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The GEORGE-ANNE

www.stp.georgiasouthern.edu

Monday, August 30, 2004 • Volume 77, Number 18

SPORTS: Olympic closing ceremonies feature Chinese heritage. **Page 6**



BSU Delivers GSU game ball



Mike Sewak, GSU football Head Coach, hands BSU members the game ball for the GSU versus UGA game this Friday. BSU members will be delivering the ball to Athens on bike before the game.

By Alston Arras
jarras@georgiasouthern.edu

Members and students of the Baptist Student Union (BSU) at GSU will partake on a 180-mile bicycle ride to Athens to deliver the official game ball for the game between the GSU Eagles and the UGA Bulldogs on September 4.

Known as "Miles for Missions," this event is set to raise funds to support BSU students of GSU so they can be involved in spring and summer missions and trips.

"The University of Georgia does a trip similar to next week's ride, but they enjoy a ride going down hill to Florida," said Dr. Todd Deal, Professor of Chemistry and Faculty Adviser of the BSU.

Following an early breakfast and a speech by Mike Sewak, Georgia Southern's Head Football Coach, on Thursday Sept. 2, the bicyclers will travel 82 miles on Georgia Hwy. 80 and stop in Wrens, GA. Ninety-six miles from Wrens the team will end the trip in Athens.

Deal commented on Coach Sewak's contribution for the two-day excursion, saying, "Coach Sewak has been very supportive towards our riders."

Campus Minister Jerry Johnston and Deal are partially responsible for organizing the trip since last December.

See **GAME BALL**, Page 5

Republican National Convention underway

Bush readies second-term proposals; delegates, protesters converge on New York

By Ron Fournier
Associated Press

NEW YORK - Abortion-rights protesters and the first Republican delegates descended on President Bush's heavily fortified convention city Saturday as campaign officials said their boss would use the nomination spotlight to defend his hawkish foreign policies and offer a second-term agenda for health care, education and job training.

"He believes it's important for a candidate to talk about what he's done and, most important, where he wants to lead," said adviser Karen Hughes, aboard Bush's campaign bus in Ohio. "The speech is very forward-looking. It talks - about what another four years of a Bush presidency would look like."

Democratic rival Sen. John Kerry said most voters won't look kindly on another term for the Republican. "For the last four years, we've had a dark cloud over Washington," Kerry told supporters on an overcast day in Washington state. "We're going to get rid of it on Nov. 2."

With his decorated combat record in question, Kerry said, "I'm in a fighting mood," and a campaign ally chided Bush for serving stateside in the Texas Air National Guard while others fought in Vietnam.

In an interview, Bush told NBC's "Today" that Kerry "going to Vietnam was more heroic than my flying fighter jets. He was in harm's way and I wasn't. On the other hand, I served my country. Had my unit been called up, I would have gone."

Pre-convention polls showed the race evenly split, though the challenger has lost ground since his convention in Boston a month ago. The four-day Republican convention opens Monday.

Bush campaigned deliberately through battleground states en route to an overwhelmingly Democratic convention city - fertile ground for protests against his foreign and domestic policies. Thousands of abortion-rights activists marched across the Brooklyn Bridge, 10 abreast in a protest a half-mile long. The night before, 264 people were arrested for disorderly conduct in a bicycle protest past Madison Square Garden. New York police said 25 people were arrested Saturday for various convention-related incidents, bringing the three-day total to 311.

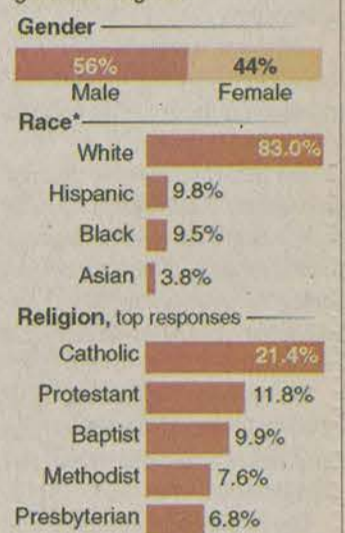
The convention site is less than five miles from Ground Zero, where two hijacked planes destroyed the Twin Towers, killing 2,749 people and catapulting the nation into war. Bush's approval ratings soared as he led the nation in mourning, then ordered troops into Afghanistan to overthrow the Taliban regime and begin the search for Osama bin Laden.

Three years later, the terrorist leader is still at large, and the U.S. military is fighting an unpopular war in Iraq. As the death toll of U.S. troops nears 1,000, Bush hopes to persuade voters that the invasion of Iraq has made the



Diverse delegates

Delegates at the Republican National Convention are a pretty educated bunch - about two-thirds have graduated from college and one-third have graduate degrees.

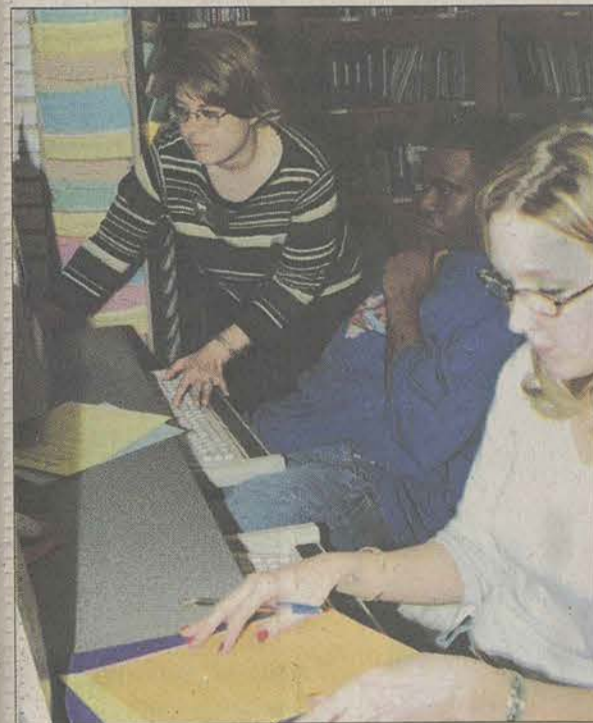


* May not add to 100 because people of Hispanic ethnicity can also be counted in any race

SOURCES: Republican National Committee; AP delegate survey



Career Services provide students with a head start



LaVene Bell/Staff

Amy Williams, Assistant Director of Career Services, helps students fill out resumes and prepare for job interviews. Career Services provides many different opportunities for students to prepare for future and current job searches.

By Rachel Weeks
crazedrachel@hotmail.com

GSU Career Services has it all! The Center helps students plan all stages of their careers from internships, cooperative education, job shadowing, free career-related publications, interviews with various companies, career fairs and graduate school. They also help students work on their resumes and offer computer and printer access.

Staff members help students with a wide range of career support. Freshmen, graduates and GSU alumni are all welcome at Career Services. Students who are not sure what field of work they would like to enter are provided with self-assessment quizzes that can identify abilities, skills, and work-related values that help prioritize their most desirable or important career areas.

"I would recommend students to come here, start by taking the focus assessment, meet with one of us, do some job shadowing, and make an educated career decision," said Amy Williams, Assistant Director of Career Services.

Resumes services include resumes advising, resumes critiquing, and resumes referrals with on-line posting via Eagletrak, powered by Monstertrak.com. Eagletrak allows students to search for jobs and internships online, post resumes, and sign up for on-campus interviews with a range of companies. Also available are example resumes for every major offered at GSU.

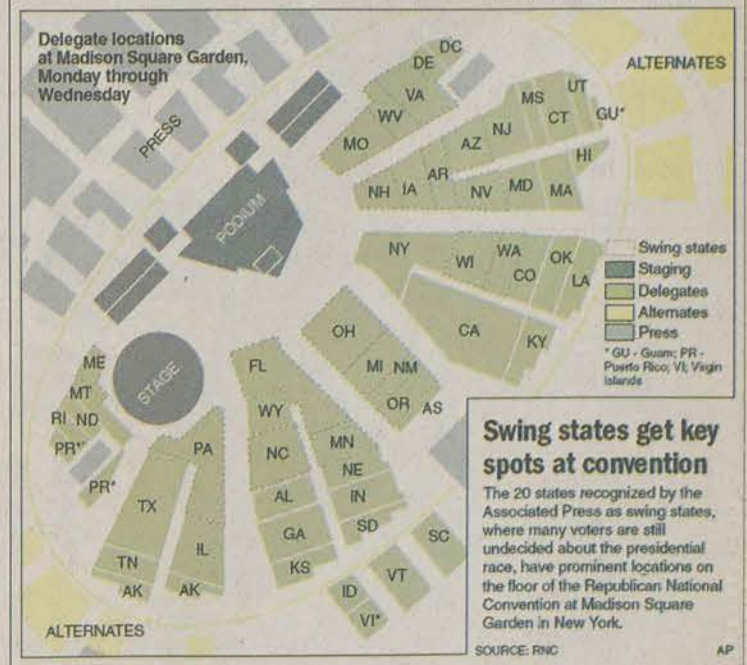
Another career service is experiential education, which is a program that is designed to help students gain relevant work experience and learn more about their future career.

Job shadowing allows freshmen and sophomores to observe professionals working in their prospective fields and allows them to gauge how interested they are in those fields. Cooperative education, or a co-op, provides students with professional work experience relating to their field of study, and students can earn money while gaining experience. Internships usually last for a shorter time period and combine experience with classroom education.

"Some reasons students should par-

See **CAREER**, Page 5

See **CONVENTION**, Page 5



Weekday Weather

Monday

HIGH 93°

LOW 73°

Scattered Thunderstorms

Tuesday

HIGH 93°

LOW 73°

Afternoon Thunderstorms

Only in America

- Ohio man tries to sell his presidential vote on eBay
- Minnesota boy gets attacked by fish
- New York man serves jail time for playing porn in his car

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Opinions

- Adam Crisp persuades journalism and PR students to join the G-A staff
- KRT columnist Lenore Skenazy is disgusted by American food

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Sports

- Take a final look at the Olympic Games in Athens, Greece
- Eagle football impress in third preseason scrimmage

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Campus News

GSU student wins international scholarship competition

By Maria Folsom
mfolsom@georgiasouthern.edu



Jones

The Center for International Studies, in conjunction with Nagoya University of Foreign Studies in Japan, has announced that John W. Jones has been awarded the prestigious Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) scholarship.

While other GSU students have participated in the exchange program, Jones, a senior Philosophy major from Thomasville, Georgia, is the first ever Georgia Southern student to receive the scholarship.

Students worldwide apply for this scholarship along with their application for the exchange program to Nagoya University.

The JASSO scholarship provides an economy class round-trip ticket from Atlanta to Nagoya, Japan, a monthly stipend of 80,000 yen from September 2004 to July 2005, and an additional "settling-in" allowance of 25,000 yen.

"It's an honor to have been selected," said Jones. "This scholarship has international competition, so I was as shocked as anyone."

The Japanese Language and Japanese Studies Program's (JLJSP) objective is to provide students with high-quality Japanese language and cultural instruction, and thereby

equipping them with the skills and motivation necessary to pursue their academic goals.

The main focus is on the mastery of Japanese language. GSU and Nagoya University have offered this program in past academic years, fostering mutual concepts of education and cultural exposure to both its students.

GSU Student Jon Salichs, a junior Sociology major from Newnan, Georgia, is also participating in the program. For a year, both Jones and Salichs have been making the necessary preparations for their trip across the Atlantic. The students in this program have to show great initiative and interest. Prior to being selected, they must apply to be considered along with two letters of recommendation.

"The students involved in this program are very proactive," explained Jeffrey Palis, Coordinator of GSU's Study Abroad Program. "They enroll in coursework relating to Japanese language and culture. They demonstrate further interest by frequenting our offices and keeping us informed with what they expect or would like to gain from the experience."

Nancy Schumaker, Director of the International Studies Program, views the transcontinental experience as a valuable asset to all those that qualify.

