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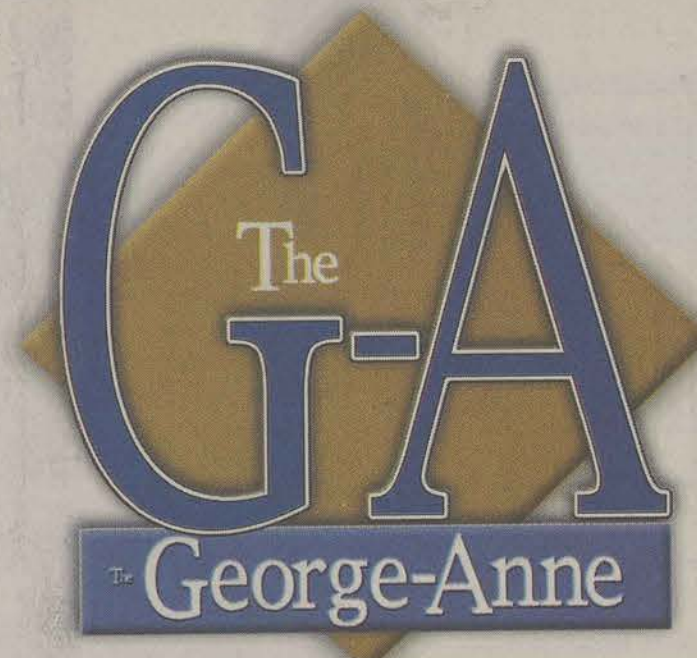


SPORTS

GSU names new head softball coach

Former coach at McNeese State, Natalie Poole will take on the role as GSU's head softball coach.

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LIFE

'Moulin Rouge' is a captivating love story

Starring Nicole Kidman and Ewan McGregor, "Moulin Rouge" takes just another love story and turns it into brilliance.



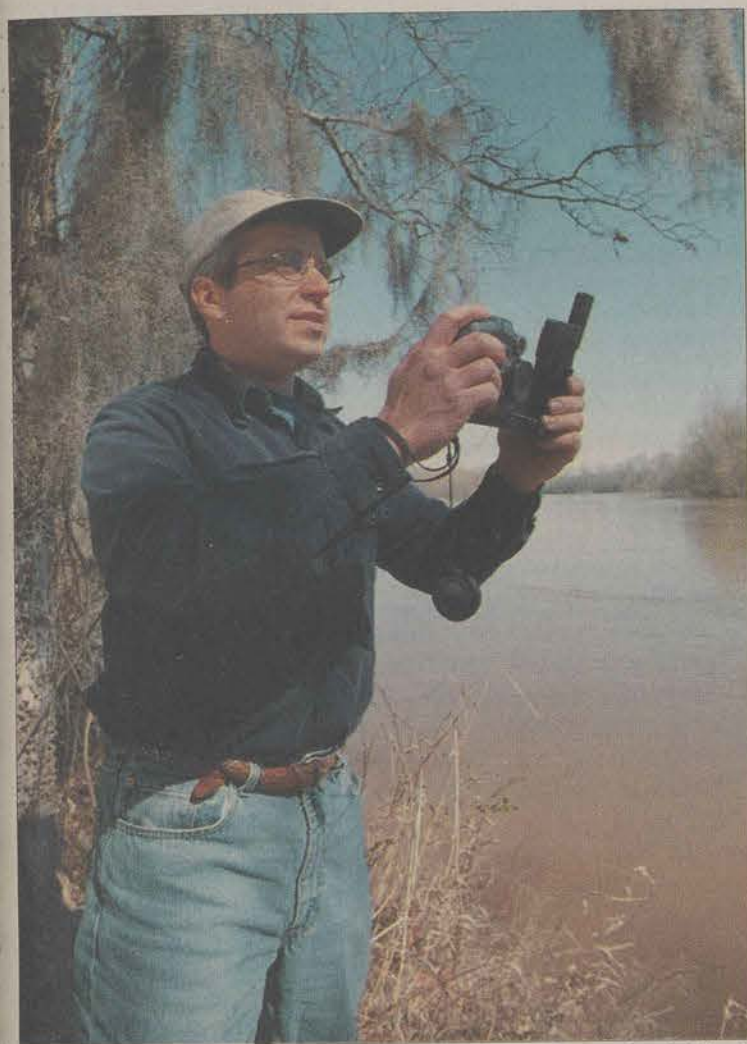
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Wednesday, June 13, 2001

Vol. 74 No. 7

GSU researchers map Savannah River



G-A News Service

The state's tourism industry will soon have a new tool in attracting visitors to Georgia's great outdoors. Georgia Southern University researchers are mapping the lower Savannah River, using satellites to help show off an often-overlooked resource.

Throughout the spring, Jim Bigley, an associate professor in GSU's department of recreation and sport management, has been using a special digital camera to record topographical data for the 215-mile stretch of the Lower Savannah River from Augusta to the Atlantic Ocean.

Bigley identifies locations for boat ramps and campsites, and then plots the precise coordinates by referencing orbiting Global Positioning System satellites. His research will help the state's tourism industry attract visitors to Georgia's great outdoors for boating, camping and fishing.

The comprehensive cartography is the cornerstone of the Savannah River Ecotourism Project, developed to enhance the economy of the Lower Savannah River Corridor by promoting it as a top destination for visitors to the Peach State.

"This map will have boat landings, it will have natural features, it will have the spots where recreational activities can be pursued," Bigley said.

The tourism project is a joint venture uniting 14 organizations, mostly tourism commissions and chambers of commerce, based in the 10 Georgia and South Carolina counties touched by the Lower Savannah River.

"The goal is to coordinate existing

resources to maximize tourism use of the Lower Savannah River Corridor, while minimizing negative environmental impacts and improving conservation efforts," Bigley said.

catalogued and a strategic plan developed that respects the habitat—that's where Georgia Southern's Bureau of Business Research and Economic Development comes

and breakfast services, or opportunities to augment existing small businesses."

After the outdoor data collection is done, the indoor image crunching begins.

Bigley's pictures are downloaded at GSU's new \$200,000 Spatial Analysis and Geographic Information Systems (SAGIS) Lab. The high-tech computer classroom uses the latest mapping software to generate multi-layered images packed with geographical data. Students turn Bigley's raw data into usable maps.

"We can query specific data on the computer almost instantaneously," said Susan Langley, an assistant professor and community/landscape ecologist assisting with the river project. "We can generate a variety of different maps displaying a range of geographic elements, with the snap of a finger."

The practical experience gained by his students, and the positive economic development impact generated by research, are what interests Dallas Rhodes, chair of the Department of Geology and Geography.

"By joining in these research projects, our students are getting real experience that will make them more marketable when they enter the workforce," Rhodes said. He hopes other area businesses and governmental agencies will take advantage of the expertise and resources available through the new GIS program as it continues to grow.

GSU researchers hope to finish the first maps of the lower Savannah River by fall. Then, brochures and other promotional materials will be printed.

"BY JOINING IN THESE RESEARCH PROJECTS, OUR STUDENTS ARE GETTING REAL EXPERIENCE THAT WILL MAKE THEM MORE MARKETABLE WHEN THEY ENTER THE WORKFORCE,"

--DALLAS RHODES

-DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND GEOGRAPHY

Tourism remains Georgia's second largest industry, with natural beauty a top draw for vista-seeking visitors.

"Outdoor adventures and ecotourism are a growing component of the state's economy," said Kitty Sikes, regional tourism representative for the Georgia Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism. Based in Savannah, Sikes promotes a 12-county region of Southeast Georgia, from the Okefenokee Swamp to the Atlantic Ocean.

Sikes said so-called activity-driven marketing capitalizes on this "back to nature" trend, showcasing the Savannah River to everyone from birdwatchers to campers.

Before the Savannah River can be touted to outdoor adventurers, resources must be

in, according to Phyllis Isley, bureau director.

The Savannah River Ecotourism Project's \$30,000 budget comes through the bureau, funded by the Regional Intellectual Capital Partnership Program (ICAPP). This economic development initiative of the University System of Georgia puts professorial expertise to work on Georgia's economic issues.

"Phase one is, of course, to assess the river's resources and develop plans to handle promotion and protection," Isley said. "One of the biggest advantages of ecotourism as economic development in rural regions is that it creates a lot of opportunity for small business development—outdoor outfitters, bed

MAPPING THE COURSE: Jim Bigley, an associate professor in GSU's department of recreation and sport management, uses a digital camera linked to orbiting Global Positioning System satellites to map features of the Savannah River that may interest tourists.

Special Photo

Timothy McVeigh executed Monday

TMS Campus

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. — Timothy James McVeigh, who murdered 168 people and maimed hundreds of others in what he believed was an act of patriotism, was put to death by lethal injection early today.

The 33-year-old decorated Persian Gulf War veteran who masterminded America's worst act of domestic terrorism was pronounced dead at 7:14 a.m. local time.

Strapped to a gray padded execution table inside the federal government's sterile, sea green-tiled death chamber, McVeigh received a lethal combination of drugs that rendered him unconscious, arrested his breathing and stopped his heart.

In minutes, the small-town boy who became an army of one and ultimately this country's worst mass murderer was forever silenced.

