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The GEORGE-ANNE

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Wednesday, April 7, 2004 • Volume 76, Number 81

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SPORTS: SoCon Player of the Week honors given to softball's Griffin, men's tennis' Patry. **Page 6**
NEWS: Relay for Life to be held April 16 at the Kiwanis Ogeechee fairgrounds. **Page 8**
NEWS: The Last Don's is unlike any pizzeria in Statesboro. **Page 8**

GSU student loses father in Iraq tragedy

Blackwater employee Wesley Batalona killed by Fallujah mob

By Adam Brady
that_guy@stouthouse.org

Kristal Batalona awoke on April 2 at 6 a.m. to a surprise visit from her boyfriend. It was her twenty-second birthday, and he wanted to give her a present before she left home for work. Batalona had just finished opening her gift when the phone rang.

It was her mother calling from Hawaii – six hours behind local time, or about 1 a.m. on the island.

"I knew in her voice something was wrong," she said. She was right.

Her father Wesley Batalona, a retired Army Ranger and an employee of Blackwater Security, was one of the four American contractors brutally killed in Fallujah, Iraq the day before.

The former military man had recently become an employee of Blackwater, and was regarded as an "elite professional." Whereas most other employees of the security contracting company had been required to complete a careful and tedious training, Batalona had been recognized as already having the skills needed to operate within the company successfully.

"Our tasks are dangerous," reads a statement on Blackwater's website www.blackwaterusa.com. "And while we feel sadness for our fallen colleagues, we also feel pride and satisfaction that we are making a difference for the people of Iraq."

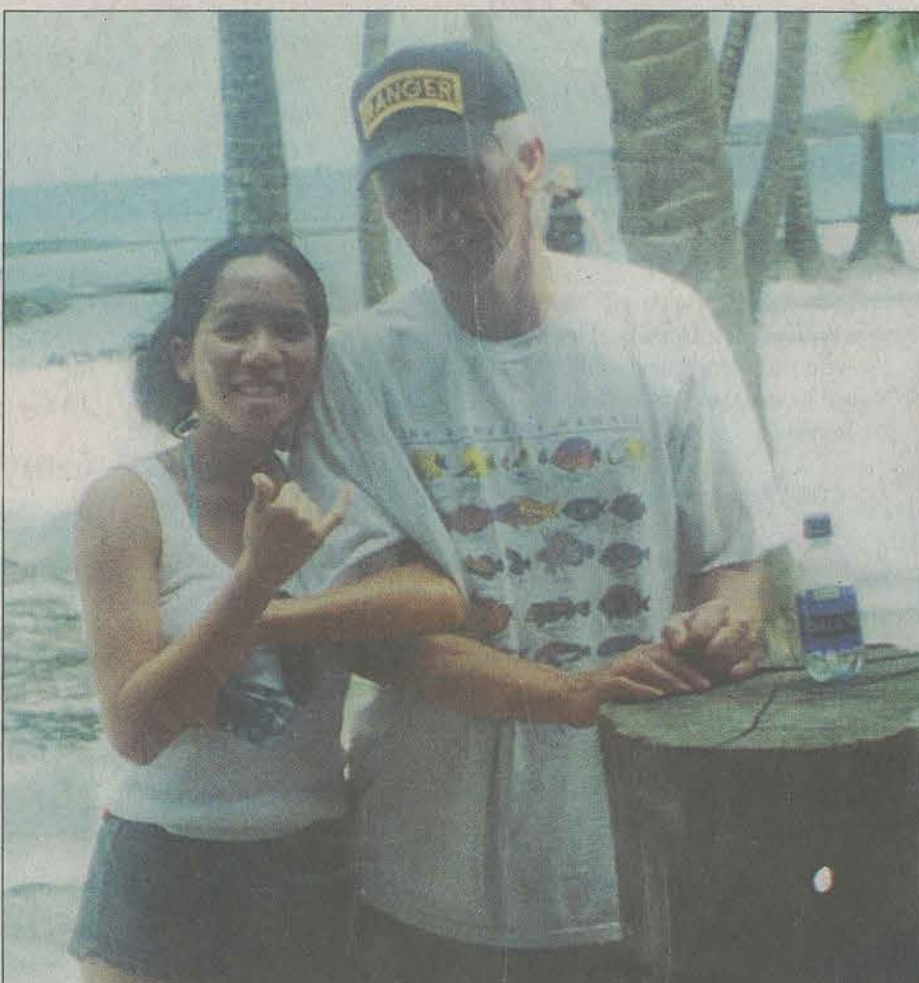
Batalona had called his daughter just weeks before the incident to try to meet up with her in Charleston before he was deployed. Kristal was unable to make the trip.

"I never thought that something would happen to him," said the junior Political Science major.

Wesley Batalona had survived numerous missions for 20 years while serving in the 1st Battalion 75th Ranger Regiment of the US Army based at Fort Benning. He retired in 1994 to Effingham County. The family has since moved back to Hawaii, but Kristal chose to remain in Georgia to attend GSU.

The Army Rangers are often regarded as the best light infantry in the world with their units highly trained and deployable anywhere in the world with only 18 hours notice.

See Batalona, Page 5



Above: Kristal Batalona is pictured with her father Wesley in Paaulio, Hawaii. Batalona's father had stayed on the island for several weeks before being deployed to Iraq by private security contractor Blackwater. **Right:** The 75th Ranger Regiment out of Fort Benning, Georgia. Wesley Batalona is pictured just above the man holding the flag.

Photos are Special to the G-A



Fighting continues in Shiite section of Baghdad

By Matthew Schofield
KRT Campus

American officials raised the stakes Monday in an already-tense Iraq by announcing they will seek to arrest a Shiite cleric whose followers were blamed for the deaths Sunday of at least nine coalition soldiers, including eight Americans.

Sheik Muqtada al Sadr is wanted in connection with the murder nearly a year ago of a rival cleric. The cleric was hacked to death during a meeting of Shiite groups in Najaf one day after Baghdad fell to American forces, U.S. officials said.

There was no word on how soon Sadr might be seized, and he remained defiant in his headquarters at a mosque in Kufa, 90 miles south of Baghdad.

Tensions remained high throughout the country. Gunfire could be heard overnight in Sadr City, where hundreds of militants had massed in the streets Monday afternoon, promising fresh attacks. U.S. tanks were stationed outside every police station in the sprawling slum, home to 2 million Shiites.

Thirty-five miles west, U.S. Marines cordoned off the restive city of Fallujah in the Sunni Triangle, promising to find the perpetrators of an ambush last week that killed four American civilian security guards whose bodies later were mutilated by an angry mob. Roads between Baghdad and the Jordanian border, which run through Fallujah, were closed.

U.S. officials insisted spiraling violence wasn't creating a crisis in Iraq.

"We are responsive to the level of violence," said U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt in Baghdad, the deputy chief of operations. Later he added, "We are not in a crisis."

Meanwhile, witnesses to Sunday's fighting in Sadr City described a scene in which U.S. soldiers stumbled into an ambush from which there was no hope of escape and Iraqi policemen surrendered their offices without a fight.

The witnesses said three American Humvees were moving down a narrow lane and were hemmed in by two- and three-story apartment buildings in the tightly packed slum. As they slowed in the lane, the street quickly filled with angry, armed militants, members of Mahdi's Army, who are loyal to Sadr.

In the close space, the American soldiers found it difficult even to

See Fighting, Page 5

WAR IN IRAQ

U.S. considers sending more troops to Iraq



KRT Campus

Muktada Al-Sadr's followers burn the American flag as they protest the closing of his newspaper, Al-Hawza, in front of the Convention Center in Baghdad, Iraq, on Wednesday, March 31.

By Philip Dine
KRT Campus

The recent spread of violence in Iraq confronts the United States with a situation that is both dangerous and delicate – and one that military strategists want to deal with quickly lest it spin out of control.

As a result, military commanders are considering whether to bring more American troops into the country, a senior official with U.S. Central Command told reporters at the Pentagon Monday.

"Given the events of this weekend and the obvious potential for more demonstrations or more violence, we have asked the staff to at least take a look and see what forces are available out there in a quick response mode, in the event that they should be needed," the official said, according to a transcript provided by the Pentagon. The official spoke on condition of anonymity.

What is particularly worrisome is that resistance

See Iraq, Page 5

WAR ON TERROR

Official says bin Laden no longer in charge of al-Qaida

By James Gordon Meek
KRT Campus

Osama Bin Laden is so hounded by U.S. forces that he no longer controls al-Qaida, a top American counterterrorism official said Thursday.

"The sense is no, he's not (in charge) in the way that we think of it," said Ambassador Cofer Black, the State Department's counterterror coordinator.

Bin Laden – who the CIA believes is hiding in the mountainous border between Pakistan and Afghanistan – is unable to meet with his lieutenants to plot new attacks and relies instead on other terror groups to strike, Black told the House International Relations Committee.

"This guy spends most of his time trying to figure out how they're going to come for me and is this going to be the day?" said Black, former chief of the CIA's counterterrorism center.

Black said al-Qaida remains a "potent force" that has been put under "catastrophic stress" by the U.S. global war on terror, forcing bin Laden's henchmen to "evolve in ways not entirely by its own choosing."

"They're reaching out, trying to co-opt the missions of other terrorist groups – particularly local ones and others – and try and cement their determination ... to destroy the United States," he told the hearing.

