

LOST BOYS OF THE SUDAN

find sanctuary in metro Atlanta



p. 8

HENRY W. GRADY HIGH SCHOOL, ATLANTA

S I N C E 1 9 4 7



THE SOUTHERNER

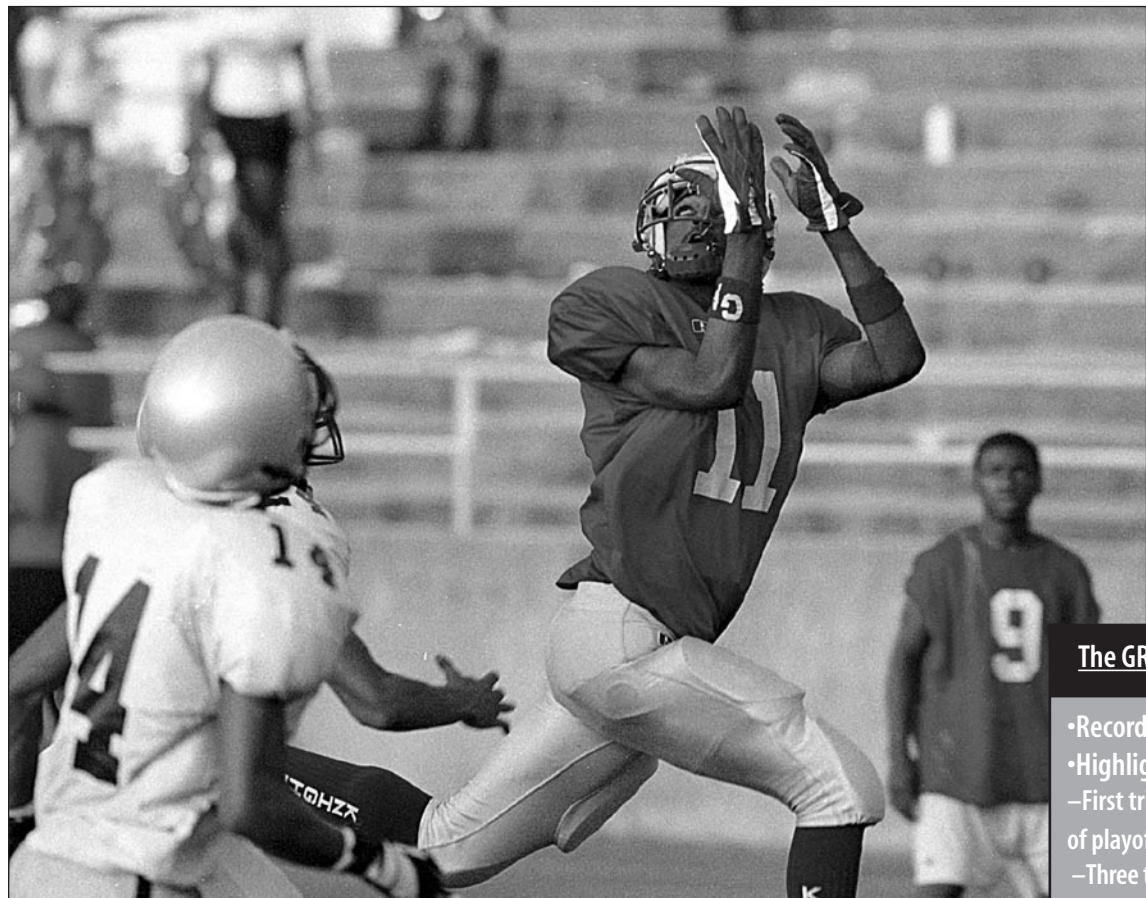
An upbeat paper for a downtown school

BURKE'S HOOF DREAMS



p. 14

VOLUME LVIII, NUMBER 4, Dec. 15, 2004



SCOTT KING

A RUNAWAY YEAR: Freshman wide receiver Andrerius Thomas makes an over-the-shoulder grab against North Atlanta. Grady beat North Atlanta, along with six other opponents, and finished second in region 5-AA to qualify for the state playoffs. The Knights defeated Putnam County in the first round, but fell to Calhoun to end the record-setting season.

PLAYOFF DROUGHT ENDS AT 51 YEARS

By PATRICK MCGLYNN

Down six points with less than two minutes left in the game, the ball deep in their own territory, a 50-year playoff win drought rested squarely on their backs. All odds were working against the Grady Knights football team in their first-round playoff game against Putnam County on Sept. 5.

The GREY KNIGHTS in '04

- Record: 8-4
- Highlights:
 - First trip to second round of playoffs in 51 years.
 - Three touchdown catches for Bradney Johnson in first playoff game.

But sophomore quarterback Simeon Kelley didn't panic. He led the Knights down the field, and on second and 10 from the

Putnam County 33, he lofted a pass to the back of the end zone. Senior tight end Brandney Johnson dove, bobbled the ball, and finally pulled it in as the stadium erupted. As the clock expired after a failed Putnam County Hail Mary, the Grady team and fans swarmed onto the field, celebrating Grady High School's first playoff win since former University of Georgia and Georgia Southern coach Erk Russell led Grady to a state championship in 1953.

After the 27-26 win over Putnam County, the Knights took a two and a half hour bus ride to Calhoun, Georgia where

See *KNIGHTS* page 16

Drama program enters 'Wonderland'

By JANE ZAMARRIPA

On Jan. 20-22, Grady's drama program will take a leap from its roots in realism to bring to life the colorful story of *Alice in Wonderland* in their fall production. In past seasons the production included works such as Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, but with the recent addition of the black box theater, teachers and students have selected a more creative direction for this season's production.

The play was originally scheduled to debut on Dec. 2, but the production has been moved to next year because neither the

black box nor the existing theater was ready to accommodate a full production. "It's frustrating not to be able to be in the space and do blocking," senior Katie Godbey said of the delay, "but hopefully now the play will be better and more polished."

Godbey, who plays Alice in the production, assumed early on in the casting process that she would be cast in the title role. "On a certain level, Katie was born to be Alice," literature teacher Ms. Lisa Willoughby said, but first Katie eyed the role of the Queen of Hearts, a part which in the end was given to junior Joy Carter.

Ms. Willoughby, the director, held a large screening process of open cast calls and pool auditions. Juniors Nyssa Daniels and Jasmine Brown were cast as the Cheshire Cat and the Caterpillar, while sophomore Rafael Velez will play the part of the Mad Hatter.

"We wanted to develop a way to include anyone who wants to be involved," Ms. Willoughby said.

Godbey has worked in a black box theater in local productions and is excited about the artistic possibilities it will create for the wonderland. "It's really a great new atmosphere to expand and learn how to work with," she said.



JANE ZAMARRIPA

GIVE 'EM SOME PROPS: Senior Nick Ward puts some finishing touches on a rabbit.

Ms. Willoughby has directed Grady productions for years and is excited to have her students open

See *ALICE* p. 10

Grishman takes on new role as assistant principal

By MATT WESTMORELAND

Grady magnet coordinator and 20-year school veteran Naomi Grishman was appointed Grady's second vice principal last month, joining current vice principal Mr. Roosevelt Foreman and principal Dr. Vincent Murray atop the school's administrative leadership.

"I was ready for a change," Ms. Naomi Grishman said. "I've been magnet coordinator for 10 years, and if you don't change, you get stale."

Grady became eligible for a second assistant principal last year after the school's population exceeded 1,000 students. Ms. Grishman, a graduate of the University of Alabama and Georgia State University, was selected for the position by Dr. Murray from a group of five applicants. Prior to her decade-long tenure as coordinator for the magnet program, Ms. Grishman served as chair of the social studies department and as a teacher of the gifted. She acknowledges, though, that her interests have grown larger than any one program. "In recent years, my vision for Grady has grown bigger than the magnet," she said. "I felt like I needed to move in order to have a broader impact."

Though the idea of two assistant principals is new, Dr. Murray has outlined a detailed job description for Ms. Grishman's new position.

See *NEW* page 7



S'ner, GNN honored at NSPA in Atlanta

The Southerner won the Pacemaker Award and the Grady News Network placed fifth in the Best of Show Competition at the 2004 NSPA-JEA fall convention, held in Atlanta. Nine students captured awards in the JEA Write-Off Competition.

Team nabs TOC bid

Junior JerMeen Sherman and senior Thi Lam earned a bid to the Tournament of Champions by making it to the finals at the Carrollton Tournament. This is the first bid for Grady debaters since 2002.

Cadets march to success through the JROTC

By KATHERINE HAGAN

"I wish I could wear rain boots," a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp member remarked to her fellow cadet on her way to the JROTC classroom. The entire Grady battalion was prepared to march in a rainy Veteran's Day parade. She knew that rain boots didn't come with the uniform, instead, she wore black polished patent leather shoes and avoided the puddles.

JROTC army instructors require more of their cadets than polished shoes. Official inspection requires polished posture and "proper placement of the accretions that go into the uniform," senior army instructor Major Charles Huddleston explained. Those include the unit insignia, the brass, the cadet's rank, and the army unit

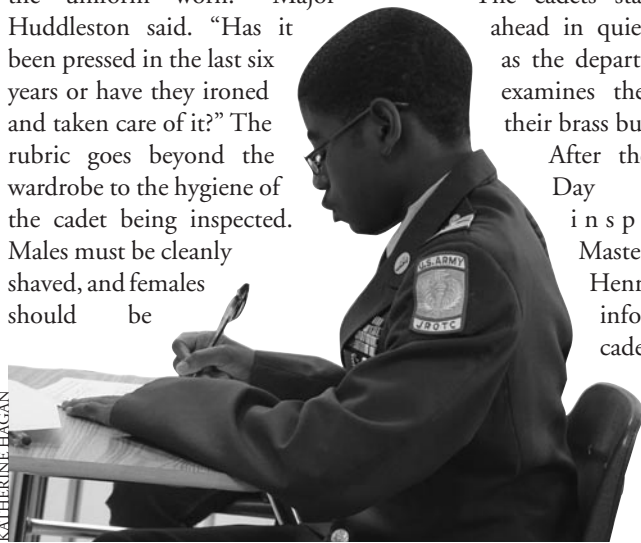
of disinction star that belongs a quarter of an inch above the chest-pocket lining.

"And then we look at how is the uniform worn?" Major Huddleston said. "Has it been pressed in the last six years or have they ironed and taken care of it?" The rubric goes beyond the wardrobe to the hygiene of the cadet being inspected. Males must be cleanly shaved, and females should be

wearing "appropriate jewelry" and have their hair "within normal bounds" in a way that does not interfere with the uniform hate.

The cadets stare straight ahead in quiet attention as the department chair examines the shine of their brass buttons.

After the Veteran's Day formal inspection, Master Sgt. Henry Bleach informed the cadets that the parade had been rained out. Many



KATHERINE HAGAN

Private First Class Ryan Betty in ROTC class

See *CADETS* page 13



EDITORIAL BOARD
ELLY BOOKMAN
NOLAN DOUGHERTY
CLARA GREEN
STEVEN JOHNSON
LAURA JONES
THI LAM
DAVID SUITTS

No broken promises

Previously covered in our second issue (“Grady gains new technology despite loss of E-rate funds,” Oct. 8), the promised video projector equipment is again the subject of a story in this issue (“Late arrival by projectors, speakers don’t dampen enthusiasm, excitement,” page 10.) Why? The centerpieces of Grady’s technology plans have not yet arrived.

In this issue’s story, Dr. Murray said, “It would be unacceptable for the projectors to not be here by [the end of] this year.” The *Southerner* agrees. Teachers have managed without displaying websites and showing videos—or doing so only on very old and outdated televisions—and the Grady News Network has made due with distributing their shows by videocassette. But it is unfair to make students and teachers wait any longer.

The projectors were supposed to be here by the beginning of the school year. Now, half of the year is behind us. As soon as possible, the bid for the projectors needs to be approved, and the projectors need to be ordered and installed. Future promises aren’t good enough—we can’t

Polling for scholars

In the past year, the *Southerner* has conducted a number of polls on issues ranging from the quality of Grady’s bathrooms to students opinions of construction. But these polls were not conducted scientifically using the method of equal probability of selection. Without using this method—which states that if everyone has an equal chance of being picked, a small group’s response to a question will mirror the response a much larger pool would give—these results aren’t necessarily the true opinions of students at the school.

In past years, we certainly haven’t meant to conduct biased surveys. But our survey methods—going around to various teachers’ rooms, asking which students want to be surveyed, and surveying them orally—was unintentionally biased, especially against non-magnet students. First, the student surveying will tend to go to the rooms of teachers that they’ve had, and, since all *Southerner* staff members are in the magnet program, they tend to be to magnet teachers’ classrooms. Second, students are more likely to want to be surveyed if they are the surveyor’s friend. And finally, since the surveyors asked the questions orally, they might unintentionally change the wording or put emphasis on certain answer choices, causing further bias in the surveys.

But, starting with this years’ second paper, we have conducted at least one scientific poll per issue by surveying randomly selected homerooms. (To see polls conducted for this issue, see the survey on sleep deprivation on page 10 and the survey on self-segregation of page 12.) To survey random homerooms, each teacher’s homeroom is assigned a number, one to 50. In a sample of 150 students, we use a TI-83 calculator to generate 10 random numbers. *Southerner* staff members go to each of these homerooms and hand out a paper survey to each member of the homeroom.

In every published survey, we report the entire question, the percentage of responses to each survey answer choice, the number of students surveyed, and the margin of error. In some questions, the percentages do not add up to 100 percent because a student gave multiple responses.

We have gone from using survey methods that are informal and unintentionally biased to using a procedure similar to professional polling agencies. It’s not a flashy change that is extremely noticeable, but it is something that further ensures we are reporting the facts to our readers.□

C O R R E C T I O N S

In the Nov. 11 issue, “Is graffiti art? Why or why not?”graphic, Justin Ficklin’s grade level was incorrectly reported. He is in the 10th grade.

Also in the Nov. 11 issue, “Is graffiti art? Why or why not?” graphic, Zoie Johnson’s name was incorrectly spelled.

The teaser on the front page of the Nov. 11 issue stated that the story, “Owen Writes, Raps to Success,” was on page 14, but it was on page 12.

Letters to the editor

Experiences prove veggie diet is better

Dear Editor,

In the Nov. 11 issue of the *Southerner*, Steven Johnson argues that vegetarians live an unhealthy life and that vegetarianism is “nothing more than a fad that’s gone out of control.” (“Vegetarians on their way to an unhealthy life,” Nov. 11). I beg to differ. My parents have been vegetarians for 24 years, and my siblings and I have been vegetarians all of our lives. When my parents decided to become vegetarians, they weren’t doing it to be “trendy,” they were doing it for very concrete reasons. Knowing what I know now about this issue, I would choose to be a vegetarian even if my parents and the rest of my family ate meat.

Meat is expensive. With so many starving people in the world today, it is a criminal waste of food to produce it. Meat-animals are fed perfectly good plant food that could have been fed directly to starving people. For instance, it takes 17 pounds of corn, beans, grain, etc., to produce one pound of beef in feedlot cattle. It requires huge amounts of land to grow the crops that are used as animal feed. About 70 percent of crops grown in the United States are fed to animals and not to humans. Meanwhile, a child dies of starvation somewhere in the world every two seconds.

Another thing that sways a lot of people into becoming vegetarians is the treatment of the animals that eventually become the food that so many people consume. Have you ever passed a poultry truck on the highway? What you see in the truck bed is cage upon cage of chickens. These animals are jammed 17 or more in an all-wire cage. These chickens never get to put their feet on the ground, nor do they get to leave their cage because the economics of factory farming makes

it more profitable for the farmers to keep these animals in their cages until death. An even more horrible fate awaits the calves (baby cows) that are to become veal. Do you know why veal is so tender and pale? It’s because those animals live their entire (short) lives in stalls that are about one-foot-10-inches wide by four-feet-six-inches long. They’re kept confined in this way so that they won’t be able to romp and play and develop muscles, which would ruin the tenderness of their flesh. They’re even chained to their stalls so they can’t turn around in them. They’re fed a completely liquid diet, consisting of non-fat milk powder and growth-promoting drugs. All of this so you can have the “privilege” of eating veal at your favorite restaurant.

