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THE INKWELL



Week of September 29, 2011

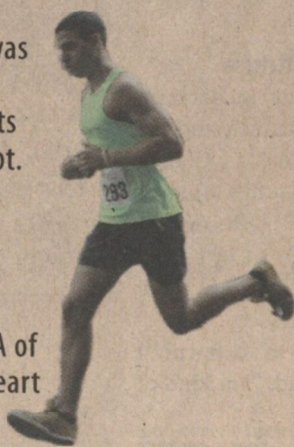
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Volume 80, Issue 24

Events

Heart of Savannah run benefits needy families

Though the race was slated to start at 8 a.m., participants were out early Sept. 24 around Forsyth Park, warming up and getting their numbers for the 22nd annual YMCA of Coastal Georgia Heart of Savannah 5K Run/1 Mile Walk.

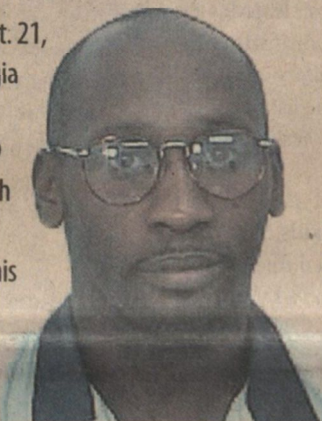


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Opinions

Taking a hard look at the death penalty

At 11:08 p.m. Sept. 21, the State of Georgia executed Troy Davis for the 1989 killing of Savannah police officer Mark MacPhail. This happened in the face of hundreds of thousands of people rallying against his execution because of Davis' possible innocence. Yet, just over three hours after his scheduled execution at 7 p.m., the United States Supreme Court officially denied Davis a stay of execution, and killed all hope that a man who was possibly innocent would be exonerated.



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Community center keeps Southside kids active

Its location feels hidden, even as signs guide you to its door. You turn down one side street, then onto another canopied by the arms of moss-laced oaks to find it. At the end of the road lies the Windsor Forest Regional Center, a fixture in Armstrong's backyard for more than 15 years.

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New cheerleading coach renews Pirates' spirit

When Charita Hardy resigned at the end of last season, the search for a new cheerleading coach began. When the summer passed, and the semester started, a new coach had not been found. Many rumors of not having a cheerleading squad this season spread across campus.

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Campus task force looks at smoking

University offers survey to measure student response

By Brittany Cook

In 2005, the Georgia Smoke-free Act prohibited smoking in any building — including private offices — owned, leased or operated by any department for the state of Georgia. In January 2011, Savannah banned smoking from all businesses that allow the public inside, with the exception of two hookah bars and businesses run out of private homes. And now an Armstrong task force is hoping to eradicate all tobacco use on campus to create a healthier environment for students. Because this issue affects every person on campus, the task force is seeking input from the Armstrong community.

In the United States, 250 colleges are currently tobacco-free. Twelve of those colleges are in Georgia.

"We would like to see Armstrong become the 13th school in Georgia to be 100-percent tobacco-free," said Sara Plaspohl, a professor in the health sciences department and a member of the Armstrong Tobacco Control Task Force.

The task force is composed of 11 members of the Armstrong community, as well as other organizations in Savannah. The Student Government Association also plays a part in the project.

In the past, SGA conducted small-scale assessments, reviewing the attitudes of 200 people to this proposal, said SGA President Ty Slater. On Sept. 19, a large-scale survey was launched online to provide all members of the campus community the opportunity to express their opinions about the initiative.

The existing policy could remain unchanged, allowing students, faculty and staff to continue smoking and using all tobacco products in all outdoor areas on campus. However, if the popular view leans toward changing the current policy, the task force is exploring three possible options.

The policy can be revised to support a smoke-restricted campus with designated smoking areas.

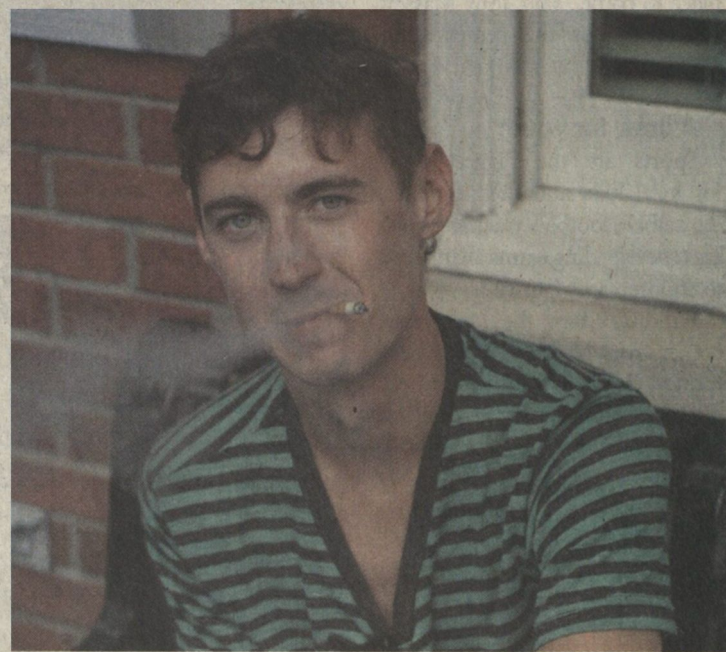
"I think if they're going to do something about it — try to eliminate it either way — they should do the designated areas," said sophomore Corey Rockett, a radiologic science major. "But they shouldn't make it a faraway place — something near where people hang out."

The policy could also be revised to sustain a smoke-free campus without designated smoking areas.

However, this policy is restricted to cigarettes. All other forms of tobacco use would be allowed.

"I want it banned because secondhand smoke on this campus — it's just unavoidable," said psychology major April Graves, a sophomore. "The smokers, they stand in front of the doors. A lot of them don't even care that people don't

SMOKING | PAGE 2



Art major Edward Nixon says that he doesn't want to have to go off campus whenever he wants a cigarette.

Veteran services brings military to campus

By David Irwin

Military veterans have attended Armstrong for as long as one can remember. Currently the campus supports more than 575 veterans including active-duty military, reservists, National Guardsmen and military dependents who make up nearly 10 percent of Armstrong's student population. However, there are other veterans on campus who don't use benefits, said the university's Veteran Affairs Coordinator, Laura Pallini.

Pallini said Armstrong has a variety of majors that military veterans participate in. These concentrations range from liberal arts and education to science and technology. Nursing, however, is the most popular concentration among veterans.

Additionally, Pallini said veterans bring nearly \$1.4 million a semester to the Armstrong campus in tuition and fees.

Thaddeus Pickett, a 19-year Army veteran, currently uses his veterans benefits to pay for earning a history degree.

"Without the veterans benefits packet, I might not have had an opportunity to accomplish my goal of completing a higher education," Pickett said.

Pickett recommends younger veterans get all the information they can on education benefits before they transition from the military to the civilian world.

Danielle McFadden, a six-year Army veteran, currently uses her benefits for her pre-dental hygiene major.

McFadden said without the veterans benefits she would have to acquire a loan, work full time and

try to maintain a quality of life.

McFadden advises her fellow newly arrived veterans to talk with other seasoned veterans who have been in the school system for a while. These seasoned veterans simply know more on how the system works and will provide advice from their experience.

"Veterans have a wide range of academic challenges," Pallini said. "For example, active-duty soldier-students have a military commitment to contend with, like training exercises or overseas obligations."

"The good news is while attending full or part time, veterans consistently range around three to 15 hours in a semester. What is encouraging — most veterans on average are able to maintain 15 semester hours a semester and will normally complete their degree program in a 10-semester curriculum or a four-to-five-year period."

Pallini pointed out some veterans cannot complete their degrees because of their commitments.

"Veterans run out of benefits which would require them to find other means to pay for their education. Active-duty military are often transferred to another duty assignment which brings their education to a standstill or finish their degree at another college."

Pallini had this advice for veterans who might be struggling to complete their degrees:

"Changing your major could stall your progress. If you are able to maintain a full-time status it will always increase your chances to complete your degree, and if you need help don't be afraid to ask for help from other subject-matter experts."

Veteran benefits

Pallini additionally points out some veterans, including active-duty soldiers, are not completely informed or don't realize they have benefits. Veteran Affairs does refer the following available benefits to veterans.

Chapter 30 - Montgomery GI Bill - Active Duty

Chapter 31 - VA Vocational Rehabilitation

Chapter 33 - Post 911 (This is for anyone who was active duty after Sept. 11, 2001. Reservist and National Guard are also eligible if they were activated.)

Chapter 35 - Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program

Chapter 1606 - Montgomery GI Bill - Selected Reserve

Chapter 1607 - Reserve Educational Assistance Program

Active Duty Tuition Assistance

Reserve Tuition Assistance

National Guard Tuition Assistance

Veteran Affairs handles all branches of VA benefits. However, her office only handles Army tuition assistance. For more information, contact Pallini at laura.pallini@armstrong.edu.

Crime Blotter

Thief pilfers mountain bike

By Brittany Cook

University Police Officer Tiffany Land was recalled to police headquarters on Sept. 7 regarding a report of larceny. A student noticed that his navy blue and silver bicycle was missing around 5:45 p.m. He last saw his bike at 1:30 p.m. on his way to class.

"Bicycles all throughout the civilized world are pretty much items that are taken," said Police Chief Wayne Willcox. "Not only do we have a lot of bicycles — not only in Savannah but any city around here — that are taken, but the police tend to recover a large number of them. But nobody ever claims them."

The police believe this problem stems from owners rarely knowing anything more than the color of their bicycle. Now, cyclists register their bikes with campus police. They must record the serial number, color, make and model of their vehicles, making them much easier to track if stolen, Willcox said.

As Armstrong is an open campus, anyone from the community may enter the university's grounds, and they do, the police chief said. Many bicycles are stolen because the thief lacks transportation. Because many students don't secure their bikes, they are targets for theft.

"Most of the things that occur are so easy to prevent," Willcox said.

However, the student's Haro-manufactured vehicle was locked to a bike rack in front of the 3,000 building at Compass Point. It had shocks, a soft seat and springs.

Using a lock to protect property is extremely important. However, many locks can be effortlessly broken.

"If you go on YouTube, you can find all sorts of videos helping to defeat bicycle locks," Willcox said. "A number of locks are easily defeated."

Because there are only two or three officers on duty during a shift, the police cannot be responsible for protecting student property, Willcox said. The mountain bike was valued at \$500.

"For just riding around here, you probably don't want to invest in a very expensive bicycle. You just want something that's basic transportation."

