Islamic students work for awareness

The Muslim Students Association sponsors Islamic Awareness Week to promote education, awareness, and inquiry among Muslim and non-Muslim students. By Kimberly Bloech Staff Writer

Since its charter ten years ago, the Georgia Tech MSA has included a number of activities throughout the year that have earned its recognition on campus. The week of March 14 through 18, the Georgia Tech MSA, as part of the Inter-Campus Muslim Student Association of Georgia, offered a series of events to raise awareness about Islam and its culture. During the week, students had the opportunity to ask questions and learn about Islam through the Inter-Muslim Student Awareness Fair, which was held on Tech's campus.

Focus Staff Writer

Focus Staff Writer

Women’s Clinic offers options other schools may not for female health

By Madhu Adiga Focus Staff

March is Women’s Awareness Month, and along with that comes the topic of women’s health. Breast cancer, sexual assault, pregnancy, and other such issues are of great concern to female college students.

Tech’s campus is becoming better equipped to address these concerns. The Health Center houses a Women’s Clinic that provides many services that accommodate a woman’s health needs, including routine exams by a women’s health practitioner.

Both the Women’s Clinic and the Georgia Tech Wellness Center have a wealth of information about sexuality issues, and a Sexual Assault information line is available at 404-894-9000. The information line prompts students through various areas relating to sexual assault and violence. Basic services included at the Women’s Clinic are counseling, annual exams, vaginitis treatment, pregnancy testing and STD screening, and all are in a confidential setting. Along with various methods for birth control, the clinic offers emergency contraception, or “morning after” pills on a walk-in basis for only $8.

“I’d like to think, though, that students are generally aware that information is out there for them, even if they have not taken advantage of it before,” she said. It may surprise people to know that services that seem so basic for women’s health are not offered at all colleges. Typically, public institutions will have more extensive options. Georgia Southern, for example, offers most of the same services that Georgia Tech does, including methods of birth control, emergency contraception and pregnancy and STD testing. The University of Georgia has a women’s clinic that offers gynecological exams and testing, biopsies, birth control, and emergency contraception. According to Sorrells, “Most public colleges will have women’s health centers that provide basic service and we like to offer it to students.”

Women’s colleges will also tend to

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featured story

You can be a winnah!

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A Family Legacy...

Eric Patterson follows in the famed footsteps of his pro baseball brother and Tech athlete dad. Page 30

INS incident prompts questions for student visa holders

By Jennifer Lee Contributing Writer

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) has been under fire lately due to news that student visas for two September 11 hijackers were only just received by the Florida flight school where they studied. This event has enraged and prompted harsh criticism from many people, notably President Bush, who was “stunned and not happy” when he learned of the news, and Attorney General John Ashcroft, who called the incident evidence of the INS’s incompetence.

However, on this campus, the Office of International Education (OIE) is handling the news calmly and rationally. A fact often overlooked by the media is that the two hijackers, Mohamed Atta and Marwan Al-Shehhi, actually received approval of their visas prior to last September. Both men filed requests with the INS to change their visas from visitor to student status in September 2000. Atta’s application was approved the following July, and Al-Shehhi’s in August.

See Visits, page 21

feature photo

Health and Fitness Week

By Charles Fry / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Students participate in the 2nd Annual Health and Fitness Challenge held Tuesday at the Shaft and Slides Walkway. The Department of Housing sponsored this event, which included health assessments, demonstrations, and fitness challenge activities. Prizes were awarded to the Fittest Woman and Man as well as obstacle course “Survivor Teams.”

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Mr. Heathcliff is a time-traveling alien
“Literature is the human activity that takes the fullest and most precise account of variousness, possibility, complexity, and difficulty.” —Lionel Trilling

By Joshua Cuneo
Contributing Columnist

I have discovered that the beauty of English class is its exploration into the chaotic realm of millions of diverse ideas and personalities. Theories, attitudes, perceptions on life—all of these run rampant.

After all, decent literature in any form serves two functions: first, it entertains, and second, it provides some medium through which the author, illustrator, or filmmaker may comment on any aspect of life he chooses, whether it be the nature of the human race, theories about reality, scientific or sociological concepts, or general random wanderings.

The purpose of English class, then, is to expose the diverse world of literature so that each student may perceive and attempt to comprehend the human race and its outward look on life, and, through this thorough and diverse background of ideas, have a platform upon which he may construct his own unique ideas and consequently improve himself.

Unfortunately, the current school of thought on the English curriculum is still narrow-minded and one-sided.

