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The GEORGE-ANNE

Wednesday, April 6, 2005 • Volume 77, Number 80

The Final Four

NC beats Illinois for
National Title Game



AROUND the HOUSE

Sports

- Eagle's Baseball 14 game winning streak snapped
- Golf places third at Augusta State Invitational

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Opinions

- Luke Hearn defends *The DaVinci Code*
- 'All My Children' star Eden Riegel writes in about sexual assault

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Only In America

Police say strippers aren't art

BOISE, Idaho - Art night at Erotic City apparently wasn't artistic enough. Police raided the Boise bar Monday night for violating the city's nudity ordinance, which requires that dancers wear at least pasties and a thong unless they are engaging in a performance with "serious artistic merit."

The club had tried to beat the ordinance by distributing pencils and sketch pads to patrons during special twice-weekly "art nights," when the dancers performed nude.

"It's actually pretty clear in the city ordinance that there are exemptions for dance and theater and artistic merits, but the law also clearly states that the exemption does not apply to adult businesses," said police spokeswoman Lynn Hightower. "If it were an art studio and models were actually posing, that would be one thing. But these women weren't posing, they were dancing."

Three dancers were given misdemeanor citations Monday but were not arrested.

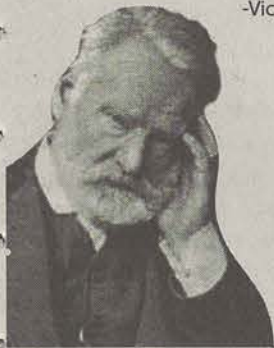
More OIA on

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Quote of the Day

"A man is not idle because he is absorbed in thought. There is a visible labor and there is an invisible labor."

-Victor Hugo



Weekday Weather

Wednesday



Partly Cloudy

HIGH
80°
LOW
63°

Thursday



Thunderstorms

HIGH
78°
LOW
58°

Inside

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New GSU 3D map shows details of campus

By Robert J. Greene II

rganews@georgiasouthern.edu

A new way to look at the GSU campus is coming soon, through a brand new 3D map that will show anything and everything on campus in amazing detail.

The map, which is a project that started in March of 2004 and is still going through revisions, will show the beauty and size of the GSU campus that has never been seen before on any map of GSU. The project was a large undertaking, involving three departments and \$20,000.

"This is one of the projects I've been most proud to work on," says Rosemary Carter, Associate Director of Marketing and Communications for GSU. The project was done in anticipation of this year's SOAR orientation programs, and an alumni version will be done for GSU alums that have not seen the massive changes that taken

place on campus over the years.

The project was done by an artist named Paul Calhoun, who specializes in making 3D maps of campuses, as well as 3D models of many objects. His other clients include Black and Decker, Lockheed Martin and National Geographic, as well as Coastal Carolina University.

He used several programs to create the map, including Autodesk form for modeling, Electric Image for rendering, and the classic Photoshop for the finished product. AutoCAD, a program used in the architectural field, was also used extensively in making the map. The project took a lot of research and much cooperation with the departments of Geology and Geography, as well as the Department of Architecture.

"One of the hardest things is to

See MAP, page 2

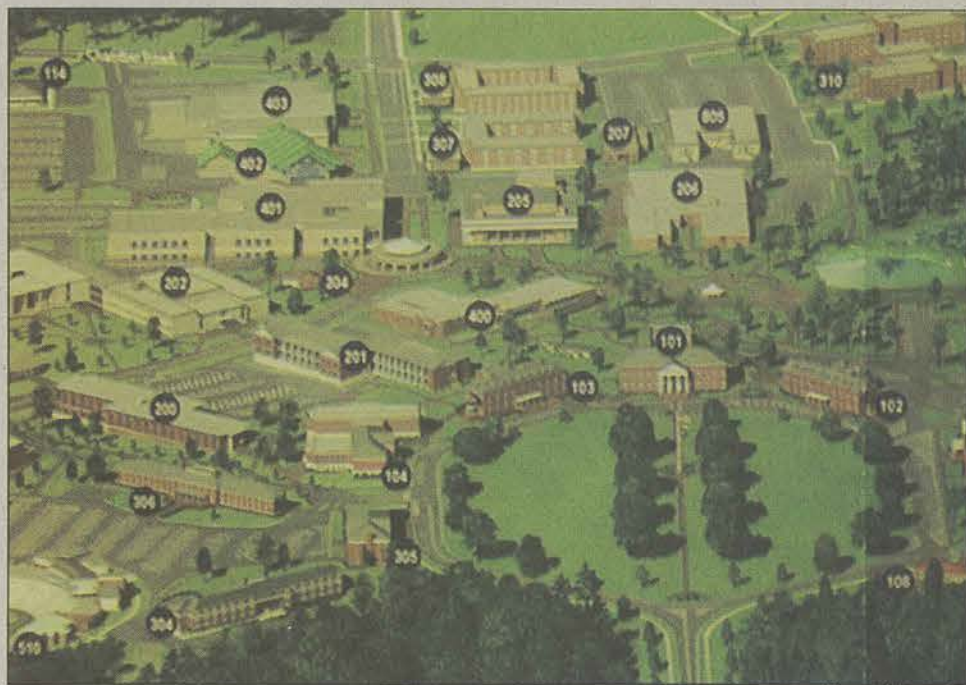


Photo Illustration

The above excerpt of the new 3D map provides more detail than previous maps. You can find a copy of the entire map inside this paper.

