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Paisley tickets going fast

Tickets for the April 27 Brad Paisley concert are going fast! More than 2,000 tickets were sold yesterday. Get your tickets before they're gone at the University bookstore or through etix.com.

GSU Cycling team begins season

SPORTS, p. 6



Riding to victory

The equestrian team qualifies two riders for the chance at Nationals | **NEWS, p. 3**



THE GEORGE-ANNE

DAILY

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2007

City Council holds forum for parking issue

By Amy McIntyre
Assistant news editor

The city council met last night in the Statesboro City Hall to hold a discussion on the front yard parking issue. Mayor Bill Hatcher was the first councilman to address the nearly 50 Statesboro citizens and Georgia Southern students gathered to present their opinions on the proposed

ordinance. The original ordinance proposal would prohibit parking to paved surfaces and limit the percentage of front-yard space that could be paved for parking.

"As you know the ordinance proposed in January, which was tabled for two meetings, attempts to address the perceptions of neighborhood decline in Statesboro," said Mayor Hatcher. "This is attributed to the visual clutter

and the parking of vehicles on the lawn. As of yet we have not reached a decision but want to use this town hall setting to gain input from the community."

Members of the community were then given three minutes each to speak about the ordinance, giving personal accounts of the current parking situation in Statesboro and how the particular proposed ordinance would

affect them.

Opinions mostly fell on two sides of the line. Homeowners who have been residents of the neighborhood surrounding the GSU campus along roads like College Blvd., Pittmore Ave., South Edgewood, have watched the decline of the neighborhood with many of the houses changing hands from families to investors who then rent the houses out to students.

"The neighborhoods have become unsightly and people are not willing to purchase homes where the surrounding properties are a mess," said Sara Neville Bennett, a Statesboro resident. Joe Hines, a resident of College Blvd. echoed Bennett's remarks, supporting an ordinance that would completely limit all parking.

However, many residents resent that the city is trying to encroach

on what they describe as the right of property owners to do with what they wish with their property. Mike Jacobs said that the Statesboro council should not rule on what they do with their property. Deke Cox of Mockingbird Lane said that each of children had cars, including his wife and himself, and they all parked on the lawn. He

see **PARKING**, page 4

Beat school stress today

Cut down your stress with help from the campus Counseling Center

By Elliot S. Volkman
Staff writer

What do class work, your sweetheart and your job have in common?

They can all be stress factors. "Boyfriends, problems with friends, work, class, family problems, can all cause you stress all at once," said sophomore Courtney Deas.

Before entering college, many students had their parents to rely on for help with stress factors.

Now those students arrive to college and are pretty much on their own in dealing with new stresses.

Freshmen year seems to take the cake on causing students the most stress. On the other hand, seniors have many life-changing factors to deal with.

Senior Susan Sines said she encounters daily stresses as a senior student, including "the pressure to graduate and find a job and the pressure to be a role model to the students lower than you in (my) major."

Seniors have much more in-depth courses, they worry about where they will work after they graduate and what kind of job they want, and many are already starting to pay off their college loans.

Each group of students will have their own stress factors, and among them all will have common ones, such as relationship problems and family issues.

But college doesn't have to be as stressful as it sometimes seems. With certain precautions you can manage your stress properly. The Counseling center provides students help with a wide range of issues such as couples therapy, depression, sleeping problems and even trouble choosing a major.

Students can visit the center, located next to the Health Services building, on Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"Typically stress can be more prevalent for some than others," said Counseling Center psychologist Joy Harden. Harden advises students to keep schedules as one way to manage stress.

"A lot of the time people become



High: 67 | Low: 44
Partly cloudy

Volume 79
Number 81



File Photo

Eagle Expo Career Fair

By Tiffany Colston
Staff writer

Are you a senior that will be graduating in May and haven't begun searching for a job yet?

May is steadily approaching and while you will probably be breathing a sigh of relief, it would be in your best interest to hit the pavement and start looking for a job before the real world hits you.

The upcoming Eagle Expo Career Fair could be a great place to begin. The fair

will be held on Feb. 28 at the RAC from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

It is an opportune time for employers and recruiters to display their companies and become acquainted with Georgia Southern students.

It will also give rising juniors and seniors the opportunity to explore their options concerning full-time, internship and co-op positions.

The event is free and open to all students.

Career Services employee Amy Rowell

recognizes the importance of the fair and its role as a vital avenue for students to become more acclimated with the corporate world.

"The fair is a great place to gain networking opportunities with over 100 companies, hand out your resume and learn about different careers," said Rowell.

Companies ranging from Accu-Tech to BBT Bank will be eagerly seeking exuberant, well-rounded and knowledgeable

see **EXPO**, page 4

Work out, earn credit, get certified

New fitness course offers more than just three hours on a transcript

By Hanadi Istambouli
Staff writer

It appears that more students are becoming health conscious. Improving physical fitness is progressing beyond a pre-Spring Break fad.

The group fitness classes offered at the student Recreation and Activity Center stay full with eager participants as one indicator of students' health.

Some of the classes like Awesome Abs, Kickboxing, Yoga, and Southern Sculpt reel in new participants as well as class-going veterans year round. For all those die-hards, a new academic class is beginning which could help them reach and push their physical fitness goals to higher grounds.

Starting fall semester 2007, students will be presented a chance to take a kinesiology course with the potential to receive training for group fitness certification.

The class is geared towards health/nutrition science related majors, but can count as a filler class/elective hours. The class entails studying the healthful practice, as well as the benefits of group exercise. Students will learn the correct form and methods of combining weight training, cardio and proper form for all the muscle groups.

At the end of the semester, students

see **FITNESS**, page 4

Nursing shines bright at GSU

Nursing master degree ranked 11 in country

By Avina Darmadjaja
Assistant news editor

One of the best things Georgia Southern has to offer is its nursing program.

"The program has full approval from all accrediting bodies," said Jean Bartels, chair and professor of the school of nursing.

According to Bartels, our nursing program definitely stands firm as one of the best in the nation. The graduate program, leading to a Master of Science in nursing (family nurse practitioner), is ranked 11 in the country ahead of schools such as Emory and the Medical College of Georgia.

This reputation, Bartels said, is mostly due to the outstanding graduates and the quality of the program, faculty and learning experiences.

