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The GEORGE-ANNE

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Friday
October 4, 2002
Volume 75, No. 28

Sports: GSU Soccer falls in a close game against The Citadel

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Homecoming 2002

A weekend filled with 'New Beginnings'



Mariana Viera/STAFF

Festive homecoming banners make a colorful display as they wave in the breeze above a pedestrian near the Foy Fine Arts building.

By Jimmy Simmons
jsimmons@gasou.edu

As everyone should know, this week is homecoming week. Throughout this week there have been a number of activities

and events to support homecoming. Thursday the Homecoming Formal and announcement of court was held in the Union Ballroom. The homecoming Queen candidates consist of: Lori Benton sponsored by Kappa Delta, Amanda

McKinney sponsored by Alpha Delta Pi, Jessica Deckert sponsored by Phi Mu, Leigh Ann Ferguson sponsored by Kappa Kappa Gamma, and Ziena Clarkson sponsored by Hendrix Hall. The homecoming King candidates

are: Reggie Brown sponsored by Phi Sigma Pi, Erik Howard sponsored by Brannen Hall and Sanford hall, Alex Williams sponsored by

See Homecoming, Page 3

RHPC takes first at Doo-Dah Step Show

By Deidra Sullivan
dsullivan@gasou.edu

There was plenty of hand-clappin', knee-slappin', and foot-stompin' to go around at the annual Doo-Dah Step Show Competition.

Georgia Southern's Greek sororities, fraternities, as well as other campus organizations showed off their respective talents on Tuesday night at the Recreation Activities Center.

They competed for titles of best performance for both Doo-Dah (dance), and step.

Latonya Coleman, a 21-year-old student, attended the show. She was pleased to see the diverse groups perform.

"It had different talents. It was a positive program. No one got booed. There were no fights. It was just a positive atmosphere," Coleman said.

"Originality" was the name of the game for the night's performances. Clever skits preceded the majority of the acts: a rivalry between "geeks", "thugs", and "preppies", a patriotic salute to the planting of the American flag, a girl's quest for a southern gentleman, a childhood game of jump rope, and a parody of The Lion King were all highlights of the evening.

"My favorite was Voices in Ministry. They were very energetic and positive... They brought a new flavor to the program," said 20-year-old spectator Jinna Solomon.

Tiffany Thomas, a spokesperson for Voices in Ministry, proudly held up their second place plaque. Thomas said their group plans on returning for next year's event. When asked how she felt about their second place win,

Thomas screamed an ear-shattering "Aaaaah!"

In addition to Voices in Ministry, other organizations such as Hendricks Hall and the Residence Hall President's Council (RHPC) also set out to impress a capacity crowd.

For Monique McKenzie, a member of RHPC, the hard work paid off. "We've been practicing for two weeks, like two hours every night," she said.

When McKenzie heard the news that RHPC placed first, she yelled and then broke into a celebratory run. Her enthusiasm must have been contagious.

The ladies of Zeta Tau Alpha could hardly contain their excitement when they were announced as second place winners in Doo-Dah. The Zetas pulled double duty by performing for both Doo-Dah and step competition.

They attested to the fact that these types of programs don't just happen overnight; that preparation was hard work and time consuming.

According to Zeta sister Mandy Conner, some of the biggest challenges were having the confidence to win and getting everyone's schedule together.

For others, time conflicts weren't the only hurdle.

"The biggest challenge was just getting the newer guys ready," said Evin Anderson, a member of Phi Beta Sigma. "It was the first time that we had five guys out there for

See Step, Page 3

'Jitney' opens tonight at Black Box Theater

By Laura Porte
laura_porte@hotmail.com

"Jitney" is expected to be a big hit at Georgia Southern.

"I think people will love it. I would advise people to come early and get a seat," said Mical Whitaker, director of "Jitney," the first theater production of the year at GSU.

'Jitney,' written by August Wilson in 1978, is set in 1977 in Pittsburgh's Hill district, and depicts gypsy cab drivers who serve black neighborhoods.

The play's central conflict revolves around Becker, played by Maruice Thomas, a graduate theatre major, and his son Booster, who is played by Tobias Mathis, a senior public relations major. Booster has just returned home after serving a 20-year prison term for murder.

As a father and son attempt to reconcile, the plot shifts to topics

of economic anxiety, sexual attraction, lovers' quarrels, and crimes of passion.

The play, produced on Broadway in 2000, won rave reviews and the accolade of the New York Drama Critics Award as Best Play of the Year. In London, it was awarded "The Oliver" as Best Play of the Year for 2001.

"I read 'Jitney' two years ago when it was voted the best play of the New York season in 2000," Whitaker said, "And I knew it would be perfect for this place. It will fit perfectly; it's a funky place for a funky play."

Whitaker was also attracted to the fact that it is a male dominated cast, with only one female, as well as the fact that it is an African American cast. It will, however, appeal to a variety of people.

See Play, Page 3



Special Photo

Director Mical Whitaker says 'Jitney' is 'perfect for this place. It will fit perfectly; it's a funky place for a funky play.'

Time-honored tradition of fall fun hits Ogeechee fairgrounds this week

By Daniel Miles
surf5bum@hotmail.com

The annual Kiwanis Club Ogeechee Fair is currently being held at the Ogeechee fairgrounds off Highway 80.

This marks the thirty-eighth year the fair has come to Statesboro, thanks to the members of the Kiwanis club, which holds the fair each year.

Prior to World War II, it went by

the name Bulloch County Fair, until its postponement due to the war effort. In 1964, the Kiwanis club decided to bring the fair back to Statesboro, and luckily they were able to move it onto a farm of one of the members, which is where it is held today.

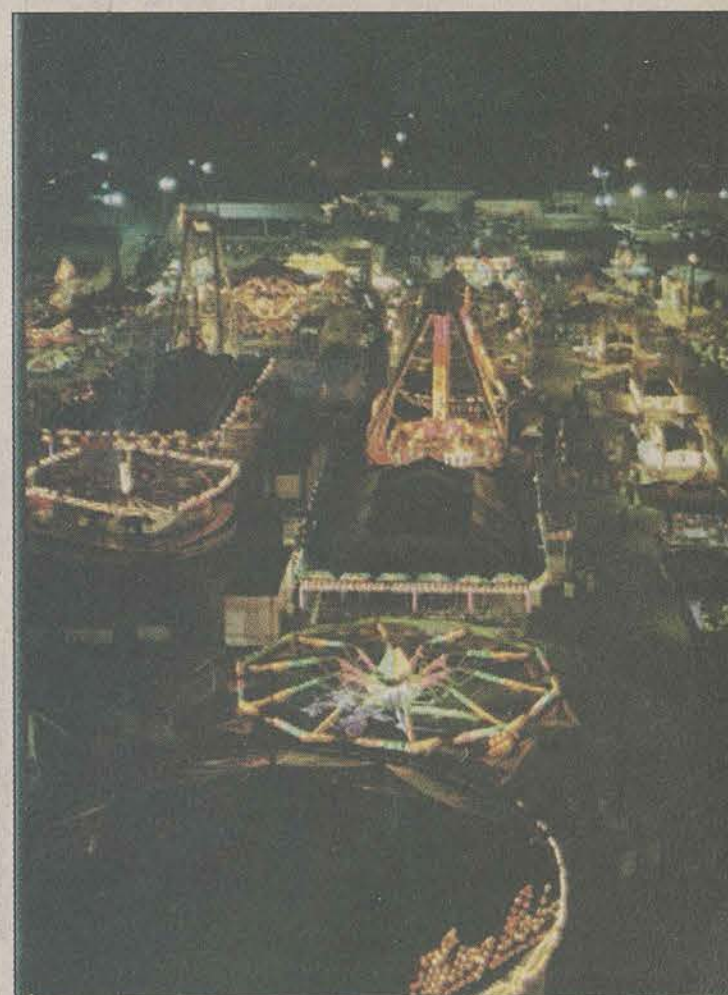
Midway, which is the company that has been responsible for the

See Fair, Page 3

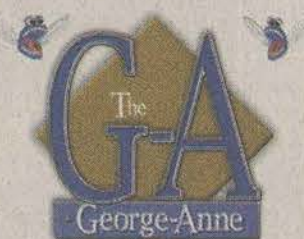


Kevin Goreham/STAFF

The Ogeechee fairgrounds have been filled with the amusements and refreshments of the Kiwanis Club Fair every year since 1964.



ON THE INSIDE:



Covering the campus like a swarm of gnats

Page 3

Only in America

- A man burns is severely burned while trying to rid himself of lice.
- A giant enchilada is made of ten-foot-wide tortillas annually in New Mexico.
- A man in North Carolina has spent nearly \$20,000 in defense of a speeding ticket.

Sports

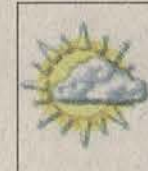
• Eagle Football goes up against VMI for this weekend's homecoming game.



Page 5

Today's Weather

Friday



Partly cloudy with a high of 87°F and a low of 67°F.

Saturday



Isolated thunderstorms with a high of 88°F and a low of 66°F.



Food industry aims at reducing 'trans fats' in french fries, health experts still worried about high calories

McDonald's takes industry lead by cutting back on 'bad' fats, instead using new cooking oil of corn and soybean oils

By Jerel Watkins
jwatkins@email4.cc.gasou.edu

While McDonald's made an announcement last month to reduce the use of trans fatty acids in its fried food, a GSU nutrition professor says that what we cook ourselves can negatively affect our health.

"We can't blame fast food for our health problems," said Frieda Brown, of the GSU Family and Consumer Science Center. "We do a lot of it to ourselves with what we eat at home."

Brown said that there are two basic categories of fats: saturated, usually associated with high blood cholesterol, and unsaturated. Saturated fat is solid at room temperature while unsaturated fats are oils at room.

The fact that saturated fat solidifies means that it is most likely to leave deposits in the arteries.

Leading the industry

Ann Rusniak, McDonald's chief nutritionist, said McDonald's followed the emerging research data about the trans fats' harmful effects for a decade and worked intensively on the switch for the last three years.

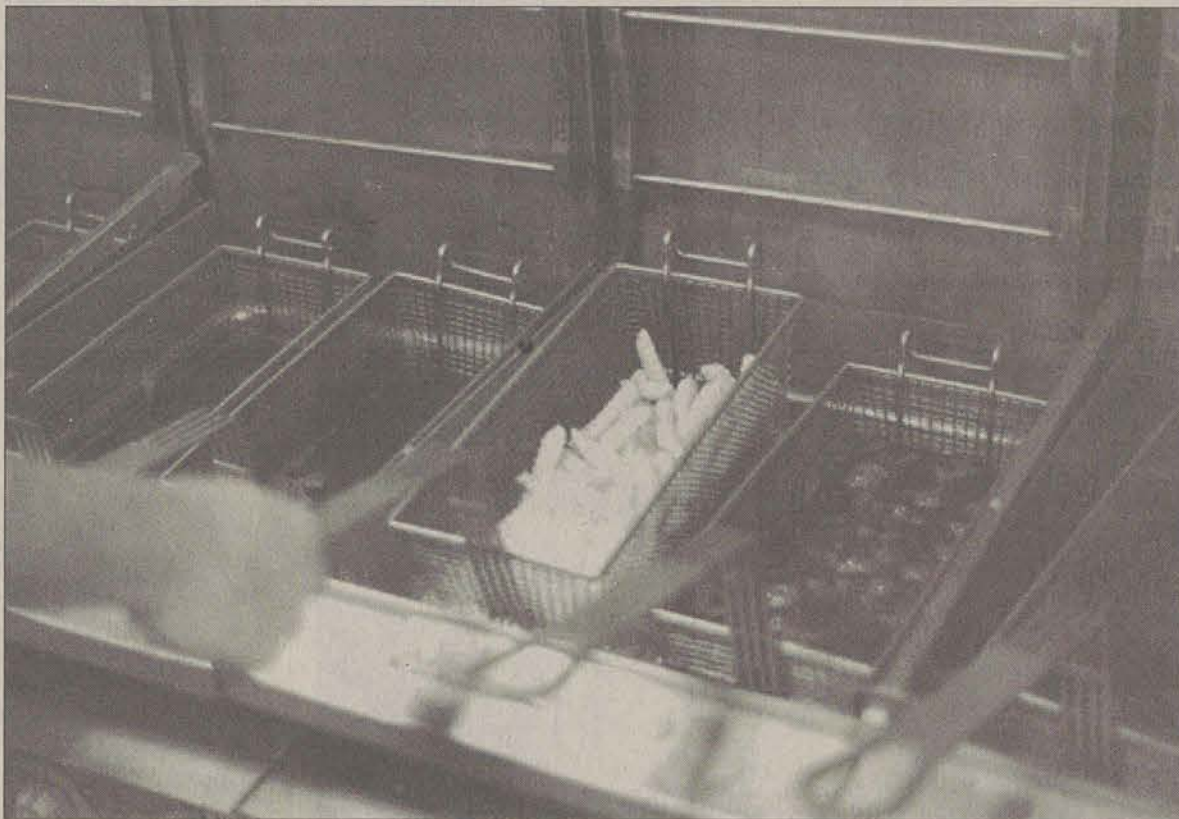
The company's new oil is a blend of corn and soybean oils.

