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High: 64 | Low: 35
Sunny
Volume 78
Number 70

U.S. takes gold

See our coverage of the Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy | SPORTS, p.7

Men's basketball wins sixth straight game, lead conference

| SPORTS, p.6

THE GEORGE-ANNE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2006

Dining for Success offers time for etiquette, networking

By Juliet Macdonald
Staff writer

There is an epidemic of bad manners afflicting college students. It's not that students are not polite it's just that we are not always aware of proper eating etiquette.

When asked about this epidemic Lydia Ramsey, manners expert and speaker for the dining for success program, said, "It's a big problem and it's getting bigger, students are coming into college without having learned basic manners."

If your manners need some help or you would be totally lost in a formal dinner setting, go to the Dining for Success program Tuesday, Feb. 21, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Nes-smith-Lane southern ballroom.

The deadline to secure a seat is Feb. 14. Registration forms can be downloaded at <http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/career> and brought to the Williams Center, room 1058.

Most people agree that good manners can help you get a job. "Manners certainly make a big impression," said Beverly Graham, communication arts professor.

If you are in the process of searching for a job, you can gain dining etiquette knowledge from a program like Dining for Success.

"There are so many rules," said Amy Rowell, assistant director of student affairs with the office of career services. "I learn something new every time I go to a Dining for Success program."

Rowell said that the Dining for Success program will have networking time this year.

They will start at 5:30 p.m. and allow 30 minutes of time for students to talk with sponsors. "This should get people practice in mixing and mingling," said Rowell.

This business dining etiquette is useful if you are going into a job that is going to involve a lot of interaction with people, said Ramsey.

Maybe it's not all the students' fault that they do not possess proper dining etiquette, with so few upscale restaurants in Statesboro.

"For the past few years our lunches at Lakeside and our apartment mac and cheese has been anything but fancy," said sophomore Wes Bryan. "Maybe we just are not used to that formal dining environment anymore."

Either way, there is nothing wrong with brushing up on your manners at the Dining for Success program before that big interview.

INSIDE

Correction:

Rebekah Rotton, Miss GSU 2006, was featured in Monday's edition of The George-Anne, but her name was misspelled. A corrected story appears on p. 4.

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AP Photo/Amanda Stratford

Dan Griffen, owner of Griffen's flowers, places roses into his automatic rose counter, which is a Styrofoam contraption Griffen created in order to keep track of roses during the Valentine's Day rush, Monday in Hannibal, Mo. Valentine's Day is the busiest day of the year for Griffen's Flowers and red roses are sold more than any other flower. Griffen has been spent 60 years working for the business his family began in the '20s.

Political correctness puts V-Day gifts in spotlight

By Bonnie Miller Rubin
Knight Ridder Newspapers

CHICAGO — The recipe for romance used to be so simple: Flowers. Chocolate. Jewelry. It's as synonymous with Valentine's Day as Cupid and his arrow.

But if your sweetheart has a social conscience, such tokens of affection could miss the target by a mile. In these politically correct times, gift gaffes go way beyond taking a vegan girlfriend out for veal scaloppine.

Chocolate truffles? Perhaps produced on the backs of child laborers. Long-stemmed roses? Often grown with harmful pesticides. That precious bauble in a tiny box? Beware shoddy mining practices.

"More and more consumers care about these issues," said Payal Sampat of Earthworks, a group advocating for mining reforms. "A decade ago, people weren't concerned about sweatshops. ... Now it has moved

into the mainstream. The same will be true of engagement and wedding rings."

John Peck of the Wisconsin-based Family Farm Defenders wants to know: Would chocolate taste as sweet if recipients knew that children were forced to pick the cocoa beans?

"If you're going to give something to someone you care about, it should reflect your values," Peck said.

That appears to be a belief shared by many Americans. A 2004 corporate citizenship study conducted by Cone, a Boston-based communications agency, found that 90 percent would consider switching products or services if they felt the company behaved illegally or unethically.

Still, let's be realistic: Many men are grateful just to remember the date, much less worry about promoting economic justice at the same time.

"I try to stay abreast of these issues

... but when it comes to gift-giving, I usually end up getting what my wife wants," said Victor Crivello of Chicago.

A member of the Southeast Environmental Task Force, Crivello is no slouch when it comes to protecting the planet. Yet, on Tuesday, his lone nod to Mother Nature is to choose a valentine card made of recycled paper.

"If the products aren't readily available—it's just hard to keep all those priorities," Crivello said.

Still, for those who want to make the effort, here are some alternatives:

Flowers. Concern has been mounting recently over the use of toxic pesticides to grow flowers in such countries as Ecuador and Colombia, which export about two-thirds of flowers bought in the United States. Often the workers tend and prepare the blooms in confined greenhouses.

Gerald Prolman, founder of OrganicBouquet.com, says his blooms are free of such thorny issues. Since starting the company in 2001, the online purveyor of pesticide-free flowers has carved out a tiny segment - \$3 million - of the \$20 billion floral industry.

Each of Prolman's bouquets carries the Veriflora logo, a new independent eco-certification developed by Scientific Certification Systems, a neutral organization that vets agricultural practices.

The federal government requires that flowers arrive in the United States pest-free, so trade laws encourage the use of harsh chemicals. But any threat to flower workers has not captured public awareness in the same way as other organic products.

"You are not eating flowers," Peter Moran, director of the Society of American Florists, told Utne

see GIFTS, page 9

Faculty Senate wary of new plan

Proposal to drop students that miss first day of class sent back to committee

By Luke Hearn
Executive editor

Georgia Southern students who miss the first day of class next fall may be dropped from the roll, if a proposal by the university administration clears a final set of hurdles.

The Faculty Senate chamber was full of discussion Monday night as the rule change was among the body's most debated topics.

Nancy Shumaker, associate vice president of academic affairs, brought the proposal before the senate.

According to a handout distributed by Shumaker, the purpose of the proposal is to "[o]ptimize seat availability in classes by deleting individual classes for students who do not attend that class on the first class meeting day and make the seat available to other students who need the class."

The proposal has cleared nearly every hurdle and may soon become university policy. The faculty senate reviews key policy and rule changes and makes recommendations to the school's administration. Their findings are non-binding.

Registrar Michael Deal explained this issue came to light after a handful of faculty members mentioned the number of students who missed the first day of class. The issue was then brought to and approved by the Dean's and Enrollment Management Councils, and was later approved by the President's Cabinet.

Senator Michael Nielsen, professor of psychology, asked why the proposal was coming before the senate so late in the process, and articulated his concern that the senate had been left out of the loop.

"This hardly seems like a shared governance kind of thing to do," he said.

Other senators raised concerns that this proposal does more harm than good, and Senator Barry Balleck with the department of political science, referencing a timeline to share this plan with the campus, questioned why informing students of the changes would happen so late in the semester.

Senator Godfrey Gibbison, representing the College of Business Administration, questioned the benefits of the proposal.

"It seems like this will introduce so much hassle," Gibbison said. "It just doesn't seem like there's enough benefit to be achieved."

Mary Ann Rogers, representing the Student Government Association at the senate meeting, said that she was not aware that SGA had been formally informed of the proposal.

see SENATE, page 9

Local business group aims to bridge gap between black business owners, Chamber of Commerce

By Brittany Hall
Staff writer

Bulloch County might not have Bass Pro Shops, Express or even a Target to set the bar for commercial standards, or even to supply supplemental shopping trips, but the businesses that do reside in Statesboro are making a point to better what is already here.

The African American Business Owner's Coalition (A.A.B.O.C.),

was formed in March 2005 to work with the Bulloch County Chamber of Commerce to carry out their mission statement, to "strive to assist African American entrepreneurs with the means to develop successful, viable businesses in the Statesboro area through the promotion of Financial, Educational, Advertisement, and Technological (F.E.A.T) venues."

The coalition wants to act as a

see BUSINESS, page 9



Annette Holway of Deck the Halls in downtown Statesboro is a member of the African American Business Owner's Coalition.

Joe Waddell/
STAFF

Southern Adventures

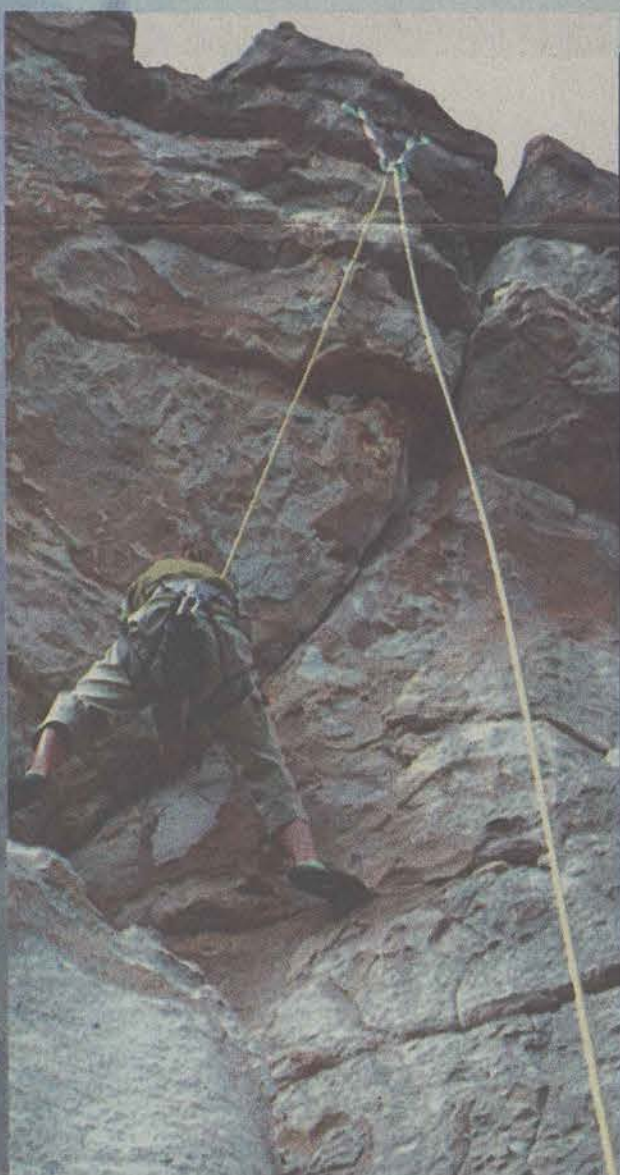
Pictures from Southern Adventures trips and functions

You cannot stay on the summit forever; you have to come down again. So why bother in the first place?
Just this: What is above knows what is below, but what is below does not know what is above. One climbs, one sees. One descends, one sees no longer, but one has seen. There is an art of conducting oneself in the lower regions by the memory of what one saw higher up. When one can no longer see, one can at least still know.