"All faculties are practicing nurses with graduate credentials," said Bartels, emphasizing the importance of having experienced faculty so students can gain knowledge directly from the pros.

In fact, the last six weeks of GSU's nursing program is dedicated to an intensive internship where students work alongside a practicing nurse in his or her actual work setting. The hands-on experience results in better-prepared graduates who stand out in the crowd of job seekers.

"Most students have employment promises before they even graduate because health care settings are heavily recruiting them from as far away as Atlanta and Florida," said Bartels.

Current nursing students enjoy the benefit of being nurtured in such high-quality program.

"Just in the short time that I've been in the program, I can understand how it has attained the reputation that it has," said junior Holly Alderman.

"During classes, they teach us to think critically," said Alderman. "They don't just teach us what to do for the patients, but they also teach and emphasize on why we would do it."

In other words, said Alderman, they teach students to think for themselves and not just depend solely on the doctors' orders.

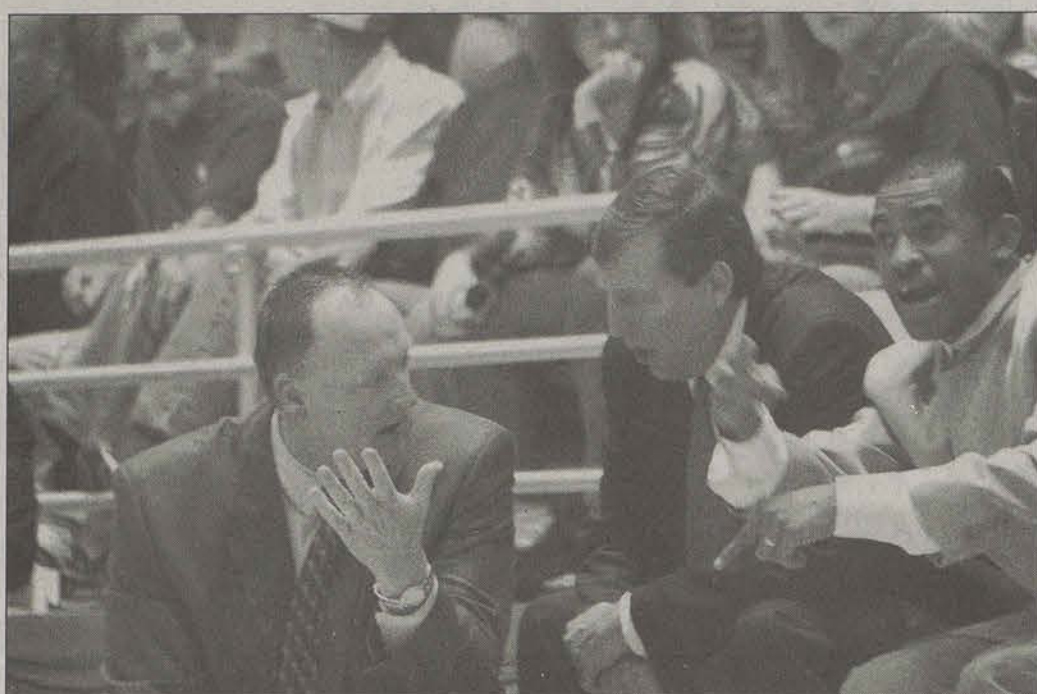
With such respectable reputation, the GSU nursing program sets the bar pretty high for potential nursing students candidates.

"The program is difficult to get in," said junior Courtney Adams. Adams didn't get in the program on the first try.

"It is very challenging," she said. "But I definitely believe that it will all be worth it in the long run."

The basic requirements for nursing major are cumulative GPA of 3.0, successful score on a Nurse Entrance Program

see **NURSE**, page 4



Head Coach Jeff Price and his assistant coaches discuss game strategy during the first half of Saturday's game.

