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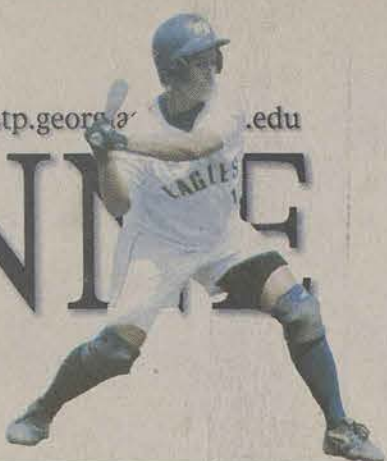
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The GEORGE-ANNIE

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Thursday, April 22, 2004 • Volume 76, Number 88



SPORTS: Softball fights hard in losses to Georgia Tech **Page 6A**

HIATUS: Stepping into new shoes brings a new performance experience to the Black Box **Section B**

NEWS: GSU's Bartels named president of American Association of Colleges of Nursing **Page 2A**

GSU students volunteer at St. Joseph's Organizations send over 100 volunteers to local home for boys

By Rachel Weeks
crazedrachel@hotmail.com

Georgia Southern student volunteers offer a variety of services at St. Joseph's Home for Boys.

Over 100 students from GSU visit the boys home throughout the year, usually within volunteer groups and at different scheduled times.

"They do so many things, I couldn't even begin to remember and list them all," said director, James Calloway, "I couldn't put a money figure on how much money they've raised."

Student volunteers do everything, from bringing supplies, and raising

money for the home, to spending time with the boys, helping the staff, tutoring, teaching, cooking, having picnics, playing basketball, or just talking to the boys.

Megan Shaw, director of Social Services said, "The students don't realize the positive impact they have, they see students trying to make something of their lives, and they become interested in higher education. They look up to people close to their own age."

Sigma Chi, Alpha Tau Omega, Psychology Coalition, Gamma Beta Phi, Baptist Union, Golden Keys Club Honors Society, and Delta Sigma

Phi are just some of the most recent volunteers.

Many volunteer groups often stay involved through the years. Not many individuals volunteer, because they must undergo a criminal background check at least two months before volunteering. Groups of volunteers, such as fraternities, sororities, and university clubs are not required to wait the extended period.

"It's not money, or items donated, it's the time they spend being a positive role model for the boys. There's no price for that," said Calloway.

The Boys home is currently rais-

ing money to build a new facility. In the last 21 years, over 600 boys have been through the Joseph's Home for Boys. "The boys put a lot of stress on the house, and it's a 65 to 75 year old facility," said Calloway.

The new home will be located near a large field for the boys to play in, and will be in a better neighborhood.

Megan Shaw said of Georgia Southern volunteers, "They don't do it for the recognition, but they deserve it."

St. Joseph's Boys home would like to thank all of the Georgia Southern students who have volunteered and helped out at the facility.

Tom Meredith to speak at Spring 2004 Commencement

By Scott Corwin
sdcorwin2@hotmail.com

A brief, firm handshake and a quick stroll across the stage may not seem worth four, five, or ten years in academia, but the rite of graduation certainly does come close.

At 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 1, students, parents, and guests are invited to Paulson Stadium to witness the graduating class of Spring '04.

Roughly 2,000 students are qualified to graduate from both the spring and summer semesters.

Caps and gowns are the required attire, and can be picked up at the RAC on Thursday from 1-6 p.m. or Friday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

The procession line-up for graduates will begin at 8 a.m., and it is recommended that guests show up around that time as well because of the inconceivably large crowds.

Thomas C. Meredith, the chancellor of the University System of Georgia, will deliver the commencement address.

In a sign of the times, a live web cast will also be conducted. Those interested must have Real Player 8 Basic installed, and then connect to the GSU Website, www.georgiasouthern.com, to choose a suitable version.

In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held inside Hanner Fieldhouse in separate sessions.



Meredith

Pi Kappa Phi members work with PUSH America

By Rhonda McLeod
mazy_19@hotmail.com

While everyone else was soaking up the sun on the beach, members of the GSU chapter of Pi Kappa Phi were learning how to better their community.

During Spring Break, six members of the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity went to Texas for a camp sponsored by Push America building amenities for the physically disabled.

Push America, a non-profit organization, was founded in 1977 and remains the exclusive philanthropy of Pi Kappa Phi. Its purpose is to instill lifelong service in fraternity members and serve people with disabilities.

Push America's construction effort expanded in 1989 when the first Give-A-Push Weekend was held at Holy Angels in Charlotte, North Carolina. Undergraduates from all over the country have the opportunity to attend one of these two-day projects, where they work together to construct accessible amenities for facilities serving people with disabilities.

Two years later, the first week-long construction project entitled Push Camp, was held at the Clemson Outdoor Lab in Clemson, South Carolina. Today, Pi Kappa Phi members forgo the traditional college spring break experience to attend this week of service, brotherhood and fun.

In 1994 the third construction project, AccessABILITY was designed to allow undergraduates and alumni to participate in a local service project that makes homes accessible through the construction of wheelchair ramps. In 2003, Build America took members to six camps in six weeks to build accessible amenities and interact with campers for a summer of service.

During the spring break alternative, members of Pi Kappa Phi also participate in brotherhood events, empathy training and friendship visits. Jason Lawrence, vice president of the GSU chapter of Pi Kappa Phi said that interacting with the disabled was his most valuable experience at the camp.

At the Push camp in Texas members built a fishing dock and a gazebo that were accessible for the disabled. Within the past year members of Pi Kappa Phi built a climbing tower, amphitheater, mid-ropes climbing tower, shade shelter and accessible trails at camps across the country.

Since 1991, thirty Push Camps have been completed and almost one

See PUSH, Page 7A

EARTH DAY



S.A.G.E. to host celebration today at the Rotunda

By Crystal Ware
ccpowerpuff@yahoo.com

Thursday April 22, 2004 will mark GSU's fifth annual Earth Day celebration.

The sole purpose of Earth Day is to raise awareness of the health of our planet and communities. Activities and demonstrations will be going on all day and all students, faculty members, and community residents are encouraged to come and take part in the celebration.

Earth Day originally started in 1970 by Senator Gaylord Nelson. He was an advocate of involving environmental

issues and use of the United States natural resources.

In 1969 he came up with the idea that there should be a Grass Roots Protest for the purposes of protesting the way the land and environment were being used during the Vietnam War on the behalf of the environment.

The first Earth Day was a huge turn out and founders were overwhelmed with the response that America gave. Thousands of schools, colleges and local communities made this day a success. Their involvement basically planned Earth Day.

Earth Day here at Georgia Southern is co-sponsored by the Wellness

Council, the Georgia Southern Environmental Network and the Student

Alliance for a Greener Earth (S.A.G.E.).

Every one is encouraged to come out and enjoy the celebrations. The festivities are from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Russell Union Rotunda, and will include music, information booths, paper making, a dunking booth, free food, and more. President Grube will speak at noon, and will be followed by a series

of other speakers, including Judge Ogden Doremus, the founder of Georgia's chapter of the Sierra Club.

Event planners are encouraging everyone to carpool or to have an alternative around, such as walk or ride a bicycle. The goal of this effort is to reduce the number of cars out and about.

If there are any questions involving activities or information contact Danny Gleason at 912-681-5957. Come out for Earth Day and support your community, your environment and your world.

Weekday Weather

Thursday

HIGH 86°
LOW 62°

Mostly Sunny

Friday

HIGH 89°
LOW 61°

Mostly Sunny

Only in America

- North Carolina man handcuffs neighbor only to be handcuffed himself
- Iowa burglar found asleep at the scene of the crime

GA Page 3A

Opinions

- Adam Brady presents his undergraduate confessions
- Eli Boorstein says goodbye

GA Page 4A

Sports

- Major renovations coming to J. I. Clements Stadium
- GSU rugby finishes fifth in nation

GA Page 6A

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Police Beat

04-20-04

- A tire was cut on a vehicle in the PAC parking lot.
- A windshield wiper was broken off a vehicle in the Olliff Hall

parking lot.

- Officers issued one traffic warning, assisted seven motorists and one injured person, and responded to three fire alarms.

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

Campus News

GSU's Bartels named president of national nursing organization

Special to the G-A

The chair of GSU's School of Nursing, Jean Bartels, has been elected to serve a two-year term as president of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN). Bartels assumed the presidency at the AACN's annual meeting held late March in Washington, D.C.

"Jean Bartels is a visionary leader whose intellect, courage and passion for professional nursing education will serve the association well," said Kathleen Ann Long, immediate past president of the AACN.

Bartels has served on the AACN Board of Directors since 1995 in the roles of president-elect, secretary, program committee chair, task force leader and columnist for the Journal of Professional Nursing.

As the chair of the Task Force on Education and Regulation for Professional Nursing Practice #2, she provided the guidance and leadership needed for the AACN to move forward with the creation of a new nursing role called the Clinical Nurse Leader.

As a member of the Steering Committee for the Creation of the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), Bartels helped to lay the foundation for the CCNE to become the leading accrediting body for baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs.

She has presented testimony before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Education and the Workplace, served as faculty for a national community-based education project funded by the Helene Fuld Health Trust and is a frequent presenter before national groups, including the Sullivan Commission on Diversity in the



Bartels

Healthcare Workforce.

Prior to her appointment to Georgia Southern University in 1999, Bartels served in a variety of roles at Alverno College in Milwaukee, including chairperson for nursing from 1990-1999.

At the state level, she currently serves on the Georgia Board of Nursing Education Committee and is president of the Ogeechee Area Hospice Board of Directors. Dr. Bartels also provides regional, national and international consultations on accreditation processes, community-based nursing education, outcome assessment, performance assessments and in other areas.

A strong advocate for lifelong learning, Bartels has completed every level of nursing education from the diploma to doctorate. She earned a Ph.D. in Nursing from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; a Master of Science in Nursing from Marquette University; a Bachelor of Science in Nursing with honors from Alverno College; and a diploma from Columbia Hospital School of Nursing in Milwaukee. Bartels possesses practice expertise and has conducted research in the areas of nursing care for the adult, critical care, chronic care and community-based nursing practice.

She has written a number of books, chapters and articles on topics ranging from outcome measurement in nursing education, critical thinking in nursing, nursing education for the 21st century, service learning and community-based nursing education.

"Professional nursing education and health care practice environments must inevitably and powerfully change if we are to prepare the next generation of nurses to participate as full partners in shaping an improved health care system," said Bartels.

As AACN president, I will strive to be a catalyst for positive change, an advocate for federal support for nursing education and research, and a champion for the pivotal role nurses play in health care delivery," she said.

News Briefs

Georgia Democrats rally for Kerry



KRT Campus
Democratic Presidential Candidate Sen. John Kerry.

ATLANTA — With one notable exception, most top Democrats in Georgia were present Monday night as Sen. John Kerry rallied the party faithful with promises to end the Bush administration.

Sen. Zell Miller, the former Georgia governor who gave a rousing speech 12 years ago at the convention that nominated Bill Clinton, was nowhere around. He is now an avid supporter of President Bush's re-election.

Kerry noted that the last time he had seen so many Democrats in Georgia was at the Jefferson-Jackson Day dinner about a year ago.

"Back then, Zell Miller was a Democrat," Kerry cracked to the amusement of the 650 who dined on grilled chicken and rice pilaf while raising \$1 million for the Democratic presidential campaign.

Among them were former Sen. Max Cleland, former Gov. Roy Barnes, Lt. Gov. Mark Taylor, Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin and other elected state and federal officials.

"I think the presidential election race is — possibly — out of the hands of the candidates, even," the lieutenant governor said before going into the banquet hall of a downtown Atlanta hotel.

Regardless of what happens in Georgia, Cleland sees Kerry's chances of unseating Bush as good.

Inside the hall, Kerry said his campaign is "not about party or ideology. It's about common sense and truth."

Autopsy confirms body is missing North Dakota student Dru Sjodin

CROOKSTON, Minn. — A preliminary autopsy report concluded that a body found Saturday was indeed that of Dru Sjodin, and that the University of North Dakota student was a victim of homicide, Polk County officials said Tuesday.

A final report will be completed by the Ramsey County Medical Examiner's Office in St. Paul, said

Greg Widseth, Polk County attorney. A statement from Widseth gave no detail on how she died.

Widseth said he would not release further details.

"It's the final piece to the puzzle for what they are working on," said Sgt. Michael Hedlund, Grand Forks police spokesman.

Asked if he was surprised by the preliminary results, Hedlund said, "No, unfortunately."

The body of Sjodin, 22, was found near a county road northwest of Crookston, about five months after she was last seen at a Grand Forks, N.D., shopping mall.

Alfonso Rodriguez Jr., 51, of Crookston, is charged in Grand Forks County with kidnapping her. He has pleaded not guilty.

Additional charges may be filed when the autopsy results are completed in the next few weeks, Widseth said. State and federal authorities continue to investigate the case.

U.S. Attorney Drew Wrigley from North Dakota met Monday with law enforcement authorities in Grand Forks.

Coke launching mid-calorie cola



Special Photo

ATLANTA — Coke is launching a mid-calorie cola that promises half the sugar, carbohydrates and calories of its regular version.

The Atlanta-based company said Monday that Coca-Cola C2 will debut first in Japan and then the United States this summer.

The company has been researching the idea for a year.

There will be subtle packaging differences to distinguish between the new drink and the company's flagship brand.

