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The George-Anne

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# The GEORGE-ANNE

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Thursday, November 18, 2004 • Volume 77, Number 49

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**HIATUS:** Check out our guide to surviving your family over Thanksgiving weekend **Section B**

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## GSU projects growth in study abroad program

Special to the G-A

An international concert tour will provide the foundation for a record number of Georgia Southern students studying abroad this year, according to university officials.

Throughout the University System of Georgia, 4,388 students participated in study abroad programs during the 2003-04 academic year, a 17.5 percent increase over the previous year. During the same year, 124 Georgia Southern students studied abroad, a 33 percent increase over the 2001-02 academic year.

"GSU is committed to promoting international experiences for its students as one of the university's primary strategic themes," said Nancy Shumaker, director of the Center for International Studies. "In an ideal world, we would like to see every one of our students participate in at least one study abroad experience during their college career."

The university offers study abroad programs in such countries as the Czech Republic, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Spain, Costa Rica, Mexico and South Africa. In addition, Georgia Southern students also have easy access to study abroad programs offered by other institu-

tions in the University System. Study abroad programs range in length from two weeks to one year.

GSU music students will participate in a large-scale study abroad program next May. Approximately 100 students from the concert band and chorus will perform on a two-week concert tour of Italy. The itinerary includes concerts at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, Florence, Monterubbiano and Pont. St. Martin.

"This is just a fantastic opportunity for our students," said Daniel Pittman, director of bands. "For most of them, this will literally be a 'once in a lifetime experience.'"

Following the concert tour, roughly half the students will travel on to the Bavarian Music Academy in Alteglofsheim, Germany. There they will participate in an additional three-week-long study abroad program, taking music courses from Georgia Southern professors.

In addition to class work and study, the GSU musicians will perform with their German contemporaries in a music festival, the Bayerische Landesmusikfest, in Munich.

For additional information about Georgia Southern's study abroad programs, contact the Center for International Studies at (912) 681-0332.

## Kmart buys Sears



Luke Hearn/STAFF

The sudden purchase of Sears by K-Mart will result in the third largest retailer in the U.S.

Statesboro Sears and K-Mart employees were surprised by the purchase, but think that it will benefit both companies in the long run.

### Buy-out will form third largest U.S. retailer

Staff and Wire Reports

K-Mart is acquiring Sears in a surprise \$11 billion deal that will make them the third-largest retailer in the U.S. behind mega-market Wal-Mart and Home Depot.

Managers and workers in the Statesboro K-Mart and Sears stores were surprised by the news of the sudden merge. A night manager from K-Mart said, "We heard rumors about it and this morning we got an email, but we right now we really don't know what is going to happen. A lot of people are curious about it, and a lot of customers have asked about it."

Since the two companies effectively merged, stocks prices have soared about 20 percent. Sears manager and owner of the Statesboro store, Gary Cooler, has been

working with Sears for 34 years and he thinks the merge will be good for business and for communities. He said, "This was news to us, we won't know anything for a couple of days. But whatever happens, it'll always work out better for small communities like Statesboro."

The company being created by the combination announced Wednesday would be known as Sears Holdings Corp., but it was clearly orchestrated by Kmart chairman and Sears shareholder Edward Lampert, who will lead a new board that will be dominated by Kmart directors. The company said it will continue to operate the Kmart and Sears stores under their current names, but some locations may close or switch from one to the other store.

See Kmart, page 3A

## Eagle Football prepares for big playoff weekend



LaVene Bell/STAFF

Defensive End Victor Cabral (90) takes a high-five from head coach Mike Sewak after a big stand this season.

GSU Eagles will enjoy a weekend off before taking on their first playoff game. The team and fans alike wait to hear which team we will play first.

### Eagle football team and fans have a weekend of anticipation

By Brian Saxton  
 bsaxton681@hotmail.com

This Sunday, November 21, at 1 p.m. the NCAA playoff committee will announce the field of 16 playoff teams, and place the teams into two brackets.

Even with their loss to Furman on November 7, many analysts have predicted Georgia Southern University to be seeded fourth in the tournament. This would assure the Eagles at least one home game. Of course, all of this is speculation, and no one will know for sure until Sunday.

The way this whole process works has changed some in recent years. Previously, the 16 teams were all seeded and the team with the best ranking always played at home. Now the

tournament takes in regional and attendance factors to help save on costs.

The field is decided by the eight automatic bids to the participating conference winners and eight at-large bids decided by the committee. With a win against Chattanooga Saturday, Furman will gain a share of the conference championship with the Eagles, but due to their victory over GSU they will be awarded the automatic bid. So, unless the Mocs pull off a huge upset and defeat the Paladins, the Eagles will be entering the playoffs with an at-large bid.

If GSU is seeded fourth, none of this will matter much. The Eagles will be home unless they face one of the three higher seeded teams.

See FOOTBALL, page 6A

## Deer damage drastic

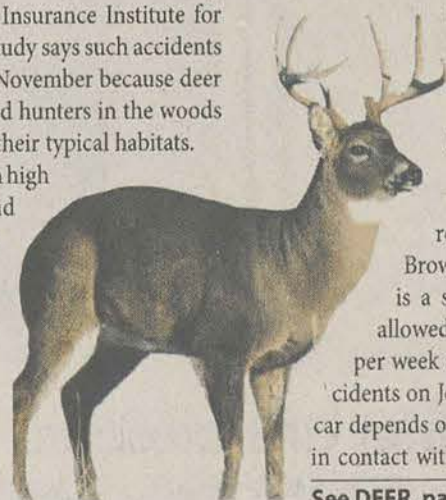
### November peak month for car wrecks involving deer

By Rachel Weeks  
 crazedrachel@hotmail.com

Cars crash into deer more than 4,000 times a day according to a study by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS). The study says such accidents are most likely to happen in November because deer are in their mating season and hunters in the woods cause animals to move from their typical habitats.

Heavily wooded areas with high populations of deer surround Statesboro and neighboring communities, so it is important for drivers in this area to be aware of the possibility of deer walking in front of or into vehicles.

Georgia Southern student Katie Anderson said she almost hit a deer while



driving down a deserted country road, and sees them often. "I'm from Atlanta, so I don't usually see deer around, and on Interstate 16, the deer line up along the road.

One time I counted at least ten deer."

Georgia State Patrol officer Joey Brown has seen many wrecks with deer involved, because drivers are required to get a police report for insurance purposes.

Brown works on Jekyll Island, which is a state park where no hunting is allowed. He said an average of two cars per week are damaged by deer-related accidents on Jekyll Island. "The damage to the car depends on what portion of the car comes in contact with the deer and how fast the car

See DEER, page 3A

Weekend Weather	Opinions	Sports
<p>Friday</p> <p>HIGH 78° LOW 56°</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Columnist DeMarc Campbell speaks of... hidden meanings</li> <li>International Students Speak Out: Bryan Wang from China gives his opinion on the relationship between China and Taiwan</li> </ul> <p>Page 4A</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rapp Report: sports editor Matt Rapp talks about why it is good to be an Eagle</li> <li>GSU Men's Basketball player Terry Williams writes of his journey to Alaska</li> <li>Check out the SoCon Weekend Schedule</li> </ul> <p>Page 6A</p>
<p>Saturday</p> <p>HIGH 80° LOW 62°</p>		



Luke Hearn/STAFF

Students with the Wesley Foundation and Student Ministries see-sawed for over 12 hours on Wednesday in an event to raise money for mission trips they will be involved in over Spring Break.

## 'See-saw without Ceasing'

By Rachel Weeks  
crazedrachel@hotmail.com

Students see-sawed in front of Landrum Center for over 12 hours today in an effort to raise money for the Wesley Foundation and Campus Ministries.

The program was called "See-saw without Ceasing," and the money raised will help fund two separate mission trips during the next Spring Break. One group of students will travel to Mexico, and the other group will travel to central Florida.

To prepare for the see-sawing fundraiser, four teams of students

went out to local businesses and asked for pledges and donations for the hours spent on the see-saws in front of Landrum. Beginning at a blistering eight in the morning, students kept the see-saws rocking until 10 in the evening. It was a full day of going back and forth, and according to Angie Roth, between 30 and 35 people helped make the event successful. One student was injured when he fell from the see-saw and ripped his pants from the crotch to the knee.

Ryan Smith and Eric Stewart, who are both part of the student leadership worship team, built the

two giant see-saws for the fundraiser. The group plans on keeping the see-saws and raising more money with another fundraiser in the spring. Shea Williamson wants to continue using the see-saws. She said, "Hopefully, we will be able to make it a Wesley Foundation tradition."

Senior Drew Harris encourages students to attend Campus Ministries meetings. He said, "We meet every Wednesday evening at eight at the Pittman Park United Methodist Church, and we'd be glad to see new students come take part."

Any donations will be accepted at the Wesley House.

For more information about Campus Ministries, call 681-3136.

## American studies: quick program with big results

By Adam Crisp  
gadeputy@georgiasouthern.edu

Minors can add flair to a résumé and bolster students' chances of getting into graduate school.

But for students, who are bent on getting out of college as quick as possible, a minor can seem like extra baggage.

So, for undergrads who are looking for a minor that carries big impact but won't weigh down their time at Georgia Southern University, American Studies can be the ticket. Reed Smith, a GSU Communication Arts professor, thinks so anyway.

"American Studies gives you a broad perspective of American culture," said Smith, who is the director of the American Studies minor at GSU. "It helps students get a grasp of what makes America different."

Unlike other minors, American Studies allows students to complete with just 15 hours credit. Smith believes the minor's requirements to be one of the shortest in the university, but at the same time, it still encompasses a wide range of course work.

"It gives a broad perspective of American culture," he said. "You

can take classes on cultural artifacts, music, advertising... It all deals with American culture."

Of the 15 hours required to graduate as an American Studies minor, students must take a three-hour introductory class and a three-hour seminar. Smith teaches both those classes, but the nine other hours can be drawn from a wide range of areas.

"It's a really fluid minor. Students are always floating in and out," said Smith. "Right now, we think about 40 students are enrolled in the program, but that number changes all the time."

Smith said just about anyone can benefit from this minor, but there are certain students who should give it a good long look.

"It's really good for professional or graduate schools," he said. "If you are thinking about going on to further your education after you leave here, it's a good idea to have this as a minor."

Smith isn't the only professor trumpeting the benefits of American Studies.

GSU History Professor John Bryant thinks it's important, too.

"Because of (American Studies') inter-disciplinary focus, and its requirement that students integrate information from a variety of sources into coherent arguments, American Studies is an excellent minor for students considering law school," said Bryant.

## SOCS to sponsor food, socks drive

By Kristin Miller  
kmiller8888@hotmail.com

SOCS, the Society of Communication Scholars, asks students to join them in their effort to give to those in need this holiday season.

On Monday, Nov. 22 and Tuesday, Nov. 23, SOCS will be holding a "Sock and Soup" drive on the campus of Georgia Southern.

A representative from SOCS will be stationed outside of the Communication Arts Building to collect canned goods, socks, and a variety of other food and clothing items. On both Monday and Tuesday, the drive will last from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

In addition to the collection of food and clothing items, SOCS will also be accepting monetary donations. All proceeds and items from the two-day "Sock and Soup" drive will be going to benefit local charities.

The members of SOCS want to remind you that every little bit helps, and your efforts are greatly appreciated. So package your love into socks and soup this holiday season, and remember to stop by the Communication Arts Building early next week.

For further information about the "Sock and Soup" drive, contact Tiffany Helmly, the president of the SOCS, at 912-663-2670.



## Reporter's Notebook

By Jamie Galvin  
Spiffy756@aol.com

• In SGA's final meeting of the semester, President Cherise Perkins announced recent updates to the transit system coming to GSU in fall 2005. Perkins met with Bob Chambers, head of parking and transportation, who revealed the buses will be run on natural gas as opposed to diesel fuel. This environment-friendly decision was inspired by Georgia Southern's Student Alliance for a Greener Earth (SAGE). Chambers hopes to have a final list of those living facilities

around campus that won't be eligible for parking on campus next fall.

• Senators discussed why jazz music being played on GSU's radio station between 6 a.m. and 3 p.m. Senators questioned why, if part of the student activity fee goes to support the radio station, shouldn't students have some say as to what is aired?

• Patrick Novotny, faculty liaison to the SGA, announced that at the last Faculty Senate meeting, the idea of obtaining a precinct on campus was unanimously embraced; the notion is now on its way to the state government for approval.



### Happy Thanksgiving

We're taking a break! Along with everyone else, we're headed home for the Thanksgiving Holidays. The next edition of *The George-Anne* will come out on Wednesday, December 1. We hope you all have a great holiday break!

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## KMART, FROM PAGE 1

Shares of both companies surged on news of the deal. Kmart Holding Corp. shares climbed \$17.38, or 17 percent, to \$118.60 on the Nasdaq Stock Market, while Sears, Roebuck & Co. shares soared \$9.69, or 21 percent, to \$54.89 on the New York Stock Exchange.

The deal marks a remarkable comeback for Kmart, which had sharply scaled back operations after seeking bankruptcy protection in 2002. The combined companies expect to save more than \$300 million a year by improving operations and combining their purchasing power.

"We need to have a very low cost structure in order to compete with our biggest competitors," Lampert said at a news conference in New York.

Lampert would not provide any details on possible layoffs, except to say, "There will be some head count changes that come out of this."

Both companies' roots date to the late 1800s. Sears began as a mail-order house while Kmart began as the Kresge five-and-dime chain. Sears, which opened its first retail store in 1925, eventually became the nation's biggest retailer, a title it held until just 13 years ago.

The combined company is expected to have \$55 billion in annual revenues and nearly 3,500 stores. That means it will trail only Wal-Mart and Home Depot among the biggest U.S. retailers.

It will have its headquarters in the northwestern Chicago suburb of Hoffman Estates, home of Sears, but will maintain a "significant presence" in Troy, Mich., where Kmart is based.

Under the agreement, unanimously approved by both companies' boards of directors, Kmart shareholders will receive one share of new Sears Holdings stock for each Kmart share. Sears, Roebuck shareholders can choose \$50 in cash or half a share of Sears Holdings stock. That portion of the deal values Sears shares at \$11 billion, a 10.6 percent premium over its value at Tuesday's close.

With Lampert as chairman, Sears CEO Alan Lacy will be vice chairman and CEO of the new company. The 10-member Sears Holdings board will have seven members from Kmart and three from Sears.

Lampert, Kmart's majority shareholder, is also Sears' largest shareholder, holding a 15 percent stake in

Sears through his ESL Investments Inc.

The merger, expected to close by the end of March, is subject to approval by Kmart and Sears shareholders and regulatory agencies.

Kmart filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in early 2002, leading to the closing of about 600 stores, termination of 57,000 employees and cancellation of company stock.

It emerged from bankruptcy in May 2003 and on Wednesday posted its fourth consecutive quarterly profit. Its stock price has risen to \$101.22 on Tuesday from \$15 a share when it emerged from bankruptcy.

Sears had long fallen out of favor on Wall Street after losing ground to competitors and enduring sluggish sales for years.

The company last fall introduced its Sears Grand stores, which offer grocery and convenience items besides traditional Sears fare such as clothing, home appliances and tools.

Kmart has been shedding many of its underperforming stores, a strategy that has helped it bounce back. In fact, it has sold 50 of those stores to Sears for \$575 million.

It has appeared that Sears could be shifting toward a similar real estate strategy since the disclosure that Vornado Realty Trust, a real estate investment trust, had purchased a 4.3 percent interest in the chain. Since that Nov. 5 announcement, Sears' stock has jumped 25 percent, closing at \$45.20 Tuesday.

