

SINCE 1947 THE SOUTHERNER

An upbeat paper
for a downtown school

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thesoutherner.htm

JROTC

*Col. Sivas
joins Grady
ranks*
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HOMEcoming

*Spirit Week
brings fun,
enthusiasm*
p. 7



HENRY W. GRADY HIGH SCHOOL, ATLANTA

VOLUME LIX, NUMBER 2, OCT. 18, 2005



COUNT ME IN: At the first SGA meeting of the year on Oct. 4, SGA members—sophomore Shakira Howard, freshmen Polly Zintak and Ariel Mannning, and junior Tierra Benn—vote to help pick up trash during their lunch in order to keep the campus clean. During the meeting, they also pledged to be more involved on campus.

SCHOOL ELECTIONS CAPTIVATE CAMPUS

By EMMA DIN

The 2005 Grady student government elections set several precedents, from the presentation of speeches on GNN to the use of voting booths. Several new aspects and soon-to-be traditions were introduced as candidates set new standards in the history of Grady campaigns.

"I was surprised at this year's election, at how people got into it compared to last year, when I didn't even notice it was happening," sophomore Janna Kaplan said. "It was almost as big a deal as Mr. and Ms. Grady, which is really good."

Achieving the goal they set out to reach, SGA advisors Louis Sartor and Kaye Myles were pleased that the election generated energy and

excitement. Using feedback from Grady students about past school elections, they strived to change the campaign process and voting format for this year and for years to come.

"The whole process was supposed to be about simulating real voting," Ms. Myles said. "I wanted to use real election style."

Ms. Myles borrowed voting booths from the Fulton County Voters Registration Office and enlisted the help of eight parent volunteers to check students off as they voted, to take their ballot, and to give them "I voted" stickers.

"It was slow, but it reflects real life," Mr. Sartor said. "As long as I'm working with SGA, we'll never vote

See GRADY page 6

NEWS BRIEFS

Grady wins award for high SAT scores

Grady was awarded the region's Governor's Cup Championship Trophy for its increase in SAT scores over three years. The Governor's Cup is an academic contest within athletic regions. Gov. Sonny Perdue announced the competition at Grady in 2004.

Young a semifinalist for teaching award

Grady's 2005-2006 Teacher of the Year Diane Gilchrist-Young was named a semifinalist in the APS High School Teacher of the Year competition. Therell's Phyllis Lucy-Manuel received the honor in an Oct. 24 ceremony.

New iPod flaunts videos, large screen

Apple Computers, Inc. released their new version of the ubiquitous iPod on Oct. 12, this time with video capabilities. The new iPod holds either 150 hours of video footage or 15,000 songs, sports a 2.5-inch screen, and starts at \$299.

Roe's foes fight on: *Pro-life, pro-choice advocates debate long-term impact if Supreme Court reverses Roe v. Wade*

By CURRY ANDREWS

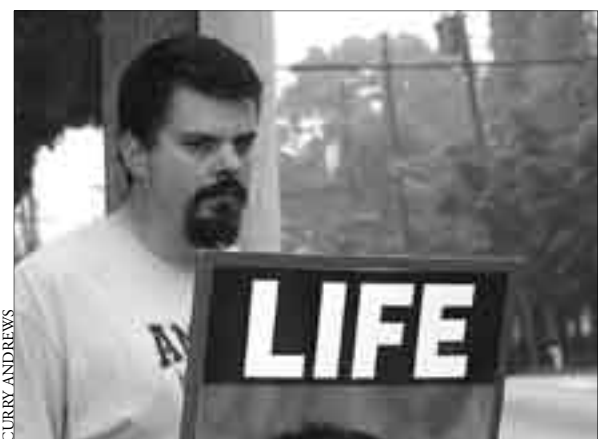
Every Friday for the past two years, Father Thomas Henessy has stood outside the Atlanta Surgi Center on Spring Street, protesting abortions. Henessy and his followers are dedicated to informing females of abortion alternatives for their health and for God. Henessy is definitely not alone in his beliefs. Abortion laws and rights have been debated since the Middle Ages. While the issue has spanned the centuries, in this country, the issue must be organized around one epochal moment—the 1973 Supreme Court decision Roe v. Wade.

In that landmark decision as in all

Supreme Court decisions, the Court decides two things. It must first decide if the laws, or rights, in question are constitutional. Second, the Court establishes the standards, or boundaries, for state laws concerning the rights in question.

Roe v. Wade determined that a woman's right to terminate her pregnancy was constitutional, under the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. The Court also set standards for future state law. Up to the end of a woman's first trimester, states cannot prevent a woman from choosing an abortion. After the first

See PROTESTORS page 5



FIGHTING FOR LIFE: Richard Yates protests abortion on Oct. 14, as he does every Friday, outside of the Atlanta Surgi Center on Spring Street.

Atlanta communities reach out to help victims of hurricane

By ALLANA NEELY

In response to the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina, many Atlantans have worked diligently to assist the evacuees from Louisiana and the other states affected by the hurricane. One of the most widely known programs is the Metro Atlanta Chapter of the American Red Cross.

"We sheltered several thousands of people affected by Hurricane Katrina," said Tiffany Fell, a spokesperson for the Metro Atlanta Red Cross. "We are now providing



Beginning on page 8, this issue features the stories of six of the 24 students who enrolled at Grady after evacuating areas devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

financial assistance [to the victims]. We are also supporting a hotel lodging program [that has] more than 50,000 people displaced by Hurricane Katrina in [free] hotel

rooms."

This organization has been the backbone of the huge relief effort to assist displaced citizens from the Gulf Coast region. Overall,

the American Red Cross reports it has provided nearly 3 million overnight stays in 1,150 shelters across 27 states and the District of Columbia since Hurricane Katrina made landfall. As of Sept. 30, the Red Cross has raised \$1.125 billion in gifts and pledges, of which about \$856 million has been received. At least 91 cents of every dollar donated to the American Red Cross goes directly towards assisting disaster victims.

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SINCE 1947

THE SOUTHERNER

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GGT breeds turmoil

It was the morning of Sept. 29, and the juniors were scheduled to take the writing portion of the Georgia High School Graduation Test. Instructed that the test was to begin promptly at 8:15, many students found themselves rushing to make it to the performance gym by the time the bell rang. When they arrived, however, they were sent back to their second-period classes.

Once in class, students erupted with questions. Several teachers seemed just as confused as their pupils. What were they supposed to teach not knowing how long class was going to last? If they began the lesson for the next class were they supposed to just stop mid-activity and plan something else for later?

While is may be unfortunate, it's also true that standardized testing is the one most widely used indicators of academic achievement. For the individual student, scores from the SAT, PSAT and GGT directly affect graduation, scholarships and college acceptance. Parents spend hundreds of dollars per student on various test prep books and classes, in attempts of improving their children's outcomes as much as possible. For Grady as a whole, standardized tests are a benchmark determining the school's evaluation on a host of issues from No Child left Behind to block scheduling. With so much riding on assessments like the GGT, why was there not more preparedness and organizaton on the part of the test administrators?

When juniors were finally called into the gym, it was far past 8:15. Sadly, however, no one seemed ready to start. Breakfast was served to the students. Those who weren't rushing to get some last-minute sustenance were talking as if nothing important was going on. Many simply didn't know what to do. This confusion, both from teachers and students, prolonged the event.

Once juniors began to be seated on the gym floor by homerooms, there was another realization-- there hadn't been enough desks set up to seat the entire junior class. This didn't make the slow-moving morning any quicker. While more desks were being set up, the socializing continued as if students were afraid they migh miss valuable time to hang out with friends.

A large percentage of the class of 2007 had been put at ease about the test. Many were quieted with comments from their literature teachers about how the test wasn't going to be that bad. Students were instructed to get a good night's rest and have breakfast, like for any other tests, but there wasn't as much pressure or stress as one may have expected.

It cannot be good for the collective psyche of the junior class that testing didn't start until after 10 a.m. The prolonged wait could have led to increased test anxiety, or it might have led to a lack of seriousness that transfers to test itself when students finally had a chance to start it.

In the long run, the chaos may not seem important to the success of that morning, but the students noticed the difference. Cooperation on all fronts may have made a world of difference. Sometimes students just need someone to tell them what to do. At the same time, by this age, they should be held accountable for their own actions. With four more subjects remaining, maybe everyone will realize how messy this past test administration was and work to improve those in the future. □

C O R R E C T I O N S

In a board editorial in the Sept. 7 issue, we incorrectly stated that a Saturday Work Detention was promised to "the late student" on the first offense. Students who are late to school do not receive a SWD, only those who are late to second through seventh periods. In the same editorial, we reported that students have to wait "upwards of 45 minutes" for a late pass. We were referring solely to the line students experience in the morning upon their arrival to school and not to the line before every class period.

In the same issue, Julianna Strack's name was incorrectly spelled in the page 5 column "False American perceptions revealed on trip abroad." Andy Milonakis' name was misspelled in the headline of the column "*Andy Milonakis Show* an insult to intelligence" on the same page.

We also incorrectly named Ana Vazquez in the caption for the page 8 story "Johns Hopkins selects Grady to test literacy program." It is Cuevas, however, who "enjoys taking her two required English classes and hopes to become a teacher." In the same story, Te'Erica Richardson's name was misspelled.

On page 17, Mollie Pett's name was incorrectly spelled.

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The *Southerner* welcomes submissions, which may be edited for grammar, inappropriate language and length. Please place submissions in Mr. Winter's box in the main office. Subscriptions are also available. For more information, please contact Mr. Winter or a member of the staff. We can be reached at dwinter@atlanta.k12.ga.us

Letters to the editor

Bush's Iraq invasion 'reckless, immoral'

Dear Editors:

In the latest *Southerner* there was a column which argued that "taking troops out of Iraq would only cause chaos" and that "the only way to establish a lasting peace is to keep the soldiers in Iraq for now" ("Sheehan forgets price of peace," Sept. 15). I could not disagree more.

What we have now in Iraq is violent chaos that seems to only be escalating in its intensity. Furthermore, even teachers are targeted and killed as Iraq spirals downward into civil war. U.S. soldiers continue to be killed and soon more than 2,000 will be victims of President Bush's reckless and immoral invasion. Far from stabilizing the country, they seem to only be fueling the insurgency.

Does the *Southerner* columnist believe that somehow magically all this will change if American soldiers and Marines maintain their occupation? Will it take two years or 20 years? U.S. taxpayers, with necessary assistance from our international creditors, have invested at least \$200 billion in this project with little to show for it, aside from Saddam Hussein's removal from power. If the cost reaches \$600 billion (or more) and 10,000 dead Americans (or more) will the columnist reconsider her

position?

It's a false dichotomy for her to say which is more important: Bringing our troops home or peace in Iraq. Thanks to President Bush and a complicit Congress there are no good choices in Iraq. Meanwhile the leadership of the Democratic Party appears drawn to the notion that winning in Iraq is possible after all. Hmmm. Wishful thinking only feels good until reality rears its head.

We may be entering a period in which a perfect storm of problems associated with energy, finance and climate may force our withdrawal from Iraq regardless of our intentions in that beleaguered nation.

Lou Sartor
Social Studies Department

Board editorials lead to confusion over new policies

Dear Editors:

I always enjoy reading the *Southerner* and compliment all of you for providing our school with an excellent newspaper. You certainly deserve the many awards that you have won over the years.

I would like to take this opportunity to make two

comments concerning your editorials in your last edition of the school newspaper. First, under "Announcement abuse," the board mentions that students wait up to 45 minutes to get a pass to class and a Saturday Detention notification. Students who come late to school in the morning do have a long wait because of the large number of students who arrive after the 8:15 tardy bell, but these students do not receive Saturday Detentions. The students who receive Saturday Detentions are those students who are late to class from one class to another. These students typically get passes very quickly. We seldom have large numbers of tardy students between classes. If students want to avoid the long line in the mornings, I suggest getting to school early enough to get to the first period of the day by 8:15 a.m.

Second, under "Detectors a mere ruse," you mentioned that "Grady's students shouldn't be subjected to criminal-like treatment." It is important for you to realize that the use of metal detectors in middle and high schools is required by Atlanta Public Schools. It is not a choice given to the local schools.

Nationally, metal detectors became commonplace in public high schools after the Columbine incident in 1999.

Naomi Grishman
Assistant Principal





Thinking outside of the block



JULIA OLIVER

I look at the clock hanging on the wall, and to my disbelief, there is still a half an hour left in class. An entire 30 minutes left for me to try to pay attention and to fail miserably. My mind starts to wander, and, instead of focusing on the lesson of the day, I find myself thinking about how inviting Piedmont Park looks from inside my classroom. I try to remember the lyrics to a song I heard on the radio earlier that morning. I might even talk to the person sitting next to me, which seems to happen more often than not, especially in the closing minutes of class.

If only I was able to concentrate on what I should be learning for just a little bit longer. If only my classes weren't so long.

Grady first instituted block scheduling for the 2001-2002 school year. Students go to all seven classes Monday for 45 minutes, and then alternate between longer classes Tuesday through Friday. Our shortest classes on those days are an hour and 38 minutes long. Our

longest class is an hour and 43 minutes long. No matter what the clock reads, classes are only as long as the attention span of the students in those classes. If you subtracted 30 minutes from the time on the schedule, you would probably get a more accurate estimate of the actual learning time.

According to studies of teenage attention spans by kidsgrowth.com, the average amount of time a child can pay attention is between three and five minutes per year of that child's age. I am 16, so if you do the math my attention span should be between 48 minutes to an hour and 20 minutes. We have four classes on block days that all exceed an hour and 20 minutes.

According to Temple University's Center for Reserach in Human Development and Education, block scheduling does help teachers by reducing the number of students they teach and by raising test scores. These results, however, have been achieved through new innovative teaching techniques not simply by making a normal class twice as long. Block scheduling may have some benefits, but I doubt I'll remember them sitting in class with 30 minutes to go. □

Our generation plagued by lasting effects of divorce



CHLOE BLALOCK

We are the generation of divorced parents. *Divorce Magazine* reported in 1997 that 59 percent of the United States is married, down from 62 percent in 1990, and 72 percent in 1970. Twenty-four percent of the population has never married, and 10 percent has been divorced at least once. Fifty percent of first marriages end in divorce, and 60 percent of remarriages end in divorce. As of 1997, there are 1 million children involved in divorces each year.

