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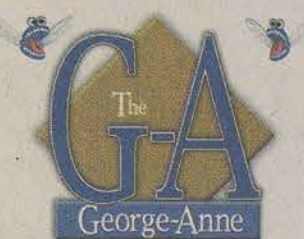


Monday
February 3, 2003
Volume 75, No. 56

Sports: Lady Eagles defeat App. State, 77-67

Page 3

ON THE INSIDE:



Covering the campus like a swarm of gnats

Weather

Monday



Mostly sunny with a high of 73°F and a low of 54°F.

Tuesday



Morning showers with a high of 66°F and a low of 34°F.

Opinions

• Amanda Permenter reexamines her beliefs about space travel.

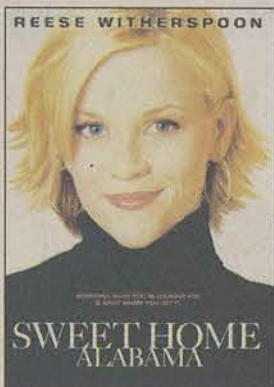
• Adam Brady thinks tragedy shouldn't be the only reason we look to the sky.

Page 4

Arts & Entertainment

• Four GSU students give their comments about the Columbia space shuttle tragedy.

• Find a complete listing of new CDs and movies that are coming out tomorrow.



Page 6

Southern Events

THEATER

• 'A Cole Porter Salute' by the GSU Opera. Admission, \$25. February 3 at 7 p.m. at the PAC.

EXHIBIT

• 'Power Poles,' an Alonso Davis art exhibit at the Foy Fine Arts Building. February 1-14.

Erika Brayboy crowned Miss GSU 2003

By Brittany Gates and J. Wright
tycoongameslover@yahoo.com
jdotgsu@hotmail.com

Here she comes, Miss GSU. GSU crowned Erika Brayboy as the new Miss GSU Saturday night. Brayboy is the first African-American to win Miss GSU.

Brayboy, a junior Spanish major from McDonough, Georgia, won a \$1500 grant, a \$500 prize, the official crown, a crown pin, a Silver Bowl, a GSU gift certificate, and a photography session with Lorie Grice Photography. Along with these prizes, she will compete in the Miss Georgia pageant in Columbus, Georgia in June.

Brayboy never competed in any other pageant until she started participating in Miss GSU three years ago. In those three years she participated, she never placed. Brayboy said she got involved with the Miss GSU pageant because "it gives women an opportunity to stand in what they believe." Brayboy also said that the Miss GSU pageant "encourages women to be [involved] in education by giving scholarships."

"I feel extraordinary because this is a goal that I set out for myself and I achieved it," Brayboy said.

She hopes to instill her platform, empowering youth with education:

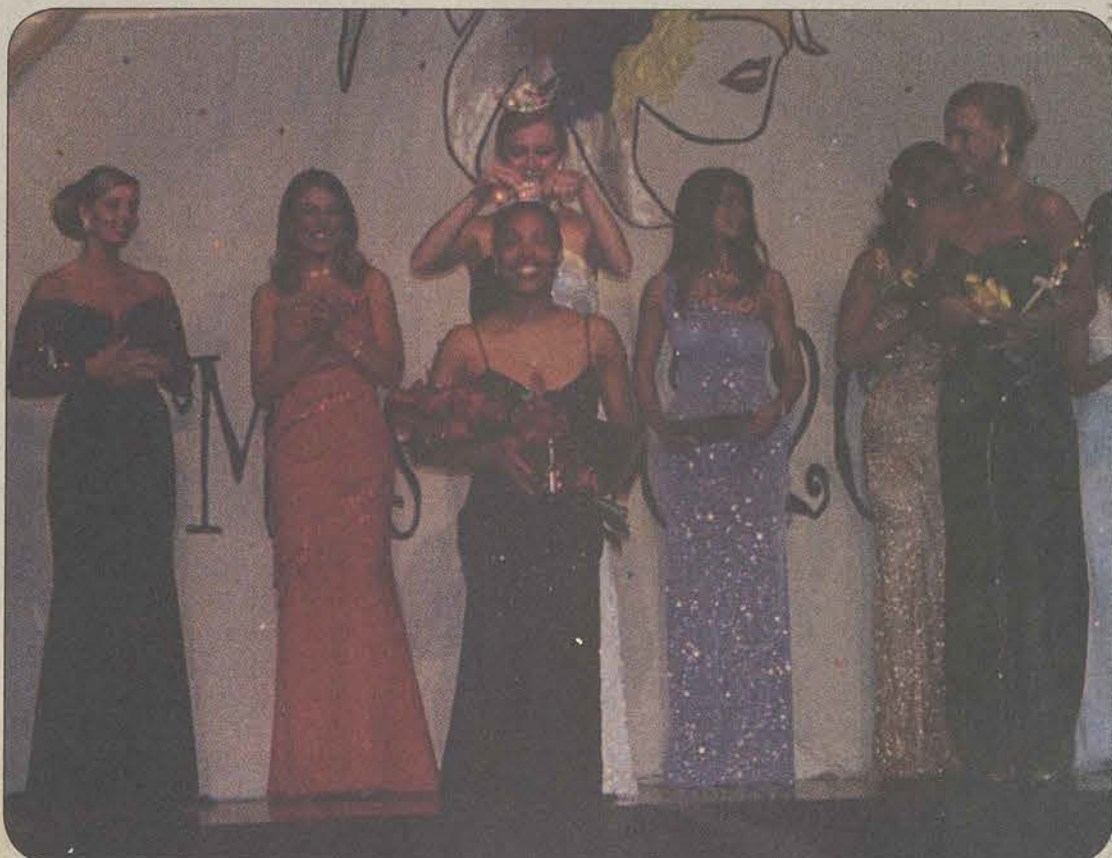
inalterable investment of a lifetime, by speaking to students in every school in Statesboro to make them aware about the importance of education. Brayboy said, "they need to understand the concept [of education] to enjoy education." Brayboy already started her platform before the pageant by mentoring Hispanic children, pre-k through first grade, at Langston Chapel Elementary School.

Since Miss GSU is a certified Miss America Preliminary Pageant, Brayboy, if she wins Miss Georgia, will compete in Miss America.

Before the announcement of Brayboy as Miss GSU for 2003, the fourth through first Runners-up were announced. Each runner-up received a trophy, roses and a GSU gift certificate.

Danielle Callan, Leslie Culbertson, Brandelyn Bartlett, and April Lynn Dorsey won respectively. This was Dorsey's second time winning first runner-up.