The merger will not affect agreements to carry home and fashion lines including Martha Stewart Everyday, Lands' End and Sesame Street, the companies said.

Wal-Mart dethroned Sears as the nation's largest retailer in 1991.

Sears dates to 1886, when Richard W. Sears started a watch company. Alva C. Roebuck joined the company the following year as a watchmaker, and within a few years they expanded to a mail-order general merchandise business. The first Sears catalog was issued in 1896. The company opened its first stores in the 1920s.

The first Kmart discount store was opened in 1962 by the S.S. Kresge Co., the chain founded in 1899 by Sebastian S. Kresge. In 1977, after Kmart sales grew to more than 90 percent of Kresge's total sales, the company name was changed to Kmart Corp.

## National News Briefs

### Police search for body said hidden in old well 27 years ago

Associated Press

GRIFFIN - Authorities began a search of an old well Tuesday after a Griffin resident told police he had killed a man and dumped the body there 27 years ago.

John Morgan said that when he was 20, he shot a man known as Duck McLendon with a .22-caliber rifle in 1977 because McLendon was going to sexually assault him, officials said.

Spalding County authorities have no record of the victim or the homicide, but they began the search after Morgan passed a lie-detector test and showed investigators the abandoned 60-foot well near where he lived with his parents.

A bulldozer cleared a large area around the well - now just a hole with bricks staggered around its opening - in preparation for excavating human

remains. Tony Ranieri, a crime scene investigator with the Spalding County Sheriff's Office, said the search could take two days.

No charges have been brought but will be filed if bones or other remains are found, Smith said.

"After 27 years, we're looking at very decomposed remains," Ranieri said. "What could be left of a human dropped in a well in 1977 is anyone's guess."



Associated Press

Authorities began a search of the old well after a man told police he dumped a body there 27 years ago.

### Girls take poisoned cake to school

MARIETTA - Two 13-year-old middle school girls are being held at the Cobb County Youth Detention Center charged with serving poisoned cake to at least 12 students who became ill and went to a hospital for treatment, police said on Wednesday.

There was bleach and glue in the cake, which the girls had offered to students and teachers on Tuesday, said Dana Pierce of the Cobb County Police Department.

The county Police Department's Crimes Against Children Unit said one of the teens is charged with 12 counts of aggravated assault with intent to commit murder, one count of terroristic acts and one count of interference with government property. The other girl is charged with 12 counts of aggravated assault with the intent to commit murder.

The two are students at the East Cobb Middle School in Marietta.

### Consumer prices rise 0.6 percent

WASHINGTON - Consumer prices - stoked by more expensive gasoline as well as pricier fruits and vegetables - heated up in October, rising by 0.6 percent, the biggest gain in five months.

The newest snapshot of the inflation climate, released by the Labor Department Wednesday, bolstered the chances that the Federal Reserve would push up interest rates for a fifth time this year on Dec. 14.

### Radio station to apologize for smoking hoax

LEXINGTON, Ky. - Owners of a radio station that aired a hoax report that people could no longer smoke in their cars will publicly apologize this week to city officials, who were flooded with hundreds of calls from angry listeners.

Cumulus Broadcasting, owner of WXZZ-FM, will send a representative to appear before the Urban County Council on Thursday to apologize and offer written assurance that future on-air antics will not involve the city or city services.

The company will also make \$500 donations to two local charities.

"They seemed genuinely apologetic and we believed a local solution would be best," said Gerald Smith, Isaac's chief of staff.

### Congress negotiators seal Special Ed deal

WASHINGTON - House and Senate negotiators agreed to major changes in federal special education law Wednesday, pressing schools to ensure that children with disabilities get the same opportunities as others.

The deal is expected to be widely supported by the House and Senate on Friday and approved by President Bush - allowing Congress to squeeze a significant, bipartisan education bill into the final days of its session.

### Spellings named Education Secretary

WASHINGTON - President Bush on Wednesday named White House domestic policy adviser Margaret Spellings to be the nation's eighth education secretary.

"The issue of education is close to my heart and on this vital issue there's no one I trust more than Margaret Spellings," Bush told her.

If confirmed by the Senate, Spellings would replace departing secretary Rod Paige in the Cabinet-level job of overseeing the Education Department.

Spellings, who was joined in the Roosevelt Room of the White House with her two daughters, became emotional as she accepted the post.

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## DEER, FROM PAGE 1

is traveling."

Stephen Bradshaw, technician at a Statesboro body shop, Valley's Precision Collision, said that during the winter months, lots of cars are wrecked because of deer running into the road. He said, "Usually, we work on around three cars a week that have been hit by deer. Most deer hit the side of vehicles and damage to those cars usually adds up to around \$2,500." Kevin Lavesque, who also works at the shop, said the best way to avoid a deer is to slow down.

According to the IIHS study, deer are involved in about 75 percent of fatal animal-crash accidents. There were 1.5 million deer crashes last year, injuring 13,713 people and causing \$1.1 billion in vehicle damage, the institute said.

Not every crash is avoidable, but some are. During the holiday season, drivers should be alertly looking for animals on the sides of roads, especially at night, in the rain, or when traveling through forested areas. Always, slow down immediately when you see a deer on the side of the road. Just because you see them and they see you does not mean that they are not going to jump in front of the car.

## Win a \$20 Gift Card from the University Bookstore by answering this question in the INTERNATIONAL TRIVIA CONTEST!

Take your answer to the Multicultural Student Center in the Russell Union Room 2070 by 4:30 p.m. Thursday, November 18. A winner will be drawn from all entries with a correct answer and will be announced at Friday, November 19's International Coffee Hour.

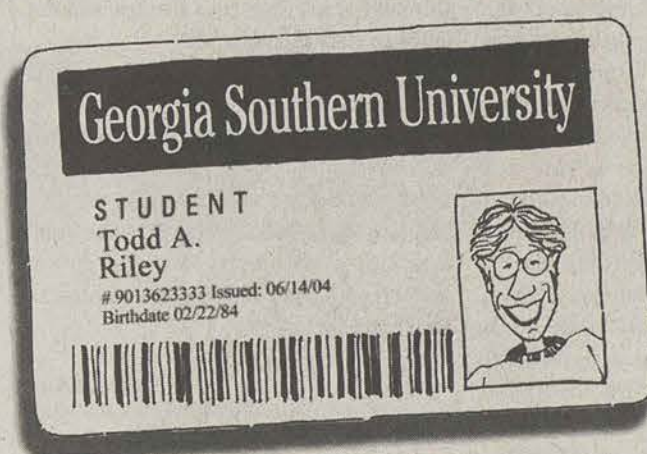
### Question 1:

What is the world's most widely spoken language?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

For more information contact Joan Stalcup, Forest Dr. Bldg. Room 1327 or call 681-0693.  
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our opinion

**Gobble**

It's almost time for everyone to take a few days off to relax, eat turkey, and enjoy family time.

Oh, who are we kidding? Everybody knows no one wants to go home (all those cheek-pinching relatives!), no one actually likes turkey (unless it's fried), and we're all going to spend the Thanksgiving break catching up on school work (that we should've finished three weeks ago).

So, in defiance of this pseudo-vacation intended only to torture our souls and whet our appetites for winter break, we've compiled our top five ways to make Thanksgiving Break last longer:

5) **Instead of one huge Thanksgiving dinner on Thursday, have a bunch of little ones every few hours.** Eating twice as many meals will make it seem as though you're experiencing more days... and it will send your metabolism into freaky unnatural overdrive!

4) **Rather than sleeping for a full seven or eight-hour stretch each night, try sleeping for four hours every eight hours.** During your waking hours, do everything very quickly under very bright lights.

3) **Watch movies on fast forward.** It's all the entertainment with half the fat.

2) **Listen to Oldies tunes.** Oldies songs are always shorter than modern ones, so it'll seem like you're getting more time. But you'll really be getting more groovy music.

1) **Hang out with your least favorite relatives.** The clock may actually begin to tick backwards.

If all else fails, look into the fridge every hour on the hour for at least ten seconds. You'll notice none of the leftovers will appear to have moved at all, creating the illusion that time is standing still.

The George-Anne wishes everyone a happy holiday break. Look for our next edition Wednesday, December 1, at your favorite newsstand.

letters to the editor

**Seventeen voters don't add up to much**

I am writing in response to Jeffrey Fry's November 15 column, "Blitzkrieg, American Style." While my letter will deal primarily with Mr. Fry's column, it has implications for all of those on the far Left.

Mr. Fry, would it really be best for the citizens of Iraq if the United States and her allies cut and run? The last time I checked, there are still major infrastructure issues to be dealt with, elections to be secured, Iraqi soldiers to be trained, and fundamentalist insurgents to be dealt with. If the U.S. were to abandon the mission now, there would be chaos and inevitably civil war in Iraq.

Even the most liberal experts will attest to that point, and that is precisely why both major party candidates understood the importance of reinforcing our troops and decisively accomplishing the mission. It is also precisely why Ralph Nader only received 17 of the 19,000 votes in Bulloch County.

Now, let's examine why far-Leftists such as Mr. Fry have a hard time connecting to the American people as a whole. Instead of accepting the fact that maybe, just maybe, the 99 percent majority of voters in Bulloch County (and indeed, America) are on to something, he assumes that he and his 17 Nader-ites are progressive visionaries, desperately trying to tread water in a sea of ignorance.

Consider his sentence, "This tells me that 19,000 failed to see key distinguishing factors..." Yes, Mr. Fry. Everyone in Bulloch County is incapable of seeing the world properly, except, of course, for the Mighty 17. This pompous, arrogant attitude is not only going to fail you in your quest for support, but it will turn off the vast majority of readers immediately.

Now, let us move along to my personal favorite line, "Americans...need to wake up and wash the blood off their hands..." WHEW.

Considering that last week nearly 120 million people voted for candidates who would advance the American cause in Iraq, this kind of self-righteous rhetoric will not advance your agenda at all.

Mr. Fry and others should rely on facts and intelligent arguments if they plan on convincing anyone else on the planet that they are right. Good arguments do not need the crutches of buzzwords, rhetoric, and personal attacks. They get your point across in a meaningful way, and do not turn off and insult 18,983 of your potential 19,000 readers.

**Chris Lane**  
Sr. Journalism/Political Science

**America's post-election political climate**

Here we are, two weeks after the big election, and I cannot help but feel that people are missing the message here.

I cannot proclaim myself a true believer of the Kerry/Edwards platform. But, all the same, I can't help but feel that people perhaps do not realize the amount of hot water we stand to be submerged in.

Classically, there are more than enough ways to divide and divide again, the population of our fair nation. You have, democrat, republican, working class, intellectual class, poverty level, educated, uneducated.

We are a culture of snap decisions and labels to be sure. Which brings me back to my original point. Do we, a nation with little time for contemplation, actually realize and acknowledge the entirely-too-real danger that we are moving toward.

From the conversations that I have had on the topic of politics, I am fast becoming aware that the average person is more than willing to allow this machine we've created to run

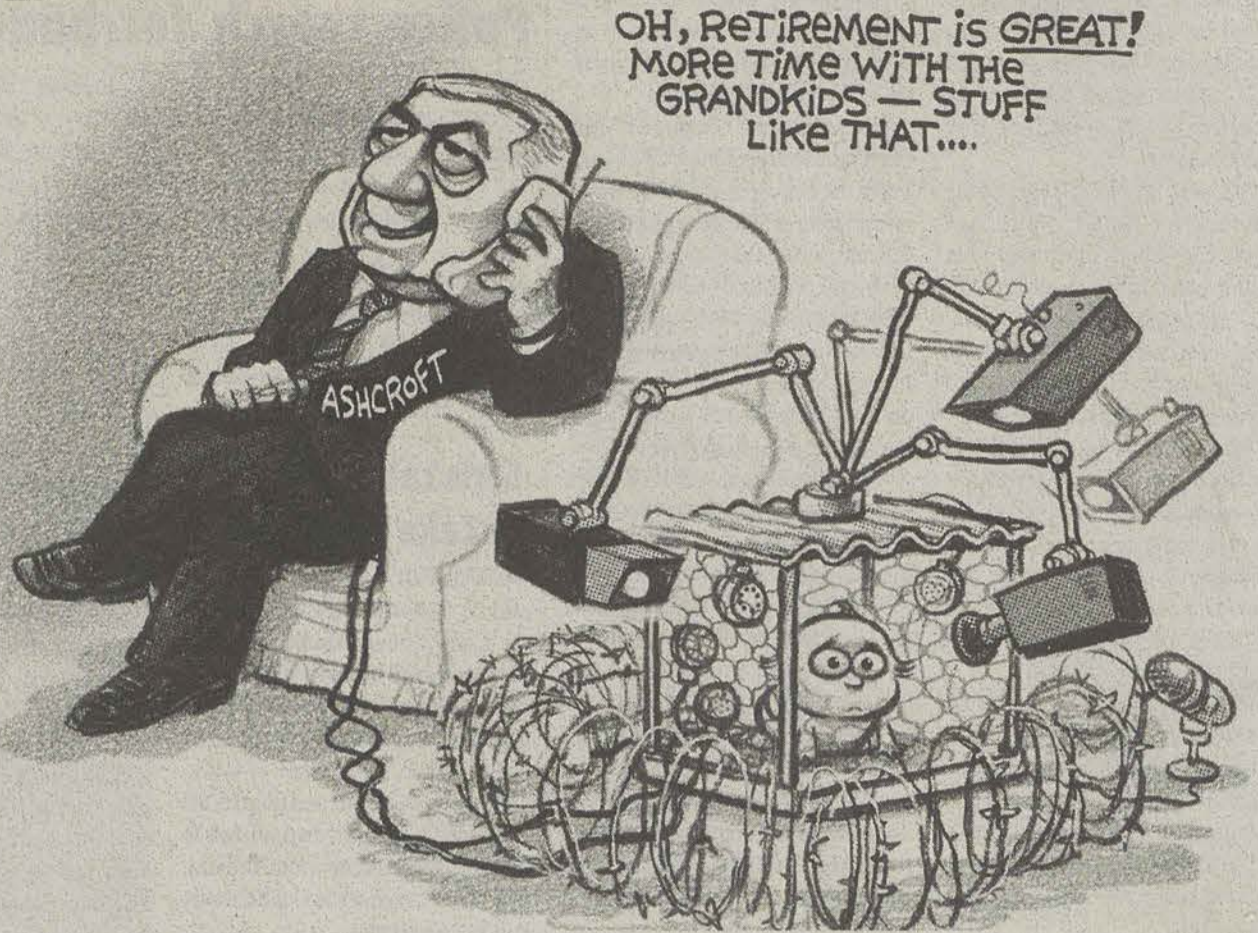
as it will, shirking our moral responsibility to accept the price that we each must pay to ensure that we remain on the side of what is right and just.

I find myself disappointed by the actions of my country. That's right, I said "my" country. As corrupt and generally derelict as my government has become, I try to keep in mind the contributions to the world culture that America has made possible in our short history.

From my perspective, askewed as it may be, the price of freedom is truly vigilance. Democracy is the most fragile of political ethos.

To maintain it requires the attention and nurturing of a kind, understanding, concerned nation. We have, as a nation, allowed our democracy to fall into disrepair.

**Nick Benton**  
glennantm@hotmail.com



relationships & sex

**SPEAKING OF... Semantics**

So... not that I'm any sort of relationship guru or anything, but why is it that most relationships are centered less on trust and honesty, and are becoming more like personal game shows, and circus acts?

Honestly, when your significant other asks you something like, "Do I look fat?" What should you say to a loaded question like that? If you say yes, you'll be accused of being insensitive and cruel, not to mention you're just asking for the cold shoulder (among other things).

