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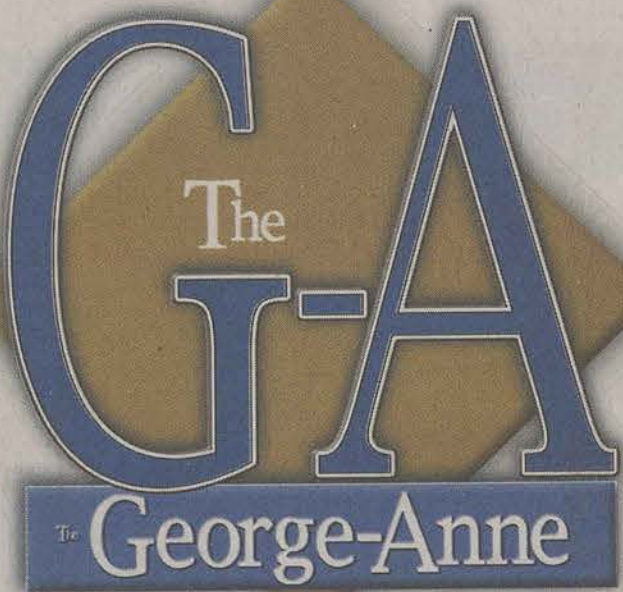
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SPORTS

Eagles come up on top over College of Charleston

Danna Simpson paced the team with 17 points and 3 steals to help with the 73-66 victory.

Page 5



LIFE

Student soars as voice of Eagles

Zeb Baker isn't your average student as he makes the most of his time at GSU.

Page 8



Vol. 72 No. 57

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

'American Beauty' goes for the gold Two more leave baseball team

By John Hartl
Knight-Ridder Tribune

"American Beauty," a soulful satire about suburbia, led the way when the 72nd annual Academy Award nominations were announced today in Los Angeles. The DreamWorks production received eight nominations, including best picture, actor (Kevin Spacey), actress (Annette Bening), director (Sam Mendes), screenwriter (Alan Ball), cinematography (Conrad Hall), editing (Tariq Anwar) and score (Thomas Newman). Also nominated for best picture were Lasse Hallstrom's adaptation of John Irving's novel, "The Cider House Rules"; Michael Mann's "The Insider," a fact-based drama about an expose of the tobacco industry; M. Night Shyamalan's "The Sixth Sense," a box-office blockbuster about a boy who sees dead people; and Frank Darabont's three-hour prison drama, "The Green Mile."

Hallstrom, Shyamalan and Mann were nominated for best director, but Darabont was replaced in that category by Spike Jonze, who made the surrealistic comedy, "Being John Malkovich."

In the best actor race, Spacey's discontented father-husband in "American Beauty" will be competing with Denzel Washington's incarnation of the wrongfully imprisoned Rubin "Hurricane" Carter in "The Hurricane"; Sean Penn as a jazz musician in Woody Allen's "Sweet and Lowdown"; Russell Crowe's portrayal of a tortured tobacco-industry executive in "The Insider"; and Richard Farnsworth's performance as an old man trying to make amends with his brother in "The Straight Story."

Bening, who plays Spacey's unhappy wife in "American Beauty," faces equally tough competition: Janet McTeer's spirited immature mother in "Tumbleweeds," Julianne Moore as a wartime adulteress with a spiritual side in "The End of the Affair," Hilary Swank as the



Kevin Spacey and Annette Bening star in 'An American Beauty,' which is up for eight awards.

cross-dressing Teena Brandon in "Boys Don't Cry" and Meryl Streep as a dedicated music teacher in "Music of the Heart."

For best supporting actress, the nominees include Angelina Jolie, as a mentally disturbed girl in "Girl, Interrupted"; Toni Collette as the boy's mother in "The Sixth Sense"; and Samantha Morton as Sean Penn's girlfriend in "Sweet and Lowdown." Chloe Sevigny, who plays Swank's sexually confused lover in "Boys Don't Cry," is also nominated in this category, along with Catherine Keener, who plays a similarly mixed-up office worker in "Being John Malkovich."

Tom Cruise earned his third nomination, this time in the supporting category, for his work as a misogynistic motivational speaker in "Magnolia." His competition includes Michael Caine, as an abortionist in "The Cider House Rules"; Haley Joel Osment, as the perceptive child in "The Sixth Sense"; Michael Clarke Duncan as a death-row miracle worker in "The Green Mile"; and Jude Law as a hedonistic ex-patriate in "The Talented Mr. Ripley."

By John Bryson and
Kelley McGonnell
News Editor and Editor in Chief

Former GSU baseball player Jimmy Alexander and former student coach Danny Washburn both said they left the team because of the way the hazing investigation and subsequent dismissals were handled.

Head baseball coach Rodney Hennon was quoted in the Feb. 4 edition of the *George-Anne* saying that the two left "for unrelated reasons." He said yesterday that he said that because Alexander and Washburn were not involved in the hazing incident that occurred on Nov. 5.

"My intention was to say they were not involved in the incident," Hennon said. "I apologize if there was any confusion."

He went on to say that he was not going to comment on the situation any further.

"I'm focused on baseball now," he said. "I just didn't want it to look like they, especially Jimmy [Alexander], were involved in the incident."

Alexander said that he quit the team after the dismissals were announced because he didn't like the direction the team was taking.

"I told him [Hennon] I disagreed with his decision and how it was handled," former catcher Alexander said. "He told me that the team was now a dictatorship up there, and if I didn't like it, I could leave. I told him I would rather leave than be a part of that."

Alexander said that he quit in front of the entire team.

Former student coach Washburn said that he also left the team as a result of the hazing incident and how it was handled.

"I would say it is related," Washburn said. "If this hadn't come about Jimmy [Alexander] and I

would still be on the field. That seems pretty related to me."

Washburn said he left because the integrity of the team was in jeopardy.

"It was an integrity thing with me," he said. "Everything was so sketchy and gray to me. I don't think they [the coaches] were being completely honest and I'm not going to be associated with something that isn't going to be truthful."

Alexander said that he did not know of any other reasons why Jody Pollock, Ryan Petersen, Scott Burks and Rhett Roberts were released other than being involved in the hazing incident in 1998 and in 1999. He said that others that are still on the team were also involved both years.

"How can an entire team admit to being directly involved and yet only four of those players are disciplined so severely?" he said in a letter to the editor.

Parade scheduled for National Champs

Special to the G-A

A community celebration has been slated for March 5 to celebrate GSU's fifth 1-AA Football National Championship win.

Along the main streets of Statesboro GSU fans, alumna and students are invited to cheer for their Eagles who will be parading down East Main Street.

"We are working hard to prepare a viewing area for this event that will be right in front of our historic Jaekel Hotel (city hall)," Stephanie Howell, executive director of the Main Street Statesboro Program, said. "Our downtown is very accommo-

dating for celebrations like these."

The procession of seniors, coaches, cheerleaders and the Southern Pride will be led by Gus and GSU's ROTC color guard. Community representatives and government officials will wind up the caravan of vehicles by riding on a traditional parade float.

Peggy Chapman, president of the Statesboro Bulloch County Chamber of Commerce said, "This day is for our community and all of Bulloch County to give back to the players, coaches and everyone at GSU who helped to create this opportunity for great success, recognition and fun."

'The worst thing I've ever seen:' Storm's wounded overwhelmed

CAMILLA, Ga. — Confused mothers begged nurses to find their children and frantically scanned the hospital halls filled with injured people slumped against walls and in chairs.

In the hours after deadly tornadoes ripped through southwest Georgia early Monday, tiny Mitchell County Hospital — the only medical facility within 30 miles — looked like a battlefield.

There were four times as many wounded patients as beds, overwhelming the handful of doctors and nurses working the late-night shift.

The hospital lost its water connection and, for several terrifying minutes before a generator kicked in, its power supply.

"It was absolutely the worst thing I've ever seen," said Cara Tyson, the hospital's assistant director of nursing, who fought blinding rain to reach the hospital. "It was a disaster, people were crying, children were hurt. It was like a battlefield."

Nurses set up a triage system, with the most severe wounds getting attention first. Those with major trauma eventually were sent to other hospitals better equipped to handle them. One elderly woman waited hours with a gash down her forehead, letting seriously injured storm victims go before her for treatment.

Spokesman Rick Ivey said 120 patients were treated at the hospital.

Monday's storms smashed mobile homes and overturned cars across a swath of rural southwest Georgia. At least 22 people were killed — 14 in Mitchell County — and more than 100 were hurt.

When the storms rolled through shortly after midnight, hospital administrator Ron Gilliard and his wife huddled in their bathroom. They said a prayer, then he drove to pick up a cousin, whose face was badly cut, and drove to work.

"When I got here, there were bodies all over this hospital," Gilliard said.

