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GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
Wednesday
September 25, 2002
Volume 75, No. 24

Sports: All nine SoCon teams play this weekend

Page 6

ON THE INSIDE:



Covering the campus like a swarm of gnats

Today's Weather



Showers with a high of 80°F and a low of 69°F.

Opinions

• Arch-nemeses of column-writing, Amanda Permenter and Adam Brady, hash it out in black and white.

• War against Iraq: Why and why now?

Page 4

Sports

• Women's soccer takes a 5-0 loss to UGA away from home.



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Features

• Poverty levels are up for the first time since 1993.

• Jeremiah Freed debuts with a revitalizing rock album.

Page 8

Arts & Entertainment

• After setbacks last season, 'The West Wing' is back for another year of great television.



Page 10

Southern Events

LECTURE
• Norman Fries Distinguished Lecture, David Oreck
Nessmith-Lane Continuing Education Building
September 26, 6:30 p.m.
BOTANICAL GARDEN
• Plant Swap
Botanical Garden
September 28, 10 a.m.

New chancellor visits GSU

By Angela Jones
tastecake00@yahoo.com

Thomas Meredith, the new chancellor of the University System of Georgia, was the honored guest at a reception welcoming him to GSU yesterday at the Nessmith-Lane Continuing Education building.

The visit is part of the chancellor's tour of the 34 institutions that make up the University System of Georgia.

"If I had to name one thing I hope to accomplish during my term as chancellor, it would be to increase the academic quality that is underway in the university system schools, and also to increase the efficiency of our operations," Meredith said.

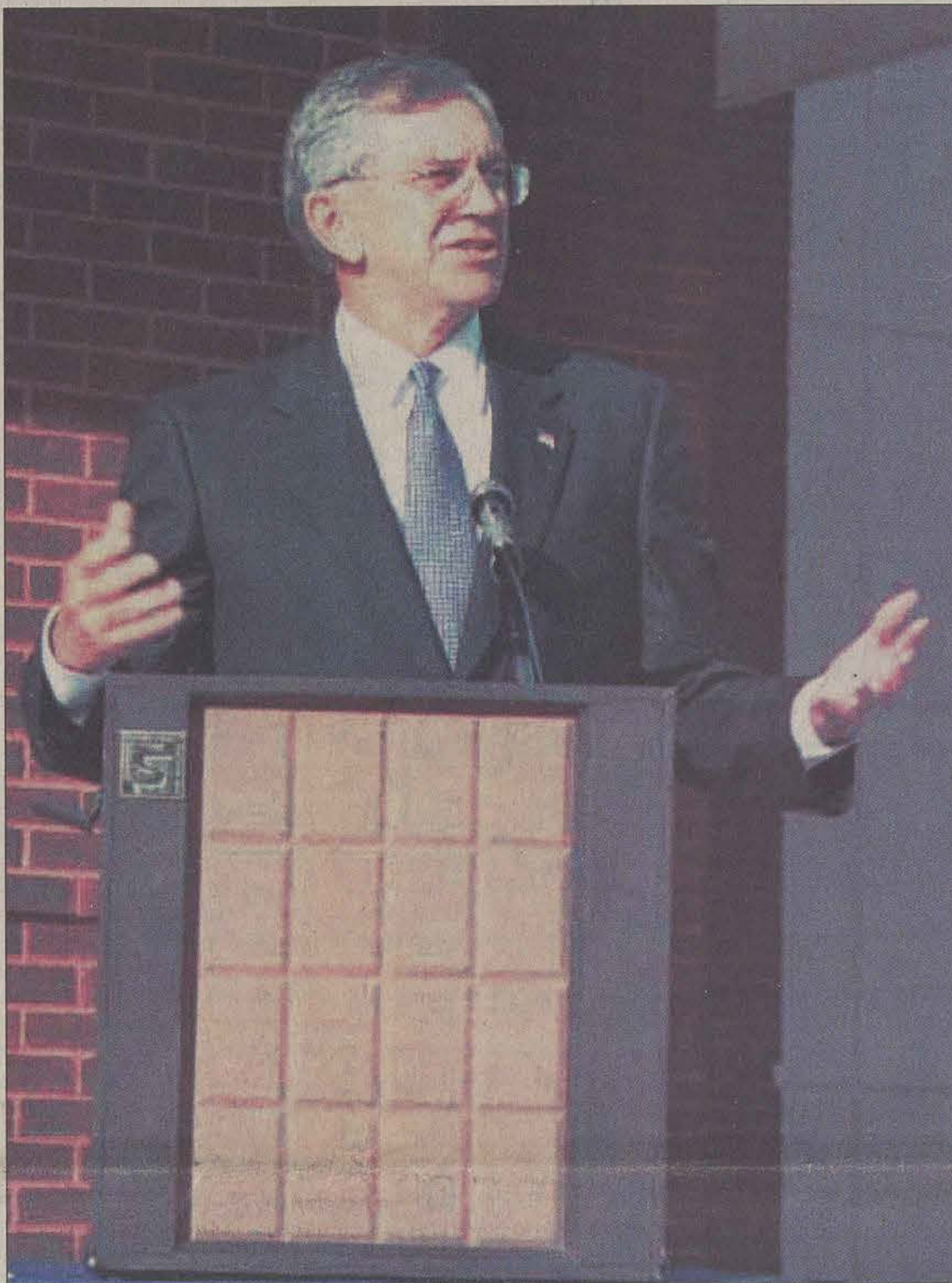
High-level deans and vice-presidents of the school, along with select faculty and student representatives were at the reception to welcome the new chancellor on his first tour of GSU.

"I think Georgia Southern is on an upward path in all areas; academically and in terms of appearance," Meredith said. "The campus is beautiful, and the new buildings going up are both lovely and functional. It's an outstanding institution on the move, under the great leadership of Dr. Grube."

Meredith is a native of Owensboro, Ky. From 1988 to 1997 he served as president at Western Kentucky University after serving as vice chancellor for executive affairs at the University of Mississippi for four years.

Meredith received B.A. degrees in social studies and history from Kentucky Wesleyan College, as well as an M.A. in education administration and supervision from Western Kentucky University. He

See Meredith, Page 3



Special Photo

Recently appointed chancellor of the University System of Georgia Thomas Meredith spoke at the Nessmith-Lane building during a tour of the 34 schools constituting the system. The highly qualified Meredith voiced aspirations for his term as chancellor and expressed positive feelings about GSU in his speech.

Identity fraud cases hitting close to home

By Michelle Flournoy
mlf21@hotmail.com

Television sets and computers aren't the only things being stolen around Statesboro.

The number of identity theft and identity fraud cases is steadily growing.

Chatham County police released information last week about Denise Janice Brown, 42, who is a suspect in a series of identity fraud cases in the Chatham County. Brown is still on the loose, according to Sergeant Mike Wilson of the Chatham County Police Department.

"We are hopeful that Brown is still in the area," Wilson said. "Normally, when we circulate photos apprehension follows shortly after. There are probably more cases than we know of."

A lot of people are unaware that their identity has been stolen until they start getting statements, Wilson said, noting that they have seen a significant rise in identity fraud in the Chatham County area.

"We are promoting vigilance," he said. "We are going out into the community and letting people know that this is out there."

Sergeant Thomas Williams of the Statesboro Police Department said that Statesboro has not seen the amount of identity fraud cases that Chatham County has, but the numbers are on the rise.

Williams said that last year one case was reported. In 2002, there have already been 4 cases.

"We have had two really big cases in Statesboro," said

See Identity, Page 2

Cell phones safer than once believed

By Laura Porte
laura_porte@hotmail.com

Cell phones are safer than people tend to believe, according to a study conducted by the Automobile Association of America's Traffic Safety Foundation.

