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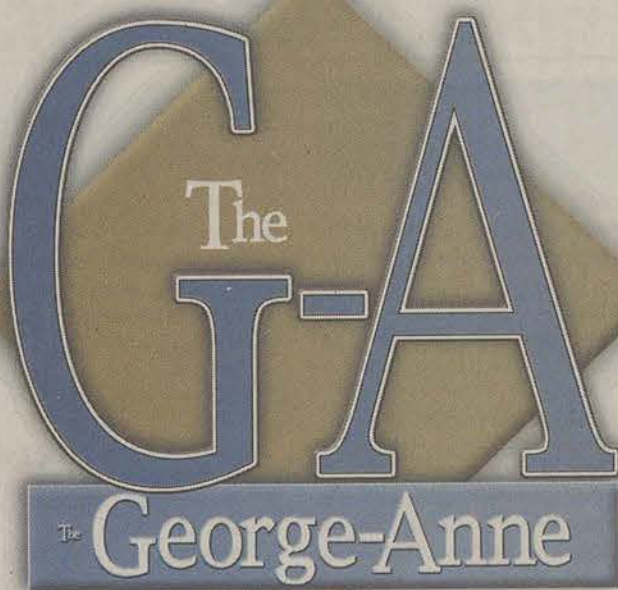


SPORTS

Eagles drop to 5-5 in SoCon after loss

GSU's women's basketball loses to Davidson 90-67.

Page 6



Love Grams coming soon

Get a jump start on Valentine's Day and turn in your Love Gram for your sweetie.

Page 3



Vol. 72 No. 50

Monday, January 31, 2000

Eagles continue entertaining in off season

• Coach Paul Johnson fumbles SEARS 1-AA National Championship trophy

By Doug Kidd
Co-Sports Editor

Everything worked so well for Paul Johnson this season. Pushing just about all the right buttons from August till mid-December, Johnson could do no wrong as he led the GSU football program to its unprecedented fifth national championship.

For everything done right during the stressful 1999 season, one would think that doing something as simple as accepting the Sears National Championship Trophy would go off without a hitch, right?

Wrong.

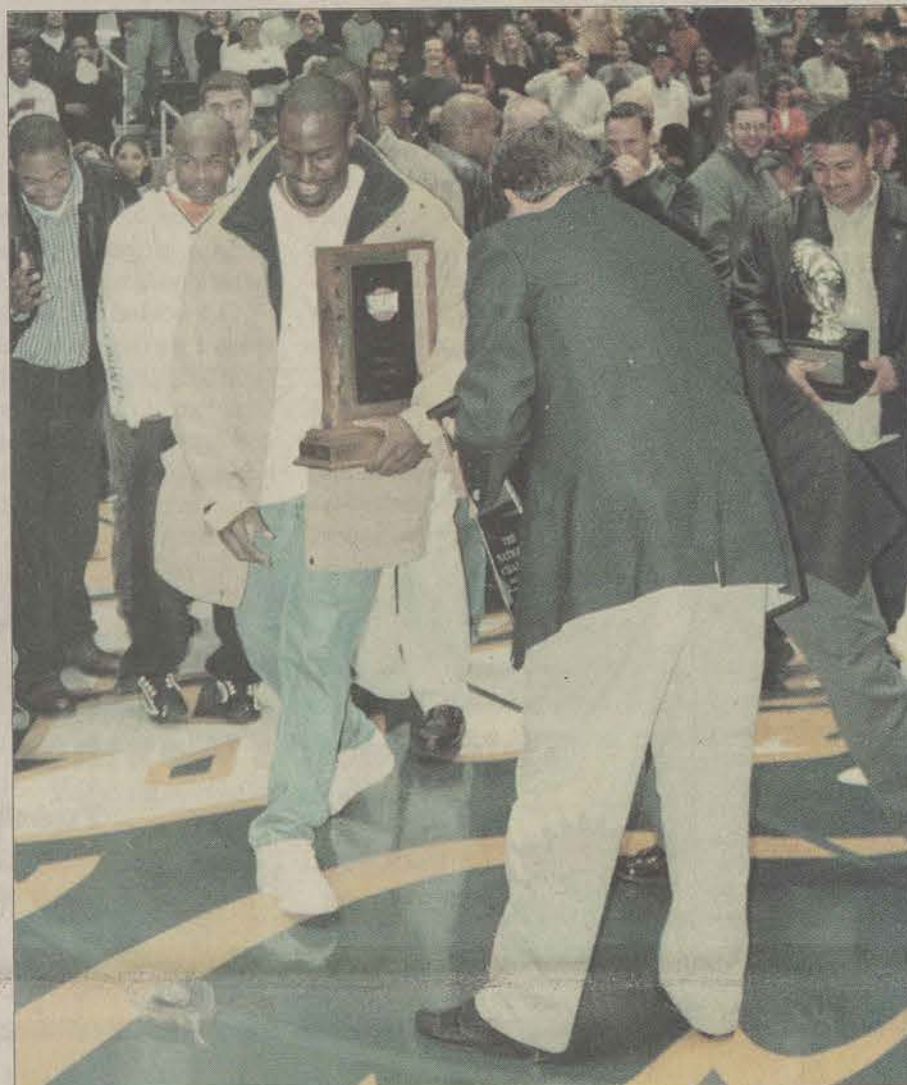
The third-year head coach had a little trouble after the exchange and the crystal football atop the trophy crashed to the ground. An embarrassing moment for a team that didn't experience that type of feeling much this season. The accident wasn't

entirely Johnson's fault: the crystal ornament was not attached to the trophy much to Johnson's chagrin.

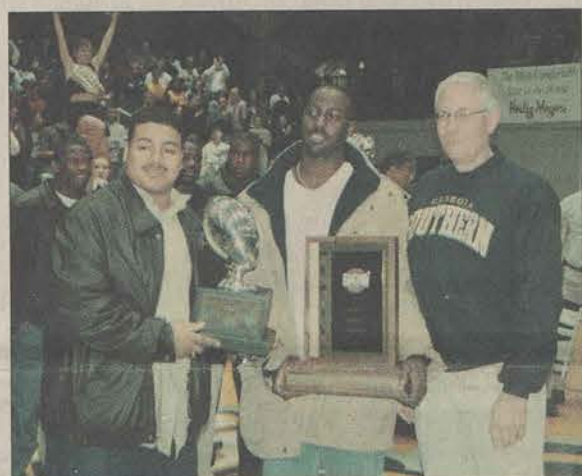
President Bruce Grube and Athletic Director Sam Baker were on hand to recognize the six Eagle players who were named to the All-American squad this season. Adrian Peterson joined seniors Vonceillies Allen, Greg Hill, Earthwind Moreland, Eugene Phillips, and Mark Williams as All-Americans, raising the program's total to 48 since the rebirth of GSU football in the 80s.

Allen and Dédric Parham also accepted the Southern Conference trophy from the SoCon officials on hand. This year's seniors became the first senior class to win three SoCon titles, winning the championship the last three seasons. Senior quarterback Greg Hill was also recognized as the Southern Conference's Offensive-Player-of-the-Year for 1999. Hill finished his illustrious career at GSU with a 32-4 record—the best winning percentage in GSU history, while also becoming the first I-AA player to rush and throw for over 3,000 yards each in a career.

Seniors Vonceillies Allen and Dedrick Parham, along with President Bruce Grube (left), accept the 1-AA National Championship trophy Saturday night at Hanner Fieldhouse. The trophy acceptance didn't go off with out a hitch, however, as Coach Paul Johnson accidentally dropped the crystal topper to the trophy (right).



Photos by Cory Brooks



Poet uses multiple themes at recent poetry reading

By Zane Thomas
Staff Writer

Dealing with science, the world, human relations and linguistics, Bin Ramke enthralled a crowd of students Tuesday night during his poetry reading in the Biology Building.

Before Ramke began reading, he thanked the audience for coming out. "This might be the largest audience of volunteers I've had," he said. Ramke was surprised at the growth of GSU. He was also very pleased with the number of students at this campus who are interested in creative writing.

Ramke was born in Port Neches, Tex. in 1947. A poetry writer for nearly 30 years, he has six poetry collections. He is also the editor of both the University of Georgia Press Contemporary Poetry Series and *The Denver Quarterly*.

In 1978, he won the Yale Poetry Award for his book "The Difference Between Night and Day."

Both "Wake" and "Massacre of the Innocents," his two most recent collections, have won the Iowa Poetry Prize. He is currently a professor of creative writing at the University of Denver.

"I like writing. It's a great pleasure to me," Ramke said.

When asked about his writing, Ramke said that most of the work he writes comes spontaneously.