It's true that some marriages can be worse than a divorce; but it's also true that there are no "good divorces." There are really horrible ones where kids sit smack-dab in the middle of their parents' bickering, consequently becoming depressed or in some way socially afflicted, and then there are less horrible ones where the parents get

along but their children are forced to watch them date other people and either live with one parent and visit the other, or worse, move back and forth between the two.

Divorce is such a plague these days, its social consequences are inevitable. From my age group's point of view, there is a dividing line, a breakdown in communication. There's a whole new language and a whole new emotional understanding that come with divorce. People touched by divorce can communicate with each other in ways that the people outside that experience can't. Someone whose family is happy can't understand someone whose family is not, in the same way that no one can really say they understand how someone feels unless they have been in the same situation.

Divorce has other, more concrete consequences, too. An analysis of divorce in 19 states in 1997 revealed that 81 percent of the custody cases were resolved in favor of one parent (72 percent for the wife, 9 percent for the husband) while custody was shared in only 16 percent of the cases. Studies have shown that fatherless homes

account for 63 percent of youth suicides, 90 percent of homeless/runaway children, 85 percent of children with behavior problems, 71 percent of high school dropouts, 85 percent of youths in prison, and well over 50 percent of teen mothers.

As kids, we are shown and taught through the media, music and books that marriage is something to be achieved in life. Getting married, and having kids in most cases, is one of those general goals most people have. But why are we aspiring to be married, if marriage doesn't work? Are people just not trying hard enough? Or is marriage a fatal flaw in society's beliefs yet to be corrected? And will we be the first to start correcting it? Will growing up among broken homes and broken people change our minds about marriage? And should it?

If so many marriages are failing now, with so many people getting divorced, should marriage still be a life goal people pursue? Growing up watching relationships fall apart, how are we supposed to have any faith in our own romantic future? □

Katrina aftermath pulled nation apart when unity was needed the most



STONE IRVIN

What do Kanye West, Barbara Bush, and Marie Antoinette all have in common? A complete disregard for social tact.

During the French Revolution, Marie Antoinette is said to have proclaimed "let them eat cake," when told about the food shortage in the lower classes. While it is unclear whether it was actually Antoinette who uttered this remark, it is certain that Barbara Bush stepped over the line of acceptability when she said that the situation was "working very well" for evacuees fleeing Louisiana. I would hazard to say that Barbara Bush would not think things were working very well if she had lost her home and all or most of her possessions. Refugees were forced into unfamiliar surroundings with nearly nothing from their former lives, and put into the Astrodome. Better than Louisiana perhaps, but not a good situation.

As if the complete disarray and anger caused by the weak response to New Orleans were not enough, Kanye West stepped up and added his inflammatory 2 cents. On a televised fund-raiser West announced, "George Bush doesn't care about black people." While it is West's

opinion, his statement was poorly timed. In the wake of the Hurricane Katrina, the United States needs to put aside its differences and work as hard as it can to ease the suffering of those who were forced to leave their homes, their lives. Criticizing the government is important, and it is our right as Americans to do so, but West's statement will only lead to future divisions, even after Katrina is far behind us.

It is as if the problems caused by Hurricane Katrina were not enough and these tragic events were merely an excuse to divide the country with ignorant statements. The statements made by Bush and West, reflect as poorly upon the United States as the misinformation on the levies' ability to hold out against Katrina's onslaught. It is important that the American people do not let these words slide and force the famous not only to take responsibility but to work together. The response to Hurricane Katrina was sluggish at best. The response seems even more feeble when compared to the massive response to the tsunami that hit Southeast Asia. As soon as the destruction was realized, American fund-raisers were immediately set up.

In the wake of this hurricane, however, it seemed that the U.S. had lost interest in its own states, with people more content watching the chaos unfold on television.



Kanye West himself related a similar personal experience on the televised fund-raiser that has brought him recent infamy. He described turning off the television and ignoring the portrayals of looters and the desperate cries for Hurricane relief. West said he would no longer ignore the call for funding and donate what he could spare.

The truly horrific thing about the statements made by West and Barbara Bush is the possibility that we may actually think that the displaced are OK, just because

they have escaped with their lives. We blame George Bush for the plight African Americans, instead of blaming ourselves for sweeping race relations under the rug and failing to address the problems that did not vanish after the Civil Rights Movement. These comments made in response to Katrina have shown us what not to do, and hopefully what to avoid as we grow as a nation. If we cannot critique ourselves, the future will hold only malice as our inadequacies play out. □

Altering for atheism in America a pointless endeavor



SEAN HARRINGTON

In America, a majority of the population believes in God in some form or another. While this is perfectly acceptable, religion is not supposed to interfere with the workings of our government. As we all know, this is hardly the case. Religious influence dominates the decisions made in every level of the government. With the conservative right wing currently in power, this isn't going to change anytime soon.

The issue of religion in government became a bigger issue recently when lawyer and atheist Michael Newdow successfully persuaded San Francisco judge Lawrence Karlton to rule that the

Pledge of Allegiance was unconstitutional because it contained the words "under God." Government officials and journalists across the nation wasted no time in expressing their anger that a beloved patriotic document had been so summarily discarded.

I can appreciate Newdow's concern about forcing religion on children in schools, but let's be realistic. The Pledge of Allegiance, venerable and time-honored as it may be, doesn't mean much to groggy kids who would much rather be at home in bed than in school standing up and reciting some words under the harsh light. It's not like you actually have to recite the words, either. For most kids this really isn't an issue at all.

Is the Pledge really even necessary? If America is so insecure in the patriotism of its schoolchildren then maybe there are more

important issues that need to be addressed.

Also, if we ruled the Pledge unconstitutional, then what would be next? The phrase "In God We Trust" is found on all of our currency. Would all of our change and paper money be ruled illegal? What about the Declaration of Independence? God is mentioned and referred to many times in it, and that piece of literature is arguably the most important text in American history. What would we do then if it were ruled unconstitutional? So many things in our culture are based on or inspired by religion that if this kind of systematic neutralization of them for those who don't believe in God continues, there will be a very pronounced and unnecessary line between those who believe and those who don't. The amount of atheists compared to the number of believers is very much in

the believers' favor, and although America is all about freedom and equality, it's only free and equal as long as we're talking about the majority in power. That's been the case since our forefathers drafted the Constitution and only rich, white landowners benefited significantly from their noble declarations of freedom.

I don't think we need to worry about it. Organized religion is a powerhouse in America and won't lose steam in the foreseeable future. Despite attempts like Newdow's, issues of religion in public institutions are going to be difficult for judges to deal with, especially if they disagree with the status quo. Unless liberals gain a lot more seats in next year's elections, there won't be a regime change in America and the conservatives will help religion keep a firm grip on the workings of our government. □

Persistent tradition is a drag



SALLY ZINTAK

You are a 14-year-old girl, a rising freshman, and your alarm goes off at 6:30. The first day of school has arrived. You spent a week picking out your outfit, only to change it five times, minutes before you leave for school. You walk into a gym with 1,000 students looking at you, either because you are new or because they haven't seen you in three months. You have spent the entire summer working on your tan and are now prepared to show it off and hopefully meet some new, cute, older boys. You make it into the gym and see the anxious faces of your friends. You hear a few rules and proceed to homeroom where you receive schedules and papers for your parents. You make it to 3:15, despite being lost a few times, and finally get outside to greet your friends and talk about your experiences that day. Then, something goes wrong. The minute you walk outside you see a senior running towards you. You look around and all eyes are on you. You get thrown to the ground and pulled down a hill.

We've all seen the scene from *Dazed and Confused* when all of the freshmen get "hazed." Here at Grady, we have taken on our own form of "hazing." We call it dragging.

I remember when I was a freshman and my friends got dragged. The year after that, the new freshmen got dragged. And it happened again this year. My freshman year at Grady, many of my fellow Inman graduates got dragged, but I never did. I was never what they call "initiated" into high school. I was never



deemed a "cool" freshman. I was never assured "it's all for laughs." I never went home and cried because my new clothes were now covered in grass stains. I never went home with cuts and scrapes on my back. I never had to go home to my parents and explain that getting dragged was really just supposed to be fun and welcoming.

Dragging was once seen as something that was expected. If you were new, you were likely to be dragged. This year, freshmen have actually stood up to the seniors by either running or refusing. I don't blame them. What part of getting dragged sounds like fun? Getting thrown onto the ground, pulled across wet grass, and getting up to laughing students doesn't really sound appealing to me.

The defenders of dragging say that it's just a fact of life and that you need to accept it and move on. The seniors say, "Well I got dragged." What kind of justification is that? Just because something happened to you doesn't mean you should do it to someone else, especially someone who had absolutely nothing to do with you getting dragged four years ago. I've heard that dragging is an initiation into Grady. Whether or not you get

dragged, you're still attending Grady. What does dragging have to do with you being able to attend classes at 929 Charles Allen Drive?

I was never dragged, but Grady continued to be my school as a freshman, and a sophomore, and now as a junior. My "non-initiation" never seemed to keep me from attending school or meeting new people. I actually made a lot of new friends, many of whom were upperclassmen. It was never a problem that I wasn't dragged. It didn't keep them from talking to me or hanging out with me. It was never even brought up. Dragging doesn't do anything for anyone. Yeah, people like to have a good laugh, and dragging can be amusing. But what's the real point? Pulling someone down a hill for about 20 feet doesn't seem like a life-changing event to me. The administration says that dragging must be stopped because it's dangerous and criminal. They are right that it should be stopped but wrong about the reason. Dragging should be stopped because it's lame, and it should be stopped not by the administration or by parents, but rather by the group with the power to stop it—students. □

Depression, drug overdosing common among teenagers



MADELINE WEBB

A friend of mine from several years ago has recently re-emerged in my life by a lucky and strange coincidence — a twisting of paths that led our lives to intertwine again. She was a year ahead of me when I had known her before in a previous school, and I'd always thought she was one of the coolest, most down-to-earth girls I knew. Though my mom was friends with her mom, I hadn't known her family closely, and it came as a pleasant surprise to both of us when we found ourselves stepping into each others lives again. But only a few weeks after our reunion, her 19-year-old brother died of a drug overdose.

I never knew her brother. He only exists to me through happy stories and old photos—two-dimensional moments in the life of a handsome boy at 5, 10, 15; with his sister, with his diploma, with his first car. I know that he was brilliant and artistic and a fabulous poet. I know that he loved raving and would sometimes drive as far as Florida to hear his favorite techno DJs perform. I know that he was a good older brother and that he loved my friend, his little sister. I know that his family now lives with an unbearable pain, a heavy heartache that will follow them for the rest of their lives. His family's suffering is unimaginable.

My friend's older brother struggled with depression for a long time. Sadly, it is all too common—depression is estimated to occur in one in eight teens. Of these, only 30 percent of depressed teens receive any sort of intervention or treatment. Depression is an

actual illness, not a mood swing, and requires professional help. The National Institute of Mental Health reports studies that prove that treatment for depression in adolescents can be effective.

Teens with untreated depression are about 80 percent more likely to fall into drug abuse than other teens. In a world where the first-time marijuana use occurs on average among middle-schoolers and alcohol use is reported to start before the age of 12, there's no telling what kinds of scary things depressed teens can get themselves into. Because these substances alter one's judgment, drug and alcohol use can be associated with a myriad of negative accidental consequences, including violence, unplanned and unsafe sex, dangerous driving and overdosing.

Sadly, it is all too common—depression is estimated to occur in one in eight teens.

My friend's brother's overdose was accidental.

Though it may comfort the family to know

that this boy did not have a death wish, it does not really matter. His life is over. Tragically, this happens almost every day.

Accidental overdoses are relatively common among teenagers — they are alarmingly the third leading cause of accidental death in the U.S., claiming about 8,600 victims a year.

Depression is easy to spot and easy to treat. Symptoms include a change in eating or sleeping patterns, decreased motivation and interest in former hobbies, negative attitude, low energy, and increased irritability. If you or someone you know might be depressed, I urge you to seek help. Talk with someone you trust, and look into treatment options. There *is* such a thing as too late, and your life is not worth the risk.

Your life — just like my friend's older brother's — is too valuable for "accidents." □

GHS families form support system for Iraq soldiers

By REBECCA GITTELSON

6,730.1 miles.

That is the distance separating Atlanta from Baghdad. Although the war in Iraq, which began in March 2003, may seem distant to many Americans, to some Grady students and alumni, it hits much closer to home. The invasion has not only affected the everyday lives of these Grady students and parents who have loved ones fighting in Iraq but also their beliefs and relationships.

Junior Ryan Betty, who plans to enter the military after completing college, said he realized his relationship with his brother, Quinton Betty, had changed when Quinton returned four months ago from one year of service in Iraq.

"I have a lot of respect for him [now]," Ryan said. "He's one of my heroes because I know that it's a really bad situation to be in, going to war," Betty said.

For Elizabeth Ives, the mother of Grady class of 1999 graduate Alec Caldas, seeing her son at home on his leave from duty also brought newfound realizations and hardships.

"[When] he came home for two weeks, I felt like the weight of the world was lifted from my shoulders," said Ives, who has also served in the military. "I didn't even realize how tense I was [when he was in Iraq]" "So, of course, when I had to send

him back, it was really hard."

The preparations for sending their relatives off to war were often bittersweet for Grady families. Junior Lardycia Manns went on a spring break vacation with her father, Air Force Capt. James Thomas Manns Jr. before he deployed for five months of service at a base 45 miles from Baghdad.

For Ryan Betty and his family, preparing his brother, Quinton, for war was not only a matter of providing him with moral support but also with equipment. Quinton's duties as a Forward Observer included going into the field, spotting targets, and coordinating attacks with special forces. He was not, however, given adequate gear for his job. This was one factor, among others, that have caused Ryan's support of the war to deteriorate.

"We bought some of the gear for him because not everything he would need for desert warfare in the winter was provided," Betty said. "I think that it's not really right that we [the United States] can spend money on everything else, but we can't buy simple things like extra long-sleeve shirts."

Although Betty's diminishing support of the invasion reflects other Grady students' beliefs, many continue to stand by the soldiers.

"I support the soldiers, just not the war," said freshman Sean Slocum,



A TRUE SPRING BREAK: Junior Lardycia Manns and her father, Air Force Capt. James Thomas Manns Jr., pose for a picture along the shore during spring break vacation. The two spent time together before the captain's five-month deployment of service near Baghdad.

whose cousin is now fighting in Iraq.

Freshman Lena James' cousin is currently stationed with the Air Force in Iraq.

