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THE GEORGE-ANNE

www.GADaily.com

TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2009 • VOLUME 81 • ISSUE 85



COVERING THE CAMPUS LIKE A SWARM OF GNATS

Suspects at large after weekend morning crimes

Early morning altercation leads to multiple charges

By Chris Buchanan
Editor-in-Chief

Armed combatants are still at large after a fight resulted in counts of reckless conduct, recovered contraband, and affray early Sunday morning.

According to a police report filed by Statesboro Police Sergeant Dennis Moore, he was in the area of Cambridge at Southern Apartments at 3:38 a.m. around the time that a fight broke out at apartment 121 and a gunshot was fired.

Afterward, officers frisked remaining occupants of the apartment for weapons and upon further investigation of the surrounding area, found 21 bags of marijuana in a nearby breeze-way. No weapon was found.

As of noon Tuesday, the persons engaged in the fight and the person who left behind the marijuana were still at large.

The tenants of the apartment were also not able to be located at the time of the incident so management was called. Witnesses say that several police cars were seen at the apartment complex shortly after the incident.

Currently, Maurice Antwone Bentley and George Michael Roberts of Savannah are listed as suspects in the event but were not arrested following the incident. No injuries were reported.



Special Photo

Students woke to find their belongings missing after two masked thieves broke into unlocked apartments in Eagle Village (illustrated above) Friday morning.

Eagle Village burglarized early Friday; investigations underway

By Ally Rakoczy
Staff writer

In the early hours of the morning on Friday, March 6, students reported a burglary after finding several possessions missing.

According to police reports, two men wearing identical ski masks made their way down the halls of Eagle Village around 5 a.m., checking each door down the hall to see which ones were unlocked.

When they found an unlocked room, they quickly stripped it of any valuables, such as Xbox gaming systems and laptop computers.

The men were caught on camera identically dressed in black shorts, white shirts, ski masks, and matching backpacks and the incident is currently under investigation. A crime alert was issued to every resident of Eagle Village detailing the circumstances of the crime and asking for any information students might have.

"It's scary that these two guys were just wandering down the hall. It's nerve racking to have to be so protective of your stuff," said Christiana Kloster, a resident of Eagle Village.

"It's very scary and uncomfortable that we have to be so cautious in our 'home,'" said Kloster's roommate, Becky Provus.

Both University Police as well as University Housing responded quickly to the situation and have implored residents to lock their doors and exercise caution. University Police was unavailable for comment.

Vickie Hawkins, director of University Housing, stressed the importance of safety for both students and staff regarding this event.

"Safety and security in a residence hall is our top priority. Informing students of what occurred that morning is important, and we are following up with students and staff members," said Hawkins.

She also stressed the importance of being aware of your surroundings and

reporting suspicious incidents.

"We encourage them to report immediately any suspicious behavior. When students report incidents early, it helps University Police establish if there is a pattern of which buildings have been targeted," said Hawkins.

In addition to releasing a crime alert to the students of Eagle Village, there will be a special edition of TWIRL (This Week in Residence Life) this week before students leave for spring break with tips on how to keep their belongings safe over the break.

Students with any information regarding the incident, can contact University Police at 912-478-5234.

THRU OUR LENS

Men's and women's Eagle basketball lost their hard-fought battles at SOCON last week.

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Three-Day Forecast



Today
Partly Cloudy
85/54



Wednesday
Sunny
83/52



Thursday
Partly Cloudy
72/47



Check out www.GADaily.com for breaking news, polls, editors' blogs, and contests.

SPRING BREAK

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THE UNIVERSITY STORE
GSUSTORE.COM



Special Photo

Students can expect to see Operation Rolling Thunder in effect until the end of April.

Operation Rolling Thunder still going strong

By Ally Rakoczy
Staff Writer

Operation Rolling Thunder has had a presence in Bulloch County for the past couple months and that presence will continue through April. The idea of Rolling Thunder originated in 2007 in Savannah and the waves of highly visible officers have since taken Bulloch County by storm.

Issuing citations ranging from seatbelt violations to DUIs, the initiative has had mixed reviews from the student body.

Jaeda Bennett, a junior Management major said about Rolling Thunder, "I feel like it's a good operation, but not every officer involved has good intentions. It's almost like they're not doing it for the benefit of the students at times."

According to Statesboro Chief of Police Stan York merely the sight of over one hundred officers in the streets at once helps send the message of the campaign.

York explained that students and citizens have generally complied with the operation, "simply by the sheer presence and acknowledgement that there is a force in town."

"This is simply for awareness to be safe drivers," added York.

Despite many students' feelings about the merits of some aspects of Rolling Thunder, the statistics don't lie.

According to the Governor's Office of Highway Safety, in the past two waves in Bulloch County alone, over 345 seatbelt citations, 40 DUIs, and almost 100 speeding tickets have been recorded.

While students and citizens of Statesboro claim they know and understand why the elevated presence is here, there have been increases in almost all the citations issued from the first wave to the second, with an increase of about 20 seatbelt violations, almost 10 DUIs, and over 15 speeding violations.

"The role of Operation Rolling Thunder is to reduce fatalities in the region. The reason that we're there is because Bulloch County and Statesboro have been really high as far as fatalities and serious injuries in traffic crashes go," said Ricky Rich, Special Operations director of the Governor's Office of Highway Safety.

Though students may think otherwise, the majority of the citations are traffic related, not drinking related, and a mere four percent of the violations issued in wave two were attributed to DUIs or drinking-related activities.

In regards to students' accusations that officers are targeting them, Rich clarified the mission of the officers.

"The officers in the area are enforcing Georgia law, and if they see a violation they're going to enforce it no matter what it is."

Rich believes that the changes and increase of accountability that have occurred during the waves of Rolling Thunder will continue long after the presence is gone.

"We've tracked [traffic statistics] after we've left and gone to another area. The law enforcement and patrol have kept up the behavior, and the change has been sustained."

"We've had great results as far as the [reduction in] fatalities and the lives we save," said Rich.

Hard economic times may cause end to fixed tuition

By Ben Carroll

Staff writer

During the spring semester, when high school seniors are making their final decisions about college, the admissions office at Georgia Southern continues their efforts to recruit these students through different scholarship opportunities and other recruiting strategies while fighting against these hard economic times.

One of the major issues right now is the whether or not the new "fixed tuition" plan will continue.

Due to the cutback on college funding from the government, many people are worried whether universities can continue the "fixed tuition" plan, created by Sonny Perdue and approved by the Board of Regents in April 2006, according to gov.georgia.gov.

This plan promises that in the first four years of a student's college career, their college tuition fees won't increase.

The plan has two main goals. "This guarantee will eliminate the worry of adjusting the family budget every year due to the rising cost of college tuition," said Sonny Perdue with a quote of gov.georgia.gov, "Georgia's new program will provide tuition predictability, while simultaneously encourage students to graduate on time."

According to Mackenzie Cary, an admissions recruiter here at GSU, after the first four years of college, the student will no longer be under this rule and will be under the mercy of the constant increase in tuition prices.

"Every year, the new class of freshman are paying a little more than the class before them," Cary said.

There is now a concern that these new economic times are going to allow the continuation of this plan.

"It is always a possibility, but the demand of college throughout Georgia shouldn't affect anything," Cary said.

"My opinion is if they lost the fixed tuition plan, it won't affect anything because most families



Special Photo

Students may lose money without fixed tuition.

have been thinking about college for a long time," Cary said.

The admissions department is in charge of whether or not the school can keep the fixed tuition plan.

"We, as a school, are proud of our smaller classrooms," Cary said. "We are providing different conferences for seniors in high school for scholarship money."

According to Cary, there has been three conferences this year. In December, there was the Scholar Showcase for seniors who either scored a 1300 on the SAT or a 29 on the ACT.

In February, Scholars' Day was for students who earned a 1200 on the SAT or a 27 on the ACT.

The LEAD Conference is for students who scored have a 3.0 GPA, 1100 on the SAT or a 24 on the ACT, and has shown leadership in high school and involvement in the communities.

