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SPORTS

Eagles out of polls for the first time in seven years

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The
GEORGE-ANNE

www.stp.georgiasouthern.edu

October 29, 2003

Wednesday

Volume 76, Number 43

Environmental
group has big
plans for Fall

Special Photo

SAGE helped in the Rivers Alive Cleanup Oct. 19 to assist in removing trash from the banks of the Ogeechee River across four counties.

By Christina Calloway
Jadah2001@yahoo.com

SAGE, the Student Alliance for a Green Earth, has started taking action for the fall semester.

SAGE, which is GSU's first environmentally active group for students, is in its fifth year at GSU and has big plans for the 2003-2004 school year.

Nick Fierstos, the president of SAGE, is excited about the events that one of GSU's biggest service organizations is planning. One of the themes for the group this year is biking and alternative transportation.

"With the growth of the campus in the past few years, SAGE is taking the attitude of suggesting using bikes instead of driving on campus," said Fierstos.

SAGE has even been working with campus officials to have bike lanes and more bike racks.

SAGE has a very big influence on campus. For instance, campus recycling was initiated after the organization to a big part in seeing it started. Now recycling facilities can be seen almost everywhere on campus. Students may have even seen SAGE at the homecoming parade picking up trash. "We take trash from onlookers that they would have normally just thrown on the ground," said Fierstos.

As for this semester, SAGE has already planned to participate in many environmental endeavors. "This is the first time we've had a prearranged schedule," said Fierstos.

The group plans to participate in America Recycles Day, road cleanups and the Alternative Transportation Program. SAGE has even been invited to Sapelo Island for a beach cleanup.

One event SAGE has already participated in is the Rivers Alive Cleanup, which was Oct. 19 at the Ogeechee River in Savannah. The group contributed in the statewide program cleaning up the banks of the river down six miles and through four counties.

See SAGE, Page 5

Residence halls
spooked with
holiday spirit

Children of GSU and Faculty and Staff attend the GSU residence halls' annual Halloween event. This year's theme was 'Cartoon-A-Ween.' A number of GSU students and University Housing staff dressed up as cartoon characters and set up different carnival-type booths. Some of the favorites included Spiderman Skee-ball, and Sponge-bob Bean Bag Toss. Olliff Hall also sponsored a haunted house for the participating children from the Statesboro community.



J. Wright/STAFF

NEWS

Students,
faculty making
a difference in
the Peace Corps

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'Not a safe
place'

Photos courtesy of KRT Campus

Suicide attacks in Baghdad kill at least 35, injure 230

KRT Campus

Suicide bombers unleashed a wave of terror in the Iraqi capital on Monday, illustrating the inability of U.S.-led coalition forces to guarantee security and the ability of the guerrillas to strike seemingly anywhere.

Car bombs exploded at the Red Cross headquarters and three Iraqi police stations, leaving at least 35 people dead, including one U.S. soldier. About 230 people were wounded, including six soldiers. A fourth attempt on a police station was thwarted when the driver was shot before he could detonate his bomb.

President Bush called the attacks acts of desperation. "The more progress we make on the ground, the more free the Iraqis become, the more electricity that's available, the more jobs are available, the more kids that are going to school, the more desperate these killers become," Bush said

in Washington.

But the bombings, the deadliest in Baghdad to date, also were the most sophisticated and well planned so far in Iraq's burgeoning civil war. They seemed aimed at undermining the U.S.-led effort in Iraq by showing that anyone who cooperated with the occupation forces, whether they are Iraqi security forces or Western aid agencies, would be subject to attacks.

The blasts went off within the space of an hour and forty-five minutes in five widely separated zones of the capital. Coming a day after a rocket barrage on a supposedly secure hotel within the U.S.-led coalition's headquarters compound, they immediately led to questions about how the United States would be able to ensure the capital's safety.

The latest cycle of violence, which began with the rocket attack on Sunday, continued with overnight attacks that left

two soldiers with the 1st Armored Division dead after a roadside bomb hit their patrol around 10 p.m. in Baghdad. Another soldier with the 18th Military Police Brigade was killed and two were wounded 30 minutes later in a mortar attack at Abu Ghraib prison, 15 miles west of the city.

The latest deaths bring to 112 the number of U.S. soldiers who have died by hostile fire in Iraq since May 1 when Bush declared major operations over.

Brig. Gen. Mark Hertling, assistant commander of the 1st Armored Division, which has overall responsibility for security in Baghdad, said there were indications that Monday's bombings were carried out by foreign terrorists, perhaps from Syria.

"From a military standpoint, they are a bunch of ama-

See Attacks, Page 5

Groups may scale back Iraq aid

Associated Press

GENEVA - Shaken by the attack on its Baghdad offices, the international Red Cross said Monday that it may follow other groups in scaling back aid to the Iraqi people because of the danger.

The neutral Swiss-run agency said it will decide within days whether to reduce its presence in the country following the suicide car bombing that killed two Iraqi Red Cross employees and as many as 10 other people outside the compound.

"Such an attack is a major blow for us," said Florian Westphal, spokesman of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Other aid groups are evaluating their operations in Iraq after Monday's wave of attacks, which echoed the Aug. 19 bombing of the U.N. headquarters in Baghdad.

Medecins Sans Frontieres said it would reduce its seven-member expatriate team in the Iraqi capital but would continue operating clinics and

See Aid, Page 5

Blasts in Baghdad

Sunday and Monday attacks:

Wildfires threaten 30,000 more
homes in Southern California

Associated Press

Ash fell on the beach like snow and drivers turned on their headlights in the smoky daytime streets Monday as wildfires that have reduced entire neighborhoods to moonscapes skipped through the hills of Southern California and threatened 30,000 more homes.

California's deadliest outbreak of fires in more than a decade has destroyed at least 1,100 homes, killed at least 13 people and consumed more than 400,000 acres stretching from the Mexican border to the suburbs northeast of Los Angeles.

"This will be the most expensive fire in California history, both in loss of property and

the cost of fighting it," Dallas Jones, director of the state Office of Emergency Services, said Monday.

Several people suffered burns and smoke inhalation, including eight hospitalized at the University of California, San Diego, Medical Center. Two had burns over more than 55 percent of their bodies, spokeswoman Eileen Callahan said.

Managers of California's power grid estimated that 70,000 to 85,000 Southern California customers were without electricity because fires had damaged transmission lines.

See Fires Page 5

Weekday Weather

Wednesday



HIGH
77°
LOW
53°

Sunny

Thursday



HIGH
77°
LOW
59°

Mostly
Sunny

Only in America

- North Carolina bank robber attempts to rob the same bank three times in less than a month.
- Monkey business in the streets of Connecticut.
- Hussain returns lost jewelry in Illinois.

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Opinions

- Megan Matthews describes the complex political landscape of Cuba.
- Gloria Feldt thinks Bush's signing of the Partial Birth Abortion Act endangers the lives of American women.

Page 4

Sports

- Swimming & Diving chosen to finish second in their first season as NEC members.
- Eagles in volleyball and men's soccer named SoCon Player of the Week.

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Police Beat

10-24-03

• Officers issued two traffic warnings, assisted three motorists and responded to one fire alarm.

• A parking permit was taken from a vehicle in the Johnson Hall parking lot.

10-25-03

• Officers issued three traffic citations, five warnings, assisted one motorist and responded to one fire alarm.

• Someone threw a bottle and broke a window on a vehicle in the Olliff Hall parking lot.

• Michael Joseph Neal, 23, Bldg. 632, Ft. Stewart, Ga. was charged with DUI and failure to yield.

• Reginald Glenn Boone, 23, 222 Lanier Drive, was charged with obstruction of officer, disorderly conduct and public drunk.

10-26-03

• Officers issued four traffic warnings, assisted three motorists, assisted

one injured person and responded to three fire alarms.

• William Earl Peters, 18, 710 Players Club, was charged with public drunk, minor in possession/consumption and disorderly conduct.

10-27-03

• Officers assisted three motorists; assisted one injured person and investigated one accident.

• A CD player, DVD player and speakers were taken from a vehicle parked on Sweetheart Circle.

• A side mirror and a gas cap were taken from a vehicle parked in the Winburn Hall parking lot.

- All Police Beat information compiled by J. Wright, News Editor

HEALTH SERVICES

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Campus Calendar

Oct 29

Lecture on scholarships and opportunities available in Spain
11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Forrest Draive Building Room 1224

Sponsored by the Center for Latino Outreach. For further information call 486-7759 or email at lcenter00@hotmail.com

Greek Street Trick or Treat
6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Greek Row

The Campus and Statesboro community are invited to bring children in costume to Greek Row for an evening of Halloween games, candy and fun. The event is sponsored by the Pan-Hellenic Association, the

National Pan-Hellenic Council and the Interfraternity Council. For more information contact the office of Greek Life at 681-5691.