Gas prices hit all-time high

Economists see mixed future for gasoline prices

By Adam Crisp

gadeputy@georgiasouthern.edu

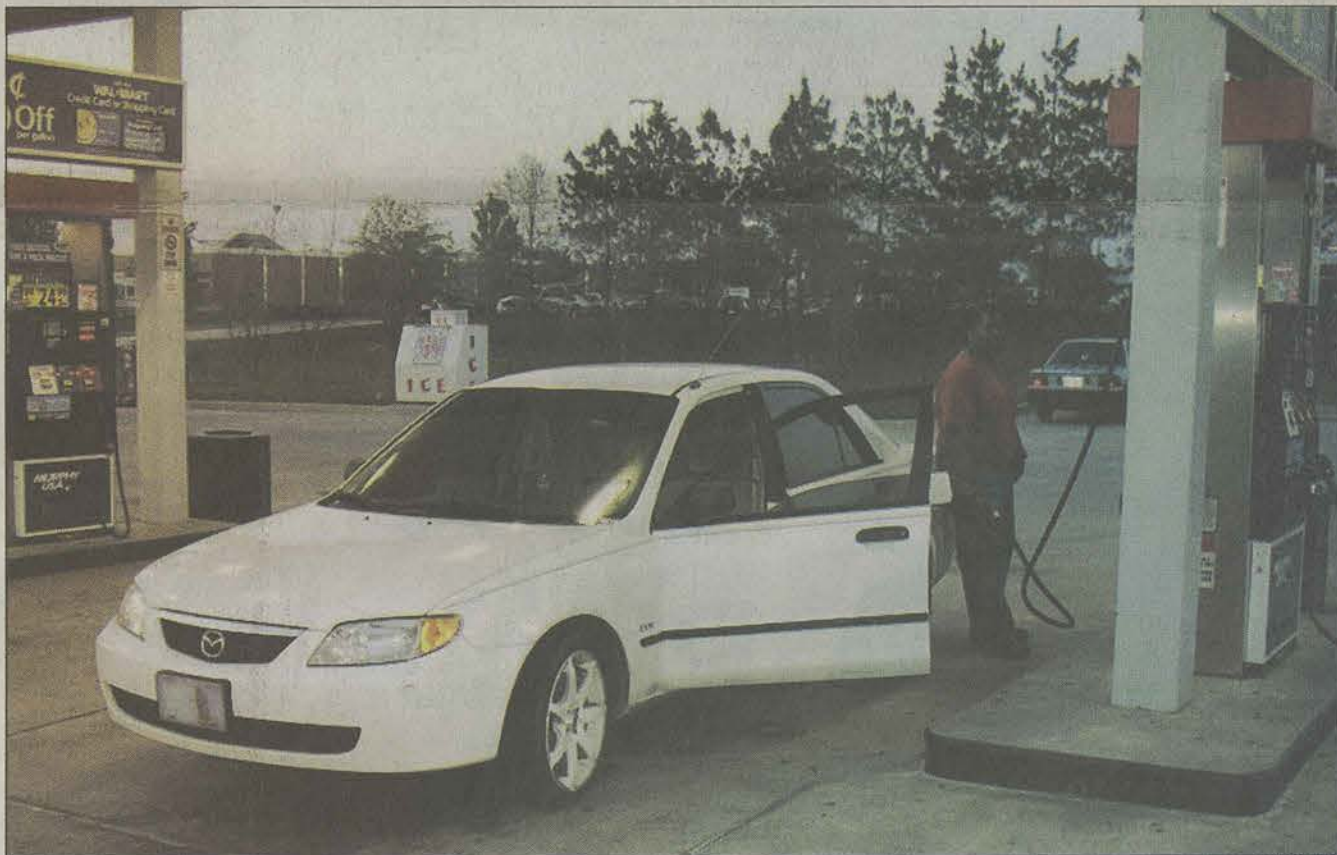
It doesn't take a degree in economics to see that gas prices are on the rise. With that observation comes the knowledge that increased prices mean a pinch to motorists' wallets.

Bill Bush, a spokesman for the American Petroleum Institute, said no one knows for sure how high gas prices might rise, but others say recent spikes at the pumps are far from over.

"We don't know what's going to happen to gas prices," said Bush Tuesday afternoon. "The price of crude oil has as a lot to do with the price we pay."

Bush said when the price of a barrel of crude oil increases, so does the cost to consumers. Right now, crude oil costs about \$57 per barrel. OPEC, the cartel that controls the output of oil, decided Monday to increase the amount of oil production by 500,000 barrels. The

See GAS, page 2



James Hall/STAFF

Gas prices have reached nearly \$2.20 a gallon and may continue to rise. Prices could easily reach up to \$105 per barrel if we go into a 'super spike' period. Some GSU students are feeling the effect of the gas price jump and hoping for it to end soon.

SGA elections complete

Davis ticket sweeps race, taking top positions

By Luke Hearn

rganews@georgiasouthern.edu

The Student Government Associations election results are in, with all but one person on "The Davis Ticket" winning his or her race.

While elections spanned over a three-day period, only 671 students logged on to WINGS to participate in the elections, less than half that voted last year.

"The low numbers could be a result of one of many factors," said Georgj Lewis, dean of students and the SGA faculty adviser. "Some of it may be from some of the negative interactions between individuals in the paper, and also because there was only one candidate for president."

Lewis explained there were originally three candidates for SGA's top job, but said two of them dropped out just before the elections.

"It's disappointing to have only one candidate," he said.

While the numbers are down, Lewis was not pessimistic about the future of SGA.

SGA Executive Board for the 2005-2006 Academic Year

- President: Shri Davis
- Vice President: Jonathan Buckner
- VP for Academic Affairs: Laurie Markle
- VP for Auxiliary Affairs: Ashley Scruggs
- VP for Finance: Kate Daniel

"We have to keep on moving, be positive and work to increase student involvement."

Lewis said SGA is currently in a good condition, but there are always ways to improve.

Charisse Perkins, the current president of SGA, said she hopes the low voting numbers do not discourage the incoming officers.

"It's very disappointing, but I think the next administration will do fine and will not be affected by

See SGA, page 2

Bush's entourage

Two former presidents, Rice, to join Bush at pope's funeral

By Jennifer Loven

Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Former Presidents Bush and Clinton will accompany President Bush to the funeral of Pope John Paul II, the White House announced Tuesday. The delegation will also include Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

President Bush and his wife, Laura, will lead the five-member group representing the United States at the funeral on Friday, White House press secretary Scott McClellan said.