In January, PepsiCo Inc. said it, too, was looking at the idea of selling a mid-calorie cola. At the time, spokes-

man Dave DeCecco said the Purchase, N.Y.-based company had applied for a patent for Pepsi LS, which some have speculated stands for low sugar. The company later named its mid-calorie cola Pepsi Edge and said it would debut in the United States this summer, roughly the same time as Coke's version, DeCecco said Monday.

Cadbury Schweppes hinted at an industry conference in New York in December that it is looking at a lower-calorie version of Dr Pepper.

In trading on the New York Stock Exchange, Coca-Cola shares were up \$1.07 to close at \$53.00.

'Mild drought' seen in Georgia



Special Photo

State climatologist David Stooksbury.

ATLANTA — Georgia is in a "mild drought" because of rainfall deficits from October through March, the state climatologist said.

David Stooksbury, who also is a University of Georgia professor, said several streams across the state, including the Flint River in southwest Georgia, hit record low flows on Monday. Groundwater levels also were dropping again, Stooksbury said.

His remarks come a year after Georgia broke free of a five-year drought.

The 17 inches of rain over the past six months is nearly 10 inches less than normal, and soil moisture is unusually low, Stooksbury said.

"Our last hope of a major recharge is quickly diminishing," he said. "We really have passed the time period we normally would have good (rainfall)."

The largest lakes are still full or almost full, but they will start to drop without more rain soon, Stooksbury said.

State Environmental Protection Division officials are monitoring the situation, spokesman Kevin Chambers said.

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

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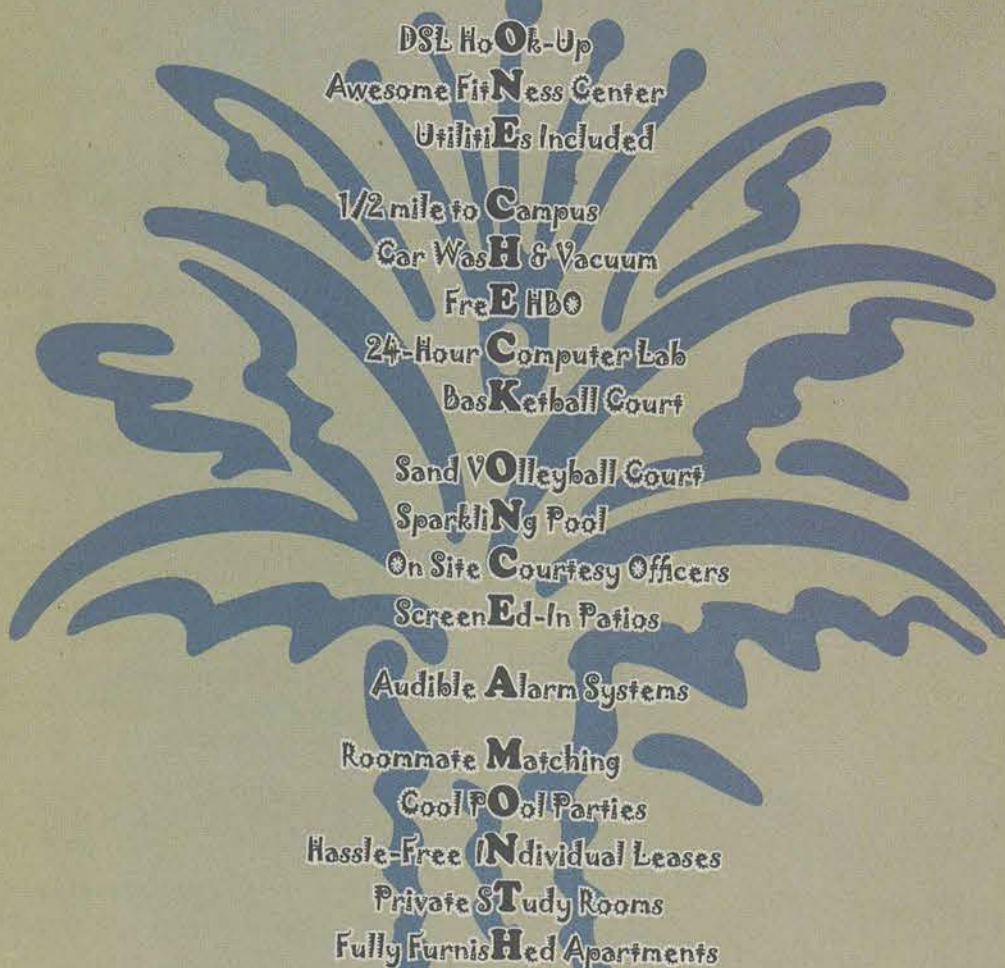
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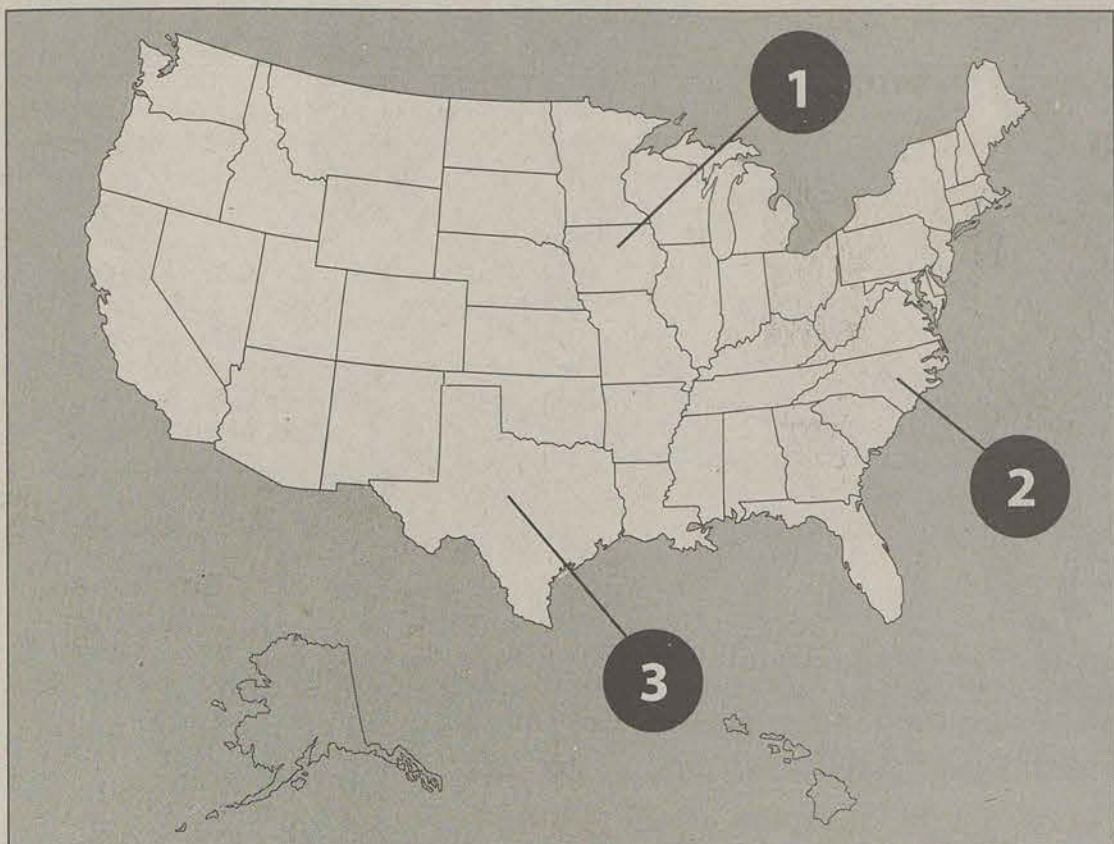


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1 Iowa

Burglar falls asleep on the job

ATLANTIC - An alleged burglar apparently got too tired to finish the job.

Anthony D. Gersema, 20, of Atlantic, broke into the Atlantic library sometime between 1 a.m. and 2 a.m. Friday and "really just made himself at home," said officer Shawna Becker.

Gersema helped himself to food and drinks in the refrigerator and emptied nearly \$300 from a donation jar. He also sprayed a fire extinguisher, which set off the library's fire alarm.

The high-pitched, shrill sound of the alarm didn't stop Gersema from taking a nap. When a cleaning crew got to the library a few hours later, they found Gersema sleeping in an office chair and called police.

"He had some assistance from prescription medication," Becker said. "He said he didn't know how he got there. He said he didn't even know where he was."

Gersema was charged with burglary and criminal mischief. He was being held Tuesday in the Cass County jail on \$20,500 bond.

2 North Carolina

Man arrested after taking hand-cuffed neighbor to police

KINSTON - A man claiming to be an undercover agent hauled in a handcuffed neighbor for booking, but ended up facing charges of his own.

Reginald Suggs was charged Sunday with kidnapping, aggravated assault and possession of a concealed weapon. He was in jail Monday with bond set at \$15,000.

Wilbur Grady said Suggs, 49, approached him Sunday and told him he was under arrest. He brandished a wooden stick and a .25-caliber semi-automatic handgun, according to police reports. Grady said he recognized Suggs, who lives a few doors down on the same street.

"I was just in the yard washing the tires when this dude walked up in my yard and said he was an undercover agent," Grady said. "He told me I was under arrest. I told him to get out of my yard with that crazy talk."

The two exchanged words before Suggs rushed up and cuffed Grady's hands behind his back. Suggs then forced Grady, 68, into Grady's car and drove him to the county jail. He told a magistrate that he had brought in a prisoner for possession of stolen property, selling illegal lottery tickets and selling alcohol without a permit.

"It was the darndest thing," said Joe Grady, a 12-year veteran in the Lenoir County Magistrate's office who quickly realized Suggs didn't have the authority to make arrests. "I've never seen anything like that before."

Firefighters used bolt-cutters to remove the handcuffs, for which Suggs didn't have a key.

"This whole thing was just unbelievable," Grady said. "I mean, taken to jail in my own car."

3 Texas

Affidavit: 'He cooked my baby'

HOUSTON - Beaumont police said they were completing their investigation Monday into a man who allegedly killed a 6-year-old boy by placing him in an oven.

"He cooked my baby," the boy's mother, Kathy Jo Odoms, told her boyfriend's brother, Daniel Pierott, according to a probable cause affidavit filed as part of the case against Kenneth Lee Pierott, 27.

Pierott remained jailed Monday on suspicion of capital murder.

Odoms found her son, Tre Devin, dead in the oven Friday morning. She told police she woke up about 6:45 a.m., was hot and smelled gas.

As she ironed clothes, Odoms said, Pierott told her she "wouldn't have to worry about Tre anymore."

Police say Pierott then fled the one-story beige home with blue trim, and Odoms began looking for her son. When she went into the kitchen, she found the stovetop burners and the oven on. Police spokeswoman Crystal Holmes said the pilot light to the oven was not lit, and there was not a heat source to it.

"Odoms stated that she turned off the oven, opened the oven door and found Tre inside," Beaumont police Detective Jason Hughes said in the sworn statement.

Preliminary autopsy results indicate the little boy died of asphyxiation. The child had no burn marks or other visible injuries, Justice of the Peace Paul Brown said.

The boy's funeral service was scheduled for Saturday afternoon at

Peaceful Rest Baptist Church in Jasper, about an hour north of Beaumont.

Pierott, whose bond has been set at \$750,000, was found guilty of forgery in 2000 and two years later of assaulting Kathy Jo Odoms.

Montie Morgan, director of community supervision and corrections for Jefferson County, said Monday that Pierott was still on probation for assaulting Odoms. Morgan said Pierott had not reported to his probation officer since November and efforts were under way to bring him in. Morgan said an administrative hearing was scheduled in February, but Pierott failed to show.

Pierott told his brother "he killed Tre to protect his seed," referring to the 2-year-old son that Kenneth and Odoms have together, Hughes said in the affidavit.

Daniel Pierott drove his brother from Beaumont to the home of their father, who called a constable's office. According to the affidavit, Kenneth Pierott told his father that he killed Tre.

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Japanese/Chinese/Russian 1001

Online Course - Fall 2004



The University System of Georgia, in conjunction with Georgia Institute of Technology, will offer Japanese, Chinese and Russian 1001 in the Fall 2004 as a fully online course.