Pi Kappa Alpha Pumpkin Carving Contest
6:30 p.m.

Greek Row at Pike Lot
Submit a carved Pumpkin along with a \$5 entry fee and qualify to win \$50 grand prize. There is no limit to the size of the pumpkins. All Pumpkins must be on Lot before 7 p.m.

Hanner House of Horror
7 p.m.
Hanner Field house
Southern Conference Champion Volleyball Eagles will take on College of Charleston Cougars. The theme of

the evening is Hanner House of Horror and the goal is to set a Southern Conference attendance record of 1,600. There will be games, fun and free food.

Oct 30 and 31

'Saints and Sinners'
8 p.m.

Performing Arts Center
GSU Opera will open 2003-2004 season with two performances of 'Saint and Sinners', a compilation of scenes from 10 operas that reflect the good and evil in the human character. Tickets are \$8 per person for the general public and \$5 per person for GSU faculty and staff. All University students are admitted free.

News Briefs

Wildlife Center hosts Annual After Dark Program

Kim Wicker
kimberlywicker@hotmail.com

Statesboro residents joined Georgia Southern students at the Center for Wildlife Education on Saturday night for the annual Center After Dark Program.

This is the third year the Program has been in existence, and this year the focus is on nocturnal animals. Krista Weatherford, the Educational Program Coordinator at the Center, said the After Dark Program provides a fun opportunity for people to come at night and learn about nocturnal animals.

The program began with an exhibition of animals commonly seen at night, including an opossum and skunk. An eleven-foot albino Burmese python, which is perhaps not commonly seen, but nocturnal nonetheless, was also presented.

A night-flight show featuring birds of prey was also part of the event. A

red-tailed hawk, the most common and widespread North American member of the broad-wing hawks, was presented first.

A red-shouldered hawk, which is native to Georgia, and a Harris hawk, found in western regions of the United States, were included in the show, as well as a screech owl and a Eurasian eagle owl.

The Harris hawk showed its wild side during one of the flights, ignoring the trainers' whistle and opting to rest momentarily on a nearby roof.

Throughout the presentation, the staff dismissed some common rumors about many of the critters, including the widespread belief that owls can rotate their heads all the way around. While they can turn their head over half the way around, the belief that the birds can rotate completely is false.

A bat presentation also took place, featuring Dr. Steve Burnett, a professor of Biology at Clayton College

and State University. Dr. Burnett is also an educator for Basically Bats, an Atlanta based bat conservation organization.

Dr. Burnett showed pictures of the creatures and showed the audience a live Brown bat that has been raised in captivity. Dr. Burnett called the tiny bat, no more than three inches long, an "ambassador for educational purposes." Many people are not aware that several species of bats are endangered due to deforestation of their natural habitat.

The After Dark Program also provided a "creepy maze" for both children and adults to wander through. Stations were set up throughout the maze, showcasing animals and insects that could be touched or held.

The Wildlife Center holds a similar event each spring, inviting the Statesboro community to come onto campus and learn hands-on about different species.

The GEORGE-ANNE

Williams Center room
2023
P.O. Box 8001
Statesboro, GA 30460

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681-5246

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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.*

Greek Street Trick or Treat

WED. OCT. 29, 6 PM-7:30 PM

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NOTICE

Fall 2003
Regents' Test

October 31 – November 5

Students registered to take the Regents' Test for Fall Semester 2003 can go to WINGS to view or print your Fall "detailed" schedule of classes for the date, time or location of the test.

You must bring the following items to the test:

- Several sharpened #2 pencils
- Several pens (blue or black ink)
- Picture ID
- Electronic or printed dictionary – (may only be used during the last 15 minutes of the essay section)

For sample tests and more information, visit the Regents' Testing Program website at <http://www.gsu.edu/rtp>

Would you like to learn more about the Regents' Test or brush up on some test-taking skills before you take the exam? If so, the Academic Success Center would love to help you! Anyone wanting to attend a workshop should call 681-5371 for more information.

1 North Carolina

Suspect arrested after showing up at bank for third time

ASHEVILLE - A man suspected of robbing a bank twice since Sept. 26 got nabbed Monday when he showed up at the bank a third time.

Asheville Savings Bank had hired off-duty officers to stand watch and reassure customers while police and federal agents looked for the man they say robbed the bank Sept. 26 and again Oct. 10.

Asheville Senior Police Officer Paul Puglisi was on the job at the bank for the first time Monday.

"I'm thinking this guy's not going to come back," Puglisi said.

But just before closing, a teller whispered the robber was back.

The suspect made for the door and Puglisi followed. The two struggled outside and the suspect reached for a gun inside a small bank bag, police said. Puglisi stopped the man from getting to the gun. Nearby Asheville firefighters nearby saw the fight and came to help Puglisi handcuff the suspect, who also carried a hammer and a pocket knife.

Police have charged James David Huskins, 40, with two counts of robbery with a dangerous weapon, two counts of kidnapping, common-law robbery and assault on a law-enforcement officer with a firearm, Asheville Police Capt. Tom Aardema said Tuesday. They believe Huskins is homeless.

FBI agents expect to also charge Huskins for bank robbery and kidnapping, Aardema said.

Officers said that after the first robbery, the suspect carjacked two men and made them drive around for about an hour before releasing them unharmed.

"I'm just glad no one got hurt," Puglisi said. "There was serious potential for that."



2 Connecticut

Chimp ties up city intersection

STAMFORD - Things were relatively quiet in downtown Stamford Monday, just hours after a 170-pound, diaper-wearing chimpanzee commandeered an intersection and held police at bay for a few hours.

The chimp, named Travis, bolted from a sport utility vehicle driven by his owners between Atlantic Street and Washington Boulevard at about 9:30 p.m. Sunday.

"He opens doors, he does everything," Shawn Yakuboff, an eyewitness told The Advocate of Stamford. "It's like a circus."

Police were not amused. They ordered residents with children back into their homes. The chimp, when not closing doors on squad cars to prevent being trapped inside, made occasional runs toward the crowd on all fours.

"He's very strong," Sgt. Richard Phelan said of the chimp.

By 11:20 p.m., police succeeded in getting the chimp into its owners' car. Officers pressed their hands against the doors of the SUV to hold the chimp inside.

The owners sped away with their pet inside the SUV with about a dozen police cars following.

3 Illinois

Cabdriver returns bag with \$230,000 in jewelry

CHICAGO - Jewelry designer Anthony Camargo says he began chasing after the cab when realized he had left a bag containing samples of his latest collection in its trunk.

But the cab and the \$230,000 worth of jewelry inside it was nowhere to be found.

Luckily, the bag was left in a cab being driven by 26-year-old Mohammed Hussain. On Wednesday, Hussain returned the 42 ornate pieces of jewelry and received from Camargo an undisclosed monetary reward and a pair of sapphire earrings.

"What he did was so admirable," Camargo said.