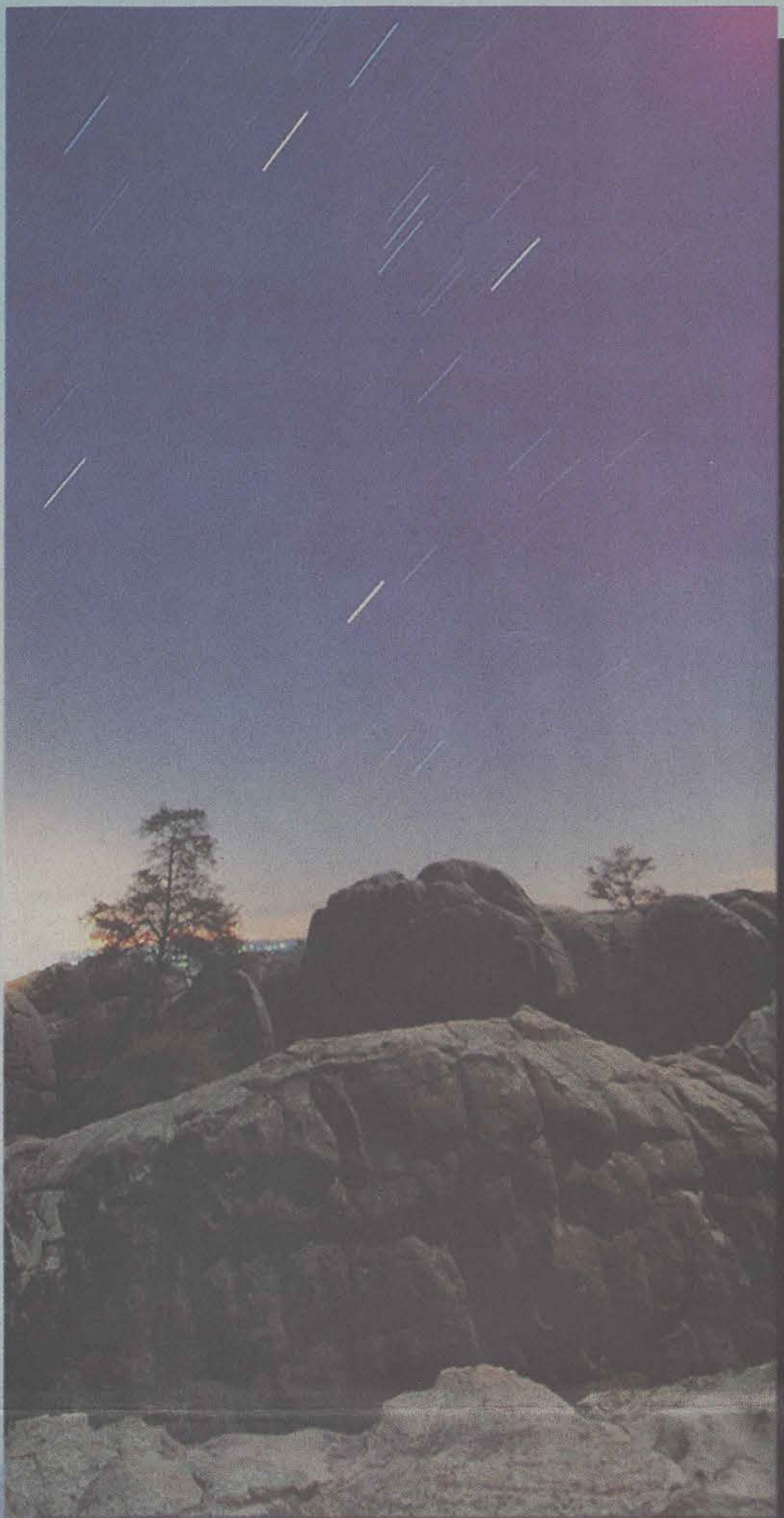
-Rene Damual
French poet



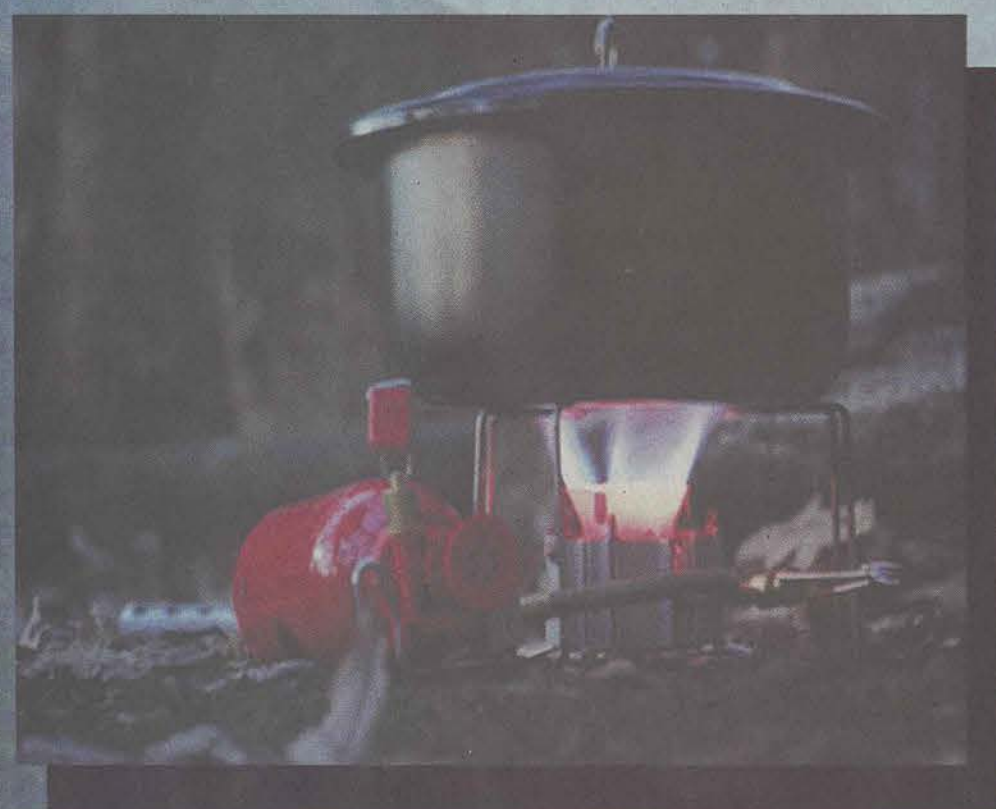
Carter Gap, North Carolina on the Appalachian Trail



Popular Science, 5.9+, Sandrock, Ala.



Sandrock, Ala night life.



Mountain Safety Research (MSR) Whisperlite camp stove



CRI Fitness Staff at a team building exercise on Tybee Island.

ONLY IN AMERICA

stories by The Associated Press

Dentist accused in pills for sex case

1 QUINCY, Mass. — An elderly dentist pleaded not guilty Friday to charges he wrote fraudulent prescriptions that police claim were in exchange for sex from drug addicts.

Police alleged Dr. Joseph T. Matarazzo, 77, wrote more than 100 fraudulent prescriptions over two years in exchange for oral sex, The Patriot Ledger of Quincy reported.

Matarazzo allegedly told an undercover police officer that he wrote fraudulent Oxycodone prescriptions for the same person three times and suggested "maybe she had a drug problem." Oxycodone is the main chemical in painkillers Percoset and OxyContin.

Police obtained Matarazzo's records showing a list of prescriptions he wrote, and said it includes several people known to police to be drug addicts, the Ledger reported. Police say their probe is ongoing.

Matarazzo was released on his own recognizance after his arraignment in Quincy District Court. He's due back in court March 15.

The charges include distribution of a class B substance, drug violations near a school, conspiracy to violate drug laws, and uttering a false prescription.

Matarazzo declined to comment Friday. His lawyer, Frederick G. Barry Jr., said the charges against Matarazzo are related to a single allegation.

"He's been a dentist for 52 years and he has no prior criminal record whatsoever," Barry said. "He's a good man."

X-rated fortune cookies top off fundraiser

2 NEW YORK — There is great embarrassment in your future. A box of X-rated fortune cookies was mistakenly delivered to a fundraiser hosted by a Brooklyn politician.

The 350 cookies stuffed with "the most graphically lurid" fortunes got mixed up with a batch of 1,750 cookies ordered for the Chinese New Year event, Borough President Marty Markowitz said Friday. Some guests "were stunned, to say the least."

The annual event — to raise money to send poor children to summer camp — was attended by some 700 guests Tuesday evening, but only about 80 were still there when the dirty cookies were opened, Markowitz said.

The borough president was on the second floor of the two-level restaurant when a guest "yelled to me from the first floor: 'Marty, did you order these cookies? Did you see what's inside them? I think you better get your butt down here!'" Markowitz said.

Markowitz, who was not wearing his glasses, had the "fortunes" read to him by some of the guests.

"I'm sure they were meant for a raunchy bachelor party," he said. "They were not cutesy. Triple X to say the least."

He said his office had given the restaurant 10 slogans about Brooklyn to insert into the fortune cookies, and 1,400 were delivered correctly.

They contained such G-rated boosterisms as: "Brooklyn — The 10th Planet," "Brooklyn — it's more than a freakin' tree," and "Brooklyn — it's like an everything bagel."

Stolen climbing wall recovered

3 MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Worrying about thieves is nothing new for retail stores, but Outdoors Inc. thought its 6,000-pound, 30-foot-tall rock-climbing wall was safe. It wasn't.

Someone made off with the \$30,000 wall used for rock climbing Wednesday morning, but it was recovered Friday at a lot near the Memphis airport, The Commercial Appeal reported.

The wall was snatched from a storage lot used by Outdoor Inc., which rents the wall to organizers of outdoors events and festivals. The wall, painted gray to resemble rock, is dotted with raised handholds climbers hang on to.

"I don't know what to think," co-owner Lawrence Migliara said. "Why would someone steal that? I just didn't know that wall was that desirable, to take that much of a risk."

An employee with the Memphis-Shelby County Airport Authority had seen the wall near the airport earlier, but did not call police until he heard news it had been stolen.

"I thought it was kind of weird," David Sinclair said. "That's not something you see every day. But I didn't really think much about it until I learned it was stolen."

Migliara said Thursday that he had received a tip that the wall was spotted being towed on a highway near Little Rock, Ark., but it was unclear Friday if the wall ever made it outside Memphis.

The owner of an auto body shop near the airport also called police Friday.

"I think it's absolutely hilarious for somebody to steal that," Samuel Harston said.

Woman delivers baby in a toilet

4 LITTLETON, Colo. — A premature baby survived after being delivered in a toilet, police said.

"I just had a baby," Salina Newman told the operator when she dialed emergency services Tuesday, according to transcripts released to the media on Thursday. "I was only six months pregnant and I went to the restroom and the baby is in the toilet."

Littleton police officer Bob Carmody said when he arrived at the apartment, Newman told him the baby had been miscarried.

"I looked in the toilet bowl and I could see movement, and the baby was enclosed in the sac and everything," Carmody told Denver television stations. He pulled the baby out of the toilet with rubber gloves.



"I could see the hair, the hands up by the face, and parts of the legs and stuff, but I didn't take a lot of time to look at it. I just made sure and covered up the blanket."

Another officer ran down three flights of stairs to paramedics who had just arrived.

The baby girl, named Nevaeh (heaven spelled backwards), weighed 1.5 pounds and was taken to Littleton Adventist Hospital, where she's expected to remain until she reaches 6 pounds, police said.

Woman whistles through her toes

5 NEW YORK — One Oklahoma woman might get cold feet if she comes to New York and tries to hail a cab. But Betty Bell will have to do just that if she's going to whistle.

Bell has the unique ability to whistle with her toes in her mouth.

Bell said it all started when she was 14 and trying to learn how to whistle. "And I said I wonder if I can whistle with them because I wasn't having any luck with my fingers and so I tried it and it worked!" she said.

Bell, who once won \$1,000 in a mall contest, is hoping that she will win a spot on the stupid human tricks segment on David Letterman's "Late Show." She will compete against five people for a chance to appear on the show.

Thieves take 186 tux jackets, no shirts

6 FORT SMITH, Ark. — Police can't classify a break-in at Beau's Tuxedos as a white-collar crime: the thieves stole only tux jackets.

The burglars broke into two vans early Wednesday at the parking lot of the store on busy Rogers Avenue. Missing were 186 black tuxedo jackets. No shirts or any other items were taken, Fort Smith police spokesman Sgt. Jarrard Copeland said Thursday.

"It's kind of an odd one," Copeland said.

Copeland said it was unclear what inspired the theft, but he hopes the thieves are conspicuous.

"Somebody has them (the tuxes) and somebody is trying to get rid of them," he said. "We hope somebody drops a dime."