Black cited the attacks in Madrid last month as an example. Spanish officials believe the bombing of four commuter trains that killed 191 people was carried out by a militant Moroccan Islamic group called Salafia Jihadia, which also is believed to have bombed a housing project in Casablanca earlier this year.

Spanish authorities issued a warrant Thursday for a Tunisian, Sarhane Ben Abdelmajid Fakhret, 35, eyed as the mastermind of

See Osama, Page 5



KRT Campus

Frame grab from the Osama bin Laden, center, videotape released by the Department of Defense on Thursday, December 13, 2001.

Weekday Weather

Wednesday

HIGH 80°
LOW 57°
Mostly Sunny

Thursday

HIGH 80°
LOW 58°
Isolated Thunderstorms

Only in America

- Phoenix man battles parking ticket for 12 years
- University of Akron in Ohio hosts concrete canoe racing
- Pennsylvania man robs two banks after finishing jail sentence

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Opinions

- Columnist Romina Garber believes compromise is the key to ending music piracy problems
- Columnist Daniel Thies observes why getting a degree is not necessarily what makes college worthwhile

Page 4

Sports

- Golf finishes in 14th-place tie at Augusta State Invitational
- Sports editor Eli Boorstein gives respect to the underdogs
- Okafor leads UConn to NCAA championship over Ga. Tech

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Inside

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Police Beat

04-02-2004

- A bicycle was taken from the Brannen Hall bike rack.
- Several books were taken from the College of Education Building.

04-03-2004

- Ebony Monique Robertson, 19, of Southern Courtyard, was charged with driving with a suspended license and improper stopping on the roadway.
- A mirror was torn off a vehicle in the Johnson Hall parking lot.
- A vehicle was scratched in the Winburn Hall parking lot.
- Three vehicles were scratched in the Johnson Hall parking lot.
- Officers issued one traffic citation and three traffic warnings, assisted five motorists and responded to two fire alarms.

04-04-2004

- A case of disorderly conduct was reported at the Henderson Library.
- Two vehicles were scratched in the Johnson Hall parking lot.
- Officers issued two traffic citations and one traffic warning, investigated one traffic accident and assisted two motorists.

04-05-2004

- Myles Judson McNamara, 19, of 10540 Shallowford Drive, Roswell, Ga., was charged with minor in possession/consumption of alcohol and

giving false information to an officer.

- A cell phone charger was taken from Johnson Hall.
- A vehicle was scratched in the Johnson Hall parking lot.
- A vehicle had a window broken and a door lock damaged in the Russell Union parking lot.
- Officers issued eight traffic warnings, investigated one traffic accident, and assisted two motorists, and one sick person.

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

Campus Calendar

April 7

Graduate Student Appreciation Week continues
11:30 a.m.

The series of events and programs is sponsored by the Jack N. Averitt College of Graduate Studies (COGS) and the Graduate Student Organization (GSO). Today's event will be a reception for International Graduate Students. At the Administrative Annex Building.

April 8

Graduate Scholarship Day
4 p.m.

During this event graduate students will give poster presentations on research, internship experiences, and creative scholarship. At the RAC Auxiliary Gym.

April 9

Turkey Shoot
9 a.m.
The ROTC Department will hold

a Turkey Shoot/Rappelling Day. This event is for faculty and staff. Prizes will be awarded. At the Rappelling Tower.

COGS Appreciation Week Continues
1 p.m.

This week draws to a close with an ice cream social with music from GSU's own jazz band, courtesy of the Masters of Music Program. At the Administrative Annex.

Phi Sigma Pi silent auction
7 p.m.

The Gamma Gamma chapter of Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity is sponsoring a silent auction and gala for Georgia Southern faculty and staff members. Proceeds from the event will benefit Teach for America and Phi Sigma Pi. Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased by sending an e-mail to Naja Saleem, vice president of Phi Sigma Pi, at naja_y_saleem@georgiasouthern.edu. Purchase tickets now as space is limited. At the Williams Center Dining Hall.

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News Briefs

Kennedy assails Bush on domestic policies



Special Photo

U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy.

WASHINGTON — After months of attacking President Bush's policy on Iraq, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy turned his focus to domestic issues, saying the administration has misled the public about the economy, health care and education.

The senator said the government has cut unemployment benefits, failed to pay for education overhaul and is spending \$134 billion more than expected on a Medicare plan.

Kennedy has been taking on Bush as one of the most fervent supporters of John Kerry, the Massachusetts senator who is the presumptive Democratic nominee for president.

The attack on the administration's domestic agenda comes after several high-profile speeches in which Kennedy called the war in Iraq a "fraud."

In the Brookings Speech, Kennedy branded Iraq as "George Bush's Vietnam," but added that the military campaign diverted attention from "the administration's deceptions here at home."

The pattern of deception and the administration's efforts to dismiss any critics, he said, has polarized and paralyzed Congress and is undermining the public's trust in government.

Bush still committed to deadline in Iraq

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — President Bush said Monday he is committed to the June 30 deadline for transferring

power in Iraq and will not be deterred by violence and an armed Shiite revolt against the U.S.-led occupation.

"The deadline remains firm," Bush told reporters.

Bush also criticized a radical Shiite cleric, Muqtada al-Sadr, whose supporters rioted in Baghdad and four other cities in fighting that killed at least 52 Iraqis, eight U.S. troops and a Salvadoran soldier.

"This is one person that is deciding that rather than allowing democracy to flourish, he's going to exercise force," Bush said. "We just can't let it stand."

An Iraqi judge has issued a murder arrest for al-Sadr for the killing of another Shiite leader, coalition officials said.

He said the United States would not be deterred from meeting the June 30 deadline for transferring authority in Iraq.

"The intention is to make sure the deadline remains the same," Bush said.

Georgia Chancellor candidate for job in Tennessee



Special Photo

University System of Georgia Chancellor Thomas Meredith.

ATLANTA — Georgia Chancellor Thomas Meredith is one of 46 candidates for a similar job with the University of Tennessee system.

Meredith, who has overseen

Georgia's 34-campus public university system since January 2002, said he was persuaded to pursue the position by a search firm hired to identify candidates.

The search committee will meet Monday in Nashville to pare the list down to six to 10 candidates, who will be interviewed the following week, said search director Margar Perry. The committee hopes to make its selection on April 21.

Georgia University System Board of Regents Chairman Joe Frank Harris said he was not surprised that Meredith had been pursued for the job.

Harris said he wanted to retain Meredith and hoped the board would do "whatever is in our power to be able to keep him."

Meredith accepted the Georgia job in October 2001, after serving nearly four years as chancellor of the University of Alabama system. His annual compensation package is \$480,450, plus the use of an automobile and a \$2 million five-bedroom mansion in Buckhead.

Compensation for the Tennessee job would be similar.

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

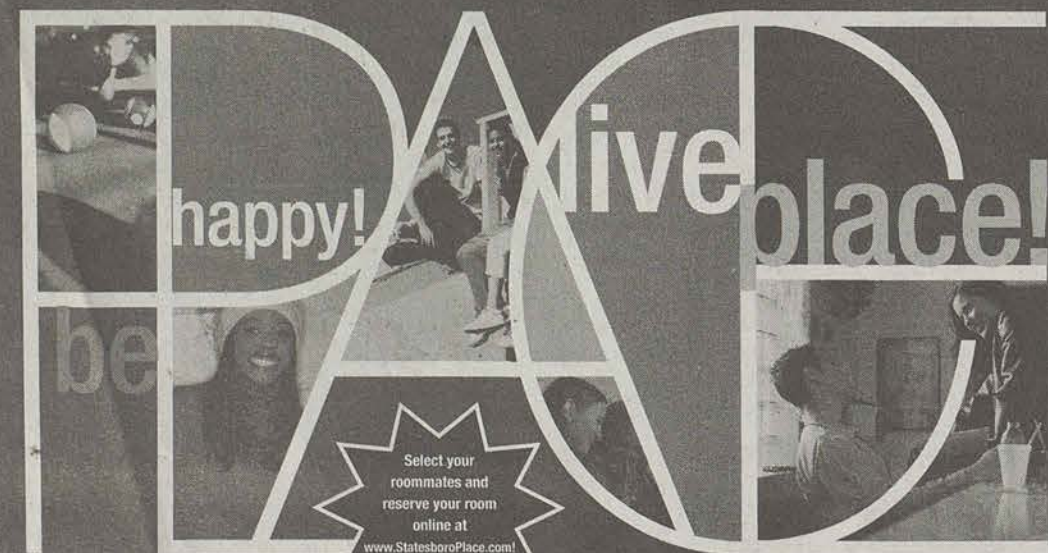
Corrections:

• In the article on the SGA election results in Monday's edition of *The George-Ann*, two of the Senators' names were incorrectly spelled. The correct spellings are Jon Sheppard and Efua Mensah-Brown.

• In Monday's Police Beat, one of the incidents stated that a fight was reported at the TKE house; the incident actually happened at the Pi Kappa Phi House on Olympic Blvd.