"I had a lot of fun," Eric Shoemaker said, who is a rising freshman who plans to attend GSU in the fall. "I got to meet some of the higher-ups at the university and had a lot of fun in the interviews."

POLICE BEAT

March 4, 2009

Marcus Lerone Russ, 18, Kennedy Hall, was charged with theft by receiving stolen property.

Khayla Kenesha Bynes, 18, Campus Club, was charged with reckless driving.

March 5, 2009

Meagan Leigh French, 19, Eagle Village, was charged with minor in possession/consumption of alcohol and public intoxication.

March 6, 2009

Katlin Elizabeth Worsham, 21, Waterford Drive, Cartersville, was charged with DUI and speeding.

March 7, 2009

Jamie Michael Ruiz, 18, Southern Pines, was charged with possession of marijuana.

James Ernest Collins III, 19, Southern Pines, was charged with possession of marijuana.

Michael Scott Hardy II, 19, Watson Hall, was charged with minor in possession/consumption of alcohol.

Michael Robert Paddrik, 18, Southern Pines, was charged with DUI and failure to obey a traffic control device.

March 8, 2009

Steven Anthony Manderson, 19, Southern Pines, was charged with minor in possession/consumption of alcohol, obstruction of an officer, giving false information to an officer, disorderly conduct and possession of a false I.D.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

The George-Anne is the official student newspaper of Georgia Southern University, owned and operated by GSU students using facilities provided by the university. 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 community. Opinions expressed herein are those of the student writers and editors and DO NOT necessarily reflect those of the faculty, staff or administration of GSU, the Student Media Advisory Board or the University System of Georgia. The newspaper is published twice weekly, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, during most of the academic year. Any questions regarding content should be directed to the student editor by phone at 912.478.5246 or at gaeditor@georgiasouthern.edu. Readers may access the newspaper and its archives at www.godaily.com.

ADVERTISING: The newspaper accepts advertising as a community service to help defray publication costs. Inquiries should be directed to the ADS or PAGES, P.O. Box 8001, Georgia Southern University, or by calling 912.478.5418 or 912.478-0566. You can fax any questions to 912.478.7113 or e-mail ads1@georgiasouthern.edu.

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SUPPORT: The George-Anne 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 George-Anne screens all advertisements prior to publication. The magazine 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.

DISPLAY AD DEADLINE: The deadline for reserving space and submitting advertising copy is Noon, one week prior to the intended publication date. For more information, rate cards, sample publications, contact the advertising manager or student media director.

PROOFING/ERRORS/OMISSIONS: The newspaper makes every reasonable effort to correct and complete information in advertisements. However the advertiser is responsible for any errors in advertisements and its liability for adjustments is limited to the amount of space the error occupied in the ad. Further, the newspaper is not responsible for any damages caused due to an ad's omission from a particular edition and its responsibility solely is to reschedule the ad in the next regular edition at the regular advertising rates.

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.godaily.com to view online issues. The George-Anne is distributed free of charge on the Georgia Southern campus and surrounding areas.

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.



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OPINIONS

...WHERE WE ARE COUNTING DOWN...3
DAYS UNTIL SPRING BREAK!! :)

Ally takes on the RAC: Week 4



Ally Rakoczy
is a junior marketing
major from Decatur,
GA. She is a guest
columnist for the
George-Anne.

I think Lindsey was trying to kill me. I really do. At least that was the impression I got from the last class I took on—Cardio Sculpt.

Lindsey was the bubbly and unassuming instructor who put me at ease with her pep and friendliness, only to sneakily pump things into the class that caused me bodily pain and made me incredibly aware how

truly out of shape I am.

Not only was I totally unprepared for what the class entailed, but also I didn't even pick up on the hint in the title (cardio) that it would involve things like star jumps, doing toe-taps in circles on half-crescent bouncy things, and (gulp) suicides. I came from a line of sports in high school where suicides were a four-letter word and almost always associated with some sort of Machiavellian form of punishment. Needless to say, not my favorite thing to do. But to be fair, I should probably start at the beginning.

Before I could start on my journey of pain, I had to set up my little workout station in the back of the room. I should've known the class was going to be difficult by the looks of all the equipment we had to use—stepping blocks, “gliding disks,” little rubber tension things, light, medium, and heavy sets of dumbbells, a barbell with weights, a mat, a half-crescent bouncy thing, and a stability ball.

We started the class off with two jogging laps and a couple of aerobic moves to get our heart rates up. (At this point, I'm thinking, hey, not that bad.) Next we started off with the step block (the

same kind you use in aerobics). Lindsey would show us three ways to do the move—levels 1, 2, and 3. You were supposed to choose the level that worked for you, so, naturally, I chose level 1.

Lindsey wouldn't have any of that. No sir, I was doing level 3 for almost every exercise, which involved me flapping my arms up and down while doing butt kicks on the step block, then moving on to jumping jacks, star jumps, toe-taps, and a phantom jump rope move that entailed pretending to swing a jump rope with your arms and jump over the rope, minus the actual rope.

But that's just the half of it.

Not only am I drenched with sweat and dying of thirst at this point (I ran out of water in the first ten minutes of the class), but now we also had to do squats with the barbell, lunges with the dumbbells, and pushups on the stability ball—all keeping the cardio pace by moving quickly to keep your heart rate up.

We did a few moves reminiscent of the kickboxing class that I loved, with right hooks, left hooks, and kicks with the dumbbells. Then we used the tension rubber things. Lucky for me, I had chosen the green, medium tension one so I was having a bit of an easier time than those in the class that had chosen the red, high tension ones.

We wrapped up the class with triceps presses, butt kicks, high knees, and the dreaded suicides. By the end of the class, I was pretty much dead, and I think I'm the only person ever to start getting sore while still in the middle of a class.

However, I've gotta give Lindsey some credit. She kicked my butt, and gave me one hell of a workout. During the most difficult exercises I was thinking in my head that I was never coming back, but because I want to look good for spring break, I think a few more of those classes are just the ticket.

Submission of Letters to the Editor

The George-Anne Daily welcomes letters to the editor, story submissions and guest columns. All copy submitted should be 350 words or less, typed, and sent via e-mail in Microsoft Word format to gaditor@georgiasouthern.edu or via facebook to Claire Gallam. All submissions must be signed and include phone number for verification. GSU students should include their academic major, year at GSU, and hometown. The editors reserve the right to edit or reject any submission.

Letter to the Editor

As a person involved in the protest (and quoted), I have problems with the way the event was reported. First of all, the event was called “Sit-In for Academic Freedom.”

The full title should've been printed. It wasn't a sit-in of people angry over this one person not being allowed to come to campus. It was a protest about the administration barring ANYONE from speaking on campus.

People forget that there are students that benefited from his input - input that he's been giving to students here for years. His simply being allowed to come to campus (which he can't do anymore as I understand it) has helped education doctoral candidates to graduate in the past and would've helped others in the future. Today, it's Bill Ayers. Who might it be tomorrow? I believe anyone invited to speak, whether or not I like them or agree with them, should be able to do so.

Secondly, the sentence regarding Dr. Haberland's “hopes to raise enough money to bring Ayers next fall” is not what she said. It implies that she

wants to undermine the university, which is not true. What she said was that she wanted to get permission of the university to invite Ayers to a Forum on Academic Freedom here in the fall. If security concerns were still an issue, she would try to raise the money to cover his protection.

The university is supposed to be a haven for the free exchange of ideas of all kinds. I may not have agreed with everyone that has come to Georgia Southern to speak, but I have always been proud that our university provided them a platform—up until now.

It's bad enough that the administration seems to be disregarding the mission statement that they claim to uphold. It's worse when people that disagree with them are painted as subversive and disrespectful of authority when they are not. I don't believe the bias in the reporting was purposely done.

Carlyn Pinkins
devinsey@gmail.com

Chris Brown sheds light on issue of domestic abuse



James Kicklighter
is a junior public
relations major from
Claxton, Ga and
the Public Relations
officer for SGA. He is
a staff columnist for
the George-Anne.

Chris Brown is in a little bit of trouble.

In case you haven't been paying attention to the news, Mr. Brown has allegedly abused popular singer and girlfriend Rihanna.

