

THE SOUTHERNER

An upbeat paper
for a downtown school

www.gradyhighschool.org/
southerner



JAZZ

*Grady hosts
annual 'Jazz
on the Bricks'*

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SUPER SATURDAY

*Mayoral candidates
hold workshops
at Grady*

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teacher work
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HENRY W. GRADY HIGH SCHOOL, ATLANTA

VOLUME LXII, NUMBER 2, OCT 14, 2008



KATE BERGLUND

IN HER ELEMENT: Ms. Rachel Faircloth, Grady's new chemistry teacher, instructs her students as they work on a project in the media center. Although she arrived late, students feel they are making up ground.

CASE CLOSED: TEACHERS FOUND

By POLLY ZINTAK

About five weeks into the school year, you can usually find classes at Grady at least through chapter two in the textbook and moving into chapter three. But for some classes, this was not the case. On Sept. 12, one month into school, chemistry and health students were scratching their heads and tapping their pencils, wondering why they were still being taught by substitutes.

The apprehension amongst faculty, parents and students concerning the "missing" chemistry and health teachers was finally relieved when the administration hired permanent teachers to fill the positions.

The new chemistry teacher, Ms. Rachel Faircloth, was first to arrive. On Sept. 15, she came clad in a lab coat with test tubes in hand. The new health teacher, Dr. Beatrice Burton, entered Grady's doors on Sept. 29 primed for her first lesson.

Just a few days before the teachers were hired, the administration was still facing difficulties filling the open positions.

Last year's chemistry teacher, Ms. Alissa Berg, taught for two years at Grady before deciding that she would not return in the fall after she was accepted to attend graduate school at Columbia University in New York City.

The faculty had to work through a series of adjustments and mishaps before finally hiring Ms. Faircloth. The first chemistry teacher hired to take the place of Ms. Berg was identified through the program Teach For America. Anytime there is a teaching vacancy at Grady, Teach For America will send a replacement in accordance with the program's contract with the school. Grady wasn't given the opportunity to pick the teacher so when she showed up for the teacher-planning week seven

days before the school year began, Dr. Murray knew very little about her.

After speaking with

the teacher and reviewing her resumé, he didn't feel that she was completely prepared or had the necessary experience to teach honors and AP classes.

"I knew she could teach because she had a degree in chemistry," Dr. Murray said. "But it's very hard for a first-year teacher to walk in and teach honors and AP [classes] if she hasn't taught the regular curriculum first."

Dr. Murray was also concerned about the fact that the training the teacher received was in a middle school.

"I worried whether or not she would know how to transition the curriculum from the middle [school] grades to high school," Dr. Murray said.

During the beginning of teacher-planning week, Dr. Murray began looking into hiring a new teacher because he felt that the Teach For America teacher was not well-suited to the position.

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The boys lacrosse team prepares for its first year as a GHSA team by entering a fall YMCA league with players from Peachtree Ridge.

Festival celebrates art

By EMILY EMSHOFF

The Grady Art Department hosted its third annual Fine Arts Showcase throughout the school's campus on Sept. 24. The event brought together all of the art departments: visual art, music and drama.

"Grady's arts festival was a great chance to catch up on what's going on in the arts program at Grady," said senior Phoebe Looman, a member of the advanced orchestra. "From art to theater to music, there was a chance to see everything."

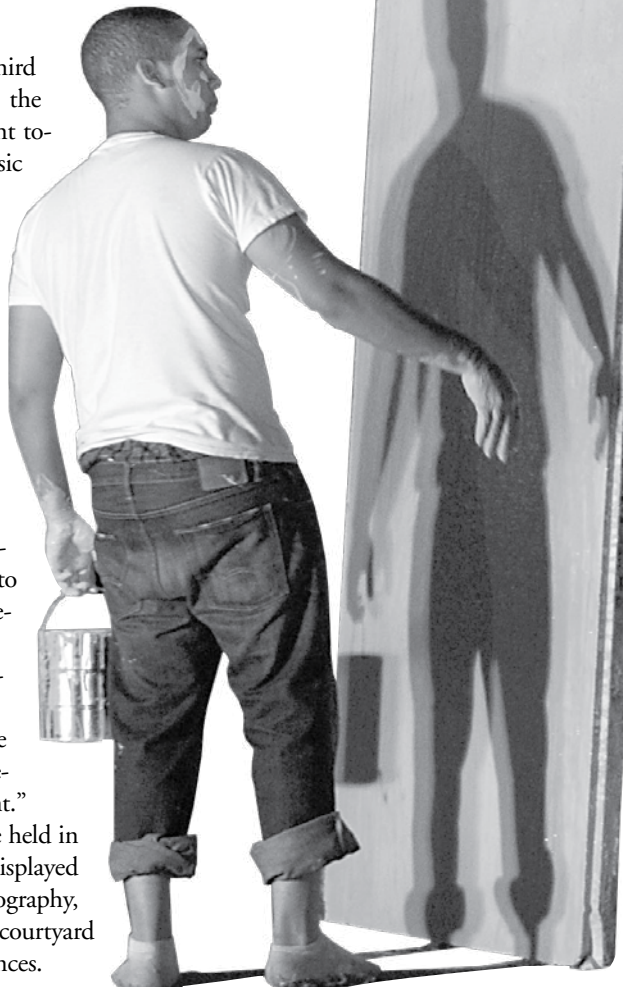
Students and teachers enjoyed the show.

"[The art show] was a blast," said Mr. John Brandhorst, the Art Academy chair who helped organize the show. "[We tried to make it] a lighthearted evening with the audience going from building to building. It was supposed to have that 'picnicky' feeling and be more home-spun."

Senior Ryan Lamotte participated in the drama segment of the art showcase.

"[The art show] was spectacular," Lamotte said. "Although it showed individual talent, it really brought Grady together as an art department."

The orchestra and chorus performances were held in the main theater, while the lobby of the theatre displayed various pieces of art from the sculpting, photography, graphic design and visual art classes. The upper courtyard housed improv groups and open-mic performances.



EMILY EMSHOFF

CASTING A LONG SHADOW: Staring intently at his future creation, senior Josh Van Heidrich starts to paint during the art showcase.

see SHOWCASE page 7

Recent woes hurt wallets

By MINH LAM

Cafeteria cookies: \$1. Yearbook: \$60. Junior dues: \$75. Maintaining a normal lifestyle during today's economic uncertainty: priceless. The cost of living is hard for a high school student. Students are finding themselves affected in many ways by the recent economic downturn caused by unpaid loans in the housing market.

"Banks and mortgage companies provided an opportunity called sub-prime mortgage, which gives [buyers] a cheaper loan rate," said Mr. John Rives, a Grady economics teacher. "The problem is that too many people got in on the deal and a lot of people didn't pay it back."

Recent economic conditions have affected students in many ways. Students have faced difficulties in getting jobs, paying soaring gas prices, paying for college and even participating in extracurricular activities.

"I've been getting less work lately because my bosses said that they have to cut work for some people," senior Patti Guzman said.

see ECONOMIC page 7



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Staff pledges honest reporting in future

As editors of *The Southerner*, we owe every reader of our paper an apology. In our first issue of the 2008-2009 school year, two of the published stories reported fiction as fact. One had fabricated quotes from sources who were never interviewed. The other contained quotes from sources who were encouraged to pretend that they had used our school's new writing center.

The stories, "After school writing center polishes student rhetoric" (page 9), and "Region switch gives team high hopes for state title" (page 19) misrepresented their subjects. Our readers deserve accurate and thorough reporting in every story that we print. Our failure in these two stories not only does harm to the subjects covered in them, but it undermines the trust that *Southerner* students have tried to earn over the past 60 years. It also represents the lowest depths to which a publication can sink.

As editors, we must take responsibility for failing to create an environment where ethical reporting is understood and practiced by the entire staff. We will solve this problem only when the members of our staff recommit themselves to reporting their stories accurately and comprehensively. We have a reputation of covering news well, and we promise that we have and will take steps to restore and earn that reputation in the future.

We have spoken to our staff about the climate of tolerance we may have created that allowed something so inherently unethical to happen once, let alone twice in the same issue. Our staff now understands the severity of the issues we discussed, and that such a climate will no longer be tolerated in our newsroom. We have learned that tolerating mediocre, lackadaisical reporting invariably leads to more egregious ethical errors in reporting, and we promise to make it our No. 1 priority to eradicate both problems in the future.

After a staff meeting discussing the events that took place, the staff agreed that all 41 members will sign a contract, binding them to honest reporting. In the case that any one of us should purposefully report a story incorrectly, the punishment will be severe. We will also instate routine fact checks on stories to check both the information in them and to ensure accurate quote attribution.

We would like all of our readers to know that we recognize that unethical journalism is not acceptable. *The Southerner* is committed to being a reliable source of information, and dedicated to maintaining the integrity of print news. As a staff, we are all embarrassed and disappointed. But most of all, we are dedicated to earning your trust once again. □

Letters to the editor

I completely disagree on how you handled this. Also, what's up with...in your last issue...

Grady Foundation thanks media center

On behalf of the Grady High School Foundation, I want thank the staff and faculty for warmly welcoming and supporting the writing center at Grady ("Afterschool writing center polishes student rhetoric," page 9).

For a year and a half, the GHS Foundation researched writing centers in Atlanta (Mercer, Spelman, Agnes Scott), brainstormed ideas and searched and searched for a location to establish a writing center at Grady. Our ideas were bold and expansive—but reality smacked us in the face. Our dream plans required money and space—lots of it.

That's when Mr. Surber and Mr. Montero kindly offered a space in the

mediacenter. We were able to open the Writing Center at the beginning of school and utilize the computers for research and composing. We have been able to hold workshops and plan to hold many more.

We still have big plans of a space dedicated solely to the Writing Center, a place that could maintain longer hours and be open to the community. However, we appreciate the accommodations that have been graciously made so the Writing Center could begin.

Riki Bolster

Grady Writing Center Coordinator

Orientation disaster

Jane Beal was, at best, halfway there ("Ninth-grade activities fall flat," page 4). This year's freshmen orientation was not a failure, it was

a complete disaster. The way to welcome eager, fresh minds to Grady is not to sit them out in 95-degree weather for hours on end, where instead of building my personal bridge to high school I regressed to kindergarten for the day as we played get-to-know-you games. The freshmen may be the babies of the school, but I'd say those games took us too far back. Even worse, the torture went on for seven hours. Seven! The one thing that could have helped me is the one thing ironically that did not receive the time it deserved: the tour. Grady is no Inman or Morningside; it is enormous and complex. Props to Grady for making an effort, but reel it in next year. A lot.

Alix Youngblood,
freshman

Writers apologize for false reporting

BY DEAN JACKSON

From procrastination to excuses, we teenagers are guilty of being lazy. Recently though, I crossed a line of laziness inexcusable in journalism—I made up quotes.

Deadline was the next day, and I had only interviewed one coach and a couple of runners for my cross-country story. To compensate for my lack of information, I fabricated it. I was going to replace the falsified information with real quotes during the editing process, but I never got around to it.

About a week after the paper was distributed, complaints came in

regarding my story. It was fact-checked, and I was caught. I am embarrassed, and I feel bad that I lied, but I have learned two valuable lessons. The first is that laziness is never an excuse. What I did was disrespectful to the people I misquoted and to the staff because I put our integrity in jeopardy. The second is that there is no excuse for not telling the truth.

I want to apologize. Not only to the people involved and to *The Southerner*, but to our readers. *The Southerner* values the support of the community, and my actions should not endanger that support. □

BY ZACK KLEIN

I truly am sorry for having misrepresented the writing center and the students in the story I had published in the Sept. 12 issue of *The Southerner*. I hope that readers won't think of my writing as untrustworthy in my future stories.

For those readers who don't know what I did, all of the student quotes I used for the story were false. I wrote the story and used the quotes thinking and assuming that the students I quoted as having used the writing center would in fact use it before my story was published. That assumption, however, was

wrong from the beginning. I know it's never OK to report on news that hasn't already happened, but that is the decision I made. It was a wrong decision and it is hard for me to deal with the consequences of my mistake.

My intentions were never to erode the reputation of the people I interviewed, the writing center or myself. I just wanted to have a good story that people wanted to read, so I took some shortcuts.

It's definitely a decision I will never make again, and I hope you will continue to read our paper so that I can regain your trust. □

CORRECTIONS

Writing Center story corrections

The Sept. 12 story, "Afterschool writing center polishes students' rhetoric" (page 9), quotes three students who described their experiences at the writing center. Although the students made the statements attributed to them in the story, the students and the reporter who conducted the interviews knew that the students had never been there.

Due to an editing error, the same story wrongly characterizes Ms. Riki Bolster, the writing center's coordinator, as being "dissatisfied" that the center is located in the media center. When she spoke of hoping to move the writing center, she was expressing long-term goals for the writing center.

"We are starting out small, in a shared space," Ms. Bolster said in an e-mail response to the story. "But our dream is to have a space dedicated solely to the writing center, maybe even a building of its own on campus, where we can have extended hours and be open to the general public."

Also, 15 students attended the writing center during its first month of operation, not during its first week as reported in the story.

Girls Cross-Country Corrections

The Sept. 12 story, "Region switch gives team high hopes for state title" (page 19), contained fabricated statements, attributed to sources who were never interviewed.

Coach Jake Hackett and sophomore Kelsey Roth did not make the statements attributed to them in the story. Freshman Nally Kinnane did not make the statement attributed to her in the caption accompanying the story.

The fabricated statement attributed to Coach Hackett wrongly claims that he considered leaving the coaching staff at the end of last season.

The statement attributed to Roth claims that Coach Hackett runs with the girls team. Although he often runs with the boys team, Coach Hackett does not run with the girls team.

Other Corrections

Junior James Holland was omitted in the Sept. 12 story, "Young forensics team shines in two national tournaments" (page 1). Holland competed in extemporaneous speaking at the National Forensics League tournament in Las Vegas.

The information graphic accompanying the Sept. 12 story "School hits AYP; efforts pay off" (page 1) did not specify that the second chart presented Grady's 2008 GGT scores in English. Sixty-seven percent earned Pass Plus scores on the English test while 28 percent earned a Pass score. Five percent of test-takers did not pass.

A story in the Sept. 12 feature package "Welcome to Grady" incorrectly identified where Dr. David Propst was stationed in the Army. He was at Fort Benning.

Judson Good took the top photograph in the Sept. 12 photo montage "Pep In My Step" (page 18).

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An upbeat paper for a downtown school

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

Text messaging distracts drivers, risk to public safety



LILY MUNTZING

We have finally learned to change radio stations at traffic lights. We wait to eat our deliciously greasy fast food until we've arrived at our destination. We've put the mascara away and discovered that the rear-view mirror is really for monitoring the traffic behind us. So things are looking up for the distracted drivers of America, right? Wrong. A new technological wave of distraction is infiltrating the drivers of America—texting and driving.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not against multi-tasking; I believe it's essential to make the most of your time by watching *Gossip Girl* while doing calculus homework.

But texting and driving? Come on. Let's all admit that it is not humanly possible to have your eyes on the road and your eyes on a text message simultaneously. Similarly, you cannot

possibly have both hands firmly gripping the steering wheel (at 10 and two, straight out of the driver's manual) while at least one hand is tapping the keypad of your cell phone.

Stop at any given traffic light, and you will be surrounded by people hunched over their BlackBerries, urgently typing away messages that really aren't that urgent. Try thinking back, way back. Ten years ago, if you had an urgent message to send someone while driving, you would simply have to wait until you got home to deliver the message. The availability of text messaging has inflated unimportant messages to a whole new level of urgency, but guess what — our messages have not changed over the past decade, and we survived just fine 10 years ago.

The most amazing thing about this whole issue is that it's not just the young, tech-savvy kids that are the perpetrators. My grandma, who is a sprightly 83 years old, cannot open an e-mail without a full explanation from my mom or access a website without step-

by-step instructions. Yet as she cruises down the streets of Philadelphia in her red Miata, she can zap me text messages inquiring about my day or reporting on her perpetually broken treadmill. But besides my grandma, I have seen 50-year-old men texting, most likely informing their wives they'll be home from work late (yeah, sure...), and I've seen 16-year-old girls sending "love texts" to their newest boyfriends. It's obvious that this issue is plaguing the entire population, so unlike underage drinking, the American teenager cannot be the scapegoat.

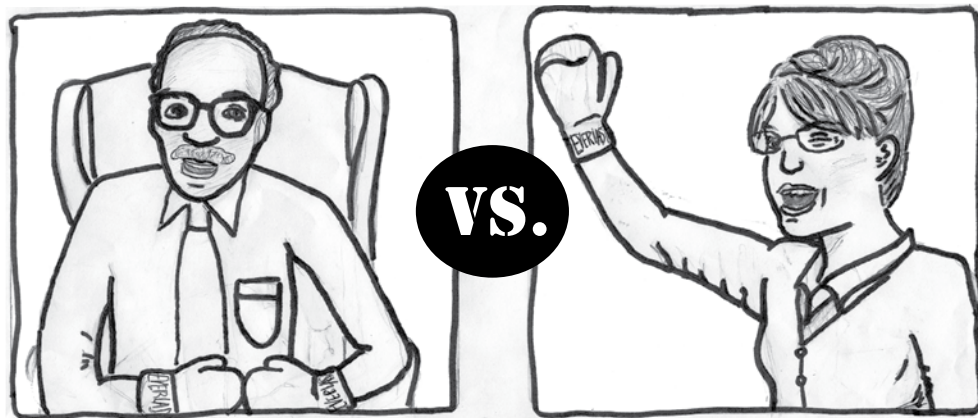
The dangers of text messages aren't confined to driving. Just a month ago, a Los Angeles suburb was the site of one of the deadliest train crashes in American history. A Metrolink commuter train passed by a stop signal and collided with an oncoming freight train, causing nearly 30 fatalities. Investigators have conducted hundreds of interviews and completed in-depth reports on the mechanical status of the involved trains. The investigation

now has taken a new and unpredictable turn: just moments before the crash, the commuter train engineer was sending text messages from his phone.

While conducting a commercial train may seem to require more focus than driving down a city street, the signals and sirens of Atlanta's busy roadways are just as easily missed with your head wrapped up in a text message.

Between drunk driving, kidnapping and terrorism, the world has enough to fear. So the next time you take on the grueling Atlanta traffic, grip that steering wheel, look ahead and please, for yourself and for the rest of us, put down your phone. Sending a text message while conducting a commercial freight train may seem like a more egregious lapse in judgment than sending a text message while driving down Ponce de Leon in a Camry, but both mistakes can lead to dire consequences. And considering the thousands of people killed by drunk drivers, does it really make sense to end your life over a text message? □

MURRAY



PALM

Grady High School	EXECUTIVE OF...	Wasilla, Alaska
1,220	Population	5,469
17 years	EXPERIENCE	6 years
Southerner Students	LOVED BY	Hockey Moms

GUS RICK, POLLY ZINTAK, ALEXANDRIA CANTRELL, OLIVIA SCOFIELD, EMMA FRENCH—IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO CREATE A CARTOON.

Disrespect a form of trash



ALEXANDRIA CANTRELL

If you look around campus after a lunch period at Grady, you will see a mess. I'm not just talking about a few scraps of paper or a small collection of bottles. It looks as if someone scattered the contents of a full dumpster throughout the courtyard.

As Grady students, we have been given a unique privilege—the option of eating lunch outdoors. This special freedom is something we are fortunate to have. Students at other

schools are imprisoned under mind-numbing fluorescent lights all day. Whether they are in the classroom or at lunch, experiencing daylight during school hours is uncommon.

Yet, students take our courtyard and its privileges for granted.

Several weeks ago, we were sentenced to lunch indoors for five days due to the incredibly disgusting mess that we left behind after lunch. We whined, we complained, we even attempted to rebel. But this limitation was strictly enforced under Grady's executive branch—Dr. Propst, Ms. Porter and Mr. Foreman.

The majority of the lunch trash is centralized in the courtyard, but if you walk anywhere on Grady's campus, you will find our debris. There is leftover food everywhere—a tasty feast for hungry flies or even larger unwanted residents on our campus. Bushes house vitamin water bottles and soda cans—all empty and mere steps from a trashcan. Foam trays litter the ground like confetti. When a nice breeze blows by, plastic bags can be seen floating through the sky. Old flyers cover the walkways and unused toilet paper ripples in the trees. The only creatures that enjoy the mess we leave behind are the pigeons that eat the leftovers scattered all over the ground.

So tell me, Grady Knights—what is our problem?

This school deserves the best from all of us. This administration has worked tirelessly to ensure that we get the best out of our time here at Grady. Do we not worry about what we toss on the ground simply because Grady has a janitorial staff? If that is the case, then our custodial staff and administration are not getting the respect that they deserve.

This lack of respect for our campus is not restricted to the courtyard. I recently bumped into someone in the hallway in a hurry to get to class. Immediately, I apologized for my clumsy move. In return, I received an endless rant (which included about every curse word in Urban Dictionary). This lack of common decency has happened to me more than once. I should probably work on my severe clumsiness, but the more serious issue at hand should be addressed as well—we have a complete lack of courtesy for one another.

Surely we weren't raised to be this rude. As teenagers, we are habitually apathetic, but that doesn't give us any right to disrespect each other and the campus we share.

Many of us spend more time at school than we do at home. If we are going to spend the majority of our week here, then why not make Grady a pleasant place to be? In all honesty, picking up after ourselves is one of the easiest things we will ever be asked to do. None of us will become manic or go psychotic if we stop our mingling, flirting or socializing for a moment to pick up our trays and drop them off in the nearest trash can.

Let's keep in mind that we are all a part of the same school. Grady is more than just a pretty campus. It's a community. Our hallways are so full of life and character, and our open-minded student body creates a unity among campus that makes Grady different from any other school. Have respect for our exceptional campus in its breathtaking location, and have respect for each other. Have respect for Grady. We owe it so much more than the contents of a dumpster. □

Teenagers indifferent to politics



TAYLOR FULTON

"It's time for you to grow up." This nearly impossible command comes from my mom every time she discovers some mischievous act I've committed. Usually when she utters this statement, I know she means to "act my age." But in the time since I last heard this censure, I've come to realize that the statement should not be

directed only at me but at teenagers everywhere.

Amidst the talks of homecoming dances, football games and the latest music in Grady's hallways, it's rare to find people talking about the current state of our country. As much as I love talking about the latest fashions, music and television shows, I also realize that I'm almost 18. It's almost my time to play a constructive role in American society.

