

THE SOUTHERNER

An upbeat paper
for a downtown school

www.gradyhighschool.org/
pub/sner/sner.html



FOOTBALL

*Loss against
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ends 3-game
win streak*
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DEBATE

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HENRY W. GRADY HIGH SCHOOL, ATLANTA

VOLUME LXI, NUMBER 2, Oct. 17, 2007

Grady hosts driving class for first time

BY EMMA FRENCH

Starting this year, Nathan's Driving School is offering a driver's education course at Grady. This course aims to generate safer, more self-assured and more experienced young drivers.

"The main emphasis [of the course] is to meet the 'Joshua's Law' requirements, which are 30 hours of classroom time and six hours of in-car driving," said Tom Miller, general manager of Nathan's Driving School, in a phone interview. "We emphasize defensive driving, safe driving techniques and being patient instructors but also making sure that kids learn what they need to learn in order to protect themselves when they're on the road."

So far Grady students who are taking advantage of the opportunity have said that the class has helped them.

"I think twice before doing something stupid [as a driver] now," junior Chris Cruz said.

The program offers two course choices: the first includes 30 hours of classroom instruction and six hours of in-car training and costs \$409, which gives Grady students a \$100 discount; the second course offers 30 hours of classroom instruction and 10 hours of in-car training at a cost of \$629.

Once students meet the classroom and in-car requirements and pass their final exam with a 70 percent or above, they will receive a Certificate of Completion which will entitle them to possible insurance discounts and qualify them for a \$150 Georgia state income tax credit.

see DRIVER page 5



FALL ARTS FEST DRAWS TALENT FROM ALL FIELDS

The Grady Fall Arts Festival on Sept. 26 featured samples from almost all of Grady's arts programs. Above, senior Kieran Maynard, junior Ryan Lamotte and freshman Promise Hartung perform in *Woman at a Threshold*, *Beckoning*, a one-act play directed by Ms. Lisa Willoughby. For more pictures and information on the Fall Arts Fest, as well as Jazz on the Bricks and the My Atlanta photo contest, see pages 10-11.

Radio program a reality

BY MIRIAM HUPPERT

Grady's curriculum is getting a boost with the addition of a radio journalism class taught by seasoned journalist Mr. Joe Hirsch. Prior to working at Grady, Mr. Hirsch worked with big media names such as Fox News, ABC News, and NPR's Youth Radio program. Youth Radio is what sparked the idea for the radio journalism course.

Ten years ago, a radio broadcast would have been too costly and required licensing from the Federal Communications Commission, as well as a radio tower. With new technologies available, however, the class is well within Grady's abilities.

"Our plans [right now] are to do Podcasts and web-streams," Mr. Hirsch said. "I really think that internet radio is better, in

a way, because with a tower you could only broadcast a couple hundred feet, but with the internet you can have your friends in Japan listen."

Mr. Hirsch's classes will be focusing on what defines news and what it means to be a radio journalist.

"I think some [of my students] were expecting to play music...and I know some of them are



RADIO STAR: Senior Aubry Roberts, freshman Ben Gittelsohn, Mr. Joe Hirsch and junior Emma Alexander discuss Gittelsohn's commentary between recordings during an after-school Youth Radio meeting.

getting antsy; they want it's something you have to be on the radio, but I think they know that

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THE SOUTHERNER

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Missing: 600 voters

In 1920, women gained the federal right to vote. In 1965, the Voting Rights Act restored to African-Americans the right to vote originally granted nearly a century before. On Sept. 28, 2007, however, nearly half of Grady High School’s population squandered its right to vote.

The elections varied from the selection of Mr. and Ms. Grady to student government offices. We all had a friend running, or at the very least there was someone we may have wanted to vote against. So what’s our excuse? Out of roughly 1,400 students, only 800 voted. Grady is the source of roughly 600 of our future’s lazy, non-voting U.S. citizenry.

Perhaps, with only six minutes between classes, it was unrealistic for the administration to expect us to vote without designating class time for the task. They chose to make it something for us to do “on our own time.” Perhaps we should go back to the previous practice of voting in homeroom and waiting as our homeroom teacher counts our ballots to ensure that each of us voted.

The fact is that we’re all late to class on a daily basis for reasons far less excusable than “I had to vote.” Whether we have A or B lunch, we had our chance to vote.

But now the ballots are in. The 800 votes have been counted and the majority of the winners have been declared. Perhaps those 600 unheard Grady voices just don’t care. But perhaps some of you do, and we hope some of you are disappointed by the results. Now is the time to learn the value of your vote. Within the next four years, and for some of us, coming up in 2008, it’s time for us truly to be heard. Let’s hope our voting performance at Grady won’t be an accurate indicator of our future voting performance as Americans. □

A formal dance plea

At most high schools throughout America, the month of October calls for dress shopping, corsage purchasing and making dinner reservations. These are typical conventions of the high school homecoming experience. But here at Grady, there’s no need for all that planning.

Like every other school, we have spirit week, coronation and of course a football game in which we pick a team we’re sure to beat and then clobber them mercilessly. The grand finale, however, is missing. At Grady, a “homecoming” dance follows Friday night’s game, but it’s not the same classy event we see pictures of in all of our friends’ photo albums. Our homecoming dance has no dress code and requires no planning or dates. It’s as if a piece of our high school experience has been removed.

When the issue has been brought up at Grady, adults seem to dismiss it by saying “that’s what prom is for.”

They’re wrong. Homecoming is a completely different event—it’s the grand finale to a week of school spirit. Most importantly, while prom excludes underclassmen, all grades would be invited to a homecoming dance. It would give every girl at Grady a chance to dress up and require every guy at Grady to brush his hair.

A homecoming dance should not be an average sweaty T-shirt and tight-jean, booty-dancing fiesta. Yet as things are now, when we’re off in the world looking back on high school memories, our memory of the homecoming dance will be one of grimy gym floors and Wendy’s burgers.

It may be too late for our concern to be heard this year, but for the years to come, let’s make homecoming memorable. Let’s make it a time for Grady to exhibit school spirit and, hopefully, some class. □

CORRECTIONS

In our Sept.14 issue’s article, “Southeast Pipe Survey renovates Tenth Street sewers,” it stated that the construction was over when it was not.

In the article, “Defeated by Douglass, young knights thrash Therell,” Jamal Londry-Jackson’s name was misspelled.

In the September follow-up to UrbanCouture’s T-shirt campaign, we mistakenly attributed Doggies on the Catwalk’s sponsorship to Bubblicious Bubble Gum. In fact, the event will be sponsored by Atlanta drag queen, Bubba D. Licious.

Race played no role in Vick’s conviction

Dear editors,

I’d like to commend Kayci Schoon on her article about Michael Vick last issue (Vick’s action cruel, race not the point,”), finding it to be both fair and informative in its view on his recent indictment. As a student of mixed ethnicity, one being black, I love to look further into cries of racism and injustice when and wherever they may appear.

For those of you feeling Michael Vick was treated unfairly in terms of his shameful dogfighting and drug possession, let’s all take a moment to imagine he had not been a popular, multimillionaire Atlanta icon. If he’d been found guilty of the same crimes, being either white or black, he would have surely been prosecuted, and the case would have gone unacknowledged. There would have been no constant news updates. But taking into account what was at stake, the state of the city’s professional football team and the reputation of the billion-dollar corporations that supported him, there was much more to consider. Groups across the nation formed claiming

racism and injustice for the mere reason they could cry nothing else in the face of his unquestionable guilt. It’s time to take responsibility for these horrible crimes and shy away from a claim that often lacks originality or merit.

Katie Van Heidrich
senior

Animal cruelty not relatable to racism; writer insensitive

Dear editors,

I was disappointed with the article “Vick’s Action Cruel, Race Not the Point.” In the article, the writer equates humans with animals and places the act of racism on the same radar as cruelty to animals. She could have never been more insensitive. Yes, for years on the plantations we were considered less than human, and yes the “master’s” animals were considered better and treated better than my ancestors were. How unfortunate that in 2007, according to what was written in the article, the same atmosphere prevails. Animal cruelty is not, and I reiterate, NOT “nearly” as cruel

and inhumane as racism.

Ms. Olympia Jenkins
teacher

Swastika disappears; Nazism disturbing

Dear editors,

Roughly two weeks ago, a swastika appeared in the girls’ bathroom on the first floor near the main office. It shared a popular wall often plagued with your average high school girl’s banter. For a few days it went unnoticed until someone crossed it out and condemned the symbol in writing. For those who don’t know, a swastika, albeit an ancient symbol of eternity, is a blatant representation of Hitler’s Nazi Party. What surprised us most was that after that initial statement of dissent with the symbol, nothing else appeared. Outside of Social Diversity Club, there were no talks of who did it or that anti-Semitism might be a very personal issue Grady High School might need to confront. Instead the wall was eventually wiped clean and the question of the swastika’s origins swept under a rug. But something all Grady students and administrators should consider is the fact that although you can paint over an issue, it doesn’t merely disappear.

Grady’s Social Diversity Club

Question OF THE MONTH:

How do you plan to dress up for Halloween?

“ I was Buttercup—a Powerpuff Girl—one year for a costume wedding.

Erin Davis,
teacher



“ A bumblebee. I’m planning to make my costume.

Alexandra McColl,
freshman



“ [I want to be a] football player because I’ve done other sports before but never football.

Travis Martin,
freshman



“ I usually just wear a random mask, but this year I want to do something different.

Anthony Arlequin,
sophomore



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ATTENTION READERS!!!!

The *Southerner* welcomes submissions, which may be edited for grammar, inappropriate language and length. Please place submissions in Ms. Hartsfield’s box in the main office. Subscriptions are also available. For more information, please contact Ms. Hartsfield, Mr. Winter or a member of the staff.

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An upbeat paper for a downtown school

Treatment of Iranian president undiplomatic, crude



TAYLOR FULTON

The freedom to say what we want to say when we want to say it is granted in the First Amendment. With this freedom comes the ability to express our feelings about anything we can think of. There are times, however, when people are too quick to take advantage of this freedom. It is better to maintain the morality of our words rather than to use our speech to offend others. Lee Bollinger, the president of Columbia University, is a perfect example of how not to exercise freedom of speech.

Each year, Columbia University hosts the World Leaders Forum. Respected political leaders from all over the world are asked to speak before thousands of Columbia students on some of the most controversial, sociocultural issues of the day. This year, Bollinger invited Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the president of Iran. The importance of freedom of speech was pushed to its limits when the event, intended to be a courteous forum, dissolved into an uncomfortable confrontation between two very opinionated men.

Bollinger, chosen to introduce the speaker, began with a preamble containing a page and a half of negative comments outlining the Iranian administration's hostility toward its citizens and the lack of rights given to them, especially women. He later went on to ask countless

rhetorical questions that he doubted Ahmadinejad had "the intellectual courage to answer."

President Ahmadinejad has been charged with allowing reckless imprisonment of international correspondents, with ordering public executions and with encouraging intolerance during his regime. Numerous sanctions from the United Nations, constant reminders of his combative views towards Israel and virulent attacks from protestors who were shocked when he stated that there were no gay citizens in Iran have further stoked controversy surrounding him. Even if only a fraction of the accusations against him are true, it's clear that Iran's president is not a world leader to admire.

Yet, despite Ahmadinejad's well-deserved bad reputation, Bollinger's finger-pointing in front of a crowd of American students and protestors was uncalled for and disrespectful. He demonstrated a lack of manners and respect for foreign representatives. His words were belligerent, not to mention embarrassing. A forum between countries is not the time to criticize one another. Only a very rude man would stand before a group of people and humiliate a high-ranking international visitor.

Point blank: President Ahmadinejad was insulted in a foreign country. And Ahmadinejad's body language

clearly illustrated that he wished the event to be over before it began.

The way in which Ahmadinejad held himself stood in noble contrast to Bollinger. One man chose to deepen the already entrenched animosity between countries, while one chose to attempt to ameliorate it.

Don't get me wrong. I don't condone Ahmadinejad or his administration's actions in his country, and I am fully aware of the multiple accusations against him. I know that he has said and done things worthy of punishment, and I abhor his attitude towards other countries. But Bollinger's actions cannot be excused. The forum at Columbia University showed just how hard it would be to put the past behind us and look to the future. We will never be able to repair relations with other countries if we act thoughtlessly.

People like Lee Bollinger are selfishly inclined to speak their minds without thinking about the consequences of their actions. They abuse their right to free speech by speaking negatively of those to whom they owe respect.

Bollinger's words speak for themselves: "Today I feel all the weight of the modern civilized world yearning to express the revulsion at what you stand for. I only wish I could do better."

How egotistical is that? □

“ It is better to maintain the morality of our words rather than to use our speech to offend others.



Celeb's political backing helpful



OLIVIA SCOFIELD

Health care! Social security! Tax budget!

Though these things are fundamental issues for our society, they do not catch the average young adult's attention like the glamorous words: Usher!

Leonardo DiCaprio! Ben Affleck!

In order for political candidates running for office to attract the young voting demographic of 18- to 25-year-olds, they have increasingly enlisted celebrity support. At a recent political rally in Atlanta, Democratic presidential hopeful Barack Obama received endorsement from five-time Grammy-winning R&B singer Usher Raymond. By collaborating with a popular figure in the young adult community, Obama was trying to relate himself to the group of potential voters who statistically vote the least.

While celebrities do bring more attention to politicians, is there a danger in relying on celebrities to make the young citizens take notice? Some argue that celebrities are a distraction from political issues. In reality,

however, celebrity endorsement actually brings attention not just to the politician, but also to important issues like health care, social security and tax budgeting.

Celebrity activism has already shown signs of bringing out the young vote. In the 2004 presidential election, 47 percent of the previously apathetic group voted, an 11 percent surge from 2000. At least some credit for the rise in youth participation should be given to such youth voting initiatives as Sean "P. Diddy" Combs's "Vote or Die" campaign. For the upcoming 2008 presidential election, one can only hope that the young voter turnout will increase alongside the positive efforts from candidates like Obama.

In the age of the War in Iraq and the Patriot Act, the youth vote has never been more important. By being apathetic, we do a disservice to the country and to ourselves, as well as to generations to come. By following the lead of our cinematic and musical idols, however, we young adults can make a bigger difference than just affecting the No. 1 spot on *Total Request Live*. Rather, young adults can help elect the leader of the free world. □

New requirements deny Georgia graduates the rigors of foreign language



SCOTTIE BOOKMAN

"Georgia's new policy? Every child left behind."

So said Jon Stewart two years ago when Sonny Perdue canceled school for two days because gas prices had gotten too high. It's a quote that perfectly depicts Georgia's policies on education, which have

consistently steered toward regression. Most recently, this sad truth has been illustrated by a change in Georgia's graduation requirements. Claiming an emphasis on math and science, the new required curriculum will leave out foreign language.

The new requirements consolidate the four old graduation tracks into a single one for all students, dissolving the distinction between Georgia's college-bound highschoolers and its less ambitious. Although it designates that any student planning to enroll in a Georgia college must take two years of a foreign language, it also ensures that every student, regardless of his or her potential, can earn his or her diploma without ever stepping into a foreign language classroom.

