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Volume 78
Number 17

Birthday waffle

Waffle House is celebrating its 50th anniversary | **HIATUS, p. 1B**

GSU racks up grants

| **CAMPUS, p. 2A**

THE GEORGE-ANNE

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 2005

Fall semester enrollment breaks record

Administrators tout improved academics among new students

By Adam Crisp
Managing editor

Georgia Southern is starting the new school year by breaking another enrollment record.

The university has picked up 300 more students for fall, bringing enrollment to 16,400 students.

The numbers are preliminary, and may change over the next weeks, according to Theresa Thompson, vice president of student affairs and enrollment management.

"It looks great," she said. "We are getting closer and closer to the 17,000 milestone."

Of the 16,400 students at GSU this fall, nearly all of them will be from Georgia, said Thompson. About 94 percent of students hail from the Peach State.

Thompson said 85 percent of GSU students will receive the HOPE Scholarship.

Thompson points to improving SAT scores as a benchmark that shows GSU is gaining ground in academics, she said. The average score for students is over 1100. The state average is 1019 and the national average is 1082.

"In fall 1999, the average (SAT score) was 987, which was well below the national average," said GSU President Bruce Grube. "For fall 2005, the average SAT score will be a few points over 1100 which is significantly above the national average. This is a very major accomplishment for GSU and an achievement which would have been unthinkable not many years ago."

"That shows that we have a pretty elite group of students coming to GSU," said Thompson.

As in years past, GSU will continue to have one of the state's highest minority enrollments, with 23 percent of students being non-white.

Thompson said diversity is important. Six percent of students come from outside Georgia. One percent are from outside the U.S.

"We're hiring an international student recruiter," said Thompson. "We are getting large enough to be attractive to the international community."

Grube said the numbers show GSU to be a growing school with academics to match.

"All of this means Georgia Southern will have its highest enrollment ever this fall, will enjoy its highest retention rate ever, will enroll its most qualified freshman class ever, and will continue to enjoy a diverse student body which is necessary for the well being of any first rate university," said Grube.

BY THE NUMBERS

16,400 are enrolled at GSU this fall

6 percent of students are from out of state

2nd largest freshman enrollment in the state

115 point increase in SAT scores over the last six years

5 buses

and one alternate will circle campus from 7 a.m. until 9 p.m.

9 stops

have been constructed for students. Shelters are coming soon

3,500 students

students are expected to use the system but administrators say the number could be higher

6-8 minutes

is the average wait time school officials predict for each bus stop

20 students

can be seated on the bus but as many as 20 more can stand on some buses.

40 dollars

per student, per semester to operate the bus system

The bus stops here

Transit system debuts with hopes of easing parking woes

By Luke Hearn
Executive Editor

Georgia Southern unveiled its new transit system on Wednesday.

Administrators say the network of buses will change the way students get to and from campus.

This is the first time the university has tried a transit system, and Wendy Hagins, GSU's director of auxiliary services, is excited about what the system will bring to campus.

"It's exciting," Hagins said. "We're looking forward to making this system work, and will do all that is needed to ensure that the students' needs are being met."

Today and Friday, the buses will run on an abbreviated schedule, making routes from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. today, and 7 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Friday. Starting Monday, the buses will run Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. until 9 p.m., and 7 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Fridays.

The entire fleet consists of six buses: five that will run normally, and one spare.

The transit system is available to faculty,

staff and students. The system is funded by a \$40 transit fee, assessed to each student for the first time this fall.

Students living on Lanier Drive between the 301 Bypass and Georgia Avenue, as well as those living near campus on Chandler Road—known as the "non-commuter zone"—will not be able to drive to campus. These students must walk, bike or take advantage of the transit system. But unlike years past, any student will be able to park on campus after 4 p.m. daily Monday through Friday.

Hagins said about 3,000 students live in the "non-commuter zone," and estimates nearly 500 to 1,000 students that live outside this zone are likely to use the system, although he and other GSU officials admit they have no concrete estimates on how many students will use the new system.

According to a press release put out by the GSU department of marketing and communication, the estimated time between buses from 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. will be six to eight minutes. But since the number of passengers



Greyson Hoffman/STAFF

Six buses will circle campus as part of a new campus-wide transit system. This diesel powered bus is just temporary. GSU expects to have new compressed natural gas powered buses by March.

is expected to decrease after 3 p.m. and again after 6 p.m., a reduced number of buses will be used during those hours. Consequently, the estimated time between buses from 3 p.m. until 9 p.m. will be 15 minutes.

Since this is the first time GSU has tried to implement a transit system on campus, Hagins said the plan in place could change.

see **TRANSIT**, page 3A

Study abroad participants witness London attacks



Greyson Hoffman/STAFF

Pedestrians react as London police work to disperse a crowd after a bombing in July.

By Luke Hearn
Executive Editor

Americans watched from their living rooms as the death and destruction mounted after the London subway and bus bombings July 7 and 21.

But for 32 students and two professors from Georgia Southern studying at Westminster University's Harrow Campus, the tragedy was more than pictures flickering on their television sets.

The students and faculty were in London as part of a study abroad program with several other Georgia colleges.

According to Jeff Palis, GSU's administrative coordinator for study abroad and exchange programs, both blasts happened on a day students took a class field trip.

"We had to be very patient," Palis said, who

was in the Czech Republic at the time of the bombings. "Many of the students were on field trips and not accounted for at first. But by the end of the day, we had accounted for everyone."

"The students of GSU were valiant, brave and extremely mature and didn't let this event hinder their once-in-a-lifetime experience to live and study in London," Palis said.

Senior Grayson Hoffman, a G-A photographer and photography major, was studying in London at the time of the blasts.

"The train in front of us got hit during the first attacks. After that, we had to evacuate."

Hoffman said that after getting off the train, he and his group boarded a bus. From his seat, he could hear the bus radio system.

see **LONDON**, page 3A

Grube heralds improvements at convocation

By Casey Altman
Assistant News Editor

President Bruce Grube delivered his State of the University address to a large gathering of faculty and staff during the Fall Convocation Ceremony at the Performing Arts Center Wednesday. During his speech Grube discussed student enrollment, the new transit system, construction projects across campus and challenges facing faculty and staff.

According to Grube, there are between 16,400 and 16,500 students currently enrolled at Georgia Southern. It is the second largest freshmen enrollment in the state with the

second largest class in the University System of HOPE Scholars. Grube also said that in the fall of 1999 the university's retention rate, students staying enrolled at GSU from fall to fall, was 69 percent. "We will crack the 80 percent retention rate this year," Grube said. "This is huge."

Grube said that in the 1990's the school's average SAT scores were in the 900's. In fall 2000, the university's average SAT score reached 1008. According to Grube, this year's average score will top 1100.

Grube said this year GSU will have the best qualified freshmen and the highest enrollment in the school's

history. "In 1908, this school started out with three buildings, 15 students and four faculty," Grube said, "and look at us now."

According to Grube, the school's budget has increased 7.7 percent, and state revenues have increased five percent. Along with money generously donated to the school's building program, these economic changes are helping the school's construction projects to continue as planned.

Grube spoke briefly about the many ongoing construction projects on campus. Eagle Village, the large freshmen residence hall on Chandler Road is in operation this fall, and the

cut-through known as Herty Drive is now a pedestrian walkway.

About the new transit system, Grube said, "I'm really excited about this." He said it should help with the transportation problems that students faced last year by giving them an opportunity to take a bus. "Things will go wrong at first," he said.

Construction continues on the library. Grube said they are working on storm drains and they hope to have the pedestrian back in shape soon. Construction is also underway on the RAC expansion project. Grube

see **GRUBE**, page p. 3A



Greyson Hoffman/STAFF
GSU President Bruce Grube speaks during convocation.



Grayson Hoffman/STAFF

The Bland Cottage of the Botanical Garden will be improved in the coming semester due to a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences.

Botanical Garden receives grant

\$75,000 grant will help pay for new directional signs at the garden

By Jenny Miller
Staff Writer

On July 15, the GSU Botanical Gardens received some "blooming" good news. The garden was awarded a \$75,000 two-year grant by the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences (IMLS).

IMLS is an independent federal agency that awards millions of dollars annually to improve museums, libraries

and information services. The grant is highly competitive. The garden applied for the same grant last year, got positive feedback and decided to reapply. The goal of the grant is to help the recipient encourage and preserve lifelong learning and heritage.

"We were very pleased to get a grant from such a prestigious organization," said Stephanie Tames, public relations coordinator for the Botanical Gardens.

The two-year grant will be used for very specific projects, including new interpretive and directional signs, to replace the old signs now standing in the garden. The signs will be used

to identify plants and other areas of the gardens.

The first year of the grant will fund changes in the heritage zone, which is around the Bland Cottage and farm building. The second year will fund signs for the native zones of the garden.

"The new signs will have such a tremendous impact on the garden experience," said Tames.

After the signs are finalized, a review will take place to make sure the signs are clear and easy to understand.

The grant will also be used to train docents, volunteers who can help lead better tours of the gardens for tour

groups or any other person who might be interested.

Faculty and staff from three of GSU's colleges will work on the grant along with the garden.

The Gardens recently received another grant called Tree Smarts II, similar to Tree Smarts I, a grant which was used last year to teach the social and physical benefits of trees. The Botanical Gardens will sponsor an Arbor Day celebration in correlation with the grant.

For more information about the GSU Botanical Gardens and the many activities they have to offer, go to <http://welcome.georgiasouthern.edu/garden/>.

Georgia Avenue construction ongoing

Bus turnaround to be finished in coming weeks

By Alicia Howe
Staff Writer

Dabbs-Williams General Contractors began reconstruction on June 6, 2005 for the transit system bus stop at the intersection of Georgia Avenue and Forest Drive. The road in front of the University Bookstore will serve as a bus turnaround and student pick-up point.

The bus stop is not completely operational, but should be finished within the next few weeks. This turnaround is part of the first bus route, which will begin at Paulson Stadium, run down Lanier Drive onto Georgia Avenue and turn around in front of the University Bookstore.

The project cost was \$255,000 according to Jimmy Parramore of Dabbs-Williams General Contractors. The contractors began the project by tearing up some of the sidewalk and roadway. "We were hit with a little bit of rain at the beginning, but as long as we get good weather we should stay on schedule," said Parramore. The plans for the turnaround include new

pavement, a cul-de-sac for the buses to turnaround, benches for students to sit on and a new pavilion. "It's really going to dress up that area," said Parramore.

Georgia Avenue and parts of Forest Drive will be closed to traffic until the re-construction is completed. In the meantime traffic will remain open on Forest Drive up to Cedarwood Road, next to the Health Center, where re-construction begins. The Carruth Building and Building 805 parking lots will still be accessible by way of Forest Drive. Students should walk through the Russell Union or Landrum to access the University Bookstore and to check their P. O. boxes.

Georgia Avenue will be one of the two bus stop shelters for students to wait. The other bus stop shelter will be located at Paulson Stadium. According to Mark Kopke, project manager, the landscaping should be completed by Thursday and the benches and gazebo should arrive soon.

"Due to the long lead time, the materials will arrive at a later date and will be installed immediately upon arrival," said Kopke. "It's going to look nice with fresh grass, and it really opens up the front of the bookstore."



Grayson Hoffman/STAFF

The bus stop on Georgia Avenue is still under construction. A 16 x 16 foot event tent is in place until gazebo and benches arrive in the next few weeks.

\$800,000 grant financially assists Hispanic and Latino students

Goizueta Foundation to provide scholarships

By Jenny Miller
Staff Writer

The Goizueta Foundation of Atlanta has recently awarded an \$800,000 grant to Georgia Southern for the creation and support of an in-depth recruitment program of Hispanic and Latino students.

Roberto C. Goizueta started his foundation in 1992 to provide financial assistance to educational and charitable institutions that provide empowerment to at-risk families through education and improving

quality of life. Mr. Goizueta was Chairman and CEO of The Coca-Cola Company for 16 years until his death in 1997. He was a native of Cuba and graduate of Yale University, working various jobs for Coke prior to being elected CEO.

The grant establishes a \$750,000 endowment for the Goizueta Foundation Scholars Fund, which will provide annual scholarship assistance to Hispanic or Latino students whose families currently live in the U.S.

In addition to undergraduate assistance, a three-year \$50,000 grant from the Foundation will provide scholarship assistance to Latino or Hispanic graduate students.

"The Goizueta Grant will provide an opportunity to attract a greater number of Latino students to GSU because the grant is directed to students in need who cannot afford to pay for school," said Nancy Shumaker, associate vice president for academic affairs.

The Goizueta Foundation also endowed a \$1 million gift in 2001 to GSU. That grant was for the College of Education and an annual need-based scholarship for Latino or Hispanic students majoring in Education.

Hispanic students are offered a variety of options for success at GSU. The Universidad Veracruzana in Xalapa allows Mexican teachers to come to

GSU and earn a Masters in Education while teaching Spanish culture at local elementary schools.

Students are also offered assistance through the Center for International Studies by way of classes and clubs. In

the past five years, the number of Hispanic and Latino students attending GSU has grown 65 percent and the Goizueta Foundation grant will encourage more Hispanic students to attend GSU.

Library expansion continues

Work continues despite heavy rainfall and unpredictable weather

By Darren Jones
Staff Writer

The 30-year-old Zach S. Henderson library is getting a \$22.8 million expansion that will result in an additional 103,481 square feet bringing the total area of the library up to 239,099 square feet.

While officials at the library say work is on schedule, whether or not everything will go as planned remains to be seen.

The weather has been a major source of frustration for workers, who experience flooding each time a minor downpour hits Statesboro.

The library expansion was first proposed in 1998 to the Board of Regents, and was approved by the board in 2005.

When completed, students can expect a new entrance lobby, a 24-hour Information Commons, known now as the circulation desk, an increase in shelving space, more general seating, a multi-purpose classroom with presentation capabilities and several group study rooms.

The exterior will also get a new red brick facade to match the style of older buildings across campus.

Unlike the RAC, the library is a state-funded academic building, which means it is unlikely the project will result in an increase in student fees.

Construction on Henderson Library is divided into two phases. The first phase of the \$22.8 million project is on track for June 2006 completion, and the second phase will mark the completion of the project as a whole, in March 2008.

McKnight Construction of Augusta has been hired to manage workers and materials on the three-year project. Cogdell & Mendrala, design firm from Savannah, was in charge of drawing up the architectural schematics for the library expansion project.

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TRANSIT

from page 1A

"We want to be very receptive to what the students' needs are," he said. "If we see we need more buses, or that we need to adjust the routes, we'll do what we have to do."

The buses currently being used are diesel fueled, but are temporary. The new 2006 model buses, which Hagins said should be in by March, are powered by compressed natural gas (CNG), which will provide a more environmentally safe transportation solution for the GSU campus. He also said these buses are quieter and will burn cleaner.

In the temporary fleet there are four buses that are approximately 34 feet in length and two are about 28 feet in length.

The larger buses have a seating capacity of 37 with additional standing room for 15 to 20 passengers. The smaller buses can seat up to 28 passengers and are wheelchair accessible.

The new buses will seat 37 and have standing room for 20 to 25.

As of now, the transit system does not have an official name. But according to Rose Carter, spokesperson for GSU, a contest to name the bus system will be kicked off at the Business Expo, which takes place on Wednesday, Aug. 24 at the RAC.

GSU has contracted with Cognisa Transportation of Atlanta to provide the buses and bus drivers. Director of Transportation William Carson with Cognisa said the reason there is such a long wait for the new buses is because the special fiber-carbon metal used to make the gas tanks in Iraq, and is being "confiscated" by the military. Cognisa also provides transits for other colleges in Georgia, including Georgia State, Georgia Institute of Technology and Emory University.

