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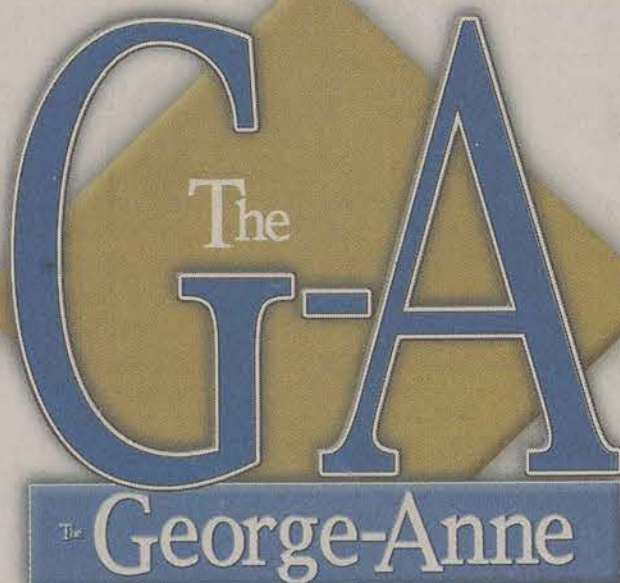
SPORTS

Littlejohn named pitcher of week



This is the third time in her career that she has garnered this honor

Page 6



LIFE Roberts plays real person in 'Erin Brockovich'

The story tells of a woman who, without legal training, signed up 600 plaintiffs in a class-action lawsuit.



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Vol. 72 No. 72

Wednesday, April 5, 2000

Rushing alleges "unethical and illegal methods" employed by Estrada campaign

By John Bryson
News Editor

Former SGA presidential candidate Zach Rushing has filed a formal contest of the election held last week on the grounds that the Estrada ticket "used unethical and illegal methods to promote its candidates."

Rushing's allegations do not cite specific violations of the elections guidelines or SGA constitution, nor do those two documents contain any provisions that appear to have been explicitly violated.

The elections regulations state that the grounds for contesting elections results are: irregularities by the election committee or anyone involved in the elections procedures, violations of campaign rules by a candidate, and other instances seen as irregular and/or disruptive by the elections committee.

Rushing is alleging that the Estrada ticket used SGA funds to purchase soft drinks and a fountain machine from Coke, deliberately underpublicized the SGA election for the purpose of stifling challengers, and that Estrada herself did not resign from chairing the elections committee until March 2 in order to provide her "an edge over the rest of the campaign pack."

"I don't think of Joyce or any of her people as dishonest," Rushing said. "But if mistakes were made, they need to be addressed."

In regards to the Coke allegations, Myron Jones, Estrada's campaign manager and SGA public relations director, said that the Coke products were purchased with Estrada campaign funds and that he has the receipts to prove it.

"[The Coke representative]



JOYCE ESTRADA



ZACH RUSHING

was paid \$40.00 from the Estrada campaign," Jones said. "When I spoke with him, I told him who I was and that I was with the Estrada ticket."

Jones further said that he paid the Coke representative on the same day that the campaign was giving away the Coke under the rotunda.

Rushing made the further allegation that Myron Jones, in his role as public relations director, deliberately underpublicized the elections in order to stifle Estrada's competition, rehashing a charge made last week by Rushing and some SGA senators.

"He wasn't acting in his full capacity as public relations director," Rushing said. "And if that's the case, then we have 5.3% of the campus voting in an election where voter turnout could have been higher."

Jones flatly denies the charge and insists he was not responsible for publicizing any portion of the elections.

"It is not my job to publicize the election," Jones said. "The SGA constitution states that the election is to be publicized by the election

committee and that's how it was handled. I only had token involvement where I was asked to contribute."

As to the charge against Estrada, Rushing stated that she had already formed a ticket in January, yet she continued as elections committee chair in order to influence who her opponents would be.

"If you know you are going to run in January and you are the elections chair, you could have used that position to control who your opponents are and aren't," Rushing said. "If she knew she was going to run prior to March 2, she should have given it up."

March 2 is the date listed in the Rushing letter as the date that Estrada resigned as elections chair in order to pursue the SGA presidency.

Estrada says Rushing should have brought that forward prior to the elections if he thought it would be a problem and this is simply an excuse to force another election.

"He could have brought that up before the elections," Estrada said. "I feel like this is an excuse to try and hold the elections over because

he lost. If that's the case, I beat him twice (for executive VP in '99 and president in 2000) and if he wants to run again, I'll beat him three times."

Rushing said he wants to see the judicial board review case so that a decision can be made one way or another.

"I believe the easiest remedy is for the judicial board to review the facts and make a decision one way or another," Rushing said. "If the accusations are proven, then another election should be held."

Estrada said she is shocked by the nature and substance of the charges.

"I'm shocked that Zach has brought forward these allegations," Estrada said. "Fortunately everything can be traced back to paper."

She further reiterated that Rushing's actions are only detrimental to the GSU campus.

"The students are sick of this," Estrada said. "They are tired of Zach's attacks. We should be unifying instead of fighting."

Wild Wing hopes to reopen by this weekend

From Staff Reports

Wild Wing Cafe, which was closed on Thursday for owing \$94,237 in sales taxes, interest, penalties and collection fees, hopes to clear up its debt and reopen by the end of the week.

According to published reports, state revenue agent Nathan Bolin said the business has 30 days to clear up its debt or face a public auction of its assets.

Diane Crowley, primary owner of Wild Wing, blamed the closing on poor sales and said that the business' failure to pay the taxes was a direct

result.

Wild Wing has not paid its state sales tax, local tax, or county option

WILD WING BLAMED THE CLOSING ON POOR SALES AND SAID THE BUSINESS' FAILURE TO PAY THE TAXES WAS A DIRECT RESULT.

tax for the period beginning April 1, 1998 and ending on October 31, 1999.

Crowley cited the fact that Wild

Wing is located close to campus, which makes it difficult for them to attract adult customers. This affected

According to published reports, Wild Wing hopes to be reopened by this weekend, which hinges on the results of a meeting held with revenue officials yesterday. Crowley further said that Wild Wing has no plans to pay the overdue lien, but rather to file for reorganizational bankruptcy.

Wild Wing may reopen, but it is not certain whether or not the business will stay that way for long, with Crowley suggesting that the business will have to reinvent itself or search for suitors who will take over the lease.

Satirist Michael Moore to appear at GSU Thursday



File Photo

MICHAEL MOORE: Will bring his political wit and humor to GSU on Thursday.

G-A News Service

Called "the great TV satirist of the 1990's," Michael Moore has emerged as one of America's freshest and funniest political voices. As host and executive producer of "TV Nation," he redefined the newsmagazine for a new generation while his hilarious film debut, "Roger and Me," introduced America to the real lives of post-industrial society. His first book, "Downsize This: Random Threats from an Unarmed America" became a national best seller.

Expanding on "TV Nation"

and "Roger and Me," Moore's most recent film is "The Big One." Hailed by "The New York Times" as "the rare mainstream American film about real issues," "The Big One" takes a humorous and often irreverent look inside the world of corporate America. In addition, he has recently published the book "Adventures in a TV Nation," an inside peek at the making of that acclaimed show.

On campus, Moore has also proven himself one of the nation's most popular speakers, playing to sell-out crowds at colleges and universities across the country.

Bringing his audacious and original perspective to the campus stage he delivers a turbo-charged evening of independent politics, dead-on commentary and riotous insight.

Tickets are on sale here at GSU for only \$3. This event is planned to be filmed for later production and televising by the production agency representing Michael Moore. Bringing national exposure to the campus, Moore is giving students the opportunity to participate in the event so don't miss your chance to be recorded and maybe make it on TV.

Students change routine with alternative spring break

TMS Campus

BOSTON, Mass. - While droves of college students headed out for a week of sunny surf, a group from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology embarked on a different kind of spring break.

Make that Alternative Spring Break, a national, not-for-profit organization with student-run affiliates on campuses across the country. The group coordinates week-long trips that give students a chance to perform community service. A real drag? No, many ASB participants say — and they can point to growth in the program to back themselves up. MIT, for example, kicked off its program in 1996 with 20 volunteers. This year, more than 160 students applied for 75 spots offering trips to nine different destinations across the U.S. This year's trips included teaching children in Pennsylvania about the environment and volunteering at two New York City clinics housing AIDS patients who can't afford adequate healthcare.

Funding for ASB typically comes from a campus' student government, fundraisers and generous donations from faculty and local businesses. The goal is for ASB to subsidize 60-75 percent of the cost of a trip, excluding meals. At MIT, students staying in the U.S. paid a \$40 fee, while those who went to teach in Puerto Rico paid \$200. The money covered transportation and lodging — which usually amounted to a spot on a gym floor or a bed at the local YMCA.

Some colleges and universities allow students to pick up class credit for participating in ASB — an arrangement that typically requires students to write essays, read articles pertinent to what they'll be doing and maintain a travel diary.

Yi Xie, an MIT sophomore, was among this year's ASBers. She traveled 18 hours in a 15-passenger van to build houses with Habitat for Humanity volunteers in Charleston, S.C.

Xie, along with students from other campuses, slept at the local YMCA and traveled to a public pool every morning so she could shower.

"We noticed a huge economic gap between classes in Charleston right away," Xie said. "During the day we'd work on houses that were falling apart in an area that was very tough, and just 15 minutes away is a neighborhood of manicured lawns and expensive houses." At one site, the group helped demolish a house, instead of rebuilding it.

When she wasn't wielding a hammer, Xie was in a classroom helping academically challenged junior high school students — many of whom were on medication for attention deficit and hyperactivity disorders, depression and an array of emotional problems.

"After we got used to the setting, it was really incredible working with them," Xie said. "They did listen to what you had to say, they followed directions, and they produced something that you taught them."

While the day's activities were often strenuous, Xie and her group spent the evenings relaxing and making new friends. Her group even had an ice cream party that was BYOT - Bring Your Own Topping, smashing all the stereotypes of students spending their spring break in a drunken haze.

"The neat thing is that we all went down there together and it was our spring break," Xie said. "I think we got more out of it than we put in. We worked hard every day at whatever task we were given, but we got so much more."

GSU leadership awards up for grabs

By John Bryson
News Editor

The Russell Union Leadership Development team has announced its application process for the third annual Student Leadership Awards and Recognition Night, a banquet where GSU's finest and brightest are recognized for their achievements throughout the year.

With the deadline looming on Friday, every student is encouraged to stop by the programs office of the Russell Union and see Sheri West to pick up a packet.

Awards up for grabs include the John F. Nolen Hall of Leaders Award for excel-

lence in service and leadership, Southern Talon Award, Student Organization of the Year and Advisor of the Year, among others.

The John F. Nolen award is perhaps the most prestigious, going to a select group of seniors who display outstanding involvement in campus life and extracurricular activities and who have exemplified a four year commitment to the positive enhancement of the GSU campus.

So make sure you stop by the Union today and gain recognition for your involvement in making GSU a place where leadership is valued and nurtured.

Caribbean in the Union



Lavene Bell

FUNKY SOUNDS: The Caribbean Sound Steel Band filled the Union with vibes full of soul that could make any man (or woman) happy to be alive.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Things To Do at GSU Ongoing

•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.

•The Christian Faculty/Staff meets every Monday at noon in the Russell Union Room 2044.

•The 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 12 to 1 p.m.

•GSU Chapter of Habitat for Humanity meets every Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. in the Russell Union Room 2044.

•The American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) meets the first and third Wednesday of every

month at 2 p.m. in the Technology Building Room 2116.

April 6
•Eagle Cinema presents "End of Days" at 8 p.m. in the Russell Union Theater.

•Georgia Southern Botanical Garden presents "Intensive Gardening" from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Garden, 1505 Bland Ave.