Scholarships: Students who complete 4 course levels (1001, 1002, 2001, 2002) will be eligible to apply for scholarships providing partial funding for study or internships in host country locations. For more information and enrollment instructions, contact Dr. Masato Kikuchi at masato.kikuchi@modlang.gsatech.edu or visit <http://www.usg.edu/oie/initiatives/forlangtech.html>

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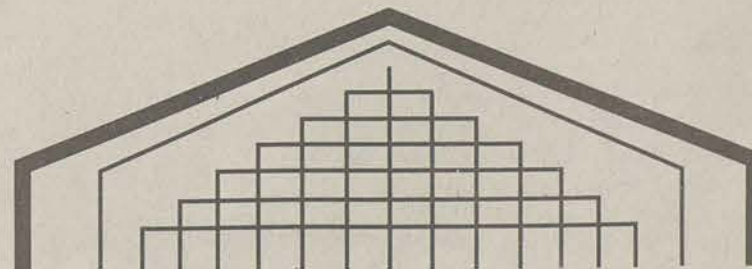
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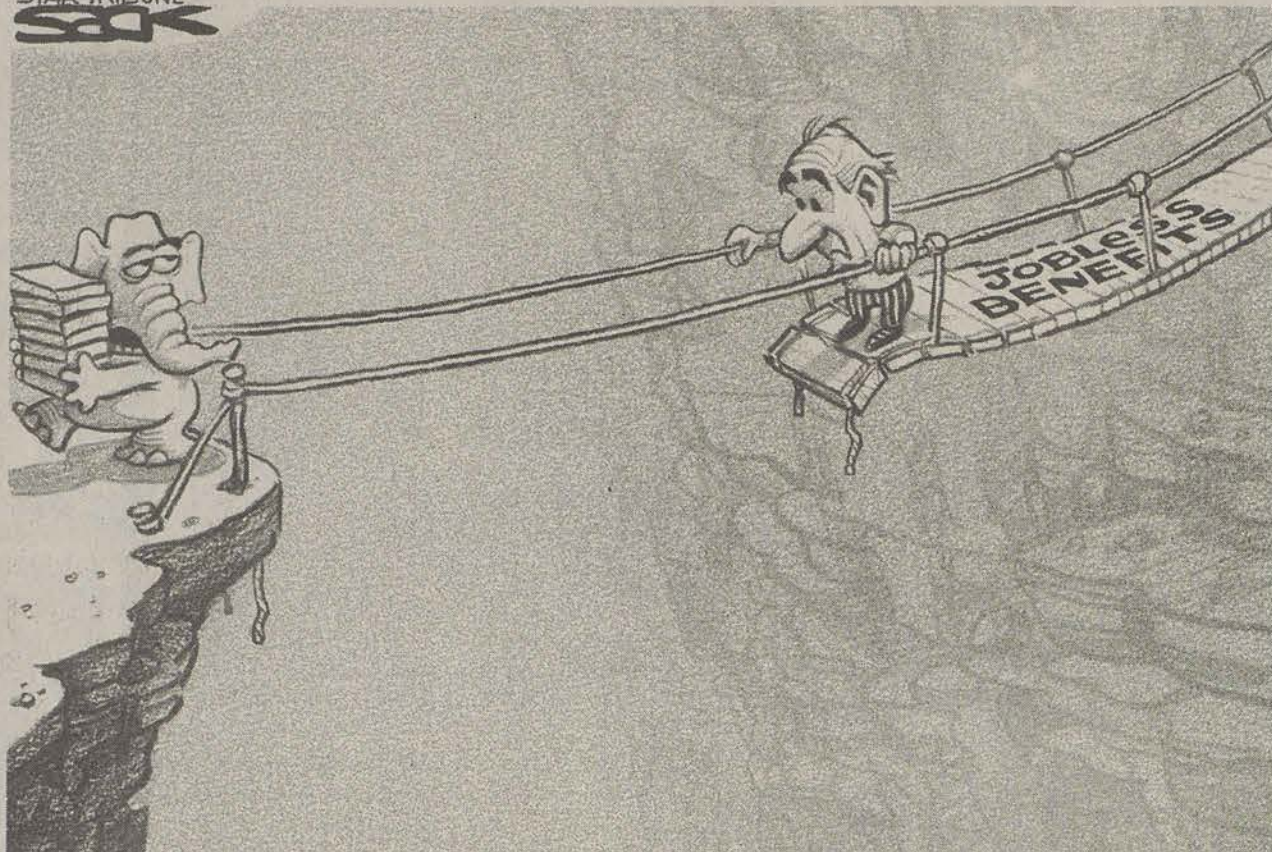
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Our Opinion

Though it sometimes seemed we wouldn't survive through midterms, here we are about to wrap up with finals next week. It's been a memorable year for news, and a memorable year for Georgia Southern. Thanks for reading *The George-Anne*, and:

Good luck on finals!

STAR TRIBUNE
S&K

'YOU'RE OUT OF LUCK. WE NEEDED THE REST FOR OUR "ECONOMIC RECOVERY MISSION ACCOMPLISHED" BILLBOARD.'

Confessions of a college undergrad

This is a column I've been thinking about ever since I wrote my first nearly two and a half years ago.

I'd one day have to put my experiences together, write all about what I remember from over the years, what I've learned and where I'd be going after graduation.

And of course, I'd be obliged to leave those kindly enough to read my final piece some sort of advice or a message for the future. Essentially, it would have to be the most important column I'd ever write.

So, naturally, I have nothing prepared.

But, as always, here it goes. For once, it's not anger or annoyance that's set me off into an editorial rage, but instead collected reflection. The story goes a little something like this...

I took a break from writing a Communication Theory paper about 2 a.m. Monday night and it hit me. This would be the last paper I'd ever have to write.

I have no intentions of attending grad school, and though some job some day might require me to do some research to produce a term-paper type final product, I'd never be writing an academic paper again.

That realization turned out to be a springboard for a much larger question. What else would I never do again?

I'll certainly be missing out on layout nights at *The George-Anne* that last far beyond my

bedtime, fashionably late entrances to classes in the trailer and good wholesome meals from Southern Traditions. I'll never be forced out of my bed by fire alarm claxons at some ungodly hour by a drunken coed who thought it humorous to pull the little red handle. Class change traffic, lunchtime in Lakeside and kamikaze bikers will only be a memory.

It's said that your time in college should be considered the best of your life, and as of 7 days left in my college career, all four years have been.

I don't believe the people I've met or the things I've been a part of at GSU can categorize my time here. Instead, I like to think of the last four years as a series of moments or experiences.

It's those fleeting moments that I'll remember most about college.

I could never forget my first day living on my own in the now demolished Dorman Hall. The shenanigans that I'm convinced followed my group of friends and I through the rest of that first year were nothing less than astonishing. The broken windows, blow-up dolls, cheese spread and nightly fire drills offered a far greater sense of brotherhood than any fraternity could hope to achieve.

Memories of my nights at The House (Some may know it as The Hizouse, The Band House, or simply 604 Georgia Ave.) will forever remain

as a standard for a good time in my mind for any group of college friends. Whether it was dodging fireworks lobbed at me while firing bottle rockets from the roof or singing along to "Freebird" with the rest of the group at the end of the night, those are moments I will never forget.

Taking a seat in the Residence Hall Presidents' Council meeting room for the first time, late nights at Blind Willies watching MiddleGround on stage or sneaking beer from \$1 pitchers the night before a History test, Convincing an incoming freshman not to smash out the window of a cabin at Camp Eagle, midnight trips to Tybee Island, somehow fitting 20 people into a Kennedy living room for the Super Bowl, playing Johnny Cash's "Ring of Fire" just outside the building director's window at 1 a.m., watching as three friends get arrested for broadcasting hardcore pornography on a big-screen television into the Campus Courtyard parking lot, listening as a guest on my radio show made a total of 38 references to genitalia, strapping fireworks to a movie stand-up in an attempt to get it airborne, screaming out the windowing of a moving car as a friend bared her naked chest to a group of Boy's State participants, the first time I ever set foot in the Communication Arts trailer – these are some of the experiences I'll remember for a lifetime.

If college is supposed to be made up of the best days of our lives, I'm certain that I succeeded in living through those days.

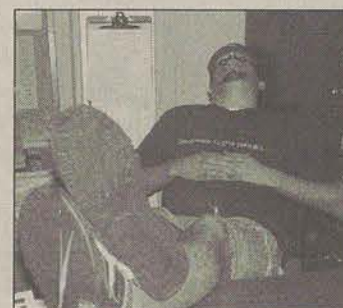
I suppose it would be out of line to finish off a piece like this without leaving some sort of advice about being an undergrad to those of you kind enough to read it. So here it goes...

First and foremost, remember to enjoy yourself.

A wise man in a National Lampoon film once said "Don't take life too seriously, you'll never get out alive." Have fun with your time here at GSU, and do what makes you happy. If you're not sure what makes you happy, try a few things out and see what works best for you. I never thought I'd be sitting here in the William's Center at 10 p.m. on a Wednesday night putting together a newspaper. And I definitely didn't think I could enjoy myself sitting a room with the same five people three nights a week listening to the sports editor play the best of 80's pop. You never know what might end up being more fun than you could ever possibly imagine – or that one man could love "We Built This City" as much as Eli Boorstein does.

Fall in love in college at least once.

It doesn't matter if it lasts for one night or for the rest of your life, do yourself a favor and let your guard down just once. One of the most amazing feelings you can get is sharing a conversation with someone for hours, letting



Adam Brady
managing editor

See Brady, Page 7A

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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A sports editor's final record

The date was October 23, 2000. Three words appeared in *The George-Anne* for the first time:

"By Eli Boorstein."

Now, nearly four years, and 191 stories, later, it's time for a new chapter of my life, as my days as a Georgia Southern student officially end with graduation on May 1.

It's funny. Usually I'm up in the Paulson Stadium press box watching the Eagle football team star on the field. In ten short days, I will get the chance to be walking the grass, the focal point of everyone's attention.

After I shake Dr. Grube's hand on the podium and clutch the folder where my diploma will soon lie, it will have ended. But, no matter what path I take, or what road I go down, my time here will be unforgettable.

Sometimes I have a hard time believing that it is soon to be over. I can still remember my first day of kindergarten 17 years ago, watching as my parents left me at school. Even my high school graduation still feels as if it was yesterday.

I'll confess, I came to Georgia Southern as what some of us were, but do not voluntarily confess: as a UGA reject. But, just as quick as I threw away that rejection letter, I would realize that I had found my true home

in Statesboro.

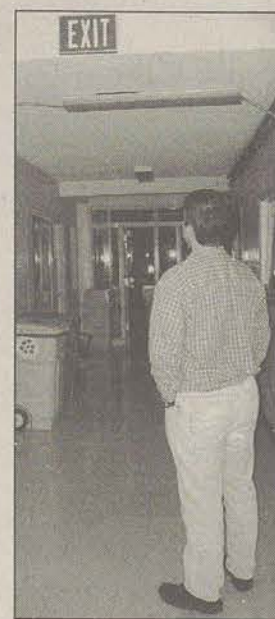
After getting myself acclimated to the collegiate surroundings, I saw the ads in *The George-Anne* asking for sports writers to apply. With my past work for my high school paper, and my love for sports, I thought, "Why not?"

Never could I imagine how much that decision would play into my life.

Thanks to *The George-Anne*, I met my girlfriend Emily. The relationship thing wasn't working for me, so I tried putting a profile up on one of those online dating services, not expecting much. One day, this girl, who also happened to be a GSU student, sent me an e-mail telling me about all the similarities we had. We had majors in the same department, were from the Atlanta area, went to the same church... the list goes on. There was just one thing that puzzled me – with this dating service, you cannot post your e-mail address unless you pay a fee.

Then how did Emily hunt me down, you might ask? I had mentioned in my profile that I worked for the paper. She looked at *The George-Anne's* online archives and found my e-mail address.

The rest, as they say, is history. Ten months after that e-mail first arrived in my



Eli Boorstein
sports editor

See Boorstein, Page 8A

Today around the world

Brazil: Discovery Day
Spain: Queen Isabella Day
USSR: Lenin's Birthday

Today in history

On this day in 1989, Nolan Ryan struck out his 5,000th batter.

On this day in 1970, the first Earth Day was held internationally to conserve resources.

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Softball narrowly swept by Jackets

GSU Athletic Media Relations

Georgia Tech's Tasha Waugh's two out solo home run in the top of the seventh inning gave the 23rd-ranked Yellow Jackets the 1-0 win and the afternoon sweep of Georgia Southern in non-conference action at Eagle Field. Tech won the first game of the twinbill 1-0.

Georgia Southern (24-23) recorded the first hit of the afternoon in the bottom of the second, as Maria Laurato opened with a single to center field, ruining Jessica Sallinger's chance for a no-hitter. Tech tallied their first hit of the afternoon in the top of the fourth as Tara Knudsen singled to third base, but a pop up and a strike out left her stranded.

In the top of the sixth, Tech opened with a Kirin Kumar bunt single. She would advance to second on the next play on a Soraya Reddick sacrifice bunt. A Katie Donovan single to center field advanced Kumar to third. GSU's Cary Moore then struck out Knudsen as Liz

Bartle stepped to the plate with two outs. Kumar would come in to score on a throwing error by Eagle catcher Sam Steiner as she attempted to catch Kumar stealing, but the ball went into the outfield, allowing the Yellow Jackets to score the lone run of the game, for the 1-0 win.

For Georgia Southern, Moore gave up four hits, threw five strikeouts with no earned runs. Tech's Sallinger threw 12 strikeouts, giving up two hits on the day.

Game two saw the Eagles spoil Erin Voeltz's perfect game in the bottom of the fourth as Kim Griffin singled to third base. Shanita Black tallied the second hit of the day for Georgia Southern, as she singled to the shortstop. She would end the inning as she was caught stealing second base.

After two straight ground outs in the top of the seventh, GSU's Logan Free was one out away from her first collegiate no-hitter when Waugh stepped to the plate. Her home run over the left field



Luke Renfro/STAFF

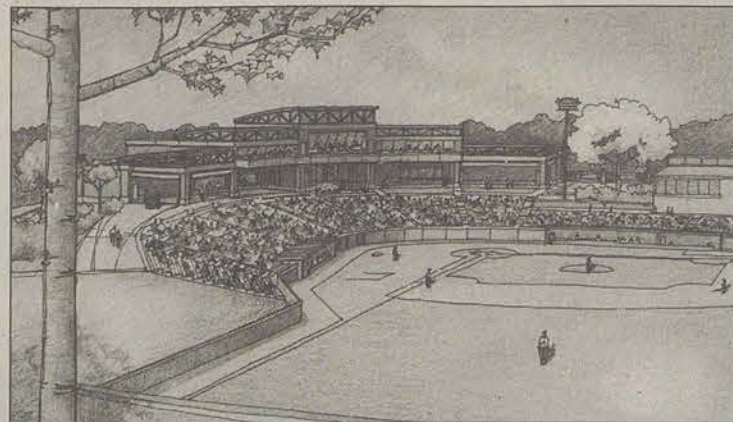
Maria Laurato collected both of the Lady Eagles' hits in game one, but it was not enough, as Georgia Southern suffered a pair of hard-fought 1-0 defeats against No. 23 Georgia Tech.

fence was the eventual game winner, giving Tech their second win of the afternoon.