"I do things with words and see where it takes me. Poetry is a way of learning and discovering things," he

said. "I try to make the poems smarter than I am. I try to make a poem do things I didn't think I could do. It enlarges my own consciousness and awareness."

The first poem he read was about a magician, but Ramke told the audience that it was more about a father-son relationship. Another poem of his, "The Petting Zoo," also dealt with the theme.

Instead of just reading his poems, Ramke also took the time to explain them and talk about them.

Ramke read ten poems which had themes ranging from prostitution to the

sense of touch to whooping cranes to the racial problems of the South.

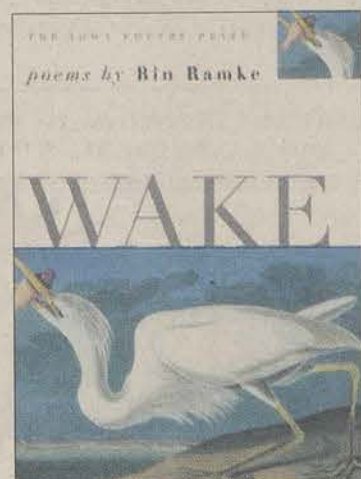
Some of them were humorous while other were more serious, and they varied in length. He read one of his longer poems in four parts, stopping to talk about each one.

He deals with science in the world, linguistics

in human relationships and the amalgamation of those themes. They comprise most of his poetry. It creates an amazing, beautiful picture in his work, which is a mix of metered and prosaic writing.

The audience gave him a standing ovation after he was finished. Afterwards, he signed autographs for some of the audience. Two of his collection books, "Wake" and "Massacre of the Innocence" were being sold outside of the room.

"There is a wide variety of people interested in writing," he said.



Eagles soar past Western Carolina, 92-83

By Kevin Caskey
Co-Sports Editor

The GSU men outlasted the Western Carolina Catamounts 92-83 on Saturday Night at Hanner Fieldhouse. The win was the Eagles third straight, and moves GSU to 11-8 with a 5-3 Southern Conference record. The loss moves the Catamounts to 9-10 and 2-6 in SoCon play.

Leading the way for the Eagles was senior forward Hamp Jones and freshman guard Julius Jenkins. Jones quietly collected a season high 22 points. Jones also grabbed 12 rebounds for his second straight double-double, and third double-double in four games.

Julius Jenkins contributed 17 points and 4 rebounds to the Eagles victory on Saturday night.

"Coach Price stressed to the team that boxing out Western Carolina would be key to winning the game," Jenkins said.

GSU came out fired up and was leading 14-4 early in the first half. The Eagles' intensity seemed to slow down as soon as Western Carolina settled into Hanner Fieldhouse. The Catamounts tied the ball game 19-19 with 6:32 to go in the first half. Turnovers and missed jump shots by Western Carolina led to another GSU lead. Junior guard Todd Shipley hit a crucial three pointer to propel the Eagles to a halftime score of 38-21.

Fresh off a minor accident with I-AA Football National Championship trophy the Georgia Southern crowd saw the Catamounts tie the basketball game up at 40 points with 18:30 to go in the second half. The Eagles did not look back after this point. Western Carolina never had the chance to tie the game back up because of The Eagles' defense and clutch field goals in the late second half.

For Western Carolina, Cory Largent scored a game high 23 points, while Casey Rogers put up 18, Jarvis Hayes 14 points, and Dondrell Whitmore added 8 points in the losing effort.

GSU's Donta Humphries added 11 points and Demarlo Slocum came off the bench to score 14 points. Kashien Latham, Quentin Martin, and Edward Keith equally divided 24 points.

The Eagles shot 49 percent (35-71) from the field, while the Catamounts put up 44 percent (33-75). GSU shot close to 70 percent from the free throw line which surpassed Western Carolina's 53 percent from the free throw line.

"The team is starting to gel and plays are starting to flow. We are confident in ourselves and are ready to play VMI Monday night," Kashien Latham said.

Georgia Southern will be playing VMI at 7:30 on Monday at Hanner Fieldhouse.



Cory Brooks

UP, UP AND AWAY: Julius Jenkins goes for a shot Saturday night as the Eagles defeated Western Carolina at Hanner Fieldhouse.

SGA Update

By Logan Thomas
Staff Writer

The new year means a new attitude for the SGA here at GSU. President of SGA Aaron Nicely, said he wanted to step up the efficiency of SGA as its term enters its final semester after a sluggish start during fall semester.

"It is not how you start the race,

but how you finish," Nicely said.

The senators need to display a good attitude and show up promptly to all the SGA meetings, Nicely said.

"If not for ourselves," Nicely said. "Then for the students."

The following is a synopsis of the SGA meeting on January 26, 2000:

• Possible polling areas at the RAC

for the spring elections.

• Students are urged to visit the Strategic Planning Council web site (www2.gasou/plan_ana/councils/spc.htm). The web site includes the SGA plans for the next ten years for GSU built around President Grube's plan.

• SGA plans to address the pros and

cons of the mass graduation in the near future.

• The Greek Task Force results will be ready by Friday.

• The SGA meeting next week will be an attempt to discuss the direction of GSU in the future.

"We will be discussing ideas about how to finish the race strong," he said.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Things To Do at GSU Ongoing

•BSU meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at 401 Chandler Rd. across from Johnson Hall. BSU also has lunch every Wednesday from 12 to 1 p.m.

•GSU's Eagle Entertainment Council is in the process of accepting applications for **Team Leadership positions**. The students selected for these positions will have the opportunity to plan and execute programs for campus. The deadline for applications is Friday, February 4. Applications are available in the Russell Union Room 2022. Call 486-7270 for more information.

•The Multicultural and International Student Center is looking for innovative and interactive programs for Women's Awareness

Week (March 6-10). Faculty, staff, and students are invited to submit program proposals. Presentations are encouraged on such issues as careers and health for women, spirituality, women and sexuality, affirmative action, pop culture, the history of women, etc. All program proposals must be received by February 18.

February 2
•Why you should approach your textbook as a comic book by Dr. Russell Dewey at 1 p.m. in the Union Room 2052.

February 3
•Eliminating Major Sentence Errors by Leigh Ann Williams at 3 p.m. in the Library Room 1042.

•Eagle Cinema presents "Fight Club" at 8 p.m. in the Russell Union Theater.

February 4

•Eagle Cinema presents "Fight Club" at 7 and 9:30 p.m. in the Russell Union Theater.

February 5

•Eagle Cinema presents "Fight Club" at 7 p.m. in the Russell Union Theater.

February 11

•USABDA's Valentine's Ball at 7 p.m. at the Mighty 8th Air Force Museum.

February 26

•The National Multiple Sclerosis Society - Georgia Chapter is offering a financial planning workshop for people with MS. NMSS will present "Money Talk" at 10 a.m. at Shepherd Center 2020 Peachtree Rd NW, in Buckhead. There is no charge for the program. Call 1-800-822-3379 for more information.

POLICE BEAT

Statesboro Police Department January 26

•Matt Sanders, of Willow Bend Apts., reported criminal trespass.

•Miya Mitchell, of Park Place Apts., reported simple battery.

January 25

•A fire was reported in Player's Club Apts.

January 24

•Samuel Williams, of University Pointe, reported entered auto.

•Marshall Mason, of Player's Club Apts., reported theft by taking.

•Mary Phillips, of Vista Circle, reported suspicious activity.

January 23

•Samuel Saxon, 18, of 5824 Garden Ct., Grovetown, Ga., was charged with failure to

maintain lane and DUI.

•Steven Branam, 22, of 150 Meadow Dr., Chickamauga, Ga., was charged with DUI and adult seatbelt.

•Joseph Walker, 20, of #9 Dry Branch Village, was charged with disorderly conduct.

•Freddie Walker, 19, of #9 Dry Branch Village, was charged with disorderly conduct.

•Matt Sherman, of Fair Rd., reported criminal trespass.

January 22

•Amanda Cowan, of Fair Rd., reported burglary.

January 21

•Chris Kohlhausen, of Colony Apts., reported criminal trespass.

January 20

•Gary Cooler, of Hazelwood Dr., reported lost or stolen property.

January 18

•Iman Edmond, of College View Apts., reported simple battery.

Editor's Note: Police Beat appears in every issue of the George-Anne in an effort to inform the GSU community of the amount, nature and location of crime. All reports are public information and can be obtained from the GSU Division of Public Safety or at the Statesboro Police Department.

--All Police Beat information is compiled by Shawntine Hughes, assistant news editor.

The George-Anne

Williams Center room 2023
P.O. Box 8001
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It is a desire of The George-Anne to print the news of Georgia Southern University as accurately as possible. If you believe that something covered is in error, contact the editor at 681-5246 as soon as possible.