Joshua Cuneo
Contributing Columnist

from page 17

Remember to vote—
Winner of the Tech Up Close contest receives a *Technique* T-shirt and a coupon for free Papa John’s pizza.

**Last week’s Tech Up Close:**

Satellite dish located on the roof of the EE building (Van Leer)

**Last week’s winner:**

Tony Serna

- it’s your school, too.
Visas

Nevertheless, “Everybody is pointing fingers,” said Dr. Harvey Charles, Director of the Office of International Education. The OIE coordinates arrangements for international students studying at Tech, providing them with information on everything from visas and policies for maintaining international student status to cultural information.

In a formal response to the incident, the INS stated, “Notice to students are automatically generated to student visas, get backed up with the new system, notification is ‘false.’”

Frost who begins to sound like Bronte

Shakespeare is worthless trash, or that Macbeth is superior to Hawthorne, or that Poe is superior to Hawthorne, or that Shakespeare is worthless trash, or that Michael Crichton is the most brilliant writer in the past century, then how am I more in error than the professors of English who worship burns of Charlotte?”

Thus, it seems to me, teachers and professors of English ought to abide by two rules. First, in those courses that do not follow a stated theme, teachers should make a conscious effort to expose their students to the most diverse selections of literature possible.

Students should read, analyze, and interpret works from classic fiction, science fiction, contemporary fiction, non-fiction, biography, children’s literature, mass-market literature, film, comic strips, and all the rest.

This analyzation is the only means by which the student may gain a complete realization of the diversity of philosophies in particular and the diversity of the human race in general, so that they’re not confined to the narrower range of ideas and methods of expression offered by cannon literature.

Second, teachers should emphasize that the interpretations taught in the class are those generally agreed upon and accepted by the public, so the student has the complete freedom to reject any and all such conventions and form his own interpretations.

After all, this is English class! There are no wrong ideas or incorrect answers. There are no stupid questions or mistaken beliefs. There are no right ideas or incorrect answers. There are no stupid questions or mistaken beliefs. There are no right ideas or incorrect answers. There are no stupid questions or mistaken beliefs.

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Hopefully the implementation of a computerized system may offer improvement. The current process at the INS for collecting and tracking information on students is paper-based; however, the INS is transitioning to a computer-based system which, according to Charles, will hopefully be fully functional by January 2003.

Charles is optimistic that the system will improve when the INS completes its transition to a computerized system. “Once we know how to work with the new system, notification will be easier and more efficient,” he said. But for the meantime, said Charles, “We’re in waiting mode.”

Posing for Playboy, Budweiser calendars may, may not mean trouble for Baylor U. women

By Brandi Dean

(UT WIRE) Baylor University—Photographers for Playboy magazine’s “Women of the Big 12 Conference” feature and representatives of the 2003 Budweiser Women of the Big 12 Conference Swimsuit Calendar will be in Waco, Texas, this week in search of Baylor University women to pose for their publications, but students who do so could face consequences from the Baylor administration.

Playboy has been featuring college pictorials for the past 25 years. When the Big 12 last was included in 1996, President Robert B. Sloan Jr. told the Lariat students who posed for the magazine would be “subject to expulsion under the student sexual misconduct policy.” This time, however, that may or may not be the case.

Bethany McCraw, the associate dean of judicial and legal student services who would be in charge of punishment, said although the handbook lists expulsion as a possible consequence of such behavior, that consequence is not a foregone conclusion—things such as the students’ attitude and their honesty also would be considered.

“Suspension and expulsion are always an option, depending on how grievous the action is,” McCraw said. “All of the sanctions listed in the handbook would be an option. I can’t really make a blanket statement. There are so many variables to each individual case—it depends on the situation and the circumstances.”

The other possible punishments listed in the handbook include student legislation or visa policy since it happened to be the case.

Unfortunately, the current school of thought on the English curriculum is still narrow-minded and one-sided. The majority still holds that students must spend all of their time analyzing the same literature to the point of monotony. The novels and stories read are those agreed by the mainstream to be the great classics of English literature and will thus benefit students the most.

Yet attitude molds students into conformed thinkers, a practice which has befallen previous civilizations.

How can a student truly form his own outlook on life when his base is limited to Shakespeare and Dickens?

Each student must be given the opportunity to form his own unique, unprecedented, and unconventional perception of life, or otherwise his individuality will be severely constrained. And what’s even worse, without exposure to diverse literature, Thoreau begins to sound like Twain.

