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1-0 LOSS
TO NO. 1

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YOUR VIEW

Students discuss
Marcus Smart

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MONOLOGUES
RAISE
AWARENESS

PAGE 12



Tuesday, February 11, 2014
Georgia Southern University
www.thegeorgeanne.com
Volume 84 • Issue 50

THE GEORGE-ANNE

Taking a bite out of revenue

Dining hall revenue increases, others decline



With the implementation of new dining plans and the opening of new dining halls last semester, many students were left wondering how this would affect the 10 retail locations on campus, especially popular ones like Chick-fil-A and Market Street Deli. During the winter break, Eagle Dining

Services decided to close The Pickle Barrel and moved produce into The Market at Centennial. In addition to this change, Talons shortened both its hours and menu, leaving students with fewer options and the Dining Halls with the chance to bring in more customers.

SEE FULL STORY, Page 6

Heather Yeomans | The George Anne



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VALENTINE TO OUR
GEORGIA SOUTHERN
SUPPORTERS

TUES. & WED., FEB. 11-12

10 A.M.-2 P.M. AT THE UNION ROTUNDA

STOP BY FOR FREE GIVEAWAYS

Police Beat

Tuesday, Feb. 19

8:52 a.m. Officers responded to Cone Hall for a sick person report. EMS transported subject to EGRMC.

9:38 a.m. Officers responded to the Carroll Building for a report of an injured person. EMS did not transport.

10:13 a.m. An incident report was taken for found property at the I.T. Building.

8:01 p.m. An incident report was taken for lost property at The NEST.

Wednesday, Feb. 20

5:00 p.m.: Criminal Investigations arrested four subjects in reference to an earlier theft at the RAC. Arrested were:

Jimmy Rodrigues Hodges, 26, charged with criminal trespass.

Victor Jaamal Hill, 21, charged with theft by taking – felony and

criminal trespass.

Kelvin Rashad Bradford, 20, charged with criminal trespass.

Devarris Antonio Eady, 22, charged with theft by taking – felony, criminal trespass and financial transaction card fraud 4 counts.

This investigation is ongoing with additional arrests and charges anticipated.

8:44 p.m.: Officers responded to Southern Courtyard in reference to a drug complaint. One occupant was judicially referred.

11:40 p.m.: Officers responded to a fire alarm at Eagle Village. Maintenance and the Statesboro Fire Department responded. A vaporizer activated the alarm

11:42 p.m.: An officer made contact with a sick person at Watson Commons. The sick person was provided additional assistance.

Thursday, Feb. 21

9:00 a.m.: Criminal Investigations arrested a subject in reference to an earlier theft at the RAC. Mickey Demetrius Smith, 20, was charged with criminal trespass.

12:07 a.m.: Officers responded to a sick person at Cewntennial Place. EMS was notified, responded and transported the sick person. The sick person was judicially referred for alcohol violations.

12:50 a.m.: Officers responded to Southern Courtyard in reference to a sick person. EMS was notified, responded and transported the sick person. The sick person was judicially referred for alcohol violations.

5:45 a.m.: An incident report was taken for criminal trespass in the parking lot by the Cowart Building. This case was turned over to criminal investigations.

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.

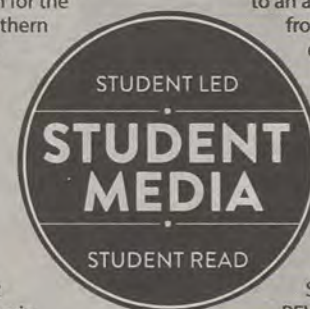
The deadline for reserving space and submitting advertising copy is noon, one week prior to the intended publication date. For more information, rate cards, sample publications, contact

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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Three murder suspects arrested

BY JENNIFER CURINGTON

The George-Anne staff

Three arrests have been made in the murder of a local woman that was killed in January.

Bulloch County Sheriff Officers found the deceased 39-year-old Joy Lee Ann Brown in Oak Hill Mobile Home Park on Jan. 26. Since then "hundreds of man-hours" were put into solving the case, according to a press release.

Autopsy results indicated that Brown was a victim of homicide, according to the release.

Randolph Johnson, Willie Baldwin and Earl Conyers were all arrested and charged with felony murder, burglary in the first degree, armed robbery, aggravated assault, theft by taking - firearm, possession of a firearm during the commission of a crime, and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

Johnson is a resident of Eagle Villas, across from Allen E. Paulson stadium, and Conyers is a resident of College Vue apartments off Knight Drive, according to the press release.

The arrests were based on tips provided by the community, dozens of interviews by investigators and execution of multiple search warrants on apartments near the Georgia Southern University campus by criminal investigators.

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

To contact the news editor, email ganewsed@georgiasouthern.edu.



Valentine's Day's meaning

I don't understand the power of Valentine's Day. Growing up, I never really celebrated Valentine's Day because Feb. 14 is my mom's birthday. So every year rather than stressing over whether or not I was going to have a Valentine for a day, I focused on my mom. We would go to dinner, see a movie or just hang out at home, but regardless, every year we were together.

This year, however, I can't make it home to see her, and this probably won't be the last time that this happens. So I'm stuck in my early 20s in the middle of February trying to put together Valentine's Day in my head.

I've always understood that the purpose of the holiday is to show someone just how much you love and care for them. This is generally the definition you hear from people who are still in the honeymoon phase of their relationship.

But for years there has been this "Hallmark holiday" argument saying that Valentine's Day was created by card companies to make money, and this is generally the response given by bitter single people.

And even still, some people simply feel that it's an outdated obligation when you're in a relationship to do something, anything, on Valentine's Day.

I see people on TV and in real life get into

MODEST FINDINGS



COURTNEY ESHER

arguments over their definitions all the time, and that's where I get confused.

Why does it matter? Why does it matter how differently everyone feels about Valentine's Day? It's just another day. And quite frankly, to all of the bitter single people, you know that as soon as you find someone that you care about, this "Hallmark holiday" will gain some meaning and purpose.

I consider myself lucky because I have a strong definition of what Valentine's Day means to me. For me, Valentine's Day is meant to be shared with the one person that you love the most at this point in life. Lucky for me, that person has been my mom for my entire life.

Esher is a senior multimedia communications digital filmmaking major from Canton, Ga.

Valentine's Day should be a time to celebrate

There is currently a sign outside the office of my apartment complex that reads "cupcakes and condoms all day on Feb. 14." Yep, it's that time of year again, when every store is coated in pink and red and everyone is suddenly much more aware of their friends' relationship statuses.

As Valentine's Day approaches, Facebook newsfeeds will inevitably be filled with an abnormal amount of engagement announcements and other declarations of love, but it will also be cluttered with comments of "I don't celebrate consumer holidays" and "why do we need a certain day to celebrate love?"

These statements are just as cliché as they are cynical and a lame excuse to avoid a holiday that could be fun for everyone, not just those who are currently in a romantic relationship.

We live in a consumer society, so there is hardly a holiday that has been untouched by the hands of consumerism. Halloween has its candy and outrageously priced costumes, Christmas has its brightly colored lights and gaudy blowup lawn decorations and Easter has its eggs and marshmallow peeps.

However, just because companies produce cheesy holiday-themed products doesn't mean that we have to buy them. Everyone is free to celebrate Valentine's Day in a way that is special and meaningful to them, so if flowers and heart-shaped boxes of candy aren't up your alley then think outside the box and celebrate in your own way.

As far as celebrating love on a designated day goes, we can say that we appreciate and celebrate love every day but it hardly ever works out that way. There are 365 days in a year, and the majority of them pass by without any fanfare or notable memories. So why not take full advantage of special days set aside to celebrate things we tend to take for granted like love?

Holidays, like birthdays, often act like

BEHIND THE SCENES



PEYTON CALLANAN

markers for certain periods in our lives. When you look back on your time in college you are much more likely to remember what happened on Valentine's Day your sophomore year than just any regular Friday.

Valentine's Day, more so than any other holiday, seems to have as many people who are dedicated to not celebrating it as those who are, which is probably due to the divide it tends to cause between those in relationships and those who are single. It shouldn't matter whether or not you are single though, a celebration of love shouldn't be limited to romantic love. This Friday should be spent appreciating all of the meaningful relationships in your life, with your friends, your family and even yourself.

If you don't have a significant other to spend your Valentine's Day with, celebrate with those around you. Have a night out with your single friends, have a Netflix marathon with that friend who is in a long-distance relationship, Skype your parents to tell them you love them and actually really miss them, or treat yourself to one of those hokey yet delicious heart-shaped boxes of chocolate.