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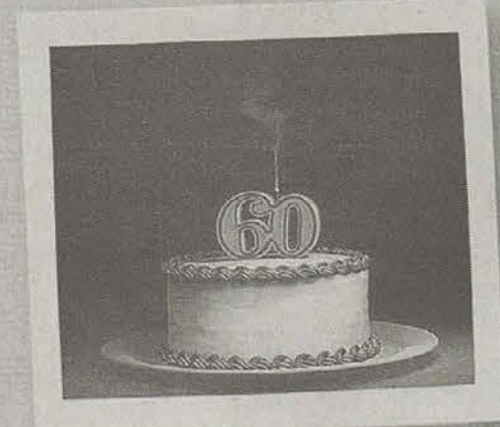
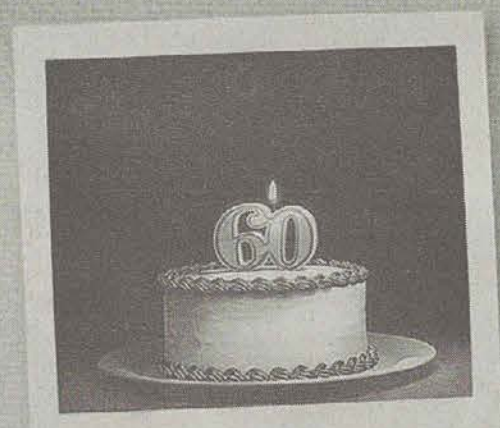
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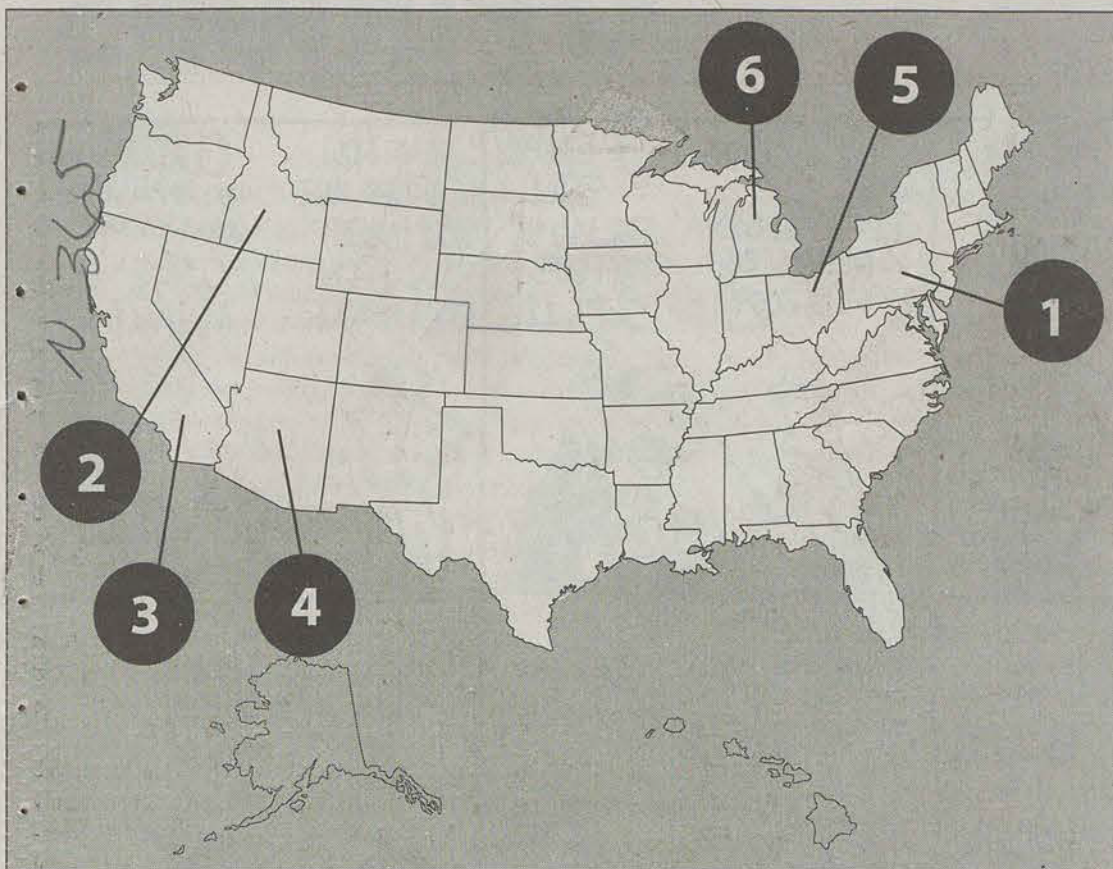
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Happy Birthday, Smokey.





1 Pennsylvania

Man robbed two banks day after serving prison sentence

TARENTUM — A man was charged with robbing two banks less than one day after getting out of prison for a botched 2001 convenience store robbery in which he held a can of ravioli under his shirt to simulate a gun, police said.

Thomas Glenn Rokosky, 28, was arrested Tuesday morning a few minutes after someone robbed the First Commonwealth Bank in Tarentum, about 20 miles northeast of Pittsburgh.

Police said an alarm system sent a distress call directly to a dispatch center and helped them quickly locate Rokosky, of Tarentum, and his vehicle, which matched witness descriptions. Police said he also had a note demanding money from a teller.

Simple arithmetic led police to charge Rokosky with another robbery the day before.

When he was arrested, Rokosky was carrying nearly \$4,300, police said. The person who robbed the Tarentum bank got away with \$2,500.

Investigators then found out that another First Commonwealth Bank branch was robbed Monday afternoon in Johnstown, not far from the prison.

Rokosky told police about the Johnstown robbery when they asked about it, saying that he paid a cab driver \$100 to turn off his meter and drive him to Tarentum, about 65 miles away. Rokosky was supposed to meet with his parole officer Monday but "blew him off," Tarentum police chief Bill Vakulick said.

Rokosky was still in jail Wednesday.

Police say he has a criminal record dating to 1998, including four robberies or attempts in the Tarentum area that he pleaded guilty to in 2002.

In one attempt, Rokosky threatened an unwitting clerk at a corner store in Natrona with a ravioli can. Rokosky ran away when the clerk was too afraid to open a cash register drawer.

2 Idaho

Creative prom fashions may result in scholarship

HAGERMAN — When at the prom, it's best to stick to your date.

No problem for Lynlea Jayo and Josh Traugher, a high school couple who used duct tape, thrift-store jackets and bed sheets to make their own formal wear for just \$30.

Jayo and Traugher's creativity put them in the running for \$2,500 scholarships. The Duck brand duct-tape company also gave \$2,500 to the school as part of a national contest.

"It's my last prom, and I wanted to go with a bang," Traugher said. "I think we hit on something way different."

Her dress was made from an old bed sheet. She used three rolls of black and red tape on the hourglass-shaped gown with spaghetti straps.

"I thought about a lot of different ideas, but it's hard to imagine what a duct tape dress will look like until you make it," Jayo said.

Because of an extra layer of duct tape, Traugher's jacket weighed 14 pounds. He also made duct-tape slacks, a duct-tape T-shirt and a black-and-white checkered tie using six rolls of tape.

"It was a memory in the making," Jayo said.

3 California

Blue hair causes family to see red

AUBURN — It used to be that schoolchildren might get their mouths washed out for using blue language. These days at Pleasant Ridge Elementary School, they're more likely to have their hair washed out — for sporting a blue mohawk.

Parents of a 6-year-old boy say they plan to consult an attorney after

a school principal washed bright blue dye out of their son's punk-style haircut.

Levey Padocs Jr.'s father said he allowed his son to get the distinctive do more than a month ago for behaving better in class.

But parents of the boy's kindergarten classmates complained the haircut would spoil an upcoming class photo, so Principal Derek Cooper said he washed the boy's hair in the nurse's office after getting permission from the boy's mother.

The boy's father said neither he nor the mother approved the washing. They plan to discuss the situation with an attorney.

"Leave him alone. He's not a problem child. He's not hurting anyone," Levey Padocs Sr. said. "He's an individual, and that's how he's expressing his individuality."

4 Arizona

Fight over parking ticket rages on — for 12 years

PHOENIX — Haskell Wexler's reason for living boils down to \$31.

For 12 years, the 85-year-old widower has been on a crusade to overturn a Phoenix parking ticket that he says violated his constitutional rights.

For Wexler, the legal battle against City Hall has become just as important as the ones he fought in the South Pacific during World War II: an epic of right vs. wrong, good vs. evil.

He says he will keep on suing until he wins or dies.

In his latest suit, Wexler is asking the U.S. District Court in Phoenix to award him \$250,000 for costs associated with fighting the 1992 ticket.

But Wexler's lawsuits have also cost taxpayers uncounted thousands of dollars to defend. Officials say they have no way of knowing how much time or how many resources have been spent on Wexler over the years. Every time he brings another suit against the city, Assistant City Attorney Marvin

Sondag must file a response and fight it in court.

The fight began in December 1992, when Wexler, still working as a cement contractor, was hit with three parking tickets. A ticket was \$6 early in 1992. But that year the city adopted a \$16 fine that jumps to \$31 if not paid on time.

Wexler paid the \$93 for three tickets, but he hasn't let anyone forget it. He first took his case to the Phoenix Municipal Court in 1994. He lost. He lost four times in Maricopa County Superior Court. He lost in U.S. District Court. He took it to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which refused to hear his case.

In the same time period, the parking fines in Phoenix have not changed. Still, Wexler makes it a point to visit or call city officials on a daily basis to lodge his complaints.

Sondag says the city has already moved to dismiss Wexler's newest challenge. But even if a judge once again rules in the city's favor, he doubts Wexler will let it go.

On this, Wexler agrees.