College-tuition fees are slowly, but surely rising, and all of us looking forward to higher education will also have to look forward to the average \$30,000 loans for which college students are currently applying. Those 16-year-olds awaiting their first cars may be held back by the steep prices of gas and other natural resources.

It seems to me that society has forgotten that this country will eventually belong to us. Have we forgotten that we are, as cliché as it sounds, "the future"? The choices that our leaders make today will affect us in the long run. We're busy worrying about when Lil' Wayne will drop his next album or when the heads of Apple Corporation will release their next innovative music player. We fail to

recognize, however, that neither the rap star nor Steve Jobs will have to worry about paying off the huge deficit in the social-security program. We will.

Even though it seems like I am discounting the appeal of living a teenage life, as a senior, I know that my time to participate in the adult world is quickly nearing. Soon I, along with millions of other U.S. teens, will be able to pick our leaders, to have a say in where tax dollars go and to fight for more equal living standards. I, for one, am excited about having my voice heard. But from what I see around Grady, many students are either ignorant

to these newfound opportunities or care more about their sneakers.

It's time for teenagers to start caring more about issues that really matter. Unfortunately, the "wonder years" won't last much longer. It should be no surprise that many adults today believe that under our watch, the country will fall or, in our present economic crisis, fall faster. Does this offend anyone but me—considering that under the watch of our parents' generation, the

country's debt will surpass \$10 trillion, our image in the international community has faded and thousands are out of work? I doubt that any of the adults can say anything about what we can do to this country in the future.

Being a teenager is no longer an excuse for us not to care. For those who do, I commend you. For those who don't, this is my plea—be the agent of change. Be the reason that the cost of living goes down and our troops return home next week. Be the 18 percent of this country that will determine the course of action for years to come. It's time to accept this role. It's time to take our place. It's time for us to grow up. □

“ We fail to recognize, however, that neither the rap star nor Steve Jobs will have to worry about paying off the huge deficit in the social-security program. We will. ”

THE "STUDENT" STANCE



Caroline McKay
STAFF WRITER



Savanna Sweeney
GUEST WRITER

Obama best option

There is far too much to say about what is at stake in the upcoming election to fit in a nine-inch-by-three-and-three-quarter-inch column. The crucial divides in policy between Sen. John McCain and Sen. Barack Obama on energy, the war in Iraq and appointments to the Supreme Court will lead the country in vastly different directions. Glossing through a stump speech of why Obama's platforms are superior wouldn't do justice to the complexity of each issue in this truly extraordinary and monumental election cycle.

Never in history has a candidacy seemed so unlikely yet so inevitable. Barack Obama's great uncle fought in World War II, and his father herded goats in Africa. Obama has studied at a public school in Jakarta, Indonesia, and at Harvard Law in Cambridge, Massachusetts. His candidacy represents to the world that the United States is still the land of opportunity.

But the very qualities that have inspired many Americans—Obama's ambition, eloquence and education—have given the political right ammunition to label the Hawaii native as a Northeastern intellectual elitist, which makes some cringe. Why? What's wrong with education and proper syntax? I want the president to be a part of the elite, to be able to understand the intricate web of domestic and international policies, to be so versed on the law that he edited the most prestigious law review in the world and taught constitutional law at one of the best law schools. After the past eight years, we could use a president who respects the courts, who follows the stipulations of the Constitution and who understands basic subject-verb agreement.

Barack Obama is more than his credentials—his administration will be good for the economy. I agree with Obama that "those of us who have benefited most from this new economy can best afford to shoulder the obligation of ensuring every child has a chance for that same success." When someone's duvet covers cost more than an average American's yearly income,

they should pay more to help those who are struggling financially. We can no longer neglect the economy and let the free market race at a break-neck velocity. Regulations are needed to prevent deadly crashes and the devastating cost of repairs.

Though Sen. McCain has voted vigorously against speed limits for the market, I can't deny that he has diverged from his party on petty issues in the Senate. With the presidency within his reach, however, he has sold his soul in million-dollar segments to win the conservative base. McCain has conformed to his party's platforms in many major areas like immigration and abortion. McCain will do anything to win—from running only negative advertisements against Barack Obama to picking conservative fundamentalist Gov. Sarah Palin as his running mate.

The queen-of-hockey-moms, Gov. Palin has consistently demonstrated that she doesn't understand fundamental domestic and international issues. At 72, McCain is the oldest presidential candidate to ever run for a first term. Three years away from the U.S. male life expectancy, McCain has battled cancer four times.

An old man's heartbeat away from the Oval Office, Gov. Palin thinks the war in Iraq is God's war, that dinosaurs and humans lived simultaneously and that Alaska's proximity to Russia should count as foreign-policy experience. Her acclaimed executive experience is governing a state with a population smaller than DeKalb County. Gov. Palin might be relatable, but if McCain dies, she's the one who has to play a game of foreign-policy chess with Putin.

Right now, my friends, we're moving backwards. This election will determine the path the country will take in the next four or eight years—whether we will stand still with a status-quo candidate or move forward with someone who genuinely wants to lift the nation out of this mess and help us realize our full potential. □

SEN. BARACK OBAMA VS. SEN. JOHN MCCAIN

In November 2004, Sen. John McCain was re-elected to the Senate with nearly 77 percent of the vote.

SOURCE: WWW.JOHNMCMAIN.COM/ABOUT/

In November 2004, Sen. Barack Obama was elected to the Senate with nearly 70 percent of the vote.

SOURCE: PEOPLE'S WORLD WEEKLY, WWW.PWWW.COM

In 2004, Barack Obama became the third African American since Reconstruction to be elected to the U.S. Senate.

SOURCE: WWW.BARACKOBAMA.COM/LEARN/MEET_BARACK.PHP

Sen. John McCain does not support a troop withdrawal in Iraq, believes in pursuing offshore drilling and works towards improving health care by fostering competition.

SOURCE: HTTP://WWW.JOHNMCMAIN.COM/INFORMING/ISSUES/

Obama emphasizes withdrawing American troops from Iraq, increasing energy independence, decreasing the influence of lobbyists and promoting universal health care as top national priorities.

SOURCE: WWW.BARACKOBAMA.COM/ISSUES/

If you are interested in being a guest writer for *The Southerner*, let us know at WinterWorks@aol.com

Wise McCain is able

At predominantly liberal Grady, being a conservative puts me in the minority. Though many students will disagree with my opinions, I ask that they be read with an open mind.

On that note, Sen. John McCain is the ideal person to lead our country for the next four years. While both Sen. McCain and Sen. Barack Obama promise change in their campaigns, Sen. McCain has the right experience and credentials to fulfill that promise.

With more than two decades of experience as a U.S. senator, McCain has the right balance of experience combined with a willingness to go against both Washington and his own party if he believes it is the right thing to do for the nation. Sen. McCain has come to be known as the "maverick of the Senate" for his independent thinking and proven ability to move across the aisle to work with Republicans and Democrats alike.

Additionally, Sen. McCain is a true hero in service to his country. As a prisoner of war, he lived through years of torture while insisting that other POWs captured before him be freed first, despite the fact that he could have used his position as the son of the U.S. commander in Vietnam to gain early release. Today, Sen. McCain continues to put his country before himself.

Military experience and foreign policy are Sen. McCain's greatest strengths. As a supporter of the efforts to free Iraq from the rule of Saddam Hussein, McCain has criticized the many mistakes made by the Bush administration in the middle stages of the war. Sen. McCain was one of the first and loudest voices calling for the troop surge, which has been so successful that even Sen. Obama has been forced to acknowledge it. Sen. McCain is not afraid to name the enemy—Islamic terrorism—and has the experience to defeat and wipe it off the face of the earth. Sen. McCain will not withdraw from Iraq until we are victorious. He believes that the United States is qualified and morally obligated

to defeat terrorism and institute democracy in the Middle East, which, in turn, will make the world a safer place. This is the kind of attitude needed in our next commander-in-chief.

If Sen. McCain is elected, he also promises to reduce our dependence on foreign oil by encouraging offshore drilling and exploring alternative sources of energy. Through his proposed "Lexington Project," he will reduce the currently sky-high gas prices affecting every family while discovering new ways to power our country.

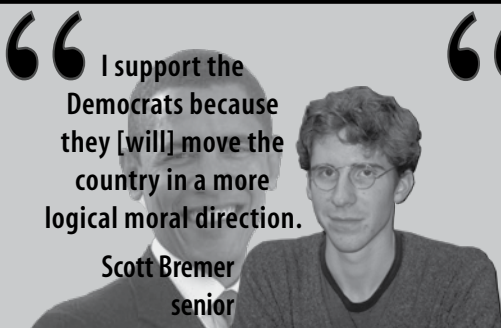
His economic policies will pull the United States out of its current economic crisis and put it back on the path to prosperity. Sen. McCain predicted and warned against the current mortgage problems more than two years ago, yet the attempts to fix these problems were blocked by Democrats in the Senate, including Sen. Obama. Sen. McCain's proposed tax plan favors small business because he understands that it will create new jobs, which will in turn help our struggling economy.

In one of his first decisions as the Republican presidential nominee, Sen. McCain selected the reform-minded, independent-thinking, Alaskan governor as his vice-presidential running mate. Gov. Sarah Palin will bring a fresh perspective as a self-proclaimed "Washington outsider."

Gov. Palin cleaned up politics in Alaska, earning her the highest approval rating of any U.S. governor currently in office. Obviously the citizens of Alaska who gave her this unequalled approval rating see a very different person than the negative stereotype portrayed by the media. "You betcha" she's qualified to be vice president, possibly even our best one yet.

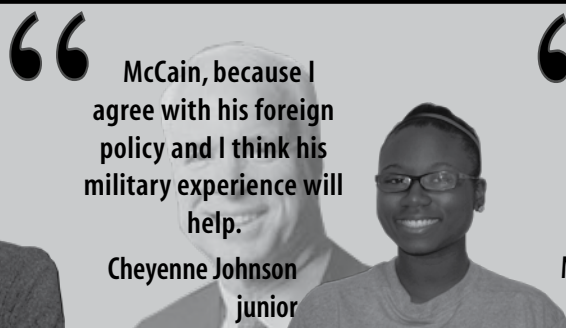
Sen. McCain's plans and proposals are needed to get our country back to the prosperous and safe place it used to be. It goes without saying that Sen. McCain's experience and policy-making skills make him the most qualified candidate in this election. □

The Southerner asked students who they thought should be the next president. Here is what they had to say:



"I support the Democrats because they [will] move the country in a more logical moral direction."

Scott Bremer
senior



"McCain, because I agree with his foreign policy and I think his military experience will help."

Cheyenne Johnson
junior



"Obama, because he's my Prince Charming!"

Marie Westmoreland
freshman



"I like McCain because he works with both parties to get [done] what needs to be done."

Jillian Woodliff
senior

Election '08

Grady weighs in on the issues...

374 students polled



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SUMMARIES BY ISOBEL ROBINSON-ORTIZ

E D U C A T I O N

The way that federal standards direct and judge a school has a major impact on its student population. Today, the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 is one of the biggest factors affecting educational policy.

Child Left Behind is unassailable," said world history teacher Mr. George Darden. "Leaving no child behind is clearly a very big thing." While Mr. Darden admires the intent of NCLB, he faults the law for its focus and unexpected

effects. "I believe that the law itself—the means by which it measures success in schools and the series of incentives it sets up are predicated on the wrong ideas about teaching and about education," Mr. Darden said. "In implementation, it's actually having a very negative effect on schools, even though the intent was positive." □

A B O R T I O N

In the summer following her freshman year, senior Ariel Manning's life was thrown into a tailspin when her mother became ill.

"I woke up in the middle of the night with my mom laying across my legs," Manning said. "She couldn't move, and she couldn't talk."

Manning's mother had congestive heart failure. Because they couldn't afford the proper health-care coverage in Georgia, Manning's aunt, who resides in Massachusetts, invited them to use her medical plan. With this policy, Manning's mother was able to get the necessary treatment.

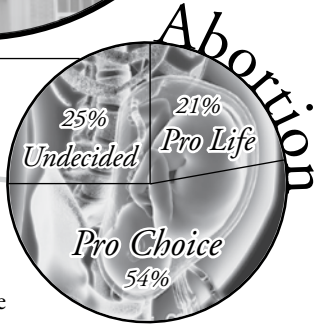
"We found out that my mom developed renal failure, so she had to go on dialysis," Manning said.

Manning's mother remained in Massachusetts for six months while receiving treatment. When Manning returned home, she found that her family's coverage was on hold.

"When you're on dialysis, Georgia law supposedly states that you automatically get Medicare and disability, but the state wouldn't [give the necessary support]," Manning said.

The medical bills have gotten so great in number that Manning's

mother now refuses to look at them. □



M A R R I A G E

Gay marriage is a divisive issue among the Grady populace.

"I think that gays should [be able to] marry," sophomore Chloe Morris said. "It shouldn't depend on gender. If you love someone, it shouldn't really matter."

While there are many supporters of full marriage

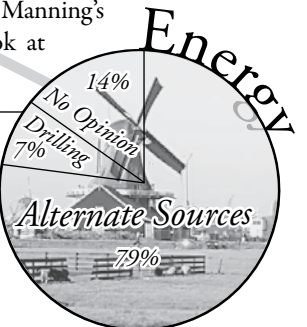
rights for homosexuals, there are still those who believe marriage is between a man and a woman only.

"I am a Baptist," senior Demarius Walker said. "I personally believe that marriage is a religious institution, and I don't think it should endorse homosexual behavior. That said, I do believe in civil unions and that [gay people] should have every right afforded to

married people."

Senior Scott Bremer, however, thinks that all the hype over a word is unwarranted.

"If homosexuals want to engage themselves in the unnatural union which has plagued straight couples for thousands of years, they are free to do so," Bremer said. □



Grady extremely liberal; conservatives feel silenced

By AMELIA KOVACEVICH

Time is running out on the presidential race, and Grady is buzzing with everything the presidential (and vice-presidential) candidates are doing and saying. The walls are plastered with posters encouraging voter registration and participation in various political clubs. These posters, however, all share a common theme—they are advertising liberal and Democratic principles.

World history teacher Mr. George Darden attributes Grady's overwhelming Democratic population to its surrounding environment.

"Grady is bound to be liberal based on the area [it's in]," Mr. Darden said. "Urban areas, such as Atlanta, are generally more progressive and Democratic in attitude."

Senior Demarius Walker, president of the Social Action club, has his own theory on why schools in Midtown Atlanta are more liberal than schools in suburban areas.

"Grady [and other Atlanta Public Schools] are a crossroads of people from all different backgrounds—mostly people who don't have much money," Walker said. "These people are ready for change, most of the suburban schools have money and don't really need change; they're fine the way they are."

Walker not only supports the desire for change among students but also feels teachers should speak up.

"Teachers

not [being] afraid to share their views makes Grady what it is," Walker said.

Considering himself a progressive Democrat, Mr. Darden uses his set of views in the classroom.

"I am never shy to bring my liberal views into my classroom," Mr. Darden said. "But I am always very careful and welcome to people disagreeing [with my opinions]."

While Mr. Darden says that almost all of his students agree with each other on most political topics, there are always conservative students who have conflicting opinions.

"I don't think my class is unwelcome for conservatives," Mr. Darden said. "In fact, most of my more conservative students wear it as a badge of honor. I think it's a big point of pride for those students because it makes them different."

Senior Jillian Woodliff considers herself politically moderate, meaning that her political views are somewhere between liberal and conservative. She feels that at times, the overwhelmingly Democratic environment of Grady isn't as accepting of conflicting opinions.

"Grady's really liberal and sometimes way too biased," Woodliff said. "I can never find people or clubs [at Grady] that share my

views."

Junior Katie Evans, like Woodliff, is in the minority at Grady as a conservative. She disagrees with Walker about teachers expressing their political beliefs in the classroom.

"I don't mind students being open-minded with their opinions, but teachers shouldn't be so biased," Evans said. "If they're going to [talk about] one side of politics, they have to acknowledge the other side too."

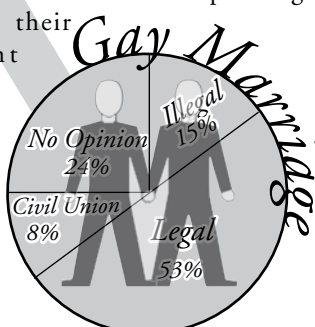
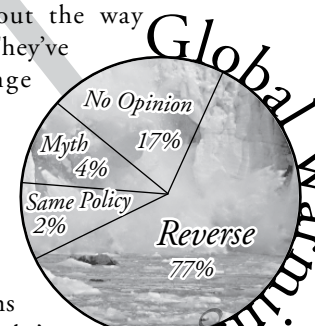
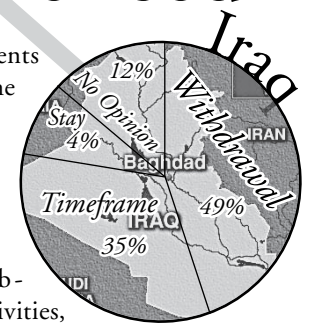
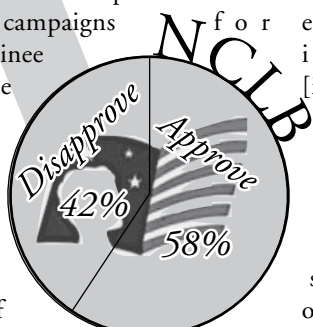
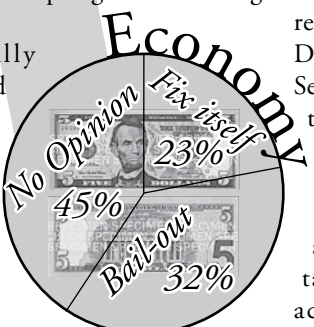
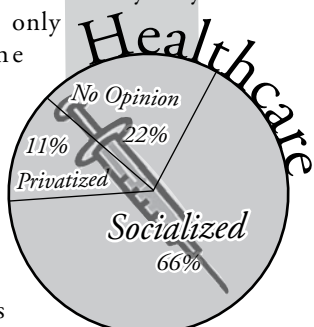
Evans often feels that her voice isn't heard at Grady. She feels uncomfortable about sharing her opinions.

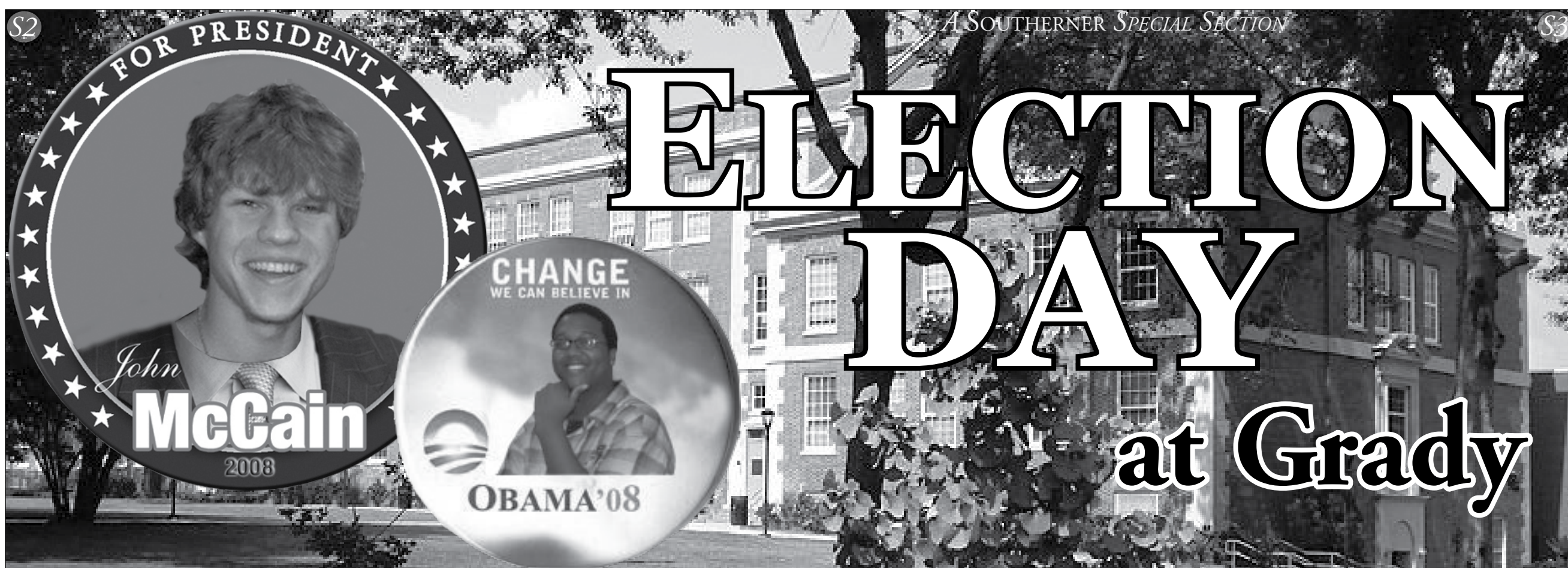
"I feel left out all the time," Evans said. "When everyone has different views than me, I feel intimidated and I don't want to speak my mind."

Though the political opinions may differ, this historical election is capturing the attention of many at Grady.

The excitement over the election is not limited to students who are able to vote this November. Junior Caroline McKay, who doesn't turn 18 until next year, is president of Grady Students for Barack Obama, a student-run club that helps with voter registration and campaigns for Democratic nominee Sen. Obama. While the club has been met with great enthusiasm, many students have taken no real action. Out of

Urban areas, such as Atlanta, are generally more progressive and democratic in attitude.
Mr. George Darden





Students to play presidential hopefuls

BY KEELY YOUNGBLOOD
Don't forget to tune in to the fourth presidential debate. Scheduled for Oct. 28 in the Grady theater, senior debaters Mike Robinson and Demarius Walker will assume the personas of Sen. John McCain and Sen. Barack Obama, respectively. During the event, which will be a fundraiser for the debate team, Robinson and Walker will give speeches and answer questions posed by a panel of judges as if they were the two presidential hopefuls.