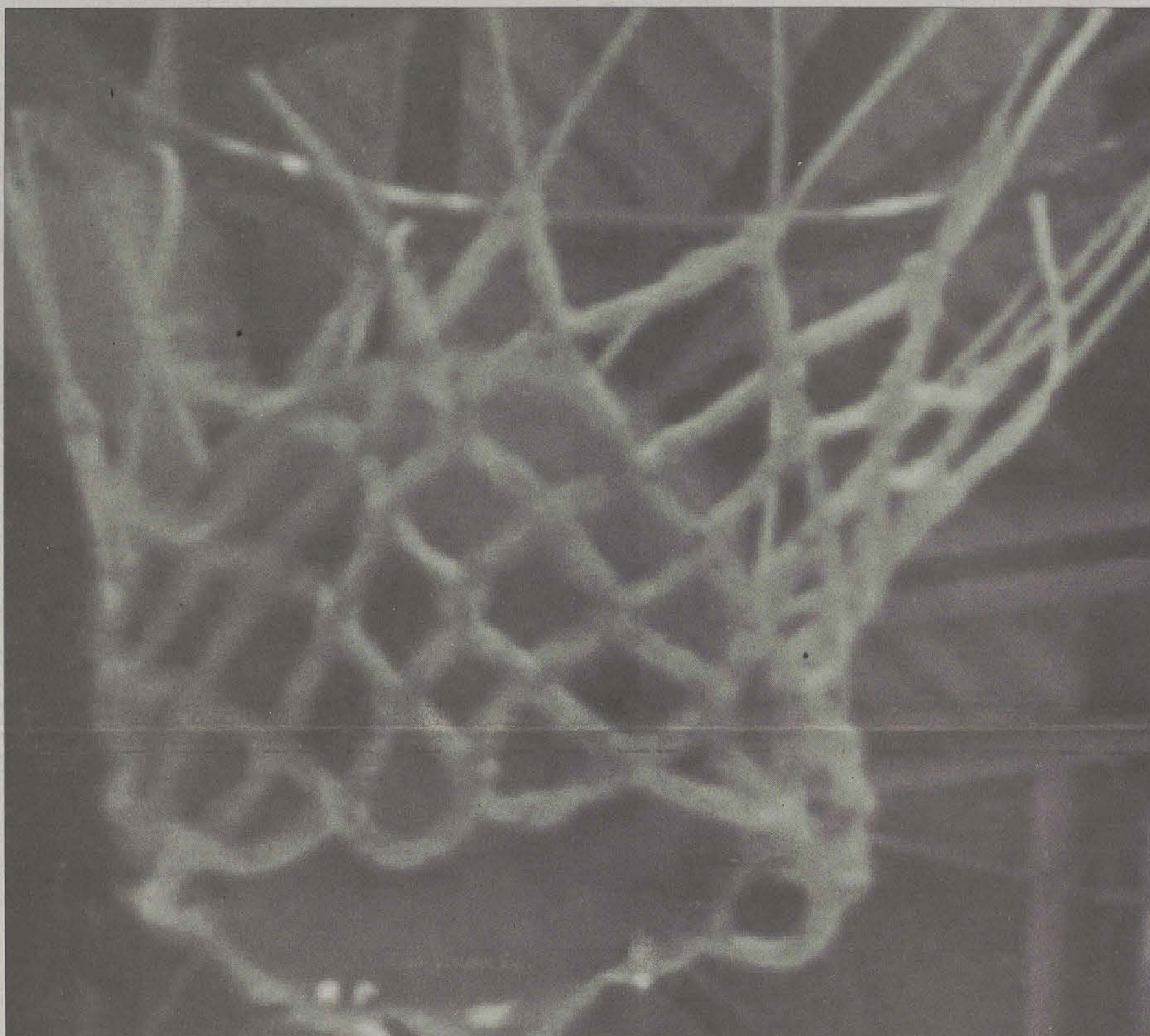
Nothin' but net

The Georgia Southern men's basketball team finished off their regular season under the spotlight of ESPN on Saturday with a win against the College of Charleston.

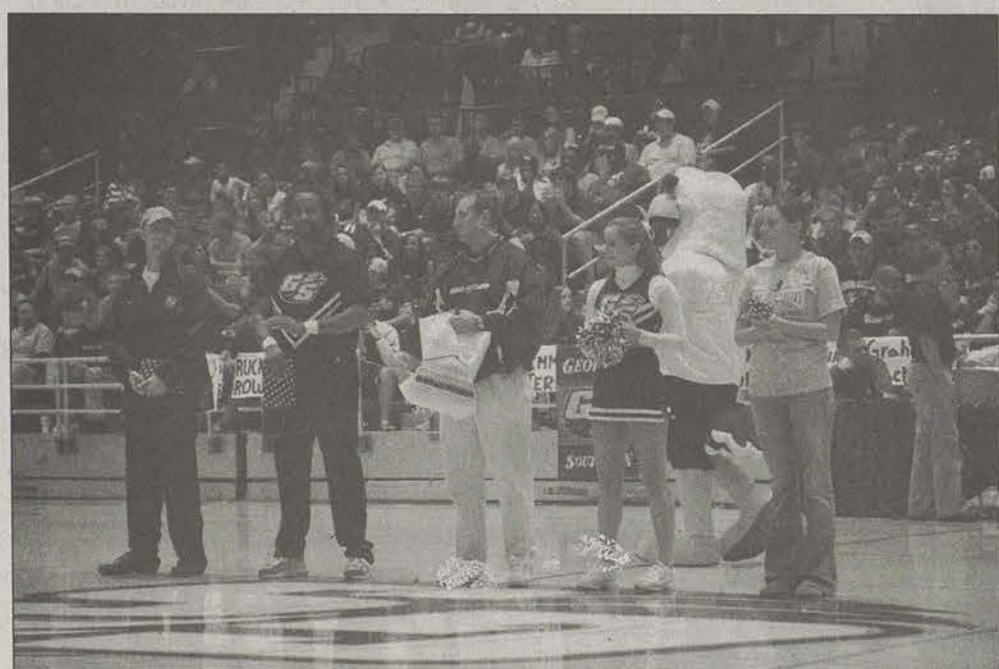
The Eagles were led by junior Louis Graham who scored the most, with 19 points. GSU took the win with 74 points over Charleston's 65 points, securing their place in the Southern Conference.

Next up for the Eagles, they face off against the Citadel, in the Southern Conference tournament Wednesday in Charleston.

All photos by Jamie Tuten



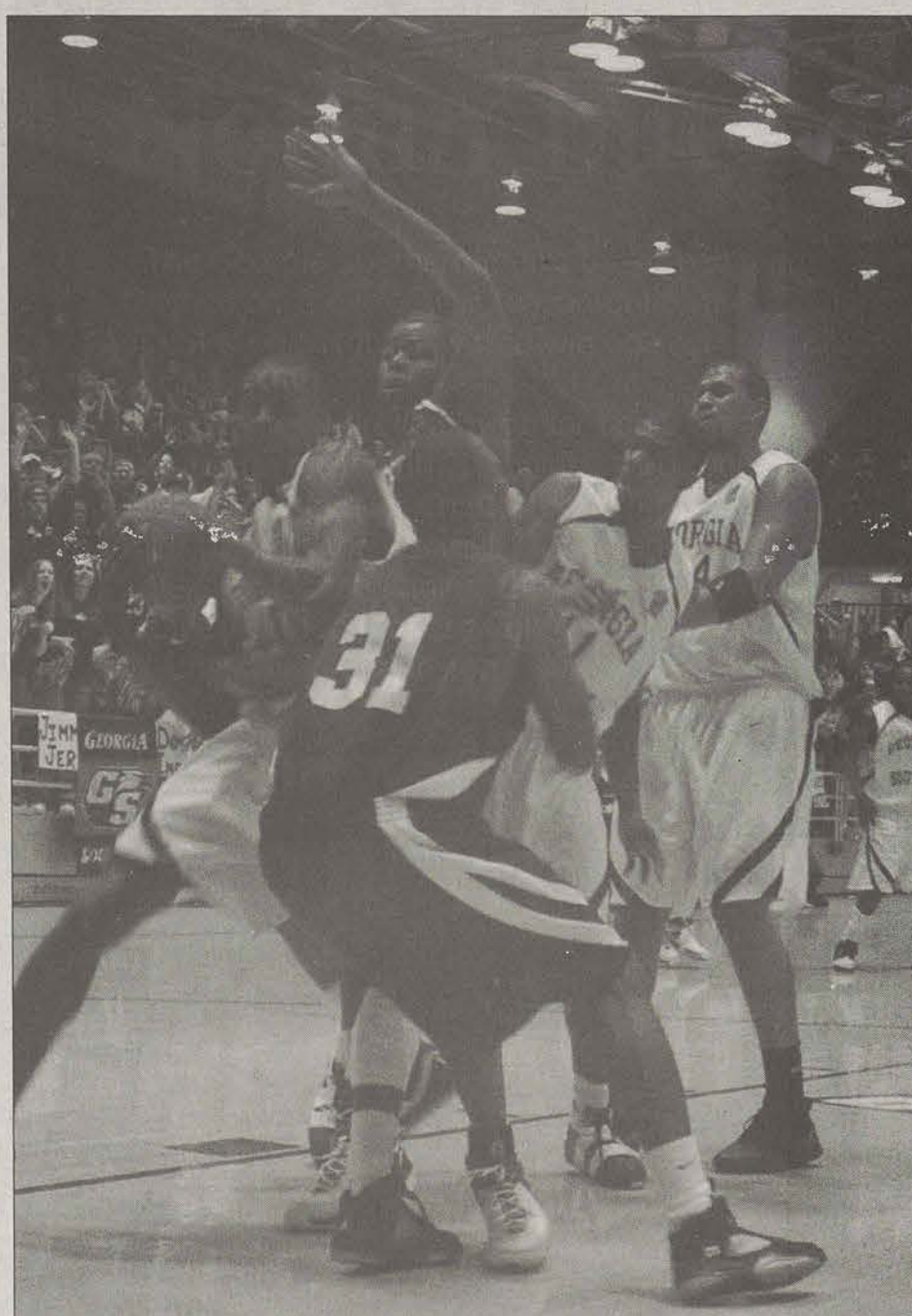
Eagles shoot. They score. They win 74 - 65 against the College of Charleston.