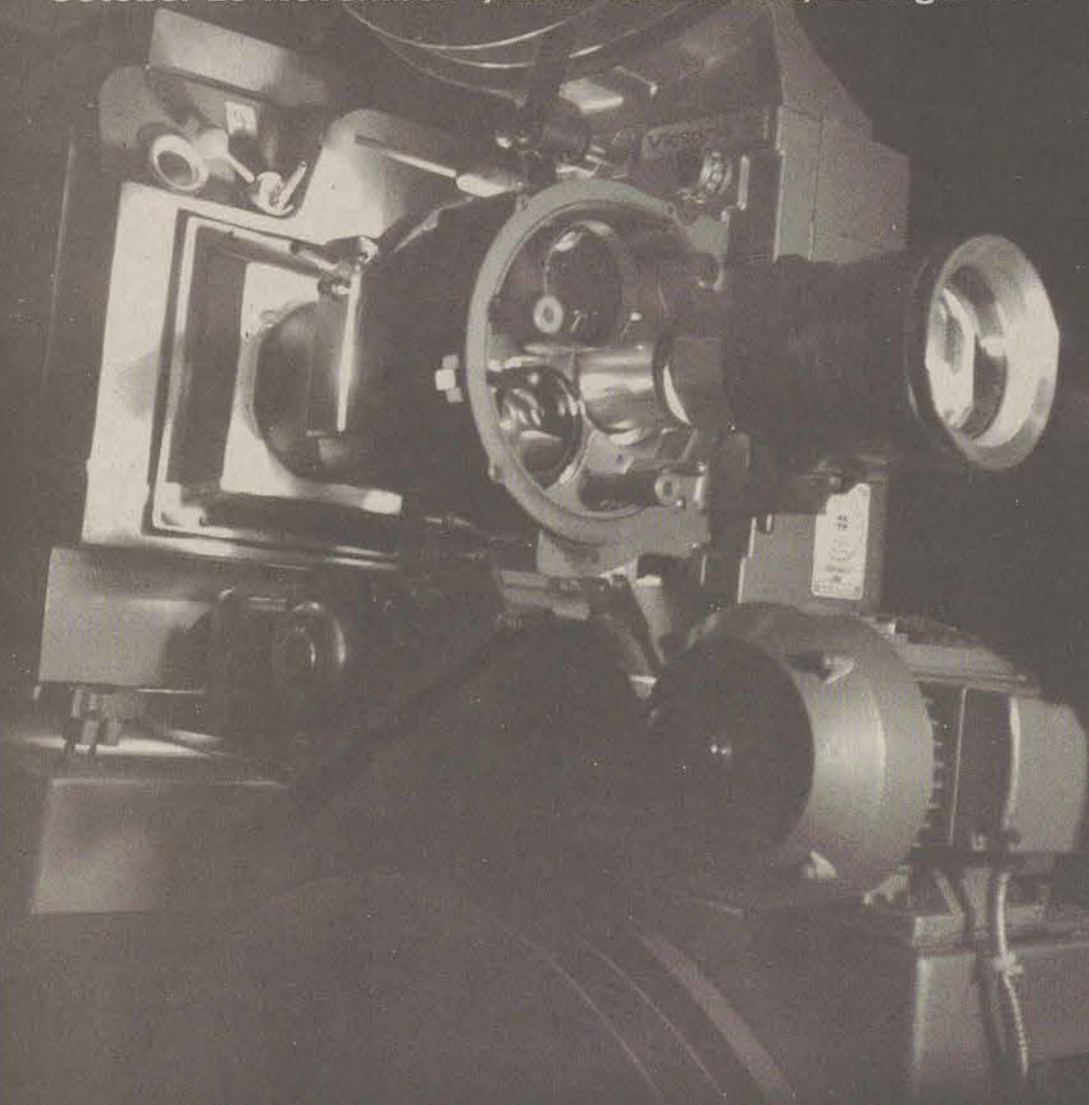
"My whole staff of 40 people didn't sleep for two days," Camargo said.

Hussain, who came to the U.S. from India 21 1/2 years ago, has been driving a cab for about a year. He said he found the bag on Sunday morning, but did not open it right away.

"I didn't know there was jewelry there. I took it back to my apartment and just kept it," Hussain said. "The next morning I said let's see what's there, and I found the jewelry."

He sent an e-mail to Camargo later that day.

"That sent a sigh of relief to all of us -- we were very thrilled," Camargo said. "I have to tell you as somebody who deals with valuable gems ... it doesn't happen often that they get returned in this manner."

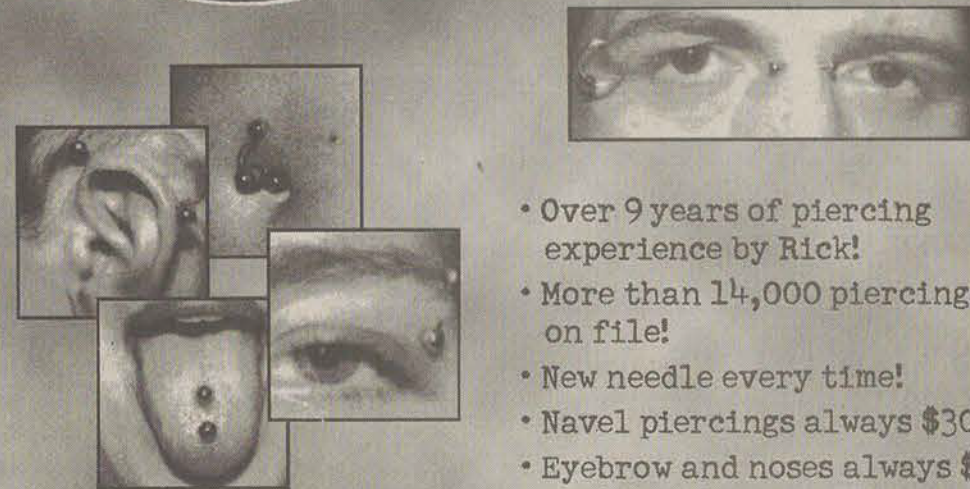
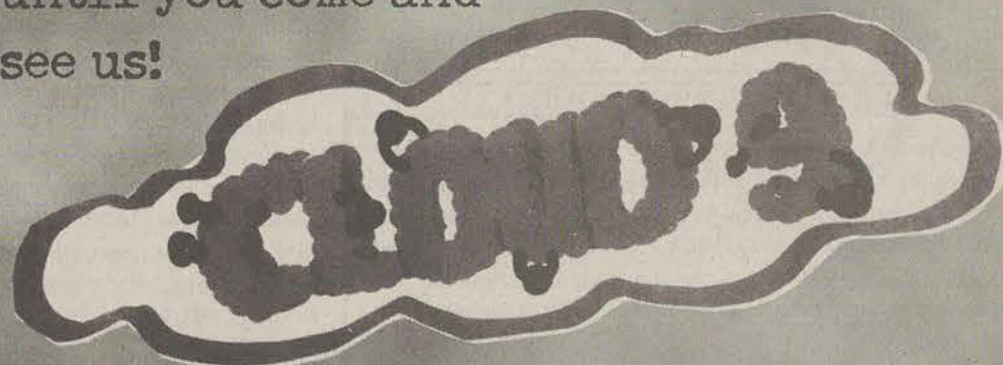
Savannah Film Festival
October 25-November 1, 2003 • Savannah, Georgia USA

- Presentation of Achievement in Cinema Award to famed director Arthur Penn
- Presentation of Lifetime Achievement Award in entertainment journalism to *Variety* columnist Army Archerd
- HBO Films award for best student film and HBO Films producer award
- Screening of *The Cooler* starring Alec Baldwin and William H. Macy
- Screening of *Big Bad Love* starring Debra Winger, Rosanna Arquette and Arliss Howard
- Screening of Project Greenlight's *The Battle of Shaker Heights* starring Shia LaBeouf, Elden Henson and Amy Smart
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For more information, call 912.525.5050 or visit www.scad.edu/filmfest.

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Check out the newly remodeled Cloud 9!

Odd way to save species

The following editorial appeared in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on Monday, Oct. 27:

A shift in U.S. policy on endangered species may evoke for many that infamous quote from the Vietnam War about the need to destroy the village in order to save it. In this case, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing changes that would allow trophy hunters, for example, to kill animals on the verge of extinction in other countries as a way of raising money to save animals on the verge of extinction.

If that sounds counterintuitive and illogical, that's because it is. It's also bad public policy.

Proponents of the change point out that poor countries have little money to protect endangered species within their borders, and they're right about that. But proponents then go on to argue – presumably with a straight face – that the way for those countries to raise money for conservation programs is to have hunters, circuses and pet companies pay a fee to kill, capture and export endangered species.

In other words, federal officials are saying that the best way to save a species is to sanction the killing or capture of individual animals, thus ensuring that numbers would keep dwindling. They would keep dwindling because U.S. officials have no way of guaranteeing that the money raised would go to conservation programs.