It makes one wonder... can you actually be 100 percent honest in a relationship? If life has taught me nothing, it's taught me one thing: It's not what you say... it's how you say it. Tell your Moulin Rouge lovin' girlfriend that you love her, and you might end up doing some major mattress dancing for the next few days. Tell your beer-guzzling, sports utility driving, khaki short and baseball cap-wearing frat boy the same thing, and you could end up left alone, without a bone. On the other hand, it could be your first date, and you may not know what to say, or if you'll even have a repeat performance of the evening. So... here's what life has taught me, and maybe you can benefit from my personal experience.

**You Want To Say:** "I love you."

**You Should Say:**

"I really enjoy spending time with you."

**Why There's A Difference:**

Nothing is scarier than "clingy." Most single gals (and some guys) tend to be more aware that the average guy (and some girls) are commitment-phobic. By saying the "I" word, you're basically saying you'd rather give up on your crazy, sex-filled, weekend romps for more tame activities like browsing the Small for killer deals at Bath and Body Works, or watching eight hours of football while your girl plays bar wench. By toning down your words, you're leaving room for fantasies of nakedness thru the woods, and chance encounters in strange places while letting them know that you do indeed enjoy the company.

**You Want To Say:**

"Can I see you again?"

**You Should Say:**

"We should do this again."

**Why There's A Difference:**

While one might think that asking someone for their company is only polite, it sounds more like a desperate plea. Suggesting that the two of you should go out again will imply you're a confident, take-charge individual. There's a lot to be said about being aggressive, as it tends to

be much more attractive, especially if you're the dominate party concerned.

**You Want To Say:**

"You (insert expletive here)! Why didn't you return my call!?"

**You Should Say:**

"Hope you're well. Give me a ring when you have a free second."

**Why There's A Difference:**

Again, the word du jour is "clingy!" Clingy equals bad girls. Bad, bad, bad! Play it neutral and almost nonchalant. Keeping your cool and staying relaxed implies you're not worried, because something better always comes along. Simultaneously, you're showing your balls-y side, by giving him a call. If he doesn't call back, you have two options:

- Find your inner peace through Zen meditation, clearing your mind, and transcend to a higher lever of spiritual enlightenment, accompanied with some good Feng Shui.
- Head to Legends on Thursday, pick up some new hotness, and get over their sorry butts.



**DeMarc Campbell**  
columnist

**International Students Speak Out**

**One China or Two?**

While I sitting in a lecture for my International Trade course, I was listening to my professor discuss the trade industry in China. He mentioned that there are many firms now trading with China and Taiwan.

The professor went on to say that this is the reason many of America's products are made in China and Taiwan. Just as the professor said this, a student amidst hundreds of students suddenly raised his voice and asked, "Are they both Chinese, and are they the same country?" The professor responded forcefully, "Taiwan is not China. Taiwan is capitalist; it is a wealthy country with numerous natural resources. China, however, is a communist country, and wherever communism has had a stronghold, it has produced poverty and tyranny. Even though Taiwan has not been acknowledged by the United Nations as an independent country, it will be in the future."

The speech from this ordinary professor voiced a common concern for most Chinese, and it is a speech that fully reveals what most people believe: Taiwan should not be part of China on account of history, economy, society and politics. Nevertheless, I believe firmly that Taiwan should be reunited with China.

People who are not native Chinese probably are not familiar with the history of China and Taiwan. Taiwan has been separated from China for fifty years due to the civil war, which is the same amount of time that China has been declared as an independent country. Due to the separation, some people think Taiwan does not belong to China any more and it is an independent nation. The fact is that those people do not know what true Chinese history is, before China was declared a country. They may not understand that Taiwan was a territory of China for a long time, more than a hundred years. To understand the relationship of Taiwan to China, we need to go back to 1683, and then fast-forward to the end of WWII.

According to a historical report, "In 1683, Taiwan was taken over by the Chinese Empire from Beijing and all of the Ming [Dynasty] supporters returned to the mainland. From then on, the Chinese-governed Taiwan and many other countries recognized their sovereignty over Taiwan. In 1886, Taiwan formally became a province of China."

During World War II, Taiwan was alienated from China again because of the invasion of Japan. Nevertheless, Taiwan finally returned after the collapse of Japanese colonization by the Chinese army. Chiang Kai-shek, the

president of China, was appointed military ruler of Taiwan after World War II. Until the year 1949, because of the communists came to power, Chiang Kai-shek fled the mainland and brought the name of "Republic of China" to that island.

That was the beginning of the modern era's separation of the island from the mainland China, and it was the reason why Taiwan became capitalist while mainland China became communist. He thought this new island was only representing a province of China, and he was also against the idea of the independence of Taiwan. The period of the division between Taiwan and China is very long and significant in human life, but in contrast to history, these fifty years are not long at all.

Since the declaration of the People's Republic of China as a country in 1949 and with the disunity of China and Taiwan, the economy of Taiwan has been thriving, which is important to Taiwan's independence. Some of Taiwanese favor the separation of China and Taiwan because they know that Taiwan will become economically strong by being capitalist. They also understand that, if Taiwan joins the mainland, corrupt party officials will control

See CHINA, Page 5A

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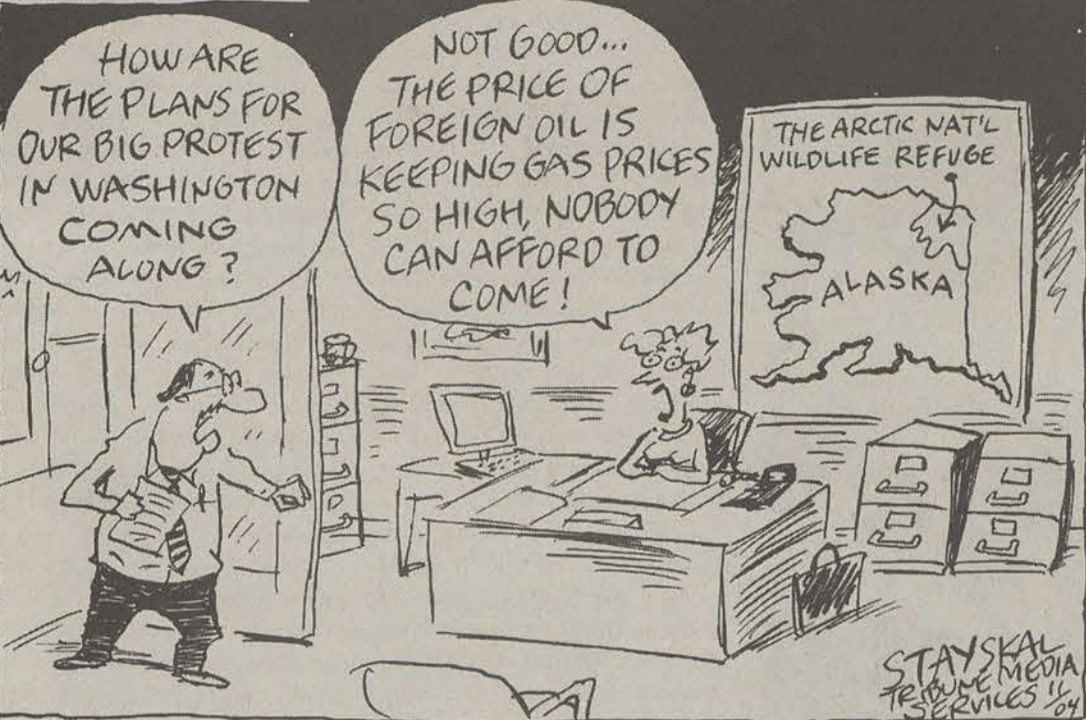
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## ENVIRONMENTALISTS TO FIGHT BUSH ON DRILLING FOR ANWR OIL IN ALASKA



## Election conspiracies live on

Chicago Tribune

Ever since the Nov. 2 election, the Internet has been blazing with cries and whispers that the election was hijacked by republican operatives. These theories range from the bizarre to the merely implausible, with some academics across the country apparently feeding the conflagration with statistical analyses that seem to support the contention of a nefarious plot to steal the election.

So far, it's safe to say, nothing has emerged that would threaten to change the outcome. But inquiries continue, both official and unofficial. And even though many popular rumors are debunked almost as soon as they gain wide circulation, they often continue to percolate on the Web, probably because so many people want to believe them. It all becomes, in the words of one Ohio election official, "a snowball of hearsay."

There have been charges that more ballots were cast than there are registered voters in Cuyahoga County, which includes Cleveland. Not true,

say local election officials. There was a quirky way that their computers displayed vote totals, but no evidence of tampering or fraud.

There were Florida counties in which Bush clobbered Kerry, even though there were far more registered democrats than republicans in those counties. Suspicious? Remember Reagan Democrats? It is not unknown for conservative democrats to prefer a member of the GOP. Moreover, the democrats deployed an army of lawyers in Florida, watching for vote fraud. The result: No broad case of fraud has been found.

There have even been theories that the disparity between exit polls favoring Kerry and the actual voting — 51 percent for Bush — pointed to fraud. This may be the first time in history that polls predicting the vote on Election Day have been considered more accurate than the vote on Election Day.

U.S. Rep. Jerrold Nadler, a democrat from New York, announced last week that his office would gather

information from voters and activists about voting irregularities. He and other House Democrats are asking the Government Accountability Office to investigate the "efficacy of voting machines and new technologies," with an eye toward improving the system.

That's good to investigate. There were voting glitches in some areas, as there always are. They're usually caused by confusion or technical snafus. The nation needs to keep working on reliable balloting.

Most tellingly, the Democratic leadership, which fielded thousands of lawyers to watch for election fraud across the country, isn't backing the blog-driven outcry that the election was stolen. That's because it wasn't.

Democratic National Committee Chairman Terry McAuliffe has conceded as much. And so has David Wade, a spokesman for the Kerry campaign.

"I'd give my right arm for Internet rumors of a stolen election to be true," Wade said. "But blogging it doesn't make it so."

## CHINA, FROM PAGE 4A

it and ruin its prosperity. However, they do not realize that mainland is rapidly becoming much more capitalist itself, and the corruption will be diminished through the process of capitalism.

On the contrary, the stock market went straight down and the economy went flat after the speech of Li Deng Hui, the former president of Taiwan, in which he proposed the independence of Taiwan.

People's Daily, one of the newspapers in China reports that: "Taiwan independence, whatever its form, cannot solve these basic problems related to the Taiwan economy, on the contrary, it will rapidly aggravate the problem and cause the Taiwan economy to collapse." Mainland China's foreign currency saving ranks the second highest through all over the world, and Taiwan ranks third. If Taiwan came back to China and combined the currency then the strength of the economy would definitely increase and be stabilized in China and Taiwan.

With greater disposable incomes, more and more people would have vacations, and new houses. In general, they would consume more goods. This is the standard of living most Taiwanese are actually enjoying now. The living circumstances in Taiwan are much higher than mainland China. However, Chinese people do not care how wealthy they are, they only wish the family to be together as long as possible. Therefore, they want reunified families with Taiwan.

Many Taiwanese now are either originally from mainland China or have many relatives who live in China. Some of them have been separated many years because of history. Their only wish is to visit their parents, brothers, sisters, and the other relatives on each side of the Taiwan Straits. Some of them probably do not have enough lifetimes for this easily attainable desire. Since the end of the 1980s, there are already many people from Taiwan who cross the Straits to visit their relatives. An official survey reports, "both sides of the Taiwan Straits show that

Taiwanese citizens made at least three million visits to the mainland in the year 2000." However, if Taiwan is independent and the relationship between China and Taiwan gets worse, the people on the mainland or Taiwan will not be able to achieve their dearest aspiration — to visit their families. In other aspects, the similarity of cultures, customs, languages are the symbols which show the rest of the world that those two regions are equivalent to each other, and have the same bloodstream and ancestry in their body no matter what the difference is in political system.

Taiwan is capitalist. Capitalism, I agree, helps a country become wealthy and powerful, and it is true for those who oppose unification argue that Taiwan's economy and its democracy will suffer if it falls under communist control. However, Taiwan is a region which also has significant meaning to the People's Republic of China.

This is another reason why China wants Taiwan so badly in the early history. Taiwan is an island, which is

isolated in the realm of Southeast Asia. Due to its golden location, there have been many countries trying to colonize Taiwan during the years of history. It is an island which is located southeast of China, and it counts as the biggest island in China.

Based on the location of Taiwan, many countries, the United States for example, want to establish a military base there, so that they can have a military network throughout the country. During the Cold War, Americans called Taiwan "the unsinkable aircraft carrier," because it was the oriental base, which was against the communists. After the Cold war, Americans, in order to restrain China, used Taiwan as the frontline. In the aspect of Chinese military strategy, however, China wants to control Taiwan, and also to occupy the island, in order to diminish persecution from other nations, and open the gate for China towards the Pacific Ocean.

The people in China already have perceived that whatever country supports an independent Taiwan usually wants to take advantage of Taiwan. For example, "Taiwan, located 200 km south of the Japanese island of Yonaguni, sits astride Japanese shipping routes to the rest of the world, including oilfields in the Middle East and raw materials in Australia." Without this useful island, the Japanese would not have business that easily.

Because of the vast history, rich economic resources, similar cultural beliefs, and the innovative politics, Taiwan needs to come back to China. If there is a person missing in the family, the whole family will not be happy; it is same with a country — China. If the entire country's territories have a part that is missing, the country will not just let it go, and it will fight for it. This is due to the fact that since Taiwan's future has profound strategic implications for the Asia-Pacific region, the recovery of Taiwan is "a matter of supreme national interest" for which China must be prepared to fight "at any cost." Even though Taiwan is succeeding somehow, the success will not last long. The relationship between Taiwan and China is not that simple; it is complex, profound, and mysterious.

If Taiwan still wants to declare itself as a country, a war may develop and will cause many innocent people to suffer. The people in China and Taiwan could have a better life if those two regions came together without any armed force. The Chinese government can use the "one nation two policy" for Taiwan's return, which it has already been using in Hong Kong and Macao for six years. Professor Glazov-Corrigan made his point, and to paraphrase it, "the cross-strait relationship, the unique relationship, was the key to peace in Asia, and thus the key to peace in the world."

Taiwan should come back to China, the sooner the better. Taiwan was part of China, is, and will always be part of China no matter what happens in the future!

Bryan W. Wang is an international student from China and can be reached at bwusarmy@hotmail.com.



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## Weekend Football Preview



Western Carolina at The Citadel  
Saturday, 12 p.m.



Elon at Liberty  
Saturday, 1:30 p.m.



Wofford at Virginia Military  
Saturday, 1 p.m.



U.T. Chattanooga at Furman  
Saturday, 2 p.m.

## I-AA Top 25 Poll

1. Southern Illinois 10-1



2. Furman 8-2



3. Western Kentucky 8-2



4. Georgia Southern 9-2



5. New Hampshire 8-2



6. William & Mary 8-2



7. Montana 8-2



8. James Madison 8-2



9. Lehigh 9-1



10. Delaware 7-3



11. Sam Houston State 8-2

12. Hampton 9-1

13. Harvard 9-0

14. Jacksonville State 8-1

15. Eastern Washington 8-3

16. Northwestern State 7-2

17. Wofford 7-3

18. Cal Poly 8-2

19. Alabama State 8-1

20. Southern 8-2

21. North Dakota State 8-3

22. Pennsylvania 7-2

23. Coastal Carolina 9-1

24. Montana State 6-4

25. South Carolina State 8-2



LaVene Bell/STAFF

Eagle Defensive end Victor Cabral (90), linebacker Derrick Butler (43) and defensive tackle Charrod Taylor (91) sack Appalachian State's quarterback during GSU's Homecoming game on October 16, 2004

## FOOTBALL, FROM PAGE 1A

Right now, assuming these teams avoid a last game loss, most analysts predict that those three teams will be Southern Illinois, Furman, and William and Mary.

