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The George-Anne

11-16-2005

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High: 78 | Low: 46
Evening Showers
Volume 78
Number 53

Some strings attached

Puppeteering class performs Peter Pan's 'Quest for Neverland' | NEWS, p. 2



Columnist looks at different side of prayer in school

| OPINION, p. 4

THE GEORGE-ANNE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2005

GSU students to open for Ciara

Ticket sales low as Ciara concert nears

By Luke Hearn
Executive editor

As of Tuesday afternoon, less than 500 tickets had been sold for this Friday's concert at Paulson Stadium which headlines pop star Ciara, according to reports.

But Theresa Thompson, vice president for student affairs and enrollment, says she doesn't see lower than expected ticket sales as a problem.

"We're going to do the concert if two or 2,000 people show up," she said. "Student Activity fees go to supplement student activities, and that's what we'll do if there are costs not covered by ticket sales. In student activities, you can't say that you make or lose money."

Thompson said concerts take three to six months to plan, and the abrupt cancellation of Kanye West at the end of September made it difficult for the university to bring a fall concert as they had promised.

"After Kanye cancelled, we were trying to come up with a fall concert for our students that could replace him," she said. "We were lucky Ciara had an opening in her schedule."

Thompson estimated that the cost of bringing Ciara to Georgia Southern is close to \$50,000. She said she's not worried that ticket sales are down, and

see CIARA, page 8

GSU News Service

Five Georgia Southern students will open for the outdoor fall concert featuring Ciara with special guests Bobby Valentino and Killer Mike on Friday, Nov. 18, at 7 p.m. in Paulson Stadium.

The student performers include 2005 Georgia Southern Idol winner Ivori Lewis and runner-up Tedrick "Tetris" Kelly, hip hop artists Chase "Lejit" Singleton and Chenario "Skinny C" Abrams, and hip hop dancer Chris Woodhouse.

Lewis is a junior nursing major from Macon.

GSU Idol was her first talent show, although she has been singing in her church since age nine. Lewis claims that singing is really more of a hobby for her and has no plans to sing professionally.

Kelly, a Waynesboro native, is a sophomore broadcasting major.

He has been performing since his early childhood and was chosen by Teen People Magazine in 2003 as one of the "Hottest Rising Stars in America." Upon graduation, Kelly plans to pursue singing professionally.

Singleton is a junior broadcasting major from Decatur. Singleton, who wrote poetry in high school, decided to take it to another level and has been rapping for four years.

His musical influences include Outkast, Art of Noise and Michael Jackson.

Abrams is a senior electrical engineering technology major from Lithonia. He has performed at several local clubs and is currently working on his first album, titled "Nextablo," which is scheduled for release in spring 2006.

Woodhouse, a Woodstock native, is a 2005 GSU marketing graduate. He has been dancing for six years. Formerly represented by J. Pat Management, the agency for Usher, Woodhouse now performs with Raw Tak-tics Artist Development Group.

He has performed for Roc-A-Fella artist Teairra Mari and opened for Jamie Foxx's "Laugh-a-Palooza" in Atlanta.

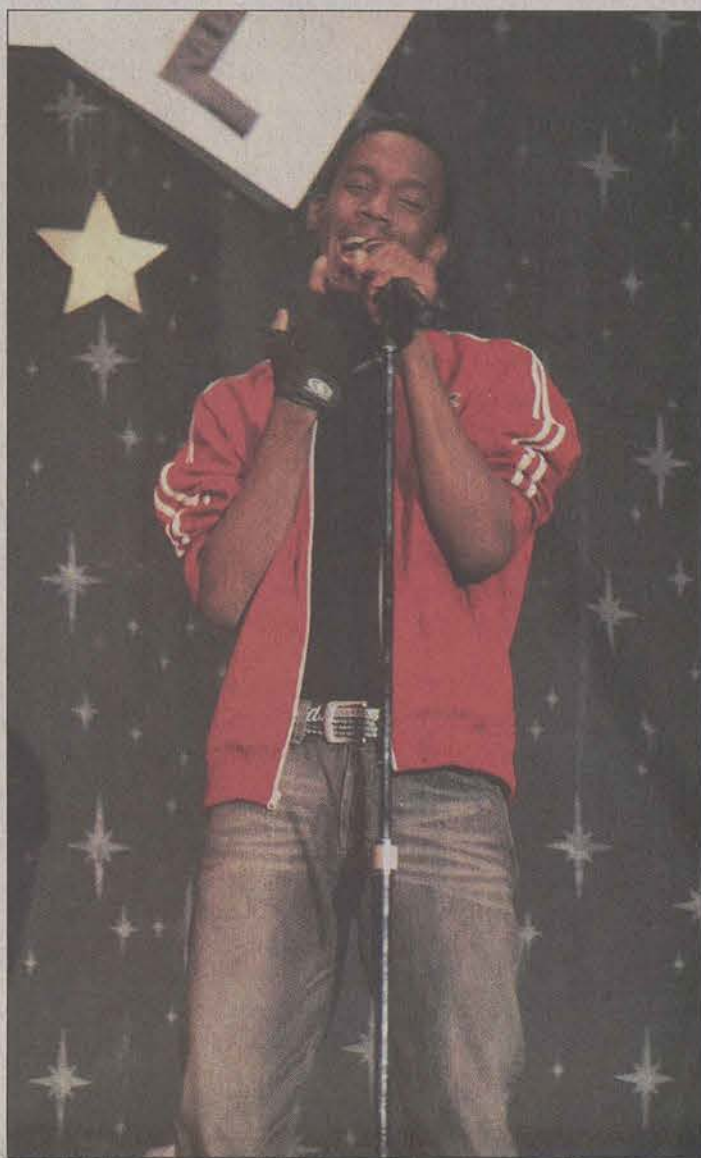
Tickets are \$25 for GSU students (a limit of four tickets per ID) and can be purchased at the University Store.

Tickets for the general public are \$35 and are available through www.etix.com. Seating is general admission.

Parking is available at Paulson Stadium. The cost is \$5 per vehicle. On the evening of the concert, the gates open at 6 p.m. and the show begins at 7 p.m.

The concert is sponsored by Eagle Entertainment, the student programming board of GSU.

For additional information, contact 912-486-7270 or visit their Web site at <http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/sac/esquad/ciara.html>.



Special Photo

Tedrick 'Tetris' Kelly performs at this year's GSU Idol where he was the runner-up. He and four other students will open for Ciara on Friday.



Hip hop artist Chenario "Skinny C" Abrams, senior from Lithonia.



Hip hop artist Chase "Lejit" Singleton, junior from Decatur.



GSU Idol winner Ivori Lewis, junior from Macon.



Hip hop dancer Chris Woodhouse, senior from Woodstock.

Baptist Convention votes to sever Mercer ties

By Curt Anderson
Associated Press

The Georgia Baptist Convention voted Tuesday to sever ties with Mercer University during its annual meeting in Columbus, Ga.

But under the convention's rules, the split from the Baptist-affiliated college of 7,000 students will not become final unless the convention votes a second time to sever ties during its annual meeting in November 2006 in Duluth, Ga., said spokeswoman Diane Reasoner.

Monday, the group's executive committee voted in favor of the split during the convention's annual meeting in Columbus, Ga.

The organization's executive committee released a two-page letter Tuesday describing reasons for the intended separation, including a perceived lack of commitment by the university to the convention's affiliate, the Southern Baptist Convention.

Reasoner said Georgia Baptists had questioned "whether to continue funding for Mercer."

In addition, Reasoner said Georgia Baptists were "deeply troubled" by



Special Photo

Students gather in front of the Information Technology Center at Mercer University in Macon.

news articles that discussed the Mercer Triangle Symposium, the school's first gay student group, which held an event last month that included National Coming Out Day.

"More troubling was the disclosure that supporters (of the gay

student group) included faculty and members in Mercer's Department of Christianity," the letter said.

"For these and many other reasons, Georgia Baptists from around the state recognize that Mercer and the convention have grown apart

in their values and commitment and many Georgia Baptists have expressed their desire to end the relationship," the statement said.

The committee also criticized Mercer University President R. Kirby

see MERCER, page 8

Gay student support group disbands over Baptist controversy at Mercer University

Associated Press

MACON — A support group for gay students at Mercer University held its final meeting on Monday after the head of the Georgia Baptist Convention complained the group conflicted with the university's Christian roots.

The Mercer Triangle Symposium

was the school's first gay student group and was first recognized by the school in 2002.

Student government president Nancy David said about 50 students, faculty and administrators attended the last meeting to show support.

GBC executive director J. Robert White complained about the symposium last month after learning about it in a campus newspaper, saying he received calls from concerned parents.

Mercer is a Baptist-affiliated college of 7,000 students that receives about \$2.4 million a year from the Georgia Baptist Convention, which opened its annual meeting on Monday.

GSU athletic fees steadily increase

Compared to other schools, GSU athletic fee increases remain low

By Bryan Metcalf
Staff Writer

Lately there has been a new trend on college campuses, and it has nothing to do with obesity, alcohol or suicide.

It's an increase in student athletic fees, and it's happening at many major universities across the country.

Average revenues from student fees have increased by 30 percent at Division I-A schools, and by 22 percent at Division I-AA schools according to the most recent NCAA research that was published in The NCAA News.

Football-playing institutions in Division II, where student fees are already a major source of revenue, saw a 17 percent increase; furthermore, there was a 27 percent increase at non-football schools.

Georgia Southern's current athletic fee is \$131 per semester for students enrolled in four or more credit hours for the 2005-2006 academic year.

Over the past five years, the fee has steadily increased by about three percent from the \$114 per semester fee of 2000-2001.

Unlike many schools that have increased their athletic fees, GSU is not running a deficit in its athletic program despite recent construction and remodeling projects and the expansion of the women's athletic programs on campus. Ac-

ording to Athletic Director Sam Baker, GSU is solidly in the black when it comes to the budget.

"Like all state agencies we use the money to try and improve our program," said Baker.

"We've been running a program that's been financially very prudent with its money."

Baker added that the main focus of the athletic budget, which is comprised of student fees as well as booster contributions and contracts with sponsors, has been to improve the women's sports program on campus with more scholarships.

Both Baker and Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Theresa Thompson said they do not foresee any large requests from students to fund the athletic program.

Both also expect to see increased booster support in the years to come, meaning the student fees will only increase to keep up with inflation.

According to GSU economics professor Anthony Barilla, there will have to be a strong economic impact for booster support to stay as strong as it has been.

"If you're going to use non-university funded money you have the support of business," said Barilla. "And those businesses are going to have to show increased revenues on game days."