Fortunately for the Georgia student, the new requirements only set the minimum. Most school systems, including Atlanta Public Schools, have higher hopes for their students than the state of Georgia apparently does. But how should we, as students, react to our state's conclusion that we are incompetent?

The omission of foreign language is outrageous. For decades, studies have shown that students who have studied four years of a foreign language score higher on their SATs than students who have taken four years of courses in any other subject, and Georgia knows that. What is the primary purpose of SAT scores? College admissions.

Furthermore, the entire university system of Georgia requires two years of a foreign language to even apply. So why would the Department of Education drop foreign language as a graduation requirement? Whatever their intentions, the state board has devalued the prospect of a college education.

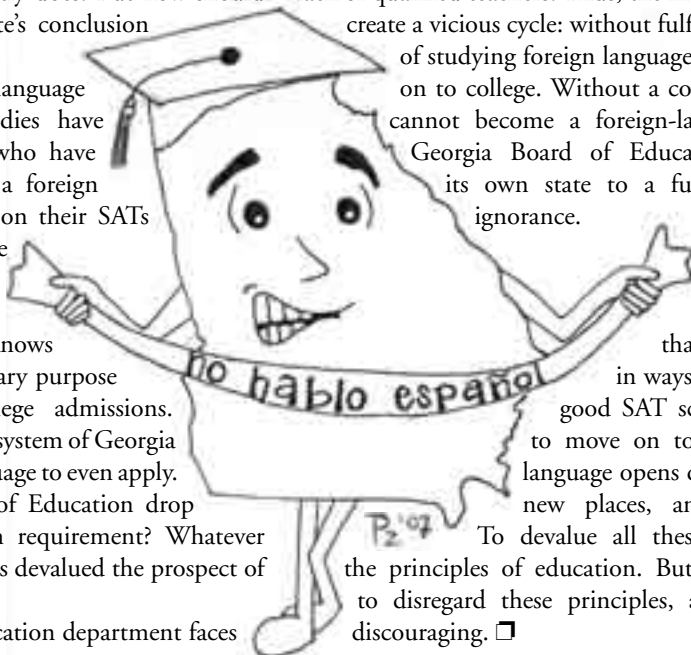
Another problem Georgia's education department faces

is a shortage of teachers. When choosing to consolidate graduation tracks, Georgia had the option to require language courses. Perhaps a factor in the ultimate decision was the lack of qualified teachers. Thus, the modifications made will

create a vicious cycle: without fulfilling the requirement of studying foreign language, a student can't move on to college. Without a college degree, a person cannot become a foreign-language teacher. The Georgia Board of Education is condemning its own state to a future of English-only ignorance.

Studying a foreign language is a valuable experience that benefits a student in ways more rewarding than good SAT scores or the potential to move on to college. Knowing a language opens doors to new cultures, new places, and new experiences. To devalue all these benefits is against the principles of education. But Georgia has chosen to disregard these principles, and it is thoroughly discouraging. □

For information on Georgia's changes to graduation requirements, see "NEW GRAD RULES SET SINGLE TRACK," on page 1.



Parents fuel traffic problems, jam student lot



HANNAH
ROSENBAUM

It's a place where students are most likely to get hit by a speeding parent. A place to receive a dented door or a busted side-view mirror. A place where students can be trapped indefinitely with no escape in sight. It is the student parking lot, and it is an inefficient mess.

Why do parents enter the hazardous zone we call the student parking lot in the first place? We students have been known to dart out behind cars, create our own parking spots and even drive in the opposite direction of traffic—aspects of the student parking lot that only other students understand. If the parents stayed out, however, these issues wouldn't be issues in the first place.

Getting to school before the 8:15 bell has seemed impossible since my first days of high school, but the traffic the parents are creating in the student parking lot make it that much harder. It's distracting and dangerous to have parents driving in their unofficial carpool lane at any speed they want.

Those who insist on attempting the impossible left-hand turn out of the parking lot are the main perpetrators. As the cautious mom waits for the perfect chance to turn left, cars line up behind her ready to leave. As this line grows, a second line is growing on the other side of the parking lot, right behind all of the parents who decide to drop their kids off at the entrance to the courtyard.

Ideally, if a student driver pulls into the parking lot at 8:10, he or she should be able to make it to class on time. The drop-off traffic, however, makes it impossible get to class in

five minutes. Straight ahead there is a line of SUVs backed up, with parent drivers waiting to drop off their children. The left lane, which should usually be a shortcut to the open spots, is backed up with cars waiting to leave. If a student grows impatient and decides to try to squeeze past the line to the left to get to a spot quickly, an angry parent awaits, shooting the driver nasty looks meaning, "You better not scratch my car, you irresponsible driver!"

Just as the bell rings, the driver turning left out of the parking lot invariably gives up and turns right. The cars finally begin to move and the traffic disperses almost as quickly as it was created. But it's 8:15—the student is already late. Maybe student drivers have better luck after school, right? Not exactly. Instead, the carpool lane has returned as it does every afternoon of the week at 3:15. The parents block cars in and then get

angry and frustrated when students ask them to move.

So, next time a parent shoots me a dirty look or grows impatient as I try to cross my parking lot in order to get to class, I hope he or she keeps a few things in mind: the student parking lot is for students; it is not a carpool lane; and it is not a motor speedway. Grady has set up several other places—that don't involve student drivers—to drop off and pick up students.

Charles Allen, Eighth Street and even other intersections surrounding the block are more appropriate for drop-offs and pick-ups than the student parking lot. These other locations don't include all the hassles of dropping off and picking up students around and on campus, including traffic and endangering students' lives. Frankly, I still can't imagine why a parent would want to go near the student parking lot in the first place. □



City-life diversity fosters enlightened youth



KAYCI SCHOON

We city kids diss the suburbs all the time. The most frequent stereotype usually involves clueless, bored, close-minded teenagers living in cookie-cutter homes (cul-de-sacs included) with parents who are willing to pay for anything and everything. As someone who moved from the suburb of Fayetteville, I've done a lot of thinking about the differences between the city and the suburbs and the stereotypes held against me a mere three years ago, during my time as a suburbanite.

My move was an unexpected one. I was informed that I was moving to the city on the first day of Christmas break in 2004. During the drive to my new home, I contemplated escape methods from possible street attackers, proper refuge during a terrorist attack and even where I might be so lucky as to find a suitable location to walk my dog. I was terrified—afraid of the strangers, the skyscrapers and the homeless. The going-away gift from my father clung to me perpetually: a can of pepper spray.

During my first semester in an Atlanta Public School, I learned that not everyone goes to church on Sundays; in fact, I learned what Judaism was. I also learned that not everyone supports George W. Bush, shops at Old Navy or Kohl's, appreciates chain restaurants

or has at least one parent who drives a minivan or a Toyota Corolla. Most importantly, I acquired a love of diversity and vitality.

Many suburb-dwellers seem to view city diversity as the cause for a higher violent crime rate and the secluded backcountry as too primitive. They find suburban areas to be an easy in-between: a clean-cut location with a relatively low crime rate sans the isolation of rural areas. Unfortunately, this exalted decrease in crime rate is often accompanied by diminishing variety. What many proud suburbanites interpret as a community sheltered from all things detrimental, I view only as an atmosphere sheltered from the surrounding world.

The homogenous characteristics of the suburbs disable many of its young inhabitants from forming unique views and opinions. Parents who move to the suburbs in hopes of providing their children with a safety net actually sentence their children to limited thinking regulated by the standards of a suburban society. Creativity is a substantial contributor to intelligence. How can children, raised in a society suppressing innovative thinking, be expected to develop advanced forms of intellectual ability?

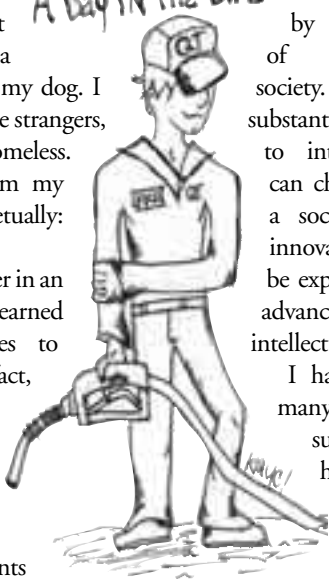
I have noticed that many of my old suburban friends have developed less concern for a d e m i c

success. Since I moved, several have opted to switch to less prestigious degrees, apathetically fail the same course repeatedly or simply drop out all together. When I left, these people were very successful students. Yet, almost every friend I had before I left has fallen into academic indifference and enthusiastically picked up the non-stop party lifestyle. This is not to say that there are no suburban teenagers who are willing to apply themselves. I do believe, however, that many of them suffer academically, presumably because it is difficult for them to see what the benefits of studying are in a community where they never see how the "other half" lives. Talking to them, many seem to believe that they truly can support themselves on a gas-station job making \$7 an hour.

I'm not trying to say that everyone who grows up in the suburbs is doomed to a life of unintelligence or closed-mindedness. Perhaps passivity and uniformity are only characteristic of Fayetteville and other southern suburbs. But my largest concern is one that has been nagging me ever since I made the realization that my suburban friends and I, having shared relationships for in some cases 15 years, are developing into people with polar differences: what can I do to explain to these old friends, who respond to my concern with indifference, that we are turning into different people?

I think my move to the city has been the best thing for me; it has stimulated my creativity, developed my opinions and brought out my personality like the suburban lifestyle never could. I only wish that my suburban friends could have had the chance to experience the same. □

A DAY IN THE LIFE



Jena protest uniting



NOELLE JONES

In this day and age, people are so caught up in their lives that they forget about what's happening around them. They don't know their neighbors and don't know what's going on in their own communities. People don't even bother to voice their opinions and take a stand for what they believe in; it seems as if everyone has forgotten about justice and equality, letting it all just slip by. Americans watch the news as people are accused of crimes that they didn't commit. Innocent people's rights are stripped away from them, and everyone watching is apathetic to the situation. On Sept. 20, however, their feelings changed. On that day colleges, communities and individuals, including many Grady High School students, stood up for one cause: the Jena Six.

On that morning, 16-year-old Mychal Bell faced adult criminal charges stemming from the Dec. 4, 2006, beating of a white student. While Bell and five other black teenagers face criminal charges, white students have gone unpunished for their harassment of black students, including three white students who hung nooses from trees.

The morning of Bell's trial, I woke up and immediately turned on the radio. Every station was discussing the caravans of people that were migrating to Jena for a huge rally. Initially, I tuned in and heard the radio reporters talking about wearing all black to support the cause. They mentioned that Grady students were uniting in support of the cause. Wide awake, I put on an all-black outfit and headed to school anticipating a memorable day ahead.

It was a student-based movement. Not just Grady students, but students from colleges all over the country spread the word of the injustice occurring in Jena. It was because of these students that the rallies took place. Among the 100,000 people who traveled to Jena was civil rights leader Rev. James Orange. I had a chance to talk to Rev. Orange, who shared that there was a disciplined and united group of young people in Jena for the rally, the best group of protestors he had seen since 1963. He felt that because the high schoolers were being tried as adults, other high schoolers could relate to the pain because they are the same age. He spoke so highly of the young people and thought that the number represented was phenomenal. He felt that the organization of the rally made a great statement about young people in America; the college students were the reason the word about Jena was spread.

When I arrived to school at 8:15, I saw many of my peers wearing black. I was surprised because it's not often that such a large group of high school students stand up together for such a serious cause. I was so proud to be a Grady Knight.

As I talked to other students, I was interested to hear why they supported the cause. Some felt it was important to let people know that racism still exists in the United States and that it's still wrong. One student, junior Rachelle Dumas, supported the cause so strongly that she traveled to Jena. The fact that so many students were wearing black made a strong statement about our school. As we sat in class and discussed the issue, we talked about how many adults think youth aren't interested in current events. By showing support for the Jena Six, Grady students proved that they have strong, intelligent opinions and that they can come together to support judicial inequality.

The Jena Six have had a tremendous impact on our community. It's reminded people not to get so caught up in their own lives that they put values aside and don't speak up for what they believe in. The Jena Six has reminded people that we should take more notice of things happening around us, even if it's not in our city or direct community. Oftentimes we let things just slip by and leave it up to others to solve problems, but now people might be encouraged to help others while solving problems of their own. There will always be people who don't care, and maybe nothing will change that, but those of us who care can make a difference. Rev. Orange gave me advice for all teens: young people should turn to each other and not on each other. If we follow this advice, we will be on the road to building better communities and stronger generations to come. □

Grady girls walk to support cancer cure

Grady juniors Keely Youngblood, Sarah Bufkin, Miriam Huppert and Phoebe Looman participated in the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Three-Day on Oct. 12-14. The 60-mile walk unites people affected by breast cancer. The girls were part of a six-person team that raised more than \$13,000 for breast cancer research.

Student Government 2007-2008 members

Results of the Sept. 28 election:

Executive Council

President: Shakira Howard

Vice President: Brittany Briscoe

Class Presidents

Senior: Katie van Heidrich

Junior: Devin Harris

Sophmore: Erin Dabbs

Freshman: Taylor Walker

Dr. Lowery speaking tour comes to APS

The seventh annual Rev. Dr. Joseph E. Lowery Lecture Series came to Therrell High School on Oct. 10. Students had the opportunity ask keynote speaker Martin Luther King III questions about a variety of political and social issues. The Lowery Lecture Series is organized by the Coalition of the People's Agenda in order to promote reform in the criminal justice system and increase voting rates.

DRIVER class new to school

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"The focus of the program is to have students learn to drive to save time, money and lives," said Ellen Holtsberg, a Nathan's Driving School teacher at Grady. "In this class students take tests, watch movies and discuss various aspects of the driving world like buying and selling your car and safe driving techniques."

The classes are grouped into three sessions throughout the year, each consisting of 12 days—two days a week for six weeks. The first session began Sept. 24 and will finish Nov. 5. The second session will be in January and February, and the last session will be held in March and April.

The course given at Grady is exclusively for Grady students, but Nathan's also offers the same course at the Fulton County high schools as well as at Paideia and St. Pius X.

"What I personally want for students to get is an appreciation for the art of driving," Holtsberg

Debaters capture awards at competitions

By ISOBEL ROBINSON-ORTIZ

Fresh from a triumphant return from Nationals, the Grady debate team scored a series of wins, with the victories of Demarius Walker at Wake Forest Early Bird invitational on Sept. 16, as well as the myriad wins by several debate members at the Raymond B. Furlong invitational on Sept. 30.

Walker prepared for the event by combining both extensive work with debate coach Mr. Mario Herrera, and extensive research on the topic, the justification of the death penalty.

"I was surprised by the level of preparedness I saw in my opponents," Walker said. "All of my friends started writing their cases weeks in advance, but I was writing mine in the car on the way [to the university]."

Walker explained that Lincoln-Douglas debate is a one-on-one event in which the theory of an issue is discussed.

"There are a lot of [events] that go under the umbrella of speech and debate," Walker said.

Walker is one of seven Grady students who participated at the Furlong invitational.

