



The faces of Help Desk pg. 3

Traditional African weddings pg. 6



Thursday, March 6, 2014

Volume IV, Issue VI

## Get Involved

### Sweet Treats Stop

First Wednesdays  
9:00-10:00 a.m.  
Student Life Center, 2nd Floor

### March First Friday Connection Breakfast

Friday, 7 March  
7:00-9:00 a.m.  
Life Center Community Room  
Employees: please register when you arrive. Sponsored by GC and hosted by Student Life.

### March First Tuesday Connection Breakfast

Tuesday, March 4  
8:00-9:00 a.m.  
Main foyer, South Campus

### SGA/Student Clubs Community Service Project-"Litter Pickup"

Thursday, 6 March  
12:00-1:00 p.m.  
FM 691 and Main Campus  
Calling all GC student club and organization members to participate in this roadside and campus clean up! Meet in front of the BSM. Transportation and safety vests will be provided.

### Spring Table Games Tournament

Including: ping pong, 8-ball, foosball and video games.  
Tournament registration: 18 February - 1 March  
Play begins 18 March.  
Tournament ends 5 April.  
Personalized shirts are given to each winner. Students and employees are encouraged to participate!

### Club G at GC Goes Daytime: "Jimmy Buffet" Themed Party

Club G is moving to days.  
Thursday, 27 March  
11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
Life Center east patio, under the Bridge  
Students and employees are invited and are encouraged to wear Jimmy Buffet attire. A FREE lunch will be provided by Great Western Dining Service. "Mock Margaritas" will also be served. Don't miss the give-away! A live band will set the atmosphere for this special event. Make plans to attend. It's 5 O'Clock Somewhere!

### Spring 2014 Student Leadership Series

Fourth Mondays  
24 March & 22 April  
12:15-12:45 p.m.  
LA 107  
March speaker: Ms. Amanda Smith, Purchasing Manager, Caterpillar, Inc.  
Business leaders share their leadership philosophy in today's competitive environment. Students and employees are invited. Sponsors: CWL Advisory Board, SGA and Student Life.

### March "Late Night Food Event"

Wednesday, 5 March  
9:00-10:00 p.m.  
Life Center Food Court  
Pre-Spring Break Chicken Tender/Steak Finger Blowout! Sides, dessert and drink available. Meal provided by Great Western Dining Service. Sponsored by Student Life. FREE to students and employees.

### Saint Patrick's Day Ice Cream Social

Monday, 17 March  
11:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m.  
Life Center east patio, under the Bridge  
Complimentary "Build Your Own" ice cream sundae. Student and employees are invited. Sponsored by Great Western Dining Service. Hosted by Student Life.

# GC professor named Photographer of the Month by Friends of Hagerman



Ross' geese landing at Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge graze on seeds and grasses near Lake Texoma. These rare North American geese spend the winter in southern states and the valleys of California. In summer they head north to Canada and the Arctic.

Sue Malnory  
Friends of Hagerman Communications

Dr. Michael B. Keck, biology professor at Grayson College in Sherman/Denison, has been named Photographer of the Month at Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), by the Friends of Hagerman.



Although photography has been a hobby of his for many years, Keck only recently started photographing birds. He particularly likes photographing birds in flight. This month twelve of his photos taken at the Refuge will be featured in a virtual gallery on the Friends website, friendsofhagerman.com/Gallery.

Dr. Keck has been a presenter for the Second Saturday nature series at the Refuge twice, giving programs on Amphibians of Grayson County in 2013, and on Snakes this past January.

Keck says he tries to come to Hagerman NWR several times a month. Currently, he uses a Canon 6D with a 300mm F4 lens for most of his bird photos.

Photographer of the Month is just one of the opportunities for photographers at Hagerman NWR. In addition to the Refuge lands, over 11,000 acres of wildlife habitat offering myriad photo subjects, the Nature Photography Club meets bi-monthly.

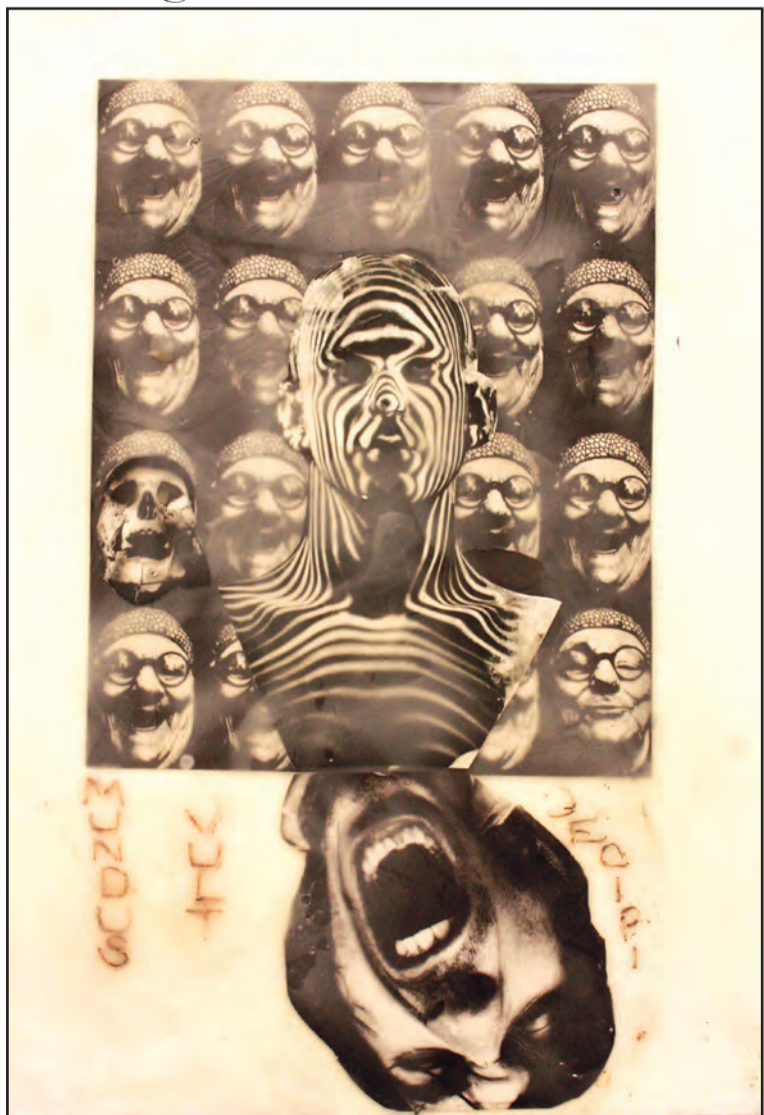
At the next club meeting, at 12:30 p.m. on 8 March, John S. Mead, Blue Lion Photography, will present a program on the use of Lightroom, software for photo editing. The club is open to anyone interested in nature photography.