LONDON

from page 1A

"I heard someone say, 'Terminate at the next termination point, there's been a bomb on bus 30,'" he said. "Hearing that, I really started getting worried."

After leaving the bus, Hoffman and his group walked back to the campus. "Since we were the last group to leave the campus that day, we were the first to get back. We were worried about the others."

When the second blasts took place, Hoffman said he was standing just outside of the subway car where the one of the bombs went off, but didn't explode. "I was standing right next to the car on the platform, and heard something that sounded like a firecracker. I didn't think anything of it at first, but realized later what I had heard."

Tom McMullen, a professor in the department of history, was also in London during both attacks.

McMullen was taking his class on a field trip to Cambridge University when the blasts took place.

McMullen said he and his group planned to take the Underground—the London subway system—from West-

minster University to Kings Cross Station, and then on to Cambridge.

Because his group was waiting on a late student, they were behind schedule making it to Kings Cross Station, the place where the four men responsible for the blasts met.

"We were on the train and it just stopped," he said. "We were told it was just a power outage."

McMullen said his students were able to get off the train and board another line that was still running, but that the doors shut as he and his wife went to board; they caught the next train.

McMullen said after he and his wife learned that there had been an explosion, they tried to take a bus back to the campus. However, after it was learned that a bus too had been bombed, McMullen and his wife had to exit the bus and walk back to the campus.

"All of the students made it back to the campus safely via bus, but my wife and I had to walk about seven miles back to the campus in the rain."

As fate would have it, two weeks later, when McMullen and his group rescheduled their trip to Cambridge, the second set of bombings went off.

"They got us coming and going," McMullen said. "We had one student

from the entire group of 100 plus go home after each bombing, but the rest of them took advantage of their weekend and traveled," he said.

Junior Ginna Kelly was with McMullen's group during both of the blasts. "It was surreal," she said after learning of the first attacks. "We would hear little pieces of people talking about what was going on, but it just didn't register what really happened."

When the second blasts took place two weeks later, Kelly said the thought of coming back home was more attractive, but since the trip was almost over, there was no reason to consider.

GSU senior Mallory Smith, a his-

tory major who works as The George-Anne's classifieds manager, was also studying in London at the time of the attacks.

"It was a field trip day and we were getting ready to board the train when it happened," she said. "Officials told us at first they thought it was an electrical problem."

Smith was just outside London at the time of the blasts.

Coincidentally, her mother and three friends had just arrived in London the day of the attacks.

"I was in panic mode," she said. "We didn't know what happened or if anything had happened."

Smith said that after the second attacks, everyone was in disbelief. "I thought 'are you kidding me, what are these people doing?'"

Although she stayed in London, Smith said she contemplated coming home. "I thought about it, as I'm sure everyone else did as well."

Palis, who heads all of the study abroad programs at GSU, said he hopes the events in London do not create an environment in which students are afraid to travel.

"London has been one of the most popular summer study abroad destinations in the past, and I see it being the same next year."

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GRUBE

from page 1A

reminded the crowd that students are excited about the expansion and voted to tax themselves to go ahead even though many will not get to use the facility.

According to Grube, the conversion plan for Veazy Hall has been approved for the Communication Arts Department. He said, "We intend to turn Veazy into an academic hall for a department that has been in substandard conditions for years and years."

Grube also challenged the faculty and staff to be engaged with the students even more this year. He reminded the crowd that every person working for the university is important.

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OPINION

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OUR VIEW

Tips from seasoned veterans

Freshmen:

Welcome to college! Expect lots of changes from living at home to life on campus. Wherever you make your home at Georgia Southern, try to personalize your living space so you feel more comfortable away from home.

One way to reduce the shock of leaving friends and family is to incorporate pictures as decorations in your room. Take a poster and cut it into a large silhouette shape of an item that represents your interests — like a football, bike, computer or whatever and then throughout the semester, paste pictures of friends, family, places and events that you experience at GSU and visits home.

It will be a lasting reminder of your first semester at college. Even though you may leave some friends behind,

keep in touch with them and invite them to visit you on campus instead of trying to drive home every weekend. Who knows, they might one day become your roommate, bringing home a little closer to campus.

Be sure to focus on your classes and keep your grades up so you'll be eligible for financial aid and scholarships to help you through the next four years. It's never fun to dig yourself into debt because you failed all your freshmen classes and went clubbing instead of studying.

Sophomores:

After taking a year to get used to life at college and focusing on schoolwork, you should try getting involved in campus activities. GSU offers so many different sports, clubs and work opportunities that you should find something that fits your area of interest. Plus, having

some experience will let you know if your major is really what you want to do with the rest of your life.

Apply for a position at one of the hundreds of GSU clubs, try writing for campus publications (like the G-A or Reflector) or join a team to make lifelong friends and contacts. Working on campus is a great way to build a resume and to meet people and make contacts that will help you throughout your career.

Also, be sure to keep an eye out for scholarships in your major or area of interest. They are often posted on boards in the different buildings and you can always get a list of available scholarships from the financial aid department and at various internet sites.

Juniors:

Your junior year is a good time to consider internships and finding a job that fits your long-term interests.

"War is a way of shattering to pieces, or pouring into the stratosphere, or sinking in the depths of the sea, materials which might otherwise be used to make the masses too comfortable, and hence, in the long run, too intelligent."

- George Orwell
From his novel 1984

Luke Hearn RAMBLINGS OF A RAGING LIBERAL

Come on, let us know how you feel

I think it's human nature for people to gripe and complain.

Think about it. At any given moment, there are people fussing about any range of ideas and concepts, be it their roommate upset about a neighbor having a party that goes too late, a professor disgusted with the tenure and promotion guidelines of the university or a politician showing his or her opposition to the latest bill good old George W. has recently signed.

Regardless of who or where you are at any give time, there is someone, somewhere, who is unhappy about something.

I often get flustered over things: not getting enough sleep, my books costing more than my rent, the war in Iraq, bigotry, racism and most of W's policies. I hate fanatic religious zealots who try to convert me, gangsters who try to jump me, swindlers who try to cheat me and the ignorant that try to silence me.

We all have things that get under our skins, and we all have things that make us feel angry.

To these things there are many solutions, but one in particular—and in an area where this publication can help you—is writing.

The George-Anne serves as a voice for the students of Georgia Southern. Whether or not you love us or hate us (my idealistic view of things tells me there are very few in the latter category), we're your paper.

We strive to report the news that's relevant to you and to serve as the medium for you to share your feelings about what is on your mind.

If you hate George Bush—tell us why. If you love the bastard—tell us why. If you want classes only on Tuesdays and Thursdays—let us know. And if you want to let the whole campus know why Luke M. Hearn is the sexiest man alive, by God, let us know!

Throughout the next year, you'll be reading staff columns and editorials, some syndicated columnists, as well

The George-Anne serves as a voice for the students of Georgia Southern. Whether or not you love us or hate us we're your paper.

as letters to the editor.

These letters, generated by the reading public, are a way for people to either a.) voice their opinions about goings-on around them, or b.) react to material printed in The G-A.

It's important to remember that what goes on this page is strictly what the header at the top says: opinions. The things written here are only commentary on different topics based on one's own personal thoughts.

While there are some limitations on what we can and cannot print that are pretty much common knowledge, we will try our best to accommodate the wishes of our readers.

Fellow staff members and I will be sharing many of our thoughts and feelings on a variety of topics the next couple semesters.

You may love them, or you may read them with a feeling of disdain. Either way, if you read something and it strikes your sense to write a response—send it in. We'd love to know how you feel, too.

Write Luke at gaeditor@georgiasouthern.edu

STAR TRIBUNE
SOK



Dave Barry: Columnist

Yo-ho-ho and rum-based beverages!

I am a hearty seafaring type of individual, so recently I spent a week faring around the sea aboard the largest cruise ship in the world that has not yet hit an iceberg. It is called the Voyager, and it weighs 140,000 tons, which is approximately the amount I ate in desserts alone.

The Voyagers sails out of Miami, Fla., every week carrying 3,200 passengers determined to relax or die trying. The ship has (I am not making any of this up) an ice-skating rink, a large theater, a shopping mall, a rock-climbing wall and a nine-hole miniature golf course. We have come a long way indeed from the days when the Pilgrims crossed the Atlantic aboard the Mayflower, which—hard as it is to imagine today—had no skating rink and ONLY FOUR GOLF HOLES.

While aboard the ship, we passengers engaged in a wide range of traditional cruise-ship activities, including eating breakfast, snacking, eating lunch, drinking complex rum-based beverages while lying on deck absorbing solar radiation until we glowed like exit signs, snacking some more, eating dinner, eating more snacks and passing out face-down in the pate section of the midnight buffet. Needless to say, I did not attempt to climb the rock wall, which is good because the resulting disaster would have made for a chilling newspaper headline:

CRUISE SHIP EVACUATED AS MAN FALLS, EXPLODES; HUNDREDS SPATTERED BY SEMI-DIGESTED SHRIMP

The only stressful part of our shipboard routine was looking at photographs of ourselves. When you're on a cruise, photographers constantly pop up and take pictures of you; they put these on display in hopes that you'll buy them as souvenirs. At night, my wife and I would join the throng of passengers looking through the photos, hoping to find a nice flattering shot of ourselves, and then suddenly—YIKES—we'd be confronted with this terrifying image of two bloated, bright-red, sluglike bodies with OUR FACES.

Jabba and Mrs. Hutt go to sea!

When every passenger had attained roughly the same body weight as a Buick Riviera, the ship would stop at a Caribbean island, and the passengers would waddle ashore to experience the traditional local culture, by which I mean shop for European jewelry and watches. I frankly don't know

why it makes economic sense for a tourist from Montana to fly to Miami, get on a ship and sail to Jamaica for the purpose of purchasing a watch made in Switzerland, but apparently it does, because shopping is very important to cruise passengers. If these people ever get to Mars, they WILL expect to find jewelry stores.

The other thing you do when your ship is in port is take guided tours to Local Points of Interest. Under international law, every tour group must include one tourist who has the IQ of sod. In Jamaica, we toured a plantation, and our group included a woman whose brain operated on some kind of tape delay, as we see from this typical exchange between her and our guide:

GUIDE: These are banana plants, which produce bananas. You can see the bananas growing on these banana plants.

WOMAN (in a loud voice): What kind of plants are these?

GUIDE: Banana.

WOMAN: Huh! (To her husband:) Frank, these are banana plants!

The woman repeated virtually everything the guide said to Frank. One day he will kill her with a kitchen appliance.

But I am proud to say that winner of the award for Biggest Tourist Doofus was: me. What happened was, during the tour, a man demonstrated how he could climb a coconut tree using only a small rope made from twisted banana fibers. When he came down, he showed me the rope, and I, out of politeness, pretended to be interested in it, although in fact it was, basically, a rope. The man handed it to me and suggested I might want to "take it home to the kids." I frankly doubted that any modern Nintendo-raised American child would be thrilled by such a gift ("Look, Timmy! A rope!"). But I pretended to be grateful. Then the man told me that such ropes USUALLY sell for \$15 (he did not say where) but he would let it go for \$10. And so, unable to figure out how to escape, I gave him \$10. I imagine the other plantation workers laughed far into the night when he told them. ("He gave you \$10 for the ROPE?" "Yes! He must be even stupider than the tape-delay woman!")

But don't get me wrong: I truly enjoyed the cruise. It was fun and relaxing, and it gave me a rare chance, amid all the hustle and bustle of my busy life, to pick up a substantial amount of body mass. Cruising is also romantic, so let me just say this to you couples out there: If you're looking for a way to rekindle the flame in your relationship, I'll sell you my rope.

Adam Fogle THE NEW VALHALLA

Georgia education's leap backwards

The State of Georgia is at a crossroads. Education is stagnant and has been for many years. In nearly every assessment of secondary and post-secondary education in the United States, Georgia ranks in the bottom ten.

Very few individuals within the state will argue that education is a problem. Determining culpability however, is not quite as collective. It may seem trite to point fingers, but without accountability it is impossible to reach a resolution.

Students cannot be held responsible. Many strive for A's in a system that itself cannot pull a D. It is not the fault of the professors. They are doing everything possible to perform their job while having their hands tied by statewide regulations.

The blame falls in three places: politicians, apathetic institutions and the omnipotent Board of Regents.

Politicians will always be politicians. They listen to educators and lobbyists and in turn allocate resources and power as is best for their districts. The other two, however, are like the child that gets caught with his hand in the cookie jar: they know better.

Many of the colleges and universities have themselves augmented the situation by remaining idle while the Georgia State Board of Regents has instituted an educational train wreck.

The cadre of eighteen known as the Board of Regents has generated an inexorable amount of power over education in Georgia which has resulted in the formation of an over-reaching oligarchy. Appointed by the Governor to seven year terms, they control the funding, core curriculum, and regent's exams for the 34 schools in the University System of Georgia (see *Reorganization Act of 1931*). In fiscal year 2003, the board dispensed \$1.7 billion in funding as authorized by the Georgia General Assembly.

They rein nearly complete control over the tuition, structure and content of public post-secondary education. Every student who attends a public college or university in the state of Georgia is subjected to the absolute rule of eighteen people in Atlanta.

The board has systematically intensified the festering of Georgia's collegiate public education system through the creation of ham-handed parameters. Reading, Writing and Arithmetic have been replaced with red tape, regimentation and redundancy. The strict regulation of this regime has rendered them non compos.

The core curriculum they have set is a mess.

It caters heavily to math and science at the cost of more practical fields such as reading and writing. Very few students will ever use the content learned in algebra, calculus or biology, yet the Board of Regents requires a disproportionate 11 credits in Math and Science out of an already lengthy 42 credit core.

Standardization is clearly not the answer. Georgia is struggling for air and has become blinded by its impending suffocation. Rather than focusing on a communal solution to the problem, it has dumped it in the lap of an incompetent proprietary board.

If the State of Georgia is serious, if it honestly wishes to prevent an educational meltdown, then it must reduce the power of the board of regents and downgrade the body to an advisory board. The board can offer ideas and suggestions, but only the schools can decide what is best for their system. Minimizing unnecessary regulations will allow schools to set their own standards.

The State of Georgia is at a crossroads. To the left is the Board of Regents; to the right is road to Damascus.

Write Adam at amfogle@yahoo.com

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Letters 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, and preferably sent via email in Microsoft Word format to gaeditor@georgiasouthern.edu. All submissions must be signed and include a mailing address and phone number for verification. The editors reserve the right to reject any submission.

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SPORTS

Hawks owners feud

Associated Press

ATLANTA - The majority of the Atlanta Hawks owners are still waiting for a reply to their request Tuesday asking NBA commissioner David Stern to remove co-owner Steve Belkin as the team's NBA governor.

The request to Stern came after Boston judge Allan van Gestel granted Belkin's request for a temporary injunction Tuesday. The judge said a contract signed by all the owners last year prevents other members of the ownership group from voting Belkin out.

The rest of the nine-member Atlanta Spirit LLC group then turned to Stern for permission to remove Belkin, who owns 30 percent of the team.

"There's nothing yet," said team spokesman Tom Hughes. An NBA spokesman did not return a phone message Wednesday.

The owners also have the option of appealing Tuesday's decision to a higher court. First, the owners want a ruling from Stern.

The rift among the owners followed Belkin's refusal to approve the Hawks' trade for guard Joe Johnson.

The Hawks offered a five-year deal to Johnson worth about \$70 million, but Belkin's objection was based on what the Hawks would give up in the trade: two first-round picks, second-year guard Boris Diaw and a \$4.9 million trade exception.

"Steve Belkin simply thinks that's too much to pay for Joe Johnson," Belkin's lawyer, John Fabiano, told the judge.

The feud between the owners has overshadowed attempts in the off-season to improve the team with the fewest wins in the NBA last season.

