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Sun and clouds
Volume 79
Number 36

Serving strong
Women's tennis makes a racket at the UTC Barus Classic | SPORTS, p.6



Our view: U.S. presence in Iraq breeding terror
| OPINION, p. 4

THE GEORGE-ANNE DAILY

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2006

Pandemic prevented

Flu drill prepares the university for a possible pandemic

By Morgan Marsh

Managing editor for news

"Alright, get ready!"

After volunteers and health officials set up and trained for more than two hours, a city health official prepared flu drill workers for the line of students beginning to pour into the Williams Center for evaluation and flu "medication."

A line of nearly a hundred students were waiting at the Williams Center to participate in the flu drill at 3 p.m. Tuesday when the drill began. Students first went through "triage" outside to determine their health and were then sent inside the building with colored stickers to put on their health records.

Students were directed to tables set up around volunteers who read instructions for filling out their information and where to go next, and gave students some quick information about the Avian Influenza. Students then moved on to a second set of tables to receive medication — in this case, a pill bottle of seven M&Ms, to take "one a day, for seven days," said drill volunteer Finda Gbanga, a senior nursing student.

After receiving medication, students were sent to the last table to turn in their health sheet and receive an instructional sheet of information about the medication they were given, then routed back outside to keep traffic moving through the stations.

"[The students were] very nice and calm," said Gbanga.

Within the first hour, more than 400 students passed through the Williams Center for medication.

"We wanted close to 1,000 students, but we'd be lucky to have had 500," said Cindy Hart of the Bulloch County health department.

Most of the students who participated showed up right at 3 p.m., though, so pan-

see DRILL, page 3



Grayson Hoffman/STAFF

Volunteers Britney Fields, left, and Peggy Robinson work the special needs table during the pandemic flu emergency drill Tuesday, Sept. 26.

INSIDE

Report show U.S. presence in Iraq is encouraging terrorism

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Brian Prusa/STAFF

The RAC shows it's greener side with the new expansion construction.

RAC expansion *a green design*

By Frenchi Jones

Staff writer

Within the next four weeks students will begin to enjoy some facilities of the expanded Recreation and Activities Center, but some might be surprised when they find out what the walls are made of.

Sunflower conglomerates and other organic and recyclable materials have been used in the renovation process as the RAC's project coordinators have strived to incorporate "green design"

into the expansion's build.

"From the beginning, it was decided that this project would be a golden opportunity to construct a building which embraces energy efficiency, and environmental friendliness," the university's architect, Haroun Homayun, said in an interview.

"The idea behind the project was to provide a state-of-art facility that the student body has always wanted and deserved," he added.

This will be the first building on the campus which will attain Leadership

in Energy and Environmental Design certification from the United States Green Building Council.

According to the council's Web site, LEED-certified buildings have lower operating costs, increased asset value, reduced amounts of waste, reduced amounts of harmful greenhouse emissions and they also conserve more energy and water than standard designs.

Director of the RAC's Southern Adventures, Kurt Frederick, said sustainability was the biggest reason for the expansion to be environmentally

friendly.

"We wanted to give students an opportunity to see that things can be done differently and that sustainability is reasonable, practical and makes good business sense," he said.

Southern Adventures is one of the marquee places where the "green design" has been emphasized. Sunflower seeds have been used to build its walls and environmentally-safe paints have been used to cover them.

see RAC, page 2

'Bleed true blue' for GSU *University challenges App. State in blood drive*

By Kellie Nelson

Staff writer

Georgia Southern is challenging Appalachian State in more than just sports. The university is also challenging them to a blood drive competition.

The blood drive is to become an annual competition with both schools seeking a goal of at least 100 units of blood. The university that collects the most units of blood will be announced at the homecoming game on Oct. 21.

The American Red Cross Southern Region with the sponsorship of GSU's Greek

Life, will hold the first annual "Bleed True Blue" blood drive on Sept. 27, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sept. 28, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Kappa Delta house.

"While the goal is to get at least 100 units of blood total, the hope is to receive at least 100 units of blood per day of the drive," said Nancy Martin, Sr. Donor Recruitment Rep.

Georgia is in a need for blood, and the Red Cross is asking for everyone to come out and donate.

As of Sept. 19, the blood types O positive, B positive, O negative, A negative and

see BLUE, page 2



Jamie Tuten/STAFF

Eagle fans show their pride at the first game of the year.

