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The George-Anne

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GA

THE GEORGE-ANNE

WHERE MUSIC NEVER STOPS

The Life of a GS Student

Pages 6 & 7

In Session

Georgia legislature
debates new bills

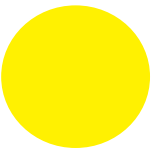
Page 5

HOME COURT ADVANTAGE

Men's and Women's
Tennis Teams Combine for
Undefeated Weekend

Page 9

Tuesday

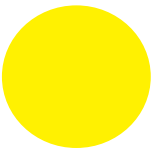


High: 71°

Low: 47°

10 percent chance of rain

Wednesday



High: 74°

Low: 50°

10 percent chance of rain

Thursday



High: 72°

Low: 50°

10 percent chance of rain

Weather Bar

Although it was cold to begin the week warmer temperatures are on the way. It should be sunny going into the weekend.



The Circle went behind the scenes of UPB's Paint Party to talk to the host Jasmine Johnson!

<http://thecirclegsu.com/paint-party-jasmine-johnson/>

PHOTO COURTESY OF THECIRCLEGSU.COM

When You Come Home

BY BROOKE THOMPSON
The Reflector staff

Small towns close down while cities never sleep. Statesboro is quiet and slow paced while larger cities have hustle and bustle. The South has 70 degree weather in January while the North has actual winter. The two places may seem worlds apart, but their differences are what makes them interesting. Several people from Northern states shared what they miss most about home and what they love about the South.

"Food is always tied to culture," stated Christina Olson, assistant professor in the department of writing and linguistics, who went to high school and college near Buffalo, New York (the place where chicken fingers were invented). Olson has lived in Statesboro since 2011. She said she not only misses actual snowfall of the North, but she also misses "a type of ginger ale called Vernors" which is a drink popular in the Midwest and "the chicken finger sub" native to Buffalo. She described the sub as "chicken fingers in hot sauce on a sub with blue cheese, lettuce, tomato, provolone." Olson also said she loved the South because we consider macaroni and cheese to be a vegetable, and she is not wrong at all. Southerners love their mac and cheese.

Lindsay Larson, assistant professor of marketing, is originally from a suburb of New York City out on Long Island. Larson stated that she misses "a good chocolate egg

cream" and all night diners. She explained that "a Waffle House doesn't compete with a stand-alone Greek diner or something like that." Here in Statesboro, there is also a lack of transportation. Larson misses the ease of getting from place to place that the city offered.

Kristina Schmidt, senior exercise science major, is from New Jersey. She says, "No one is going to know what this is because it is a complete Jersey thing. It's called Taylor Ham." She also misses pizza and bagels from Jersey, but when she's home, Schmidt misses Chick-fil-a and Zaxby's. She said you cannot find the two restaurants anywhere. The South is not the South without some good chicken.

The North and South both have amazing types of food they are famous for, and traveling between the two will open eyes and mouths to new possibilities. Food can bring back memories of places you have been and remind you of your heritage and culture, but trying new foods can also give you an experience you might not have had without crossing a few state lines.

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Reflectorgsu.com



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Puzzles

1-31-17

3

The George-Anne 1/31/17 Crossword

PuzzleJunction.com

Across

- 1 Tough tests
- 6 Talk effusively
- 10 Diagnostic test
- 14 Leaf
- 15 Jacob's brother
- 16 Proof word
- 17 Deadly
- 18 Unlikely to bite
- 19 Beat badly
- 20 Oliver's request
- 21 NASA concern
- 22 Ready for plucking
- 23 Item in a bucket
- 25 Burn soother
- 27 Requirement
- 31 Give one's word
- 35 Harbor postings
- 36 Paean
- 40 Kipling novel
- 41 Isinglass
- 42 Agent (Abbr.)
- 43 Corozo, for one
- 44 Mozart's "L' ___ del Cairo"
- 45 Highest point
- 48 ___ of Man
- 49 Kind of apartment
- 51 Bear witness
- 53 Ballerina Pavlova
- 55 Indivisible
- 56 Sweeping story
- 58 Kind of bunny or run
- 60 Sitar music
- 64 Doomsayer's sign
- 65 Milky-white gem
- 66 Fowl pole?
- 68 Pugilist's weapon

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68						69				70				
71						72				73				