Steven’s column also claims that vegetarianism is unhealthy and that vegetarians don’t get enough protein in their diets. In fact, studies show that the average American gets five times the necessary amount of protein and that more usable protein is found in one tablespoon of tofu or soybeans than the average serving of meat. These studies also show that a vegetarian diet may help to reduce the risk of developing medical conditions such as obesity, heart disease, high blood pressure, and diabetes.

Here are some famous vegetarians with which you might be familiar with: Plutarch, Leonardo Da Vinci, Tolstoy, Shelley, George Bernard Shaw, Gandhi, Henry David Thoreau, Albert Einstein, Bob Dylan, George Harrison, Paul McCartney, and Natalie Portman, to name a few. I’ll bet these people had reasons for being vegetarian, and I doubt it was to be “trendy.” Maybe, just maybe, these people were trying to make a difference and improve the world we live in. Just a thought.

Michelle Wilco
Class of 2008



Meat eating wasteful

Dear Editor,

It pains me to hear anyone speak in opposition to the vegetarian way of life as Steven Johnson did in “Vegetarians on their way to an unhealthy life,” (Nov. 11). With obesity becoming an epidemic in the United States—it has increased by 60 percent since 1991—you’d think more people would choose to cut back on the amount of meat they consume.

According to People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, 80 percent of all agricultural land in the United States is used to raise animals for food. The world’s cattle alone consume a quantity of food equal to the caloric needs of 8.7 billion people, more than the entire human population on Earth.

Furthermore, when people eat meat, they are exposed to the 20,000 drugs in livestock, including steroids, antibiotics, growth hormones and other veterinary drugs. Many argue that vegetarians are unhealthy because they fail to get an adequate amount of the necessary nutrients. Serious vegetarians, however, make sure that those nutrients are obtained everyday through day-to-day meal plans or simply taking daily vitamins.

The next time you see a vegetarian don’t think about how you can curse them. Merely think about how they are working towards the betterment of their health.

Miriam Archibong
Class of 2005

What is your favorite winter holiday tradition?

Dr. Murray
Principal

Cameron Washington
12th

Kevin Holly
11th

Anyt Paez
10th

“I celebrate the arrival of the winter months. Winter calms kids down.”

“Gifts... I think that’s what everyone likes.”

“Getting out of school.”

“All my family gets together and we make tamales. It’s a Mexican tradition.”

Staff			
Managing editors: Laura Jones, David Suitts Design editors: Steven Johnson, Thi Lam Copy editors: Kimberly Hagan, Katherine Hagan News editors: Amelia Godfrey, Nick Stephens Comment editors: Elly Bookman, Nolan Dougherty, Clara Green People editor: Alice Bufkin Sports editors: Walker Rick, Rush Searson Special Section editor: Sean Corley Photo editors: Kati Ritz, Jane Zamarripa		Staff: Chloe Blalock, Vashti Buck, Jeffrey Carpenter, Alastair Carter-Boff, Chelsea Cook, Alex Daniels, Allison Farnham, Duy Lam, Sarah Marriner, Harrison Martin, Patrick McGlynn, Woody Morgan, Allana Neely, Greg O'Donnell, Jamillia Richmond, Robert Sanders, Elizabeth Schenck, Chelsea Spencer, Amberly Thompson, William VanDerKloot, Micah Weiss, Matt Westmoreland, Shearlon White, Dylan Woodliff Artist: Dylan Woodliff	
Photo adviser: Evelyn Barnes Adviser: Dave Winter Print staff: Alvin Hambrick, Harlon Heard, Michael Jackson, Adlai McClure, Charlotte Napper, Benjamin Shaw The <i>Southerner</i> , a member of GSPA, SIPA, CSPA and NSPA, is a monthly student publication of: Henry W. Grady High School 929 Charles Allen Drive. NE, Atlanta, GA 30309		The <i>Southerner</i> welcomes submissions, which may be edited for grammar, inappropriate language and length. Please place submissions in Mr. Winter's box in the main office. Subscriptions are also available. For more information, please contact Mr. Winter or a member of the staff. We can be reached at dwinter@atlanta.k12.ga.us	

An unheat namer for a downtown school



Halo 2 is God’s gift to little bros



KATI RITZ

“It’s a gift from God!” my brother exclaimed on Nov. 8. No, my tap isn’t running Merlot, instead his broken Xbox had been cured and returned the day before the release of Halo 2. This apparently qualifies as a gift from the Almighty, at least according to my brother and countless other high school boys.

I am familiar with Halo and the obsession that follows, but Halo 2 seems to have the excitement that usually accompanies, oh say, getting accepted to your No. 1 college. All the hype that came with Halo 2 had my brother begging me not only to take him months before its release to reserve a copy of the Special Collectors Edition (which I did), but to take him to pick it up at midnight Nov. 8 (which I didn’t do). He did, however, get it the next day and promptly went home where he is probably still playing now.

Apparently, he is not alone. With excitement equal to that of a new Harry Potter book, game stores across the country were open at midnight for people to come purchase Halo 2. Microsoft, the producer of the game, had sales of \$125 million in the first 24 hours.

That’s when the parties started. Not regular high school parties, but instead, Halo parties, where the punch is really just punch. Actually to say that was when the parties started would be incorrect. Halo parties had been going on for at least a week before

the release of Halo 2 in preparation for the big day. Basically a ton of boys, and maybe a few girls, hook up several Xboxes and battle each other to see who dominates the rest.

Halo is not just a game, no matter what anyone tells you. It’s a cult. Being constantly surrounded by Halo devotees, I decided it was time to attempt to learn how to play the game. It couldn’t be that hard, right? I mean, it looks as if the object is to run around and kill as many people as you can, just point and shoot. That may be the objective, but it’s a lot harder to achieve than I thought. I couldn’t even walk, let alone run. And it didn’t help that my brother kept killing me (something he found highly amusing). After several minutes of this abuse, I gave up. Yes, I know, I gave up too easily, but when my brother started to explain that it would take a year to become decent at the game, I decided I had better things to do with my time, like sleep.

Then, there’s Xbox Live. Xbox Live makes it possible to hook up your TV to the Internet and play with people from all over the world. Not only can you kill people you know, you can also kill people in Texas. Thankfully, I don’t have a dial-up connection or, in addition to never being able to use the TV, I also wouldn’t be able to use the Internet. Not only can you kill them, you can talk to them whilst you kill them, thanks to Halo headsets. Some of these kids say the most obscene things, and their voice sounds like that of a 10-year-old. It makes you want to buy a headset just to tell them to watch their language. □

Americans plagued by procrastination



ELLY BOOKMAN

It was inevitable that I be bitter on election night. Mostly because I had to sit on my couch and watch the results pour in, knowing that I’d had no say in the eventual election of the leader who would have a great effect on my future. It also hurt because my 18th birthday fell just 27 days after the fact, meaning it all rested in the hands of America’s eligible voters.

By the next morning, hope for the candidate I supported was waning quickly enough so that before lunch time, he had conceded the victory to the incumbent. The bitterness stayed, but was joined by another emotion: fear.

Fear because America’s people, who once made up a country that emphasized the right to demand change, chose to extend one of the most disastrous presidential administrations in history. Fear because they found it in themselves to forgive the largest budget deficit ever and a war that continues to claim lives for reasons that have since been proven false. But mostly, there was fear because the stereotypical stupidity of Americans had been victorious.

Most of us have always ignored the idea that modern conveniences like television and the Internet are dumbing us down. We trust ourselves enough not to believe that we could be influenced by pure entertainment, and in fact this is a logical assessment. It is not the content of our entertainment that brings us down, although shows like *My Big Fat Obnoxious Boss* are hardly intelligence builders. Instead, the ridiculous accessibility of such pastimes has led us to put off caring about the problems our nation faces.

It’s so simple, after all, to turn on the television after a long day and settle down for a mindless melodrama. As technology continues to improve, it’s becoming easier to let our decisions be dictated by pure entertainment. We’ve forgotten that anything worth caring about takes a little work. Americans have turned to the age-old malediction that is procrastination.

We procrastinate until the issues are narrowed down to the simplest questions, like life or death. Republicans stand ready to pounce, first convincing us that our lives are in danger and then that they are the only ones fit to keep us safe. They take the offensive, hoping to present a violent, no-tolerance front to protect against terrorists, rather than wondering why they’d want to attack us in the first place. And because we’ve become so prone to the easy way out, the majority of our nation chooses to truck along behind them.

By the time a person makes this decision, other less provocative issues don’t compare. The debates over the watering down of civil liberties in the Patriot Act, or the tax cuts that aid the rich rather than the poor, have passed. Moral issues were blown enough out of proportion that people with conservative tendencies were signed onto the Right side. All the Left can do is point endlessly to the same facts, yet disturbingly, Americans don’t care if they’ve been lied to.

It’s all so easy nowadays that we’ve come to believe decisions should be that way too. We receive entertainment in our households with the touch of a button and can connect with people the world over in much the same way. But this convenience should not have seeped into our democratic process the way it has.

Americans have let themselves be talked down to, then acted on it, and are still too tuned-out to listen. □

Christmas cheer takes over the year, leaves Thanksgiving behind



ELIZABETH SCHENCK

We Americans tend to do some crazy things, especially when it comes to the holidays. We love the holidays. We love the parties, the yummy treats and desserts, the decorating. But overall we love to virtually ignore every single fall and winter holiday except for one — Christmas.

Malls, department stores, grocery stores, even restaurants seem to all hang Christmas wreaths, set up miniature trees with flashing, colored lights; and put up little Santa Clauses that rock back and forth and sing songs like “Holly Jolly Christmas” in the middle of October. There are not one but many holidays, including two major ones, between October and Dec. 25, the watch-your-kids-rip-open-all-of-their-presents-that-you-spent-way-more-money-on-than-you-planned day, half of which they will either toss to the side or say, “Ewww, where’d you find this thing?”

Why have Americans fixated their lives around this one holiday? What about Halloween? Thanksgiving? What about the millions of other Americans who celebrate Hannuka or Kwanzaa? Yes, kids, teenagers, and, even some adults can be seen dressed up as Batman or some kind of princess or fairy, running around the neighborhood trying to stuff as much candy into their bag as possible on that eerie night of Oct. 31. But still, no one spends as much time decorating, baking, or whatever they might do for Halloween as they do for Christmas, and stores usually set up their plastic pumpkins and fake witch’s brooms only a few days before the big night.

When it comes to Thanksgiving, it’s almost as if people have never heard of the holiday. Sure, grocery stores advertise their fresh turkeys and delicious pumpkin pies, but I have yet to see any array of Thanksgiving decorations displayed at the front entrance of any store, be it the supermarket or the mall. Why are there no dancing turkeys that wobble back and forth and sing some crazy Thanksgiving song? Couldn’t someone as easily make up a song about some turkey and a crazy adventure that he had as some song about Santa Claus coming down the chimney? What’s the difference? They’d both be equally amusing. What is so bad about Thanksgiving that causes us to push it to the side like those Brussel Sprouts on an otherwise appetizing dinner plate? I love Thanksgiving, the smell of freshly cooked turkey, the taste of warm cornbread muffins that have just been taken out of the oven. I love getting together with my aunts, uncles and cousins, and catching up on things. Am I the only one that enjoys such a gathering, such a wonderful occasion?

Maybe if someone created a Thanksgiving turkey stand, or some other crazy thing that a store could sell at an extremely high price, Americans wouldn’t ignore Thanksgiving and other holidays as much. If someone created a tradition of opening gifts on Thanksgiving, maybe we would get two weeks off for that too.

But is that really necessary? Have we become so materialistic that all that matters to us is giving, and more importantly, receiving, numerous gifts that we most likely could live without? If the idea of presents had never been incorporated into the Christmas holiday, we would look past it as we do every other holiday. Not only have we made Christmas into

this incredibly materialistic holiday, it seems that everyone’s dragging their Christmas trees out to the street the day after Christmas. We decorate ‘til we drop for two months leading up to the morning of Dec. 25, and then, bam, it’s over, and all of the stores revert back to their plain, undecorated isles and storefronts. What are we doing to this holiday?

I love Christmas, and don’t think I’m against receiving any kind of gift — I am a teenager after all. But that doesn’t mean that I don’t value the many other aspects of this holiday: getting all dressed up and going to church on Christmas Eve, watching the children’s annual Christmas pageant and singing in the choir. Whether you’re Episcopalian or Lutheran, Baptist or Methodist, whatever, or perhaps affiliate yourself with no religious denomination at all, I’m sure you and your family can find some special part of Christmas to share besides just presents.

So, if you found 94.9 Lite FM blasting “Here Comes Santa Claus” in the middle of November and joyfully sang along and danced to the music, instead of turning off the radio and yelling at Delilah for playing the Christmas tunes, you should be ashamed. If you saw your neighbor decorating some 3-foot plastic tree the day after Thanksgiving, and ran over to help him string on the lights, you should feel even worse. And if you’ve had a Christmas wreath with a bright red bow hung on your door for the past month, take it down, go inside, wait a day or two, and then re-hang it as if it had never been there. Christmas is special, wonderful holiday. But folks, you’re taking away the spirit and the feeling of Christmas if you spend half of November and all of December celebrating it. Believe me, Christmas will come soon enough. □



Colleges display lack of diversity



SARAH MARRINER

I open the mailbox, pull out a pile of catalogues, weekly news magazines and bills, glancing at the envelope on top. It looks interesting, and I notice that it's addressed to me. I think to myself, "Oh, another college sending me information," but this one really catches my attention. I open the envelope and pull out a brochure. There is a picturesque tableau on the front. I see beautiful, fall-colored treetops and glimpses of mountains through the fog in the distance, with a couple stone cathedral towers rising through the canopy of colorful trees. After admiring the scenery of the picture, my eyes fall to the words written on the page: "Get away to the real world." I'm intrigued. I open the brochure and glance at the pictures of the students, but I can't help but notice every one of them is blonde and blue-eyed. Well, maybe there's one African American. So this is what they call the "real world," huh?

"Get away to the real world" sticks in my mind. When I think of the real world, I think of a place with people from varied backgrounds who have different experiences and perspectives, a place with people who have their own look and their own way of talking and acting. Somewhere where people have varied interests in music, food, clothes, and activities. Not a college in the remote mountains of Tennessee, where all the students look like they just returned from brunch at the country club. The real world, to me, is more like Grady. Unlike many colleges, Grady has diversity in not just race but also economic situations, nationality and history. These characteristics bring about different perspectives that lead to discussions and social interactions in which we can gain more knowledge from other's lives. We learn so much more than what is taught from a textbook by listening to other points of view.

I visited a few colleges over the summer and this fall and, even though I liked them, none of them seemed to have the diversity that Grady has. When asked about their diversity, some of the admissions reps looked uncomfortable and said, "We're working on it." Even the communities around the colleges didn't seem to be as interesting as Midtown Atlanta. It's hard for me to imagine that, in a little over a year, I might be living somewhere very different from the place I have been accustomed to for my entire life, a place where everyone is the same.

Thinking about the possibility of living and studying in a community where nearly everyone has the same background has made me appreciate what we have here at Grady. I'm convinced that no matter where I go to college, my Grady experience is preparing me for the real "real world" in which I hope to work with others to make a difference. □

SAT perpetuates cultural divisions



CLARA GREEN

The SAT has long been criticized for being a culturally biased exam. Critics say the exam is selective towards wealthy, white Americans. While there has been a lot of focus on this aspect of the SAT, the content of the test is not the only way the test is culturally biased.

Across the country, students must arrive at 8 a.m. to their designated testing center, wiping sleep from their eyes. But what about the students who have to ride the bus to school? In Atlanta, buses leave Five Points station every hour on the hour. In order to get to the SAT on time, one would have to be at Five Points at 7 a.m. In order to get to the Five Points station, one must catch a bus near their house around 6 a.m. Most students taking the bus have to wake up around 5 a.m. in order to get to the testing site on time. And then there are people who wake up at 7:30 a.m. and can get a ride to the testing site in five minutes. But here's the problem: the majority of students taking the bus to the testing site are lower-income Americans who can't drive or get a ride. And

the majority of these lower-income Americans are African-Americans and Hispanics. The SAT disadvantages these students not only because of the content of the test, but also because of the SAT starting time.

Studies have proven that students perform better in school and on tests when school starts later and they have had more sleep. Yet, on the most important test for high school students, partially deciding where we spend the next four years, some people have to wake up at 5 a.m. School is seven hours long and on weekdays, so it must start at 8:15 in order for us to end at a reasonable time. Yet the SAT is on a Saturday and lasts around three hours. Even if the test started at 10, students would be done around 1 p.m., much earlier than school gets out. There is no logical explanation for starting the test at 8 a.m.

