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Retiree pension stays in place

Petition voted against by all

By **CAROLYN CRIST**
THE RED & BLACK

A Georgia board voted unanimously Wednesday to maintain current cost-of-living increases for pensions under the Teacher Retirement System.

The TRS Board of Trustees voted against an amendment proposed two months ago that would change the 40-year-old policy guaranteeing retirees 1.5 percent increases twice a year. The change, proposed by Gov. Sonny Perdue's office, would have allowed the board to decrease the percent to 1 or even 0.5 percent.

"We're glad the board listened to the opposed voices from across the state," Stuart Ivy, vice president of the University's Staff Council, said in a phone interview Wednesday.

The Teacher Retirement System of Georgia received about 20,000 e-mails or letters against the policy change and three in favor of it, said executive director Jeffrey Ezell.

The proposal would have changed the fundamental nature of the program, said Ralph Steuer, the board's Board of Regents-appointed member and professor of banking and finance.

"It wouldn't truly be a defined benefit program," he said by telephone Wednesday. "You're promised certain benefits and pay into it, and if something goes wrong, it's the responsibility of the sponsor."

"It wouldn't be morally right to put money aside and then have it taken away. By the time you retire, it's essentially a property right," he said. "I think the realization dawned on the board ... it's a good example of where it pays off for people to register their feelings with their representatives."



IVY

WHO WANTS TO BE ... A MILLIONAIRE?



WAITES LASETER | THE RED & BLACK

▲ **Sophomore Elizabeth Studer (on-screen and third from left) watches herself on "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" with friends. The show aired Monday and Tuesday. She won \$25,000.**

One student's brush with reality TV

By **SARA GOODMAN**
THE RED & BLACK

Editor's note: Elizabeth Studer, a sophomore from Lawrenceville, competed on "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" with her mother and grandmother. The show aired Monday and Tuesday.

Q: Why did you apply to "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire"?

A: My mom is a really big fan of the show. She and my grandma watch the show and saw the "Family Week" advertised on the local station.

We all like game shows and trivia, and with three generations of knowledge we thought we had a pretty good shot.

Q: What was the application process like?

A: We went to a local mall, about 15 minutes away, and we all

had to take a trivia test. We had to take a general knowledge test that we all had to pass it, because you had to make it as a team. We got to go on to the next round with our good scores, and we were interviewed as a team. Then they asked us to come in again and do an on-air interview to see how we looked on TV.

Then they gave us a postcard that said we were entered in a contestant pool. I actually got called the first day of school and was notified that we would be filming on Sept. 11.

Q: Have you always been a fan of the show/trivia?

A: I really like trivia. My friends and I do trivia in Athens. As far as watching game shows, it's my mom and grandma who are into it.

Q: How did you prepare for the show? Did you study?

A: I went online, and went on trivia Web site and looked on different categories I wasn't strong in. I'm not strong in science, so I did a lot of practice questions. My grandma looked at almanacs, and my mom went on Wikipedia. We all used the Internet to study. It's one of those things you really can't study for because they can ask you almost anything — either you know it or you don't.

Q: Were the questions easier or harder than you expected?

A: Well, looking back they were pretty easy. But there's a time constraint [a new element to this season], and that's a lot of pressure.

We had to think on our feet really quickly, and it made me doubt myself and I had to calm down and realize it wasn't that

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SENATE RACE

Clinton rallies public support for Martin

By **DANIEL BURNETT**
THE RED & BLACK

ATLANTA — Former President Bill Clinton endorsed fellow Democrat Jim Martin on the campus of Clark Atlanta University Wednesday.

Martin is in a tight runoff for Senate against Republican incumbent Saxby Chambliss.

"Every single one of us is here tonight because we believe that America is back," Martin said. "I'm glad to say, Mr. President, America is back."

Chanting the familiar Barack Obama campaign mantra of "Yes we can," hundreds of people braved the cold and poured into the school's Trevor Arnett quadrangle.

"We've lost 96,000 jobs in Georgia and our middle class is struggling," Martin said. "And we're ready for change."

Clinton campaigned for Martin in response to the famous politicians that have traveled to Georgia in recent days for Chambliss, including Sen. John McCain.

"I wanted to be here tonight because I have an enormous affection for Georgia and because I like Jim Martin," Clinton said. "And you should, too."

During his speech, Clinton discussed the importance of the 60 votes that the Democrats have their eye on to enjoy a filibuster-free Senate. Martin is the key to



JIM DIFFLY | THE RED & BLACK

▲ **Former President Bill Clinton speaks during a rally at Clark Atlanta University for Sen. Jim Martin, left, on Wednesday in Atlanta.**

that majority, he said.

"We don't need a firewall, we need a bridge," Clinton said. "Martin's the bridge. Chambliss is the firewall. It's not rocket science."

The former president criticized the Bush administration's economic policy, which he said is ignoring the middle class for benefit of spe-

cial interest groups. Clinton said it's time the nation gets "back to bottom-up middle class economics."

Though Young Democrats president Louis Elrod couldn't attend the rally, he said he was "totally thrilled" with Clinton's visit to

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MARTIN



CHAMBLISS

Opponents share frat connection

By **DANIEL BURNETT**
THE RED & BLACK

Sen. Saxby Chambliss and challenger Jim Martin have moved on from the sidewalks of Broad Street. But before their careers revolved around political parties, their weekends revolved around fraternity parties.

In the early 1960s, both men contending for the Senate seat were enrolled at the University and were members of Sigma Chi fraternity.

"Everyone is really excited that two Sigma Chi brothers that were here at the same time are running," said Dixon Revell, the fraternity's president.

Both candidates made

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TV SHOW ON CAMPUS

Deborah Norville, University alumna and host of CBS' *Inside Edition*, will tape her show at the Arch today from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

The daily news-magazine show will be fed from Athens to New York City and aired tonight.

Norville, a 1979 graduate of Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication, is in Athens to help co-host Grady's Centennial Gala tonight.

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Want to expand your palate beyond turkey and gravy for Thanksgiving? See this week's O&A for some international recipes to add to the menu.



Transitions page 8

Find out about the activities on Transgender Day of Remembrance, and learn how being transgender affects students on campus.

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