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The George-Anne

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THE GEORGE-ANNE

Page 5

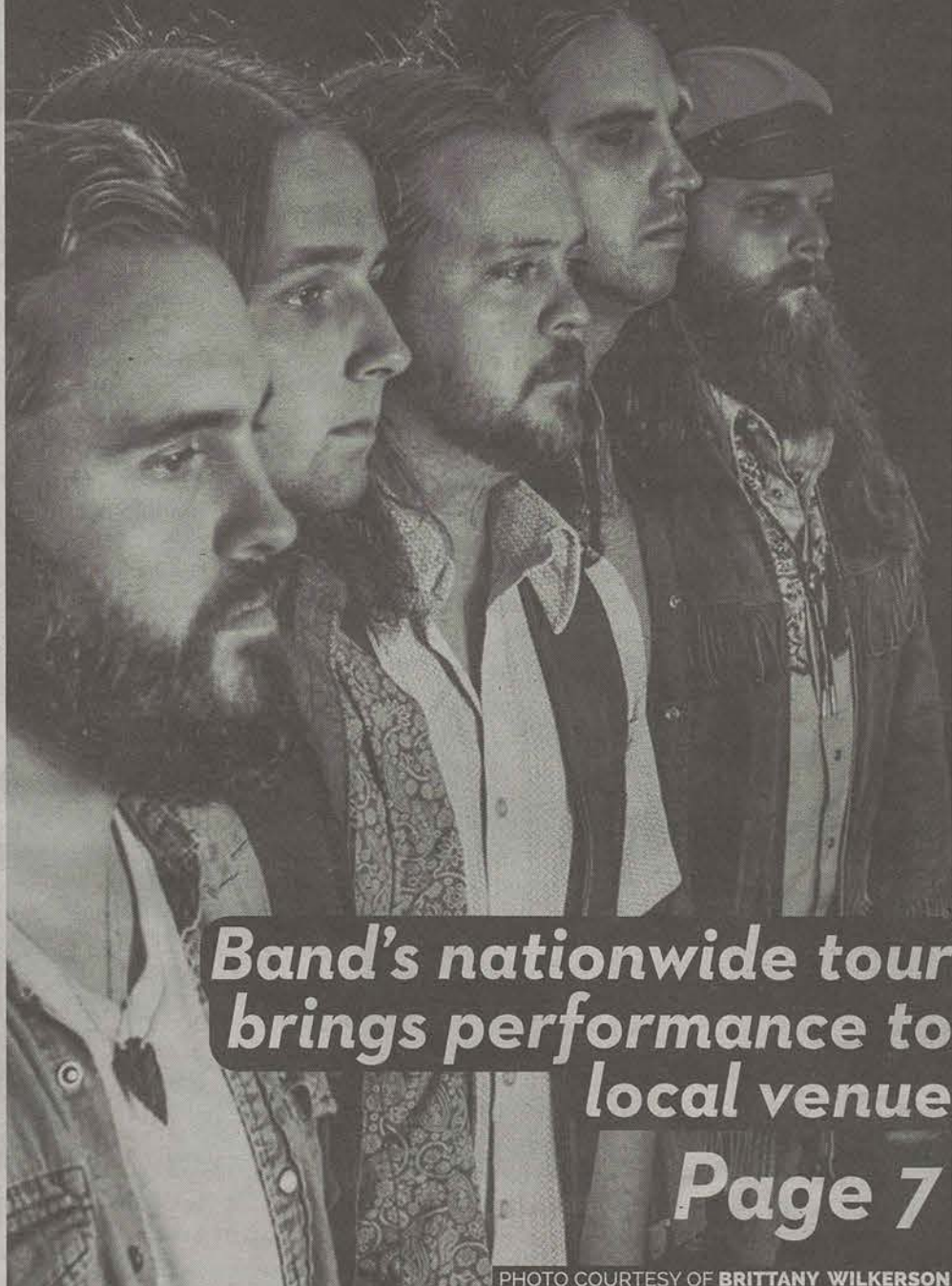
Walk a mile in her shoes

Yearly event raises
awareness of sexual assault



PHOTO COURTESY OF GEORGIA SOUTHERN EDU

THE VEGABONDS



Band's nationwide tour
brings performance to
local venue

Page 7

PHOTO COURTESY OF BRITTANY WILKERSON

SPRING CAMP

The GSU football
team begins spring
practice today

PAGE 10



TAHIR DAUDIER

Thursday



High: 86°
Low: 66°

Friday



High: 80°
Low: 62°

Saturday



High: 82°
Low: 63°

Sunday



High: 77°
Low: 64°

It is going to be a rainy weekend with scattered thunderstorms Friday through Sunday with temperatures peaking at 86 degrees tomorrow. Any outdoor plans you have this weekend may have to be moved indoors, which means that Easter Egg hunt could be extra tricky this year.

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ASK A FEMINIST: OPEN PANEL TODAY

Within the Women's & Gender Studies concentration at Georgia Southern University lies an interdisciplinary system of knowledge surrounding the dynamics of equality among matters such as gender, sexuality, race, culture and social class.

Within the vary program are organizations and opportunities educating the GSU community on gender and diversity in such a multicultural universe. One organization in particular, the Georgia Southern National Organization for Women (GSU-NOW), presents Ask a Feminist: An Interactive Panel on Thursday, March 24, 2016 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. in Room 2047 of the Russell Union.