Liked By Many,
Cussed By Some ...
Read By Them All.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEF

Students protest at U. of Colo.

TMS Campus

BOULDER, Colo. - A graduate-student career fair at the University of Colorado at Boulder turned into a battlefield of sorts Tuesday as protesters urged students to look outside big corporations for jobs.

Students, career services staff and university security clashed with demonstrators from the World Action and Awareness Coalition of Equal United Progressives (WAAKE-UP!). Group members carried a banner that read, "Students are NOT products. Teachers are NOT tools. The University is NOT a factory!"

The protest came complete with "Crackers the Corporate-Crime-Fighting Chicken" and an Uncle Sam look-alike, both of whom dashed through hallways, handing out fliers to surprised students.

The three-minute protest ended when a campus security guard forcibly booted Crackers and Uncle Sam out of the building.

"We're protesting the whole idea that corporations can pay money to use our campus without our consent, and we can't go up and hand out our fliers," said CU student Aaron Ibur, who was kicked out of the career fair for distributing fliers displaying information about several of the participating corporations.

Club members said they have been trying for years to get a table at the annual career fair so they could share their views. Group members rejected university officials' claims that several student groups, including WAAKE-UP!, were invited to attend a series of meetings to discuss an appearance at this year's fair.

Thanks for reading The George-Anne.

This Week's Weather



Today

Partly cloudy with a high of 54 and a low of 31.



Tuesday

Partly cloudy with a high of 58 and a low of 40.

LSU student charged with attempted murder

TMS Campus

BATON ROUGE, La. - A Louisiana State University student accused of stabbing the institution's dean of students in the head and neck has been charged with attempted second-degree murder.

Police said Marques Smith, 21, a

philosophy major, resorted to violence Monday after receiving a letter informing him that he faced university sanctions for altering his grades. Police said Smith attacked the dean, John Baker, from whose office the letter was sent. The struggle ended in the driveway of Baker's home

only after a kitchen knife used in the attack broke, police said.

Baker suffered cuts to his head ears. He was treated at a local hospital and returned to work Tuesday. Smith, who was also cut during the fight, received stitches at a hospital before police charged him.

Teens in rural areas more likely to use drugs

TMS Campus

Washington, D.C. - Teens in rural America are more likely to smoke, drink and use drugs than teenagers in America's inner-cities even though drugs are equally easy to obtain in either environment, according to a new study.

"It's time for all Americans to recognize that drugs are not only an urban problem," said Joseph A. Califano, Jr., president of the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University.

According to the report, high school freshmen's drug use in rural areas exceed those in large urban areas for every drug, except Ecstasy and marijuana. High school se-

niors in rural America used more cocaine, crack, amphetamines, inhalants, alcohol, cigarettes and smokeless tobacco than seniors in large urban areas.

The report also found disturbing trend among eighth-graders living in rural America. They are: 34 percent likelier than in urban centers to smoke marijuana, 83 percent likelier to use crack cocaine, 29 percent likelier to drink alcohol and 70 percent likelier to have been drunk. They are more than twice as likely to smoke cigarettes and nearly five times likelier to use smokeless tobacco.

"Bluntly put, meth has come to Main Street, along with other drugs and with

magnum force aimed at our children," said Califano, former U.S. Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare.

The study also reported that AIDS is rising faster in rural areas than in large urban centers. More workers test positive for drugs in rural areas of Florida, Tennessee and Indiana than in the three largest metropolitan areas in these states. Since 1990 drug law violations have increased more in small communities than in large cities.

The study, "No Place to Hide: Substance Abuse in Mid-Size Cities and Rural America," was released Wednesday, Jan. 26, at the annual meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors in Washington.

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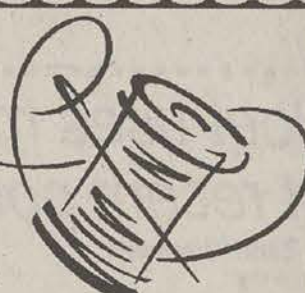
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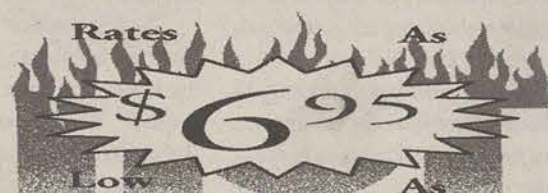
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Seton Hall mourns students killed in fire

TMS Campus

SOUTHORANGE, N.J. — Thousands of Seton Hall university students and their relatives gathered Thursday in a campus gymnasium to pay their respects to the three students who died in a dormitory fire last week. Many in attendance donned ribbons of blue and white, the school's colors. Bagpipes sounded as mourners entered the building, only a short walk from Boland Hall, where the fire broke out last Wednesday.

Investigators are still trying to determine what caused the blaze. So far, speculation rests on the haphazard disposal of a cigarette in one of the dorm's sofas.

Student Body President Bryan Schroeder spoke of how the tragedy had brought the Roman Catholic university of 9,200 closer together. He

praised students who helped rescue others from the building and who opened their dorm rooms to those made temporarily homeless by the fire — even going so far as to lend classmates clothing and food.

"We have been in total fear, shock, disbelief, sorrow and numbness," Schroeder said. "At the same time, we have found relief, hope, friendship and love in this community."

Frank S. Caltabilla Jr., John Giunta and Aaron Karol, all 18 years old and from New Jersey, died in the fire last Wednesday, which started in their residence hall's third-floor lounge. They were buried Monday in separate funerals in their hometowns.

The fire injured 62 students. Five remain hospitalized; four are in critical condition with burns.

Y2K supplies bring relief from winter storm

Knight-Ridder Tribune

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — You laughed at them when they stocked up for the Y2K disaster. You made fun of their millennium cupboards full of food, ridiculed their gallons of water, howled when they lugged generators home. But guess who's laughing last?

All those families who were ready for the end-of-the-millennium catastrophe that never happened, put their feet up this week when the worst winter storm in years knocked out power and most of us for a loop. While your car crawled along icy roads to get to the store for bread and milk and you rummaged through kitchen drawers for a flashlight with batteries that worked and cursed the power failure, all those people who prepared for New Year's trouble relaxed and opened up another can of stockpiled soup.

"We could enjoy the whole thing

and not worry," said Bonnie Wallace, 33, who lost power for eight hours Sunday.

"We didn't have to worry. Do we have candles? Do we have batteries? How are we going to cook? How are we going to stay warm? It was very comforting to know that we had all those things in place," said Wallace who lives in York, S.C., with her husband and four children. "We knew we didn't have to go to a relative's house, we didn't have to pack the children up, we didn't have to get out on the roads with them." Instead, she said, they just enjoyed the weather.

"They kind of laughed at us when nothing happened," said Loretta Tuttle, 39, who lives on the southern edge of Mecklenburg County and had prepared for Y2K. When their electricity went out this week, Tuttle and her husband, Perry, lit their emergency candles, then dragged out sleeping bags, a camp stove and their



Special Photo

IT'S SNOW TIME! A couple drags a sled toward the U.S. Capitol last Tuesday. Washington D.C. was one of the many cities hit by an unexpected snow storm that charged up the East Coast.

new generator. They were ready to keep life going as usual for their five children just as their power returned.

"You're relieved when you're prepared and you're not in a panic state,"

Loretta Tuttle said. "Now, my first thought is, 'Who can I help?' " "I think that's one of the things the whole Y2K scare brought out — the humanity in all of us."

'Millionaire' student mulls over his winnings

TMS Campus

EAU CLAIRE, Wis. — Andrew Rosin, who won \$64,000 after answering several questions on the popular game show "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" said the first thing he will do with the money is buy a TV to go in his spare dorm room.

Rosin, a freshman at the University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire, watched a

taped version of the show with other students in the lobby of his residence hall. Many said they thought he looked a lot like the guy on the show.

"It was really amusing," Rosin told the *Associated Press*. "Some people aren't aware of what I did, but I think that's going to change."

Rosin, 18, won the prize for correctly answering 11 questions and

declining to answer the twelfth. Had he given a wrong answer, Rosin would have won only \$32,000. It was too big a risk, he said, avoiding having to answer the question: "In Jacques Louis David's painting 'The Death of Marat,' where is Marat sitting?" The answer: a bathtub.

"I didn't have any idea on that one," Rosin said.

