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High: 77 | Low: 52
Sunny
Volume 78
Number 78

MySpace fame

Student puts movie on popular Web site, earns fame for filmmaking | **CAMPUS, p.2**



Final performance for 'Heart' set for tonight

| **CAMPUS, p.2**

THE GEORGE-ANNE DAILY

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2006

Group to swing for boys home

Playground swinging to benefit Joseph Home for Boys

By Lauren Childs
Staff writer

On Friday, March 3, students will be swinging to raise money for Joseph's Home for Boys in Statesboro. There will be a swing set on campus in between The University Store and Russell Union.

Members of Georgia Southern's Greek organizations will take turns swinging for 24 hours straight from noon Thursday, March 2, to noon Friday, March 3. Free entertainment and food will also be available.

Joseph's Home for Boys is a residential group home that offers counseling to young boys ages 6-18 years old. Joseph's Home for Boys is a place to live for troubled or neglected boys.

"Money has been raised previous to the event by each of the participating Greek organizations," said Sean Higgins, Greek Life graduate assistant. "Money will hopefully keep being donated during the length of the event."

Starting in the afternoon and into the evening, food and entertainment will be provided. Higgins hopes that as people notice what is going on during the event, they will drop by to donate some money.

He said this is the first time the event has been organized by all the Greek organizations working together. Swing by Friday and check it out.

For more information, contact Sean Higgins at smhiggins@gmail.com.



Special photo

A swingathon will benefit a local charity.

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Mr. or Mrs?

New Jersey kids may be confused by what to call their substitute teacher. A transgendered man, who's recently become a woman, will return to the classroom | **OIA, p.3**

Chancellor: colleges are a lot like business

New chancellor says he will rely on business roots

By Luke Hearn
Executive editor

The University System of Georgia's new chancellor, Erroll Davis, was at Georgia Southern Tuesday on his tour of the state's 35 college and university campuses.

"I'm going to spend the next three to four months listening and hearing people's concerns," said Davis, who is the state's first full-time black chancellor. "I'll be visiting the campuses in this state and spending time with the leadership teams, faculty and students."

Davis said that in his first few months in his new position he will be an active listener, looking at ways the University System can improve what they are currently doing for the campuses.

"We have a choice at system to either be helpful or get in the way," he said. "My goal is not to get in the way, but to know if we're achieving our objective and find out what we can do, continue doing or change. And we can only get those answers by listening."

Davis, who has been an executive in the energy sector since 1978, said the University System should see some improvement in regard to the budget for the coming year.

"The legislature's job is to balance money throughout the state. We have to make it clear what we need and what we will do if we don't get what we need." He said his experience in the corporate world has helped him adjust to the reality of dealing with finances and budgets.

Davis said running a university

system is similar to running a billion dollar private enterprise, and his career experience will be helpful in his current position.

"My job is not on a campus, it's with the system, and I'm here to run the system," he said. "Faculty will be my best friend, because I will be able to find the resources they need."

On his first visit to GSU, Davis said he was impressed with the campus and the students.

"This is a beautiful place," he said, "and those in charge have done a wonderful job. I'm impressed by the quality measures increasing with students."

Though it's not a controversial issue in south Georgia, other parts of the state have been in a furor over increasing admission requirements to the state's flagship school, the University of Georgia.

Davis said in light of the competitive nature of many schools in the state, students who are not accepted to their first school choice should not be deterred.

"Georgia Southern is a school of fabulous quality," he said. "We need to make sure everyone understands the systemic quality of our system."

Davis' position as chancellor is not his first in dealing with higher education on the administrative level. He served as a member of the University of Washington System Board of Regents from 1987 until 1994, and was chairman of the board of trustees of Carnegie Mellon University - his alma mater - and is now a lifetime member. Currently he is a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Chicago, where he attended graduate school.



Joe Waddell/STAFF

Erroll B. Davis, Georgia's first black chancellor, visited GSU Tuesday.

THE DAVIS FILE

About the job

Responsible for the state's 35 public colleges and universities and 58 public library systems.

Annual budget of \$5 billion.

Salary: \$425,000 per year, plus \$102,000 for housing and club memberships and other expenses.

About Davis

Took office on Feb. 6

Age: 61; Wife: Elaine

Native of Pittsburgh, Pa.

Served as chairman of the board of Alliant Energy Corporation since 2000, where he earned \$1.64 million in salary, bonus, restricted stock awards and other compensation last year.

Education

B.S., 1965, electrical engineering, Carnegie Mellon University; M.B.A., 1967, finance, University of Chicago.

Awards:

"75 Most Powerful Blacks in Corporate America" by Black Enterprise magazine.

"Top 50 Blacks in Technology" at the Black Engineer of the Year 2005 Awards

Plenty of sun but sunscreen not required

Planetarium looks at the sun, 'Our Very Own Star'

By Rachel McDaniel
News editor

Go to Georgia Southern's Planetarium to take a close look at a hot subject, the sun. The program, called "Our Very Own Star," will focus on the sun on Friday, March 3, at 7 p.m. for students and 8 p.m. for the public.

Participants will observe the sun as our early ancestors did for their own survival and will discover what it means to be a magnetic star like the sun. There will also be an interactive live show with hands-on activities from the University

of California at Berkeley.

A star and planet display that illustrates the current night and morning skies will be shown in the Planetarium. Over 6,000 stars can be projected onto the 30-foot dome using the Planetarium's Spitz A4 star projector. There is room for 75 visitors with uni-directional seating. If skies are clear, students will get to experience telescopic viewing of Saturn, the Orion Nebula and more following the presentation.

The planetarium's lobby is equipped with ViewSpace, a streaming multimedia presentation from the Space Telescope Science Institute. Daily updates from missions into the solar systems and the Hubble Space Telescope can be seen instantaneously.

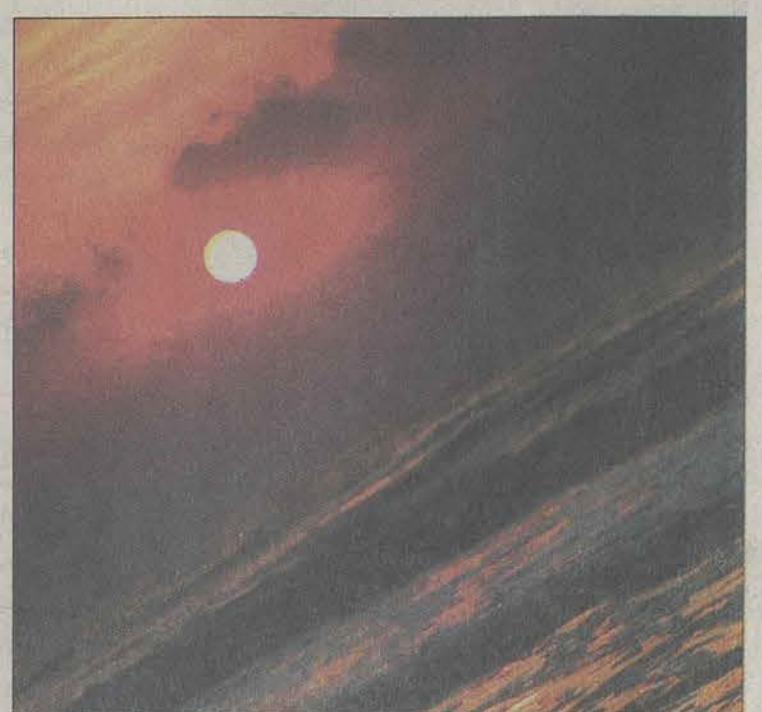
Clayton Heller, associate professor of physics, said students can learn a lot about the sun whether they are astronomy students or not.

"Students can learn about the different phenomena like sun spots, prominences and flares and they can learn about the solar activity cycle the sun goes through," said Heller. "Students can learn how it rotates, what's going to become of the sun when it gets older and how it's going to die and what makes the sun shine."

Clayton said students can stay to learn about the Bulloch Amateur Astronomers Club that meets after the presentation.

"They have their own telescopes and they go out and observe the night sky," said Heller. "Students can go out and learn from them."

The GSU Planetarium is in the Math and Physics building and provides students and the public with an educational view of the night sky. For more information, visit <http://cost.georgiasouthern.edu/planetarium> or call 912-531-5292.



Grayson Hoffman/STAFF

The sun rises in this photo taken on the Georgia coast.

'MySpace' parody launches film career

By Associated Press

Amateur filmmaker David Lehre first screened his short film "MySpace: The Movie" about a month ago at his 21st birthday party.