News from McClatchy Newspapers

THE BIG STORY

Report says Iraqi occupation encourages terror

The war in Iraq has bred deep resentment of the U.S. that probably will get worse before it gets better, federal intelligence analysts conclude in a report at odds with President Bush's portrayal of a world growing safer.

In the bleak report, declassified and released Tuesday on Bush's orders, the nation's most veteran analysts conclude that despite serious damage to the leadership of al-Qaida, the threat from Islamic extremists has spread both in numbers and in geographic reach.

Bush and his top advisers have said the formerly classified assessment of global terrorism supported their arguments that the world is safer because of the war. But more than three pages of stark judgments warning about the spread of terrorism contrasted with the administration's glass-half-full declarations.

"If this trend continues, threats to U.S. interests at home and abroad will become more diverse, leading to increasing attacks worldwide," the document says. "The confluence of shared purpose and dispersed actors will make it harder to find and undermine jihadist groups."

The intelligence assessment, completed in April, has stirred a heated election-season argument over the course of U.S. national security in the years following the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.

The report's few positive notes were couched in conditional terms, depending on successful completion of difficult tasks ahead for the U.S. and its allies. In one example, analysts concluded that more responsive political systems in Muslim nations could erode support for jihadist extremists.



Gerald Humphrey/MCT
President Bush holds a joint news conference with Afghan President Hamid Karzai in the White House on Tuesday.

Bush ordered a declassified section of the secret report released after several days of criticism sparked by portions that were leaked to the news media over the weekend.

At a news conference, Bush said

critics who believe the Iraq war has worsened terrorism are mistaken.

"My judgment is, if we weren't in Iraq, they'd find some other excuse, because they have ambitions," he said.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

From Universal Press Syndicate

Police blotter

• Fire crews arriving at a burning house on 99th Street in Portland, Ore., on July 26 must have suspected that something was up because nervous residents of the home were ferrying buckets of water to the fire themselves, having already implored neighbors not to call firefighters. Police later found marijuana plants growing in the basement and took three people into custody.

No monkey business

• In September, following complaints of diners, the health department in Springfield, Mo., notified restaurants that Debby Rose's "assistance monkey" could not be permitted to dine with her (in a high chair), even though Rose said she suffers from a disabling social phobia that she can accommodate only if "Richard" (a bonnet macaque monkey) is with her.

Monkeys are generally permitted under the Americans with Disabilities Act if they perform certain tasks, as capuchin monkeys have been trained to fetch groceries from shelves for wheelchair-using patrons. However, animals that provide only emotional support fall into a gray area, according to a U.S. Justice Department spokesperson quoted by the Springfield News-Leader.

Got an Eye for Grammar?

The George-Anne Daily

is now accepting resumés for copyeditors.

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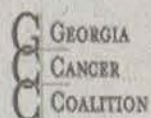
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INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

U.S. confronts Taliban's comeback

The soldiers of Bravo Company could hear the Taliban fighters radio one another as they tracked every step the Americans took through the rutted tracks. Yet the 10th Mountain Division troops never found a single Taliban fighter.

"They just hide their weapons and become farmers," muttered one U.S. officer. Afghanistan has become Iraq on a slow burn. Five years after they were ousted, the Taliban are back in force, their ranks renewed by a new generation of diehards. Violence, opium trafficking, ethnic tensions, official corruption and political anarchy are all worse than they've been at any time since the U.S.-led intervention in 2001.

By failing to stop Taliban leaders and Osama bin Laden from escaping into Pakistan, then diverting troops and resources to Iraq before finishing the job in Afghanistan, the Bush administration left the door open to a Taliban comeback. Reconstruction efforts have been slow and limited, and the U.S. and NATO didn't anticipate the extent and ferocity of the Taliban resurgence or the alliances the insurgents have formed with other Islamic extremists and with the world's leading opium traffickers.



Tom Pennington/MCT

Soldiers from Bravo Company question an Afghan man during a large scale cordon and search mission.

There are only 42,000 U.S. and NATO-led troops to secure a country that's half the size of Iraq.

Suicide bombings have soared from two in 2002 to one every five days. Civilian casualties are mounting.

"The Americans made promises that they haven't carried out, like bringing security, rebuilding the country

and eradicating poverty," said Nasir Ahmad, 32.

James Dobbins, who was President Bush's special envoy to Afghanistan, said that the administration dismissed European offers of a major peacekeeping force after the U.S. intervention and almost immediately began shifting military assets to invade Iraq.