April 7
•Eagle Cinema presents "End of Days" at 7 and 9:30 p.m. in the Russell Union Theater.

April 8
•Eagle Cinema presents "End of Days" at 7 and 9:30 p.m. in the Russell Union Theater.

•USABDA is having its next ballroom dance at 7 p.m. in the White Bluff United Methodist Church Gymnasium at 11911 White Bluff Rd., Savannah, Ga.

April 10
•Mr. Esquire at 7 p.m. in the Union

Ballroom. Tickets are \$2 in advance and \$3 at the door.

•Georgia Southern Symphony presents "Masterworks III Concert" at 8 p.m. in the Foy Fine Arts Building.

April 11
•The Hispanic Student Association will be holding a cookout under the Rotunda from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

April 13
•Eagle Cinema presents "Sixth Sense" at the drive-in at 9:30 p.m. Admission is free.

April 14
•Eagle Cinema presents "Sixth Sense" at 7 and 9:30 p.m. in the Russell Union Theater.

April 20
•Development and Field testing of a Volcanic Hazard Model for Augustine Volcano, Alaska by Sam Swanson at 4 p.m. in the Herty Building Room 1101.

April 26
•Disability Awareness Day will be held at Brooklet Elementary School.

POLICE BEAT

Statesboro Police Department April 3

•Nancy Allen, 18, of P.O. Box 679, Brooklet, Ga., was charged with theft by taking.

•Isac Herrington, 18, of 301 Denmark St., was charged with simple battery.

•Robin Glover, 20, of Georgia Villas Apt. #23, was charged with financial card fraud.

•Andrew Whitaker, 19, of Bermuda Run Apt. D-2, was charged with manufacturing marijuana and possession of MDMA with intent to distribute.

•Russell Mann, of Willow Bend Apts., reported criminal trespass.

April 2
•Chiquita Parrish, 26, of 3 Groover

Lane 3-D, was charged with probation violation.

•Maurice Brack, 27, of 204 Tolbert St., was charged with driving on suspended license.

•Kevin Lefebvre, 22, of Stadium Walk #1004, was charged with improper left turn and DUI.

•William Greenhaw, 19, of 605 W. Manor, Peachtree City, Ga., was charged with failure to maintain lane and DUI.

•Limwill Preston III, 26, of 107 Westlake Dr., was charged with simple battery.

•Christopher McCourt, of Johnson Hall, reported criminal trespass.

April 1
•Shawn Flaherty, 22, of 1322 Johns

Lane, was charged with possession of marijuana.

•Brian Wong, of Bermuda Run Apts., reported criminal trespass.

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.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEF

Bush to fight hard for California

The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. - George W. Bush is taking pains to show he won't let history repeat itself in California, eight years after his father ceded the state early to Bill Clinton in a move that helped the Democrats win back the White House.

With symbolism and actions, the presumptive GOP presidential nominee is seeking to reassure jittery Republicans that he intends to fight for the state and win - just as his father did in 1988.

One example: Even though he's far behind Gore among Hispanics in the state, he's going out of his way to seek their votes. He's popular among Hispanics back home in Texas, and during the California primary campaign he challenged other candidates to debate him on issues important to Hispanics, but "solamente en espanol" - only in Spanish.

So far, Democrat Al Gore has the upper hand among voters statewide, with the latest Field Poll showing him 10 points ahead.

He also has a powerful ally in Gov. Gray Davis. And the Clinton administration has rained down federal money in recent months - a tactic Bush is powerless to counter.

The vice president topped Bush 35 percent to 28 percent in the state's open primary last month, in line with a wave of Democratic popularity that swept all but two Republicans from California's statewide offices a year and a half ago. So some political scientists predict Bush will channel resources into more winnable, less expensive states.

But Bush's people insist he's not budging in a state that holds one-fifth of the electoral votes needed to win the presidency.

"From the beginning of the campaign, Governor Bush has always prioritized California, and it has al-

ways figured centrally in his national political strategy," said Margita Thompson, a California campaign spokeswoman. "That was true for the primary, and it's more than true for the general election."

It better be, suggests GOP consultant Sal Russo, who worked on presidential campaigns with Ronald Reagan. However, the November vote turns out in California, he says, a candidate who writes off the state early jeopardizes the party here.

In addition, others note, giving up on such a big state would allow Gore to concentrate his efforts elsewhere, too.

Hard decisions will be made later in the summer about where to focus time and money to try to win a majority of the 270 electoral votes, Russo said. "Until then, California is going to be in the hunt. If it isn't, we ought to throw in the towel."

Bush will campaign in California this week, beating the vice president to the state following last month's wave of primaries.

But he won't stay long this time. After about a day and a half in this state of 34 million people, he returns to Texas.

Gore can count on some affection for his boss rubbing off on him, particularly in Hollywood. In their first appearance together in months, Clinton and Gore will appear at a Beverly Hills fund-raiser April 15.

Bush is also sending surrogates here regularly. His father headlined a fund-raiser near Palm Springs recently, though it was not publicized. By contrast, the Democratic National Committee is using high-profile surrogates as it orchestrates Bush-bashing news conferences throughout the state.

Bush backers can find a little comfort in neutral analysts' comments on California - but only a little.

"It might be competitive, it depends where the McCain voters go in California and where the big bloc of independent voters go," said Mark Baldassare, survey director at the Public Policy Institute of California. "I've yet to see evidence that there's a lock for the Democrats in California."

The Bush campaign points out that its only state campaign office remaining open after the big primaries was in California. The campaign doesn't mention that officials had quietly attempted to close the office, then reversed course, fearing such a move would raise concern.

Rick Davis helped run the elder Bush's California campaign in 1988, when the then-vice president captured the state and the White House. The winning formula is simple, he said: Bring in the candidate early and often.

"He was here so much we could hardly keep up," Davis said.

Opinion is divided among Republican candidates, consultants and activists around California as to how vigorously Bush will campaign here.

Darrell Issa, who is seeking a congressional seat that straddles San Diego, Orange and Riverside counties, said the coattail effect is critical for Republicans.

"He has an obligation to be here a great deal of the time," said Issa, who predicted Bush will spend one-ninth of his time and money in the state.

But others are not so sure. "I'm not going to wait in the Burbank airport for him," said Craig Missakian, a GOP candidate for the state Assembly.

Russo, the Republican consultant, said the debate over what Bush will do is premature.

"There's only one decision to make now: We need to keep California competitive," he said.

GEORGIA NEWS BRIEF

UGA fraternity member killed in crash

• Investigators say he was handcuffed in possible hazing occurrence

The Associated Press

WATKINSVILLE, Ga. - A University of Georgia fraternity member who was killed in a traffic accident last week had been handcuffed and may have been blindfolded, investigators said Monday.

They were looking into the possibility that Ben Folsom Grantham III, who was riding in the rear cargo area of a sport-utility vehicle driven by another member of Alpha Tau Omega, was a victim of illegal hazing.

Oconee County Sheriff Scott Berry said Grantham, a freshman from St. Simons Island, was one of five occupants of the Infiniti QX4 that flipped and hit a tree Thursday night near Watkinsville, south of Athens. He said two other vehicles were traveling with the Infiniti on a "fraternity-related expedition."

Grantham, 20, died early Friday

at St. Mary's Hospital in Athens. Authorities said no one in the Infiniti was wearing a seat belt.

An autopsy determined that Grantham was handcuffed when he was ejected from the vehicle, although no handcuffs were on him when paramedics and sheriff's deputies arrived, Berry said. Pairs of handcuffs were found in the crashed vehicle and at the scene, he said.

"That gives us concern...." the sheriff said. "Was there an attempt to conceal the fact that he was restrained in any way?"

Berry said investigators also believe Grantham may have been blindfolded.

He said it was too early to tell if the handcuffs or a blindfold could have contributed to the student's death.

Hazing is a misdemeanor in

Georgia. Berry said other charges could be added if Grantham's death is determined to be related to hazing, but no charges are planned immediately.

Alpha Tau Omega officers could not be reached for comment Monday. No one responded to a telephone message left at the fraternity house.

Claudia Shamp, coordinator of the Greek Life office at the university, said she had not been contacted about the crash.

Two other occupants of the vehicle remained hospitalized Monday. The driver, Walter David Penn Jr., 20, of Marietta, was in fair condition and Rob Dailey, 18, of Dalton was in serious condition.

Funeral services for Grantham were Monday on St. Simons Island.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS BRIEF

Japanese prime minister reportedly "brain dead"

The Associated Press

TOKYO, Japan - Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi was on life support Monday after a stroke, leaving the Japanese government to grapple with a leadership crisis and the possibility of dissolving the Cabinet and finding a successor.

Given Obuchi's dire condition, speculation was rife that his illness could plunge

Japanese politics into turmoil while the country is preparing to be host for the G-8 summit of industrialized nations in July.

Tokyo's private TBS television network quoted unidentified doctors late Monday as saying that Obuchi was clinically brain dead.

The prime minister's office said it could not confirm the report, and officials

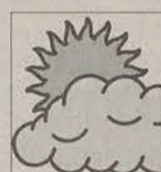
at Tokyo's Juntendo University Hospital were unavailable late Monday.

Obuchi, 62, was hospitalized early Sunday after complaining of fatigue. His condition deteriorated rapidly, and Aoki announced on Monday that Obuchi had suffered a stroke and was in a coma. He was put on a respirator. His wife, Chizuko, was reportedly at his side.

This Week's Weather



Today
Partly cloudy with a high of 67 and a low of 43.



Thursday
Partly cloudy with a high of 78 and a low of 56.

Thank you for reading the George-Anne

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ONLY IN AMERICA...

1 Colorado

Headless Chicken immortalized in sculpture

The Associated Press

FRUITA, Colo. - The headless chicken who brought his town some notoriety about 50 years after his death has been immortalized in metal.

A 4-foot metal sculpture of Mike, the chicken that lived for 18 months in the 1940s minus his head, was to be stuck in a planter on a downtown corner Friday.

Artist Lyle Nichols, who grew up in Fruita, made the 300-pound replica of the headless chicken using ax heads and hay-rake teeth, along with sickle blades and other cutting objects.

"I made him proud-looking and cocky," Nichols said.

The Chamber of Commerce decided to enshrine Mike because the rooster, which made it into the Guinness Book of World Records and Life magazine instead of into the cooking pot, has brought attention from around the world to this town of 6,000.

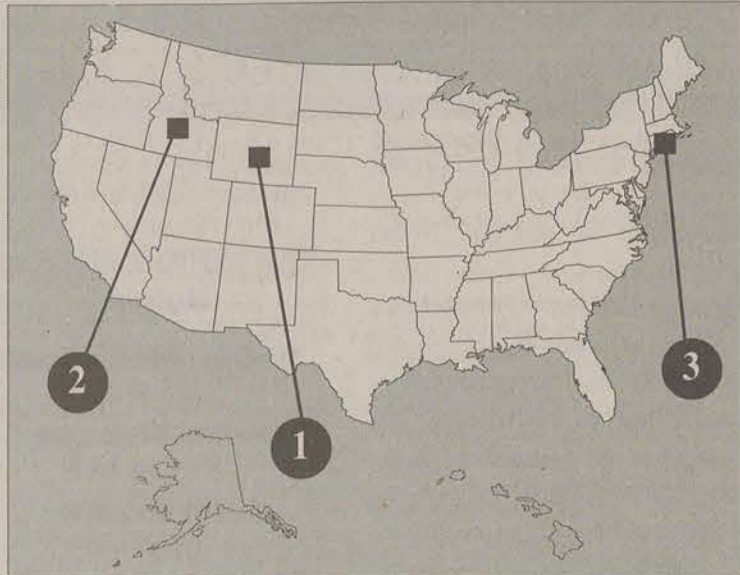
Since Fruita held its first Mike the Headless Chicken Festival last year, chamber officials and historians have been inundated with calls, letters and e-mails from New Delhi to Auckland, wanting to know more.

