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Volume 79
Number 62

Playing holiday games

Hiatus takes a look at board games to warm up winter break | **HIATUS**, p.12

Use our tips to survive the holidays with your family

| **HIATUS**, p.10

THE GEORGE-ANNE DAILY

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2006

Enrollment, retention rates show slight decline

It's the first dip in numbers in six years

By Rachel McDaniel
Executive editor

Classes might be smaller this semester, because there are 221 fewer students at Georgia Southern. The retention rate fell for the third year in a row, but SAT scores rose to above 1100 with incoming freshmen. This year there are 463 fewer first time students, but the number of transfer students and continuing students has increased.

The retention rate, or the number of students who stayed at GSU since entering as freshmen last fall, fell from 79 percent in 2003 to 76 percent this year. The number of transfer students continues to rise, along with SAT scores, which are up 24 points to 1104 with this year's incoming freshmen.

"Our number one priority for this campus right now is retention, progression and graduation," said GSU President Bruce Grube. "Given the fact that we are a Carnegie doctoral and research institution, and given the fact that SAT scores have risen, we have made progress, but we can't be complacent with where we are."

President Grube said the goal for GSU is to maintain retention rates of at least 80 percent. He said several programs have been implemented to keep GSU students in school, including sessions at the Academic Success Center to help students with test-taking skills and time management as well as faculty and department involvement in helping undeclared students find a major. Grube said new student housing is important because research shows that students who live in university residence complexes are retained at a higher rate and will have better grades.

"Students who become involved in the life of the university tend to

see **NUMBERS**, page 5

Enrollment down

Georgia Southern posted its first decrease in enrollment this year, taking in about 200 students less than 2005. That follows at least six years of gains.



Enrollment by years

2000	14,184
'01	14,371
'02	15,075
'03	15,704
'04	16,100
'05	16,646
'06	16,425

Adam Crisp/Staff graphic

Paisley to play Paulson

Country star to headline April 27 concert at football stadium

By Rachel McDaniel
Executive editor

Grammy-nominated country star Brad Paisley will headline a concert at Paulson Stadium April 27.

Tickets will sell for \$25 for students and \$30 for non-students.

Paisley was nominated for four Grammys in 2006 and since his first album in 1999, he has won five CMA awards. Paisley has had five chart-topping No. 1 hits.

The show will cost \$200,000, which is being financed with ticket sales and student activity fees.

Students who participated in the online WINGS survey this semester helped pick the country act for the spring concert, with Tim McGraw, Kenny Chesney and Brad Paisley getting the most votes, said Teresa Thompson, vice president of student affairs and enrollment management.

"The concert should be on April 27, and we've got the contract pretty much signed. Brad Paisley is a definite, but the only real question is who he will bring with him," said Thompson.

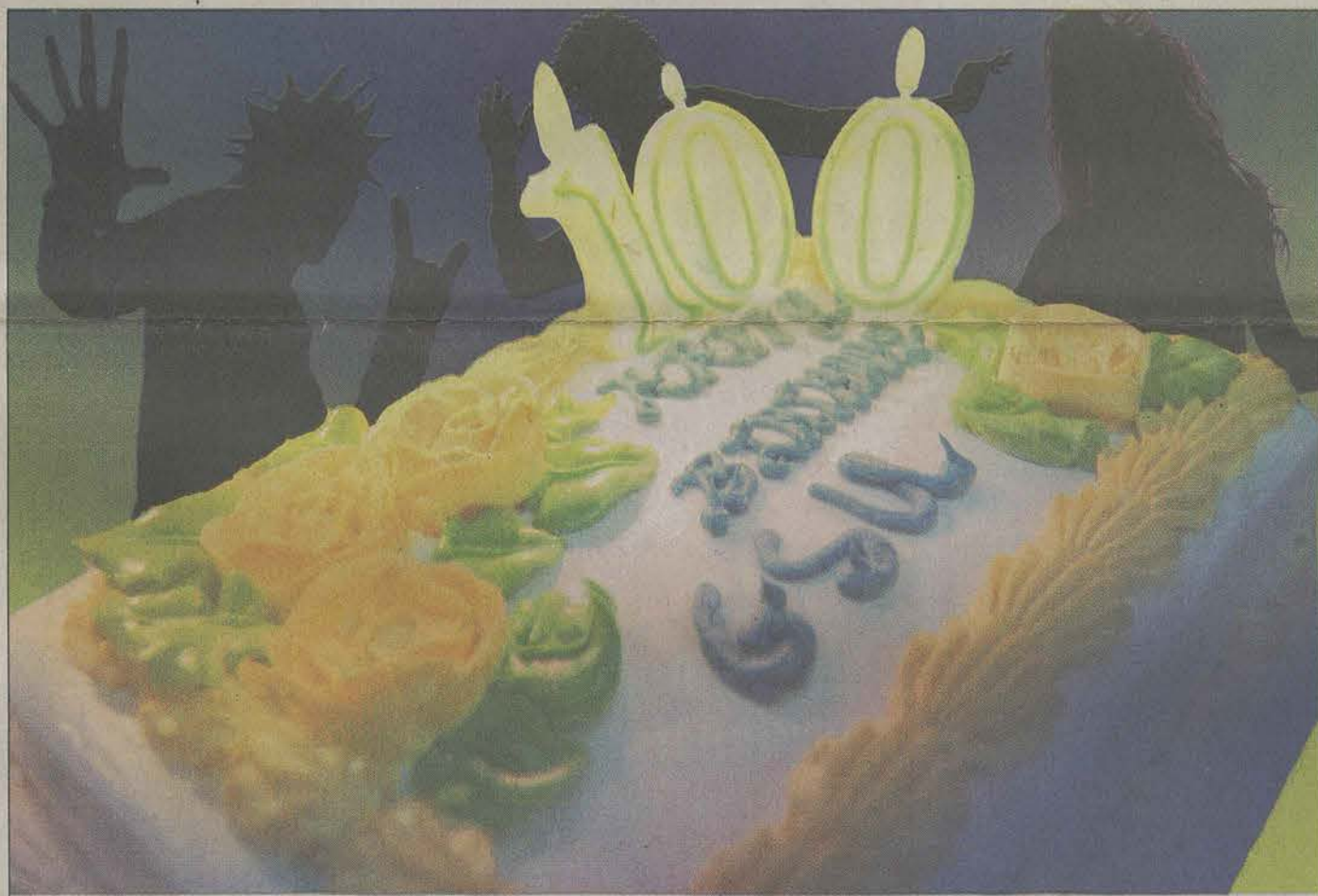
"He's been traveling with an American Idol singer, Carrie Underwood. We're hoping she can come, but she just had

another song hit number one."

Bill Pickett, director of student activities, said that the concert will be a break for students right before finals. "We usually have the concerts at the end of a semester because it avoids football season, the weather is usually better, and because we like for it to be a great finale for the students at the end of the year," said Pickett. "They work hard all semester and then it's somewhat of a send off before the break for the summer."

Pickett helps organize Eagle Entertainment, which will assist mostly with volunteers, advertising,

getting the students excited and behind the scenes work for the show. "We actually hire a staging company that handles the stage equipment, layout, lights, sound, etc. This is such a huge production it makes it easier on us if we have professional folks that deal with these things on a daily basis," said Pickett. "We always try and get Eagle Entertainment and our volunteers involved as much as possible so they can see the ins and outs of the behind the scenes and make it somewhat of an educational learning

see **PAISLEY**, page 5Special photo
Country star Brad Paisley will headline an April 27 show at Paulson.

Jamie Tuten/PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Georgia Southern will officially mark its 100th birthday Friday.

GSU TURNS 100

Friday marks begining of school's centennial celebration

By Morgan Marsh
Managing editor

On Dec. 1, 1906, delegates and their supporters met at the Savannah & Statesboro Railroad depot in hopes of building Bulloch County's first college.

Now, one hundred years later, Georgia Southern is celebrating its Centennial.

Saturday, Dec. 1, declared "Founders Day," kicks off the celebration with gala dinner on campus. The event is also a celebration of GSU's recent fund-

raising Campaign for National Distinction.

Georgia Southern has come a long way since Bulloch County citizens achieved their goal of bringing the college to the county one hundred years ago. The school began as the First District A&M

School in 1906, with construction starting in 1907 and the campus opening to students in 1908. Just two decades later the school became South Georgia Teachers College, South Georgia's first

see **BIRTHDAY**, page 5

Del Presley: He wrote the book on GSU history

By Jenny Miller
News editor

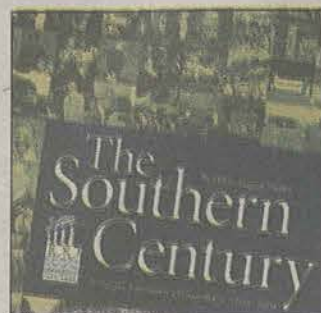
Do you need to know how many years Landrum cafeteria has been open? How about the museum? Delma Presley, professor emeritus

of English and local and Georgia Southern historian, probably knows the answer.

For more than 35 years, he has been an active and vibrant participant in the Statesboro and GSU community. While working

on campus as an English professor, he also took on duties of the first director of the museum for 17 years.

"It was great working with

see **BOOK**, page 5

Subleasing necessary but can be complicated

By Frenchi Jones
Staff writer

When senior Scott Pond transferred to Georgia Southern he was excited about his new venture, but after he discovered that the credits in his major were not transferable, he figured that it would be best if he packed up and moved back home.

Now Pond is trying to find a sub-lease for his Cambridge apartment. It is a task he said is not convenient.

"It's difficult because there are a lot of other people trying to sub-lease right now," he said. "I had to drop my rent from \$539 to \$339 just to get someone to take it over."

With the end of every semester, there comes graduation, roommate issues and bad grades. All these things create a frenzy of students trying to get out of their leases by finding someone to take over their apartment contracts.

Robb Back, property manager at Eagle's Landing, said finding the right person to fit in with your roommates is very important.

"Roommate matching is probably key," Back said. "We do our best here to try to explain to the person who wants to move out that it is very important for them to find someone who fits in with their roommates."