Since then, the spoof of the popular networking site has been viewed more than 6 million times through various online sites and has prompted a development deal offer from MTVU, contact from Hollywood managers and a complimentary e-mail from MySpace co-founder Tom Anderson.

"I've never had stuff go as fast as it is now," Lehre, who still lives at home with his parents in Washington, Mich., told the Los Angeles Times.

Lehre started making films with the same cast and crew in 10th grade, after he and his friends were denied

parts in the high school theater production of "Little Women."

Lehre's 11-minute short parodies the habits of the popular social networking site. It is told in five scenes, beginning with an underwear-clad teen who vainly takes pictures of himself in the bathroom until his mother barges in. Another scene features a showdown between a boy and his girlfriend who demands his password to view incriminating photos on his page. The final scene shows a partygoer, an actor portraying MySpace's Anderson, vomiting while his friends capture it on camera.

The film was written by Lehre and his best friend, Jeremy Kerr, and the skits were improvised by them and their friends. It took Lehre two months to film, edit and score the movie.

Lehre said he and his friends have

50 films to their credit and receive the support of local businesses, including a theater that screens their latest projects.

"MySpace: The Movie" was posted Jan. 28 to Lehre's personal Web site, DavidLehre.com, and three days later it was placed on YouTube.com.

About 20,000 videos are uploaded to YouTube each day and more than 15 million are watched. With 3.4 million viewings, "MySpace: The Movie" ranks as the site's most viewed video.

The film also has been on rotation on Current TV, a new network aimed at the 18-to-34-year-old audience that reaches 20 million U.S. homes.

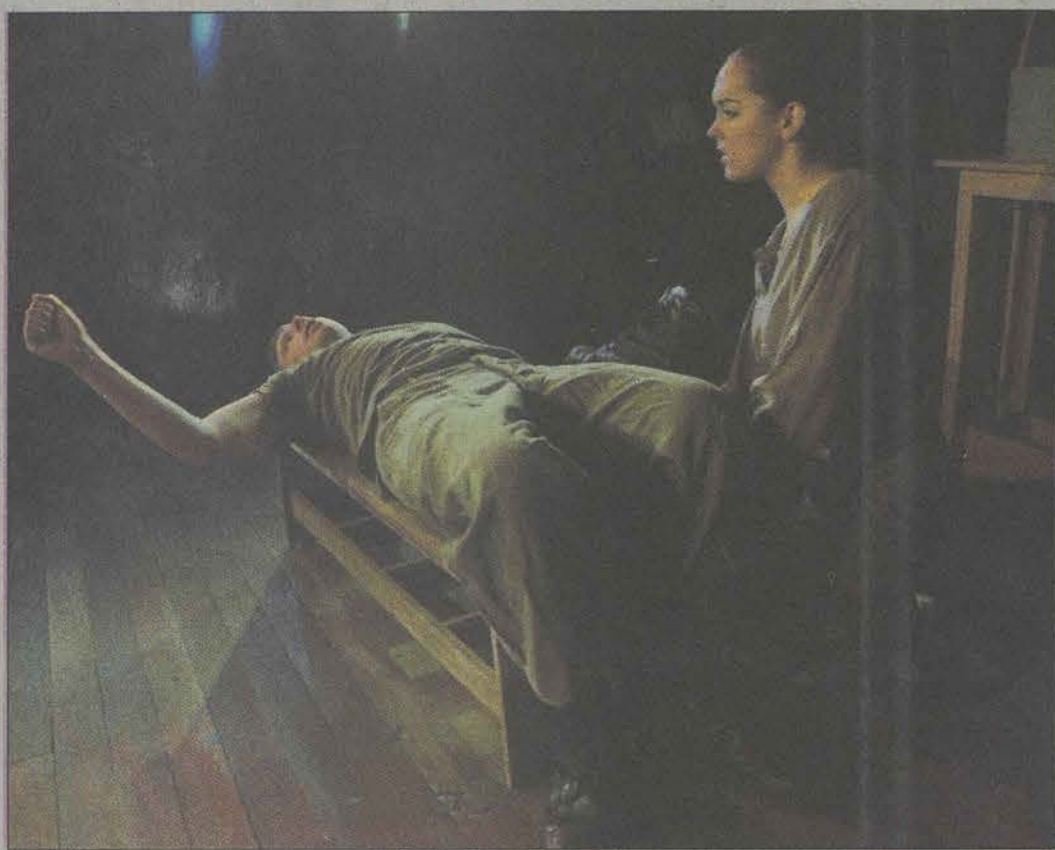
Lehre was recently offered a development deal by MTVU, which is MTV's on-air, online and on-campus network.



Special Photo

A screenshot from David Lehre's 11 minute film, which has been viewed over 6 million times since Jan. 28. The five-scene play makes fun of MySpace users with Lehre and his friends as actors.

'A Piece of my Heart' plays March 1 - 4 in the Black Box



Victor Martinez/STAFF

Britni Rowen kneels by a wounded soldier played by Chris Rushing. For ticket information call 681-5821.

Cartoon controversy at California college

By Gillian Flaccus
Associated Press

A student group at the University of California, Irvine, was going ahead with plans to show the controversial cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad first published in a Danish newspaper despite the objections of Muslims on campus and in the larger community.

After spending a week trying to get the event canceled, the Muslim Student Union said it would protest outside the 424-seat auditorium where the cartoons were to be shown as part of a panel discussion on Islamic extremism Tuesday evening. The Council on American-Islamic Relations, which had been invited to participate in the panel, planned a boycott instead.

The debate on the event follows incidents at other campuses, including Harvard University and the University of Illinois, where student newspapers published the Danish cartoons, one of which shows the Prophet Muhammad with a bomb in his turban.

Thousands of Muslims worldwide have protested, sometimes violently, against the drawings after they were first published in a Danish newspaper in September and then in other papers in Europe. The drawings are offensive to Muslims because Islamic tradition is interpreted to ban any depiction of the Prophet Muhammad or the other prophets.

Osman Umarji, former president of the Muslim Student Union, equated

the decision to display the prophet drawings to the debasement of Jews in Germany before the Holocaust.

"The agenda is to spread Islamophobia and create hysteria against Muslims similar to what happened to the Jews in Nazi Germany," said Umarji, an electrical engineer who graduated from UC Irvine last spring. "Freedom of speech has its limits."

Organizers said unveiling the cartoons was part of a larger debate on Islamic extremism sponsored by the College Republicans and The United American Committee, a fledgling group not affiliated with UC Irvine.

Brock Hill, vice president of the College Republicans, said his group had a right to display the cartoons under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. He noted that the panel was to include a representative from the Free Muslims Coalition.

"We're not going against Islam whatsoever," he said. "This is about free speech and the free marketplace of ideas."

The panel also was to discuss anti-Semitic and anti-Western drawings that have appeared in Middle Eastern newspapers and discuss Islamic militancy on U.S. college campuses, said Jesse Petrilla, United American Committee founder and an event organizer.

Petrilla, a 22-year-old student at Glendale Community College, said he believes Muslims overseas are using the prophet drawings as an excuse to commit violence.

CALENDAR

Wednesday, March 1

Ash Wednesday

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Women's Awareness Month Reading. Students, faculty and staff will read from the book "Revolutionary Tales," which focuses on the work of African-American women. The reading will be in the circle connecting COBA, the IT building and the Education building.

11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Blood drive
Russell Union Ballroom

12 p.m. and 1 p.m.

Free luncheon
Baptist Student Union

8 p.m. March 1 - March 4

Theatre & Performance presents "A Piece of My Heart." The performance depicts the experiences of women during the Vietnam War. Ticket prices are \$3 for groups, \$7 for students and \$10 for Georgia Southern faculty and staff. For more information or to purchase tickets call (912) 681-5821.

8 p.m.

"Model Seder," presented by the Hillel student group
Pittman Park United Methodist Church gym

Thursday, March 2

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

People of Faith Fair
Faith groups from campus and the community will be on hand with displays and information.
Russell Union Rotunda

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Praise Fair
Campus faith groups will present dramas and musical performances. There will also be free food and give aways.
Between the Russell Union and University Bookstore

4 p.m.

Women's Day Reception. Share in the experiences of women in their 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s and 70s. Find out how opportunities for women have evolved over the decades.
Russell Union, Room 2080

7:30 p.m.