On 17 May professional photographer Trey Neal will conduct a workshop, open to the public, and the annual photo contest is set for later this year. ♥



Keck often takes his biology students along to Hagerman Wildlife Refuge for bird-watching trips. Many different species of ducks and shore birds call the Refuge home.

## Black & White XII / Dream Weaver exhibit up through 20 March



Mundos Vult decipi by former GC professor Donna Adams is a work of collage in wax encaustic. Adams is one of many talented local artists included in the show. See page 6 for more photos and details. Second Floor Gallery



## Black History Month program educates and entertains

David Gonier

The distinct aroma of a home-cooked feast made with love and pride filled the Center for Workplace Learning Auditorium on the afternoon of 28 February.

Charles Leslie greeted the audience of students, graduates and many other members of the community for Grayson College's Second Annual Black History Program. The program began at noon and featured speakers from the school's administration, emotional musical performances and testimonials from graduates of Grayson.

Victoria Jackson, a GC graduate, catered the event through her company, Fusion Gourmet Catering by Victoria. The chef's take on the traditional southern-style meal of fried chicken, greens, macaroni and cheese

and cole slaw was applauded by every speaker.

After serving lunch for the grateful crowd, Jackson delivered a motivational speech.

"The thing I want to say is this," Jackson began, "If you have a goal, go for it, no matter if they tell you, 'you cannot do this, you're not qualified, this, that,' don't listen! If you want this, go for it, because nobody can do it but you."

Every speaker touched on similar notes of encouragement for the students present. Some of the speakers highlighted the particular struggles facing minority students.

Grayson College President Jeremy McMillen spoke towards the end of the program, emphasizing the need for equity in educational opportunities.

Continued pg. 2



**Student Government Association**

First Mondays  
12:15 - 12:45 p.m.  
The HUB

**BSM Luncheon**

Wednesdays  
11:45 - 12:30 p.m.  
Baptist Student Union

**BSM Bible Study**

Mondays  
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.  
Baptist Student Union

**Fellowship of Christian Athletes**

Tuesdays  
6:00 p.m.  
Viking Residence Hall Main Lounge

**Men of Distinction**

Thursdays  
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.  
The HUB

**Speech Club**

Every other Wednesday  
3:00-4:00 p.m.  
The HUB

**Sisters of Destiny**

Wednesdays  
4:00-5:00 p.m.  
The HUB

**Writers Unlimited/ Sigma Kappa Delta**

14 February, 21 March, 18 April  
12:00-1:00 p.m.  
Writing Center (Lib 110)

**Phi Theta Kappa**

Wednesdays  
12:30-1:00 p.m.  
LA 202

**Dental Assisting**

Wednesdays  
1:00- 2:00 p.m.  
The HUB

**Mu Alpha Theta**

Tuesdays  
2:00-3:00 p.m.  
The HUB

**Welding Association**

Every other Tuesday  
12:00-1:00 p.m.  
The HUB

**Vocational Nursing Student Association**

Tuesday  
12:00-1:00 p.m.  
South Campus

**Cultural Diversity**

First and Third Thursdays  
1:15-2:15 p.m.  
The HUB

**Clay Club**

Tuesdays  
6:00-6:30 p.m.  
AC 120

**Student Ambassadors**

Third Mondays  
12:00-1:00 p.m.  
Lounge outside the HUB

**Delta Phi Delta Art Club**

First Wednesday  
11:45 a.m.  
AC105

**Grayson Nursing Student Association**

Thursdays  
5:00-6:00 p.m.  
The HUB

**Psychology Club**

Tuesdays  
12:15-12:45 p.m.  
CIS 202

**Cosmetology Club**

Mondays  
3:45 p.m.  
CTC classroom

**Veteran Student Association**

Contact the veteran student representative in the Student Services office for meeting detail

**GC Spirit Days**

Fridays  
Employees wear blue jeans and GC shirt.

# Omicron Psi, GC's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa

Andy McDaniel  
PTK PR Officer

Hello Grayson students! We at the Omicron Psi chapter of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society hope that the Spring semester is going well for each and every one of you.

Perhaps this is your first semester on campus or maybe it is your last; but you might be asking yourself, "What is Phi Theta Kappa?" We are the official honor society of the two-year college, with chapters across the country and around the world. Phi Theta Kappa is dedicated to the four hallmarks of our society:

**Scholarship:** Our members recognize that their education is vital and is an

aspect they control that can move them forward. Think about it. Everything you are learning right now will lead you to your future and what you learn and how you apply it will change your world forever.

**Leadership:** Our members and officer team seek to set themselves apart by taking on projects and defining themselves as decision makers. Anyone, not just officers, can spearhead a project or initiative that needs a leader and serve as chairpersons for any of our service projects or for fun campus activities.

**Service:** We give back to the communities, friends and families that support us in our educational endeavors. Projects such as coat

drives, Toys for Tots and our annual Relay For Life Team (Go Pink Flamingos!) are our way of making a contribution to the world around us.

**Fellowship:** We are, after all, in this together. We support, encourage and make lifelong friendships with one another.

Yes, we work hard and take education seriously but we have a lot of fun doing it! We are pleased to offer FREE guest memberships to anyone who wants to be involved.

Phi Theta Kappa offers full membership to persons who have completed 12 hours of classes and have a 3.5 GPA or higher. Once a member, a 3.0 GPA is needed to maintain a full membership.

WAIT! Just because you may not be eligible THIS semester does not mean you won't be NEXT semester.

Phi Theta Kappa has a Spring AND a Fall Induction. So if you have received an invitation to join us, sign up today! If you qualify for membership but have not received an invitation to join, please contact Prof. Mary Linder in Liberal Arts building 106F or email her at linderm@grayson.edu.

While we are the Omicron Psi chapter, we affectionately call ourselves "Nerds" or "The Nerd Herd" and we meet on the Main Campus every Wednesday at 12:30-1:00 in LA 202. Come join us!