Although the debaters will be taking questions, part of the debate will be structured around designated issues. "I know for sure we will have the International News Program director at CNN," Mr. Herrera said. "We will also have James Rolland, the director of the Urban Debate League at Emory. I'm not sure who the third person will be. I'm thinking either [an SGA member] or a Grady alum. I want the panel to be diverse, and I want the questions to be hard."

senior Demarius Walker

mannerisms," Walker said. "The thing is, Mike and I are good for Obama and McCain. I am more of an idealist in the way Barack Obama is, and I love the sweeping oratory aspect of the debate. Mike is the concrete, hard-facts type of guy John McCain is. They also have the same bleak view of the world."

The debate will take place a week before the actual national election.

"This is meant to be informative, not meant to persuade," Mr. Herrera said. "It's meant to show that there are high school students who understand the issues, perhaps better than some adults and to show some of the work [Robinson and Walker] have put in over the last three or so years. Mike and DJ have worked so hard [as debaters]. They are both political junkies. It's time to show the community what they do best."

Walker hopes the debate will also encourage more political activity at Grady.

"Far be it from me and my corny self to suggest more people in Grady have mock presidential debates," Walker said. "But I think there does need to be a lot more active dialogue about politics at Grady. Honestly, the people who are voting for things now, the things presidential candidates say, try and do, don't have a real effect for at least a generation. So the policy that is being discussed now actually ends up affecting us—the kids in high school—more so than it does all those other people." □

kids at Grady. What are the possibilities of a draft? What are the possibilities that, when you graduate college, you're going to have a job [since] the economy is so weird right now? What are we going to do about renewable energy? We want to concentrate on those types of issues, [the ones] that directly impact people in high school."

Walker believes that he and Robinson have been assigned to the role of the candidates they will have the easiest time portraying.

"I think I can get closer to Obama's

Shirley Franklin's first campaign team. He later joined the staff full-time, though he was unsure if he would continue in the political field.

"I wasn't sure I wanted to keep doing politics," Matt Weyandt said in an e-mail. "I took a break, did some traveling and ended up in California."

After moving to California, he continued to work in politics through local races in San Francisco.

"In 2004, I was so angry about what George Bush had done [while in office] that I decided to get involved in the presidential campaign," he said. "I was regional director for a grassroots fundraising campaign for the Democratic National Committee and also worked with MoveOn.org."

After the 2004 democratic presidential loss, he came back to Atlanta and worked on Jim Martin's campaign for lieutenant governor as the finance director and deputy campaign manager. He later spent more time in California, before moving back to Atlanta once again to accept the executive director position.

"I was frustrated by our Republican leadership in the state and by the democrats' inability to organize," Weyandt said. "I came back to work at the DPG because I felt I could make a difference."

His sister, Bess Weyandt, also wanted to make a difference. She too, followed a path into politics.

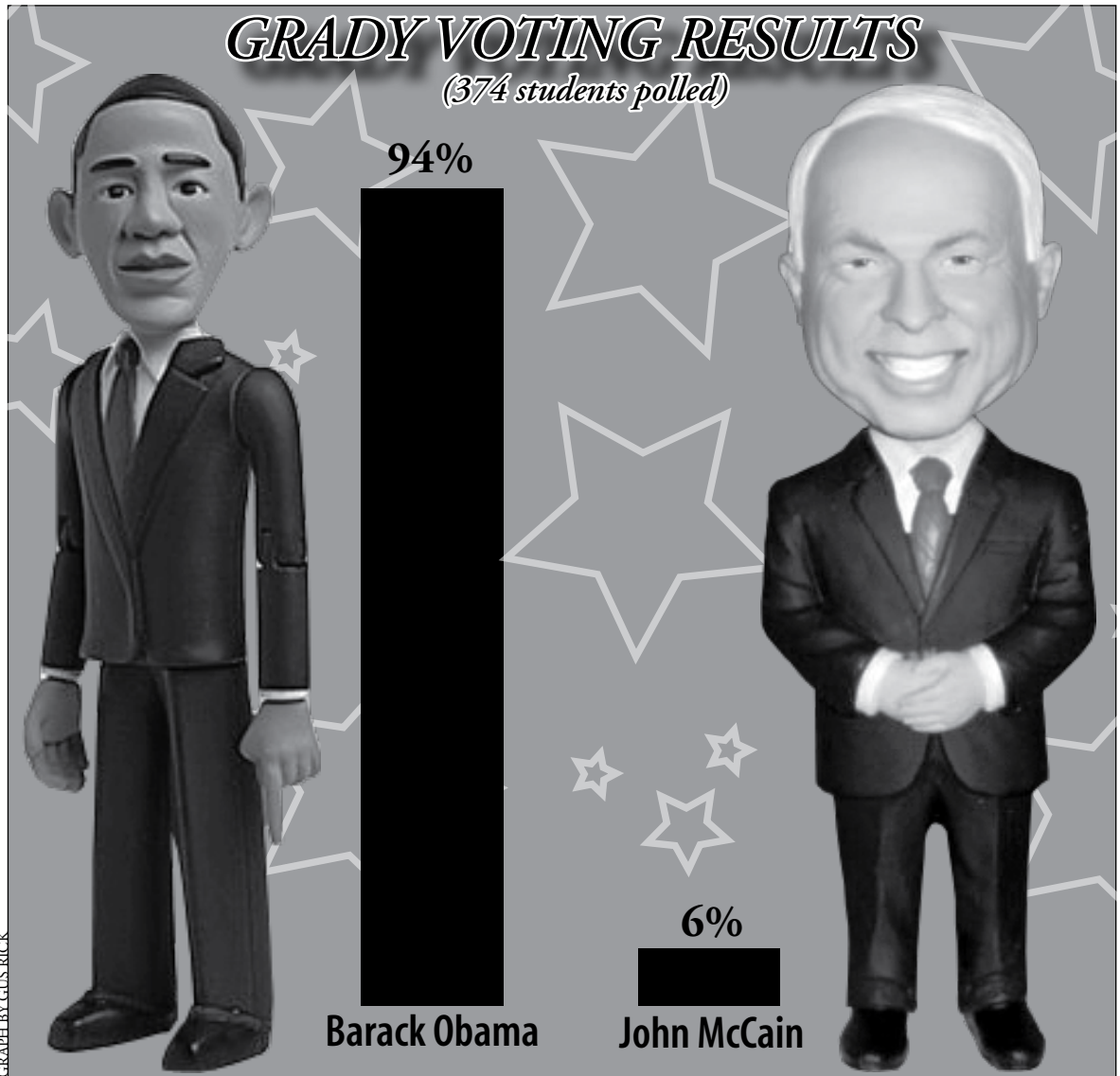
After graduating from Grady, she attended Smith College where she majored in American Studies. She is now the Deputy Campaign Manager for Jim Martin's campaign for U.S. Senate.

"Most of my responsibilities are focused on the fundraising operation," Bess Weyandt said via e-mail. "Working on a campaign, you quickly learn the role [that] money [plays] in politics. Unfortunately, a lot of work goes into raising the money needed to win."

She gained other political experience by working at the Democratic National Convention in 2004, doing political work in South Africa and working on Jim Martin's lieutenant governor campaign.

Both Bess and Matt Weyandt agree that attending Grady changed their view of the world.

"I loved going to Grady," Bess Weyandt said. "The experience of growing up in a public school in Atlanta was formative for me. It gave me a realistic view of the world, but at the same time



Grady siblings leave political mark on state

BY PERRI CAMPIS
Walking through the hallways of Grady, it is clear that many students are determined to be successful in life. They strive for good grades and are active in school clubs and activities. Matt Weyandt, class of 1997, and Bess Weyandt, class of 2000, are a brother-sister team who did just that. Since graduating from Grady, they have made a difference politically in the community and in the country.

Matt Weyandt is the current executive director of the Democratic Party of Georgia where he is responsible for all operations of the state party, from strategic plans to the management of the staff.

After Matt Weyandt graduated from Grady, he attended Emory University and graduated in 2001 with a degree in African-American studies. During his senior year, he was involved in politics, serving as an intern on the staff of Mayor

made me idealistic about making the world a better place."

Matt Weyandt believes the diversity of public school made an impact on who he is today.

"Grady was, and continues to be, a defining part of who I am," he said. "The diversity of the student body, both [racially] and [economically] contributed significantly to my beliefs that the struggle for equality is not over, that public education is a key part of evening the playing field for all Americans and that the diversity of America is our greatest strength. These are lessons that I could not have learned at any private school and for which I am grateful."

Although they have done great things since graduating from Grady, they are both remembered for their involvement in Grady as well.

"Both Weyandts were very involved in the school," Grady drama and English teacher Ms. Lisa Willoughby said. She taught both of the Weyandts when they were students at Grady. "Bess did theatre; she was in a couple of plays. Bess was also involved in developing, and presented an original production we did called the

'Pop Art Happening.' Matt was really involved in art, and he was also really socially active."

Teachers always saw a lot of potential in the Weyandts.

"I would expect both of them to be in leadership positions," said English teacher Mr. Lawrence McCurdy although he only taught Bess Weyandt. "I remember that Matt was very politically motivated; he was inclined toward political things."

Both Matt and Bess left their high school teachers with positive impressions of who they are as individuals.

"Bess could do anything she set her mind to," Ms. Willoughby said. "She was just really focused and she had many different kinds of abilities. Matt didn't mind standing out. He was totally secure of himself. He was always very passionate [about] making change in society, and it's neat to think he's out there doing it."

Matt Weyandt has only continued to serve others since his four years at Grady. He emphasizes that getting involved politically in any way is important.

"Today there are plenty of opportunities to get involved," he said. "Whether it's phone banking, canvassing, registering voters, helping on election day or simply helping in the DPG office, anyone, regardless of age, can make a differ-

Martin family planted at Grady

BY CAROLINE MCKAY
Thousands of voters will cast their ballots on Nov. 4 in hope of making Jim Martin the first Georgia Democrat to sit in the United States Senate since 1995. Nine years ago, hundreds of Grady students cast their ballot for Frank Martin, Jim Martin's son, to be the first ever Mr. Grady.

Though Jim Martin's campaign posters are red, white and blue, the Martin family has been representing the Grady cardinal and gray for over three decades. Martin and four out of five of his brothers, Joe, Jack, Jere and Jeffrey Martin, all sent their children to Grady. Eight have already graduated, one will graduate in 2010 and the last in 2015.

Will Martin, class of 2002, graduated as Grady valedictorian, attended Harvard University and currently studies at Harvard Law School.

Jay Martin, class of 1992, was campaign manager for father Jim Martin's lieutenant governor campaign and now works as lead council for an international architecture firm based in Holland.

Frank Martin, class of 1997, was a member of the policy debate duo nicknamed "Hanz and Franz" whose combined talent, according to Grady debate coach and drama teacher Lisa Willoughby, terrorized the state debate circuit.

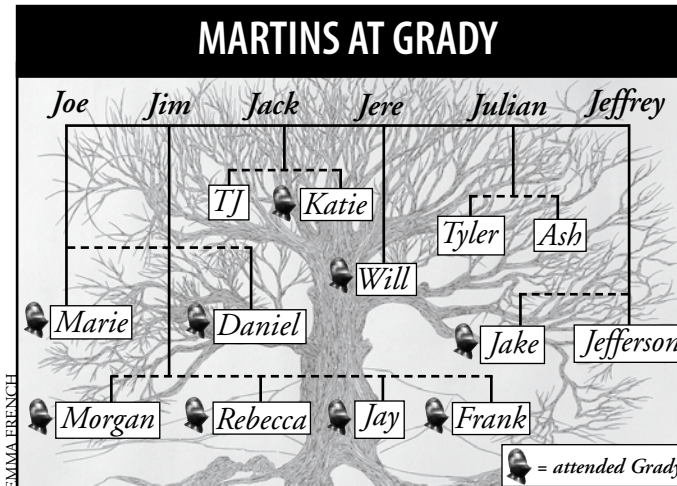
Rebecca Martin, class of 1992, started a program for National Public Radio called Youth Radio.

Junior Jake Martin is a founding member of Grady's lacrosse and water polo teams.

Of the nine Martins that have graduated from or are currently enrolled at Grady, seven have been on *The Southerner*, eight have been on the debate team and four have participated in the drama program. Two have served as student body presidents.

From carpooling to debate tournaments to rehearsals for drama productions, Ms. Lisa Willoughby got to know Jim Martin not only as a politician, but as a father.

"I know what he's like as a



human being and as a father," Ms. Willoughby said. "He even taught Sunday school at the church I went to for a while. He was my state senator and he handled his office with a great deal of integrity for his moral standings. He's just a good guy."

Their capacity as students and leaders aside, the Martin children grew up immersed in politics. Joe Martin became the first Martin to run for elected office when he ran to represent District 3, Grady's district, on the Atlanta Board of Education.

Jim Martin joined his brother on the ballot in 1983 when he ran for the Georgia General Assembly. "When Jim ran for state legislature and Joe ran for state superintendent, the campaigns were always a family operation," said Jeffrey Martin, the youngest of the Martin brothers. "We didn't hire any consultants or staffers. My brothers and I put in yard signs, hosted parties, sent out letters, etc."

In the 2006 lieutenant governor campaign, the younger Martins also took on leadership roles.

"With the campaign for lieutenant governor, the torch was passed from my father's generation to the Grady generation," said Jim's eldest son, Jay Martin. "Morgan, Will, Frank, Daniel and I in particular were significantly involved in the

campaign trail stumping for my Dad, Martins involved in the campaign's communications efforts, Martins holding fundraising events, Martins manning phones at campaign headquarters, Martins canvassing.

Of all the family campaigns, Jim Martin's 2008 Senate campaign is by far the biggest.

"This campaign is an all-hands-on-deck effort," Jim Martin's daughter Morgan Martin said. "The Martin family contributes in numerous ways. We've got Martins on the campaign trail stumping for my Dad, Martins involved in the campaign's communications efforts, Martins holding fundraising events, Martins manning phones at campaign headquarters, Martins canvassing."

"My dad is a proud product of the Atlanta Public Schools," Morgan Martin said. "His family has always had a commitment to public education, and there was no question that we would attend public schools." □

Martins doing campaign research and Martins stuffing envelopes. And I don't know of any U.S. Senate candidate's spouse who is also the campaign's treasurer."

Morgan Martin lives in Chicago, but stays involved in her father's campaign.

"The Internet is a beautiful thing and has allowed us to support the campaign, even from outside of Georgia," she said.

The Martin family bond goes deeper than campaigning. Since eight Martins have graduated and one currently attends Grady, the cousins share a similar outlook on life, fostered by attending the same high school.

"We are all proud of having gone to Grady," Will Martin said. "It is a common bond that we share, no matter how far apart we are in age. Jay graduated from Grady in 1992—he is 10 years older than I am—but we have a similar outlook on many things, and that's not just because we're both Martins, but also because we both went to Grady."

Like his cousins, Martin was affected by the public school's diverse atmosphere.

"Part of that outlook [on life] is an underdog mentality, of course," Will Martin said. "But Frank really gets at the heart of what Grady means to all of us—not just to my cousins and me—when he talks, as he does frequently, about achieving Dr. King's 'Beloved Community.'"

Jim Martin, his wife Joan and his brothers remained active members and volunteers in the Grady community. Joan was the first executive director of the Henry W. Grady Foundation. Joe Martin sat on the Atlanta Board of Education for twenty years before leaving to campaign unsuccessfully for State Superintendent.

"My dad is a proud product of the Atlanta Public Schools," Morgan Martin said. "His family has always had a commitment to public education, and there was no question that we would attend public schools." □



ALL IN THE FAMILY: (left to right) Morgan, Frank, Jim, Rebecca, Jay and Joan Martin

COURTESY OF THE MARTIN CAMPAIGN

SUPER SATURDAY

Mayoral debate, voter education workshops held at Grady

BY EMMA FRENCH

Aiming to promote communication between elected representatives and individuals in the community, the Atlanta Urban League of Young Professionals held its second annual Super Saturday event on Sept. 13 at Grady. The program included a mayoral debate as well as voter education workshops with tag lines that varied from "How To Become A Twenty-First Century Change Agent" to "Everything You Need To Know About Campaigning."

While open to the general public, Super Saturday was targeted primarily at young people, encouraging students to become more active citizens.

"Civic engagement and political participation has to start somewhere, and it starts at the level of information," said Carl Usher, AULYP volunteer and Assistant Professor of Political Science at Kennesaw State University. "Once you're aware, you act on it. Information will generally move you if it's good information. We think [Super Saturday] provides good information. We tell students that even if you're not of voting age, as long as you are of thinking age, you should be here."

The event began with a keynote address given by District 39 state Sen. Vincent Fort. Sen. Fort spoke about how to be a change agent and how to make sure elected officials are doing what they promised they would do if elected.

"The hard work really is in between campaigns—holding elected positions and advocating for issues," Sen. Fort said. "Too often people vote but then aren't engaged in the process of putting together policies and programs. It's important for young people to be involved in the electoral process but also to hold people accountable during the policy process. Sometimes elected officials depend on people being unengaged and unaware after the election."

During and after the various educational workshops, several mayoral candidates, including Mary Norwood, Kasim Reed and Caesar Mitchell, talked

about the importance of young people being involved in politics. The candidates highlighted some of their goals and aspirations that they plan to be carried out if they become mayor.

Mayoral candidate and City Council member Mary Norwood emphasized the importance of young people being engaged in politics as early as possible. Norwood first became actively involved in politics during high school when her mother's boyfriend, former Georgia Gov. Carl Sanders, ran for office. Norwood continued from there and expanded upon her belief in the vitality of voting and in being both aware and engaged in the current local campaigns.

"[Because] we live in a democracy, everybody gets a say in who our leaders are and how our country is run at every level—the national level, the state level and the local level," Norwood said. "It is critically important to have young people engaged so that they can effect the change that we want to have happen."

Norwood encourages individuals to initiate groups and campaign for personal beliefs and causes.

"With the Internet now, and young people so engaged in the Internet, passing along and mobilizing young people about voting and issues that really matter is so much easier than it was before," Norwood said. "It used to be that you had to

have an army of volunteers to go literally put flyers in mailboxes or you had to get a telephone tree. Now you've got automatic phone calls and emails that can go out anytime of night and let people know what's going on."

Norwood said she decided to run for mayor because she loves being out in the community meeting people. She had to leave the mayoral debate early to attend a neighborhood tour in Ormewood Park, one of the 24 neighborhoods she's visiting during her campaign for mayor. According to Norwood, if you're not there with your feet on the street, knowing what the issues are and observing them firsthand, you don't really know what is happening.

"All politics and all government should be responsive to local issues and local needs, which is what you see when you walk out-

side your door every morning," Norwood said. "Questions like, is your city safe, is it clean, does it work for you? We need to all be engaged to elect the leaders that we believe will not just talk the talk but actually produce the results for us."

Mayoral candidate and District 35 state Sen. Kasim Reed also spoke of the importance of activism among teenagers. He urges young people to find their passion and get involved in it.

"Leading and giving does not have to be in the political space," Sen. Reed said. "It can be public service [or] it can be volunteerism, but the important part is to find what you love and give part of your life to it. Young people are so gifted, so smart and so savvy that they all have the opportunity to start making contributions much earlier in their lives in an important way, whereas when I was younger, I was told to wait much longer before being able to really take on tasks and lead."

Sen. Reed acknowledges the need for change in Atlanta and the necessity of the younger generation's direct participation in that change. Sen. Reed said he feels a strong affinity toward Atlanta and has always wanted to give back to it in some way.

"The city has really embraced me and given me so much," Sen. Reed said. "I think the next mayor will face a number of challenges that I feel that I am the best qualified to handle. I believe that I owe it to this city and this community to offer myself to public service and then let the citizens of Atlanta make their own judgments about whether or not I'm the right person for the job."

Caesar Mitchell, an Atlanta City Council member, shares Sen. Reed's desire to give back to the city. A graduate of Mays High School, Mitchell's dream to serve and to learn compelled him to run for mayor.

"I want to provide leadership [for the city]," Mitchell said. "You have to have a vision of a city that is clean, green, safe and thriving. I have that vision, so I decided I would make time to make it happen."

Mitchell spoke about his first small steps in leadership, recounting the

time he gathered a group of students to design the first yearbook at Morehouse College. According to Mitchell, Morehouse has had a thriving yearbook ever since.

Along with the mayoral debates, state representatives, City Council members, college professors and community activists held workshops about running and campaigning for office, voting and communicating with officials.

Community activist Markel Hutchins discussed basic ways for people to be active in their community without running for office. Like many of the other speakers, Hutchins impressed upon his audience the importance of the education of young people and their early initiation into community service.

"I think volunteering and community service are certainly ways of becoming engaged and involved," Hutchins said. "Mentoring and serving others is a great practice, especially for high school students. I would love to see a day when students in APS are required to involve themselves in a substantive community service project and are graded on their commitment and passion to serving others. Only when we equip our students with a heart for service are they really prepared to live as fully engaged citizens as we try to perfect our democracy."

During the closing speeches, AULYP representatives expressed their gratitude to Grady for offering up its theater and resources for Super Saturday.

AULYP looked forward to continuing the relationship with Grady in the future.

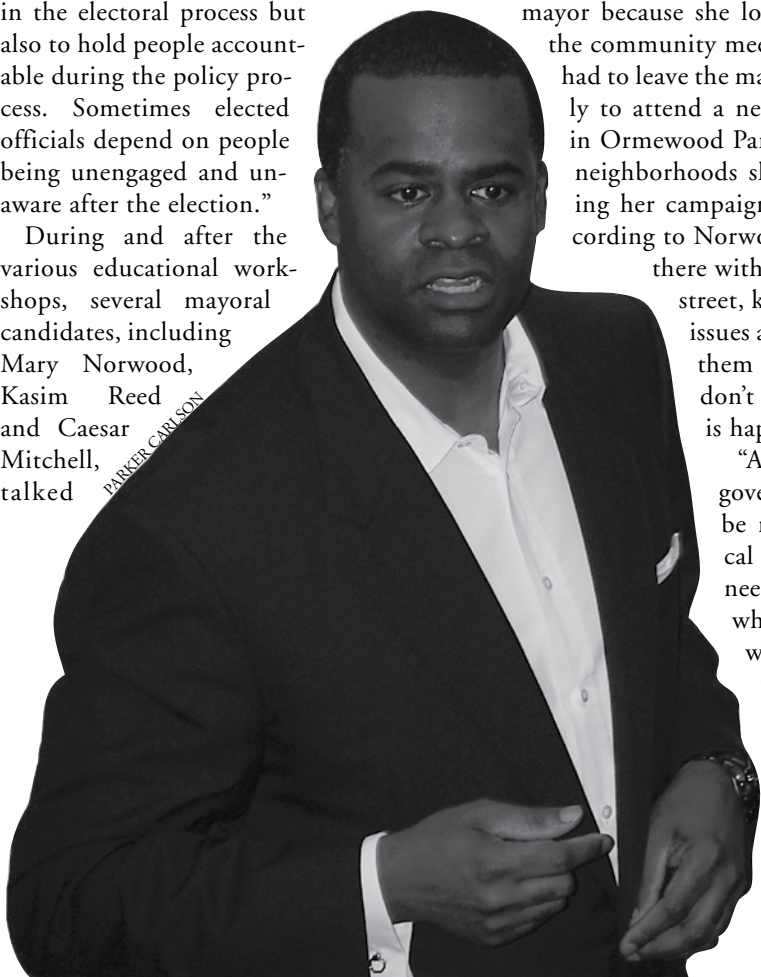
"An issue in the past has been that the location of Super Saturday has been outside of the city or a little bit farther out," Usher said. "It makes a lot more sense to have something in the middle of the city, and it offers us the opportunity to invite far more people." □

Leading and giving does not have to be in the political space, it can be public service, it can be volunteerism, but the important part is to find what you love and give part of your life to it.

