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SPORTS

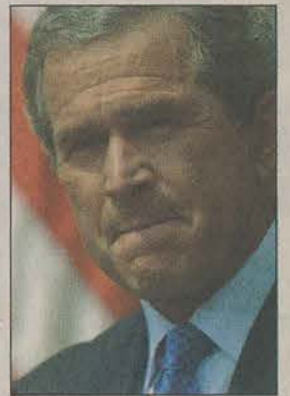
Learn more about the man who stays on the sidelines Page 6



The GEORGE-ANNE www.stp.gasou.edu

NEWS

President Bush speaks before the United Nations



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September 24, 2003

Wednesday

Volume 76, Number 28

SOUTHERN PRIDE

GSU's hard-working marching band thrives on crowd support



Lavene Bell/STAFF

Members of Southern Pride, GSU's marching band, prepare to perform to a crowded Paulson Stadium at half-time.

By Dane Auensen DAuensen@gasou.edu

Georgia Southern's marching band exhibits Southern "pride" at its finest.

Comparable to Gus and the GSU cheerleaders, all two hundred band members show great amounts of dedication to the university by practicing everyday from 4 - 6p.m., and for hours on Saturdays before home game performances.

All practices are supposed to be held at Pride Field located directly behind Paulson Stadium. However, the band ran into a bit of a predicament a few months ago.

Directly behind Pride Field is a swamp. In the swamp live beavers. Evidence has shown that beavers must not care for marching bands playing in their back yard because they built a dam, which aided the already relentless rainfall, yielding the outcome of an unusable, waterlogged Pride Field.

The marching band had to relocate to Statesboro high school's football field, and then to the Recreational Activities Center's (RAC) practice field.

Though the work is no doubt tough, a cooperative harmony is always exhibited. Mark Kapral, current drumline music arranger, technical advisor and a snare line marcher said, "Since there are so many new people in the drumline (and in the band) this year, they are all pulling together drawing all of their lack of experience and confusion, attempting to provide and receive as much aid as possible."

Dr. Matt Fallin, director, mentioned that he is particularly proud of the band's new instrumentation - the band has added many sousaphones and other low brass instruments, creating a stronger, deeper ensemble sound. Dr. Fallin said that last year, "they had to blow their brains out [in order to balance]."

Andrew Lloyd Webber, probably the most famous Broadway musical writers, originally wrote the arrangements for the half time show for this year. The first tune is "Jesus Christ Superstar."

Performed by marching bands and drum corps since the seventies, "this is truly an exciting piece" according to Fallin. The second tune is called "Jellicle Ball" and the third tune, coming straight out of the Broadway hit "Cats" is called "Skimbleshanks." This third tune contains the drum feature. This is comparatively more difficult than drum features in years

See Band Page 5

GSU student reported missing

By Brandon Sparks msparks@gasou.edu

Police need your help to find Ardena "Dena" Marie Carter.

Carter is described by Statesboro Police Department Terry Briley as a black female, 5'10", slender build, weighing approximately 130 pounds - though she is 24 weeks pregnant and beginning to show. Carter has black hair usually worn pulled back, and brown eyes. Dena usually has in her possession a large green book bag with wheels. She is working towards her Masters of Education, focusing on the Science Education Program.



Carter

See Carter, Page 5

ASC and COBA sponsor appreciation day for students

By Brian Lug blug@gasou.edu

Though for generations business professors have been trying to teach their students that there is no such thing as a free lunch, Tuesday at the College of Business Administration they came close to proving themselves wrong.

Faculty and staff working in a combined effort between the Academic Success Center and COBA showed how much they appreciate the students by greeting them between classes with smiles, words of gratitude, and of course, food.

With the smell of popcorn filling the air in every classroom, students had no problem finding their way to the table where their teachers graciously filled their stomachs and their minds.

As soon as the students walked into the building they were greeted by a number of professors and staff from the Academic Success Center. Noticing that many of the students had just woken up and the cloudy

weather wasn't helping any, they were offered a coke and some popcorn to help perk up.

Many of the students didn't know there was an event planned and asked why they were getting appreciated. "It's a dreary day, we want to cheer you up," responded the group.

Students were given the chance to speak with their teachers outside of the classroom. "We want to get to know the students," confided Jimmie Earle, "and let them know we are people too."

Mrs. Earle, an Instructor of Management and the COBA Event Coordinator, put a lot of work into setting up this event. By having faculty serve the food and drinks, students were informed that teachers do care about their students beyond their classroom attendance and test scores.

People from the Academic Success Center played a large roll in setting up these events for students. Janet O'Brien, director of the Academic

See COBA, Page 5

GSU Defeats Mercer 2-1

Gast makes seven saves in Eagle win

G-A News Service

Vikki Corbitt's goal 27 minutes into the contest proved to be the game-winner as Georgia Southern defeated Mercer 2-1 in non-conference women's soccer action Monday afternoon at Eagle Field.

With Georgia Southern (3-4-0) leading 1-0, Mary-Kate Talbott served the ball into the box on a corner kick. Christie Nipaver received the pass and dumped it to Corbitt on the right side, who sent the ball past charging Bear keeper Lauren Burch for her second goal of the season.

The Eagles jumped out to a 1-0 lead on a Katy Znosko score at the 10:39 mark. Jessica Rice's shot was deflected by Burch, but Katie Szeghalmi gained control and passed to the left side where a waiting Znosko fired the ball off a Mercer defender and into the back of the net.

Trailing 2-0, Mercer (3-4-1) cut its

deficit in half during the 41st minute of play. Christy Cantrell gained control of the ball just past midfield and passed ahead to Meryll Davis on the left side. Davis proceeded to find Sarah Tummons, who sent a blast over the hand of Eagle keeper Kari Gast to cut Georgia Southern's lead to 2-1.

The two teams battled to a draw the remainder of the game as the two defenses took control of the game. Overall, Gast made seven saves for the Eagles while Burch made five for the Bears.

Georgia Southern owned a 12-11 advantage in shots, although Mercer owned an 8-7 advantage in shots on goal. Georgia Southern also owned a 4-2 advantage in corner kicks.

Georgia Southern returns to action Friday, September 26 when it travels to Athens, Ga. to face South Carolina in the first round of the UGA/Nike Tournament at 5:00 p.m.



Special to the G-A

Keeper Kari Gast made seven saves to help the GSU women's soccer team defeat Mercer 2-1.

GRADUATE STUDIES SPOTLIGHT

Expanding technology education program offers more options

By Jessica Luber jluber@gasou.edu

Are you interested in a Masters of Technology?

Dr. David Williams, the Master of Technology (MT) program coordinator, explained in a published statement that, "The Master of Technology degree is very similar to a Master of Science degree with an emphasis in Technology and offers study options specific to fields of study in technology."

The type of jobs that this degree offers depends on the focus of study you choose. "Student who choose the more traditional study options are typically employed as mid-level technical managers," Williams stated, "and safety professionals in manufacturing and printing companies like Briggs & Stratton, Gulfstream Aerospace, John Deere, Quad Graphics, etc."

With the new study options being offered in Environmental Studies and Information Technology, students are now preparing for positions in expanding fields of information technology in business, industry, and education, as well as government positions associated with environment agencies.

There are many different study options (concentrations) that are offered here at Georgia Southern University.

See Grad, Page 5

Weekday Weather

Wednesday

HIGH 85°



LOW 64°

Partly Cloudy

Thursday

HIGH 85°



LOW 63°

Partly Cloudy

Only in America

- Overworked Pennsylvania engineer leaves train on busy intersection.
Nebraska inmate complains about children-sized meal portions.
Michigan woman becomes head of underground household.

Page 3

Opinions

- Amanda Permenter eagerly anticipates the annual Kiwanis fair.
Brandon Sparks argues the injustices of discriminating against legally-wedded gay couples.

Page 4

Sports

- SoCon Football building steam heading into the fifth week of play.
See what one GSU fan has to say about Eagle Football - among other things.

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Inside

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Police Beat

09-19-03

Officers assisted three motorists, assisted one injured person and investigated two accidents.

09-20-03

Officers assisted one motorist.

A set of wind chimes was taken from Southern Pines.

Someone removed three bicycle seats from bikes at the Cone Hall bike rack.

09-21-03

Officers assisted one motorist and responded to two fire alarms.

A case of criminal trespass was reported at Southern Pines.

Bobby Andre Parker, 19, Kennesaw, was charged with criminal trespass.

Young Williams IV, 18, Watson Hall, was charged with possession of marijuana.

09-22-2003

Christopher Edwards Glascoe, 18, of 211 Lanier Drive, Statesboro, was charged with DUI and improper starting.