The study contradicts the belief that cell phones cause many car accidents, and also share a link with the cause of brain tumors.

The Federal Communications Commission estimates that nationwide, 61 percent of 18-to-24-year olds carry cell phones. With so many people using cell phones, it is a concern with how safe they really are.

Researchers have collected evidence that points to the possibility of an increase in car accidents due to driving and talking on a cell phone. Countries such as Portugal have banned the use of mobiles, and Italy, Poland, Switzerland, Slovenia, Hungary, and Spain require motorists to use hand free sets.

In the USA, there are around 35 million cellular phones in use, but there is no law prohibiting the use of cell phones while driving.

The survey conducted by AAA found that outside distractions cause more accidents than chatting on a cell phone:

• Outside distractions, such as eye-catching advertisements or eyeing another accident, caused 19.7 percent of car accidents.

• Eating and drinking were next, at 18.8 percent, followed by fiddling with the car audio system, at 11.4 percent.

• Chatting with other passengers came next at 9.4 percent, and then trying to retrieve loose objects rolling about the car at 3.2 percent.

• Cell phone use ranked next, accounting for a mere 1.5 percent of car accidents.

The survey was based on 26,000 North Carolina police reports compiled from 1995 to 1999.

"I think that using a cell phone

See Phones, Page 2



Adam Bonner/STAFF

Freshman Tripp Bishop pauses to take a cell phone call on campus.

Renovations at Olliff Hall plod on beyond deadlines

By Angela Jones
tastecake00@yahoo.com

In response to student requests for cable and internet access in their dorm rooms, GSU plans to update one residence hall each summer.

Things were humming merrily along when Johnson and Watson were updated, but when they got to Olliff, the \$1.3 million renovation plans went bonkers.

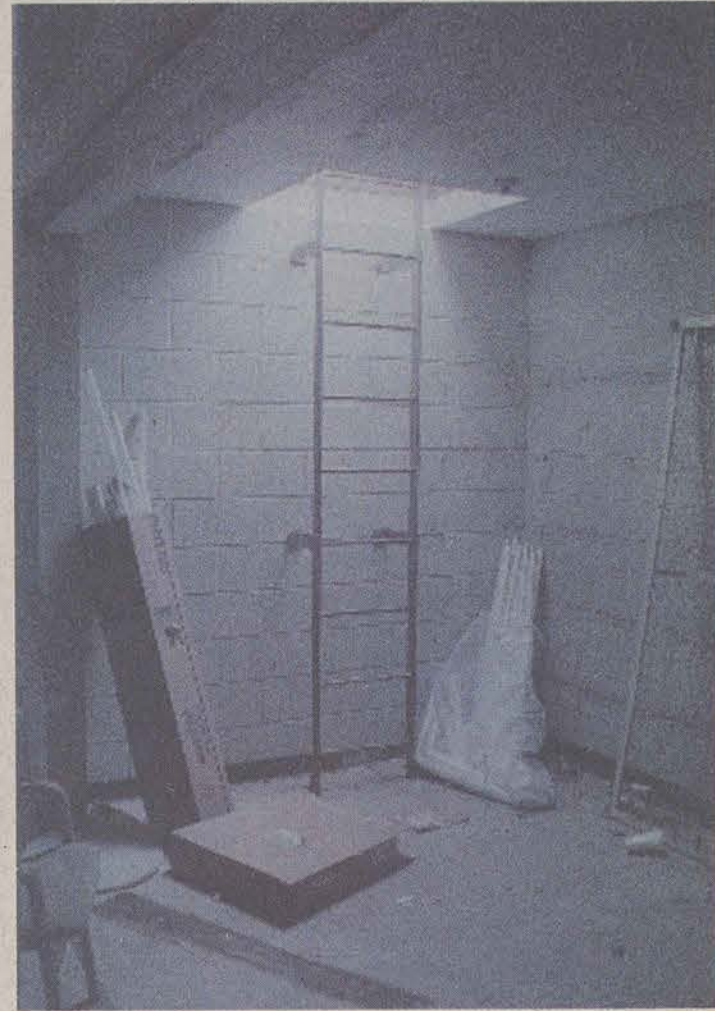
"This has been an extremely frustrating process for us," said Vickie Hawkins, director of University Housing. "We started on this back in May, and it has taken much, much longer than we ever expected."

Late parts, partially assembled equipment and missed contract deadlines have turned routine renovations into a nightmare of constant noise and inconveniences, according to some residents.

"There's all kinds of noise going on now," said Ramona Davis. "I wake up at 9 a.m. some mornings to them drilling, and since Olliff has no carpeting, the noise just reverberates really bad. I mean, my whole bed was shaking from it."

Vince Romanini, assistant director of University Housing, met with more than 30 Olliff residents on Monday to address their concerns, listen to their complaints and deliver updates on the status of the renovation.

Tops on the resident complaint lists were the noise from drilling and other work being



Renovations at Olliff Hall have taken months longer than expected. Among the incomplete tasks is the installation of new air-conditioning units, which were sent improperly assembled without an important component of air regulation.



See Olliff, Page 8

Illegal cable hookups irk Northland Cable

Bulloch County's sole cable television provider says most cases of cable theft occur in apartments around Georgia Southern

By Jerel Watkins
jwatkins@email.gasou.edu

If someone is discovered with an illegal cable hookup, that person could receive up to 10 days in jail and a fine of \$500.

Rick Hutchison, regional manager of Northland Cable, said, "\$500 could buy a lot of cable." He said that he has found many Bulloch County residents to be under the impression that cable theft is not a problem.

Hutchison has been with Northland Cable since 1994 and that while illegal cable hookups have always been an issue, in more recent years, the problem has escalated.

"One audit that we were doing the other day found that one apartment complex had 20% illegal hookups," he said, opting not to name the complex.

He added that while illegal cable is a crime throughout the community, the majority of the cases take place in apartment complexes that cater largely to college students.

For a lot of students, it's a fairly easy choice, while others see it as wrong.

"I guess it depends on who you're stealing it from, and if they care or not," said Jenny, a non-subscriber of any form of cable. She said in the near future she will purchase the service legally, but would probably obtain illegal cable if she could.

Michael says that while he thinks stealing cable is wrong, he would if possible because it's free.

"It's another \$20 or so a month," he said, noting that he shares a \$69.99 cable package with three other roommates.

"It's stealing; if someone's paying for it, it's wrong," said one young lady. "Statesboro only has one cable provider, so they can skyrocket the prices."

She did however continue on to say

that she did not feel that this justifies cable theft.

A young man also said that he doubts he would steal cable. "I just couldn't do it morally. Stealing is wrong."

Hutchison said detecting illegal cable is not that hard to do.

Technicians, using trucks equipped with devices that detect unusual signals given off by unauthorized hookups, usually discover illicit connections.

When such a connection is spotted, Northland contacts the Statesboro Police Dept., who will then visit the site in order to positively identify the residents that a police report will be filed against them.

Hutchison gave an example of how this crime can affect more than one person:

He said that if 3 people share a house and one of them as installed cable illegally, all 3 residents will be charged and prosecuted. While a court fine of \$500 is applied to the first offense, a misdemeanor, the last person prosecuted also received a 10-day prison sentence, variable upon the judge.

Northland Cable also seeks reimbursement for damages to equipment, service and loss of time due to prosecution.

"If you go to Wal-Mart and walk out with a pack of cigarettes, they will handcuff you and put you in jail," he said. "I'm selling a service."

A second arrest for illegal cable, or any "theft of service," in the state of Georgia could warrant up to one year in jail and a fine of up to \$5,000. Hutchison said that he has taken as many as 24 people to court in one day and that he does not like to spend his time prosecuting illegal accounts.