LEGAL

Judge to review legality of lethal injection

When "Freeway Killer" William Bonin was executed by lethal injection 10 years ago, it seemed that arguments about what is a humane way to put inmates to death in California were finally over. That assumption was wrong.

From California to Maryland, lawyers for death row inmates have mounted challenges to the use of lethal injection in virtually every state with capital punishment. This week, California takes center stage

in a widening legal battle over lethal injection that may be destined for the U.S. Supreme Court.

Starting Tuesday, U.S. District Judge Jeremy Fogel will hold an unprecedented four-day hearing to explore whether the method the state uses to execute inmates violates the constitutional ban on cruel and unusual punishment.

Fogel has put a temporary halt to executions in California as he considers the legal challenge from death

row inmate Michael Morales, who in February was hours from receiving a fatal dose of drugs when he was given a reprieve.

Other states have held hearings to examine lethal injection issues, but the California case is expected to be the most thorough inquiry to ever unfold in a courtroom. Fogel already broke new ground this spring when he toured San Quentin's death chamber to get a firsthand look at the mechanics of an execution.

Blue

from page 1

B negative are at a little over a days supply of blood. The minimum they try to keep is a three days supply.

You will have no worries when going to donate; they are very professional and make sure that you are comfortable through the entire process, said senior public relations major Lauren Berens. "They're so good about taking care of you," she said.

While the Red Cross is seeking all blood types for donations in Georgia, there is a specific need for type O blood. O negative blood donors are considered

"universal donors" in that any person of any blood type can receive their blood, successfully.

O positive is also desirable to have because it is compatible with 84 percent of the American population. Type O negative is important because of its life saving capabilities. When there is no time to determine blood type in the patient, such as an accident victim, O negative blood is used to save time, which can be a crucial factor in saving a life.

Everyone is urged to donate. The American Red Cross accepts all donors that are 17 years of age or older and weigh at least 110 pounds. If you have donated blood recently, you can make

a blood donation if it has been at least 56 days.

During the drive, donors will be eligible to register to win a 27 inch flat screen TV, courtesy of Wal-Mart Distribution Center. Donors will also be able to enjoy free soft drinks courtesy of Coca-Cola of Statesboro, free hotdogs and hamburgers both days, and Magnolia Bakery will supply baked goods along with Thursday's refreshments.

Come out and support your community. Not only can we beat Appalachian State University, but we can also beat the blood shortage in Georgia.

For more information you can contact Greek Life at 681-5185. Walk-ins are welcome.

RAC

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Homayun added that the outdoors nature of the facility created a perfect opportunity for the "green design".

"Southern Adventures is a nature-based operation which promotes outdoors, love of nature, and coexistence within the natural environment, so it makes sense for it to exude that mentality in its new home," said.

Although the project cost of 120,000 square-foot addition is

\$31,860,000, Frederick said the cost will eventually pay for itself.

"It's not a matter of saving money as it is having a plan for the future," he said. "In our day and age we are seeing the environment go down hill and any influence we can have we should try to make those influences," he added.

CALENDAR

Wednesday, September 27

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

American Red Cross blood drive
Kappa Delta sorority house
Olympic Boulevard.

7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

The Office of Student Activities requires that all student organizations attend at least one mandatory yearly meeting. The president and advisor must be present (or a proxy).

Russell Union Ballroom

Thursday, September 28

7 p.m.

A town hall discussion, "Know Your Rights," will take place. Participants will discuss dealing with law enforcement.

Russell Union Ballroom

POLICE BEAT

09-22-2006

- Michael James Cornelia, 18, of Olliff Hall, was charged with minor in possession/consumption of alcohol and entering an auto.

09-23-2006

- A radar detector, a CD player and an I-pod adaptor were taken from a vehicle in the Eagle Village parking lot.

09-24-2006

- A digital camera was taken from a vehicle in the Sanford Hall parking lot.

09-25-2006

- Jonathan T. Scott, 18, of Eagle Village, was charged with criminal trespass.
- A radio was taken from a vehicle in the Olliff Hall parking lot.
- A window was broken on a vehicle in the Southern Courtyard parking lot.
- Three spools of wire were taken from the RAC construction site.



Left to Right: Breanna Mosley, Tonya Merl, Nicholas Newton and Daneé Simpson act a scene from the play "Raisin in the Sun."