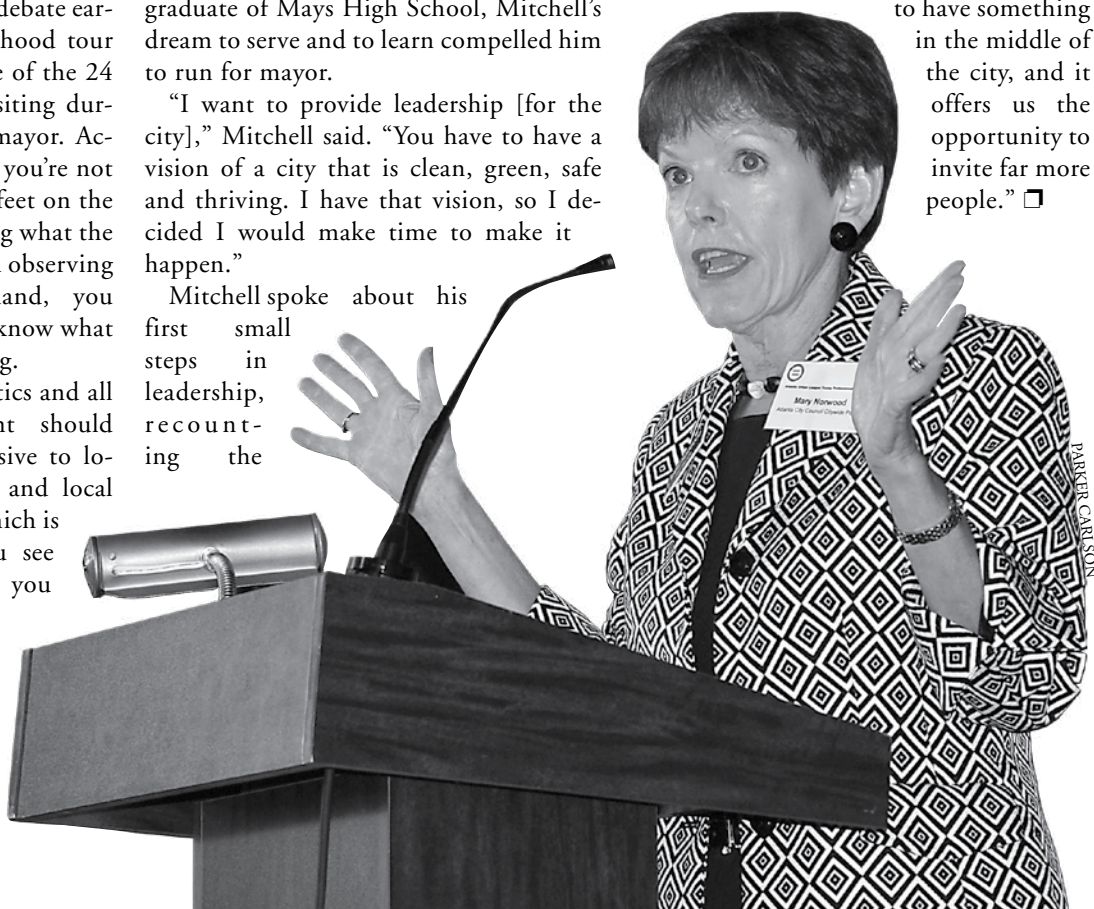
Kasim Reed, state senator and mayoral candidate

It is critically important to have young people engaged and understanding the process so that they can affect the change that we want to have happen.

Mary Norwood, Atlanta City Council member and mayoral candidate



State Sen. Kasim Reed



City Councilwoman Mary Norwood

Ms. Korri Ellis wins APS teaching award

Environmental science teacher Ms. Korri Ellis, who was named Grady's Teacher of the Year honor for the 2007-2008 year, has been named the APS High School Teacher of the Year. She will now run against other elementary and middle school nominees for APS Teacher of the Year.

Dogwood Festival returns to Piedmont

The City of Atlanta has allowed one Class-A festival, the Dogwood Festival, to return to Piedmont Park in the summer of 2009. The Dogwood Festival plans to keep off the grass as much as possible by setting up on the pavement. The festival, which has been held in the park for 72 years, returns after being forced to Lenox Mall's parking lot last summer because of the drought.

Math teacher leaves after years at Grady

Math teacher Ms. Erin Davis is leaving Grady the week of Oct. 13 for a new position as an Instructional Technology Specialist for the fourth School Reform Team—known as SRT-4—established by APS to improve schools. Ms. Anderson-Johnson will be assuming the responsibilities of Ms. Davis' classes, and a new math teacher will be hired to teach Ms. Anderson-Johnson's classes.

Truancy rises, school system cracks down

BY LEAH BUTTERFIELD

APS' truancy rates have increased from 4.6 percent to 5.4 percent in the past school year, according to a study done by the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. Truancy, also known as absenteeism, is a problem throughout metro Atlanta.

On Sept. 16, nine parents of students in the Dekalb County School System were arrested for having chronically truant students.

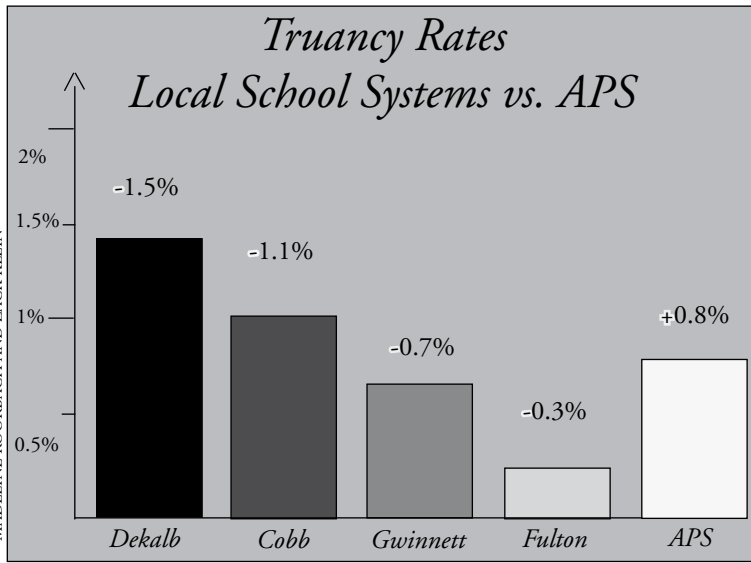
The arrests sparked debate as to whether such measures should have been taken and what methods are effective in increasing truancy.

"I don't blame the Dekalb County administration," said Grady social worker Ms. Elesha Williams. "In the long run, though, there weren't enough parents arrested to make an impact over the entire system."

All APS schools require corrective actions for truancy. The first unexcused absences require notices to parents and warnings of possible school-credit denial.

The fourth through the 11th absence garner a reference to the school social worker and counselor.

Under the APS truancy policy, graduation credit can be denied after ten unexcused absences. The 12th unexcused absence in a semester requires parent notification of the student's credit denial and the appeals procedure. Thirteen or more require the Student Support Team to assist in addressing the problem. If the



absences continue and the student is under the age of 16, Ms. Williams files a complaint with the juvenile court stating that the student has been truant.

"Since I have been here [at Grady] our truancy rates have fluctuated," Ms. Williams said. "But our problem is more with skipping than with truancy."

According to Ms. Williams, for many students skipping class is "an addiction."

"Students have said to me, 'I'm addicted to skipping and one day I'm going to stop, maybe when I'm a senior.' But by then it's too late," Ms. Williams said.

Ms. Williams checks up on certain students to make sure they stay at school throughout the day.

"A lot of students call me 'the

tattletale,' " Ms. Williams said. "If I see that a child is absent in class but was present in homeroom, then I call [his or her] parents."

For chronic cases of skipping school, Ms. Williams will visit the home to talk about the child's situation.

"I just let parents know that their child has been skipping school," Ms. Williams said. "I also tell them how they can monitor their child's attendance by calling the school secretary."

Ms. Williams also informs parents about the reasons behind skipping.

"There are so many excuses [for skipping school]," Ms. Williams said. "The most popular excuse I hear is that they have to work. With the economy where it is, some students find it necessary to work, either legally or illegally."

Senior Jamie Emerson agrees that skipping is more common than truancy and that there are many reasons behind it.

"I've skipped class because I felt sick, or because I left things at home that I needed for class," Emerson said. "I have a lot of friends that leave just to get lunch or run errands."

Skipping a few classes may lead to larger consequences. In cases of students younger than 16, a court hearing is mandatory. At the hearing, a judge will listen to statements from the student, parents, school social worker and probation officer before deciding a course of action.

Strict policies may work some of the time, but Emerson suggests that a different approach might be more effective.

"Getting people to want to stay in school is just a matter of allowing students a little more personal freedom," Emerson said. "That would give students a little more respect for the school."

In reality, if a student does not comply with the judge's rules they will be sent back to court for a second hearing. At the hearing, the student will either be given a stricter set of rules, sent to a juvenile detention center or sent to a structured program.

For many students, truancy leads to dropping out, often because students find it more convenient to stop attending school altogether rather than comply with school guidelines.

"The Grady policy is effective," Ms. Williams said. "A lot of times we just need to reiterate the policy so that [the school] is executing the policy as a whole. Working together as a team makes the policy more effective." □

“Students have said to me, ‘I’m addicted to skipping.’”

Ms. Elesha Williams, Grady social worker

DELAY requires teachers to hit the ground running

from page 1

"We had to go through a pool of candidates who submitted resumes to APS, and it was this really big mess because it was already August," Dr. Murray said. "It's really a hit-or-miss situation because most of these people probably have already signed contracts and they're not going to break their contract to come here."

The candidate eventually selected as the school's top choice for the chemistry position was Mr. DaCosta from New Jersey. Because schools in New Jersey start later, Mr. DaCosta hadn't signed a contract yet.

"He came down for an interview, and we thought he was really committed because he actually drove down from New Jersey," Dr. Murray said. "He was really interested. We looked at his resume, and he had good credentials. [He] taught at a high school in New Jersey with state recognition."

To Dr. Murray, Mr. DaCosta seemed to be the perfect candidate.

"He had a college degree in chemistry and had been working toward a degree in chemical engineering," Dr. Murray said. "He had everything that we thought would be necessary for him to teach."

Shortly after the interview, Mr. DaCosta was offered the position and asked to sign the contract that officially declared he would be teaching at Grady.

Following the interview Dr. Murray heard nothing more from Mr. DaCosta. He never showed up for his processing at the APS Human Resources Department and attempted no further contact with the school.

In the second week of September, the search

was back on.

Ms. Faircloth had heard great things about Grady from science teacher Mr. Graham Balch. The two taught together at Coan Middle School, and Mr. Balch, realizing her potential, encouraged her to talk to Dr. Murray.

According to Dr. Murray, Ms. Faircloth had "a lot of enthusiasm and a great resume." Unfortunately, she was missing a high school teaching certification, and since Grady was on the 'needs improvement' list, she wasn't considered qualified according to No Child Left Behind.

Dr. Murray said if it hadn't been for these missing credentials, she probably would have been hired earlier on in the process.

After going through two possible chemistry teachers and coming up empty handed, Dr. Murray realized that that the best approach would be to work with getting Ms. Faircloth certified. He called her in for an official interview, the administration worked out her certification issues and she was hired only two days before being asked to start.

She is now working on completing all of the certification requirements.

Although parents and faculty members have been concerned about the students catching up, Dr. Murray is very confident that, with a joint effort between the students and Ms. Faircloth, everything will be fine.

"[Ms. Faircloth arriving late] shouldn't affect the classes," Dr. Murray said. "We've had situations like that before, and teachers know what they have to do to make an adjustment in terms of instructional style. Extra material may not get covered, but in terms of mastering content, that will be [accomplished]."

AP Chemistry students became frustrated with the situation, but some also have faith that they will be prepared for the AP exam at the end of the year.

"We [were] a little worried because we missed about a month of the AP curriculum, which is difficult to make up," said junior AP Chemistry student Rachel Feinberg. "But I think that if we keep working, we can make an OK grade [on the AP exam]. Ms. Faircloth really knows her stuff. Since the first day, we have been learning material and trying to make up what we missed."

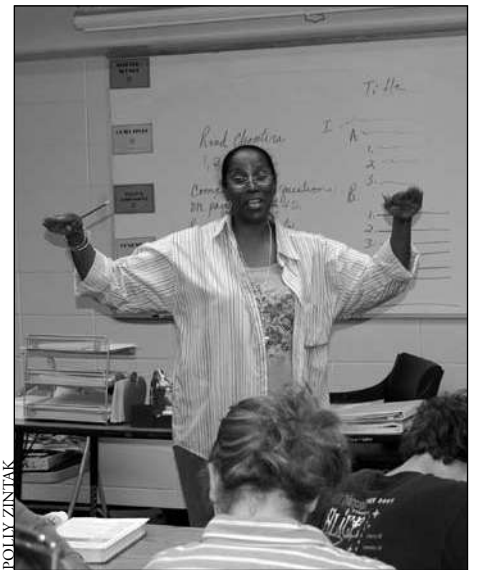
Ms. Faircloth graduated from Emory University with a degree in neuroscience and originally planned on becoming a brain surgeon. She decided she needed a couple years off before going to medical school and got a job as a guest lecturer at schools in Atlanta before becoming a teacher, first in Gwinnett and then at Cohen Middle School.

The administration had to take fast action to find a chemistry teacher, and when health teacher Ms. Tracy Wilson didn't notify anyone she wasn't returning, they had to add that to their list.

Ms. Wilson signed the binding contract to return to teach for the fall semester in April and never communicated to Dr. Murray that she would not be coming back. All summer, Dr. Murray assumed she would be back to teach but she never showed up and has yet to contact the school.

Dr. Burton heard about the vacancy and immediately saw it as an opportunity.

"I got a call, and someone told me there was a vacancy [at Grady]," Dr. Burton said. "I decided to come over and talk to someone



FLY AWAY HEALTH: After arriving seven weeks into the semester, Dr. Beatrice Burton spreads her wings in her role as Grady's health teacher. "Grady is above average," Dr. Burton said, "[and] I love my students."

about it. I had no idea I was going to be starting right away. It was really a surprise to me, but I came prepared."

Dr. Burton has several degrees, including one in administration and supervision, and taught health at Cahoma Community College and at Georgia Perimeter College.

Dr. Murray is pleased with the new teachers and is relieved that everything worked out.

"I'm very glad they're here," Dr. Murray said. "It took a while, but I did an observation on Ms. Faircloth and she was doing a terrific job. I haven't seen Dr. Burton yet because she's still getting acclimated, but I'm sure she'll work out very well." □

Turner Studios hosts workshop

BY NIA WILLIAMS

To learn about audio engineering from professionals, 34 students from throughout Georgia, three of them from Grady, attended the annual Audio Engineering Society Workshop on Sept. 20 at Turner Studios.

"We try to make [the workshop] a fairly basic introduction," said Peter Young, chairman of the Atlanta section of the AES. "Maybe [it will] get them interested in pursuing it on another level after this."

Many students are attracted to the workshops because audio-engineering offers a wide variety of possible careers, including recording, post-production, live audio for television, audio for film and hardware design. The AES workshops are held primarily for the purpose of preparing students for these professions.

In order to inform students about the program, AES identifies schools that have existing media programs and contacts teachers like Grady faculty members Mr. John Brandhorst and Mr. Kevin Hill.

Grady seniors Bryson Caproni and Dean Jackson and junior Jay Jackson attended the workshop.

"I put [the word] out to all the teachers who have any access to people who know sound production," Mr. Brandhorst said. "[We have] kids saying that they want to [learn about] recording, and [AES] is a huge open door into that industry."

Caproni valued the opportunity to learn from real audio engineers, especially since there aren't any audio engineering classes offered at Grady.

"I'm getting knowledge from people who know what they're doing," Caproni said. "We learned Pro Tools fundamentals and microphone techniques. It's all been pretty interesting."

The workshops were nine hours long, lasting from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Students attended four classes

covering Pro Tools fundamentals, mixing, microphone techniques, tracking and critical listening. The students learned from audio-industry professionals including Michael Wayne, Jeff Brugger, Bob Gillespie, Selah Abrams and Roger Nichols, a Grammy-award-winning recording engineer.

"I volunteer my time to teach others what I have learned over the years," Nichols said. "[AES] gives insight to those who may want to be in the recording industry or just record their own songs for their friends."

Ed Welly, the director of the AES workshops, also believes the program helps students since it is one of the few programs available that offers high schoolers a chance to learn about the basics of audio engineering.

"One of the things that we're interested in doing here is promoting education starting as young as possible," Welly said. "We want to get people interested in the programs so they learn the basics and get an idea of what the industry is about."

AES workshops have proven to be very successful in placing students on the right track toward careers in audio engineering. According to Nichols, one of his assistants is now head of Lucasfilm Ltd. studios; another is head of the audio program for Adobe. Some work for Electronic Arts games, and three of his former students now work for major motion-picture companies.

Dedicated exclusively to audio technology, AES is an international, nonprofit organization that promotes the study of audio engineering principles and the development of audio standards all over the world.

It also extends its membership to students.

"We're hoping to start an AES student chapter here at Grady," Mr. Brandhorst said. "That would be a very powerful thing for the kids that want to do recording." □



GRADY ROYALTY: After all the votes were counted, administrators announced the 2008-2009 Homecoming Court at Coronation on Wednesday, Oct. 8 in the practice gym. **ABOVE:** Michelle Gilstrap and Gerald Crawford take a victory walk after being crowned Mr. and Ms. Grady. **LEFT:** Seniors Daryl Wright and Vogue Lee-McWilliams were named Mr. and Ms. 12th Grade. Michael Miller and Julia White were named Mr. and Ms. 11th Grade. Ricardo Christian and Janai Johnson were named Mr. and Ms. 10th Grade, and Carlton Anderson Jr and Kiera Hicks were named Mr. and Ms. Ninth Grade.

Art grant expands program, provides opportunities

BY MADELINE ROORBACH

APS was awarded \$693,500 in four separate grants, all earmarked toward art education improvements for the 2008-2009 school year. The U.S. Department of Education, the McCarthy-Dressman Educational Foundation and VSA arts, in conjunction with MetLife and the Hammonds House Museum, donated the money.

Although all of the grants are for different aspects of the learning process, they have been structured so that the effects coalesce into an overall upgrade for art education. APS announced its receipt of the awards at the 2008 Invitational Art Education Fair held April 18 at M. Agnes Jones Elementary.

Of the total sum, \$610,000 is a broad-scale grant from the Department of Education intended to change the process by which APS teaches art and music. Ms. Cynthia Terry, APS director of fine arts, and Mr. Raymond Veon, an art teacher at M. Agnes Jones Elementary and a practicing artist, wrote the grant application. According to Mr. Veon, one of the main goals for the grant money is the creation of ArtsAPS, a program intended to "communicate to students, parents and the educational community that there are clear criteria that can be used to assess even the most speculative 'way-out' kinds of art [and music]."

ArtsAPS will establish a systemwide grading scale for the arts, creating a basis for an objective measure students' artwork and musical performances. Though art and music often have the connotation of being subjective genres that make a numerical grade arguably unfair or inaccurate, students and administrators alike insists that the scale is needed.

"I think it's totally legitimate," senior Mari Robinson said. "It makes more sense than grading on completion."

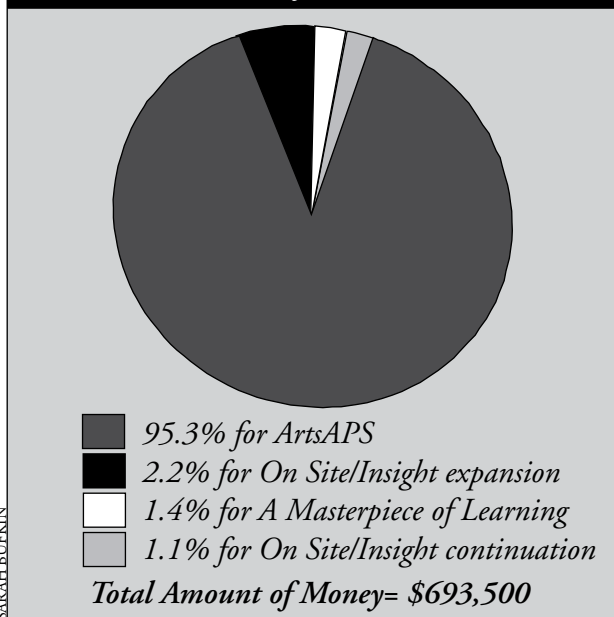
Mr. Veon agrees with Robinson and says that if the grading process is done by a knowledgeable teacher, it will be entirely reasonable.

"Experts in the arts, like experts in history or physics, are intimately familiar with the paradigms, reasoning processes and benchmarks of rigor and clarity that are essential to any profession," Mr. Veon said. "There are objective, measurable components [to art]."

The implementation of this new way of grading art comes directly on the heels of another grant-funded initiative aimed at improving teacher education.

The McCarthy-Dressman Educational Foundation supplied \$10,000 for a teacher-development grant, which will be spent through a program conceived by Mr. Veon. The program, called A Masterpiece of Learning, was a four-day intensive workshop held at the High Museum of Art. Fifteen APS art teachers from across the system attended. According

Grant Money Distribution



to a pamphlet obtained from the Arts Education Fair, "the teachers developed 75 new lesson plans and brought more than 1,100 students from 15 schools to the High for individualized, interdisciplinary learning experiences" over the course of the program.