What is a sub-lease and how does it work?

Back describes it as a change of parties. "A true sub-lease is where your lease terminates and theirs begins," he said. "It is just a simple contract that you sign saying that your contract is ending and the new person is taking over."

Is it always that simple?

Back said that a lot of it depends on the complex you are in, but he added that it is definitely possible to sub-lease as long as you are proactive

see **SUB**, page 5

TODAY

High: 79 | Low: 63
PM Showers

FRIDAY

High: 75 | Low: 38
T-Showers, wind

SATURDAY

High: 66 | Low: 47
Few showers

SUNDAY

High: 59 | Low: 37
Few showers

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SEE YOU NEXT YEAR

That's right. Even the George-Anne staff has to study. This is your last newspaper this semester. We'll see you back on Thursday, Jan. 11, 2007.

CALENDAR

Thursday, November 30

Last Day of Classes

8 a.m. - 11 p.m.

Festival of trees

Russell Union upstairs balcony

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Winter holiday cultural celebration

Russell Union Commons area

5 p.m. - 6 p.m.

International student meeting

Russell Union 2084

6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Volunteer appreciation

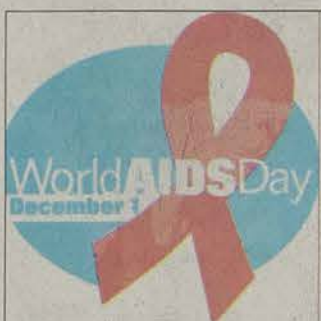
Russell Union 2084

6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Getting prepared for finals

Russell Union 2047

World AIDS Day becomes community event



Special photos

These are just four of the many symbols that represent World AIDS Day, which takes place Dec. 1 each year.

By Lyndell Nelson

Staff writer

The HIV virus currently infects approximately 800,000 people world-wide. According to Deb Blackburn, executive director of the Amethyst Project, the virus is growing in the south faster than anywhere else.

The Amethyst Project is a non profit community-based organization funded by the United Way. It focuses on raising HIV/AIDS awareness and teaching prevention methods. The organization will provide a display in the courtyard downtown with information at this week's First Friday celebration.

"First Friday is a celebration of downtown merchants," said Stephanie Tames, board member of the Amethyst Project. "Since World AIDS Day falls on First Friday, it is a good opportunity to spread information to the community."

The theme for this year's World AIDS Day is "Stop AIDS: Keep the Promise." Blackburn feels that education is the key to AIDS prevention.

"Our goal is awareness and education. The HIV virus is preventable. People should take responsibility. AIDS is not just a gay disease."

"Protecting yourself is the biggest issue among young people," Tames said.

"The Amethyst Project got started in the early 1980s out of need," Blackburn said. "More and more people in the community had HIV and didn't know much about it."

The organization provides social

services for people with HIV/AIDS, as well as teaching awareness and prevention methods to residents of Bulloch and surrounding counties.

"AIDS awareness in the community has become more visible. More people in the South and rural areas are becoming interested. It is not just restricted to large cities."

The organization has been working hard to spread awareness. They are providing a luncheon for people infected with HIV as well as hosting a canned food drive.

"It's about being smart and safe," Tames said. "You shouldn't be afraid of people with AIDS. We're trying to remove the stigma of people with AIDS."

AIDS Facts

- Around 800,000 people are currently infected with HIV.
- There are 40,000 new infections each year, a new infection every 13 minutes.
- Worldwide, 35 million people have been infected overall.

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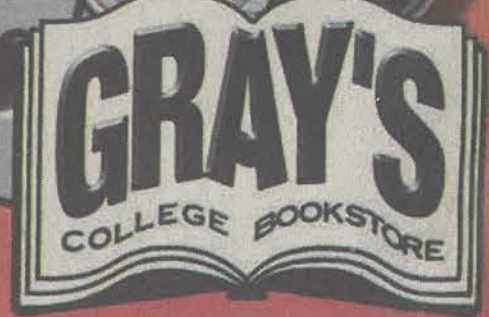
text books!

Collect all 15 items and bring them into Gray's by December 1st. The first person to turn in ALL correct items wins \$150 of FREE textbooks for the spring semester.

15 Items

The Number of the Pay Phone at 898 Lakeview Rd
Any Coin from the Year that Gray's Opened in the 'Boro
Picture of you Holding a Sign that Reads, "I love Gray's"
Glow in the Dark Condom (unused)
Wal-mart Smiley Face Sticker
Receipt for 50¢ Worth of Gas
Lyrics to the Alma Mater
A used Birthday Candle
Sock with a Hole in it
Ice Cube (still frozen)
A Bar of Hotel Soap
Movie Ticket Stub
Blue Candy Cane
A non #2 Pencil
Pixie Sticks

Good Luck!



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Special photo

Williams' artwork will be on display starting Dec. 4 in the Averitt Center.

Photos reflect proportion

GSU News Service

Kori Allison Williams, bachelor of fine arts candidate at Georgia Southern, will open her senior photography exhibition, *Phi-nomenon*, on Dec. 4, in the Legends Gallery of the Averitt Center for the Arts in downtown Statesboro.

The Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art sponsors the exhibition, which will close with a reception on Thursday, Dec. 7, from 5-7 p.m.

Williams, a native of Augusta, Georgia, became obsessed with photography during her senior year in high school. Her uncle fostered her early work.

As her interests and talents flourished during her art classes at GSU, Williams' inspiration came from the artwork of her late grandmother, who did not have the opportunity for a formal education in art.

Her uncle's encouragement gave Williams the confidence to realize her dream of earning a BFA degree. After graduation, Williams hopes to travel

and use her skills.

Williams said, "My exhibition is entitled '*Phi-nomenon*' because my photographs involve images of my body as they fit into the golden ratio, golden mean or divine proportion. Artists as far back as the Renaissance believed this proportion to be aesthetically pleasing. When the ratio of the longer side of a rectangle is taken to the shorter side, the proportion approximates the number phi, 1.618 ..., an irrational number which does not repeat itself or appear to ever end."

Williams believes that the creation of art gives an individual an opportunity to express a personal point of view.

She said, "Art gives me a chance to show others how I see the world. My work has been influenced by the abstract, macro photography of Edward Steichen, who expressed himself uniquely."

The exhibition and reception are free and open to the public.

For more information, contact the artist at koriwilli@hotmail.com

ShuttleGus ends semester of success

By Brittany Hall

Staff writer

Georgia Southern students got a safe ride this semester. The pilot program, ShuttleGus, made its debut in the GSU community in August.

ShuttleGus has closed its doors for this semester, but will start up their engine again beginning in January.

A reflection of the first semester of ShuttleGus, a SafeRides Program, proved a success in that 1,300 rides were given and close to \$1000 was donated by appreciative riders.

Many local community businesses have gotten on board for the ride that director and co-founder Jon Simpson is sure to last. "I can say in confidence that this program will be here at Georgia Southern to serve the students," said Simpson.

Dean of Students, George Lewis, agrees with Simpson.

"I think and hope that this program will stay strong and continuously build," said Lewis. "The students in charge of ShuttleGus have some things in store to get people energized about the program for next semester."

Locos Deli and Pub owner, Jim Lanier has offered to provide food for volunteers on nights ShuttleGus runs.

ShuttleGus Facts

- ShuttleGus began operation in August.
- The program has a no questions asked policy.
- In total, ShuttleGus has provided over 1,300 rides.
- There are usually 15 to 25 volunteers each weekend.

"Overall I am very satisfied with the success of the program thus far," said Simpson. "I think it did better than anyone could have hoped for or expected and we are excited to see what else is

in store."

With the end of the first centennial for GSU coming to a close, ShuttleGus places its mark at the beginning of another 100 years of excellence and tradition to come.



Grayson Hoffman/STAFF


Volunteers from ShuttleGus gave over a thousand rides this semester.



Grayson Hoffman/STAFF

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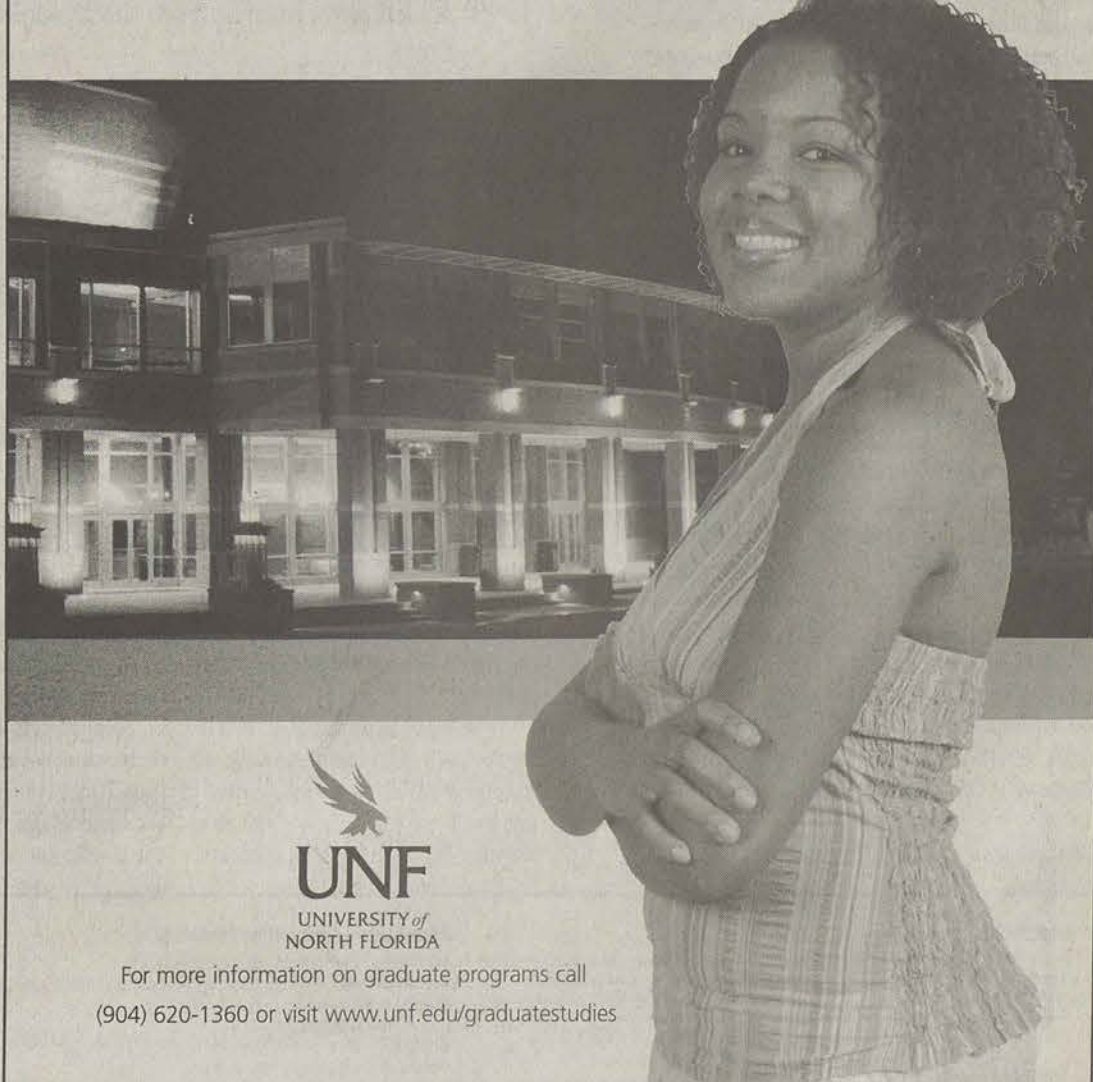
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OPINION