"Our hope is the rest of the food industry will follow our leadership in lowering trans fatty acids, because consumers will then get an even bigger, more beneficial impact," Rusniak said.

Brown showed that a problem arises when unsaturated vegetable oils are hydrogenated in order to make them more solid and preserve them, as in the case of margarine, often recommended to butter because of its lack of saturated fat.

Bad fat

This process changes the chemical structure of unsaturated fats and turns them into trans fatty acids—TFA's.



Chris Horne/STAFF

A worker mans the fryer at Zaxby's on Tuesday. Pressure building in the past decade influenced McDonald's to switch cooking oils last month. The move followed three years of studies that concluded trans fatty acids may raise blood levels of "bad" cholesterol.

High levels of TFA's may raise blood levels of "bad" LDL-cholesterol and lower levels of "good" HDL cholesterol, which cleans out arteries, having an effect similar to saturated fats.

Saturated fats however are still held to have a more harmful effect than TFA's.

Shortening's, baked goods, commercial frying fats and fried fast food that list "partially hydrogenated vegetable oil" on their nutrition labels contain TFA's.

Healthier lifestyle

To cut down on hydrogenated oil in your diet, the website WellnessLetter.com says, that when cooking at home, use diet or liquid margarine, which is softer and less likely to clog arteries.

CDC.gov suggests a diet including fruits and vegetables and when eating out, try lean

meats, fish and grilled chicken.

While the FDA requires food manufacturers to list saturated fat on nutrition labels, they are not made to specify how many TFA's are in foods.

This means that foods could be advertised as using "vegetable oil" when that oil is hydrogenated and contains TFA's. The FDA announced in mid-September that TFA's will be listed on labels starting in 2003.

The shift in fats means that a super-sized order of french fries will contain 4.6 grams less of trans fats than today's 9.8 grams. That adds up to a half-pound less of trans fat in a year for a customer eating one such a portion a week.

McDonald's also will reduce saturated fats in its fries by 16 percent. Polyunsaturated fats will increase by nearly 170 percent in

the fries. The company plans to use its new oil also in preparing Chicken McNuggets, Filet-O-Fish, hash browns, and crispy chicken sandwiches.

But there is a caveat to McDonald's more healthful menu.

The total fat content in fries won't change. The 610 calories in a super-size order of french fries will remain 610 calories.

Still 'packed with calories'

Dr. Alice Lichtenstein, a nutrition professor from Tufts University in Boston, gave some advice on ordering fried fast foods.

"McDonald's fries will have fewer trans fat, but that doesn't mean they're health food," she said. "They're still packed with calories and fat."

"It is nice that McDonald's is doing it," said Marion Nestle, chair of the Department

of Nutrition and Food Studies at New York University and the author of "Food Politics: How the Food Industry Influences Nutrition and Health."

"But it doesn't really address the major issue of fast food, which are calories."

Will consumers go for the new fries?

People "don't go into McDonald's for low-fat anything," said John Stanton, professor of food marketing at St. Joseph's University. "I think McDonald's is doing this to be politically correct."

Walt Riker, a McDonald's spokesman, said the firm didn't make the shift "to placate the critics."

He said the company did "the right thing" because of the emerging science on trans fats.

Additional reporting by KRT Campus.



Special to the G-A

The way weight clings to McDonald's french fry lovers was this artist's inspiration in mocking the fast food company's new policy.



"People don't go into McDonald's for low-fat anything. I think McDonald's is doing this to be politically correct."

—John Stanton, professor of food marketing at St. Joseph's University

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Economist Robert Shiller wonders why

we have such faith in the utter rationality of markets when we ourselves can be kinda, you know, irrational. Bad judgment, lousy information, half-baked strategies—there are times when **money brings out the worst in people.** That's why Prof. Shiller's retirement dollars are invested with a company whose levelheaded thinking stands out in a world where impulse and intuition are bucking intelligence and insight.

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Robert Shiller became a participant in 1975. TIAA-CREF Individual and Institutional Services, Inc., and Teachers Personal Investors Services, Inc., distribute securities products. ©2002 Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association—College Retirement Equities Fund (TIAA-CREF), New York, NY. A charitable donation was made on behalf of Robert Shiller.

1 Wisconsin

Man hurt trying to rid himself of lice

MADISON- A man was in critical condition Monday at University Hospital after burning nearly half his body while trying to rid himself of head lice.

Police have not released the man's identity.

The 26-year-old man rented a room at Kings in Motel Saturday night and doused a towel with rubbing alcohol to get rid of the lice. He put the towel on his head and lit a cigarette. He immediately became engulfed in flames. Madison police said the man suffered second-and-third degree burns to about 50 percent of his body. Bystanders put out the fire.

2 Massachusetts

Northampton Mayor's dye-job follows fund-raising

NORTHAMPTON- Mayor Mary Clare Higgins was willing to dye for a good cause.

Raise more than \$10,000, Higgins told members of a local drop-in center for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered youth, and she would temporarily color her hair any hue they chose.

The deep purple dye-job took place Friday after Pride Zone raised almost \$11,000 over the course of a month. Volunteers asked passers-by on Main Street to pay \$5 to have a say in choosing Higgins' would-be hair color.

"I think it was worth it and it was certainly entertaining," Higgins said Sunday.

Pride Zone member Alex Hauptman told the Daily Hampshire Gazette that he asked Higgins to dye her locks after City Councilor William H. Dwight shaved his head last year for a United Way fund-raiser.

"I figured we could have the mayor do something like that for us," Hauptman said. "She always been so supportive of us."

The money raised will help the center cover the cost of operations this year, according to organizers.

Under her agreement with Pride Zone, Higgins only had to keep her hair purple for one day.

During that time, she appeared at a fund-raiser for a candidate in a local state representative race and a recognition event for the court-appointed special advocate program.

"Many people told me they thought I should keep it," Higgins said. "I told them they were very liberal about what should be done with my hair."

As of Sunday, the purple was fading but there was still a faint hue to her hair, Higgins said.

"It was never meant to be permanent," Higgins said.

"Mainly because I'm afraid of needles and I wouldn't want to get the tattoos and piercings to go with it."

3 New Mexico

Whole enchilada draws a crowd

LAS CRUCES- It was one big enchilada.

The recipe: 75 gallons of red chili, 50 pounds of onions, 175 pounds of cheese and 750 pounds of masa.

The three-layer enchilada, featuring 10-foot-wide tortillas, was fashioned Sunday as the culminating event of the annual Whole Enchilada Festival in Las Cruces.

Each huge tortilla was flattened,

carried to a 500-degree oil bin and then put on a plate and topped with chili.

Roberto Estrada, who has built the giant enchilada for the festival for 21 years, and his crew of nearly three dozen men took nearly four hours to complete the main dish as festival-goers watched from metal bleachers.

Many in the crowd stood and cheered as the final layer was made.

4 North Carolina

Accused speeder pulls out all stops in his defense

FINCASTLE- A North Carolina man has hired two prominent lawyers and an expert on speed detectors in an unusually expensive battle to reverse a reckless driving conviction.

Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Ronnie Clay estimated that Henry L. Anderson Jr., accused of driving 99 mph in a 55 mph zone, has spent about \$20,000 on his defense.

"I just think he doesn't want to go to jail," Clay said.

Anderson, a Wrightsville, N.C., lawyer, was convicted in Botetourt General District Court in May. He was sentenced to 19 days in jail and fined \$500, and his drivers license was suspended for three months. He appealed, and his trial before a circuit court jury is set for Oct. 24.

His lawyers are House of Delegates Majority Leader Morgan Griffith and David Walker, an ex-prosecutor who established Roanoke's public defender's office. They claim the radar device that clocked Anderson at 99 mph on U.S. 220 could have malfunctioned, and will seek to have the

radar report thrown out during a motions hearing Tuesday.

Anderson has hired Roger Boyell, a Moorestown, N.J., electronics engineer who has been giving expert forensic assistance for nearly 20 years. Boyell would not say how much he is charging Anderson but said his services typically cost "up to several thousands of dollars."

Anderson, 58, also claims that the Botetourt deputy sheriff who ticketed him had not received required training for operating his radar unit, and that the device did not meet state standards.

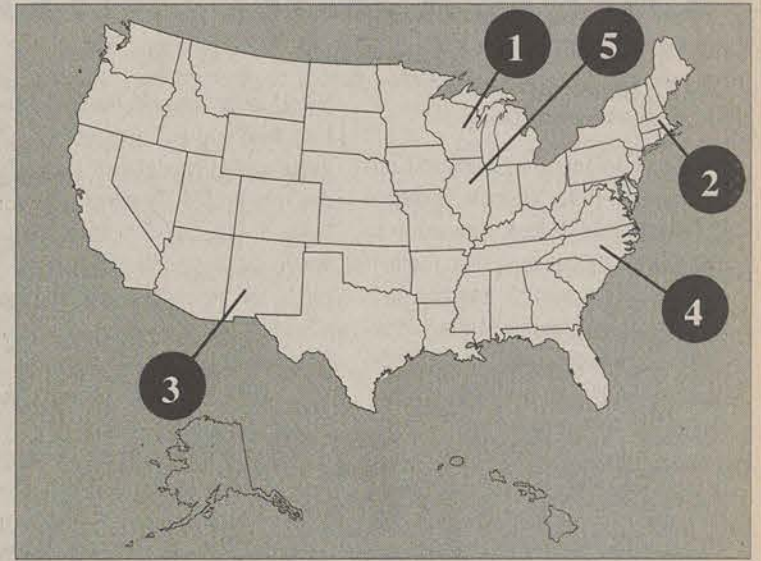
"Mr. Anderson is absolutely convinced he was not going the speed they said he was," Walker said. "He's been driving a long time and said he couldn't have been going that fast."

Appealing a traffic conviction in Botetourt can be risky. In two separate cases last year, drivers convicted of traveling 94 and 95 mph on Interstate 81 were sentenced by a district court judge to 10 days in jail and were fined \$200 and \$500.

On appeal to circuit court, juries gave each driver 30 days in jail and increased the fines to \$1,000 and \$2,500. Both had their driver's licenses suspended.

Anderson is aware of the reputation of Botetourt juries, but "he believes he's innocent," Walker said. "There's no way he would go through what he's been through if he sincerely didn't believe something was wrong with the radar."

Clay said the prosecution is seeking a jury trial because "U.S. 220 is one of Botetourt's main thoroughfares, and speeding affects the general public. Juries are supposed to represent the community. I think the people in the community should have a say."