If GSU is not seeded, then their attendance numbers will come into play. Of all the predicted playoff teams the Eagles are third in home game attendance.

With all that's left to be considered, it will be very difficult to predict who GSU will meet in the first game, but here are what some analysts are saying.

Even with regionalization the Eagles could be fac-

ing a team as far away as Delaware. The Blue hens are the defending national champions and have always been a tough opponent for Georgia Southern. UD's Atlantic Ten partner New Hampshire could be a possible opponent, and Sam Houston State has also been predicted to make the first round trip to Statesboro.

There really is no way to know for sure until Sunday when the committee announces the field. What is known is that the Eagles will have to defeat some really good football teams if they hope to win in Chattanooga. Until they know for sure, Eagle fans will be waiting in anticipation.

# NEXTEL Championship goes down to final race of the season

By Jenna Fryer  
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, NC - Forget the math or the infinite number of potential scenarios to determine who will win NASCAR's Nextel Cup title.

There should be only one strategy for the five drivers still eligible to win the title Sunday at Homestead-Miami Speedway: win the race and don't worry about what the other competitors are doing.

With five racers separated by 82 points headed into the final event of NASCAR's 10-race Chase for the Nextel Cup Championship, a crew chief could go mad trying to crunch the numbers to figure out what his driver has to do to win.

So why even bother? "We'll have a 'Go for broke' attitude," said four-time series champion Jeff Gordon. "We have nothing to lose, we'll give it everything we've got, and hope to come out on top."

Kurt Busch heads into the finale with an 18-point lead over Jimmie Johnson. Gordon trails Busch by 21 points, Dale Earnhardt Jr. is 72 out and Mark Martin is 82 points behind.

The race is so tight that even if Gordon wins and leads the most laps, he can still lose the title if Busch simply finishes second.

The only sure bet is Busch. If he wins the race, he wins his first series title no matter what the others do.

Under the current scoring system, a win earns 180 points, a last-place finish gets 34 points and all the positions in between are staggered. Five-point bonuses are given to any driver who leads a lap, and an additional five-point bonus is awarded for leading the most laps in a race.

So if Busch wins the race, he is guaranteed 185 points. Even if Johnson, or Gordon, or anyone else finishes second and earned two bonuses (five points for leading one lap, and five more for leading the most laps) it would still only equal 180 points, not enough to overcome the lead Busch already has.

At 72 points back, Earnhardt needs a terrific finish and hope the three drivers ahead of him all have horrible finishes.

Martin is in the same situation. Still searching for his first series title, he's stopped thinking about how to win it and focused instead on the only thing he can control.

The points scenario is similar to the 1992 race, when four drivers battled for that title.

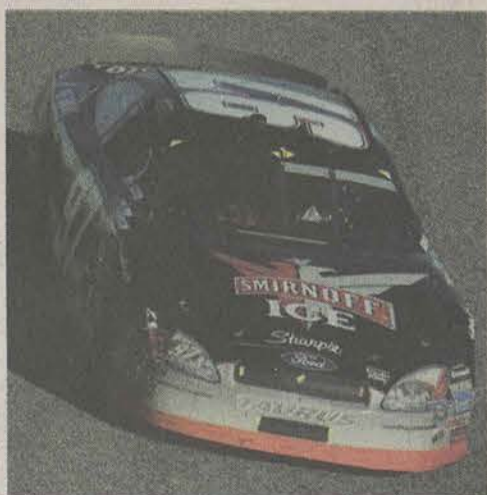
In the season-ending event at Atlanta Motor Speedway, the late Davey Allison started with a

30-point lead over the late Alan Kulwicki. Allison was 40 points up on Bill Elliott.

Allison needed to finish sixth or better to clinch the title, but after running sixth for much of the race, he crashed with Ernie Irvan. Kulwicki and Elliott were left to decide the title, and because Kulwicki led the most laps in the race, he clinched the 10-point bonus.

Elliott won the race, Kulwicki finished second and won the title because he led a single lap more than Elliott.

It could get just as wild at Homestead.



Patrick Collard/AP Photo

Kurt Busch, #14 at the Mountain Dew Southern 500 at Darlington Raceway in Darlington, SC, Sunday, November 14.

## The Rapp Report



Matt Rapp  
Sports Editor

"It's a good time to be an eagle," said coach Mike Sewak about the Eagles solid season. Georgia Southern hasn't seen a National Championship since 2000. That may sound greedy to some but here at GSU we only know how to win.

If you haven't figured it out yet, Georgia Southern has a rich winning tradition that dates back to the 1980's when coach Erk Russell brought our football program to where it is today. So, six championships later here we are in 2004 in

the midst of a four year drought. Can you say that our seniors might be hungry? Your better believe it. They are more than hungry, they are starved.

If you missed last weeks season closer against FIU you would know what I was talking about. After being down at the half, the Eagles came back to score 29 unanswered points. "I think Eagles have found the drive they need to succeed through the playoffs," said coach Sewak after practice on Wednesday.

## Terry Williams Alaskan Journal: Day 1

The Georgia Southern basketball team kicks off its 2004-05 season this week as it travels to Fairbanks, Alaska for the BP Top of the World Classic this weekend before playing Washington State next Wednesday. Senior guard Terry Williams will provide a daily journal of the trip.

FAIRBANKS, Alaska - We made it. We finally made it. We left Statesboro yesterday (Tuesday) afternoon at 2:15 p.m. and after nearly 11 hours on a plane and a night in Seattle we arrived in Fairbanks at 3:30 p.m. Unfortunately there is a four hour time difference so it feels like 7:30.

First thoughts on Fairbanks, it is cold. I mean very cold. They told us that it was 10 degrees when we landed. It felt like we were standing in a freezer. We tried to make some snowballs but it wouldn't stick. They told us because it was a dry snow

because of the cold. It was soft, almost like touching feathers.

And there is snow everywhere. I'm not talking a little snow, but like a foot of it. And not just on the ground, but covering everything. Benches outside our hotel room, roofs, signs, everything is covered by snow.

The last leg of our flight (from Anchorage to Fairbanks) was beautiful. Everyone was looking out the windows. The land was interesting because at first it was nothing but mountains and then it was just flat. Nothing but trees and snow. No roads, no houses, no people till we got to Fairbanks.

Well, we have to go to practice. Its now 5:30 and we have to practice. Its been dark for about an hour and they say it is supposed to be zero degrees tonight. Thats zero, meaning nothing.

-- T. Dub

## Vick and the Falcons get ready to take on the Giants



Ric Feld/AP Photo

Atlanta Falcons Michael Vick (7) gets out of bounds for second and short around pursuit by Tampa Bay Buccaneers linebacker Ian Gold (52) during first half play at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, Sunday, Nov. 14, 2004.

By PAUL NEWBERRY  
Associated Press

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga - So far, Michael Vick is 0-for-2 when it comes to the Big Apple.

First, a sprained shoulder. Then, a broken leg. For two years running, the NFL's most exciting player hasn't been on the field when the Atlanta Falcons traveled to New York to take on the Giants.

On Sunday, Vick will finally bring his one-of-a-kind skills to the biggest stage in sports. If he can make it there, he can make it... well, he's already made it just about everywhere else.

"Mike is a great performer. Every week, he wants to shine," teammate Cory Hall said Wednesday. "I'm pretty sure most of the world has seen highlights of No. 7. But this right here will put a bigger spotlight on his abilities."

Yep, there's nothing like having a big game in New York (or, in the case of Giants Stadium, right across the river) to boost a player's image and marketing power.

Not that Vick needs much help in those areas. Even without a minute in New York, he's already got a lucrative shoe contract, his face on a video game and plenty of commercial endorsements.

"I think he looks forward to shining wherever he plays," linebacker Keith Brooking said.

While stressing that he looks at this game the same as all others, Vick had to admit there's a small part of him that wants to shine a little brighter in New York.

"Ohyeah, I'm very excited," he said. "This is my first time getting a start there. The last two years, I was hurt. Hopefully, we can do the same thing we did the last two years, and that's walk off the field with a victory."

In 2002, Vick's first season as a starter, he couldn't play against the Giants after being slammed to the turf the previous week by Tampa

Bay's Simeon Rice. He watched from the sideline as backup quarterback Doug Johnson led Atlanta to a 17-10 win, sparking an eight-game unbeaten streak that carried the Falcons to the playoffs.

Last season, Vick missed the first 11 games after breaking his leg in the preseason. The Falcons plummeted without their starter, winning only twice with Johnson and Kurt Kittner at quarterback.

But one of those victories came at Giants Stadium, a 27-7 upset that was mainly due to Warrick Dunn's 178 yards rushing and four turnovers by New York. Kittner completed just 9-of-23 for 65 yards, but it was good enough to snap a seven-game losing streak.

Barring an unforeseen injury in the last couple of practices, Vick will finally make his Broadway debut as the leader of a first-place team. The Falcons (7-2) have a comfortable three-game lead in the NFC South and are looking to take another major step toward the third division title in franchise history.

Vick knows he'll be in the spotlight but doesn't want it to distract from what's really important. If he has a poor game and the Falcons still win, he'll be satisfied.

"I'm blocking all that out," he said. "Yeah, it's the Big Apple and it's going to be a big-time show. But we're there to win a football game."

Vick seems more comfortable each week with the West Coast-style offense installed by the new coaching staff. Last week, he worked out of the shotgun for the first time in a 24-14 victory over Tampa Bay.

"I knew what this system could do for me and do for us as a team, as an offense," Vick said. "It was all about getting a handle on the offense and just being able to go out there and execute all the things that we were trying to do."

"It didn't take long, and here we are, sitting in a good position right now."

The Eagles will finish off this week's practice with a break on Saturday. "It's back to basics this week," said quarterback Chaz Williams. The Eagles are able to work out any last minute kinks as they enjoy their traditional bye weekend heading into the playoffs. "We need to build on our past mistakes and sharpen up our skills," said Jermaine Austin after enjoying a productive game last week. "We want to try to do everything right so we can pass the torch down to the younger players," said

Austin when asked about his playoff experience. Austin knows how it is to be knocked out of the playoffs as they were defeated 31-28 by Western Kentucky in 2002. Western Kentucky currently is ranked third in the National rankings and might be seen further down the road to Chattanooga.

So all we can do is wait, as the Eagles' future won't be determined until this Sunday. Also, in case you were wondering, fan favorite Teddy Craft is healthy and back in action.

# Hiatus

A BREAK FOR YOUR BRAIN



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**Movies**  
Read our holiday movie guide.  
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A PERSONAL ESSAY

## Surviving Thanksgiving 1101

Spending time with family members during the holidays can be a test of patience

by Cheryl Frost • cfrost@planters.net

Home is defined, in numerous dictionaries, as a place of "social unity." But for many, home is more like an asylum for utter chaos, a palace of disorderly conduct. It is the place where you are perpetually nine years old, where your tongue feels bigger than your mouth so no matter what you say it comes out sounding stupid. Home is where your faults become physical deformities and every mistake you ever made is laid out on the table with the Thanksgiving spread. Family gatherings usually entail contemptuous stories of Aunt Jane's unconventional lifestyle or Grandma's opinion of young Michael's nose ring. There will always be an announcement regarding your bachelor uncle's inactive love life. And at least two old people will have died since your last visit.

Holidays can be very cramped and imposing, especially for those who have ventured out into the real world. We come to find those things which were once comfortable and familiar no longer fit our new perspectives. We become increasingly aware of the tension between relatives, the unspoken disapproval of our parents and even the phony pleasantries that are exchanged throughout the day.

I questioned several of my classmates here at GSU to find out what they enjoyed most about the holidays. I was surprised to discover that most of the students I spoke to do not like the holidays at all. Their families drive them crazy, no one gets along and the stress of creating the "perfect atmosphere" intensifies everyone's discomfort.

My own holidays were not much different. I remember always spending the first half hour at my grandparents' house, arguing with Grandpa about which highway I took to get there; Grandma ran around sprinkling holy water on everyone - \$1.99, blessed by the Pope and purchased through a mail-order catalog - while Aunt Anna waved a butcher knife at Uncle Pete behind his back; The women all worked hard in the kitchen and the men watched football and acted as if the food appeared on the table by magic. At the dinner table the most intrusive, uncomfortable topics were exhumed and alcohol was ingested by the gallons to alleviate the pain.

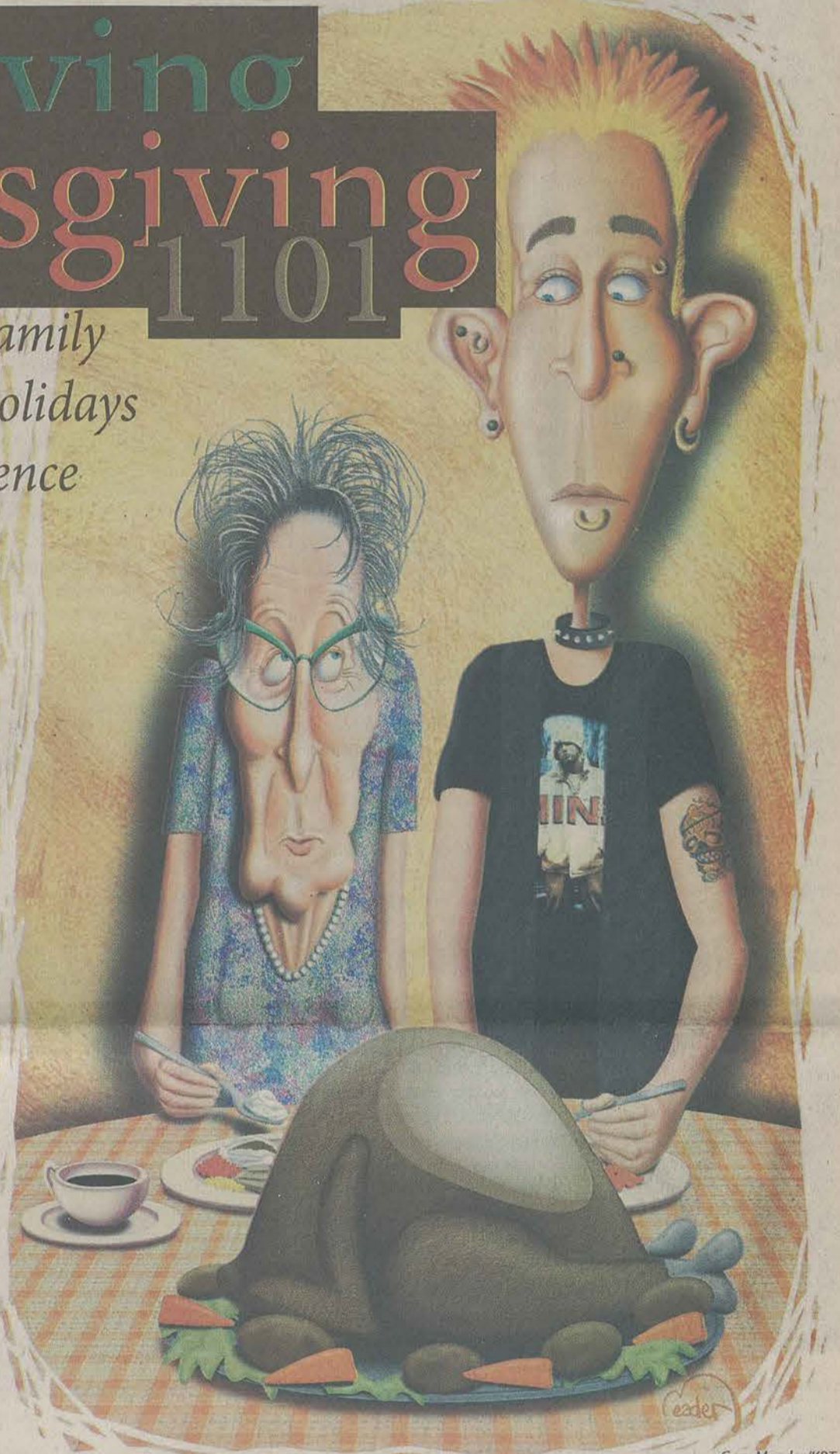
If home is so chaotic, so unbearable, then why do we always return? I won't pretend the free food isn't a plus, nor is it a bad idea to keep in contact with relatives who give you money. But there is something more.