FEMA does not continue paying for hotel rooms

By Mary Foster
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — A judge let the federal government Monday drop some 12,000 families made homeless by last year's hurricanes from a program that has put them up at hotels nationwide.

FEMA has promised the evacuees from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita that they will still receive federal assistance that they can use toward hotel stays or fixing their ruined homes, although the agency will no longer pay for the hotels directly.

Attorneys for the evacuees tried to get U.S. District Judge Stanwood Duval to issue a temporary restraining order, saying the forthcoming

money from FEMA won't be enough for reasonable living accommodations or for hotel stays.

"We have provided the court with statements from people showing they have not been treated fairly by FEMA," Bill Quigley, who filed the motion with civil rights attorney Tracie Washington, said before Monday's ruling.

Stanwood denied the request a day after the attorneys delivered the request to his home.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is stopping payment for hotel rooms across the country for 12,000 families made homeless by last year's storms.

About 10,500 families, or 88 percent, have received rent-assistance checks from FEMA, said Libby Turner, the agency's transitional housing director. The cash can be used to pay for an apartment or to continue their hotel stays. It also can be put toward fixing their ruined homes.

Monday marks the second wave of evacuees losing FEMA financing of their hotel rooms. Last week, the occupants of roughly 4,500 rooms lost FEMA funding for failing to register with the agency.

In Louisiana, officials offered shelters to those leaving the hotels, but according to FEMA, only one family needed sheltering.

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

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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.

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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.

Campus banners share black history facts

By Brandee A. Thomas
Staff writer

Have you ever been in class and the point broke on your pencil mid-sentence?

Well, if it wasn't for a black inventor named J.L. Love, who invented the pencil sharpener in 1897, you would have to throw that pencil away and buy a new one.

Do you remember those hot summer days when nothing was more refreshing than a water gun fight? Remember how fun neon orange and

green Super Soaker water guns were? Well, here's something you may not know, they were invented by a black man named Lonnie Johnson.

You may or may not have known these black history facts, but if it's left up to Alpha Phi Omega, you will learn these and more before the month is over.

Alpha Phi Omega is a campus service fraternity that is a part of a larger, international network of chapters. And for Black History Month, the organization has adopted a project

to enlighten the Georgia Southern community.

Members of Alpha Phi Omega have chosen to create sheet signs with little known black history facts on them and display them all over campus. So far, signs can be seen in the trees near the Union and Health Services.

According to Tyrone McBride, who is the president of the GSU chapter of Alpha Phi Omega, the purpose of their salute to black history was to make it more tangible to students.

"We searched the Internet for Black History facts that most people aren't aware of," McBride said. "We wanted to show people how Black History relates to their lives, not just in February, but everyday."

Senior public relations major Ayanna Luke thinks that the signs are a great idea. "I think the sheet signs are a creative and innovative way of bringing history to life," she said. "People know that it is Black History Month, but many never really take the time to acknowledge it."

This project, which was organized by Alpha Phi Omega member Amanda Knight, will be on display for the entire month of February and will grow as the month progresses.

So next time you walk around campus, look in the trees because these days knowledge seems to be growing on them.

And the next time you turn a door knob, eat a potato chip, or throw your clothes in the dryer remember that these were all inventions of Black innovators.

Rebekah Rotton crowned Miss GSU 2006

By Ashley Ferguson
Staff writer

Miss Georgia Southern 2006 was crowned Saturday night at the "Havana Nights" themed Performing Arts Center. Rebekah Rotton was named the 58th Miss GSU. She won the \$1,500 scholarship and \$500 worth of salon packages – and even dry cleaning packages – to help her prepare for the Miss Georgia Pageant in June in Columbus, GA.

Rotton said just before the winner of the pageant was announced she was ecstatic.

"I was about to hyperventilate," she said. "I was very shocked, and I'm not sure it's all really sunk in."

"I've always wanted to be Miss GSU," she said. "I have lots of pride in GSU, and I'm honored to be able to hold this position."

This year will be the second time Rotton has participated in the Miss Georgia Pageant, though she does not consider herself a pageant girl.

"These pageants are good for the scholarships, and I've met a lot of really good friends, but I'm not the typical 'pageant girl'."

Rotton was in the Miss Georgia Pageant in 2004 after she won the Miss

North Georgia Mountain preliminary pageant when she was a student at Breanu University. "I'm excited to participate in the Miss Georgia Pageant again," Rotton said. "But this year, it will be on TV, so that gives it a little more of a time crunch."

The pageant opened up with a dance number by Miss GSU 2005, Leslie Culbertson, followed by an introduction of the contestants by the Master of Ceremonies, Tony Rouse. There were three sets of competition groups: Yellow Roses, Orange Roses and Red Roses.

In each set, the contestants alternated between the talent, swimsuit and casual wear competitions. The talent varied from poetry readings to dance; the casual wear competition also contained the On-Stage Question where contestants were asked why they chose their platform and then another referring to a personal experience.

A new addition to the pageant program was the People's Choice Award, which went to Melissa Wright. Audience members paid \$1 to vote for the woman they wanted to win. People were able to vote more than once, but had to pay for every time they voted. All the money is going into the scholarship fund for next year's pageant.

While the judges tallied their scores, Rouse kept the audience in high spirits by doing prize giveaways and telling a few jokes with the help of one or two audience members.

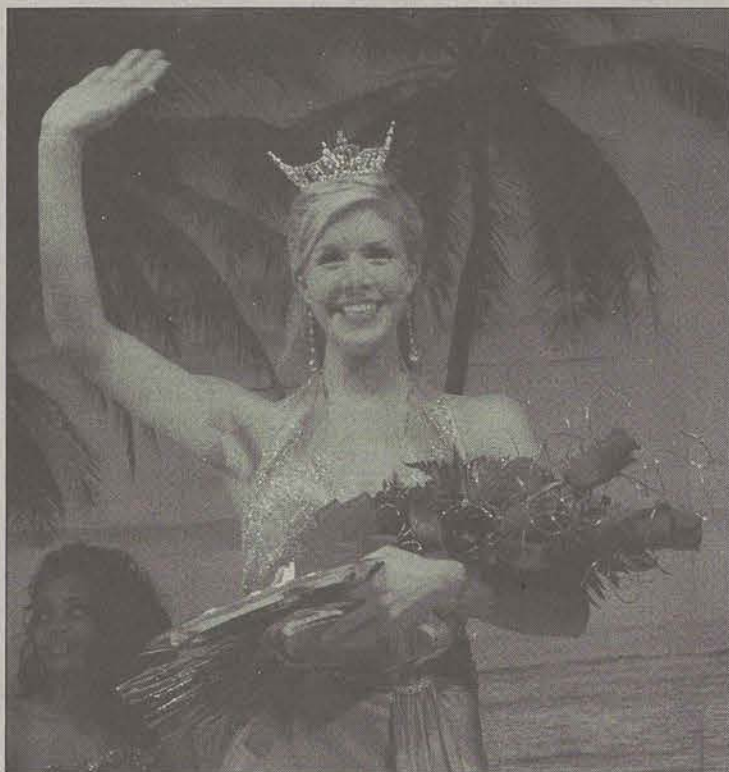
Culbertson gave her Farewell Walk before crowning the new Miss GSU.

There were awards for other achievements throughout the pageant such as Sales and Marketing, won by Victoria Parrish, and Miss Congeniality, awarded to Ronnisha Watson. The Swimsuit competition was given to Crystal Starling while Rebekah Rotton won in both Talent and the Private Interview.

The finalists were as follows: Ashley Harper, Erin Todd, Melissa Wright and Jessica Allen. Allen, as First Runner-up, will fill in as Miss GSU should the actual Miss GSU not be able to attend a competition or appearance.

Allen commented that she will continue competing and supporting promoting blood donation with her sisters of Zeta Tau Alpha. Rotton has chosen the American Diabetes Association as her platform.

"I chose this as my platform because my sister developed type I diabetes when she was six years old," Rotton said. "It's incurable, and it's something our family has had to deal with."



Jared Siri/STAFF

Rebekah Rotton waves to the crowd after she was crowned Miss Georgia Southern Saturday.

Currently, Rotton works with the Southeast Georgia school Walk for Diabetes.

"We go to area schools and have a day dedicated to diabetes awareness,"

she said.

"We teach the students about healthy proportions for meals, and ways to avoid sugars. We also talk to them about exercise."

Writers Needed

Interested in writing for The George-Anne? If so, contact our news editor at ganews@georgiasouthern.edu or call our the newsroom at 912-681-5246.



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Mon ~ Thu: 4pm ~ 2am
Fri ~ Sat: 4pm ~ 3am

CALENDAR

Tuesday, February 14

4 p.m.
Focus on Excellence Lecture Series in Nessmith-Lane Continuing Education Bldg. 2911

6 p.m.
Carnation Ball in Russell Union Room 1042

6:30 p.m.
Habitat for Humanity Meeting in Russell Union Room 2042

7 p.m.
GSU Debate Team Meeting in Russell Union Room 2073

7 p.m.
A Benefit Production of "The Vagina Monologues" at the Performing Arts Center. Tickets on sale at the Rotunda Feb. 6-10 and Feb. 13 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

9 p.m.
Swing Cats in Williams Center Room 2034

Wednesday, February 15

6 p.m.
SGA Meeting in Russell Union Room 2047

7 p.m.
NAACP General Body Meeting in Russell Union Room 2080

7 p.m.
Happy to Be Nappy in Russell Union Room 2047. Learn about and discuss the different perspectives of African Americans lives.

Thursday, February 16

8 a.m.
Timeshop: Wartime England in Nessmith-Lane Continuing Education Bldg.

5:30 p.m.
Mathematics Public Lecture in College of IT Room 1005

5:30 p.m.
International Club Meeting in Russell Union Room 2042

6 p.m.
African Student Association meeting in Russell Union Room 2047

POLICE BEAT

02-09-2006

- Kyle William Thompson, 18, of Olliff Hall, was charged with minor in possession/consumption of alcohol.
- A camera was taken from Winburn Hall.

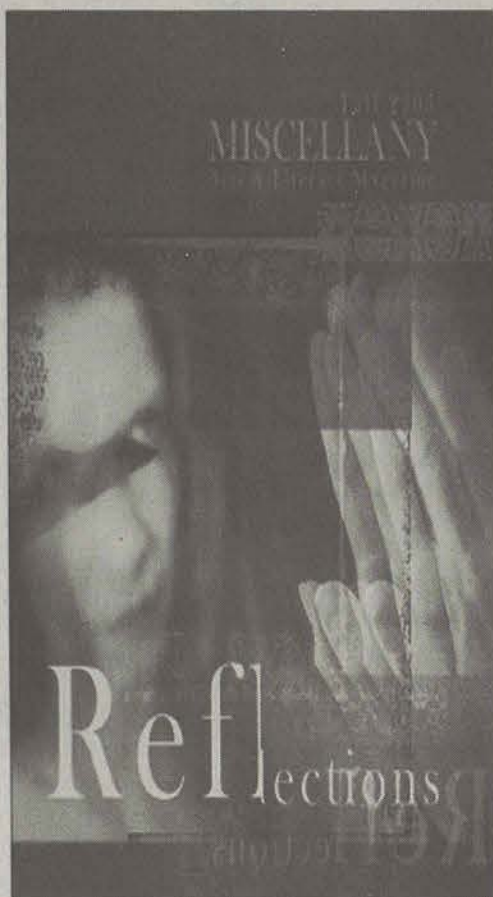
02-10-2006

- Latoya Quinncelle Lanier, 30, of Walden Way, Statesboro, was charged with speeding and driving with a suspended license.

