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NICK WARD PRONOUNCED DEAD YESTERDAY

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Tuesday, Mar. 5, 2013
Georgia Southern University
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THE GEORGE-ANNE

GSU mourns unexpected loss of music chair Dr. Mercier passed while at President Keel's home Friday



Dr. Mercier

BY TAYLER CRITCHLOW

The George-Anne staff

Dr. Richard Mercier, Georgia Southern University department of music chair, passed away unexpectedly on Friday at President Brooks Keel's house.

"We are deeply saddened by the loss

of Dr. Richard Mercier. Not only was Richard a talented teacher, performer and mentor, he was also a friend. On behalf of the entire Eagle Nation our deepest condolences go out to his family and friends during this difficult time," Christian Flathman, associate vice president of Marketing and

Communications, said in an official statement from the university.

A Statesboro Police Department incident report stated that an officer responded to Keel's home in reference to a sick person. EMS arrived and Mercier was transported to East Georgia Regional Medical Center

where he was pronounced dead.

The office of President Brooks Keel will release a formal statement concerning the matter today, but yesterday the President's Office released a university update that extended its

See **MERCIER**, Page 9

SIGNING AT GSU?



Tasha Lund/George-Anne

GSU is spelled out using American Sign Language. GSU currently offers no courses in ASL, and a GSU student is in the process of forming a student club to teach others sign language.

Statesboro awaits second Music Fest

Music

BY WILL PEEBLES

The George-Anne staff

The second annual Statesboro Music Festival will feature local music, arts and one of the final three performances from jam band Perpetual Groove on Saturday night.

The three-day festival will take place March 8-10 with 23 bands and musicians to perform at the Kiwanis Fairgrounds. Savannah's local band Perpetual Groove will headline the event.

"We try to make it appeal to a broad spectrum of people. Music is the core and heart of all this, but there are a lot of activities for

children and families as well," Lehman Franklin, event director, said.

Performances will begin Friday at 5:30 p.m. with Georgia Southern University students Spencer Paul and Chris Youngblood. The two were chosen by The University Programming board to play a 30-minute set based on the notoriety they have earned through UPB's weekly Unplugged concert.

"I was approached by Rachel Mulder about performing. It sounded like a wonderful opportunity to share my music with a much larger audience than I have at shows like Unplugged,

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Nick Ward pronounced dead

GSU community mourns loss of Eagle

BY CYDNEY LONG

The George-Anne contributor

Nick Ward, a Georgia Southern University senior, was pronounced dead yesterday, as confirmed by the Dean of Students.

Ward had been in the intensive care unit at Memorial University Medical Center in Savannah, suffering from serious head injuries since a drunken driver hit him on Feb. 8.

"The Dean of Students office is

deeply saddened by this tragic loss of Nicklaus Ward today, our thoughts and prayers are with the student's family and friends during this very difficult time," according to a statement from the Office of the Dean of Students.

In order to assist the Ward family with its medical bills, the Eagle Nation, along with Loco's Grill & Pub and Gnat's Landing, banded together through benefit concerts and a raffle event to raise more than \$5,000 collectively.

In regards to the charges that the driver will face, The George-Anne reported on Feb. 12 that Trooper First Class Hutchison, investigator in charge of the accident, said, "If Mr. Ward doesn't make it, more charges will come. Serious Injury From Vehicle is a felony — it will all be based on the investigation."

Counseling services for students are available through the University's Counseling and Career Development Center.

Spree of entering auto strikes GSU

BY EMMA R. COLLINS

The George-Anne staff

AND LILLY MCCANN

The George-Anne contributor

Georgia Southern University Public Safety received 15 reports of entering auto this weekend, with reports starting late Friday night and continuing into early Saturday morning.

The thefts occurred across campus and off campus, Terry Briley, captain of Criminal Investigations for GSU Police, said.

"There were six at Southern Pines, three in C Lot, three in Eagle Village J Lot, three in the K Lot in University Villas, two in the Forum, one at GATAs and one at Campus Crossings," Briley said.

Two suspects, one white male and one black male, were spotted checking vehicles for unlocked doors, according to the statement.

The two spotted checking for unlocked doors are suspects in a vehicle theft from Eagle Village Lot J, and they were later involved in a serious, single-car accident on Gentilly Road, according to the Statesboro Police Department.

"There were several entering car thefts. They were going around checking cars. There was no forced entry," GSU Police Chief Mike Russell said.

A variety of items were stolen from the unlocked vehicles, including power cords, loose money and three GPSs, Russell said.

No one has been apprehended in connection with the incidents, Briley said.

Anyone who has information regarding these thefts or notices a suspicious person is asked to contact the GSU Police Department immediately.

Saturday, March 2

9:55 a.m.: An incident report was taken for a theft of a motor vehicle and an entering auto in J Lot.

11:30 a.m.: An incident report was taken for an entering auto at Southern Pines.

12:20 p.m.: An incident report was taken for an entering auto in J Lot.

1:12 p.m.: An incident report was taken for an entering auto at Southern Pines.

1:38 p.m.: An incident report was taken for an entering auto at Centennial Place.

1:48 p.m.: An incident report was taken for an entering auto at Eagle Village.

2:00 p.m.: An incident report was taken for an entering auto in C Lot.

2:02 p.m.: An incident report was taken for an entering auto at University Villas.

2:14 p.m.: An incident report was taken for an entering auto at University Villas.

2:27 p.m.: An incident report was taken for an entering auto in G Lot.

2:37 p.m.: An incident report was taken for an entering auto at Southern Pines.

3:15 p.m.: An incident report was taken for an entering auto in G Lot.

3:36 p.m.: An incident report was taken for an entering auto in G Lot.

4:53 p.m.: An incident report was taken for an entering auto at Centennial Place.

6:48 p.m.: An incident report was taken for an entering auto in K Lot.

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

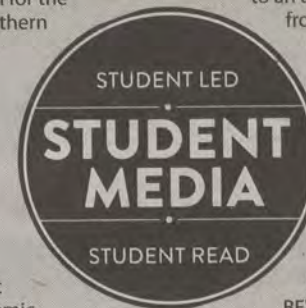
from a particular edition and its responsibility solely is to reschedule the ad in the next regular edition at the regular advertising rates.

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.

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

Our View

SGA could strengthen its presence

Georgia Southern University's Student Government Association is the students' voice to the administration and the best way for students to make changes on campus is to go through them.

SGA has the ear of the administration and faculty, and with recent concerns over the bus routes, SGA should work to educate students about its role. SGA could increase its presence on campus by brainstorming ways to reach a broader student audience.

SGA has attempted to funnel the student voice through their organization before with the Twitter account called GSU Solutions. Using social media is the right idea, but SGA could utilize it to a greater effect. Capturing the attention of the Internet generation can prove challenging.

SGA has shown that they can accomplish things that other student groups can't, such as the polls for the FBS, stadium expansion and green fees, or the vote for in what way the new buses would be made available. This influence can be pushed to the limit with informal polls, regular presence at the Rotunda and advertisements around campus.

SGA has a lot to offer students, but they have to make students aware of what they can do for them first. To get the campus' attention, SGA has to keep trying above all. Perseverance is a major part in getting the word about anything out into a group as large as the GSU community.

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 letters@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.



Mental health root of gun crime

The gun debate still rages on, with nary a solution in sight. I watched the recent Senate hearing on the assault weapons ban—yes, on C-SPAN. Yeah, I know—and many valid points were made. One of the points that struck me as pretty important was that assault-style weapons account for a pretty small part of overall gun crimes.

Handguns account for a large portion of all gun crimes, which makes sense. Many more people in the United States have a handgun, which means that a larger percentage of the population has access to handguns. This leads to the logical conclusion that handguns are the problem when it comes to gun-related crimes. In my experience, the average handgun owner is content to hide the weapons in their closet, under a mattress, pillow, or nightstand, or in a drawer. Few see the need to lock a handgun away in any

THE COOP SCOOP



capacity. The logic is not hard to see. You want a handgun to be accessible to you for self-defense, however it is more important to make it inaccessible to those who would use it to harm.

Another aspect of the problem to consider is the mental health of the criminals. The vast majority of those guilty of gun crimes had an untreated or mistreated mental illness. America's mental health system has long been a point of criticism for news commentators and other nations, and

with good reason. The mental health industry is large, but not large enough. The laws regarding patients in mental health facilities are not very strict, either. A mental health facility is only allowed to keep patients for a certain amount of time against their will, regardless of whether they are fit to rejoin society or not.