Night of Praise
RAC Pavilion

Friday, March 3

11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Car Care for Women. Women can learn basic car care from the mechanics at Cleve White's Nissan dealership. Russell Union Visitor Parking Lot

6:30 p.m.

Hillel Affiliate-Sabbath Service
Russell Union Room 2044

Monday, March 6

7 p.m.

United Caribbean Association "More Fyah Show" Tickets \$3 in advance, \$5 at door in the Russell Union Ballroom

Tuesday, March 7

Noon to 1 p.m.

"Adjudicating Sexual Assault Cases," led by Brett Sokolow, founder of the National Center for Higher Education Risk Management, will discuss sexual assault cases at the Bulloch County Judicial Annex Boardroom.

7 p.m.



"Drunk Sex or Date Rape: Can You Tell the Difference?" by Brett Sokolow will present the facts of a court case. The audience decides whether or not a sexual assault was committed. Nessmith-Lane Continuing Education Auditorium.

POLICE BEAT

02-27-2006

• Johnny Ray Gillian, 55, of Langston Chapel Road, Statesboro, was charged with driving with a suspended license and improper lane usage.

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- Or if you prefer to match for a civilian residency you may request a deferment of active service to complete your civilian residency.

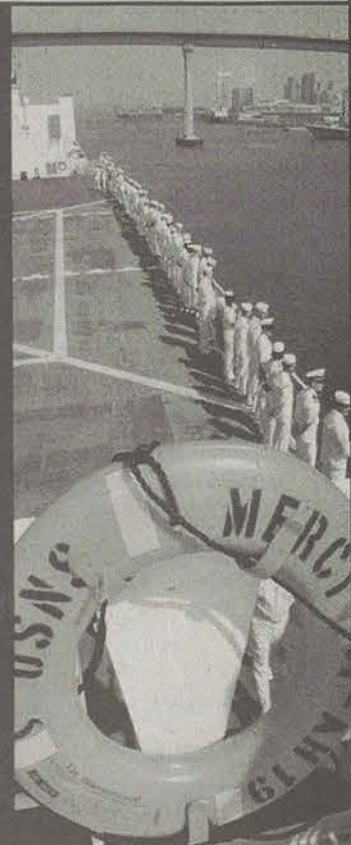
For More Information Call:

NAVY MEDICAL OFFICER PROGRAMS

4070 Boulevard Center Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32207

1-800-342-8123

lpt_jax@cnrc.navy.mil



Basic Qualifications

- US Citizen (birth or naturalized)
- Applying or Accepted to an AMA, AOA, Optometry or ADA School
- Meet physical qualifications of a Commissioned Officer
- Competitive MCAT, DAT OAT score
- Minimum GPA of 3.0

Accelerate Your Life

THE BIG STORY

Preservationists name Gettysburg among threatened battlefields

By Kimberly Hefling

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Gettysburg was the site of one of the largest battles fought on American soil, but today it is playing host to a different type of fight: Whether slot machines should come to town.

A proposal that would bring gambling a little more than a mile away from the Pennsylvania battlefield propelled it to the top of a preservation group's list of the 10 most endangered Civil War battlefields released Tuesday.

Proposed development was one threat cited by the Civil War Preservation Trust in the naming of the 10 sites located in Pennsylvania, New Mexico, Georgia, Virginia, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Washington, D.C.

"Hallowed ground, where more than 600,000 Americans gave their lives, is being paved over in favor of shopping malls, housing tracts and even gambling casinos," the trust's president, James Lighthizer, said Tuesday during a news conference.

Hurricanes Ivan and Katrina were blamed for some of the disrepair at Fort Morgan, Ala., and two forts outside New Orleans.

Sprawl and a lack of money have also contributed to many of the problems at the sites, Lighthizer said.

The site in Glorieta Pass, N.M., is referred to as the "Gettysburg of the West" and is where Union forces were able to turn back the Confederate invasion of New Mexico.

The trust blames neglect and public indifference for problems such as the weakening of a structure that

served as a field hospital.

The other sites are the Shenandoah Valley, Glendale, and Wilderness in Virginia; the Chattahoochee River line in Georgia; Circle Forts in Washington, D.C.; and Raymond, Miss.

The three-day fight at Gettysburg was a tide-turning battle in 1863 that sent Confederate soldiers into retreat and left 50,000 casualties.

It is also where President Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address warning about the destruction of the nation, and asking that the troops who died there not be forgotten.

Last year, a group of investors from an entity called Chance Enterprises unveiled plans to boost economic development.

They plan to do this by seeking a slot-machine license from Pennsylvania gambling regulators

to anchor the proposed Crossroads Gaming Resort.

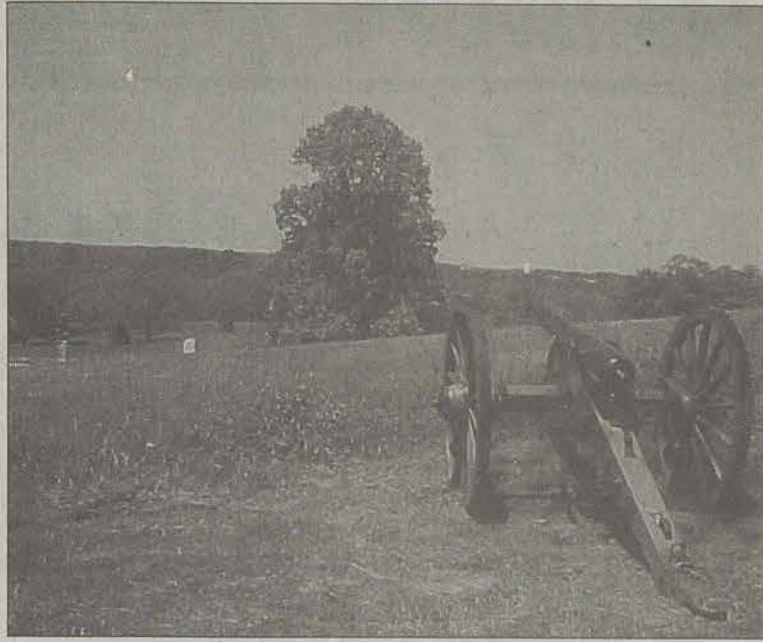
Pennsylvania State regulators are expected to rule sometime later this year.

The investors released a statement Tuesday accusing the preservation group of lying about its proposed plans so it can raise money.

"It is amazing how the Gettysburg Battlefield has gone from not even being on the trust's list of 25 most endangered battlefield to the top of the list overnight, even though our resort has been a subject of debate and discussion for nearly a year," said David LeVan, the investment group's chief executive officer, in a statement.

"Clearly, the trust is lining its coffers," LeVan said.

The trust denied claims made by LeVan.



Special Photo

A new proposal may lead to the construction of a new gambling casino just over a mile away from the historic Gettysburg battlefield.

ONLY IN AMERICA

stories by The Associated Press

Transgender teacher to return to class

1 EAGLESWOOD TOWNSHIP, N.J. — To students at Eagleswood Elementary School, she used to be Mr. McBeth. Now, after undergoing a sex change, 71-year-old Lily McBeth is ready to return to teaching as Miss McBeth.

Despite criticism from parents, the school board on Monday stood by its decision to allow McBeth to resume working as a substitute teacher.

After two hours of public debate and a private meeting with McBeth and her lawyer, the board took no action on calls by several parents to bar McBeth from returning to the school where she taught for five years before becoming a woman.

"It was magnificent," McBeth said afterward. "You saw democracy in action."

McBeth, a retired sales executive who was married for 33 years and had three children, underwent gender reassignment surgery last year and re-applied for her job under her new name.

"This is not something I got into just as a whim," she said.

School board attorney Paul Carr said McBeth was a good teacher who had received favorable reviews during her tenure as a substitute.

Earlier this month, the board voted 4-1 to accept her application to return to the classroom.



Pregnant woman charged with shooting self

2 SUFFOLK, Va. — A woman who told police she had been shot in the abdomen was arrested Tuesday afternoon and charged with illegally inducing an abortion by shooting herself, resulting in the death of her full-term baby girl, police said.

Tammy Skinner, 22, also was charged with using a firearm to commit a felony and filing a false police report when she came to police headquarters at noon at the request of investigators. Bond was set at \$15,000.

Skinner called police on a cell phone early Thursday and said she had been shot. Emergency personnel found her at a Suffolk car dealership and took her to a hospital.

A charge of inducing an abortion is a felony punishable by up to 10 years in prison and a \$100,000 fine. A murder charge could be considered if the baby had breathed on her own before dying.