Mullin says the trade for Johnson cannot be finalized until the owners' dispute is settled.



Two former Eagles in minors

Former GSU outfielder Jason Hurst (Ft. Myers Red Sox), right, and catcher Flint Wipke (Orem Owlz), left, are playing in the Major League Baseball farm system. Hurst, who signed a free agent contract with the Boston Red Sox, has played in 26 games for the Sox Gulf Coast League affiliate. He is currently hitting .214 with 1 home run and 13 RBI. Wipke was drafted in the 38th round of this year's entry draft by the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim. He has appeared in 17 games for the Angels' Pioneer League farm team. In those 17 games he has posted a .292 batting average with 2 home runs and 10 RBI.



Special Photo
GUS catches a ride on one of GSU's new buses, which will deliver Eagle fans to and from Paulson stadium on game day.

Football game day transit system announced

GSU Athletic Media Relations

Georgia Southern University announced there will be a transit system in place during all home football games. The bus system will pick-up then drop off fans at points around campus.

The student transit system, in use during the week, will run on Saturdays that Georgia Southern is hosting a football game. The buses will begin running two and a half hours prior to kickoff for each home game. The buses will run a continuous route beginning at Paulson Stadium and stopping at the following locations in order:

- The University Store and Russell Union at the corner of Georgia Ave. and Forest Drive.

- The Performing Arts Center between the Paulson College of Science and Technology and the Performing Arts center.

- The Ceramics Studio on Forest Drive near the Nursing/Chemistry Building.

- The RAC Parking Lot.

Signs will be posted along the route identifying the specific stop locations. Buses will run through the completion of the first quarter.

During the game, buses will run based on demand for fans coming to or leaving Paulson Stadium. All buses will run for 90 minutes after the game is completed and will reverse its route, making the RAC the first stop and the University Store/Russell Union the last stop.

A complete map can be found on the georgiasoutherneagles.com website, then clicking on the football home page.

"We are very appreciative the University will run the transit system to and from Paulson Stadium before and after football games. We think this will be a great assistance to our fans in meeting their parking needs," said Director of Athletics Sam Baker.



Adam Crisp/STAFF
Construction workers put the finishing touches on the Paulson Stadium scoreboard. In addition to stadium upgrades, Eagle golf and basketball will be receiving new additions.

New looks for football, basketball and golf facilities

By Chad Bishop
Staff Writer

The Georgia Southern Athletic Department has done its job staying busy this summer, keeping pace with the rest of the school's growth and construction. Three major projects this summer are the latest in a series of new athletic facilities.

Paulson Stadium

When thousands of fans stream into Paulson Stadium September 10 for GSU's home opener against McNeese State, they'll notice a few changes in the design of the home of the Eagles. Paulson has added bricks to its exterior, lining the bottom and side walls of the stands. While the change was made primarily for aesthetic purposes, GSU Athletic Director Sam Baker says the move also solved some minor problems in the old walls.

"The old walls just looked dirty," said Baker. "With the brick, the stadium looks much nicer, and it actually helped with some of the erosion problems (in the old walls)."

Baker said that visiting the newly remodeled stadium at Georgia Tech and seeing the new stadium for Elon University in Elon, North Carolina, cemented the idea of brick to be the best solution for Paulson.

Before the brick, Baker said the department discussed ivy, like Chicago's famous Wrigley Field, and tried climbing fig plants, but the ivy-like plant was soon infested with bees.

There is also a new brick structure under the stadium's scoreboard. The scoreboard, which previously stood alone, now has a brick base on which to sit.

Golf

This past spring, the GSU golf team finished in a tie for 13th at the Division I golf national championships in Owings Mill, Maryland. This fall, the Eagle golf team will get a championship-caliber facility.

A new state-of-the-art golf facility is being constructed off Pulaski Highway, minutes away from the GSU campus.

The \$1.3 million project is expected to be ready for use this fall, and completed in the spring of 2006.

At an estimated 25 acres, the facility calls for a 10-acre driving range, a short game complex, an 18,000 square foot putting green, and three practice holes.

"The key to the facility is the short game complex," said Southern Boosters President John Mulherin. "The complex is designed as to where our golfers will be able to shoot every short game shot conceivable. It really is a great investment in our program."

The three practice holes on the land include a 275 yard Par 4, 185 yard Par 3, and a 400 yard Par 4, and will be laid out to make anywhere from six to nine holes, criss-crossing the width of the land.

Mulherin also stressed that the facility as a whole, as well as the clubhouse, will be named, pending approval by the Board of Regents.

To visit the site, take the 301 Bypass towards Highway 80 West to Pulaski Highway. Turn left on Pulaski and go two miles to Hood Rd.

Basketball Locker Rooms

The GSU men's basketball team is getting new locker rooms. GSU alumni Michael Curry, and his wife Katrina, have agreed to donate for the project, which will cost an estimated \$100,000.

The project is designed to create a more roomy locker area for the men's team, and be adjacent to the coaches offices.

Baker said the project will have a trickle down effect for Eagle sports. The Lady Eagles will move into the men's locker room, the volleyball team will takeover the women's locker room, and tennis will move into the volleyball team's old residence.

Michael Curry, a graduate of GSU in 1990, starred for the Eagle basketball team in the late 80's. Inducted into the GSU Hall of Fame in 2000, Curry made his NBA debut in 1993 with the Philadelphia 76ers. Curry has also had stints with Milwaukee, Detroit, Washington, and Toronto in his professional career.

Georgia Southern President Grube appointed to NCAA Division I Board of Directors

GSU Athletic Media Relations

Georgia Southern President Bruce Grube has been appointed to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I Board of Directors. Grube will represent

the Southern Conference (SoCon) on the board, which is charged with approving all legislation for the 326 institutions that compete at the highest level of the NCAA.

This is the first time that the SoCon has had a seat on the 18-member board. Grube was chosen to represent the conference by a unanimous vote of the chief executive officers of the SoCon institutions.

Interim SoCon Commissioner Geoff Cabe praised the selection of Grube, who is also member of a special NCAA advisory committee that studies Division I-AA and I-AAA representation on the Board of Directors.

"Dr. Grube has served the Southern Conference well as its representative on the Division I-AA/I-AAA Presidential Advisory Group," Cabe said.

"We were delighted that the SoCon presidents and executive committee selected him as the conference's first

nominee to the NCAA Division I Board of Directors."

"His keen insight and knowledge of intercollegiate athletics issues will make him a most valuable and influential member of the board."

Comprised of chief executive officers of institutions that are members of the NCAA, the Division I Board of Directors was established in 1997. Prior to the creation of the board, Division I used the "one-school, one-vote" principle for approving legislation.

In the present system, Division I utilizes a committee structure that includes cabinets responsible for academic affairs, eligibility and compliance, and championships and competition. All cabinets report to the Management Council, which in turn reports to the Board of Directors.

Each of the 11 Division I-A conferences has a permanent seat on the Board of Directors. The other seven seats on the board are rotated among the 21 Division I-AA and I-AAA conferences.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held Aug. 3-5 at the NCAA headquarters in Indianapolis, Ind. Grube will serve on the board through April 2009.

Grube has more than two decades of leadership experience that includes stints at universities in California, Colorado and Minnesota. He became the 11th president of Georgia Southern on July 1, 1999.

Under Grube's guidance, GSU has grown to more than 16,100 students, which represents the largest enrollment in school history. In addition, the average SAT score of the university's incoming freshmen increased by 93 points over a five-year span.

Prior to coming to GSU, Grube spent four years as president of St. Cloud (Minn.) State University. Before that, he served as provost of the University of Southern Colorado, which is now known as Colorado State University-Pueblo. He began his administrative career at California State Polytechnic University in Pomona, where he served in several positions, including provost and academic vice president.

An active member of numerous academic, athletic and community organizations, Grube is the state representative for Georgia in the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. He also served as chair of the SoCon Council of Presidents.

Grube holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of California, Berkeley and a Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin.



Bruce Grube

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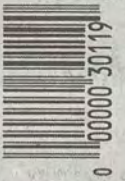
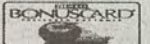


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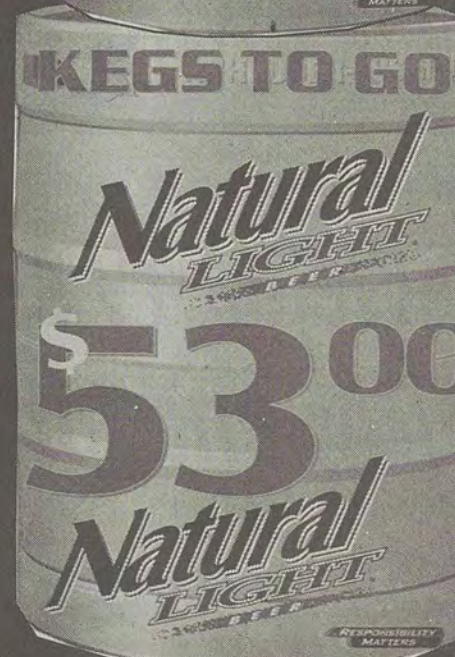
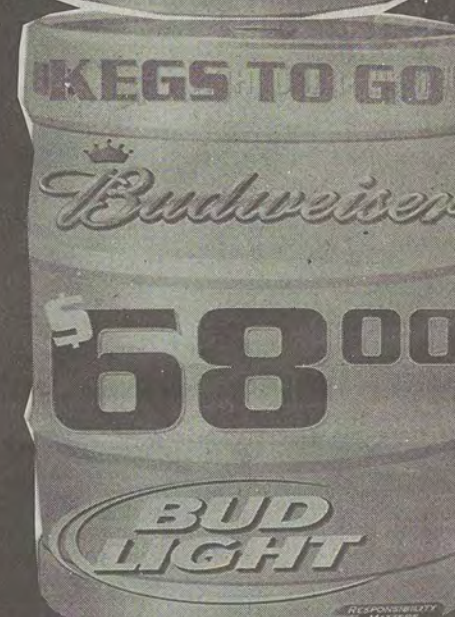
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All Aboard...

University Transit Provides Convenience, Access to Campus for Students

Georgia Southern University will begin the 2005-2006 academic year with a system of buses that will help alleviate the demand for on-campus parking spaces while giving students quick and easy access to the 675-acre campus.

The University's Campus Transit System will feature five buses that will pick up and drop off passengers at eight separate locations.

The system is being funded by student fees, so there will be no per-ride fare to use the buses.

Faculty and staff can ride the buses as well.

Fall semester classes do not begin until Aug. 15, but the buses will make their debut this week with an abbreviated schedule. They will run on Aug. 10 and Aug. 11 from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. and on Aug. 12 from 7 a.m. until 3 p.m.

In addition, the buses will be used to shuttle students and their parents from the University's 11 residence halls to Sweetheart Circle for the annual Eagle Cookout on the evening of Aug. 12.

Starting on Aug. 15, the buses will begin their regular schedule, which will run every Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. until 9 p.m. and every Friday from 7 a.m. until 3 p.m.



Georgia Southern President Bruce Grube stands in front of one of the buses that are part of the University's new Campus Transit System, which will make its debut on Wednesday, Aug. 10. Also pictured are Student Government Association Vice President of Academic Affairs Laurie Markle (far left), the Georgia Southern mascot GUS and SGA publicity coordinator Mary Ann Rogers.

The buses are a key component of the new parking and transit plan being implemented by Transportation Services at Georgia Southern. With its enrollment at an all-time high, the University has utilized all of the parking spaces near the center of the campus, which means remote parking lots must be used to handle the additional traffic.

Some 7,000 parking permits in lots that are located closest to the center of the campus have been reserved for students who live off campus beyond the non-commuter zone. The non-commuter zone is a strictly defined area that borders the campus and includes more than two dozen apartment complexes.

Students who live in or beyond the non-com-

muter zone can park for free at Paulson Stadium or the Recreation Activity Center (RAC) and ride the bus.

As part of the new parking and transit plan, Georgia Southern's Student Alliance for a Green Earth is promoting its Alternative Transportation Program, which encourages students to take the bus, ride a bike or walk to class.

The University has contracted with Cognisa Transportation of Atlanta to furnish the buses and drivers for the Campus Transit System. Cognisa will utilize an interim fleet of vehicles until March 2006, which is when buses powered by compressed natural gas (CNG) will be delivered to Georgia Southern. CNG vehicles provide a cleaner



Please see Transit System Map Inside

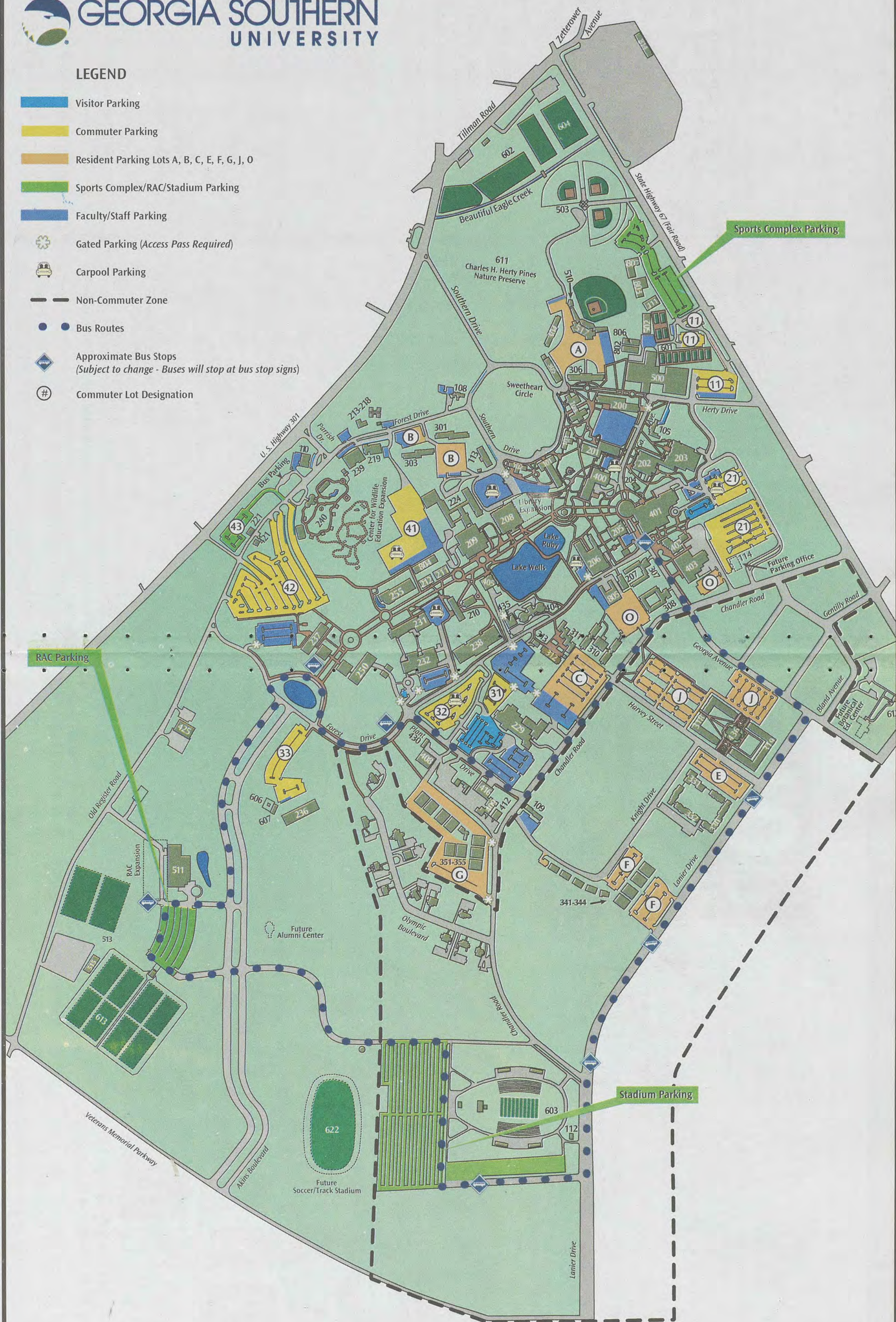
Continued on Back Page

2005-2006 Campus Transit System



LEGEND

- Visitor Parking
- Commuter Parking
- Resident Parking Lots A, B, C, E, F, G, J, O
- Sports Complex/RAC/Stadium Parking
- Faculty/Staff Parking
- Gated Parking (Access Pass Required)
- Carpool Parking
- Non-Commuter Zone
- Bus Routes
- Approximate Bus Stops
(Subject to change - Buses will stop at bus stop signs)
- Commuter Lot Designation



For more information on the Campus Transit System at Georgia Southern,
call Transportation Services at (912) 681-0702,
email parking@georgiasouthern.edu or visit <http://www.aux.georgiasouthern.edu/park/transit.php>.