The sensible thing to do would not be to fight uphill battle, such as is being fought now, but to take your victories where you can get them. We know that it would be nearly impossible to disarm the American people, but attacking the root of the problem will produce results. Expanding and improving America's mental health system will benefit the most people in the shortest time.

Cooper is a junior journalism major from Rincon. He is the Opinions Editor.

The GOP does not get it

Last week, the Conservative Political Action Committee released the names of the speakers they selected to speak for their annual convention. These speakers are given the task to rally the conservative movement and provide a path for the Republican Party. Many people who speak at CPAC are Senate or Presidential hopefuls looking to accrue support from the thousands of attendees who participate in CPAC. Those Senate and Presidential hopefuls who take the stage every year at CPAC represent the direction the conservative movement is headed, and when the CPAC released the list of the names of the speakers, it seemed as if they totally disregarded the shellacking they took in the past general election.

The CPAC chose people like Sarah Palin, Mitt Romney and Rick Santorum to speak at their convention this year, which I found to be a bit confusing. This CPAC thing is

A LIBERAL DOSE



CHRIS WARE

supposed to give the American people an idea where the conservative movement is headed, not where it has been. Sarah Palin, Mitt Romney and Rick Santorum all had a chance to represent the American people in the White House, but the American people resoundingly disregarded all three during their respective elections. These three represent the ideals the American people voted against, but yet the CPAC is continuing to allow these "severe conservatives" to run their committee and Republican Party.

What's more shocking is the one person they did not invite to speak or even attend. New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, probably the most

respected Republican by both liberals and conservatives today, did not receive an invitation to the party. The Republican who has one of the highest approval ratings in a blue state was snubbed for out-of-touch, washed up politicians who had their chances but represented ideals that would put our country in a time machine and send us at least 40 years back into time.

The Republican Party and CPAC must realize they can no longer be this party of extremist conservatives. If they want to win anything substantial, like the White House for instance, they have to give the stage to the moderates like Chris Christie and Jon Huntsman to start a new path for their party. It is evident that they are continuing to choose absolutism over reason, and that will not help them win elections any time soon.

Ware is a freshman political science major from Griffin. He is involved in the Young Democrats.

Ignoring our ethnic pasts is dangerous

FROM THE MARGINS



ADRIANA PULLEY

Last week, The United States Supreme Court began hearing arguments from Shelby County, Ala., against section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. This section of the act bars nine states, including Georgia, from requiring that voters need any sort of prerequisites before they are allowed to vote without first being reviewed by a panel. These states are not allowed to enact any new procedures, standards or practices unless a board first clears them. This will ensure that these rules are not in any way discriminatory.

The history of this practice goes back to when states, especially in the South, were continuously putting in place new rules in order to prevent minorities—mostly blacks—from voting. For example, counties tried to impose a voting fee or require voters be able to pass a test—blatant measures to force minorities out of voting. I would not say that the people in this case are racists that are trying to prevent the minority vote, but that they are a victim of a grand lie that is being spread throughout our nation—that racism is a thing of the past.

What appears to be happening in this case is that they are arguing that we should not see color and that since everyone is the same now we do not need these laws in place, but this is a dangerous path to be on. Ignoring race is not the answer to end racism, and I believe it makes the issue worse. To ignore someone's race is to ignore their story and their experience. It is invalidating the history of their people and the struggles they endured. Practices like section 5 are there to protect people, and I can see no positive gain in its elimination for any party. We as a nation cannot begin to allow these protective rights of the people to slowly erode.

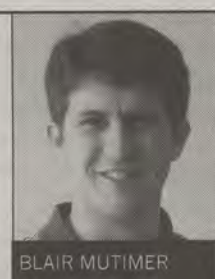
Pulley is a junior English major from Florence, S.C. She is also the vice-president of International Club.

Republicans not the problem

Our elected officials were unable to come to an agreement pertaining to spending cuts in the past weeks. This resulted in the automatic spending cuts dubbed the sequester. This is automatically cutting 85 billion dollars from Obamacare, national security and education. With these officials not spending any extra time in session, it seems as though Congress has become complacent with how they want to handle our national finances. Both parties have openly stated that they did not want the sequester to happen, that they wanted to reach an agreement through bipartisanship.

Republicans have presented plenty of other proposals that would benefit both Republicans and Democrats. The main point that Republicans are trying to implement is that they do not want any more tax increases. The Republicans have even tried pushing legislation called the Toomey-Inhofe alternative. This is legislation that would give Obama more executive power to allocate the cuts as he

IN MY HUMBLE OPINION



BLAIR MUTIMER

sees fit to do so. This is a power transfer giving him more executive power just as he's been striving to get for the past four years.

The Republican bill would make the sequester that much easier to deal with. We would still be making the necessary spending cuts but trying to do so with bipartisan compromise. The bottom line is that Democrats do not want the sequester to be any easier to deal with, despite any type of work towards making a deal. Sperling, the White House's top economic advisor, has rejected several plans that have been backed by Republicans, stating that no compromise will be reached unless Republicans agree to tax increases.

I guess they think that our increases from earlier this year weren't enough or that the promises that Obama made saying that he wouldn't increase our taxes didn't mean anything.

Democrats on Capitol Hill want to hold this over the Republican Party, stating that we are extremists, or that our lack of compromise is the sole reason that these automatic spending cuts are taking place. Republicans want to make the sequester better because with the cuts that are going into our national security budget we would hardly call these automatic cuts a victory. Republicans can only do so much without the Democrats willing to give up a little as well. If we're willing to let Obama pick where the cuts are placed and they still don't agree to the legislation, then Obama can't blame us for the sequester.

Mutimer is a senior construction management major from Augusta. He is involved in the College Republicans and has worked on political campaigns in Augusta.

Letters to the Editor

Ware wrong about weed

Dear Editor,

I would like to address Mr. Ware's weekly "Liberal Dose" column. I have several qualms with the "Marijuana Legalization Can Only Help" article. He notes that the law prohibiting the use/selling of marijuana only "kill[s] freedom" and "inhibit[s] the pursuit of happiness." I beg to differ. The use of marijuana actually inhibits the freedoms of others as it inhibits the user's judgment.

According to a recently updated (December 2012) report from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the use of marijuana causes "distorted perceptions, impaired coordination, difficulty with thinking and problem solving, and disrupted learning and memory." These impaired judgments affect those around the user. This does not mean everyone feeds into your proclaimed stereotype of "drug-crazed

zombie" people. It is simply a fact.

From the general argument that an intense level of THC to the brains of marijuana smokers is harmful to themselves and potentially others, there are other flaws in your argument. If the war on drugs is a "failure" as you claim, then how can you also note that "a staggering 51 percent of federal inmates were...drug offenders?" Obviously the streets were ridden of those 51 percent of non-law-abiding citizens, correct? Regardless of whether or not these criminals are violent, the fact of the matter is that they broke the law. Of course there are "drastic changes in prison populations" if a law is drastically, constantly broken. Theft is often non-violent. Should theft be legal? These people aren't receiving death penalty; rather, they are serving the time owed to society for their choice to break the law as it is. Please do not overlook the fact that this is an "actual crime," though

you've claimed it isn't.

You also claim that focus has left "real lawbreakers" such as "murderers, sex offenders, (and) thieves" and been placed on drug abusers, but this is also a misleading, biased assumption. No law has chosen to blatantly ignore a murder in pursuit of a drug dealer—the two are independent cases.

The fact that selling a drug that is illegal is just "good business" is an awfully grand idea. Women and children are sold into sex around the world daily, this is a lucrative business if I've ever seen one. Should we also "cash in" on that?

I do not mean to sound incredibly harsh to your writing. I appreciate hearing different views on different issues, and I thoroughly enjoy reading your column.

Aubrey Trevathan
Freshman public relations major
Kingsland

Traditional family is not only option

Dear Editor,

Great Americans like John Wayne Gacy, Jr., Bernie Madoff, Jeffrey Dahmer and Jared Lee Laughner are testimony to the success of the nuclear family embraced by Blair Mutimer in his Thursday column for The George-Anne. Sure John Wayne Gacy, Jr. was a pedophile clown who murdered people, but he was also a successful businessman. Is this because he had both a mom and a dad? Since I have no evidence to support this I'm going to answer with an emphatic yes. If it wasn't for his mom and dad, Gacy would have had a part-time job in addition to his clown murdering pedophilia or even worse—he would have been forced to require payment to clown around, limiting his victim pool.