Submit to the Miscellany Magazine of the Arts

1. PICK UP a submission packet in the following locations:

Library Front Desk
Writing Center
Art Building at G-A Newspaper rack
George-Anne Office
Miscellany Office



2. DROP OFF a submission packet in the following locations

Miscellany Office-William Center RM 2015
GSU Post Office

Deadline for all submissions is
March 6, 2006!

Remember a quality magazine depends on you!

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THE BIG STORY

Vice president Cheney shoots fellow hunter by accident

By Lynn Brezosky
Associated Press

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas — A 78-year-old hunting companion of Vice President Dick Cheney was recovering in stable condition Monday after Cheney accidentally shot him during a weekend quail hunting trip, a hospital official said.

Harry Whittington "rested well last night," said Peter Banko, hospital administrator at Christus Spohn Hospital Memorial. The hospital listed Whittington's condition as "very stable," he said.

Whittington, an Austin attorney, was flown to the hospital after Cheney accidentally shot him with birdshot Saturday at the Armstrong Ranch.

"It's not critical. It's not serious," Banko said at a morning briefing. He said admitting Whittington to the trauma-intensive care unit was "a fairly common procedure" for a patient hit by a spray of the small pellets.

Banko said he did not know when Whittington would be released.

No charges had been filed and reports on the incident were still pending Monday, said Sandra Guzman, secretary for Kenedy County Sheriff Ramon Salinas III.

The local prosecutor's office had not been contacted, said Carlos Valdez, district attorney for a three-county district that includes Nueces, Kleberg and Kenedy counties.

The accident was not reported publicly by the vice president's office for nearly 24 hours, and then only after the Corpus Christi Caller-Times reported it Sunday, Cheney spokeswoman Lea Anne McBride said the vice president's office did not tell reporters about the accident Saturday because they were deferring to the ranch owner to announce what happened on her property.

Hunting parties are not required



AP Photo/Andrew Price

Austin attorney Harry Whittington stands in a committee room at the Texas Capitol building in a photo from July 15 in Austin, Texas. Vice President Dick Cheney accidentally shot and wounded Whittington on Saturday during a weekend quail hunting trip in Texas, spraying the fellow hunter in the face and chest with shotgun pellets. Whittington was "alert and doing fine" in a Corpus Christi hospital Sunday, said Katharine Armstrong, the hunting property's owner.

to report accidents, said state Parks and Wildlife spokesman Tom Harvey. The state penal code requires people to report fatalities, which would be investigated by law enforcement.

Presidential spokesman Scott McClellan said Monday that Bush and senior aides were told Saturday night by the staff of the White House Situation Room that somebody in the Cheney's hunting party was shot, but he said he was not told until Sunday morning that Cheney was the shooter. He said he contacted the vice president's office about making the information public.

The vice president visited Whittington and his wife before returning to Washington on Sunday. Cheney "was pleased to see that he's doing fine and in good spirits," said McBride said.

Ranch owner Katharine Armstrong said each hunter was wearing a bright orange vest, and Parks and Wildlife Department spokesman Steve Lightfoot said Cheney had a valid hunting license obtained in November.

Armstrong told The Associated Press the vice president was using a 28-gauge shotgun, and Whittington was about 30 yards away.

Armstrong said Whittington went to retrieve a bird he shot while Cheney and a third hunter, whom she would not identify, walked to another spot and discovered a second covey of quail.

Whittington "came up from behind the vice president and the other hunter and didn't signal them or indicate to them or announce himself," said Armstrong.

Weekly Eagle Buzz



Today

7pm in Russell Union-Room 2052- Committee Meeting- SOUNDSTAGE PRODUCTIONS-Eagle Entertainment

Wednesday, February 15th

7pm in Russell Union-Room 2071- Committee Meeting-MAXIMUM EXPOSURE-Eagle Entertainment

Thursday, February 16th

7pm in the Russell Union Theatre, "Glory" will be shown. A dramatic account of the American Civil War's first all-Black regiment starring Denzel Washington. BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROGRAM-Multicultural Student Center

Friday, February 17th

4pm in the Office of Student Activities - \$200 of Miami Spring Break money due for trip.

Saturday, February 18th

CRI is sponsoring a, "NIRSA 5K Fun Run/Walk" on Feb. 18, 2006 at 8:30 a.m.

At the CRI Pavilion. Contact Angie Frederick at 681-5436 or www.StateboroPacers.com with any questions. This fast 5K course runs through Georgia Southern University's scenic campus and has only mild changes in elevation. Sponsored by: The Eleventh Hour, Statesboro Herald, CRI, Coca-Cola, Chick-fil-a, Maraco Press, and the U.N.I.T.Y. Teen Advisory Board. \$15 early registration, \$20 registration Feb 14-18th, \$10 student (with ID), \$2 discount for Statesboro Pacers

Monday, February 20th

6:30pm in Russell Union-Room 2042-Committee Meeting- PROMOTIONS-Eagle Entertainment

Ongoing events:

The Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC) reminds all students served by their office about early registration between February 13th-February 17th. Please do so by appointment only. You can contact Julie Kozee at 871-1566 or jakozee@georgiasouthern.edu for more information.

Be on the Homecoming 2006 Steering Committee! Applications are now available. You can stop by the Office of Student Activities (RU 1056) and get an application or you can download one off the website at www.georgiasouthernhomecoming.com. Be a part of GSU tradition!! Join in on the fun!

Southern Ambassador Recruitment will take place from 02/13/06-03/10/06. Contact Robert Meguiar at 681-5467 or robeme@georgiasouthern.edu with any questions. Southern Ambassadors are currently recruiting new members for the 2006-2007 academic year. Applications may be picked up at the Student Activities Office- Union Room 1058, Eagle Village Clubhouse Information Desk, Greek Life Office in the Union, or at the Office of Admissions in Lewis Hall. Application deadline is Friday, March 10, 2006. Applications must be delivered to Lewis Hall on Sweetheart Circle by 5 pm. Apply online at <http://admissions.georgiasouthern.edu/southernambassador>



Upcoming events:

Career Services is sponsoring a, "Dining for Success" on February 21, 2006 from 5:30pm-8:30pm in the Nessmith-Lane Southern Ballroom. Contact Amy Rowell at 681-5197 or awilliams@georgiasouthern.edu with any questions. Juniors & Seniors...the registration deadline for Dining for Success is February 14th. Be sure to turn in your registration and deposit to Career Services to reserve your seat. The event allows you to network with employers and learn proper dining etiquette. \$20 refundable deposit.

February 21st at 7pm in the Russell Union Ballroom- Mr. GSU Scholarship Pageant. Free admission. Sponsored by: Eagle Entertainment.

Eagle Entertainment Spring Break trip!! Sign up today. March 12-17, 2006 in sunny Miami Beach, Florida. Call 486-7270 for more information. \$350.00 includes five nights in oceanfront hotel and roundtrip bus transportation.

Financial Aid Awareness Month:

Wednesday Feb. 15, 2006 - Learn How to Work Through Wings -Financial Aid Information COBA Lab Room # 1119 from 2pm-3pm

Come Fill Out Your 2006-2007 FAFSA - Anderson Hall Computer Lab from 5pm-7pm
**Bring Tax information

Monday Feb. 20, 2006 - General Questions about Financial Aid - College of Education 12pm-1pm

Tuesday Feb. 21, 2006 - General Questions about Financial Aid
School of Nursing Connector 12pm-1pm

Know the new HOPE changes and how to keep HOPE! Union Rm. 2048 @ 2pm

Wednesday Feb. 22, 2006 - Come Fill Out Your 2006-07 FAFSA - Anderson Hall Computer Lab from 4pm-6pm **Bring tax information

Thursday Feb. 23, 2006 - Will I have money for Summer? Union Concessions from 12pm-2pm

Georgia Southern University Sexual Assault Awareness Week:

March 6 - March 9, 2006 - Clothesline Project

Survivors of sexual and domestic violence are invited to decorate an appropriately colored shirt that will then be displayed on the clothesline in the University Rotunda (behind Russell Union.) Previous years displays can be viewed in the RAC and Russell Union.

March 7, 2006, 12 - 1:00 pm - Adjudicating Sexual Assault Cases

Bulloch County Judicial Annex, Boardroom

Legal and Law enforcement personnel are invited to this special workshop presented by Brett Sokolow, JD, Founder of the National Center for Higher Education Risk Management.

March 7, 2006, 7 - 8pm - Drunk Sex or Date Rape: Can you tell the difference?

Presented by Brett Sokolow, J.D. - Nesmith-Lange Continuing Education Auditorium

This chilling presentation presents the audience with facts of an actual court case. The audience is then given the opportunity to rule as to whether or not a sexual assault had been committed. The real life outcome is revealed and legal points explained by an expert in the field of sexual assault adjudication.

March 9, 2006 5:30 pm - Take Back the Night March & Rally

Beginning at Hanner Field House and ending at University Rotunda

This international annual event raises awareness for each community's dedication to eradicating sexually and domestically violent crimes. Come add your presence! Free t-shirts and give-a- ways to the first 150 participants. The march is immediately followed by a rally including victims' testimonials and guest speakers.

March 9, 2006 6:30 pm Candlelight Vigil, University Rotunda

Candles will be lit in memory of those lost through sexual and domestic violence. The 2006 Clothesline project will be dismantled.

**Brought To The Eagle Nation Each Week By The Division
of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management**

Quick, what's new

IN GEORGIA

Authorities await results from hair sample found on 8-year-old girl

CARROLLTON — Test results from a single hair could help verify an 18-year-old boy's confession in the strangulation of an 8-year-old neighbor girl, a crime for which a 14-year-old boy is already serving time. Investigators examined DNA and hair samples taken from the body of Amy Yates, who was slain in April 2004. District Attorney Pete Skandalakis confirmed that the DNA results didn't match the younger teen who was sentenced in a youth detention center for two years. Skandalakis said they're waiting to see if the one hair sample found matches the 18-year-old boy, who is mentally disabled.

Construction to begin on Georgia sea turtle rehab center

SAVANNAH — In the six years wildlife veterinarian Terry Nolan has treated sea turtles that wash up on Georgia's beaches injured by fish hooks, shark bites or from eating plastic bags, he's had to send those needing long-term treatment to clinics in Florida and South Carolina. Georgia is the only state on the southeastern U.S. coast without a hospital for threatened and endangered sea turtles, but that's about to change. Construction will begin later this month on the Georgia Sea Turtle Center, a \$2.6 million rehab and research facility on Jekyll Island.

THE REGION

Alabama arson investigators wary of repeated SUV sightings at fires

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Agents trying to solve 10 church arsons in Alabama are reminding themselves of a lesson learned during the Washington-area sniper shootings, when a white van turned into a red herring for investigators. Back in 2002, public attention became riveted on white vans as witnesses reported seeing the big, boxy vehicles near spots where shootings were occurring. The two suspects were finally captured in something entirely different — a blue Chevrolet Caprice. In the fire investigation, agents are worried that repeated sightings of dark-colored sport-utility vehicles near burning churches may be misleading. After one was seen outside a church the night the string of blazes began, witnesses at later fires may have been focusing too narrowly on SUVs, agents say.

Virginia detectives allowed to have sex with prostitution suspects

SPOTSYLVANIA, Va. — Undercover detectives working for the sheriff's office in Spotsylvania County were allowed to receive sexual services at massage parlors as part of efforts targeting prostitution. "If I thought we could get the conviction without that, we wouldn't allow it," Sheriff Howard D. Smith told The Washington Post, which on Monday reported on the policy. The practice stunned legal observers and other police officials.

Rising fuel costs have TVA considering midyear electric rate hike

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — The Tennessee Valley Authority on Monday will consider its first midyear electric rate increase in at least 25 years. The anticipated hike comes barely four months after TVA last boosted prices in response to escalating fuel costs.