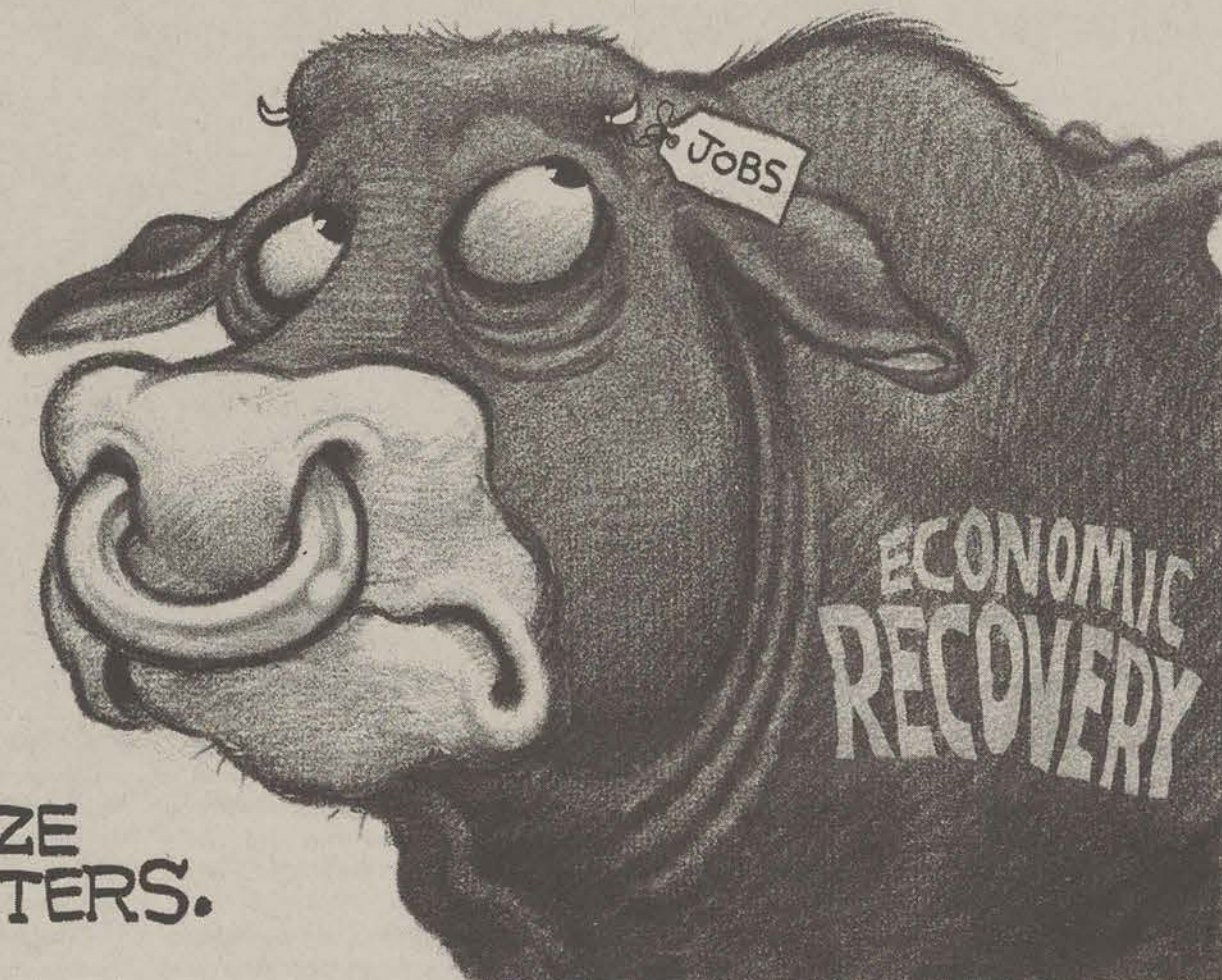
Reopening the African ivory trade, for example, could bring in a hefty chunk of change that a country's leaders might decide would be better spent on AIDS prevention programs, improved housing, better weapons for its military or a Swiss bank account than on saving other elephants. And while the money is spent on other worthy or unworthy programs, elephants would keep dying.

In Vietnam, destroying the village did not save it. It just destroyed the village. In the same way, killing some endangered animals won't save the rest. It will just ensure that the species becomes even more endangered.

If the administration wants to help protect endangered animals in poor countries, it should help those countries – through grants or other aid – to make sure that no one, legally or illegally, kills animals on the verge of extinction.

STAR TRIBUNE
S&K

SIZE
MATTERS.



Cuba's contradictions

A traveler moves beyond stereotypes to the essence of a nation

By Megan Matthews
KRT Campus

A Cuban sleeps on the wall of the Malecon in front of the Christ statue in Havana, Cuba.

Oh, Cuba. As I settle into the plane for my ride home, my mind drifts back to sitting out on the Malecon at 11:30 p.m., surrounded by Cuban youths lining every dry spot on the wall. The waves thundered over the rocks below, sending warm updrafts over the indomitable gray concrete, where I sat cross-legged in my long skirt, facing the roiling black tides. The soft yellow glow of streetlights illuminated my journal.

Behind me, old women with leathery faces walked past, selling refrescoes or peanuts, querulous voices rising and falling like the tides.

I wonder what I can possibly tell the world about you – that this tiny nation bows beneath external pressure with a steadfast resilience that keeps it from breaking?

I was amazed by everything I saw. Each day, as I traversed broken sidewalks in Habana Vieja, I marveled at how friendly people were to their supposed enemies. Although many wanted to “help” me find restaurants or places to stay, an inevitable outcome of the nation's dependency on tourism, others just wanted to chat about our respective countries.

Against a backdrop of faded pastel buildings with crumbling balconies we tried – in Spanish and English as cracked as the sidewalks – to establish basic human connections that transcended our socio-political differences. At times, we did.

Too often, however, I found myself helplessly overwhelmed by the constant reminders of a global caste system based on economic wealth. Poverty is endemic to Cuba. The condition may not be so abject as in other Latin American countries, but Cuba struggles nonetheless.

Abandoned by the former U.S.S.R., isolated by the U.S., and led by a government that charted a lonely course, Cubans have shouldered incredible burdens over the past decade.

They are treated like second-class citizens in their own country. Most own pesos and are barred from dollar-based tourist establishments like hotels, perhaps because the powers that be do not want real Cubans to be part of our “Cuban experience.”

It is one thing to read about the economic chasm separating developed and developing nations. It is another thing entirely, a heartbreaking, gut-wrenching experience, to walk down cobbled

alleys smelling the weird medley of food, earth, garbage and feces rising up from the hot pavement; to see mothers waiting in ration lines; and to tell a Cuban who makes \$10 per month that you only brought \$900 for your trip and you need it all.

I still do not know how to reconcile the terrible inequity I witnessed between Americans and Cubans; the same disparity reveals itself between First and Third World nations around the globe.

I am not sure that anyone who avoids visiting developing nations will understand why I have trouble describing what makes Cuba suffer so. Somehow, when one stands on a curb looking at people's homes that collapsed beneath the weight of too many years, the complicated roots of world poverty creep into one's conscience and refuse to be weeded out again.

Cuba is a country we should approach with exhilaration, humor and sadness. As our rental car sped down potholed rural streets littered with horse-drawn carts, oxen teams, stray terriers, wayward bicyclists and milling hitchhikers, I shook my head and grinned at the absurdity of our presence on a road designed for anything but private vehicles.

And after I consigned my shoes to the loamy red mud that makes Cuba's valleys perfect for tobacco, I experienced outrage and sorrow when a farm mother apologized for being unable to afford a floor in their new home.

Like the series of memories from that final road trip, my impressions of Cuba are all contradictions: beautiful but ugly, tragic but triumphant.

In the end, I drift again to my spot on the Malecon, where I watched sea and sky melt into each other on the dark horizon as I wrote about the proud, decaying city to my back.

To understand even a slice of Cuba requires more time than either government wishes us to spend. It necessitates visits to ramshackle peso markets for sweet plantains, time dealing with catcalls and tourist traps, even moments of alienation listening to Cubans laugh and live around us.

It demands that we spend time in Cuba so we can peel away layers of misconception to reach some impressions of our own. That is Cuba, hoy y siempre.

I still do not know how to reconcile the terrible inequity I witnessed between Americans and Cubans; the same disparity reveals itself between First and Third World nations around the globe.

Thoughts of the Day

• “Everybody gets so much information all day long that they lose their common sense.” – Gertrude Stein

• “The reason why so few good books are written is that so few people who can write know anything.” – Walter Bagehot

• “It is no measure of health to be well adjusted to a profoundly sick society.” – Krishnamurti

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, 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.

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Bush endangers lives of American women by signing partial birth abortion act

By Gloria Feldt
KRT Campus

WASHINGTON, D.C. – George W. Bush has grabbed his pen from his holster and is ready to sign the so-called Partial Birth Abortion Act of 2003, which passed Congress yesterday. For reasons known only to him, he will sign a bill that will endanger the lives of women all across America.

Any pregnancy can go terribly wrong, and this ban outlaws medically necessary abortions that women need for serious medical conditions, such as strokes, renal failure or diabetes.

Anti-choice hardliners again are trying to politicize what is a medical and a moral issue.

There is no procedure in medicine known as “partial birth” abortion.

Further, the ban contains no exception when the health of the woman is at risk. The U.S. Supreme Court has already ruled that any ban that does not safeguard women's lives is unconstitutional. And why shouldn't it? The mandate of our highest court is to safeguard the lives of its citizens.

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Nurses Association and the American Medical Women's Association oppose this ban.

And why shouldn't they? The most respected medical associations in the country oppose a law that will imperil the lives of women who have been entrusted to their care.

AGOG has stated its position clearly: “Intervention of legislative bodies into medical decision making is inappropriate, ill-advised, and dangerous.”

If it is ever enforced, this ban will put doctors in jail for providing the best and safest health care to women. This dangerous ban prevents women, in consultation with their families and trusted doctors, from making decisions about their own health.

Medicine should not be practiced on the floor of the Senate or the House of Representatives. I doubt that any member of Congress would like his or her colleagues deciding whether he should have surgery for prostate cancer or she should have a quadruple bypass operation.