It wasn't immediately clear why former President Carter was not going along as well. McClellan said the White House reached out to him but would not elaborate. A spokesman with his Carter Center in Atlanta, Jon Moore, also would not explain.

Former President Ford, who lives in California, is 91 and no longer travels extensively.

Clinton spokesman Jim Kennedy said the former president had been

See BUSH, page 2



Arturo Mari/ AP File Photo

Pope John Paul II points to Lake Albano, accompanied by President Bush during their first meeting at the Pontiff's summer residence in Castel Gandolfo near Rome this July 23, 2001. Five American presidents in a row eagerly sought audiences with Pope John Paul II, even when the pontiff expressed strong opposition to some of their policies, such as President Clinton's support for abortion rights and President Bush's invasion of Iraq. All five who occupied the White House during John Paul II's 26-year papacy - Carter, Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Clinton and George W. Bush - beat a path to the Vatican.

A closer look at the Quality Enhancement Plan

QEP looks at ways to engage students within university, larger Statesboro community

By Luke Hearn

ganewsed@georgiasouthern.edu

As Georgia Southern undergoes its reaccreditation visit this week with representatives from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), committee members of SACS will be focusing mostly on the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), one of the most integral parts of the reaccreditation process.

According to Mike Mills, professor in the Department of Writing and Linguistics and a member of the Strategic Planning Council — the group charged with talking with people from within the university and proposing a slate of topics for the QEP to the administration — the QEP is a project designed to take one aspect of the university and improve it.

"Any area of enhancing Georgia Southern as a whole could have been chosen for the QEP," said Mills. "We chose an area dealing with student retention; if we engage students in the university and community, they will want to stay."

Linda Bleicken, GSU provost and vice president for academic affairs, the final topic of the QEP was a compilation of many ideas.

"There were a lot of people working on this project. The committees worked hard and we finally found a subject for the plan that will result in overall student enhancement."

Engaging freshmen in the campus and community cultures

According to the QEP, "learning at Georgia Southern is more than just what occurs in the classroom." This point of this part of the plan is get freshmen students involved in what there is to do on and off campus. One main point is enhancing the GSU 1210 orientation classes by "establishing a uniform curriculum that will encourage and facilitate the engagement of students, both inside and outside the classroom." Part of this plan also looks to reach out to newly admitted students, welcoming them via letter or e-mail, and providing them with information allowing them to better prepare for SOAR advisement.

Engaging students in scholarship, research, and/or creative activities

This goal of the QEP addresses and recognizes that "learning is reinforced and higher levels of comprehension are achieved when students become directly involved in experimental learning opportunities, applying knowledge learned in the classroom." Furthermore, the purpose of this goal is to extend opportunities to students to become directly involved in scholarship, motivating them to participate actively in forms of scholarship.

Engaging students through active and service learning activities

This goal extends that of the one above, "expanding opportunities for student learning and personal growth, branching out beyond the scholarship of discovery into the scholarships of application and integration." This goal looks to teach students through active work in their fields of interest and study, making students more aware of participating.

Engaging students through capstone experiences in all academic programs

"The benefits to learning that accrue to majors who participate in capstone experiences are widely recognized throughout the academy." Included in this goal of the QEP is the initiative to focus efforts on creating more capstone projects in areas where there is not one in place. These capstone projects will be designed to include service learning opportunities.

Engaging students in a campus and societal contract

The focus of this goal is to "impart to students their responsibilities as citizens of this university community as well as citizens of a much larger societal community." GSU is currently involved with The American Democracy Project, and through this involvement has access to means for accomplishing this goal. Writers of the QEP feel it is important for students of GSU to be aware of their societal responsibilities.

For a complete version of the QEP, visit <http://sacs.georgiasouthern.edu/supportfiles/qep.htm>.

MAP, FROM PAGE 1

show just how expansive the campus is," said Calhoun.

He needed several sources for making a truly accurate map, from using aerial photography and topographic maps, to satellite images of campus, to simply walking on campus and getting a feel for the size of GSU grounds.

Calhoun wanted to truly capture the natural beauty of campus.

The sentiment of capturing the feel of the campus on a 3D map was especially pushed forward by GSU President Bruce Grube, and the amount of cooperation on

the project from across campus is especially evident of that.

The map, in addition to being on paper, is also available on the GSU website, as well as Calhoun's personal website, digitalriver3d.com.

The map can be seen from a full 360 degree angle, as well as on different longitudes and latitudes.

As for the future of the GSU campus, including the RAC and library expansions, Carter said the map will be updated to show the changes.

SGA, FROM PAGE 1

the low turnout," she said.

The following students will serve on SGA for the 2005-2006 academic year:

President: Shri Davis; Executive VP: Jonathan Buckner; VP for Academic Affairs: Laurie Markle; VP for Auxiliary Affairs: Ashley Scruggs; VP for Finance: Kate Daniel; Senators at Large: Callie Preast, J.D. Hunt, Mark Barton, Jonathan Simpson, Bryan Toles; Senators, College of Business Administration: Chris Blackburn, Christopher Ford, Kyle Burcher, Chris Strong, Francie Powers; Senators, College of Education: Becca Whitley, Justin Johnson, Kimberly Goler, Elenda Norde, Jared Martinez; Senators, College of

Health and Human Sciences: Amy Green, Bernard Ford, Sorden Davis, Jamie Lawrence, Denia Phillips; Senators, College of Information Technology: Brandon Jones, Lorenzo Davis, Andre Pijaux, Tarik Hassan; Senators, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences: Matt Jones, Carmen McCart, Sean Bethune, Mary Ann Rogers, Heidi Marie Sevilla; Senators, College of Science and Technology: Chris Brown, Hannah Athan, Jennifer Thompson, Andrea Milton, Carolyn Chin.

For more information on SGA, or to see the pictures and profiles of the winners, visit the SGA web site at <http://studentorg.georgiasouthern.edu/sga/>.