Dozens of people were in the streets around the small, brick building when clinical assistant Faye Carroll arrived at 2 a.m. Some were wounded and in shock, others frantically searched for relatives. Carroll cleared a path for ambulances and went inside.

Amid the commotion, relatives told Carroll her nephew had been killed in the storm. Still, she worked more than 14 hours without a break.

By 4 a.m., hospital officials had called in all the staff they could find. Gilliard, not having heard from the hospital's on-call pastor, thumbed through the phone book to find one.

People who live in Camilla and surrounding small towns were still waiting in the hospital Monday, looking for information on missing friends and family.

Where to live?



John Bryson

DECISIONS, DECISIONS: Students took advantage of the information provided by various local realty companies yesterday at the off-campus housing fair in the Russell Union. The event was held to offer students information on different alternatives in off-campus housing.

High price offered for donor's eggs raises ethical questions

By Marilee Enge
Knight-Ridder Tribune

SAN JOSE, Calif. — An infertile couple seeking an athletic young woman to donate her eggs is offering \$100,000 — an amount thought to be the highest price yet in the escalating market for donor ova.

The offer — made in an advertisement in the Stanford Daily student newspaper — again raises questions about the ethics of paying large sums to women who meet cer-

tain physical and intellectual criteria.

The highest known previous price for donor eggs was \$50,000, offered last year by an infertile couple seeking a tall, athletic top student with high SAT scores at a number of prestigious schools, including Stanford. But the latest offer shocked even veteran fertility practitioners.

"That's the highest asking price for donor eggs that I've heard," said Shelley Smith, director of the Egg Donor Program, a center in Los An-

geles. "It's double (the previous record)."

A Southern California recruiting service called Families 2000 has placed the full-page ads for the past few weeks, said Peter Castorena, director of marketing for the Stanford Daily.

The service, which says on its Web site that it was founded by Christian women who struggled with infertility, placed similar ads in Stanford's student newspaper last

year, Castorena said.

"Give the Gift of Love and Life," the advertisement reads. "Very Special Egg Donor Needed."

The notice goes on to say that the donor must be under 30, Caucasian and an athlete, and adds: "Proven college level athletic ability preferred." In addition to the \$100,000 compensation, "all expenses will be paid."

Louisa Tromel, director of Families 2000 in Newport Beach, Calif.,

said the family did not want to speak publicly.

"I can't make any comments," she said. The practice of using donated eggs and sperm to conceive a child is well-established, but the astronomical prices offered by wealthy couples create a commercial transaction, rather than a medical one, said Margaret McLean, a professor of ethics at Santa Clara University.

"There are standards for what is a worthwhile child. That troubles me

greatly," she said. "If you have money you can have this ideal child. It renders children an article of commerce as well."

Fertility clinics on the West Coast pay egg donors a standard fee of \$3,500, according to Smith. She said many of her donors are "real humanitarians" seeking to help infertile couples, and she rejects potential donors who are just interested in the money. I wonder, with these fees, why they have to do that," she said.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Things To Do at GSU Ongoing

•Donations are being accepted from any GSU organization for the **United States Student Fund**. Call the SGA office at 681-0655 for more information.

•**Free Tutoring** in several subjects: English, history, sociology and psychology, all maths, chemistry, biology, and college reading/study skills. Each subject has different hours of operation. Call 681-0321 for more information.

•**RIF Readers** are needed at Mattie Lively Elementary School on February 15 through 17. Call Dana Cork at 764-3793 to volunteer.

•**NAACP** meets every Monday at 6 p.m. in the Russell Union Room 2047.

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

February 15 - 23

•Meet the contestants of the **Ms. African American Pageant** from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. under the Rotunda.

February 16 & 17

•**Gamma Phi Eta Fraternity Inc.** is having an information session at 7 p.m. in the Henderson Library Room 3010.

February 17

•**Eagle Cinema** presents "The Bachelor" at 8 p.m. in the Russell Union Theater.

•**Eliminating Major Sentence Errors** by Hubert Pulley at 4 p.m. in the Library Room 1042.

February 18

•**Eagle Cinema** presents "The Bachelor" at 7 and 9:30 p.m. in the Russell Union Theater.

February 19

•**GSU Botanical Garden** presents "Ikebana" at 10 a.m. at the Garden, 1505 Bland Ave.

•**Eagle Cinema** presents "The Bachelor" at 7 p.m. in the Russell Union Theater.

February 23

•**NAACP** presents the **Ms. African American Pageant** at 7 p.m. in the Russell Union Ballroom. Tickets are \$2 in advance

and \$3 at the door.

February 24

•**Eagle Cinema** presents "The Best Man" at 8 p.m. in the Russell Union Theater.

February 25

•**Eagle Cinema** presents "The Best Man" at 7 and 9:30 p.m. in the Russell Union Theater.

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.

•**Eagle Cinema** presents "The Best Man" at 3 and 5:30 p.m. in the Russell Union Theater.

February 27

•**Diversion** presents "Don't Stop til You Get Enough" at 7 p.m. in the Russell Union Ballroom.

March 1 & 2

•**Mr. Esquire Information Session** at 7:30 p.m. in the Russell Union Room 2042.

POLICE BEAT

Statesboro Police Department February 15

•Martin Yermack, 18, of 222 Lanier #119, was charged with DUI, possession of marijuana, and stop sign violation.

February 14

•Victor Elias, 18, of 129 DeLoach St., Claxton, Ga., was charged with theft by shoplifting.

•Charles McRae, 42, of 9 Lake Ohoopie Dr., Swainsboro, Ga., was charged with DUI.

•Eddie Robinson, 40, of Rt. 2, was charged with driving on suspended license, giving false information, and defective windshield.

•Rachel Moss, of Park Place Apts., reported lost or stolen property.

•Quentress Smith, of Bermuda Run, reported theft by taking.

•A Varsity Lodge resident reported harassing communication.

February 13

•Jonathan Noonan, of Park Place Apts., reported criminal trespass.

•A Campus Courtyard resident reported harassing communication.

•Yener Tezyener, of Players Club Apts., reported criminal trespass.

•Officers responded to a 911 call in Seasons Apts. in regards to a civil dispute.

•Officers responded to a 911 call in Stadium Walk Apts. in regards to battery.

February 12

•Ronald Grubb, 35, of Lot #4 Southern Living Estates, was charged with possession of cocaine.

GSU Department of Public Safety

February 14

•A Brannen Hall resident reported receiving harassing phone calls.

February 13

•Officers responded to a simple battery report at the Russell Union.

February 12

•Joshua Weish, 18, of Ellijay, Ga., was charged with DUI and driving too fast for conditions.

•Conquett Banks reported his cellular phone was taken from the Landrum Center computer lab.

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 Shawnineal Hughes, assistant news editor.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEF

McCain defends voting record in South Carolina

The Associated Press

ANDERSON, S.C. - Responding to what he called savage attacks, Sen. John McCain defended inconsistencies in his congressional voting record today as compromises that are "the essence of legislating."

"This kind of savagery is not necessary in an American political campaign," McCain told supporters at a town hall meeting, referring to criticism from his rival for the GOP presidential nomination, Gov. George W. Bush. The two are neck-and-neck in a bitter race for Saturday's South Carolina primary.

McCain also responded to criticism from the National Rifle Association that he has changed his position on trigger locks for guns, which McCain now supports. "When kids go to school and start killing other kids, obviously sometimes you re-

think your position," McCain said.

Bush has criticized McCain for inconsistency on public financing of congressional campaigns, which McCain said he opposes but has voted for as part of reform packages. The Arizona senator said it wasn't

surprising that an opponent's staff combing through his lengthy voting record would find contradictions. Such votes simply reflect the give-and-take of congressional compromises, McCain told reporters today.

This Week's Weather



Today

Partly cloudy with a high of 75 and a low of 50.



Thursday

Partly cloudy with a high of 71 and a low of 54.

Send your letters to the editor to P.O. Box 8001 or drop them by the Williams Center in room 2023.



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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.

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1 Topping.....	6.16	7.32	8.60	9.70
2 Topping.....	6.97	8.19	9.65	10.80
3 Topping.....	7.78	9.06	10.70	11.90
4 Topping.....	8.59	9.93	11.75	13.00
Add a 2nd Pizza.....	4.00	5.00	6.00	7.00
(pizza of lesser or Equal Value)				
Add a Topping.....	.81	.87	1.05	1.10

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SPECIALTY PIZZAS..... 8.65 10.85 13.05 15.25
Choose from Bacon Cheddar Cheeseburger, Vegetarian, Howie Maul, Philly Steak, Meat Eaters.

STICKY FINGERS..... 9.75 11.95 14.15 16.09
Cheese, Pepperoni, Mushroom, Ham, Italian Sausage, Green Pepper, Onion, Ground Beef & Black Olives.

