madea and Uncle Joe are, it was awesome to see him doing something different. And guess what? He's just as funny wearing jeans as he is wearing a dress! Tyler's unique comedic style is what makes him such a hysterical actor, but is also his downfall as a comedy director. Tyler Perry the director appears to direct his actors to deliver their lines the way Tyler Perry the actor would. In so doing, he forces his actors to act the way he does and it just looks awkward.

All of that being said, the true heart and soul of any Tyler Perry film is the story. "The Single Mom's Club," despite its problems, tells a phenomenal story and shows a lot of the reality

of the day-to-day life of single mothers. This film is definitely worth watching. Just go to a matinee and save a few bucks.

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INSIDE LLEWYN DAVIS:
BALADA DE
UN HOMBRE COMUN

Synopsis: Follow a week in the life of a young folk singer as he navigates the Greenwich Village folk scene of 1961. Guitar in tow, huddled against the unforgiving New York winter, he is struggling to make it as a musician against seemingly insurmountable obstacles -- some of them of his own making.

Showtimes:
Weekdays: 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.
Weekend: 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Rated: R**Running Time:** 104 minutes

STUDY ABROAD COLUMN

SGA elections are more important than you think



CALEB ROBERTSON
Columnist

Caleb Robertson is an English major at Georgia State. His golf cart's name is Roxanne. Caleb spends his free time rock climbing and playing video games and is a strong supporter of Batman's war on crime. He is currently studying abroad at Mainz University in Mainz, Germany.

Follow him
@CJRRobertson10

When was the last time you voted in a student government election?

I got the chance this past week to sit down with Sarah König—psychology, linguistics and philosophy student and head of ecology at AStA—to discuss AStA and other forms of student representation on campus.

AStA (Allgemeiner Studierendenausschuss or "General Students' Committee") consists of students appointed

by members of the student parliament who are elected directly by the student body.

What struck me most about Sarah as she described AStA was how much she genuinely cared about the services they were providing to the students, even if there is little interest from the student body in on-campus politics (only 12 percent of students actually vote for student parliament). I could sense the pride in her voice as she talked about with what AStA was involved.

One of the best parts about living in Mainz is how easy it is to get around using public transportation. Every student at the University receives a semester ticket which allows for free travel on nearly all public transit systems within a one hundred-kilometer radius of the University.

I assumed this semester ticket was a function of the University, but this past week I learned it was actually one of the many benefits of being a part of a student body represented by AStA.

Student self-government is mandatory in most German states under University laws; it's a byproduct of post-WWII support for democratic efforts. Students are represented at the University of Mainz by AStA, student parliament, the students holding office with the University senate and the student representatives elected for each department of the University.

Along with providing the semester ticket by negotiating with the Deutsches Bahn (German public transit authority), AStA provides financial assistance to students in need, gives funding and publicity to other student organizations, hosts lectures on topics ranging from ecology to egalitarianism and a whole host of other valuable services delivered directly to the students.

Sarah said if she could change one thing at University of Mainz it would be to increase student involvement in student government.

"It's important to participate and involved," she said.

Cast your vote in your next SGA election at Georgia State. These elections, though seemingly unimportant, directly affect all students on campus and your future SGA representatives make crucial decisions on your behalf.

MUSIC COLUMN

Daniel Johnston and the search for sincerity



PAUL DEMERRITT
Columnist

Paul DeMerritt is a freelance journalist and musician with extensive experience reporting on the music and culture of Atlanta and the globe.

Follow him
@PaulDeMerritt

Before me, an aging legend loses all grip on reality. His hands shake, his sheet music flies off the stand, his entire body aches to fly out of his skin. Yet, amidst the complete breakdown of his sanity, thousands of people cheer in glee.

Due to the over-saturation of talent made possible by the Internet, sincerity in music has become a rare commodity. Music fans yearn to find the performer who bares their soul without shame or irony. Treating artists as brands and commodities has made audiences hyper-critical of the genuine intentions of performers.

In this perpetual quest for the earnest musician, mental illness can become the new ideal: the standard of sincerity. I never realized the repugnance of this ideal more than when I saw legendary singer/songwriter Daniel Johnston perform live.