McVeigh made no final remarks but gave witnesses a handwritten copy of English poet William Ernest Henley's 1875 poem, "Invictus": "In the fell clutch of circumstance I have not winced nor cried aloud. Under the bludgeonings of chance my head is bloody, but unbowed..."

"I am the master of my fate; I am the captain of my soul."

McVeigh's execution was witnessed by 10 survivors and victims' relatives from the bombing of Oklahoma City's Murrah federal building on April 19, 1995.

The lethal injection was administered to McVeigh's right leg. McVeigh made eye contact with his four witnesses, then with the 10 media witnesses, then squinted toward the tinted window shielding the 10 victims' witnesses from his view.

McVeigh looked pale as he awaited death. His hair was cropped short. A white sheet was pulled up to his chest as he lay on the gurney.

When the first drug was administered, he let out a couple of deep breaths, then a fluttery breath. His

head moved back, his gaze fixed on the ceiling, and his eyes were glassy.

On the outskirts of Oklahoma City, in an auditorium at the Bureau of Prison's Federal Transfer Center, 326 survivors and family members of the victims chose to witness the execution via closed-circuit telecast.

About an hour after the execution, some of the witnesses gave comments to the news media gathered at Will Rogers World Airport, about 2 miles from the Federal Transfer Center.

"Today we saw justice. We've waited over six years for what happened today. And I can tell you from my family's standpoint, we have gathered no joy from seeing a person die," said Kathleen Treanor, who lost her daughter Ashley Eckles, 4, and her in-laws, Luther and LaRue Treanor, in the bombing.

McVeigh, she said, "died peacefully, which I cannot say the three members of my family did."

Treanor said the execution was "a demarcation point. It's the period at the end of a sentence. And that's what I'll remember about today."

"When I die and they lay me in my grave, that's when I'll have closure and stop grieving for my daughter," said Treanor, who held photographs of her daughter and her in-laws during the execution.

Larry Whicher lost his brother Alan Gerald Whicher, 40, a Secret Service agent who died in the federal building. He said Whicher's wife,



Special Photo

DEATH BY LETHAL INJECTION: Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh was put to death Monday morning. His execution was witnessed by 10 survivors and victims' relatives.

Pam, had chosen not to witness the execution but to get on with her life.

"She described it more as the end of a chapter of a long book" Whicher said. "And it is one of the last chapters, maybe the last chapter. There is an epilogue, and that epilogue is the remainder of our lives."

Whicher said McVeigh seemed defiant until the moment of his death. "I don't think he gave himself to the Lord. I don't think he repented."

"And, personally, I think he's in hell."

Janice Smith, whose 46-year-old brother, Lanny Scroggins, died in the bombing, prayed with her children at the Oklahoma City National Memorial, then left after getting word that McVeigh was dead.

"It's over," she said. "We don't have to continue with him anymore."

Earlier, a silent vigil began with-

See MCVEIGH, Page 2

Construction on \$25 million science and nursing building takes shape

G-A News Service

GSU broke ground last week on a new science and nursing building designed to bring the latest in high-tech learning to Southeast Georgia.

Located at the intersection of Forest Drive and Akins Boulevard, near the College of Education, construction on the \$25 million project will run through Spring 2003. The multi-level, 125,000 square foot facility will be one of the largest buildings on campus and sport a red brick veneer with southern architectural accents.

Features will include 14 chemistry labs and 19 smaller research labs, a 150-seat lecture hall, two tiered classrooms with data lines at every seat, two nursing skills labs, a distance learning classroom and a community nursing center.

"This state-of-the-art facility will allow us, in a time of increased demand for nurses, to recruit larger numbers of students and offer them additional educational opportunities," Jean Bartels, professor and department chair of the school of nursing, said.

According to Bartels, the community nursing center in particular will allow the university to enhance its rural nursing outreach program and offer valuable health services to the region while integrating critical educational experiences for students.

"This building will enable us to continue our disease prevention and health screening initiatives, two important areas as we work to improve rural health," she said.



Special Photo

FUTURE HOME OF SCIENCE AND NURSING: This \$25 million project will bring the latest technology in the field of nursing to the GSU campus. The building will be located at the intersection of Forest Drive and Akins Boulevard.

"The new home for nursing is the next step in the evolution of a successful educational program," Fred Whitt, dean of the College of Health and Professional Studies, said.

"Twenty years ago, we had five faculty and 15 students. Now, we have approximately 300 students and more than 20 faculty. We graduate 85 to 95 students annually in undergraduate and graduate nursing programs."

"U.S. News and World Report recently ranked our family nurse practitioner graduate program in the top 5 percent nationally, ahead of such programs as Duke University and Boston College," Whitt added. "Our undergraduate pass rate on state licensure exams is among the highest in Georgia, and our graduate family nurse practitioner pass rate in 100 percent on certification exams."

"What we are particularly proud of is that 80 percent of our students come from and return to work in

the rural areas of Southeast Georgia," Whitt said. "We are indeed building a national reputation with a regional and rural mission."

GSU President Bruce Grube called the new facility the latest milestone in the institution's journey to expand and enhance its educational offerings, pointing to the renaissance in campus construction experienced during the past five years.

"It will take all this new construction and more to embrace the present and future growth of Georgia Southern's enrollment, the breadth of our academic programs, and the reach of our responsibility for the development of Southern Georgia," he said.

"No other university matches Georgia Southern's capacity and commitment to be a partner and a major player in enhancing the intellectual capital, the economic environment and the quality of life in this region."

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Dorothy Smith Golden Award for Teaching Excellence awarded to Peter Christopher

G-A News Service

Peter Christopher, assistant professor in the writing and linguistics department, was named the inaugural recipient of the Dorothy Smith Golden Award for Teaching Excellence.

"I am most honored and grateful for this award," Christopher said. "Dorothy was a much-loved professor and a wonderful person with a great heart."

"Professor Christopher is an outstanding teacher who has already become a magnet drawing students to Georgia Southern University," said Larry W. Burton, chair of the writing and linguistics department.

The \$75,000 Dorothy Smith Golden Endowment was recently established through the Georgia Southern University Foundation by Mr. and Mrs. James B. Johnson, Jr., friends of the veteran educator. It commemorates her contributions to Georgia Southern and education.

The \$1000 prize is funded by the endowment, established to annually recognize an excellent teacher whose practices are informed by research and scholarship in the subject and discipline. Other portions of the endowment will fund a faculty fellowship and a student scholarship.

"The Johnsons' gift puts wind in the sails of the writing and linguistics department," Burton said. "It rewards our finest teachers and motivates others toward



Special Photo

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING: Peter Christopher, (right) was presented the Dorothy Smith Golden Award for Teaching Excellence by James B. Johnson Jr. (left). This \$1,000 prize is funded by the \$75,000 endowment. This year marks the first year the award has been given.

a higher standard of excellence at the same time that it helps the department recruit and retain outstanding faculty.

"In a few years when the Dorothy Golden Scholarships are offered, I expect the department to become a beacon for student writers."

Dorothy Golden, wife of Bill Golden, GSU director of governmental relations, began teaching at GSU in the fall of 1973 as temporary instructor. She returned in 1976 and was later awarded a full-time position as assistant professor.

She taught until 1985, when she moved from Statesboro. Returning in the fall of 1989, she was rehired and continued teaching until her retirement in the spring of 1999, when she was honored with the title of Assistant Professor Emerita. Golden, 62, passed away in September 1999.

One of the few professors to be hired in two national searches at GSU, Golden was a superior teacher and consistently received high marks in student evaluations. She was also an avid reader and literacy advocate, publishing a great number of book reviews.

Manatee is first born in captivity in Asia

SINGAPORE — A manatee has been born at the Singapore Zoo — the first time one of the rare and endangered marine mammals has been born in captivity in Asia — zoo officials said Wednesday.

There are only about 2,600 of the large, slow-moving and docile animals left in the world, and breeding them in captivity is extremely difficult, the zoo said in a statement.

Manatees, which stick their heads out of the water to breathe, are widely believed to have inspired

the myth of mermaids.

The male calf born in Singapore is about 85 centimeters (33 inches) long and appears healthy and playful, zoo spokesman Robin Goh said.

"It looks like a giant floating pillow — really lovable," Goh said. "One of our staff described it as a giant marshmallow."

Adult manatees can grow up to nearly 4 meters (12 feet) in length.

Singapore Zoo staff have not yet named the new arrival, which they first noticed floating in the display tank with its mother a week ago.

"We're going to look at its character first, see if it has a favorite food or favorite habit, before we name it," Goh said.

Manatees exist only in a few isolated populations in warm, shallow Western Atlantic waters from Florida to Brazil, the zoo statement said.

Coastal development, power boats and other threats are killing the animals faster than they can reproduce, the statement added.

The zoo said the birth was its most important since that of Inuka, the first polar bear born in the tropics, 11 years ago.

ONLY IN AMERICA...

1 New York

Hot tub thief arrested after returning for additional parts

CAZENOVIA — A man suspected of stealing a hot tub was arrested after he returned to get a forgotten filter cap — a piece put out as bait by the owner.

Donald Barone, 48, of Cazenovia, a state corrections officer, was charged in Cazenovia Town Court with criminal possession of stolen property, a felony, and misdemeanor criminal impersonation, said state police Senior Investigator Dennis Dougherty.