TIPS for RIDING Georgia Southern's Transit System

- Plan to be on the bus 30 minutes before class time to ensure arriving on time.
- Remember, the bus will only stop where designated by the Georgia Southern bus stop sign.
- Stay back from the curb until the bus comes to a complete stop.
- Board using the front door and exit by the rear door whenever possible.
- Be aware of traffic when crossing the street and always cross the street behind the bus.
- If you must stand on the bus, hold onto the railings or seat backs. Stay clear of the doorways, keep the aisles and stairwells clear, and please keep your arms, hands and head inside the bus.
- Smoking, eating and drinking are not permitted on the bus.
- Not all bus stops have shelters. Carry either an all-weather jacket with a hood or an umbrella.
- Extra time is needed when boarding with a wheelchair. Please be patient and courteous.
- If you leave an item on a bus, call Transportation Services at 681-0702 to see if it has been found. If you find an item, give it to your bus driver and it will be turned in to our Lost & Found at the office.



Continued from Front Page

and more environmentally safe transportation solution for the campus and the community.

The interim fleet will consist of six buses, although only five will be in use at any one time. All of the buses are white and clearly marked with the Georgia Southern logo.

Four of the buses are approximately 40 feet long and two are approximately 33 feet in length. The larger vehicles have a seating capacity of 37 with standing room for an additional 20 to 25 passengers; the smaller vehicles can seat up to 26 passengers and are wheelchair-accessible, with standing room for an additional 15 to 20.

Every bus will follow the same route. They will leave the Paulson Stadium parking lot, turn left onto Lanier Drive and left onto Georgia Avenue. After turning around in front of the University Store, the buses will turn right onto Chandler Road, right onto Plant Drive and left onto Forest Drive. They will turn right onto the circle in front of the College of Education Building and the Nursing/Chemistry Building. After leaving the circle, the buses will turn right onto Aikens Boulevard, pull through the RAC parking lot and then return to the Paulson Stadium parking lot via Malecki Drive.

Buses will pick up and drop off passengers at the following locations:

- The Paulson Stadium parking lot next to the press box parking area.
- Lanier Drive at Stadium Walk.
- Lanier Drive at University Pines.
- Lanier Drive at Harvey Street, near Kennedy Hall.
- Georgia Avenue in front of the University Store.
- Forest Drive near the intersection of Plant Drive.
- The circle in front of the College of Education Building and the Nursing/Chemistry Building.
- The RAC parking lot.

The bus stops will be designated by blue and white signs. Bus-stop shelters are being constructed at Paulson Stadium and the University Store.

The estimated time between buses from 7 a.m. until 3 p.m. will be six to eight minutes. However, because the number of passengers is expected to decrease dramatically after 3 p.m. and then again after 6 p.m., a reduced number of buses will be used during those hours. Consequently, the estimated time between buses from 3 p.m. until 9 p.m. will be 15 minutes.

During football season, the buses will be used at all home games to shuttle fans between Paulson Stadium and several on-campus parking lots.

For more information on the Campus Transit System at Georgia Southern, call Transportation Services at (912) 681-0702, email parking@georgiasouthern.edu or visit <http://www.aux.georgiasouthern.edu/park/transit.php>.





ON THE SHELVES THIS WEEK

DVD/Video Releases

"Because of Winn-Dixie"

How many mutts does it take to turn a lonely girl's life around? Just one, and his name is Winn-Dixie, after the supermarket where he and his new human pal first meet. In this all-around pleasant adaptation of the children's book by Kate DiCamillo, director Wayne Wang takes an uncharacteristically sweet tack and young star AnnaSophia Robb makes a solid debut as the daughter of a minister (Jeff Daniels) and a mom who vamoosed when she was a toddler. Daniels teams with producer Trevor Albert for audio commentary, while Robb contributes separate commentary for selected scenes. The DVD also has a making-of featurette, a gag reel and a dog-training segment cleverly titled "Diamond in the Ruff." DVD, \$29.98. (20th Century Fox)



"Kung Fu Hustle"

Director, co-writer and star Stephen Chow takes viewers on a live-action Looney Tunes thrill ride in this comic-action hybrid of martial-arts tussles and Three Stooges mayhem. Chow plays a sniveling wannabe desperately trying to join the mob gang that runs things in a pre-communist revolution Chinese ghetto, where martial-arts heroes living incognito among the rabble step forward to duke it out with their oppressive slumlords. Chow joins some of his cast mates for commentary and contributes an interview. The DVD also features deleted footage, outtakes and bloopers, plus a behind-the-scenes featurette. DVD, \$28.95. (Sony)



"The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit," "Hush, Sweet Charlotte," "In Old Chicago"

Three classics from the 20th Century Fox vaults debut on DVD, highlighted by the 1956 adaptation of Sloan Wilson's novel examining career vs. personal happiness in the rush for the American Dream after World War II. Gregory Peck stars as a harried New York advertising man caught up in the rat race, whose job and war-time memories contribute to friction with his wife (Jennifer Jones). The 1964 drama "Hush ... Hush, Sweet Charlotte" stars Bette Davis as a recluse preyed on by relatives and friends; the great cast includes Olivia de Havilland, Joseph Cotten, Mary Astor and Agnes Moorhead. "In Old Chicago," from 1938, features Tyrone Power and Don Ameche as brothers at odds in a tale of the Chicago fire of 1871. Film historians provide commentary for "Man in the Gray Flannel Suit" and "Hush ... Hush, Sweet Charlotte," while "In Old Chicago" is accompanied by an Ameche segment from A&E's "Biography" series. DVDs, \$14.98 each. (20th Century Fox)



Grayson Hoffman/STAFF

A waiter at a Statesboro Waffle House carries plates to a table. The Waffle House corporation is celebrating its 50th birthday this year.

At 50, Waffle House still dishing diner delights with personality

By Kristin Wyatt
Associated Press

ATLANTA — It's well past midnight in Atlanta and a movie theater manager sits down to supper after his shift. A couple nearby sips coffee. In walk two women who have, in all fairness, seen better days, their jeans worn thin, their hair matted.

The women don't even merit a stare. This is Waffle House.

This is where college professors and construction workers sit side-by-side at yellow counters. It's a 24-hour diner where the coffee's always on, the grits are always bubbling. It's where hungry folks from all walks have been coming for 50 years to get cheap, hot food that's become as familiar as the matter-of-fact greeting:

"Hey ... what y'all havin'?"

There are 1,500 Waffle Houses spread across 25 states, as far west as Arizona and as far north as Illinois, but the chain is still rooted deeply in the South and retains a distinctively down-home, blue-collar aura.

Maybe it's the simple menu anchored by eggs, grits and hash browns "smothered and covered"

in cheese and onions, the firm cash-only policy or the fact it serves most meals for under \$5. It somehow feels like breakfast at Grandma's house — before she started worrying about her cholesterol.

"You know at every exit there's a simmering pot of grits waiting for you, and that's very comforting for Southerners," said John Edge, director of the Southern Foodways Alliance at the University of Mississippi. "Waffle House is a company that manages to be a national presence that still generates local pride, and that's tough to do. Boysenberry syrup from IHOP is not in our vernacular."

But such warm feelings have been tempered in recent years by accusations of racism.

In January, black customers from four Southern states filed federal lawsuits claiming that Waffle House servers announced they wouldn't serve blacks, deliberately served unsanitary food to minority patrons, directed racial epithets at blacks and became verbally abusive when asked to wait on blacks.

Dozens of plaintiffs have made similar claims in the last decade. This



Grayson Hoffman/STAFF

month, the operator of Waffle Houses in Virginia settled lawsuits with 12 customers, including black, Asian-American and Hispanic patrons, who said they were treated rudely.

Waffle House executives insist they've been sued only because they're a big company and they're quick to point out that the restaurant was among the first eateries to integrate after its founding in 1950s Atlanta.

"We serve all races," said co-

founder Joe Rogers. "We're just a target. We're not guilty and never have been."

Waffle House started in September 1955 after Rogers, then a regional manager for a now-defunct diner chain out of Memphis, Tenn., walked up to a real estate agent who lived two doors down and proposed a partnership.

Rogers knew fast-food shops like

see WAFFLE, page p. 6B

It takes a real man to do a yee-haw

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Johnny Knoxville and Seann William Scott, who play Luke and Bo Duke in "The Dukes of Hazzard," didn't exactly perfect the art of "yee-haw" for the film.

In the latest issue of Entertainment Weekly magazine, Knoxville says he felt like "half a man" when he heard John Schneider, who played Bo Duke on the '70s TV series, do the rebel yell.

"John Schneider comes up to us

last night at the premiere. He's giving us these big hugs, and he goes, 'Let's do a yee-haw!' And he belts out this Tarzan-like 'yee-haw,' and I was like, 'That's kinda how we were supposed to do it, Seann.'"

Knoxville plays Luke Duke, and Scott plays cousin Bo. Ben Jones, who played wisecracking mechanic Cooter on the popular series, has called the movie — which took in an estimated \$30.7 million on its opening weekend

— a "sleazy insult."

"Every place we went to — we did all this regional press, and city, by city, they'd all talked to Ben Jones," Knoxville says.

As for the plot, Scott says: "Plot? What plot? Plot's just an excuse to blow (expletive) up and see Jessica in her shorts! You don't want a plot with 'Dukes of Hazzard.' (Pause.) It could've been nice to have one."



CALENDAR

August 13-16, 2005

13 Tree Care • 10 a.m.
John Quattlebaum of Future Trees will offer tips and advice on tree care for summer and fall. Registration is required. For more information or to register, contact the Botanical Garden at 871-1149.

13 Movie:
Crash 8 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Russell Union Theatre
Contact 486-7270 for information

15 Monday, Aug. 15
A Day in Atlanta
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Food and games to celebrate welcome week.
Russell Union Rotunda.

16 Woman to Woman
Tea: An informative lecture series for young women.
6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Russell Union.
Contact Je-melle Nurse at 678-773-4377.

WANT YOUR EVENT PUBLICIZED?

There is never a charge to have your group's events published in the daily campus calendar. Call 681-5246 or e-mail us at gamed@georgiasouthern.edu



GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY WELCOME WEEK 2005 BIG CITY, BRIGHT LIGHTS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12TH

NASHVILLE COUNTRY COOKOUT: Eagle Pride Cookout at Sweetheart Circle from 5pm-7pm. Free food, prizes, and more for all Georgia Southern students, faculty, staff, and families. Featuring live music from Bryan Clee and the Electric Cowboys. Check them out at <http://www.bryanclees.com>. This event is co-sponsored by Eagle Entertainment, Auxiliary Services, Office of the Vice President for Business and Finance, and Apple Computers.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13TH

SOAR SESSION X: Will take place in the Russell Union starting at 8am. Contact the Office of Orientation for more information at 871-1987.

RESIDENCE HALL TOURS: Will take place at 10am and 3pm in the first-year residence halls. Meet in the lobby for the start of the tour.

MIAMI HEAT: Splash in the Boro Waterpark trip from 12pm-6pm. Visit www.splashintheboro.com for more information. Transportation pick-up will be near the BSU bookstore (every hour on the hour). You can purchase discounted tickets in the Office of Student Activities for \$3.00 or win free tickets at the Nashville Country Cookout.

ICONCERT: Will take place from 6pm-10pm between the Union and bookstore (bus stop area). Free pizza, drinks, and music. Check out how you could win a free ipod and free iTunes. Stop by after the Waterpark trip or before the movie.

CRASH: Will be shown in the Russell Union theatre at 8pm. For more information visit http://www.apple.com/trailers/ions_gate/crash/. No tickets will be issued for this event. It is first come, first serve. Doors will open at 7:45pm for seating.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14TH:

RESIDENCE HALL TOURS: Will take place at 10am and 3pm in the first-year residence halls. Meet in the lobby for the start of the tour.

MAP DATING GAME: Russell Union Theater at 6pm. Come out and meet other freshmen in the MAP program while competing for the opportunity to win a free dinner and date with a MAP Sponsor.

RESIDENCE HALL FLOOR MEETINGS: Will take place from 6pm-7pm in ALL residence halls. Contact your RA for location.

EAGLES NIGHT OUT - SALT LAKE CITY OLYMPICS: Eagles Night Out at the RAC from 7pm-10pm. Enjoy inflatable games, laser tag, prizes, free food, RAC sporting facilities, and more. All Georgia Southern students are encouraged to attend. This event is co-sponsored by Eagle Entertainment, CRI, University Housing, Office of Orientation, and Apple Computers. WIN A FREE ipod shuffle at Eagles Night Out.

SURVIVAL DAZE MOVIE-SUPER HERO DOUBLE FEATURE: Come relax before classes start and watch a couple of Super Hero movies! Popcorn and drinks will be provided. This event will start at 7:30pm. *at the BSU (Baptist Student Union) center - Chandler Rd /Harvey Drive—across from Eagle Village. For more info call the BSU at 681-2241.

MONDAY, AUGUST 15TH:

POP INTO CAREER SERVICES: Anytime between 10:30am-2:00pm for more information about the office and part-time jobs. Career Services is located in the Williams Center 1047/1058.

A DAY IN THE ATL: at the Russell Union Rotunda from 11am-1pm. It's the first day of class... Kick back and enjoy free BBQ, free novelties, and inflatable games. This event is co-sponsored by Delta Sigma Theta and Eagle Entertainment.

OUT-OF-STATE STUDENT RECEPTION: The Office of Admissions is rolling out the red carpet for our out-of-state students at this first annual event! Out-of-state students are cordially invited to join us at Lewis Hall from 5:00pm - 6:30pm. Here is your opportunity to meet with other out-of-state students and make connections.

SURVIVAL DAZE KICK-OFF: Stop by at 6:30pm and eat pizza & enjoy some friendly competition on the Super Slip-N-Slide!! *at the BSU center- Chandler Rd /Harvey Dr--across from Eagle Village. For more info call the BSU at 681-2241.

RESIDENCE HALL - GETTING INVOLVED COOKOUT: Will kickoff at 7pm by Watson Hall. Come and find out how to join your Hall Action Team.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 16TH:

POP INTO CAREER SERVICES: Anytime between 10:30am-2:00pm for more information about the office and part-time jobs. Career Services is located in the Williams Center 1047/1058.

WELCOME BACK COOKOUT: Welcome Back cookout at 5:30pm for all students followed by the 1st PrimeTime of the semester. New Student "Family groups" will meet after PrimeTime. *at the BSU center - Chandler Rd /Harvey Drive--across from Eagle Village. For more info call the BSU at 681-2241.

