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NEW YEAR, NEW FASHIONS

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Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2013
Georgia Southern University
www.thegeorgeanne.com
Volume 83 • Issue 45

THE GEORGE-ANNE

Police prepared

Recent shootings spark discussion

BY EMMA R. COLLINS
The George-Anne staff

The recent school shootings across the United States have increased the need for safety plans and awareness on campuses; Georgia Southern University Public Safety assures students it is prepared in case of possible threats.

Should an active shooter ever present himself on GSU's campus, plans are in place and local law enforcement has been trained for these types of situations, GSU Police Chief Michael Russell said.

On Dec. 14, 2012, a lone gunman entered Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut and opened fire.

This tragedy was so horrific because the majority of the victims were children, Georgia Southern University Criminal Justice and Criminology Assistant Professor Laura Agnich said.

"These were six-year old kids full of youth and innocence. Just innocent little kids," Agnich said.

Shootings like this, though devastating, are not common occurrences, Agnich said.

"Thankfully, these events are rare, and that is good. We learn a lot about our vulnerability from them," Agnich said.

Both GSU and Statesboro Police have been trained to deal with a tragedy such as a shooting, Justin Samples, community relations officer for the Statesboro Police Department, said.

"We had a federal agency come in and train us for this type of situation so we would have a definite

See SHOOTING. Page 8

EAGLES COME BACK

Chad Kenney/The George-Anne

Junior forward Eric Ferguson (3) was honored before last night's game for becoming the 39th Eagle to reach the 1,000 point mark. **See the full game story at** *www.thegeorgeanne.com.*

Football awards given

BY JACKIE GUTKNECHT
The George-Anne staff

The Georgia Southern University football team presented four team awards and several All-American and Southern Conference honors Saturday at the year-end banquet.

Junior quarterback Jerick McKinnon received the Iron Works Dedication and Team MVP awards. Senior outside linebacker John Stevenson received the Erk Russell Award.

McKinnon finished third in school history in rushing yards with 1,817 yards and 20 touchdowns this season, while Stevenson was the first Eagle since 2010 to total over 100 tackles and rounded out the season with 103 stops.

The Offensive Scout Award was given to freshman wide receiver Montay Crockett, and senior linebacker Josh Rowe received the Defensive Scout Award.

See AWARDS. Page 18

Former GSU student to cover inauguration

BY TAYLER CRITCHLOW AND ALANNA NAVIN
The George-Anne staff

CHARLES MINSHEW

> "Georgia Southern prepared me for things like this. It gave me confidence and knowledge to reach for things that may have not been available otherwise"
>
> -Charles Minshew, inaugural journalist

From the crowds of thousands of aspiring journalists from 24 schools in the United States, 14 were selected to partake in a rare occasion, one of them a former Eagle.

Georgia Southern University alum Charles Minshew, a current student of the Missouri School of Journalism, was selected to cover the presidential inauguration alongside seasoned professionals.

This is the first time that PBS Newshour has offered this opportunity.

"I am nervous and excited because there are not many opportunities to cover historic events with PBS Newshour," Minshew said.

The news director at the KBI Radio Station in Missouri nominated Minshew.

"Though the application looked at the past year's work, the foundation for my passion started at The George-Anne," Minshew said.

Minshew was a former Editor-in-Chief at The George-Anne and started working with Student Media his freshman year.

After graduating from GSU with a bachelor in political science, he is now enrolled in a Convergence Journalism Master's program at Missouri School of Journalism.

Minshew is a teacher's assistant at his school where he really enjoys teaching students new things. He is also an editor of a magazine at his school.

"Georgia Southern prepared me for things like this. It gave me confidence and knowledge to reach for things that may have not been available otherwise," Minshew said.

The inauguration will not be the first time Minshew has traveled to D.C.

"In 2009 I was part of the "Eagles in D.C." program, and I interned for Congressman John Barrow. So, Georgia Southern opened many doors for me," Minshew said.

PBS Newshour partnered with 24 journalism schools for more than six months to cover the election process as a part of its VOTE 2012 College Tour.

"[We] looked for outstanding young journalists who could work in a high-paced environment and had a passion for politics," Dr. Imani Cheers, director of Education Resources at PBS Newshour, said.

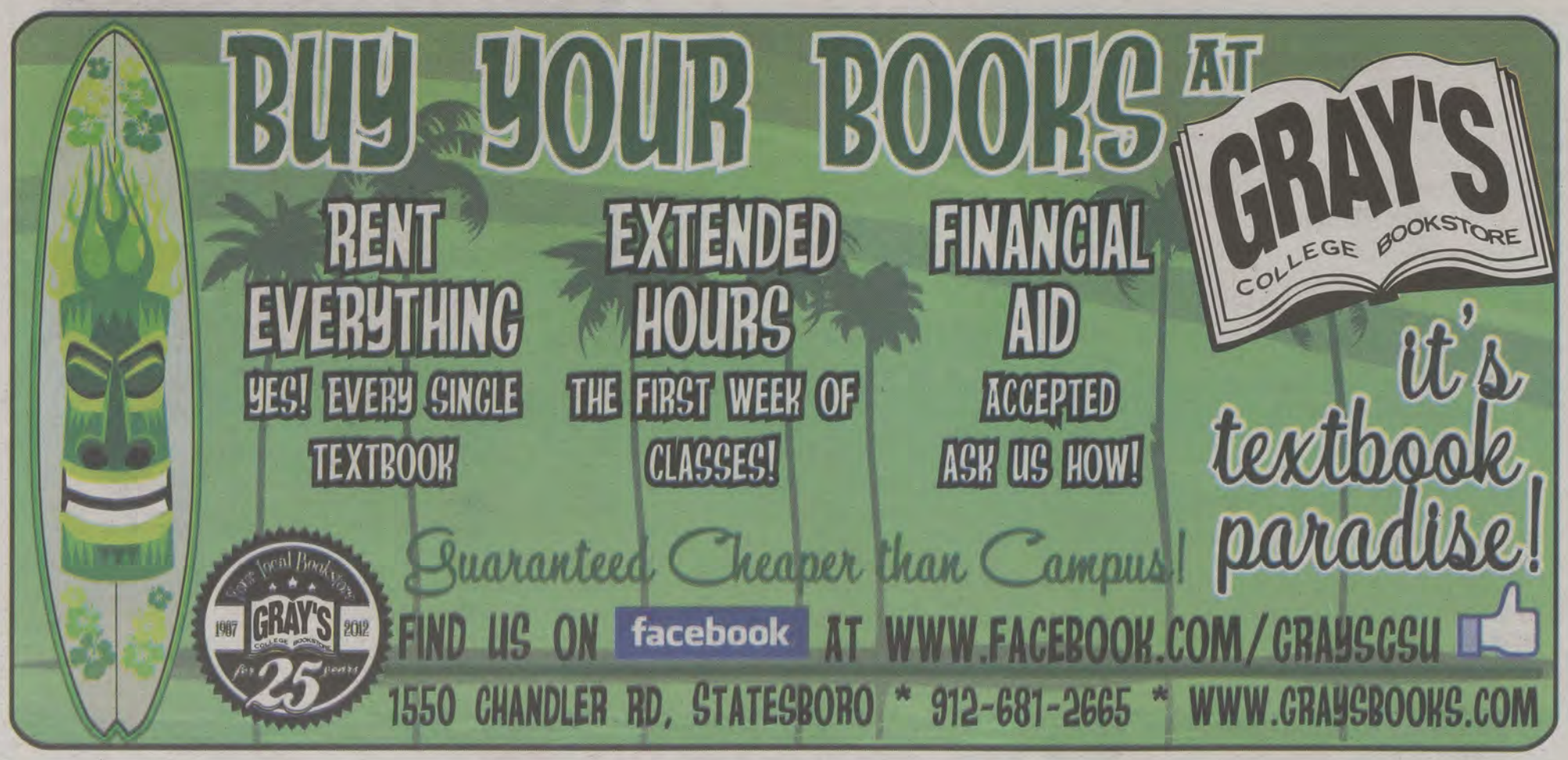
Lynda Kraxberger, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies and Administration at Missouri, said that Minshew has worked on many collaborative projects in convergence journalism and has a knack for leading a team on a project.

Minshew said he jumps at any chance for learning new journalism and reporting tools and is looking forward to the opportunity to learn these new tools.

The program is a four-day-long production camp located in Washington, D.C. where the selected students will be divided into various teams that will cover the different sides of media involved with coverage.

Out of video, radio, print and several other divisions, Minshew was placed on the print division.

Minshew said, "It's helps whenever you apply for a job or an internship that you are invested and interested, that you are willing to learn more than one way to tell a story.



Police Beat

Thursday, Jan. 10

11:45 a.m.: Officers responded to a panic alarm at Freedom's Landing. No one was in the residence. The alarm may have been activated by a pressure washer being used in the area. Maintenance was notified and responded.

11:56 p.m.: Officers assisted the Statesboro Police with an incident at University Plaza.

Friday, Jan. 11

9:09 a.m.: Officers responded to an animal complaint at the Russell Union.

9:20 a.m.: Officers responded to Freedom's Landing in reference to an unwanted person. The person was escorted from Freedom's Landing and banned from Georgia Southern University property.

