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The GEORGE-ANN



Wednesday

November 14, 2001

Sports: GSU takes the week off and waits for Wofford

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Volume 74, No. 41

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ON THE INSIDE:



Covering the campus like a swarm of gnats

Today's Weather

Partly cloudy with a high of 75° F and a low of 54° F.

Only in America

- A jailor is arrested for having sex with an inmate.
- The L.A. City Council decides not to decorate the Hollywood sign red, white and blue.
- A cross dressing dermatologist will plead insanity at the murder of his wife.

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- Chris Brenneman responds to being called 'passe.'

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Sports

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- NCAA I-AA Football announces new playoff format.
- Cardinal fans will miss MacGuire.



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Features

- A man who lost his speech in a car accident now communicates through typed messages on his Macintosh.

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Arts & Entertainment

- Planet Smoothie opens beside Food Lion in Statesboro.
- Elohsa rocked Statesboro this past weekend.
- Paul McCartney releases a new album.



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Southern Events

STAFF AWARDS

- The 2001 Staff Awards of Excellence Ceremony will be held Nov. 15 in the Union Ballroom.

AMERICA RECYCLES

- GSU observes America Recycles Day in the Union from Nov. 12-16.

Plane crashes in New York, 260 dead

KRT Campus

Just seconds before it corkscrewed into a Queens neighborhood, American Airlines Flight 587 rattled loudly. Its pilot complained of turbulence from a plane in front of it, according to the cockpit voice recorder.

On the ground, witnesses saw the plane wobble. "They saw pieces come from it and then it went into a steep, spiraling dive into the ground," said National Transportation Safety Board member George Black Jr., lead investigator of the crash.

Those are dramatic clues, but investigators aren't sure yet what they mean.

Although NTSB Safety Board chairwoman Marion Blakey said Tuesday that the agency's investigation was moving very quickly, the cause of the crash remained unclear.

All signs point to an accident rather than an act of terrorism, Blakey said, but "nothing has been ruled out."

Based on preliminary inspection, the A300 Airbus's two 9,480-pound engines - which were found 700 and 800 feet away from the main crater indicating that they may have fallen off in flight - showed no signs of catastrophic failure. Nor was there evidence that birds had been sucked into the Airbus's massive turbines, Black said.

Catastrophic engine failure and an engine's ingesting of birds were two early theories of the crash's cause. Further engine inspections begin shortly in Tulsa, Okla.

The relatively intact engines puzzled experts who'd expected engine problems to be key to explaining the plane's crash shortly after takeoff on Monday. It claimed at least 262 lives on a flight from John



ANOTHER PLANE DOWN: The American Airlines flight that crashed into a Queens neighborhood Monday rattled twice before going down, but investigators are still uncovering the cause of the crash.

F. Kennedy International Airport to Santo Domingo. Five more are missing from the seaside community of Rockaway Beach, N.Y.

The jet's flight data recorder may help answer the mystery. It was found Tuesday in a Rockaway Beach yard. Blakey hailed the recovery of the "bent and damaged" black box, which measures speed, altitude, engine performance and other systems as "a major breakthrough." NTSB investigators in Washington, working overnight, may have the first results from

the box by Wednesday morning, she said.

A special materials investigator will be looking into possible metal corrosion problems on the plane's tail, Black said. The jet's service record indicates 49 different corrosion repairs in the past five years. That's not unusual, experts said, for a 13-year-old airplane.

Early indications are that the jet's takeoff was normal and that it reached an altitude of about 3,000 feet before it started coming apart. Winds blew

from the northwest at 12.5 mph.

The pilot had 8,050 flying hours of experience. His first officer had 4,400 hours, Black reported.

For investigators, the first clues are contained on the cockpit voice recorder - recovered from the wreckage a day before the data recorder.

The timeline, Black said, started when investigators first detected engine sounds on the tape. He said they

See Crash, Page 5

Rockaway Beach reels as tragedy strikes again

KRT Campus

The people of Rockaway Beach had barely finished burying their dead from Sept. 11 when tragedy struck again Monday.

Their seaside community was jarred by the sound of a crashing jetliner, the smell of burning jet fuel, the site of yet another plume of smoke clouding a clear day.

To some, it appeared to signal another terrorist attack, this time on the Rockaway peninsula that lost as many as 70 people in the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center. To others, even the later speculation that the crash was a tragic accident and not murder offered little solace.

"I don't think I accepted the World Trade Center yet and now this," said Gail Allen, 54, who lives a block from the crash site. "It's hard to think that there are going to be more tears shed in this community," added Allen, whose son was one of the



KRT Campus

A JARRED COMMUNITY: The Rockaway Beach community of New York lost over 70 people on Sept. 11, and Monday, a plane crashed in one of their neighborhoods.

firefighters killed when the trade center towers collapsed.

"I know that I have seen the faces of those gone," said Allen, referring to the half dozen or more missing residents who lived in houses hit by

the crashing plane or destroyed in the inferno that followed. "I've probably seen them many times."

Densely populated, Rockaway is

See Rockaway, Page 5

Academic freedoms suffer since attacks

KRT Campus

An Orange Coast College professor was placed on paid leave after Muslim students alleged he called them terrorists in class.

A New Mexico professor known for his anti-war sentiments was threatened with firing after joking that "anyone who blows up the Pentagon gets my vote."

In New York City, trustees for City University denounced as "seditious" a public forum that included the idea that American colonialism contributed to the terrorist attacks.

There's a new attitude toward academic freedom in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks.

College professors accustomed to saying nearly anything they want without fear of censure suddenly are

place in our society where the free exchange of ideas has been encouraged and recognized as an important

source of freedom," said Martin Snyder, spokesman for the American Association of University Professors. "It's not that faculty and students don't say stupid things and make mistakes, but out of that dynamic comes a truth that is healthy for society."

**— MARTIN SNYDER
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS**

finding themselves investigated, publicly criticized and even threatened with dismissal for making remarks deemed by some as offensive or inappropriate in the post-attack world. "Universities have been the one

Ken Hearlson, an associate professor of political science at Costa Mesa's Orange Coast College, has

See Professors, Page 5

KKG house to be newest addition to Greek Row

By Mickauna Love
Excess13@yahoo.com

Just inside the stately brick entrance to Greek Row, the new Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority house is being built at lightning speed.

The first Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority was founded in 1870 at Monmouth College in Monmouth, IL. In 1990, the Georgia Southern chapter was established. Currently, Kappa Kappa Gamma has 60 members who are led by chapter president Shelly Shaver. The ladies appear to be very proud of their house and eagerly await its completion.

The house is being financed by diligent fundraising efforts of the Kappa Kappa Gamma on the Georgia Southern chapter and national levels. "Building this house on Greek row makes us feel like we are accomplishing a goal we really wanted," Shelly comments of the hard work put into getting the house.

For months the only thing on the designated plot of land was a

sign. Presently, the foundation and basic infrastructure of the house are finished. Martin, Eckels & Rule Architects of Statesboro, designed the Kappa Kappa Gamma house. The two-story house will comfortably accommodate 15 members and one housemother. Also the kitchen will be commercial which means the ladies will be using meal plans.

The house is expected to be completed and occupied in fall 2002. Kappa Kappa Gamma has already begun to organize the leasing process for the privileged sisters who will live in house its inaugural year.

"We will be experiencing sorority life in a different way with the other Greeks on the row," Shelly says.

The other Greek organizations are welcoming Kappa Kappa Gamma and are pleased to see them joining Greek row. Cameron Durden, chapter president of Sigma Chi said, "We are looking forward to Kappa Kappa Gammas company right across the street. We can tell they are really excited."

'The Heidi Chronicles' opens tonight in McCroan Auditorium

By Chris Brenneman
gsu_icon@hotmail.com

Opening tonight night in McCroan Auditorium, "The Heidi Chronicles" is the story of Heidi Holland's coming of age as an art historian.

The play spans from 1965 and follows Heidi up to 1989. It deals in such themes as political idealism, activism and radical feminism and then back to the mainstream that the characters spend

so much time trying to reject.

A comedy, *The New York Daily News* described "The Heidi Chronicles" as "witty, hilarious, not just a funny play, but a wise one."

Tickets are on sale at the ticket office by Paulson Stadium or at the door for \$2 for students. The play will run through Saturday night. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and the play begins at 8 p.m. nightly.



Police Beat

Statesboro Police Department

November 11

• Miguel Aldo Grosvenor, 19, was charged with defective equipment, driving without license on person, and possession of less than an ounce of marijuana.

• Richard Patrick Hughes, 19, was charged with possession of marijuana, underage possession of alcohol, and false or fictitious license.

• Erika Coley Johnson, 20, was charged with underage possession of alcohol and possession of marijuana.

• Andrew Joseph Fisher, 20, was charged with speeding and DUI.

• Allison Iliff reported someone entered her Campus Courtyard apartment.

• Chris Steven Schebler reported someone entered his Garden District apartment and took a black kicker box

with 12" speaker and amplifier.

• John Daniel Gagliano reported someone cracked a window on his car while it was parked in Towne Club apartments.

• Cynthia Johnson reported someone entered her car while parked at Legends and took her purse.

November 12

• Scott Wade reported his satellite dish was stolen from behind his Stadium Walk apartment.

GSU Public Safety

November 10

• John Jenkins Crawford, 28, was charged with DUI, driving with suspended license and no headlights.

November 11

• Steven Michael Reden was charged with minor in possession/

consumption of alcohol.

• Gregory Tortorello was charged with driving with suspended license.

November 12

• Brent Tharp reported a Kodak digital camera was missing from the GSU Museum.

• George Andrews reported a Sony Playstation 2 and a Nintendo 64 were taken from his room in Winburn Hall.

--All Police Beat information is compiled by Adam Brady.

Editor's Note: Police Beat appears in every edition of the *George-Anne* in an effort to inform the GSU community of the amount and nature of crime. All reports are public information and can be obtained at either the GSU Division of Public Safety or the Statesboro Police Department.

Two killed when wrong-way driver causes interstate crash

Associated Press

ATLANTA -- Two people are dead and four injured after a wrong-way driver crashed into another car on Interstate 75-85 in downtown Atlanta early Monday.

The crash occurred around 2:30 a.m. when two cars collided head-on in the high occupancy vehicle lane at the Langford Parkway exit. The wrong-way driver was driv-

ing north in the southbound lane.

Two people the driver headed in the wrong direction and a 21-year-old female passenger in the other car were found dead at the scene. Four people in the second car were taken to Grady Memorial Hospital.

A hospital spokeswoman said one person was discharged Monday, two are stable and one is in critical condition.

The driver has been identi-

fied as 25-year-old Luis Miguel Cortez Castillo. Roxanne Williams of Riverdale was the passenger killed in the other car.

Atlanta police spokesman, Officer John Quigley, said Cortez had a Florida driver's license. Quigley said it was not known where he got on the interstate and why he didn't realize he was going the wrong way.

Man charged with taking loaded gun in carry-on luggage into Michigan airport

Associated Press

GRAND RAPIDS, Michigan-- A man planning to fly from the midwestern state of Michigan to Washington was arrested at an airport for allegedly having a loaded handgun in his carry-on luggage.

Clyde H. Reeves II, 29, of University Park, Illinois, was charged with violating federal law prohibiting carrying a dangerous weapon aboard a commercial aircraft, U.S. Attorney Margaret Chiara announced Friday.

Reeves was arrested Thursday at Kent County International Airport in Michi-

gan after a security agent using an X-ray machine saw what he thought was a gun in Reeves' bag, according to a federal complaint filed Friday.

A loaded .22-caliber Beretta was found in the bag, the complaint said.

Authorities said Reeves had a ticket on Northwest Airlines for a flight to Detroit Metropolitan Airport and a connecting flight to Washington Dulles International Airport.

If connected, he faces up to 10 years in prison and a \$ 250,000 fine.

Starbucks says program will reward responsible suppliers

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Starbucks Corp. on Monday unveiled a plan to pay coffee suppliers up to 10 cents more per pound if they protect the environment and abide by local minimum wage and worker safety laws.

The test program, scheduled to be announced at a coffee suppliers conference in Costa Rica Monday, comes as the coffee industry faces a worldwide glut that has pushed wholesale prices down 40 percent over the past year, to around 40 cents per pound.

With prices so low, Starbucks senior vice president Mary Williams said, some coffee producers are not being paid enough to grow the high-quality coffee Starbucks needs.

"We want to ensure our supply line into the future by making sure the people who supply our coffee are

paid well for it and cared for," Williams said.

The company pledged to continue the program through the 2003 crop season, Williams said, after which it will evaluate its effectiveness and market conditions.

The Seattle-based coffee chain, one of America's largest specialty coffee buyers, says it already pays more than the industry average per pound, but refuses to say how much it pays.

However, Starbucks coffee also retails for above-average prices. Like many gourmet coffee brands, it sells for around \$11 per pound.

For years, the company has made commitments encouraging environmentally and socially responsible practices among coffee suppliers. Critics charge that Starbucks doesn't provide information to verify those

efforts.

"Maybe it's working but nobody's seeing it," said Deborah James, Fair Trade director for the activist group Global Exchange.