He hasn't been helping his case, vacationing in Miami and flexing his muscles for reporters.

From a public relations standpoint, he is in need of an extreme makeover. He has poorly mishandled the entire situation, and with a legal investigation taking place, no one really knows what is going on through the conflicting reports across the board.

Aside from the publicity, a more important issue has been highlighted through the situation; this is the vicious cycle of domestic abuse.

Mr. Brown has spoken about being raised in a home where his father frequently violated his mother in front of him. Since the incident, Rihanna reportedly has taken back Brown as her boyfriend.

As the new face of domestic abuse among young adults, Chris Brown has essentially stripped away his squeaky-clean image and will no longer will be able to do the kind of projects he has been successful within the past. In fact, there are reports

that Rihanna fans will burn her albums if she goes back to him.

Hold up, wait a second. These are two individuals who are going through a cycle that happens to people every day; it just so happens that they are celebrities. According to the American Bar Association, nearly 25 percent of women and seven percent of men are abused by a current or former spouse, cohabiting partner, or dating partner/acquaintance at some time in their lifetime.

This is a staggering amount of our population, which sparks the question; what are we doing to help? I've mentioned this “cycle” individuals go through, and one of the key components include going back to their abuser.

As demonstrated by Rihanna in this incident, she has already gone back to Brown, not even with any sign of a restraining order. To break the cycle, the victim has to first accept their abuse. There are hotlines and counseling outlets to help, but first reach out and grab them.

We should pay attention to these events all over the news. Sure, it's not Octomom, but there are far more important things happening around us, even in our own backyard, while we're oblivious to them happening.

Perhaps seeing the trouble this couple is going through will help open our eyes to the needs that others have.

ATTENTION GSU STUDENTS

What qualities do you want to see in our next president?

Send in a letter to the editor, at most 350 words, to gamed@georgiasouthern.edu detailing what you think the future president should focus on and what you would like to see implemented at GSU.

Letters should begin with the format: Dear 12th GSU president. . .

OPINIONS cont...

Please follow track etiquette at the RAC



Michelle Vegliante is a sophomore public relations major from Marietta, Georgia. She is a guest columnist for the George-Anne.

Manners are one thing we all know about. We display them at dinner, on dates, and when meeting someone new. It seems, however, that lately many people leave their manners at home when they use the indoor track at the RAC.

Thanks to my New Year's resolution, I have stepped up the number

of my RAC visits per week to about five.

Since running is my workout of choice, I spend a lot of time on the indoor track. I must say, it's amazing to see how many college educated students cannot read a simple sign on the track that reads:

Inner two lanes—walking
Outer two lanes—jogging.

Yet, there are people every time I go who insist on walking in the outer lanes. But they don't just walk. Oh no, they sort of stroll around the track, most of the time with a friend in tow. And to the frustration of us runners, they don't move out of the way.

Another rude behavior is when a whole group of friends (I'm talking four or five people) pan out on both outer lanes and start seeping into the inner lanes.

They all walk at a slow pace and practically make a wall that makes it nearly impossible for runners to pass through. This causes those who are actually trying to run on the track to lose their

pace or actually have to stop running just so they don't trample into the wall of humans.

The worst behavior of some RAC patrons is loitering on the track. This is another rule that although should be common sense, slips people's mind.

I just don't understand why people feel it necessary to stand on the track to talk with a friend and be silly when there is a common area with benches right next to the track. The rudest part of this is when these loiterers make the runners go around them.

The track is for running, not stopping to chat. If you're inconveniencing a runner by just standing on track hanging out, you need to step off the lane.

This problem though, needs to be handled by the RAC more efficiently.

Having a staff member patrol the track full time would really reduce the amount of unnecessary traffic on the track lanes. I do notice staff members surveying the area a few times throughout the night. But that just is not enough. Obviously the people who choose to be rude and inconsiderate on the track need a staff member to babysit them at all times.

The RAC is supposed to be a stress-free area where we can all go to work out. People need to start being respectful and realize that they are not the only person on the track.

When you start inconveniencing another's workout on the track, you're infringing on the quality of their run and that's just not right.

Those of you who do this know who you are, so in the name of all runners of the indoor track, please stop!

Are there too many loopholes in our system?



Ben Carroll is a freshman exercise science major from Atlanta, GA. He is a staff writer/guest columnist for the George-Anne.

In the United States, we have made laws that are made to follow and we have made laws to protect us from any wrong-doing.

However, every single day, it seems that people keep on escaping the penalties for their actions by slipping through the loopholes in the law or getting in trouble for the smallest thing.

When you watch a show like "Law and Order," you see how many ways a person can get away with a crime.

I still don't understand how defense attorneys can look at the client's eyes, know they are guilty of an unspeakable crime, and try to bring out the insanity plea or let the judge dismiss the case after arguing that the police didn't have a proper search warrant.

On January 16, 2009, in San Francisco, 12 drug files cases, according to the sfgate.com, the San Francisco Chronicle official newspaper Web site, had been dismissed due to false information from 11 police officers to obtain their search warrant.

All the evidence that was found due to the search warrant was dismissed, so because the police officers messed up, the district attorney has

nothing to prosecute the defendants with and the cases were dismissed by the judge.

So, instead of good triumphing over evil in the land of the free, the suspects will walk free with a very little chance of being convicted.

In personal experience, I got punished more for not wearing my seat belt than these possible drug dealers.

I hear about divorced parents with fathers who don't pay child support until the very last moment when the judge is threatening jail time, just to make life more difficult for the mother.

I have seen my friends get off for something serious because they were lucky to run into a nice officer and I've seen friends go to jail on a technicality with a really mean officer.

The point of the police is to keep the peace and everyone safe, not reach their quota. Maybe the people would appreciate the police more if we trusted them.

The judicial system seems like it was designed by people who were raised by Puritans. There is a time and place for everything, like going into a building without a search warrant.

People will abuse the system, which endangers everyone else. Rapists and murderers get placed back on the street while intoxicated people from the bars who can't drive home and are trying to be responsible by walking are being thrown in jail for being drunk in public.

Stay smart in the sun by wearing SPF!



Claire Gallam is a senior communications major from Lakewood, Ohio. She is the Managing Editor of news for the G-A.

This past weekend brought with it some very beautiful weather. With that, I spend Saturday lying by the pool with a fruity drink (umbrella included).

As I relaxed in the sun wearing my teeny bikini, reveling in the beautiful day (and beautiful bodies that played volleyball in sight) the sun's harsh UV rays were the last thing

on my mind.

And as the day moved on, I began to see how many other pool goes also forgot to apply sunscreen by the dark shades of red their skin began turning to.

When the weather gets nicer, many people tend to forget skin protection, even though skin cancer is becoming a major threat to many Americans.

According to cancer.gov, the National Cancer Institute's web page, there are more than one million new cases of skin cancer diagnosed each year, and in 2008, there were over 1,000 deaths

attributed to skin cancer.

Now, with spring break just around the corner, these statistics are a good thing to keep in the back of your mind.

Luckily though, skin cancer is one of the easiest to prevent. According to the NCI, one of the easiest ways to prevent overexposure is to wear sunscreen (duh!). They recommend using at least a 15 SPF on your body, and at least a 25-30 SPF on your face. Sunscreen can range from two dollars a bottle to over 10 dollars. They also recommend applying sunscreen after you get wet, vigorous exercise, or every few hours.

If you have been in the sun without protection and are burnt, they recommend putting on a cover up or a hat for the remainder of the time, or going inside and applying aloe.

If you notice that the areas around your eyes are burnt, rest a cool, damp washcloth on them to reduce swelling. If you notice that your burns are extremely dark, you have sunspots, or sun bubbles on your skin, see a doctor immediately, for these are high risk to causing skin cancer.

Nothing ruins a day by the pool like bad sunburn, so make sure to apply sunscreen before your day in the sun!

ATTENTION ALL CARTOONISTS!

The George-Anne Opinions section NEEDS some new cartoonists!

If you enjoy drawing and would like to have your work featured in the G-A every week, send in samples and your information (name, major, etc.) to gamed@georgiasouthern.edu.