Announcement - Student Media Positions Selection 2006-2007

The Student Media Advisory Board of Georgia Southern University announces its selection process to choose student editors and managers of the 2006-2007 editorial boards of the university's official student media (The George-Anne Daily, Miscellany Magazine, and Southern Reflector Magazine). Students interested in applying for an elected position will be expected to present (1) a **resumé**; (2) a **letter of application** explaining the candidate's qualifications and their plans or objectives for the media position sought; and (3) a **signed waiver** (included with this advertisement) which gives permission to the chairperson of the Student Media Advisory Board to validate the candidate's academic standing. Students may indicate the position(s) sought either in their letter of application or on the waiver form. However, a separate application packet (a **resumé**, a **letter of application** and a **signed waiver**) should be submitted for each medium, if a student wishes to apply for more than one.

SELECTION AND TERM: The editorial boards will be selected by members of the committee based on a majority of those voting, according to committee by-laws. The term of office for the editorial shall extend through the end of the next spring semester.

QUALIFICATIONS: Specific qualifications for persons holding board positions are listed below. Prior experience may be considered in lieu of stated qualifications. The board positions for each medium are listed in ranking order.

THE GEORGE-ANNE DAILY

Executive Editor -- The executive editor should have completed two years of college work, at least one year at Georgia Southern. The executive editor should have served on a student publications staff one year and should display capabilities required for the position, including demonstrable knowledge of basic journalistic and business practices and an understanding of media law and ethics. The executive editor is responsible for the preparation of a commentary section for each edition. The executive editor serves as the chief executive officer of the newspaper and is responsible for the total content of each edition in consultation with editors in chief of companion publications.

Managing Editor for News -- The managing editor for news should have completed at least one year at Georgia Southern and should have served at least one semester on a student publications staff. The managing editor for news should be familiar with basic journalistic practices such as newsgathering and reporting practices, news and feature writing, copy editing and proofreading, photojournalism, layout and design and media law and ethics. The managing editor for news will be responsible for coordinating the editorial content in all sections of the newspaper, such as news, sports, features, companion publications or related media and other duties as assigned by the executive editor. The managing editor for news (with the assistance of the news editor) will be responsible for the preparation of the front page.

Managing Editor for Operations -- The managing editor for operations should have completed two years of college work, at least one year at Georgia Southern. The managing editor for operations should have served on a student publications staff one year and should display capabilities required for the position, including demonstrable knowledge of basic journalistic and business practices and an understanding of media law and ethics. The managing editor for operations is responsible for the overall day-to-day operations and office management of the newspaper, its subordinate divisions (advertising, marketing and production), and all companion publications or related media. The managing editor for operations serves as the chief operations officer for the newspaper.

News Editor -- The news editor should know basic news writing and should be familiar with news sources on campus. The news editor should demonstrate news judgment and should have served at least one

semester on the staff of the paper. The news editor will be responsible for all newsgathering and reporting operations of the newspaper, including recruiting reporters, writers, and photographers, providing training in the basics of newsgathering and writing, working in cooperation with the managing editors on staffing the news, features, sports, photography and related departments, maintaining an assignment calendar for the benefit of all departments of the newspaper, and other duties as assigned. The news editor assists the managing editor for news in the preparation of the front page for each edition.

MISCELLANY MAGAZINE

Editor in Chief -- The editor in chief should have completed two years of college work, at least one year at Georgia Southern. The editor in chief should demonstrate both the interest and the talent to create a quality publication which showcases the arts -- literary, visual, and, to the extent practicable, performance arts -- on behalf of the university's students, and to promote the arts in the university community through the staging of various arts-oriented events. The editor in chief will select contributors for the magazine. The editor in chief should be familiar with basic editing and design duties, as well as media law and ethics. The editor in chief is responsible for all editorial operations for each edition, which will be published as a supplement to the student newspaper, and will coordinate its publication with the executive editor of the student newspaper. The editor in chief will be responsible for the total content of the magazine.

SOUTHERN REFLECTOR MAGAZINE

Editor in Chief -- The editor in chief should have completed two years of university work, at least one year at Georgia Southern. The editor in chief should have served at least one year on the staff and should be familiar with magazine copy writing, magazine photojournalism, layout and design of pages, and media law and ethics. The editor in chief is responsible for all editorial operations for each edition, which will be published as a supplement to the student newspaper, and will coordinate its publication with the executive editor of the student newspaper. The editor in chief serves as the chief executive officer of the magazine and is ultimately responsible for the total content of each edition.

DEADLINE: The deadline for the receipt of all applications for any of these positions is Friday, March 24, at 5 p.m. Applications should be sent to Bill Neville, chairperson, Student Media Advisory Board, in care of Box 8067, or delivered in person to Room 2022, Williams Center.

COMPENSATION: Payment rates for board members are pending final budget approval by the Student Activities Budget Committee and the Student Media Advisory Board.

INTERVIEW DATE: All candidates for board positions MUST APPEAR PERSONALLY for interviews Friday, April 7. All interviews will be held at 3 p.m. in Room 2009 of E.I. Williams Center (Upper Floor).

APPLICATION FORM AND WAIVER

INFORMATION: Questions regarding these positions should be directed to the advisors of the media: Ryan Honeyman (THE GEORGE-ANNE DAILY) at 681-0172 or Box 8055; Kelley Callaway (MISCELLANY) at 486-7459 or Box 8067; or Logan Thomas (SOUTHERN REFLECTOR) at 486-7459 or Box 8067. Additional information and interpretation of the qualifications may be obtained from the chair, Bill Neville (681-0069 or Box 8067).

Position(s) applied for (Please check ALL that are applicable):

THE GEORGE-ANNE DAILY	MISCELLANY MAGAZINE	SOUTHERN REFLECTOR
() Executive Editor	() Editor in Chief	() Editor in Chief
() Managing Editor/News		
() Managing Editor/Operations		
() News Editor		

- Students interested in applying for an elected position are required to present (1) a **resumé**; (2) a **letter of application** explaining the candidate's qualifications and their plans or objectives for the media position sought; and (3) a **signed waiver** (included below) which gives permission to the chairperson of the Media Committee to validate the candidate's academic standing.
- Students seeking a position on an editorial board must have a **CUMULATIVE GRADE POINT AVERAGE of at least 2.0 and must not be on scholastic or disciplinary probation**. If at any time a board member drops below these standards, that member must relinquish the position.

I, _____, do hereby authorize the Media Committee, in relation to the above criteria for board positions, to contact the GSU student records representatives to validate my academic standing for compliance. This validation may be at a time of application and at any time during the period I would hold a board position.

Signed _____ Box No. _____

Eagle ID No. _____ Date _____

E-Mail address _____

This (1) application/waiver form (or facsimile), together with a (2) resumé and a (3) letter of application for each medium in which a position(s) is sought, is due by Friday, March 24, 2006, by 5 p.m. delivered to: Student Media Advisory Board, Bill Neville, chair, Room 2022 Williams Center Box 8067, GSU, Statesboro, GA 30460. Interviews are Friday, April 7.

Quick, what's new

THE REGION

New Orleans dresses up for Mardi Gras

NEW ORLEANS — The crowds were small and the costumes wickedly satirical as Mardi Gras built toward its boozy climax Tuesday in this hurricane-buckled city that could use a few laughs. The culmination of the eight-day pre-Lenten bash fell nearly six months to the day after the Aug. 29 storm that smashed thousands of homes and killed more than 1,300 people, the vast majority of them in New Orleans.

THE NATION

Lawmakers vow not to force quick port vote, criticize White House

WASHINGTON — Congressional Republicans and Democrats on Tuesday tempered calls for an immediate vote to block a Dubai-based company's takeover of some U.S. port operations as President Bush prodded them to avoid a confrontation. Returning to the Capitol in force for the first time since news of DP World's takeover broke, lawmakers from both parties criticized the White House for failing to let them know about the deal before it became public.

THE WORLD

Prosecutors say Saddam Hussein approved 140 Shiite executions

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Prosecutors presented documents Tuesday they said show Saddam Hussein approved executions of more than 140 Shiites in the 1980s, the most direct evidence yet against the former Iraqi leader in his four-month trial. Among those sentenced to hang was an 11-year-old boy. The most significant document featured a signature said to be Saddam's on a court list of people to be executed, though it was not clear he was aware of their ages. The list on that particular document only had names.

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.