The McCarthy-Dressman Educational Foundation donated another \$7,000 to enact a second project based at the High. Called On Site/Insight, the project is now in its second year of funding and attempts to raise academic achievement in high school students by flipping the chain of command: they become the teachers. Eighty-one students from Grady and the Carver School of the Arts studied artwork at the High, analyzed the pieces and then created individual lesson plans for their pupils—fifth graders from M. Agnes Jones Elementary.

"Originally, we were supposed to pick one artist and learn everything we could about them," senior Mason McNay said. "Eventually though, that evaporated and we ended up learning everything we could about every artist in the collection [we studied]."

Mr. Brandhorst, who chairs the Grady Art Academy, believes that the On Site/Insight program is beneficial to students because it encourages them to engage in the learning process while doing something they enjoy.

"Kids drop art classes to double up on math classes," Mr. Brandhorst said. "Doing so encourages rote memorization of facts, not understanding actual concepts. Ten years from

now, you won't remember nitpicky details from algebra, but you will remember whether you liked the teacher or whether or not you actually learned anything in class."

McNay agrees with Mr. Brandhorst's assessment and felt that the experience was one of great value.

"You learn 30 percent of what you write, 50 percent of what you say and 90 percent of what you teach," McNay said.

The program allows local teaching artists to observe and interact with students. Jeff Mather, a local site-sculptor, has been involved with On Site/Insight since its inception, working with students to create long-lasting sculptures on their school's campus. Two years ago, he was involved in the Cairns Project at Grady, and this year he is also involved with a site sculpture at M. Agnes Jones Elementary.

"We're going to use the collaboration with Grady and Carver as a basis for the drawings the [elementary] kids are going to do for their sculpture," Mather said. "They then learn that it's not a competition and that consensus can be found. There doesn't have to be a winner."

Because of its initial success, On Site/Insight was expanded this year. VSA arts, a non-profit organization that creates opportunities for disabled persons through art, along with MetLife, an insurance company, and the Hammonds House Museum, joined forces to donate \$15,000 for On Site/Insight to fund two extended ventures. One is a program designed specifically for special-needs students entitled Think With Your Senses, Feel With Your Mind. This employs the same collaboration between Grady and Carver students. For this segment, however, the students were paired with special needs students from across APS. The lesson plans consisted of creating artwork using the five senses, such as assigning colors to movements or giving inanimate objects personified actions. The artwork created through the program will be displayed at the Hammonds House Museum.

The second expenditure of the expanded On Site/Insight is to fund operations rather than develop curriculum.

"The rest [of the money] funding the On Site/Insight program is used to pay for field trips to the High Museum and other venues," Mr. Veon said. "[The money is also used] for schools to take field trips to other schools in order for students in different parts of the city to collaborate, for [purchasing] art supplies and for [attracting] highly skilled teaching artists to work with APS students."

As the programs develop and expand, both Mr. Veon and Mr. Brandhorst see great potential for the arts in APS.

"[The grants] will let us do amazing things and take arts in APS to new heights," Mr. Brandhorst said. "The possibilities seem limitless." □



A FEW OF MY FAVORITE THINGS: To show off their skills in wire-creation, Grady art students display their work at the third annual Fine Arts Showcase. The art was displayed in the theater lobby, (above), with various other fine arts performances around the campus. To start the year off, the newly-formed men's chorus performs at the showcase (right.) The group performed multiple times throughout the evening.



Fall conference teaches students leadership skills

By KHALYN JONES

After attending the annual Fall Leadership Conference on Jekyll Island, Sept. 25, Grady students in the Health Occupations Students of America are excited about the upcoming year in the Health Science Academy, according to HOSA senior Janee Brown.

At the Fall Leadership Conference, HOSA students from around the state gathered to interact with each other while learning helpful leadership skills.

"I met many different people that are all interested in health-care professions just like me," junior Leah Loving said.

The conference was comprised of various workshops focused on building leadership skills and meeting fellow HOSA students. They ranged from dealing with teen relationships to learning how to perform on a health-care team—doctors, nurse practitioners and nurses operating in an emergency setting.

"We were never really in our [hotel] rooms," Loving said. "There were plenty of workshops to choose from and hardly any time for [ourselves], but there was never a dull moment during the conference. I definitely enjoyed it."

One of the four small learning academies at Grady is HOSA, a teen-led organization open to students who are interested in any kind of health-care career or who are unsure about what they want to pursue later in life.

Twelfth-grade HOSA students have the option of becoming certified nurse assistants before graduating by participating in Job Corps, a training program geared to better qualify students for the job of their choice.

Seniors Janee Brown and Jocelyn Copeland have been a part of HOSA since their freshman year and are working toward becoming certified nursing assistants in January of 2009.

"I think we've both gained the knowledge required to take that next step into the health-profession world," Copeland said. "By participating in Job Corps, we'll enter college with an occupation already."

Health-science teacher and HOSA-program director Ms. Sandra Ukah believes that the program has tremendous benefits for high school students.

"HOSA is a college-prep program with a career focus," Ms. Ukah said. "I think that what we do in this organization steers students on the path to success. For example, the science classes that the students take in HOSA are anatomy and physiology rather than just the four core sciences required to earn your diploma."

The Fall Leadership Conference was just the beginning of many conferences to come for Grady HOSA members. In March, they will attend the State Leadership Competition and participate in more than 40 events covering what they've learned in the health sciences.

"The competition is very important to my peers and me," Copeland said. "In the past, Grady has done very well, so we want to keep the tradition alive this year."

The conference at Jekyll Island was a preview of what is to come for the organization. After discussing real-world issues and incorporating those issues into the health field, students got a better understanding of how health affects everyday life.

The students give Ms. Ukah credit for enabling their success, and Ms. Ukah loves working with the students.

"I absolutely enjoy what I do," Ms. Ukah said. "I could be working in the health industry right now, but I'd rather educate my kids and make sure that they're ready for the real world." □

SHOWCASE paints picture of Grady art

from page 1

"The open mic was a great opportunity for me and others to show off our talents and show what we can do," said junior Gabe Scala, who sang and played the guitar at the showcase.

One unique aspect of the showcase was the drama department's performance, including an improv group that performed in the upper courtyard. Ms. Lisa Willoughby worked with a large group of performers that practiced once a week for three weeks prior to the show. The group was split into two teams,

and each team performed twice during the evening.

"The art show as a whole was really fun, and there were a lot of interesting things to see," senior Walker Marshall said. "My favorite part was the improv comedy. It was really funny."

Grady students, parents and teachers all attended the showcase. "Arts festivals like this are a great chance to get the parents and community more involved," Looman said. "They can see a lot of activities in just one night."

Performers were pleased with the number

in attendance.

"I liked seeing all the diversity of Grady at the show," Scala said. "It was really interesting to see all the different people who came out to see the art."

Mr. Brandhorst is already looking toward next year's art showcase and the many to come after that. He hopes that the festival will become a "school tradition with its own identity and that the event will become rich and mature."

Lamotte believes the show represented the Grady arts programs well.

"The showcase was like a sneak peek of the rest of the year," Lamotte said. "It lets someone new to school see everything that is going on and all the things that will be shown throughout the rest of the school year." □

“Art festivals like this are a great chance to get the parents and community more involved.”

senior Phoebe Looman

ECONOMIC troubles limit students

from page 1

"I think managers are more likely to give jobs to older kids, making it harder for high school students to get good jobs in the future," Guzman said.

Many seniors have begun to formulate their financial plans to pay for college. Because of the precarious state of the economy, some students are relying on employment instead of loans to raise money for college.

"It makes getting to college more difficult because I'm not sure I want to get a loan," senior Miriam Huppert said. "I'm going to try to work this summer and all four years in college to offset costs. I didn't expect that I would have to work so much to get to college."

Other students are hoping scholarships will help them pay for college.

"I've applied for a million scholarships because it's hard to get financial aid and loans," senior Devin Harris said. "People with less money have a higher chance of getting good scholarships."

The economy also adversely affects seniors' options to study abroad.

"One of my choices for going to college was to study abroad, but if the value of the dollar decreases then, tuition abroad might be too expensive," senior Emma Alexander said. "I think I'm just going to apply to domestic schools."

High school students aren't the only ones concerned with their futures: college upperclassmen are also worried about their plans after graduation.

"I plan to go to graduate school after I [finish college], but the economy could affect the amount of money that universities get, which could make it harder for them to give scholarships," said JerMeen Sherman, a Grady graduate and current junior at Emory University. "The economy could also affect which city I live in because I have to live in a city where the cost of living is affordable

Do's and Don'ts in Today's Economy

DO's	DON'Ts
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Save your money	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Withdraw all your money from the bank
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stay calm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buy a car
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stay in school	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buy a house
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Demand change from the government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Get a large loan

SOURCE: MR. JOHN RIVES AND MR. LOU SARTOR

for a student."

According to Mr. Rives, it's currently hard to get mortgages for houses and loans. He feels that banks will eventually feel more confident that they'll get their money back and then give out more loans.

"I'm trying to get a car, but my parents said that it's going to be hard to get loans," junior Stephanie Styles said. "I hope the economy straightens up before next year, or it'll put a damper on my senior year."

With the increase in the cost of living, students are also greatly affected by gas prices and have to resort to alternative forms of transportation.

"It's frustrating that the [cost] of living is so great," senior Phoebe Looman said. "It means you have to rethink your entire driving schedule. You have to plan out who you are carpooling with, how far you can drive and which route you can take."

The effects of the struggling economy can also affect extracurricular activities as well. Students are also looking for alternative ways to raise money to participate in their activities.

"Debate tournaments are [harder to reach] because parents are going to have to pay for gas," senior Demarius Walker said. "APS isn't paying for buses because it's so expensive, so

we're trying to fundraise and get money any way we can. We're already being negatively affected because we can't go and compete as much or as far because we can't afford it. Less competition means that we can't be the best."

With the current economic downturn, many people aren't confident in the future of the economy.

"We're caught in a web of deteriorating economic conditions that will lead us into new territory nobody in my generation has ever experienced," said Mr. Lou Sartor, who teaches U.S. history, comparative politics and U.S. government. "We're a generation that inherited a really great family farm [that] we've been selling off chunks of [in order] to maintain our unsustainable lifestyle for the past 30 years, and it has finally caught up to us."

Despite recent criticism and debates over the path of the economy, Mr. Rives feels that various safety nets will prevent any major long-term effects on the economy.

"The economy will do just fine in the long run because [there are] millions of factors that provide economic growth in the United States," Mr. Rives said. "I don't think it's going to have any real impact on the average citizen." □

REZONING in our schools

New elementary school slated to open in August of 2009

By SARAH BUFKIN

A new elementary school will open its doors at the start of the 2009-2010 school year on APS' property on Ponce de Leon Avenue near its Briarcliff Road intersection following zone changes in the Morningside and Mary Lin elementary school districts. The temporarily-named Northeast Elementary has been proposed by APS to address the overcrowding problems at Morningside Elementary.

The APS rezoning committee held a Sept. 18 meeting to present the zone changes to the community. Once the Atlanta Board of Education approves the new zone alignments, APS can begin the process of selecting a principal for the school with input from the affected neighborhoods.

"We anticipate opening up the application process for the principal in early October," said Dr. Sharron Pitts, the APS chief of staff. "We will need to wait for the board to approve the final plan so that we will know for certain which communities should participate in the selection process. We anticipate selecting the principal sometime in November."

The Midtown Neighborhood Association, which represents one of the neighborhoods affected by the new zone alignments, hopes to have a place on the selection committee.

"We are very interested in nominating a Midtown parent, resident or community member to be a part of the principal selection panel," said Dana Persons, chair of the MNA's Education Committee. "We would like to see a strong educational and business leader in the principal's role."

SCHOOL'S TIMELINE

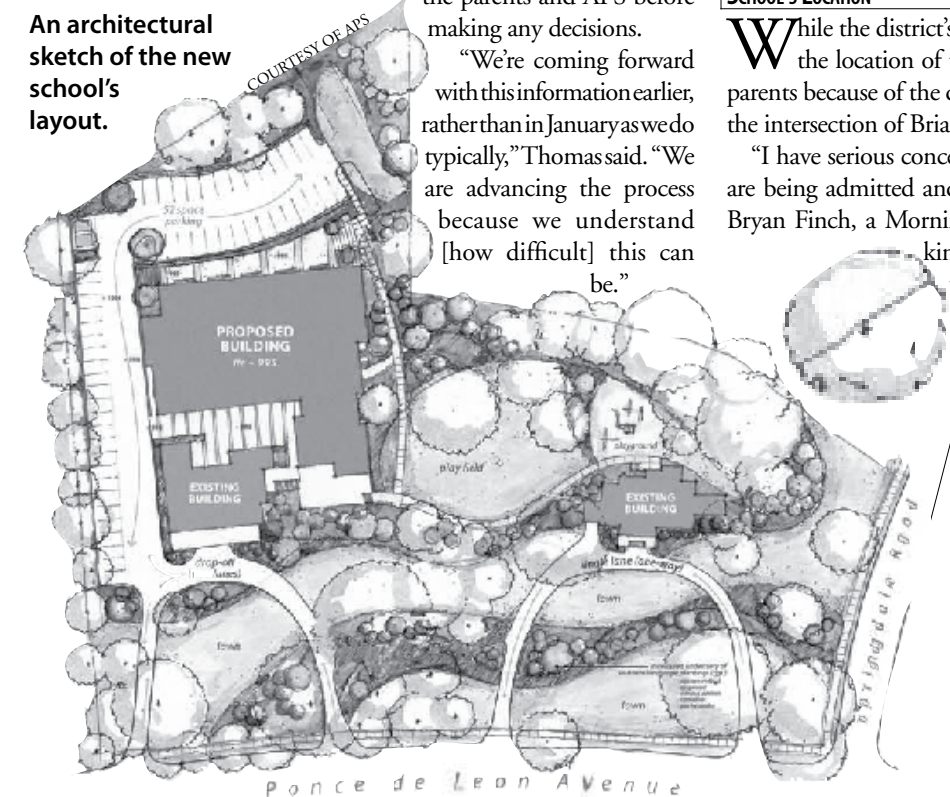
With Northeast Elementary slated to open next fall, there is some concern from parents that APS isn't allowing enough time for the community to get involved with the plans before going to the Board of Education for approval and starting the search for a principal.

"I'm very disappointed with the timeline that has been presented," said Kris White, a Morningside parent whose child may be rezoned to the new school next year. "In general, I think the proposal makes sense for the neighborhood. What I do not think makes sense, or takes into consideration the well-being of the children involved, is the timeline with which they want to start the new school. I just don't think logistically, all the things have been thought through. To say that there is only one meeting to discuss this is alarming to me."

According to APS director of facilities Valerie Thomas, however, the process has been accelerated to allow for greater communication between

the parents and APS before making any decisions.

"We're coming forward with this information earlier, rather than in January as we do typically," Thomas said. "We are advancing the process because we understand [how difficult] this can be."



Projected Enrollment for 2009-2010 year



White cites the rezoning of the Maynard Jackson cluster of schools as an example of a more community-friendly process.

"At Maynard Jackson, they had multiple hearings and a lot of community involvement," White said. "[That community's] voices were heard. I hope ours will be as well."

Regardless of what the timeline for the new school has been up to this point, APS is confident that everything will be resolved to the satisfaction of the parents and neighborhoods involved.

"There is plenty of time for the school community from November to the opening of the school in August [to get everything together]," Dr. Pitts said.

RENOVATION

Although a principal cannot be hired for the school until the Atlanta Board of Education approves the rezoning, plans for the construction of Northeast Elementary on APS' Ponce de Leon Avenue property are already underway.

"The construction will be completed in two phases," Dr. Pitts said. "The first phase of the project—construction of the new classroom building and the renovation of the [kindergarten annex's] Rutland building—is scheduled to be complete by July 15, 2009. The second phase—renovation of the Hirsch building, which is the current kindergarten center—is scheduled to be complete Dec. 1, 2009."

Parents have expressed concern that the school will not be completed in time for the start of the 2009-2010 school year. At the Sept. 18 meeting, there were also several complaints about the lack of an athletic field or gymnasium in the completed school plans.

While there will be no athletic field due to space constraints, a playground, greenspace, extended play space and a courtyard are planned. According to Thomas, the renovation of the property was extremely limited because it lies within a historic district.

"Putting a gym or auditorium in is just not feasible because of the height restraints and space constraints," Thomas said. "We are in the middle of looking at getting the Druid Hills United Methodist Church's gym for day-to-day use."

SCHOOL'S LOCATION

While the district's building regulations have proved problematic, the location of the school is creating more controversy among parents because of the dangers in its proximity to two major roads and the intersection of Briarcliff Road and Ponce de Leon Avenue.

"I have serious concerns about the safety of the children while they are being admitted and dismissed both now and in the future," said Bryan Finch, a Morningside parent whose child was enrolled at the kindergarten annex on the property last year. "I witnessed two fender benders and one pretty major accident in the morning right in front of the school while walking my daughter from the [Druid Hills] church parking lot to her classroom. I'm shocked that there is not a police officer or at least a crossing guard in uniform directing traffic."

APS has responded to the concern by offering to extend its bus services to students that are within the elementary schools' "walk zone"—all of the houses within a one-mile radius of the school.

"Based on the amount of traffic at that intersection, the Transportation Department will provide bus service for those students who must cross Ponce De Leon to reach the new

school even if they are in the walk zone," Dr. Pitts said.

DEFINING NORTHEAST ELEMENTARY

Along with their concerns with the new school's location, other parents are worried about what programs the new school will offer and how it will be outfitted for the year to come. Jherusha Lambert, the mother of a Morningside third-grader, still has questions about whether her family's needs will be met by Northeast Elementary.

"I understand why they have to do it. But, at the same time, I don't think I'm ready to be in the new-school process," Lambert said. "[I'm worried about] the staffing; because it's new, it doesn't really have a reputation as of yet. [My daughter] is in the

Challenge Program and [they] haven't determined whether it is going to be an onsite challenge program yet. I was also told that there won't be after-school programs the first year, and currently that is a need for us. There are many things that haven't been addressed yet."

Many of Lambert's issues, however, cannot be addressed until a principal for Northeast Elementary has been selected and hired, said Dr. Gloria Patterson, the executive director of APS School Reform Team Four.

"The school and the community have a lot of decisions to make concerning the curriculum," Dr. Patterson said. "They have a lot to look at to determine how often those special services will be taught. There's going to be lots of opportunities for community and parent involvement. A lot of communication and dialogue will happen [first]."

One of the special services whose fate is undecided is the role APS Gifted Program, known as the Challenge Program at Morningside, will play at Northeast Elementary.

"The Challenge Program will be determined by the number of students who qualify for the program," Dr. Patterson said. "It can be dealt with in one of two ways—either the students will participate on campus or they will be taken to another location."

According to Dr. Pitts, all of the special programs available at other APS schools will be provided, including Spanish, music and art.

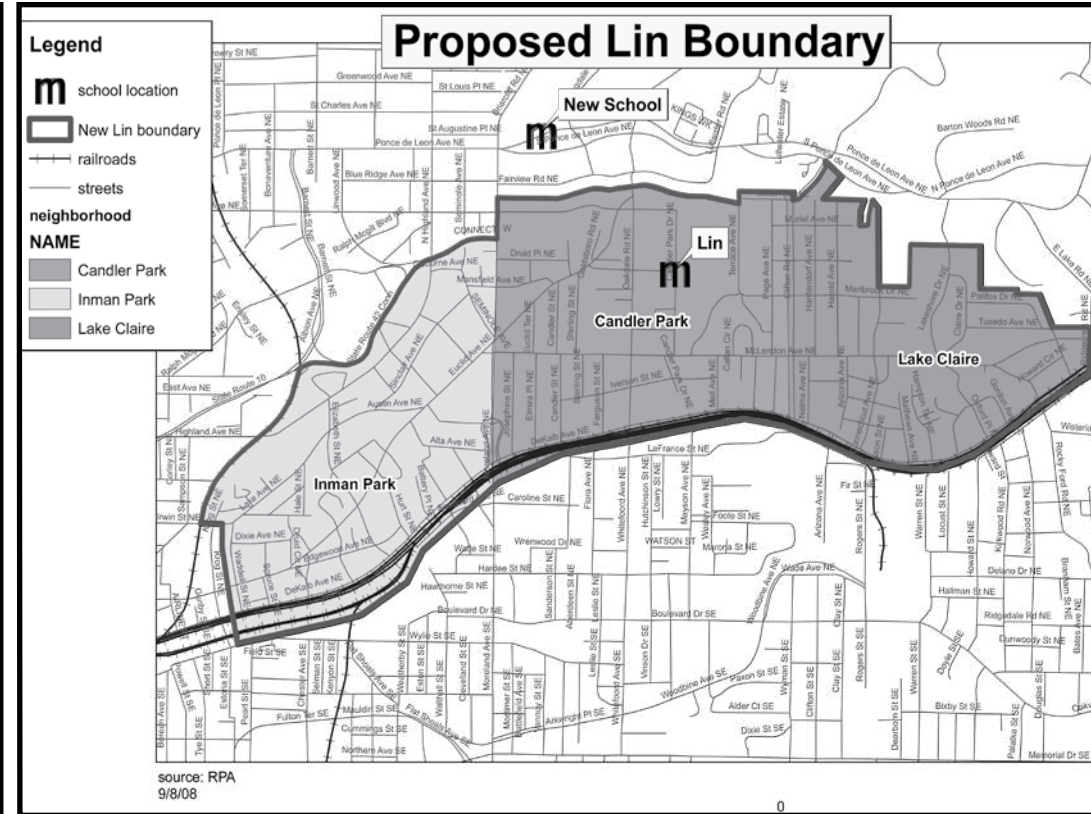
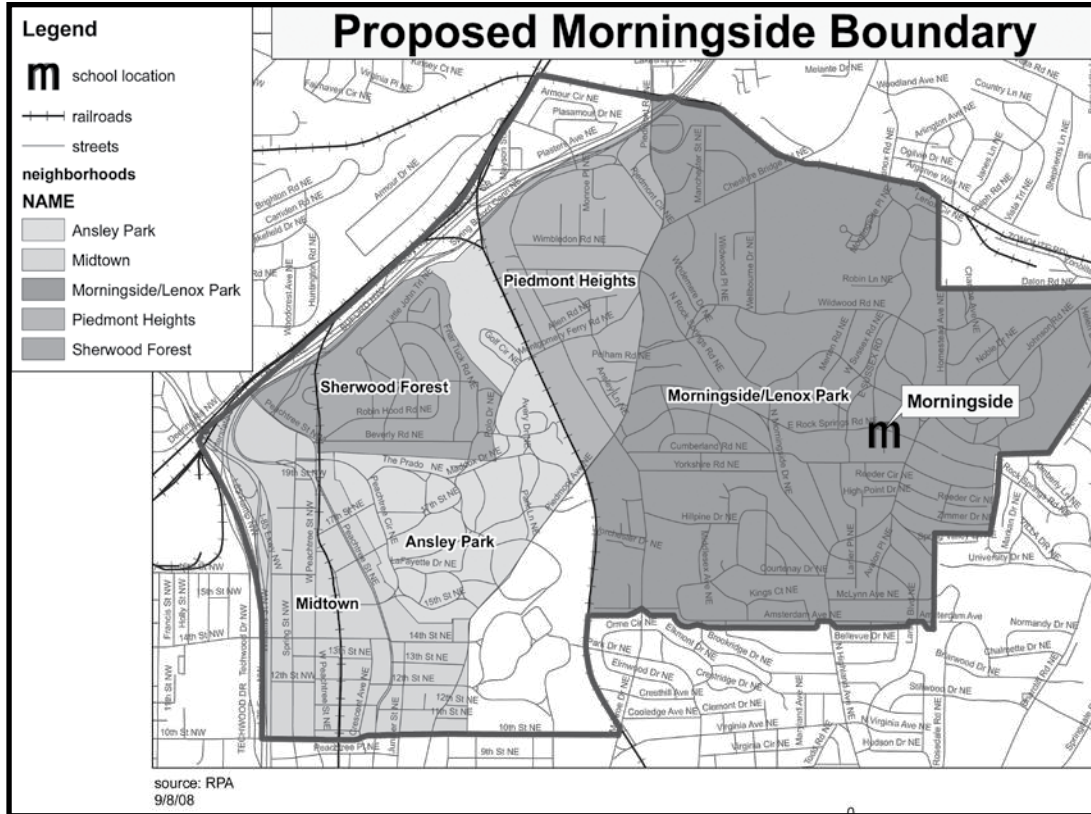
"The school is not going to be shortchanged," Dr. Pitts said. "There is a budget for computers and libraries. We'll stock the library. We are really excited about the new school. We aren't going to open it incomplete."