"This program allows GSU students to not only complete their course of work required for this university, but they also get the opportunity to come in contact with another culture besides that of their own."

While Jones and Salichs look forward to living in Japan for the next year, the pair admits that the cultural shock will be inevitable.

"There's definitely going to be language barriers and cultural differences," Salichs commented. "But I think John and I are up to the challenge. That's the purpose of our trip."

Lauren Good, a GSU student who spent last year at Nagoya University, insisted that Jones and Salichs will have the time of their lives.

"I loved it," exclaimed Good. "I'm pretty sure that the guys will find life over there a transition, but not so drastically different from what we have here in America. They'll adjust in time."

Academically, the JLJSP participants will enroll in more Japanese language courses and culture workshops, introducing both contemporary and traditional aspects of Japan.

While the option of living off-campus is available to JLJSP students, student housing is there to make the social transition easier for them. Participants in this program are free to use all the university's facilities and equipment, as well as a number of multi-purpose open spaces that can be used for their academic or social needs.

Nagoya University's exchange students—Mika Obara, Megumi Takada, and Kasumi Motojima—are now enrolled here at GSU for the next year until they return home next summer.

At this time, Jones and Salichs will resume classes in the States. Jones is optimistic that his stay in Japan will be beneficial to him both academically and personally.

"I am a citizen of the world," is a quote from philosopher Diogenes," said Jones. "I use that outlook to make the adaption to another culture of great benefit to me."

Planetarium show focuses on Saturn

By Abby Westcott
abbywestcott@yahoo.com

Exotic worlds lie outside our own door.

While some only ponder the vast existence the solar system offers, avid amateur astronomer and NASA JPL Solar System Ambassador Becky Lowder discovers a small part of the solar system by giving lectures held at the GSU Planetarium once a month, sponsored by the Statesboro Astronomy Club.

This month's lecture, entitled "Ringworld: The Cassini-Huygens Mission to Saturn," featured a film on the mission and its latest discoveries. Viewers also enjoyed a star show of the current summer sky.

The Cassini-Huygens' main task is to further understand Saturn and its moons.

The entire mission lasts from 1997-2004. Cassini will spend four years orbiting Saturn, making nearly 75 orbits to complete its mission. Huygens separated from the main spacecraft to explore Titan, Saturn's largest moon, while Cassini collected data from above.

Future explorations will take place on the actual ringed planet, which will improve our understanding of the planet.

Scientists and engineers from 18 countries hope to solve many mysteries with this mission. While these scientists and astronomers can only hope, local Statesboro residents can stay involved by attending shows at the planetarium and joining the



Special Photo

Friday's public viewing at the Planetarium featured a film and lecture on the Cassini-Huygens mission to the ringed planet.

Statesboro Astronomy Club.

"I joined the club in 1999," said Lowder, "because I have always loved astronomy and looking at the stars. When I joined, I volunteered to learn how to run the planetarium and have loved doing it."

Many students attended the show. "I went because I am in an astronomy class this semester and I thought it would be interesting to go. I really enjoyed the star show at the end," said junior Garrett Anthony.

The next show will be about Constellations on September 24. On October 2 there will be a lunar eclipse that the Statesboro Astronomy Club plans on viewing. All interested can join the club; there are no fees to join, just an interest in astronomy.

For more information on the Statesboro Astronomy Club or future events at the planetarium, visit <http://cost.georgiasouthern.edu/physics/publicevents.html>.

We're always looking for talented writers here at The George-Anne. If you are interested in writing, please give us a call at 912-681-5246 or e-mail us at ganewsed@georgiasouthern.edu



Campus Calendar

August 30

Community Chorus
7:15 p.m.

The Georgia Southern/Statesboro Community Chorus will resume rehearsals beginning Monday, Aug. 30. The chorus meets at Trinity Episcopal Church, located at the corner of Country Club Road and the 301 bypass. Rehearsals are from 7:15 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. For more information, contact Adam Con at 912-681-5845 or via e-mail at adamcon@georgiasouthern.edu.

August 30-31

Irish Pub Nights
7 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Irish Pub Nights will return to Statesboro Monday and Tuesday. Popular entertainer Harry O'Donoghue will perform two shows each evening at 7 and 9 p.m. A familiar figure in Statesboro from past performances at Irish Pub Nights, O'Donoghue will once again bring the spirit of Ireland to life in music that appeals to people of all ages. It will feature a variety of traditional Irish songs and contemporary songs about Ireland composed in the traditional idiom. The evening will be filled with lively sounds of Irish music and the genial humor of Ireland. Irish Pub Nights are sponsored by the Center for Irish Studies in cooperation with Archibald's Restaurant. There is no admission fee, but reservations are recommended. At Archibald's Restaurant.

Police Beat

08-25-2004

A wallet was taken from the Russell Union.

Officers issued one traffic warning, investigated one traffic accident and assisted three motorists and two sick persons.

08-26-2004

David Martin Cheatham, 24, of 1017 Woodland Drive, Statesboro, was charged with public drunkenness.

Matthew Ryan Ogburn, 22, of Norcross, was charged with selling an alcoholic beverage to a person under the age of 21 from inside Baja Burritos.

Officers issued one traffic citation and one traffic warning, investigated six traffic accidents, assisted three motorists and responded to one fire alarm.

All Police Beat information compiled by Luke Hearn, News Editor.

If you would like to have your organization's meeting times or events placed in the Campus Calendar, or to have your organization's events featured in Campus News, contact Luke Hearn at 912-681-5246 or via e-mail at ganewsed@georgiasouthern.edu.



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ASAP - 406 South Main Street- Statesboro..... 764-2337

ALLTECH-1596 Chandler Road- Statesboro..... 871-5555

ALLTECH -5966 Ogeechee Road- Savannah..... 961-7881

T-Mobile
authorized dealer

Additional Regulatory Programs Fee of 66¢ per line/mo. applies. Fee helps us recover costs associated with complying with government mandates and programs (whether or not used or available). This is not a tax or government-required charge. Taxes and other charges (including Universal Service charges) additional. Cancellation: If you are not satisfied with our service, you may cancel within 14 days of activation with no early cancellation fee. Consumer Information: Limited-time offer; subject to change. 40¢ per additional text message. Rates are for domestic calls. Coverage only available on our domestic GSM/GPRS network and that of our roaming partners ("Get More network"). Credit approval, \$35 activation fee and 1-year agreement required, with \$200 early cancellation fee per line. Use of our service constitutes acceptance of our terms and conditions, including mandatory arbitration. Taxes, USF and other charges additional. Unused allowances lost. Partial minutes used are rounded up and charged at the full-minute rate; calls are measured from when the network begins to process the call (before the phone rings or the call is answered) through its termination of the call. Billing of roaming charges and minutes of use or services may be delayed. Devices sold for use on our GSM/GPRS system may not be compatible with other wireless systems. Additional restrictions apply; see brochure and terms and conditions for details. Calling Plans: Domestic long distance (but not for credit card, calling card or operator-assisted calls) and roaming are on the Get More network. Call Rating: Weekends are midnight Fri. to midnight Sun. T-Mobile 3-Day Weekends™ begin midnight Thu. Nights are 9 pm to 6:59 am. Mobile-to-mobile minutes means a directly dialed call to or from a T-Mobile subscriber while you are on our domestic network. Call minutes currently rate in the following order (as available): mobile-to-mobile, weekend, night, Whenever. Phone/Rebate: At participating locations. While supplies last; shipping charges may apply. Mail-in rebate offer requires purchase of the phone listed and new activation on a qualifying rate plan. You must be on a qualifying rate plan when rebate is processed. Allow 8-10 weeks for check. Offers: Calling plan and handset offers require a minimum 1-year contract. T-Mobile is a registered trademark of Deutsche Telekom AG. ©2004

John Kerry's two Vietnams

The following editorial appeared in the Chicago Tribune on Tuesday, August 24.

From his comeback victory in Iowa with the help of a soldier he rescued to his crisp "I'm John Kerry and I'm reporting for duty" at the Democratic convention, Kerry has been running on his record as a highly decorated Vietnam soldier. And with good reason: Three Purple Hearts, a Silver Star Medal and a Bronze Star Medal are American signs of courage and valor.

Questions about that service, though, have come to dominate the presidential race in recent days, and not in a way that necessarily reflects well on Kerry. A group of former Navy swift boat veterans who served at the time that Kerry commanded a swift boat appear in a television ad that claims Kerry has lied about his injuries and his decision-making under fire.

That has left voters to sort through conflicting stories of events from more than 30 years ago to figure out if Kerry was a Vietnam hero or if he misrepresented his role in the war.

That debate resolves in Kerry's favor.

He served in a hostile fire zone, he was wounded, and he met the standards to receive his medals. Many of those who served with Kerry say he did indeed act with honor and courage during his four months in Vietnam.

One of those is a Chicago Tribune metropolitan editor, William Rood, who was a swift boat commander in the operation that led to Kerry's Silver Star Medal. Rood, in an essay published in Sunday's Tribune, backed the official account of Kerry's heroics in leading a 1969 attack against enemy ambushers along the Dong Cung River.

On Monday, President Bush distanced himself from the accusations against Kerry. "I think Sen. Kerry served admirably and he ought to be proud of his record," Bush said.

That should be the end of the debate about John Kerry's experience in Vietnam.

John Kerry, though, had two Vietnams - one of service, and one of protest. It seems the animosity of many veterans toward him rises not from what Kerry did while he was in Vietnam, but what he did after he left Vietnam.

He became a prominent leader of those who protested the war. He testified before Congress in 1971 that he had heard stories of American soldiers who "had personally raped, cut off ears, cut off heads..." It was Kerry who said he had "committed the same kind of atrocities as thousands of other soldiers..."

Kerry has recently conceded that some of those stories have been discredited. He has said he regretted some of his statements.

He has battled lingering suspicions that his protests were sometimes less than forthright. He has acknowledged that when he joined a dramatic protest in which veterans threw away their medals, Kerry tossed not his own, but those of other soldiers.

In the eyes of many of his comrades, Kerry broke faith with them when he returned from Vietnam. His protests, delivered by a decorated fighter whom Americans had every reason to respect, invalidated their service. That still prompts intense anger and hurt among some veterans. "We won the battle," one recently told The New York Times. "Kerry went home and lost the war for us. He called us rapers and killers and that's not true."

A new ad from the anti-Kerry group Swift Boat Veterans for Truth attacks Kerry's anti-war claims. The battlefield shifts, then, from John Kerry's first Vietnam to his second.

It's for all veterans of Vietnam, and for every other American, to judge whether Kerry's anti-war role in such a troubling time in America is reason to admire him or to despise him. Or whether, so many decades later, it matters to them at all.

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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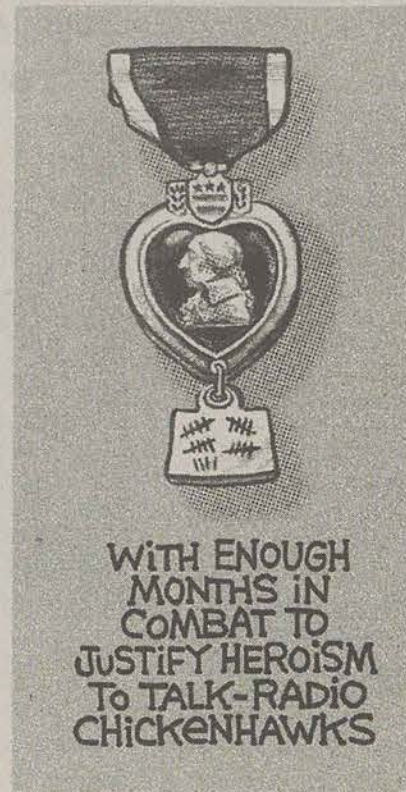
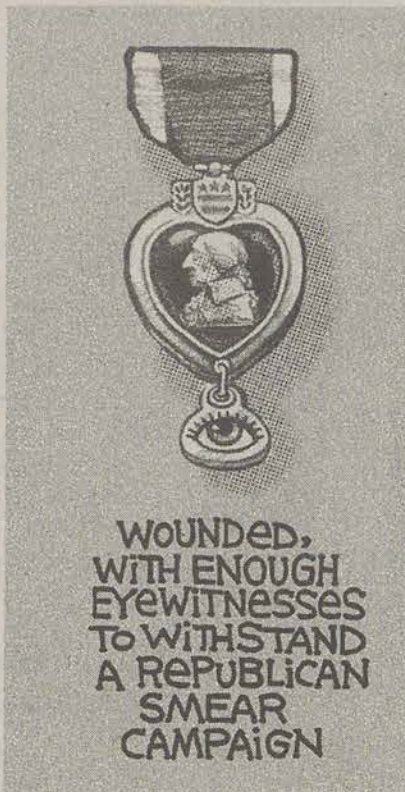
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NEW CATEGORIES FOR THE PURPLE HEART



Need a job? E-mail me...