If you are lucky enough to share Valentine's Day with a special someone, don't be afraid to embrace the holiday. Love is a wonderful and powerful thing that should be celebrated. Pessimists may balk at the idea of people actually enjoying "consumer" holiday but that won't make the day go away.

Callanan is a senior communication arts major from Chuluota, Fl. She is the current opinions editor.

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.

In defense of Millennials

We all know Millennials. The kids that grew up or are growing up with cell phones and high-speed Internet. A lot of us have siblings or cousins that are, myself included. We put them down every once in a while when we see a story on the news or hear about how a kid threw a tantrum because he had his iPad taken away. The recent news about the kid that got away with killing and injuring several people because of "affluenza" has the nation stirred up regarding the upcoming generation. The evidence does seem to suggest that the Millennials may not turn out as well as previous generations. Or does it?

Having watched my cousins grow up in the same society that I'm currently enjoying, it seems like they couldn't help but become what we describe them as. They're all the time hearing from society that they are lazy, uncaring and too attached to technology. They need to put down the tech and get out and play more. But they also need to work harder at school, and be careful of strangers, and not get skin cancer from too much sun or a disease from another kid; they should have their friends over more, but can't go to their friend's home because the parents aren't acquainted. What does a kid think when he or she has so many conflicting things that he or she has to do to be accepted by previous generations?

In the case of my two cousins, they

THE COOP SCOOP



TAYLOR COOPER

think that they really don't want to be accepted by previous generations at all. They say, "screw it," and play Angry Birds while their parents complain about how they don't get enough sun or don't perform well enough in school. When I was younger, I would have done anything to have my older cousins think I was cool, but these two don't care at all.

There are a lot of reasons for this, most are boring and I don't have the space to write about them. I encourage everyone to treat the newest generation not like Millennials, but like people. The majority of them aren't lazy, affluenza-ridden technophiles, and everyone should remember that before disparaging an entire generation that has yet to have an opportunity to really prove its worth.

Cooper is a senior journalism major from Rincon. He is the Copy Chief.

The importance of writing

Writing is considered a crucial center upon which your intellect, your communication skills and your creativity will grow. This has been stressed since first grade and is still with us in our college studies—I can guarantee it will be used in all of our professional careers. At some point in our job we will write résumés, e-mails, reports, theses, research papers, and maybe even books.

Considering how important writing is I still hear people in the hallways complain about a two-page paper they have to write. I've heard people say that they cannot write well—they're probably right. You need to take the time to write if you want to improve the craft—you need to read a book and study how famous, published, successful writers have molded their craft. It's the same with math, science or history. How can you get good at a skill if you've never studied or practiced?

Georgia Southern University has a lot of places you can work on writing—the most well known being the Writing Center. The students that work there are trained to help you improve your writing and your craft to get the greatest grade you can earn.

There are also plethoras of clubs on

THE WRITE STUFF



JAMES DEVLIN

campus, like the Writer's Guild, that will encourage your practice. Also, the English and writing professors here are extremely personable. If you show the drive to improve your writing they will make time to see you and help you improve—they want you to succeed with that two-page paper.

Instead of wasting your time complaining or shrinking in fear over a two-page assignment try to get it done with zeal, be proactive about your writing. Write in a journal whenever you have free time—it can be an essay, a short story or even a poem. I can promise you that writing is one of the most important skills for your professional life.

Devlin is a junior writing and linguistics major from Lawrenceville.

What you can learn from the realities of reality TV

We all have our guilty pleasures. For some of us it's junk food, for others it's fashion and then there are those who are addicted to video games.

Mine, unfortunately, is reality TV, or what my friends and I affectionately call "ratchet TV."

If there is a reality show on you can be sure that I watch it, whether it be all of the "Real Housewives" franchises, "Keeping Up with the Kardashians" and its spin-offs, "Love & Hip Hop," "Cake Boss," "Teen Mom" or even down to the more obscure ones like "Dance Moms."

For some reason that I cannot explain I have an undying need to watch the somewhat scripted and staged drama of what happened in lives of people that I will never know. There is just something about being able to watch people do crazy things that you would never in your wildest dreams do in your own life. The chaos just draws me in like a moth to a flame. It's almost like a drug.

Especially when the alternative is getting

ERINN IT OUT



ERINN WILLIAMS

your face pummeled in front of millions of people. Avoid that at all costs.

That being said there are a lot of problems with reality TV and the perceptions and stereotypes that it creates, but I can say that there are good things that you can take away from it.

One: tell the truth, because your lies will come out eventually.

Whether it is during the season or at the highly anticipated reunion the truth will be laid out on the table.

It's the same for real life. Lies just always find a way to be brought out into the open

and when they are it is catastrophic.

Sure you probably won't have a bottle of wine poured on your face and your girlfriend of 12 years won't fight you when she finds out that you are actually married to another woman, but something will happen.

In all situations it is in your best interest to tell the truth.

Two: keep the right group of people around you.

When you are at your lowest point you need to make sure that you have people who truly care about you there to support you.

Even if they are helping you plot revenge on the rest of the "Bad Girls Club" or talking you out of drunkenly running down the boardwalk screaming "Where's the beach?"

Have people in your life who are supportive of you, and I promise things will be a lot better.

Three: the grass isn't always greener on the other side.

On many of these shows we watch celebrities and millionaires struggle through mental health issues, health problems, drug addictions, family problems, divorce after divorce and money issues.

They are just like you and me except, you know, we don't have cameras in our faces everyday. Like they always say money can't buy you happiness or, apparently, class and better-fitting clothes.

Stardom is in no way an escape from the trials and tribulations of life, it's just a way to have them magnified for the entertainment of the world.

You shouldn't envy someone else's life because you never know what they had to go through to get there and the struggles that they are still facing.

Williams is a sophomore writing and linguistics and French double major from Winston. She is currently an Arts & Entertainment reporter

Eagle Dining sees revenue shift from new meal plans

BY JACKIE GUTKNECHT

The George-Anne staff

Beginning in July of 2013, retail locations such as Starbucks and Chick-fil-A began to see a considerable drop in revenue compared to past years, while the Dining Commons and Lakeside Dining Commons saw a spike in revenue.

In the past seven months, Eagle Dining Services had a total revenue of over \$17.7 million. Nearly 89 percent of that revenue came from Dining Commons and Lakeside Dining Commons alone.

The revenue at retail locations, such as Starbucks and Chick-fil-A, has gone down since the new meal plans have been put into place.

Jeff Yawn, executive director of Eagle Dining Services, said that the new meal plans give students more flexibility of not only when they can eat, but also how much money they have to spend at the location. The old meal plans required students to spend a certain dollar limit, or else it was wasted.

The new meal plans were made to allow students to use the retail locations at their own discretion, so their decisions on where to eat dictates the success, Yawn said.

"You couldn't go to Starbucks and get just a latte without losing money," Yawn said.

There is not the same amount of foot traffic as before and some locations have been more affected than others, Mark Braswell, director of retail brands and catering, said.

"Places that do not accept meal plans, like Einstein's, Market Street Deli and Talons, they've all suffered from the new meal plans. A lot of students are less willing to go there," Candice Gary, senior music major, said. "But places like Landrum [Main Dining Commons] and Lakeside have thrived because most of the freshman love the buffet, so it is unlimited food access for them, but the rest of us upperclassmen it is a little more difficult."

"I think [the new meal plan] has not really affected it too much. The Chick-fil-A is still so busy all the time," Chris Goodrich, senior international studies major, said.

"While I prefer the plan before, I thought it was nicer because you could go in anywhere you wanted and now you have the two choices, and that's it."

Yawn spoke on a change in the flow of money, within Eagle Dining Services institutions in regards to the new meal plan system's effect on locations not included on the meal plan.

"Well we distribute money completely different now, so overall Dining Commons and Lakeside require more of the money. So the dining plan money comes through here [Dining Commons and Lakeside]; dining dollars are associated with dining plans and Eagle Express packages are distributed to the retail outlets," Yawn said.

"My freshman year, I had meal plans. I had the old meal plans, and at the time, you had that lump sum, and you could eat anywhere on campus, but with this new meal plan places like Talons and Wrapsody they don't get any business," Annalayah Ferguson-Salim, junior graphic design major, said.

Eagle Dining Services does not have

any plans to close any of the current dining locations at this time, Yawn said.

Yawn said that past meal plans forced students to use various locations because the others were so busy, and the new plans and upgraded locations are more capable of handling larger amounts of students.

"Now [students] can use the retail locations at their discretion, so their participation dictates specifically the success and what they want," Yawn said. "Even if we have to close any of our retail locations, we're going to always try to find new viable retail options that our students want and do participate in."