9:36 a.m.: Officers responded to Deal Hall in reference to a burglar alarm. The alarm was accidentally activated by an employee.

10:34 a.m.: Officers responded to Freedom's Landing in reference to a domestic dispute. One of the subjects involved was banned from Georgia Southern University property.

11:07 a.m.: An incident report was taken for Georgia Southern University property recovered from The Cove apartments.

11:38 a.m.: An incident report was taken for financial identity fraud. This case was turned over to criminal investigations.

12:10 p.m.: An incident report was taken for a suspicious incident at Eagle Village. This case was turned over to criminal investigations.

9:56 p.m.: An incident report was taken at Public Safety for a verbal dispute between boyfriend and girlfriend.

Saturday, Jan. 12

12:24 a.m.: Officers responded to a sick person at Southern Courtyard. The sick person received additional medical assistance.

1:00 a.m.: Officers responded to a sick person at Eagle Village. EMS was notified, responded but did not transport. The sick person was judicially referred.

1:22 a.m.: Officers made contact with an intoxicated person in the courtyard of Eagle Village. Blake Carter McKinnon, 18, was arrested and charged with possession of alcohol under 21 years of age and obstruction – misdemeanor.

3:10 a.m.: An officer assisted Statesboro Police with a suspicious incident that occurred at Campus Crossings apartments.

1:14 p.m.: An incident report was taken for a simple assault that occurred at Freedom's Landing. This case was turned over to criminal investigations.

10:41 p.m.: Officers responded to a panic alarm at Freedom's Landing. Maintenance was contacted and responded. Maintenance advised that the alarm was activated due to a malfunction.

Sunday, Jan. 13

12:31 a.m.: Officers responded to a disorderly incident at University Plaza. Tyler Coaven Hollis, 21, was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and obstruction – misdemeanor.

2:14 a.m.: An officer discovered a subject lying on the ground in C/J Lot. The subject advised that an unknown black male struck him and fled from the scene in a vehicle. EMS was notified, responded but did not transport.

2:15 a.m.: A traffic stop was conducted on Fair Road at Chandler Road. The occupants were identified. The vehicle was searched and no further action was taken.

8:02 a.m.: An incident report was taken for criminal trespass in Lot 42. A window was broken out of a Georgia Southern University vehicle. This case was turned over to criminal investigations.

11:03 a.m.: Officers responded to a panic alarm at Freedom's Landing. No one was in the apartment.

5:31 p.m.: Officers responded to a panic alarm at Southern Courtyard. A small child accidentally activated the alarm.

8:29 p.m.: An incident report was taken for an entering auto in Eagle Village parking Lot J. This case was turned over to criminal investigations.

8:53 p.m.: Officers responded to a fire alarm at Eagle Village. The Statesboro Fire Department and Georgia Southern University maintenance were notified and responded. The alarm was activated by smoke from cooking.

4:14 a.m.: An officer responded to Southern Pines in reference to an injured person. EMS was notified, responded and transported the injured person.

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.

ADVERTISING: The newspaper accepts advertising. Inquiries may be made 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 in the ad. Further, the newspaper is not responsible for any damages caused due to an ad's omission from a particular edition and its responsibility solely is to reschedule the ad in the next regular edition at the regular advertising rates.

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 that require personal information. Students are also urged to report to the newspaper any suspicious offers which they might see in an ad.

PUBLICATION INFORMATION: The newspaper is printed by The Brunswick News in Brunswick, Ga.

NOTICE: Unauthorized removal of multiple copies from a distribution site constitutes theft under Georgia law, a misdemeanor offense punishable by a fine and/or jail time.

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STUDENT MEDIA
STUDENT READ

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Contact the editor at gaeditor@georgiasouthern.edu for corrections and errors.

Our View

GSU winter sports need your support

While most students were away from academia enjoying the break, Georgia Southern University's student-athletes continued to play. Men's and women's basketball and swimming and diving were still in season during the winter holiday and they competed to mostly empty seats.

GSU's student body is known for its support of its football team, but there is a perceptible difference in the interest between sports. The university attracts many good football players because the team is renowned in its conference. It receives much attention from fans, which encourages the players to do their best.

The lack of audience turnout for the other sports GSU competes in doesn't just signify a lack of encouragement, but it also can also hurt the team in the long run. Prospective recruits who factor a school's support for a sports team into their decision may not want to play for a team that garners so little interest among its own student body. By attending games, you are not only encouraging your fellow students, but also presenting a good view of the team to potential new students and players.

Students are already paying for tickets to home games, but few take advantage. If the tickets are already paid for, why not use them? Many students may not have the time to make it to all the games, but going to some is better than going to none, and attending games is cheap. The love for football on this campus is great, so spread the sports love around.

The George-Anne welcomes letters to the editor and appropriate guest columns. All copy submitted should be 350 words or fewer, 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 Board of Opinions or columnists themselves and DO NOT necessarily reflect those of the faculty, staff or administration of GSU, the Student Media Advisory Board, Student Media or the University System of Georgia.

Avoid playing catch-up

THE COOP SCOOP

TAYLOR COOPER
OPINIONS EDITOR

Welcome back, everyone. The casualty reports—also known as first-day attendance—for yesterday haven't been released yet, but freshman MIAs are historically lower in the spring. Students have been to their first classes and taken note of how many absences it takes to get a failing grade. Now it is time to start another semester by telling ourselves that we are going to do better with meeting deadlines, studying and actually researching those papers.

DeSales University's student newspaper, The Minstrel, published a report written by university professors regarding procrastination in the student body titled "The Procrastination Epidemic: An Investigative Report." Of the students interviewed, 95 percent said that procrastination was a problem for college students in general. My college experience so far has led to believe the same thing, especially when it comes to larger projects that can really be hurt by a lack of adequate preparation.

It would be hard to count the times I have heard my peers wonder how many absences they have left, or mention that a deadline has snuck up on them, or that they had waited until Sunday to do Monday's assignment, or that they had not begun studying until the day before. I'd be lying if I said I was any different.

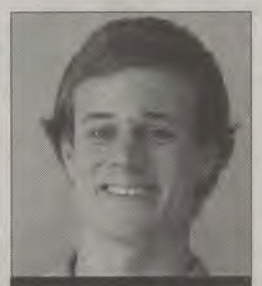
One student is quoted in the report as saying, "I've found myself in several situations where procrastination was definitely unhealthy and led to a series of long nights full of coffee and stress." That probably strikes home for a lot of us. Henderson never sees more traffic and Zach's Brew never gets more business than the weeks preceding finals.

But procrastination is a habit, and it can be broken like any other. My plan is to get one of my more responsible friends to nag me daily to get my work done. There are several ways to go about it, and not all will do it for everyone, but your parents and future self will thank you for trying.

I propose a New Semester's resolution: that the applicable students make a genuine effort to break the habit of procrastinating. I'm definitely going to start tomorrow.

Cooper is a junior journalism major from Rincon, Ga.

Looking back at 2012


SCOTT MARKLEY

As we look forward to 2013 and the spring semester here at Georgia Southern University, it is worth looking back and reflecting on some of the biggest moments of 2012 in the USA.

February 5: The New York Giants defeated the New England Patriots in Super Bowl XLVI in front of the largest television audience in American history at 111.3 million viewers.

May 9: Barack Obama became the first sitting president to announce his support for same-sex marriage.

June 20: Eric Holder became the first U.S. Attorney General to be held in contempt after he failed to release documents from Operation Fast and Furious.

June 28: The US Supreme Court upheld the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act as constitutional, allowing the landmark legislature to begin reform of America's healthcare system.

July 20: A mass-shooting at a movie theater in Aurora, Colo. left 12 dead and 58 injured.

August 6: NASA's Curiosity rover landed on Mars.

August 12: The United States brought home the most Olympic medals with 104, 46 of them gold.

September 11: The US Embassy in Cairo, Egypt and the Consulate in Benghazi, Libya were attacked by protesters, killing four Americans, including Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens.

October 5: Future Hall-of-Famer Chipper Jones played his last career game as the Braves lost to the Cardinals in the new wild card playoff format.

October 14: Felix Baumgartner broke the sound barrier while skydiving from over 24 miles above Earth's surface.

October 29: Hurricane Sandy slammed the Eastern seaboard causing record destruction, killing 50 people and leaving over 8 million without electricity in New York and New Jersey.

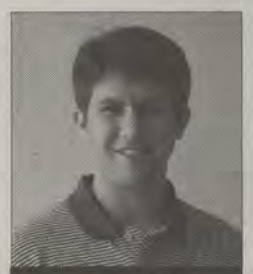
November 6: Incumbent Barack Obama defeated Mitt Romney for a second term in office, while the Democrats maintained the Senate majority and Republicans maintained the House majority. Furthermore, Maine, Maryland and Washington became the first states to legalize same-sex marriage via voter referendum, and Colorado and Washington become the first states to legalize marijuana for recreational use.

December 14: 20 children and 7 adults were killed in a mass-shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn.

December 21: The world did not end, and Psy's Gangnam Style became the first YouTube video to reach 1 billion views.