"He made the decision to fight," said James, who does not support the current administration or the war. "But we're all going to be there to support him because they [the soldiers] have a really hard time."

Because of the distance and

time difference, James can only communicate her support to her cousin through e-mail. Distance and time also provided obstacles for other soldiers to communicate with their families. Manns and Betty only spoke to their family members in Iraq once over the phone during their relatives' deployments.

Many relatives in the United States have tried to remain hopeful in

dealing with departed loved ones.

In December 2003, Ives' nephew Ernesto Blanco-Caldas, was killed in Iraq. She relies on her "strong spiritual base" and "family and friends" for comfort and to lessen her worries about her son, whose tour of duty is supposed to end in October.

"When they're over there you try not to dwell on it," Ives said. "But, it is always there." □

PROTESTORS make their voices heard at local clinic

from page 1

first trimester, however, states can enact laws regulating abortion, as long as they protect women's health.

The laws on abortion privacy and reproductive rights are going before the Supreme Court this fall, in cases *Ayotte v. Planned Parenthood of Northern New England* and *Scheider v. National Organization for Women*. When these cases come before the Court, two new justices will be casting their votes. The retirement of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and the death of Chief Justice William Rehnquist have lead to heightened speculation about these cases. The successful nomination and appointment of Chief Justice John Roberts and the pending appointment of Harriet Miers have both centered on the issue of abortion rights.

"There're going to be talking about a choice for women's bodies," Henessy said. "They don't even consider the baby's choice." A *Roe v. Wade* reversal would certainly curtail women's reproductive rights, but would the reversal of *Roe v. Wade* really make abortion illegal in the United States? The foes of abortion rights say no—emphatically.

When a test case concerns or cites past rulings, the Supreme Court usually stays consistent with its previous decisions. This policy,



PRO-LIFE: Richard Yates and Father Thomas Henessy and protest outside the Atlanta Surgi Center on Spring Street. "Girls need to know there are other options," Henessy

called stare decisis, is implemented so the Court can maintain legitimacy by upholding precedent rulings. For example, if future reproductive rights cases are brought before the Court and cite *Roe v. Wade* (which they do), then the court will usually follow its past decision. "There have been 38 cases since 1993 where *Roe v. Wade* was upheld," said Becky Rafter, executive director of Pro-Choice America, Atlanta Chapter. But these prior cases do not guarantee that the Court will continue upholding it.

States have already begun planning for the reversal of *Roe*. According to the Life Legal Defense Fund, Arkansas has a law on the books that states abortion is illegal, with no health exceptions, when *Roe* is repealed. Michigan, Oklahoma and Wisconsin have failed to change their pre-*Roe* laws, which prohibit abortion at all stages of pregnancy, with the health exception. With the reversal of *Roe* these laws would immediately be enforceable.

If *Roe* was repealed right now, the Life Legal fund claims, only those four states would have laws banning

abortion. The Life Legal Fund maintains that more than a million abortions a year would be performed legally, in the remaining 46 states and Washington DC, even if *Roe* were to fall today.

While the foes of abortion downplay the impact of a *Roe* reversal, its defenders believe overturning *Roe* would have a very negative consequence. "Once the government has the right to intrude on our privacy, it's a slippery slope," Rafter said. "Who is to know what rights might be next?"

Public policy director for Planned Parenthood of Georgia and Grady parent, Julie Edelson, agrees with Rafter. "Taking away reproductive rights undermines everyone's rights," Edelson said. "Reproductive health is a fundamental right."

Restrictions on abortion rights will certainly have an affect on everyone, and the abortion showdown is closer than ever. Until then, Henessy will promote his cause every Friday on Spring Street. "The Constitution protects everyone," he said, "even the rights of an unborn child." □

Respect for national crisis closes exhibit

By CARSON HALE

It's hard to enough simply to "put yourself in someone else's shoes."

But what if those shoes happen to be those of someone fleeing her country because her village was attacked or her home destroyed? Or someone who has or suffered from a fatal illness or has witnessed loved ones be killed?

This is what Doctors Without Borders, or Medecins Sans Frontieres in French, asks people to do in their exhibit, "A Refugee Camp in the Heart of the City." The model camp employs the same temporary shelters, food distribution tents and health-care equipment that MSF uses for refugee camps and treatment centers worldwide.

According to Stephanie Davies, director of public education for MSF, the health-care workers have a goal of "working close to the population." She shares this standard for the interactive exhibit. Visitors are asked to register when they enter, just as people entering an actual camp would do. For an hour or so, visitors put themselves in the mind of someone who has experienced disaster, violence or disease.

Today, though, it isn't necessary to think like someone across the world; Hurricane Katrina brought America its own bitter taste of disaster.

The exhibit was scheduled to come to Atlanta this fall, but because of the influx of evacuees to Georgia after Hurricane Katrina, the exhibit has been postponed until next year.

The decision to cancel the tour was extremely difficult, Davies explained, but everyone came to agree that it might push the wrong buttons with people already bombarded with the effects of natural disaster.

First, Davies said, the exhibit is staffed with experts in responding to emergencies. To force them to chose between educating the public and actually helping people would not benefit either cause.

Second, the decision whether or not to do the tour had to be made soon after Katrina hit. After speaking with the Atlanta city administration, who was working on accommodating evacuees, Davies realized that "the last thing we needed to do is to ask for extra anything."

The hardest part of the cancellation was whether the timing would be insensitive to the public, considering the enormity of the impact of Katrina.

"There wasn't enough clarity between our ad campaign [focusing on Africa] and a tragedy this close to home," Davies said. "Asking people to place themselves as Afghans or Sudanese would just be bad timing."

Despite the emotional struggles and physical losses Americans have experienced, Davies believes that they will be able to empathize better with refugees worldwide. "When they come to our exhibit [next fall]," Davies predicts, "people will have a real head start." □

GRADY institutes new voting methods for elections

from page 1

in homeroom again. We wanted a legitimate election and results.”

Despite necessitating that people take time out to cast their ballot, the voting site saw a high turnout rate.

“It was your choice to vote if you really cared about the elections,” Kaplan said.

Though many were pleased with the election, not everyone felt the same way.

“Even though it’s boring to vote in homeroom, it’s more efficient because the whole student body participates,” said Zoie Johnson, who lost her bid for executive council president.

About 70 percent of the student body voted, or 852 out of a total student population of 1,216.

“I liked the older way better,” senior Russell Owens said. “More people voted, and it didn’t take away from my personal time. To get more accurate results and since it’s high school, it’s more important that everyone votes.”

This year’s election started off on a new foot. On the inside and outside of doors, on stairwells, on lockers, on bulletin boards, and in bathrooms, campaign posters followed students everywhere.

“The more posters you see, the more you know a person wants to win and is willing to work for it,”



DOWN TO BUSINESS: Seniors Matt Westmoreland and Angela Oliver, who serve as president and secretary of the executive council, participate in the first SGA meeting since the Sept. 22 elections. The association discussed possible ways to keep the campus clean.

freshman Hannah Snowden said.

Not only did candidates put up signs, but they also utilized classroom and homeroom visits, and gave out candy, cookies, stickers, and bracelets as means to secure more votes.

“I passed out 2,000 stickers, 500 posters, 500 cookies, 300 pieces of candy, and 150 brownies, sent 350 emails, and made 50 visits to homerooms,” Westmoreland said.

Johnson also took campaigning to

new heights.

“I cut out 400-some odd circles that said ‘Vote Zoie J.’ and put them on every piece of candy and every bracelet,” Johnson said. “I also cut and made every bracelet myself. They were real attention grabbers.”

Most students got a chance to hear from every candidate due in large part to the speeches made by each candidate on GNN election special.

“It was Mr. Sartor’s idea to do it on GNN,” Ms. Myles said. “It gave the

complete student body a chance to see who was running for what.”

Mr. Sartor and others involved in student government recognize the challenges and misconceptions facing the student government.

“We’re trying to change the perception of SGA into a more responsible body that tries to improve student life,” Mr. Sartor said. “SGA should be an active and visible force and I’m very optimistic about this year.” □

SGA OFFICERS

Executive Council

President: Matt Westmoreland
Vice President: Omari Williams
Secretary: Angela Oliver
Treasurer: Jennifer Riley

12

President: Ashley Tannehill
Vice President: DeJanee Carruthers
Secretary: Natasha Ray
Treasurer: Jada Glasby
Parliamentarian: Sherika Mosely

11

President: Christopher Goodine
Vice President: Matthew Marshall
Secretary: Leah Bishop
Treasurer: Lydia Hardy
Parliamentarian: Emma Din

10

President: Shakira Howard
Vice President: Brittany Briscoe
Secretary/Treasurer: Ashley Monroe
Parliamentarian: Terrance Sterling

9

President: Jocelyn Copeland
Vice President: Melvin Floyd
Secretary/Treasurer: Polly Zintak
Parliamentarian: Patti Guzman



COLLEGE ANYONE? Mayor Shirley Franklin asks Grady seniors if they plan to attend college after graduation. Franklin came to Grady on Sept. 30 in an effort to increase the graduation rate of APS seniors and make sure they go either to college or join the work force.

Franklin seeking second term

By MATT WESTMORELAND

The Atlanta campaign scene is in full swing as citizens prepare to go to the polls on Nov. 8. Fifty-five candidates will vie for 26 positions among the nine-member board of education, the 16-seat city council and mayor.

The highest-profile campaign is that of Mayor Shirley Franklin, who is seeking a second term. Franklin, widely expected to win in a landslide, kicked off her re-election bid Sept. 8 at the Martin Luther King Jr. Center.

“Today, I’m telling you we have more work to do together,” the mayor told the more than 200 supporters who gathered for the official start of her campaign.

Franklin, recently sighted as one of the “Five Best Big-City Mayors” in America by TIME magazine, highlighted the achievements of her first term, including restoring financial discipline to city hall,

strengthening ethics laws, and cutting crime. She credited her “Pot Hole Posse” for filling thousands of holes on city streets and discussed the \$3 billion plan underway to repair the city’s sewer system.

Despite all the successes of her four years in office, the mayor acknowledges the tasks ahead.

“In the second term of my administration,” Franklin said, “we need to maintain fiscal discipline; continue an open and honest government; efficiently repair our infrastructure, streets, and sidewalks; cut crime and enhance public safety; and improve our cultural life.”

Specifically, the mayor touched on three initiatives on which she plans to focus: the homeless, economic development and enhancing the quality of life for all, and expanding the educational opportunities for students in need.

The mayor discussed several efforts underway to solve what she

called the “homelessness crisis in our city.” In August, Franklin signed an ordinance barring panhandling downtown and at the King site. She said that through a partnership with the Homeless Commission, both the Gateway Center and Hope House have been completed and will offer help to those in need, including the homeless and displaced.

Franklin also laid out her plan to partner with the Atlanta Public Schools System to support students and their families. The mayor’s efforts brought her to Grady Sept. 30 to talk with seniors about their post-graduation plans.

“No truly great city can be ‘best in class’ without quality public education,” she said. “In collaboration with the APS, we have targeted a 25 percent increase in the high school graduation rate in five years. We are actually changing lives and providing a future of hope for our young people.” □

Past, present Grady mothers run unopposed for city office

By MATT WESTMORELAND

Two Grady parents will sit on the Atlanta City Council and the Atlanta School Board when they convene for a new term next January.

One of them is Fifth District Councilwoman Natalyn Mosbey Archibong, the mother of 2005 Grady graduate Miriam Archibong, who was first elected in 2001.

“I ran because the elected representation we had for District Five wasn’t being effective in terms of bringing resources to the community,” said Archibong, who has no opposition. “I thought I could be the leader to advocate for the District Five communities.”

The Grady mother says she’s running for re-election because there is still much to be done.

“The work continues,” she said. “The first four years I’ve gotten my feet wet. The work is ongoing, and I want to continue helping.”

Archibong takes pride in the successes of the last four years, and recognizes the challenges ahead.

“Our biggest achievement has been tackling the water and sewer problems that the city basically ignored for decades,” Archibong said. “Now that we’ve implemented the funding, and the construction program is well underway, we have other challenges to look at.”

The city councilwoman knows exactly what her top priority is.

“Public safety is one area where we are continuing to have challenges,” she said. “We need to fill vacancies, train police cadets, and get them into the streets, making communities as safe as possible.”

While Archibong doesn’t see herself seeking higher office, she hopes to represent her community on the council for years to come.

“I always said I wanted to work as long as I’m able to keep the interest of District Five in the forefront,” she said. “I still have energy. I am excited and ready to serve.”

Fellow Grady mom Cecily Harsh-Kinnane is a newcomer to political office. Kinnane, mother of junior Jamison Kinnane, is running unopposed to succeed Michael Holiman to represent the Third District on the school board.

“I’m running because I’m proud to be a member of the APS family,” she said. “I think the system is strong. I’d like to help guide it to being an even more effective system for all.”

Kinnane praised the work of system officials over the last several years.

“One of the first things I heard [System Superintendent] Dr. Hall say was that we needed to make sure there’s a strong and effective principal at every school,” Kinnane said. “It’s important we make sure that happens. We need to put strong leaders in administrative positions.”

While she thinks the system is on the right track, the Virginia Highlands resident knows there’s a lot of work to be done.

“I think our greatest challenge is getting the city to recognize the strength of APS and to see how much we are all stakeholders in what goes on in our educational system,” she said. “I want them to take ownership and pride in our schools. APS is doing great things.” □



JEFFREY CARPENTER

there's no place like HOMECOMING



Owens' disappointment turns to joy

By ROBERT SANDERS

You wouldn't expect that the veteran actor would have butterflies in his stomach on the homecoming stage, but that's just what happened to senior Russell Owens.

"I was pretty confident all week, but when I stepped out on the wet track before they announced the winner I started to worry," Owens said. "I forgot that they announced the runners-up first so when I didn't hear my name I was disappointed, but when they called for me I was completely shocked. I didn't move for about five seconds because I was still between disappointment and joy."

Owens can be called many things: an actor, a rapper, an honors student and now Mr. Grady of the 2005-2006 school year. Although considered by some to be the underdog of the race, Owens believes his good will towards all grade levels helped put him over the top with the underclassmen's vote.

"I thought that Cedric Sykes would definitely win because he plays football and a lot of people know his name, but the underclassmen pulled me through," Owens said.

Even though the three Mr. Grady candidates agreed not to campaign, Owens felt that his ability to socialize with any grade level, especially the freshmen class, helped him win the title.