## DID YOU KNOW?

"At peak times there are somewhere between **3000** to **3500** mobile devices connected to the campus network..." and that number increases by about 20% each year.

-Gary F. Paikowski, Vice President of Information Technology



To keep up with the demand:  
• a number of new access points were added to the criminal justice wing  
• new, more robust units added to health

science buildings to handle multi-media traffic more efficiently  
• additional access points in the arts and communications complex are planned,

to include full coverage in the auditorium  
• units have been purchased for inclusion in the new south campus facility and to increase coverage

in the main building  
• Older units are annually replaced with newer ones

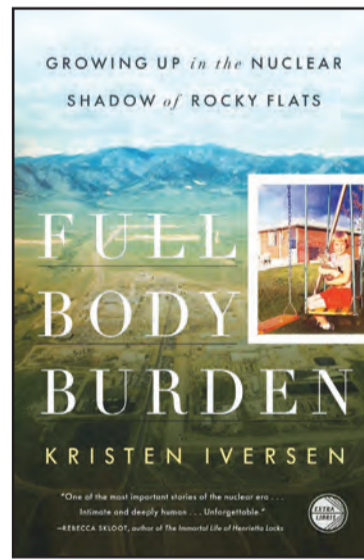


## GC students pick up Collin College's Book in Common

David Harman

Starting in 2006 Collin College has encouraged all students and faculty to participate in their Book in Common program. In this program, a book by a contemporary author is chosen and read by the faculty and student body. The professors are urged to include the book in part of their curriculum. The activities of the program culminate with the author of the selected book coming to their campus, giving a talk, answering questions and signing books. The idea behind the program is to instill a more complete sense of communal and academic togetherness.

For a second year, Grayson College's writing club,



Writers Unlimited, has nominally participated in Collin College's Book in Common program. Club members receive and read the Book in Common, and they meet and discuss their thoughts inspired by the au-

thor's story. This year, Kristen Iversen's novel *Full Body Burden* was selected as Collin College's Book in Common. The subtitle "Growing up in the Nuclear Shadow of Rocky Flats" lends but a hint of the story Iversen tells of growing up in Arvada, Colorado. Her childhood home was a mere two miles away from the U.S. government's Rocky Flats plutonium trigger plant. Plutonium triggers are at the heart of nuclear weapons. She and her family were living the American suburban dream unaware of the incredibly dangerous contamination being released by the plant.

Iversen tell us of a fire at the Rocky flats plant that led to the release of as much as ninety pounds of plutonium

into the atmosphere. On the surface this does not seem like a lot, however, it takes a mere microgram of plutonium to cause any number of fatal cancers. She reveals that this fire was, at the time, our nation's worst industrial and ecological disaster ever, and it was quickly covered up by the government.

*Full Body Burden* is a chilling look at the American government's complacency and willingness to endanger their citizens in pursuit of winning the arms race of the Cold War. Certain to inspire a curious combination of empathy, mistrust and disgust, Iversen's *Full Body Burden* should be high on every American's reading list. ♥

## Speakers encourage "hope" and "perseverance" at Friday afternoon Black History Month program

Continued from pg. 1

McMillen said, "One of the things I'm excited to tell you is that Grayson County does better than the state in terms of our eighth grades going to college and finishing... Another thing I'm not as proud to tell you is that doesn't equate to all different groups of people."

Culinary Arts program graduate Regina Foster spoke to the assembly about the academic and life skills she learned through the college.

"I'd like to thank Grayson College for teaching me patience, perseverance, and hope," Foster began, "I first learned patience when I had

to enroll and register."

The crowd laughed warmly at Foster's humorous observation. Foster said, "I learned perseverance, because some of my classes seemed so hard and so foreign that I didn't think I'd ever get it. I had to learn hope, hope that I would graduate."

Foster said she wants to continue giving back to Grayson County through volunteering and her local small business, including the concession stand at Fairview Park in Sherman which she runs.

The program included several uplifting musical performances of prominent



The event was catered by Victoria Jackson, a GC graduate. Fusion Gourmet Catering by Victory

African-American songs, including "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot," sung by GC Librarian Lisa Hebert.

Vivian Ford of the National Association for the Advanced of Colored People spoke passionately to the assembly about the JoAnn Perkins Scholarship, and educa-

tion students Millette Roddy and Johnny Turner shared their personal struggles and commitments to education.

Charles Leslie closed the program with a ceremonial gathering and joining of hands, emphasizing the community's closeness and mutual support. ♥



# The faces behind GC's help desk

Marlea Trevino  
Viking Sponsor

If you've ever panicked because you couldn't remember your password and the deadline to register for classes was fast approaching, you may have frantically turned to the Grayson Help Desk. . . and an angel on the other end of the phone or screen brought your world back into alignment. That would be either Frances Haratyk or Jennifer Miller.

Haratyk and Miller field calls from Grayson students about the Portal and passwords, but also about how to retrieve transcripts and pay their accounts, for which they guide students to CampusConnect. If students have questions about holds, Haratyk and Miller send their query to the appropriate department. They also answer routine questions about Blackboard, such as how to upload a file.

As an E-Learning Special-

ist, Haratyk also answers faculty's technology-related questions, such as why students are having problems accessing a library database from off campus or why they can't get the chat feature to work in Blackboard.

"They're all fun for me, but sometimes a little stress is involved," stated Haratyk, referring to the many types of problems she's called on to solve daily. Some of the problems she works on for callers are easy, but others require a good bit of time.

A recent problem Haratyk addressed was the server filling up with course copy issues, requiring her to work not only with on-campus IT personnel but with Blackboard experts to resolve. "When dealing with technology, every update brings new issues we didn't expect and have to figure out how to resolve," she said. "So far, though, we haven't had any problem we couldn't resolve



Frances Haratyk,  
E-Learning Specialist



Jennifer Miller,  
IT Specialist

or find a good work-around for," she added.

Miller empathizes with frustrated callers when they can't find what they're searching for on the Grayson website. Sometimes her first

order of business is simply calming them down. Technology challenges can also create frustration when the caller's computer isn't working correctly, and Miller has to "decipher" whether the problem is an issue with the caller's technology or Grayson's. So troubleshooting is a daily part of both Miller and Haratyk's jobs.