"I'm trying to keep students from getting in trouble," he said.

PHONES, FROM PAGE 1

while you are driving is less safe than not using one, but if you are going to ban cell phones, how can you not ban CD players or other things that cause distractions?" said Jeffery Joiner, a senior finance major, who's owned a cell phone since he was 16.

"If you can't pay attention with a cell phone, you probably shouldn't be driving at all."

The National Cellular Service and the National Safety Council of the United States have developed a cell phone safety guide that provides safety tips and explains how to report emergencies.

Most cell phones on the market today come with features that allow people to make a call without dialing the number.

It's important to get to know these features such as speed dial, redial, and voice dialing. It's also important that people position their phones within easy reach so that they don't have to take their eyes off of the road.

Many people are also concerned that the use of cellular phones increases the risk of developing brain tumors.

Many studies have found no cancer risk from cell phone use, but the latest research published in the European Journal of Cancer Prevention, however, said that long-term users of analog phones are at least 30 percent more likely to develop brain tumors than nonusers.



Adam Bonner/STAFF

Junior Autenia Murray takes a break to take a phone call yesterday.

Even with this study, students don't seem to be concerned. Digital phones emit far less radiation than analog phones, and by the mid-1990's, most companies used only digital technology.

"I've never even seen an analog phone, so I'm not too concerned about it," said Annie Keene, a senior finance major.

For those who are concerned with the emission levels of their phones, the Cellular Telecommunications and Internet Association decided last year that all CTIA-certified cell phones must have their radiofrequency emission levels made available to customers.

The information is usually noted inside the box in which the phone is sold.

IDENTITY, FROM PAGE 1

Williams.

"In 1998, we caught a college student who was living off of credit cards he got in other people's names. He was paying rent, utility bills, and buying big screen TVs. Detective Higgins handled the case and still had people coming forward two years later."

"Another big case started out with the individual getting credit cards in family member's names. After that worked, they started to branch out," said Williams.

Williams said that identity fraud and identity theft cases are difficult for both the victim and the police department.

"The Privacy Act keeps credit card companies from talking to the police. Companies will only speak to the victim, so it makes it hard for us."

According to the Georgia Governor's Office of Consumer Affairs, it is estimated that one in four will be a victim of identity fraud. Computers have made identity fraud easier than before.

"The best thing I can tell people is to leave items locked up," said Sergeant Wilson. "Lock your car and your garage. People assume that it takes a bold individual to go into a garage, but if they are desperate enough they will do it."

Wilson said that he also recommends shredding documents containing personal information.

Police Beat

GSU Police Dept.

9-23-2002

- A North Main Street resident reported his driver's license was missing from the Recreation Activities Center.
- A Dorman Hall resident reported someone damaged the roof and a door on his vehicle in the Dorman Hall parking lot.
- Officers issued four traffic warnings, worked one traffic accident and assisted four motorists.

9-22-2002

- Berret Daniel Terry, 18, of Olliff Hall, was charged with minor in possession/consumption of alcohol.
- Officers issued two traffic citations and 12 traffic warnings, worked one traffic accident, assisted one motorist, and responded to one false fire alarm.

9-21-2002

- David Timothy Widmer, 21, of 119 Harden Road, Statesboro, was charged with criminal trespass.
- A Winburn Hall resident reported someone punctured four tires on his vehicle in the Winburn Hall parking lot.
- Officers issued five traffic citations and five traffic warnings, worked one traffic accident, assisted one motorist, and responded to one false fire alarm.

9-20-2002

- A Bethel Church Road resident reported a cellular phone was missing from the Technology Building.
- Officers issued three traffic warnings, worked two traffic accidents and assisted six motorists.

--All Police Beat
information is compiled by
Doug Kidd, News Editor.

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.

The George-Anne

Williams Center room 2023
P.O. Box 8001
Statesboro, GA 30460

How to reach us

ADVERTISING:
681-5418

STORY OR PHOTOS:
681-5246

FAX NUMBER:
486-7113

E-MAIL TO:
g-a@gasou.edu

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.

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Cussed By Some ...
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2002 HOMECOMING



New Beginnings

Monday, September 30

Homecoming
Kick-off Event:
Student Activities Center Grand Opening
1:00pm-2:00pm, Russell Union 1056

MTV's Real World - PUCK
11:30am-12:30 pm • Russell Union Ballroom
Sponsored by Eagle Entertainment
Tickets available now.

Monday-Wednesday, September 30-October 2
Homecoming Elections Online (thru your WINGS Account)

Tuesday, October 1st

Doo Dah/Step Show • 7:00 pm, RAC Gymnasium

Wednesday, October 2nd

Sculpt It for the Hungry,
11:00am-3:00 pm
Russell Union Rotunda
Sponsored by Volunteer Services

First Wednesday's Live (Coffeehouse Series) 9:00 pm, Union Commons
Sponsored by Eagle Entertainment

Dining for Success, 6:30 pm-8:30 pm
Russell Union Ballroom
Sponsored by Career Services

FREE Movie: "SIGNS"
7:30pm, 9:30pm & 11:30 pm, Union Theatre (Free Popcorn and drinks all night!) Sponsored by Eagle Entertainment
Tickets available now.

Thursday, October 3rd

Eagle Expo, 9:00 am-2:00 pm
RAC, Sponsored by Career Services

2nd Annual Homecoming Formal
Announcement of Court
8:00 pm, Union Ballroom
Tickets available now.

Friday, October 4th

Homecoming Parade
4:00 pm, GSU Campus

Spirit Award Presentation
5:30 pm, RAC

Cutie and the Beast Comedy Show • 9:00 pm, RAC Gymnasium
Co-Sponsored by SAC & Athletics Department • Tickets available now.

Saturday, October 5th

Homecoming Game:
GSU VS. Virginia Military Institute
1:00 pm, Paulson Stadium
(Crowing of Queen/King at Halftime)

Festive Decorations throughout the week:
• Student Organization Banner Contest
• Departmental Door Display
• Paint the Town Contest, Sponsored by
• Alumni Relations
• All tickets available at the SAC.

INS to meet deadline for tracking foreign students; system's effectiveness doubted

Universities say U.S. won't be able to process information on nearly half a million international student visas

KRT Campus

WASHINGTON—The Immigration and Naturalization Service told Congress on Tuesday that its system for tracking foreign students will be operational by its January deadline. However, members of Congress and university leaders are concerned about the system's effectiveness.

The Student Exchange and Visitor Information System will have difficulty preventing student visa fraud and cannot account for the significant number of international students who have overstayed their visas, an INS official acknowledged.

Universities contend that the INS won't be able to process the information that SEVIS will collect every semester on more than 500,000 international students who are studying in this country.

Rep. Howard McKeon, R-Calif., noted that a Georgia professor was indicted earlier this year on charges of creating 17 fake student visas, and asked whether SEVIS could safeguard against such occurrences.

"No system is completely fraud-proof," said INS spokeswoman Janis Sposato. She said it would be difficult to detect fraud by a school official who was using legitimate documents.

She also said SEVIS could not track international students who were in the United States illegally. Nor will the system track foreign workers or tourists who take classes part time.

The cost and upkeep of SEVIS are unknown, Sposato said, although the INS would charge visa applicants up to \$100 to help pay for the system.

Congress created SEVIS in 1996 in response to the 1993 World Trade Center bombing. One of the terrorists involved in the bombing had come to the United States on a student visa. A



Special to the G-A

INS officials take away a man suspected of immigration violations in New Hampshire last summer. The new Student Exchange and Visitor Information System is supposed to account for international students who have overstayed their visas.

January 2003 deadline was set to have the system operating.