In light of Women's History Month at GSU, the panel will educate as well as discuss the true meaning of being a part of feminism.

"This event is kind of beautiful to me because it's about having a dialogue with each other," Rebecca Frost, senior Writing & Linguistics major, said. "We want you to have questions, we want new voices in the conversation."

For more information, see Page 6.

HOLI FESTIVAL TO SPREAD LOVE AT GEORGIA SOUTHERN

PHOTO COURTESY OF GEORGIASOUTHERN.EDU



Georgia Southern University will be putting on its own Holi Festival of Colors.

The Holi Festival is a celebration traditionally practiced by Hindus and Sikhs. Holi has its origins in ancient Hindu religious traditions.

It originates with Hindus in the area of India and Nepal but has spread to being practiced by many non-Hindus across south Asia. More recently the festival has begun to be practiced in Europe and North America in a similar way. The festivals main attraction is people throwing colored powders and paints on each other. Coloring one another is seen as expression of love and acceptance. The festival is meant to signify the celebration of love, color, the beginning of spring and originally the triumph of good over evil.

Georgia Southern's Holi festival will take place outside the dining commons and the University store at 6 p.m. tonight.

Attendance is free for all students, as long as you present your eagle ID.

By Chris Carter



EASTER CHALLENGE

PHOTO COURTESY OF THECIRCLEGSU.COM



The Circle challenges its staff to each decorate an easter egg in 3 minutes!

Watch the video on thecirclegsu.com



STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

The George-Anne is the official student newspaper of Georgia Southern University, operated by GSU students using facilities provided by the university. The newspaper is the oldest continuously published newspaper in Bulloch County.

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. For questions e-mail adst1@georgiasouthern.edu.

The George-Anne receives additional support, in part, from the Student Activities Budget Committee. For more information, rate cards, or 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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NOTICE: Unauthorized removal of multiple copies from a distribution site constitutes theft under Georgia law, a misdemeanor offense punishable by a fine and/or jail time.

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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 email in Microsoft Word (.doc/.docx) 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, Student Media or the University System of Georgia.

Should women vote for Hillary Clinton?



CHERYL NUZUM

Nuzum is a junior english and communication major from Snellville, Ga.

Well, that depends. Do you agree with her politics? Do you think that the policies she puts forth, the bills she backs, the statements she makes, align with yours? Does she stand for what you stand for?

If the answer is yes -- vote for her. If the answer is no -- don't vote for her.

It's as simple as that. That's how politics (should) work. Our founding fathers didn't grant us the right to vote (and women didn't bust our asses until the 20th century) just to throw it away because of uneducated reasoning.

Whether or not you vote for someone should not be determined by their gender. Voting for someone because they are a woman is just as bad as not voting

for someone because they are a woman. It's the exact same as what women have been against for centuries, only flipped. True equality is weighing the respect and value of someone regardless of gender, race, etc.

We saw it in 2008 when Barack Obama was elected president. It was a huge step for the black community to go from having ancestors enslaved to putting a black man in office. That was a step towards equality, but should it have been? Should equality count as a minority group gathering together to put forth a candidate, or should equality count as a mixed group, made up of both minorities and majorities, gathering together to say "He'll do a good job. He's got my vote," and have the color of his skin not even cross their mind?

Don't get me wrong -- I don't think Obama was voted into office purely through the black community. But I do think there was a large portion that did so because he was black -- just like there was a large portion of the population that refused to vote for him because he was black. Neither of which were okay simply because it shouldn't have mattered.

Hillary Clinton has had a huge decade-spanning political career. She's

been a senator, First Lady, Secretary of State, and now presidential candidate. Not to mention her many achievements outside of politics i.e. graduating from two prestigious colleges: Wellesley and Yale Law School. Now, maybe you think she did an incredible job at these roles. Maybe you think she flat-out sucked. Either way, you can't deny that she did them. It would be a shame if someone with a list of accomplishments that long to be judged solely on their gender.

As a woman, I would love to see another woman take office. Maybe I'll vote for Hillary, maybe I won't. I'll make that decision during

the upcoming election season. It won't be made by asking, "should I vote for a woman or not?" I'll ask myself, "who do I think will make the best president?" and that's who I'll choose.

It shouldn't matter what community a person fits into, whether it's a minority or a majority. We as a population, and especially a generation, should be able to look past those factors to simply choose the best person for the job. That's what equality is.

“Voting for someone because they are a woman is just as bad as not voting for someone because they are a woman.”

Puzzles

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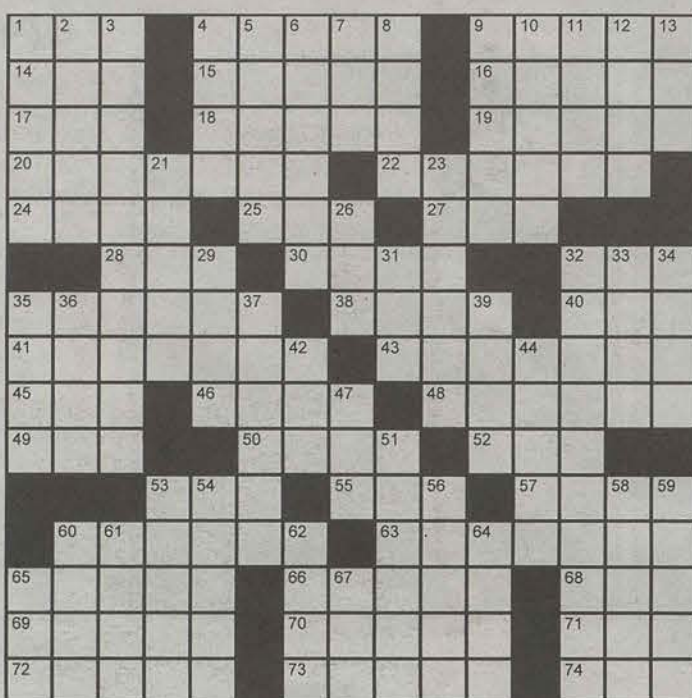
3-24-16