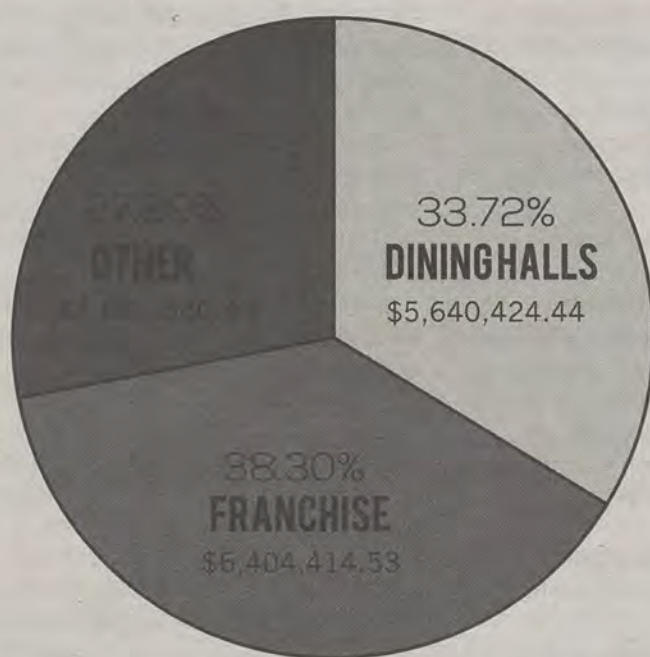
With retail locations experiencing less foot traffic, there is a need to move employees around to better serve the students.

Typically, Eagle Dining Services tries to transfer students to another unit, like the Dining Commons or Lakeside. It does not like to let someone go if it can help it, Braswell said.

Yawn said, "There is still a dire need for students to be employed with us, we can't function without them."

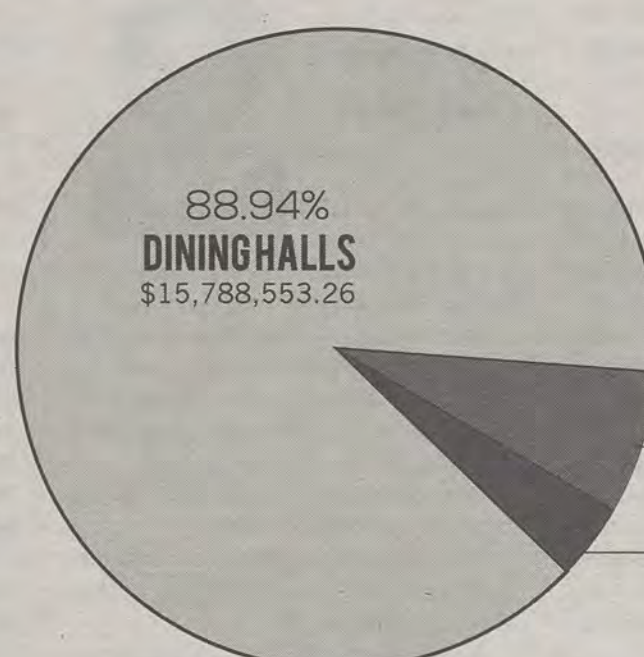
FISCAL YEAR 2012

Total Revenue: \$16,726,199.40



FISCAL YEAR 2014

Total Revenue: \$17,751,036



DININGHALLS

DINING COMMONS / LANDRUM
LAKESIDE DINING COMMONS

FRANCHISE

EINSTEIN BROTHERS BAGELS
CHICK-FIL-A / STARBUCKS /
COLD STONE CREAMERY

OTHERS

TALONS GRILLE / MARKET
STREET DELI / MARKET @CP
ZACH'S BREWS / WRAPSODY
GRILL / OASIS

QUICK CAT FACTS

16% cats adopted from shelter

10,000 animals euthenized every day in shelters

6-8 million cats and dogs entering shelters a year

3 cat litters a year on average

4-6 kittens on average per litter



File Photo

Stray cats roam Georgia Southern University's campus, adding to the over one million yearly average in the United States. The Bulloch County Humane Society is offering a discounted rate for cat owners to fix their felines, while continuing to spay and neuter all animals that are found.

Cats can be fixed at a discount in February

BY MAUREEN O'LEARY

The George-Anne staff

"Fix a Feline" is an initiative to spay and neuter cats all February long in order to prevent more animals from ending up in animal shelters.

The Humane Society of Statesboro Bulloch County is sponsoring the event and is partnering with Best Friends Animal Hospital, Westside Veterinary Hospital, Statesboro Regional Animal Hospital, and the Spay/Neuter Alliance clinic to provide spaying and neutering for \$50.

"So many animals are put in shelters in Statesboro and we would like to promote spaying and neutering cats to avoid that cycle from continuing," Deborah Kosina, Humane Society of Bulloch County's Spaying and Neutering Coordinator, said.

More than 2,000 cats are euthanized in Bulloch County every year.

Kosina said that cats tend to reproduce more

frequently in springtime because it is their mating season, though in Statesboro it's warm enough for cats to mate year-round.

"Cats can conceive when they're only six months old. So even though, to an owner, their pet is still a kitten, they can get pregnant. And giving birth young is very stressful for a cat," Kosina said.

The Humane Society partners with the participating hospitals by marketing the event and supplementing the doctors' payment for each procedure.

Anyone looking to adopt a cat from the Humane Society can find a selection of rescued cats at Statesboro's Petco.

All animals adopted from the Humane Society will be spayed and neutered as a policy.

The Humane Society is non-profit and funded through donations.

Information about donating, volunteering, or adopting a pet from the Humane Society can be found on their website.

“ So many animals are put in shelters in Statesboro and we would like to promote spaying and neutering cats to avoid that cycle from continuing.”

Deborah Kosina,

Humane Society of Bulloch County's Spaying and Neutering Coordinator

YOUR VIEW

BY BRALEY GARLAND
AND CONNOR WHITE

The George-Anne contributors

This past Saturday, Oklahoma State basketball player Marcus Smart became involved in a scandal after shoving a fan that allegedly used a racial slur against him.

Smart fell into the Texas Tech fan during a play and was suspended three games after the shoving incident.

Our reporters asked Georgia Southern University students how they would have reacted if they were in the same situation and if people in the spotlight should be held to a higher standard than the normal.



Deliesha Green
freshman psychology major

"I think I would have just brushed it off. I mean I live in America and I've come to realize that some people aren't as accepting of other people. He should have realized where he was. A lot of people want to set a standard for how people should act but sometimes they are like 'oh whatever I'm famous I can do what I want to.'"



Ian Blackburn
freshman geography major

"I don't really blame him for it because the guy in the stands called him a piece of crap and I don't blame the guy for being ticked off. Because you know you are on the basketball court working and then a guy insults you. I don't blame him for being upset. I think that the people in the crowd should also be held to higher standards. Fans shouldn't call out players and be rude to them."



Shelly Clay
junior art major

"I would have just brushed it off because I get insulted all of the time and I'd rather not get into physical fights with them. Especially not if I am an athlete because I do get insulted as an athlete. I am on the Georgia Southern University equestrian team and sometimes I do get insulted and I just don't take things personally anymore. I don't think that people should be held to a different standard because I think that everyone should be treated equally."

A Great Idea for Valentine's Day

Heartbreaks & Hallelujahs

An Original Musical

FEBRUARY 13-15
7:30 P.M.

Friends of the Arts:
\$11 adult \$10 youth
Non-Members:
\$13 adult \$10 youth



Tickets
912-212-2787

Online ticket sales at:
averittcenterforthearts.org

Emma Kelly
THEATER



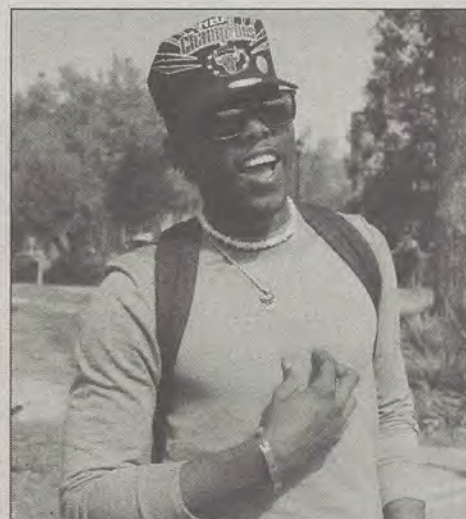
\$10 tickets at the door
with student ID

AVERRITT
STARS

Sponsored by

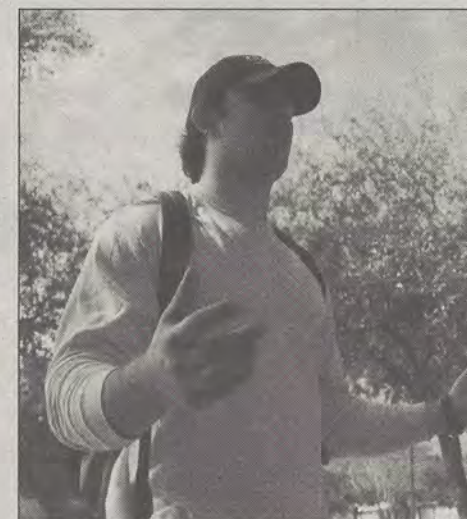


Written and
Directed by
Kiki Canon and
John Groover



Brandon Fleming
junior computer science major

"That's a tough situation to react to because, you know, people like Jackie Robinson and a lot of other great people went through a lot like that and they had the self-control to restrain themselves from doing things like that. I don't condone what they did. There is no evidence (the fan) used a racial slur but it is a 50 year old man calling a 19 year old a piece of crap. If he really did use a racial slur he deserved it. Personally I might have said something but I wouldn't have put my hands on the man in front of 50 cameras. That wasn't a smart idea. He wasn't really thinking at that moment, it was just like a reaction."