The entire literary cannon runs together into an incomprehensible blur, and the student achieves nothing but boredom.

English classes are particularly horrendous in attempting to teach students what a piece of literature means. That’s conformist thinking. That’s communism.

The meaning of a literary work is subjective to the individual interpretation of the student.

If I decide that Macbeth is secretly a drunken prostitute, or that Harper Prynne has telepathic abilities, or that Mr. Heathcliff is a time-traveling alien from the forty-second dimension, and I have the evidence to prove it, then who is to say I am wrong?

Who has any right to say that my idea is “bad” or my interpretation is “false”?

Furthermore, if I decide that Poe is superior to Hawthorne, or that Shakespeare is worthless trash, or that Michael Crichton is the most brilliant writer in the past century, then how am I more in error than the professors of English who worship Burns of Charlotte?

Thus, it seems to me, teachers and professors of English ought to abide by two rules. First, in those courses that do not follow a stated theme, teachers should make a conscious effort to expose their students to the most diverse selections of literature possible.

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are censure, reprimand, probation, restitution and eviction. The two Baylor students who posed in 1996 were seniors and therefore not able to be expelled.

Regardless, Dr. Eileen Hulme, vice president of student life, said it was not something the university administration would look upon favorably. She said posing for Playboy would fall under one of the Student Handbook’s definitions of misconduct: “expression that is inappropriate in the setting of Baylor University and in opposition to the Christian ideals which it strives to uphold.”

“We really would believe that posing nude in Playboy would be in opposition to our Christian ideals,” Hulme said.

However, posing for the Budweiser swimsuit calendar would be a different situation in Hulme’s opinion. The way a student posed would be considered in deciding what definition of misconduct under which it would fall. In previous calendars produced by University Calendar Productions for University of Kansas and Kansas State University, some women posed topless, with their arms or other objects covering their breasts.

“A student pictured in a Budweiser calendar would not necessarily produce a university response,” Hulme said. “However, if it crosses the line to lewd behavior, we would consider disciplinary action.”

Hulme said she would consider posing topless to be lewd behavior. Spokespersons for both Playboy and University Calendar Productions tend to see their publications in a more positive light; both said past participants in similar projects had been pleased with the experience.

“I think it’s the experience of a lifetime,” said Elizabeth Norris, director of public relations at Playboy. “I think any girl would love it—she’s pampered and treated like a queen. It’s great fun to be a star for a month. Everybody wants to be in Playboy.”

T.J. Killian, the vice president and co-founder of University Calendar Productions, said posing for the calendar would be very different than posing for Playboy. He described the models posing topless in the calendars as an example of implied nudity, which he does not consider inappropriate.

“We really would believe that posing nude in Playboy would be in opposition to our Christian ideals,” Eileen Hulme, V.P. of Student Life, Baylor U.

“We make sure everyone is real comfortable and has a good time,” he said. “It’s a lot of fun.”

Models for Playboy would not be nude necessarily, either. Playboy pays its models on a sliding pay scale, where those who pose nude are paid the most, followed by those partially nude and then those who pose clothed.

Models for either publication will be asked to participate in promotional events. Playboy officials will set up interviews with television, radio and newspaper for their models. Norris said magazine sales in the past have increased greatly in areas around the schools featured. In 1996, the last time Baylor women were featured in Playboy, the Waco, Texas, Barnes & Noble booksellers indicated it sold about eight times more issues than usual.

The 200,000 Budweiser swimsuit calendars University Calendar Productions is planning to produce will be distributed for free at bars and nightclubs by Budweiser vendors. Models for the calendar will be asked to attend calendar signings at local distributions for which they will be paid.

So far, fewer Baylor women have applied to model for the calendar than those from other Big 12 schools. Killian said fewer than 20 Baylor students have sent in applications, compared to between 40 and 50 applicants from each of the other schools.

He also said that he believes this is because newspapers at all schools other than Baylor ran classified ads, although the University of Texas’ The Daily Texan declined to mention modeling in the ad.

Instead it focused on the requests for photographer and graphic designers for which the company also is looking. The policy of the Lariat is not to accept advertisements for any type of alcoholic beverage, and the paper reserves the right to reject or revise advertisements that conflict with the Christian educational mission of Baylor.

Norris said the number of Playboy applicants would not be available until after the auditions this week but hopes Baylor women would be interested. Playboy photographers will be in Waco on Thursday and Friday to interview applicants, and the president and vice president of University Calendar Productions will be visiting local bars and nightclubs in hopes of recruiting “outgoing people.”