The George-Anne 3/24/16 Crossword

PuzzleJunction.com

Across

- 1 Commercials
4 First TV show, at times
9 Exorcist's target
14 Calendar abbr.
15 Way to walk
16 Rust, e.g.
17 Mozart's "L" del Cairo"
18 Soup scoop
19 Election news
20 Pasta dish
22 Stamp
24 Regarded guardedly
25 Grazing ground
27 "___ alive!"
28 Big Apple inits.
30 They're all in the family
32 Hoedown participant
35 Young raptor
38 Mongrel
40 A Beatle bride
41 Ruffled
43 Nuclear
45 Perfect rating
46 Burrow
48 Fill the gun again
49 Lose oomph
50 Cowboy boot attachment
52 Drink from a dish
53 Intense anger
55 Corn serving
57 Isinglass
60 Imaginary idyllic place
63 Descends by rope
65 Common side order

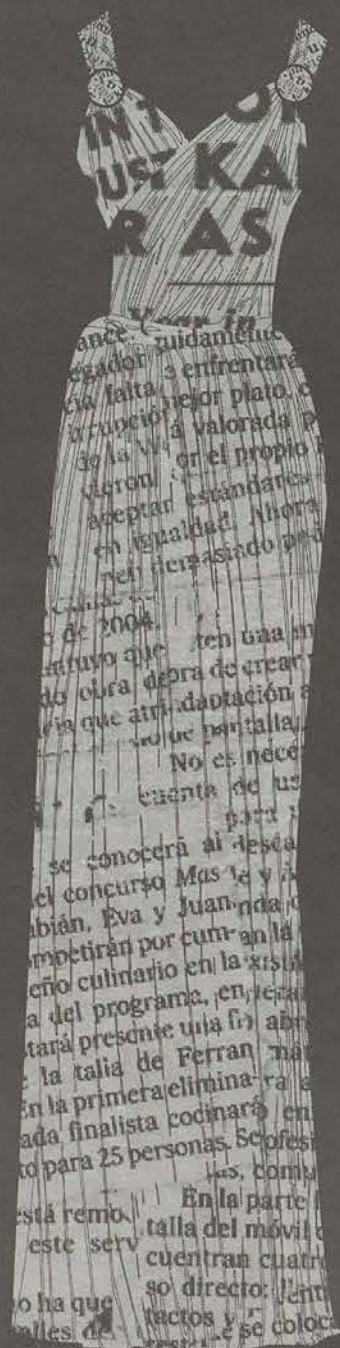
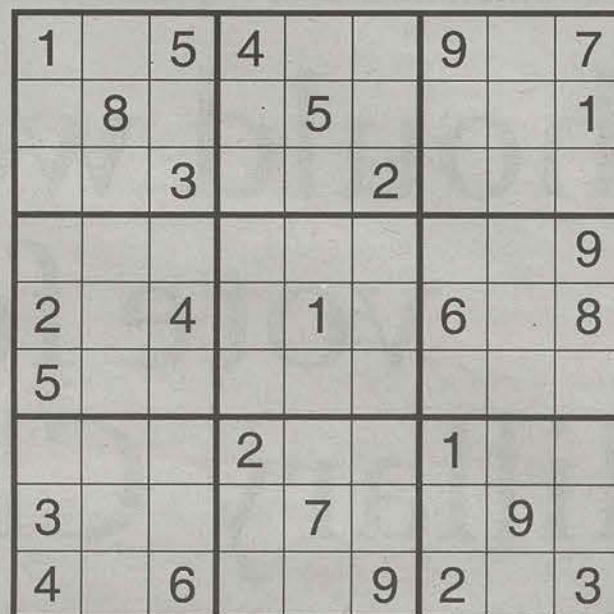
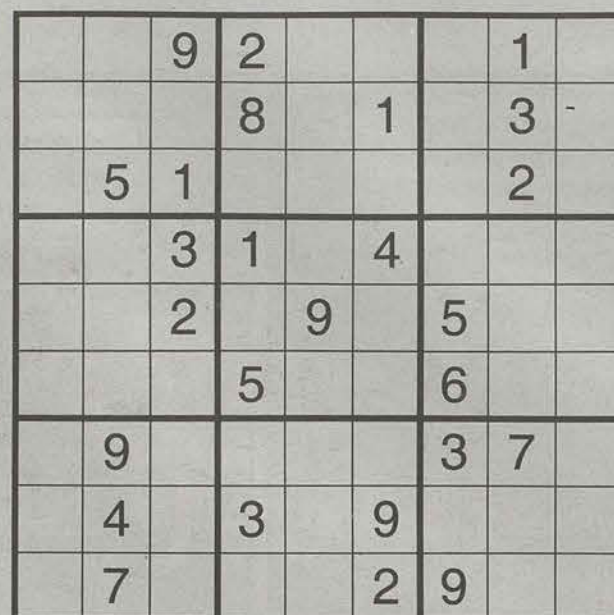