Thomas McCormick
sophomore marketing major

"I would have shoved him too. I mean if someone is going to talk down to you, you have to stand up for yourself. It doesn't matter if it is an old guy or not. Just because someone got knocked over doesn't mean you can use a racial slur. You shouldn't be calling people names because of the color of their skin. He realizes he is in the public, he's 19, he's on ESPN all the time. You've got to realize that people are watching you in a public forum and you are held to a different standard as far as publicity goes."

Mark Irish to perform at GATA's for charity

BY MEAGAN GREENE

The George-Anne staff

A renowned college hypnotist's comedy act is making its way to Statesboro this Wednesday night at 9 p.m.

Mark Irish, a hypnotist comedian, is starting off a comedy series at GATA's Sports Bar and Grill this week, cover is \$5 and the money raised is being donated to a breast cancer awareness and education charity.

"GATA's wants to make people laugh. Trivia is overdone in this town so we want to do something completely different in a way people can enjoy themselves while creating awareness for charity," Christian Bennett, owner of

GATA's, said.

Mark Irish said, "I get a number of people to come on stage, about eighty percent or more will be hypnotized. I'll come up with scenarios like giving them a piece of toilet paper and telling them it's a hundred dollar bill towards their tuition. People will actually fight on stage for the toilet paper thinking it's dollar bills."

Irish has performed at the White House, Harrah's, Carnival Cruise lines, trade shows, and colleges such as Georgia Tech, University of Georgia, University of Michigan, and Ohio State.

"I travel all around. I do everything from walking on glass to hypnosis, lying on a bed of nails and someone actually takes

a sledge hammer and crushes a cement block inside my stomach, it's a pretty wild show," Irish said. When participants come onstage, Irish will ask them to remember a time when they had, "laser-like focus," as they press two fingers together. Irish claims they will be able to block out anything that's going on around them by pressing those same fingers together anytime after the show.

Irish said, "I perform mind reading magic. I have a twenty-pound rabbit that pulls cards out of the deck with his teeth. One of my rabbits and I were on the Late Show with David Letterman once."

Irish performs acts that have left college towns wanting more, like hypnotizing men into believing

they are a woman giving birth to their first child or having a woman speak in a well-enunciated Martian language while comparing men on Earth to Martian men in space.

"Hands down the craziest thing that has happened was when I was doing a mock 'Jerry Springer' show at a college and the hypnotized people believed they were rednecks and were leaving their fiancé for a shoe. I handed this girl a shoe and she tells her fiancé she's leaving him for her shoe, because it has more 'sole.' The fiancé says, 'I'm not mad at you, I'm mad at the shoe and starts beating the shoe to the ground. They were my shoes not even two weeks old,'" Irish said.

Along with the joys that come from watching a hypnosis comedy

show, Irish will be giving out a HypnoNapping mp3.

"HypoNapping, for every minute you are hypnotized, it can feel like you've had 6-10 minutes of deep sleep. Listen for 30 minutes and you'll feel like you had a 3 hour power nap," Irish said.

This is a way Irish gives back to the audience for them coming up to help out with the show.

Irish said, "Have you ever had a chance to do or see something that is very intriguing and then later regretted not doing so? This is one of those moments as there are only a handful of hypnotists in the South and you have the opportunity to see an award-winning hypnotist here Wednesday night."

GSU to raise awareness on sexual violence

BY ERIKA RICHARDS

The George-Anne staff

Sexual violence is still prevalent in the world today but the Vagina Monologues are back to speak out and will be presented on Wednesday and Thursday at the Foy building at 7 p.m.

The monologues tell a series of stories about what women face and go through daily.

"This is not a regular production. People will probably laugh and cry but it is a great show that is put on to raise awareness of the struggle that women go through," Tianna Quiller, cast member and sophomore special education major, said.

This year, two new monologues will be performed and many cast members are ready to show the hard work that they have invested into this show.

Cast member and freshman business major Rebecca Pinckney said, "The director did an amazing job picking the cast this year, everyone has a great positive energy and they are all

very talented."

"Audience members will be shocked in a good way, hopefully," Nicole Anelas, cast member and junior chemistry major, said, "It's not what they will expect and they will leave having a whirlwind of emotions."

This is the 15th annual event of the Vagina Monologues and it is hosted by Georgia Southern University's National Organization for Women and the Multicultural Center.

The Vagina Monologues were first created in 1996 by playwright, performer, feminist and activist Eve Ensler. Later she founded V-Day and One Billion Rising.

One Billion Rising is a part of V-Day, which is a nation-wide movement to stop violence towards girls and women. The "one billion" represents one out of every three women who are raped or beaten every year. Tickets cost \$5 for GSU students and \$10 for non-students. Supporting this cause will raise money and all proceeds will go toward the Domestic Violence Shelter in Bulloch County.



Courtesy of Candace Gary

The 15th annual installment of The Vagina Monologues event at Georgia Southern University will be put on by GSU's National Organization for Women and the Multicultural Center.

Acclaimed poet Marilyn Nelson to share her story

BY ERINN WILLIAMS

The George-Anne staff

Georgia Southern University students will have the honor of hearing a poetry reading from one of America's best-known contemporary poets.

Award-winning poet Marilyn Nelson will hold a reading of her poetry on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in room 1004 of the IT Building.

She has not only been the recipient of the 2012 Frost Medal, the Poetry Society of America's most prestigious award which honors "distinguished lifetime achievement in poetry," she has also been a finalist for the National Book Award.

"She is a very well known poet so we thought that students would be able to hear her and enjoy her. Her poetry is astonishing and is a great interest to everyone," Richard

Flynn, professor of literature, said.

Nelson also held the office of Poet Laureate of the State of Connecticut from 2001-2006 and is a professor emerita of English at the University of Connecticut.

"I think it's really cool that GSU is having Marilyn Nelson come visit. She is very talented and I think she'll help give students a new perspective on different topics. It's also great that we are having a black poet come during Black History month" Kristina Agbebiyi, pre-med and biology major, said.

In her career she has been the author or translator of over 24 works.

Her poetry collections include "The Home Place," "The Fields of Praise: New and Selected Poems," "Faster Than Light: New and Selected Poems" and many more.

Marilyn Nelson has written

books for young audiences including "Carver: A Life in Poems," "Fortune's Bones" and "A Wreath for Emmett Till." She has a new collection that debuted in January called "How I Discovered Poetry" which is aimed at young adult audiences.

"Marilyn Nelson is very accessible and she writes for both young adult audiences and older groups. I am teaching one of her books in my 'Literature for Adolescents' class. I think there is a real audience for poetry at Georgia Southern," Flynn said.

A child of a Tuskegee Airman and a teacher who spent most of her time moving from military base to military base, Nelson developed her poetry skills in elementary school. Her work focuses on her own family history, American history, the African American community and individuals that

are important to her.

Her reading is being brought to students by the Campus Life Enrichment Committee, the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, the Department of Literature and Philosophy, the Department of Writing and Linguistics, the Department of History, the Department of Communications Arts, the Center for Africana Studies and the Women and Gender Studies Program.

"I hope that students will take away the notion that they can like poetry and that it doesn't have to be abstract. Her poems are narratives so that should really draw people in," Flynn said. Five of her books will be on sale during the performance and she will be willing to sign them for students. Admission to the event is free.