Armstrong mat goes missing

On Sept. 12, Officer Brian Girardeau responded to a report of larceny at the Sports Center. Between 5 p.m. on Sept. 11 and 7 a.m.

CRIME | PAGE 2

Community center keeps Southside kids active

By Erica Archangel

Its location feels hidden, even as signs guide you to its door. You turn down one side street, then onto another canopied by the arms of moss-laced oaks to find it. At the end of the road lies the Windsor Forest Regional Center, a fixture in Armstrong's backyard for more than 15 years. The city-funded center reaches out to youth of the surrounding neighborhood with social, academic and athletic programs.

"We are trying to keep kids off the street and give them a safe place to come," said Tony Massey, supervisor for the center since 1998.

A draw for youth

Sports are the biggest draw for local kids and their families. Basketball, football, track, baseball and cheerleading teams are offered to children ages 5 to 12.

Funding for the programs comes from booster clubs, where money is raised through car washing and other fundraising events, and coaches are mostly parents and local volunteers.

"If it wasn't for our volunteers, we wouldn't have the amount of kids that we do," Massey said.

Irvin Riley has been volunteering at the community center for the last seven years, coaching football, track, girl's basketball and "whatever else they need" every Monday through Friday.

"Most of the coaches know each other real well," Riley said. "It's like a family atmosphere."

Several of the programs have earned a great deal of success. The girl's basketball program won the city championship the last four years, and the football program helped produce professional players. Massey said Michael Thompson of the Atlanta Falcons once played at the community center, as well as Eron Riley of the Denver Broncos.

"I don't think we made these players, but I think we made an impact on their lives," Massey said.

The center also offers tutoring. An after-school program and a computer room provide help to students with homework.



Neighborhood youth participate in after-school activities at the Windsor Forest Regional Center. Photo by Erica Archangel

Windsor Forest

The Windsor Forest Regional Center is looking for college volunteers to help with tutoring and the after-school program, which runs four days a week. Potential tutors must pick up an application at the center's front office.

About 200 people a day visit the center, including children from all over Savannah. Step and clogging classes, strength and exercise sessions, and summer youth camps are offered to children.

Yoga is offered to adults on Saturdays from noon to 1 p.m. The cost is \$10.

More information can be found through the Recreation Services Department webpage on Savannahga.gov.

If you would like to volunteer with after-school tutoring or coaching sports at the Windsor Forest Regional Center, contact Tony Massey at 912-921-2105. The center is located at 414 Briarcliff Circle, just a few minutes from Armstrong.

"A lot of kids just come here for the support, I believe," said Valeria Mike, mother of 10-year-old cheerleader Jaliyah. "It's almost like a home away from home. They motivate them and are like second parents."

Facilities also include a weight room, a dance studio and a game room furnished with a TV, a foosball machine and other gaming equipment.

Andre Luke, a 17-year-old Windsor Forest High School junior, has attended the center for more than 12 years to play basketball.

"It's relaxing here, and I like to

play basketball," Luke said. "If I weren't here, I'd just be at home sleeping."

Javonte Abeny, 13, walks to the center every afternoon. "Everybody is really nice to you," he said. "Nobody is mean or wants to fight."

Jaleia Jackson, 14, shares the sentiment: "I come every day after school. It's fun. Everyone gets along."

Not without problems

Kids and young adults from Savannah's inner-city areas have increased traffic in the center, but issues stem from the influx.

"This community I think is a great community, but when you bring people from a bad environment, they're going to bring their problems," Massey said. "I remember one year, we had a problem with someone coming in and knocking down the senior citizens in the parking lot and stealing from them."

The city hired a security guard for just two hours a day to prevent further mishaps. Eventually, the position dissolved under budget cuts. At present, Massey, who stands at a burly 6-foot-4 inches tall, watches out for the older members who frequent the

building.

Most of the center's parking-lot security issues occur at night. Cameras stationed around the building's exterior have filmed fights and even a robbery occurring under the orange light of the lot's street lamps.

"The problems we have are not during business hours," Massey said. "It's after dark with the building being back away from the cut like it is when I see most of the problems."

For now, Massey invites local police to park in front of the center while filling out paperwork as a deterrent to would-be troublemakers.

An uncertain future

Built in 1993 and maintained by the City of Savannah and the Savannah-Chatham County Board of Education, the Windsor Forest Regional Center's contract is set to expire in 2013. City budget cuts have Massey anxious about the fate of the center.

"What's going to happen? I don't know," he said. "I'm kind of worried about it."

Tightening of the center's budget caused the layoff of one staff member so far, leaving one of Savannah's largest community centers with only three paid employees. Adult programs not sponsored by the sports booster clubs, such as Zumba classes, have also been scaled back or eliminated.

Yet the center still looks to expand where possible. Massey is setting his sights on furthering the positive community outreach and, to round out the list of sports programs offered, on a future soccer team.

"I just hope that it continues to be an outlet for kids, that they come back and volunteer, and that it continues to be a safe place," Massey said.

Erica Archangel is an English major and has worked as a student worker for Armstrong's marketing and communications department since April. In her articles, she is covering places, people and events outside and unaffiliated with Armstrong to suspend conflicts of interest.

Campus Voices

Reported by Brittany Cook

"Do you feel that smoking should be banned from campus?"



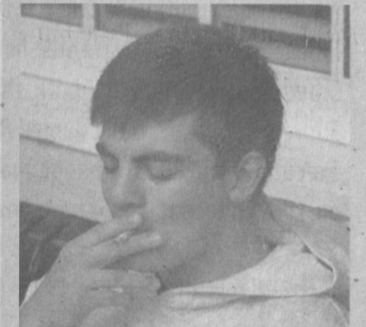
"No, because people have a choice. I think that there should be areas for smoking, but I believe that people have a choice in what they do. And if they want to smoke, let them smoke."

Elizabeth Ross, nursing, sophomore



"I have asthma and bronchitis, so whenever there is someone who's not especially nice about their smoking in front of you, I get to choke."

Courtney Cochran, psychology, freshman



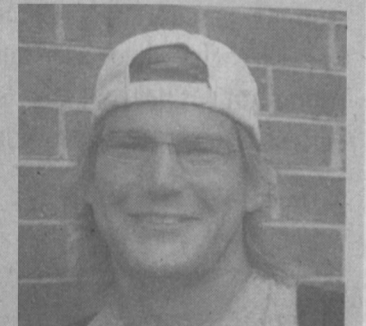
"I wouldn't want them to. I don't think I'm bothering anybody."

Michael Wilkins, information technology, junior



"No. I mean if you don't smoke, you can always go to where people aren't smoking."

Savana Love, undeclared, freshman



"I'm for it. My actions shouldn't affect other people."

Tanner Truesdell, chemistry, graduate student

SMOKING | FROM PAGE 1

want to walk past that. I mean there are places that would be more smoker-friendly, but they choose not to stand there. It makes me upset, and I hate the smell of smoke."

A third option would be to extensively alter the present policy to forbid any type of tobacco use on campus. This would mean that no tobacco products could be used on campus — including residential areas — outlawing cigarettes, chewing tobacco and other tobacco products, as well as electronic-cigarettes.

"If we went tobacco-free — 100 percent tobacco-free — that would be the best possible outcome," Plaspohl said. "That would mean that

no one, that means students, faculty and staff — that includes everyone — could have tobacco products or could use tobacco products on campus, and that would include pipes and cigars and anything else like that."

After losing the ability to smoke in bars — which were once havens for many smokers — in January, many students who smoke are outraged by the possible ban.

"I believe in the whole alcohol thing, but it's tobacco," Rockett said. "I mean pretty much you should be able to smoke if you want."

However, the campus seems to be split over the matter, as many students — including

smokers — are sympathetic toward the movement to promote a healthier environment.

"I can understand it because I, myself, am an asthmatic, so having to walk through other people's smoke — it's kind of a problem for me," said junior Johnnie Williams, an occasional smoker. "I can see why they'd be doing it."

Although many students believe that this initiative is designed to eliminate the right to smoke, the task force maintains the project focuses on the health of the community and keeping the environment clean.

"[Their] right to smoke ends where my right to health

begins," said Nathan Rich, a first-year political science major. "There are more ashtrays on campus than trash cans."

After the survey is complete, the results will be analyzed and the campus task force will make a recommendation to Armstrong President Linda Bleicken, who will make the final decision regarding the policy.

If the campus becomes tobacco-free, the task force is looking into starting programs to help students, faculty and staff abdicate their tobacco habits, as well as possibly removing the ashtrays from campus.

CRIME | FROM PAGE 1

on Sept. 12, an Armstrong embroidered floor mat, valued at \$241.50, was stolen.

"They're really stealing from everybody in the university. This was bought with university funds — I'm guessing — because it's part of the university's property. That means you paid for it. I paid for it. We all paid for it," Willcox said.

"If I have to go and have police officers follow up on tips and stuff like that, it's probably a criminal charge, but if somebody has regret that they did it or were involved in it, just come and tell us about it. We get it back, and we're good."

Campus Briefs

Writing conference convenes at Armstrong

The Armstrong Center will host the Coastal Savannah Writing Project's second annual Leap into Literacy Conference on Oct. 1 from 8:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Co-author of the multimedia text "Songs of Freedom," Bryan Marshall, will discuss the area of "Multi-Genre, Multi-Media Reading and Writing," informing educators about new writing strategies.

Two breakout sessions, exhibiting a choice of six one hour teaching workshops, will be featured during the conference and open to all local teachers, pre-service teacher-candidates and school administrators.

To register for the conference, visit www.cswp.armstrong.edu.

Anthropology club launches new program

The Armstrong Anthropology Club launched its new chapter, Roots and Shoots, at their International Day of Peace, which was held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sept. 21 in front of the Student Union.

Roots and Shoots will hold three yearly events, focusing on the environment, people and animals. Each member is also required to complete two hours of community service dedicated to the organization.

The program aims to promote peace throughout the community and is open to all students. Members of the Anthropology Club who also want to join the Roots and Shoots program need the all-in-one membership, costing \$8. Membership for all other students costs \$2.

For more information, contact Jennifer Nusbaum at jennmamy@gmail.com.



Courtesy of Jennifer Nusbaum

The anthropology club launched Roots and Shoots in front of the Student Union Sept. 21.

The Inkwell

Death penalty: unpardonable when poorly executed

Davis execution should spark national discourse on capital punishment

By Phil Parham

At 11:08 p.m. Sept. 21, the State of Georgia executed Troy Davis for the 1989 killing of Savannah police officer Mark MacPhail. This happened in the face of hundreds of thousands of people rallying against his execution because of Davis' possible innocence. Yet, just over three hours after his scheduled execution at 7 p.m., the United States Supreme Court officially denied Davis a stay of execution, and killed all hope that a man who was possibly innocent would be exonerated.