I don't know how to solve the seemingly unfixable problem of the biased content of the SAT. In fact, I do think something like the SAT is necessary for college applications. But I do know how to solve the other bias of the SAT—by starting the test later, every student will have a good night's sleep before they embark on a several hour bus ride to take one of the most important tests of their lives. □

America's fast-food craze leads to larger waistlines, health risks



ALLISON FARNHAM

We live in the home of the free, the home of the brave, and the home of the fat. America is now standing tall and proud as the fattest nation in the world. What I want to know is how we are letting this happen.

In researching this topic, I decided to watch the documentary *Super Size Me* directed by Morgan Spurlock. For those who haven't heard about the film, Spurlock decided to go on a 30-day diet eating only McDonald's in response to a court case blaming McDonald's for the obesity problems of two teenage girls.

As I was watching the movie, I became disgusted with the American people and society. From the film, I learned that each day one in four Americans go to a fast food restaurant, that we spend \$110 billion on fast food per year, and that each day McDonald's serves 46 million people. I sat there wondering when fast food became part of our daily lives. When I was little, fast food was a treat that I would get maybe twice out of the 3 billion times I begged for it. For youngsters today fast food is no longer a treat, but their entire food pyramid. At the bottom

of the pyramid they have their French fries and hamburger buns, then the meats: all fried of course, apple pie and slimy lettuce substitute fresh foods in the fruits and veggie section, and a Frosty to top it off.

Atlanta itself is the seventh fattest city in the country. Well, of course we are with places like Zesto's, the ever-present Micky-D's and the Varsity. We eat our large order of greasy onion rings and our Z-burgers alongside McFlurries. But why aren't we fixing this problem? Why can we buy a calorie-loaded combination of cheese and meat for 99 cents and then have outrageous prices at places like Whole Foods, which sells food people should be eating?

The more important issue is that Americans are not willing to take the time to exercise. They have resorted to every option of losing weight including pills and surgery, but they ignore the obvious fact that simple exercising keeps those pounds down. I admit that most of our schedules prevent us from thinking we have enough time to exercise, but just think about that the next time you sit down to watch your favorite TV program or play the latest Xbox game.

Exercise is valuable to me in more than one way. I exercise not only to help my body, but also to relieve stress and reflect on things. Exercising makes me feel good about myself



and my image.

And when looking at the world we live in today, where image seems to be everything, I'm glad I'm able to get a positive self outlook. Because of my hectic schedule, I exercise whenever I can, usually late at night, but afterwards I always feel refreshed in mind and body. I think that people would feel better about themselves by exercising more, rather than getting the feeling they would have after eating yet another bag of potato chips.

But yes, being an American I do love food and understand why America is growing so large. Americans are not satisfied with small portions and must be served insanely large amounts with phrases like "jumbo" and "super" tacked onto them. We sometimes just eat because there is food still in front of us, regardless of whether or not we are actually still hungry. This is our problem and it is not going to just go away. It will continue to grow, like our waistlines, waiting for a cure that only we can provide. □

Interactive entertainment faces censorship, criticism



HARRISON MARTIN

Communication is a basic principle of life. Without communication, organization is impossible. Cells need to communicate to form organs; organs need to communicate, to form individuals; and individuals need to communicate to form societies. Without society, we would be nothing more than solitary beings adrift in the ether without meaning, trying to survive in a harsh and unforgiving universe.

So it would seem that when a new form of communication arose, one that was so powerful and had the potential to change human society forever, that people would appreciate the amazing creation and therefore nurture and study it. This, however, has not been the case and society has, for the most part, rejected a new art form, labeling it a childish and destructive waste of time. The opposition to this overlooked treasure is led by organizations of “concerned” citizens and politicians that believe they are on a righteous crusade to rid the world of a vile contraption, leading to a violent, moral decline of human society. In fact, they are a party of the blind and obstinate, consumed by anger and misdirected by ignorance, on a quest to hold back one of man’s most valuable creations.

This form of communication, one that has the potential to become much more than any current art form, is interactive entertainment, also known as video/computer games. Currently, most titles can only be considered entertainment, with a select few having artistic qualities. I believe that all communication fits into three categories: information, entertainment or art. Information is the transfer of data, such as memos, graphs and textbooks. Entertainment is the method to amuse and engross the mind, allowing it to relax and relieve stress or boredom, such as most television shows and movies. Finally, art is the transfer of emotions and ideas, such as paintings, sculpture and photography. Just because something conveys emotions,

however, doesn’t mean that it’s art. Art must be intended; not all scenes that convey emotions are art, they are merely interesting accidents or occurrences. A sunset stirs emotion, but it is merely a sunset; if it was not intended to be art, it’s not. The artist does not, however, have to be conscious of his/her desire to create art. Someone could see an interesting object and sketch it, without a conscious desire to create art, and still be able to make something that conveys emotions or ideas.

When I write about the potential of interactive entertainment, I am referring not to the video games that exist now. I speak of a form of communication that is far beyond any technology we have. If properly nurtured, video games will evolve into something resembling *The Matrix*, a completely realistic and immersive simulation, which destroys the boundaries of the physical world, greatly improving art in two ways. First, it would allow all people with access to the technology to create art without the physical limitations of the real world. No longer will people be restrained by their dexterity, their access

to materials or their amount of free time. Some might say that this will destroy the uniqueness of artists and that everyone will be creating art. I disagree. I believe that it will

“If nurtured properly, video games will evolve into... a completely realistic and immersive simulation which destroys the boundaries of the physical world.”

bring about the rise of masters whose potential would have otherwise gone unrealized. In addition, fears that a grotesquely large number of people will be attempting to create art are unfounded; true creativity is rare and the ability to express that creativity, rarer. The second improvement will be the creation of a new art form, which will combine the depth and excellent story of a good book, the acting of a good movie and the interactivity of a good game. No longer will the medium inhibit the artist’s desire, a pure connection between artist and audience, the perfection of one of man’s most important endeavors.

Emotions are the true universal language, they are the most effective and most powerful way for humans to communicate. The better we can communicate, the better we’ll be able to work together in pursuit of the meaning of existence, the most important enterprise which we can engage



ourselves in, and anything that helps us achieve that goal should be treasured.

Unfortunately, interactive entertainment is under attack, and though the assailants may be fairly weak as of now, they are growing in both power and number. The main aggressors are Joe Lieberman, the 2000 Vice-Presidential candidate and current Connecticut senator, as well as Mothers Against Video Game Addiction and Violence. The last major uproar from the “holy crusaders” was a few years ago when *Grand Theft Auto III* was released. Lieberman, along with a group of other senators, tried to pass several bills which would have severely limited the abilities of game producers. It took the events of Sept.

11 to force them to act on issues posing a true threat to American society. MAVAV would lay in wait until a murder in England caused several major retail chains to drop a game called “Manhunt” because the assailant owned a copy of the game. As of now, such uproars have had very little effect on the freedom of game producers, but if the destructive potential of people such as Lieberman is not eliminated, then the true potential of interactive entertainment will never be realized. I cannot stress enough the importance of free speech and how any attempts to limit expression will keep us from achieving enlightenment. So, do your part; preserve free speech and help society progress. □

Gay marriage ban tests morals, matters of the heart



CHELSEA COOK

I love living in this city. Everyone I’m around is outspoken and firm in their beliefs. We aren’t afraid to stand up for what we believe in, and we desire change. We try to make a difference. Urban Atlanta, however, is like a little child, who screams at the top of its lungs but never phases the giant bible-belt state of sweet Georgia. Our opinions go practically unheard in the big splash of red covering our state, placing it in the majority—as usual. California is the same way. San Francisco, loud and protesting, is hushed by every Mercedes-driving conservative in its surroundings.

Funny how San Francisco and Atlanta are the top two cities with the largest gay population in the country. Yet in the 2004 elections, California annulled all once-approved gay marriages and put a ban on future endeavors without an organized vote, and Georgia voted ‘Yes’ on Amendment One by more than 70 percent.

This crusade to put gay marriage to an end is ridiculous. I cannot figure out what threat gay marriage causes to those of us who aren’t gay. “Marriage is a sacred practice between a man and a woman” I’ve heard it a thousand times. But what

makes it so sacred? In modern times, the whole point of marriage is to share a life together, with benefits and security if something happens to your spouse. Without a marriage license, a couple is denied life insurance, tax forms claiming each other, health insurance and visitation rights in the event of hospitalization. Why should two people who love each other be denied those rights?

My biggest frustration with this issue is that people seem to close out and put away things they don’t understand. Saying that gay marriage, or being gay in general is wrong is A) very opinionated and B) invalid because people are so uneducated about it. I hate to say it, but it seems to me that most people think of the wrong things when evaluating this controversial topic. The narrow mind thinks of it as a perversion, two people of the same sex being together.

I would like to provide an alternative to this image. When two people care about each other to a point where they want to be bonded for life through marriage, they are in love with the person’s heart, which is created by God. Those are the same feelings of straight people—homosexuals can’t help how they feel or to whom they are attracted. If that heart happens to be in the body of a person with the same gender as you, so be it. I once talked to a gay co-worker who said he hated it when people assumed he chose to be gay. He

explained that it would’ve been “a helluva lot easier to be attracted to women,” or not to have gone through all the criticism he endured growing up, but he can’t help it. He was born that way.

When America came to the polls on Nov. 2nd, many people voted for the gay marriage ban for one reason: religion. It is absolutely wrong and unfair that our government does not enforce the separation between church and state. The views of the largest decision-making body in our country should not be based on religious belief. I grew up in a very open religious environment, and have developed an understanding that there is a difference between what the Bible says and your personal moral beliefs. I just wish someone could have pulled those aside at the polls and told them that they would not be punished if they voted for something they believed in morally, regardless of what their preacher says is right. I wish someone could tell them that thoughts of equality for everyone in this country should not be denied by the rules of religion. For all of those who do indeed live by the Bible, let me remind you that “We know and believe the love God has for us. God is love, and all who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in all.” (John 4:16) *All* who abide in him includes everyone, no matter who we love or to whom we marry. □

Early action considered a better choice for students

By CHELSEA SPENCER

While early college-application pools continue to increase, so too do the controversies surrounding early-decision programs. Since 2002, more than 50 colleges and universities have switched their policies from early decision to early action. To many students and parents, these two policies may seem synonymous, but the difference between them is of paramount importance for graduating seniors.

Early decision is a binding agreement in which students agree that if they are accepted, they will withdraw all other college applications and attend the college with whom they have made the early-decision agreement.

Early action is more flexible. Early action programs do not require students to enroll if accepted. Students simply send their application in earlier in order to receive their response from the college earlier. Early applications in either category are generally due between Nov. 1 and Feb. 1 of senior year.

“[Early action]” is presented for the students’ benefits as well as our own,” said Stephen Farmer, director of admissions at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. “It gets the admission process out of the way for students and gives us a head start.”

In response to both early-decision and early-action applications, students receive one of three responses from the college: acceptance, rejection, or deferral to regular decision for reconsideration.

Deferrals may seem like rejections to early applicants, but they merely mean that the college is unsure about accepting

a student and wants to judge the student’s application against the larger regular-decision pool. Likewise, students have time to reconsider their options and decide what is best for themselves based on early results.

High school counselors suggest that students should only apply early decision if they are absolutely sure of a first-choice school. Students are allowed to apply early decision only to one school, but they may apply early action to as many colleges as they please.

Because early-decision programs have trapped students in a commitment they later come to regret, many schools, such as UNC at Chapel Hill, have changed their early-decision policy to early action. The problem lies in the fact that many students are convinced that they must apply early in order to gain an edge over other applicants but are not actually ready to select a school.

“It is better to base a decision on where [students] really want to go,” Farmer said, “not just where they think that they have the best chance of getting in. Most students in September of their senior year don’t really know where they want to go yet.”

In addition, in early-decision applications, colleges can only examine a student’s academic records through their junior year. Accordingly, students need to complete all testing and application preparation before the fall deadline. If a student feels that his or her grades will improve during senior year, then it may be better to wait to apply to college through the regular-decision process.

“There has been a bit of a frenzy,” Farmer said. “We

Action or Decision? That is the question

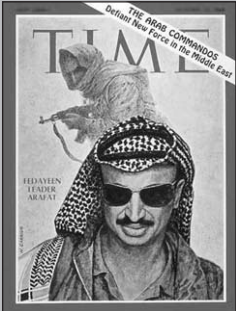
Early Action	Early Decision	Regular Decision
decision non-binding	decision binding	decision non-binding
apply in November	apply in November	apply in Winter
decision in December	decision in December	decision in the Spring
applicants are accepted, denied or deferred	applicants are accepted, denied or deferred	applicants are accepted, denied or wait listed

[switched to early action] because the climate nationally was not one that was healthy for students, and we didn’t want to contribute to that.”

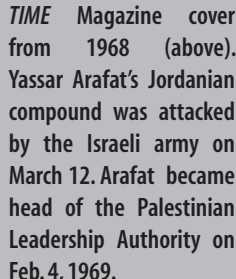
Proponents of early-decision programs agree that they have the potential to reduce a student’s stress during senior year. If accepted, a student has college applications out of the way and more time to concentrate on school work as well as to prepare for their next four years in a new environment.

Counselors reluctantly admit that students who apply through early-decision programs have a better chance of being accepted than students who apply through regular decision, but this view is not unanimous.

“We do admit students who apply early at a higher rate,” said Brad Flora, admissions officer at Princeton University, “The early-admit pool is generally stronger than the regular, and we think there is a direct correlation.” □



TIME Magazine cover from 1974 (below). That year, Arafat addressed the United Nations General Assembly in New York in this “Olive Branch” speech. Following his address, the PLO is given observer status at the U.N.



TIME Magazine cover from 1968 (above). Yasser Arafat’s Jordanian compound was attacked by the Israeli army on March 12. Arafat became head of the Palestinian Leadership Authority on Feb. 4, 1969.



TIME Magazine cover from 1988 (above). The year prior, Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank launched an uprising against Israel. The intifada lasted six years. In 1988, Yasser Arafat denounced terrorism.



Newsweek Magazine cover from 2004 (below). A month after falling ill, Yassar Arafat died after suffering a brain hemorrhage that caused multiple organ failure on Nov. 11.

Arabs, others mourn Arafat loss

By NICK STEPHENS

Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat died at 75 in a Paris hospital bed on Nov. 11. He had flown to Paris Oct. 29 at his wife’s request after unsuccessful treatments in Africa for an unknown illness. On Nov. 3 he lapsed into a coma that left him on a respirator before his condition greatly worsened; his last two days were “very painful, very difficult,” according to chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat. The definite cause of his death is still unknown, although it is known he suffered from cirrhosis of the liver, which may have caused a hemorrhage. Arafat’s significant and mysterious death closely mirrors a high-profile life of conflicting international concern and criticism.

“Arafat was a larger-than-life figure for the Palestinians,” said Donald Reid, history professor at Georgia State University. “He was a symbol for a country of their own. Things are going to be unstable [in Palestine] for awhile.”

Prominently entering the international scene in 1969 as head of the Palestinian Liberation Order (PLO), Arafat has been a leading figure in Middle Eastern politics for the past four decades, recognizable by the checkered kaffiyeh typically covering his head. A constant subject of international criticism, harsh judgment of Arafat, including his label as the founder of modern terrorism, began with his association with the PLO, who attacked Israeli establishments. After Palestine regained control of parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Arafat became leader of the “quasi-governmental Palestinian authority.” During his time in power, Arafat strongly pushed for the establishment of a

free Palestinian state while constantly facing retaliatory Israeli efforts.

While highly criticized from the pro-Israeli, anti-Arab and anti-Palestinian segments, Arafat has received praise and assistance from many international bodies including some European and many Arab nations. In 1994, he, along with Israeli leaders, received the Nobel Peace Prize for their work on the Oslo Accords “seen at the time as a breakthrough toward an independent Palestinian state and a permanent peace with Israel,” CNN reported. In the 10 years since though, especially after his unexpected unwillingness to sign the Camp David accords in 2000, little progress has been made to secure the state or peace in the area, besides Arafat’s recognition that two states are necessary, both a Palestinian and an Israeli state.