Someone set a bulletin board on fire at Southern Courtyard.

Officers issued one traffic warning, investigated three traffic accidents and assisted six motorists.

- All Police Beat information is compiled by J. Wright, news editor.

Correction:

The headline in the Monday, September 22 edition of *The George-Anne*, "Eagles lose two in a row for the first time since 1997," was incorrect.

GSU Football has not lost two consecutive games to the same team since 1997.

Triangle Club transitions to GSA

By Luke M. Hearn
lheard@gasou.edu

GSU has a new organization on campus, open to all students, called the Gay Straight Alliance, or GSA for short.

This organization evolved from the group called Triangle, which has been present on campus for the past few years. The transition came at the end of last semester when then co-president of Triangle and now current co-president of GSA, DeMarc Campbell, decided that Triangle wasn't quite as welcoming to all that its mission statement included. Not just a group for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities, or GLBT, Triangle's mission statement also included

the allies of these communities, and according to Campbell, "the allies weren't represented."

GSA was formed to make all people feel more welcome, with a new structure and mission statement "to create and establish bridges of understanding and compassion for gay, straight, and anything in between the whole spectrum of sexuality." "No longer is our mission separation—it's equality, and that's what it's all about," says Campbell.

The purpose of GSA is not one of a crusade, and they're on no mission to change the world or its views. They are here on campus to be a place where people with a common interest can come together, have fun, and be who and what they want to be, regardless of what others think.

The one main goal for GSA this year is to become better known. This past weekend they set up a booth at Savannah Pride, an event held to al-

low those of the GLBT community to come out and get together in a festival type setting. There are many vendors and shows, as well as other activities. At Savannah Pride, GSA was able to do some networking, making some contacts with other GSA groups, including the one at Savannah College of Art and Design.

With the month of October being "National Coming Out Month," GSA will have some activities planned. On October 11, which is "National Coming Out Day," they plan to have a booth set up at the Russell Union Rotunda, with definite plans for the day still in the planning stages. The purpose of coming out month and day is to encourage people to be strong enough to be themselves and to not let what people may think hinder them from showing their true identities.

Other events planned for the year include outings with group members, and possibly a drag pageant. This

pageant would be entertainment, as well as a sort of leaning experience to open people's eyes to the drag and transgender communities.

GSA is a national organization more predominant in high schools, but Campbell feels that the name implies that all are welcome, and he also hopes that those coming to GSU that were involved in GSA in their high schools will feel a more natural transition.

The GSA meetings are held every other Wednesday at 7:00pm in Russell Union room 2071. Their next meeting is on October 1 and is open to all students. The group is governed by two co-presidents, secretary, treasurer, and a faculty advisor.

For further information, you can reach co-president DeMarc Campbell at rebirthbyfire@hotmail.com. The group also has a group listed with Yahoo Groups at GSAofGSU@yahoo.com.

Campus Calendar

Sept. 23

Volleyball - The Citadel at GSU
7 p.m.
Hanner Fieldhouse

Sept. 24

Hispanics in Business and Industry.
Noon
IT Building Room 2206
This panel discussion will focus on opportunities that are available to Spanish speaking individuals in the corporate world. This program will feature two special agents from the FBI.

Meningitis Immunization Program
1 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Russell Union Room 2047

Cost of Immunization is \$90 and will be payable by cash, personal check or credit card.

Sept. 25

Men's Soccer - Jacksonville at GSU.

4 p.m.
Eagle Field

Faculty Recital
7:30 p.m.
Trinity Episcopal Church
Tamara Watson Harper, soprano;
Karla Qualls, piano

Sept. 26

Ribbon Cutting for Arts Building
3 p.m.
Arts Building
The building is now the new home

of the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art. Mrs. Sanders and former Gov. Carl Sanders are both expected to attend the ceremony. The university community and public are invited to attend the ceremony as well as tour the building following the event.

Sept. 27

Football - Chattanooga at GSU
6 p.m.
Paulson Stadium
Military Appreciation Day

Sept. 28

Men's Soccer - Appalachian State at GSU
1 p.m.
Eagle Field

Sept. 29

19th Annual LeConte Lecture
11 a.m.

Biology Building Auditorium
William C. Campbell will present "Hope is in Sight: Progress in the control of River Blindness" Campbell's research helped control one of the major causes of blindness in sub-Saharan Africa.

Sept. 30

Focus on Excellence lecture
4 p.m.
IT Building Professional Learning Center.

David Rostal, associate professor of biology, will be the first speaker in the Focus on Excellence Award Series. His lecture is titled "From Chelonians to Archosaurs: Studies in Reproductive Biology." A reception will follow the presentation.



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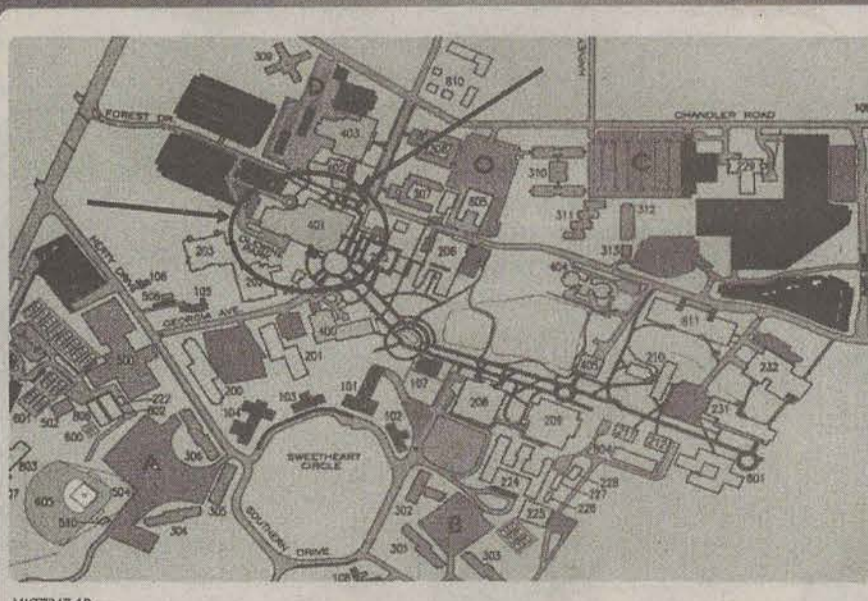
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1 Pennsylvania

Freight train engineer stops in intersection claiming he had exceeded work hours

POTTSTOWN - A freight train engineer who said he had exceeded the number of hours he could work stopped his train in a downtown intersection for two hours and refused to move, police said.

The engineer, whose name was not released, told police he was instructed by his supervisor to stop the train after passing the intersection Friday. But he didn't pull the train far enough forward to raise the intersection's crossing gates.

He told officers he had passed the limits set by federal law, which restrict the maximum hours engineers may operate a train without being replaced, police said.

Police and fire officials directed traffic around the gates until a second engineer arrived and moved the train.

2 California

Man barricades himself inside shoe store, says he wants job

MANHATTAN BEACH - A man barricaded himself inside a beachfront shoe store holding police back for hours after telling negotiators he was unemployed, police said Sunday.

A standoff began at 5:30 p.m. Saturday when the man entered the store with his hands in his pockets. The man told everyone to leave and patrons who believed a robbery was imminent called police.

Negotiations continued early Sunday.

"We don't know exactly what his intentions were, although he did make threats against the employees and patrons' lives," said Lt. Tony Digenova. He added that the unidentified man told negotiators he was concerned about finding a job.

Officers from at least three agencies responded to the scene, and some businesses were evacuated, said Lt. Dale Reissig. The nearby beach and portions of the pier also were blocked off.

3 Nebraska

Judge denies inmates' complaint about quantity of jail food

GRAND ISLAND - A judge has refused to super size jail meals.

District Judge James Livingston has dismissed a complaint filed by three Hall County jail inmates, who complained they were not getting enough to eat.

Michael R. Lloyd, Emmett L. Davidson and Thomas L. Friedrichsen Jr. claimed in the emergency relief motion that there are not enough calories in each meal.

They also claimed an inmate with hepatitis had worked in the kitchen. Their filing Monday did not specify what type of hepatitis, and some types are not communicable.

County Corrections Director Dave Arnold said his department contracts out for the food with a company, Aramark, that has a registered dietician on staff. The food meets all state standards, Arnold said.

Inmates who work in the jail are questioned about their health and if necessary are tested for possible communicable diseases, Arnold said.

Confidentiality laws prevented him from commenting on the inmate named in the filing, Arnold said.