OFFICES, MAIL, PHONES

Room 2023, F.I. Williams Center. The George-Anne, P.O. Box 8001, Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, Ga. 30460. 912/681-5246 (News) or 912/681-5418 (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, bneville@georgiasouthern.edu.

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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.gsuds.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 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.

OPINION

THE GEORGE-ANNE DAILY EDITORIAL BOARD

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"We should invade their countries, kill their leaders and convert them to Christianity. We weren't punctilious about locating and punishing only Hitler and his top officers. We carpet-bombed German cities; we killed civilians. That's war. And this is war."

- Ann Coulter
Conservative author

OUR VIEW

Flip-flops and shorts are back on campus

AT ISSUE: As the Spring weather makes its way back to Statesboro, it's good to keep focused on class

With warmer weather and sunnier days making their way to Statesboro, students can be easily distracted from schoolwork and other indoor responsibilities.

Some students want to spend all day outside, and it's hard to sit in class on a beautiful afternoon, trying to listen to a lecture on Milton's "Paradise Lost" while looking at the sunny day outside.

It's especially hard to walk in from a sunny day to a 5 p.m. class and leave to a dark

evening.

Spring is on the way, but students should wait until Spring Break to take a vacation from class, homework and other worries.

Right now is the time to study for midterms and stay on top of class assignments so students won't have to stress over the break about forgotten assignments.

This winter has been especially warm and sporadic so that some students want to spend every nice day outside. It's okay to spend some

time outdoors, but take a book and make it quality study time in the sun.

Studying for that physics or math midterm while lying on a blanket on Sweetheart Circle or sitting on your back porch enjoying a glass of sweet tea is much better than being crammed in the library or stuck inside your cramped dorm room.

This part of the semester is hectic and students should stay on top of assignments so they won't find themselves behind after

the break.

Use the nice days as motivation to keep up the hard work for just another week and a half, and then you can spend every minute of Spring Break enjoying the beach or bar worry-free.

And after the break is over, just think: the semester is more than halfway over, and summer break is just around the corner.

But don't let that deter you from your work; let it be an incentive to have a free summer. No one wants to re-take a class in the summer.

Brandon Smith
SCENE AND HEARD

Poor people: it's your own fault

Many people disagree with my opinions on economics and social class. Countless people are always telling me that poverty is a choice, that poor people are, as one letter to the editor put it, "lazy and/or stupid."

This is a popular belief around the campus.

After much thinking I must say that I'm convinced. Right now, in our current system, poverty is nothing more than a choice. Why should hardworking students like us have to give handouts to the lower classes through taxes and public programs after we graduate?



Brandon Smith is a junior accounting major from Atlanta. He is a columnist for The George-Anne.

If a middle aged person is having financial problems, he obviously made many poor decisions throughout his life. Meanwhile each of us is in school, studying and working hard to have a bright and successful future.

Everyone knows that to be successful in life a college education is vital. Without a college education poverty is virtually inevitable, so when poor people don't go to college they are setting themselves up for a lifetime of poverty. This is their fault, not ours.

According to the College Board, the average cost of a four-year public college is only \$21,964. There's absolutely no reason for someone to skip college. I mean, who of us didn't have 22 grand to spare when we hit 17 years old?

If younger students really wanted to have a good future, they would get a full time job in high school and save up for college.

It's not like a lot of them have to help their parents pay for food, shelter and utilities. That just doesn't happen. It's not like they had to rule out college just so they could pay for living expenses.

We need to stop blaming the system. If a person can't afford food, shelter, dental and health care, transportation and a \$22,000 education he or she is obviously doing something wrong. This has nothing to do with luck. I mean look at all of us: we didn't need free, easy rides through high school to get here. We didn't need parents with steady jobs.

We're just as unlucky as them, and we're doing just fine. Beside, if you let one of them into college they would probably just screw it up. They're lazy; it's in their blood.

They wouldn't put the effort required for college. They wouldn't study two hours outside of class for every one hour in the classroom.

They would probably skip all of their classes. Or watch TV and play video games everyday. Or get drunk and smoke pot excessively.

They're lazy and dumb - not like us. We deserve to be here. We earned our positions here. So the next time someone tells you that the system is screwed up and that it forces failure, tell them they're wrong.

Everyone knows that our system opens up the doors for everyone to go to college without handouts.

Everyone knows that our system is set up so that everyone can make six digits a year.

Everyone knows that our system is set up so no one has to make minimum wage in order for it to survive.

Our system doesn't force failure because it would be just fine without failure.

So the next time you see someone looking for financial help they'll never receive, remind yourself that they're poor because they're lazy and dumb.

Their financial situation is a result of their personal choices, and nothing else.



Allison Keller: YOUR TURN

Democrats just don't seem to understand things

You liberals really make me happy.

Where else can I find a class of people who are really lacking in any meaningful intelligence and are purpose-

Allison Keller is a senior marketing major from Columbus, Ga.

fully mean, all the while masking your intentions in trying to help the downtrodden.

First of all you Democrats have been screaming since the beginning of the Iraq war that Bush lied about weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

Also, September 11 and the horror of that day lies on the shoulders of Bill Clinton. Bush had only been in office for eight months before that day. I can assure you that something like that took years to plan.

I also want to address the old Democratic argument that the Republicans cater to the rich and the Democrats are on the side of the poor. That is a bunch of bull! The Democrats survive by keeping minorities dependent on the government. The Republicans are for the working

person who chooses to get out in the work force and earn a living rather than sit around waiting for the government check to come every month.

I hate to burst the Democratic bubble but probably 95 percent of rich people took risks and worked hard to get what they have.

When you try to "punish" the rich by taxing them, then they'll stop investing in businesses where the lower income people work. I know that this is hard for you liberals to comprehend but this is proven fact. Tax cuts benefit everyone.

The Democrats are having such a hard time being out of power, they are willing to do anything to get back in power in Washington. If they can turn the American people off enough by exploiting any bad news and twisting good news into bad news, then maybe the American people will vote Democrats into office.

Write Allison at allisonkeller5@yahoo.com.

Jason Reid: YOUR TURN

'The Boondocks' should be the least of worries

In response to Catherine Hill's commentary on "The Boondocks" ("The Boondocks sets back community, progress," Monday, Feb. 27) setting back the black community.

Jason Reid

is a senior broadcasting major from Atlanta, Ga.

I wholeheartedly disagree.

Way back when I started paying attention to "The Boondocks" comic strip in The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, it had always appeared to me to be another comic artist poking fun at things happening in the world around us.

While the "n-word" may not be commonplace on television and is otherwise bleeped out, walking around on this campus I've heard that word used countless numbers of times in people's everyday conversations.

"The Boondocks" does a good job of reflecting that part of our culture.

A good portion of hip-hop music is littered with the "n-word," so does that mean hip hop artists are holding back the black community as well?

I'm sure the writers of this show are aware of their influence, just as any other television writing team. But before you jump on the writers of "The Boondocks," maybe you should approach the next person you hear utter the n-word and ask them why they use it and where they first heard it.

I'm pretty sure they won't mention a cartoon.

Write Jason at jmagic21824@gmail.com.

Garrison Keillor
THE OLD SCOUT

The emperor has no clothes, brains

These are troubling times for all of us who love this country, as surely we all do, even the satirists. You may poke fun at your mother, but if she is belittled by others it burns your bacon. A blowhard French journalist writes a book about America that is full of arrogant stupidity, and you want to let the air out of him and mail him home flat. You hear young people talk about America as if it's all over, and you trust that this is only them talking tough. And then you read the paper and realize the country is led by a man who isn't paying attention, and you hope that somebody will poke him.



Garrison Keillor is an acclaimed radio personality and best-selling humorist. His "A Prairie Home Companion" can be heard Saturday nights on public radio stations across the country.

Do we need to impeach him to bring some focus to this man's life? The man was lost and then he was found and now he's more lost than ever, plus being blind.

The Feb. 27 issue of The New Yorker carries an article by Jane Mayer about a loyal conservative Republican and U.S. Navy lawyer, Albert Mora, and his resistance to the torture of prisoners at Guantanamo Bay. From within the Pentagon bureaucracy, he did battle against Donald Rumsfeld and John Yoo at the Justice Department and shadowy figures taking orders from Dick (Gunner) Cheney, arguing America had ratified the Geneva Convention that forbids cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment of prisoners, and so it has the force of law. They seemed to be arguing that the president has the right to order prisoners to be tortured.

One such prisoner, Mohammed al-Qahtani, was held naked in isolation under bright lights for months, threatened by dogs, subjected to unbearable noise volumes, and otherwise abused, so that he begged to be allowed to kill himself.