Markley is a senior geography major from Marietta

Welcome back to the Eagle Nation


BLAIR MUTIMER

We've made it to every college student's favorite part of the semester yet again, and yes I am talking about syllabus week. No matter how heavy the course load you have this semester the first class meeting, sometimes even the second, is 99% of the time going to be a very simple class. This makes this week the best time to catch up on what's new in the lives of your fellow students as well as what else may be going on around our great university.

How you use this extra time that you may have really speaks for how you want this upcoming semester to turn out. To make this a better, more exciting semester, I want to encourage all of you to be more involved! The college experience is a once in a lifetime experience and you really should make the most of it. Whether it's different interest groups, intramural or club sports teams, Greek life or politics, the choice is yours and your options are nearly limitless.

If more incentive is needed for those who are worried that getting involved would take time away from your school work, studies done over the past five years have shown that students who are proactive about getting involved in campus show better rates of success academically. It could be due to organizational skills, or just a desire to succeed. Regardless of what you want to get involved in, I strongly urge you to do so. Take advantage of the time you spend here at Georgia Southern University and don't pass up an opportunity to do something that you may not have a chance to do later on.

It's the start of a brand new semester, so let's make it the best that we possibly can. Always remember to be proud to be a part of the great Eagle Nation!

Mutimer is a senior construction management major from Augusta

Unusually warm weather marks beginning of semester

WILLIAM BRYAN

Shorts in January? The recent pool weather has certainly made coming back to Statesboro easier, but it is a bit abnormal. Unfortunately we aren't the only ones experiencing weird weather, and it didn't start last week.

This past year was the hottest on record for the continental United States, with 362 all-time high temperatures and zero all-time low temperatures, with records starting in the 1890s. The drought that ensued, and covered about three fourths of the country during the summer, drove up food prices and damaged farmland. Australia has been hit especially hard by the extraordinarily hot weather. Roads have melted in the Outback, according to NPR, and wildfires have been increasingly a problem in the New South Wales region. So far this month, they have recorded temperatures of 119 and 120 degrees.

This isn't just strange weather. Climate change is no longer something to "believe" in; it is not the tooth fairy, it is our current reality. Whether it is man-made may be up for discussion, but that skepticism shouldn't hold us back from working towards developing green solutions. We are behind the rest of the advanced world when it comes to developing cleaner energy, and it is for no other reason than political discomfort and denial of the problem.

Germany blew past their goals of green energy production for the past year after developing an interesting way to subsidize the otherwise expensive energy sources. They allow people that produce energy through wind turbines or solar panels to use the energy that they need—which would be free to them, obviously—and sell their excess energy back into the power grid for others to use.

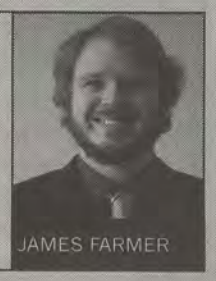
Environmentalists and liberals are not the only ones worried about climate change. Insurance companies have a lot to lose. Insurance giant Ernst and Young has publicly stated that climate change and extreme weather pose a serious threat to the industry as a whole. Other companies also have similar concerns, and say that it is time to start putting options on the table. And really, we do not have much to lose; if policies designed to clean up the environment don't have an effect on climate, then we will at least be left with a cleaner Earth.

But for the time being, I guess we can just enjoy the beautiful weather and being back at school.

Bryan is a senior economics major from Fayetteville

We can learn from Falcons

THE FARM LIFE


JAMES FARMER

There's a multitude of things that can be learned from failure – just ask the Atlanta Falcons. After enduring a playoff dry spell that lasted Matt Ryan's entire early career, the Falcons finally got rid of the monkey on their back Sunday with a nail-biter win over the Seattle Seahawks.

While the Falcons never drastically changed up their game plan from the first three playoff games Matty Ice played, they added pieces and wrinkles to make their team more effective. Despite losing the first three playoff games of Ryan's career, Atlanta didn't scrap its entire system.

There are lessons to be learned from the Falcons' approach to adversity. In football, and in life in general, many people will choose to completely throw out their previous ways of doing things in order to change when all that is needed is a few tweaks here and there. A person struggling with weight might choose to completely cut some random food, such as bread, out of his or her diet, when in reality, a healthy mix of going to the gym and cutting soda from their lifestyle could provide much better results with much less stress.

However, sometimes whole systems need to be thrown out. Much like the playoffs are the determining factor of the success of an NFL team, that final GPA is a measure of success for many students here, especially those with HOPE. For some students, maybe dedicating more time to studying instead of playing video games or partying could give them the GPA boost they need. Some students will probably think about and go about changing their majors to a subject they feel they can actually succeed in.

No matter how you choose to improve yourself this semester – and we all have room to improve – it's important to set goals for yourself and strive to reach those goals.

Farmer is a junior international studies and political science double major from Thomasville, Ga.

Textbook prices hurt students

ALEX THE PRETTY GOOD

ALEX LASALLE

The beginning of each new semester brings with it the usual traditions. There is the search for the right classroom in the right building across campus. There is the sizing-up of the new professors you have. There is the reading of the syllabus, terrible in how boring it is but great in that it isn't actually work.

Then there is everyone's favorite, the traditional burning of money as you purchase textbooks that may actually be opened once or twice.

There's no hiding the fact that textbook prices are dreadfully high. Even if you skip out on GSU's own bookstore and purchase from one of Statesboro's many other retailers, the cost is still high. Online options like Amazon or Half.com have even lower prices, but then you have to pray that shipping is fast enough for that first assignment.

College Board's estimates place the average annual cost of books and supplies for a student at a four-year school at $1,168. That's a lot of money, and it's still growing. In the past 30 years, college textbook prices have increased wwabout 800 percent, far more than the 550 percent increase in tuition and fees over the same period. Buy-backs help alleviate the costs, but not by much. At this point, we have to be asking, "Why the high price?"

There are a few reasons – high cost of production, annual updates, etc. – but I want to focus on two in particular.

First off, the digitalization of textbooks. Over the past few years, more and more textbooks have been including online supplements. Now ask yourself, how often have we used those supplements? Not as often as we pay for them, I'll bet. It's like buying a box of chocolates with that single chalk-flavored menace. You will never intentionally eat it, but you've paid for it anyway.

In the long term, we should push for textbooks to go completely digital. Computers are becoming more common and affordable, especially e-readers like the Amazon Kindle – which is already making forays into the textbook world. Encourage this, and everyone wins. Students pay less, the school pays less and the cute little squirrels don't get their trees cut down to make the books.

Another problem is that the people using the textbooks – that would be the students – are not the ones choosing them. A professor's finances don't change if they choose either a $100 textbook or a $300 textbook. They have no incentive to choose a less expensive book.

To professors, I say this: if education is to become fairly accessible, everyone involved in textbook-related decisions, including you, need to consider that cost.

In the meantime, I have some textbooks to pay too much for.

LaSalle is a senior writing and linguistics major from Cumming

2013 brings new developments

Tasha Lund/The George-Anne

Georgia Southern University will be welcoming new changes to campus this year and next with several developments under construction. **Top Left**: The new biology building is nearing completion and the projected move-in date is June 2013. It is located at the intersections of Akins Drive and Forest Drive across from the Education Building. **Bottom Left**: Monarch301 is a new housing complex that is located off of South Main Street. It is planned to open May 2013. **Top Right**: The new Landrum is currently under construction and will be open for business in the summer of 2014. **Bottom Right**: Lakeside is undergoing renovation and is projected to open summer 2014. The new meal plans will still go into effect in the fall 2013.

SHOOTING, from page 1

response if something like this ever happens. While we have a definite response plan, though, the plan would vary depending on the situation," Samples said.

In the unlikely event of an active shooter on campus, all local law enforcement would work together, Russell said.

"Every active shooter is different, but every law enforcement officer within radio-shot would respond to help," Samples said.

"Plan, Prepare, and React," a video, was authorized and created by the Board of Regents to teach students and faculty how to respond in active shooter situations, Russell said.

"Basically, you have to do whatever you have to do to survive the day. If you have to run, hide, barricade a door—whatever it takes," Russell said.

Russell encouraged students to take advantage of the "Plan, Prepare, and React" video, which is available for viewing to classes, student organizations, faculty, sororities and fraternities, or any group who wants to watch it.

Russell urges students to contact him in regarding the opportunity to view the video.

Gun laws in Georgia

Photo courtesy of stockxchange.com

Georgia does not require gun owners to register their weapons with the state government.