MARILYN NESLON

Awards

- 2012 Poetry Society of America Robert Frost Medal.
- 2006 Connecticut Book Award for Lifetime Achievement in Service to the Literary Community.
- 2005 Boston Globe/ Hornbook Award

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“Burning Swamp’s” 2014 season to ignite downtown

BY WILL PEEBLES

The George-Anne Staff

Writers and art patrons from the Statesboro community will flock to The Walnut Room behind Chops on Main tonight at 7 p.m. for The Burning Swamp Reading Series.

Burning Swamp began in October of 2012 through collaboration between two GSU writing and linguistics professors: Jared Sexton and Emma Bolden. The event showcases local writers and a wide array of writing styles. Writers of poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction and even spoken word poetry can be found in the Swamp.

This month’s event will feature five writers including poet Eric Nelson; writing students Heather Nysewander, Joey Blackwell and Yavaria Ryan; and student and professor Bob Marsh.

“The Burning Swamp Reading Series is unique in that it welcomes both student writers and writers from the faculty and the community. That way, GSU students can hear the great work their classmates and professors are writing in a way that celebrates us all as


writers and as equals,” Emma Bolden, Georgia Southern University writing and linguistics professor, said.

The live reading event gives student, faculty and community writers the opportunity to present their work in a live, welcoming setting.

“I think it’s an opportunity to kind of introduce new students to that. Those that are interested in graduate school are going to find that they’re going to be reading in public,” Jared Sexton, GSU writing and linguistics professor, said.

The event happens once a month, and a new set of readers is cycled in to present each time. Recommendations for readers and volunteer readers are accepted to promote a diverse experience every month.

“I think both of us feel that it’s important to let young writers know that writing is still something that’s happening because so many people think it’s something only dead people do and we just kind of read things that dead people have done. When in fact, there’s a thriving community of writers in this country,” Sexton said.



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MARCH 3/6, 3/13

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"Vampire Academy" sucks bloody boredom

Film Review



BY LAURIANNA CULL

The George-Anne staff

"Vampire Academy" takes place in a fantasy world where there are mortal vampires who maintain a peace with humanity. They are called Moroi, and they have vampire-human hybrid protectors called Dhampir. The Dhampirs' job is to always put the Moroi first and protect them against everything, especially the soulless immortal vampires called Strigoi.

This is Rose Hathaway's story. Rose is a 17-year-old Dhampir-in-training who has a very strong and rare connection to her best friend, Lissa Dragomir, a Moroi princess whom she has sworn to protect.

After being on the run for two years, Rose, played by Zoey Deutch ("Beautiful Creatures"), and Lissa, played by up-and-coming actress Lucy Fry, are captured by fully-trained Dhampir and brought back to St. Vladimir's Academy, or "Vampire Academy," where they are to continue with schoolwork

and training. But it turns out it may be more dangerous inside of the school walls than it was on the run. As Rose and Lissa try to navigate their way through school life again, they are faced with all of the usual high school drama as well as a few not-so-funny pranks that suggest someone has it out for Lissa.

Notice how long it took just to summarize the story for you. Now imagine trying to fit all of that in much greater detail in less than two hours. It was beyond tedious and confusing at times. While the world author Richelle Mead creates is an interesting one, the movie kind of butchered it with chunks of exposition in the form of unrealistic dialogue.

For example, in the beginning of the movie Rose and Lissa have an awkward conversation that explains how they've been on the run for two years. It was so painfully unrealistic and obvious that the screenwriter was desperate to find a way to tell the audience the back story. The movie only really goes downhill from there. Once the girls are back at school, the audience gets to enjoy a lousy performance from the head mistress Kirova, played by Olga Kurylenko ("Oblivion"), school uniforms that



come complete with miniskirts and heels, an after-school special about the dangers of bullying, and special effects that did not seem special at all.

As if that wasn't enough, the romantic tension between Rose and her combat training teacher, Dimitri, played by Russian actor Danila Kozlovsky, is very uncomfortable

due to the fact that Rose is 17 and Dimitri looks about 37 in the movie.

The only enjoyable part of "Vampire Academy" is the performance of Zoey Deutch as Rose. She provides just about all of the comedy in the film. Her fiery, rebellious personality as well as her one-liners are simply fantastic and carry the entire movie.

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Tuesday February 11, 2014 13

Miscellaneous

Scuba diving class available. 250 for open water certification. First dive will be at Ginnie springs. Great idea for spring break or the rest of your life. Certification never expires. Class will be in February. Email as07739@georgiasouthern.edu for more information.

iCompute Service Repair is a small customer friendly team of college students majoring in information technology and other related fields, specializing in repairs in a wide variety of devices including iPhone's, iPad's, Galaxy's, Notes, and laptops. slogan "Premiere Smartphone and Laptop Repair Service in Statesboro, GA"

Jobs

Babysitting for Haiti! I am a babysitting to earn money for a mission trip to Haiti. I charge 5/ kid an hour. For more info email me at crystal_palmer270@yahoo.com.

For Sale

I have a late 08-09 15" Macbook pro. 250GB w/ 4GB Ram upgrade plus new battery and case 15 inch. 650 obo. 770-885-5786

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Housing

Hello fellow Eagles! My name is Chinonya Obialo (Chi Chi) I recently signed a lease for a B2 two-bedroom at Monarch 301 for next year starting August 1, 2014! However, I am transferring and need someone to take over my lease! If you and a friend are looking to move to Monarch 301 next year, contact me by phone 770-402-0313, or email co01289@georgiasouthern.edu! Thank you.

I am looking for someone to take-over my lease at The Grove. It is a 3 bed 3 bath apartment! It is available for move-in ASAP!! I will pay all of your move-in fees which is \$350!! It is the biggest room and bathroom in the apartment! Email me at ee00378@georgiasouthern.edu

CBeech Townhomes looking for Sublease. CHEAP RENT + utilities= \$465 average. Turbo Internet, Huge Bedrooms and Bathrooms, 2 very friendly Senior roommates. Please Contact Tommy Dean @ 706-993-0294 if interested!

2,3,4,5,6,7 Bedroom houses for rent. Available August 1st. Immediate repairs made. Contact Dr. Hood at 912-682-7468.

Male sublease wanted at Hawthorne ASAP! 2 bed/2 bath, washer/dryer unit, Big bedroom, 1 roommate, a mile from campus, single-level, poolside! I'm looking to move out before next semester. \$370/month+utilities if interested text/call 770-480-0181

Apartment available for sublease in 111 South. 4bd/4bth. Largest room in apartment. Huge bathroom and walk in closet. View of entire neighborhood, pool and fire pits. Access to 24hr clubhouse, lazy river and many other amenities. All for only \$444/month! Available for IMMEDIATE MOVE IN. Message me or comment if interested. Can move into brand new apartment for no extra cost. kw02345@georgiasouthern.edu

Miscellaneous

"Are you interested in playing club soccer? We are looking for committed players that have experience. Tryouts for this semester will be held the 3rd week of classes. Come find us at the Club Sports Fair or email us to extend your interest and get more information! GSUwomen-sclubsoccer@gmail.com"

Welcome Back, Students! Brainiac Studios will be accepting short stories to be considered for our "Statesboro Authors Spotlight" compilation. If you have that knack for great storytelling, send us your work and we will run it through our handpicked critics. If your work is chosen to be included in our compilation, we will publish and distribute the work absolutely free. Each chosen author will be fully credited and will even have a short bio included within the work. For details, you can head to <https://www.facebook.com/brainiacstudios.usa> where you will find a PDF with everything that you need to know. We look forward to seeing what Georgia Southern Writing can do!

Georgia Southern University will be hosting it's 2nd Annual campus Relay For Life on Friday, April 11th at 6p.m. All students, faculty, staff and associates of the University are encouraged to participate and form teams for this event! We are also in search of cancer survivors to walk our Survivor's Lap to kick off Relay. Teams can register online by searching Georgia Southern on the Relay For Life website. For more information please contact Megan White at mw05151@georgiasouthern.edu.