5 Illinois

Official fatally shoots escaped tiger

BLOOMINGTON- A 400-pound Bengal tiger that held police at bay for much of Saturday was shot and killed as it attempted to flee the area.

The tiger escaped from a trailer at a truck stop around 5 a.m. and fled to an overgrown field near a residential area, Bloomington Police spokesman Duane Moss said.

Police and zoo officials were hoping to use tranquilizer darts to subdue the animal, but failed on four attempts, Moss said.

"It's not the way we wanted it to happen. I could only guess that the officers had little choice," Moss said. "I certainly would think that they thought they had little choice."

Moss said the tiger had been holed up most of the afternoon in some shrubbery along a six-foot high fence line. Police blocked off the area to contain the tiger in the area.

One of the people traveling with the animal nearly captured it earlier in the day, but the cat ran off before it could be secured, Moss said.

But just before 2:30 p.m., the tiger appeared again and approached a truck on which two Illinois Conservation Officers were standing. As the tiger approached the truck, the officers fired three shots.

"The tiger had moved to the truck and was trying to get past it, get away from all this commotion out here," Moss said. "It was trying to get past (the officers) and apparently they thought it was time to end this thing."

One shot hit the tiger in the head, Moss said. It's not yet known whether the other two shots also hit the animal.

Police are treating the area as a crime scene.

Bloomington residents woke up Saturday morning to warnings they should stay in their homes because a tiger had escaped.

It was not yet known whether the escaped tiger is the same one belonging to a Texas woman convicted in Illinois of endangering a child. Mary Jeane Williams, 44, was charged after her 400-pound tiger bit a young girl. Williams, who was keeping a tiger near Henepin, was ordered Thursday to remove her tiger from the state.

HOMEcoming, FROM PAGE 1

NAACP, Tyrie Williams sponsored by Phi Beta Sigma, and Matthew Woodstock sponsored by IFC.

Last night elections for homecoming took place, and the 2,614 voters (more than last year's SGA elections) had twenty-two women and ten men to pick from; this counted for forty percent of their total score. The candidates were interviewed which counted for

sixty percent of their total score.

"It went very well," said Michael S. Terrell, the Traditions and spirit team leader who hosted the event. "Every one worked very hard and deserved to win."

Thursday's Homecoming formal wasn't the only event occurring this week. Monday Eagle entertainment began its weeklong program with

"The Real World's" David "Puck" Rainey.

Tuesday there was a Dooh Dah Step Show, and the following day Eagle Entertainment presented First Wednesday Live from the Union. The Union center was turned into a cafe style restaurant with an open mic poetry slam and the Neo Soul group "The Day."

On Friday students can enjoy a Homecoming parade at 4:00. The parade will begin and end at Paulson Stadium.

Saturday the GSU football team (2-2) will face off against VMI (2-3). During halftime the Homecoming King and Queen will be announced marking the end of the Homecoming week at GSU.

STEP, FROM PAGE 1

there first time on stage. That was the most difficult part," he said.

Anderson's group has already planned ahead to perform in other shows. "We have a couple of shows to do this semester and a couple of shows to do next spring that should get us ready for next fall," said Anderson.

Overall, the Doo-Dah Step Competition was a success. Not only was it about bragging rights, but it was also about the celebration of the Georgia Southern com-

munity.

As it was put by Latonya Coleman, "It got different organizations together in the spirit of Homecoming."

In the Doo-Dah competition, the winners were as follows: 1st place: Phi Mu, 2nd place: Zeta Tau Alpha, and 3rd place: Alpha Omicron Pi.

In the step show competition, the winners were as follows: 1st place: Residence Hall President's Council (RHPC), 2nd place: Voices in Ministry and 3rd place: Alpha Kappa Alpha.

PLAY, FROM PAGE 1

"There is one girl, but part of the reason I chose it is because it will appeal to everyone," Whitaker said.

Others in the cast of the GSU production include DeShaun Miliner, Tony Rouse, V.A. Patrick Slade, T. Joseph Mahaney, Dedrick Jackson, Herb Bartley, and Chiara Richardson.

Set and costume design are done by Gary and Brenda Dartt, respectively. Patrick Battles is the show's Technical Director.

Jitney opens in the Comm Arts Black Box Theatre on Oct. 4 at 8 p.m.

With the exception of Oct. 7, it plays nightly through Oct. 12. There will be a special matinee at 2 p.m. on Oct. 6.

Ticket prices are \$2 for GSU students, \$5 for seniors and local students, and general admission is \$8.

Jitney contains adult language and situations which may not be appropriate for all ages.

FAIR, FROM PAGE 1

past eighteen years to bring games and rides, has included all the usual attractions. There are bumper cars, the swinging boat, a mini roller coaster, and of course the ferris wheel, which at its peak gives a great view of Statesboro.

One recent ride that has been added and had much success in the past couple of years is the mechanical bull. Even if you don't pay to get on the ride, it's still entertaining to watch the mock-hydraulic bull throw people about.

Another attraction at the fair this year is a petting zoo where people can interact with various farm animals such as goats and ponies, and more exotic animals like llamas, zebras, and camels.

There is also a Youth Educational Exhibit that is made up of various mini-booths containing information that has been compiled and presented by many students in Bulloch County. These exhibits include information on topics like quails, deer hunting, mosquitoes, and Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer.

Bulloch County students have obviously worked very hard on these exhibits

and they deserve to be observed. Other exhibits that may be of some interest are the home and crafts exhibit and the farm equipment exhibit.

"All the profits from the fair go straight back into the community," said Clifford Holt, who has helped since 1994. "Everyone who works here are volunteers, and all the money made goes to foundations for senior citizens, drug education, battered women, scholarships, and many others."

The Sheriff Deputies also are volunteers. The more than dozen police and deputy cars that are helping to patrol the fair grounds are all owned by off-duty police who are just trying to help make it a fun and safe week for all attending, and there have been very few problems thanks to them.

The most serious problems in the past few years include minor incidents involving cheating or people being obnoxiously intoxicated.

The fair wraps everything up late this weekend, closing at 1:00 A.M. Friday, Oct. 4, and on the final night, Saturday, Oct. 5.

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Eagles and VMI face off for Homecoming

By Eli Boorstein
Nietsroob17@hotmail.com

Since joining the Southern Conference in 1993, Georgia Southern has been able to look forward to at least one safe bet each time football season comes around: winning their game with the Virginia Military Institute. The Keydets have yet to beat the Eagles, but will try to change that fact when the two teams face off Saturday at 1 p.m. in Paulson Stadium.

After a slow start, Georgia Southern got back on the winning side, overtaking Chattanooga 38-10 last Saturday to even their record at 2-2 overall, with a 1-1 mark in conference play. VMI opened the season with two wins in a row, but have since lost three straight, including their first two Southern Conference games.

In nine meetings between the two schools, Georgia Southern has never seen the losing end of the matchup, with the closest game coming in 1997 when the Eagles, under interim coach Frank Ellwood, snuck by 20-17. Overall, Georgia Southern has dominated VMI, outscoring them 418-52, among which were four shutouts. The Keydets' last trip to Statesboro in 2000 nearly resulted in a fifth goose egg, but a 57-yard field goal for VMI as time expired dashed any hopes of that.

Led by 175 rushing yards and three touchdowns from Adrian Peterson, the Eagles were able to win last season's game in Lexington, Va., 31-14. Georgia Southern jumped out to a 14-0 lead by halftime, but a pesky Keydet defense managed to keep the Eagles in check in the second half.

When the 18th-ranked Eagles take the field for Saturday's homecoming game, they will be led by the Southern Conference's two rushing leaders in fullback Jermaine Austin and quarterback Chaz Williams. Austin, the reigning SoCon Freshman of the

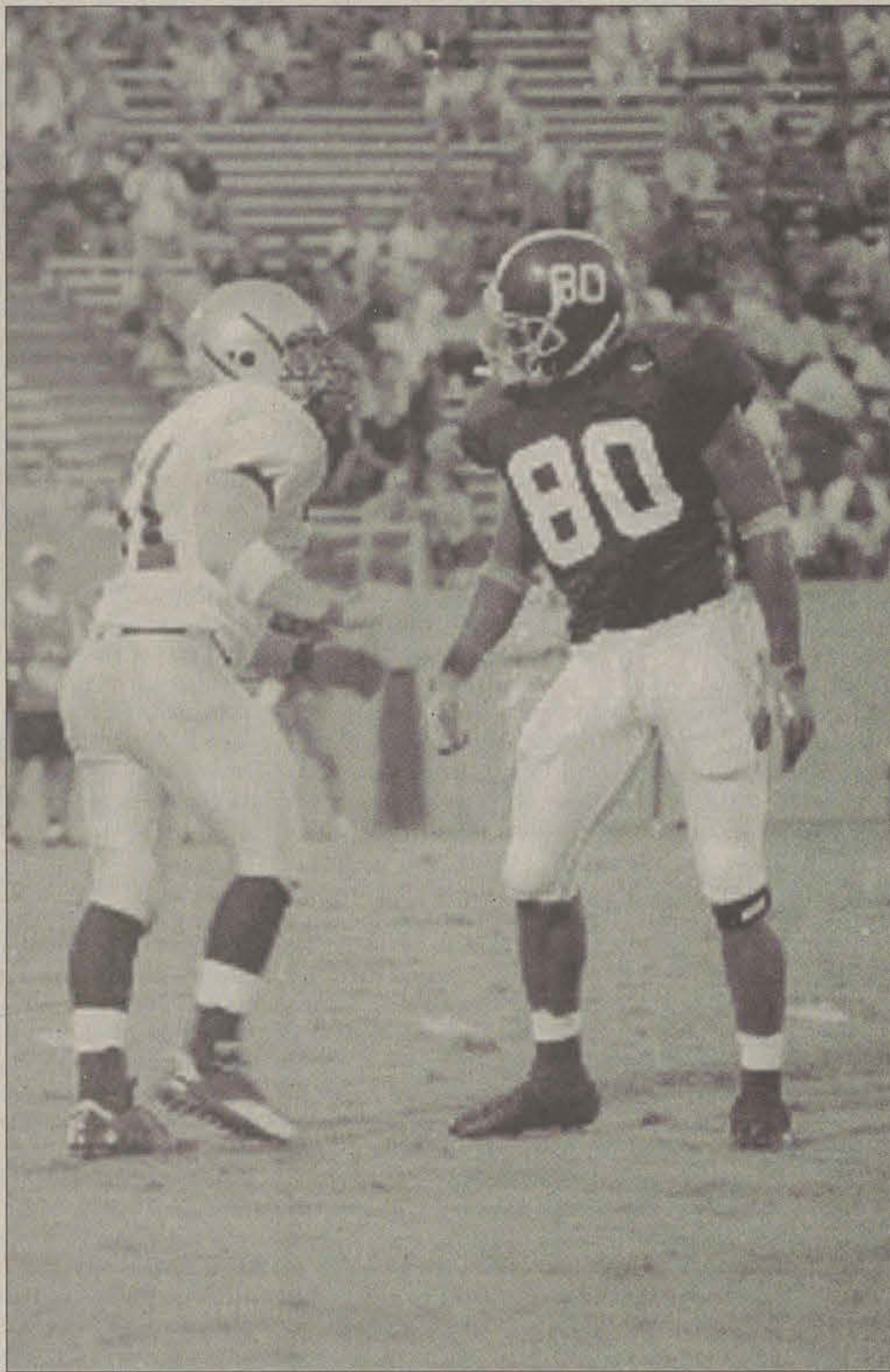
Week, is far ahead in the conference lead with 444 net rushing yards, an average of 111 per game. The Darien native collected 183 yards of total offense in last week's win at Chattanooga, including a 69-yard touchdown catch, the first pass reception of his young career. Williams, a sophomore from Apopka, Fla., tied a personal best with 120 yards on the ground while passing for a career-high 116.