GSU fans take a moment to honor senior cheerleaders and their accomplishments before the game.



Dwayne Foreman dribbles past Charleston's defense.



Louis Graham and other Eagles battle in the paint for a tough two points against the College of Charleston.

CALENDAR

Tuesday, February 27

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Clothesline project
Russell Union Commons

5 p.m. - 10 p.m.
RHJB hearing
Russell Union 2048

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Leadership 101 workshop
Russell Union 2048

5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
ShuttleGus directors meeting
Russell Union 2071

5:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Dining for Success
Russell Union Ballroom

7 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Students, the Internet
and legal issues
Russell Union 2080

7 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Drunk sex or date rape?
Russell Union Theatre

Wednesday, February 28

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Clothesline project
Russell Union Commons

6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Sexual responsibility
Russell Union 2044

6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
SGA meeting
Russell Union Ballroom

7:30 p.m.
The Automata Pieta
PAC

8 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Movie: Casino Royale
Russell Union Theatre



Special Photo

Equestrian Tiffany Klein is riding high, placing first in the region.

Equestrian team qualifies two riders

By Emily Ross
Staff writer

On Sunday the Georgia Southern equestrian team hosted the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association region western finals at home in the Statesboro area.

The GSU equestrian team hosted the region finals for a region that is comprised of schools in Georgia, Florida and South Carolina.

Schools in attendance who qualified riders were Georgia Tech, University of Florida, Florida State and Wesleyan College.

Competing against the best of the best in the southeast, GSU had two riders qualify for the western zone finals to be held in Findlay, Ohio on March 24, at the University of Findlay.

Riders who qualified for zones

were Tiffany Klein, taking first place in the region and Nanci Bias, qualified with her second place finish.

In Ohio, the two GSU riders qualified for zones will make an attempt to qualify for Nationals. If Klein achieves this, it will be her second appearance at Nationals while on the GSU equestrian team.

"I am really glad that I was able to qualify for zones this year," said Klein. "Being a senior, it is a great way for me to finish out my collegiate career riding."

"We have all as a team worked really hard, and it has paid off today," she said.

Although Klein qualified this Sunday in the Western division, she also rides for the GSU huntseat team.

The pressure of such stiff com-

petition may seem daunting, Bias, a western veteran said that this year was a little easier for her.

"I wasn't as nervous as I had expected, I just got on and did what I have been doing all year," she said.

The hard work of all the riders represented GSU well, and pleased their coach and region president, Eleanor Ellis.

"The team did a fabulous job, I am so proud of all the riders that qualified for regionals. This is a tough competition and it just goes to show the strength of the GSU equestrian team," said Ellis.

The GSU huntseat team will finish up their season with shows next weekend at Georgia Tech, Georgia State and Emory.

The final show of the regular season will be hosted by the College of Charleston on March 17.

POLICE BEAT

02-21-2007

• Thomas Quinn Barnett, 19, of Robin Hood Trail, Statesboro, was charged with minor in possession/consumption of alcohol and possession of a false I.D.

• Zachary Stephen Pridgen, 22, of Robin Hood Trail, Statesboro, was charged with public intoxication.

02-23-2007

• Robert Neil Gilliam, 18, of Brannen Hall, was charged with criminal trespass.

• A projector and several computer parts were taken from the College of Business Administration Building.

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Weekly Eagle Buzz



Today

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Buy tickets for the April 27, 2007 BRAD PAISLEY show – 8pm at Paulson Stadium. You can buy online at www.etix.com or at the University Store or Office of Student Activities during normal business hours. \$25 for students! Buy in the first five days and get field access ONLY! For more info visit www.eagleentertainmentonline.com.



Responding to Victims of Sexual Violence at 3:00 pm. Brett Sokolow, JD, President of National Center for Higher Education Risk Management. Free 1-hour workshop presented at East Georgia Memorial Hospital Classroom. This workshop is targeted toward medical, mental health, law enforcement, and legal professionals. Issues of how to most effectively, yet sensitively respond to recent victims of sexual assault will be addressed. Post Credits will be provided for law enforcement officers. Please RSVP to assure adequate seating.

7:00 pm.- Drunk Sex or Date Rape: Can you tell the difference? Russell Union: Brett Sokolow, JD, President of National Center for Higher Education Risk Management. This presentation addresses the often-confusing legal and moral issues surrounding date rape. Mr. Sokolow will provide evidence presented in several real-world rape cases and the audience must attempt to determine whether a rape has occurred. This presentation is highly enlightening for community members, especially those in law enforcement, legal, and education fields.

Dining for Success program. This program allows the companies to network with our students in a dining environment and learns dining etiquette during a five-course meal. For more information, please contact Amy Rowell at 912-681-5197.