THE NATION

Millions in Katrina aid squandered, auditors say

WASHINGTON — The government squandered millions of dollars in Katrina disaster aid and much of the money is gone forever, federal auditors say. Audits found that up to 900,000 of the 2.5 million applicants who received aid under FEMA's emergency cash assistance program were based on duplicate or invalid Social Security numbers, or false addresses and names.

THE WORLD

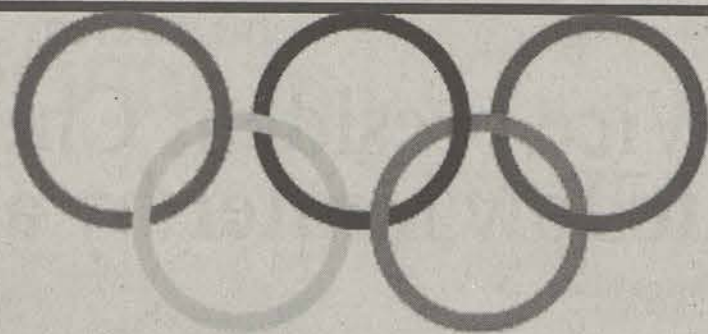
First documentary evidence against Saddam presented at trial

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Prosecutors try to link Saddam Hussein directly to torture and executions, producing documents with his orders and handwriting and putting one of his closest confidants on the stand. Saddam and his co-defendants are forced to attend the stormy session, with Saddam appearing in a traditional Arab robe instead of his usual suit and shouting "Down with Bush!"

SPORTS

U.S. Olympic snowboarders
take top two spots

SNOWBOARDERS, P.7



Eric Powell

OREGONIAN OUTCRY

One last shot

Sports help to create many of the clichés that we as a society take advantage of in our language on a day-to-day basis.

One of the most commonly used of these comes when a player is nearing the end of his or her playing days.

At this point of the year, much of the talk is about whether or not Brett Favre should retire, or try to lace it up one more time.

When making my decision on whether or not to support Favre in his return to football, or to argue for his retirement and the preservation of his legacy, I need only look at what occurred in my own personal life this past weekend.

A relationship is much like a football career.

At first it is new to you and everyone is excited about this newfound stage to showcase your talents and interests for the whole world to see.

After a while you start arguing over finances and you even begin alienating yourself from the people closest to you and those who have helped you throughout your journey.

Finally you start to slip, and what once was an amazing rush of excitement turns methodical and you can't perform as well as you once could.

Cut to two years ago: a young love has blossomed, but I have to move to Georgia and subsequently end the relationship and shed a few tears in the process.

That should have been the end of my playing days.

I should have looked at the move as a career-ending injury and never stepped back on the field again.

But I had to try to make it for one more season.

I saw her again Friday night.

The analysts talked of how I was washed up, and that there was no way I could compete with the boyfriend she has had for the past year and a half.

But I still loved the game.

I went out there and played my heart out.

We went from bar to bar and began talking closer and closer.

Closing time came; the fourth quarter.

Could I pull out this miracle comeback and defy the odds?

I awoke in the morning on a small leather couch in my friend's apartment.

My head was spinning, my mind was racing, and although I was without a blanket and shivering frantically, there she was sleeping right next to me, keeping me warm.

I had won the game.

But it wasn't what I had expected.

I had to drop her off a block and a half from her house so her boyfriend didn't see who she was riding with.

The person I had left on that fateful yet memorable day two years ago had been reduced to a casual weekend hookup.

Why couldn't I have just retired when I was on top of my game?

I had great memories of my career, and I had almost left the way Jordan should have: crossing over B. Russell in the Finals, rather than berating Kwame Brown in a Wizards uniform.

I do not know Brett Favre personally, but I do know this: I tarnished what was once a pleasant memory of mine for one more run at glory.

Favre needs to retire and cherish those memories from his football career that he now possesses.

Who knows, maybe he can find a different career path in his post-football days as a broadcaster or farmer.

I know I met a cute blonde the next night who I've been talking to and I'm beginning to forget about my past career already.

Oh, and by the way, I want to wish her and her boyfriend a Happy Valentine's Day.



Eric Powell is a graduate student in school counseling from Oregon. His sports column will appear every Tuesday in the George-Anne.

Eagles claw Cougars

GSU News Service

Elton Nesbitt scored 30 points, while teammate Louis Graham added 16 points and 13 rebounds leading Georgia Southern to a 91-79 win over College of Charleston at John Kresse Arena on Monday.

With the win, the Eagles improved to a league-best 18-7 overall and 9-3 in conference play.

The Eagles' 91 points is the most points ever scored by an opponent at Kresse Arena.

GSU, which led 33-30 at intermission, used a 27-10 run to grab a 44-34 lead with 16:53 left on a pair of free throws by Nesbitt.

Graham's jumper with 3:26 left gave the Eagles their largest lead at 83-69.

The Eagles shot 48.4 percent from the floor for the game hitting 30-of-62 attempts, including 47.1 percent from three-point land (8-17).

The Cougars, who held a slight 41-40 rebounding edge, shot 42.0

percent (29-69).

Thirteen of Nesbitt's points came in the second half.

He finished the night with four three pointers and was 10-of-11 from the charity stripe.

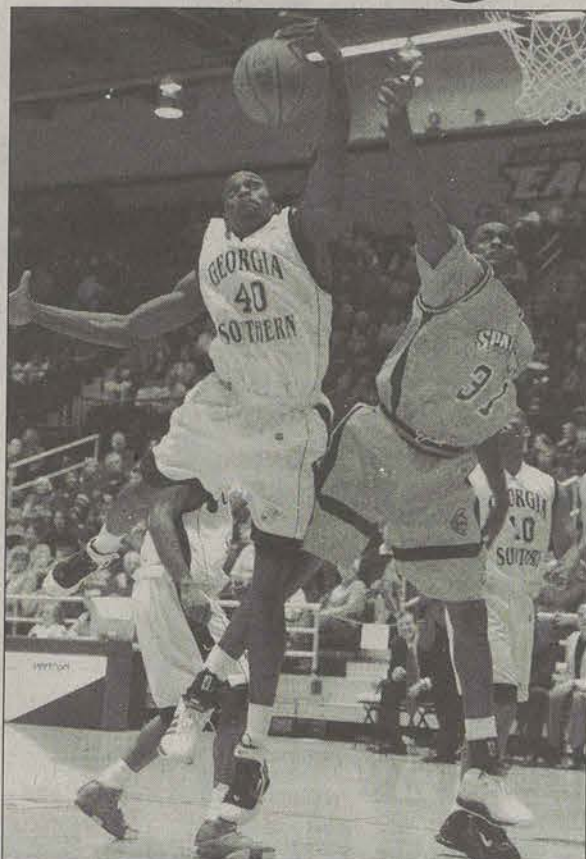
Donte Gennie added 15 points for GSU, while teammate Will Dunn scored 13 points off the bench.

For Charleston, Josh Jackson and Jermaine Johnson had 14 and 11 points each, respectively.

The Cougars got a team-high 25 points from Dontaye Draper, while David Lawrence added a team-high 11 rebounds.

The Eagles travel to Spartanburg on Saturday as they face Wofford. Tip-off is set for 7 p.m.

The game will be broadcast on 106.5 FM and 107.3 FM in Statesboro, with the pre-game show with GSU play-by-play announcer Ricky Ray and color analyst Frank Kerns beginning at 6:45 p.m.



Jared Siri/Staff

Louis Graham finished with a double-double in Monday night's win over CoC with 16 points and 13 rebounds. The Eagles will try to extend their winning streak Saturday as they face off against the Wofford Terriers.

SoCon Men Standings as of 2/11

STANDINGS	North Division	W-L	W-L
Elon	8-3	12-12	
Chattanooga	6-5	15-11	
Western Carolina	5-5	11-14	
UNC Greensboro	4-7	11-14	
Appalachian State	4-7	10-14	

STANDINGS South Division

STANDINGS	W-L	W-L
Ga. Southern	8-3	17-7
Davidson	7-4	14-9
Coll. of Charleston	7-4	14-8
Furman	6-5	13-10
Wofford	5-6	10-14
The Citadel	0-11	7-17

SoCon Women Standings as of 2/11

STANDINGS	W-L	W-L
Chattanooga	14-0	20-3
Davidson	9-5	13-10
UNC Greensboro	8-6	12-11
Charleston	7-7	10-12
Appalachian St.	7-7	11-12
Ga. Southern	6-8	9-14
Elon	6-8	11-12
Western Carolina	5-9	5-18
Furman	5-9	9-15
Wofford	3-11	7-16

Soccer gets eight new recruits

GSU News Service

Eight student-athletes have committed to Georgia Southern to play women's soccer, announced head coach Ashley Hart this week.

Joining the team next fall are Elissa Botts, Lauren Crossan, Liesl Jenkins, Niki Lepper, Allison Reed, Heather Smith, Laura Smith and Mallory Springfield.

Botts is a native of Grovetown, Ga., and attends Harlem High School. A two-time Augusta Chronicle All-Area forward, Botts was also named to the All-Columbia County First Team and in her prep career has totaled over 90 goals. She helped lead the Bulldogs to region titles in 2003 and 2004, reaching the state quarterfinals each season. Botts plays for the ASA Elite U19 club team.

Crossan, from Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., stars as an outside midfielder at Nease High School and for the Indiatlantic Force club team. Crossan has been named All-County after each of the last three seasons and posted 18 goals and 14 assists as Nease captured the 2005 AAAA state championship. Crossan and Indiatlantic Force were Region III state cup finalists. From 2001-05 she was a member of the state Olympic Development Program.

Jenkins plays midfield for Bishop Kenny High School in Jacksonville, Fla. and has helped lead the Crusaders to three straight district championships and region semifinal appearances. Jenkins scored 14 goals with 16 assists her senior season. Her club teams are Clay County U18 and Creeks Clash U18. Jenkins also excelled in cross country and track, earning All-District and All-Conference honors, and winning district and regional championships, and was the 2003 AAAA state runner-up.

Lepper, a center midfielder from Carmel, Ind., has competed for the Carmel United Soccer Club since 1998. With the CUSC Craze, she helped capture the Orange Classic championship and went undefeated at the Raleigh Shootout in 2004 and 2005. Lepper was also a member of the Indiana state Olympic Development Pool.

Reed is a three-time team MVP and team captain at Evans High School. The midfielder played club soccer for the Patriots U19 team from 2002-05 and with the ASA U19 this year.

Heather Smith, a native of Kingwood, Texas, starts at outside back for Kingwood High School and the Texas Wave club team. Her KHS squad is ranked No. 6 in the nation by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America. She has been a member

of the Wave since 2000, which has competed in the Texas Premier League starting in 2004. A member of the state ODP pool in 2004 and 2005, she and the Wave placed third in the TPL in the fall of 2004.

Laura Smith comes to Statesboro from Buford, Ga. where she is a center midfielder for Mill Creek High School the Concorde Fire. Smith was twice named team MVP and in 2005 was tabbed to the Gwinnett Daily Post All-County Scholar-Athlete team. With the Fire, she was a part of a State Cup finalist squad in 2005 and won the Atlanta Cup championship.

Springfield, from Marietta, Ga., led Lassiter High School in scoring her freshman and junior seasons, advancing to the state tournament quarterfinals in 2005. That same year she was named Most Valuable Offensive Player. Springfield was also a member of the Concorde Fire from 2002-05 and served as team captain.

"I'm excited about our 2006 class," said Hart. "These players have played at high levels with their club teams and their ODP teams. They will meet some of our immediate positional needs and provide some much needed depth for our young team. This is a dynamic group that I hope will make their presence known right away. It should make for an exciting season next year."