Home, we must remember, is the garden in which we were rooted. From that garden, a family emerged. Among them may be some rotten tomatoes, an over fertilized carrot, and maybe a weed or two. But even if you were the only blossoming flower in the patch, your home - your family - is where it all began. It is good to step back once in a while and remember where you're from, even if revisiting what you left behind is a little unpleasant.

**INSIDE**

Read more tips on how to survive a crazy holiday with your family.

- See page 4



Gary Meader/KRT

So how do you survive these chaotic holidays without going completely insane? My favorite method of dealing with discomfort is to coat it with a little humor. Here are a few tips on how to get through the holidays with as little pain as possible:

First of all, when I say humor, I don't mean you should tell jokes. Never crack jokes when you go home, especially if your family has no sense of humor. Remember, in their eyes you are only nine years old. Your jokes aren't funny. Instead, try watching your family from an outsider's perspective. Place an imaginary frame around them and think, if you could make a caricature print of them, how would it look?



Play a few rounds of "Criticism Bingo." Make up a chart of common complaints that various members of your family always bring up. Then throughout the day when Aunt Martha doesn't like your brother's hair or Granny whines that no one ever calls her, place a marker on those complaints until you fill up a row. Then jump up and yell "Bingo!" and if everyone complains that you're nuts, you win.



Try the 20-Questions Interrogation Game. This is where your parents, aunts, uncles and grandparents ask you questions that measure your worth in life. The trick is to answer the questions exactly the way they want you to (regardless of the truth). If they agree with your answer or praise you in any way, you get a point. If they argue or disagree, you have to start over. If you answer 20 questions correctly in a row, you win. Don't be a smart alec, though.



## Iraq war inspires GSU soldier's book

Recently-released book by GSU junior details turmoil of war

By Adam Crisp  
gadeputy@georgiasouthern.edu

When it comes to war, no one expects it to be easy or pleasant.

So when Georgia Southern University junior Rahim Shabazz was called up for duty in Iraq, his expectations were realistic.

He didn't expect a picnic in the sand—he knew it would be hard work.

When the 24-year-old reservist was called into active duty in May 2003, he hurriedly packed his bags, and was ready within a day. The GSU junior was leaving behind a prized

internship at Disney World for the hot sands of Iraq.

"I could have gotten out of going," said Shabazz, whose father is a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army. "My dad had all the paper work ready. I know this sounds so cliché, but I really thought that this was something that I needed to do for my country."

But, even Shabazz, with extensive Army training and certifications, couldn't prepare for Iraq.

"It wasn't the heat or the bugs or even sand," said Shabazz. "Although all that stuff was enough to make one person crazy, the constant bickering

and politics were the worst part."

Shabazz was caught off guard by the harassment and persecution he faced after he uncovered an extramarital affair between his two commanding officers.

He details his experience in a recently-released book of poetry and short stories. His work draws on the emotions of his trying ordeal, and combines his those feelings with rhythmic raps that take revenge on his commanders, and those he feels betrayed him while fighting in Iraq.

"It was hell," Shabazz said of see SHABAZZ, page 4



Adam Crisp/STAFF

Rahim Shabazz, a GSU junior, has written a book about his experience fighting in Iraq.

CALENDAR

NOV.  
18-24, 2004

18 'Hotel Paradiso,' Performing Arts Center, 8 p.m.

For GSU students \$3, faculty and staff \$6, and general admission \$10.

This event will run Friday and Saturday, same place and time.

19 International Coffee Hour, Williams Center Dining Hall, 11 a.m.

'Mostly Mozart Opera Evening,' Carol A. Carter Recital Hall, 8 p.m.

This event also runs Saturday, same place and time.

'Looking Up: How and Why We Use Telescopes to study the cosmos,' Planetarium, 7 p.m. & 8 p.m.

21 Christ Full Gospel Leadership Meeting, Union Rm 2075, 5 p.m.

22 Eagle Entertainment Reception, Union Ballroom, 7 p.m.

'Standing in the Shadow,' Union Theater, 7:15 p.m.

Masterworks I, Performing Arts Center, 8 p.m.

24 Thanksgiving Holiday, No SCHOOL!

How to participate

E-mail us you're events to gahiatu@yahoo.com. Please have your event turned in by Wednesday at noon for Thursday's Hiatus calendar.



**The CIN List**

**And the award goes to**

During the taping of the second annual Vibe Awards, a scuffle broke out in which one person was stabbed. Apparently, the fight broke out when Snoop Dogg and Quincy Jones were paying tribute to Dr. Dre with a lifetime achievement award. According to witnesses, Dre was involved in the brawl. The man was receiving a lifetime achievement award and he's out in the streets fighting. Don't get me wrong I like Dr. Dre. You can take the man out of the hood but you can't take the hood out of the man.



Dr. Dre



Ashley Stevens  
 A&E Editor • gahiatu@yahoo.com

they'll be together forever. This is America and forever doesn't last long. If I were her and my husband didn't have anything, then that's what he'd be leaving with.

**I'm just blond not stupid**

In fashion news, singer Jessica Simpson is being paid 10 million dollars to start her own clothing line. She wants to design clothes that ordinary people would wear. First, Simpson is, how shall I say this, special.



Jessica Simpson

I wouldn't trust her to change a light bulb let alone design clothes. Secondly, yeah right, if ordinary people were short, stacked, and had loads of money. Last time I checked, most people don't look like that. So please Jessica, stick to what you do best singing and looking pretty. When you try to think or sound smart, you make yourself look bad and the rest of us geniuses.

**P is for pre-nup**

According to reports, Star Jones, one of the hosts of "The View," got married several days ago. The wedding, reportedly, went off without a hitch. Man, I just lost some serious money. I was sure that Al Reynolds was going to back out. Then again, Jones does have a lot of money, and Reynolds likes money. I hope Jones wasn't stupid and got a pre-nup. She probably didn't. She probably believes



Star Jones

**Foxworthy visits local wildlife club**



Special to the G-A

Comedian Jeff Foxworthy will be doing a stand-up routine at the Evans County Club this Thursday, November 18. The opening act will be American Juniors' Katelyn Tarver.

Advance tickets are on sale. All tickets are on a first come, first served basis and there are limited quantities. Admission is \$7 dollars in advance and \$10 at the gate.

This is an outdoor event and seating will not be provided. Alcohol, pets, unattended children, video and/or other recording devices are strictly prohibited.

AP Photo

Jeff Foxworthy will perform in Statesboro

**A NOTE TO OUR READERS**

Yes, we know...this is the spot where we usually run the Hot Seat each week. We simply ran out of submissions. So, if you know someone who has a tight ride, or even just a treasured hoopy, give us a call at (912) 682-2708 or e-mail us at [gadeputy@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:gadeputy@georgiasouthern.edu). Thanks for reading, and we promise, the Hot Seat will be back next week.

**Charmed life**

*Charm Bracelets make trendy recovery*

By Wendy Donahue  
 Chicago Tribune

Charm bracelets once served as jingle-jangle reminders to vote for John F. Kennedy.

Passed out to constituents, they dangled photos, busts or the names of John and Jacqueline Kennedy and their children, according to the book "Charmed Bracelets" (Stewart, Tabori & Chang, \$19.95). Another carried a scroll with Kennedy's call to "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

As we've already witnessed this year, campaigns have lost that fairy-tale charm.

But charm bracelets are back, as big as they've been since the days of Kennedy Camelot.

From vintage kitschy versions to Tiffany's ubiquitous sterling-silver icons to designer incarnations fetching thousands of dollars, each manages to freeze a moment or two in a fast-paced time.

"It's a scrapbook for your wrist," said flea-market expert Barri Leiner of Chicago, who with Marie Moss has started an all-vintage jewelry collection called M&B Vintage. They can assemble bracelets immortalizing bridesmaids, babies, hobbies, trips.

"It's an instant heirloom," Leiner

said, "and a wonderful collectible to pass down."

Charm bracelets were the "archetypal accessory" of the 1950s, "Charmed Bracelets" author Tracey Zabar writes — perfect with the three-quarter "bracelet sleeves" of the decade.

In those days, the achievements of homemakers or husbands orbited some wrists — Lucille Ball's bracelet celebrated Desi Arnaz's musical career. Many parents bought bracelets at the birth of a daughter and attached a new charm each year. Teen bracelets swayed with Beatles idols, Betty Crocker accomplishments or "mad-money" boxes to stow a dollar in case a date went awry.

Then the feminist era began.

The golden age of charm bracelets was over.

Not only did these nostalgic baubles clash with fringed jackets and free love, Zabar writes, they created an occupational hazard in typewriter keys as women entered the workforce.

"Now, we've come full circle," Zabar writes, venturing that a new generation craves irrevocably personal items in an impersonal world.

"Charm bracelets are hot again."



**Hotel Paradiso now showing**

By Emily Haymans • gahiatu@yahoo.com

"What a night! What a night!" exclaims the cast of Theatre and Performance's latest production, *Hotel Paradiso*. Showing at the GSU Performing Arts Center Wednesday through Saturday at 8 p.m., this French farce will keep the audience laughing through three hilarious acts.

Philandering, ghosts, and a police round-up are just a few of the shenanigans happening in one crazy night at the shady Hotel Paradiso. When Boniface plans on having an affair with Marcelle, everything that could go wrong does, and with comical results. Under the direction of James Harbour, a colorful cast of characters brings to life Georges Feydeau's uproarious play.

"[People should attend] because they'll have fun. They will laugh...and laughter is the best medicine," commented Harbour.

General Admission: \$10. Faculty/Staff: \$6. GSU Students: \$3. For reservations or more information, call the PAC box office at 912-486-7999.

**TOP TEN**

**Movies**

1. The Incredibles
2. Polar Express
3. After the Sunset
4. Seed of Chucky
5. Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason
6. Ray
7. The Grudge
8. Saw
9. Shall We Dance
10. Alfie

**Albums**

1. Various Artists-Now 17
2. A Perfect Circle-eMOTIVE
3. Nelly-Suit
4. Usher-Confessions
5. Rod Stewart-Stardust
6. George Strait-50 Number Ones
7. Ray Charles-Genius loves Company
8. Trick Daddy-Thug Matrimony
9. Ray Charles-Ray (Soundtrack)
10. R.Kelly & Jay-Z-Unfinished Business

**Singles**

1. My Boo-Usher & Alicia Keys
2. Drop It Like It's Hot-Snoop Dogg
3. Lose My Breath-Destiny's Child
4. Over and Over-Nelly
5. Goodies-Ciara
6. Breakaway-Kelly Clarkson
7. She Will Be Loved-Maroon 5
8. Let's Go-Trick Daddy
9. Wonderful-Ja Rule
10. Just Lose It-Eminem

**DVD & Video Rentals**

1. The Day After Tomorrow
2. White Chicks
3. Dawn Of the Dead
4. Van Helsing
5. Garfield The Movie
6. Raising Helen
7. Cinderella Story
8. Man On Fire
9. Walking Tall
10. Fahrenheit 9/11

**Books**

1. America The Book: The Citizen's Guide to Democracy Inaction-Jon Stewart, Ben Karlin, and David Javerbaum
2. When Will Jesus Bring the Pork Chops-George Carlin
3. How to Talk to a Liberal (If You Must)-Ann Coulter
4. The Last Season-Phil Jackson with Michael Arkush
5. His Excellency-Joseph J. Ellis
6. Chronicles: Volume One-Bob Dylan
7. What's the Matter with Kansas?-Thomas Frank
8. A Paper Life-Tatum O'Neal
9. My Life-Bill Clinton
10. Eats, Shoots & Leaves-Lynne Truss



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AP Photo

Jamie Lee Curtis and Tim Allen star in 'Christmas with the Kranks' which opens in theaters November 24.

## Holiday Movie Previews

By Ashley Stevens  
gahiatus@yahoo.com

### November 24

#### Alexander

Director: Oliver Stone  
Cast: Colin Farrell, Angelina Jolie, Val Kilmer, and Anthony Hopkins  
Type: Epic Drama  
Synopsis: The Oliver Stone-directed epic shows the life and conquest of the infamous Macedonian conqueror, Alexander the Great. Jolie plays his domineering mother Olympias and Kilmer as his one-eyed father King Philip.

#### Christmas with the Kranks

Director: Joe Roth  
Cast: Tim Allen and Jamie Lee Curtis  
Type: Comedy  
Synopsis: The Kranks have 24 hours to resurrect their yuletide spirit when their daughter decides she's coming home for the holidays after all.

### December 3

#### Closer

Director: Mike Nichols  
Cast: Julia Roberts, Clive Owens, Jude Law, and Natalie Portman  
Type: Drama/Romance  
Synopsis: In the beginning, there are two couples who appear to be happy. However, sexual attraction and jealousy threatens to destroy both relationships.

#### House Of Flying Daggers

Director: Zhang Yimou  
Cast: Zhang Ziyi, Takeshi Kaneshiro, and Andy Lau  
Type: Drama/Romance/Action & Adventure  
Synopsis: "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" actress Zhang Ziyi stars as Mei. Mei is a dancer experienced in the martial arts who is suspected of aiding a revolutionary group against the Tang dynasty. She is sought after by two earthbound police deputies. Be on the look out for the formation of an unlikely love triangle.

### December 8

#### Blade: Trinity

Director: David S. Goyer  
Cast: Wesley Snipes, Ryan Reynolds, and Jessica Biel  
Type: Action & Adventure  
Synopsis: A third installment of the vampire saga in which Blade must battle the Ubervamp Dracula with a little backup.

### December 10

#### Ocean's Twelve

Director: Steven Soderbergh  
Cast: George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Julia Roberts, and Catherine Zeta-Jones  
Type: Drama/Action & Adventure  
Synopsis: The gang's back and they have to stop Andy Garcia's new henchman who's plotting to take back the team's Las Vegas booty.

### December 17

#### The Aviator

Director: Martin Scorsese  
Cast: Leonardo DiCaprio, Cate Blanchett, Kate Beckinsale, and Gwen Stefani

Type: Drama/Romance/Action & Adventure

Synopsis: The story of millionaire Howard Hughes' attempt to create an airplane that can fly higher than any other at the expense of his fortune and reputation.

#### Lemony Snicket's: A Series of Unfortunate Events

Director: Brad Silberling  
Cast: Jim Carrey and narrated by Jude Law  
Type: Comedy/Action & Adventure  
Synopsis: A gothic adaptation of the best-selling children's book about three orphans who are taken in by the bizarre Count Olaf.

#### Spanglish

Director: James L. Brooks  
Cast: Adam Sandler and Tea Leoni  
Type: Drama/Comedy/Romance  
Synopsis: A semi dysfunctional family welcomes a Mexican émigré and her daughter into family and heart.