Bernie Madoff engineered the greatest Ponzi scheme ever, but think about it: it was the greatest Ponzi scheme ever. I'm sure if Madoff was raised by a single mom his Ponzi would not have been that great. Now I know Jeffrey Dahmer was a horrible cannibalistic murder, but he did do wonders to advance the cannibalistic culinary experience. Would Dahmer have been able to advance cannibalistic culinary technique if he had two dads? I think not. You might say what about Jared Lee Laughner, didn't he murder a 9 year-old girl? Why yes, yes he did. However, Laughner also shot a Congresswoman and murdered a federal judge gaining global infamy. I highly doubt one could gain such admonishment after being raised by two dads.

Think of what greatness these losers

could have accomplished: Bill Clinton, Barack Obama, Halle Berry, Samuel L. Jackson and Eric Clapton. How will we ever know what these poor souls could have accomplished if they were raised during their childhood by both their birth mother and birth father? We will never know because these poor souls were subjected to "harmful" family structures. These presidents, Academy Award winning/nominated actors and a Grammy winning performer have missed out on so much.

The mind-numbingly fact-less filth pumped out by Blair Mutimer shows that he needs to work on his research skills.

Marc Lawrence Silver
Senior economics and political
science double-major
Johns Creek

Seeking a new kind of speaker

Harvard University has announced the latest in a long line of famous, world-changing commencement speakers. This May's graduates at Harvard will hear the words of Oprah.

It's only fair that one of the most prestigious institutions in the country hosts a woman more powerful than most world leaders. Of course, Georgia Southern University probably can't muster anyone as big as Oprah, but that can't stop us from getting someone interesting this year.

I don't want to degrade any of Georgia Southern University's past commencement speakers, but I don't think any of them are known across the world by only their first name.

And let's face it, most commencement speakers say the same thing. It's all stuff about how we have our lives ahead of us, and how we are the future leaders of America. If we're lucky, they slip up and replace the word "success" with "sex."

Basically, someone that makes more money than any of us gets paid to pretend we aren't going to get middling, boring jobs in suburban America.

I'm graduating this May, and if we can't get someone as big as Oprah, let's at least get someone unique.

ALEX
THE
PRETTY
GOOD



ALEX LASALLE

Give us someone honest. Give us someone who will stand up behind the podium and tell us that our best years are probably behind us. Let them tell us that we have to work a 9-5 to put food on the table from here on out.

Okay, that might not be the best speech to hear, but it would be a change of pace. That's what we need—something different.

We could have a robot give the commencement speech. It's memorable, entertaining, and a robot can probably give better life advice than most people I know.

Another good idea would be to bring back someone dead to speak, hologram-Tupac-style. I wonder what Abraham Lincoln would say to some GSU graduates, aside from the obvious "Holy crap you guys have airplanes!"

I realize that probably won't happen, but my point remains. Give us something special for graduation.

LaSalle is a senior writing and linguistics major from Cumming. He is the current Arts & Entertainment Chief and former Opinions Editor.

To submit a Letter to the Editor, please send a letter of no more than 350 words that includes your name, hometown, major and academic year to letters@georgiasouthern.edu.

Do you like to draw? The George-Anne is looking for a new cartoonist. The applicant must be able to draw a cartoon twice weekly that addresses events, happenings or common experiences among GSU students.

Student seeks to fill ASL void at GSU

BY CYDNEY LONG

The George-Anne contributor

Jessica Stanfield has been interested in sign language ever since a deaf family member heard the ocean for the first time after a cochlear implant surgery.

"It was such a humbling experience," Stanfield said. "So many of us take being able to talk and hear for granted, so I want to help others learn to appreciate these things."

Stanfield, a junior journalism major, is looking to start an American Sign Language club at Georgia Southern University in fall 2013 to benefit not just deaf culture, but students as well.

"Signing is a very emotional experience. We escape from our troubles by listening to music or telling our friends about our problems, but people who are deaf cannot," Stanfield said.

Since October, Stanfield has been

working with a couple of friends to get the club started.

"We're still trying to get the club approved by the Dean (of student's) office," Stanfield said.

The club, if approved, will likely meet once a week for an hour starting with simple communication, then advancing within the language over time.

"If we don't get approved, I will most likely start a personal sign language club," Stanfield said.

The club would be completely free and would use existing books and websites to help with outside practice, Stanfield said.

GSU does not have motivation to offer ASL classes due to a lack of funding and demand, Dr. Eric Kartchner, department head of the foreign languages department, said.

"The reason we don't offer sign language is because our undergraduate program is

designed for preparing teacher candidates to teach students with mild disabilities," Betty Nelson, instructor with the department of teaching and learning, said.

These mild disabilities include intellectual disabilities, emotional behavior disorders, autism, specific learning disabilities and significant developmental delays, Nelson said.

A continuous flow of about 100 students interested in ASL each semester would be a good start to implementing sign language courses.

"In five years, only three students have asked about sign language," Karchner said.

There is newer, better technology out there, but there will always be that one person the technology does not work for, and learning to communicate with that one person could change not only his or her life, but yours as well, Stanfield said.

Stanfield said that ASL is a dying art,

and she just wants people to understand the importance of communicating with others in a language they understand.

"Sign language uses muscle memory, and I sometimes use it when I study to better remember definitions and vocabulary," Stanfield said.

In Georgia, ASL tracks that include more than two classes are offered at Valdosta State University, the University of Georgia and Georgia State University.

VSU is the only college in the state to offer ASL interpreting as a Bachelor of Science in Education degree. This curriculum can be completed on campus or online using videoconference and webcams, according to the VSU website.

According to the Georgia Southern website, earlier this month the Continuing Education Center of GSU offered a beginning sign language course at the Coastal Georgia Center in Savannah.

Locks of Love donors to choose who takes the snip

BY EMMA R. COLLINS

The George-Anne staff

Locks of Love will host an event where students can snip away at a friend's head of hair for more than just laughs but also for children who are in need.

Georgia Southern University's Child Life Organization is hosting a Locks of Love event on March 28 at 6 p.m. in the School of Human Ecology building.

"Hair, mainly for girls, is something that makes us feel unique and beautiful. Donate your hair to let someone else feel beautiful," Caroline Greene, president of Child Life Organization, said.

Locks of Love's mission is to provide children under the age of 21 who are suffering from medical long-term hair loss with hairpieces that will return a sense of self to the children, Lauren Boothby, communications director for Locks of Love, said.

Lauren Amason, Child Life Organization's volunteer coordinator, is helping to organize the event and is

planning to donate her hair.

"It will be the week after Spring Break, time for a change. Come see the effect that cutting your hair can have for a child. It can change their lives," Amason said.

"Some of us are lucky enough to be able to grow long, beautiful hair. It means the world to these children, helps them feel normal at a time like this," Boothby said.

Stylists from Bella Vita Hair Salon will be on site for the event to oversee the haircutting process.

"Jason Youngblood at Bella Vita has offered to come and oversee the cutting of the hair. They're also offering free styles to people who donate their hair. You'll get a free haircut, style and T-shirt," Amason said.

One unique feature about this event is that a person of your choice can cut your hair once a stylist has prepped it, Greene said.

"If you have someone you want to cut it—maybe someone close to you who is

a cancer patient, cancer survivor or has alopecia—they can cut it for you," Greene said. "It will make it more ceremonial or special."

Alopecia is the loss of hair that has various causes such as damage to hair follicles or shafts and fungal infections.

"The finished products are custom-made prosthetics, not wigs," Boothby said.

Each prosthetic will be designed specifically for the person in need and does not require glue or tape. A vacuum seal relieves children of the anxiety of having their hairpiece pulled off because the hairpieces can only be removed by the wearer of the prosthesis, according to the Locks of Love website.

The event is open to both students of GSU as well as the community of Statesboro. Both males and females are encouraged to donate their hair to Locks of Love.

Greene said, "Some people say they've never felt as free as when they donated their hair."



Hair can be colored or permed



Hair must be 10"-12" long



Hair must be free of bleach and No dreads will be accepted

Jose Gil/The George-Anne

Greener roads to come from scrap tires

BY ALANNA NAVIN

The George-Anne staff

A Georgia Southern University research team will use a unique device that simulates years of weathering in its search for an improved way to make rubberized asphalt.

The device will be the only known device of its size, capacity and caliber in Georgia and potentially the United States, utilizing all the latest technologies in lighting, water purification and monitoring, Spencer Harp, a GSU graduate with a master's degree in applied engineering and member of the research team, said.