Replacing Arafat in his two acting positions are Rawhi Fattuh, the Palestian parliament’s speaker who has been sworn in as interim president of the Palestinian Authority, and former Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, who has been elected chief of the PLO. At the top of Fattuh’s list of objectives is to “declare free and open public elections within 60 days,” CNN reported.

Two years ago Arafat’s headquarters in Ramallah were heavily fired upon by Israeli forces, leaving the compound in practical rubble. Arafat lived in the crumbling squalor with little contact outside of his closest friends, assistants and family. After a funeral in Cairo, Arafat was buried in the ruins to serve as a constant reminder to Palestinians of the struggle and the ultimate goal of their own nation. □

Cobb County Schools’ debate over evolution goes to court

By AMELIA GODFREY

The topic of evolution has been the source of much controversy over the past few years. In February, State Superintendent Kathy Cox proposed to remove the term evolution from the state curriculum and replace it with “biological changes over time.” Opposition to the plan was so great that it took only weeks before she withdrew her proposal.

Over the past few weeks, evolution has again come under attack. In 2002 the Cobb County Board of Education decided to place stickers in all of its science textbooks after receiving a petition signed by hundreds of parents. The stickers read: “This textbook contains material on evolution. Evolution is a theory, not a fact, regarding the origin of living things. This material should be approached with an open mind,

studied carefully and critically considered.”

In reaction to the stickers Cobb County

parents have filed a lawsuit against the school board, arguing that the stickers are in violation of separation between church and state.

This is not the first time that arguments over teaching evolution have ended up in a courtroom. In 1987, the debate over teaching creationism in schools was brought to the U.S. Supreme Court. It was ruled that creationism was a religious belief that could not be taught in public schools.

Grady teachers agree that the stickers are a problem, but for different reasons.

“I believe that the stickers themselves are not a problem,”

science department head Ms. Diane Young said. “They simply state that evolution is a theory. However, the problem is with the intent of those who originally opposed the teaching of evolution.”

Teachers also feel that the long-lived debate over evolution gives Georgia education a bad reputation.

“It makes us look bad because we’re focusing on one thing and not education,” science teacher Nikolai Curtis said. “Georgia is on the bottom in terms of education, so we should be concerned with it as a whole and not waste time and money on something that we should know about.”

Creationism is the belief that the universe was created by God. “When I look at science and how a single cell can form a human,” junior Erin Wert said, “I can’t think of an

explanation for it just happening over time.”

The idea of evolution, in contrast, states that life began and

has been evolving due to natural forces. “I think it’s a viable theory,” Curtis said. “I believe in it mostly based on the fact that I’m a science teacher, and I’ve spent years looking at the facts.”

One of the major arguments over evolution has stemmed from the idea that humans evolved from primates. “I definitely do not think that we evolved from monkeys,” Wert said. “I believe that humans are distinct from other animals. If you look at humans and other animals they don’t have the same spark. Look at all of the things that we’ve made; no other animals have done things like that.” □

“The problem is with the people who opposed the teaching of evolution.”

Diane Young



DOWN TO BUSINESS: Newly named vice-principal Naomi Grishman goes over facility plans. Part of Ms. Grishman's new responsibility will be to oversee building and grounds.

NEW position gives added clout

from page 1

"Ms. Grishman will serve as monitor for the attendance clerk, supervise the maintenance of the buildings and grounds, and set the master schedule for the entire school," he said. "She will also assess the staff and their lesson plans, develop performance evaluations to review strengths and weaknesses of teachers, and screen new applicants for teaching positions."

Ms. Marian Kelly elaborated on Ms. Grishman's new responsibilities. "Ms. Grishman will have the same authority as assistant principal as Mr. Foreman," she said, adding, "It's nice to have a second assistant principal who loves the school and has Grady's best interests at heart."

Mr. Foreman made clear nothing is different from his perspective. "My role hasn't changed," he said. "I will continue to deal primarily with discipline. [Ms. Grishman] will deal with other areas as well as

with discipline."

Dr. Murray's announcement to the student body on the morning of Nov. 10 brought both praises of Ms. Grishman's work for the school and touched off widespread speculation as to who would replace her as magnet coordinator and what would happen until that time.

"Ms. Grishman wears many hats," Mr. John Brandhorst said. "She is not only the construction liaison, but has taken on many other roles in addition to coordinator for the magnet program."

Mr. Brandhorst, touted as a possible successor, quelled rumors he was interested in the job. "I am qualified for the administration portion of the position, but not the publication or mass-media aspect," he said. "I want to stay and lead the arts academy."

Ms. Lisa Willoughby, who has also been named as a possible

successor, made it clear she prefers to stay where she is. "I don't have the necessary certification for such a position," she said. "And my passion is still in the classroom."

Dr. Murray explained how he anticipates the following months to unfold. "Ms. Grishman will fulfill both roles until we find a replacement for magnet coordinator," he said. "I hope that position can be filled by the beginning of second semester."

Dr. Murray also commented on some of the qualifications and characteristics he would like to see in the new magnet coordinator. "We definitely want a person whose vision for the magnet program will foster continued growth and excellence," he said. "I like to see vision from people, and I'm looking for someone with that next level of vision for the magnet program. New vision will help our program thrive." □

Sept. 11 exhibit, former president's life story on display at Carter Center

By ALICE BUFKIN

President Jimmy Carter addresses the appropriate responses to terrorism by asking questions; his questions include "Are you starting a major war?" and "Have you made yourself a warlike nation in the minds of people all over the world?" The listener might swear the words were spoken about last week's headlines, but these comments from President Carter are now relayed over a video in the Jimmy Carter Library and Museum. The exhibits at the museum are designed not only to document President Carter's life, but to convey the relevance of historical events.

"The issues are still the same," said Tony Clark, director of public affairs at the Library, said. "It gives people an experience of how [the Carter era] worked."

This union of past and present is especially demonstrated in the museum's newest travelling exhibit, "After 9/11: Messages from the World and Images of Ground Zero." The exhibit is on loan from the U.S. Department of State in collaboration with The Museum of the City of New York. After Sept. 11, 2001, American embassies worldwide received thousands of condolences from people around the globe but did not know what to do with them. Priscilla Linn, curator of the United States Diplomacy Center, discovered these documents and sought to combine them in a meaningful way.

"There were all these incredible documents," Linn said. "[The documents] show a side of the story most people don't know."

Linn worked with a designer and The Museum of the City of New York to create the exhibit, which includes numerous letters, newspapers, artwork and photographs.

To symbolize the journey of the documents to the state capitol, the artwork and letters are contained in shipping crates. Some of the most powerful are those from children, written in foreign languages or broken English. Linn's favorite letter is from a girl who cautions "Mr. President" about responding with violence.

"It's so amazing that children would say

such powerful things and at such a young age," Linn said.

The exhibit includes 28 photographs by Joel Meyerowitz, the only photographer allowed to take pictures at Ground Zero. The titles of Meyerowitz's photographs range from the explanatory "Rescue Squads" to the poignant "Five More Found." The photos show the forced normality of the lives of the firefighters and rescue workers, and the terrifying scale of the damage caused by the collapse of the towers. A video documenting the fall and eventual cleanup of the towers accompanies the displays, as well as an area for visitors to write their comments.

The combination of images and condolences is, for many, a first glance at how the rest of the world responded to the terrorist attacks in New York, Washington, DC, and Pennsylvania. "The message that's most important is that we're not alone in the world," Linn said. Linn described the outpouring of support as "a giant hug from all nations."

"After 9/11" is not the Carter Museum's only display of relations between the United States and other nations: the bulk of the museum chronicles Carter's life, from childhood to his foreign and domestic policies to his post-presidency activities. "I think it's good to see Carter as a young boy," Clark said. "People tend to see public figures when they're public figures."

Visitors can explore President Carter's life and presidency through displays, interactive videos, artifacts and a replica of the Oval Office.

The Library portion of the museum consists of thousands of President Carter's papers, which can be accessed by the public upon request. The portion of the Center that is not open to visitors is the most active: the Center's purpose is to advance human rights and alleviate unnecessary human suffering.

Many visitors are unaware that a large portion of the Center is dedicated to research and humanitarian activities.

"We're not just a place that has history," Clark said. "Over here, they're making history." □

Priscilla Linn

"The message that's most important is that we're not alone in the world. [It was] a giant hug from all nations."



COMING TO A CLASSROOM NEAR YOU: Juniors Calesta Shaw and Christina Ward measure cloth in a recent fabric design class. With Grady's new "Art Hour," activities such as these will become common in all classes.

Pride created through class art

By MICAH WEISS

Starting next semester, Grady will have every fifth-period class on Thursdays taught through the arts in collaboration with the Atlanta-based Creating Pride organization. Teachers will incorporate art into their lesson plans in order to provide more creative and effective instruction.

Creating Pride is a non-profit organization whose goal is to ignite creativity in others through art making. The organization works towards a fresh approach to education by reducing the isolation between different departments in schools and by encouraging more creative instruction.

Grady's "Art Hour" will provide an alternative to regular teaching and evaluation methods. "Lots of research says that the best way to learn is through the arts," said Ms. Jennifer Tanksley, model school and teacher resource manager for Creating Pride. "[We] haven't set out to prove that, it's already known. We're just reinforcing it."

Mr. John Brandhorst also feels strongly about the value of education through art. "Art-initiated events require more synthetic thought and higher levels of thinking," he said. "It makes you think outside the box."

Creating Pride is not art just for art's sake. Ninety-one percent of teachers in Creating Pride schools who took part in the program last year felt that their school community benefited from participating in "Art Hour."

Grady will receive funding for Creating Pride through its corporate art program. Corporations sponsor students in art

production in exchange for a piece of art. A group of Grady students is working on an art piece for Waffle House for which Grady will receive \$500 that will go toward "Art Hour" supplies.

Grady is one of Creating Pride's model schools, meaning that the school follows the entire Creating Pride model and gets extra guidance. The organization works with all schools in the Atlanta Public Schools system and five-to-10 additional schools.

Grady faculty and administration are excited about the Creating Pride program. "We have had almost unanimous support for the possibility of this program," Mr. Brandhorst said.

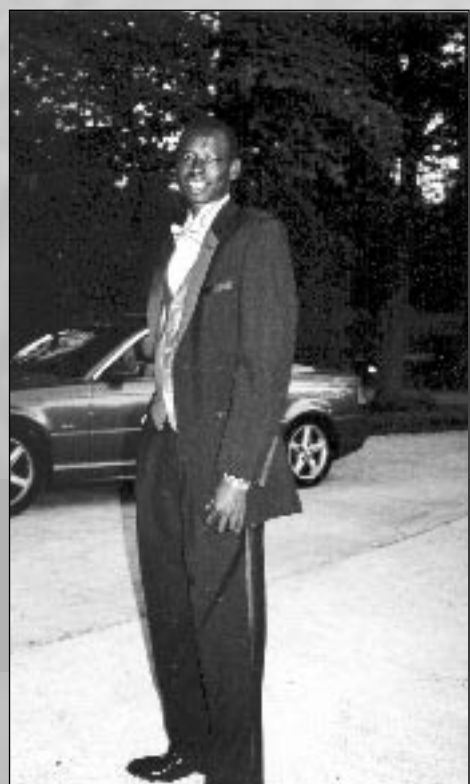
Mr. Nikolai Curtis is looking forward to incorporating art into his classes. "When we're studying DNA, I'm going to try and get the kids to build DNA molecules out of everyday, common materials. We may even make a DNA sculpture for the courtyard."

Mr. Brandhorst and Mr. Martinez compose Grady's art leader team. They received certification with Creating Pride last spring and will conduct workshops with the faculty to teach art techniques. Ms. Nadia Goodvin, Ms. Maxine Taylor, and Ms. Dianne Simmons compose Grady's art-leader team, which provides support for other teachers.

Mr. Brandhorst agrees with the value of helping teachers to be more creative. "Student learning is hinged on a teacher's attitude," Mr. Brandhorst said. "Happy and passionate teachers create kids who are more passionate about their work." □

THE Lost Boys

BELOW: Chol gets ready for Lakeside High School's prom. MIDDLE: Chol stands with other refugees in the U.N. refugee camp in Kenya. RIGHT: Chol runs for the Region 4-AAAA competition in cross country. Chol is the captain of his cross-country team.



Refugee flees village, comes to Atlanta

By Kimberly Hagan

John Chol doesn't know how old he is. And he doesn't know how old he was when he left his village in southern Sudan to walk with thousands of other Lost Boys to Ethiopia.

"We walked," Chol said. And as miles stretched into more miles and mountains stretched to more mountains, days lost themselves but continued passing, like the feet of the army of children.

Most of the Lost Boys were between 5 and 8 years old when they left. "The enemy there is fighting in Sudan so we cannot stay there," Chol said, as though the decision faced him today. The word "enemy" does not sound out of place from his mouth, as if it is a word he has tasted many times before. "They were attacking our village. We left. We finally gather in one place. Then they decide that we will go this way to Ethiopia."

The number of boys had become smaller when they reached refuge in Ethiopia. Chol cannot remember the distance he traveled as a little boy, but he knows of those who were lost along the way: "Some died and got sick and some were eaten by wild animals," Chol said. "And some were drowned in the river, called Gila River."

After four years, the boys would walk back to the country they fled. Conflict broke out in Ethiopia when a new regime overthrew the Ethiopian government. "We don't have a relationship with the new government," Chol explained. "So we left."

The boys stayed in Sudan for only three more months after their return. The United Nations provided them with some food, but was not able to stop the northern militias that invaded southern villages. The boys could not go to school. "There was not time for looking for education," Chol said. "We are looking for safety, to save our lives, and looking for the food that we eat." The boys took mangoes and bananas from the forests, fish from the river, but they would take little else from Sudan when they left for Kenya. "It seemed like it will be safe," Chol said. "Because the enemy will not follow us."

Chol and the lost boys stayed in a camp in Kenya. "It was more peaceful," Chol said. "But we have not enough food to eat, and we don't have hospitals." The resources they did have would become the cause of more violence only two years later. Kenyan citizens, angry with the United Nations for providing food to Sudanese refugees and not to their own nation, began attacking the camps. "The natives of Kenya feel jealous," Chol said. A jealousy not over wealth, over land, or over valuable minerals, but over food. "They say 'Why can't the United Nations help us also?'" And

they start shooting people at night," Chol pauses. "It was like war begin again."

It did not matter how young those in the camp were; war is blind to youth. "They were shooting everybody. They would break into your house," Chol said. "And they don't know if they will find you awake. They don't know if you will make a noise so someone will come, or if you will shout, so they kill you."

Chol knew there was nowhere else to go. "If the U.N. [can] make peace with the Kenyan citizens, we will hope that the U.N. will do that," Chol said. "But we don't have another choice." He remembers the day he had a choice, the Wednesday three years ago when he found his name on a board among the names of other Sudanese refugees who would be resettled in the United States. He packed some clothes, a language book, and a book of songs of the church.

Chol had three days of orientation classes before leaving for the United States "We learned what cold was," Chol said. Many of his peers did not know about winter and snow. The boys were also assigned birthdays. "We are all born on Jan.

The enemy there is fighting in Sudan so we cannot stay there. They were attacking our village. We left.

JOHN CHOL

FACING THE FACTS

SOURCE:
THE U.S. COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEES

○ Sudan's civil war is the longest uninterrupted civil war in the world. In the last 48 years, Sudan has experienced only 11 years of peace.

○ The death toll in Sudan since 1983 is larger than the combined fatalities suffered in Bosnia, Kosovo, Afganistan, Chechnya, Somalia, Sierra Leona and Indonesia.

○ An estimated average of more than 300 Sudanese per day die of war-related causes.

○ The Sudanese government regularly blocks humanitarian relief and bombs civilian and humanitarian centers.

Khartoum, the capital of Sudan comprised of six to seven million people, has been utilized as a base of main operations by the Janjaweed.