You can also visit the newsroom 2023 in the Williams Center or call Claire at 574-339-4923.

Students to volunteer abroad in Northern Ireland

GSU News Service

Six Georgia Southern University honors students will begin a unique spring break next week when they depart Statesboro for a trip to Northern Ireland where they will tour, volunteer and spend St. Patrick's Day working alongside some of the country's most notable artists.

The GSU students will arrive in Northern Ireland on Saturday, March 14 and will tour Belfast, the North Antrim coast and Dublin.

On St. Patrick's Day they will volunteer in Derry, where they will work to repair historically significant murals alongside the famed Bogside Artists.

Derry was the scene of a 1972 protest that turned violent when protesters were fired on by the British military.

The events of that day led to escalated violence in the region and were the inspiration for the U2 song "Sunday, Bloody Sunday." The Bogside Artists have painted a series of murals in the area depicting the scenes of that Sunday and other reminders of that unsettled time.

"Our students seek out meaningful learning experiences," said Steven Engel, director of GSU's Honors Program.

"When some college students plan their break around 'fun in the sun,' this group will have the opportunity to learn, first-hand, about the peace and reconciliation process in a society that has emerged from a period of conflict. These kinds of experiential learning opportunities are a hallmark of the honors experience at GSU, where students can see ideas in action and make a difference at the same time."

This trip is also significant because it will be the first time several of the students have traveled abroad.

Allowing students opportunities to study and travel abroad is a key part of GSU's mission to provide an education that will give graduates the tools they will need to live and work in a global society.

"This allows students to develop an understanding of the problems that confront humanity and consider how their future careers may lend themselves to crafting solutions to these problems," said Bob Frigo who is the assistant director of the University Honors Program.

The GSU students traveling on this trip are Ashlin Reid, Mary Elizabeth Cooper, Rachel Rozier, Ava Conger and Rachel Anderson and Catherine Ryan.



Special photo

Students visiting Derry will be able to see the murals painted by the Bogside artists, including this one titled "Bloody Sunday."

SGA SENATE MEETINGS

RUSSEL UNION 6:30 PM

TO REMIND STUDENTS TO COME AND LET

THEIR VOICE BE HEARD



GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
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SGA addresses campus concerns and upcoming election at biweekly meeting



By Tiffany Colston

Guest writer

On Wednesday, March 4 at 7:30 p.m. in the Russell Union Theatre, SGA met to discuss various issues affecting the campus community such as the upcoming SGA elections, student athletes not having the opportunity to choose a broad range of majors and parking concerns.

One reoccurring matter that was discussed is SGA's motion to approve campus organization fund requests.

Campus organizations such as GSU Stand, the GSU Show Choir and the American Chemical Society requested up to \$600 to financially support trips that are steadily approaching.

GSU Stand recently requested funds for their upcoming regional conference in North Carolina, which they will be paying \$400 to cover out-of-pocket.

Josh Fredrick, vice president of the organization, expressed his appreciation for the funds at the meeting.

"The money helps us pay for normal operating expenses and our non-profit causes," said

Fredrick.

The GSU Show Choir requested funds for rental facilities, lights and a sound system that is needed for performances during the semester.

The American Chemical Society needs funds to help prepare for its National Chemical Society Conference in Utah this March.

SGA president, Brandon Cook approved a motion for \$600 in order for the organizations to attend the conferences and cover their expenses.

SGA elections will be held tentatively on March 24 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in Russell Union room 2047. Debates will also be held between potential candidates.

According to Samantha Young, vice president of auxiliary affairs, candidates will have a full week to campaign and voting will begin on March 30.

Executive Vice President Rahman Anjorin said that SGA elections in past years have been large and vast in number; this year's election is expected to be even larger.

"This year's election will be one of the larger elections that Georgia Southern has seen in recent years," said Anjorin.

On March 9 at 6:30 p.m. in the Russell Union SGA's Parking and Transportation Committee will meet to address students' concerns.

According to Young, students need to be aware that parking is prohibited at the new parking lot at the library.

President Grube has designated much of the area behind the library as green space, an idea that many faculty members don't agree with.

One problem raised at the meeting concerns football players not having an opportunity to take classes for certain majors, due to their early practice times.

Football players that have practice from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. cannot major in areas associated with health professions.

They can only major in Management if they'd like to be in the business program based on the practice times.

Samantha Young and Michael Moore, curriculum foundations and reading professor will meet with associate provost, Amy Heaston later on this month to discuss the matter.

"If students come to college and they want to be physical education teachers they should have the opportunity," said Young.

CALENDAR

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Time: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Event: AIDS Testing

Location: Russell Union 2044

Time: 5 - 6 p.m.

Event: Exercise Science Major Meeting

Location: Hollis Classroom 2102

Time: 5 - 7 p.m.

Event: Build Leader Group Interviews

Location: Russell Union 2073

Time: 6 - 8 p.m.

Event: SGA Election Candidate Meeting

Location: Russell Union 2041

Time: 7 - 10 p.m.

Event: Movie: Rent

Location: Russell Union Theatre

Time: 8 - 10 p.m.

Event: Creative Writing Club

Location: Newton Building

Time: 9 - 11 p.m.

Event: Swing Cat Society Meetings

Location: College Plaza Building

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Time: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Event: Red Cross Blood Drive

Location: Williams Center Dining Hall

Time: 5 - 6 p.m.

Event: Philosophy Meeting

Location: Newton Building

Time: 5 - 6:30 p.m.

Event: SAGE Meeting

Location: Russell Union 2044

Time: 6 - 8 p.m.

Event: Al Gore Video

Location: Biology Lecture Room 2215

Time: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Event: SGA Meeting

Location: Russell Union Ballroom

Time: 7 - 9 p.m.

Event: AIDS Awareness Bingo

Location: Russell Union Commons Stage

Time: 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Event: LC and Cabinet Meetings

Location: Russell Union 2044

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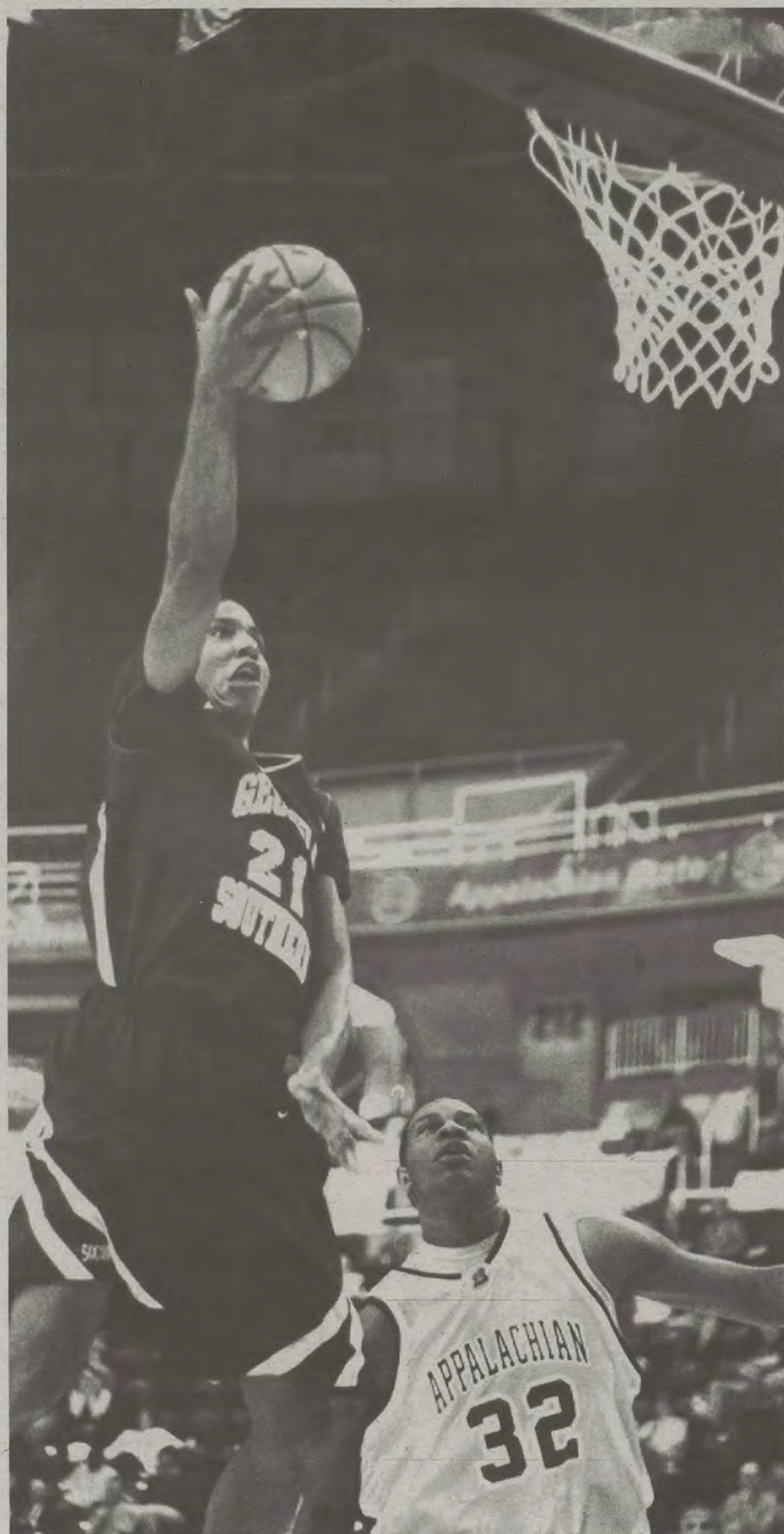
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EAGLES SEASON ENDS AT SOCON