Not all news was good for the Eagle running game last week as sophomore fullback Hakim Ford, second on the depth chart behind Austin, suffered a fractured right forearm on a play during the second quarter. Ford, mainly used for short-yardage plays, could miss four to six weeks of action. Brandon Andrews, a redshirt freshman from Swainsboro, will get more of a chance to run the ball in the meantime.

Georgia Southern has hopes of getting back into winning territory by winning this weekend, but to do so, they will need to find a way to contain Keydet quarterback Joey Gibson. The senior from Jacksonville leads the conference with 1,068 passing yards and 10 touchdowns. In a 55-28 loss to Furman last week, Gibson completed 22-of-38 passes while totaling 200 yards in the air. He is prone to interceptions though, having been picked off eight times this year.

Another key component to the Keydet offense is senior wide receiver Pedro Garcia. Garcia sits atop the league statistics with 340 receiving yards this season, including a season-high 122-yard performance against East Tennessee State on Sept. 21.

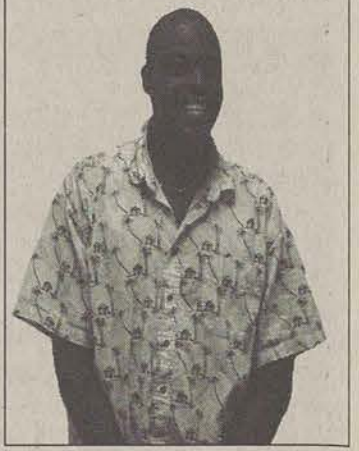
This year's meeting between Georgia Southern and VMI could be the last time the two teams battle, as the Keydets, who have been a part of the SoCon since 1924, will join the Big South Conference for the 2003 season.



LaVene Bell/STAFF

The Eagles and Keydets face off for the 2002 Homecoming game at 1 p.m. tomorrow. The Eagles have yet to lose to the Keydets in any game.

Dennis Hightower



Fun & Gun is done in Washington

The Washington Redskins are my second favorite team (Chicago being my first). Since Joe Gibbs left for NASCAR after the 1992 season the boys from D.C. have been far from superior. They have only been in the playoffs once since then (a 1999 divisional playoff loss to Tampa Bay).

In early January, Dan Snyder, the owner who has the most issues in the NFL, hired a man that proved his offensive system could dominate in college. Steve Spurrier was hired to bring his "Fun & Gun" offense. The purpose of the hiring is to dominate the NFC and win Super Bowls.

His offense showed promise in the preseason posting a 4-1 record and averaging about 33 points per game. Thus far in the regular season, the "Fun & Gun" offense has produced only 16 points a game.

It looks like Spurrier's Fun & Gun may be done in Washington.

However there may be a glimmer of hope for that offensive system. All Steve needs to do is stop living in the past and get rid of those old Florida Gator players he once coached.

Both Danny Wuerffel and Shane Matthews have produced in the NFL. Wuerffel has played 21 games but started only six in his six seasons as a pro. He has passed for 1475 for nine touchdowns and 18 interceptions. Matthews stats are somewhat solid. He's played 23 games and started 18 of them. He passed for 4019 yards for 23 touchdowns and 20 interceptions for nine seasons.

How about Spurrier draft Rex Grossman (if he leaves early) or Ken Dorsey? How about he lets Stephen Davis (who played college football at one of Florida's rivals Auburn) run the football more often. How about he tells Dan to get key free agents on defense and at wide receiver?

The last two Florida players that produced in the NFL were Tennessee Titans defensive end Jevon Kearse and Dallas Cowboys running back Emmitt Smith. The offensive minded Spurrier let then-Florida defensive coordinator Bob Stoops coach Kearse and the defense. Emmitt Smith played when Spurrier dominated the ACC at Duke.

The Redskins (1-3) play the Titans (1-2) this Sunday in Nashville. Tennessee is too familiar with the man with the sun visor. A Johnson City native, he shredded the Tennessee Volunteers and the Vanderbilt Commodores when he coached the Gators.

Maybe Steve will pull a hat trick.

Dennis Hightower is a writer for The George-Anne and can be reached at hightower12181@hotmail.com

Eagles rally for fourth place finish at Windon Classic

G-A News Service

GOLF, ILL. — Georgia Southern rallied on the final day of play at the Windon Memorial Classic to finish in a tie for fourth place in the three-round tournament held at the Glen View Club Golf Course Monday and Tuesday.

The Eagles shot a 292 (+4), the second lowest round by any team on the day, in the final round Tuesday. GSU completed the tournament with a total score of 879 (+15). Host Northwestern claimed the team trophy with a three-round total of 848 (-16), the only team to shoot under par for the tournament. Duke finished second at 873 (+9) while Stanford carded a 876 (+12) for third. North Florida also finished the two-day tournament with an 879 to tie the Eagles.

Sophomore Aron Price paced the Eagles, finishing tied for sixth with a two-under par 214. Senior

Travis Mobley was one stroke back, in ninth place, with a 215. Freshman Jon David Kennedy, playing in his first tournament for the Eagles, finished tied for 22nd with a 222 (+6) while sophomore Chase Jones was tied for 47th at +15 (231). Fellow sophomore David Elmore rounded out the Eagle contingent with a 232 (+16), tied for 49th.

"Overall, I felt we played our first solid tournament of the year," said head coach Larry Mays. "We played well through all three rounds and felt better as a team as to what we are trying to accomplish. Jon David Kennedy played extremely well in his first tournament, which was encouraging to see."

The Eagles take the next couple of weeks off before returning to action Monday, October 21 through Tuesday, October 22 at the Duke Classic in Durham, N.C.

Martina Veiglova named SoCon Volleyball Player of the Week

G-A News Service

SPARTANBURG, SC — Georgia Southern outside hitter Martina Veiglova has been named Southern Conference Volleyball Player of the Week for September 30.

Veiglova recorded 40 kills in two matches, averaging 6.67 kills with a .317 hitting percentage. She also had 13 digs and three service aces in two matches in which Georgia Southern shut out two tough Southern Conference opponents,

in Davidson and UNC Greensboro, without surrendering a game to either opponent.

Veiglova, a 6'1 junior outside hitter from Bratislava, Slovakia, currently leads the team in hitting percentage (.318) and kills per game (5.23). She entered the 30-kill club last week with 32 against College of Charleston. Georgia Southern faces Chattanooga at home on Saturday, October 5, in a Southern Conference matchup.

It's not just jocks who can skip classes

KRT Campus

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — To underline academic priorities and teach students an important lesson, Florida State President Sandy D'Alemberte made a bold decision to support his school of higher-learning's football team in Thursday night's game against Clemson:

He closed the school!
No classes Thursday. None Friday. That's right, Florida State students can cheer their brains out at Thursday night's crucial game, because they won't need them until Monday.

Two-four-six-eight,
Who needs class to graduate?
Remember a few years back when

Florida State's football program was embroiled in a shoes scandal and former University of Florida nemesis Steve Spurrier cheap-shotted it as Fice Shoes University? What would he call it now? Forget School University?

In an open letter, D'Alemberte explained the four-day "fall break" was

See Skipping, Page 5

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Bulldogs hold off Eagles in a 2-1 defeat

G-A News Service

Statesboro, Ga. - The Citadel's Thomas Hughes tapped in a rebound for his second goal of the season and the eventual game-winner as the Bulldogs held off several late Georgia Southern chances to earn a 2-1 Southern Conference win.

Georgia Southern (2-7, 1-1) scored first in the 33rd minute of play. Devin Mizell found the back of the net for his second goal of the season, with help from Wes Meadows and Martin Cunningham, to give the Eagles a 1-0 lead.

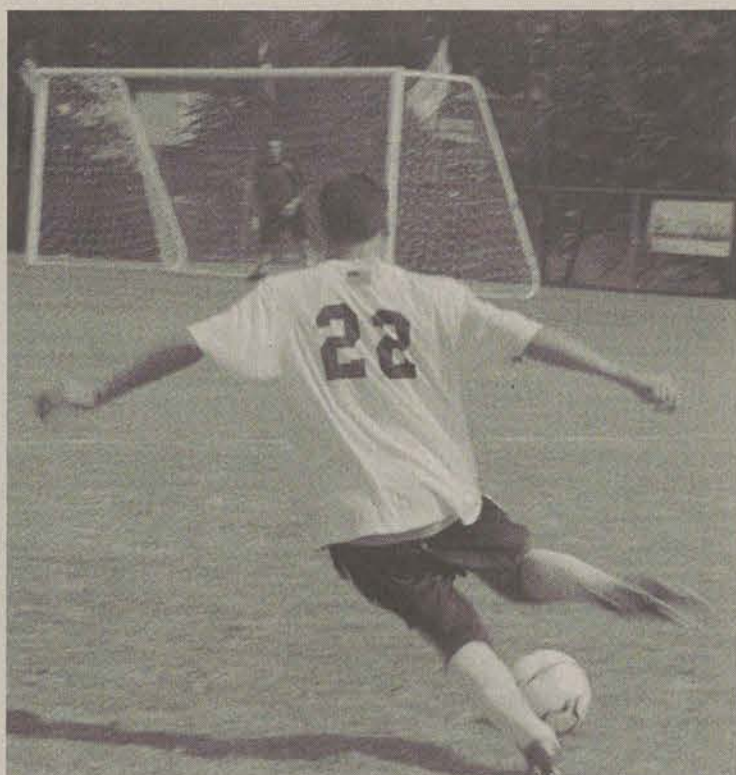
The Citadel (3-7, 1-1) answered in the 44th minute of action. Ben Wilson scored his team-leading fourth goal of the year.

Hughes was in front of the goal when a long Bulldog direct kick bounced off the crossbar directly to Hughes' head. Hughes slid the ball between the post and a diving GSU keeper Kirk Latibeaudiere for the second goal.

The Eagles best chance to tie came with 23 minutes to play, but Tommy Irwin's flick off a throw-in was pushed away with one hand by a sprawling Bryon Voyer to preserve the Bulldog lead.

Voyer finished the match with five saves, while Latibeaudiere tallied four. Georgia Southern outshot The Citadel 19-13.

Georgia Southern returns to action on Saturday at noon, stepping out of conference to host Birmingham Southern.



CHRIS WALKER/STAFF

The Eagles outshot the Citadel 19-13 but lost 2-1 in the end. The team returns to action on Saturday at noon, stepping out of the conference to host Birmingham Southern.

Coach admits to NCAA infractions

University of Washington head basketball coach admits to recruiting violations

KRT Campus

SEATTLE - With teary eyes and shaky voices, Washington Coach Lorenzo Romar and assistant Cameron Dollar admitted that the men's basketball program had potentially committed as many as 26 NCAA recruiting violations since April.

"I made poor decisions and showed poor judgment," said Dollar, who was found to have committed 23 potential violations in a seven-page report released by the school Wednesday. "Bottom line, I blew it."

He will receive penalties that include suspension and a fine of \$13,334.

Almost all of Dollar's violations involved making illegal contact with recruits, most involving Clarkston High junior Josh Heytvelt. Several others involved Bremerton High junior Marvin Williams. The two are generally regarded as the top junior recruits in the state and were each recently called by one recruiting guru as among the top

10 in the nation.

Juniors cannot be contacted until July 1 after their junior season has been completed.

As a result, the school levied what UW Athletic Director Barbara Hedges called "extremely severe" penalties on Dollar, a former point guard at UCLA who came with Romar from Saint Louis when Romar was hired to replace Bob Bender in April.

Dollar was suspended for one month without pay, he makes a gross salary of \$6,667 per month, and had his pay through the life of his contract (April 1, 2003) reduced by 20 percent, which will cost him another \$6,667. He also will not be allowed to recruit off campus through July 2003. The UW also said it will no longer actively recruit Heytvelt and will cut two contacts it could make with Williams. The UW also will not call Williams for the first three weeks he can be contacted.