Sally Edginton, the chamber's director, said she wasn't prepared for it all.

Mike belonged to the late Fruita farmer Lloyd Olsen, who, in an attempt to please his mother-in-law, lopped off Mike's head at the base of the skull, leaving as much of the tasty neck as possible.

Following his beheading, Mike just fluffed up his feathers.

But he could only go through the motions of pecking for food, and when he tried to crow, a gurgle came out. Olsen started putting feed and water directly into Mike's gullet with an eyedropper when he was still alive the next morning. When Mike was still alive a week later, Olsen took him to Univer-



sity of Utah scientists, who theorized Mike had enough of a brain stem left to live headless.

He was a popular attraction until he choked to death on a corn kernel in an Arizona motel.

2 Idaho

Radio personality sports underwear during show

The Associated Press

POCATELLO, Idaho - The co-host of a popular morning radio show worked solo for a day because her partner could not keep his pants on.

Jeff Evans, who broadcasts alongside Bobbie Anderson with her radio moniker "U-turn Laverne," had Friday off from country station K96 due to a prank he pulled.

Anderson said Evans broadcast much of the duo's morning show Thursday in his underwear, all the while telling listeners he was doing so. Anderson said she was not offended by the prank and she disagrees with a decision by general manager Mike Hudson to suspend Evans for a day.

Hudson, who ordered Evans off the air Thursday with about 20 minutes left in his on-air shift, is sticking by his decision.

"I'm all for cutting-edge radio," Hudson said. "There is a fine line between controversy and simply being offensive."

Hudson issued a formal apology to the listeners on Thursday, saying K96 will remain a family station.

But, Anderson said Evans' prank was harmless. And listeners have called in, asking for Evans' immediate reinstatement.

"I'll have egg on my face if people picket the station in their underwear," Hudson said. "That would be really embarrassing for the station."

3 New Hampshire

Two women start business that teaches speaking skills

The Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H. - To Peggy Rae Johnson, how people speak is as important as what they say.

So Johnson and partner Jennifer Burke are turning that philosophy, and the belief that there's no such thing as a bad voice, into a new company - Professionally Speaking.

The pair, who have been teaching voice and diction classes for a combined 30 years, are offering workshops, seminars and coaching in public speaking, presentation skills and dialect reduction.

Johnson, who says bad communication is bad for business, hopes to help business leaders give better presentations and convince them they will save time and money by showing their employees how to speak and listen well, too.

What's he high on now? Support

It was Eddie's first day back from drug rehab. He'd been clean and sober for thirty days. He was scared about making it outside. But he found support in the community. Treatment programs and people like you help Eddie, and kids like him stay away from drugs. Eddie knows it's one day at a time. He also knows he doesn't have to do it alone.

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Rushing's accusations won't hold up because the rules are too vague

The recent allegations put forward by Zach Rushing against Joyce Estrada, while they are probably not going to warrant tossing out the election results, have illustrated a fine point. The campaign regulations are in need of a big overhaul.

Rushing is alleging that Estrada's people used SGA funds to

Our Opinion

pay for some of the equipment (i.e. some Coke, and a fountain dispenser) they used to promote their campaign. While the Estrada people contend that it is not true and that they have the receipts to prove it, it raises an interesting question.

Let's assume for the moment that the Estrada camp did indeed use SGA money to fund the soda and equipment. There are no

explicit regulations that would overturn the election for her having done so.

Indeed, there isn't even anything in the elections regulations that even mentions the use of the SGA phones to make campaign related calls. The vague guidelines only specify that "irregularities" or "violations" can be brought before the judicial board for review. Since phone calls or using SGA money is not one of those things listed as an "irregularity" or "violation," who is to say that anything wrong would have happened had that even been the situation.

Rushing, while he is a truly smart and gifted individual, apparently did not do his homework before filing his complaint. Reading the elections guidelines more carefully would have shown him that the allegations he makes, while not ethical if they are true, surely aren't illegal as he suggests.

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Don't count on doing your taxes quickly and easily

Despite the fact that 93% of the Federal Budget goes toward maintaining and regulating the IRS, which means we wouldn't need to pay taxes if there wasn't taxation, we still have to render unto Caesar.

In fact, not filing carries stiffer fines and punishments than serial murder. Even though most of us aren't required to file (the government would rather you didn't if they owe you a refund), it's a good habit to get into.

That being so, the most common way to file is by paper. If you're going to pursue this, I've got two words for you: tree farm.

To file an average single-family return by paper requires a scratch pad the size of Paulson Stadium, 1,674 pencils and 523 jumbo sized gum erasers. And this is just to do the calculations.

Those of you who have the latest Ti business calculator might think you can save money and time. Guess again. Since it will be running continuously for the next 126 hours, you'll need approximately 28 batteries (each costing slightly less than the calculator itself).

Once you're ready to begin, you'll notice the first question asks if you would like \$3 to go to the Presidential Election Fund. If you

are inclined to say yes, pull out three \$1 bills from your wallet and set them ablaze. This will have roughly the same effect.

After that first question you will find a series of questions that are equally intelligible. Unless you happen to have the IRS' 100,000+ pages of guidelines memorized, I recommend making your answers up. That is until you get to the section about your Adjusted Federal Gross Income.

Somewhere, hopefully, you will

have a W-2 from each of your employers (sent sometime around January). A note of caution: there is a strong likelihood that some, or all, of them will contain a high-grade carbon paper in them. To remove the black residue from your fingers requires a mixture of turpentine and hydrochloric acid, so be careful.

After you add up all the money you made (and it will surprise you), do the same thing for your taxes. Then subtract this number from your "taxable" income, carry the 1, mul-

tiply by pi, and then divide it by the square root of the sum of the number you get when you add up the numbers corresponding to a telephone key pad of your mother's maiden name. This will give you about as accurate an answer as your Ti-10000. At this point it is advised to stick those batteries to your tongue.

Now, those that can should try to telefile. The first thing you'll learn in this process is that there are 26 muzak versions of Jimmy Buffet's classic, "Margaritaville." And because the average person makes a mistake now and again when using a phone pad to type in

numbers, you will repeat the process at least 6 times, resulting in hearing everyone of those versions three times. This thirty minute process will evolve into 1080 minutes, and then you will give up.

The easiest and simplest method is to e-file. H & R Block, H D Vest, and Quicken all have sites that, for a "nominal" fee, will do the calculations, file with the IRS and then confirm your refund for you.

This will take about an hour, and give you a chance to pre-spend that refund at Wild Wings (bucket-o-beer-o-rama!). But at least you might help them pay off their taxes.



JUSTIN MILLER

The American Idea Of University

By CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Probably the only remarkable thing about the U.S. Supreme Court's decision Wednesday on the collection of student fees at public universities is that it was unanimous. So accustomed have we become to 5-4 split decisions on the high court that unanimity seems noteworthy all by itself.

As for the decision's substance, it was, in retrospect, so sensible as to seem self-evident.

Of course universities may collect mandatory student fees and disburse them among campus groups — as long as there is no discrimination on the basis of viewpoint.

Of course students may not object to such fees as a form of coerced support for viewpoints they may not like. Not only would that render a student fee system unworkable, but it also would contravene the very idea of a university as an environment, in the court's words, for "free and open

exchange of ideas." Of course there is the risk that groups like the execrable Matt Hale's World Church of the Creator may use the opportunity afforded by this ruling to gain funding and footholds on public university campuses. But as with the 1st Amendment itself, the value of the free exchange of ideas is so great as to make that risk well worth taking.

The court's ruling came in a case brought by a group of conservative students at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, who argued that forcing them to pay the school's student activity fee amounted to forcing them to support the views of groups to which they objected, a violation of their constitutional rights.

In another context that argument might carry the day. Indeed, the court has said that union members, for example, may object to the use of their mandatory dues for support of political efforts that go beyond the mission of the

union. But a university is a unique environment. Its very reason for being is to be a venue for diverse viewpoints and to expose students (and faculty members, for that matter) to the intellectual crosscurrents of the society. That is no less true in the extracurricular life of the institution than in its formal course offerings.

As long as conservative groups have access to funding from the student fee pool on the same basis as liberal ones, as long as the unpopular are not disadvantaged in favor of the popular, there is no ground for objection.

Those who find this kind of open regime intolerable do have an alternative: They can choose another school from among the hundreds available in the American marketplace of higher education.

What they may not do is demand that a public university be less a university so they may be unoffended.

New Century Poses New Threats To Our Basic Right Of Free Expression

By ROBERT M. O'NEIL
Knight-Ridder Tribune

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — From their celestial perspective, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison must occasionally feel dismay over the fate of the First Amendment, which was for them the cornerstone of freedom and democracy.

As the new century begins, the condition of free expression is curiously mixed.

In a few areas, speech and press seem to be faring relatively well; courts have, for example, recently expanded the concept of "public figure" in libel suits against the media.

There are, however, several ominous trends that should alarm not only those of us in the First Amendment community, but all thoughtful Americans.

First, I would cite as cause for alarm the novel prospect of civil liability that faces the entertainment industry and other media. When a federal appeals court ruled two years ago that Paladin Press, publisher of "Hit-Man Manual," might have to pay millions of dollars to victims of a brutal crime committed by a reader of that book, the departure from precedent was as startling as the threat of liability was alarming.

Federal and state courts had consistently held in the past that such a burden

could never be imposed on one who issued a book or a movie or a broadcast.

Legal liability, these courts insisted, fell on the person who committed the crime, and not on the author or publisher who may have inspired it — any more than the estate of Joseph Conrad could be legally liable for Theodore Kaczynski's lethal bombings inspired in part by a turn-of-the-century Conrad novel.

After "Hit-Man," a Louisiana appeals court took a similarly ominous view of suits brought against Oliver Stone and others by victims of a murder apparently inspired by a scene in the film "Natural Born Killers."

Last spring, the parents of three children who had been killed in a Paducah, Ky., school shooting sued the producers of Basketball Diaries on the same theory, along with makers of violent video games and TV programs.

So the prospect of civil liability for the violent effects of media is — for the first time in our history — a quite serious and deeply troubling part of the legal landscape.

The second dark cloud concerns heightened protection of privacy. In the aftermath of the death of Princess Diana — for which French courts eventually absolved the paparazzi — lawmakers have outdone themselves in limiting aggressive means of

news-gathering.

California, often in the vanguard, has created the concept of "virtual trespass." A new law protects people whose words or images are captured by sophisticated devices, where the unaided eye or ear would not reach — even though the camera or microphone may be on a public sidewalk and thus commit no physical trespass.

While many other countries protect privacy from non-physical intrusions, our courts have held firmly to the view that whatever the media may observe or overhear from a public place is fair game — just as a person's words or actions in a public place are everyone's business.

The U.S. Congress and other states have given serious consideration to following California's lead. Several judges have shown disturbing sympathy to victims of "aggressive" but not invasive news-gathering. These trends, too, have ominous implications for a free press.

The third threat — governmentally imposed curbs on the content of electronic communications — may be the most familiar of the three, but is no less troubling.