All photos by Rob Eakins/STAFF

LEFT: Tyler Troupe goes for a layup. **TOP LEFT:** Antonio Hanson rushes up the court. **TOP RIGHT:** Samantha Williams pushes the ball up court. **BOTTOM:** Jessica Geiger looks for a teammate.

The Southern Conference (SOCON) tournament took place this past weekend in Chattanooga, Tenn. GSU women's basketball played Elon on Thursday, March 5, for a loss of 57-54. The men lost to App. State 86-75 on Friday, March 6.

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EA Sports announces NCAA Basketball 09: March Madness Edition

By Gweb Johnson

Guest Writer

EA Sports has just announced that they will be offering downloadable content that will allow fans of the immensely popular NCAA Basketball series to replicate the upcoming NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship bracket. The NCAA Basketball 09: March Madness Edition downloadable content is a series first for EA Sports. Players will have access to all of the schools competing in the 2009 March Madness and the ability to take their favorite team all the way to the Final Four. NCAA Basketball 09: March Madness Edition is exclusive to the Xbox 360 and will be available for download at the price of 1200 Microsoft points (\$15.00). The download will be made available in time for the official NCAA tournament, which starts March 19 on CBS Sports.

Beginning March 11 NCAA Basketball 09: March Madness Edition will be available for download through Xbox 360's Xbox LIVE Marketplace. Teams from last year's tournament will be made available prior to March 18. Beginning on March 18 the game will update with the newly announced official Selection Sunday brackets, accurate teams,

and updated ratings.

EA Sports' goal with their NCAA Basketball 09: March Madness Edition is to recreate the atmosphere and intensity of the NCAA March Madness tournament. Fans will be able to play through the entire NCAA tournament through their "virtual bracket" system using their favorite team. The players' team will be subjected to the identical conditions of the real life NCAA March Madness beginning at the opening round and ending at this year's host city Detroit Michigan's Ford Field for the Final Four.

Replicating your favorite team's style of play and tempo will be the key to winning the tournament. As an additional bonus the game will feature Division I coaches providing real time instructions and feedback in-game. "Fans will be able to experience the tournament, feel the adrenaline rush that comes with a single loss elimination tournament and write their own history," said Connor Dougan producer for NCAA Basketball 09: March Madness Edition.

EA Sports encourage all fans of NCAA basketball to purchase NCAA Basketball 09: March Madness Edition through Xbox LIVE Marketplace beginning March 11. "Few sporting events capture



Special Photo

New game will allow sports fans to follow March Madness tournament, complete with updating brackets.

the excitement and intensity of March Madness, so it's great to be able to offer everyone a chance to play with NCAA Basketball 09: March Madness Edition, an exclusive to Xbox LIVE and Xbox 360,"

said General Manager of Xbox Live Marc Whitten. Be sure to follow NCAA tournament games at NCAA.com or on CBS to see if your favorite team can live up to their virtual counterpart.



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Watchmen: a movie for both fanboys and newbies

By Ryan Babula
Staff Writer



Let me preface with the fact that two weeks before viewing this, I had read the graphic novel off of which this is based. It's hailed as the book that "changed a medium," and fanboys across the country were up in arms as to whether they could film a book that's been deemed "un-filmable." After reading it, I can easily say that I fell in love with it. I loved every page, every panel, every intersecting story line, and every commentary it had to make. It's a dense and crowded story, and I began to wonder how they could adapt this faithfully and commercially. Well, I'm glad to say that "Watchmen" is every bit as entertaining, emotional, and deep as its source material. Part of me worries, though, that it's not wholly commercial.

What sets "Watchmen" apart from other superhero films is the fact that it's not entirely a part of that genre. Sure, there are superheroes, but the issues they face and what they represent in society are completely different than any other superhero film. The characters in the film are internally flawed as a result of society's crumbling state, personal challenges, or the need to be relevant again. In the alternate history the story takes place in, superheroes are viewed as vigilantes, and their actions are illegal. They struggle to make sense of the fiery world they live in, and try to fix it in any way that they can. In fact, the only person with superpowers is alienated from the people he's asked to protect and questions whether they even deserve to be saved.

Every actor in the film brings their character to life perfectly, but the two standouts here are Jackey Earl Haley and Jeffrey Dean Morgan as Rorschach and The Comedian, respectively. Haley gives Ror-

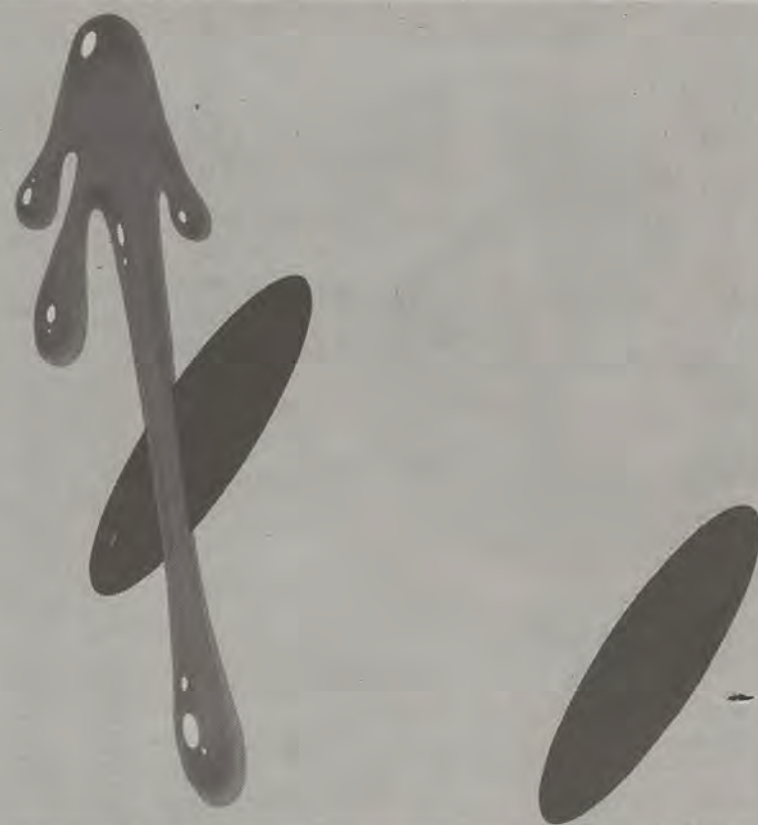
schach a noirish attitude, but brings to the character a sense of sadness not fully explored in the comic. He is a product of childhood abuse and takes his rage out on a world that is disintegrating around him. Morgan (better known as "Denny" on "Grey's Anatomy") takes The Comedian and makes him at once a sadistic and sympathetic. You feel for his view on society, the irony of it all, but you never once condone his actions to "keep the peace."