### December 22

#### Phantom of the Opera

Director: Joel Schumacher  
Cast: Gerard Butler and Emmy Rossum  
Type: Romance/Drama/Action & Adventure  
Synopsis: An adaptation of the classic Broadway musical about an opera singer Christine and the disfigured man who loves and obsesses over her.

#### Flight of the Phoenix

Cast: Dennis Quaid, Giovanni Ribisi  
Type: Drama/Action & Adventure  
Synopsis: A plane accident in the desert leaves a group of people struggling to get back to civilization. Their plan is to make another plane out of the wrecked one while dealing with electrical storms and a band of desert people.

#### Meet the Fockers

Director: Jay Roach  
Cast: Ben Stiller, Robert De Niro, Dustin Hoffman, and Barbara Streisand  
Type: Comedy  
Synopsis: The most anticipated sequel to "Meet the Parents" in which De Niro must meet the folks who raised and named their child Gaylor Focker.

### December 25

#### The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou

Director: Wes Anderson  
Cast: Bill Murray, Owen Wilson, and Willem Dafoe  
Type: Comedy/Action & Adventure  
Synopsis: The eccentric Steve Zissou and his band of similarly strange deep sea explorers search for a shark which ate Zissou's friend.

#### Fat Albert

Director: Joel Zwick  
Cast: Kenan Thompson  
Type: Comedy  
Synopsis: Fat Albert and the Junkyard Gang find themselves stepping out of their animated inner-city of Philadelphia and entering the real world. While adjusting, they attempt to get back to their own world.

## Movie reviews for new releases

By Christy Lemire  
Associated Press

"After the Sunset" - The nebulous title is appropriate for this dull and droopy heist caper, which never quite defines itself as larcenous lark or shady thriller. Director Brett Ratner had great success with the mismatched-buddy comedy "Rush Hour" and its sequel, but he falls short here.

Pierce Brosnan plays an ex-diamond thief retired with his partner in crime and love (Salma Hayek) to an island paradise. Woody Harrelson's an FBI agent convinced the two are plotting one last score.

The cat-and-mouse twists are fairly predictable, and Brosnan and Harrelson's strange-bedfellows camaraderie is none too believable. Brosnan seems bored, Harrelson's way over the top, Hayek's mainly eye candy, and



AP Photo

Pierce Brosnan and Salma Hayek in the movie 'After Sunset.'

Don Cheadle and Naomie Harris are squandered in shallow roles. PG-13 for sexuality, violence and language.

#### A lackluster thriller

A dull story with predictable twists

★★★★ 2.5 out of 5

"Kinsey" - With its intelligent subject matter, the story of professor Alfred Kinsey is giddy, even borderline orgasmic, with the possibility of discovery. It's also beautifully written, handsomely photographed and flawlessly acted by a solid cast, led by Liam Neeson, Laura Linney and an alluring Peter Sarsgaard. So yeah, it's Oscar bait but don't be daunted. It doesn't take itself too seriously.

Writer-director Bill Condon ("Gods and Monsters") does tend to deify his subject. Kinsey boldly went where no man had gone before: in the bedrooms of men and women across the country, asking detailed questions about their sex lives, in the hope of promoting greater understanding. Kinsey (and Condon) does get a little relentless after a while, though, and "Kinsey" gets a little repetitive. R for



AP Photo

Laura Linney and Liam Neeson in the movie 'Kinsey.'

pervasive sexual content, including some graphic images and descriptions.

#### An Oscar worth film

Beautifully acted and flawless acting

★★★★ 3.5 out of 5

"Seed of Chucky" - Chucky (voice of Brad Dourif), is alive (again) and well and he's gone Hollywood.

The fifth film in the series about the homicidal doll bears more of a resemblance to "Scream" than to any of its predecessors. The director Don Mancini dives into deep camp, cramming the screen with pop culture references and Hollywood in-jokes.

Jennifer Tilly, who provides the voice of Chucky's wife Tiffany and starred in "Bride of Chucky" six years ago, plays herself in a movie-within-the-movie: a big-screen rendering of the Chucky urban legend. Billy Boyd (Pippin from the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy) voices the couple's long-lost son, the anatomically incorrect, sexually ambivalent Glen/Glenda. R for



AP Photo

Jennifer Tilly and Chuck in the movie 'Seed of Chucky.'

strong horror violence/gore, sexual content and language.

#### A 'Scream' type movie

A movie with in a movie deep in pop culture references

★★★★ 3.5 out of 5

## Stone receives award, film candidates named

Associated Press

STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN - Oliver Stone will receive a lifetime achievement award at the Stockholm International Film Festival, which celebrates its 15th anniversary this week.

Starting Thursday, the festival will showcase 170 movies from more than 40 countries, most made by young independent filmmakers.

"We look for films that are innovative, that bring the cinematic medium forward somehow," festival director Git Scheynius said. "We look for young people, and we look for films that touch the audience."

Stone's new film, "Alexander," will

have its European premiere at the festival. The story of Alexander the Great stars Colin Farrell as Alexander and Angelina Jolie as his mother, Olympias.

This year's candidates for the Bronze Horse, the festival's top award, include Zach Braff's "Garden State," Hong Kong filmmaker Yan Yan Mak's "Butterfly" and "Primer," a thriller by Shane Carruth, which won the grand jury prize at this year's Sundance Film Festival.

More than 50,000 visitors and 500 journalists are expected for the event, which will run through Nov. 28.

"It's our most boring month," Scheynius said. "So you want to see good movies."

## SOAR 2005

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SOAR was AWE-SOME... one of the best experiences of my life.

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SOAR Information Night  
Monday, November 22 at 7:00 p.m.  
Russell Union Room 2080

Applications Due by 5:00 p.m.  
December 3, 2004

For more information, please call 871-1987 or check our website at <http://admissions.georgiasouthern.edu/orientation/leaders>

## FIND YOUR PLACE...



For more information on the RA position and to talk with Housing representatives and current RAs, come to one of the Information Sessions:

#### Info sessions

Nov. 30 in Johnson and Olliff Halls

Jan. 9, 2005 in Hendricks and Kennedy Halls

Jan. 13, 2005 in Southern Pines

For more information, visit the University Housing web-site at

[www.gsuhousing.com](http://www.gsuhousing.com)

### Resident Advisor Positions Available Fall 2005

Resident Advisor (RA) is vital members of the Georgia Southern Department of Housing staff. The RA is a live-in member of the Department of University Housing Staff and works with a group of students in the residence halls or apartment complexes on campus. The RA is primarily involved in creating a positive community environment. In order to accomplish this, the RA is expected to play a variety of constantly changing roles. The RA must be flexible and creative in meeting residents' needs by serving as a counselor, advisor, activity programmer, educator and friend. The position requires a serious time commitment and willingness to be available and accessible to other students.

**Benefits:** Each RA receives a stipend each semester. The current stipend is \$1680.00, Spring 2005. RAs are guaranteed on-campus housing, for which they are financially responsible. Resident Advisors are allowed a single room at double occupancy rates when space is available. However, the department of University Housing may assign roommates whenever the need arises. Equally important and the non-tangible benefits: the opportunity to interact with a variety of people and the chance to develop skills such as leadership, communication, organization, time management, and counseling.

Applications due November 19, 2004 for Spring 2005 positions

Applications due January 20, 2005 for Fall 2005 positions

For more information, visit the University Housing web-site at [www.gsuhousing.com](http://www.gsuhousing.com)

## Student Media announces Ramen Noodle Contest winners

Winners for best recipe, drawing donate 1,000 packs of Ramen to local food bank

By Jahna Montague  
 gahiatu@yahoo.com

Ramen noodles are a college student's best friend. You can cook'em, bake'em, or even shake'em. Well, at least that's what the winners of Student Media's Ramen Wild Recipe Contest did—to say the least.

Student Media, BiLo Foods, the Statesboro Food Bank, and the Georgia Southern University campus came together over the exciting week of Homecoming 2004 to help the less fortunate of the Statesboro Community.

Student Media hosted a contest, in association with BiLo Inc., aimed at getting GSU involved with hunger awareness within our very own community. Centered around college students and their, oh, so familiar link to Ramen noodles, the contest ran between September 22 and October 13.

After receiving more than 400 entries, the Student Media staff gathered together to pick the most creative and most original recipes. Veronica Corbett and Ellen Seel won First Place awards. They both received a cash prize of \$75.00

and 500 packs of Ramen noodles. Winners donated 1000 packs of Ramen noodles to the Statesboro Food Bank.

The Statesboro Food Bank provides food to less-fortunate members of our community. Located at 108 Proctor Street, the Statesboro Food Bank serves forty to sixty-five families a month. Efi Burns, Food Bank Director of Operations, was enthused to see college students aiding in the fight against hunger.

"Orders are assigned by the size of the family. Families receive food from each food group, according to the Food Pyramid," said Burns.

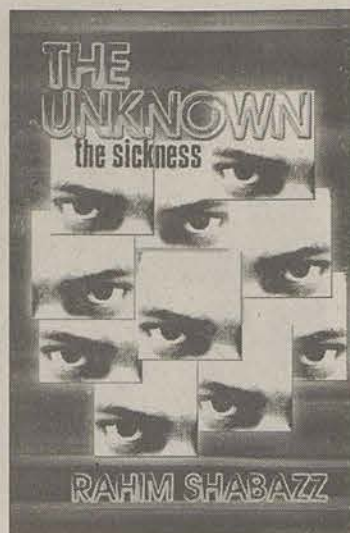
Teresa McElven, BiLo Store Manager, was on hand to see Falyn Brandon and Leon Wimberly receive Second Place awards, along with Third Place contest winners Jeffrey Fry and Salina Ross.

BiLo Inc., who supplied the Ramen noodles, delivered and unloaded the 1000 packs of noodles with the help of Food Bank volunteers and contest winners.

Looking for a new way to prepare your Ramen noodles, try the contest's winning recipes.



Teresa McElven, Bi-Lo's manager, wheels a cart full of Ramen Noodles into the Statesboro Food Bank.



Special photo  
 Rahim Shabazz's most-recent book is available on Amazon and Barnes and Noble.

## SHABAZZ

from page 1B

his experience. "All the feelings I felt while I was over there were written down. Whether it was on pieces of cardboard or whatever, I made sure that I recorded it."

His poems discuss the constant harassment and loneliness he felt while deployed. He believes his commanders singled him out because of his knowledge of their affair. He alleges that they accused him of crimes he didn't commit, and often assigned him work that was meant to degrade and belittle him.

During his months in Iraq, Shabazz was accused of multiple crimes — all of which he contends he was not guilty of. Had his commanding officers had their way, he would have faced three courts martial and eventually prison time, he contends.

**"They were just dead set on taking me down. After a while, I just didn't care."**

-Rahim Shabazz

Eventually, though, the charges were dropped and he was allowed to come home a free man. His first priority when he came back to the states was to lock himself in a room with a laptop and transcribe the hundreds of pieces of paper into a book.

The collection of works is entitled *The Unknown: The Sickness*, and it's Shabazz's second published work. His passion for writing was first discovered when he came to GSU.

"My first book was just all about people here at GSU," he said. "I would sit around campus and look at people, listen to their conversations and write it down."

That book, *Confessions of the Guilty: Repressed Thoughts*, is selling on Amazon.com just like his latest work.

Shabazz has published his latest book through PublishAmerica. While he admits he isn't getting rich from the sales, he believes it's worthwhile.

"If just one person reads it, that's enough of a reward," said Shabazz. "This most recent book was a little about revenge, but my first book, and the one I am working on now, are about expressing my feelings."

### HELP WANTED

Are you good with grammar? Do comma errors jump off the page? We need your help. *The George-Anne* is seeking a copy editor for the spring semester. The perfect candidate should have a strong background in English and writing. Qualified candidates will be given a test of their editing skills. To apply, drop off your résumé at *The G-A* office in room 2023 in the Williams Center. For more information, e-mail Luke Hearn, news editor, at [gatednews@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:gatednews@georgiasouthern.edu).

### Ramen Pizza

By Veronica Corbett

Ingredients:  
 1 Big Grab Bag of Doritos  
 2 polish sausages  
 4 packs of Ramen noodles  
 1 pack of these crackers

Directions: Crush Doritos and cheese crackers into small pieces. Cut sausages into small pieces and place into a big plastic bag along with the Ramen noodles. Add hot water to the bag (just enough hot water to make the ingredients moist). Cover bag with a towel to lock in the heat, and let sit for approximately six minutes. Mold the crushed Doritos and cheese crackers into a pizza crust, and spread the contents of the bag over them evenly. Slice it, eat it, and enjoy!

### Ramen Casserole

By Falyn Brandon

2 packs of Ramen noodles  
 1 can of chicken  
 1 cup of cheddar cheese  
 Ritz crackers

Cook the packs of Ramen noodles (do not add the flavor packets). Mix hot Ramen noodles with cheese and chicken. Place in a casserole dish and bake for twenty (20) minutes at 350 degrees. Remove casserole from oven and top with crushed Ritz crackers.

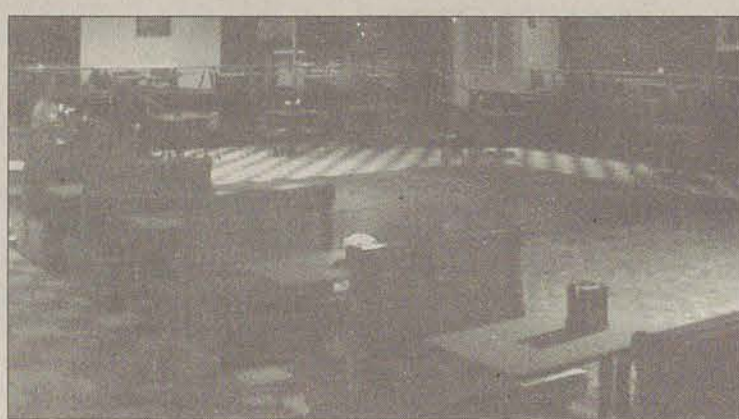
Let dish stand for five minutes, then serve!

### Home-style Chicken and Noodles

Sylina Ross

3 packs of Chicken Flavor Ramen noodles  
 1 can of cream of chicken soup  
 1 can of cream of mushroom soup  
 1 pack of chicken (your favorite pieces)

Boil chicken until done. Add noodles, cream of chicken soup, and cream of mushroom soup to the pot. Add packs of Ramen and let simmer until noodles are cooked. Turn off stovetop and let the dish sit for five minutes. Share the meal with friends, or eat it by yourself.



Matthew Gray/STAFF

Club Yacuzza, just south of Statesboro, offers a Latin feel for the local nightlife.

## Yacuzza adds Latin spice to Statesboro

By Phillip Gresham  
 gahiatu@yahoo.com

Nighttime entertainment will never be the same again with the opening of Statesboro's newest club — Club Yacuzza.

This Latin-themed club aims to bring international entertainment to Statesboro and the surrounding area. Yacuzza's main focus is on providing a clean, safe, and enjoyable place for individuals to socialize, eat, and dance.

Yacuzza, the name for an ancient Mayan fertility dance, is committed to attracting a diverse clientele. DJ Flux, Yacuzza's music specialist, explains,

"Club Yacuzza is the best environment for experiencing the greatest music from all over the globe." Yacuzza plans on having regular nights that feature music from the Caribbean and Latin America, as well as, Hip Hop, Country, and Oldies music.

Yacuzza owners plan to pamper their customers with more than 30 employees.

"Yacuzza's staff's first priority is the customer," said Xiomara Baralanga, the club's owner. "Yacuzza's commitment to customer satisfaction will be what sets us [Yacuzza] apart from other Statesboro nightlife alternatives."