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Adam Crisp/STAFF

A fallen pine tree knocked out power along Chandler Road Saturday. This outage was one of two around the GSU campus.

High winds, downed trees knock out power

By Adam Crisp

Gadeputy@georgiasouthern.edu

High winds and heavy rains are to blame for scattered power outages around the Georgia Southern campus this past Saturday.

Georgia Power crews spent the better part of Saturday afternoon working to repair downed power lines along Chandler Road. Homes and businesses from Fair Road down

to the GSU stadium were left in the dark for several hours Saturday, said David Holland, the local Georgia Power manager.

"We had a lot of different things to happen Saturday," said Holland. "We had quite a bit of damage caused by high winds and then the saturated soil. It was a long day Saturday."

In addition to the Chandler Road outage, another downed line in the

vicinity of Archibald's Restaurant, left many Georgia Power customers in the dark. Both outages were caused by downed trees that took out power lines.

According to Holland, power was completely restored by sunset.

The manager at Dingus McGees restaurant on Chandler Road said their business was powerless for just under two hours Saturday.

GAS, FROM PAGE 1

increase was seen by economists as a good move to steady the influx of gas prices, which had risen to \$58 per barrel Monday.

Other economists, though, say gas prices are far from steady, predicting a near doubling in the cost of crude oil before summer's end.

In a widely publicized research note released last Thursday, Goldman Sachs analysts said oil markets may have entered the early stages of a "super spike" period that could see prices rising as high as \$105 a barrel before crimping demand.

Goldman Sachs is a major player in the oil market through its Goldman Sachs Commodities Index, which tracks oil and other commodity futures.

Other analysts, though, said

reaction to the report — increased trading on the stock market — was an overreaction that caused a spike in gas prices last week.

Carl Larry, an analyst at Barclays Capital in New York, said the market overreacted to the report. "It was definitely an overreaction, considering the size of crude inventories," which stand well above their historic average levels, he said.

Locally, gas prices are just under \$2.20 a gallon for regular unleaded. Among cash-strapped Georgia Southern students, the increase has hit hard.

"I rarely get more than \$5 when I got to the pump anyway," said senior Virgil Badie. "But \$5 used to take me a lot further. If I just drove to classes every day I could get by with putting

\$10 a week in my tank. But that's not working too well anymore."

Bush, whose employer lobbies for gas companies, said the future of gas prices simply depends on the demand for gas not exceeding the supply.

"There is a very heavy demand for crude oil," said Bush. "A lot more countries want oil today. China is using a lot more crude oil. So is India and the U.S. is too. It really comes down to supply and demand."

Bush is optimistic about gas prices, contending that OPEC's increase in production should placate demand and rising costs.

"By their increasing production they are increasing the supply," said Bush. "That tends to have a moderating affect."

BUSH, FROM PAGE 1

given clearance by his doctors to fly to Rome. Clinton had surgery a month ago in New York to deal with a rare complication from a heart bypass operation six months earlier. His doctors had originally told him he would need four to six weeks at home, but he traveled by train last week to Washington to collect an award for his work on AIDS.

Bush is leaving Washington for Rome on Wednesday, and was to have meetings with Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi and Italian President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi on Thursday. The president planned to leave Italy immediately after the funeral to spend the weekend at his ranch in Texas.

Bush said Tuesday that his attendance at the services would "pay our country's respect to a great world leader."

"He shows that one man can make an enormous difference," Bush said during a Social Security speech in Parkersburg, W. Va. "I look forward to honoring the memory of Pope John Paul II."

Bush will be the first sitting president to attend a pope's funeral. The pontiff died on Saturday, ending more than a quarter-century as leader of the Catholic Church.

Bush met with the pope three times during his presidency. The pontiff was quick to tell Bush about his deep

disagreement with the war in Iraq, the abuse of Iraqi prisoners by U.S. troops and Bush's support for the death penalty. During their final meeting last June, Bush presented the pope with the Medal of Freedom and the pope responded by reading a statement that said he had "grave concern" about events in Iraq.

Writers and Photographers Needed:

If you're interested in writing or taking pictures for *The George-Anne*, contact us via e-mail at ganewsed@georgiasouthern.edu, by phone at 912-681-5246, or stop by and see us in room 2023 of the Williams Center.

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Only in America

Toenail polish distinguishes babies

LYNNVILLE — A southern Indiana couple has found a novel way to distinguish their four newborn boys. Kathy and Jody Yager use different colored nail polish on the boys' toenails.



Indiana

"Each baby has a color assigned to him. Their father wasn't too happy about it at first but I think he is starting to change his mind," Kathy Yager said. "It's just one toe."

The quadruplets — Andrew, Brady, Conner and Grant — were at home together for the first time Thursday with the arrival of Brady, who had been held longer at St. Mary's Medical Center in Evansville for treatment of a hernia.

The quads were born Feb. 16 at St. Mary's, about 2 1/2 months premature.

Man claims penis surgery ruined libido

NEW YORK — A Madison Avenue surgeon left a patient virtually impotent after operating to lengthen his manhood, a lawsuit claims.

Eric Neuberger, 31, contends his pre-operation libido let him "engage in intercourse approxi-



New York

mately 30 to 50 times a month."

But his sexual appetite was destroyed by Dr. Rodney Barron's work, Neuberger said. Neuberger, a musician, paid \$6,600 to The Barron Centers Medical Associates.

Now, Neuberger said, he manages to have sex only once a month and suffers from scarring and pain.

And he said he was not warned of the risks before the surgery, described by his lawyers as

"unproved, unsafe, ineffective and experimental."

He is claiming unspecified damages for mental anguish that he argues forced him to drop out of school and hurt his musical ability.

Pat Buchanan attacked with salad dressing

KALAMAZOO — An appearance by conservative commentator Pat Buchanan turned ugly Thursday night — and it was all caught on tape.



Michigan

While Buchanan was fielding questions after a speech at Western Michigan University, a 24 year old man ran on stage and threw salad dressing in his face.