Subs & Stuff

OVEN-BAKED CALZONE

DELUXE ITALIAN.....	5.49
Sliced Ham, Salami, Cheese, Lettuce, Tomato, Onion, & Mild Pepper.	
STEAK CHEESE & MUSHROOM.....	5.49
Steak, Cheese, Mushroom, Lettuce, Tomato, Onion & Mild Pepper.	
HAM & CHEESE.....	5.49
Ham, Cheese, Lettuce, Tomato, Onion, & Mild Pepper.	
PIZZA SUB.....	5.49
Pizza Sauce, Pepperoni & Cheese.	
PIZZA SUB SPECIAL.....	5.49
Cheese, Pepperoni, Ham, Mushroom, Onion, Green Pepper & Pizza Sauce.	
VEGGIE SUB.....	5.49
Cheese, Mushroom, Onion, Green Pepper & Black Olives.	
TURKEY SUB.....	5.49
Sliced Turkey Breast, Cheese, Lettuce, Tomato & Mild Pepper.	
TURKEY CLUB.....	5.49
Sliced Turkey Breast, Ham, Bacon, Cheese, Lettuce, Tomato & Mild Pepper.	
HOWIE BREAD.....	2.49
3-CHEESER BREAD W/ SAUCE.....	3.99
EXTRA SAUCE.....	.75¢

Beverages..... 16 oz. - .89¢ • 32 oz. - \$1.09
Coke, Diet Coke, Sprite, and others... 2 Liter 1.99

Wings & Salads

HOWIE WINGS

Chicken Wings served with Celery, Blue Cheese & Spicy Howie Sticks

10 WINGS.....	5.49
20 WINGS.....	9.49
30 WINGS.....	12.99

SALADS

	Small	Large
ANTIPASTO SALAD	2.99	4.99
Lettuce, Ham, Salami, Cheese, Pepper Rings, Onions, Tomatoes, Black Olives & House Dressing.		
CHEF SALAD	2.99	4.99
Fresh Crisp Lettuce, Tomatoes & Onions topped with Diced Ham, Mozzarella Cheese & Black Olives.		
GREEK SALAD	2.99	4.99
Lettuce, Tomato, Onion, Feta Cheese, Sliced Beets, Finger Peppers & Black Olives.		
TOSSED SALAD	1.95	3.15
Lettuce, Tomato & Onion with your choice of Dressing.		
EXTRA DRESSING	.39	.39

Greek Dressing, Italian, French, Blue Cheese, Ranch & Fat Free Ranch & 1000 Island

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1 • Large 2 • Topping Pizza	\$7.99
1 • Extra Large 1 • Topping Pizza	\$8.99

Delivered or Pickup

Party Time

Three Pizzas with One Topping	\$13.99
3 Mediums	\$16.99

Carry out Special

Sundays & Mondays 1 • Medium 1 • Topping Pizza	\$3.99
Tuesdays & Wednesdays 1 • Large 1 • Topping Pizza	\$4.99

Delivered or Pickup

Howie Combo

1 • Large Pizza 1 • Topping 1 • Order Breadsticks W/ Sauce Free 2 liter of Coke	\$9.98
---	---------------

Delivered or Pickup

2 ON 2

Two Large Pizzas with 2 Toppings	
2 Medium	\$11.99
2 Large	\$13.99
2 X-Large	\$15.99

Delivered or Pickup

Any Two Oven-Baked Subs "Calazone Style"

Italian, Ham, Pizza or Turkey
\$9.99

Lunch Special

\$3.99 Value Menu 11am-3pm

- Any Oven Baked Sub "Calazon Style"
- 10 Wings w/ Celery
- 1 Small • 1 topping Pizza
- 1 Jr. "Personal Pan" Works Pizza

Carry out Special

HOWIE Express	
One Medium	\$4.99
One Large	\$5.99
One X-Large	\$7.99

Delivered or Pickup

Pizza and Wings

1 • Medium Pizza 1 • Topping 10 • Chicken Wings Celery, Blue Cheese Dressing and Spicy Howie Sticks	\$10.99
--	----------------

Delivered or Pickup

3 ON 3

Your 3 Favorite toppings on a 3 Cheeser Pizza	
1 Medium	\$7.99
1 Large	\$8.99
1 X-Large	\$9.99

ONLY IN AMERICA...

1 North Carolina

Lawyer gets shock when he calls bank

The Associated Press

DURHAM—A Durham lawyer got a shock recently when he dialed a 1-800 number looking for some home mortgage advice from Branch Banking and Trust Company.

Instead of points and percentages, Keith Hempstead heard a sultry voice on the other end of the line wanting to talk about something a little more personal.

It seems the published number in the Durham-area GTE phone book's white pages takes would-be bank customers to a sex line where, for a fee, callers can choose among several options.

The mistake is a one-digit typo. The proper number is listed on the bank's Web site and in the phone book's Yellow Pages.

GTE spokesman Steve Toler said the phone company takes errors seriously and that phone book numbers usually go through several checks by several people.

"It happens like anything else - it's a human error. We find out about the errors and fix them for the next year," he said.

2 Oklahoma

Mother makes waves as college cheerleader

The Associated Press

MUSKOGEE—She won't be in the pyramids. She can almost do a "round-off," but she stays away from the tumbles.

At 43 years old, Ragna Waters is not your typical college cheerleader.

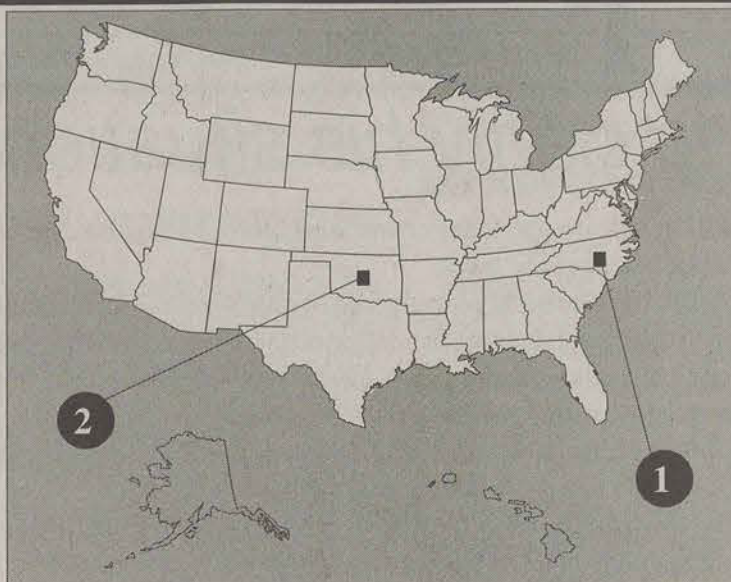
Wiry and bespectacled, she knows she often inspires more bemused chuckling than school spirit as a member of the cheer squad at Bacone College. But even though she is 20 years older than the other Warrior cheerleaders, Waters said it doesn't slow her determination.

"I'm having the time of my life, and if someone has a problem with it, just keep an open mind," she said.

Waters is an arts major returning to school after a 25-year absence. She said she never thought about cheerleading in high school, which she finished in 1975.

But when she read about college cheerleader tryouts last fall, she wondered if a 43-year-old mom would have a chance.

"I thought, 'Hey, I can do this,'" Waters said.



After running her "age issue" past a Bacone official, Waters tried out. But when she beat out about five other Bacone students for the last spot on the squad, Waters remembers her greeting from the other cheerleaders was less than enthusiastic.

"No one clapped or cheered when they called my name," she said.

Waters has been befriended by Bacone cheerleader Melissa Gambler, 21, who applauds her spirit.

"I can support her for having the guts to get out here being 43 years old, but a couple of the other cheerleaders have some real issues with it," Gambler said.

Waters' boundless enthusiasm is

hardly fettered. She once cheered a game all alone when her teammates were ill. At times, she said she feels a little like Arianna, one half of the outcast cheerleading duo on "Saturday Night Live."

But regardless of what others think, Waters said she will continue to pull on her red-and-white cheerleading outfit, scoop up her 3-year-old son, Todd, and cheer at Warrior basketball games.

"I'm not doing this to make my teammates angry," Waters said. "They think I'm too old, so I just grin and bear it. I just wish people would realize that you're never too old to try something new."

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Woman uses human remains as art

The Associated Press

BILOXI—Walk through the glass doors of Commander's Gallery, past the conventional oil and pastel paintings, and on the other side of the green curtains you'll find a new art medium — human ashes.

Bettye Jane Brokl, a statuesque woman dressed in black, smiles as she points to the grayish powder nestled between the broad strokes of azure blue and bright red.

And Brokl, whose home is in a state where death is viewed in religious terms and traditional burials rule, admits her cutting-edge memorials aren't for everyone.

"It's not for people who do not believe in cremation. It takes someone that likes unique things and

maybe is into the arts. It's done with dignity and taste. The mourning process is not disturbed here," said Brokl, who has patented her process of sealing ashes under glass.