Also, awards were given for Congeniality, Artistic Expression or Performing Arts (Talent), Interview, People's Choice, and Top Sales. The contestant that won any of the awards received a plaque and a commemorative gift, consisting of a silver frame. Bethany Griffiths won the Congeniality Award; April Lynn Dorsey won the Talent Award; Erika Brayboy was



Jessica Langley/STAFF

After 55 years of Miss GSU pageants, Erika Brayboy is the first African-American winner of the prestigious grand prize.

awarded the Interview Award, Ashley Turner won the People's Choice Award; and Navjot Francis won for Top Sales of ads.

Held in the Union's Grand Ball-

room, the theme of the pageant, Divas Las Vegas, started with a bang as all the contestants along with Miss GSU 2002, Blair Riley, performed to Elvis Presley's "Viva Las Vegas." Riley

choreographed the performance, and preformed twice during the event, tap dancing to two different songs.

See Pageant, Page 2

Space shuttle breaks apart over Texas; seven astronauts killed

KRT Campus

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.—Space shuttle Columbia, a 21st Century cargo ship carrying a cross-section of America's human treasure and the first Israeli astronaut, disintegrated in flames Saturday over Texas.

All seven astronauts died. They never had a chance. Astronauts have no way to escape a shuttle as it glides toward a landing without power at 13,000 miles per hour.

The crew included three U.S. military officers, one of the nation's few black astronauts and a woman who immigrated to America from India. Six were married. Between them, the astronauts of shuttle Columbia had 12 children.

Astronauts are pioneers on the frontiers of space. They depend on muscular but fragile technology. It let seven of them down on Saturday, but they knew the risks going in "I take the risk because I think what we're doing is really important," Michael Anderson, 43, Columbia's payload commander, said before Columbia blasted off from Cape Canaveral on Jan. 16. He was the son of an Air Force man and grew up on military bases. He was an African-American. "This day has brought terrible news and great

See Shuttle, Page 2

The space shuttles

Columbia was NASA's first space shuttle; since its maiden flight in 1981, four more of the reusable spacecraft have been built.

COLUMBIA 1981-03
Missions flown: 28
■ Destroyed during landing Feb. 1, 2003
■ Had high-tech new "glass cockpit"

CHALLENGER 1983-86
Missions flown: 10
■ Exploded 72 seconds after launch on Jan. 28, 1986, killing crew of seven; a defective sealing ring caused the accident

DISCOVERY 1984
Missions flown: 30
■ Flew the most missions while other shuttles were being upgraded, repaired
■ Made the first military shuttle flight, a 1985 satellite launch
■ Carried Hubble space telescope in to orbit in 1990; returned twice to repair it

ATLANTIS 1985
Missions flown: 26
■ Shuttle with the most modern controls
■ Lightest of three other shuttles, can carry heavy loads
■ Has "glass cockpit" with color computer screens

ENDEAVOUR 1992
Missions flown: 10
■ The newest shuttle
■ Body construction more modern than other shuttles
■ Built out of spare parts made in 1980s for repairing damaged shuttles

The other shuttles
ENTERPRISE 1977
■ Test vehicle used for short flights; never flew in space
Note: Number of missions flown as of Feb. 1, 2003
Source: NASA
Graphic: Leo Hultberg

PATHFINDER 1977
■ 75-ton steel mock-up used to work out procedures for moving and handling the shuttle
A Japanese businessman spent \$1 million modifying it to look more like a shuttle and displayed it at a Tokyo airport. Now on display at space museum in Huntsville, Ala.

Witnesses watched the sky Saturday as pieces of the shuttle Columbia plummeted to Earth. Remains of the shuttle, like the helmet to the right, have been found scattered from Louisiana to near Dallas, Texas.



Special Photo/Joe Terrell



Special Photo/Scott Cooper

What do Hooligans eat?

The Georgia Southern athletic department combined with a group of Southern Boosters to put on the first annual Hanner Hooligan Tailgate Party in the Hanner Fieldhouse parking lot last Saturday afternoon for GSU's dedicated basketball fans. The event began at 10 a.m. and lasted until 30 minutes prior to game time.



Jessica Langley/STAFF

New budget proposal will greatly increase federal deficit

KRT Campus

WASHINGTON—With federal budget deficits already growing at a rate unseen since the Reagan era, President Bush on Monday will unveil a budget proposal that would plunge the government much deeper into the red.

He'll then cross his fingers, knock on wood and hope the economy rebounds quickly, creating a tide of revenue that eventually would sweep the government back into the black and also cover some ambitious long-term expenses.

"He may need Harry Potter to make it all work," said Robert

Bixby, the executive director of the Concord Coalition, a bipartisan group that advocates balanced federal budgets.

Doubters worry that if it doesn't all work, federal deficits will extend well into the next decade, making it more expensive for Americans to borrow, forcing cuts in popular government programs and imperiling Social Security and Medicare just as the baby boom generation begins to retire.

"The long-term consequence is you increase interest rates and make it harder for the government

See Deficit, Page 2

The George-Anne

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

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

Campus Calendar

Feb. 3

General Student Recital
Carol A. Carter Recital Hall,
1 p.m.

Feb. 4

Junior Recital
Carol A. Carter Recital Hall,
8 p.m.

Urban Elegance

Black Student Alliance will host Black Fashion Show, "Urban Elegance" on Tuesday, Feb. 4 at 8 p.m. Tickets are on sale now for \$5. Contact Natifa at 871-7339 or Jewel at 681-6806.

Caribbean Exhibition

In Russell Union Rotunda, between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. there will be exhibits of artwork and artifacts depicting different sects of Caribbean culture.

Islands on Parade

In Russell Union Commons from 7 p.m. and 9 p.m., various Caribbean island information, including dress and music, will be presented by students.

Feb. 5

First Wednesdays
Live From the Union
Coffeehouse Series

In the Russell Union Commons, there will be a show that features HBO Def Jam's J. Ivy, Magic Marc, and the movie "8 Mile" from 7 p.m. to 12 a.m.

Guest Artist Recital

St. Louis Brass Quintet,
Carol A. Carter Recital Hall
at 8 p.m.

Feb. 6

Caribbean Food
Extravaganza

In Landrum Center from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., sample Caribbean recipes from various countries and hear the melodic sounds of an authentic steel pan band. The cost is one meal plan.

"More Fyah" Variety Show

In the Russell Union
Ballroom at 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Come and enjoy entertainment Caribbean style.

Police Beat

• Officers investigated three accidents.

• Officers issued one traffic citation, one traffic warning, and assisted one motorist.

SHUTTLE, FROM PAGE 1

sadness to our country," President Bush said. "The Columbia is lost. There are no survivors..."