4 Michigan

Woman's home maintenance consists of picking Black-eyed Susans off the roof

MARQUETTE - Lorana Jinkerson was cutting her grass when the lawn mower sailed off the roof. That's when she decided to make some changes in her underground home.

First she had the sod removed from the roof. Then she installed a drip irrigation system and planted daisies and Black-eyed Susans. The lawnmower problem was solved, no more rooftop grass to cut.

Needless to say, Jinkerson does not have a conventional home.

"I just don't like what everybody else does," she said.

The house's differences didn't have to grow on her. When the real estate agent showed her the house in 1993, she was immediately smitten.

"This is my home," she said.

At the time she was a new arrival from the Lower Peninsula, divorced and house hunting in Marquette. She had just been hired by Northern Michigan University to teach education technology.

The house was at least 10 years old then. It was built in the 1980s by local contractors Charles, Sanford and David Drury, who called their business North Country Terra Dome.

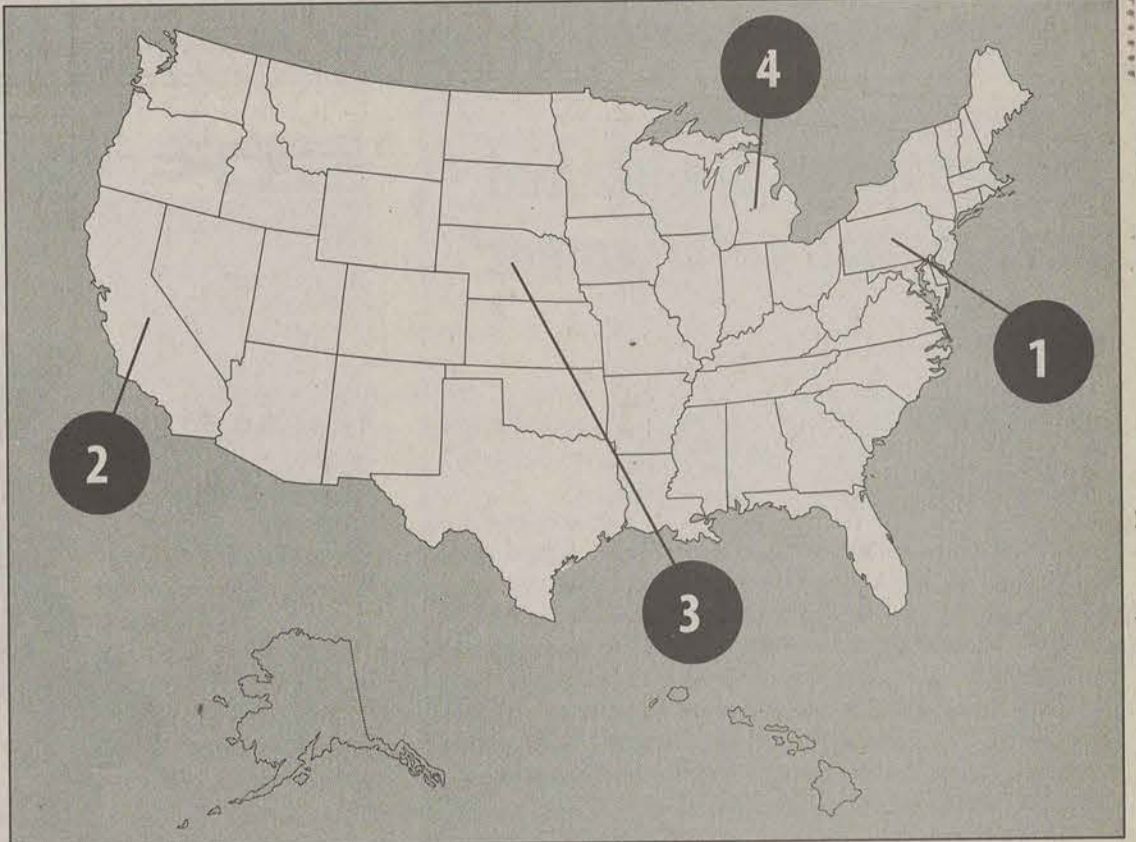
The homes Jinkerson had owned with her ex-husband were also very contemporary, but nothing like living underground.

Without any other information, just the sound of life in such an environment usually makes people cringe. They think dark. They think damp.

"It's not a cave," Jinkerson said. "It's not a den. It's not dark."

Indeed, it's just the opposite.

The main entrance, a wall of glass, opens to the south. Visitors walk into a bright room. The ceilings are



arched domes without sharp right angles. The living spaces are soft and welcoming.

There are only two rooms without windows or skylights - a utility closet and an interior guest bathroom.

It's very energy efficient. Jinkerson turns off the heat at night in the winter and the temperature never drops below 60 degrees. On the hottest summer days, even without fans, the warmest the house has been is 74 degrees.

She is very happy living underground and is puzzled when people say: "I like your house, but I couldn't have one."

They're concerned about two things, Jinkerson said: "First of all, people are afraid of being different."

That's never been a problem for her. Growing up in a small town in a large family on a farm, there was one certainty: she was determined to be different.

"I did not want to be a farmer's wife," she said. "And I said, 'I'm getting out of this place.'"

She didn't have many role mod-

els. Women in her world were either farm wives, secretaries or teachers. She chose the latter path and proceeded to fashion a distinctive life for herself.

Besides a reluctance to be different, people warn her that she'll have a hard time selling the house. Jinkerson said it's not a point she has ever considered.

"I buy a house for myself," she

said. "Not for resale."

There have been very few problems. First there was the trial with lawn mowing and then a couple of leaks in the roof. When she had the sod removed, a rubber roof was installed. The leaks stopped and now the house just requires routine maintenance and repairs.

"Every house has problems," she said. "I would not trade it."

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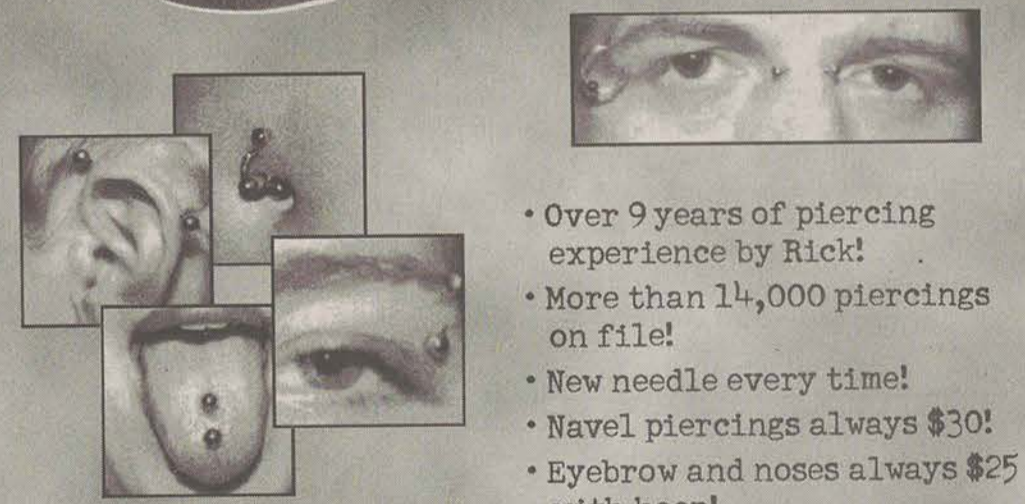


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OPINIONS

Pigskin meets pig-headed immigration enforcement

By Joe Rodriguez
KRT Campus

Leaders of this war on terrorism can't find Osama bin Laden or weapons of mass destruction, but they sure know how to tackle a high school football player.

Ahmad Amin, an 18-year-old Pakistani and tight end for the Cupertino High School Pioneers, was slapped with a deportation order recently from the federales. His older brother, Hassan, received a deportation order, too, only his came with a night in a county jail.

Their crime? Bad advice from an immigration lawyer a few years ago led to the expiration of their visitors visas. Even though they had applied for green cards, even though they had voluntarily registered after Sept. 11, 2001, even though their eldest brother is a U.S.-born citizen, they couldn't catch a break from the hard-liners at the new Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

You never know. Any terrorist can hide under a football helmet. "I just want to graduate from high school," Amin said at the time. "My dream is for this to be over."

And so it may. Apparently, a dose of common sense surfaced at the Department of Homeland Security. The department has delayed the deportations, which will allow the Hassan brothers to apply for temporary visas. It means Ahmad can go back to high school and his brother can return to junior college without fear, at least for now.