"Every year I make it a point to get to know the freshmen class," said Owens, who knows first hand what it feels like to be picked on as an underclassman within Grady society. "When I was a freshmen some people tried to drag me, but a few seniors helped me out and I want to be able to do the same."

But Owens didn't win on just the votes of underclassmen. All classes appreciate his genuine attitude and enthusiasm about Grady. Even in the miserable weather, his school pride shone through.

"Grady means a lot to me, and I can't see myself at any other high school other than Grady because it's a perfect match," Owens said. "There's so much to do here so everyone can find a place."

Owens' ambition doesn't stop at winning the title of Mr. Grady. "I have big plans for prom, a senior trip, and my birthday party in early December," Owens said.

After high school, Owens has plans to attend college, major in psychology, and hopefully one day own his own practice. He also hopes to minor in drama so he can continue acting. But thanks to recent developments in his musical pursuits, Owens' future might be closer than he thinks.

"I predicted that before my senior year was over I would be signed to a record label, and I don't want to jinx myself, but Columbia Records is showing some interest in me," Owens said.



CHELSEA COOK

MILLION-DOLLAR SMILE: Russell Owens beams after he is named Mr. Grady. With the possibility of a recording deal in the future, Owens has many things to smile about.

After an amazing performance of an original rap in Grady's recent talent show, a talent scout from Columbia Records approached Owens and expressed interest. Still with this and many other opportunities opening up

for him, he remains humble. "I want to thank all the people who voted for me," Owens said. "I feel pretty lucky to win and now I feel like I will carry a little piece of Grady with me every place I go." □



CHELSEA COOK

Tannehill embodies Grady spirit

By JULIA OLIVER

She may be only four feet, 11 inches tall, but Ashley Tannehill has a huge heart.

Throughout Homecoming Week, Tannehill wore that heart on her sleeve, making it clear to everyone how much she cherishes the environment and relationships that make up her high school experience. She possesses a characteristic that anyone who wants to be Ms. Grady should have. She has a genuine love for Grady.

That love for Grady was reciprocated during halftime of the Homecoming game on Oct. 7 when she was crowned Ms. Grady for the 2005-2006 school year. The rainy weather of the day did not seem to phase Tannehill as she stood under her umbrella and graciously thanked everyone in the crowd for their support.

"I feel really happy and thankful [that I won Ms. Grady], and I feel grateful that people voted for me,"

Tannehill said.

Ms. Grady isn't the first school title that Tannehill has earned. She is involved in student government and ran unopposed to become senior class president this year. Besides student government, she is also on the varsity cheerleading squad. In her spare time, she likes to go to the movies, concerts, and she enjoys writing.

Tannehill says winning Ms. Grady is one of her favorite experiences she has had at Grady so far. Another memorable event was serving as co-master of ceremonies at the 2005 Talent Show, which happened to fall on her 17th birthday.

"Emceeing the talent show was so much fun," Tannehill said. "It was a great way to spend my birthday."

Tannehill has an overwhelming amount of pride for our school.

"I like the fact that there is no other school in the world like Grady," she said. "We all get along so well, and we are accepting of all

different kinds of people. There is just something about the people and the environment here that makes Grady a place you can never forget." Tannehill also possesses something that makes her unforgettable — the ability to make the best of any situation, a trait she says she gets from her mom.

"My mom always taught me to look for the positive side of every situation and to thank God for every blessing."

For some people, a torrential rain at the Homecoming game was a major disappointment, but Tannehill took it in stride. She was simply appreciative to be on the Homecoming Court and to be able to represent Grady.

Known for her enthusiastic and passionate school spirit, Tannehill's pride for Grady and her constant positivity stand far above everyone else.

"I love Grady," she said. And she means it. □

CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT: Full of enthusiasm, Ashley Tannehill dons her crown. Her outspoken and passionate love of Grady brought her the victory.



Katrina throws Thorpe’s college plans for a loss

By CHelsea SPENCER

On a would-be lazy Sunday afternoon in New Orleans, senior Todd Thorpe was packing. Some 300 miles southeast of his home, 175 mph winds were raging through the Gulf of Mexico towards the Louisiana coast.

Thorpe had packed for only a couple days, but his mother’s Dodge Caravan was still cramped and uncomfortable.

“I thought we’d be back in two days,” Thorpe said. “So many [hurricanes] went by that I didn’t think much of it. My mom was sick and I was at her house in the east. We weren’t going to leave at first, but then she decided it was better to go.”

By 4:30 p.m. on Aug. 28, Thorpe and his mother, father, and sister, Jade, were headed north on Interstate 55. Thirteen hours and 40 minutes later, the Thorpe family was sleeping at a rest stop in northern Louisiana when Category 4 Hurricane Katrina made its second landfall near Buras, La.

The Thorpes spent two days looking for a hotel to no avail until they received a phone call from Thorpe’s uncle.

“He said that they were all just at this one house in Crystal Springs, Miss., and that we could stay there,” Thorpe said.

After a one-night stay in Crystal Springs, the Thorpes headed east to meet Thorpe’s brother living in Atlanta.

“When we left Crystal Springs on the highway going to Atlanta, I was driving and the wind started picking up because the hurricane was just starting to come through where we were,” Thorpe said. “The car started pulling sideways and rain started coming down so we pulled over at a rest stop, but the car was still rocking. It was crazy.”

Once they arrived in Atlanta, the family stayed with Thorpe’s brother for two weeks. Then Thorpe and his father moved into his brother’s townhouse in Midtown, while his mother and sister stayed in a room at the Hampton Inn, provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

“At first when we moved into the townhouse, my brother helped us out with a lot of stuff like furniture and some food,” Thorpe said.

Since then, his mother and his sister have found an apartment, also in Midtown, and Thorpe and his sister have enrolled in school at Grady and Inman Middle School, respectively.

“My brother told me that [Grady] was a good school and it was in the neighborhood,” Thorpe said.

Thorpe played football for his high school team in New Orleans as a starting linebacker. He has joined the Grady team, but the experience as a new player has been disappointing.

“I started in Louisiana,” he said, “but I only get in sometimes here.”

The family plans to stay in Atlanta at least for the remainder of this school year. Thorpe’s college plans for the 2006-2007 school year, however, may bring him back close to home at Louisiana State University, but he anticipates change brought by the hurricane.

“It’s my senior year, and everything is resting on this year for football,” he said. “Scholarships came by, but I



ON HIS GAME: Senior Todd Thorpe stands on the sidelines of Lovett’s football field Sept. 30 as his new team claimed a 27-13 victory over the Lions. Thorpe plays less for the Knights than he did as starting linebacker for his hometown school, which has complicated his post-graduation plans.

guess it’s different now.”

Thorpe’s father who was a real estate agent in New Orleans has found a job at Keller Williams Realty, but his mother hasn’t been so lucky.

“My mom owned a business. She is an employment specialist. She helps disabled people or veterans or people who are injured get jobs,” Thorpe said, “but she doesn’t know what she’s going to do here [in Atlanta] for now.”

Thorpe’s father recently returned to their home in Gentilly, a neighborhood in New Orleans planned on and around a hill. Thorpe’s house is on the highest point of the hill and is also supported by three-foot stilts.

“[My father] said the water only went up to about the

first porch step,” Thorpe said. “It didn’t even go into the house.”

Thorpe’s attitude regarding his new atmosphere is bravely positive and optimistic, but he can hardly call Atlanta home.

“I just realized what happened last week sometime. When I first got here, it just felt like a trip that we were on. When it finally hit me that it happened it was a while after the fact,” Thorpe said. “Once I heard it was flooded I knew it would be permanent, but it really just didn’t register.

“But I mean you’ve got to move on,” he added. “you can’t be depressed forever.” □



Louisiana sweethearts reunite at Grady, to return home soon

By LEE ALLEN

Not all evacuees are as lucky as sophomores Juliet Meeks and Michael O’Keefe. Dating on and off for three years and self-proclaimed best friends, Meeks and O’Keefe found themselves living in Atlanta and attending Grady together after evacuating their homes in New Orleans.

The day before Hurricane Katrina hit the Louisiana coast, Meeks packed some belongings and evacuated New Orleans. After living in a hurricane-prone region for most of her life, evacuation had become a common occurrence, though she never imagined such a destructive hurricane.

As Meeks made her way to Jasper, Ala., with her mother and family friend to stay with her grandparents, O’Keefe had a slightly different experience driving to Houston. Usually a five-hour drive, the trip lasted a grueling 18 hours down an interstate clogged with other evacuees.

Without any bad weather along the route, O’Keefe arrived in Houston skeptical of the hurricane’s force. When he finally got word of Katrina’s destruction, O’Keefe responded, “Well s***, my house is screwed.”

Meeks and O’Keefe managed to stay in

contact throughout the two weeks in their respective homes away from homes. When Meeks’s mother decided to come to Atlanta, O’Keefe was able to convince his mother to allow him to come, too. Renting a house in Candler Park, Meeks, her mother, family friend, and O’Keefe started living together.

Since they arrived in Atlanta, news about their homes and neighborhood has emerged. Meeks received word of her house’s fate via her father, who stayed in New Orleans for his job at the local newspaper. After several weeks and paying a largely inflated price, Meeks and O’Keefe flew to New Orleans for a weekend to collect various belongings that were left when they evacuated.

Meeks returned to her neighborhood to find it damaged beyond repair, leading local officials to call for completely razing the area’s homes, schools, and churches. The water’s toxicity caused the death of plants and the wildlife’s abandonment of the region, giving the area a surreal ambience.

Before evacuating, O’Keefe moved his musical instruments and recording equipment to his mother’s home on higher ground from his father’s home, an area prone to flooding. Unfortunately, his



COURTYARD COURTEE: Sophomore Juliet Meeks spends a moment in the courtyard after coming to Grady from New Orleans. Meeks’ boyfriend Michael O’Keefe was also at Grady but left for Houston to live with his mom.

mother’s home was flooded and O’Keefe’s prized equipment was destroyed, although insurance will cover damages.

Meeks and O’Keefe said that they liked their schedules at Grady because they continued to earn credits they would have earned at home. Both have noticed similarities and differences from their school life at Grady and at school in New Orleans.

“People are different in every state,” Meeks pointed out.

Both liked Grady’s block scheduling and had other praises for the school.

“It’s cool,” O’Keefe said. “It’s got a really nice campus.”

Most of their New Orleans friends and acquaintances ended up in either Baton

Rouge, La., or Texas, although they know of one other person from their school now at an Atlanta school. Most plan on returning home.

While both were in Atlanta, Meeks enjoyed their new school and their new city. They were happy with their new communities and are began to explore all that Atlanta has to offer them.

Despite having a good attitude toward the city and school, O’Keefe recently relocated to Houston to live with his mother, even though Meeks stayed in Atlanta. Their separation will be short, though, as both plan on returning to New Orleans in January, despite being unsure that their school will be ready to reopen. □

Esteen appreciates welcoming atmosphere, aid from Atlanta

By LENA BRODSKY

Junior Shonnon Esteen arrived in Atlanta under unfortunate circumstances, but he found the students at Grady to be most welcoming.

On Esteen’s first day at Grady, he entered Mr. Pilson’s business class. News spread fast that he was from New Orleans and had come to Grady after having to evacuate his neighborhood. Esteen says that everyone was incredibly friendly, interested and very understanding.

Esteen is originally from Algiers, New Orleans. Algiers is located on the west bank of the Mississippi River across from downtown. Although it’s not the part of New Orleans repeatedly shown on the cable news channels, it was highly affected by the devastating hurricane and is now a completely changed neighborhood.

“I know that my old school was under 20 feet of water at some point,” Esteen said.

Esteen says he and his family were not expecting anything near as catastrophic as the hurricane was.

“My mom and about 30 other members

of my family drove here in our own cars the day before Hurricane Katrina hit Algiers,” Esteen said.

It took them an entire day to travel to Atlanta and when they did they were exhausted but surprisingly positive.

“I was satisfied with the response from the Red Cross, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the many volunteers,” Esteen said. “People’s personal donations and churches using their resources and providing for those who were affected by the hurricane have really helped my family.”

With all the reports on the media and the constant criticism of the government’s response to the hurricane, it is surprising that Esteen, an actual hurricane evacuee, has something positive to say about the relief effort.

“When my family and I left our houses on Sunday, we did not expect the hurricane’s devastation to be anything remotely like it was,” Esteen said. “We only packed enough clothes for two or three days.”

Esteen’s life, like the lives of millions of others who have been drastically changed by Hurricane Katrina, will never be the same. It is impossible for his life to return to the life that he used to know.

His manner, however, is relaxed and calm, although his housing situation would be difficult for anyone to cope with.

“Right now in Atlanta I’m living in a house with 20 other people, with things changing all the time,” Esteen said.

Although the uncertainty of what is going to happen in the future, like going back home with his mom and having no idea what to expect, loom in front of him, Esteen remains lighthearted about some things.

“Back in Algiers I went to an all-boys school, so it’s definitely a new experience to be at school with girls,” Esteen said. “My mom thinks it’s a bad idea, but I am actually getting more work done.”

On Sept. 30, Esteen and some of his family members went back to see what their home and old neighborhood are like now. They went with the intentions



MORE THAN KNEE DEEP: Junior Shonnon Esteen came from an all-boys school in the Algiers neighborhood of New Orleans. Esteen thinks that at one point his old school was under 20 feet of water after Katrina.

of checking to see how much damage had been done and to find out what could be salvaged. □



Storm sends Smith sisters to Grady

BY LEAH BISHOP

Darchelle and Breiyon Smith had the evacuation drill down pat, as would anyone else who had been doing this routine all their lives. Like thousands of other New Orleans residents, the Smith family thought the Katrina evacuation would simply consist of packing a weekend supply of clothes, staying in a hotel or with family for a day or two, and then returning home once the storm had passed. This particular evacuation, however, was anything but routine, as the Category 4 hurricane would turn out to be the most devastating hurricane in recent U.S. history. After filling the family car with as many belongings as Darchelle and Breiyon's mom, stepdad, brother and cousin could pack, they left for their original destination of Baton Rouge two days before the Monday that Katrina hit.

Fallen trees and hotel signs littered the roads. Congested highways didn't provide the Smiths with an auspicious start to their journey, and they began to realize that this hurricane was going to be a lot bigger than they had expected. The Smiths reached Baton Rouge and weathered the storm there before making the 500-plus mile drive to Atlanta.

