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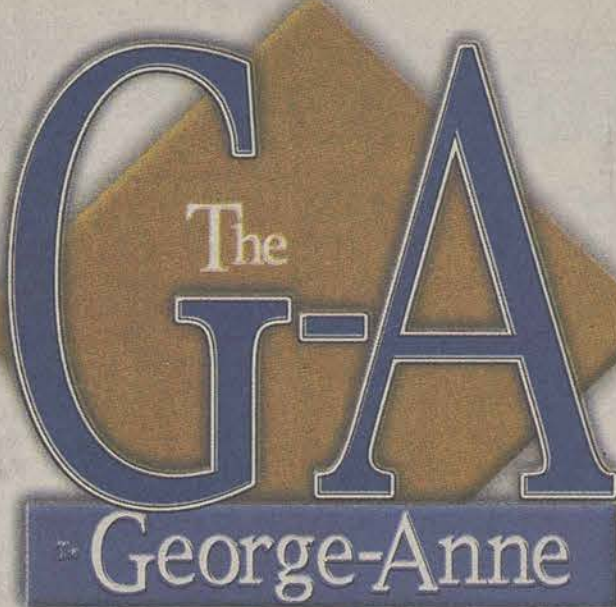


SPORTS

GSU women's basketball defeat Davidson

GSU women's basketball conquers Davidson 74-56 to tie for first in SoCon. More inside!

Page 6



LIFE

Freedom Forum held in Russell Union

Catalina Camia speaks on the topic of minorities pursuing the field of journalism. More inside.

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HENDERSON LIBRARY
GEORGIA SOUTHERN
UNIVERSITY



Vol. 73 No. 62

Monday, February 26, 2001

'Heritage or Hate?': Debate over new state flag continues



Jason Clary
ASA GORDON, JR.: Gordon accused the Confederate States of America of misusing the former flag in ways to oppress black people instead of promoting their Southern heritage.

By Jason Clary
Staff Writer

About the only thing that the two sides agreed upon at the NAACP forum held on February 21 was that neither agreed with the changes of the new Georgia state flag.

The debate was supposed to be a follow up to last December's open forum, which dealt with the issue of the proposed change to the past flag, but ended up being much more of a debate on attacks and supports of Southern heritage. The debate had little to do with the actual new Georgia State flag except that it "stated oppression" according to Asa Gordon, Jr., President of the Sons and Daughters of Colored Troops.

The second round of the Georgia flag debate began shortly after 6 p.m. beginning with a moving speech from the keynote speaker, Tito Jackson.

Jackson is a recent Emory graduate and currently works for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in Atlanta. While working with leaders from both sides of the conflict he stated that he "did not choose the flag issue, the flag issue chose him." He agreed with supporters of the previous state flag because "it takes patience and persistence to overcome flag issue." He also said that it is "time to move on" over the issues on the old flag.

The first of eight speakers was P. Charles Lunsford, president of the Heritage Preservation Association. He is one of the more sought-after spokespersons for Southern heritage, culture, and honor. He has challenged NAACP president Mfume to a debate on national TV. Lunsford stated that "everything that is a part of Southern heritage is under attack. Virginia and Texas are under attack because of statues and heritage days." He attacked the National holiday, Martin Luther King Day, and said, "I am offended by MLK Day."

Henderson and Statesboro libraries sign agreement

By Meggan Kicklighter
Staff Writer

Henderson Library and Statesboro Regional Library have signed a formal agreement that is expected to improve services of both libraries for the campus and community.

The agreement will allow the public to use some of the resources in Henderson Library and allow student access to Statesboro Regional.

According to Bede Mitchell, University Librarian, the agreement is only a formal declaration of an existing agreement between the libraries.

The agreement not only allows students and the public access to the research materials including the computer databases, but it also allows both libraries to serve the entire community better.

According to Peter Sullivan, Director of the Statesboro Regional Library System, the agreement will see that the libraries do not duplicate the resources that they offer because they will work together to see that both libraries have different resources.

"The agreement opens horizons of getting new materials," he said. "If Henderson has something already, then we will know to buy something else."

The Statesboro Regional Library serves not only Bulloch County

but also Candler, Bryan, Emanuel and Evans counties, according to Sullivan.

Statesboro Regional has over 121 thousand volumes to offer. The library also has 36 computers for use by the public equipped with the entire Microsoft Suite. Included in these computers is a section that is used to research family histories.

"Our genealogy section is nationwide famous," said Sullivan. "We have people calling from all over to search their family history."

Mitchell assures students that the agreement is no real change. Therefore, students should not be concerned that resources at Henderson will not be so easily available to them.

"We've been providing this service [to the public] all along," he said. "It hasn't been a big problem so far. This will not affect the students."

Even so, Mitchell said that there may be some limitations on access of the general public at Henderson Library. This is to assure that students tech fees are used properly and that the students can get what they need when they need it.

Henderson Library is state-funded with the taxpayers' dollars. Therefore, according to Mitchell, the University Library feels the need to serve the community of Statesboro.

The Statesboro Regional Library is open Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and closed on Sunday.

Dr. Paul Jurgerson is president of the Civil War Roundtable, a discussion group of past and current issues regarding any subject relating to slavery, reconstruction, heritage, Southern culture, and reparations. He heavily opposes the NAACP saying that he is "offended by the NAACP because they are telling him that his heritage has to go." He also said, "since 'Dixie' offends the NAACP... it is not played in any public venues." Jurgerson took his time at the podium to educate the audience on the attacks on his heritage.

Mr. Michael Mull, Camp Commander of the Sons of Confederate Veterans Ogeechee Rifles Camp, said that the flag is "not a compromise flag, it is a Yankee blue flag and I will not fly it or honor it."

Don Newman, a Southeast Georgia Brigade Commander and a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans in Savannah, is a spokesman for regarding Southern history and heritage violations. Newman offered many different perspectives on why such attacks on Southern heritage are taking place, and told the audience that "segregation came from Reconstruction." He told a story about his observations of what took place during a lunch in Savannah in October 1995, when the O.J. Simpson verdict was returned.

"When the verdict was returned and O.J. was found not guilty, the black diners stood up and started to shout in support of the black man, OJ, while the white diners just looked at each other and wondered what the hell was going on," Newman said.

Mark Bell, College Coordinator for the Georgia Area of the NAACP and President of the Cobb County Young Democrats, attacked the flag issue for what he saw as a sign of oppression towards many Georgia citizens. He also stated that he is "sick and tired of being tired," accusing the groups of Southern heritage of oppressing the black people in the south with their signs and power.

Robert Ludgate is a member of the Unitarian Universalistic Church, a religion that keeps an open mind to the religious questions people have struggled with in all times and places. The group believes that personal experience, conscience and reason should be the final authorities in religion, and that in the end, religious authority lies not in a book, person or institution, but in himself or herself.

The group is a "non-creedal" religion because they do not ask anyone to ascribe to a creed. The basis of Ludgate's arguments was that the old flag represented the "old South" philosophy and presented oppression towards black people in the South.

"In the Declaration of Independence, it states that 'all men are created equal', not really," Ludgate said.

He also said that Southern heritage is "hate, murder, and racism." Ludgate was the only non-minority on the panel that opposed the former state flag that included the confederate battle symbol in two-thirds of its dimensions. He argued that any symbol, such as the old flag, should not oppress or discriminate against any of the people it is made to represent.

President of the Sons and Daughters of Colored Troops, Asa Gordon, Jr., pointed out that "all white southerners were not together in the war." Some Southern troops fought for the North because they had different views on what the outcome of the Civil War should be. He accused the new flag compromise because it "puts the next generation in danger." He also accused the Confederate States of America of misusing the former flag in ways to oppress black people instead of promoting their Southern heritage.

Sutton pleads guilty to aggravated assault charges

By Angela Polley
Staff Writer

James Edward Sutton pled guilty to aggravated assault in Bulloch County Superior Court on Wednesday, Feb 21. This was his first offense.

Sutton was accused and charged for the Nov. 1999 assault

of a GSU employee. Sutton placed a bayonet-type knife to the victim's throat and was also carrying a .38 caliber pistol. Sutton resisted two Georgia Southern police officers by elbowing and kicking. The officers involved were Detectives Sergeant Bill Black and Corporal Tim Platt.

Sutton was charged with two counts of carrying weapons within school safety zones, at school functions or on school property. He was also charged with two counts of obstruction of an officer.

Sutton is allowed no contact with the victim or any other GSU employee. He was also banished from

the Ogeechee Judicial Circuit, which includes Bulloch, Screven, Effingham and Jenkins counties.

Sutton received 10 years probation for count one, aggravated assault and five years probation for each additional count. Sutton's attorney was available for comment.

SGA ratifies constitution after much debate

By Jake Hallman
Staff Writer

"If not this student government association and this administration, then who? Let's move forward for the students of Georgia Southern University," Francys Johnson, Student Government Association president, said.

In an often-contentious marathon meeting last Wednesday, SGA finished ratification of its new constitution.

Debate began early over Article XI of the constitution, which dealt with, among other things, the volunteer status of senators. Some senators felt that the door should be left open for members to receive pay in the future, and introduced an amendment striking the portion of the article forbidding Senate members a salary.

"There's no way I can support it. If we strike this portion, it can lend itself to abuse," said Senator John Bryson. "I don't think we should strike what has been a part of this constitution for as long as I can remember. Senators do this out of the goodness of their heart."

The Senate was divided over the amendment, but ultimately voted it down.