"The crew of the shuttle Columbia did not return safely to Earth, yet we can pray they all are safely home. May God bless the grieving families."

In addition to Anderson, aboard Columbia were:

Rick Husband, 45, the shuttle's commander and an Air Force colonel; co-pilot William McCool, 41, a Navy commander; mission specialists David Brown, 46, a Navy captain; Kalpana Chawla, 41, who was born in India; Laurel Clark, 41, a flight surgeon, and Ilan Ramon, 48, a colonel in Israel's air force.

All but Brown were married. Ramon had four children, McCool had three, Husband had two, Anderson had two and Clark had one. Ramon, McCool, Brown and Clark were space rookies.

It was the shuttle program's 113th mission and second major disaster, eerily reminiscent of the 1986 explosion of the Challenger shuttle during liftoff, which also killed all seven astronauts aboard.

No cause was immediately apparent, but sensors aboard Columbia reported a sudden spike of intense heat, an indication that the ship's heat shield had been breached.

The president and others vowed that the human space program would continue, after a lengthy investigation.

The shuttle was only 16 minutes from the landing strip at the Kennedy Space

Center in Cape Canaveral when NASA lost communication with it.

The last word from Columbia came at 9 a.m. EST from Commander Husband:

"Roger."

Then, a muffled sound. Then only static. Residents far below reported hearing a loud bang. The sky was scarred with smoke, debris, failure, and death.

Debris rained over hundreds of miles of Texas fields and highways, stretching from near Dallas all the way to Louisiana. Residents reported finding metal fragments, piles of ash and what appeared to be a door off the shuttle.

Early speculation centered on an explosion caused by a structural defect or the possibility that crucial, heat-protecting tiles on the shuttle's left wing were damaged when it was struck by a piece of fuel-tank insulation during blastoff on Jan. 16.

NASA engineers concluded during the flight that any damage to the wing was minor and posed no safety hazard - an assertion certain to be tested during a probe that NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe promised would be complete and vigorous.

"At this time, we have no indication that it was caused by anything or anyone on the ground," O'Keefe said, a comment apparently designed to quell speculation about terrorism.

Flags were lowered to half-staff at the White House, the Capitol, the Kennedy Space Center in Central Florida, the

Johnson Space Center near Houston and at countless other locations around the nation.

Before the 16-day scientific flight, Ramon the Israeli spoke evocatively about the symbolic nature of his assignment - and its meaning to his people.

Though a secular Jew, he planned to observe the Sabbath, when possible, and eat kosher food aboard the shuttle. He called it an "act of solidarity with Jewish tradition."

"I was born in Israel," said Ramon, "and I'm kind of the proof for the whole Israeli people that whatever we fought for and we've been going through in the last century - or maybe in the last 2,000 years - is becoming true."

Chawla, the first native of India to fly in space, was particularly admired by Indian immigrants to America. In a magazine interview after her first flight in 1997, she said: "You see the continents go by, the thunderstorms shimmering in the clouds, the city lights at night... Earth is very beautiful. I wish everyone could see it."

The oldest shuttle in the fleet, Columbia was inaugurated in flight on April 12, 1981. This was its 28th flight in space. It was supposed to land at the Kennedy Space Center at 9:16 a.m. EST. It did not.

In the recent past, then-NASA Administrator Dan Goldin had been candid about the inherent hazards of space flight.

"When you go into space," he said, "you risk your life."

BUDGET, FROM PAGE 1

to respond to anything new because you have to increase the budget," said Stan Collender, the author of "Guide to the Federal Budget" and a managing director of lobbying firm Fleishman-Hillard's Federal Budget Consulting Group.

In his new budget, Bush will lay out a huge and expensive agenda, both for the near term and for the long haul. It will include a big tax cut - \$674 billion over 10 years - that's popular with many Republicans. Defense spending will get a big boost, as well. Bush will also call for big spending popular with Democrats, such as a 10-year \$400 billion prescription drug plan for the elderly

and medicines to combat AIDS epidemics in Africa and the Caribbean.

All this will likely expand a budget deficit that Mitchell Daniels, the head of the White House Office of Management and Budget, is predicting will grow to a record-setting \$300 billion this year. Giddily in surplus from 1998 to 2001, the federal budget has taken the steepest deficit dive in history since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

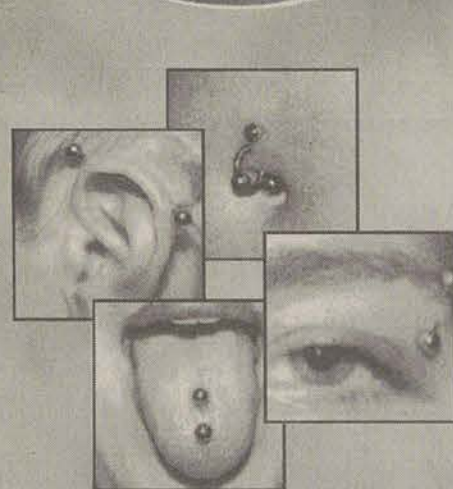
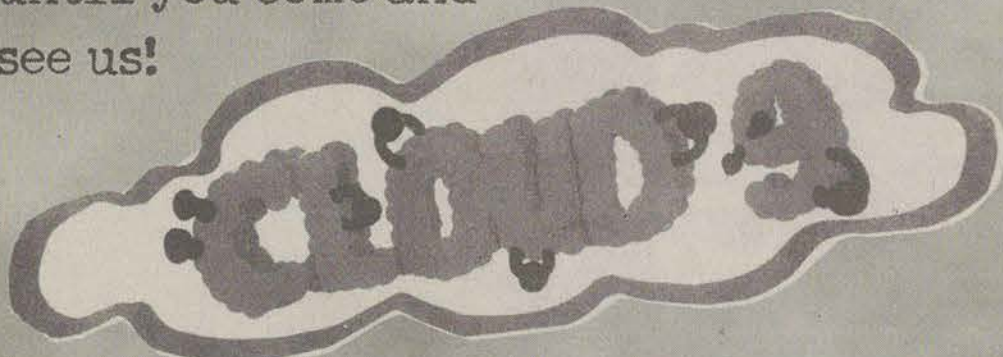
Bush's budget takes no account of a possible war in Iraq. That could boost spending in the short term and cost billions more in the long run to help Iraq rebuild.

Bush's advisers predict that the

larger deficits will be short-lived, reversed by tax cuts that will jump-start the economy, boost productivity and create new jobs that fill government coffers with new tax revenue. It's a supply-side economic vision straight out of the Reagan presidency.