The George-Anne wants writers. We need good ones.

And believe it or not, you need us.

If you're a journalism or public relations major and you have never written for our paper, you are making a bad career choice.

Not only are you missing out on a great chance to empower our student body, but you are also missing an opportunity to extend your résumé.

Don't just take my word for it. Employers think highly of student newspapers, too.

Angela Tuck, the hiring editor at the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, says her paper looks for journalists with 10 or more years of daily writing experience.

"We're looking for writers with a track record of producing first-rate journalism," said Tuck. "We want someone who has experience working on smaller staffs."

Unless you plan on making your stay at GSU extremely long, The George-Anne can't help you there. But, Tuck believes writing for student papers is a necessary step in a career path of any good journalist.

"I think good journalists should follow a certain path to get to the AJC," she said. "It involves writing as soon and as much as possible."

Don't make the mistake of assuming a college degree alone will land you a good-paying communications job.

Tuck, who hired between 18-20 new reporters last year, looks for writers who have written for their student newspaper, interned with daily papers, and worked for newspapers with a circulation under 100,000.

I see good writers in my classes all the time. They should be on our staff!

I get angry with those people, but I have to wonder if our editors are doing something wrong. Maybe we don't encourage good writers, or maybe in the past a student was turned off by the way we handled their story idea or submission.

Let me be the first to apologize if the reason you haven't written for our paper lies in our hands.

But if it's your ego that's standing in the way, let me point you in the right direction. I edit the *Hiatus*, and I am glad to offer you a red pen and a swing at designing your own story any time.

We welcome your story ideas, whether fluffy or controversial. And your input is just the sort of criticism we need.

On top of all the other good reasons to write for us, we pay you! Don't get me wrong, none of our staffers are making car payments or buying Rolex watches with their G-A paychecks. But, the money does cover the time it takes to produce the story.

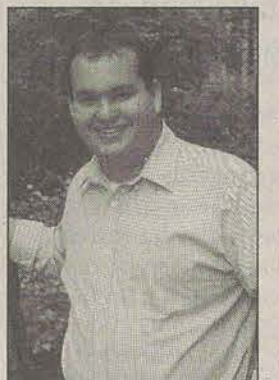
So if you want to squander this chance at writing for one of the state's most-awarded student newspapers, go right ahead. But, if you want to beef up your résumé by contributing to our staff, here's how you can:

Our office is located on the second floor of the Williams Center. My email is acrisp@georgiasouthern.edu and our telephone number is (912) 681-5246.

We have openings in every department. We want columnists, entertainment writers, news writers, and sports writers.

Drop me a line, and I will send you a story idea.

Adam Crisp is the *Hiatus* managing editor for The George-Anne.



Adam Crisp
Hiatus managing editor

The American food industry really frosts me

By Lenore Skenazy
KRT Campus

Do you think American food can get any more disgusting?

I mean, once Hellmann's has introduced Bacon & Tomato Twist mayonnaise - basically a liquid BLT you schmear onto bread (or lettuce, if you're doing Atkins) - it's hard to imagine anything less wholesome and natural unless we're talking Michael Jackson.

Which we're not. Because while everyone else is railing about pasty-faced alleged pedersers, who rails for the mom whose kids are demanding Chips Ahoy-flavored chocolate pudding in a tube?

Me! Your average, nauseated supermarket shopper, stunned to see there is now a liquefied version of what should be a solid cookie, served in a squeeze tube that should be a bowl, sucked directly into a mouth that, in an ideal world, should have demanded something a little daintier, like a plastic spoon.

Squeezable bacon. Suckable cookies. What next? Pepsi pellets?

I suppose I should really just thank my Lucky Charms - which, as you'll recall, introduced the concept of marshmallows as a crucial cereal

component - yes, I should thank my solidified corn syrup leprechauns that Jell-O has not yet started selling its pudding in timed-release patches.

Or single-serving injections. Or convenient surgical shunts.

Those are still in test marketing.

Already on the shelves, however, are foods almost as appealing/appalling (depending on your age), most the result of adding cookie elements to candy, candy elements to crackers or cookie/candy/cracker/crunch elements to yogurt.

Take, for instance, Nestlé's Butterfinger hot cocoa mix. Clearly, plain old hot chocolate just wasn't cutting it. Nor was hot chocolate with bunny-shaped marshmallows, another Nestlé's beverage. No, Nestlé's marketing mavens must have realized it was losing the entire demographic of Americans who want to quaff piping-hot pulverized candy bars. And so ... now they can!

Similarly, Chips Deluxe, a Chips Ahoy clone, has a new spinoff featuring mixed-in, mashed-up peanut butter cups. The chips are still there but now must compete for precious dough space with the candy chunks.

And speaking of cookie-candy hybrids, check out the ultimate: Ritz Bits S'mores sandwiches. These are graham-cracker-flavored mini-crackers glued together with a cream filling of marshmallow (clearly edging out grains as the new base of America's food pyramid) and chocolate. Each sandwich is then stamped with one of the Simpsons: Marge, Homer - even Lisa, who you'd think would refuse to let herself be appropriated this way.

But in the food biz, there is no shame. Everything old is new again, usually by virtue of extra icing or a dusting of sour cream 'n' onion flavoring.

If, God forbid, we are what we eat and we eat what they're trying to sell us, then perhaps we are as dumb as these instructions on an Oscar Mayer Lunchables Nachos package would suggest: "Dip chips into cheese and salsa." As my Ritz Bits cracker/cookie/candy/Simpsons/S'mores snacktime character might reply: "Doh!"

ABOUT THE WRITER

Lenore Skenazy is a columnist for the *New York Daily News*, 450 West 33rd Street, New York, N.Y. 10001; e-mail: lskenazy@edit.ny-dailynews.com.

CAPTAIN RIBMAN in Olympic Golden Showers



Graduate School: A look at what Georgia Southern has to offer

Special to the G-A

Thinking about Graduate School? Graduate education in the United States has existed for over 100 years. It is the role of graduate education to explore and advance the limits of knowledge and to define the state of the art in every field. Graduate education is a major source of future intellectual leaders of our society and is thus an integral and necessary part of our higher education system. In addition, recent data from the Council of Graduate Schools indicates that in comparison to the average salary for individuals holding an undergraduate degree, a graduate degree increases the earnings potential by 19.35 percent for a master's degree and 71 percent for the doctorate.

The Jack N. Averitt College of Graduate Studies at GSU seeks to become a national model for post-baccalaureate education, and research and creative scholarly activities. The College of Graduate Studies is committed to being at the forefront of best practices in graduate education, providing exemplary learning environments in which to educate our next generation of scholars, teachers, professionals, and global leaders. To achieve this level of excellence, the College seeks to be recognized, respected, and revered, for our student-centered approach,

academically distinct programs of study, and cutting-edge scholarship that serves society's need for creating and transmitting knowledge, improving practice, and advancing understanding.

In line with The University System of Georgia's Administrative Committee on Graduate Work (ACOGW) mission for graduate education, the purpose of the College of Graduate Studies is to contribute to the educational, cultural, economic, and social advancement of Georgia by providing excellent masters, professional, and doctoral degrees, by pursuing leading-edge research, scholarly inquiry, and creative endeavors; and by functioning as a cultural resource for the surrounding community.

Graduate enrollment for Fall 2003 at Georgia Southern University was 2008, representing a 16% increase over Fall 2002 and expanding the graduate population to 12.80% of the student population at the university. The University's strategic plan calls for increasing this percentage to 20% over the next 10 years. While enrollment in graduate programs tends to be inversely related to the economy, our growth over the last 2 years is far and away above the national trends being reported.

Graduate Programs at Southern

The College of Graduate studies offers over 40 outstanding graduate programs of study. Indeed, many of our programs have received national recognition for excellence in education at the graduate level.

•Applying to Graduate School

Applying to graduate school can be a time-consuming process. It is important to start early in deciding whether you want to go, where you will apply and when the best time would be for you to go. We recommend that you develop a timetable and checklist to keep you on track. Below is a sample you can customize to match the specific programs you are considering since they often vary significantly from institution to institution.

•Junior Year/Summer

Start looking through guides of graduate programs and deciding where you would like to apply. Call or write to schools to request catalogs. Determine test requirements, application deadlines, test dates, and so forth. Meet with faculty members and career consultants to discuss programs. Sign up for required standardized tests and take practice tests. The internet is also an excellent source of information with most programs having informative websites that include web-based applications.

•September/October

Take standardized tests, write a first draft of statement of purpose, and research financial aid sources, fellowships and assistantships. Meet with a career consultant for information on financial assistance and for a critique of the draft of your statement of purpose. Request another statement of purpose critique and recommendations from faculty members.

•November/December

Attend graduate school fairs/visitation days. Order official transcripts from the Registrar's Office. Finalize your statement of purpose according to the questions asked on the application. Mail your applications. Even if the deadlines are later, it is good to get applications in early. Apply for fellowships, grants and assistantships.

•January - March

Contact schools about the possibility of visiting and scheduling an interview. Fill out the Graduate and Professional School Financial Aid Service (GAPSFAS) form. If you are applying for need-based financial aid, you may have to file a copy of your federal income tax returns.

•April

Discuss acceptances, rejections and other career options with your career consultant.

Entrance Examinations

Most programs require students to present scores on standardized entrance exams. Registration booklets for all of the following tests are available at University Testing Services, located on the second floor of the Williams Center room 2004.

How can I find out more?

One of the best ways to ensure that you pick a graduate school that fits your career goals is to visit schools of interest to you, talk to the faculty, current graduate students, recent graduates, and look at the facilities. If visits are impossible, get what you can from reading the catalog and don't be afraid to make phone calls. People who are involved with good graduate programs are typically eager to share information about their graduate opportunities.

•Ask the Department/Faculty:

What is the department's philosophy concerning their particular discipline?

In what other professional capacities are the faculty working?

What kind of internship/practicum do students in this program acquire?

Are there teaching opportuni-



Luke Hearn/STAFF

Dr. Jack N. Averitt (above), for whom the College of Graduate Studies is named, worked at GSU for 34 years.

ties in this department for graduate students?

What are recent graduates doing now?

•Ask Current Students:

How do they feel about the education they are receiving?

What do they think are the strengths/weaknesses of the program?

Are the faculty members accessible to students?

See AVERITT, Page 9

CONVENTION, FROM PAGE 1

"The power of liberty cannot be stopped," the president told supporters in Lima, Ohio, borrowing a line from his work-in-progress acceptance address. "Freedom is peace. Free societies are not going to harbor al-Qaida."

But even free societies must be diligent. Security precautions here showed it.

Police were out in force guarding New York roadways, bridges, tunnels and ports, while vehicle restrictions on an 18-square-block area around the Garden snarled traffic in a city already congested.