Barilla used the annual Georgia-

see NCAA, page 8

INSIDE

ACLU sues to expand Bible tax

The ACLU filed a lawsuit, claiming a Georgia law exempting only the Bible from sales taxes is discriminatory. | BRIEFS, p. 3

Pujols wins his first National League MVP

Albert Pujols won his first NL MVP award, beating Andruw Jones. | SPORTS, p. 6

Symphony Harvest Festival



Special Photo

The Statesboro-GSU Symphony performed its third concert of the season for a packed crowd on Sunday.

By Morgan Marsh
Managing editor

The Statesboro-Georgia Southern Symphony presented its third concert of this season Sunday at the Performing Arts Center with nearly 375 people in attendance.

The "Harvest Festival" concert featured the Statesboro Youth Chorale and the Statesboro Youth Strings.

"This concert is different in the sense that it promotes and helps the education of young musicians through active performance," said Chau Cheung, the symphony's new artistic director and conductor.

The symphony began with an Antonin Dvorak piece, "Slavonic Dance no. 8." The Statesboro Youth Chorale then sang with the symphony for the next two pieces.

This concert is an opportunity for the Statesboro Youth Chorale to perform yearly for the community and GSU faculty and students.

Bill Baites, 12, of Statesboro, has been singing with the Youth Chorale and performing with the Symphony in their fall concert for three years.

"I love singing with them," said Baites. "It's a lot of fun. Singing is one of my greatest passions."

Mary-fair Briggs, 11, of Statesboro, sings with the Youth Chorale and plays the violin for the Statesboro Youth Strings, which performed

three songs during the concert.

"Play the violin for an hour every day and then sing with the choir two hours every week," said Briggs. "It was hard to do both because I had to rush around a lot (during the concert), but it was a lot of fun."

The Youth Strings performed "Autumn" from "The Four Seasons" and "Skating" from "A Charlie Brown Christmas." The Youth Strings had fun with their final song, "Spooksterry," which featured some symphony members, volunteers and a parent who played the guitar.

The symphony returned with "Egyptian March" by Johann Strauss Jr. and then was joined by the Youth Chorale for the next three songs.

"The Youth Chorale was absolutely amazing," said Griffin. "The ability and voices of the children did not seem to match their age. It brought a much different feel to the concert."

The symphony performed "Pizzicato Polka" by Johann Strauss Jr., creating a very different sound by "plucking" the strings on their instruments rather than using their bows. The concert finished with a Johann Strauss Sr. song, "Radetzky March," in which the audience participated by clapping during certain parts of the song.

"(That was) my favorite part of the concert, when the symphony

performed their last piece," said sophomore Abby Griffin. "It was really neat that the audience was able to get involved. Everyone seemed to really enjoy it."

The audience gave the Symphony, Youth Chorale and Youth Strings a long standing ovation after the performance.

"These are the things we musicians value the most, bringing music to our fellow human beings," said Cheung.

The Harvest Festival was the symphony's third performance of the 2005-2006 season.

"Masterworks II" is scheduled for Feb. 20 and will feature pianist Natalia da Roza. "Masterworks III," scheduled for April 3, will feature Concerto Competition winners, the Southern Chorale and the Community Chorus. Both Masterworks will be performed at the Performing Arts Center on campus.

The last concert of the season, "Outdoor Pops," is scheduled for April 30 on Sweetheart Circle and is free for all to attend.

"I would definitely urge anyone who has not attended a concert to do so immediately," said Griffin. "The music department gives performances throughout the year for many different styles of music... You will definitely be able to find a concert that you would enjoy."



Grayson Hoffman/STAFF

Behind the scenes of the puppeteering class' opening night Tuesday.

Quest for Neverland

By Anthony Fierstos
Staff writer

Pirates, mermaids, Indians and flying boys all make an appearance in this year's puppetry performance, which will take place this week. Adapted from James Barrie's "Peter Pan" by Michael Abbot, the production is presented entirely with marionette puppets.

Although the Puppeteering class has been offered for years, it is the first time that marionettes have been used at Georgia Southern. An independent Puppet Theatre has been operated at GSU since the mid 1960's. Diverse shows such as Macbeth and Winnie the Pooh have been offered in the past.

The puppets for "Quest for Neverland" were hand crafted in GSU's scene shop and put together by members of the Puppetry class, which is taught by Gary Dartt of the department of theatre and performance. Class members record voices for the characters and act as puppeteers during the shows.

Highlights include handsomely dressed pirates and Indians, incredible stage design (featuring settings such as a stranded rock and an underground home amongst others) and expertly planned and executed music.

Although many are familiar with the story of Peter Pan, few have ever seen a marionette performance. Complexities such as tangling and the necessity for puppeteers to be five feet over the stage add a degree of difficulty which makes live shows particularly interesting.

The string puppet show is fun for all ages. The performance will take place in GSU's Puppet Theatre, which is located, coincidentally, behind Wendy's in the College Plaza.

Performances will be November 16 - 18 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 19 at 3 p.m. For reservations, call 681-5379. Tickets are \$1 and seating will be limited to the first 50 people in attendance.

Holiday Evening Meal Landrum Court

TODAY

4:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Smoked Salmon Display
Holiday Punch

Roast Marbled Pork Loin
with Scalloped Potatoes
Vidalia Onion Gravy
Fried Turkey with Dressing
Chicken Alfredo
Shrimp Stir Fry

Green Bean Casserole
Broccoli with Feta Cheese Sauce
Sweet Potato Souffle
Creamed Corn
Collards
Tomato Casserole
Assorted Breads

Thai Fry Bananas and Flaming
Tropical Strawberries
(Served over Sour Cream Pound Cake)
Chocolate Fountain with Assorted Fruits

Meal Plans Accepted
Cash Door Price - \$7.00 + tax

OPENING IN DECEMBER

Crabby Joe's

SEAFOOD-BAR & GRILL

We are currently seeking staff for Crabby Joe's, a soon to open seafood restaurant, bar and grill. We need waitresses, cooks, bus boys, bartenders, hostesses and general kitchen help. Applications can be picked up at Contractor's Warehouse, 805 East Broad Street, Metter or interested applicants can call 682-3250 or 314-9060.

Georgia Southern's Off-Campus Housing Fair!!

Come Learn About Off-Campus Housing
Options For You!!

Date: November 16th
When: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Where: Russell Union Rotunda

* If it rains the location will be inside the
Union at the Russell Union Commons. *

POLICE BEAT

11-14-2005

- Kyle Alexander Baldrich, 18, of Hendricks Hall, was charged with underage drinking, disorderly conduct and simple assault.
- A golf cart was taken from near Watson Hall.
- Statesboro Police officer responded to Wal-Mart and met with employees who had apprehended three suspects for shoplifting. According to reports employees of Wal-Mart observed the group remove items from their original packaging and conceal the items, which totaled \$389 on their persons. The 16-year-old juvenile offender had a juvenile complaint form signed against them and released to their parents. The adult offenders Kimberly Everett, 17, of 350 Everett Lane, Brooklet and Gregory Elliott, 17 of room 314 The Guest Inn, were both charged with felony Theft by shoplifting and booked to Bulloch County Jail.

CALENDAR

Wednesday, November 16

"Folk Art Meets Folklore" a juried art show featuring folk art created in the region
Runs through Dec. 11
Averitt Center

12 p.m.
"Southern Speaks Irish" lecture
CIT Building Room 1004.

5 p.m.
"Curating Contemporary Art"
Artist's Talk
Arts Building Auditorium

5 p.m.
Gallery 303 Talk: "Composite" artist
Christa Cammarota
In Gallery 303, Foy Fine Arts Building

7 p.m.
International Talent Show
Russell Union Ballroom

8 p.m.
Brass Chamber Recital
Carol A. Carter Recital Hall, Foy Fine Arts Building

Thursday, November 17

12 p.m.
International Luncheon
Students, faculty & staff are invited
\$5 at the door to sample international foods
Williams Center Dining Hall

3 p.m.
Library building expansion forum
Library Room 1040

4 p.m.
Geology/Geography Seminar Series
Math/Physics Building.

6:30 p.m.
A Holiday Madrigal Feast
Tickets \$35, call 486-7999
Information Technology Building

7 p.m.
Movie: "Cold Mountain"
IT Building Room 1004

Friday, November 18

11:30 a.m.
International Conversation Hour
Russell Union Ballroom

7 p.m.
Biennial Art Exhibition Opening
reception
Gallery 303 Foy Fine Arts Building

Saturday, November 19

1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
International Fair
Mill Creek

8 p.m.
Concert - The great New Orleans
Preservation Hall Jazz Band
Performing Arts Center

Monday, November 21

7 p.m.
Documentary "MANA: Beyond
Belief" focuses on the universal phenomenon of "power objects."
Arts Building Auditorium

7:15 p.m.
"Kitchen Stories" Cinema Arts Film
\$2 admission
Russell Union Theater

THE BIG STORY

Pennsylvania teen accused of double slaying waives extradition

By Ashley M. Heher
Associated Press

BELLEVILLE, Ind. — A Pennsylvania teen accused of killing his girlfriend's parents agreed to be returned to his home state Tuesday, a day after he and his 14-year-old girlfriend were arrested in Indiana after a police chase that ended in a crash.

Hendricks County Prosecutor Patricia Baldwin said David Ludwig, 18, signed documents at the county jail that clear the way for Pennsylvania authorities to take him to face murder charges there.

Ludwig left Indiana on a plane Tuesday afternoon to return to Pennsylvania.

Authorities have said it remains unclear whether Ludwig's girlfriend, Kara Beth Borden, had any role in her parents' killings.

Richard E. Garipoli Jr., police chief in Pennsylvania's Warwick Township, where the shootings happened, said Tuesday that he is

treating the girl as a victim in the case "until I hear otherwise."

"Kara's upset, she's crying all the time," said Garipoli. "She's a 14-year-old child and we seem to forget that. She's devastated. So it's important that we do put her back with her family where she belongs."