Wednesday, February 28th

Eagle Expo Career Fair - @ The RAC — 9AM - 2PM.

8pm - Union Theatre - Eagle Entertainment Movie - Casino Royale ADMISSION \$2

March 1, 2007

6:00 PM- Take Back the Night March - Begins Hanner Field House. This International project was begun as way for community members to speak out against the domestic and sexual violence occurring on their own streets. Members of the community are invited to join participants as they March from Hanner Field House, Down Fair Road, and end at the Russell Union Rotunda in a symbolic attempt to "TAKE BACK" their streets. Please join us to support an end to Domestic and Sexual Violence. Free t-shirts will be given to the first 100 participants.

6:45 pm Take Back the Night Rally - Russell Union Rotunda. This concluding event provides a last opportunity to view the 2007 Clothesline Project. Speakers will briefly update participants on new initiatives to reduce sexual and domestic violence. In addition, as part of their own healing process, former victims – now survivors of sexual and domestic violence will have the opportunity to speak out about their experiences. Poetry or music written by survivors will also be shared.

7:30 pm Candlelight Vigil - Sexual Assault Awareness week concludes with a candlelight vigil and period of silence in memory of all those who have experienced domestic or sexual violence. During this vigil, the Clothesline Project will be dismantled.

8pm - Union Theatre - Eagle Entertainment Movie - Casino Royale ADMISSION \$2

February 26 – March 1st: Clothesline Project. Victims of various types of sexual and domestic violence are encouraged to decorate a specific colored item of clothing to signify their experience with violence, healing, etc. Shirts made during previous years will be on display in the Russell Union and The RAC on campus. For those interested in hanging a shirt in the current display, items can be brought to the Russell Union Rotunda between 9am and 5pm daily. The color code is as follows: White – in memory of someone killed by domestic/sexual violence; Yellow – survivor of domestic violence; Pink – survivor of rape/sexual assault; Blue – survivor of incest; Purple – survivor of violence due to one's sexual orientation. This international project raises awareness of the incidence of these tragic crimes in our own communities.

March 5, 2007

SELF-DEFENSE CLASSES. Learn basic techniques for defending yourself against attackers. 6:00 PM - Russell Union Rm. 2080

Ongoing/Upcoming Opportunities:

The Spring 2007 Regents Exam will take place March 19-21, 2007. Check your WINGS schedule for your testing date, time, and location. See the testing website for the full Regents Exam Schedule. Don't miss the Regents Exam after March 21st because there are no make-up exams. For questions concerning the exam, you should call the Testing Office at 681-5415.

Help the International Studies office at their weekly International Conversation Hour. Volunteers will serve food, help clean up, and spend time with amazing students, faculty and staff from around the world. This opportunity takes place every Friday at 11:15am in Russell Union 2022.

"Go The Distance!" The Southern Ambassadors are recruiting for the 2007-2008 team. Please visit <http://admissions.georgiasouthern.edu/southernambassador> to learn more and print out an application. Applications are due on Friday, March 9, 2007. Join us for a special information session on Wednesday, March 7, 2007 at 7 pm in Lewis Hall. For additional information, please contact 681-5467 or robeme@georgiasouthern.edu.

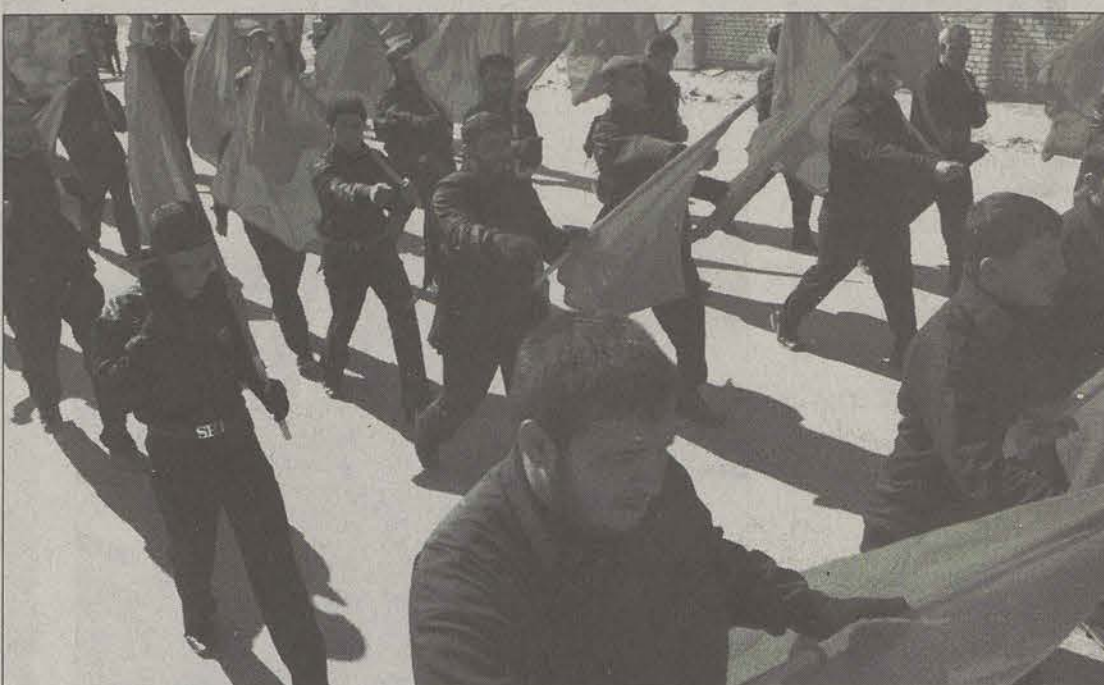
Spring Break Trips: Eagle Entertainment will be sponsoring a trip to Panama City, FL for spring break! WE STILL HAVE SPOTS! SIGN UP TODAY! Date: March 10th-14th. Cost: \$300 per student -Price includes transportation and lodging (beachfront) -Seating will be limited. Cap is at 55 people on the charter bus. Where: Panama City - Things to do: Water Sports, Nightlife, Shopping, Beach, etc. If interested, you should call 486-7270 or stop by RU 1058 and sign up on the list. Fees Due: \$100 Deposit (non-refundable deposit). \$200 due by Friday, March 2nd by 4pm

The Office of Volunteer Services will be sponsoring an Alternative Spring Break Trip March 10th-March 15th. Help others to rebuild their lives. Join the office for a trip to Waveland, MS. The cost is \$65 a person and includes transportation, lodging, and meals while in MS. Call 681-0010 for more info.