Once hired, the principal will decide how the school's technology budget will be spent. It will also be up to the principal to hire the staff for the new school. While Morningside and Mary Lin teachers are given priority if they are interested in transferring to Northeast Elementary, Dr. Patterson assured apprehensive parents that this process will not lead to low-performing teachers being dumped at the new school.

"We have in place a process that doesn't allow low-performing teachers to be transferred to other schools," Dr. Patterson said. "Before teachers are transferred to any school, there are a series of questions that need to be answered concerning the teachers' performance standards. The principal will have the right to select his or her own staff. We want the principal to be able to build his own team and to choose the best teachers for that school environment."

While many parents are worried that Northeast Elementary will not be up to the existing schools' standards when it opens next fall, the MNA doesn't want the school to mimic Morningside's policies.

"We are also concerned that this will be a 'clone' of Morningside Elementary," Persons said. "Although [it] is a wonderful school, there are other very effective and even more interesting curriculums from which to choose—International Baccalaureate for instance." □



Proposed school zones try to fix overcrowding, cause tension

By SARAH BUFKIN

In an attempt to address Morningside Elementary's overcrowding, an APS committee has divided the Morningside and Mary Lin school zones between the soon-to-be three elementary schools that feed into Grady. The committee presented a rezoning proposal at a community meeting held on Sept. 18 at Grady.

"Morningside has been over capacity for a number of years," said Cecily Harsch-Kinnane, the Atlanta Board of Education Representative for the schools that feed into Grady. "It's not a good thing for the school, for the teachers [or] for the students. We utilized all the space at Morningside, put in portable trailers, [and created] the kindergarten center."

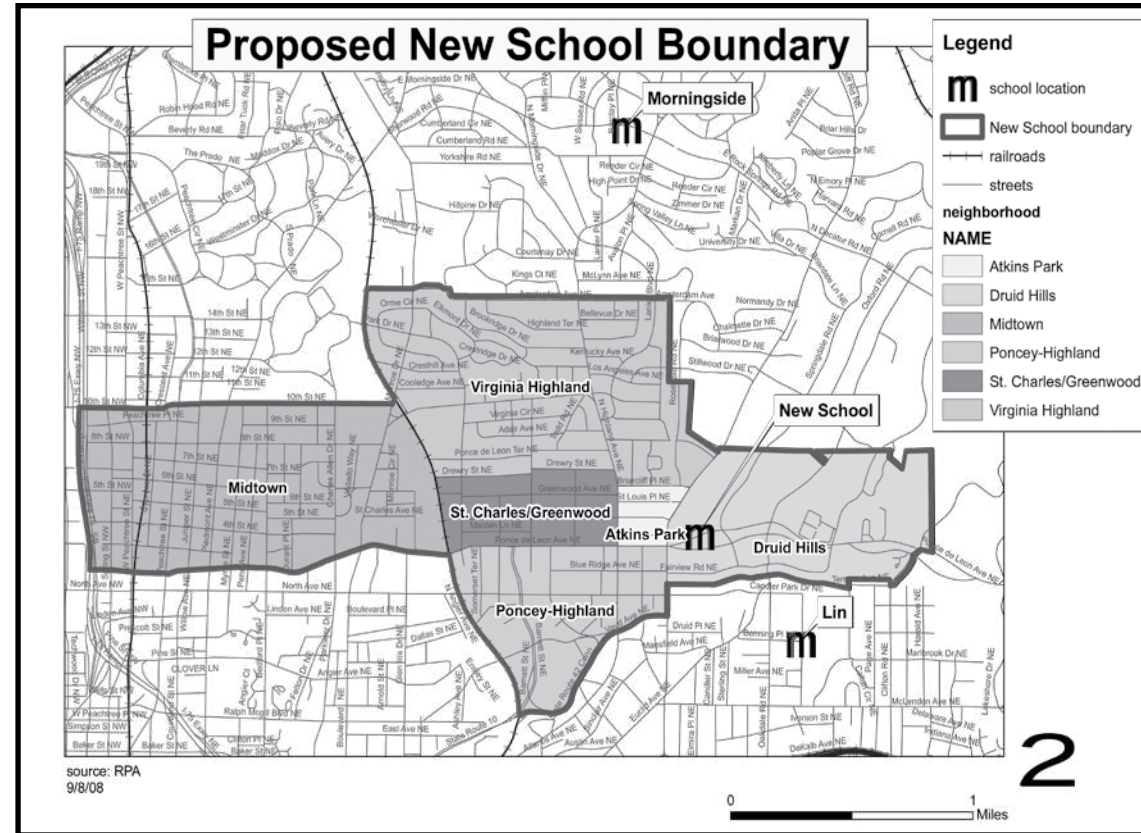
While the idea behind the proposed Northeast Elementary is to decrease the amount of students zoned to Morningside, the school's location in the Mary Lin zone allows it to slightly relieve Mary Lin's overcrowding problem as well, according to APS director of facilities, Valerie Thomas, who worked on the rezoning proposal.

"We support the creation of this new school," said Regina Brewer, president of the Mary Lin Parent-Teacher Association. "We certainly see this as a solution to the overcrowding at Morningside but understand why APS re-examined Mary Lin's boundaries as well."

With these objectives in mind, the APS committee looked extensively at neighborhood populations as well as the sizes of the schools before coming to a consensus on the zones for Morningside, Mary Lin and Northeast Elementary.

"We attempt to make any changes, adjustments and realignments based on neighborhood natural boundaries and major thoroughfares," Thomas said. "Fortunately in this case, we were able to keep the majority of the neighborhoods together."

Under the current proposal, Midtown is the only neighborhood split between two elementary schools. APS has designated the new Morningside zone to include the Morningside/Lenox Park, Piedmont Heights, Sherwood Forest and Ansley Park neighborhoods as well as the part of Midtown north of 14th Street. The new Mary Lin zone will include Inman Park, Candler Park and Lake Claire, leaving the Virginia-Highlands, St. Charles/Greenwood, Druid Hills, Atkins Park and Poncey-Highland



SWITCH-A-ROO: Currently, the Midtown, Virginia-Highland, St. Charles/Greenwood, and Atkins-Park neighborhoods are zoned to Morningside Elementary, and the Poncey-Highland and Druid Hills neighborhoods are a part of the Mary Lin Elementary zone.

neighborhoods, as well as the part of Midtown south of 14th Street, for Northeast Elementary.

NEIGHBORHOODS VOICE DISCOUNT

While the zone realignments significantly decrease the number of students in the Morningside district, they have sparked some controversy among those affected. According to the Midtown Neighborhood Association's Treasurer, Dr. Linda Idleman, the split of Midtown between the two elementary schools is detrimental to the social identity of the neighborhood.

"We are a neighborhood with recognizable boundaries," Dr. Idleman said. "We are a diverse mix of people with a growing number of families choosing to stay and raise children in an urban environment. Of the 13 neighborhoods affected, Midtown is the only one split. Social identity is based on common [institutions]. We cannot continue to build social identity without one elementary school."

While APS did consider keeping Midtown together, the large number of elementary-aged students in the neighborhood did not make such a move feasible.

"[Midtown] is not a neighborhood where the east side interacts with the west in terms of children playing," Thomas said. "We know it is one

community. We played with keeping it all in Morningside and with putting it all into the new school. But because of the numbers of the entire Midtown community, [those options didn't work]."

Still concerned about the effect the rezoning will have on their neighborhood and families, the MNA has appealed to APS to reconsider keeping Midtown in one district, said Dana Persons, chair of the MNA's Education Committee.

In an attempt to keep the neighborhood unified, APS has revised its former proposal by moving the zone line dividing Midtown to 14th Street rather than 10th Street.

Other areas of contention are the placements of Amsterdam Avenue. In the Morningside zone and of the Virginia-Highland neighborhood in the Northeast zone.

"Amsterdam is a dividing line for Virginia-Highland, but it is also in the walk zone for Morningside," Thomas said. "So we looked at whether we should put Amsterdam in one zone or the other, or if we should split Amsterdam. Because of the size of the street, we decided to keep Amsterdam as a whole in Morningside."

Virginia-Highland resident Kris White is concerned about the effect the move of the neighborhood into the new elementary school's zone will have on its residents and her third-

grade daughter. "[My daughter] is a rising fourth grader and will be devastated to not finish her elementary career at Morningside," White said. "She spent four years there and will have to change without any of her friends."

White is also concerned about what effect the rezoning of Virginia-Highland will have on the neighborhood's property values. "I find it alarming that community members living in Virginia-Highland without school-age kids are not aware that their properties are being rezoned," White said. "That is unfair, given the prestige and reputation of Morningside. If someone wants to move into our neighborhood during this transitional time, they will select a Morningside home over one in Virginia-Highland simply because of the school. The community needs to be aware of what is going on."

APS explored the possibility of keeping Virginia-Highland in the Morningside district but discarded the option in order to insure that Morningside's overcrowding problem would be adequately addressed.

"One of the issues with the Virginia-Highland area is the high number of students," said Dr. Sharron Pitts, the APS chief of staff who was also on the rezoning committee. "There are 138 kids in that area. It's really important that we do something to address the

overcrowding at Morningside. We've tried every Band-Aid possible, and we just need to get that school back to its planning capacity."

Since Poncey-Highland and Druid Hills currently only have a total of 21 students affected by the rezoning, Mary Lin PTA President Regina Brewer said that the PTA will talk to APS about allowing those 21 students to remain at Mary Lin through fifth grade.

Harsch-Kinnane said that, while Poncey-Highland has small numbers now, it has the growth potential.

While many rezoning issues have yet to be resolved, APS believes it will serve its primary purpose—relieving the overcrowding at Morningside.

"Wedon't project that [Morningside] will be overcrowded in the next three to five years," Dr. Pitts said. "If that happens, we'll have to go through a similar process again. We foresee this to be at least a five-year solution."

MARY LIN STILL OVERCROWDED

Northeast Elementary, however, will not come close to addressing the Mary Lin's overcrowding.

"Mary Lin's capacity is 450 [students]," Brewer said. "We are at 508 plus 20 Pre-K children and have seven portables. We certainly feel that overcrowding must be addressed in the immediate future. The rezoning isn't really going to help us that much."

APS also realizes that Mary Lin will still have more students enrolled than its planning capacity allows for.

"We will continue to have to explore options for Lin if it continues to grow," Dr. Pitts said. "We just didn't want to miss the opportunity to alleviate some of the overcrowding. The school is not a long-term solution for [Mary Lin's] overcrowding."

While the overcrowding issue is being dealt with at Morningside, and will be dealt with at Mary Lin in the near future, the Mary Lin PTA believes that it will also eventually affect Inman Middle School as the population continues to grow.

Harsch-Kinnane feels that the new school is a step in the right direction for the district.

"This is going to be a tremendous new school," Harsch-Kinnane said. "I understand [people's] concerns and don't want to belittle them, but this is going to be a really great elementary school. We have some strong neighborhoods going into it and the support of the Morningside and Mary Lin areas." □

Grady students, dogs strut their stuff in fashion show

By OLIVIA SCOFIELD

The Rubbing Noses fashion show and silent auction was held on Sunday, Sept. 14 at Lambert Place in Buckhead. Co-directed by Grady fashion teacher Mr. Vincent Martinez, the event benefits the animal support group, Pets Are Loving Support. Grady students worked backstage and served as models.

PALS provides pet-care services for critically ill and disabled Atlantans, including providing pet food, pet care and medicine.

Guests were served neon martinis while browsing the silent auction, which included items such as tickets to the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and round-trip airfare to New Orleans.

Koleen Sullivan, a 2006 Grady graduate, opened the show wearing a Dsquared² dress while walking Duchess, a great dane. More than a dozen dogs walked the runway alongside models.

"They're mostly rescue dogs, not show dogs, so they're not used to the whole scene," said Dave Lishness, a volunteer who handled the dogs backstage. "They're good dogs though."

Leslie Fram, the former host of 99X's *Morning X* and co-owner of the participating boutique, Luxe Atlanta, emceed the fashion show with Holly Firfer, host of *Atlanta and Company* on 11Alive.

"[Rubbing Noses] has two of our favorite things—fashion and doggies," said Fram, speaking on behalf of herself and Firfer. "This event is near and dear to our hearts."

Mr. Martinez became involved with PALS last year while working on the Doggies on the Catwalk fashion show featuring the UrbanCouture senior designers. Since then, he has maintained a friendship with PALS director Kevin Bryant and chair of the board of directors, Jerry Friday. Mr. Martinez accepted the position of director of the Rubbing Noses show in April.

Mr. Martinez convinced Bryant to produce the show. Bryant was responsible for the venue, auction materials and fundraising while Martinez was responsible for supplying the models and finding boutiques to donate clothing.

Luxe Atlanta provided clothing for the show. Donations included pieces by Zac Posen, Christian LaCroix, and Carolina Herrera. Universal Gear Boutique provided the menswear and male models. To model the womenswear, Mr. Martinez



PHOTOS BY OLIVIA SCOFIELD



PUPPY LOVE: (From left to right) Rodrigo Gormaz and 2006 Grady graduate Koleen Sullivan strut down the catwalk with their dalmation friend at the fashion show benefiting Pets Are Loving Support. Senior Sarah Bufkin sashays down the runway in a bubblegum-pink dress by LaCroix accompanied by her doggie co-model at the show. Junior Jael Pettigrew, clad in a chic white creation, strides down the catwalk carrying her canine companion.

selected Grady students, most of whom had participated in UrbanCouture shows before.

"I picked veteran models—I could not go wrong," Mr. Martinez said. "I picked girls who had been modeling mostly for two years. They were excellent."

Senior Jillian Woodliff modeled a LaCroix dress and walked the PALS spokesdog, Sophia.

"I've modeled in the UrbanCouture shows before, but the Rubbing Noses show was more difficult," Woodliff said. "It was a lot of fun working with the dogs, but they're hard to control."

Grady students, David Bufkin, Jazmine Fulton and Olivia Roorbach, worked backstage helping to keep the show organized and running smoothly.

"We made sure that the outfits were put together for the models," Roorbach said. "During the show, we made sure that the models had the right dogs."

Mr. Martinez considers the show to have been a great success.

"The two boutiques, Luxe Atlanta and Universal Gear, were excellent," Mr. Martinez said. "The dogs were sweet."

Mr. Martinez hopes to see a significant rise in attendance in upcoming years and wants to continue to participate in the show.

"As long as I am around, [and] as long as UrbanCouture is around, I will continue to produce that show," Mr. Martinez said. □

Porter draws from personal experiences, earns student respect

By NOELLE JONES

To many students, administrators are viewed solely as school disciplinarians, who enjoy sending students home because of minor infractions. In reality, Grady's administrative department consists of people who do more than meets the eye. Ms. Diane Porter, known to many students as the "dress-code enforcer," has responsibilities far more complicated than just prohibiting girls from wearing short skirts.

Ms. Porter's position deals with providing security at Grady, improving teacher and student communication, creating a more focused learning environment, as well as helping students succeed academically.

"I'm the safety and security coordinator at Grady," Ms. Porter said. "I make sure things run smoothly. A troubleshooter would be a good way of describing what I do. This year I started a Safety and Security Council. I meet with the council once a month so that we make sure the school is formulating better communication with parents about safety and security."

Ms. Porter garnered the School Security Funding Grant for Grady, winning the systemwide contest by writing a grant requesting the funds to install new hi-tech security cameras. The new systems allows administrators to observe what is going on throughout the school at all times.

"We are frustrated a lot when students do things and we don't have proof," Ms. Porter said. "These cameras are upgraded; and in a couple of weeks we will be able to access them from our cell phones. Another issue that will hopefully be remedied with the cameras is the vulnerability to unknown people coming onto campus."

While Ms. Porter has now been in Atlanta for more than 20 years, she was born and raised in Davenport, Iowa. After high school,



COURTESY OF MS. PORTER

POM-POM PORTER: Ms. Diane Porter (center) poses with the cheerleading squad she coached at a high school in Denver. "[The team] competed against the best of the best," Ms. Porter said. "We were awesome."

she attended the University of Iowa. Before coming to Grady, Ms. Porter taught in Denver.

"When I was [teaching in Denver] I was the cheerleading coach and ran the program for about six or seven years," Ms. Porter said. "When I was in high school I was a pom pom girl and marched with the band; that's why I believe I was so successful with coaching cheerleading."

Following her time in Denver, she attended a school career fair where APS was in attendance.

"I had heard so much about Atlanta and was eager for a change," Ms. Porter said. "APS interviewed me, and then I signed a contract to work in this city that I had never been to before. I just packed up and left."

Ms. Porter's first job at Grady was working with students with disabilities.

"I was always about service," Ms. Porter said. "Even in high school, I worked in a nursing home. I always wanted to help people. I felt that I had a heart for the special-needs students."

Ms. Porter encourages students by setting an example of her own high school experiences.

"In ninth grade, I knew what college I wanted to go to," Ms. Porter said. "I knew the requirements, and I knew what it was going to take for me to get to that college. I was on a track in my mind and knew exactly what I wanted to do. I was on a mission."

Although many students view Ms. Porter as a disciplinarian, she has formed close relationships with students despite her tough image.

"I definitely feel like Ms. Porter does her best to build good relationships with students and will work with us and not just be against us," senior Josh Van-Heidreich said. "She has to do her job, but if we, as students, do our part and don't violate rules then we don't have any problems."

Ms. Porter hopes students feel that they can come to her for more than just discipline problems.

"I think I have a pretty good relationship with most students," Ms. Porter said. "They

know I have an iron hand but they know that I discipline in love. I'm also somebody they can work with. If something is not right, they can come and talk to me."

Over the course of 20 years, Ms. Porter has had the opportunity not only to be an administrator but also an associate to students, teachers and parents. She considers witnessing Grady's transformation over the last 20 years a great experience.

"Diversity is one of the biggest changes I've seen over my 20 years here," Ms. Porter said. "What I like now is that honors classes are open to any student, whereas in the past only magnet students could take honors and AP classes. I see collaboration amongst students of different races a lot more, and students at Grady get along and mesh so well."

Ms. Porter feels that diversity is something she didn't have in her own high school.

"In my high school in Iowa, there were 50 African American students out of a class of 200," Ms. Porter said. "I'm so happy to be in such a diverse environment where students of different nationalities, from different countries, with different religious beliefs and of unique backgrounds can learn from one another. It's a different feeling totally. I think that the diversity is what sets Grady apart."

Ms. Porter has seen Grady's past and Grady's growth over the last 20 years. She also continues to work for improvements for the future, remembering that the possibilities are endless.

"Grady is such a wonderful place to be," Ms. Porter said. "There are so many opportunities for student success. With fashion, entrepreneurship, art, debate, athletics, robotics and all of these different programs set up, students can find something of interest to them, learn and excel." □



GRADY CONNECTION: For the next installment of our school special, *The Southerner* highlights North Atlanta High School and its unique International Baccalaureate program.

North Atlanta programs expand upon basic studies

By KALA MARKS

Despite the almost identical bell schedule, the similar structure of “A-Days” and “B-Days” and the APS-mandated switch to small learning communities, Grady and North Atlanta High School are very different when it comes to types of classes offered and the programs available.

North Atlanta, like all APS high schools, was converted into small learning communities. Before the school was transformed two years ago, there were two magnet programs—International Studies and Performing Arts—which were later changed to The Center for International Studies and The Center for the Arts, respectively. The school then established The Center for Business, Leadership and Hospitality in addition to the two existing programs.

North Atlanta has more defined small learning communities than Grady does. “Each [small learning community] is headed by separate assistant principals,” said Mr. John Denine, assistant principal of the Center for International Studies. “Also, each [small learning community] has its own set of core class teachers.”

Students feel that having the small learning communities separate from each other is beneficial.

“It’s nice to be around the type of people that have the same interests as you,” said David Kerns, former Grady student, and Center for the Arts senior.

