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STUDENTS RETURN FROM EGYPT TRIP

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COREY SMITH RETURNS

PAGE 11



Tuesday, January 18, 2011
Georgia Southern University
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THE GEORGE-ANNE

New class schedule allows longer breaks

NIKKI WILEY

news editor
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Students will have additional time to travel between classes on campus due to a change in the amount of time between classes.

Effective this semester, the change increases the time between Monday, Wednesday and Friday classes from 10 minutes to 15 minutes. Tuesday and Thursday classes are not affected by the change as they previously had a 15-minute break between classes.

The change comes after Georgia Southern's recent growth, setting record enrollment last semester and steadily increasing enrollment over the last few years.

"For several years, as the campus has grown, there have been requests from both students and faculty to change the Monday, Wednesday, Friday schedule to have 15 minutes rather than 10 minutes between classes to allow students and faculty more time to move from one class to another," said Dr. Jean Bartels, interim vice president for academic affairs and provost.

See BREAK, Page 3

Ice and snow complicate student travels

COLLEEN MCNALLY

assistant news editor
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Throughout Monday afternoon and into the evening, a steady stream of students unloaded their cars and moved into spring housing. For many students, arriving sooner was nearly impossible due to the recent "Snowpocalypse."

According to the National Weather Service, the heavy snowfall began the evening of Sunday, Jan. 9 and nearly stopped by the following afternoon. However, the temperature remained just below freezing throughout the week, never giving the ice a chance to melt.

Unusually cold weather was not limited to North Georgia. Statesboro saw power outages and iced roads, closing GSU to all faculty and staff on Jan. 10.

Cobi Klein, a freshman pre-nursing major, said she could not wait to get back to Statesboro. A week ago, her Kennesaw neighborhood saw seven inches of snow. The real problem was the ice that followed.

"I was driving with my dad and we slid down an embankment and got stuck," said Klein.

She wasn't the only one. Sara Christman, a freshman exercise science major from Alpharetta, also



John Jeziorski/STAFF

Record lows last week created an winter landscape across Statesboro, leaving ice on roads and mailboxes alike.

was stuck in a neighborhood, just not her own. Christman spent five days at a friend's home that under normal conditions is only a 15-minute drive from her own house.

"We couldn't get up the hill," she said. "It was bad because I wanted to get home to spend time with my family and pack."

Christman said she spent her final days of break watching movies.

When she finally got home, she had to leave for Statesboro the next day.

In Johns Creek, Natalie Jennette said she was suffering from cabin fever. The junior psychology major compared her neighborhood to a scene from the movie *Cool Runnings*.

"It was definitely the most snow I've ever seen in Georgia," she said.

When she was able to leave Fri-

day morning, she said the drive took her an extra two hours. "The main roads and highways weren't as iced, but the traffic was horrible," she said.

Normally, Jennette said she would have returned sooner. "I wanted to be back to unpack, buy groceries, and catch up with friends. Now I'm still unpacking and don't feel prepared for classes to begin."

See ICE, Page 3



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Suspicious package left at Lewis Hall creates scare

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After an employee received a suspicious package over the winter break and did not report it until the following morning, Georgia Southern Public Safety wants to raise awareness on what employees should do if they encounter such a package.

On Jan. 4, a Lewis Hall employee opened a UPS package containing a white powdered substance. The package was reported to GSU Police the following morning when the employee who handled the package suffered flu-like symptoms.

The employee was diagnosed with the flu and was not harmed by contact with the substance, said Director of Public Safety and Chief of University Police, Mike Russell.

No one was harmed in the incident. Testing at a state lab later determined that the powdered substance was not harmful.

After GSU Police were alerted, Lewis Hall, which houses GSU's Department of Admissions, was quarantined while the powder was removed and analyzed by the Statesboro Fire Department's hazardous materials team. Approximately 44 employees were inside at the time that it was quarantined.

Russell called the day a "unique response and a unique situation" that "worked out well" as seven other agencies responded including

the Statesboro Police Department, Bulloch County Emergency Management Agency, Georgia Emergency Management Agency, Georgia Bureau of Investigation and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"We're not used to asking people to come help us and then eight or ten of them jump on helicopters and fly down," he said. "We didn't know what it was. That's why we had to deal with it as we did."

The Georgia Southern University Emergency Response Plan contains protocol to be followed if an employee encounters a suspicious package. The plan includes steps such as immediately notifying public safety, leaving the package where it is and closing off the area, if possible, among others.

Russell said he that believes the powder was not reported immediately because the threat was not recognized until the employee who handled the package became ill the following morning.

"Of course, when [the plan] was written there were a lot of anthrax cases and it was on everybody's radar," he said.

"As time goes by people tend to forget these things and they don't recognize the threats and what's going as readily as they should."

To ensure that staff across campus is aware of proper mail handling procedures, GSU Police are planning to familiarize people with the procedures.

"We're going to get out and talk



Nikki Wiley/STAFF

Outside of Lewis Hall Jan. 5 during the quarantine, personnel made a blockade for the protection of students and staff.

about these things to different departments," Russell said. "There's usually somebody in each department who handles the mail when it comes in."

"What little bit we're going to do in the next days and months probably pales in comparison to what last Tuesday did to raise the awareness of those kinds of things."

The emergency responders who answered the call will also attend a

debriefing on the incident, Russell said. Overall, he said he felt that his department handled the situation well.

"There are things we're probably going to change. Whether you have a drill, an exercise or an actual event you go back and look at how you handled it," Russell said. "What did you do? What could you have done better? Those types of things. We'll try to address those types of things,

but overall I think that it went fairly well."

Russell also praised the staff of Lewis Hall who were held inside while it was quarantined and then transported across campus through the GSU bus system.

"I can't commend the staff of Lewis Hall enough," he said. "They went through a stressful situation and were smiling when they came out."

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HOPE for books not lost yet

COLLEEN MCNALLY

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Beginning this summer, students who receive the HOPE Scholarship will need to find a new way to pay for books.

As of July 1, 2011, the HOPE Book allowance will be halved for students, excluding federal Pell grant program participants.

According to GAcollge411's website, over \$4.6 billion has been awarded through the Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally Program, more commonly known as the HOPE Scholarship, to more than 1.2 million students attending Georgia's colleges, universities and technical colleges.

Since 1993, the HOPE Scholarship has paid for tuition, \$350 of mandatory university fees, and a book allowance up to \$150 for degree-seeking students.

Requirements include that students

must be Georgia residents with grade point averages of at least 3.0.

The funds for the award cannot match the volume of eligible students and changes are being made to compensate for the lack of funding.

The website also states, "The growth in HOPE Program expenditures has outpaced the growth in Lottery revenues. At the current rate of expenditures, the HOPE Program cannot be sustained at the current benefit level."

However, cutting the book allowance may not be enough. Other proposed changes are being discussed by the Georgia Student Finance Commission and must be voted on by the Georgia General Assembly for approval.

Elise Boyett, the Associate Director of Financial Aid at Georgia Southern, is waiting to hear more information. She said she thinks the \$350 of university fees that HOPE pays for may be next to go.

"All I can really say is that we are not

sure yet. I'm hoping it at least continues to pay tuition. That's better than zero," said Boyett.

Robbie Cotta, a sophomore communications studies major, was disappointed to hear the news about possible changes to HOPE.