HOUSE CALLS: Will run from 7pm-9pm. University faculty and staff will come around and meet the first-year students. Students who are in their room will be entered into a drawing for a \$150.00 University Store gift certificate or a portable DVD player.

MAP ORIENTATION: Russell Union Theater at 6pm. Participants in the MAP program will be formally introduced to the MAP Sponsors (peer mentors) as well as learn skills for surviving their first year of college.

NYC BIG APPLE COMEDY TOUR: Featuring Arvin Mitchell in the Russell Union Ballroom at 8pm. Arvin Mitchell is currently the bartender on BET's Club Comic View and hosted the show Spring Bling 21 Questions. No tickets will be issued for this event. It is first come, first serve. Doors will open at 8:45pm for seating.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17TH:

FREE HOMEMADE DINNER: Provided by ladies in one of the local churches. Meals will be served at 12pm and 1pm. *at the BSU center - Chandler Rd /Harvey Drive--across from Eagle Village. For more info call the BSU at 681-2241.

MULTICULTURAL STUDENT AND FACULTY RECEPTION: Will take place in the Russell Union Ballroom at 4pm.

HOLLYWOOD WALK OF STARS: Outdoor movie featuring, "Longest Yard." Movie starts at 9pm. Bring a blanket or a folding chair. Movie will take place in the parking lot between Watson Hall and the Performing Arts Center. For more information visit <http://www.longestyard.com>

THURSDAY, AUGUST 18TH:

DALLAS DOGS: Free hotdogs with various toppings and Eagle Entertainment Volunteer and SGA information at the Russell Union Rotunda from 11am-1pm. Get involved with Eagle Entertainment and help plan campus programs. Stop by today. Co-sponsored by SGA and Eagle Entertainment.

F.A.T. THURSDAY: Dinner will be served at 6pm and F.A.T. (Freshman And Transfer) Thursday will begin at 7pm. "Family Groups" with upperclassmen "moms" and "dads" will meet afterwards. *At the BSU center - Chandler Rd /Harvey Drive--across from Eagle Village. For more info call the BSU at 681-2241.

XBOX TOURNAMENT PRACTICE SESSIONS: Will take place in the Russell Union, room 2048 from 7pm-11pm. Play a little Halo 2 and freshen up on your skills before the Saturday tournament. This event is co-sponsored by Chi Alpha and Eagle Entertainment.

THE OC-A-THON: Will take place in the Russell Union, room 2044 from 7pm-11pm. Watch the full season of the hit Fox show, "The OC." Free snacks will be provided. This event is co-sponsored by Chi Alpha and Eagle Entertainment.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 19TH:

STEP INTO STATESBORO: is a chance for students to volunteer with over 30 agencies in the local Statesboro community. Registration is from 2pm-3pm at the Russell Union Rotunda. Then, volunteer from 3pm-5pm and end the day with a free dinner from 5pm-6pm.

XBOX TOURNAMENT PRACTICE SESSIONS: Will take place in the Russell Union, room 2048 from 7pm-11pm. Play a little Halo 2 and freshen up on your skills before the Saturday tournament. This event is co-sponsored by Chi Alpha and Eagle Entertainment.

THE OC-A-THON: Will take place in the Russell Union, room 2044 from 7pm-11pm. Watch the full season of the hit Fox show, "The OC." Free snacks will be provided. This event is co-sponsored by Chi Alpha and Eagle Entertainment.

OUTDOOR CONCERT: Featuring the awesome band, "THIEF ON THE RIGHT." The music starts at 8:30pm. Come to the concert dressed as your favorite superhero. There will be a contest for best costume and most creative superhero! Come and invite all your friends! *in front of the BSU center - Chandler Rd /Harvey Drive--across from Eagle Village. For more info call the BSU at 681-2241.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20TH:

MANN RETREAT CENTER: Meet at the BSU at 1:30pm (Chandler Rd /Harvey Drive across from Eagle Village) to carpool to the MANN RETREAT CENTER for an afternoon full of fun and games. There is a basketball court, volleyball court, baseball/softball field, and a pond (fishing and swimming areas available). We'll finish the day with a LOW COUNTRY BOIL dinner provided by FBC. For more info call the BSU at 681-2241.

SILICON VALLEY XBOX TOURNAMENT: Will take place in the Russell Union Ballroom from 2pm-10pm. Stop by the Office of Student Activities and pick up a registration form or download one online at www.eagleentertainmentonline.com. You could win \$500.00 or more in prize money. Free food, prizes, and much more. Come play Halo 2 on the "BIG SCREEN." This event is co-sponsored by Chi Alpha, Eagle Entertainment, EB Games and Apple Computers. Several systems will also be set up so participants and guests can enjoy Nintendo, Sega, Gamecube, Playstation, and much more. *\$5.00 per person registration fee. Check out the cool display from Apple computers and information on iPods and more.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 21ST:

DAYTONA SPEEDWAY CAR SHOW: Show Stopperz Car Show at the RAC parking lot from 4pm-7pm. Enter your car or come view other hotrods! Prizes for winning categories and giveaways for attendees. Free food, drinks, photos, and much more. You can register online at www.eagleentertainmentonline.com or stop by the Office of Student Activities for a registration form. Music will be provided by Apple computers and iTunes.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24TH:

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONAL FAIR/BUSINESS EXPO 2005: Will take place outside the Russell Union Rotunda area from 10am-1pm. Stop by and get free information about student organizations, local businesses, and much more. Approximately 100 organizations/vendors will be on-site. Stop by for free food and prizes for all participants.

Check out our website for more information on Welcome Week details: www.eagleentertainmentonline.com

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Domino's Pizza
Moe's Southwest Grill



Cadillac DTS gets new styling, refinement and name

By Ann M. Job
For The Associated Press

President Bush and Donald Trump aren't the only ones to ride in style in Cadillacs refreshed full-size sedan.

Beginning this fall, consumers will find the 2006 version of the Cadillac DeVille at dealerships, albeit several months after Bush and Trump received keys to their new Cadillacs.

Cadillac's largest car is restyled, inside and out, for a more modern, upscale look, has new, more ergonomic seats and updated suspension tuning and adds 18-inch factory wheels for first time.

Cadillac's largest auto isn't called the DeVille anymore, though.

Following the nomenclature that Cadillac started to adopt some four years ago when it introduced its CTS entry luxury sedan, the 2006 DeVille is renamed the DTS.

DTS may sound familiar. It was the name of one of the trim levels of the DeVille in the 2005 model year.

Starting manufacturers suggested retail price, including destination charge, for the 2006 DTS is \$41,990. This is \$4,850 less than the base, 2005 model and makes the base DTS less pricey than many full-size, luxury sedan competitors.

For example, the 2006 Lincoln Town Car has a starting MSRP, including destination charge of \$42,875 and the 2006 Lexus LS 430 starts at \$51,175.

The new styling on this Cadillac did attract attention during the test drive, with even drivers in style-conscious Los Angeles staring and looking the car over. The front now has a look similar to the edgy style of Cadillac's CTS and Escalade, though its not quite as sharp.

The DTS rear is a long, streamlined trunk lid that's reminiscent of the back of a Cadillac Eldorado. Overall, the look is definitely contemporary.

Unlike the major competitors, Cadillac's big car remains front-wheel drive, even as new rear-wheel-drive sedans such as Chrysler's 300C have become strong sellers. Some drivers prefer rear-drive for its predictable,

sporty character and feel it belongs in large-sized cars.

But Cadillac's DTS continues to offer the cushioned, quiet ride that buyers in this segment seek. Even in the test DTS with performance package and new 18-inch wheels, the car sort of bobbed up and down over sizable highway expansion cracks, but I was never jolted. The DTS seemed to absorb much of the impact from potholes, too, and there was no roughness conveyed to passengers.

Long straight stretches of road were delightful, because the 4,000-plus-pound DTS sometimes seemed to skim the road surface lightly, rather than heave itself along.

But in mountain twisties, I readily noticed the back-and-forth weight transfer going on as this more than 17-foot-long auto took a lefthand curve, then a righthand curve. The tires didn't seem to be particularly performance-oriented, as they chirped easily in these maneuvers.

The ride is quiet. Even with semi-trailers driving nearby on a freeway, I could talk in conversational tones to passengers. I didn't notice much road noise, even with the larger tires, and wind noise seemed mild.

Cadillac retains the two versions of Northstar V8 for this car, and power has been subtly tuned. The base, 4.6-liter, double overhead cam engine generates 275 horsepower at a lower, 5,200 rpm now, rather than the 5,600 rpm of last year. Torque is a healthy 292 foot-pounds at 4,400 rpm for noticeably quick get up and go.

But the uplevel V8 that was in the test DTS with performance package has more horsepower — 291. Peak torque is 286 foot-pounds at 4,400 rpm and came on smartly — and always smoothly.

Note the DTS powertrains compare with the 239 horses in the Lincoln Town Car with 4.6-liter V8. The Town Car's torque peaks at 287 foot-pounds at 4,100 rpm. Meantime, the Lexus LS 430's 290-horsepower, 4.3-liter V8 provides 320 foot-pounds of torque at a low, 3,400 rpm.



In this undated photo provided by GM, the 2006 Cadillac DTS is shown.

GM photo/Associated Press

Fuel economy isn't great in this big-sedan segment, and the DTS is estimated to carry a rating of 17 miles a gallon in city driving and 27 mpg on the highway. This is a bit less than the 18/25 mpg of the LS 430.

I wish the DTS came with something other than its four-speed automatic transmission. It dates back to the early 1990s, and while it has been shown to be durable, it doesn't include a shift-it-yourself manual feature, much less a higher number of gears that could improve fuel economy and responsiveness.

The DTS back seat is a highlight. There's good room for three adults to sit back there without them having to squeeze tightly against each other. The middle passenger, however, has a slight hump to contend with in the middle of the rear floor and also doesn't have a height adjustable head restraint.

Dimensions for the new DTS are pretty close to that of the 2005 DeVille. Overall length, for example, has grown just 0.6 inch.

Cadillac officials said they provided about an inch greater track for the front seats to go forward and back, but measured back-seat legroom is 41.6 inches now compared with 43.2 inches in the 2005 car.

Night Vision, an option that helped drivers see obstacles at night and in foggy conditions, is no longer offered. Officials said few consumers — only 5 percent or so — bought it. But standard DTS safety equipment includes antilock brakes, stability control, six airbags and improved structural reinforcements.

Some safety equipment isn't available, however. For example, an automatic brake drying system that BMW is adding to its sedans to help

ensure good brake performance in wet weather isn't available on the DTS. Neither is an automatic pre-collision feature offered by Mercedes and Lexus that helps prepare passengers and the vehicle for impact during an impending crash.

Cadillac officials expect that early buyers of the DTS will be "Cadillac loyalists" who already like the brand and have been previous Cadillac owners.

Most are expected to be married. But officials also look for younger buyers to be attracted to the new styling. This will help reduce the average buyer age from the mid to high 60s that has been characteristic of the former DeVille, they said.

There have been no safety recalls of the new DTS. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration also has not yet reported crash test results on the car.

BY THE NUMBERS

BASE PRICE: \$41,195 for Luxury I model; \$43,695 for Luxury II model; \$47,695 for Luxury III model; \$49,695 for Performance Package model.

AS TESTED: \$50,490.

TYPE: Front-engine, front-wheel-drive, five-passenger large sedan.

ENGINE: 4.6-liter, double overhead cam, Northstar V8.

MILEAGE: 18 (city), 27 (highway).

LENGTH: 207.6 inches.

WHEELBASE: 115.6 inches.

CURB WT.: 4,009 pounds.

DESTINATION CHARGE: \$795.

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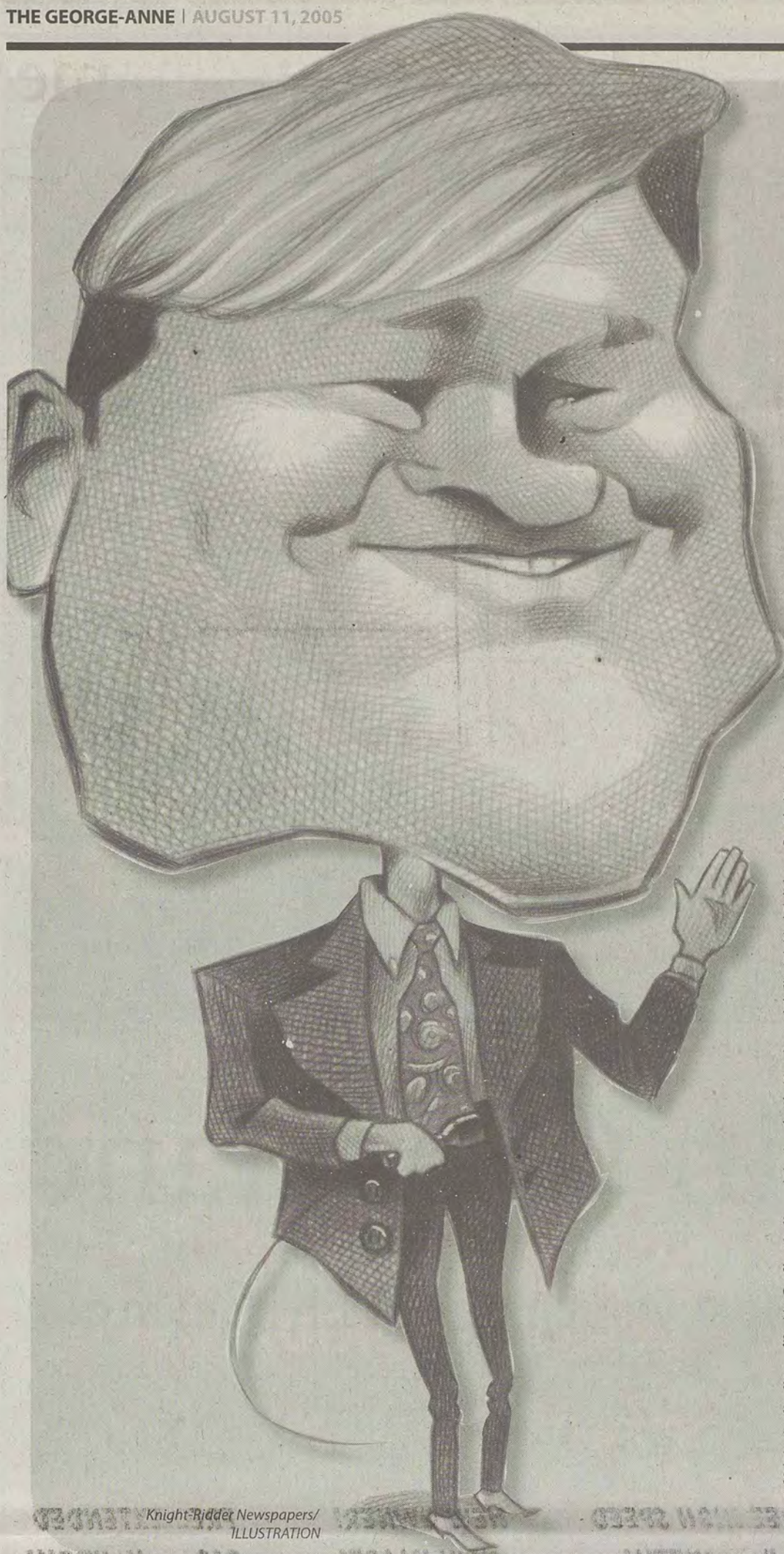
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Conan may seem easygoing, but he's driven to succeed

O'Brien has his eye on Leno's late night spot

By Aaron Barnhart
Knight Ridder Newspapers

After reporting on Conan O'Brien for more than a decade, I figured I knew all there really was to know about the next host of "The Tonight Show." But that was before I heard about the air conditioner.