The article then passed overwhelmingly.

Article XII, pertaining to the new constitution's amendment process, did not pass after an hour of debate and numerous amendments. Debate centered mainly upon the number of signatures required for students to petition against provisions in the new constitution.

After a move for reconsideration of the article by Senator Adrien Stallings, it failed again, leaving no provision for future Senates to amend the new constitution, and no provision for students to petition against the new constitution.

As the meeting dragged on past 9:15 p.m., Johnson had to repeatedly call for order in the Senate chambers. After the failure of Article XII, senators entertained a motion for the fourth time in as many weeks to postpone the new constitution until this week's meeting.

Johnson begged senators not to table discussion, citing the need to finish the constitution before SGA elections next month. The motion failed, but after the passage of Article XIII, which delineated the terms for the constitution's ratification, the failed article was reintroduced and passed overwhelmingly.

The new constitution will be published in the George-Anne this week.

Also at the meeting, Johnson announced some of the SGA's accomplishments to senators. The SGA President was most proud of the body's efforts to increase the amount of money that SGA has to disburse to student organizations.

SGA's activity budget was increased by 483 percent this year, from \$12,000 to \$70,000.

"We are making great progress in accomplishing this objective of getting more money to student organizations," Johnson said.

SGA has also recommended a \$14 increase in student activity fees to fund programs "that touch student's lives every day," Johnson said.

According to him, the body wanted a \$24 increase, but settled for \$14. The Board of Regents will probably approve \$8-10, Johnson said.

"I need for you to rally with me as we go before the Board of Regents and ask them for our \$14. We need it all," he said. "This ship is moving forward, we're moving forward towards progress."

"We have goals which are directed to students' lives. I want to let you know there's power in that."

As a community service project, the SGA is participating in the local Relay for Life, to help cancer research. Community Service Committee chair Adrien Stallings asked for a \$5 contribution from each senator to help with the effort.

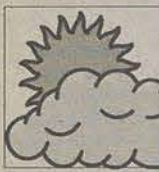
"A few people slacked off on the money for United Way, so please don't let the cancer patients down," she said, alluding to senators' reluctance to fulfill their individual \$10 pledges made earlier in the year. Senators will also participate in the relay itself on March 2, she said.

The Senate had expected new emergency call boxes to be on-campus by the end of February, but their completion has been delayed until the end of Spring Break, said Senator Nick Pearson.

In other Senate business, the body approved a \$250 fund request for Hillel and a \$500 request for Beta Alpha Psi. The body also approved \$1000 in funding to make a "top-notch" Web site for SGA, according to Johnson, at the meeting. The site is expected to be on-line within a few weeks.



This Week's Weather



Today

Partly cloudy with a high of 74 and a low of 49.



Tuesday

Partly cloudy with a high of 65 and a low of 52.

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Christina, age 6 months, lovingly placed in open adoption at her birth, visiting her birthmom, Sara

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Things to do at GSU February 26-March 1

• Zeta Phi Beta Presents: A Week of Finerwomanhood. Monday, "March of Dimes Folic Acid Day" in the Russell Union from 12 pm until 2 pm. Tuesday, "Safe Stroking" an event that includes "more condoms" and "sexual healing" in room 2041 of the Russell Union. Wednesday, "So Sweet Makeovers: Becoming a Finerwoman" from 12 to 2 pm in the Russell Union. Thursday, "Zeta's Against Assault: Stop the Madness" in the Russell Union from 12 to 2 pm.

February 27-28

• Multicultural Affairs are asking students to come and vote for the recipients of the Essence Awards between

10 a.m.-2p.m. at the rotunda. For any questions contact Reginald Johnson at 871-7416.

• Academic Resource Center will sponsor a Regents' Essay Review by M. Pate at 4 p.m. in Library room 1042.

February 28

• The GSU chapter of Habitat for Humanity will meet at 6 p.m. in room 2042 of the Russell Union.

March 1

• Deadline for study abroad in Costa Rica applications. For more info contact Dr. Doralina A. Martinez-Conde at 681-0119 or Dr. Antonio Serna at 871-1375.

March 20-21

• The Graduation Gala will be held in the Williams Center Dining Hall from 10 until 6 pm on the 20th and 10 until 4 on

the 21st.

• GSU's NAACP meets every Monday in Russell Union room 2080 at 6 p.m.

• Academic Resource Center will be offering free tutoring in the Library Ground Floor, room 1001 in the following courses: English, Biology, Sociology, Math, Algebra, Probability, Physics and Chemistry. Call 681-0321 for more information.

• The Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender Support Group for students, staff and faculty meets in Room 2072 of the Russell Union on Thursdays from 5 until 6 p.m. For more information call 681-5409.

• Black Student Alliance meets every Tuesday at 7p.m. Check sheet for room number. For more info call 681-5458.

POLICE BEAT

GSU Public Safety February 21

• Angela Jean Fellingier, 22, 104 Gentilly Road, was charged with DUI and failure to maintain lane.

• Lindsay Douglas Flowers, 19, Warner Robins, Ga., was charged with misdemeanor possession of marijuana.

• A case of simple battery was reported at Stratford Hall.

Statesboro Police Department February 22

• Scott Shirk, 24, Hawthorne II #64 reported a burglary.

• Philip Hughes, 20, Players Club #37 reported a simple assault.

• Amanda King, 27, Hawthorne II #93 reported criminal trespass.

• Gretchen Schnall, Kennewick, Ga., was arrested for underage drinking.

February 23

• Yolanda Williams, 19, Veazey Hall, reported a battery.

• Jason Milton, 20, Stadium Walk #142 reported a criminal trespass.

• Craig Morris, 19, Rosewell, Ga., was arrested for DUI and underage possession.

• David Rhinehart, 19, Alpharetta, Ga., was arrested for DUI.

February 25

• Martel Craft, 21, Willow Bend #48, was arrested for DUI and driving on a suspended

license.

• Tonya Fuller, 22, Greenville, Ga., reported criminal trespass.

• Thomas Loughman, 22, Stadium Walk #31 reported criminal trespass and battery.

Editor's Note: Police Beat appears in every edition 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 at either the GSU Division of Public Safety or at the Statesboro Police Department.

-All Police Beat information is compiled by Jason Kemp, Assistant News Editor.

Eagle Sports Medicine Association

5K Fun Run

March 24th at 10:00 am

Sign up at the RAC

Or at

Hollis (Health & Kinesiology Dept 3rd floor)

Donations Accepted

For info contact Paul Geisler - 681-5264

Replacement of Georgia flags costs over \$200,000

Associated Press

ATLANTA — A legislative budget negotiating team got the bill Saturday for the General Assembly's decision last month to change the state flag: \$286,000 to replace all the old flags in schools and public buildings around the state.

The money will buy 16,500 new state flags.

"I'm surprised we could get it done that cheap," said House Democratic Leader Larry Walker of Perry, who was instrumental in passing the bill that gave Georgia its first new flag since 1956 and served on the House budget negotiating team. "Sounds like to me that's not unreasonable."

The new flag reduces the Confeder-

ate battle emblem, a symbol of Southern courage to some but of slavery and racial hatred to others, to one of five tiny flags from Georgia's history arrayed under a gold state seal.

Walker said he believes the six-member negotiating panel will approve the expenditure, but they did not do so immediately.

The expenditure was presented to the panel as one of several additional issues it must consider after resolving scores of mostly minor House-Senate differences in the midyear spending bill.

Both budget versions boost state spending between now and June 30 from the current \$14.4 billion to \$15.2 billion, an increase of \$801 million.

Most of the new spending, \$468 million, is earmarked for a special school construction program designed to help local systems reduce class sizes as required by last year's education reform law. An additional \$166 million of the money goes to expand a modest property tax relief program begun two years ago.

Neither is at issue in the talks.

Gov. Roy Barnes, who remained at the Capitol Saturday to monitor the talks, has his own wish list. Among other things, he wants the negotiators to restore \$10 million he recommended for a building at the University of Georgia for vaccine research. Neither house funded the project.

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ONLY IN AMERICA...

1 Pennsylvania

Man expresses love with tattoo

Associated Press

COLLINGDALE — Seth Mushrush held the needle between his fingers and asked the question as Billy Idol belted "White Wedding" on the radio: "All right, you all set?" he asked Paul Cusick, 39, who was preparing to receive his Valentine Day gift as he sat in the chair with left arm exposed.

"Yep," Cusick said definitively. "Let's do it."

With that, Mushrush, an artist at Boulevard Tattoo, traced the outline of a heart, splashed with a banner reading the name of Cusick's daughter, Lindsay.

About two weeks before Valentine's Day, Grace Cusick, 42, walked into Boulevard on MacDade Boulevard and bought a gift she knew her man would love.

Her husband began his love affair with tattoos when he was 18, getting a cross and heart on his right arm. Four more, including a skull with three-dimensional green and yellow eyes to a flower and sickle, followed. With that kind of history, Grace paid \$125 for a gift certificate from the studio.

"Tattoos are a good idea because they're a permanent thing," she said. "Forever and always."

She presented him the gift and Cusick cashed it in a few days later before going to his welding job at H & H Manufacturing.

Cusick found the design he liked among the hundreds gracing Boulevard's walls. Then, to do the job, he picked the artist who had penned three other permanent designs on his skin.

Mushrush, 21, began his inked art three years ago at Windchimes Tattoo in Ocean City, Md., where he apprenticed for six months learning about technique and sterilization before doing his first tattoo, a lizard.