Barone was accused of stealing a \$1,500 hot tub from the driveway of Bob Googin, whose name has been in the news frequently since April when state police announced they had arrested a man for the 1992 murder of Googin's 15-year-old son, Sean.

Googin said Thursday he does not believe the publicity singled him out for the theft, which occurred on May 21 while he was out to dinner.

Googin told state police that since last summer, someone had taken a push lawn mower, some shovels and a wagon for a riding lawnmower from his property. After bringing the hot tub to his home on May 18, Googin said he thought someone had tampered with the tarp covering it.

After the theft, Googin had a hard time sleeping so he rose early the next morning to scour the neighborhood. The thief had forgotten the tub's filter cap so Googin left it outside, hoping the thief would return to retrieve it.

Googin said he drove around for a while and returned home just before 8 a.m. He found a pickup truck in his driveway.



Googin said the driver told him he was a sheriff's deputy investigating a suspicious activity report. The man did not flash a badge and although he appeared nervous Googin said he seemed believable — until he noticed the filter cap was gone.

"I knew I had my guy," said Googin.

He recorded the truck's license plate number on his cell phone and reported it to state police, who found the tub on Barone's patio when they arrested him.

Barone has been suspended from his job at Camp Georgetown, a minimum security facility, where he has worked since 1998, said Linda Foglia, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Correctional Services. Barone has been a corrections officer since 1987, she said.

Barone started working part-time as a Madison County jail guard on May 1. Sheriff Ronald Cary said Barone was fired after the arrest.

2 Connecticut

Man accused of using a potato as a weapon silencer

HARTFORD, — Defense lawyers said it was simply a potato.

Prosecutors argued it was a silencer.

In the end, a jury decided a man who wielded a gun with a potato stuffed in the barrel was guilty of using a silencer-equipped gun in the commission of a drug crime — a conviction carrying a mandatory 25-year federal prison sentence.

Alpha McQueen, 30, was also convicted Friday of conspiracy to distribute marijuana. Prosecutors said McQueen and another man, Dale Stewart, used the gun to intimidate three women they suspected of stealing about \$30,000 in drug money. No shots were fired.

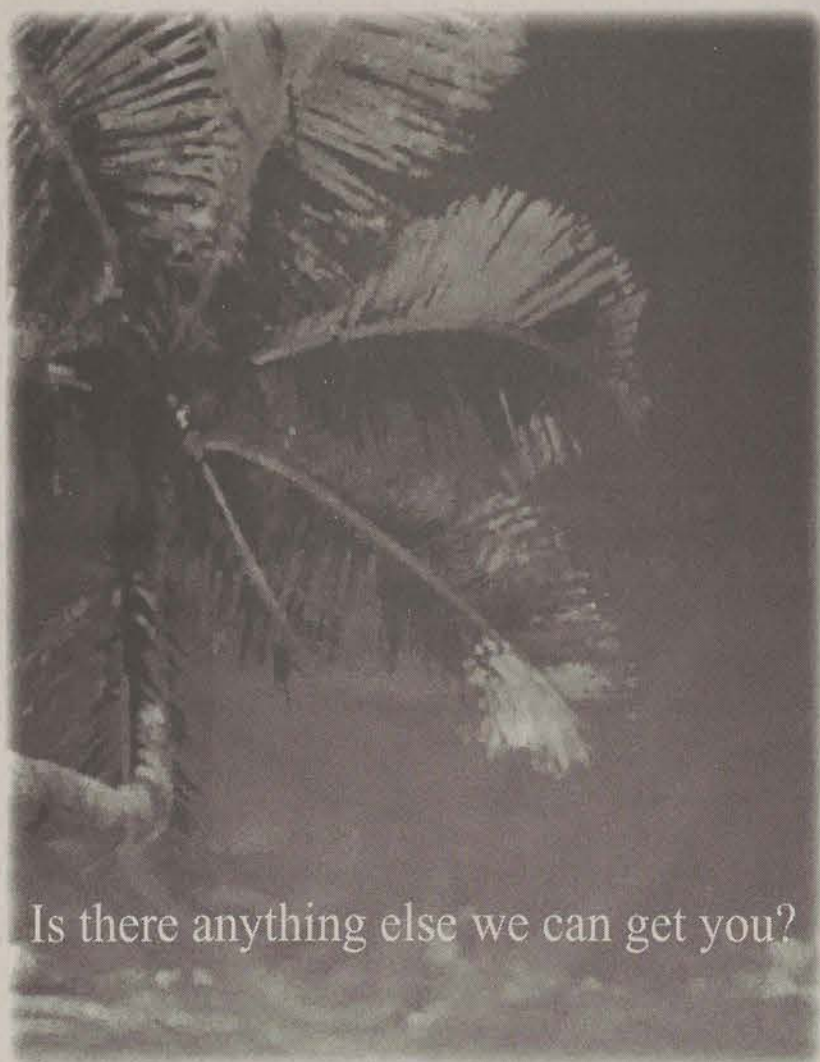
Under a deal that spared him from the silencer charge, Stewart pleaded guilty last month to drug and gun charges carrying a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years.

McQueen was offered the same deal, but opted to go to trial.

In closing arguments, federal prosecutors said no expert testimony was necessary to establish the significance of affixing a potato to the gun's barrel.

"It wasn't there to make French fries," prosecutor David A. Ring said. "Why else would he have done that?"

Defense attorney David Wenc said he planned to appeal and that prosecutors failed to prove their case.



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IN ORDER TO TAKE TWO STEPS FORWARD, SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO TAKE ONE STEP BACK

When first noticed, one might be appalled at the fact that the Registrar's Office here at GSU is in a worn-down trailer. This trailer, or to put it nicely, "temporary building", has been

Our Opinion

cleverly disguised with paint and fixtures to make it appear as though it is anything other than what it is - a trailer.

One might think that GSU isn't that great, considering the fact that one of its key departments is housed in a trailer, for all future students and parents to see. One might be turned off by the fact that to go on a tour of the campus or to check on their registration status that they must go to the "khaki trailer"

that's formerly known as the rickety Political Science Building. People shouldn't judge a book by its cover, or so the saying goes, but they do.

However, we can stand up for GSU and point out that while yes, we don't really think that the Registrar's Office being housed in a trailer is very classy, we do realize that in order to take two steps forward you sometimes have to take a step back.

Sometimes renovations are the key to success. So, bear with GSU and with the Registrar's Office. I'm sure they don't like being in a trailer either. Perhaps as GSU renovates more buildings, the former Political Science Building will be the designated "home" during such times. So, keep the phrase "Pardon our Progress" in mind. In the end, it will all be worth it.

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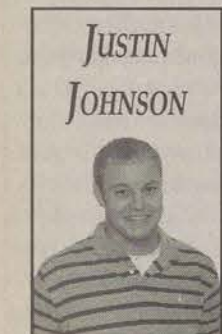
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Right this way, orientation groups A through Z

The other day as I was walking through campus on my way to *The George-Anne* I passed through Russell Union and to my surprise it was packed full of people. If



JUSTIN
JOHNSON

it weren't for that familiar cry "Follow me Group A, follow me Group A.....Hello? (long pause) Group A....let's go.... Group A?", I probably would not have realized that this was simply another orientation session.

Before I realized that this was an orientation session, I noticed a few cute individuals who I thought were pretty hot. However, when I thought about it a little, what was I thinking! "These people are....my God! These people are my little sister's age!" I then felt dirty for considering these people dateable. Then it hit me. In that very moment I realized something - I'm getting OLD.

Well, maybe not really old, but when I think of my sister I only envision a little girl with long blonde hair and an enormous bow in her hair. I don't think of her as being 18. I don't think of her as being able to vote, or being anywhere near graduating from high school. I don't think of her as being "college age." She's my....LITTLE sister! I guess when she and I are in our fifties, I'll still associate her with innocence and purity. I guess I just never updated my image of her throughout the years. Man, time really does fly by.

Now, just because one is of college age doesn't mean that they are completely accustomed to the college world. As I looked closely at this massive group of people in the Union, I saw the classic signs of "F.F."

What is "F.F.?" Well, simply put - FUTURE FRESHMEN.

Now don't get me wrong, being diagnosed with F.F. isn't really a bad thing. More over, it's just a condition that we all go through. Well, how do you know if maybe you've got or had F.F.?

Let's see. The first obvious sign of F.F. is if you strut about this campus as if you own it. Hahahah. (shakes head back and forth) You might have "owned" your high school, but you don't own Georgia Southern. You aren't cool based on your classification. It's sad, right? Don't worry - it'll be okay. I mean, I'm a junior and a half. What's that? However, you should get used to being called "freshman" instead of your given name. For a whole semester my name was Freshman Johnson or, at low points, I was simply known as "Hey Freshman."

The second F.F. giveaway is if you go to Landrum, Lakeside, or anywhere for that matter in a group of 8 or more. Honestly, you might as well wear a sign that says "I'm a freshman and I live in the dorm." Trust me, it's not a bad thing. I did it myself. We ALL did.

Another thing, there are no real cliques in college. Well, maybe in sororities and fraternities. But it's not really even prevalent there either. College is supposed to be a learning experience. It SHOULD be a place where you learn new things about

yourself and where you get a chance to evaluate your life on your own. You get to be your own person for perhaps the first time in your life. If you are still living off your parents, you STILL are making your own decisions. You are deciding whether or not to go to that party or to stay at home and study. Your life is in YOUR hands and for a lot of people that's pretty scary.