Georgia has only two laws regarding the purchasing of firearms:

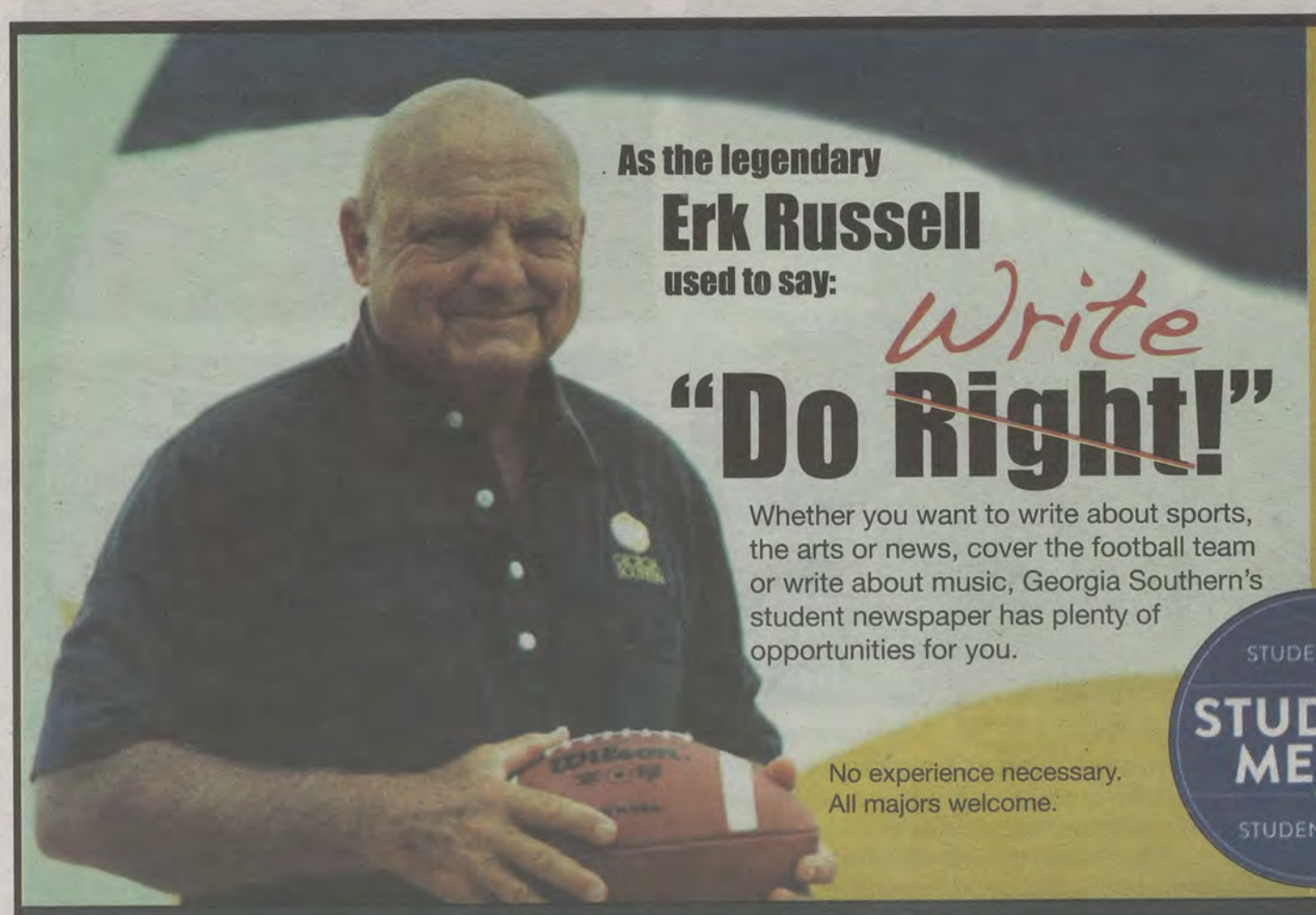
It is illegal to sell or give a pistol or revolver to a person under the age of 18 years old.

In the state of Georgia, a person does not have to have a license to carry a long gun as long as he/she is not prohibited from owning a firearm.

In the state of Georgia, a person must have a Georgia Weapons Carry License in order to carry a handgun openly (in public) or concealed (in home, car or place of business.)

Firearms may not be carried in the following areas:

1) Government building
2) Courthouse
3) Jail/Prison
4) Place of worship
5) Mental health facility
6) Bar
7) Nuclear power facility
8) Within 150 feet of a polling location
9) School property/ function
10) Public transportation



As the legendary
Erk Russell
used to say:
"Do ~~Right~~ Write!"

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 opportunities for you.

No experience necessary.
All majors welcome.

STUDENT LED
STUDENT MEDIA
STUDENT READ

Come to one of the one hour tryout sessions listed below and become a part of our Spring Candidate Reporting Class.

Bring a pen and a Blue Book.

Tuesday, Jan. 22
6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 23
11:30 a.m.
2:30 p.m.
6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 24
11:30 a.m.

Location:
The George-Anne,
Williams Center,
second floor
RM 2023

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

Police urge students to take precautions against crime

BY EMMA R. COLLINS
The George-Anne staff

Over the winter break, the Georgia Southern University Department of Public Safety issued multiple traffic citations and investigated some minor thefts and two counts of criminal trespass.

"One incident of criminal trespass involved graffiti, and another turned out to just be a prank," said Michael Russell, Chief of GSU Police.

Though GSU police are precautious over the holidays, Russell said, sometimes things go unnoticed.

"We check, check and double check. We check buildings and residence halls frequently," he said.

Cell phones seemed to be a popular target for theft in recent months, Chief Russell said, because they are high-dollar, expensive items that can potentially be wiped clean and sold for profit.

"Mainly, these are crimes of opportunity. Always lock your doors and don't leave stuff lying around," Russell said.

Chief Russell added that many break-ins or thefts might not have been reported yet because many students are just returning from the holiday break. He encouraged students to file reports if they find anything missing, out of place or tampered with when they return.

"We definitely need to know. Reporting it is the only way for us to know about it," Russell said.

Erick Garcia, junior computer science major, said students need to be cautious of leaving their belongings lying around.

"Ultimately, it's the students' responsibility. If they care about their stuff, they shouldn't leave it lying around," Garcia said.

Cache Archer, senior psychology major, makes sure she keeps her valuables locked up and secure and would recommend freshmen to do the same.

"When my friends go to the RAC, a lot of them lock their valuables in the car, and that's what I'd recommend," Archer said.

Amanda Ross, senior public relations major, is always aware of her belongings and her surroundings.

"I'm really conscious of my phone. I don't leave it anywhere, and at night I try not to walk by myself, and if I have to, I try to have someone on the phone talking to me," Ross said.

Ross also encouraged her fellow students to be careful with their valuables.

"Think about what your parents would say if your phone was stolen," Ross said.

Chanelle Joseph, a senior psychology and political science double-major, says she keeps her stuff in her purse or pocket to keep it safe.

Joseph said, "Don't leave stuff lying around unless you want it taken. Be mindful of your possessions at all time."

Tasha Lund/The George-Anne

GSU Public Safety urges students to report any missing or out of place

Grant used to combat drunk driving

BY LAUREN GORLA
The George-Anne staff

The Office of Alcohol and Other Drugs is planning to use a nearly $10,000 grant to develop events and programs on campus that will raise awareness among students regarding drinking and driving.

The grant was awarded in October of last year and will run through September 30.

Many of the details of the events and programs are currently being worked out because Dave McDermott, administrative coordinator for the Office of Alcohol and Other Drugs, wants the majority of planning to be student-led.

"I don't have all the specifics just because I want students to plan a lot of it, so once they're in place, our student assistants will take over a lot of the planning," McDermott said.

"The nature of drinking and driving is that it affects us all. It's a danger not only to the individual, but to everyone else that is on the road," McDermott said.

Dave McDermott

There will be more events and programs going on around spring break and graduation because those are times when drinking and driving is a large issue, McDermott said.

The Office of Alcohol and Other Drugs, run through the Dean of Students office, will be using the grant money this semester to focus more not only on drunk driving, but also on helping students make good choices about how to get home after a night of drinking.

The grant is awarded through the Governor's Office of Highway Safety and the Health Services office had previously used it but decided to give it to the Office of Alcohol and Other Drugs this year.

"The reason Health Services transferred it this year is because it makes more sense for us to use it in our office. Health Services focuses more broadly on alcohol whereas in our office, we can specifically look at drinking and driving," Kerry Greenstein, assistant dean of students, said.

"We've been limited on what we could do with drinking and driving because of budget, so I'm excited about this because it allows us to expand our message and encourage students to make good decisions," McDermott said.

The goal is to accomplish two things: one, to change behaviors about drinking and driving and two, to increase awareness among students about the Office of Alcohol and Other Drugs, Greenstein said.

"We will have a DUI simulator on February 20 as part of the Wellness Fair, and we'll have some peer educators who will be paid to work on the grant," McDermott said.

The grant will also pay for promotional items like t-shirts, on which will be written contact information for safe rides available in Statesboro.

"What we're really focusing on is getting out information on what safe rides are available in Statesboro. I think there are more options than students realize, so we're trying to promote those options. Just in the last couple of months two new taxi services have opened in the city," McDermott said.

Previous surveys completed on campus show that the average number of students who admitted to driving after drinking is higher than the national average, McDermott said.

In fall 2010, 29.3 percent of Georgia Southern University students admitted to driving after drinking, compared to only 22.3 percent of students across the nation.

"I'm expecting that to change when we do the survey again because there are a lot more options now than there used to be. I think there have been some changes in the last couple years of how aware students are of the risks," McDermott said.

Greenstein said, "Ultimately, the hope is to keep drunk drivers off the road so everyone is safer in the long run."

Demario Cullars/The George-Anne

Lindsay Demarcus, junior fashion merchandising major, wears spring fashion with bold, solid colors in front of the Builder's Memorial Terrace on her first day back to classes.

Spring brings back-to-school fashion

MY VIEW

LINDSEY MCCORMICK
FASHION REPORTER

The fashion world steps off the runway and onto as campus as students begin pulling out their spring clothes and saving winter ones for a colder day.