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"When you don't have the best of everything, make the best of everything you have."

- Erk Russell

OUR VIEW

A history of growth and educational expansion

AT ISSUE: GSU was founded on Dec. 1 of 1906, and building up to 100 years has been quite a journey

One hundred years ago Georgia Southern was just a plot of land and a dream in the minds of the fifty original founders.

Georgia Governor Joseph M. Terrell visited Statesboro in early 1907. He found a crew of workers clearing what had once been the location of a successful turpentine distillery. The land was to be used for our campus, and the Governor learned that our buildings were to be outfitted with a steam heating system.

Since then, we've been an agricultural school, a normal school, a teachers college and we finally

became a university in 1989.

We've come a long way since that visit 100 years ago. Jimmy Carter, former president, and one of Georgia's most prominent citizens and a champion of worldwide democracy spoke on-campus.

Some of the world's most influential and important musicians have also performed here. The Rolling Stones played a show to a crowded Hanner Fieldhouse. The Allman Brothers performed a show, recorded later that same tour, that has become one of the best selling live performances of all time. Duane Allman died less than a year

later, ensuring that Southern students were some of the lucky few to see the original act. Otis Redding visited campus before his daughter attended school here.

The grandson of Ghandi and Father Roy Bourgeois are just of the few of the internationally acclaimed peace activists who have taken time from their busy schedules to address the student body.

We have captured national championships in football and baseball. More importantly however, in the pursuit of equality and excellence, Georgia

Southern College broke the color barrier by awarding the University System of Georgia's basketball scholarship to a black athlete. Under the leadership of Dr. Marvin Pittman, GSC became the first college in the state to educate black teachers, even before integration.

Georgia Southern was chartered in 1906 and has grown in enrollment from 15 students in 1908 to more than 16,000 in 2006, and is now the third largest university in the state. In just five years GSU has built five new buildings and is planning more. We have, and continue, to make history at GSU.

Brandon Smith AGAINST THE GRAIN

Support open source software

Winter break is just around the corner, and most students will soon be leaving the 'Boro to see their families. Often these breaks lead to boredom, and if you find yourself fitting this common mold, I suggest you take a look into free software. I don't mean free software as in AIM, LimeWire, RealPlayer etc. no, I mean free software as in Firefox.



Brandon Smith is a senior accounting major from Atlanta, Ga. He is deputy managing editor of news for The George-Anne.

What's the difference? Well, as the Free Software Foundation (FSF) puts it: "Free software is a matter of liberty not price." Think of "free" as in "free speech," not as in "free beer." While both Firefox and Internet Explorer (IE) are free as in beer, only Firefox is free as in speech. Free software is important because, as the FSF states, "it allows users to run, copy, distribute, study, change and improve the software."

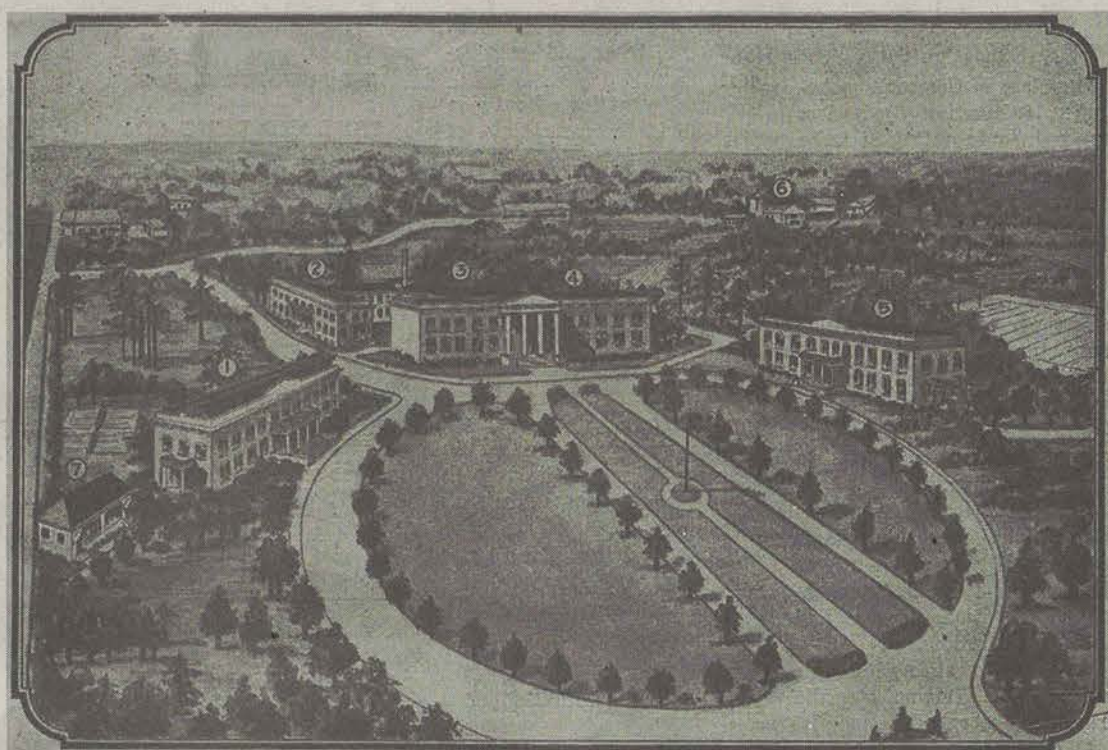
The opposite of free (or "open source") software is proprietary (or "closed source") software. Firefox is open source, IE is closed source. You can legally modify every character in Firefox's code, but you can't so much as look at IE's. This doesn't only help anxious programmers, it also helps us end-users. This helps us get a better product in the end. Firefox is community based, so, in essence, it's maintained by thousands and thousands of computer super-geeks. Internet Explorer is maintained by a few Microsoft employees. This difference in foundation is why after over a decade IE is still inferior in quality to the much younger Firefox. Firefox has yet to have a serious security flaw (IE has had countless), and Firefox also has over 2,500 add-ons. This is generally the case when you compare free software to proprietary software.

The ideology of free software parallels that of science. As oneanddone2.org writes, "Science is not closed or proprietary. It doesn't advance by placing limits on how you can use the knowledge it generates. Every new work builds upon previous works. That's how science advances. That's how people want software to advance."

The ideas behind software should be freely available for others to build upon, like in science. Currently companies that support closed source software and Intellectual Property (IP) are severely hurting the advancement of software. Sure these companies, like Microsoft, are making billions in the process, but software isn't advancing like it should. If people like Einstein had supported IP they would have been billionaires too, but science wouldn't be where it is today.

You don't have to be a computer-nerd to support the advancement of software any more than you need to be a scientist to support the advancement of science. So this winter work to "open source" your computer. First take a glance at the thousands of projects at sourceforge.net. Then try to use Firefox instead of IE, Gaim instead of AIM, Thunderbird instead of Outlook, XMMS instead of WinAmp, or even OpenOffice instead of Microsoft Office. And, when you're good and ready, take the leap and replace Windows or OS X with a form of Linux or BSD.

Write Brandon at imneat03@gmail.com



A timeline of traditions

What every student should know about GSU

- 1906** Statesboro becomes the home of the first District A&M school.
- 1914** A major fire on campus destroys school barn
- 1933** George Washington Carver is first African-American to make a major presentation at Georgia Teacher's College.
- 1942** Intercollegiate sports suspended due to WWII.
- 1943** Frogs from Lake Wells sing on a new recording by Cornell University naturalist Arthur Allen.
- 1958** Unis Abdullah, a student from Baghdad, Iraq, introduces Islam to George-Anne readers.
- 1960** Ralph Swords, a business major, won \$10 from the George-Anne for coming up with the nickname "Eagles."
- 1972** Thirty-eight black employees strike in protest over low wages and lack of black supervisors and professors.
- 1981** Erk Russell and GSC President Lick announce reinstatement of the football program.
- 1985** Eagles won their first NCAA 1-AA National Football Championship.
- 1990** Smithsonian Institution National Tick Collection arrives at GSU.
- 1999** A GSU flag returns from the Discovery Space Shuttle to the International Space Station.

Students lose out without finals

Some students will be finished with finals before finals week even gets here. While it seems like a great excuse for an early break, canceling finals can hurt students in the long run.

One of the most important lessons of college is how to manage time and how to manage stress. Finals are the perfect test at the end of the semester to see if students can pull it all together and meet the challenge.