5 Ohio

University of Akron hosts concrete canoe race

PORTAGE LAKES — They came from all over to race their concrete canoes.

The University of Akron was hosting a regional student conference of the American Society of Civil Engineers, and the marquee event was the concrete canoe race.

Student engineers from eight schools in the United States and Canada, as well as their supporters, were out on Turkeyfoot Lake over the weekend.

The contest gives students a chance to see engineering principles at work. The concrete canoe illustrates the rule

that even extremely heavy objects float, as long as they displace more than their weight in water.

Each university had mix design, paddling, hull design and construction teams.

A team can win the overall award without doing well on the lake, but for engineering students, the race brings special bragging rights.

The stone boats looked like any other canoe, but ranged in weight from 130 to more than 200 pounds. A typical fiberglass or aluminum model weighs about a third of that.

The goal is to build a lighter, faster canoe, said Akron freshman Sarah Gentner, a member of the mix design and testing team.

"We tried 23 different mixes before we settled on one," she said.

The Akron students chose a mixture of concrete, glass bubbles and micro light, a type of volcanic ash with the consistency of powdered sugar. The fillers take up space without adding much weight.

Most teams spent the summer and fall practicing on lakes near their schools.

Rowers competed in slalom, distance and sprint races, fighting their way through wind and currents to the farthest buoy placed 1,600 feet from shore. Park rangers and scuba divers watched from a motor boat.

Teams in the female slalom completed the course in times ranging from about six minutes to more than 16 minutes.

Call it home-field, or rather, home-lake advantage. Akron won every race, for the first time in 15 years.

6 Michigan

Line is long to tour Detroit - area morgues

DETROIT — Fascinated by the secrets revealed by forensic science on shows like "CSI," high school and college students are touring Oakland and Wayne county's morgues in record numbers.

And colleges in southeast Michigan have seen a spike in enrollment for studies in pathology and forensic investigation.

Daily tours at the Oakland County morgue in Pontiac are booked through August. At the Wayne County morgue in Detroit, the once-a-week tours are filled through December.

Available for decades, the tours were long the province of law-enforcement instructors showing trainees what happens to people who have been shot, stabbed or otherwise killed, or parents trying to frighten teenagers out of bad behavior.

But things have changed in the past few years, and morgue administrators are crediting popular crime dramas that glamorize pathologists and forensic scientists.

"CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" on CBS, is one of the highest-rated television shows, with 12.8 million viewers. And there are more than a dozen other popular programs that focus on forensic science.

Wayne and Oakland counties are the only to have fully staffed medical examiner's offices in Michigan. Other counties use local hospitals. Doctors perform about 1,000 autopsies a year at the Oakland office and 4,000 at Wayne County's.

The morgue tours are just one indicator of the growing fascination with the secrets contained in a cadaver.

Colleges nationwide report waiting lists for forensic science courses. This year, the number of medical students at the University of Michigan choosing pathology as a specialty has more than doubled.

The **GEORGE-ANNE**

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News media can serve best by returning to its roots

The following editorial appeared in the Detroit Free Press on Wednesday, March 24:

These days, it is more important than ever to be well informed. The operative word there is "well." Seeing to that is a primary responsibility of journalism. A new study raises questions about whether the profession is up to the job. It had better be.

"Trust in journalism has been declining for a generation," said Tom Rosenstiel, director of a study released last week on "The State of the American News Media."

The research project found that news organizations are investing more these days in technology for the rapid distribution of news while cutting back on raw newsgathering. That can mean relying more on secondhand sources, parroting government officials, and skimming the surface of stories that could use in-depth reporting. The report said this has occurred among traditional news outlets — newspapers, radio and television — as they lose audience to ethnic, alternative and online media. Cost-cutting and quick-hit newsgathering are no way to regain public confidence.

"Some people worry the role of the journalist as gatekeeper over what is fact and what is falsehood has become irrelevant," Rosenstiel said. "We find the need for journalists to help folks sort things out is greater than ever."

The study comes amid a series of high-profile scandals involving made-up stories that have eroded media credibility. President Bush seems proud to say that he doesn't read newspapers, and has held less than a dozen news conferences in nearly four years in office. Clearly, he does not see the media as the eyes and ears of the public, to whom he is accountable.

American journalism could use a renewed commitment to its roots. The Founding Fathers considered the work of journalists so important to the evolution of democracy they protected it in the very First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Those early patriots could not have envisioned the news media as they exist today. All the Founding Fathers knew was what journalists were supposed to do.

And that has not changed one bit. Nor should it.



College: Not just a matter of degrees

By Dan Thies
KRT Campus

My brother-in-law holds a position as a software engineer that typically requires a master's degree. My 28-year-old sister owns and operates an immensely popular beauty salon, while her husband runs his own equally successful building company. My mother, in between raising 13 children, somehow managed to hold various customer-service and retail-management positions, which gave her numerous highly marketable skills.

What do all of these people have in common? None went to college.

Nevertheless, the older I get, the more my family and peers encourage me to pursue some form of post-secondary education. I live in a world that constantly admonishes me that earning a college degree is tantamount to success.

Now that I'm in my mid-20s, the years that have passed since finishing high school have taught me many things. Among these lessons is that for some, a college degree may not be as valuable as it seems.

There are those who will suggest that I consider where I might be, had I only taken that seemingly natural next step after graduation.

And as numerous studies find that the lifetime earnings of college graduates average between \$800,000 and \$1 million more than non-grads, the suggestion that I would be better off with four years of college under my belt seems undeniable.

These days, however, doubts about the ability of college graduates to attain that extra million dollars are beginning to emerge.

Economists have recently noted increased anxiety among educated workers, as job growth is slow and the once-plentiful high-paying positions promised to them are beginning to disappear.

One senior economist with the Economic Policy Institute reports that the number of college graduates unemployed for at least six months has quadrupled in the last three years.

Much of this is due to increased overseas job outsourcing practices by American companies. About 3.3 million white-collar jobs, including those in customer service, information technology and accounting, will be lost to overseas outsourcing by 2015, according to a March 7 New York Times article quoting The Forrester Research consulting firm.

Through 2012, only three of the 10 fastest-growing occupations in this country will be those that require some form of higher education, while the rest of these will be in less-sophisticated, relatively low-paying fields, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

As someone who relies on a relatively modest retail position to pay the bills, I see firsthand what this looks like. While a college degree is supposed to be the key to earning bigger bucks, I look around and see that more than half my co-workers are, in fact, college graduates.

Witnessing so many of those close to me achieve success without

the aid of a college degree, while watching a number of my college-educated peers cling to the bottom rung of the corporate ladder, has made me really question a degree's value.

The reality of ever-increasing tuition, with the ever-declining promise of a tangible return, is quite discouraging.

I'm not suggesting that a college education is a waste of time and money. Of course for many, a degree will be an invaluable asset, putting them on the fast track to fulfilling careers.

And by itself, the decision to forgo college will not necessarily leave anybody better off.

The true value of a college degree, however, lies in the committed effort it represents. The talent, motivation and time devoted to this achievement deserve recognition.

But the skills and intellect so valued in college graduates also exist in many individuals who have opted out of the higher-education route. This crowd consists of countless equally intelligent and motivated people.

Many have flourished in our society, despite their lack of a college degree, including such prominent examples as billionaires Bill Gates, Paul Allen and Steve Jobs. At least one in six of Forbes 400 wealthiest Americans never earned a college degree.

A more down-to-earth figure shows that one-quarter of individuals earning at least \$100,000 annually do not have a degree, according to the Consumer Information Center.

I believe that I, too, can be successful, with or without a degree. Though many would consider my current occupation one of those meager "Joe jobs," my employer offers motivated workers ample room for advancement. If I choose to, I could probably work hard enough to move far up in the company without ever going to college.

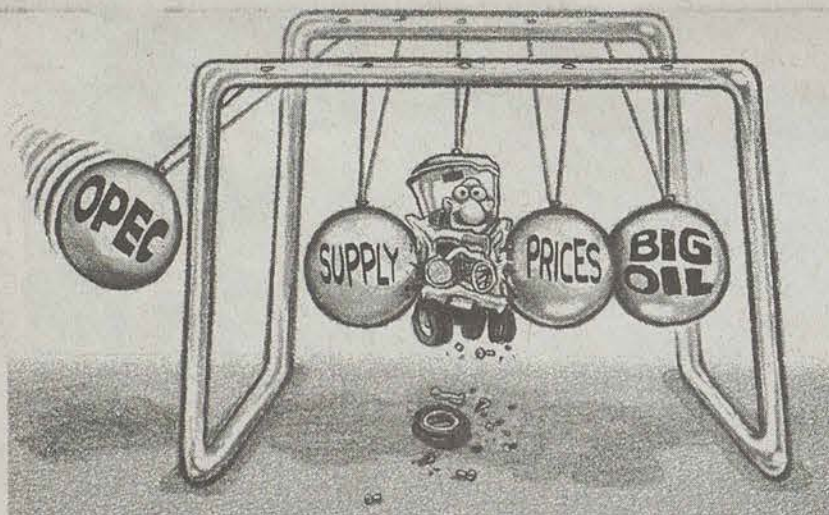
For my part, though, I do intend to pursue a college education. I look forward to college, not as a promise for a competitive edge in the workforce, but as a place for me to pursue my interests and hone my intellect.

