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The GEORGE-ANNE

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Thursday, March 25, 2004 • Volume 76, Number 76

CAN 'DEAD' BE DEFEATED?

New movies opening this weekend provide healthy competition for viewership

Hiatus

ALL WORK AND NO PLAY

Eagle baseball comes out of Spring Break looking to build momentum

Page 6A



SGA elections to begin Monday

Presidential candidate debate to be held tonight in Russell Union



Chris Haseltine

Charisse Perkins

Latene Bell/STAFF

By Katie Willis
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Beginning Monday, March 29 through Wednesday, March 31, GSU students will have the chance to vote via WINGS for the 2004-2005 Student Government Association (SGA) officers, including that of the President.

Every student knows how easy it is to forget to vote, and some students have no concern at all invested in the election. However, with all the problems and concerns regarding GSU and its students, voting could be the easiest, and most effective way for busy students to get involved in university decisions, and voice their opinion.

Before students vote, it is important they know for whom they are voting. It is important to know what kind of issues the candidates are concerned with, their methods of executing ideas and implementing plans, and their desire to represent GSU and its students in the most proficient way possible.

This year's candidates for SGA President are Charisse Perkins and Chris Haseltine.

Charisse Perkins is a junior marketing major from Columbus, Georgia. She is currently the SGA Vice President of Academic Affairs and this is her fourth year involved in the SGA.

"Vote for me because I have the experience, knowledge,

work ethic, and determination to lead the students of Georgia Southern University," Perkins stated.

According to Perkins and her ticket, the most important thing Georgia Southern University students can do is vote.

"Some of the issues facing students, other than parking, are the lackadaisical attitudes that many students share about GSU. Students simply don't care. Students need to realize that this is their school and their money. Decisions are being made every day regarding fees, tuition, and academic courses. Students need to get involved with the decision making process by voting in the SGA elections," Perkins said.

Although the position held by the President is important,

See SGA, Page 9A

Delta Sigma Theta to be reinstated in Fall '04

By Scott Corwin
sdcorwin2@hotmail.com

After several years in limbo, the sorority Delta Sigma Theta is returning to campus this fall. The last graduating member from GSU was in 1998, but the school has no official reason for their suspension.

Eighteen alumnae who live in the area have been gauging interest in the sorority's revival. Cheri Smalling, a graduate student, is one of the proponents. "We had over 300 girls attend a sponsored luncheon," she said.

With all the related paperwork for re-admission settled, Delta Sigma Theta will join the seven other GSU sororities.

"We are a graduate chapter looking to reinstate the undergraduate chapter," said sorority secretary, Dorothy Baldwin.

Once they are back on their feet, they will take care of other business such as getting a house.

"We are a community-oriented organization," said Baldwin, "we expect all of our members to be active participants, and to at least have a strong service background."

See Sorority, Page 9A

Author Jessica Weiner speaks on eating disorders

By Rhonda McLeod
mazy_19@hotmail.com

Jessica Weiner, author, speaker, and performer presented, "Do I Look Fat in This?" at 7:30 in the Nessmith-Lane Assembly Hall Tuesday evening.

Weiner's first book "A Very Hungry Girl" chronicles her own self-discovery and ultimate recovery from an eating disorder, and her talk is part of her work to address the problems of eating disorders.

Weiner is the youngest recipient of the Penn State University Alumni Achievement Award and has recently been awarded the Nuvo Cultural Vision Action Award from the city of Indianapolis for her artistic work and activism. She has received national attention for her work in venues such as CNN, MTV, "The View" and "Good Morning America." Most recently, she has appeared on both "Oprah" and "The Today Show" to discuss her book and her work with youth.

Her visit is sponsored by the Campus Life Enrichment Committee, The Women's and Gender Studies Program, The Multi-Cultural Student Center, The Student Government Association and the Georgia Southern chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW).

Lynn-Cee Faulk, president of GSU

See Speaker, Page 5A

Smoking ban offers mixed results for Statesboro businesses

By Rachel Weeks
crazed Rachel@hotmail.com

No more ashtrays will be found in Statesboro restaurants and bars, that is unless they have live entertainment or are a tobacco retail outlet. The smoking ban, enforced January 1, 2004, affects businesses as well as students.

Some local restaurants have been affected by the new smoking ordinance.

Mo Ghassen, owner of IHOP said, "We lost some of our customers who come in every morning to eat breakfast and smoke." Ghassen added, "We have ashtrays out front for smokers, but I choose to go to a restaurant where I can sit and smoke with my meal."

Local workers at the Huddle House say they have heard many complaints from customers who believe the new ban is a violation of their rights. A day-shift waitress there said, "We lost a lot of our regulars, people who used to come in, drink coffee and smoke."

While some restaurants have seen changes in regular smoking customers, none claimed to have lost any revenue since the implementation

See Smoking, Page 9A

While some restaurants have reported customers abandoning their establishments, none have lost any revenue. Applebee's has actually recorded slightly higher profits following the ban taking effect in the beginning of this year.



Dallas Oliver/STAFF

Weekday Weather

Thursday

HIGH 77°
LOW 52°
Partly Cloudy

Friday

HIGH 81°
LOW 51°
Partly Cloudy

Only in America

- Argument over 'The Passion' gets passionate in Georgia
- Hot coffee causes lawsuit of Nebraska hospital
- One man is hit by two vehicles in one day in Texas

Page 3A

Opinions

- DeMarc Campbell talks about intimacy
- One GSU staffer believes 'Vagina Monologues' should provide civil dialogue for community

Page 4A

Sports

- Softball comes home after lengthy road trip
- Eagle tennis teams heading in opposite directions
- Eagle golf falls behind in Schenkel E-Z-GO Invitational

Page 6A, 8A

Inside

- Police Beat 2A
- Classifieds 6B - 7B
- Crossword 6B
- Comics 6B - 7B
- Sports 6A, 8A
- Opinions 4A
- Calendar 2B
- News Briefs 2A

Police Beat

03-10-2004

- A purse was taken from the Recreation Activities Center.

03-11-2004

- Chad Nicholson, 19, of Winburn Hall, was charged with minor in possession/consumption of alcohol. A cellular phone was taken from Southern Pines.
- An electric scooter was taken from the bike rack at Kennedy Hall.

03-12-04

- A case of simple battery was reported at the Recreation Activities Center.
- A concrete picnic bench was broken at Johnson Hall.
- A Southern Courtyard gate was damaged.
- A Southern Pines resident reported that someone threw eggs

on his vehicle. No damage was reported.
 • An Olliff Hall resident reported a broken window.

03-13-04

- Sanbreal Wayman, 33, of 300 Jones Mill Road, Statesboro, was charged with DUI, improper start and open container.

03-14-04

- John Farrell, 21, of 116 Lanier Drive Apt. No. 2, Statesboro, was charged with theft by taking.
- Brett Gromes, 19, of 1231 Kennedy Road, Arnoldsville, Ga., was charged with criminal trespass.

03-16-04

- Jade Ealy, 21, of 122 Lanier Drive Apt. 521, Statesboro, was charged with criminal trespass.

03-20-04

- Sherilyn Cathy Francis, 21, of Knight Drive, Statesboro, was charged with driving with a suspended license.

03-21-04

- Wesley B. Clark, 18, of Rockville, Md., was charged with possession of marijuana.
- Lukerra Tiona Thomas, 18, of Reidsville, Ga., was charged with driving with a suspended license and failure to stop at a stop sign.

03-22-04

- A bicycle was taken from the Johnson Hall bike rack.

— All Police Beat information compiled by Luke Hearn and Teresa Southern, News Editors.

Campus News

Georgia Southern hosts Youth Arts Festival

Special to the G-A

The 22nd annual Youth Arts Festival will highlight a full day of family activities at Georgia Southern University on Saturday, March 27.

The arts festival will fill Sweetheart Circle with more than 50 artists demonstrating their creative talents along with musical and dance performers. Also on campus, the Georgia Southern Planetarium will host Astronomy and Space Day 2004.

The Center for Wildlife Education will present reptile and flighted raptor shows in the afternoon, and a special after-dark program in the evening.

The activities are all part of the year-long "Southern Says Thanks" campaign, a series of programs designed to allow the University to say "thank you" to the community for all of its support. All of the day-time activities are free and open to the public.

Presented on Sweetheart Circle from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Youth

Arts Festival is expected to attract more than 2,000 visitors.

"The Festival has a long tradition," said Richard Tichich, one of the organizers of this year's festival. "For over 20 years the children of our community have visited the campus,

watched creative artists at work and made their own masterpieces.

"The activities are as creative as ever, and we have reached the point that almost all of our college-age volunteers have grown up with the festival as part of their lives."

Performing arts will also be represented. A highlight of this year's festival will be the return engagement of Ballet Azteca, an Atlanta-based Mariachi dance group.

Some well-known artists who will be demonstrating their work include Jeridine Taylor, a sweetgrass basket weaver; Arrianne King Comer, who creates indigo batique; and Steve Glazer, who creates hand-sculpted ceramic vessels.

"In addition to the visiting and demonstrating professional artists,

we also will have artists from the community, along with our faculty and students," Tichich said. "When you walk through the festival, you may have trouble telling them apart."

The Statesboro Astronomy Club and the Georgia Southern physics department will host a day filled with astronomy, space science activities, star shows and rockets at the Georgia Southern Planetarium in the Math/Physics Building. Activities will be continuous from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Center for Wildlife Education will be open from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. that day, with a live reptile show at 2 p.m. and the flighted raptor show at 3 p.m. In addition, the Center is sponsoring a special "Center After Dark" program from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., which will focus on the nocturnal activities of the Center's collection of raptors and reptiles.

The "Center After Dark" program is the only activity which will require an admissions charge: \$5 per person or \$12 per family.

GSU's Cook selected for statewide advisory committee

Special to the G-A

GSU Professor Robert Cook has been selected as the chair-elect of the Academic Advisory Committee for Computing Decisions (AACDC) for the University System of Georgia.

The AACDC is comprised of representatives from each of the 34 two- and four-year public colleges and universities in Georgia. Cook has served as GSU's representative

on the committee since 2001.

The AACDC has been charged with the development of two University System objectives in the coming year. The first is to develop a system-wide process that will allow more academic classes and disciplines to be transferable from one institution to another.

The second involves developing more collaborative on-line, Web-based courses and making them

available to students attending any of the University System institutions.

Cook joined the GSU faculty in 2000 as a Yamacraw Professor and acting chair of the Department of Computer Sciences, now in the new College of Information Technology.

He received his bachelor of engineering, master of science and doctoral degrees from Vanderbilt University.

News Briefs

Kerry says FBI surveillance 'badge of honor'



KRT Campus
Democratic Presidential Candidate Sen. John Kerry.

KETCHUM, Idaho — Reports that the FBI monitored John F. Kerry's anti-war activities in the early 1970s highlight the need "to be vigilant about civil liberties," the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee said Monday.