Davis' presumed innocence was fueled by the questionable circumstances surrounding his death-penalty conviction. The conviction was based primarily on the eyewitness testimonies of nine individuals, one of whom was implicated as the actual killer by four defense witnesses. One witness recanted his testimony during cross-examination by the defense, stating the police used strong-arm tactics to coerce him into pegging Davis as the killer. Two of the witnesses testified that Davis confessed to the killing during private conversation — hearsay evidence that should not have been admissible.

After his conviction and sentencing, seven of the nine witnesses either recanted or contradicted their testimonies, stating they were threatened and coerced into testifying against Davis by members of the Savannah Police Department.

The only physical evidence offered by the prosecutor was the bullets pulled from MacPhail's body and the bullet casings found at the scene. No weapon, fingerprints or DNA were found at the scene of the crime that could link those bullets and casings to Troy Davis.

And so, without any incriminating physical evidence against Davis, and on the testimony of discredited witnesses, the jury convicted Davis of murder and

recommended he be executed by the State.

Miscarriage of justice

Throughout the appeals process, Davis was never granted a retrial. The closest he came to a retrial was a two-day evidentiary hearing in federal district court in Savannah. However, any new evidence that was available at the time of the initial trial was not admitted into the proceedings because the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 bars death row inmates from presenting evidence in a new trial that could have been presented in their initial trial.

Instead, the Supreme Court ordered the district court to determine if there existed any hard evidence that "could not be obtained at the time of the trial that clearly establishes Davis' innocence."

However, Davis' conviction was not based on hard evidence, but instead on eyewitness testimony and hearsay. No hard evidence existed that proved his guilt, and so no hard evidence existed proving his innocence. It seemed the only evidence that would clear Davis was DNA, but since none existed, the trial seemed to be merely an appeasement for Davis' supporters.

The presiding judge, William Moore, gave the seven testimonial recantations "no evidence whatsoever," because he considered them to be untrustworthy. Why then, if those eyewitnesses were willing to recant their original testimony under oath, would the original testimony used to convict Davis not also be considered unreliable, which should have been reason enough to grant Davis a retrial?

With no court willing to grant Davis a retrial on the heavily supported likelihood that the State was in danger of executing an innocent man, Davis ran out of options late Sept. 21.

Davis continued to profess his innocence with his dying words. He urged his supporters to keep digging into the



Supporters of Troy Davis gather across the road from Georgia's death row prison in Jackson, Ga., Sept. 21.

Mike Haskey/Columbus Ledger-Enquirer/MCT

case to find out the truth — that he was not "personally responsible" for the death of Mark MacPhail. Unfortunately, cases wherein the convicted is executed rarely continue to be examined. In the eyes of the state, the case is closed, and defense teams move on to the next questionable capital punishment case that offers them, yet again, the chance to prevent a miscarriage of justice.

A contentious punishment

Cases such as this one should cause us to reexamine whether or not the death penalty is a viable and just punishment for those convicted of capital crimes. Like abortion, the death penalty is an issue that divides the nation. One would be hard-pressed to find someone who does not have a strong opinion on capital punishment, one way or the other.

I am a strong believer that the death penalty is a just and appropriate punishment for those who maliciously take the life of another human being. My reasons for believing this way are purely logical.

Those against capital punishment often argue that the distribution of the death

penalty is not doled out fairly and is often biased. However, if one murderer receives life in prison while another receives the death penalty, the guilt of the two parties is in no way diminished by the discrepancy in punishment, nor is one less deserving of a certain punishment than the other.

This is not injustice, because injustice does not lie in the nature of the punishment that a guilty party receives. Injustice lies only in the maldistribution of punishment to an innocent person.

Many of those against the death penalty also believe that capital punishment, for the murderer, is brutal and inhumane. There is no way to know whether or not the murderer suffered more than his or her victim, but unlike the murderer, the victim did not deserve any of the suffering.

But the purpose of punishment is not vindication. It is not to be based on the amount of suffering the victim experienced. The purpose of punishment is to vindicate the law and the crime that was committed against society as a whole. This is illustrated in the fact that kidnappers' sentences are not limited to the amount

of time in which the victim was wrongfully imprisoned.

As to the argument that capital punishment is unjust and inhumane, it cannot be unjust to someone who is guilty of a capital crime. Everyone who lives under the rules of our society is aware of the punishments in place, and those who would commit a capital crime do so with the full knowledge of the risks involved. Death cannot be inhumane if it is the end shared by all who are living.

Many abolitionists believe that taking the life of a human being — whether victim or criminal — is morally reprehensible. If this were the case, no logical argument I could make would sway a critic of the death penalty. At the same time, a critic's personal moral views do not weaken the logic behind my argument.

Inherently flawed

Having laid out my defense of the death penalty, my position on capital punishment is this: the government should abolish the use of the death penalty as a punishment for capital crimes.

According to deathpenaltyinfo.org, 138 death row inmates have

been exonerated of all guilt while awaiting their execution since 1973. That's 138 innocent people who would have been put to death by the government had it not been for the work of organizations like the Innocence Project, which fights to exonerate death row inmates whose guilt is questionable.

There is no way of knowing how many truly innocent people have been executed by the state — victims of miscarriages of justice. The finality of the death penalty does not allow justice for those victims.

Our justice system is inherently flawed, and there will always be a small chance that a mistake was made. Human life is far too precious to be subjected to the chance that an innocent person could be put to death because of a mistake. There should be no such thing as a casualty of the system, no matter how logical an argument one could make in defense of the death penalty.

Columnist Phil Parham is a law and society major at Armstrong.

Worry about graduation tests now instead of later

The Inkwell editorial board

Summer's over, but seniors should start sweating now. It's the end of September, and it's easy for them to feel like they have all the time left in the world to get ready for life after college.

A naive hope.

If a senior wants to move on to a higher degree, she'll need to start the process now. Before she looks at various universities and their possibilities, she needs to take a test: the GRE, the MCAT or the LSAT. These tests aren't easy. They are made to filter through students, so making one's self look good is easier said than done.

If a student expects to be in

graduate school by this time next year, now is the time to buckle down. The deadlines for applications to graduate programs that begin in fall semester usually run between the preceding November and January, with a few that accept applicants later and earlier. While a few programs offer students the option of updating their applications once they receive scores, most programs require students provide their GRE, MCAT and LSAT upon application.

So, naturally, students must have scores by then, usually in October. It's recommended that they study for the tests.

The tests are all marathons, not races.

They take preparation and

a steady pace to get through. Without them, students are likely to burn out halfway through the long, tedious preparation process. The usually entails buying an expensive, heavy book with exercises in it. Then, the student practices until she is either finished with the book or fed up with analogies — which can leave anyone a bit testy.

The GRE now sports a new essay section, much like how the SAT updated itself half a decade ago. Most of the exams will let a student who tests poorly

take as many as she can pay for. However, she has to pay for each of the other testing sessions just as she did the first. Since they are spaced weeks apart usually, a student who wants to get the revised scores sent off needs to start taking the GRE as soon as possible.

This is not exactly a boon, however. GRE scores sent off usually include all of the tests a student took, not just the highest scores a la the SAT. Since the universities a student applies to can see all of her GRE scores, it's usually a good idea to get the exam right the

first time.

Thus it's best to study hard with that big book.

The MCAT is certainly no walk in the park, either. You can only take it three times, so it's best to take it later when you are prepared than earlier without it. It involves a wide range of subjects including physics, biology and chemistry, and traditionally considered the scourge of the aspiring medical students.

None of the skills are developed overnight, and unlike the SATs students take to get into college, these essay are as much about acquired knowledge as they are learning strategies. They are specialized, so they can ask specialized questions about law, medicine

and history. If a student can't puzzle through what X moles of lead carbonate and Y moles of hydrochloric acid react as, then tough luck. The physical sciences portion of the MCAT is likely to school her.

If a senior expects to get into graduate school next fall, there are a few things she always should remember: she should apply to as many schools as possible, prepare to tenaciously pursue graduate school funding and worry about graduate tests now. The longer a student puts them off, the more likely they'll cause her to re-examine her after-college priorities.

And the more likely her after-college options won't quite make the grade.

"The tests are all marathons, not races."

THE INKWELL

11935 Abercorn Street Savannah, Georgia 31419 www.theinkwellonline.com 912-344-3252

DASHIELL COLEMAN
Editor-in-Chief
Chief.Inkwell@gmail.com

ANDREA CERVONE
Arts and Entertainment Editor
Arts.Inkwell@gmail.com

MIKE CHOROMANSKI
Layout Editor
Layout.Inkwell@gmail.com

JEREMIAH JOHNSON
Web Editor
Web.Inkwell@gmail.com

JARED CAMPBELL
Advertising Manager
Advertising.Inkwell@gmail.com

JUDD PUBLISHING
Printer

F. REESE SHELLMAN III
News Editor
News.Inkwell@gmail.com

JORDAN HUNNICUT
Sports Editor
Sports.Inkwell@gmail.com

VINCENT HAINES
Photography Editor
Photo.Inkwell@gmail.com

KEENAN X. LEE
Business Manager
Manager.Inkwell@gmail.com

TONY MORRIS
Faculty Adviser
Tony.Morris@armstrong.edu

Opinions expressed by columnists, letter writers or cartoonists do not necessarily reflect the stance of The Inkwell's editorial board.