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- 69 Loathsome
- 70 Walking ___
- 71 2004 Brad Pitt film
- 72 Scored on serve
- 73 Track event
- 10 One thing after another
- 11 Field yield
- 12 Fluish feeling
- 13 "___ a chance"
- 22 Optimistic
- 24 Literary piece
- 26 Delay
- 27 Audition tapes
- 28 Proclamation
- 29 Former Portuguese province
- 30 King of Judah
- 32 Imperial decree
- 33 Rivulets
- 34 Ant, in dialect
- 37 Tea server
- 38 Waikiki wear
- 39 Be decisive
- 43 Trading place
- 45 Brass component
- 46 Period in the earth's history
- 47 Chinese dynasty name
- 50 Delicate
- 52 Panic
- 54 Savory jelly
- 55 Embrocated
- 56 Mideast chief
- 57 Mexican moolah
- 59 Curly cabbage
- 61 First-rate
- 62 Hockey score
- 63 Part of SEATO
- 64 Poetic adverb
- 65 Egg cells
- 67 Attempt

Down

- 1 Wide of the mark
- 2 Gad about
- 3 Voice below soprano
- 4 Make-up artist?
- 5 Grave
- 6 Morning words
- 7 DoD inits.
- 8 Where Pago Pago is
- 9 Cry's partner

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TREAT

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BROUGHT TO YOU BY STUDENT MEDIA

GS offers private guitar lessons



Beginning Jan.30, Georgia Southern will be offering private guitar lessons in the Foy Fine Arts Building. The lessons will be taught by Brian Lockett who has also composed original works.

BY BRENDAN WARD

The George-Anne staff

Georgia Southern University is offering private guitar lessons starting Monday in the Foy Fine Arts Building.

Lessons start Jan. 30 and will be every Monday until April 17.

Both beginning and advanced classical instruction

will be offered, as well as beginning to intermediate flamenco styles. Lessons are open to all students regardless of prior experience.

All lessons will extensively cover proper technique, music theory and musicianship.

Along with classical lessons, students can get instruction in basic folk/

rock chord progressions and strumming techniques.

Students are required to bring their own acoustic instrument to lessons. A classical or flamenco nylon string instrument is preferred for flamenco lessons.

All lessons will be taught by Brian Lockett, a classical guitarist who received his Bachelor's degree in guitar performance from the University of Louisville's School of Music. Ultimately, he earned a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Minnesota.

In his career he has performed with the I Cantori vocal ensemble, guitarist Eliot Fisk, flautist and composer Nicole, as well as the Georgia Southern Symphony.

Besides performing, Lockett has also composed original works, which premiered in Cincinnati, Minneapolis, and Atlanta.

He was also the director of classical guitar studies at Emory University and a faculty member at Agnes Scott College. He is currently a faculty member at Georgia Southern University.

Black Student Alliance The Basics

BY ASHLEY JONES

The George-Anne staff

The Black Student Alliance (BSA) is a student lead organization that focuses on community and social awareness. BSA has been an active voice in the advancement of minority students, faculty and staff here at Georgia Southern University. They have hosted a number of events on campus that give voice to the minorities of the student body.

Christopher Zen, the BSA event coordinator, said the organization's diversity is what drew him to the Black Student Alliance.

"[BSA is] always doing events; they're always reaching out trying to get new students involved," Zen, senior business manager, said.

BSA is comprised of five subcommittees. Blackshion, which is the modeling committee, is the main committee of BSA.

Other committees include Urban Act, the community service sector; Public Relations, which handles promoting

events; Social Events, which handles event planning and lastly, Fundraising.

All five subcommittees are made up of general body members of BSA.

"I became a member of BSA as a freshman, and I got really close with the people I met, so it's really become a family," Joshua Clump, junior journalism major, said.

Though BSA strives to serve the minority faculty student and staff, they are welcoming to students of all races.

"We are a huge general body," Clump said. "I think BSA is different from other [organizations], because you really have opportunities to showcase your leadership whether it's through leadership roles or just being a member."

BSA will host a number of events in the near future. Among those events are "The Purge on Wall Street," which is their annual Gala, "Love Games," which is hosted by their Freshman Council and "Casino Night," which will be hosted by Urban Act.

Great Minds Lecture Series coming soon

BY NATALIE TURMAN

The George-Anne staff

The College of Liberal Arts and Social Science will once again host the Great Minds Lecture Series.