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- 66 Malice
68 Overmodest
69 Close-knit group
70 60's protest
71 First mate
72 Sacs
73 Synthetic silklike fabric
74 Congeal
6 Gents' dates
7 Lubricate
8 Forest unit
9 Question
10 Fairs
11 Hit alternative
12 Praiseful poems
13 Like some prices
21 Tennyson poem
23 Title of respect
26 Aspiration
29 Kind of phone
31 Sticker
32 Crumble
33 Dwarf buffalo
34 House member
35 Small amphibians
36 Bailiwick
37 Razzed
39 East Asian weight unit
42 Quick swim
44 Vise
47 Regret
51 Blue moon, e.g.
53 Like helium
54 Dismantles
56 Sine or cosine
58 Spice rack item
59 Heretofore
60 Picture of health?
61 Gives a hand
62 Cold war inits.
64 Ivy League team
65 TV monitor?
67 Actress Zadora

Down

- 1 Dig deeply
2 Tooth trouble
3 Vulture's forte
4 Sport with mallets
5 With everything counted



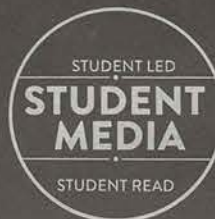
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GSU hosts 4th annual Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event

Walk a Mile in Her Shoes is one of the largest events on campus. Signups are open until March 31 and men are encouraged to participate.

BY BLAKELEY BARTEE
The George-Anne staff

The annual Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event will take place at the Russell Union rotunda at Georgia Southern University to raise sexual assault awareness on March 31 at 5 p.m.

The event, sponsored at GSU by the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), University Wellness Program, Health Services, the Multicultural Student Center, Fraternity & Sorority Life and Sexual Assault Student Educators (SASE), is an international program that aims to give men an opportunity to walk a mile in a woman's shoes.

Participants who registered by Feb. 26 will march in a pair of 3-inch heels at Walk a Mile in Her Shoes, which will truly last less than a full mile, according to Suzanne Shurling, graduate assistant for SART and certified victim's advocate. All proceeds from the event will be donated to the Statesboro Regional Sexual Assault Center.

This year, the event's theme is "Defining Consent," according to Shurling, who hopes the shocking appearance of the march will help draw attention to the cause.

"When you see a bunch of boys, especially last year when we had half the football team there in their jerseys, and 70-year-old professors, and policemen in their uniforms, marching in heels—students are going to be like, 'Why are you marching? What's going on?' We're hoping to get the message out that way," Shurling said.

Shurling said that local DJ Ryan Butts will perform, and food will be supplied from Buffalo Wild Wings and other local vendors.

The event drew approximately 200 participants last year,

according to Carmen Gray, senior English major and president of SASE. Gray said that her favorite sexual assault awareness event at GSU is Walk a Mile in Her Shoes.

"I like Walk a Mile, just because it's hilarious. Guys just don't know, and they're like, 'I'm so sorry that y'all do this,'" Gray said.

While Walk a Mile in Her Shoes is more playful and lighthearted than most sexual assault awareness events, it represents an issue that, according to Jodi Caldwell, GSU counselor and chair of SART, affects everyone.

"I think that sexual violence continues to be one of the largest epidemics in our country, especially on our college campuses. In the last few years, it's gained a lot of traction in terms of media attention," Caldwell said. "Unfortunately, I think the cases that typically made it to the media are not necessarily representative of the vast majority of the sexual violence that occurs. I've always maintained that sexual violence impacts every single college student, whether we realize it or not."

According to Shurling, some people hesitate to participate in the event, partly due to the difficulty of walking in high heels.

"[For the guys who say the walk is too long and they might hurt their ankles], I encourage them; well, first of all, that's kind of the point. There are gendered violence differences in our country, and there are experiences that women are going to have that men, in general, are not going to be able to understand," Shurling said. "Even though some victims are men, it's still a much smaller percentage compared to women. One of the points is learning, metaphorically, the walk that a woman has to go through—the pain, the struggle that we have to go through."



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Upcoming speaker to focus on sexual assault awareness

BY TANDRA SMITH
The George-Anne staff

Retaking Our Story: Reframing the Sexual Assault Conversation, hosted by Tim Mousseau, will be coming to the Performing Arts Center on Tuesday, March 29 at 7 p.m.

Drawing upon his own experiences and interactions he has had with support groups, Mousseau aims to make sure people are able to recognize the three types of impacts of sexual assault, define the various terms and actions involved with sexual assault, empower an understanding campus culture focused on reducing sexual assault and more.

"He gives the perspective of male sexual assault. We want Sexual Assault programs to be for all people and usually the conversation is centered around females," Michele Martin, University Wellness Program Director, said.

Some students around

campus felt as if this event could really educate not only students, but everyone that may be a victim or knows a victim of sexual assault in some way.

"I feel that the event will benefit students, by making them more aware of what's going on and what can we do to make students feel more safe," Johnna Johnson, freshman accounting major, said.

Johnson feels that even if you aren't personally a victim of sexual assault, you should still go to the event. Some students agree with Johnson as well.

"It'll most likely help students in the long run because many students are unaware of how to protect themselves in that situation and that they have rights. There are also many other resources on campus that

will help students as well," Brandon Robinson, sophomore mechanical engineering major, said.