Police said they might have headed off disaster as they arrested a U.S. citizen and a Pakistani national in an alleged plot to bomb a subway station in midtown Manhattan.

Inside the hall, the transformation from sports and entertainment center to convention site was complete, with a custom-made podium filling one side of the hall and thousands of balloons above.

A smattering of delegates had arrived mid-week for platform hearings, and scores more were making their way to the city. They won't starve for food or attention. Among the parties planned was a huge gathering at the Temple of Dendur at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and an intimate affair in an apartment high above

Fifth Avenue overlooking Central Park.

Bush arrives in his convention city Wednesday after an eight-state campaign swing. He'll spend one night in New York before bolting for the battlegrounds of Pennsylvania, Ohio and beyond shortly after accepting the GOP nomination.

Hughes said Bush will argue that the world and the nation are changing rapidly in the new century, forcing U.S. leaders to adapt. While a desire for stability guided foreign policy for decades, "now we recognize that only when our values and beliefs in freedom are able to take hold will we see our security improve."

Campaigning with Kerry in Washington state, retired Army Gen. Wesley Clark said Bush failed to act on terrorism before Sept. 11 and should be replaced. "George Bush is an incompetent commander in chief," said Clark, a former presidential candidate.

The domestic terrain is changing, too, with people constantly shifting jobs and women flooding the work force, Hughes said. "So he'll talk about skills and training and education and portability of things like health care and the ability to own a piece of your retirement."

Hughes declined to give details, but other Bush advisers said he was expected to outline

new initiatives on health care and post-secondary education. He will renew calls for tax simplification and allowing people to privatize part of their Social Security benefits, but is not expected to offer new initiatives in those areas.

Individually, none of the measures will be colossal, aides said, but collectively it will make a bold package that they argued will appeal to moderates, many of whom have grown wary of Bush's conservative views and the Iraq war.

Looking to the fall, campaign chairman Marc Racicot said he couldn't find any fault with an independent commission's proposal to sponsor three presidential debates and one vice presidential session. Kerry has accepted the proposal. Bush has not.

Bush comes to his convention with a bit of momentum in a race so evenly divided that the smallest movement could cause major ripples. A Time magazine poll suggests that Bush has gained ground on Kerry on the economy, Iraq and the question of who could best lead the nation through a difficult time.

But a potential problem loomed for Bush. In Washington, the FBI was investigating whether a Pentagon analyst fed secret materials to Israel.

CAREER, FROM PAGE 1

"Some reasons students should participate is to gain relevant work experience they can use to market themselves to potential employers," said Experiential Education Coordinator Wallace Brown. "Work experiences has helped students make decisions about their majors and gives them the chance to change career plans to pursue the correct field for them."

The Eagle Expo Career Fair will be held on October 28, where students will be able to network with employers in various fields.

More than 60 area companies will be at the expo meeting with students.

Many students find Career Services very helpful.

"I got really good materials and ideas about how to get started with things, my resumé, and Eagletrak. It's been very helpful," said student Daniel Holden.

The Career Services center has 20 computers available to students. Free career publications include *Grad Source*, *Georgia Hire*, *Georgia Trend*, and many more.

For more information about Career Services, visit <http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/career>, call 912-681-5197, or drop by the offices in the William's Center room 1047.

GAME BALL, FROM PAGE 1

The game ball is going to be carried by numerous bikers.

Riders are divided into teams, and the more bikers a team has the less miles each member will have to travel.

Riders must pay \$100 for a spot on a team, which may be raised through donations. Those having the highest

amount of donations will be allowed to carry the official game ball the farthest.

The last day to sign-up to be a part of a team carrying the ball will be September 1. If anyone is interested in participating in this trip, contact Dr. Deal at 681-2241 or 681-2241, or via e-mail at stdeal@georgiasouthern.edu.

CENTER FOR STUDENT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



GET THE EDGE

Eagle Leadership EDGE (Experience, Develop, Grow, and Emerge) is a great way for new students to take the first step toward becoming a leader at Georgia Southern. This 10-week leadership development program includes training in communication, personality, team building, diversity, and much more. EDGE is offered during both the Fall and Spring Semesters.

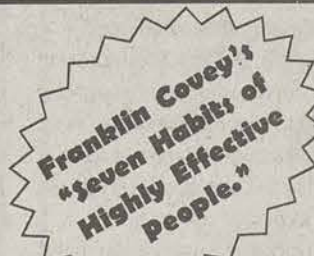
SIGN UP BY SEPTEMBER 3RD FOR THE FALL CLASS:
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 - NOVEMBER 28
OR
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 - NOVEMBER 29
3:30 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

THE ACCENT IS ON YOU!

Leadership Accent is designed for students who were in EDGE or who have previous leadership training. This is an advanced leadership class that focuses on leadership theories and their application into practice.

SIGN UP BY SEPTEMBER 3RD FOR THE FALL CLASS:
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 1
3:30 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

For more information, please call 871-1435 or stop by the office in Russell Union Suite 2002. You can also visit the web site at <http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/leadership>.



THE FIFTH ANNUAL EAGLE SUMMIT LEADERSHIP RETREAT. THE opportunity to join together for a day of leadership, collaboration, and goal setting. Don't miss your chance to enhance your leadership skills, the leadership of your organization, and the student leadership at Georgia Southern.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
RUSSELL UNION
SIGN UP TODAY!

This year Eagle Summit will feature professional facilitation of **FRANKLIN COVEY'S "SEVEN HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE PEOPLE."** Deadline for application is **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD**, along with the \$10 registration fee.

WHAT TO EXPECT...

- Indoor/Outdoor activities
- Networking with other campus leaders
- Brainstorming and goal-setting

WHO SHOULD ATTEND...

- Student organization officers
- Student organization members
- Anyone interested in developing their leadership skills

For registration information, contact the Center for Student Leadership Development at (912) 871-1435, stop by Russell Union Suite 2002, or visit us on the web at: <http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/leadership>

Georgia Southern Football



LaVene Bell/STAFF

Quarterback Chaz Williams, pictured above at the Blue and White game, led Georgia Southern to three touchdowns during the third preseason scrimmage at Paulson Stadium, Friday, August 27.

Eagles impress in third preseason scrimmage

GSU Athletics Media Relations

The Georgia Southern offense accumulated 433 yards of total offense and scored touchdowns on four of its five possessions in the Eagles' third and final preseason scrimmage Friday afternoon at Allen E. Paulson Stadium.

The offense opened the scrimmage, which featured the Eagle's first and second teams playing against the GSU scout team, quickly as it scored its first touchdown on the fourth play from scrimmage. After three runs netted Georgia Southern 17 yards, Lyon Jefferson broke through for a 48-yard run for the score. Jefferson, who later added a 27-yard rush, led the Eagles in rushing on the day as he picked up 115 yards on just seven carries.

After the Eagle defense had its first turn with the scout team offense, quarterback Chaz Williams led Georgia Southern to three touchdowns on the next drive. The senior completed a 64-yard pass to Teddy Craft for the first score before hooking up with Jayson Foster for a 26-yard touchdown throw later in the drive. Williams capped off the possession as he ran for a 10-yard touchdown.

Trey Hunter directed Georgia Southern to its third touchdown as he scored on a one-yard run while Williams finished off the scoring with a two-yard run in the fourth possession. The scout team stopped the Eagle offense on the final drive, forcing a punt after the second team offense had advanced to the opponent's 40-yard line.

The GSU defense was just as dominant on the day as it gave up just one touchdown, on the final drive of the scrimmage, to the scout team offense. Overall, the defense limited the scout team to just 108 yards rushing, on 33 carries, and 65 yards passing. The defense intercepted two passes on the scrimmage, one by James Young and the other by A.J. Bryant, and recorded three sacks. Derrick Butler led the Eagles with seven tackles while Young finished with four and Tariq Muhammad and John Mohring with three each.

The Georgia Southern offense accumulated 248 yards rushing on 33 carries (7.5 ypc) and completed six-of-14 passes for 185 yards. Williams had 11 rushes for 57 yards and completed three-of-eight passes for 140 yards. For the second straight scrimmage, Foster led the Eagles in receiving, hauling

See SCRIMMAGE, Page 7

STATISTICS:

Rushing: Lyon Jefferson (7-115, TD), Chaz Williams (11-57, TD), Trey Hunter (4-17, TD), Marquice Maynard (2-15), Jermaine Austin (2-14, TD), Darius Smiley (2-9), Brandon Andrews (2-6), Tim Gehrsitz (2-2), Lance Turner (1-3). Totals - 33-248 (7.5 ypc), 4 TD.

Passing: Chaz Williams (8-3-0, 140, 2 TD), Trey Hunter (4-2-0, 32), Darius Smiley (2-1-0, 13). Totals - 14-6-0, 185, 2 TD.

Receiving: Jayson Foster (2-76, TD), Teddy Craft (1-64, TD), Marquice

Maynard (1-20), Reggie McCutchen (1-13), P.J. Cantrell (1-12). Totals - 6-185, 2 TD.

Tackles: Derrick Butler (7), James Young (4, INT), Tariq Muhammad (3), John Mohring (3), DeShawn Jude (2), Charrod Taylor (2), Victor Cabral (2), David Willingham (2), Rico Zackery (2), A.J. Bryant (2, INT), Terence McBride (1), Matt Rio (1), Jason Earwood (1), Devron Jefferson (1), Lewis Barr (1), Jack Sherman (1), Shannon Higdon (1), Eric Hadley (1, sack), Eric McIntire (1), Duwan Northcutt (1)

The Olympic ABCs

FROM Athens TO Beijing, China



AP Photo/Ben Curtis

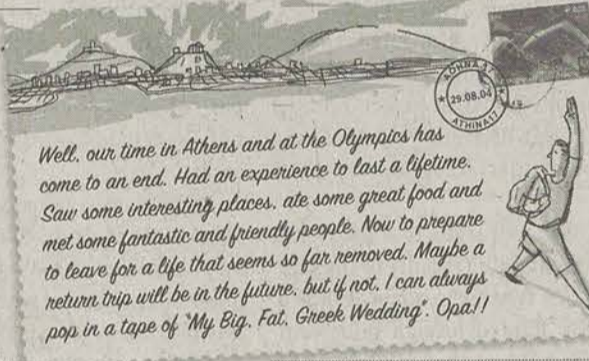
COMPETITION

Ladies first

United States women's basketball team used a fourth-quarter surge over Australia to lead them to a 72-63 final victory Saturday. It marked their third consecutive gold and fifth in seven Olympics in which they have participated.



USA's team celebrates after win.



Well, our time in Athens and at the Olympics has come to an end. Had an experience to last a lifetime. Saw some interesting places, ate some great food and met some fantastic and friendly people. Now to prepare to leave for a life that seems so far removed. Maybe a return trip will be in the future, but if not, I can always pop in a tape of "My Big, Fat, Greek Wedding". Opa!!

Medal count

Top winners

COUNTRY	G	S	B	TOT
United States	34	38	28	100
Russia	23	26	35	84
China	31	17	14	62
Australia	17	16	16	49
Germany	14	15	18	47
Japan	15	10	11	36
France	11	8	12	31
Italy	9	10	11	30
Britain	9	8	12	29
South Korea	8	11	9	28

Beijing Mayor Wang Qishan waves the Olympic flag after receiving it from Athens Mayor Dora Bakoyannis during the closing ceremony of the 2004 Summer Olympics in the Olympic Stadium in Athens, Sunday, Aug. 29, 2004. Jacques Rogge, president of the International Olympic Committee, looks on.

Triumphant Olympics end with pride and relief

By Steve Wilstein
Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece - Efharisto!

A nervous world learned the Greek word for thank you and repeated it endlessly at an astonishingly successful Athens Olympics that quelled fears, surprised skeptics and greatly honored the birthplace of the games.

Efharisto, Athens, for architectural masterpieces of stadiums and arenas that showcased record performances. The fountain sprays, reflecting pools and soaring arches. The undulating, giant white Wall of Nations that caught the whispering wind, bringing music to our ears and smiles to our faces.