Despite the Supreme Court's insistence three years ago that speech on the Internet was as fully protected as are printed or spoken words, that message has not reached

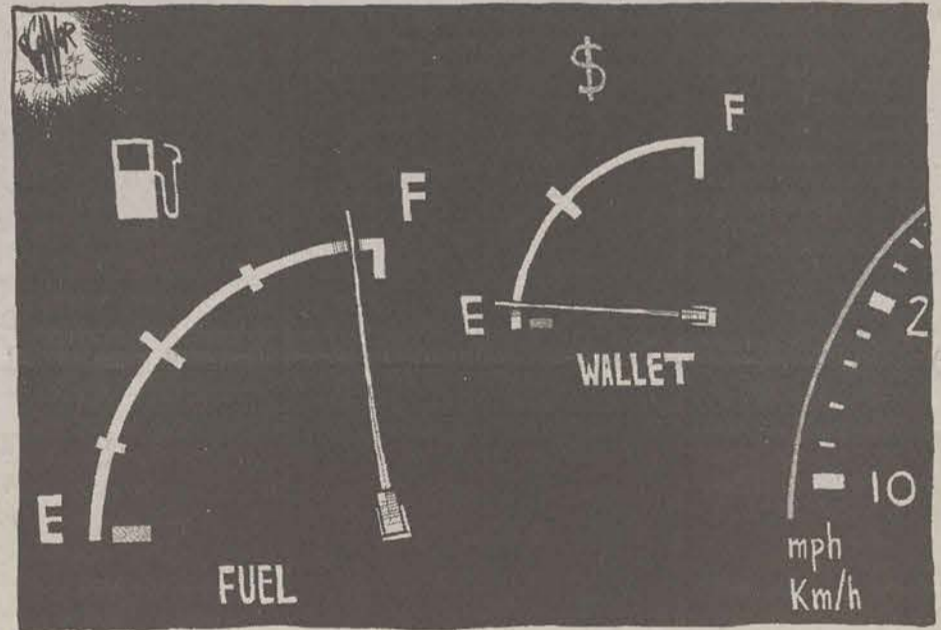
all lawmakers.

Congress' second try at barring "indecentcy" on the Internet, through the Child Online Protection Act, got no further than a federal district judge who struck it down at once as no better than the original Communications Decency Act. The higher court to which that ruling was appealed is not likely to take a less protective view of free speech on the Internet.

Nor have state legislatures been deterred from regulating digital content by several early rebukes; at least five states have passed laws that bar material "harmful to minors," even though federal courts have consistently struck down such laws, both under the First Amendment and the Interstate Commerce Clause.

Half a dozen states have enacted, and many others are debating, laws that would ban "spam" — unsolicited junk e-mail — by means that would not pass muster if applied to equally unwelcome print materials.

Thus it seems that Internet speech may well have won the war in its first Supreme Court test, but now faces a series of debilitating battles with diminishing certainty of success. This is a struggle, like the other two that pose serious risks for free expression, that bears close watching.



LETTER AND SUBMISSION POLICY

The George-Anne welcomes letters to the editor, story submissions and guest columns from people both inside and outside the GSU community. All copy submitted should be typed (double-spaced, please), preferably on Macintosh disk in Microsoft Word or Microsoft Works format. All submissions must be signed and include a mailing address and phone number for verification. The editors reserve the right to reject any submission. There is no word limit on submissions. A writer may request to remain anonymous. However, it will be the editor's decision whether or not to print the name. Submissions are run on a space-available basis.

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Women's Track and Field sees 'best competition all year'

By Nicole Smith
Sports Writer

This past Saturday the Women's Track and Field team basked in a field of sunlight and intense competition. The Eagles attended the 23rd annual Forrest "Spec" Towns Relays in Athens, Ga. Topping their competition were teams from Middle Tennessee State, University of Tennessee-Chattanooga, West Georgia College, Alabama University, University of Alabama, University of Georgia, and Garden Weber University.

"I am glad we got our asses kicked," said Head Coach Todd Lane "That was the best competition we have seen all year."

Freshman 100-meter hurdler, Domonique LeBeaud agreed, "There was a lot of new intense competition, it was an interesting experience to see a lot of the more competitive runners."

Whitney Nelson, a 1500-meter runner, improved her time running a 4:50.55 and placed fifth in the field. "The competition was awesome but I really felt like I was able to compete well and rise to the occasion," said Nelson.

Nelson also competed in the 800-meter run finishing for the Eagles in a time of 2:22.78 for 9th.

Freshman Pearl Griggs also performed well at the University of Georgia, placing sixth in the 400-meter hurdles with

a time of 1:05.34. Following Griggs was Easter Huggins in 12th(1:10.96).

The 4 X 100-meter relay team finished fourth behind the University of Alabama-Birmingham in a time of 46.77. The team was comprised of the "Fab-four Freshman", Keyonia Collins, Ebonie Ogletree, Javonne Blackley, and Jacqueline Allen.

Allen also competed in the 100-meter open dash and finished 10th in a time of 12.45 followed by Blackley in 12th(12.57) and Collins in 14th(12.75).

The 100-meter hurdlers finished their competition with Jennifer McCalla placing 13th(15.97), followed by Griggs in 16th(16.53) and LeBeaud in 18th(17.72).

In field events Monica Lockett long jumped for 6th at 18'07.25, and was followed by Allen in 10th(16'05.75).

Lockett also competed in the triple jump, finishing 11th(33'04).

"On a scale of one to ten, I would say competition was a 9 because they were some of the best teams," said Huggins. "It[the meet] gave us a chance to see where we were athletically, where we need to be for Conference."

The Eagles will face their next competition this Saturday at Troy State University.

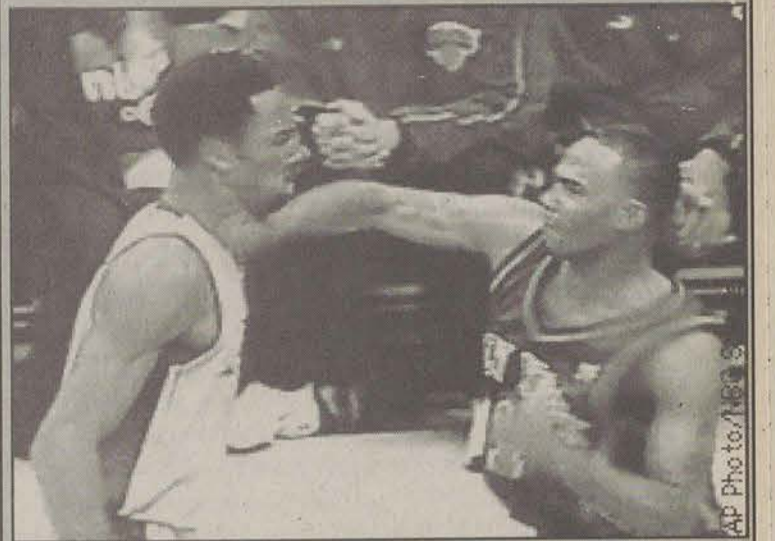
Kobe Bryant and Chris Childs suspended, fined

The Associated Press

Chris Childs of the New York Knicks and Kobe Bryant of the Los Angeles Lakers were fined and suspended by the NBA on Monday for fighting.

Childs was suspended without pay for two games and fined \$15,000. Bryant was suspended without pay for one game, which based on his \$9 million salary for the season will cost him \$100,000, and fined \$5,000.

NBA vice president Rod Thorn said Childs instigated the fight and threw punches during Sunday's nationally televised game. Bryant was disciplined for responding with a punch.



espn.go.com

The skirmish in Los Angeles happened with 43 seconds left in the third quarter and the Lakers leading 71-60. The Lakers won 106-82, their 28th victory in 29 games.

Childs will not play Thursday at home against Washington and Friday in Orlando. Bryant will sit out Tuesday's game in Phoenix.

"The fine, I really don't care much about," Bryant said Monday at the Lakers practice facility in El Segundo Calif., before the team left for Phoenix. "The fact that I'm missing a game is what I'm really concerned about. I'm really upset about that."

Bryant did, however, acknowledge the suspension was deserved. "I think it's justified, violence is not the way," he said when asked about the NBA policy that mandates a suspension for throwing a punch, no matter the circumstances.

"We have to set an example for children who are watching to turn the other cheek, as hard as it may be, and understand if you don't do that, there will be consequences."

"I'm not pro-fighting, by any means, but if it comes to that point, you have to do what you have to do."

Bryant said the incident started when Childs was holding him. "So I got him off me with an elbow, it's part of the game," Bryant said. "It pretty much happens on every play. Things kind of escalated and he decided to throw a punch. I didn't think he was going to take a suspension."

"He tried to head-butt me, I backed him up a little bit and he decided to throw a punch, then run."

When asked if Childs was trying to get under his skin and see how he'd react, Bryant replied, "I don't think so. I don't think he's that smart. If someone's going to push you, you have to show where your limit is."



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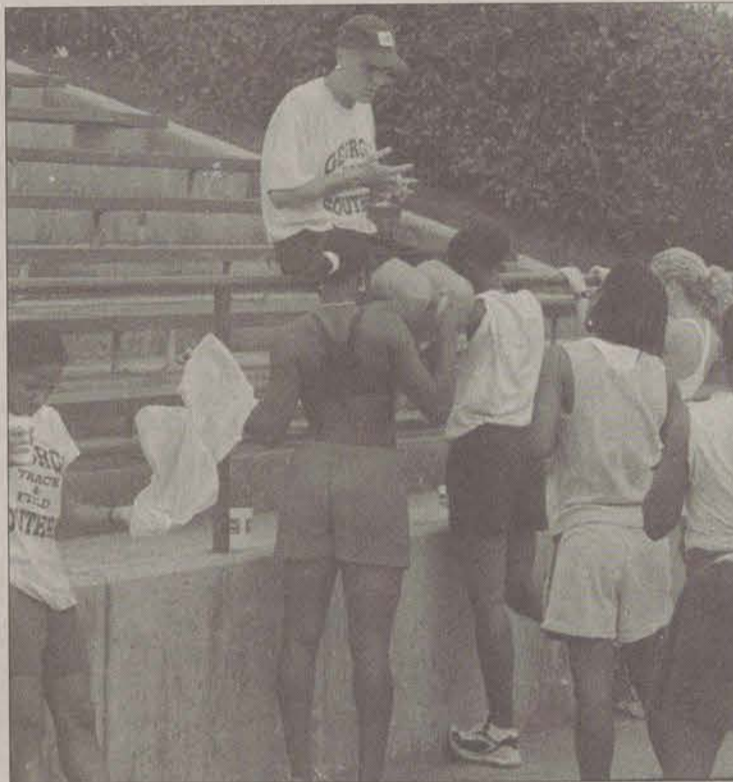
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Kelley McGonnell

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Tickets are limited to 750. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Seating is open.

Littlejohn named SoCon Pitcher-of-the-Week

G-A News Service

GSU sophomore Aimee Littlejohn was named the Southern Conference Pitcher of the Week on Monday, marking the third time in her career that she has garnered the honor.

The sophomore from Corona, Calif., finished the week with a 3-0 record in three appearances, including a pair of conference wins over College of Charleston last weekend. Littlejohn recorded 16 strikeouts in her three games, including a season-high 10 strikeouts in Saturday's 3-2 win over the Cougars.

"Aimee won some big games for us, which is something we've certainly gotten used to," GSU head coach Kelley Kirkland said. "Her two wins against College of Charleston were huge, especially the first one because she pitched all 10 innings and never lost her composure. That just shows how competitive she is."