Though there won't be any other sexual assault speakers coming to campus soon, Martin hopes that attendees will take away a lot from hearing Mousseau.

Martin said, "I hope attendees will feel more comfortable reporting a sexual assault as well as feeling more comfortable helping their peers."

Tim Mousseau holds sexual assault discussions across the country. The event is free and open to the public.



TWITTER.COM/TIMMOUSSEAU

Ask A Feminist interactive panel to be held at GSU

BY TAISHA WHITE
The George-Anne contributor

The National Organization of Women will be hosting the first annual "Ask a Feminist" interactive panel will be held on Thursday, March 24 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in Russell Union room 2047.

The event will consist of a panel of professionals, as well as students and members of N.O.W., discussing the topic of feminism and answering questions from the attendees.

The GSU N.O.W. chapter, which is part of the largest organization of feminist activist in the United States, has also hosted a numerous amount of events throughout their 10-year existence at GSU, including the Vagina Monologues.

Sydney Madison, President of N.O.W., discussed how the event came about.

"I took this event from the 'Ask an Atheist' panel," Madison said. "I was at the event and there were a variety of religions discussing what it is to be atheist and trying to get a better understanding. So I took that idea and changed it to 'Ask a Feminist' with some help of from other professionals as well."

For some students, feminism has numerous definitions attached to it. Some negative or

positive, depending on who is being asked.

"I guess it would be more on the lines of instead of men being dominant in the world, it would be more about females," Lanisha Wilson, junior biology major, said. "I guess people refer to the Bible sometimes or some would say that the man is in charge, but it just looks like women trying to make difference instead of being known a less of a man."

The N.O.W. believes that the event will broaden others on social issues, as well as getting others to be aware of feminism and problems regarding intersectionality.

Junior chemistry major Kalyn Warren has a specific question she would like answered regarding feminism.

"I think my question would be, what do you think is the best way to combat someone who thinks that feminism is when women want to be better than men," Warren said. "You know sometimes that issue right there can cause a fight, so I would like to see how knowledgeable people would answer that."

The event is free and open to the public.

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A piece of Nashville at Dingus Magee's



The Vegabonds will be performing live at Dingus Magee's this Friday. The members from left to right are Richard Forehand, Bryan Harris, Daniel Allen, Paul Bruens and Beau Cooper.

BY CARLTON TAYLOR
The George-Anne contributor

The Vegabonds, a new-age rock band based out of Nashville, Tennessee, will be taking a pit stop at Dingus Magee's this Friday night. They will be bringing the sweet sounds of the Music City to Statesboro on their nationwide tour to promote the release of their fourth album, "What We're Made Of."

According to their online biography, Daniel Allen (lead vocals), Paul Bruens (bass), Richard Forehand (guitars/vocals), Bryan Harris (drums) and Beau Cooper (keys/vocals), relate to their audience by telling their stories of love, growing up and overcoming hardships along their pathway to success.

The Vegabonds began their journey in 2009 as students at Auburn University. Paul Bruens, the bass player for the Vegabonds, said that they want to inspire the Georgia Southern public in the same ways they were inspired as students.

"We all came from a big music background," Bruens said. "[Bryan] and I were in this band together, but our lead singer sucked...Daniel, our current lead singer, was a great singer, but his band was terrible."

The road to creating the band had a few twists and turns. Bruens said that each of the musicians wanted to bring their talents to universities and ended up forming two different groups. It wasn't until later that the two

groups merged together, leaving some of the previous members behind, to form the Vegabonds.

"We grabbed the best vocalists and backing band in town," Bruens said.

Once the group found each other and their sound, they were able to become one of Auburn's more prominent groups and even gained European album sales as seniors in college. They have since been touring the country and performing at different venues and festivals.

"The Vegabonds' sound fits our area well," Will Bridwell, the owner of AirBound Entertainment, the local booking company presenting the Vegabonds, said. "They have flares of country, alternative, and blues."

Bridwell further explained that this performance serves as a pre-show for "The Major Rager," a musical experience that will be taking place in the city of Augusta next month.

"I've never heard of [The Vegabonds] but I am actually excited. There's a first-time for everything. I believe that having performers who started out in a college town like ours is inspiring," Veronika Snuggs, a sophomore education student and music lover, said.

For more information about the Vegabonds, check out their website at thevegabonds.com. You can also like and follow them on Facebook and Twitter.

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University Conduct Board Applications

Applications are available March 21 - April 1, 2016
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Have you ever wanted to be part of a process that helps hold other people accountable? This is your chance! Apply today to work with others in upholding the University's Code of Conduct.

As part of our mission, the Office of Student Conduct aims to "uphold the academic and behavioral standards of the University by adjudicating violations of the Student Conduct Code in a fair and consistent manner." Our University Conduct Board members assist us in this process. Questions? Call the Office of Student Conduct at (912) 478-0059 or visit us in Russell Union, room 2022.

Student Conduct: V.A.L.U.E.S. Photo Contest! Photo Contest Submissions OPEN NOW!

Do you know YOUR GSU VALU.E.S. (Voices, Accountability, Lasting Traditions, Unity, Ethical Behavior, Scholarship)? VALU.E.S. aims to produce productive citizens with an informed set of ethics and community standards, and to create an environment of respect and civility. This is your chance to show us your VALU.E.S! Find what you think represents each value and take a photo. Each value has its own submission date so be sure to submit your photo before the deadline for a chance to win some GREAT prizes!