SEASONS APARTMENTS

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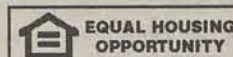
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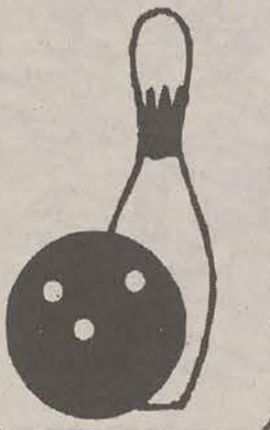
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The George-Anne

Love Grams

Do you know someone who would like to see his or her name in *The George-Anne* (other than in the Police Beat)? Well, here is your chance. For the Feb. 14 edition, *The George-Anne* will publish a Valentine's Day message from you to that special someone.

Here are the rules:

- 1) Fill out this form and drop it by *The George-Anne* office in room 2023 of the Williams Center by Thurs. Feb. 11 by 5 p.m. The submission should include your full name, phone number, and PO Box for verification purposes.
- 2) Only two submissions of 25 words or less per student.
- 3) do not include last names in the message. Please no foreign languages, and let's keep it clean.
- 4) *The George-Anne* reserves the right to refuse any submission.

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Stay out of the rain, be careful and go to class

If there is one thing most people discover during their first few weeks at GSU is that the campus nearly floods everytime it rains. Walking to class becomes a nightmare and the idea of skipping class is very appealing. However, there are a few things you can do to make rainy weather just a little bit better.

First of all, leave plenty of time to get to class. Parking is always a nightmare on rainy days. If you walk to class, allowing extra time will ensure that you will be able to avoid the numerous puddles all over campus.

Secondly, dress appropriately. Jeans tend to take longer to dry than khaki's, tennis shoes take longer than boots. If it's warm

enough, it's a smart idea to go ahead and wear flip-flops.

There are occasionally those people who wear their raincoats over their book bags. This may look silly, but these people are actually pretty smart. Nothing is worse than opening your book bag only to discover that your notebooks are drenched.

Our Opinion

Finally, be careful when walking into buildings. How many times have you watched someone nearly fall when entering a building? You know that the floor is wet. Wipe your feet and take your time walking to your classroom.

So please, be careful when it rains, take your time and go ahead and go to class.

For 72 years, Georgia
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The President's Corner...

• *GSU President Bruce Grube speaks out on fan behavior and spirit*

Seasoned Eagle fans who have

seen everything — from the Hurricane Hugo Bowl to the Perfect 15-0 — call it the best game Georgia Southern has ever played in 16 seasons of football and five championships. The Bald Eagle himself, Coach Erk Russell, said it

was, and nobody argues with Erk.

The 12,000 of us who were there will never forget it. The cheers in Chattanooga resound in our memories. Adrian Peterson will re-run the 58-yard play of the day countless times in video highlights for the years to come.

But there were also scenes of the season we don't want to replay — mobbing our own field while the semi-final game was still in play, combat with police, defending the goalposts in Chattanooga, heckling losing teams and their fans.

In her column on Jan. 19, Kelley McGonnell booed students behaving badly and resented the "Redneck U" repete that rubs off the culprits onto the entire student body. She asks, "Does anyone know how we can avoid behavior like this in the future without taking all the fun out of it?"

As a university, we must answer her question, and students must be part of that answer.

University athletics and public safety officials took considerable measures to insure the integrity of our stadium as a host game site. In hindsight, it wasn't enough to hold off the thousands massing to storm the field.

In the commotion of a crowded stadium, it is hard to detect individuals or small bands of hecklers harassing visitors with foul language. Students who witness that kind of behavior would be doing the right thing to report it to university police.

Administratively we will formulate a "prevent-defense" plan to tackle factors — alcohol is chief among them — that we believe aggravate anti-social antics and outright aggression.

gression.

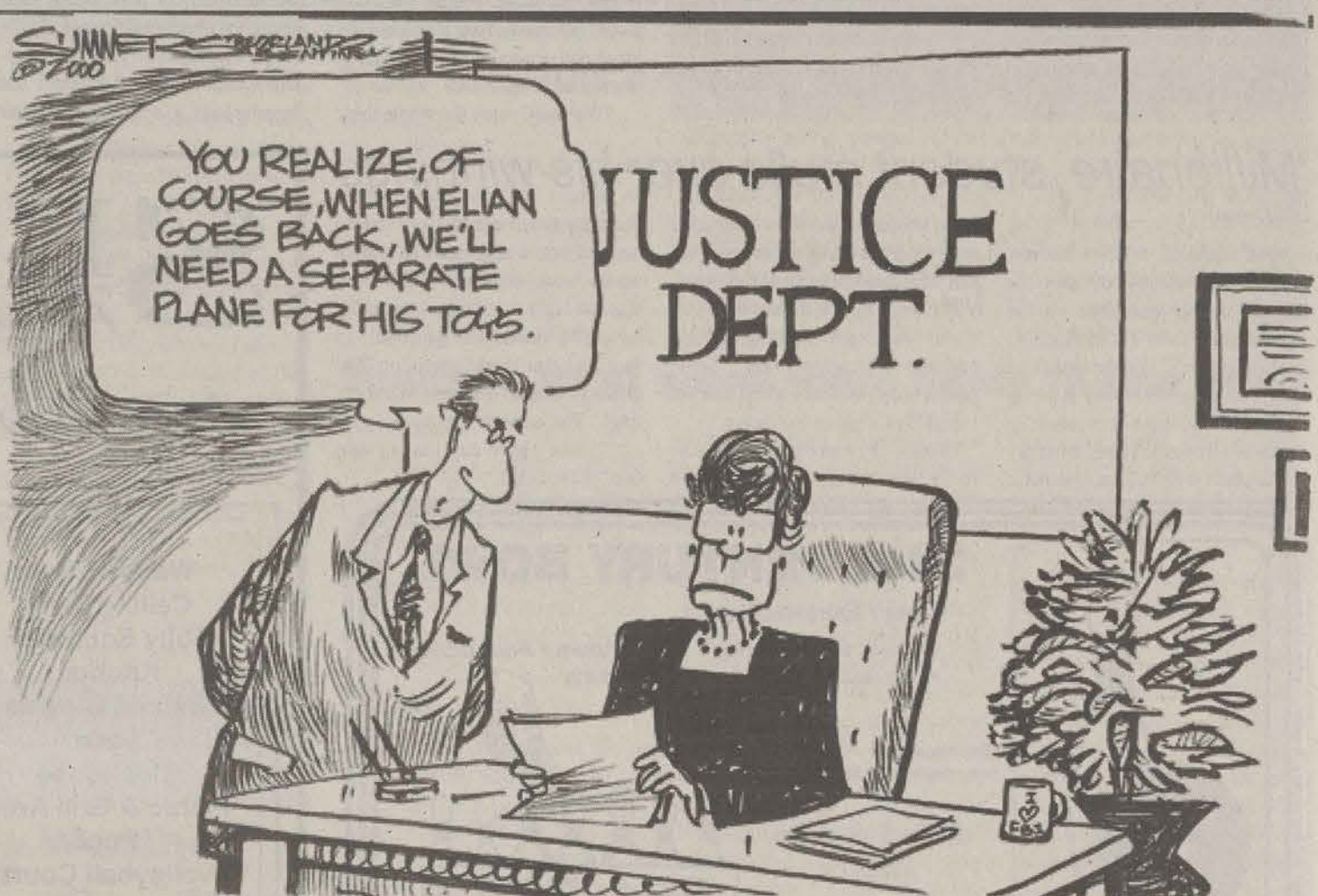
We would be wise to warn ourselves that such "unsportsmanlike conduct" could penalize our team, our fans, and our institution. In a worst-case scenario, the NCAA could blackball Georgia Southern as a play-off host, no matter what our ranking when teams are seeded. Not only would we lose home field advantage, but our students and fans would have to go on the road to attend games. Recall the schools that traveled to "Our House" for play-offs this year: Northern Arizona, UMass, Illinois State. How many of our students could have attended even one play-off game if the sites were swapped? You saw the near-vacant visitor stands behind the opponents' bench at Paulson.

But more troubling to me personally is Kelley's scenario — visitors going back to their campuses slamming Georgia Southern students as rude rowdies, sorry sports, and bad-mannered hosts in the proclaimed "home of Southern hospitality." That's not the way we act in "Our House" or anybody else's. Ninety-nine out of 100 of our students don't. But the image still sticks.

I hasten to congratulate the 99 percent of student fans whose spirit and support was the proverbial 12th player on our team. Nothing looked better from my side of Paulson Stadium than to see students filling our stands and on their feet from the first quarter to the final tick. That's what college athletics are about when they are at their best. And Georgia Southern is certifiably, undeniably the best — Number 1 — One More Time, Champions Again!