Professors who make it easier for themselves and their students at the end of the semester by eliminating finals are taking away valuable learning experiences from students.

Without finals, how will students learn to manage their time and learn not to procrastinate?

Student fees pay to keep buildings open for an extra week, and if not many students are sticking around for finals, then the money is being wasted.

Money for hundreds of bus route trips, university workers and lights for countless unused buildings is being wasted. Professors are paid to be in class, and by not being there they are cheating students.

Some professors change the date of their exams, usually to the last week of class. It may seem like a good deal, but for some students, that makes their workload heavier. The new exam date

can interfere with other plans. Finals are scheduled a year in advance to prevent this from happening. There is extra time for studying during finals week.

Having one more grade can really make a difference for some borderline students. Besides, you have more time to study for finals since there are not other classes or projects that week. You also get more time to prove that you can master calculus, chemistry or Chinese, since two hours are allotted for each final exam.

Some professors with larger classes probably cancel finals because of the difficulty of grading so many papers before grades are due. So get your scantrons and pencils ready.

Mitch Jones COLUMNIST

Make every GSU moment a memory

As I drove down Interstate 16 toward Statesboro returning from Thanksgiving break, I came to the realization that my time as a student and employee of Georgia Southern was quickly drawing to its conclusion.

It's a bittersweet moment. After 158 credit hours worth of classes, two degrees, three jobs with the university, and countless hours of studying, I can honestly say that I am ready to move on and start a new chapter in my life. At the same time, it is always hard to say goodbye. Most of us have been in school for as long as we can remember. I have been in some type of school for the past 22 years. It is basically all that I know. Perhaps what makes it the most difficult is that I am saying goodbye to many things: a way of life, a university, friends, coworkers and of course my girlfriend.



Mitch Jones is an MBA student from Chatsworth, Ga. He is a columnist for The George-Anne Daily.

I honestly feel that I could not have picked a better place to attend school than GSU. This school is where I learned to live on my own. It's the place where I met many lifelong friends and my future wife (hopefully). It's where I got to watch the greatest football in 1-AA. It's the place where I acquired more knowledge than I thought my mind would hold. GSU is where I learned many life long lessons and many of these lessons have shaped me into the person that I am today and that I will be for the rest of my life. Thank you, Georgia Southern, for being so good to me.

During my time at GSU I have made many friends through Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity, class, work, extracurricular activities and other random occurrences. I have learned how to make great friends with individuals who not only have a lot in common with me, but also with others that have different backgrounds, interests, beliefs, political views and values than I do. I will value these friendships for the rest of my life and I want to say thank you to all those who have been my friend at GSU.

I have also met many outstanding people through my employment at The University Store, The George-Anne Daily and the Financial Aid Office. To all my employers and co-workers: thank you for the opportunity to work and to share my time at GSU with you. I want to extend a special thanks to The George-Anne Daily for giving me an opportunity to speak on behalf of many conservatives, and to all those at Financial Aid for making my time there quite an experience.

Last and certainly not least, I want to thank my girlfriend for sticking with me for over three years. Kristen has made my time at GSU more enjoyable, and also much easier. Since it isn't her time to graduate I am forced to leave her for a year, but I trust that GSU will take care of her while I am gone, just as it has for me.

To anyone I have not mentioned who has helped me along the way at GSU I want to thank you also. To my fellow students, I am speaking from experience when I tell you that your time at GSU will only reflect the effort you put forth while here. As the old saying goes, "you only get out of it, what you put into it."

Write Mitch at mitchell_t_jones@georgiasouthern.edu

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Birthday

from page 1

four-year college.

The school changed names once again in 1959 to Georgia Southern College, opening the door to a broader and more diverse faculty and student body. This was the year the school left their old name, "professors," behind and adopted the name we know so well today, the Georgia Southern Eagles.

Georgia Southern College president Nicholas Henry made history in 1988 when he succeeded in changing the school's status once again, a mission his three predecessors had been unable to accomplish. The school became Georgia Southern University.

To honor GSU's one hundred years and progress from an agricultural and mechanical school to a university on the path to National Distinction, Gov. Sonny Perdue proclaimed Dec. 1 to be Georgia Southern University Day throughout Georgia.

"This university has committed itself to a future of innovative and energetic public service in the greatest tradition of higher education," Perdue wrote in his proclamation.

On Tuesday, Nov. 28, faculty,

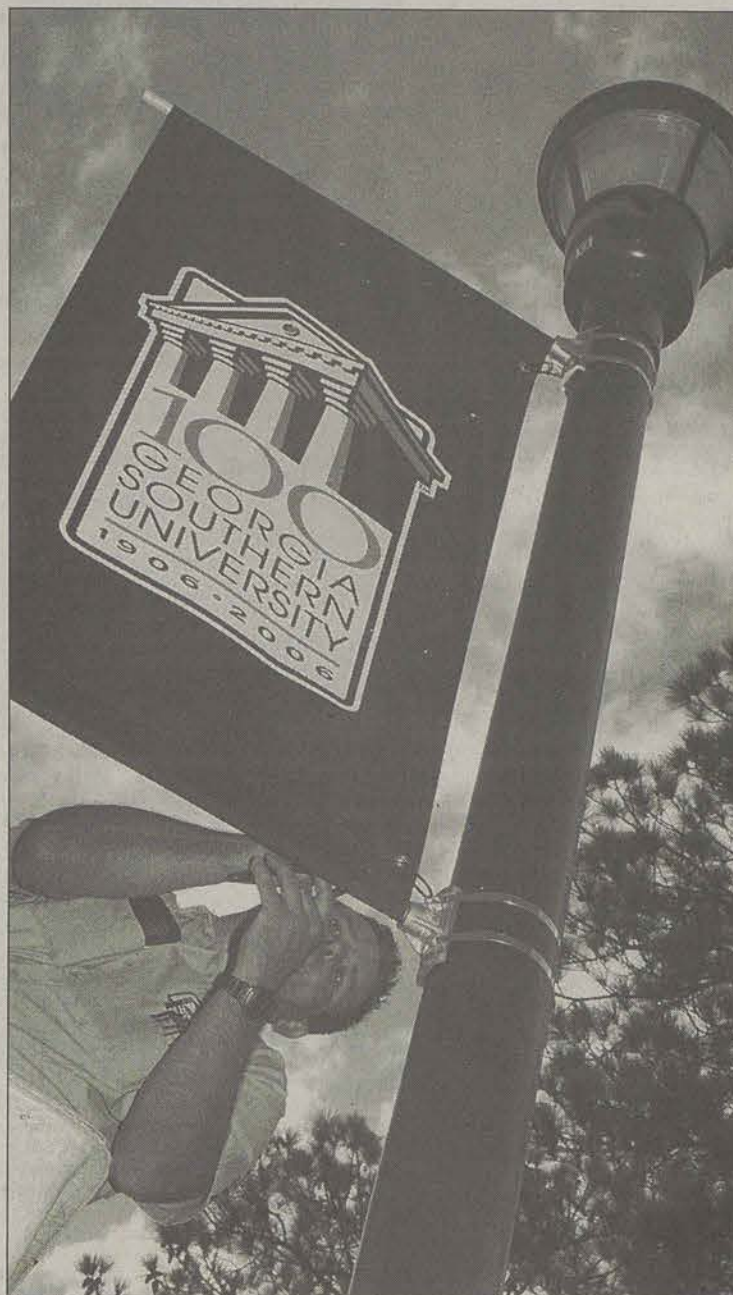
staff and students attended a reception where the Centennial logo was displayed. The Centennial theme, "A Century of Progress, Pride and Promise," and the Centennial logo will be used to identify Centennial events throughout 2007.

One of the first public events of 2007 to celebrate GSU's 100 years is the "Alma Mater, Dear," an exhibit of the school's history in photographs, artifacts, scrapbooks and period clothing. The exhibit is scheduled to open at the Georgia Southern Museum Jan. 22, 2007. On March 24, the annual Alumni Awards Banquet will focus on the Centennial and on March 30 a campus and community Centennial celebration will take place on Sweetheart Circle.

Several other Centennial events will take place throughout the year and during the Homecoming Weekend, Oct. 26-27, 2007.

December 2006 graduates will be the first to receive diplomas with a Centennial logo, and beginning this fall with the basketball teams, athletic uniforms will bear special Centennial logos.

Centennial banners across campus and throughout Statesboro will also display the Centennial logo.



Suzanne Olivers/Special to the G-A
Structural maintenance worker Terry Hart hangs the new Centennial banners along the University's roadways.

GEORGIA NEWS

Brand Atlanta starts off its second year

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Last year, officials with Brand Atlanta made headlines by unveiling a new city logo, creating an official Atlanta tagline and trying to get residents to sing along to an anthem penned by a local hit-making producer.

In 2007, the group's work will not be as glamorous, but it has cleared one hurdle: funding.

The Atlanta City Council earlier

this month approved \$8 million in "bridge" money to pay for Brand Atlanta's efforts in 2007.

The money is part of a \$14 million request Mayor Shirley Franklin made in May to tide Brand Atlanta over until it can find a permanent source of funding. The remaining \$6 million will go toward the group's 2008 budget. The money will come from a combination of car rental and hotel-motel taxes.

BUSINESS

Stocks follow dollar's decline

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Investors came back to work Monday and discovered that the dollar had been dropping, retail sales were so-so and oil prices were up -- and promptly sent stocks into their steepest slide in months.

The mix of news stirred worries that the U.S. economy was weakening and that interest rates may climb to keep foreign money buying American assets.

The result was a sell-off. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 158.46 points to close the day at 12,121.71

while the technology-heavy Nasdaq dropped 54.34 points to 2,405.92 -- its worst day since early June.

The losses were broad-based with more than 90 percent of the stocks on the Standard & Poor's 500 down for the day.

Yet it was just one day of selling that followed months of solid stock gains, said Emily Sanders, president and chief executive of Sanders Financial Management in Norcross.

"Today's drop doesn't really concern us," she said. "We see it as a pullback on a somewhat over-bought market."

Book

from page 1

students and seeing them reach their potentials as thinkers," said Presley.