James said other, smaller coffee retailers have long had similar programs, but Starbucks is likely the first multinational coffee retailer to adopt the strategy. Many coffee retailers, including Starbucks, Peet's Coffee and Tea and Green Mountain Coffee, now sell some Fair Trade coffee, which activists say gives farmers a living wage.

The pilot program was developed with the Center for Environmental Leadership in Business, a group funded by Conservation International and Ford Motor Co. The center promotes environmentally friendly practices among major corporations.

Fishermen survive almost six months adrift on Pacific Ocean

Associated Press

SYDNEY, Australia — Two Western Samoan fishermen survived almost six months adrift on the Pacific Ocean in a small metal boat by catching fish and birds and drinking rainwater, one of the survivors and a doctor said Monday.

Two other men died during the torrid journey, which saw them drift nearly 4,000 kilometers (2,480 miles) west from Western Samoa to Papua New Guinea.

Dr. Barry Kirby from Alotau Hospital in eastern Papua New Guinea said Lafaili Tofi, 36, and Telea Pa'a, 27, were extremely lucky to be alive.

"Basically they survived on the rainwater they got while they were drifting, some small fish which they caught and also some birds which landed on the ... vessel," Kirby told The Associated Press in a telephone interview.

The men were fishing off their native Western Samoa on June 20 when a huge

load of fish dragged their seven-meter (20-foot) aluminum boat under water.

The men righted the boat by cutting away the fishing lines and two outboard motors but were left powerless as currents pushed them out into open ocean, Kirby said.

The survivors were finally rescued last Tuesday by a villager on Normanby Island in Milne Bay, Papua New Guinea.

"I don't know how they missed all the islands (between Samoa and Papua New Guinea). They were apparently pretty close to Fiji and they had some flares on board which they set off, but nobody came out to rescue (them)," Kirby added.

He said the men also saw several ships pass by but none came to their rescue.

One of the men was unable to walk when he was found, but the other was relatively healthy and could walk when supported, Kirby said. Both had lost a lot of weight, he added.

The men were taken to a primitive medical clinic on the island before being transferred to Alotau hospital on Papua New Guinea's mainland.

Kirby said both men were stable and recovering well.

"I would say their survival ... was just determination and basically doing the right thing, not drinking too much salt water," he added.

In a telephone conversation with The AP from his hospital bed, Tofi said he had been very scared and he did not think he would survive at sea.

The fisherman, who is married with six children, said he was "very happy" to be alive and could not wait to be reunited with his family.

"It is a miracle (that they survived). You don't hear of too many of these adventures ... nowadays but it still happens. These men were very, very lucky," Kirby said.

Court says teacher with three drunken driving convictions can be fired for immoral conduct

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — A teacher at a drug and alcohol treatment facility convicted three times of drunken driving can be fired for immoral conduct, a state appeals court ruled.

The Commonwealth Court said officials were justified in firing Nancy J. Zelno.

Zelno, 44, pleaded guilty two years ago to driving under the

influence, her third offense. Upon learning of the conviction, officials at the facility near Gettysburg, Pa., dismissed Zelno, saying her conduct was a bad influence on students.

The state education chief backed the firing, citing a state law on teacher immorality and intemperance.

Zelno, a tenured teacher at a residential treatment facility in New Oxford, near Gettysburg, fought the

dismissal, saying no students had been corrupted and that her ability to teach hadn't been affected.

But the appeals court upheld the firing.

"Her conduct ... is a bad example to students whose ideals she as a teacher is supposed to foster. This affects her credibility, and impacts her ability to teach," Judge Dan Pellegrini wrote.

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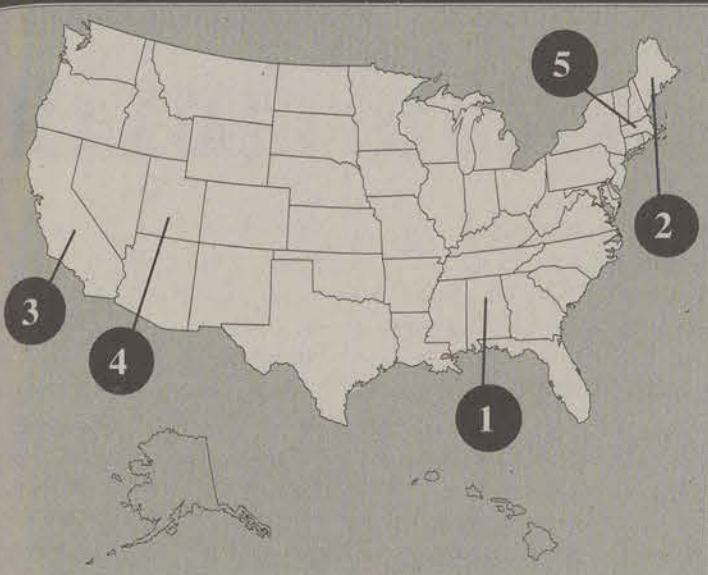
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It is a desire of The George-Anne to print the news of Georgia Southern University as accurately as possible. If you believe that something covered is in error, contact the editor at 681-5246 as soon as possible.

*Liked By Many,
Cussed By Some ...
Read By Them All.*

ONLY IN AMERICA...



taste than this," Wasatch owner Greg Schirf said Monday.

"The entire ad is offensive," Reagan Outdoor Advertising President Dewey Reagan said.

Previous Reagan billboards for Wasatch featured the buxom blond namesake for St. Provo Girl Pilsner and catchphrases "Baptize your taste buds," "Serving the local faithful" and "Oh, my heck."

"We just do not want to be associated in any way with anything that associates in any way with polygamy," Reagan said. "It's not something that is accepted by the majority of society."

Schirf has tried to shop the billboard elsewhere but at least one other Salt Lake City-based company, Young Electric Sign Co., also rejected the advertisement.

Among those offended was Owen Allred, leader of one of Utah's largest polygamist sects, the Apostolic United Brethren.

"I sure don't like it, but I don't think there is anything I can do about it," he said. "We do not believe in alcoholic drinks of any kind, it's definitely a slam against the polygamists."

5 Massachusetts Cross-dressing dermatologist to claim insanity at wife's murder trial

BOSTON—It's a case that has been ideal tabloid fodder: A mentally unstable dermatologist with a penchant for women's underwear allegedly guns down his wife in front of their young children. After the killing, photographs emerge of him in slinky dresses, fishnet stockings and makeup.

Dr. Richard Sharpe, 46, claims he was insane when he used a high-powered hunting rifle to kill his estranged wife, a plea a jury will consider during his first-degree murder trial that began Monday.

Photographs of Sharpe dressed in drag were widely publicized after his children sued him for \$100 million over their mother's death. His eldest daughter, Shannon Sharpe, fought in court to keep him away from her younger siblings.

The Sharpe's two youngest children, a 4-year-old girl and an 8-year-old boy, are in the custody of Shannon, 27, and other family members.

"They're doing as well as can be expected," said the children's attorney, David Cherney. "But it's not an easy situation for anyone."

In an affidavit intended to persuade a judge to block Sharpe from contacting his children, Shannon Sharpe claimed that her father was a habitual cross-dresser who took female hormones and stole underwear from his wife and daughter.

Before the July 14, 2000, shooting, Sharpe had been treated for depression, and was diagnosed with features of anxiety and schizoid or other personality disorders, according to court documents. Sharpe, who used to teach at Harvard University, and his wife were in the process of divorcing.

In 1991, he was involuntarily committed to a mental home after he stabbed his wife in the head with a fork after she asked for a divorce, records show. She was not seriously injured.

Shannon Sharpe also said in court documents after the stabbing that her father allegedly tried to poison his wife and in 1983 he threw acid in his wife's face.

While in jail, Sharpe has been placed in solitary confinement for making a threatening phone call through an intermediary to his eldest daughter. Last October, he was caught trying to steal a mumps vaccine from the infirmary in the jail where he is being held. It was never made clear what he intended to do with the vaccine.

Sharpe's defense attorney, Joseph Balliro, did not return a call for comment on the start of the trial. The Essex County District Attorney's spokesman, Steve O'Connell, said that his office doesn't want to comment for fear of creating more publicity.

Sharpe, who lost his medical license after he was arrested, was chairman of Clickmed Corp., an Internet-based business that develops medical software and lasers. He was also the medical director of LaseHair, a cosmetic surgery company with 18 branches around the state.

Last words '15 minutes,' time it takes to get to heaven

Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. — "Fifteen minutes." Those were child-killer Terry Clark's cryptic last words before he was executed Tuesday, possibly a reference to the book "Dead Man Walking."

State Attorney General Patricia Madrid, who witnessed the death, said she believed Clark meant "that in 15 minutes he would be in heaven."

But as Clark took his last breath, he shed no light on the meaning of his words.

"After the execution, the attorney general spoke with the chaplain of the prison, and he indicated Terry Clark believed he would be in heaven within 15 minutes," Madrid spokeswoman Sam Thompson said.

Warden Tim LeMaster quoted Clark as saying: "The people that hear 'em, they will know what I mean. And for those that don't, they'll have to look it up." LeMaster said he promised Clark he wouldn't divulge the meaning.

"And I want to honor his last request," LeMaster said. "I know what it is. I would read a book it's called 'Dead Man Walking' and you'll know."

The book, by Sister Helen Prejean, was made into a movie starring Susan Sarandon and Sean Penn, about a murderer who is executed. Sister Prejean was away on a speaking tour Tuesday and could not be reached immediately for comment, said her assistant.

1 Alabama

Doctor charged with trying to board plane with gun, knife, sword

BIRMINGHAM—A doctor accused of trying to board an airplane with a gun, knife and sword concealed in his luggage has been charged with a federal weapons violation.

Richard D. Price, 46, contends he attempted to bring the weapons on the plane Oct. 25 because he was concerned that Delta Airlines was not providing adequate security for passengers.

Price, who was released on \$500 bond after an appearance in court Thursday, has been dismissed from his medical resident's position at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He also faces a misdemeanor state charge.

Price was arrested at Birmingham International Airport when he tried to board a Delta flight for Seattle. Police said airport security found a .22-caliber gun hidden beneath peanuts and two \$20 bills inside a package wrapped like a Christmas gift, a switchblade knife in a shaving kit and an 18-inch sword in a cane Price was using.

His attorney, Richard Jaffe, described the doctor as well-meaning. A federal magistrate ordered Price to undergo mental health treatment and not to possess any weapons.

The federal charge of attempting to board an aircraft with a concealed weapon carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison if convicted.

2 Maine

Jailer charged with having sex with inmate

BANGOR—A former Penobscot County Jail guard has pleaded guilty to sexually assaulting an inmate at the jail.

Carla Smith, 46, of Brownville, entered the guilty plea to gross sexual assault. She also faces a charge of trafficking in prison contraband for allegedly providing the inmate with cigarettes.

Smith provided cigarettes to the 26-year-old inmate in exchange for sexual favors, sources told the Bangor Daily News.

Assistant District Attorney Alice Clifford released few details on the case but said Smith had sexual intercourse with the inmate.

Clifford said she will seek a sentence that requires Smith to spend nine months behind bars. Smith, a former member of the SAD 41 board of directors, had no prior criminal record, the prosecutor said.

3 California

LA City Council drops plan to paint Hollywood sign red, white and blue

LOS ANGELES—The City Council officially scrapped plans Friday to paint a giant U.S. flag across the Hollywood sign.

"I love this country and I love the flag. I'm very passionate about that," said newly elected Councilman Tom LaBonge, whose district includes the

Hollywood Hills landmark. "But I'm also passionate about

monuments in this city and keeping them pure. ... We don't paint the White House red, white and blue, or the state Capitol."

Friday's action appears to have ended any plans to alter the sign for Veterans Day. The council had earlier considered draping it in red, white and blue bunting, but the idea was dropped after officials learned there wasn't enough time to order all the fabric needed.

"It really was a way of honoring the people who have died for this country," said Councilman Eric Garcetti, who introduced the motion to paint the sign at the request of the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce. "We had people around the world excited about the idea. At the end of the day there was a lot of support."

Universal Studios had agreed to pay to have the sign painted and then repainted white after Thanksgiving.

Some residents objected to altering the sign for any reason, others expressed concerns about the traffic it would bring to nearby residential neighborhoods and others worried it could make the sign a target of terrorists.

4 Utah

Billboard companies reject ad for Polygamy Porter

SALT LAKE CITY—Wasatch Beer maintains its proposed billboard for Polygamy Porter "Why Have Just One?" is far from being the company's worst-taste ad.

Billboard companies that have rejected the display disagree.

Reagan Outdoor Advertising refused to erect the billboard, which advised drinkers to "take some home for the wives" and "when enjoying our flavorful beverages please procreate responsibly."