With hard work and good luck, the Team of 2000 may give our fans the chance to redeem our reputation as good sports and gracious hosts. Remember: The Eagles' first four championships came in pairs, in 1985 an 86 and again in 1989 an 90. If the 1999 championship is true to our tradition of back-to-back trophies, we will be in Chattanooga in December 2000 to play for the "bookend" in this set.

Until then, let the celebration go on.



Yo-Ho-Ho and rum-based beverages!

I am a hearty seafaring type of individual, so recently I spent a week faring around the sea aboard the largest cruise ship in the world that has not yet hit an iceberg. It is called the Voyager, and it weighs 140,000 tons, which is approximately the amount I ate in desserts alone.

The Voyager sails out of Miami every week carrying 3,200 passengers determined to relax or die trying. The ship has (I am not making any of this up) an ice-skating rink, a large theater, a shopping mall, a rock-climbing wall and a nine-hole miniature golf course.

We have come a long way indeed from the days when the Pilgrims crossed the Atlantic aboard the Mayflower, which — hard as it is to imagine today — had no skating rink and ONLY FOUR GOLF HOLES.

While aboard the ship, we passengers engaged in a wide range of traditional cruise-ship activities, including eating breakfast, snacking, eating lunch, drinking complex rum-based beverages while lying on deck absorbing solar radiation until we

glowed like exit signs, snacking some more, eating dinner, eating more snacks and passing out face-down in the pate section of the midnight buffet.

Needless to say I did not attempt to climb the rock wall, which is good because the resulting disaster would have made for a chilling newspaper headline:

CRUISE SHIP EVACUATED AS MAN FALLS, EXPLODES; HUNDREDS SPATTERED BY SEMIDIGESTED SHRIMP

The only stressful part of our ship-board routine was looking at photographs of ourselves. When you're on a cruise, photographers constantly pop up and take pictures of you; they put these on display in hopes that you'll buy them as souvenirs. At night, my wife and I would join the throng of passengers looking through the photos, hoping to find a nice flattering shot of ourselves, and then suddenly — YIKES — we'd be confronted with this terrifying image of two bloated, bright-red sluglike bodies with OUR FACES. Jabba and Mrs. Hutt go to sea!

When every passenger had attained roughly the same body weight as a Buick Riviera, the ship would stop at a Caribbean island, and the

passengers would waddle ashore to experience the traditional local culture, by which I mean shop for European jewelry and watches. I frankly don't know why it makes economic sense for a tourist from Montana to fly to Miami, get on a ship and sail to Jamaica for the purpose of purchasing a watch made in Switzerland, but apparently it does, because shopping is very important to cruise passengers.

If these people ever get to Mars, they WILL expect to find jewelry stores.

The other thing you do when your ship is in port is take guided tours to Local Points of Interest. Under international law, every tour group must include one tourist who has the IQ of sod. In Jamaica, we toured a plantation, and our group included a woman whose brain operated on some kind of tape delay, as we see from this typical exchange between her and our guide:

GUIDE: These are banana plants, which produce bananas. You can see the bananas growing on these banana plants.

WOMAN (in a loud voice): What kind of plants are these?

GUIDE: Banana.

WOMAN: Huh! (To her husband) Frank, these are banana plants!

The woman repeated virtually everything the guide said to Frank. One day he will kill her with a kitchen appliance.

But I am proud to say that winner of the award for Biggest Tourist

Doofus was: me. What happened was, during the tour, a man demonstrated how he could climb a coconut tree using only a small rope made from twisted banana fibers. When he came down, he showed me the rope, and I, out of politeness, pretended to be interested in it, although in fact it was, basically, a rope.

The man handed it to me and suggested I might want to "take it home to the kids." I frankly doubted that any modern Nintendo-raised American child would be thrilled by such a gift ("Look, Timmy! A rope!"). But I pretended to be grateful. Then the man told me that such ropes USUALLY sell for \$15 (he did not say where) but he would let it go for \$10.

And so, unable to figure out how to escape, I gave him \$10. I imagine the other plantation workers laughed far into the night when he told them. ("He gave you \$10 for the ROPE?" "Yes! He must be even stupider than the tape-delay woman!")

But don't get me wrong: I truly enjoyed the cruise. It was fun and relaxing, and it gave me a rare chance, amid all the hustle and bustle of my busy life, to pick up a substantial amount of body mass.

Cruising is also romantic, so let me just say this to you couples out there: If you're looking for a way to rekindle the flame in your relationship, I'll sell you my rope.

—Dave Barry is a humor columnist for the Miami Herald. Write to him c/o The Miami Herald, One Herald Plaza, Miami FL 33132.

Reality Check

New graduation rains on graduates' parades

So, the "rumor" has turned out to be true after all, eh? Certain executives have decided to make a change here at Georgia Southern University, canceling the traditional graduation ceremonies and opting for one that would be, umm, less complicated. For who?

As was told to me by an administrator in the registrar's office here at GSU, there are various reasons for this new en masse graduation, in particular that certain new executives (hired within the last 7 to 8 months) were offended at the cheers and songs that rang out as graduates marched across the stage to pick up a degree they earned, witnessed by family members, friends and fraternity and sorority brothers and sisters. Heaven forbid!

I do believe that sometimes it gets

a bit ridiculous, or even long-winded. That should be addressed. Family members, friends, and members of Greek organizations should be respectful of others who want to hear the name of their loved one called as well. It is the decent thing to do.

Now, please pay attention to this because I want it to really sink in. My family came to this country, as near as I can tell, around 1736, some TWO HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FOUR years ago. I will be only the third male, and fourth overall, in my family's history to graduate from college, having accumulated over \$28,000 in debt accomplishing this goal.

My younger sister graduated from McMurray University in May 1998. I paid good money to fly out there for her graduation; she was the FIRST

woman in our family to earn a college degree...and my heart swelled with the pride of her accomplishment as she marched across the stage.

On December 19 I watched several friends walk across the stage and heard their names announced. There were tears of joy flowing from eyes, cries of laughter, prideful parents and siblings, and friends throughout Hanner, all there for one reason: to pay tribute to the young men and women of Georgia Southern University who had earned the right to be called GSU Alumni, and have earned the right to march.

Yes, certain executives had to repeatedly ask for quiet. No, certain executives did not like it. And yes, at times, certain executives appeared disgusted.

Well, to those certain executives I would ask this: When you marched across the stages for your degrees, and when your names were an-

nounced, how did you feel? How did your families and friends feel watching you as you marched towards degrees you had earned?

It is to you that I address my final point: You have had your time, folks. The sun has shone brightly on your lives.

Thank goodness for that. However, don't rain on a parade that we, too, have earned the right to march in. Don't ruin what will be one of the most meaningful times of our AND our families' lives.

Not only is it not fair, it is simply not right. Isn't that part of what we are to learn here at Georgia Southern University: the difference between right and wrong? Well, in all honesty, you are wrong on this one and there is no escaping that reality.

—Randy Dobson is a senior at GSU and can be reached at redobson@bulloch.net



RANDY DOBSON

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Sundance film festival is all heart



Internet photo
Filmmakers of "Chuck and Buck," writers Mike White and director Miguel Arteta.

Two friends play matchmaker in 'Autumn Tale'

G-A News Service

If they were to name the most French of French directors, critics and audiences alike would immediately think of the now almost eighty-year-old Eric Rohmer, the thoughtful, gentle and subtle lyricist of human emotions, the reigning romantic poet-painter of international cinema.

In his twenty-second feature film, which completes his "Tales of the Four Seasons" quartet, he creates yet another variation of his recurrent theme about what we talk about when we talk about love.

This time, towards the end of his glorious career, Rohmer serves us an especially fine vintage middle-aged love story of a kind-hearted Magali (Beatrice Romand), owner of a small vineyard, who needs a man but doesn't know any. Set in the pastoral Rhone Valley in Provence, France's wine country, "Autumn Tale" is about longing and fulfillment, bathed in warm sunshine and rich

colors of the season, and then sweetened by the charm of its characters.

The plot is typically simple—two female friends try to play matchmaker for Magali—but its execution is pure Rohmer.

"Autumn Tale"
Time: Tonight, 7:15 p.m.

Place: Union Theater

Cost: \$2

He weaves his story through its subtle modulations creating complex interactions that reveal his deep understanding of human nature and perfect dramatic timing.

Shot, as usual, on a laughable budget with his faithful team of actors and crew, "Autumn Tale" has the savor of a great wine from a small vineyard. Richard Corliss, "Time."

Unlike Hollywood romantic comedies with their "clockwork plots," this movie "elegantly seduces us with people who have all the alarming unpredictability of life."—Roger Ebert. Watch the delightful Alexia Portal as Magali's son's girlfriend.