After the Sept. 11 attacks, in which three of the hijackers had used student visas, Congress appropriated \$37 million to ensure that SEVIS met that deadline.

The INS is expected to oversee the system's implementation at more than 7,000 higher education institutions with a staff of 1,500 contracted workers, Sposato said. Nearly 1,000 schools currently are compliant with SEVIS, she said.

But university officials worry that the deadline is too near and the resources too slim.

"We are somewhat concerned about how much remains to be done in a rapidly shrinking amount of time," testified David Ward, president of the American Council on Education, which represents numerous higher education associations.

Ward said the final rules for universities to follow regarding SEVIS had not been published. Sposato said they would be published by January.

The INS attempted to create a database of foreign students in the

mid-1980s, but the lists of foreign students' names and addresses just sat in a warehouse, Dixon Johnson, executive director of international student services at the University of Southern California, said in a telephone interview.

"The track record with such innovations is not one that encourages confidence," Johnson said.

Johnson said SEVIS would be a vast improvement over the present situation if the INS had enough resources and universities and colleges got assistance.

The INS has a monumental task in not only collecting the data on 500,000 international students each year but also on following up on any information it deems appropriate, John Greisberger, director of the office of international education at Ohio State University, said in a telephone interview.

Glenn A. Fine, inspector general for the Justice Department, told Congress on Tuesday that the INS needs more resources and more staff to implement SEVIS effectively.

Another topic at the hearing was

the backlog of male Muslim international students applying to study in the United States, which is growing because of a policy that the Bush administration began earlier this year.

The policy, independent of SEVIS, requires extensive background checks and Washington approval for men from 26 Muslim countries.

MEREDITH, FROM PAGE 1

moved on to University of Mississippi, where he earned an Ed.D. in administration and supervision with an emphasis in secondary and higher education.

Meredith was inaugurated as Chancellor in January.

Prior to becoming the university system's chancellor, Meredith served as a principal in Illinois and Indiana, Vice chancellor for executive affairs at the University of Mississippi, and Chancellor of the University of Ala-

bama System.

"What stood out about Dr. Meredith was his leadership experience, particularly his background emphasis on quality in higher education," said GSU president Bruce Grube.

While he is in the area, the chancellor will also attend a luncheon with business and economic leaders in the Savannah area today.

The meeting is part of the Knowledge is Power Program, a state tour Meredith initiated.

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Economist Robert Shiller wonders why

we have such faith in the utter rationality of markets when we ourselves can be kinda, you know, irrational. Bad judgment, lousy information, half-baked strategies—there are times when **money brings out the worst in people.** That's why Prof. Shiller's retirement dollars are invested with a company whose levelheaded thinking stands out in a world where impulse and intuition are bucking intelligence and insight.

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Robert Shiller became a participant in 1975. TIAA-CREF Individual and Institutional Services, Inc., and Teachers Personal Investors Services, Inc., distribute securities products. ©2002 Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association—College Retirement Equities Fund (TIAA-CREF), New York, NY. A charitable donation was made on behalf of Robert Shiller.

HEALTH SERVICES

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Health Services was awarded the prestigious 1999 Georgia Southern University President's Staff Team Award for Excellence in Service to Students.

Location: The Health Center is on Forest Drive across from Watson Hall and near the Lakeside Café.

Operating Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday during semesters.

Eligibility: Students enrolled in four (4) or more semester hours prepay the health fee each semester. This entitles those students to unlimited office visits during the semester. Students taking less than four (4) semester hours may choose to prepay the health fee to receive the same benefits.

A valid Georgia Southern identification card is required for service.

Supplemental Costs: Although the health fee allows students unlimited visits throughout the semester, there are additional costs for such services as prescriptions and immunizations. Payment for these services is due at the time of the visit. Health Services does not file insurance claims, but will provide a detailed invoice for insurance purposes.

DIRECTORY

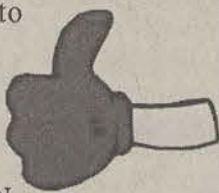
Appointment Office	681-5484
Main Office	681-5641
FAX	681-0792
Health Education Office	871-1732
Allergy Injection Services	486-7782
Respiratory Services	681-0012
Pharmacy	681-5780

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OPINIONS

The GEORGE-ANNE THUMB

• **THUMBS UP** to Eagle Football. We're still behind you, boys - 100 percent.



• **THUMBS DOWN** to places so technologically lagging that they still don't accept Eagle Express.

• **THUMBS UP** to the Chancellor visiting campus yesterday.

• **THUMBS DOWN** to construction on Oliff Hall lasting well into the school year.

• **THUMBS UP** to Hump Day. It's the middle of the week already.

• **THUMBS DOWN** to midterms approaching.

Thoughts of the day

• Hard work spotlights the character of people: some turn up their sleeves, some turn up their noses, and some don't turn up at all. — *Sam Ewing*

• If computers get too powerful, we can organize them into a committee — that will do them in. — *Bradley's Bromide*

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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Announcing the new G-A arch-nemeses

Brady: The time has come. Something has been building for weeks now, and after nearly nine months in the making, it's finally happening, the moment you've all been waiting for.

The face-off that will go down in the history books as one of the greatest events of our times. Listed on the very pages as man landing on the moon and the discovery of the corn dog.

Amanda Permenter and Adam Brady will face off in their first ever...

ARCH-NEMESIS COLUMN.

Amanda: Jesus, he is so melodramatic. Everyone knows the corn dog man is funny, well versed and active on campus — yada yada yada. But did you know he's a thief? Technically, I'm his superior; therefore my columns should always be on the top of the page. He knows the loopholes in the system. He knows that there can't be a larger headline on the bottom half of the page, so he conjures up giant ones to subvert me. Personally, I don't think it matters where my column is. It could be buried all the way back on page eight and people would still read it. Let him have his spot above the fold. My words speak for themselves.

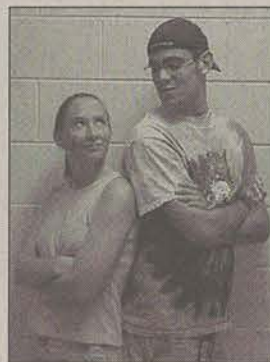
Brady: Oh yes, your words speak for themselves. Yada yada yada, eh? Just because I'm no "logophilic" doesn't mean I don't know a thing or two about the written language. Obviously I've mastered the art of brevity and beaten your columns to the on-top position, but treachery is hardly the way to describe my rise to the top of the page. Did you ever consider that maybe people like me better, Ms. Permenter? Not to be too self-righteous, but not even the three-year veteran and editor-in-chief Tim Prizer gets the same recognition as I do, even after using explicatives with officers of the law.

Amanda: Self-"righteous"? HA. ha.

Oh, and your reputation with officers of the law is any better than Tim's? Maybe next time you get pulled over for running stop signs you can put yourself in Crimes of the Week. People might dig into your food-personifying antics, but there's nothing dishonorable in the fact that I spent the last two years working my way up the proverbial ladder of success up here in the newsroom. Where did you come from, anyway?

Brady: If you must know where exactly it was I came

AMANDA PERMENTER & ADAM BRADY



when I say that no one wants to visualize you naked and screaming.

Brady: Well, maybe not everyone. Radioboy? Ooh... That stung. By "radioboy," I assume you're referring to the most popular non-urban show on WVG, *Mixed Nuts?* (Every Thursday night from 6-9 p.m. on WVG 91.9 FM, by the way) So Crimes of the Week took off. What can I say about my success? It's not like I'm fraternizing with those higher than myself in the George-Anne hierarchy to get my name in the paper.