Simply put, college isn't high school. This is your life now. Your teachers in high school were right; no one is going to hold your hand and walk you to class. No one is going to wake you up and tell you to go to class. Under no circumstance will your classes be cancelled due to rain.

Your high school teachers may have also tried to scare the hell out of you. It's true. But, they were really just trying to prepare you for any upcoming challenges. The truth is, all professors in college aren't horrible. Like in most cases, a few bad apples usually ruin it for everyone. So, your ideas of how terrible college professors can be are probably a bit stretched. If you work with your professors, chances are they aren't going to make your life a living hell.

However, don't let me tell you anything. I'm just a voice. You'll find out for yourselves soon enough what college is like. All of the advice in the world can't stop or make you do something. So F.F. welcome to GSU; I hope you get to learn first hand what life is really like and that you get the chance to grow and prosper from it.

Justin Johnson is the editor-in-chief of *The George-Anne*. He is a journalism major and can be reached at gaeditor@gasou.edu.

Gluttons for punishment Just dial 1-900-for-Jake



ERIN
BROWN

The most appalling display of self-gratification in our society is fast food. In almost every hometown shopping center. I came to an abrupt stop just inside the McDonald's parking lot as a sea of minivans sprawled before me. I contemplated turning around and just as I had put my car in reverse another car blocked me in. I tried to pull around the car in front of me, but alas I am a tailgater and I was too close to the car in front of me. I had no choice but to wait it out.

Almost 20 excruciating minutes later (after I had witnessed two children being yelled at by their father) I was at the loudspeaker. After my hearing was permanently damaged, I managed to scream my order into the speaker. I knew the woman had trouble hearing me through all of the commotion. At that point I was about a hair's breath away from wanting to pull out a rocket launcher and blow up the damn place. I somehow managed to pull myself together, pay and leave. That was my first and last experience with "family night" at Mickey D's. To my horror the people seem to be multiplying and every Tuesday night brings a crowd.

What is even more shocking than the number of people waiting in line is the number of pounds they dragged into the place. The majority are overweight parents treating their already overweight children to a fun filled night at Ronald's slaughterhouse. These children have obviously never heard the words "quadruple bypass."

The mentality of these people is

the most alarming. They justify being herded like cattle into a dirty restaurant and eating these burgers o' fat based simply on price and convenience. A cheap, fattening meal seems to be more enjoyable to our impatient bodies than a slow cooked meal that cost a few dollars more.

Overweight individuals aren't the only gluttons among us. I too have succumbed to the plague of immediate gratification through fast food (Taco Bell being my weakness). Changing this self-induced pattern of destruction is the only way to break free from the mighty grasp of the fast food ogres.

Instead of going to McDonald's on Tuesday nights (or any other fast food place for that matter) have an honest family night. Cook a meal with those who are near you. Get to know them over a grilled chicken breast and a side salad instead of a greasy wrapper of bread and meat. Eat a meal that ensures the rest of your family and friends will be there in a year! Spend the extra money now on fresh meats, produce and fruits instead of eating oily fast food and paying hundreds of thousands of dollars in doctor and hospital bills later.

Food Lion is visible from McDonald's. Make the right turn and run screaming for your lives away from Mickey D's and into the cool aisles of your local grocery store.

Erin Brown can be reached for comment at gsi21063@yahoo.com.



JAKE
HALLMAN

They e-mailed me, and told me that I was perfect for the job. Apparently, my resume on Monster.com had finally gotten some results.

To quote Martin Blank, my history indicated a kind of "moral flexibility" that they looked for, so I was contacted for a special type of work.

That's right, gentle readers, I was approached to become a telephone psychic.

The company (which shall remain nameless since I fear lawyers) is the same one that runs the ubiquitous Sister Cleo ads. You know, the Jamaican wanna-be who tells people "Oh, 'e be cheatin' on ya when 'e be running fi da phone." They said that when her ads run, the phones never stop ringing.

They wanted me. Now I'll admit, I've given impromptu psychic readings before to shell-shocked telemarketers, but I never thought of it as a career move.

After receiving their e-mail, I decided to fire off a few questions. The psychic phone line people were kind enough to answer them, prefacing their answers with "My, Jake, you're an inquisitive fellow!"

Heh, heh, heh. They'll never know the *real* reason I was asking all the questions...

But I digress. First, and most important, I asked, what're the pay and working conditions like?

It turns out that I'd be working at home. Apparently, they route calls directly to your home phone through a pin-number-based system. This, I could handle. Sitting on my couch, making around \$11 an hour for telling people that I see trouble from someone with the initial "M" in their future? Pinch me.

Raises are possible, too, if you can keep your average call length over 15 minutes. Keeping in mind that the first three minutes of each reading are free, they provided a neat, 15-paragraph preamble to say at the start of each call, virtually guaranteeing that the free three minutes were taken up by an introduction and pitch to receive the "Psychic Weekly" tabloid.

Of course, not being one to believe in the tarot, palm reading, staring into crystal balls, or mucking around in goat intestines (but being one to enjoy fleecing the unwary), I wanted to know if I was suited for the business.

"No problem!" they answered, sending me a handy one-paragraph guide to tarot reading. It contained such helpful tips as "Cups are usually good." I downloaded a tarot-reading program on my PC to simplify the process.

The phone-a-psychics also included a handy, neatly word-processed guide to plying their trade. It turns out that most of their callers just need somebody to talk to.

"Ask leading questions, and play off of their answers," it said. Hey, maybe I *can* do this! Write me at the G-A and tell me about the problems you're having with your father.

There were a few warnings, however. Phone psychics aren't encouraged to give out medical advice, talk about death and destruction, or offer abortion counseling.

Yeah, I'd like to court a lawsuit by telling someone that Uncle Homer's precancerous lesions were in fact nothing to worry about.

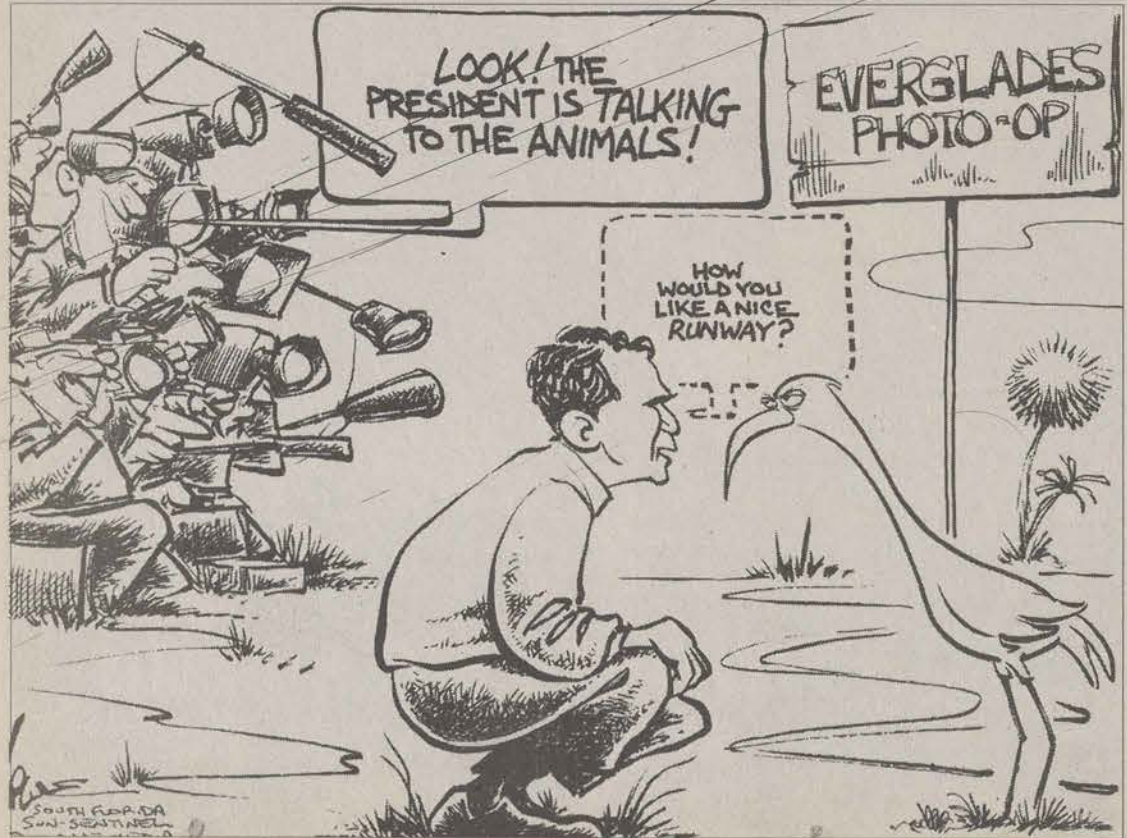
They also told me to always be upbeat and positive, since "that's the way the universe works, and hope breeds hope."

Ooooookay, Moon Doggy. Whatever you say. That happy-happy joy-joy stuff mixes well with "talk slowly, if possible."

This job sounded perfect for me, until I talked to Mom. As a devout, bible-beatin' Methodist, she didn't like how her little boy was going to swindle people.