1998. 112 minutes. In French with English subtitles.

The Associated Press

PARK CITY, Utah — Relationship movies are setting hearts on fire at the Sundance Film Festival, which wraps this weekend.

Fine Line and Lions Gate are said to be duking it out over the crowd-pleasing "Love and Sex."

This semi-autobiographical laugh-a-thon by Valerie Breiman is based on her (now-defunct) relationship with filmmaker Adam Rifkin. "Welcome to my sex life" is how Breiman ruefully introduced it. Rifkin, still a buddy, later took a bow for inspiring Breiman's portrait of a woman in search of a good relationship, starring Famke Janssen and Jon Favreau.

"I love doing indie films," said the slightly bulky Favreau after the premiere. "It's the only place where I can get the girl."

"Chuck and Buck," another relationship movie, quickly was sold to Artisan for \$1.5 million as one of the first buys of the fest. Mike White wrote the screenplay and plays Buck, an overgrown kid who can't give up his crush on his childhood friend. Director Miguel Arteta ("Star Maps") took a picture of the audience to show his parents "so they can start taking this film-making thing a little more seriously." The audience roared—it was composed largely of struggling filmmakers who also have been told somewhere along the line to get a "real" job.

The documentary category has also proved particularly inspirational this year, leaving audiences in tears. In fact, you can't see

"Legacy" without a full pack of Kleenex. Filmmaker Tod S. Lending followed one family around the Chicago projects for five years and documented their incredible, and ultimately winning, struggle against poverty, drugs and the vicissitudes of life.

He began filming coincidentally on the day that one of the family's most promising children, 14-year-old Tyrrell, was shot and killed by a

classmate on his way home from school.

"The Sound and the Fury" is also about a family's emotional struggle, this time over the hot-potato issue in the deaf community of cochlear implants for children, a way to help them hear and develop spoken-language skills. It's an important issue about a community that feels immensely threatened by encroaching technology.

Also on the ka-ching front: Fine Line bought "Saving Grace" for a rumored \$4 million, and Lions Gate bought "Two-Family House," about an oppressive Staten Island household, starring the delightfully plain-spoken Katherine Narducci of "The Sopranos." Narducci grew up at 116th Street and First Avenue, and at the Premiere party said that anyone reared in New York will relate to the movie.



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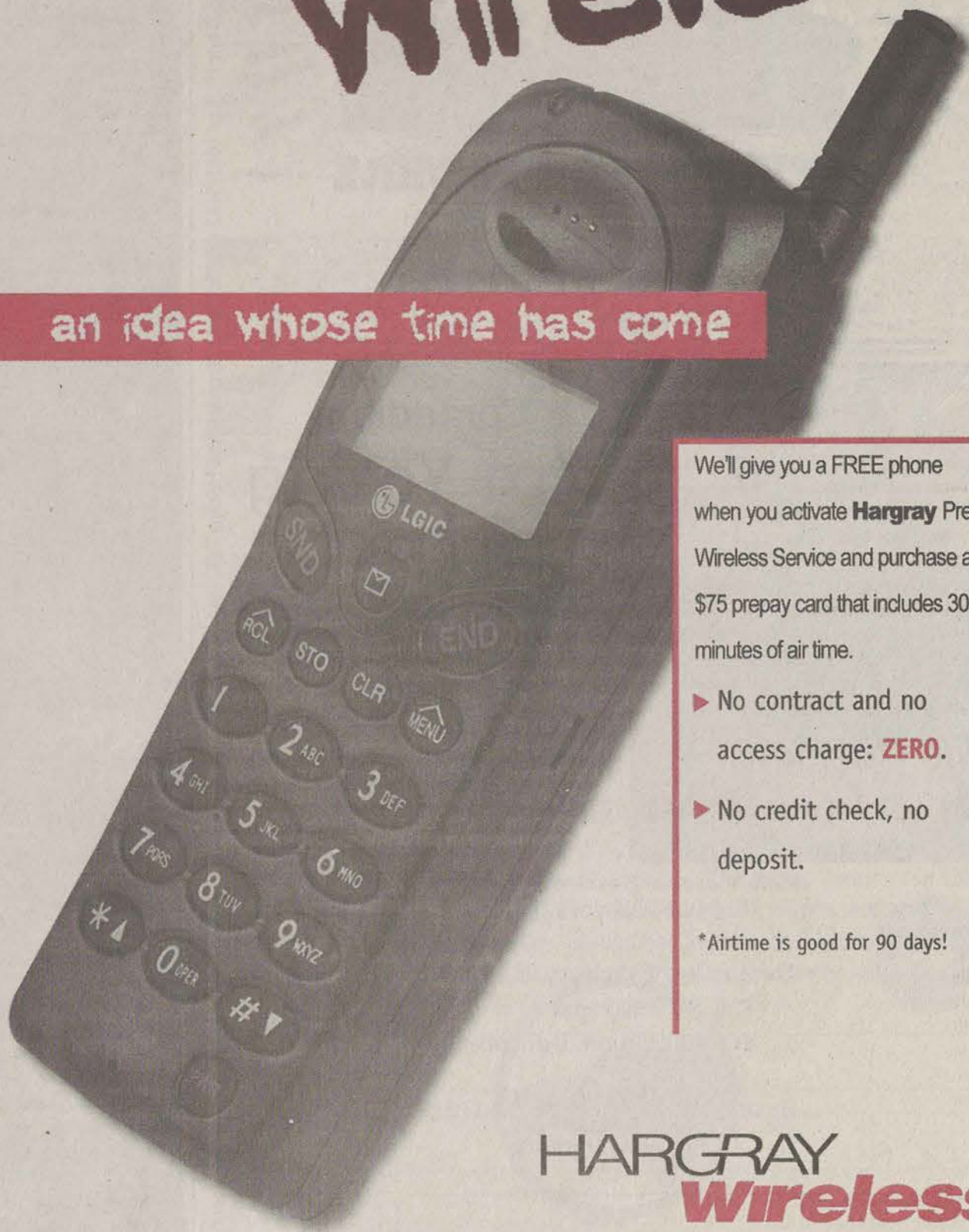
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Struggles continue, Lady Eagles fall 90-67

G-A News Services

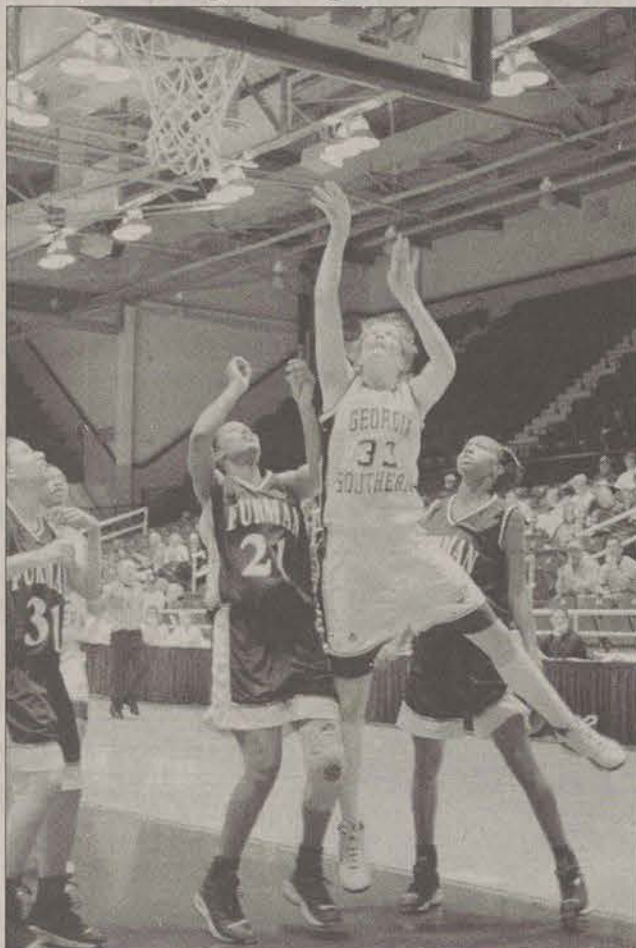
The Georgia Southern women's basketball squad continued to struggle Saturday, shooting just 37 percent from the field on their way to a 90-67 loss to Davidson. The loss dropped GSU to 5-5 in SoCon play and 6-13 overall. Davidson upped their record to 3-7 in the Southern Conference and 4-13 overall.

Alie Rousseau came off the bench to score 12 points for the Eagles, the only player in double figures for GSU. Conversely, Davidson ended up with four players in double figures led by senior guard Jen O'Brien with 24. Katy Kemp added a season-high 19 for the Wildcats while Janna Magette and Meagan Gleason contributed with 14 and 10 points respectively. O'Brien also contributed with six rebounds, five assists and three steals.