Amanda: I beg your pardon! I want you to name just one member of this fine staff with whom I've fraternized... Uh, wait... nevermind that. I wrote my way to the top, thank you very much. That's wrote, not *rode*. Go back to last year's Friday editions and find one front-page feature that doesn't have my by-line on it. And, could you be any more shameless with the self-promotion of your radio show? If it doesn't suck, you don't need such advertisement. People will tell their friends, and their friends will tell more friends and so on.

Brady: Speaking of shameless self-promotion... And what's your problem anyway? I knew from the beginning we'd never agree. You don't even put sugar in your coffee. And what the hell is it with your penchant for right-wing

from Ms. Permenter, well, that's an interesting story. I made my way into the world kicking and screaming, naked like the rest of us. After the initial slap on the rear, I lived in New York for ten years before moving...

Amanda: What in the hell are you talking about? I mean the student media scene, Radioboy. And, I think I speak for everyone

accountants when you yourself are as liberal as they come? Sometimes I just don't get the whole opposites attract thing.

Amanda: I don't promote myself. Others do it for me. Yes, I'm just that good.

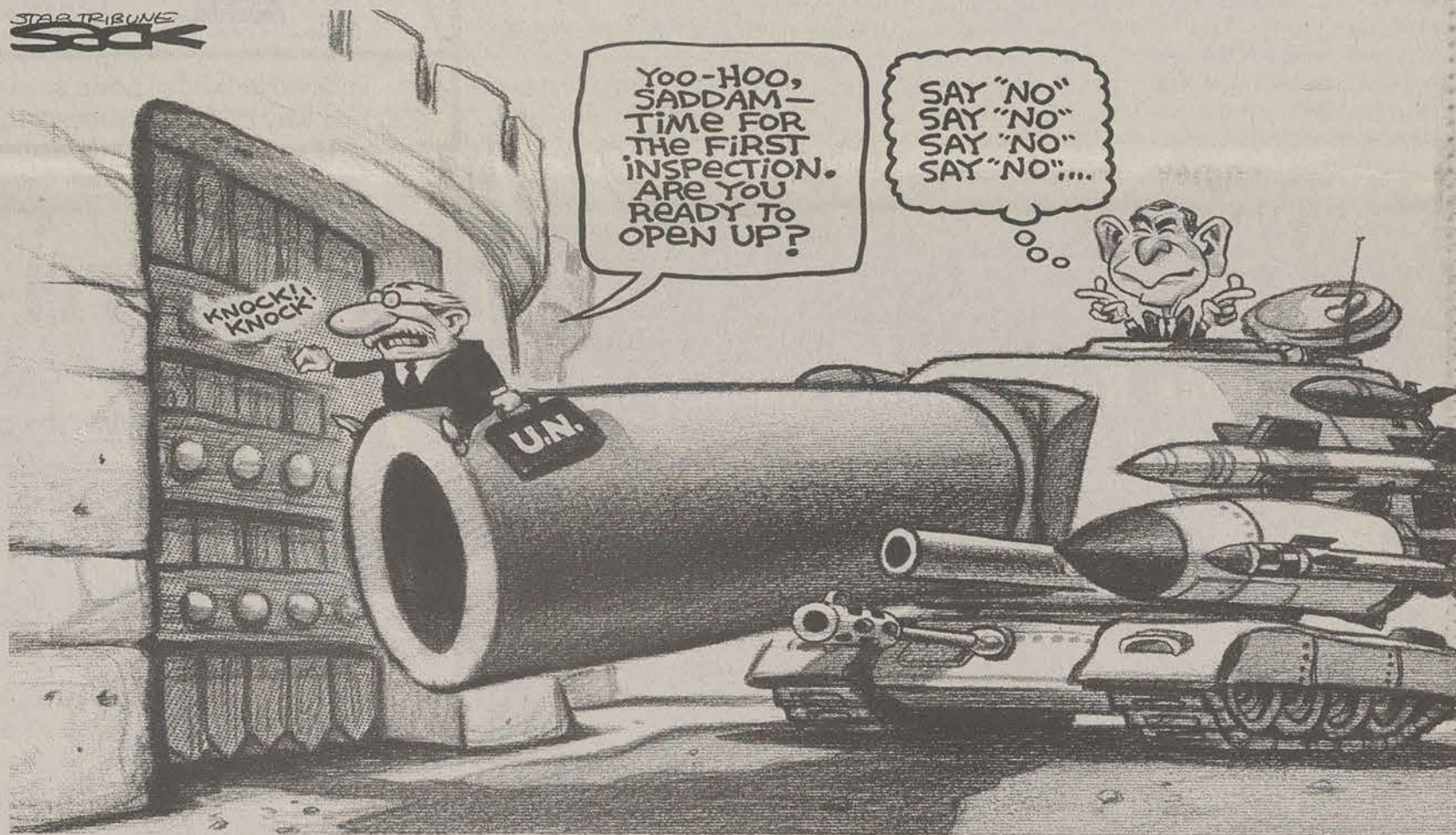
That's right, I don't put sugar in my coffee. Sugar's for wussies, Gritsman. I like it black, and strong enough to strip paint. As for my history of dating right-wing accountants, all's fair in love and war. And given my experience with people of such political persuasion, I'm qualified to call one where I see him. You're no true liberal. You're a corporate, cell-phone-toting pseudo-journalist. To think you wrote the Our Opinion berating our faithful readers for their cellular practices...

Brady: Indeed I did write the very column that was aimed at such individuals. But unlike many of the so-called "corporate" cell-phone-toting individuals, I have the decency to at least turn mine off in a restaurant or during a movie. As far as being a pseudo-journalist is concerned, I think I've tackled a few of the great issues of the day at hand. The five things we all need to do before graduation is an important topic to us all. And if it isn't, it damn well should be. Furthermore, there shouldn't be a single person at this school that doesn't know of the amazing resilience of the Communication Arts Department. If I'm no true liberal, then neither are you. I may have a cell-phone and occasionally wear questionably corporate attire, but at least I don't fraternize with the enemy.

Amanda: Ouch. So, you think I'm a traitor because I had a right-wing boyfriend. I have no defense for that. After all, I *am* wearing his old Eddie Bauer T-shirt. If that's not right wing corporate, I don't know what is. What do you say we wrap this up and hit up Waffle House for some coffee?

Brady: I suppose I could agree to disagree. Just so long as you don't get up in arms when I put a few spoonfuls of sugar in my cup of America's best coffee.

Adam Brady is the arts and entertainment editor of The George-Anne and the arch-nemesis of Amanda Permenter, the news editor of the same publication. They can be reached at that_guy@stouthouse.org and gamed@gasou.edu, respectively. Brady's name being listed first was no coincidence.



War with Iraq: Why? And why now?

By Richard Parker
KRT Campus

And so, the Bush administration hurriedly sows the seeds that will bear the bitter harvest of war. And yet, head down, the administration tills the soil too busy to answer two questions. Why, really, are we going to war? And why right now?

These are the neglected, shady patches in the neat logic of otherwise tidy foreign policy, where thorns sprout, Democrats demur and allies delay. The administration would rather not spend too much time here because matters are so, well, complicated. Much more complicated than *caus belli* as caricature: Saddam is evil and must be stopped.

The president would rather not admit the that the rationale for this war is really written in the cold, granite language of power: This war is about controlling oil, ensuring America's status as the world's sole superpower and cementing a decade of material and political gains. This is really why wars are fought, not to stop some strain of bacteria.

The administration has managed to obscure reality through an optical illusion, cleaving the pending war with Iraq from the ongoing one on terrorism. Each is part of a single, ongoing conflict: the decade-long struggle to control the increasingly out-of-control Persian Gulf.