To say that "Watchmen" is a faithful adaptation would be a gross understatement. The movie practically feels like the graphic novel. It takes every important plot point, exposition, and emotional beat and translates it for the big screen. My only qualm exists during the first hour, where the film is a little too faithful to its source material. During this time, the film is practically all exposition and character development, and the way it's presented is often jarring and fairly uneven. Everything is flashback after flashback, and one begins to wonder when the main story will begin. The beginning passages of the graphic novel flow like this, but in the transition from book to screen, this is one thing I wished they'd retooled just a bit. Thankfully, though, this doesn't take anything away from enjoying the film, for most of the content is compelling.

After gushing about how much I enjoyed this film, I reference back to my preface. I am a fan of the graphic novel, and I feel that my experience watching the film was only exemplified due to this. In a sense, I was biased to either love or hate this film, and thankfully I landed on the former. In recommending this film, I have to warn you that it may not be what you're expecting if you haven't read the book. It's not an action-packed spectacle, though it's never boring. It's not "The Dark Knight" or "Spiderman 2." It's a very deep and compelling film that questions the prospect



NEW/COM/AN



Special Photo

Watchmen has long been one of the most critically acclaimed and best selling graphic novels of all time. Some say the movie focuses too much on the "graphic" part and not as much the story.

of superheroes, what they represent, and how society views them.

The people I've talked to who haven't read the book found that they enjoyed the film, but felt that many aspects were unnecessary. It's been mainly "Why's the blue guy always naked?" or "Why is the movie so long?" While I don't want to answer either of those questions, I can assure that the film wouldn't be as emotionally compelling if many

of those things were left out. To say that this is a film for the fans would be a disservice. I just feel that if you want a truly full experience, take a few hours and read the graphic novel. I loved it, and I found myself enjoying the film just a tad more. If you'd rather not go that route, I still hope you enjoy the film as much as I did, and grasp everything it has to say.

By Jonathan Pope
Staff Writer



After months of teasers, legal battles, and hype, "Watchmen" is finally here. Unfortunately, it's a slight letdown. As much as I loved it, there's no denying that it has some issues.

Having read and thoroughly enjoyed Alan Moore's famed graphic novel, it was easy to get excited about the prospect of seeing it translated to film. It was also easy to see why it has long been touted as "unadaptable."

Steeped in issues of sex, violence, politics, and religion, "Watchmen" is, in a word, "complex." Warner Brothers hoped to capture its essence by hiring Zack Snyder ("300," "Dawn of the Dead") to helm the project.

However, unlike his fantastic adaptation of the far less dense "300," Snyder seems to have slightly missed the mark with "Watchmen" in the storytelling department. In his defense, this may be an unfair comparison considering the immense differences between the two.

Snyder is undoubtedly a talented director with an unparalleled sense of style and faithfulness to the source material, yet he hasn't quite mastered the art of capturing emotion.

Despite heavy backstory throughout, the story and characters sometimes lack the emotional depth that made them so intriguing in the pages of the graphic novel.

This is thanks in part to the script - which takes a good amount of dialogue directly from the novel, forgetting that what reads well on paper does not

necessarily sound good when spoken.

Another issue is the way in which Nixon and the U.S. government are handled. I much preferred their ominous and shadowy presence in the graphic novel to the large boardroom scenes of the film. We see Nixon's caricature-like face far too many times, and it takes away from the foreboding role that the government played in the novel.

Structurally, the narrative is sound, but those unfamiliar with the source material may find themselves confused, as a good deal of material was left out, shortened, or changed altogether. Fans of the graphic novel will likely get the most enjoyment. Thankfully, Snyder has announced that a 3-hour-plus cut will be included on the forthcoming DVD and Blu-ray releases, which should fill in many of the blanks.

What Snyder lacks in emotionally charged storytelling, he more than makes up for in presentation. The film looks brilliant and is shockingly accurate to the source. From the young comic reader by the newsstand to Laurie Jupiter's mole on her cheek - every detail has been painstakingly ripped from the pages and translated to the screen. A prime example is Dr. Manhattan's transformation and backstory segment, which will likely give fans chills.

Despite my nitpicking and criticisms, "Watchmen" is a fantastic piece of cinema. It's fan service through and through, and if you haven't read the book, I highly recommend familiarizing yourself to get the most out of it. You are not likely to see a more faithful adaptation of this acclaimed piece of graphic novel history. Ever.

World famous Savannah Music Festival returns during spring break



By Philip Clements
Features Editor

Starting on March 19 and going until April 4, the Savannah Music Festival will take over the state's oldest city and turn it into a music party.

Founded in 1988, the "Savannah Onstage International Arts Festival" was a local effort to increase tourism in Savannah and its surrounding area. Music, dance and film programs were all featured in the festival and attracted people mostly from the Southeastern coastal region.

Donning a sleeker and more-to-the-point name in 2002, the Savannah Music Festival narrowed its focus on the musical arts and has since brought some of the biggest names in American music to the stage, such as Buddy Guy and Derek Trucks.

While most of the names in the line-up won't ring any bells to the typical Top 40 radio listeners, make no mistake: this festival is chock-full of international music royalty.

After an eye-opening and soul-cleansing trip to Africa in order to trace the roots of his instrument, virtuoso banjoist Bela Fleck will bring his findings to Savannah. This rare and special performance will feature Fleck along with an all-star ensemble

of African musicians including Vusi Mahlasela, Toumani Diabate, D'Gary and Anania Ngoriga. One can only imagine the eclectic sounds that will result from the blending of Fleck's fusion of bluegrass and jazz with the traditional folky African rhythms brought forth by these amazing musicians.

The 200 year old Portuguese musical style "fado" has on recently achieved international acclaim and much of that can be attributed to Mariza. She has been considered the best singer in the new fado generation and blends the traditional with the modern.

The Savannah Music Festival wouldn't be complete without a little jazz and a little classical. On the jazz side of things is a performance by two of the biggest names in the jazz-rock fusion world, Chick Corea and John McLaughlin. Both veterans of Miles Davis' band, this will mark their first time together in 40 years.

And who can say no to a Zydeco dance party? Three nights will feature performances from top-notch Creole and Cajun musicians, such as Feufollet and Cedric Watson.

As for classical, the SMF has you covered there too. Pianist Garrick Ohlsson, who played with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra in last year's festival, will be returning on his own this time. He will play

timeless pieces such as Beethoven's Sonata No. 1 in F Minor and Chopin's Nocturne in D-flat (Google them if you do not know them by name, you'll probably recognize them).

The SMF also focuses on musical education. The Gulfstream Music Education Series will feature many free age-appropriate concerts that will give students a taste of a wide selection of genres.

For those that are overwhelmed by the list of unfamiliar names, SMF has gone to the internet to provide potential festival-goers an opportunity to hear the music of the unknown artists. There have been 18 different episodes that feature live music from those that will be featured in the festival. To hear this radio show, go to www.savannahmusicfestival.org/radio

Another quirky choice for festival-goers is a trip back to the early 1900s with three classic silent films accompanied by pianist Rick Friend. Charlie Chaplin's "The Immigrant" from 1917 and "The Kid" from 1921 will be joined by F.W. Murnau's "Sunrise" from 1927.

For more information, including a complete line-up, ticket prices and venues, you can visit the festival website at www.savannahmusicfestival.org

Special Photo
The Savannah Music Festival, Georgia's largest music festival, is known for its eclectic line-up, which spans across all genres from bluegrass to classical.

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Special Photo
Neko Case, a singer/songwriter whose music has been described as "moody, deeply personal music that combines elements of country, gospel and punk rock" by Rolling Stone writer Neva Chonin, will make her Savannah debut at the Trustes Theater on Friday, April 3.

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For complete job descriptions, visit the Student Employment Center web site at jobs.georgiasouthern.edu/SEC. All applications must be received by Friday, March 27. Applicants must be available for interviews between 2 and 5 pm on BOTH April 3 and April 10. Applicants for Executive, George-Anne, REFLECTOR, Online editors and ADS Manager must also plan to be in Statesboro for the summer of 2009.