Efharisto for the thousands of security forces who stood guard day and night, keeping terrorism away. An undercurrent of danger, a sense of tranquility. We saw guns everywhere, walked in peace.

Fireworks and spectacular lighting kicked off the closing ceremony Sunday night, an extravaganza of folk dancing and music in the Olympic tradition that summed up the glee and relief the games brought to Greece. Shortly afterward, thousands of athletes marched into the stadium, waving their arms and flags, snapping photos of each other and bathing in the cheers of 70,000 fans.

"You have won," International Olympic Committee president Jacques Rogge told the Greek people, who responded with a roar. "You have won by brilliantly meeting the tough challenge of holding the games."

"These were unforgettable, dream games."

He was right, even if they started slowly the first week with empty seats



AP Photo/Ben Curtis

An unidentified athlete wears a tee-shirt inviting all to the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, during the closing ceremony for the 2004 Olympic Games at the Olympic stadium in Athens, Greece, Sunday, August 29.

and vacant plazas as many Greeks took their holidays and frightened tourists stayed away.

The second week saw the games transformed. The huge Olympic stadium was packed each night for track and field. There had been no shortage of worries that Athens would not be ready for these games. As late as March 2000, the IOC considered moving the Olympics out of Greece, possibly to South Korea.

"It's always nice to underpromise and overdeliver," said Jim Easton, an American IOC vice president.

Athletes who finished their events partied, roaming the Plaka, Syntagma and Omonia squares. It was Greece at its rollicking best, a spirited fusion of visitors from all countries, and of all colors and ages.

It reminded us again, at a time when we need all the reminding we can get, that the Olympics celebrate humanity's highest aspirations, the universal quest for peace and the exalted qualities of body, mind and spirit that transcend cultures.

Efharisto, Athens, for coupling the ancient with the new, putting up with

years of jarring construction, spending billions beyond your budget, and giving us a glimpse of your future as a sophisticated, modern city.

"The world discovered a new Greece," said Athens 2004 president Gianna Angelopoulos-Daskalaki, who made it all happen with her fierce determination to overcome construction delays and avoid an international humiliation.

These games took us to their sacred origin in Olympia, the mythological

See OLYMPICS, Page 7

The birds are back in town: Atlanta Falcons set sights on defensive improvement

By Jason Burke
jburke9@georgiasouthern.edu

Coming off a disappointing campaign in 2003, the revamped Falcons look to go from cellar dwellers in the NFC South to contenders.

To accomplish this, the Falcons need a healthy Mike Vick and much improvement on the defensive side of the ball. The bad news is, last year the Falcons defense was soft. Their undersized defensive front and patch-

work secondary caused them to finish last in the NFL in total defense and last in total yards allowed.

New general manager of the Falcons Rich McKay, architect of the 2002 superbowl champion Buccaneers, has added size and speed to this anemic defense. The Falcons prized first round draft pick DeAngelo Hall possesses world class speed and could be the shutdown corner they need.

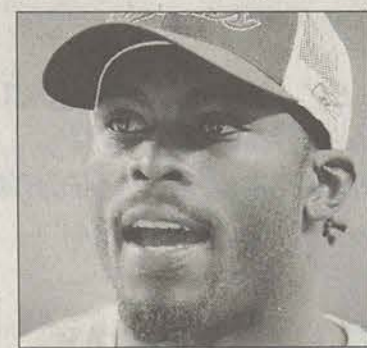
To strengthen an undermanned

defensive line, they added Rod Coleman who has spent his first five years with the Raiders, where he has accumulated 29 sacks, eleven of which came in 2002. Combined with Patrick Kerney, who led the team last year with seven sacks, the defense should put pressure on opposing quarterbacks.

The Falcons return a solid core of linebackers including the team's best defensive player Keith Brooking. He is

complimented by fast but undersized linebackers Matt Stewart and Chris Draft. If DeAngelo can be dominant early, the secondary rounded out by free safety Cory Hall and newly acquired Fred Beasley could be solid.

The new offensive system brought in by Jim Mora Jr., allows Mike Vick to get rid of the ball earlier avoiding some of the big hits he has taken in



AP Photo/Ric Feld

Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick (7) watches from the sidelines late in third quarter play against the Cincinnati Bengals at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta Saturday, August 28.

See FALCONS, Page 7



AP Photo/Paul Chiasson

Fireworks light up the Olympic stadium during closing ceremonies of the Olympic Summer Games in Athens, Sunday, August 29.

OLYMPICS, FROM PAGE 6

home of the gods, to watch the shot put, to Marathon to stand on the spot where the race got its name.

We trod like pilgrims to a shrine up the dusty stones of the Acropolis to gaze with awe at the 2,500-year-old Parthenon. Our imaginations did the rest, letting us feel the spirit of Socrates, Plato and Aristotle; Pericles and Alexander the Great; Hippocrates and Herodotus; Euclid and Pythagoras — that brainy bunch who laid the foundation for our culture.

The scourge of sports — steroids, stimulants and other drugs — intruded but didn't spoil the games. A record two dozen athletes were caught, seven lost medals, and there could be more to come as the test results keep rolling in.

"Each positive test is a blessing for us because it's eliminating the cheats and protecting the clean athletes," Rogge said. "The more we find, the better."

There were scandals and controversies, as always. Greek sprint stars Kostas Kenteris and Katerina Thanou

broke their countrymen's hearts — and angered many — when they pulled out of the games after questions over missed drug tests and a suspicious motorcycle crash the night before the opening ceremony.

Three gymnastics judges were suspended after it was determined South Korean Yang Tae-young was scored improperly, costing him a gold medal that went to American Paul Hamm.

Even the final event, the men's marathon, was marred an hour before the closing ceremony when a defrocked Irish priest bolted from the crowd and grabbed the leader, Brazil's Vanderlei de Lima, about three miles from the finish. De Lima recovered and finished, but had to settle for a bronze when a protest by his track federation was rejected.

"I was scared, because I didn't know what could happen to me, whether he was armed with a knife, a revolver or something, and whether he was going to kill me," de Lima said. "That's what cost me the gold medal."

The marathon medalists, gold win-

ner Stefano Baldini of Italy, American silver medalist Meb Keflezighi, and de Lima received their olive wreaths and medals at the closing ceremony.

These Olympics saw the rise of China as a sports superpower as it positioned itself for the 2008 games in Beijing. The United States, buoyed by the brilliance of swimming star Michael Phelps but embarrassed by the three losses and mere bronze of its once-vaunted men's basketball team, won the most medals.

Americans beat their target of 100 by three, 35 of them gold. Russia finished second with 92, including 27 gold. China was third with 63 medals, 32 gold.

Greeks gathered at cafes and tavernas in the Plaka to watch the marathon and the closing ceremony on wide screens and TV sets.

"The Greeks showed once again what they're capable of if they set their minds to it," said Yianna Mihalakpoulou, a graphic designer.

And, once again, Efaristo!

SCRIMMAGE, FROM PAGE 6

in two passes for 76 yards. The Eagles had no turnovers on the day.

"I thought our defense missed too many tackles today," said head coach Mike Sewak. "Our young guys were competitive and made us miss some, but other times our guys just missed and we can't have that. I was disheartened that we allowed the scout team to score on the final two-minute drill."

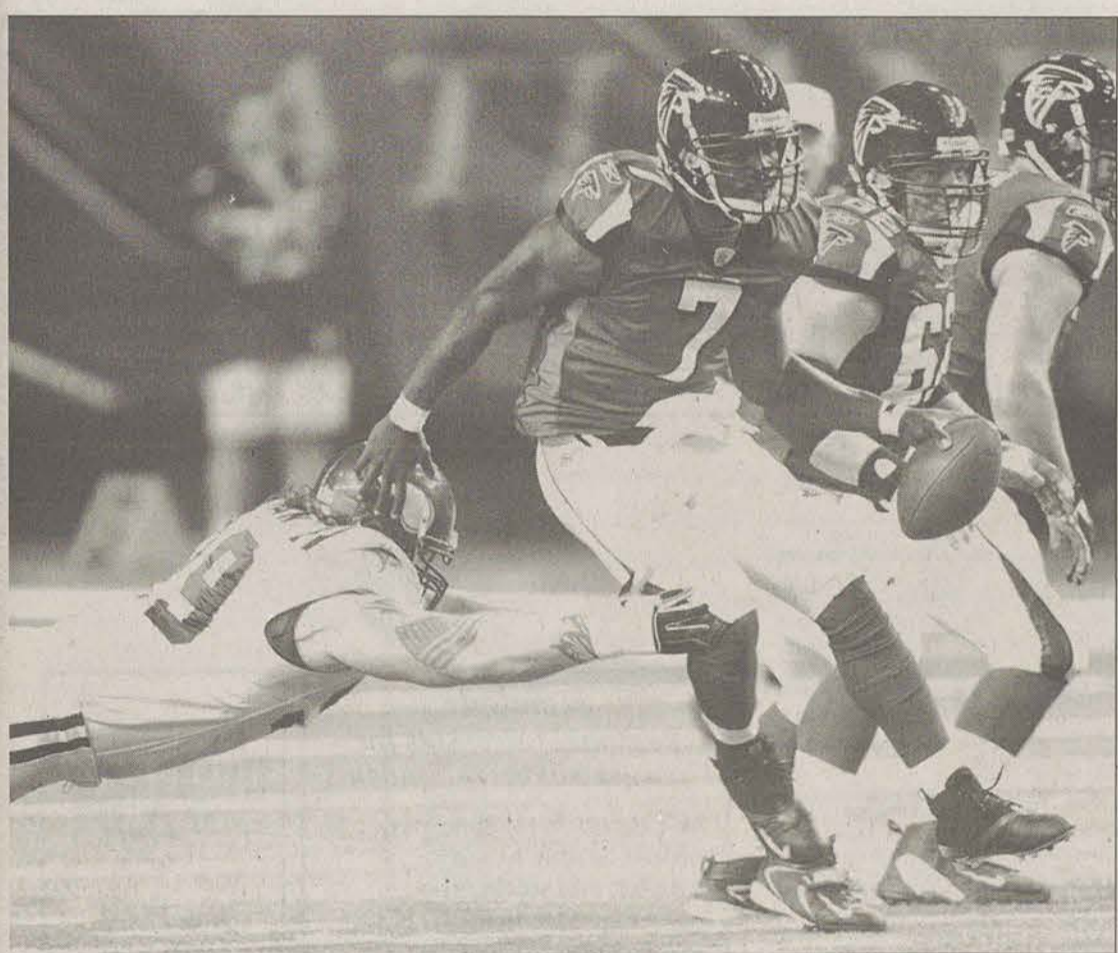
"We tried to simulate several different situations today and overall we seemed to do okay in each of them," he continued. "Both of our quarterbacks (Williams and Hunter) had good field awareness and directed the offense well. They are supposed to do that as seniors so it was good to see them step up and do it. Our offensive line needs to develop some more. Some of the guys are ready to go, but we need more to get there in order to win games."

Georgia Southern takes the weekend off before returning Monday afternoon at 3:30 p.m. to the Eagle Practice Complex for its final week of preparations for the season opener at Georgia September 4.



LaVene Bell/STAFF

TICKET INFORMATION: 2004 Georgia Southern Football tickets are currently available online at www.georgiasoutherneagles.com or at the GSU Athletic Ticket Office in the Cowart Building (adjacent to Paulson Stadium) from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Reserved season ticket packages can be purchased for \$90.00 (chairback) and \$78.00 (non-chairback) while single game tickets can be obtained for \$18.00 (adults) and \$7.00 (youth general admission/grass). To reserve your seats, please call 681-0123 or 1-800-GSU-WINS.



AP Photo/Ric Feld

Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick (7) holds off Minnesota Vikings tackle Chris Hovan (99) during the first quarter at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta on Friday, August 20.