Presley, originally from Tallulah Falls, Georgia, grew up in Toccoa and received his PhD from Emory University. While he was working on his dissertation he taught at Columbia College in South Carolina. He was invited to visit Georgia Southern by former President Edison and has lived in the area ever since.

Over the years, Presley became interested in the history of GSU and managed to collect 4278 stories about the institution. The stories range from the beginning of the female softball team to the many dramas the school has had over the years.

"My goal with these stories is to touch hearts and inspire people to lead great lives," said Presley.

His book, "The Southern Century," was developed in late 2002, when he was approached with the idea to put together a book about GSU and focused on the students, alumni and many other people who have made the school what it is today.

Kelley Callaway, who contributed to "The Southern Century," said working with Presley was a great experience.

"He is so committed and passionate about his work, he made me want to work better for him," she said.

For three and a half years, Presley collected and gathered anything that might help him to write the book. He read every issue of any Statesboro paper through the 1970s and collected correspondences of various presidents. He also traveled to seven archive collections, ranging from Georgia College and State to Clemson.

He said that he likes the community of Statesboro because of the wide range of people and experiences available.

In his time here, he and his wife Beverly raised three children, who are now raising children of their own.

While many people helped make the book possible, Presley said his wife deserves a lot of the credit for traveling with him to archives, taking notes and proofreading.

He is also proud of GSU and the changes it has seen over its 100 years, saying that it was considered an underdog by many for years.

"It has been wonderful to see it grow ... what a privilege," said Presley.

Paisley

from page 1

experience for them."

Thompson is hopeful the concert will be a big hit. "I think that he is the type singer that will draw a wide range of people from this entire area, but we chose him because this is what the students asked for, and hopefully other people will be attracted to the show too."

Thompson is hopeful that GSU will have more concerts for students

in semesters to come.

"What I would love to see us do in the future is have a concert at the end of each semester and possibly at the beginning of each semester," she said. "We're going to listen to the students and bring them the acts that they're requesting."

"I think a Brad Paisley concert would do very well. I know a lot of people that would go, and I also think the prices are fair," said GSU student Doug Faricloth. "He has come to Savannah a couple of times and it cost about that much to see him."

Numbers

from page 1

do better in school," he said.

Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, Teresa Thompson said the drop in the number of students at GSU can be due to the fact that many students take time off from school to work.

"We have a lot of students who like to stop and work for a semester, and start school again. We call that progression because they are on schedule to graduate, just not in four years. They are progressing toward graduation," said Thompson. She said while the numbers of students who remain

in school fluctuate, graduation rates at GSU have steadily risen.

"We know things are getting better for our students because we see a change in our graduation rate that shows our number of graduates have improved," said Thompson. She said the graduation rate has risen from 38 percent to over 42 percent.

Recruitment programs are reaching out to more Georgia students, along with intensified advertising and marketing in areas around Atlanta said Thompson.

"The admissions department has partnered with the honors program to bring high ability students to campus with their parents and that's been very successful," said Thompson.

Sub

from page 1

in your efforts.

"Most complexes have a 'no-means-break lease,'" he said. "You literally have to pay out your contract or find someone to take it over."

What can be done to increase your chances of finding a leaser?

Back suggests advertising in The

George-Anne, talking to friends and offering move-in incentives.

What if you cannot find someone to take over your lease?

Back said you should never just up and leave without fulfilling the terms of your contract.

"Not paying is not the answer. If they split without paying, they will be evicted, it will go on their credit report and that is going to follow them for at least seven years."

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.godaily.com>.

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

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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.

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PROOFING/ERRORS/OMISSIONS:

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

CIRCULATION INFORMATION: Mail subscriptions are not available at this time. However, readers may visit our web site for free access to current and past issues. Visit www.stp.georgiasouthern.edu. It is the goal of the newspaper to have its edition placed on-line within 24 hours of

publication. Breaking news will be placed on-line as warranted. The G-A is distributed free of charge on the Georgia Southern University campus through delivery sites located in campus buildings, at off-campus sites, and in residence halls.

NOTICE

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

NOTE

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

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9. MAZURKA	_____	I) Funeral hymn
10. LARGO	_____	J) Lively Spanish dance
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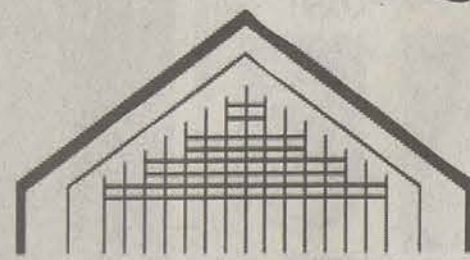
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SPORTS



Early bowl matchups announced

Larry Coker will coach the Miami Hurricanes in one last bowl appearance as the 'Canes take on Nevada on New Year's Eve. While BCS bowls will be decided this weekend, currently scheduled matchups are below.

San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl: TCU vs. Northern Illinois, Dec. 19, 8 p.m. on ESPN2

Pioneer PureVision Las Vegas Bowl: BYU vs. Oregon, Dec. 21, 8 p.m. on ESPN

New Mexico Bowl: New Mexico vs. San Jose State, Dec. 23, 4:30 p.m. on ESPN

Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl: Utah vs. Tulsa, Dec. 23, 8 p.m. on ESPN

Sheraton Hawaii Bowl: Hawaii vs. Arizona State, Dec. 24, 8 p.m. on ESPN

Emerald Bowl: Florida State vs. UCLA, Dec. 27, 8 p.m. on ESPN

PLAYOFF PREVIEW

Montana St. 6-3, 8-4 **at** **App. St.** 7-0, 11-1

What: The Bobcats travel to Kidd-Brewer Stadium to take on the powerhouse Appalachian State Mountaineers.

Where: Kidd-Brewer Stadium, Boone, NC.

When: Saturday, 4 p.m. on ESPN2

Illinois St. 5-2, 9-3 **at** **YSU** 6-1, 10-2

What: The Redbirds will face their Gateway Conference rivals, the Youngstown State Penguins.

Where: Stambaugh Stadium, Youngstown, OH

When: Saturday, 6 p.m.

UNH 5-3, 9-3 **at** **UMass** 8-0, 11-1

What: A-10 Conference rivals New Hampshire and Massachusetts will square off in a tough playoff matchup.

Where: McGuirk Stadium, Amherst, MA

When: Saturday, 2:30 p.m.

#20 S. Illinois 4-3, 9-3 **at** **#21 Montana** 8-0, 11-1

What: Gateway Conference representative Southern Illinois will bring their potent rushing attack to Montana to face the Grizzlies.

Where: Washington-Grizzly Stadium, Missoula, MT

When: Saturday 2:30 p.m.

DIVISION I-A PREVIEW

#8 Arkansas 7-1, 10-2 **at** **#4 Florida** 7-1, 11-1

What: SEC Championship- Darren McFadden and the Arkansas Razorbacks will compete for the SEC title against Chris Leak and the Gators.

Where: Georgia Dome, Atlanta, GA

When: Saturday 6 p.m., CBS

#16 Wake Forest 5-2, 9-2 **at** **#23 Georgia Tech** 2-5, 6-5

What: ACC Championship- The over-achieving Wake Forest Demon Deacons will face Calvin Johnson and a potent Georgia Tech offensive attack for the ACC title and a BCS bid.

Where: Alltel Stadium, Jacksonville, FL

When: Saturday 1 p.m., ABC

#19 Nebraska 6-2, 9-3 **at** **#8 Oklahoma** 7-1, 10-2

What: Big 12 Championship- The Sooners, sans Adrian Peterson, square off against the Cornhuskers for the Big 12 title.

Where: Arrowhead Stadium, Kansas City, MO

When: Saturday 8 p.m. ABC

#13 Rutgers 5-1, 10-1 **at** **#15 WVU** 4-2, 9-2

What: Though the Scarlet Knights are out of the championship picture, a win against the Mountaineers will help their quest for a Big East title.