Little by little, the gains of the 1990 Gulf War have been steadily reversed. In this volatile region, home to nearly half the world's oil, Iraq has slipped its noose. Iran has awakened from its revolutionary slumber. The Saudis chafe at the U.S. military presence they once invited. Years of bloody attacks — from Khobar Towers to Somalia, East Africa, Yemen, New York and Washington — send a none-

too-subtle message. Go home.

And yet the United States can't simply pack up like the British did in the 1970s. Great Britain was shrinking from its commonwealth; America is the sole superpower. It may have won its status when the Soviet Union crumbled, but it cemented its power in the sands of Kuwait by taking back the oil that Iraq reached for in 1989.

To this day, the U.S. Navy guarantees the shipping lanes that carry precious oil to Frankfurt and Yokohama. And successive governments from Berlin and Tokyo repay the favor by basically toeing the U.S. line. Power does not simply grow out of the end of a gun; it grows out of the end of a gun protecting an oil tanker.

And so, Sept. 11, 2001, was not merely a day of incalculable human loss. It was a warning that powerful forces would stop at nothing to eject America from the gulf — and destroy its power. Over the last year, a battered world economy has been only a breath from disaster. If the Saudis had fallen or capitulated to Islamists, nearly half of the world's oil would be under three unfriendly regimes: Riyadh, Tehran and Baghdad.

In this nightmare scenario, governments from Berlin to Tokyo would shun U.S. entreaties and go to the Persian Gulf asking — no, begging — for oil. Recession would mushroom into depression. And like Samson shorn of his locks, the American colossus would be a giant in name only. The power and wealth of future generations would vanish.

Instead, a U.S. invasion of Iraq ensures that such a day won't dawn. With one of the three pillars of the gulf in its possession, the United States will never want for oil for its allies, or for itself. With Iraq in hand, the United States will fundamentally alter the balance of power in the gulf and in the entire Arab world.

These are the messy realities that the Bush administration would rather not contend with, explain or plan for, because they complicate the simplicity of a tirade against Saddam. And they foreshadow what's complicated about war. It's not much defeating the Iraqi military but grappling with what logically comes next.

Much as America become an Asian power after the Spanish-American War, this war will see America finally take its place as an Arab power, like the British and the Turks before them. This is a fairly fine irony for an administration decidedly not in the business of nation building.

And Washington will inherit all that entails. Such as engaging that other great power, Iran. Such as rebuilding the ruined state of Iraq. And further expanding our permanent military presence in the gulf, already bigger than anytime since 1990 and more than a quarter-century old.

Some good may come. Such as reforming some of the corrupt and feckless Arab allies America has relied upon to its detriment. A permanent American interest in the Middle East can no more tolerate being surrounded by tottering regimes than it can tolerate a continued Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

None of these are arguments not to invade Iraq. But each is an argument indicating a more complicated, messy, risk- and intrigue-filled proposition than the Bush administration has let on. Or that the stammering Congress has uncovered.

And so, the administration hurriedly plants its seeds. Maybe no one will notice the thorns till later.

Richard Parker is an award-winning journalist and former intelligence company executive. He was recently named the associate publisher of The New Republic magazine in Washington.



Special to the G-A
Gracie Jui-jitsu fighters have competed in competitions against title holders from other martial arts styles, and have held their own, making the style recognized around the world.

Jiu-jitsu club teaches students self-defense

Submission Grappling Club showing students how to 'get back on their feet' to fight

By Chike Nwakamma
chwakamm@email.gasou.edu

Interested in learning the art of self-defense? Need help getting that bully off your back? Whatever the reason, a club is available for students wanting to learn the ancient practice of martial arts.

The Submission Grappling Club offers students an opportunity to learn Gracie Jiu-jitsu and practical

self-defense.

Michael Renfro, president of the club, expressed his reasons for students to join.

"I think they [students] should join if they want to learn practical self-defense, how to really defend themselves once they get taken down to the ground," Renfro said. "[Students should] at least learn how to get back up on [their] feet if attacked by multiple people and get out of the situation as fast as possible."

Students had different reasons for joining the club. Some students came

for the reasons Renfro mentioned.

"It will come in handy if you get in a fight," said Brent Moore.

Other students came for the physical aspect of Gracie Jiu-jitsu. "It keeps you in shape," said Richard Rhoades.

Yet still, some students just joined out of curiosity in the Gracie Jiu-jitsu fighting style.

Ernest Smith said, "I just wanted to see what it [Gracie Jiu-jitsu] was about."

According to Renfro, the Submission Grappling Club began a

year ago.

Brothers Carlos and Helio Gracie originated the Gracie Jiu-jitsu fighting style in the early 1920's to meet the demands of real, "no rules" fighting in the streets of Brazil.

Gracie Jiu-jitsu is a grappling form of martial arts that resembles collegiate wrestling and Olympic judo.

Relson Gracie is the son of Helio Gracie and continues the tradition of his father and uncle.

Relson Gracie will be giving a seminar at Georgia Southern University in December.

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All SoCon teams in play this weekend

By Eli Boorstein
uahp@hotmail.com

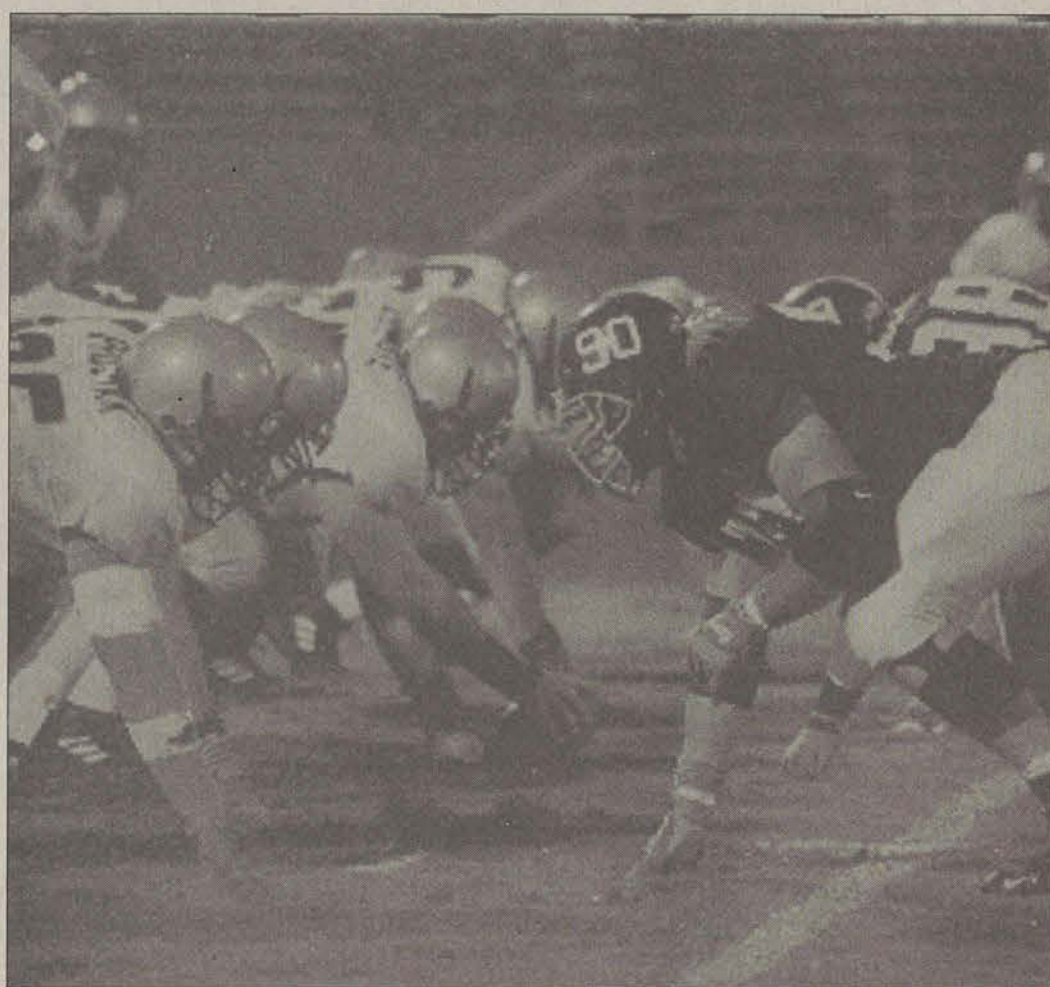
All nine of the Southern Conference teams will be in action this weekend as they kick off week five of the 2002 football season.