According to gradyspeaks.org, a site devoted to the Grady debate team that is moderated by Grady graduate and former debater Brandon Sheets, five Grady students placed in the top five in their respective events at the Saint James School invitational in Montgomery, Ala. Walker took first place in the impromptu speaking event. He and his debate partner junior Michael Robinson also won first place in the Public Forum debate, which is a less formal two-on-two competition.

"Mike is a great speaker and one of the smartest people I know," Walker said.

In addition to Walker's achievements, junior Scott Bremer received third place in impromptu speaking and extemporaneous speaking, while sophomore Emily Atkinson received fifth place in the same event. Junior



CASE IN POINT: Sophomore Laura King and junior Hannah Mitchell use Mr. Herrera's classroom to strengthen their dramatic interpretation performances. The pair research and develop their speeches well in advance of competition.

Hannah Mitchell received third place in dramatic interpretation and prose.

"[In dramatic interpretation], you have to pick a published piece, and you cut it down to a 10-minute-long performance piece," Mitchell said. "You can add movements to it, but you're kind of limited. You can't move all around the room; you're in sort of a set area."

Mitchell enjoyed performing her piece, about an abusive guard at Abu Ghraib but found it difficult trying to identify with her character.

"Being a human being, you want to find the good in a person, but my character is not a good person," Mitchell said.

All this success follows the debate team's participation in the National Finals for Speech and Debate last summer in Wichita, Kan., where 11 Grady students qualified.

Former valedictorian John Helsel reached the final round of the Lincoln-Douglas event, placing fifth overall in the country out of 227 competitors.

"John surprised a lot of people in the country with how well he did, although I knew he had the drive to do so," Mr. Herrera said. "I was so happy that all of his hard work paid off for him. The impact John had on Grady, and the nation for that matter, is something that will last a long time."

Because of the team's recent success, Walker is optimistic about the team's future.

"The transition of our team from one of regional impact to one of national attention is both exciting and scary," he said. "Yet, with our great coaches and new talent that's coming into the team, I am confident that we will be able to face the challenges that will arise." □



EYES ON THE ROAD: Junior Bryson Caproni pulls into the parking lot behind the Music Building. "I'm much more aware of the things around me when I drive now," Caproni said. "It's really convenient to have the class at school when I am already there."

said. "It is not nearly some skill that you sit behind the wheel for six hours with some person, and you're going to be a good driver. It doesn't work that way. You have to know what to look for and what to think when you're behind the wheel."

According to Holtsberg, there are four main reasons for teenage wrecks—alcohol, speed, inexperience and passengers.

"I think passengers are a big [cause of wrecks] because everyone knows about the other [dangers of driving]," Holtsberg said. "A mom isn't going to let her kid go driving if they've been drinking or if they've gotten

tickets for speeding, but parents might let their kids pick up a friend to go to a movie. Take an ordinary, sober, sane and safe young man or woman, put a friend in the car," Walker said, "and it completely changes him or her."

Holtsberg's main advice to teenage drivers deals primarily with speed.

"Slow the heck down," Holtsberg said. "[As a teenager] you think you are invincible but ask around: how many people know somebody who's dead or a brother or sister or someone who's been in a wreck? Everybody thinks it's the other guy." □

RADIO class affords students new opportunities in media

from page 1

have to earn," Mr. Hirsch said.

Recently CNN and the British Broadcasting Corporation have utilized this resource. The BBC enlisted senior Jessie Andrews to speak about the proposed dress code law in Atlanta. CNN, though not a radio program, still tapped Youth Radio as a source for bright young minds. Mr. Hirsch chose radio student Steven Royce to speak on "dirty dancing." On the air, Royce recounted being kicked out of a school dance for dirty dancing.

"It's a really great opportunity for students [to be part of the radio programs], especially when [they] start applying [to] schools," Mr. Hirsch said. "Hopefully [they] get Googled and they'll see an NPR story rather than a Facebook page."

"Radio is a program that we have wanted to add here at Grady for over 10 years," said magnet program coordinator Ms. Carrie MacBrien.

Junior Demarius Walker is eager about the opportunities this class presents for him.

"It sounded exciting," Walker said. "I wanted to be able to start

something new." This sentiment is exactly the attitude that sparked the radio class.

"I want my students to realize how powerful radio is," Mr. Hirsch said, "Some of them have never listened to AM radio."

This enthusiasm for the program was put on hold for the first two weeks of school when, as a result of a processing error, Mr. Hirsch was unable to begin teaching at Grady.

"It was just a matter of getting the paperwork processed," Ms. MacBrien said, "It depends on the situation with staffing and human resources. They were working very hard to get all of the full-time staff processed first."

Mr. Hirsch holds no grudges about his two-week delay.

"I've moved on; I'm not dwelling on it," Mr. Hirsch said. "My biggest fear [of missing] the two weeks was that my students would wonder what my problem was, but I think the students are aware that there are sometimes glitches."

Mr. Hirsch remains positive about the class.

"I'm just happy to be here," Mr. Hirsch said, "I really wanted to teach at this school." □

Silver Midtown Grill reopens after 10-month hiatus

By CHRIS COLLIER

The Silver Grill, a Southern-style diner which closed last year after 61 years of service, is returning to Monroe Drive under new management. Silver Midtown Grill, as it will now be called, will maintain the same building, menu and even staff that the former grill used, and is scheduled to open around Oct. 19.

Previous owner Kevin Huggins closed the restaurant on Dec. 22 of last year, and current co-owners Stephan Barrani and Sam Scott took over in March. Despite the fact that the restaurant will be a continuation of the old establishment, the building itself required maintenance before it could reopen.

“Pretty much we have to redo the whole business from the inside,” Barrani said. “We’re stuck with a lot of construction codes because the building [was built in] 1961; old codes have to be changed. And what ends up happening is it really costs us a lot.”

This type of renovation, however, is nothing new for the co-owners, who have experience in the restaurant business.

“We owned a couple of restaurants on Pharr Road in the Buckhead area and a couple others



SILVER LINING: A construction worker measures the length of one of the Silver Grill’s windows. Almost 10 months after closing, the Southern-style restaurant is reopening its doors for business under new ownership.

in Florida,” Barrani said. “What we do is we go after restaurants that have established names.”

Minor additions to the new Silver Midtown Grill’s service include breakfast offerings, which Silver Grill used to have but eventually discontinued.

Otherwise, Barrani and Scott plan to maintain the restaurant’s reputation. The atmosphere and menu to which customers

returned year after year will remain the same.

“What I really enjoyed about Silver Grill was the fact that it was located right next to our school and featured a very comfortable and home-style environment,” senior Katie Van Heidrich said. “The owner, Kevin, and I would always talk, and I also got to know the staff very well. They were really nice people.”

After complaints about inappropriate and

disrespectful Grady student behavior at Silver Grill at the end of last year, the management banned students from coming to the restaurant. Barrani, however, encourages students to visit the restaurant, adding that the only new addition to the menu, Buffalo wings, was added particularly to cater to younger customers.

“I heard students had some issues with the previous owner and everything,” Barrani said. “The only issue that you have to understand [is that] there’s a lot of clientele that come into our place, they want a quiet environment and we need to keep that. I would love for all students to come anytime. Everybody’s welcome.”

Van Heidrich anxiously anticipates the reopening.

“I went to Silver Grill one or two times a week before it closed,” she said. “It would usually be right after school before a club meeting or dance practice, and I even came back on the weekends on occasion and brought my family and friends who didn’t go to Grady to enjoy what I did during the week. Silver Grill was a very important aspect of the Grady atmosphere. I will be there for their reopening to support the restaurant I loved so much.” □

REQUIREMENTS upset foreign language teachers

from page 1
years from now ninth graders will phase in to the new math.

The new math curriculum features the concept of “integrated math,” which Tofig said is based on a Japanese model for math instruction in which concepts are not taught in separated algebra, geometry, trigonometry and calculus classes, but rather at the same time little by little.

“[When solving problems,] we don’t just sit there and think, ‘OK, I’ve got to figure this out and so I’m going to use algebra,’” Tofig said. “You just figure it out. So [integrated math] is the idea of learning math like we use it.”

Individual school systems have the power to add to the state requirements for graduation as they see fit.

“Currently the Atlanta Public Schools are consistent with the new Georgia state requirements, so there should be a limited amount of change for our students, or no significant change for our schools,” said Robert Atterbury, associate superintendent of high school transformation at APS, in a phone interview.

Under the new graduation requirements, the state no longer requires two units of foreign language for College Preparatory and College Preparatory with Distinction students. Instead, all students must take three units of foreign language, fine arts or career tech and agricultural education, meaning that at the state level, no one is required to take foreign language to graduate from high school. Students wishing to attend four-year colleges in the University System of Georgia still must take a minimum of two years of classes in the same foreign language.

“I just think [the state requirements] set a very bad model to young people to not teach them about other cultures through foreign language,” Grady Latin teacher Ms. Amy Leonard said. “It says that [foreign language] is not important. That’s like saying music’s not important, art’s not important.

GEORGIA GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS		
Units Required		
Classes of 2008-2011*	Class of 2012 and beyond	
3-4	Math	4
3	Science	4
4	Language Arts	4
3	Social Studies	3
1	Health/Physical Education	1
1	Computer Technology/Fine Arts/Technology Career Preparatory/Foreign Language	3
0 (tech/career) 2 (college prep)	FOREIGN LANGUAGE	
5-6	ELECTIVES	4
22-24	TOTAL	23
*Students choose one of the following tracks for graduation, all of which have differing requirements: College Preparatory, College Preparatory with Distinction, Technology/Career, or Technology/Career with Distinction.		
SOURCE: GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION		

We’re lowering the standards for everyone so that we can make the standards the same for everyone.”

Tofig said that the State Board of Education considered requiring foreign language but decided there were not enough foreign language teachers to make requiring foreign language at the state level feasible.

“There was a discussion about requiring foreign language for all the students, and it was something that I think everybody [on the board] wanted to do,” Tofig said. “But...we just don’t have enough foreign language teachers to require it for everybody. Right now we kind of have to address the shortages that we have in math and science.”

According to Susan Crooks, a program specialist in foreign language and international education at the DOE, Georgia currently employs roughly 2,200 foreign language teachers.

“Currently only about one-third

of our graduates do not have any language courses,” Crooks said in an email. She added that to be able to cover the remainder of Georgia’s students, the state would need to add 300-350 teachers over a two to three-year period.

Despite the fact that the state will no longer specifically require foreign language for students to graduate, Tofig said he does not anticipate a drop-off in foreign language class enrollment.

“The way we have it now is that if you’re in [the College Preparatory program], you have to take two years of foreign language; everybody else, don’t even worry about it,” Tofig said. “Now...we’re encouraging everybody to be taking foreign language classes. The same number of kids are going to be taking foreign language next year that are taking foreign language this year. But we’ve heard that [enrollment in foreign language classes] might even

go up. We anticipate that without that kind of artificial barrier here that we’ll see [that] more students who may be planning to go right into the work world still may have an opportunity to take a foreign language.”

Crooks said that while the state was not looking into ways to add more teachers, Georgia Superintendent of Education Kathy Cox is leading a task force to investigate adding foreign language to more elementary and middle schools statewide.

“I don’t think the task force will recommend foreign language as a requirement for elementary school, as that would involve a tremendous cost,” Crooks said. “They may try to promote learning a language for all students in middle school. The [state] superintendent...has already encouraged systems to offer more middle school foreign language. Currently only about 20 systems out of the 180 or so in Georgia have system-wide middle school programs.”

Dr. Rhonda Wells, world languages coordinator for the DeKalb County Schools, said that school systems need to look into ways to attract more foreign language teachers.

“Colleges and universities are the ones that are putting out teachers, so if you want to get it known that you need teachers, then you have to get in those colleges and tell them and recruit,” Wells said in a phone interview. “When students are freshmen in an undeclared major, or in language classes, [if] you go and [explain] the need [for teachers], and you show them where the opportunities are, perhaps some of those students will go that direction. The need is not really known, so we need to advertise a little more.”

Ms. Diane Simmons, Grady’s foreign language department chair, said that she wishes that foreign language were required of all students.

“There are other ways to learn a language that don’t require a teacher,” Ms. Simmons said. “There are online classes. I have had students who taught themselves French. [Lack of teachers] is not a reason to stop requiring foreign language.”

Some teachers doubted whether requiring foreign language is possible.

“On the one hand it’s my job, so yeah, I think everyone should take foreign language,” said Mr. Dick Buerkle, a former Grady Spanish teacher who currently teaches at Montgomery Elementary School in DeKalb County, in a phone interview. “But on the other hand, does it work to make people take something they’re not ready for? I don’t know.”

Ms. Leonard said she was satisfied with the old state requirements.

“To make everybody take foreign language, I don’t know if that’s possible,” she said. “I think it’s a good idea, but I’m happy with it being...a mandatory requirement for students who are headed toward college.”

Tofig stressed that any changes to foreign language education will occur gradually.

“We’re lowering the standards for everyone so that we can make the standards the same for everyone.”

Ms. Amy Leonard

“People like to see things change immediately, but unfortunately things don’t change that quickly,” he said. “If you want to increase the number of foreign language teachers, that

means we have to address that with our colleges and then [college] students have to go through college and get certified; then they can come in and start teaching in school. It’s not something we can address overnight.” □

Grady Health System faces ongoing financial issues

By JANNA KAPLAN

Due to Grady Health System's recent financial crises, the future of Grady Memorial Hospital and Grady's other programs around the state is currently up in the air. Though the hospital's economic problems have been present for years, state and local lawmakers and hospital board members are scheduled to come up with a plan for helping Grady Hospital within the next two months.

"Grady has been experiencing deficits for several years; this is not a new situation," said Denise Simpson, media relations manager at Grady Memorial Hospital, in a phone interview. "Primarily our funding levels have remained flat or have decreased over the years while our indigent care cost has increased, and we've just reached that crisis level where our expenses are really exceeding our income."

Proposed solutions include transferring Grady Hospital's ownership from the Fulton-DeKalb Hospital Authority to a private, non-profit corporation or completely closing the hospital.

"Hopefully [any company that takes over Grady] will support the mission of education along with service and research," said Dr. Nadine Kaslow, professor and chief psychologist in charge of the psychology training program at Grady Hospital, in a phone interview. "As long as that happens, we are committed to having our education programs here."

Grady Hospital is a teaching hospital, where medical students receive training there as interns. Both the Emory School of Medicine and the Morehouse School of Medicine have contracts with the hospital; because of the hospital's financial issues, it hasn't been able to pay for the work the schools have done.

"Because Grady Hospital is a publicly funded institution, it pays Emory and Morehouse [medical schools] to have their doctors care for patients who come for health care," said Dr. Ira Schwartz, associate dean of medical education and student affairs at the Emory School of Medicine, in a phone interview. "The



BRINGING SEX ED BACK: Grady Hospital adult leader **Toi Ponders** introduces teen leaders **Grady junior Noelle Jones** and **Mays senior Dominique Reece** to a class of **Young Middle School eighth-grade students** on Oct. 12.

bottom-line issue is that Grady has not paid for their services, so Emory and Morehouse have been paying their own doctors out of their own money [while] waiting for Grady to pay its bill."