It is an alternative to the urn, she said.

About six tablespoons of ash are sprinkled on the artwork and the abstract is then placed in ornate frames.

Brokl, who only months ago began selling the paintings outside of Mississippi, said she's currently relying on funeral homes to pitch the memorials to mourners. To date, 50 of Brokl's nearly 100 memorials have been sold.

It all began after Brokl's mother died in 1996.

"She had donated her body to

science, and for two years I went without closure," Brokl said. "So when I got the ashes back, I kept a cupful and buried the rest in Kentucky. I did some abstracts and incorporated my mother's ashes and gave it to family members."

"It feels good to have her here, and I take her everywhere I go," said Brokl, a former financial planner who is a self-taught artist.

One of Brokl's friends, Danny Coates of Diamondhead, encouraged her to start marketing the creations.

"It was done so well and in such a dignified manner, I thought families wouldn't have a problem with it," Coates said. "However, I told her that where she was at there was no market for this."



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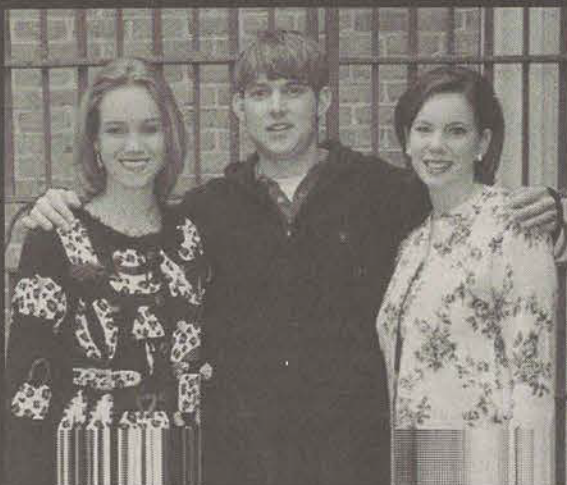
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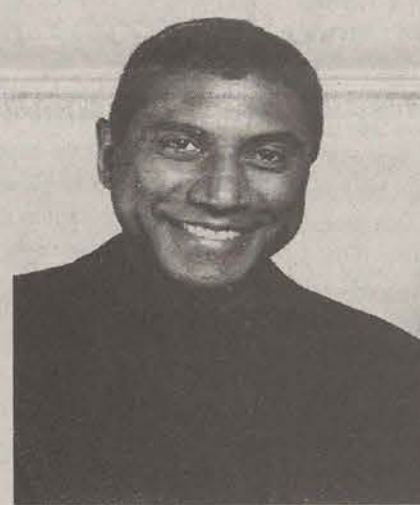
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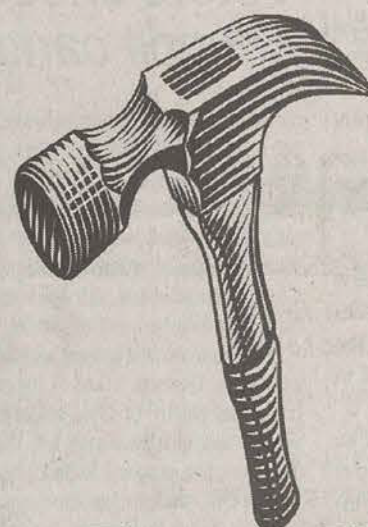
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Baseball coach needs to clarify his situation

Two weeks ago, two reporters from the G-A asked head baseball coach Rodney Hennon if it was true that a player and a coach left the team as a result of the hazing incident. He told those reporters "they left for unrelated reasons."

Now that those two individuals have come forward, coach

Our Opinion

Hennon said that he told the paper that "they left for unrelated reasons" because he did not want to make it seem that Jimmy Alexander and Danny Washburn were involved in the hazing incident.

While this is honorable and Alexander and Washburn probably appreciate not being associated with nude freshmen base-

ball, it would seem that Hennon would have been extra careful when talking to the press.

But Hennon has repeatedly said he didn't want to answer any more questions about the incident. And this has hurt him. If he had originally allowed the paper to ask him questions, then the misunderstanding would not have occurred.

Because he has avoided full disclosure of his investigation into the team's hazing, he now seems untrustworthy.

He is a first year coach facing a very tough situation both on and off the field; none of this can be easy on him.

Coach Hennon just needs to answer all the questions posed to him and that would take some of the heat off. If he did the right thing for GSU baseball and the university in general, why not talk about how he came to his decision?

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Do you know what today is?

Just the other night I was sitting in my bedroom watching television when a commercial came on announcing that February was National Dinette Month. The well-dressed man then proceeded to offer me hundreds of dollars in discounts to honor this great month. I sat watching in awe.

I thought it was Black History Month. But then the next day as I was looking online for an email greeting card for a friend, I noticed that February is also Weddings Month, Snack Food Month, Potato Lover's Month and American Heart Month.

Hmmmm...that's a lot to remember.

Then things got really complicated. After the listing of monthly holidays came week-long holidays. Did you all know that this week is Flirting Week and Celebration of Love Week? All you engineer majors out there will be glad to know that next week is Engineers week. Maybe you can get out of doing your assignments — use your new-found power wisely, my friends! But don't get too arrogant because it's also Friendship Week and Love Your Pet Week.

Go figure.

Then the kicker came. The list of daily holidays was exceedingly long. I actually laughed out loud when I found out that I should be sending friends a card announcing Feb. 21 as Mean Mommy Day and Feb. 25 as Don't Utter a Word Day. Come on people! What is the point in this?

I think I know the answer. Friends, we are being taken as fools. If they can sell you on a holiday, these companies will do it. The more holidays there are, the more money they will bring in. Makes sense, doesn't it?

Granted, not all of these companies charge for these services, but they are making loads of cash off of their advertisers. Stores are naming holidays left and right to offer you discounts. How nice of them, but shouldn't they offer discounts regardless of holidays?

At any rate, these phony holidays are a marketing ploy. But they do intrigue many of us. So, I kept looking.

As I scrolled down the page I got more and more curious. Actually, I was looking for a good laugh. So as an advance on Make You Happy Day, which is on Mar. 4, I will hopefully give you all a good laugh with some "holidays" you may want to remember.

Here we go: Jan. 18 is Dieting Sucks Day (like we didn't already know that), Mar. 9 is Panic Day (are you supposed to panic on this day? I thought doctors advised against panic attacks), Sept. 19 is Student Day (can we get that day off?), and Nov. 30 is Stay Home Because You're Well Day (OK, I can do that, too).

Oh and today is Heart 2 Heart Day, just in case you needed a reason to have a heart to heart conversation with someone. Have at it!



STACEY
WYSONG

John's first column: a look into the mind of a stressed-out student

Well, here it is. My first column as the news editor here at the *George-Anne*. I sit here clueless, unable to think of one thing to write about. This



JOHN BRYSON

I could write about the Presidential campaign. I mean, all the world needs is another column from someone professing to know something that others don't about the world of politics that tells you who you should vote for. (By the way, I support George W. Bush)

I've seen all the CNN, Foxnews, MSNBC and network news shows about this candidate and that candidate and ultimately none of it changes my mind one bit. I'll be Republican until the day I die.

Then again, I could write about the removal of fall break from next year's schedule. What a horrible decision.

The fall break was a huge success the past two years and has allowed me, personally, to not only catch up on my school work but to decompress after my professors have run my brain ragged after about six or seven weeks of non-stop teaching. It seems like if the majority of professors and students are for this program, the administrators would honor our wishes.

Another thought which came to mind is the recent rapes here on campus. What kind of place do we live? This is a community that touts itself on being one of the safest in the country for college students to attend. Yet, in one day, the community was turned upside down by not one, but two, rapes.