This year's lecture series will run from Jan 31 to April 19 in the Russell Union room 2047 at 5:30 p.m.. All lectures will be using or will be related to documents from the Remnant Trust Exhibit in the library.

The first lecture will be "Wanton Wenches and Nasty Women: Vindicating Women's Rights from 1792 to 2016," given by Anastatia Sims, from the Department of History, on Jan 31. The lecture will be discussing "A Vindication of the Rights of Women" by Mary Wollstonecraft and "Address

to the Legislature of New-York, Adopted by the State Woman's Rights Convention" by Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

The other lectures are "Why is the Bible a Text?" by Dan Pioske on March 2, "Plantation Dreams: Locke, Confucius and the Making of the Low Country" by Robert Batchelor on March 7, "Tocqueville and American Liberty" by Johnathan O'Neill on April 5 and "Jonathan Edwards, Andrew Fuller, and the Recasting of Calvinism in Fuller's The Gospel Worthy of All Acceptation (1785)" by Tim Whelan on April 19.

The lectures from last year are also available to watch on the Great Minds archives page.

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2017 Georgia Legislative Session

what to look out for

BY TANDRA SMITH

The George-Anne staff

Though it's been a little over two weeks since the beginning of the 2017 Georgia Legislative Session, there have already been various bills introduced that can affect both students and Georgia residents as a whole.

Potential casino bills

Senate Bill 79, also known as the "Destination Resort Act" and House Bill 158, would allow the construction of up to two gaming "destination resorts" or casinos, one located in Atlanta, and the other located in either Savannah, Augusta or Columbus.

Sponsored by state Sen. Brandon Beach, R-Alpharetta and Rep. Ron Stephens, R-Savannah respectively, both bills would allow the gambling proceeds to help fund the HOPE Scholarship, as well as, a new needs based scholarship.

According to the AJC, 70 percent of proceeds would go to the HOPE scholarship while the other 30 percent would go towards the new needs-based scholarship. In addition, the "resorts" would be taxed at 20 percent, rather than the industry standard of 12 percent.

Opponents of the bills cite crime and moral concerns, but Beach and Stephens see huge job creation and tax revenue opportunities.

Campus assault investigations

House Bill 51, sponsored by Rep. Earl Ehrhart, R-Powder Springs, would limit the role universities/colleges play in alleged rapes and the disciplining of alleged rapists.

Under the bill, the local district attorney or law enforcement agency would be given the authority to determine whether or not to conduct an investigation or prosecution of the case. Any employee or official that receives the information of a rape, either perpetrated by a student or acted upon a student, would be required to report the incident to the local DA or law enforcement agency, including police.

However, HB 51 would limit any on-campus investigation of the incident to campus agencies that are staffed with state-certified officers.

According to onlineathens.com, colleges and universities would be unable to pursue any final disciplinary action against students charged with a felony until the student is either sentenced, found guilty or enters a plea of no contest, in which they do not accept or deny responsibility of the charges.

Sanctuary campuses

House Bill 37, also sponsored by Ehrhart, would cut state funding for private institutions that broke the law to protect the undocumented students attending. The goal of the bill is to cut down and reduce the number of "sanctuary campuses".

The term derives from cities like Los Angeles, Chicago and New York, among others, whose local governments have various procedures and regulations in place to protect immigrants.

The issue with sanctuary campuses has been on the rise as of late. The numbers of protests for such campuses at colleges has grown since Donald Trump's election, according to a report by CNN.

"Such withholding of state funding shall include funds provided to the private postsecondary institution directly as well as funding for scholarships, loans and grants," the bill said.

Recently, Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia was dealing with this issue. According to The Emory Wheel, while Emory will not be called a "sanctuary campus", it will continue to support undocumented students enrolled at the school.

A report by the Pew Research Center estimates that at least 200,000 undocumented immigrants are currently enrolled in college. The numbers could be higher or lower, but information on this subgroup is hard to find, for many legal reasons.

Needs based

HOPE scholarship

Touched upon earlier, Senate Bill 82, sponsored by Sen. Lester Jackson, D - Savannah, would create a new needs based HOPE scholarship and grant, eligible for individuals claimed by their parent as a dependent for 24 months prior to the first day of classes, as well independents. For both cases, you or both of your parents combined must make less than \$75,000.