Our community is UNITED in Celebrating Diversity in all its varied forms. Show us how you capture this value! Find something that you think represents UNITY and take a photo! *To submit your photo send it in to one of these three places and make sure to include your contact information:

Email studentconduct@georgiasouthern.edu

Facebook: GSU Office of Student Conduct

Twitter: @GSU_Conduct

MARCH 29TH

SOLD Series - Transitioning Your Organization

Presenters: Dr. Kerry Greenstein

Time: Tuesday, March 29th 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Location: Nessmith-Lane Assembly Hall Room 1915

This session will help students learn how to identify the future leaders of their organization. It will also discuss ways to mentor and properly train them to take on leadership roles in the future.

Contact Information: Kristen VanNoord

Kvannoord@GeorgiaSouthern.edu

MARCH 30TH

UPB Canoe Race

Time: Wednesday, March 30th 3:00 - 5:00 pm

Location: Lake Ruby (beside Lakeside Dining)

In an effort to incorporate new traditions on our great campus, UPB will be hosting the first ever Canoe Race in Lake Ruby (next to Lakeside Dining) on March 30th from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. We are allowing only 20 student organizations to sign up (4 people from each organization, 2 per canoe). There will be FREE food, music and fun! Come out and support your organization! Click here to register to participate!! (you must be logged in to MyInvolvement). **You must be an active organization and attend one captain's meeting to participate. Registration will close on Friday, March 25th at 5:00 pm.

Captain's Meetings (MUST attend one):

• Wednesday, March 23rd at 6:30 pm in RU 2048

• Tuesday, March 29th at 5:30 pm in RU 2073

If you need assistance, related to access for this event, please email

UPB@GeorgiaSouthern.edu prior to the event

Contact information: UPB@georgiasouthern.edu

YOUR STUDENT ACTIVITY FEES AT WORK

The Weekly Buzz is sponsored by the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management.

THE BUZZ LIST

KAT SHUMAN

Features assistant editor



► **@franciscus:** He might actually be the #coolest Pope yet. If you're not already following Pope Francis, let me fill you in. In addition to his Twitter (@Pontifex) the Pope now has an ~iNsTaGrAm~. He posted his first photo on Saturday and has since added three more photos and an Insta-Vid. Now we're just waiting for the Pope to "do it for the Vine."

► **DAMN Kourtney Kardashian; BACK AT IT AGAIN with Scott Disick:** That's right. Who would have guessed that the Lord and Kourt would end up back together? Oh, that's right... everyone. Everyone guessed it, but it's hard to hate on them too much when they post such adorable pics of the fam on Instagram. Of course, many fans are giving Kourtney grief for spending time with Scott, but I for one am glad the two can put their differences aside and spend time with their kids. Especially when they are spending time in Universal Studios' Wizarding World of Harry Potter.

► **#StopJustin2K16:** Okay, I never want to actually stop JBiebs. I love Justin Bieber to the point that it is probably unhealthy, but he is setting a new standard for "crazy ex-boyfriend." Bieber posted a throwback photo of Jelena kissing on Saturday afternoon and captioned it "feels." Although Selena has "supposedly" liked the photo, according to her most recent interview, Jelena will never ever be a thing again. It's time for Justin to marry me and leave Jelena in 2014 where it belongs.

***Jelena: A term describing Justin and Selena's relationship.*

► **Snuggles & Kitties:** If you hadn't heard, Gigi Hadid and ex-directioner Zayn Malik are officially official. The big news now is that Gigi posted a photo on Instagram of her, Malik and a cat all snuggled up on. Why is this news? I don't know. If you forget that the fact that I'm not a model and I'm single AF, I post pictures of cats all the time, and no one notices. It is a mystery why this picture is so popular.

► **Movie Mishaps:** Teen Wolf and Maze Runner star Dylan O'Brien was injured Thursday on the set of Maze Runner: The Death Cure. Though the details on how he was injured are still blurry, fans worldwide are wishing O'Brien a speedy recovery. Fans are also sleeping with their fingers crossed, praying that O'Brien's face was not injured in the accident.