"The HOPE scholarship directly influenced my decision to attend Georgia Southern," he said.

"I knew that I wanted to stay in Georgia for college so I could receive the benefits of the scholarship, and Georgia Southern seemed like the best school for me to attend."

While Cotta would still be able to attend GSU with the help of student loans and a part-time job, he said that he believes many would not be so lucky.

"Any changes to the scholarship would greatly impact everyone at Georgia Southern," he said.

"I'm sure the University would be hurt with any changes to the scholarship."

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. The newspaper is a designated public forum for the Georgia Southern community. 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.

Mail subscriptions are not available at this time. Readers may access the newspaper and its archives at www.gadaily.com.

ADVERTISING: The newspaper accepts advertising as a community service to help defray publication costs. Inquiries should be directed to ADS or PAGES by calling 912.478.5418 or 912.478-0566. Fax any questions to 912.478.7113 or e-mail ads1@georgiasouthern.edu.

The George-Anne receives additional support, in part, from the Student Activities Budget Committee.

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.

The advertiser is responsible for any errors in advertisements and its liability for adjustments is limited to the amount of space the error occupied

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STUDENTS BEWARE: The George-Anne screens all advertisements prior to publication. The newspaper strives to accept ads for legitimate products and services only. Students are urged to exercise caution when replying to ads-particularly those which require a credit card number, other personal information, or money in advance of the delivery of a product or service. Students are also urged to report to the newspaper any suspicious offers which they might see in an ad. Remember, if an offer seems too good to be true, it probably is.

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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. 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.

For more information about the newspaper, please call the Student Media office at 912.478.7459.

ICE from page 1

Even students from out of state struggled to find their way back. Sophomore Dante Porter went home to Texas over break to visit his mother.

His trip lasted longer than expected when the runways in Dallas and Atlanta were closed due to ice. Luckily, Porter had not purchased a ticket for

home yet. He planned to fly back on Jan. 10, but ended up making the 13-hour drive on Friday instead.

"I really discovered the length of my patience. I wanted to get back to school so badly to make it to Camp SOAR, so I knew I didn't have any other options," Porter said.

Break from page 1

Students will see the additional 15 minutes reflected in their class schedules on their WINGS account.

A copy of the standard semester class periods can be downloaded from the GSU registrar's Web site.

Derek Von Walder, a junior education major, believes that the additional time will be more helpful than confusing.

"It's a big campus, so the more time you have the better," he said.

"I think if [the administration] put it into motion then they probably planned for it accordingly."

Senior middle school education major Dorey Ford agrees.

"I think that the class time change is a great idea. I am a math education major so I am constantly running from the math building to the education building," she said. "A few extra minutes would benefit me greatly."




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Our View

Success comes year-round

GATA, the spirit that carried the Georgia Southern football team all the way to the semifinals, is ingrained into the Eagle fanbase. Although the Eagles didn't soar to a seventh championship title, the team fought valiantly, winning many games which were at first thought to be lost causes amongst the competitors.

Not to mention, last season was to be a rebuilding year - not one where the playoffs were expected. In the past four years, the Eagles changed staff more times than Georgia's weather. It would have been easy for them to lie down and accept defeat. But that's not the Eagle spirit. That is not what Georgia Southern is all about. The team showed the nation that these underdogs still have a lot of fight in them.

However, this is a new year, and a new semester. Football, though still basking in the success, is over, basketball continues, and baseball and softball are coming into session. That GATA spirit and support must be there.

With fresh new faces in women's basketball, and baseball starting practice, success is the ultimate goal. They can't do it without the support of the feared GSU fans.

Support the Eagles as they attempt to prove those critics wrong. Let them know that GSU will not quit when time gets tough. It's our Eagles who have the kind of determination that can surpass the competition and soar over any obstacle presented.

When universities make the visit to Statesboro, let's make sure they receive true Southern hospitality and be sent home with the disappointment of defeat. Get to the games, support GSU, and get after their... well, you know.

THE GEORGE-ANNE

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VIEWS POLICIES

The George-Anne 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 gaeditor@georgiasouthern.edu. All submissions must be signed and include phone number for verification. GSU students should include their academic major, year and hometown. The editors reserve the right to reject any submission and edit submissions for length.

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.



Marcus Barkley/STAFF

We hold these truths to be self-evident

All men are created equal. These words recognize certain inalienable rights and brought the turn of the major civil rights movement. It was 45 years after, only a few miles away, we swore in our nation's first black president. While we celebrate progress, we must recognize struggle.

Last week's shooting in Tucson reminds us all that life is precious and is the ultimate commodity. To be shot at in the line of duty symbolizes the great sacrifice others have made to bring about progress in our society. Without getting too political, here are five sacrifices we should be ready for in 2011.

1. Higher Tuition Rates - In his effort to spare K-12 teacher furloughs, Nathan Deal's preliminary budget shifts more cuts back to the higher education system of Georgia. The system can expect at least 200 layoffs, not to mention thousands of eliminated unfilled jobs.

The only way to make up the long-term shortfall is to raise tuition. With "Fixed for four" sun setting this year for graduating seniors, Georgia Southern's next generation will face a higher tab for time in Statesboro.

2. Sales Tax on Food? - On January 10, 2011, the Council on Tax Reform released its final report detailing a new and modernized state tax structure.



CHARLES FEAGAIN

Without delving into the complexities that is tax reform, the most astounding line item was restoring a 4% tax on groceries.

Everyone I know would be negatively affected by that. This has been decried by most democrats as a tax on the middle class, while Republicans pitch it as a return to previous rates. Bush Tax Cuts anyone?

3. A Return to Furloughs - Governor Deal proudly proclaimed in his state of the state speech that teacher furloughs would end under his administration. Yet, only a few days later, State Senator and Education Committee chair Fran Millar said, "This does not depend on the state," he said. "It depends on what local systems have in their bank accounts. The possibility to end furloughs depends on what your local school board did with the stimulus dollars."

4. Changes to HOPE - While we certainly hope the legislature

will keep the 3.0 minimum, major alterations are on the horizon in order to meet the new governor's demand that no reserve lottery funding be used to cover current expenses. The most likely end is a block scholarship covering somewhere between 75 and 85% tuition at state funded colleges.