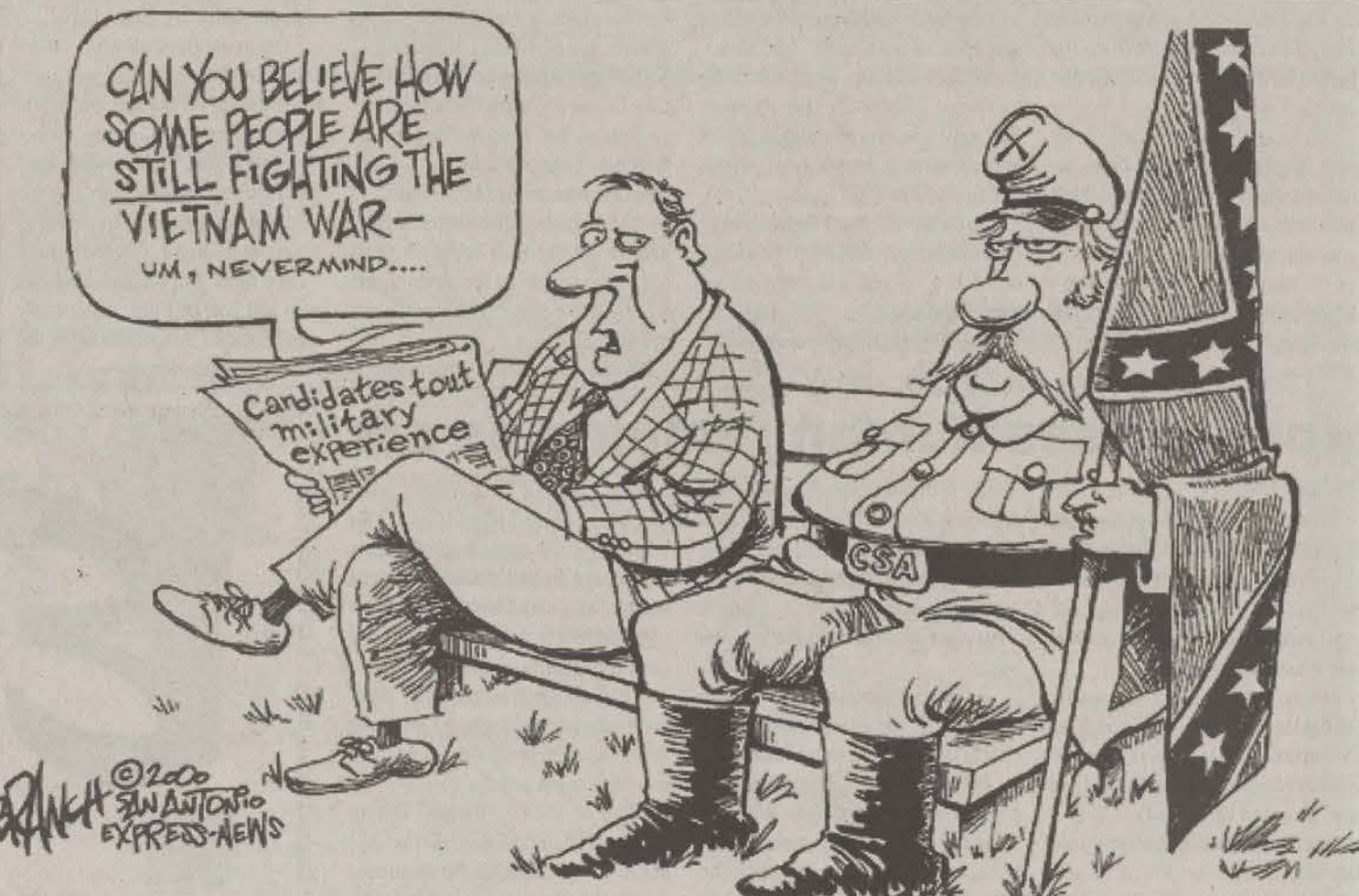
One of the rapes was even perpetrated by a local citizen! The other was here on the campus in the Foy Building while others were present! I don't know about you, but I'm outraged. While one arrest has been made in the community, the GSU police seem to be dragging along without any progress in the Foy case. I hope they get on the ball!

Here's to Blind Willie's. I'm so glad they are open again. I remembered all the old Monday nights of \$1 cover and free pool.

I truthfully didn't think it would be the same when I returned, figuring they would opt for a different atmosphere. I was, of course, happily surprised to arrive last Monday and hear some Rage Against the Machine playing on the sound system.

Also, congratulations are in order as Rick and Jennifer, the new owners of Blind Willie's, were engaged this past Monday night on the stage. I wish them the best of luck in life together.

So there it is, the ramblings of an unqualified authority in each of those subjects. My future columns promise to be better representations of my opinion, but today it just felt good to sit down in front of the computer and type the first thing that came into my head. Call it stress relief.



Former baseball player explains why he left team

To Whom it May Concern:

In the recent weeks, a controversy has exploded concerning the baseball program and the dismissal of four players from the team for hazing. In light of the accusations and subsequent denials that have followed since the story surfaced, I have chosen to come forward to confirm the allegations and explain the true reasons that I, as well as a member of the coaching staff, made a decision to leave the team.

The incident involving the initiation of freshman baseball players did occur in the fall of 1999, just as it has occurred in the past. I was a member of the 1998 team that was reprimanded for similar offenses.

Since I was not present at the incident in 1999, I cannot comment directly on the events that took place that night.

But, I can offer my disgust with the action that was taken and the manner in which four people (Jody Pollock, Rhett Roberts, Scott Burks, and Ryan Peterson) were treated. Athletics aside, these are some of the most loyal people I have ever known. They have devoted most of their college life to this athletic program and how are they repayed?

They are told to clean out their lockers in front of their teammates and dismissed with no due process, no accusers brought out into the open, and not one shred of proof that they were the so called "ring leaders." If these are the guilty ones, then why are 12 other players being suspended.

How can an entire team admit to being directly involved and yet only four of those players are disciplined so severely that their lives are completely altered while the others are handed a four game suspension that can be served whenever a player is not going to be in the starting lineup

anyway?

It is clear in my eyes that these young men are scapegoats in a situation where a decision maker was scared and unwilling to take responsibility for his own part in the incident. I dare say that when a person tells a college newspaper that he has no problem with shaving heads of players, which is defined as hazing, he is sending a mixed message.

When a person in a position of power sees freshman come into the weight room wearing pantyhose and make-up, then makes a joke in front of the team about their attire, this can hardly be seen as the stern warning against hazing that had supposedly been given by him.

I attended the meeting where the leader of the baseball program relayed his experiences with initiation at his former school and explained that he knew what was going to happen.

His only request was to leave alcohol out of the equation because that is when people get hurt and in trouble. Well, it certainly seems that the baseball program is in a bit of trouble. It is a travesty that Jody, Rhett, Scott, and Ryan were sacrificed by the people they trusted.

In regards to my departure, and that of coach Danny Washburn, we did not leave the team for unrelated reasons, as was stated in the *George-Anne* by the current coach. Dan and I have been in the baseball program since 1995. We have bled and sweated on Eagle field for so many hours that it is hard to comprehend anymore. Danny Washburn had battled through two major reconstructive arm surgeries and both times he struggled to come back. He has pitched when the pain in his arm was so great that he literally fought back tears between innings.

When he could physically no longer pitch, his

love for the program brought him back in the role of unpaid coach. No longer playing, he stayed for free. Everyone associated with the program knows that Danny Washburn left because of how this situation has been handled. As for my situation, I came into this program and was taken under the wing of very special people.

People like Tommy Peterman, Mark Hamlin, Sy Jones, Clint Sauls, Michael Holder, and Steve Wilson showed me what it took to be an Eagle. These guys were an integral part of my development as player and a person.

When Jody, Ryan, Rhett, and Scott came to Georgia Southern, I tried to help them along the way just as I was helped. In doing so, they have become like brothers to me. So, when they were dismissed I attempted to voice my opinion, and that of most of my teammates, that the punishment was unfair. I was promptly told by the coach that this team was now a dictatorship and if I don't like what was happening, I could leave. I did leave, and four years of work and my senior year were gone.

This program deserves better than its current fate. Georgia Southern Baseball has been one of the most respected and stable programs in the country for three decades. Men who played for Jack Stallings twenty years ago bring their children to meet him because they are proud to have played for one of the game's best teachers and gentlemen.

There is a reason former players like Marty Pevey and Mark Stucher still come around the field. There is a family and being loyal is everything. The current direction of the program is posing a severe threat to that legacy and unfortunately those that care about that legacy so much may have seen the last of it.

Jimmy Alexander
Georgia Southern Baseball 1995-1999

Your Opinion

Voters should decide if city council candidates are mature

Editor:

At the age of 18, one can go to war. Once one reaches 21, alcoholic beverages can be purchased. However, to qualify as a candidate for the Statesboro City Council, one must be 25 years old. Our city council recently proposed to amend the Statesboro City Charter to impose this age restriction on the eligibility to serve on the council.

The motive of the council is clear when examining Districts 3 and 4, which are comprised chiefly of GSU students. The average age of a student is less than 25. Therefore, this proposal excludes not only most of GSU students, but also the majority of those living in Districts 3 and 4. To exclude this large portion of the population is unjust and undemocratic. In justifying their actions, the City Council expressed that for the "overall betterment" of Statesboro, they wanted to ensure that more

mature candidates hold elected positions. Does this imply that the behavior of these older, present and past, councilmen has always been mature? The facts undermine such a lofty assumption. The antics of our more "mature" elected brethren at the local, state, and federal levels might just suggest that the maturation of a person does not necessarily improve with age.

The council has seemingly forgotten that the election of candidates is the responsibility of the voting public. Voters of Statesboro, not councilmen, decide which candidate has reached a level of maturation acceptable for election. Is it the fear of the voting strength of the GSU students, not the lack of maturation that has motivated this council?