According to the bill, for each semester of HOPE eligibility, the need recipient would receive an amount determined by the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) and based on the student's financial standing.

According to the AJC, last year, the lottery earned \$1 billion for Georgia's education. The HOPE scholarships funds various Pre-K programs, as well as grants and scholarships for Georgia students in private and public institutions.

Though the legislation session has just begun, it's clear that from just these introduced bills that the state of Georgia might be undergoing many changes before the year ends.

Further details on Georgia Legislative bills

■ **House Bill 51 and House Bill 37**
Sponsored by: Rep. Earl Ehrhart,
R-Powder Springs
Introduced on Jan. 11

■ **Senate Bill 79 - 'Destination Resort Act'**
Sponsored by: Sen. Brandon Beach,
R-Alpharetta and Rep. Ron Stephens,
R-Savannah
Introduced on Jan. 26

■ **Senate Bill 82**
Sponsored by: Sen. Lester Jackson,
D-Savannah
Introduced on Jan. 26

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\$6



January 30, 2017 - February 28, 2017

SUBWAY

FOOTLONG

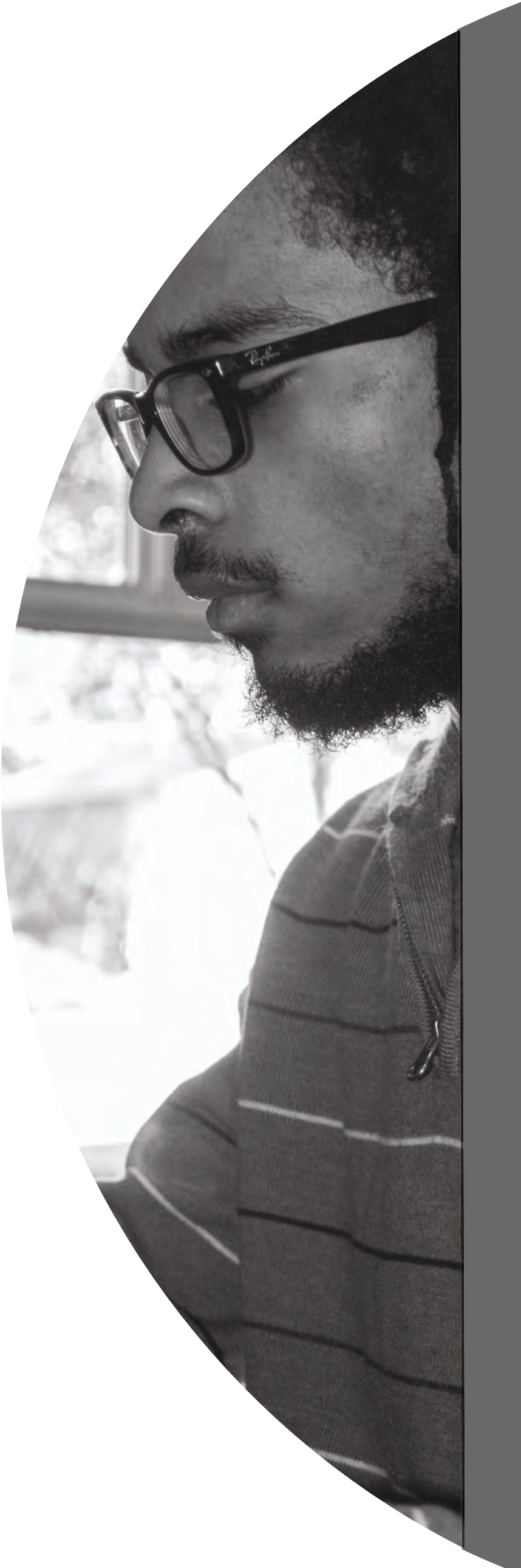
FEST

MUSIC ON MY MIND

BY JULIA FECHTER

The George-Anne staff

The room’s high ceiling and smooth concrete floors allow the notes from the piano reverberate throughout it. Various students will stroll into the Williams Center’s multipurpose room to play the grand piano that stands in the corner next to the outdoor access. Junior biology major Nigel Foster-Jones is one of the students who regularly ventures into the multipurpose room to play on the piano. His piano chops well precede his time at Georgia Southern.



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Nigel Foster-Jones in his element. Foster-Jones has played piano since he was a kid.