Tech's Voeltz allowed two hits and threw five strikeouts while GSU's Free gave up one hit, one run and threw six

strikeouts.

The Eagles return to Southern Conference action Saturday, April 24, as they will face UNC Greensboro in a weekend series. First pitch of the Saturday double-header is scheduled for 1 p.m.



Special

J.I. Clements Stadium will get a major overhaul during the offseason, as the facility will be reconstructed with 3,000 seats, a brick exterior and a 7,500-square foot building containing a press box, ticket office, meeting room, restrooms and concessions.

J.I. Clements Stadium to undergo major renovations

By Eli Boorstein

Nietsroob17@hotmail.com

When the Georgia Southern baseball team tosses their final pitch at home this May, they will leave their ballpark for the last time - at least the park as they know it.

By the start of next season in February, J.I. Clements Stadium will be like new, as the aging facility gets a major facelift.

This project is just part of the overall campaign to improve and add facilities for the Georgia Southern athletic programs. Other plans include a new stadium for the soccer and track programs near Paulson Stadium, along with renovations to the existing Iron Works building between Hanner Fieldhouse and J.I. Clements Stadium.

The updated baseball stadium will include approximately 3,000 chair and bench-back seats, a vast improvement over the current 2,000-seat capacity that includes metal chairs and bleachers, which can get uncomfortable during a three-hour ballgame.

Additionally, a 7,500-square foot building will be constructed behind home plate, containing a ticket office, press box, team meeting room, restrooms and concessions.

On the field will be two sunken

dugouts, as well as a dressing room for the umpires.

The exterior of J.I. Clements Stadium will get a considerable visual makeover, as the chain-link fence that currently surrounds the stadium will be replaced by wrought iron fencing and brick columns.

The Wiggins Building, which currently houses coaches' offices, as well as the team locker rooms, will remain, as well as the batting cages located down the third-base line. The field, which was reconstructed prior to the current season will also remain relatively unchanged during the building process.

Head coach Rodney Hennon, who will begin his sixth year at the reins of the Eagle baseball team in the "new" J.I. Clements in 2005, welcomes the refurbished facility.

Elsewhere in the Southern Conference, programs such as College of Charleston, The Citadel and Wofford play in newer facilities, a fact that Hennon mentioned is a great aid during recruiting season.

Hopes are that the facility will also attract the Southern Conference Tournament in the near future. Currently, the tourney is committed to the city of Charleston and Joe Riley Park, the home field of The Citadel.

Rugby completes record-setting season as fifth-best in nation

Special to the G-A

On Sunday, the Georgia Southern rugby team finished off the 2004 season ranking fifth in the nation in Men's Division 2 Rugby.

GSU had been blowing its competitors out of the water all season long until they met and lost to Arkansas State at the Sweet 16 in Myrtle Beach, S.C. However, they beat Central Florida, securing themselves a spot in Nashville

for the Elite 8 of rugby.

There they struggled against Salisbury and lost in a hard fought match, but bounced back the next day to whip Humboldt in a 46-22 victory, finishing fifth overall.

It was the highest GSU had ever ranked in its 25-year history. The club was supposed to be in a rebuilding year due to heavy losses of key players last year, but thanks to an incredible spring roster of fresh talent, a strong

bond amongst the players, and a good display of leadership skills, the team managed to carry itself to its highest level of competition ever.

Although currently in a brief state of relaxation the team is already looking forward to next fall when they start back. The rugby team is one of the only sports on campus that competes year-round. Even in the summertime, they manage to scrape together a squad to compete in different tournaments

around the south.

The rugby team is always looking for new recruits - in class, in the gym, on campus, around town. No experience is necessary to join the rugby team.

The club hopes to field three teams in the fall: an A-team, a B-team and a C-team (developmental team). The squad will definitely enjoy their national recognition and hopes that their hard efforts won't go to waste next season.

Moments, memories and milestones...

Through four years of time of following, covering and just loving Georgia Southern Athletics, I have seen a lot.

I have seen championships, records and highlights. I have seen downfalls, dubious achievements and lowlights.

Whether the good or the bad, I wouldn't take it back for anything in the world.

As I now move to the other side of Eagle Athletics as an intern within the department of athletic media relations next year, I can flash back to all the moments of my time as a student that led me to develop my love for Georgia Southern.

Adrian Peterson: It was "The Run" in the 1999 national championship that convinced me to sign my application to Georgia Southern.



Eli Boorstein
SPORTS EDITOR

A Volleyball Resurgence: It's no secret that my greatest joy as a beat writer came with my three years covering the Lady Eagle volleyball team.

The year before I picked up the beat, the volleyball team was mired in a losing season, and had only put together three winning seasons in the program's history.

Then, Kerry Messersmith was hired as head coach, and the rest as they say, is history. Messersmith infused a new sense of spirit and strength in the previously dormant program.

In that time, I have seen Lady Eagle volleyball transform from SoCon cellar dwellers to SoCon powers. Two SoCon titles and a pair of trips to the NCAA Tournament later, I couldn't have had a better time being involved with the program.

Winning With Class: While Colorado has the scandal involving alleged rapes with their football team, and Georgia has the deal with the fraudulent grades, I am proud to be associated with a program that operates with nothing but class.

In my time as a writer, not once have I had to write about a scandal. The largest "controversy" I have been involved with down here was Erk Russell's recent disassociation from Georgia Southern, and that was hardly enough have the program grouped with the aforementioned troubled schools.

As I move on, I can always cherish the fact that I can be associated with a school and athletic program that I can respect, truly care for and love.

Eli Boorstein was the sports editor, but may still be contacted at Nietsroob17@hotmail.com.

UPCOMING GEORGIA SOUTHERN ATHLETIC EVENTS

Thursday-Sunday

• Men's & Women's Tennis at SoCon Tournament in Charleston, S.C.

Friday

• Baseball at Wofford, 7 p.m.



Saturday

• Outdoor Track at Irwin Belk Invitational in Davidson, N.C.
• Softball at UNC Greensboro (DH), 1 p.m.
• Baseball at Wofford, 1:30 p.m.

Sunday

• Softball at UNC Greensboro, 1 p.m.
• Baseball at Wofford, 1:30 p.m.

The GEORGE-ANNE

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The Sports Year in Photos



Ryan Moore/STAFF

This picture epitomized the football team's troubles last season, this coming after their heartbreaking Homecoming loss on Oct. 25 to The Citadel.



Ryan Moore/STAFF

The Lady Eagle volleyball team had many occasions to celebrate this year, winning their second SoCon title in three years, advancing to the NCAA Tournament.



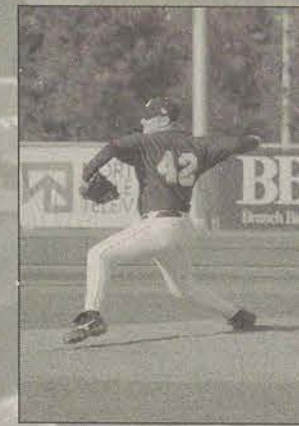
Hillary Jones/STAFF

Aron Price spent time as the nation's top-ranked golfer, leading the Eagles to a second-place finish in the conference.



File Photo

The Eagle men's soccer team had their ups and downs this year, but was able to claim Tony Moffat as the Player of the Year in the SoCon.



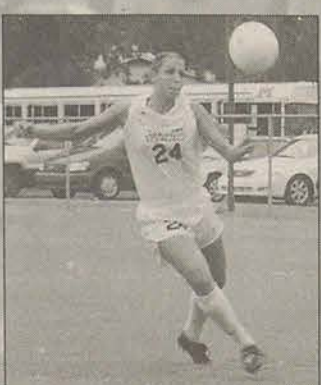
LaVene Bell/STAFF

John Carroll has helped to guide the baseball team to some early success, as they sit in third place in the SoCon.



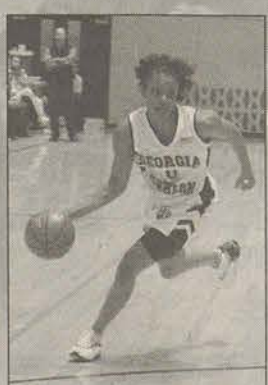
Luke Renfro/STAFF

Lady Eagle softball has impressed many thus far this season, hovering among the SoCon leaders, along with holding their own against a few ranked teams, too.



David Casselli/STAFF

Women's soccer had a rough go at it this year, finishing the year 5-14-1 overall.



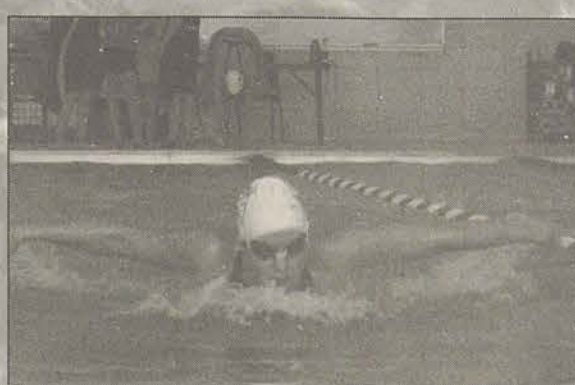
LaVene Bell/STAFF

Shawnica Hill helped guide the women's basketball team through a tumultuous year before suffering an injury.



LaVene Bell/STAFF

Terry Williams was one of the sparks of the men's basketball team as they made it to the SoCon Tournament semifinals.



David Casselli/STAFF

The swimming and diving program kicked off their first year as members of the Northeast Conference in grand fashion, finishing third in the NEC Championships.

Nearly 70 Iraqis killed in coordinated car bombings

By Robert Moran
KRT Campus

BAGHDAD, Iraq - In a coordinated morning strike, 68 Iraqis - including children on their way to school - were killed and more than 100 injured by car bombs at police facilities around the southern city of Basra on Wednesday, officials said.

The devastating attack, which occurred during rush hour in Iraq's second-largest city, was a return to the strategy of mass-casualty bombings by anti-occupation forces after recent weeks of heavy fighting against U.S.-led coalition troops.

The attack in Basra came as coalition

troops face showdowns in the restive Sunni Muslim stronghold of Fallujah and the Shiite Muslim holy city of Najaf, where Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr's Mahdi Army is dug in.

New clashes between insurgents and U.S. Marines were reported Wednesday in Fallujah, where coalition officials have been trying to negotiate an end to the standoff but have warned that the Marines could launch a new offensive if negotiations fail.

In Najaf, residents were said to be forming a committee to rid the city of al-Sadr's militia. A growing number of Shiites are demanding

that al-Sadr also vacate the Grand Imam Ali Shrine, which his supporters seized earlier this month.

The widening violence, coupled with the withdrawal of Spain and other nations from the U.S.-led coalition and the inability of newly trained Iraqi police and security forces to combat it, is forcing the Bush administration to keep more American troops in Iraq and driving up the cost of occupying the country.

Nevertheless, President Bush vowed Wednesday to stay the course. "The Iraqi people are looking, you know, they're looking at America and saying, are we going

to cut and run again?" Bush said at the annual meeting of The Associated Press in Washington. "And we're not going to cut and run if I'm in the Oval Office."

On Capitol Hill, however, lawmakers in both parties questioned whether Bush's administration has been candid about the cost of the U.S.-led occupation, now more than \$4.7 billion a month.

Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Del., the ranking minority member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, criticized the administration for failing to request any money for military operations in Iraq or Afghanistan in its budget for

the 2005 fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1.

"Why aren't they asking for it?" Biden said on NBC's "Today." "They don't know? ... Every ground squirrel in this country knows that it's going to be \$50 billion to \$75 billion in additional money required to sustain us in Iraq for this year."

Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., said he was afraid the administration was trying to withhold a request for more money until after November's presidential election.

"And the administration would be well-served to come forward now, be honest about this, because the continuity and the confidence

in this policy is going to be required to sustain it," Hagel said on the same TV show. "And that means be honest with the Congress, be honest with the American people."

Gen. Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told the House Armed Services Committee on Wednesday that the continued military operation in Iraq would cost more money than originally anticipated.

The decision to keep 20,000 troops in Iraq for an additional 90 days would cost \$700 million, Myers said, and the war is likely to be at least \$4 billion over budget by the end of August.

Authorities investigate missing funds from Vidalia group

By Elliott Minor
Associated Press

VIDALIA - Police are investigating a sizable amount of money missing from the group that promotes Georgia's \$75 million crop of sweet Vidalia onions.

Vidalia Police Lt. Clint Kennedy said no arrests have been made.

The investigation was launched in late March following an audit of the Vidalia Onion Committee, a grower-funded group that was created in 1989 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to promote the crop, Georgia Bureau of Investigation spokesman John Bankhead said.

The group, which has an annual operating budget of about \$400,000, buys advertising, publishes recipes and represents the industry at food shows. Growers and shippers fund the committee through a 12-cent assessment on each 50-pound bag of onions they sell.

Bankhead declined to say how much money was missing, but characterized it as "a sizable amount."

The committee's acting manager, Susan Hiller, referred questions to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The committee is governed by a nine-member board, all but one a grower.

Georgia's 134 registered Vidalia growers harvested 12,500 acres of onions last year and they expect to harvest about 16,000 this year.

The harvest is in full swing and will continue through May. Growers expect one of the best crops in years, despite a virus scare during the growing season that may mean slightly fewer onions this year.