Four of the five games involving league teams will pit SoCon foes against each other.

In last weekend's action, none of the games saw blowout wins as the largest margin of victory was just 14 points in East Tennessee State's 35-21 win over VMI in Johnson City, Tennessee. Appalachian State took advantage of a touchdown pass with just three minutes left to play to grab a hard-fought 29-22 victory at Big South member Liberty. Western Carolina also took advantage of some late heroics to take a 37-34 decision over The Citadel in Charleston. The seventh-ranked Paladins of Furman escaped with a 17-7 win over 22nd-ranked Richmond of the Atlantic 10 Conference. Wofford remained the only undefeated team in the SoCon with a 14-7 upset win at Georgia Southern while Chattanooga kept their streak as the league's only winless team with a 26-24 defeat at the hands of Gardner-Webb.

After their win over Georgia Southern, 3-0 Wofford, the last undefeated team in the SoCon, catapulted to the 19th spot in the latest polls, the highest the school has ever been ranked. The Terriers' undefeated streak probably will not last much longer, as they have the daunting task of facing I-A power Maryland on the road in College Park in a 6:00 game Saturday.

Western Carolina, 3-1 on the year, will try for their third win in a row when they host East Tennessee State in Cullowhee, N.C. at 6:00. The Catamounts will rely on the play of flanker Michael Banks,



The Eagles are traveling to UT-Chattanooga for their second SoCon matchup of the season. A victory would make them 1-1 in the conference.

who leads the SoCon in receiving yards. The 2-2 Bucs of ETSU will count on the tandem of quarterback Jatavis Sanders and wide receiver Cecil Moore. After sitting out the Bucs' opening loss at North Carolina State, Moore has racked up three straight games with 90-plus receiving yards.

Furman will open up their SoCon slate, traveling to Lexington, Va. to try to spoil the homecoming of VMI in a 1:00 matchup of two of the league's top quarterbacks. The 2-1 Paladins are led by the arm of quarterback Billy Napier, who leads the conference with 232 yards per game and a 72 percent comple-

tion rate. The surprising Keydets sit at 2-2, led by Joey Gibson, who averages 217 yards per game while throwing nine touchdown passes.

Appalachian State, 2-1 on the year, also opens their SoCon schedule this weekend, heading down to Charleston for a 2:00 tilt with The Citadel. The fifth-ranked Mountaineers have all-conference quarterback Joe Burchette back after he sat for the first two games following surgery to repair a ruptured disc in his back. Burchette showed few ill effects from his surgery in his return, completing 7-of-18 passes for 99 yards and two touchdowns against Liberty last weekend. The

1-2 Bulldogs are led behind the center by quarterback Jeff Klein, who ranks second in the conference with 218 yards per game.

Georgia Southern and Chattanooga, both suffering from upstating starts, close out the weekend's action with a 7:00 at Finley Stadium in Chattanooga. The 18th-ranked Eagles, 1-2 after their loss to Wofford, are 14-1 all-time against the Mocs, including a 6-1 mark at Finley Stadium. Chattanooga was six seconds from grabbing their first win of 2002 last weekend, but saw their hopes dashed on a last-second Gardner-Webb field goal, dropping the Mocs to 0-4.

Eagles place second in SoCon cross country meet

By Dennis Hightower
hightower12181@hotmail.com

Furman's men's and women's cross country teams captured first place finishes in the Pre-Southern Conference Meet held at the College of Charleston's Dixie Plantation on Saturday.

In the women's event, the Lady Paladins took five of the top seven spots to finish with 23 points. Georgia Southern placed second with 54 points, South Carolina was third with 68 points, followed by College of Charleston (87) and The Citadel (137).

South Carolina's Jenny Lake won the 5K run with a time of 19:05.58. Furman's Whitney Kay Sharp was second with a time of 19:20.29, while teammate Bev Roberts placed third (19:25.97). Georgia Southern top performer was Brittney Swick (4th place, 19:28.15), for College of Charleston Elizabeth Rose finished 15th (20:36.97), while The Citadel was paced by Olivia Perry-Smith's 24th place finish (21:32.18).

Furman completed the sweep with a 15 point total in the men's meet. The Citadel (62) edged the College of Charleston (62) for second place in the three-team event.

Kevin Crosby won the 8K run with a time of 26:00.96 as the Paladins claimed the first six spots in the event. College of Charleston's Aubrey Florence placed seventh with a time of 28:18.05, while The Citadel's top finisher was Stewart Campbell (9th, 28:53.28).

Dixie Plantation is the site for the Southern Conference Men's and Women's Southern Conference Cross Country Championships to be held on November 2nd.

Smith breaks Payton's record for carries

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA—Dallas Cowboys running back Emmitt Smith broke Walter Payton's NFL record for career rushing attempts in the second quarter of Sunday's 44-13 loss to the Philadelphia Eagles.

Smith ran 11 times for 52 yards, moving within 362 yards of passing Payton to become the NFL's career rushing leader. Payton had 16,726 yards rushing. Smith took a handoff, ran off left

tackle and gained 2 yards on his sixth carry of the game and his 3,849th overall.

"How can I be happy after a butt-whipping like that," Smith said. "It's like asking your kid to smile at you when you just had to spank him."

The 33-year-old Smith, playing in his 13th year, has 11 consecutive 1,000-yard seasons, is the career leader in touchdowns rushing with 148, and is second in overall touchdowns to Jerry Rice with 159.

Women's Soccer falls 5-0 to UGA

G-A News Service

ATHENS, Ga.—The University of Georgia soccer team defeated Georgia Southern 5-0 Sunday in front of a crowd of 871 at the UGA Soccer/Softball Complex.

Georgia (3-4-1) controlled the game from the start. The Bulldogs possessed the ball in their attacking zone for most of the first half, outshooting the Eagles 18-1. Georgia Southern (5-2-1) did not shoot a ball on the goal frame in the period.

Georgia's first goal came in the ninth minute as freshman forward Geneil Newbern put in a deflection off of her own shot that hit the crossbar. It was Newbern's second goal of the season. Newbern then assisted on another goal in the 14th minute as junior midfielder Andrea Velasco blasted in a shot from 22 yards out. It was Velasco's second goal of the season as well.