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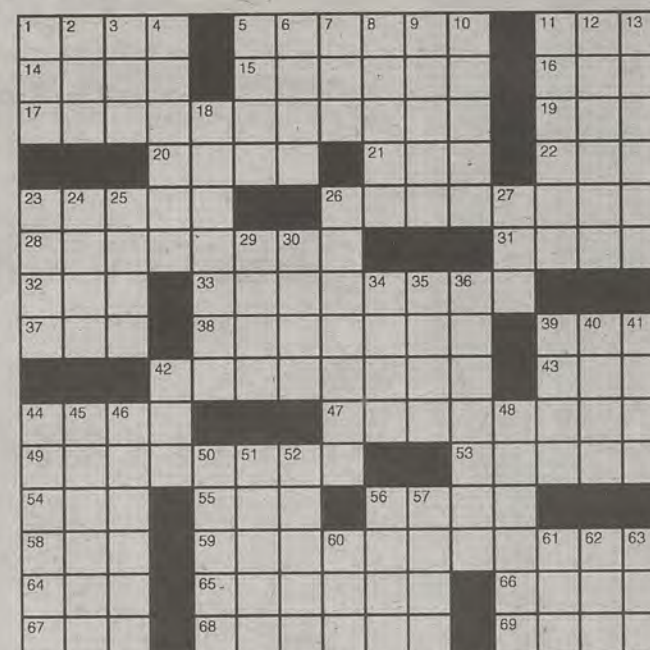
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ACROSS

- 1 One Baldwin
- 5 Wild party
- 11 \$ player
- 14 "Magic Moments" singer
- 15 Mario Puzo book
- 16 Biddy
- 17 Golf events
- 19 Lofty poem
- 20 Childhood prohibition
- 21 Tennis grouping
- 22 Auction offer
- 23 Haughty look
- 26 Air-to-ground attacking
- 28 Decimal part of a logarithm
- 31 Pile up leaves
- 32 Quaint
- 33 Convulsive condition
- 37 Neon, for one
- 38 Pygmalion's statue
- 39 SASE, e.g.
- 42 Rhythm instrument
- 43 Neighbor of Swed.
- 44 "Charles in Charge" star
- 47 Butterfly in Bogota
- 49 Envelops
- 53 Repair a hem
- 54 Slugger's stat
- 55 King topper
- 56 Send out
- 58 Jolson and Gore
- 59 Brainy social system
- 64 PGA peg
- 65 Actress Brigitte
- 66 Isle of exile
- 67 Harris and Wynn
- 68 Whoever
- 69 Speech defect

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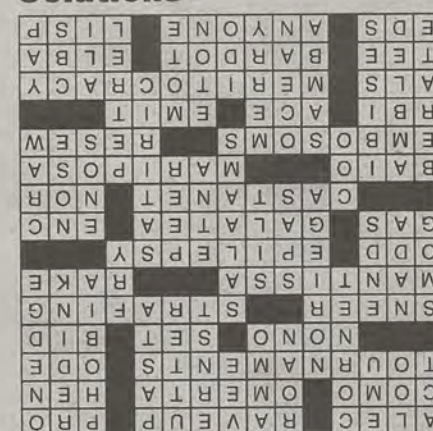
- 1 Play part
- 2 London W.C.
- 3 Outback bird
- 4 Trumpet's cousin



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2/16/09

Solutions



- 46 Large wading birds
- 48 Stormy seabird
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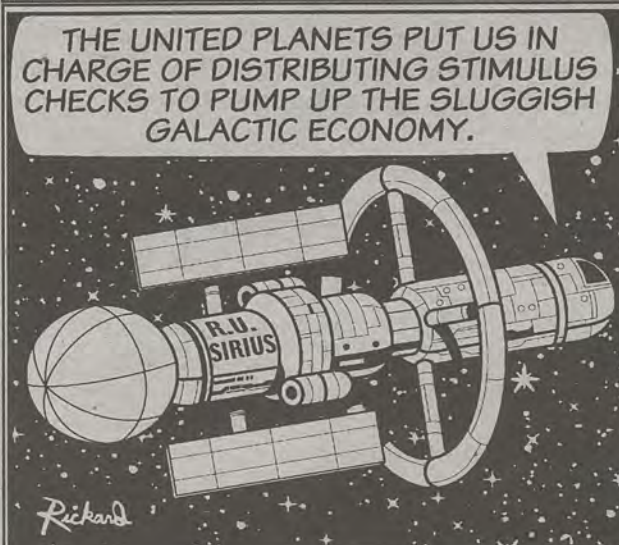
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NATIONAL NEWS

Economy may affect Spring Break travel

By Derek Legette

Uwire

Spending for Spring Break 2009 will see a 20 percent decline, according to one University of South Carolina economics professor.

Douglas Woodard, economics professor and director of the USC Division of Research, thinks the economy will affect everything and not just Spring Break.

"People aren't spending as much, which is bad for the economy," Woodard said.

While some students are excited and joyful about the steadily approaching spring break, others are simultaneously anxious and worrisome about the economy.

Some students had to reorganize their plans in order to maintain their budget.

Rashad Singletary, a first-year electrical engineering student, had to change his plans so he could save money.

"My initial plan was to group up with friends to go to Miami, but instead we're just going to be heading towards Myrtle Beach. I'm trying not to do too much in order to save my money,"

Singletary said.

Although students want to have a good time during their week off, saving money still remains a constant priority to them.

"I plan on saving up money and just hanging out with friends over the break," said Kevin Cielo, a first-year business student.

Cielo admits that he never had big plans, but even if he did, he would keep it within his budget.

"I will stay close to home and not go too far," he said.

Some students have saved up money in advance so they are not too concerned with the status of the economy.

Justin Thompson, a second-year psychology student, is going to continue his plans to travel to Florida during the break.

"I'm going to Florida, and with gas being cheap it's a great trip for me. Based on how I save and spend money, the trip is affordable," Thompson said.

Even though the state of the economy has had an effect on some students, it has not affected all students.



Special Photo

University of Texas students visited the Capitol last Thursday to rally for tuition relief.

Texas students march to Capitol for tuition relief

By Jonathon Babin

Uwire

Students from across Texas made the mile-long march from the West Mall to the south steps of the Capitol on Thursday to promote tuition relief and equal opportunity for higher education.

Jimmy Talarico, a government junior and president of University Democrats, spoke at the West Mall rally and then led the group, collectively titled Tuition Relief Now, on the march.

"More than half of students graduate college with debt," Talarico said.

Tuition has climbed at the University of Texas by 86 percent and statewide by 53 percent since the Legislature decided to allow schools to set their own tuition rates in 2003, Talarico said.

At the Capitol, state Sen. Juan Hinojosa, D-McAllen, a co-sponsor of the Tuition Freeze Bill, took the podium and spoke about the need for fair tuition and the power of education.

"Education is the best equalizer we have in our society," he said. "It is unfair to place the burden on students who are trying to get an education and better their lives."

The Tuition Freeze Bill will keep tuition at the same cost for two years, cap tuition following the freeze at the rate of inflation and require student fees to be approved by a student vote.

Hinojosa said the Legislature would also appropriate nearly \$600 million for higher education during this session.

Student Government President Keshav Rajagopalan said tuition regulation is not the problem the Legislature needs to address. Rajagopalan said the fundamental problem is funding.

The Legislature currently provides the university with a 0.25 percent funding increase annually, which he said fails to keep up with the rate of inflation and the increase in energy costs.

"The state needs to make a commitment to higher education," Rajagopalan said. "The students need to put the blame on our state."

Rajagopalan said the annual increase for total student costs has actually declined since tuition was deregulated in 2003. From 1990 to 2003, the annual increase in student costs per year was 13.5 percent.

Since deregulation, the average annual increase has declined to 8.5 percent. Though tuition has risen since deregulation, the service fees that students pay have considerably dropped off, Rajagopalan said.