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Housing

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First month FREE. Furnished room/bath, walk-in closet, The Woodlands Apartments. Female only. Walk to class. Available 12/14/13 - 7/30/14. \$430 plus utilities. C 770-873-5102 hm01382@georgiasouthern.edu

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Looking for someone to sublease room in Aspen Heights for this semester as well as the summer semester in a 4 bedroom house. Can be girl or boy. Rent is \$554 a month, which includes furniture as well as utilities. Willing to negotiate and work out a deal on the rent. If interested please contact me at (706) 366-2440 or email me at jc09051@georgiasouthern.edu

PUZZLES&COMICS

14 Tuesday February 11, 2014

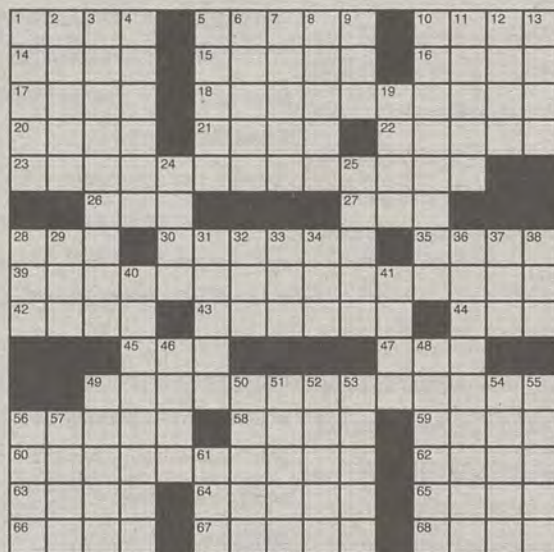
The George-Anne

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Winter coaster
- 5 "Go __, Tigers!": 1968 Detroit baseball theme song
- 10 Verb for thou
- 14 Vehicle at a stand
- 15 Martini gamish
- 16 Empty room phenomenon
- 17 Unattributed, as a quote: Abbr.
- 18 Show hosted by 23-Across
- 20 Uncommon, to Caesar
- 21 Taking care of the job
- 22 Muse for poets
- 23 Popular TV personality (11/20/1932-6/2/2012)
- 26 Syr. neighbor
- 27 Royal Navy letters
- 28 Brightness nos.
- 30 Put a match to
- 35 Vocal quality
- 39 18-Across list topper
- 42 Proboscis
- 43 Did, at some point
- 44 Fish-fowl connector
- 45 Syr. neighbor
- 47 Go toe-to-toe
- 49 With "the," 23-Across's nickname on 18-Across
- 56 Healing plants
- 58 Lugosi of horror films
- 59 Flag Day month
- 60 23-Across's catchphrase on 18-Across
- 62 Area behind a high altar
- 63 "Aha!"
- 64 Blue Cross competitor
- 65 Part of an agenda
- 66 Migratory herring
- 67 California berry farm founder
- 68 Used car sites



By Steve Blais

DOWN

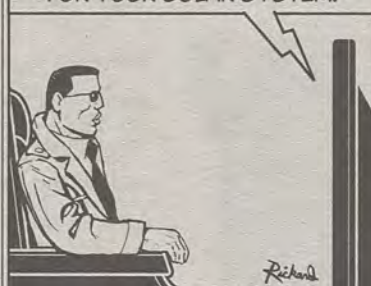
- 1 Percussionist from Liverpool
- 2 Hawaiian porch
- 3 Ritualistic evictions
- 4 Singers Washington and Shore
- 5 Cost
- 6 Spiral-horned antelope
- 7 Faint of heart
- 8 Madonna title role
- 9 B or C of the Spice Girls
- 10 Sits on the kitchen counter until dinner, say
- 11 Indian
- 12 Not even ajar
- 13 Chore list heading
- 19 Quaint country consent
- 24 Grammy winner India
- 25 Bread choice
- 28 Place to overnight
- 29 Quid pro
- 31 Future beetles
- 32 Rejection on top of rejection
- 33 Opal finish?

Last Edition's Puzzle Solved

A	S	S	N	M	E	S	A	F	L	A	W
S	H	O	O	T	W	I	S	T	R	E	B
P	A	L	M	S	A	N	A	A	E	A	S
C	R	A	S	H	I	N	G	B	O	R	E
A	I	R	G	U	N	C	I	O	S	R	A
			R	A	S	A	S	T	O	W	I
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			T	H	U	N	D	E	R	S	T
J	O	K	E	L	E	A	V	E	A	M	B
A	X	I	S	A	R	L	E	S	R	A	I
M	Y	T	H	D	E	N	S	I	N	G	E

- 34 Brother of Jack and Bobby
- 36 Admitted
- 37 Opposite of paleo-
- 38 Act inappropriately
- 40 Accepted
- 41 Bright star
- 46 Latin 101 word
- 48 Behind bars
- 49 Where to get Seoul food
- 50 "A Doll's House" playwright
- 51 "That's so cool!"
- 52 Quick flash
- 53 Needing practice in
- 54 Smaller map, often
- 55 Rains cats and dogs
- 56 Auction condition
- 57 One who rarely has low spirits?
- 61 Hog the phone

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NEXT: THAT PAINFUL ASTEROID

Calamities of Nature by Tony Piro

THE OTHER DAY I GOT YELLED AT BY SOME LADY FOR PARKING TOO CLOSE TO HER CAR. EVEN THOUGH SHE WAS THE ONE WHO PARKED CROOKED, SHE MADE ME MOVE MY CAR.



HAROLD, YOU CAN'T LET PEOPLE PUSH YOU AROUND LIKE THAT. YOU NEED TO STAND UP FOR YOURSELF.



YEAH, I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT. WHAT CAN I DO?



START BY REPEATING AFTER ME: I WILL NOT LET ANYONE TELL ME WHAT TO DO.



	5		8	2		7		6
	6	1				3		
								1
9		4	1			5		
			7		9			
		6			3	8		4
1								
		7				6	5	
6		2		9	8		1	

		4			2		5	
		6	3		8		1	4
	1	2	4	7				9
	9							
	7			2	9	5	3	
9	4		2		1	8		
	8		5			7		

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Class of 2014 Sun Belt recruiting comparison

BY KATIE TOLBERT

The George-Anne staff

Head coach Willie Fritz seemed very pleased with the football recruiting class for the 2014 season, but the other Sun Belt Conference football teams proved to Georgia Southern University, through their recruiting classes, that this will be a tougher season.

Former Head Coach Jeff Monken was responsible for at least 10 of GSU's 20 new recruits. Surprisingly, after a monumental win over the University of Florida, GSU doesn't have as many "big name" recruits as one would expect.

This is something the Eagles may not see the effect of until next year's signing class, or perhaps the win over Florida wasn't as big as some may think.

GSU added 20 new players, with four of them ranked nationally by ESPN (all of which were three-star recruits). Last season, GSU was only able to recruit one nationally-ranked player, so there was some improvement.

As far as rankings are concerned, Appalachian State University was able to add six nationally-ranked three-star recruits, doubling last year's total of three-star recruits.

The upcoming football season will be

GSU's first season in the Sun Belt, right alongside rival App. State. This recruiting class is crucial for both of these teams in order to make an impressive statement coming into FBS football.

Georgia State University is not new to the Sun Belt, but now GSU and Ga. State are officially rivals. The Panthers were able to add 24 new players including eight nationally-ranked players, all of which were three-star recruits.

Both the Mountaineers and the Panthers added a nationally-ranked quarterback, multiple wide receivers, multiple running backs and other positions spread out across both sides of the field. The Eagles new recruiting class lacks in all of these areas.

As for some of the other teams in the Sun Belt, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Texas State University and Western Kentucky University all have very strong recruiting classes. WKU signed the number-four-ranked inside linebacker, TSU signed the number-15-ranked center and UL Lafayette signed the number-14-ranked tight-end.

Several of the Sun Belt teams are packing more "big name" power than the Eagles at this point, but there are a few teams that aren't as strong. These

teams are the University of Louisiana at Monroe and Troy University. Both of these teams are lacking in the number of signees and where the signees landed on the official rankings.

All of the football teams in the Sun Belt signed at least one player from a junior college, but Troy signed the most with 12 players. These players could help Troy in the upcoming year, but with only two years to play Troy is going to have to constantly rebuild in multiple areas on the field.

The Eagles signed six players from junior colleges and three of those players are filling the position of cornerback. In the signing day press conference Fritz mentioned that he felt there was an immediate need in the cornerback position. The question is whether or not there was a need for three players in this position that cannot play four years for the Eagles.

Outside of the recruiting class, the Eagles remain a strong football team, and, sooner than later, GSU will find out how successful this recruiting class will be for the upcoming season. The Eagle nation has only six months and 19 days to find out how good this new team will perform in the 2014 season.

GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

20 commits
Trayvon Williams
6'3" 306 lbs
offensive guard



APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY

27 commits
Brandon Walton
6'6" 220 lbs
tight end



GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY

24 commits
Ari Werts
6'3" 201 lbs
tight end



ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

25 commits
Daniel Keith
6'5" 270 lbs
offensive tackle



UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE

21 commits
Anthony Jones
6'6" 231 lbs
tight end



UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT MONROE

22 commits
Garrett Smith
6'1" 197 lbs
quarterback



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHALABAMA

21 commits
Corliss Waitman
6'1" 170 lbs
kicker



TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY

27 commits
Tryston Mizerak
6'5" 295 lbs
offensive center



TROY UNIVERSITY

19 commits
Jarvis Bentley
6'4" 185 lbs
wide receiver



WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

25 commits
Dejon Brown
6'3" 225 lbs
inside linebacker



Fritz's first GSU signing class compliments current roster

In My Opinion

New Georgia Southern University head coach Willie Fritz announced his 2014 signing class on Wednesday, Feb. 5, and it was just what the doctor ordered.