Armstrong ruggers gear up for season opener

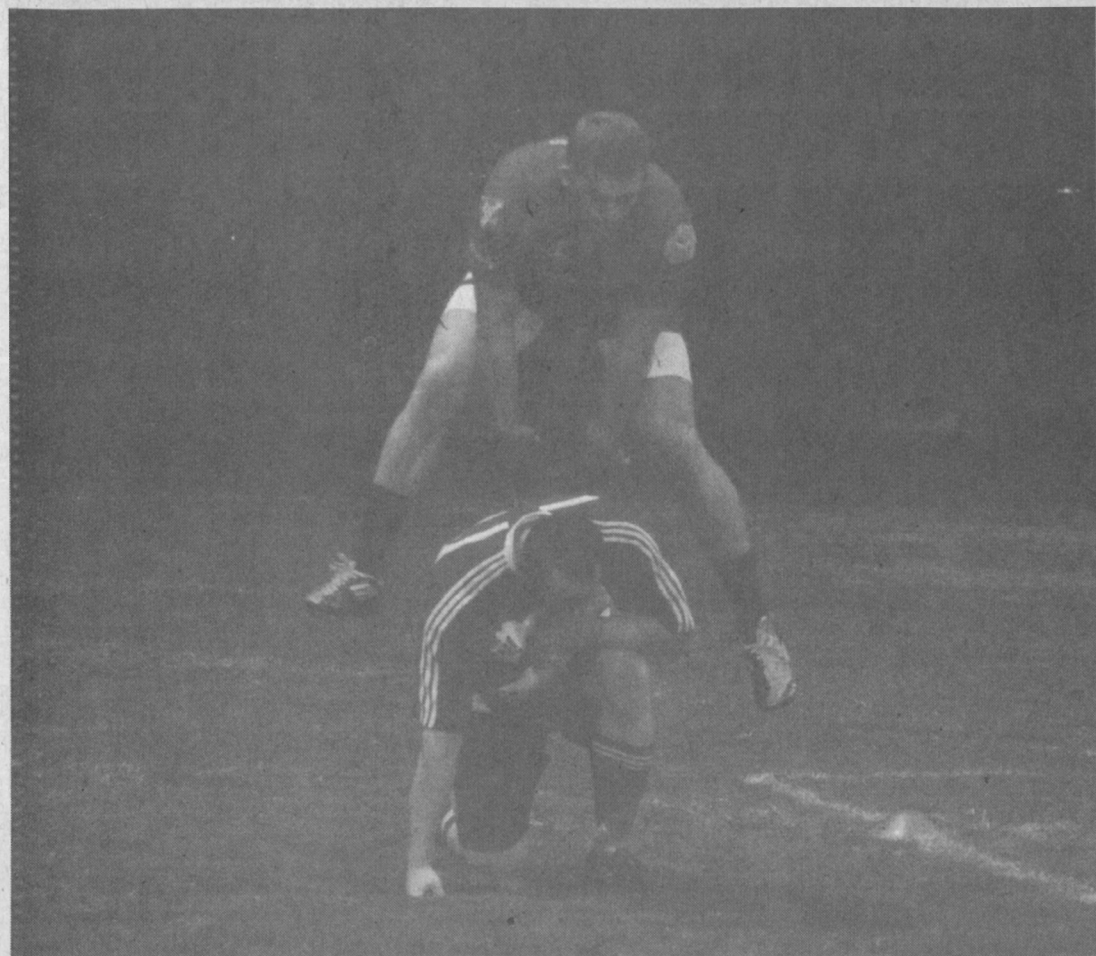


Photo by Vincent Haines

Sean Metcalf and Todd Lanser practice to progress by leaps and bounds in preparation for the season opener on Sept. 22. The Armstrong Rugby team practices on the Intramural field.

By David Rountree

The Armstrong Rugby Football Club looks to have a breakthrough season now that preseason practices and workouts have begun. With the season opener less than a month away, Coach Glenn Edwards is whipping his team into physical and mental shape.

The players endure daily workouts and several hours of

full-contact practice a week. Edwards is adamant his players will be ready to compete at the season opener against the Savannah Shamrocks Oct. 15 at Forsyth Park.

"It is important for the boys to be fit in order to play rugby, as opposed to playing rugby to become fit," Edwards said.

Armstrong's team is part of the Georgia Rugby Union. They are competing at a

Division II level this year. The union is home to several other collegiate programs in Georgia and in South Carolina, including Georgia Southern University, the University of Georgia and Clemson University.

Several physical traits are required for rugby players to be successful, but Edwards said it also takes inner strength to succeed at the game: "You've

got to be passionate in what you do out there."

A former international rugby player himself, Edwards is mindful of the confidence needed to play the game.

Garland "Gatty" Summers plays scrum-half (quarterback) for the team, and he shares his coach's philosophy. "If you feel unsure of yourself you won't perform as well. People respond to confidence," Summers said.

The team itself doubles as a rugby sports club, which provides avenues for fans to show their enthusiasm for the sport. Students will have the opportunity to help organize fundraising, marketing and community-service events.

Player Steve Hinds, the club's president, said one of his goals is to bring the club closer to the student body. "We really would like to get more involved with the school and anyone who wants to affiliate with the club, we would be more than happy," Hinds said.

The Armstrong rugby football club is where enthusiasts and players alike can come together to promote the sport they are so passionate about. The club's success this season will be defined by what happens on and off the field.

"They are not just learning about rugby...when they move on from school they'll know how to run an organization and be part of an organization," Edwards said.

Sports recap



Women's soccer:

Sept. 21 at Wingate
L, 2-1

Sept. 24 vs. Clayton St.
W, 4-2



Men's cross-country:

Sept. 24 The Citadel Invitational at
Charleston, S.C.
sixth of seven schools



Volleyball:

Sept. 23 at Montevallo
W, 3-1

Sept. 24 at Augusta St.
W, 3-0

Campus and community calendar

Keeping busy

Sept. 29

11 a.m. to 5 p.m., outside the Student Union:
Graduate Student Coordinating Council's Light the
Night fundraiser

Oct. 1

8:30 a.m., Hutchinson Island
Fall Out for Autism 5k and Fun Run

10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Ogeechee River
Canoeing the Ogeechee River, \$15 per person
Sign up at Student Rec Center

1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Student Rec Center
Dance team tryouts

Oct. 3

Noon, Tybee Conference Room
Scribbler Writing Club, inaugural meeting

Oct. 4

Armstrong Wind Ensemble plays at 7:30 p.m. in the
Fine Arts Auditorium

Oct. 5

10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Student Union Savannah
Ballroom
Health and Wellness Fair

Oct. 6-9

Tybee Island 2011 Pirate Fest
Armstrong will have a float in the parade on Oct. 8

Oct. 7-9

2011 Folk Music Festival in downtown Savannah



Follow the Pirates

Women's soccer:

Sept. 30 at Columbus St. 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 2 vs. Tampa at Columbus 11 a.m.

Volleyball:

Sept. 30 vs. UNC Pembroke at Armstrong 7 p.m.
Oct. 1 vs. Francis Marion at Armstrong 2 p.m.
Oct. 5 vs. Flagler at Armstrong 7 p.m.

Men's golf:

Oct. 3-4 12th Annual Myrtle Beach Intercollegiate at Myrtle Beach, S.C.
Sea Trail Golf Club

Women's golf:

Oct. 3-4 12th Annual Myrtle Beach Intercollegiate at Myrtle Beach, S.C.
Sea Trail Golf Club

Men's tennis:

Oct. 1-3 Georgia Tech Invitational at Atlanta TBA

Women's tennis:

Sept. 30, Kentucky Invitational at Lexington, Ky. TBA
Oct. 1-2

Armstrong

Heart of Savannah run benefits needy families



Runners gather at Forsyth Park the morning of Sept. 24 for the Heart of Savannah 5K.

Photos by Vincent Haines

By Charlette Hall

Though the race was slated to start at 8 a.m., participants were out early Sept. 24 around Forsyth Park warming up and getting their numbers for the 22nd annual YMCA of Coastal Georgia Heart of Savannah 5K Run/1 Mile Walk.

"The purpose of the event is to help the community become aware of the importance of health and fitness and to create an environment for the

family and community," said Rachel Bowmen, who helped organize the event.

Heart of Savannah has been going strong for 20 years.

"Last year we had 600 runners, and we hope to top that this year," Bowmen said. "We just want to get people out and running."

The proceeds from the event go toward the Priceless Gift Campaign, an organization that raises money for families who can't afford YMCA membership.

Sponsors came out for the event as well.

"This is our first year sponsoring the event," said Nancy Zeman, the marketing director for the Pooler Chik-Fil-A. "We believe in a healthy lifestyle. Our food was recognized by Men's Health as the healthiest fast-food restaurant. We wanted to be a part of this event to help promote health and be a part of the community."

"There is a huge running community in Chatham

County, and we want to support the runners and the YMCA," Zeman said.

Another sponsor, local running store Fleet Feet, was at Heart of Savannah for the seventh year.

"We like to help the YMCA and the runners in Savannah by donating our support and time," said the store's general manager, Billy Warren.

The race finally got underway at 8:15 a.m. The runners started the race on Gaston Street, facing west

toward Whitaker Street, and then circled around the park and took a right on Bull Street. Then they ran around four squares on Bull, took a right onto Congress Street, and went around Reynolds Square. Then they kept straight on Bryan Street, turned right back onto Bull, and went around five squares to finish back on Gaston.

Brian Knapp won the 5K for the second year in a row, which he attributed to hard work.

"Success is 20 percent talent," Knapp said. "The other parts are putting in the hard work through dieting and fitness and the mental game."

Knapp ran for the Palmetto Running Team, a specialty store in Bluffton, S.C.

"I ran for Clemson in college. I was a sprinter, but now I run distance," he said. "I missed being a part of a team so that's why I joined the Palmetto Running Team."

New cheerleading coach renews Pirates' spirit

By Brittany Cook

When Charita Hardy resigned at the end of last season, the search for a new cheerleading coach began. When the summer passed, and the semester started, a new coach had not been found. Many rumors of the possibility of not having a cheerleading squad this season spread across campus.

"I'm pretty sure we're not having one because I'm pretty sure it was because we couldn't find a coach yet," said sophomore Dylan Lyle, a mathematics major and a member of last year's cheer team.

However, the team received new hope from Alan Segal, assistant director of athletics for facility and game operations and head of men's cross-country. He finally hired Jaime Moore as the new coach and set a date for tryouts to commence.

Originally from upstate New

York, Moore graduated from Potsdam State University, where she was cheerleader for the college. After graduation, Moore started coaching at Carthage High School. She coached there for six years before moving to Georgia, where she became head coach at another high school.

"I coached there for about five years, and then moved to Savannah about two years ago and started teaching," Moore said. "But I didn't know of any coaching positions and just recently found out about Armstrong and applied and got the job, and now I'm here."

Moore, who cheered in high school as well, was an all-star cheerleader until she turned 30. Moore teaches at Gould Elementary School on Highway 17.

Tryouts started Sept. 20 and ended Sept. 22. Out of the 26 girls who attended, 16 girls were selected to form this year's

cheerleading squad.

"Based on tryouts, I see a lot of potential," Moore said. "The progress that's been made only in the last three days is definitely good, and I definitely hope that continues. Everyone seems very coachable."

The cheerleading squad will be cheering for both the Armstrong men's and women's basketball teams, but Moore hopes the squad will attend at least one game for every athletic event even if they are not cheering, but rooting for their fellow Pirates.

Cheerleaders who were on last year's team have noticed a significant difference in the coaching abilities of Moore compared to the previous coach. Before Hardy left Armstrong for her full-time high school teaching position, she coached several other teams, including two other teams at Armstrong, said third-year nursing major

Alexis Watts.

"She didn't give us as much attention as she should have as a coach," said Endee Brown, a second-year sophomore. "It was too much drama. She didn't like us that much."