"We were in Baton Rouge for almost a week, but it was too expensive to keep staying in a hotel, so we came to Atlanta to stay with my aunt and cousin," sophomore Breiyon Smith said. The Smiths' trip to Atlanta didn't go as smoothly as planned. What would

typically be an eight-hour drive took more than 12 hours. As if being in the car for hours on end, driving on what seemed to be never-ending stretches of highway wasn't enough, the car broke down a couple blocks short of a Mississippi gas station. The Smiths finally arrived at their relatives' home in Stone Mountain, where they would try to get their lives back on track.

"My uncle stayed [in New Orleans] and was there when the hurricane hit," junior Darchelle said. "We couldn't get in touch with him for a week, but we found out that he went to Red Cross and is OK." Once they contacted Wells, he recounted his experience to them.

"He saw the water coming so he cut a hole in the attic to go on top of the roof," Darchelle said. When Wells was rummaging through the attic, however, he came across something else of great value: the girls' great grandmother's silver coins dating back to 1849.

While the girls are

“ [My uncle] saw the water coming so he cut a hole in the attic to go on top of the roof.

junior Darchelle Smith

fortunate that both their uncle and great grandmother's irreplaceable coins were rescued, they lost far more than what they were able to save. Since no one knew just how damaging Katrina would be, Darchelle didn't think to bring her pictures or favorite tennis shoes with her. Breiyon lost some of her important school certificates and papers, and their grandmother's old African bible could be anywhere underwater in New Orleans or farther away.

Papers and belongings aren't the only things in Breiyon Smith's life whose whereabouts are unknown. "I've

campus, making the transition to Grady wasn't a problem for either of them.

Regardless of the fact that Grady is more than three times the size of the girls' former school in New Orleans, the students and teachers here helped Darchelle and Breiyon Smith adjust to their new atmosphere.

"There are a lot more people here," Breiyon said. "But Grady is a good school, and the students are nice too."

Darchelle and Breiyon's time at Grady, however, was only temporary. In a fortunate turn of events, the Smith family found a new home in Baton Rouge.

"Our mom works for the school board, so it should help us get a home or trailer easier," Breiyon said. The Smiths made the drive back to Louisiana on Oct. 13.

Darchelle and Breiyon made the most of their time in Atlanta. They made the best of the cards they were dealt by trying to do something new every weekend with family or friends.

The girls filled their weekends with skating, catching the latest movies at the local cinemas, and spending their time and money at Stone Crest Mall and Underground Atlanta downtown.

Even though they are trying to restore some sense of normalcy to their lives, Darchelle fears that this goal might be unattainable.

"Things will never be the same," she said. □

STEP SISTERS: Katrina evacuees and sisters Darchelle and Breiyon Smith sit on the front steps of the school that welcomed them when they had nowhere else to go.



ATLANTANS respond to Katrina

from page 1

the city of Atlanta has been affiliated with a variety of programs in a joint effort to deal with the recent crisis.

"Throughout the process, we've worked with the Red Cross," said Robbie Ashe, an aide to Mayor Shirley Franklin. "We've collected several tons of food and clothes, [and] we've provided free medical care."

Another relief effort based here in Atlanta is sponsored by an organization called HomeLife Communities. This Atlanta-based homebuilder will choose four families affected by Hurricane Katrina and allow them to live in a HomeLife house in Atlanta, Charlotte, Raleigh or Phoenix. All home-related expenses will be paid in full for an entire year. The family will also have the option of purchasing the home at a discounted price after the year is over.

So far, these relief efforts have been successful in reaching out to those affected by the hurricane. For weeks after the hurricane first struck, the state of Louisiana has been the center of media attention since a severe breach of two levees along Lake Pontchartrain left an estimated 80 percent of New Orleans under water at one point. The water was up to 25 feet deep in some places. Unsanitary substances in the water, including feces, garbage, and dead bodies, made it unsafe and unlivable.

As a result of the chaos, many family members and friends were separated from one another. Thousands of people were left to fend for themselves with little or no food for almost an entire week before help finally arrived. Some people evacuated ahead of time, with only their cars, their families, the money in their pockets and the clothes on their back. But because such a large percentage of New Orleans' residents don't have a car or any form of transportation, they were left to tough out the storm and the unsavory conditions in the city's Superdome and convention center.

The events of the past few weeks have made Atlantans open up their hearts and give back to those in need. Even Atlanta music artists have been helping the evacuees. In September, Atlanta-based rapper Ludacris and the talent agency Ebony Son Entertainment teamed up to give \$100,000 to provide new, rent-free apartments to 15 families from the Gulf Coast region.

Also, the "Heal the Hood" relief concert was held at Philips Arena on Sept. 17. Hip-

Hurricane Katrina facts:

- Wind speeds reached a maximum of 175 mph and 36 tornados are associated with Katrina.
- As of Oct. 14, the death toll stood as 1,242 but is expected to rise. The damage estimates have surpassed \$200 billion, making Katrina the most costly tropical storm ever in U.S. history.
- The hurricane relief effort has included \$2 billion and more than 190,000 Red Cross volunteers. The federal disaster area spans 90,000 square miles.
- More than 1 million evacuees have fled the disaster area and are living in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff described Hurricane Katrina as "probably the worst catastrophe" in the country's history.
- Gasoline prices increased dramatically. In some areas gas was as much as \$6 per gallon.

Source: Wikipedia.org

hop artists Nelly, T.I., Big Boi, Young Jeezy, 8Ball and MJG, and others played for four hours to a crowd of about 10,000 people. The event was organized in only a matter of hours by rapper and producer David Banner, a Mississippi native. About 1,000 tickets were given away to evacuees now staying in Atlanta.

Metro Atlanta colleges have also opened their doors to college students affected by the hurricane. Students from Tulane, Xavier, Dillard, Loyola and other hurricane-afflicted colleges have been welcomed with open arms by Emory, Georgia State, Georgia Tech, Morris Brown, and other colleges and universities in Georgia.

A series of job fairs, attended by thousands of evacuees, have helped to get some people back on their feet. The most important issues now are to figure out how to help the evacuees in the long run and how to get

federal aid for the cause.

"The challenge now is to figure out what to do with the people six months from now," Ashe said. "We need federal resources [but] the federal response has been inadequate."

The inadequacy of the federal response first became clear when tens of thousands of people were left in New Orleans for days after the hurricane with no food or water. The response became the dominant story, overshadowing a truly devastating natural disaster. Hurricane Katrina was a Category five hurricane that reached top winds of 175 mph, and it struck the gulf coast on Aug. 29. It will go down as one of the most deadly and costly natural disasters in U.S. history. By showing the true American spirit of "helping thy neighbor," Atlanta, along with many other cities across America, has lent a helping hand to those directly affected by the hurricane. □

Atlanta Public Schools enroll more than 600 hurricane evacuees

BY HANNA GRIFFITHS

In light of the Hurricane Katrina disaster, the Atlanta Public Schools has enrolled 608 students in more than 75 of its schools. Twenty-four Atlanta Public Schools have been doing their part as well.

According to the APS website, as of Sept. 21, 608 students were enrolled in more than 75 schools. Students were given school supplies and also received free lunch. An elementary school in Dade County, Fla., donated toys, supplies, and \$3,725 to the City of Atlanta.

Although all evacuees are considered homeless, each student's temporary residence determines the school they attend.

Many psychologists have agreed that the best thing for displaced children is getting them used to a routine. Toys and school supplies can give kids a sense of home and regularity. APS gave toys and stuffed animals to elementary school students, while older students received tickets to an Usher concert.

During the first two weeks of the crisis APS set up pre-registration at the Adamsville shelter in southwest Atlanta. Each student was given school supplies, MARTA tokens, clothing and food. Adults were given resources for counseling and housing.

Grady is one of the schools in the APS system who received students from hurricane-struck areas.

Grady administrators have encountered difficulties generating schedules for the new students without prerequisite course records.

"We have to build their schedules very differently," Dr. Vincent Murray said. "We have to accept where they say they are and what grade they're in."

"Some of them now are coming from other areas where they were originally relocated," Dr. Vincent Murray said.

According to Dr. Murray, there are currently 24 Katrina evacuees at Grady. Most families have decided to stay in Atlanta.

"People are trying to be accommodating because of the devastation," Dr. Murray said, "and [the new students] seem to be assimilating quite well."

with reporting by Chelsea Spencer and Curry Andrews

Roberts sees GNN evolve from early days to Pacemaker finalist

BY MATT WESTMORELAND

Thaddeus Roberts first came to Grady as a freshman in the fall of 1991. He hasn't left since. Over the last 14 years the 28-year-old GNN adviser has spent half his life dedicated to the award-winning program.

"When I came in 1991, *GNN* was an extracurricular activity that took place in the morning," Roberts said. "It was open to all those Grady students who were interested, all those who wanted to could get involved."

Even before Roberts graduated from Grady in the spring of 1995, he was offered a reason to stay. "Ms. Grishman hired me as a liaison," said Roberts, who became something of a consultant to GNN students and adviser to Niki Bolster.

"I just remember a tall, quiet, miracle-like young man," said Bolster, who served as adviser to both *GNN* and Grady's newspaper, the *Southerner*, before her retirement in the spring of 2001. Mr. Roberts was hired as a full-time teacher to fill the *GNN* position. "He had a knack for figuring out the stuff that no one else could do. The equipment was not state-of-the-art, so he would have to figure it out. I couldn't have done it without Thad."

Bolster believes Roberts' participation with *GNN* benefited everyone involved.

"I think we complemented each other," she said. "We learned from each other. I think he had a special rapport with the kids. He was closer to their age. They could see that if they worked hard, if they paid attention, they could become good journalists, too."

Roberts' interest stemmed from a family member. "I actually became involved when my cousin, who was working on video productio [at Grady] said, 'Hey, come on in,'" Roberts said. Getting a head start with the program gained Roberts more than experience.

"By the time I came in as a student, I had a giant ego," he said. Roberts remembers a memorable assignments in high school.

"I was either in my sophomore or junior year [in high school], and there was a dinner held at a hotel near the airport," he said. "The person who played MacGyver on the TV show was there giving a speech. I got to be the lead camera man at the event and stood upfront with a camera wearing a tuxedo. After that, I came in and told everyone what to do."

As he now occupies a new, expansive studio on the first floor of the Eighth-Street wing, Roberts remembers his old *GNN* headquarters in the sub-basement before the renovation. "The old studio was very elementary," he said.

"I would go in there and take things apart and put them back together again

for fun when they would break down."

The *GNN* of today looks radically different from the program of just a decade ago. "It used to come on three days a week," Roberts said. "It was just someone reading announcements. Since it was before teleprompters, they really were just reading. There was a lot of rewriting print stories, too. That is what I call boring TV."

But things began to change as the school's commitment and Roberts' influence on the program increased. "When we got *GNN* as a class, we could cover real stories and had more time to shoot video," he said.

One of the first big roles Roberts played after graduation came during the 1996-1997 school year. "They began to do a live shooting of the show *Mindbusters*," Roberts said. "They asked me to direct the show. I had worked with video production but never directed a live show."

Roberts believes the program's best days are still ahead. "I haven't seen *GNN*'s greatest achievement yet, that's what I feel," he said. "I've had people say you can get a feel of the school by watching our shows. It's a way for students to feel like they are a part of Grady. On a normal day you don't get to see everything. Some people never go to a game. *GNN* lets you see the crowd and the players."

Roberts knows exactly how he hopes to continue *GNN*'s current success. "My goal is to have a consistently well-produced show that is informative, entertaining, and has a little something for

everyone," he said.

Roberts thinks the current air schedule for the program is about right. "I think it should only come on once a week for 15 minutes," said Roberts, although he did mention the possibility of adding a second show to the program. As for *GNN*'s sports department, look for *GSPN* to come out on a bi-annual basis.

"We want to keep sports on *GNN* because it's that part that ties some people into the broadcast," Roberts explained. "I think we might have [*GSPN*] twice a year. If a team makes it to the playoffs, we can go in-depth on that topic."

There are big plans in the works for the magnet emphasis. "The [Atlanta Public Schools] channel wants to broadcast some of our shows," Roberts said. "That's why we've been running some stories recently that don't necessarily tie into Grady. Some of my students want to be journalists, and I want them to go out there and get it. In the real world of journalism it's not right in front of you like it is here at school."

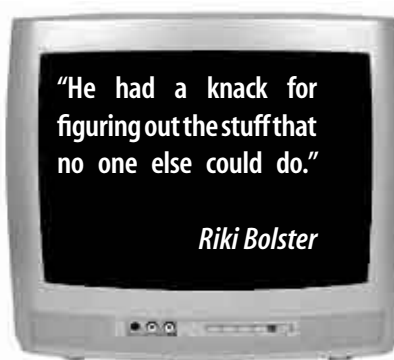
The adviser for more than 70 students, Roberts enjoys hearing stories about the success of his past students. "It's funny to see people I taught go to work for local news channels, BET, CNN, or places like that," he said. Roberts hopes that some of his former students will come back and work with the program on a voluntary basis.

"This job is bigger than any one person," Roberts said. "I'm really looking forward to trying to have people I taught come back and help." He says that while the task is demanding, his students are becoming more and more self-sufficient.

"Kids are finding out how to do things on their own," he said. "I try to limit myself. I tell them to only come to me if they break something so I can figure out how they're going to pay for it."

GNN's most recent achievement came when the National Scholastic Press Association announced it was one of 10 Pacemaker finalists nationwide. The broadcast Pacemakers are widely recognized as the Emmys of high school broadcast journalism. The five winners are announced at NSPA's fall convention in Chicago Nov. 10-13.

"It feels great," Roberts said. "What I like to see is striving for excellence not just at the local level, but also around the country. I think that sometimes competition brings about good. Competition gives you something to strive for." □



CHESEA COOK

Thaddeus Roberts

1991

Roberts enters Grady as freshman

1996-97

Professionally directs live shooting of *Mindbusters*

2005

GNN announced as NSPA Pacemaker finalist

Graduates from Grady, interns with GNN adviser

1995

Graduates from Georgia State University, becomes full time GNN adviser

2001

at Grady High

from his students

"He's very inspirational."

-senior Ashley Thurston

"Just seeing him work on GNN, I know he's really dedicated to the show and puts a lot into it."

-senior Ben Brandon

"He knows everything there is to know about high school broadcast journalism."