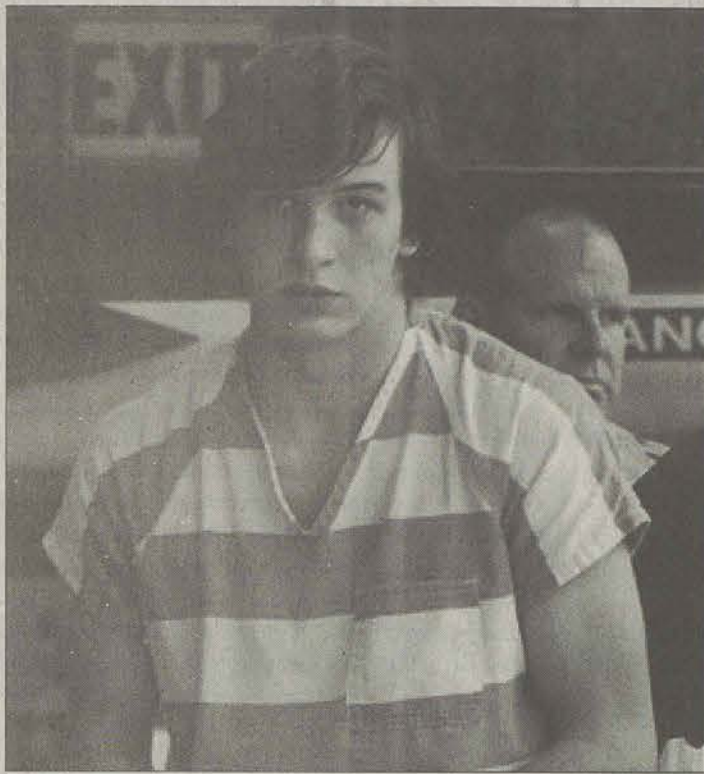
Police say Ludwig killed Borden's parents, Michael F. and Cathryn Lee Borden, early Sunday after an argument about her curfew when she came home late.

The Bordens, both 50, were apparently shot once each in the head, authorities said.

The shootings happened at the family's home near Lititz, Pa., about 60 miles west of Philadelphia.

He faces preliminary charges in Indiana of criminal recklessness and resisting law enforcement, authorities said.

Police in Pennsylvania issued an arrest warrant on charges of criminal homicide and kidnapping.



AP Photo/John Harrell
David Ludwig is escorted to an Indiana State Police plane Tuesday after waiving extradition to Pennsylvania. The 18-year old is suspected of killing his 14-year old girlfriend's parents over a curfew dispute.

Alito distances himself from abortion statement

By Jesse J. Holland
Associated Press

WASHINGTON—Supreme Court nominee Samuel Alito distanced himself Tuesday from his 1985 comments that there was no constitutional right to abortion, telling a senator in private that he had merely been "an advocate seeking a job."

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., an abortion rights supporter and the only woman on the Senate Judiciary Committee, said she asked the conservative judge about a document released Monday showing Alito in 1985 telling the Reagan administration he was particularly proud to help argue that

"the Constitution does not protect a right to an abortion."

"He said first of all it was different then," she said. "He said, 'I was an advocate seeking a job, it was a political job and that was 1985. I'm now a judge, I've been on the circuit court for 15 years and it's very different. I'm not an advocate, I don't give heed to my personal views, what I do is interpret the law.'"

Feinstein, who will be one of the senators questioning Alito at his Jan. 9 confirmation hearing said she thought "he was very sincere in what he said."

Alito did not respond to reporters' questions about the document before meeting Feinstein.

ACLU sues to expand Bible tax break to all 'good and evil' books

By Giovanna Dell'Orto
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Acting on behalf of the owner of a metaphysical bookstore, the American Civil Liberties Union has filed a lawsuit arguing that a Georgia law exempting only the Bible from sale taxes is discriminatory and should be extended to all publications dealing with the meaning of life.

"If they're not taxing someone's holy scriptures, they shouldn't be taxing anyone's," said Candace Apple, who owns the Phoenix and Dragon

Bookstore in the Atlanta suburb of Sandy Springs. "I'm not willing to stand at the counter and tell someone, 'Oh sorry, your religion is wrong.'"

Apple and Thomas Budlong, former president of the Georgia Library Association, sued Georgia Revenue Commissioner Bart Graham in federal court Monday, arguing the tax break is unconstitutional and should be suspended until the 1950s-era law can be reconsidered by state lawmakers.

Graham had no comment with litigation pending, Revenue Depart-

ment spokesman Charles Willey said Tuesday.

The law exempts from sale taxes the Bible as well as "similar books commonly recognized as being Holy Scripture regardless of by or to whom sold."

Apple argues that the phrasing is too vague to be restricted to Judeo-Christian publications, or even to books reflecting major religions.

"What about 'A Witches Bible?'" Apple said, referring to a book she sells for Wiccans, practitioners of a fast-growing polytheistic religion.

"There's nothing wrong with exempting the Bible, but they need to broaden the law for it to be constitutional," said Budlong's attorney Maggie Garrett, with the ACLU's Atlanta office.

Apple said that defining which books would fall into a broader category could turn out to be impossible, so the easiest way might be to eliminate the tax break.

Similar exemption laws have recently been struck down in Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and the Carolinas, Garrett said.

University Housing



Are you not as involved on campus as you'd like to be because commuting keeps you on the road too much?

Do you feel like you aren't fully experiencing college life?

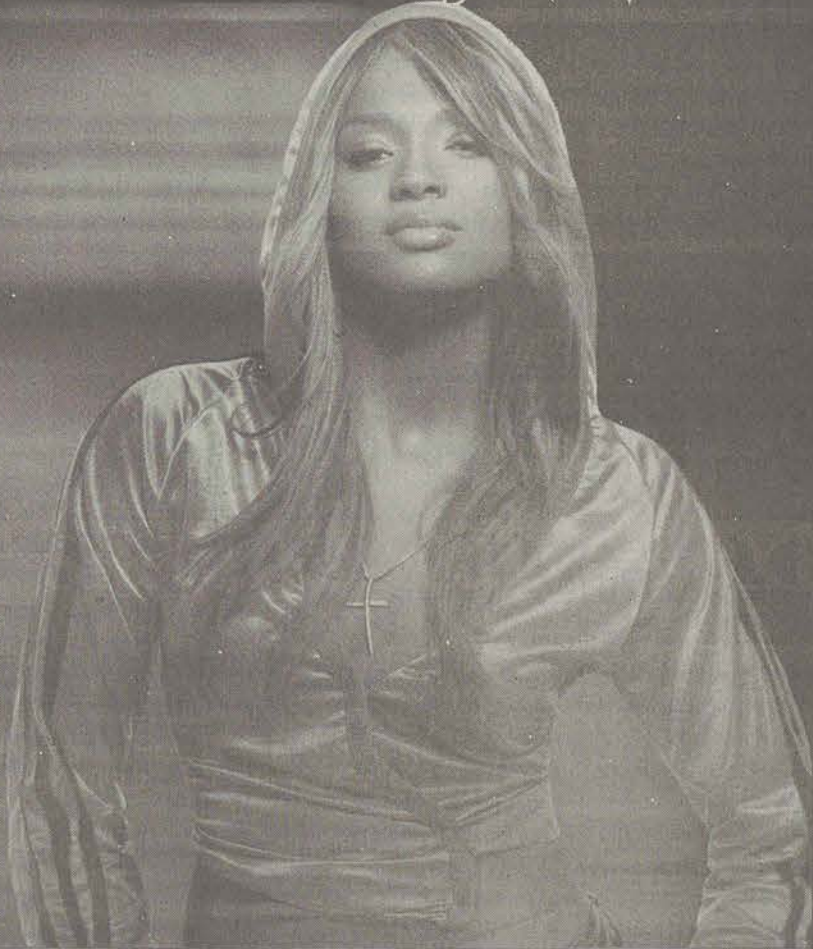
Is the sky rocketing price of gas eating into your school budget?

Are you tired of commuting to class?

Why not live in University Housing!

Apply NOW for Spring 2006!
Go to www.gsuhousing.com

Win 4 tickets to see ... Ciara on Friday, Nov. 18



Deadline to Enter: Wednesday, Nov. 16 at Noon
Winner will be announced in the Hiatus on Thursday, Nov. 17

Sponsored by:

THE GEORGE-ANNE

Please enter me in the drawing for four tickets to the Ciara Concert on November 18, 2005 from The George-Anne Daily. I can enter by using this form or by printing "Ciara Concert" on a 4x6 inch piece of paper (you must include your name, address, phone and email address) and mailing it to G-A Daily, P.O. Box 8001, Statesboro, GA 30460 or by hand delivering it to the G-A Daily, Room 2023 Williams Center. The drawing will be held and winners will be announced Wednesday, November 16. Deadline for entries is noon on Wednesday, November 16.

Name _____
Address _____
Email _____ Phone _____

Miss Georgia Southern University Scholarship Pageant



Informational Meeting
November 16, 2005, 7 pm
Russell Union Room 2080

Packets available now in the Office of Student Activities
For more information call 486-7270

Or visit
<http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/sac/missgsu.htm>

Sponsored By: Eagle Entertainment

Miss Georgia Southern University is a Preliminary of Miss Georgia and Miss America Pageants.

OPINION



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"Behind the ostensible government sits enthroned an invisible government owing no allegiance and acknowledging no responsibility to the people."

Theodore Roosevelt
Former U.S. President

OUR VIEW

First Amendment protects most all opinions

AT ISSUE: Ignoring someone whose views are different than yours can be helpful at times

We believe whole-heartedly in The First Amendment.

Why wouldn't we?

It is, in fact, the one amendment to our Constitution that protects what we do here at The George-Anne.

The First Amendment is what also protected the speech of the "evangelist" Donnie Morris that preached Hell and damnation to Georgia Southern students near the Russell Union last Thursday.

That's the funny thing about the First Amendment: it protects lots and lots of things,

many of them we agree with, and many of them we don't.

Those who speak out against the war in Iraq are protected the same as lunatics, such as Morris, who scream their hate-laced words through campuses and to people they know nothing about.

While we don't agree with what Morris was preaching on Thursday, we respect his right to do it.

Voltaire once said, "I may disagree with what you have to say, but I shall defend, to the death, your right to say it."

We have to agree. There are lots of things we disagree with, many of which appear on our Opinion pages each week.

But we would never not print a letter just because we disagree with it.

We will not print one if it labels another or incites violence, but it is not our policy to and we will not reject opposing views.

There are always people who will say things that make others mad. Whether it is the president or another national leader, an abortion protestor, a group of Krishnas in a park or animal rights advocates, they're always

going to be there.

The solution to these people is to ignore them.

If you are a supporter of animal testing and you see a group of people chanting "no more fur coats" and it makes you mad, ignore them, because the longer you stay around and try to argue, the madder you'll get.

The same goes for the crazy preachers who come to campus to call us all whores and whoremongers. Ignore them.

What they say will not bother you nearly as much if you decide not to listen.

Morgan Marsh
A LITTLE BIT OF
EVERYTHING

Prayer in school still a bad idea

After an argument last week, my little sister started praying, asking for God to "save her from her mean parents."