That bill currently stands at \$50 million according to a statement issued Sept. 28 by Dr. William J. Casarella of Emory and posted on the Insider Advantage Georgia website and later on the university's website. Casarella estimated that Grady has underpaid the two medical schools approximately \$8 million per year since it accepted the terms of the 1984 contract with the schools.

Though the debt has gotten to the point where the schools can't go on providing staff to the hospital for free, they still hope that the hospital will stay afloat.

"[The hospital] had something like one million patient visits a year," Dr. Schwartz said. "All of those people with their illnesses—they're not going away. If something happens to Grady, Emory

School of Medicine will continue to deliver health care to the medically indigent, the people who currently use Grady."

If Grady Hospital closes or finds that it cannot continue its relationship with Emory, Schwartz has observed that the medical school's faculty and students hope to stay involved with the patients who are treated at Grady.

"People would be very sad [if Grady closed]," he said. "Emory Medical School wouldn't close, but where students and house staff trained would be different. We'd have to figure out where they'd go; they'd go probably where those Grady patients would go."

Kaslow agrees that if the hospital closes, it will have a negative effect on the community and on the education

programs.

"It would be a disaster because I think [medical students] need to learn to take care of indigent patients and provide quality care to them," said Kaslow, who teaches mostly Emory students. "I think it would be very, very sad. How are we going to train people to take care of patients if we don't have educational programs?"

The Emory School of Medicine and the Morehouse School of Medicine are not the only educational institutions affected by the hospital's financial troubles. Grady High School students work with the Grady Health System through its Teen Services Program. The hospital pays these students to speak at middle schools about sex education, specifically on abstinence.

"[Our supervisors] told us at the beginning of the school year that the Teen Services Program was in jeopardy, but that it wasn't really a big deal yet," junior Alexa Hollinshead said. "Our jobs are pretty stable because we don't get paid that much."

Hollinshead said that if Grady Hospital continues to have problems and stops funding the Teen Services Program, she will nevertheless continue working there.

"I love what we do," Hollinshead said. "I love teaching. I love the people I work with. For the job that we do, you really have to enjoy it and have a passion for it, and I really do. So I would continue to work even if they didn't pay us anymore."

"I sincerely hope that the two counties, the state, the medical schools and the people of Atlanta do the right thing."

Dr. Nadine Kaslow

Kaslow believes that everyone in the community has a part to play in keeping the hospital open.

"I sincerely hope that the two counties, the state, the medical schools and the people of

Atlanta do the right thing," Kaslow said. "The most important thing is taking care of the patients at Grady and that people pool their resources to make that possible for both the patients and education purposes." □

Counselors, parents aid post-secondary preparation

By JANNA KAPLAN

Through the efforts of counselors and parents, Grady High School is offering students more resources than ever before to prepare them for post-secondary education life.

With the recent event entitled "Conversation with the Counselors," Grady's counselors showed students and their parents what all of their options are after high school graduation.

"Believe it or not, with students and parents there are lots of uncertainties and unanswered questions," Grady guidance counselor Mr. Joseph Arnold said. "Our job is to bring in individuals [from colleges] so students and parents can get [information] from the particular institution they're interested in."

Mr. Arnold said he was pleased with the turnout at "Conversations," considering he knows many families had prior engagements. The counselors wanted to make sure that the people who were there got the most out of it.

"A lot of what we wanted was for people in attendance to be able to ask questions about colleges, technical schools or different careers after high school, and to hear questions from other parents," Mr. Arnold said.

Until this year, Mr. Arnold and fellow

counselor Ms. Sheila Oliver handled sending all of the students' information to colleges. Starting this school year, the work is split among all four counselors.

"When I first got here the senior class was small—119 students," Mr. Arnold said. "Now we're close to 300, which is hard for one or even two people to handle."

According to Mr. Arnold, he and Ms. Oliver have been training Ms. Schalyse Jones and Mr. Mark Brinson to help the students with their college applications. In addition to the counseling staff, several parents are helping make sure students are educated on different kinds of colleges and how to apply. Grady parent Jenny Buyens books colleges to visit Grady when their admissions staff is on tour; Barbara Feinberg arranges the "Next Step Corner" in the library, filling it with college guidebooks and brochures.

"I came up with the idea for the 'Next Step Corner' because I wanted all of the information on colleges and other schools that the counselors receive to be more accessible to the students," Feinberg said. "Grady receives information on schools of all sizes and shapes, from Ivy League to career tech academies, so there is information on schools for every single

student who graduates from Grady."

Along with parents of current Grady students, former Grady parent Dr. Wendy Phillips contributes by hosting a series of events called "College Applications 101." Phillips believes that one of the best things about her program is that it starts a casual conversation between parents and students about college.

"I always feel good when people talk and have conversation, so I felt like it was helpful because people had things to say and questions and suggestions for each other," she said. "To me the benefit of working in a group is sharing information but also giving people a chance to share information with each other."

Phillips held her first event of this year on Oct. 11 in the Media Center. She said that she noticed more students in attendance this year, whereas last year it was mostly parents. She believes that "anyone who comes benefits" because applying to colleges is an important undertaking.

"The whole thing is pretty daunting," she said. "You're making a big change in your life, you're leaving home. Sometimes it's really hard to take the steps to get to that point because it's so unknown." □



ADDRESS FOR SUCCESS: Former Grady parent **Dr. Wendy Phillips** explains colleges' financial aid systems at her "College Applications 101" event.

Piedmont Park to increase land area, diversify usage

By KEELY YOUNGBLOOD

The Piedmont Park Conservancy has begun to implement the City of Atlanta's design for the expansion of Piedmont Park, which will increase the park's size by 40 percent.

The Atlanta City Council approved the planned expansion in 2005. The plan addresses the final project outlined in the 1995 Piedmont Park master plan concerning the estimated \$71 park rehabilitation. The park hopes to have the first phase of the expansion done by 2010.

In a press release regarding the park's expansion, Mayor Shirley Franklin said that the City of Atlanta's plan was formed from collaboration and partnership between political leaders and the corporate and civic community.

"Piedmont Park Conservancy's relationship with the City of Atlanta is one of the best examples of this public-private partnership," she said. "By working together, we can act quickly to preserve 53 acres of additional parkland, something that is essential to our future quality of life."

The expansion plans involve renovating 41 acres of land north of the Park Drive Bridge and extending the park to the intersection of Piedmont Road and Monroe Drive near Ansley Mall. The land is broken into two areas, North Piedmont Park and Piedmont Commons.

North Piedmont Park, a 28-acre area of undeveloped land, will be renovated into an Upper Meadow, which will include an interactive water fountain like the one at Centennial Olympic Park, and the North Woods, which will provide park users with approximately 3.3 acres of forest trails.

The renovation of the 12.5-acre Piedmont Commons will extend the park along Monroe Drive and become the new northern shoulder.

The clearing, originally the headquarters of West Lumber Company, will require the removal of a 60-foot-wide concrete culvert. The Conservancy is also

working to restore the park's stagnant Clear Creek to a free-flowing stream. Future additions to this site include a new playground, athletic fields, a basketball court and a skatepark.

"Last year [the expansion committee] began walking back here to see what land was available,

and while they were walking they saw some kids skateboarding," said Josh Rush, public relations coordinator at the Conservancy. "The kids asked if they were going to make them go away and they said, 'No, no, no,' and they actually invited some of those skaters to sit in on the planning committee. That's where the idea of the skatepark came up. We said that if they want it, it's their park so let's give it to them."

Student skateboarders at Grady eagerly anticipate the renovations.

"I'm really looking forward to having a place to skateboard that's near the Grady campus," junior Mickey Goodman said. "It'll be a good place to meet other neighborhood skaters."

The Conservancy will add Piedmont Gardens, a third piece of land, as soon as the ongoing combined sewer overflow project currently housed there is finished. This area will eventually house several new amenities, including an information center, a food market, community gardens, a formal garden, a picnic area and an outdoor classroom.

The expanded park will have six new entrances. There will be an entrance on Westminster Drive, three entrances on Piedmont Road, two of which will be very close to the Atlanta Botanical Garden, and an entrance on Monroe Drive. The main entrance will be on Dutch Valley Road. This entrance will be the only vehicular entrance point and will feature a toll booth and a guard. The Conservancy will remove the original Park Drive entrance and replace it with a children's carousel, bocce courts and a playground.

The Atlanta Botanical Garden plans to build a parking deck, over which it will retain ownership, to ease the parking shortage at both the Garden and Piedmont Park.

In the design, the parking lot dedicates 50 percent of the available spaces to the Garden and 50 percent to Piedmont Park. The

Garden plans to build the deck into a one-acre hill along the border of the Garden and the Park to keep the lot's appearance subtle. The park will provide a vehicular access entrance with a bridge leading from the Dutch Valley Road entrance to the parking deck in Piedmont Commons.



JANNA KAPLAN



COURTESY OF WWW.PIEDMONTPARK.ORG

PARK PLANS GREEN FUTURE: Clockwise from top left: The North Piedmont Park railroad tracks, which will eventually become part of the Beltline, cross over Clear Creek; an architectural layout of Piedmont Gardens, which will feature an information center, formal and community gardens, a boundless play area and a food market; the area along Monroe Drive that will contain the projected skatepark, known as Piedmont Commons, undergoes construction.



JANNA KAPLAN

"We're turning our 1.5-acre surface lot that only holds fewer than 100 cars back into green space," said Darrel McCook, director of special events and communications for the Piedmont Park Conservancy. "Their parking garage will be an acre, but it will hold 800 cars and be surrounded by trees and practically hidden."

The parking deck plans have been finalized despite a large community effort to stop its construction.

"We have always been very supportive of Piedmont Park and the expansion over the years," said Doug Abramson, president of Friends of Piedmont Park, in a phone interview. "We just had a significant disagreement about the need and benefit of the parking deck. We also disagreed about its location. We went through the political process, and the city council, after a long public debate, approved it. We followed up with a lawsuit, but the judge disagreed with us. The parking

deck dispute is now largely over, but we continue to feel that it is a dreadful idea."

The Conservancy has divided the expansion of the park into different phases. Phase One involves laying foundation and rudimentary infrastructure over the 41 acres of undeveloped land for various future amenities. After getting rid of the kudzu and dying trees in the area and planting more native plants, the conservancy will put in paths, benches and picnic areas so people can immediately begin utilizing some of the expansion. The interactive fountain will also be built during Phase One, along with the bathhouse and pool, which is scheduled to be completed by spring 2008.

"We'll continue raising the funds so we can start as soon as possible," McCook said. "We'll have the plans what we call 'shelf-ready' so as soon as it's possible we can just go. It's like a Christmas tree. First you get the tree, get it clean, get it ready, then you add the ornaments. So we'll do the

paths, do the benches, do the lighting and then we'll do the bells and whistles."

The City of Atlanta already owns all of the land being used for the park expansion. Piedmont Park Conservancy campaign chair and president of Cousins Properties Office and Multi-Family Division Larry Gellerstedt III said in a recent press release that no money will have to be spent on purchasing land for Piedmont Park's expansion.

"Piedmont Park can grow by 40 percent without a single dollar from this campaign being spent for land," Gellerstedt said. "Integration of these 53 acres will dramatically transform how the park serves the public."

"I think the expansion will create great opportunities for increased public use of the park," Abramson said. "I'm hopeful that people throughout the community, whether they live near or far, will have better and broader opportunities to enjoy the park." □

Piedmont Park can grow by 40 percent without a single dollar from this campaign being spent for land.

**Larry Gellerstedt III
Campaign Chair
Piedmont Park Conservancy**



'BEFORE': A plot of kudzu-covered land set to be added to Piedmont Park.

JANNA KAPLAN

Social Diversity Club tackles issues, stops stereotypes

By MINH LAM

Racism, homophobia, religious tolerance, bullying and affirmative action. These are the pressing issues that the members of the Social Diversity Club tackle during their meetings. With a group of about 15 active members, the club serves as a forum for students to talk about current events and social issues about which they feel passionate.

U.S. history teacher Mr. Lee Pope, who founded the club last year, hopes that participation can be life-changing experience. He strives to address social issues that affect all students.

"My goal is to break down the walls of internal prejudices and stereotypes," Mr. Pope said. "If we can recognize stereotypes then we can change them."

The club gives students the ability to interact with other students of different races, religions and ages. Even though the club members may differ from one another in many ways, students are able to find common ground with other students by discussing current events.

"In the Social Diversity Club, I want to gain diverse friends of different nationalities," junior Sage Adams said.

Members strive for interracial interaction and hope to achieve more understanding of different cultures.

"Even though Grady is very diverse, we segregate ourselves at lunch, classes and the friends that we associate ourselves with," junior Bree Gray-Jordan said. "Social Diversity Club bridges the gap."

Students in the Social Diversity Club are passionate about certain issues and are active in voicing their opinions. The club



RAISING AWARENESS: Juniors Sage Adams and Jordan Francais actively participate in Social Diversity Club. The club meets weekly in Mr. Pope's classroom to discuss prevalent issues such as racism and stereotypes.

gives students a place to communicate their concerns with other students and to think of innovative ideas to create change.

Although the group is still getting off the ground, after about a year, it has already acted toward achieving social change. On Sept. 20, the club participated in the protest of the "Jena Six" [see page 4] case by wearing black or green.

"Our participation was important to raise awareness of the 'Jena Six' account and educate those who are unaware," Adams said. "I'm glad to be part of an important movement [like] this one."

Mr. Pope says that the club also hopes to

participate in a "No Name-Calling Week," where students raise awareness of using bad names toward others through posters or giving out candy.

"The idea is to teach the student body that all name-calling is degrading and demeans people's humanity," Mr. Pope said.

The Social Diversity Club works cooperatively with the Anti-Defamation League, an international group that fights against discrimination and for equality for all. The league collaborates with the club through interactive workshops that teach communication and tolerance.

"I worked closely with the Anti-

Defamation League, so I wanted to incorporate what it was about into a [club]," Mr. Pope said.

The Anti-Defamation League also works with elementary and middle schools; however, its main focus is on working with high schools.

"High school is a crucial time for students because it's the transition before they get to college and interact more with the real world," said Holly Levinson, head educational coordinator at the Anti-Defamation League. "If we can teach them racial tolerance now, then we can make a better world."

The league has high hopes for high school students.

"I don't think we give enough credit to high school students," Levinson said. "High school students are more than capable of engaging in discussion."

With big plans for the future, such as a joint cooperation on discussion and events with the Amnesty International Club at Grady, Mr. Pope encourages all students to participate.

"It's a great place to come to open your mind and learn how to deal with ignorance, whether it's yours or someone else's," Mr. Pope said.

Mr. Pope hopes all of his students will take away something life-changing from the club, to help breed tolerance and compassion toward people of different races, sexual orientations and ages.

"We're all human beings with responsibilities to take care of one another," Mr. Pope said. "The biggest inhumanity in the world is being inhumane to humans." □

Muslims fast entire month of Ramadan

By PERRI CAMPIS

Every day at a specific time, several students gather in a room in the library, face one direction and pray. They are the Muslim students of Grady High School, and their prayers are just one of the Five Pillars of Islam.