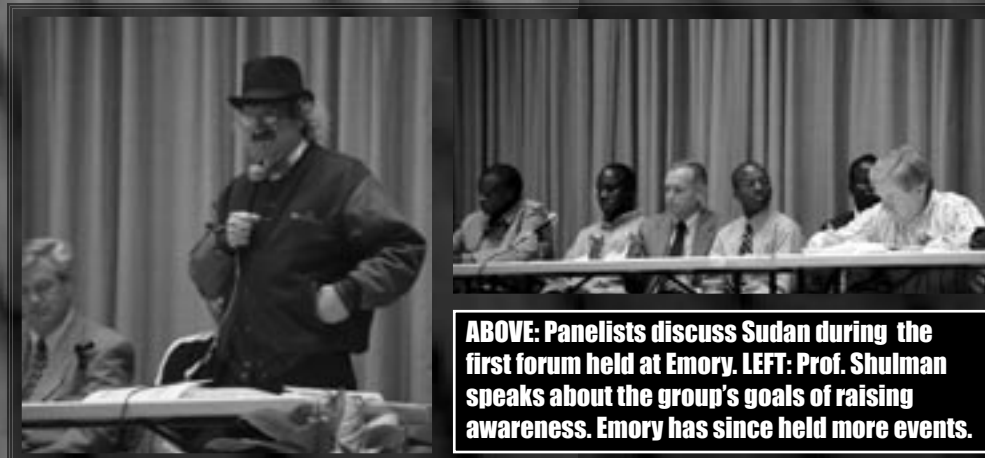
The Darfur region, with an area of approximately 600 square kilometers, has seen the highest death toll in the country. Each month, up to 10,000 people are killed or displaced by the government-backed militia.

KEY

- ▲ - Villages destroyed by Janjaweed
- ✱ - Non-government organizations
- ✕ - Cities bombed by Sudanese government



ABOVE: Chol learned as a child to make clay animals from the mud of riverbanks. The boys now sell the animals at art festivals. RIGHT: Chol with a friend at the camp in Kenya.



ABOVE: Panelists discuss Sudan during the first forum held at Emory. LEFT: Prof. Shulman speaks about the group's goals of raising awareness. Emory has since held more events.

Within the last decade, a government-backed militia, the Janjaweed, have been spreading hatred and death throughout the country of Sudan. The death toll has recently moved into the millions and shows no sign of slowing down.

Genocide declared in Sudan

By Thi Lam

Two million people are dead and the numbers are growing. The root cause of the atrocity in Sudan can be traced back to the 1950s when Sudan claimed its independence from Britain. Soon, the northern Sudanese officials, who were mostly Muslims, replaced the British administrators. The southern Sudanese, composed of a small Christian population and people who wanted to practice traditional African religions, feared that the northern Muslims would overrun them and prohibit them from practicing non-Muslim traditions. Violence soon erupted. Between 1972 and 1983, these factions signed different peace treaties but none were adequately enforced.

Additionally, in 1983, the Sudanese government imposed Islamic law nationwide that led to further conflicts between the two groups.

Since February 2003, Sudan has been plunged into what the United Nations terms the "world's worst humanitarian crisis." The northern Sudanese, on horseback and target "black" farmers, killing the men and raping the women, mostly in the western Sudanese region of Darfur. This government-backed militia leaves a trail of destruction behind by burning crops and ransacking homes. Sudan is controlled by an authoritarian regime that has displaced more than 4 million people since 1983 from their homes without the food and water to survive. According to international monitors, hundreds of thousands of people in Darfur will likely die from hunger and disease in the next few months alone. Behind the impending humanitarian disaster is "ethnic cleansing" committed against black Africans by the Janjaweed. The median life expectancy in the country is only 17 years.

The United States Congress declared the Sudan crisis a genocide in July 2004. Under an U.N. Genocide Convention, adopted in 1948 and enforced in 1951, action must be taken to save lives if the United States acknowledges a situation to be a genocide. Members of the U.N. Security Council, however, particularly Russia, China and Algeria, continue to block sanctions and other strong actions, creating weak resolutions that are unenforceable and unheeded.

While U.S. officials feel that pressuring the U.N. Security Council to adopt a resolution threatening to consider oil-industry sanctions if the government in Sudan fails to crack down on the Janjaweed is enough

We decided to do something about the genocide in Sudan because the state wasn't doing anything.

ZOE HAUGO

of a deterrent, others demand a more hard-nosed approach. "We need intervention," said Robert Scully, a senior representative from Medical Assistance Program International. "We decided to do something [about the genocide in Sudan] because the state wasn't doing anything," said Zoe Haugo, co-director of events at Emory University aiding Sudanese families.

Haugo, along with chief director, Dr. Neil Shulman, a professor at Emory, prepared several fund-raising events held on its campus. Shulman was on the board of the Lost Boys of Sudan before he became actively involved with grassroots movements at Emory. Specific plans of action include supporting peacekeeping troops from the African Union, supporting non-government organizations providing food and medicine, pressuring U.S. senators, developing a network with other universities and organizations around the world, protesting, fasting and raising awareness.

"Our goal is to achieve a real impact," Shulman said. "It might be illegal to support another country's military, but if we have to break the law, then we have to break the law."

Although most of the events in raising support for the Sudanese families have been held at Emory, many other local institutions have spread the message throughout the world. Atlanta plays a vital role in raising awareness about the situation in Sudan for many reasons other than just its role as one of the most influential cities in the world. Atlanta is a host to more than 100 Lost Boys of Sudan. Southern Georgia and north

Florida is also the home of three key medical locations. These medical and health centers are located in Brunswick, Jacksonville, and Savannah.

"Atlanta is America's global health center," Scully said. "Being [in Atlanta] helps us to connect with other agencies."

So far, the Atlanta community has responded to such efforts with more than just a passing glance. Many people have shown their support by attending panel discussions that consist of experts in international foreign policy, refugees who experienced firsthand the genocide in Sudan, and researchers who were located in Rwanda and Sudan. The researchers were involved in powerful actions directly connected with the African governments but had to flee when their lives were threatened.

"We are just trying to bring people together and be the glue that connects the people that want to help," Haugo said. "We are not interested in raising money for ourselves or forming a group. All we want to do is to get people to either form their own group or motivate them to come up with ideas themselves or volunteer or send money to other groups."

Other people in the community have made generous donations at fund-raising events such as the *Who Nose* movie showing, which played at the Harland Theatre in Dobbs University Center.

Others like Neal Kelley have become activists themselves. Kelley started out volunteering his time with the Lost Boys of Sudan Foundation in order to provide awareness to the entire community and encourage people to support in any way that they can.

"When you realize the type of atrocity that's going on over there, 2 million people died and children burnt alive, you want to help," Kelley said. "A lot of people just don't know about what's happening. [Everyone] needs to read about world events and appreciate what [they] have. You can help by having a food drive, clothes drive, and partner up with a university or an organization."

The world is not blind to the crisis in Sudan. Before the 2004 presidential elections, the world learned about the situation in Sudan on the front page of many prominent newspapers and TV news networks. As the elections drew closer, however, "all other gripping world events such as the Iraq war and domestic issues have overshadowed the critical situation with the genocide in Sudan," Scully said.

Despite being one of the last agendas on Congress' docket, grassroots activists still hope to end the terror in Sudan. "We are seen as a leader in the world," Scully said. "If we promise to intervene when a genocide occurs and we don't, then what does that mean for the future?" □

ALICE to come alive in black box theater

Construction delays keep fantasy from reality for a month

from page 1

the show in the new theater. "The black box is smaller and more intimate," Willoughby said. "There is less distance between the stage and the audience."

Art teacher Mr. John Brandhorst and his set-design class have joined the production as the design team. "The project is an exciting opportunity for them to see the practical appliance of what they are learning in class," Ms. Willoughby said.

The design class began working on the set and props two months ago to bring Alice's wonderland alive.

"I'm glad that the date was pushed back," said senior Daniel Montagne, who is working on a turtle shell in class. "There is no way we could have finished everything before this semester is over."

On weekends and Thursdays after school, the set shop is crowded with students working overtime to create intricate puppets for the production. Each of the puppets they build, such as the frogs and raccoons, is required to have a moveable body part.

Although the creation of the props is time-consuming, Montagne says that he has enjoyed making them

"because they are more surreal."

Members of the set-design class plan to attend the production to see their work highlighted on stage. "I will definitely go see it," junior Devin Jefferson said. "It's cool to know that you are going to be a part of something bigger."

The actors and the design team face the challenge of creating the dreamlike atmosphere to parallel the play as it becomes "curiouser and curiouser."

"Mr. Brandhorst is going to make sure that the props are bizarre, but also true to the story," Caldas said.

One of the most difficult scenes involve Alice's uncontrollable growth.

"When Alice grows and shrinks, we will have screens with shadow puppets," said Godbey, who encourages other students to get involved. "Even if someone can't act, there is important work to be done behind the scenes."

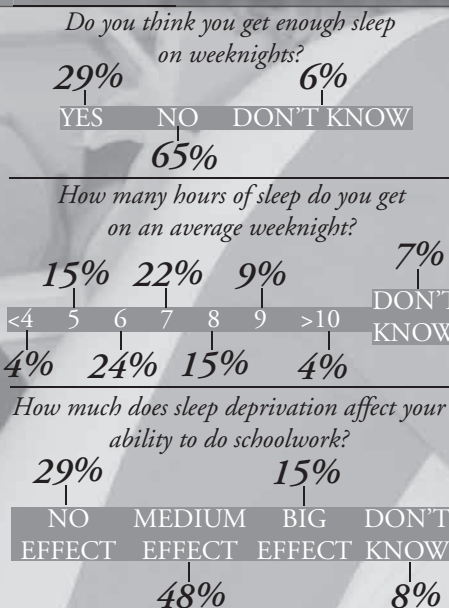
The set-design team hopes that the props and set will amaze and engage the audience. A matinee is scheduled for an audience of middle school students from Inman and Walden, but that show will not be open to Grady students.

Josie Duffy

Ms. Willoughby and the cast members encourage the Grady community to come to the evening productions. "Everyone should take the initiative to go and support Grady theater," senior Josie Duffy who plays the white rabbit said. "It's going to be an experience." □

Everyone should take the initiative to go and support Grady theater.

SLEEP DEPRIVATION



DEAD TIRED: Senior Frederick Clark falls asleep while reading *Death of a Salesman* in his sixth-period class. Most students at Grady feel they do not receive enough sleep, an average of six-to-seven hours a night, which they blame primarily on a heavy courseload.

Lack of sleep blamed on school

By ALLANA NEELY

Exhaustion. Fatigue. Lack of physical energy. These are just a few symptoms that have been sweeping the nation. The culprit is sleep deprivation.

Statistics show that the number of sleep-deprived Americans has greatly increased over the last hundred years. According to the Sleep in America poll, the average American adult only sleeps 6.9 hours a night. This number greatly differs from a poll in which the dozers of 1910 slept an average of nine hours a night. Shift workers, such as firefighters, police officers and doctors, average only five hours of sleep a night.

Insomnia, sleep apnea, sleepwalking, and narcolepsy are just a few of the many types of sleep disorders that affect people around the globe. According to the National Commission on Sleep Disorders Research, approximately 70 million people in America are affected by sleep problems. This dilemma has also greatly affected the economy. Sleep deprivation and sleep disorders cost Americans more than \$100 billion a year due to lost productivity, sick leave, medical expenses, and property and environmental damage.

For Grady students, the cost is frequently attention during class. Drowsiness plagues students throughout the school—63 percent of students said sleep deprivation had a medium or big effect on

their ability to do schoolwork. Sleep deprivation not only affects the students by reducing their attention during class; it's also a problem for the teachers.

"[Sleep deprivation] is particularly a problem after lunch," said Mrs. Guilbert, one of Grady's math teachers. "It's worse in periods five, six, and seven."

Over two-thirds of all children experience one or more sleep problems at least a few nights a week. This problem has been proven to affect some students' academic performance. Instead of the recommended nine to nine and a half hours of sleep a night for teens, most students are being deprived of needed hours of sleep, with the most common causes being excessive homework assignments (according to 45 percent of students surveyed), TV shows (15 percent), extracurricular activities (14 percent), and talking to friends (14 percent).

"I am sleep-deprived from too much homework," junior Devin Jefferson said. "It affects my behavior. I'm very grumpy when I wake up, and when I only get three hours of sleep I don't want to be bothered."

Though most students agree that sleep deprivation has affected their daily performance in a negative way, some students believe that they don't need as much sleep as most teachers and doctors recommend. But if sleep deprivation becomes continuous, it can seriously worsen one's health. □

Late arrival of projectors, speakers doesn't dampen enthusiasm, excitement

By ROBERT SANDERS

The classes of 2005 and 2006 have nostalgic memories of watching live shows of GNN that the later classes will hopefully soon share. After some delay, school officials hope to purchase and install the state-of-the-art projectors by year's end. Administration intend for the projection to improve instruction and bring back the live shows that set Grady apart from other school television-news shows.

The wall-mounted televisions were removed from every classroom during the summer because the replacement projectors were anticipated to arrive by the beginning of the school year. The Special Local Option Sales Tax, set in place to pay for school renovation, does not cover new technology. A P S previously agreed to pay for 64 projector systems. Grady placed a bid for the projectors, which is currently

in the process of being reviewed and approved by APS.

"When we were going through the design phase two years ago," Principal Dr. Vincent Murray said, "we thought of the equipment that is needed to make Grady a top-notch school."

Planners thought the addition of a new projector system would improve the learning environment. The system was to include two wall-mounted speakers, a projector, amplifier and DVD/VHS combination unit mounted behind or next to the teacher's desk. It would not only provide a better picture and sound quality but also be used to aid teachers.

"Teachers can use the projectors in conjunction with their computers for the best effect," assistant principal Ms. Naomi Grishman said. Presentations, notes and films could all be viewed over the same machine saving time, energy

We used to be more of a studio-based show. Now it's more field-based.

Mr. Thaddeus Roberts



MAGNAVOX TO THE RESCUE: After more than a year of viewing taped episodes of GNN, students continue to wait for live shows as a struggle for funding delays projectors.

and paper.

"To me it would be unacceptable for the projectors not to be here by this year," said Dr. Murray, who wants the projectors to arrive soon to help teachers in the classroom and to also make distribution of GNN and GSPN easier.

"I think not having the projectors has a very negative impact because many of the students and staff have not seen GNN at all this year," Ms. Grishman said.

When the closed circuit was removed, GNN and GSPN were unable to broadcast their shows at the same time or do live shows; instead, they must dub shows onto tapes. Later, when the wall-mounted televisions were removed, it made it even harder for students to see the shows because not every teacher had the equipment to air them.

"The current ninth graders and 10th graders haven't experienced watching GNN over the closed

circuit, so only the current 11th and 12th graders know what they're missing," Ms. Grishman said.

Not only has the distribution of Grady's shows been affected, but the variety of shows has too. *Wake Up Grady*, *Popcorn*, and specials on Valentine's Day have been put aside due to the decrease in the frequency of shows produced.

"It goes beyond closed circuit; it changed the whole system," GNN advisor Mr. Thaddeus Roberts said. "We used to be more of a studio-based show. Now it's more field-based."

So far this year, all shows have been prepackaged and edited segments of film are shot outside of Grady's studio, but this is not because the projectors are not installed. Another setback to production is that Grady's studio and control room have not been set up yet. In the past, GNN produced live shows in the studio. These shows gave students experience in live production that many schools can not offer. But it's hasn't been all bad for GNN. "I don't think its affected GNN in a bad way," Mr. Roberts said. "It's actually made it better in terms of quality of shows." □

Survival skills mastered through primitive tech club

By ALEX DANIELS

What are the odds that a global energy crisis will send the planet back to the Stone Age? Probably slim to none, but if that day ever does come, at least a handful of Grady students can rest easy. Because of the new Primitive Technology Club at Grady, they'll be well-prepared for the next long-term blackout that comes their way.

"It's pretty much just a hands-on history club," said senior Dylan Woodliff to describe the Primitive Technology Club that he leads and helped create. By learning about ancient primitive cultures and spotlighting some of the tools and technology they used, the club members hope to bring better recognition to what senior Harrison Martin calls an important time period. "History is an important subject, and through this [club] we'll look at an era that isn't discussed in class very often," Martin said.

The club, which currently

has seven members and meets Fridays after school, has already commenced planning their first project, the idea that first led to the creation of the club: a dugout canoe constructed using traditional Native American methods. To build the canoe, they will use slow-burning to hollow a log and then cut it with primitive tools. Senior Nick Stephens said he got the idea last summer while on the Lewis and Clark trail. "After seeing [a canoe] on the trail, I thought about making one, so I pitched the idea to [Woodliff.]"

The result, he said, was the founding of the club.