"Maybe I can think about a university," Hassan said. There may be a happy ending after all, but that's more relief than something to cheer about. Had the story of the Hassan brothers not appeared in the San Jose Mercury News, the boys might have been next in line for a one-way ticket to Pakistan.

Before Sept. 11, 2001, visa expirations rarely led to quick deportations, especially for law-abiding immigrants with relatives who have legal status here. These matters were taken care of administratively. All that changed after Sept. 11.

Once the visa of an Arab, Muslim or Middle Eastern man expires - for whatever reason - he becomes an instant suspect and target of post-attack paranoia.

About 13,000 primarily Arab and Middle Eastern men and boys face deportation after voluntarily registering with immigration officials, a program created by Homeland Security after learning that the Sept. 11 terrorists had held valid visas. Once deported, they are permanently barred from returning.

The war on terrorism is looking more like a war on immigrants. We might as well have the Statue of Liberty dump the torch and hold up a pair of handcuffs.

Soon after Sept. 11 and passage of the Patriot Act, the government rounded up more than 700 immigrants, held them in secret, and then deported scores of them on visa violations, none with links to terrorism. Then the FBI knocked on 8,000 doors for "voluntary" interrogations.

Last December, the agency formerly known as the Immigration and Naturalization Service jailed hundreds of Arab and Middle Eastern men in the Los Angeles area because it couldn't process the rush of immigrants meeting the reporting deadline. The agency admitted to bungling the process only after being accused of ethnic cleansing.

Now we have a high school student-athlete and his brother under watch. Their lives have been upended and the ideals of freedom and inclusion have been sacked.

I don't know what's scarier, immigration enforcement with unbridled power or immigration enforcement with half a brain.



Classic fall fun on the way

Guess what's only six days away! A fair is one of the most romantic things ever to exist - and by romantic I mean rich, atmospheric, engaging.

It's magical... A life alive for just a few days. Then it disappears, and the fairgrounds are a ghost yard again. The sights and sounds - all the sensations, really - are enticingly strange. It's pure joy, and seems to leave so deftly. It's all so odd and fleeting, in fact, that when it's gone you wonder if you might've dreamt it.

It's a lot like love. Who has never fantasized about running away to join the carnival?

I love the smells. The thick and tempting aroma of hot dough from funnel cakes. The sneeze-inducing fineness of the powdered sugar atop them. Something meaty and skewered; doesn't matter what. The aroma of red dirt reaped apart all over by the relentless pressure of thousands of feet and the hundreds of tons of steel in the carnival rides. Two llamas and six goats at the petting zoo, the sight of which (for some purely organic reason, and despite their odors) attract endless crowds of people. Stagnant pools of water in the duckie-ring-toss tent. Sweat. Straw. Autumn.

I love the sounds: Laughter. Screams. Chatter. The solicitous hollers of carnies manning booth games. The whir of spinning rides as they interrupt the stillness of the October air with unnatural centrifugal force. The slow footsteps of older couples who've left their rat race worries at the edge of the fairgrounds. The hurried patter of small shoes on children who can't arrive quickly enough to the back of the next line of ticket-clutching thrill-seekers. People stumbling dizzily off the grooved metal platforms that surround all

the rides. Balloons popping. The creaking of a million oxidized mechanical joints. Music. Loud. Half a dozen different genres blasting in competition from the fun house to the merry-go-round. Bullhorns. Buzzers. Bells.

The sights: Lights. Lights upon lights upon lights. People of all ages, shapes, colors, sizes, faiths. Countless black electrical cords, as thick as a forearm, snaking around through the straw-covered ground, leading to the dark crevices between rides - where young ones hide and kiss. Prizes. Stuffed ones, inflated ones, paper ones, plastic ones. The moon, vying for attention over the scene. Every color imaginable, but all bathed in the yellowish tint produced by a mixture of dust clouds and glare. Skin. Chances. Children.

I love the sensations: Cool wind, and traces of a distinctly southern humidity that is reluctant to release summer and embrace fall. Slippery straw on the hard earth. The softness of plush bears. Taste. Fullness. Spinning. Nausea. The texture of flimsy, perforated cardboard tickets moistened by sweaty hands and speckled by pocket lint. Smooth, pliable rubber balloons and inflated plastic animals. Sticky fingers from caramel, candy, cotton, coke, cash.

Height. Motion. Relief. It's all there for the shortest while. Not free... But worth every penny.

Amanda Permenter is the editor-in-chief of The George-Anne and can be reached at gaiditor@gasou.edu.



Amanda Permenter
editor-in-chief

I love the sounds... The hurried patter of small shoes on children who can't arrive quickly enough to the back of the next line of ticket-clutching thrill-seekers.

Thoughts of the Day

• "If men and women are in chains, anywhere in the world, then freedom is endangered everywhere." - John Fitzgerald Kennedy

• "It gives me great pleasure to see the stubbornness of an incorrigible nonconformist warmly acclaimed." - Albert Einstein

• "The test of a first-rate intelligence is the ability to hold two opposed ideas at the same time, and still retain the ability to function." - F. Scott Fitzgerald

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The George-Anne welcomes letters to the editor, story submissions and guest columns from people both inside and outside the GSU community. All copy submitted should be typed, preferably via email or on Macintosh disk in Microsoft Word 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.

Gay marriage: Why the hell not?

You know, the more I read the news and watch television, the more and more I get pissed. The latest thing to upset me happened last week. Who is the target of my frustration this time? The answer is very simple: The United States government.

Wait, to be more exact, the U.S. Customs department.

Last Thursday, U.S. Customs refused to allow Canada's first legally married homosexuals, Kevin Bourassa and Joe Varnell, to enter our country after a U.S. Customs official at Toronto Pearson International Airport denied their border-crossing paperwork.

The couple only did what any married couple would do. They filled out a form as a married couple rather than as single individuals. Every other married couple from Canada can enter the country by filling out this form. What is the difference between a legal homosexual marriage and a legal straight marriage?

I'll tell you what separates them: Nothing. They are both legal marriages between two people who love each other. If they did not, they would not have bothered to pledge themselves to each other for the rest of their lives.

The most ironic part of the situation is that the couple was on their way to Braselton, Georgia to take part in a civil rights conference. God Bless America and her civil rights!

The problem that I have is that so many people, both straight and homosexual, rush into the union of marriage, only to end it in divorce. Who has the right to say it is wrong for anyone not to want to enter into this union?

We don't condemn a wedding between a man and woman by saying their marriage is not right in the eyes of God simply because they will, more likely than not, get a divorce in five years. What we do is go to the wedding, say how nice the couple looked at the altar, and wait for that phone call to say that they are moving on and getting a divorce.

The question I ask is: How can the U.S. Government, or any democratic government for that matter, stand up and say that two people who love each other should not be allowed to be legally married?

Do not say that it is because God says it's wrong. Am I wrong in saying that here in America there is something called separation between church and state? That way there is no religious content to the argument.

Now, on to the bigger question here. What gives the U.S. the right to say that because you are gay, you are not allowed to come into this country? These two guys are legally married in Canada and, whether or not that law is applicable here, it's obvious that they were victims of blatant discrimination.

Do we deny people of other nations where polygamy is acceptable the right to enter the U.S. because that is illegal in this country?

We're so culturally inept that I have to wonder... Is there even a form for that?

Ellen DeGeneres spoke on a recent HBO special about gay marriage and quoted religious-right opponents of gay marriages as saying "if you let same-sex couples marry, people will fight to marry animals."

"I can't imagine marrying a goat," she says. "I can't even imagine dating a goat."

Now, if this argument is true, then the religious right is either perverted or it is comparing homosexuals to animals. Either way, I am appalled.

Can we, as humans and as Americans, embrace each other and not point fingers? Or am I hoping for too much there?

Brandon Sparks is the assistant news editor of The George-Anne and can be reached at mspark@gasou.edu.



Brandon Sparks
assistant news editor

What is the difference between a legal homosexual marriage and a legal straight marriage?

BAND, FROM PAGE 1

because of the complicated musical time signatures.

There's one thing that Dr. Fallin would like to tell students at the football games: "Audience reaction greatly influences the band."

If the fans get up on their feet and

cheer after tunes like they do when GSU scores a touchdown, then the band will get pumped up. Their subsequent performance will prove this.

"This Saturday, let them know that you appreciate them," Fallin added.

COBA, FROM PAGE 1

Success Center, gave me a lot of insight as to why the school has these events. "After going to SOAR and hearing how glad we are they chose

Georgia Southern," she explains, "their enthusiasm seems to die down."