The Five Pillars of Islam are: Salah, which is praying five times daily facing the holy city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia; Shahadah, the Islamic creed which states "there is no God but Allah and Muhammad is his Prophet"; Zakah, which is charitable giving; Sawm, which is fasting during certain times of the Islamic calendar; and the Hajj, a pilgrimage to Mecca, that every able Muslim will complete at least once in his or her lifetime.

Currently, Muslim students at Grady are practicing the Sawm, which is required during Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar.

"During Ramadan it's hard to stay focused on school work when your stomach is growling," Nasirah Asson said. "It's also kind of hard to keep ahead in your school work when you come late to certain classes after praying."

Grady World History teacher George Darden agrees.

"I don't think most Grady students realize how hard



DEEP IN PRAYER: Muslim students face Mecca for prayer. During September and October they observe the Islamic month of Ramadan, requiring fasting all day long. to

Ramadan can be for Muslim students," said Mr. Darden. "Having to fast from sunup to sundown every day for a month makes things like studying very hard."

While fasting is the most famous ritual of Ramadan, Muslims must also practice purity of actions and thought which includes refraining from smoking, violence and cursing during the holy month.

Some Muslim students at Grady must carefully toe the line between following the customs of Ramadan and fulfilling their responsibilities at school.

Junior Jordan Francais is on the football team and must attend demanding practices daily. He says sometimes he needs to eat or else he would pass out on the field.

Senior Nini Lee recently became Muslim.

"I've been practicing for a year and a half, but I took my Shahadah [to officially make me a Muslim] three Fridays ago," Lee said. "It's not that hard [being Muslim], but sometimes teachers call it a phase."

Lee decided to become a Muslim when she met Sye, her fiancé. The couple plans to marry next June.

Asson, who was born in Brooklyn but moved to Atlanta her seventh-grade year, was born Muslim along with two younger siblings. Although her brothers are not old enough to fast for Ramadan, Asson said they try, and that everyone in her family is enthusiastic about their faith.

Whether born into the Muslim religion or following it on their own, Grady's Muslim students are devoted to their faith and closely observe all aspects of Ramadan in and out of school. □

MacBrien finds rewards in catering to individuals, leaving comfort zone

By POLLY ZINTAK

From hours of creating complicated magnet schedules, to remaining involved with magnet students and faculty, to being admired by all, Ms. Carrie MacBrien is an asset to Grady.

Born and raised on a farm in the small town of Southbury, Conn., Ms. MacBrien faced a new world when she came to Atlanta to attend Emory University. After growing up raising cattle and chasing chickens, Ms. MacBrien was in search of a new adventure, just what she found in Atlanta.

While at Emory, Ms. MacBrien became involved in urban education and later kicked off her teaching career at Crim High School.

"When I started teaching [at Crim] it was my first time being the minority," said Ms. MacBrien, who is white. "At first that's a little uncomfortable because it's a new situation, but then I went into it and realized I love it. This is my setting now. This is what I love."

After teaching for six years at Crim, she spent one year at Harper Archer Middle School and three years at Carver High School before finally transferring to Grady. She spent one year as an English and journalism teacher before being promoted to communications magnet coordinator.

Ms. MacBrien's daily workload of paperwork, e-mails, phone calls

and letters are only the tangible aspects of her position. Ms. MacBrien said she works hard to give each student a personalized schedule, to meet with students to make sure they are keeping up with their grades, that they have transportation, and to generally work out any problems or concerns that magnet students have.

"I am thrilled to be here at Grady," Ms. MacBrien said. "I especially love coordinating the magnet program because it brings students from across the city into one place to all work together, and that's just fantastic."

Along with working at Grady, Ms. MacBrien has also dedicated herself to training in distance running. She has participated in two full marathons and is currently training for a third. Her favorite weekend and summer activities include backpacking and camping, and she also enjoys entertaining and cooking for her friends on the weekends.

Ms. MacBrien said her initial decision to leave the comfort of her small hometown has fulfilled her desire to experience diversity.

"I think everyone should afford the opportunity to put themselves someplace where they might be a little uncomfortable," Ms. MacBrien said. "That's where you grow and open your mind, and that's where the richness of life comes from." □

ART ATTACK

Grady students display artistic ability in photography, performance and gardening



PICTURE PERFECT: Two onlookers observe Grady students' first-place photography. Achievement in the My Atlanta photo contest won Grady \$1000.

Grady wins photo contest

By KELLY DOUGLAS

The early morning sun rises over Piedmont Park, its rays illuminating a row of trees. This prize-winning image, captured by senior Wes Smith, is one of 30 photographs taken by Grady students that are displayed in the My Atlanta photo show. Smith won the award for Best Use of Black-and-White Photography, while Grady won Best Overall School. The photos are being showcased at the Piedmont Park Community Center every Saturday in October from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"It's nice to have an opportunity to work on my photography and display it in an accessible place for an extended period of time," Smith said.

My Atlanta is a component of Atlanta Celebrates Photography Month, a festival that features lectures, shows and studio tours throughout the month of October. The contest allows amateur and professional photographers to showcase their work and compete for prizes—\$1,000 towards the high school photography program with the strongest collection, plus individual prizes for age-group winners. The theme for the 2007 show is "Evolution of a City," a concept that challenges photographers to portray Atlanta's growth with one picture.

"The themes for this competition are so broad—almost anything can work,"

Grady photography teacher Ms. Dawn Wadsworth said. "Atlanta is always changing, so the theme is very fitting. The students are trying to incorporate old and new into their images."

Grady's photography students have dedicated much of their film toward finding the perfect image for the competition.

"[The] Photo I [class] is working with pinhole cameras right now—they are incorporating the My Atlanta theme into their pictures," Ms. Wadsworth said. "The advanced photography students are focusing strictly on the contest."

Photography I students spent the first weeks of school creating their own pinhole cameras, which are cameras with an extremely small hole for an aperture rather than a conventional glass lens. Junior Hannah Snowden made her camera out of a plastic paint can with a copper aperture and a cardboard shutter.

"I like [using pinhole cameras] because if you get the timing right, the camera picks up a lot of detail," said Snowden, who has two photos in the show. "[Pinhole cameras] also make you like your pictures more because so much work was put into it."

Not only did

students work hard to create their own cameras, but they also put a lot of effort into capturing the right image.

"The kids put a lot of thought into their pictures—what subject matter, where to take it and how they could get to the location," Ms. Wadsworth said. "Some [students] go to great lengths to get to these places."

While Photography I students were confined to Grady's campus to take pictures for the show, advanced photography students had the opportunity to roam the city in search of the perfect picture.

"I usually take most of the day on a weekend to take pictures," said Smith, who took his final picture at 5 a.m. "[For this contest,] I walked around Midtown Atlanta for four hours and took pictures of places like Centennial Park, and then I chose the prettiest one for the show."

Ms. Wadsworth's strategy for the contest was to make sure that students' pictures were unique.

"The main thing I told them to do was try to think of images other people won't think of," Ms. Wadsworth said. "We were trying to get the message of evolution across without looking like everyone else." □

Garden honors Ms. Grishman

By LUCY BEECHING

Grady has found an appropriate way to keep former assistant principal Ms. Naomi Grishman's legacy alive. While working with a group of teachers to decide on a fitting gift for Ms. Grishman, who retired last spring, computer applications teacher Ms. Patricia Kendall came up with the idea to plant a garden in Grady's courtyard dedicated to the former assistant principal, magnet coordinator and history teacher.

"I'm honored," Ms. Grishman said in a phone interview. "I loved the many years I worked at Grady High."

Ms. Grishman coordinated Grady's renovation four years ago, and the garden will recognize her commitment to the building and its people.

"The garden is an appropriate gift metaphorically because Ms. Grishman was always interested in the staff and students' growth," said magnet coordinator Ms. Carrie MacBrien, who is in charge of the committee working on the project. "She's concerned about the environment and she's a gardener herself."

Art teacher Mr. John Brandhorst's sculpture class is going to design and build a curved wall to go around the garden. Once the wall is in place, the committee will begin planning a more thorough design of the garden.

"It will look ugly at first [as] we dig the foundation," Mr. Brandhorst said.

The garden will be located in the courtyard on the hill between the cafeteria and the black box theater. The wall will be built out of stone masonry with sculptures and possibly mosaics on top. Construction will start this fall.

"Inside the garden, there will be another smaller wall with perhaps a sculpture on it," Mr. Brandhorst said. "We're keeping the place beautiful."

The first plants will be planted during the spring. The plants that will grow in the garden have not yet been selected, but science teacher Ms. Korri Ellis has suggested using native plants.

"They should be beautiful but at the same time low maintenance," Ms. MacBrien said.

The garden will be funded mostly by donations, and the PTSA will offer additional fundraising.

"A celebration will take place once the garden is ready," Ms. MacBrien said. "Ms. Grishman will be there to cut the ribbon or pluck the first weed, [whatever is more appropriate]."

One of the best parts of this garden is the people it will bring together through involvement.

"It gets people to work together from different areas—Earth Club, PTA and the art department," Ms. MacBrien said. "I suspect it may grow and involvement will blossom."

Ms. Grishman was presented with the idea of this garden at a celebration for her at the end of last school year.

"I think it's the most perfect gift anyone could give me," Ms. Grishman said. "It's a wonderful tribute that I value greatly." □



ALL PHOTOS BY JANNA KAPLAN AND CHARLOTTE CHRISTOPHER



ART SMARTS: (clockwise from bottom left) Senior Leah Williams represents the Grady fashion program, UrbanCouture, by giving a sewing demonstration at the Arts Festival. Senior Hawwah Laroche carves on the cairn structure, which was completed last spring, in the courtyard. The "Knights of Sound" perform to open the festival. Art teacher Mr. John Brandhorst and his ceramics students teach young festival-goers how to create clay pots on a wheel. "It's kind of cool the way you can show everyone what we do at Grady," ceramics student junior Serico Jones said. Junior Ryan Lamotte and freshman Promise Hartung perform in the one-act play *Woman at a Threshold, Beckoning*, directed by Ms. Lisa Willoughby. Senior Caroline Denton leads the musical theater members as Velma in a performance of "All That Jazz." Junior violinist Elana Schaer was one of many orchestra performers at the festival.

Arts festival draws crowd

By GRACE BROWN

Grady hosted its first Arts Festival on Sept. 26 to showcase the wide variety of art courses the school offers its students. The Grady art department's staff came up with the idea to host this festival and hopes to make it an annual event.

The festival's environment allowed parents and students to stroll around and view work the students have done in the visual arts program. Student paintings and photographs were displayed in the theater lobby, while ceramics and printmaking students hosted hands-on activities outside. Art students worked on a graffiti piece while it was on display in the courtyard. "[We] love showing off," Mr. Brandhorst said. "That's why we're in the arts."

While patrons perused student artwork, the orchestra, chorus and marching band serenaded festival-goers with music. The music program provided a mix of group and solo performances.

logistics of the whole thing were a little confusing," senior Alix Joslyn said. "But that is expected because it was the first time."

A Grady club called Scratch, which creates art to sell that will benefit animal rescue groups, also had a booth set up to raise money. Grady teacher Ms. Goodvin is in charge of the club, which meets every Wednesday.

Grady drama teachers Mr. Lee Pope, Ms. Lisa Willoughby and Mr. Jake Dreiling directed shows that students performed at different times during the evening. The drama program performed two one-act plays, *Get Happy* in the black box theater and *Woman at a Threshold, Beckoning* in the main theater. The musical theater students performed a series of songs from the Broadway musical *Chicago*.

"Judging by the screaming of the crowd, I think [the show] went well," junior Miguel Velez said.

The teachers involved hope that the Arts Festival will continue to grow each year.

"I look forward to [the Arts Festival's] evolution," Mr. Brandhorst said. □



HIGH NOTE: (from left) Grady hosted its third-annual Jazz on the Bricks, a concert and dinner that raises money for the Grady Foundation, on Oct. 7. Jazz on the Bricks attendees make donations to the Foundation. Dr. Vincent Murray, Ms. Marian Kelly, Ms. Naomi Grishman and Mr. Vincent Martinez attended the fundraiser, as well as parents, alumni and community members. Grady orchestra and chorus members performed several numbers; the boys sang Eric Clapton's "Change the World" a capella. Along with Grady students, jazz saxophonist Gerald Albright, a last-minute addition to the program, performed with his band. Jazz on the Bricks was highly attended, raising more than \$16,000.

Continuing with our celebration of the 60th anniversary of Grady High School, this issue we highlight two of Grady's most outstanding scientists from years past.

Project jump-starts Gartrell's career

By JOURDAN DEVIES

Jay Gartrell is a multifaceted human being. Currently managing a bed and breakfast, in the past Gartrell has had experiences as varied as meeting Nobel Prize winners and working with radioactive elements. Gartrell, a Grady High School alumnus, has been interested in science since 10th grade when he excelled in his biology class at Grady. He began his prestigious science career in high school with an award-winning project at the former Westinghouse Science Talent Search and is now a biologist, innkeeper, teacher and textbook writer.

Born in Atlanta at St. Joseph's Hospital, Gartrell grew up in the Grady area. He attended what was then Inman Elementary School for grades kindergarten through seven, and then Grady for grades eight through 12. After completing high school in 1967, Gartrell graduated from Brown University with a degree in biology. He then went to the University of Pennsylvania Medical School where he spent five years doing biological research and getting his master's degree. He also received a master's in science education at the University of Pennsylvania School of Education.

Having taken virtually no science courses until high school, Gartrell laid the groundwork for his scientific knowledge through what was then a landmark curriculum,

Biological Sciences Curriculum Study Biology.

"One of the real strengths of Grady in those years was that the science teachers were aware of—and worked actively to get their students involved in—science programs," Gartrell said in a phone interview.

After Gartrell's sophomore year in high school, he was accepted to the National Science Foundation Summer Science Institute at Emory, an eight-week program with eight hours a day of college instruction. His research on the effects of auxins (hormones for plants) on geotropism (the growth of a living organism due to gravity) later won him a gold medal in the Atlanta Science Congress. With additional work it became his Westinghouse science project.

"I was one of the 40 finalists who got a trip to Washington," Gartrell said. "We were interviewed by scientists, in my case interrogated by Glenn Seaborg, who was a Nobel Prize winner who had discovered the radioactive element I was using as part of the radiation in my project."

Gartrell attended numerous other science programs, including a 10-week program at Indiana University. Both the Grady science department and the leadership of former science teacher Ms. Ruth Sanders were instrumental in his ability to have so many



AUXIN BLOCK: In a photo from the Feb. 22, 1967 issue of *The Southerner*, Jay Gartrell presents his gold-medal winning speech in 1966 in the Atlanta Science Congress.

opportunities while in high school.

"Ms. Sanders was an outstanding educator," Gartrell said. "When I was working on my Westinghouse project I was down to the deadline and I was a very bad typist—this was before word processing—so Ms. Sanders volunteered to type my report. That is the type of person she is, so I have to send her roses every year."

Gartrell was not the only student to do great things coming from a public high school in the South.

"The top students at Grady were routinely going to Yale, Harvard, Princeton, MIT, Brown and wherever else they liked," Gartrell said. "One thing that most of these students had in common was Ms. Sanders behind them pushing them

and providing help, inspiration and a really fine level of instruction. I can thank her for everything I ever did academically."