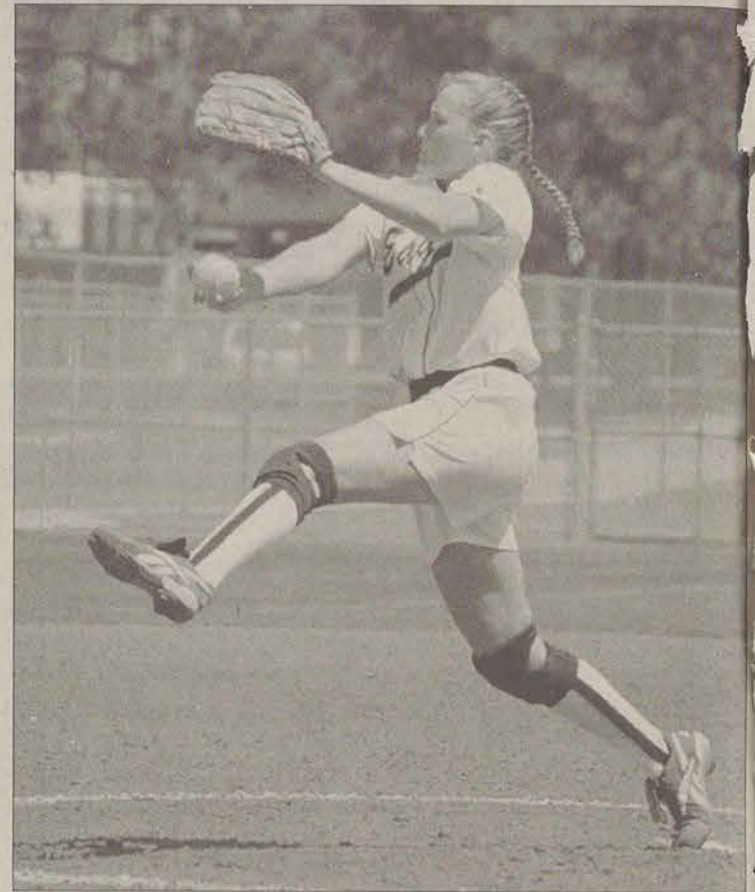
Littlejohn allowed only three hits in each of her games pitched.

Against Charleston Southern (3/28) she led the Eagles to a 5-0 win with a three-strikeout effort. In her first game against College of Charleston, she pitched all 10 innings with 10 strikeouts, one walk and no earned runs. And in Sunday's game against the Cougars, she allowed only two earned runs and struck out three en route to the win.

Littlejohn leads all GSU pitchers in wins with a 12-8 record. Her 1.51 earned run average and her 94 strikeouts also top the Eagle pitching charts.

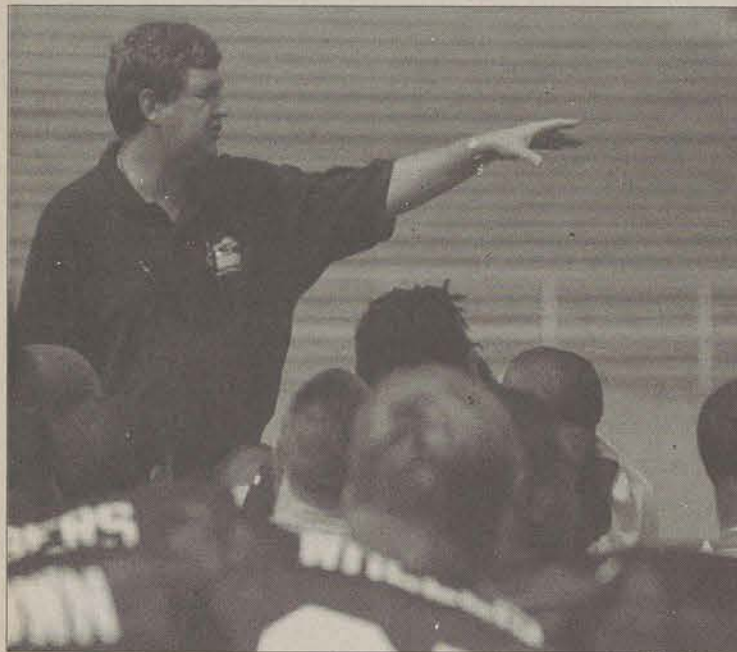
In her freshman season, Littlejohn earned SoCon Pitcher-of-the-Week honors twice (3/22 and 4/28), and she was also named Southern Conference Tournament Most Outstanding Player after directing the Eagles to the tourney title.

This marked the first time this season that a GSU player has picked up either of the conference's weekly honors. Furman's Kay Brittain was named SoCon Player-of-the-Week on Monday after going .350 with three RBIs in six games for the Paladins.



Cory Brooks

FIRING STRIKES: Aimee Littlejohn finished the week with a 3-0 record. Littlejohn had a pair of wins against conference rival College of Charleston.



File Photo

EAGLES LOOK ON: The Eagles went back to work at the Eagle Practice Complex for a two-hour workout Monday after completing their first full-squad scrimmage Saturday morning. GSU's offensive unit picked up 442 total yards while recording three touchdowns during the 90-play simulated game. Coach Johnson saw a lot of room for improvement from his Eagles squad.

GSU back to practice after Saturday scrimmage

G-A News Service

After reviewing the tape of his squad's first full-squad scrimmage Saturday morning, head coach Paul Johnson led GSU back to the Eagle Practice Complex for a two-hour workout Monday afternoon.

Although the Eagle offensive unit picked up 442 total yards while recording three touchdowns during the 90-play simulated game which featured competition between the Eagle first, second and third units, Johnson saw a lot of room for improvement.



"I don't think you're ever satisfied, so we have a long way to go," said Johnson. "There were way too many mistakes out there for even a first scrimmage. Our program has gotten to where it needs to be because, for the most part, we have played hard and played with intensity. I'm not sure if that was real visible on Saturday."

Injuries have limited GSU's depth, especially on the defensive side of the ball, during the initial week of spring drills. Sophomore inside linebacker Mike Ward suffered a fractured left hand and dislocated right shoulder during the Eagles' first workout in pads Friday while junior inside linebacker Jason Neese went down with a sprained right knee during Saturday's scrimmage. Johnson indicated both projected starters are not expected back for the remainder of GSU's spring practice schedule.

Perhaps magnifying the absences has been the unavailability of a pair of projected starters on GSU's defensive front. Sophomore nose tackle Tyrre Williams is nearing the finishing phases of a year-long rehabilitation assignment, trying to come back from shoulder surgery. Junior tackle Robert LeBlanc, who saw limited action Monday for the first time since last November, is working on a comeback from a fractured foot bone suffered during the Furman contest which knocked the former Bradwell (Ga.) Institute star from the Eagles' playoff roster. Another tackle, redshirt freshman Colby Brown, will miss a week or more after suffering a left shoulder injury during Saturday's contest.

Sophomore Freddy Pesqueira (four tackles, three sacks), the incumbent starter at the other defensive tackle position, and senior reserve nose tackle Gino Tutera (five tackles) enjoyed a strong scrimmage Saturday however.

Pesqueira, who earned All-Southern Conference honors as a true freshman in 1999, finished the season as the unit's second-leading tackler with 103 stops. In addition, he logged 16 tackles for loss (-78 yards) and a team-high 9* sacks while starting eight of 15 games played in.

Augusta National taking bite out of golfers

The Associated Press

AUGUSTA, GA - In the weeks leading to the Masters, there was talk that the rough at Augusta National was on steroids. That's only partially true.

The grass isn't taller, but it is growing sideways. And there's a lot of it.

Miguel Angel Jimenez found that out Monday morning when his tee shot on the 485-yard 10th hole drifted down the right side, landed in the rough and appeared to slam on the brakes before it could reach the massive slope.

The penalty? About 50 yards in length, and a lot more club than he would have preferred for his second shot.

Tom Lehman hit what he thought was a good drive on the first hole, only to find it seven yards into the peach fuzz.

"That was a huge eye-opener," he said. "There is a premium on driving the ball now."

Players used to see nothing but fairway off the tee. Now, they have to squint their eyes in search of the short grass.

"It's very narrow," said two-time Masters champion Bernhard Langer. "It used to be from tree to tree. Now, it's definitely less than half of what it used to be on some holes."

Augusta National is still a bomber's course, but it's nothing like what Langer remembers from the first time he won in 1985, or even his second Masters victory in 1993. Or even last year.

The rough is still a mere 1 3/8 inches, not to be confused with the shaggy grass in a U.S. Open. Still, it can be just as penalizing considering the slopes on the firm greens.

Butch Harmon, the swing coach for Tiger Woods whose father won the 1948 Masters, played 36 holes on Sunday and found the rough is just thin enough to cause the ball to nestle into the grass. That means it will be difficult for players to control the spin of their shots into the green.

And control is everything at Augusta.

"This is the first time I've ever seen such a premium on driving accuracy," Harmon said. "It doesn't let you freewheel it like you used to. You have to pay attention."

Augusta is always tweaking the course. Some of the most significant changes came last year, when the tee boxes on the par-5 second and par-4 17th holes were pushed back some 25 yards and the rough was introduced.

The biggest alteration this year appears to be the fairways, or what little is left of them. And true with any change, not everyone likes it.

"I always thought of this as a very special event because there was no rough," Langer said. "Obviously, I see why they're doing it, I can understand it. It just now looks like the golf courses we play week after week."

Lehman was more diplomatic. "I'm not saying I don't like it," he said. "It just different ... un-Augusta."

Of course, Woods and other long hitters won't be as fazed by the narrow fairways as some others because they'll have an 8-iron instead of a 5-iron in their hands. If this is Augusta National's idea of "Tiger-proofing" the course, it may have an opposite effect.

"I think everybody tries to combat what Tiger does with more length," said Hal Sutton, who beat Woods in The Players Championship last week. "The more you do that, the more you eliminate the rest of the guys. You play right into his hands. I don't know if they were trying to 'Tigerfy' it, but I'm not sure that's the way to do it."

Woods, who has been pointing to the Masters since the start of the year, spent last week working on his chipping and putting at home in Florida and was due to arrive Monday afternoon.

Despite the changes, Harmon liked the way Augusta sets up for him.


"This helps Tiger because he's the best driver in the business," Harmon said, a tribute to Woods' accuracy and length off the tee.

But one thing will never change — the green jacket usually is won around the greens.

Even with the rough last year, Jose Maria Olazabal won with his magical short game. Mark O'Meara was silky with the putter in 1998.

Woods made just about every putt he look at it when he won with a record 270 in 1997.

Harmon said he doesn't recall the greens ever being this fast and firm so early in the week, which could make it even more difficult as the weekend nears. The forecast was for rain overnight and early Tuesday, but dry and sunny the rest of the week.



HEALTH SERVICES

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Georgia Southern University Health Services is available to students for consultation, examination, diagnosis, and treatment to illnesses and injuries.

Location: The Health Center is located on Forest Drive across from Watson Hall and near the Lakeside Cafe.

Operating Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday - Friday during the semester with limited services and hours during semester breaks.

Eligibility & Costs: All GSU students are eligible to use the Health Center. Students enrolled in four or more semester hours prepay the health fee (currently \$66.00 for fall & spring and \$30.00 for summer) at the beginning of each semester while students taking less than 4 semester hours may choose to prepay the health fee. Although the health fee allows students unlimited visits throughout the semester, there are usually additional costs incurred each visit for prescriptions, x-rays, lab tests, and immunizations. Payment for these services is due at the time of the visit.

A valid Georgia Southern University identification card is required to access services at the Health Center

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Josh Rouse shines bright in recent release

By Tim Prizer
Staff Writer

For Josh Rouse, a young man from the heartland of America, an original melody is about as easy to find as the corn that grows along side of the seemingly never-ending, arrow-straight roads that lead him home. The laid back melodic pop artist was born and raised in the cornhusker state of Nebraska, and boy, is he ever proud of the place he calls home.

To show his proud heritage, he has named his latest album simply, *Home*, and his 1998 debut release, *Dressed Up Like Nebraska*.

Dressed Up Like Nebraska which featured

some of the same dazzling melodies that can be found on his latest, attracted many great bands like Son Volt, Wilco, and the Jayhawks enough to ask Josh to tour with them. But Rouse's 2000 release shows even more maturity as an artist.

"I think I got it all figured out/I think I got it made/I think I got it all figured out/I think my plan is safe from laughter," Rouse sings softly on *Home's* opening track "Laughter."

Rouse sure seems to have it all figured out, as *Home* shows him expanding his talent by using his melancholy voice to blend beautifully with a variety of instruments that add vivid color to his songs.