Even if a student doesn't have any classes in the COBA building, they do not need to worry about not being appreciated. Events like this one are to be held in all major departments across campus through out the school year. This is an effort by a number of different departments to show students that there are many parts and programs within the University, and that they

all work together.

Each event for the students will be different and interesting. Some departments may choose to show their appreciation by giving out snacks and free pencils; other departments may do something totally different. Students need to keep their eyes out for more of these events.

Aside from the pamphlets, free note pads, and drinks, students got to see how their professors are there when needed and willing to do what they can to make their day a bit easier. Many students also let their teachers know that they appreciate them too.

CARTER, FROM PAGE 1

Carter was last seen on September 11, 2003 at approximately 7:30 p.m., being dropped off at her apartment complex, University Point. She had told friends that she was going to be walking to Henderson Library.

A spokesman for the GSU Public Safety said that "when we are investigating a missing persons case, we contact the roommates and friends to make sure that the person is really semi-missing, and not just out of town for a while. Then we check with professors to see if the student has been missing class. We will also work as liaisons with the Statesboro police department and assist them with whatever help they may need. Because Ms. Carter was living off-campus it is their case, but we have been involved with the case."

Detective Briley, who was contacted by Carter's family, says that they have been trying to draw a time-line to trace her last known steps,

"We go through every part of her

life to see if we can find her, including finances and phone calls."

Carter, according to her pastor Anthony Chavers of the Agape Worship Center taught Sunday school at Agape, and is a "very friendly and outgoing person. She was there when other people were not. She has been one of our most loyal members since she came to us almost two and a half years ago. It is because of this that we have decided to ask our friends to help us.

We are currently working on a mass email with people that are our friends that are any where from Philadelphia to California.

A group of church members will travel to pick up Carter's mother who is visiting family in Columbus.

We are also creating flyers to be handed out on GSU's campus and in the city of Statesboro to see if anyone can help us find our beloved member. "We are praying very hard for her safe return" he added.

Appeals court rules recall election to proceed Oct. 7

KRT Campus

WALNUT CREEK, Calif. - California's gubernatorial recall election must occur Oct. 7 as scheduled, a federal appeals court ruled Tuesday, overturning an earlier court order postponing the historic vote until March.

The American Civil Liberties Union, which had sought the delay, said it wouldn't appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. That cleared what is likely the last legal obstacle from the path to Election Day.

"With the election just two weeks away, we do not believe we should prolong the uncertainty any longer," the civil rights group said in a statement. "At this point, it is important that the candidates, the campaigns and the voters know that the election will be held on a date that is certain."

Tuesday's decision by an 11-member panel of the San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals came less than 24 hours after the judges, in a courtroom packed with news media and the public, heard vigorous arguments for and against delaying the election.

At issue was whether six counties' planned use of error-prone punch-card ballots - the kind used in Florida's controversial 2000 presidential election - would disenfranchise some 40,000 voters when voters go to the polls. The ACLU argued that using

the punch cards would violate the Constitution's assurance that all votes would be counted equally. It also contended that the balloting would violate the federal Voting Rights Act, which bars voting discrimination on the basis of race.

The ACLU sought to delay the election until March, when more accurate voting machines will be used in all 58 counties in California.

The appeals court ruled that the ACLU's claims were too speculative to warrant such drastic action, noting, for instance, that some 500,000 voters already have cast absentee ballots.

"Interference with impending elections is extraordinary, and interference with an election after voting has begun is unprecedented," the judges wrote.

A spokesman for Gov. Gray Davis' campaign to beat the recall said the Democratic governor was as prepared as ever to settle up with voters.

"We are ready to beat the recall on Oct. 7," Peter Ragone said in a statement. "It is time to move forward, but it is now doubly important that counties do everything in their power to make sure every single vote is counted."

Earlier in the campaign, Davis, citing the same problem with punch-card ballots that the ACLU raised, had asked the state Supreme Court to delay the election until March. The justices denied his



KRT Campus

California Secretary of State Kevin Shelley talked to the media on Tuesday, after a decision by an 11-member panel of the 9th U.S. Court of Appeals to allow the Governor recall election to proceed on Oct. 7.

request, and since then Davis hasn't fought the recall in court.

Arnold Schwarzenegger, one of two prominent Republicans who are running to replace Davis, praised the appeals court's decision.

"This legal process has made clear that a March election would deprive the people of California the opportunity to vote without delay and without confusion," the actor said in a statement.

GRAD, FROM PAGE 1

"First," Williams stated, "the more traditional study options, which require an undergraduate degree in a related field like technology or engineering are Manufacturing/Industrial Management, Industrial Safety & Environmental Compliance, Printing Management, and Laser Technology, which requires an undergraduate degree in Physics."

There are also two popular interdisciplinary study options. They include Information Technology and Environmental Studies.

These study options do not require specific undergraduate degrees in order to be accepted. These study options were designed for people who want to change their career path or broaden their horizons.

The School of Technology and other colleges on campus, such as Business, Information Technology, Biology, all work together to offer courses that support the MT degree of study to provide a more comprehensive education. Williams stated, "The Information Technology study option requires courses in Computer Information Systems, Com-

puter Science, and Management, along with courses in the School of Technology. The expertise in these disciplines is necessary to provide the preparation for career in these areas.

As the College of Information Technology expands into graduate education, the Information Technology study option will likely be reorganized into the College of Information Technology.

This degree program is not new. In fact, the first graduate of this program graduated in 1973. Since then, more than 130 Master of Technology degrees have been awarded. You can find the MT program in the College of Science and Technology, located in the Technology Building.

But what are the requirements for acceptance? There must be a completion of a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university with a GPA of at least a 2.5 and a combined score of 900 on the verbal and quantitative sections of the Graduate Record Examinations.

When one is accepted into the program, they can choose either a thesis or non-thesis track. The

core courses range from 9 to 12 hours a semester. Restrictive electives, which are courses selected from a list of course offerings for each study option that are chosen in consultation with your assigned advisor, range between 18-27 hours in a semester.

In total, a thesis track requires a total of 33 semester hours and a non-thesis track requires a total of 36 semester hours for degree.

To apply, you can visit online at <http://cogs.georgiasouthern.edu>. If you would like more information, you can contact Mike Backus of the College of Graduate Studies, at mbackus@gasou.edu. The College of Graduate Studies is located in the Administrative Annex next to the Carroll Building. Backus is in charge of the marketing and recruiting for graduate school. There are going to be several graduate activities this semester on campus, including the graduate school fair in November, graduate appreciation week, and a visitation program that invites scholars to come and see what this University has to offer them.

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COACH MIKE SEWAK: THE MAN WHO FLYS THE EAGLES TO VICTORY

By BJ Corbitt
Mild_mannered_reporter@hotmail.com

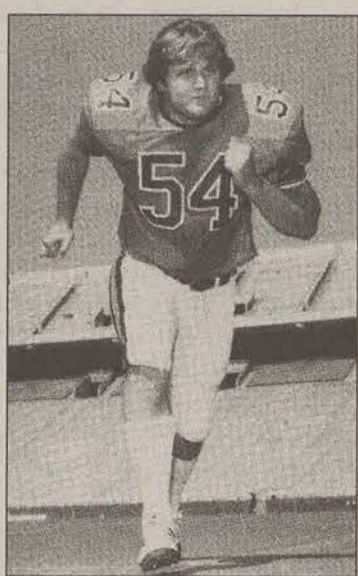
After head coach Paul Johnson decided to sail off to the Naval Academy following the 2001 season, folks in the Eagle Nation didn't have long to wonder who would take over the headset on the sidelines of Paulson Stadium and become the school's fifth head football coach since the sport was reinstated in 1982.

The stadium crew barely had time to clean up following the Eagles' playoff loss to Furman before offensive coordinator Mike Sewak ascended to the top spot in the Eagle coaching staff, and short of Erk Russell himself coming back to take over his old job, no one had done more to earn the chance than the man with the kindly face and the ruthless scoring instinct.

Coach Sewak may have taken a circuitous path to the job he currently holds, but by the time he was promoted to Georgia Southern's head playcalling position, few people were as intimately acquainted with the Eagle system. Coach Sewak had spent a total of seven seasons on the Eagle coaching system in two separate stints with the schools, serving under both Russell and Johnson in that time. In his second stop in Statesboro, Sewak stepped into the Offensive Coordinator position in 1997 (the same year Paul Johnson was brought in to turn the program around). Over the next five seasons, Sewak's offensive unit dazzled the I-AA ranks, averaging over 40 points and 450 yards a game and serving as their trademark over a series of playoff runs which culminated in a pair of national championships in 1999 and 2000.