Moore's dedication and willingness to cooperate despite having other obligations impressed potential cheerleaders.

"I just think the newer coach — since she cheered in college — she has more experience," Watts said. "She's already been talking to the Georgia State coach, and he's going to help us. And she's bringing somebody in to help us with tumbling. It seems a lot more together this year than it was last year."

In addition to attending the athletic events, the cheerleading squad is required to attend the annual Peach Belt Conference. Moore intends to focus the rest of the season on motivating



Photo by Vincent Haines

Cheerleading coach Jaime Moore helps her cheerleaders to get a leg up against the competition.

the team to strive for their full potential.

"Being the first year here, I think the amount of progress is what I'm going to focus on more

than any other," Moore said.

"I want the team to progress, and I want to build a program that's going to build a legacy for Armstrong."

Womens' volleyball victorious at Peach Belt Conference

By Lauren Sullivan

Lady Pirates' volleyball entered this year's Peach Belt Conference Sept. 23. The team faced off against Montevallo in Alabama and won 3-1. The Lady Pirates brought another victory for Armstrong against Augusta State in Augusta Sept. 24.

The PBC has eluded the Pirates' volleyball team since 2008. Last season the Lady Pirates finished third after Flagler and Montevallo, whom they beat this season. The 2011 preseason poll placed Armstrong in the second-place slot behind Flagler, who won the conference the past two years.

The Lady Pirates won the PBC in 2005. After three years of intense practice, they won again in 2008. They look to repeat the three-year pattern this year and take home the 2011 conference title.

Senior Casie Richards defends the front line as middle

hitter for the Lady Pirates. The team spent all week preparing for the first conference games because these are the games that count to how well we do in the season and how we stand in the rankings Richards said.

Richards attributes their success to the individuality of the team's players and remarks how they go into practice everyday with the intent to work hard and get better.

Sophomore middle hitter Kristen Holmes said practices the week before were to focus on new strategies or work on things we need to improve.

"Our practices often incorporate a lot of competition drills, which helps us get in a good mindset before our games," Holmes said.

"We always have a team meeting in the locker room before a match to talk about what to expect from the other team and get everyone pumped up," Holmes said.

The unity among the team is just as important as the pre-game work.

"We have little quirks among the team which keeps everything fun even when we are working very hard," Richards said.

The team works out together and spends time together off the court to build the team unity.

The team encourages all students to celebrate and support the achievement of the team by coming to the games.

"The only thing that we really need is more fans," Richards said. "We had a great turn out in our game against University of North Alabama. We have a great team full of talent and would love to have more of a home-court advantage with people filling the stands."

The Lady Pirates continue their conference at home Sept. 30 against UNC Pembroke at 7 p.m. and Oct. 1 against Francis Marion at 2 p.m.

Rec Center offers tai chi

By Scott Tanner

In a dimly lit room in the Student Recreation Center, a small group of students gather for an exercise class. Their movements are as fluid and smooth as the sounds of waves crashing on a beach that come through the speakers. These students are practicing the ancient Chinese art of tai chi.

Tai chi utilizes slow and constant movement as a means of physical exercise and stretching. The focus is on the chi, or energy, within the body. Initially a form of martial arts, tai chi has transformed into a low-impact exercise regimen over time.

There are a variety of methods involved in practicing tai chi.

"There are five schools of tai chi in China," said instructor and physical therapy major Eric Shoemaker. "I usually teach a Yang style, which is the more popular one. It's more of a gentle form of tai chi. It allows the body's life energy, or chi energy, to flow through the body freely."

This ancient art is known for reducing stress and anxiety, improving balance and flexibility and increasing energy and endurance by enhancing blood

flow throughout the body.

"When we have better blood flow to our brains or joints or muscles, we feel good, we think well, we do well in our classes, and we do well at home," Shoemaker said. "It's just a life-improving exercise."

"I think that what's very interesting about tai chi is that it helps you focus on your muscular awareness, and about focusing on all of the different parts of your body being, in a degree, soft, so that you're not tensing yourself up and that you can flow throughout the poses," said biology major Justin Kriske.

"I see ... more of a health-conscious benefit, more so than a hardcore workout," said nursing major Christopher Rodriguez. "Each exercise, each movement has a different health benefit that the Chinese use."

Shoemaker has practiced and taught yoga, but this is his first semester teaching tai chi. Though the two are similar, Shoemaker said, yoga is based on strength and endurance, while tai chi concentrates on relaxing and flowing through the movements.

"Over the summer, I had to really work hard to understand

[tai chi]," Shoemaker said. "I had to look up the history behind it and the purpose. When I first started doing it I was really strenuous with the movements. I had to realize it's not yoga. I had to relax."

According to Shoemaker, students are able to adapt to the movements quickly.

"I work at a nice, slow pace, just to show them the proper way of doing the movement, and also explain to them why they are doing it, so they're not just doing stuff for an odd reason," Shoemaker said. "There is a reason behind it."

Those students who are worried about the stress of walking into a new exercise class and feeling embarrassed by their lack of knowledge and ability should not stress over this tai chi class.

"This is a very low impact class," Shoemaker said. "We don't really follow a strict guideline, so it's not progressive. Each class is like a whole new session. Anyone can come any time they want, you don't have to feel pressured that anyone is ahead of them or anything — we're all on the same level."

The class meets every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

HOLA celebrates Latino culture

By Richelle Laughinghouse

Latino heritage is celebrated mid-September through mid-October in the United States. Armstrong took part in the celebration again this year with the Hispanic Outreach and Leadership at Armstrong program's Latino Heritage Week Sept. 19-28.

This year's focus was "identity and culture," said HOLA director Melody Rodriguez.

"We've done everything in terms of what defines culture, which is art, language, food, and dance," Rodriguez said.

The festival took off strong Sept. 19 with DJ Pikachu in the Student Union Residential Plaza. Many students passing by from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. stopped to hear some tunes.

The second day of Latino Heritage Week featured an interactive Latin dance party

hosted by Salsa Magic, a traveling collegiate company. An estimated 180 people put their salsa shoes on to dance the night away.

"Salsa night has been my favorite event so far — it was a lot of fun," said Adele Casas.

The festival slowed down Sept. 22 with a showing of critically acclaimed 2010 Spanish-language film "Biutiful." The film, starring Academy Award-winning actor Javier Bardem, is set in the gritty underground of Barcelona, Spain, and deals with black-market immigrant labor.

HOLA didn't pick "Biutiful" just for its entertainment value.

"It was a social interpretation of societal problems," Rodriguez said.

HOLA, Phi Iota Alpha and Hermandad de Sigma Iota Alpha hosted breakfast Sept.

23 in the Student Union Lobby, serving Mexican hot chocolate and foods from Mexico, Colombia, Argentina and Cuba.

If it wasn't the authentic food that brought the crowd in, then the relaxed atmosphere must have done the trick. More than 200 people attended the breakfast. "I really enjoyed the breakfast," said Spanish professor Gracia Roldan. "There was a relaxed atmosphere with the students and professors. Everyone was speaking Spanish and English, and drinking hot cocoa. It was very nice."

It was important to Rodriguez to add faculty participation in this year's Latino Heritage Week, and Roldan hosted a lecture, "Immigration and Identity: The Cinema as a Meeting Place," Sept. 26 in the Student

Union's Ogeechee Theater. Nearly 20 people attended Roldan's lecture.

Though the festival's events change yearly, Rodriguez said she would like to keep the intellectual lecture in the future.

"The new tradition is the professor lecture, in addition to all of our fun student programs," Rodriguez said. "We want to start exploring more intellectual themes as well though."

"Senorita Roldan is one of my professors, so I happened to walk in, and I actually found the presentation very interesting," said history major Liam Murphy.

The celebration of the Hispanic culture wrapped up with an Armstrong tradition and popular festivity, Fiesta Day on Wednesday, Sept. 28.

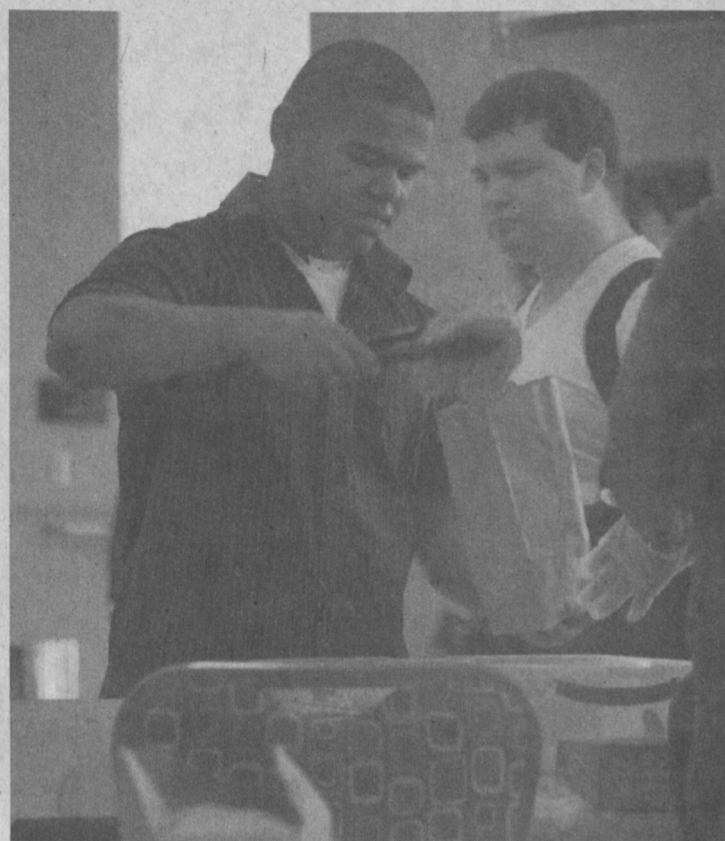


Photo by Vincent Haines
Students gather in the Student Union on Sept. 23 to indulge in Mexican hot chocolate, and other foods from Mexico, Colombia, Argentina and Cuba

Local yogis bend over backwards for children in need

By Natalie Terrazola

On Sept. 24, yogis from all over Savannah united in Mother Mathilda Beasley Park for an afternoon of back bends and meditation as a part of the 2011 Global Mala. Founded in 2007 by Shiva Rea, this international event unites the yoga community in practice while raising funds and awareness for a local cause.

"Yoga means union," said Dawn Smith, the 2011 Global Mala Coordinator. "I think it should mean reunion, because it reminds you of who you are and your connection to all things. It's a good chance of getting back together — that's why I love this event."