"This research could revolutionize the way we build our roads," Harp said.

"The device is being designed to simulate years of outdoor exposure to the elements in an accelerated time, potentially simulating years of natural exposure in just a few weeks," Harp said.

It will mimic increased levels of UVA and UVB radiation exposure levels while sporadically providing condensation, direct water spray and alternating the temperature of the test chamber.

"The device is scheduled to be completed mid-April and testing will begin," Harp said.

"What we are going to do is try to make durable green materials using crumb rubber, which is a product from scrap tires," Dr. Junan Shen, professor of engineering, said.

"It saves money. It's cheaper than traditional asphalt. From what we found so far, the durability is pretty much the same as regular asphalt, so you are getting more for your money. It is also environmentally friendly," Matthew Earnest, senior civil engineering major, said.

Compared to the sound of tires on regular asphalt on highways, studies have shown that the noise pollution from tires on rubberized asphalt is greatly reduced, Earnest said.

Nine million rubber tires are

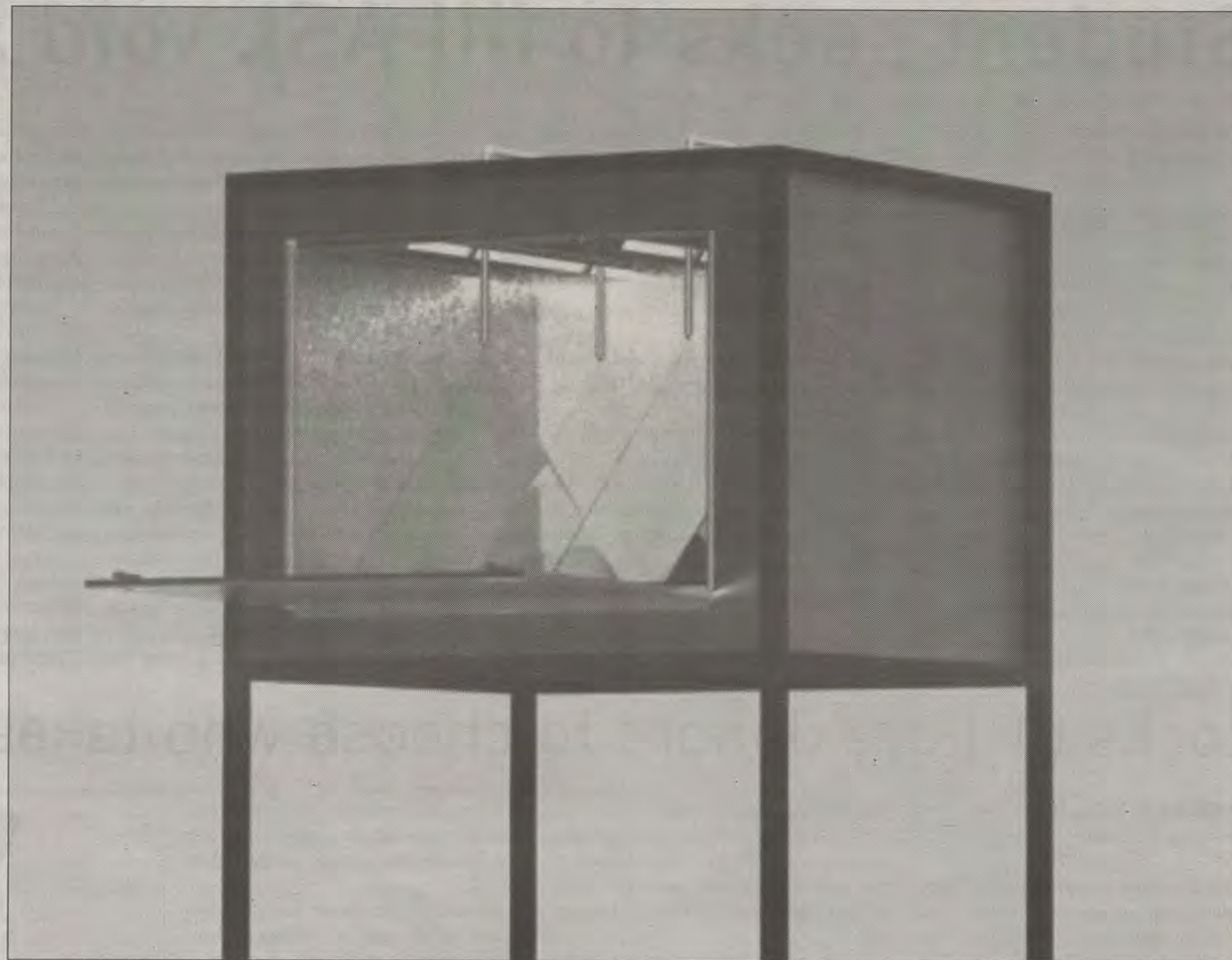


Photo courtesy of Spencer Harp

The device developed by Spencer Harp, a GSU graduate, is used to test the UVA and UVB radiation exposure of the different crumb rubber mixtures.

produced a year, and a problem that has emerged is how to recycle the tires, but one way to use the scrap tires is to convert the tires into crumb rubber, which is then used to modify asphalt, Shen said.

The classified technique to make crumb rubber from scrap tire is produced from the team's own research, Shen said.

"Right now we are in the asphalt lab where we are making different mixtures of the asphalt of the crumb rubber. The different mixtures are based on different percentages of the rubber when added in," Andrew

Mahfood, senior civil engineering major, said.

"The asphalt is made and tested in a machine called the (Dynamic Shear Rheometer). It tests the failure temperature of the asphalt," Mahfood said.

Failure temperature refers to the amount of heat that pavement can take. The higher the failure temperature, the better, Shen said.

Crumb rubber mixed with asphalt is hard to work with, so an additive called VESTENAMER® trans-polyoctenamer rubber is mixed into the solution to make

the asphalt easier to pave, Mahfood said.

When rubber is added to the asphalt binder (the binder "glues" the asphalt and the aggregate particles together), the rubber sucks up the oil in the binder, making it thick and hard to pour. This additive enables a chemical reaction between the rubber and the asphalt binder allowing the two to react. When the reaction happens it is supposed to make the mixture thinner and easier to work with, Earnest said.

"Rubberized asphalt in the lab

is fine, but when you get out in the real world and you are trying to pour asphalt on roads it's really hard to work with," Earnest said.

"We are doing research on this additive, seeing if it affects the durability of the asphalt, seeing if the durability stays the same," Earnest said.

Shen said, "This project has two benefits. One is we can make asphalt durable and make the pavement last longer, thus saving money in maintenance. Another is to find really practical ways of dealing with the nine million wasted tires."

MERCIER, from page 1

deepest sympathies and concern to Dr. Mercier's family, friends and colleagues.

Mercier has been a part of GSU faculty since 2008 as a chair of the GSU Music Department and was a well-known pianist, according to the GSU website.

A memorial service will be held in the Performing Arts Center on Sunday, March 10 at 3 p.m.

Memorial contributions may be made online at GeorgiaSouthern.edu/donate or a check can be made to the Dr. Richard Mercier Memorial Scholarship Fund care of Georgia Southern University Foundation.

Mercier performed as a collaborative pianist and soloist throughout the United States and other countries including Canada,

Europe and China, where he earned an open invitation for future performances and master classes.

Called upon frequently to judge at competitions and festivals, Mercier provided master classes for singers and pianists and presents at professional meetings and conferences. Mercier is the author of several articles and two books, "The Songs of Max Reger" and "The Songs of Hans Pfitzner."

Mercier received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Connecticut, a Master of Music degree from Hartt School of Music and a Doctoral of Musical Arts from the Manhattan School of Music.

Background information is provided by the Georgia Southern University website.

No further details regarding the cause of death were available at press time.

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'Up With People' brings culture to 'Boro

Fashion

BY LAURIANNA CULL

The George-Anne staff

An international performance group with over 120 students that represent 20 different countries will sing and dance its cultural heritage in "Voices" this week.

"Voices" from Up With People will be at the Performing Arts Center today at 7 p.m. The group's final performances in Statesboro will take place Friday and Saturday at Statesboro High School.

"Voices" is about the people and is constantly changing to reflect the current country or community that Up With People is visiting.

Up With People will talk about its various cultures and dances from the show on Wednesday between 4-7 p.m. at the Eagle Village clubhouse.