The Los Angeles Times, in a story published Monday, cited FBI documents indicating the bureau spent a year monitoring the activities of the group Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW). After returning from Vietnam, where he commanded a swift boat and won honors that included three Purple Hearts, Kerry became a leader of the group, thus coming under FBI scrutiny.

Earlier Monday, spokesman David Wade for Kerry's campaign said the reports are both "a badge of honor" and a troubling example of government intrusion into peaceful and legitimate protest.

Wade noted that the FBI concluded Kerry was simply a peaceful and legitimate protester, but he said reports of the clandestine surveillance of the group brought home the troubling divisions the war created for the country.

"That the Hoover FBI and the Nixon White House paid such attention to John Kerry is both a badge of honor and a reminder of that difficult pre-Watergate era in our country," Wade said.

Although Kerry was a leader of the VVAW, he eventually left it after concluding that the most effective way to oppose the war was to run for public office, Wade said.

Black pastors rally against gay marriage

ATLANTA — More than two dozen black pastors added their voice to the critics of same-sex marriage, attempting to distance the civil rights struggle from the gay rights movement and defending marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

"When the homosexual compares himself to the black community, he doesn't know what suffering is," said the Rev. Clarence James, an African-American studies professor at Temple University.

Jones and 29 pastors rallied late Monday with their supporters at an Atlanta-area church where they signed a declaration outlining their beliefs on marriage and religion.

The declaration is meant to pressure state representatives to approve a constitutional ban on gay marriages, which will be considered again by the Georgia House as soon as this week.

The declaration, to be presented to state leaders Tuesday, says same-sex marriage is not a civil right, and marriage between a man and a woman is important because it's necessary for the upbringing of children.

But the Rev. Paul Turner, a gay pastor from Atlanta who helped organize

a pro-gay marriage rally last month outside the Georgia Capitol, disagreed: "How do they figure that it's not a civil rights issue?"

"This is just a way for those conservative leadership in the black community to say, 'Look, this isn't a matter of civil rights because we're black and we didn't have a choice in being black.' And they think gays do, and that's not true," Turner said.

Ethics panel drops complaint against former schools chief



Special Photo
Former Georgia state schools Superintendent Linda Schrenko.

ATLANTA — The State Ethics Commission has dropped a complaint against former state schools Superintendent Linda Schrenko after her attorney told the board she was "physically and financially" unable to fight the charge.

The lawyer, Pete Theodocion, blamed faulty accounting for \$19,355 missing from campaign funds collected by Schrenko, who was superintendent for eight years and ran unsuccessfully for the Republican nomination for governor in 2002.

The ethics panel, which fined Schrenko \$5,000 in August, voted unanimously not to pursue the matter.

When it levied the fine, the commission ordered Schrenko to document what happened to the money or risk having to repay her campaign account.

Theodocion told the commissioners that Schrenko, 54, suffered a ruptured appendix about a month ago and has neurological and back problems, including a "severe lumbar degenerative joint disease."

Theodocion did not elaborate on Schrenko's financial woes but did say she is not "destitute."

In documents filed in February 2002, Schrenko listed having \$19,355 in campaign money from her superintendent campaign account. Two months later, she reported a zero balance in the account. She provided no explanation for how the money was spent.

Theodocion said he has accounted for about \$7,500 of the money, some of it in bounced campaign contribution checks referenced in documents he brought to the commission. But he said bank records aren't available to account for the remainder.

African delegates plan joint response to AIDS pandemic

MAPUTO, Mozambique — Representatives from four HIV-plagued African countries gathered in Maputo on Tuesday to discuss a common strategy against the pandemic that is ravaging the

continent.

"The disease threatens development, social cohesion, stability and food security," Mozambican Prime Minister Luisa Diogo said as she opened a three-day meeting of the Commission for HIV/AIDS and Governors in Africa.

"Families are becoming poorer, and the labor force is drastically reducing at a dangerous pace."

Nearly 30 million people in Africa are currently living with HIV, according to the commission established by Kenya, Ethiopia, Congo and Zambia five years ago.

Life expectancy has dropped below 40 years in many countries, including Mozambique, Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Rwanda and Zambia, said commission chairman Kanu Amoako.

Participants will be assessing the impact of AIDS on the economy, society and governance of their respective countries, hoping to draw lessons that can be applied across the continent.

Delegates will also visit AIDS treatment sites around the capital, Maputo.

Judge rules Schwarzenegger won't be deposed in libel suit for now



Special Photo
California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

LOS ANGELES — A judge has ruled Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger will not have to give a deposition in a lawsuit by a woman who claims his campaign defamed her after she alleged he groped her.

Schwarzenegger will, however, have to answer written questions by attorneys for Rhonda Miller, who also named the governor's campaign spokesman and the campaign in her libel suit.

Superior Court Judge Robert L. Hess left open the possibility that Schwarzenegger could be deposed after he answers the written questions and Miller's attorneys can come up with a valid reason for it.

Miller, a Hollywood stuntwoman, claims Schwarzenegger and his campaign intentionally defamed her after she alleged last year that the film star lifted her shirt and groped her on film sets.

Miller made the allegations on Oct. 6, the day before voters were to go the polls.

Hours later, Schwarzenegger campaign spokesman Sean Walsh sent an e-mail to reporters directing them to the Los Angeles Superior Court Web site, where there were records for a Rhonda Miller whose history included prostitution and disorderly conduct. She turned out to be a different Rhonda Miller.


The stuntwoman's attorney, Gloria Allred, said the Schwarzenegger campaign deliberately misled reporters in order to raise doubts about Miller's claims.

Schwarzenegger will return his answers to the written questions within 10 days.

— All News Briefs compiled from wire reports by Luke Hearn and Teresa Southern, News Editors.

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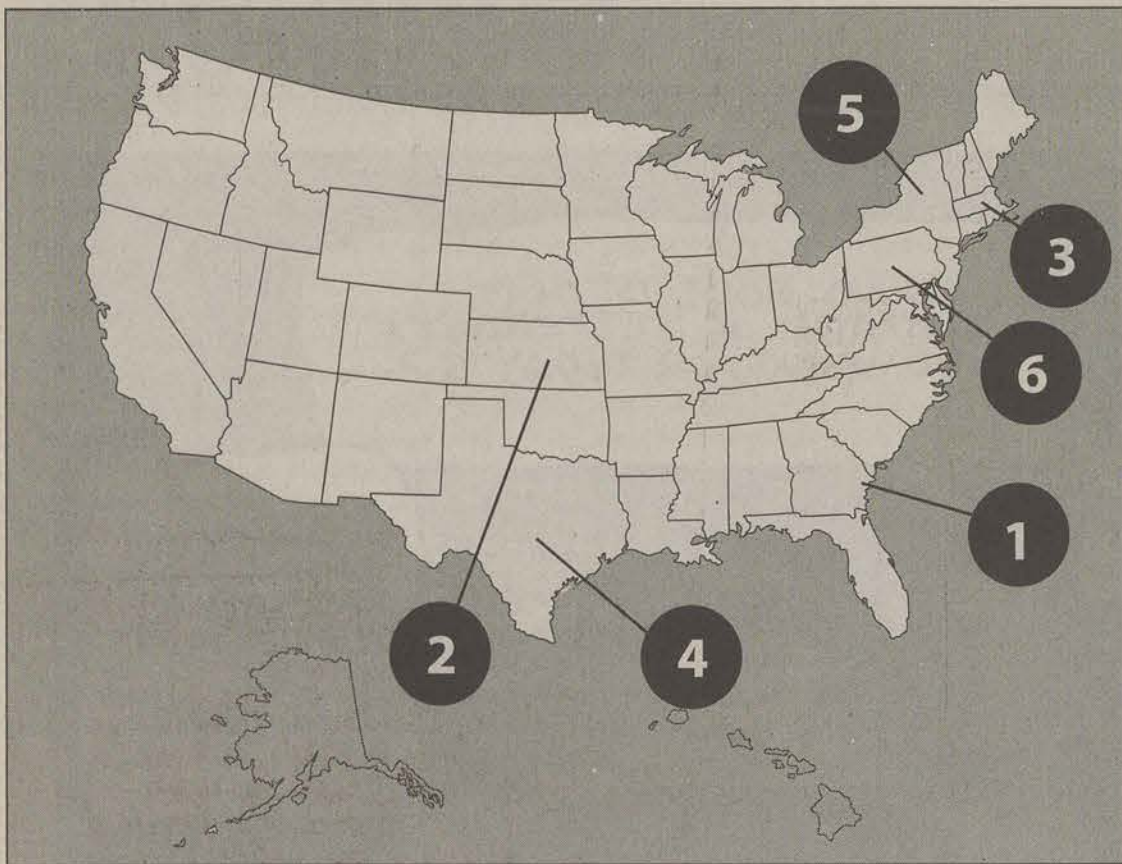
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1 Georgia

Movie about Christ starts violent domestic fight

STATESBORO — A couple got in such a heated argument after seeing "The Passion of the Christ" that they were arrested for fighting.

The two left the theater debating whether God the Father in the Holy Trinity of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit was in human form or spiritual.

When police arrived at their home, the wife had ripped her husband's shirt, and he had punched a hole in the sheet rock near the stairs.

"It was the dumbest thing we've ever done," said 34-year-old Melissa Davidson.

She and her husband, 33-year-old Sean Davidson, were charged with simple battery March 11. They were taken to the jail, booked and then released on \$1,000 bonds, said Gene McDaniel, Bulloch County chief deputy.

"Really, it was kind of a pitiful thing, to go to a movie like that and fight about it. I think they missed the point," McDaniel said. "That's generally not been the response to that movie."

A police report said Melissa Davidson suffered injuries on her left arm and face, while Sean Davidson had a scissor stab on his hand and his shirt was ripped off.

Melissa Davidson acknowledged she had a scratch but said there was no scissor injury.

"We both called the law on each other," she said. "It was one of those stupid things. We were arguing over a point of religion."

The couple has been married for 10 years and had never been in an argument like that before, she said.

"We're each other's best friends. Sometimes people get stupid," she said.

2 Nebraska

Family sues hospital over hot coffee spill

NORTH PLATTE — A Custer County family is suing Great Plains Regional Medical Center, saying their son suffered severe burns when a cup of coffee from the hospital's cafeteria spilled on him.

David and Rebecca Smith also are suing a food services company that

provided the coffee maker and the manufacturer of the coffee maker.

The lawsuit says Zachary Smith was visiting the hospital with his grandmother on Valentine's Day 2003 when he was burned.

According to the complaint, Zachary's grandmother placed a covered cup of coffee on a tray, which was on a portable cash register dolly's tray holder. As she attempted to pay the cashier, the portable dolly moved, causing the tray to tip, and sending scalding coffee onto the boy, the lawsuit says.

The coffee caused second- and third-degree burns to Zachary's body, including on his face, arm and chest, his family says.

The complaint says the hospital is at fault because it used a defective machine that produced coffee at unreasonably high temperatures.

The Smiths are asking for nearly \$25,000 in medical costs, as well as unspecified damages for future medical costs and for the boy's pain, suffering and mental anguish.