This may not seem too strange. Nearly everyone in this area is Christian. But Alia is not Christian. Until that day I had never heard her even mention God except to say she does not believe in Him.

Alia joined my family a few years ago when my parents adopted her from China. Alia had lived there for nearly a decade; she was raised Chinese, culturally and religiously. My parents have tried very hard to help her hold on to her culture.

I later found out the reason Alia suddenly felt the need to believe in God was because her classmates told her she'd be sent to Hell if she doesn't go to church. She was being teased relentlessly by her classmates at school for being "atheist."

She is Chinese. The majority of Chinese people do not believe in God. It has nothing to do with whether or not she is a good person. She is culturally different. I'll get to the point: prayer in schools. Many people argue that there is absolutely nothing wrong with organized prayer in schools. They say a child who does not want to pray does not have to; she has that option. That's ridiculous.

Alia already gets picked on day after day for not going to church. That topic somehow came up between a bunch of middle-schoolers during school. If Alia had to sit quietly while the rest of her class took a designated amount of time to pray every single day in class, I'd be horrified to think how much worse the ridicule would be for her. Alia already has enough to deal with. Besides having to go through the typical drama middle-schoolers create — including trying desperately to fight being considered an outsider (you all remember it well I'm sure) — Alia has to deal with plenty of other issues many children, and some adults, couldn't possibly understand.

Other than the fact that she looks completely different from any of her classmates, Alia struggles with countless issues from her past, including living on the streets for years; being mentally, sexually and physically abused; watching her mother commit suicide; floating from one "family" to the next; and being lied to and betrayed by nearly every authority figure in her life.

Why add religion to this horrible list of problems a 13-year-old must deal with day after day? There are plenty of other children in similar shoes as Alia's. Every single child has problems to deal with and issues to try to live with.

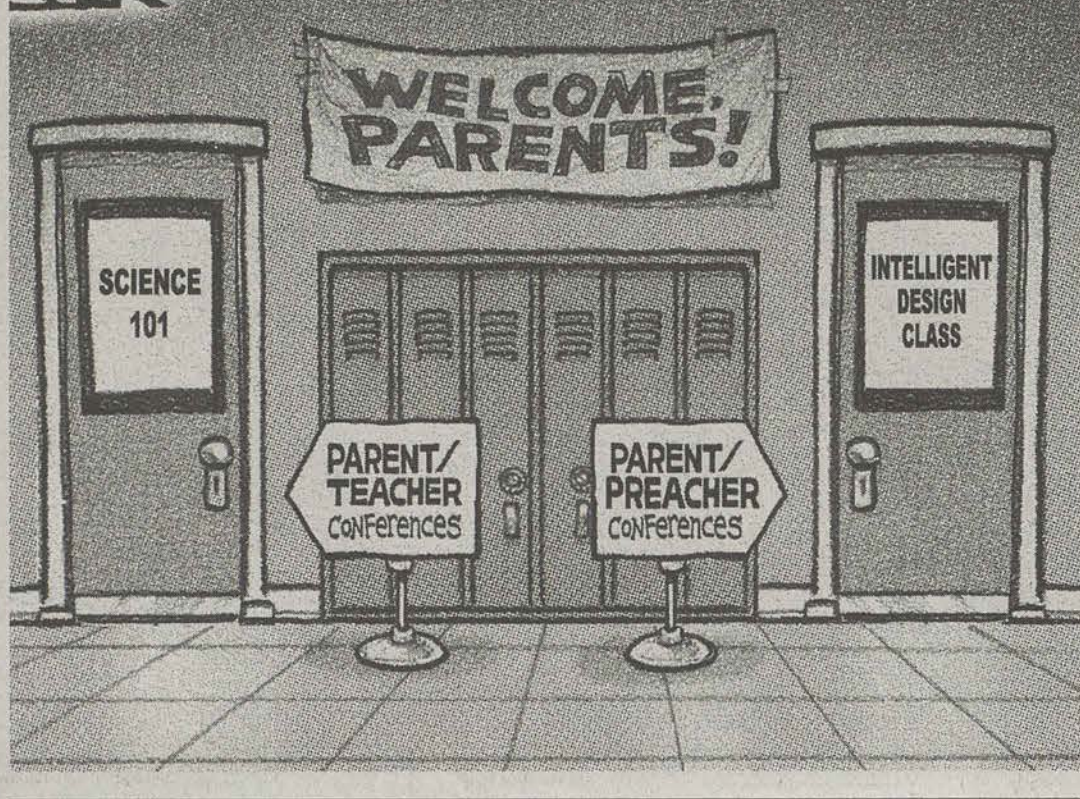
Schools need to be strictly places of education — to learn about math and science; to learn to read and write well; to learn history and geography; and to learn the basic skills children need to have as foundations to careers or higher education. History textbooks teach about slavery, about why it was such an awful time and why it is not around anymore. Children are taught to respect the differences in each other, including skin color.

Prayer in schools would only undermine those ideals; instead of hating each other because of skin color, though, children will separate themselves based on religion. Generally speaking, the "Bible Belt" area of the US already has somewhat of a problem accepting other religious beliefs that do not include God. In fact, even the religions that all do believe in God fight each other and claim the others are going to Hell.

Allowing prayer in schools would only widen these gaps even further and create more hate and ignorance for people of other religious beliefs.

Prayer and religion belong in the home and among close friends. It's the parents' job to educate their children in the way they feel fit when it comes to religion, not schools.

STAR TRIBUNE
BOOK



Katherine Reeves Cruz: YOUR TURN

A former teacher remembers Russ Whitaker

Thank you so much for the kind words that you wrote in your article about Russ Whitaker ("Campus wreck claims student," Nov. 8).

Russ was a student of mine at Bulloch Academy and he will be greatly missed by his teachers and friends there. He was a great guy and this is easy to tell by the many friends who have mourned him this week.

Thank you also for the article encouraging students to slow down and drive more cautiously ("We all need to check our speed," Nov. 9"). We are all guilty of driving recklessly at times, but we must remember that it's better to get where you are going late than to not get there

at all. A few minutes saved by speeding or not driving carefully can never be worth a life lost.

We don't just put our own lives at risk, but we also risk the lives of the innocent people around us. Let's let Russ's memory serve as a reminder to slow down and be careful.

Thank you again for acknowledging the life of this fine individual who was taken from us too soon. Please keep Russ's family in your prayers as well as his classmates who unfortunately have already suffered too much tragedy this year and who need us to be there to support them.

Write Katherine at katreevescruz@yahoo.com.

Eric Cumbee: YOUR TURN

France was right, America was wrong?

All the time I hear from people that the United States should be more like France in our social and foreign policy.

Since Georgia Southern just recently celebrated French Week, I have to ask: if France really is this great bastion of cultural diversity, then why is it France who is currently battling immense rioting and violence by a disenfranchised, and quickly growing ethnic minority?

As Americans, we believe that every culture adds its own special flavor to that great mixing pot that is our country. While the United States embraces people of all faiths, the French continue to move to a society in which the smallest display or acknowledgement of a belief in a higher power is taboo in civic life.

Perhaps the reason for their current plight is the fact that France supports many of the oppressive regimes that so many immigrants came to France looking to escape. It

has been well documented that several French companies and French government officials were promised drilling rights to some of Iraq's most lucrative oil fields when the United Nations sanctions were lifted.

What if we were more like France? Would the Berlin Wall still stand? Would the world still tremble in the shadow of an evil empire? My answer is yes.

If we were more like France, September 11, 2001 would have only been a tragic day in the life of our nation instead of a rallying cry to confront the evil of our time and a call to stand up for the ideas of freedom and democratic government.

Perhaps this week would be better as freedom week instead of French week. I am almost convinced that France is eventually going to surrender to the rioters, like they have done so many times before, waiting for us to come bail them out, like we have done so many times before.

Write Eric at ecumbee@gmail.com.

Today is Wednesday, Nov. 16, the 320th day of 2005. There are 45 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Nov. 16, 1864, Union Gen. William T. Sherman and his troops began their "March to the Sea" during the Civil War.

Dave Barry
Columnist

How to not have to host Thanksgiving

So this year, you agreed to host the big family Thanksgiving dinner. Congratulations! You moron!

No, seriously, hosting Thanksgiving dinner does NOT have to be traumatic. The key is planning. For example, every year my family spends Thanksgiving at the home of a friend named Arlene Reidy, who prepares dinner for a huge number of people. I can't give an exact figure, because my eyeballs become fogged with gravy. But I'm pretty sure that Arlene is feeding several branches of the armed forces.

And Arlene is not slapping just any old food on the table, either. She's a gourmet cook who can make anything. I bet she has a recipe for cold fusion.

She serves moist, tender turkeys the size of Arnold Schwarzenegger, accompanied by a vast array of exotic hors d'oeuvres and 350 kinds of sweet potatoes made from scratch. I'm pretty sure Arlene threshes her own wheat. If you were to look into Arlene's dining room at the end of Thanksgiving dinner, it would at first appear to be empty. Then you'd hear groans and burps coming from under the table, and you'd realize that the guests, no longer able to cope with the food and gravity at the same time, were lying on the floor.

The question is: How is Arlene able to prepare such an amazing feast for so many people? The answer is simple: I have no idea. I'm always watching football when it happens. But my point is that, if you want to provide your Thanksgiving guests with a delicious home-cooked meal, one approach would be to go to Arlene's house and steal some of her food when she's busy churning the butter. She'd never notice. She has enough leftovers to make turkey sandwiches for everybody in Belgium.

If you prefer to do your own cooking this Thanksgiving, your first step is to calculate how much turkey you need. Home economists tell us that the average 155-pound person consumes 1.5 pounds of turkey, so if you're planning to have 14 relatives for dinner, you'd simply multiply 14 times 1.5 times 155, which means your turkey should weigh, let's see, carry the two ... 3,255 pounds. If you can't find a turkey that size, you should call up selected relatives and explain to them, in a sensitive and diplomatic manner, that they can't come because they weigh too much.

In selecting a turkey, remember that the fresher it is, the better it will taste. That's why, if you go into the kitchen of top professional homemaker Martha Stewart on Thanksgiving morning, you'll find her whacking a live turkey with a hatchet. In fact, you'll find Martha doing this every morning.

"It just relaxes me," she reports.

Your other option is to get a frozen turkey at the supermarket. The Turkey Manufacturers Association recommends that, before you purchase a frozen bird, you check it for firmness by test-dropping it on the supermarket floor and then take a core sample of the breast by drilling into it until you strike the giblets. If supermarket employees attempt to question you, the Turkey Manufacturers Association recommends that you "gesture at them with the drill in a reassuring manner."