Bush is also calling for spending restraints. Though he is recommending billions more for defense, new anti-AIDS assistance and \$1.2 billion for research into hydrogen-powered vehicles, he wants to hold overall spending increases to 4 percent. That means cutting other programs and setting up a confrontation with both Democrats and Republicans in Congress.

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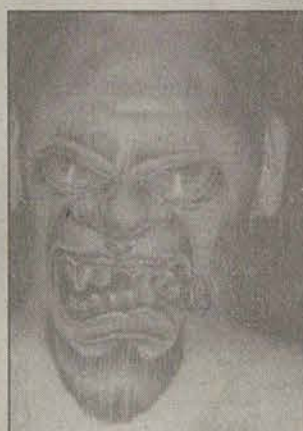
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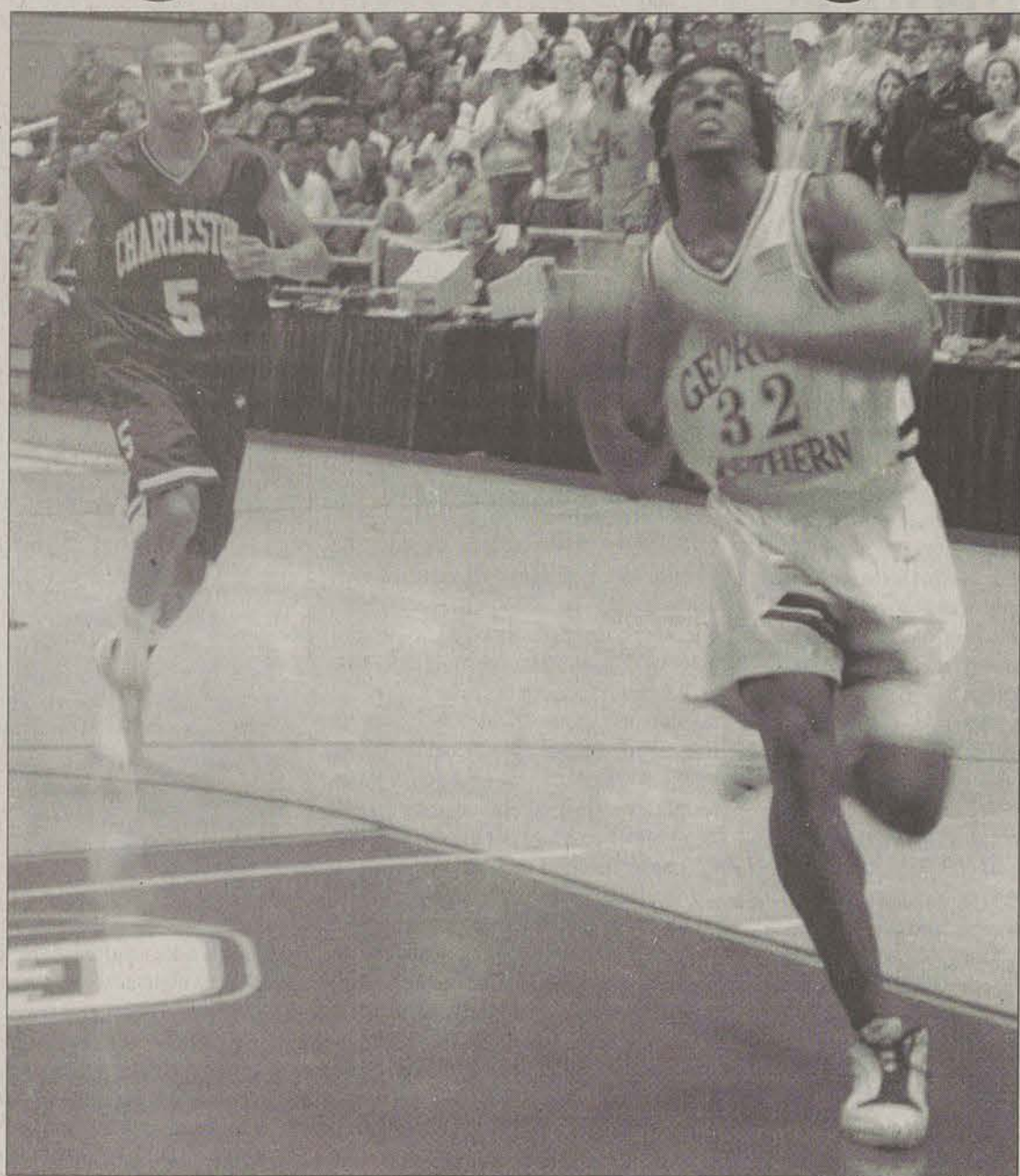
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Eagles fall to Cougars



Jessica Langley/STAFF

A last-minute rally couldn't save the Eagles from an 84-79 loss to the College of Charleston Cougars. The Eagles drop to 11-8 overall and 4-4 in the conference.

Dennis Hightower

Hightower12181@hotmail.com

Tony Mitchell scored a career-high 21 points to lead the College of Charleston to an 84-79 Southern Conference victory over Georgia Southern Saturday afternoon at Hammer Fieldhouse.

Mitchell scored 11 of his points in a decisive 22-6 run that gave the Cougars a 57-44 lead seven minutes into the second half. The sophomore guard connected on three of his six career-high five three pointers during the Charleston spurt, which erased a Georgia Southern 38-35 halftime lead.

Georgia Southern (11-8, 4-4) attempted a comeback over the final 12 minutes, cutting its deficit to six on several occasions, only to have the Cougars immediately stretch its advantage back to double-digits.

Leading 79-71 with a minute to go, Charleston sealed the win by

hitting five-of-eight free throws in the final sixty seconds, withstanding eight points from the Eagles during that span.

The Eagles opened the game on a 17-6 run and led throughout the first half. The Cougars fought back, cutting its deficit to 31-30 with 4:53 remaining in the period.

Troy Wheless added 24 points, including a personal-best six three pointers, for the Cougars (16-5, 6-2), who connected on 14-of-32 trifectas in the contest. Thomas Mobley poured in 13 while Mike Benton grabbed a team-high nine rebounds while also blocking four shots.

Frank Bennett recorded his conference-best seventh double-double of the season as he led Georgia Southern with 23 points and 10 rebounds. Julius Jenkins added 21 points for the Eagles while Jean Francois finished with 15 and Kordel Gibson 10. The Eagles shot 45.9 percent and pulled

down 36 rebounds.

Despite shooting 50 percent from the field and 8-of-10 at the free-throw line through the first half of action, the Eagles still found themselves behind by three points at the break, 38-35.