Buchanan was not injured in the incident.

The attacker was arrested and charged with a misdemeanor count of disturbing the peace.

Buchanan decided to call it a night after the attack, and did not finish the question and answer part of his appearance.

'SpongeBob robber' finally caught

MINNEAPOLIS — Is he the 'SpongeBob Squarepants' bank robber?

An ex-con is in custody on suspicion of a string of armed bank robberies in the Twin Cities area.



Minnesota

Police think it's possible they have arrested the hold-up man whose trademark was using a bag depicting the superstar cartoon character in some of the robberies.

There are no allegations that SpongeBob himself is involved in any way in the capers.

National News Briefs

Inmate, warden's wife found ten years after they vanished

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. — A convicted murderer and a deputy warden's wife who disappeared nearly 11 years ago have been found living together and raising chickens in Texas.

The woman said she was held captive the whole time, staying with the killer out of fear her family would be harmed if she fled.

Bobbi Parker, 42, has been reunited with her husband, who never remarried, and authorities were trying Tuesday to piece together details of the strange case.

A tip generated by the TV show "America's Most Wanted" led law enforcement to a mobile home in Campiti, Texas, where escaped convict

Randolph Dial was arrested Monday, said FBI agent Salvador Hernandez.

Parker was found a short time later working at a nearby chicken farm; the two were living in the trailer under assumed names.

The FBI continued to question Bobbi Parker on Tuesday in Texas.

Dial, a sculptor and painter, was convicted of the 1981 murder of a karate instructor.

He had obtained trusty status at the Oklahoma State Reformatory, and he ran an inmate pottery program with Bobbi Parker and had access to their home during the day in staff housing on prison grounds.

Bobbi Parker's mother received a phone call from her the night of the

1994 disappearance traced to Hurst, Texas. "I can't talk now," she said, crying. "I'm OK. Tell the kids I'll see them soon."

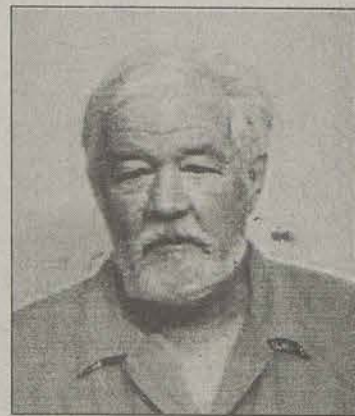
Dial declined to say whether he held Parker captive or threatened her family.

Charles Sasser, a former Tulsa homicide detective who wrote a book about Dial, said the escaped inmate called him in 2001.

Sasser also said he spoke with Bobbi Parker and heard nothing from either one to indicate Parker was held against her will.

"I don't believe it," he said.

Sasser called the FBI, but agents were unable to determine where it came from.



Associated Press

Randolph Franklin Dial was arrested at a mobile home in Campiti, Texas, Monday. Dial, a sculptor and painter, was convicted of the 1981 murder of a karate instructor.

Officials urge renewal of Patriot Act

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration's two top law enforcement officials on Tuesday urged Congress to renew every provision of the anti-terror Patriot Act.

FBI Director Robert Mueller also asked lawmakers to expand the bureau's ability to obtain records without first asking a judge.

"Now is not the time for us to be engaging in unilateral disarmament" on the legal weapons now available for fighting terrorism, Attorney

General Alberto Gonzales said.

He said that some of the most controversial provisions of the Patriot Act have proven invaluable in fighting terrorism and aiding other investigations.

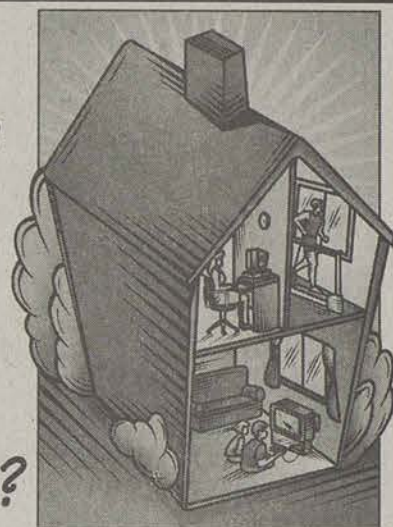
- All News Briefs compiled from wire reports by Morgan Marsh.

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Georgia Southern University
Panhellenic Association invites you to attend

Panhellenic Preview

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Our Opinion

Reaccreditation marks another decade of growth at GSU

Currently, the university is undergoing a continuous and routine evaluation for reaffirmation by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

But what does that mean?

The area of GSU's website explaining the reaccreditation—<http://sacs.georgiasouthern.edu/process.html>—makes the whole thing sound incredibly complex, and rightfully so. So, for purposes of quick reference, think of it as the school renewing its liquor license. The school must demonstrate certain qualities and meet specific requirements before it can be allowed to continue dispensing that oh-so-intoxicating drink of knowledge.

During the reaccreditation process, the university is quizzed, if you will, on hundreds of specific aspects in several categories ranging from core to federal requirements. No stone is left unturned as the commission scours the institution's entire infrastructure, from the administration all the way up to the students.

During this time of evaluation, we are reminded of the strides Georgia Southern has made since its last reaccreditation in 1994.