Since September, he's joined "Tiny Tim" Nilan, Harry Fulmer and Ralph Brunke at Boulevard while he studies graphic design at Temple University's Tyler School of Art.

Don't be mistaken, though. Even after graduation, Mushrush won't be draining the ink from his blood.

"I'll be a tattoo artist the rest of my life," he said. "I get to wear a T-shirt, listen to music and draw all day."

Both he and Cusick said getting a tattoo is a burning sensation. "Did you ever get stung by a bee?" Mushrush asked. "It's just irritating."

After washing Cusick's arm with soap, Mushrush, wearing latex gloves, stuck an outline of the

heart on his arm. The client was then given a cherry Jolly Rancher lollipop to bite down on, in the event of any sensitive spots were struck.

The two agreed that the touchiest period is the outline, because of the continuous needle pressure and the depth of ink penetration required.

Mushrush said Japanese and tribal symbols are popular now but any tattoo holds meaning to its wearer. "Every piece of artwork out there," Mushrush said, pointing to the design-filled waiting area, "is going to represent something to somebody."

As did the heart, flower and banner to Cusick.

After about an hour and 15 minutes, Mushrush stepped away and showed off his work. Cusick smiled as the heart gleamed.

"That is really nice," he said. "I thank you. I love it. It's great. Never had a complaint yet."

2 Virginia

Doctors research heartbreak

Associated Press

CHARLOTTESVILLE — A doctoral student at the University of Virginia is researching how people get over heartbreak, and students there are his guinea pigs.

In his successful application for a three-year study grant from the National Institute of Mental Health, David Sbarra, 27, of Long Island, N.Y., described it as the way "adults maintain and regain emotional homeostasis following the dissolution of close romantic bonds."

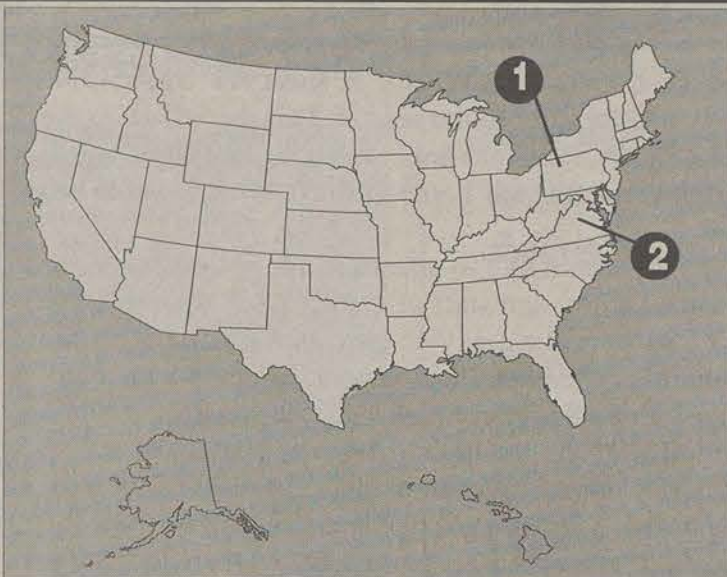
"It's happened to everyone," Sbarra said. "You've ended a relationship or been the one dumped on."

But for all the scholarly research on matters such as how partners grow apart or whether divorcees are more depressed than married folk, almost no one had devoted significant science to the universal process of getting over heartbreak.

Sbarra's adviser, veteran U.Va. psychology Robert E. Emery, has been studying the consequences of divorce for years and developed a theory that emotions oscillate wildly but fairly predictably between love, anger and sadness, and eventually become dimmer and dimmer.

To test that theory, researchers needed a steady supply of people falling in and out of love. But Sbarra had to get subjects under observation as close to the day of the split as possible to study the post-breakup blues with scientific accuracy.

He set up two studies: The Virginia Dating Study, which he ad-



vertised prominently and has yielded 250 volunteers involved in relationships, and the Virginia Dissolution Study, which follows those who break up.

"We said, 'Let's study a large group of people in dating relationships and follow them over time. We know by intuition that a large number of them will break up,'" Sbarra told the Washington Post.

The surveys for the Virginia Dat-

ing Study go out weekly via e-mail with questions that include "How would you describe the current state of your relationship?" The responses from 250 students are monitored by Sbarra's team of undergraduate research assistants.

When his assistants see signs of turmoil in a participant's survey sheet they know they might have a candidate for the 30-day Virginia Dissolution Study.

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Miscellany

Georgia Southern University's Magazine of the Arts

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...for the Spring Fine Arts Edition. Please submit your poetry, essays, short stories, theatrical vignettes, and visual art. All written work should be typed and in final form. Slides and photographs of all 3-D and large pieces are preferred.

Deadline for submissions is Friday, March 2, 2001 by 5pm
Submissions by be dropped off in the Williams Center, Room 2009.

Cash Prizes up to \$100 for first place.

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Obese man sues for discrimination

Associated Press

TRENTON, N.J. — A state appeals court has ruled that a 333-pound accountant from Jersey City who claims he was fired because he's overweight can sue his former employer for job discrimination.

The court ruled Friday that Joseph Lally, 46, can continue in his lawsuit against the J.P. Woods Co. if he presents medical evidence that his obesity is not simply the product of "overindulgence and lassitude."

The company claims Lally was fired in February 1997 after he did not submit a requested "action plan" to gain the skills he needed to carry out his responsibilities in his new job as treasurer/controller.

Lally, who is 5-foot-11, said he lost his job shortly after failed to make good on his employer's offer of a \$25,000 bonus if he could lose 100 pounds in 14 months.

"Appearance plays a tremendous role in determining whether people get jobs and, if they do have jobs, how far ahead they get in those jobs," Robert Hermann, Lally's lawyer, told The Star-Ledger of Newark for Saturday's editions.

New Jersey is among a few states to recognize obesity under the state Law Against Discrimination.

The case now returns to Superior Court Judge Seymour Margulies.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM ON A GREAT SEASON

The George-Anne would like to take this time to congratulate the GSU Women's basketball team on the awesome season that it is having. Right now, the team's current record is 21-6 overall and those are grounds to be commended. The team has covered enormous ground

ship status after the regular season. This record makes the staff at the George-Anne believe that the Lady Eagles will take home the title at Championships. We know you can do it!

We also would like to take this time to encourage the students, faculty and staff of Georgia Southern to come out to support the Lady Eagles as they travel to the Southern Conference Tournament to defend their co-championship title March 1-4. Sure, they aren't as big as the football team, but their efforts are just as valiant. A Southern Conference championship is practically in the palm of the Lady Eagle's hands and we know they will take it! The championship games are in Greenville, South Carolina for those of you who don't know. Get ready to cheer the GSU Lady Eagles on to victory as the team brings home yet another title for our university.

Our Opinion

since last year's overall record of 10-18. It is apparent that the Lady Eagles basketball team is on the road to victory. Having only lost one game at home this season and winning ten proves that the Lady Eagles are on fire in their home court. However, this also could be said on their performances away from home, winning 10 out of 15 games on the road. So far, the team is 15-3 in the Southern Conference and has earned itself co-champion-

An open invitation

Have you ever wanted to make a difference? Have you ever looked at something and wondered why it isn't up to your standards? Did you

JOHNSON do anything about it? If so, great. If not, why? Well, I'm here today to give you a personal invitation to make a difference. I invite you to make a difference in something that you seem to love to bash. What am I talking about? Well, the George-Anne of course.

ATTENTION JOURNALISM MAJORS! The George-Anne is and has been waiting on you to grace us with your talents. Sure, we have journalism majors that work for this paper. A lot of us are in your classes. We see you pick up the paper, flip through it and comment on the low quality of the writing on its pages. We hear your comments and take them with a grain of salt.

After all, we can't force you to love this publication.

However, we HAVE noticed that it is rather ironic that you are journalism majors and instead of working to make a difference at something that you have chosen to make a career out of, you do nothing. You complain about the paper being low quality. However, who are you to say anything when you are doing nothing to improve it?

The staff of The George-Anne makes mistakes. We misspell words. We sometimes have flaws in our grammar and word usage. We occasionally place the wrong punctuation in a sentence. We have gotten names mixed up in the paper and accidentally identified a person as someone other than who they are. There have been times when the caption under a picture makes no sense at all. Hell, sometimes we even misspell a word in a headline!

On the other hand, we also realize that we are only human. We learn from our mistakes and try not to make them again. We work hard to inform the public of wrong do-

ings and praise people when something great has been done on this campus. We also can say that we work our butts off to make this paper come out three times a week. We can say that we give up our free time, working towards improving the quality of something that we so strongly believe in. We work here because for some of us this is what we want to do with our lives. We have taken the initiative and are striving to make The George-Anne better with each addition. At the very least, we can say that we are trying. We can say that we care. We can say that we know what it is like to work for a newspaper. We can also say that we have a vague idea of what our jobs are going to be like when we get out in "the real world" and start making lives for ourselves in the journalism field.

Working for The George-Anne has its advantages. Not only does it

take a step beyond complaining. It is and has always been up to you when it comes to the actions that you take. It is my personal opinion that success begins one step at a time. It only takes one person to make a difference. That person can create a ripple effect in the actions of others. I would say I'd like to challenge you to make a difference, but I can't. I can only wait for you to. In the meantime, life goes on, but what did you do other than complain? That isn't helping and that isn't positive, it's useless.