When the Senate approved the Torture Convention in 1994, it defined torture as an act "specifically intended to inflict severe physical or mental pain or suffering." Is the law a law or is it a piece of toast?

When Americans start pulling people's fingernails out with pliers and poking lighted cigarettes into their palms, then we need to come back to basic values. Most people agree with this, and in a democracy that puts the torturers in a delicate position. They must make sure to destroy their e-mails and have subordinates who will take the fall. Because it is impossible to keep torture secret. It goes against the American grain and it eats at the conscience of even the most disciplined, and in the end the truth will come out.

According to the leaders of the bipartisan 9/11 Commission, our country is practically as vulnerable today as it was on 9/10. Our seaports are wide open, our airspace is not secure except for the nation's capital, and little has been done about securing the nuclear bomb materials lying around in the world.

Our adventure in Iraq, at a cost of trillions, has brought that country to the verge of civil war while earning us more enemies than ever before. And tax money earmarked for security is being dumped into pork barrel projects anywhere somebody wants their own SWAT team. Detonation of a nuclear bomb within our borders - pick any big city - is a real possibility, as much so now as five years ago. Meanwhile, many Democrats have conceded the very subject of security and positioned themselves as Guardians of Our Forests and Benefactors of Waifs and Owls, neglecting the most basic job of government, which is to defend this country.

The peaceful lagoon that is the White House is designed for the comfort of a vulnerable man. Perfectly understandable, but not what is needed now. The U.S. Constitution provides a simple ultimate way to hold him to account for war crimes and the failure to attend to the country's defense. Impeach him and let the Senate hear the evidence.

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Letters Policy

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

CLASSIFIED CATEGORIES

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

500 Personals

510 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
810 Transportation/Rides
820 Transportation/Rides
830 Transportation/Rides
840 Transportation/Rides
850 Transportation/Rides
860 Transportation/Rides
870 Transportation/Rides
880 Transportation/Rides
890 Transportation/Rides

900 Miscellaneous

910 Pets & Pet Supplies
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Covering the Campus Like a Swarm of Gnats

The George-Anne Daily
Monday • Tuesday • Wednesday • Thursday

THE PennyPress CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- White House office shape
- Prattle
- Hit sharply
- Sandwich shop
- Mine extract
- Hardy cabbage-like plant
- Regard
- Remnants
- Ballpark event
- Tennis match division
- Constrictor
- Speech giver
- Acquire
- Swipes
- Cashmere, e.g.
- Region
- Limes' cousins
- Antenna
- Snacking
- To the stern

DOWN

- Unusual
- Victory symbol
- Beer's kin
- Exec's car
- Rule
- Gladiator's place
- Attacks
- Alpine slider
- Trails behind
- To the sheltered side
- Nuisance
- Hurry
- Luau offering
- Dish for soup
- Double-reed instrument
- Potent particle
- Hitchcock's "Window"
- Line
- Celestial beings
- Coop product
- Very small quantities
- Mimicker
- Signature
- "Colors"
- Slangy affirmative
- "Me No Questions"
- By means of
- Get it wrong
- Saloon order

Saturday's Solution

AP News/Features 3/22

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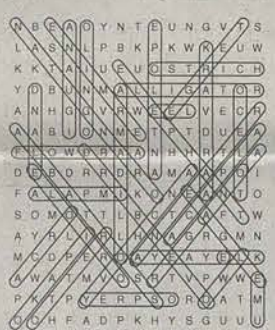
THE PennyPress WORD SEEK PUZZLE

Brown-ie Points

A&W Root Beer was first sold in 1919 for a nickel per mug. Get your money's worth of puzzle pleasure with this Word Seek featuring items that are or can be brown.

ACORN
ALMOND
BEAR
BEAVER
BREAD
BROWNIE
BUFFALO

CAMEL
CAPPUCCINO
CHOCOLATE
COCONUT
DEER
DOG
EYES



Yesterday's Solution

FOOTBALL
GINGERSNAP
HAIR
HORSE
LOG
MONKEY
PAPER BAG
PINECONE
POTATO
PRETZEL
RICE
ROOT BEER
SOIL
SQUIRREL
SUGAR
SYRUP
TEA
TWIG
WALNUT
WOOD

3/22 C D W D U C C O C G I E U T K
R G K A N O F I T U N L A W B
O A P E L O W B P E O E D B Y
O N O R H A M S U G A R W T G
T L T B W H Y L E C D R Z M F
B E A V E R L L A Y E I T Y P
E G T F U Y L P B Y E U A L
E Z O P F A P M W P R Q N R R
R N D D B U C A R O P S O I L
I M O T C L B G P R R G C D C
C H O C O L A T E E S R O H R
E O I N E D K T G N R O C A L
F N O M K N Z N I L W B E I B
O R A G Y E I N W O R B A R C
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Now Save over 75% on a value pack of 16 Penny Press word seek magazines. You'll get over 1,000 puzzles in all for just \$9.95 plus s&h. To order, call toll free: 1-800-261-6274 and use discount code JPWP35.

Rip us off

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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.

Mystic Arts Horoscope

Today's Birthday (03-01-06). This year looks very good for you financially. Travel may be required, distant associates prove valuable even when you stay home. Speaking of home, expand your space. And don't spend all your money entertaining.

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 - Your enthusiasm is boundless, but caution is advised. Don't insult an important person, especially the one who signs your paycheck. Think more, say less.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - Today is a 6 - Initially, it seems that you can get anything you want. It's doubtful this game will turn out that way, however. Be respectful.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) - Today is a 5 - You're feeling feisty, but your path isn't completely clear. Agility, wisdom and persistence are necessary for you to get through. Keep at it.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) - Today is an 8 - You appreciate what

you've recently learned from a respected person. Don't try to sell it to your boss quite yet, however. Learn more first.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is a 5 - Gather up as many goodies as possible, and early. Complications concerning your work take up all your time later.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is a 7 - At first, the task you've set for yourself and your partner looks easy. Later, difficulties arise. Be patient; this is not worth arguing about.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) - Today is a 6 - Be gracious, and keep asking questions. Others have lots of passion, but may not have the facts straight. Advise caution.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is an 8 - A lovely, sensitive, thoughtful moment leads quite naturally to more work. It's one of God's cosmic jokes.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is a 5 - If you're short on cash, consider selling something that's in the way. Clean out your closets and/or the garage. Odds are high you'll get a good

price.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is a 7 - You generally prefer to learn through on-the-job training. This lesson, however, will proceed much better if you do the reading first.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

- Today is a 6 - Search your own pantry before you go shopping. You'll be pleased to find you have more than you thought you had.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is a 7 - You're imaginative, intelligent and sensitive. And, the next two days are good for making money.

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UPS branches into fashion

Very easy

4	3	2	9
7		6 5	8
6		8	
	2 3	1	8
3	5	4	1
1	4	2	7
			5
1	6	9	7
4	5	6	7
		8	1

SUDOKU

To play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. There is no guessing or math involved, just use logic to solve.

Previous Puzzle Solution

8	5	4	1	2	3	6	7	9
9	7	6	4	5	8	3	2	1
3	1	2	9	6	7	4	8	5
4	3	9	7	1	2	8	5	6
7	6	8	3	4	5	1	9	2
1	2	5	8	9	6	7	3	4
6	9	3	5	7	4	2	1	8
2	8	1	6	3	9	5	4	7
5	4	7	2	8	1	9	6	3



HARD KNOCKS



Two Dudes



Announcements 100 - 199

110 Auditions
Seeking to form fun, punk band. Guitarist and drummer needed. Some experience required. Please call 912.536.0580 for more info.

130 Lost & Found
Lost- Please Please If you have found my double strand, white pearl bracelet in a parking lot Please call me, REWARD!! Call 912-681-5102 or 912-587-5073.

140 Other Announcements
American Red Cross FREE Adult CPR Training on Saturday, March 4 > from 9-11 am at First United Methodist Church. MUST register at > 764-4468.

March 4th Volleyball tournament, entry fee \$15 per team. Pick up your entry form at the RAC! Winner gets prizes!

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

Buy or Sell 200 - 299

210 Autos for Sale

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Comic strip 'Boondocks' on a six-month hiatus

By Matt Sedensky
Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Boondocks, the black comic-strip family living in white suburbia, are going on vacation.

Aaron McGruder, the cartoonist behind the strip syndicated in about 350 American newspapers, said Tuesday he would take about six months off beginning in March.