Officials did not release the identity of the man who checked in the seal's head, but he was in his 40s, they said.

The man told investigators he is a biology professor that found the dead seal on Revere Beach and cut off the head so he could take it home for educational purposes. He was bound for Denver.

"He indicated that he was aware that he needed a permit and that he didn't have a permit," said Andy Cohen, a deputy special agent in charge for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Fisheries Office for Law Enforcement.

Under the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, it is illegal to disrupt or remove body parts from a dead mammal. Oswald said the Colorado man could face charges that carry civil fines of up to \$12,000, criminal fines of up to \$20,000 and possible imprisonment of up to a year.

Cohen said the case is not connected to a series of dead seals in New England that show signs of poaching.

3 Massachusetts

Man attempts to board plane with severed head of a seal

BOSTON — Security agents at Logan International Airport Friday stopped a Colorado man who tried to include the severed head of a harbor seal in his luggage.

The officials discovered the head in a small canvas cooler and immediately notified state and federal authorities, Massachusetts Port Authority spokesman Phil Orlandella told the Boston Globe.

4 Texas

Texas man gets hit by a train, then ambulance gets hit by a car

HOUSTON — A 60-year-old man was struck by a slow-moving train as he walked home from work, and then a car slammed into the ambulance that was to take him to the hospital. The man escaped both accidents with minor injuries.

Donnie Mack Hall was treated at a hospital for cuts, bruises and a broken finger and released.

Officials said Hall, part of a work crew at a stadium, was heading home Wednesday when he walked into the path of a light rail train traveling about 20 mph. Metrorail officials said the train knocked him about 10 feet.

Metrorail spokesman Ken Connaughton said Hall was supposed to be wearing two hearing aids, but had only one.

"He heard the train trying to warn him.... He was disoriented and thought the train was coming from the other direction," Connaughton said.

As Hall was being loaded into an ambulance, a car slammed in the vehicle. Another ambulance later took Hall to the hospital where he was treated.

There were no reports of serious injury to the paramedics or the four passengers in the car, officials said.

5 New York

21-month-old shakes loose a \$100,000 prize

BREWSTER — The D'Onofrio family of Brewster keeps its telephones out of the reach of 21-month-old Billy, since he likes to push the buttons and make random calls. There's tape over the television controls to keep him from changing the channel.

But the little boy's inquisitive nature is no longer considered a problem, not since he opened the battery compartment on the TV remote and uncovered a purple battery worth \$100,000.

The AAA Duracell was one of 12 labeled "winner" that the manufacturer had slipped into packages as part of a promotional campaign. The D'Onofrios had put it into the remote — which was a replacement for one Billy had accidentally thrown into the trash — without noticing that it was special.

Then, on Jan. 20, Billy managed to open the remote and shake the battery onto the floor, where his mother, Lisa, finally noticed it.

"I would have been happy with a year's worth of batteries," she told The Journal News, noting that there's a 9-year-old and a 6-year-old in the house as well as Billy.

But Duracell told her the prize was \$100,000.

"I can't believe we won something this big," Lisa D'Onofrio said. The family will use the money to boost the children's college funds and pay a few large bills, she said. The family was to pick up its check Thursday at the Toys 'R Us in Danbury, Conn., where the battery was purchased.

"How lucky was that child?" said Michele Szydal, communications director of Gillette Co., Duracell's parent. "Just thinking about it makes me smile."

6 Pennsylvania

Zoo animals no longer anonymous

PITTSBURGH — A lizard will no longer be just a lizard nor a sea lion simply a sea lion at the Pittsburgh Zoo — they'll be "Henry" and "Maggie."

The Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium has reversed a decade-old policy that kept the animals anonymous.

The philosophy behind the policy, implemented when zoo President Barbara Baker arrived in 1990, reflected then-current thinking among some in the zoological community that animals shouldn't be anthropomorphized — that is, given human characteristics.

Now, Baker has revised that policy and will reintroduce the animals with names during a "Meet the Animals" next month. Signs with animals' photographs, bios and names will be posted around the zoo.

"The latest research on children and how they learn and how they make emotional connections is very important to us," Baker said. "The animal names are a very important way to get children to care about wildlife and to care about animals."

Besides the research, 95 percent of people who offered opinions on the zoo's Web site favored revealing the animal's names, zoo officials said.

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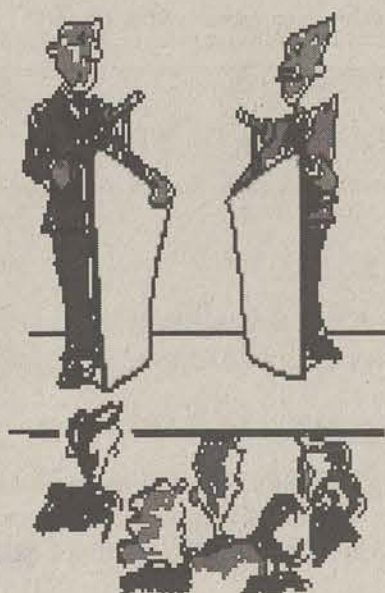
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Possible OTC availability of 'morning-after pill may not be a bad thing

The following editorial appeared in the Chicago Tribune on Saturday, March 20:

There's every indication that the Food and Drug Administration is struggling over whether to allow the so-called morning-after pill to be sold over the counter. After an advisory panel overwhelmingly recommended that move in December, the FDA, under intense pressure from conservative and religious groups, recently announced that it would delay the decision for 90 days to gather more information on the pill.

Last month an Illinois House committee approved a proposal that would allow such pills, which prevent pregnancy in the first hours and days after intercourse, to be sold without a doctor's prescription by pharmacists. Unlike the broad FDA plan that would allow the pills to be stocked on drugstore shelves, under the proposed Illinois law the pills would still be kept behind the pharmacy counter.

Several states already allow pharmacists to sell the pills without a doctor's prescription, and Illinois should join them. Absent FDA approval of over-the-counter sales — the best outcome — the state should be doing everything it can to lower the barriers that prevent women from using safe and effective morning-after pills. The potential benefits are significant. By avoiding unwanted pregnancies at the earliest possible stage, the pill can reduce the number of abortion procedures that are performed.

In recent months the debate over the FDA proposal has veered from science and policy into the realm of religion and abortion politics. Some supporters fear that even with the lopsided advisory committee vote, the FDA will reject the recommendation.

That would be a shame. The morning-after pill, first approved in 1998, is essentially safe and effective with minimal side effects, the FDA has said. The "Plan B" brand pill, which is under FDA scrutiny, contains a higher dose of the same hormones found in regular birth-control pills. The pill is most effective if taken within 24 hours of intercourse, although it's still largely effective up to 72 hours. In some instances, it delays ovulation and prevents fertilization of an egg. In other instances, it prevents the implantation of a fertilized egg in the uterus.

Some argue that since a doctor's prescription is required for birth-control pills, it should also be required for morning-after pills. But the nature of emergency contraception suggests that a doctor might not be readily available to write a prescription.

What also worries many opponents is that the morning-after pill would be more available to teenagers, without parental consent or a prescription. That's a real concern. The availability of the morning-after pill will not, and should not, change the messages to teens from parents, mentors and other adults: Do not engage in sex until you are mature enough to assess and to handle the physical, emotional and moral ramifications of that. Do not engage in unsafe sex. The morning-after pill is not a routine substitute for birth control; it does not protect you from sexually transmitted diseases.

Will the pill encourage unprotected sex, particularly among teens? That seems unlikely, given that condoms are as readily available now over the counter. Whatever risk there might be is significantly outweighed by the potential benefit of reducing unwanted pregnancies and abortion procedures.

That's why it's time for Illinois to act, even if the FDA doesn't.

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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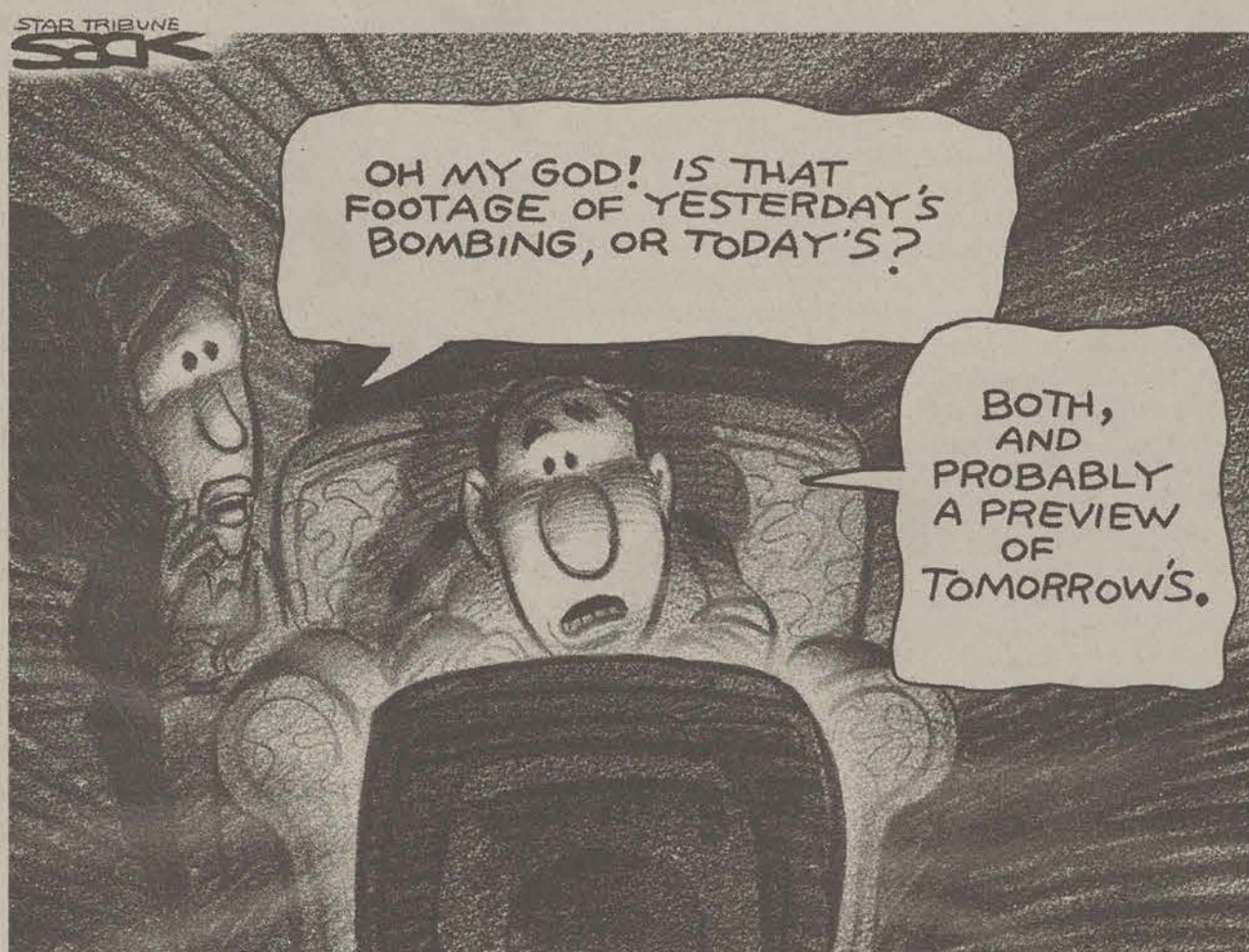
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OPINIONS



Relationships & Sex

SPEAKING OF... Intimacy

Ever have the experience of making love for hours, only to feel utterly isolated once the clothes go back on?