Gartrell was very school-conscientious during high school because the U.S. was in the middle of fighting the Vietnam War.

"On average, we were a lot more serious about what we were doing in part because if you didn't go to college you had to answer the awkward question of 'How am I going to stay out of the war?'" Gartrell said. "If you graduated from high school and you didn't go to college, you automatically became 1A [a draft classification] which meant you might get to go to Vietnam."

After Gartrell's years of

education, he taught many science courses, including biology, general science, life science and earth science, in both the Philadelphia area and North Carolina. He also did laboratory research and wrote six books, including a series of three textbooks published by the National Science Teacher's Association.

"I might have been an English major because I read a lot and am a good writer," Gartrell said. "I write science because I can write science in coherent sentences, which most scientists can't."

For the past four years, Gartrell has set aside writing science to be an innkeeper. After living in Durham, N.C. for over 20 years, he decided to buy the Blue Heaven Bed and Breakfast in Wilmington, N.C.

He has had many interesting guests stay with him; "some neat and some really crazy" as he says. He is currently housing a "One Tree Hill" extra, and last week, a woman who was a hostage in Iran during the Carter administration, passed through while on a book tour.

Despite his move away from a science life, Gartrell is constantly reminded of his science days.

"I have done a lot of radioactive biological work over the years," Gartrell said. "I still have a faint glow of blue and green in the dark." □

Sanders inspires budding scientists and doctors

By ALEXANDRIA CANTRELL

Having taught many current engineers, lead students in winning international science fairs and helping begin the Georgia Governor's Honors Program, former Grady teacher Ms. Ruth Sanders has been described as one of the greatest educators who ever taught in the United States.

Sanders' career as a high school teacher began in 1956 when she was sent to Grady to teach science.

"I liked Grady for several reasons," Sanders said in a phone interview. "[Grady principal Roger Derthick] was so supportive. Whatever I wanted to do, he gave me the freedom to do it. The parents were interested in their students getting a good education. The faculty and staff backed me; even the extended community was great."

Sanders taught science at Grady for 14 years. Although she taught physical science at times, her primary subject was physics. As the first woman to teach physics at Grady, Sanders eventually became the chair for Grady's science department.

Sanders encouraged her students to go further into scientific study than she had gone during life.

"I told my students at the beginning of the year, 'I'm here to help you learn some of

the things that I may already know, but don't let any one of you think that you could not outdo me,'" she said.

Sanders played a part in starting the Georgia Governor's Honors Program, which is still in existence today.

"In 1962, we got interested in what we could do for students," Sanders said. "The whole country was interested in what we could do to catch up with Russia [in the space race]. The legislature finally passed [GHP], and we got it started in 1964 at Wesleyan College in Macon, Ga."

Sanders taught at GHP from 1964 to 1967.

"I taught physics there and headed the science department," she said. "We lived there and worked there pretty much 24 hours a day."

Sanders knew many prominent Georgians at that time, including

former President Jimmy Carter.

"I taught Jimmy Carter's kids at GHP one year," she said. "[Jimmy Carter] was a very close, personal friend."

Sanders also taught Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s oldest daughter, Yolanda King, when she attended Grady in 1968, the same year that Dr. King was assassinated. Sanders said Dr. King's sister and Yolanda's aunt, Ms. Christine King Farris, would

periodically come to the school to make sure Yolanda was doing all right after her father's assassination.

Many believe that the reason for Sanders' teaching success was her innovative approach to science.

"I truly tried to teach science by the scientific method," Sanders said. "I, of course, had a curriculum, but I would say, 'Now, what questions do we have to answer about this? What do you think the answer is? How can we develop a method for testing it? We would make it work and take the data. We even measured the mass of an electron.'"

Sanders sponsored her students in science competitions and fairs across the nation.

"Every year we had our own science fair right at Grady," she said. "Students worked on [projects] on their own time; I supervised it on my own time."

Many of her students went on to be very accomplished people in their fields of work.

"I can't tell you how many students went on to become doctors and engineers," Sanders said. "I was told I sent more students to [The Massachusetts Institute of Technology] and Georgia Tech than anyone."

Though she admits to not being every student's favorite, Sanders said she was not concerned with popularity.

"I just consider myself a regular teacher who enjoyed my work," Sanders said. "My work stands on its own merits. It never

mattered what people thought about me and how I was judged. I was not a popular teacher, but [many of my students] told me they were so glad I held them to [high standards]."

Although Sanders transferred to Lakeside High School in 1970, she never left the Grady community.

"I have always kept up with Grady," she said. "I was there for the celebration of Grady's 50th reunion in 1998. If you go out in the courtyard, you will see a brick with my name engraved on it along with the fact that I was science department chair."

Sanders admires Grady's current physics teacher, Mr. Jeff Cramer.

"I knew Mr. Cramer when he taught at a school in DeKalb," she said. "He is a very, very fine physics teacher. I am proud of the physics teachers [at Grady] and proud of what Grady has done."

Sanders said that she thought the most important thing she did in her career was making the tough decision to teach science by the scientific method. The second most important thing, she said, was making the commitment to encourage her students who wanted to further their knowledge in science.

"I would like for learning to be fun," Sanders said. "[In class], we laughed a lot. We made many mistakes, we had many failures, but we did not dwell on failures. I want to see students go on to accomplish what they want to accomplish in life." □

"I was told I sent more people to MIT and Georgia Tech than anyone."

Ms. Ruth Sanders

Local house transforms from wasteful to beneficial

BY SARAH BUFKIN

Forget riding your bike back and forth to work every day. Don't worry about searching for that hybrid car. Now there is an easier way to "go green": environmentally friendly renovation and construction, known as green building.

K.C. Boyce, a local homeowner and energy conservationist, and his wife Michelle Frost, a former Inman Middle School math teacher, have decided to renovate their home using energy-saving techniques, due partly to the negative effects of wasteful construction.

"Forty percent of the energy used in the United States is related to building—residential and commercial," Boyce said.

Boyce and Frost, who began renovating their home in June 2007, plan to finish it by April 2008. They will be substantially reducing the house's energy use.

"[When completed,] our house will use between 30 and 50 percent of the energy a standard metro Atlanta house uses," Boyce said.

That goal, however, is still months away. Renewal Construction, a contracting company chosen for its experience with green building broke ground on the Decatur home in early October.

Along with ensuring that the couple's house will be energy efficient when finished, Renewal Construction will be taking steps to conserve energy and resources throughout the renovation process—a key component of green building.

Peter Michelson, CEO of Renewal Construction and director of the project, described the elements involved in green construction and renovation in a phone interview.

"Green renovation has to do with three or four issues," Michelson said. "[The first is] reducing what's going into the project; [then] recycling or reusing what you tear out. [You also have to consider] how the house is designed [and] how you seal the



GOING GREEN: The new home of K.C. Boyce and Michelle Frost, to be completed in April of 2008, reflects a growing national trend in eco-friendly construction. The home will have a rainwater harvesting system, solar panel conduits and more sustainable wood.

house."

Renewal Construction uses a variety of different methods to conserve materials in the building process, including recycling on site.

"You can grind up waste products that don't have any toxins in them and reuse them," Michelson said. "For example, extra lumber scraps can be ground up and used as wood chips. Instead of tearing a house down, you can also save a lot of the house. [This way] you aren't adding all the additional walls and footings into the waste stream."

The same measures will be used in the couple's project.

"Everything pulled out during the demolition of the interior will be recycled," Boyce said. "The windows I put in will be donated to Habitat for Humanity."

Renewal Construction will be taking the appropriate steps to seal the house, making it more energy-efficient.

"You want to have doors and windows that aren't leaky, [and] high-quality glass that filters out the ultraviolet rays," Michelson said. "You also want to use an insulation system and a fueling system that keep most of the heat or cool air inside the house."

The green doesn't stop with the demolition and insulation processes.

"When we actually build, we will be using materials that are more sustainable, like liptis [a type of wood] and bamboo," Boyce said.

In addition to using environmentally friendly building materials, green building also actively promotes conservation. For example Boyce and Frost will add a rainwater harvesting system to their home.

Three cisterns will be placed around the house to catch water from the gutters, which can then be used to water the lawn or wash the car.

While the house won't be switching to solar energy, conduits will be set up for solar panels and the plumbing will be modified to accommodate solar water heating.

"Solar energy is just not economical, but we want to have the option [to use it in our house] if it becomes less expensive," Boyce said. "The idea is to get a good house with solid green fundamentals up-

front."

Boyce and Michelson are hoping to meet certain sets of national standards for green renovations, such as EarthCraft and Energy Star.

The Energy Star website describes the Home Performance with Energy Star as a national program sponsored by the federal Environmental Protection Agency that focuses on an extensive approach to energy conservation in the home.

While not sponsored by the federal government, the EarthCraft House program accomplishes the same purpose, setting guidelines on how to construct houses that reduce utility bills and protect the environment. According to the Greater Atlanta Homebuilders Association, the EarthCraft House certification process consists of a checklist that addresses site planning, energy-efficient techniques and equipment, waste management and indoor air quality of the home.

For some, the extra effort of green



The idea is to get a good house with solid green fundamentals up-front.

K.C. Boyce

Beehive Co-op buzzworthy

BY ARIELLE D'AVANZO

With a unique blend of creative merchandise produced by local artists and designers, the Beehive Co-op stands out from the average clothing retail store. The co-op features entrepreneurial designers who rent space in the store or consign their merchandise. The merchandise is often one-of-a-kind and includes items such as clothing, handbags, furniture, home décor, jewelry and stationery.

"I've been into the Beehive Co-op on numerous occasions, and every time I go into the store I always find new items at a very reasonable price," said Manning Willard, a frequent shopper. "I typically gravitate towards the purses because they are so unique and different from any other purses being sold in stores today."

Owner and creator Petra Geiger opened her current location in November 2004 at 1831 Peachtree Road.

"I chose this location for the visibility and for the proximity to Buckhead and Midtown," Geiger said. "I also wanted to be near a residential community, and this location is right near Brookwood Hills."

Prior to opening the Beehive Co-op, Geiger worked as a graphic designer, which

allowed her to do a lot of the design work in the store herself, saving her a lot of money.

"Doing graphic design kept me in front of the computer, so I started sewing and making handbags," Geiger said. "I began participating in markets and festivals to showcase my work, and here I found a lot of creative people who really needed a steadier storefront. This gave me the idea for the co-op and allowed me to open this retail store."

The renters lease retail space for a minimum of six months, and a component of the contract is that they have to work in the store for a minimum of five hours a week. This gives customers the opportunity to mingle with some of the designers when they come into the store.

"We currently have over 50 vendors," Geiger said. "I look for people who have good craftsmanship, are reliable and professional and who have a unique and well-designed product."

Recently, Geiger announced that the Beehive Co-op was franchising in order to expand the concept to more cities.

"I chose franchising because for the concept to work, the store owners have to be really connected to the local community



BUSY BEES: Entrepreneurial designers now have a chance to market their merchandise locally. Beehive Co-op is currently housing many different types of products from more than 50 vendors in the metro Atlanta area.

so that they can find designers," Geiger said. "Since I can't be in all the cities at once, I felt that franchising the brand and concept would make the most sense. This way we can work as a team in order to compete with the bigger chain stores yet retain our local flavor and still carry items that are handmade and not mass-produced."

With the decision to franchise, the Atlanta store has recently been sold to a woman named Viviana Campbell. In the meantime,

Geiger has plans to move to New York to open up a second store while continuing to assist other owners in launching Beehive Co-ops.

"The idea to franchise is such a fabulous concept," said Karen Meyers, a designer in the store who sells purses made from recycled wool sweaters and vintage linens. "With the resurgence of craft and valuing the handmade, I think it should take off and make the whole Beehive brand stronger." □

Briarcliff Summit faces funding setbacks, complaints

BY SOPHIE COX

With her fingertips positioned at the top of the paper, Chris Baldridge scans a catalogue. The 53-year-old woman decides what frozen foods to order from a delivery company while waiting on a church member to pick her up for Bible study. When she can't remember the name of a product, Baldridge quickly runs her fingers over the page again.

"I learned how to read Braille in first grade," said Baldridge, who has been visually impaired her whole life.

Baldridge lives in Briarcliff Summit apartments, a Federal Section 8 elderly housing development on the corner of North Highland Avenue and Ponce de Leon Avenue. The apartments provide affordable, government-subsidized housing to elderly and disabled citizens who are unable to work. The residents pay around \$180 a month to live in an apartment where the normal rent would be closer to \$700. While Baldridge has enjoyed the location of the building, she complains that the building managers do not pay attention to maintaining the apartment.

"[The building] used to be well-kept when I moved in, but it's not very well-kept anymore," Baldridge said. "Even though I can't see them, the walls could use some new paint."

Baldridge is not only concerned with how the management takes care of the building but also with how it treats the residents. She recalls an incident about two years ago when the elevator was broken for more than six weeks, and the building had no hot water or air conditioning, causing a resident to ask WSB TV news to investigate the building. When the news channel highlighted the building's problems and foul appearance, the manager, Caroline Howard, threatened to evict the resident. Howard was unavailable for comment. Clay Edmonds, the director of properties for Lee Asset Management, a company in Knoxville, Tenn. that manages Briarcliff Summit, confirmed Baldridge's story.

Since most of the residents are unable to work, they spend their time



LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL: Charles Hickson and Miguel Roman rest outside Briarcliff Summit apartments, a Section 8 housing for the elderly in Atlanta. Management is working to ensure better security inside the building. "I just want to live in peace," Roman said.

gossiping about problems with the building—and with its residents.

"Faster than the Internet is Briarcliff Summit," said Connie Muntner, a resident since 1999, on how much gossip affects the building.

Lulu, a resident who requested that her last name be withheld, has seen several managers pass through Briarcliff Summit. The building frequently goes through policy changes, each new manager picking up where the other left off.

"The managers have always threatened everyone that if they don't like the building, then they can get out," Lulu said.

Muntner and Lulu both agree that the building is not kept up as well as it used to be. Aside from the maintenance problems, many of the residents who have mental disabilities can be violent.

"When they're off medicine they like to fight," Lulu said.

Charles Hickson, a resident with polio, has been a victim of the violence firsthand. When another man living in Briarcliff Summit popped the lock on Hickson's door and broke into his room, he went to the management for assistance.

"I went down to their office to try and explain myself," Hickson said. "Before I could finish a sentence, the

assistant said she didn't want to hear it unless I had a witness."

According to Hickson, break-ins are not a new thing—especially in his room. Aside from Hickson's incident, Miguel Roman, another physically handicapped resident, said that he has seen improvements over the years.

"There used to be big drug problems a few years back, but now it's calmed down," Roman said.

Roman, a 71-year-old man from Puerto Rico, worked in America as a translator. A former resident of New York City, Roman is familiar with city life and what it entails.

"There are still a lot of crack-heads living here," Roman said.

Most of the violence that occurs in Briarcliff Summit comes from the fact that not everyone living in the building is elderly. The younger residents must be seriously handicapped in order to receive the same benefits and social security as the older ones. Older residents contend that the younger crowd is more prone to violence.

"We need more security because [the people who are not physically handicapped] are going to try and take advantage of you," Roman said.