Unlike Grady, North Atlanta offers the International Baccalaureate program, a college preparatory program designed to challenge students academically and provide them with international recognition. The program was initiated in 1982 through North Fulton High School’s magnet program, which was later merged with Northside High School to form North Atlanta in 1991.

Students in the International Studies magnet are required to take the IB Middle Years Program during their freshmen and sophomore years but can then decide whether or not to continue with the IB Diploma Program in their junior and senior years. Those that opt not to continue still remain in the magnet, but with an emphasis in International Business. Students interested in pursuing the IB Diploma must pass the IB examinations with a minimum of 24 points, complete an extended essay on some topic of special interest, partake in 150 hours of CAS (creativity, action, service) activity and take theory of knowledge, a class based on analyzing and thinking philosophically.

The IB Diploma assists students hoping to attend international colleges. According to IB Diploma Coordinator Dr. Douglas Frutiger, “roughly 10 students each year” attend international schools.

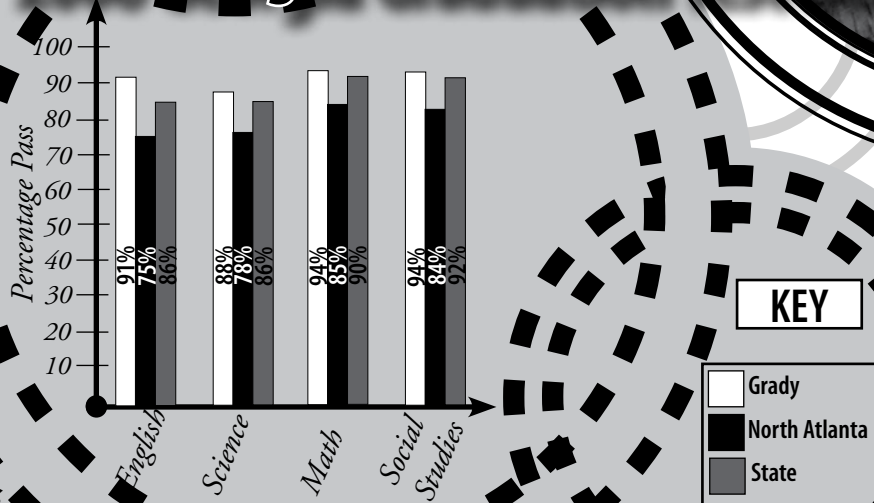
“I am very interested in going to college [internationally],” junior IB student Emily Charles said. “I’m looking at a college some place in England and at St. Andrews in Scotland.”

Students in the IB Diploma Program must take six IB classes—four core classes, one language, out of Arabic, Mandarin Chinese, French and Spanish, and one elective. Three of the six IB classes must be High Level classes, which require two years of study, and the other three must be Standard Level classes, which only require one year of study.

Students agree that one of the problems with the IB program is the lack of non-IB electives.

“The one thing I don’t like about the

2008 Georgia Graduation Test Results



Source: <http://www.greatschools.net>

program] is that we don’t get put in many elective classes,” senior IB student Ross James said. “It would be nice to have ceramics or something like that.”

At North Atlanta, there are about 140 students enrolled in the IB program and typically about 50 or 60 percent of these will graduate with an IB Diploma.

“Students drop out because the commitment runs out at the end of the school year,” Dr. Frutiger said. “However, students who want the diploma get it.”

In addition to the IB program, North Atlanta also offers a wide variety of Advanced Placement classes for all students.

“Once I was in [the program] for a year, I wanted to get back in it again. I loved it.”

Ramond Harris, North Atlanta senior

“The difference between [AP and IB tests] is that AP is a fact-based curriculum asking you basic questions with a rubric of words to use,” Dr. Frutiger said. “With the exception of math, IB uses a different approach. It asks about a general topic rather than a specific list of words.”

Another difference between the two tests is the method of scoring. The six IB examinations are scored on a scale of 1-7, then are collectively added to total 42 points. Three bonus points can be added for impressive extended essays and theory-of-knowledge essays, amounting to a total of 45 possible points.

“The highest score we’ve ever had any student make was a 41,” Dr. Frutiger said.

Doubling up on IB and AP classes is not uncommon for North Atlanta students.

“The [IB] students usually end up taking AP math and science classes,” Dr. Frutiger said. “This looks good to colleges because they have an IB diploma and have taken AP classes.”

The second small learning community, Business, Hospitality and Leadership, offers

a large variety of classes in each of the three components. Freshmen begin specifically designed four-year programs and can eventually emphasize in either Professional Foods, Leadership (JROTC) or Administration.

Like Grady’s own Hospitality and Tourism small learning community, North Atlanta is hoping to add internships as an emphasis for juniors and seniors.

“At one time some kids were able to have on the job training,” said Mr. Robinson, assistant principal of Business, Hospitality and Leadership Mr. Robinson. “We’re now attempting to add internships as options for students.”

The Center for the Arts was the second of the two magnet programs at North Atlanta before the switch to small learning communities. The program offers classes in studies such as dance, music, theatre and visual arts.

The Performing Arts Program brought senior Ramond Harris, who is interested in music production, from Tech High to North Atlanta.

“I came [to North Atlanta] for performing arts,” Harris said. “The program is associated with the career I want to [pursue].”

North Atlanta offers students like Harris classes such as music tech, advanced drama, guitar and piano. In addition to the programs’ classes, North Atlanta has clubs dedicated to performing arts. The school was one of many metro-Atlanta public schools chosen to receive the Dallas-Austin program, a program that works to put recording studios in schools.

“I heard about the program and wanted to be in it,” Harris said. “Once I was in it for a year, I wanted to get back in it again. I loved it.”

As a music producer of six years, Harris claims that transferring to North Atlanta was the right move.

“[The program] has helped me out so much,” Harris said. “It was one of the best moves I could have made.” □

ALOOK AT NORTH ATLANTA

PHOTO COURTESY: ANA BARRY/BIRCHMONT

Classes Offered at North Atlanta

- Accounting
- Theory of Knowledge
- Biochemistry
- Latin American Studies
- Chinese
- IB Communications
- Arabic
- Handbells

Show, exhibition bring unique visions to local venues

Second City's Alliance performance 'not to be missed'

BY JANE BEAL

"Ladies and gentlemen, please turn off your cell phones, pagers and pacemakers."

These opening words set the tone for The Second City Comedy Troupe's Atlanta-themed show, *Too Busy to Hate... Too Hard to Commute*, which premiered at the Alliance Theatre on Sept. 19. The show combined song, dance, sketch comedy and improv acting.

Begun in Chicago in 1959, the Second City Comedy Troupe launched the careers of many famous comedians including Alan Arkin, Mike Myers, Stephen Colbert, Tina Fey and Steve Carell.

When the Alliance Theatre was given the chance to host the world-famous comedy-making machine that is the Second City Troupe, the theatre's artistic director, Susan V. Booth embraced the idea.

"The opportunity to match the brilliance of The Second City with the endearing idiosyncrasies of

Atlanta was just too good to pass up," Booth wrote in the press packet disseminated at the performance.

As soon as the show's writers, Ed Furman and TJ Shanoff, chose to create a show that pokes fun at all things Atlanta, they made the decision to spend three days exploring the city the way the natives do—by car. They visited every landmark, from the World of Coca-Cola to Buckhead, in an attempt to find good material. And, as Atlantans know all too well, there is a bounty of things that can be made fun of.

The show opens with a couple of tourists from Chicago driving along the Atlanta freeway.

"Man, even driving in Atlanta is a breeze," the husband says as they drive along, only to be greeted by the gridlock the perimeter. At this point, a song and dance number begins. One of the show's skits is a pitch-perfect R&B

tribute to Mayor Shirley Franklin. Another features a Waffle House manager giving the reasons why he should be elected president. Other spoofs lampoon MARTA's inefficiency and Atlantic Station's over-priced shopping. Another skit presents a Civil War parody where a Scarlet O'Hara look-alike writes hilarious love letters to her beau. Nothing and no one is off limits.

The writers and actors brilliantly combined The Second City's famous improvisational sketches with skits poking fun at Atlanta.

Directed by Matt Hovde, the ensemble was comprised of both Second City performers and local talents including Anthony Irons, Michael Lehrer, Robyn Norris, Amy Roeder, Tim Stoltenberg and Ric Walker. Although the actors' energy was infectious, the crowd was less than enthusiastic about calling out ideas during the improv sketches. Being

shy and sitting near the front is not allowed; those with good seats are required to offer up personal information for the sake of the show's fluidity.

I thought that my Southern pride would be damaged as I watched a bunch of Yankees act out skits mocking our fair city, but after spending two hours laughing at the side-splitting antics, I actually found it quite flattering. After all, as Furman and Stanoff wrote after their weekend in this gem of the South, "Atlanta is a city not only too busy to hate and too hard to commute, but also too busy to commute and too hard to hate."

The opportunity to see some of improv's finest perform an entire show dedicated to the quirks and humiliations of Atlanta is an experience not to be missed. And, with the direction comedy is headed now, one of those fine comedians might just end up on *Saturday Night Live* in the near future. □

Simulation of blindness entertains, raises awareness

BY SIDNEY WISE

Imagine being surrounded by complete darkness—not the darkness you get from turning off a lamp or from closing the blinds, but ultimate darkness.

I experienced ultimate darkness for one hour at *Dialog in the Dark*, a new, ironically eye-opening exhibit at Atlantic Station. The exhibit, created in Germany, allows the public to experience a day in the life of the visually impaired in an effort to raise awareness and tolerance of blindness. The exhibit's creators hired blind tour guides in order to create jobs for disadvantaged people.

Walking into the exhibition lobby, I was beyond excited. Before going, I'd assumed I knew what to expect. After being given a cane to feel the ground in front of my feet, the lights slowly dimmed and the tour began. All the research I had done previously was no use to me now—I couldn't see a thing.

Standing up and walking forward was much harder than I expected it to be. Even though I had seen where I was sitting just moments before, all of a sudden I was unsure of where I was. Once I was acquainted with my cane and adjusted to being in complete darkness, our trek through the exhibit began. It consisted of five simulated "journeys"—a park, a grocery store, a boat ride, a busy city and a restaurant.

I don't know exactly how they made a real park inside of one small room, but they did a good job. I could smell the flowers and the grass, I could feel the leaves on the trees, and I could hear birds and bugs that I was convinced were there. Without my sight, my other senses were at a new level of stimulation. The one-room park seemed more alive to me than any real one I've ever experienced. In the grocery store, I had the time of my life feeling my way around and trying to name all the different

foods I was touching. I was finally starting to relax, laugh and have a really great time talking with my guide.

The boat ride was a nice change of pace. I got to just sit down and let my senses do the work. I felt the ocean spray and heard seagulls calling overhead. We were swaying and rocking with the waves, and the air smelled salty and fresh.

I was terrified when we went to the city. There were so many loud noises coming from every direction. All I could do was feel

my way around. If I were blind in a real city, bustling with real cars, buses and people, however, feeling my way around would not be an option. While this definitely woke my other senses and made me extremely alert, being in the simulated city was the part of the exhibit that really drove home the point the exhibitors were trying to make.

At the end of the tour we, entered the restaurant where we could buy drinks and sit and chat with the wait staff and the guide, all in total darkness, of course.

As we were led out of the exhibit, the lights slowly crept back on, and I suddenly became aware of how oblivious I had been to the fact that I had been blind for the last hour.

Dialog in the Dark was everything its promoters said it would be and more. Not only did I have the time of my life laughing with my tour guide and trying to find my way around, but the exhibit served its purpose by giving me a glimpse of blindness. The exhibit showed me that, if anything, we should be congratulating people who are blind, not making fun of them or getting annoyed with them for moving at a slower pace. They make it through the day the same way people with sight do, except that they must depend on only four senses to get around in complete darkness. □

**Too Busy to Hate...
Too Hard to Commute**

Location
Alliance Theatre

Performance Dates
Tuesday-Friday, 8 p.m.
Saturday, 12 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.
Sunday, 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Through Oct. 26

Ticket Costs
\$30-\$40

**Dialog in the Dark
Exhibition**

Location
265 18th St., 2nd Floor,
Atlantic Station

Performance Dates
Monday-Sunday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.
Through March 1

Ticket Costs
Adult-\$25.92; Child-\$17.28
Seniors-\$21.60

'Jazz on the Bricks' festival offers unparalleled entertainment

RIGHT: Gerald Albright starts off his show by playing his most famous song "Burmuda Nights." Phil Davis and his band backed up Albright as he played.



ABOVE: The Grady Men's Chorus opens the night with "Gabi Gabi" and "Change the World." The men's also accompanied the women's as they sang "Basin Street Blues" and "True Colors," all while chorus teacher Mr. Kevin Hill played the bongo drum.



RIGHT: Grady custodian Mr. Jesse McCall shares a dance with his wife, Desi, as Albright plays the saxophone.



ABOVE: Senior Hannah Mitchell joins a group of 30-40 people as they dance the electric slide while Gerald Albright plays "So Amazing" on his saxophone.



LEFT: Kathleen Burtrand sings "Peace on Earth," which was originally recorded by Rochelle Ferrell. Burtrand was accompanied by Phil Davis on the keyboard.

Girls lacrosse team trains for first season

Grady is creating a girls lacrosse team following the success of the boys lacrosse team in last year's inaugural season. While the girls won't begin playing games until spring, they are currently practicing with the boys team.

"Right now, we are just learning how to throw and catch because nobody really knows how to play," junior Raynie Franklin said.

Girls basketball team acquires new coach

Following the loss of Coach Dawn Baker, the girls junior varsity coach, Coach Joretta King, will coach the varsity basketball team. Junior varsity will now be coached by the Maynard Jackson volleyball coach, Ms. Michelle Powell. Tryouts begin Oct. 27.

Design formulated for stadium upgrade

The design of the stadium renovation is underway. A sketch of the proposed renovation has been released to the community and is currently being revised. Look for in-depth coverage in the next issue of *The Southerner*.

Tough innings translate into better record

BY PARKER CARLSON

The Grady softball team battled its way through several tough games this season. Despite facing difficult region opponents, the Knights finished the season with a 7-7 record, an improvement over last year's 5-15 record.

"This season is a lot better than last season because we are bonding better as a team," senior third baseman Morgan Gore said.

The team struggled through the first half of the season with a 2-2 record. Some players were discouraged by the two consecutive losses, and several of the players voiced thoughts of giving up.

"The team needed a boost," senior second baseman Iesha Simpson said. "[We] were dealing with some attitude problems regarding the performance of the team."

The Knights decided to focus on improving their attitude and boosting their confidence, which paid off against Towers High School. The team morale stayed high as the Knights won 19-0.

"We never lost confidence in the game, which [helped] us not to give up," junior left fielder Tiara Davis said. "This [allowed] us to win the game."



HOMEWARD BOUND: Junior shortstop Kai Jackson waits for a pitch during the game against Carver on Sept. 4. Jackson went on to drive in a run for the team. "[That game] was a wake-up call for us to play better as a team," Jackson said after the season's end.

The Knights were eager for another win against the Washington High School Bulldogs. During the game, Gore turned the first unassisted triple play in Grady softball history. The game went into extra innings and Grady won 25-24.

The team considers the Washington game a turning point for the rest of the season.

"After the two straight wins, we were working harder on defense, hitting better and utilizing better teamwork," Gore said.

The Knights, however, lost the last four games of their season. Junior shortstop Kai Jackson attributes the losses to the lack of practice time.

"Although we were winning games, we never really got time to improve more because we were playing around three games a week," Jackson said. "No practices were organized in the days between the games."

The Knights' hardest game was against region leader St. Pius X. Grady was no match for the Golden

Lions, whose pitcher struck out every Grady hitter. The Knights lost the game 14-0.

The team is losing eight seniors this year, almost all of whom have played on the team for at least three years. The rest of the team looks forward to next season and hopes to continue to improve their record.

"Although we are sad that we are losing the seniors, we are eager for next season because it is our chance to get in the game," junior outfielder Erin Johnson said. □



ACROSS TEAM LINES: Former Grady students Jamal Londry-Jackson and David Kerns played for the Grady Grey Knights football team last year. (Left) No. 11 Jackson lines up under center, and (right) No. 65 Kerns blows past an offensive lineman to put pressure on the quarterback Kohl Hegetschweiler in Grady's 24-7 loss to Blessed Trinity on Nov. 9.



Former Knights return as Warriors

BY MICHAEL GOOLSBY

Looking ahead to the 2008 football season, Grady football fans expected a lot from senior quarterback Jamal Londry-Jackson and senior linebacker David Kerns. Jackson was projected to be the team's starting quarterback, and Kerns was expected to anchor the defense as the middle linebacker.

But over the summer, the players transferred to North Atlanta, one of Grady's biggest rivals. Around Grady, rumors spread that they transferred because they were dissatisfied with Grady's coaching staff and that they felt playing for North Atlanta would give them more college recruiting opportunities. Both

players, however, insist that the decision to move out of the Grady district was based on family, not football.

"I did what was best for my family," Jackson said. "It had nothing to do with scholarships or coaches."

Kerns also denies that football was the reason for his departure. Still, their transfer has certainly motivated their former teammates to prepare for the Grady vs. North Atlanta game on Oct. 31.

"The hardest working team will win," Jackson said. "I have no doubt that [North

Atlanta] will be that team. We take it one game at a time. When the game comes, we will be ready."

Heading into games on Oct. 10, Grady is 4-1; North Atlanta is 4-2. The teams' wins against common opponents suggest that the game will be tight. Grady defeated Towers 40-15. North Atlanta won 32-12. Both teams edged Riverwood by narrow margins: Grady won 12-3, North Atlanta, 22-20.

Although the coaches are new to the North Atlanta team, they do not lack football experience. First-year head coach Brain Montgomery was head football coach at Selma High School in Alabama.

A football star at Banneker High School, where he also played tennis under Grady tennis coach and ninth-grade literature teacher Mr. Scott Stephens, Montgomery went on to play college football at Texas Southern and professional football for the Seattle Seahawks.

Coach Tee Martin, offensive coordinator and quarterback coach for North Atlanta, led the University of Tennessee to a national college football championship as quarterback and played pro ball.

Defensive coordinator Mark Myers played at Georgia Southern University from 1998-2003, during which time the

team won two national championships. After a stint playing arena football, he began as the defensive line coach at Hiram High School for the 2006-2007 season. Last year, Myers came to North Atlanta as the defensive backs coach before taking on his current position.

"We have a coaching staff that has been around football for a while," Kerns said. "They know what it takes to get us where we want to go, and they're going to show us how to get there."

Nearly every senior high school football player's goal is to be signed to a good college on National Signing Day. Last year, Grady had ten seniors sign to colleges while North Atlanta had three seniors sign.

"I think we have a better chance of getting signed to a good college because the coaching staff has brought in a whole bunch of scouts and publicity," Kerns said. "Having [Coach Martin], who played for Tennessee and won a national championship, has definitely brought in a lot of scouts."

Though excited about the prospect of being recruited, Jackson and Kerns both expressed that they really miss Grady—especially their friends.

"I miss interacting with the people at Grady," Jackson said. "I had folks that were like family there."

On Oct. 31, it looks as if Jackson, Kerns and their former teammates are headed for a family feud. □

EXCHANGE students bring double trouble

from page 16

"My club team was much more serious than what I was used to," Braga said. "We had practice every day and had extremely intense workouts."

Braga's team has qualified for the national championship game in Brazil for its division two years in a row. The players were defeated the first time they played in the championship, but came back to win the game the following year.

"It was one of the greatest moments for me—to win the national tournament in Brazil," Braga said. "Volleyball to me is like soccer is to the rest of my country."

The other side to the dual threat is Bea Huete, an exchange student from Madrid, Spain. She has been playing volleyball for eight years and is a member of a three-time city-championship club volleyball team in Madrid. Huete also coached a sixth-grade club team in Spain last year. Her extensive knowledge of the game, as well as her experience playing against European teams, makes her a deadly player on the court in any position.

Huete has found that playing for Grady and playing for her Spanish team are two very different experiences.

"Playing volleyball in the [United States] isn't the same as in Europe," Huete said. "It is not as serious in the states and is much more fun."

The two experienced exchange students hope to use their combined talents to help move the Grady team through the upcoming matches to the state championship game.

"There are a lot of emotions in the playoff games," Braga said. "I hope my experience will help keep the team's composure in tough games."

The rest of the team has appreciated the commitment and experience the exchange students have brought to the squad.

"Having Bea and Ana on the team this year is one of the many reasons that this Grady team has had such a record-breaking season," senior co-captain Taylor Fulton said. "Their dedication to the game inspires the rest of the team to be just as committed on the court as they are." □



COURTESY OF JEFFREY MARTIN

SOAKING IT IN: Junior captains Jake Martin (top right) and Madeline Roorbach (far right) talk strategy before the Sept. 27 loss against Wesleyan in the second round of the playoffs.

KNIGHTS triumphs over Raiders 12-3

from page 16

"Despite not playing our best, we were encouraged by this defeat to work hard in the playoffs," senior lineman Gerald Crawford said.

After a bye week, Grady traveled to Riverwood for an important region game. The Knights won 12-3 despite making some critical mistakes deep in Riverwood territory and committing 12 penalties.

On Riverwood's first possession of the game, the Raiders kicked a field goal. After that drive, the Riverwood offense never got going, as the Knights held Riverwood's triple-option attack to fewer than 100 yards of total offense.

Grady struggled on offense due to several injuries, including one to sophomore quarterback Treveon Albert, who could not play because of a high-ankle sprain. Regular starting wide receiver, sophomore Damian Swann took over at quarterback. Swann proved to be an improvement to the offense after putting together a 57-yard drive at the end of the first half that ended with Swann's 18-yard touchdown pass to junior tight end Rio McWorther. The extra point was no good.

Early in the fourth quarter, the Riverwood punter fumbled the snap in his own end zone. The ball bounced a few times, then a Grady defender fell on it at the 1-yard line. Two plays later, Swann fumbled the snap on an attempted quarterback sneak and gave it right back to the Raiders on their own 1-yard line.

"I guess we just got a little lackadaisical and coughed up the ball," junior linebacker Jalen Rideaux said. "We need to focus better and work hard on [not turning over the ball] in practice."

Later in the quarter, Grady had the ball on Riverwood's 10-yard line on fourth and one. Swann once again fumbled the snap, but this time he picked it up and ran to the Riverwood 3-yard line before being pulled down by a defender. Then, on fourth and goal, Caffey punched the ball up the left side for a touchdown, making the score 12-3. The Knights failed to make the two-point conversion.