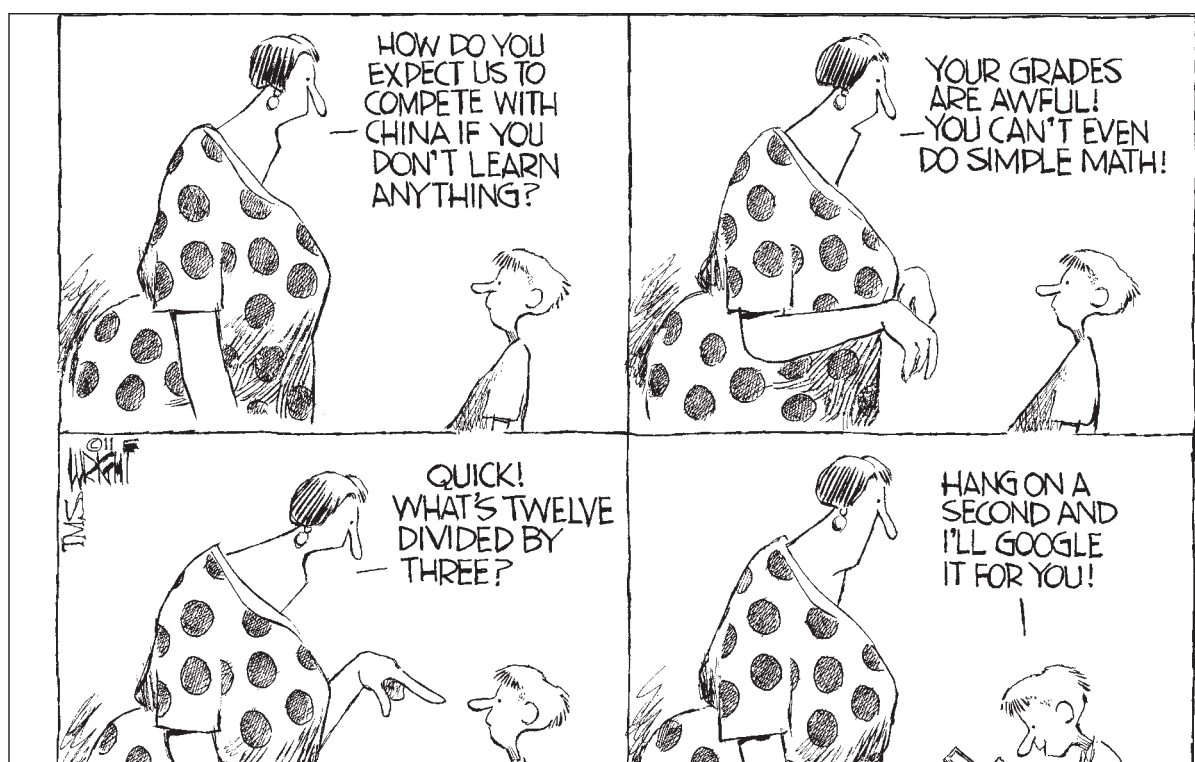
HOPE grants to private schools are already ending, with book allowances and fee assistance disappearing this year. Students should brace for these changes, and possibly go to the Williams Center to polish their resume.

5. Budget Cuts - The new State Superintendent has probably said it best. "I do have a lot respect for the difficult job that Gov. Deal has. We expected the budget to be worse than it was. We were encouraged by what we saw...the budget he proposed seeks to strike a fiscally sound balance in tough times. We have to do more with less. Revenues continue to decline," said John Barge.

These problems are before us, and recognizing each one individually is the first step on the long road to recovery.

"We must think creatively, in the knowledge that the time is always ripe to do right." - Martin Luther King Jr.

Charles is a senior sociology major from Detroit, Mich.



SPOILER ALERT: Monsters are in the closet

Spoiler alert! Some of this content may not be suitable for children, but then again, kids are not kids for very long these days. Luckily, people seem to always find a time to rediscover their inner child, and college is a good place to do it.

However, one of the sad parts of being a kid is that people, parents included, lie all the time. We grow up believing a lot of things that simply are not true. The world is just. People are kind. Monsters are in the closet.

Almost from day one, truth becomes a bystander rather than the driving force of the world. The sad punch line of the whole fiasco is that from the moment we can understand words we are told to speak only truth, despite the detrimental damage it may cause. For reference, see Jim Carrey in "Liar, Liar."

Kids' shows, books, parables, fairy tales and every other form of human communication finds a way to lie to children. It was not always that way, though.

There was a time when fairy tales had a point, but Disney could not harbor rape or mutilation and still appeal to a mass audience, so why not lose the blood and gore and fill the stories with rainbows and butterflies?



BROCK VICKERS

Likewise, from the meek origins of a Roman holiday, we created a jovial red giant who delivers gifts to good little boys and girls, all while keeping the spirit of Christmas alive in the hearts of millions, not to mention the wallets of CEOs. But as they say, 'tis the season to be jolly.

When we are but wee sprouts, we learn to lie without even knowing it, and we learn to lie well. What does it mean, then, if we cut out a phallic joke from Little Red Riding Hood or turn Goldilocks from an old hag into a young naive girl?

By changing tales that were meant to teach into tales that entertain, are we crippling childhood moral development, or are we sparing children details that their fragile little minds cannot yet handle?

Think of the moment when the song "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus" became more practical

and less funny, and remember the disappointment when the veil of untruth lifted.

Perhaps it is the first of many great let downs of our lives.

Galileo Galilei said, "All truths are easy to understand once they are discovered; the point is to discover them."

A lot of people know that fairy tales have been turned into the bubble gum G-rated movies that everyone knows and loves. A lot of kids know that the Big Jolly Lobster-Colored Man isn't real, but that does not ruin the Griswald's good, old-fashioned family Christmas.

Just like a kid seemingly knows how to lie from the time they can talk, kids naturally seek out the truth.

We are all at a point when we need to seek out the truth in every facet of our lives. Don't accept face value answers, but probe deeper into the annals of information. Whether it is the Grimmer fairy tales or the omitted fact in a news story, question everything.

Brock is a senior Theater and Journalism major from Alma, Ga.

Forfeit the Blame Game



JOHN DIPIETRO

The tragedy in Arizona a few weeks ago shook the country to its core, and continues to affect Americans far distant from the bullets.

Unfortunately, while many people reacted with sympathy and prayers for peace, others blamed supposedly violent political speech, and some have gone so far as to pin the direct blame on the Tea Party and the conservative movement as a whole- even though the evidence clearly shows that the shooter had nothing to do with either.

This weekend, one of the men wounded in the attack interrupted a Tea Party town hall, yelling, "You're dead!" all because prominent elements in the media have decided to pin the blame without double-checking their facts.

First off, as I mentioned, the political climate had nothing to do with Jared Loughner's decision to shoot Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and a number of other individuals.

Loughner's friends and online data trail indicate that his political views are non-conservative; the only elements that connect him to the right wing of America are a belief in gold and silver backings of currency and a dislike of government.

But while conservative and libertarian movements like the Tea Party believe in smaller government, Loughner's views, which were expressed under the screenname "Erad3," are more anarchistic and nihilistic.

In fact, all indications are that Giffords was targeted because of a dissatisfaction with her that stemmed from 2007, long before the Tea Party was a glimmer in anyone's eye.

Second of all, the media, which plays most of the blame-gaming in this case, has done nothing to tone down such rhetoric. Part of the perception of the Tea Party as a violent fringe movement

comes from selecting soundbites, clips and photos that contribute to the image.

Both sides do it in print, online, on TV and on the radio. Are there violent and racist elements on the Right? Sure. There are also violent and racist elements on the Left, but no one seems to be blaming them, or even giving them a lot of attention.

The media instead focuses on playing up the Tea Party, making them seem like nothing but a racist, violent movement and only portraying those parts of the story to the public.

Then, when something happens that looks connected to the Tea Party, which it did at first because the earliest information about Loughner was a Youtube video mentioning belief in a gold/silver standard and the political affiliation of his primary target, the Congresswoman, they say that the clips they played are responsible!

If the rhetoric was the trigger, the mainstream media shares the blame for mass-marketing it to those who are susceptible without context to minimize its impact, and for fanning the flames for a better story.

And as of press time, some of the people shouting that rhetoric have yet to correct themselves in light of the evidence that Loughner wasn't a Tea Party-inspired assassin, but just a psychopath who finally had a break and took it out on innocent Americans, meaning they've yet to realize the impact that they're having on the situation.