GSU battled back the entire first half to pull within four points at halftime but Davidson started the second half on a 21-6 run that put the game away.

Davidson shot 56 percent from the field while also connecting on six of twelve three-point attempts. GSU misfired on 13 of its 17 three-point attempts on their way to shooting 37 percent from the floor.

The win for Davidson, their first ever at home against GSU, also avenged an 85-77 loss earlier this season.



File Photo

TOUGH TIMES CONTINUE: The Lady Eagle's fell to 6-13 after Saturday's 90-67 defeat to Davidson.

NBA announces All-Star teams

The Associated Press

NEW YORK, N.Y. - The Los Angeles Lakers, with the best record in the NBA, will be the only team with two starters in the All-Star game-Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant.

In the final voting results announced Saturday, O'Neal and Bryant were joined in the Western Conference starting lineup by guard Jason Kidd of Phoenix and forwards Kevin Garnett of Minnesota and Tim Duncan of San Antonio.

Toronto's Vince Carter, the league's top vote-getter, leads an Eastern Conference lineup that also features Detroit forward Grant Hill, Miami center Alonzo Mourning and guards Allen Iverson of Philadelphia and Eddie Jones of Charlotte.

The game will be played Feb. 13 at The Arena in Oakland, Calif., home

of the Golden State Warriors.

Phil Jackson, whose Lakers are 34-9, will coach the West. The East coach will be Miami's Pat Riley or New York's Jeff Van Gundy, depending on which team has the better winning percentage after Sunday's games.

All NBA head coaches will vote for the reserves in their conferences.

The East has won the last three games and leads the series 31-17.

O'Neal, an All-Star for the seventh time, was the leading vote-getter in the West with 1,807,609 votes out of the more than 3.9 million ballots cast by fans.

The 7-foot-1 center was second in the league in scoring at 27.7 points, first in field goal percentage at .569 and second in blocked shots at 3.48 per game

through Friday's games.

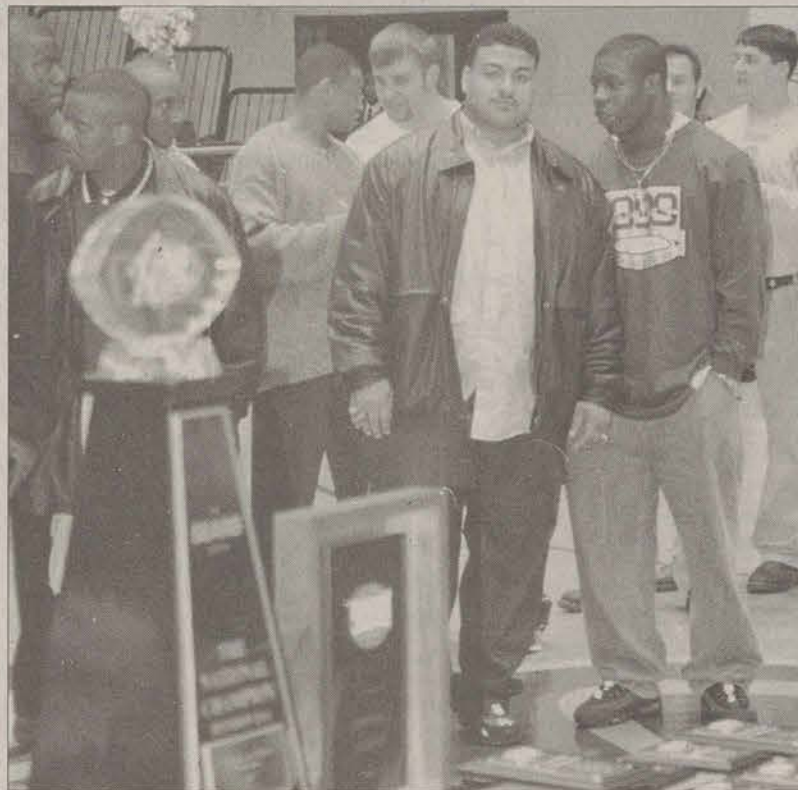
Bryant secured a guard spot and his second All-Star selection with 1,022,897 votes. Kidd received 1,061,031 votes, Garnett 1,550,976 and Duncan 1,321,436.

Carter, the sensational second-year pro, is the first member of the Raptors to play in an All-Star game. The high-scoring forward received 1,911,973 votes.

Hill finished with 1,371,304, Mourning with 1,878,588, Iverson with 1,843,011 and Jones with 734,940.

Carter and Iverson will be making their All-Star debuts. Hill and Mourning will each be appearing for the fifth time. Garnett, Jones and Kidd are All-Stars for the third time, and Duncan will participate for the second time.

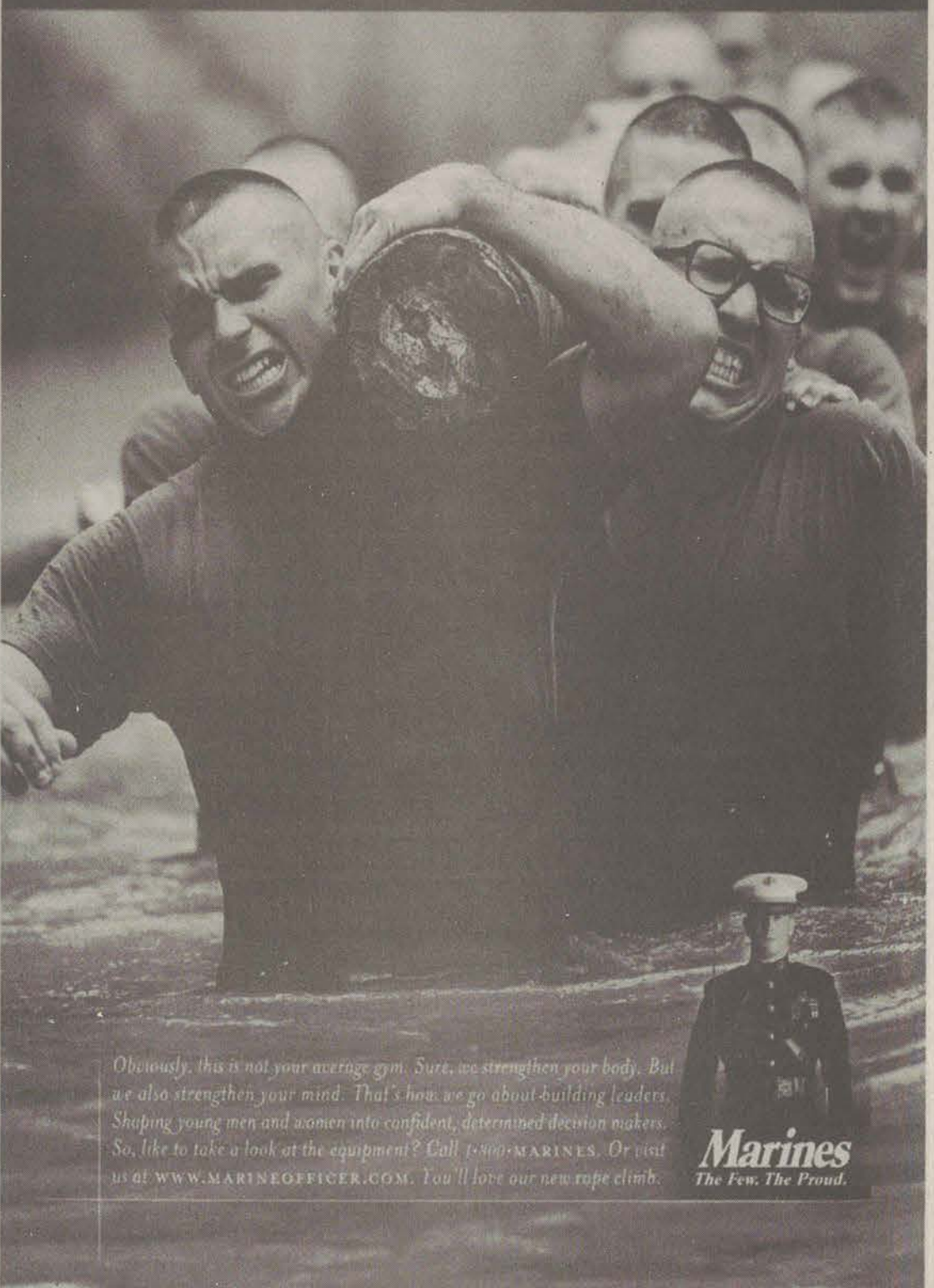
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Cory Brooks

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Former Nebraska head coach running for Nebraska Congressional seat in '00

The Associated Press

HASTINGS, Neb. - While some campaign underdogs may be tempted to run negative attack ads against front runners, a state Democratic leader warns that Republican Tom Osborne is off limits.