Haratyk would like callers to remember that the more information they provide about their problems on the front end, the more quickly the Help Desk can work to resolve them. She often has to begin a session by asking callers which browser and operating system they're using and whether they've recently completed Windows updates and virus scans. Student callers should always communicate which class they're having the technology problems in and which assignment they're having problems uploading,

for instance. And all emailers should remember to leave their phone numbers!

IT Specialist Miller wants the Grayson community to be more aware of "Help.grayson.edu," a searchable online database for questions about advising, financial aid, admissions and Blackboard help. The database articles answer commonly asked questions in these areas and provide step-by-step instructions. Members of these departments are also available for Live Chat, accessible through the HelpDesk website (<http://grayson.edu/college-info/help-desk.aspx>).

HelpDesk email:  
HelpDesk@grayson.edu  
HelpDesk phone numbers: M-F, 8-4 p.m., 903.463.8788 and 903.415.2591  
M-Th, 6-9 p.m. 903.647.0092

## #SELive

Register now: [www.SE.edu/SELive](http://www.SE.edu/SELive)

### Transfer Enrollment Day!

April 1, 2014

On the Southeastern Oklahoma State University campus in Durant, Oklahoma!

Transfer students and their parents and families are invited to come and experience life at Southeastern.

- Enroll for SE Classes
- Explore Campus and Residence Life
- Experience SE Traditions
- Meet with Admissions & Financial Aid
- Visit Academic Departments
- Interact with SE Students
- All Students Attending Will Receive an SE Sackpack
- Includes One Free Lunch Ticket for Registered Students & Guests

Go online to view an event schedule and get directions.

Register NOW:  
[www.SE.edu/SELive](http://www.SE.edu/SELive)  
or call 580.745.2060

## Career Connections Career Fair

### Thursday, April 3, 2014

Come job search and network with employers!

Grayson College Main Campus, April 3, 2014, 10am-2pm

Questions: Contact Gretchen Huff, , Grayson College,  
903-415-2544 or [huffg@grayson.edu](mailto:huffg@grayson.edu)

Sponsored by: Grayson College, Texoma Workforce Board and Southern Oklahoma Workforce Board

## Get the most from GC's Career fair

Grethen Huff  
*Job Placement Specialist*

On Thursday, 3 April, 2014, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Grayson College will again host the "Career Connections" Career Fair. The Career Fair is sponsored by Grayson College, Workforce Solutions Texoma and Southern Oklahoma Workforce Board. The event is open to College students and the Texoma community.

More than thirty employers are expected to be in attendance with a variety of openings, from full-time jobs for graduates to part-time summer jobs for students.

This is a great opportunity to meet with employers from a variety of organizations, learn about their opportunities and fill out applications for jobs.

Follow these steps to have a successful Career Fair experience:

- **Prepare a short 'commercial' to introduce yourself to the employer:** include your name, year in school, major, and area of interest (job/full-time/part-time), and skills you have to offer. Keep it short. Your conversation should be productive for you both, but don't monopolize the conversation.
- **Dress neatly** in business professional attire at a minimum.
- **Update your resume and bring copies.** Be prepared with all information needed to fill out a job application.

- **Be professional and polite.** Focus on the recruiter and not the company give-away.
- **Ask for a business card and follow-up** with an email to express appreciation for the time and advice offered.
- **Smile!**

If you follow these guidelines, you will make the best use of your time at the Career Fair and make a great first impression. Good luck!

If you have any questions about the Career Fair or would like assistance with resume preparation/review, contact Gretchen Huff, Grayson College Career Services, [huffg@grayson.edu](mailto:huffg@grayson.edu) or 903-415-2544. ♥

## Are you job searching?

Register for Grayson College's online job board at [www.collegecentral.com/grayson](http://www.collegecentral.com/grayson).

Students and alumni may view job postings from area employers. Remember to check it out frequently to view new opportunities!

Questions: Contact Gretchen Huff, Job Placement Specialist, [huffg@grayson.edu](mailto:huffg@grayson.edu) or 903-415-2544.

## CLUB G IS GOING DAYTIME

Thursday, March 27  
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Under the Bridge

*Jimmy Buffett*  
themed party

FREE LUNCH

Mock Margaritas

Give-aways

LIVE BAND

Wear your Jimmy Buffett attire

### Editorial Information

The Viking is published by Writers Unlimited and Sigma Kappa Delta as an ongoing service project to the college. Participation in the production of The Viking is open to all students, faculty and staff at Grayson College. The newspaper is provided as a forum for public opinion, and views expressed in The Viking do not necessarily reflect the policy of Sigma Kappa Delta, the Board of Trustees, the administration or the faculty and staff at Grayson College. Material for publication may be submitted to The Viking office (LA105E) or through email to Marlea Trevino ([TrevinoM@grayson.edu](mailto:TrevinoM@grayson.edu)) or Rebecca Jones ([jonesre@grayson.edu](mailto:jonesre@grayson.edu)). Volunteers for production and writing may also visit The Viking office.

## Be a responsible borrower

Michelle Flores  
*Financial Aid Counselor*

### What should I consider when taking out federal student loans?

Before you take out a loan, it's important to understand that a loan is a legal obligation that you will be responsible for repaying with interest. You may not have to begin repaying your federal student loans right away, but you don't have to wait to understand your responsibilities as a borrower.

- Keep track of how much you're borrowing. Think about how the amount of your loans will affect your future finances and how much you can afford to repay. Your student loan payments should be only a small percentage of your salary after you graduate, so it's important not to borrow more than you need for your school-related expenses.
- Research starting salaries in your field. Ask your school for starting salaries of recent graduates in your field of study to get an idea of how much you are likely to earn after you graduate.

You can use the U.S. Department of Labor's [Occupational Outlook Handbook](#) to estimate salaries for different careers or research employment opportunities advertised in the area where you plan to live to get an idea of a local starting salary. You also can use the Department of Labor's career search tool to research careers and view the average annual salary for each career.