Inspect the turkey regularly as it cooks; when you notice that the skin has started to blister, the time has come for you to give your guests the message they've been eagerly awaiting: "Run!" Because you left the plastic wrapper on the turkey, and it's about to explode. As you stand outside waiting for the fire trucks, you should take a moment to count your blessings. The main one, of course, is that you will definitely NOT be asked to host the big family Thanksgiving dinner next year.

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The George-Anne Daily welcomes letters to the editor, story submissions and guest columns from people both inside and outside the GSU community. All copy submitted should be 300 words or less, typed, and preferably sent via e-mail in Microsoft Word format to gaeditor@georgiasouthern.edu. All submissions must be signed and include a mailing address and phone number for verification. GSU students should include their academic major, year at GSU, and hometown. The editors reserve the right to edit or reject any submission.

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gaclass@georgiasouthern.edu

You must include your names, address and phone number for freebies. No phone calls please, at this price we don't take dictation.

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- 100 Announcements**
 - 110 Auditions
 - 120 Freebies
 - 130 Lost & Found
 - 140 Other Announcements
- 200 Buy or Sell**
 - 210 Autos for Sale
 - 220 Auto Parts for Sale
 - 230 Bicycles for Sale
 - 240 Books for Sale
 - 250 Computers & Software
 - 260 Miscellaneous for Sale
 - 270 Motorcycles for Sale
 - 280 Trade & Barter
 - 290 Wanted
- 300 Employment & Job Services**
 - 310 Career & Job Services
 - 320 Child Care Needed
 - 330 Child Care Provider
 - 340 Internships/Volunteer
 - 350 Jobs/Full Time
 - 360 Jobs/Part Time
 - 370 Opportunities/Business
 - 380 University Work
 - 390 Wanted Jobs
- 400 Housing & Real Estate**
 - 410 Apartments
 - 420 Lofts & Rooms
 - 430 Mobile Homes
 - 440 Real Estate for Sale
 - 450 Roommates Wanted
 - 460 Storage & Moving Services
 - 470 Student Housing
- 480 Sub Leases**
- 490 Vacation Rentals**
- 500 Personals**
- 600 Services**
 - 610 Education & Tutoring
 - 620 Financial Aid/Loans
 - 630 Legal Services
 - 640 Resumes/Typing/DTP
 - 650 Services/Miscellaneous
- 700 Travel**
 - 710 Spring Break Travel
- 800 Transportation/Rides**
 - 800 Transportation/Rides
- 900 Miscellaneous**
 - 910 Pets & Pet Supplies



THE PennyPress CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- Royal address
- Soli additive
- Name
- Publicize
- Wahine's wiggle
- Flag
- ABA members
- and crafts
- Nudge
- How do ewe do?
- Most snobbish
- Worms, often
- Part of a yen
- Hotel freebie
- Singer Vicki

DOWN

- Shot in the dark
- Minimal bit
- Turnip
- UFO folk
- Specter
- Capital of France
- Female voices
- Specific flavor
- Chop finely
- Aurochs
- Red roots
- Use a straw
- Provoke
- Neither good nor bad
- Pigs digs
- Shed tool
- Your and my
- Connectors
- Unit of radiation
- Gab
- Stray
- Dry
- Garbage
- Lab compound
- Piece of gossip
- Neck section
- Ready for print
- A lot
- Cry
- Shield border
- Medieval poem

Yesterday's Solution

ACROSS

- Fast-food order
- Election ammo?
- Creative spark
- Birthday addition
- Validate a passport again
- Astound
- Gore, once
- Not flexible
- Pair
- Young boy
- Plato's porch
- Tragic king
- Roof finial
- Canvas cover
- Nutmeg coat
- Gathered
- Old Gaelic
- Land amid water

DOWN

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THE PennyPress WORD SEEK PUZZLE

OK Cities

On this day in 1907, Oklahoma was admitted into the Union as the 46th state. Celebrate the anniversary by solving this puzzle that will have you crying out for Moore! All of the city names included in the list below, such as Moore, are located in the Sooner State.

ACROSS

- AFTON
- ALTUS
- ANADARKO
- ARDMORE
- BARTLESVILLE
- BETHANY
- BLACKWELL
- CARNEGIE
- CHECOTAH
- CLAREMORE
- DAVIS
- EDMOND
- ENID
- FAIRFAX

DOWN

- GUTHRIE
- HOBART
- IDABEL
- LANGSTON
- MANGUM
- MOORE
- MUSKOGEE
- NORMAN
- OKMULGEE
- PERRY
- POCOLA
- PRYOR
- SAPULPA
- SHAWNEE
- STILLWATER
- VINITA
- WARNER
- WATONGA
- YUKON

Yesterday's Solution

ACROSS

- S M T K E E G O K S U M E N B
- T D E A L T U S K A S I V A D
- Y N H N L X F A Y R R E P S A
- U O O O I P B E T H A N Y H P
- K M B T V D I E T I S D P A L
- O D A F S G E U A T N R A W U
- N E R A E G G B I G Y I E N P
- C O T N L L N L X O N M V E A
- H G R U T C L A R E M O R E S
- E A M M R W L C L W C O T W M
- C K M F A E W K X A F R I A F
- O O E T B N Y W W B T E N R W
- T R E A A M K E N X F G S N H
- A R D M O R E L E M U A O E B
- H I W P O C O L A M U V E R D

Mystic Arts Horoscope

Today's Birthday (11-16-05). Once you've worked out a compromise (and that may take some doing), you'll get to the funding part of your project. That'll almost be easier.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19) - Today is a 6 - More research is required. Figure out what you need and how to get it below retail. You'll get farther that way.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - Today is a 7 - It seems like a good time to ask for money, but it really isn't. What you get from one place, you'll just be giving up somewhere else.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) - Today is a 6 - Your skills are improving, and so is your confidence. But don't get cocky. The competition is fierce.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) - Today is an 8 - You're entering a hectic and confusing period. It won't last long, so don't worry.

Just double-check everything.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is a 6 - The pressure is easing. The test is almost over. Either way, make the best of what you've got and get on to other things.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is a 7 - Changes are beginning to occur. Your assignment, if you choose to accept it, is to direct traffic.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Today is a 7 - It all comes together at home, due to your determination. Be careful traveling, though. It's confusing out there.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is a 7 - You can afford to be generous with a person who's suffered a loss. Don't put yourself at a disadvantage, however.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is a 6 - One kind of pressure eases up, another takes its place. Something that was stuck will start moving... quickly. Take care.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is a 7 - Lots of assignments are coming in, but you shouldn't get complacent. Double-check, to make certain you understand what's expected.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is a 7 - You're a dreamer, but you also have mechanical expertise. Work on the idea part in more detail before going public with it.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is a 7 - Fixing up your own place takes priority for a while. Turn a couple of your dreams into reality.

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Announcements 100 - 199

130 Lost & Found

LOST - DIAMOND ENGAGEMENT RING in vicinity of Deal Hall on Sweetheart Circle. Please-Please return to Box 8128, Statesboro Ga. 30460, or call 842-5064 or 681-5172. NO QUESTIONS ASKED!

140 Other Announcements

Do you want to bring students to your student group's worship activities? Place an ad in the G-A!

260 Miscellaneous for Sale

2 TI-83 graphing calculators, great shape, no book, \$75 each obo, call Brandice @ 912-507-3460, leave message.

AIR HOCKEY TABLE for sale. \$40, or OBO. Accessories included. Free delivery in Statesboro! Call 912-541-6174.

Dryer - Kenmore, works great, \$65.00, 229-558-0153.

Makeup Artist's Kit: 27 piece Estee Lauder cosmetic/brush set, \$46.50 w/any fragrance. Makeup lover's Christmas dream. Free campus delivery! Call Karen a 912-293-5228 or 912-537-2355, ext. 267.

350 Jobs/Full Time

BARTENDERS WANTED! \$250 a Day Potential. No Experience Necessary. Training Provided. Age 18+ OK Call 1-800-965-6520 ext 296

Housing & Real Estate 400 - 499

410 Apartments

Tired of roommates? Want your own space? Quiet environment, close to campus, flexible leases. \$275-3400 (1 & 2BR). Parker Realty (764-5623)

Available Spring Semester: 2 BR/2 BA and 2 BR/1 BA. Call owner at 912-764-3697.

Roommate needed for 3 BR house on Herty Dr. Fenced in backyard. \$250/mo + utilities. Save big \$\$\$ Walk to class. 912-222-6143 or 912-871-4933 and ask for Matt.

1 male roommate wanted for 4 BR/4 BA house on Rebekah Rd. \$275/mo + 1/4 utilities. Call 912-507-6994.

Spring 2006: Female needed to rent 1/2 of 4 bd/2 bath Stadium View apt. \$237.50/mo. Call 912-681-4820.

480 Sub Leases

Fall Sublease needed ASAP! Park Place 2 bed/2 BA, unfurnished. Available December 1st! Call 912-678-1570 for more info.

Sublease needed ASAP! Sterling University Pines. 2 bedrooms available that share a bath in a HUGE 4b/2ba apartment. Girls or guys welcome to live with 2 very nice guys. Only \$380/mo INCLUDING utilities and many very nice extras! Call Jessica at (404)-281-8157.

Needed: 1 non-smoking female roommate to sublease 1 BR/1 BA in a 2 BR/2 BA apartment in the Woodlands. All inclusive! Call Ashley at 478-278-1121

Need someone to sublease apartment. College Walk Apartments Male/Female. You get two bedrooms. All inclusive! Call 404-792-8939 for details and ask for Caitlin.

Travel 700 - 799

710 Spring Break Travel

BAHAMAS SPRING BREAK CELEBRITY CRUISE! 5 Days From \$299! Includes Meals, Taxes, Entry To Exclusive MTV Events, Beach Parties With Celebrities! CANCUN, ACAPULCO, JAMAICA From \$499! On-Campus Marketing Reps Needed! Promo Code: 31 www.SpringBreakTravel.com 1-800-678-6386

Spring Break Bahamas From \$199 per person 5 day/4 night package includes Round Trip Cruise, food aboard ship, and resort accommodations on Grand Bahama Island CANCUN Packages from \$499 Call Toll Free: 1-888-85-BEACH (1-888-865-3224) www.GoBahama.com

210 Autos for Sale

2002 Ford Mustang, V6, Auto, Mineral Gray, P.W, PDL, MP3 CD, 16" alloys, rear spoiler, tint, Immaculate Condition, 65k miles, \$10,900 OBO. Call 912-230-3949.

If you are in the market for a new car -- or haps a car that's "new" to you -- place an ad in the G-A to sell your old car fast.