America as a whole needs a fresh infusion of common sense.

Blaming large-scale groups without proper evidence and context thereof for individual atrocities leads to nothing but the continuation of tragedy. But while the media will continue to play its own games, we can mitigate the damage by taking our information gathering into our own hands.

Stop taking what you hear for fact, and start checking up on the truth.

John is a senior political science major from John's Creek, Ga.

GSU Police Beat

Information listed in this report is taken from incident reports and arrest reports, which are public records and available at local law enforcement agencies. Not all arrests lead to a conviction. Guilt or innocence is determined by the court system. If you witness a crime, visit <http://welcome.georgiasouthern.edu/publicsafety/silentwitness.htm> and fill out the anonymous Eagle Eye Witness report.

Tuesday, January 4, 2011

Officers issued one traffic warning.

Wednesday, January 5, 2011

Officers issued one traffic warning.

Friday, January 7, 2011

Officers issued two warnings, assisted one motorist, and worked one accident.

Officers responded to a fire alarm at the Williams Center. There was no fire.

Officers found someone asleep on a bench near Centennial Place. He was asked to leave campus.

Monday, January 10, 2011

Officers issued one traffic citation and assisted two motorists.

A report of harassing phone calls was reported at Centennial Place.

Tuesday, January 11, 2011

Officers issued two traffic citations, two traffic warnings, assisted two motorists and responded to one alarm.

Someone entered the University Mail Center through the ceiling tiles. Nothing appeared to be missing or damaged at the time of the report.

Wednesday, January 12, 2011

Officers issued one traffic citation and responded to a drug complaint at Eagle Village.

A speaker system, T.V. and a Greek pin was taken from the Sigma Chi House on Olympic Boulevard.

Christopher Ian McCabe, 26, St. Andrews Circle, was charged with DUI, headlight requirements and expired tag.

Thursday, January 13, 2011

Officers issued four traffic citations, three traffic warnings and assisted one motorist.

Local Briefs

Statesboro Mall asks for variance to expand

The Statesboro Mall hopes to expand its 25,000 square foot building by adding to Belk. In order to do so, the city of Statesboro must waive a parking variance allowing the mall to remove 72 parking space, operating under the required amount and reducing the required parking by 172 spaces from 1,766 to 1,479. The mall has asked to count Carmike Cinema 12's parking toward their allotted spaces.

Cracker Barrel opening doors in March, progress continues on Panera Bread

According to CrackerBarrel.com, the restaurant will open its 40th location in Georgia in Statesboro on March 7. Construction is currently taking place on the restaurant located in Statesboro Crossing at the corner of Veterans Parkway and Brannen Street. Construction continues on Panera Bread, which will be located nearby next to Krystal on Brannen Road.

Two new pizza businesses opening soon

Your Pie and Pizza Mill have both applied for alcohol licenses. Pizza Mill will be located at 608 Northside Drive in the former location of Pizza Hut and Pizza Za. Your Pie is set to open next between Larry's Giant Subs and Nikko Japanese Restaurant on Piedmont Loop.

Unknown person enters GSU Postal Services through ceiling

A custodian at GSU Postal Services reported an incidence of criminal trespassing. When the employee arrived at work, he discovered that an unknown person had entered by removing ceiling tiles and climbing inside the building. He stated that he was the last person in the mail center the previous day when he dropped off incoming mail and that the center was closed the remainder of the day due to bad weather. Nothing was found missing or damaged as of the time of the report.

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2010 in retrospect: Georgia Southern's top stories of the year

COMPILED BY STAFF

1. EAGLES PLAYOFF RUN

The Eagles football team surprised everyone this year with success. Coach Monken's fresh face and new ideas led the team through thick and thin. New offense seems to have what the team needed to turn things around. Although we did see loss, we rose above all expectations and made it to the play-offs for the first time in five years. Not only did we make the play-offs, but we were one game away from the championship game. The future for the Eagles can only get better.

2. ARMED ROBBERIES

Crime rates increased on campus last semester, including the number of armed robberies, automobile break-ins and bike thefts. As students' worries increased many began to take extra precautions. Simple things such as hiding valuables in automobiles, locking apartment doors and securing



FILE PHOTO

bikes eased minds along with increased patrols from the GSU Police Department.

3. CAMP LAWTON DISCOVERY

Georgia Southern professors and students unearthed what was called the greatest Civil War find in recent history at nearby Camp Lawton in August.

Of the significance of the find, graduate student Kevin Chapman said "This may be our only chance – the one last site – to tell this story. It's not the story of generals and great armies and great movements and dashing cavalry and the roar of cannon and musket. It's the story of individual men and their desire to survive and their tenacity – as long as it held out..."

The artifacts are on display at the GSU Museum until May 1.

4. BUDGET SCARE

In late February 2010, Georgia Southern President Brooks Keel made a grim announcement to the university. He told the community that GSU would have to cut \$14.7 million from the budget in what was called a

"worse-case scenario."

What ended up happening, however, was not as bad. State revenues were better than Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue predicted and the cuts to individual universities were not as severe.

New governor Nathan Deal has announced however, that \$300 million will have to be cut from the University System of Georgia's budget over the next 18 months.

5. SNOW BLANKETS TOWN

If you were here on Georgia Southern's campus last February, you were most likely involved in at least one snowball fight. We all were shocked when one Friday night, small snowflakes began to fall on the ground. Soon enough the gentle sprinkle turned into a heavy flurry began blanketing our campus. Students everywhere could not resist the urge to bend down, ball up the snow, and chunk it at someone.

Consuela Ward delivers MLK Day speech, parade postponed

DANIEL FITZGERALD

staff reporter

With the parade postponed and the city plagued with rain, Statesboro residents and students celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day, despite the odds. Consuela Ward, Director of the Multicultural Center at Georgia Southern, delivered a speech at the Tabernacle Baptist Church.

While the speech was delivered in the spirit of MLK day, it was not necessarily about the man himself.

"The day is more about what he represents, but it is okay to celebrate the person," GSU graduate student Lamarquis King said. "His vision was 'one nation, one dream,' so it's not about blacks, it's not about whites, it's all about everyone coming together. The day is more about his dream and his legacy versus MLK himself."

Ward began her speech discussing the story of slave owner Willie Lynch and the psychology of slavery. She also elaborated on the history of slavery

and segregation in America. She explained that while MLK helped fuel change, the fight is not over.

"Legislation was passed to give blacks and other groups their basic civil rights and to end the Jim Crow era," Ward said. "200 years of slavery, 100 years of Jim Crow. That's 300 years of conditioning and cultivating all of our minds to what Cornel West describes as, 'psychological rape' and with less than 50 years of legislation to eradicate 300 years of slavery. We have a long way to go."

Ward also revealed some statistics regarding black male youth in America, "58 percent of the youth end up in state adult prison," Ward said. "In 2008, of all the college bachelor's degrees that were given out, 3.5 percent went to black males."

Essentially Ward's message was that of change, something Martin Luther King Jr. died fighting for. She discussed how Americans need to stop blindly following traditions and overcome their preconceptions in

order to progress as a civilization. She explained that change can be painful, but it is natural and required. Ward ended her speech with a poem that reiterated her message. The NAACP awarded her with a plaque at the end of the service.