Tony Bruno, a resident who attended Grady in 1982, is pleased

with the management's new policy on drug abuse within the building: any residents caught with drugs will be immediately evicted. Bruno appreciates the current management's determination to make sure that people who are abusing drugs aren't welcome in Briarcliff Summit, and understands that the management's workload is quite an undertaking.

"You've got three men working on 200 units," Bruno said. "Things take time to get done, but considering you're not out in the rain..."

Bruno says he likes living in the apartments because the residents have close relationships and look out for one another. Since most of the residents are single, Briarcliff Summit is not only their home but their family.

The residents know that their requests for maintenance are often put aside, but what they might not understand is how little control the building's management has over granting their requests. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is responsible for funding the building, so maintenance is only possible using HUD funds.

"This summer [Briarcliff Summit] went two months without funding

from HUD," Edmonds said.

Many residents mistakenly believe that Edwin Lee, the owner and operator of Lee Asset, is also the owner of Briarcliff Summit.

"Mr. Lee owns less than one percent of the building," Edmonds said. "The rest of the building is owned by national tax credit funds."

According to the U.S. Government's Actual Budget for 2006, 1.6 percent of federal funds were spent on HUD as opposed to the 18 percent spent on defense. In the Mid-Session Review of the Budget of the U.S. Government for the fiscal year 2008, the government estimates that defense funding will increase by 2 percent and that HUD funding will remain the same.

In 1994, former U.S. Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich released the "Contract with America," part of a campaign platform which argued political ideas created by the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank. Part of this document proposed an increased rent for title programs such as Section 8 housing, causing HUD to raise its subsidization with additional funds that are not in the government's budget. Without further funding from the government, there is no money to spend on items such as broken air conditioners.

Despite funding setbacks, Sherril Dallas, property manager of Briarcliff Summit, has recently coordinated with outreach programs and community organizations like Meals on Wheels and AIDS Atlanta to provide services for the residents that they may not be able to afford otherwise.

Bruno believes that if the government would concentrate its funds on improving subsidized housing, the management would hear fewer complaints.

"The management does the best they can," Bruno said. "The government would rather give all their funds to the military than to housing—that's just the way America is." □

Cafe 458 keeps local homeless fed, volunteers busy

BY EMILY EMSHOFF

"Eat well... Do good." This is the unique motto of Cafe 458. Located at 458 Edgewood Ave., Cafe 458 is open Monday through Friday for homeless men and women with histories of substance abuse, mental health concerns and physical disabilities. On Saturday and Sunday, the restaurant is open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for weekend brunch, which is open to not only the homeless but the public too. All the proceeds from the brunch support the Samaritan House of Atlanta programs, which include Cafe 458.

The Samaritan House was founded in 1986 and has several programs that strive to help end homelessness in Atlanta. Along with Cafe 458, the Samaritan House has other programs such as Earning Dignity... Gaining Employment, or the EDGE, and the Clean Street Team.

"Cafe 458 was founded as a restaurant to serve homeless men and women in an atmosphere of dignity and respect," said Sherrie Snipes-Williams, executive director of the Samaritan House.

Homeless customers are able to sit in a restaurant setting and order from a menu for free, as opposed to going through a soup-kitchen line. This particular feature of the restaurant appeals to Mayor Shirley Franklin, who has made ending chronic homelessness a top priority of her administration.

"Cafe 458 is a wonderful example of how we can and should help the homeless get back on track, but do so

in a way that maintains and helps restore their dignity," Mayor Franklin told the Southerner in a phone interview. "Being able to order their lunch meal from a menu and to sit in a comfortable, restaurant-like setting can be a real boost to someone who is at their lowest point."

Another unique thing about Cafe 458 is that all of the workers, including the waitresses and chefs, are volunteers. There is an average of 10-to-15 volunteers on any given day at the restaurant. With all the programs available, the Samaritan House offers more than 5,000 volunteer opportunities.

"We could always use more help, but we are very pleased with our level of volunteers," Snipes-Williams said. "We would be nowhere without our volunteers."

The menu consists of a variety of foods ranging from "Frittata de Jour" to simple bacon and eggs. Executive chef Eric Louis prepares and cooks all the meals. Snipes-Williams describes the food as "southern eclectic offerings." The Cafe 458 staff has high hopes for the future of the Samaritan House of Atlanta.

"Our future is bright as we continue to change the lives of homeless people," Snipes-Williams said.

Snipes-Williams encourages students from Grady to volunteer. Many student groups and colleges from around the area come and help serve homeless men and women and the customers eating brunch on the weekend.

"Volunteers get just as much from volunteering as we get from them," Snipes-Williams said. "It's a very rewarding experience." □



FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE: Cafe 458 strives to serve homeless people on a daily basis and is open to the public on the weekends. Volunteers serve as the waiters and chefs there.

Farley tears through Titans with four TD's

Senior running back Darryl Farley celebrated his 18th birthday by scoring four rushing touchdowns to lead Grady to a 48-21 victory over the Towers Titans on Sept. 14 at Avondale Stadium.

Grady's Swann song ends on happy note

Freshman cornerback Dammian Swann intercepted three fourth-quarter passes to seal Grady's 34-29 region victory over Dunwoody Sept. 28 at North DeKalb Stadium. The second of the three thwarted a potential game-winning drive with less than two minutes remaining and the third denied a Hail Mary pass with five seconds left in the contest.

Cross Country Times from Oct. 3 meet:

Girls (3.1 miles): Kelsey Roth 23:03, Leah Butterfield 23:03, Lily Muntzing 23:42, Jessie Segall 24:08, Ella Miller 24:36, Polly Zintak 24:44, Lauren Williams 24:53.

Boys (3.1 miles): Max Leonard 18:55, Hamp Watson 19:13, Elshaddai Hailegiorgis 21:01, Daniel Matthews 21:36, Stephen Crouse 21:39, Matthew Smith 22:33.

Volleyball team ready for postseason play

By STEPHEN CROUSE

After making the playoffs for the first time in team history last season, the Grady volleyball team is hoping to make it two years in a row. The team is currently ranked fourth in region 1-AAA but must fare well in an area tournament before it can clinch a playoff berth.

Since the team is in a very strong region, which includes the top three ranked teams in the state, players have said they do not expect to gain a high seed in the playoffs. Still, the team is confident that it can at least gain the fourth seed. If the Knights secure the No. 4 seed, they will open the playoffs against a No. 1 seed from another region. Coach Paul Nicholson is optimistic of the team's chances of making the playoffs.

"I am confident that we will be the fourth seed, as long as we don't choke," Coach Nicholson said.

Coach Nicholson admits that he is frustrated that the team lost games that they should have won, including a 25-20 loss to Carver.

"I expect more of them,

which accentuates the disappointments," Coach Nicholson said. "They need to let the other team make mistakes rather than giving the other team points; we need to make the other team work for the points."

Despite discouraging losses, the team should have won, senior captain Alix Joslyn is looking forward to the area tournament and is hopeful about the playoffs. Joslyn hopes to make it past the first round of the playoffs.

"[Last year] we only made it to the first round of the playoffs, and I think that it is definitely possible for us to make it to the second round," Joslyn said. "This is the strongest our team has ever been, so this season is the time to do great things."

Coach Nicholson agrees that the team is stronger, more seasoned and more skilled. Based on this assessment, he has spent more practice time coaching the team on floor strategy rather than the fundamentals such as bumping and spiking. Coach Nicholson admits



GET UP: Junior Hannah Snowden jumps to spike the ball in a game against North Atlanta on Oct. 4. The Knights went on to win two of three games against the Warriors, giving them an overall record of 7-4.

that he may have gotten away from the basics of the game but hopes to get the team focused sooner rather than later. Joslyn believes

that team motivation will bring the necessary focus. "In order to make it to the playoffs, we will have to decide how much we

really want it," Joslyn said. "We have to realize our weaknesses and focus on them in order to improve." □



HERE, BATTER, BATTER: Junior Jodeanah Noble steps up to the plate against the Riverwood Raiders, Sept. 28. The Knights lost 15-0, ending their season and any chance of postseason play. Noble is one of the 10 players who will return to the team next year.

Softball season ends with defeat

By GUS RICK

The Grady softball team squandered any shot of postseason play on Sept. 28, when it lost to the Riverwood Raiders 15-0 at Riverwood.

"I thought this could have really been our season," senior utility player Dale Clay said.

The Raiders capitalized on the Knights' spotty defense with timely hitting and aggressive baserunning.

"They found out where we're weak," junior catcher Devin Harris said. "We couldn't react quick enough, and that really got us."

Team defense was a weak spot for the Knights throughout the season.

"Our offense is stronger [than

it has been in previous seasons]; we lose games on defensive mistakes," sophomore shortstop Kai Jackson said.

Jackson splits the shortstop position with Clay, who has played nearly every position on the field and has batted in several spots in the order.

"I guess I just fill in where I'm needed," Clay said.

Clay's position shifts have included pitching the first inning of several games, including games against Riverwood and the Sept. 25 loss to The Westminster School.

The Lady Knights anxiously entered the match, knowing that Westminster killed their playoff chances last year, with a 15-0 rout.

The team struggled when pitcher Tiffany Lowery was hit in the head with a ball 10 minutes before the game. Concern arose about a possible concussion, but she only suffered a headache throughout the game. The team believes the injury still aggravated her pitching ability.

"We were really worried that it may have really thrown her off," Clay said. "But [Lowery's] a tough competitor."

Clay and outfielder Angel Aske are the only two seniors on the team.

Head coach Shanette Jones is trying to get all the girls to play with club softball teams over the spring in order to improve their skills and make a playoff run in 2008. □

Grady quarterbacks coach may join GSU I-AA football staff in fall of 2010

By MILES GILBRETH

Grady football coach Carl Lawrence could be on the Georgia State University football coaching staff when GSU gets a football team in 2010.

Lawrence has been the quarterbacks coach at Grady for two years. He is also the head coach of GSU's club football team.

Before coming to Grady, Lawrence was the offensive coordinator at Mays High School. In 2003, he helped the football team go 10-0 during the regular season for the first time in school history.

Lawrence also played college football at Eastern Kentucky University and Howard University. In the short time that he has been at GSU, he has won the respect of his players.

"He's a great offensive coach and an amazing motivator," GSU sophomore running back Mario Johnson said.

After five years of having only a club team, GSU decided to raise money starting in April to form an intercollegiate varsity team. For the most part, alumni have fueled the creation of a varsity team.

"Many alumni feel it's time, and it makes strategic sense for the university since we are transitioning to a more traditional campus," GSU athletic director Mary McElroy said.

According to its website, GSU had raised a total of \$1.11

million for the football team as of Oct. 5.

Former Atlanta Falcons head coach Dan Reeves has been helping with the fundraising and is a candidate for the head coaching position.

"When Reeves said he would be willing to coach, many other candidates backed off," Coach Lawrence said.

Coach Lawrence has not been offered a job to coach on the new team yet, but if he does get one, he will consider it.

"If I have the opportunity to coach there, it would definitely be a strong option," Coach Lawrence said.

The new football team does not yet have a practice facility, but the search is underway for a new field.

"We are looking for a practice site, but we will play games at the Georgia Dome unless a better option comes along," McElroy said.

The team will be competing in the Championship Division, formerly know as Division I-AA, starting no sooner than the 2010 season. According to McElroy, recruiting will begin the year before GSU starts playing and will be mainly concentrated inside metro Atlanta.

"Georgia State will open up a lot of opportunities for football players who want to play in college," Grady junior defensive tackle Gerald Crawford said. "I would play there." □

Girls cross country team continues to win APS meets

BY DEAN JACKSON

The girls cross country team continues to dominate APS, winning the past six meets with an average of five runners finishing in the top 10 each race. The five top runners include freshman Kelsey Roth, sophomore Leah Butterfield and juniors Lily Muntzing, Jessie Segall and Polly Zintak.

Roth and Butterfield have finished every meet as Grady's top two and feel its going to stay that way.

"With [injured top runner Arielle D'Avanzo] missing practices, I feel I have a slight advantage," Butterfield said.

At the two invitationals they have attended, all of the runners' times decreased, some by more than a minute.

Although the team didn't place well, the girls met their goal of improving their times.

Grady faced tough competition at the Aubrae Gunderson Invitational Sept. 29. Chamblee's top runner, Emily Reese, who Grady will be facing at the region meet, set a new course record.

Some runners credited their time improvements to the course's uniqueness.

"The course at the Invitational is very different because it has a lot of narrow scenic trails," Muntzing said. "It makes it more interesting and easy to run."

At both invitationals, Grady competed without D'Avanzo. She



IN STRIDE: Sophomore Leah Butterfield and freshman Kelsey Roth lead the Grady Knights as they win their sixth consecutive meet at Grant Park. The underclassmen duo has lead the Knights in every meet. "The team looks ready for the bigger meets," Roth said.

has been practicing about three times a week and running about one mile per practice, showing progress despite a strained iliotibial band.

"[D'Avanzo] plans on running in the region [5B-AAA] meet [on Nov. 3]," Coach Jeff Cramer

said.

Her running condition is unknown though.

"I'm not sure Arielle will be the top runner when she returns," Coach Cramer said. "She could be running right alongside Leah and Kelsey."

With the APS city meet quickly approaching, the team is changing its practice routine to prepare.

"We are doing more fast intervals, mostly long intervals, and a good bit of hill work," Coach Cramer said. "Even

though we are practicing more, everything is a lot better [than during the summer] because of the temperature."

The team seems to be responding positively to the change in practice.

"We are doing a lot more neighborhood runs, with longer intervals," Muntzing said. "It seems to be helping my time."

As for the rest of the season, Grady runners are optimistic.

"Last year I felt like we depended on a small group of runners," Zintak said. "This year we have a solid group to carry us deep into the season."

Some coaches may worry about the inexperience of freshmen and sophomore leadership, but Coach Cramer has full confidence in the younger girls.

"The girls are really picking it up, especially in the most recent meet," Coach Cramer said. "They ran a full minute better than previous meets which is really impressive."

Last year the girls finished fifth at the 5B-AAA region race, just missing the fourth-place finish needed to make it to state.

With the possible return of their top runner and the continued improvement of their team's times, the girls hope to qualify for state in 2007.

"I think if we come together as a team we can finish higher [at the region meet]," Butterfield said. □

Boys team hopes for second at city, prepares for region

BY JAMISON KINNANE

The boys cross country team ran some of its fastest times of the year on Sept. 29 at the Aubrae Gunderson Invitational at the Georgia International Horse Park in Conyers. The boys ran in the championship race, which meant they were running against some of the fastest runners in the state from class AAAA and AAAAA schools.

Despite the tough competition, the boys held their own and in some cases ran three to four minutes faster than they have at any other race this season.

"It was a fun race," freshman Alex Pittman said. "Almost everyone [ran] their [personal-record times]."

Senior Max Leonard finished 58th out of 184 runners. The rest of the team finished in the mid-100s. The fact that three of Grady's top runners were not at the race explained the large gap between Leonard and the rest of the Grady runners.

"We didn't have a whole lot of people there, which we knew we wouldn't," Coach George Darden said. "Cross country runners by their very nature are people who do a lot of other things. There were a lot of people who had a lot of other very legitimate things to do that weekend."