Softball splits with FAMU

GSU News Service

Georgia Southern senior Sam Steiner hit one of five GSU home runs on the afternoon, setting a new GSU career long-ball record as the Eagles split a softball doubleheader Sunday afternoon with Florida A&M. The Rattlers took game one 7-6 and GSU won game two 11-2.

Four of the five roundtrippers came in the second game. Junior Maria Laurato hit two, both in game two, while senior Gina Sterchi and junior Aurora Johnson had one each.

Game 1

Down 1-0, FAMU crossed the plate four times in the second inning, taking advantage of three GSU walks.

Freshman Ashley Smith drove in the first run with a single and a bases-loaded walk to junior Nakendra Jones gave the Rattlers the lead.

Freshman Tiffany Johnson had the big hit of the inning with a two-run double down the left field line.

Florida A&M added an unearned run in the third, but GSU had one of the their own as well as an RBI groundout to cut the deficit down to 5-3.

Sophomore Alacia Stafford added two insurance runs in the fifth with a two-run homer.

Reliever Alicia Mitchell escaped further damage by striking out the

next two batters.

Despite getting runners in scoring position in their final two at-bats, the Eagles were unable to tie the score.

Senior Danielle Brown picked up the win for FAMU while Mitchell recorded the save. Sophomore Melissa Laliberte was tagged with the loss.

Game 2

GSU struck first on Laurato's first round-tripper of the game in the second inning and doubled its lead in the third on Sterchi's two-run homer.

Florida A&M halved the deficit in the fourth on back-to-back RBI singles by Stafford and James, but left the bases loaded.

A seven-run fourth inning ended the contest early, thanks in part to Steiner's two-run shot and Laurato's three-run bomb.

The rally was extended thanks to a throwing error on a strikeout that would have ended the inning and Laurato followed with the 10th long-ball of her career.

Steiner now has 17 career homers, besting the previous record of 16 set by Kim Griffin (2001-04).

Junior Logan Free got the win in relief, striking out four in 1.2 innings. Junior Destiny Gordon took the loss.

GSU (1-3) travels to Florida State Tuesday.



Grayson Hoffman/Staff

The Eagles travel to Tallahassee to face FSU on Saturday at 10 a.m.

Eagles In The Cold Against Georgia State

GSU News Service

The Georgia Southern Women's Tennis team fell to in-state rival Georgia State Sunday at the Piedmont Park Tennis Center, 5-2.

The Eagles had to battle winds and temperatures of near freezing in the defeat.

The Panthers of Georgia State came out early and took two of the three doubles matches to earn the first point.

The combo of senior Kim Wollett and freshman Molly Maddox won their doubles match at the No. 2 position, taking down Rachel Malina and

Brittany Smith of Ga. State.

In singles play, the Eagles (1-5) saw victories at the end of the order in the form of junior Heather Reynolds in the No. 5 spot, and from freshman Shea Huxtable at No. 6.

Reynolds took care of the Panthers' Diana Cardenas 6-0, 6-0 while Huxtable dispatched Brittany Smith of Georgia State 7-6, 4-6 (10-5).

The Women's Tennis team will travel to Tallahassee, Florida to battle with No. 54 Florida State University at the Scott Speicher Tennis Center on Saturday.

The match is set for 10 a.m.

Sutton takes leave of absence

By Kelly Kurt
Associated Press

Eddie Sutton may have coached his last game, a 35-year career possibly ending six victories short of 800 because of a traffic accident in which he was injured and cited for driving under the influence.

"After Friday's events, I know it is best to go on medical leave the remainder of the season to address my future health," he said. "It is very difficult to step away from the team. But I know they are in great hands."

Stillwater police cited Sutton after the accident but did not jail him on a complaint of driving under the influence because of a lack of physical evidence, the city's police chief said Monday.

Witnesses told police that shortly before the accident, Sutton was unsteady on his feet and struck his head after falling in the parking lot of Gallagher-Iba Arena before entering his vehicle.

Sutton refused an ambulance at that scene and insisted on driving, police reports show.

The results of blood tests, which could take six to eight weeks to receive, will show whether the coach was driving under the influence, Stillwater Chief Norman McNickle said.



AP Photo/Sue Ogrrocki

Oklahoma State basketball coach Eddie Sutton answers questions during media day in Stillwater, Okla. Stillwater police said Monday, that Sutton was cited with driving under the influence after a Friday, Feb. 10, 2006, traffic accident, a Tulsa newspaper reported.

The university said it would not comment on the DUI citation because of privacy and legal reasons.

When Sutton came to his alma mater in 1990, he acknowledged he had undergone treatment for a drinking problem and said "I've dealt with it."

Sutton has weathered other tough times to become the fifth winningest

men's coach in Division I history, trailing only Dean Smith (879), Adolph Rupp (876), Bob Knight (866) and Jim Phelan (830).

"I hope he's back next year. I mean this sincerely," Oklahoma coach Kelvin Sampson said. "I've never coached against a better coach than Eddie Sutton."

WINTER OLYMPICS 2006

U.S. snowboarders take gold

By Eddie Pells
Associated Press

When it comes to snowboarding, the Olympics are America's halfpipe and the rest of the world is just shredding in it.

That point was driven home again Monday, when Americans Hannah Teter won gold and Gretchen Bleiler won silver, adding more hardware to the two medals the U.S. men won the day before.

"USA. Representing," Bleiler said. "We're doing a good job. That's about all I can say."

Were it not for Norway's Kjersti Buass adding the run of her life, the Americans would have earned the sweep they almost had when Shaun White, Danny Kass and Mason Aguirre finished 1-2-4.

But Buass' run was worth the bronze and when Kelly Clark, the 2002

Olympic champion, slipped after her final jump — a tough, 900-degree spin — in an attempt to make the medal stand, she wound up 0.9 points short of third.

"All of Europe is depending on me," Buass said before taking off for her final run. "I got speed and tried to go big because they have so many tricks."

Indeed, at times, it really does seem unfair — Americans dominating a sport born and raised in their country and constantly refined there, too.

The move from fringe lifestyle sport to mainstream really took off in 2002, when the American men swept the halfpipe medals at the Salt Lake City Games, the first time the United States had done that in any winter sport in 46 years. That brought about a whole new wave of shredders — snowboarding's classic catch-all metaphor for powering through powder and tearing up halfpipes.

"I remember going to get my hair done" a few weeks after the U.S. sweep, Bleiler said. "The 60-year-old women in the salon were in there talking about snowboarding. It's not a cutthroat sport at all. We're all cheering each other on. Together, we're progressing the sport."

When Clark, Bleiler and Teter finished 1-2-3 in qualifying, it became clear the sweep would be America's to lose. Clark flew higher than anyone off the halfpipe, while Bleiler's landings were smoother and Teter's tricks were more tweaked up than anyone's.

Riding with the cords from her iPod dangling about, Teter scored a 44.6 on her first run to take the lead, an advantage that none of the other 11 riders could match.

It made her second trip, soaring through the pipe and into the sunshine of the Italian Alps, a victory lap — just like White's the day before.

After bouncing up and down and jiggling her legs at the top, she raised her hands, then scored a 46.4 on the strength of a frontside 540 followed by a frontside 900.

"I just kind of felt the same standing up there," Teter said. "It's like, 'Here we go again, another run on the pipe — but at the Olympics.' I just felt super positive."

The story of the top two finishers could easily be labeled, "Beauty and the Geek."

The 24-year-old Bleiler is no stranger to sexy photo shoots and could probably find a career in modeling when the snowboarding is over.

Her motivation for these Olympics came from the heartbreak of 2002, when she tied for the final spot on the Olympic team but lost out on the third tiebreaker. It made her journey to this point, and the success she finally enjoyed, a nerve-racking ride with a sweet conclusion.

Gretzky avoids gambling questions as Canadian hockey team arrives

By John Wawrow
Associated Press

Wayne Gretzky sidestepped questions about the gambling investigation that has engulfed him and his wife, and insisted Monday he won't distract the Canadian Olympic team despite a scandal that has shaken all of hockey.

Gretzky spoke for just 4 1/2 minutes in a news conference cut off by a Hockey Canada official when the NHL great repeatedly was asked about the integrity of the game.

"That's not for me to talk about," Gretzky said.

Gretzky's shoulders sagged at one point, and he reacted with a nervous laugh a couple of times. On several occasions, a team official said Gretzky would take only game-related questions.

"There's no story about me, that's what I keep trying to tell you. I'm not involved," Gretzky said.

This was Gretzky's final media availability before he left for Turin. The Canadian team was to fly from Toronto's Pearson International Airport after practice.

The Phoenix coach declined to take questions about a gambling ring that authorities said was financed by Coyotes assistant coach Rick Tocchet and allegedly took bets from Janet Jones.

"Not much really to add to what I said two days ago," Gretzky said after practice at a rink in suburban Toronto.

"Nothing for me to talk about. I'm not involved. It's been a hard week for my family."

"The only focus I have right now is this hockey team getting ready for the Olympic Games," he said.

Gretzky acknowledges the pressure on Canada to repeat as gold medalists.

"They're always under the microscope," he said. "We're a team that's always looked upon to winning gold



AP Photo/Aaron Harris

Wayne Gretzky arrives at the practice facility where Team Canada was practicing in Toronto, Monday February 13. Gretzky says the NHL gambling scandal won't be a distraction for Team Canada at the Turin Olympics.

medals. This will be no different."

New Jersey authorities announced charges last week against Tocchet, a New Jersey state trooper and another New Jersey man for running a nationwide sports gambling operation. State police said wagers, primarily on professional football, exceeded \$1.7 million in the five weeks leading to the Super Bowl. Tocchet is on an indefinite leave from the Coyotes.

Jones has not been charged with any crime but is expected to be subpoenaed to testify before a grand jury investigating gambling activity, attorneys said.

Canadian national team players arrived by bus in Mississauga, an hour east of Gretzky's hometown of Brantford in the early afternoon. About 100 fans cheered the players, and one fan held a poster-sized picture of Gretzky in a Los Angeles Kings uniform.

Cheek follows in hero's footsteps with Olympic gold

By Paul Newberry
Associated Press

Joey Cheek has never done things by the book. In the sixth grade, he insisted on reading *The Wall Street Journal* on the way to school. At 14, he watched Johann Olav Koss win three speedskating gold medals at the Lillehammer Olympics and decided that's what he wanted to do.

"There's only one problem," Cheek's mother told him at the time. "We live in North Carolina."

Cheek overcame that little obstacle on the way to a dominating victory Monday in the Olympic 500 meters. Then, in keeping with his unique approach to life, he said he would donate his \$25,000 U.S. Olympic Committee bonus to an organization run by Koss, with hopes of helping war-torn Africa.

Cheek was so committed to the idea that, just a few hours before the

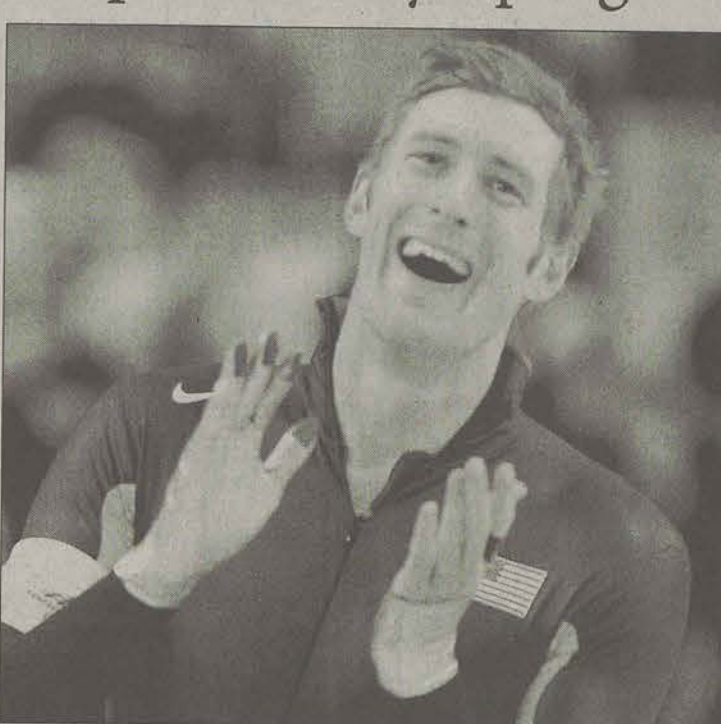
race, he went to the athletes' village office of Koss' group, Right To Play, to read up on some literature.