FALCONS, FROM PAGE 6

the past. The west coast offense will allow Vick to utilize his talented group of receivers including Peerless Price and rookie out of Ohio State, Michael Jenkins. Tight end Alge Crumpler and running back Warrick Dunn should thrive in this system given that they are great pass catchers.

The Falcons young offensive line is getting better and is led by right tackle Todd Weiner. Meanwhile, with the Broncos, new offensive line Coach Alex Gibbs used smaller, quicker offensive linemen.

Some believe his system was responsible for running backs Terrell Davis and Clinton Portis putting up record breaking numbers.

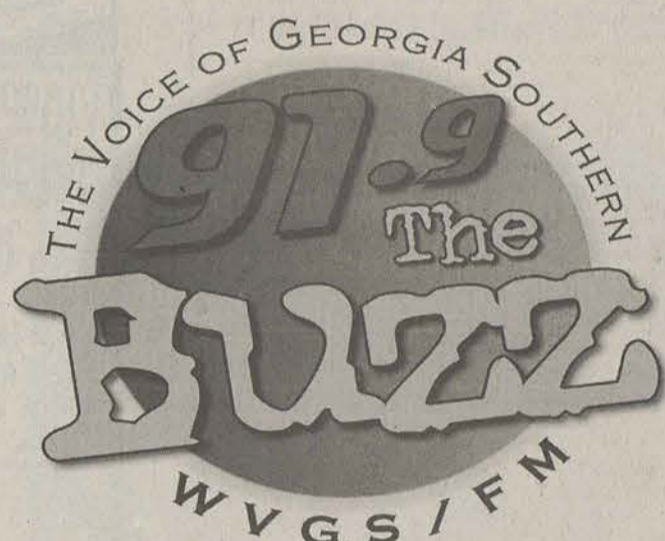
The receiving team will be tough to defend if Price can be the big play receiver they are paying him to be. He should succeed

given that Vick is healthy and he is surrounded by big targets 6'4" Michael Jenkins and 6'5" Brian Finneran who should take some of the pressure of him.

Vick should have a big year in the new offense and running backs T.J. Duckett and Warrick Dunn who combined for 1,451 yards rushing last season should form a lightning and thunder combination.

The NFC South may be the NFL's toughest division with the incumbent champion Carolina and 2002 Super bowl champion Tampa Bay to compete with.

While the Falcons may be weaker in some areas, a healthy Mike Vick is a great equalizer. In the NFC, which is weaker than the AFC, Vicks ability to make plays could take them deep into the playoffs.



**JOIN KENNY COFER,
BRETT TAYLOR AND
THE REST OF THE
WVGS SPORTS TEAM
FOR EAGLE FOOTBALL!!**

Join us for our pregame show 30 minutes before kick-off and stay tuned for live play by play coverage with the college sports leader. Presented with no commercial interruptions.

2004 GEORGIA SOUTHERN FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Sept. 4, 3:00 p.m., at Georgia
Sept. 11, 6:00 p.m. Johnson C. Smith
Sept. 18 7:30 p.m. Wofford
Oct. 2, 1:00 p.m. Elon
Oct. 16, 12:00 p.m. Appalachian State
Oct. 30, 1:00 p.m. South Dakota State
Nov. 6, 2:00 p.m. at Furman

2004-2005

INTRAMURAL SPORTS

Campus Recreation & Intramurals

Officials' Clinics for Flag Football

August 30 9:00 p.m. Auxiliary Gym
August 31 9:00 p.m. Multiplex
September 1 9:00 p.m. Multiplex

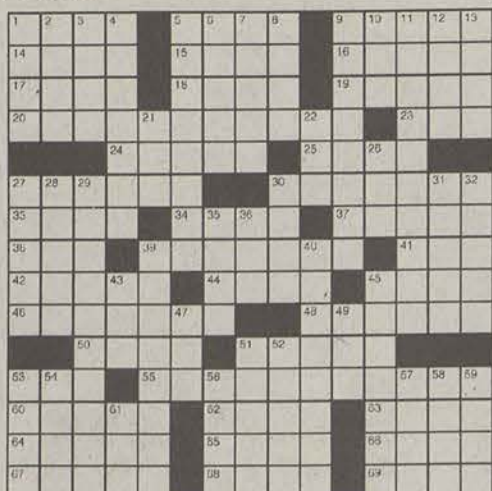
For more information, contact the Intramural Sports Staff at 681-5436 or visit the CRI Office, located in the RAC Room 2116.

Visit us online at www.georgiasouthern.edu/services/cri for information on entry deadlines, team schedules, current standings and upcoming events.

2004-2005

Crossword

- ACROSS**
1 Tanker or liner
5 Shuttle launcher
9 Famine's opposite
14 Mexican coin
15 Cookie man
16 Classic single
17 Vessels for ashes
18 Pocket-sized
19 Long, narrow crest
20 Diamondback
23 Wayside stop
24 Old-fashioned
25 Sacred wading bird
27 Spanish grocery
30 Parkas
33 Peck film, with "The"
34 Pugilist's undoing
37 Lodge entry
38 Big klutz
39 Part of IRS
41 Breakfasted
42 The ones here
44 Broad-minded
45 Be an



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Solutions

- 6 Not quite right
7 Jazzman Rollins
8 Far East
9 Portend
10 Actor Wallach
11 Capital of Ethiopia
12 Conventional symbol
13 Twist 12 and 20
21 Unhewn timber
22 Reunion group
26 Anger
27 Kiosk
28 WWII invasion beach
29 Justifiable
30 Top-down
31 Windblown toys
32 Editor's marks
35 Bard's river
36 Uh-huh
39 Didn't leave
40 Remove, as a verb
43 NCO rank
45 Yellowish pink shade
47 Supply with weapons
49 Still
51 Ordeal
52 Rajah's wives
53 Ado
54 Spoiled tot
56 Vatican figure
57 Coca-Cola
58 Farmhand measure
59 Gardner's soil
61 "Maria"

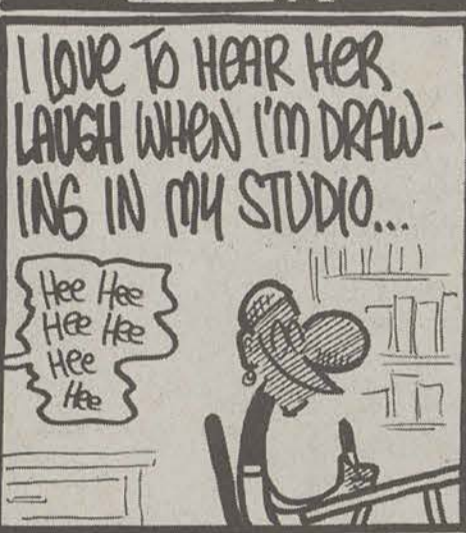
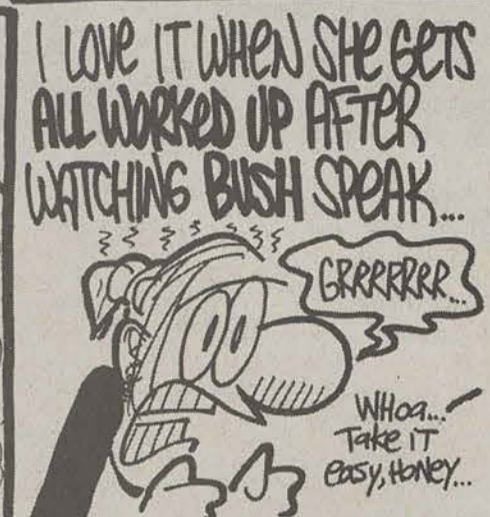
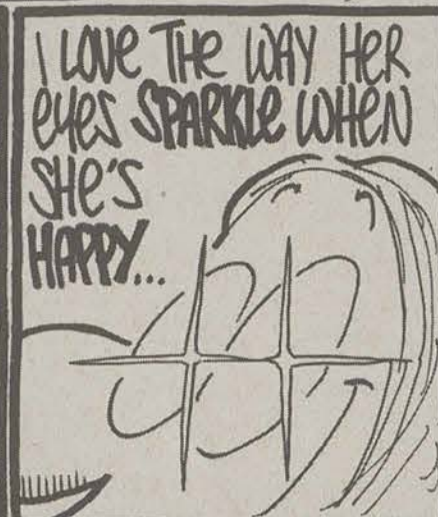
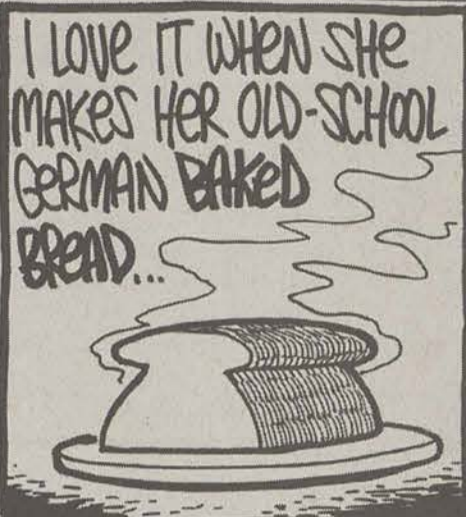
THE K CHRONICLES

SO I LOVE THE K.K.K... SO WHAT?

YE OWE WIFEY'S BIRTHDAY IS JUST SEVEN DAYS AFTER VALENTINE'S DAY.. SO, IN HONOR OF KERSTIN KONIETZKA-KNIGHT WEEK, THIS STRIP IS DEDICATED TO THE MISSUS....



Write to: P.O. Box 591744 San Francisco, CA 94159
© 2004 K. K. Knight



20 Announcements

FEELING SAD blue because no one attends your club meetings? Put an announcement in *The George-Anne* classified section and fill those empty seats! Just *Rip Us Off*, it's free!
POKER DISCUSSION Group, Monday 6 pm to 8 pm. Topics ranging from starting hand basics to advanced psychological thought processes. E-mail gouging_away@hotmail.com.
HAVE A special friend or significant other with an upcoming birthday? Show your love by announcing to the world that it's their birthday! Place an ad in the G-A today.

an ad in *The George-Anne* classified section, and we promise, one of the 16,000 students on this campus will respond.

75 Churches

DOES YOUR church have student services or meetings? Place an ad in *The George-Anne* and new members might join.

90 Education

FUN & STUFF Visit our Web site for list of things to do that are educational and fun. <http://www.stp.georgiasouthern.edu/funstuff/>

120 Furniture & Appliances

LARGE PIECE of berber carpet \$30; twin bed w/ headboard mattress \$75; both items excellent condition, please call 764-7469
TWO BLACK stools \$20. Please call Kelli 770-265-2155
GREAT DEAL Moving out sale. Miscellaneous kitchen and bedroom items available. Interested? Call 912-678-1563
FOR SALE: Whirlpool washer. Excellent condition. 5 cycles, all temps, extra rinse cycle. Call for more info 764-4933 or leave message.

140 Help Wanted

AMERICA READS needs your help! If you enjoy helping children and are work-study eligible, please call Mary Woods in the Educational Opportunities Program for details.
NEEDED: SOMEONE WHO can micro-braid hair well and won't mind coming to my home. Please call: 871-4923 asap.

THE STATESBORO Bulloch County Parks and Recreation Department is now accepting applications for afterschool counselors. The position is responsible for supervising school-age children, including those with special needs. Special Education, Therapeutic Recreation, and/or related majors a plus. Must be available Monday-Friday 2pm-6pm. Apply in person at the Honey Bowen Building, 1 Max Lockwood Drive, Statesboro.

WORK STUDY eligible? Positions available in Continuing Education at the Nessmith-Lane Building. Duties may include event setup, clerical work, and reception. Call 681-5555 or see EagleTRAK.

150 Lost & Found

LOSE SOMETHING? Find it by placing an ad in *The G-A* today.