Like I said earlier, I'd like to invite you to take part in something that you have chosen to make your career out of. My question is "Why aren't you working here?" and "Why are you complaining about something that you could just as easily help to improve?" I invite you to stop circling the errors that you find in the paper and start writing for it so that there are none.

We can't stop your complaining and we can't make you work here, but we can shine a little light on the irony of journalism majors demeaning a journalistic student publication on their own campus.

The George-Anne is actually an outstanding newspaper. If you don't agree with that, look at other universities' newspapers and compare them to ours. It might explain why The George-Anne wins the award for General Excellence at the Georgia College Press Association. However, if you feel you can make this newspaper better, by all means come to the Williams Center room 2023, fill out an application and start working here! It's up to you as to whether you want to remain a complainer or make a difference. It's as simple as that. If you were waiting for an invitation, consider this as close as you are going to get to one.

What are you waiting for?
Justin Johnson is a journalism major and can be reached at gamed@gasou.edu.

PAY ATTENTION: it's your future



RANDY DOBSON

On Tuesday night, February 27th, newly elected President George W. Bush will address a joint-house session of congress for the first time since being elected to the office he now occupies. And YOU should watch.

Yes, I said that, and I am talking to you—each and every one of you. You see, for many of our student populace, this is an historic event. It will be the very first speech given by a sitting president chosen in an election in which you actually took part. This is a prime, and I do mean prime, opportunity for you, and indeed us all, to actually see our leader bring forward his economic plan.

But, this will not be the skeletal plan of which we got brief glimpses during his year of campaigning. No, this will be THE one, his bread-and-butter, the baby he has been grooming for presentation to society for forty-some-odd years.

This is the day for Mr. Bush, either to shine or to fade, to stand tall or to slouch into a state of Lame Duck. Make no mistake, my friends, this is THE one night he has waited for his entire life. Unfortunately, however, his advisors cannot speak for him on this night; he must go it

alone...all alone.

So, why should you watch? Because, number one, he is *your* president, speaking in front of *your* congress, about *your* tax dollars, that will be taken out of *your* incomes, present and future. You have a great stake in what Mr. Bush wants to accomplish over the next several years.

Oh, and to the international students on campus, many of which are my friends, you also have a stake in Mr. Bush's agenda. All you have to do is pay attention to the economic crises in Japan, and China, in Europe, and now in Turkey, and you will understand that this president's plan for the economy, given the evidence of a pending recession, may be the most important plan introduced in over two decades. So, is it important? You're darn right it is.

In addition, there is another reason we should all take the time to watch or record, and then watch it: this is a chance for us all to see George W. Bush, as he really is, without the coaching, or the prepared smiles, handshakes, and baby-kissing opportunities we were forced to digest during Election 2000. Will he be the orator President Clinton was? No, absolutely not. But, then again, maybe that is a good thing.

Maybe, just maybe, what we will witness will not be a man doling out a speech to a group of men and women (also our elected leaders), but a man making a plea to our nation, as a group, to get behind a plan, his plan, and begin to reform a tax system many believe to be in disrepair.

Yes, tomorrow night's speech is so much more than Mr. Bush's first address to a joint session of congress. It is, in fact, the first time in the relatively short lives of

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"WHY AREN'T YOU WORKING HERE?" AND "WHY ARE YOU COMPLAINING ABOUT SOMETHING THAT YOU COULD JUST AS EASILY HELP TO IMPROVE?"

look great on your resume, but it also shows your potential employer that you have some experience in the area in which you are seeking employment. It gives you the advantage of knowing what you are doing in the workplace. You become familiar with programs such as Adobe Photoshop 5.5, Adobe PageMaker 6.5, and Microsoft Word. Your knowledge of these programs and others like it weighs heavily to an employer. Also, it not only shows that you took initiative, it shows that you were active in something that was not only your major, but also one of your passions. It shows that you were active in journalism long before it ever made you any money.

I also realize that there is nothing I can do or say to motivate you to



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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Eagles sweep Dragons in three game weekend

By John Seaton
Sports Writer

The Drexel Dragons came to Statesboro this past weekend looking to start their season on the right foot, but Georgia Southern ruined the party slaying the Dragons to earn a three-game sweep. The Eagles fell behind in each of the three games, but managed to rally each game to claim the win. The first two games of the series were played as part of a doubleheader on Saturday with game three following on Sunday.

Drexel jumped on the board early in the first game scoring one run in the first and two in the second putting the Eagles in a 3-0 hole after two innings of play. Georgia Southern was finally able to end a 13 inning scoreless streak by putting a single run on the board in the fourth. The Eagles then broke out in the sixth scoring six runs on four hits. Carlos Love was hit by a pitch to start the inning, and senior DH Scott Henley followed with a double over the centerfielder's head that would plate Love. After Darryl Stephens drew a walk, pinch hitter Brendan Gilligan laced a single to right scoring Henley. A pair of walks to Matt Herring and Rocky Baker loaded the bases for junior shortstop Chad Hall. Hall ripped a base hit to right scoring two and giving the Eagles the lead in the process. A J.R. Revere groundout would score Baker and give the Eagles a lead they would not relinquish as they would go on to win 7-3. Eagle relief pitcher Jared Comstock would give a solid effort on the mound late in the game pitching four and one third inning of scoreless relief.

"I was trying to keep us as close as possible," said Comstock of his outing. "Everybody just kept working hard and we got it done."

Game two provided a little more drama, but the early going once again belonged to Drexel. After being held scoreless in the first two innings, the Dragons would jump out on top in the fourth with a pair of runs and another run in the fifth to gain a 3-0 advantage just as they had in game one. The story would be the same as in game one for Drexel, though. Georgia Southern would strike

back in the sixth. Gilligan would lead off the inning with a walk and would advance to third on a single by Herring. Gilligan would then score on a single to leftfield by Henley. An error on the third baseman would push two more runs across for Georgia Southern. Matt Hammond, who reached on the error, would advance to second on a passed ball, and then he would come all the way around to score from second after a wild pitch. The Eagle pitching staff would hold up again

as junior starter Brett Lewis would pitch seven strong innings giving up just two earned runs while striking out eight batters. Jeff deRijke and Jason Cadenhead would come out of the bullpen and close the Dragons out in the final innings.

"Everybody stayed in the game," said freshman catcher A.J. Zickgraf, who was a combined 2-for-4 with an RBI and run scored in the doubleheader. "Nobody gave up."

In game three on Sunday, the Diamond Eagles looked more like the football National Champion Eagles as they scored 23 runs on 19 hits on their way to 23-10 victory in a game that lasted over four hours. Georgia Southern would be blanked in the first, but from then on the Eagles would be on the attack. They scored in each of the next six innings jumping out to a lead Drexel couldn't touch. Herring, Stephens, and Baker all blasted homeruns for Georgia Southern in the victory. Junior leftfielder Chris Walker also had a big game going 4-for-5 and driving in five runs.

"Chris Walker really sparked us today," said head coach Rodney Hennon. He was also pleased with the way his team stayed in all three games after falling behind early.

"We came from behind in all three games and found a way to win," he said. "We still have a long way to go, but we are coming along as a baseball team."

The Eagles broke out of what has been



LaVene Bell

THREE GAME SWEEP: The Eagles swept the Drexel Dragons in three games.

a serious offensive slump in the game. After scoring only five runs in three losses earlier in the week, the Eagles broke out over the weekend scoring 34 runs in the three games. The final game of the weekend though proved to be exactly what they needed.

"I think it was good for our confidence team wise," said Revere. "We have kind of been in a funk lately."

Shortstop Chad Hall agreed. "This is really a big confidence boost for us," he said.

Revere who hit .302 last year also appeared to be breaking out of a funk that had him hitting under .200 on the season.

"I just can't get too frustrated," he said. "I always seem to start off slow then I seem to have one game where I break out. It is still early I will just keep swinging."

The Eagles will continue their quest to repeat as SoCon champions this Wednesday as they travel to Charleston, S.C. to take on Charleston Southern.



America Reads CHALLENGE

Applications are currently being accepted for tutors for the America Reads Challenge Program.

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Lady Eagles end season as SoCon Co-Champs

By Dennis Hightower
WVGS Sports

An emotional performance by seniors Amy Krach, Lauren Langley, and Sharon Mitchell lift the Lady Eagles to a 74-56 smack down over the Davidson Lady Wildcats (9-18 overall, 4-14 SoCon) to become the 2001 Southern Conference Co-Champions along with Chattanooga. The final regular season game for both teams ended with a "Cinderella Storybook Ending". The independent Lady Eagles (21-6, 15-3) exploded as defensive performance and hustling by Danielle Quinn, Shawnica Hill, Alie Rousseau, Tiffany Lanier, and Danna Simpson showed that they are going to be more dangerous in the Southern Conference Tournament.

However, the night belong to the seniors as Krach scored nine points in the first four minutes. She finished with 18 points. Langley finished with 10 points. Mitchell had eight points but she also had 10 rebounds. "It's

a privilege to have the seniors play under me for four and five years and I will miss their legacy as they move on," GSU head coach Rusty Cram said.

Krach (6'1" from Sharpsburg, Georgia) has played 111 games with 31 starts during her career. She currently stands fifth on the GSU career with made three-pointers with 82 and ninth in career three-point field goal percentage at 31.5%. She is also sixth in career blocks at GSU with 58.

Langley (5'9" from Coral Springs Florida) played 107 games with 39 starts. She is currently averaging 7.3 points per game prior to the Davidson game. The average is third best on the team. A 52.7% field goal percentage is tops among this year's players.