The Walls Have Eyes for Raisin in the Sun

By Stephen M. Pomeroy

Staff writer

For Georgia Southern Theatre and Performance's presentation of Raisin in the Sun, the walls will have eyes.

The eyes will belong to the audience, who will watch the story unfold through the unfinished walls of the Younger family's small Chicago apartment.

"I wanted the set to feel almost claustrophobic, give it a sense of too many people in too small a space," said James Harbour, director of the play.

"Raisin in the Sun" is a story that celebrates the lives of the younger family, an African-American family living in the south side of Chicago during the 1950's.

Written by Lorraine Hansberry, the play is considered a turning point for the American Theatre because it was one of the first honest portrayals of black family life and culture. Before Hansberry's depiction, blacks had usually been restricted to small and often comedic roles, using racial stereotypes as a basis for the characters.

Hansberry's realistic and sometimes unflattering look at the characters touches on issues ranging from tensions between black and

white communities, assimilation into white culture, racism, poverty and the construction of the African-American identity.

Raisin in the Sun features Nicholas Newton as Walter Lee Younger, a young dreamer who devises ways to acquire wealth with his friends.

Daneé Simpson plays Walter's sister, Beneatha Younger, an intelligent and driven woman who dreams of being a doctor and struggles with determining her identity as a well-educated black woman.

Lena Younger, called "Mamma," is the matriarch of the Younger family. She is played by Tonya Merl, who describes her as a strong woman struggling to keep her family together after the death of her husband.

The rest of the cast includes Breanna Mosley, Aaron Darrisaw, David Hardy, Jonathan Riggins, Alexander Diallo, Crystal Jones and Kwasié Murphy, a student from William James Middle School.

Kelly Berry, GSU Theatre professor, serves as the show's scene designer. Costumes were designed by Daneé Simpson and lighting design was done by Jo Ellen Aspinwall. Megan Lyles is the show's stage manager and Erica Johnson is the assistant stage manager.

Raisin in the Sun will run from

Sept. 29 to Oct. 7 at 7:30 p.m. with a matinee on Sunday, Oct. 1 at 2:00 p.m.

There will be no performance on Monday, September 30th. All shows will take place in the Black Box Theater located in room 1001 of the Communication Arts Building at Georgia Southern University.

Tickets are \$12.00 for general admission, \$8.00 for GSU Faculty/Staff, seniors and local students and \$4.00 for GSU students with ID. For more information, contact Theatre and Performance at 681-5379.

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Drill

from page 1

demical drill workers are optimistic that, although being able to practice the drill with 1,000 or more students passing through the stations would have been very beneficial, it showed workers that they could handle hundreds of students at once.

"[There were] about 500 people between 3 and 4 p.m.," said Paul Ferguson, director of health services. "This [drill] tested our ability to handle a large crowd, and I think we did a really good job."

After the drill ended at 5 p.m., health officials and volunteers reviewed the drill during what was referred to as the "Hot Wash."

"The staff did very well," said Hollard Phillips, director of the office of infectious disease. "The situation was very well controlled."

One aspect of the drill that could have presented some difficulty was the special needs section. Some student participants were given a special needs role to play, such as not being able to read or not being able to speak English.

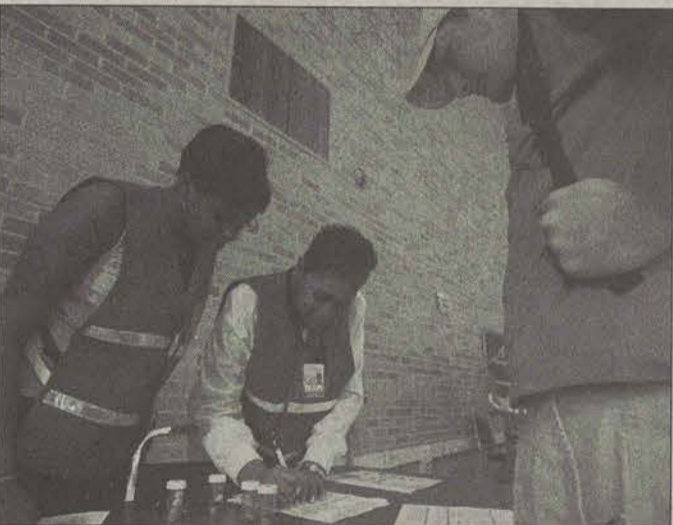
"The special needs [section] went very well," said Patricia Brannen, nursing coordinator for Southeast health District. "There was some confusion, which just reinforces how important it is to train the volunteers."