It was time well spent when Cheek skated the two best races of his life, posting a combined time that was 0.65 seconds ahead of the silver medalist, Russia's Dmitry Dorofeyev.

After the first race, Cheek initially misread the scoreboard, thinking his time was 35.37. Actually, that number belonged to Canada's Jeremy Wotherspoon, who skated in the adjoining lane.

Cheek flipped back the hood on his skinsuit and revealed a sheepish grin, as if he really couldn't believe he had skated so much faster than everyone else. When he returned a couple of hours later for the second 1 1/4-lap trip around the oval, all he had to do was avoid a fall.

"I don't want to jinx him," teammate Tucker Fredricks said, "but there's no way he's going to lose."



AP Photo/Matt Dunham

Joey Cheek reacts after competing in the men's 500 meter speedskating on Monday. Cheek won gold after finishing with the best time over two races.

MONDAY RECAP

Alpine skiing

American gold medal contender Lindsey Kildow somehow escaped serious injury in a frightening free-fall crash on her downhill training run, moments after defending Olympic champion Carole Montillet-Carles of France was hurt in a spectacular fall.

It was a day of crashes — four in all, including one that knocked Canadian Allison Forsyth out of the Olympics with a torn knee ligament.

Luge

U.S. luger Samantha Retrosi was injured following a frightening crash on the second run of the Olympic competition and was taken by helicopter to a hospital in Turin for observation.

Though she had a concussion and short-term memory loss, team officials said she wasn't seriously injured.

Team officials said Retrosi was complaining of knee pain and was cut on her chin.

Cross-country skiing

Four suspended cross-country skiers will get their chance at an Olympic medal, passing new tests administered after serving five-day suspensions for elevated levels of hemoglobin.

Two of the athletes cleared were Americans, another a German gold medalist. Now, eight more have to hope they get the same results.

Biathlon

Russia nearly swept the medals in the women's 15km individual biathlon after the favored Germans missed crucial shots at the end.

Svetlana Ishmouratova of Russia capitalized on mistakes by all the favorites, winning in a time of 49 minutes, 24.1 seconds. Teammate Olga Pyleva was second.

Ishmouratova's time included a one-minute penalty for her one missed target in 20 shots.

Figure skating

Tot and Max's Russian rout made the judges' jobs easy.

Tatiana Totmianina and Maxim Marinin eliminated any chance for controversy and kept their nation's domination of Olympic pairs going with a balletic free skate reminiscent of the greatest Russian couples.

A Russian or Soviet pair has won the gold medal every year since 1964, and this one was as good as any.

Elusive Olympic gold

U.S. figure skater Michelle Kwan's prolific resume boasts an impressive list of accomplishments, but no Olympic gold medals.



PHOTO: Kwan at a news conference on Sunday

Kwan's finishes in the top three

Olympic World U.S.	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1994			
1995			
1996			
1997			
1998			
1999			
2000			
2001			
2002			
2003			
2004			
2005			
Golds	0	5	9

NOTE: In 1994, Kwan was the world junior champion and an alternate on the U.S. Olympic team, but did not compete.

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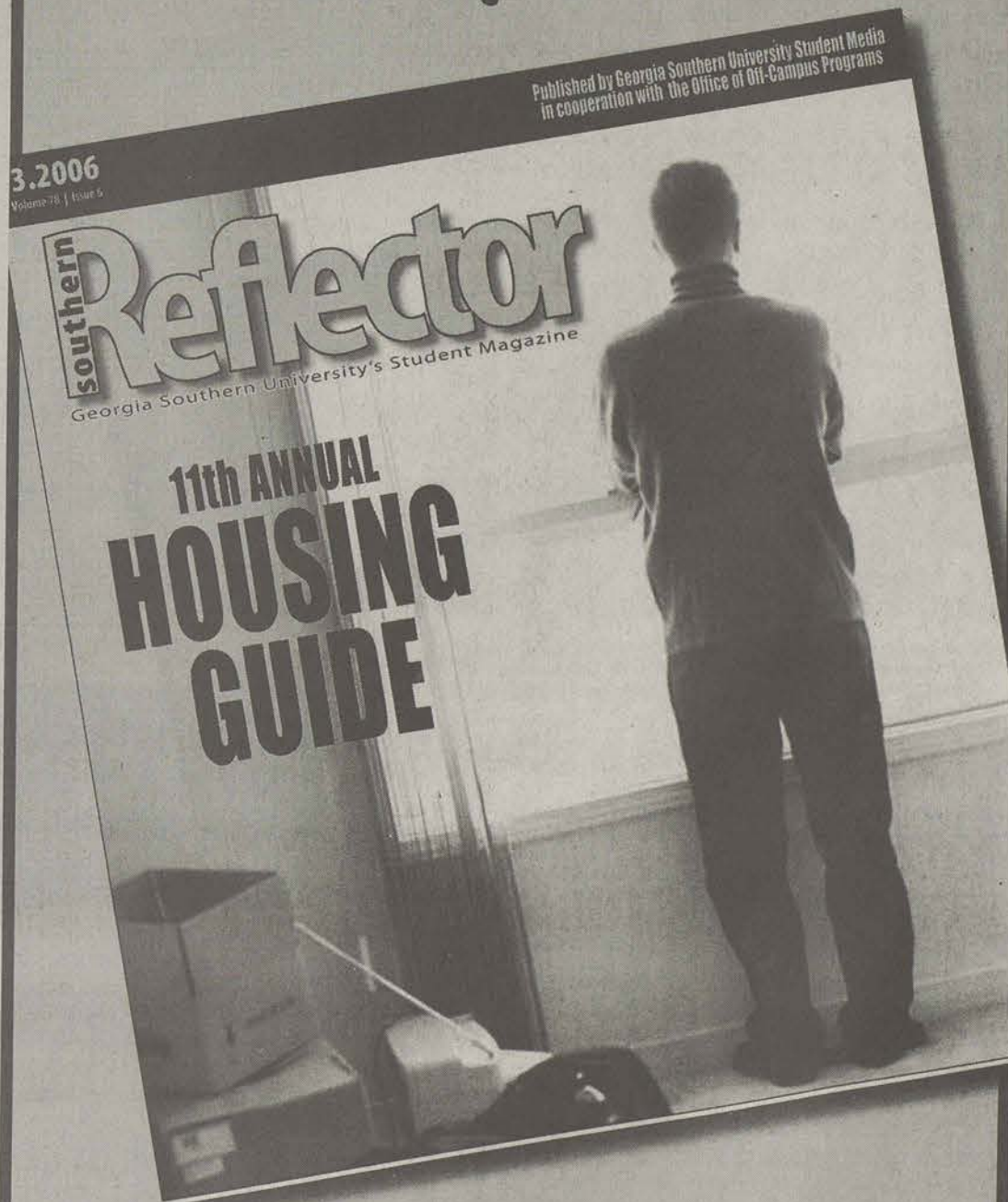
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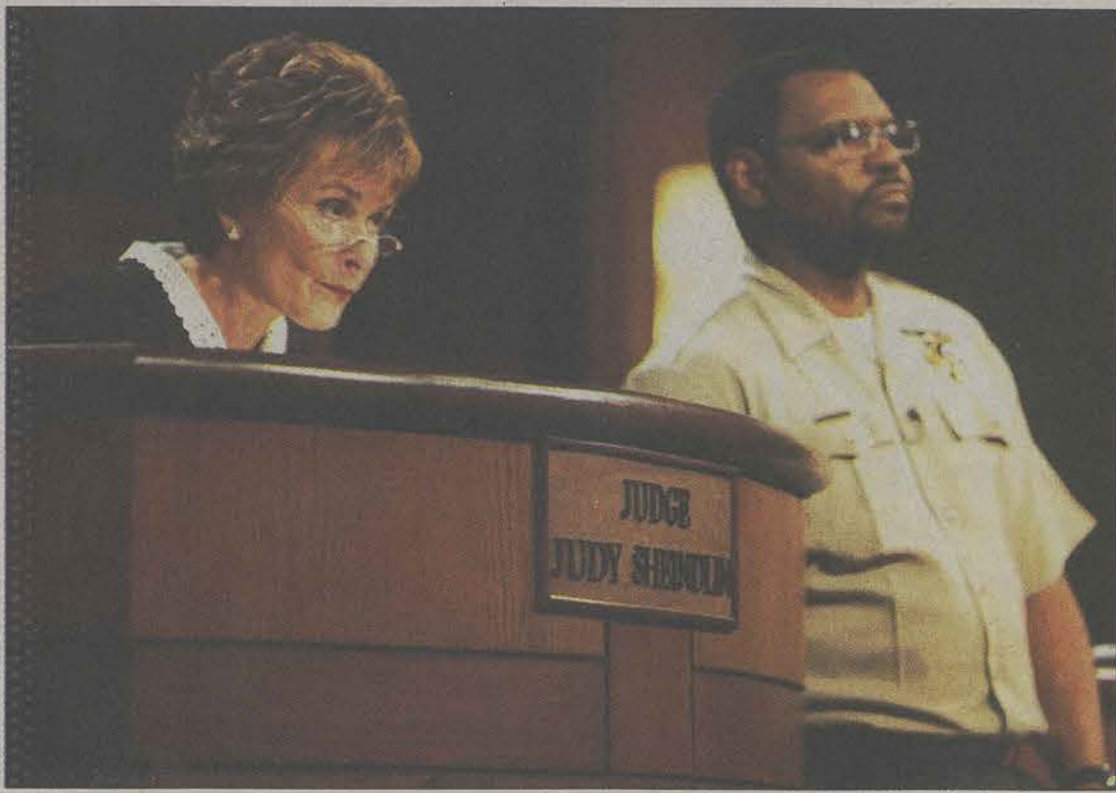
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AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes

Judge Judy Sheindlin presides over a case as her bailiff Petri Hawkins Byrd listens on the set of her syndicated show "Judge Judy," Thursday, Feb. 2 at the Tribune Studios in Los Angeles.

Judge Judy marks a decade of tough judicial love on TV

By Lynn Elber
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Judith Sheindlin, familiarly known as television's Judge Judy, fixes the lawbreaker with her trademark brace-yourself-buddy glare.

"You're drinking my tea?" she says to Jerry Sheindlin, her husband of 29 years, who's lunching alongside her during a production break on her court show. Not bothering to appeal, he stops pouring from her cup into his and returns the property to its rightful owner.

For Judy Sheindlin, marking her 10th season as the star of one TV's top-rated syndicated shows, watched by 10 million people daily, enforcing justice is a full-time job. Her grandchildren may enjoy some slack; all others, watch out.

That unforgiving approach to small-claims disputes culled from courts nationwide is what draws viewers. When Phil McGraw barks at an errant spouse or parent on "Dr. Phil," he's reflecting the influence of Sheindlin's decade of TV toughness.

"Accept responsibility for what you do in everything," the former New York family court judge said in an interview. She was referring to her own expectation of how judges should behave and, in a more expansive view, the world.