Even before then, Sewak was no stranger to coaching success in Statesboro. He also spent two years on Erk Russell's staff in '85 and '86, serving as the running backs and then defensive backs coach for the Eagles. Georgia Southern won national titles in both seasons; add it all up and Mike Sewak had seen Eagle teams he worked with win four national titles in seven seasons before ever



assuming head coaching duties two years ago.

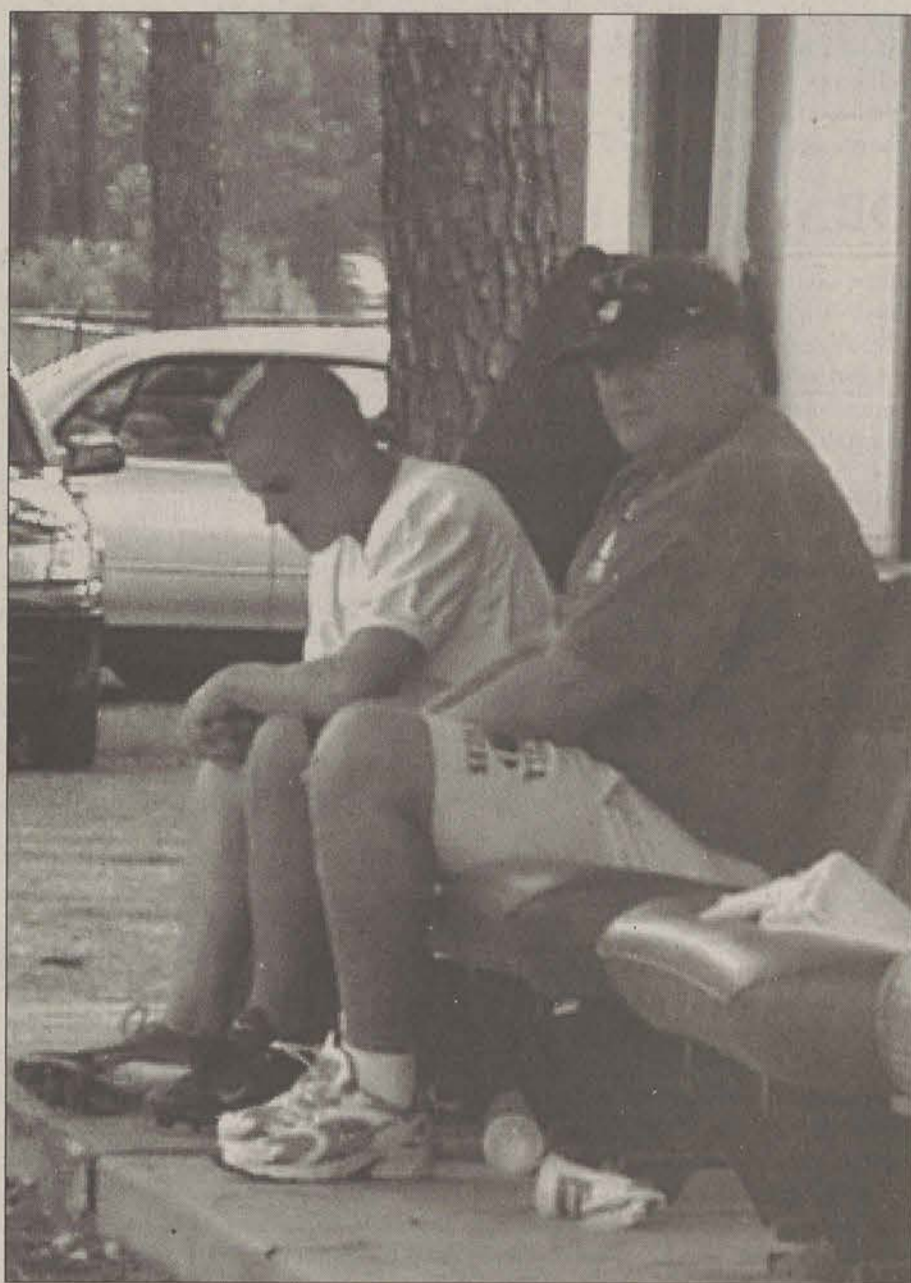
None of that should be construed to mean that Coach Sewak's winning experiences have been confined to working within the Eagle system; after leaving Statesboro for the first time in 1986, Sewak soon found himself working with the offensive unit at the University of Hawai'i. Though not typically considered a football powerhouse, the Rainbow Warriors experienced four winning seasons and went to two bowl games during Sewak's eight seasons on

the staff, thanks in no small part to a potent offense that consistently ranked among the top in Division I-A during that period. Coach Sewak has also seen success during his other brief coaching stints, which have included two years at Hobart College (NY), one season at Georgia Tech, and two seasons as offensive coordinator at Ohio University. There, in Sewak's second year leading the offensive unit in 1996, the Bobcats turned around from a three-win season to a third-place finish in the conference and featured the leading rushing attack in the Mid-American Conference.

Prior to his nomadic coaching experiences, Mike Sewak experienced a good bit of individual success on the playing field as well. Playing for the defensive line at Westmont Hilltop High School in Johnstown, PA, Sewak lettered all four years, then went on to become a three-year letterman as an offensive lineman at the University of Virginia.

Coach Sewak lives with his wife, Robin, and their three children, Michael Robert (12), Olivia (10), and Nicholas (8).

The next time you see the man who kind of reminds you of your favorite uncle prowling the sidelines, take a minute to remember the long and winding road he took to get where he is now, and realize that there are few men more qualified and deserving of the opportunity to lead the Eagles into flight every Saturday this season.



Meghan Maloy/STAFF

Coach Sewak sits with Wes Turner, Eagle Wide Receiver/Quarterback, during a break at practice.

W The reality of SoCon football

By Eli Boorstein
Nletsroob17@hotmail.com

Highlighted by a thrilling contest between Georgia Southern and Wofford, the Southern Conference football season continues to pick up steam as the league heads into the fifth week of the 2003 campaign.

Georgia Southern was unable to avenge their loss to Wofford in 2002, falling to the Terriers 20-14 in Spartanburg. The Eagles entered the fourth quarter in the lead 14-7, but gave up 13 unanswered points in the final frame. Wofford was led to victory by true freshman running back Kevious Johnson, who ran for a pair of touchdowns and caught a third in his first career start.

Elsewhere in the SoCon, Appalachian State managed to get their first win of 2003 as they snuck past Morehead State 24-21 in Boone. The two ball clubs were deadlocked at 21-21 with 18 seconds left in the game when Mountaineer kicker Erik Rockhold booted a 31-yard field goal for the victory. Quarterback Richie Williams ran for a season-best 122 yards.

Newcomers Elon notched their first ever conference victory with a 14-0 shutout of East Tennessee State at Elon. Phoenix quarterback Anthony Crews, a true freshman, ran for both of his team's touchdowns. Bucs running back Gaven Varner ran for 102 yards in the losing effort.

Western Carolina opened their SoCon season by grabbing a 28-21 win over The Citadel in Cullowhee. It was a clash of quarterbacks with the Catamounts' Brian Gaither completing 16-of-26 passes for 224 yards and the Bulldogs' Willie Simmons completing 23-of-38 passes for 323 yards.

The troubles continued for Chattanooga, as they remained winless, losing to Gardner-Webb 23-13 in Boiling Springs, N.C. The Mocs never led, but did get a productive game from third-string quarterback Vinnie Miroth, who completed 25-of-36 passes for 269 yards. Mocs wide receiver Alonzo Nix reeled in 168 receiving yards.

Furman stepped out of league play, topping Atlantic 10 foe Richmond 31-14 in Greenville. After the Spiders fought back to tie the game at 14-14 in the fourth, Paladin fullback Al Means answered by running for a pair of touchdowns to give Furman the win. Tailback Hindley Brigham added 115 rushing yards to guide the Paladins.

As the new weekend kicks off, Western Carolina will make the trek north to meet East Tennessee State in Johnson City at 1 p.m. The Catamounts (2-2, 1-0 SoCon) are led by Gaither, who leads the conference with a 193-yard passing average. The Bucs (2-2, 0-1 SoCon) can claim the league's top rusher in Varner, who is averaging 123.5 yards per game.

Big South member Gardner-Webb steps up to meet their second straight SoCon foe when they face No. 8 Furman in Greenville at 2 p.m. The Paladins (2-1, 1-0 SoCon) have the league's third-ranked rusher in Brigham and fourth-ranked quarterback in Bo Moore. The Bulldogs are 3-1 thus far, being led by quarterback Nick Roberts.