160 Miscellaneous for Sale

GE REFRIGERATOR almost 3ft high, \$70. Full size air hockey table, \$100. Football table, \$25. Call Mike at 541-3893.
NEED TO sell something... anything? Put it in *The George-Anne's* classified section. One man's trash is another man's treasure.
BEER AND LIQUOR signs for sale cheap prices. Call Kelli at 760-265-2155.
FOR SALE: Ibanez Bass Guitar, \$200. HP Color Printer, \$75. 52x speed burner, \$50. Linkeys PC card, \$25. Call Whit @ 489-2049.

165 Mobile Homes

FOR SALE 2001 2BR/2BA Mobile Home. Includes dishwasher, dryer. Located in Greenhaven, 5 miles from GSU. \$24,000 OBO. Call 239-292-3184
QUIET COUNTRY Living: 3 bedrooms 2 full baths double wide home on my farm. Denmark area. 839-9040 agent owner.
TWO BEDROOM, one bath mobile home. Washer/dryer, satellite, fenced yard, pets allowed. \$395 includes water and lot rent. Call 681-8138

170 Motorcycles

FOR SALE 1999 Suzuki GXSR 600 yellow and black 12,000 miles. Must see. \$4,900 obo. Call 912-541-6111.

195 Personal Electronics

ROCKFORD FOSGATE Punch x250.2 amp and two 10 inch Rockford Fosgate Series 1 Speakers in box. \$200 OBO. Call Chad at 541-0314

200 Pets & Supplies

BEAUTIFUL FULL-blooded female Himalayan with papers. Looking to find a good home. Please call 912-587-5636 to make an offer.

220 Rentals & Real Estate

HOUSE FOR rent, 820 Robin Hood Trail, 4 bed/3 bath. Fenced in backyard. Pet friendly. Call for special price. 764-1130.
STADIUM WALK two rooms for lease \$200 per person. Free couches no deposit pet friendly. Hurry. Call Brooke 779-714-6901
FOR RENT by owner. Stadium Walk or Park Place. Has washer and dryer. Small pets acceptable. \$400 per month. 764-7528 or 541-4885.
1996 16X30 Horton shingle roof, vinyl siding, CHA stove,

PAUL



230 Roommates

FEMALE ROOMMATE needed for Garden District. Call Brooke 770-714-6901

THIRD ROOMMATE needed. Large 3 bed/3 bath house with dog and cat. \$300/ month plus utilities. Call Jackson 377-7652 for more info.

FEMALE ROOMMATE needed asap. \$350/ month includes utilities. Walking distance to campus. Call Ashley: 871-4273.

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.

FEMALE ROOMMATE needed immediately. For a 3 bed/2 bath house. Rent is \$265. House is clean and new. The roommates are

friendly and have known each other for six years. If interested, call and leave a message for Sarah and Andrea at 912-852-3071.

A WM or wf roommate is needed for a three bedroom house. Newly remodeled in Sherwood Forest. Near campus, across from stadium. Call 912-481-5646.

WANTED: MALE roommate for 4 bedroom house, across from Hanner. Walk to school. \$215.50/month plus utilities. Great location, house and male roommates. Please call Justin at 912-601-3578.

ONE BEDROOM for rent in 3 BR house. \$335 free internet, cable w/HBO. Private bath. Includes wash/dryer. Pets accepted. Call Corey 404-451-7873

260 Stereo & Sounds

FOR SALE: two 10" Rockford Fosgate Punch sub-

290 Travel

FUN & STUFF Visit our Web site for list of places to visit and things to do that are both educational and fun. On-line at <http://www.stp.georgiasouthern.edu/funstuff/>

SPRING BREAK 2005 with STS. America's #1 Student Operator. Hiring campus reps. Call for reservations 1-800-648-4849 www.ststravel.com

320 Word Processing/Typing DATA ENTRY typing, resumes call 685-9162 after 6 pm

Needed: Personal Care Aids for Georgia Southern Students

• CPR certification desired.
• Must be able to work nights and weekends.
• Must be able to lift 50 pounds.
• No criminal record.

Contact Ramona Lancaster at B&B Personal Care, 800-657-7017

French Quarter Cafe

Now Hiring All Positions Resumes & Applications to: 106-B Savannah Ave. 30458

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

The *George-Anne* is the official student newspaper of Georgia Southern University, owned and operated by GSU students and utilizing the facilities provided by GSU. The newspaper is the oldest continuously published in Bulloch County and Statesboro, Ga. The ideas expressed herein are those of the editor or the individual authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Student Media Advisory Board, the administration, the faculty and staff of Georgia Southern University, or the University System of Georgia. The *George-Anne* is published three times weekly (Monday-Wednesday-Thursday) during the academic year and six times during summers. Any questions regarding content should be directed to the editor at by phone at 912/681-5246 or fax at 912/486-7113. Readers may access the newspaper and its archives staff by visiting our web

site at <http://www.stp.georgiasouthern.edu>.

STUDENTS BEWARE

The *George-Anne* screens all advertisements prior to publication. The newspaper strives to accept ads for legitimate products and services only. Students are urged to exercise caution when replying to ads—particularly those which require a credit card number, other personal information, or money in advance of the delivery of a product or service. Students are also urged to report to the newspaper any suspicious offers which they might see in an ad. Remember, if an offer seems too good to be true, it probably is.

FREEBIE INFO

ALL FREE student and faculty ads to be run in the *George-Anne* must have a NAME, P.O. BOX and PHONE NUMBER. Ads will be rejected if they do not have this information. NO EXCEPTIONS.

OFFICES, MAIL, PHONES

Room 2023, F. I. Williams

Center. The *George-Anne*, P.O. Box 8001, Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, Ga. 30460. 912/681-5246 (News) or 912/618-5418 (Advertising) or 912/486-7113 (Fax); 912/681-0069 (adviser).

EMAIL DIRECTORY

Editor in Chief gaeditor@georgiasouthern.edu
Managing Editor gamed@georgiasouthern.edu
News Editor ganews@georgiasouthern.edu
Advertising ads@georgiasouthern.edu

ADVERTISING INFORMATION

The *George-Anne* reserves the right to refuse any advertisement.

DISPLAY AD DEADLINE:

The deadline for reserving space and submitting advertising copy is Noon, one week prior to the intended publication date.

FOR MORE INFO, rate cards, sample publications, contact: Lindsey Treadwell, Marketing Director, ADS, (912) 681-5418, ads@georgiasouthern.edu; or Bill Neville, Student Media Coordinator, (912) 681-0069, bneville@georgiasouthern.edu

PROOFING/ERRORS/OMISSIIONS:

The newspaper makes every reasonable effort to present correct and complete information in advertisements. However, the advertiser is responsible for proofing the ad upon publication and should notify the newspaper immediately in the event of an error. The newspaper is not responsible for any errors in advertisements and its liability for adjustments is limited to the amount of space the error occupied in the ad. Further, the newspaper is not responsible for any damages caused due to an ad's omission from a particular edition and its responsibility solely to reschedule the ad in the next regular edition at the regular advertising rates.

CLASSIFIED ADS: Free classified ads from students, faculty and staff must be non-commercial in nature and submitted in writing, with the name of the sender, local address, and phone number. No free ads taken via telephone—at this price we don't take dictation. One free ad per person per week. Commercial classified are 25 cents per word with a \$5 minimum per insertion. Tearsheets are \$2 extra per insertion.

CIRCULATION INFORMATION:

Mail subscriptions are not available at this time. However, readers may visit our web site for free access to current and past issues. Visit www.stp.georgiasouthern.edu. It is the goal of the newspaper to have its edition placed on-line within 24 hours of publication. Breaking news will be placed on-line as warranted. The *George-Anne* is distributed free of charge on the Georgia Southern University campus through delivery sites located in campus buildings, at off-campus sites,

and in residence halls.

NOTICE

Readers may pick up one free copy, and a second for a roommate or acquaintance, at distribution sites. Additional copies are 50 cents each and are available at the Williams Center. However, unauthorized removal of additional copies from a distribution site constitutes theft under Georgia law, a misdemeanor offense punishable by a fine and/or jail time. Editors will seek to have any person(s) who removes more than the authorized number of copies from distribution sites prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

NOTE

We gratefully acknowledge the theft of our slogan—"Liked by Many, Cussed by Some, Read by them All"—from Robert Williams of the Blackshear Times. Call Bob and he can tell you who stole it from originally.

Rip us off

That's right, classified ads are free for students, faculty and staff. Here's the deal: 20 words or less, submitted with this handy form or via email to ads@georgiasouthern.edu. You can also place ads in person at the G-A office, Room 2022, Williams Center. One ad per person per issue. Non-commercial use only.

Name: _____
Telephone: _____
Address: _____

Name, address and telephone number is required for ALL free ads.

Send your classified ad to:
The *George-Anne*
P.O. Box 8001,
Statesboro, GA 30460

Sorry, no free ads accepted by telephone. At these prices we don't take dictation

Georgia senator set to deliver party line for different party

By Jeffrey McMurray
Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Some Democrats who have known him longest say they're mystified by the transformation of Sen. Zell Miller, the Georgia Democrat tapped to give the keynote speech at the Republican National Convention.

The toughest question isn't why he made the leap, but when?

Twelve years ago at New York's Madison Square Garden - the same arena where he will deliver the nominating speech for President Bush on Wednesday - Miller gave a rousing keynote speech for Democrat Bill Clinton. In it, he said the Republican Party has "dealt in cynicism and skepticism" and "robbed us of our hope."

Three years ago at the Georgia Democratic Party's Jefferson-Jackson dinner, Miller called Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry, now the Democrats' presidential nominee, "one of this nation's authentic heroes."

Two years ago it was practically impossible to turn on a television in Georgia without seeing a commercial showing Miller strongly endorsing one of the state's Democratic candidates.

Miller, who served as Georgia's lieutenant governor for 16 years and as governor for eight, was best known for pushing the state's immensely popular HOPE scholarship, which uses lottery proceeds to pay full tuition for students with above-average grades who attend a state college or university.

Miller recently disclosed in an interview with The Associated Press that he has never voted for a Republican in his 52 years of going to the polls.

So why the rapid change from progressive governor to maverick senator who sides with the other party more than his own on key issues?

Miller declines to rehash his past statements defending Kerry or grilling Republicans, but he explains his political metamorphosis had a lot to do with the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Even though he enthusiastically endorsed the re-election bid of former Georgia Democratic Sen. Max Cleland two years ago, Miller always questioned Cleland's opposition to creating the Department of Homeland Security unless it included more protection for union workers.

In Miller's new bestseller, "A National Party No More: The Conscience of a Conservative Democrat," he makes the case that the Democratic Party has written off Southerners on issues like tax cuts and military strength. He says that's a foolish move, pointing out the party's only two presidents in 35 years - Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton - came from the South.

When Miller was appointed and then elected to the Senate in 2000 to replace Republican Paul Coverdell, who died in office, the Democrat pledged he would appeal to many of Coverdell's GOP constituents. That proved to be an understatement.

Shortly after taking office, he volunteered to be a Democratic sponsor of the 10-year, \$1.6 trillion tax cut that Bush sought. In the ensuing months, Miller's name was affixed to the top of virtually every key GOP initiative.

His endorsement of Bush, therefore, didn't come as much of a shock. But for many Democrats, his agreement to speak at the Republican convention was the final straw.

As the frustration with Miller grows among Democratic Party brass, many are calling for him to join the Republican Party.

National Democratic Chairman Terry McAuliffe labeled him "an elephant in donkey's clothing." Some angry Democrats are circulating an online petition trying to get Miller to switch parties. Even Lewis suggests, "If you feel that way and feel that strongly, he just should go and become a Republican."

Miller brushes aside talk of a party switch. He says he resisted an enticing offer to switch in May 2001 when the defection of then-Republican Sen. Jim Jeffords of Vermont temporarily switched Senate control to Democrats, but he has no plans to switch now.