## HOLIDAYS

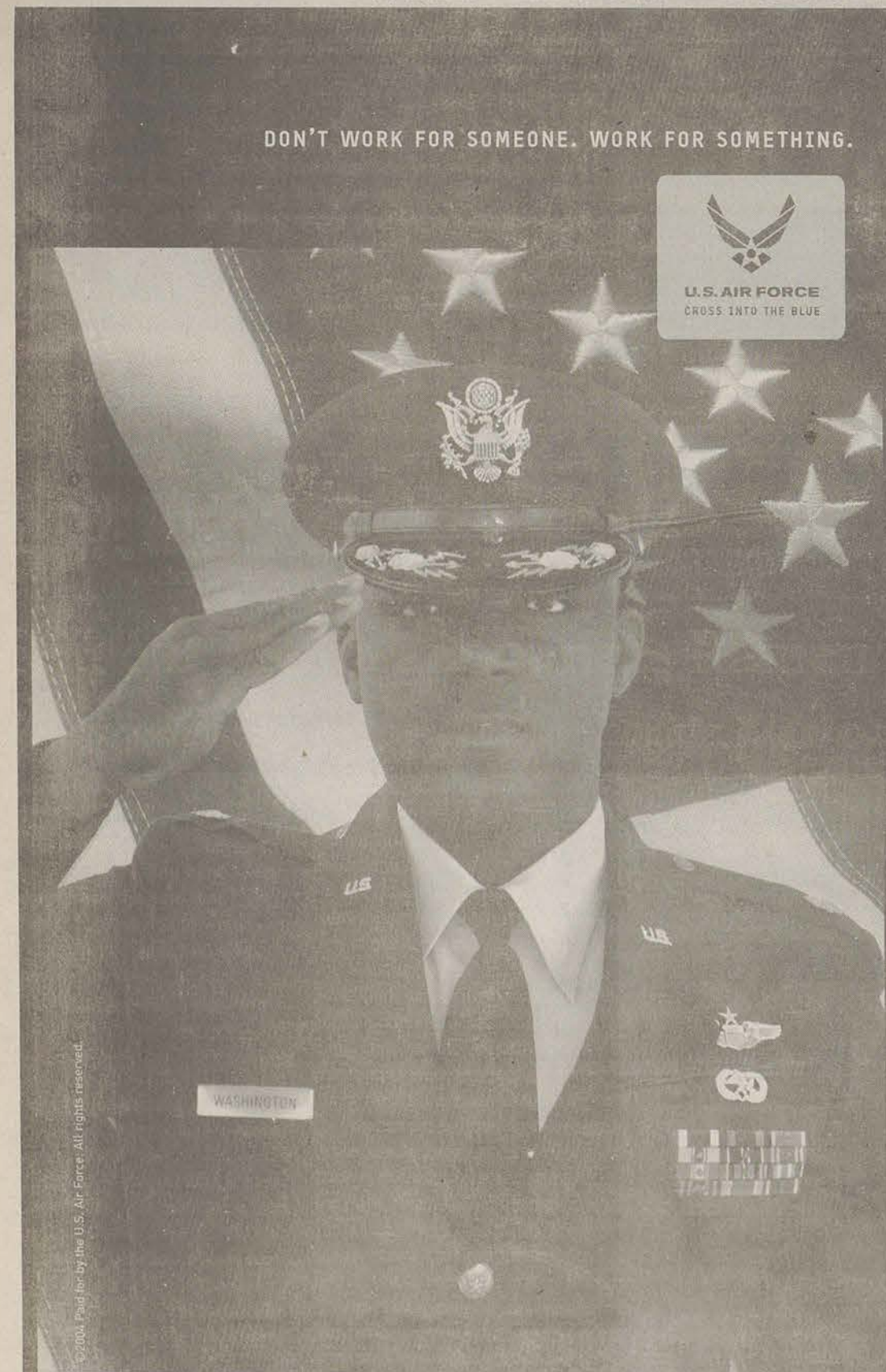
from page 1B

Maybe the home you return to each holiday no longer comes in your size. You're not the first person to outgrow your family. But "back home" is not a commercial resort. It is a spiritual retreat and the experience is what you make of it. Having a home to go to, even if it is filled with lunatic relatives, is a gift you will only appreciate when it is gone. I'd give anything, today, to chop vegetables in the kitchen with my aunts (even the one waving the butcher knife) or argue with my grandfather about the road I traveled. I even miss the \$1.99 holy water raining down on my head. What I wouldn't give if at least one of those lunatics were still alive today. What I wouldn't give for that home base full of chaos, relentless criticism, and endless intrusive questions. What I wouldn't give for a place where I could be nine forever.

Make a list of the ten most ridiculous statements made throughout the holiday and who said them. These are great to collect over the years, especially if you keep memoirs.

Indulge their interests. On a more serious note, you might try paying attention to the interests of your relatives. If your uncle is a war veteran and he frequently blurts out comments about "the war," ask him about it. Let him tell you stories and try remembering them. Ask your grandparents about when they were kids and take notes. If your mother is a bridge player, ask her why she likes it and when she began playing; Play her a hand or two.

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## 1ST BI-ANNUAL FINAL'S FEAST

Russell Union Commons

Tuesday, November 30 at 9 p.m.

FREE Food & FREE Give-aways

Sponsored by Eagle Entertainment

## Clothing lines get stylish, even in large

By Kathryn Wexler  
Knight Ridder Newspapers

MIAMI — Abby Zeichner wears Versace, but only when she day-dreams.

That's because Versace doesn't come in size 18. Nor do most designer jeans. Or sparkly camisoles. Or slinky dresses.

"I don't want elastic waistbands and the soccer-mom look," said Zeichner, 37, sitting in a South Beach Starbucks on a recent visit to Miami from New York. "I should be able to get up and feel pretty and sexy."

When Zeichner designed clothing for stores for teens, she couldn't

get the stores to carry even a size 14. So last year she launched the Abby Z Collection, with exactly the styles she herself longed for.

In the beginning, most buyers wouldn't return her calls. But somehow all that changed about six months ago.

"I don't know why — people just got it all of a sudden," said Zeichner, wearing three-inch heels and her very own tight jeans and purple print poncho in silk.

Selected Saks Fifth Avenue and Nordstrom stores began carrying Abby Z in the last several months. Her line arrived recently at various

Lord & Taylor stores. Bloomingdale's is putting the apparel in three stores later this month.

"We like that Abby Z is the Abby Z customer herself," said Marisa Gottlieb, senior assistant buyer for Bloomingdale's. "We also like that it's a little hipper and more youthful, trendy, yet the fabrics are very high quality."

Describing plus-size clothing as "hip" is a recent phenomenon. Gilda Gevis opened a store by the same name 16 years ago in Aventura, Fla., to dress women who were like herself, a size 20. But back then, most of what she had to choose from were what she calls "fat ladies clothes."

"They were boxy, shapeless and matronly or with big old floral prints," Gevis said. "We didn't have clothes that were the counterpart of the regular marketplace."

When clothing manufacturers realized in the last decade that larger

women were happy to pay for nice clothes, often they merely doubled the girth. But without altering the cuts to accommodate different proportions, the clothes were a poor fit — and sometimes still are, Gottlieb said.

That, although the number commonly quoted by those in the fashion industry is that more than 50 percent of women in the United States are size 14 or larger. Some higher-end designers like Ellen Tracy and Dana Buchman make clothes for larger women, which are carried in better department stores and boutiques. And I.N.C., at Burdines-Macy's, has a line that appeals to curvy younger women.

That hasn't always been the case.

"It almost seems as if they're embarrassed of us," said Armbrister, of Miami. "But we are here to stay. So bring our clothes down by the little girls."

Candace Barbot/  
KRT PHOTO

Professional plus size model Gail Spence models fall fashions at the Lisa Todd store in Merrick Park, Florida. Spence is wearing Harari Silk Dress for \$340 and a Louise Blumberg Handpainted Silk Ruana for \$450.

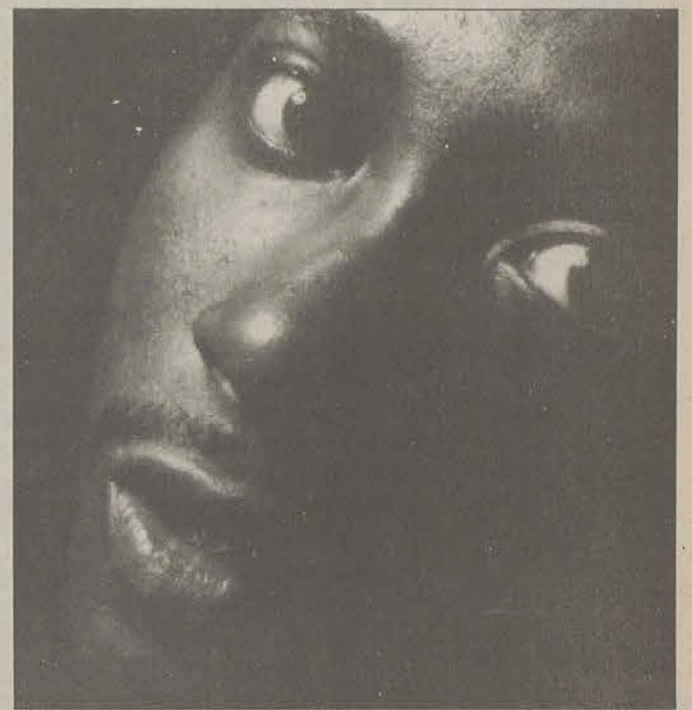


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1969 • Russell (ODB) Jones • 2004



## Rapper O.D.B. found dead in studio at age 35

By Nekesa Mumbi Moody  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The rapper O.D.B., a founding member of the Wu-Tang Clan whose erratic behavior and incessant legal troubles made him a figure as wild as his lyrics, collapsed and died inside a recording studio at age 35.

The cause of death was not immediately clear, but O.D.B. had recently finished a prison sentence for drug possession and escaping a rehab clinic. He had complained of chest pains before collapsing Saturday, and was dead by the time paramedics arrived, said Gabe Tesoriero, a spokesman for O.D.B.'s record label, Roc-a-Fella.

O.D.B. would have turned 36 on Monday.

From his first appearance in the early 1990s, O.D.B. — also known as Ol' Dirty Bastard, Dirt McGirt, Big Baby Jesus or his legal name of Russell Jones — had an unorthodox delivery that stood out even in the nine-man Clan, which featured such future stars as Method Man, RZA and Ghostface Killah.

The Wu-Tang blueprint was for each member to pursue solo projects, and O.D.B.'s were among the best. He released hit singles such as "Shimmy Shimmy Ya" and "Got Your Money," and appeared on remixes with artists like Mariah Carey.

"There's nobody like him in the game," RZA told The Associated Press in an April interview, when asked if O.D.B. could resume his career after prison. "He's got a lot of problems he's got to iron out, of course, but as far as a one-of-a-kind person, a one-of-a-kind artist, he's one of a generation, one of a lifetime. He's a very rare commodity."

But as his fame increased, so did his erratic behavior, and fans came to expect the unexpected from O.D.B.

When MTV News followed him around at the height of his popularity, he took the camera

crew and several of his kids (he was said to have more than a dozen, by numerous mothers) to the welfare office — in a limousine — to get an allotment of food stamps.

And he received them.

In February 1998, he crashed the stage at the Grammy Awards and hijacked a microphone from singer Shawn Colvin as she accepted an award, apparently upset over losing the best rap album Grammy to P. Diddy (then known as Puff Daddy). He complained that he spent a lot of money for new clothes because he thought he was going to win. The rapper later apologized.

Over the years, he was wounded in shootings and arrested on a veritable laundry list of charges, including menacing security officers, illegally possessing body armor, driving with a suspended license, shoplifting and threatening a former girlfriend.

O.D.B. is the latest in a string of rappers to meet an untimely death, among them Jam Master Jay of Run DMC, who was fatally shot in late 2002, and Notorious B.I.G. and Tupac Shakur, who were both shot to death in the late 1990s. Those killings remain unsolved.

His mother, Cherry Jones, said she received the news of her son's death in a phone call, which she called "every mother's worst dream."

"To the public he was known as Old Dirty Bastard, but to me he was known as Rusty. The kindest most generous soul on earth," her statement said. "Russell was more than a rapper, he was a loving father, brother, uncle, and most of all, son."

Tesoriero said O.D.B. had been working on his comeback album for more than a year and was almost finished.

"Russell inspired all of us with his spirit, wit, and tremendous heart," Roc-A-Fella founder Damon Dash said in a statement. "The world has lost a great talent, but we mourn the loss of our friend."

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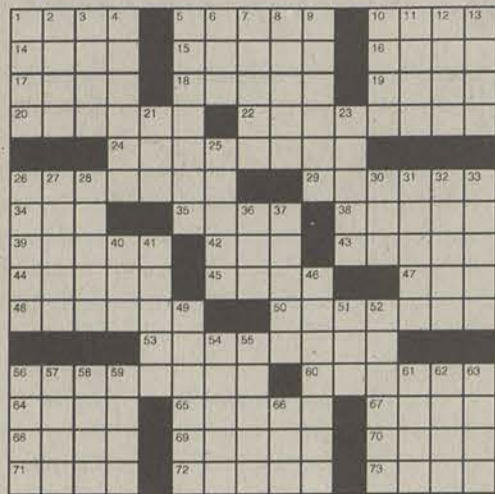
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CLASSIFIEDS, ETC.

Crossword

- ACROSS 1 Meara or Archer 5 Eye-balling pictures 10 Whistle 14 Clairvoyant 15 NBA player 16 Rosebud, e.g. 17 Russian ruler 18 Comic-strip Dick 19 Rational 20 Canada's capital 22 Status 24 Digressions 26 Moderate in tempo 29 Thin slice 34 By way of 35 Cut short 38 Sports venue 39 Two quartets combined 42 Refrain starter 43 Actor Feldman 44 At what place? 45 Eve's third son 47 Modern: pref. 48 Family cars 50 Oriental 53 Facing 56 Stairway grip 60 Savor 64 On the sheltered side 65 Scooped out on the sly 67 "Damn Yankees" femme fatale 68 Laurel or Kenton 69 January in Oaxaca 70 Organic compound 71 Sodas 72 Tunes 73 Toller



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Solutions

Table of crossword solutions with words like Yawning, Mil. probe, Lovers' meetings, Attention getter, etc.

- DOWN 1 Concerning 2 Brooding place 3 Without ice 4 List of mistakes 5 Eighths of circles 6 Golf standard 7 Yawning 8 Mil. probe 9 Lovers' meetings 10 Attention getter 11 Jai 12 Vegas rival 13 Garden of 21 Pale 23 Moslem nations 25 Fellas 26 Declares 27 Wall recess 28 Saw socially 30 Nest-egg initials 31 Captain Nemo's creator 32 Key PC key 33 Synthetic fabric 35 Anger 37 Meat pastes 40 Important time 41 Choir part 46 Pageboy and 49 Alo 49 Places at intervals 51 Sault Marie 52 Penn's partner 54 Keyboard instrument 55 Mary-Kate or Ashley 56 Lock with a pin 57 Choir part 58 Lowest high tide 59 Lairs 61 Actress Skye 62 Blackthorn berry 63 Corridor 66 Unit of work

Out of my Head

by Scott Carlson



PAUL

BY BILLY O'KEEFE www.MRBILLY.COM



40 Autos for Sale

1997 FORD Explorer 4WD newly rebuilt engine. All power, 10 disk Cd changer, running board, excellent condition. Call 912-489-8935 or 912-678-1017. Asking \$6500 OBO.

FORD ESCORT ZX2, silver, 2-door, AC, cruise control, 6-Disk CD player, \$5,500. 78,600 miles, perfect condition. Call 912-618-9643.