Where: Mountaineer Field, Morgantown, WV

When: Saturday 7:45 p.m. ESPN

EDITOR'S VIEWPOINT



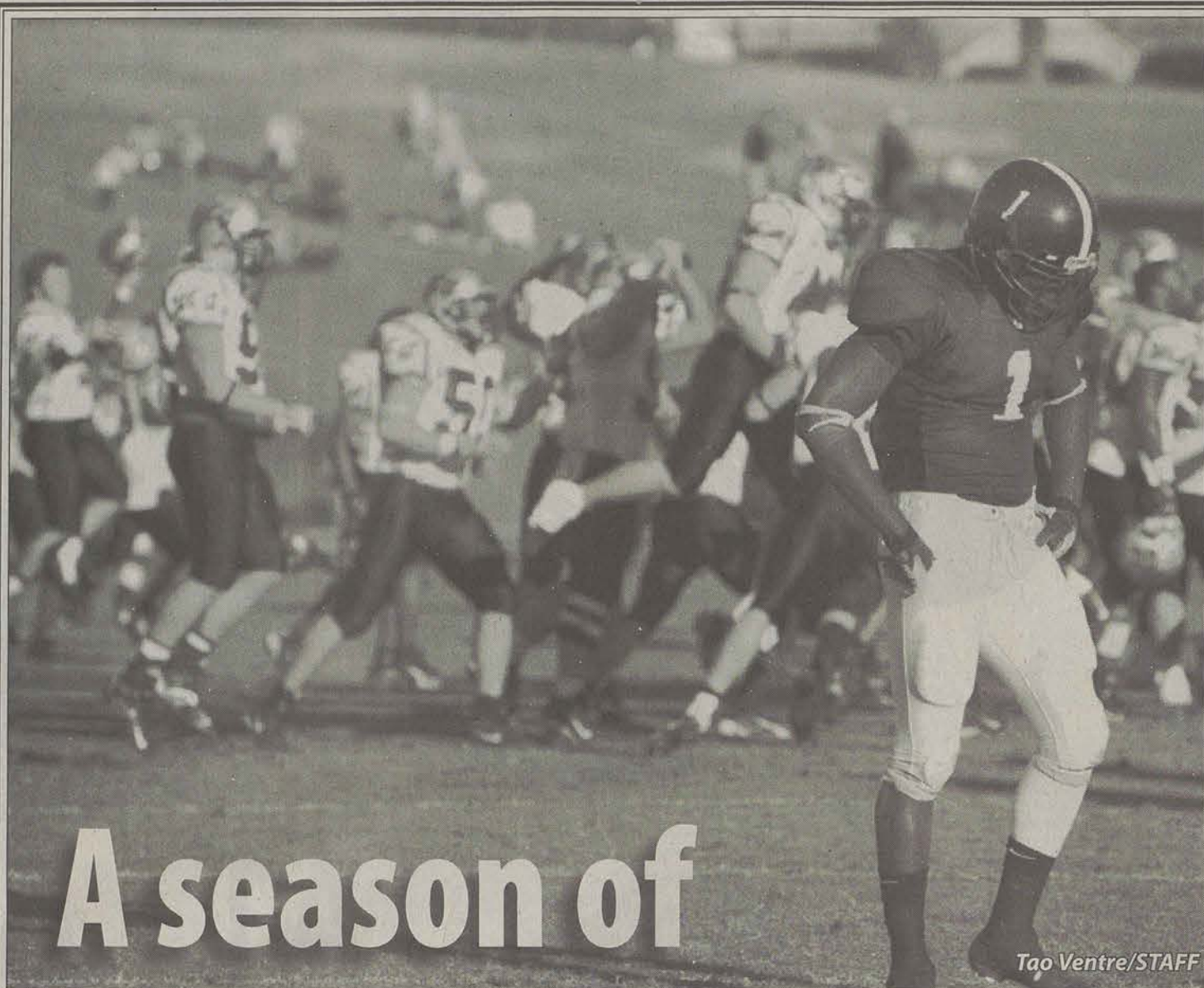
Eric Robinson
Record: 27-14

Florida over Arkansas, 27-24
WF over Georgia Tech, 24-21
Oklahoma over Nebraska, 31-28
WVU over Rutgers, 37-28



Will Adams
Record: 31-10

Florida over Arkansas, 28-26
Georgia Tech over WF, 21-17
Oklahoma over Nebraska, 27-24
WVU over Rutgers, 28-21



A season of disappointment

By Will Adams
Sports editor

"It's a sickening feeling," Head Coach Brian VanGorder said after a 34-31 overtime loss to Central Arkansas on Nov. 18. Eagle Nation has never suffered through a season with eight losses, nor five consecutive to finish the year, but as a team in transition, Georgia Southern hopes to take full advantage of the makeover and use it as a foundation for the 2007 season.

Athletics Director Sam Baker sat down with The George-Anne to discuss the first year in the post triple-option era and his thoughts on first-year Head Coach Brian VanGorder.

The George-Anne: What's your reaction to this past season and your thoughts on the team?

Sam Baker: Nobody wants to win more than I do or Coach VanGorder, [but] it's hard to capsuleize a whole season into just a few words, but I would say we're all disappointed. But at the same time, I think what it does is lay the groundwork for the 2007 season and [that you] obviously can't take winning for granted. I think our kids played hard all season and the important thing to me was that

I never saw them quit.

G-A: Why did you feel like it was time for a change?

SB: I just felt what we were facing, with some of the inner workings of the program that it was the appropriate time to make a change. Now what we've done is hired the best coach I feel we could find [and someone] who fit the mold I wanted. Which was an individual, in which discipline was an important part of what they were doing and I think we've done that. We had to have someone tough because anytime you make a dramatic change, there's going to be some bumps in the road and a lesser man than Brian VanGorder might have struggled through this, but he is so focused and driven and hardworking that he has not let these things detour him from winning.

G-A: Did you ever consider it being this tough the first year?

SB: I think anytime we play, no matter how good our team has been, since I've been here I go in with the possibility that you can lose. Anytime that you tee it up you can lose, but at the same time our goal is to win and it was difficult time to experience defeat, but I think what it does is re-emphasize how difficult it is to win, it's not easy to win. I don't visualize losing anytime we play, it's always a possibility, but so is victory.

G-A: What kind of feedback have you heard from personally from Eagle fans and alumni surrounding the team's struggles this season?

SB: Well anytime you lose you are going to have frustration, you know I think that goes without saying, but at the same time I think a lot of the people who really have sit down to look at realize we're building [a program]. The ones who are true fans understand. It's amazing to me how many

people who send in vicious e-mails (when we look them up) that are [season] ticket holders or donors and are frustrated people that haven't played a roll in making us better, but feel that by venting they're helping themselves. I've always had an opinion in this job that I have to stay on high ground and we're going run this program with class and dignity and we're going to win with dignity and lose with dignity and I think our coaches did that. We're going to handle ourselves in appropriate way and I think the fans are going to be with us.

G-A: What is your first impression of Coach VanGorder?

SB: He's a very enjoyable person to talk to, but he [came] in and he coached a game for the Jacksonville Jaguars against the Patriots in the playoffs on a Saturday. He came back to Jacksonville, graded the film, turned in his complete report to coach Del Rio, got in his car and drove up here for a Sunday meeting with the team. He met with the staff [and] they had two weeks to hit the recruiting trail and then he had to sign the kids. Then he had to go through all of the film of the players

see **BAKER**, page 9

Lady Eagles rally past Jaguars



The GSU Lady Eagles won their second-consecutive game Tuesday against SAU.

GSU News Service

The Georgia Southern women's basketball team rallied from an eight-point deficit and went on a 12-4 scoring run late in the game to defeat South Alabama, 54-48, Tuesday night in Hanner Fieldhouse. The Lady Eagles improve to 3-5 with their second consecutive win, while non-conference opponent South Alabama falls to 3-3.

The Lady Jaguars jumped out to an early 6-0 lead with 17:15 on the clock. Then Whitney hit a jumper to give the Lady Eagles their first points for a 6-2 score. GSU kept a narrow margin throughout the first half.

A Tiffany Brown rebound with 13:50 on the clock led to a fast break lob to a sprinting Ashley Rivens, who put the Lady Eagles within two points with a lay-up. Rivens finished with six points on the night.

The Lady Eagles took the first lead of the game off a lay-up by Chequilla Jessie with 11:58 left in the half. But the Lady Jags held GSU to 26.5 percent shooting, making 9-of-34 field goals in the first stanza. South Alabama led GSU by a 27-21 margin at the end of the half, shooting 12-of-34 from the field (.343).

"At halftime, we felt like we were just getting out-hustled, they were the aggressors, they had the momentum going, and we were just backing down to them," said Cram, who picked up his No. 157 career win.

GSU made 13-of-18 free throws in the second half, and with 5:16 remaining, hit seven free throws and a pair of buckets to rise above the Lady Jags. Freshman guard Carolyn Whitney scored 10 points and was 6-of-6 from the line.

Shawnda Atwood led the Lady Eagles with 11 points. Tiffany Brown pulled down a career-high 10 rebounds on the night.

"That last minute there, I thought we were in total control of ourselves," said head coach Rusty Cram in his 11 year at the helm of the Lady Eagles.

"We knocked down free throws when we had to, we played good defense, and we didn't panic. We handled what they threw at us, and I thought that was the difference in the game."

Having closed out the month of November with the win, and the Lady Eagles open up the month of December with a non-conference battle at Central Florida.

Quote of the week

"This is a league where if you don't do your job, they run your ass off. Those guys better wake up and smell the coffee and start catching the damned football. I can't blame [Vick] for, you know, being upset at them sometimes."



New Orleans Saints wide receiver Joe Horn on the Sunday performance of the Atlanta Falcons receivers. Reported by ESPN's Len Pasquarelli.

over the BREAK

Friday

Track and field at Clemson Opener, 12 p.m.

Women's basketball at Central Florida, 7 p.m.

Saturday

Track and field at Clemson Opener, 12 p.m.

Men's basketball at Winston-Salem, 2:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 8

Men's basketball at Northern Illinois, 6 p.m.

Drake Regency Challenge in Des Moines, IA

Saturday, Dec. 9

Men's basketball at Drake Regency Challenge in Des Moines, IA

Tuesday, Dec. 12

Men's basketball vs. Flagler, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 13

Women's basketball vs. Jacksonville, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 16

Men's basketball at Appalachian St., 3:30 p.m.

Women's basketball vs. College of Charleston, 5 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 19

Men's basketball at Clemson, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 21

Women's basketball vs. Troy, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 30

Women's basketball vs. Furman, 1 p.m.

Men's basketball vs. UNC-Greensboro, 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 30

Women's basketball vs. Furman, 1 p.m.

Men's basketball vs. UNC-Greensboro, 3:30 p.m.

Baker

from page 8

on the team that he inherited and meet with the team. Then go into Spring practice and then go out in May and recruit, then go out on the Eagle Tour and talk about the program and everything, but all at the same try to move his family, which consists of his wife Polly and his five children and get them into school and into a home, and everybody settled. And then he focused on academics throughout the Spring, because in the Fall semester we had a 2.0 GPA for the football team and went to a 2.68, so he focused on the academics and had to build a relationship with the team and the people.

G-A: Did Brian VanGorder and the new coaching staff live up to your expectations this past season?

SB: I've liked them, I've worked well with them, and they've worked well with me. A lot of the people on the outside, don't know Coach [VanGorder], but the important people [do]. That is the team, they know him and like him and [they] trust him in that what they see is what they get. They have confidence in that he is going to take us in the right direction. I have a lot of respect for him and I think he's the right man and I think he knows a lot about football and we will be successful because of that.

G-A: How do you think VanGorder and his staff handled the adversity faced toward the end of the season?

SB: I think so. I think he's delivered on everything.

We went through some tough times with winning and losing and he's handled himself well. I find Brian a very engaging person, but there's this perception that he's very stern. He's a delightful person to talk to and when he's focused on football, he's all business.

G-A: What are your thoughts on recruiting the new types of offensive and defensive players in the next few months?