"The only reason tuition has increased is that the state hasn't funded the school adequately," said state Sen. Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo and chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education. "And I hope that in these dire times we can do that."

Zaffirini said the only reason the Legislature voted for deregulation in 2003 was because of a \$10 billion shortfall.

"It was the responsible thing to do at the time," she said.



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TOWNHOMES

Basketball seasons come to end, baseball and tennis dominate



Rob Eakins/STAFF

J'Lisia Ogburn goes up for a shot in the Eagles 57-54 loss to Elon in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Compiled by Staff

The Georgia Southern basketball teams ended their 2008-09 seasons this weekend at the Southern Conference tournament in Chattanooga, Tenn.

The Lady Eagles faced Elon in their round one game on Thursday. Though GSU swept Elon this season, the Phoenix came out strong and dominated in the postseason appearance. Coach Rusty Cram's team fell behind in the first half and was down by 13 at halftime. The largest lead of the game was 22.

But, in a fashion to make Eagle fans proud, the team came roaring back in the second half. Senior Ashley Melson hit a 3-pointer in the last minute to pull the team within one. The Lady Eagles forced an Elon shot clock violation to get the ball back with 27 seconds, but could not produce a basket. A last second foul put Elon at the line and they sank both free throws to end the game with a 57-54 lead.

This was the final game in the stellar careers of seniors Melson and Ashley Rivens. Melson led the Lady Eagles in scoring with 15 points, while Rivens had eight. J'Lisia Ogburn and Jessica Geiger both had nine points in the effort.

The team ends their season 16-14 overall and 11-10 in conference.

The men's basketball team also fell in the first round of the tournament, losing 86-75 to App. State. Tyler Troupe had a stellar (find another word) performance, scoring 20 points in the game. Ben Drayton III added 15 points, while Antonio Hanson added 14.

This was the final game for seniors Kenith Ward (two rebounds) and Anthony Marshall (six points). The Eagles ended the turbulent season with an 8-22 record.

The Eagles baseball team continued to dominate, sweeping their competition in the Holiday Inn Eagle Invitational. On Friday, the Eagles defeated Indiana, 8-5. Chris Mederos stuck out eight, earning his third win of the season. Dexter Bobo pitched two scoreless innings to earn the save. On Saturday, the Eagles won over LeMoyne, 5-3. Andy Moye threw eight solid innings to earn the win. Four players had multiple hits in the effort.

The biggest game of the weekend, however, was Sunday's battle against No. 20 East Carolina. The Eagles again proved to be dominant, ripping ECU 14-4. Senior catcher Griffin Benedict (see pg. 20 for profile) tied an NCAA record with two solo home

runs in the seventh inning. The Eagles scored eight of their 14 runs in that inning alone.

Matt Murray picked up the win for GSU in a five-inning effort, earning his first win as an Eagle. Kyle Kamppi picked up his second save of the season. The Pirates used eight different pitchers in the game.

The Eagles improve to 11-1 on the season and will hit the road for the first time this season, traveling to Jacksonville Tuesday (game set for 6 p.m.).

The GSU tennis teams also dominated their competition this weekend. The men's team opened up SoCon play with a victory over App. State, 5-2. They improved to 5-2 on the season.

The women's team picked up two wins this weekend, including an impressive shutout of App. State on Saturday, 7-0. The other win came over Evansville, 5-2.

The Lady Eagles softball team struggled this weekend, dropping four of five games since Thursday. Their only win was a 1-0 victory over College of Charleston. Despite impressive pitching by Brianna Streetmon and multiple strong at-bat outings for the team, the Lady Eagles fall to a 8-12 record.

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The General Behind the Plate: Griffin Benedict



Rob Eakins/STAFF

Griffin Benedict makes a play to second in a recent game against Georgia Tech.

By Justin Kopacz
Guest writer

The Georgia Southern Eagles are off to a swift start in the 2009 season. The success comes as no surprise; the team is led by a solid core of battle-tested veteran experience. One of the leaders who has come to the forefront of attention is senior Griffin Benedict, who has started all four years while at Georgia Southern behind the plate.

"He has a good feel for the game and it's almost like having another coach on the field, which is very important for his position, being a catcher," said Coach Rodney Hennon.

As the son of long time Atlanta Brave Bruce Benedict, Benedict has grown up with baseball flowing in his veins.

"When I was four I started playing tee-ball and just moved up," said Benedict of his early introduction to America's pastime. "I started catching when I got into high school. I played short stop before that and first base when I was little."

Even though Benedict had a strong connection to the game, he claims that his success demonstrates

that anyone can achieve their goal.

"It proves to you that it can be done. When somebody does it that you know, it's like aliens don't play it, real people play it and you actually have a chance," said Benedict.

In high school, Benedict started at St. Pius behind the plate and under center as the team's quarterback in football.

Although he got scholarship offers for both sports, Benedict chose the opportunity to have an immediate impact for Georgia Southern.

"He has gotten better each year and definitely matured each year. He had a great opportunity as a freshman; we had graduated our starting catcher the year before so he played a lot right away that first year, which I think he has benefited a lot from that experience," said Hennon.

Benedict is the exact type of player that every team is looking for, providing strong leadership abilities behind the plate and a solid bat in the lineup. In fact, he struck out the least amount of times for any starter last season.

His plate discipline and ability to fight off pitches are essential to have in the middle of the

order where he has ample opportunities to drive in runs and make an impact on each and every game.

Benedict was named Third Team Preseason All-America by the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association; a title that commemorates his past success, although he admits it is just "a feather in your cap."

"My expectations for this year are to win upwards of 40 games and perform in the Southern Conference tournament and win the Southern Conference," said Benedict.

In the last Eagles outing, a 14-4 victory of no. 20 East Carolina, Benedict tied a NCAA record with two solo home runs in the seventh inning of the game.

For that performance and batting a .647 average over the past week, the Southern Conference awarded Benedict the "SoCon Player of the Week" yesterday.

Although league play has not yet started, the Eagles have begun their campaign quickly with a strong record behind the leadership of Benedict, with the sky as the limit.

A Talk With: Griffin Benedict

Interview by Justin Kopacz

When did you start playing baseball? Were you always a catcher?

When I was four I started playing tee-ball and just moved up. I started catching when I got into high school. I played short stop before that and first base when I was little.

In high school, you also started as the quarterback at St. Pius, what made you decide to pursue a college career in baseball? Did you have any football scholarship offers?

I actually got tired of everyone being bigger, faster, and stronger than I was in football. I enjoyed high school football but baseball is really my passion and I could go to a better school with baseball.

I got a lot more scholarship offers for football than I did baseball but I think baseball is a little more competitive. You get a lot more letters for football but like I said I want to move on with baseball. I think that I can go a little further with my size.

What does it mean to you to be named Third Team Preseason All-America by the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association?

Preseason does not mean a whole lot, it is just a recognition of what you have done over the past couple years. Obviously, you want to be second or first, especially first, but it is just a feather in your cap.

It is definitely not something that should get to your head. In the scheme of things, that's really not a big award. It is just for your parents to recognize what you have done for the past three years and get national recognition.

Do you have any nicknames we should know about?

Na, people call me Benny on the field but

I don't have any nicknames. A lot of people call me Griffin.

What is your career highlight?

Probably my sports career is signing with Georgia Southern. I have gotten big hits since coming to Georgia Southern but I have not gotten my number one sports highlight which is winning the Southern Conference.

If we do that this year, that will definitely be my number one sports highlight.

What would you say is currently your greatest strength as a player?

Being a starter for four years, I think leadership definitely comes into play there. I think the younger kids look up to the older guys on the team. It definitely helps having



a four year guy behind the plate. Game management and stuff like that, just helping kids out on the field and prepping for the game, just trying to catch winners.

What would you like to do after you graduate from College?

I would love to get an opportunity to play some minor league baseball.

I only have a couple more hours to finish my degree, so if baseball does not work out for me, I still have recreation and will try to move on and find a job.

You are a Cultural and Resource Management major, what field would you like to get into if you don't pursue the one on the diamond?

I want to stay in the South and get a job someplace around here. Maybe do some contracting or land management, something like that.

Rob Eakins/STAFF