NIGEL FOSTER-JONES

Improvement takes time

Foster-Jones grew up listening to classical music. He has played piano since he was a young child and participated in jazz and concert band during high school. As well, he has been in two bands during his time at GS. During the summer, he was in the band Viking Accident and during the 2015-2016 school year, he was in the jazz fusion band Lil Pop and the Wenches That Stand Behind Him. While Foster-Jones played the piano during high school, he asserts that he actually began to improve his playing once he moved to GS.

"I used to just play once a week at most...there was a piano at Kennedy [residence hall] and so I was in there all the time," Foster-Jones said. "I was playing piano just for fun and I was in [the Williams Center] all the time."

He started spending progressively more time playing the piano. However, he did not initially see this time as practice.

"But it ended up being an hour per day and so I got better...and so for my personality type, that's a better way to get good at something when there's no one forcing you to do it," Foster-Jones said.

He likes to use his time playing the piano as an opportunity to connect with others on campus. When there was a piano in the Russell Union around Christmas time, he would often walk up and play it.

"It's a great way to meet people who are passionate about music. A lot of people would come up and be like 'that's cool. Let me see what I can play.' And we would play a lot of duets. It was a good time," Foster-Jones said.

Playing for preference

Foster-Jones' favorite music to play is jazz, but he likes to appeal to a wide range of musical tastes.

"Whenever I'm in a room and I'm in a room with people, I try to do something that each person will know," Foster-Jones said.

Alternatively, most of what he writes is orchestra music. He uses computer software to create what he cannot play on piano.

"I write the kind of stuff that sounds best to me...I often find myself listening to my own music, just because it does exactly what I want it to do when I want it to do it," Foster-Jones said.

Tangible experience

Foster-Jones is further utilizing his hobby by helping write music for a video game that he and his friends are creating. The project team is composed of Foster-Jones, who writes the music, one friend who is a programmer and another who writes the story for the game. Except for the programmer, Foster-Jones and the scriptwriter have majors which Foster-Jones considers of a more traditional career style.

"So by the time we graduate, we can say 'Oh, I took these classes and have this GPA, but I also have written a symphony and I've put out this game,'" Foster-Jones said.

He thinks that, overall, having music as a hobby is more conducive to improving at playing it.

"When you make music your leisure activity, it's a lot easier to get better...when that's what you go to when you've done all your work," Foster-Jones said.

He does not want music to become a chore for him. That is much of the reason why he and his fellow band members in Viking Accident would pick music they liked to play.

Foster-Jones said, "It was always songs that people would know and we would like. Because if we're not having fun with it, then why are we doing it?"

EAGLES COME UP SHORT ON THE ROAD



Tookie Brown gets tangled up with a Jaguar defender at the rim. Brown scored 23 in a losing effort on Saturday.

BY DEVIN CONWAY

The George-Anne staff

ALL GOOD THINGS MUST COME TO AN END

The Eagles' eight-game win streak came to a grinding halt this weekend as they lost a tough game on the road Saturday night versus South Alabama.

GS came out swinging in the first half, hitting on over 50 percent of their shots from the field and nearly half of their three point attempts.

The Eagles worked their way up to a ten-point lead with seven minutes to go in the first half, but the Jaguars clawed their way back within four before halftime.

A TALE OF TWO HALVES

South Alabama managed to carry their momentum into the next period, but the real story of the night was the Eagles abysmal shooting performance in the second half.

GS made just seven of their 32 field goal attempts (21.9 percent) from the field and three of their 19 attempts (15.8 percent) from three point range during the second half of play, while South Alabama made

16 of their 31 field goal attempts (51.6 percent) and four of their 12 attempts (33.3 percent) from three point range.

This huge discrepancy in shooting efficiency gave the Jaguars a 16-point edge in second half play en route to 78-66 victory.

ONE OF THOSE GAMES

The Sun Belt's leading scorer Ike Smith (19.3 PPG) particularly struggled in this game.

Smith scored just eight points, and seven of those came in the first half of play. In the second half, he failed to make a single shot, and even missed five of his six attempts from the free throw line.

As a team, the Eagles struggled to get points in the paint, as they were outscored by an 18-point margin throughout the game.

They also failed to get much bench production. They were outscored 33-5 in that category, as the difference in bench points became an advantage that they were simply unable to overcome.