Despite Dollar not being truthful with the investigation initially, Hedges said she never seriously

considered firing him, citing his youth and past record of "honesty and integrity."

"I panicked," Dollar said about his lack of honesty with investigators.

"I had never been in a situation where I was getting questioned about my recruiting practices."

His panic worsened, he said, when he realized the possible consequences of the violations.

"It's always tough in the beginning to admit you are wrong and have a full grasp on the repercussions," he said.

UW's report details how Dollar took over as recruiting coordinator when he came to Washington, a post he had never held before.

Hedges said that Romar was not aware of most of Dollar's actions since he was out of town during much of that time, completing his move from St. Louis, attending out-of-town tournaments and helping his children get situated in schools. Romar, however, will receive a letter of reprimand, as will Dollar.

SKIPPING, FROM PAGE 4

was not so much for football but actually to "help our retention rate because students could visit home without a lengthy drive over a weekend."

Never mind that this first-ever break coincides with a first-ever Thursday night game in Tallahassee.

And, as trustee Steve Uhlfelder observed in the Tallahassee Democrat, this long weekend comes two weeks after Parent's Day Weekend.

How much mom and dad can a poor college kid take?

It's as plain as the loss last week at Louisville that this move can help the team reclaim its rightful spot in the polls.

Of course, as with any innovative idea, this move has drawn criticism.

Why did Florida State schedule a Thursday night game at all?

The long answer, as D'Alemberte wrote, began, "Some years ago when the Atlantic Coast Conference (not the individual universities) agreed to have each institution host two Thursday night games. ... " Funny, can't university presidents run the ACC?"

The shorter answer is simpler: Money. Schools get paid good ESPN money to do this. If you still don't understand how it works, call the economics department on Monday.

Still, this hardly excuses Florida State Athletic Director Dave Hart for a year of wacky scheduling.

First it was a pre-season classic against Iowa State in Kansas City, just a few hours from the Ames, Iowa, campus.

FSU eked out a win, and Hart de-

fended it as good national publicity. Hmm. FSU football needs national publicity?

Last week it was upset in a non-conference game at Louisville. What national power would schedule such an away game?

Now it's this Thursday night shindig, which Hart might have had no control over, considering the ACC demands. It still points to an awful schedule.

D'Alemberte steps down as FSU's president in January, and his reign shouldn't be framed by this decision.

He did the school good. He really did. Besides, any garnet-and-gold fan can smile tonight upon hearing the football cheer rise out of Tallahassee:

Boola, boola,
No schoola!

Darling's parents bring suit against FSU

KRT Campus

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - The parents of former Florida State football player Devaughn Darling sued the university Wednesday, alleging that the school's coaches and trainers were responsible for their son's death last year.

Darling died on Feb. 26, 2001, after collapsing following a 75-minute set of conditioning exercises known as "mat drills." He was 18 years old.

The suit, prepared by a Stuart-based law firm headed by famed trial lawyer Willie E. Gary and filed in Leon County Circuit Civil Court, claims that Darling "began to experience difficulty breathing and was dizzy and fell down. He was ordered to begin the exercises over."

Florida State University Gen-

eral Counsel Richard McFarlain declined comment Wednesday, but he has said that the school was not negligent in Darling's death.

An autopsy conducted by the Leon County Medical Examiner's office did not find a conclusive cause for Darling's death. But Darling and his twin brother, Devard, possessed a sickle-cell trait in his blood that has been linked in some studies to sudden-exercise death.

An investigation by the FSU Police Department cleared coaches and trainers of blame in Darling's death.

The lawsuit did not identify any FSU coaches or trainers as defendants.

"The unfortunate part about civil litigation is that we can't

turn the clock back, and we can't bring people back," said Michael A. Lewis, a partner in Gary's firm who represents Darling's parents, Dennis Darling Sr. and Wendy Smith. "If we had a choice, what we really would like to have would be Devaughn back."

Under Florida statute, judgments against state agencies such as FSU are capped at \$200,000. But the state Legislature can approve larger settlements and payments to plaintiffs.

The Florida Department of Insurance's division of risk management handles lawsuits. Trilly Lester, the division's director, said she could not comment on whether there have been settlement discussions with the Darling family's attorneys.

We Fumbled

In Wednesday's article "Weighing all his options," we mistakenly said that Hall of Fame quarterback Tracy Ham's retired jersey number here at Georgia Southern was five instead of eight.

Sorry Tracy, we know that you are a GSU and Canadian football legend... it was just a late night and we made a typo.

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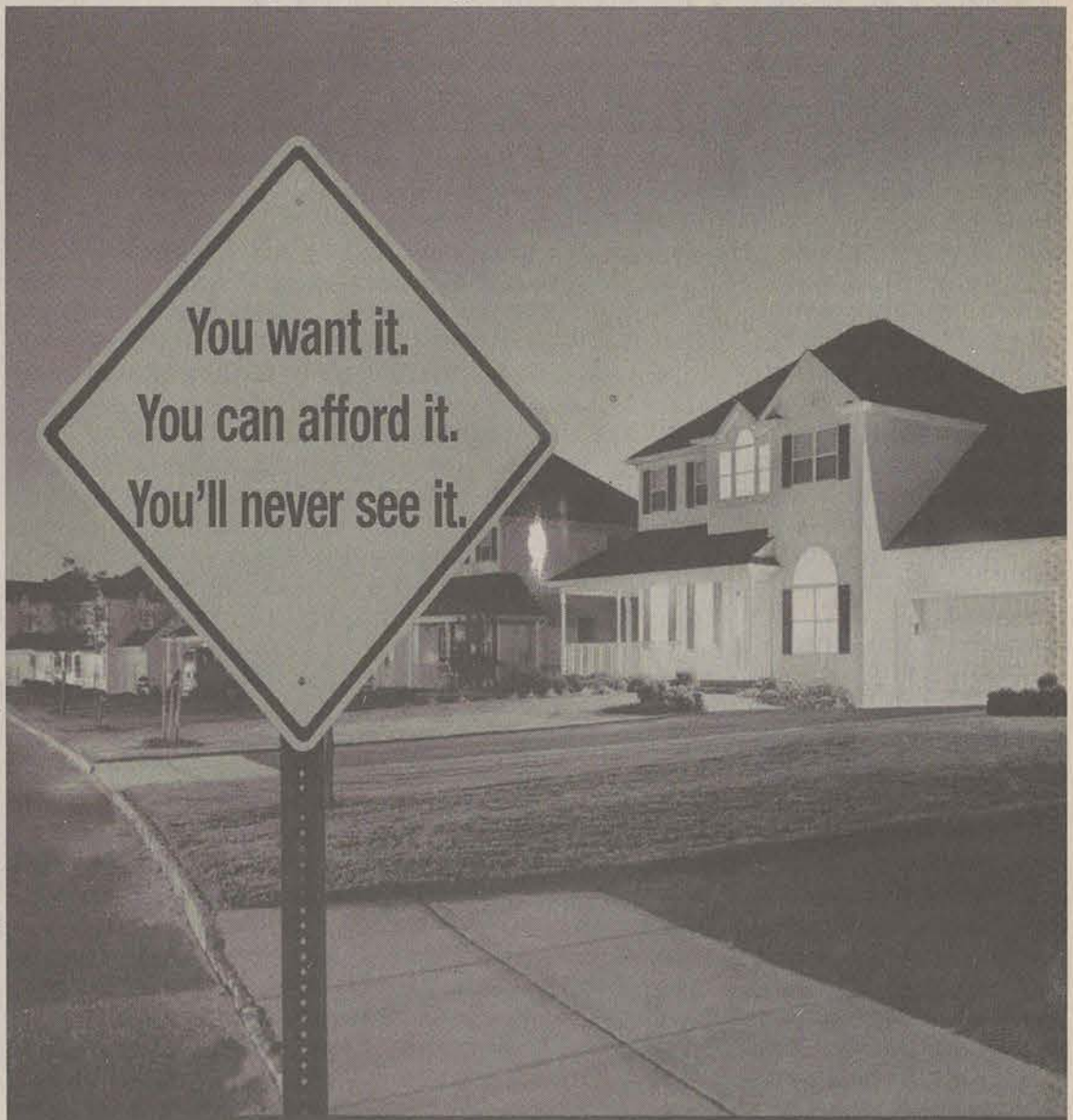
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ASH: Meet one Irish band seeking combustion with American audiences

KRT Campus

Ash has blazed away in Europe.

Now it's looking to ignite a fire in North America.

Instilled with a strong punk-pop foundation, the Irish quartet – guitarist and lead singer Tim Wheeler, drummer Rick McMurray, bass player Mark Hamilton and guitarist Charlotte Hatherley – fuels its sound with punishing rhythms and searing melodies.

Yet this is hardly your everyday punk band.

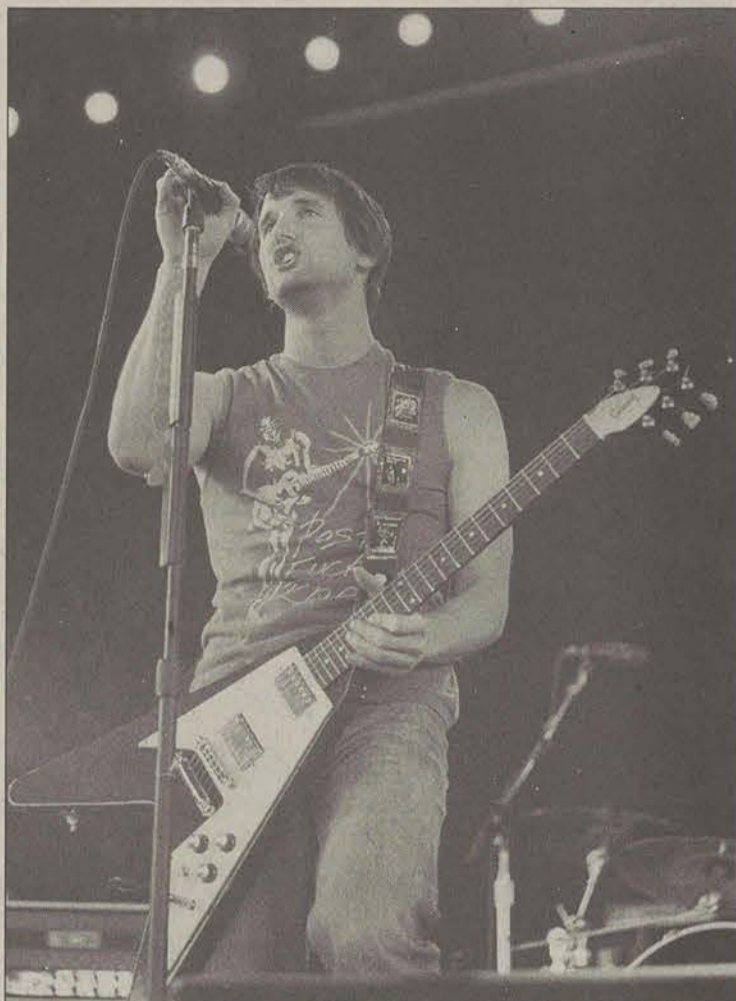
Ash's latest album, "Free All Angels," arrived in the United States this past June. The record dishes up plenty of punk spunk, but also incorporates a wide range of creative influences – everything from surf-pop to string arrangements.

"On all our albums we've tried, on at least a couple of songs, different things from what we know," says Hamilton. "A couple of songs have a John Barry influence, with the strings. There's also some 'James Bond' chord changes in it."

Wheeler, Hamilton and McMurray formed Ash in 1992. The three musicians were born and reared in Northern Ireland, with Wheeler and Hamilton having known each other since childhood.

The group hit paydirt with its critically acclaimed 1996 album "1977," which spawned two Top 10 singles, "Goldfinger" and "Oh Yeah," in Britain. The album's title encompassed several significant references for the band: the year Wheeler and Hamilton were born, the punk scene heyday and when the first "Star Wars" movie debuted.