The group will also have workshops inside the clubhouse where the performers will discuss the issues of bullying, human trafficking and gender roles. They will also teach students some of the



Photo courtesy of 'Up With People'

Up With People is visiting the Statesboro community this week and will perform three separate times.

dances from their show.

One of Up With People's students is Katie Walker, a former student of Georgia Southern University.

Up With People's students have five goals: serve the community, perform, travel internationally, educate themselves about various countries and raise awareness about world struggles.

While in America the show will feature songs from the 60s to present day with American artists like Michael Jackson, Queen and Katy Perry, Julia Frey, promotion representative, said.

"Depending on which country we are in, we add songs from that culture. It's to thank the community. We want to celebrate the community. Because even

in Statesboro, restaurants are donating food to us since we are a non-profit organization," Frey said.

The Up With People group travels all over the world performing on stage as well as performing community service projects.

It will spend this Thursday assisting organizations in Statesboro like the Boys and Girls Club, the Averitt Center

for the Arts and the Statesboro Development Authority, along with others.

The performers in Up With People will stay with host families while they are in Statesboro this week.

Because the performers have traveled to many different countries, they each like to share where their favorite place is in the world.

"My favorite is probably the Philippines. It was just beautiful. There's such a gap between rich and poor, but they're so happy anyways. I was just amazed with the country. Plus, they had the best mangos ever," Frey said.

"My favorite country to visit is the U.S. because I am not from here. I am from the Philippines. In the U.S., there are fifty states so we're always somewhere new, and every state is different," Mikka Benbero, promotion representative, said.

The ticket price is \$10 with a student ID and \$15 for general admission. All proceeds from these performances will go toward the Averitt Center for the Arts.

Gucci Mane crowd too big for Platinum Lounge

Music

BY BRANDON HILL

The George-Anne contributor

Gucci Mane's Friday night concert changed location to the Swainsboro Fair Grounds because local authorities are concerned about Statesboro's Platinum Lounge building capacity, according to Lawless Entertainment.

The events and promotion team expects ticket sales to increase this week. Currently, over 300 tickets have been sold.

Lawless Ent. plans to host the concert at 10 p.m. The show is March 8 and tickets cost \$30 in advance.

Platinum Lounge's building capacity is a little over 800 people, Brittany Fields, Platinum Lounge bartender, said.

Platinum Lounge reaches maximum capacity during big parties and events like Homecoming, graduation and performances, Fields said.

A new promotional video for the Gucci Mane concert was released Monday emphasizing the change of location to Swainsboro, Mari Robinson, CEO of Lawless Ent. and Georgia Southern University alum, said.

This show is a much-anticipated event by members of Lawless Ent. who have promoted Gucci's

performance for the past month.

After one of last year's events, which featured artist Juicy J, students requested Gucci Mane, among other artists, Robinson said.

Robinson said that he selected Gucci Mane because students wanted to see a big name come to Statesboro.

Some students still plan on going to the event but others prefer not to make the long trip.

"I'm expecting a really good show and to be surrounded by really energetic people," Ruthie Vermong, senior psychology and sociology double-major, said.

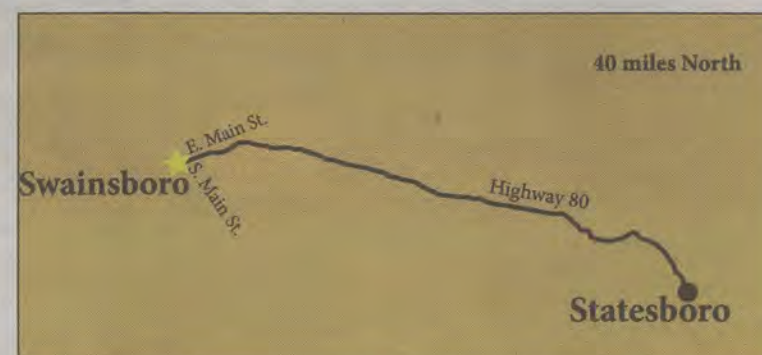
"I will not be attending," Breanna Lampkin, senior business major,

said. "I was looking forward to going, but Swainsboro is too far for me."

Lawless Ent. is a prominent entertainment group at GSU and specializes in planning and hosting

events and parties at GSU like "Stompfest 2k12" and "Blaqshion."

The group brought several artists to Statesboro in previous semesters such as Rocko, Future, Stuey Rock and Juicy J.



T'Shai Anderson/The George-Anne

FESTIVAL, from page 1

which is something I have been looking for," Spencer Paul, freshman music major, said.

The Tarlatons will play at 8:30 p.m. as the last performer of Friday night.

Saturday's performances will start at noon with Connor Pledger. GSU student band The Orange Constant will perform at 2:30 p.m.

Perpetual Groove will be the main performance later that night and will go on stage at 7:30 p.m. until 10 p.m.

"I think it's going to be really cool to play at a festival. We're also big fans of P-Groove, and it's going to be cool to play on one of their last shows as a group. It means a lot to us as a band to get to play on the same day, at the same festival and get to see them afterwards," Andrew Brantley, drummer of The Orange Constant and junior general studies major, said.

Sunday's performances will begin at noon with performances from GSU students Robby Gadd and Jake Manahan.

Other festivities will include a rock climbing wall, a local arts and crafts exhibition, a classic car show, a silent auction and a pottery class.

Southern cruisers will bring in classic cars and a helicopter is coming in Saturday, Franklin said.

"One of our visions is to make this a community event. We'd like for it to be an economic platform that has the ability to raise community awareness. We like to get behind local businesses," Franklin said.

There will also be many local art vendors, attractions and the first ever "Battle of the BoroQue," barbecue competition.

Franklin said, "We try to have a lot of different entertainment aspects so the community can get behind this."

2013 LINEUP**FRIDAY****PEACH STAGE**

5:30-6:45: GSU TALENT

SPENCER PAUL - 5:30-6:05

CHRISTOPHER YOUNGBLOOD - 6:10-6:45

7:00-8:15: EVENSONG

8:30-9:45: THE TARLATONS

RAMBLIN' STAGE

6:00-7:15: CELIA GARY

7:30-8:45: AMY TAYLOR W/ SPECIAL GUEST

9-10:15: EPIC CYCLE

SATURDAY**PEACH STAGE**

12-1: CONNOR PLEDGER

1:15-2:15: HOMEGROWN

2:30-3:30: THE ORANGE CONSTANT

3:45-4:45: BETSY FRANCK

5-6: FUNK YOU

6:15-7:15: THE DEADFIELDS

RAMBLIN' STAGE

12:30-1:30pm: EPIC CYCLE

1:45-2:45: GERALD SMITH

3-4: NEXT LEVEL ENSEMBLE

4:15-5:15: SAM SNIPER

5:30-6:30: DR. DAN MATRAZZO & THE LOOTERS

7:30-10: PERPETUAL GROOVE

SUNDAY**PEACH STAGE**

12-1:15: GSU TALENT

ROBBY GADD - 12-12:35

JACOB MANAHAN - 12:40-1:15

1:30-2:45: CATHERINE KIMBO

3-4: NATHAN SMITH JAM

4:15-5:15: GSU TALENT

RAMBLIN' STAGE

12:30-1:45: SCHOOL OF ROCK

2-3:15: DANIEL JOHNSON BAND

3:30-5: EVENSONG

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SVPH combines upscale dining with local flair

Film

BY GRACE HUSETH

The George-Anne staff

South and Vine Public House is an elegant retreat where the food takes time to prepare and has a quaint, bar atmosphere.

South and Vine Public House raised a glass with distinctive drinks to celebrate one month of business last Friday.

The restaurant is a special treat with an upscale price. However, it's worth the investment to experience the fresh local cuisine presented by chef and owner Seni Alabi-Isama.

The restaurant seems to have mastered the art of musical chairs. All the tables were full, but no guests had to wait for a seat. Patrons will see fresh cut flowers or a glass of wine before sitting down at the bar or booth.

Light music encouraged light conversation, which was only interrupted by the occasional flame from the kitchen.

The staff was attentive, and owner Alabi-Isama greeted every table to personally thank customers for their patronage. This kept up eager anticipation for the meal to come, despite an over-30-minute wait.

The whole restaurant has an old-school feel with antique details like gold ceiling tiles. Even the cocktail selection has an artful spin that echoes the past with drinks that transport you to a silent film with Old Fashions and Martinis.

South and Vine offers a worldly flair in their cocktail "Caipirhina," which is based off Brazil's national cocktail.