Turns out, America's most likable late-night host has a temper to match his 6-foot-4 frame. It flares up during rehearsals and tapings of his "Late Night" show, conducted most weekday afternoons inside NBC's Studio 6A in New York.

"I hate being part of something that's unfunny," he said recently. "I'd rather get shot in the leg — I mean where there's bone, not just a flesh wound, with a high-caliber bullet — than do a show that was disappointing."

And so it was, after one sketch some years back went terribly wrong, the host stormed out of 6A and into a production closet with a low drop ceiling. He punched through the ceiling with both arms, felt something, grabbed hold and pulled down ...

"... this coolant system, which is about the size of that table," O'Brien said, "pulled it down through the ceiling — there are wires sparking — went over, picked up a phone and called a page. She came in and just stared at it. I said, 'Could you do something with that?'"

Telling the story now, as he did during a talk this spring in New York City, O'Brien is hilariously self-effacing. But it's easy to forget that late-night hosts are comedians, and comedians with few exceptions are angry people.

Johnny Carson's wrath was fearsome, by all accounts, while David Letterman's behavior so alienated the higher-ups in Burbank that he lost "The Tonight Show" to Mr. Nice Guy, Jay Leno.

The ceiling-punching incident also says something about O'Brien's passion for television. Behind that laidback, self-mocking, "can you believe I'm on TV" persona, behind that goofy shock of red hair that he refers to as a "French dessert," is a veteran of 2,100 hours of late-night TV who has not faced serious competition in 10 years.

O'Brien's work ethic, though invisible to viewers and guests, has established him as the host whose interviews, daring comedy and cutting-edge musical acts are worth staying up for. And they will make him a worthy heir to late night's biggest prize when he takes over "The Tonight Show" in 2009.

When he went to sign the deal giving him the "Tonight" job, O'Brien realized he was sitting in the corporate office where, at his career low point in 1994, he was forced to waive his old contract, with its one-year renewal clause, and sign a new one giving NBC the right to review his employment on

"Late Night" every 13 weeks. It was that or be fired on the spot.

Now, "The Tonight Show" is his. After the signing last fall, he took a phone call. Carson was on the line. For 10 blessed minutes, O'Brien got to talk shop with the king. He listened as Johnny told him about the show that was once named for him. Three months later Carson would be dead.

"I still can't really believe that he talked to me," O'Brien said at a forum sponsored by the Television Academy. "If I get hit by a bus tomorrow, they can't take that away from me."

For his part, the host-elect swears he hasn't thought about what he'll do differently once he steps onto that larger stage, wherever it is. He calls it "an abstraction" and says it's a potential distraction as well.

"It's this miraculous thing that I think about every once in a while, like when I'm walking the dog," O'Brien said in a recent phone interview. "The thing that got me there was this show, and the easiest way to screw this up is to take my eye off the ball."

"I know this sounds corny, but I felt a responsibility to continue what Dave had started. This show is an experimental place for comedy, and that's become rarer and rarer on network television."

"I want to keep that going. I don't want to phone in the last couple of years of 'Late Night.' We'll think about this other thing as we get closer."

Knight Ridder Newspapers/
ILLUSTRATION

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WAFFLE

from page 1B

McDonald's were just starting and he had an idea for an in-between, a sit-down restaurant that rivaled the speed of drive-ins.

"He said, 'You build a restaurant and I'll show you how to run it,'" recalled Tom Forkner, Waffle House's other founder.

The two built a restaurant in Avondale Estates, an east Atlanta suburb, and painted it yellow to catch the eye of motorists. It was Forkner who proposed naming the restaurant for the biggest money-maker on its 16-item menu: the waffle.

"It was the highest profit item you could do, so I said, 'Call it Waffle House and encourage people to eat waffles.'"

The name also made it clear the restaurant was different from carry-out stands. "You can't carry out waffles," Rogers said. "They get pretty flimsy. So we thought, 'Waffle House'll work.'"

When Waffle House opened, only one other restaurant in Atlanta was open 24 hours. Rogers convinced Forkner that in the modern world of interstate highways and television, people would like a restaurant that never closed, not even on Christmas. Forkner was skeptical until he visited his restaurant in the middle of the night.

"I thought everyone went to bed at night," Forkner said, "but I was wrong."

By 1960, there were four Waffle Houses around Atlanta. Inspired by the rapid expansion of McDonald's, profits were plunged into expansion, first to Tennessee, and then Florida and South Carolina. Waffle House started franchising, and by the late 1960s there were 27. Then the formula picked up steam and never stopped.

Today, it's hard to drive far on an interstate across much of the country without seeing a yellow-and-black Waffle House sign. In some Atlanta suburbs, Waffle Houses are across the street from each other. Macon, Ga., has 10 Waffle House restaurants — and only nine McDonald's.

The company is privately held and doesn't disclose annual sales figures, but for an idea how well the little yellow diners are doing, consider this: Two percent of all eggs produced in the United States for food service end up on a Waffle House plate.

Back at the Atlanta Waffle House, movie manager Charles Kimbro has been eating the patty-melt plates with hash browns since he was a kid. "I started early with my parents," he said. His father still goes every day for morning coffee. "The food is fast and they're always friendly."

Nowhere is Waffle House's working-man vibe stronger than at its headquarters in Norcross, Ga. A plaque in the lobby says the whole building is dedicated to the "Poor Old Cash Customer Who Made It All Possible."

Forkner and Rogers no longer run the company (it's headed by Joe Rogers Jr.), but executives still are required to work holidays, including Christmas and New Year's. They figure that if waitresses have to show up on Thanksgiving, executives should, too.

"We're a family," Rogers said.

As for the future, Rogers and Forkner envision a lot more Waffle Houses where things stay the same. There are no plans to end the cash-only policy (credit cards would be too slow, Rogers said) or to change the menu. Except for salads and sandwich wraps, and more pictures for customers who don't speak English, it looks about the same as it did in 1955.

"We serve the basic foods, and the basic foods never change," Rogers said.

Maybe that's what has kept Waffle House going. The fact that a restaurant in Tallahassee, Fla., or Tupelo, Miss., will look the same, serve the same foods and somehow not feel like a fast-food chain.

"There's something about the intimacy of sitting at that counter and smelling all the grease and watching the short-order cook at the grill," Edges said. "It's a fascinating pageant. It's more than a place to eat, it's a place of fellowship."



Mike Brown/Associated Press

Chelsea Weir walks past the grave of Elvis Presley while taking a tour at Graceland in Memphis, Tenn. recently.

Strangers in Graceland

Fans worry about new company in charge of Elvis' mansion

By Woody Baird
Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — The pilgrims will still weep at Elvis Presley's grave, and the souvenir shops will still swarm with credit-card waving fans, an occasional black-pompadour hardly drawing a glance.

But change is in the air: Strangers are in control of Graceland.

Lisa Marie Presley has sold the business side of her father's estate and turned over his famous, white-columned house to CKX Inc., a company run by Robert F.X. Sillerman, a multi-millionaire dealmaker who specializes in media and entertainment.

Now, some of fans who flock to Memphis each year to commemorate Presley's death on Aug. 16, 1977, are worried their annual homecoming won't be quite so homey.

"They call themselves a company now," said Jean Donovan, a fan from Derry, N.H.

Of course, Elvis Presley Enterprises was already a company. Forbes listed Presley as the world's top earning dead entertainer last year.

Graceland managers say the Elvis business, which brings in \$40 million a year, is poised to grow even more. CKX says its looking into "Elvis-related attractions" in places such as Las Vegas, Asia, the Middle East and Europe.

"Elvis sells all over the world, and that's where the real opportunity for growth lies for us, to take more of Elvis and Graceland out to the world," said Jack Soden, chief executive of Elvis Presley Enterprises, now a subsidiary of New York-based CKX.

Soden oversaw Graceland's opening in 1982, and he's staying on the job. But the Elvis faithful are ever-watchful for hints of change at Graceland, where Presley is buried in a small garden.

"I know a lot of the older fans are in an uproar," said Kathie Bryson, a fan from St. Louis. "But then, anything that changes down there puts them in an uproar."

Elvis won't be the only American idol in the CKX stable.

A month after the Elvis deal, CKX acquired 19 Entertainment, the British company that produces the "American Idol" TV show and its British predecessor, "Pop Idol." The founder of 19 Entertainment, Simon Fuller, once most famous as manager of the Spice Girls, will continue to work for CKX.

CKX also has an agreement to buy MBST, a Hollywood talent-management company, and expects to make other acquisitions.



Gary Bogdon/Olando Sentinel

Elvis Presley fans enter the front door of his Graceland Mansion in Memphis, Tenn., during a group tour. Elvis Aron Presley, who died in his home on August 16, 1977, is buried in the backyard garden of Graceland alongside his mother, father and grandmother.

Sillerman was a leading founder of SFX Entertainment, a group of sports promotion and live concert properties that sold to Clear Channel Communications for more than \$4 billion five years ago.

Bishop Cheen, an entertainment analyst for Wachovia Securities, said Sillerman will likely focus on his control of the rights to Presley's name and leave the day-to-day operations of Graceland alone.

"He's not known for sacking and burning and pillaging," Cheen said. "He is known for adding value and taking profits."

Sillerman's group, with money from loans and investors, bought the Presley business in February for about \$100 million in cash and stock. They took an existing but inactive company, Sports Entertainment Enterprises, Inc., and turned it into CKX.

"I can certainly understand how serious the 'Kingdom' takes all this," Cheen said. "He's a New Yorker and an outsider, so he's got to be under suspicion. But he's a businessman, you know, not General Sherman."

The company held its first public stock offering as CKX in June, selling 23 million shares at \$11 each and raising about \$235 million. All but about

\$50 million went to pay off debts, including the cost of buying the Elvis business. The largest debtor was Bear Stearns & Co., the underwriter for the stock issue. CKX has a total of about 90 million shares outstanding.

Lisa Marie Presley got \$50 million at the sale, stock in CKX and kept a 15 percent interest in Elvis Presley Enterprises. CKX also took on \$25 million in Presley debts.

She also retained title to Graceland and her father's personal possessions, but CKX holds a 90-year lease on the house and has ultimate control over the tourist operations, according to a prospectus for the stock issue.

Soden said he doesn't expect CKX to make major adjustments in how Graceland and its complex of souvenir shops and museums are run.

"They said when we were getting to know them, 'You know, we're not out trying to buy problems. We don't want to buy companies that we have to fix,'" Soden said.

Priscilla Presley, Lisa Marie's mother and Presley's ex-wife, got \$6.5 million from the Elvis sale and has a 10-year consulting contract with CKX at \$560,000 a year. She is also on the company's board of directors.

Though Lisa Marie was her father's

only surviving heir, her mother played a major role in turning Graceland into a tourist attraction that draws more than half a million visitors a year.

When Presley died at age 42 of prescription drug abuse and heart disease, his finances were in sad shape. He spent money as fast as he made it, gave 50 percent of his income to manager Tom Parker and took no steps to limit tax liabilities.

In promotional materials, Graceland managers kindly describe Presley's financial acumen this way:

"Elvis Presley could have left one of the greatest fortunes of entertainment history, had he been one to worry about financial planning, rather than freely enjoying and sharing his wealth as he did."

After Presley's death, the estate even considered selling Graceland since there was too little money for upkeep.

But led by Priscilla Presley, who was acting on behalf of her then minor daughter, the estate formed Elvis Presley Enterprises, opened Graceland to the public and began a campaign to solidify the legal rights to make money on Elvis' name and image.

Graceland and the worldwide sale of Elvis souvenirs soon became the

major money makers for the estate, which draws no royalties from some of Presley's most famous hits. He sold the rights to them to RCA for \$5 million in 1973, and Parker got half of that.

In its early days, Elvis Presley Enterprises had no way of knowing if Graceland would be a long-running success. But the business, which includes licensing the use of Presley's name or image in movies, TV ads and the like, is still flourishing 28 years after his death.

Now its CKX's job to keep that going.

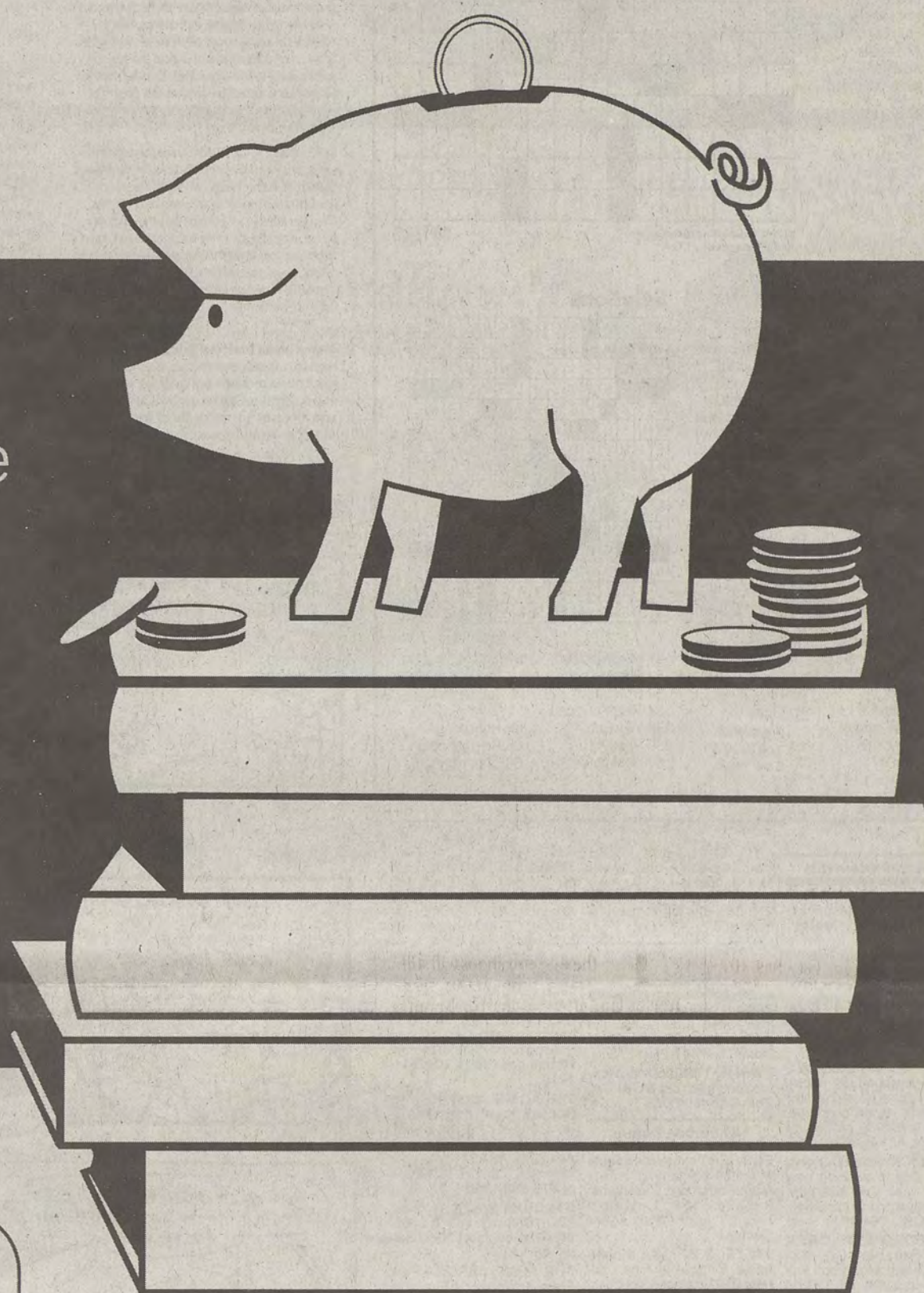
"We rely on the continued popularity of Elvis Presley and the market for products that exploit his name, image and likeness," the company said in its stock prospectus. "As the life, times and artistic works of Elvis grow more distant in our past, his popularity may decline."