Brannen said volunteers were able to get students through the first section - filling out information sheets and receiving instructions - within six minutes, four minutes being the fastest time. "Volunteers were quick to answer questions that students asked that weren't included in the instructions and information provided," said Brannen.

Health officials and drill workers had only a few concerns after completing the drill.

"Setup could be improved," said Brannen. "It was difficult for some people to hear volunteers [giving instructions] with the way the tables were set up."

Brannen also said she'd like to see less information about the flu provided at the first station. "The information given at the tables may be too much - it may be lost in the instructions."



Britney Fields and Peggy Robertson hand Ben Wilkinson medication, in the form of M&Ms, at the practice Flu Epidemic Tuesday.

Mark Palmer, preparedness specialist for the department of human resources with the Southeast Health District, said there could be a potential safety issue with having students wait in line outside.

"The only possible problem is with students standing out in the heat," said Palmer. "They could have been rerouted through the hall to wait [instead of standing outside]."

Despite some other small concerns, health officials seemed to be generally very pleased with the outcome of the drill.

"Everyone commented on how well all the different groups worked together," said Trina Von Walder, emergency preparedness director for the Bulloch County health department. "[It was] a wonderful test of communication between everyone."

Ferguson said he'd like the school to have another drill some time to practice some of the changes that need to be made in the plan.

"This is a work in progress," said Ferguson. "We want to do another [drill] at some point in time that's more realistic - come up with a plan to have a quarantine area, so we can deal with people who are actually sick."

This drill has shown school and health officials how the emergency plan could work, should a pandemic

situation become a reality, and has brought up possible problems that school officials can now work to improve before practicing another drill.

"Those first 45 minutes really showed we can do it," said Ferguson.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

The George-Anne Daily 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.gadaily.com>.

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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.

WELLNESS WEDNESDAY

Articles contributed by the University Wellness Council

Walking and jogging, healthy habits

In the pre-dawn hours when most people are still lost in their dreams, there are dedicated individuals across America lacing up their running shoes, strapping on their MP3s, and heading out into the dark to start their days with a brisk walk or jog. Over the last decade, walking and jogging have become increasingly popular forms of fitness and recreation, and their benefits, both physical and emotional, are showing.

Most everyone knows that a good jog or walk through the park is beneficial for the body. However, the impact of making these activities regular practice cannot be overstated. According to the American Council on Exercise (ACE), people who walk an average of thirty minutes a day can significantly reduce their risk of premature death. While staying alive is good enough reason to take up walking or jogging, ACE has found that a regular program of either can help reduce blood cholesterol, lower blood pressure, increase cardiovascular endurance, boost bone strength, burn calories and keep weight down. Shellie Dodd-Bell, a graduate student at GSU, works jogging into her lifestyle for many of the aforementioned health benefits, specifically to expend more calories and build endurance. "I had never been able to run far, but by slowly increasing the amount of time I ran, I began to meet my goals and feel great," said Dodd-Bell.

ACE asserts that running can lead to feelings of freedom and independence and alleviate stress by releasing alpha waves in the brain. Another graduate student, Anna Champion, claims that for her, these emotional benefits are what jogging is all about. "I started walking about two miles a day, and gradually progressed to running half-marathons! Now, I run by myself for the sense of freedom it brings. It clears my mind," Champion said. Dodd-Bell believes in the emotional benefits of walking and jogging, but prefers to engage in her hobby with friends, thus making it not only exercise, but also a social event.

Campus Recreation and Intramurals at GSU is providing the public with a great opportunity to get a taste of this excellent form of fitness, while at the same time benefiting the University Wellness Council. On October 21, the Southern Sprint for Wellness will be held at the Recreation Activity Center on campus.

This 5K Walk/Run is for all ages, and there will be a ¼ mile Kiddie Run for the children. The event gets started at 8:30 a.m. with the Kiddie Run, which is free. An early registration by October 13 will only cost \$15.00. Discounts will be awarded for students and Statesboro Pacers. Register online at www.georgiasouthern.edu/services/cr or at the RAC. For more information, please contact CRI at 681-5436.

OPINION



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"On account of being a democracy and run by the people, we are the only nation in the world that has to keep a government four years, no matter what it does."