1989 JEEP Cherokee 4X4. Good condition, AC, high miles. Runs lyka champ! \$1200 obo! Call Bob at 912-663-1617.

For sale: BROKEN Sony PlayStation 2. When powered up gets a disc read error, actual controller works, but not when plugged into system. Will include controller, AV cords and power cord. \$50. Contact Lauren @ (770)361-5813.

Size 10 White Wedding gown worn once. Great condition, cathedral train, open back. Call Ashley 207-522-8052.

420 Lofts & Rooms

Forget the roommate hassles. Great 1 bedroom, off campus good for grad students or faculty includes utilities \$450 per month. 912 681 0591 or 912 852 5299.

Spring lease available! 3 bed apartment Eagles Landing. 1 unfurnished bedroom available. Call now! Charles 404-405-9490.

430 Mobile Homes

14x76, 3 BR/2BA mobile home for sale in nice park near GSU. Included: couches, washer & dryer, entertainment system. \$12,500. Call 912-844-0188.

450 Roommates

Roommate needed 4 bed house, 3 Bath, 2 car garage, fenced in back yard. \$300/mo. Contact Michael at 912-541-0647! Female or Male welcome!

650 Services/Miscellaneous

Need a tennis racket restring? Contact Brian at 912-681-7376. \$15 per racket. Years of experience.

Affordable creative business cards: Group rates available. Call 678-988-6824.

910 Pets & Pet Supplies

Male, White Shih-tzu, AKC registered ready to stud. No set fee please call Erin if interested at 404-226-3007.

15 week old Miniature Pinscher up for adoption. Beautiful, female, with a black and brown coat. For details, or to set up a visit please call 404-704-4920.

Dogs Missing! @ female dogs missing; one, small shepherd mix-tan and black, answers to Dori; the other is white with light tan spots, skinny pointer, named Annie. PLEASE HELP! REWARD OFFERED!!!! call 843-870-1720 or 843-270-7970.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

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

Readers may access the newspaper and its archives staff by visiting our web site at <http://www.stp.georgiasouthern.edu>.

SUPPORT

The G-A is funded primarily through revenue from advertisements placed in the paper and receives additional support, in part, from the Student Activities Budget Committee.

STUDENTS BEWARE

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

FREEBIE INFO

ALL FREE student and facul-

ty ads to be run in the G-A must have a NAME, P.O. BOX and PHONE NUMBER. Ads will be rejected if they do not have this information. NO EXCEPTIONS.

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Room 2023, F.I. Williams Center. The George-Anne, P.O. Box 8001, Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, Ga. 30460. 912/681-5246 (News) or 912/618-5418 (Advertising) or 912/486-7113 (Fax); 912/681-0069 (adviser).

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ADVERTISING

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

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

FOR MORE INFO, rate cards, sample publications,

contact: Lindsey Treadwell, Marketing Director, ADS, (912)681-5418, ads@georgiasouthern.edu; or Bill Neville, Student Media Coordinator, (912) 681-0069, bnville@georgiasouthern.edu

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

CLASSIFIED ADS: Free classified ads from students, faculty and staff must be non-commercial in nature

and submitted in writing, with the name of the sender, local address, and phone number. No free ads taken via telephone -- at this price we don't take dictation. One free ad per person per week. Commercial classified are available only from our online site at www.gsuads.com. The price of commercial ads is \$7 for 200 characters for line ads. Ads must be paid for using a major credit card. For classified display ads, contact ads@georgiasouthern.edu

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

NOTICE

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

NOTE

We gratefully acknowledge the theft of one of our slogans -- "Liked by Many, Cussed by Some, Read by them All" -- from Robert Williams of the Blackshear Times. Call Bob and he can tell you who he stole it from originally. Credit for the other -- "Covering Campus like a Swarm of Gnats -- goes to G-A alum Mike Mills.

Rip us off

That's right, classified ads are free for students, faculty and staff. Want to find a home for your pet iguana? Rip us off! Need a roommate? Rip us off. Want to trade your pet iguana for a new roommate? Rip us off! Here's the deal: 20 words or less, submitted with this handy form or via email to gaclass@georgiasouthern.edu. You can also place ads in person at the G-A office, Room 2022, Williams Center. One ad per person per issue. Non-commercial use only. The GAD reserves the right to refuse any ad.

Name: _____
Telephone: _____
Address: _____

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

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

Sorry, no free ads accepted by telephone. At these prices we don't take dictation... but you can use email: gaclass@georgiasouthern.edu (but include all required information -- name, address, phone number -- or you just might find an iguana in your mailbox). Free ads are for noncommercial use only.

SPORTS



The NCAA I-AA Playoff announcement show will be on Sunday, Nov. 20.

G-A SPORTS

Have a story idea? Interested in writing sports? E-mail us at gasports@georgiasouthern.edu

Chad Bishop

THE WEDNESDAY SMACK

To I-A or not to I-A The Great Debate

There's been a lot of talk this football season, as there is every year, that the Georgia Southern football Eagles should move into Division I-A.

Flyers have been made to hand out at games, and T-shirts have been worn to let the administration know Eagle fans want the move to be made.

Whether you're for or against the move into college football's I-A division for our Eagles, here's some common misconceptions about GSU athletics, I-A vs. I-AA and where GSU stands on the issue.



Chad Bishop is a senior English major from Snellville. His sports column appears in The George-Anne every Wednesday.

Myth: GSU is not a I-A school.

The correct term is that GSU is not a I-A football school. Football is the only collegiate sport that is divided into a class A and a class AA. GSU competes at the Division I level in every other sport in which it fields a team.

Myth: GSU isn't big enough to field a I-A football team.

GSU's enrollment stands at 16,400 students. That's larger than Miami (FL), Georgia Tech and Buffalo just to name a few. There are no enrollment qualifications for I-A football.

Myth: Paulson Stadium is not large enough for a I-A football team to play in.

There are no stadium requirements for I-A football. The only requirement is that the school average at least 15,000 fans over the course of their home schedule. GSU's average home attendance over six games this year was 16,241.

Myth: If GSU were to go to I-A, we'd be in the SEC, ACC or other major conference.

If the Eagles were to move to I-A, we'd most likely have to join the Sun Belt Conference, and would have to compete against school like Florida International, North Texas and Louisiana-Monroe.

Myth: Moving to I-A is as easy as Marshall.

Marshall University in West Virginia is the prototype for a successful move from I-AA to I-A. But not every school's cards fall into place after making the move. For example, Middle Tennessee State is struggling with attendance, Nevada hasn't been to a bowl since 1996 and Central Florida's best seasons came during current Minnesota Vikings quarterback Daunte Culpepper's career at the school in the mid-90's.

So what is the difference between I-A and I-AA?

The short answer: 22 scholarships. Division I-A football schools have available funding to provide scholarships for 22 more athletes on the football field.

The long answer? Money. Like almost everything else in the sports world, the bottom line is money. Moving GSU's football program to I-A would take more donations from Southern Boosters, increased ticket sales at higher prices, more money for advertising and probably the end of free entry into Paulson Stadium for GSU students. Moving football to I-A isn't something that can happen overnight. It will take years of planning, fund raising, donations and lots and lots of help.

So there you have it. The issue has been debated long before any of us got here, and will continue to go on after we've left. Everyone has their own reasons as to why the football Eagles should or should not move to I-A.

Whatever your position, now you have some information to back that position.

GSU Swimming and Diving Team opens conference slate with splash

GSU News Service

Georgia Southern opened the 2005-2006 Northeast Conference schedule in fine fashion, defeating Campbell University 158-96 Saturday afternoon.

The Eagles (5-2, 1-0) dominated the meet, winning 15 out of 16 events from the Camels (1-4, 1-3).

GSU's impressive performance was led by junior Kelli King and freshman Amanda Hall.

Each swimmer won three individual events. King earned victories in the 500y and 1000y Freestyle events and the 100y Backstroke. Hall recorded her wins in the Fly and Free events, taking the 100y and 200y Fly and the 100y Free.

King's time of 11:08.49 in the 1000y Free is a season best for the Eagles, as is Hall's 2:15.93 in the 200y Fly.

From there, contributions from the rest of the Swimming & Diving team were numerous.

Sophomore Kimmy Morris took first in the 200y Free, while fellow classmate Allison Cochran continued her dominance in Breaststroke events this season, earning first overall in the 100y Breast.



File Photo

The swimming and diving team will compete in the Radford Invitational beginning Friday.

Junior Haley Newman won the 200y Back with 2:14.11, sophomore Jen Clayton took the 50y Free in 25.88 and freshman Courtney McCarthy placed first in the 200 IM with 2:14.95.

Campbell's lone victory came in the 200y Breast as freshman Heidi Shallow took the event with a time of 2:25.79.

The Camels did set two new school records in the meet, in the 400y Medley

Relay and 100y Breast.

GSU and Campbell will meet at the same destination next week, as both squads will travel to Radford, Virginia, to compete in the Radford Invitational.

New Eagles signed their National Letter of Intent to play basketball at Georgia Southern

GSU News Service

Georgia Southern has signed two players for the 2006-2007 season.

Daniel Bryant, a 5-foot-10 point guard from West Palm Beach, Florida, averaged 20 points, six assists and three steals a game as a junior last season at Lakes High School.

Bryant led Lakes to the 6A State Finals game, where they eventually lost, 71-67 to Miami High.

He earned All-State and All-Conference honors last year.

He is the second Price recruit to come from Lakes, as current Eagle Louis Graham also attended Lakes.

"Daniel is an extremely talented point guard," said Price. "We feel that he should come in and make an immediate impact as a freshman."

Collins, a 6-foot-8 post player from

Toombs County, averaged 18 points, 10 rebounds and two blocks a game as a junior under head coach Donnie Arrington at Toombs County High.

He was named 3AA East Player of the Year, and earned honorable mention All-State.

Collins was also named First-team All Coastal Empire Team by the Savannah Morning News and was WTCO Player of the Week.

"We feel that Jared has tremendous amount of potential," said Price. "We really like his size and ability."

The Eagles return to action this Friday, Nov. 18, as they travel to Kansas State.

Tip-off from Manhattan is set for 8 p.m. EST.

Season tickets are available by calling 1-800-GSU-WINS.

Golf team picks up three signees

GSU News Service

Georgia Southern head golf coach Larry Mays announced the signing of three recruits for the 2006-07 Eagle golf team Tuesday.

The three; Seth Norman (Virginia Beach, Va.), Cory "Spencer" Fulford (Rocky Mount, N.C.) and Matt Deal (Statesboro, Ga.), will each graduate high school in May 2006.