"Every well needs occasional refreshing," he wrote in a letter to be sent to editors of newspapers carrying the strip. "I hope that this fall you will agree that the time away from the demands of deadlines has served the strip, your readers and me."

McGruder offered no further explanation and declined interviews. His editor at Universal Press Syndicate, Greg Melvin, said McGruder simply needed a break.

"Deadlines are hard on everybody, but deadlines are especially hard on creative people," Melvin said. "When six months have passed, hopefully his batteries will be recharged."

The last new comic before the hiatus will appear March 26. Papers can run old "Boondocks" strips or a replacement until it returns in October.

"The Boondocks" has been distributed by Kansas City-based Universal Press since April 1999. It touches on racial issues, pop culture and politics as it chronicles the lives of Huey Freeman, his little brother, Riley, and their eccentric grandfather, who moves them from south Chicago to the suburbs.

The strip's frequent criticism of everything from the Bush administration and post-9/11 policies to TV network BET has made it a source of controversy.

Mentally ill used for security at college and professional games

By Associated Press

COLUMBUS — Officials at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, University of Georgia and Auburn University say they plan to investigate a newspaper report that mentally ill residents of a Columbus facility were used as security staff at college and professional football games.

The Columbus Ledger-Enquirer reported Tuesday that for the past two years residents of Greater Grace Community Center were among the personnel conducting security checks of fans at home football games for Georgia, Auburn and the NFL's Atlanta Falcons.

The mental health facility — a residential center that operated in a Depression-era prison — was shut down Feb. 1 for violating city building codes.

ing codes.

The use of the center's residents in security details at major sporting events, confirmed to the newspaper by four of the residents, was not disclosed to the universities or the arena operators.

The workers were part of a Contemporary Services Corp. security crew whose work ranged from bag checks to on-field security. The California-based company provides security support services at major sporting arenas throughout the country.

Two of the former residents, Richard Berg and Margaret Church, told the Ledger-Enquirer that they were working the games for Greater Grace Baptist Church, which is affiliated with the center, and the Rev. Robert Upshaw, who pastors the church and operated the center.



AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster
The crowd looks up Blanche Debirs as she hosts the Bourbon Street Awards costume contest in the French Quarter during Mardi Gras celebrations in Hurricane-ravaged New Orleans on Fat Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2006.

Small turnout for Mardi Gras

By Mary Foster
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — One reveler dressed as a sandbag. Others came as maggots. There were costumes fashioned from blue tarps like those used to cover damaged roofs, and a group of people dressed as blind men with T-shirts that read: "Levee Inspectors."

New Orleans' first Mardi Gras since Hurricane Katrina evoked wicked satire in the Big Easy on Tuesday, six months after the storm struck the Gulf Coast in a catastrophe that ultimately killed more than 1,300 people.

Kevin and Marie Barre of New Orleans wore white coveralls bearing the spray-painted "X" that denotes a home that has been searched for bodies. "It's a reminder. A lot of people who are coming down here don't understand what we've been

through," Kevin Barre said.

Even amid the typical debauchery — including early morning drinking, flashes of bare breasts and skimpy costumes in the French Quarter — there was no escaping reminders of the storm, beginning with the smaller-than-usual crowds along the parade route.

Zulu, the 97-year-old Mardi Gras club, or krewe, that lost 10 members to Katrina, paraded amid homes that still bear dirty brown water marks from the floodwaters that covered 80 percent of the city. Another krewe, Rex, King of Carnival, paraded past a boarded-up store bearing a spray-painted warning that looters would be shot.

"I lost everything," Andrew Hunter, 42, said as he sat on the steps of his ruined home on Jackson Avenue. "But what the heck. This helps us keep our spirits up, and we need all the help we can get with that."

A club called the Krewe of MRE covered themselves with brown labels from the Meals Ready to Eat that were served to thousands who huddled in the Superdome after the storm.

Mayor Ray Nagin, wearing a black beret and camouflage uniform, portrayed cigar-chomping Gen. Russell Honoré, the military man who led the first big relief convoy into the city.

"It's been absolutely — I don't know how to describe it — great," Nagin said of the party. "Katrina did a lot of bad things. But it has done something to give New Orleanians a fresh love for their city."

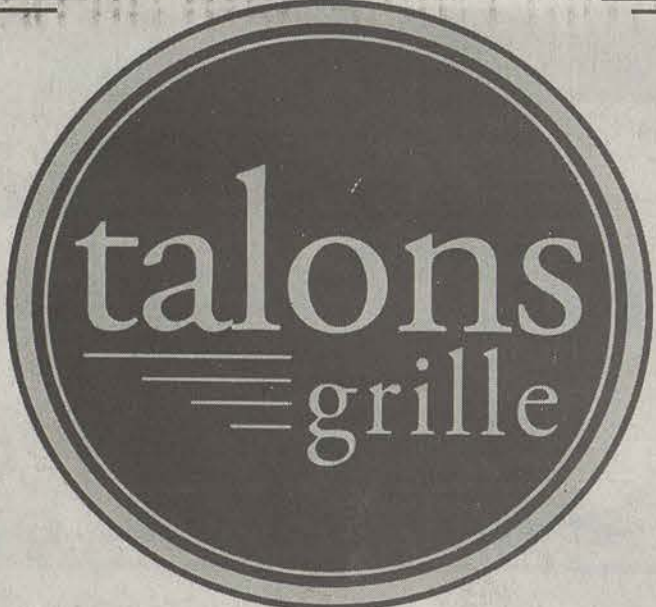
Along an Uptown parade route, a family who lost their Lakeview home to flooding poked fun at former FEMA director Michael Brown. Jenny Louis, her husband, Ross, and their three children strolled around in all-brown costumes, similar to the uniforms worn by UPS drivers. Printed on their backs: "What Did

Brown Do For You Today?"

Despite partly sunny weather and temperatures in the 70s, the crowds were smaller than usual in a city that still has less than half its pre-storm population of almost a half-million. Finding a prime parade-watching spot was not hard.


"We came out about 5 this morning and had no trouble getting a good spot," said Tammi Harlan, 56, of Metairie. "We've been coming to this spot for about 20 years, but normally the guys come the night before to make sure we get it."

Traditions held. About 160 members of clarinetist Pete Fountain's Half Past Marching club had breakfast at the shuttered Commander's Palace restaurant before heading down the parade route — but without Fountain, who is ill and missed what would have been his 46th trip with the group. The celebrated musician is 75.



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SPORTS

Olympic ratings do not take gold

NBC's prime-time Olympics coverage from Turin averaged 20.2 million viewers per night, a 37 percent decline from the Salt Lake City games four years ago, with an even steeper decline among young viewers.

The closing ceremonies on Sunday had only 14.8 million viewers, and was clobbered by ABC's finale of "Dancing With the Stars."

SoCon tournament starts in two days

The men's team waits until Friday at noon for the winner of Appalachian State and Wofford.

The women's team plays Wofford on Thursday. The game is scheduled to start 30 minutes after the first game of the day.

See tomorrow's newspaper for our complete preview of the tournaments.



Swimmers named 'All-Conference'

GSU News Service

SOMERSET, N.J. — Georgia Southern swimmers Kimberly Morris and Patrina Best, and divers Katie Creighton and Nicole Hutchison were named to the 2006 Northeast Conference All-Conference team released Tuesday.

Morris earned honors for her swims in the 200 breast, 200 IM and 400 IM at the Northeast Conference Championships, held Feb. 16-18. The sophomore set GSU records in both individual medley events and cruised to a third place finish in the conference meet in the 200 breast. Morris' time of 2:07.70 in the 200 IM placed third overall in the NEC Championships, and broke the previous school mark of 2:08.12, set in 1992. The very next day, Morris destroyed her own record in the 400 IM, swimming the race in 4:28.43, nearly five seconds faster than her former mark of 4:33.00, set just last season. Morris also added the second-fastest time this season for the Eagles in the 200 breast, with her third place conference finish of 2:22.63.

Best's third place time in the 100 Breast garnered the all-conference honor. The sophomore scored a new personal best with a time of 1:06.81. The time is also a season best for the St. Marys native.

Divers Creighton and Hutchison each earned their honors with identical scores from different boards. Creigh-

ton took third place overall from the one meter board with a final score of 176.40. Her preliminary dive of 180.15 is a new personal best. Hutchison also scored a 176.40 in her final dive from

the three meter board. The score placed her second overall, behind only Juliana DiPlacido of Central Connecticut State who earned Outstanding Diver of the Year honors at this year's meet.