Smith — after a terrible bicycle accident — was named the beneficiary of the 2010 event. Savannah's yoga community stepped in to help her during a difficult time, and out of appreciation she volunteered to coordinate this year. Smith also came up with this year's theme, Nourish Savannah, an effort in feeding children of the less fortunate.

The recipient this year is Backpack Buddies, a local grassroots effort to feed children who may otherwise go without. The premise is that even though many needy children get their

meals through government programs, many others still face the uncertainty of if they will have enough to eat.

Local vendors like Savannah Food Co-op and Tubby's Tank House contributed to the event, with organic food and gift certificates for a raffle.

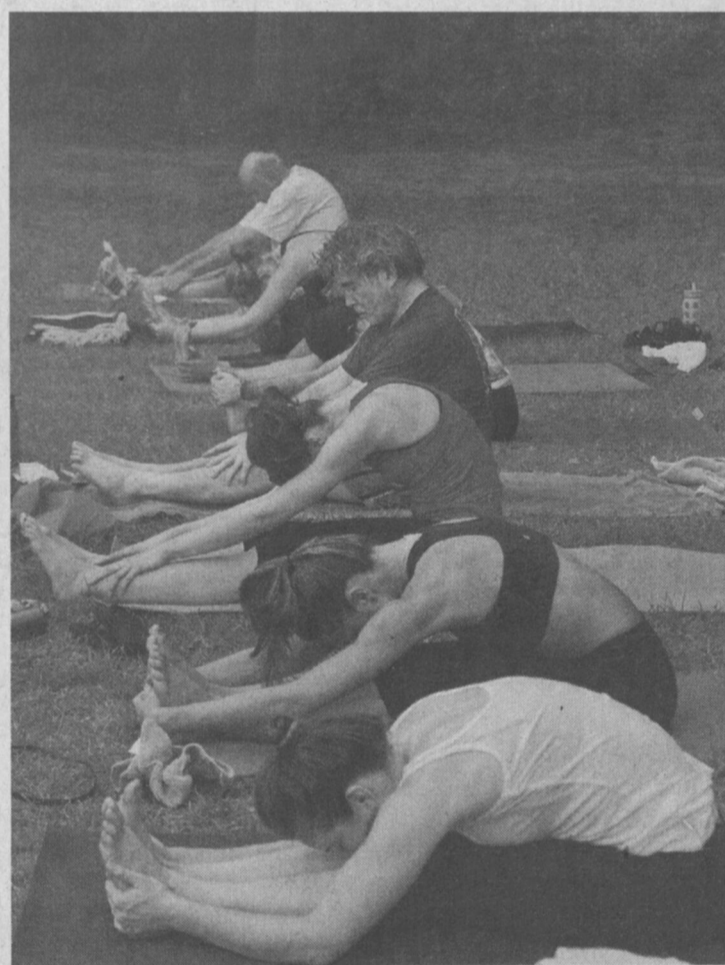
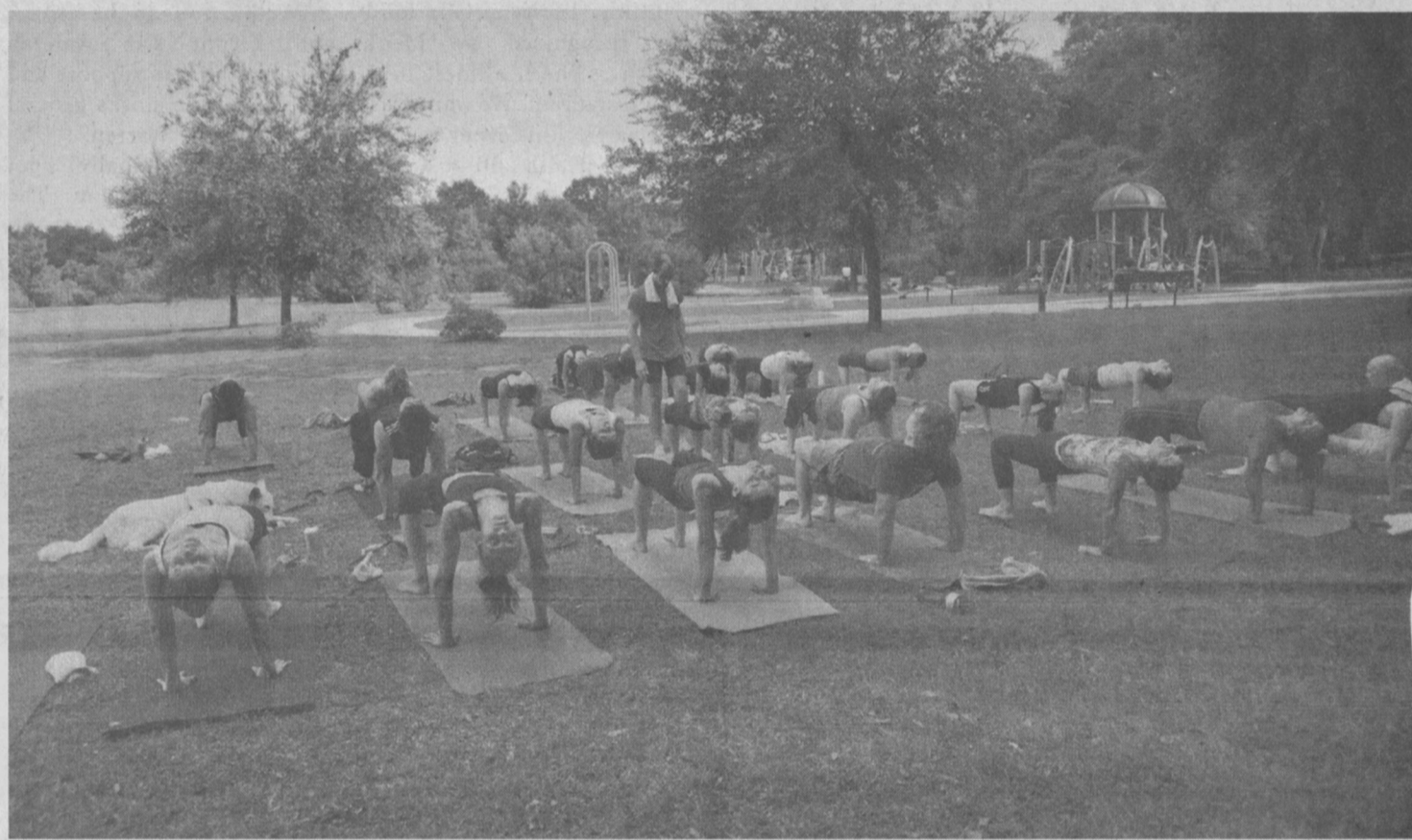
"I have great respect for the yoga community's effort to make a difference within our younger generation. It inspired me, and I am hoping that it will help create a sense of inspiration among our society and the desire to help others in need," said Tiffany Salazar, a senior at Armstrong who attended the event.

To Leslie Carey, owner of the Savannah Bikram Yoga studio, yoga provides a great platform for Global Mala to raise awareness.

"The yoga community is always tuned in to greater good. They just get it," she said. "By their very nature, yogis are always working to improve themselves and their communities."

Global Mala Savannah will annually continue to share the physical and mental health benefits of yoga and its holistic wellness services to individuals in need.

"It's a chance for yoga people and mindful people to come together to practice and inspire each other," Smith said.



Attendees of the 2011 Global Mala participate in gentle yoga with instructor Brent Martin on Sept. 24 in Mother Mathilda Beasley Park.

Photos by Andrea Cervone

Global Mala

This event is celebrated in more than 50 countries as a reunion of the yoga community and as a way of connecting. This is Savannah's fourth year of hosting the Global Mala.

Backpack Buddies organizes churches and organizations to prepare backpacks of food for students to take home for the weekend.

If you are interested in getting involved with Backpack Buddies, contact Norman Hirsch at 912-598-7668.

Ocean Film festival highlights environmental issues

By Todd Perkins

The 2011 Ocean Film Festival, was held Sept. 22-25 at the Jepson Center for the Arts and the Trustees Theater, to raise awareness of the ongoing issues occurring in the oceans around the world — with short film compilations.

The screenings were open to the public and free of charge. Instead of selling tickets, the audience was encouraged to purchase T-shirts, with the proceeds going toward Savannah's Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary. The films varied in running time, but all conveyed the same message —

the oceans are being polluted, and it's our responsibility to act and keep the water, and everything in it, clean.

A few films at the festival really managed to stand out.

Both "Making a Difference" and "Seas of Plastic" are short films made by middle and high school students that managed to win awards from the National Ocean Science Bowl. "Seas of Plastic" was decent enough, but "Making a Difference" was able to take a different and creative approach at getting its message across. The short starts off with illustrations of a girl throwing washed-up starfish back into

the ocean, explaining that even though she can't throw all of the hundreds that were washed ashore back in, she would make a difference to each individual one.

This is followed by a girl exploring the depths of the ocean with the use of stop animation.

Another short film cleverly using stop animation is "The Bay vs. the Bag." This film tells the story of a woman wading into the water at her local beach, only to find the waves are made up of plastic bags rather than salt water.

This is an interesting attempt to make the public aware of the amount of pollution being discarded into the waters,

specifically plastic bags. By the end of the short, the woman is overcome and consumed by a tidal wave of plastic bags.

"Stellwagen Sweep" is an informative look at the work being done by an organization started by commercial fisherman in New England. The organization is attempting to remove lost or abandoned equipment left by other fishermen. They discard all the debris in specified containers set up by National Marine Sanctuary staff in an effort to protect all of the marine life.

"Stellwagen Sweep" is an enlightening look at the cleanup work being done, without feeling

like an advertisement.

Two features at the festival prominently stood apart from the others. "The Majestic Plastic Bag," a film best described as a nature 'mockumentary' about the migration of a plastic bag, uses humor to attract attention to the issue of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch — an area the size of Texas where all the plastic in the ocean ends up. Like "The Bay vs. the Bag," viewers are warned of the potential threat awaiting humanity if we continue to pollute the sea.

The most absorbing film of the festival, "In the Wake of Giants," follows a group of rescuers

who use whaling techniques to help free harmed or entangled humpback whales from nets and fishing line left by careless fishermen and others.

These daring and dangerous rescues show the reality and the effects of all of the contamination in the water from the point of view of men who are unpaid volunteers risking their lives to help out in the cause.