Georgia Southern University Financial Aid Department Reminder: APRIL 20, 2007 - PRIORITY DATE TO APPLY FOR AID. If you are planning to enroll at Georgia Southern University during the 2007/2008 academic year and want to be considered for financial aid, follow the steps below to apply: Complete the 2007-2008 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>. Georgia Southern's school code is 001572. Check your financial aid status on a regular basis through WINGS at <http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/finaid/>. Checking WINGS regularly is important - this is how we will notify you if additional information is needed to complete the review of your financial aid record. ALL requested information must be submitted to our office NO LATER THAN June 15, 2007, to ensure that your aid is not delayed for fall term 2007. Check your Georgia Southern University e-mail account for EAGLEGRAM notices about your financial aid. If you have questions, please contact our office by e-mail at <http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/finaid/>, or call (912)-681-5413 and ask to speak with your Financial Aid counselor.

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

INTERNATIONAL NEWS



Qassim Mohamed/MCT

Militiamen from the Mahdi Army of militant cleric Muqtada al Sadr march through the streets of the southern Shiite Muslim holy of Najaf, Iraq, Sunday, November 26, 2006.

Al-Sadr predicts failure

McClatchy Newspapers

Radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr predicted Sunday that the U.S.-backed security plan for Baghdad would fail because of the involvement of U.S. forces, raising the possibility that the country's biggest militia will return to the streets to challenge the new U.S. push to secure Baghdad.

Al-Sadr's criticisms of the plan were contained in a statement read to his followers in Baghdad's Shiite enclave of Sadr City shortly after another devastating suicide bombing killed 41 people, most of them students attending exams at a college.

The 12-day-old plan has seen a sharp drop in militia killings in Baghdad, but it has so far failed to have a significant impact on the bombings carried out by Sunni insurgents, many of them against Shiite targets. This has raised fears that Shiite patience

will soon run out and that the city will descend once again into a cycle of revenge sectarian killings.

Al-Sadr has ordered his fighters off the streets, and has endorsed indirect negotiations with coalition military officials aimed at facilitating the entry of U.S. forces into Sadrist areas.

Residents of several Mahdi Army-controlled strongholds in Baghdad report that militia fighters and senior local commanders have disappeared from view, apparently to avoid confrontation with U.S. and Iraqi forces as they push into Baghdad neighborhoods.

Al-Sadr, whose exact whereabouts are undisclosed, praised Iraqi government forces in his statement but criticized the U.S. military presence.

"Here we are, watching booby-trapped cars exploding to harvest thousands of innocent lives from our beloved people in the middle of

a security plan that is controlled by an occupier who does as he pleases," al-Sadr said in the statement.

"I'm certain, just like all oppressed Iraqis are certain, that no security plan will work and no good will come of any occupier."

It was al-Sadr's first public comment on the plan since he dropped out of sight in mid-January, shortly after President Bush announced that he would send an additional 21,500 troops to Iraq, with most of them supporting a sweeping new effort to bring Baghdad under control.

There has still been no definitive word on the cleric's whereabouts since U.S. officials told reporters earlier this month that he was in Iran.

Advisers to Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki also says al-Sadr is in Iran along with his top advisers, although al-Sadr's own supporters continue to insist that the cleric is still in Iraq.

Parking

from page 1

said if residents thought it was unsightly parking on the grass now, it would look much worse paved.

Numerous students showed up to voice their concerns about front-yard parking ordinance.

Aaron Hollar and Paul Gronowski said living with roommates along with the constant flow of friends and girlfriends to their houses, there really wasn't an alternative to parking on the grass.

Many residents concerns about parking stemmed from the lack of City of Statesboro to enforce other ordinances like those dealing with sound and littering.

Fred Maddox said the council needs to enforce ordinances already on the books while coming up with a solution for the current front-yard parking problem.

Mayor Hatcher did reiterate that the ordinance designed to punish students, which he described as an integral part of the community. Councilman George Wood maintained that it is expected that people would use their yards to park during parties, vis-

iting relatives and other occasions of this nature. They were really seeking to address those homes where front-yard parking was a permanent fixture.

Hatcher said that numerous issues raised had to deal with investors from out of town buying houses, renting them out and not being held accountable for the care of them.

"We are dealing with two different sets of peoples," said Mayor Hatcher. "Those who own and reside in these houses and the investors who rent houses out; a lot of these neighborhoods are composed of both. We want to reach a decision that will be fair, one that everybody can live with."

Fitness

from page 1

have the option to try out for national certification through the American Council on Exercise (ACE).

This is different than group fitness certifications offered through the past at the RAC (offered in a non-academic setting).

According to Julie Kuykendall, future fall teacher, taking the class itself will help give students the practical

benefits and teaching experience if they would like to pursue national certification through ACE.

"I encourage people to take the class, and it's going to be so much fun!" said Kuykendall.

If you are interested in eventually getting certified, having the training through a class that counts academically is a major bonus, especially if you are short on expendable time.

According to ACE's Web site, it "is the largest nonprofit fitness certification and education provider in the world."

It is a widely renowned program and certification would be helpful for anyone who wants to start teaching group fitness.

"Teaching has given me self confidence as well helped me change my major," said current group fitness instructor Anna Champion.

For those who are not interested in the class for certification purposes, gaining knowledge on the safe practice of exercise can always be applicable in your personal life.

For more information about the class, call 912-681-5436.

Expo

from page 1

individuals to become potential assets to their corporations.

Last year approximately 100 students attended the fair to take advantage of a wide range of career opportunities.

Dorsey Baldwin, the coordinator of the event, said, "The fair is the perfect place opportunity to take the first step in initiating your job search."

The day after the fair a number of organizations will be giving students the opportunity to conduct interviews with them through the Career Services Office.

For those of you still dragging your feet, be mindful that taking part in the fair could help you get your foot in the door and potentially propel you to become the next C.E.O. of renowned company.

Who knows, you could very well become the next Bill Gates.

Nurse

from page 1

and grades of "C" or higher on all pre-requisites courses, particularly those in science and math.