What member of Congress would want his or her daughter or sister to have her health or life endangered because this law prohibits her from receiving the best medical care.

Indeed, no woman in America should be at the mercy of politically motivated hardline anti-choice, anti-woman, anti-human rights lawmakers who are endangering the lives of women for their own

political gain.

We know the law is on our side because the court has already spoken. And we know the American people are on our side because two-thirds of voters believe that women should have the right to bodily integrity and self-determination.

What we don't know is why any politician would knowingly want to harm his or her own constituents. In fact, this legislation is the culmination of a deceptive campaign to mislead these very citizens.

Women come to Planned Parenthood because we tell them the truth and we support them in making the right medical decisions for themselves.

Congress has made a reckless and irresponsible decision, and that is why we must now go to the courts to protect women's health.

Because our mandate is to provide the highest quality reproductive health care, Planned Parenthood will seek an immediate injunction and request a restraining order to prevent this legislation from taking effect.

We know we will win. That's not the issue. The issue is why we continually are fighting for what should already be ours – the freedom, the human right – to make our own childbearing choices.

AID, FROM PAGE 1

and supporting hospitals as much as possible.

Monday's bombing of the Red Cross was an attack on "the symbolic heart of neutral assistance," the Paris-based group, known in English as Doctors Without Borders, said in a statement.

The Greek section of another aid group, Doctors of the World, which worked in Baghdad during U.S.-led bombing raids, said it would probably remove at least two of its three staff.

The German government said it was considering whether to withdraw a four-member team of water-supply experts sent to Iraq in September, and the German organization Help said its staff would stay in the office for a few days but would continue providing material aid and help clearing land mines.

"A complete withdrawal of humanitarian relief groups would only play into the hands of the terrorists and lead to a further radicalization," said Help spokesman Wolfgang Nierwetberg.

The World Bank and International Monetary Fund pulled out all their staff following the U.N. bombing.

The Red Cross has several hundred Iraqi employees supervised by 30-40 international staff, Westphal said.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher praised the Red Cross and other humanitarian organizations as "people who are doing good work."

"Everybody who works there needs to take into account the security situation," said Boucher, adding that some "will continue to do the work" despite security risks.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan spoke with ICRC President Jakob Kellenberger after the bombing and called the attack "a crime against humanity."

"The ICRC is a universally respected humanitarian organization. Its neutrality and impartiality are the mainstays of its operations," said Marie Okabe, a spokeswoman for Annan.

Red Cross delegates devote much of their time to visiting prisoners held by occupation forces and the Iraqi police - a main part of the agency's mandate under the Geneva Conventions on warfare and occupation.

The organization also offers emergency medical aid, provides

water and sanitation and educates Iraqis on how to avoid land mines and other explosives.

Westphal said the ICRC never requested protection from coalition forces, but had taken discreet steps to control direct access to its offices.

"At the same time it's obviously also important that as a humanitarian organization we don't completely disappear behind impenetrable barriers," he said.

The Red Cross was still investigating reports that the attack had been carried out with an ambulance or other vehicle marked with a red cross or the Iraqi equivalent red crescent, he said.

U.N. agencies, who scaled back their operations following the August attack but continue to operate via locally hired staff, saw Monday's bombing as another assault on the very people who are providing aid to the Iraqis.

"It is always shocking to see that people like us - trying to help the Iraqi people - always seem to be one of the main targets," said Damien Personnaz, spokesman for the U.N. Children's Fund.



A woman peers from the window of her home Monday, October 27, 2003, near where a car bomb exploded in Baghdad.

ATTACKS, FROM PAGE 1

amateurs," he said. "They are trying to indicate that Baghdad isn't secure, which couldn't be further from the truth."

The assertion that Baghdad is secure would come as a surprise to residents of the city.

The first bombing occurred around 8:30 a.m. when a Nissan pickup truck resembling an Iraqi police vehicle crashed through a checkpoint outside a police station in the Hay Jaalam sector of southwest Baghdad.

"They tried to stop him," said Iraqi police 1st Lt. Issam Tallam, 30. "But he got a pistol out and shot one policeman, then blew up the car, just near the front door."

The blast left a 9-foot crater, body parts and the twisted wrecks of burned cars in front of the building, used by both the Baya's police station and the Dawra patrol station. The blast shattered windows and caved in part of the building around the front entrance.

Tallam said 15 Iraqi police and one U.S. soldier were killed in the explosion. The military later confirmed the soldier's death, but Deputy Interior Minister Lt. Gen. Ahmed Ibrahim said only eight Iraqi policemen were killed in all of the bombings.

"I saw one Iraqi policeman lying down and he was dead," said Qyssa Sadi, 23, who lives nearby. "There was a man without a head or feet or hands. There was a head lying in the street."

Seventeen of the wounded were treated at nearby Yarmouk Hospital.

The second bomb went off five minutes later outside the Red Cross headquarters in east-central Baghdad. Some witnesses said the bomber was driving a Red Cross truck, possibly an ambulance. Security guards managed to stop him about 25 yards from the building.

"I think the suicide bomber realized he wasn't going to get in, so he punched it off," said Hertling, who reached the scene later.

The explosion left a 6-foot crater in the street and ruptured a water line. Torrents of muddy water flowed past bodies of victims, including the charred remains of the bomber. Hulks of burning cars littered the narrow streets. The military estimated that at least 10 people were killed in the blast and an equal number were injured.

SAGE, FROM PAGE 1



Kristine Diem, a senior health behavior major who has been a part of SAGE for three years, had a great time at the event. "We had a lot of fun kayaking and this was a great way to go out and do things," said Diem. "SAGE is a diverse group of people that come together because they care about the environment," she added.

At the cleanup, participants found items such as barrels from concrete

trucks, a corroded tailgate from a truck, and a lighting system. Fierstos said he was very pleased with the turnout at the cleanup.

For those students who want to get involved with SAGE, the organization meets every first and third Wednesday outside of the MPP building at 5 p.m. SAGE is advised by Dr. Loren Wolfe, a professor within the Biology department. Interested students can contact SAGE at sageatgsu@yahoo.com.

FIRES, FROM PAGE 1

The dry, hot Santa Ana winds that have fanned the flames began to ease Monday, raising hopes that overwhelmed firefighters could make progress with the help of reinforcements on their way from other Western states. But the danger was still high.

President Bush designated the fire-stricken region a major disaster area, opening the door to grants, loans and other aid to residents and businesses in Los Angeles, San Bernardino, San Diego and Ventura counties.

"This is a devastating fire and it's a dangerous fire. And we're prepared to help in any way we can," Bush said at the White House.

Gov. Gray Davis moved to activate the National Guard and summon help from neighboring states. He predicted the cost of the fires would be in the billions.

He toured the fire area in San Bernardino and saw "just homes reduced to rubble, charred belongings still sending off smoke."

He was followed later by Gov.-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger, who had a fire briefing in Ventura County and praised work by firefighters.

He thanked Bush for swiftly declaring an emergency and said he would go to Washington on Tuesday to meet with federal officials "to make sure that the federal money will come through."

"I want to thank them for their hard work. The ... firefighters are the true heroes. They're risking their lives in order to save people's lives," Schwarzenegger said.

Across Southern California, the sun glowed red and smoke stung the eyes and lungs. Airport baggage handlers wore masks against the smoke and the ash dropping across the landscape.

Even the primates at the San Diego Zoo went indoors to escape the misery. "Their lungs are built like ours so they can be affected by the smoke," said zoo spokeswoman Yadira Galindo.

Many of those who died in the wildfires ignored evacuation orders and were caught by flames because they waited until the last minute to flee, Sheriff Bill Kolender said.

"When you are asked to leave, do it immediately," he said. "Do not wait."

San Diego Fire Chief Jeff Bowman said he was worried that three fires that incinerated 585 homes in San Diego County would merge into a super fire, pushing already strained resources to the breaking point.

A 90,000-acre wildfire that straddles the Los Angeles-Ventura county line began moving slowly

toward million-dollar mansions in a gated community in Los Angeles. California Department of Forestry Battalion Chief Thomas Foley said that in a "worst-case scenario," the blaze could spread all the way to the Pacific Ocean.

Some hotspots flared Monday, but authorities said the winds that had driven the flames erratically for days appeared to be easing.

Los Angeles Fire Chief William Bamattre said firefighters were seizing the opportunity to finally go on the attack after being on the defensive for days.

However, gusts of up to 45 mph were still possible in canyons, and homes throughout the region remained in danger because of high temperatures, low humidity and millions of dead trees from an infestation of bark beetles.