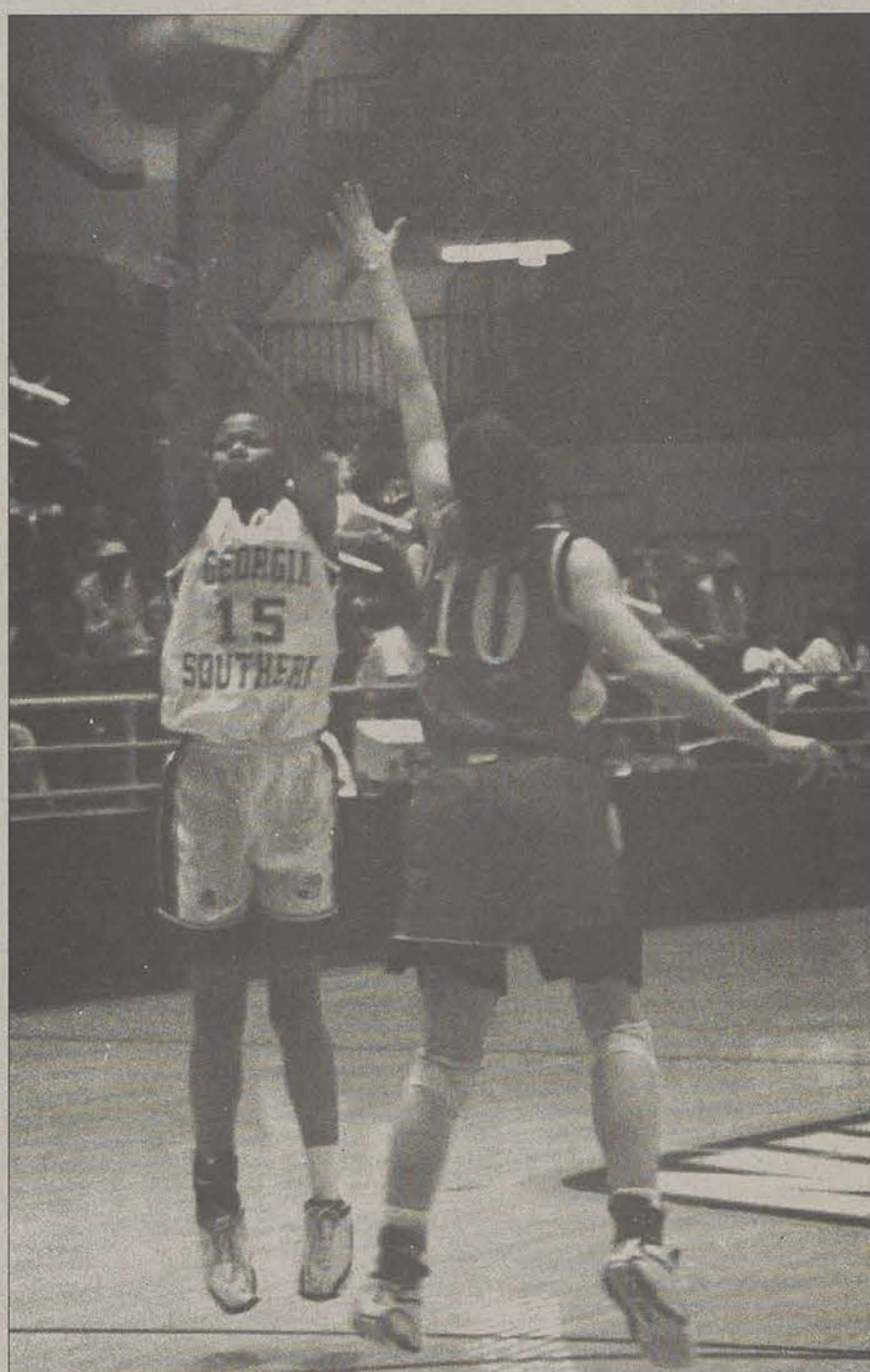
Mitchell (6'0" from Eastman, Georgia) played 111 games with 91 starts. She scored 1,367 career points and recorded 734 rebounds. She is the fourth player in GSU history to be

ranked in the top ten in career points (7th), field goal percentage (5th), free throw percentage (6th), rebounds (6th), and blocked shots (4th).

As far as the stats from Saturday, Sarah McCary had her third double double of the season with 13 points and 12 rebounds. The 6'1" junior from Albany, GA, will be a force next season. Lanier recorded nine points and seven rebounds. Birmingham native Janna Magette scored 15 points but turn the ball over five times. Kim Taylor added 14 points and eight rebounds. GSU had more offensive rebounds than Davidson (22-9). They showed heart because Davidson's post players were 6'3" and looked stronger than the Lady Eagle's post players.

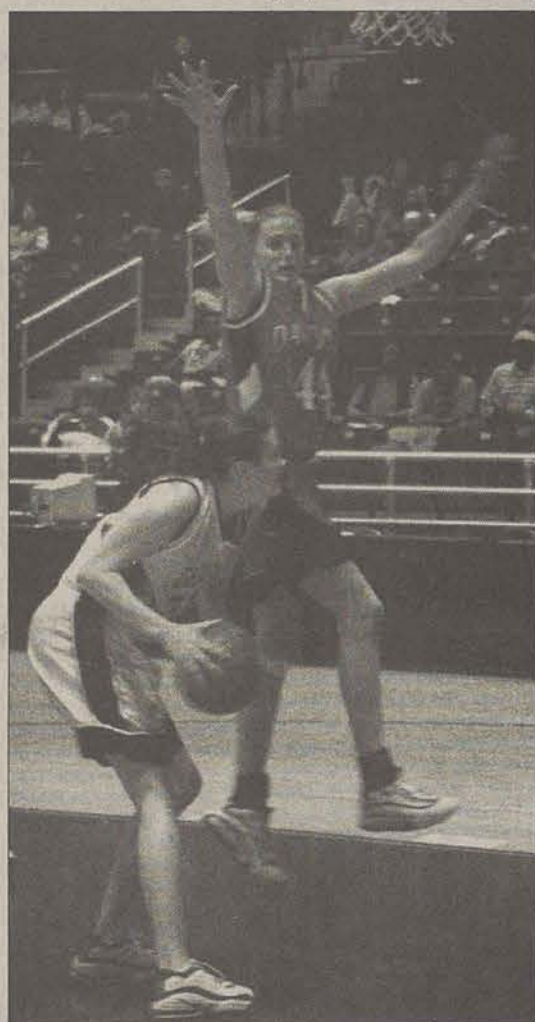
Since Chattanooga defeated Wofford, the Lady Eagles will be the #2 seed in the tournament because the Lady Mocs own the tiebreaker in head-to-head competition against third place North Carolina-Greensboro. Chattanooga swept the Lady Spartans, while GSU split the series. However, players such as Amy Krach and Sharon Mitchell said that they are proud to be Southern Conference Champs and focusing on the SoCon Tournament. The tournament will be at Greenville, S.C. at the Bi-Lo's Center next weekend. Like a famous singer said, "Come on over! Come on over baby to the tournament!"

Congratulations Men's/Women's Basketball and Track & Field for a great season!



Andrea Sutton

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS: The Lady Eagles ended their regular season with a SoCon title and a number-two seed for the tournament.



Andrea Sutton

AHEAD OF THE REST: The Ladies finished the season 21-6 overall and 15-3 SoCon.

Eagles finish sixth in SoCon Championships

G-A News Service

The Georgia Southern Track and Field team improved on its eighth-place standing on Friday to finish sixth at the Southern Conference Indoor Championships.

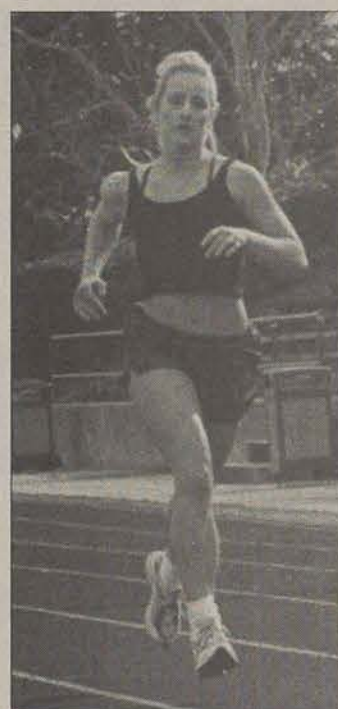
ASU's women won the meet with 130 points, just beating out defending champion Western Carolina, who finished with 128. The title is the program's eighth and first since 1994. Chattanooga finished third with 101 points, followed by ETSU (52), Furman (36), Georgia Southern (19), VMI (16), UNCG (8), The Citadel (4), and Davidson (2).

Georgia Southern saw all-conference finishes by freshmen Marlo Mincey and Lindy Petteway. Mincey placed third in the 400-meter dash with a time of 57.34. She qualified for the finals by winning her heat on Friday. And Petteway picked up six points in the 55-meter high hurdles with a third-place finish and time of 8.23.

Freshman LaDonna McClure was a point-getter for the Eagles as well, as she finished fourth in the 55-meter dash with a time of 7.21.

Chattanooga's Tyleanna Hanner was named the women's Most Outstanding Performer and fellow Lady

Moc Oddbjorg Haugen was named the Freshman of the Year. ASU's John Weaver was named the women's Coach of the Year. The All-Conference Team consists of the top three finishers in each event.