It's this aspect of college that makes the increasing price and decreasing value of a degree seem worthwhile.

And when they hand me my degree, I'll be more than proud to have earned it — even if it does turn out to be just a six-figure receipt.

Daniel Thies is a writer for NEXT, a Sunday opinion page in The Seattle Times, and a Starbucks barista who lives in Seattle. E-mail: NEXT@seattletimes.com

STAR TRIBUNE



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 in Microsoft Word format to gaeditor@georgiasouthern.edu. 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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By Romina Garber
KRT Campus

Every time I hear a song I like, I make a mental note to download it. Even when I'm chatting online with a friend, he will sometimes send me a song he just downloaded. And every now and then my sister buys a CD and burns me a copy.

Is this illegal behavior or just our way of making a statement? The creators of the music we're exchanging say there's something wrong with this free trade of music. But everybody's doing it. At least, that's the way our generation has been operating since Napster came out. None of us would have thought we were doing something wrong until Metallica accused us of stealing.

True, the artists do not benefit when we download a song for free. In fact, it makes it more difficult for them to continue creating music because the more music is "pirated," as such file-sharing is called, the more their profits dwindle. But this doesn't affect just the artists — there are also background people who work on a set. For instance, the technicians who help produce the music. It's like that commercial shown in movie theaters during previews: A stuntman, who has worked in many movies and has a relatively small salary (compared to

the actors, director, producer, etc.), says it's his paycheck that suffers when we copy movies.

Still, our generation sees things differently. We don't see the art of entertainment as a private possession but as a public one. The art belongs just as much to the creator as it does to the person who appreciates it. We all take something from every movie we watch and every song we hear, and there is no way for anyone to charge us for that. This is the most significant contribution of art — the ability to create in us the drive to dream and to live better. So, in a sense, being on the receiving side of the production of movies and music can be just as important as being on the creative side because we endow the art with an emotional impact. Truth is, the exchange between audience and art is worth more than just money. For most of us, the ability to escape reality cannot be quantified into a monetary sum.

So then the question becomes: Has technology changed our concept of private property? The fact that a typically moral person who would never dare steal from a store has no qualms in listening to songs online or on a burned CD that she got for free points to a discrepancy between what we believe we are doing and what others perceive we are doing.

I agree that artists are entitled to the mon-

etary profits from their creations, but if sharing their art with the world is as important as they claim it is, then it should be more accessible to young people who are living off weekly allowances or measly part-time jobs. Perhaps both groups should compromise: we would concede to listen to shared music by paying an annual fee to join special Web sites and, in turn, musicians would agree to have their music displayed there and accept a lesser profit.

Truth is, our generation has had to make ethical judgments on many issues because of new technology. Our parents never had the option to partake in this level of piracy so it was never their battle. As technological progress continues, more of these issues will arise and our actions will signal our response. So when we accept burned copies of CDs or surf the Net for the latest pop hits, we are voicing our opinion. It is up to us to step back to the halfway mark that we passed so long ago and to make a fair compromise between "piracy" and taking what is rightfully ours.

Romina Garber is a sophomore at Harvard University and writes a monthly column for The Miami Herald about issues in her generation and how youth deal with those issues. E-mail: her at rgarber@herald.com.

A little give, a little take could end music-piracy tiff

Perdue eyeing special session if budget talks fail

By Dick Pettys
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Gov. Sonny Perdue warned Monday he will call a special session of the Legislature "sooner rather than later" to write the state budget for next year if lawmakers adjourn Wednesday without passing a budget or without passing a budget he considers sound.

In a news conference designed to ratchet up pressure on House and Senate budget negotiators whose efforts so far have stalled, the Republican chief executive laid the blame on opposition Democrats who control the House.

Partisan games may also be afoot, Perdue said, suggesting Democrats may be trying to maneuver him into proposing a tax increase next year or the year after, when he must seek re-election. "That is not going to happen," he declared.

House Speaker Terry Coleman, D-Eastman, said Democrats are as

opposed as Perdue to any tax increase but want the spending plan for next year to be kinder to education than Perdue proposed.

The governor's budget cuts state grants to local school systems by \$380 million. The House budget cut just \$102 million. The Senate version cut \$224 million.

However, Perdue and Senate budget writers contend the House softened the educational cuts by short funding the state's Medicaid program, which almost ran out of money last week until lawmakers bailed it out with a midyear appropriations bill.

With the help of fellow Republicans who control the Senate, Perdue is insisting the Legislature provide all the money necessary for Medicaid in next year's budget so the same shortage doesn't occur then.

The issue isn't programs, he told reporters, but "whether we have an honest, balanced, annual budget."

If lawmakers don't give him that, or if they fail to write a budget by

Wednesday's midnight adjournment, the Legislature will be called back to try again. An aide said the session could begin as early as next Monday.

When special sessions are called, the governor sets the agenda. Perdue refused to say if he might add topics other than the budget to the agenda, saying he wanted to see what issues are left hanging.

An afternoon bargaining session brought an offer from the House to give Perdue nearly all of the \$376 million additional Medicaid money he requested, but with a provision that would reduce the amount if necessary to balance the budget after other disputes had been resolved.

The Senate countered in the evening with an offer to fully fund Medicaid and to fund education to a level House leaders had offered as a compromise. But some \$800 million in construction projects for schools, colleges and the ports would be deferred to next year.

FIGHTING, FROM PAGE 1

swing their weapons around and were overwhelmed. Two of the vehicles were set on fire. Soldiers were ripped from the third.

"The attackers took the third one for a drive," one witness said. "When they stopped, people tore everything of value from it."

Coalition officials said they had no information on how the eight soldiers were killed Sunday.

Witnesses said they had seen at least two bodies of Americans after the Humvees were attacked.

When militia members came to seize one police station, another witness said, police offered no resistance.

"You may have it, but you must promise to look after the jail as well," the witness quoted an officer as saying.

Soon after that, U.S. reinforcements moved in, streaming through every major entrance into the neighborhood. According to hospital reports, 30 Iraqis were killed and 60 were wounded during the fighting.

Military officials confirmed Monday that they skirmished three times with militia members on Sunday, but Kimmitt said all police stations were under coalition control by Monday morning.

Each station had three American tanks parked in

front by afternoon, and as night neared, a column of 10 more tanks gathered near the main entrance to the suburb.

An Iraqi journalist in Sadr City Monday night said renewed fighting was fierce. "You cannot imagine the force of the attack tonight," Ahmed Mukhtar said. "The fighting is coming from everywhere."

A senior coalition official in Tampa, Fla., the headquarters for the U.S. Central Command, said four police stations had been seized by Sadr supporters Sunday, but that all had been retaken.

The official described the Shiite uprising as more troublesome than the violence last week in Fallujah, a Sunni-dominated city long sympathetic to supporters of Saddam Hussein. "Fallujah has been like that," he said, briefing reporters under the condition that he not be identified.

Shiites, in contrast, have been relatively supportive of the U.S. toppling of Saddam, who had repressed them and killed their leaders, including Sadr's father.

Tensions throughout Iraq have been high for more than a week. On Sunday and Monday, 10 Americans and a Salvadoran soldier were killed.

Coalition forces also came under fire in Mosul, Kirkuk, Najaf and Basra.

IRAQ, FROM PAGE 1

to the American occupation is now coming from not just from elements within the Sunni triangle, including Fallujah, but also from followers in southern Iraq of radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr — raising prospects of broader civil strife.

"It's extremely serious. It's not one situation but several situations going on at the same time," said Rep. Ike Skelton, D-Mo., ranking member of the House Armed Services Committee.

Failure to stem the violence could also jeopardize U.S. plans to hand over sovereignty to the Iraqis by June 30, a commitment reiterated Monday by President George W. Bush.

"This is all a prelude to the lead-up to the 30th of June," said retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Tom McInerney. "If we don't break the back right now of both insurrections, we are not going to be able to turn over sovereignty on June 30. If we don't handle each of them right, we are going to have a very big problem."

Bush said the United States is being "tested" in Iraq by forces that want U.S. policy — and Iraqi democracy — to fail. But "thugs and terrorists" will not deter the administration from the goal of a free and democratic Iraq, Bush said.

Still, continued violence could complicate the handover, said Batsheba Crocker, a former State Department attorney and National Security Council official, who directs the post-conflict reconstruction project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

"The security situation appears to be spiraling, if not out of control, at least in a very dangerous direction," she said.

How U.S. forces react is critical, say military experts, because an overly aggressive response could play into the hands of insurgents. The dilemma is that the very actions most likely to be effective in showing insurgents who's in charge — such as a no-nonsense military crackdown on Fallujah — might alienate large segments of the population.

"This is difficult. You've got to be very tough and hard. On the other hand, you've got to be compassionate, show you understand the culture," said David Grange, a retired brigadier general who commanded the 1st Infantry Division in Bosnia, Kosovo and Macedonia.

The best way to succeed in this difficult balance is to act in a crisp manner by isolating Fallujah and

other trouble spots while enlisting the support of Shiite clerics in the south, Grange said. "How do you do that without starting a civil war? It's going to take a partnership, and that's the tough part of the mission," he said.

U.S. forces have to display "overwhelming firepower" but use it in "laser-like" fashion, McInerney said.

Aside from a possible linking up of the Sunni and Shiite insurgents, which many analysts doubt will happen, the more likely prospect is that success by either group in striking coalition targets or cooperating Iraqis could serve to embolden the other.