"We've exhibited much worse



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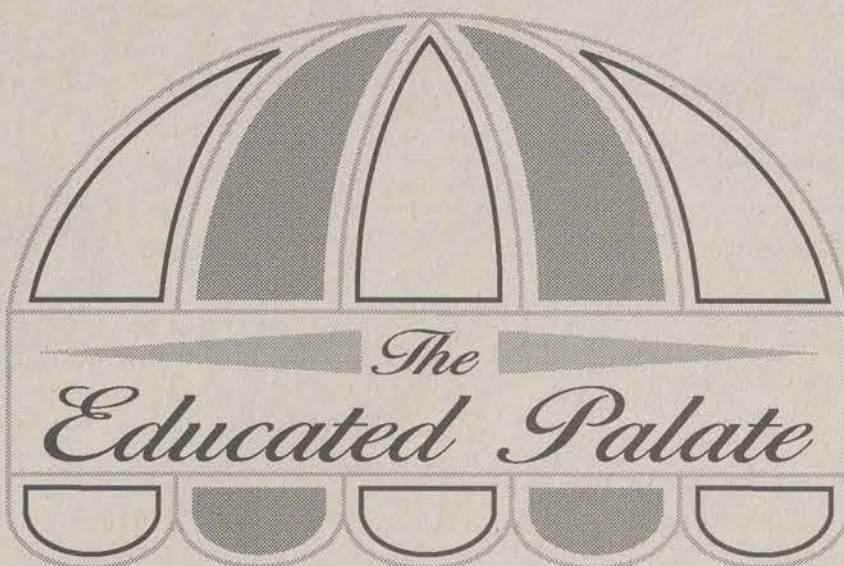
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THURSDAY

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(Sorry—no menu service for dinner.)

Page 4 — Wednesday, November 14, 2001

OPINIONS

OUR OPINION

Why is studying a bad thing?

Why do some students think others who study more than once a week and ask questions in class are nerds?

Not only do we pay for our education, but most of us are here for something more than parties and orgies. So, it is time to wake up and realize that it is actually cool to be a so called "nerd." If what you consider a nerd is someone who actually does study.

It is not cool to float through college drinking away your days, and killing brain cells every time you get a chance.

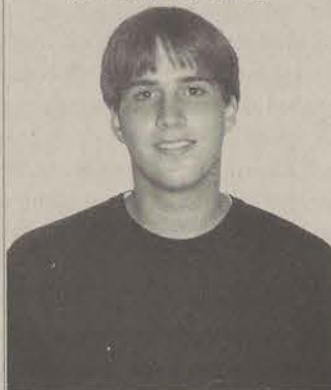
People sometimes forget that they are, in fact, college students. A college student is someone who is studying to achieve a degree. Go figure. So, it actually would make sense to study. Stu-dent...study. For you freshmen, or for some who keep quiet in class, you should speak out. It may help you in your classes and you may even learn something new. Surprisingly enough, your teachers could learn something from you.

Just remember, it's not cool to fail out of school. Your friends won't think your cool and neither will your parents. Just imagine trying to explain to them why you failed out. Not many reasons will stand with most parents.

You can still have your fun in college, but don't forget the many possibilities that a college education will give you. Making the most out of college is the best thing any student can do.

The air is the safest place one can be

TIM
PRIZER



The collective gasp sounded like an army of eighteen-wheelers speeding by a lonesome convertible on a dark and quiet rural highway.

The exhale of relief that followed sounded much the same.

280 million Americans in unison - Could this really be happening again? They finally got tired of us raining down on the same Red Cross facility time and time again. Bin Laden was certainly in on it, we told ourselves.

We were all expecting it in the back of our minds, though only few would admit it. How much more would they take? GW comforted us

with sound bytes of consumer encouragement - live your lives as if nothing happened he told us, and we would be the real victors of the Sept. 11 debacle.

Meanwhile, "Johnny Right-Wing" Ashcroft told Americans to be on the lookout for more attacks. And to even further contradict GW's claims, the shopping mall was considered one of the more dangerous places to be. He never could tell us anything about the threats, only that they were credible. There were reports

of Americans fearfully locking themselves in closets, but Ashcroft seemed certain that a bomb shelter was the only place safe from Arab wrath.

When the American Airlines jet went down Monday, the belief that we may be on the verge of WWII became much more valid. The French, the English, and possibly even the Canadians cocked their guns in harmony. The Western World glared through scopes pointed East.

But then, the finger suddenly turned to us. Apparently, no "evil" was involved in the premature landing that killed over 250 Americans in

terrain is perhaps the safest place to be in a time such as this. There is absolutely no way that someone with any sort of plan to further terrorize

America could slip by airport security and into a seat aboard an American commercial flight.

When I flew with the rest of student media to New Orleans last month, the checking and double-checking of security was

in a way comforting, and in a way ridiculous. We walked into the Jacksonville International Airport to sights we could scarcely believe.

Every piece of checked luggage was examined before the owner's eyes, like a school-hired police officer rummaging through lockers, looking for anything to meet the demands of his unit's quota. We realized immediately that the front desk of the New Orleans Hyatt would be receiving our request for an iron,

after watching our clothes stuffed back into our suitcases.

We were then escorted to a table enclosed by partitions, where our carry-on baggage underwent the same treatment. Signs warned that everything from box cutters to nail files were forbidden, and that security was no joking matter. I did find some humor in the sign before the x-ray belts that read, "No weapons beyond this point," as if there were nothing wrong with smuggling a pair of nunchaks or a firearm before then.

After standing in a three-hour line, we sent our carry-ons - and our belts - through the x-ray machine. Immediately following, they were again checked. Finally, we reached the gate, and before walking the chute to the jet, our carry-ons were, yes, checked once again. After requiring me to take my boots off, they scanned us with metal-detecting rods, and came ever so close to poking us in decidedly undesirable places.

Perhaps the frequent flyers were the only ones who immediately ruled out the idea of Monday's crash resulting from an act of terrorism. Take my word, if any future attacks do occur on American soil, they will occur precisely there, not in the air above that soil.

Tim Prizer is the managing editor of The George-Anne and can be reached at gamed@gasou.edu.

I CAN ASSURE YOU ALL THAT THE AIR THAT HOVERS ABOVE AMERICAN TERRAIN IS PERHAPS THE SAFEST PLACE TO BE IN A TIME SUCH AS THIS. THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO WAY THAT SOMEONE WITH ANY SORT OF PLAN TO FURTHER TERRORIZE AMERICA COULD SLIP BY AIRPORT SECURITY AND INTO A SEAT ABOARD AN AMERICAN COMMERCIAL FLIGHT.

New York Monday, unless the plane was tinkered with before takeoff. But sadly, it will be many years - if ever - before our country doesn't automatically assume that a crash landing is part of a terrorist plot. The mere sight of an airplane soaring through clear skies is no longer a meaningless occurrence.

But as someone who has flown twice since that dark day in September, I can assure you all that the air that hovers above American

Being ignorant is so very passe

CHRIS
BRENNAMAN



Jake Hallman is sick. You get me one extra day this week. Oh, you lucky

kids.

I found out Monday that not everyone is a fan of Chris Brennaman's work. One of Jake's fans decided to e-mail him a letter describing him as the greatest columnist ever to grace the George-Anne pages. I've got no problem with that. Everyone is entitled to their opinion, award winning or not. What got me about the letter is that she decided to offer up her thoughts on me. This young lady feels that I'm "passe." She also called me a snob and an elitist.

I've been called worse.

However, I got to thinking about the "passe" comment. The word means outdated.

You'll never meet a bigger fan of Jake Hallman. When the wanna be X-gamers were creating "Jake Hallman Hater" t-shirts, I was still in awe of his presence. He's the one that brought me into Student Media.

Ah, to be an impressionable freshman again.

My point is, I love Jake's work. While I'll challenge you to find a columnist whose style differs from mine as greatly as Jake's, that doesn't mean our styles can't live together in harmony.

That said, to tell the famed author of the "Hotdog Farm" column that the guy who's writing about the effects of government policy of systematically discriminating against Middle East-

ern citizens is "passe" strikes me as more than just amusing. It strikes me as asinine.

This fan of Jake's (and no, she does not represent all of Jake's fans, just one of the more unobservant ones) represents a prevailing attitude here at GSU that seems to have stuck with many of the members of the student body. That "I can't be troubled to expose myself to anything that's heavy or socially relevant" mentality. What's funny is that this is a college campus. By being here, we signed on to a brief life of exposure to new ideas, difficult issues, and thinking outside the proverbial box.

Like it or not, the world in which we live is often times a cold cruel place. People are dragged out of their homes based on skin color and ethnic background. Planes are crashed into buildings. Adults don't know basic parking lot traffic laws. Students attend school here that would be better suited for fast food service as a career.

If you have no intention of trying to be a scholar for four to five years, then I suggest you head over to Ogeechee Tech. It's a fine school that will give you every skill you need to get a good paying job and be financially secure for the rest of your life. However, you won't be required to bother with lofty issues or critical thinking.

I should admit that besides the passe remark, I did agree with Jake's fan. I

am indeed a snob, but it has nothing at all to do with my bank account, or lack thereof. I'm a snob in that I don't think that all of you need to be here.

I'm also an elitist. I don't believe that people should remain in a set social class, or that one group should be given all of the wealth, but I do believe that some people are better than others. The gang that goes to class with the intention to learn, the group that gets involved with an organization that will provide them with some kind of experience that will help them once college is over, or the group that actually exposes themselves to ideas that quite frankly scare the hell out of them for no other reason than to know what else is out there. I am an intellectual elitist. Some

of our fellow students do not need to be here. There are many of you reading this right now, prepared to march to the George-Anne office to serve me the beating of your life. Got that urge? Good, you know who you are. Time to head over to the registrars office and get out. But if you're reading this and getting it, whether you agree or not, and can form an opinion based on what I've given you, then you're in.

Jake Hallman is a fine writer. He's got a distinct voice, and, whether he knows it or not, is putting forth a message. The paper is going to miss him when he's gone next year.

Chris Brennaman is an award-winning columnist. He can be reached at GSU_icon@hotmail.com.

LETTER AND SUBMISSION POLICY

The George-Anne welcomes letters to the editor, story submissions and guest columns from people both inside and outside the GSU community. All copy submitted should be typed (double-spaced, please), preferably on Macintosh disk in Microsoft Word or Microsoft Works format. All submissions must be signed and include a mailing address and phone number for verification. The editors reserve the right to reject any submission. There is no word limit on submissions. A writer may request to remain anonymous. However, it will be the editor's decision whether or not to print the name. Submissions are run on a space-available basis.

Covering the campus like a swarm of gnats

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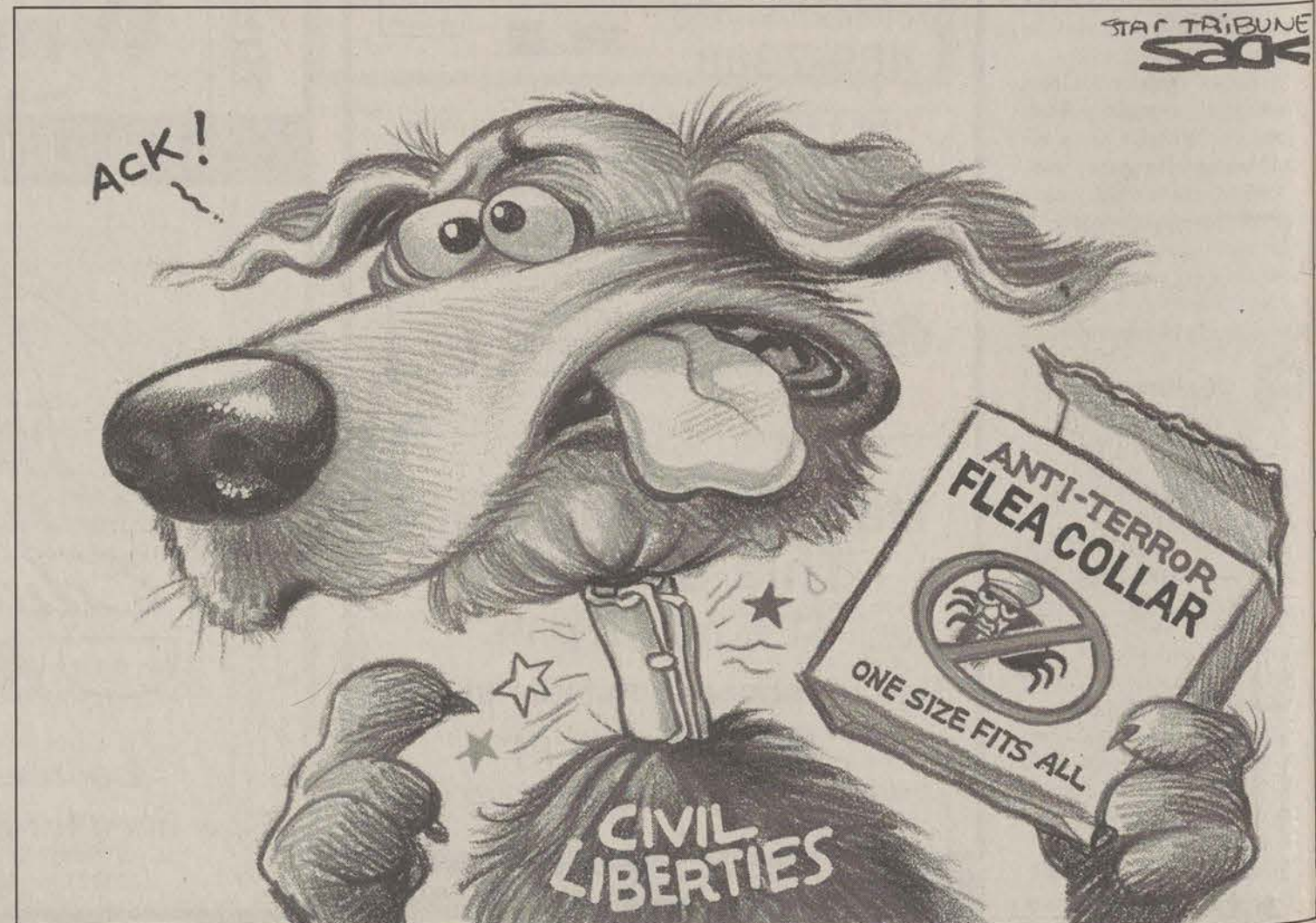
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CRASH, FROM PAGE 1

could not tell exactly when take-off occurred.