- Will Rogers

OUR VIEW

Our presence in Iraq breeds more terror for the future

AT ISSUE: Intelligence shows violence increasing in several countries as a result of military occupation

A wealth of troubling new information has been reported this week, as most observers of international politics realize. College students are overwhelmingly apathetic to international problems, but our presence in Iraq has become a destructive, dangerous and inappropriate force.

A consortium of 16 government intelligence agencies released a National Intelligence Estimate (NIE), which was completed in April. According to the CIA, "A NIE is the most authoritative written judgment concerning a national security issue. Unlike current intelligence products,

which describe the present, most NIEs forecast future developments and address their implications for the U.S. NIEs cover a wide range of issues, from military and technological, to economic to political trends."

John D. Negroponte, who is the director of national intelligence, is responsible for approving NIEs. Basically, this report is the most important forum for policy recommendation and reform.

Now comes the important part. The report, which is addressed to the highest level of policy maker, including the presi-

dent, drew some troubling and downright scary conclusions.

Their most frightening finding is that the American invasion and occupation of the Iraqi state has increased the risk of terrorism and the number of Islamic radicals willing to give their lives for the destruction of our way of life. The report also discussed the idea that Iraq has become a breeding ground for militants who fight in Iraq, then return to their home countries radicalized.

Meanwhile, irresponsible lawmakers who have sent American citizens to their

deaths half way around the world continue to defend their inexcusable positions.

Representative Lynn Westmoreland, a Republican of Georgia, has inexplicably abandoned American values. At two recent events, one at the Georgia Christian Coalition and the other at the Douglas County Chamber of Commerce, Westmoreland said that he "voted for torture," and does not oppose "techniques that some people call torture." Later, he said that he was just joking.

Rep. Westmoreland, you should know that torture is not funny. Your comment,

a joke or not, reveals your true colors. It never has been, and it never will be amusing to torture anyone, just ask your colleague John McCain.

With our own intelligence agencies reporting that the war in Iraq has increased the terrorism threat, it is no time to be joking about inhuman and degrading policy that has practical and inseparable consequences on our hard working soldiers who are in harms way.

If the intelligence says we are making matters worse, we should withdraw from Iraq and keep the losses to a minimum.

Morgan Marsh TELLING IT STRAIGHT

Events a mockery of homelessness

Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week is Oct. 2 through Oct. 5. There are some very interesting events planned during this week to raise awareness, including discussions on the realities of poverty in the United States and around the world.

I think it's wonderful that groups on campus try to promote awareness and understanding of the severity of homelessness to students on campus. I'm happy to see that not just one, but four full events have been planned to educate students on this issue.

But when I read what these planned "educational" events were, I felt a little uncomfortable.

I'm all for students realizing that not everyone is given the precious opportunity to be able to afford college, that not everyone has a car to drive to work or even a job to go to, and that not everyone has a place to go home to every night. But if I were struggling to put food on my children's plates or looking for a place to sleep each night, I'd feel terribly offended by a bunch of college students sleeping in cardboard boxes for one night to try to understand my life.

The events for Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week were obviously planned with the best of intentions in mind, but I think they definitely lack the perspective of someone who actually is homeless.

One of the events is a poverty simulation that is, as the campus calendar details said, "A unique opportunity to live another life... in just 90 seconds. Will you be rich? Will you be poor? Experience the game of 'Life' in real life."

Now I admit I haven't participated in this "game" to understand what a person in a very different situation than mine might feel like, but the description alone saddens me. Poverty is not a game. While this "game" might be played with the best of intentions, it bothers me that one of the four ways to get students to become aware of this serious issue is to have them play a game of chance where they may end up one of the "less fortunate" for just over one minute of their lives.

Another event planned for this week's awareness, "Homeless Sleep Out," I noticed last year while walking home from class. Students were hanging out on the lawn outside Landrum, in cardboard boxes. My first impression: a horrible mockery of a very serious issue.