For the fans, there's little concern that Elvis' light will dim. They worry instead about access to Graceland and whether an expanding marketplace will show Presley the reverence they believe he deserves.

"We're all just waiting to see what changes, if any, will be made," said Jeanne Kalweit of The Elvis Presley TCB Fan Club of Chicago.

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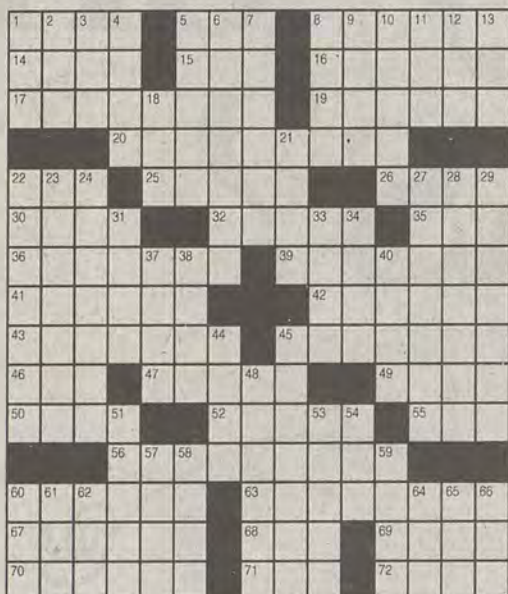
Never try to teach a pig to sing... it wastes your time and annoys the pig.

Robert Heinlein

Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Crazy
- 5 Buffoon
- 8 Subduers
- 14 Saudi man
- 15 That girl
- 16 Actor Estevez
- 17 One chosen
- 19 Deodorant pick
- 20 Resembles
- 22 Got together
- 25 Scacchi or Garbo
- 26 Thwack
- 30 Historic periods
- 32 Company emblems
- 35 Fruit concoction
- 36 Anthracite haulers
- 39 More balanced
- 41 Garb
- 42 Hard-shelled reptile
- 43 Female Fonda
- 45 North Star
- 46 Outer edge
- 47 Killy or Tomba, e.g.
- 49 Lollibridgia or Berriault
- 50 Dueling sword
- 52 Rover's restraint
- 55 de deust
- 56 Stomach disorder
- 60 Ancient Greek city-state
- 63 Location of the Isle of Man
- 67 Impertinent lookers
- 68 Make up facts
- 69 Top point
- 70 Tratoria offerings
- 71 You betchah!
- 72 Masculine



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08/11/05

Solutions

1. Crazy
5. Buffoon
8. Subduers
14. Saudi man
15. That girl
16. Actor Estevez
17. One chosen
19. Deodorant pick
20. Resembles
22. Got together
25. Scacchi or Garbo
26. Thwack
30. Historic periods
32. Company emblems
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63. Location of the Isle of Man
67. Impertinent lookers
68. Make up facts
69. Top point
70. Tratoria offerings
71. You betchah!
72. Masculine

- DOWN
- 1 Neon or chlorine
 - 2 Exist
 - 3 Guy's date
 - 4 The third man?
 - 5 Furrier John Jacob
 - 6 Moola
 - 7 Takes care of
 - 8 Garr of "Mr. Mom"

- 9 Wild way to run
- 10 Jazz great Davis
- 11 Building add-on
- 12 Spanish river
- 13 Male child
- 18 Gear tooth
- 21 Straggles
- 22 Bloodcurdling
- 23 Self-gratifying spree
- 24 When scones are served
- 27 Racer Darrell
- 28 Soprano Patti
- 29 Wright and Brewer
- 31 Lost traction
- 33 Italian eight
- 34 Writer Bellow
- 37 Units of work
- 38 Powerful stink
- 40 Blow one's own horn
- 44 Pinball miscue
- 45 Open grasslands
- 48 In a spooky manner

- 51 Heronlike bird
- 53 Porkers' pads
- 54 Howdies
- 57 Razor choice
- 58 Wise off
- 59 Phony
- 60 Soak through
- 61 Org. of Couples
- 62 Jolson and Gore
- 64 Hot spring
- 65 Reef predator
- 66 Chopping tool

Mystic Arts Horoscope

By Lasha Seniuk

Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service

ARIES (March 21-April 20) Relations with older family members are emotionally unpredictable this week. After Tuesday, loved ones may ask for special consideration concerning recent power struggles in the home, budget disputes or cancelled purchases. Remain expressive: this is not the right time to avoid disagreement or abandon deeply held opinions. Later this week, business officials or trusted colleagues will request dramatic workplace improvements. Stay balanced: tensions may be high.

TAURUS (April 21-May 20) Loved ones will now ask for extra time and patience: before Wednesday, expect romantic relationships to require careful diplomacy. Areas affected are disputes with siblings, family schedules or a complicated difference of social values in the home. Offer emotional wisdom and advice: your empathy will be appreciated. Thursday through Saturday, new financial restrictions may need to be publicly addressed. Ask quickly: your reputation will soon be questioned.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) Family members will this week press for private information and public displays of affection. Before Wednesday, loved ones may need extra reassurance of their importance in your life. Areas affected are isolation from the group or a fear of abandonment. Remain diplomatic and expect vital discussions in the coming weeks. Friday through Sunday, an unexpected flirtation may trigger social tensions. If so, remain cautious: emotional risk will not prove worthwhile.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Early this week, check financial records thoroughly for minor errors or mis-taken facts. Friends, close relatives or roommates may now be unaware of important deadlines, legal restrictions or regulations. Ask key questions: at present, authority figures may quickly change employment roles. After Wednesday, an unexpected social invitation may reveal a hidden attraction. Remain open to new passion: romantic proposals, creative expression and sensuality will soon increase.



tion may reveal a hidden attraction. Remain open to new passion: romantic proposals, creative expression and sensuality will soon increase.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) A close friend may this week reveal private social or romantic information. Past relationships, yesterday's mistakes and repeated emotional patterns may be a prime focus. Avoid becoming enmeshed in personal dramas. At present, your insight and practical advice will not bring clarity to difficult relationships. Late Wednesday, a mentor or work official may offer disappointing business results. Don't press for answers: added information and new options will soon arrive.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) New relationships may this week be derailed by minor social jealousies. Ongoing flirtations and private discussions may create small tensions between long-term friends and potential lovers. Respond with cheerful banter and quick, witty comments: before next week friends and colleagues will abandon unproductive opinions or outdated ideals. Wednesday through Saturday, parent/child relationships will dramatically improve: stay open

and wait for new invitations.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Monday through Thursday, an unexpected workplace attraction may be unnerving. Older colleagues or previously shy business associates will now vie for your attention. Over the next four days, however, new relationships are best avoided: stay focused on short-term work projects, detailed financial instructions and outstanding duties. Later this week, powerful dream insights may be difficult to ignore. Past memories and abandoned relationships are accented: stay alert.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Controversial workplace methods will now be challenged. Over the next few days, expect bosses or managers to revert to established and unproductive procedures. Find positive ways to involve all colleagues in key discussions or disputed projects: your ability to offer creative suggestions will be noticed. After Thursday, friends and lovers may be briefly moody or reflective. Opt for quiet activities, if possible, and expect a series of brooding questions. Be diplomatic: all is well.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Group events will offer unique opportunities over the next five days. New friendships or business contacts are strongly accented: use this time to expand career plans and exchange new ideas with long-term friends. Many Sagittarians will soon adopt a more assertive approach to social involvement, personal achievement and financial security. Later this week, romantic commitments will intensify: expect lovers or close friends to ask for detailed promises and meaningful change.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) Over the next four days, romantic discussions will reveal changing social or family goals. Someone close may now wish to greatly expand the intimacy of key relationships. Areas of prime concern are home security, social approval and long-term acceptance of unique lifestyles. Ask probing questions and expect detailed, honest answers: your concerns are accurate. Friday through Sunday highlight revised career options. Remain dedicated to

long-term gain and all will be well.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) Minor property disputes may this week briefly escalate or require legal advice. Check facts, permissions and financial paperwork for purposely misleading information. Before Wednesday, authority figures may attempt to quickly establish complex promises or detailed agreements. If possible, avoid emotional pressure tactics: new options will soon arrive. Late Saturday, a rare social invitation may lead to dramatic romantic changes. Remain alert: there's much to consider.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Revised workplace instructions will this week clarify the extent of recent mistakes. Before Thursday, yesterday's miscommunications may prove politically costly for authority figures. If so, remain cautious and expect officials to temporarily deny their involvement. Pride, private power struggles and social tensions are accented: go slow and wait for change. After Friday, a recently stalled friendship will begin moving forward. Honest discussions will bring resolution: stay open.

If your birthday is this week: Business routines may be unusually demanding over the next few weeks. Before October 19th, expect younger colleagues or new employees to bring unexpected complications to the workplace. Costly errors or ongoing miscommunication are accented. Allow authority figures to handle all new instructions: although cheerful, workplace policies may be highly changeable. After mid-November, family and romantic promises will require active participation. Loved ones may press for increased commitment or improved home relations. By late January, positive choices will emerge. Remain attentive but wait for subtle signals of emotional change. Serious public discussion may be needed but will, by mid-March, greatly improve intimacy and trust.

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2 Dudes



By Aaron Warner

2 Dudes



By Aaron Warner



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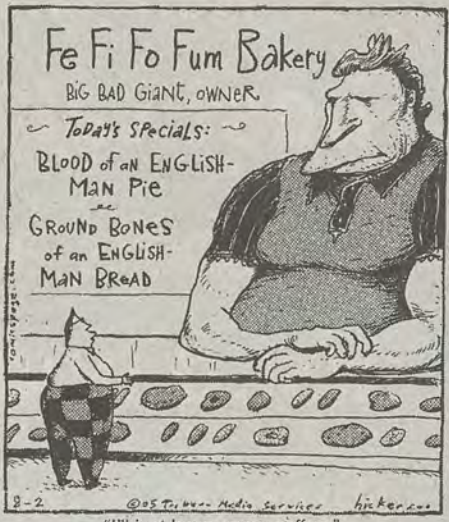
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Readers may access the newspaper and its archives staff by visiting our web

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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.

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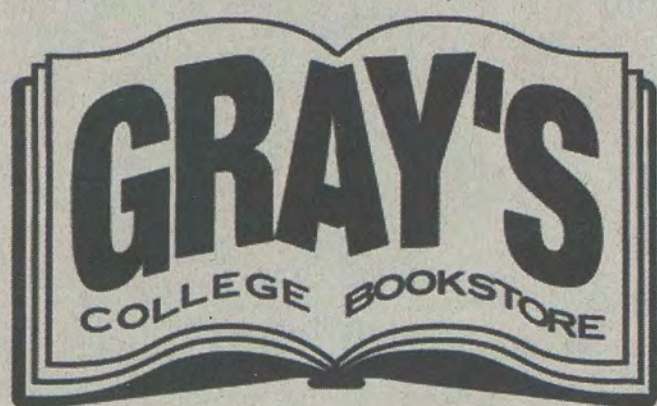
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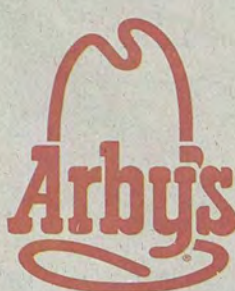


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THE DAY THE EARTH SHOOK

The tale of two flights in August 1945 that brought the end of World War II — and changed the world forever.

THE BOMBS THAT CHANGED HISTORY

In April 1945, the Allies were preparing a controversial plan for a two-phase invasion of Japan with a projected death toll of 500,000 to 1 million people. President Harry Truman's reasons for dropping the bombs were to end the war quickly, save U.S. lives that would be lost during said invasion and contain the expansion of the U.S.S.R. The use of the atomic bombs, and Japan's subsequent surrender six days later, prevented the invasion from taking place.

"LITTLE BOY"

AUG. 6, 1945, 8:16 A.M.

The first nuclear weapon used in warfare, it exploded approximately 1,900 feet over Hiroshima with a force equal to 15,000 tons of TNT.

HIROSHIMA
POPULATION: 256,000



A view of the damage at Hiroshima, Japan. The bridge shown crosses the Matayosa River; the structure survived the blast. The building on the extreme right is the Agricultural Exposition Hall (later becoming a memorial).

CASUALTIES

Killed instantly

66,000

Injured

69,000

Total deaths by 1950, including radiation poisoning

200,000

DESTRUCTION

67% or 60,000 of 90,000 buildings were destroyed or severely damaged.

COMPARING A-BOMBS TO MODERN NUCLEAR WEAPONS

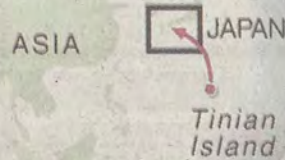
The modern B83 bomb, designed to be dropped from a variety of aircraft, can be set to be detonated above a target or after impact.

LITTLE BOY

FAT MAN

B83

Map area



CONTRAST IN FLIGHTS

Both planes took off from Tinian Island in the Pacific Ocean. Although the Enola Gay's Hiroshima mission went smoothly, the Bockscar had fuel problems and encountered poor visibility over the original target, Kokura, and flew on to Nagasaki. Even though both targets were selected because of their military importance, 95 percent of those who died were civilians.

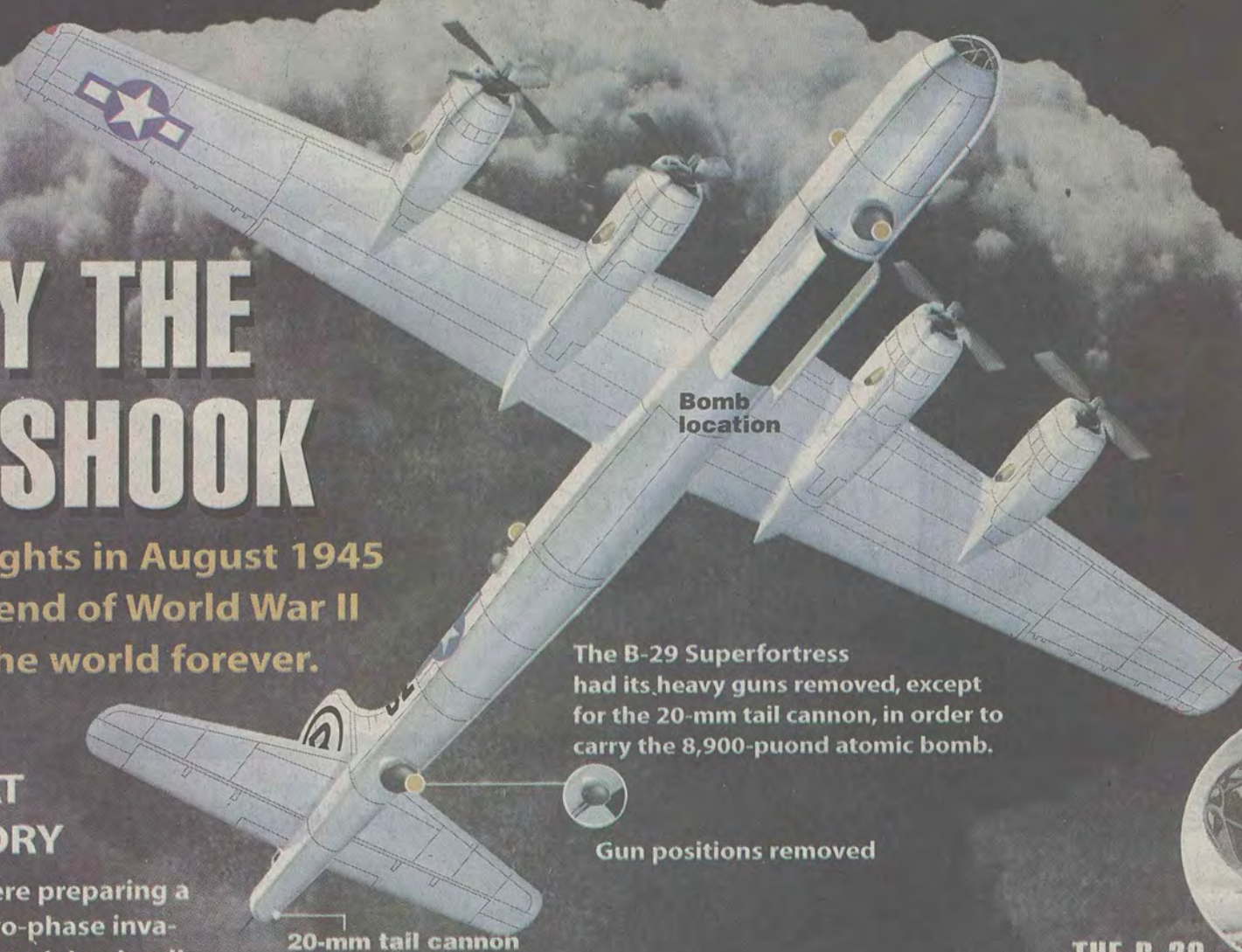
The original target is covered by clouds obscuring the view; after three attempts, it is abandoned for Nagasaki.