Johnston embodies the ultimate ethos of the sincere performer: He grew up never dreaming of the stage, crooning to no one but an out-of-tune acoustic guitar and a tape recorder.

His tapes were slowly passed around Austin, Texas, becoming an unspoken test of indie-cred in the pre-internet age. He became known as the unofficial figurehead of the "New Sincerity" movement, a term used to describe mid-80s artists who scorned the ironic ideology of punk rock.

Kurt Cobain was even seen wearing a shirt adorned with one of Johnston's lovingly twisted doodles, propelling his fame to new heights overnight. Despite the fact that Johnson was committed in a mental hospital at the time, labels immediately started a bidding war, hoping to turn him

into a Grunge cash cow.

Johnston almost signed a deal with Elektra records, but refused because he believed labelmates Metallica were possessed by the devil. Atlantic signed him, only to drop him a year later after his album "Fun" became a commercial failure. Yet his lo-fi notoriety only increased over the years as artists from The Flaming Lips to Beck covered his songs.

However, his success was bolstered in part due to his severe schizophrenia and manic depression. The consequences of his disorders ranged from unwieldy performances to throwing a pilot's key out of the window because he believed him to be Casper the Ghost.

Now, as Johnston took the stage to a crowd of thousands, sincerity turned ugly. He struggled to give the audience what they wanted. His performance quickly became a bastardization of his greatest hits.

Had any other artist performed so terribly, half the audience would leave and the other half would stay to let out drunken bouts of half-hearted applause. Yet it quickly becomes apparent that this is not a performance, but a crude sideshow act.

The audience's cheer seemed to only grow with Johnston's increasing anxiety. His nervous breakdown reached a climax as he ended his signature song "True Love Will Find You In The End," halfway through, immediately dashing off the stage after only playing for half-an-hour.

As the audience roared with his sudden departure, I can't help but feel dirty. If this is what sincerity looks like, I want no part of it.

SEX COLUMN

Unexpected Dates



RACHEL KINGSLEY
Columnist

Rachel believes even though society has become more open about sex, it's still a highly taboo subject. To become more open and accepting, she believes we need to start with education. Rachel shares her experiences.

Follow her
@rachelkingsley

Whether you're looking for an exciting first date or to spice up a long-term relationship, think outside the box for unexpected dates. The best dates I've been on were not the usual dinner and a movie dates, but rather dates that had been planned out but were completely out of the ordinary. I was impressed that my date had taken the time to plan an outing (really, who does that anymore?) and that his plans were a reflection of what he wanted for the date—a fun, original, memorable experience.

One of my favorite dates was when I went to a shooting range with my date. Neither one of us had ever been to a shooting range before, so we were both a little nervous and a whole lot of excited. We had a blast figuring out the gun we were going to shoot with and picking out our targets. We took turns shooting and when we were done we compared our shots—the best shooter was treated to dinner. Dinner wasn't the usual Red Lobster, either. We went and tried Ethiopian, another first for the both of us. We struggled to pronounce the words on the menu and laughed at our blunders. We ordered different foods and shared, and we found that we really enjoyed the food—and each other.

I'm a sucker for animals. I'm one of those people who posts funny cat videos all over Facebook. So when a date took me to the Georgia Aquarium, I was stoked. In the years I had lived in Georgia, I had never gotten the opportunity to go. My date held my hand when we felt the stingrays and little sharks and didn't let go until we left. We went to all of the exhibits and even saw Dolphin Tales, which was geared towards kids, but we still had a great time watching the dolphins. After, we walked around Centennial Olympic Park and had our first kiss.

Another date that was fun was going to a dive bar and seeing an amazing Jazz band. My date wouldn't tell me anything beforehand except I should dress up. I did, and when we pulled into the parking lot for Northside Tavern, I was a little worried. When I had to go to the bathroom and realized there weren't any doors to the stalls and I would have to do my business in front of strangers, I was even more worried. This was not what I was hoping for—until the music started and we started dancing. The band was excellent but our dancing wasn't. But we didn't care. We danced like it was 1999, and laughed the whole time. When the show was over (around 1 am) we went to Waffle House for coffee and hash browns while our feet rested and we talked about the show and our pathetic attempt to dance.