In the second half Charleston knocked down 9-of-18 attempts from behind the three-point line and converted 14-of-20 at the stripe to seal the five-point win.

The Cougars attempted more than half their field goals from beyond the arc on the day, hitting 14-of-32 opportunities.

Georgia Southern returns to action Monday, February 3 when it travels to Chattanooga, Tenn. to face SoCon South Division foe the Chattanooga Mocs in McKenzie Arena at 7:00 p.m. Charleston returns home to Kresse Arena to face SoCon North Division member UNC Greensboro at 7 p.m.

Lady Eagles top App. St, 77-67

G-A News Service

BOONE, N.C. – Jessica Everett scored 19 points to lead four Eagles in double-figures as Georgia Southern defeated Appalachian State 77-67 on Saturday afternoon.

Georgia Southern (13-6, 7-3 Southern Conference) opened up an 11-point halftime lead by finishing the first half on a 9-3 spurt. Shawnica Hill began the run with a three-point play, then added a jumper to run the score to 36-27 with 2:19 to go.

Two free throws each by Everett and Dana Benemon made the score 40-29 at intermission. Appalachian State (5-14, 4-6 Southern Conference) trimmed the margin back to 10 before the Eagles embarked on a 9-0 run and held ASU without a point for over six minutes.

Rachel Loiacono, who scored the first seven points of the second half, began the spurt with a three-point play and hit a trey with 12:46 to go in the game to give GSU a 54-35 lead.

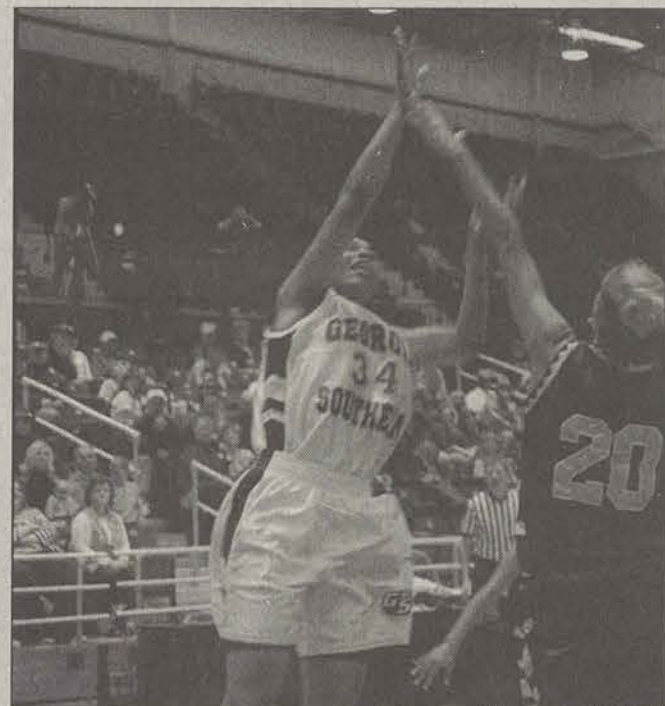
The Eagles extended the advantage to 20 with 1:04 left in the game, but the Mountaineers scored the last

eight points of the game to run the final to 77-65.

Tiffany Lanier scored a career-high 16 points, while Loiacono fin-

ished with 13 and Hill added 11.

Georgia Southern returns to action on Monday night at East Tennessee State. Tipoff is scheduled for 7 p.m.



Tim Deaver/STAFF

After defeating Chattanooga, the Lady Eagles continued their winning streak by defeating Appalachian State on the road.



Sundaes with the Sisters

The ladies of Kappa Kappa Gamma will be holding spring recruitment on Thursday, February 7th from 7:30-9pm at the Kappa House!

For more information, contact the Greek Life Office, any Kappa Sister or the Membership Chair at gina_kkg@yahoo.com.



GO KAPPA!

Dove named to SoCon baseball team

G-A News Service

The Southern Conference today named its preseason All-Southern Conference baseball team as selected by the league's coaches.

Lee Curtis of the College of Charleston, the 2002 SoCon Player of the Year, has been picked to repeat that honor in 2003. Curtis was the second-leading hitter in the SoCon last year with a .409 average. He led the league with 92 hits, nine triples and 166 total bases, was tied for the league lead with 15 homers and was second with 65 RBIs.

UNC Greensboro's Scooter Michael was named the SoCon's preseason Pitcher of the Year. Michael went 12-1 with a 2.96 ERA for the Spartans last season.

Michael is joined by Georgia Southern's Dennis Dove. Dove was 7-4 with a 3.52 ERA in helping the Eagles to the NCAA Regionals last year.

In the infield on the Preseason team is first baseman Todd Buchanan of Western Carolina, shortstop D.J. Dailley of Davidson, third baseman Matt Lein of Wofford, and catcher Matt Lauderdale of CoC. The outfield includes College of Charleston's Brett Spivey and Brett Anderson, along with Western Carolina's Alan Beck.

Ryan Gordon of UNCG, who hit .366 last season, was the first team designated hitter.

Caribbean Awareness Week, February 3-6, 2003

Monday, February 3, "Islands on Parade"

Russell Union, Commons 7-9pm

There will be prize giveaways.

Tuesday, Feb 4 "A Day of Caribbean

Exhibition" Russell Union 11-3pm

Get your hair braided. How Low Can YOU Go? Come

show your skills for prizes.

Tuesday Feb 4, Diversity of Caribbean Culture

& Caribbean Trivia Commons 6-9

Speech by Dr. Godfrey Gibbison of Finance &

Economics

Thursday, Feb 6, "Caribbean Food

Extravaganza" Southern Traditions 3-7pm

Caribbean recipes from various countries will be

served.

Thursday Feb 6, "MORE FYAH" Russell Union

Ballroom 7-9

Second annual variety show with Caribbean skits, talents, and an explosion of Caribbean fashion.

Bring a friend!!!!!!

Sponsored by: United Caribbean Association, Africana Studies & International Studies

Art is either plagiarism or revolution.

– Paul Gauguin



Barbara Kruger

We want to tap into your creativity! The **Miscellany Magazine of the Arts** wants you to submit your drawings, paintings, photographs, cartoons, graphic designs, and anything else to our t-shirt design contest! The winner will receive a free t-shirt and a gift certificate to Barnes & Noble. Entries can be e-mailed to miscmag@gasou.edu or brought to Room 2009 (the office with all the stuff on the door) on the second floor of the Williams Center. Deadline for contest entries is Wednesday, February 5th. Call 681-0565 for more information.