Farmer Moses Coleman launched Georgia's onion industry near Vidalia, about 80 miles west of Savannah, in 1931 when he noticed that his first crop was unusually mild. Other growers joined in and began promoting the sweet onions with a campaign that said you could "eat 'em like an apple."

Their successful promotion transformed Vidalias into one of America's best-selling sweet onions.

PUSH, FROM PAGE 1A

million hours have been donated to camps to make them more accessible. These hours translate into savings of over \$440,000 from labor and grants given.

Push America provides \$5,000 Push Camp grants per camp to help cover cost of materials, meals and lodging. After their experience at the Push Camp Pi Kappa Phi plan to work with the Big Buddy Program and work on ACCESSABILITY projects here in Statesboro.

BRADY, FROM PAGE 4A

the rest of the world fall into the background behind the two of you. Whether it's staying up to talk on the phone all night or sitting on the steps of J. I. Clements Stadium to watch the sun rise, I can recommend no better experience or remember no more captivating moment than the first time I truly connected with a person during my last four years.

Whatever you choose to do during your time here, make it yours and not one else's.

Recognition for your achievements is a great thing, but plaques, statues, and certificates simply cannot match the feeling you get when you know you've pulled off what you've set out to do. Being a successful isn't about what others think of you or what awards you've received - it's about accomplishing your dreams.

College isn't just about an academic education, the people you meet and the things you do. It's about experiencing those moments that make you who you are.

It took me four years to truly appreciate that, and I am forever indebted to the people that shared in those experiences with me.

I'll always remember Georgia Southern.

Adam Brady is the managing editor of The George-Anne and would like to thank everyone who has helped him along the way these past four years. He hopes for only the best for them all. He can be reached at that_guy@stouthouse.org.

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BOORSTEIN, FROM PAGE 4A

am still with Emily – and I could not be happier.
Thanks to The George-Anne, I also got myself a job. Through my time as a sports writer and sports editor, I have worked up a great partnership with the department of athletic media relations. Through that time, I became more and more fascinated with how they continuously give the good press to the Eagle sports teams. With help from Tom McClellan, the assistant athletics director for media relations, I have earned myself a job doing what I love doing, giving Georgia Southern the exposure it needs and deserves.

That is only part of what working for *The George-Anne* has meant to my life. I have had the esteemed honor of covering the athletic teams of the university I will always be attached to. Knowing that what I create in each issue is seen across campus and across town makes me know that my job is truly appreciated.

As I move on to the proverbial sunset, I want to thank the many student-athletes and coaches that made my job truly a pleasure. To the various people behind the scenes of Eagle Athletics, thank you for making my job as a

journalist seamless. To the professors I have had over these past eight semesters, thank you for inspiring me to become what I have become.

Last, but not certainly least, thank you to the students of Georgia Southern. We here at *The George-Anne* – and to a greater extent, Student Media – do this for you guys. It's for you all that we write stories and lay out pages.

I will leave Georgia Southern with a mind full of experiences, sights and friends I will never forget. After coming in as a young freshman, I will embark as a young

adult ready to take on the world. However, there's one thing that I am proud, honored and fulfilled to be leaving as: a college graduate.

As I wrap things up, I want to close with an excerpt from one of my favorite songs, "In This Diary," by The Ataris:

"Being grown up isn't half as fun as growing up. These are the best days of our lives. The only thing that matters is just following your heart and eventually you'll finally get it right."

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Hiatus

A break for your brain

'SOLED OUT' It's All about Shoes

By Tyesha Walker
tyesha_n_walker@yahoo.com

A remedy for the shoe lover's ardent fetish strutted into Black Box Theatre Wednesday April 21, 2004. A mixture of laughter, tears, and shoes has been combined to create "Soled Out: Its All About Shoes."

The show is a performance work that explores the literal and figurative viewpoint of shoes.

The play ranges from a lighthearted display of a famous shoe lover's favorite brand, to more serious issue like rape and homelessness.

"The play takes you all over the place. You laugh, you cry, you experience the world. Each shoe has a powerful message that you will take with you," said Candice Boutwell, a junior Public Relations major making her GSU stage debut in the production.

At the center of the production is the director and creator Dr. Belen Calingacion, a visiting Fulbright Scholar. Hailing from the Philippines, she combined an assortment of works from various authors and created this performance piece.

"This piece is a performance work that reflects the different personas of shoes, and the people that fill them," explained Dr. Calingacion. "The point of this play is to verbalize many joys and pains of human race."

The narrator of this production, V.A. Patrick Slade, energetically walks through the crowd and guides them through the three scenes that make up the performance works piece.

"Imelda Marcus's shoe collection holds no weight to this shoe extravaganza, believe it!" said VA Patrick Slade, a senior Theatre and English major, starring as "MoJo."

This performance marks the final project for Dr. Calingacion's Advance Performance Studies class. In conjunction with the many talented actors and actresses from different backgrounds and majors from around the GSU campus, they help to bring this piece to life.

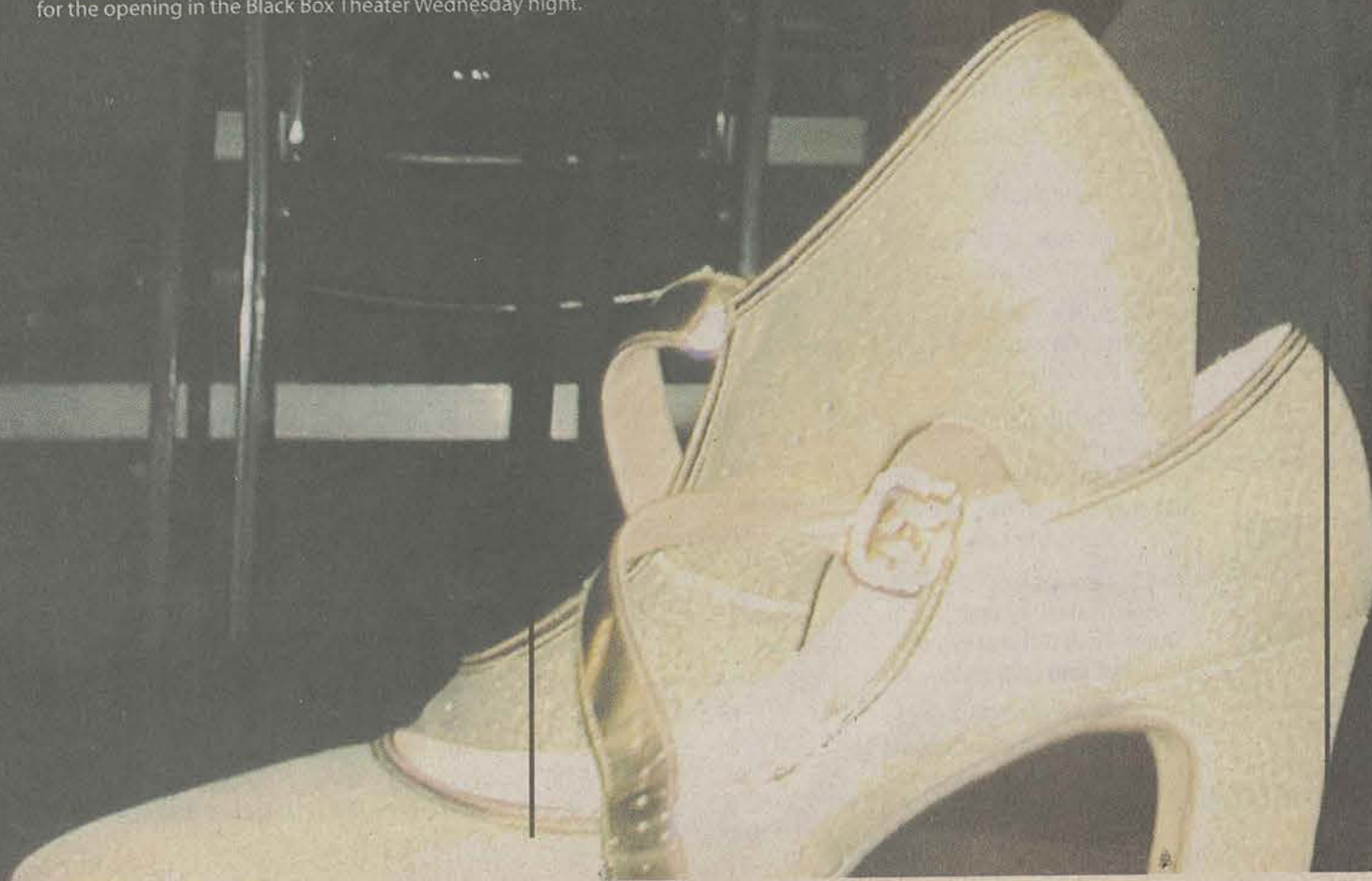
"We worked all semester to craft and mold this piece. It was challenging, but it was also very rewarding," said Ashley Jones, a senior Communication Arts major participating in this production.

"Soled Out: Its all about shoes will be held from in the Black Box Theatre nightly at 8 p.m. that is located at the Communication Arts Building. The production will run from Tonight through April 24, 2004. Admission is free. For more information about "Soled Out: It's All About Shoes," contact Dr. Belen Calingacion at (912) 681-0027.



Jessica Langley/STAFF

The cast of the performance works piece "All Soled Out: It's All About Shoes" prepare for the opening in the Black Box Theater Wednesday night.



THURSDAY

April 22

Earth Day

'Wine, Moonlight, and Magnolias'

Botanical Garden
 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

The annual gala and fund raiser benefits the GSU Botanical Garden. It features wines, hors d'oeuvres, live auction and music. The cost is \$45. Contact the Garden for more info at 912-871-1149.

'A Little Night Music'

Performing Arts Center
 8 p.m.

Based on the Ingmar Bergman film 'Smiles of a Summer Night'. The plot revolves around the complex, amorous entanglements of Desiree Armfeldt. Tickets are \$10 for the public, \$5 for GSU faculty and staff, and free for GSU students. A second performance will be shown on Friday same time and place.

'Soled Out'

Black Box Theater
 8 p.m.

The play explores the high-heeled world and the loafers' universe. Admission is free.

TUESDAY

April 27

Emanuel County Eagle Club Meeting

Terry Reynolds' Clubhouse
 7 p.m.

FRIDAY

April 23

'The New Cosmology'

Planetarium
 8 p.m.



The presentation will include information on the origins of the universe. There is no admission charge.

WVGS 91.9 Anniversary Celebration

RAC Pavilion
 3 p.m.

GSU's radio station 91.9 will have free pizza, snacks, live music and DJs.

Greater Savannah Eagle Club Meeting

Knights of Columbus
 7 p.m.

For tickets, contact Alumni Relations at ext. 5691

WEDNESDAY

April 28

'India: Unity In Diversity'

Museum
 Mon-Fri 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat & Sun, 2 p.m.-5 p.m.

SATURDAY

April 24

Coastal Plain Adventure to Charleston Aquarium and IMAX

Museum
 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

For information, contact the Museum at ext. 5444.

'Fourth Almost Annual Night of Wild Sax'

Carol A. Carter Recital Hall
 7 p.m.



'Ballet Magnificat'

Performing Arts Center
 8 p.m.

The performance will feature two ballets. The first is titled 'Freedom' and the second is titled 'The Journey of the Prodigal Son'. Tickets are \$20 plus tax per person for the public. GUS faculty, staff and students and groups of 15 or more will receive a 10 percent discount.

SUNDAY

April 25

Concert

Carol A. Carter Recital Hall
 3 p.m.

The concert will be performed by Ogeechee Area Symphonic Instrumental Society.

Vogtle Whale Exhibit

Museum
 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Equal and Exact Justice

Museum
 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Annual Juried Student Art Show

Foy Fine Arts Building
 Gallery 303

Creative Worship Workshop

Performing Arts Center
 2 p.m.-4 p.m.

The workshop will be conducted by members of the 'Ballet Magnificat'. The workshop will feature dance and movement for worship. The workshop is open to adults and children ages 8 and above. Registration fee is \$25 per person. There will be a maximum enrollment of 30 people.

MONDAY

April 26

Last Day of Class Beginning of Finals Week

Pops Concert

Sweetheart Circle
 6:30 p.m.



This is an event for the entire family. Admission is free and popcorn and soft drinks will be provided free of charge. Everyone is invited to bring their families and a picnic dinner. In the event of rain, the concert will be moved to the Performing Arts Center.

Fees Due For Summer Semester

Check Wings for more info

Remember, there will be no more paper invoices mailed out.