- Understand the terms of your loan and keep copies of your loan documents. When you sign your promissory note, you are agreeing to repay the loan according to the terms of the note even if you don't complete your education, can't get a job after you complete the program or you didn't like the education you received.
- Make payments on time. You are required to make payments on time even if you don't receive a bill, repayment notice or a reminder. You must pay the full amount required by your repayment plan, as partial payments do not fulfill your obligation to repay your student loan on time.
- Keep in touch with your loan servicer. Notify your loan servicer when you graduate, withdraw from school, drop below half-time status, transfer to another school or change your name, address or Social Security number. You should also contact your servicer if you're having trouble making your scheduled loan payments. Your servicer has several options available to help you keep your loan in good standing. ♥

Provided by Federal Student Aid

# The Cultural Diversity Club experiences the NBA

Jordan Nze Mba

The Cultural Diversity Club made another step toward embracing American culture by going to an NBA game between the Dallas Mavericks and the Sacramento Kings. The majority of European and African countries know more about soccer than basketball, so it was a new experience for some of us and a wish which came true for others.

As international students, we knew that participating in that event at the stadium and not through the television was an occasion that we should not miss. Fortunately, the Baptist Student Ministry (BSM) made it possible for us by sponsoring our trip back and forth to the Mavs' game.

First, we took the BSM bus from Grayson College to Cici's Pizza and ate at the buffet, where even those with the biggest appetite would be fully satisfied. After an hour drive, we finally arrived at the American Airlines Center, the Mavericks' arena.

As soon as we stepped into the building we could feel the excitement from the public cheering for the Dallas Mavericks. Some of us had chills while realizing that we were about to watch an NBA game for real. We could not even remove the smiles from our faces and, as we moved towards our place, we saw many supporters dressed in Mavericks' color, cheering shouting "Let's go Mavs" all throughout the arena.



The Cultural Diversity Club watched the Dallas Mavericks beat the Sacramento Kings 103-107

When we finally entered the center of the arena, our smiles grew even bigger. "Being able to participate in an NBA game was probably one of the coolest things I have ever done" said Emmanuel Ambendet, a freshman student in Program-

ming.

Cheering for a team, not at home but with thousands of people is a really exciting experience. The game itself was amazing. The Mavs had the lead first, then the Kings took it, but at the end the Mavs pulled it together,

took back the lead and won the game. Seeing superstars like Dirk Nowitzki or Vince Carter play at their peak was really exciting for all of us. It surely will be one of the first things we are going to tell our family and friends back home. ♥

## Grayson County College Price List Wednesday Senior Citizen Day Second Tuesday of the month \$2.00 H/C and \$2.00 Manicures 903 463 8744

Dept. # and Price	Service
1. 4.00/ \$3.50	Shampoo/Set, Two Braids, Re-combs
2. \$1.75	Shampoo Only
3. \$.50	Rinse
4. \$2.25/\$2.00	Bang and Neck Trim
4. \$4.00/\$3.50	Hair Cut or Hair Shaping
4. \$7.00/\$6.50	With Shampoo/Set or Blow Dry
4. \$7 and up	Wrap (style extra)
4. \$10.00	Up do
4. \$8.00	S/S with Marcel
4. \$7.00	Finger Wave
4. \$9.75	Freeze
4. \$15.00/\$12.00	Pony Tails/quick weave
4. \$12.00/\$11.00	Corn Rows/with extensions
4. \$15.00	Braids with Extensions
4. \$40.00 fee and \$10.00 a track	Extensions/glue-in/sew-in/quick weave
4. \$7.00	Twisty Braids with Extensions/Partial w S&S
4. \$100.00	Fusion – extensions, full
4. \$15.00	Fusion – starter (10 – 12)
4. \$20.00	Dreadlocks
4. \$40.00	Crochet Braids
5. \$18.00/\$16.00 partial \$9.75	Color
6. \$12.50/\$11.00	Semi-Permanent Color
7. \$24.00/\$21.00	Frost
*Each color comes with a S/S	
*Each additional color is \$10.00 more	
8. \$44.50/\$40.00	Complete Bleach
9. \$35.50/\$30.00	Bleach Retouch
10. \$35.50/\$32.00 partial \$18.50	Weave, Foil, or Highlights
11. \$10.25/\$9.00	Condition Treatments with S&S
12. \$24.00/\$21.00	Relaxer
13. \$30.00/\$27.00	Hair Straightening
14. \$24.00/\$21.00	Permanent Wave-Short Hair
15. \$35.50/\$31.00/extra \$6.00	Permanent Wave-Long Hair
16. \$35.50/\$31.00	Curl free perms
16. \$30.00/\$27.00	Hair Straightening
17. \$3.00/\$2.50	Manicure
18. \$4.00/\$3.50	Hot Oil Manicure
18. \$2.00	Paraffin Wax- feet & hands
19. \$1.50	Polish Change
18. \$8.00/\$7.50	Pedicure
20. \$13.50/\$11.00	Acrylic Nails
21. \$10.00/\$9.00	Acrylic Nail Fill
21. \$5.00	Acrylic Nail Soak
21. \$15.00/\$13.00	Gel Nails/tips or overlays
21. \$7.00	Manicure/gel polish
21. \$2.00	Nail art/per finger
22. \$2.00/\$1.50	Eye Brow Arch
22. \$3.50/\$3.00	Eye Brow Wax
22. \$30.00	Eyelash extension
22. \$ 15.00	Fills 2 weeks out extension
22. \$10.00	Eyelash tabbing
22. \$5.00	Fills 2 weeks tabs
22. \$10.00	Removal of lashes
23. \$4.00/\$3.50	Lip or Chin Wax
23. \$20.00/\$17.00	Back, Leg, or Arm wax-full
23. \$10.00/\$8.50	Back, Leg, or Arm wax-partial
24. \$10.00/\$8.50	Underarm Wax
25. \$10.00/\$8.50	Special Facial-includes:Cleanse,Exfoliate, Mask, and Massage – 45mins.
26. \$6.00	Back Facials – 30 mins.
26. \$11.00	Special Back Facial-includes: Mask-45mins.
26. \$10.00	Paraffin – Back
26. \$10.00	Paraffin – Face
26. \$6.00/\$5.00	mini- Facial-includes:Cleanse,Tone, Massage, and Hydrant – 30 mins.
26. \$5.00	Make-up (bring your own make-up)
27. \$20.00 each	Chemical Peel – 1 hour
28. \$20.00	Microdermabrasion

The views expressed in all article are the authors' own and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Viking staff or Grayson College.

## The limits of "Black History"

Aaron Kaiserman

I don't know about you but I'm tired of slave movies; black history is a lot more than slavery and the civil rights movement. One of my role models, Malcolm X, was known to remind African Americans that our history "did not begin in chains."