A state of emergency was declared in the four stricken counties, where the fires had laid waste to entire blocks of homes, closed major highways, shuttered schools, disrupted air travel nationwide and sent people running for their lives.

"You could almost smell the smoke and you could almost taste fire," said Leilani Baker, 46, of San Diego. She was sitting at a bus stop, her shoulders covered with ash.

Nine people were killed by the so-called Cedar Fire, California's largest blaze at 150,000 acres. The fire was ignited Saturday near the mountain town of Julian when a lost hunter set off a signal fire, authorities said. The hunter may face charges.

In San Bernardino County, a blaze called the Old Fire has destroyed

more than 450 homes. On Monday, the flames jumped a road and moved into the heavily forested small town of Crestline.

A major fire burning closer to Los Angeles is believed to have been started by arsonists.

"Those who start these fires are no better than domestic terrorists and should be dealt with as such," said Los Angeles County District Attorney Steve Cooley.

The arsonists "have no idea how many lives they've ruined," said Trisha Mitchell, standing amid the debris that was once her childhood home in San Bernardino.

Days after running for her life from a fire that ripped through her San Bernardino neighborhood, Pati Wecker returned home in the Del Rosa area to find the only thing left standing of her house was an archway.

Across the street, a park with green grass and trees was untouched.

Digging through the ruins of her home, Wecker found an untouched porcelain angel and two beer steins. A burned photo album crumbled when she picked it up.

Her husband was killed in Vietnam and she raised her six children in the home that is known in the neighborhood as "Mamma's House."

"They all said we will build another house," said Wecker, 69.

When the fire closed in, the only things she was able to get out of the house were her purse and a few clothes. "Everything in there, even my five cats," she said, pointing to the ruins. She was unable to get part of her dentures: "I don't even have my teeth."

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UNCHARTED TERRITORY: Eagles out of polls for first time in seven years

By Eli Boorstein
nietsroob17@hotmail.com

Every Monday, it was a safe bet to see Georgia Southern somewhere in the new week's Division I-AA polls.

But, in the midst of a disappointing season, the Eagles have failed to appear among the top 25 rankings for the first time since the end of the 1996 season.

Currently, Wofford sits atop the SoCon standings with a 5-0 mark in league play, with a surging Citadel squad nipping at their heels at 4-1. Furman and Appalachian State each sit at 3-2 while Chattanooga is 2-2. Georgia Southern is down to sixth in the SoCon at 2-3 with Western Carolina, Elon and East Tennessee State rounding things out.

The Eagles current losing streak grew to two last weekend when they suffered a come-from-behind 28-24 defeat at the hands of The Citadel. Georgia Southern trailed at one point, 21-0, before storming back to take the lead. However, a Brandon Andrews fumble gave the ball back to the Bulldogs, who were able to run in for the game-winning touchdown late in the fourth quarter.

Wofford remained perfect in SoCon play as they took care of Appalachian State 24-14 in Spartanburg. After the Terriers built up a 17-point lead, the Mountaineers scored a pair of touchdowns to bring their deficit within three points. But, a touchdown run from Terrier quarterback Jeff Zolman late in the game sealed the Appalachian fate.

Elon saw their losing streak grow to five as they fell 24-7 at non-conference foe Towson. The Phoenix would have been shut out if not for a touchdown with 18 seconds left in the game. The Tigers, members of the Patriot League, were led by 174 receiving yards and a pair of touchdowns from Jason Galloway.

Furman victoriously celebrated their Homecoming by handing East Tennessee State a 30-10 loss in Greenville. After the Bucs led



LaVene Bell/STAFF

For the first time since the beginning of the Paul Johnson era, Jermaine Austin (6) and the rest of the Georgia Southern football team sees themselves outside of the Division I-AA rankings. The Eagles will try to snap their current two-game losing streak when they meet East Tennessee State in Johnson City, Tenn. on Saturday.

through much of the first quarter, the Paladins jumped ahead on a pair of touchdowns in the final two minutes of the period, and cruised from that point on.

Chattanooga closed the weekend in resounding fashion as they gave Western Carolina a 38-0 blanketing at home. It was a passing exhibition for both teams, as they combined for 51 completions and 581 yards. Mocs quarterback Vinnie Miroth led the way, completing 27-of-40 passes for 382 yards and four touchdowns.

Georgia Southern will try to salvage respect in their otherwise forgettable season this weekend, one of four games in the tenth week of the Southern Conference schedule.

The Eagles will make the trip north to face East Tennessee State for the final time at 1 p.m. The last

time Georgia Southern, 4-4 overall, traveled to Johnson City in 2001, the then-No. 1 Eagles suffered an upset loss to the Bucs. ETSU, in their final season of football, will be led by running back Gaven Varner, who sits second in the conference with 87.4 rushing yards per game.

After winning their last two games, Chattanooga will try for another improbable win, this time at Appalachian State at 2 p.m. The 2-6 Mocs have the league's top-rated quarterback in Miroth, who averages just shy of 240 passing yards per game. Like Georgia Southern, the 4-4 Mountaineers will also likely see their streak of consecutive play-off bids end after a disappointing season of their own.

A pair of struggling North Carolina schools will face off when Elon

travels to Western Carolina at 2 p.m. The 2-7 Phoenix have lost their last three league games in this, their first season as members of the Southern Conference. After a promising start, the 3-6 Catamounts have had little to be excited about, as they are in the midst of a four-game losing streak.

The prime matchup among the weekend's action will be a battle for first place when No. 5 Wofford travels to No. 25 The Citadel at 2 p.m. The 7-1 Terriers have breezed through their competition since suffering a season-opening loss to I-A foe Maryland. The 5-3 Bulldogs, led by the duo of quarterback Willie Simmons and halfback Nehemiah Broughton, are on pace to have their best season since 1992, when they made the second round of the playoffs, finishing 11-2 overall.

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE LEADERS

RUSHING				TACKLES			
PLAYER	YDS	AVG	YDS/G	PLAYER	SOLO	TOTAL	AVG/G
J. Austin, GSU	1,061	6.6	132.6	M. Cullen, ETSU	38	88	11.0
G. Varner, ETSU	699	3.9	87.4	M. Killian, FUR	39	87	10.9
H. Brigham, FUR	696	5.1	87.0	S. Smalls, ASU	35	60	10.0

PASSING				SACKS			
PLAYER	CMP	TD	YDS/G	PLAYER	SOLO	TOTAL	YDS
V. Miroth, UTC	120	8	239.2	K. Stovall, ASU	7	7.5	42
B. Gaither, WCU	193	14	220.0	E. Hadley, GSU	4	4.0	31
W. Simmons, CIT	91	5	150.2	J. Wilson, CIT	4	4.0	28

RECEIVING				TEAM TOTAL OFFENSE			
PLAYER	YDS	AVG/C	YDS/G	TEAM	RUSH	PASS	YDS/G
A. Nix, UTC	639	11.0	79.9	Georgia Southern	2,664	729	424.1
L. Seward, WCU	715	11.7	79.4	The Citadel	1,528	1,279	350.9
J. Grier, UTC	535	14.5	66.9	Furman	1,607	1,197	350.5

SPORTS NETWORK DIVISION I-AA RANKINGS

TEAM (FIRST PLACE VOTES)	RECORD	POINTS	PREVIOUS RANK
1. McNeese State (80)	6-1	2,537	1
2. Delaware (21)	8-0	2,465	3
3. Southern Illinois (2)	8-0	2,346	4
4. Massachusetts	7-1	2,247	5
5. Wofford	7-1	2,089	6
6. Northern Iowa	7-1	1,939	9
7. Villanova	6-1	1,896	2
8. Western Kentucky	6-2	1,862	8
9. Bethune-Cookman	6-1	1,625	11
10. Montana	6-2	1,585	12
11. Penn	6-0	1,422	13
12. Colgate	8-0	1,296	16
13. Western Illinois	5-3	1,278	7
14. Grambling State	6-2	1,277	15
15. Northern Arizona	6-2	988	10
16. Harvard	6-0	913	20
17. Florida Atlantic	6-2	769	21
18. Southern University	7-1	729	14
19. North Carolina A&T	7-1	716	23
20. Furman	5-3	680	22
21. Hampton	6-1	572	25
22. Fordham	6-2	499	24
23. Northwestern State	6-3	296	18
24. Idaho State	5-3	294	17
25. The Citadel	5-3	253	NR

Veiglova, Mullen given Player of the Week honors by SoCon

G-A News Service

SPARTANBURG, S.C. - Georgia Southern's Martina Veiglova has been named the SoCon Volleyball Player of the Week for the week of Oct. 27.