Students

Mr. Scott Stephens

got a glimpse of things to come when Woodliff showcased a traditional bow drill at school. The tool demonstration elicited awe and amusement, but the always-modest Woodliff claims not to be in it for the glory. "I just find it interesting to preserve and appreciate primitive cultures," Woodliff said. "I've been interested in this subject for years,

and I always wanted a club where I could do some of the things I enjoy."

Even before the club's start, Woodliff always found interest in the outdoors. "I think [Woodliff]'s finally able to do something in a club that he's done in his free time for a good part of his life," Martin said. "For other students, it's just an opportunity for them to do something that they've never done before."

The club's sponsor, Mr. Scott Stephens, finds the subject not only interesting, but vital. With the way things are headed in the world, he says, the skills learned in the club will soon be necessary. "I'm definitely anticipating a stone-age situation some time in the near future," Stephens said. "What better place than school to learn the primitive technology that we'll need once [oil and electricity are] all gone? That, and I just thought it was a neat idea."

Some love history, some the outdoors, others fear the onset of a perpetual blackout. Every member has their own reasons for joining the Primitive Tech. Club. And it goes without saying that it's an interesting place to be. □



EMILY MUNRO

LIGHT MY FIRE: Club members create a small fire using flint and steel. The group plans to construct a dugout canoe using similar methods.

Freshmen receive advice from WISE program, seniors

By LAURA JONES

The gap between middle school and high school can often be wide. Students may feel overwhelmed and only need someone to offer a few words of advice to make the transition easier. "I've come in contact with many young ladies who just need someone to listen to them, and I've enjoyed being that person, but I wanted to do more," explained Ms. Keri McDonald, Grady's health teacher. Ms. McDonald is now working with her friends Aisha Dubose, Aleta McClean and Janae Combs to establish a program to help these students.

Ms. McDonald got the idea for a program to help freshmen after working with the Boys and Girls Club for three years. She spoke with Dubose and Combs, who started a similar program, and they have now created WISE—Women Inspiring Self-Enrichment.

Dubose, Combs and McClean previously put together a program called Advocating Juveniles At Risk, using their first names as inspiration for the title—AJA. Unfortunately, that program never got off the ground, so the women decided to use its blueprints for a new club at Grady.

The program consists of adult mentors working with upperclassmen—mostly seniors—who in turn work with underclassmen. There is one informational and one more physical event on Saturdays every month. The topics for the information sessions range from nutrition to stress management to college planning, while the other events focus on fitness and exercise.

Each mentor group is required to have two face-to-face meetings a month and at least one contact weekly. These meetings can range from a phone call to a simple e-mail. Mentors, both upperclassmen and adults, will turn in regular reports on what



COURTESY OF MS. KERI McDONALD

WISE GUYS: The senior and adult mentors of the WISE program meet at Piedmont Park to help volunteer.

activities they do and what topics they discuss during these meetings, which will be reviewed by the founders of the club.

The pupils are very optimistic. "I'm just excited," freshman Lachrishia Baker said. "I wanted somebody to look up to. I've never had a sister, so I wanted to have an older friend to help."

Freshman Leah Berger-Singer had similar reasons to join WISE. "It's going to be fun to have older friends to show me the ropes," Berger explained.

Their mentors are equally animated.

Junior Angela Oliver, an upperclassman mentor, is enthusiastic about the program. "I think this will be great," Oliver said. "I remember what it was like to be an underclassmen, and it would have been fun to have an upperclassmen friend, someone who already knew everything about Grady."

The club's goals are based on the broad idea of fostering good relationships between peers. These goals become more specific working to improve grades, decrease absences and risky behavior in pupils and assist in forming life goals. The group also plans on contributing their time to community service.

McClean put it best: "This should be an enjoyable experience that hopefully everyone will get something out of." □

Moore speaks for soldiers

By LAURA JONES

It's difficult to write non-fiction and keep it interesting. The facts typically outweigh the story. Maybe it's because it's rare for something awe-inspiring to happen to someone who can write well, and everything else is secondhand—a story that happened to a friend of a friend, or worse: someone with whom the writer had no connection, with all emotional links gone and unique anecdotes forgotten.

But Michael Moore has figured out how to take a second-hand story and make it interesting: by giving it back to the people to whom it belongs. And he has done it in a way that allows us to overlook when writing is weak, or when facts are dry. In Moore's book, the plot is important because of the facts not in spite of them.

Moore's book *Will They Ever Trust Us Again?* is a series of letters from soldiers, veterans and families with connections to the Iraqi war. These are true accounts with awkward sentences and honest emotions from people from all walks of life with one thing in common: they hate George W. Bush and his war.

The major question is whether or not the letters are true. Critics say that Moore had no qualm bending the truth to meet his agenda in his movie *Fahrenheit 9/11*, and that this might be the case with his book. But it is encouraging to know that many of the people put their names to their writing; more than half of the first section of letters includes the writer's full name and division in the Army. While it is possible that Moore "edited" the letters he received, it is far more likely that within the thousands of letters sent to him, he found more than enough to fill a book that agreed with his point of view.

Once past the question of validity, one can begin to evaluate the book for the stories it tells. Moore writes only a few pages in the introduction himself. In them, he uses slang, even cursing, to give the book a relaxed feel. He is not Virginia Wolff and neither are the people writing; they have no editors, and are often typing from a place far from

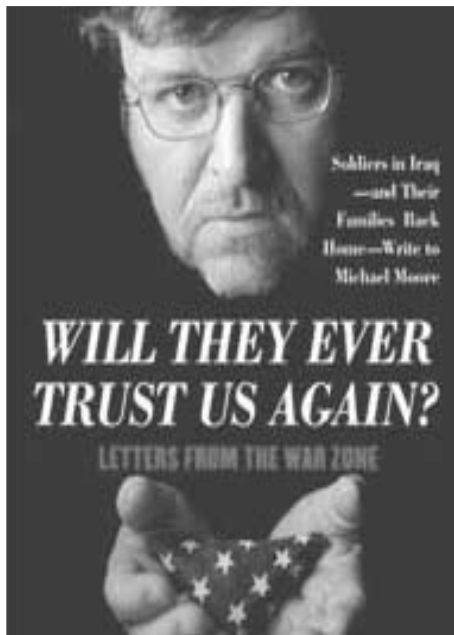
Will They Ever Trust Us Again?

Author: Michael Moore

Publisher: Simon & Schuster

Other books written by Moore: *Dude Where's My Country*, *Stupid White Men*, *Downsize This!*

Movies by Moore: *Fahrenheit 9/11*, *Bowling for Columbine*, *Roger & Me*
The Down-low: Let's hope Moore's final draft really is the final draft.



home under dangerous conditions. The raw emotions in each letter are overwhelming. Those too young to vote are not too young to appreciate the continuous pleading to "get that man out of office" and the feelings of guilt at the outcome of the November election.

Regardless of whether or not the views of the soldiers published represent the majority or the minority in the Army, one has to respect Moore for giving them a voice. It is necessary that readers know how our soldiers feel, no matter what their politics are. □



DANCE LIKE NO ONE'S WATCHING: Junior Erin Wert (center) practices at the Vista Grove Dance Center. She plans to pursue ballet during her semester abroad this year.

Exchange students exchange interests

BY CHELSEA COOK

Five, six, seven, eight. She rhythmically counts, her face intent as she snaps her head around and pirouettes across the black marley floor. She is accompanied by 20 other dancers, all gracefully trying to keep up with the music for next year's competition. The Vista Grove Dance Center competes annually at the Gwinnett Convention Center for the International Dance Challenge and Dance America. Junior Erin Wert, however, won't be joining them.

Junior John Watson can be found in an SUV, hair wet, seated on a towel in the driver's seat. Kayaks are bungeed to the top of his car. Paddles obstruct his vision in the rear-view mirror. In February, Watson would typically attend the U.S. open tournament that determines the senior kayaking team that will compete in the Olympics. Watson, however, won't be getting his feet wet.

Instead, Wert will be learning choreography in French, while Watson will desert the Chattahoochee for La Seud'urgell, two hours from Barcelona. While moving such involved lives to different countries to

explore a foreign lifestyle may seem like a frightening situation to many, for these two Grady students, it is not only a privilege but a dream.

"I'm really excited," Wert said. "I've wanted to [be a foreign-exchange student] since the eighth grade when my brother went." Wert will be travelling to France for a semester abroad in January, while Watson will be going to Spain. Lucky for Watson, his destination in Spain, Valencia, is near the site of the 1992 Olympic kayak events.

"At the moment I'm trying to work out a way for me to train with the Spanish National Slalom Kayak Team while I'm there," Watson explained. Some of Grady's past exchange students were so focused on learning the new language that they didn't have time to pursue extracurricular activities in another country. Junior Jeffrey Thomas, who traveled as student ambassador to Japan last semester, found the adjustment challenging.

"I knew how to say hello and stuff, but I didn't know half the Japanese I know now," Thomas said. Learning the native language is an incentive for many students.

"I want to be fluent, and that's the main

reason I'm going," Wert said.

"It's really the best way to figure a language out. The accent improves the most," French teacher Ms. Dianne Simmons said. Thomas found his visit to Japan very beneficial toward his fluency.

"After 10 days I could have a conversation with my host-sister," Thomas said proudly. Both student ambassadors and those experiencing a semester abroad stay with a host family anywhere from 10 days to a whole year.

"It's tough, it takes a long time to get used to," Ms. Simmons explained.

Thomas was a little surprised to find he could get along so well with someone from such a different world, as Wert hopes that she will be able to while in France. "I look forward to meeting a lot of new people and making new friends," Wert said.

The travelers now have a duty to fulfill: to make an impression on a different part of the world and to let it make an impression on them. Wert and Watson anticipate not only continuing their passions while overseas but obtaining new ones as well. □

Sierra leaves gap in office, travels home

BY ALASTAIR CARTER-BOFF

Many Grady students have noticed that despite the new renovation and additions to the school, it's still lacking something. That something is the school's old attendance office secretary, Ms. Carla Sierra. Ms. Sierra's warm smile and bubbly attitude contributed to a positive atmosphere in the sometimes-dull halls of Grady.

Ms. Sierra is greatly missed by students. "She was cool," junior Stephanie Cooper said. "She let us do what we wanted but was still stern with the rules."

Unfortunately for Grady, Ms. Sierra has moved back to Puerto Rico in order to help care for her grandparents. "I left Grady to help support my family," Ms. Sierra said. "With my grandparents not healthy, I felt it was important [for me] to do as much as I could [for them]."

Mr. Roosevelt Foreman recognizes the necessity for Ms. Sierra's departure. "Coming from the close-knit family that she has, she decided to go with [her parents]," Mr. Foreman said.

Mr. Foreman does admit that without Ms. Sierra, the school is less efficient. "She not only did work in the attendance office," Mr. Foreman said, "but she was also fluent in Spanish, so she was able to mediate for Grady's Spanish-speaking students and parents."

Ms. Sierra worked in the attendance office, took minutes for the APS board and had a third job teaching ESOL classes. "She contributed a lot to this school," Coach Thomas Jones said.

Ms. Sierra also helped Grady's Spanish teachers with class, and even helped them to improve their own Spanish. "Not only did she have a good personality, she loved literature," Spanish teacher Richard Buerkle said. Though Ms. Sierra knows leaving was necessary, she retains fond memories of Grady.

"I miss Grady a lot," Ms. Sierra said. "I miss the people and the environment. I wish I could be at Grady, but I know that I need to stay with my family." □

Despite Brown vs. Board ruling, students still experience self-segregation

BY CHLOE BLALOCK

Integrated schools do not mean integrated students. Even upon the 50th anniversary of the Brown vs. Board of Education case, look at a classroom and you'll see that few students venture across the color line. Although some students have included people of other races in their repertoire of friends, studies show that allowing people to mix does not mean they will.

Take Grady for example. The make up of Grady is diverse, with 64 percent African-American, 31 percent Caucasian, and 5 percent other. But, according to a Grady survey, 45 percent of students' friends are primarily of their own race.

"I don't think we need to worry when young people choose to sit with people like themselves, with whom they may share common experiences and interests," said Dr. Beverly Tatum, president of Spelman University and a well-respected author and expert in the field self-segregation. "When those groups are racially similar, we get

nervous because it reminds us of the imposed segregation of the past, but in fact connecting with people like yourself can be an important part of identity development."

But many Grady teachers believe that forcing students to integrate is necessary. "I look up and if the dynamics of the classroom don't suit me, I ask people to move around," science teacher Jeff Cramer explained.

Ms. Diane Young agrees. "Classrooms should be [diverse] in race, and teachers must make an effort to encourage students to work with a diverse group in classes," Young said. Ms. Young also believes that "students should be free to choose whom they hang out with or eat lunch with regardless of race."

One prevailing theory behind why students have trouble integrating relies on history. Parents greatly affect their children's views, and many students grew up with a certain discomfort around people of other races. Ms. Young taught in Atlanta Public Schools in the early

1960s and '70s and remembers the initial integration process.

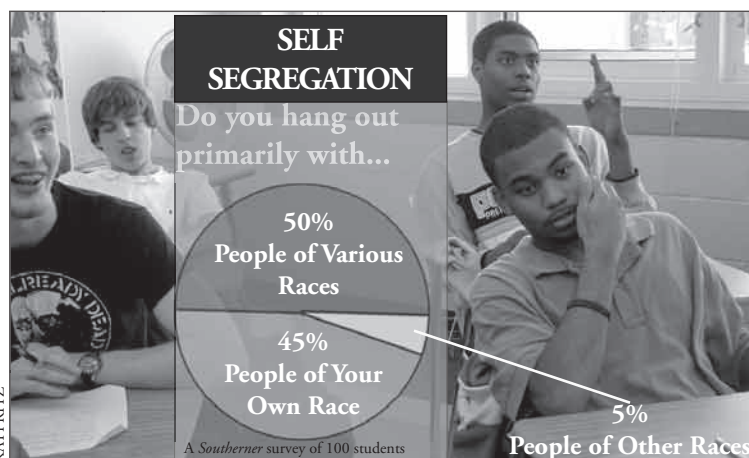
"The faculty was integrated before the students, and many students had difficulty being taught by people of a different race," Young explained. "But the parents had more issues with it than the students [did]."

Forty years later, Southern Regional Council president, Donald Cleveland, doesn't think the integration process is complete.

"What we have isn't really integration," Cleveland said. "What we have is the mixing of bodies. There are still certain systems in place that prohibit people from having an equal opportunity to develop to their fullest."

Senior Bevelyn Ukah agrees, and offers a solution. "Segregation now is really more of a state of mind," Ukah said. "It took time to physically integrate people, and now all we need is time before people are comfortable with each other."

While Ukah believes time is the ultimate healer, the senior asserts



IN BLACK AND WHITE: (Clockwise from left) Seniors Taylor Lee, Matthew Baughman, Junior Michael Gunn, and Sophomore Kevin Echols segregate while choosing seats in class.

that Grady is not yet cured of its segregationist tendencies. Ukah gave the example of the senior meeting, where the racial divide was very obvious. "It was all the white people on one side and then all the black people falling all over each other," Ukah said. "It disgusts me, how segregation affects our lives."

In contrast, some Grady students have a more listless disposition towards self-segregation.

"It just tends to happen," senior

Lillian Van said. "It's not always an issue about racism or sexism, but people tend to like hanging out with others that have similar interests and backgrounds."

"We should work to provide opportunities for young people to connect across lines of difference," Dr. Tatum said.

"It is important to affirm both identity and build community, so that all students do feel a part of the whole." □

JROTC and military life not necessarily hand-in-hand

FROM PAGE 1

cadets maintained their posture. Some shoulders drooped with disappointment. "The significance of [marching in the parade] is to show respect for those that went before us in uniform, that have made what we have today possible," Major Huddleton said.

While some of the cadets in JROTC had looked forward to marching in the Veteran's Day parade, they don't look to be among the military personnel honored. "To be honest," Major Huddleton said, "the majority of the students that we have are on a vocational track. It's a way to get their seal." Incoming freshman join the JROTC program by choice or placement. Major Huddleton explains that students elect to maintain the course schedule because "they've already got a year invested." The vocational seal requires six semesters of the course.