Seth Norman, a four-year letterwinner from Frank W. Cox High School, boasts an impressive junior resume that includes a third place tie in the 2005 Peyton Memorial, a tie for first place in the 2003 Portsmouth Amateur and a first place finish in the 2004 Virginia State Golf Association Match Play Championship.

"Seth will be a great addition to our program here at Georgia Southern," head coach Larry Mays said. "He is one of the top juniors in the State of Virginia. We look forward to four great years from Seth."

Cory "Spencer" Fulford, a four-year letterwinner from Southwest Edgecombe High School, has accomplished many things in his junior career including a fourth place finish in the 2005 Southern Junior Championship, a ninth place finish in the

AJGA Ringold Telephone Junior Classic and a fourth place finish in the North Carolina High School State Championships.

"Spencer has an enormous amount of talent and is proving it on a national level," Mays noted. "He has impressive golf skills and will be a welcome addition to our program."

Matt Deal, a four-year letterwinner from Statesboro High School, possesses an impressive resume that includes winning the 2005 Dan Elle Lanier Invitational, winning an event on the Southeastern Junior Golf Tour in Dublin, Ga., being a four-time winner on the 2005 Georgia PGA Junior Tour, as well as receiving the scoring average award for both 2004 and 2005 on the GA/PGA Junior Tour.

"Matt is a fantastic player with loads of potential," Mays added. "He is one of the top juniors in the State of Georgia and has been a prominent player winning numerous times in the Georgia Section."

Georgia Southern, coming off an impressive fall finish at the Hooters Match Play in Howey-in-the-Hills, Fla. will return to action in February as the Eagles will compete in the Gator Invitational Feb. 18-19.

Baseball signs nine recruits

GSU News Service

Georgia Southern baseball received a National Letter of Intent from nine student-athletes.

Hennon signed pitchers Tom Hickman, Ryan Steidl, Justin Davis, Andy Moye, Charlie Strohecker and Brian Wilkerson.

Also signing were outfielders Brett Maxwell and Wes Roberts, in addition to shortstop A.J. Wirnsberger.

Wirnsberger has hit .477 the last two seasons, totaling 25 doubles, seven triples and five home runs while recording a .998 fielding percentage.

Wilkerson was 10-2 with a 0.99 ERA during his junior year, fanning 92 batters.

In 2004 he pitched a no-hitter for Team Pendleton in the World Series championship game last summer.

He also pitched a shutout in the Connie Mack state championship game.

Hickman and Maxwell played for the East Cobb Yankees and coaches James Beavers and Jon Phillips.

Maxwell hit .324 with 34 runs scored, five doubles, 13 stolen bases and 20 RBI.

Hickman was 6-1 with a 3.00 ERA in 37 innings and struck out 31 batters. In addition, Hickman hit .336 with 41 RBI, 25 runs scored and six home runs.

Hickman was named Co-Player of the Year by the Rome News Tribune and is a three-time All-Area pick.

Maxwell also received accolades as a member of the Atlanta Dugout Tournament Team and Douglas County All-Tournament Team.

Moye and Strohecker were both members of the East Cobb Braves. They played a big role in helping the Braves win the U-17 National Baseball Federation World Series championship.

Named one of the Class of 2006 Top 150 baseball recruits by Baseball America, Moye was 8-2 with four saves last season.

He posted a 2.04 ERA in 72.1 innings, allowing 51 hits, 19 walks and striking out 71.

He won the Class 5-A championship at Blessed Trinity HS with coach

Adrian Beltre in last year's MVP voting after finishing fourth as a rookie in 2001 and second to Bonds the following two seasons.

The Cardinals led the majors with 100 wins this season and breezed to the Central title. Pujols was the driving force on a team that lost Scott Rolen and other key players to injuries.

Pujols, who gets a \$200,000 bonus, won the 15th MVP award for the Cardinals, the first since Willie McGee in 1985.

Andy Harlin. Moye now plays for coach Dan Corsi at Alpharetta HS.

Strohecker helped Milton win the 2004 Class 5-A state title for coach Greg Robinson.

He enters his senior year with a career 11-4 record and 2.28 ERA. Last summer he recorded a 7-2 mark and 1.28 ERA for the Braves.

In 2004 playing for the East Cobb Astros, Strohecker won 10-of-11 decisions tallying a 1.12 ERA winning the CABA U-16 National Championship.

Steidl sat out last season undergoing surgery.

During his first two years at Randolph HS, he posted a 10-3 record.

Steidl fanned 84 batters in 56 innings while allowing just 11 hits during his freshman season.

He was 4-1 with a 1.17 ERA during his sophomore campaign, striking out 87 in 48 innings. He is coached at Morris Knolls by Adam Bonfiglio.

Roberts comes from the same junior college program that produced former Eagle Flint Wipke and current second baseman Brett Pelfrey.

Last season he hit .260 and drove in 20 runs but really excelled during the summer when he batted .408 with 52 RBI for the Tallahassee Bears.

He plays at Tallahassee CC for coach Mike McLeod.

Davis hit .387 and drove in 32 runs for the Savannah Chain, the USSSA National Champions last summer.

Coached by Kris Edge, the Chain finished 36-8.

At Metter he is a two-time All-Region 3AA performer and won the lowest ERA award last year at 1.43 to go with his 7-1 record.

Davis struck out 47 in 44 innings in addition to his impressive percentages in batting (.341), on-base (.480) and slugging (.591).

"We feel like we are getting an outstanding group of signees that meets our needs for the coming years. This is a talented group that can help our program as we strive to get back to the NCAA Regionals and ultimately to Omaha," said head coach Rodney Hennon.

"I commend (assistant coaches) Mike Tidick and Brett Lewis. They did a good job putting together an outstanding class."

Scheduling conflict results in second game cancellation

GSU News Service

Due to scheduling conflicts, the women's basketball game between Georgia Southern and Central Florida scheduled for Dec. 12 has been canceled, announced GSU athletics director Sam Baker.

NCAA bylaws allow womens basketball teams 28 permissible playing dates.

If an institution is a member of a conference sponsoring a postseason tournament, one of those playing dates must be assigned to the tournament.

Inadvertently, the Eagles scheduled 28 regular season games which, with the tournament, would have placed the schedule one over the limit.

In order to rectify the error, the school chose to cancel its only non-conference home game with UCF.

"This is an unfortunate situation and shows how, even with review on many different levels, mistakes can occur when interpreting NCAA playing regulations," said Baker.

The change forces the Eagles to play their first 12 games on the road. GSU won't have a home contest until Jan. 7 when they face Elon at 3 p.m.

The new season begins Nov. 18 at

NCAA regionals bring cross country season to a close

GSU News Service

Four runners from the Georgia Southern Cross Country team finished out the 2005 season on Saturday by competing in the south region of the NCAA Division I Cross Country Regionals.

Senior Brittney Jett, junior Jessica Kerzie, sophomore Abby Bloom and freshman Danielle Shaurette battled over 170 runners from more than 24 schools in the south region, hosted by the University of Florida.

Competing just a few miles from her hometown of High Springs, Fla., Brittney Jett completed the 6K run in 23:51.80, for 114th overall.

Abby Bloom ran a spectacular race to finish just ahead of Jett with a time of 23:36.16, good for 102nd overall.

Jessica Kerzie followed in at 24:46.87 for 145th overall and Danielle Shaurette ran in 25:13.08 for 156th.

"This is the way we wanted to end the season," said Head Coach Shaun Meinecke. "The way we ran this race is the way we should have run at the Conference Championships. Brittney ran exactly as I expected she would, Abby was just really impressive today."

Southern Conference women's champion and Runner of the Year, Shannon Wommack of UTC took first overall in the Regional with a time of 19:50.16. She was the only runner to break the 20 minute mark.

Angela Homan of Auburn finished second and Lauren Blankenship of Samford came in third.

The University of Tennessee scored 76 points overall to take top team honors in the Regional, with the University of Georgia placing second with 98 points and Florida State University coming in at third with 118 points.

Nine different universities across the country played host to the NCAA Regionals, in which top finishers earn the chance to travel to Terre Haute, Indiana to compete in the NCAA finals, scheduled for November 21, 2005.

Pujols wins NL MVP award

By Ronald Blum
Associated Press

Albert Pujols won his first National League MVP award, beating Andruw Jones in a close vote Tuesday.

The St. Louis Cardinals first baseman ended Barry Bonds' four-year winning streak, receiving 18 first-place votes and 14 seconds for 378 points in balloting by the Baseball Writers'

Association of America.

"It's awesome when you hear people compare yourself with Barry," Pujols said.

The 25-year-old Pujols has put up remarkable statistics in his first five major league seasons, averaging 40 homers and 124 RBIs to go with a .332 average.

He was third behind Bonds and



AP Photo

Top 10 Vote-getters for the 2005 NL MVP

Albert Pujols, StL 378
Andruw Jones, Atl 351
Derrek Lee, Chi 263
Morgan Ensberg, Hou 160
Miguel Cabrera, Fla 146
Carlos Delgado, Fla 84
Pat Burrell, Phi 65
Chris Carpenter, StL 52
Brian Giles, SD 48
Jimmy Rollins, Phi 45

Quick, what's new

IN GEORGIA

Aflac announces \$100 million expansion

COLUMBUS — Aflac, the insurance company with the famous duck logo, had a lot to quack about Tuesday, announcing a \$100 million expansion that will create about 2,000 new jobs over the next few years.

Gov. Sonny Perdue joined local officials and members of the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce in announcing the expansion at Aflac's suburban Columbus headquarters.

"We've got great things coming," Mayor Robert Poydasheff said, officially declaring Tuesday as "Aflac Day" in recognition of the company's 50th anniversary. "This is one of the greatest announcements any mayor could make."

THE REGION

Ga representative does not avoid DUI

MARIETTA — State Representative David Graves tried to use legislative immunity to avoid a drunken driving charge and was sentenced to 10 days in jail and fined \$1,600 Tuesday.

Graves, R-Macon, also was ordered to serve 240 hours of community service, and alcohol counseling. His driver's license was suspended for 12 to 18 months. Because the charge is a misdemeanor, he will not have to give up his House seat, but he has resigned as chairman of the committee that handles liquor industry legislation.

He claimed that his legislative immunity should have prevented him from being arrested. The provision stipulates that lawmakers cannot be arrested during sessions of the General Assembly or its committees or while traveling to either one.

State Court Judge Irma Glover ruled that even though the Legislature was in session at the time, there was no evidence that the dinner was either a committee meeting or part of any legislative session.