U.S. officials had basically written off al-Sadr as a major force, believing he has little support even among Shiites. But his 3,000-member militia and the appeal of his hard-line stance against the occupation are sparking concerns.

"The most surprising or disturbing thing to me in Iraq is the possibility that Sadr might be a stronger actor than we had heretofore recognized," said Tom Donnelly, military expert at the American Enterprise Institute and former policy director for the House Armed Services Committee.

"By closing his newspaper, we kicked sand in his face. So in some ways, it's not surprising that there'd be some reaction. But there's just a lot of deals being cut among individual resistance figure in Iraq, a lot of stuff we don't know. Taking Sadr as an example, he may have more strength than we originally accounted for," Donnelly said.

If violence grows and a civil war breaks out, that would be "the worst conceivable outcome in Iraq," said Daniel Benjamin, Middle East and terrorism expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, and a former National Security Council official.

"It could lead to Iraq being the kind of place in which terrorists could operate with impunity, thus making up for the loss of Afghanistan,"

But Jack Spencer, military expert at the Heritage Foundation, said that while things look difficult now on the ground, his biggest fear is that the American public will lose its appetite for sticking with the U.S. commitment.

"Even with the problems that are occurring, this is all part of the evolution of democracy in Iraq," he said. "We're seeing history being written."

BATALONA, FROM PAGE 1

Wesley Batalona had been recognized for his work during "Operation Just Cause," the 1989-1990 invasion of Panama intended to capture Manuel Noriega. He also participated in Desert Storm in the following year.

Kristal Batalona recalls seeing very little of her father when she was younger.

"The military lifestyle is a hard lifestyle," she said.

After she was born in Savannah, Kristal says her family has moved five times, living on military bases in Columbus, Georgia; Dugway, Utah; and White Sands, New Mexico. She never heard much about what exactly her father was doing, but Batalona sees it as a father simply trying to protect his daughter.

"I think he tried to shield me from it," she said.

Though she knew her dad was working in the Middle East, Batalona did not know until she got the news of his death where and for whom her father had been working.

Wesley Batalona had just returned home to Paaulio, Hawaii in March from working with another company in Iraq to sort out the details of his employment with Blackwater.

According to Kristal, her father wanted to help in the reconstruction of Iraq — especially in assisting the people of the country.

"He just wanted to help everybody," she said.

Batalona also spoke about her aunt, Darla Baquiring, who had talked with her father before he returned to Iraq in March. He told Baquiring not to believe everything the media was saying about the Iraqi people, commenting on their hard-working lifestyle.

Kristal will return home to Paaulio today to join her family and attend services for her father.

"I know he wanted to make his mark," said Batalona. "And I believe he did."

She believes her father put his life on the line not only for her, but for his country as well.

"He wouldn't have been over there if he didn't love America," she said.

HE CALLS HER

HE CALLS HER 50 TIMES A DAY

THERE'S A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A GOOD RELATIONSHIP AND A BAD ONE.

SPEAK UP AGAINST ABUSE.

SEE IT AND STOP IT

Ad Council

FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION FUND

OSAMA, FROM PAGE 1

the March 11 train bombings.

Black said there are "scores" of such groups, and al-Qaida's reliance on less-disciplined groups not under its control could blow up on the radical movement.

As an example, he cited the bombing of a housing complex in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in November that killed mostly Muslims.

That attack caused an angry backlash among Muslims and prompted a determined sweep by Saudi authorities.

"They have made fundamental operational mistakes," Black said. "They're likely to continue to do that."

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SPORTS EDITORIAL

Giving Respect to the Underdogs

Before the season started, it's a safe bet that not many expected the Georgia men's basketball team to make it very far this year.

In the preseason predictions, the Yellow Jackets were chosen by the media to finish seventh in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Those lowered expectations did not stop head coach Paul Hewitt and his players, as the Jackets started the season on a 12-0 clip and a Preseason IT title. In that time, they claimed six victories over two eventual NCAA tournament teams in Connecticut and Texas Tech.

The Jackets' momentum kept on going entering the NCAA Tournament, surviving through the first three rounds and then topping tourney stalwarts Kansas to make the Final Four. Their own-to-the-wire win over Oklahoma State propelled Tech into Monday's title rematch with Connecticut.

Though the Yellow Jackets were eaten rather soundly by the Huskies, the Tech community has a lot to be proud of, as their team became the underdog darlings of the NCAA tournament.

Be it Georgia Tech, Georgia Southern or, yes, even Georgia, everybody loves an underdog. Coming out of where to shock your team's cynics is part of the sporting world is based on.

In recent years, our Eagles have shown us just that, as some of our teams have come from outside of many looker's thoughts to work their ways through past expectations.

In my four years as a sports writer and editor for The George-Anne, I have seen a group of teams here at Georgia Southern that could fit the underdog role.

While they may have started their years with lowered expectations, each of these teams would eventually prove just how wrong their critics were in deriding their potential.

2001 Volleyball: New head coach Jerry Messersmith had inherited the program with just three winning seasons in its 16-year existence.

Understandably, expectations were rily low for the Lady Eagles. However, as the season progressed, those lowered expectations were shot out the door in heartbeat.

As a batch of newcomers seamlessly mixed in with the returning veterans, the team used a run where they won 13 of 15 matches to propel them into the Southern Conference tournament.

The hits continued in postseason play, as the Lady Eagles swept Chattanooga to win the SoCon Tournament, just a year after not even qualifying for postseason play.

Entering the NCAA Tournament for the first time in the program's existence, Georgia Southern faced off with a west-coast force in Pepperdine. Instead of being intimidated by their opponents, the Lady Eagles fought the waves more than admirably.

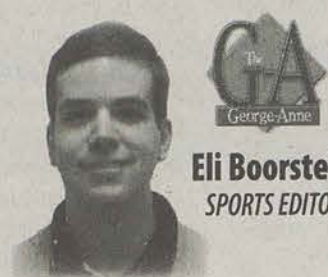
The comeback year set off a run of dominance that the volleyball team has held within the SoCon the past three seasons, winning the league title twice, and by two-time SoCon Player of the Year Martina Veiglova. In that three-year span since Messersmith's hiring, the team has won 75 matches, more than the program had won in the seven seasons prior to her arrival.

2002 Football: Sure, it seems that the term underdog doesn't seem to fit the storied Eagle football program.

However, the 2002 season served as a new era for the team. Head coach Paul Johnson left for the Naval Academy, all-conference quarterback J.R. Revere had graduated and all-everything fullback Adrian Peterson was off in the NFL.

After going through such drastic changes, there were a few doubters out there questioning the Eagles' chances among the I-AA elite.

But then came three new names



Eli Boorstein
SPORTS EDITOR

into the books of Eagle football lore: Williams, Austin and Sewak.

Chaz Williams was Revere's primary backup the year before. Jermaine Austin was in his first active year at the fullback spot after his redshirt season. Mike Sewak had been Johnson's offensive coordinator for five years before taking over the reins as head coach.

There was a lot left to wonder on whether the three would fulfill the potential set by their precursors.

After a 1-2 start, the Eagles sank any doubts by winning 10 in a row before a heartbreaking loss to Western Kentucky in the I-AA semifinals.

Williams quickly established himself at the quarterback position, as his totals of 27 rushing touchdowns and 10 straight 100-yard games set a new NCAA record for quarterbacks. For his accomplishments, Williams was named an All-American, as well as the SoCon's top offensive player.

Austin, named Freshman of the Year in the SoCon, joined the long line of fullbacks at Georgia Southern, putting together nine touchdowns and over 1,500 yards of total offense.

Sewak was able to join the elite of the college coaching fraternity after spending time as an assistant under past Eagle head coaches such as Johnson and Erk Russell.

2002-03 Women's Basketball: Rebounding from the loss of four of your top five scorers to graduation has never been much of an enviable task.

However, that task was welcomed with open arms by Lady Eagle head coach Rusty Cram going into the 2002-03 basketball season after the losses of Sarah Davis, Sarah McCary, Alie Rousseau and Danna Simpson.

Despite the loss of such a large chunk of offense, Cram was able to count on the prowess of a crew of returning talents.

On the offensive end, Jessica Everett and Shawnica Hill were the go-to girls, each averaging over 12 points a contest.

On the defensive end, Tiffany Lanier and Mimi Lindsey proved their worth. Lanier shone with her pass-stealing ability, including a 10-steal game at South Carolina, while Lindsey's contributions came on the boards, as she led the league in rebounds.

With those four leading the way, the Lady Eagles cruised to a 20-10 finish and the Southern Conference title game, though a superior Chattanooga dashed any hopes for an NCAA berth.

2003-04 Men's Basketball: Still a fresh memory on many of our minds, there were a lot of people out there – myself included – that did not expect the success the Georgia Southern men had this past year.

Julius Jenkins, the team's main scoring threat for the past four years, was gone, playing professionally in Europe. With the loss of the program's all-time leading scorer, coupled with the Eagles' past inconsistencies, it seemed like a lot to overcome.

However, in what has happened many times before, the veterans and newcomers clicked and found what it took to go far. Eagle vets Frank Bennett and Terry Williams complimented perfectly with transfers Chad Fleming and Elton Nesbitt, as Georgia Southern excelled throughout much of the season, including a rare season sweep of the College of Charleston.

Eli Boorstein is sports editor of The George-Anne. He may be contacted at Nietsroob17@hotmail.com.