"We just wanted to think up a title which summed up all of us and also worked for the album. It's kind of cheeky, really," notes Hamilton.



Ash lead singer **Tim Wheeler** performs during an Area 2 concert in Bristow, Virginia, in July of this year.

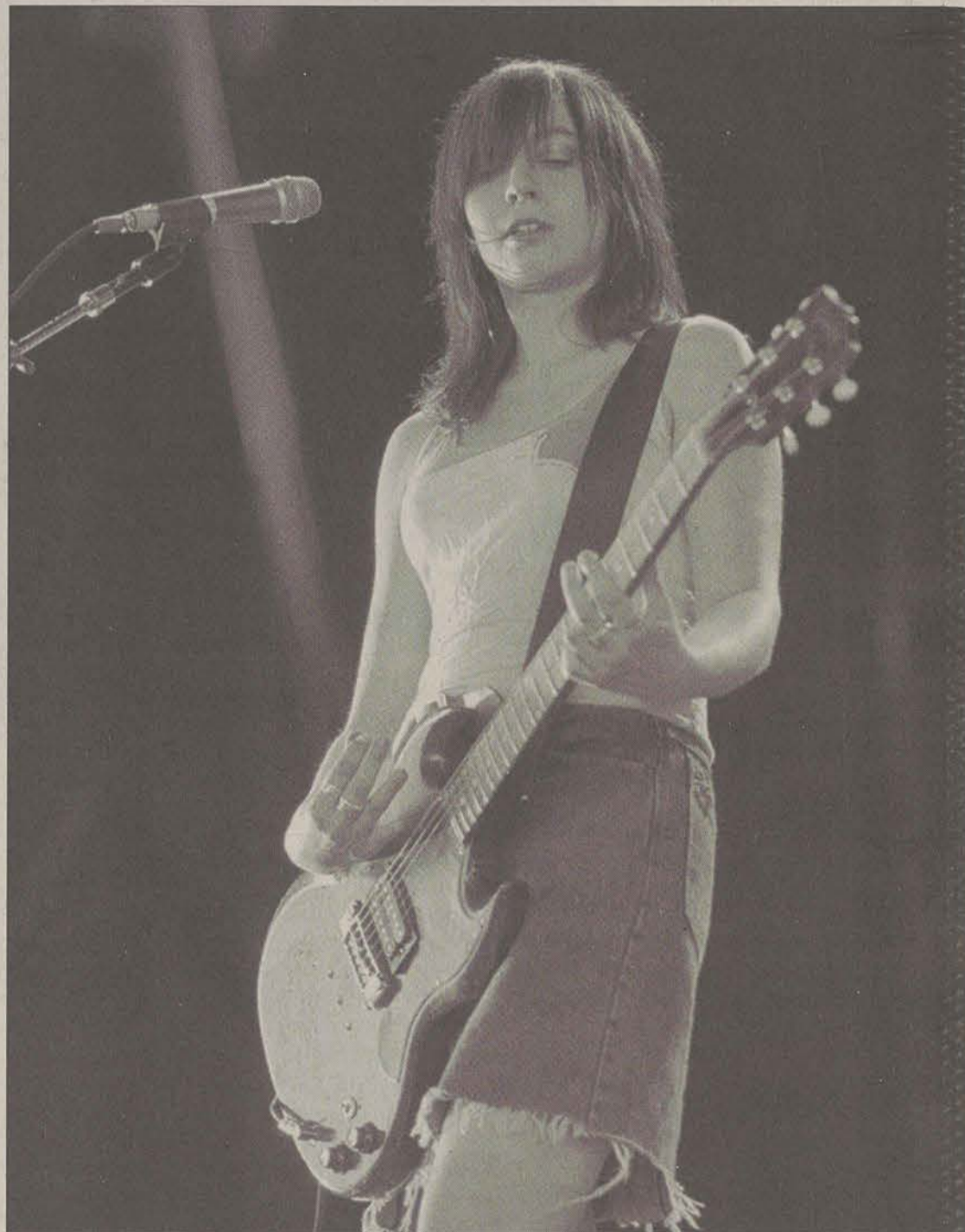
Shortly after "1977," the band decided to expand its musical range by adding a fourth member – a second guitarist – who also could contribute on vocals and take some playing pressure off of Wheeler. Enter British-born guitarist Charlotte Hatherley in 1997.

"When things took off, for four or five years, it was like we didn't stop. We never had a chance to even seriously consider getting somebody in," said Hamilton. "So after we toured with '1977' for two years, we said 'right, here's our chance to look for someone now.'

"It just means we can, like, pull it off live better that we use to. We realized that we were so limited guitar-wise, and that what we had on the record was just kind of stripped off. Tim was trying to pull off the chords by himself and do all the singing. Neither Rick or I can really sing, so we were missing all the harmonies."

While the group's 1998 effort "Nu-ClearSounds" earned lukewarm reviews, "Free All Angels" showed Ash still had plenty of vigor.

The album's opening number, "Walking Barefoot," paints a picture



Ash guitarist **Charlotte Hatherley** performs at a concert in Bristow, Virginia, in July 2002.

of idyllic summer days colored with blistering rhythmic blasts. A similar summer-vein underscores "Pacific Palisades," a Beach Boys-flavored tune distilled in a punk rock vat, while the sensuous "Candy" features a dash of strings and Wheeler's absorbing vocals. "World Domination," a hard-driving, searing rock number, provides the record's final punctuation.

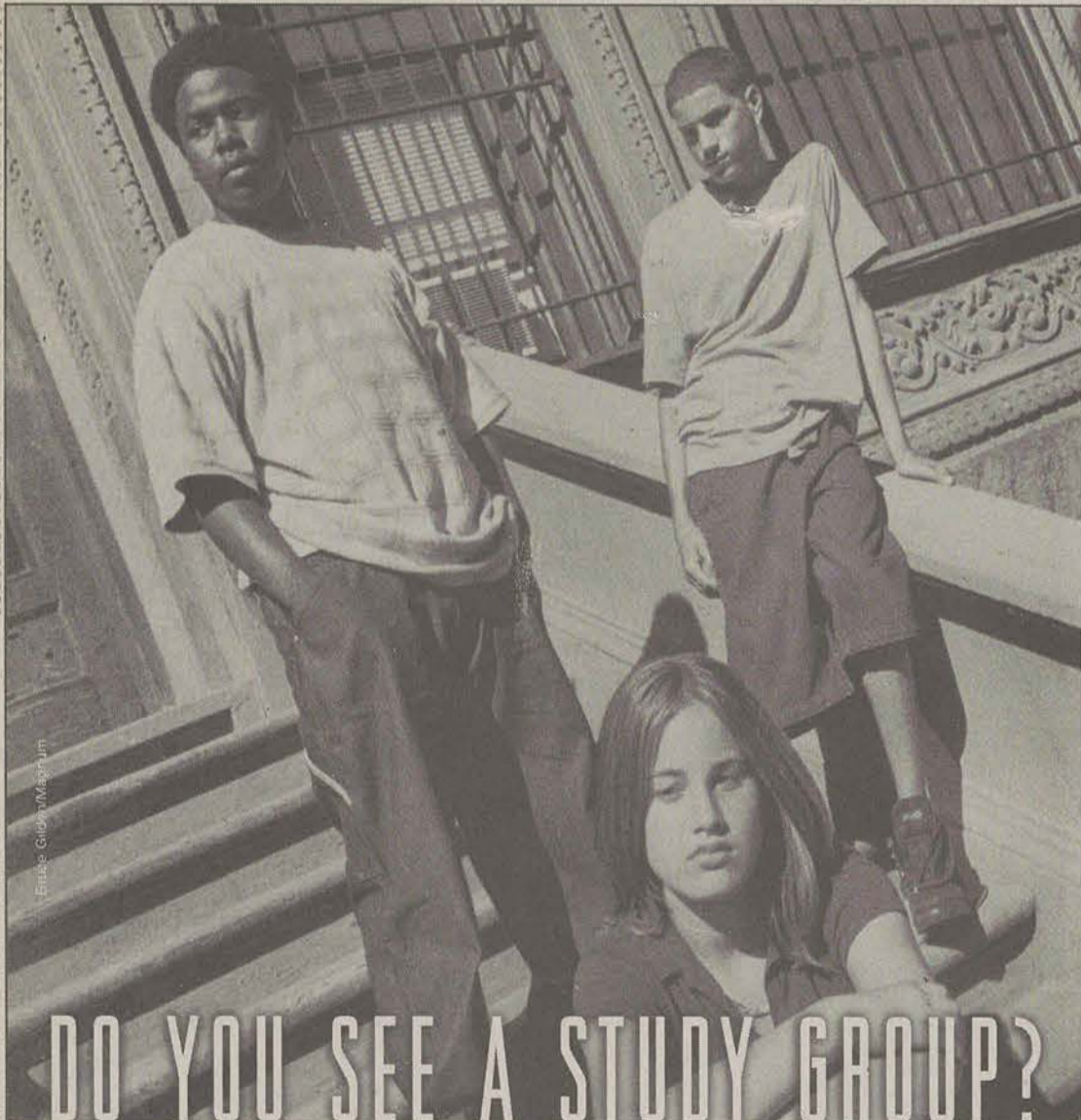
Ash has toured hard in North

America in 2002, including the Area 2 concert series with David Bowie and Moby this past summer. During the Area 2 tour, the band literally hit a bump in the road when its tour bus crashed on its way to a gig in Detroit. Except for a few cracked ribs suffered by McMurray, the accident left the band largely unscathed.

Ash hit the road again in support of Coldplay in September, followed by an early fall jaunt with Dashboard

Confessional. In spite of the heavy tour schedule, the band has remained fixed on its goal of making inroads with American audiences.

"At the minute we're just focusing over here ... we got some tours in January, February and March lined up," says Hamilton. "We're so far behind here in this country as compared to everywhere else. We just want to get everyone aware, then we'll try to get an album going next year."



Legends to Host Rapper Cee-Lo

By Erik V.A. Howard and V.A. Patrick Slade
evonamos@hotmail.com and vaps18@go.com

Rapper Cee-Lo will bring his eclectic brand of hip-hop to Legends this weekend in celebration of GSU's homecoming.

Cee-Lo, who is also a member of the hip-hop group "Goodie Mob," is known for his infectious flow and unmistakable voice.

Earlier this year, Cee-Lo released Cee-Lo Green & His Perfect Imperfections, his first solo album. The lead single from that album, "Closet Freak," was a mainstay on urban radio this past summer.

And his newest collaboration "In Da Wind," with Trick Daddy (another hip hop artist), is rising on the charts daily.

Cee-Lo was singing and rapping way before Ja Rule. And his infectious singing/rapping has captivated audiences for years now. His recognizable riffs and verses to some of the most popular songs released to date have branded him in a league of his own.

His raps have more depth than just talking about jewels and women.

He conveys some of life's hardships along with the joys that it can also bring. As he tries to feed the soul, Cee-Lo entertains the audiences with a throwback style that is reminiscent of George Clinton and his P-Funk Band.

Legends hopes to capitalize off of Cee-Lo's laidback style with this weekend's concert.