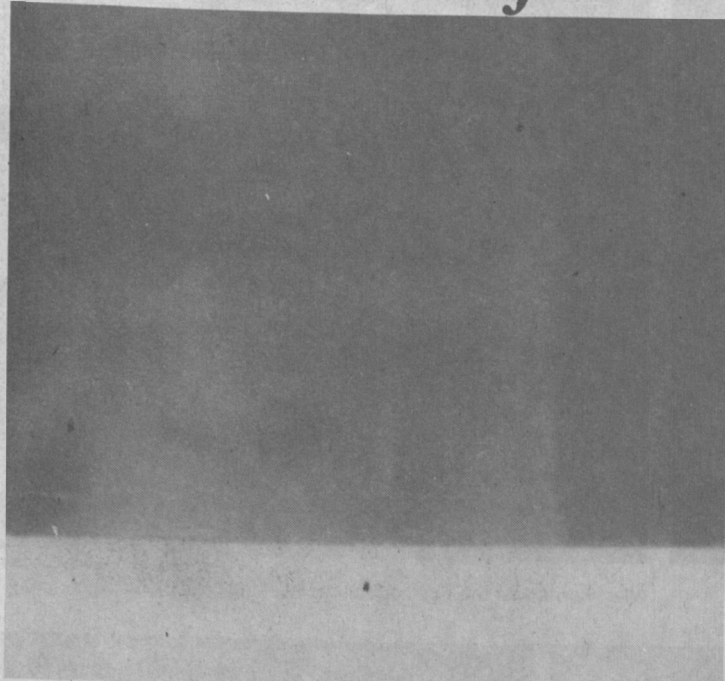
As fascinating and inventive as these short films are, they are meant to raise awareness rather than to entertain. These films are both stimulating and inspiring, and hopefully will encourage those who are informed to act.

Think music



Think music is a column by music enthusiast Evan Dixon. He covers everything from album reviews to trends in the Savannah music scene.

Thrice - 'Major/Minor'



Album cover courtesy of Vagrant Records

Thrice — a band at the forefront of the experimental, post-hard-core rock genre — has succeeded album after album in progressing further in musical proficiency and lyrical depth — something most bands can only attempt to do. With each release Thrice maintains a core sound while relentlessly stretching their horizons. This approach is also true for "Major/Minor," the band's seventh studio release. This album is their crowning achievement. It is a virtually flawless album from beginning to end, showcasing everything Thrice fans might expect. The moment the opening track, "Yellow Belly," kicks in with an aggressive riff from guitarist Teppe Teranishi, it becomes clear that Thrice has lightened up on the jazzy, roots-oriented feel of "Beggars," and has put more emphasis on the grungy heaviness prevalent in past albums. Of

Alternative rock

course, the raw and organic sound of the previous album is here, as is the atmospheric backdrop found on "The Alchemy Index."

Thrice masterfully alternates between energy and peacefulness, perfectly balancing each track. The triumphant "Anthology" contains lyrical bits from various songs off previous albums while "Words in the Water," is the quintessential song for capturing their sound and message.

Dustin Kensrue's lyrics are at their most eloquent and profound, and the Breckenridge brothers' rhythm section provides perfect structure to Kensrue's and Teranishi's potent guitar riffs. "Major/Minor" is a masterpiece of an album, both instantly accessible and deep enough to warrant repeat listens, appealing to both longtime fans and newcomers alike.

★★★★★
5 out of 5 stars

Lady Antebellum - 'Own the Night'

The marriage of country and pop has climbed in popularity over the past few years, what with the rise of artists such as Taylor Swift who tow the line between the infectious hooks of mainstream radio singles and the twangy inflections of "she-thinks-my-tractor's-sexy" CMT jingles. Similarly to Taylor Swift, Lady Antebellum — a trio based out of Nashville, Tenn. — is attempt-

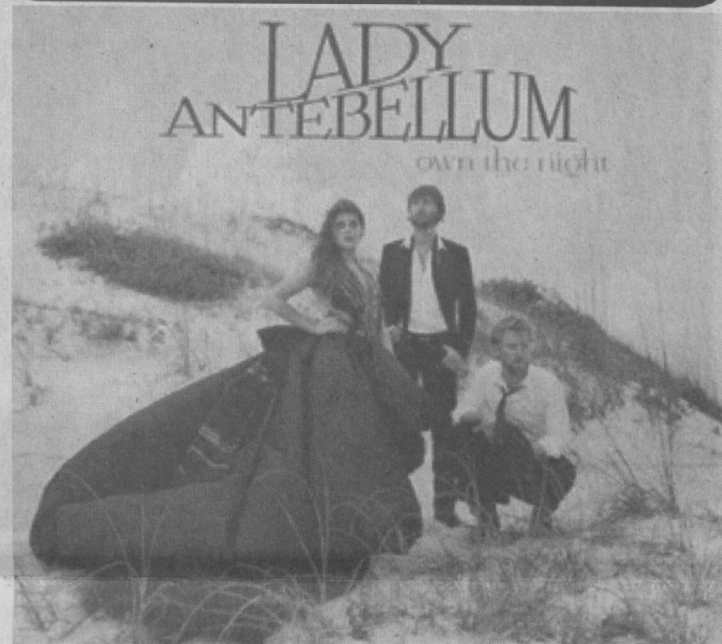
ing to blend the two genres. Whether they do so successfully is another question. Out of Lady Antebellum's three members, only one — Dave Haywood — actually plays instruments on the album and in concert. The other two, Charles Kelley and Hillary Scott, continuously utilize the same harmonies over 12 tracks to sing about love lost and found — big

surprise. The backing instrumentation is bland, and some songs such as "Friday Night" are downright obnoxious. Scott's voice is moderately pleasant, but she is rarely given the spotlight except to sing a verse or two. As the album drudges on, most of the songs start to blend together, making it difficult to distinguish them from one another except by their titles. The end result is

a sometimes pleasant but ultimately mediocre release by a much-too-hyped-up group.

★★☆☆☆
2 out of 5 stars

Country pop



Album cover courtesy of Capitol Nashville

St. Vincent - 'Strange Mercy'



Album cover courtesy of 4AD

Annie Clark, who performs under the moniker St. Vincent in reference to the hospital where poet Dylan Thomas died in 1953, was already an indie darling before she began her solo career in 2007. A guitarist since the age of 12, Clark has toured with singer-songwriter Sufjan Stevens, performed as a member of the Polyphonic Spree and even recorded a track with indie heavyweight Bon Iver for the movie

"New Moon." Now, with her third release, St. Vincent has proved herself a master of the art rock/baroque pop hybrid so popular among hipsters today.

To me, the greatest strength of "Strange Mercy" is its diversity. No song sounds alike, yet they all carry a distinctive flair that can be identified as St. Vincent's quirky-but-elegant style. Her vocals sometimes quiver with emotion, and

Indie baroque pop

other times barely rise above a throaty whisper as keyboards and guitars layer around her unique delivery. "Cruel" and "Surgeon" are punctuated with psychedelic guitar and keyboard solos, while the peacefulness of "Northern Lights" is interrupted with an experimental and aggressive guitar riff.

Her lyrics are just as abstract as the music. "Neutered Fruit" would be a typical girl-seek-

ing-guy song if not for St. Vincent's declaration that she "shot a hundred arrows at a knoll/a hundred sparrows blue." I don't know what she means either, but I don't care — as long as she keeps up with this enigmatic vein of strangely accessible indie-pop tunes, we can expect more masterful albums from Clark.

★★★★☆
4 out of 5 stars

'Moneyball' hits home run

By Todd Perkins

I've never been a big sports-movie fan, so I wasn't expecting much from Bennett Miller's "Moneyball." The many clichés and stereotypes often used in the sports genre usually keep me from enjoying these movies. However, Miller's film deserves to be singled out as an example of truly great filmmaking.

The difference between this and most other mediocre baseball movies: "Moneyball" isn't about baseball. Despite themes of overcoming obstacles and beating the odds, the heart and soul of the film lie within one man's reflection of himself and his struggle to find purpose.

Brad Pitt stars as Billy Beane, the real-life general manager of the Oakland Athletics baseball team, who is faced with the challenge of replacing three of his star athletes on a shoestring budget. When he is introduced

to Peter Brand (Jonah Hill) he is informed a winning team could be created using computer-generated analyses. Using this technique, Beane attempts to change the way baseball is played.

Unfortunately, not everyone agrees with this method, particularly team manager Art Howe (Philip Seymour Hoffman). With almost everything on the line, Beane must convince everyone — including himself — that the new tactic will work.

The premise may not seem thrilling, but by the closing credits the film's effect is pulverizing.

With a script by Aaron Sorkin and Steven Zaillian, the dialogue is witty and fierce, making the banter between Beane and Brand a marvelous listen.

Sorkin, who recently won an Oscar for writing "The Social Network," lays out the story in a touching way without ever crossing into cheesy



Melinda Sue Gordon/Courtesy Columbia Pictures/MCT
Brad Pitt, left, and Jonah Hill star in Columbia Pictures' drama "Moneyball."

inspirational territory. The screenplay is absolutely pitch perfect.

Pitt deserves credit for a lot of what makes the film work. People sometimes make generalizations about Pitt, claiming he is a movie star and not a "real actor." People saying this are probably thinking of some of his films like "Troy" or "Mr. and Mrs. Smith," but they forget he has a real dramatic talent.

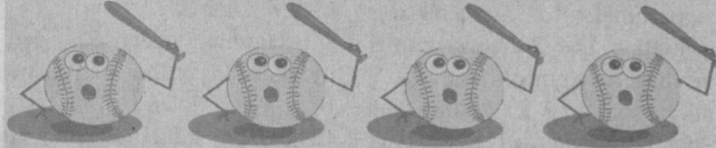
He makes Beane a real

person, with an almost tragic back-story. Pitt's dynamic presence and charisma elevates the already-stellar material while making it look effortless. His role is simply mesmerizing.

Hoffman is memorable in a role that would be insignificant and forgettable in the hands of another actor. Hill gives a surprisingly subdued performance and it pays off. Instead of doing his usual shtick and whining throughout the movie, he plays Brand as an

Silver screen

4 out of 5 fantastic baseballs



A Columbia Picture production

Directed by Bennett Miller

Starring Brad Pitt, Robin Wright and Jonah Hill

Rated PG-13 for strong language.

Showing at Carmike Wynnsong 11, Camike 10, Frank Theatres and GTC Pooler Stadium Cinemas 12

intelligent and likeable person.

Miller's ease with directing the film means nothing feels forced. None of the emotional elements are overdone, nor do they feel contrived. Miller is able to make the film touching without ever manipulating the

audience. The ending feels true and realistic, because it is based on a true story. "Moneyball" is compelling and even hypnotic, without using any gimmicks. As far as sports films go, this is the real deal.