Ever have sex with a stranger for a few minutes, only to find yourself falling in love? Some folks blame many of the ills of the world — including the rise in HIV infection — on "a pervasive lack of intimacy," epitomized by many people's fondness for casual sex. Now love is a fine thing, the best thing, and the intimacy of love is, well, lovely. But casual sex can be fine, too, or so many of us believe.

But are we just deluding ourselves?

There's no magic answer to the old question "How can I live a rich, fulfilling life?" Let's assume for the moment that a good working definition of "intimacy" is "shared emotional honesty."

Clearly, a lot of long-term relationships are pretty short on that honesty. Likewise, many short-term relationships, even very short-term ones, can be, in one way or another, "intimate." Some of us seem built for satisfied monogamy, and that's terrific. "I never knew what real happiness was," says one friend of mine, "till I gave up whoring around and devoted myself to just one man."

And yes, over time, intimacy can grow and deepen. But how about the rest of us, those of us who don't want, or can't for the moment find, a "real significant other?" Is screwing around truly keeping us from finding the bluebird of happiness? Why not be honest about ourselves and our needs? Let's let our bodies, as well as our brains, do the talking. If magic happens in bed, even if it's just for a little while, and both persons involved know they'll never meet again, why deny that the magic is real?

Being conscious of your partner, letting your needs meet and mingle... How bad could that be? And if you're having sex out of lustful curiosity, or just to scratch an itch, understand and accept that and it won't feel like "failure" if a relationship doesn't follow.

Appreciating your partner for what and who they are will make things more real. Let Mr. or Ms. Right Now know that you're not just attempting to fit them into some pre-existing fantasy. Ask questions. Be aware of their reactions. Make an effort to understand and please them. Remember, sex is supposed to be a collaboration. If you truly feel affection for a new partner, take things one step at a time. Blurting out "I love you" can screw up, rather than foster, intimacy. Better to reframe the situation: "I love this," is both more honest and less off-putting.

Be realistic about how things stand. Try telling them you know it's early on, but you'd maybe like to see them again and see where things lead. That's less likely to set yourself up for disappointment or scare people off. Assuming honesty leads to intimacy, you'll be off and running. We collegians have the freedom to reinvent the ways we have relationships. For example, the concept of "sex buddy" seems off-the-wall, and often so friendly and healing. And just as every sort of intimacy has its limits, so every sexual encounter can open us up to ourselves, our partner(s), and how cool it is to be having sex at all!

Instead of dividing ourselves into "good people with committed relationships" and "bad people who screw around," we can try to make all our sex, whether for a lifetime or an hour — in a domestic coupling or an anonymous bit of fondling in the park — good... And intimate!



DeMarc Campbell
Columnist

Letter to the Editor

'Vagina Monologues' should provide civil dialogue for community

Who are offended by the sale of chocolate vaginas because we believe they reduce women to their genitals have a right to serious consideration.

We should not be dismissed as self-pitying victims. Dr. Lori and the members of NOW and REvision do not and cannot speak for all victims of rape and incest no matter how good their intentions, no matter how much money they have raised for a good cause.

As a woman, as a Jew, and as a victim of a rather brutal rape, I fully understand the need for a civil dialogue. Performing the Vagina Monologues is part of a civil dialogue; selling chocolate vaginas is not. I deeply resent the implication that anyone who objects to Ensler's humor is a self-pitying victim.

Technically, rape is penile penetration of the vagina. As a rape victim, I considered that my house and my person were violated. The exact site of these violations had legal rather than emotional significance. I am not shocked that there are evil people who commit acts of sexual violence. I am grieved and angered at all the good women who have the gall to define the experience for me and imply that there is only one appropriate way of defining and responding to the rape/incest experience.

As a mature woman, I know that sex in the appropriate moral cultural context can be pleasurable/ fun/ beautiful. I have this knowledge whether or not I ever share Ms. Ensler's humor about issues of sexual abuse. Selling chocolate vaginas is reminiscent of women selling their bodies and being objectified. Issues of sexual violence are sensitive and complex.

There is no quick fix for rape and incest, no magic formulas that will end the pain or protect the not yet victimized.

Those who sold chocolate vaginas had no evil intentions. However, to continue this behavior in the future is to contribute to the revictimization of women who have suffered sexual violence. I ask only that we in the university community faculty, staff and students maintain a civil dialogue.

Paula Ann Rothenberg Solomon
Georgia Southern University

Issues of sexual violence are sensitive and complex. There is no quick fix for rape and incest, no magic formulas that will end the pain or protect the not yet victimized.

Today around the world

Greece: Independence Day
United States: Pecan Day
England: New Year's Day (1155-1752)

Today in history

On this day in 1996, The United States issued the newly-redesigned one-hundred dollar bill.
On this day in 1965, Martin Luther King, Jr. led 25,000 to state capitol in Montgomery.

Letter to the Editor

Marriage is a religious ceremony involving a man and woman

I am writing in response to the last three columns that discussed same-sex marriage.

The core of the same-sex marriage dispute lies in the fact that the U.S. has become so politically correct and secularized that anyone that takes a firm stand on any issue, especially issues supporting religion, more specifically Christianity, is seen as archaic, radical, and "narrow-minded." As I read the columns, I laughed to myself. "It's not just about religion anymore." Give me a break. I don't care what historical background that anyone has learned in class or heard on the History Channel, the term "marriage" has religious origin, period. This is why most marriages are performed in church by a minister.

Unfortunately, somewhere, somehow, marriage has become secularized. This is why televisions across the U.S. can catch a glimpse of some mayor in San Francisco marrying same-sex couples, like he has the authority to do such a thing. Authority granted by whom?

I mean, the next thing that extreme liberals will try to make me believe is that Christmas and Easter, two clearly Christian holidays, have nothing to do with Jesus Christ. Come on now. Surely these holidays have a little more substance than some old, white guy coming down a chimney, or in my case, magically appearing in my house, as I had no chimney; or a little bunny hippity-hopping down the bunny trail and leaving basket full of teeth-rotting candy for the good little boys and girls. How ridiculous! I know that there are people that celebrate these holidays even though they are not Christians, but this does not change the fact these are Christian holidays. The fact that an unreligious man or an unreligious woman get married, does not change the fact it is a religious ceremony. In the end, a society that is middle ground on so many moral issues can only be heading for trouble. So, do I believe that there should be same-sex marriages in the U.S.? NO. "Civil unions?" Sure, whatever. Just don't try to cloud or bend the true meanings of religious ceremonies and symbols.

I cannot end this response without commenting on three statements made by Mr. J. Mote because I know that there are many people that share his ideas.

First, I want to educate Mr. Mote and anyone else who was miseducated that Thomas Jefferson was this great guy who strived for the rights of everyone. As Mr. Mote cited from the Declaration of Independence, "all men are created equal" and are "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness." If anyone thinks for one moment that Mister Slaveholding Jefferson was REALLY talking about everyone, you are wrong. He was talking about land owning, educated, white men. He was NOT talking about women, black people (obviously), Native Americans or anyone else that wasn't like him.

You can bet your refund check and book buyback money that homosexuals were not a part of his ultimate equation either. It is interpreted as the literal meaning of "everyone" because of the current standards of society. The point is that the government not allowing same-sex marriage has nothing to do with, as Mr. Mote said it, "...violating one of the principles...of our founding fathers." If T.J. was alive today and it was up to him, women wouldn't be voting, blacks would still be slaves, and a large percentage of the white U.S. population (non-land owners) would be disregarded altogether.

Secondly, I don't know why Mr. Mote is not "as bold to say that homosexuals are a minority." They are. According to a University of Chicago study, homosexuals are only 1 percent of the U.S. population. Another study conducted by the National center for Health Statistics shows that less than 3 percent of the U.S. population identifies itself as either homosexual or bisexual. The word "minority" is not exclusive to racial groups in the U.S.

Lastly, comparing interracial marriage to same-sex marriage is wrong altogether. Apples and oranges. Kiwi and bananas. These marriages still involved one man and one woman. To anyone who even thinks that this is a cogent or valid argument, please reexamine it.

Gloria Morgan
gloriamorgan@yahoo.com

SPEAKER, FROM PAGE 1A

NOW said, "People should listen to Jessica (Weiner) and realize the adverse effects of society on body image and find concrete ways to change body image in America."

Jessica will also speak at Feminist Locations' 27th Annual Southeastern Women's Studies Association (SEWSA) Conference Thursday evening at the DeSoto Hilton in Savannah. Dr. Lori Amy, Director of Women's and Gender Studies at GSU and Dr. Teresa Winterhalter, Director of Women's Studies at Armstrong Atlantic University organized this year's SEWSA Conference.

This is the pre-eminent Women's Studies Conference in the region, and the first time that the conference has been hosted in this area. The conference will be held March 25th-27th at the DeSoto Hilton.

"The work of organizing a conference such as this is simply enormous," said Dr. Amy, "but it is an incredible opportunity for the GSU community, faculty, and staff to participate

in a major conference about women's and gender issues."

People are coming from all over the country as well as from Europe, the Middle East and Africa. A team of women from Palestine and Israel will be speaking about working for peace across differences. A number of panels will be looking at the daily struggles of women in their local communities.

Dr. Amy said that Feminist Locations' goal is get people to think about the many ways in which women from different socio-economic classes, races, religions, and geographical locations struggle for rights in their specific contexts.

The mission of the conference is to unite people by certain common issues, and identify their common ground so that they can form coalitions through which they can work together. This year's speakers include Kim Gandy, President of NOW.

Gandy's keynote address, "Below the Belt," will assess current issues facing women at the national level.

Carolyn Nordstrom, Associate Professor of Anthropology and Peace Studies at Notre Dame University, will deliver the keynote lecture Saturday. Dr. Nordstrom's lecture, "Voices from the Frontlines: Women on War" will discuss her work with women in war zones in Africa and Southeast Asia.

For more information about Jessica Weiner or the SEWSA conference, contact Dr. Lori Amy at 912-681-0625 or e-mail lamy@georgiasouthern.edu.

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Mixin' It Up:



Cross-Cultural Partnerships

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Monday, March 29th

10:00am- 10:50am

"Russia in a Nutshell: From the KGB to Weapons of Mass Destruction to Elections"
Dr. Gregory Brock and Dr. Constantin Ogioblin will discuss critical Russian issues.