A parade was supposed to precede Ward's speech, but it was rained out and postponed to a later date. Despite this, the church was packed and Ward was happy with the turn out. "It was a full house," Ward said. "I think what would have made the turn out better is to see more faces of different hues. I appreciate it when other people can understand how he affected change for everyone."

While no new date has been announced for the MLK day parade, the festivities do not end with Ward's speech.

Guest speaker Angela Davis is coming to speak at Georgia Southern on the 27th. The event starts at 7:30 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center and admission is free.



Andrew Partain/STAFF

Consuela Ward, Director of the Multicultural Student Center, speaks Monday at the Tabernacle Baptist Church MLK Day celebration.

CAMPUS RECREATION & INTRAMURALS



What's your secret?

Frank Warren, creator of the PostSecret project blog, will speak at Georgia Southern University on Wednesday, February 2nd at 7pm in the Performing Arts Center theatre. The lecture is free and open to both the Georgia Southern community and the public. The lecture will also be simulcast to the Performing Arts Center Lecture Hall for overflow viewing. Following the lecture Frank Warren will be signing copies of his popular books.

PostSecret originated from a community art project based on asking people around the world to anonymously send a secret on a decorated postcard. Since November 2004, Warren has received more than 400,000 postcards, with topics ranging from deep family secrets, criminal activity, secret habits and fears to

funny reflections and hidden acts of kindness.

Warren considers PostSecret a safe and anonymous place where people can hear unheard voices and share untold stories. In his talk, he will discuss why his blog is important and why he has made suicide awareness part of his life's work.

The website for PostSecret is one of the most popular on the web, and has been featured prominently in the media in USA Today, on the Today Show, 20/20, CNN, MSNBC, CBC, NPR and FOX News.

In 2009, Forbes listed Warren as the fourth most influential person on the Internet. Recently the PostSecret website received its 250 millionth hit and was named Weblog of the Year at the Seventh Annual Weblog Awards.



Basketball & Soccer Officials Clinics coming up!



If you are looking to earn a little extra cash while being involved with sports then becoming an official for Intramural Sports could be perfect for you!

Despite your experience level the Intramural Sports program can train you to be an official! Basketball Official's Clinic will be held on Monday, January 24 through January 26 from 9pm till 11pm in the Seminar Room of the RAC. The following week, January 31 and February 1, the Soccer Official's Clinic will be held, also from 9pm – 11pm. You must attend all nights of training.

For more information, contact Tommy Segi at 912-478-5436.

For more information visit facebook.com/GSUCampusRec



NIRSA Day 5K Run/Walk

If your New Year resolution was to get in shape, then the NIRSA Day 5K could be the motivation you need to meet your goals! The 5K run/walk is scheduled for 8a.m. on Saturday, February 19th at the Recreation Activity Center (RAC) Pavilion on Old Register Road.

Starting at the RAC, participants will embark on their run/walk along a three mile course around Georgia Southern's scenic campus. Refreshments and food will be provided after the race along with an award ceremony to honor racers. A complete course map can be found on the CRI website. "Having a short term goal like a 5K run/walk

significantly increases the chances that you will stick with your fitness resolutions, so the NIRSA Day 5K is at a perfect time!" says CRI Fitness Director, Justine Coleslaw.

The registration fee is only \$10 with a student I.D. T-shirts are guaranteed to all pre-registered 5K participants. Those interested in participating in the NIRSA Day 5K are encouraged to register at Member Services in the RAC or online at www.georgiasouthern.edu/cri. For more information, visit the CRI website or contact Justine Coleslaw at 912-478-5436.

WELCOME BACK

WINTER HOURS

(JANUARY 15 - MARCH 11)

www.georgiasouthern.edu/cri

MONDAY - THURSDAY: 6AM - 12AM

FRIDAY: 6AM - 9PM

SATURDAY: 8AM - 7PM

SUNDAY: 11AM - 12AM



Barrow holds meeting in Statesboro, responds to Arizona shooting

KENNETH COLYER
CHARLES MINSHEW

Staff reports

Rep. John Barrow hosted a “Congress on the Corner” event Saturday at the Statesboro Mall just a week after an Arizona congresswoman was seriously injured at a shooting during a similar event.

This time, however, officers from the Statesboro Police Department were on hand for added security at the event.

Barrow said that despite the shooting, the events are still important for him to reach constituents.

“They are every bit important as they ever were,” Barrow said. “I think its one of the most important things I do.”

On January 8, Jared Lee Loughner shot Arizona Representative Gabrielle Giffords in the head at a “Congress on Your Corner” event at a grocery

store in Tuscon, Arizona. She is still in a hospital there for her injuries and was recently upgraded to serious condition.

Six people, including a 9-year-old girl and a federal judge were killed in the shooting. Fourteen others were injured.

Barrow said that it was necessary to carry on with the meeting. He said that it was important to speak to people who are able to make it out to the event.

“The point is, every one here is a representative of somebody else - lots of other people,” Barrow said. “So, I come to these meetings to meet with my representatives.”

Barrow said that even heated town hall debates concerning healthcare reform never posed a threat of extreme violence. Barrow said that in the past, law enforcement officials have been the ones to propose security for events, but in this case, they were asked to attend

in light of the shooting in Arizona.

“I never had a problem like that,” Barrow said. “I don’t ever expect to have a problem like that.”

Barrow said that the police presence Saturday was to deter anyone from copying the Arizona shooting and to keep participants safe.

“I think the reason for reaching out and making folks and local law enforcement aware of these meetings is basically to let folks who come to these meetings know that anybody that might be tempted to emulate or copy cat what happened in Arizona will be effectively deterred,” Barrow said.

Barrow said that he feels the shooting in Arizona was an isolated incident.

“I don’t think that there is any connection with what happened last week in Arizona and what is going on in the country generally. I don’t think there is any connection at all.”



File Photo

U.S. Congressman John Barrow speaks to a veterans group at Georgia Southern in August 2009.

DO THE WRITE THING

Become a George-Anne reporter and make a little history in the process

Whether you want to write about sports, the arts or news, cover the football team or write about music, Georgia Southern's student newspaper has plenty of reporting opportunities for you. Come to one of the tryout sessions listed below and become a part of the first Candidate Reporting Class in university history.

No experience necessary. All majors welcome.

Choose one of the five tryout times below. Just bring a pen, Blue Book and a desire to become part of something big.

Tryouts

Monday, Jan 24 & Tuesday, Jan 25

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM or 5:00 – 6:15 PM

Wednesday Jan 26

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Tryouts in the Russell Union Center, Second Floor.
(Follow the directional signs.)

If you have any questions, contact Student Media Director John Harvey at 912.478.0069 or email johnharvey@georgiasouthern.edu

Back in his old haunts tonight

LASHARRIA TAYLOR

staff reporter

Up-and-coming country star Corey Smith is returning this Tuesday to Retrievers to once again perform his music for local fans.

Originally from Jefferson, a small town in North Georgia about 45 minutes away from Athens, Smith grew up with many musical influences, ranging from gospel to southern rock.

"It really just depends on the phase of my life that I was in or who I was with," he commented on his musical influences.

In high school, Smith began playing at local bars and it was there, he says, that he began to play for audiences. "I played so many songs from different artists," said Smith. "It's where I got a feel for singing happy bar tunes."

However, he instead graduated from the University of Georgia with a teaching degree and soon married and started a family. For four years, he taught social studies in his hometown's high school.