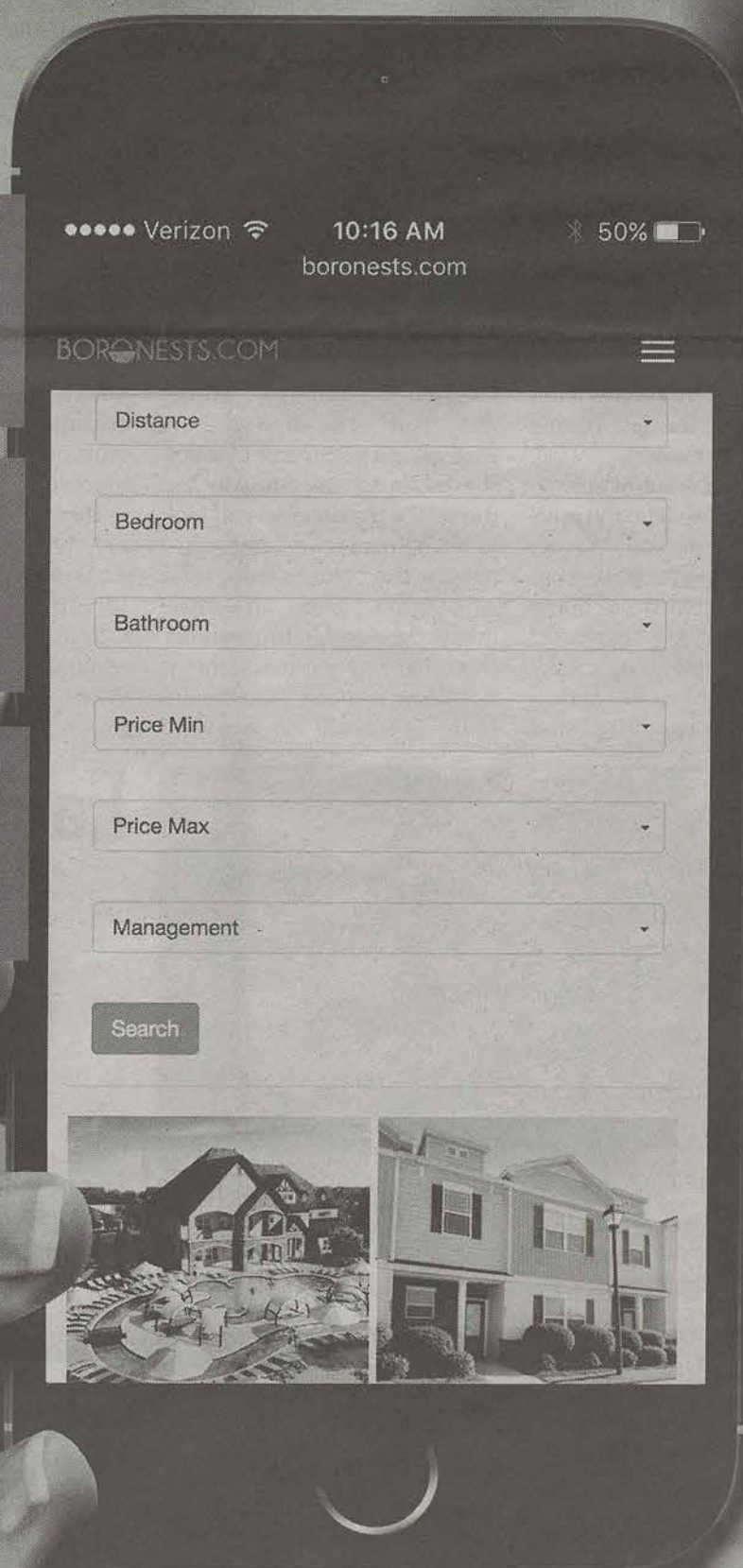
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GEORGIA SOUTHERN ENTERS SPRING PRACTICE WITH NEW COACHING STAFF

In addition to a new head coach, the football team will be getting acclimated to a trio of new coordinators.

BY ROBERT GEORGE
The George-Anne staff

The Georgia Southern football team is returning to the gridiron for the first time since their 58-27 win over Bowling Green in the GoDaddy Bowl on Dec. 23, 2015.

Spring practice officially kicks off this afternoon and it will be the first time newly appointed head coach Tyson Summers and his staff will be on the field with the team.

He and the rest of the staff have been playing catch up this offseason with both recruiting future players and getting to know the returning players. Summers said everyone is ready to get back on the field and get to work.

"It's what we've been looking forward to for the last couple months," Summers said. "When we come out of spring, we want to know who the guys that we can trust are. We are certainly looking for leadership in everything that we're doing and we're trying to build character and build toughness."

The Eagles have an almost entirely new coaching staff

for the 2016 season. Three of the big new hires are Co-Offensive Coordinators David Dean and Rance Gillespie and Defensive Coordinator Lorenzo Costantini.

Costantini comes from UCF, where he helped coach defense with Summers from 2013-2014. While he has mostly coached the defensive line throughout his career, he said he will be heavily involved in all aspects of the defense at GSU.

"My defensive philosophy: be physical, be fast and be sudden," Costantini said. "And that's how we're going to play and that's what I expect out of these kids and I expect the game to have a little more feel of physical toughness up front."

One word Costantini mentioned multiple times was "fun." He stressed how football is a game and that you should be having fun. He and the rest of the defense will look to bring that energy and fun to the practice fields in the spring.

"Coming into an office every day and sitting under these lights is no fun - this is not being a coach," Costantini said. "Football is fun and

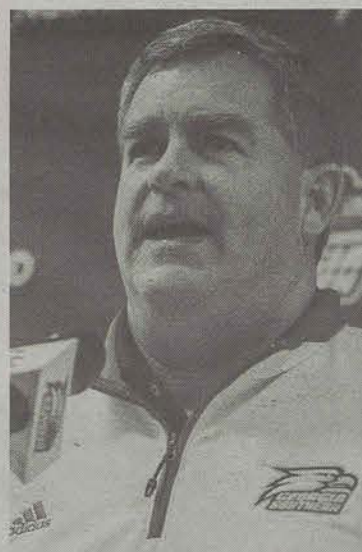


RANCE GILLESPIE
CO-OFFENSIVE
COORDINATOR/
QUARTERBACKS
COACH

when you come out to practice I want it to be that way. I like seeing people pop each other around the field; I like people jumping and running; The energy - that's football - that's the way we like it and I know offensive coaches look at me and think I'm off the wall but I like that kind of stuff. That's what I'm looking for."

Both Dean and Gillespie came from Valdosta. Dean has been the head coach at Valdosta State University, where he won two national championships since he took over in 2007. He will be involved heavily with the wide receivers and will look to help bolster the passing game.