At one point, she interrupts herself to search her purse for a stash of newspaper clippings, reports on a series of violent deaths of New York children

that have raised questions about city government oversight.

Her unshakable mantra is personal responsibility. It's a position that played well when her show began and may be even more beguiling in a time vexed by the forces of war and terror. The real power is yours, Sheindlin tells us; who wouldn't want to believe?

The 63-year-old who reminds you she successfully raised five children and stepchildren will not brook excuses from those she sees as skirting their duties.

A defendant who faced her recently found out how that applied to him. The college student, who stifled a roommate for rent after an injury forced him out of a good-paying valet job, told Sheindlin he had no choice.

The judge did some quick math. If he had taken a minimum-wage job, say at a fast-food restaurant, and worked 10 hours a day, seven days a week, he could have met most of his financial obligation to the roommate.

Afterward, the defendant weighed in for the camera. "I was made to look like a fool" and a deadbeat, he wailed — while the show picked up the tab for the roughly \$2,000 judgment, as it always does.

Petri Hawkins Byrd, who served as her bailiff in New York and cuts an imposing figure in the same role on TV, admires Sheindlin as "blunt, witty, sharp as a tack" and for her refusal to accept any nonsense. Would he want to come before her in court?

Sheindlin was scheduled to receive

a special Valentine Day's treat: her star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Also, she garnered a Daytime Emmy Awards nomination, her 10th overall, for the upcoming April ceremony.

A big air kiss came her way last year when her name was floated by novelist Kurt Vonnegut and a newspaper columnist as a replacement for retiring Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. The suggestions may have been ironic but she likely could have found more public favor than Harriet Miers.

Sheindlin's popularity earns her a reported \$30 million yearly. She travels to work by private jet from the Naples, Fla., home she shares with her husband, a retired judge who also did his time in a TV courtroom with "People's Court." She flies in every other week to Los Angeles for three days of taping.

While new judges crowd into the TV courtroom, including "Judge Alex" and the upcoming "Judge Maria Lopez," Sheindlin remains the queen bee with ratings that put her in the company of top syndicated performers including Oprah Winfrey and "Wheel of Fortune."

Some uncommon voices, however, have been raised against her. Harvard Law professor Alan Dershowitz decried her for presenting the image of a judge as tyrant. A New York Times column recently accused Sheindlin of using the law as a bludgeon against the underclass: "...the lower a party's apparent status, the harsher Judge Judy is free to be."

Shumaker said the Enrollment Management Committee has asked academic advisors to inform students of the change — which is tentatively scheduled to take affect for the fall 2006 semester — and said the committee is working in a list of "justifiable excuses" that would prevent a student from being dropped from a class if he or she missed the first day.

Provost Linda Bleicken expressed

her concern and said that the committee should revisit the proposal.

"I would not like to be involved with something like this that students haven't been informed about," she said.

Shumaker said she would be glad to take the proposal back to the Enrollment Management Committee and share the comments from the faculty senators.

Gifts

from page 1
magazine in a recent article. "It's not the same as food."

Last year, Americans bought \$8 million of organic flowers, which are also sold in stores like Whole Foods, and the figure is expected to grow. This Valentine's Day, Prolman expects to move 120,000 roses — an all-time high. A dozen long-stems sell for about \$40.

Chocolates. On Valentine's Day in downtown Madison, Wis., passersby are treated to the sight of activists dressed in slave costumes while passing out samples of fair-trade chocolates. The theatrics are Peck's way of urging consumers to alleviate

poverty and child slavery through the marketplace.

"I think the idea that some 8-year-old is a slave to produce chocolate would make most sweethearts gag," Peck said.

Generally, fair-trade products eliminate the middleman, allowing farmers to deal directly with buyers. To be certified by the Fairtrade Labeling Organization International, growers must be inspected annually for any unethical practices.

Less than 1 percent of the \$13 billion U.S. chocolate market is designated as fair-trade, which means don't expect to dash in to just any store and pick up a box on your way home.

One well-known brand is Divine Chocolate, made by the London-based Day Chocolate Co. A Ghanaian farm-

ers co-operative grows the cocoa and is part owner of the company, which also has won the endorsement of such humanitarian groups as Lutheran World Relief. A popular Valentine's Day item this year is a humble red jute bag from Bangladesh, filled with chocolate bars, for \$14.

Jewelry. Valentine's Day ranks second only to Christmas for marriage proposals. But that engagement ring could be tarnished by a host of sins, including funding terrorism and environmental abuses, activists say.

The jewelers association is encouraging members to increase the percentage of the gold they acquire that is mined in ways that respect both workers and the Earth, Donahue said. But that is a voluntary effort, critics note.

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Senate

from page 1

"We only found out about this because one of our (SGA) senators heard someone talking about it and brought it up at one of our meetings," she said. Rogers also questioned if the proposal penalized the students who get advised and register on time.

Business

from page 1

liaison between the African American business owners and the Chamber to bridge an invisible gap that has been overlooked dating back to the time of segregation. Annette Holloway of Deck the Halls interior design said, "The Lord has blessed us as individuals, but we want to cooperate with one another to put our heads together to face problems in the black community."

Diversity is a major issue on campus and with Student Government Association putting their diversity campaign in full force this year; students are finally taking notice of the problems of unsuccessful integration and starting to talk about it.

"The Georgia Southern campus is a reflection of the city and community makeup, and our businesses in Statesboro are not getting the support and resources they need to succeed, which gives the A.A.B.O.C. footing for what they are trying to accomplish," said Holloway. "By creating this coalition, business owners that

would not necessarily be in the know about marketing strategies or the basic principles of entrepreneurship will have an opportunity to participate in workshops and receive newsletters to better their businesses."

Curtis Woody of Concepts Unlimited and a member of the A.A.B.O.C., said, "Throughout the year resources will be made available through workshops, seminars and newsletters that will be based on the basic principles of growth and development."

With 29 businesses participating in this organization, a directory has been established to aid in networking amongst the organization's members. The directories are sponsored with ads by local businesses and will be distributed through community volunteers to anyone who wants one. These directories will have information pertaining to personal care, African American hair salons and churches to name a few.

If interested in volunteering for the AABOC or obtaining a directory, please contact Annette Holloway at 764-3198 or by e-mail at anneteholloway@hotmail.com.

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Presidents fall in love

By Calvin Woodward
Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Presidents and their wives have been an amorous lot, their White House years coming at the pinnacle of lives entwined. The men pursued and loved these women as intensely as they clawed to power and unleashed armies.

"Touch you I must or I'll burst," Ronald Reagan wrote to Nancy three years before he became California governor. Lyndon Johnson, then a young congressman from Texas, declared to his valentine, Lady Bird, mere weeks after they had met, "This morning I'm ambitious, proud, energetic and very madly in love with you."

College graduate Teddy Roosevelt put Alice Lee on a pedestal, telling her five days before they wed: "I worship you so that it seems almost desecration to touch you."

A new book of letters between presidents and wives fleshes out momentous periods of history with the full range of human emotion: love, longing, snipiness, betrayal, loss, lust.

These men turned a resolute face to the world. In private, they could be goo. The women were easily their match in exchanging heart-racing prose and pulled no punches on tough stuff.

Even as John Adams was in Philadelphia working on the Declaration of Independence and its assertion that "all men" are created equal, his loving spouse, Abigail, sent the future second president a blistering letter about the subjugation of wives this, way back in March 1776.

"That your Sex are Naturally Tyrannical is a Truth," she wrote. "Men of Sense in all Ages abhor those customs which treat us only as the vassals of your Sex."

She was a flirt, too, offering sweetly,



AP Photo/File

Former President Lyndon Johnson poses with his wife Lady Bird and waves farewell before flying to their home in Texas.

"If you want more balm, I can supply you," in a letter the spring before they married in October 1764.

The correspondence in "My Dear President: Letters Between Presidents and Their Wives," by Library of Congress historian Gerard W. Gawalt, captures some of the couples in the first blush of their romance and follows them into the White House.

Presidents who were wild about their wives were not necessarily faithful to them, not even close. Some wives knew it.

LBJ was a bull in the china shop when it came to women; Lady Bird once shrugged off his affairs as a "speck on a wedding cake."

Lucretia Rudolph was not so accommodating when she learned her fiancé, James Garfield, had been stepping out. "James, to be an unloved wife, O Heavens," she wrote in 1857. They wed anyway; he was assassinated in 1881 just months after taking office.

Dwight D. Eisenhower, as allied commander for Europe in World War II, tried in several letters to his stateside wife, Mamie, to shoot down rumors he was involved with his driver, Kay Summersby, with whom he formed an intense friendship. "I've no emotional involvements and will have none," he told his wife.



AP Photo/Pat Roque

Couples lock lips at kissing festival

Couples kiss each other during a pre-Valentine celebration dubbed "Lovapalooza" Saturday, Feb. 11 in Manila, Philippines. At least 2,000 couples gathered along a popular seaside walkway locked lips in a kissing festival that kicks off Valentine's Day celebration.

The event, called "CloseUp Lovapalooza '06," was held for the third year in a row. It began in 2004, when 5,327 couples kissed for at least 10 seconds in Manila, landing the festival in the Guinness World Records for the most number of couples kissing.

The previous record was held by Chile, with 4,445 kissing couples. "We're not breaking any record this year because we still hold the record," said Ginggay de la Merced, a spokeswoman for the event.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY

Tuesday, February 14

Midway: Between Slavery and Self-Sufficiency-The Remaking of a Black Community, 1860-1875 in the Museum Rear Gallery, Rosenwald Building

Career Month

4 p.m. Softball in Florida Stine, DH in Tallahassee, Fla.

4 p.m. Valentine's Day

4 p.m. Focus on Excellence Lecture Series in Nessmith-Lane Continuing Education Bldg. 2911

6 p.m. Carnation Ball in Russell Union Room 1042

6:30 p.m. Habitat for Humanity Meeting in Russell Union Room 2042

7 p.m. FYE Success Series in Russell Union Room 2080

7 p.m. GSU Debate Team Meeting in

Russell Union Room 2073

7 p.m. A Benefit Production of "The Vagina Monologues" at the Performing Arts Center. Tickets on sale at the Rotunda Feb. 6-10 and Feb. 13 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

8 p.m. Campus Outreach Meeting in Biology Building Room 1119

9 p.m. Swing Cats in Williams Center Room 2034

Wednesday, February 15

Midway: Between Slavery and Self-Sufficiency-The Remaking of a Black Community, 1860-1875 in the Museum Rear Gallery, Rosenwald Building

Career Month

3:30 p.m. FYE Success Series in Russell Union Room 2080

6 p.m. SGA Meeting in Russell Union Room 2047

7 p.m. Christ Ministries Bible Study in Russell Union Room 2048

7 p.m. Reformed University Fellowship in Williams Center 2034

7 p.m. NAACP General Body Meeting in Russell Union Room 2080

7 p.m. Happy to Be Nappy in Russell Union Room 2047. Learn of and discuss the different perspectives thin African Americans have with each other.

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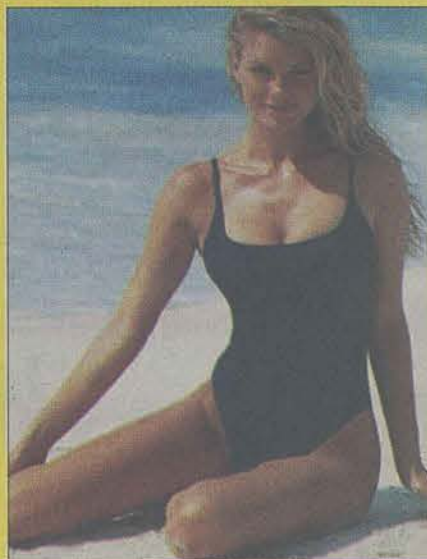
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