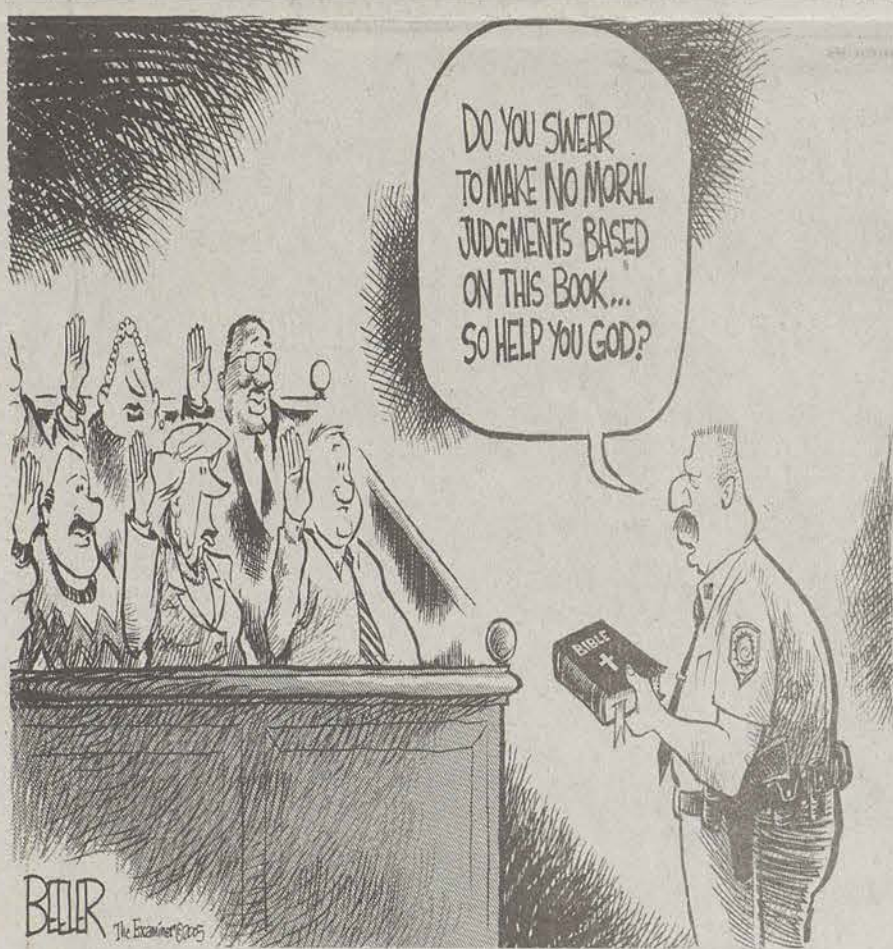
Ten years ago, Georgia Southern offered just over 100 degrees. Now it offers over 140 and has added three more offered minors for a total of 46.

Enrollment, which topped out at around 13,900 in the mid-nineties, was 16,100 last fall semester. University housing had 13 rather run-down buildings in 1995, and held a total of 3,100 students. Today we boast several brand new residence halls, which offer 3,349 students more privacy and luxury than most local apartments.

Speaking of buildings, there are many besides the residence halls now dotting the landscape that weren't even a concrete slab a decade ago. The IT Building, the Business Building, the Education Building, the Nursing Building, the Technology Building and the Performing Arts Center all made their debuts as we changed millennia.

The marked growth GSU has experienced since its last reaccreditation proves that this institution is rapidly becoming a strongly respected name in higher education, and not just in the state of Georgia. GSU has set its sights on national distinction.

If we keep going at this rate, it's only another ten years away.



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For 77 years, Georgia Southern's Official Student Newspaper

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Letter and Submission Policy

The George-Anne welcomes letters to the editor, story submissions and guest columns from people both inside and outside the GSU community. All copy submitted should be 250 words or less, typed, preferably sent via e-mail in Microsoft Word format to gaeditor@georgiasouthern.edu.

All submissions must be signed and include a mailing address and phone number for verification. The editors reserve the right to reject any submission. Submissions are run on a space-available basis.

STAR TRIBUNE
SAC



"I wish to make an earnest call to everyone, Christians and the followers of other religions, that we work together to build a world without violence, a world that loves life and grows in justice and solidarity."

—Pope John Paul II
1920-2005

'DaVinci Code' didn't kill the pope

The other night I saw a man on TV talking about "The Da Vinci Code," saying that anyone who picks up the book to read about history is wrong.

What a lame-ass statement. The book is fiction—FICTION. No one with a brain reads fiction and thinks it's real. That's the point of fiction: it means fake.

I know this may seem a bit blasphemous in wake of the Catholic Church's recent loss of their spiritual leader, but I have a bone to pick with some of the leaders who are pushing to have the book put on a banned list.

Ever since Dan Brown released the worldwide bestseller, Catholics (and other church people as well, but more so the Catholics) have had their panties in a wad. They claim the book is full of lies, libelous material and other sorts of things that make their church look bad.

Again, "The Da Vinci Code" is a book of fiction, meaning it is full of made up things. Tens of thousands of authors over the past many hundred years have published books of the like: fake stories, sometimes based on things that could be real, some-

times not. Regardless of their subject nature, they're fake... just as fake as Pamela Anderson's breasts or the "Polo" shirts that I sometimes wear.

The Catholic Church needs to find something better to do. This book is popular because it's good. It may not be a scholarly piece on the inner workings of the Church, nor have facts that are supported by Christian dogma, but what it does contain is a plot that nearly makes readers cut their fingers while trying to quickly turn the pages to see just what crazy event is about to happen.

The book was written for entertainment, not for scholarly study. No one would consult the book for Catholic ideology or as a reference when studying how the Church works.

So, to all you who are pissed about this great book, get over it. It's a book that may use some facts to tell a fake story. It happens every day. This time the church is pissed because it's about them.

Boo-freakin'-hoo.

Luke Hearn is the news editor of The George-Anne and can be reached at ganewsed@georgiasouthern.edu.



Luke Hearn
news editor

Soap star gives the facts on fault and sexual assault

By Edén Riegel

For the Rape Abuse & Incest National Network

The school year is almost over! How I envy you all, full of promise and enthusiasm. You've got everything: you're young, bright, talented, energetic, driven, good-looking, you smell good, you can consume large quantities of pizza and you don't yet have to job-hunt!

However, I have been asked by RAINN, the Rape Abuse & Incest National Network, to talk to you in the wake of Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month about some of the not-so-great parts of the college experience. Though no one likes to think about it, evil is out there and bad stuff happens. But if you are aware and vigilant in protecting yourself and your friends, there is no reason that you can't have a safe and happy college experience.