This leblon cachaca, fresh lime and brown sugar drink is refreshing, and can serve as a palette cleanser. When topped with mint, the taste doesn't seem as foreign but instead

CULINARY CRITIQUE



GRACE HUSETH

is reminiscent of a summer in the South.

Another citrus-based combination can be found in the "Old Fashioned Family Feud" cocktail, which represents South and Vine cocktail experimentation.

This orange-and-cherry blend has substituted the standard whiskey and bitters found in an Old Fashioned with Domaine de

Canton, Kelt Cognac and St. Germaine to further accentuate the citrus undertones.

Each cocktail is expensive at \$6, but the price can be justified if you have never tried the concoction before. The beer selection includes draft and bottles for \$4 and \$5. The wine and champagne selection shares the same price tag with \$5 for a glass but only \$20 for a bottle, and this is not the cheap stuff.

"I want wines that punch you in the mouth. That's pretty much how I feel about my food as well. If there is an addition, I want to be able to taste it. I don't want a hint. If you can't taste it, why is it there?" Alabi-Isama said.

Experiencing a restaurant with this emphasis on quality and charm is something students should consider if they are looking to celebrate in a setting where they can linger over their food with good company.

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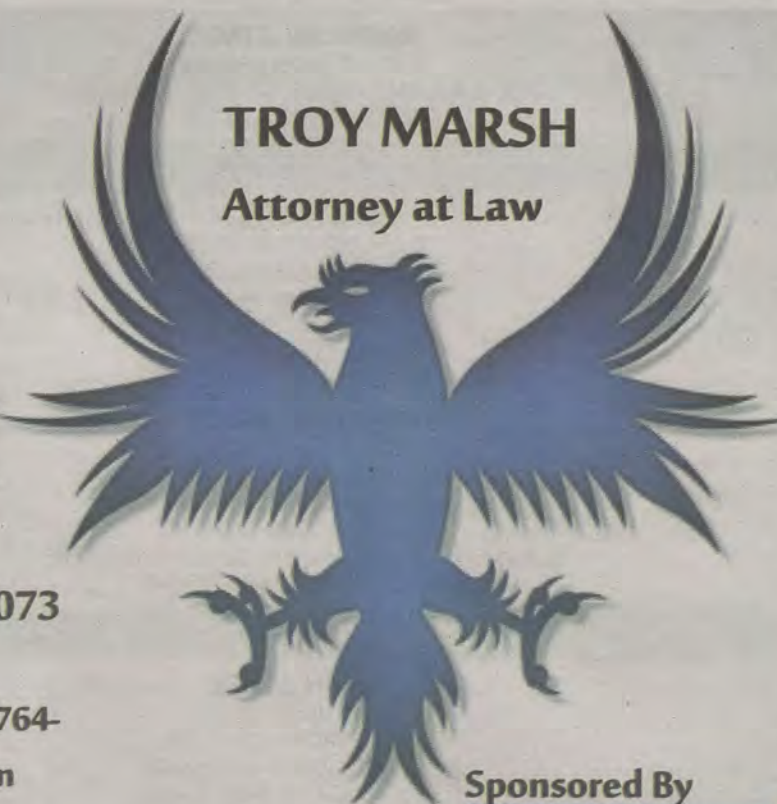
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Miscellaneous

The George-Anne is looking for a new cartoonist. The applicant must be able to draw a cartoon twice weekly that addresses events, happenings, or common experiences among GSU students. Email inquiries to letters@georgiasouthern.edu

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Victor Belmor, Associate Professor of violin 1'970-73? Do you have any memories of him? Please contact us with any information for a magazine article. violinresearch@hotmail.com.

Housing

Looking for male or female to sublease a room in a 3 BR/3 BT in The Grove! This very clean apartment is fully furnished and includes a walk in closet, pool view, gym, tanning bed and very safe location. Rent is \$445 a month, utilities included! Lease is available May-July 2013. Please email gc00665@georgiasouthern.edu if interested.

Housing

Female sublease available in The Islands for Fall 2013. 3BR/2T duplex. One room available. Rent is \$470/month: includes water, electricity, trash, cable and wifi. Has washer and dryer in unit as well as a full size kitchen. Also has walk-in closets and back patio. Unfurnished. Not far from campus. Islands have a basketball court, 24hr computer lab and outdoor pool. Lease is 12 months and starts August 1st-July 31st. Contact Sarah at sf02176@georgiasouthern.edu.

Looking for 6 month lease for the Fall 2013. Will take 2-4 bedroom apartments or house. Looking for a place close to campus. Furnished or unfurnished. Hopefully trying to get some where that is affordable. If you know of a place that fills these demands please email ja03261@georgiasouthern.edu.

Housing

Summer sublease at the Avenue a Southern for a female. Location is 7 minutes to campus and there is a bus stop, one bedroom of the 4BR/2BT apartment is available. Everything inclusive, \$319/month, May will paid and the price is neg. Property includes awesome roommates, washer/dryer, pool, gym, tanning bed, computer lab, theater, basket/volleyball court. Contact Leatitia at is00398@georgiasouthern.edu.

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, and cable. February rent is paid for, and willing to negotiate price. For more info call or text Ashley at (770)364-8262.

Housing

Summer sublease in the Woodlands of Statesboro. Come enjoy the closest complex to campus in this two bedroom two bath apartment with massive closet space and a beautiful balcony. This sublet will be available throughout the summer and includes fully furnished apartment as well as gym, computer lab and pool access. Price is negotiable. Please contact Leslie at lf00827@georgiasouthern.edu or call/text 912-276-4590.

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The George-Anne

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

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GSU offense to challenge KSU pitching

Baseball (6-5)

BY SHAKEEM HOLLOWAY

The George-Anne staff

In tomorrow's rescheduled matchup with Kennesaw State University, the Georgia Southern University baseball team will have to put the bat on the ball against stellar pitching by the Owls and their deep rotation.

In the last 10 out of 11 games this season the Eagles has been successful in scoring at least one run in the first inning, proving to be a powerhouse offense.

The Owls are a tough team, although they are currently on a three-game losing streak, sporting a 6-6 record overall including a win against the University of Georgia in a one-game matchup.

Both sides have an advantage. Offensively the Eagles excel, led by senior first basemen T.D. Davis who is batting an impressive .409 with three homeruns and 17 RBI.

The Owls, though, post a batting average of .232 on 392 at-bats, and the Eagles average .283 at the plate on 374 appearances.

Junior outfielder Bo Way leads the Owls with 16 hits, one homerun and a batting average of .348.

Comparing run totals, the Eagles' offense is light years ahead of the Owls with 76 runs scored in 11 games, compared to 46 runs scored through 12 games for Kennesaw State.

With one less game, the Eagles have 15 more hits than the Owls so far on the season.

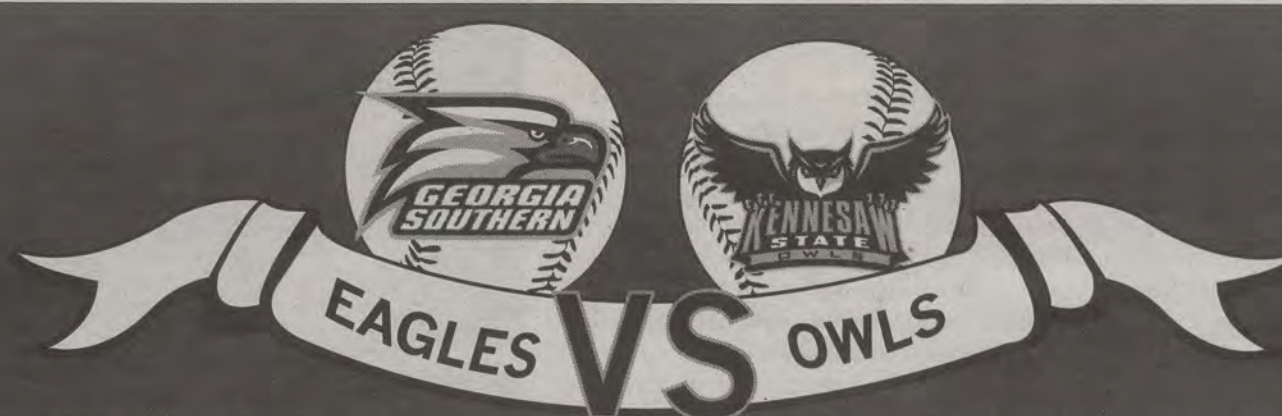
The Owls can rely on their pitching to be the catalyst defensively against GSU. Freshman pitcher Jordan Hillyer and sophomore pitcher Colton Cross have given up a combined five runs with 17 innings pitched between them.