Russell Union #2048

11:00am- 3:00pm

A Diner's World Tour at Southern Traditions

Savor dishes from many lands at the Southern Traditions buffet. Cost: Cash -\$6.42, Eagle Express -\$5.35

Landrum Cafeteria

Tuesday, March 30th

10:00am-2:00pm

International Fair

Learn more about other students' cultures and find out how you can study abroad. Participate in the Flags & Facts Contest!

Russell Union Commons Area

2:00pm- 3:00 pm

Study Abroad Down Under

Find out how you can spend a semester down under! Michael Swift, of AustralLearn, will host an informative session on the ins and outs of living, working and studying in Australia and New Zealand.

Russell Union #2042

7:00pm-9:00pm

International Talent Show

Enjoy a free evening of exciting performances by Georgia Southern students & faculty and sample ethnic food! Sponsored by the International Club and PRestige.

Russell Union Ballroom

Wednesday, March 31st

11:00am-11:50am

"South Africa: The Next Generation"

Dr. Robert Shanafelt will discuss the future of South Africa's emerging youth.

Russell Union #2048

3:00pm- 4:00pm

"Georgia Southern International Students Speak About Their School Experiences in Their Countries"

Find out about the education and cultures in many countries around the world from a panel of Georgia Southern international students.

College of Education Building #1120

7:00pm- 9:00pm

Global Gourmet

Travel from hall to hall to learn about other peoples and sample their foods. Have your "passport" stamped to register for prizes. Pick up your passport in any hall, the Russell Union, or Forest Drive Bldg #1327. For more information, please call Julie Anne Cunningham at 681-2341.

All University Housing Residence Halls

Thursday, April 1st

2:00pm- 3:00 pm

"Semester-at-Sea: Voyage of Discovery"

Dr. Vincent Kohler will describe how you can learn aboard a floating University.

Russell Union #2048

3:30pm- 4:30pm

"Traveling Abroad 101: How Not to be the Ugly American"

Jeff Palis, our study abroad and exchange coordinator, and a panel of Georgia Southern students will give you travel tips and cultural advice designed to enhance your experience abroad and save you from becoming "the Ugly American".

Russell Union #2041

Friday, April 2nd

11:30am- 1:00 pm

International Coffee Hour

Come and enjoy foods from around the world prepared by Georgia Southern's own international students!

Russell Union #2080

12:00pm- 1:00 pm

The Hotel and Restaurant Management's Friday Luncheon

Japanese cuisine will be featured. Cost: \$9 For reservations, contact Larry Stalcup at 681-5975 or stalcupL@georgiasouthern.edu

Family & Consumer Science Bldg Dining Room

2:30pm - 3:30 pm

Japanese Tea Ceremony

Learn about Japanese tea ceremonies and how to make Japanese green tea the traditional way.

Family & Consumer Science Bldg Dining Room

For more information, please contact Joan Stalcup at 681-0693 or jstalcup@georgiasouthern.edu

STOP

Check out the Off-Campus Housing Fair

Tuesday, March 30
10:30 am - 1:00 pm
Lakeside - outdoors

Meet Community Advisors from:

- Towne Club
- The Woodlands
- Eagle Creek Townhouses
- Bermuda Run
- Park Place
- Perimeter Properties
- Greenbriar & Hawthorne
- Stadium Walk
- Seasons
- Campus Club
- Sterling Pines
- Player's Club
- Statesboro Place
- Campus Courtyard
- The Garden District
- Statesboro Place
- Campus Courtyard
- Varsity Lodge
- Stadium Club
- Talon's Lake

Baseball survives rocky break

By Eli Boorstein
Nletsroob17@hotmail.com

After coming out of an eight-game lump of games during Spring Break no worse for wear, the Georgia Southern baseball team now enters their last lengthy run of non-conference games this season.

Though they possess a respectable 6-3 mark in Southern Conference play thus far, the Eagles, 11-14 overall, will need to ride the momentum of five potential wins over Coppin State, Georgia Tech and Mercer as they enter the bulk of their SoCon slate against such strong teams as the College of Charleston, The Citadel and UNC Greensboro.

After battles with Coppin State on Wednesday and Thursday, the Eagles' will look to avenge a pair of losses to Georgia Tech earlier this season in Statesboro, this time up in Atlanta.

If Georgia Southern wants to have a repeat of their road win over the Jackets from last year, they will need to count on continued offensive production from the bats of first baseman Greg Dowling and designated hitter Grant Burruss.

Dowling, a sophomore, leads the Eagle bats with a .381 average, 40 hits, eight doubles and 34 RBI, while also slugging out six home runs, three homers behind Burruss, who is hitting on a .305 clip with 29 RBI and a league-best nine home runs.

On the mound, sophomore right-hander John Carroll has posted a strong 2.68 ERA thus far, but only claims a 2-3 record. Freshman Everett Teaford is the only Eagle pitcher with a winning record at 4-3 with a 5.15 ERA and a league-best 50 strikeouts.

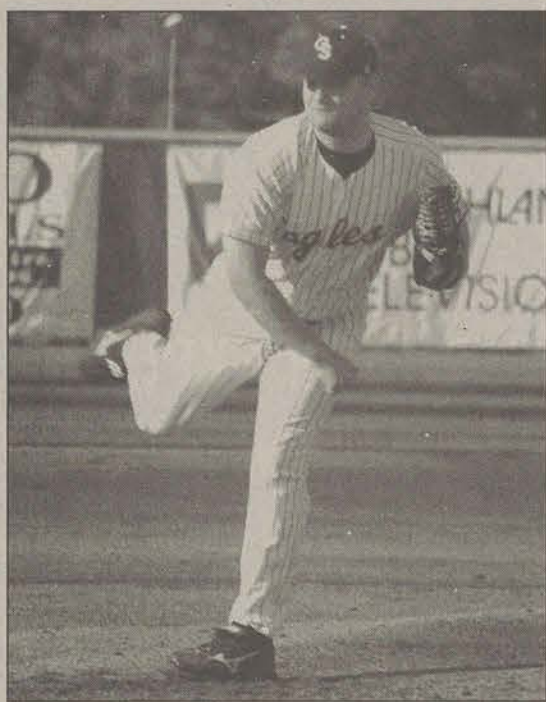
OVER THE BREAK...

Georgia Southern started their Spring Break off at home, taking two of three from league foe East Tennessee State - falling 4-1, before coming back in resounding fashion by scores of 14-7 and 20-7.

After the early loss, the Eagles bats woke up in a big way, as the team collected a combined 35 hits in the final two contests.

From there, it was a trip up to Athens, where Georgia Southern was swept in a pair of ballgames.

Dooming the Eagles in the first game was a four-run Bulldog seventh inning, while a nine-run Bulldog first led



Luke Renfro/STAFF

Sophomore pitcher John Carroll leads the Georgia Southern pitching staff through the first half of the season, posting a 2.68 ERA.

to the Eagles' demise in game two.

Georgia Southern then got their share of work as they re-entered league play by winning two of three at Furman. The Eagles grabbed 12-7 and 7-4 wins in a pair of 11-inning contests, before losing the final game 7-6.

The opening game saw the Paladin pitching staff lose grasp of the strikezone as they gave up five runs in the 11th inning. Conversely, Eagle reliever Dustin Evans allowed just one run in just under eight innings of work.

John Carroll was the dominant force on the mound in game two, pitching all 10 innings, before the game was suspended at a 4-4 tie due to lightning. As the game was continued the next day, the Eagles did not take long to wake up, as Logan Phillips, Brandon Long and Grant Burruss each hit solo home runs to put Georgia Southern in the lead.

In the final game, it was Furman who used a late offensive burst, scoring four runs in the ninth off the Eagle bullpen, as the Paladins came back from a 6-3 deficit.

Eagles suffer as Gators rule Schenkel

Top-ranked Florida, led by former Eagle coach, dominates tournament

By Dennis Hightower
hightower12181@hotmail.com

Matt Every won his second medalist honor of the season, while No. 1 Florida captured its sixth tournament title of the year by 10 strokes at the Schenkel E-Z-Go Invitational on Sunday at Forest Heights Country Club.

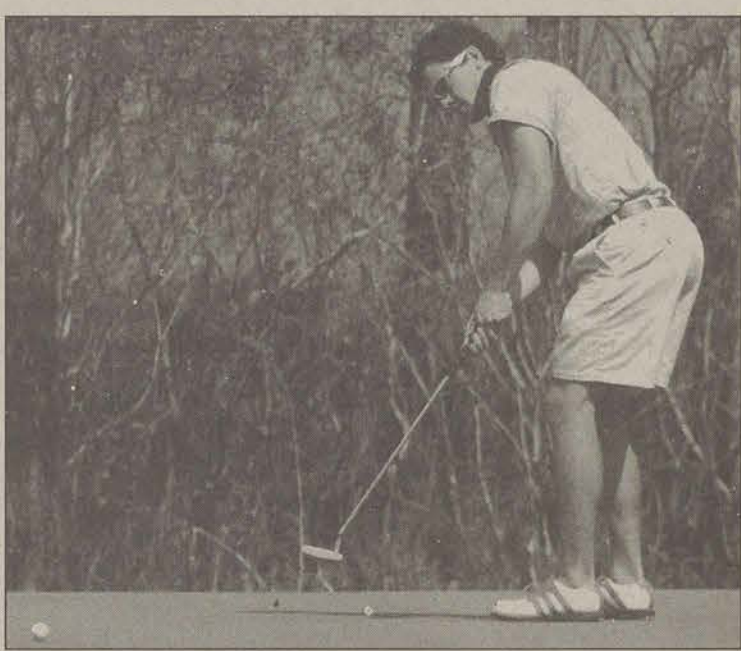
The Gators 280-290-289 (859, -5) were the only team to shoot in the red for the tournament and their final round score of 289 was seven strokes better than the next best team. Georgia finished 10 strokes back in second at 869, +5, while South Carolina finished third 871 (+7) at the par 72, 6,962-yard course.

Georgia Southern, the host of the tournament, finished 11th out of 15 teams with a 20-over-par 884.

The Gators are now tied for the second-most wins in a season in school history with six.

"It seems like every tournament that another team will play with us for the first two rounds and then we'll get some separation," Florida coach Buddy Alexander said. "Our guys are always taking turns stepping up for us at each tournament, although Matt and Camilo Villegas have stepped up and stayed there for the most part all season."

Alexander who once coached Georgia Southern in the late 1970s



Hillary Jones/STAFF

Junior Kurt Watkins was the Eagles' top individual golfer at the Schenkel E-Z-Go Invitational, carding an even-par 216 for his three rounds. Watkins was named the top male golfer in the Southern Conference for his efforts.

and early 1980s, won his first ever Schenkel Tournament.

Georgia Southern junior Kurt Watkins finished in the top 10 with a 216 (72-70-74). He was the only Eagle to finish that high. Others include junior Aron Price who finished 25th (220) and Toshi Hirata finished 39th (224).

"I think we're growing up throughout each tournament," GSU coach Larry Mays said. "We can learn a lot from this tournament."

The Eagles will try to regroup at the Cleveland Golf/Augusta State Invitational on April 3-4 in Augusta.