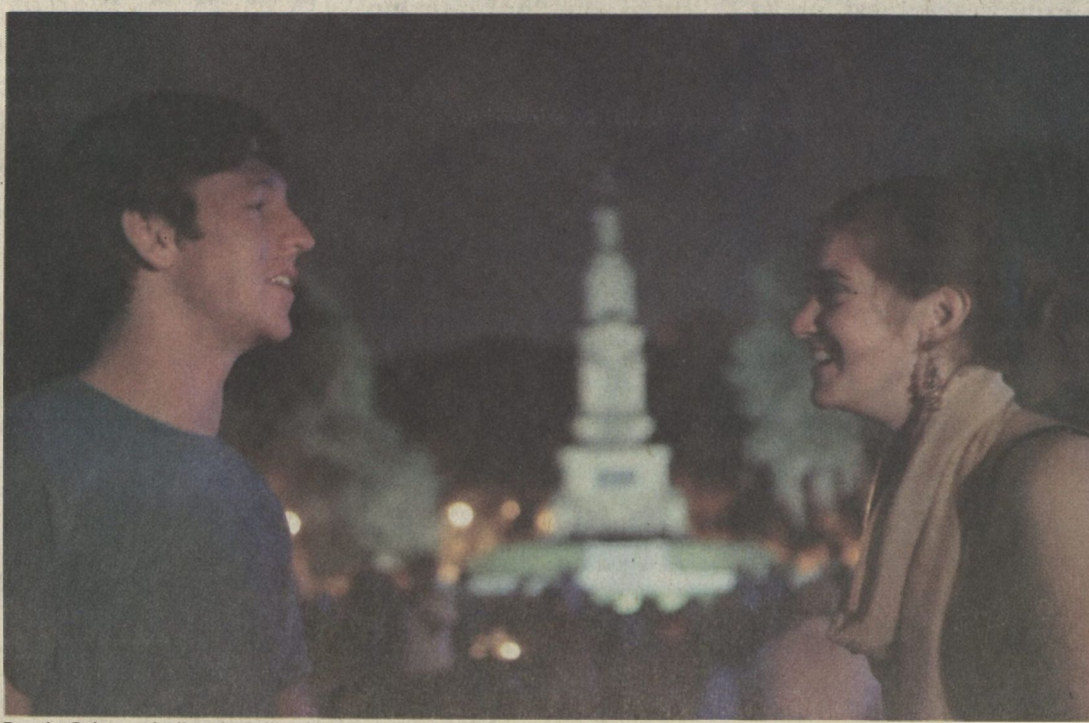
Savannah Jazz festival held at Forsyth Park



Audience members gather at Forsyth Park Sept. 24 for the second day of the 2011 Savannah Jazz Festival.



Allan Harris was the highlight of the evening Sept. 23. Photos by Vincent Haines



Randy Cuba and Allannah Gallagher talk while enjoying soothing jazz music in Forsyth Park Sep. 23.



One of the many performances featured at the 2011 Jazz Festival Sept. 23 in Forsyth Park included tenor sax players from bands like the University of North Florida Jazz Ensemble 1.



Universities now urging freshmen to consider studying the forgotten humanities

By Lisa M. Krieger
San Jose Mercury News
(MCT)

On 21st-century American campuses, is there room for Shakespeare, Sartre and Sondheim?

A declining number of students think so — a trend that worries leaders at many top universities, where engineers often outnumber humanists.

Seeking to reignite interest in the liberal arts, Stanford University last week welcomed the Class of 2015 with a rich opening volley of literature, film and philosophy designed to elevate freshmen dreams beyond that cool job at Google.

The 1,718 incoming students — nearly half of whom arrive intending to major in the sciences or engineering — heard acclaimed author and physician Abraham Verghese praise the meaning, and opportunities, of a liberal arts education. They'll debate summer reading assignments and get a flier promoting an "Ethics and War" program, led by nuclear disarmament expert Scott Sagan.

"We're trying to break the idea that college is just something to get through on your way to a career," said philosophy professor Debra Satz, associate dean for Humanities and Arts. "It is a gift."

In the humanities' heyday of the mid-60s, more than one in three Stanford students majored in languages, literature, the arts, history, cultural studies, philosophy and religion. By 1995, only about one in 10 did — a figure that hasn't budged much in a decade. Meanwhile, interest in engineering, math and computer science has climbed.

This nationwide trend is echoed in five decades of data from UC-Berkeley, UC-Los Angeles and

even from tweedy Ivy League schools like Harvard, Princeton, Brown and Yale. (San Jose State and Santa Clara University don't have long-term data, but their humanities enrollment has stayed stable over the past decade.)

At a Stanford appearance last year, Geoffrey Harpham, director of the National Humanities Center, argued that the humanities must be reinvigorated and are critical to America's future. "The genius of this country," he said, "is a program of education for all its citizens."

But for students who came of age in the Great Recession, the siren song of science can be tough to resist. And as tuition rises, fewer seem willing to explore the existential question: How do I live a life of true meaning?

"I don't see a lot of risk-taking," said Satz. "Very few students are enrolled in courses like 19th Century France, or The Literature of Revolution."

Economic anxiety is well-grounded, according to an analysis by Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce. Over a lifetime, the earnings of workers who majored in engineering, computer science or business were up to 50 percent higher than the earnings of those who majored in the humanities, the arts, education and psychology.

The highest median earnings went to petroleum engineers, at \$120,000. By comparison, workers with a bachelor's degree in English language and literature had median earnings of \$48,000.

"Shakespeare wasn't in it for the money. If you're all about the money, I wouldn't go there," said Anthony Carnevale, one of the report's authors. But humanities students who go on to graduate school and land jobs in tech-intensive fields do just fine, he

adds.

When Stanford student Karmia Cao declared her major in creative writing, a friend gave her a button that read: "I majored in English. Would you like some fries with that?"

Of the new students, 25 percent said they intended to major in the natural sciences; 21 percent plan to study engineering. Humanities were the primary academic interest of 17 percent.

First-generation college students, in particular, focus on pre-professional studies, such as business, nursing and criminal

justice, said San Jose State University professor of Mexican American Studies Magdalena L. Barrera. She added that only six percent of all Latino students major in the humanities.

"There's pressure from the family to major in something practical," said Barrera, "and a lot of students are putting themselves through school." Many don't recognize that skills like writing or critical thinking can open doors to good entry-level jobs.

Stanford, located in what former professor of medieval history Philippe Buc dubs "the holy

land of technology," is building a tech-leaning class through the admissions process, he said.

"Input in, output out," said Buc. "Stanford has to decide whether it wants to be 'CalTech North,'" he said, building a class with more Quant Jocks than Joyce wannabes.

And because the graduation requirements for science and engineering majors have grown, there is less room left in a student's schedule to explore other enriching subjects, like art history.

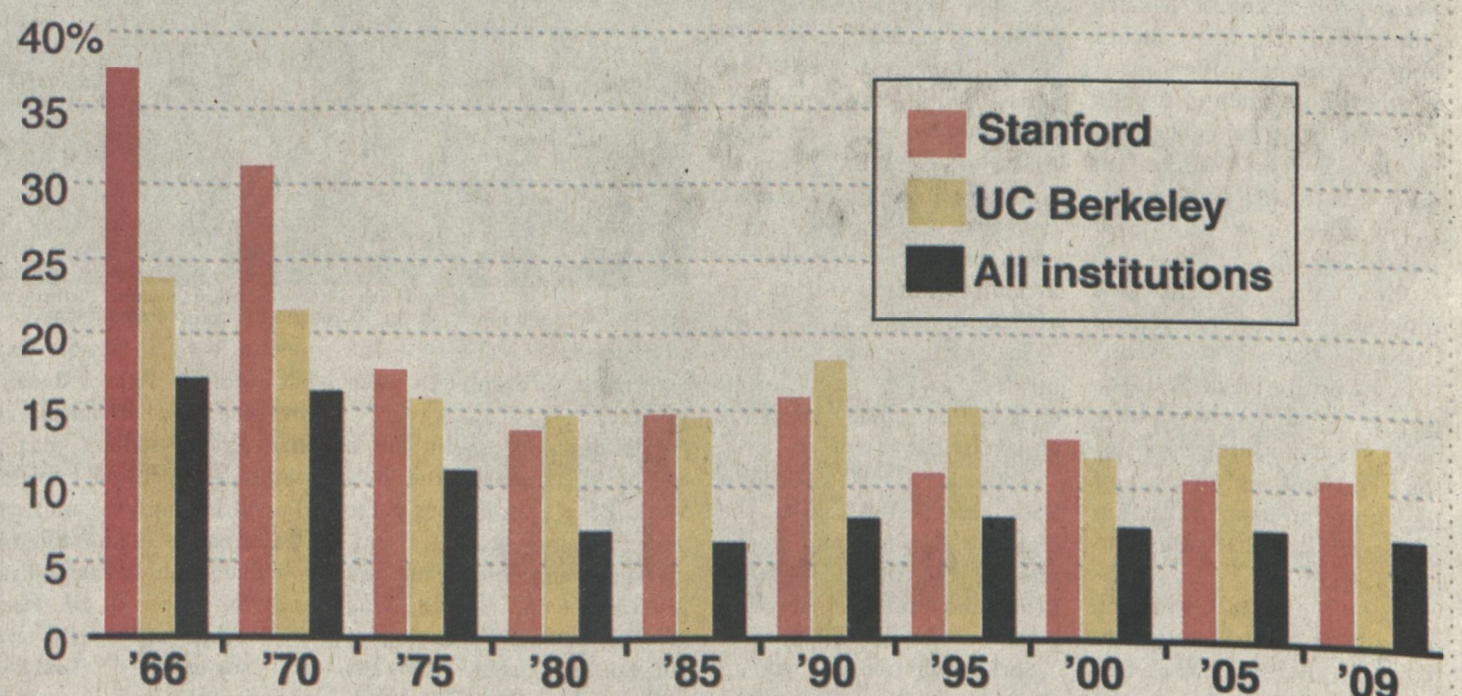
The humanities can contribute to the sciences and engineering — tomorrow's next new thing might

already be gestating in the mind of a poet, or linguist, or musician, said Anais Saint-Jude. With a Stanford Ph.D. in 17th-century French theater, last year she organized a conference where Google, TED Media, Sequoia Capital and others discussed opportunities in social media, marketing and product design. This year, she's designing an internship program that helps humanities PhDs land jobs in industry.

"Technology is changing," notes Saint-Jude. "Social networking is about connecting products to humans, and humans to humans."

Humanities decline

The percentage of all students receiving bachelor's degrees in the humanities at Stanford University, UC Berkeley and institutions nationwide has declined since the 1960s, especially at Stanford.



Source: National Science Foundation data prepared by David Laurence of the Modern Language Association for Russell Berman, humanities professor, Stanford University
Graphic: Bay Area News Group