Veiglova

Veiglova, the Eagles' standout outside hitter and reigning SoCon Player of the Year, blistered opponents this week by averaging 6.22 kills per game and hitting .447. She also added six service aces and 34 digs on the week, tallying her 1000th career dig against The Citadel. Veiglova recorded a double-double in each of her three matches this week, and she tied the GSU record for most kills in a three-game match against UNC Greensboro with 26.

A senior from Bratislava, Slovakia, Veiglova is second in the SoCon in hitting percentage (.341), seventh in service aces per game (0.44), and leads the conference in kills per game (5.57).

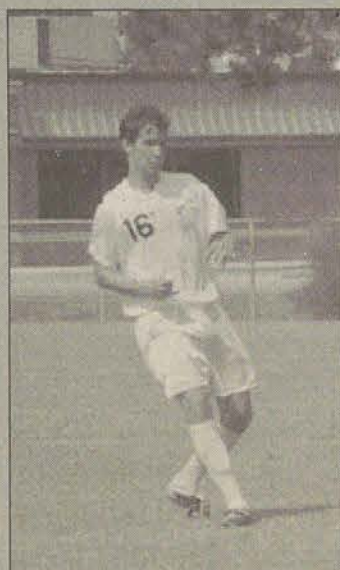
Other nominees this week include: College of Charleston's Stephanie Ballard who averaged 4.55 kills per game in three victories; ASU's Stefanie Panzer who hit an amazing .607 in three matches; Karen Freeburg of East Tennessee State who averaged 4.22 kills per game on the week; Elon's Emily Hayes whose 19 kills led the Phoenix to a five-game victory over Davidson; Furman's Whitney Purser who led the Paladins with double-digit kills each match last week; Katie Laser of Wofford who had 12 kills in the Terriers' only match of the week; Kelly Ramsay of Chattanooga who hit .632 with 12 kills against The Citadel; UNC Greensboro's Abbi Meyer who tallied 21 kills and a .312 hitting percentage; and The Citadel's Lindsey Hodge who averaged 3.56 kills per game in three matches.

G-A News Service

SPARTANBURG, S.C. - Georgia Southern's Tyler Mullen has been named the SoCon Men's Soccer Player of the Week for the week of Oct. 27.

Mullen, a freshman from Roswell, has been a steady striker for the Eagles all year. On Saturday, the midfielder tallied two goals and assisted on another in Georgia Southern's 5-2 win over Wofford. His goal in the 22nd minute was the second of five consecutive goals for the Eagles. A starter in every game, Mullen is second on the team with 13 points. Georgia Southern is currently fifth in the Southern Conference standings with two more conference games to play.

Other top performers include UNCG's Randi Patterson, Wofford's Jesus Arroyo-Peco and College of Charleston's Ricardo Diaz Granados. The Spartans lost to both Duke and N.C. State this weekend, but Patterson notched a goal in each game. Arroyo-Peco recorded a goal and an assist in the Terriers' 5-2 loss to Georgia Southern. Granados, a senior and the team's leading scorer, buried the game-winning goal for the Cougars in their 2-0 win against Elon.



Special Photo

Tyler Mullen was named the top soccer player in the conference after finishing with two goals and an assist against Wofford.

Swimming & Diving chosen to finish second in inaugural season in NEC

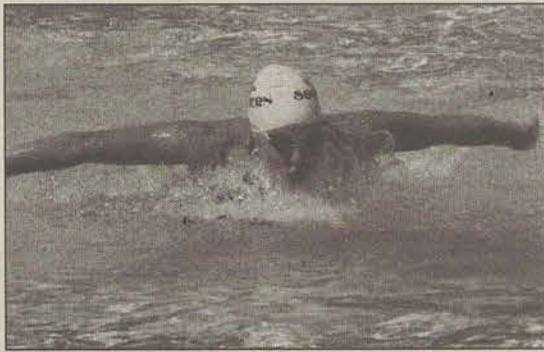
G-A News Service

SOMERSET, N.J. - Wagner has been picked as the pre-season favorite to win the 2004 NEC Women's Swimming & Diving Championship, according to a poll of league head coaches.

Katie Dolan, the 2003 NEC Coach of the Year, looks to lead the Seahawks to their first-ever conference title, after finishing second in last year's meet. Wagner will have to beat out a host of challengers this season, including Georgia Southern, Gardner-Webb and Georgetown, all of whom received first place votes in the poll.

Wagner returns sophomore Shannon Johnston, the 2003 individual champion in the 1,650 freestyle (17:26.81). At last year's NEC meet, the all-conference performer also placed second in the 500 freestyle (5:07.69), third in the 200 freestyle (1:57.49) and led the 400 freestyle relay team to a gold medal. Junior Lindsey DeGorio will be a key contributor in the backstroke. DeGorio was the 2002 individual champion in the 100 backstroke (58.26), while coming in second in the 200 backstroke (2:07.24). The Seahawks also return all-NEC swimmers in senior Jennifer Downing, junior Kathryn Driscoll and sophomores Ivey Hanson and Eileen Dowd.

Rounding out the rest of the top finishers in the preseason poll are Georgia Southern and Gardner-Webb coming in second and third, respectively, and Georgetown and Central Connecticut State tied for fourth. In its inaugural NEC campaign, Georgia Southern will rely on senior Lauren Bird, who was the Eagles top finisher in the Southern States Conference meet last year in the 100 butterfly (57.83), 200 butterfly (2:07.96) and the 100 individual medley (2:09.03), helping lead Georgia Southern to a third place finish. Gardner-Webb swam to a second place finish at the Southern States meet in 2003 and placed five swimmers on the all-conference team. Leading the Bulldogs this season will be sophomore Taylor Simpson, who broke two school records at the SSC meet in the 200 butterfly (2:08.46), claiming second place, and



Special Photo

Senior Lauren Bird will try to help the Lady Eagle swimming & diving program succeed in their first season as members of the Northeastern Conference.

The 400 individual medley (4:30.6). Georgetown fields a strong team, led by sophomore Katie Amaro and senior Juliana Bonilla. Amaro is dominate in the freestyle, while Bonilla is the Hoyas' top diver. Central Connecticut State graduated last year's NEC Outstanding Swimmer Tammie Repass, but returns sophomore Juliana DiPlacido, the 2003 individual champion in both the 1-Meter (194.85) and 3-Meter (414.55) diving events. The Blue Devils finished in third place at last season's NEC championships and will be shooting for their first crown since 2001.

The Northeast Conference has expanded its women's swimming & diving sponsorship for the 2003-2004 season with six new associate members. The addition of women's swimming programs from Florida A&M, Georgetown, Georgia Southern, Gardner-Webb, North Carolina A&T and Radford will boost conference membership in the sport to 12.

The 2004 NEC Women's Swimming & Diving Championship will take place Friday, February 20 through Sunday, February 22 at the Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex in Landover, Md. All 12 NEC schools sponsoring women's swimming will compete in the three day championship.

Human Highlight Film: Coming soon to Macon

Dominique Wilkins, eight others to be inducted into Georgia Sports Hall of Fame

Associated Press

ATLANTA - The Georgia Sports Hall of Fame announced its 2004 class of inductees Monday, and heading the list was Dominique Wilkins, one of the most celebrated basketball players in University of Georgia and Atlanta Hawks history.

The group of inductees also includes George Rogers, Claude Humphrey, Pat Swilling, Tim Simpson, John "Blue Moon" Odom, Pepper Rodgers, Wade Mitchell and James K. Harper, Jr.

The 2004 induction ceremony is scheduled for April 3 at the Macon City Auditorium.

Wilkins played for the Hawks from 1983-94 and was a nine-time All-Star.

Rogers, from Duluth, won the 1980 Heisman Trophy for the University of South Carolina. Humphrey appeared in six Pro Bowls with the Atlanta Falcons. Swilling, from Toccoa, was an All-American at Georgia Tech and a six-time Pro Bowl pick in the NFL. Simpson, from Atlanta, was a four-time winner on the PGA tour.

Odom, from Macon, pitched on three World Series championship teams with Oakland. Rodgers, also an Atlanta native, was 73-65-1 as a college coach, including five years at Georgia Tech. Mitchell, also from Atlanta, was a quarterback at Tech in the mid-1950s. Harper, from Thomasville, was a Southeastern Conference official from 1963-96.



UPCOMING EAGLE EVENTS

Wednesday

Volleyball vs. College of Charleston, 7 p.m., Hanner Fieldhouse

Friday

Women's Soccer at UNC Greensboro, 7 p.m.

Saturday

Cross Country at Southern Conference Championships, 10 a.m., Davidson, N.C.

Swimming & Diving at Richmond, Noon

Men's Soccer vs. Liberty, 1 p.m., Eagle Field Football at East Tennessee State, 1 p.m.

Sunday

Women's Soccer at Elon, 1 p.m.