Bright and bold colors are in fashion for both seasons and students can flaunt their spring and winter fashion between the changing seasons.

Modesty and simplicity were the themes from this winter's fashion trend. Brown leather boots, heavy cable-knit scarves and pattern printed sweaters were all seen on campus before the break. Now that Statesboro is switching between winter and spring weather, the time to break out with luminosity and show some skin is here.

Vibrant colors

"Colorful pants, cropped tops and lace are all things to look for this season. Anything colorful," Lindsay Demarcus, junior fashion merchandising major, said.

A new trend from Michael Kors, Narciso Rodriguez and Burberry is displaying solid, single-colored dresses without patterns.

As for beauty, striking lip colors such as red and pink are here to stay. An outbreak of crimson lips hit last winter, and it isn't going anywhere.

"Red lipstick is definitely for going out in the evening, but pink is very summery and for the daytime; pink goes with anything," Taylor Tucker, sophomore public relations major, said.

Looking vibrant and bold is what matters this season whether it is going for solidarity or choosing the right print. The most reoccurring trend this spring: patterns, patterns and more patterns.

Stick to the basics

As seen in fashion mainstream, skinny jeans are starting to head in a different direction for spring. Last season, solid colors had the last say in denim, but this time patterns are on the horizon.

Polka dots, floral, python and geometric shapes are circulating denim patterns to add to student's closets this spring.

Current advertisements show that a plain t-shirt or a fitted sweater added to these skinny jeans creates a simple outfit to wear to class.

Real or faux

A change in fabric is also making an appearance this spring. Leather skirts, real or faux, are making their way through the pages of "In Style" magazine.

Charlotte Ronson and Alexander Wang were huge proponents of the leather trend as they flaunted their 2013 collections to the world, showing that leather does not have to be solely seductive, but it can be flirty and fun.

Pullover sweaters or peplum tops are looking to be compliments to leather skirts this year.

If students want to look their upmost trendy this semester, the fashion magazines are pointing in one direction: go bold or go home.

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Tasha Lund/The George-Anne

Van Gogh's plans to release an official opening date to customers within the next 30 days.

Van Gogh's to bring brews to Statesboro

BY GRACE HUSETH
The George-Anne staff

Statesboro's first microbrewery will flow into the stomachs of many college students as Christian Bennett, owner of Van Gogh's and GATA's, projects the pizza joint's opening for the coming weeks.

The restaurant's first presumed opening date of August fell through, and construction for Van Gogh's has been underway since early June.

Bennett said that quality is more important than timeliness, but he does hope to open within the next 30 days and will announce the opening date 2 weeks prior.

"We will open when we feel we are ready to go and have all the processes down," Bennett said.

Bennett has also delayed opening to focus on the quality of the first two beers, Statesboro Blue and Creek Water, which he plans to have brewed before opening. These two labels are creations by Chuck Duffney who relocated to Statesboro to become Brew Master at Van Gogh's.

"Statesboro Blue is a classic Belgian witbier. It's a smooth, easy-drinking beer with lots of wheat and orange peel," Duffney said.

It is brewed from organic crops and has hints of citrus and coriander, and the second beer, Creek Water, is a stout beer named after Eagle Creek, Duffney said.

Bennett said he is excited about the further promotion of Statesboro Blue.

"We feel like we have some of the best beer and pizza to offer. We've been to some festivals and have gotten a tremendous response for Statesboro Blue," Bennett said.

A deck was added between GATA's and Van Gogh's to connect the two bars.

The new addition creates a boardwalk atmosphere where customers can walk between the two restaurants and hang out, Bennett said.

"We have something to offer to everyone at this location. Van Gogh's has gourmet pizza and handcrafted beers where GATA's has burgers, wings and sports. At Van Gogh's we want to bring people together in a more social setting," Bennett said.

Chef Louis De Lorenzo will create gourmet pizzas exclusive to Van Gogh's.

De Lorenzo, who Bennett calls "the pizza master," is from Rome, Italy and has over 30 years of experience creating pizzas.

He has added 15 gourmet pizzas to Van Gogh's menu and customers can try their hand at creating their own combinations with build-your-own pizzas, Bennett said.

Chianti Cone, junior general studies major, said she is looking forward to Van Gogh's opening.

"I love pizza, and the fact that it's a pizza place makes me even more excited," Cone said. "They have a bar, so that's even better."

Bennett said he created the vision for the design and will use minimalistic artwork to extenuate the custom made tables and bars he collaborated on with carpenters.

Van Gogh's business hours will be the same as GATA's, but closing time may extend to 2 a.m. so customers can grab late night snacks.

"We want people to come down and enjoy slices from 1 a.m. to 2 a.m. and serve food," Bennett said. "We have a lot of experience and a lot of really good, unique products lined up."

RAC helps students lose holiday pounds

BY WILLIAM PRICE
The George-Anne staff

As students return for the spring semester, the gym begins to become more packed with students trying to shed their winter hibernation weight and get spring break ready.

The Recreational Activity Center adjusts its schedule to accommodate those who came off a lazy December and wish to get back in the workout routine.

According to a study done by nutritional scientist RC Baker, Americans, on average, gain 500 percent more weight through late fall to winter as opposed to the rest of the year.

"That's one reason we're open until midnight in the spring and not in the fall, to accommodate for the large influx of people getting back in shape," Chris Butler, assistant director of marketing & communications at CRI, said.

College students, on average, put on 10 to 14 pounds of fat from the beginning of freshman year to the beginning of senior year, according to research conducted at Indiana University in Bloomington and Tufts University of Boston.

In the majority of these cases, the weight was put on during the winter months.

Chad Kenny/The George-Anne

Pierre Hendrix, senior sports management major, hits the gym on his first day of classes.

"I think the most damaging part of holiday season health-wise is the having your schedule interrupted," Jody Langdon, assistant professor of health & physical education at Georgia Southern University, said.

"We have a ton of programs and ways to get moving again this semester, from intramural bowling to strongman competitions," Butler said.

CRI will be organizing 10 different intramural sports leagues this semester as well as over 10 different fitness programs.

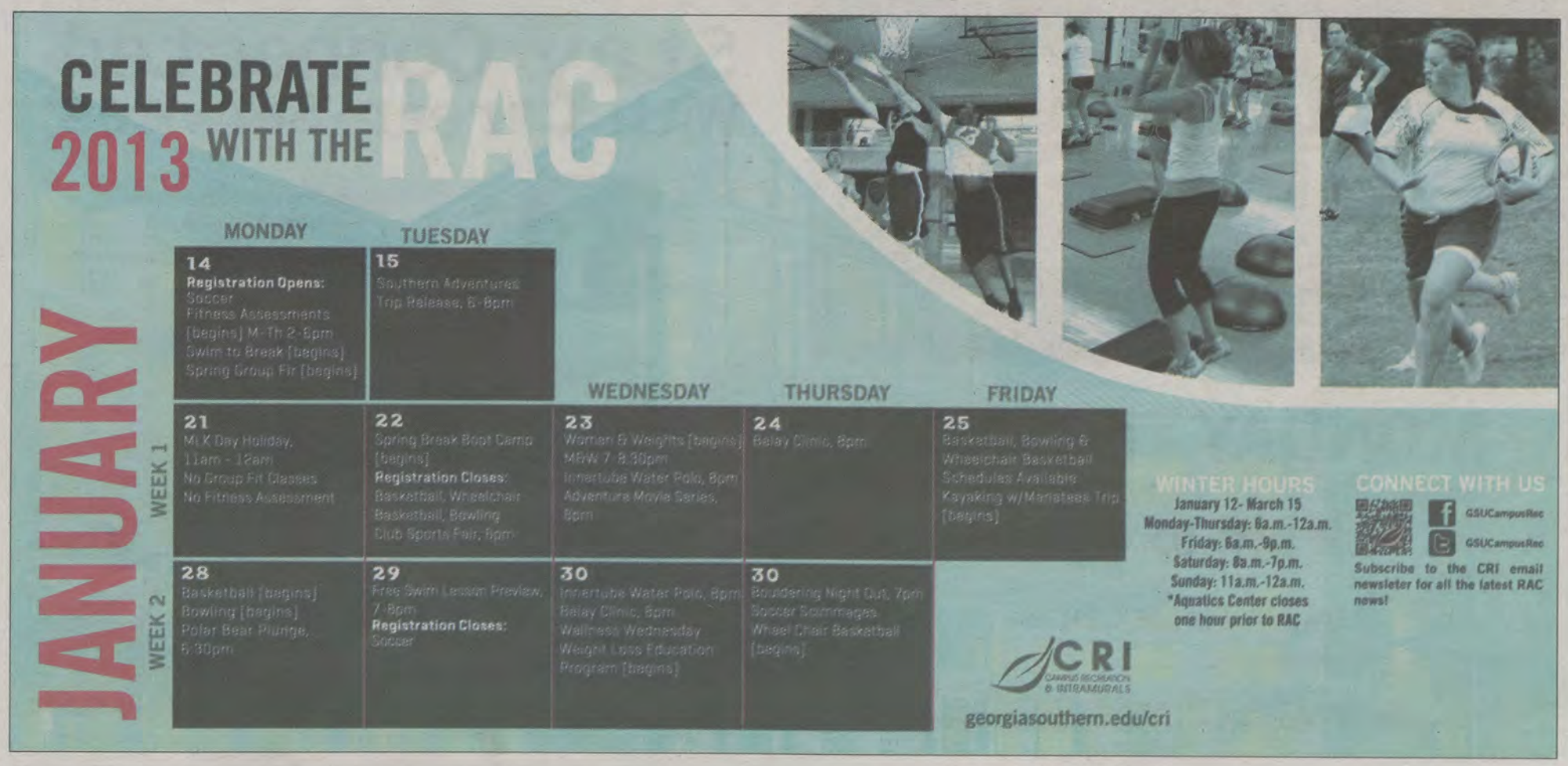
"We also offer fitness assessments where students can come in to the wellness center at the RAC and get a free fitness assessment so they can begin to set goals and get the ball rolling," Amanda Kepshire, public relations graduate assistant at CRI, said.