SB: We sit in a hotbed of recruiting, that's one of the things that he talked about that attracted him to Georgia Southern. We had over a hundred high school prospects at our last home game. So what's happening is, as we go to this new offense, now we're trying to recruit bigger offensive linemen, we're looking for kids that can play tight end and for receivers and defensive people, and the state of Georgia has those players out there. But what we

need to do is attract them to the university through the academics and housing, physical appearance, the quality of our professors. What we have to do is attract student athletes not only to this university where they can go and get a degree, but also attract them for what we can give them as football players.

G-A: Are there any plans for renovation or any other changes next season?

SB: I think in the future we are talking about and looking at perhaps redoing the concourse in some way, if you really look the concourses as time has gone on, trucks running on them have crushed the concrete and that's worn out. The administration would like to look at beautifying the restroom and concession buildings and bricking those, but these are all things we are talking about and [are in] the university's master plan.

Basketball defeats Mercer

By Mike Anthony

Staff writer

Before the season started, GSU men's basketball coach Jeff Price made it clear to his team that this year's returning starters would have to step it up in order to keep winning.

On Monday evening, those players made it perfectly clear to everyone else that they are more than up to the challenge. With a closely-fought game against Mercer hanging in the balance, the Eagles were clinging to a three point lead.

A Mercer three-pointer brought the teams all square with less than a minute to play. A missed shot by GSU gave the Bears an opportunity to take the lead.

As they had all night though, the Eagle defense clamped down. They force a bad shot to regain possession, and with just 14 seconds remaining senior guard Dante Gennie calmly drained a bucket from fifteen feet away.

Mercer's desperation heave at the buzzer was on-line, but didn't have enough to get to the rim, giving the Eagles a 61-59 victory over their intrastate rivals.

"Every time we come over here it's [close]," said GSU Head Coach Jeff Price. "The game's important to both teams but they always get up to play us."

The Eagles started out red-hot, forcing the Bears into turnovers on their first four possessions and jumping out to an impressive and quick 7-0 lead.

That lead would be short-lived however, as the Eagles went cold, surrendering a 17-4 run to Mercer.

After GSU fought back to tie the score late in the first half, the two teams spent the rest of the night clawing it out with neither team able to run away with momentum.

As the second half began, junior forward Louis Graham turned it up for the Eagles. He notched 14 of his team-high 18 points after the half, including six points in the last two minutes of the game. He also set a new career high with 17 rebounds.

Junior guard, Dwayne Forman also had a big night, handing out eight assists in the victory.

Filling the rather large void left by departed senior and last year's scoring leader, Elton Nesbitt, Forman has taken the reigns of the offense. He distributed the ball to Gennie and Graham, taking things into his own hands when necessary.

One other highlight that stood out on the night was the play of sophomore guard, Anthony Marshall. Marshall, who was forced to sit out a lot of last season after tearing an ACL, has looked strong in the minutes that he has played this season.

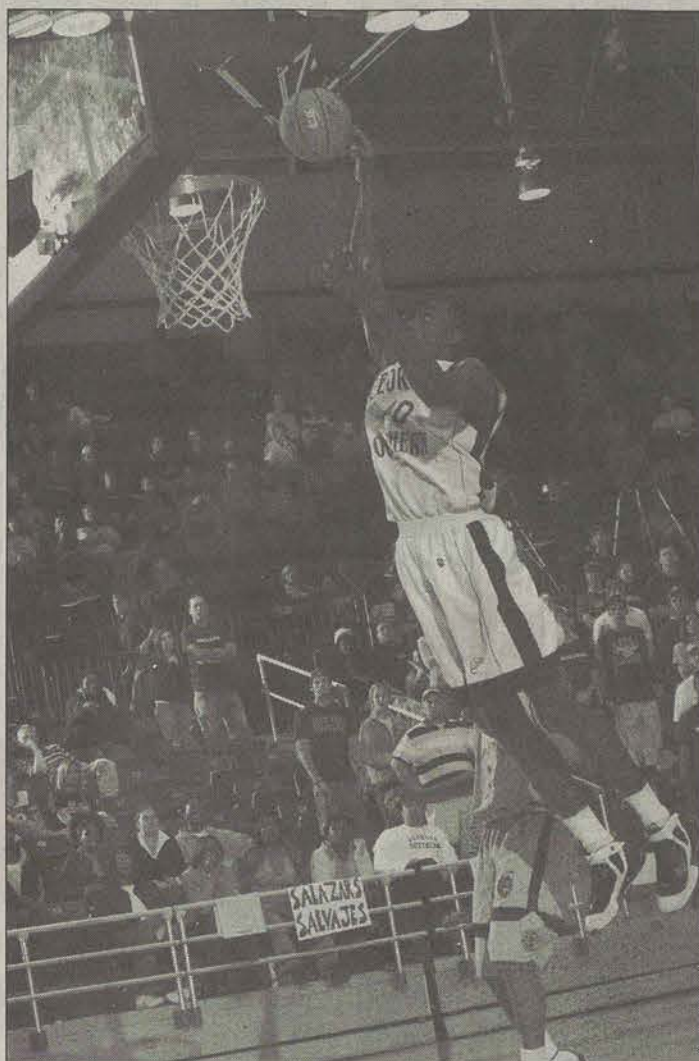
Though Price was skeptical before the season if he would regain his incredible leaping ability that was evident two years ago, Marshall attempted to put those doubts to rest.

Racing to save a loose ball, Forman charged under Mercer's basket, corraling the ball with one hand and lofting it into the air.

The ball soared over the backboard and looked as though it would be too high for anyone to grab. Marshall just kept rising however, as he soared upwards, grabbing the ball high above the rim and slamming it home, much to the amusement and amazement of the Hanner Hooligans, who had made the journey to Macon.

The Eagles' next game is set for this Saturday afternoon at 2:30, as they travel to Winston-Salem State, whom Georgia Southern defeated 70-41 in their home opener.

GSU News Service contributed to this article.



GSU News Service

Louis Graham dunks for two of his 14 second half points in Monday's intrastate match against the Mercer Bears. Graham led the Eagles to a last-minute 61-59 win.

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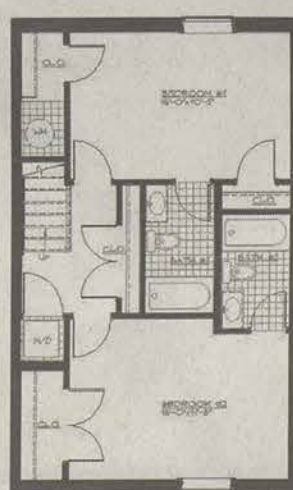
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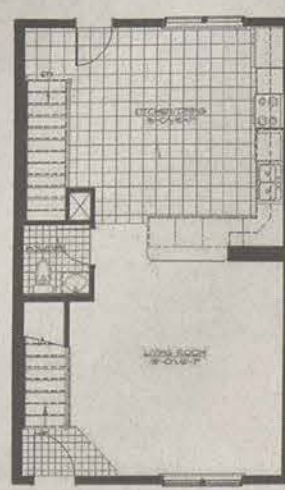
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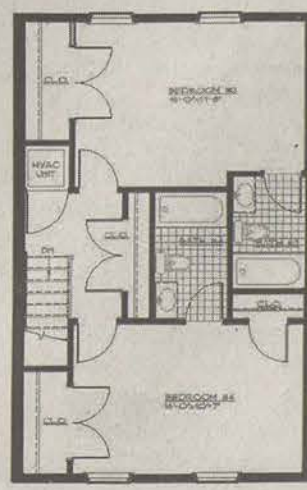
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ON THE STREET

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Britt Bottoms,
Freshman



The Thing Hands (from Fantastic 4).

Tommy Brant,
Sophomore



My dog Suzy.

Karen Payton,
Senior



XBox 360.

Noah Atinafu,
Sophomore

WORST GIFTS EVER



School supplies.

Sean Scale,
Junior



A Kraft Singles piece of cheese.

Amy Faircloth,
Sophomore



A pack of floss.

Mavis Sanders,
Sophomore



Granny panties.

Rebecca Rosenberg,
Junior

Help me! It's the Holidays

By Casey Altman • Hiatus editor

Home is defined, in numerous dictionaries, as a place of "social unity." But for many, home is an asylum for utter chaos, a palace of disorderly conduct. It is the place where you are perpetually nine years old, where your tongue feels bigger than your mouth so no matter what you say it comes out sounding stupid.

Home is where your faults become physical deformities and every mistake you ever made is laid out onto the table with the holiday dinner spread. Family gatherings usually entail contemptuous stories of Aunt Jane's unconventional lifestyle or Grandma's opinion of young Michael's nose ring. There will always be an announcement regarding your bachelor uncle's inactive love life. And at least two old people will have died since your last visit.

Holidays can be cramped and imposing, especially for those who have ventured out into the real world. Those things which were once comfortable and familiar no longer fit our new perspectives. We become aware of the tension between relatives, the unspoken disapproval of our parents and the phony pleasantries that are exchanged throughout the day.

I questioned several of my classmates at GSU to find out what they enjoyed most about the holidays. I was surprised to discover that most of the students I spoke to do not like the holidays. Their families drive them crazy, no one gets along and the stress of creating the perfect atmosphere intensifies everyone's discomfort.

My own holidays were not much different. I remember always spending the first half hour at my grandparents' house, arguing with Grandpa about which highway I took to get there; Grandma ran around sprinkling holy water on everyone, \$1.99, blessed by the Pope and purchased through a mail-order catalog, while Aunt Anna waved a butcher knife at Uncle Pete behind his back. The women all worked in the kitchen and the men watched football and acted as if the food appeared on the table by magic. At the table the most intrusive, uncomfortable topics were exhumed and alcohol was ingested by the gallons to alleviate the pain.

If home is so chaotic, so unbearable, then why do we always return? Don't pretend the free food isn't a plus, nor that it is a bad idea to keep in contact with relatives who give you money. But there is something more.

Home, we must remember, is the garden in which we were rooted. From that garden, a family emerged. Among them may be some rotten tomatoes, an over fertilized carrot, and maybe a weed or two. But if you are the only blossoming flower in the patch, your home, your family, is where it all began. It is good to step back once in a while and remember where you're from, even if revisiting what you left behind is unpleasant.