The Eagles remained in Alabama to face conference-foe Troy on Monday night in the second game of their two-game road trip.



The bench gets fired up after a big play. The Eagles lost by ten on the road against Troy.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SPLITS ALABAMA ROAD TRIP

BY JERELL RUSHIN

The George-Anne staff

Following their 53-50 win over rival App State, the Eagles looked to extend their two-game winning streak when they traveled to Alabama to face Troy and South Alabama.

Troy, which defeated GS at Hanner Fieldhouse earlier this month 89-86, got off to another quick start on the Eagles. GS responded well and tied the game at 31 heading into the second half.

The Trojans' third quarter performance would put the game out of reach for Georgia Southern, outscoring the Eagles 27-14. Troy's leading Sun Belt scorer and rebounder Caitlyn Ramirez finished the game with 19 points to go along with six rebounds.

The game would end 77-67. Senior Angel McGowan led the Eagles with 23 points and Alexis Foulks recorded a double-double

with 11 points and rebounds. The Eagles then traveled to Mobile to take on the South Alabama Jaguars on Saturday.

South Alabama also handed an early January defeat, but Kip Drown's team would not make the same mistake twice. In a game where no starters reached double figures for Georgia Southern, Alexis Foulks picked up the slack to lead the team with 12 crucial points off of the bench.

The bench play along with points off the turnovers would be the deciding factors in the game. Georgia Southern would outscore USA by 13 in both of those categories en route to a 53-45 win.

Splitting their road trip moved Georgia Southern to 8-12 on the season, and 4-5 in conference play. The Eagles return to Hanner Fieldhouse on Thursday to battle the Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns at 7 p.m. and UL Monroe on Saturday at 2 p.m.

MEN’S AND WOMEN’S TENNIS SWEEP MATCHES

BY THOMAS JILK
The George-Anne staff

The Georgia Southern Tennis teams each won both home matches they played this weekend. The men defeated Alabama State and South Carolina State on Saturday, and the women defeated Alabama State and SCAD.

As this week begins, the men have a season record of 4-3 and the women are 2-0.

The men’s team won both matches on Saturday’s doubleheader, 6-1, losing just one single’s point in each match.

The women beat Alabama State 5-2 on Saturday, and they edged SCAD 4-3 on Sunday.

The men’s duo of juniors Eddie Landin and JC Alcala continued their effective play by winning their double’s match handily in the Eagles’ match against Alabama State.

SINGLE’S MATCHES

That set the tone for five of the six single’s matches ending triumphantly for GS.

Freshman Stefano Di Aloy dominated his opponent with a

two-set (6-0, 6-0) victory. Against SCSU, the 6-1 Eagle victory was highlighted by singles victories by freshman Santiago Suarez and senior Dani Casablanas.

On the women’s side, senior Mariana Ranzahuer and junior Ella Monsey both won their singles matches against Alabama State convincingly en route to a 5-2 Eagle victory.

On Sunday against SCAD, the Eagles claimed the double’s point after two 6-2 set wins by Eagle tandems. The tandems were Monsey and sophomore Emilia Bujan, and freshman Arianne de Winter playing alongside senior Giulia Riepe.

After the Eagles and the Bees each took three of six single’s matches, the double’s point proved the decider, as the match ended 4-3 in the Eagles’ favor.

The men’s squad will travel to Chattanooga next weekend, taking on Tennessee Tech and Chattanooga on February 4 and 5, respectively. The women will road trip to Florida, taking on Stetson February 4 in DeLand and Central Florida in Orlando on February 5.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MILLEDGE AUSTIN

JC Alcala lines up a backhand. The men’s double’s team took care of business this weekend.

EDDIE LANDIN LOOKING TO HAVE A STRONG JUNIOR SEASON



PHOTO COURTESY OF RYAN REDDING

Double’s player Eddie Landin poses for a lockeroom photo. He and JC Alcala won their matches this weekend.

BY RYAN REDDING
The George-Anne staff

Many young people who play sports have a very similar dream, graduate high-school and go straight to the pros, college is not a part of the plan. But Eddie Landin knew from the age of 12 that his passion and talent for tennis was about more than just playing professionally.