Griffin named top softball player of the week in SoCon

Special to the G-A

SPARTANBURG, S.C. – Georgia Southern's Kim Griffin and Chattanooga's Bryn Favor have been selected as the Southern Conference's softball Co-Players of the Week, while Furman's Rachel Henley has been tabbed as the Pitcher of the Week.

Griffin, a senior from Tifton, Ga. (Tift County HS), batted .467 last week with two home runs and five RBI. Griffin, the Lady Eagles' shortstop, became the program's all-time home run leader last weekend by notching 14 career round-trippers. Griffin currently ranks in the SoCon top 10 this season with a .348 batting average, 39 hits, and a .518 slugging percentage.

Favor, a senior shortstop from Atlanta, Ga. (Shiloh HS), scorched opponents with five hits and eight RBI on the week. Against UNC Greensboro on Saturday, Favor tallied three RBI and a triple in leading the Lady Mocs to a three-game sweep of the Spartans and a 5-0 record for the week.



Griffin

The Lady Paladins' Henley, a junior from Kingston, Tenn. (Roane County HS), continued her dominance in the circle as she tossed two complete games against Georgia Southern, including a 10-inning performance where she allowed no earned runs. Henley is currently riding a streak of 32.1 innings without giving up an earned run. In four conference starts, she is 3-1 with a 0.20 ERA in 35.2 innings pitched.

Patry honored as league's top men's tennis player

Special to the G-A

SPARTANBURG, S.C. – The Southern Conference announced today that Georgia Southern's Vincent Patry and Davidson's Meghan Fillnow were selected as the Men's and Women's Tennis Players of the Week for April 6.

Patry, a sophomore from Paris, France, notched three singles victories last week to help the Eagles win three Southern Conference matches. On Friday, he edged Bryan Stonestreet, Davidson's number two singles player, 7-6, 6-4. Patry's win propelled the Eagles past the Wildcats, 4-3. The sophomore next defeated Elon's Eric Haase 6-1, 6-1 in Saturday's competition. Patry downed UNC's Marc Ladouceur 6-4, 6-2 on the Spartans' home court on Sunday. Patry's play helped Georgia Southern to close out its regular season with three wins on the road.

A native of Jacksonville, Fla., Fillnow recorded a 3-0 record in singles play last week. The junior began the



Patry

week on Tuesday by downing Elon's Elizabeth Kernodle, 6-2, 6-1. On Wednesday, Fillnow won both her singles and doubles matches to help the Wildcats to a decisive 7-0 victory over Western Carolina. She finished out the week on Saturday by defeating Charlotte's Ashleigh Murray, 7-5, 6-1. Meghan and her twin sister Kelly Fillnow are now 7-0 in the SoCon as a doubles tandem.

Golf slumps to 14th-place tie at Augusta State Invitational

Price finishes three-over as Eagles' top individual

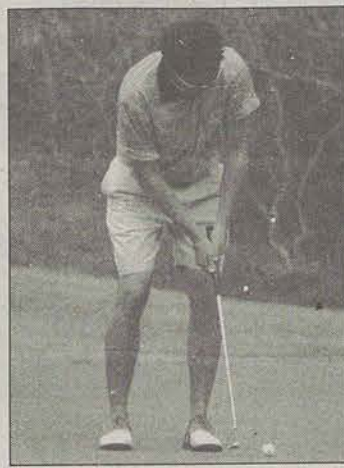
GSU Athletic Media Relations

AUGUSTA – The Georgia Southern men's golf team recorded a 14th-place finish at the 27th Annual Cleveland Golf/Augusta State Invitational played at the par-72, 7,231-yard Forest Hills Golf Club.

The Eagles completed tourney play Sunday with a 28-over-par 892 team total, firing rounds of 295-295-302 to finish 31 strokes behind champion Minnesota (861) and 26 shots behind runner-up UCLA (866).

Junior Aron Price posted a team tournament low three-over par 219 (72-71-76) and finished 22nd among all individuals. Junior Kurt Watkins also stood in the top 25 (25th) after posting a 220 (71-75-74). Sophomore Toshi Hirata finished with a 224 (77-72-75/44th) and was followed by junior Chase Jones and sophomore Jon David Kennedy, who both earned 78th-place standings with scores of 77-78-77=232 and 75-77-80=232, respectively.

GSU will now prepare for play in The Intercollegiate, scheduled for Friday and Saturday in Raleigh, N.C.



Hillary Jones/STAFF

Kurt Watkins was the Eagles' second-best individual finisher with a four-over par total score of 220.

TOP TEAM FINISHES

1. Minnesota (861, -3)
- T-2. Duke (866, +3)
3. Bill Haas, Wake Forest (208, -8)
4. Augusta State (871, +8)
5. Georgia (874, +10)
- T-14. Georgia Southern (892, +28)

TOP INDIVIDUAL FINISHES

- T-1. Matt Hendrix, Clemson (207, -9)
- T-1. Nathan Smith, Duke (207, -9)
3. Bill Haas, Wake Forest (208, -8)
4. Steve Conway, UCLA (209, -7)
5. Brandon LaCassie, Minnesota (211, -5)
- T-22. Aron Price, Ga. Southern (219, +3)

Cheerleading tryouts approaching

Special to the G-A

Those interested in showing their spirit for Georgia Southern athletics soon will have their chance to do so, as tryouts will be held April 16-18 inside Hanner Fieldhouse.

Tryouts for the 2004-2005 athletic season will begin at 6 p.m. on April 16 inside the main arena of Hanner and are open for the co-ed and all-girl squads.

Applicants need to provide either a proof of admittance into the university or a copy of their fall schedule, a front and back copy of their insurance card, a completed insurance information form and a \$25 registration fee.

For more information, contact cheerleading coach Barry Munkasy at gsucheer@georgiasouthern.edu or go online to athletics.gasou.edu/cheerleaders.



Eli Boorstein/STAFF

The all-girl cheerleading squad completes a routine at the Southern Conference Basketball Championships last month.

Okafor leads Huskies over Jackets for NCAA title

By Marlen Garcia
KRT Campus

SAN ANTONIO – Rashad Anderson sank the 19-foot jump shot with jarring precision. He beat the buzzer to conclude the first half and ran to Connecticut teammate Emeka Okafor, who slapped Anderson's hand amid thunderous applause.

There were still 20 minutes of basketball remaining, but the scene summed up the first half – and the rest of the game – Monday night in the NCAA championship game between Connecticut and Georgia Tech at the Alamodome.

Anderson's basket gave Connecticut a 15-point lead at intermission and the Huskies were well on their way to their second NCAA title in six seasons. They humbled Georgia Tech with an 82-73 victory before 44,468 fans.

If Connecticut's women's team beats Tennessee in their NCAA final Tuesday night in New Orleans, the university will have the first sweep of the championships.

A day earlier, Okafor had talked about his hopes of cutting down the nets after the final.

"Most coaches would shudder," Connecticut coach Jim Calhoun said of Okafor's comment. "Why? Why would you shudder when he dreams the greatest dream?"

Okafor was, after all, the integral element to his team's success, an anchor physically and emotionally who missed only three games despite a stress fracture that caused back spasms.

He had 10 points and seven rebounds by halftime and finished with 24 points and 15 rebounds and was named the Final Four's most outstanding player.

"We wanted it all, and we took it,"

Okafor said.

Teammate Ben Gordon led the Huskies (33-6) in the first half with 14 points, including nine on three-pointers. By game's end, Gordon had 21 points.

Their performances were a fitting finale to their exceptional seasons.

Okafor, the Big East player of the year, won All-American honors, and Gordon was named the Big East tournament's and the Phoenix regional's most outstanding player.

Combined, they went 7 of 15 in the first half while their teammates were 6 of 17.

Georgia Tech, meanwhile, made just 10 of 34 shots in the first half, and the Yellow Jackets (28-10) were almost as bad from the free-throw line (4 of 11).

With a little more than 12 minutes left, Georgia Tech, which was led by Will Bynum's 17 points, trailed by 25, a stunning deficit for a team that had beaten Oklahoma State in the national semifinal.

Georgia Tech's season had been full of surprises. The punishment UConn inflicted through most of the game bordered on cruel, considering the stakes.

In the preseason Georgia Tech had little reason to believe it could advance to the title game. The Yellow Jackets began the season unranked and were picked to finish seventh in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

But all sorts of signs began popping up, telltale indications that a Final Four run was in the making.

Georgia Tech won 12 straight games to open the season, including a 16-point win over No. 1 Connecticut in the semifinals of the Preseason NIT.

Although Okafor was bothered by



While the Connecticut Huskies (above) celebrated their NCAA championship on the Alamodome court, Theodis Tarver (right) and his Yellow Jacket teammates sat in their locker room dejected over the loss.

Photos courtesy of KRT Campus



back spasms and Charlie Villanueva had not yet been declared eligible, Georgia Tech's thorough beating of the Huskies turned heads. Georgia Tech had played without Bynum, a Crane grad who transferred from Arizona and became eligible in December, and reserve Theodis Tarver.

The Yellow Jackets tied for third with Wake Forest in the ACC, behind Duke and North Carolina State, but

they managed to beat Duke in Durham, won at Wake Forest and also defeated North Carolina.

"Our game at Duke, once we won that game, our goal kind of changed," Bynum said before Monday's game. "We saw we could win the whole thing. Other than that, our goal had been to make the tournament."