Sexual assault and rape are quite common on college campuses. Not every college student will be assaulted, but statistics show you will know someone who was. Overall, one in six American women is the victim of an attempted or completed rape. Eighty percent of rape victims are under the age of 30 at the time of their rape. You are in a high-risk group.

So what can you do? The good news is that while there are no hard and fast ways to totally protect yourself from rape and sexual assault, there are steps you can take to reduce your risk of becoming a victim. Take advantage of campus safety services and programs. Don't travel alone at night. Assess a situation fully. Communicate. Trust your instincts. Know that "I don't want to" is always a good enough reason. The world tends not to be black-and-white. Thankfully, there are ways to navigate the gray areas. How do you know if you are at risk? You, like all other living, breathing beings, have an internal "comfort meter" to help you assess a situation. If you are uncomfortable, check in with your meter. Ask yourself: Who am I with? Do I trust these people? Am I really having fun? Am I drunk? Am I thinking clearly?

Unfortunately, rapists do not wear signs and are not always scary strangers in dark alleys. In fact, 66 percent of rape victims know their assailant, and an attack can happen in what is seemingly a normal social situation. If you feel at all uncomfortable in a situation, speak up. If a guy is worth it, he'll respond to a direct statement of your feelings and

concerns. If he's not, then congratulations — you got rid of a real jerk.

If, despite your best or worst efforts, you are assaulted, please get help. The good news is, you are not alone and you don't have to go through it alone. People are out there to help. Reach out to friends and mentors. Utilize on-campus services or contact the National Sexual Assault Hotline at 1-800-656-HOPE. The hotline provides free, confidential local services around the clock. If someone you know is the victim of a sexual assault, be supportive and encourage her (or him) to get help. There are people out there willing and able to help.

Finally, if you (or a friend) are the victim of a sexual assault, don't keep silent. Speak out and report the crime to police. If rape remains a silent crime, victims will continue to suffer in silence and perpetrators will remain free. The FBI ranks rape as the second most serious violent crime, trailing only murder. Yet, while nearly every murder is reported to police, less than half of all rapes are. The most effective things we can do to fight sexual violence are to make sure that every attack is reported and demand that every report is investigated.

Often there is a fear among victims that they will not be believed because alcohol or drugs were involved, because they agreed to a date or because they agreed to be alone with their assailant. Some victims fear social fallout. Some harbor feelings of shame and responsibility, as if they were somehow complicit in the crime.

It is not your fault. I'll say it again because it is perhaps the world's only moral absolute: It is not your fault. No is no is no. No matter what.

You are a treasure, and you deserve the best these years have to offer. So be safe, sensible and informed. Know yourself, be a friend and speak out. You can help end sexual violence on campus.

Edén Riegel is on leave from Harvard University and is the Daytime-Emmy Award nominated actress who plays Bianca Montgomery on ABC's All My Children. She is also a supporter of RAINN (www.rainn.org), which operates the National Sexual Assault Hotline at 1-800-656-HOPE.



Edén Riegel
celebrity guest
columnist

The most effective things we can do to fight sexual violence are to make sure that every attack is reported and demand that every report is investigated.

UNC takes home NCAA championship



North Carolina's Rashad McCants and teammates hoist the trophy after UNC beat Illinois 75-70 in the NCAA championship game Monday, April 4.

By Paul Newberry
Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) - The Tar Heels were floating higher than the St. Louis Arch on Monday night, having claimed their first national title since 1993 with a 75-70 victory over Illinois.

Dean Smith and Michael Jordan cheered their old school from the stands. The players took turns carrying the load - starting with Rashad McCants, then Sean May and, finally, Raymond Felton. When it was done, coach Roy Williams was able to shed tears of joy after all those close-but-no-cigar years at Kansas.

May celebrated his 21st birthday with 26 points, giving the family another championship to put on the mantel. His father, Scott, scored 26 for Indiana in the 1976 title game, the Hoosiers completing their perfect season.

The Illini, ranked No. 1 in the country since December, got to the cusp of the winningest season in NCAA history only to run out of gas in the waning minutes of the final game.

"We went down fighting," coach Bruce Weber said. "I can't ask for more."

North Carolina (33-4) led 40-27 at halftime, with McCants piling up 14 points. He wouldn't score again, but it didn't matter.

As Illinois stormed back in the second half with a barrage of three-pointers, the Tar Heels were pounding the ball inside to May. One player fouled out trying to stop the rugged, 6-foot-9 junior. May took 11 shots in all; only one failed to drop through the hoop.

After the Illini tied it up, Felton stepped up. He made a huge steal in the final minute, intercepting a pass by Luther Head, drawing a foul and making one free throw. When Head missed a tying 3-pointer, Felton grabbed the loose ball, was fouled again and swished two free throws to clinch it.

The Tar Heels didn't allow a basket over the final 2 1/2 minutes.

When May cradled his 10th and final rebound, Williams took off his glasses and started looking for people to hug. A few moments later, he was crying, much like he has at the end of every season. Usually, the tears come because he has to say goodbye. No goodbye will be as sweet as this one.

In his 17th season, after four

foiled appearances in the Final Four with Kansas, Williams finally has his championship.

Two years ago, Williams made the agonizing decision to leave the Jayhawks and go home to North Carolina to clean up the mess that had been left by his predecessor, Matt Doherty.

Don't forget: These seniors started their college careers with a 20-loss season. Now they're champions.

The Illini shot 27 percent in the first half and trailed by 15 early in the second. They tied the game twice in the last 5 1/2 minutes, but when they had a chance to force overtime, Head missed a three-pointer with 17 seconds left, ending their chance to break the NCAA record for wins in a season.

They'll have to settle for being tied with Duke (1986, '89) and UNLV ('87).

Head led Illinois with 21 points, but he'd prefer to forget that final minute. There was that crucial turnover, and he missed a wide-open look at a three-pointer to tie the game at 73.