Other than Hillyer the rest of the rotation for the Owls post ERAs over 3.00 with a team average of 3.34.

However, the Owls have only given up 82 hits and 48 runs as a team, whereas the Eagles have given up 131 hits and 79 runs.

The Eagles team ERA is 6.35, which is far worse than the average of the Owls.

Both sides have an equal opportunity to get a win on Wednesday. If the Eagles' bats remain hot they can win, and if the Owls' pitching is strong they can win.



GSU Team Batting Average .283

#	Name	Average
38	T.D. Davis	.409
18	Ben Morgan	.378
24	Scooter Williams	.333
23	Chase Griffin	.295
6	Kyle Streicher	.220

KSU Team Batting Average .232

#	Name	Average
2	Alex Liquori	.364
27	Bo Way	.348
5	Kody Beicher	.250
20	Peyton Hart	.233
33	Anthony Duran	.233

Matt Veal/The George-Anne



File Photo

Junior third baseman Ben Morgan (18) slides back into first after a pick-off move from the Xavier pitcher. Morgan holds the second-highest batting average for the Eagles.

Errors drag GSU down to 2-3 in Eagle Classic

Softball (9-10)

BY KATIE TOLBERT

The George-Anne staff

Georgia Southern University defeated Alabama State University and Florida International University but also struggled through three losses finishing the Eagle Classic 2-3.

"We know how to win. We won last year. It's just a matter of tightening up on those mistakes. When you face a good team and make mistakes they are going to capitalize on it," head coach Annie Smith said.

Day 1 sees a split

The Eagles started out the weekend with a double header against ASU and FIU, going 1-1.

GSU started out its first game on a roll with two runs in the first inning, and the game continued to progress in pairs. In the fifth inning, both the Eagles and the Hornets scored two runs, and then GSU got two more to finish off the game in the seventh inning with a score of 6-2.

This momentum did not continue into the next game, against FIU. The Panthers scored two runs in the first inning, and the game went completely scoreless after that, giving FIU the 2-0 win. Some key players in these games were senior infielder Andrea Tarashuk and senior infielder Tabby Douberley. Tarashuk finished the day with one run and three RBIs, and Douberley finished the day with two hits and one RBI.

On the defense, Smith is looking to get more reps in and work on communication within the team and offensively she wants to continue to work on hitting on the ground and hitting balls up the gap.

Day 2 a slow start, brings redemption

Right after going 1-1, the Eagles had another doubleheader, but

played Kennesaw State University to start and then finished with FIU once again.

The start of the first game went by slowly until later on in the fifth inning. KSU scored all of its six runs in this inning, and the Eagles did not make any big moves until the seventh inning. In the seventh inning, Douberley hit a two-run homerun, but the Eagles could not make a full comeback and lost 6-2.

After a tough loss to KSU, the Eagles had to face FIU once again after losing to them the previous day. The Panthers started out with an early lead with a run in the first and third inning, but GSU got the bases loaded and brought in two runners to tie up the game. In the seventh inning, senior outfielder Alexa Lewis got on base with a single, and with the help of two outs made it to third, then an FIU error brought her home to win the game 3-2.

Eagles end rollercoaster weekend with loss

Finishing out the weekend, the Eagles had to take on the Southeastern Conference Gamecocks. The University of South Carolina also started out with an early lead, getting a run in the first inning. The game went scoreless until the fifth inning when a few errors for the Eagles, and a three-run homerun for USC brought the score to 5-0. GSU kept its energy up, and in the bottom of the sixth inning, when both sophomore infielder Lexi Allen and junior infielder Kourtney Thomas got single homeruns, but in the seventh inning the Gamecocks scored two more runs, ending the game 7-2.

"When (Allen) hit it I was like, great, I have to follow that, but I was just thinking just try to get a base hit, don't try to do too much. I luckily hit a homerun," Thomas said.

The Eagles will play at home once again tomorrow against Jacksonville University at 5 p.m. and at 7 p.m.



Lindsay Hartmann/The George-Anne

Junior pitcher Sarah Purvis (00) winds up against Florida International University on the first day of the Eagle Classic. Purvis currently has an ERA of 1.49 for the Eagles.

Sun Belt makes sense, but is lacking

BY JAMES FARMER

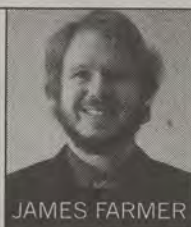
The George-Anne staff

The Sun Belt conference seems to be the likely destination for Georgia Southern University athletics at this point in time. The conference, which already is waiting on the other GSU—Georgia State University—to join its ranks later this year, is expected to vote on new members during the conference basketball tournament when the heads of the schools are set to meet March 9.

The Sun Belt conference could provide a great opportunity for the Eagles for several reasons. For starters, the fact that Ga. State is already committed to play in the conference for the next few years could lead to a rivalry that fans of this school have wanted for as long as many students have been here. Also, the Eagles have played schools such as Troy University and Western Kentucky University in the past. Middle Tennessee State, the opponent in the fabled Hugo Bowl, is still a member of the conference but is in the process of leaving.

The conference currently has eight football members and is expected to pursue several others. The desire of the conference to add several members in a

THE FARM LIFE



JAMES FARMER

short time bodes well for the continuation of one of GSU's fiercest rivalries. Appalachian State University is also looking to join an FBS conference, and there are rumors that the school and GSU have an understanding that they would try to move to the same conference.

The schools in the conference are all in the southeast region of the U.S. as well, meaning the travel budget would not be over the top, though it will be more expensive than the current budget. Schools in the Sun Belt range from south Florida with Florida International University, to Texas State University and University of Texas at Arlington.

The conference is not all roses though. The Sun Belt is plagued by a lack of national interest in its brand. A Sun Belt team is rarely, if ever, featured on a major network outside of bowl season.

During bowl season, the conference has been underwhelming. Last season it



Courtesy of clothaneagle.com

sent four teams to bowls, going 2-2. Since 2001, it has won 10 bowl games in 23 tries.

However, the conference has an opportunity to rebrand itself. Three teams formerly in the FCS are set to join the conference in June.

If the conference adds GSU and App. State, roughly half of the schools making up the Sun Belt will have moved up from the FCS in the past 4 years. Texas State, GSU and App. State

“ If the conference adds GSU and App. State, roughly half of the schools making up the Sun Belt will have moved up from the FCS in the past 4 years. ”

—James Farmer,
former Football Editor

combined won 11 national titles at the FCS level.

If ever there was an

opportunity for the Sun Belt to enter the national stage, it is with these schools.

GSU Athletic Department reveals plan

BY TREVOR MCNABOE

The George-Anne staff

Yesterday, Athletic Director Tom Kleinlein outlined five objectives for his department that include athletic and academic distinction as well as progression for the university in the new “Exceeding Expectations” plan.

The strategic plan was developed after

feedback and input from varying members of GSU's faculty, Athletic Department staff, coaches, student-athletes and members of the community.

This document lays out five main objectives that the department will focus on and also includes a mission statement and vision statement that will serve as the cornerstone of this plan.

The specific points outlined in the plan are academic distinction, athletic distinction, developing leadership, serving as a source of pride that unites all of “True Blue” and maintaining a fiscally responsible department.

“My goal for the group was to create a working document to be used by our department each day as we work to achieve its

goal of national distinction in academics and athletics,” Athletic Director Tom Kleinlein said in a press release.

With conference realignment running rampant throughout Division I athletics, having a strong and organized plan will set GSU athletics on track to accomplish Kleinlein's ultimate goal of making the Eagle Nation a household name.

Track and Field sprints to start outdoor season

Track and Field

BY ROBERT HUITT

The George-Anne staff

With the indoor season in the rearview, Georgia Southern University's track and field team began the outdoor season at the University of North Florida Spring Break Invitational over the weekend.

Freshman Keyanna Harris delivered the best result of the tournament for the Eagles with her first-place finish in the high jump. Harris jumped a final height of 1.60m (5'3").

"For Keyanna, it is always good to build confidence and get a win. We're happy for her today," head coach Marlo Mincey said in a news release.

The Eagles were well represented in the 200-meter dash event with six athletes finishing in the top-20. The best of the bunch was sophomore Kimberly Thomas, who ran a personal best of 25.31 seconds and finished eighth. Junior Aarian Tipton rounded out the top-10 with a time of 25.61 seconds.