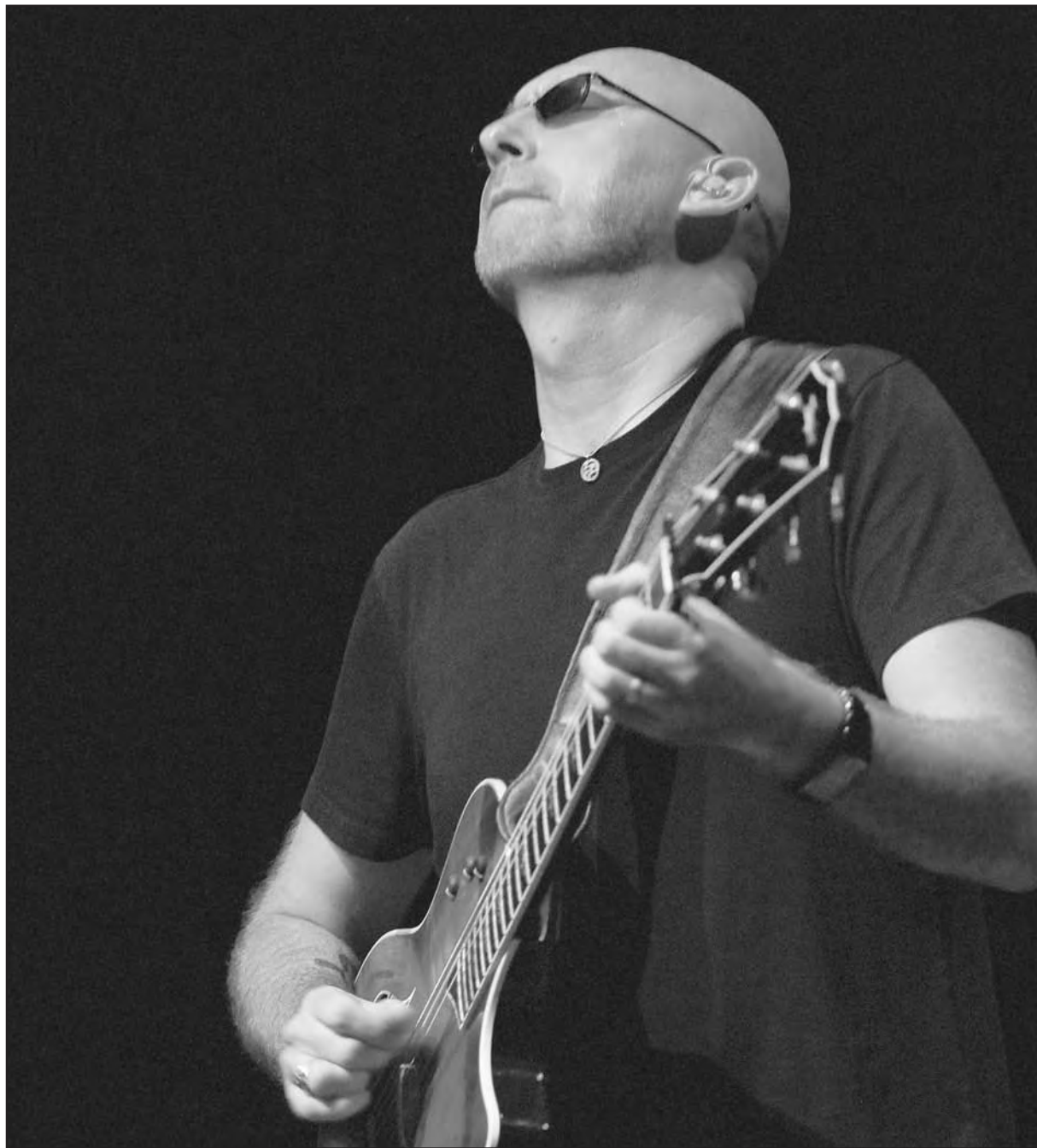
He continued to play in local bars and began to get a following of fans that grew like wildfire. Pursuing music full-time was soon to follow.

"It was a gradual thing. It wasn't like I was going to quit my day job," said Smith. "That would have been irresponsible since I had a family. But the shows were getting bigger and bigger, which meant more money. So, I decided that doing this full-time would be a real opportunity that I just couldn't pass up."

And by the time he decided to pursue his music, he had already recorded many albums and had performed at plenty of venues.

"It's pretty amazing to be able to travel from Texas to Colorado to Vermont and all over with plenty of people to come out and sing along, even though I never had a big media campaign or any songs on the radio," said Smith about his touring experience.

By getting his start playing in local bars, being able to come back to



Courtesy of Essential Broadcast Media

Statesboro is something that he has been looking forward to.

"It's not often we get to travel down here, so this is an important spot for me," said Smith. "Statesboro was one of the first places I started playing when I was in that in-between time of teaching and music. I remember we had around 250 people there and soon the shows began selling out."

His latest record, released in 2009, *Keeping Up with the Joneses*, is

something different for his fans.

"It's a collection of new songs and bigger songs. It's head and shoulders above the others and fans will have to adjust to the change," he said.

But this year, he plans to release a new record called "The Broken Record" that is set for release in April or May.

"It's similar to the old songs and techniques from the old records and it shows continuity and change of my

music," said Smith.

As for his personal musical tastes, Smith has a laid back approach to what he listens to.

"I like music that is classic sounding, like Ray Charles and Paul Simon," said Smith. "But it really just depends on my mood. I like to listen to something that is just really laid back."

Smith is planning to get his music heard by a wide variety of audiences in the near future.

The Buzz List

What you need to know this week.

'Season of the Witch' falls flat at a pathetic 4% on rottentomatoes.com. It started with promise, dead people rising from the grave, but ended with bad computer animated demons and an over-the-top exorcism scene that has Emily Rose rolling in her grave.

Mark Ruffalo stands up for female directors after only males are nominated for the Director's Guild feature films. Last Sunday at the Golden Globes, he said to the academy members to "grow a pair and vote for Lisa Cholodenko as well!"

Liam McIntyre will be replacing Andy Whitfield in the new season of the popular show, 'Spartacus.' He will be playing a warrior sold into slavery in the Roman Republic city of Capua. Just, yay. Whitfield, who is battling cancer, gives his blessing to the casting.

Rupert Murdoch is telling Piers Morgan that his chances of success on his new CNN show (taking over after the legend Larry King, who has dominated in ratings, retires) are 'less than zero.' Big words coming from a guy I've never even heard of. Just saying.

Information compiled from TheHollywoodReporter.com, Variety.com and Billboard.com

Commentary by Mallory McLendon

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2011 SOAR TEAM!