CRI also offers healthy cooking lessons for students this semester taught by a student studying nutrition.

Students don't always have to do formal exercises. You can go climb the rock wall or play intramural soccer; these things don't always seem like exercise, but they're great for you and relieve a lot of beginning-of-the-semester stress, Butler said.

"I think the most important thing is to make sure you do at least one thing every day, even if you're just going on a walk, it's all very important," Langdon said.

Kepshire said, "The most important thing is to get yourself to the RAC. No one regrets working out after the fact; you'll always be



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Rent a 2 bedroom with loft for New Years at Westgate Vacation Villa in Orlando, Fla. December 29-January 2. Will accomodate 8-10 people. Asking 1200 for the week. Call 912-678-1017.

Housing

Female sub-leaser for Spring 2013 in Hawthorne apartments on Fair Road. 4 bedroom / 3 bath. Rent is ONLY $275! Contact Madison for more information 770-561-5697 or mc04376@georgiasouthern.edu.

Male sublease available at The Pointe. 4 BR/4BT. Two rooms available. One at $369 / month and one at $385 / month, utilities included. Fully furnished, washer/dryer, great roommates, close to campus. Property includes pool, gym, tanning bed, computer lab, basketball/volleyball court. Contact Brian at 706-399-1860 or bb01693@georgiasouthern.edu.

Housing

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Attention Ladies! Sublease at The Forum for $476 during the Spring 2013 semester. If you like the place so much, stay after the sublease is up! Live with three great roommates and enjoy various amenities the apartment complex has to offer. If interested, contact Ashley Dotson at ad02391@georgiasouthern.edu.

Housing

Sublease at The Exchange available now! The Co-ed apartment has 4 bedrooms / bathrooms and is fully furnished. Rent is $440 a month and includes utilities, internet, cable. December rent is paid for. For more info call or text Ashley at 770-364-8262.

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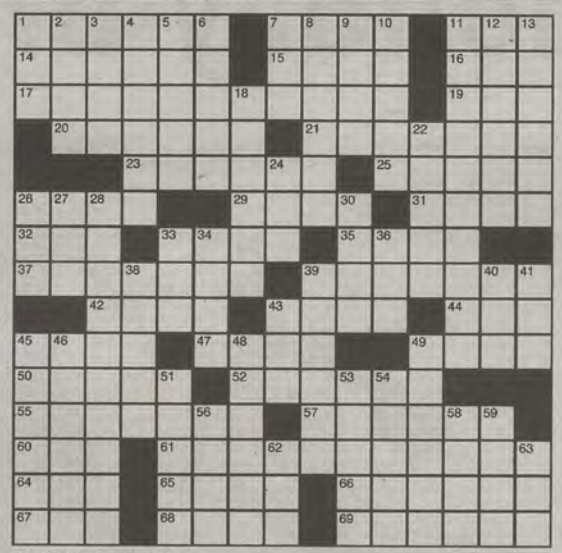
PUZZLES/COMICS

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis



ACROSS

1 Chandelier danglers
7 It's east of Yucatán
11 Nervous reaction
14 Prophet in Babylon
15 Short mystery writer?
16 Evergreen State sch.
17 Cairo's location?
19 Miss a fly
20 Get licked by
21 Place to fill a flask
23 She played Honey in "Dr. No"
25 Flood zone structure
26 Letters followed by a colon
29 [I'm in trouble!]
31 Neuter, as a stallion
32 Backrub response
33 Short race
35 "Holy Toledo!"
37 More succulent
39 Breakfast in a bar
42 Red herring
43 Paint ineptly
44 Walked away with
45 Two-timers
47 Briquettes, e.g.
49 Exclusively
50 "Aida" setting
52 Texas slugger Cruz
55 Where some manners are important
57 Sports negotiating group
60 "Need __ on?"
61 Havana's location?
64 Blue __
65 Sheet music symbol
66 Bit of roller coaster drama
67 Hosp. worker
68 Help with an answer
69 It has 100 seats

DOWN

1 Common email attachment format
2 Support bar
3 What FAQs offer
4 Shows interest
5 Filmmaker Russ
6 Mattress supports
7 Caboose, for one
8 Petroleum giant that merged with Chevron in 2005
9 Hogwash
10 Adams who shot El Capitan
11 Jerusalem's location?
12 Mount Carmel locale
13 Kept in check
18 16-Across mascot
22 Fox of "Transformers"
24 Big galoot
26 Uris novel, with "The"
27 Upsilon preceder
28 Lima's location?
30 Cole Porter's Indiana hometown
33 Bad-mouth
34 Diver's domain
36 Debatable "gift"
38 Crescent moon points
39 Tank unit
40 "OMG, too funny!"
41 "__ volunteers?"
43 What makes an amp damp?
45 Send a new invoice to
46 Marital challenge, perhaps
48 Rugged
49 Like many an extra-inning game
51 Former CBS head Laurence
53 Trades
54 Réunion attendee
56 Lunch spot
58 Novelist Jaffe
59 USAF rank above senior airman
62 Newt, once
63 Make sure

By Richard F. Mausser

Last Edition's Puzzle Solved

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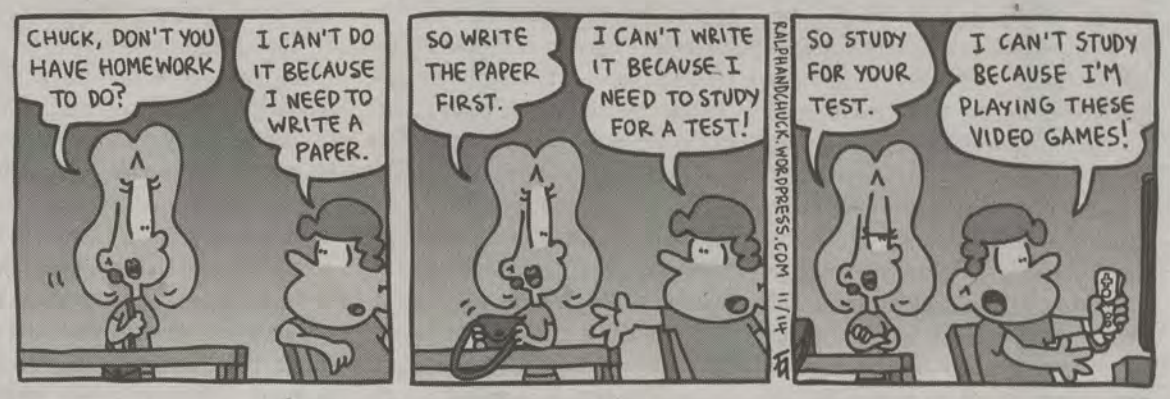

Sudoku

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			4		9			8
		4		3			1	

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Eagles go 1-8 over holiday break

Womens Basketball (2-13)

BY COLIN RITSICK
The George-Anne staff

In the nine games played over the holiday break by the Georgia Southern University women's basketball team, seven were road contests and only once did the Eagles emerge victorious.

The first two games of the break were a part of the Hatter Classic, an annual tournament hosted by Stetson University. The Eagles played the host school in the team's first game, and it was apparent that home court advantage played its part. GSU fell to the Hatters by a final score of 70-39. The following day the team was ousted yet again, this time by Bethune-Cookman University by a score of 59-48.

The Eagles then hit the road to Kennesaw to take on the Owls of Kennesaw State University. This was the squad's third game in four days. In that four-day span, a total of 724 miles were traveled between the games. The Eagles looked like they were going to control the game from early on, but a powerful second half boosted the Owls to a win by a final score of 53-39.

After the loss, the team got a break in the schedule, not playing another game until it traveled all the way to Virginia to take on both George Mason University and James Madison University. After playing arguably its most hard fought game this season, GSU still fell at the hands of George Mason by a score of 53-54 on a last-second basket. Unfortunately, the effort put forth from the Eagles did not show up in the next game in which the team was simply blown out by James Madison, 93-44.

In the first game of the 2013 calendar year, GSU lost yet another one-shot game, this time to the College of Charleston. Junior guard Mimi Dubose, leading point scorer for the team, had a layup roll off of the rim as the buzzer went off, ending the game in heartbreaking fashion for the Eagles with a score of 58-56.