First of all, when I say humor, I don't mean you should tell jokes. Never crack jokes when you go home, especially if your family has no sense of humor. Remember, in their eyes you are only nine years old. Your jokes aren't funny. Instead, try watching your family from an outsider's perspective. Place an imaginary frame around them and think, if you could make a caricature print of them, how would it look?



Play a few rounds of "Criticism Bingo." Make up a chart of common complaints that various members of your family always bring up. Then throughout the day when

Aunt Martha doesn't like your brother's hair or Granny whines that no one ever calls her, place a marker on those complaints until you fill up a row. Then jump up and yell "Bingo!" and if everyone complains that you're nuts, you win.



Try the 20-Questions Interrogation Game. This is where your parents, aunts, uncles and grandparents ask you questions that measure your worth in life. The trick is to answer the questions exactly the way they want you to (regardless of the truth). If they agree with your answer or praise you in any way, you get a point. If they argue or disagree, you have to start over. If you answer 20 questions correctly in a row, you win. Don't be a smart alec, though.

Katie Glorieux and Casey Altman/
ILLUSTRATIONS

THE BOTTOM LINE

By Casey Altman

Find great gifts at Club Mud

If you're like me you're probably broke, and just thinking about buying gifts for all those friends and family members is more than a little nerve wracking. You want to buy everyone something unique,

but you don't have the money to do it. Well put away your credit cards and check out that Club Mud thing. You can find a variety of things for cheap - yes, cheap, and everything is just a little different. The mugs are my favorite, but there are also

handmade vases and jewelry that you won't be able to find anywhere else. The Club Mud Exhibition and Sale will be held at Ceramics Studio, Nov. 30 - Dec. 2 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

You won't even have to get your hands dirty.

Check out the Club Mud sale for great holiday gifts.



Keep on rolling, winter car care tips

By Renada Thomas
Staff writer

With cold weather coming in, our bodies are not the only things that we need to protect against the winter chill. We also need to protect our cars.

Winter car care is important if we want our cars to last through the season.

Alvin Cooper Jr., 23, is an engineer technician at Kuzuki Yamaha, but started his career working on cars.

"You want to make sure that you check your heating pipes, and anti-freeze fluid," said Cooper.

Checking anti-freeze ensures that the water running through the radiator doesn't freeze up, causing engine problems.

Pipes are checked for cracks to ensure that the heat is running efficiently through your car so that drivers can keep warm and toasty.

Pipes are also checked for cracks because cracked pipes can burst, resulting in the engine running hot.

James Thomas, a 44 year old truck driver who also got his start working on cars, said, "You want to check your heating pipes because if they don't work then your heat and your defrost won't work. And for those living in the snowy states, make sure that you have a set of good tires, because slick tires and ice don't mix."

In snowy states, slick tires don't create enough traction or grip, meaning that when trying to stop a vehicle with slick tires, the vehicle is more prone to slide and cause accidents, whereas a vehicle with a good set of tires has good traction, and stops more quickly.

Freshman Lori Jenkins said, "I must really keep in mind to keep my car serviced this winter. My dad did it back home, but now that I am away at college it's my responsibility if I don't want to be left out in the cold."



Jared Siri/STAFF

Top: A hot rod requires a lot of maintenance, but with a few checkups and refills, you can keep your car on the road for much longer, especially during the grueling winter.

Right: A car owner peers under the hood of his car to do some maintenance work.

AutoTrader.com's Top 10 Tips Car Care

1. Visit your mechanic and work out a schedule for visits. Many offer seasonal inspection services.
2. Have a mechanic check your tire tread, pressure and alignment.
3. Clean and protect your vehicle's interior and exterior. Clean cars equals better performance.
4. Invest in an emergency kit or pull one together yourself. Key items include a cell phone charger, first aid supplies, survival blankets, power bars and bottled water.
5. Carry car maintenance accessories like jumper cables, tire sealant and an ice scraper.
6. Keep a list of contact numbers on hand for road-side assistance, a mechanic, a tire shop, a 24-hour tow service and a locksmith.
7. Routinely check your battery, coolant, anti-freeze, windshield wipers and wiper fluid.
8. When making a car purchase, consider all-wheel drive options available at all price ranges.
9. Make sure head lights and tail lights are clean, working and aligned in preparation for impaired visibility.
10. Slow down! Don't overdrive your headlights, meaning be able to stop within the range of your headlights.



Relieve finals stress

By MJ Trahan
Staff writer

Are you feeling the stress from finals? Are you looking for a way to relieve your tension and relax? If

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you are, don't miss your opportunity for a free chair massage at the RAC next Monday, Dec. 4 thru

Wednesday, Dec. 6 from 5:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Massage Therapist Rebecca Welton will perform 5-10 minute chair massages in the front lobby of the RAC. The chair massage will include a neck, shoulder and back rub down that is guaranteed to loosen you up. No appointment is needed. All you have to do is show up and get prepared for some serious relaxation.

"I've heard nothing but great things about the massages at the RAC. It'd be a great stress reliever and it sounds like a lot of fun," said sophomore Cate Drury. "I'm definitely going to check it out."

Fitness Director Michele Martin said the massages were a huge success during their premiere last year. Students waited eagerly and stood in line to receive their 5 minutes of bliss.

"We're expecting a great turnout again this semester. Finals

can be a very stressful time for the students and this is a way for us to show them we care," said Martin. "I would encourage anybody to stop by for the massage. Rebecca Welton is amazing."

And for those who have not already experienced Welton's services, now is the perfect opportunity. Aside from the massages next week, Welton performs scheduled massages throughout the semester by appointment.

You can indulge in a 30 or 60 minute massage of your choice. What are your choices? Swedish, hot stone and neuromuscular massages are all available at your convenience.

There are other ways to release stress. CRI offers a resource center in the Fitness and Wellness Center, located on the second level of the new RAC. Articles and resources about exercise, stress relief, and maintaining a state of wellness are on hand for you to utilize.

"The resource center can certainly be used to educate oneself about relaxation, fitness and well being," said Fitness Director Julie Kuykendall. "We have some great tips about stress relievers, such as stretching. You'd be surprised how great the tips work."



Special Photo



Ashe Johnson/STAFF

Ceramics students getting ready for this week's Club Mud sale. From left to right, Danny Crocco, Beth DeLong, Jordan Banks, Jen Hager, Ryan Ferrell, Lindsey Jenkins and Charlotte Brown work on their pieces. All of these students will have art for sale in the Club Mud Exhibition starting today.

Club Mud gets down and dirty

By Ashe Johnson
Staff writer

The Postal Service plays in the background as ceramics students carefully brush glazes onto their works-in-progress. They are busy preparing for the semi-annual Club Mud Exhibition and Sale. The sale will feature works from all ceramics classes and jewelry classes and provides a unique interaction between the artists and the people interested in their work.

Eighty percent of the proceeds will go to the artist while the remaining 20 percent will be used to bring visiting artists to campus and allow art students to take a trip. Professor Jane Pleak explains that this sale is more about the importance of students learning how to talk to the people

interested in their work and how to market their pieces. Students get a chance to really look at their work and analyze it.

Ceramics are a far different form of art than painting. It is more labor-intensive and carries an air of mystery with it. With ceramics, "what you see is not what you get," said Danny Crocco, a ceramics student. The dirt-brown glaze he is brushing onto a head will be a cobalt blue after it is fired in the kiln. Crocco became interested in the subject in high school and hasn't stopped making pieces since. He likes working with ceramic because, unlike paintings, "it's something people aren't afraid to touch." Lindsey Jenkins sponges mustard-colored glaze onto a bowl and explains that it will become celadon green. Ceramic pieces are always unique. Each artist mixes their own clay according to what

they are trying to make. Each piece must be fired at temperatures specific to the materials used and the piece's intended purpose.

All of the pieces being exhibited or sold at the Club Mud sale are by Georgia Southern's ceramics and jewelry students. The pieces are affordably priced. With a range of prices anywhere from \$5 to \$300, there is something to fit into everyone's budget. Functional pieces such as bowls, plates and cups are being sold, as well as decorative or sculptural pieces. These make wonderful Christmas gifts or are great to purchase for your own enjoyment. The exhibition and sale will take place at the Ceramics and Sculpture Building from Nov. 30 through Dec. 2. The sale hours on Thursday and Friday are from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday.

Simple holiday gift ideas

Ashley Ferguson
Staff Writer

Thanksgiving is over and Black Friday has come and gone. Christmas shopping is officially in effect. I was asleep at 6 a.m. on Black Friday, but I did bear witness to the damage done. Although millions of people started buying gifts already, some people have no clue where to start. I'll go through and let you in on some web sites to ease your troubled minds, simple gifts not to overlook and what people really want this year.

PresentPicker.com is number 3 on my list because the criteria are not broad enough, but some of the descriptions are funny. For example, here you can find a gift for someone who has everything, has a "brain implant," or "needs a brain chip." Yes, very odd. Since the criteria aren't broad as the other sites, it's difficult to find the gift that stands out and yells "BUY ME! I'M IDEAL FOR (insert name here)."

Gifts.com is number two. For one, the site is a lot more organized. If

you're shopping for a guy, narrowing down his personality is aided with pictures and captions in a this-or-that fashion. However, it's not exactly accurate. I tried to end up with gifts for a skater punk and wound up with the "Guy's Guy" category and it wasn't completely right.

LazyGift.com is on the top because you can find off-the-wall gifts and say "Perfect!" The criteria are clean, just like the one on Gifts.com. Yet, what takes the cake is the selection available. This is only place where you can find a one pound, peanut butter drizzled chocolate fortune cookie that can have a personalized fortune on a one foot piece of paper placed inside.

While most guys like getting clothes for Christmas, try gift cards. It's easier because you don't have to worry about him hating it or purchasing something he already has.

When I was talking with my friends about what they hoped to get, one of them answered a hippopotamus. Honestly, I've concluded that college kids want what they need to get by. For some, it's a sweater coat from Victoria's Secret. For others, it's Final Fantasy XII. Moral of the story is: Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and Good Luck next week with finals.

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