He seems to know the limits of his voice more than before and that there is no limit on style for his mu-

sical compositions. From the opening buzz that begins Rouse's new album, to the slow, chilling waltz of the final track, "Little Know It All," it is easily said that this is the best album of the year to date.

Using a total of 13 instruments

"Directions" features Rouse's ability to tell a story in a song, which is rarely seen in his songwriting style. The track features the line, "You don't like the direction you are going to/Seems to lack the attention that it used to/Stay out all night and get high with your friends/Wonder why you don't get one thing done..."

That opening verse is then offset by the change of lifestyle, but still the grass remains greener on the other side. "You don't like the direction you have come to/Now it has the attention that it used to/Stay home all night with the TV and wife/Comfortable life's not all it's cracked up to be..."



Special Photo

that include cellos, upright bass, violin, trumpet, trombone, Wurlitzer, Rhodes, flugel, piano, and vibes. Rouse has written ten of the most ravishing melodic pop songs from any singer/songwriter in a long time.

The constant wave of noise that fills the tunes of *Home* will sweep you off your feet, and are reminiscent of classic artists like U2 and Sting.

But there is also something about Rouse that presents a dreamy folk sound, and his crystal clear vocals take him above and beyond the average artist in music today.

Some of the highlights from *Home* include tracks like the previously mentioned "Laughter" and "Little Know It All," along with songs like "Parts and Accessories," "In Between," and "Directions."

The insert of the new record is a picture of children's building blocks, placed side-by-side to spell H-O-M-E. Rouse certainly has built on his already brilliant sound to make it shine even brighter. As long as Rouse remembers his home and who got him where he is today, the building blocks of his career should stack up nicely.

Does stardom lie ahead for this hard-working songwriter? Only time will tell, but one thing is for sure. If the music gods are fair to Rouse, those same flat, corn-bordered, ongoing roads that take him to his mid-American home should lead to great success throughout his musical career.

To close the new record, Rouse chants, "Be on the lookout for me." Take that as a warning.

Do Charities Give It All They Got?

By Kathy Bourassa
Staff Writer

"Anticipate charity by preventing poverty." Maimonides' ideas are prevalent in our society eight centuries later. Over half a million non-profit organizations dedicate themselves to monumental tasks: disaster relief, health care, education, and hundreds of other missions.

Yet we hear about questionable agencies whose executives earn outlandish salaries or that spend so much money on fund-raising that only a few pennies of every dollar are dedicated toward their purpose. Whether you bought a candy bar or box of cookies on impulse or prefer to give a set amount yearly to an organization, it's certain that your money won't all be dedicated to easing the world's problems.

How can you tell whether your donation is wisely used? One way is to examine the agency's Form 990, which is filed with the IRS yearly and can be found online in most cases. For instance, if you check the National Red Cross report for the 1998 fiscal year at www.guidestar.org, you'll discover that after deducting rental expenses, purchasing equipment and supplies, and other costs of doing business, the agency posted a net gain of over \$102 million.

According to Guidestar, an online organization dedicated to informing the public about charitable giving, the Form 990 can give you an idea of an agency's financial health but this can be misleading. "Although Forms 990 can provide a snapshot of the financial health and expenditures of an organization at a specific time, they are virtually useless in comparing one organization to another unless the organizations are of similar size, age, geography, and field of activity."

In addition, the IRS forms are difficult to interpret. Is the net gain going into the executives' pockets or does it get reinvested? Because IRS rules are complex, the results on this form may be misleading. "Dollars received" often reflects promised donations that the agency will receive in future years.

If you think it's too hard to figure out, think again. Another option is available. The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) takes the guesswork out of donating. The CFC solicits donations for hundreds of organizations based on ten stringent criteria. One of the criteria is that an agency's overhead expenses and fund-raising efforts must total less than 25 percent of its income.

The CFC points out that smaller or younger charities have higher operating expenses because they "don't have a loyal base of donors, or aren't as well known as older charities." Similarly, organizations that support minorities have a smaller population segment making donations. Controversial charities are avoided by many would-be donors and also tend to have higher expenses.

Guidestar recommends considering your own values for making a decision. Do you prefer to give to a small or large organization? Local, national, or international? One that benefits children or rainforests? Do you prefer to give a large donation to one organization or smaller donations to several? Do you prefer to support research or active involvement? What progress does an agency make toward its goals?

Whether an agency is effective "may be the most important question, but also the toughest to answer," says CFC. Ask for an annual report or become a volunteer to determine how much is being accomplished, or speak to people or groups who have benefited from the organization.

The Red Cross example above indicates a high net income, perhaps, but few people would argue that its services are invaluable in many ways, including disaster relief and providing cardio-pulmonary resuscitation training at low or no cost. Whether or not to make the donation is a subjective choice.

If preventing poverty is one way to promote charity, then the converse is also true: Charity helps build financial strength for a nation and its peoples. Since every donation is a vote for how this goal will be accomplished, it's worth careful consideration before handing over your hard-earned cash.

Visit www.charitablechoices.org or www.guidestar.org for detailed information on these and thousands of other charities.

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Campus Recreation and Intramural Information

Club Sports-Wrestling

The club wrestling team had 3 top finishers at the NCWA National Wrestling Championships on March 10-11, 2000 at Richland College in Dallas, TX. The first of the three was Reggie Aaron, who finished one match away from becoming an All-American in the 157lb. weight class with a seventh place finish. Kammal Peterson also finished seventh in the 133lb. weight class causing him to be one match away from becoming an All-American. The third of the three was Robert McCarter who finished fourth in the 184lb. weight class giving him All-American status. Together as a team as a team Georgia Southern finished top 15 at the NCWA National Wrestling Championships.

Advertisement

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE RAC!!! On April 18th, 2000 the Recreation Activity Center will be two years old! Join in on the celebration. Throughout the day there will be food and giveaway's as well as a ceremony for the participant who come's the closest to guessing the number of participants the RAC will have from the day of it's conception to April 18th, 2000. The contest will run from March 29th to April 14th. There is a clue. As of March 19th, the RAC had 635,024 participants. Your challenge is to guess what the magic number will be on April 18th!!! So, come and enjoy the festivities at the RAC for food, fun, free stuff and a chance to win over \$300.00 worth of prizes by guessing the magic number.

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'Erin Brockovich' is a real person dealing with real problems

By Eric Adler
Knight-Ridder Tribune

Talk to Frank Pattee, the real-life dad of the real-life Erin Brockovich, and he'll tell you nearly everything in the Julie Roberts' movie "Erin Brockovich" is true.

His daughter did wear flashy clothes. She is twice-divorced. And, as the movie depicts, she did, without any legal training, sign 600 plaintiffs in a case against the California utility PE&G, leading to the largest direct-action settlement in U.S. history: \$333 million.

But moviegoers also might be interested to know that not everything in the movie is true.

"Years ago I was Miss Wichita," says Roberts, playing Brockovich, "I thought it meant I was gonna do something important with my life." Sorry, but Brockovich wasn't Miss Wichita. In California, she was named Miss Pacific Coast. As for Wichita, well, Brockovich (who grew up as Erin Pattee) is actually from Lawrence, Kan. She's a 1978 graduate of Lawrence High School and, for a very short time, attended Kansas State University.

"It was one semester. She majored in partying," said her dad, a former industrial engineer who retired after 20 years with the U.S. Department of Transportation. Brockovich's mom, B.J. Pattee, was the onetime head of the University of Kansas Alumni Association's magazine.

Although both Brockovich's parents graduated from KU, their daughter had other interests.

"It was pretty obvious," Pattee said. "Based on her grades and what was going on, college wasn't for her."

Brockovich headed to Dallas in 1979 to attend Miss Wade's Fashion Merchandising School and graduated with an associate's degree. "From there she went to the West Coast," her dad said. "Her older brother was living out there and working there. She was living with him."

Brockovich is the youngest of four

children. Her older brother, Frank Jr., 52, lives in Topeka, Kan., working as a dis-

tributor for Oroweat Baking Co. Her older sister, Jodie Knight, 50, is a former Joffrey ballerina, teaching and living on a horse ranch in Silver City, N.M. Her brother, Tom, died of an asthma attack in 1994 at age 38. While in California, Brockovich met her first husband, restaur-

ant manager Shawn Brown. They married in 1982 and had two children, Matthew, 17, and Katie, 15.

"She was a housemother," Pattee said. "He was on the West Coast a short time and then they transferred him to Reno." The couple divorced in 1987. Brockovich met Steve Brockovich in 1989 in a Reno stockbroker's office. They

married, but the kids didn't accept him. Just as the divorce was finalized in 1990, Brockovich discovered she was pregnant with her third child, Elizabeth, now 9.

The movie depiction of Brockovich's life picks up soon after. In Reno, she has a car accident (the movie shows L.A.). After moving to L.A., she hires the law firm of Masry & Vititoe in 1991 to settle her accident claims. (In the movie she received no settlement; in life she did.)

"She was going through some tough times," Pattee said. "Three kids. No child support. No alimony of any kind. She's on her own and how is she going to survive?"

The movie, of course, tells how lawyer Ed Masry (played by Albert Finney) hires Brockovich as a clerical worker.

"She was looking for a job, and they felt sorry for her," Pattee said. The rest is movie and legal history. At Masry & Vititoe, Brockovich helped prove that a rash of illnesses, from nosebleeds to cancer, plaguing the tiny town of Hinkley, Calif., was the result of water and soil contaminated with chromium VI used by the local Pacific Electric & Gas plant. She rallies the townfolk. A lawsuit is filed.

Brockovich, who turns 40 in June, went from earning \$800 a month as a clerk, to receiving a \$2 million bonus for her work on the case. Hollywood got hold of Brockovich's story after co-executive producer Carla Santos Shamberg first heard it while at the office of a chiropractor whom Brockovich also sees.

In March, Brockovich married 34-year-old actor Eric Ellis. At Masry & Vititoe, she's involved in several new toxic contamination cases. Although more successful than she could have ever imagined, her 15-hour workdays have taken a toll on the family. Brockovich last year sent both Matthew and Katie to boarding schools after she discovered they were taking drugs and had been chronically absent from school. The children reportedly are doing better.

"I don't know what it was, a stroke of the Lord or something when she started that job," Pattee said. "She was never an outstanding student, but she was a smart-enough gal. She got started on this case, apparently, she must have a steel-trap mind. Talk to her today, you'd think she had a chemical engineer's degree."



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Thur., April 13

Today's Quote

"Nobody ever died of laughter."

-- Max Beerbohm



Classifieds, etc.