The Eagles sole win of the break came in its first home game on January 7th versus the Western Carolina University Catamounts. The back and forth contest was solidified by Dubose's 20 points and her 5-5 free throw shooting down the stretch. The next game, also the final home game of the break, was again another close call in which the final score did not reflect the gameplay itself. Battling Furman University, GSU lost its seventh game of the break in a 56-42 fashion.

The last game was back on the road for GSU. The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga was the Eagles third straight Southern Conference game and second straight loss. 75-43 was the final score.

Tasha Lund/The George-Anne

Freshman guard Kiki Rawls (12) dribbles past a Floridia Atlantic player in hopes of making a goal. GSU will play in Statesboro on January 20 against Wofford.

One win in nine games dropped GSU to a record of 2-13 (1-2 SoCon). The Eagles had opportunities to grab one or two more games over the break but fell short.

Men's basketball struggles over the break

Chad Kenney/The George-Anne

Senior guard C.J. Reed (24) prepares to score a goal in the game against Davidson last night.

Mens Basketball (7-10)

BY KATIE TOLBERT
The George-Anne staff

Georgia Southern University's men's basketball team had a grueling, game-packed winter break, finishing with a 3-5 record.

The Eagles started out the break at the 2012 Continental Tire Las Vegas Classic with four tough opponents lined up for them. Starting out the classic, GSU took on the ACC's Virginia Tech and upset them with a 78-73 victory. The Eagles have not defeated a power conference team like Virginia Tech since 1992 when they defeated the University of South Carolina. Two newcomers led the Eagles in this victory, senior guard C.J Reed with 22 points and freshman guard Cleon Roberts with his career-high 20 points.

This win was not enough momentum to keep the Eagles going throughout the whole classic. They lost 62-43 against Bradley University, but then picked up their game against Mississippi Valley State University with a 63-52 victory. The Eagles finished out the classic with a 74-46 loss against the University of North Florida.

Although GSU was defeated by UNF, junior forward Eric Ferguson reached the milestone of hitting 1,000 career points, the 39th player in GSU history to do so. He finished the game with 10 points, two steals and one block. Before the Eagles' game yesterday, Ferguson was recognized for this accomplishment.

After the classic, the Eagles had three non-conference and one conference game to play. First up was Georgia State University. The Eagles took this home game into overtime, gaining a 68-64 victory. The tough victory was followed by three straight losses, one in which was conference play. GSU traveled to Alabama to play the University of Alabama at Birmingham, but ended up four points behind in a 65-61 loss.

Returning home, the Eagles once again came up short, but this time by six points in a 71-65 loss against the University of North Carolina A&T. Although, Ferguson did everything but show up short in this game. Not only was he Southern Conference Player of the Month in December, he also became the first player in the SoCon this season to reach five double-doubles. In this game, he was the leading force for the Eagles, posting 22 points and 13 rebounds.

The Eagles' final game of the winter break was also their first game of conference play. GSU traveled to play Wofford College, but the Terriers came out playing strong in both halves and defeated the Eagles 71-53. Both teams fought hard for this victory, but Wofford out-rebounded GSU and doubled the Eagles points on the offensive boards.

GSU is returning home for three straight conference games. The Eagles will face Davidson College on Monday at 7 p.m., College of Charleston on Thursday at 7 p.m. and The Citadel on Saturday at 7 p.m.

GSU looks to improve after baseline meet

Track and Field

BY ROBERT HUITT
The George-Anne staff

Georgia Southern University's track and field team entered the new year with a fresh outlook and steady approach as they traveled to Birmingham, Ala. to compete in the Blazer Invitational Friday.

The tournament was hosted by the University of Alabama at Birmingham and was the Eagles' second indoor meet of the season.

Head coach Marlo Mincey decided to take 17 athletes, which is half the team, to Birmingham.

Much like the Orange and Purple Classic back in December, this meet served as a baseline to see where the team is at the moment and how they can improve as the Southern Conference Indoor Championships approach in February.

In the 400m event, sophomore Kimberly Thomas, junior Cherrelle King and senior Amber Vaughn ran for the Eagles with times of 59.36 (22nd), 59.6 (25th) and 1:02.15 (51st) respectively.

Junior Dana Edwards, sophomore Lauren Toomer and senior Jasmine Billings represented the Eagles in the 60m hurdles.

Edwards was the best of the bunch with a time of 9.52 (42nd), followed by Toomer and Billings with times of 9.58 (46th) and 11.53 (63rd).

Freshmen Aliya Parker and Alyssa Felton gained some valuable experience while running in the 200m dash. Felton ran a 25.2 (22nd) and Parker 25.4 (42nd).

Junior Mallory Fannin, who joined the team this year, represented the Eagles in the weight throw along with freshman Jazmine Johnson.

Fannin finished 40th with a throw of 9.76m and Johnson finished 37th at 10.82m.

In the triple jump, freshmen Ashleigh Rasheed and Nia Hill had final jumps of 11.16m (19th) and 10.76 (28th).

With the Blazer Invitational now behind them, the Eagles look to Johnson City, Tenn. where they will compete in the Niswonger Invitational hosted by East Tennessee State University.

The team will travel at full strength to Tennessee.

The tournament will begin Friday, Jan. 18 at 10 a.m. and last through Saturday, Jan. 19.

Mark Barnes II/The George-Anne

The GSU Track and Field team looks to make improvements as it heads to the Niswonger Invitational.

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Thursday 1/17
"BACK TO SCHOOL: RAGE 1101" Featuring EMBUS-E starts @ 9:30pm

Friday 1/18
"THOSE CATS" starts @ 10pm

Saturday 1/19
CONNOR PLEDGER: *"BATTLE OF THE BANDS" WINNER in 2011!* starts @ 10pm

AWARDS, from page 1

Lindsay Hartmann/The George-Anne

Junior quarterback Jerick McKinnon (1) received the Team MVP award at the year-end football banquet. Several All-American and Southern Conference honors were also handed out. The Eagles finished the season 10-4 after being defeated by North Dakota State University in the semi-finals round of the NCAA playoffs. McKinnon averaged 129.8 yards rushing and 42.6 yards passing per game. The quarterback was also responsible for scoring 122 points. Senior outside linebacker John Stevenson, freshman wide receiver Montay Crockett and senior linebacker Josh Rowe also received awards at the banquet.

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Congratulations to the 2013 SOAR Team!

Cody Allen
Sophomore
Political Science
Columbus, GA

Nick Anderson
Freshman
RETP/Environmental Engineering
Newnan, GA

Keturah Bowe
Junior
Biology
Freeport, Bahamas

Natalie Buckshaw
Freshman
Exercise Science
Kennesaw, GA

Jacoby Carpenter
Sophomore
Pre-Business
Waynesboro, GA

Teyaijah Givens
Freshman
Biology
Soperton, GA

Mazi Harrell
Sophomore
Pre-Nursing
Macon, GA

Ellen Hogan
Sophomore
Pre-Business
Savannah, GA

Wyndi Kappes
Sophomore
Biology
Evans, GA

James Kelly
Junior
Marketing
Monticello, GA

Jerry King
Senior
Marketing
New York, NY

Precious Lango
Junior
Exercise Science
Milledgeville, GA

Janie Malson
Freshman
English
Alpharetta, GA

Will McKinney
Sophomore
Pre-Business
Peachtree City, GA

Colleen McNally
Junior
Journalism
Alpharetta, GA

Cydnie Mitchell
Freshman
Biology
Warner Robins, GA

Cliff Padgett
Sophomore
Pre-Business
Augusta, GA

Hannah Payton
Sophomore
Exercise Science
Summerville, GA

Caleb Rogers
Sophomore
Public Relations
Perry, GA

Sarah Brittany Sandbach
Junior
Early Childhood Ed
Augusta, GA

Errol Spence
Sophomore
Political Science
Suwanee, GA

Zac Watson
Junior
History Education
Warner Robins, GA

Carrie West
Sophomore
Middle Grades Ed
Douglasville, GA

Kayla Wilkinson
Freshman
Political Science
Evans, GA

Spring SOAR Service Project: Assist the 2013 SOAR Team by donating school supplies to help support elementary schools! You can drop donations off in collection boxes found on campus or bring them by Lewis Hall on Sweetheart Circle! For more information, visit: http://admissions.georgiasouthern.edu/orientation/.

Eagles 5-2 after defeating Darton

Swimming & Diving (5-2)

BY JACK MAGRUDER
The George-Anne staff

On Saturday, the Georgia Southern University Swimming and Diving team was in command as it easily handled Darton College, winning 12 out of the 13 events and posting an overall score of 155-71 in its home pool.

The Georgia Southern Swimming and Diving team advanced its record to 5-2 on the year.

Junior Sara Meisenhelder highlighted an impressive overall diving performance, scoring 281.70 on the one-meter dive to qualify for the NCAA Zone Diving Championships. She also beat her own old school record of 263.25 as well as the five-year-old RAC pool record of 269.01, set by the University of North Florida's Emily Eisenhower in 2008.

"Sara qualifying for Zones is really exciting," head coach Nathan Kellogg said in a news release. "We tell her all the time she's just scratching the surface of her potential. She's just extremely, extremely talented."

Sophomore Brittany Swanson also had a successful performance for the Eagles. She broke her personal records in both dives with new bests of 243.38 in the one-meter and 241.20 in three-meter.