Riverwood got the ball back with one minute left in the game. After two incompletions and one completion for 1 yard, which was Riverwood's only completed pass in the game, the Raiders faced fourth and 9. The Riverwood quarterback dropped back to pass but decided to scramble and was brought down for a 5-yard gain. Grady then had the ball and only had to take one knee to end the game.

"The defense did what we had to do," Crawford said. "We didn't get down after that first drive, and we held their offense under 100 yards for the whole game."

The Knights played the Therrell High School Panthers Oct. 10 for Homecoming, winning 46-10. □

Loss in playoffs finishes inaugural season

By GUS RICK

The Grady water polo team ended its inaugural season on Sept. 27 with a 9-4 loss against Wesleyan in the second round of the Georgia high school state playoffs. After a bye in the first round, the Knights were seeded fifth, making them the underdog to fourth-seeded Wesleyan. The team finished its season with a 4-4 record.

Before the playoff game, the team had played Wesleyan once, losing 10-3 on Sept. 18.

"We improved a lot from our first match against Wesleyan to the playoff match," junior goalkeeper Jake Martin said. "The referee made a lot of questionable calls, and we missed too many of our opportunities. We could have beaten them, but we let the referee get in our heads."

The Knights entered the playoffs without any expectations of the game's outcome.

"We just wanted to do our best," senior winger Anja Griffin said. "It's our first team ever, and we hoped to do well but had no real expectations."

Despite Griffin's view of the postseason match, the loss still came as a disappointment.

"I did expect to go further," Coach Sandra Ukah said. "I didn't have really high expectations, but I wanted to at least get to the [third] round."

Although her team's first season ended abruptly, Coach Ukah sees reason for the Knights to hold their heads high.

"We started with seven players, which is the minimum for the team," Coach Ukah said. "By the end, we had about 20 players."

Coach Ukah cited the team's inexperience as its biggest drawback, but she was also surprised at the ability the players showed.

"They were animals [on] defense," Coach Ukah said. "I don't think anyone believed how strong they were defensively. Even when they fell behind, they would never quit and that's what you have to do to be champions."

Coach Ukah is proud of the team's growth, and she thinks more regular practices will help the team continue to improve.

"Next year, I'd really like to see water polo recognized as a sport and not just a club," Coach Ukah said. "Then we'd get the support to have

[the] team have regular practices at a pool. We'd be able to work on strategy and enhance our skills without a game on the line."

Along with regular practices, the team hopes for a larger coaching staff in future seasons.

"Sometimes we get coached by people outside [of] Grady, but they're never around for too long," Griffin said. "[Junior captain] Jake [Martin] really does a lot of the coaching along with Ms. Ukah."

Junior Madeline Roorbach, the team's point, had never played water polo before this year but has always enjoyed watching the sport.

"I first got interested [in water polo] during the Olympics," Roorbach said. "I like that it makes swimming a team sport."

Only three seniors, Dean Jackson, Emery Ozell and Griffin, will be leaving. The rest of the team, including Martin and Roorbach, will be back at Grady next year.

"We have more heart than any other team in Georgia," Coach Ukah said. "If we have all our players back and a regular pool to practice at, we'll be a force to be reckoned with." □

Lacrosse players enter YMCA fall league

By MILES GILBREATH

Several Grady lacrosse players have used the offseason to hone their lacrosse skills in a YMCA-sponsored fall lacrosse league in preparation for the Grady season in the spring.

The league, called the Battle at Buckhead, allows schools to submit teams with players from grades 9-12 to compete. Participating schools include Westminster, Riverwood, St. Pius and Lovett. Games are held on Sundays.

The Grady players combined with those from their former opponent, Peachtree Ridge, to form a team.

"When we played [Peachtree Ridge] last season, they beat us pretty badly," said sophomore attackman Ian Janke. "I thought it would be weird to have to play on the same team as them, but we've come together pretty well as a team."

The mix of players has proved to be a winning formula on the field as well. The team has compiled a 2-2 record against perennial state powerhouses.

The first game matched the

Grady-Peachtree Ridge team against a team from Riverwood. Grady won by a score of 10-6 and then went on to defeat a team from St. Pius the next week 8-6.

"It really felt good to beat Pius and Riverwood in the first two weeks," said junior midfielder Jamany Lewis. "It gave us confidence to play Westminster and Lovett the next two weeks."

The team's confidence didn't result in victory however—they lost by a final score of 6-5 against Westminster and 10-6 against Lovett. Lovett's team was composed entirely of varsity players from the 2008 state championship team.

"We knew coming into the game that they were going to be really good, but I was surprised at how well we performed against them," Janke said.

Grady lacrosse coaches Matt Janke and Jon Oschner, who are also the coaches of the fall league team, encouraged participation in the Battle at Buckhead.

"It is vital to our success in the

spring that the kids keep practicing all year round," Coach Oschner said, "even if it is just playing catch with someone on a regular basis."

The team is hopeful the extra practice will pay off because in the spring, Grady will no longer compete in the North Georgia Lacrosse League, which features club teams from schools that don't have varsity lacrosse programs. Lacrosse will become a school-sponsored sport, and the team will compete in the Georgia High School Association as a junior varsity program. Grady will play in Area 3 along with Blessed Trinity, Holy Innocents', North Springs, Pace, Riverwood and Westminster. The team's faculty sponsor will be ROTC teacher Lt. Col. Mitchell Sivas, whose son played lacrosse at a private

school.

"I'm ready to get more involved with other programs at Grady besides the ROTC," Lt. Col. Sivas said. "After all, our motto is 'we live to serve.'"

Above all, the fall league should keep the players excited for the upcoming season.

"The league is really helping to keep all the kids' sticks hot and to keep their mindset right to play, but above all we're just having fun," Coach Janke said. The team feels that its participation in the fall league will be beneficial for the regular season.

"We are all looking forward to our first season in the GHSA," Lewis said. "I really think that playing against some teams in the fall league that we will see again during the regular season is going to pay off when the games actually start to count." □

“It is vital to our success in the spring that the kids keep practicing all year round, even if it is just playing catch.”

Coach Jon Oschner

Team implements new workout routine, runs as unit

BY DEAN JACKSON

Halfway through the girl's cross-country season, one thing has remained consistent—the team is running as a unit.

“My main goal right now is to have the team running together,” head coach Jeff Cramer said. “I don't care if I have one really fast runner; we have to stay in a pack.”

This approach to running is based on what Coach Cramer calls the workout effect.

“When runners really put in a 100-percent effort from meet to meet, they will start to wear down over time,” Coach Cramer said. “By keeping the runners at a relaxed pace during meets, it guarantees they will be fresh when the city meet rolls around.”

The runners are responding well to the changed strategy, which is an attempt to improve upon last season when the team finished third at the state meet.

“I really like that [Coach Cramer] switched up the routine,” sophomore runner Kelsey Roth said. “We are running as a group, which is building better relations between teammates.”

Coach Cramer changed the workouts in order to get the team's times closer together than they have



TRIPLE THREAT: Senior Lily Muntzing and juniors Sidney Wise and Madeline Roorbach practice Coach Cramer's preferred strategy of running together during a Grant Park meet on Sept. 24. The team placed second overall, coming behind the Therrell Panthers.

been in the past.

“At meets, we would have [2008 graduate] Arielle D'Avanzo finish, then a big gap, then [junior] Leah [Butterfield] and I would finish, then another gap and then the rest of the team,” Roth explains. “This year, we have one solid effort, and everyone finishes relatively close to one another.”

Coach Cramer is confident in the team's abilities.

“When I ask them to run well, they do,” he said. “We have finished third in both invitationals we entered, which says a lot about the team.”

The freshmen's ability to step up and perform alongside the more experience runners also speaks volumes about the team's early success.

“The young runners are doing exceptionally well,” Coach Cramer

said. “We have three freshmen in the top 10, and the others have met all expectations.”

According to freshman Nally Kinnane, Coach Cramer's insistence on running as a group helped her and the other freshmen bond with the older team members.

“Running together is a lot of fun, and it has helped me get to know the upperclassmen better,” Kinnane said. “Also, it's easier to run when

you're surrounded by teammates pushing you.”

The team's veterans are happy with both the youngsters' performance, and the team's performance as a whole.

“Not only are the young runners stepping up, the upperclassmen are learning to support each other more,” senior runner Jessy Segall said. “The style we are using is really effective in preparing us for the more important meets.”

But Segall does not find the “together” theme totally beneficial.

“I feel good about the Grant Park meets because the closer we finish to our teammates, the more points we get,” Segall said. “But I don't like not being able to run at my full potential.”

Except for one race in which a runner ran ahead of the pack, the core group is finishing within one minute of each other.

The team has not finished first in any of the Grant Park meets this year but consistently finishes second and third. The team, however, is not disappointed with these outcomes.

“We are really not concerned with our finishes in the regular season,” Segall said. “We learned from last year that what you do in the postseason is all that counts.” □

Boys team improves, benefits from Inman program

BY KATE BELGUM

The Grady boys cross-country team has steadily improved since the beginning of the season, placing third at the last two APS meets. Freshman Holden Choi and senior El Shaddai Hailegiorgis placed third and fourth, respectively, at the Grant Park meet on Oct. 1.

The team has the APS city meet on Oct. 15 and is hoping to place first.

“We are going to win city—we will win,” said Mr. Jake Hackett, assistant cross-country coach.

The team will send its top seven runners to compete at the city meet. Grady's top runners include Choi, Hailegiorgis, freshman Austin Burch, sophomores Alex Pittman and Joze Lopez, and seniors Bennett Girardot and Matt Smith.

“We are improving,” said head coach George Darden. “The gap between first and third place [in the meets] is getting smaller and smaller, so hopefully at our next meet, we will be second.”

Coach Hackett agrees with Coach Darden and sees the improvement since the start of the season.

“[The boys] team has been pleasantly surprising this season,” Coach Hackett said.

“We have a young team as well as veterans who have stuck with it. I am seeing the younger kids improve.”

Inman just recently started its own cross-country team, and the team has helped future Grady runners prepare for the competitive high school season. Many of Grady's freshmen runners participated on the Inman team, and this experience has helped the team at the high school level. The Inman coach, Diane Black, has taught at Inman for 14 years and has served as the cross-country coach for the past three years.

The Inman cross-country team consists of 34 runners. The students warm up by running to Piedmont Park and then play games to keep the energy up.

“I like to

incorporate games into the workout so the team is actually exercising when they don't realize it,” Coach Black said. “Sometimes we

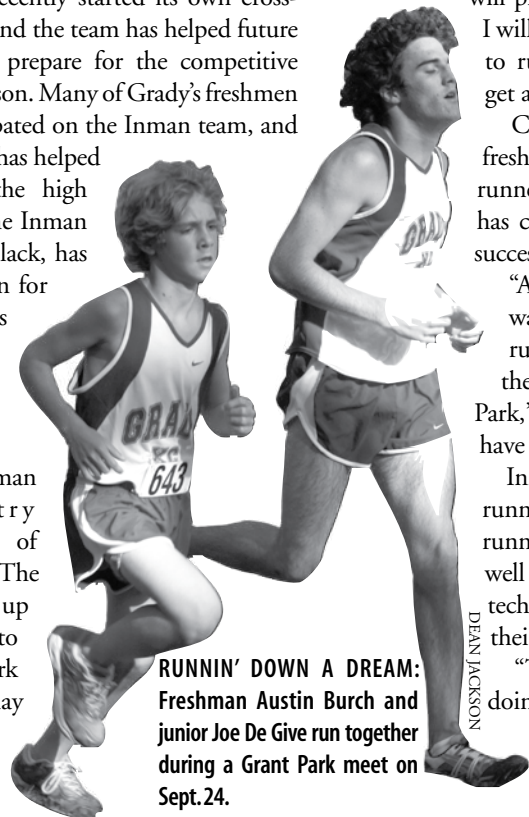
will play duck-duck-goose, but I will change it up so they have to run more than usual and get a workout.”

Choi, one of Grady's top freshman runners, was a runner on Inman's team and has contributed greatly to the success of the boys team.

“A typical practice at Inman was basically that we would run down to Grady and then run around Piedmont Park,” Choi said. “It might have been a mile, maybe two.”

Inman has helped the runners by focusing on running long distances, as well as the strategies and techniques used to improve their stamina and time.

“The [Inman] team is doing really well,” Coach Black said. “They are in good shape and work well together.”



RUNNIN' DOWN A DREAM: Freshman Austin Burch and junior Joe De Give run together during a Grant Park meet on Sept. 24.

KNIGHT WATCH

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

Results:

- Sept. 3: APS meet, second-place team
- Sept. 10: APS meet, second-place team
- Sept. 13: Altitude Running Invitational, third-place team
- Sept. 17: APS meet, second-place team
- Sept. 24: APS meet, second-place team
- Sept. 27: Aubrae Gunderson Invite, third-place team
- Oct. 1: APS meet, second-place team

Future meets:

Oct. 15 at Grant Park, 5:15 p.m.

Runners in City Meet		
Runner	Best time*	Grade
Leah Butterfield	23:37	11
Nally Kinnane	23:47	9
Alix Youngblood	23:47	9
Jessy Segall	24:04	12
Kelsey Roth	24:44	10
Taylor Allen	24:49	9
Lily Muntzing	25:30	12

*denotes best time at APS meets

Nally Kinnane
freshman runner



Player Profile:

Height: 5-foot-7
Weight: 118 pounds
Best Personal Time for 5k: 22:37

FOOTBALL

Scores:

- GRADY 41, Maynard Jackson 13
- Grady 8, CLARKSTON 0
- GRADY 40, Towers 16
- Washington 20, GRADY 0
- Grady 12, RIVERWOOD 3
- GRADY 46, Therrell 10

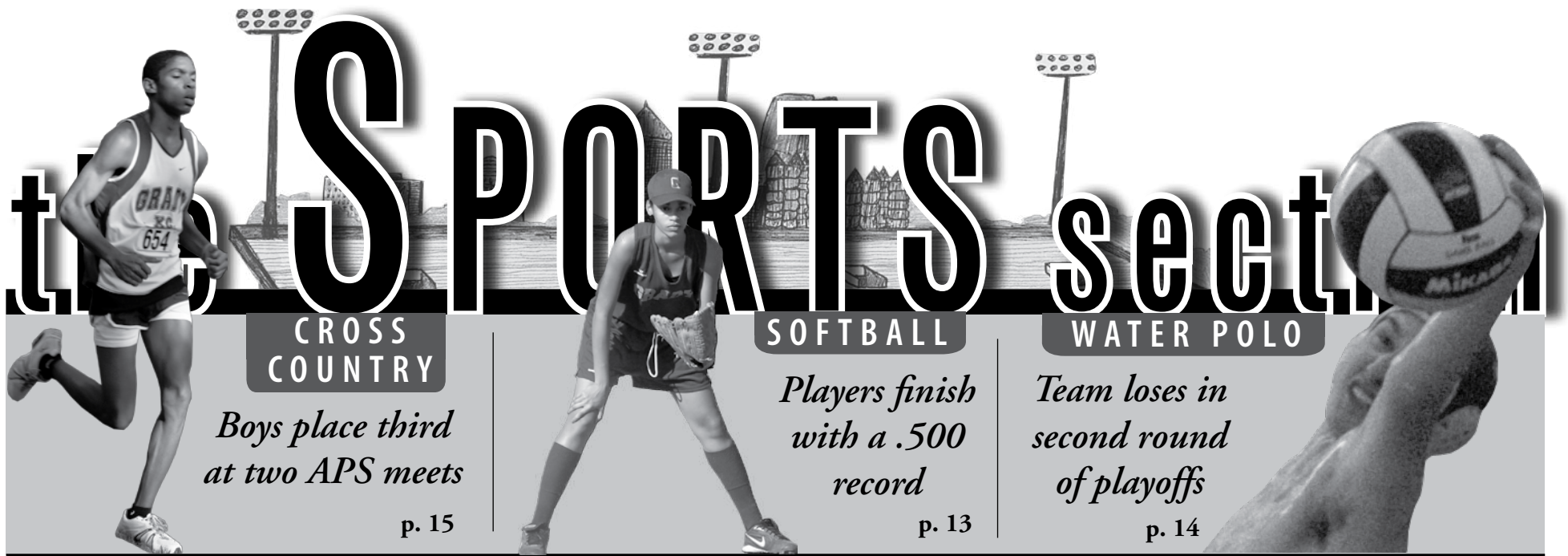
*All caps denotes home game

Future games:

- Oct. 18—Grady at CARVER, 7 p.m.
- Oct. 24—Grady at ST. PIUS X, 7:30 p.m.

Region 5-B AAA Standings

School	Region		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
St. Pius X	4	0	6	0
Washington	4	0	5	2
Grady	2	1	5	1
North Atlanta	2	2	4	3
Carver	1	2	2	3
Riverwood	0	3	1	5
Therrell	0	4	1	6



HENRY W. GRADY HIGH SCHOOL, ATLANTA

THE SOUTHERNER Oct. 14, 2008



WE MUST PROTECT THIS HOUSE: Head Coach Ronnie Millen attempts to pump up the defensive line with a pep talk during a timeout in the fourth quarter of the Knights 20-0 loss to the Washington Bulldogs on Sept. 19. Throughout the game, the team made several careless mistakes that eventually led to the Knights' loss.

OUTCOME HINGES ON 3 BIG PLAYS

By JAKE MARTIN

After an ugly 8-0 win over a mediocre team from Clarkston High School, the Grady Grey Knights football team buckled down in practice and worked to correct the mistakes made in the game.

The extra work showed as the Knights dismantled the Towers Titans 40-16 on Sep 12. The Knights never gave up the lead and only allowed Towers to score once the second-stringer players were in for Grady. It was a relatively calm game for the Knights until senior captain Miles Gilbreath severely injured his right knee on a seemingly routine play in the third quarter. An ambulance was brought out on to the field to escort Gilbreath to Piedmont Hospital. Gilbreath tore his MCL on the play.

Despite the injury to one of their captains, the Knights were able to finish the game strong and never let Towers back into the ballgame.

The next week, the Knights faced the

Washington Bulldogs and their defensive back Branden Smith, who is considered to be the top college prospect in the state by many recruiting publications.

Neither team was able to score in the first half as each took turns turning the ball over to the other team. In the third quarter, however, sophomore quarterback Treveon Albert was hit from his blindside by Washington's Samuel Jones and then fumbled the ball, which was picked and returned by Washington linebacker Mario Bibbs for a touchdown.

"Their front seven were strong and had good penetration against us," said junior linebacker Jalen Rideaux, who could not play in the game due to a stress fracture in his right foot. "We just got lazy, and we started to get tired. That's when we started missing blocks and forgetting our assignments."

Later in the quarter, Smith showed why he is the state's number-one prospect when he took a line-drive punt from Grady's senior punter Jordan Francais at his own 27-yard line. He

made several quick moves to evade the Grady defenders then used his 4.28-second-speed [in the 40-yard dash] to outrun the Grady coverage team down the sideline for a 73-yard touchdown. At the 2008 Under Armour Football Combine, Smith was rated as the fastest high school senior in the country.

"I was glad that [Grady] punted to me, because most of the time other teams won't do that," Smith said in an interview with the Atlanta Journal Constitution. "My teammates made some great blocks for me on that play."

In the fourth quarter, Grady had Washington pinned on their own 1-yard line when Washington running back Danarius Drake broke through the line and raced 95 yards to Grady's 6-yard line. On the next play Drake punched the ball in for Washington, leaving the game with the final score of 20-0.

See KNIGHTS page 14

Foreign exchange students enhance team with talent

By JUDSON GOOD

The girls volleyball team has proven its strength this season by dominating in its region. Foreign exchange students, juniors Ana Braga and Bea Huete were key elements to the squad's success. The two experienced players used their talents to guide the team to another state playoff. The team, which has qualified for the state playoffs four years in a row, ended the regular season with a 13-5 record.

"We have been [to the playoffs] before," team captain junior Jordan Crawford said. "The challenge now is to make it deep into the tournament."

Braga and Huete have brought a new level of experience to Grady's squad, giving the team a significant advantage this season.

Braga and Huete have been around the volleyball court ever since they can remember. Braga, from Sao Luis, Brazil, started playing volleyball in the first grade and started training daily when she entered sixth grade.

By the time she was a freshman, she had made a nationally recognized Brazilian club team. While on the team, she participated in two national championship tournaments. This team made Braga realize how intense the sport is.

See EXCHANGE page 13



Brazilian foreign exchange student Ana Braga

Football games prove important element of Grady



KEELY YOUNGBLOOD

Looking back as a senior, I can't believe just how much I underappreciated what I had. I went to the football games with my friends, paid no attention whatsoever to the game itself, bought packs of Skittles and cheered when the people in front of me cheered. If anything, I wore school colors, but only because a certain friend of mine thought she looked good in maroon. It didn't occur to me that our football team was better than average until the tail end of my freshman season, when we were 10-0 and headed for the Georgia Dome. But after I figured out that maybe the players were doing something worth watching, I realized how much fun a football game could be.

After my freshman year, I started to pay attention to the games. By the end of my sophomore season, I was remembering the scores. I could answer the quizzes my dad gave on Friday nights at curfew when he tried to figure out if I'd actually been where I said I was. I won't say I went to the games solely to watch football, but as I stood around in the stands in a sweatshirt and jeans, sipping hot chocolate, I looked at more on the field than the players' backsides in white spandex.

But I still didn't appreciate how much Two-a-Days-style fun I was having until my junior year, when the football-schedule gods gave Grady approximately two home games at our stadium, one of which I was out of town for. When people first started talking about the missing home games, I wasn't all that concerned. By October, I was livid. Football games are reliably fun and inexpensive and they pretty much guarantee a decent-sized group of

your classmates to sit with. They're easy to carpool to and—as long as no one gets shot—relatively safe. Most importantly, football games create bonds. They unite the school in a way I don't normally see at Grady. Individually we may indeed be different, but together we support our boys on the goal line.

This year we have a decent number of home games scheduled. I think I can speak for the majority of the seniors when I say we're having a good time. I have some advice for the rest of the school—go to the football games. It doesn't matter if you don't like sports, you don't like football, or if, like me, you don't have a problem with the sport itself but the rules make about as much sense as the fifth problem on my second AP Physics quiz. You'll enjoy yourself, and it'll remind you that there are more aspects to Grady than annoying teachers, stressful tests and busy-work. □