Wednesday, April 5, 2000

Page 9

Crossword

ACROSS
 1 Animal fat
 7 "And I Love"
 10 Quarry
 14 Heavy and natural
 15 Ms. Thurman
 16 Hoarfrost
 17 Spellbinding speaker
 18 Adds insult to injury
 20 Wanted
 22 Distends
 23 Standing
 24 More Bohemian
 27 Having hairlike growths
 29 Goosey mass
 32 Alliance
 36 The best!
 38 Top berths
 39 Train-set brand name
 40 No-fills
 41 Concomitant
 44 Pub pint
 45 Period of recovery
 47 28th President
 48 Hockey disks
 53 Nabokov novel
 56 Journalist Calvin
 58 Chicago suburb
 61 Pacific weather phenomenon
 62 Western alliance letters
 63 End of an
 64 Finger pointer
 65 Comida calls
 66 Bottom-line figure
 67 Maintain

DOWN
 1 Rock full of crystals
 2 Fewer and farther between
 3 Obliterate
 4 Top room
 5 Electrical problems
 6 Australian lake
 7 "Ben"
 8 Flightless bird

Solutions

1	H	E	S	S	V	L	E	N	S	E	T	O
2	E	A	R	T	H	A	S	E	S	E		
3	N	O	I	N	T	E						
4	S	X	O	N	I	N	O	I	S	N	V	A
5	N	I	T	T	H	I						
6	S	X	O	N	I	N	O	I	S	N	V	A
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9	W	R	I	T	E	R						
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22	D	I	S	T	E	N	D					
23	S	T	A	N	D	I	N	G				
24	M	O	R	E	B	O	H	E	M	I	A	N
25	D	E	L	A	P	L	A	T	A			
26	K	H	A	K	I	S	H	A	D	E		
27	H	A	I	R	L	I	K	E				
28	P	O	S	S	E	S	S	I	V	E		
29	W	R	I	T	E	R						
30	P	O	R	T	E	N	T					
31	T	A	K	E	O	F						
32	C	A	R	I	B	E	A	N				
33	T	R	A	N	S	L	E	C	E	N	T	
34	M	I	N	C	R	E	C	E	S	S		
35	H	I	L	O	G	A	R	L	A	N	D	
36	T	H	E	B	E	S	T					
37	G	A	T									
38	T	O	P									
39	A	U	T	O								
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57	C	O	U	N	T	R						
58	C	H	A	K	I	S						
59	M	I	N	E								
60	K	I	N	G								

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Amount \$ _____
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SEND IT TO: G-A Action Ads, POB 8001, Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, GA 30460; or in person: visit Room 2023 or 2022 Williams Center (top floor)

20 Announcements

LOOKING FOR stressed students! Eagle Entertainment sponsors weekend trips to Myrtle Beach, SC Hilton Head, SC & St. Augustine, FL call 912-486-7270 for more information.

HISPANIC STUDENT Association will be hosting a cookout under the Rotunda on Tuesday, April 11th from 11am to 2pm. Be there for great food and music!

HISPANIC STUDENT Association is hosting a cookout on Monday, April 3rd from 11am-2pm in the Rotunda! Lots of food, music, and fun!!

CONGRATS ANDIE! You're going to Washington State. I'm so proud of you. I'll miss you next year. You'll always be my big sister! ASLF, Amy.

LONG SNAPPER WANTED The Eagle Football Team is in search of current GSU students who have experience as a football long snapper. Please see Coach Momen at the football office in Hamner or call at 681-5524.

FOR THE month of April GSU Students eat for 1/2 price Wednesday from 6am-11am. **HUDDLE HOUSE** Located on the corner of Lanier and 301. 681-4044 ANY MEAL. ANY TIME

40 Autos for Sale
 1996 VW Cabriolet convertible. Silver, 77K original miles, body/top excellent, runs well, needs minor repairs, great commuter car. For info leave message for Sandra at 681-5734 or 587-5068.

'97 JEEP Wrangler. 60,000 miles, 4 cylinder, 5 speed, black exterior, new wheels and tires, lots of extras. \$2,500 Call Kim 489-2179.

52 Bicycles
SCHWINN BIKE for sale. Looks brand new, hardly ever ridden. Includes a lock. \$250 neg.

80 Computers & Software
COMPUTER Moving and must sell computer. Whole package includes everything you need: 15" monitor, hard drive, keyboard, mouse, speakers, color printer, scanner and nice computer desk. 133MHz, 1.5 gig hard drive, 16MB RAM, 28.8 Modem, 672C inkjet printer. Asking \$500 obo. Call 681-6652 and ask for Hope.

90 Education
FUN & STUFF Visit our Web site for list of things to do that are educational and fun. On-line at <http://www.stp.gasou.edu/funstuff/>

120 Furniture & Appliances
FURNITURE FOR sale glass, wood-frame table with 4 chairs and sofa which folds out into a bed all for \$150. Contact Peaches at 681-6738.

FOR SALE Queen-sized sleeper sofa with matching chair and ottoman. Earth tone colors. Good condition. 489-5253, if no answer leave a message.

FUTON STYLE Bunk Bed for sale. Call 912 685-6752 after 6:00 PM.

140 Help Wanted
HELP WANTED Be a student telephone admissions representative. At least second semester freshman, 2.25 GPA minimum. Apply at Rosenwald Admissions by April 7th.

SUMMER SALES Internships Earn \$3000-\$7000+ gain valuable business experience selling yellow page advertising in your Official University Telephone Directory. Excellent advertising/sales/public relations challenge. Great Resume Booster! Nationally recognized training program. Call Paul at College Directory Publishing 800-466-2221 Ext288

SEMI-SKILLED carpentry, yard work, whatever-labor. Must work Saturdays plus other. 912-823-3590.

150 Lost & Found
REWARD for return of 10 month old chocolate lab puppy lost near Campus Courtyard. She has hazel eyes and is named Sunshine. Call 871-3268 ASAP

160 Miscellaneous for Sale
AVON Great products, great opportunities. Buy or sell. Call Monica at 681-4195 or email at mmm.ms@hotmail.com

180 Musical
KEG PARTY? Need a DJ? Guaranteed to rock your party! Largest and loudest tunes in town! Call Brian, mike, or Jason, 681-4301

200 Pets & Supplies
ALBINO FEMALE Ferret for sale to a good home. \$50.00. Call 842-5892.

ANIMAL LOVERS! Burmese python and Savannah monitor for sale. Burmese is 12 feet long and monitor is 1 foot long. Make me an offer. Call Eric 871-5303

220 Rentals & Real Estate
NEED SOMEONE to sublease large furnished, one bedroom apt. in varsity lodge. Rent \$360 per month. Free rent for the month of may. Call 871-3778

TWO BEDROOM Apartment for summer sublease in P.O. Box 8001 with washer and dryer. Call 681-6384 or Jacole at 871-6384

Mother Goose & Grimm

I'VE TRIED PRYING OPEN THE WINDOWS AND PICKING THE LOCKS, BUT NOTHING WORKS!

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D LIVE TO SAY THIS... BUT...

... I NEED A CAT BURGLAR!

WAKE UP, ATTILA. IT'S ME, GRIMM. I'M STUCK OUTSIDE.

COME ON, WAKE UP, WAKE UP.

...HE'S NOT MOVING.

HOW CAN ALL HIS NINE LIVES BE ASLEEP AT THE SAME TIME?

Ick

ONE DAY, WHILE HELPING THE MIDDLE CLASS, ROBIN HOOD FOUND HIS TRUE CALLING.

HEY, WAIT. WE NEED TO KNOW "WHY" BEFORE YOU CROSS.

Captain Ribman

CAPTAIN RIBMAN FEATURING RENA MERO
 FORMER WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION WOMAN'S CHAMPION WHO PLAYED THE ROLE OF SABLE

MEATROPOLIS' FINEST

EMERGENCY REQUEST FOR HELP! TEN DANGEROUS CONVICTS ESCAPED MEATROPOLIS' PENITENTIARY.

I'M ON MY WAY.

2-WAY HAM RADIO

IF THE ESCAPES ARE THE OFFICE WORKERS ARE THE SUPER BOSS, I MIGHT NOT GET BEAT UP TOO BADLY.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE ESCAPED CONVICTS ARE MURDERERS AND FORMER SCHOOLYARD BULLIES!

GOOD LORD! THAT WOMAN COULD BE BELLY! AND IT'S PROBABLY TOO LATE FOR ME TO BACK OUT!

BACK AWAY FROM THE GIRL! WE SURRENDER!

FORTUNATELY FOR CAPTAIN RIBMAN, THAT FEMALE OFFICER IS MEATROPOLIS' FINEST OFFICER RENA!

THAT WOULDN'T BE NECESSARY, CAPTAIN RIBMAN. THESE JAIL BRIDES WERE JUST HEADING BACK TO THEIR CAGES. RIGHT, BOYS?

HANDCUFF ME PLEASE.

NO FEAR! I ASKED FIRST!

ANOTHER AFTER YOU WRESTLE ENOUGH.

FROM BE GOOD LITTLE FELONS AND WRITE ME A LOVE NOTE WHILE YOU'RE IN SOLITARY.

NO SUPER POWERS. NO WANDS. NO BACK UP. JUST AN OPEN FURROW AND A KISSER FURROW. HOW DOES SHE DO IT?

MIKEY: THE FACTS OF LIFE

HOUSES AND Apartments for rent. Now and for August. No Pets. Call James Hood 764-6076.

TWO ROOMS sublease for summer. 106 Herty Drive, walking distance, no deposits. \$225 per month + 1/3 utilities, w/d, own room. Call 681-2092 or 912 754-3515.

FALL RENTALS Large 3 bedroom, 2 bath, Quiet complex- Walk to GSU Pool & Volleyball \$220/person 681-2300 531-2300. A Licensed Ga Realtor.

AVAIL AUGUST, near GSU and Holiday Inn. Plus 6 bed, 5 bath, 2 story house. New inside. No pets. 764-6076

SUBLEASE ONE bedroom apartment. Real nice apartment for \$350/ month. Water is included, no deposit. Call 871-4857 if interested.

SUBLEASE One bedroom apartment. Varsity Lodge. May through July. \$300/month. Very cozy and close to campus. Call 912 871-6412. If there is no answer, leave message.

SUBLEASE for summer. One bedroom close to campus. May 16- July 31. May rent is free! Free cable/HBO, \$300 per month plus utilities. Call Sheree 681-6227, leave message.

NEEDED SOMEONE to sublease apartment in May. Two bedrooms, one bath. Please call 681-6384 for more info.

APARTMENT FOR RENT! 2br-21/2 bath in Eagle Creek Townhouse. Includes w/d, dishwasher, and refrigerator/freezer. Rent \$600/month. Available in June call 681-9136.

1 BEDROOM apartment, close to campus. Short or long term lease. Call 912 681-1252.

SUMMER SUBLEASE master bedroom with private bath in players club. Rent is \$250 monthly plus 1/2 utilities. Available May-August. Call 681-8886.

SHORT TERM LEASE large 2 bedroom, 512 South College, Quiet area- Walk to GSU \$400/month 681-2300 531-2300. A Licensed Ga Realtor

SUBLEASE 1 of 4 rooms. House is walking distance to campus. \$215 & 1/4 utilities. May rent is \$100. Room is furnished. Call RYAN 871-4853

ONE BEDROOM Apartment for sublease. Nice size, just outside of campus. Washer and dryer. Only \$335 a month. If interested please call 489-2360.

SUMMER SUBLEASE two bedroom apt. on lake. Very peaceful. Available May 15th. May Free. \$600/mo, water included. Has own dock, and W/D. Call Laura or Emily 489-0906.

FOR RENT by owner. Stadium Walk or Park Place. Two bedrooms, washer and dryer. Call 764-7528

2 ROOMS AVAILABLE in 4 bed townhouse at Campus Courtyard. \$250 deposit needed. Call immediately 681-9093. Fall 2000

230 Roommates
SINGLE FEMALE wanted to share a 4 bedroom townhouse with 3 others. \$250 per month + 1/4 utilities. Call 681-7002 if interested.

260 Stereo & Sounds
KENWOOD Flip-down, detachable face CD player. 1 year old, great condition, \$150. Also Terminator 8's, \$50. Call 912 531-2938.

3 JL AUDIO 10W6

The Dawning of a New Era

By Michael Russo
Staff Writer

Coming off the heels of a not only an entertaining but somewhat disappointing WrestleMania, you would think that I would touch on some of the things that went down in Anaheim, CA this past Sunday. Though there is much I want to say, I feel that there is bigger news to discuss surrounding the Sports Entertainment industry.

In five days, a new era will begin. Unfortunately, this era won't be replacing the McMahon-Helmsley Era in the WWF, but instead will either make or break World Championship Wrestling.