A minute and 47 seconds after the engines became audible, the airplane's massive frame made a noticeable "rattling noise" that was caught on tape, Black said.

At the 114-second mark, Black reported, the flight crew complained of a "wake encounter," meaning massive turbulence, possibly caused by a Japan Air Lines 747 that had taken off just before the Airbus.

Seven seconds later another rattle was heard. At 125 seconds, the co-pilot called for maximum power. Two seconds later the pilots said there was a loss of all power.

And 144 seconds into the flight tape, the plane crashed.

"It's hard to understand," Purdue University aviation professor Dale Oderman said Tuesday. "That must have been some really significant air frame shuddering" from the JAL plane.

Black said the JAL jet took off 2 minutes and 20 seconds before Flight 587 and noted that FAA rules require two-minute separation between take-offs.

Investigators aren't yet certain whether the Japanese jet caused the wake turbulence, he said.

Wake turbulence could have disrupted airflow into the massive turbine engines causing the compressor to stall, Oderman said. But that wouldn't cause the engine to fall off. Or the tail, which was found in Jamaica Bay a good distance from the rest of the wreckage.

ROCKAWAY, FROM PAGE 1

a three-block wide stretch of single-family homes and small apartment buildings nestled on a strip of land between the Atlantic Ocean and Jamaica Bay. Long home to the sons and daughters of Irish, Italian and Jewish immigrants, it is considered a safe enclave by many of the city's firefighters and police who raise their families there and look out for one another.

"My first reaction was God, they did it again," said Deirdre Buckley, 39, a homemaker who lives at Beach 129th Street and Newport Avenue, one block away from where one of the engines landed, and two blocks from the bulk of the debris.

Buckley was home on the fourth floor of her apartment building when she heard the sound of a plane engine, a familiar sound so close to Kennedy airport. Her 7-year-old son Danny looked out the window. "I was drawing a picture of the World Trade Center, then I heard a loud kaboom. Then I saw the plane spinning and then it broke," Danny said, using his hands to describe the plane rotating as it went nose down.

Michael and Synnove Jefford and their two children were sitting in their living room enjoying their 6-year-old son's day off from school when they heard the boom and felt their two-story house on Beach 124th Street shake.

"It felt like the wind was sucked out of the room," said Synnove Jefford. "I thought it was terrorism straight away," said Michael Jefford.

Michael ran outside, saw big pieces

Moreover, wake turbulence has been known to cause small planes to crash, but has not been a big problem for big jets like the A300 Airbus, said Eric Doten, a former senior FAA official who is now director of the Center for Aerospace Safety Education at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Fla.

"We're scratching our heads on this," Doten said. "I still think some-

was tragic beyond fathoming.

In Rockaway Beach, firefighters at the crash site Tuesday found only the awful debris of disaster: body parts, children's shoes, suitcases and even a pair of men's pants hanging in a tree. Two months ago, families in the same community had watched Manhattan's World Trade Center towers burn and fall, losing scores of their own, mainly firefighters and police.

"We have to learn psychologically how to deal with something like this," New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani said Tuesday. "New York will do fine. We'll get through it. We'll absorb it."

In Washington Heights, dozens of

families flocked to Alianza Dominicana, a community center with bilingual counselors. A makeshift memorial was erected outside, with candles, a small American flag, a large Dominican flag and a banner that said "We are in mourning," in Spanish.

Delossantos Hutchinson, 27, of Queens wore a white rose attached to his black jacket, with red-white-and-blue ribbons attached. He held out a photo of a young woman smiling before a Christmas tree. It was his wife, whom he declined to name, who perished in Monday's crash.

"She was a great mother. She always took care of our kids," said Hutchinson. Their children are Kevin, 6, and Huniel, 3. "Right before she got on the plane, I gave her a simple gift, and she said 'Give me a hug.' That's what I keep thinking about. I keep thinking about her last words. I can't believe she's gone. I'll never accept this."

firefighter from Great Neck who lost a son in the World Trade Center attack, rushed to the scene after hearing of the crash to volunteer to help.

"We are a resilient group of men. This is what we've been trained for. We need to keep on fighting. My oldest son, Jonathan, is still lying at the World Trade Center," he said before pointing to the crash site. "And my youngest son, Brendan, is in there fighting."

Vincent Plover, a firefighter with Ladder 85 in Long Island, was finishing his duty when he heard that a plane had crashed.

"I thought I needed to be there, just like I thought I needed to be at the Trade Center," said Plover, whose bright blue eyes stood out from his soot-stained face. Plover had helped with the rescue effort at the World Trade Center for 18 hours on Sept. 11.

When Plover arrived at the crash site in Rockaway Beach before 10 a.m., he saw plane parts in flames, smoke, burning houses and 40 to 50 charred bodies.

"It was devastation. There wasn't much left of the plane," he said. "I thought it was another act of war upon our country."

Last week residents of the Rockaways raised enough money to build a memorial for their community's World Trade Center victims. The week before that, they raised \$62,000 for the victim's families.

Said Ellen O'Toole, a worker at nearby Peninsula General Hospital: "We're one big family down here."

PROFESSORS, FROM PAGE 1

attracted national attention since being placed on paid leave Sept. 20, pending an investigation into complaints by four Muslim students that he had offended and insulted them.

"I believe the school overreacted to three or four students' comments and allegations, which my attorney, myself and our union representative believe were absolutely false," Hearlson said.

Hearlson, a self-described conservative Christian who has been at the college since 1980, was teaching a large introduction to government class Sept. 18 when he began a discussion about the terrorist attacks the previous week.

Student versions of what occurred differ, but the controversy began during a heated discussion about the U.S. role in supporting the Israeli government against the Palestinian movement - and continued into a discussion of the role of Muslim fundamentalists in supporting terrorism.

Mooath Saidi, 18, a second-year student who was among the four who filed the complaint, said Hearlson pointed at him after they had engaged in a heated exchange.

"He pointed in my direction and said, 'You drove two planes into the World Trade Center. You killed 5,000 people. You are a terrorist,'" Saidi said. "Someone in the class said, 'Do you realize what you just said? You just accused him of the bombings.'"

Other students in the class disputed Saidi's allegations and said Hearlson never accused anyone in the class of terrorism.

"I think the students blew a lot of things out of proportion," said Melanie Weigand, 23. "He was talking about Muslim terrorists, not them."

"He tells you from Day 1 he's going to get in your face, and that's how he teaches," student Beau Marseilles said. "He's the

best teacher I ever had."

College President Margaret Gratton did not return phone calls. College spokesman Jim Carnett said last week that the investigation has been completed and that results are being reviewed.

Other OCC professors have published newspaper opinion pieces supporting the decision to place Hearlson on leave and questioning the lengths to which a teacher should be allowed to provoke students without censure.

Hearlson is being defended by the Philadelphia-based Foundation for Individual Liberties in Education, which is demanding his reinstatement.

"Even if he singled out students, that is called shock-value teaching and it is done all the time," foundation Executive Director Thor Halvorssen said. "Feminists point to males in their classrooms all the time and say, 'You're a white male. You murdered millions of Native Americans.'"

Around the country, college professors recently have seen their Web sites censored, been publicly rebuked for their political teachings and writings critical of U.S. policies, and have been bombarded with hate mail and even threatened with firing in the emotional aftermath of the attacks.

It cuts across both sides of the political spectrum. Students and staff members have been ordered to remove flags and in one instance were ordered not to wear flag pins on their lapels as they went on the air at a University of Missouri campus TV station, Snyder said.

Snyder compared the current campus atmosphere to that of the Vietnam War or the McCarthy era.

"When there is a lot of patriotic publicity and people are scared, it suddenly becomes se-

ditionous and treasonous to express an unpopular opinion," Snyder said.

At San Diego State University, an international student was admonished in writing by an administrator for getting into a heated argument in Arabic with other students over the bombings.

In Orange County, Fullerton College President Michael Viera investigated student complaints that a professor of Middle Eastern descent had stomped on an American flag in class.

"There was a lot of confusion and concern about it because for a while there was a rumor circulating that it happened on the day of the attacks," Viera said.

Ultimately, Viera said he determined that the professor did stomp on the flag on the first day of the class - but weeks before the attack - as a teaching tool designed to provoke emotions from students and engage them in a discussion about patriotism.

Viera said he did not discipline the professor because he respected his academic freedom, but he suggested to him that this isn't a good time to repeat the experiment.

"I would certainly think it would be viewed differently today, and the emotionalism surrounding it is such that you couldn't get a teachable moment out of it," Viera said.

The atmosphere has made life difficult not only for professors but for students as well.

In the wake of the OCC incident and the terrorist attacks, Saidi said students on campus are angry at him and other Muslim students.

"People are making remarks like, 'Nice bombs you dropped on us,'" Saidi said. "We don't blame Christians in general for what Timothy McVeigh did. You cannot blame all Muslims for one psychopath."

The GEORGE-ANNE

Holiday Schedule

The George-Anne will publish this week but will observe a Holiday Schedule for the remainder of the term and the beginning of next term.

Our Holiday Schedule deadlines for advertising, classified and news are as follows:

Friday, November 16 edition

Ad deadline: Tuesday at 5 p.m.; classified: Thursday at noon.; news: Thursday at 5 p.m.

Thanksgiving Week

No regular editions scheduled. We'll resume publication Wednesday, November 28.

Wednesday, November 28

Ad deadline: Monday, November 26 at noon; classified Tuesday, November 27 at noon; news Tuesday, November 27 at 5 p.m.

Friday, November 30

Ad deadline: Tuesday, November 27 at noon; classified Thursday, November 29 at noon; news Thursday, November 29 at 5 p.m.

Monday, December 3

Ad deadline: Thursday, November 29 at noon; classified Friday, November 30 at noon; news Sunday, December 2 at 5 p.m.

Wednesday, December 5

Ad deadline: Monday, December 3 at noon; classified Tuesday, December 4 at noon; news Tuesday, December 5 at 5 p.m.

Note: The Wednesday, December 5th edition will be the last regularly scheduled edition of Fall Semester. The newspaper will resume its regular operation with an edition on Wednesday, January 9, 2002.

2002

Wednesday, January 9, 2002

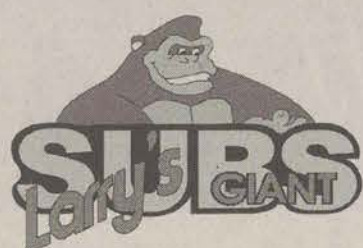
Ad deadline: Monday, January 7 at noon; classified Tuesday, January 8 at noon; news Tuesday, January 8 at 5 p.m.

The newspaper resumes its regular schedule following our first spring semester edition. Thanks for your support. Thanks for reading The George-Anne. Have a great holiday!

News: 681-5246 or gaeditor@gasou.edu
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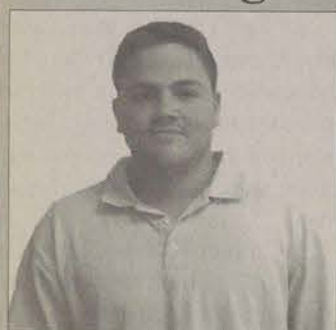
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Mark, I was listening



By Bo Fulginiti
Bodawg38@hotmail.com

Yes, Mark McGwire hit a boatload of homeruns in his fifteen-year career 583 official tater-tots to be exact, (for those of you that have been counting at home since 1986).

Some of his shots made us scratch our heads, like the bomb he hit in the 1999 All-Star homerun derby that hit the lights above Fenway's "Green Monster."

Others made us *duck* our heads, like the laser beam that he hit off of Steve Trachsel in '98 for his record-eclipsing 62nd homerun, that headed for the first row of seats at warp speed.

Yet, he tried to teach us day after day that there is so much more to this game than just rounding the bases. And for some reason, the media never listened to anything but the crack of his bat, and the fans didn't care about anything but getting to the park early to watch him hit BP.

Well, the bell has sounded and class is over, and Mr. McGwire, trust me, I heard every word you were saying.

He hit 49 homeruns in his record-setting rookie season, and he could have hit one more to reach the coveted milestone of 50, but instead he skipped the last few games of the season to be present for the birth of his son.

He was trying to tell us that family is what should be most important.