Oh, well. It seemed like a good idea. By the way, I've got a bad feeling about someone with the initial "J."

Jake Hallman can be reached via e-mail at jakebone@frontiernet.net.



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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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77-year old plans to start college next year

Associated Press

ANDERSON, Ind. — Estella Schacht is getting ready for college. Next year, so will her great-granddaughter.

Schacht, 77, received an equivalence diploma last week, more than 60 years after she dropped out of Anderson High School.

"I finally did it," said the mother of five, grandmother of 15, great-grandmother of 31, and great-great-grandmother of two. "Now, I'm thinking about going ahead and taking some classes at Ivy Tech State College."

She said she enjoyed studying literature, history and science, but found geometry and algebra more of a challenge in earning her GED. Now, she's thinking about some business courses and more computer classes.

Her goal is to land an office job, so she can support her great-granddaughter, Tara Gray, 17, through college at Anderson University. Tara, who will be a senior in the fall at Anderson High School, has been living with Schacht since she was 5.

Schacht now works as a cashier at Old Country Buffet, but she wants a better job so she won't have to stand on her feet so much.

"I want to get enough of an education that I can go ahead and do something that's a little easier on me, but where I will make

enough so that I can help Tara go through school," she said.

It was Tara who motivated her great-grandmother to get her GED.

"I just thought it would be a great accomplishment," said Tara, who researched what her great-grandmother would have to do, and began prodding her nightly for three weeks.

Schacht was reluctant, at first, but gave in so Tara would quit nagging.

"She kept saying 'You can do it.' I said, 'OK, I'll give it a try just for you,'" she said.

Before this, the last time Schacht was in school was in 1939. She dropped out of high school at 16, three months short of graduation.

"Back then they didn't think it was too important for a girl to have an education," she said, adding her father thought it was foolish for her to go to school since she already had a job.

"Times were different then; now education is important," she said.

However, through the years, especially when Tara was little, Schacht did volunteer work at elementary schools and always told the children the importance of education.

Now she encourages more people who have dropped out of school to consider going back, to get their GED's, and says one should never think he or she is too old.

"It's never too late," she said.



College savings plans victimized by downturn

Knight-Ridder Tribune

Annie and Tony Jose were on a good track saving for the college educations of their two children.

Then the roaring stock market went into a severe skid early last year.

Today, the Joses, who live in Mesquite, are lining up other options if their investment portfolio doesn't rebound. It may mean that their children, 20-year-old Ivy and 15-year-old Jeffrey, will have to work to help pay the college bills.

"As of now, it's really uncertain," said Annie Jose, a nurse, whose husband is a draftsman. "You thought by the way the market was like two years ago that it's a good one, your money is really growing and you think you really have invested enough for their education. Now, you're thinking is this really enough for their education?"

Although the stock market is slowly recovering, the damage inflicted by its downturn has dealt a huge setback to the investment portfolios of many parents who have been saving to pay the college bills.

"If you were setting money aside for college funding and you put \$10,000 on April 1 of last year in an aggressive stance, that money might certainly be worth 15 to 20 percent to 30 percent less today than it was then," said Bill Perryman, a Certified Financial Planner at Perryman Financial Advisory Inc. in Dallas. "That's going to temporarily put you behind schedule for what you've planned for education."

And although the market is doing better, individual mutual fund portfolios may not be improving at the same pace as a particular stock barometer, financial experts said.

"Just because the Dow Jones industrial average 3/8 is up doesn't necessarily mean that their mutual fund is up," said Peggy Everson, a Certified Financial Planner at American Express Financial Advisors in Richardson.

Just because the market has slowed their savings momentum doesn't mean that families don't have options, financial advisers said.

How soon?

A major factor dictating your strategy is how much time you have before you need the money. In other words, when will your child start college?

If he or she hasn't reached the teenage years, you have time to recover from the market downturn, experts said.



Special Photo

UNCERTAIN FUTURES: Today, the Joses, who live in Mesquite, are lining up other options if their investment portfolio doesn't rebound. It may mean that their children will have to work to help pay the college bills.

"It's only a setback," said Douglas Gill, a Certified Financial Planner at Gill Capital Management Inc. in Dallas. "If your child is a couple of years away 1/8 from starting college 3/8, I would stay the course with your equities and allow the market to do its work to recover."

How much money you should have saved by the time your child reaches a certain age depends on several factors.

Here are some guidelines to help you arrive at a figure for your individual situation.

The three most important factors in determining how much to save monthly for college are the cost in today's dollars of schools you're interested in, an estimate of how much those costs will be when your child enters college, and rate of return you assume your investments will earn, excluding taxes.

College tuition and fees in the 2000-2001 school year averaged \$16,332 at four-year private institutions, up 5.2 percent from \$15,518 in the 1999-2000 academic year, according to the College Board, an education organization that tracks college costs. Tuition and fees at four-year public institutions averaged \$3,510, up 4.4 percent from \$3,362.

By 2016, assuming a 5 percent annual increase, college costs will reach about \$22,000 a year at state schools and \$48,000 a year at private institutions, according to Putnam Investments in Boston, a mutual fund company.

Once you know all that information, "one can easily determine how much you have to set aside monthly to achieve that goal," Gill said.

But you must constantly monitor your plan to make sure that you're still on track.

About two years before your child starts college, begin gradually moving that college money into more conservative, less risky investments.

"You're investing for a fixed obligation, so you need to become more conservative as that fixed obligation approaches," said William Goldberg, Southwest partner in charge of personal financial planning at KPMG in Houston.

That means putting some of your college money in a vehicle such as a bond mutual fund.

"Murphy's Law is alive and well," Perryman said. "Odds are that that 1/8 tuition 3/8 bill will come at the worst possible moment."

Bottled drink prices increase at Georgia Southern

G-A News Service

Twenty-ounce bottled drinks are now more expensive on campus, increasing from 90 cents to \$1 recently.

"The reason for this increase is two fold," stated

Thomas Palfy, director of GSU food services. "First, the local Coke distributor has notified us they are increasing their price to us effective immediately."

According to Palfy, this in-

crease is largely because of increasing labor costs, as well as skyrocketing fuel prices.

Also, GSU's benefits package began a rapid increase starting in January of this year.

"In the past, as our benefits

costs increased we have tried to absorb them," Palfy stated. "The reality of the last increase was more than we can afford to absorb."

All other vending prices will not increase, he added.

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Poole named head coach of the Eagle softball program

• Coming to GSU after three years as an assistant coach at MSU, Poole now takes charge of the GSU Softball team

G-A News Service

Georgia Southern University Athletics Director Sam Baker announced Wednesday the hiring of Natalie Poole as the new head coach of the Eagle softball program.

Poole's hiring at Georgia Southern ends a three-year stint as an assistant coach at McNeese State (La.) University, where she also starred for the Cowgirls softball team from 1994-97. She replaces Kelley Kirkland, whose contract was not renewed after the 2001 season.

"We are very excited to have Natalie join our staff," said Baker. "Throughout her career as a student-athlete and a coach, she has played an integral role in McNeese State's program, and we look forward to the direction she is going to provide our softball program."

Poole joined the MSU softball staff as a graduate assistant in 1998 and moved into the assistant coach's role the very next year.

Prior to her time at McNeese State, Poole assisted the 18-under Baton Rouge Bandits summer team from 1995-96. She then spent a year as the head coach for the 18-under Lake Charles Gamblers and, in 1998, assumed duties as assistant softball coach at Barbe (La.) High School.

In her playing days, Poole was the starting catcher for the Cowgirls all four years. She was a three-time All-Southland Conference member (1995-97), a two-time All-South Region honoree (1996-97) and earned the All-Louisiana honors in 1996.

As a freshman, she helped the Cowgirls to a Southland Conference title as well as the school's first-ever South Region appearance.

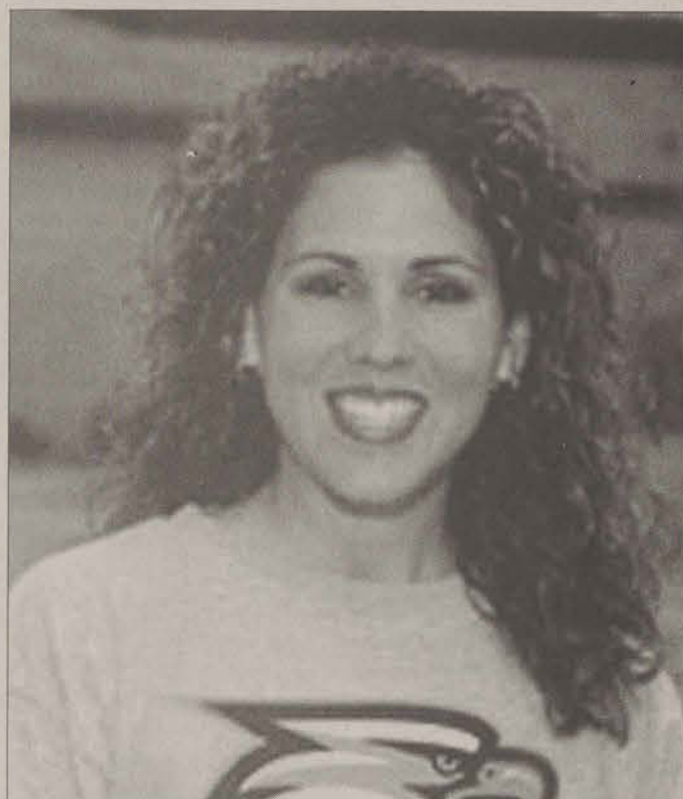
In 1997 she recorded the team's highest batting average of .331 while registering five home runs and 10 doubles. Her successful senior campaign led to her naming as McNeese State's Most Valuable Player, and she closed out her career with a .298 batting average.