SCHENKEL RESULTS

TEAM RESULTS

1. Florida (-5, 859)
2. Georgia (+5, 869)
3. South Carolina (+7, 871)
4. Duke (+8, 872)
5. Augusta State (+12, 877)
11. Georgia Southern (+20, 895)

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

1. Matt Every, Florida (-9, 207)
2. Bill Haas, Wake Forest (-7, 209)
3. Chris Kirk, Georgia (-4, 212)
4. Nathan Smith, Duke (-3, 213)
5. 3 players tied (-2, 214)
- T-10. Kurt Watkins, GSU (E, 216)

Travel-weary softball returns home to open conference slate against Lady Mocs

By Eli Boorstein
Nletsroob17@hotmail.com

Like much of the Georgia Southern student body, the Lady Eagle softball team spent their Spring Break traveling, but in this case, it was all for business.

After playing through twelve games in nine days in three different states, the 15-13 Lady Eagles will return to the friendly confines of Eagle Field this weekend, when they match up against conference power Chattanooga, the first league action for either team.

When facing the Lady Mocs, head coach Natalie Poole and her players will hope for a resh of the luck from the first half of the break than the latter half.

Georgia Southern won four of five games to take the 49er Invitational in Charlotte March 12-14. The Lady Eagles fell to host team Charlotte, sandwiched within victories over James Madison, Mount St. Mary's and UNC Greensboro.

Georgia Southern was able to get revenge over the 49ers in the invite's title game, winning 5-2 in eight innings. The deciding rally came when, with the score tied and the bases loaded, the 49ers' J.J. McVay booted a ball off the bat of the Lady Eagles' Katie Roberts, letting two runs score.



Luke Renfro/STAFF

The Georgia Southern softball team had an up-and-down Spring Break, winning the 49er Invitational in Charlotte, but then lost six of their next seven games.

Despite the momentum gained in Charlotte, Georgia Southern could not muster much success at 14th-ranked Tennessee, managing just one hit in a 7-0 loss.

After a pair of losses at Tennessee Tech the next day, the Lady Eagles headed back south for the Buzz Classic at Georgia Tech on Friday and Saturday. Only one win came Georgia Southern's way, as they topped Troy State, but fell to Middle Tennessee State, North Carolina and Ball State.

When the Lady Eagles meet Chattanooga this weekend - a 1 p.m. double-header on Saturday and a single game at 1 p.m. on Sunday - they will count on senior Kim Griffin, who is batting at a .379 clip with 16 RBI, both team-highs. Aurora Johnson is at .347 while Shanita Black is batting a .320 average.

On the mound, a pair of sophomores lead the way in Tiffany Urena and Cary Moone. Urena has a league-best 1.13 ERA while Moone stands at 7-3 with a 2.12 ERA and 83 strikeouts.

Men's, women's tennis head different directions

By Matt Rapp
mattrapp111@yahoo.com

The Eagle tennis season is half way over for the men's and women's squads.

The men's team (6-15) is not looking so hot with a 1-5 conference record and are sitting mighty close to the bottom of the rankings.

Starting Spring Break with a close loss to The Citadel, things didn't go well from there. Five losses in a row last week pretty much set their losing season in stone.

Last Wednesday, the men proved no match for No. 38 South Florida, as a quick 7-0 loss hurt the team's confidence after coming so close to the win against The Citadel.

Friday didn't turn out much better than their last match. Florida Atlantic University took the win easily, 6-1.

On Saturday the Eagles saw another 6-1 loss, this time to Wisconsin.

The final loss of the week came to Miami, who won with a 7-0 sweep.

The Women's squad (7-7) had

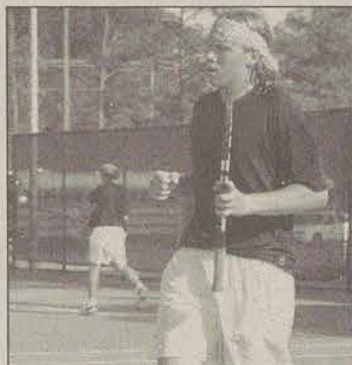
better luck during the break, winning three out of their five matches.

The women started the break off with a 5-2 loss to Murray State, but quickly recovered with back-to-back wins. Beating the Southern Miss 6-1 on Sunday and Centenary 7-0 on Monday brought high spirits to the ladies.

Davidson dominated the Lady Eagles this past Saturday, taking a 6-1 win, but that did not matter because they came out with their game faces the next day, beating South Carolina State 6-1 for the final match of the week.

The Lady Eagles are not in trouble yet, sitting dead even with a 3-3 conference record. The season only has six matches left, with four of them conference matches, and important ones at that.

You can see the men play at Hanner Courts this Sunday against conference rival Furman at 1:30 p.m., while the women will travel to Appalachian State and East Tennessee State.



Luke Renfro/STAFF



Hillary Jones/STAFF

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE UPDATE

BASEBALL

TEAM	CONFERENCE			OVERALL		
	W	L	PCT.	W	L	PCT.
Charleston	6	0	1.00	16	5	.762
The Citadel	5	1	.833	12	8	.600
UNC Greensboro	4	2	.667	16	4	.800
Ga. Southern	6	3	.667	11	14	.440
Elon	6	3	.667	10	14	.417
Davidson	4	5	.444	8	11	.421
Wofford	2	4	.333	8	8	.500
E. Tennessee St.	3	6	.333	12	14	.462
Furman	1	2	.333	7	12	.368
Appalachian St.	2	7	.222	4	17	.190
W. Carolina	0	6	.000	9	13	.409

STATISTICAL LEADERS

Batting: Matt Kirkpatrick, COFC, .500
GSU Leader: Greg Dowling, .381

Hits: Greg Dowling, GSU, 40
GSU Leader: Brandon Long, 33 (2nd on team)

Runs: Jess Easterling, COFC, 29
GSU Leader: B. Long & J. Payne, 28

Runs Batted In: Greg Dowling, GSU, 34
GSU Leader: Grant Burruss, 29 (2nd on team)

Home Runs: Grant Burruss, GSU, 9
GSU Leader: A. Johnson & S. Steiner, 2

Stolen Bases: 2 players with, 12
GSU Leader: Brandon Burruss, 9

Pitching: 4 players with, 0.00
GSU Leader: John Carroll, 2.68

Strikeouts: Everett Teaford, GSU, 50
GSU Leader: Dustin Evans, 43 (2nd on team)

(records and statistics through games of March 23)

SOFTBALL

TEAM	CONFERENCE			OVERALL		
	W	L	PCT.	W	L	PCT.
*Elon	3	0	1.00	19	7	.722
Charleston	0	0	.000	22	12	.647
UNC Greensboro	0	0	.000	18	10	.643
E. Tennessee St.	0	0	.000	17	14	.548
Chattanooga	0	0	.000	22	19	.537
Ga. Southern	0	0	.000	15	13	.536
Appalachian St.	0	3	.000	10	18	.357
Furman	0	0	.000	5	28	.152

*Elon also has one tied game.

STATISTICAL LEADERS

Batting: Amanda Cone, COFC, .486
GSU Leader: Kim Griffin, .364

Hits: Amanda Cone, COFC, 51
GSU Leader: S. Black & K. Griffin, 32

Runs: Amanda Cone, COFC, 42
GSU Leader: Aurora Johnson, 20

Runs Batted In: Amanda Cone, COFC, 44
GSU Leader: Kim Griffin, 16

Home Runs: Amanda Cone, COFC, 10
GSU Leader: A. Johnson & S. Steiner, 2

Stolen Bases: LaKerah Barr, FUR, 18
GSU Leader: Shanita Black, 4

Pitching: Tiffany Urena, GSU, 1.15
GSU Leader: Cary Moone, 1.99 (2nd on team)

Strikeouts: Lacey Swarthout, UTC, 186
GSU Leader: Cary Moone, 84

(records and statistics through games of March 23)

UPCOMING GEORGIA SOUTHERN EVENTS

Thursday

- **BASEBALL** vs. Coppin State, J.I. Clements Stadium, 4 p.m.

Friday-Saturday

- **OUTDOOR TRACK** at Florida Relays in Gainesville, Fla.

Saturday

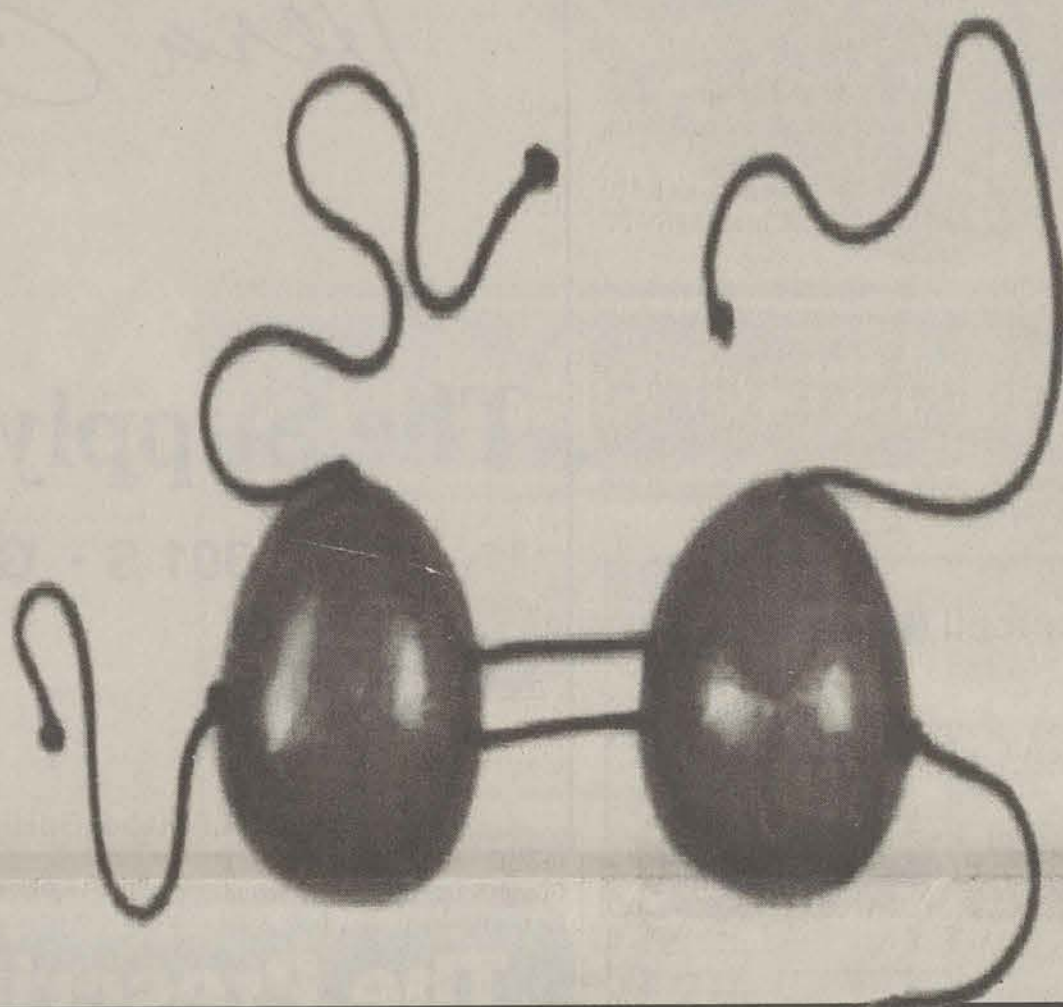
- **FOOTBALL** Spring Scrimmage, Paulson Stadium, 9 a.m.
- **WOMEN'S TENNIS** at Appalachian State, Noon
- **SOFTBALL** vs. Chattanooga (DH), Eagle Field, 1 p.m.
- **BASEBALL** at Georgia Tech, 1 p.m.