-senior JerMeen Sherman

DeKalb Crisis Center offers help, hope to sexual assault victims

By CHELSEA COOK

Candace Simen kept a secret from her sister for nine years. She didn't, however, do it to keep a friend's trust. She didn't do it to avoid punishment from her parents. She didn't do it so that her boyfriend wouldn't find out. She did it to exile the secret and pretend it never happened. Almost a decade after the fact, Candace's sister, Samia Hughton, would find out that at only 8 years old, her sister was raped. While her sister's story is tragic, it is not that uncommon. According to the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape, one in every four girls will become a victim of sexual assault before their 18th birthday.

"After I found out, it made me question everything about [Candace's] personality when we were growing up," Hughton said. "Something like that can really change a person." Houghton, now 26, wishes that her sister had had a place to go and trust after her traumatic experience. "I think it would be easier to get help from a complete stranger rather than family or friends," Houghton said, as she visited the DeKalb Rape Crisis Center during its annual "Take Back The Night" fundraiser. "And that why centers like these are so incredible."

The center, located on Church Street in the Decatur Square, provides free, confidential, and most importantly, open-minded care to individuals who experience any kind of sexual assault. The center, along with others in Emory and Hillandale, uses the facilities of DeKalb Medical Center. When a rape or sexual assault victim is taken to a DeKalb Medical Center hospital, the nurses contact the crisis centers, and volunteers from the center go to the hospital to help. They bring with them "comfort kits," which include a clean change of clothing, a new toothbrush and soap. The kits are necessary because most of the patient's belongings become pieces of evidence in a criminal police investigation. More important



CHELSEA COOK

FESTIVAL OF TEES: Denise and Katherine Slock, members of the Women's Studies Group at Emory, look at T-shirts created by sexual assault victims during DeKalb Rape Crisis Center's "Take Back The Night" fund-rasier.

than the kits, however, the volunteers come with open arms and a pair of empathetic ears.

"We're not there to give medical advice or counseling, we're just there to be a consistent, supportive person," said executive director Virginia Vaughan. "We try to return control to the survivor because she's going to go through a rape exam that's pretty traumatic." Whether the patient is a victim of a complete stranger and fearing AIDS infection or the victim of an intimate friend, the need for support is the same. Most survivors are welcoming and appreciative of such an ally. "We have had some rape survivors say, 'No, I don't want an advocate,' but that's because they're still blaming themselves, or scared, so we just leave our phone number, and leave them alone," Vaughan explained. "But generally, they want us to stay." The volunteers will also accompany victims to their court dates if there are any. Eighty percent of rape cases are committed by someone the victim knew, and it simply comes down to the

victim's word against the accused's.

The center's work doesn't stop there. The organization holds non-religion-affiliated counseling sessions for rape survivors. Sessions include one-on-one counseling with a professional therapist and then usually progress to group counseling sessions that meet every week or so. "We always tell people, 'Don't base your recovery on the person who did this to you; base your recovery on what your needs are,'" Vaughan said. DRCC also provides a free, 24-hour crisis line. "If someone can't sleep at night, or is having flashbacks from an event that occurred 20 years ago, we're there to listen, because talking about it is the first step in healing." The crisis line is the best and most common way that individuals volunteer.

Just as important as rape-survivor counseling and companionship is prevention of sexual assault. "You can't work in this business for years just dealing with people who have been raped and not want to do something to stop

this crime," Vaughan said. DRCC has curricula that has been approved by the DeKalb County School Systems about healthy relationships, sexual assault and respect, and often makes presentations at local schools. "Our speakers will go anywhere they're invited," Vaughan said.

On Oct. 1, DRCC had its annual "Take Back The Night" fund-raiser. Volunteers and community members sign up for a 5K race and a one-mile walk to raise money for the center. Because only half of the center's funding comes from the federal government and fines to federal criminals, the other half comes from grants, donations and fund-raisers like "Take Back The Night." Before and after the race, participants are encouraged to look at an annual exhibit presented by the center's sexual-assault survivors.

The survivors create T-shirts to be hung among the trees that express their rape and recovery to those who will hopefully never experience a sexual assault. Tiffany Wilder, 24 and Amanda Dycus, 26, came to the event simply as females from Decatur who wanted to support other females.

"It's an incredible thing these people are doing for themselves, but it's influencing us, too," Wilder said. They stand in front of a white T-shirt with a blue heart painted in the center. The shirt reads: "Everyone has a destiny, I will choose my own." Other shirts seemed as if they once covered bodies that hadn't reached such a powerful recovery. Adorned with thick rope, a shirt reads: "Bound by fear."

Sarah Marri, 18 put it best: "It just shows people that [sexual assault] is really happening. It affects a lot of people, and there are people who will help you." The fact that this event, which hosts more than 300 participants, takes place every year really supports DRCC in its mission and its genuine concern. "Even one person is too many," Vaughan said. "It's just an epidemic in our entire country, and it needs to be solved." □

Converting your PC into a studio is feasible and affordable, too

By WILLIAM VANDERKLOOT

If you own a large multi-suite recording studio you better charge a ridiculously high rate while you still have customers. The new semi-pro-level recording hardware allows anybody with a few bucks to start their own home studio. Many producers forgo the costs of recording an album at a large studio with the average rental fee around \$200 per hour.

Within the past year several new hardware devices have been released, which have allowed many people to construct their own temple of musical creativity. For the studio on a budget, three new products have grabbed the attention of audio production professionals everywhere. They are small but powerful and enable the user to convert their personal computer into a professional recording studio.

The FIREBOX by Presonus is a FireWire-recording interface that is

compatible with both Macintosh and PC. Its features include two microphone pre-amplifiers, which allow you to record two channels of audio at once. It is also compatible with almost any recording software, except for Pro Tools. The FIREBOX retails for about \$300.

The next item is Mbox by Digidesign, the creator of ProTools, which is the industry standard software. The Mbox connects via USB to almost any computer. With an internal system designed by pro-audio manufacturer Digidesign, the Mbox is an exceptional piece of hardware for any studio, which is only enhanced by its compatibility with ProTools. Impressive design, however, comes at a price. The MSRP for the Mbox is a hefty \$449.99.

The last item, the M-Audio Audiophile USB Computer Recording Interface, is the cheapest, with a retail price of \$199.99, and probably the most versatile. It will run using almost any software and has MIDI in and out, which is great for composing. The downside is that USB has some latency, which is bad for recording, and it has no mic pre-amplifiers, only line-ins, so a microphone amplifier would be required to make it practical for studio use. □

Recording Hardware

Where: Available at Sweetwater.com, and Guitar Center

Price: Presonus Firebox \$299.99, Digidesign Mbox \$449.99, M-Audio Audiophile \$199.99

The Lowdown: You can break in this new hardware without breaking your bank, too.

Rooks friendship transcends sight

By LILY FEINBERG

There aren't many people who would consider sight unimportant.

Irene Riley would. Maybe even junior Julia Rooks, too.

For the past three years, Rooks has been helping Riley with daily tasks that wouldn't be so hard if she could see.

Rooks was introduced to the idea of helping blind people at an early age. Her involvement began with Edith Holcom, a member of her church.

"When I was really, really young, my dad and I used to take Edith to church," Rooks said. Edith became increasingly blind, but in her earlier days of better sight, she painted.

"She was really cool," Rooks said. "She was a painter. She was going to teach me to paint." When Edith passed away, Rooks' preacher introduced her to Irene Riley.

"My preacher made the connection between Irene, who needed someone to read her mail and run errands and stuff like that, and me, because I had been such good friends with Edith," she said. At Riley's, Rooks would assist with daily tasks, things that most people wouldn't think twice about.

"I used to ride my bike from my dad's house to her house during the

summer," Rooks said. "I did stuff like read her bills, help her write birthday cards, and fill out surveys—the everyday stuff that most people can do without help."

Having a car enables Rooks to be even more accessible, making it much easier for Rooks get to Riley's house and to run errands with her.

The demands of school, sports, and homework, however, put a limit on how much time Rooks can spend with Riley.

"I used to see her a lot during the summer, but now there's school, so I usually drive over on Sundays and take her out to lunch and read mail," Rooks said. Still, both enjoy what time they spend together.

"Music is one of our things," Riley said. "Julia plays the guitar and she sings, and I sing, and sometimes we play duets on the piano."

Their friendship goes well beyond just working together on everyday tasks. "Sometimes we go grocery shopping, and we'll stop and have a hot dog and a milkshake in between," Riley said. "We enjoy doing some things together just because they're fun to do."

Rooks admires Riley for her self-sufficiency.

"She's so independent," Rooks said. "If I'm ever too busy to take her grocery shopping or take her

to church, she'll take MARTA with no fear." Riley will "even cross Boulevard to get to the MARTA station."

Riley is so self-sufficient that when Rooks first contacted her, she was unable to answer questions because she was in the middle of stripping paint from the outside of her front door. "I'm having it painted soon and the paint needed to be taken off, so I figured I might as well do it then," Riley said. "It was my project for the day."

Rooks knows Riley is just as capable as everyone else.

"She can do anything anyone else can do," Rooks said. "It might take her a little longer, but she can do it."

Rooks feels that her experience with Riley has changed her perspective. "It seems like most people think blind people are handicapped, but knowing Irene has shown me that's not true," Rooks said. "That's not the way she looks at it. When I first see her, she says something like 'You look so nice today,' because she has such a great sense of humor and isn't going to let something unimportant like sight interfere with her love for interacting with people."

Rooks is grateful for the chance not just to help Riley but to spend time with her as a friend.

"She's such a fun and interesting person," Rooks said. "When I'm with her, I don't even think about the fact that she can't see." □

“She can do anything anyone else can do.”

junior Julia Rooks

Talent show combines various genres, reflects Grady

BY SAM JOHNSON

The crowd buzzed with excitement before the show even began. While most of the performers mentally prepared themselves for their acts, some, like sophomore Lauren Dellinger, calmly schmoozed with the audience. As the lights flickered on and off, the audience slowly moved to their seats and the show started.

"The show was excellent," said Kevin Hill, chorus teacher and director of the talent show. "We couldn't have pulled it off without the entire behind-the-scenes crew. They made it happen."

Grady's fall talent show was a night filled with colorful performances. The show consisted of two acts, each with 12 performances separated by a 15-minute intermission. Junior Forrest Aguar, dressed as a banana, and senior Russell Owens, wearing a cow suit, kicked off the show rapping to various songs. Accompanying them was junior Seth Berman, spinning a turntable, and Druid Hills High School junior Stephen Solomon on guitar. Although they experienced some technical difficulties, they pulled off a strong performance.

When it ended, the masters of ceremonies, seniors Matt Westmoreland and Ashley Tannehill, gave a warm welcome to the audience. Westmoreland, president of the executive council, and Tannehill, recently voted as Ms Grady, introduced acts throughout the evening.

Students and teachers alike generated wild

responses from the audience all night long. Singers, dancers, rappers, instrumentalists, tap-dancers and many others made what many considered the best Grady talent show yet.

There were many dance routines. Sophomores Ebony Arnett and Rachel Jackson "lost control" on stage to Missy Elliot's hit single. Senior Chantia Robinson used her skills to leave the audience awestruck with her interpretive dance to "Zoo York."

One of the highlights of the evening was a dancing trio with seniors Solomon Adetonji, Chris Jackson and Isiah Moss. They had an explosive performance of Usher's hit single "Caught Up." This dancing trio captured the audience's attention like no other.

Another show-stopper was a performance of "Cell Block Tango," choreographed by seniors Vivi Chavez, Erin Wert, Ali Farnham and Sarah Taylor, which also featured sophomores Lauren Dellinger and Alex Hooper. The song, from the musical *Chicago*, is about six inmates driven to murder their spouses. The audience gave this piece a standing ovation.

Some of the major performances were from some of Grady's own rap groups. Juniors Kai Washington and Jhanisha Clark performed "I'm Here." The song's powerful beats struck a vibe with the audience and got them off their feet.

Junior Marquis Cook and sophomores Derrick Baxter and Quontavious Daniels were another rapping trio. Their song, "Hit the Floor," electrified the audience and at the end included a shout out to Old Fourth Ward.



EMMA DIN

CAUGHT RED-HANDED: Sophomore Lauren Dellinger is backed up by seniors Sarah Taylor, Erin Wert, Ali Farnham, sophomore Alex Hooper and senior Vivi Chavez-Vega, as they take the roles of the six merry murderesses of the Cook County Jail. They performed their rendition of the song "Cell Block Tango" from the musical *Chicago*.

Finally Grady-famous senior Russell Owens, performed an original rap, "The Rap-Game Spider-Man." "I got inspiration from my producer Cameron Washington after watching the movie Spider-Man," Owens said.

Even before he went on stage, the crowd was on its feet. The curtains opened up to reveal Owens lying down, about to unleash a fury of verbal explosions. He burst up and

immediately started dealing out one rhyme after another. Shortly after, he went out into the crowd. When he was finished, he lay back in his original spot, like it never happened.

The show ended on a high note. In the closing performance, the Grady advanced chorus sang Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody," complete with electrifying lights and sound provided by the backstage staff. It was definitely a talent show to remember. □



CHIEF SPENCER

UNMASKED AND ON TASK: Seniors Ashley Tannehill and Angela Oliver work on Grady's literary magazine. After a summer workshop at Western Kentucky University, Oliver feels her journalism skills were greatly improved.

Oliver earns scholarship from Western Kentucky University, utilizes her skills

BY ALEX DANIELS

Imagine spending two weeks doing something you enjoy, picking up valuable experience while doing it, and being rewarded a scholarship when it's all over.

For senior Angela Oliver, the opportunity came in the form of the Minority Journalism Workshop at Western Kentucky University. For two weeks last summer, she and a small group of students, including seniors Shearlon White and Ashley Tannehill, lived the life of a full-time journalist.

WKU's workshop was created to give minority students an opportunity to experience the world of print journalism firsthand. "We didn't really have sit-down classes," Oliver said. "Instead of getting lectured in a room, we toured local newspaper offices and TV stations. We learned a lot just by watching the professionals work."

Tannehill also valued her time with the program because it helped her develop skills in interviewing, journalistic photography, and writing. "I'm actually more of a creative writer," Tannehill said. "But the workshop definitely improved my journalistic writing."

The program resulted in a 16-page newspaper issue with contributions from every student. "I ended up writing two reviews, a news story and an editorial," Tannehill said.

The program also awarded scholarships to two students. Oliver, a member of *The Unmasking*, Grady's literary magazine, received the Outstanding Journalist Award, which includes a scholarship to attend WKU.