"There are those that have gotten in and stayed and now can't get out," Major Huddleton said, explaining "the dichotomy between those who care and those who don't." Huddleton feels that too many students participate in JROTC involuntarily. "They're told that this is where they have to be." As the

department chair of JROTC, Major Huddleton plans to work closely with counselors, particularly those involved with freshman scheduling, to ensure that those who do not want to participate in JROTC are not forced to. "We're not a holding ground. We shouldn't be a holding ground for the people that nobody else wants [to discipline]," Huddleton said. He believes that a successful JROTC program is not about filling class quotas. It's about having students who want to participate. That doesn't necessarily mean students who want to join the armed forces.

"We're probably the lowest in Atlanta Public Schools as far as [JROTC students] going into the military," Maj. Huddleton said.

At the start of the JROTC program in 1919, such a statistic would have been an indication of failure. Major Huddleton cites the National Military Reorganization Act as the starting place for JROTC. The purpose of the program was to fulfill "the desire to have a trained cadre of young people that could be brought into mobilization" that stemmed from World War I "when it took us so long to get an army ready to go."

From JROTC's beginnings



KATHERINE HAGAN



KATHERINE HAGAN

GUSSING UP: Major Huddleton adjusts the uniform of junior Richard Brandon (left) during one of Grady's weekly inspections. Junior Jerrica Vaughn (above) tries on new uniform shoes.

We're just here to teach them leadership and discipline.

Master Sgt. Henry Bleach

in 1919 to its transformation in the early 1960s, "JROTC did a lot of tactics," Major Huddleton said. A decreasing entry rate motivated JROTC to transform its curriculum and mission statement. Major Huddleton refers to the Vietnam War draft as reason for the drop in participation. "The political pressures on high school campuses—we were just cranking a very hard haul up on the draft," Major Huddleton explained. "Especially in the late '60s, a disdain for the war caused a lack of interest and several major universities dropped their ROTC programs altogether."

By 1984, the JROTC had expanded its curriculum to include

citizenship-building, self-discipline and study habits, "as opposed to raw military-type things." The goal of JROTC is no longer to place students on a path to the military.

"We're not recruiters by [any] means," Master Sgt. Bleach said. "We're just here to teach them leadership and discipline to prepare them for their future. We have no dealings with the active component."

Upon completion of the high school program, however, those who choose to enter the army can do so as an "E-3" rather than as the lowest grade of "E-1."

For now, however, Grady High School cadets confine their mobilization to money-making.

On Dec. 4 and 5, JROTC students participated in the annual Empty Stocking Fund Drive. Atlanta Public Schools sent cadets into surrounding neighborhoods to raise money that goes towards Christmas gifts for children whose parents cannot afford them. This year, Grady cadets raised \$1,771.13 for the drive, a stark improvement from last year's \$300.

Sgt. Bleach explained why this year was more successful. "People in the community saw the need to give more," Bleach said. "And the children that went out conducted themselves like young men and women."

But he also sees another reason, unique to JROTC cadets: "When people see that uniform, there's a lot of respect." □

Masquerade hosts Spare Change, releases news of club's sale next year

BY WILLIAM VANDERKLOOT

From obnoxious punk rock to Norwegian death metal, to quiet folk music, the Masquerade has provided a stage for a wide variety of bands to practice their craft. Despite the success of the venue, Dean Riopelle, one of the owners of the club, recently told the press that he and his associates plan to sell the Masquerade to a new owner. The area will most likely be developed into retail space or condos, a trend that is commonly seen in the rapidly changing neighborhood in which The

Masquerade is located. Mosh-pit seekers, don't be alarmed: the closing of The Masquerade is not scheduled for at least another year.

One Masquerade show this year that sparked the interest of many students at Grady was the performance of Spare Change, a band consisting of UGA student and Grady alumnus Jake Jackson, juniors Reed Gott, Ben Martin and Will Martin, as well as one non-Grady student, Chaise Euwing. The audience had high Grady attendance--about 35 students and teachers

showed up.

"It was a good turnout," sophomore Forrest Aguar said. "There were more people there than I expected there to be."

The band played a variety of songs, including many instrumentals. The music was far more sophisticated than the typical teenage rock. Spare Change's music uses a rock-pop-jazz fusion that was lively and fun, and even changed pace for a bit, covering the '80s pop-rock hit "Eye of the Tiger" by Survivor. Overall, the band sounded well polished and professional.

"It's not really my type of music personally, but I guess it was good, whatever type of music it is," sophomore John Manfredi said after the show.

Conventional or not, the band has booked a second show at the Masquerade for Friday, Dec. 17th at 7p.m.

"I liked to hear how [the band] has changed and become more sophisticated," Aguar said. "They sounded good and had good stage presence. I was pretty impressed and would most likely go to another one of their shows." □

Robotics club formed, plans to compete next March

BY SHEARLON WHITE

Every year, students from different schools partake in cheerleading competitions, pre-season tournaments, publication conventions and debate tournaments. But this year, Grady students have found a new field of competition - robotics.

Two of Grady's new clubs, the Robotics Club and the Gaming Club, have united to compete in the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology robotics competition. FIRST is a non-profit organization founded by Dean Kamen, inventor of the Segway Human Transporter. The organization is designed to make science, math, technology and engineering fun for students.

Grady's Robotics Club will have six weeks to design and program a robot to represent Grady, which they plan to name Sir Gear-a-lot.

"The students will learn team building, planning, programming, mechanical, technical and lots of math and physics applications by being in the club," said Ms. Diane Young, the head of the science



KATI RITZ

MR. ROBOTO: Junior James Hutchins inspects electronics equipment at the first Robotics Club meeting. The group is partnering with the Gaming club. Together, they plan on entering Dean Kamen's FIRST competi-

department and facilitator of the Robotics Club.

"Being the facilitator of the Robotics Club takes a lot of time and commitment," Ms. Young said. But with the help of Grady teachers Mr. Gabangaye Gcabashe, Mr. Nikolai Curtis, Mr. Andrew Nichols and

Mr. David Olorunfemi, things should go much more smoothly. The Robotics Club will also receive help from The Georgia Institute of Technology, the club Hobby Robotics, Stevenson High School and Turner Broadcasting System engineers.

Turner is funding the Robotics Club, and

has given the club \$6,000 for registration fees and an additional \$4,000 for expenses such as spare parts for the robot, materials and team promotions. "This is a perfect chance to get started," said junior Thanh Vu, a member of the Robotics Club. "It's a great learning experience - you get programming and team working skills."

The Gaming Club, sponsored by Ms. Marian Tanis, will assist the Robotics Club by producing a 30-second animated cartoon to introduce their robot at the competition.

The Gaming Club joined the Robotics Club to enhance their resources, but they will be involved in their own projects. Members are expected to work together to design one game each semester. The games are meant to help students with school subjects.

With the combined power of these two clubs, Grady may add a new category to its list of awards.

"This is the first club I know that applies to engineering and mechanics," junior Jessica Brandon said. "I'm looking forward to the competition because it's fun to see something you built work, hopefully." □



CROSS YOUR FINGERS: Sophomore Danielle Shows looks her shot in during Grady's 49-44 OT loss to Luella.

Lady Knights lack effective offense in first loss

By DUY LAM

After a disappointing 7-14 season last year, the Lady Knights basketball team is looking to bounce back. Coach Dawn Baker, coming off her first year coaching at Grady, struggled to get last year's team to play together and communicate on the court. Things are expected to change dramatically this year, however, as the players and coaching staff get to know each other better and develop a more positive feeling on the court.

"We are more confident than last year and hope to interact with each other during the games better," junior guard Kai Woods said.

The Lady Knights will need to replace four key seniors lost to graduation: Lebritney Jones, Jamie Ivey, Ashley Anderson and Akila Glasby. There is a lot of pressure on this year's upperclassmen to step into their position and their leadership roles.

"My goal this year is to become more of a leader," Woods said. "I intend to speak out more and help with team unity."

This year's team features four seniors, a junior, three sophomores, and a couple of freshmen.

"We need to improve our depth and experience because we have a lot of young players this year," Coach Baker said. "Our biggest expectation this year is to develop

basketball players that don't mind playing hard."

The Lady Knights played their first game of the season at Turner Middle School against Washington High School. The game was a low-scoring affair as both teams had trouble finding their offense early. The Knights began to lose their composure after early foul trouble forced starters to sit on the bench. The Knights came out with energy in the second half, but ultimately Washington's low-post play and outside shooting buried the Knights 35-27.

"We played good defense, but our early foul troubles cost us in the end," senior Allison Ozell said. Ozell was forced to sit on the bench after four fouls in the first half.

Offensively, the Lady Knights failed to execute their offensive plan. They stepped up their defense during the fourth quarter to give the team a chance to win the game. The deficit, however, was too much for the Lady Knights to overcome as Washington held the ball and ran out the clock.

"We need a lot of improvement offensively. We need to stop getting intimidated and start remembering the plays," sophomore guard Tiffany Platt said. Platt played an excellent game, hitting three three-point shots, and scoring 12 of the team's 27 points. □

Jones starts as head coach

By GREG O'DONNELL

It's a hot, sticky day at East Proviso High School in Illinois. The sweat is cascading down the face of freshman shortstop Thomas Jones. Jones is on third base, anxiously waiting for his opportunity to steal home. He takes his lead off the bag and then suddenly sprints home before the pitcher releases the ball. "Safe," yells the umpire as Jones dives head first into home plate.

Now fast forward 25 years to the hallways of Grady High School. Thomas Jones, also known as Coach Jones, is getting ready for his first season as head varsity baseball coach for the Grey Knights. Jones has had the title of coach ever since the early '90s when he coached junior varsity baseball and football at Grady. The birth of his daughter in 1991, however, occupied most of his time and prevented him from coaching for the past 13 years.

"When you've been a coach somewhere it doesn't matter how long it's been, people still call you Coach," Jones said. Although his step may not be as speedy as it used to be, his philosophy is still the same: be aggressive at all times.

"My coach in high school was crazy, and he taught me a few things about aggressive play," Jones said. "My coaching style is aggressive, but there is a fine line between smart aggressiveness and stupidity."

Jones is the prime definition of a player's coach, for he can teach the game and still have fun. "I am a hands-on type of coach," Jones said. "If I tell my players to run three miles, I'm going to run it with them." That attitude is seemingly rubbing off on impressionable players.

"Coach Jones truly cares about his players, which will make us play harder," junior outfielder Mark Cheney said.

The Knights will need to play as hard

as possible this year to meet the huge expectations for the upcoming season. With six returning starters, including four seniors, the Knights are expected to contend for the region championship. But judging by his laidback attitude, Coach Jones doesn't seem daunted by the pressure.

"I understand I have some big shoes to fill, but I'm not worried because we have great senior leaders on this team," Coach Jones said. "As long as the chemistry is there we'll be alright."

Coach Jones understands that success begins in practice. He is planning a rigorous practice routine that will focus on endurance and speed training. The practice will begin with a three-mile jog followed by

a two-hour practice in which there will be no idle time. Jones wants his players to work hard in practice to better prepare themselves for the game. This difficult practice routine is

already turning heads on the team.

"Although it will be a tough practice, I think working hard will make us more disciplined in all aspects of the game," junior second baseman Nick Lemmond said.

Coach Jones is not the typical rookie head coach. He has had more playing experience than most high school coaches. After starting all four years of high school, he got a full scholarship to play at Southern University. He learned a hard work ethic his freshman year when he used to wake up at 6 a.m. to field ground balls.

"I was redshirted my freshman year so I didn't play, but that didn't keep me from getting better as a player," Coach Jones said. "I want to pass that work ethic down to my players and if they see me doing a drill then it will inspire them to do it too."

Grady comes into the season with no guarantees, but one thing is certain: this year's team will be aggressive. □

"I am a hands-on type of coach...If I tell my players to run three miles, I'm going to run it with them."

Coach Thomas Jones

Horseback riding often overlooked as rigorous sport

By WOODY MORGAN

As the wind whips across her face and she reflects on her life in the cool serenity of Piedmont Park, Emily Burke has to double-check her surroundings. She is at another grueling cross-country time trial, preparing for the state meet, but her mind is in a completely different world: a world not far from here, but one filled with big red barns and bushels of hay.

Burke has been infatuated with horses ever since her first ride at the age of four and has dreamed of lessons ever since. Her wish finally came true in August 2003 when she landed a job at Holly Stables, located in East Point on Camp Creek Parkway. She receives lessons there and works at the stables in order to pay them off.

"I do a lot of sweeping," Burke said, but that's not all. Along with cleaning the 12 stalls in the stable, Burke also helps prepare younger kids for their lessons. Linda Holly, the co-owner of the barn, focuses on teaching kids with disabilities. For Burke, lending a helping hand to these youngsters is the best part of the job, and it seems they get a lot more out of it than just learning how to ride a horse.

"For the ones with attention deficit disorder, the discipline that comes from riding helps them focus better in class," Burke said. "For those with muscular disorders, riding helps develop muscles that will better their walking in everyday life."

While Burke is a leading member of the varsity Grady cross country team, she would

rather be miles away grooming her favorite horse Harley rather than trying to PR for the next meet. "She is one of the most challenging horses to ride, which allows me to grow more as a rider," Burke said.

Emily first rode Harley at Girl Scout camp four years ago. To her surprise, Burke found Harley when she visited the stables last year. "I was excited about getting another chance to ride her," Burke said. Ever since becoming a staff member at Holly Stables, Burke has been saving up to buy Harley for herself.

As with other sports, there is a team in horseback riding: a team of two. "Riding is very much a team sport; it's just you and the horse," Burke said. Like any well-coached team, a rider must be perfectly in sync with their teammate at all times. Just as bonds form between players on the field, bonds are present between rider and thoroughbred in the corral.

From time to time, jocks will choose a college solely on the athletics program. Such is the case for Burke, except that her school of choice must have an equestrian team. The University of Georgia and Auburn University are two of the top schools she would love to attend. "Most people don't know it, but to be on the [equestrian] team at UGA you have to be able to run a mile in under 10 minutes," she reported. It looks like those cross-country skills will serve her well in a sport that requires her to be seated on another animal.

As Burke works towards her goal of making it on a college team, she reminds herself of the importance of a good foundation. "A lot of stuff I'm working on is really complex, but it's important

to remember the really basic things," she said. "It's just like other sports. Take soccer—you can't forget about conditioning even though you are practicing ball control."

The same feelings arise when Burke lines up to start a meet and when she mounts her horse for a competition. The competitive drive starts kicking in, but the end result of the two couldn't be more different. At the end of a meet, she may be pleased with her time, but she does not necessarily look forward to the demanding practice the following week.

After dismounting, however, she can't wait to climb back up on her horse and ride until her heart's content, galloping bareback on the 67½ acres at Holly Stables. □

GIDDY UP: Burke practices cantering on a horse named Hombre at Camp Misty Mountain.



Boys place second at state meet

By RUSH SEARSON

In a repeat performance of the 5-AA region meet, the 2004 boys cross country team fell short of a first-place finish at the state championship meet on Nov. 6 at Carrollton High School. Although seniors Nick Stephens and Saji Girvan placed first and second, running times of 15:55 and 16:16 respectively, it was not enough to send the team home with a championship trophy.

"Saji and I knew we had the individual spots wrapped up," Stephens said. "So the real focus was on the team finish."

Despite the low team average time of 17:16, the Knights were unable to post the least amount of points needed to win. Instead their season-long rival, the Lovett Lions, placed first with three runners in the top 10, a team average of 17:28 and a meet low of 53 points, 19 points ahead of the Knights.

"I'm not at all disappointed in what happened because everyone really gave it their all," Coach Richard Buerkle said.

The team improved two places from last year's state meet finish beating out Wesleyan and Greater Atlanta Christian School.

"Considering GAC and Wesleyan beat us last year, it was satisfying to finish in front of them this year," senior Daniel Montagne said.

Stephens and Girvan had expected to run faster times, but the lack of competition and the heat caused them to run slower. Wesleyan's Taylor Nilan stayed with the two until the second mile when they broke ahead. Nilan placed third,

45 seconds behind Girvan, and more than a minute behind Stephens.

"I finished as we predicted, but I was not pleased with my time," Girvan said. "It's hard to pace yourself and keep pushing when there's no one behind you."

An impressive showing from junior Wes Vernon has Buerkle looking forward to the season ahead. Vernon placed 10th individually with a time of 17:34, an improvement of 27 places and 1:05 from the 2003 state meet.