With the senior presence the 2013 edition of the Eagles sported, there were many shoes left to fill following the season finale in Gainesville, Fl. Losses of linebacker Kyle Oehlbeck, corner Lavelle Westbrook, defensive linemen Blake Riley, Javon Mention, Josh Gebhardt and Justice Ejike left a monumental void in the Eagle defense heading into 2014.



Will Cheney

Eight of the 17 signees play on the defensive side of the ball, including Darius Sapp (Valdosta) who was the No. 121-ranked defensive tackle in the country, according to ESPN. Talent on defense will be key in the pass-happy Sun Belt Conference.

Another glaring positive from Fritz's class was the quality and

quantity of offensive linemen. The class features five offensive linemen, including guard Trayvon Williams (Camden) and tackle Christian Taylor (White Knoll/Lexington, S.C.), who were ranked No. 48 and No. 150 nationally at their respective positions according to ESPN. Taylor, all 340 lbs of him, has the potential to be an imposing force to FBS defensive linemen in the future.

The class is, however, lacking in quarterbacks and receivers. That normally would not pose a problem, unless injuries plague the team during the season; though I believe it would be hard for the team to be more injury-

laden than last season's group. I believe the group the Eagles currently have is up to the task. The spread-option is the perfect opportunity for redshirt sophomore quarterback Kevin Ellison and the receivers to showcase their skills more effectively.

Receivers like seniors Zach Walker and Kentrellis Showers could prove very valuable in the new-found passing game. Keep an eye on junior B.J. Johnson. He is a big, physical receiver that I believe can flourish with the transition to the spread and will be the primary target for any and all Eagle quarterbacks in 2014.

A class that saw only two running

backs, junior Ken Thomas, a transfer from East Mississippi Community College, and freshman Ryan Peterson (Ocilia). Running back depth will not be a problem for the Eagles in 2014. A healthy senior Dominique Swope, coupled with junior Nardo Govan and redshirt sophomore Irving Huggins will be a great asset for GSU this season; not to mention redshirt senior Tray Butler and a healthy junior James Dean.

All in all, Fritz's first recruiting class at GSU was a success. He filled the positions he needed to fill and did so with talent. It will be interesting to see what the future holds once these players develop.

Eagles prove they can play with the best

Softball (3-1)

BY HAYDEN BOUDREAUX

The George-Anne staff

In the pre-season the Georgia Southern University softball team was picked to win the Southern Conference for the third year in a row. This weekend they showed why they will go much further.

On Saturday, the number-one softball team in the country rolled into Statesboro.

With two straight conference championships and a solid track record against top teams, the Volunteers knew the Eagles would be a good warm-up for the rest of the season. Few of them, if any, believed GSU could hang around for too long.

With over 1,500 in attendance the Eagles came out calm and collected, knowing they would have to bring their best to establish themselves early in the game. Two-time All-SoCon Pitcher of the Year Sarah Purvis took the mound for the first time of her senior season.

After a fly out from the Volunteer leadoff hitter, Purvis recorded her first strikeout of the year. Following a groundout, the Eagles had their chance to put points up early. Before they could get on base they would have to face Volunteer senior All-SEC pitcher Ellen Renfro, who finished in the top 25 finalists for NCAA player of the year last season.

GSU couldn't get their bats going against Renfro and started the inning with a strikeout and a groundout. Eagle senior Shelby Morrill, who carried a .340 batting average last season, hoped to grab the first hit for her team but grounded out.

To start the second inning Volunteer batter Mellissa David stepped up to the plate and cranked out a home run over the left field fence on Purvis. After being rattled by the long ball and allowing two hits Purvis threw two strikeouts to end the half-inning.

The home run would end up being the only point scored for either team. In the bottom of the fourth the Eagles had a chance to take the lead with two runners on base but Renfro was able to end the inning with a shutout. Each team had to fight just to get a runner on base and the game ended in favor of the Volunteers, 1-0.

Senior shortstop Kourtney Thomas and freshman left-fielder Emily Snider were the only Eagles to get a hit off of Renfro. Purvis had a comparable finish, allowing only four hits and totaling for ten strikeouts on the night.

Despite not pulling off the comeback, this game meant much more than a tally in the loss



column. The game proved that once again GSU softball is not only capable of playing with the best in the country but can possibly beat them. Tennessee head coach Karen Weekly summed up the Eagles in the best way possible.

"That's a really good team in Georgia Southern. (They have) a really strong pitcher that will take them really far," Weekly said.

The Eagles have displayed their talents against the top teams in the nation in past years. Last season GSU suffered a heart breaking loss to the sixth-ranked University of Alabama 1-2, and a 3-6 loss to 20th-ranked University of Georgia.

The rest of weekend was equally successful with GSU outscoring their other opponents Oakland University and Northern Colorado University 27-1, finishing the weekend with a record of 3-1.

Junior pitcher Brooke Red pitched a shutout against Oakland on Friday, followed by junior Marla Thompson pitching another shutout on Saturday. Purvis got her first win on Sunday against NCU and totaled six strikeouts.

The Eagles will get another chance to assert their dominance in Miami at the Florida International University Tournament this weekend. They will take the mound against the University of Wisconsin, which is ranked 30th in the nation. GSU will open the tournament at 11 a.m. on Friday against the Badgers.



Ryan Woodham | The George-Anne
The softball team went 3-1 over the weekend, highlighted by a 1-0 loss to No. 1 ranked University of Tennessee on Saturday. Senior shortstop Kourtney Thomas (14) hit two homers and drove in five runs.



Ryan Woodham | The George-Anne

Freshman forward Kyle Doyle (35) is shooting 49.6 percent from the field in 23 games played this season. Doyle and the Eagles have six games remaining this season and will take on UNCG at home on Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Freshman Kyle Doyle emerges for Eagles

Mens Basketball (11-14)

BY COLIN RITSICK

The George-Anne staff

With .07 seconds left on the clock, Elon University senior guard Jack Isenbarger sunk a desperation three that pushed Elon past Georgia Southern University 60-59 in Saturday's basketball game, handing the Eagles their second loss in a row.

GSU dropped to 11-14 in the season and 4-6 in the Southern Conference.

But while both games count the same

in the win/loss column, they told entirely different tales.

Thursday's loss to Wofford College featured a massive meltdown. The Terriers erased a 13-point lead in the second half and held GSU to nine points in the final 12:43 of the game. And, while the Eagles did let go of a second-half lead on Saturday, the way the team played is much different.

"Whether or not that shot goes in at the horn doesn't take away the fact that we played some great basketball tonight. I was really proud of our effort tonight and the way we handled a few tough situations," GSU

head coach Mark Byington said.

One thing Byington can be proud of is the play of true freshman forward Kyle Doyle.

Doyle has become a reliable threat that can play 30-plus minutes per game for the Eagles. He finished Saturday with 12 points and 10 rebounds, his second double-double in three games and his third of the season. Over the last four games he is averaging 11.5 points per game (ppg).

Doyle played an integral part in 64-62 victory over University of North Carolina-Greensboro last Saturday. He chalked up 13 points and 12 rebounds against the Spartans.

His emergence as both a rebounding and scoring option has come at a time when the Eagles needed him the most. Senior guard Tre Bussey had averaged almost 19 ppg up until recently. In the last five games he is averaging only 9.2 ppg.

With only six games left in the regular season to make up ground in the SoCon, GSU will need all hands on deck to come out of these games with a .500 mark. The Eagles will have to face three of the four top teams in the conference.

Their next matchup will be against UNCG at home on Wednesday. Tip-off is set for 7 p.m.

Eagles dominate at weekend tournament

Women's Tennis 3-1

BY MACY HOLLOWAY

The George-Anne staff

The Georgia Southern University women's tennis team had a competitive weekend as they traveled to Alabama for matches against Alabama A&M University, Alabama State University and Auburn University.

On Friday during their match against AAMU, the Eagles handily dominated their competition and finished off the day with a score of 7-0. Junior Jordana Klein, freshman Daria Vasekina, sophomore Mary Phillips Smith and senior Caitlin Kitchen all won their matches with sets of either 6-0, 6-0 or 6-0, 6-1, unwilling to let their competition get ahead even once.