EMILY ALLEN

Sophomore
Psychology
Kennesaw, GA

CHRISTINA BELGE

Sophomore
Public Relations
Augusta, GA

VICTORIA CARTER

Sophomore
Economics
Powder Springs, GA

LAUREN ELDER

Junior
Nursing
Mannheim, Germany

PRECIOUS LANGO

Freshman
Chemistry/Pre-Med
Milledgeville, GA

JORDAN McDONALD

Junior
Public Relations
Waycross, GA

BROOKS OLDHAM

Sophomore
Communications
Fayetteville, GA

STEPHEN WARNER

Junior
Psychology
Doylestown, PA

REBECCA ASH

Freshman
Pre-Nursing
Douglasville, GA

MARK BRAGG

Sophomore
Marketing
Norcross, GA

NATALIE DEMARKO

Sophomore
Journalism
Brunswick, GA

GARRETT GREEN

Junior
Multimedia Comm.
Augusta, GA

SCOTT MARKLEY

Sophomore
Geography
Marietta, GA

COLLEEN McNALLY

Sophomore
Journalism
Alpharetta, GA

DANTE PORTER

Sophomore
Pre-Business
Warner Robbins, GA

JOY WHITE

Junior
Biology/Marketing
Macon, GA

RASHIDAT BAKAR

Senior
Middle Grades Edu.
Savannah, GA

PT CAMPBELL

Sophomore
Public Relations
Woodstock, GA

JANESSA DUNN

Sophomore
Chemistry
Birmingham, AL

SAM IVEY

Freshman
Biology/Pre-Med
Locust Grove, GA

BEN MCCARTY

Sophomore
Chemistry
Newnan, GA

AMANDA MULLANY

Freshman
Theater
McDonough, GA

MARYUM RABIA

Sophomore
Political Science
Riverdale, GA

SHANNIN WRIGHT

Sophomore
Public Relations
Augusta, GA

SOAR

January Venues

18
Corey Smith
Where: Retrievers, 8 p.m.

19
Wine On the Rocks
Where: Dingus Magees

20
17th Floor
Where: Retrievers

Those Cats
Where: Dingus Magees

Dr. Don
Where: Millhouse

21
Behind the Sun
Where: Retrievers

Incredible Sandwich
Where: Dingus Magees

Those Cats
Where: Millhouse

22
Jazz Chronic & Those Cats
Where: Dingus Magees

27
Velcro Pygmies
Where: Retrievers

Jeff Beasley Acoustic
Where: Millhouse

Brentley Gilbert
Where: Retrievers

28
Concrete Jumpsuit
Where: Dingus Magees

Chris Cundari
Where: Millhouse

Stoneheart
Where: Dos Primos

29
Brent Browning
Where: Millhouse

GEORGE-ANNE & JOE

BACK NEXT WEEK

GSU students walk with the Egyptians



Photos courtesy of Kelsey Decker and Kristen Grantham

In a study abroad trip that lasted less than two weeks, Georgia Southern Honors Program students saw the pyramids, camped in the desert and haggled for goods in the market. They were introduced to a culture most people don't experience, eating new foods, donning a modest style of dress and surviving a different style of driving.



Apartments

UNIQUE RENTAL - Lg., bright, open new studio apartment for single occupant. Located in private home near Statesboro High. No lease. Washer/dryer. Kitchenette. Private entrance. Fully furnished. Credit check and references. \$500 month/utilities included/cable TV & high speed internet. \$500 deposit. No smokers. Available now. Call 536-1782.

Subleases

BR/1 Bath Sublease in 4 BR/4 Bath Apartment at the Pointe at Southern for Spring 2011! \$349 rent all utilities included. Jan. rent already paid! Can move in immediately! Call 404-444-3382 if interested!

Subleaser needed for a 1 BR/1 Bath in a 2 BR apt at The Avenue located near Georgia Southern. Jan. rent is paid w/ possibility of Feb. rent as well. Move in available ASAP and lease is Jan.-July 2011 (all utilities included). Call (843)810-7985.

Jobs

!BARTENDERS WANTED! \$250 a day Potential. No Experience Necessary. Training Provided. Age 18+ OK Call 1-800-965-6520 ext 296.

BECOME A GEORGE-ANNE REPORTER AND MAKE A LITTLE HISTORY IN THE PROCESS - Georgia Southern's student newspaper has plenty of reporting opportunities for you! Come to one of the tryout sessions and become a part of the first Candidate Reporting Class in university history. No experience necessary. All majors welcome. See ad on page 10 for more details and tryout information.

Student Housing

AVAILABLE AUGUST 1st 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 BR houses for lease at entrance to GSU. 24 hr repairs. Call Dr. Hood at (912) 682-7468.

- Pets
- Textbooks
- Garage Sales
- Tickets

Something to sell? Visit Gadaily.com! It's free for students, staff and faculty!

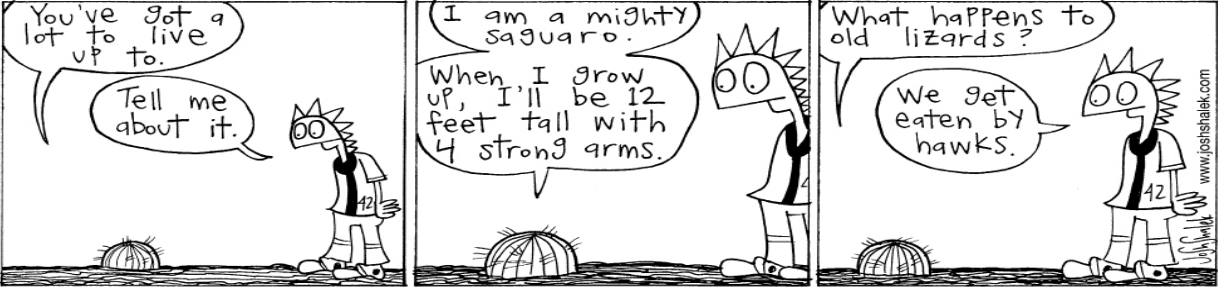


The Sudoku Puzzle

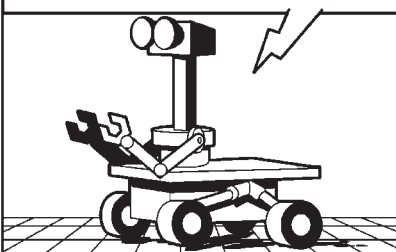
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6	1	8	7	1	8	7	9	9
7	1	9	6	7	9	8	1	1
9	9	8	1	6	8	7	1	7
7	8	7	1	8	9	6	9	1
1	6	1	9	7	7	9	8	8

Welcome to Falling Rock National Park by Kid Shay



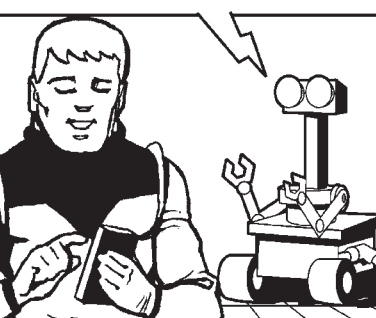
A ROVER FROM ANOTHER PLANET LANDS ON THE R.U. SIRIUS. LANDING SUCCESSFUL. BEGINNING EXPLORATION.



FOUND WHAT APPEARS TO BE AN INTELLIGENT, ADVANCED LIFE FORM.



BUT IT'S BEING HELD BY SOME KIND OF LARGE MONKEY.