Just as accomplished in the classroom as she was on the field, Poole was a three-time District VI GTE CoSIDA Academic All-America selection (1995-97) and was a 1997 National Academic All-America choice.

She was named a Southland Conference Scholar Athlete all four years at MSU, and in 1997 she was recognized as the Southland Conference's Scholar Athlete of the Year.

Poole earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from McNeese State in 1998, graduating with a 3.5 grade point average. In July of 2000, she earned her Masters of Education degree in Instructional Technology from MSU with a 4.0 GPA.

Poole takes over a Georgia Southern softball program that finished third in the Southern Conference this past season. The Eagles finished the year 25-33 overall and 12-8 in league play.



Special Photo

NEW COACH IN TOWN: Natalie Poole becomes GSU's head softball coach for the upcoming 2001-2002 season. Poole comes to GSU after three years as an assistant coach at MSU.

GSU Golf team finishes season 24th in the nation

By Doug Kidd
Senior Sports Writer

The Georgia Southern golf team ended a great athletic season for the entire Eagle athletic program when they finished 24th in the country at the NCAA Championships in Durham, North Carolina.

Also—to top off the stellar golf season—freshman Tyler McKeever took the Alabama State Amateur Championship a week later when he beat out co-leader Nick Rousey on the final hole.

Earlier in the week, McKeever and his teammates capped the second-best season in school history with their impressive showing at the NCAA Championship at the Duke Golf Club. In 1988, GSU finished 14th in the country.

"This was a very successful first year," said first-year coach Larry Mays, who turned the Eagle golf program into a conference power on his way to being rewarded with the 2001 Southern Conference Coach-of-the-Year.

"As a team we set goals very early, and we expected to accomplish them," Mays said. "Making the NAAs was one of those goals, and the guys really came together and played hard to achieve that. Even

though the results weren't what we would have liked, it gives us something to shoot for next year."

Despite not making the cut and finishing with a two day total of 594

eight-under. Georgia Tech finished fourth overall while Georgia and Augusta State placed fifth and seventh, respectively.

McKeever, who was selected as the Southern Conference Freshman-of-the-Year, continued his great play by capturing the Alabama Amateur Championship. McKeever shot 287 through four days of competition and beat out second place finisher Nick Rousey with a two-foot putt on the final hole. McKeever stuck a wedge from 130 yards out to set up his tournament-clinching putt.

"In the practice round, I had holed my second shot from exactly the same yardage," McKeever told *The Birmingham News*. "That gave me the extra confidence that I could hit a good shot. I tell you though, that two feet [on the putt] was the longest two feet of the tournament."

The 18-year old Auburn, Alabama native became the 85th State Amateur Champion of Alabama despite having to qualify just to get into the field. McKeever held off a hard-charging Rousey with that final putt, dropping Rousey to his second straight runner-up finish in the tournament.

"I knew I had to fight to win," said McKeever. "I knew Nick would make a run at me and he played great. I'm glad to do just enough to win."

"THAT GAVE ME THE EXTRA CONFIDENCE THAT I COULD HIT A GOOD SHOT. I TELL YOU THOUGH, THAT TWO FEET (ON THE PUTT) WAS THE LONGEST TWO FEET OF THE TOURNAMENT."

--TYLER MCKEEVER, GSU GOLF

(18-over par), GSU still tied for 24th with Oklahoma State. The Eagles finished ahead of Washington, North Carolina State, Purdue, UC-Irvine, and Kent State in the 30 team field. GSU had advanced to the Championships with an impressive eighth place finish in the East Regional.

Travis Mobley at plus-4 recorded the team's top score while Justin Kolumber (+5), Christian Newton (+5), Warren Holman (+7), and McKeever (+8) rounded out the scoring.

Florida won the 2001 golf championship by shooting 26-under par while Clemson finished second at

J.R. Revere drafted by the Colorado Rockies

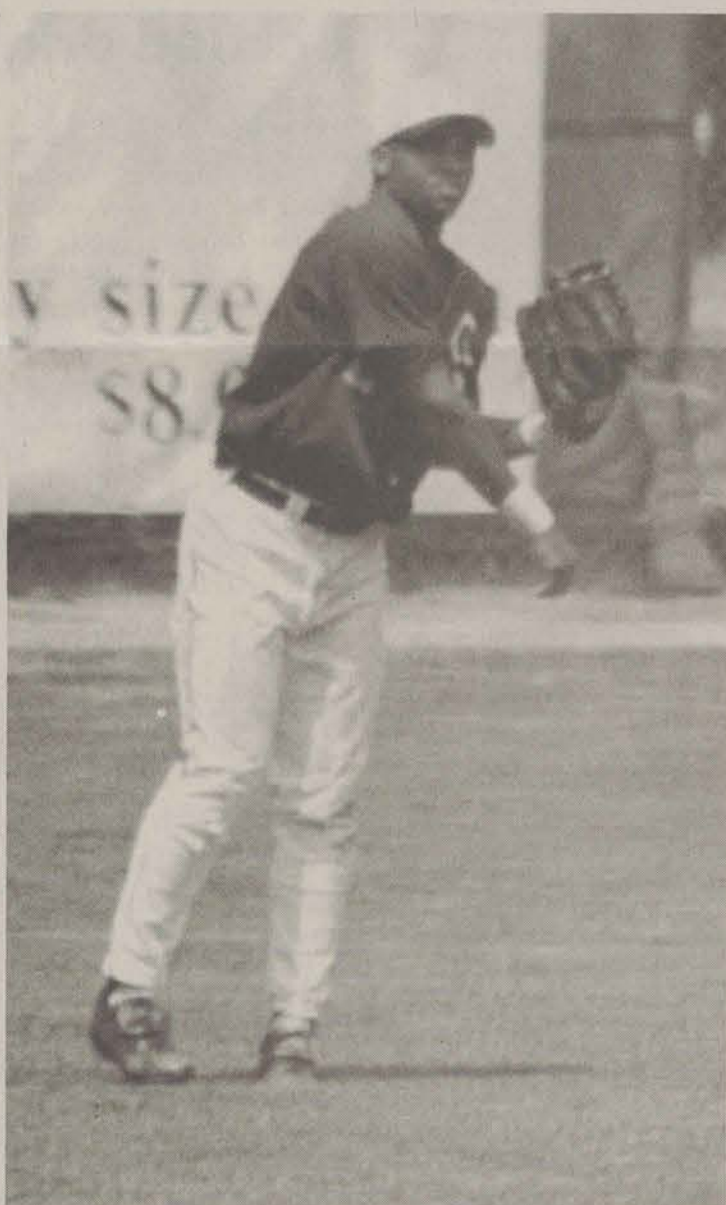
G-A News Service

Georgia Southern University centerfielder J.R. Revere was selected by the Colorado Rockies in the 49th round of Major League Baseball's amateur draft Wednesday afternoon. The junior was the 1,451st overall pick in the draft.

Revere, who is also the starting quarterback for the Eagles' football team, batted .234 during the 2001 season and was successful in 10-of-12 stolen base attempts. In 2000,

Revere hit .302 and led the Eagle squad with 24 stolen bases.

This year's draft marks the second consecutive year that a Georgia Southern player has been selected as Matt Easterday was selected in the 21st round by the Florida Marlins in the 2000 draft.



LaVene Bell

MAJOR LEAGUE BOUND: J.R. Revere was selected by the Colorado Rockies in the 49th round of MLB's amateur draft.

GSU Football memorabilia on display in College Football Hall of Fame

G-A News Service

The 2000 postseason bowl games and national champions are on display at the College Football Hall of Fame, it was announced Monday by the world-class museum in South Bend, Ind.

At the conclusion of each season, the Hall honors the participants in each of the bowl games as well as the national champions in each college football division.

The Cotton, Fiesta, Rose, Orange and Sugar bowls are honored with a display featuring their trophies, the helmets of the participants and other memorabilia including merchandise, game programs, ticket stubs, media credentials and autographed balls.

The other bowls are recognized with the scores of each game. Located next to the Bowl Games exhibit, the National Champions display honors the national champions from NCAA Divisions I-A

(Oklahoma), I-AA (Georgia Southern), II (Delta State), and III (Mount Union), as well as the NAIA (Georgetown (KY) College). Each of these teams is lauded

with items commemorating the respective teams' accomplishments, some of which include newspapers, t-shirts, posters and trophies. The College Football Hall of Fame is

open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. now until Nov 30. For more information on the Hall or the Pantheon, please call Shawn Robinson at 219-235-5717.



LaVene Bell

ON DISPLAY: The 2000 postseason bowl games and national champions are currently on display at the College Football Hall of Fame in South Bend, Ind.