### Real History Shunned

For more than thirty years actor Danny Glover has been trying to make a biopic about Francois Dominique Toussaint (1743-1803), a former slave and one of the fathers of Haiti's independence from France in 1804 (I bet MLK can relate to not seeing his dream in works), making it the first black nation to throw off imperial rule and become a republic. "Hollyweird" Executives won't back this film on the Haitian Revolution because Glover has no white heroes.

Why should the truth be slandered just to satisfy a particular audience? Why are people still trying to hide uplifting history from the oppressed citizens of this country? I have to quote the honorable Marcus Garvey, "A people without knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots."

### Lost History

Let me give you a brief background check on Africa, which produced a plethora of advanced civilizations, most notably the Nile Valley civilization from 3,000 BCE all the way until it was conquered by Persia around 525 BCE. The largest empire in ancient African history was the Songhai Empire with its iconic leader Askia. Askia established standardized trade measures and regulations and initiated the policing of trade routes. He also established an organized tax system. Askia encouraged learning and literacy, ensuring that Mali's universities produced the most distinguished scholars.

While Russell Simmons and Oprah Winfrey, among other successful African Americans, are considered to be wealthy, Mansa Musa the fourteenth century King of the Malian empire, is reported to be the wealthiest man the world has ever known. On his trip to Mecca he gave away so much gold to the poor when he was in Cairo that the metal became devalued and it wreaked havoc on the economy. The situation was not rectified until he borrowed the gold back at a high interest rate. Mansa Musa built up Timbuktu to be an intellectual center that rivaled any other on the planet at the time.

The first records of people describing their land as the

"Motherland" were the Ancient Egyptians, the word literally means 'Land of the spirits/ancestors.' There was no "Egypt" before the black king from whose name it was indirectly derived. Within ancient Kemet (Egypt) "Mystery Schools" flourished. Though the rituals varied, their multifaceted purpose was to prepare one for man/womanhood, the maintenance of the social structure and the salvation/purification/uplifting of the soul.

The ancient Greeks traced all human inventions to the Egyptians, from calculus, geometry, astronomy and dice games to writing. Since the time of Homer, Egyptian history was a key component of Greek history. Herodotus said it, Plato confirmed it and Aristotle never denied it.

What about the Moors? Whose Spanish occupation began in 711 AD when an African army, under their Tariq ibn-Ziyad, crossed the Strait of Gibraltar from northern Africa and invaded the Iberian Peninsula? The Moors, who ruled Spain for 800 years, introduced Europe to new scientific techniques, such as the astrolabe, a device for measuring the position of the stars and planets. Scientific progress in astronomy, chemistry, physics, mathematics, geography and philosophy flourished in Moorish Spain. Education was universal in Moorish Spain, available to all. At that time, Europe had only two universities, the Moors had seventeen.

### History Reclaimed

One of the most important chapters in ancient African history is the West African trade with the Americas before Columbus and even dating back to 30,000 BC to 10,000 BC. Yet, this era has not been part of the history of blacks in the Americas. I could go on forever with history that is hidden from those who don't go out and search for it, but I just wanted to splash a few facts in your face in hope that you will go out and acquire this knowledge on your own because nobody else will feed it to you.

### Time Better Spent: My Wish

I admire Carter G. Woodson for pioneering the celebration of "Negro History Week," which has been expanded to "Black History Month," but I don't believe black history should be separate from others. Black history played a major role in American history and an even greater role in World history. I tap in to my inner Dr. King and say I have a dream one day boys and girls will sit in a history classroom and learn the contributions of all races and ethnicities without bias. ♥

# The Inevitable: a short story (Fiction)

# The portal of mystery

Blake Burley

"Shhhh! Timmy! Shut your mouth! Do not scare him away!"

Timmy and his father quietly skulked into the underbrush of the South Texas forest as the man and his ATV approached. The air was heavy and cold except for the occasional stirring whip of the wind across their faces. Squirrels peaked their heads out of the trees as the sun emerged from a world unknown. Apart from the sound of the leaves falling slowly to the ground, the only sound was of baby cardinals begging for fresh worms and cold dew and the detestable crushing of leaves and twigs as the man slogged about the ground.

After settling in between a couple of dense evergreens, the two of them took deep, hushed breaths and watched closely as the man stared at the ground like Sherlock Holmes solving a mystery.

Now the man had come a little earlier than usual to the land this year. Normally, he arrived in early November, but it was only mid-October, and many trees still looked like ripe limes. The silent onlookers remained still as they observed this unexpected, chilling sight.

"Dad, what is he doing?"

"He is searching, son— searching for the place destined to bring us joy."

"Joy?"

"He comes and he unravels the secrets of our kind. He learns where we come from and where we go; where we are and where we will be. He knows all. And then he leaves."

"Where does he go, dad?"

"He returns to h-h-heaven to gather the g-go-go-oldden food."

“The truth... can be found in the dark depths of the earth.”

Timmy watched as the breathing of his dad's dark chest slowed and stilled. Looking off into the sky, he pondered the beautiful food of which he spoke. His eyes glistened as if he knew everything in the world, but he was barely conscious of anything for he heard not Timmy's concerned outcry.

"DAD!" he finally yelled in as loud a voice as one can do when he is in hiding.

"Yes! Yes. Yesss-" He drifted off again with the wind but quickly came back into the real world. "Oh how generous he is when he gives us the golden food. It is both the feeling of fulfillment of eating for the first time after

days of starvation and the feeling of bliss after eating the perfect, succulent berry desert after a multifarious meal. The heaven food satisfies but always leaves you wanting more."

His father's chest breathed deeply again in and out, in and out. Timmy was left speechless, and with the faint flavor of scrumptious berries on his dry tongue.

A third voice, a voice that was small but assertive, pierced through their pensive states of being. "Do not be deceived by the want of the stomach. Death approaches you."

Both Timmy and his father looked above, to the ground, and all around but they could not see from where the invisible voice came.

This tiny voice continued to speak, "The truth cannot be found in the dark depths of the stomach, but it can be found in the dark depths of the earth."

And there, slowly emerging from a dark place in the ground, was an elderly, blind gentleman.

"Good morning Mr. Tom and young Timmy. I have truth to share with you all."

To be concluded in the April issue

Em Flanders

It was all alone, surrounded by nothing. No one dared to bother it due to the stories and legends that hovered around it. It had nothing and no one to keep it company. Every now and then, a brave soul would look through it, then run away completely frightened... or surprised, or even overjoyed. It lived in a wall of an old, abandoned house on the hill. It was a single hole in the wall.