"After the program and the scholarship, [WKU] is one of my top college choices," Oliver said. "I took a lot of experience home from the program, and I'm a lot more interested in journalism now, especially photography."

Tannehill feels the program was valuable, although somewhat overwhelming. "It was a wonderful and exciting experience," she said. "I got to see a lot of interesting things and meet a lot of interesting people, but after experiencing all those deadlines and running around, I definitely know that the work is way too hectic and not for me."

Despite the workload, the students agree that it was a great experience, even if they don't plan to pursue print journalism as a career. "I learned a lot over two weeks," Oliver said. "It was a lot of work, and everything seemed scary and overwhelming at first, but I got the hang of it and gained a lot of exposure to journalism." With a scholarship on top of a great experience, Oliver can definitely call her stay at WKU a great investment for the future. □

Grady joins with Georgia State and VOX to address views on censorship

BY SARAH BETH MCKAY

In the coming months, Grady students will be working with the Georgia State University School of Art and Design and the VOX newspaper staff to create an exhibit addressing censorship. The show opens Feb. 2 at the Youth Art Connection Gallery downtown and will be up until March 17. Grady's presentation will run as a part of an interactive exhibition hosted by Georgia State called *Potentially Harmful: The Art of American Censorship*, which has traveled nationally and includes controversial art, theater, film and legal seminars.

"[The show will allow] high school students to explore censorship issues while looking at structures and processes that attempt to intrude on their personal freedom of expression," said

Cathy Byrd, gallery director at Georgia State and curator for the Grady production. "[I hope] students will question the rationale for adults to censor their clothes, their music, their artistic expression and the films they can watch at theatres."

Byrd will be coming to Grady on Oct. 21 to review and select work for the exhibit. She will also curate the *Potentially Harmful: The Art of American Censorship* show at Georgia State. "[The show's] extensive programming—seminars, panels, performances, artists' rights panel, film screening—and an extensive catalogue offer the opportunity for different dimensions of the Atlanta arts community, the general public and the world outside Atlanta to engage in our project," Byrd said.

Both she and Mr. John Brandhorst, who will coordinate artists and performers at Grady, hope for high participation that is diverse in both purpose and concept.

"I expect to see work that addresses censorship and also pieces that are themselves

censurable," Mr. Brandhorst said. "There should be examples of censorship in schools in addition to on a national or political level." He also would like to see work from many different fields—performing arts, such as music, dance, and film; literary arts, including poetry and journalism; visual arts, and forensics. The parts of the exhibit that aren't visual will be performed at the grand opening Feb. 2.

"The show will be a great opportunity for students to express what they know," said senior Jermeen Sherman, a varsity debater

who will be participating in the Grand Opening. "It will be a chance for kids to be heard and for their concerns to be addressed." Sherman and fellow senior Jeffrey Thomas will be expressing their opinion of censorship by holding

a miniature debate round.

Many participants are looking forward to conveying their personal views on the censorship that effects their own lives.

"Censorship is dumb," said senior Reed Gott, who is working with senior Anna Simonton to create plaster casts of his and her own naked bodies to critique society's censorship of the human form. "After a certain age, people should make their own choices about what they do and don't want to see."

Both students and teachers hope that the exhibition increases awareness about censorship and stimulates students to investigate the role that censorship plays in everyday life.

"Censorship is a hot issue, but it is also under-addressed," Mr. Brandhorst said. "The exhibit will be context for edgy work that addresses taboo issues and will hopefully be an elevated environment to have discussion [about the topic]." □

“After a certain age, people should make their own choices about what they do and don’t want to see.”

senior Reed Gott

Grady students go more than skin-deep with tattoos

By ALI FARNHAM

A cross bearing the name of a loved one, an ace of spades, a name splayed across a back.

These are just a few of the different tattoos Grady students have chosen to put on their bodies. This permanent form of body art, which has become quite popular among Grady students, is more than a craze. Students contemplate the idea of getting a tattoo, yet wait for an experience to give it meaning.

"The reason why I got it was kind of like a memorial to my sister," Senior Cedric Sykes said. "A lot of people, they get tattoos just to say they got a tattoo. I wanted to wait to get something meaningful." Sykes' tattoo of a cross on his upper right arm holds his sister's name in black calligraphy.

Like Sykes, other students decided to wait.

"Mine was actually a gift from my mother for not getting pregnant at 16," senior Adrienne Kirkland said. "It symbolizes my mother and my father." Kirkland's tattoo is of her name on the small of her back.

Even though Georgia law states that one has to be 18 to get a tattoo, students have still found ways to procure them. Some students acquire tattoos without the knowledge of their parents, while others get permission.

"[The tattoo artist] was just getting started, so he was just trying to make the money. If you looked 18 you were fine," Kirkland said.

For senior Kendall Barksdale, getting a tattoo was meaningful but also fun. He has "lost count" of how many tattoos he has gotten.

Barksdale, who has at least nine tattoos spanning over his arms, back, chest, neck and leg, plans to cover his entire body in tattoos eventually. Barksdale dedicated several of his tattoos to his relationships with his mother, grandmother and his neighborhood.

Unlike Barksdale, senior Teandra Franklin decided one was



SALLY ZINTAK

IN MEMORY: Senior Cedric Sykes remembers his sister Crystal with a tattoo on his arm. She lost her life in 1999 during a bicycling accident.

enough.

"I was shaking. It hurt real badly. That's why I don't want another one," Franklin said.

Franklin, who got her tattoo halfway through her junior year, went with a friend. Though they had planned to each get a tattoo, Franklin's friend chickened out after Franklin got hers. Franklin's tattoo is of her name.

"I love my name because really nobody has my name," Franklin said. "You don't find too many Teandra's."

Grady alumnus Max Chavez, said, "The best way to describe [getting a tattoo] is if you get a needle, a sharp one, and you put it on your skin to where its pushing down on your skin and you just drag it along your skin where it is just barely ripping the top layers. That is what it feels like."

Chavez, 26, has two tattoos on his upper left arm. One is of praying hands, which represents the hard work he has done in his life. The second is of an angel with a four-leaf clover and an iron cross behind it. He had the image done after a motorcycle accident that left his arm broken. He believes the angel to be a guardian who brought him luck during his accident, keeping him from getting hurt worse.

There is also that group of Grady students who are contemplating getting a tattoo.

Junior Sonia Martinez said she and her mother may decide to get matching tattoos. The design, which Martinez's aunt and cousin have already gotten, is of a cherry branch that would be placed on the small of their backs.

But this decision is extremely tough for Martinez who is not ready to rush to the tattoo parlor just yet.

"I'd have to think so hard about it if I was going to get one because it would be there forever," she said.

Even though the possibility of removing tattoos is available, it is very painful, time-consuming, and leaves scars showing what once was there.

Martinez agrees with Kirkland in that tattoos should be placed in a place where they can be hidden.

"Eventually people will see it, but there is no reason just to go around flaunting it," Kirkland said.

Chavez believes teens should wait until after high school to get tattoos.

"You have to find something that has meaning, that has a story behind it. You can't just walk into a tattoo place and say, oh, I want that picture on the wall," Chavez said. □

Sivas retires, brings mission to Grady High

By MICAH WEISS

Don't even think about getting your lunch out of your car because Col. Sivas will be there to stop you. And he's no pushover; take the Army's word for it.

Grady's newest senior JROTC Army instructor, Lt. Col. Mitchell Sivas has had a lifetime of experiences in the Army. During his 26 years of service, Col. Sivas served in the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions, four Special Forces Groups, and a Psychological Operations Group. He also traveled to 79 different countries, ran counter drug and counter-terrorism missions, and saw action in Desert Storm, Beirut, and other places he is either unwilling or unable to talk about. "I have had the priveledge of making U.S. history, not just studying it," Col. Sivas said, quoting a popular saying of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. This may even be an understatement.

Talking to Col. Sivas is like a box of violent chocolates: you never know what your going to get. It may be a story of doing HALO (High Altitude, Low Opening) parachute jumps from 25,000 feet, jumping with the French Foreign legion, or having his chin blown off. There's also the time when he watched his friend fall 12,000 feet to the ground when his parachute didn't open and walk away with nothing more than a broken nose and a few bruises.

Col. Sivas might hint at some of the people he's killed, the foreign armies he's trained with, or the people he's rubbed shoulders with, but he'll never give any details that would break confidentiality.

"I'm amazed that I'm still here alive and

healthy, because I shouldn't have been," Col. Sivas said in reference to all he's experienced in the military.

Col. Sivas finished his military career at the Pentagon, where he served as the USSO-COM (U.S. Special Operations Command) representative to U.S. government agencies such as the Defense Intelligence Agency, Central Intelligence Agency, National Security Agency, State Department, and Department of Defense.

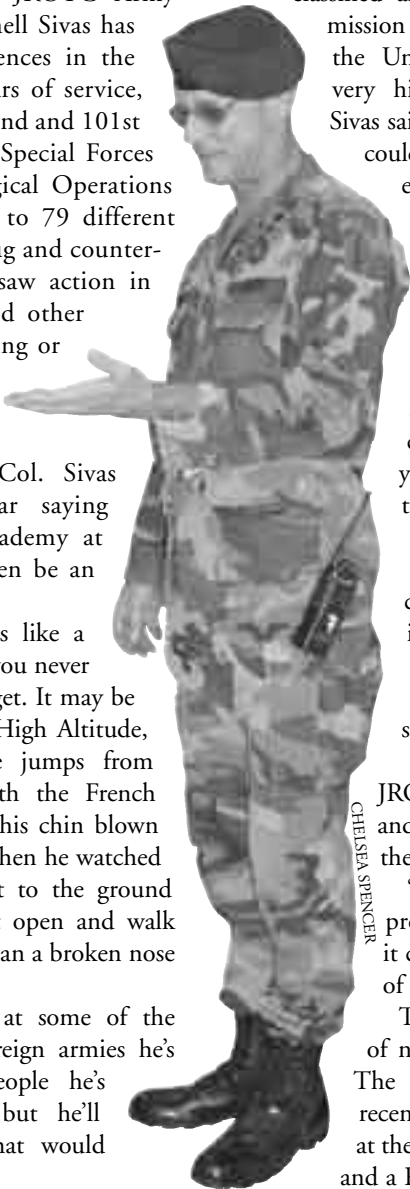
For the two years Col. Sivas worked at the Pentagon, he was involved in virtually every classified and unclassified military mission that was conducted by the United States. "It was a very high-pressure job," Col. Sivas said "If we screwed up, we could get people killed and embarrass the United States and our allies."

Because of the information to which Col. Sivas was privy at the Pentagon, he received the highest security clearance in the country. For the next 30 years, Col. Sivas cannot travel to a former or current communist country because of his security clearance. "I have relatives in Checkoslovakia that I can't, and probably won't ever be able to visit," he said.

Sivas sees Grady's JROTC program expanding and improving in quality in the future.

"Right now, [the JROTC program] is not as good as it could be, but it has a lot of potential," Sivas said.

There have been signs of new life in the program. The color guard team was recently invited to perform at the federal court in Atlanta, and a Raider team was recently established. □



CHELSEA SPENCER

Lt. Colonel Sivas

Youth Art Connection gallery houses AIDS Memorial Quilt

By CHELSEA SPENCER

Sixty-three Auburn Ave. houses a notable collection of artwork for any gallery's standard. From wall to wall, the 5,000-square-foot space is covered with thousands of paintings, drawings, photographs and digital artworks. But here at the Youth Art Connection gallery, many of the artists are barely tall enough to hang their work on the walls.

The Youth Art Connection is a program of the Boys & Girls Club of Metro Atlanta where children ages six to 18 come to engage in various art workshops and projects aimed to educate them on issues of youth culture.

"I like coming here because it teaches me stuff every time I come," said member Marisa Prepechai, also a student at Chamblee Charter High School.

The program collaborates with regional and national artists to help the program members express themselves through various media.

"A professional [graffiti] artist came to the gallery," Prepechai said. "We made a spray-paint-type banner trying to get kids to stop smoking."

In addition to in-studio workshops, the Connection offers a variety of programs and services that link members to the rest of the world.

"The projects are very teen-based," said Shavannah Ali, media coordinator for the program. "There are a lot more in-depth and hands-on kind of things."

Connection's International Paint Pals invites members to express themselves among and learn from youth from around the world through art.

Connection's newest and most exciting involvement is with the Turner's First Thursday ArtsWalk. Participants stroll through downtown Atlanta, in and out of featured museums and galleries on the first Thursday of every month, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

On Oct. 6, the Connection gallery collaborated with the NAMES Project to



CHELSEA SPENCER

AN EYE FOR ART: Aida Rentas and Donna Watts-Nunn look at one block of the AIDS Memorial Quilt on display at Youth Art Connection gallery downtown.

display two blocks of the AIDS Memorial Quilt and other member-produced works related to AIDS for the First Thursday event.

"When someone dies of AIDS, you can make a 3-by-6-foot panel for your loved one," said Aida Rentas, NAMES outreach coordinator and chapter relations manager.

"The panels display what the family and friends want to remember or celebrate about that person," said Donna Watts-Nunn, NAMES operations manager. "They can celebrate their memory rather than just grieving."

The gallery is typically open Tuesday through Friday from noon to 6 p.m. and admission is free. Boys & Girls Club membership costs \$25 per school year. Members have access to after-school activities, workshops, summer programs, and all the benefits of the Youth Art Connection.

"Every person that goes through the program isn't necessarily going to be an artist," Ali said. "It's more about just learning yourself, just finding that energy within yourself." □

Atlanta defies all, claims 14th title

By ASA BEAL

The 2005 season has been a very eventful one for Major League Baseball. The steroid scandal tainted the face of baseball like nothing since the labor strike of 1994. Heroes like Rafael Palmeiro have been nationally disgraced after steroid allegations.

During a congressional hearing that addressed the growing problem of performance-enhancing drugs, former single-season home run king Mark McGwire refused to deny accusations of his own steroid use.

Dominican star Sammy Sosa temporarily lost the gift of speech when confronted with these same charges. Throughout all this turmoil one thing will keep baseball fans interested in the game: the playoff race.

Former losing teams have morphed into division winners. Perennial contenders have fallen out of the pennant race. One team, however, the Atlanta Braves, has emerged from adversity to claim its 14th consecutive division pennant.

The 2005 season looked to be a bit of a rebuilding year for Atlanta. With the championship-caliber team of recent years nearly dismantled, Braves' manager Bobby Cox would have to pull off a minor miracle to take his team to the playoffs.