Julie Jones
GSU student

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Simpson leads GSU past Cougars

• Sophomore paces team with 17 points and 3 steals

G-A News Services

CHARLESTON*—The GSU Lady Eagles overcame a sluggish start to defeat the College of Charleston 73-66 in a game played at Kresse Arena.

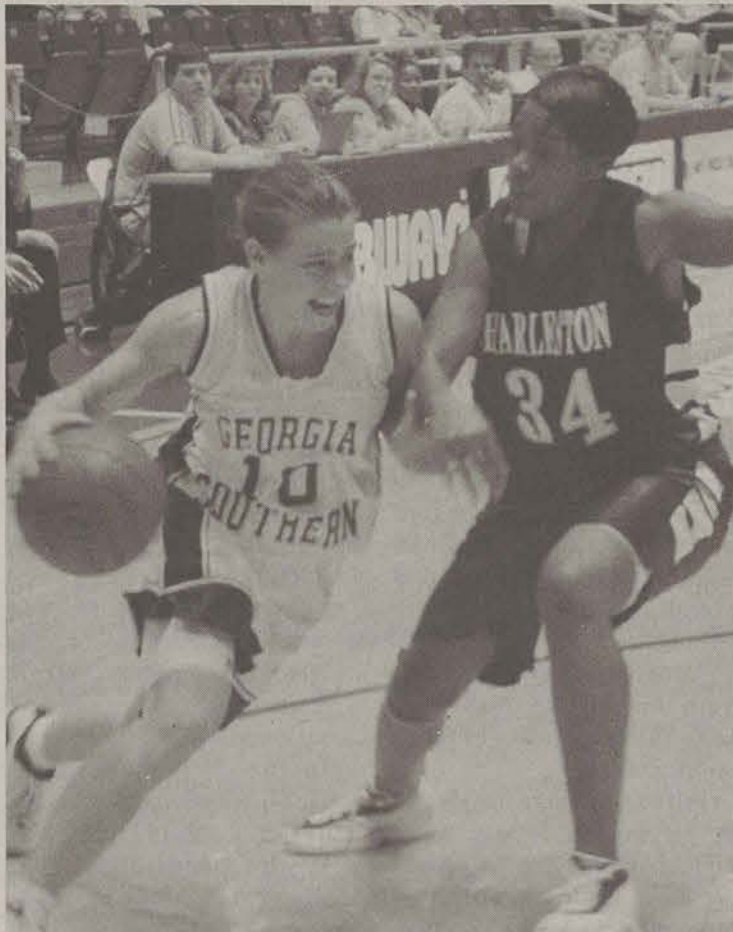
The Lady Eagles placed three players in double figures led by Danna Simpson with 17. Meanwhile, both Tiffany Lanier and Mimi Lindsey set new career highs scoring 14 and 11, respectively.

Lindsey also set a new career high and earned the first double-double of her career by pulling down 13 rebounds.

GSU (9-15, 8-7) seemed unable to get on track during the first half despite gaining the lead for good at the 16:30 mark. The Lady Eagles built their lead to as much as 10 points, at 23-13, and appeared to be putting the game out of reach as its tenacious defense, which forced 31 Cougar turnovers in the game, took advantage of the Cougars ball handling mistakes.

Unfortunately for GSU, its own turnovers and missed scoring opportunities soon allowed the Cougars to cut the lead back to single digits. A Wilma Simpson three with seven seconds remaining in the half sent GSU to the locker room with a 32-31 halftime lead.

Charleston (4-19, 1-14), who only had six players dress for the game, appeared to run out of energy in the early parts of the sec-



File Photo

DRIVING TO THE HOLE: Seen here at the last home game against C of C, Danna Simpson again led the Lady Eagles with 17 points. The Lady Cougars only had six players dress.

ond half as GSU used a full-court press defense to once again open its lead up to double digits. However, the Cougars came storming back in the final minutes, cutting the GSU lead to three points with 28 seconds remaining.

The Eagles sealed the victory by hitting four free throws and a timely steal in the closing seconds.

The Lady Eagles return to action this Saturday as it hosts Western Carolina. The game, which is sched-

uled to begin at 7:00 p.m., will be preceded by a recognition of the team's two seniors, who will be playing the last home game of their career.

Look for the Tondra Warren player profile in Friday's edition of The George-Anne.

Charleston clinches top seed in South Division with 83-67 pounding of GSU

G-A News Services

CHARLESTON—Jody Lumpkin and Jeff Bolton scored 22 points each as the College of Charleston had its highest scoring output of the season in an 83-67 win over GSU in men's Southern Conference college basketball action before 3,066 at the John Kresse Arena on Monday.

With the win the Cougars improve to 20-4 overall and 11-2 in league play, while the Eagles fall to 14-10 and 8-5.

Lumpkin scored 15 first half points as the Cougars shot 64.3 per-

cent (18-28) from the floor and took a 41-26 lead at intermission.

The Eagles opened the second half with a 17-11 run to cut the margin to 52-43 with 13:11 left in the game. The Cougars answered with a 16-2 run and grabbed its largest margin of the night of 23 points at 68-45 with 6:47 remaining.

The Eagles, who connected on 9-of-29 3-point attempts, were led by Demarlo Slocum who tallied 16 points, while teammates Hamp Jones and Julius Jenkins added 11 points each, respectively. Jones had a game-high 11 rebounds as the Eagles owned

a 35-33 rebounding edge for the game.

The Cougars shot a season-high 57.7 percent from the floor (30-52). Lumpkin added a game-high 8 grabs.

Charleston has secured the league's South Division top seed with their fourth straight win and has earned a bye into the quarterfinals of the SoCon tournament set for March 2-5 at the BI-LO Center in Greenville, S.C.

The GSU men's basketball squad travels to Furman for their next contest. Game time Saturday is set for a 7:30 p.m. start.

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Schenkel E-Z-Go Invitational field unveiled

•Defending NCAA champs Georgia, Northwestern's Luke Donald to compete for titles

G-A News Services

STATESBORO-The field for the 2000 Schenkel E-Z-Go Invitational, to be held Sat.-Sun., March 25-26, 2000, was announced Tuesday morning at a press conference at Forest Heights

uled to compete as well.

The Schenkel was played in Statesboro from 1971 to 1989. Wake Forest dominated the tournament in the 1970s, taking four team titles before Oklahoma State came on the scene.

The Cowboys made their first ap-

pearance in 1980 and earned five straight championships. Florida cap-

tured a pair of titles in a three-year span, while Clemson, Florida State and LSU have also earned top honors in the tournament's history.

Individual medalists have included Curtis Strange, Hal Sutton, Robert Wrenn, Gary Hallberg, and last year's champion, Steve Scott of Florida. Jerry Pate, Mark Calcavecchia, Chip Beck, Bob Tway, Andy Bean and Scott Hoch are among the more than 20 well-known golfers to have participated in the tournament during their collegiate careers.

2000 SCHENKEL E-Z-GO INVITATIONAL PARTICIPATING TEAMS:
Augusta State, Clemson, Duke, East Tennessee State, Florida, Georgia, Georgia Southern, Houston, North Carolina, North Carolina State, Northwestern, Ohio State, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas Christian



Track and Field

By Nicole Smith
Staff Writer

The Lady Eagle track team breezed through the jumping events this past Saturday at the Clemson Invitation in South Carolina, making several personal bests and school records. "It was a very good night for us," said women's head coach Todd Lane. "We improved in the high jump, long jump and the triple jump."

Sophomore Whitney Nelson started the night off jumping 5'6" in the high jump setting a new school record for the event. Freshman Jaqueline Allen placed second overall in the long jump with 18' 1/4".

"Jackie had two jumps that were fouls by the thinnest of hairs, that were out at 19 feet," said Lane.

But adding to the long jump, by placing third, was Kelia Thomas with 17' 8". Finishing close behind in fifth was Monica Lockett, who set a personal best for this season at 17' 5 3/4".

"It was a good experience," said Lockett. "I just have to get used to competing collegiately. It's a big difference [competing] between high school and college."

Also, freshman Heidi Gholston competed for the Lady Eagles in the pole vault and vaulted at a height of 8' 0".

Sunday began with the running events and it got a little tougher for GSU.

"That was a tough day out there !," Lane, who saw his team lose some momentum that the squad built from Saturday, said.

Despite all of this, GSU did

In other sports . . .

Tennis

G-A News Services

MACON, Ga. — The GSU men's and women's tennis teams will travel to Macon on Wednesday for a matchup with in-state rival Mercer beginning at 2 p.m..

The GSU men are 1-5 this year while the Eagle women fell to Florida State in their only contest this season. The Bears' teams will enter the match with identical 3-1 records.

After nearly three weeks since their last match, the GSU women will be joined by three new faces for their trip up I-16, including former GSU basketball standout Rosie Arnold. Arnold, from High Point, N.C., was a four-year starter on the hardwood for the Eagles, scoring 853 points in her career and dishing out nearly 400 assists.

