

You can be a winnah!

Can you predict who will take home the Oscar statuettes? Take on Andrew Santelli, our own Entertainment Editor. Page 23

A Family Legacy...

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



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 Rieck
Staff Writer

Since its charter ten years ago, the Georgia Tech Muslim Students Association has tried to educate the non-Muslim student population on Islam, and provide support and activities for its members, and non-Muslim students. The organization has increased their profile, membership, and community activities over the past few years. There are over 400 members in the organization, and 50 "active" members. Together with six other Atlanta-area colleges including Emory University and Agnes Scott College, the Georgia Tech MSA formed the Inter-Collegiate Muslim Student Association of Georgia. The IMSA publishes the Al-Qalam: The Pen, a newsletter for members, and the community.

After the September 11th terrorist attacks, the media attention towards Muslim student organizations has increased dramatically. Several student organizations across the country have come under fire by their respective school administrations, and others have faced persecution. However, the situation is different on Tech's campus. Amer Bashir, president of the Georgia



Tech MSA, attributes that to the fact that "Georgia Tech has been a passive community towards community issues" and the administration's actions after the attacks. "The president did a good thing. He sent an e-mail out to the community, and said whoever did it is not on campus, and not to take it out on us" said Bashir. Also President Clough held a meeting a week after the attacks with the MSA and other organizations which Bashir said also helped. Bashir said that he receives "looks once in a while" and although it was already there, it has "increased slightly after 9/11" but there has

been no verbal or physical confrontations.

The organization's profile on campus also rose after the attacks. The MSA has engaged in numerous activities designed to educate the public about Islam. "After 9/11, there was a certain surge in terms of interest in Islam. People were approaching us asking questions, and wanted literature about Islam" said Bashir. In response, the MSA offers classes on Islam to non-Muslim students, prayer sessions daily, hosts weekly congregational activities, guest speakers, and a weekly information booth. Additionally, Bashir made Tech's

campus the center for a nationwide campaign to help Imam Jamil Al-Amin, the former Black Panther involved in a high profile murder case in Atlanta. Bashir was the Atlanta Coordinator, and helped Muslim student organizations across the country raise support funds for Jamil Al-Amin. Also the organization began a Website, hosted demonstrations, and information sessions about the cause.

During the past week, the MSA has held a series of events in honor of Islamic Awareness week. "It is a week that we celebrate throughout the U.S. The goal is basically to increase the awareness about Islam across the community on campus. That is why the topics that we included are mostly related towards what concerns non-Islams. For example, one on is the idea of God, whether he is one or one many" said Bashir. The week's events included everything from guest speakers to henna hand painting.

During the day, an information booth was set up where Islamic students answered questions on Islam, showed videotapes, displayed costumes, and provided free food. On Mon-

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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.

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"We're accustomed to having the INS send us notification months late."

Harvey Charles
Director, OIE

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.

"Generally, most of the patients I talk to are well aware of the services we offer. I do have those patients who come in, however, and talk extensively with me because they did not realize beforehand that Georgia Tech even had a women's clinic," said Hope Sorrells, a nurse practitioner at the Georgia Tech Health Center.

"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

"I'd like to think...students are generally aware that information is out there, even if they have not taken advantage of it before."

Hope Sorrells
Nurse practitioner, Women's Clinic

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 offer emergency contraception, it's a pretty basic service and we like to offer it to students."

Women's colleges will also tend to

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Feature Photo Health and Fitness Week



By Charles Frey / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Students participate in the 2nd Annual Health and Fitness Challenge held Tuesday at the Shaft and Skiles 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."

An Untitled Perspective

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 con-

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

Joshua Cuneo
Contributing Columnist



cepts, 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 out-

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 him-

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Health

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have most of these services. Agnes Scott's health center provides birth control and which would include tests for pregnancy or STD's, as does Spelman College.

Many private institutions, however, especially those with a specific religious affiliation, do not have all of these options. Shorter College employs a clinical physician, but does not even offer any diagnostic tests, which would include tests for pregnancy or STD's. Students are forced to go off campus even for simple blood tests.

Most religiously affiliated institutions, such as Samford University, while they address sexual violence and assault, do not account for regular sexual activity among their students and thus do not provide services that address sexual health.

“Unfortunately, the option of emergency contraception is not generally well-known in the community,” Sorrells commented.

Along with the services available at the Women's Clinic, Georgia Tech students frequently organize events that address women's issues such as breast cancer prevention and treatment.

This past Tuesday night marked the 21st annual Greek Chic Fashion Show, a popular fundraiser for breast cancer research.

Students from various sororities and fraternities worked to put on this show since the beginning of the spring semester, and it was a successful event.

Last night, students gathered at the Campanile for Take Back the Night 2002, an event dedicated to

generating awareness about sexual violence. This year marked the first time that student survivors of rape and sexual assault gave their own personal testimonials, including emotional readings from four women.

In addition to the Women's Clinic at the Health Center, the Women's Resource Center has information about activities and seminars relating to Women's Awareness Month, and there are several events still available for the rest of the month, and the schedule is available at www.womenscenter.gatech.edu/events.html.