On this night, a runner-up finish would have to do.

UPCOMING EAGLE SPORTING EVENTS

Wednesday
• Softball at Mercer, 4 p.m.

Friday
• Golf at The Intercollegiate in Raleigh, N.C. (through Saturday)
• Baseball at Elon, 3 p.m.
• Softball vs. Elon (DH), Eagle Field, 3 p.m.

Saturday
• Outdoor Track at Spec Towns Invitational in Athens
• Baseball at Elon, 1 p.m.
• Football, Blue-White Game, Paulson Stadium, 1 p.m.
• Softball vs. Elon, Eagle Field, 1 p.m.
• Women's Tennis at Mercer, 1 p.m.

Sunday
• Baseball at Elon, 1 p.m.

GSU participates in annual Relay for Life



By Rachel Weeks
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Preparations for this year's Relay for Life are under way. Students are encouraged to join the team to fight cancer April 16th at the Kiwanis Ogeechee fairgrounds on Hwy 67.

The Relay for Life bash will kick off at 7 p.m. and will last through the night.

Students can pick up memorial starbursts for a \$1 donation in several locations around campus, and in local businesses including Chick-fil-A, Krystal, Eagle Bank and many other places.

The starbursts, with names in honor of those who have battled cancer, will be read aloud as candles are lit around the track. Last year, over 2,000 names were read, and the candles helped light the way for walkers throughout the night.

Many businesses and volunteers have already planned various fund-raisers. They include: yard sales, car washes, bake sales, \$5 dress-down days, and raffle giveaways with prizes donated from local businesses and e raffles for one free vacation day with pay. Groups or teams of 10 or more can pay a registration fee of \$100 per team and take part in all of the festivities.

Opening ceremonies begin at 7 p.m. Friday, April 16th. A food court will be open from 6 p.m. until midnight, and proceeds from food sales go to Relay for Life.

Beginning at 11 p.m. is the Reverse Beauty Pageant in which guys dress up like girls and contend in talent and evening gown competitions. From 1 a.m. to 4 a.m. Saturday morning, the GSU Jazz Band will play. Also from 1 a.m. to 4 a.m., the Olympic Games will be taking place. Each team can sign up for various activities and levels of competition.

The goal for this year's Relay for Life is to raise \$155,000.

Kay Nay, a Relay worker that has been with the organization for five years said, "Everybody in the community has been touched by cancer, whether it's themselves, a relative, a friend, or a co-worker. It's about the community taking up the fight against cancer. With everybody working together, we can do it."

Bush, Kerry to make broadband policy an issue

By William L. Watts
KRT Campus

WASHINGTON — The decisive issues of the 2004 presidential election battle: Iraq, the war on terror, job creation and ... broadband?

Well, maybe it won't serve as a candidate litmus test for many voters, but President Bush and Democratic challenger John Kerry have both pledged to make expanded access to high-speed Internet an important component of their economic plans.

"We ought to have a universal, affordable access for broadband technology by the year 2007, and then we ought to make sure as soon as possible thereafter, consumers have got plenty of choices when it comes to purchasing the broadband carrier," Bush told a crowd recently in New Mexico, a state that he lost to Al Gore by less than 400 votes in 2000 that promises to be a key battleground again this November.

Bush offered no details regarding the broadband strategy.

Kerry, who unveiled a corporate tax plan in the first of three speeches on economic policy, said

he would soon lay out his approach to boosting broadband access.

"I will focus on raising American competitiveness by spurring the growth of new industries like the broadband technology that will dominate the future," he said.

Bush's proposal garnered applause from John Chambers, CEO of telecom equipment maker Cisco Systems. Other top makers of the routers and other equipment used to connect the Internet include Lucent, Nortel Networks, Juniper Networks and Extreme Networks.

"Having affordable broadband for all Americans by 2007 will help ensure the nation's competitiveness for decades to come. Cisco looks forward to working with the administration, the Congress, the FCC and others to realize this important goal," said Chambers, a Bush supporter and GOP campaign contributor who has advised the president on tech issues.

Besides equipment makers, the large fiber-optic "backbone" networks could benefit, including MCI, Level 3, Global Crossing, Wiltel and Qwest.

Broadband is an issue that looms large for major players throughout the tech industry, which has been fertile ground for Democratic and Republican fund-raisers alike.

Policymakers have long been debating the best approach to broadband policy.

The Federal Communications Commission last year ruled that dominant Baby Bell local phone companies don't have to provide rivals having access to newly laid fiber-optic cables with an important broadband conduit at low, wholesale rates.

The Baby Bells say that will help spur their investment in broadband. Cable companies aren't required to share their networks with rivals.

The FCC also offered some relief to companies such as Covad that use a portion of the Bells' copper wires to deliver high-speed Internet access to customers.

The agency plans to phase out so-called line-sharing requirements within three years; existing customers will be grandfathered in.

Covad and other high-speed suppliers could still receive wholesale rates if they pair up with other carriers such as AT&T to provide consumers with a package of local phone and high-speed Internet service.

FCC Chairman Michael Powell issued a statement March 26 welcoming Bush's 2007 broadband goal.

"I look forward to working with my commission colleagues, Congress and the administration to deliver on this vision for the American people," he said. "Universal and affordable access to broadband is vital to the health and future growth of our economy."

The broadband industry was hit hard when the dot-com bubble burst in 2000.

Data networks were overbuilt, creating thousands of miles of "dark fiber," and when the overcapacity became apparent there were losses in the hundreds of billions of dollars in shareholder equity and debt securities.

As well, hundreds of thousands of network equipment workers lost their jobs as demand dried up.

One by one, House Democrats asked to switch parties

By Kristen Wyatt
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA — How badly do Republicans want to take control of the Georgia House, giving them a lock on state government?

Just ask Democrats.

The GOP is courting potential party-switchers, hoping to take the majority the same way they took the Senate: by narrowing the margin to just a few seats and then luring conservative Democrats thought likely to consider switching.

More than a dozen House Democrats are thought to be considering a party switch immediately after this session ends Wednesday. That in itself wouldn't cede control to the GOP — Democrats have a 35-seat advantage in the House.

With a new set of district maps that Republicans think will help them in this year's elections, the stage is set for a heck of a fight over control of the House.

Rumors of who might switch parties were flying fast last week, and lawmakers were clearly torn. Some representatives huddled with reporters to say they would change parties, then returned to say they wouldn't, then came back a third time to beg journalists not to write anything at all.

"Please don't get me in trouble," said Rep. Bob Lane, a Statesboro Democrat who acknowledged he is considering becoming a Republican but wasn't ready to make a decision.

There's not much time. Most of the conservative Democrats in talks with the GOP say they

will decide by the end of April, the deadline to announce their intentions to run for re-election.

By rules of political etiquette, it is considered more honorable to change parties and run for office under the new banner, rather than being elected as one thing and then switching to another.

"I feel like you have to go to the ball with who brung ya," said Rep. Chuck Sims, D-Douglas, who said he's definitely not leaving his party but added, "It's getting hard to say you're a conservative in the Democratic Party."

Sims and others decried turmoil within Democratic ranks. There's an uneasy relationship among urban liberals, blacks and the white rural conservatives who have traditionally had most of the power in Georgia's Democratic Party.



Special Photo

Rep. Bob Lane of Statesboro who is currently a Republican is one the Georgia House Representatives being asked to switch parties. Representatives have until the end of April to decide if they will switch parties.

The Last Don opens in Statesboro



Hillary Jones/Staff



Hillary Jones/Staff

Kadir Yaylaci or Don of Pizzas prepares freshly-made dough for the finest pizzas topped with his secret sauce, topped with the finest vegetable, premium quality meats, a blend of the finest cheeses.

By Valoria Pettiford
howto2go@yahoo.com

The Last Don's Pizza restaurant appeals to GSU students and the community.

Like most local restaurants, The Last Don's places menus door-to-door in apartment complexes surrounding campus. The Last Don's offers free delivery around GSU campus with a minimum \$10 purchase and is open late. Closing time on Monday and Tuesday is 3 a.m., Wednesday through Saturday 4 a.m. and on Sunday 2 a.m.

The late closing time is sure to appeal to Georgia Southern students. "We are unlike other pizza restaurants not just because of our late hours, but everything is handmade fresh daily," said owner, Brook Hallat.

The Last Don's slogan is "The Best of The Best, As Always," which Hallat expects his restaurant to live up to.

The Last Don's offers not only pizza but also pasta, sandwiches, calzones, and salads. The menu even suggests that you create your own pizza with whatever toppings you like.

"Since the grand opening, we have been extremely busy," said Shameka Mills, a cashier and waitress.

"The pizza here is really good," said Charlie McCarter, a junior at GSU, "and the variety of the menu is very impressive."

The grand opening special consists of 2 large, 1-topping pizzas and 10 wings for \$10. The Last Don's new location is #2 College Plaza, behind Wendy's.

Kadir Yaylaci, former founder of Don Corleone's Pizza and Wings who no longer has connection with the establishment, has extended the grand opening special, and will also match competitor's specials if customers bring in or mention other specials, and will offer a free two liter soda.

Mad Dash for Hours by Student Organizations

Between April 12-16, try to get as many service hours as possible.

Register by Thursday, April 8

Applications are in the Outreach Program Office Room 2022 in the Russell Union

The organization with the most hours will be recognized!



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