He cried in front of cameras to a room full of grown men at award shows with the mere mention of the word "children," or in any reference to all the parks and foundations that he devoted his time to in an effort to make those children's lives a little better.

He was trying to tell us to make this world a warmer place for today's kids than it was for us growing up. And he was also saying that it's okay for men (at any size) to show emotion.

He went straight from home plate to the stands to embrace the Maris family who was seated right behind the Cardinals dugout at Busch stadium the night he hit 62, and together they pointed to the sky to acknowledge the man whose record had just been broken.

He was trying to tell us to respect the individuals that have come before us; and to give tribute to their achievements, not only because they have given us inspiration, but because they blazed a trail that has helped allow us to keep reaching for greater heights.

And last but not least, in his final days as a St. Louis Cardinal, he left the signature line blank on a guaranteed contract extension that would have made him \$30 million richer, and made a public pitch for Oakland A's free agent first base slugger Jason Giambi to come in and take his place, to try and help the Cards get to the World Series.

He was trying to tell us that baseball is a team game, and no player should be placed above the team itself, or given special treatment for helping them achieve past success.

Now that he has walked away from baseball, people will forever be saying "Do you remember the homerun chase in '98?" or "How far was that blast again that he hit into the upper deck of the Astrodome?" And those same people that marveled at all the records and all the 583 times that he took a "stroll in the park," are the same people who will never understand the real person that Mark McGwire was.

Well, I don't know if it is any consolation big fella, but I was listening the entire time, and I just wanted to say thank you for teaching me a thing or two about what is really important.

NCAA proposes new playoff system

By Dennis Hightower
hightower12181@hotmail.com

What do the NCAA Basketball Tournament and this year's NCAA I-AA Playoffs have in common? They both have a regional playoff system.

Tony Moss from SportsNetwork.com said the NCAA legislation passed the rule in October saying that the stipulation was due in large part to "travel complexities" associated with the Sept. 11 attacks. That means Georgia Southern would be playing against opponents within the southeast region.

Here is the projected playoff matchups for the 2001 I-AA Playoffs:

West Region
Northwestern State (8-3) at #1 Montana (11-1)
Northern Arizona (8-3) at Sam Houston State (9-2)
East Region
McNeese State (8-3) at #4 Villanova (9-2)
Hofstra (8-3) at Lehigh (10-0)
Midwest Region
Eastern Kentucky (8-2) at #3 Northern Iowa (9-2)
Western Kentucky (8-3) at Eastern Illinois (9-1)
South Region
Florida A&M (7-3) at #2 Georgia Southern (9-1)
Rhode Island (9-2) at Furman (9-2)

The NCAA will seed the top four teams and the four that match up best from a regional standpoint, outside a team's conference, will be paired in the first round with the seeded teams. The remaining eight unseeded teams will also fit the regional standpoint. The criteria in selecting the 16 teams has not changed as far as conference champions and at-large bids.

The I-AA will have to make some decisions about who has the right to host in a matchup of two unseeded teams should they move to the quarterfinal or semi-final round. More than likely it will be based by records.

However, records will not be the only factor in this new playoff format. The attendance, market size, and television opportunities will be a part of it, too. "You can rest assured that 20,000 fans versus 8,000 fans will mean a great deal more than a 9-2 versus an 8-3 team," said Moss.

The new I-AA playoff format is official, but there is some talk about making this system good for the future. This could cause some controversy down the road because of the

traditional values.

"I can hear the gagging emanating from coaches and fans from Orono to Flagstaff. Besides being completely undemocratic way of crowning a champion, the tournament is being regionalized in a way that is unhealthy for I-AA," Moss said.

"The stigma of I-AA (football)

being "small-time" will only grow under this system, with fans and media not needing to follow or care about the division from a national standpoint. Maybe regionalizing the playoffs makes sense in a non-fan friendly sport like field hockey, but it serves no benefit for I-AA. Any effort to keep this playoff system

beyond 2001 would be extremely trouble for many."

For the Eagles, this may be a plus because of the familiarity of the projected teams in the region. They defeated a Furman team that can match-up well offensively and defensively.

Rhode Island's style is similar to

the Eagles, mostly because of former GSU coach Tim Stowers. The Florida A&M Rattlers are athletic and ranked #11 nationally in passing.

Since Sept. 11, the world has changed. This year's I-AA playoffs will be one of the most memorable period in the history of college football.



Jill Burnham/STAFF

CHEERING IN OUR HOUSE: Georgia Southern will begin playoffs in three weeks with homefield advantage, possibly against Florida A&M. With a win against Wofford, the Eagles would play in three playoff games at home.

Fans ponder life without Big Mac

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS— In a city where baseball fans tend to bleed Cardinal red, heroes often are the big stars few bigger than Mark McGwire, the redheaded slugger with even a short, local stretch of Interstate 70 in his name.

But now McGwire says he's hitting the road and retiring, leaving many disappointed in the rearview mirror of a career that included 4 1/2 homer-filled seasons in a city that embraced him never more than in 1998 when his 70 home runs smashed the single-season mark and revived the game.

"It won't be the same without him, that's for sure," 23-year-old Steve Hochlander lamented Monday in the Cardinals Clubhouse team apparel shop he manages in Union Station. A life-size McGwire cardboard cutout stands in the store's front window. "Everyone was just so happy when he came to the plate," Hochlander added, a Cardinals cap on his head. "It just won't be the same."

Such was the prevailing separation anxiety Monday among Cardinal fans digesting life without Big Mac, forearms rippling, digging into the Busch Stadium batter's box and sending a pitch

into orbit.

"It really hasn't sunk in," said 51-year-old Levester Regans Sr., a lifelong Cardinals fan at work Monday shining shoes not far from Hochlander's shop. "It won't feel bad until the season starts and he's not there."

Regans' nagging question: Big Mac, won't you reconsider?

"I hope he don't retire. I think he's got some baseball left in him," Regans says, like other Cardinals fans convinced McGwire remains capable, even in diminished health the 38-year-old slugger cited as key in his opting to quit.

"Whether he was at peak performance or not, people still came to see him play," smitten by the lure of the long ball, said Earl Niemeyer, a 37-year-old banker from Bowling Green, Mo. Heck, John Scroggins says, consider McGwire's last season. While hitting just .187, he still managed 29 homers as he struggled to recover from a knee injury that also cost him half of 2000.

"I don't think his skills warrant retirement," said Scroggins, a retiree and lifelong Cardinals fan planning to soon move to St. Louis from Little Rock, Ark. "He could still hit 35 to 40 home runs."

Before McGwire, Scroggins says, "the Cardinals were just another baseball team. McGwire coming from Oakland aroused the interest in Cardinals. He created excitement."

When it came to retirement, McGwire for months had softened the blow to Cardinals fans, strongly hinting several times last season his playing days were numbered. Now,

McGwire walks away from a \$30 million, two-year contract extension he agreed to in spring training but never signed.

"I believe I owe it to the Cardinals and the fans of St. Louis to step aside," McGwire said in a statement Sunday night, "so a talented free-agent can be brought in as the final piece of what I expect can be a world championship-caliber team."

While he's never met McGwire, St. Louis Rams coach

Mike Martz called the slugger "a guy that's outstanding and great for professional sports in general, not just baseball but all sports."

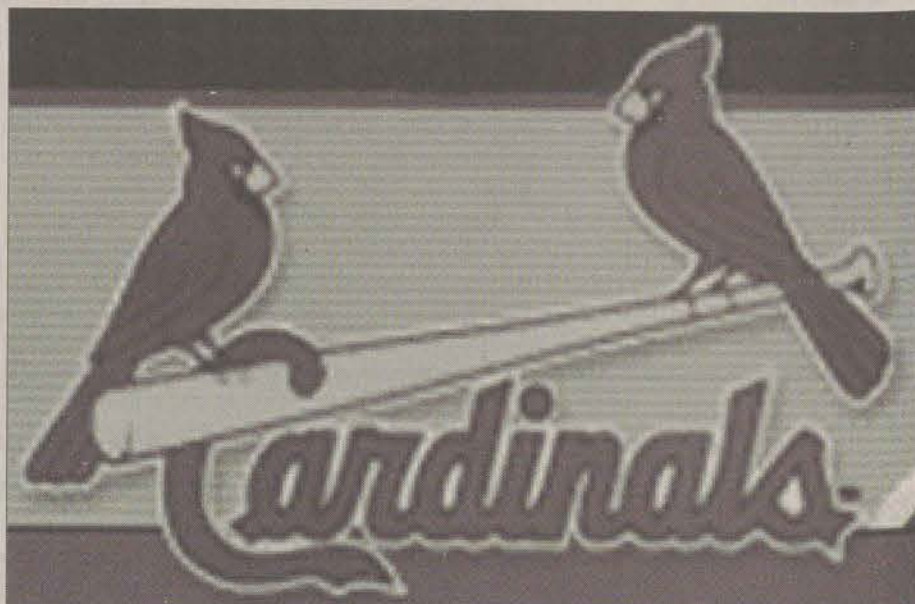
"That's got to be one of the most difficult things in life, when you reach that pinnacle and to step away and say it's done, and then to have the class to make room for that organization and to say what he did," Martz said. "I just thought that was remarkable."

"What a great role model he is, huh? Wouldn't you love to have your kids like him?"

Fans quizzed Monday were quick to suggest McGwire's successor on the Redbirds roster Jason Giambi, a protege from his playing days in Oakland, where McGwire and Jose Canseco once made up the homering "Bash Brothers."

While McGwire may mothball his bat, Hochlander hopes the slugger helps the Cards in other ways.

"I don't know if they have the money the Yankees do," he says, "but maybe McGwire will talk to Giambi about how great it is here."



Agassi gets his mind back on tennis; Hewitt overcomes Grosjean in Masters Cup openers

Associated Press

SYDNEY, Australia -- It took Andre Agassi a little while to adjust to being a dad.

The 31-year-old admitted to being a rusty Monday in his first match since his wife, Steffi Graf, gave birth to son Jaden Gil last month.

But it took him only two games to get his mind back on tennis in a 6-2, 6-4 demolition

of Australia's Patrick Rafter on opening night of the season-ending Tennis Masters Cup at Sydney's SuperDome.

No. 2 Lleyton Hewitt had earlier overcome Sebastien Grosjean as he and No. 3-ranked Agassi closed the gap on No. 1 Gustavo Kuerten in a tournament that will decide top spot for the 2001 ATP Champions Race.

Hewitt rallied from a set down to beat No. 7 Grosjean 3-6, 6-2, 6-3 in 1 hour, 50 minutes.

Agassi, coming back from almost two months off, dropped his opening service game before recovering to dismantle Rafter in 1:13.

During a post-match court-side, Agassi received a standing ovation from the almost 10,000-strong crowd when quizzed about his new wife and baby.

"If feels good ... It's all so new to me," he said. "Very few things in your life you cherish so much and I have to say the one you cherish the most is your child."

"Just to have that reaction to it, it did take me by surprise it did make me feel pretty good."

The personal distractions have been both a distraction and a motivation for the former world No. 1.

"I would be lying to say that it hasn't been a time of focusing on other things but, with that being said, I have maintained my fitness and my preparation and it is really motivating," he said.

"I'm in a different chapter in my life and I'm anxious to see how things develop for me," he added. "I doubt I'll be able to do this long enough that my boy will get to see me play, but it sure is nice to dream a little bit

about that it's easy to think about."

The American trailed 0-2 but won six consecutive games to

Juan Carlos Ferrero of Spain plays Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia.

The format and points difference means that if Kuerten wins all three of his round-robins and his semifinal, Hewitt would have to win the tournament to catch him.

Agassi is the only other player who can overhaul Kuerten this

"IF FEELS GOOD ... IT'S ALL SO NEW TO ME. VERY FEW THINGS IN YOUR LIFE YOU CHERISH SO MUCH AND I HAVE TO SAY THE ONE YOU CHERISH THE MOST IS YOUR CHILD."

**--ANDRE AGASSI
PROFESSIONAL TENNIS PLAYER**

take the first set in 27 minutes.

He faltered after breaking Rafter early in the second, dropping his own serve and then having to save two break points to equalize at 3-3.

After giving the No. 6-ranked Rafter a breakpoint chance, the usually cool Agassi swatted the ball into the crowd in frustration.

"I got frustrated at that particular point because I didn't put the hammer down when I had the opportunity," he said.

"And it had to do with concentration too when you haven't played matches, there's a certain amount of concentration lacking and that allows a certain amount of temper to kick in."

But he regained his composure to win three of the next four games and serve out to love when the Australian put a backhand return into the net.

The winner of the ATP Champions Race will be decided at the Masters Cup for the second successive year.

Kuerten, who overhauled Marat Safin's 75-point lead last year by winning the Masters Cup at Lisbon, Portugal, is 1-5 in his most recent six matches and needs a big showing to hold top spot.

Going into the tournament, Kuerten had 771 points and a 48-point lead over second-place Hewitt, who won his maiden Grand Slam title at the U.S. Open amid a 17-match winning stretch. Agassi had 684 points.