Crossword

THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12				13						14		
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51				52						53		

1/16/11

ACROSS

- 1 Conway or Allen
- 4 "___ Landing"; "Dallas" spin-off
- 9 "___ About You"
- 12 Tavern order
- 13 Spine-chilling
- 14 Doctors' org.
- 15 Peeples or Long
- 16 Place; lieu
- 17 Raced
- 18 Country singer ___ Brooks
- 20 Professor Henry Higgins' pupil in "My Fair Lady"
- 22 Actor on "CSI: Miami"
- 26 Gilbert and Rue
- 27 "So You Think You ___ Dance"
- 28 Suffix for cartoon or balloon
- 29 "___ All Relative"
- 32 Urkel and others
- 35 "Who Do You ___?"
- 39 "The ___ and the Ecstasy"
- 40 Blockbuster LeVar Burton miniseries
- 42 Clinton or Obama: abbr.
- 43 "___ It to Beaver"
- 47 Lilith's hairstyle

- 48 Greek letter
- 49 Places of refuge
- 50 Wedding words
- 51 Ending for count or host
- 52 Heats in the microwave
- 53 "The ___ Adventures of Old Christine"

DOWN

- 1 Orange-flavored drink
- 2 Homer classic
- 3 Actress Anne
- 4 ___ Knight Pulliam; Rudy Huxtable's portrayer
- 5 Tennis court divider
- 6 Unrefined mineral
- 7 Tamera Mowry's sister
- 8 Passover meal
- 9 Actress ___ Tomei
- 10 Web site known as "the world's largest bookstore"
- 11 ___ Delany of "Body of Proof"
- 19 "___ Bloopers & Practical Jokes"
- 21 Jean-___ Picard; character on "Star Trek: The Next Generation"
- 23 Beverage
- 24 John ___; Adam Baldwin's role on "Chuck"
- 25 Houston baseball team member
- 29 "As Good As ___"; movie for Jack Nicholson and Helen Hunt
- 30 Richard ___ of "The Waltons"
- 31 Item to be confessed
- 33 Under ___; being forced
- 34 ___ Paulo, Brazil
- 36 Panty hose material
- 37 Batman's sidekick
- 38 Piano student's practice piece
- 39 "Zip-___-Doo-Dah"
- 41 "___ White and the Seven Dwarfs"
- 44 ___ de cologne
- 45 Invite
- 46 Pop music singer Bobby

H	A	L	F		O	N	A		
O	M	A	R		B	E	N	J	I
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Eagles vs Paladins ends in GSU loss

Halftime dedicated to recognizing academic achievement among student athletes



Brandilyn Brown /Staff
Junior, Ben Drayton, penetrates through the Paladins defense and goes in for the layup.

LATRICE WILLIAMS

sports editor
gasports@georgiasouthern.edu

The Georgia Southern Eagles lost their sixth straight matchup to the Furman Paladins. This was the 43rd meeting between the two schools. GSU leads the series 22-21.

The Paladins jumped out to an early 19-4 lead. Sloppy ball handling plagued the Eagles in the first half. Their lack of control offensively gave Furman easy steals and easy points.

GSU picked up the pace midway through the first half, but Furman had a response every time the Eagles scored.

The Paladins led at the half, 42-23. Ben Drayton led the pack at the half with 11 points, two assists, and four rebounds.

During halftime, members of the T-Club were recognized. The T-Club, which began in 1934, was a program that celebrated athletes who earned a varsity letter through academic achievement.

The students wore a blue jacket that had the letter T, which stood for Teachers, and the students were expected to maintain academic excellence while at Georgia Teachers College, the name preceding Georgia Southern University.

The second half was filled with excitement as the Eagles would come within six points.

Unfortunately, the Paladins would pull away late in the fourth, and took the 74-56 win. Drayton reached the 900-point milestone and could become the 37th player in GSU history to reach 1,000 points in his career.

Rory Spencer is currently the leading shot blocker, averaging 1.6 per game and Drayton leads the league in minutes played in the Southern Conference with 37.2 minutes.

The Eagles look to get back in the winning column during two road games against UNC Greensboro and Elon. GSU will return to home court January 26 against the College of Charleston.

OUT & ABOUT
IN THE BORO

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Rebuilt team delivers successful season



Top and bottom right: File photo
Bottom left: Noele Crooks/STAFF

Top: Robert Brown and the offensive line celebrate the winning touchdown in overtime. The Eagle defense would hold the Mountaineers from reaching the end zone, giving the Eagles a much-needed win that propelled them to the playoffs.

Bottom left: Jaybo Shaw (left) receives MVP award and Brant Russell (right) achieves Erk Russell award.

Bottom right: Darreion Robinson attempts to escape an Appalachian State defender during the matchup on November 6. The Eagles would go on to win 21-14.

LATRICE WILLIAMS

sports editor
gasports@georgiasouthern.edu

While the gates at Paulson Stadium are closed, football season is never really over at Georgia Southern. The Eagles continue to stay in the spotlight by achieving awards and have been one of the most talked about teams in the nation.

GSU accepted the underdog role and surpassed expectations, proving that they could be successful despite their first year with a new head coach and new offensive and defensive schemes. At the start of the season, GSU was chosen to finish seventh in the Southern Conference and were not nationally ranked.

The season began with a 48-3 win over Savannah State. Although the Eagle offense was about to test out the triple option for the first time in five seasons, GSU stunned the home crowd with their performance.

Once the announcer stated that quarterback Jaybo Shaw completed an option pitch, the crowd erupted. "Option pitch" was a phrase that was all too familiar, but one that had been gone too long from Paulson Stadium; these were words that Eagle fans were overjoyed to hear.

GSU opened their two-game road trip with a close loss to Navy. The Eagles held the experienced triple option team to just 13 points. Although GSU came up short of the win, many analysts commended the GSU defense and found positive points that made Eagles fans proud. GSU's second road game was a victory in the battle of the birds contest.

The Coastal Carolina Chanticleers almost made a comeback by cutting the deficit to three, but the Eagles defeated CCU by a big effort from the offense, defense and special teams. This game was one of the first big tests for GSU as they learned to hold on to a big lead without blowing it.

GSU returned to Paulson Stadium for a two-game home stand and opened with a huge win over then 11th ranked Elon. The Phoenix looked to defeat the Eagles for the fourth straight time, but fell short.

Another team whose mission was to continue their winning streak at Paulson was Wofford, who upset the Eagles with a two-point victory. The Eagles' troubles continued when they shocked Eagle Nation with a loss to University of Tennessee-Chattanooga, a team that the Eagles had not struggled with in the past.

Labeled as an expected win by many fans, the Mocs defeated GSU 35-27. With a record of 3-3, the playoff picture was out of sight, at least for the moment. A 20-0 win over The Citadel gave the Eagles new life, but another shortcoming at home against the Bulldogs of Samford continued the roller coaster ride of the season.

A few miracles would need to take place for the Eagles to have a chance in the postseason, and surprisingly, everything but a shot in the championship game came to pass. It all began when previously ranked number one Appalachian State went down.

Josh Rowe and company shut down the Mountaineers in overtime, giving the Eagles a thrilling win and a huge confidence booster. The shift of momentum carried on throughout the rest of the regular season as the Eagles finished 7-4, with wins over Western Carolina and Furman. GSU was selected as one of the 20 teams to compete for the title, and was awarded home field advantage over South Carolina State.

GSU shocked the nation with wins over William and Mary and Wofford, and ended their playoff run with a devastating loss to Delaware. The Eagles finished the season 10-5, and are currently ranked third in the Southern Conference and sixth in the nation.

On January 15, the Eagles held their annual banquet at the Nessmith-Lane Building. Laron Scott, Brett Moore, Charlie Edwards, and Brent Russell racked up awards for their outstanding performance throughout the season. Russell was given the prestigious Erk Russell award and Shaw was named MVP. The Eagles will return to Paulson Stadium for the Blue-White game on April 15.