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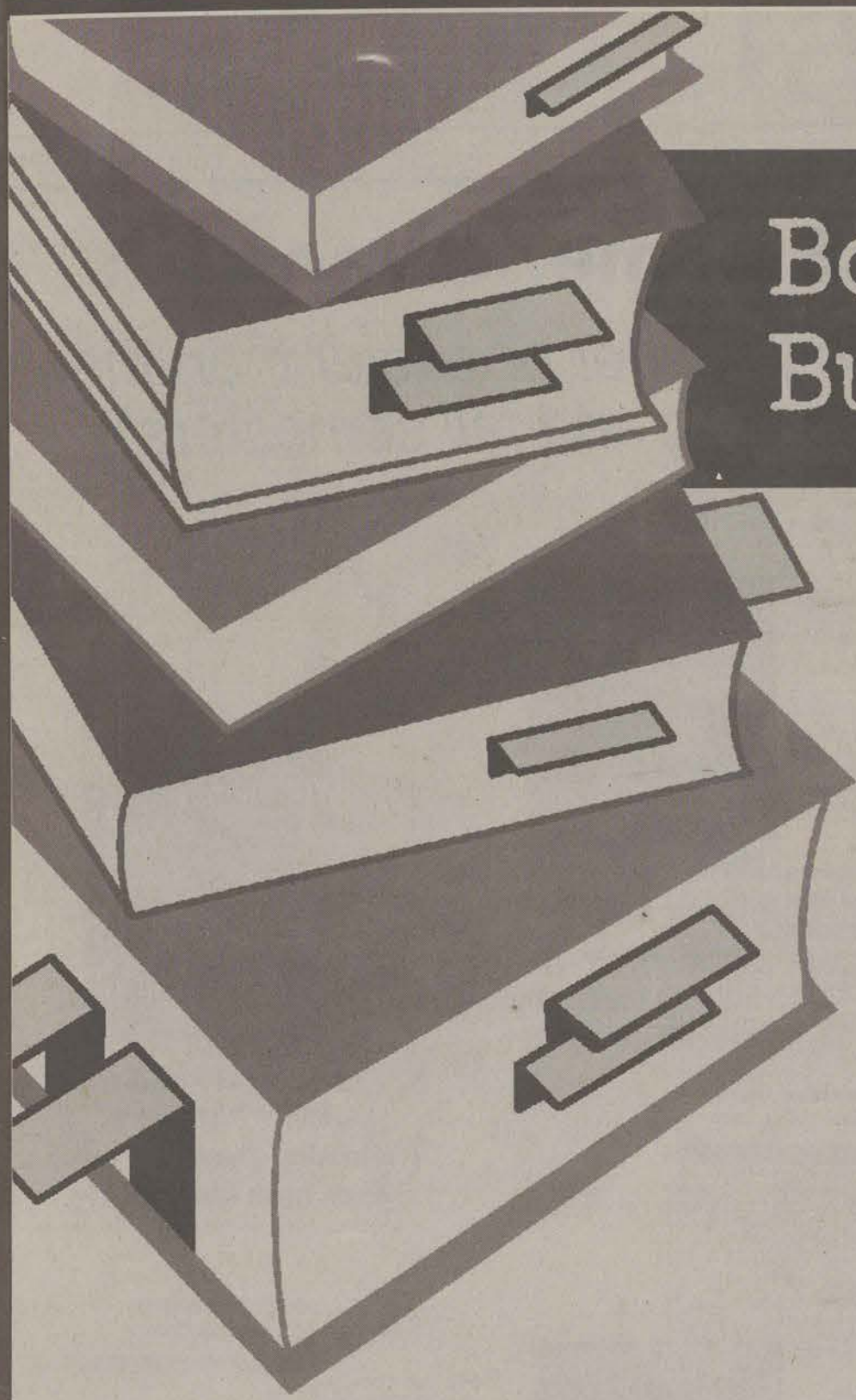
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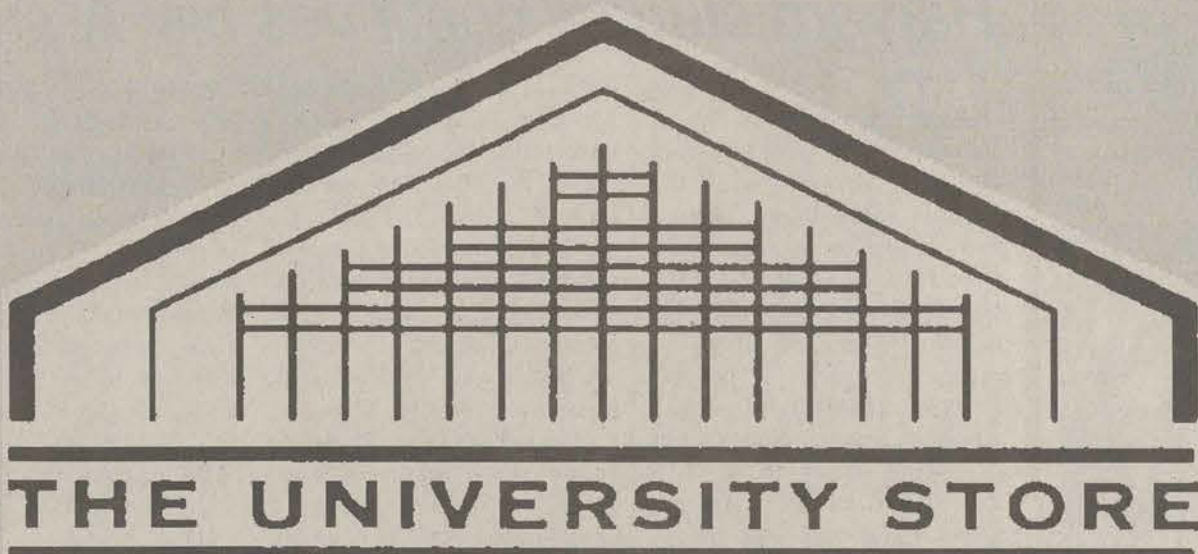
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'Moulin Rouge' is the jewel of summer movies

By Chris Brenneman
Staff Writer

Do yourself a favor and don't go see "Pearl Harbor." It is nothing more than Hollywood drivel at best with "it" actors to get the half-witted into a theater and fork over good money.

If, on the other hand, you want to try something so outlandishly different that you question its Californian origins, then go see "Moulin Rouge," the latest flick from "Romeo and Juliet" director and "Sun Screen Song" producer Baz Lurhmann.

Set in 19th century Paris, "Moulin Rouge" is akin to an awkward trip where pop culture meshes flawlessly with period costumes and history.

The story is simple enough. A young writer (Ewan McGregor) arrives in the big city in hopes of becoming the next big thing. He meets up with a troop of actors and descends into the Bohemian world of absinthe, clubs and well, musicals.

McGregor has that wide-eyed "gee wow" look that anyone would have if they arrived in Lurhmann's Paris. Through him, we get to share the awe that the movie presents.

Nicole Kidman is the film's gem. Portraying "Satine," she flies through the movie, proving once and for all that it was she who was the talented one in the marriage, not her scientologist whipping boy of a husband.

She is the embodiment of the glitz and glamour that is "Moulin Rouge." Her singing is outstanding and her mere presence is goddess-like.



Special Photo

RED WINDMILL: Baz Lurhmann's newest film, "Moulin Rouge," stars Nicole Kidman and Ewan McGregor as star-crossed lovers in turn-of-the-century Paris. The movie takes Hollywood glitz and glamour and turns it into what could be called an "art film."

Richard Roxburgh, playing "The Duke," brings back the classic Hollywood villain. His curled mustache and his quivering voice bring us the ultimate aristocratic evil doer. The way he sings "Like a Virgin" is just plain cool.

Then there's the true star of the film: the music. Truth be told, I was wary of seeing the film when I saw them singing such ditties as "Roxanne." But it worked. And well. *Really* well.

The film quotes almost every hit song in the last ten years, but at the same time manages to slip them in so that it's either unnoticeable or laughable.

Baz Lurhmann should win an Oscar as should Kidman, McGregor and Roxburgh. Lurhman manages to pull off something cool where lesser directors would have turned to cheese. Chances are though, he'll be ignored in favor for

the loads of crap that always gets the award. He took a chance and came out with art.

The set designers should not go unmentioned. The entire movie looked like the set of a stage play. It had that two-dimensional look that Broadway has been using to capture everything from sewers and dumps to apartments and Nazareth.

You feel like you're watching not as much a film, but a play. This only adds to the quality of the film. It gives it the credibility that stage has always had over film.

So do everyone a favor. Skip crap like "Pearl Harbor" and "Mummy Returns." They make movies like that all the time and they'll suck as much on video and USA as they do in the theater.

If you really want to fork over eight bucks, make it count. Go see "Moulin Rouge."

Summer semester:

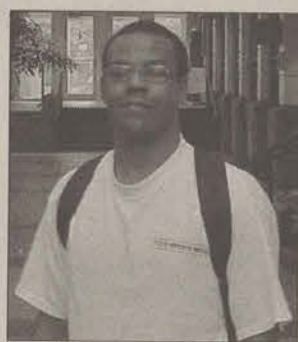
Is it harder or easier than the spring and fall semesters?