In the 100-meter dash, senior Jasmine Billings crossed the finish line in 12.54 seconds, which was good enough for 11th and just .02 seconds faster than 12th place.

In the 400-meter dash, sophomore Jasmine Walker was the lone Eagle to crack the top-10 with a ninth place finish at a time of 1:01.58.

In the triple jump, freshmen Ashleigh Rasheed and Taylor Johnson leaped distances of 11.40m (37'5") and 10.83m (35'6") respectively, which were good enough for fourth and fifth place. Rasheed finished fourth in this event for the second consecutive week.

Rasheed also competed in the long jump and finished seventh closely behind her teammate, junior Brianna Charles, who finished at a distance of 5.30m (17'4.75").

Freshman Kelsey Chandler finished fourth in both the discus throw and the hammer throw. Chandler broke a personal record in the discus event after a throw of 39.05m (128'1").

In the hammer, Chandler's throw of 42.66m (139'11") fell short of her teammate, sophomore Alexis Jacobs' result. Jacobs finished third with a mark of 42.95m (140'11") and achieved a personal best.

There is a different challenge for Outdoor meets: the weather. All the teams had to deal with cool temperatures and wind.

"Warming up was difficult (Saturday), and you always want the wind in your favor, but in the early outdoor meets, you have to expect the weather to be unpredictable," Mincey said in a news release.

The Eagles will hope for better weather next week as they travel to Mt. Pleasant, S.C. to compete in the Palmetto Classic Friday.



Andy Morales/The George-Anne

Junior Aarian Tipton works on hurdles at practice. The Georgia Southern University track and field team opened its outdoor season this past weekend.

Campus Recreation and Intramural recent scores



Inner Tube Water Polo

The Lion-Turtles- 10, Delta Phi Epsilon- 4
Delta Sigma Phi- 11, Banana Boat Crew- 4
Dilligaf- 8, Water Assassins- 9

Soccer

Wednesday, Feb 27
Darth Maulers- 6,
Buttermakers- 2
Courtyard Crew- 6, Hinesville United- 1

The Benchwarmers- 1, Evil Pop-Tarts- 10
BCM Badgers- 4, Messi Loads- 0
Phi Kappa Theta- 1, Delta Tau Delta- 5

Thursday, Feb 28

Fire Breathing Rubber Duckies!- 2, Barbie and Kens- 3
Orlando's Reserves- 5, Angels' Devils- 4
Joe Paternos Little Kids- 4, The

Big Green- 3
The Antarctica National Team- 6, Pirate Kings- 2
Petr Cech Yourself- 4, GeoClub All Day- 1

Wheelchair Basketball

Hell on Wheels- 6, Backyard Studs- 26
Watch Us Catdaddy- 24, Dilligaf- 32
Rolling Thunder- 10, All Gold Errrrythang- 0



Lindsay Hartmann/The George-Anne

Sophomore Albert Codina Sala returns a serve in a singles match. Sala holds a personal singles record of 4-1.

Men's tennis defends home turf over weekend

Men's Tennis (5-3)

BY WILL CHENEY
AND BRAVURA BANKS

The George-Anne contributors

The Georgia Southern University men's tennis team played Wofford College and Bethune-Cookman University this weekend and did not skip a beat against either program.

The first matchup was on Saturday against Wofford. The day started off with doubles play, which the Eagles won easily. Sophomores Kyle Hoffman and Andrew Dromsky won their match 8-3, senior Matthijs Verdam and junior Oliver Webb won 9-7 and junior Marco Osorio and freshman Rayane Djouad also won 9-7. This kick started the Eagles to a 1-0 lead.

Dromsky was the first Eagle to complete his singles match as he defeated Wofford's Drew Superstein, and Webb wasn't too far behind defeating Wofford's Graham Duncan. Djouad won his match against Wofford's Walker Heffron, putting the Eagles up 4-1 and clinching the victory. Osorio and sophomore Albert Codina finished off the Terriers and raised the final score to 6-1.

"The last two years Wofford's gotten us in the regular season, so to not only come out and beat them, but it was a pretty comprehensive win," Eagles head coach Nick Zieziula said. "The big thing we have been talking about is being mentally tough and continuing with our habits in between points, and I think we did a much better job of that today than we have in the past."

Sunday's match against Bethune-Cookman went even smoother for Zieziula's Eagles. GSU started off the match by sweeping B-CU in doubles play. Osorio and Djouad finished the first and most decisive doubles match by dominating B-CU's juniors Seve Day and Juan Varon, 8-0. The Eagles' double-clinching win came from Dromsky and Hoffman by a score of 8-3.

In singles play the match was clinched with a 6-2, 6-2 victory for Webb. Redshirt freshman Carson Jones and freshman Rafael Racy won the first two singles matches to put the eagles up 3-0.

This win ended a three-game home stand for the Eagles, and next they will go on the road to Atlanta to take on the University of Louisiana-Lafayette, which is coming off a 4-1 victory over the University of Texas at San Antonio.

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Offense struggles, ends game with 35-point loss

Men's Basketball (13-18)

BY KATIE TOLBERT

The George-Anne staff

Saturday, Georgia Southern University's men's basketball team took a loss against Davidson College, ending its last regular season game 83-48.

Earlier in the season, the Eagles took on the high-ranked Wildcats and beat them 70-57, but Saturday's sequel game was not the same turnout.

The Wildcats outplayed the Eagles in every aspect of this game. GSU was having a hard time getting started in the first half, especially when it came to the team's outside game. From behind the arc, the Eagles went 0-7, while Davidson made 2-5.

The Eagles shot slightly better in the first half from the field making 30.8 percent of their shots, but this could not compete with Davidson shooting 62.1 percent from the field.

The Eagles finished the first half with 19 points to Davidson's daunting 45 points.

GSU picked up its game in the second half a little bit, shooting

33.3 percent from behind the arc. Although the Eagles improved their offense, Davidson out-defended the Eagles in every area.

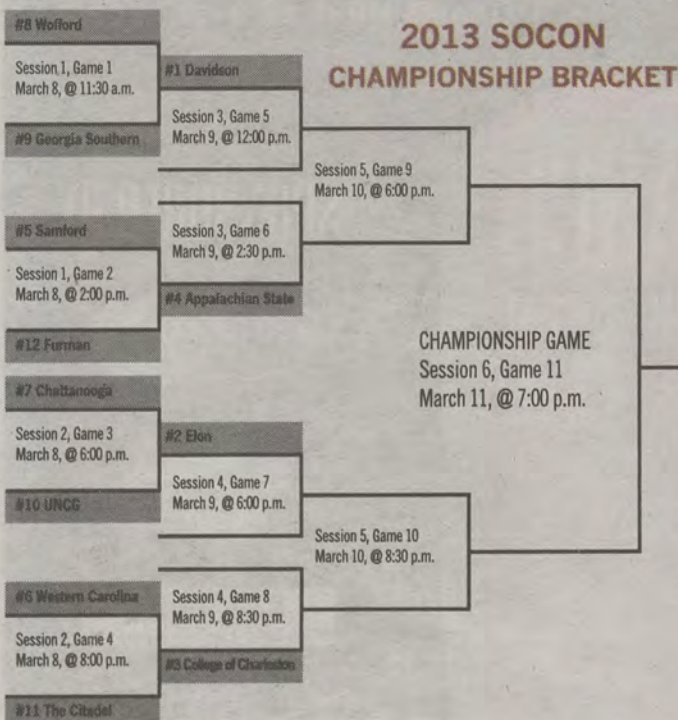
The Wildcats, compared to the Eagles, got 11 more rebounds, four fewer turnovers, five more blocks and two more steals.

GSU scored 48 points in this game thanks to the help of a few leading Eagles.

Senior guard C.J. Reed contributed 16 points with six of those coming from the team's only two three-pointers. He also posted three rebounds and two steals.

Another standout was junior guard Tre Bussey with 11 points, three assists and one steal. The Wildcats showed superior playmaking skills on the court with 17 assists compared to GSU's four assists.

Up next for the Eagles is the 2013 Southern Conference Tournament starting on Friday against Wofford College at 11:30 a.m. If the Eagles take the victory, they will match up against No. 1 Davidson again in the second round of the SoCon Championship on Saturday.



Christal Riley/The George-Anne

Junior forward Eric Ferguson (3) moves through Furman University defenders. Ferguson is the leading scorer for GSU, averaging 13.8 points per game.