At the beginning of the season the Washington Nationals, formerly the Montreal Expos, surfaced as the team to beat in the NL East. Most baseball experts said that 2005 would be the year that the mighty Braves fell. Many boldly predicted Atlanta to finish second, or even third, in the division. The Braves have proved to be a resilient team and proved their critics wrong by clinching the division title yet again.

After an early season slump, Atlanta rebounded and finished the first half of the season on a hot streak. Then after the All-Star break, the Braves began their

assault on the division title. They promoted rookie sensation Jeff Francoeur to the big league club in early July for an injured Brian Jordan. Along with Atlanta's new golden boy, other rookies Ryan Langerhans, Kelly Johnson, Brian McCann, Kyle Davies and Pete Orr made significant impacts and revitalized the Braves.

Buoyed by their youthful energy, the Braves rose out of mediocrity and claimed the division lead by the last week of July. They never again fell out of first place.

There is little doubt that Bobby Cox's managing job this year warrants consideration for the National League Manager of the Year award, which brings up the candidates for the many other awards of 2005:

AL MVP: This award will go to either David Ortiz of the Boston Red Sox, or Alex Rodriguez of the New York Yankees. Their statistics are comparable, so the decision will be made on which player means more to their team, and is therefore the most valuable.

NL MVP: The St. Louis Cardinals' Albert Pujols is the clear favorite here. Though Atlanta's own centerfielder Andruw Jones has made a strong case for the award, Pujols has produced at a consistently prolific pace all year long.

AL Cy Young: Three of the front-runners here are the Angels' Bartolo Colon and Mark Buehrle and Jon Garland of the Chicago White Sox. Buehrle had a nearly perfect start to the season, but Colon should come away with the award because of his stellar performance for the Angels down the stretch.

NL Cy Young: Though 43-year-old Roger Clemens has put on a tremendous performance this year, the 21-win effort of Cardinal's ace Chris Carpenter makes him the most worthy of this award. Carpenter has been on top of his game all year and proved himself as the best pitcher in the National League. □



THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY: Grady runners chase after first-place finisher Crystal Leamons of Therrell, whose time won Therrell the race.

Changing of the guard: Grady loses cross country title at citywide meet

By ERIK BELGUM

Despite their high confidence, the girls cross country team lost the city meet for the first time in 11 years to Therrell, who is not in Grady's region. The region and state meets will show if the city loss was just a wake-up call or a sign of things to come.

The outcome must have been particularly disappointing to Coach Jeff Cramer who conveyed confidence in his runners before the meet "I expect them to win it," Cramer said. "I want to have five of our girls in the top 10."

"We always win the city meet," said sophomore Scottie Bookman, before this season marked the end of Grady's city title domination.

For these city, regional, and state meets, Coach Cramer has to narrow his team down to the top-12 runners, of which, seven run.

The top Grady runners include Arielle D'Avanzo, Ella Miller, Kala Marx, Polly Zintak and Jill Woodliff. On Mondays, the girls work on their distance running, which helps their endurance.

To increase their speed and decrease their times for the

upcoming meets, the girls have been doing speed work and endurance work during their practices across 10th Street at Piedmont Park. Speed work is when the team repeats laps at a faster pace, something that will decrease their times on easier courses. Another tactic Cramer employs is having the girls run surges, where they sprint for 100 meters, and then continue for another 100 meters at a fast pace and sprint again.

The team is becoming more like a family.

sophomore Mollie Pett

As a sign that the tougher practices are working, some of the runners have already seen their times drop dramatically.

"At every meet, I cut a off a lot of time," freshman Jillian Woodliff said.

Other runners like freshman Jessie Andrews set personal goals for the season.

"My goal was to improve at each meet that I ran in," said Andrews, who has dropped one minute off of her time at each meet.

Some of the girls have noticed better times on faster courses. The Carrollton Invitational was the first time that the team had a chance to gauge themselves on a big-meet course. "My time really went down

at Carrollton because the course was so much easier," Woodliff said.

The Carrollton meet was a good chance for the team to see their state and regional competition whom they don't normally face at the Grant Park meets. The Carrollton course is also the same one that they will run in the state meet.

"The speedwork has really helped me drop my times at the meets," said sophomore runner Ella Miller, one of Grady's top seven. "We work on getting out in the front of the pack and staying there."

According to the team, the Carrollton course is smoother than the Grant Park course. This, says Miller, "makes the course faster and easier to run hard."

Cramer and the girls team are looking forward to the regional meet as a chance to prove themselves. The meet will be held at Our Lady of Mercy on Oct. 19.

Meanwhile, the girls continue to practice every day at Piedmont Park. While their rigorous practices have made the girls faster, they have also helped the team grow closer together.

"The team is becoming more like a family," said Mollie Pett, the sophomore team manager. "This year, the girls seem to have more support for each other." □



FOLLOW THE LEADER: Junior Luke Pattison leads a pack of North Atlanta Warriors on the first lap of a Grant Park meet on Oct. 5. Pattison placed 25th overall, as Grady finished second.

Runners gain confidence as state meet draws closer

By TRAVIS JONES

An increasingly positive attitude is running rampant through the boys cross country team. The fact that through four meets, four different runners have finished with Grady's fastest time is a testament to the depth of the team.

"At the beginning of the year, winning state is always a goal, but I thought it was a long shot," head coach Richard Buerkle said. "I am kind of surprised. I didn't know where we would be. We have three guys under 18 minutes, and last year we had three, but not until the end of the year."

The next time that Grady travels to Carrollton they will be competing for a state championship. The team will have to select a strong fifth runner for the Nov. 5 meet to run with seniors Wes Vernon and Collier Johnson, junior Stone Irvin, and sophomore Max Leonard, who have

all run strong this year.

Senior Jeffrey Carpenter and sophomore Hampton Watson look be the front-runners for the five spot, according to team sources, but Coach Buerkle is also impressed with some of the freshman runners.

Grady has done surprisingly well, partly because of the team's relationship with their coach.

"Coach Buerkle is an interesting character," Irvin said. "He brings a lot to the team; his Olympic experience and other experiences are of a higher quality than most other people get."

The Knights have also excelled because of an emphasis on team unity. Runners of all levels are encouraged to push each other to get better.

Since there is no established cross country hierarchy, this method remains effective. With all runners giving their

full effort, it encourages the boys not to slack, for fear of losing their spot on the team.

At the city meet Oct. 12, Grady runners excelled, narrowly missing out on a first-place finish to Mays, a 5A school, despite Johnson's detrimental knee injury at race time.

"We feel confident (about state), because the competition at city is harder," Vernon said. "I feel like we did well, but due to C.J.'s injury, we were not able to do as well as we could have."

With an instilled sense of confidence, and the team firing on all cylinders, the boys team looks to overtake their toughest competition, Greater Atlanta Christian and Wesleyan.

"The team is looking stronger," Irvin said. "We didn't know if we'd be able to take state, but as the season progresses, we feel more confident." □

Poker: where luck and skill go hand in hand

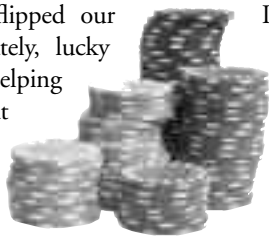


WOODY MORGAN

I called the \$4 bet after the river card had been revealed. It was a seven. I was sitting pretty with pocket 10s and another on the board, with the river completing my full house of 10s full of sevens. I had the hand in the bag. I knew the money was mine. My opponent and I flipped our cards. Unfortunately, lucky seven was not helping me out. I stared at my opponents four sevens in disbelief. I lost.

Losing \$4 may not seem like that much, but when you are playing with other unemployed teenagers whose main income is their monthly allowance, it's a big deal. Plus, if it's a \$10 buy-in, then that's almost half of your money gone in one hand. But, fortunately for me, and anyone else that becomes short-stacked quickly, you always have a chance to make a comeback in poker: you just have to play your cards right.

Poker is probably the last thing that comes to mind when discussing sports. How can a bunch of guys (and the occasional girl) sitting around a table for hours be considered a sport? When did dialing Papa John's number become such a rigorous activity? There may not be much physical activity, but it is the skill and emotion tied up in the game that qualifies poker as a sport.



Just like it took professional athletes years to perfect a cutback or a spin move, the skill involved in reading a bluff or laying down your cards when you know you're beat can take years to perfect. It takes a lot of discipline and practice to maintain the emotionless poker face in a "game-time" situation. Any twitch, smile, or even the slightest eye movement can let everyone at the table know how good, or bad, your cards really are.

The lack of emotional expression is why poker is so intense. Instead of jumping for joy at the fact that the river yielded a winning hand for you, you have to bottle it up so the other guys will throw more money into the pot. This emotional buildup can rattle the nerves like nothing else.

The feeling of going all-in before the flop is just as nerve-racking as running a trick play on fourth-and-goal. You don't know if you're going to score big or get burned. As the cards are flipped one by one, your heart steadily beats harder and harder until your whole body is pounding. It's the same anticipation you feel in a championship game that has gone into overtime. Your poker life is at stake, and there are only two more cards to help you out.

With pocket fives, the flop gives you nothing. The turn card is flipped. No help there. Your heart swells in your chest, and you swallow hard just thinking of the possibility of losing that money on a card game. One more card. The

river is a five—three of a kind. You can shout with jubilation and let out a sigh of relief all while stacking your newly acquired chips with a smile.

After a big hand you feel drained. All the emotions of sports are compressed into a few minutes that rest in the hands of fate, and maybe a little with Lady Luck. But just as soon as you are feeling on top of your game, you could lose it all the next hand.

No matter how short-lived your stint at the poker table is, remember, it's just a game. If you do lose your \$10, just think about it this way; price of a movie ticket: \$8.50, price of a large Coke: \$3, length of movie: hour and a half, price to buy in a poker game at Grady: usually \$10, spending quality time with friends with the possibility of doubling your money: priceless. □

POKER TERMS

BURN—to discard the top card from the deck, face down, before putting out the next community card(s)

KICKER— an unpaired card used to determine the better hand of two near-equivalent hands

THE NUTS— the best possible hand given the available cards

TILT—to play wildly or recklessly

TELL— a clue about a player's hand

TOP HANDS

ROYAL FLUSH—



STRAIGHT FLUSH—



FOUR OF A KIND—



FULL HOUSE—



FLUSH—



STRAIGHT—



THREE OF A KIND—



TWO PAIR—



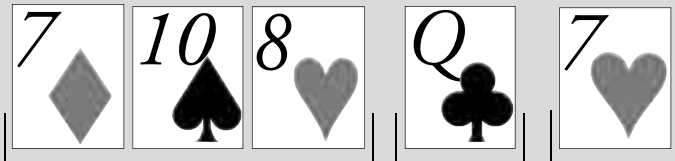
ONE PAIR—



HIGH CARD—



TEXAS HOLD'EM



FLOP

TURN RIVER

Poor record fails to show team's talent

BY KENNY JONES

The Grady volleyball team has struggled through the first half of this season, but the girls feel that their 7-11 record doesn't accurately reflect their abilities and hard work. "Our record is terrible, but we're not a bad team," junior and newcomer Lena Brodsky said.

The team hopes to make up for lost ground and turn the season around, but they haven't been receiving much help from the officials. This year's team suffered one of the most controversial losses in Grady history. During a game on Aug. 23, the referee of the Grady-West Lake volleyball match showed not only a lack of knowledge of the rules but also a strong bias towards the other team.

"We would be subbing and then the whistle would blow to start the game," junior setter Emma Din said. "Before we were even in the game the ball would be served over the net." Not only did the referee give West Lake these predetermined points, the referee first declared Grady the winners, but after a brief conversation with West Lake players he determined that one of Grady's players had touched the net, resulting in an automatic point for West Lake. Since the game-winning point was nullified and awarded to West Lake,



KENNY JONES

CAPTAINS COLLIDE: Captains Emma Din (6) and Jada Glasby jump for a block in a loss to Padiea on Oct. 5.

the game continued, ending in a Grady loss.

The team, however, was determined to rebound and make this year's season a winning one. The team, led by assistant captain Din, won their third straight match against Douglass on Sept. 29. Din showed not only a clear understanding of the fundamentals of defense, but a skilled serve, acing the other team on eight of her 19 serves. The offense was also led by sophomore Maranda Barnes. The Knights converted seven of her nine serves into points in the first game against Douglass.

"[Our] serves really helped," Barnes said. "They're an important part of the game." The girls hoped to continue their three-game winning streak against the Southside Lazars but struggled to get any offense started, only scoring 11 offensive points in the two losses combined. □

Tough season ends with no regrets

BY CARSON PHILLIPS-SPOTTS

After entering the season with high expectations, the girls softball team lost five of their first seven games including losses to Paideia, Walker and Holy Innocents'. Many players have been searching for a way to reverse the team's fortunes.

"We had our ups and downs, and I have seen convincing signs of talent," Coach Patrick Thomas said of his team's performance thus far. "We have the potential to win, but we just lose focus."

The game results are particularly perplexing because the team practices so well. "We've been having really great practices," senior second baseman Vivi Chavez said. "We work hard, but many times we concentrate on winning too much, and we make mistakes."

Those pregame jitters often lead to errors and mental mistakes. This lack of focus is recognized throughout the team. "We have the ability to beat these teams, we just get really nervous," senior third baseman Jessica Brandon said.

As the Knights continue to move forward, team morale is surprisingly high. "The seniors have been showing a lot of good leadership," Coach Thomas said. "The girls aren't down on themselves." One senior in particular has been doing a lot to keep up the team's confidence

and morale. "Elisa Koehl is definitely the team leader," Chavez said. "She is a good pitcher, she keeps everyone straight."

For Koehl, the position comes naturally. "I've been playing softball for a while," Koehl said. "It's only natural to take a leadership role, step up and help the team." Many members of the team credit this leadership to the successful moments that the Knight's have achieved thus far.

With a unique mix of senior leadership and a solid work ethic, the Knights were confident that they could turn the season around. This optimism was conveyed by Brandon. "If we keep playing and practicing like we have been, there are some upcoming games we have the potential to win." On Sept. 15, the Knights defeated Cross Keys 20-4. The Knights played as a cohesive team, showing improvement while pulling off a convincing win.

The Knights moved into the more difficult portion of the season, losing the final two games of the season to Walker and Decatur. The season may have been a disappointment but the team leader Koehl has a different perspective. "Our losses didn't mean much; what mattered was that we were a tight-knit team, and we worked hard during the season." □

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Coach Patrick Thomas