For more information on women's health resources and sexual health, visit www.health.gatech.edu and www.wellness.gatech.edu. You can also reach the women's clinic at 404-894-1434 to schedule appointments or ask health questions.

Islam

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day, the series of guest lectures kicked off with Hisham Homsy's speech on “The Benefits of Islamic Monotheism.” Homsy is an imam at a mosque. Homsy spoke on how Muslims practice monotheism much like Christianity and Judaism. The event was held in the Student Center Theater. Dr. Zeki Saritoprak, a professor at Berry College, came on Tuesday to speak on “Ethics in Islam.” The purpose of his lecture was to talk about the different rules and ethics of Muslims. The first two sessions had a small turnout which Bashir estimates at around 50 students.

Attendance dramatically increased on Wednesday for Shabbir Ally's lecture on Jesus in Islam. The Canadian Ally spoke at the First Center a year and a half ago in which he engaged in a debate with Christian scholars. Al-

though he has turned down numerous other invitations from other Muslim student organizations because of his hectic schedule, Ally decided to accept Georgia Tech MSA's invitation.

“I had a special interest in coming here because my wife's niece attends Georgia Tech so having family here presented a further incentive” said Ally. The Clary theatre had over 80 students in attendance. “I enjoyed it, it was interactive towards the end, people got involved, and it showed that people were interested in the topic. The topic itself was very interesting, especially to Christian students because it showed that Muslims believed in Jesus,” said student Mansoor Ba-

bar.

On Thursday, Abdur Rahman hosted a talk on “Islamic Warfare” in the Student Center Theatre. He spoke about Islam's positions on warfare, conflicts, and weapons. Rahman also teaches the options class on Islam for non-Muslim students.

The week caps off with a presentation and lecture on “Women in Islam” given by Aminah Assilmi, a former Southern Baptist woman who converted to Islam.

The lecture will be tonight at 7:30 in the Student Center theatre. On March 30 and 31, the MSA will host the MSA Sportsfest to athletes ranging from 12 years old to college age at SAC.

After the culmination of those events, the organization will begin work on its long term goals.

The ISMA is planning on bringing University of Georgia into the ISMA of Georgia. In terms of the Tech campus, Bashir said that the organization wants to serve the Muslim community, bring them together, and reach out more to the non-Muslim student population.

The MSA wants to contact different organizations on campus, and speak at their events about Islam. Last year, the organization spoke at a sorority event, and wants to expand on its relations with other groups, by also having other organizations speak at their events as well.

Also, the MSA wants to increase turnout for next year's Islamic Awareness Week.

“After 9/11, there was a certain surge in terms of interest in Islam. People were approaching us asking questions, and wanted literature about Islam.”

Amer Bashir
Muslim Student Assoc. Pres.

Remember to vote-

Tech Up Close

email: focus@technique.gatech.edu

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



By Eric Auferhaar/ STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

-it's your school, too.

Cuneo

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self as a person.

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 this 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 Frost who begins to sound like Bronte who 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 subject to the individual interpretation of the student.

If I decide that Macbeth is secretly a drunken prostitute, or that Hester 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 busts of Chaucer?

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 con-

scious effort to expose their students to the most diverse selection 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 is no false interpretation.

If you want one exact, unarguable answer, then fine—physics class is in session right down the hall.

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

By Brandi Dean
The Lariat

(U-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

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Visas

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Nevertheless, "Everyone 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, "Notices to students are automatically generated upon approval. Secondary notification to the school occurs later, after data is manually entered at an INS contract facility."

As a result, international students often begin school before their applications to change to student status have been approved; the delay is common and even expected.

Charles confirmed the frequent nature of this occurrence.

"We're accustomed to having the INS send us notification months late," he said.

He was careful to point out that inefficiency on the INS's part is nothing new; therefore, the recent news did not come as a shock to him.

"The only reason this incident with the student visas has made headlines," said Charles, "is because those two students just happened to be

"The only reason this incident made headlines is because those two students just happened to be the 9/11 hijackers."

Dr. Harvey Charles
Director, OIE

the 9/11 hijackers."

"Nothing has changed," said Charles, speaking about international student legislation or visa policy since last fall.

At the Office of International

Education, also, nothing has changed. At the current time, Charles does not feel that the recent news necessitates change, at least within OIE itself.

Charles instead emphasized that the Office of International Education has always done their job well.

"Everything we're required to do, we do," said Charles.

For example, some programs require periodic reports on international students' progress, and the OIE provides these.

However, Dr. Charles acknowledged that the OIE's work is somewhat ineffective because those reports, like other documents relating to student visas, get backed up in the paperwork of the INS.

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."

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Playboy

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

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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 top-

"We really would believe that posing nude in Playboy would be in opposition to our Christian ideals."

Eileen Hulme
V.P. of Student Live, Baylor U.

less in the calendars as an example of implied nudity, which he does not consider inappropriate.

"Sometimes there's a negative connotation associated with Playboy that we don't want to be associated with," Killian said. "There are

a couple of obvious differences—the models aren't nude. Implied nudity is one thing, but we don't show anything inappropriate."

Killian also said the company would not have women pose in ways with which they were uncomfortable.

"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."