For several weeks, Vince Russo and Eric Bischoff have been working diligently. The two creative minds have been putting together a show that will, according to Russo, "turn WCW upside down." Existing story lines, as well as the card for their upcoming pay-per-view have been completely thrown out. It will no doubt be interesting to see WCW's

new product and whether or not this new "facelift" will save the floundering company in Atlanta. However, before I move any further, I would like to touch on the accomplishments these two individuals have had in the past.

In 1995, Eric Bischoff took WCW to a new level. He not only brought in highly respected and admired talent to the organization, but he added a twist to professional wrestling. Bischoff brought realism to WCW. Instead of the comic book-like story lines that the WWF had been producing for years, Bischoff brought to the stage warring parties. (Wrestlers that were tired of getting the shaft by the suits of professional wrestling.) This idea or vision would start what seemed to be the beginning of the end for the WWF, the formation of the NWO.

Meanwhile, the WWF was getting a taste of competition for the first time. Vince Russo, at the time, was a writer for WWF Magazine. He was later hired to help put together a new format for the WWF that would bring fans back to WWF Programming.

Needless to say, Russo was successful. However, two and half years later, Russo like Bischoff, would be burned out and would resign.

Since WrestleMania XV, WCW has been falling behind. Vince Russo and Ed Ferrara were brought in, and for reasons unknown, though some claim to know the full story, were relieved from their duties. Now, many months later, Bischoff and Russo have been rehired and have been given complete creative control.

Will this partnership work? Every wrestling fan knows that these two have never seen eye to eye. Though there has always been somewhat of an element of respect, these two individuals never really agreed with the choices the other made, and more times than not, voiced their opinions about the other while working for opposing organizations. However, they've both been hired by WCW to do what other individuals could not do, and that's develop an entertaining program. In order to

this, personal differences as well as compromises must be made.

One of the biggest problems these two have had is that Bischoff wants to use already established stars in story lines whereas Russo wants to make new stars. With only five days away from the biggest Nitro wrestling fans have seen in year, there is no question that this debate between Russo and Bischoff has been laid to rest.

All too often, we hear broadcasters sitting at ringside ask, "Can these two co-exist here tonight?" Isn't it ironic that the question Russo and Bischoff have so many times instilled into the minds of wrestling fans around the world now represents them? Fact of the matter is that these two men must co-exist in order to withstand the competition. Not only do their careers hang in the balance, but so does the success of an entire company.

I will no doubt have more to say on this topic on Wednesday, April 13th, two days after Bischoff and Russo's first show.

Country version of 'Gin and Juice' results in Phish confusion

By Tim Prizer
Staff Writer

The sound of the soft strumming of a mandolin breaks its way through the silence, followed by the folk picking of a banjo, and then the opening line, "There's so much drama in da LBC/It's kinda hard bein' Snoop D-O double G." Soon, the chorus stomps on in, "Rollin' down the street, smokin' Indo, sippin' on gin and juice/Laid back, with my mind on my money and my money on my mind." What?! A rap song set to a bluegrass arrangement?!

Becoming increasingly popular to avid users of the mp3 site *napster.com*, the country version of Snoop Doggy Dogg's "Gin and Juice" has caused a bit of confusion. A mistake arose when someone heard the song, and put it on the website as a cover performed by Phish. The jam band arrangement of the country song may sound a bit like the Greek Row favorites, with the banjos, mandolins, and yodel style vocals, but in reality, Phish has nothing to do with the tune at all.

The hilarious, yet brilliant "twang" version of the song is actually done by a little-known roots rock band from Austin, Texas, the Gourds. When the idea to put this song to a completely different style of music first entered the mind of the Gourds co-frontman Kevin Russell, he never imagined the impact the song would make.

One of the most famous rap songs in recent history and one that made Snoop Doggy Dogg the star he is today, "Gin and Juice" (from Snoop's album *Doggystyle*) created quite a stir on the hip-hop scene, and on music in general in the mid 1990s. "I first heard the song through my sister, Erin Russell," Kevin told me in an online interview. "Gin and Juice" immediately made an impression on me, because it had such a great hook and chorus. At first listen, it may sound like the Gourds are poking fun at the song, but actually they decided to cover it out of their respect and love for the song. Despite the Gourds' previous record label's suggestions, the bluegrass cover is just as raw and uncensored as the original, a decision the band made because of what Russell calls the song's "linguistic powers."

Many would argue that the hip-hop scene has made a major downfall in recent years, although there is some quality stuff out there. "There is a lot of bad hip-hop, and, I think, precious little that is good," Russell said. "A bad ass beat does not make a song." Russell's attraction to "Gin and Juice" came about due to the actual "song" qualities it has. "Gin and Juice" features a sing-along melody and an unforgettable chorus, unlike most of today's popular rap material.

So why even think about rearranging a rap song into an array of bluegrass, boot-stompin' licks? "Hip-hop is the dominant cultural expression in the west right now, and I see it as a genuine form of American folk music," Russell says. "Surprisingly, the themes prevalent in hip-hop today are very close to the themes running through a lot of old country

and blues recordings. The language is different, but the ideas are very similar."

The Gourds' cover of "Gin and Juice" moved fairly quickly from something the band like to play around with at parties, to being burned by laser into plastic on the Gourds' eight-song EP entitled *Gogitchyershinebox*. "We just started playing it one night and boom, we had ourselves one hell of a cover tune," Russell explains.

Also featuring a wonderful rendition of David Bowie's "Ziggy Stardust" arranged and sung by the band's other lead singer, Jimmy Smith, *Gogitchyershinebox* has overshadowed the Gourds' original material a bit. With three full-length CDs of entirely original material already in stores and a fourth on the way (to be entitled *Waterbag* and released this summer), the Gourds are a well-established folk/rock band with a small, yet intense fan gathering across the globe.

On the band's most recent release, *Ghosts of Hallelujah*, the song "Gangsta Lean" is Kevin Russell's personal approach to the rap industry. In "Gangsta Lean," Kevin sings, "Your life's a melody and your life's a rhapsody/Possessing the dark skin with the romance/It's not a mystery when you know the history of east coast and west coast killa's/And you can't tell me it doesn't bother you/Gangsta lean, you done killed them all..."

Kevin is not infatuated with the hip-hop scene, but with music all together. "There is a connection [from rap music] to older forms of American music and a long history of white guys doing black songs in a white style," Russell says. "From Jimmy Rogers, to Bill Monroe, to Bob Wills, to Hank Williams, to Elvis Presley, the Beatles, [Rolling] Stones, [Bob] Dylan, Beastie Boys, etc. I thought I would like to try ['Gin and Juice'] as an experiment in sociopathic songwriting. And I think it was successful," Russell added. "Now if I could only get the Gourds to play 'No Diggity,' we'd be on our way to 'Pat Boon-dom,'" he jokes.

The most amazing aspect of the Gourds' "Gin and Juice" is the talent exhibited in the song. It is truly remarkable to think about a small roots rock band from Texas taking a rap song and setting it to their own style, while maintaining the original song's powerful points. The tune rarely flows with the same melody as the original, but it manages to come out with equally as much expertise.

So, what is Snoop Dogg's opinion on the Gourds' bluegrass rendition of his song? Kevin Russell explains, "Snoop recently got to hear it by way of a *spin.com* writer during an interview session. I'm told he loved it and played it ten times in a row," he says. "So, I reckon I won't be the subject of any drive-by retributions any time soon."

"Gin and Juice" and all of the Gourds' material can be purchased in many large music stores or online at *milesomusic.com* and *amazon.com*. For information on all things Gourds, check out *thegourds.com*.

Thank you for reading the *George-Anne* every Monday Wednesday, and Friday.

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RELIGIOUS AWARENESS WEEK APRIL 10-13, 2000

Monday, April 10

4:00 p.m. Russell Union 2044

The Bob Jones University Visit and Presidential Election Politics

The explicit statements of personal religious belief made by all the Republican candidates during the presidential debates and the controversy over George Bush's visit to Bob Jones University raise questions about the continuing role of religious belief and affiliation in presidential election politics. Panelists: Dr. Steve Engels, Dr. Karen McCurdy and Dr. Robert Pirro, Political Science Dept. and Dr. George Shriver, Emeritus-History Dept. will seek to address some of these questions.

6:00 p.m. Russell Union 2044

The Nature of "Evil" in Different Religions

Panelists: Dr. Janice Steirn, Pastor Jerry Johnson, Dr. Ezzat Shaalan, Dr. Dan Rea, and moderator, Mr. Will Schmidt will discuss the origin and nature of "evil" from the Jewish, Christian, Islamic, and Baha'i religious perspectives. The audience is invited to participate in the discussion.

Tuesday, April 11

3:00 p.m. Russell Union 2047

Socrates versus Zeus and Apollo (A video presentation and discussion)

In the philosophical conversations that led to his death penalty, Socrates challenged traditional stories about the Greek gods. His objections would make those gods more wise, good, and unified — more like a later, monotheistic God. One Socratic question is especially vexing for monotheism: Does God command something because it is good, or is it good because God commands it? Presenter: Dr. Glenn Rawson.

5:00 p.m. Russell Union 2048

No Girls Allowed: Women's Ordination and the Church

In these days of democracy and equality, some Christian denominations continue to deny women the right to be pastors. Is this simply the last vestiges of a misogynistic, patriarchal church? Could any enlightened person hold this view today? Pastor Mark Louderback will examine the teachings of the Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod in defense of an all-male clergy.

7:00 p.m. Russell Union Rotunda

Celebration of Christ — The Lord's Prayer

This will be the ecumenical gathering of the different Christian student organizations on campus in a show of unity and a spirit of celebration. Each group will focus upon a different petition of the Lord's Prayer. Sponsored by the Christian Ministries of the Coordinated Religious Ministries.

Wednesday, April 12

5:00 p.m. Russell Union 2041

Faith in Fiction

Three Bell Honors students will discuss the readings and films used in their Freshman Bell Honors Seminar which focuses on fiction as a source of enlightenment on issues of religious faith. A short discussion will follow the students' presentation.

7:00 p.m. Russell Union 2084

Teachers In and Out in the Rural South: Avoiding the Lash of the Bible Belt.

(A Reader's Theater Performance)

This performance is based upon interviews of gay and lesbian teachers in the rural South. While consequences of coming out for teachers have been documented nationally, the perils are especially dangerous for teachers in this conservative region, where fundamentalist religious groups use Bible verses to justify and fuel their homophobia. In this performance, four researchers take on the characters of those interviewed in order to re-present the struggles of the interviewees. Readers and/or Researchers: Dr. Jane Page, Dr. Delores Liston, Mr. Chris Bowen, Dr. Bill Reynolds, & Mr. Will Schmidt.

8:00 p.m. Russell Union 2044

Sex, Marriage, and G-d: The Sacred Connection

This presentation, by Rabbi Yosef Edelstein, gives an Orthodox Jew's perspective concerning the law and customs pertaining to sex and marriage — and how G-d brings them all together.

Thursday, April 13

5:00 p.m. Russell Union 2044

Naked in the Town Square: Francis of Assisi Revealed

This presentation deals with the real story of a rich pampered son, a soldier, a prisoner and the king of wild drunken Assisi youth. The presentation, by Ms. Jane Hall, explores the myth and the truth of the man who stood naked before the most powerful man of his time, talked to animals, and spoke simple words that touched many.

7:00 p.m. Russell Union 2080

Women in Islam

The status of women in Islam is often misunderstood mainly due to misleading media reports. This lecture will present an accurate view of women in Islam compared to other religions and cultures. Presenters: Dr. Ezzat Shaalan and Dr. Nahla Swedan.

What do the following have in common?

- Canada
- Louisiana
- The Montreal Expos
- The European Economic Community
- The International Olympic Committee
- The National Hockey League
- Many Nobel Laureates in Literature
- Brooke Shields
- The United Nations

The Answer: French!

Interested in studying French?

Contact Dr. Clara Krug, Foreign Languages:
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Be Francais, e'est pratique!