Battle of the Halls

Check your dorm for more details

TOP TEN

Top Ten Movies (04/18/04)

1. Kill Bill Vol. 2
2. The Punisher
3. Johnson Family Vacation
4. Hellboy
5. Home on the Range
6. Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed
7. Walking Tall
8. Ella Enchanted
9. The Passion of The Christ
10. The Alamo

Top Ten TV Shows

1. Apprentice
2. CSI
3. American Idol (Wed)
4. Survivor: All-Stars
5. Without a Trace
6. Friends
7. Law and Order
8. American Idol (Thu)
9. Law and Order: Criminal Intent
10. CSI: Miami

Top Ten DVD & Video Rentals (04/024/04)

1. Something's Gotta Give
2. Texas Chainsaw Massace
3. Gothika
4. The Rundown
5. Brother Bear
6. Honey
7. Mona Lisa Smile
8. School of Rock
9. Missing
10. Dr. Seuss' Cat In The Hat

Top Ten Albums (04/024/04)

1. Usher--Confessions
2. Various Artists--Now 15
3. Janet Jackson--Damita Jo
4. Jessica Simpson--In This Skin
5. Norah Jones--Feels Like Home
6. Evanescence--Fallen
7. Kenny Chesney--When The Sun Goes Down
8. Lil' Flip--U Gotta Feel Me
9. Guns N' Roses--Greatest Hits
10. J-Kwon--Hood Hop

Top Ten Singles (04/024/04)

1. Yeah!--Usher
2. I Don't Wanna Know--Mario Winans
3. Topsy--J-Kwon
4. Burn--Usher
5. This Love--Maroon5
6. Naughty Girl--Beyonce
7. One Call Away--Chingy
8. If I Ain't Got You--Alicia Keys
9. Dirt Off Your Shoulder--Jay-Z
10. My Band--D12

@ The Club

Tonight

- Qualifier @ Champs
 Sunny @ Dingus
 Earth Day Patchwork @ Dos Primos
 Legends Luau @ Legends
 80s Night @ Woodin Nikel
Friday
 Lyonz @ Dingus
 Velcro Pygmies @ Legends
 Drifter @ Ponds
 Gins Request @ Retrievers
 Silly with Willy @ Woodin Nikel

Saturday

- 25 Years @ Dingus
 G-Strings & Loose Change @ Pond House
 Drink-n-Drown @ Wooding Nikel

The Misadventures of Celebrities

By Ashley Stevens
 danny2325@hotmail.com

'Their Eyes Were Watching Halle'

Fresh off her Oscar win, Halle Berry was offered the starring role in Oprah Winfrey's next telepic



'Their Eyes Were Watching God,' adapted from the Zora Neale Hurston classic. She is set to play Janie. Ms. Berry was quoted as saying, "And I think I about had a conniption. I've always wanted to play that character."

Beyonce's little shopping spree

Beyonce Knowles is investing in some New York real estate. The rumored Mrs. Jay-Z shelled out more than \$9 million dollars for a pair of apartments.



Witherspoon shopping for a groom

Reese Witherspoon has inked a deal to star in the movie 'The Proposal'. The movie is a romantic comedy about the trials and tribulations of an altar-bound couple. The role of the groom has yet to be filled.



Jessica's little suit

Jessica Simpson has filed a suit in New York City against 4 Dog

Productions. She claims the company failed to pay the \$140,000 they promised her for wearing the Motorock logo on her shirt in her 'With You' video. 4 Dog was unavailable for reply.



Billy Bob's bundle on the way

Billy Bob Thornton and his girlfriend Connie Angland are expecting a child. Their first child is scheduled to be due in October. The tot will be his fourth and her first.



Love is in the air

It has been reported that Nelly and Ashanti have become an item. The couple has been seen holding hands exiting the Trump International Hotel. A couple of weeks later, they were seen snuggling during dinner in a St. Louis restaurant. Both parties have declined to comment.



The high price of Madonna's business

Warner Music group claims that Madonna's record label Maverick lost \$66 million dollars in 1999. Sources claim Maverick is trying to sever ties with Warner.



Attention!

The Center for Latino Studies

Art Exhibit & Award Ceremony

Thursday, April 22
 Carroll Building RM 1014
 7:45 p.m.

The Center for Latino Studies is hosting an art exhibition to showcase some of the artwork that Latino children have worked on this past semester. They will also be presenting diplomas to graduates of their English as a Second Language Program.

Come out to see the artwork!

Jokes of the Day

Answering Machine Messages

Welcome to the Psychiatric Friends Hot Line

If you are obsessive-compulsive, press 1 repeatedly.

If you are codependent, ask someone to press 2.

If you have multiple personalities, press 3, 4, 5, and 6.

If you are paranoid delusional, we know who you are and what you want. Just stay on the line. We can trace the call.

If you are schizophrenic, listen carefully and the voices will tell you which number to press.

If you are manic depressive, it doesn't matter which number you press, no one will answer.

'The Punisher' brings the pain

By Jay Boyar
 KRT Campus

Superheroes tend to be vigilantes.

They often work outside the law, sometimes fired by revenge. Marvel Comics' the Punisher takes the vigilante-superhero concept to extremes.

He's not just seeking revenge because of the death of a relative or two. He fights crime because his entire extended family has been murdered. And while most superheroes are only as brutal as necessary, the Punisher doesn't mind making the bad guys hurt.

In "The Punisher," our hero is government agent Frank Castle. As the film begins, Castle is just wrapping up what he thinks is his final mission before retiring with his wife and young son.

But during that mission, the son of crime lord Howard Saint is killed. To get even, and at the prompting of his grief-crazed wife, Saint orders the deaths of Castle and his whole family.

Somehow, Castle escapes. After that, it isn't long before he dons a black T-shirt emblazoned with a death's head: The symbol of the Punisher.

The Punisher is a superhero who doesn't have any superpowers. He relies on his wits and his fighting skill and souped-up guns.

Yes, this is fairly primitive stuff. But without making any great claims for "The Punisher," I have to admit that director Jonathan Hensleigh treats it all with respect.

Our hero is so detached that he doesn't even think of his work as revenge. To him, it's punishment, pure and simple.

Tom Jane, who plays the title role, has a solemn, handsome face that doesn't let you in on what he's thinking. The Punisher wears no mask, but his emotionless mug comes pretty close to being one.

Travolta, as kingpin Saint, actually seems more human than the hero. Sure, Saint is a ruthless criminal, but he cares



about his family and probably sees himself as a businessman.

When his wife, the grieving Livia (Laura Harring of "Mulholland Drive"), asks him to murder Castle's family, some vague notion of decency makes him pause just a moment before giving the order.

That little pause speaks volumes. Somehow, it doesn't make the film seem silly that the filmmakers have retained plot details that put the "comic" in the original comic book.

The Russian (pro-wrestler Kevin Nash), a super-sized bruiser who attacks our hero, is too outrageous to be taken straight. So are the Punisher's goofy neighbors, the roly-poly Mr. Bumpo (John Pinette) and the extravagantly pierced Dave (Ben Foster).

Rounding out the cast are Rebecca Romijn-Stamos as another, less-goofy neighbor, Will Patton as Saint's trusted attorney and Roy Scheider as Castle's doomed father.

"The Punisher" lacks the terrific pop sizzle of Spider-Man or the best Batman films. In fact, it isn't even as hip or imaginative as the recent disappointingly jumbled "Hellboy" was at its best.

But "The Punisher" holds together in a way that "Hellboy" doesn't.

It may be pulp, but at least it's good solid pulp.

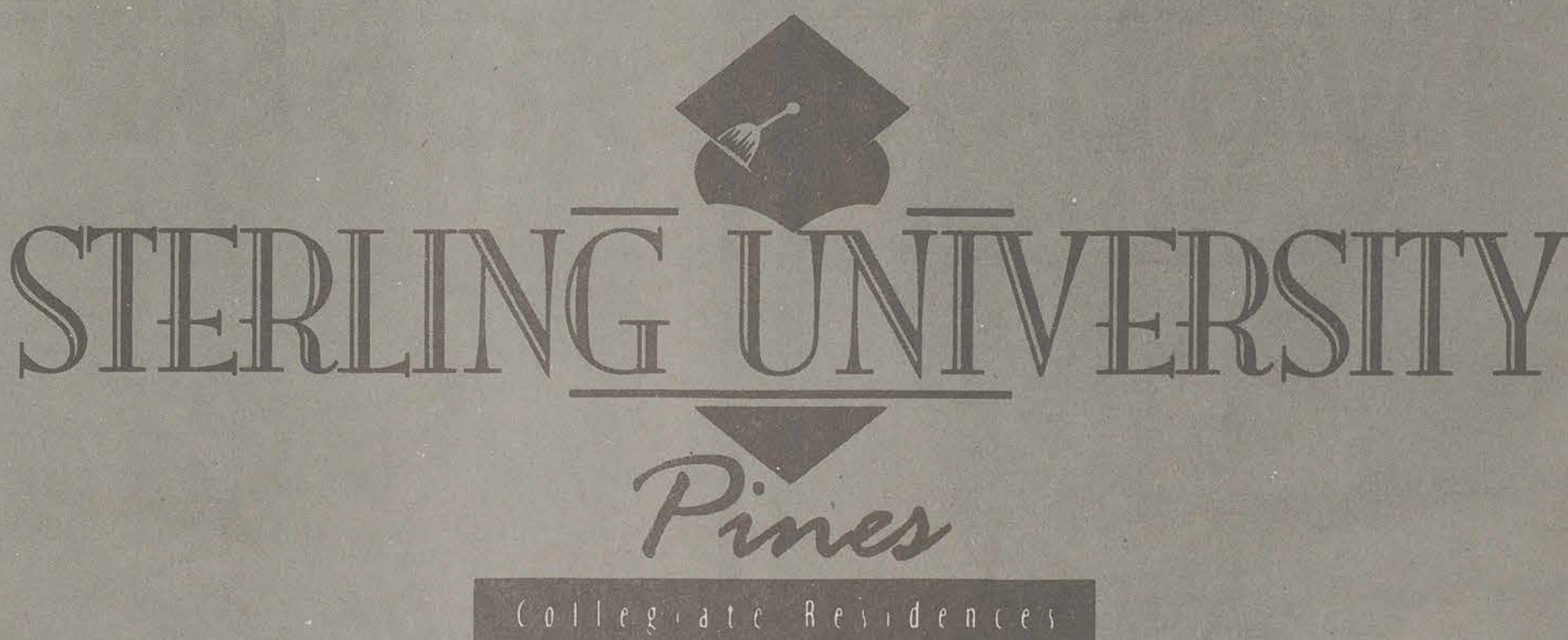
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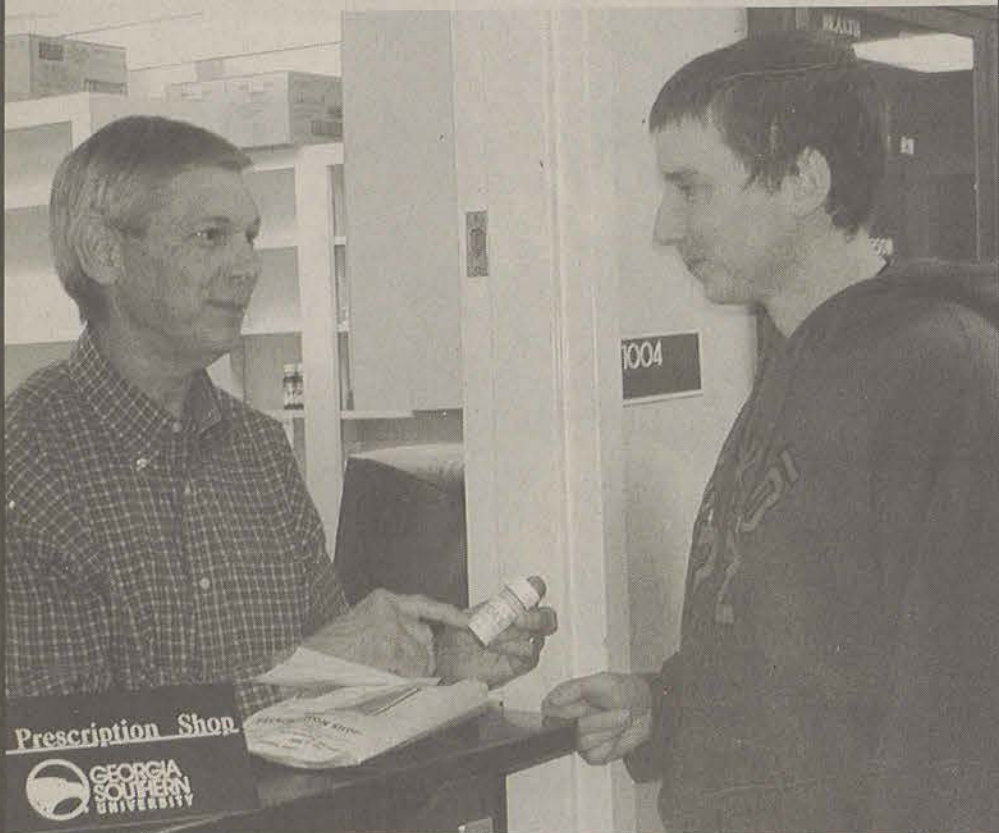
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Monday - Friday 8:15am - 5pm
681-0807

Our store on S. Zetterower is open late and on weekends and holidays.



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WVGS 91.9 FM

30 Year Anniversary

CELEBRATION

**Kickball
Tournament**

Free Pizza, Food & Snacks

Live Music & DJ's

**Meet the DJ's!
Lady G, Snaykize
& Slotmachine**

**Friday, April 23, 2004
3pm - 7pm • RAC Pavilion**



Visit us on the web at www.stp.georgiasouthern.edu or call 681-5525.

Register to vote at the celebration!

GEORGE-ANNE

Hiatus 4B

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Kill Bill, Vol. 2 top this week's box office

By John Harris
johnh@hiddenglade.com

"Kill Bill, Vol. 2," the film that asks the eternal question, "Do killers make good parents?"

It's not really a sequel to last year's Vol. 1, because it was all produced as one movie. What director Quentin Tarantino wanted to release as "Kill Bill" got split up due to studio pressure, since the whole thing together would have been around four hours of sitting in a theater watching people get killed in inventive ways.

This is interesting, because the two movies are actually quite different from each other. Split apart, the first half is basically a big, but fun, cartoon, with a bit more thoughtfulness, and creativity, than your standard action movie. And much better music. And funnier. This second part has a lot less action in it. It's definitely there, but action-wise there's nothing even close to the closing fight of the first part.