According to Bartels, however, "the ultimate candidates are individuals who are passionate about nursing as a career and who have a strong desire to care for people."

Stress

from page 1

overwhelmed and don't prioritize," said Harden. "Having a to-do list and checking off stuff accordingly along with using the counseling center, it's a great resource."

There are countless ways to relieve stress. With the help of the Counseling Center, students can discover which ways work best for them.

"To relieve stress I go for a run,

read a book, or go to the tanning bed," said Sines.

At the counseling center there are many ways to manage stress. The center even has a relaxation room, where students can meditate and relax on a massaging chair.

There are many ways that college can pack on the stress.

Proper time management and using the resources at hand, such as the Counseling Center, can help greatly reduce the amount of stress caused by school.

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1. (a)
2. (c)
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4. (b)
5. (c)
6. (b)
7. (a)
8. (c)
9. (b)
10. (a)

SPORTS

Who's
HOT

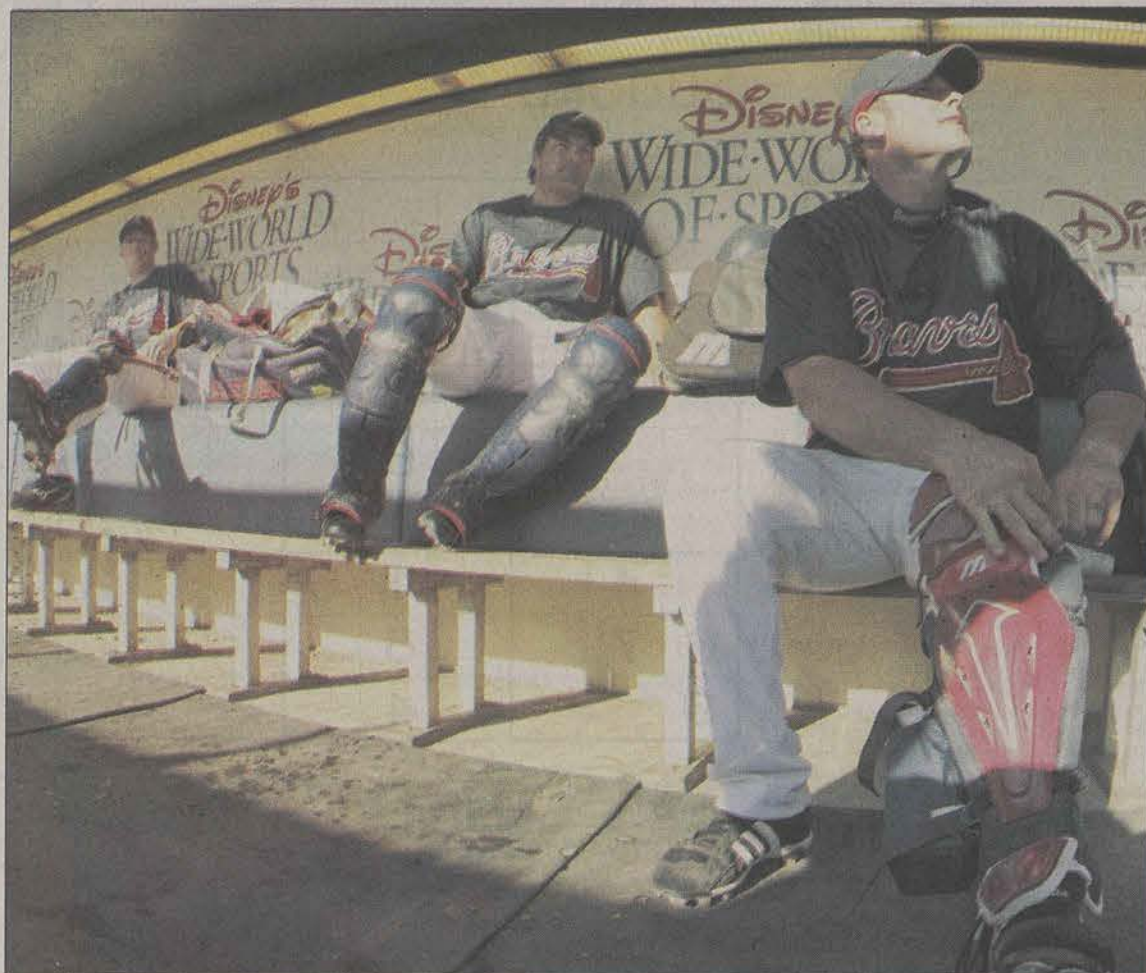
Golf: Henrik Stenson. This weekend the Swede won the WGC-Accenture Match Play Championship. Because of this win, Stenson saw himself catapulted into the top five of the Official World Golf Rankings. He is fifth, behind Adam Scott, Phil Mickelson, Jim Furyk, and Tiger Woods.

Who's
NOT

NFL: Jeff Garcia. Though he successfully lead the Philadelphia Eagles into the playoffs after starting quarterback Donovan McNabb was injured, the Eagles were apparently not thankful of Garcia by signing third string AJ Feeley for another three years. Garcia is a free agent and is most likely not returning to the city of brotherly love.

"Last year was a bump in the road for us; it wasn't a dead end."

Atlanta Braves General Manager John Schuerholz on the team's mentality going into training camp



Atlanta Braves teammates begin the regular season on April 1 when the travel to Philadelphia to take on the Phillies. Righty John Smoltz is expected to start.

Braves look to regain lost form

Schueholz, Cox motivated after disappointing, 'fluke' season

By Josh Robbins

Orlando Tribune - MCT

For 11 consecutive years, the Atlanta Braves came to spring training and faced the same question: Is this the season your reign over the National League East ends?

That question isn't applicable this spring. The Braves finished last season 18 games behind the division champion New York Mets and out of the playoffs for the first time since 1990. Wednesday at Disney's Wide World of Sports, the team held its first full-squad workout of 2007, and the questions centered on reclaiming, not repeating.

"The law of averages caught up with us," third baseman Chipper Jones said during a lull in the Braves' three-hour workout. "The bank collected last year. It's time now to start a new string. . . I'm greatly surprised that nobody's even talking about us with all the improvements that we made." Those offseason "improvements" involved the bullpen, which blew a NL-worst 29 saves last season. General Manager John Schuerholz traded for Pittsburgh left-hander Mike Gonzalez, who converted all 24 of his save opportunities in 2006, and for Seattle right-hander Rafael Soriano, who held hitters to a .204 batting average.