Appalachian State will kickoff the SoCon portion of their schedule when they face off against The Citadel at 2 p.m. in Charleston. The Mountaineers (1-2) need to steady themselves if they want to stay in the hunt for a postseason berth. The Bulldogs (1-3, 0-1 SoCon) will count on the sure hands of senior wide receiver Scooter Johnson as they try to swing the upset bid.

Georgia Southern will have an excellent chance to get back on the winning end when they host Chattanooga at 6 p.m. The Eagles (1-2, 0-1 SoCon), who dove to No. 16 after their recent loss, are led by sophomore fullback Jermaine Austin, the league's second-leading rusher at 116.7 yards per game. The Mocs (0-4), entering their first conference game, will be without starting quarterback Matthew Lopez, who suffered a separated shoulder against Gardner-Webb.



1-AA Football and the Eagles... UNDER-RATED! (Insert clapping here)

Matt Yogus
Guest columnist
mattyogus@yahoo.com

"I don't follow 1-AA football or go to Georgia Southern games because..."

1. ...I don't want to miss the UGA game.
If God had intended us to miss GSU football games for UGA games on Saturdays, he wouldn't have provided us with the VCR. Tape the friggin' Dawgs(sic)! Most schools charge their students to attend the games, but here in beautiful Statesboro, GSU students can enter the gates of the prettiest little stadium in America for FREE!
2. ...The games are usually over by halftime, anyway.
Attention all UGA fans in the 'Boro: You will never hear a real actual UGA student complain about blowing out an SEC team. Yeah, that's right. They are actually HAPPY when they win by a large margin. Even when they blow out, oh, say, Vandy, they get excited. GSU has won the SoCon six straight times! SIX! So pull your heads out of that butt crack you call Athens for a moment and listen very carefully: Every...single...conference...game...matters. It isn't just any team that can consistently win their conference for more than half a decade. Oh, and by the way, in the SoCon, the winner of the conference gets an automatic bid into the playoffs. And without playoffs, we can't win championships.
3. ...I like seeing passing. All we do is run.
Okay. I can see where this could be a problem. People would rather see "exciting" passing rather than "boring ol'" runs. Well we aren't just a running team ladies and gentlemen. We are a triple option team. The amazing amount of things happening on the field when the Eagles have the ball is enough to keep ANYONE who is willing to pay attention interested. An option quarter-

back has so many things going through his head. Give it to the fullback? Uh oh, no hole for him to run through. Keep it and run? Oops, that linebacker is pretty quick. Keep it just long enough to draw that corner off my slot back then...pitch! All of a sudden a defense that had covered all their bases has just given up a 30 yard run to T.J. Anderson for six points. The triple option is the hardest offense to defend if it is run properly. And guess what. Here at GSU, we have the recruiting to make sure that we always have the personnel on the field to make sure that happens.

4. ...1-A BCS football is more exciting.
Alright, alright. I watch as much D1-A football as I can. There is nothing I like more than going home after an afternoon at Paulson and turning on whatever regionally televised games will allow me to watch (unless there is another, 1-AA game on). But I hate the BCS. Someone please tell me when there hasn't been a controversy about the final rankings of the BCS. You can't. Do you know why? Because the 1-A national championship is played by two teams voted the best in the country, and in the end, decided in the polls. In NCAA division 1-AA football, the national championship is won on the field. Teams must play and win for four grueling weeks against the other top 15 teams in the nation in order to be crowned champions. And it is indisputable. Last year, the thirteen seeded Hilltoppers from Western Kentucky tore through the playoffs beating a number three and a number one seed, proving themselves as National Champions.

5...there is more talent in Division 1-A.
You got me on that one. The level of talent is higher in 1-A than it is in 1-AA. Why is that, you ask? Well let me tell you. The NCAA allots 80+ scholarships to 1-A programs and only 60+ to 1-AA. In other words, 1-A teams are able to have an entire offensive team and an entire defensive team more on scholarship than 1-AA teams. Does that stop 1-AA teams from occasionally upsetting 1-A

teams? No. So far this year, there have been five 1-AA wins over 1-A teams. Villanova beat Temple 23-20 in 4 overtimes. Eastern Washington, Western Illinois, Stephen F. Austin, and Cal Poly have also posted wins over 1-A competition this year alone. And it is not a new thing. McNeese State consistently beats their 1-A foes in Louisiana. App. State and Western Carolina play SEC and ACC competition tough year after year. In fact, our own Georgia Southern Eagles took a shocking 17-3 lead into halftime against the Auburn Tigers of the SEC on August 31, 1991, falling later when the lack of scholarships kicked in.

Does lack of scholarships to offer stop 1-AA from producing playmakers in the NFL? No. Many have even come from the SoCon. When a lot of you are racking up fantasy football points with Terrell Owens of the 49ers, don't forget that he played for the SoCon's own UT Chattanooga. Randy Moss played for Marshall when they were in 1-AA. A guy you might have heard of named Steve McNair of the Tennessee Titans won the Walter Payton award at Alcorn State. Let's not forget about Kiwaukee Thomas of the Jacksonville Jaguars and, of course, Adrian Peterson of the Chicago Bears who graced us with their amazing abilities right here in Statesboro. Let's also not forget about guys like Shannon Sharpe out of Savannah State, and Brian Finneran (also a Payton Award winner) out of Villanova. These are just a few big name guys among many in the NFL right now who played their college ball in 1-AA. Oh, yeah, I should probably mention the greatest tail back (and possibly player) ever to carry the football, "Sweetness" himself, Walter Payton. He went to Jackson State, a 1-AA program that is sub-par, at best.

The bottom line is, our Eagles win. If we were to lose every game for the next 15 years, we would still have a .500 record home. Why? Because since the inauguration of Paulson Stadium and the era of Erk Russell, our Eagles have lost 14 games at home. Fourteen. Ever. But win or lose, I will be cheering on our Eagles every Saturday, along with countless other Eagle faithful. And remember, no matter what game you are at, when you look up, you don't see red and black.

'Let us move forward,' Bush says in seeking more U.N. help in Iraq

KRT Campus

President Bush on Tuesday asked for the world's help in rebuilding Iraq. But he made no concessions to get it, and there was little indication from other leaders that they were in a hurry to grant it.

In a speech to the United Nations General Assembly, Bush was unapologetic for going to war without a U.N. endorsement. "Let us move forward," he said. "The nation of Iraq needs and deserves our aid, and all nations of goodwill should step forward and provide that support."

It was clear that bitterness still lingered over Bush's Iraq policy a year after he told the U.N. that it risked irrelevancy if it failed to authorize the

war. U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan criticized the U.S.-led invasion for encouraging "the lawless use of force" by other nations, while France and Germany repeated their demands for more U.N. involvement.

Response to Bush's 26-minute speech was polite but unenthusiastic. The welcome for French President Jacques Chirac, who criticized U.S. policy, was far warmer.

The United States is seeking a Security Council resolution that would encourage more international aid to Iraq. But Tuesday's debate indicated little agreement on the U.S. approach.

In his speech, Bush suggested that the U.N. role be limited to helping devise a new constitution, overseeing elections and training civil servants. He rejected requests for a speedy transfer of power to the Iraqi Governing Council, an interim organization established by U.S. officials as a first step toward Iraqi sovereignty.

"This process must unfold according to the needs of Iraqis — neither hurried, nor delayed by the wishes

of other parties," he said.

Near the back of the cavernous chamber, a delegation of Iraqis led by Ahmed Chalabi, a former Iraqi exile who hopes to become the country's leader, clapped when Bush concluded his remarks. Iranian delegates seated next to them kept their hands on the desk or in their laps.

Other speakers vented their frustration with Bush's willingness to wage war without U.N. approval.

"The war, embarked on without Security Council approval, has undermined the multilateral system," Chirac said. "In an open world, no one can live in isolation, no one can act alone in the name of all, and no one can accept the anarchy of a society without rules."

Bush and Chirac failed to resolve their differences in a private meeting later. Despite their disagreements, Chirac assured Bush that he would not stand in the way of a U.N. resolution endorsing Bush's views.

Although Bush looked relaxed and confident in front of the international audience, his political standing has slipped considerably since his last U.N. visit. A year ago, 70 percent of Americans said they approved of Bush's performance in office. Now, only about half feel that way.

Polls also show strong opposition to Bush's request for an additional



KRT Campus

U.S. President George W. Bush speaks at the 58th Session of the General Assembly at the United Nations in New York on September 23, 2003. Leaders from around the globe are attending the gathering where the 191 members of the world body are struggling to heal deep rifts caused by the war on Iraq.