The hole was about as big as a human fist, and almost completely round. It was embedded in the attic wall of the falling apart manor. There were a lot of holes in the walls of this house, but there were none like this one.

No one in the small town below knew exactly what was behind the wall that made some of the towns people go completely crazy. Some of the people said that it was a door to the "other side" and you could see the spirits of those who had passed on.



Others said that there was nothing on the other side of the wall (although those were the people who hadn't looked though it before)

One fall night, a boy was dared by his friends to sneak in the manor and look through the hole. He arrived in the attic and stared into the gazing portal. His friends said that he was babbling about a glass eye that looked back at him on the other side, and that he heard eerie laughter from a mouth he could not see. His friends then decided to take a look for themselves and see if he was telling the truth. The others looked though the hole and saw nothing.

All they saw was the starry night on the outside. Could their friend have mistaken a bright star for an eye? If so, was the laughter his imagination or just a trick of the whistling wind? No one in the town would ever figure out what was really behind that hole in the wall. But the real question is; would they want to find out? ♥

# Vocational Nursing students achieve 98% pass rate on license exam

Tana Pirtle

In honor of the Vocational Nursing program's 98.08% passage rate on the NCLEX-PN licensure exam, Writers Unlimited member Tana Pirtle sat down with nursing students to find out what keeps them motivated.

Laura McMeley

Initially, McMeley decided to return to school for nursing to make more money. Her husband had been in the hospital and she was feeling helpless, so she started thinking about the direction she wanted to take in the nursing field. Now more than ever, she wanted to get her nursing degree so that she could help her husband. She wanted to be able to determine what he needed and be there to help him, as well as others. She could not be

happier with her decision to return to college and get into the nursing program. She takes every opportunity to share with others the things she has learned. This program is changing her life and she is enjoying every bit of it.

McMeley will be graduating 16 May, 2014 with her ADN and is hoping to work in the ER at TMC.

Cheyenne Mills

Mills decided to enter the nursing program because she found an aptitude for biology in high school and was trying to figure out how she could turn that into a career. She was bouncing from doctor, to nurse, and back again...just not sure which direction to take. She got her answer when she was diagnosed with leukemia on

8 April, 2009. Later she was told she had AML (a form of leukemia) and her long, hard journey began.

During her battle she decided that she wanted to be a nurse and help other cancer patients as a hematology/oncology nurse or as an ER or ICU nurse. She wants to work with children on the cancer side and adults if she is in the ER or ICU.

Mills graduates in May 2015 with her ADN and an AAS and plans to attend TWU or UTA online to get her BSN so she can work in metropolitan hospitals. Cheyenne is cancer free today and has been in remission for 4 years, and, according to her doctors, she will be completely cured by 16 October, 2014. That is an amazing feat to overcome, and she is

counting down the days! Mills is an inspiration to us all and she is living proof that miracles do happen.

When asked what they would tell people who are thinking of joining the nursing program, this is what they had to say:

Do it! It is a very wise investment for your future that you will never regret. You should take your prerequisites seriously because you will use them again in the program, as well as in your career. "I don't know how many times I have heard people say they don't know why they are having to learn this stuff," and I just assure them that it is important information that they will need again.

Grayson's nursing program has a great reputation

in the community. Classes fill up fast, with over 300 applications and only 59 being chosen per semester; so, it is a prestigious opportunity for those who are chosen. Therefore, students should be extremely proud to be accepted and should not take it lightly. The selection process is based on your prerequisites, which must equal a certain amount of points to even be considered.

These ladies study very hard and do not always get to do the things they want to with family and friends, but in the end it will pay off for them and they will have an amazing career helping people. It is this type of dedication that inspires people to follow in their footsteps. ♥

## STUDENT VOICES

As the mid-point of my first semester at GC rapidly approaches, I can feel my stress level rising on a daily basis. I do not think it is simply a matter of midterm exams and assessments, but rather a nagging doubt that has me tensed up. Thus far, I have made good grades in all my classes. Unfortunately, this isn't because of some innate ability to absorb

and regurgitate facts and figures. I have earned the grades I have received by hard work and many hours of diligent study. My concern is whether I can maintain my current level of energy and dedication.

There are times that it seems that I am getting little support from family and friends. I know that they support what I am doing, but I suspect that they sometimes tire of hearing me talk about what is happening at school. I guess this has a lot to do with the fact that I have immersed myself in my classes and activities. Never-

theless, this immersion is what I need to succeed in my classes. The immediate rewards of receiving a good grade is something I have not experienced in many years. The flush of excitement, and the pride of a job well done is truly a balm for the soul. It is vindication for all the hard work that went into earning that good grade. I think I simply wish to share the excitement with those around me. There are times that I would like to jump up in class to hoot and holler about a test grade. However, I know this would be bad form, and I have no wish

to engender hurt feelings or resentment among my classmates. The urge is temporary, and I soon find myself once again grounded and working through the next challenge.

I cannot help but see that there are a fair number of students that seem to have little concern for their classes. I have to admit that this leaves me a bit bewildered. I am not certain if this is due to a lack of concern, or if they accustomed to having things and accomplishments handed to them. I hope that I do not fall prey to this malaise. For me, I think the

biggest challenge I may face in returning to school is keeping my focus. I must advance on my goals one at a time and not let myself be derailed. Despite my doubts, concerns and insecurities, I am having a fantastic experience here at GC. I am making new friends every day, and whether they know it or not, they are my primary support group. As we lean on each other for camaraderie and support, it is reassuring to know that not only are we all in the same boat, but we are pulling on the oars of enlightenment together. -Anonymous

# "I have learned to be content in my life"

Continued from February Issue

Michael Rains

As with any form of medical intervention, there are risk factors to be considered; the most predominant being the risk of Peritonitis, an infection inside the peritoneal cavity that can result in a very rapid decline in the patient's health, leading to death.

For the fortunate few there is yet another treatment option: organ transplant. For an explanation of this process I am ill-equipped. Unfortunately, the disease that has afflicted my natural kidney function would most certainly attack and destroy any donor organ and leave my body at a much greater degree of risk and much

more weakened than if I continue dialysis as long as possible. This knowledge is compounded by the fact that the greatest chances of

“...attitude is all we really have any control over.”

success in transplantation of an organ are from situations where the donor organ is harvested from a living, close family member. Due to genetic predisposition associated with some causes of renal failure, mine included, my family members are just as likely to encounter this disease in their own life.