Devon Lewow, booking manager for Legends,



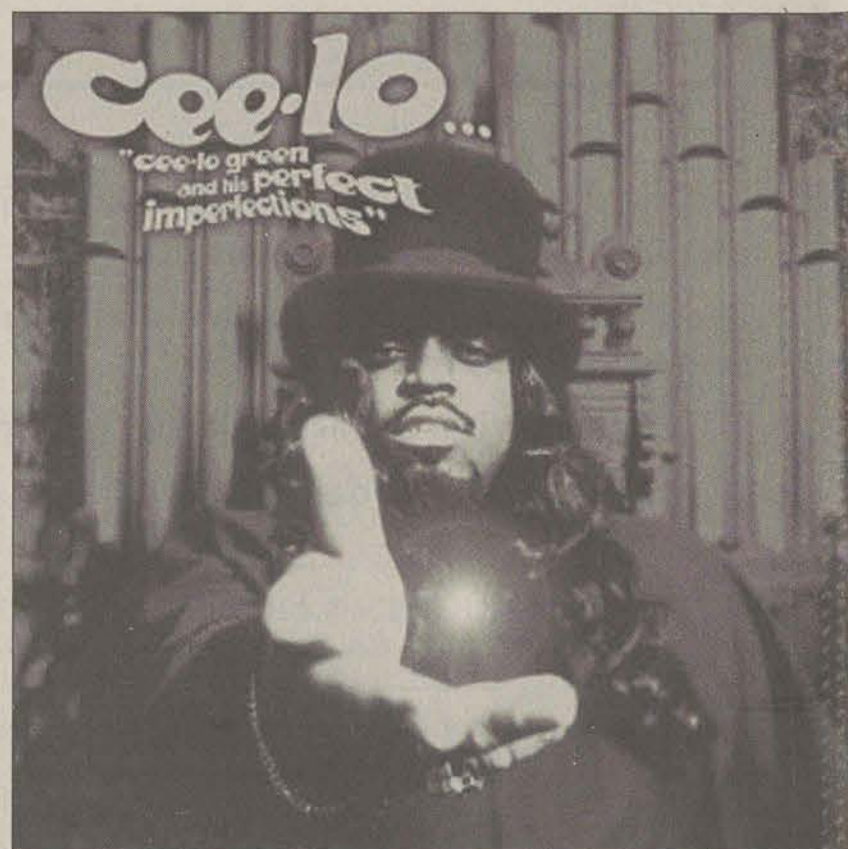
Adam Bonner/STAFF

Host to many nationally known musical artists, Legends is gearing up to host Cee-Lo this Homecoming weekend.

wants GSU students to come out and enjoy homecoming and have a great time.

According to Lewow, he wants students to celebrate in a safe and welcoming environment. That's why

this weekend's concert will have extra security and all concertgoers are asked to bring GSU.I.D.'s. This performance will not have any advanced tickets sales, and is set to take place tonight. Tickets will only be sold at the door.



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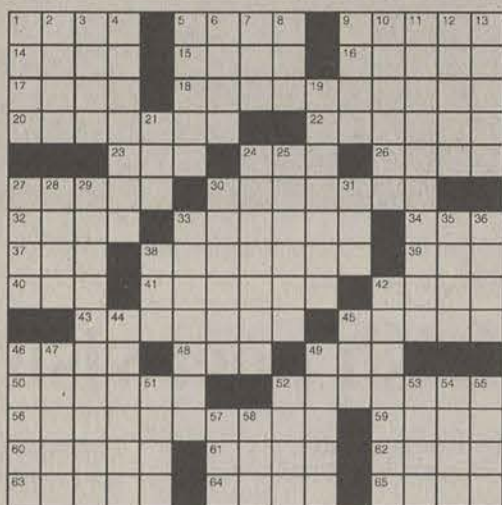


"Live as you will wish to have lived when you are dying." -Christian Gellert

Classifieds, Etc.

Crossword

- ACROSS
1 Itemization
5 Lion's locks
9 Pamphlet
14 Foot part
15 Pressing device
16 "Dolly!"
17 At a distance
18 Paper seller
20 Dotted room
22 Remove from office by vote
23 Existed
24 Alamos, NM
26 Folklore monster
27 Anwar of Egypt
30 Gin or vodka cocktail
32 Follow orders
33 Foam-filled
34 Circle segment
37 Air rifle pellets
38 Trick pitches
39 Born in
40 Understand
41 Four-baggers
42 Read quickly
43 Some tobacco users
45 Warn
46 Legal or medic lead-in
48 AMA members
49 Lyric poem
50 Christie of mystery
52 Hard, dark woods
56 Throughout the country
59 Hawk's opposite number
60 Levels
61 Author Murdoch
62 Wide-mouth pitcher
63 Protruding rock shelf
64 Pierre's head
65 Uncommon



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13 Rich cake
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24 Climbing devices
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28 French cleric
29 Profaned
30 Mutilated
31 Dog tags, briefly
33 Rustic
35 Bring up
36 Lincoln coin
38 Thar... blows!

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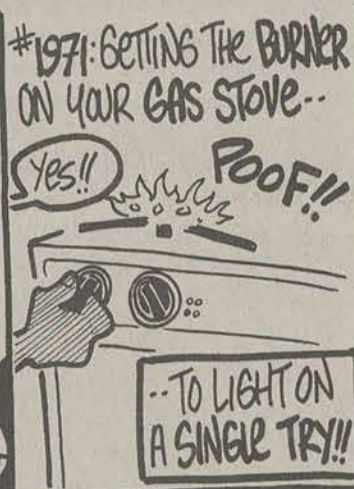
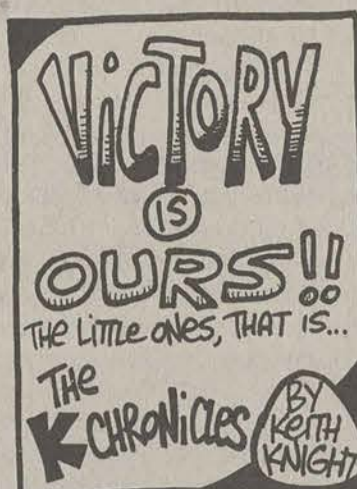
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10 G-A Action Ads

FREEBIE INFO ALL FREE student and faculty ads to be run in the George-Anne must have a NAME, P.O. BOX and PHONE NUMBER. Ads will be rejected if they do not have this information. NO EXCEPTIONS.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS: The George-Anne is the official student newspaper of Georgia Southern University, owned and operated by GSU students and utilizing the facilities provided by GSU. The newspaper is the oldest continuously d in Bulloch County and Statesboro, Ga. The ideas expressed herein are those of the editor or the individual authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Student Media Committee, the administration, the faculty and staff of Georgia Southern University, or the University System of Georgia. The George-Anne is published three times weekly during the academic year and five times during summers. Any questions regarding content should be directed to the editor at by phone at 912/681-5246 or fax at 912/486-7113. Readers may also send electronic messages to the newspaper staff by visiting our web site at http://www.stp.gasou.edu. OFFICES, MAIL, PHONES: Room 2023, F.

I. Williams Center. The George-Anne, P.O. Box 8001, Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, Ga. 30460. 912/681-5246 (News) or 912/618-5418 (Advertising) or 912/486-7113 (Fax)

ADVERTISING INFORMATION

The George-Anne reserves the right to refuse any advertisement.

DISPLAY AD DEADLINE: The deadline for reserving space and submitting advertising copy is Noon, one week prior to the intended publication date.

For more information, rate cards, sample publications, contact: David Brennaman, Advertising Director, ADS, (912) 681-5418; or Bill Neville, Student Media Coordinator, (912) 681-0069.

PROOFING/ERRORS/OMISSIONS: The newspaper makes every reasonable effort to present correct and complete information in advertisements. However, the advertiser is responsible for proofing the ad upon publication and should notify the newspaper immediately in the event of any errors in advertisements and its liability for adjustments is limited to the amount of space the error occupied in the ad. Further, the newspaper is not responsible for any damages caused due to an ad's omission from a particular

Placing a G-A Action Ad is as Easy as...

Commercial and Non-Student Advertising

- 1. Compose your ad - write down what you want to say concisely and clearly. Please include telephone numbers or addresses as warranted.
2. Count the words and multiply by 20¢ per word. Please note: There is a \$4 minimum per ad. And if you want a copy of you ad as it appears in the paper mailed to you, please include \$1 per ad for mailing and handling.
3. Pick a category header under which your ad will appear.
4. Pay for your ad (checks or money orders, only, please)
5. Send it to us. By mail: G-A Action Ads, POB 8001, Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, GA 30460; or in person: visit Room 2023 or 2022 Williams Center (top floor) during normal business hours (9am to 4 pm daily)

Commercial and Non-Student Display Advertising

Call 681-5418 for assistance. The display classified rate are \$7 per column inch. ADS representatives will be happy to help you.

Student, Faculty and Staff Action Ads

Current students, faculty and staff members may place a free classified ad in the newspaper at no charge. To qualify, advertisers messages must be 25 words or less in length, non-commercial in nature, and the advertiser MUST provide their name, Landrum Box and telephone numbers for our records. (Or use the "Rip Us Off" free classified coupon which appears periodically in the newspaper). Free classified may be mailed to G-A Action Ads, POB 8001, or brought by Room 2023 Williams Center on campus. Please no phone calls for free ads... at this price we don't take dictation.

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING ORDER FORM

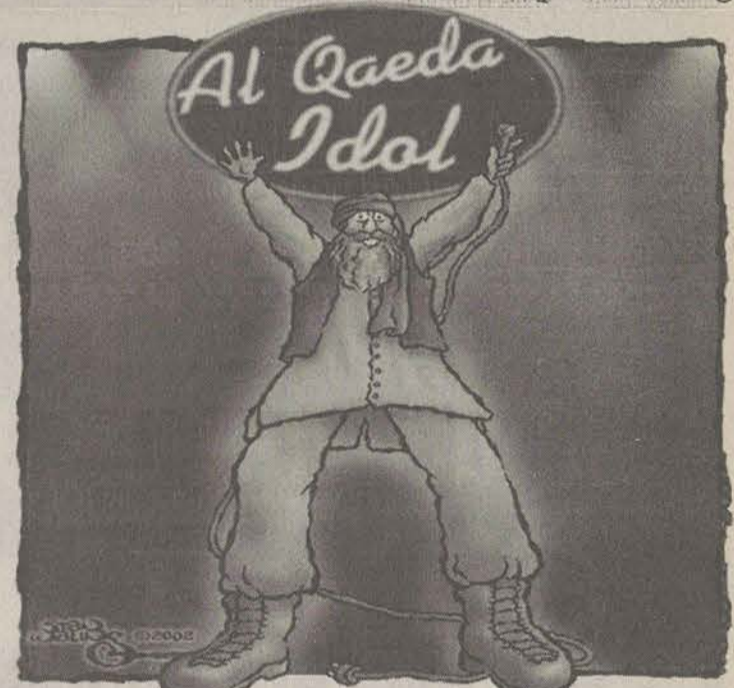
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29-Etcetera

Ad Message

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

DITHERED TWITS by Stan Waling



Randy: "Osama, Osama, Osama. How's the lice, man?"
Paula: "Move over Adolf, here comes Osama. Touchdown!"
Simon: "Look, here's the deal. There can only be one Al Qaeda Idol and quite frankly, the dromedary dump station attendant has you beat. Sorry."

Rip Us Off.

That's right - you heard right. Rip us off. Get something for nothing. Say hello to a friend. Find a roommate. Get a job. Find a home for a litter of kittens. Buy a wombat. Or sell your Beamer (right, like you expect us to believe that you - and not your folks - actually have the title to that BMW). Regardless of your purpose (or even if you are a congenial liar like the Beamer owner), Georgia's liveliest classified ad section is for you. Students, faculty and staff can have their 20-word action ads published for nothing (non-commercial listings only, please). Fill out the little rectangles below, and send your ad to G-A Action Ads, POB 8001, GSU or drop them by our offices in the Williams Center, Room 2023. You MUST include your name and P.O. Box number to qualify for a freebie. Remember, keep it short: students, faculty and staff must pay 20¢ per words for those which exceed the 20-word limit. And, please - no telephone calls... at this price we don't take dictation.

Grid of 20 small rectangles for ad content.

YOU MUST COMPLETE THIS PART TO QUALIFY FOR FREEBIE

Name POB Phone #



GEORGIACETUS VOGTLENSIS: *An important piece of local history has attracted national attention*

By Jonathan Knot
voton1066@yahoo.com

The oldest fossilized prehistoric whale skeleton in North America, *Georgiacetus vogtleensis*, is currently on permanent display at the Georgia Southern Museum.