As a player at Southwest Guilford high school, Arnold co-captained her tennis team to the North Carolina dual-team state runner-up. Also joining the Lady Eagles are freshman players Robyn Adams, from Marietta, Ga. (Marietta HS), and Haley Barnard from Moultrie, Ga. (Colquitt County HS).

On the men's side, GSU will look for continued stellar play on Wednesday from senior Jesper Andersson. Playing in the number six singles slot and the third doubles position, Andersson has raced out to a 9-3 overall record this year. Andersson is 5-1 in singles this year and has teamed up with Wojciech Nowak to go 4-2 in doubles play. The Eagles are hoping to rebound from a tough weekend in which they dropped 5-2 decisions to both Florida Atlantic and South Florida.

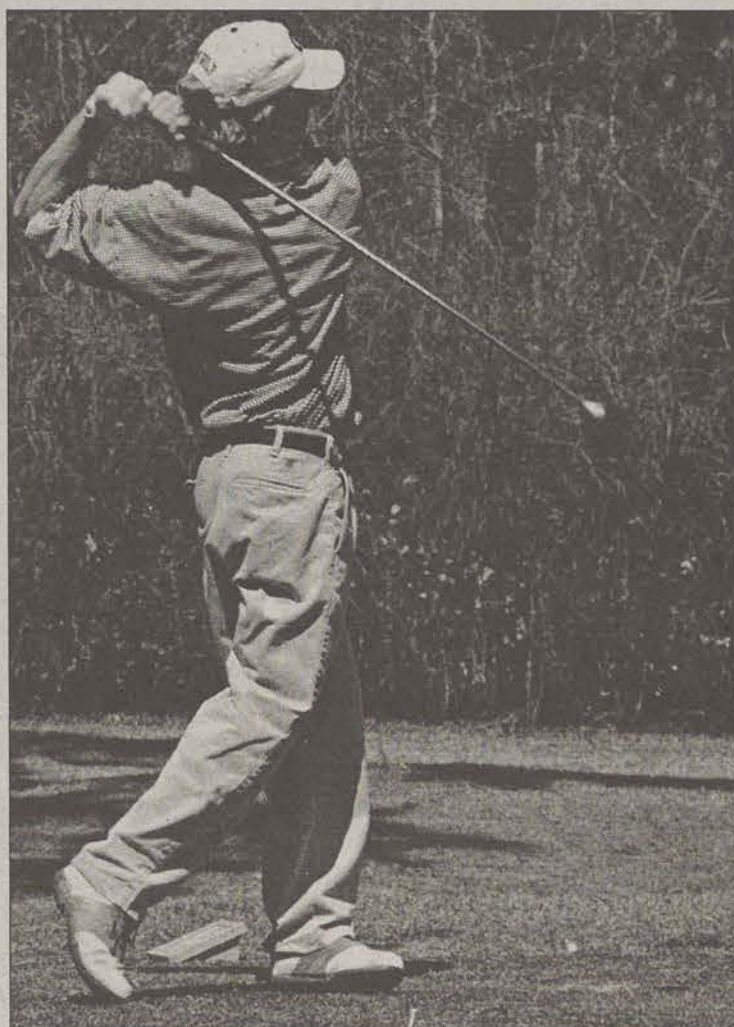
More Tennis

G-A News Services

TAMPA, Fla.- The GSU (1-5) men's tennis team dropped a pair of 5-2 decisions on Saturday, losing to Florida Atlantic in the morning and then falling to South Florida in the afternoon match.

In the opening match, doubles wins by the pair of Kendall Swartz and Ryan O'Keefe, and also the team of Wojciech Nowak and Jesper Andersson gave the Eagles the doubles point. However, only senior Jesper Andersson was able to claim victory in singles, enabling FAU to take the match.

In the second match, USF swept the doubles matches to earn the point and came out four for six in singles to capture the win. For GSU, Andersson won his second singles match of the day at number six with a win over Evan Pinther 7-5, 6-1 and junior Florian Sheidat won 5-7, 6-2, 7-6 at number four singles against Aleks Popovic.



File photo

TEE TIME: The Schenkel E-Z-Go Invitational will be held March 25-26

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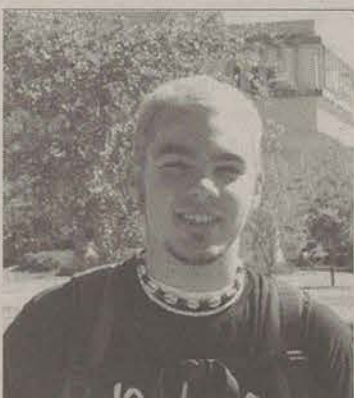
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GSU students were asked: Where are you planning on living next year?



"I plan on living in an apartment because I'm on the SOAR team and we have to live off campus."

Brendon Harvey

freshman, education social science major

Photos by John Bryson



"Off campus. I live in an apartment now and I like it. There is more freedom."

Dwight Johnson

sophomore, mechanical engineering major



"Off campus. I have experienced dorm life and it didn't prove to be beneficial to my social life."

Latoya Oglesby

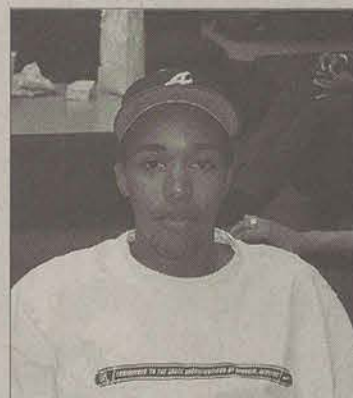
freshman, public relations major



"In Towne Club. I live there now and I enjoy it."

Lem Moore

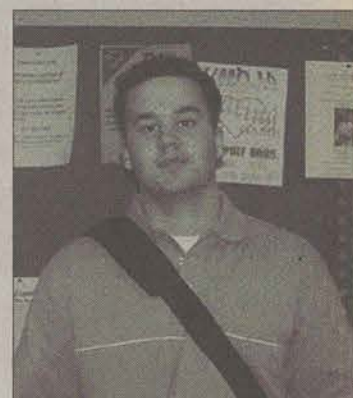
senior, broadcasting major



"A single bedroom apartment. I need to learn to be independent."

Leron Boone

print management major



"Off campus. I like it better."

Joey Boykin

sophomore, information systems major

BREAKDOWN

By Michael Russo
Staff Writer

Three years ago, wrestling made a transition which resulted in a tremendous amount of media attention. For the most part, that attention was negative. Critics argued that wrestling was degrading women and was becoming increasingly more violent.

Now that this transition has become the norm for the Sports Entertainment industry, the media, for the most part, has broken away from covering America's latest craze. However, I have come to realize that there are a lot of people out there who still continue to turn up there nose at individuals who watch wrestling. I must admit that I thought those days were long over for the very reason I stated above, but unfortunately, this is not the case.

Wrestling enthusiasts have already heard the argument that wrestling is no different than any other popular form of entertainment. So for those of you out there who have heard this, I apologize, but I feel I need to go over this yet again to prove to the naysayers out there that they are no different nor are they better people for not watching wrestling.

Before I dwell deeper into this subject, I want to point out that I respect other people's opinions. This weeks commentary is not trying to push wrestling onto those who don't watch. Rather, its purpose is to better explain that wrestling is just another form of entertainment.

Let's first tackle the idea that it is sick and sadistic to be entertained by watching athletes competing in a ring and physically attacking one another with a variety of wrestling maneuvers as well as using chairs and tables, and other foreign objects.

Now before you nod your head and agree to that statement, tell me how this is any different then sitting at home or in a theater and watching someone getting shot in the head or being stabbed repeatedly like often seen in popular movies or prime-time soap

operas. It's not. Wrestling fans know that when they turn on a wrestling program, they're going to see physical confrontations that are, for the most part, harmless for a trained athlete. This is the same for all those who buy a ticket to see "Scream 3." Horror movie fans know that when they purchase a ticket, they are going to not only laugh at some of the young humor contained in the movie, but they are also going to cringe when a girl gets cut like a fish. No matter which one of these genres entertain you, the underlying reason is the same, you're watching for entertainment.

I realize that not everyone likes horror movies, but I used horror movies to point out that wrestling is a lot like other forms of entertainment. With that being the case, I can promise you that no matter what form of entertainment you watch, I can almost guarantee you that it contains violence in some sort of fashion whether it is intentional or unintentional. Of course there

are exceptions to some programs, but they are more than made up for in other popular genres that do contain violence that I'm sure many of you naysayers watch.

The other complaint that critics like to argue about is the idea that wrestling exploits women. I would be a liar if disagreed with that statement, but guess what? As sad as it is, just about every form of entertainment exploits women. Everything from movies, to pageants, to jokes made on sitcoms.

Before I end this column, I would like to make another point concerning wrestling and today's culture. I am not saying that just because other forms of entertainment contain violence and exploit women that it's all right, and that it excuses wrestling for doing the same.