His goal growing up was to be good enough to get a scholarship for college and then work on getting a degree, then possibly try to compete at a higher level. In fact, when the hotel management major was asked what his goal was after leaving Georgia Southern, he quickly responded, “Start working for the hotel industry.” He added he would like to try the professional tour for a few years because taking away tennis would be taking away a part of his life and he would miss the adrenaline of being in matches.

The junior from Los Cabos, Mexico went

4-0 in the opening tournament this season. Landin, however, does not dwell on his recent success. Instead he tries to clear his mind and just focus on the present.

“I always try to forget my previous matches. Whatever happened, happened and you can be playing very different tennis in the next match. You can be playing really good or you can be playing really bad, so you just have to deal with what you’re having that day and see every game as the same,” Landin said.

It is this attitude that led Landin to have one of the top ten personal records in GS history last spring, and helped the tennis team also reach their best record in almost 30 years.

To mentally prepare for a match, Landin will think the night before about exactly what he needs to do to win. Then when he wakes up in the morning, he will start playing music, but instead of having music to hype him up, Landin prefers

soothing tunes.

“For me if I put too much excitement in my system, I’ll be all over the place. I won’t be hitting the ball where it needs to be hit. I need to be calm before the match. I always tell myself calm mind and quick feet. Always stay calm in your mind so you can make the right decisions, but you have to have your body moving quick because the game is so fast,” Landin said.

Even with his talent, Landin is very superstitious and takes every precaution he can to ensure he plays to the top of his abilities. In his junior year of high school, he would remember what shirts he would wear during a win and also during a loss. Then when finals would come around he would make sure to only wear the shirts he had won in. If it was a hot day and Landin used sunscreen during a match, then he ended up losing that match, he would remember during a later game, “the last time I put

sunscreen on I lost,” and would in turn wake up the next day with red arms.

After coming off a difficult weekend in Florida and playing against his first top 15 ranked team, he reflected on his mistakes, believing he beat himself.

“Sometimes you get intimidated just by the name of the school, but you realize that it is just a shirt that they are wearing. I never felt like they were on top of me all the time during the game. I never felt that I was very pressured or that they were winning every single point, it was just me making errors. It is just the mental part,” Landin said.

Landin is very excited to play Alabama State and South Carolina State at home this weekend and intends to “defend the nest.” He also said the team is “working very hard on winning the conference tournament.”



GA
Joe
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I Wore My Trump Hat to the Women's March in D.C.

TREVOR WRIGHT

Wright is a sophomore English major and philosophy minor from Augusta. This is a guest column.

Time and Time again after the election I have seen videos of protesters targeting and attacking any unsuspecting citizen wearing that infamous "Make America Great Again" hat. Usually I find enjoyment when watching testosterone-fueled beat downs.

But while watching these targeted attacks, I couldn't help but get a strong sense of hypocrisy from the left- the same left that spent months spreading their slogan, "love trumps hate."

The left should've clarified that "love" meant looting, rioting, burning and undervaluing anyone's opinion that slightly deviates from the progressive left's agenda.

I can only imagine how much joy Trump supporters have when watching this political pity party on live television- "liberal tears" is what they're calling it. But I refuse to turn politics into college football, where voters vote based on the label "R" or "D," then celebrate accordingly when their "team" wins whilst mocking the losers.

Why can't we start voting based on candidates' morals and policies?

So I set off on a mission hoping to get a vision of just how polarized this country truly is. I drove up to Washington D.C. along with some of my friends for both the inauguration and Women's march.

I wanted to try a social experiment of sorts. So I wore one of those infamous "Make America Great Again" hats then proceeded to mingle with protestors and concerned citizens alike.

With the Trump attack videos fresh on my mind, I was slightly fearful when I first started flirting with the crowd. Surprisingly, I was confronted with

curious conversation and meaningful exchanges (albeit I did get flashed twice).

Every conversation seemed to start with the question, "how could you vote for Trump?" I simply explained how I did not vote for Trump nor Hillary- I simply like the catchy slogan.

"Oh," they would say, standing there puzzled. I then countered with "how could you vote for Hillary?" The overwhelming response was, "lesser of two evils."

If you look at the poll numbers, it only makes sense both Trump and Hillary supporters voted on the notion that while both of them were some of the most unpopular presidential candidates in our country's history, one was slightly better than the other.

As I left D.C. to come back home I couldn't help but ponder, why are we fighting each other instead of the political process that feeds us these corrupt and egotistical candidates?

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