Gonzalez and Soriano should help preserve leads for closer Bob Wickman, who came to the team midway through last year in a trade and converted 18 of 19 save opportunities.

"Last year was a bump in the road for us; it wasn't a dead end," Schuerholz said. "Our bullpen didn't function. It was worse than dysfunctional. It was non-functional, and it cost us. We fixed that, we think."

Manager Bobby Cox gathered his players together at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday in their clubhouse for a team meeting and, Jones said, offered a simple message: "Let's go prove last year was a fluke."

Braves players emerged from the locker room at 9:56 a.m., and a few minutes later, strength and conditioning coach Frank Fultz yelled, "Let's go!" and started leading the players on a jog around the edges of the infield.

Infielder Willie Harris bounded out of the dugout and said, "And the game begins!"

Within an hour, the team had another reason for optimism. Starting pitcher Mike Hampton, who missed all of last year after Tommy John surgery, pitched to hitters for the first time this spring. The session lasted five minutes, and Hampton only threw four-seam fastballs, sinkers and a few

change-ups, but he and his teammates were encouraged. Trying his best not to overexert his surgically repaired elbow, Hampton faced Jones and outfielder Jeff Francoeur — two of the Braves' most dangerous hitters.

While Hampton doesn't know whether he'll be ready for the first few spring games, he does think he'll be ready by Opening Day on April 2.

But for one day, the season opener seemed far off. Wednesday was about promise. Jones reminded reporters that World Series champion St. Louis won 83 games last year just four more than the Braves. "The St. Louis Cardinals proved anything is possible," he said.

Key Dates

Feb. 27 - Mandatory reporting for all players

Mar. 2-11 - Clubs may renew contracts of unsigned players

Mar. 30 - Braves vs. Chicago White Sox @ Turner Field

Apr. 2 - Opening Day @ Philadelphia Phillies

ATLANTA BRAVES

2006: 79-83, 3rd place.
Manager: Bobby Cox

Key additions: LHP Mike Gonzalez, RHP Rafael Soriano, IF-OF Craig Wilson, IF Chris Woodward, RHP Tanyon Sturtze.

Spring questions: Is the re-made bullpen good enough to turn a weakness into a team strength? ... Who replaces Giles at second now that he's been traded to San Diego?

FLORIDA MARLINS

2006: 78-84, 4th place.
Manager: Fredi Gonzalez

Key additions: RHP Kevin Gregg, RHP Henry Owens, RHP Matt Lindstrom, OF Alex Sanchez, IF Aaron Boone, RHP Felix Rodriguez.

Spring questions: How will 20-plus rookies from last year handle the sophomore jinx? ... Is 1B Mike Jacobs ready to play against lefties or will he share time with the veteran Boone?

NEW YORK METS

2006: 97-65, 1st place.
Manager: Willie Randolph

Key additions: LF Moises Alou, LHP Scott Schoeneweis, RHP Chan Ho Park, RHP Ambiorix Burgos, RHP Jorge Sosa.

Spring questions: How much will they miss RHP Pedro Martinez, who could miss the first half following shoulder surgery?

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES

2006: 85-77, 2nd place.
Manager: Charlie Manuel

Key additions: RHP Freddy Garcia, 3B Wes Helms, C Rod Barajas, RHP Adam Eaton, OF Jayson Werth, RHP Antonio Alfonseca

Spring questions: Will the outfield generate enough power with Shane Victorino moving from center to right and CF Aaron Rowand returning from a broken leg?

WASHINGTON NATIONALS

2006: 71-91, 5th place.
Manager: Manny Acta

Key additions: OF Chris Snelling, RHP Emiliano Fruto, 1B Travis Lee, 2B Ronnie Belliard, IF D'Angelo Jimenez.

Spring questions: Where are they going to find five starters to fill out a respectable rotation? ... Will they hold onto closer Chad Cordero or revisit an offseason attempt to shop him for starting help?



Joey Lavalley/Staff
Nathan Mixon and Michael Pippin compete for GSU's cycling

GSU Cycling team begins 07 season

By Chris Perham

Staff writer

This past weekend the Georgia Southern Cycling Club traveled to the University of Florida, to compete in the first collegiate bicycle race of the 2007 season.

This past weekend GSU sent six riders down to UF for the racing. We competed in the ITT, TTT, and the Criterium. In the ITT, Chris Perham competed in the Men's B category and placed eighth with a time of 24.43 over a 10 mile course.

In the Men's C category GSU had four riders; Michael Pippin placed 16th with a time of 26.13, Nathan Mixon placed 21st with a time of 26.50, Louis Turnbull placed 35th with a time of 27.26, Joey Lavalley placed 43rd with a time of 27.57, and Ben Floyd placed 44th with a time of 28.00.

In the Team Time Trial GSU started Chris Perham, Michael Pippin, Nathan Mixon, and Louis Turnbull.

The team placed ninth out of 15 teams, with a time of 39.58 over a 15 mile course. In the Criterium, Chris Perham placed 11th in the Men's B, and Nathan Mixon placed 13th in the Men's C.

Collegiate Bicycle Racing is a sport governed by the National Collegiate Cycling Association. Within the National Association there are separate conferences, much like football.

GSU competes in the South East Collegiate Cycling Conference or SECCC.

The conference is made up of different schools throughout the southeast varying in sizes from 500-50,000 students.

The larger schools are separated from the smaller schools by division. GSU competes as a Division II school.

Each school within the conference has a race just about every weekend in the months of March through April.

At the conclusion of the conference races, there is a national event in May that decides the school and individual rider that becomes National Champion for that year.

There are a number of formats for the road racing season.

The Individual Time Trial (ITT) is a race against the clock. Each rider sets out on a fixed course. The rider with the best time wins the race.

The Team Time Trial (TTT) is much like the individual, except starting with only one rider, you start four riders as a team.

These four riders work together to ride the fastest over a fixed course. The team with the fastest time wins.

Each event has different categories representing the different experience levels of the racers in them.

A Men's is for the most experienced/Pro riders. B Men's is for the intermediate riders. C Men's is for the beginner/first timers.

Next weekend (March 3 and 4) is the team's home race located at Mill Creek Park in Statesboro, GA.

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