Sunday

- **WOMEN'S TENNIS** at East Tennessee State, 1 p.m.
- **BASEBALL** at Georgia Tech, 1 p.m.
- **SOFTBALL** vs. Chattanooga, Eagle Field, 1 p.m.
- **MEN'S TENNIS** vs. Furman, Hanner Courts, 1:30 p.m.



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Lady Eagle track impresses at FSU Relays

GSU Athletic Media Relations

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Georgia Southern's Outdoor Track and Field squad competed in the Florida State Relays March 17-20.

Six Eagles finished in the top five of their respective events. Kellie Mitchell's second place finish in the heptathlon was the highest finish of the weekend, as she scored a 4953. Giselle Cunningham took home third place in the 100 meter dash with a time of 12.17, and would help guide the 4x100 relay team to a fifth place finish, with the help of teammates Margo Mincey, Laura Williams and Nicole Brown, for a time of 46.80.

Margo Mincey also took home individual honors as she finished fourth in the 400 meter dash (56.66) while sister Marlo brought home a fifth place finish in the 400 meter hurdles (59.68). The final top five finish for GSU was Lindy Petteway's javelin throw, 42.92 meters, which was good enough for fourth.

Other top ten finishes were Marlo Mincey's sixth place finish in the 100 meter hurdles (14.58), Laura Williams' 12.31 finish in the 100 meter dash, also garnering a sixth place finish, Stephanie McFadden's 12:21.8 in the steeplechase (6th) and Melissa Reyes' tenth place finish in the 10,000 meter run (41:23.79).

Mary Rebok was not far behind

Reyes, as she finished in eleventh place with a time of 41:36.7. Cunningham also competed in the 200 meter dash, where she took home eleventh place (25.01). Brittney Swick was the top Eagle finisher in the 800 meter run, as her time of 2:22.04 was good enough for 15th. Nicole Brown's 12:41 in the 100 meter dash gave her 13th, while teammate LaSheba Batiste finished in 27th with a time of 12:80. Finally, in the 100 meter hurdles, Mandi Phillips and Brittany Chase each finished in the top 20, coming in at 15:37 and 15:73 respectively for 18th and 20th place.

The Eagles return to action on March 26 when they travel to Gainesville, Fla. for the Florida Relays.

Nevada basks in their Sweet Sixteen glory

By Scott Sonner
Associated Press

RENO, Nev. – The University of Nevada men's basketball team returned to Reno, and received a welcome-home celebration at the airport, praise from the mayor, congratulatory telephone calls and pats on the back across campus.

After recording the school's first NCAA tournament victories, the players are trying to keep focused on their next game against Georgia Tech on Friday in St. Louis.

But they also were soaking up the excitement in Reno on Monday as students and fans across the state urged the team on for the school's first appearance in the round of 16.

"It was crazy," guard Garry Hill-Thomas said about his first day back on campus since Nevada (25-8) upset Gonzaga 91-72 in Saturday's second round.

"We were walking around, it was like celebrities on campus," Hill-Thomas said. "You know, everybody shaking your hand, saying they're so proud of you."

More than 400 fans, including Reno Mayor Bob Cashell, turned out at Reno-Tahoe International Airport on Sunday night to welcome back the team that's notched a school-record 25 wins, including its first NCAA tournament victories after losing in the first round in two previous appearances.

"The support from the university and the community has been unbelievable," coach Trent Johnson said.

Todd Okeson, a senior guard from rural Weskan, Kan., said his phone hasn't stopped ringing.

"I think I've talked to all 200 people in Weskan," Okeson said. "I think the students are just as excited as we are to go. I talked to a few who are going to make the trip. That's exciting, to have

our fellow students go all the way to St. Louis to support us."

Okeson said the team is feeling confident now.

"We don't feel like we're a Cinderella," he said. "We feel like we are in this tournament, so we are supposed to try to win it."

Evan Hancock was among the students who stood in line to snatch up some of the 2,500 tickets allotted to Nevada for Friday's game.

"I don't have a lot of money, but I'll pay to see this team," he told KRNVTV in Reno.

"We are going to max credit cards and do whatever we can to go to the game," Maureen O'Bannon added.

University president John Lilley said he plans to make the trip to St. Louis.

"I'll be there with my wife Friday night – screaming our heads off like we've been doing," Lilley said.

ST. LOUIS REGIONAL		NCAA Men's Basketball		ATLANTA REGIONAL	
Friday	Sunday			Sunday	Friday
9 UAB					Duke 1
4 Kansas					Illinois 5
3 Georgia Tech					Texas 3
10 Nevada					Xavier 7
EAST RUTHERFORD REGIONAL		SEMIFINALS		PHOENIX REGIONAL	
Thursday	Saturday	April 3	April 3	Saturday	Thursday
1 St. Joe's		San Antonio	San Antonio		Alabama 8
4 Wake Forest					Syracuse 5
3 Pitt					Vanderbilt 6
2 Okla. State					UConn 2
		NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP			
		April 5			
		San Antonio			
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Montana refuses alcohol as cure to million-dollar shortfall within athletic department

Associated Press

MISSOULA, Mont. – The University of Montana won't increase tuition or sell alcohol at sporting events to fix a nearly \$1 million deficit in the athletic department's budget, UM President George Dennison said Thursday.

Otherwise, there is no official plan yet on how to deal with the shortfall, he told a crowd of faculty, staff and students during a panel discussion.

Alcohol sales would likely be a quick and even generous revenue source, but "I won't even put it on the table," Dennison said.

The still-developing budget fix includes increasing the price of season tickets, raising membership dues for the Grizzly Scholarship Association, scheduling a seventh home football game, reducing event management costs and reducing travel costs, he said.

With the final UM plan and support from UM's general fund, the deficit will be taken care of by June 30, 2007, he said.

"I will not propose a tuition increase to pay off debt," Dennison said. "We have, however, proposed an increase in student athletic fees to prevent something like this from happening again."

UM officials were caught by surprise last fall when audits in the athletic department uncovered accounting problems in the budget and overspending. Although they had some indication there were problems in October, in November they told the Board of Regents the budget was balanced and they were expecting a surplus for the 2004 fiscal year.

Dennison said he did not know the full extent of the deficit until

February. When he found out, he informed the state commissioner of higher education and the regent chairman.

Balancing the athletic department's budget will be made easier when a new fiscal manager is hired, said Bob Duringer, UM's vice president for finance and administration. The position has been open since the department's former fiscal manager, Rob Edwards, resigned in September.

Duringer said the position will be filled by May 1 and pay a \$43,000 to \$48,000 salary, depending on experience. Unlike before, the person hired will report directly to Duringer's office.

MONTANA ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT SPENDING

• More than \$3,000 to the Missoula Country Club, for former Director of Athletics Wayne Hogan's membership and related charges.

• \$10,000 for services by Monte, the UM mascot.

• Several airline tickets to fly administrators' spouses to UM athletic events

• \$1,840 for 12 tickets to the 2004 NCAA Final Four in Texas.

• \$990 for a two-night stay by Hogan in Las Vegas, half of which was billed to the athletics department.

(Information courtesy of Associated Press)

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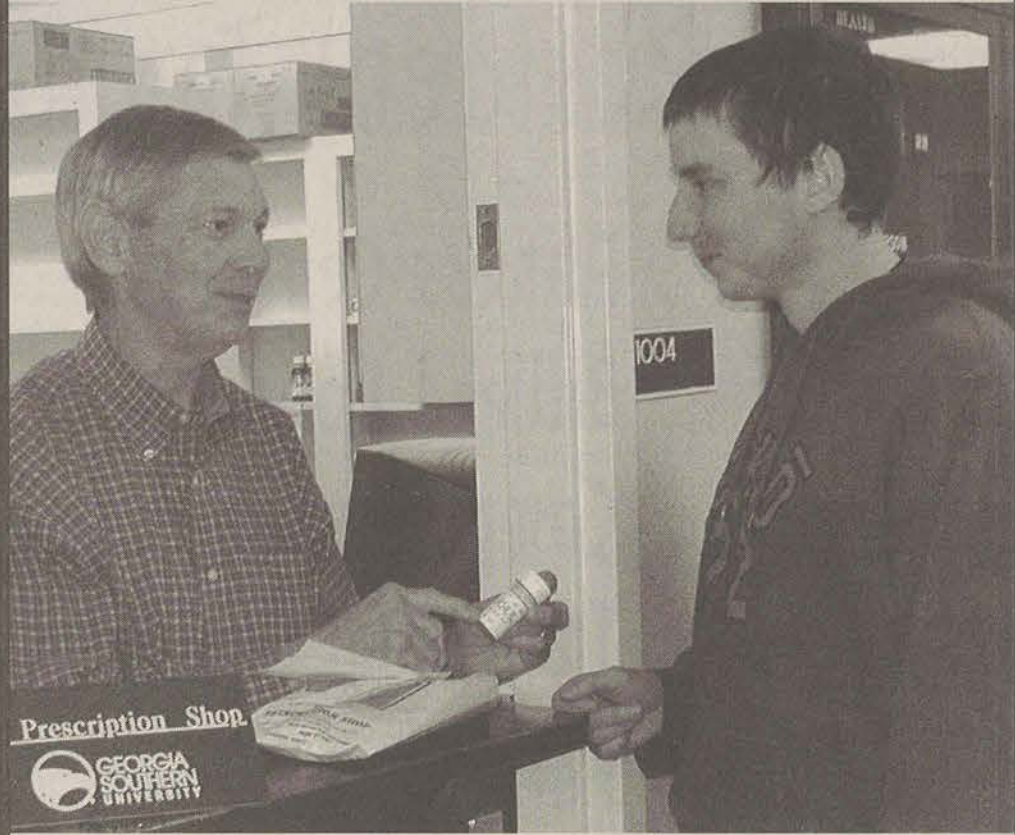
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Fear of seeming weak drove Israel's decision to kill Yassin

By Soraya Sarhaddi Nelson
KRT Campus

JERUSALEM - Israel's government knew it couldn't assassinate the leader of a prominent militant Islamic organization without inciting reprisals and paying a high price on the international political stage.

But two past events - and one that hasn't taken place yet - led to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's decision to kill Sheik Ahmed Yassin in an air strike Monday as the quadriplegic spiritual leader of the Palestinian group Hamas was being wheeled home from morning prayers.