If the two movies were hooked together, one couldn't help but wonder about the structure. Aren't movies supposed to have rising action up to a climax? By my reckoning the action movie equivalent of the closing musical number would have been smack in the middle. All the violent confrontations of this movie actually end kind of arbitrarily.

Now understand that the emotional action of the movie does follow the rising action pattern, and there's tons of it. While Bill barely appeared in the first movie, there's a hell of a lot more of him here. And while he was a figure of extreme menace in the first film, here we get a decidedly different take on him, enough that I had to think carefully to determine if I was getting a bait-and-switch on him, if everything we'd been given to believe in the first movie wasn't a lie.

I believe that it wasn't, although my memory's not good enough to remember back to everything we



Internet Photo

Quentin Tarantino's 'Kill Bill, Vol. 2' doubled the body count of the first volume and took the No. 1 position at the box office. This revenge film is the highest grossing R-rated April release.

learned in the first movie. Tarantino didn't want to split the movie up, and so I agree, as a whole, the movie would be stronger without the five-month, memory-dampening intermission.

The story follows "The Bride" (you can tell a movie thinks a character is hot stuff when it follows the definite article/capitalized common noun protocol) as she continues her quest to... take a wild guess. Before the requisite William-slay occurs, four former assassins will die, two of them in the first movie and two in this, her former teammates. Also dying are various assorted underlings and the other human obstacles to her progress.

Throughout both films (the first volume was released on video last week) we get various flashbacks introducing these victims, showing their former lives, what they're doing now, and other ancillary information. All of this is to disguise the fact that they're merely appetizers. The main course is Bill Casserole, and it's been in the oven since October.

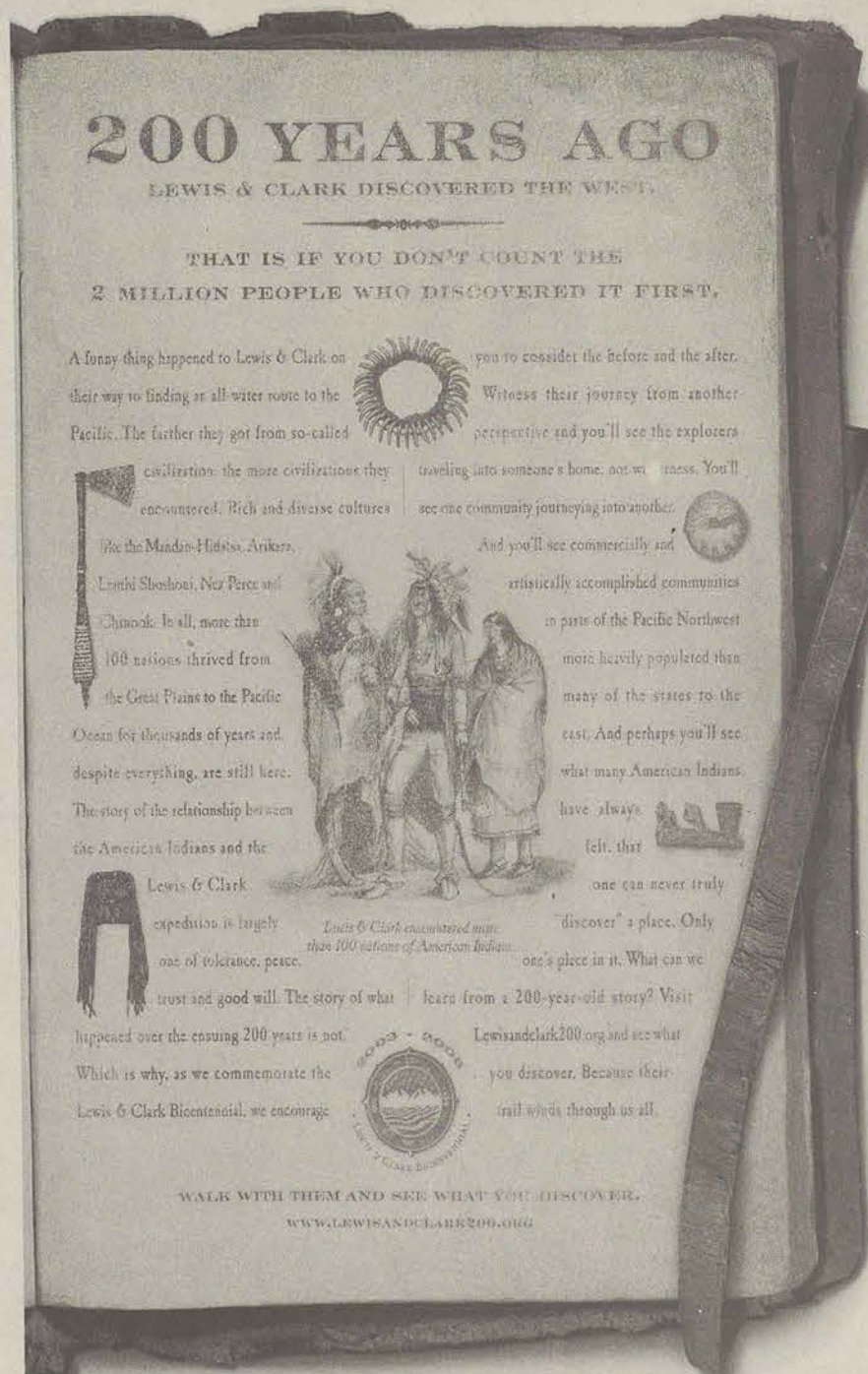
So is it worth it? Undoubtedly so, unless you suffer from a particu-

lar malaise I will shortly describe. Tarantino is an endlessly inventive filmmaker, and he has a way of getting us to like these essentially amoral characters, even as they're killing and slashing with the blood and the slicing and the severed heads and hey.

But c'mon now. Our heroine, The Bride, is just as much a former assassin as anyone else in the movie. Just because she doesn't kill any innocent people during the films doesn't mean she has never done so, not does it mean she won't cause harm to a truckload of innocents in the process. And Tarantino's conception of motherhood (har har) leaves a lot to be desired. Getting a sperm in your ovum seems to be like finding Christ.

That the movie sees the problems with showing assassins as people even while almost worshiping this one at work is something of a strength of the film. And yet, it was about halfway this film that I felt the malaise begin to work:

See Bill, Page 5



my bone marrow has begun production of antibodies keyed to the unique molecular signature of Quentin Tarantino. I could feel them in my bloodstream, making me restless.

As the movie continued, and especially when we got introduced to B.B. later on, their production only increased. Why should we care about this Bride person? During the long section with Bill near the end, seeing these ruthless killers comport themselves like normal human beings, I got the feeling that...no. The reality disconnect is too great.

It's not a bad movie, and I can acknowledge that. It's very well-made, and entertaining to watch. But in the end no amount of trying to convince us these are real people can make up for the rest of the two movies. If your own bone marrow isn't producing defenses keyed to Tarantino you'll probably enjoy "Kill Bill Vol. 2." But if you, too, are getting antsy during showings of "Reservoir Dogs," or haven't seen Vol. 1, I have to recommend that you pass. It's just not medically advisable.

WEEKEND BOX OFFICE PREVIEW



13 Going on 30

Jenna (Jennifer Garner) is a 13-year-old girl who wishes to be older. She gets her wish, and wakes up 17 years later at 30 years old. Now she must find out what life is like as an adult and see that her wish wasn't what she thought it was.

PG-13



Man on Fire

Denzel Washington is an operative of the government paid to protect a child (Dakota Fanning) whose parents are high ranking officials in Mexico City, Mexico. When a kidnapping plot is foiled, Washington's character becomes closer to the child, as he must protect her from unseen danger.

R

NEW on DVD:

04/27/04



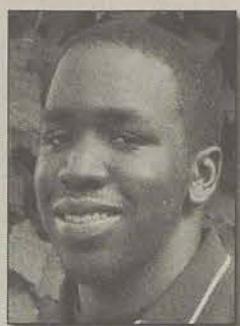
The Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, Office of Admissions and Office of Alumni Relations wish to congratulate the

2004-2005 Southern Ambassadors

The Southern Ambassadors is a volunteer student organization that provides prospective students and alumni the voice, experiences, and knowledge of the current Georgia Southern student. Campus tours, Open House coordination, homecoming activities, and recruitment receptions are just a few of the many programs they participate in every year.



Amy Avery



Jonathan Buckner



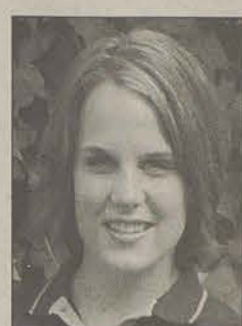
Amy Bunda



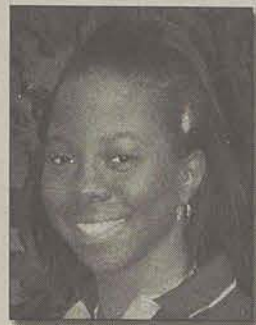
Bethany Clemons



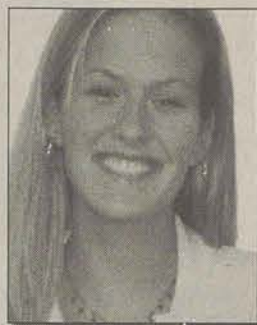
Larry Cloud



Jennifer Cook



Shri Davis



Amy Eakin



Chris Ford



Amy Green



Jana Grove



Kristi Harnish



Kerry Heffernan



Heather Holland



Megan Holland



Katherine Jeschke



Jennifer Jones



Sara Kavsak



UnChu Kim



Abby Lynes



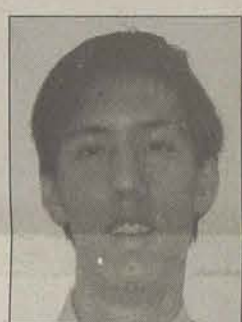
Monique McKenzie



Ashley Meyer



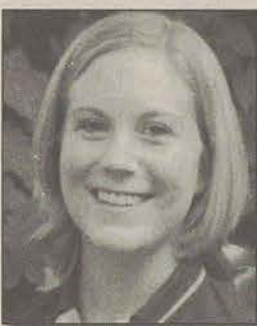
Brian Middleton



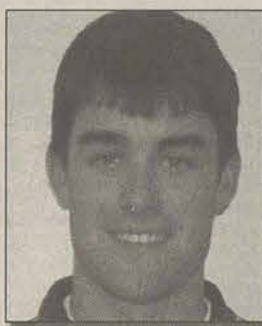
Bob Mikell



Rachel Miller



Katherine Mueller



David Odom



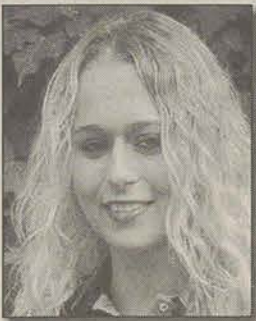
Valerie Paluha



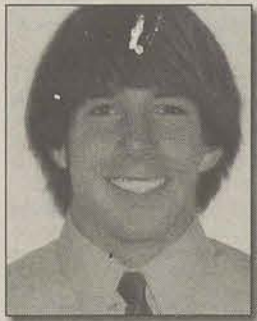
Denia Phillips



Phoebe Pletcher



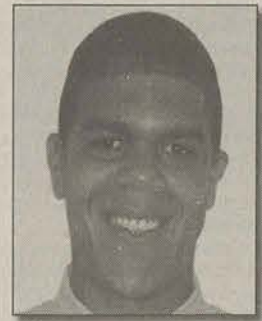
Jennifer Pollock



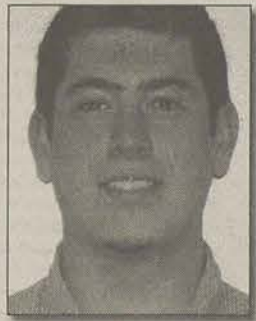
Joshua Primm



Jackelun Ray



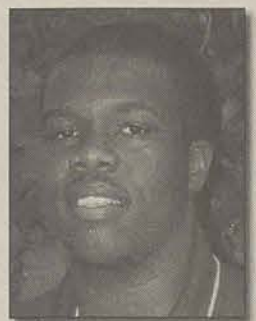
Jason Reid



Josh Richardson



Mary Ann Rogers



Tony Rouse



Sharonia Rowe



Ashley Scruggs



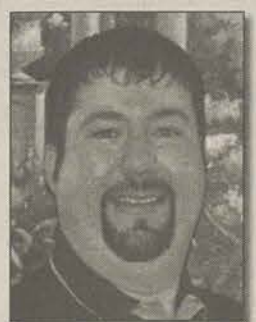
Melissa Seeker



Shatareia Stokes



Rashenah Walker



Robert Meguiar
Southern
Ambassador
Director

**We welcome our
returning Ambassadors and
extend a warm welcome
to our new members!**



Kevin Wigley



160 Miscellaneous for Sale

NEED TO sell something...anything? Put it in **The George-Anne's** classified section. One man's trash is another man's treasure.
POOL TABLE for sale. Includes 8 Ball rack, 9 Ball rack, two pool sticks. Excellent condition. Selling everything for \$600 firm. Call 912-541-6110, ask for Black.

200 Pets & Supplies

FOR SALE: Ball Python, 60.00 and 55-gallon aquarium, \$130.00. If sold together, will sell for \$160.00. For more info call Kristina 541-6151.
AMERICAN PIT Bull Terrier puppies, ADRA registered. \$350 shots, dewormed, papers included. Call today, 912-484-4676.
FOR SALE: med. size reptile aquarium with heater included. \$35.00. Call Kristina 541-6151.