David Whiddon

SIXTH PLACE: The Eagles end their season with a sixth place finish in the SoCon Championship.

Athlete-of-the-week: Isabella Kling

By Suzanne Spires
Sports Writer

This week's player of the week is Georgia Southern tennis player, Isabella Kling. Kling was born in Gothenburg, Sweden. Kling stated that a guy who played in the same tennis club as her in Sweden came to GSU before her, and that is how Kling chose GSU.

For the past three years, Kling has been given SoCon All Conference Team honors, and named to the team in 1998 and 2000. She also spent her 2000 season in the No. 1 singles and doubles spots. Kling's single record last year was 19-11 and she had a doubles record of 16-11, paired with Brooke McNamee and Martha Barrett.

This is Isabella's senior year at GSU and it is her fourth year on the tennis team. Isabella said, "I've been playing since I was 4 years old. I'm 23 now."

She said that she likes all kinds of sports, but tennis is number one.

She said "I came here to play tennis, and go to school," of course.

Kling is majoring in hotel and restaurant management. Isabella is

still playing singles and doubles, and said that the team is doing well. Thanks to Isabella Kling for being this weeks player of the week. The Georgia Southern women's tennis team's next match is March 1, 2000.



Andrea Sutton

SETTING STANDARDS: Senior Isabella Kling performs above the team's expectations.

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The Freedom Forum's Catalina Camia visits GSU to encourage minority journalists

By Courtney Williams
Guest Writer

Despite the fact that African Americans comprise 28% of the minority population, only 12% of all journalists are African-American, Asian-American, Latino, or Native American. Catalina Camia and the Freedom Forum are fighting to change these disturbing statistics with the Chips Quinn Internship and Scholarship programs for minority students interested in careers in print journalism.

Camia spent two days at GSU informing minority students about opportunities and career possibilities in newspaper journalism. At a dinner session at the Statesboro Inn last Wednesday, members of the Communication Arts Department and Camia entertained questions from twelve students interested in media careers. Camia expressed the need for proper minority representation in all media publications. "When a publication's staff does not represent the members of its population, it essentially publishes an inaccurate and incorrect product."

On Thursday evening, the Communication Arts Department hosted an open forum for all students to meet with Camia, and receive more information about scholarships, internships and the realities of being a minority writer in a Caucasian dominated industry. Both she and Farai Chideya, who recently visited the GSU campus, agree that "a lot of good ideas get shot down" simply because a white editor sees a topic that focuses on a minority group as either "too controversial" or "not interesting."

According to data from the Freedom Forum and Camia, there is a high demand for copy editors because reporting and broadcasting's success relies on attention to detail. "Copy editing requires a love for the language, but is the quickest way into management," she said. Graphic artists are also in demand because a growing number of newspapers have online versions, including *The George-Anne*, which require intense maintenance and audience appeal. Graphic artists are also needed alongside reporters at the sites of breaking news events.

During her travels to various schools, Camia noted that many students believe that interning in their field of interest is the best way to start a career in journalism. "Not a good idea," said Camia. "The majority of TV, magazine, and radio journalists began at the print journalism level, writing for newspapers."

Camia also stressed her love for sports and politics. "Sports-writers and broadcasters are among the hardest working [journalists] in the business," she said.

Among these ranks includes notables like Bryant Gumbel and Tom Brokaw. She also stressed the importance of journalism being open to students of all majors and anyone with a gift for writing.

Additionally, Camia shared tips and tricks to better market a resume and portfolio. One of the key pointers is acquiring and maintaining a good list of references who will provide honest overviews of you and your work—not a series of "glowing reports," which usually send up red flags to employers. "Get someone who can attest to your skills relevant to the job you're trying to get."

At the end of her last session, Camia was highly pleased and impressed with the students of GSU, and plans to maintain an ongoing relationship with the faculty, staff and students of the Communication Arts Department.



LaVene Bell

MINORITY JOURNALISTS UNITE: Catalina Camia and the Freedom Forum met with minority GSU students to encourage them to pursue the field of journalism, an area of study with only a small percentage of minorities.

Most students who attended one of the functions found that speaking with a veteran journalist very rewarding and informative. "She was very well versed, and the Internet resources were great. So were the tips for writing resumes," Chennell Anthony, a journalism major, said. Neushomba Long, currently undeclared, said, "She gave me some direction in where I want to go career-wise."

Dr. Donald Panther-Yates, a Public Relations professor, was all praises to Camia's presentation. "It was a real treat. She's a very interesting person with experiences in all branches of the industry giving an insight [into each one]," he said.

Diane Lamb, Assistant Professor of Journalism, helped bring Camia to GSU. "I think her appearance has made a difference and inspired students to look toward journalism. It helps to have someone from the outside tell these things to students," Lamb said. She plans to keep in contact with other African-American, Asian-American, and Latino journalism organizations.

Currently, Camia is on a leave of absence from writing for *The Dallas Morning News*. She has been scouring minority schools and schools like GSU with high minority enrollment to share her information, experience, and encouragement with students interested in interning at newspa-

pers across the country.

She has been a journalist for over 15 years, and has received several titles of distinction. She served as president of the Asian-American Journalists Association, where she made history by being the first AAJA scholarship recipient to become president of the organization. In 1999, she concurrently served as president of Unity: Journalists of Color and as president of the Coalition of Black, Latino, and Native Americans, while also a political correspondent in Washington D.C. Camia graduated from the University of Southern California, as a Gannett Foundation scholarship winner, which was the predecessor to the Freedom Forum.

The Freedom Forum was established in 1991 under the direction of Founder Allen H. Neuharth as successor to a foundation started in 1935 by newspaper publisher Frank E. Gannett. The foundation focuses of four main priorities: the Newseum, First Amendment issues, newsroom diversity and world press freedom. The foundation has offices all over the world including San Francisco, Buenos Aires, Hong Kong, Johannesburg, and Vanderbilt University in Nashville. Based in Arlington, VA, the Freedom Forum is a nonpartisan international foundation dedicated to "free press, free speech, and free spirit for all people."

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Radio-Television-Newsdirectors-Association – www.rtna.org

Journalism Education Association – www.jea.org

Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication – www.aejmc.org

Asian-American Journalist Association – www.aaaja.org

National Association of Black Journalists – www.nabj.org

National Association of Hispanic Journalists – www.nahj.org

Society of Professional Journalists – www.spj.org

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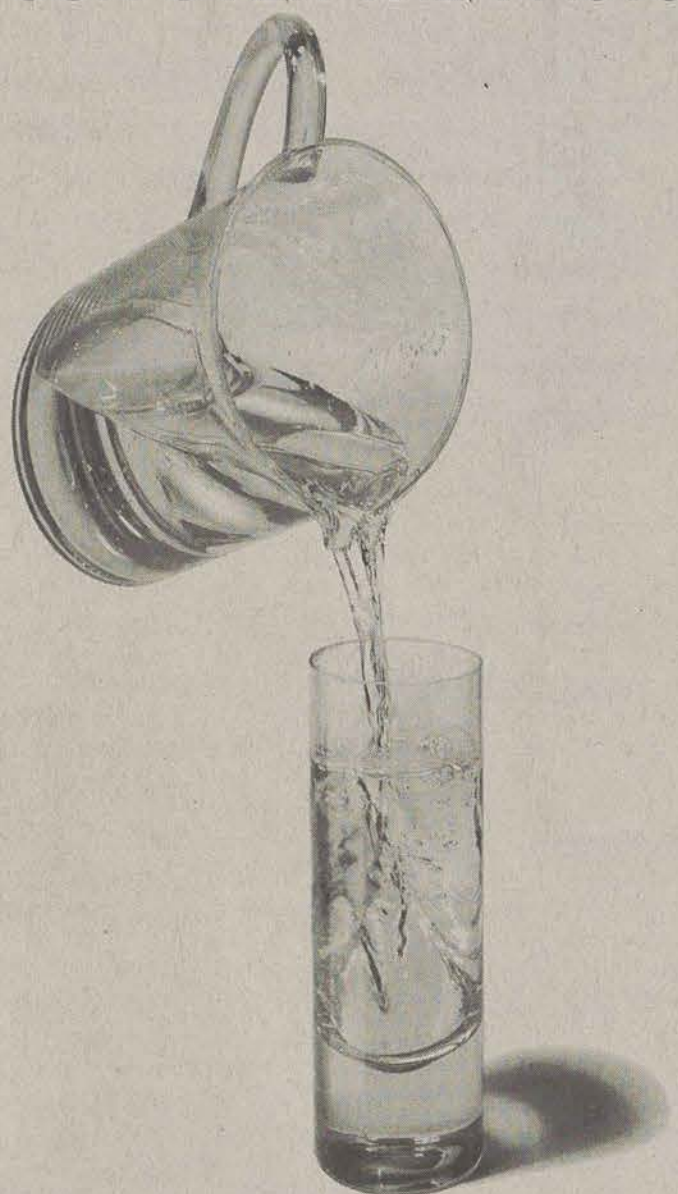
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Soup Kitchen 101: Controversial bill approved at UT

TMS Campus

AUSTIN, Texas — College students in Texas could be lining up to serve soup to the homeless, to crusade for the disenfranchised or to coach children at the Boys & Girls Clubs.

A bill that the state House Higher Education Committee approved this week would require all students at state universities to do 28 hours of unpaid public service in one semester to earn their diploma.