Players get 20 points for a win in each of their three round-robin matches here, 40 for a semifinal victory and 50 if they win the tournament. Hewitt and Agassi meet Wednesday, while Rafter plays Grosjean.

Kuerten opens his campaign Tuesday against Wimbledon winner Goran Ivanisevic, while

Ski resort marks first anniversary of cable car fire that killed

Associated Press

KAPRUN, Austria -- Mourners launched 155 white balloons into the sky above the Kitzsteinhorn glacier Sunday, one for each of the victims killed a year ago when fire tore through a packed cable car in Austria's worst ski disaster.

Ski lifts shut down for the day in the resort town of Kaprun, about 100 kilometers (60 miles) south of Salzburg, as villagers and relatives of the victims paid tribute a year after the Nov. 11, accident.

Mourners released the balloons at 9 a.m. (0700 GMT), the hour the fire swept through the packed train

that was carrying skiers and snowboarders to the summit on last year's opening day of the local ski season. Others lit candles and piled wreaths and bouquets of flowers outside the mouth of the alpine tunnel where the disaster occurred.

"God is not a god of the dead, but of the living," Cardinal Christoph Schoenborn of Vienna told a memorial service.

Investigators traced the disaster to a defective and illegally installed space heater that caused hydraulic brake oil in nearby pipes to overheat.

The scalding oil dripped onto the cable car's plastic-coated floor and set it afire, filling the cab with

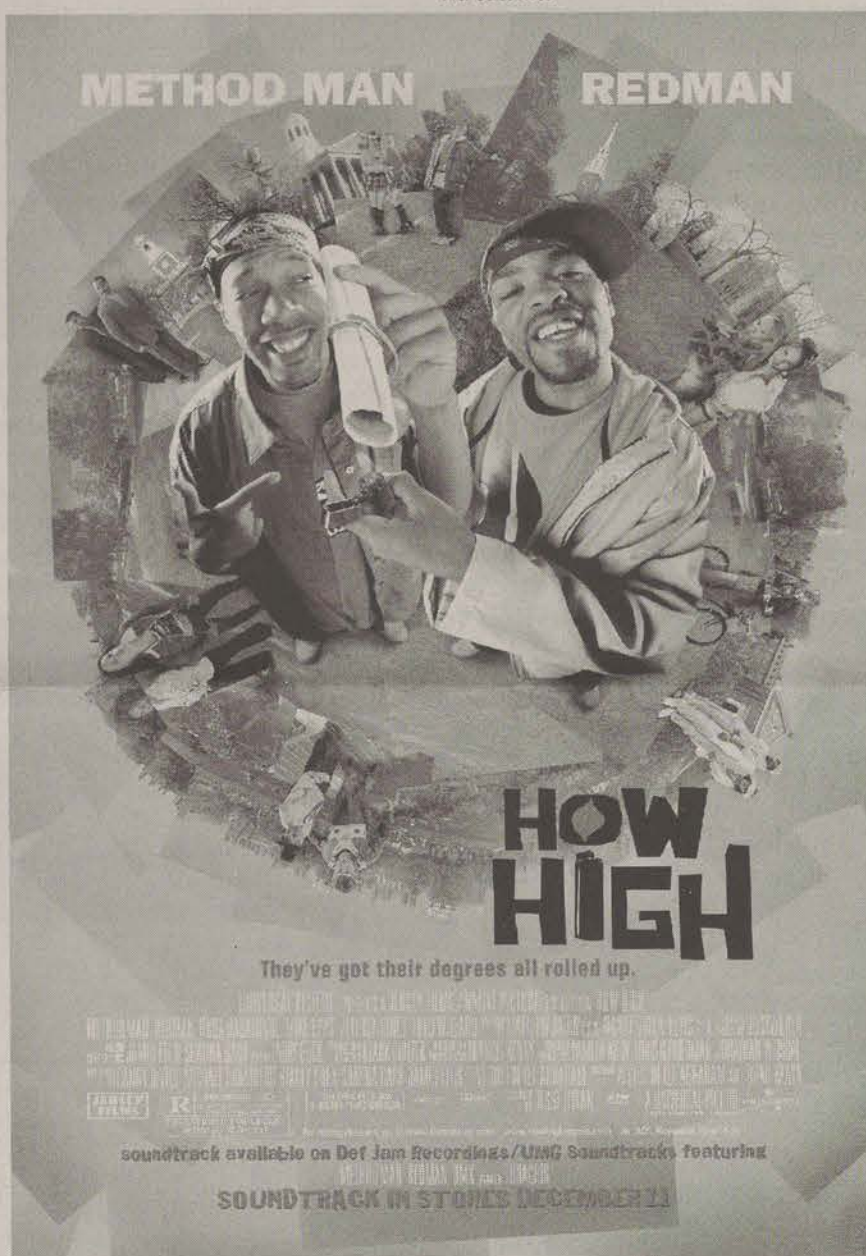
toxic smoke and flames fanned by the chimney effect created by the tunnel.

Twelve people used ski boots and poles to break windows and escape. Many of the victims were burned beyond recognition and had to be identified with dental records and DNA tests.

Most of the victims were from Austria and Germany; eight were Americans, and the rest came from Japan, Slovenia and Croatia.

The funicular railway, which had operated safely for 20 years, has been replaced by conventional gondola lifts and will not be rebuilt.

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Two 12 year old girls duel it out

Associated Press

CARMEL, Calif. -- Two 12-year-old girls dueled it out on a Carmel golf course Sunday for the 35th California Women's Amateur Championship title.

In the end, Mina Harigae of Monterey bested Sydney Burlison of Salinas 3-2 in the match play finale.

Mina and Sydney were too young to play in the state's junior amateur championship, so they had to take on all-comers in the open division.

That was bad news for a lot of adult golfers as Mina and Sydney stormed through the 35th annual tournament to reach Sunday's final at Quail Lodge Resort & Golf Club.

More than 150 fans followed the girls around the course, cheering as the two girls launched long drives off the tee and sank pressure putts. Mina parred 16 straight holes to beat Sydney.

Mina is the youngest girl, or woman, ever to win the event in its 35-year history.

Tournament spokeswoman Connie Breien spotted the two girls after their match sitting together on a bench, giggling and discussing their next day of golf together.

Holiday Basketball

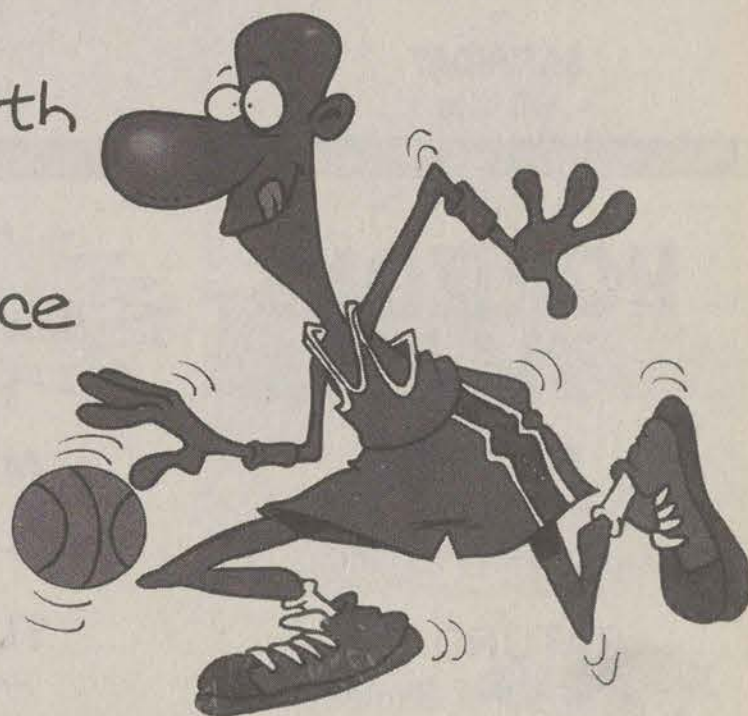
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Former UCLA quarterback now Titans receiver

Associated Press

A former walk-on who became quarterback Cade McNown's backup at UCLA, Drew Bennett finds himself living every undrafted free agent's dream with a twist, he's now a receiver.

"I didn't expect it," the Tennessee Titans rookie said. "You have to expect success, or you're never going to get it. But I didn't expect it this fast or to be this blessed in such a good situation. I'm just happy to be here."

The 6-foot-5, 203-pound Bennett, first brought in as an extra body for training camp, worked his way onto the roster. Injuries helped him rise to the No. 3 receiver for the Titans, who played the Baltimore Ravens on Monday night.

His new teammates think he has potential to become one of the NFL's best.

"He's got the size. He's got the hands," quarterback Steve McNair said. "At this point in time, Drew can only get better. If he continues to get better and continues to make good decisions and his route running, he's going to become one of the favorite guys I go to."

All-Pro cornerback Samari Rolle calls Bennett the most difficult receiver to cover in practice.

"He lulls you to sleep, and he's big and athletic. He's going to be great," Rolle said.

Bennett is a great find for the Titans, who have spent millions trying to improve their receiving corps in recent years. They gave away two draft picks in April on

Justin McCareins and Eddie Berlin, then signed Bennett as one of five undrafted receivers for training camp.

"We'd be lying if we said coming in we thought he'd put himself in the position where he'd be playing a lot on a Monday night, for example," general manager Floyd Reese said. "But he's done that."

Scout Cole Proctor first noticed Bennett last season at UCLA.

joined the veterans, he continued doing so," Fisher said.

Bennett finished the preseason as the second-leading receiver with 11 catches for 160 yards, and he made the roster as one of seven receivers. He wasn't active for the first two games, then injuries sidelined Derrick Mason, then McCareins, Berlin and veteran Chris Sanders.

"He knows how to read what spots to get into," McNair said.

"He runs good decent routes, and he's going to be wherever you tell him to be."

His experience at quarterback has been a big advantage. He has eight receptions for 144 yards, including a 14-yarder to set up the winning field goal in overtime last month against Tampa Bay.

Being a former quarterback, Bennett can read

defenses quickly at the line. He also is deceptively athletic.

As a freshman, a friend talked him into running the Los Angeles Marathon on a whim. He finished in 6 hours, 14 minutes and 28 seconds.

"The kid truly is a great athlete," Reese said. "Forget football, but if you watch him on a basketball court or volleyball or a marathon or at golf, he would catch your eye."

Bennett stays busy catching passes after practice, trying to learn on the field and studying videotape of receivers like Denver's Ed McCaffrey, Jacksonville's Jimmy Smith and Minnesota's Randy Moss.

"I still have a lot to learn to be as where I want to be," he said.

"YOU HAVE TO EXPECT SUCCESS, OR YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO GET IT. BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT IT THIS FAST OR TO BE THIS BLESSED IN SUCH A GOOD SITUATION. I'M JUST HAPPY TO BE HERE."

**DREW BENNETT,
TENNESSEE TITANS**

Suzuki, Pujols named MLB Rookies of the Year

Associated Press

Seattle outfielder Ichiro Suzuki became the second straight Japanese player to win the American League Rookie of the Year award, and Albert Pujols of St. Louis was a unanimous choice Monday for the National League honor.

Suzuki received 27 of 28 first-place votes from a panel of the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

Pujols got all 32 first-place votes, becoming the ninth unanimous rookie pick in the NL. The others were Frank Robinson (1956), Orlando Cepeda (1958), Willie McCovey (1959), Vince Coleman (1985), Benito Santiago (1987), Mike Piazza (1993), Raul Mondesi (1994) and Scott Rolen (1997).

The 28-year-old Suzuki came to the major leagues after nine seasons in the Japanese Pacific League and became the first rookie to win a batting title since Tony Oliva in 1964. Suzuki batted .350 with 56

stolen bases, becoming the first rookie to lead the major leagues in both categories since Jackie Robinson in 1949.

Suzuki's 242 hits were a rookie record and the most for anyone since Bill Terry's 254 for the 1930 New York Giants. Suzuki, the first Japanese non-pitcher in the major leagues, was also the second straight Seattle player to win the award, following reliever Kazuhiro Sasaki.

Before last year, the only Mariners' player to win had been Alvin Davis in 1984.

Suzuki had 138 points, easily beating Cleveland pitcher C.C. Sabathia, who had 75 points after going 17-5 with a 4.39 earned run average. Sabathia got one first-place vote, from Chris Assenheimer of the Chronicle-Telegram in Elyria, Ohio.

New York Yankees second baseman Alfonso Soriano was third with 35 points, and Angels shortstop David Eckstein was fourth with six.

The 21-year-old Pujols set an NL rookie record with 130 runs batted in,

and led the Cardinals with a .329 average, 37 homers and 112 runs. He won the award one day after St. Louis teammate Mark McGwire announced his retirement.

Pujols played 78 games in the outfield, 55 at third base and 43 at first base in becoming the sixth St. Louis player to win the rookie award. The others were Wally Moon (1954), Bill Virdon (1955), Bake McBride (1974), Coleman, and Todd Worrell (1986).

Pujols got 160 points, followed by Houston pitcher Roy Oswalt with 82, and Philadelphia shortstop Jimmy Rollins with 44. St. Louis pitcher Bud Smith and Cincinnati outfielder Adam Dunn had one point each.