100 MILES

SOURCES: THE NUCLEAR WEAPON ARCHIVE; ATOMICARCHIVE.COM; NATIONAL ATOMIC MUSEUM; NAGASAKI ATOMIC BOMB MUSEUM; MANHATTAN PROJECT-HERITAGE PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION INC.; THE MAKING OF THE ATOMIC BOMB; RICHARD RHODES; RAND MCNALLY ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WORLD WAR II; RUIN FROM THE AIR; THOMAS AND WITTS; JAPAN SUBDUED; HERBERT FEIS; YALE UNIVERSITY

GRAPHIC BY HIRAM HENRIQUEZ/SOUTH FLORIDA SUN-SENTINEL



The B-29 Superfortress had its heavy guns removed, except for the 20-mm tail cannon, in order to carry the 8,900-pound atomic bomb.

Gun positions removed

20-mm tail cannon



THE B-29

The Enola Gay dropped the first atomic bomb — named "Little Boy" — on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. Three days later, the Bockscar dropped another bomb — "Fat Man" — on Nagasaki.

"FAT MAN"

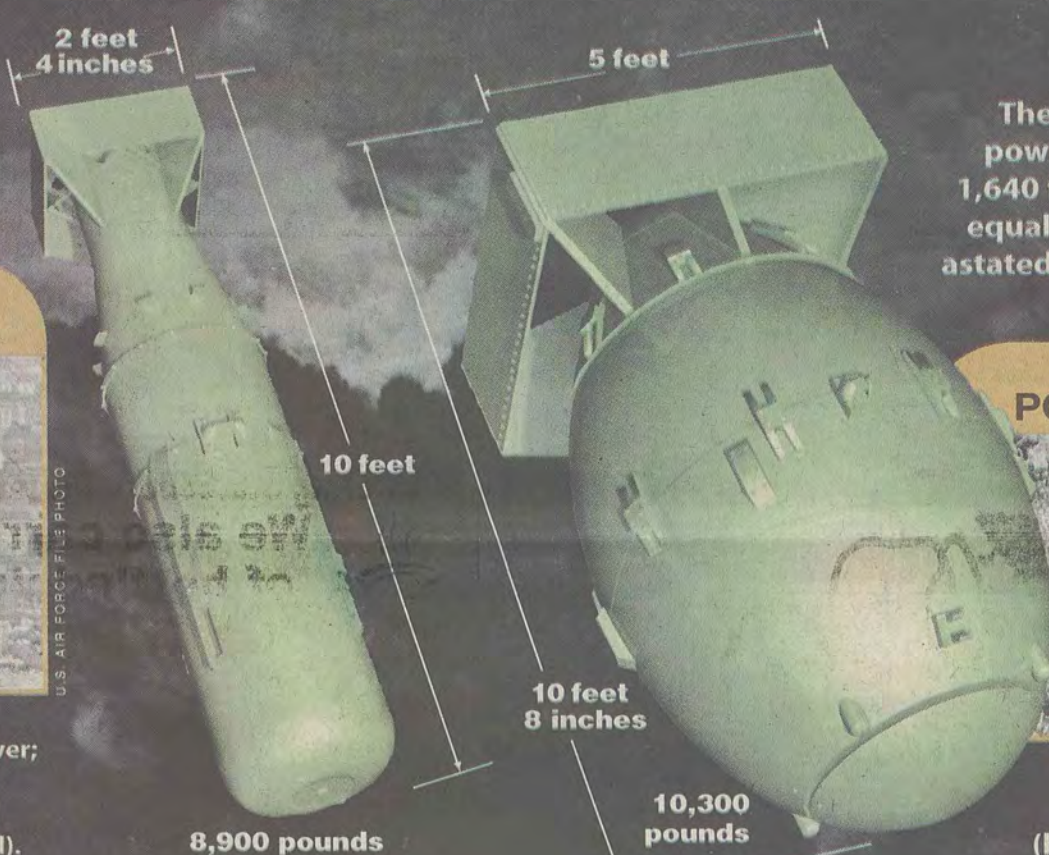
AUG. 9, 1945, 11:02 A.M.

The second, more complicated and powerful nuclear weapon exploded 1,640 feet over Nagasaki with a force equal to 20,000 tons of TNT and devastated more than two square miles of the city.

NAGASAKI
POPULATION: 173,000



Ground zero at Nagasaki, Japan, before (top) and after (bottom) the explosion. The area is marked in 1,000-foot circles.



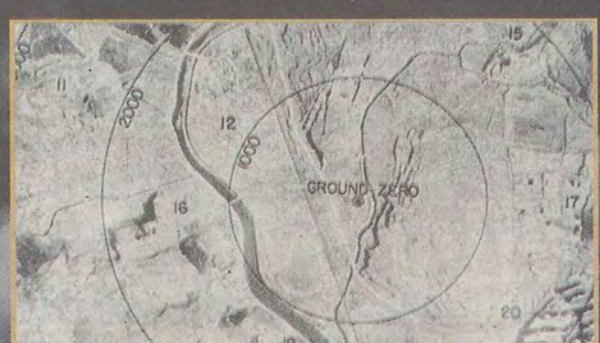
AREAS OF SEVERE DESTRUCTION
(Buildings and structures completely destroyed)

FAT MAN
20 kilotons,
1-mile radius*

LITTLE BOY
15 kilotons,
2-mile radius

MODERN B83
NUCLEAR BOMB
1.2 megatons,
4.8-mile radius

*Radius was smaller because of narrow valleys bordering Nagasaki.



CASUALTIES

Killed instantly

39% or 19,587 of

39,000

Injured

25,000

Total deaths by 1950, including radiation poisoning

140,000

DESTRUCTION

39% or 19,587 of 50,000 buildings and houses were destroyed or severely damaged.

The Nagasaki blast, pictured in the background, had a ground zero temperature of 5,400 degrees Fahrenheit. The top of the atomic cloud reached an altitude of 55,774 feet.

Some wonder whether third year of law school is worth it

Future lawyers see third year as a barrier to starting career

By Justin Pope
Associated Press

Now a corporate lawyer, Jennifer Leong fondly recalls her third and final year of law school. A job secured, she traveled frequently. Her courses included feminist jurisprudence and a half-semester bankruptcy seminar.

"A lot of beer and softball," recalled Leong, who got her University of Virginia law degree in 2000. "Third year was probably the best year of my life."

At many top law schools, the third year is famously relaxed, a halcyon interlude between rigorous introductory courses and the long hours that await graduates at law firm jobs. There is research and volunteer work, but also a lot of bar-hopping and little studying: 15 hours per week, according to one survey at 11 law schools, compared to 33 hours for first-year students.

If it's an extended vacation, it's pricey: \$30,000 or more at top private schools.

And at many law schools, grads can't count on the six-figure salaries awaiting many at the most prestigious programs, so an extra year of debt is a big burden.

Some educators want to see the third year beefed up, arguing the law is more complex than ever and future lawyers need more preparation, both for the bar and exam and for their careers. But others want it dropped.

Critics say there's so much law that students will learn most of it on the job, anyway. They see the third year as a revenue racket, a full-employment scheme for faculty that comes at the expense of non-elite school students.

It's a periodic debate in legal education, and with tuition going ever higher, there are signs it's heating up again.

The American Bar Association recently updated its accreditation guidelines for law schools to require more total minutes of instruction, but offering schools more flexibility in how

that's structured.

That prompted the University of Dayton to announce a program starting this fall designed to help students earn a J.D. in two years, including summer work. It has no fewer requirements and doesn't charge less, but it saves students a year of living expenses.

Dayton was trying to reach out to students like Melinda Warthman, a 33-year-old mother of two who will start the program next year. Warthman teaches communications at Dayton but wants to boost her credentials with a law degree.

"I think for a lot of people looking at law school, they're off-putting," she said. "If you're married and you have a mortgage and you have children and you have a job, that just seems like, 'That's not something I can do right now.'"

Two years of school, instead of three, is a sacrifice that Warthman thinks she

can make. Dayton officials predict other schools will follow their lead.

If so, it could encourage less-indebted new lawyers "to pursue some ideal other than the highest pay," said Harvard Law School graduate William Strauss, who has spoken out against the third year. According to the ABA, the median debt for 2004 graduates of private law schools was \$98,000; at public schools it was \$67,000. The organization has concluded two-thirds of law graduates cannot afford to take lower-paying public interest jobs.

There are also signs the third year is as entrenched as ever. The ABA's requirements are still stringent. Also, the legal recruiting process is built around a three-year schedule; summers are when law students earn money and take the internships that lead to jobs, so many will be reluctant to give them up.

Besides, many third-year law students do work hard. Increasingly, they are getting hands-on training in legal clinics. In the classroom, some educators say third year is when students

learn the law they most need to know. University of Chicago Law Dean Saul Levmore says students there are more likely to suggest adding a fourth year than dropping the third.

Jeff Lewis, dean at St. Louis University, says he's pushing for more rigor and specialization in the third-year curriculum. He also says the final-year course he teaches is packed with attentive students — though that may be unusual.

David Wilkins, a Harvard Law professor, recalls struggling to conduct a survey of third-year law students because so few showed up to class. In a paper about the third year titled "The Happy Charade," three scholars, including prominent UCLA professor Richard Sander, estimated that the 1,100 third-years he surveyed attended no more than 60 percent of their large classes.

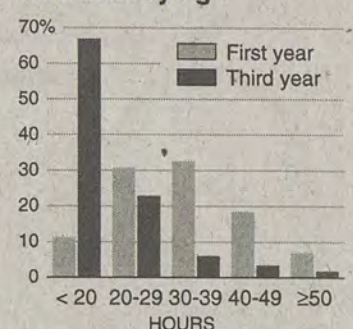
About two in five agreed with the statement "the third year of law school is largely superfluous."

For Jennifer Leong, it was a heck of a good time. She says some of her

Less work in law school's third year

At many top law schools, the third year is more relaxed. Critics say it's a revenue racket. Some educators would like the third year beefed up while others would like to see it dropped altogether.

Hours studying



SOURCE: The Happy Charade: An Empirical Examination of the Third Year of Law School

classmates worked hard, but many did not. As for the debt, she says, "once you get past the \$40,000 barrier, what's another \$20,000?"

Stereotypes could harm black kids' chances of success, economist says

By Teresa Mask
Knight Ridder Newspapers

DETROIT — A young lady named LaQuenia was valedictorian at Detroit's Central High School this year. Nakeisha was ranked No. 2. And Thornisha, Qualisha and Demario also received top honors at their schools.

But recently released research suggests these students weren't likely to be so successful academically.

While previous studies have indicated that names play a role in whether some black people get a job interview or are promoted, this new one argues that names — particularly those given to black children — are one reason for the minority achievement gap.

The work by University of Florida economist David Figlio reveals that a child's name could, in some cases, be linked to poor performance in

reading and math.

"My initial reaction was that's probably a little bit of nonsense," said Percy Bates, a professor of education at the University of Michigan.

Figlio's work is extensive and involves siblings — one with a European-sounding name and the other with a more creative name. The one with a traditional name nearly always fared better academically, he said. His research was based on 24,298

families with two or more children in one Florida school district.

The study, done from 1994-95 to 2000-01, was published in March in the National Bureau of Economic Research.

Figlio said some teachers internalize black-sounding names to mean the parents aren't educated and as a result are poor.

But he said: "I view this creative naming tradition as a really inter-

esting and beautiful outgrowth of a longstanding African-American tradition of improvisation — the same traditions that spawned R&B and jazz."

The desire to be creative is what drives most people to give their child a non traditional name, said names expert Cleveland Kent Evans, who teaches psychology at Nebraska's Bellevue University.

He said for black people, the

movement was most recognized in the 1960s, though it had started earlier.

"They started to search out real African-language names instead of just created names," he said.

The 2005 valedictorian from Mumford High School in Detroit said, "From my experience, it's how you present yourself and your attitude. If you're not putting in the effort, they're not going to put in the effort."

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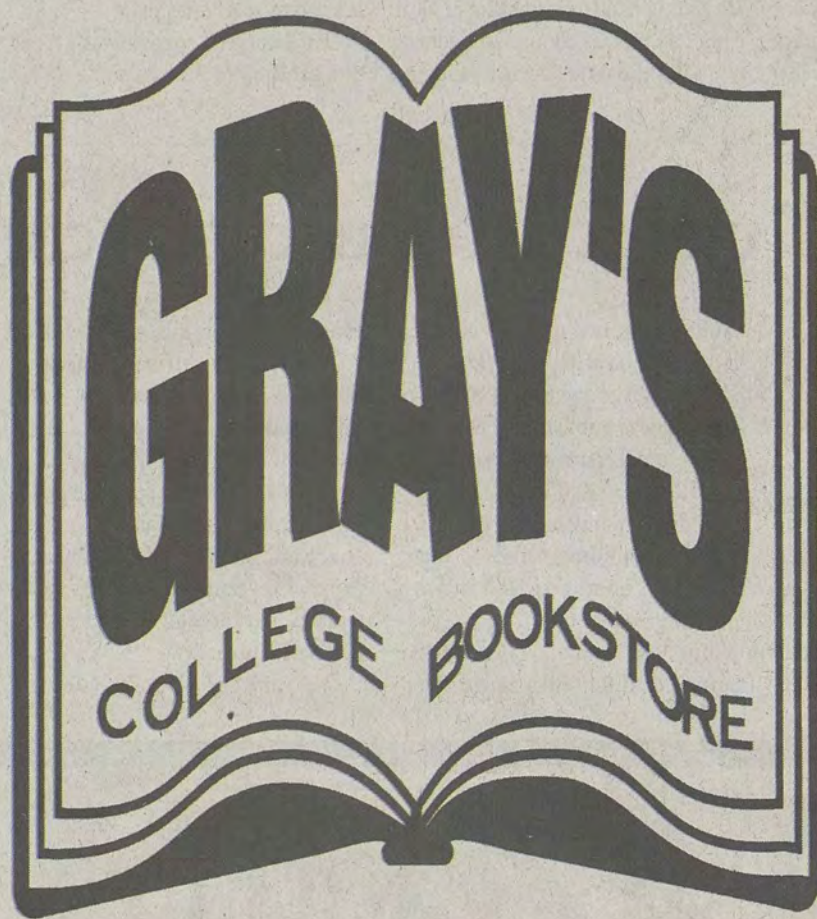
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