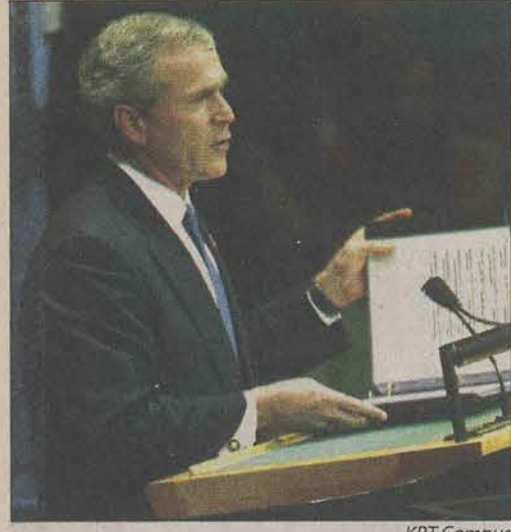
\$87 billion to help pay for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Poll results released Tuesday by the nonpartisan Pew Research Center show that 51 percent of Americans think Bush should give up some military control in Iraq to the U.N. to get other countries to send more troops. Nearly 60 percent said they are opposed to the funding request.

Critics said Bush's unwillingness to share power in Iraq could doom the effort to get more foreign assistance.

"I think the president lost an opportunity. He came before the international community and he could have made the case for more troops, for more resources. He didn't do that," said Senate Democratic

Leader Tom Daschle.

Some supporters of Bush's policy also said the president's speech missed the mark. "The president didn't succeed in showing (that) the French plan didn't make much sense," said Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Del. But Biden said the U.N. "isn't ready to do anything in Iraq."



KRT Campus

Bush approval rating hits lowest point

KRT Campus

President Bush now has the lowest public-approval rating of his presidency as growing doubts about the war in Iraq weigh on Americans already troubled by how Bush is handling the economy.

Now at 50 percent in the latest Gallup Poll, the president's job-approval rating has plunged 9 points in the last month alone.

Both Bush's decline and a notable increase in public dissatisfaction with the war occurred as the president openly confronted the staggering cost of a continuing conflict.

Persisting anxiety over a struggling economy and spreading perception that the war in Iraq was not worth the effort have combined to abruptly end a long ride of strong public support for Bush since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

While the 2004 election remains a year away, Bush's sliding ratings make him vulnerable to credible challengers. Indeed, Gallup shows the newest Democratic rival, retired Gen. Wesley Clark, has entered the race on a virtual par with the president.

"It reflects the fact that people are feeling some unease, both in terms of the economy and the situation in Iraq," said Stephen Hess, senior fellow at The Brookings Institution. "In situations like that, it's always the president that feels their pain."

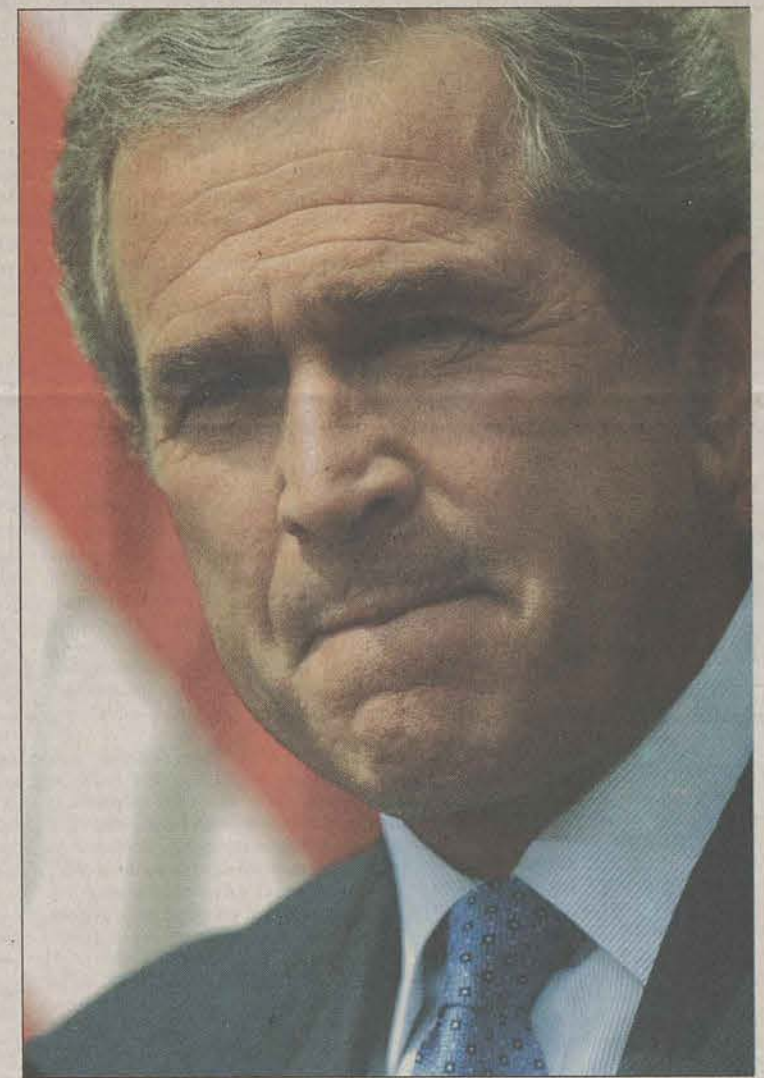
The Republicans insist there is nothing to fear in Bush's sliding numbers. The president's own pollster, Matthew Dowd, wrote in an April 22 memo that Bush's ratings were unsustainably high and had nowhere to go but down — and that Bush "will at times likely be behind potential Democrats."

"Currently, the president enjoys higher numbers than both Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton enjoyed at similar points in their presidencies," Christine Iverson, spokeswoman for the Republican National Committee, said Tuesday. "If you put this in historical perspective, there is nothing to be concerned about here."

While Bush's decline is remarkable, pollsters note, history shows that a president can slide further and still win re-election.

Both an improving economy and a shifting of responsibility for post-war Iraq from the United States to the United Nations could greatly bolster Bush's prospects for re-election.

"The key thing is that, this far out, the job-approval and the Democratic trial heats aren't very predictive. Too much can change," Frank Newport, editor-in-chief for Gallup, said Tuesday. "It's a scenario for Bush, where if the economy looks up in the next year and if the U.N. gets involved, he could be looking



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pretty good."

The greatest drag on Bush's popularity is a rapidly growing concern among Americans that the war in Iraq wasn't worth the effort, Gallup has found.

Bush himself may have fueled this doubt with his nationally televised Sunday night speech on Sept. 7, warning of a long struggle ahead in Iraq and placing an \$87 billion price tag on the security and rebuilding of Iraq and Afghanistan.

In early April, with major combat under way, 76 percent of Americans surveyed told Gallup the war was worth it. Throughout August, 63 percent said it was worth it. In the newest survey of 1,003 Americans conducted by Gallup on Friday through Sunday, just 50 percent called the war worthwhile.

For two years, Americans have expressed unrelenting concern about the economy, and they have handed Bush increasingly poor ratings for his handling of it.

But for two years, Bush's popularity has been buoyed by the global war on terrorism.

The president, elected without a popular-vote majority in 2000, reached his previous low approval rating in Gallup's surveys — at 51 percent — in the days just before the terrorist assaults of Sept. 11, 2001. Yet his approval peaked at 90 percent just 10 days after Sept. 11, and still stood at 59 percent as recently as late August.

Bush's approval has fallen by nine points in the month that he made his televised case for a continuing and costly engagement in Iraq.

Democratic rivals have been asking this for months, some building campaigns in the early presidential contests of Iowa and New Hampshire on anti-war sentiment.

They will find a new stage for their criticism in a televised debate Thursday, the first to be shown nationally on cable-news stations. The forum, second in a fall series, has been expanded to two hours to accommodate the enlarged field of 10 candidates.

Sponsored by The Wall Street Journal, with NBC News' Brian Williams as anchor, the Democratic debate will be shown live nationally from 4 to 6 p.m. EDT by CNBC, and then repeated from 9 to 11 p.m. EDT by MSNBC.

"There are various things going on there," Hess said. "The simplest thing is just the bounce you get from tremendous free media. All of the publicity the last week, with the poll taken right at that time, obviously affects the poll's ratings. There is some law of physics involved. Everything that goes up has to come down."

But Clark is not alone, as the president's sliding job-approval makes him vulnerable to challenge. In the latest poll, 47 percent of those surveyed disapprove of the job the president is doing. That's up from 24 percent in the midst of the war.

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