Rep. Pete Gallego, D-Alpine, said he drew up the proposal because he believes that students should leave college with a better sense of citizenship and community spirit.

And lessons learned from giving to the community can't be taught in a classroom, he said.

The committee sent HB 791 to the House on Tuesday with a favorable recommendation.

But some students and legislators said volunteerism has to be just that — voluntary.

"You can't force people to be socially conscious," said Blythe Winbush, 22, a student at the University of Texas at Austin.

UT sophomore Larry Chauvin,

19, said many student organizations already require community service. In his fraternity, pledges are required to complete 40 hours, he said, and active members 12 hours a semester.

"Forcing people may make them less eager to do it and may create tension," Chauvin said Wednesday while passing out fliers encouraging students to vote.

Nationally, some private high schools and universities have started requiring public service.

The bill would require students to complete the community service under the supervision of a nonprofit organization, government entity or other group that benefits "needy or deserving individuals or the public." Each university would monitor and coordinate the program through a public service office.

The requirement would apply to students who enroll after Sept. 1.

The bill would let students choose where to volunteer.

"If a student doesn't agree with the ACLU, that student doesn't volunteer for the ACLU. If a student doesn't agree with the Conservative Coalition, then that stu-

dent doesn't volunteer for the Conservative Coalition," Gallego said.

Committee members who heard testimony on the bill Tuesday raised concerns that some students who work their way through college may not have time to meet an extra requirement.

UT-Austin student Lacy Thibodeaux, 21, said it would be hard for her because she works and is married.

"Even though it would be really beneficial to the community, it would be hard to fit into my schedule," she said.

Rep. D.R. "Tom" Uher, D-Bay City, said volunteerism should come from within a person.

"You do this on your own initiative; you don't do it because the state of Texas with its police powers says you will do this," said Uher, who voted against sending the bill to the House. The six other members at the hearing voted for it.

In Texas, with thousands of college students contributing community service, "you could rebuild a city," Gallego said.

"To me, we all have a debt to the community that formed us," he said.



Special Photo

SHOWIN' YOU THE MONEY: The Financial Aid Department held an open house on February 14 in honor of Financial Aid Awareness Month. They held a question and answer session earlier this month, but if you were unable to attend you can call the office at 681-5413 or check out their website at www2.gasou.sta.finaid. L to R: Connie Murphey, Director of Financial Aid; Francis Johnson, SGA President; Michael Ray, Financial Aid Scholarship Coordinator.



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Revised SGA constitution will be ratified in 14 days unless petitioned for revision.

CONSTITUTION OF THE GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

—PREAMBLE—

We, the students of Georgia Southern University, in order to form a democratic, efficient and responsible student government to represent, lead, and unify the student body, to decide and act for the students, faculty, and administration, while protecting the individual rights of students, do hereby establish and adopt this constitution for the Georgia Southern University Student Government Association.

Article I - Objectives

• **SECTION 1:** To provide direct channels for the responsible and effective participation in the university community.

• **SECTION 2:** To provide an official and representative organization to receive complaints, consider problems, and participate in making decisions affecting the university community.

• **SECTION 3:** To provide financial assistance to support programs that may directly benefit the university community.

• **SECTION 4:** To provide a means whereby student members of the university community may gain experience and training in responsible political participation and community leadership.

• **SECTION 5:** To review regulations affecting academic activities, general educational policy of the university, the welfare of the university, and such other matters as may maintain and promote the best interest of the university community.

• **SECTION 6:** To assist in the development of academic programs and policies in the University community.

• **SECTION 7:** To participate in those organizations and/or programs outside the campus community that are judged to be in keeping with the purposes of these statutes.

• **SECTION 8:** To serve as a liaison between the students, faculty, professional staff, and administration.

• **SECTION 9:** To promote understanding and cooperation among students, faculty, and administration.

ARTICLE II-MEMBERSHIP

The Student Government Association shall exist as the governing body composed of Executive Officers, Senators, and Ex-Officio members.

• **SECTION 1:** There shall be a total number of senators equal to forty-one

• **SECTION 2:** There shall be a total of 3 freshman at-large senators.

• **SECTION 3:** Executive Officers:

A. Shall be President, Executive Vice President, Vice President for Finance, Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Vice President for Auxiliary Affairs.

B. Shall be elected at large.

C. Shall constitute the Executive Council.

D. With the exclusion of the President, shall be voting members of the Senate.

• **SECTION 4:** Publicity Coordinator and Executive Assistant

A. Publicity Coordinator and Executive Assistant will not have the same privileges as a senator.

B. Students must submit an application and be interviewed by the Executive Officers prior to selection by the Executive board.

• **SECTION 5:** Ex-Officio Members

A. Shall be the student government's advisor (or his/her designee) and a representative appointed by the Faculty Senate.

B. The faculty senator shall have a vote on the Student Government Association Senate as long as the Student Government Association representative to the Faculty Senate has a vote on the Faculty Senate.

ARTICLE III CANDIDATE AND MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATION

• **SECTION 1:** Student Government Association Executive Officers and Senatorial candidates must meet the following qualifications by the application deadline set by the election committee.

A. Must currently be a student regularly enrolled at Georgia Southern University.

B. Must be enrolled for a minimum of six hours and have paid their activity fee.

C. Candidates must have an adjusted 2.0 GPA on work earned at Georgia Southern University and maintain this adjusted GPA throughout the entire term of office. A referendum will take place at the same time as the Student Government elections, who those qualified to vote in the referendum being those eligible to vote in the election. This referendum shall ask students whether or not to increase the Student Government Association qualifying GPA to a 2.25. If approved, the increased GPA will take effect for the 2002 spring election and replace all previous wording of this clause. Freshman senators will be exempt from this stipulation no matter the outcome.

D. No part of this constitution shall be construed so as to prevent Executive Officers from holding an internship, Co-op, or student teach during his/her term in office provided office hours are maintained and the student is enrolled in no less than 6 hours. In addition, Executive Officers enrolled in such programs shall maintain seventy percent of their weekly office hours between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

• **SECTION 2:** Once elected, each Executive Officer and Senator must continue to meet each criteria required of them as candidates.

ARTICLE IV- ELECTIONS

• **SECTION 1:** At large Senators and Executive Officers:

A. Elections will be held campus wide during March. There will be two options for electoral procedures.

Option 1:

The Election Committee is responsible for simultaneously holding 2 days elections at no less than three locations. The nomination/application period will be for a week. A mandatory candidates meeting will be set and advertised by the Election committee. The results will be posted at 5 pm on the day of the election in the Student Government Association office.

Option 2: Online Elections

A mandatory candidates meeting will be set and advertised by the Election committee. Online elections will be held for three days. They will begin at 12 a.m. on the first day and end at 12 a.m. on the third day. All eligible voters will be allowed to vote for the candidates of their choice by using their student email number. Each eligible student will be allowed to vote only once. The results be posted at 5 p.m. on the day of the election in the Student Government Association office.

B. A majority vote of over 50% of the votes cast is required to win. Run-offs, if necessary will be held one week following the set election date and will replicate the general election in every way. The candidate who receives the most votes will be declared the winner of the run-off elections.

C. The total number of senators will be equal to 41. Thirty-Eight of these will be elected in the general election held each spring. Of these thirty-eight seats, there will be four seats that will represent each of the six colleges here at Georgia Southern University (College of Business Administration, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, College of Health and Professional Studies, Allen E. Paulson College of Science and Technology, College of Education, and the Jack Averitt School of Graduate Studies). A student must have a major in the college they wish to represent. The other fourteen seats will then be considered at large, and any student that is not already running to represent one of the six colleges may run for these posts. In addition, there will be three freshman senators selected and appointed at the beginning of each fall semester.

D. The term of office shall be for one calendar year, beginning at the SGA banquet (held in April) and continuing until the SGA banquet the

following year.

E. If a candidate wishes to contest the election, he or she must do so in writing, stating the reasons for contesting the election to the Chairperson of the University Judicial Board (weekends are not included in the 48 hour time span).

F. The University Judicial Board will hold a hearing, if necessary, within one week after the election is contested to consider any candidate's case. Only a recognized candidate can contest the Student Government Association election. The decision rendered by the University Judicial Board will be considered final.

G. Grounds for contesting the election results. Irregularities by the election committee or violation of campaign rules by a candidate or anyone involved in the election procedures shall be grounds for contesting the election. An irregularity is defined as a violation whose penalty is not covered by the campaign regulation packet or whose ramifications drastically alter the official results of the election. The right to contest may extend to incidents where the campaign committee may have voluntary or involuntary taken actions that may have altered the outcome of the elections.

ARTICLE V- VACANCIES

• **SECTION 1:** In the case of a vacancy in an Executive Committee or senatorial position, applications will be taken following the announced vacancy of the position. Interviews will consist of a series of questions administered to the interviewers by the Senatorial Selection Committee and then submitted to the Senate for approval. Replacement appointments will be confirmed by a majority vote of the senators present. No portion of this clause shall prevent the Executive Vice President from becoming President upon the removal or resignation of the President. In the case of a college representative vacancy a serving senator from the same college may assume that vacancy if one is not available then a same college applicant must be selected.

• **SECTION 2:** The order of succession will be as follows: In the event presidential vacancy, the Executive Vice President will assume the office of President. In the case of Executive VP vacancy, the Vice President for Academic Affairs will assume the Office of President, followed by the Vice President of Finance and finally the Vice President of Auxiliary Affairs.