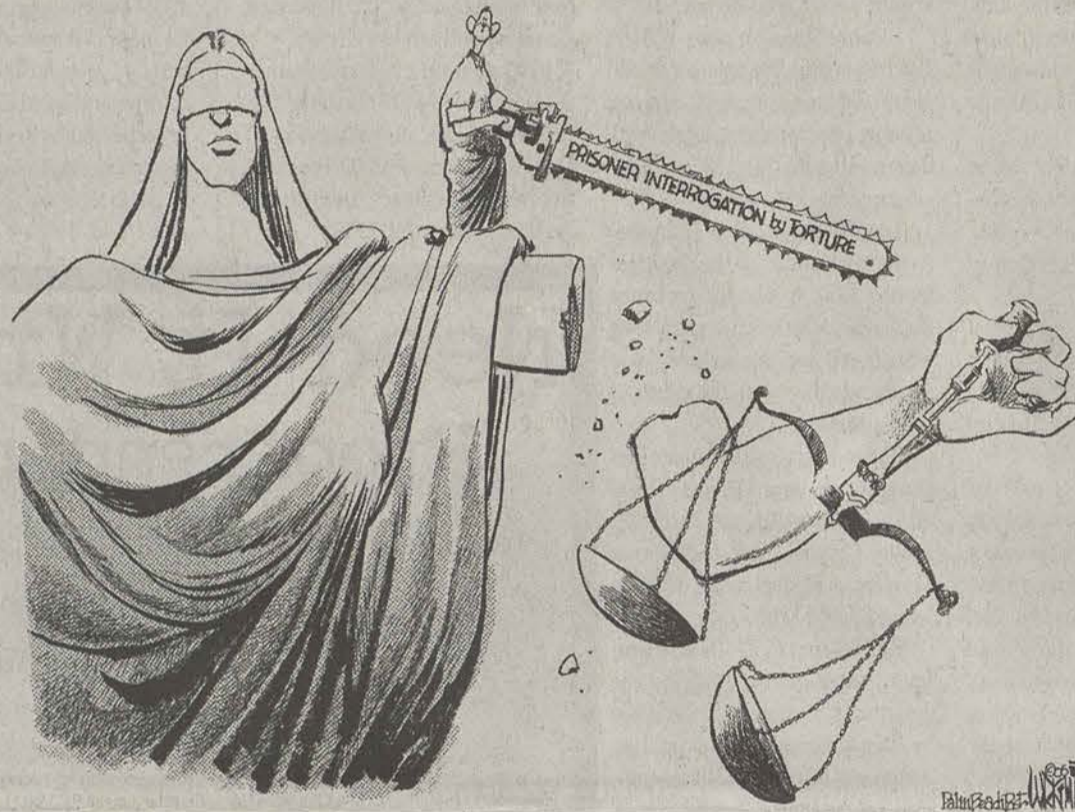
College students sleeping in cardboard boxes for one night does not seem like a way to appreciate homelessness to me. I was shocked speechless when I saw students hanging out on the lawn last year, talking and joking around next to their clean cardboard "homes."

This is the perfect example of an event planned with the best of intentions, but with seemingly little critical thought about what this event is actually serving to teach.

Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week should be about understanding that there are families struggling to make enough money to feed their children and that there are people living on park benches. This week should be about trying to understand these issues and about trying to help solve these problems.

I believe that we can try to help students understand and appreciate the severity of these issues - without the help of a cardboard box.

Email Morgan at gamed@georgiasouthern.edu



Letters to the editor

You have to be joking, that's not news

I am a non-traditional student. I am older than virtually every one of the students that will be reading this paper. I don't expect many students to see things the way that I do. After all, I'm from the dreaded "older generation" and I am way too out of touch to understand any of you.

The other day I overheard a couple of students chatting about politics. I wasn't snooping or anything, they were talking loud enough to be overheard. You have got to be joking! Please tell me that they were not indicative of our younger, registered voters. Do you know that Comedy Central and The Daily Show is just entertainment? Jon Stewart is not a news reporter. Jon Stewart is an actor. Isn't he the guy that was married to

the Hooters girl in Adam Sandler's movie Big Daddy?

I refuse to believe that the very smart young adults that I share classes with get their news from Comedy Central. I know in my heart you guys are smarter than that.

Whatever happened to the Wall Street Journal, Washington Post or New York Times? I don't care if you are liberal or conservative. There are real news sources available. Please don't vote if you get your news from Comedy Central. Carlos Mencia is funny too and he's on Comedy Central. Just because he doesn't sit behind a desk like Jon Stewart doesn't make him any less of an actor. They are both entertainment, not newscasts.

If you normally get your news and

political ideas from Jon, why not try Larry King. Why not try CNN, Fox News or CSNBC. Whatever political philosophy you have, there is real news for you. Check out the radio. There's Al Franken, Neal Boortz and Sean Hannity. Rush is out of rehab and on the air. They are news commentators or political ones anyway.

The Daily Show is good at what it does, it entertains. But it is not a valid source for news, and especially not political news. We have too much at stake to let our hopes and futures rest on a total lack of common sense. You can hate me if you want, but please do yourself a favor and get a real source for news and politics.