Several other Eagles set personal bests. Freshman Lauren Campbell improved her own lifetime record by more than 15 seconds when she finished first with time of 10:45.08 in the 1000 meter freestyle.

"This meet we put people in events they don't usually swim. So they may not have swum it this year or may not have swum it in a couple years," Kellogg said in a news release. "It was kind of refreshing to do a different event for them. So I think they really got excited for it and did really well."

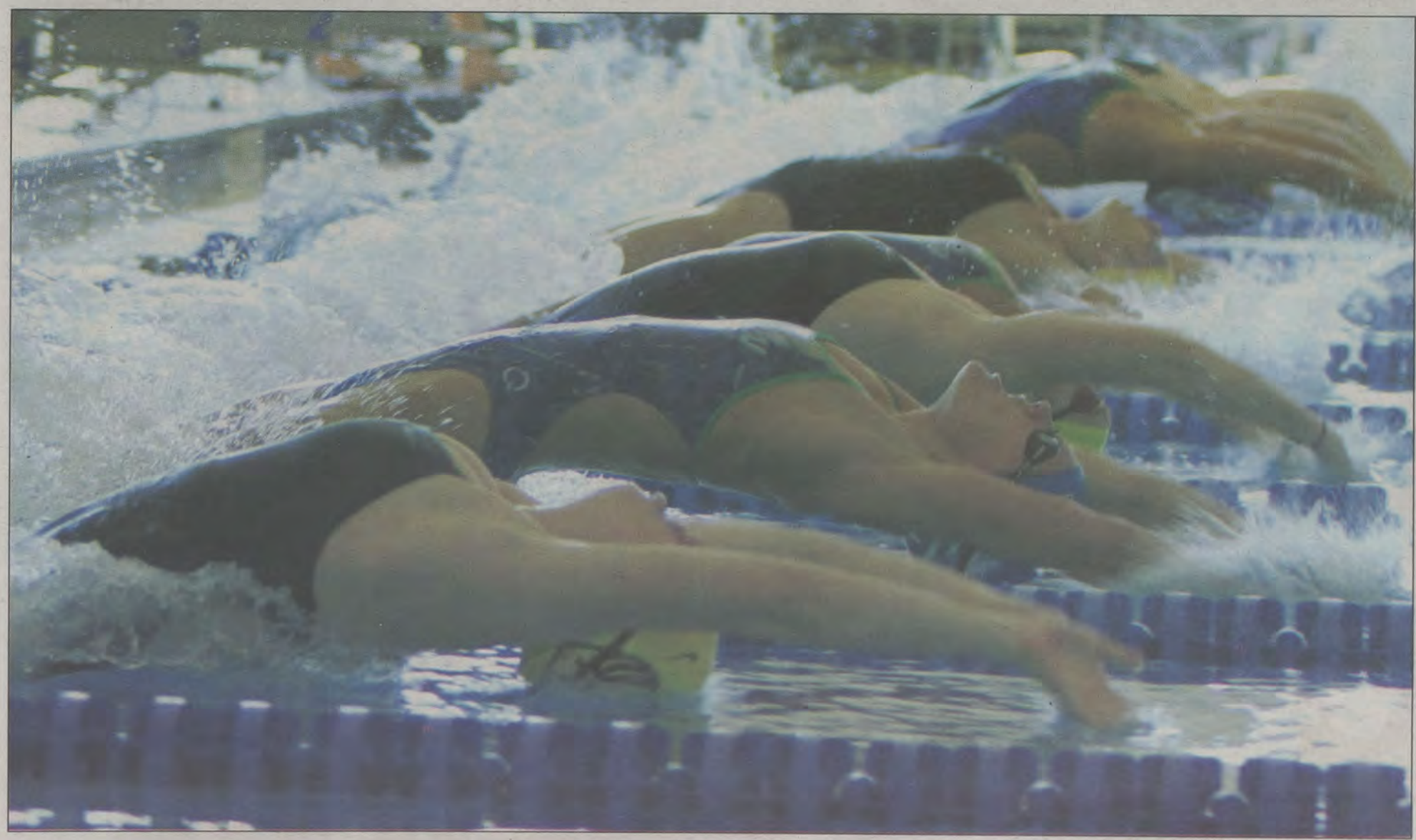
More record-breaking performances came from freshman Rebecca Alves (2:00.26, 200 freestyle), sophomore Sarah Schwartz (27.19, 50 freestyle), sophomore Megan Heller (2:11.94, 200 butterfly), sophomore Rikki Babuka (55.00, 100 freestyle), senior Pirie Humphries (2:13.07, 200 backstroke), as well as sophomore Hannah Rogers (5:19.01, 500 Free) and junior Courtney Harrison (5:19.61, 500 Free). All seven Eagles swam new college bests in their respective events.

The Eagles finished first in every event but the 200 breaststroke. Darton's Anna Macht came out on top in that race with a time of 2:25.78.

The win brought the Eagles one step closer towards the Coastal Collegiate Swimming Association Championships in February.

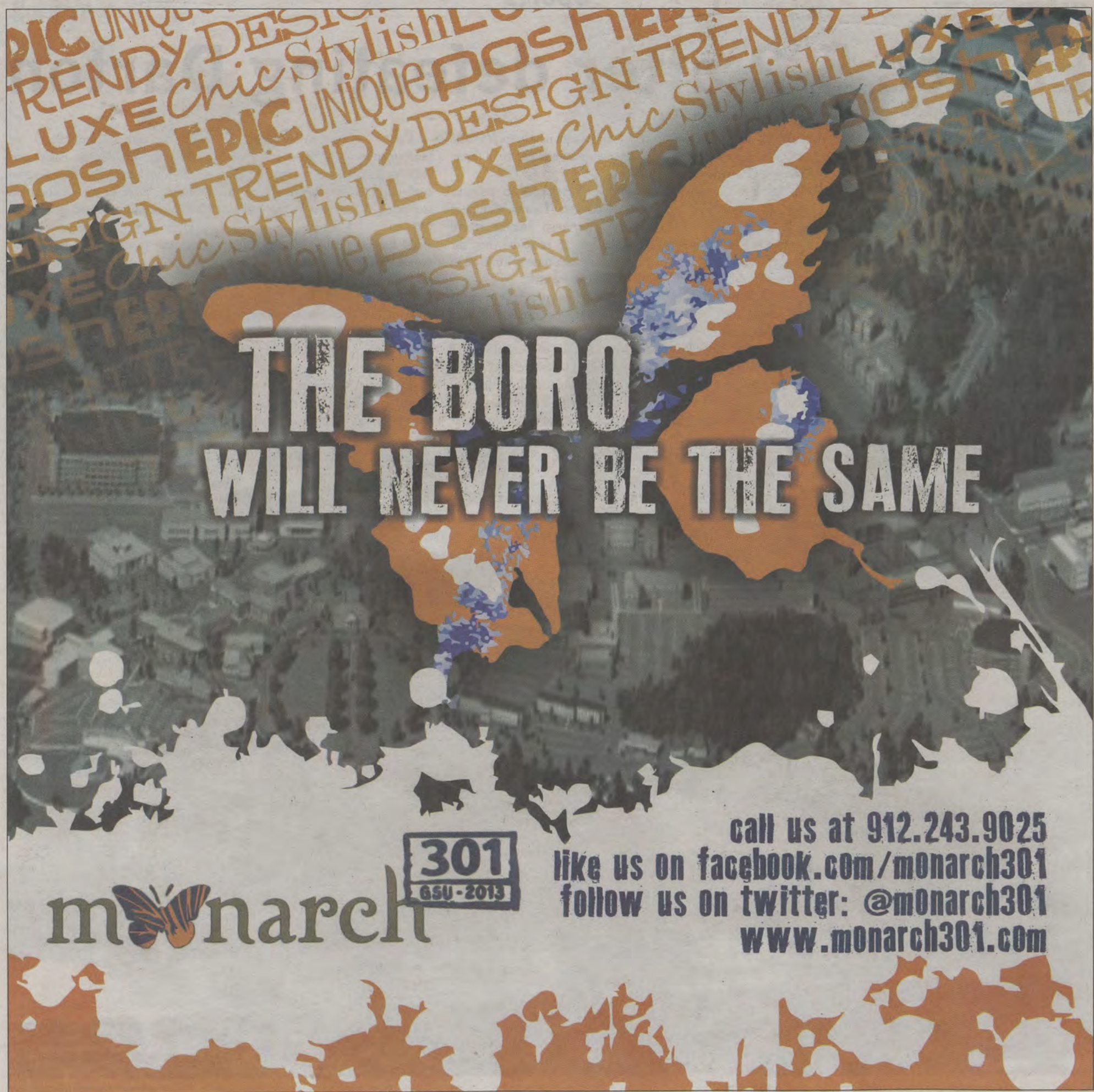
Over winter break, the Eagles competed in a tough dual meet and fell to both Florida Gulf Coast University and Liberty University, two of the conference's top teams. During the same meet, the Eagles topped North Dakota University.

The GSU Swimming and Diving team will continue to prepare when they host conference opponent University of North Carolina at Asheville next Saturday at the RAC.



Lindsay Hartmann/The George-Anne

The Georgia Southern University swimming and diving team improved its record to 5-2 after winning 12 out of the 13 events against Darton College in Saturday's home meet.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