"We're going to continue to run the football, but yes, I think they're excited about some of the things that maybe we're going to install and put in and give these guys an



DAVID DEAN
CO-OFFENSIVE
COORDINATOR/WIDE
RECEIVERS COACH

opportunity to be more of a factor in the offensive game plan," Dean said.

Gillespie was the offensive coordinator at GSU from 2007-2009 under Chris Hatcher. He then spent five years at Valdosta High School as the head coach and athletic director. Valdosta High and VSU share the same stadium, meaning he and Coach Dean have held a professional relationship for the last few years.

"David and I have known each other for probably 15, 20 years, so a long time," Gillespie said. "We've coached camps together and had interaction with one another throughout the profession so I look forward to working with David, this is our first time working together, but I've known David practically my entire career."

Gillespie will coach the



LORENZO COSTANTINI
DEFENSIVE
COORDINATOR

quarterbacks and is looking to help improve on their fundamentals. Much of that will come from drills and workouts that he will implement in spring practice.

"There are some areas for growth and that starts with base fundamentals," Gillespie said. "That's why I'm here, to help them improve fundamentally and I feel like we got some things that can help them on a baseline schedule."

Today's practice will be the first of 15 sessions over the next month. The team will play in the spring game on April 16 at Statesboro High School, as Paulson Stadium is still under renovations to install turf.

Check back over the next few weeks for more updates and storylines coming from spring camp.



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Eagles host UT Arlington in Sun Belt play this weekend

The softball team is back in action this weekend at Eagle Field for a three-game series with the Mavericks. They will also host Jacksonville on Sunday afternoon.

The Eagles are 15-13 on the season. They sit at No.4 in the conference standings.

BY CAMERON DUNN
The George-Anne contributor

Georgia Southern's softball team continues Sun Belt conference play this Friday as they get set to face the UT Arlington Mavericks in a three-game series at Eagle Field. The first game will start Friday 4 p.m. followed by the second game at 6 p.m. The last game will be played Saturday at 12 p.m.

The Eagles come into the series with an overall record

of 15-13 and are currently in 4th place in the Sun Belt standings. The Mavericks come into Eagle Field with an overall record of 22-4 but are currently in 7th place in the conference standings with a 1-2 record.

They are looking to climb back into the win column after a tough road loss to the Texas Tech Red Raiders out in Lubbock on March 19.

The Mavericks are also in need of another win if they want to climb out of the

bottom half of the standings and contend for a conference championship.

The Eagles are undefeated this year at home, winning all four of their games, so they'll try to extend that home win streak as the Sun Belt schedule advances.

Lydia Witkowski leads the team with 36 hits while Sandra Mendoza leads the Mavericks with 41 hits, so look to these two playmakers when the ball game is in the deciding moments.

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The junior shortstop is hitting .304 on the season. He's moved up eight spots in the lineup since the start of the season.

BY KEVIN KENEELY
The George-Anne staff

Georgia Southern shortstop Evan McDonald extended his hitting streak to 11 games after picking up two more hits against Troy on Saturday night.

Just two weeks ago it looked like McDonald's time in the starting lineup was fading, as he had just two hits to show in the first nine games of the season.

McDonald's 11-game hitting streak began against the College of Charleston. Since then McDonald has seen his average jump from .100 to .304 as he is hitting a remarkable .410 throughout the streak.

Before this streak started, he was consistently being put at the bottom of the lineup, typically hitting ninth. Now, with the second best batting average on the team, he's in the lead off spot.

Overcoming a slump is always hard to do, but McDonald was able to lean on his coaches for support as they gave him the opportunity to get out of his slump by keeping him in the lineup.

"Seeing my name on the lineup everyday kind of gave me confidence," McDonald said.

On top of that, the coaches reassured him that they have confidence in him, and that he can do it. So instead of giving up, he decided to make some changes and hope for the best.

"I cut down the amount of swings I took before games drastically... and that gave me a little bit more energy come

game time," McDonald said.

This goes to show that sometimes even the littlest things can make the biggest differences.

McDonald has done more than just help the team out with his hitting, he has also shown that he is very dangerous on the base path, scoring nine runs during the streak. He had failed to cross home plate before the streak started.

This sudden display of consistent offense is nothing out of the ordinary for McDonald.

While playing ball at Platte County High School his senior season, McDonald hit .395 and was named to the All-Conference team for the third time in his high school career.

After high school McDonald played at the Junior College level before transferring to Georgia Southern.

While attending Barton Community College, he had a solid sophomore season, which lead to him picking up an offer from Georgia Southern. That season, he managed to get a hit in 43 of the 52 games he played in, finishing with a .369 batting average. Along the way he had multiple hitting streaks, and one of them was a 14-game hitting streak, the longest of his college career.

"Do I want to see my numbers climb that high? Yes, but I'm not going to worry about it, I just want to get on base and help the team out," McDonald said.

Adjustments at the plate helps McDonald extend hitting streak

After a poor start, Evan McDonald's bat has come alive. He'll look to extend his 11-game hitting streak this weekend against Arkansas State.

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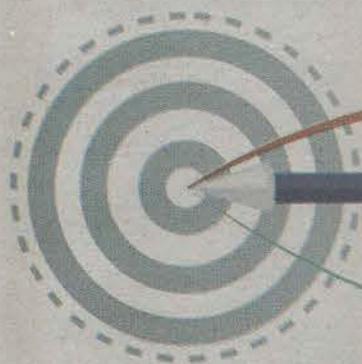
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