The team only had four of its projected top seven runners—the ones who will run at the city and region meets—running in the meet. Seniors Stephen Crouse and Hamp Watson had a soccer game that day, and junior Nadir Ismail is taking the month off from cross country to observe Ramadan.

"It's a lot to ask of an athlete to not eat or drink all day long and then come out and run 40 to 50 miles a week," Coach Darden said of Ismail. "He's told me that he is



PHOTO FINISH: Senior Stephen Crouse (right) races to beat a Mays opponent to the finish line for 17th place during the Oct. 3 meet at Grant Park. "Racing someone on the kick is the most fun part of the race," Crouse said.

going to start coming back after [Ramadan ends]. We'll have to see how he is able to do after he has been fasting for a month."

At the invitational, Grady didn't run against many of the teams that it will compete against at the region meet. The team did, however, run against Mays, a rival Grady will face at the city championship meet and a nemesis who has beaten them every week at the APS Grant Park meets.

Mays beat Grady again at the invitational. Raymond Walston, Mays' No. 1 runner, won the whole meet. The Grady

boys realize that they do not have a very good chance of winning the city meet, so they are shooting for a second-place finish.

"Mays has a really solid team again this year," Coach Darden said. "I think it would take a pretty monumental effort on our part and a pretty significant lapse on their part in order for us to beat them."

Douglass High School has also beaten Grady in two meets this season. Coach Darden is hoping to narrow the gap between Leonard and Watson and the rest of the runners in order for them to beat Douglass at the city meet.

"There is a big gap between our No. 2 and our No. 3 runner," Coach Darden said. "That is pretty much where all the Douglass and Mays runners end up packing themselves in. If we could move up our No. 3, 4 and 5 runners a little bit and pick off some of those other runners from Mays and Douglass, that would help us out tremendously."

As the city meet approaches, the boys have been changing how they run at practice.

"We have been trying to lengthen the distance of the repeats we are doing," Coach Darden said. "We basically started out [the season] with short, fast workouts. Now we are making them longer and longer. We are kind of right at that point where we are running the longest repeats we will have run, and then we are going to start cutting them back down again."

The team will continue to prepare for the city championship until the meet on Oct. 17.

"We hope that all our hard work at practice will pay off when we get to the city meet," Leonard said. "I think we will finish second after Mays."

No matter what place the team finishes at the city meet, it will be running in the region meet on Nov. 3. The region meet is what determines whether or not they will qualify for the state meet, which is on Nov. 10. In order to qualify, the team will have to finish in the top four, a feat which they did not accomplish last year. They are looking to beat one of the four teams that beat them last season.

"It is going to be tough to make it to state," Leonard said. "We're going to work as hard as we can, but it might just not be possible." □

Turner takes over as quarterback, team leader

By LILY MUNTZING

Senior Jeremy Turner has hit the ground running.

After waiting on the varsity sidelines for three years, the new Knights quarterback has replaced Grady graduate Simeon Kelley, bringing a different offensive strategy to the team.

While Turner learned from Kelley's successes, including making the state playoffs two years in a row and taking the team to the semifinals in 2006, he admits that his approach to the game is different than Kelly's.

"Simeon was a role model to me, but we are way different quarterbacks," Turner said. "He liked to pass, and I like to run."

Both players and coaches have openly welcomed this change.

"Jeremy's more athletic than Simeon, so he utilizes his legs more than his arms," quarterback coach Carl Lawrence said. "He's able to create plays that aren't there."

Turner honed his skills as the starting quarterback on the junior varsity team where he mastered the team's offense and learned to handle pressure, a skill he claims was necessary.

"The offensive line didn't block," Turner said. "It was run or be tackled."

This determination has made him a leader during both practice and games.

"Seeing where he came from—on the bench behind Simeon—he's really stepped up as a leader," senior wide receiver Demarcus Watts said. "He's under a lot of pressure to lead us to the playoffs."

Making it to the playoffs, however, isn't enough for Turner. He has set high goals for the team and is depending on his own leadership to reach them.

"After our loss to Douglass, I want to win the rest of our games," Turner said. "Ultimately, my goal is to get us back to the [Georgia] Dome and win the [state] championship."

While it's still early in the season, head coach Ronnie Millen is pleased with Turner's development and believes he is ready to tackle the daunting challenges that lie before him.

"He has had three years to get ready for [the challenge]," Millen said. "He's developed very well from watching Simeon and from seeing what I expect."

Turner's true test of leadership will be against Grady's staunchest region competition: Chamblee and Blessed Trinity.

"The bullets start to fly in a few weeks," Coach Lawrence said. "That's when we'll see what he can do."

Turner has emerged from last year's shadows, ready to accept this challenge.

"Finally becoming [varsity] quarterback is a great thing for me," Turner said. "This year's my time to shine." □



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HARPER

Clockwise from top left: Turner throws passes during warm-ups before the Westminster game on Oct. 5; Coach Millen gives Turner instructions during the fourth quarter of the 24-7 loss to Westminster; Turner confers with the quarterbacks coach during the Sept. 7 41-6 victory against the Therrell Panthers at Lakewood Stadium; Turner awaits the snap during Grady's 34-29 region victory against Dunwoody on Sept. 28 in which Turner completed 11 of his 16 pass attempts for 176 yards and two touchdowns.

Lacrosse team to be added to Grady athletic program

By MORGAN GORE

America's oldest sport is slated to join Grady's sports program this spring. Lacrosse is a team sport for men and women that uses a netted stick called a crosse in order to pass and catch a hard rubber ball with the aim of scoring goals. It was created by Native Americans in the 15th century.

This spring Grady will become the first Atlanta public school to have a lacrosse team.

According to athletic director Coach Douglas Slade, there is an extensive process to start a new team at Grady.

"We have to get permission from the [APS] department of athletics," Coach Slade said. "Then we have to see if there is any interest in the sport and be sure that the people who are interested in it have their physicals and are certified," Coach Slade said.

This spring the lacrosse team will only be available for boys

at the junior varsity level. The coaches hope to eventually extend it to a varsity sport and have a girls team as well.

Head coach Nick White used to coach at St. Pius X Catholic High School as the assistant coach. Both Coach White and assistant coach Paul Kinnane, who played lacrosse at the University of Massachusetts, will be coaching lacrosse at Inman Middle School as well as at Grady.

Morningside Elementary School

students along with residents of the Virginia-Highland area who have been playing at the Decatur Recreation Center first started the idea of having a lacrosse team at Grady.

Training for the team will start in February, and the season will last until April. Most of the teams that are tentatively scheduled to play Grady are from the metro Atlanta area. Decatur High School is the closest public school opponent.

Many students at Grady are looking forward to the season.

"It is a fun and exciting sport, and I would really like to play," freshman Dennis Morton said.

Coach Kinnane and Coach White are very excited about the upcoming season.

"I am really looking forward to [having a lacrosse team at Grady]," Coach Kinnane said. "It's a really fun and exciting game, and it's a really fun game for kids to play." □

Costly turnovers spoil team effort in Westminster loss

By MICHAEL HARPER

In a wild game that saw five lead changes, the Grady football team survived the Dunwoody Wildcats 34-29 to win its first region game of the season Sept. 28 at North DeKalb Stadium.

Grady scored on its first possession with a 35-yard pass from senior quarterback Jeremy Turner to senior wide receiver Demarcus Watts.

“It’s always good to score first,” senior quarterback Jeremy Turner said. “It puts [the other team] on their heels from the beginning.”

Dunwoody running back Trevor Scales answered with a 70-yard touchdown run that tied the game 7-7 halfway through the first quarter. On its next possession, Grady turned the ball over on downs after a failed fake punt attempt.

Grady had trouble stopping the Wildcat running game, led by Scales, who scored his second touchdown of the game on a 22-yard run with 10 minutes left in the second quarter. After a successful two-point conversion, Grady led 15-7.

With 5:26 left in the first half, Grady tied the game at 15 after a four-yard touchdown run by senior running back Darryl Farley that was followed by a two-point conversion.

Dunwoody scored a 23-yard rushing touchdown on fourth and inches on its final possession of the half to lead 22-15 at halftime.

On the first play of the second half, Grady tied the game again when senior running back Barry Stephens returned the opening kickoff 73 yards for a touchdown.

Neither team put any points on the board after Stephens scored



WRAPPED UP: Senior quarterback Jeremy Turner attempts to elude several Westminster defenders in Grady’s 24-7 loss on Oct. 5.

until Scales ran in another long touchdown with 5:30 left in the fourth quarter to put the Wildcats up by 7. Grady’s offense responded on its next possession with another long touchdown pass to Watts that silenced the Dunwoody crowd.

“Having Watts downfield is a big advantage,” Turner said. “I can count on him to catch almost everything.”

Tied at 29 with less than three minutes left, the Knight defense came up with another big play. On second down, Dunwoody’s quarterback Eric Cooper rolled out to the right looking for a receiver

downfield. Grady senior linebacker Jacquayle Butler blitzed from Cooper’s blind side and made a leaping tackle to force a fumble right in front of the Dunwoody bench. Grady freshman defensive back Marcus Caffey recovered the fumble and returned it for a touchdown. After a failed two-point conversion, Grady led 34-29.

Freshman cornerback Dammian Swann intercepted passes on Dunwoody’s next two possessions to seal Grady’s victory.

“We started five freshman on defense, and they stepped up big in crunch time,” head coach Ronnie

Millen said.

The following week Grady played its home opener against the Westminster Wildcats. This region game held special significance to some of the players because the Wildcats won last year’s game by one point after blocking a potential game-tying extra point in the final seconds of the game.

“This game is personal because of what happened last year,” senior kicker Noah Shaye said on the sideline. “I want to beat them more than anyone.”

Westminster got on the board with 3:42 left in the first quarter

after Stephens muffed a punt on Grady’s 10-yard line. Stephens made up for his costly mistake by returning the following kickoff 70 yards for a touchdown, tying the game at 7.

“I had to redeem myself,” Stephens said. “I watched the ball all the way into my hands on the next one and got some good blocks.”

Neither team scored again until 2:22 remained in the third quarter. Capitalizing on an interception, Westminster completed a 20-yard touchdown pass to the middle of the end zone, putting the Wildcats up 14-7.

Grady finally got a drive going on the ensuing possession with some tough running by Farley. The drive, however, didn’t result in any points after Farley fumbled on the Westminster 40. The Wildcats went on to score a field goal, making it a two-possession game with less than five minutes left in the game.

On a must-score drive for Grady following the field goal, a Westminster defensive end intercepted Turner’s pass that was intended for Stephens and returned it 85 yards into the end zone, sealing a 24-7 victory for the Wildcats.

“I didn’t even see him until the ball was out of my hand,” Turner said.

With a 1-1 record in the region, Grady must win the rest of its region games to assure itself one of the two playoff spots from region 5B-AAA.

“We’re in the same position we were in last year when we won the region,” Coach Millen said. “Every game is going to be tough, but we have to win all of them.” □

Athletic director’s past key to Grady athletic success

By KALA MARKS

Athletic director, basketball coach and Clark Atlanta hall-of-famer—Coach Douglas Slade has done it all. Currently an athletic director and head boys basketball coach at Grady, Coach Slade is a sports advocate and loves working with students.

Standing at 6-foot-7, it seems only natural that Coach Slade was interested in basketball early in his life. Through the sport, Coach Slade has lived an eventful life on the brink of fame. As a free agent, Coach Slade was invited to what he called a “very grueling and difficult” preseason tryout camp for the Philadelphia 76ers in 1975.

“I thought I had a really good chance of making it until I blew my knee out [at the camp],” Coach Slade said.

He was later elected to the Clark Atlanta

Hall of Fame in 1999 because of his impressive four year average of 22 points and 12 rebounds per game.

Although his dreams of a career in the NBA were never fulfilled because of the injury, Coach Slade still keeps a positive attitude.

“It is an experience that I will always cherish,” Coach Slade said.

Fortunately for Coach Slade, after the termination of his career on the court, he was able to pursue a second career that combined his two passions: athletics and interacting with students. Around the time his playing career ended, the principal of Grady, Dr. Thomas Adger, who was also Coach Slade’s former high school coach, offered him a job at Grady to help coach the football and basketball teams. That was 27 years ago and Coach Slade is still the head coach of the boys varsity basketball

team.

Coach Slade has been the Grady athletic director for the past 17 years. As an athletic director, he oversees the athletic department, scheduling games and ordering uniforms. Coach Slade also works to ensure that Grady complies with Georgia High School Association rules so that the athletes are eligible to participate.

“He gets us what we need,” said girls volleyball coach Paul Nicholson. “For example, we had a home game, and our current net had holes in it. The net we ordered hadn’t come in yet, so he went out of his way and got us a new net.”

As athletic director, Coach Slade helps encourage all sports teams, players and coaches.

“Since I don’t have an assistant coach and the

sport [volleyball] isn’t as popular as it should be, he comes out and supports us,” Coach Nicholson said.

Aside from encouraging success, Coach Slade does a lot of behind-the-scenes work.

“He handles certification with the state, then he handles the approval of our roster with APS, and he acts as a go-between with transportation,” said girls cross country coach Jeff Cramer. “He’s my backup. He’s helped us with getting some uniforms over the years, he’s gotten us letters and trophies for the banquet, and he’s very supportive of all of our efforts as a team.”

It’s apparent through all of the encouragement, support and dedication Coach Slade offers that he loves all aspects of Grady.

“I really love students here at Grady,” Coach Slade said. “I wouldn’t go anywhere else.” □

KNIGHT WATCH

FOOTBALL

Douglass 29, GRADY 22
GRADY 41, Therrell 8
Grady 48, TOWERS 21
Grady 34, DUNWOODY 29
Westminster 24, GRADY 7
GRADY 21, North Atlanta 17

**All caps denotes HOME TEAM*

Future games
10/26 GRADY vs. Riverwood, 7:30 p.m.
11/3 Grady at DRUID HILLS, 7:30 p.m.

Region 5B-AAA Standings

School	Region	Overall
	W L	W L
Chamblee	3 0	6 0
Westminster	3 0	5 1
Grady	2 1	4 2
Blessed Trinity	1 2	4 2
Dunwoody	1 2	4 2
Riverwood	1 2	3 3
North Atlanta	1 2	1 5
Druid Hills	0 3	0 6

Dammian Swann
Freshman Cornerback

Player Profile:
Height: 5-foot-11
Weight: 150 pounds
Number: 1
Sept. 28 at D'woody:
3 interceptions

VOLLEYBALL

GRADY 2, Washington 1
GRADY 3, Douglass 1
Grady 3, NORTH ATLANTA 0
BLESSED TRINITY 2, Grady 0
RIVERWOOD 2, Grady 0
GRADY 2, North Atlanta 1

Future games
Playoffs TBA

Region 5B-AAA Standings

School	Region	Overall
	W L	W L
Westminster	6 0	27 13
Blessed Trinity	5 1	33 11
Riverwood	4 3	16 17
Grady	3 3	7 4
North Atlanta	2 4	10 10
Southside	0 5	0 8
Therrell	0 5	0 10