Named after Plant Vogtle (the place it was discovered in 1983), the ten foot long fossil is approximately 41 million years old and looking quite well for its age. Well enough, in fact, to attract the presence of Dr. Phillip D. Gingerich all the way from the Museum of Paleontol-

ogy at the University of Michigan.

Dr. Gingerich has been on campus here at Southern for the last couple of days studying *Georgiacetus* and working with Dr. Jonathan Geisler, curator of our museum and the man who supervised and directed the reconstruction and mounting of the fossil. Dr. Gingerich also gave a compelling lecture Tuesday evening in the Biology building entitled "Origin and Early Evolution of Whales."

His interest in mammalian evolution has taken him to several remote

locations to uncover and study fossils, most recently in Pakistan. He spent several working seasons there in a dry bed finding quite a number of whale fossils (*Basilosaurus* and *Rhotocedus*, prehistoric whales similar to the one in our museum).

One problem he faced was that all the fossils he found were missing the same important pieces; arms, legs and the hindmost part of the tail bone (interestingly enough, the same is true of our *Georgiacetus*). Having found a large number of shark skeletons in the same bed as well as teeth marks on many of the remaining bones, he hypothesized that those pieces are missing because they're the only parts of the creature easy enough to be ripped off by opportunistic predators. Frustrated, he moved to a different location and finally found the intact fossils he had been looking for. Having these bones to study, he was able to determine that while the legs of these creatures were not big and strong enough to be used for locomotion, they probably weren't vestigial. It is his belief that they were used in some capacity during the act of reproduction.

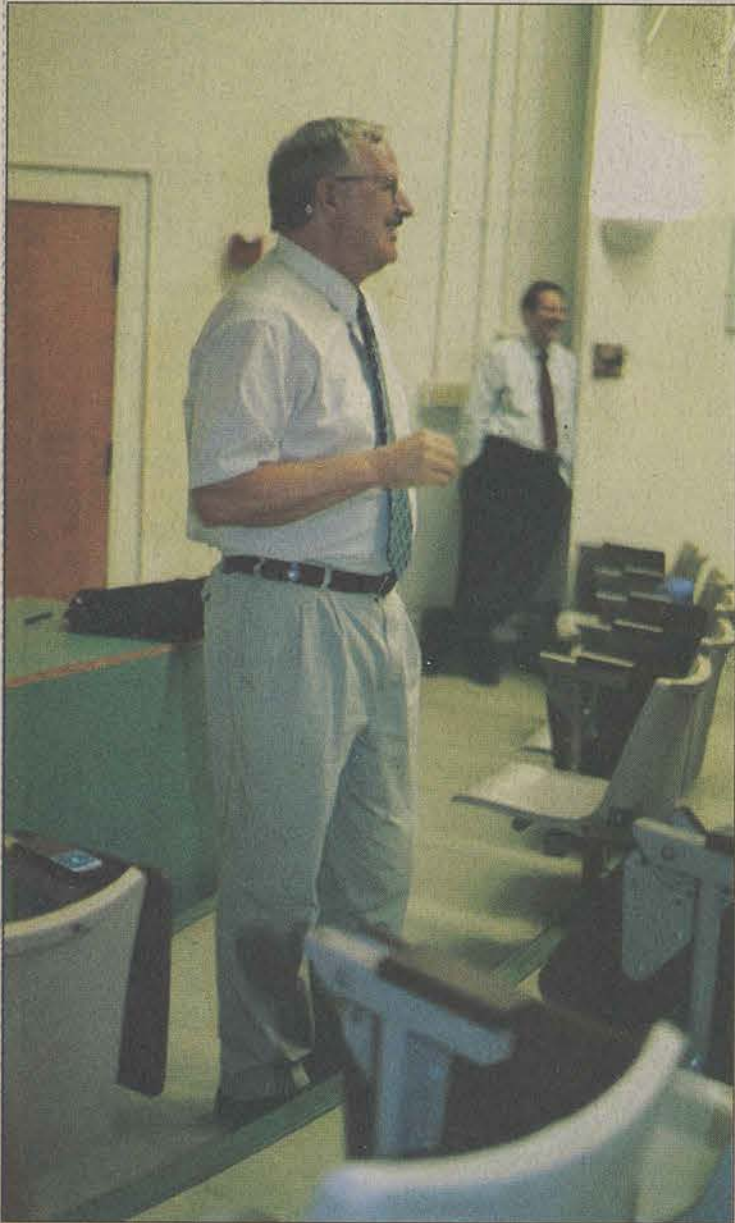
Another interesting point he made was that whales were an example of backwards evolution; most animals (including humans) originated in the sea and gradually made the transition to land. Whales have done the oppo-

site in making their way back to the sea (author's note: perhaps they know something we don't).

He pointed out many of the similarities between whales and other mammals; they have a nose (in the form of a blowhole) to breathe through, they give live birth that includes a placenta, they're warm-blooded and share a similar bone structure with most mammals (they even have hip bones). Whales belonging to the group Mysticeti (possessing baleen to strain their food rather than Odontoceti, which have teeth instead) even have hair; the aforementioned baleen which Dr. Gingerich likens to a moustache in composition.

He also addressed the belief among many scientists that the Hippopotamus is the closest living relative to the whale. He was initially quite skeptical, since although DNA testing pointed in that direction, there were no fossil records to support such a claim. His discovery of those leg bones in Pakistan have given more weight to the possibility, however, as they are similar in structure to those of the Artiodactyls (hoofed mammals).

Unfortunately, Gingerich's research in Pakistan had to come to a halt with the aftershock of September 11; but in the interim he's spent time studying what he'd already gathered and been looking forward to when he could go back and do some more digging.



Chris Horne/STAFF

Dr. Phillip D. Gingerich came all the way from the Museum of Paleontology at the University of Michigan to speak to the GSU community about the whale of a fossil it holds in its museum.



Special to the G-A

Georgia Southern Museum's curator of paleontology, Jonathan Geisler, examines the whale skeleton replica on display.



Internet Photo

Hailing from Connemara, Ireland, Mary O'Malley writes many of her poems about her native land.

Irish poet visits GSU

By Brittany Gates
tycoongameslover@yahoo.com

Irish poet Mary O'Malley read a collection of her poems at the College of Education Building last Tuesday night. This event was sponsored by the Center for Irish Studies along with the Women and Gender Studies and the Center for International Studies.

She read poems from her four books, including some her latest book, *Asylum Road*.

Born in Connemara, Ireland, O'Malley was a daughter of a fisherman father, from which she gained some influence for her writings. She graduated from the University College, Galway, and taught at the New University of Lisbon in Portugal for eight years.

During that time, she didn't write poetry; it was only when O'Malley moved back to Ireland that she started writing, even though she considered writing for many years before.

O'Malley was a recipient of the Hennessey Award, and belongs to *Asodana*, an association of Irish artists. She has read and discussed her poems on British and Irish radio and television, and has been a frequent broadcaster.

Many of her poems dealt with her childhood in Ireland. She reminisced about playing in an overturned boat, which was an old fishing boat cut in

half. Other poems dealt Irish culture, as O'Malley spoke about her ancestors and how they kept Irish tradition alive through their tales. One poem confronted her suspicions, as she described looking out to the sea as a child and seeing ghosts and other paranormal objects. Finally, other poems emphasized her political views.

After her reading, O'Malley answered questions, ranging from where she gained her inspiration to the future of the Irish language. Most of the inspiration for her poems was gained from the reworking of old themes, the changing structure of Ireland, the coastal regions of Ireland, her political views, and music.

Music is one of her biggest inspirations, as she said, "it gives (me) form." Plus, O'Malley has worked with musicians and other artists and has been commissioned by many to write poetry.

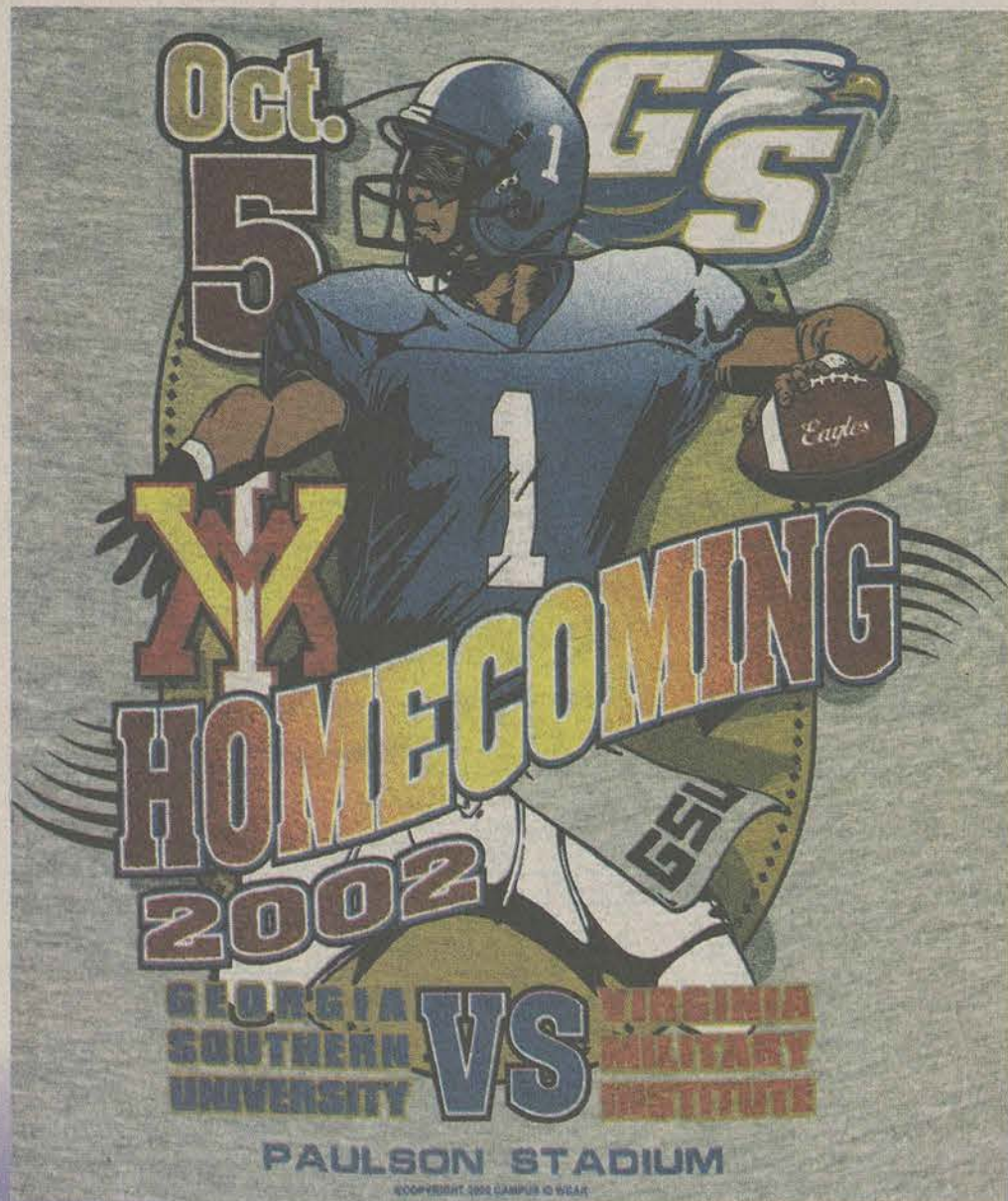
But not only is O'Malley a poet, she is an activist. She spoke of many of her political views in various poems. O'Malley is most active about a new wave of racism in Ireland and the environment, specifically, the pollution of the oceans. However, O'Malley doesn't consider herself an activist. She said that all artists deal with political and social themes in their works.

GSU Homecoming '02

Saturday, October 5, 2002



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