Jeremy McClure
Senior, Chemistry

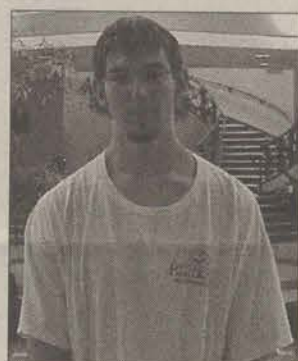
"It's a little bit harder, but not too difficult."

Sheena Holmes
Sophomore, Int. Business

"It's harder. There's so much to learn in so little time."

Justin Westmoreland
Freshman, Engineering

"It's easier. No one's around and there's nothin' to do but study."

Justin Edge
Sophomore, Sports Medicine

"It's harder. So much material in a short period of time."

Christine Estock
Senior, Fashion Merchandising

"It's easier because professors are more laid back."

Dione Brooks
Freshman, Fashion Merchandising

"It's easier because there's not as many classes."

Harvard student continues his 'A' streak

TMS Campus

Kevin Schwartz is one of 76 undergrads graduating from Harvard University with the highest distinction, summa cum laude. Schwartz, however, is the only student in his class to receive the honor with a perfect 15.0 grade point average.

Schwartz continued his streak of perfect grades from grammar school and high school and earned only A's while at Harvard—not one A-minus, not one B-plus—only A's.

The 21-year-old government major who graduated Thursday, June 7, is the first

Harvard student to earn a perfect GPA in 20 years, and believed to be one of only four in the university's 350-year history.

"I am proud to be a part of Harvard history," Schwartz told the student newspaper, the Harvard Crimson. "I was very motivated and worked hard, so it meant a lot to me."

After graduation, Schwartz hopes to earn two master's degrees—one in business administration and another in social policy—during his next two years at England's Oxford University on a Marshall Scholarship. He then plans to return to the states where he's

been accepted at Yale University Law School.

While Schwartz' academic accomplishments are impressive, he wasn't one to sit still during his Harvard days. He served as class treasurer, financial manager of Harvard Glee Club, president of the Harvard Mock Trial Team, editor at the Harvard Crimson, West Wing intern in the White House and completed an assortment of volunteer work.

"While the rest of Harvard is sleeping, he is working or making a contribution to extracurricular life," friend Joel Rosenbaum told the Crimson.

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Romance and special effects make 'Pearl Harbor' a must see

By Lauren Gibson
Guest Writer

"Titanic" fans beware of "Pearl Harbor." That's right, you heard me...beware. Why? Simply put, if you're thinking that Pearl Harbor

is a remake with more ships, you're set to be disappointed.

Produced by Jerry Bruckheimer and directed by Michael Bay, Pearl Harbor has much more to offer than a pair of lusty lovers searching be-

low decks. While the title may be a bit misleading, the movie covers not only the actual bombing of Pearl Harbor, but also the series of events that followed. Ben Affleck and Josh Hartnett play best friends from childhood who grow up to become a couple of daredevil pilots (Top Gun, anyone?). While English actress Kate Beckinsdale plays the woman who will, you guessed it, nearly tear them apart. Peppering the mix are Alec Baldwin as Col. Jimmy Doolittle, Jon Voight as F.D.R. (can I just say the resemblance is scary?) and Dan Akroyd as, well, that guy who knew exactly what was going to happen all along and nobody would listen to him. Now, on to the best part: special effects.

Industrial Light & Magic did the CGI work for the film and I have just one word: ohsocool. Once the raid actually began (90 minutes in) the realism is astounding. The

raid is separated into two distinct parts: the demolishing of the Harbor and the revenge of our two heroes via the only remaining planes left unscathed. Both parts are equally depicted in a series of the most vivid and realistic shots I have yet to see in cinema. Of course, if you have watched a television in the last 4 months (that is how long they have been running the preview, right?) you have a vague idea of what I'm talking about. Camera shots on bomb trajectories, underwater shots and yes, just for the Titanic fans, lots of ships.

However, the movie does end in a way that can best be described as, Huh? Seemingly, as a way to clean up the messy love triangle, the movie continues to cover the assault on Tokyo by Col. Jimmy Doolittle. To tell you the truth, the amount of time spent on this intricate sequence was saddening. But



Special Photo

DECEMBER 7, 1941: G.I.'s run for their lives during Japan's surprise attack on Pearl Harbor.



Special Photo

AN EXPLOSIVE LOVE STORY: Kate Beckinsdale and Ben Affleck share a romantic moment before the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Hachi: An exciting new Japanese experience

By Erin E. Brown
Lifestyles Editor

Nestled in the back of College Plaza is a little restaurant that deserves magnanimous consideration. If you are tired of the fried food in the 'Boro, Hachi should be your next stop. The specialty of the house is sushi. Now I know what you're thinking, *Raw fish*? That's disgusting! Actually, the seafood incorporated with the seaweed and rice is usually steamed or smoked.

Hachi is owned and operated by Dr. and Mrs. Lee who have lived in Statesboro for the past four years. Mrs. Lee prepares the sushi by hand and can be seen from the kitchen. A wide variety of sushi rolls are available, including the popular California Roll.

The menu consists of a variety of sushi rolls, ranging in

price from \$2.25 to \$4.75. Other Japanese favorites such as, chicken teriyaki and salmon steaks are also available at reasonable prices. Hachi also has a variety of vegetarian dishes.

The most popular sushi roll is the California roll, which consists of Krab, cucumber and avocado wrapped in seaweed and rice. Other's include the Philadelphia roll with caviar, cream cheese and smoked salmon and the Boston roll with steamed shrimp, lettuce, and shrimp sauce. All of the rolls are made fresh and wrapped in seaweed and rice. Sushi has no MSG and also has very little fat grams.

The first time I ventured into Hachi I was extremely skeptical. Sushi was something I had

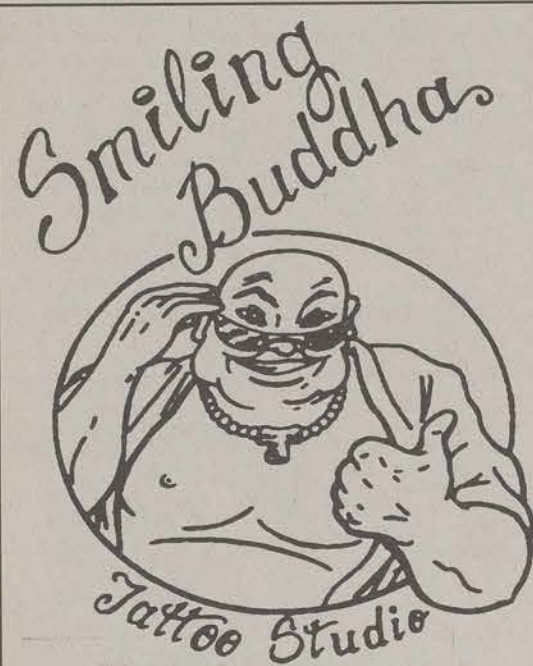
never even seen before. I was with a group of friends and we decided to be adventurous. This first trip led to another and another. Now Hachi is part of my weekly routine and I have brought many others there to enjoy this rare delicacy.

Hachi is a wonderful restaurant that invigorates any palate. For a reasonable price and a comfortable atmosphere Statesboro's answer to gourmet cuisine.



Jill Burnham

SUSHI IN THE 'BORO: Hachi has fine Japanese cuisine at a reasonable price and is close to the GSU campus.



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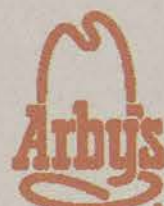
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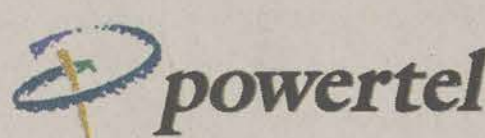
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MiddleGround plays Retriever's, to play Blind Willie's Thursday

By Erin A. Merritt
Guest Writer

One of Statesboro's favorite rock bands, MiddleGround, played at Retriever's Thursday night. The turn-out was rather large for a summer time crowd, and the band treated them with over an hour and a half of music.

Their set, 17 songs and an encore featuring two songs, was a smooth blend of original work and cover songs. Although at times the vocals were difficult to hear, the crowd seemed to be enjoying the show.

Fans sang along as the band covered Alice in Chains, Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, and Ozzy Osborne, just to name a few.

Lead vocalist and rhythm guitarist Bob Davis, lead guitarist and backup vocalist Michael Avant, bassist Matt Yogus, and drummer Josh Roberts make up the band MiddleGround. Since getting together in October, they have taken the Statesboro music scene by storm.

Their rock flavor has drawn comparisons to Better Than Ezra, Matchbox 20, Stone

Temple Pilots, and more than any, Collective Soul.

After winning WVGS's Battle of the Bands and Eagle Entertainment's JamFest, it seems the only way this band knows is up.

The fan base continues to grow, as each show brings a larger crowd of folks ready to hear this up and coming band perform. A noticeable group of faithful MiddleGround followers has even formed, and can be seen at each of the band's shows.

Despite being together such a short amount of time, the four guys have an unbelievable amount of chemistry.

Their set of originals like "Poor Tom," "Straightjacket," and "Anna's Song" was well rehearsed, though the band seemed a bit hurried at times.

On June 16, MiddleGround is heading to the studio to record their first album. The album will feature 8 original tracks.

MiddleGround is giving one more show before the fall semester rolls around this Thursday at Blind Willie's.

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