"I was especially pleased with Wes," Buerkle said. "He ran a great time on a hard course."

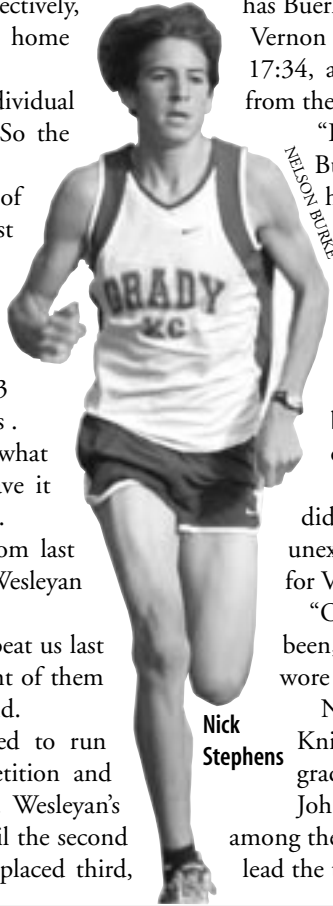
Junior Collier Johnson, Montagne and senior Nick Ward ran together throughout the race pushing one another to move ahead, and placed 29th, 30th and 31st respectively.

"I felt like we could have done better," Montagne said. "But we gave it our best shot."

Due to the small AA field, the meet did not begin until 1 p.m. As a result of the unexpected heat, every Grady runner except for Vernon slowed down after the first mile.

"Our first miles were where they should've been," Stephens said. "But the heat really wore on all us."

Next year will be a rebuilding year for the Knights. Four of the top seven runners will graduate. But returning runners Vernon, Johnson and sophomore Stone Irvin will be among the more experienced runners and hope to lead the team to another successful season. □



Nick Stephens

Girls finish fourth to end season

By WOODY MORGAN

Even though fourth place doesn't furnish the family room with a championship trophy to snuggle up to by the fire, it is starting to feel a lot like home to the Grady girls cross-country team. For the second year in a row, the girls have placed fourth in the state championship meet held Nov. 6 at Carrollton.

"They did exactly what I expected them to do," Coach Jeff Cramer said, "My goal every year is to qualify for state, and if you do that then you've had a good season."

Though the girls graduated their top runner, Kiah Vernon, last year, their finish this year did not reflect it; they ran better in 2004. In 2003, the Lady Knights placed fourth with a score of 170, having two runners in the top 20. In comparison, this year's girls finished with three girls in the top 20 and had a final score of 118, one point behind the third-place region-rival Lovett Lions. Pace took the title away from Wesleyan scoring a meet-low 77 points to Pace's 82.

"I actually started the season off worried about getting out of our region," Cramer said. "I couldn't have scripted this season any better."

Standout runners at this year's state meet were freshman runner Arielle D'Avanzo, sophomore Leah Bishop, and freshman Ella Miller who placed 12th, 14th and 17th respectively.

"They ran over their heads," Cramer said. "They really ran harder than I thought they were going to."

Cramer is already looking forward to next season, which he thinks will give Grady a better shot at a state championship.



GETTING LOOSE: The girls take a warm-up run prior to the state championship meet on Nov. 6. Their fourth place finish was largely due to the strong underclassmen runners.

"You have to expect to rebuild from scratch," Cramer said. "Every year I think I know who the top 10 are going to be, and then someone moves, gets injured, or gets involved in other extracurricular activities."

The team will be graduating six seniors from the squad, but the overall performance will not be greatly affected. Only four of these senior runners were in the top 12, running in the fifth, sixth and seventh spots on the squad.

As for D'Avanzo, she plans to stick with the sport next year.

"I want to stay in shape, and I enjoy the intensity of the sport," D'Avanzo said. "[The state meet] was a lot harder than region, but more people were there, so the crowd kept you going. It was definitely more exciting than the region meet."

The last two years, the girls have been ousted from the top three

spots by private schools. In 2003, Wesleyan took first, followed by Pace Academy and Walker.

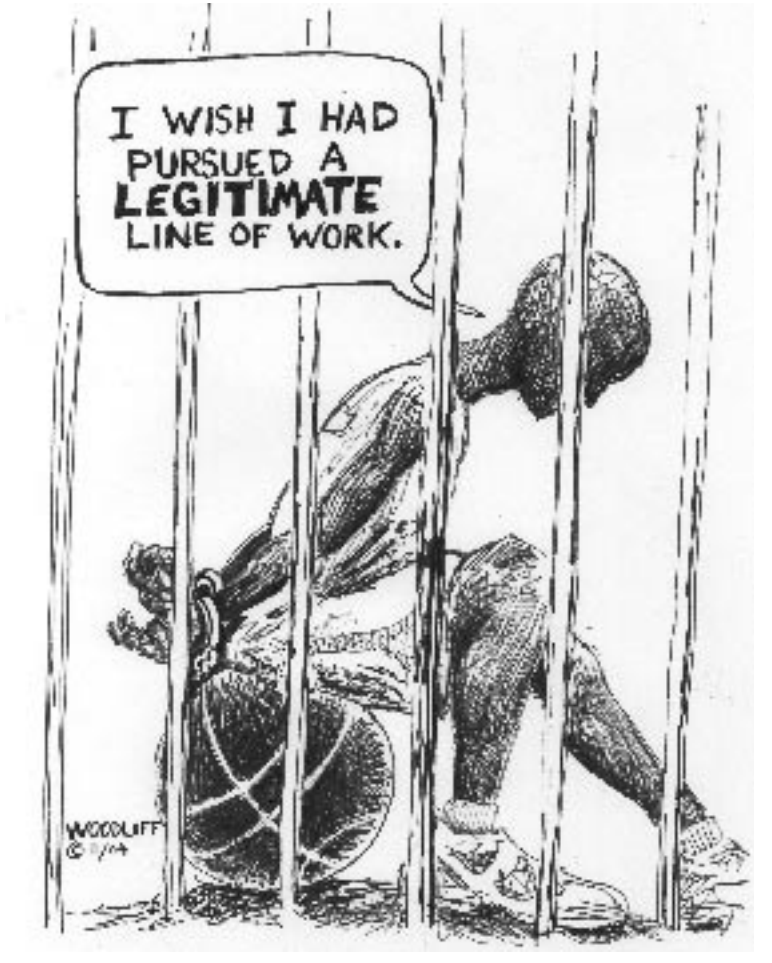
"The big issue in cross-country, and all sports in Georgia, is the public/private differential to compete against each other," Cramer said. "I've received mail requesting that I help stop public schools from being allowed to compete against private schools, but I disagree. We enjoy competing against them."

With the majority of their top runners returning next year, and hopefully a strong turnout from the class of 2009, the Grady girls cross-country team looks ahead at a bright future. But, with a look back at this season, Cramer realized this was one of the hardest working group of girls he's ever coached.

"They were very close-knit and very supportive of each other," he said. "Overall, it was a really fun season; we had a good time." □

“My goal every year is to qualify for state, and if you do that, then you’ve had a good season.”

Coach Jeff Cramer



College basketball not ready for sheer dominance of ACC



STEVEN JOHNSON

Of the top 20 college basketball programs in all the land, six of them belong to a single conference: the Atlantic Coast Conference. The ACC has almost always housed a couple or three basketball powerhouses in its time, but never has collegiate basketball seen such domination by a single conference with six squads sure to make their opponents pine for their mothers. The potential of what this "new-look" ACC could do on, and off, the court this 2004-2005 basketball season is gigantic. When the time comes for conference play, the ACC will be nothing but a pack of wild dogs going at each other each and every second of each and every game. It'll be like throwing Muhammad Ali, Mike Tyson, Evander Holyfield and George Foreman into one ring for a two-month battle royal. The ACC in basketball is the equivalent of the ancient Romans to the rest of the measly little world thousands of years ago. It's the equivalent of a hurricane hitting a trailer with three wheels and a rickety roof. With three teams ranked in the preseason top five in the ESPN/USA Today Coaches Poll (Wake Forest, North Carolina and Georgia Tech at second, third and fourth respectively), there is a large possibility that three or even four ACC teams could make the Final Four this year.

The ACC is not only home to dynastic programs and a long history of greatness, but also to some of the greatest players in today's game. Take Wake Forest sophomore point guard Chris Paul for example. After seeing a best friend in his grandfather pass away, he vowed in his next high school game to score his

grandfather's age as a tribute to his passing. After reaching 60 points, he was sent to the foul-line for two shots. Once he made his first, reaching his grandfather's age with his 61st point (a remarkable feat in and of itself), he purposely threw the ball out of bounds and walked off the court.

The ACC has J.J. Redick, the purest shooter the game has seen since Chris Mullin; Jarret Jack, the inspirational guard of the Ramblin' Wreck of Georgia Tech; and Julius Hodge, a spirited, motivated player who loves to hustle and hates to give up. The ACC has the best big men: Sean May, Shelden Williams and Luke Schenscher. It has the best coaches: Mike Krzyzewski, Roy Williams and Skip Prosser. It has the best arenas: Cameron Indoor Stadium and the Dean Dome. It even has the best fans, most notably the annoying but effective Cameron Crazies. The ACC rules high over any other conference when it comes to basketball. It dominates like King Kong did the Empire State building and the city of New York. It is very possible this season that the nation could see the best college-basketball performance by a single conference in a long, long time. Even the less-hyped teams like Virginia, Florida State and Clemson are always good for a couple of upsets.

Sure, there are those who are yelling "What about Kansas!" or "Oklahoma State's good!" But too bad there's no one within earshot to even pay attention to their silly protests. The ACC is the answer, the truth and the real deal, all rolled up into one tight little package. I'm going to say it once, and only once: six teams from the ACC will make the Sweet 16 in March and three will make it to St. Louis for the Final Four. The ACC is simply that good. □

KNIGHT WATCH

WINTER SPORTS UPDATE

BOYS BASKETBALL

Grady 42, WASHINGTON 39
Washington 56, GRADY 54
Luella 62, GRADY 53
THERRELL 79, Grady 53
Grady 66, PAIDEIA 33

Region 5-AA Standings

	REGION		OVERALL	
	W	L	W	L
Cross Keys	4	0	6	1
Pace	3	0	6	0
Lovett	2	0	3	0
Crim	2	0	2	0
GRADY	1	0	2	3
Decatur	1	1	2	1
Holy Innocents	1	2	2	4
Carver	0	2	1	2
Walker	0	3	3	3
Paideia	0	4	0	6

GIRLS BASKETBALL

WASHINGTON 35, Grady 27
Washington 56, GRADY 37
Luella 49, GRADY 44 (Overtime)
THERRELL 43, Grady 38
PAIDEIA 46, Grady 39

Region 5-AA Standings

	REGION		OVERALL	
	W	L	W	L
Pace	3	1	6	1
Paideia	3	1	4	2
Lovett	2	0	4	1
Holy Innocents	2	0	4	1
Walker	1	0	4	1
GRADY	0	1	0	5
Carver	0	2	1	3
Crim	0	2	0	2
Decatur	0	2	0	2
Cross Keys	0	2	0	4

*All caps denotes home team



ALL PHOTOS BY SCOTT KING



ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL: Freshman wide receiver Andrerius Thomas (far left) watches the ball into his hands against the Carver Panthers. Thomas had five touchdown receptions on the year. Sophomore running back Zachary Koen (above) stiff arms a Crim Eagle out of the way en route to a 37-6 victory. Head Coach Ronnie Millen (left) led the Knights to a second-place region finish and the first playoff victory in more than 50 years.

KNIGHTS top expectations, look ahead

from page 1

the undefeated Calhoun Yellow Jackets ended Grady's postseason hopes with a 37-3 victory in the second round of the state playoffs.

Grady began the game with a drive that led to a Jason Pimsler 39-yard field goal, the Knights only points of the game. Calhoun used their size and strength to rebound, scoring 37 unanswered points.

On the bus ride back from Calhoun, the seniors gave advice to the other players: to work hard during the offseason and come back strong next year.

The players took that advice to heart and a week after Grady's season ended,

preparation for the next year began. The team has begun weight training Mondays through Thursdays in the renovated workout room under the practice gym.

"Our team has so much potential," Kelley said. "We could be as successful as this year. We have athletes, but we need to get stronger."

Junior linebacker Cedric Sykes began weight training with goals of bouncing back from a leg injury suffered against North Atlanta in the second game of the season.

"The season was over, and I hadn't played in 11 weeks," Sykes said. "I know that I could have contributed to the team. The fact that I only played only one game

motivates me to get bigger, stronger and faster."

The team does a lot of joking around in the weight room, but they are also there to work. The Knights will only be losing eight seniors, meaning the team that learned to play so well together will still be largely intact next season.

"We know we have talent, we are a young team that needs to get more physically dominant," Sykes said. With young players and hard work, the Knights should have little problem improving this year's 8-4 record and playoff success.

"We have all the tools to compete for a state championship," Kelley said. □

Knights fall by two after opening season with victory

By WALKER RICK

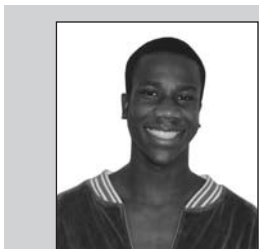
By beating the Washington Bulldogs 42-39, in their season opener, the boys varsity basketball team equalled their regular-season win total from the year before. But in the rematch on Nov. 23, it was Washington who walked off the court with a win, 56-54.

The Knights entered the season with plenty of room for improvement. In the 2003-04 season, the Knights had one of the worst seasons in Grady history, ending with a 2-20 record. Both wins, one in the regular season and one in the regional playoffs, came against Holy Innocents', whose only win was against Grady.

The Knights have returned most of their key contributors this year and have picked up several young players to replace the four seniors lost to graduation.

"It is on the returning players to step up and lead the team," said freshman small forward Andrerius Thomas. "The young guys don't have the experience to step up yet, so those who do will have to."

Entering the game on Nov. 23 the Knights knew they would see a different Washington team than they had five days before. In that game the Bulldogs were missing



KEVIN HOLLY

Position: point guard
Height: 6-foot
Weight: 165 pounds
Grade Level: junior
Years Varsity: three



ANDRERIUS THOMAS

Position: shooting guard
Height: 6-foot-3
Weight: 165 pounds
Grade Level: freshman
Years Varsity: one



GERALD PERRIMAN

Position: center
Height: 6-foot-5
Weight: 180 pounds
Grade Level: senior
Years Varsity: three



MICHAEL GUNN

Position: small forward
Height: 6-foot-4
Weight: 185 pounds
Grade Level: junior
Years Varsity: three



TONY BRYANT

Position: power forward
Height: 6-foot-2
Weight: 196 pounds
Grade Level: junior
Years Varsity: one

several key players because their football team was still in the state playoffs. These players debuted against Grady on Nov. 23 after their football team fell to Ware County 10-7 the previous Friday.

Early in the game, the Knights struggled to get their offense going. Plagued by turnovers and missed free throws, the Knights fell behind 15-8 at the end of the first quarter.

The Knights' struggles continued during the second quarter, and they entered halftime trailing 26-18. The Bulldogs were carried by a terrific performance

from guard Jimmy Williams, who scored 12 of his 16 points in the first half.

The Knights came out strong to start the third quarter, led by Thomas's 12 third-quarter points, But Thomas fell off in the fourth quarter, recording only two points and finishing with 18.

"We struggled to run our offense in the first half," said junior point guard Kevin Holly. "Coach Slade yelled at us at halftime about the amount of turnovers we had made and told us that it was up to us to fix it."

Entering the fourth quarter, the

Knights had closed the once 16-point deficit to only three points, at 40-37.

Grady's good play continued throughout the fourth quarter and they tied the game at 45. The teams traded buckets for the next couple of possessions and were still deadlocked at 51 with two minutes to play. The Knights' scoring attack was led by senior forward Gerrald Perriman who tallied two three-point plays and 11 points, all in the second half.

Keeping Washington close was center George Robinson, who had 13 second-half points.

In the closing minute, Grady had the ball and a chance to tie, trailing by only three, when point guard Kevin Holly's pass was intercepted by Washington's Williams who converted the uncontested layup, giving the Bulldogs a 56-51 lead. A buzzer beater by junior power forward Michael Gunn pulled the Knights within two but no closer.

"A lot of people want to blame the game on our late turnover," Gunn said. "But if we could have made our free throws earlier in the game, we never would have had to come from behind." □