OPINIONS

Page 4 — Monday, February 3, 2003

OUR OPINION

Paranoia is a product of our times

In the wake of one of the three most devastating occurrences in our country's history of space exploration, we should all take a moment to reflect upon our desires to travel the untraveled, to explore the unexplored, and to discover the undiscovered.

We should also be sure to pause for a moment to remember the brave astronauts who lost their lives somewhere thousands of feet above the Earth's surface yesterday. They were acting in the interests of their countries, of themselves, of us, and of the world at large. Their deaths should remind us of the miraculous occupation each of them chose to undertake, the importance of which can not be over-emphasized.

One thing we should not do is jump immediately to ideas of conspiracy. Within seconds (perhaps split seconds) of the news, undoubtedly millions of Americans' minds turned to thoughts of terrorism. Then, we found out that one of the members aboard, Ilan Ramon, was a native of Israel.

Though this certainly cannot be taken out of the question, we should feel ashamed of ourselves for having such thoughts before a complete investigation of all of the circumstances has been completed.

The paranoia of our times — which rivals that of the Cold War through which our parents and grandparents lived — has become absurd. Our mindset has become so one-dimensional that we place nearly all non-Americans in the un-American category as well, an oversimplification and overgeneralization that we must, at all costs, avoid.

We must remember that Ramon, the son of a Holocaust survivor, had devoted his life to space travel, and sadly, the moment he had been waiting for never came, ending in tragedy just a short time before his dream would be realized. He made his country proud and continues to do so as they mourn his disappearance.

LETTER AND SUBMISSION POLICY

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

Covering the campus like a swarm of gnats

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POINT / COUNTERPOINT:

If only space exploration was more practical

AMANDA PERMENTER



And, of course I look up at the stars at night.

As a matter of fact, I have a romantic obsession with looking at the stars because I was traumatically deprived of them as a child. The first time I remember seeing anything in the sky besides clouds was at the age of eight, after my parents finally realized that I had terrible vision and I got glasses. When I got out of the car that night, I exclaimed amazedly, "I didn't know you were actually supposed to be able to see the stars!"

That promptly made my mom cry and lament: "I'm a terrible mother! My baby's never seen the stars!"

But, I digress.

So, yes, I watch the stars every night, perhaps more adamantly than most people, fascinated with the beauty and infinite nature of what surrounds this speck of a planet we take to think is so important.

Considering my fondness for gazing at heavenly bodies (no double-entendre intended), what makes me uneasy about venturing out of our stratosphere? Is it just that having to place a photo of a charred helmet on the front page of the newspaper makes my job unpleasant?

No... that would be selfish.

After discussing the matter at length with a few colleagues, I realized that I have carried an unfair prejudice against the idea of space exploration throughout my life, all because I dislike one particular aspect of it. I might not have the passion for it that some others seem to possess, but I am certainly not against it.

My only true aversion to space exploration is the cost.

"There's no cheaper way to do it," my deputy managing editor Will Johnson said.

And, that's what bugs me.

Once I pinpointed the fact that it is only the idealistic, utopian social ideology I have about life here on earth that turns me off about space exploration, I realized that I actually adore the idea of discovering the universe. I simply wish there was a practical, economical way to go about doing it.

Yes, we can travel outside our planet because we have the technology. But, it's a technology that literally costs billions upon billions of dollars. Just one billion dollars is a lot. That's a one with twelve zeros behind it. That's enough to buy about 4,000,000 lamborghinis. Perhaps it's because I suck at math, but the monetary figures fascinate me. If anything else we decided to do was going to cost us that much money, we'd simply eliminate it as a possibility. Except the military, of course.

Here's my main point: There are people on this planet who can't afford a Big-n-Tasty from Mickey D's. Just within our country, programs like social security on the chopping block because no one is interested in a slight tax hike for the greater good. There are human beings right here in Statesboro who live behind K-mart, people. We can spare billions for furthering our understanding of outer space, but we can't seem to pinch off even a penny per dollar to better educate inner-city children. Hardly anyone seems to be willing to donate so much as a dime on telling kids born in the projects that they can rise above their circumstances through knowledge.

Instead, we are willing to spend nearly unfathomable amounts of money, and every couple of decades or so, a handful of lives, on the high-science dream we call NASA.

I'm not saying it isn't worth it. It just seems somewhat disproportionate to me.

Amanda Permenter is the managing editor of *The George-Anne* and can be reached at gamed@gasou.edu.

Since the descent of the Columbia space shuttle, I've been trying to put my finger on exactly what it is that bugs me about space travel.

I've heard the arguments of my friends, and they all make sense. We need to understand our position in the universe. It is important to recognize that there is not an opposable "us" and "outer space" because Earth is part of outer space. It is a built-in human desire to quest for knowledge of what is considered beyond; to make an effort to shrink our perception of what is outside our attainability and expand our ideas of what always lies just within our reach. The exploration of outer space creates jobs, employs thinking processes in general, and ensures that there is indeed a use for algebra after high school.

My arch-nemesis Adam Brady asked incredulously, "Don't you look up at the stars at night and wonder, 'What's out there?'"

Of course, I agree with all the said benefits.

Reflections on the state of modern space travel

Tragedy shouldn't be the only reason we look to the sky

On it's way back from space this past Saturday, space shuttle Colombia was completely destroyed on reentry to Earth's atmosphere.

The wreckage was spread across two separate states from Louisiana to Texas, with random parts of the shuttle and its contents scattered across front yards and school playgrounds.

For some, this is an utter tragedy. The lives of loved ones and friends had suddenly come to an all too unexpected end. For others, this is the opportunity to start pointing fingers. Was it coincidence that the only Israeli ever to be in space was aboard the doomed shuttle? Did a missile from Iraq destroy the Columbia? Could terrorists have infiltrated our space program? Some people are as analytical about the situation as possible, pointing out the damage that may have occurred on take-off.

And still others simply have no opinion on the topic: they just don't care.

Nearly 50 years ago, Americans had a nearly attainable dream of traveling to the stars. The great beyond that was laid before us every night as the sun went down mesmerized our minds and inspired our imaginations. However, it wasn't until 1958 that a real effort was begun in response to the Soviet launch of the satellite Sputnik. A government program began an advance into space ahead of the communists, and NASA was formed. It was only a few years later when a president spoke to a special joint session of Congress on May 25, 1961:

"I believe this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the Moon and returning him safely to Earth. No single space project in this period will be more impressive to mankind, or more important in the long-range exploration of space; and none will be so difficult or expensive to accomplish."

Though John F. Kennedy would never live to see a man on the moon, his words rang true in the ears of those men and women who worked so hard to reach for the stars. Whether the sudden burst of interest in space was rooted in the red scare or not, we traveled to the moon and back.