FROM AVERITT, PAGE 9

to students?

If they were looking at graduate programs now, would they choose to come here again?

Do the campus facilities/library/department facilities meet their needs as graduate students?

What efforts are made to enhance

their professional development?

•Ask Graduates of the Program:
How do they feel their graduate studies in this program prepared them for their profession?

How has it been to their advantage to be a graduate of this program?

How have the faculty enhanced their professional development?

What do they think are the strengths/weaknesses of the program?

•Then Ask Yourself:

Is there more information I need to make a wise decision?

Can I see myself working well in this environment?

Do I see this program helping me achieve my professional goals?

For more information, contact the College of Graduate Studies at 681-0578, or <http://cogs.georgiasouthern.edu>.

*Salaries for individuals holding an undergraduate degree, a graduate degree increases the earnings potential by 19.35 percent for a master's degree and 71 percent for the doctorate.

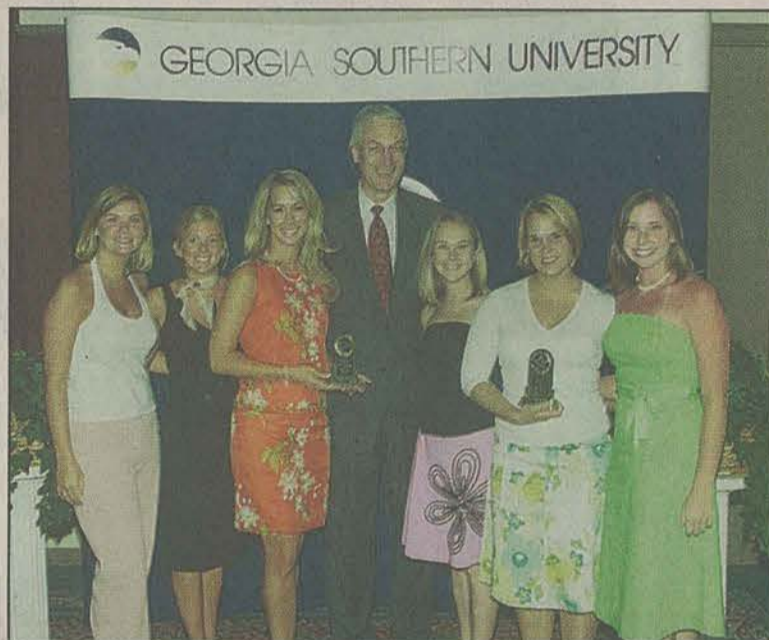
Leadership 101 Series

Sponsored by INSPIRE, Student Leadership Consultants & the Center for Student Leadership Development

Attention All Students!

Do you want to advance your organizational leadership skills?
Would you like to receive the Organizational Leadership Certificate?
If so, attend 9 of the 12 Leadership 101 sessions to receive an Organizational Leadership Certificate.

Do You Want to Have the Top Student Organization?
Send your officers & members to Leadership 101.



Organization of the Year - Kappa Delta

Want to be Inducted Into the Hall of Leaders!



Then attend the Leadership 101 Series.

Fall Semester, 2004

September

Tuesday 09/07

Membership 101

Guest Presenter: INSPIRE
Russell Union, Room 2048
5:30-6:30 pm

Tuesday 9/21

Goal Setting 101

Guest Presenter: Alice Mathews,
Past National President of
Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority
Russell Union, Room 2047
5:30-6:30 pm

October

Tuesday 10/05

What's Your Role as a Leader?

Guest Presenter: INSPIRE
Russell Union, Room 2047
5:30-6:30 pm

Tuesday 10/19

The Art of Delegation

Guest Presenter:
Cara Dawn Byford,
Director of Greek Life
Russell Union, Room 2047
5:30-6:30 pm

November

Tuesday 11/02

Effective Communication Skills

Guest Presenter:
Dr. Bev Graham,
Associate Professor of
Communication Arts
Russell Union, Room 2047,
5:30-6:30 pm

Tuesday 11/16

Burnout 101

Russell Union,
Room 2048
5:30-6:30 pm



Spring Semester, 2005

January

Tuesday 01/18

Managing Meetings

Guest Presenter: Dr. Patrick
Novotny, Associate Professor
of Political Science
Russell Union, Room 2075
5:30-6:30 pm

February

Tuesday 02/01

Dealing with Conflict

Russell Union, Room 2075
5:30-6:30 pm

Tuesday 02/15

Motivation Members with
Rewards and Recognition

Guest Presenter: Susan Davies,
Director of Admissions
Russell Union, Room 2075
5:30-6:30 pm

March

Tuesday 03/01

Program Planning

Guest Presenter: INSPIRE
Russell Union, Room 2075
5:30-6:30 pm

Tuesday 03/22

Officer Transition/
Planning for Next Year

Guest Presenter: Theresa
Beebe Novotny, Director of
Student Leadership Programs
Russell Union, Room 2075
5:30-6:30 pm

April

Tuesday 04/05

Bring It All Together

Guest Presenter: INSPIRE
Russell Union, Room 2075
5:30-6:30 pm



Leadership & Outreach Programs Office

Russell Union, Room 2022

Phone: 912-871-1435

Email: leader@georgiasouthern.edu

[Http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/leadership](http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/leadership)

Leadership sessions are open to all students.
If you attend 9 hours of workshops in two semesters,
you will earn a Leadership Certificate!

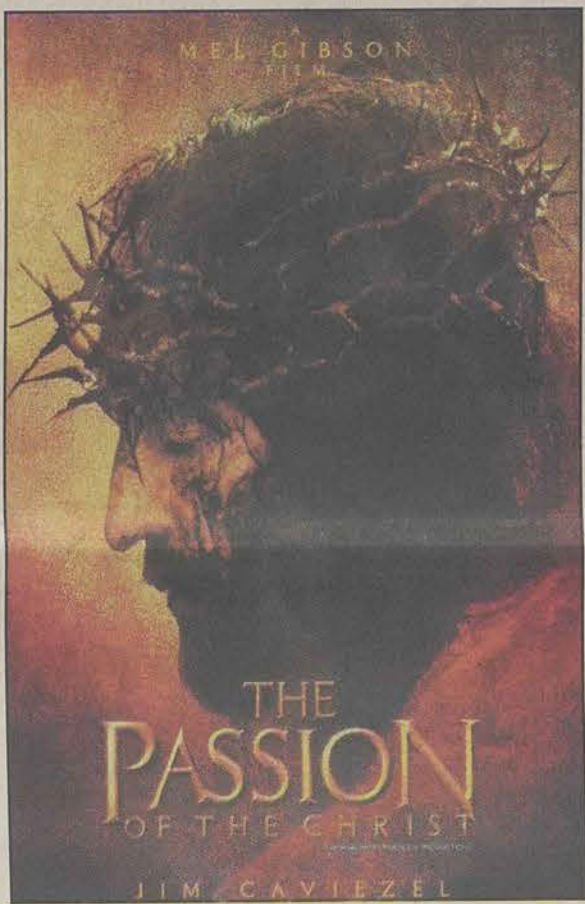
Expect Excitement!

Eagle Entertainment is looking for you to be apart of the E-SQUAD!



Want to plan concerts, sporting events, Homecoming, cruises, choose new release movies, or let the entire campus know what is going on? We are the organization for you!

**General Information Meeting
Monday, August 30, 2004 7p.m.
Russell Union Theater**



**Sept 1 and 2 at 8:30 p.m.
Russell Union Theatre
Admission \$2.00**

Didn't Get a Ticket?

GSU vs UGA

Saturday, Sept. 4

Complete with a tailgate party at 1:30 p.m.!



Tailgate Pre-Party
between
Russell Union and
University Store

Kick-off in
the Russell Union
Theater

Terror in Russia



AP Photo/Misha Japaridze

Lika, center, wife of Moscow businessman Tengiz Yakobashvili, killed in one of Tuesday's two nearly simultaneous plane crash, cries at her husband's funeral in Moscow, Friday, Aug. 27. Yakobashvili held Russian and Israeli citizenship. At left is Lika's sister Mzia. Officials on Friday said one of the two airliners that crashed was brought down by a terrorist act and that explosives were found in the plane's wreckage, while a Web site connected to Islamic militants claimed the action was connected to Russia's fight against Chechen separatists.

Traces of explosive found on second plane in Russian aviation disaster

By David McHugh
Associated Press

MOSCOW - Russian investigators found explosive residue on the wreckage of the second of two airliners that crashed minutes apart, a security spokesman said Saturday, adding to evidence that terrorists breached security at one of the country's most up-to-date airports.

The high explosive hexogen was found on the Tu-134 airliner that went down Tuesday south of Moscow, said Sergei Ignatchenko, spokesman for the Federal Security Service, or FSB, Russia's domestic security agency.

Traces of the same explosive were found on the Tu-154 jetliner that crashed near Rostov in southwestern Russia, officials said Friday. The two planes took off from the same terminal at Moscow's Domodedovo Airport and went off radar screens within minutes of each other hundreds of miles apart on different routes. All 90 people on board died.

The discoveries pointed to terrorism as the cause of both crashes - suggesting that militants had succeeded in getting bombs past airport security to attack Russia's civil aviation system, a vital industry in this vast nation.

Transport Minister Igor Levitin announced that police would now help screen passengers and bags - currently the responsibility of the airports.

Additionally, the ministry will require airlines to print full passport details from passengers on tickets, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported. Russian citizens have separate passports for internal and foreign travel.

Ignatchenko said the FSB - a successor to the Soviet-era KGB - had been directed by President Vladimir Putin to study other countries' practices to improve air security.

"International experience in fighting terrorism on air transport is being studied, including proposals to use the Israeli system ... which today is recognized as the most effective in the world," Ignatchenko said.

Hexogen was used in a series of



AP Photo/Mikhail Metzel

A police officer checks ID papers at Moscow's Domodedovo airport, Thursday, Aug. 26. A government commission searching for the cause of the near-simultaneous crashes of two airliners began work at one of the wreckage sites Thursday after workers finished combing over the shattered plane.

apartment bombings that killed more than 300 people in Russia and were blamed on separatist rebels from Russia's Chechnya region. Russian officials have warned of more rebel attacks ahead of Sunday's election to choose a new president for the region to replace Moscow-backed Akhmad Kadyrov, killed in a bomb attack May 9.

The Russian government has portrayed the election - which a Kremlin-supported police official is expected to win - as a sign that peace is returning to a region ravaged by a decade of fighting between Russian troops and insurgents. Russian soldiers occupying Chechnya are still regularly killed and wounded by small-scale attacks and bombings.

Speculation that rebels were behind an attack on the planes grew with news that authorities were looking into the backgrounds of two female passengers who boarded under Chechen names, one on each plane.

Both women had booked tickets on the flights at the last minute and were the only victims whose relatives did not contacted authorities after news of the crashes, officials said. One of the women gave only her surname and first initial in booking the ticket, according to reports.

Several suicide bombings in recent years have been blamed on Chechen women who lost husbands or brothers in the war and chaos that have plagued the southern republic for most of the past decade.

On Saturday, the newspaper Izvestia cited a Chechen village leader, Dogman Akhmadov, as saying that the brother of one of the women had disappeared three or four years ago and was believed to have fallen victim to Russian forces, who are widely accused of civilian abductions and summary executions in Chechnya.

A Web site statement, posted Friday and signed the "Islambouli Brigades," claimed responsibility for the crashes, warning that they were in support of the Chechen rebels and marked just the first in a series of planned operations. The claim's veracity could not be confirmed.

Friday's claim came from a purported group called "the Islambouli Brigades of al-Qaida," which claimed responsibility for last month's attempt to assassinate Pakistan's prime minister-designate.

Russia claims that the Chechen rebels have been joined by hundreds of foreign Islamic fighters, many of them al-Qaida or with links to the terrorist group led by Osama bin Laden.