220 Rentals & Real Estate

SUMMER SUBLEASE \$260 a month. Two bedroom and two bath, for the whole apartment. Washer and dryer included. Call 678-570-2719.

NEED TO sublease your apartment? Advertise on Off-Campus Housing Office website. Sublease forms available in Russell Union 2022.

TWO BEDROOM duplex available May 1. \$500 per month. Close to campus. Call 912-604-5885.

AVAILABLE FALL 2004: 3 br 2 bath refurbished house. Great location, walk to class and supermarket. \$725.00 Call 912-481-3644.

HOOD HAS HOUSES FOR LEASE IN AUGUST NO PETS. 24 HOUR REPAIRS. 764-6076

ATTENTION STUDENTS: Please read Hood's Website: DIRTYBANKING.COM

SHERWOOD FOREST, duplex sublease, \$250/month + utilities, pet friendly. Please call Sami @ 681-2905 or 770-715-8300.

TIERED OF looking at asphalt? Want to feel the grass under your feet? Own a pet or want to? Call Kristy or Lavinia at RE Realty Property Management. The pet friendly people. Next to Daylight Donuts. 912-764-2511.

APARTMENT FOR male or female at \$335 a month, payment includes everything except phone and internet. May 1 to August 1. Please call Nikki 770-855-5129.

SUMMER SUBLEASE \$250 a month, water and cable included along with furniture.

Move in 1st of May or June. Comfortable one bedroom apartment across from campus. Call 92-681-8115.

SUMMER SUBLEASE \$405 month, all utilities and furniture included. Volleyball, pool, fitness center. Move in after May 10th. Rent for May NOT REQUIRED. Call Troy 803-290-7143.

SUMMER SUBLEASE at Woodlands, May 3-July 25. \$225 month plus utilities. Pet friendly, close to campus. Please call 681-1694 or cell at 904-294-2844.

TIERED OF roommates? Sublease one bedroom apartment for June and July. May if needed. Tell those roommates goodbye! Rent \$325 with water included. Contact Teresa at 478-320-7753.

2 BEDROOM, 2 Bath apartment for rent starting in May. Rent includes DSL Internet, Power, water, cable TV with HBO, security system. Large walk-in closets, washer/dryer, back patio, pets allowed! Call 678-516-5939.

6BR 5BATH available Aug. 1, next to Holiday Inn Express - Loaded - no pets. 682-7468 or 764-6076

TIERED OF ROOMMATES? Want you own apartment? \$265+ flexible leases - Quiet Environment. Also, 2 + 3 BR Houses recently renovated. Call Parker Realty at 764-5623.

MALE/FEMALE ROOMMATE needed for 3 BED/2 Bath. Washer/Dryer included. 11 W. Grady St. \$800 plus utilities, 3 ways. Call Alston 912-230-3166 or Andrew 478-390-2730.

FOR RENT by owner. Stadium Walk or Park Place. Has washer and dryer. Small pets acceptable. \$400 per month. 764-7528 or 541-4885.

APARTMENT FOR rent! \$490/month, off University Place, duplex, 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom! Large living room! Call 912-481-3481 or 912-481-1421 for details!

3 BEDROOM house for rent. \$1050.00 per month. On Cypress Lake. Call 852-5977 and leave a message.

230 Roommates

STILL TRYING to figure out a way to fill that empty bedroom? Place an ad in **The George-Anne** and find a roommate in no time.

MALE/FEMALE ROOMMATE needed for 3 bed/2 bath. Washer/dryer. 11 W. Grady Street. \$800 plus utilities, 3 ways. Call Alston 912-230-3166 or Andrew 478-390-2730 for information.

SUMMER SUBLEASE. Five bedroom house

needs a renter for May 1-July 25. \$200 plus utilities. Call Jacinda 489-6097.

FEMALE SUBLEASE needed to take over contract in Southern Courtyard for summer. Call Kim 912-541-2789.

SUBLEASE SUMMER: Sterling University Pines Apartment. 1 female roommate needed. \$250/month from May 3-August 5. Call Alison at 912-541-1557.

SUBLEASE AVAILABLE for summer semester. Willing to pay \$400 to anyone who will sublease my contract for Southern Courtyard. On-campus, clean and new, fully furnished, cool roommates. Only \$1100 for summer. Cheaper than any other on-campus place. Contact Andy @ 688-7673.

\$208.00 MONTHLY RENT! Summer sublease available in 3 bedroom house, off campus. Rent + 1/3 utilities. Call 764-3121 for more information.

SUMMER SUBLEASE 1 room available. Sterling University Pines. Move in May 1. May rent free. June, July rent \$325. Call Stuart 912-678-1659.

FEMALE NEEDED to take over contract in Southern Courtyard for summer. Call Sarah at 404-449-4925.

SOUTHERN COURTYARD room. Need female for summer semester. One payment includes utilities. Friendly roommates, new, fully furnished, negotiable. Call 404-5421761.

ONE FEMALE roommate needed to take over lease starting Aug. 04. May move in May 04. \$215/month, 1/3 utilities. Need someone ASAP. Call Tan @ 229-291-0208 or Candis @ 706-589-1241.

SUMMER SUBLEASE needed! Two rooms available in a great house. Rent is \$256 plus utilities. Call Stephen at 541-2915.

3BR 3BATH Sterling Pines sublease. Male or cool female needed. Sacrifice art \$320, free DSL and cable. Available May 2, 2004. Call 541-7926.

NEED A roommate? Advertise on Off-Campus Housing Website. Roommate forms available in Russell Union 2022.

FEMALE SUBLEASE needed. 2BR/2 Bath. \$225 plus 1/2 utilities. ASAP until July 31. Washer and dryer included. Call Jennifer at 536-0256.

MALE SUBLEASE needed—Campus Club, all-inclusive. May, June, July. Will sacrifice for \$300 month. Call 404-543-7740.

APARTMENT in Southern Courtyard, available summer term. Kitchen, living room, bathroom, laundry room. Fully furnished. Computer lab and game room

on site. Call Danielle at 912-541-2285 for information.

SUBLEASE SUMMER at Stadium Walk. \$212.50 a month. Pet friendly. Other roommate gone for summer. Available May 1. Quiet area, pool access. Call Kelly 541-3772.

3 FEMALE roommates needed to stay in Campus Club. Rent is \$389 all inclusive. Contact Kiwarla at 688-3379.

2 ROOMS available in 4bd/4ba Statesboro Place. All inclusive, \$335/month, \$100 signing bonus. Available May 1. Call Tommy at 678-697-5295.

SUBLEASE SUMMER 2004 at Players Club. \$240 per month. May through August. Move in May 1. Call 678-591-3138.

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Neither gone nor forgotten The story of Dontavious Jefferson

By Amanda Permenter
gaeditor@georgiasouthern.edu

Janis Jefferson's apartment was almost completely packed in boxes, save a few items on the coffee table: Vases of dried flowers surrounding a porcelain figurine of a mother sending her son off to school.

She sent her own oldest son, Dontavious Jefferson, off to school at Georgia Southern nearly four years ago, at the start of the Fall 2000 semester. Dontavious promptly declared a major in Fashion & Design and got heavily involved in extra-curricular activities. Volunteering with Eagle Entertainment, marching in Southern Pride and working at the GSU museum are just a few of the pastimes that kept him constantly busy and surrounded by friends.

One of those friends is fellow Fashion & Design major Ginny Hall.

"Always moving. Some people come here, and they're just here," she said. "Not Dontavious."

Described again and again by friends and faculty as active and determined, focused and fun, Dontavious was set to graduate this spring.

But, all that changed Friday, June 21, 2002.

"I'll never forget that day," his mother said.

In May of 2002, Dontavious complained of a headache. After seeing a doctor, he was prescribed a medication for migraines.

A month later, his mother got an unexpected call. "He was happy 'cause he'd just got paid from his summer job at the mall. He went to get his paycheck from the Perimeter Mall. Next thing I knew, he was in the hospital."

At first, his mother assumed he'd been in a car accident. She soon found out that his recent headaches had not been migraines at all.

Dontavious was suffering from a cerebral aneurysm.

"I don't know how he drove to the hospital," she recalled. "He was vomiting. He couldn't stand lights. I thought he'd get better, but he went to ICU, instead."

Three days later, his family was called to the hospital. There was pressure in Dontavious' brain, causing seizures and other trauma. Doctors placed him in a drug-induced coma, a common procedure often implemented in hopes of easing the stress on the patient's brain, which usually provides more conducive circumstances for recovery.

But, Dontavious never regained consciousness.

His car, adorned with Georgia Southern stickers, a UGA dawg with a slash through it, and a parking decal that expired a year ago last August, sits cold and empty at his mother's home. A website he started designing, dedicated to his favorite music and his activities at Georgia Southern, lies unfinished at <http://www.djjefferson.homestead.com>. It bears the harrowing phrase: Last updated February 27, 2002.

After six months in a comatose state, a patient's odds of coming out of it decrease more. The Brain Injury Resource Foundation defines comatose as "a state of unconsciousness from which the patient cannot be awakened or aroused, even by powerful stimulation." According to the medical definition, comatose patients characteristically display "an inability to follow a one-step command consistently" and "a lack of any response to [their] environment."

However, Dontavious' friends and family are convinced that he does respond to his environment, and they believe interaction with more people and objects he recognizes may be the key to his recovery.

Dontavious opens his eyes, changes his facial expressions, and can adjust his grip on a visitor's hand.

"Each time I go he does little things," his friend Ginny said hopefully. "Well, not little. They are big because it's a reminder that he's still there, but little because I want more."

Ginny often visits him, sometimes with her boyfriend Mike, and spends her time there describing things she knows Dontavious loves to him, hoping the topics will comfort him and stimulate him to wake up.

"I always try to be descriptive as possible and let him know about certain things. It might sound goofy, but I miss him the most during the Golden Globes, Oscars, etc. We used to order a pizza and it would be our version of a Super Bowl party. I always try to tell him in detail who's wearing what designer's clothes, what it looks like," Ginny said.

During the last holiday season, Dontavious was moved from his rehabilitation center to a full-service hospital numerous times for pneumonia, seizures and swollen glands. But, that doesn't shake his mother's faith that he will recover.

"He has good days and bad days, like we all have," she said.

Ginny noted three distinct reactions during that time, despite his seemingly worsened condition. "Whenever I go visit him I give him updates of what's going on at school or TV. When I was there the TV was set to Fox and there was a commercial about the 'Simple Life.' I guiltily admitted that I watch that, and told him what it's about. The whole time I was holding his hand, and his reaction to 'The Simple Life' was a facial expression and a grip of the hand. There was an eye movement when I mentioned something about one of the classes we would have been taking together. I kissed his hand goodbye, and Mike said he 'airkissed'."

His GSU professors are not ready to give up on him, either.

"I keep all his files in with my active students," said Mary Kettler, an assistant professor who once taught Dontavious. "I can't bear to move them!"

His grandmother believes a videotape of Southern Pride from a game or practice might encourage him to respond. "We put a VCR in his room with him. He can't watch things, but he can hear them. He loved being in the marching band. I think a tape like that would really help him a lot."

His family and friends also believe strongly that frequent visitation from members of the GSU community, even if he doesn't know them, would improve his condition.

"Dontavious had lots of friends," his mother said. "I don't understand why more of them don't come and see him."

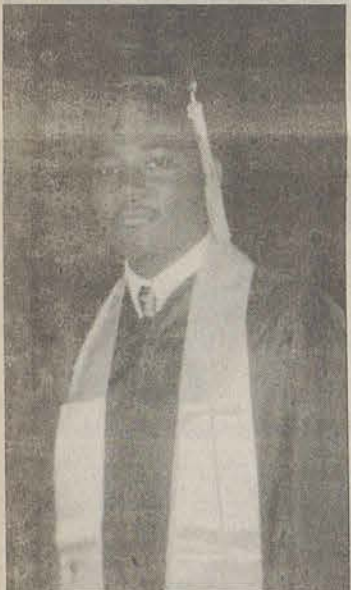
It's been nearly two years since Dontavious drifted into the mysterious world of the comatose brain. For now, he lives in room 217, on the second floor of Buckhead Health & Rehabilitation Center in Atlanta. He has a trach tube, a feeding tube, and requires 24-hour care. Though his mother works until 7 p.m. every weekday, there is always someone there with him. His grandmother stays devotedly at his bedside every day until his mother arrives. He is allowed visitors every day.

Talking amidst all the boxes and dried flowers friend have given Dontavious, his mother remembers the way he once decorated their small, stylish apartment. "He picked out everything you can see here," she said. "Even the furniture."

She recently bought the new home she's been working toward for years, and is riding on hopes that her son will wake up to see it, and decorate it.

"He always fought with his brother because they shared a room," she said. "The boys will have their own rooms in the new house," she said.

While she waits, she hopes for the day she'll watch her son return to life, for the day he'll walk. For the day he'll talk to her. For the day she'll finally be able to send him off to school again.



Clockwise from bottom, Left: Dontavious Jefferson graduated from his Atlanta high school with honors in 2000. Dontavious poses with a group of friends. Dontavious shows his silly side and his tongue ring. In a photo from his website of a Georgia Southern table for the National Association for Campus Activities, Dontavious appears on the right. Below: Dontavious, healthy and smiling, wearing his prized Georgia Southern jacket during his sophomore year. The front of Dontavious' current home, Buckhead Health & Rehabilitation. Above: Janis Jefferson's coffee table figurine.



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