Peace Corps:

Students making a difference one country at a time

By Kim Wicker
kimberlywicker@hotmail.com

Thomas Stuntebeck always craved adventure.

As a Georgia Southern alumnus who had majored in Sports Management, his desire to do something different was relentless. An internship at the Citadel came directly after graduation, and upon completing his internship, 25-year-old Stuntebeck was left with few options but job searches were fruitless.

It was then that Stuntebeck decided to check out the Peace Corps website. He had been interested in the program for several years, but now seemed like the perfect time to apply. Stuntebeck e-mailed the program, they responded, and within a week he was in Atlanta for an interview. He didn't know where he was going or what he would be doing. A few weeks before his departure, Stuntebeck received the call that would solidify the next two years of his life: he was off to Uzbekistan.

In the heart of Central Asia, Uzbekistan is a country where the old political heart of the USSR can still be heard beating. The Peace Corps website informed Stuntebeck about the history and mission of the program. Started in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy, the program challenged students to "serve their country in the cause of peace by living and working in developing countries." From that goal, an agency of the federal government was born.

According to the Peace Corps website, more than 170,000 Peace Corps Volunteers have been invited by 136 host countries over the past 42 years, to work on issues such as AIDS education, English education, and environmental preservation.

Although the website strives to inform potential volunteers on anything they might want to know, there is no way of preparing the volunteers for the challenges they will face once they arrive in their host country, their

home for the next two years and three months.

Stuntebeck landed in Uzbekistan and immediately began his cultural training, which involved learning Russian and being taught the many cultural differences that were now part of his reality. Although Stuntebeck was new to the Russian language, his task required him to teach English as a second language.

Education is the Peace Corps largest program, and many volunteers with little or no teaching experience find themselves developing the community through language.

Adjusting to new surroundings is a huge obstacle for many volunteers. "Now I know why it is a third-world country," Stuntebeck said. "There are trash heaps everywhere with kids and parents digging through it. Cows also eat from that mess. I actually got a toilet in my apartment that flushes, most people here are real jealous of that."

Stuntebeck, who has been in Uzbekistan since August, is living in Chirchiq, which is located about 20 miles northeast of Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan.

Stuntebeck is not the first Peace Corps volunteer to have ties to Georgia Southern.

Joan Stalcup, the Administrative Coordinator for International Students at GSU, volunteered in Costa Rica from 1985 to 1987. During that time, Stalcup met her husband, Dr. Larry Stalcup, who was also volunteering in Costa Rica. Dr. Stalcup is currently a professor of Hospitality on campus.

According to Mrs. Stalcup, there are ten known returned Peace Corps volunteers (RPCV) at GSU: nine faculty and staff, and one graduate student. However, there may be more returned volunteers that are unknown. A Georgia Southern RPCV group is currently in the works, which all RPCV are welcome to be a part of.

Although each volunteers' experience is unique, Stalcup believes one thing each volunteer has in common is the desire to step outside the boundaries of the U.S. culture.

All volunteers yearn to "experience life as it is seen through the eyes of another culture," Stalcup said.

College recruiters for the Peace Corps want to offer students that experience.

Les Etienne, an Atlanta-based recruiter, was at Georgia Southern on October 21 to talk to interested students.

Etienne is a returned volunteer who served in Guyana, South America, from 1997-1999. Etienne focused on the fact that volunteers are not under contract. The Peace Corps is not a job, individuals are placed because they truly desire it. Because the commitments come from people who are willing to work and make a difference, volunteers of all skill levels are placed. Language proficiency and education background are considered, but the needs of the Peace Corps and the countries they serve in are most important when deciding where to send volunteers.

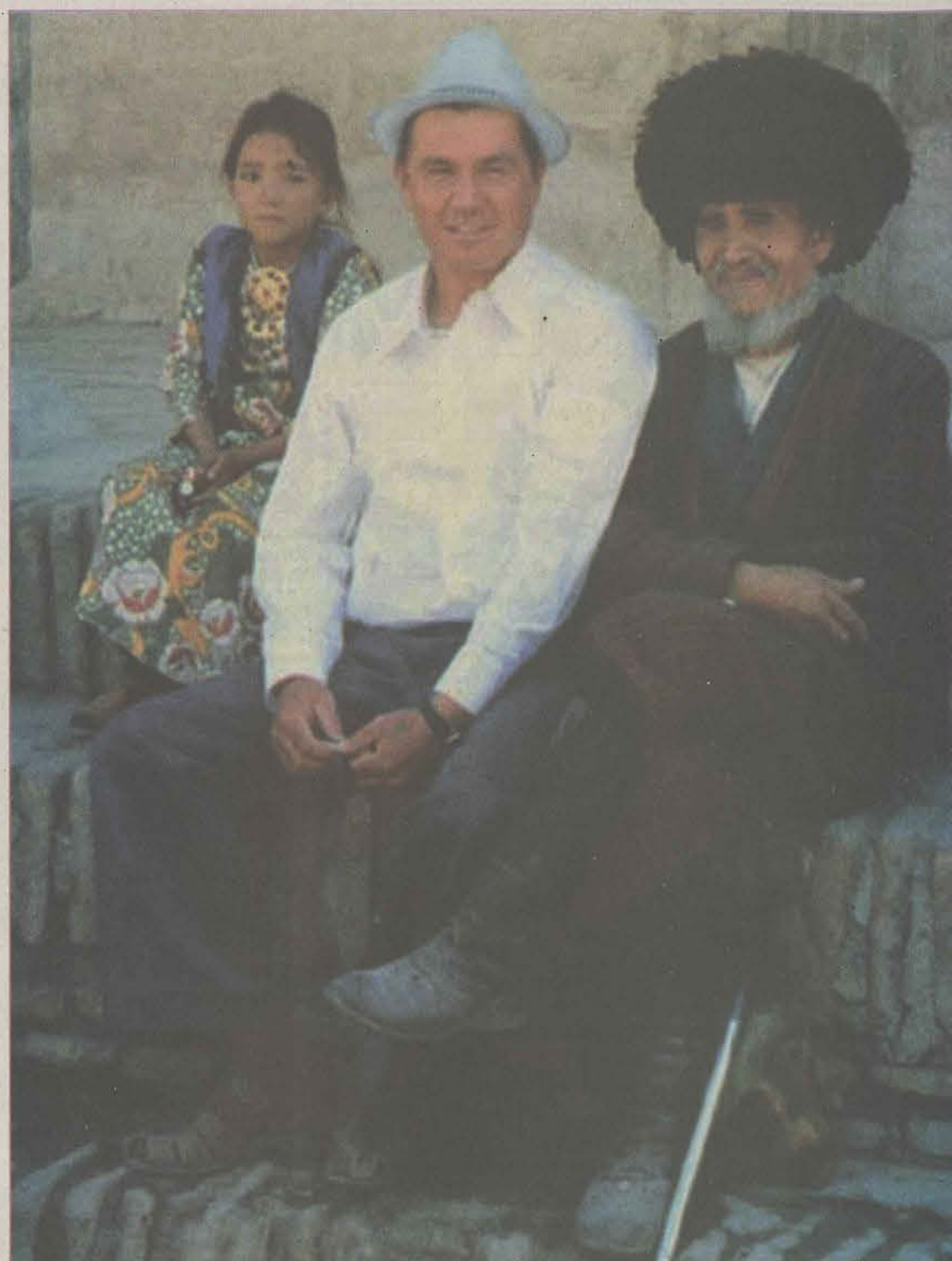
Stuntebeck is happy to be in Uzbekistan, where his efforts are needed. In addition to his volunteering tasks, Stuntebeck is spending time with local kids, showing them things that most American children consider ordinary.

"I showed (the kids) how to catch and throw a baseball, they had never seen it before. They loved it. That drew a huge crowd," Stuntebeck said. The Peace Corps is unlike anything Stuntebeck has ever experienced before. He calls it by far, "the coolest thing I have ever done. Every day is an adventure."

For more information on the Peace Corps, contact the website at www.peacecorps.gov. Students may also contact Joan Stalcup at jstalcup@georgiasouthern.edu.

The Peace Corps's English Education Program offers language instruction and assists in educational resource development in Uzbekistan. (Top) Uzbekistani citizens, whom are predominantly muslim; however, the influence of seven decades of Soviet rule is still strong. (Below) Uzbekistan borders Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, and the Aral Sea.

Special Photos



A CLOSER LOOK: UZBEKISTAN

Population Average:

25,600,000

Total Volunteers to Date:

415

Peace Corps Program Dates:

1992-2001; 2002-present

Languages Spoken:

Northern Uzbek, Russian

Number of Volunteers:

226

Climate:

mostly midlatitude desert



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For more information contact Kristin Frazier at (912)486-7270 or email her at smokinjo7@aol.com