During the week, Williams told the story of Smith insisting he was no better a coach after he finally won his first title in 1982 on his seventh trip



Mark Humphrey/AP Photo
North Carolina coach Roy Williams waves the net after UNC beat Illinois 75-70 in the NCAA championship game Monday, April 4.

to the Final Four.

When Williams walked into the interview room after this win, his first statement echoed Smith.

North Carolina won its fourth title overall, fourth-most in NCAA history and one more than archrival Duke. Everyone kept coming back to the same theme: team.

"People said all year we're not a team," said freshman Marvin Williams, who had a key tip-in with 1:26 left. "But we showed everybody. The best team won."

Laurato named SoCon Softball Player of the Week

GSU Athletic Media Relations

SPARTANBURG, S.C. - After a weekend in which she helped guide the Georgia Southern softball team to a pair of wins over Appalachian State, sophomore infielder Maria Laurato was named Southern Conference Player of the Week for the week of April 4.

Laurato finished the weekend series with the Mountaineers batting .750 (6-for-8), having reached base in all but two of her 10 total plate appearances. In the opener of Saturday's doubleheader, the Gretna, La. native went 3-for-3 with two doubles and three RBI. In game two, Laurato added another perfect game from the plate, going 2-for-2 with a double, a two-run home run, two runs scored and four RBI. She added a final hit in the third game of the series on Sunday.

The Player of the Week honor is the second of Laurato's career, as she earned the plaudit once during her freshman season. On the season, the reigning SoCon Freshman of the



Maria Laurato

Year is batting .236 with two homers and 10 RBI.

Also receiving consideration for Player of the Week were Appalachian State's Lindsay Glover, Berni Martinez from the College of Charleston, Brittany Whittier of Chattanooga, East Tennessee State's Briana Knight, Sadie Ball of Elon and Jennifer Bonilla from UNC Greensboro.

Mercer Bears take a bite out of Eagles' 14-game winning streak

By Eric Powell
a1ricc8@hotmail.com

Fourteen was the unlucky number of the night for the Eagles as they saw their 14-game winning streak snapped losing to Mercer by a count of 14-4.

For the game Georgia Southern (20-8) only collected six hits off of Bear pitching and were never in much contention to win the contest.

Mercer (22-12) out of the Atlantic Sun conference jumped out to a four run lead after the top of the first inning against Eagle starter Thomas Turner who only lasted two and one-third innings giving up seven earned runs.

"We just didn't give ourselves a chance out of the gate," Coach Rodney Hennon said. "It makes it that much harder to hit when you're playing catch up."

During the third inning the Bears put up a seven spot against the combined pitching effort of Turner and Kyle Harrison, all but requiring a miracle for the team to come back.

One of the lone bright spots for GSU was the play of first baseman Greg Dowling who went 3-for-4 at the plate with a solo homerun and two runs batted in.

Second baseman Brett Pelfrey saw a personal streak of his own end in the game as he was unable to collect a hit.

The junior had hit safely in the last 12 games.

Pelfrey and the Eagles will look to begin their respective streaks again on Friday as they travel to play conference foe Elon in Greensboro, North Carolina.



Stephen Garrett/STAFF
GSU sophomore Brandon Ponder takes a pitch in the dirt during yesterday's game against the Mercer Bears.

Golf finishes third at the Augusta State Invitational

GSU Athletics Media Relations

AUGUSTA, Ga. - Despite battling adverse weather conditions all weekend, Georgia Southern fired a final round 298, finishing at 911 (+47), taking home third place honors at the Augusta State University Invitational hosted by the Augusta Golf and presented by Administaff.

Host Augusta State shot an 896 (+32) to edge out Georgia (897, +33) for the tournament title. Their third place finish is the team's tenth straight top 10 finish of the season, and their fifth overall top three finish on the year.

Georgia's Chris Kirk won the individual title after firing a 217 (+1). Augusta State's Scott Jamieson came in second with a final score of 220 (+4), while ETSU's Rhys Davies and

Georgia's Brendon Todd finished tied for third (222, +6).

Bryan Jones (78, 75, 76), Jon David Kennedy (75, 83, 71), and Aron Price (76, 79, 74) ended the weekend 13-over par, coming in a four-way tie for 17th place with a final score of 229. David Palm fired a 233, tying for 25th. Kurt Watkins finished tied for 55th with a final score of 238 (+22).

I am really proud of our guys for hanging in there; they battled hard all weekend and could have folded but instead ended up with a great finish in a great field," said head coach Larry Mays.

GSU returns to action Thursday, April 8 as it travels to Raleigh, N.C. to participate in the Courtyard by Marriott Intercollegiate hosted by North Carolina State.

Price, Dowling named SoCon Athletes of the Month

GSU Athletic Media Relations

SPARTANBURG, SC - The Southern Conference today announced its Athletes of the Month for March. Student-athletes were honored for their performance in men's and women's golf, men's and women's tennis, men's and women's outdoor track and field and wrestling.

Greg Dowling went 27-for-64 for a .422 batting average in March, including 20 RBI on 27 hits. The junior first baseman from Marietta, Ga., hit safely in 13 of 16 games, including nine multiple hit games. He was five-of-five from the plate with a double against Davidson on March 13 and had three games with four RBI a piece. Dowling recorded five doubles, one triple and three home runs on the month.

Aron Price won two tournaments,

set a tournament record and finished 12th at the Schenkel Invitational in March. A senior from Oyster Bay, Australia, Price set a tournament record with a 203 over the three days and set the single-round record with a 64 on day two at the Ashworth Intercollegiate on March 1.

Price won his second-straight individual medal with a 206 at the Hyatt Plantation Club Intercollegiate on 8, shooting a low round of 67 and winning the tournament by seven strokes.

Price concluded the month finishing 12th at three-over-par at the Schenkel E-Z-GO Invitational on March 20. He is currently ranked 15th in the Golfweek rankings and is also a semifinalist for the Ben Hogan Award, which is presented to the top men's college golfer in the country.

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