"Tom Osborne is so highly regarded," state Democratic Party Chairwoman Anne Boyle said. "Anybody who wants to go negative on Tom Osborne is probably not going to be well-received."

The former Nebraska football coach announced his candidacy Thursday for the 3rd Congressional District seat, joining an already crowded Republican field. Osborne, arguably the state's most popular resident, will take on five mostly unknown candidates.

"I don't think this is an ego trip," Osborne said. "It would be a lot easier to go fishing."

Osborne, 62, said he chose the 3rd District because it poses the state's greatest challenges. He said the predominantly-Republican, rural district needs to be more unified in finding a solution to the economic downturn of the farm economy and the so-called "brain drain" of young people leaving the state.

Osborne said he will not accept contributions from political action committees and will limit individual contributions, likely to about \$300 each.

"I know a lot of people are saying, 'Yeah, this guy won a few football games but what does he know about this stuff?'" Osborne said. "And the honest truth is there are some things I don't know a whole lot about, but I can learn."

Osborne said he started contemplating a campaign when

Republican Rep. Bill Barrett announced in October that he was retiring.

"I hear a lot of sighs from people in the Third District who already had decided to run in the Third District," said Chuck Sigerson, state Republican Party chairman.

One Republican candidate, John Hanson of Bertrand, dropped out of the race to be-

"I DON'T THINK THIS IS AN EGO TRIP. IT WOULD BE A LOT EASIER TO GO FISHING."
- TOM OSBORNE

come Osborne's campaign chairman. No other declared candidates said they planned to leave the race despite Osborne's announcement.

"We welcome the coach to the race," said Daniel G. Urwiller of Ravenna, a state Public Service Commissioner who is running in the 3rd District.

While Osborne is a Republican, he said he opposes partisan politics and hopes to attract supporters from both parties.

"He is the only person I can think of who I don't see as partisan and I don't think most Nebraskans will," Boyle said.

Osborne's opponents in the May 9 Republican primary will include North Platte attorney John Gale, Kearney farmer

Carroll Sheldon, state Board of Education member Kathy Wilmot of Beaver City and Scottsbluff grain elevator operator David Hergert.

Grand Island real estate investor Rollie Reynolds is the only declared Democratic candidate. Hastings business consultant Ron Chen had seriously considered a campaign but decided against it Thursday when he heard Osborne's announcement.

Osborne took over the Nebraska program in 1973 at the age of 34 after serving as an assistant to coach Bob Devaney for 11 years.

He compiled a 255-49-3 record in 25 years to rank sixth among all Division I coaches.

His teams won 13 conference championships and national championships in 1994 and 1995 and a share of the 1997 season title.

Osborne joins several other notable ex-jocks who have gone into politics.

Bill Bradley, the former NBA star and U.S. Senator from New Jersey, is running for the Democratic nomination for president. Former college football great J.C. Watts of Oklahoma is in Congress and is chairman of the House Republican Conference.

Hall of Fame pitcher Jim Bunning represented Kentucky in the House for six terms and won a seat in the Senate in 1998.

Garth Brooks heading to Spring Training with New York Mets

The Associated Press

NEW YORK -While distractions are nothing new to the New York Mets, this one sings a different tune.

The Mets have reached an agreement in principle with Garth Brooks, allowing the country singer to participate in spring training with New York.

"We are part of the entertainment industry, and I think this will add some excitement to our spring," Mets general manager Steve Phillips said Saturday. "I don't know what sort of impact it will have on crowds, but it will add excitement."

Brooks, who hit .045 for the San Diego Padres last spring (1-for-22), will sign a minor league contract and train with the team in Port St. Lucie, Fla.

Brooks, 37, created little controversy when he was with the Padres last spring, signing autographs every day and singing after some exhibition games.

Even if he does create a distraction, the Mets aren't concerned. This is, after all, a team that went through a season where Bobby Bonilla and manager Bobby Valentine nearly came to blows in the dugout and Valentine returned to a game in disguise after being ejected.

"The most obvious question is what sort of distraction does it cause," Phillips said. "I talked to quite a few of our players and our view is the positives outweighs the negatives. If there is a distraction, it might be a posi-

tive distraction. The press attention that usually falls on the players may fall on Garth a bit."

One of the players Phillips talked to was third baseman Robin Ventura, who had positive reports about his spring training with Michael Jordan while he was with the Chicago White Sox in 1994.

Pitchers Turk Wendell, Al Leiter and Dennis Cook and Ventura are all involved with Brooks' charitable foundation, Touch 'em All, which raised \$1.8 million in its first year, thanks to donations from 67 baseball players.

"The organization will make a substantial contribution," Phillips said, though details are still being worked out. "A number of players have already talked about their willingness to participate."

Brooks, who considered



www.garthbrooks.com

training with the New York Yankees, the Atlanta Braves and Philadelphia Phillies, wanted to train in Florida instead of Arizona this spring.

Brooks likely will report Feb. 20 with the Mets' position players and begin training the next day.



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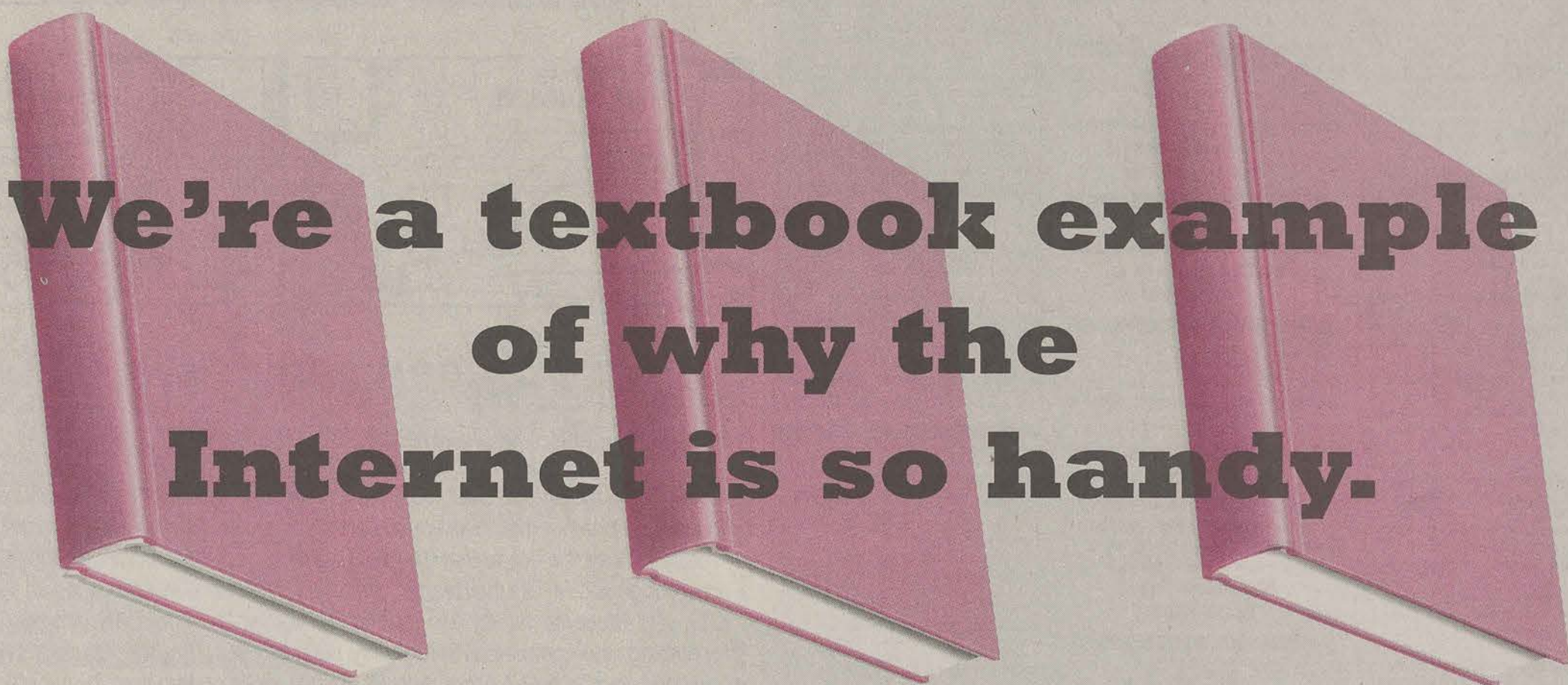
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