Oswalt went 14-3 with a 2.73 ERA, and Rollins hit .274 with 14 homers, 54 RBIs and 46 steals.

Both rookie award winners were announced on the same day this year because of the one-week delay in the World Series caused by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Jordan still finding his role in game

Associated Press

Michael Jordan isn't sure what to do or when to do it.

He's trying to rediscover his shooting touch and still be a team player. At times he tries to take over a game, and at others he forces the inexperienced Washington Wizards around him to become more involved so they can learn.

Seven games into his latest comeback, Jordan is averaging 24.1 points a game, while shooting just 38 percent from the field. The Wizards have lost four straight to fall to 2-5, and the last two losses, both at home, featured a tentative Jordan and a lack of effort from the rest of the team.

"It's frustrating," said Jordan, who hadn't lost four in a row in the same season since February 1990. "I'm doing everything I try to smile to get ourselves through this."

Jordan was 13-for-30 and scored 32 points in Friday night's 109-100 loss to

Golden State, then missed his first 14 shots before finishing 5-for-26 with 16 points in Sunday's 99-84 loss to Seattle.

In both games, the 38-year-old Jordan didn't start making his shots until the game was essentially over in the second half.

"I'm trying to take my shots in the rhythm of the offense whenever I feel it's a good shot or one the team expects me to shoot," Jordan said. "A lot of times I had those shots and I missed. That's frustrating. I got frustrated in the third quarter. I felt everything was so stagnant. Then somehow I hit my shot."

It was a similar story against Seattle. Jordan was woefully short on his jump shots, double-clutched when left open and missed an alley-oop layup to start 0-for-14. When he finally made a shot, a simple layup, Jordan shook his head and smiled as he ran down the court.

"You miss a few and it starts working

on you mentally ... and that's the worst way to go to try to come out of a shooting slump," Jordan said.

Jordan is getting his points, but they are often as quiet and immaterial to the outcome as those scored in past seasons by Juwan Howard. Doug Collins' exasperated quotes are similar to those of departed coaches Gar Heard, Leonard Hamilton and Bernie Bickerstaff. Fans are booing. The team record is just where it was a year ago.

How bad is it? The Wizards specifically made it a point to go over their defensive rotation just before tip-off Sunday. Yet, on each of the first three Sonics possessions, rookie forward Kwame Brown missed his assignment.

Such lapses make Jordan realize that even if he finds his shot, it'll take a lot more work to turn this franchise around.

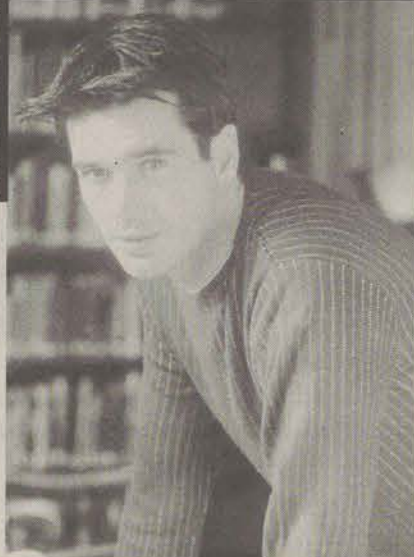
"We're trying to break habits and begin new habits," Jordan said.

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Planet Smoothie finds a home in Statesboro

By Tiffany Domingos
gwbh@stouthouse.org

If you are in need of some quick and tasty nourishment, Planet Smoothie is the place for you.

Not only are the smoothies fantastic, but the service is definitely up to par.

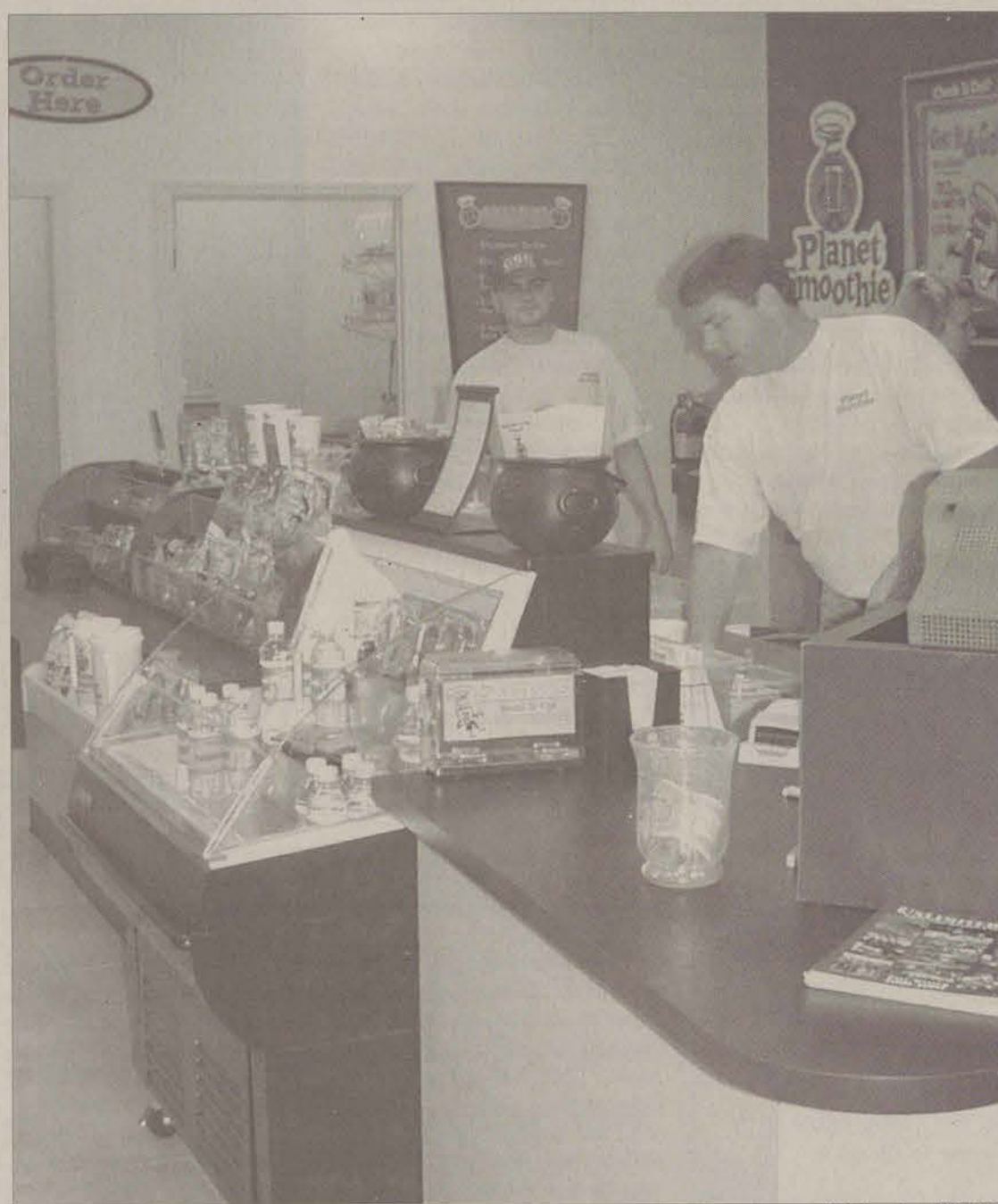
Owners Jordan Sammons and Ronnie Sellers are very enthusiastic about the potential Planet Smoothie has in the 'Boro.

Planet Smoothie offers a large variety of smoothies that sport creative names, from the Captain Kid to the Vinnie Del Rocco. Many of the smoothies contain blasts, which add a healthy flair (without an icky taste). Eight blasts are available: anti-oxidant, anti-stress, booster, immune, fat burner, protein, women's only, and workout. Blasts can also be added to smoothies that don't already feature them (for a little extra).

Not only does Planet Smoothie offer terrific beverages, but protein bars, low fat pretzels, "Skinny Chips" (low fat), Naturally Delicious Gourmet Breads, Montana Moon Cookies, Round-A-Bout sandwiches, and Healthy Soups to Go-Go are also offered. Biosculpt, a high-quality fat burner, is also sold at Planet Smoothie.

If you are a really big drinker (of smoothies, you lush), you can purchase a Mack Daddy Mug (44 ounces) and have it filled up for \$5.99. You then receive a ten percent discount on refills of any size. Smoothies are also available in 22, 32, and 44 ounce cups.

Although Planet Smoothie has only been open for a couple of weeks, I have already visited on several occasions. The smoothies are so good! I have tried the Two-Piece Bikini (strawberries, bananas, and fat burner blast), the Twig and Berries (strawberries, bananas, and yogurt), the Leapin' Lizard (peaches, strawberries, and fat burner blast), and the Captain Kid (strawberries and orange sherbet). I have to say, the Captain Kid is my favorite.



Jill Burnham/STAFF

WORLDS AWAY FROM A SIMPLE SLUSH: Planet Smoothie is the latest addition to Statesboro's growing selection of trendy, tasty treats.

Other smoothies which sound savory are the Chocolate Elvis (chocolate, peanut butter, bananas, yogurt, and booster blast), the Last Mango (mangos, peaches, bananas and orange sherbet), and the Vinnie

del Rocco (raspberries, blueberries, strawberries, and orange sherbet), among a number of others.

And how could I forget about the atmosphere? The vibrant walls are quite complementary to the col-

orful smoothies.

So if you want a speedy, healthy, and delightful lunch or snack, you have to try Planet Smoothie. Take my word for it - Planet Smoothie rocks.

Elohsa rocks the 'Boro with a mixture of favorites and originals

By Michael Horton
gsi27197@gsaia2.cc.gasou.edu

I watched as the band finished setting up their equipment. A bass here, a drum there, an extra guitar here; everything had to be perfect.

The band took the stage, the lights went down and Elohsa launched into their first song, "Smooth Criminal." The crowd rushed the stage and everyone sang, danced and did what generally goes on at a concert.

Matt Yogus, the bassist for Middleground, had this to say about them: "Elohsa is another battle won in the war for good rock bands in Statesboro."

Matt took the stage with Elohsa and sang along on the song "Blame," probably their most popular song. The crowd was ecstatic when it was played. Everyone joined in to sing the chorus, throwing up their arms in approval and "rock on" signs.

Travis Royce, clad in simply jeans and a tee-shirt, sang extraordinarily despite a small cold. On their cover of "Rooster" by Alice in Chains, he actually sounded like Layne Staley up there singing.

Other covers included were "Chop Suey" by System of a Down and "Bulls on Parade" by Rage Against The Machine, during both of which the fans ran to the stage to sing along.

"They're a band that both other musicians and fans look up to. Their stage presence blows you away," said Paul Eubanks of Lyka Champ.

Apart from covers, the band played nine of their ten originals. When asked for comments about the

show, the crowd responded with words like "impressed," "sexy," "the guitar was awesome," and "well-blended."

Also, many comments were received about the singer, Travis. I asked him what he thought of the show. "The crowd was amazing, exhilarating," he said.

One high point in the show was when Sam Jameson, the bassist, broke his topmost bass string during their cover of Nirvana's "Heart Shaped Box". It's rather hard to break any bass string, much less the thickest one. The crowd went wild when it happened and Sam covered it nicely throughout the remainder of the song.

During one of the bands originals, "Twisted," a few members of the crowd bowed to Brandon Kunka as he played an amazing guitar solo. Brandon also broke a string during an original, "Achilles Heel." It's just not an Elohsa show without at least one string breaking.

It would have been complete if Robby Tachney, the drummer had broken a stick. I asked Robby for a quote about the show. "I don't know, I'm just in it for the free beer," was his reply.

Elohsa finished off their set with the song "Show Me," one of their own. The crowd was on their feet with excitement during that song and throughout the whole show. Take it from Carli, a very loyal fan of the band: "The band's toes were cute!"


Elohsa will be playing next on December 7th at Retrievers with local rock group Middleground.

"ELOHSA IS ANOTHER BATTLE WON IN THE WAR FOR GOOD ROCK BANDS IN STATESBORO."

— MATT YOGUS,

MIDDLEGROUND BASSIST

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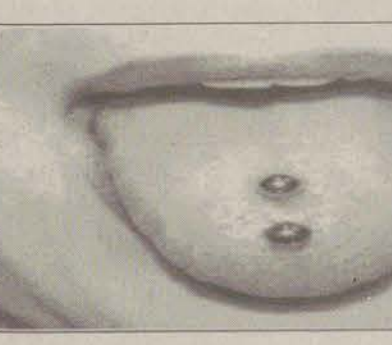
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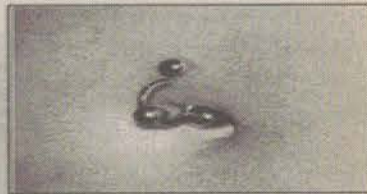
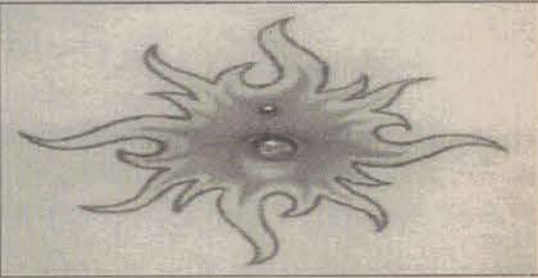

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New Paul McCartney album takes flight on memories and inspiration

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The song most clearly about Paul McCartney's late wife Linda on his new album is not about the day he lost her, but the day he met her.