FOR SALE: '99 Ford Ranger XLT Extended Cab. Runs and looks great. Call 912-531-2302 for more info.

50 Auto Parts, Repair

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75 Churches

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST Fellowship of Statesboro wants to hire pianist for Sunday morning services and 1 practice w/ choir a month. Call for info: 912-871-5286 or 912-784-7845.

80 Computers & Software

LAPTOP CARD: \$20 "Blitz" wireless internet card. Works great! Walmart price is \$40. Call Jay: 912-489-6639.

90 Education

FUN & STUFF Visit our Web site for list of things to do that are educational and fun.

120 Furniture & Appliances

WATERBED, QUEEN size for sale! Works great, comes with everything you need; includes water heating pad. Used only for 2 years. \$140 obo. Call John @ 404-578-3842 available Dec. 13.

140 Help Wanted

DO YOU need money for this upcoming holiday season? Student Crew is looking for seasonal help now. Work your own hours and make as much as you want. You are paid in cash. For more info, send name and number to Andrea @ arichard@studentcrew.com.

GRADUATE ASSISTANT Position in Volunteer Services. Apply by 11-30-2004 in Russell Union 2022.

MALE AND Female models needed for Winter Fashion Show on campus. Lost of fun, must be open-minded. Call 912-871-7936.

150 Lost & Found

LOST: SMALL black dog, in vicinity of Beasley Rd., Deer Rd. and Jones Mill Rd. Missing around Nov. 4. If any info, call 912-489-2741 in the evening after 5 pm weekdays, anytime on weekends!

160 Miscellaneous for Sale

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170 Motorcycles

1991 SUZUKI Katana 600 GSXF, black w/ blue and chrome graphics. Only 13,800 miles! Great condition! Runs great! Paint job less than 1 yr. old! First \$2,400 takes it. Call John @ 404-578-3842.

180 Musical

KEYBOARD for sale: PSR-275 Yamaha music keyboard. Hardly used, \$110, OBO. Call Trey @ 912-690-1140, comes with adapter.

200 Pets & Supplies

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220 Rentals & Real Estate

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SUBLEASER NEEDED in Player's Club. All inclusive, washer/dryer and microwave. \$360/mo gets you bed/bath for Spring '05-Aug '05. Call Nickie @ 706-658-7504.

FEMALE SUBLEASER needed for Spring semester. Talon's Lake-\$335/mo, private bathroom, large kitchen, pets allowed. Call Stephanie at 678-378-4249.

1 & 2 BR APTS. close to campus. Available Spring. Call 912-764-3697.

SUBLEASE FEMALE: Available December. Bed/bath w/ washer/dryer. Private, very nice! The Landings \$345, plus utilities. Call to see 706-799-5549.

ROOM AVAILABLE. Sterling Pines. \$275 All inclusive. Great roommates, close to campus. Call/Email Sarah. 912-871-4969 or star2star@hotmail.com.

SUBLEASER NEEDED for January 2005-August 2005 for apartment in the Woodlands of Statesboro. Rent is \$445/mo including utilities. If interested please call 678-643-8950 and ask for Meredith.

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230 Roommates

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PLAYER'S CLUB sublease available December '04. One month free. 3 bed/2 bath apartment. \$360/month cable, water, power included. For info call 706-658-7504.

ROOMMATE NEEDED to share 3 bed/2 bath house near GSU and Mall. All appliances, w/d, \$290 + utilities. Available now! Call 404-483-9550.

290 Travel

FOR SALE: Car Audio Equipment. Excellent condition! 2 Kicker Comp Cvr 10 in. Subs, w/box made for extended cab truck. Will sell for \$150 OBO. Pioneer, Premier DEH-P840MP CD/MP3/WMA Player with FM/AM Tuner. Will sell for \$400 OBO. Call Jack @ 912-681-4340.

280 Television & Radio

BRAND NEW Emerson 5" tv and Power Acoustic DVD player for car or truck. \$250 obo. Call 912-682-2762 for more info.

290 Travel

discounts. Info/Reservations 1-800-648-4849 www.ststravel.com.

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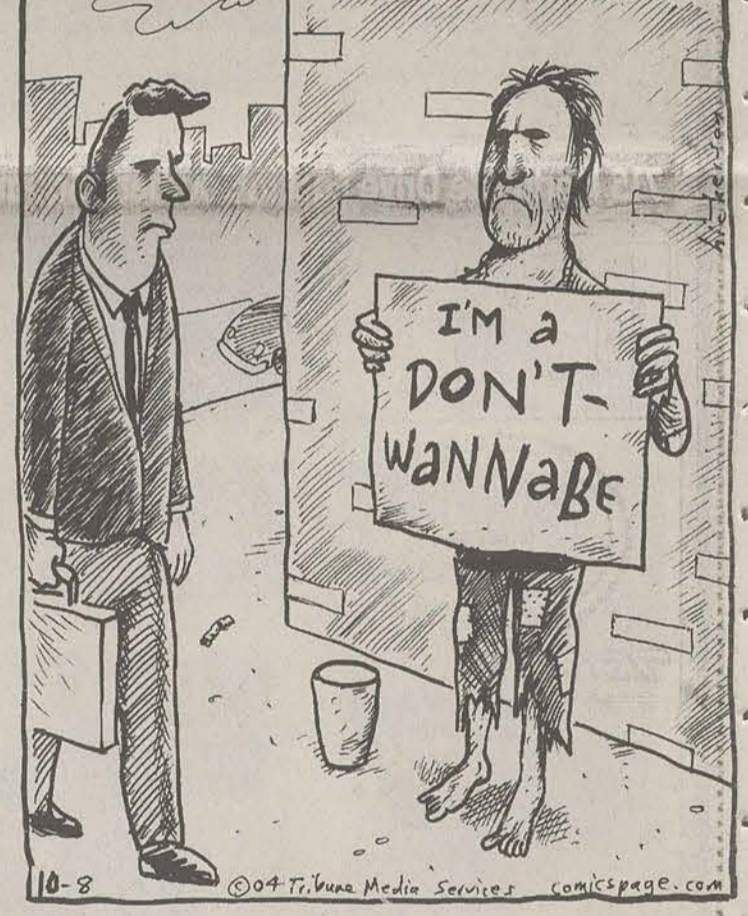
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Advertisement for 'The Buzz' radio show, featuring a large image of a microphone and the text 'Be an On-Air Talent for Spring 2005'. Website: www.stp.georgiasouthern.edu



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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. L. Williams

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cards, sample publications,

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StudentCity.com Spring Break advertisement. Features text: 'He is able who thinks he is able.' -Buddha. Includes details about Spring Break packages, destinations, and contact information.

# INSIDE LOOK

Thursday, November 18, 2004

## 'Polar Express' stays true to book's meaning

By Cheryl Frost  
cfrost@planters.net

For decades, we've pulled out the old classic clay-mation videos and watched in anticipation as Santa brutally discriminated against his lead reindeer's nasal-challenged offspring. We thought nothing of the strange red-headed man who strolled into the village of Sombertown to lure children onto his lap for a kiss in exchange for a present. We were totally entertained by the little girl who followed a talking snowman all the way to the North Pole, followed by an obsessive compulsive magician chasing a top hat. These were all great stories for the 20th century. But our society, including its children, has grown intellectually in the past 50 years. We want more from a Christmas special, something that indulges our imaginations without sacrificing the innocence of a child's holiday dream.

Warner Brothers has accomplished this with their new movie, "The Polar Express." Using the most impressive form of computer animation, The Polar Express is an absolute visual feast.

Based on the 1985 book by Chris Van Allsburg, the story line is simple and straightforward—a little boy grow-

ing into an age where he is not sure what to believe about Santa Claus. He silently struggles between reason and imagination and is awoken on Christmas Eve by a large locomotive en route to the North Pole. On it are all the children of the world who are experiencing the same uncertainty about believing in what they can not see. The tone of the film is not preachy nor is it implanted with strong adult morals. Instead, the entire journey is viewed through the eyes of a child. And what a ride it is.

Even if you are not into the red and white stripes and endless Christmas cheer, this movie is worth seeing for the graphics alone. Riding on the rails of bleeding edge technology, Polar Express is the first film ever to use "Performance Capture," a process in which the movements of a real person are captured and used as a blueprint for a very realistic 3-dimensional render. It surpasses anything I have ever seen before. The characters are so lifelike, you almost forget they're not real. The conductor of the train, for example, has an uncanny resemblance to his voice actor, Tom Hanks (who voices many of the other characters as well).

In addition to the lifelike people in



AP Photo

The Conductor voiced by Daryl Sabara in 'The Polar Express.'

the film, the scenery is magnificent. It is not simply an image but an experience. As the trains climbs and descends steep snowy hills, so do we. We are taken on virtual roller coaster rides that add to the childlike adventure.

Warner Brothers deserves extraordinary praise for this accomplishment. Not only did they create an artistic graphical masterpiece but they managed to rekindle the wholesome, magical atmosphere that Christmas was intended to bring.

### A holiday treasure

A wholesome, imaginative story

★★★★ 4 out of 5



AP Photo/Warner Bros. Picture

Oscar winning actor Tom Hanks is shown wearing digital sensors as he performs a scene from Warner Bros. Pictures 'Polar Express.' The image at right is the final digital rendering of Hanks' character.

## 'Polar Express' employs revolutionary technology to capture human expressions

By Anthony Breznican  
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES—Tom Hanks used experimental technology to morph into a little boy, a train conductor, a hobo and Santa Claus for the new Christmas adventure "The Polar Express."

This is how he was able to co-star with himself: The two-time Oscar-winner climbed into something like a black wetsuit lined with neon-blue streaks and a tight cap, and had hundreds of glistening white specks on his face. Computers recorded his

movements and expressions, which were then transposed onto his various characters.

"The Polar Express" pushed the technology into a new dimension by mapping the areas of Hanks' face with 152 sensors, so his instinctual movements control the faces of his characters.

With just a few more technological evolutions, "The Polar Express" may completely revolutionize the way people consider performance actors would no longer constrained by their own bodies.

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# Poker parties

You got to know how to hold 'em — here's what the fun's all about

By Vanessa Willis/Knight Ridder Newspapers

## CARD SHARKS

Bravo's "Celebrity Poker Showdown" attracts movie and TV stars, musicians and professional athletes, who play for their favorite charities. Here are a few who've tried their hands:

### BEN AFFLECK

Appeared in the first show, but was beaten by eventual winner Willie Garson ("Sex and the City"). By all accounts, this "Daredevil" is a serious poker player; he's the first celebrity to win a major poker open tournament.



### DAVE NAVARRO

The former Red Hot Chili Pepper and husband of Carmen Electra made the final table in Tournament 3, but Seth Meyers of "Saturday Night Live" got the last laugh.



### STAR JONES

"The View" must have been obscured because she didn't see it coming. Knocked out in third game of Tournament 2.



### JEFF GORDON

This four-time NASCAR champion made it to the final table in Tournament 3, where he ran out of gas.



### DULÉ HILL

"West Wing" star reached the final table of Tournament 2, but failed to win the house.



### MAURA TIERNEY

This "ER" star stayed alive through several games, winning Tournament 2.



SOURCE: WWW.TVTIME.COM/CELEBRITYPOKERSHOWDOWN/

## ON TV

● "Celebrity Poker Showdown" on Bravo. Details: Bravo.com.

● Fox Sports airs "Poker Superstars." Details on future shows: Foxsports.com.

● World Series of Poker and related tournaments on ESPN and ESPN2. Details: espn.com.

● World Poker Tour. Details: TravelChannel.com.

● Card Player magazine's Web site has regularly updated TV listings: Cardplayer.com.

If you think poker nights mean cigar smoke, folding tables in back rooms and low stakes, it's time to get with the program.

The Travel Channel set off a trend in March 2003, when it began airing the World Poker Tour, making celebrities of poker players. The already-famous followed suit, dealing in on Bravo's "Celebrity Poker Showdown," where they vie to benefit their favorite charities. Now professional players such as Annie Duke, the most successful female player in World Series of Poker history, are becoming household names. She's appeared on "Late Night with David Letterman" and has tutored Ben Affleck.

A word to the wise: Gambling is illegal in many states, so any exchange of money over cards is a no-no. That said, we offer a guide for all that you need to know to host your own poker party, including etiquette, suggested menus and a list of supplies. Whether you're in the mood for a swanky soiree or a casual gathering, it's easy to deal your friends in.

## HAVE ON HAND

- A couple of decks of cards. (You'll use just one deck at a time, but it's good to have extras in case cards get bent or marked with food.)
- Plenty of chips — at least 40 per person is generally OK. (Remember, playing for money is illegal in some states.) Check dollar or drugstores for cheap chips; visit sporting goods stores for fancier ones. eBay is a good source, too.
- A table big enough to comfortably seat players with additional room for food and drinks.
- A printed list of hand values at each seat, but only if guests are beginners.
- Appropriate tunes. If you're thrifty: Make a mixed CD or hook up your iPod to your stereo system, with laid-back tunes and an occasional poker-themed song like "The Gambler" by Kenny Rogers thrown in. Going all-out: Buy greatest-hits CDs by Rat Packers like Sinatra or lounge-music compilations.
- Ashtrays to go around, if you allow smoking in your home.

## ETIQUETTE

- If most guests are beginners, play a couple of practice games to help them learn the rules before you start keeping track of who's won. Have a list of ranked hand values at each seat.
- Respect the art of bluffing, a paramount strategy for winning. When players fold or lose a game, don't ask to see their cards. Knowing what they had would tip you off to their "tells," body language that reveals how players react to certain hands. That's why professional players often wear sunglasses.
- Deal carefully. Casually tossing cards could flip them over, creating an opportunity for players to count cards. If they do turn over, be democratic in how you handle the cleanup. Players may want to start fresh if you're not too far into a game.

## MENU

Messy foods like wings are a major poker party foul. Saucy and greasy foods make fingers messy, which can mark cards. And they're hard to eat with one hand. Food.com and cocktails.about.com are great sources of recipes for finger and snack foods, and cocktail and mocktail recipes.

- Going swanky: Set out plates of fancy crackers topped with store-bought spreads or finer cheeses. Serve simple mixed drinks, such as apple martinis, in nice glasses.
- Strictly casual: Bowls of mixed nuts, pretzels, small candies and plenty of cold beer are just right.

## HAND VALUES

Listed from most valuable to least valuable, from Homepokergames.com.



● **ROYAL FLUSH:** The highest possible ranked hand. Ace, king, queen, jack and 10 of the same suit.



● **STRAIGHT FLUSH:** Five cards of the same suit in sequential order. In the event of two players with a straight, highest card takes the pot.



● **FOUR OF A KIND:** Four cards of the same value. If two players hold this hand, player with the higher four of a kind wins.



● **FULL HOUSE:** Three of a kind and a pair. In the event more than one player has a full house, the player with the higher value three of a kind wins.



● **FLUSH:** A hand containing five cards of the same suit. If two players have the same hand, the winner is the player holding the highest-valued cards.



● **STRAIGHT:** Five cards of any suit in ascending order. The ace can be either high or low, and the high straight wins the tie.



● **THREE OF A KIND:** Three cards of the same rank. If two players hold this hand, the three of a kind with highest value wins the pot.



● **TWO PAIR:** Two sets of pairs. Highest pair takes the pot if more than one player holds two pairs. If two players have the same two pair, the player with the highest fifth card wins.



● **ONE PAIR:** Two cards of the same rank. In the event of a tie, highest pair takes the pot.



● **HIGH CARD:** Highest card takes the pot if no player holds any of the above hands.



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