So, it appears that the final years of my life are somewhat pre-ordained. As dis-

turbing as this thought is, it has also served to open my eyes to all of the great and wonderful things that are a part of daily life. I am not

dead yet, hopefully far from it.

I have learned to live like I am dying, as a means to an end. I have not found a way to be at peace with this inescapable demise, although I have learned to be content in my life and to encourage others to live their lives to the fullest. Often, attitude is all we really have any control over; attitude can create a barrier between the "cold

hard truth" and the reality that is our daily yoke.

The greatest advice I can offer anyone who is afflicted by this health condition: "Become your own ambassador to health." Education is the cure for fear of the unknown. I have read more medical journals and findings of facts than I can remember to count. There are some that are more recent and have different opinions of life with E.S.R.D.; I suppose I'm in the "long term adaptation period." However, that is a state of mind and subject to the influences of life as I know it. Perspective can be a very powerful adversary, or ally, the choice is ultimately our own. ♥

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# Exploring African culture through traditional wedding ceremonies

Nahandy Maroundou

All nations in the world have their own ways of celebrating weddings. Civil wedding celebrations, although belonging to the western culture, are performed the same in much ways almost everywhere in the world. Nevertheless, in addition to the civil wedding in African countries, the traditional wedding makes the African wedding ceremony different from others. In fact, African traditional weddings are the representation of symbolic moments and events of African culture. These ceremonies vary all around the African continent.

## The Cultural Imperative

The African continent, with its many nations and tribes, is very rich in different wedding traditions. An old African proverb says, "A man without a wife is like a vase without flowers." African native wedding in African countries are traditionally more valued than the civil wedding.

Civil weddings and church weddings are important; couples must first start with the traditional one to receive all the blessings of ancestors and elders from both families. Then, the other wedding follows. In fact, a traditional African wedding is a symbolic ceremony that has been practiced by ancestors many years ago. Both families are about to be united for life to represent the joyful future of coming generations.

## Customs

The African traditional wedding is the wedding that all Africans girls dream of; because it is the day they are treated as royalty. Both man and woman become King and Queen during their tra-

ditional wedding because the tradition blessed them by making them happy and delighted about this beautiful moment. Moreover, it is the day filled with cultural and traditional events, the day when families honor beautifully their culture by making the wedding how it was done before.

Further, traditional weddings in Africa most of the time are based on the value of the African woman, who is about to leave her family's house to belong to another family traditionally. And indeed the wedding celebration is different from western weddings. The main



The model wears traditional make-up and jewelry. Brides carry weaved baskets, which symbolizes the blessings she will receive from both families.

component that all African weddings have in common is the "dowry," which is the symbolic bride's price and presents that are offered to the wife-to-be's family. It has been done that way for centuries, and traditional weddings are still being done this way. Nonetheless, African weddings vary from tribe to tribe in African countries.

## Around the Continent

Besides, African weddings with all the symbols and



A Zulu couple walking on their traditional site to be united by the families' member in charge of their union.

ways to be organized differ from those in other countries. For instance, in North America, Egyptian weddings are often arranged. Money is given to be used for jewelry called "Shabka" and furniture. Before the wedding, henna tattoos are applied to the bride's feet and hands. The wedding is performed in a mosque or church.

During the wedding ceremony of the Masai, a nation of Kenya (East Africa), the father of the bride blesses her by spitting on her hand and breast. Then, she leaves with her husband after the ceremony is complete. She must never look back as she leaves because of the myth that she will turn to stone if she does.

In South Africa and Zimbabwe, the Ndebele mother-in-law of the bride makes a "Jocolo," a five-paneled, beaded goat skin apron. During the ceremony, this apron is worn by all married women. The Zulu bride in South-Africa, before leaving her parental house, executes

some traditional dance steps in front of both families as a symbol of happiness.

For, the traditional wedding of a young Ipinu woman in Gabon, Central Africa, both the bride and groom's families mutually agree on who is in charge of wedding gifts, property comprising the famous "dowry." As endogamy is prohibited in Ipinu traditionally, the two families are previously assured that neither of the couple belongs to the same parental or maternal family tree.

During the wedding, the uncle of the young Ipinu girl is considered traditionally as her biological father. He is the one who, along with another man, is in charge of discussing with the groom's family what they have come to do.

Typical traditional weddings deal with many coded terms. Men of the ceremony from both families discuss with symbolic terms what they came to do and why. Once agreed the bride bows down in front of her parents

to receive blessings; she then sits on her husband's uncle or father's lap with a gift of money from her family as a "thank you" covered in two leaves. As soon as she sits on his legs, she is now married and belongs to her husband's family.

## What Tradition Means

In conclusion, African traditional weddings are so significant to Africans because through them, Africans value their culture and watch over the continuity of that culture. Culture is what identifies certain people from other people. Africans value the traditional wedding and through that receive blessings from elders that are helpful to the new couple in their family life. That is why the wedding ceremonies are filled with variety, symbols, meanings and respectful moments. Therefore, these ceremonies are not just for enjoyable and happy moments with families, but they are crucial for continuing to honor the African culture and family. ♥

## Black & White XII exhibits some of Texoma's best



Wire sculptures like this one ("Bird," Taylor Holley) were made by GC's 3D Design class.

Rebecca Jones  
Editor

*The Black & White XII / DREAM WEAVER Exhibit* features sixty works by thirty-six artists, including current and former staff and students and even GC's President Jeremy McMillen.

On the exhibit's theme: "A dream weaver may be the artist, person, entity, creature or thing that creates, tells, recounts, narrates, builds, relates, makes up, constructs, invents, fabricates, puts together or

combines elements or details into a connected whole. The imagery may take the form of a trance, daydream, nightmare, fantasy, vision, hypnotic state, or reverie."

The exhibit will come down 20 March, 2014 to prepare for the *PB&J (Panties, Bras and Jockstraps) Exhibit for Cancer Awareness*, up 27 March to 2 May.

The Peanut Gallery will host *Dada Dolls Exhibit*; the artists' reception will be 28 March, 7:00-9:00 p.m. ♥



This terrifying piece of kitchenware ("Untitled" by Joshep Barrueta) had a price tag of \$55 at last month's auction.

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