The first was relatively recent: twin suicide bombings two weeks ago at the heavily guarded Israeli seaport of Ashdod. The bombers killed 10 people, but the death toll would likely have been much higher if the hazardous chemicals stored nearby also had exploded.

The second event took place four years ago: Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon under the government of then Prime Minister Ehud Barak. The pullout came after 22 years of occupation that had grown increasingly unpopular among Israelis tired of Israeli soldiers dying in a country where many believed they had no business.

But the pullout hurt Israel's tough guy image, and may have encouraged the current Palestinian uprising of suicide bombings and other attacks. Yassin himself said Hamas was expecting its campaign of suicide bombings to drive Israel from Palestinian lands, much as another militant Islamic group, Hezbollah, had driven the Israelis from southern Lebanon.

The event that has yet to happen

is Sharon's proposal to pull Israeli settlers and soldiers from the 139-mile Gaza Strip - part of a unilateral plan Sharon has proposed to give Israel more defensible borders and Israeli voters the security they crave.

Some Israelis wonder whether the Yassin assassination is Sharon's first step toward reneging on his proposal to withdraw because Israel can't pull out while chaos reigns on its border.

More likely, however, the assassination was intended to demonstrate that any Israeli withdrawal would take place with guns blazing - not like the withdrawal from Lebanon, which looked like a retreat.

"When the prime minister says, 'We are about to unilaterally withdraw from Gaza,' and immediately afterward, you have two suicide bombers killing people in Ashdod, Israelis realize that no matter what we do, they want to annihilate us," explained Dan Schueftan, a senior fellow at University of Haifa's National Security Research Center. "So to say, 'Oh, let's not hurt them because they will do something to us' is ridiculous. They are already doing a hundred percent of what they can."

Added Zalman Shoval, a foreign police adviser to Sharon: "We must make it clear to the Palestinians - at least some of them - that this is not southern Lebanon all over again."

It's an "eye for an eye" mentality that's defined years of fighting in this volatile region.

Not long after Sharon announced the Gaza proposal late last year, Hamas reinvigorated its offensive by sending its first female suicide bomber and more recently, attacking the Ashdod seaport.

SGA, FROM PAGE 1A

or she, is not the only person students are voting for in this election.

Perkins said, "People should not only vote for me, they should vote for my entire ticket. The Executive Board members, as well as the Senate, are the backbone of the SGA."

As for the concerns of students regarding GSU, and the way in which Perkins will execute ideas and implement plans, Perkins said, "We don't want to give bogus promises and promote unrealistic ideas. The Perkins Ticket will work hard to create awareness, and educate the students of GSU. We will work cohesively with the university and its strategic plan."

The other candidate for SGA President is Chris Haseltine, a junior entrepreneurship major

from Marietta, Georgia.

Unbeknownst to many, Haseltine has run for President of the SGA for the past three years under his nickname, "Ovaltine."

"Vote for me because I'm not a boring politician. I'm not a quiet person and I know how to get things done. I'm not afraid to take risks. I will try programs out just to see what happens, that's what I do," Haseltine said.

Haseltine builds businesses as a hobby. As a top seller for Cutco, Haseltine helped to open a store in Savannah.

He has started a company called Young Auntra Enterprises LLC, to help others build companies and learn how to make money.

He also helped to get the ball rolling on possibly bringing Starbucks to GSU.

Currently, Haseltine is beginning a new project involving the Budweiser Beer School, which will teach students how Budweiser beer is brewed, as well as provide free beer samples.

Other projects he is involved in are: increasing funding for fraternities and sororities so that they will not have to perform as many fundraisers throughout the year, and he is starting a real estate business.

Haseltine is also an inactive member of the American Marketing Association, and has recently returned from an internship with Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida.

"I personally believe that encouraging individuals that their only hopes of success are attained from studying hard, getting good grades, getting a job, and pick-

ing up a decent paycheck every week is obsolete. I prefer to help develop and support individuals in building big businesses that supply them residual income for the rest of their lives, as well as, investing in real estate for the passive income," Haseltine said.

If elected Haseltine hopes to bring more entertainment, seminars, and better additions to Career Day to the GSU campus.

As for the problems concerning students and GSU, Haseltine said, "First I will figure out what all the problems are, then I will work out the kinks."

A debate between the two candidates will be held Thursday, March 25 at 7 p.m., in room 2080, of Russell Union. Voting will begin Monday, March 29 on Wings and will run through Wednesday, March 31.



KRT Campus

Palestinians carry the coffin of slain Hamas leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin during his funeral in Gaza Strip, Monday, March 22.

SMOKING, FROM PAGE 1A

of the new law. In fact, Ricardo Brown, manager of Applebee's, says they have had a slight increase in revenue. Brown said, "A lot of people wouldn't come into the restaurant because of the smoking. Some people who have asthma or breathing conditions might be more willing to come in now."

Restaurants not affected by the ban must have an area for live entertainment or have a tobacco retail outlet.

The Bean and Leaf Café, located adjacent to Eagle Diner, is a separately ventilated room specifically for smokers. Smokers can buy tobacco for use in hookahs, smoke cigarettes, and at times listen to live acoustic music. Joel Williams, manager of the Eagle Diner says, "For students and locals who don't know about our smoking room, we want them to come in and experience it for themselves. We take into consideration smokers and non-smokers."

GSU students have not been affected by the ban on campus. "All of the dining areas on campus have always been non-smoking due to state law," said Landrum Center manager Margo Hutchins.

Many Southern students approve of the off campus smoking ban. Sophomore Travis Norris said, "I like it a lot. I was waiting for it." He criticized the effectiveness of the old system, "It didn't make a difference if restaurants were sectioned off. Smoke travels, it doesn't obey a line in a restaurant."

Freshman Zach Chancy supports the ban, "I do smoke, but I don't smoke in restaurants to respect non-smokers. I like to taste my food."

Other students disagree with the ban. Freshman Lauren Smith said, "I don't think it's fair. Smokers have just as much of a right as non-smokers as long as they divide the rooms so non-smokers won't be bothered."

Some non-smoking students also believe that the ban is unnecessary. Freshman Jenna Kitchens said, "I don't like smoke, but I think people should be able to smoke."

Opinions on the matter are split, but the fact is restaurants are not suffering significant loss of business due to the new ordinance. Retriever's manager Jason Franklin, says, "We allow smoking and we've heard customers complain about the ban in other restaurants, but they just go outside and smoke. They just adjust to it."

SORORITY, FROM PAGE 1A

The mission of Delta Sigma Theta is built on a five-point thrust: economic development, international awareness and involvement, physical and mental health, political awareness, and educational development.

Scheduled events include participating in Relay For Life, working on a mentoring program at Langston Chapel Elementary School, and a college preparatory program at

Statesboro High School.

Founded at Howard University in 1913, Delta Sigma Theta hit the spotlight during the crucial women's suffrage movement. It boasts over 900 chapters worldwide, and more than 200,000 sisters.

In recent news, member Ericka Dunlap won the crown in the 2004 Miss America Pageant.

For more information you can visit www.deltasigmatheta.com.



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Court hears argument over words 'under God' in pledge; atheist father states rights

By Stephen Henderson
KRT Campus

WASHINGTON - In an unusually personal but legally impressive pitch to the nation's highest court Wednesday, atheist Michael Newdow implored

the justices to stop daily school recitations of the Pledge of Allegiance because he says the words "under God" endorse specific religious beliefs.

Newdow said he feels the effect of the pledge each day that a Sacramento, Calif., area elementary

school asks his daughter to stand, place her hand over her heart and "say her father is wrong" because he doesn't believe in God.

"Government should not be anywhere near this kind of thing," Newdow told the justices. "There's a principle at stake here. The gov-

ernment shouldn't be putting that idea in her head.

It is supposed to stay out of religion."

Lawyers for the Elk Groves school district and the Bush administration countered that the pledge is a ceremonial, patriotic exercise and

not religious, so it doesn't violate the Constitution's prohibition against state-sponsored religious activity. They also attacked Newdow's standing to bring the case, saying a custody dispute over his daughter renders him unable to direct her educational or religious upbringing.

Both sides made strong arguments that the justices seemed to weigh seriously. But the court's history of deference to ceremonial public religiosity suggests Newdow may have a towering climb to victory.

The day in court was clearly dominated by Newdow, an emergency room doctor with legal training but no prior courtroom experience. A lively back-and-forth with the justices' quick legal minds can reduce even the most experienced attorneys' arguments to rubble, but Newdow often appeared to be in control of the debate.

Using a mix of emotional appeal and demonstrated knowledge of the court's precedents, Newdow laid out an argument that the justices seemed to have difficulty attacking.

Newdow even drew an uncharacteristic laugh from the court audience when, in an exchange with Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, he argued that Congress' inclusion of the words "under God" in the pledge didn't draw more objection in 1954 because "atheists can't get elected to public office."

Rehnquist, a stickler for decorum, threatened to clear the room.

Justice Sandra Day O' Connor asked Newdow how the pledge was different from the "many references to God in our daily lives in this country." She pointed out that the court begins each session with a marshal saying "God bless the United States and this honorable court."

"But no one is asked to stand and affirm that," Newdow said. "That's different."

"She's not required to do it," Justice Anthony M. Kennedy pointed out, citing a 1943 court decision.

"Yes, but she's coerced to do so," Newdow responded. In a 1992 ruling written by Kennedy, the court outlawed prayer at public school graduations largely because "subtle coercive pressure" gives students little choice but to participate.

"Imagine being the one atheist among 30 Christians in a class saying the pledge," Newdow said. "I think that's a large imposition on a small child."

Justices Stephen Breyer and David Souter tried to corner Newdow with arguments that "under God" isn't explicitly religious, but ceremonially so.

Breyer asked whether the pledge is so general that it "really doesn't violate the Constitution because it includes virtually everyone and those who don't agree don't have to say it?"

Newdow replied that, to someone with no religious beliefs, "under God" is as unacceptable as "under Jesus" would be for a non-Christian.

Newdow also discredited the idea that the phrase, put into the pledge in 1954 by Congress to celebrate the nation's religious founding, had become more ceremonial and less significant over time.

"If that's true, then why did 99 senators stop what they were doing and go out front and say the pledge" when they heard about the lower court's decision in Newdow's favor, Newdow asked. "Why did President Bush interrupt a press conference to talk about its importance? The reason this has become a big deal is because people think it is explicitly religious, and that's the problem with it."

Solicitor General Theodore Olson acknowledged that Congress in 1954 had religious intent in adding the phrase, but he said that was consistent with the founders' acknowledgement that the rights of the people emanate from God. He also said the modern "ceremonial recitation" of the pledge would cause a "reasonable person to understand it's not like prayer."

Terrence Cassidy, the lawyer for Elk Grove, hammered at Newdow's standing to hear the case.

"The question is what is in the best interest of the child, and in custody disputes, the court decides which parent has decision-making power," Cassidy said. Sandra Banning, the mother and legal guardian of Newdow's daughter, is a born-again Christian and doesn't

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