It sends a clear message. "Driving Rain," McCartney's first original album of rock songs since his wife's death from breast cancer in 1998, is about recovery instead of grief.

"Some people I've talked to thought it might be kind of a somber album, a missing you kind of album," McCartney said. "But I found when I wrote one or two pieces with Linda in mind that I wanted to remember the good things, the positive."

Few memories are more precious than the 1967 night in a London nightclub when McCartney intercepted young photographer Linda Eastman to introduce himself as she

was about to leave.

He never did that. He was a Beatle — women came to him. He calls the song "There Must Have Been Magic," because he has no other way to explain why he decided to get up from his seat and take the step that changed his life.

Elsewhere on "Driving Rain," McCartney writes about the new woman in his life — fiancée Heather Mills — and finding love again.

"This album is about picking up and carrying on," said VHI executive Bill Flanagan, author of a book about songwriting, "Written in My Soul."

It's fully consistent with the 59-year-old McCartney's work over 40 years, he said. This is, after all, the man who wrote the lyrics, "take a sad song and make it better" and "take these broken wings and learn to fly."

McCartney has kept a high profile this fall. He headlined a Madi-

son Square Garden benefit for World Trade Center attack victims, debuting a new song, "Freedom," that was hurriedly released as a single and added to "Driving Rain."

He enters a youth-dominated music marketplace, where veteran rockers have fared poorly. Two recent albums filled with McCartney's past work, the Beatles' "1" and "Wingspan," have done very well, however.

While there may not be a big anticipatory buzz about McCartney's disc, retailers are aware and have been placing orders, said Paul Karlson, an editor at Hits magazine.

"He's not one of those people who fades away," Karlson said. "If he does, he comes back very strong."

Stick in the CD and the first musical notes a listener hears are from McCartney's bass guitar, one of the most distinctive sounds in

rock history.

The method of recording enabled his musicians to concentrate on what they were doing, instead of dwelling on backing a rock legend.

"I think if you're happy making a record, then it shows," McCartney said. "For many years, I preferred to think that it doesn't. You could be in the studio having a bad time and still make an OK record. But in some ways, I think this stuff leaks off the record into the homes of the buyers."

"I went through a phase of thinking, 'what would they like, or what would the critics like,'" he said. "What, critically, would be judged the perfect thing for me to do now? I found out that not only did I not like it, the critics didn't even like it."

"I basically write now for myself, because I figure if I like it, there's a good chance that somebody else might."



Special Photo

TAKE A SAD SONG: The hazy cover of Paul McCartney's latest album implies rejection, but the music inside is about acceptance.

One man gives communication technology a whole new meaning

KRT Campus

ANN ARBOR — If Allen Borton seems adrift because his laptop is in the shop, it's little wonder.

The Macintosh he carries with him is his direct connection to others. The former professor of vocal music lost his ability to speak in a near-fatal car crash in 1993. Now, he converses by typing words on his laptop.

"I feel totally bereft without my machine," says Borton, 44, via e-mail from his home computer. "It's as if a speaking person were bound and gagged."

Borton was happily employed as a professor of vocal music at Olivet College and engaged to be married on a spring day in 1993 when another driver forced his tiny Geo Metro off U.S. 127 en route to a wedding in Jackson. Borton was thrown out the window and onto the pavement headfirst.

When he came out of a coma nearly three months later, he learned he'd suffered a traumatic brain injury. Doctors at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital explained that speech is a complex phenomenon involving the interdependence of many of the body's systems.

In his case, everything that could go wrong had gone wrong. Borton had lost his voice.

For a man who loved nothing more than to sing or talk with good friends, it was devastating news. He also suffered permanent damage to his right shoulder, and can no longer play piano, something he had enjoyed since the age of 5.

And the accident left him with a loss of emotional control. He cries often, or he may laugh at an inappropriate time. He's never met anyone who's suffered a similar loss.

"I wish I did know of someone, so that we could support one another, but I feel phenomenally isolated and unique," he says.

After the accident, people told

Borton how lucky he was to have survived, but he silently wished he hadn't, figuring so much of himself had died, anyhow.

Nor was he impressed when people called him an inspiration. He used to think: "I don't want to be an inspiration. I just want to wake up from this nightmare and go back to living my normal life."

Gradually, after months of therapy, he came to accept his new life as normal, believing that what matters most is what his favorite author, C.S. Lewis, called "playing well the hand of cards that is dealt us."

"We're very aware we're lucky to have each other," Michelle Borton said.

After the wedding, they moved into an apartment in Ann Arbor, where she had moved to be close to the hospital. She teaches music at Emerson School near Ann Arbor. A University of Michigan football fan, Allen Borton said Ann Arbor suited him. And he knew there would no longer be a job for him at Olivet College.

"It seemed clear to me that my life in academia was over, and I made peace with that fact fairly quickly and have sought to adapt as well as possible to the life after," Borton said. He

now works weekday mornings as a clerk at the Briarwood Firestone.

After work, he alternates between composing, which fills the "massive musical void" in his life, and walking for exercise. He's composed more than 300 works since 1994 and logged more than 1,300 miles since

Jan. 1, 2000.

Recently, the Westminster Presbyterian Church Choir performed a dozen of Borton's compositions, most of which were dedicated to members of the church.

"Since composing is easily the best way I have now to remain connected to this field I have loved all my life, I cling to it quite passionately," he says. "I have the software on my laptop as well, so when it is here and working I need never be (and rarely am) idle, no matter where I might be."

Borton said he has composed many music passages aboard an Ann Arbor Transportation Authority bus.

Another time-consuming interest is card-making on his computer. Borton makes and mails about 500 birthday and anniversary cards every year, honoring even those people he barely knows.

Until his accident, Borton was never much of a people person. Now he's quick to hand a stranger a laminated card which says, "Hi. My name is Allen Borton. I'm sorry I can't speak due to damage from a 1993 car accident. But my hearing is fine. I really don't mean to seem rude or unfriendly!"

People sometimes start speaking slowly and loudly, as if he's also deaf. Borton's laptop computer has files that help him make quick friends. After he taps a key, the screen will tell a favorite joke, or show a picture of his daughter, or tell about the accident.

"Many people have told me that I am lucky to be living in an era where technology exists to assist me," he said. "True enough, I think, but in a previous era, I probably would not have been injured in such a manner and almost certainly would not have lived to have to try to pick up the pieces and deal with the aftermath."

Despite everything, he's grateful his life was spared that day.

"I believe God has a plan for me which I want to accomplish, and I want to bring glory to God in all that I do," he says. "God's gift of life is very great and something I continue to discover daily. Although I very much look forward to going 'home' someday, I am not through enjoying that gift yet."

BORTON'S LAPTOP COMPUTER HAS FILES THAT HELP HIM MAKE QUICK FRIENDS. AFTER HE TAPS A KEY, THE SCREEN WILL TELL A FAVORITE JOKE, OR SHOW A PICTURE OF HIS DAUGHTER, OR TELL ABOUT THE ACCIDENT.

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Card set on war against terrorism gets mixed reaction

KRT Campus

Arizona Diamondbacks pitchers Randy Johnson and Curt Schilling are hot on the baseball card market, but the Topps Co., which has been manufacturing baseball cards since 1951, is betting New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani and Gov. George Pataki will draw collectors to a different kind of picture card.

The 90-card set, titled "Enduring Freedom," features biographical information on civilian and military leaders involved in the new war on terrorism. The card set also includes statistical data and photos of military hardware being used in the effort, plus a card listing each individual card in the set.

A portion of the proceeds from the card sales will go to charities related to the war against terrorism. The seven-card packs retail for \$1.99 and include a sticker.

The cards are beginning to arrive in stores across the country - to a very mixed reaction from collectors and dealers.

"We've had them for about a week to 10 days," says Jeff Sacks of All Star Cards & Collectibles in Davie, Fla. "They are (selling) a little bit slow."

They won't sell at all in Lori Daughtery's Florida Sports Cards shop in Coral Springs, Fla., because she won't carry them.

"We don't want to make money off the situation," she says. "And besides, who wants to rehash what has happened?"

"I haven't seen them yet," says Paul Calamusa of Calamusa Sports Cards & Collectibles in Sunrise, Fla. "The market comes out with things very quick. I am not surprised, though. Topps did this during Desert Storm."

Topps did indeed produce a three-series set of Desert Storm cards in 1991 and sold them in stores. The company also gave away 1 million cards to service members overseas and at home.

Both Colin Powell, then the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, received sets of the Desert Storm cards and raved about them in letters to Topps.

"The cards have already obtained 'collector' status among the troops," Schwarzkopf wrote in an April 18, 1991, letter. "Thank you again for all you have done to bolster the morale of the service men and women under my command."

Powell thanked Topps president John Langdon for sending him a complete set because the chairman had "only managed to pick up a couple of them."

Powell went on to say in his March 21, 1991, letter that "A good part of my time is now spent signing the backs of cards brought to me by people all over the Pentagon as well as citizens mailing them in from around the country. It is quite an outpouring of support. Who would have ever believed that things have changed so much that the military would be honored in this way."

With the exception of Powell's card, which remains popular because some collectors think he may run for president one day, the Desert Storm cards have faded into obscurity, according to card hobby experts.

"No one cares about the Desert Storm cards now," Daughtery says. "It's just for Topps to make money off it."

Maybe so, but Topps chairman Arthur Shorin says his Brooklyn-based company is not trying to capitalize on the tragic events of Sept. 11. Rather, he says, it is trying to help relieve children's anxieties about the war.

In addition to producing candy and baseball cards, Shorin says Topps has always created cards that have nothing to do with sports. Topps pioneered bubble gum in cards but abandoned the gum 10 years ago when collectors complained about it staining the cards.

The company also published "Freedom's War," about the Korean conflict, and "Man on the Moon" cards, a retrospective on the Civil War.

"Topps has a tradition of chronicling significant events," Shorin says. "The rationale behind all of this is not a collectible, but to create an educational product and give kids assurances they are safe and that things are OK."

Shorin says kids are either "curious or downright worried" about the war and experts have said television is too fast a medium for kids to process the facts and figures that flash across the screen.

"Picture cards are a medium kids understand," the Topps chairman says. "They can take that card of the F-16C (fighter plane), look at it, play with it, put it in their pocket, take it out and look at it again."

Shorin says none of the cards in

the set shows the destruction wrought by the terrorist acts. Child psychologists have expressed concerns about the effect on children of seeing repeated images such as the planes crashing into the World Trade Center, setting the towers ablaze.

"The cards focus on world leaders, military leaders and the power they have at their disposal to bring us victory, and not the despicable acts of Sept. 11," he says.

However, Sacks at All-Star Cards says customers have shunned the new war cards thus far.

"They are not selling at the same pace as the Desert Storm cards," he says. "One customer said this was such a civilian tragedy that people don't want to be reminded. Plus, when the other cards came out, we had

already won the war."

Shorin says an Osama bin Laden card also was causing negative reaction to the set, with some people asking how Topps could include his image.

"How could you not?" Shorin responds. "The kids know there's a bad guy."

Osama bin Laden's card is printed in black and white, unlike the rest of the cards in the series, which have red, white and blue nameplates. And it doesn't have the "Enduring Freedom" logo on the card.

"They will probably stomp it, tear it up and throw it away," he says. "You wouldn't do that with a baseball card. This set represents something special to the heads and pockets of little ones."

PROTEST, FROM PAGE 1

an opinion about the military action, pro and con.

Dissent, McLean said, "is patriotism in a nutshell. We started as a dissident nation."

Participants in the fast said they represent a range of opinions - socialists, pacifists and those just dissatisfied with the course of the war.

"I don't have the answers," said Dheeraj Jagadev, a junior from Manassas, Va. "I don't know what we should do, but I know that what we're doing right now is not working."

The fast at William and Mary is among the few anti-war protests to occur on southeast Virginia campuses. Old Dominion University's chapter of the Green Party also held one last week, student body president Phillip Newallo said.

At William and Mary's University Center, students eating lunch Wednesday said the protesters do not represent the majority viewpoint on campus.

"I think the fasters are prob-

ably in the small minority," said Cristin Welle, a sophomore from Cleveland. "Most of the campus thinks the action (in Afghanistan) is justified and the United States is doing a good job."

What would the protesters suggest as an alternative?

An international tribunal should try those in Afghanistan accused of the terrorist attacks, said Mohammed Abdur-Rahman, a senior from Houston. "That would save the world from hundreds of thousands of civilians being killed," he said.

Smith said she didn't know the answer - maybe a trial for the terrorists - but she hopes the protest encourages new ideas.

"One message has been propagated," said Lindsay Burnett, a junior from Marshall, Va., who worries that the American-backed Northern Alliance rebels will prove no more democratic than the Taliban. "We're here to say that there are other messages, and we need to listen to them."

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