Over 40 years later, our interests have turned almost completely away from space except from the occasional gripe about our malfunctioning satellite television. Most Americans can't even identify the shuttles we send into space, let alone tell you about the missions they perform.

Then tragedy strikes, and for a brief time, we all take a moment to become interested. But just as we did only a few years following the Challenger accident, we turn our eyes away again.

I don't know what happened to the Columbia, and though I'd love to theorize as to how it met its untimely demise, I won't. What I'd rather like to do is think about how we can progress. Maybe it's time we examine our methods of space travel and work hard to improve upon an already well-established institution.

It's time we as Americans stop turning our backs on the same stars we look to for answers on clear nights. We went to the moon several times already, explored a part of the surface of Mars and now we're in the process of building the first joint effort space station to orbit the Earth.

But why stop there?

Technology has come so far since Neil Armstrong became the first man to step on the surface of the moon so many years ago. Why can't it be one of us making that familiar mark on the dusty landscape of Mars?

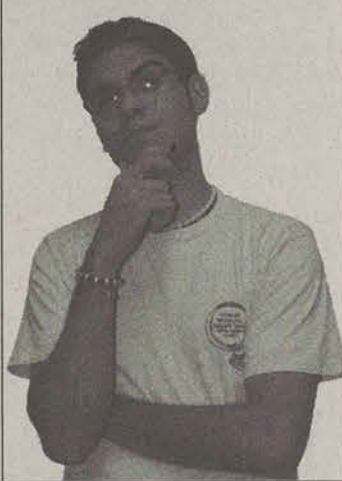
Maybe we as a people need to embrace the stars once again — to travel where no man has gone before. Accidents unfortunately do happen, and the loss of life is always unfortunate.

But that loss should never be in vain.

As long as we stay satisfied with our feet on the ground and the occasional news of tragedy, it's impossible that we'll ever succeed.

Adam Brady is the news editor of *The George-Anne*, and may be reached at that_guy@stouthouse.org.

ADAM BRADY



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Warning: Watching too many marijuana ads may result in blindness

This letter is in response to Mr. Adam Brady's column entitled "Smoking marijuana may result in dumb ads," which ran in *The George-Anne* on January 29, 2003.

I am one of those lucky enough to be a part of the rest of the American population that Mr. Brady mentioned in his column.

I too know the ads that he talked about. However, I do believe that he might be blind to some facts that were not mentioned in his column.

First, let me state that I understand that Mr. Brady's opinion is just that, an opinion, and I know that I must respect it as such. However, it is in my opinion that some of his views are a little flawed.

While being an avid fan of the television, I do tend to watch more than my fair share of its programming, and within the last week, due to Adam's column, I have been more aware of the PSA's that I have seen. It appears to me that beyond Super Bowl Sunday I have seen more ads for the prevention of smoking than I have for marijuana.

In his column, he asked his readers to realize that there is a double standard for marijuana use in respect to alcohol and tobacco products. I do realize this fact, and there is a perfectly logical explanation for the double standard. One of the three substances mentioned just happens to be illegal.

I feel, like some others that I have talked to, that the ads in this campaign are quite effective in showing some of the "possible" dangers of marijuana use. They place questions in the minds of the viewer about whether these situations could arise in their own life as a consequence of using marijuana. Many conclude that, yes there is a

possibility of these situations occurring in all of our lives. I mean if you put a bunch of pot smoking chimps in a room they will soon produce Shakespeare...or will they?

In response to Mr. Brady's feelings that marijuana has just now become the target of our government, I would ask that he and all people realize that the government has been trying to fight a war on drugs for quite some time.

While I will admit that marijuana may be the newest of the government's substances which we must try to protect our youth from, it is not a scapegoat to be sacrificed to the masses. It should be viewed as yet another problem that we are facing as a society today, just like underage drinking, teen violence, hate crimes, bad driving, off-color humor, bad animation, acne... Need I go on?

The reason that people might be emotionally affected by these ads, and not by the numerous others opposing smoking, drunk driving, etc., is because we have grown a tough skin to those that we have been exposed to for so long. I have, along with the rest of America, sat through over 18 years of those types of ad campaigns. You know, the ones that start with home video footage and the announcer with his deep somber voice saying, "This is little Johnny, he would be eighteen this year, getting ready to graduate, captain of the baseball team, ready to start life, if only he hadn't been killed by a drunk driver only three days after his fifth birthday."

They just don't carry as much weight in our hearts anymore, because the point seems old and trite.

Now for Mr. Brady's point that smoking weed in the bathroom seems pretty harmless, I guess that I too hold

the same view. How could that bastard of man dare to uphold the law, and stop those two poor boys from smoking weed in the bathroom? How dare he. Where does he get off? What nerve! All they were trying to do was have a little fun with marijuana. It wasn't his place to try to keep those young men from BREAKING THE LAW! What the hell was the matter with that man? I bet you he was high!

In truth, I think that this ad campaign is very informative to many people, as it goes through a checklist of "what ifs" that many might not have thought of on their own. It is just another way for our society to try to combat a problem in our era of Attention Deficit Disorders.

For those of us who are intelligent enough, or just high, they can be down right entertaining.

I applaud my counterpart Mr. Brady for his honesty. However, instead of just attacking the ads and their concepts, I wish that instead he could come forward with some viable alternatives to their approach toward this problem. It is the responsibility of all generations to provide for a better life for those to come. It is the aim of this most recent campaign to do so, by warding off the problem of marijuana use by our adolescents.

If nothing else we have all realized that if you do smoke pot, you will get pregnant, no questions asked.

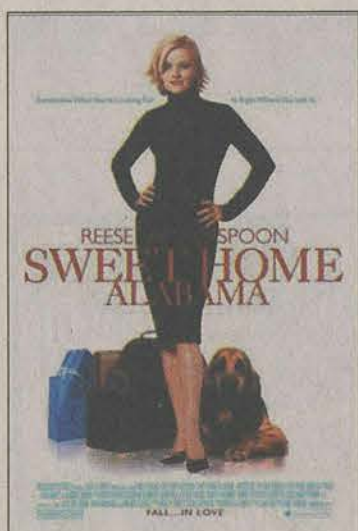
And if you believe that, then yes, I am just a pot-smoking chimp.

Kevin Goreham, GSU student
Nuwan Piyasena, GSU student

New Video Releases

Tuesday, Feb. 4

- 'Sweet Home Alabama'
- 'Journey of Man'
- 'Formula 51'
- 'Igby Goes Down'
- 'Ultimate X'
- 'Crazy as Hell'



Special Photo
Reese Witherspoon's summer hit is released on video Tuesday.