The doubles matches on Friday didn't go any differently, with sophomore Stephanie Woods and partner freshman Giulia Riepe defeating AAMU freshman Orianna Rodriguez and junior Jessica Taylor 6-0. To continue the winning streak was an unrelenting doubles pair of senior Paola Garrido and sophomore McKinsey Fiveash who defeated their opponents, AAMU sophomore Khyana Price and Leslie Ekpe, with a final score of 6-0.

On Saturday GSU went head-to-head with ASU. While the competition was more intense, the Eagles were still persistent in their strive for victory, by the end of the day they had the final tally at GSU 7 - ASU 0.

When it came down to doubles, GSU's Garrido and Smith had one of the more interesting

matches against ASU sophomore Arantxia Wijngaarde and junior Nathalie Lorenzo, being a bit more evenly paired their match ended with a total score of 8-5, GSU with the win.

The pairs of Woods and Riepe and Klein and Kitchen were also able to tack on wins Saturday when they each defeated their doubles ASU opponents 8-3. Along with these steady doubles defeats, each GSU singles player struck down their opponents and the Eagles went 6-0 overall in singles.

On Sunday when the Eagles squared off against the Auburn University Tigers, the level of play was much higher in comparison to their earlier matches. The final tally of the day was AU 7, GSU 0.

One of the more intense singles matches was between Klein and AU sophomore Paula de Man, with a total score of 7-5, 6-4. Klein wasn't going down without a fight, she definitely had one of the closest matches of the day. Smith was also unrelenting in her fight when she went head-to-head with AU freshman Lindsey Whitehead, losing the first set 6-2, winning the second 3-6, and ultimately ending the match 1-0, (10-5).

All three doubles matches were lost as well for the Eagles. So while GSU was able to remain strong early in the weekend, they were unfortunately unable to carry their win streak into Sunday.

On the weekend of Feb. 14, the Eagles will travel to Florida to face-off against the University of Central Florida and Bethune-Cookman University.

FRIDAY ALABAMA A&M

SINGLES

Klein (junior)
WON 6-0, 6-1
Vasekina (freshman)
WON 6-0, 6-1
Smith (sophomore)
WON 6-0, 6-0
Kitchen (senior)
WON 6-0, 6-0

DOUBLES

Woods & Riepe
WON 6-0
Garrido & Fiveash
WON 6-0

SATURDAY ALABAMA STATE

SINGLES

Garrido (senior)
WON 6-0, 6-1
Klein
WON 6-0, 6-4
Vasekina
WON 6-1, 6-4
Woods
WON 6-0, 6-0
Riepe (freshman)
WON 6-4, 6-2
Smith
WON 6-1, 6-0

DOUBLES

Garrido & Smith
WON 8-5
Woods & Riepe
WON 8-3
Klein & Kitchen
WON 8-3

SUNDAY AUBURN

SINGLES

Garrido
LOST 6-2, 6-2
Klein
LOST 7-5, 6-4
Vasekina
LOST 6-0, 6-3
Woods
LOST 6-2, 6-2
Riepe
LOST 7-5, 6-1
Smith
LOST 6-2, 3-6, 1-0 (10-5)

DOUBLES

Garrido & Smith
LOST 8-0
Fiveash & Woods
LOST 8-3
Kitchen & Klein
LOST 8-0

Alexandra Tobia | The George-Anne

Five swimmers join the Eagle family

Swimming and Diving

BY EMILY ARNOLD

The George-Anne staff

One of the new additions to the swim team is Amber Cortazzo from Wilson High School in Sinking Spring, Pa. Cortazzo swam for the Lancaster Aquatics Club under Casey Coble and plans to be a Marine Biology Major. Her best times are a 24.33 in the 50m freestyle, a 53.11 in the 100m freestyle, a 1:54.91 in the 200m freestyle and a 5:00.68 in the 500m freestyle along with others.

"She's awesome. I think our whole team fell in love with her," Kellogg said. "She's a tremendous competitor and works really hard. I spoke with her coach and he was saying how she loves to anchor relays and kind of try and run people down and we love kids like that, that are really intense competitors."

Another new addition is Madison Lichtefeld from Sacred Heart Academy in Louisville, Ky. Lichtefeld swam for the Lakeside Seahawks club team under Mike DeBoor.

"Madison is great. She's a really nice, sweet young lady and comes from a great club program," Kellogg said. "Her times are going to fit in really well; they're exactly what we were looking for. We feel like she has a great potential. She swims breaststroke, IM (individual medley), middle distance freestyle. She's pretty versatile."

Ali Snover is coming from the Y-Spartaquatics coached by Peter Wright in Greer, S.C. Snover attended Southside Christian School and is currently undecided on a major.

"Ali comes from a really great club program. Ali is a little more of a sprinter in freestyle and butterfly and has a tremendous background," Kellogg said. "I think with the events she swims, she'll add a lot in terms of relays as well as individual events. I think she's quietly very competitive and I think she loves to race."

Kaylyn Thomas is from North Forsyth High School in Cumming, Ga.

"Kaylyn is kind of a late bloomer and has really only been swimming year-round for about six years. I think she could be a diamond in the rough and with someone with that limited of a training background. I feel like she has a lot of potential," Kellogg said.

There is only one new addition to the

diving team and that is Erin Hembree from Duluth, Ga.

"I can't speak to her diving, but Erin is a ball of energy," Kellogg said. "Super outgoing, super high energy and I think she has fallen in love with our diving program and I think our team really fell in love with her, too."

For full story see
thegeorgeanne.com

SWIMMING & DIVING

AMBER CORTAZZO

50 Free - 24.33
100 Free - 53.11
200 Free - 1:54.91
500 Free - 5:00.68
100 Breast - 1:06.53
200 Breast - 2:24.72
100 Fly - 57.79
200 Fly - 2:06.02
200 IM - 2:07.11
400 IM - 4:32.36

MADISON LICHTEFELD

50 Free - 24.53
100 Free - 53.03
200 Free - 1:51.16
100 Breast - 1:05.24
200 Breast - 2:19.57
100 Fly - 57.99
200 IM - 2:04.36

ALI SNOVER

50 Free - 23.77
100 Free - 51.36
200 Free - 1:52.27
100 Fly - 55.76

KAYLYN TOMAS

100 Free - 52.35
200 Free - 1:51.52
500 Free - 5:08.20
100 Fly - 59.09
200 Fly - 2:08.62
100 Back - 59.53
200 Back - 2:06.70

ERIN HEMBREE

1-Meter:
11 dives (351.70)
6 dives (221.70)

Alexandra Tobia | The George-Anne

Former Eagle receives Spring Training invite

BY COLIN RITSICK

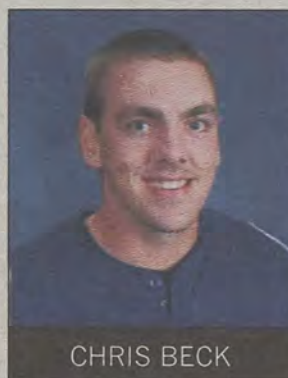
The George-Anne staff

The Chicago White Sox have invited former Georgia Southern University RHP Chris Beck to major league Spring Training.

Beck was taken in the second round of the 2012 draft after his junior year at GSU. He is listed as the No. 9 prospect in the White Sox farm system according to Baseball America.

He started his major league career playing for the Great Falls Voyagers. He climbed the ladder to Class A-Advanced ball to play for the Winston-Salem Dash before being called up to the Double-A Birmingham Barons this year. He has combined for a 13-10 record with a 3.07 ERA over 26 starts between Winston-Salem and Birmingham in 2013.

Beck is one of 21 players that received a non-roster invite to Spring Training. He will report to Glendale, Az., on Saturday and the White



CHRIS BECK

Sox first game will be against the Los Angeles Dodgers on Feb. 28.

In addition to his consistent performance throughout the year for the Dash and the Barons, his play during the Southern League (Class AA) playoffs had a big part in him receiving an invite.

Beck went 2-0 in his two playoff starts with a 0.82 ERA (1 ER/ 11 IP). For anyone out there that doesn't understand what those stats mean, just know that it's good – very good.

He sits around 92-94 MPH on his fastball but can ramp it up to 96 MPH – fairly average numbers for starters these days. His changeup, however, is anything but average. Baseball America rates it as the Best Changeup in the Sox's organization.

Beck will have a lot of competition in Spring Training, but nothing about his resume indicates that he has any problem with a challenge. He started in Rookie Ball two years ago, threw 11 innings of one-run baseball in the SL playoffs and now has a chance to impress White Sox executives.

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