My point is that if you watch sitcoms, movies, soap operas, or even cartoons, don't bash wrestling. Not only do you show your ignorance, but your being extremely hypocritical.

That's all for now. In the meantime, keep watching!

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Lured by the adrenaline-charged, hyper-aggressive atmosphere and tempted by the tremendous opportunities of wealth and security, 19 year-old college drop out Seth Davis (Giovanni Ribisi) enters the secret realm of

J.T. Marlin-a fly-by-night brokerage otherwise known as Boiler Room.

Donning a suit and a tie, the ambitious, street-smart Davis exposes himself to the ethically vacant sanctum of cold calls and fast cars to accomplish his dreams

of earning a million dollars and his father's (Ron Rifkin) respect.

Testing his moral limits, Seth dedicates himself to working extreme hours, selling stocks to unsuspecting, vulnerable investors while indulging in the breakneck lifestyle influenced by his newfound profession and friends: including Chris (Vin Diesel), a millionaire broker whose mouth is as fast as his money, Greg (Nicky Katt), Seth's arrogant and envious mentor, and Abby (Nia Long), the firm's receptionist who understands the true Seth Davis.

Inevitably, Seth's insatiable appetite for wealth and power begins to struggle with his former self, causing an inner-conflict that leads to a series of fatal choices and a Federal investigation. The heat begins to rise in the Boiler Room as Seth's world is consumed by flames.

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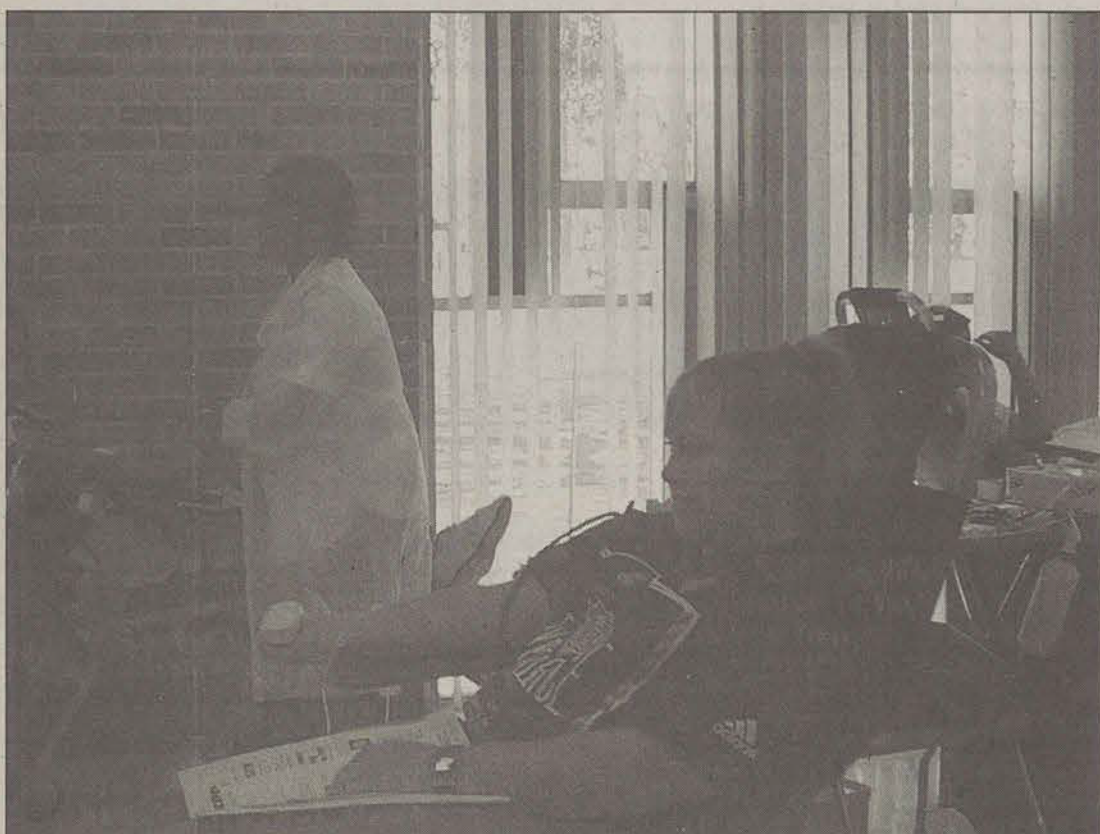
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American Red Cross holds blood drive Zeb Baker unique asset to GSU



Justin Johnson
Christy Knorr, pictured above, is one of the many individuals who donated blood yesterday during the American Red Cross blood drive held in the Williams Center. The blood is used to help people needing surgery, for treatment of cancer, leukemia, or blood disorders, as well as people with emergencies.

By Dana K. MacKay
Staff Writer
There aren't many people that can be defined as unique as Zeb Baker.
"I think that I've learned that you can make your experience at GSU what you want to make of it," Baker said.

And what an experience he has had. He has been the public announcer for men and women's basketball for four seasons now, and has also done the internal public address announcements for media coverage of the football games for three seasons. Zeb may account for his appreciation of sports from his father, Sam Baker, director of athletics, here at GSU. Zeb believes that he gives his father some insight on how a decision might affect the students. He sees Sam Baker not just as his father that he has grown up admiring, but he is also able to see his father as an adult.

To Zeb, knowing your parents as adults is an important part of making the transition from a teen to an adult himself. His family is very important to him. Zeb and his family moved a great deal through his childhood and adolescent years, before settling down in Statesboro. "When you move six times, family is all you've got,"

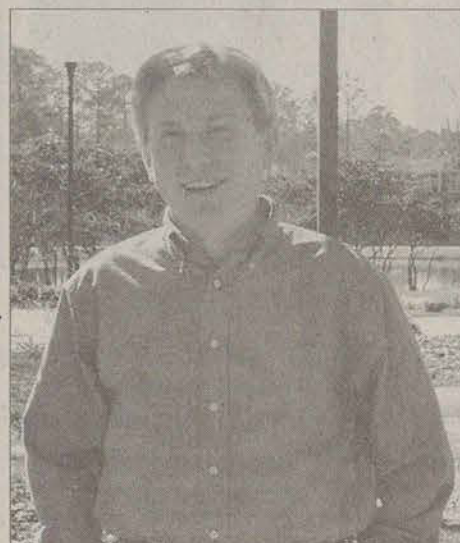
Baker said. He also said that spending time with his youngest sister reminds him to take things lightheartedly and to not be so serious about everything which may be hard to do considering all that Baker has accomplished.

For his high school graduation present, an aunt gave him a lifetime membership to the Thomas Wolfe Society, a group of writers, journalists and scholars. He has been told that he is the youngest member involved, the closest to his age being 32. He gave a speech at the Society's meeting in New York City, and also gave opening remarks at the Thomas Wolfe Festival held in Nashville this past October. And as if that wasn't enough, Baker won the Fielding Russell Scholarship in English this past year.

"It was an honor to win an award with his name on it," Baker said.

For his future plans, Baker intends on becoming a professor in American Studies, going to the University of Virginia for his masters, and the College of William and Mary for his doctorate.

"I know where I'm going," Baker said. "I believe that if you are willing to make the commitment to GSU, then they are equipped with the faculty and the services here to provide you with a quality education," he said. "I will graduate with pride and excitement to have been an Eagle."



LaVene Bell

Zeb Baker

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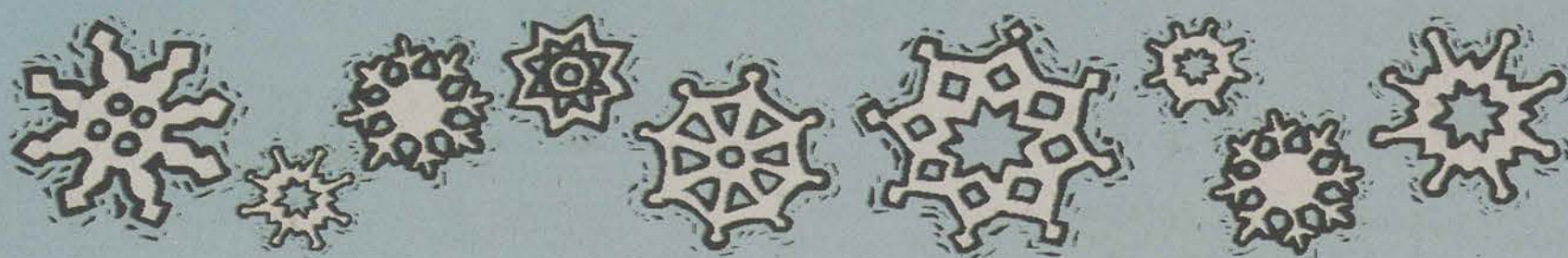
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