THE NATION

Senate GOP blocks Iraq timetable request

WASHINGTON — The Republican-controlled Senate easily defeated a Democratic effort Tuesday to pressure President Bush to outline a timetable for a phased withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq. It then overwhelmingly endorsed a weaker statement calling on the administration to explain its Iraq policy. Senators also voted to endorse the Bush administration's military tribunals for prosecuting foreign terrorism suspects at the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, but to allow the detainees to appeal their detention status and punishments to a federal court.

THE WORLD

Tortured detainees found in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraq's prime minister said Tuesday that 173 Iraqi detainees, malnourished and showing signs of torture, were found at an Interior Ministry basement lockup seized by U.S. forces in Baghdad. The discovery appeared to validate Sunni complaints of abuse by the Shiite-controlled ministry. Critics in the United States and Britain question the U.S. strategy for building democracy in a land wracked by insurgency, terrorism and sectarian tension.

Rice pushes for Gaza border crossings

JERUSALEM — Israel and the Palestinians, under strong U.S. pressure, reached an agreement Tuesday to open Gaza's borders starting Nov. 25, a step vital to turning the economically crippled territory into a success in the wake of Israel's withdrawal.

The deal gives Palestinians control over a border for the first time, allowing them to travel freely into Egypt and to export their goods. Israel will be able to see who comes and goes, with the help of European monitors, but Palestinians will retain final authority.

"This agreement is intended to give Palestinian people the freedom to move, to trade, to live ordinary lives," Rice said.

Pageant winners earn scholarships

By Angela Byrd
Staff writer

Students showed their style and worked to earn scholarships Sunday evening as the brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity hosted the first ever Miss Purple Essence Scholarship Pageant in the Russell Union Ballroom.

"Style, Soul, Grace and Expression" was the chosen theme for this year's pageant, hosted by Immediate Past President Mr. Reginald C. Brown and pageant coordinator Ms. Angela Byrd.

The show opened with an a cappella rendition of "Style, Soul, Grace and Expression" by members of the fraternity and an opening number routine by the contestants and members of the dance team "On Pointe."

Eight contestants competed in four phases of competition: "Style" - Fitness in Swimwear phase, "Soul" - Artistic Expression phase, "Expression" - Casual Wear with Q&A and "Grace" - Evening Wear. Each of the phases counted as 20 percent towards the contestant's overall score, in addition to 20 percent from capital campaigning.

The panel of judges included Bryan Toles, Ashley Turner, Jonathan Buckner, Kimberly Perez and Tabitha Irvin. The auditor for the evening was Memory Littles, advisor for the fraternity.

After completing all phases of competition, the coveted crown of Miss Purple Essence 2005 went to Brenda Bridges of Douglasville.

"I'm thrilled to have been chosen as the first Miss Purple Essence. It is an honor to have been selected as a representative of the fraternity," said Bridges.

Bridges was the recipient of a \$500 scholarship in addition to

other awards and prizes. Placing as the First Runner up was Rashedah Arnold, who received a \$200 scholarship, and the Second Runner up was Urian Booze, the recipient of a \$100 scholarship.

Pageant director for the fraternity, Vice President Miklos Spencer, was delighted with the turn out.

"The pageant was a successful event. Our goal was to create not just a beauty pageant, but a scholarship pageant in which the girls used their beauty and brains to compete for the title. We are proud to have set the bar on how pageants on campus are perceived."

The pageant kicked off a week of activities titled "Achievement Week" for the fraternity. On Monday the fraternity served breakfast to students under the Rotunda from 9 - 11 a.m. Last night, the First Annual "Que-Pollo" event was held in the Russell Union Ballroom.

Contestants competed for the chance to win the \$250 prize money. After "Apollo-style" judging by the crowd, the winners were Slimm Duddy featuring Ena and Legit who performed an original song called "Complain."

The fraternity looks forward to the rest of the events scheduled this week which include the Second Annual Charity Basket Auction to be held tonight at 8 p.m. in the Russell Union Theater.

Proceeds will benefit the Boys and Girls Club of Bulloch County. Thursday is "Purple and Gold" Day and the fraternity will host a cookout at the Rotunda from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Events for "Achievement Week" will conclude on Saturday with the Founder's Banquet, which will be held in the Russell Union Ballroom at 6 p.m.



Anna Mitchum/STAFF
Brenda Bridges, of Douglasville, received the crown for Miss Purple Essence as well as a \$500 scholarship.

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Accelerate Your Life

NCAA

from page 1

Florida football game, which is held in Jacksonville every year, to describe the impact of sports on local communities.

Both schools wanted to go to a home-and-home schedule, but the city of Jacksonville gave enough money to the schools to keep the game there.

"That game brings enough people

into Jacksonville that the businesses are ready for that expenditure to get the teams there," Barilla added.

Of course the real issue with student athletic fees is that not everyone uses the free admission to games. What do these students who choose not to attend the games get out from their fees? Barilla and Thompson agree that athletics gets the university's name out to businesses, and that can make all the difference when a graduate applies for a job.

"Being on TV you have an op-

portunity to get your name out there," said Thompson in reference to the Appalachian State football game earlier this year. "Athletics gave us that venue that would have cost mega-bucks if we had to actually pay for it."

Barilla agreed with Thompson, saying that businesses have to be aware of the existence of GSU. He added that it is cheaper to run advertisements like the one aired during the Fox Sports South halftime show from the App. State game than a regular prime-time commercial would be.

Mercer

from page 1

Godsey's 1996 book, "When We Talk About God, Let's Be Honest," saying it "condemned the fact that a president of one of its institutions would publish a book which deviated from biblical theology and doctrine."

Mercer officials previously said they did not know why the convention's executive panel made the decision.

"I am very disappointed by this action," Godsey said in a statement.

Godsey pointed to a partnership between Georgia Baptists and the university that has existed for 175 years.

Mercer receives about \$3.5 million a year from the Georgia Baptist Convention.

The convention previously had

donated \$30 million to the university's nursing school.

The symposium held its final meeting on Monday after the head of the Georgia Baptist Convention complained the group, which was recognized by the school in 2002, conflicted with the university's Christian roots.

J. Robert White, the convention's executive director, complained about the symposium last month after learning about it in a campus newspaper, saying he received calls from concerned parents.

Monday's vote wasn't the first struggle between Baptist groups and schools.

In May, Georgia's Supreme Court rejected Shorter College's attempt to sever its ties with the Georgia Baptist Convention.

The court ordered the school to revert to a management structure that gives the Baptists sole power to

appoint its board, even though the move might threaten the college's accreditation.

The 900-student, private liberal arts school in Rome became affiliated with the Georgia Baptist Convention in 1959.

But they tried to break away in 2003 after a regional agency questioned the school's independence and threatened its accreditation because of the power vested in the Baptist association.

The convention also has ties with Truett McConnell in Cleveland and Brewton-Parker College in Mount Vernon.

Also recently, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools placed Louisiana College, a Southern Baptist institution, on a year's probation after the association found a faction of the Louisiana Baptist Convention was exercising control over the school.

Ciara

from page 1

said she thinks that many students are waiting to buy their tickets later in the week, depending on the weather.

Chip Stephens, a volunteer with Eagle Entertainment, the student group that helped bring Ciara to Statesboro, said the show will still go on, regardless of ticket sales, but said it could affect future acts coming to GSU.

"I've talked with some of the higher-ups that are bringing Ciara here, and they say they are looking for ticket sales to pick up," he said. "But if ticket sales do not improve, future concerts may not happen for a long time."

Stephens said some are predicting ticket sales to exceed 1,000 on Friday alone.

Junior Jack Blanchard is a fan of Ciara. And while he isn't able to make it to the concert on Friday, he thinks Ciara was a good choice for a concert. He said he hopes that ticket sales will increase in the few days left before the concert.

Tickets for the Ciara concert, which will feature opening acts Bobby Valentino, Killer Mike and five GSU students, are currently on sale at the University Store and online at www.etix.com.

The prices are \$25 for GSU students and \$35 for those not attending GSU.

A matter of taste

By Ryan Nakashima
Associated Press

Miller Brewing Co. says rival Anheuser-Busch has altered Bud Light in the past year to make it more bitter and bubbly, rolling out the claim about Bud Light in national television ads that began airing Friday. The company said data it has collected show Bud Light's bitterness and carbonation rose from last year.

Anheuser-Busch Cos. Inc. called Miller's claims "another marketing ploy" and complained to cable networks that the statements are false.

Now, 10 of 32 cable networks contracted to run the commercials have put them on hold while awaiting substantiation of the claims, said Pete Marino, a spokesman for Milwaukee-based Miller, a unit of SAB Miller PLC.

Several networks, including TBS, TNT and E!, have held the ads, while others such as CNN, CNN Headline News and Comedy Central continue to air them, Marino said Tuesday. Broadcast networks ABC, CBS, NBC and Fox were not targeted in the ad buys, he said.

"All we're saying that they're doing is that they changed Bud Light and that Miller Lite still has more

taste," Marino said. "We need to be very diligent in protecting our taste claim."

Anheuser-Busch Cos. Inc. said Monday it has not altered its "winning formula." However, the company added, "our brewmasters are constantly making small adjustments to address seasonal changes in raw ingredients."

Bud Light remains the highest-selling light beer in the world, according to St. Louis-based Anheuser-Busch, which also controls nearly half the U.S. beer market.

"We saw negative advertising that included our product, and we were in the best position to explain to the networks that these claims are not true," Anheuser-Busch group vice president of brewing operations, Douglas Muhleman, said in a statement Tuesday.

The dispute is the latest chapter in a bitter skirmish for sales as Americans increasingly experiment with liquor-based drinks and more upscale microbrews and imports. As a result, beer sales have gone flat in the U.S. market.

In the first nine months of the year, Anheuser-Busch saw its share of shipments slip by 1.1 points to 48.7 percent, while Miller was flat at 18.2 percent, said Benj Steinman, publisher of trade newsletter Beer Marketer's Insights.

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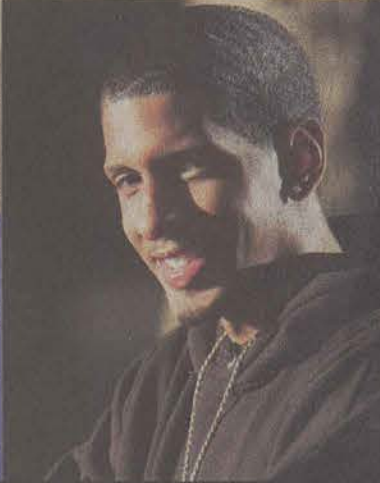
2005 GEORGIA SOUTHERN IDOL
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