New Music Releases

Tuesday, Feb. 4

- Affinity**
Live Instrumentals 1969
Andre Afram Asmar
Race to the Bottom
Brandord Marsalis
Marsalis Family: A Jazz Celebration
Dare Devil Soundtrack
Dirt Bike Annie
It Ain't Easy Bein' Single
DJ Spinna
Here to There
Glass Candy
Love Love Love
Hawksley Workman
Delicious Wolves
Ian Gillan
Rarities 1975-77
Jaga Jazzist
Animal Chin
Jars of Clay
Furthermore: From the Studio to the Stage
Joan of Arc
So Much Staying Alive
Lee Rocker
Bulletproof
Lionel Richie
Definitive Collection
Mick Ralphs
That's Life

- P.B.T.**
Pimpin' My Pen
Reunion
Reunion
Saga
In Transit
The Beach Boys
Best of Beach Boys (Collectables)
The Chiffons
One Fine Day and Other Favorites
The Hollies
Best of Hollies
The Undead
First, Worst, and Cursed
The Walkabouts
Drunk Soundtracks
Uncurbed
Chords of Freedom



Special Photo
'Daredevil' soundtrack hits stores on Tuesday.

What do you think about the NASA tragedy?



Jessica Langley/STAFF

Justin Washington
Freshman, Biology

"I live in the Kennedy Space Center area, and I think it's terrible. It's even worse because we're going through all of this war crisis kind of stuff."



Jessica Langley/STAFF

Mark Porter
Freshman, Electrical Engineering

"It's a bit shocking. It's always shocking when something like this happens. At least morale is still running high."



Jessica Langley/STAFF

Carla Taylor
Junior, Early Childhood Education

"It was a very tragic incident. I hope there was no foul play involved and the surviving families [of the astronauts] make it through."



Jessica Langley/STAFF

Matthew Ellis
Senior, History

"It's a tough break, but it goes with the territory. It was the same sort of the thing with the Challenger. You hate that it happens, but it fails sometimes. It's a serious business flying into space."

PAGEANT, FROM PAGE 1

After the number ended, each contestant walked to the front of the runway and introduced themselves, their major, their hometown and their platform. Each contestant had a different platform, ranging from alcohol awareness, getting parents involved in child education, to suicide awareness.

SGA president, Jonathan Perkins, started the show by having a moment of silence for the Columbia shuttle explosion, and then introduced the Master of Ceremony for the event, Willie Ellington. Ellington, a 2002 graduate of GSU and former mascot and cheerleader, kept the audience in stitches, along with questioning the contestants during the Evening Wear portion. Ellington then introduced the five judges for the evening. Each had experience judging other pageants.

The pageant originally featured 18 contestants, but only 16 appeared last Saturday. Each was placed into three groups (blue, gold, and, white) participating in five competitions: Talent, Swimsuit, Evening Wear,

Private Interview and Overall Composite. Private Interview was the only event that the public did not get to see, as each contestant participated in a 12-minute interview with a judge.

One of the highlights of the evening was the Talent competition. There were seven dancers, five singers, two baton twirlers, one saxophone player, and one contestant artistically expressed herself by signing the words to a popular song.

Each participant scored points between the range of 1-10, and each event was weighed as a percentage of each participant's individual total score. Private Interview counted 40 percent, Talent made up 30 percent, Swimsuit, Evening Wear, and Overall Composite all counted 10 percent. The participant with the highest overall score won.

Two C.P.A.s, Harriet Anderson and Teresa K. DeLoach, both from Claxton, GA, audited all the scores to assure validity.

During Intermission, the public voted for the People's Choice Award,



Jessica Langley/STAFF

Divas Las Vegas was the theme for the 55th Annual Miss GSU Pageant held in the Russell Union this past Saturday.

which is in its second year, by paying a \$1 for a ticket. The People's Choice Award evolved to give the public some involvement with the pageant. All proceeds returned to Eagle Entertainment's budgets. Also, visiting representatives of other Miss Georgia preliminary pageants were introduced.

Miss GSU 2003 took much planning from Michael Terrell, Student Director and Janelle L. Lunsford, Ex-

ecutive Director and Activities Coordinator, who began as early as last year, to plan this event. Both would like to thank the Student Activities Center (SAC), Eagle Entertainment Traditions and Spirit Committees, as well as the Eagle Entertainment student volunteers, the Russell Union Staff and the A/V Technical Staff, as well as Adam Kennedy, field director for the Miss Georgia pageant for this area.

STEAKS • SEAFOOD



FINE SPIRITS • LIVE MUSIC

RETRIEVERS

STEAKPIT & SHELLHOUSE

MONDAY

Trivia with Abbott & Geoff
Win Shots and Weekly Prizes
Monthly \$250 Prize

All food Specials start at 5pm and Drinks at 9pm

Hamburger Combo \$4.99

AYCE Crawfish \$13.99

\$2 Domestic

\$2 Vodkas

\$2.50 Jagar Shots

WEDNESDAY

Ladies Night

DJ Tony

Low Country Boil \$9.99

Fried or Grilled Chicken Finger

Salad \$4.99

\$2.50 Absolut Lemondrop

\$2 Wells

Penny Hunch Punch

(ladies only, 9pm-11pm)

FRIDAY

Exactus

Steak & Shrimp w/2 sides \$10.99

Fried or Grilled Chicken Fingers \$4.99

\$2.50 Rumpleminz

\$2 Bourbons

\$2 Sour Amarettos

TUESDAY

Locals Only

AYCE Wings \$7.49

Fried or Grilled Chicken

Fingers \$4.99

\$2 Coors & Coors Lite

\$2.50 Blackhawks

THURSDAY

Ethan & The Ewoks

Grilled or Fried

Chicken Sandwich combo \$4.99

AYCE Steamed Oysters \$13.99

\$2.50 Coronas

\$2 Vodkas

\$2.50 Jose Cuervo

SATURDAY

Black-Eyed Susan

AYCE Wings \$7.49

AYCE Crablegs \$19.99

Fried or Grilled Chicken

Finger salad \$4.99

50¢ Sex on the Beach (9-11)

\$2 Miller Lite

\$2.50 Goldschlager shots

No Cover Mon-Sat before 9 pm

ALL DAY EVERY DAY \$10 Buckets, \$5 Pitchers and \$1.50 16 oz Drafts -PBR

!! HAPPY HOUR !! 3pm-6pm M-F, 11-6pm Sat 2 For 1 Appetizer

HAPPY HOUR 2 for 1 Liquor. 1.75 Domestic bottles 3-9pm Mon-Fri, Sa

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