Nicole Hutchison



Patrina Best



Katie Creighton



Kimberly Morris

Golf finishes ninth in Ashworth Invitational tourney in California

GSU News Service

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. — Georgia Southern's golf team, led by seniors Drew Bowen and Jon David Kennedy, finished ninth at the Ashworth Invitational at the North Ranch Country Club in Thousand Oaks,

Calif. The Eagles shot a final round 294 to finish at 31-over par.

Pepperdine took home team honors, finishing 9-over par 861. Host Southern California finished second at 18-over par. Oklahoma's Anthony Kim fired a final round 67 to finish the

tournament at 9-under par 204, taking home individual honors.

Bowen and Kennedy finished the tournament tied for 10th at 3-over par. Bowen's final round score of 68 was his best of the tournament, while Kennedy finished the tournament with a final round score of 71.

Freshman Ryan LeFerve finished at 10-over par, tied for 32nd in only his second collegiate tournament with a score of 223. Fellow freshman Jordan Johnston's 15-over par 228 was good enough for a tie of 51st. Senior Johnathan Shaw ended the tournament with a final round of 84, finishing the tournament at 25-over par.

GSU returns to action on March 5 as the team travels to participate in the Hyatt Plantation Club Intercollegiate in Dorado, Puerto Rico.



File Photo

A GSU golfer chips onto the green during a tournament in this file photo.

Team	Par	1	2	3	TOT
1 Pepperdine	+9	283	297	281	861
2 Southern Cal	+18	289	293	288	870
3 Stanford	+21	290	293	290	873
T4 UCLA	+23	289	299	287	875
T4 Oklahoma	+23	292	294	289	875
6 BYU	+24	286	299	291	876
7 Tennessee	+28	296	297	287	880
8 Washington	+30	284	303	295	882
9 GSU	+31	289	300	294	883
10 Coastal Carolina	+35	291	295	301	887
11 Oregon	+40	295	307	290	892
12 San Diego State	+43	300	307	288	895
T13 Oregon State	+67	307	302	310	919
T13 Fresno State	+67	317	304	298	919
15 UC Davis	+70	310	314	298	922

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Miscellany Office:
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Ramirez looking to reclaim 2003 form

By Charles Odum
Associated Press

KISSIMMEE, Fla. — When Horacio Ramirez went 12-4 as a rookie in 2003, he looked like the Atlanta Braves' next pitching star.

Since then, Ramirez is only 13-13, and some wonder if he could be in danger of being passed by another young pitcher on the rise such as Kyle Davies or Chuck James.

In that regard, Wednesday's start against the University of Georgia is more than just a practice game.

Ramirez needs a strong spring to put him in position to prove his strong rookie season was no fluke and to answer any question about his status as one of the team's top five starters.

"To me, the challenge is putting together a good season," Ramirez said. "I'm not looking behind at all. I'm just focused on what I have to do."

"I know we have Chuck James and Davies who can do as well as probably anybody in the game. It's nice to have that in the organization, but I'm focusing on me and what I have to do."

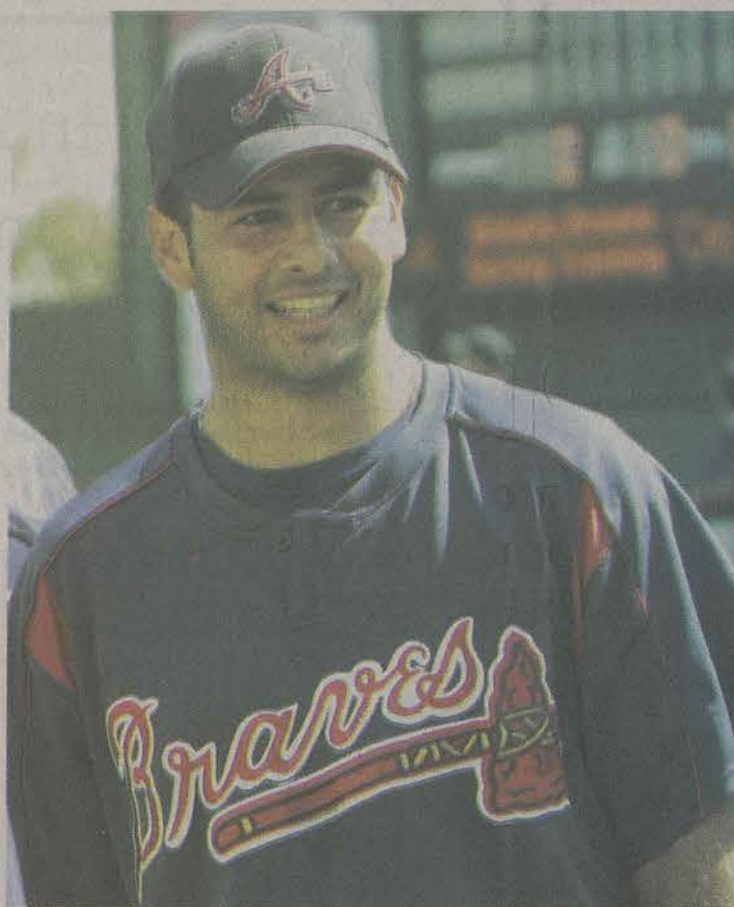
Ramirez was 11-9 with a career-worst 4.63 ERA last season. He led the staff by giving up 31 homers and spent time in the bullpen when he wasn't needed as the team's No. 5 starter.

Ramirez, 26, is the only left-hander in the rotation, as Mike Hampton is out for the season following elbow surgery. James, who appeared in relief in two games with Atlanta late last season, also is a left-hander.

One year ago, Ramirez was worried about returning from tendinitis in his left shoulder, which limited him to nine starts in 2004.

Ramirez says his shoulder was no problem last year. "Last year, I felt like I was 17 or 18 again," he said. "My arm was great. Physically, it was the best I've felt in a long, long time."

Now, Ramirez says he has to put everything together "physically and



AP Photo/Brian Myrick

Atlanta Braves pitcher Horacio Ramirez smiles on the field during baseball spring training at Disney's Wide World of Sports complex in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., Tuesday.

mentally and going out there and executing. I expect to do that this season."

He says the difference is this year he is not thinking about the 2004 injury. "This spring I'm actually able to go out and work on some things," he said. "Last spring it was 'OK, let's see how my arm feels.' This year I can focus on making the pitch and not focus on how I feel."

Braves manager Bobby Cox said he expects Ramirez "to really bounce back and have a good year."

"At times, he was real good," Cox said. Those times usually came when Ramirez was pitching at home, where he had a 3.59 ERA. He had a 5.69 ERA

in road games.

"Last year was a rough year, but it wasn't a step back," Ramirez said. "It was a learning process."

Ramirez is focusing on his fastball this spring. "I really want to focus on controlling my fastball. It's a huge focus for me this spring."

"Last year, I thought at the end of the year it was getting a little better, but that's something I was going through some rough times with and I don't want that to happen again."

Tim Hudson, John Smoltz, Jorge Sosa and John Thomson join Ramirez as the Braves' returning starting pitchers. Davies made 14 starts and was 7-6 with a 4.93 ERA.

Two basketball players named 'All-Conference'

GSU News Service

SPARTANBURG, S.C. — The Georgia Southern women's basketball team had two of its members receive postseason recognition by the Southern Conference.

Senior Nicole Newton was named to the coaches' and media all-conference teams while freshman Ashley Melson was tabbed to the All-Freshman team.

Newton has experienced a career season, ranking third in the SoCon in scoring with 13.3 ppg.

She was second on the team in rebounding with 8.9 rpg. Her

scoring average is more than double her career average coming into the season. She has six double-doubles this season and is the school's active leader in points, rebounds, steals and blocks.

Melson, the first GSU women's player to be named to the All-Freshman team, has made 19 starts in 27 games and is averaging eight points per contest, fourth-best on the squad.

Melson leads the Lady Eagles in assists with 57, is second in steals with 34 and is first among backcourt players with nine blocks.



Ashley Melson



Nicole Newton

NFL Combine heats up in Indy



AP Photo/Michael Conroy

Quarterback Jay Cutler, of Vanderbilt, throws during the NFL scouting combine in Indianapolis, Sunday. One big story from the Combine is his abilities. Cutler wants to be mentioned in the same breath as other top-tier quarterbacks Matt Lineart and Vince Young. Other strong stories that have developed are the abilities of the top tight ends and doubts over Young's intelligence test scores.

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