SECTION 3: In the case of mass resignation or vacancy, the highest ranking Vice President will become President and the remaining Exec Board seats will be rewarded to a candidate by a 2/3 majority vote of the Senate. The candidate must be a sitting member of the senate.

ARTICLE VI- COMMITTEES

SECTION 1: There shall be 5 permanent Student Government Association committees. Each committee will consist of at least three active senators, one of which will serve as chair of the committee. Each committee will be responsible for submitting a report of their activities to the senate at senate meetings. They are legislative in nature and shall have the following duties.

A. Presidential Advisory Committee. Shall be overseen by the President and shall assist him/her in his/her assigned duties as well as undertake special projects.

B. Vice Presidential Advisory Committee. Shall be overseen by the Executive Vice President and chaired by a senator of their choosing. It shall be responsible for all elections, shall be the first level of appeal for election violations, and shall assist him/her in their assigned duties.

C. Academic Affairs Committee. Shall be overseen by the Vice President for Academic Affairs and shall be chaired by a senator of their choosing. It shall assist him/her in his/her assigned duties. It shall be responsible for formulating and investigating policies concerning academic areas that affect the student body.

D. Financial Advisory Committee. Shall be overseen by the Vice President of Finance and chaired by a senator of their choosing. It shall assist him/her in his/her assigned duties. It shall formulate policies concerning financial areas that affect the student body.

E. Auxiliary Affairs Committee. Shall be overseen by the Vice President of Auxiliary Affairs and chaired by a senator of their choosing. It shall be responsible for formulating policies concerning the auxiliary enterprises that affect the student body.

• **SECTION 2:** Ad Hoc committees shall be created and appointed on the occasions and of the size as deemed necessary by the president.

ARTICLE VII- OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

• SECTION 1: President:

A. Shall oversee the Presidential Advisory Committee.

B. Shall chair Senate meetings.

C. Shall be the official representative of the student body.

D. Shall make all Faculty Senate committee and special student appointments.

E. Shall work with the other officers in initiating programs for their areas of study.

F. May only vote during Senate meetings in cases of ties.

G. May veto any Senate action within five working days of its passage.

H. Shall serve on the Southeast Georgia United Way Board of Directors.

• SECTION 2: Executive Vice President

A. Shall oversee the work of all Faculty Senate Standing Committees and Student Government Association Standing Committees.

B. Shall chair the Elections Committee and work along with the Publicity Assistants in the maintenance and function of the Student Government Association marquee as well as other projects in which publicity is needed.

C. Shall be responsible for setting up all interviews necessary for position appointments.

D. Shall act as an interim president in the case of removal or resignation of the President.

E. Shall chair Senate meetings in absence of the President.

• SECTION 3: Vice President for Academic Affairs:

A. Shall oversee the Academic Affairs Committee

B. Shall be responsible for overseeing the total development of the academic programs.

C. Shall be the official representative to the Academic Advisory Council.

D. Shall attend all Faculty Senate meetings and serve as a voting member.

E. Shall attend all Undergraduate Council and Calendar meetings and serve as a voting member of both committees.

F. Shall oversee the Student Government Association annual scholarship selection process, and chair the United Way Student Fund Drive.

G. Shall serve on the United Way of Southwest Georgia Information and Referral Committee and the citizen review and Allocation Committee.

• SECTION 4: Vice President for Finance:

A. Shall oversee the Financial Advisory Committee

B. Shall be in charge of all disbursements and financial operations of the Student Government Association

C. Shall oversee expenditures by organizations receiving funding from Student Government Association.

D. Shall serve on the Activity Budget Committee.

• SECTION 5: Vice President for Auxiliary Affairs:

A. Shall oversee the Auxiliary Affairs Advisory Committee.

B. Shall be responsible for initiating policy and programs concerning all Auxiliary enterprises of the university.

C. Shall chair the Auxiliary Services Committee.

D. Shall act as a liaison between the student body and consult the Director of Auxiliary Services.

E. Shall serve and attend Housing Appeals Committee meetings or appoint a designated representative.

F. Shall be responsible for producing and distributing the SGA Student Directory.

• SECTION 6: Publicity Coordinator:

A. Shall be responsible for coordinating and creating all advertisements, publicity, and press releases for SGA functions.

B. Shall be the contact person for media transactions with the Georgia Anne, Statesboro Herald, and Eagle newspapers, Northland Cable News, and other media across the Southeast.

• SECTION 7: Executive Assistant:

A. Shall be responsible for keeping the official role, recording, and distribution of minutes for the Executive Council and Senate meetings.

B. Shall be responsible for all administrative duties.

C. Shall be appointed to be a member of a committee deemed necessary by the Executive Council.

• SECTION 8: All Officers:

A. Shall attend all Senate meetings not directly in conflict with a scheduled class.

B. Shall participate in all activities the Senate votes to participate.

ARTICLE VIII - DUTIES OF THE SENATE

• *Final Authority on all matters rests with the Senate of the Student Government Association. Its Specific duties and rights are as follows:*

• **SECTION 1:** Shall approve the final budget of the Student Government Association.

• **SECTION 2:** Shall make all budgetary expenditures in excess of \$200.

• **SECTION 3:** Shall confirm or reject all committee and special student appointments.

• **SECTION 4:** May override a Presidential veto with a 2/3 majority vote of senators present. Upon this vote, the previously vetoed action goes into effect without the President's further approval.

• **SECTION 5:** Shall retain any and all powers, rights, and/or responsibilities not specifically enumerated in this document to other bodies.

ARTICLE IX - MEETINGS

• **SECTION 1:** A full senate meeting must be held a minimum of 5 times each semester. Meetings may be called by the President, by the other four Executive Officers acting in unison, by the Student Government Association advisor, or by a petition of 1/3 of the senators. Each meeting must be announced a minimum of twenty-four hours in advance. Quorum shall be 2/3 of voting membership. Offices not filled will not be counted against the quorum. All senate meetings will be conducted according to *Robert's Rules of Order*.

• **SECTION 2:** The Presidential Advisory Committee, Vice Presidential Advisory Committee, Academic Advisory Committee, Financial Advisory Committee, and Auxiliary Affairs Committee must meet no less than once every 2 weeks.

• **SECTION 3:** Executive Officer meetings shall be held a minimum of once per week.

• **SECTION 4:** Attendance is mandatory at all meetings (Committee, Senate, and Executive Officers). Excused absences from these meetings are as follows: 1.) Family emergencies, i.e., death or serious illness of a family member or close friend, 2.) Personal leave, i.e., weddings, personal illness, or any religious holiday that would prevent a senator or executive officer from performing their duties as members of Student Government Association to maximum efficiency. 3.) Mandatory out of class assignments with a written excuse documented by the professor. Any senator or executive officer

wishing leave for any of the above reasons must fill out an excused absence form and place it in the box of the Executive Vice President before the following senate meeting in which they will be absent. If not, their absence will be considered unexcused. Penalties for unexcused absences are as follows:

A. One absence per semester from a Senate meeting calls for a written reprimand from the Student Government Association advisor. Two unexcused absences per semester calls for a second written reprimand from the advisor. Three unexcused absences per semester brings automatic dismissal from the senate.

B. Two unexcused absences per semester of a senator from committee meetings calls for a written reprimand from the Student Government Association advisor. Three unexcused absences in a semester calls for automatic removal from the senate.

C. One unexcused absence of an Executive Officer during a semester from an Student Government Association meeting or Executive officer meeting will warrant a written reprimand from the Student Government Association advisor. Two unexcused absences brings a 15% reduction in their salary. If a Executive Officer has 3 or more unexcused absences, the officer will be dismissed from the Student Government Association.

ARTICLE X - IMPEACHMENT AND REMOVAL

• **SECTION 1:** Any Student Government Association member may be removed from office by a 3/4 majority vote of the entire senate body.

• **SECTION 2:** Automatic removal occurs upon violation of any of the qualifications or regulations listed in this document.

ARTICLE XI - FINANCIAL PROCEDURES

• **SECTION 1:** The Student Government Association budget shall be divided into two categories:

A. The Operational Budget shall consist of those funds allocated for travel, supplies, and shall have the power to order and pay for such supplies materials, repairs and maintenance, contingency, etc.

B. Organizational-Shall consist of those funds allocated to initiate and support those programs beneficial to the university community. Any recognized student organization with the exception of club sport organizations that receive funding through campus recreations and intramurals may request funds from this budget. These funds shall be used for the benefit of the particular organization.

• SECTION 2: Disbursement of Funds

A. The Financial Advisory Committee shall develop a proposed budget for the following year. After review by the executive committee, who may offer written comments about its structure, the budget shall be submitted to the Senate for final approval or modification.

B. The Senate shall adopt policies concerning disbursement of funds.

C. All expenditures must be brought before the Senate for decision.

• SECTION 3: Salaries

A. Executive officers may receive a salary, the amount of which will be determined by that year's budget.

B. Senators may not receive a salary.

ARTICLE XII - RATIFICATION

This document shall be ratified when the procedures for constitutional changes found in the present constitution have been carried out.

ARTICLE XIII - AMENDMENTS

• Amendments to these statutes may be made between October 1 and April 30. The amendment must first be passed by a 2/3 majority of the Senate. The proposed changes must then be submitted to the general student body by ways of the campus newspaper, campus radio, and/or other appropriate methods. From the time of publication, a student has fourteen calendar days to petition against the changes with the signature of 200 members of the student body who have paid their activity fees.