From GSU student Randy Crooms

Whatever it takes, study for midterms

Studying is a tricky proposition. You have to be in the right environment for studying. Studying requires a certain determination, a mindset, a tenacity if you will, the most of us sorely lack.

Many potential study sessions are squandered before they even begin to take shape. If you do happen to find the right location for studying, you have to take into account your personal quirks and nuances in order to create the ideal setting for studying.

I personally like to eat while I study because it stimulates my obsessive compulsive brain. It's something to keep my hands occupied while I pore over meaningless notes so that I may regurgitate them to their fullest capacity later.

Some people just don't know how to study at all. These are the folks that

tend to stay signed in on AOL Instant Messenger while trying to cram for a Chemistry test at one in the morning. After all once you're signed in you can't just not talk to people. I mean, that's antisocial, right?

Another fatal flaw is listening to music while you're studying. Just because you're into it doesn't mean it's going to help you learn anything. And forget the Mozart effect, because it just doesn't work for memorization.

My own personal error is the good old "I've got a whole lot of time and memorizing my Latin notes/geology notes/the United States Constitution won't take me more than an hour." This means I take a lot of breaks from studying.

Of course I'm sure none of you like studying. I know I don't. Genuinely enjoying studying is for those

smarmy, pretentious Ivy League kids whose parents are granted seats at Satan's own dinner table. But it has to be done, just like cleaning your toilet.

Really studying is just like having to sit in timeout when you were a kid, except this timeout will help you in its own small way to expand your knowledge of the human condition. It's like an added bonus that you want no part of.

After all, who gives half a crap if the rock pumice is felsic or mafic? I know that when I'm a fabulously wealthy rock star I'm not going to find a hunk of pumice and be like, "Man, am I glad that I know all about this rock." But I'll probably be unhappy if I flunk out of college, so I better hit the books before my midterms.

From GSU student Ernie LoBue.

Mitch Jones COLUMNIST

Interrogations not bad for Americans

Hopefully everyone has seen the debate going on between President Bush and members of congress on appropriate interrogation techniques to be used on suspected terrorists.

After much debate, it seems that President Bush was granted his request and the American people got what they deserve, permission for tough interrogation measures to be used on suspected terrorists by the CIA, providing greater national security for our country.

Despite all the hoopla surrounding this debate, I really do not understand why it was such a difficult decision. President Bush wanted congress to come up with some guidelines for what could and could not be done by the CIA when interrogating suspected terrorists. Many were arguing that harsh measures were sometimes needed in order to get valuable information from suspects.

The opposing side was arguing that such harsh measures were forms of torture and America should never torture those poor terrorists. The "harsh measures" that were being labeled as torture included water boarding,

which makes those who are involved believe they are going to drown, and placing naked suspects in freezing cold rooms while The Red Hot Chili Peppers is playing loudly. I do not see how interrogation tactics such as these can be labeled as torture. There are no long term negative effects associated with these measures so how can they be labeled torture. Many sororities, fraternities, athletic teams and other organizations put new members through acts much worse.

Also, many opponents of the new agreement would also argue that America has to abide by the Geneva Convention; therefore, no harsh measures should be used during interrogation. However, the fact of the matter is that terrorists do not abide by the Geneva Convention and neither should we when dealing with them. Why should we grant such liberties to an enemy when they will not do so in return? The common answer is America should take the moral high road because everyone around the world will hate us and it will only put us in more danger if we don't. Here's a news flash, the majority of the world already hates America. It's not because of President Bush. The majority of the world has always hated America, and they always will. It does not matter what American policies are; we will never be viewed favorably by the majority of the world. Terrorist attacks were committed against this country not only during the tenure of the current administration, but during previous administrations as well. We should not care what the rest of the world thinks about us because that is a battle that we will never win despite what liberals might say.

While I watched a Human Rights Group and other organizations condemn any use of harsh interrogation measures last week on TV, they kept failing to explain why harsh interrogation should not be conducted if it could possibly save American lives. In my opinion, America has gotten soft. Many in this country want to cater to the rest of the world and continue to see America as the reason for the world's problems. Where was the outrage from Human Rights Watch or any group following the beheadings of Americans in Iraq? If we continue this soft approach when confronted by evil, and if we let world opinion dictate American policy, then we will leave our future in the hands of our enemies.

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