Lastly, a date took me, and my pup, to Kennesaw Mountain and we hiked all the way up to the top of the mountain. We were all exhausted, even my dog. As we were panting, my date pulled out lunch that he had made that morning from his backpack. He had even packed snacks for my dog. I was impressed that he had thought about and prepared lunch and even more impressed that he remembered my dog. We sat on the top of the mountain, exhausted, but happy eating and taking in the nature around us. Luckily, going down the mountain was much easier.

I believe that the best dates are the ones that reach outside of the normal, boring, usual dates. When you put an effort towards showing your date you have thought about the outing and how you want to impress him or her, it not only will give you dating "points" with that person, but it will leave a lasting impression.

WORD SEARCH

G K S N O I T U L O S E R K N A S
 N S E L E C T I O N P A D R M A O
 O A D I V E R S I T Y O Y A Y O F
 I L P A R K I N G I D A U R U A T
 T A D P D N T N E M A N R U O T B
 A D B R Y F J Y R S E E A G S Y A
 E A H R U E G A L L I V Y V N E L
 R B E A S T B A S K E T B A L L L
 C O M O V I E E F C G W I G E N I
 E R P A Z N I E R X I C P S R I I
 R T T D R S S D E R I E I D B D H
 W I R T P T D K U W E F E R I E E
 Z O B R N D Y P O R F O E M O B X
 D N I C F F F E A T N A L T A T A
 T N I F I P S A U K K R I Q Z R E
 G Y C N E R A P S N A R T M M X C

WORD BANK

village
 basketball
 parking
 softball
 salad
 diversity
 tournament
 movie
 resolutions
 SGA

east
 atlanta
 fest
 recreation
 transparency
 election
 debt
 break
 abortion
 spring

SUDOKU

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Prerequisites

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 60 credit hours

BUSA 7090: Graduate student in
 good standing

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CAMPUS EVENTS

ZUMBATHON

March 25
6-8 p.m.
Student Recreation Center
Main Gym
Do you love to get down in Zumba? Then this is the event for you. Join Zumba instructors and fellow classmates by dancing for two hours straight. The first 100 participants will receive free t-shirts.

MR. AND MRS.

INTERNATIONAL PAGEANT

March 30
7-10 p.m.
Join the Latin American Student Association as they host the 2014 International Pageant. Come out and see who wins Mr. and Mrs. International. This event is free. For more information email gsu.isac@gmail.com.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS

SERIES: MICHELE NORRIS

April 3
3-4:30 p.m.
Student Center Ballroom
Listen to an award-winning journalist as she talks about her experiences with being the first

African-American female host of National Public Radio. She also worked for ABC News, won an Emmy and has written a book. Come out and see what she has to say.

PANTHER PALOOZA

April 5
7 p.m.
GSU Sports Arena
This years panther palooza will feature the band, Panic at the Disco. Student tickets are \$15, but to get closer to the stage the tickets are \$20. For anyone who is not a student both tickets go up \$10. Enjoy an evening of music and fun.

BATTLE OF THE DJ'S

April 9
5-9 p.m.
Hurt Park
Come out and see Georgia State's four best DJ's as they compete for the title. The winner will win Beats by Dre Headphones and a chance to DJ at Panther X Change. Enjoy music and beach festivities.

DOWNTOWN EVENTS

ATLANTA JEWISH MUSIC FESTIVAL

Various Locations
Through March 29
The Atlanta Jewish Music Festival is currently underway! The fifth annual spring festival strives to deepen the connection between the Atlanta and Jewish communities. For more information about participating artists and events visit atlantajmf.org

ATLANTA INTERNATIONAL AUTO SHOW

Georgia World Congress Center
March 26-30
The Atlanta International Auto Show will feature over 400 new international and domestic cars. SpongeBob SquarePants, Captain America and Thor will also make appearances throughout the week.

WALKING TOUR OF THE ATLANTA BELTLINE

ARBORETUM

Inman Park Neighborhood
Through Nov. 2014
The Walking Tour is a guided tour around The East Side Trail that is led by experts from Trees Atlanta. The tour provides historical information about this area. Tours occur on Fridays and Saturdays starting at 10 a.m. For more information visit beltline.org

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