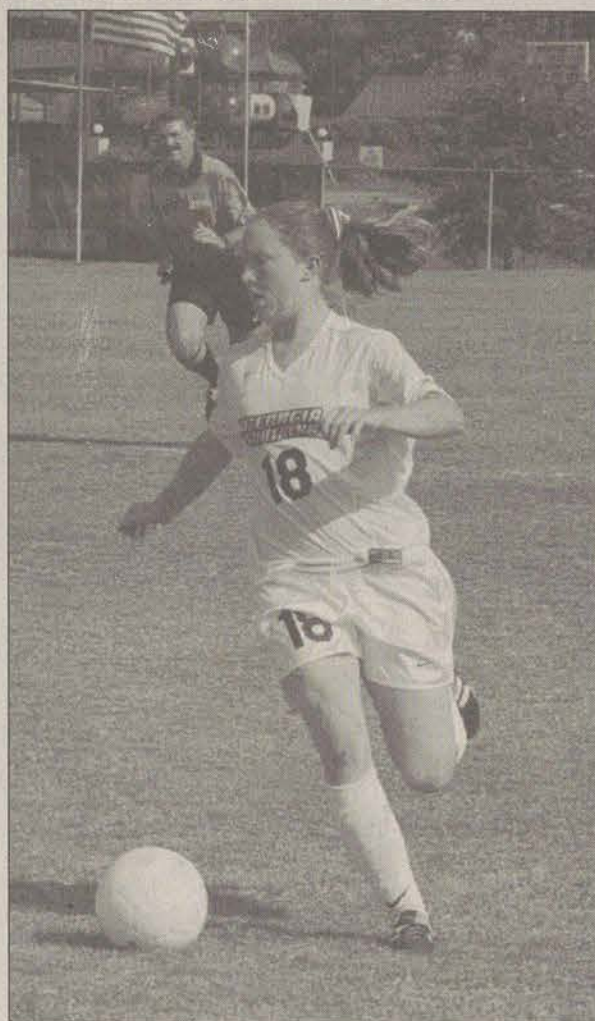
Sophomore forward Tricia McKee scored the Bulldogs' third goal of the game, her team-leading sixth of the season, putting in a shot from 16 yards out in the 23rd minute. McKee scored again in the 28th minute, putting in a deflection off the crossbar from a shot by senior defender Gina Forté.

The Bulldogs continued to control the game in the second half. Georgia added one more goal as Newbern netted her second of the game in the 84th minute. Georgia outshot Georgia Southern 34-3 overall in the game.

Sophomore Ashley Lindley played most of the game in goal, facing no shots. Freshman Nicole DiEnna en-

tered the game in the 75th minute for her first playing time of the season, tallying one key save to preserve the shutout. Georgia Southern keeper Kari Gast tallied 15 saves in the game.

Georgia Southern returns to action Wednesday, September 25 when it hosts Southern Conference foe the College of Charleston at 4:00 p.m. on Eagle Field.



The Lady Eagles fell scoreless to the Bulldogs Sunday afternoon in a non-conference matchup.

Night games - a new tradition

Josiah McDaniel
joes_golden_buttered_jam@yahoo.com

As time came for the home opener for the GSU football team, the stadium sat empty as 1:00 p.m. rolled around.

For those wondering why the game had not started yet, perhaps used to the afternoon games at Allen E. Paulson Stadium, they were treated to cooler temperatures and more time to tailgate, as this was the second of additional night games on the schedule this year.

The move comes by the athletic department trying to boost attendance and provide faithful fans with a reprieve from the afternoon heat in the month of September.

In an interview, Sam Baker, Georgia Southern athletic director, said that if this proves successful, fans can look forward to football under the lights for future seasons.

Baker said that new head coach Mike Sewak is agreeable with the idea of attempting to play more night games, even more so than the former head coach Paul Johnson.

The excitement of this decision is evident, as 18,895 people were in attendance as the Eagles pounded Gardner-Webb 56 to 0. The attendance total was the most since November 3, 2001, against Furman.

According to the Georgia Southern 2002 Football Media guide, the crowd was larger than the average home attendance last year of 18,660 and the

all-time average of 13,871.

Jordan Mohamed, 20, a third year Public Relations major said, "Everyone wasn't oppressed by the heat, so the atmosphere was much livelier in the stands."

Mohamed said this was the first time that he stayed for the entire game, and the lack of heat and harsh sunshine was a key factor for him to stay.

This was the second of two night games in Statesboro, and the third of four night games overall, including the away games at Delaware and UT Chattanooga.

The 7:00 p.m. start for the Wofford game also gave fans plenty of time to carry on the long-standing tradition of tailgating as early as eight hours before the game.

In an interview, Shawn McElveen, area resident and long-time Eagle fan said that time is the most important factor for fans preparing for a game.

"The ability to have night games is important because it turns the day into a big social event in a town without many," he said.

"The whole point of the experience is to hang out with the people you know and talk about the old games and build that excitement for the upcoming game," McElveen said.

Jordan Mohamed said that the amount of time was especially helpful to him and his friends.

"I was allowed to sleep later in the morning, which is necessary for a college student, and then get up and

do other things before I had to come to the stadium," he said.

They showed up at the game around 3:00 p.m. to tailgate and enjoy the atmosphere. With four hours before game time, they relaxed and listened to the radio while they were waiting on the coals to get hot enough to put steaks on.

Such was the case all over the parking lot as music blared over car stereos. Young and old alike ran across open spaces to catch the footballs that spiraled through the air, perhaps acting out a play that would take place later on the Glenn Bryant Field by real players.

Getting together that early before the game helps to turn all the fans into more of a community because everyone is there to root for the Eagles, said Mohamed. The later start times are also important for fans and alumni living outside of the area who must drive in on Saturday morning.

McElveen said, "When a game is at night, you don't have to hurry to sit and eat before the kick off."

It is almost impossible to tailgate for an early afternoon game because you have to get there around 10:00 a.m., rush around setting up everything and eat a hamburger or hot dog for breakfast so as not to be late for the game, he said.

The Eagles will be back in action Homecoming Weekend, October 5, as they face VMI. Game time is set for 1 p.m.

Bo's BOTTOM LINE: You're only lying to yourselves

Bo Fulginiti



Football fans across the country have become somewhat used to expecting the unexpected.

The past four weeks of pigskin have provided us all with more than a handful of head-scratching moments following both college and NFL games.

But everyone I talk to in this town has tried to convince me that they predicted most of these shocking surprises.

Nope, sorry. Maybe next time, but try our home game.

I don't believe a single soul who tries to convince me that they knew

all of this was coming.

Let's start with the obvious: our beloved Eagles.

Ok, can I see a show of hands from those of you who predicted that Georgia Southern was going to score seven points against Wofford? I bet you also knew that Mike Ayers' Terriers would be undefeated, the leaders of the Southern Conference, and have teams like VMI nipping at their heels, while GSU approaches a "must win" game against UTC in week five.

Saturday's game was the first regular season loss that I have ever seen at home in the five years I've been here,

so yes, I was stunned, and so were you...just admit it.

Now, what human being out there has the audacity to tell me that they had the utmost confidence in Rodney Peete and the Carolina Panthers?

Peete is older than Moses, and the Panthers couldn't sniff the endzone last year, so the fact that they are undefeated with two more wins than they had in all of 2001 should be considered a miracle...by everyone including you.

And finally, which one of you just knew from the beginning of training camp that Kurt Warner and the St. Louis Rams would be sputtering out of con-

trol and pounding the panic button with clenched fists after an 0-3 start?

They have been called "the greatest show on turf," and now the experts are saying that playoffs would be a longshot.

But you already knew that Kurt Warner would be an interception-throwing machine, and his battered Rams would struggle just to get first downs...right?

It's time to fess up people.

Admit that this first dose of football has been eye-opening, jaw-dropping, and yes...completely unpredictable.

I've come to grips with the fact that

I am not a psychic.

Neither is Miss Cleo.

Neither are you.

Just tell me and everyone else the truth when we ask you what your real picks were for the weekend games.

I am through hearing your lies and watching your nose grow.

What's your bottom line? Tune into 91.9 WVGs on Thursday afternoons from 5 to 6 and give us your side of the story.

Bo Fulginiti is a sports writer for the George-Anne and can be reached for comment at Bo_Fulginiti@hotmail.com

Rams as we knew them are going, going...gone

KRT Campus

TAMPA, Fla.—The beautiful passing game: gone.

The stylish running game: gone.

The creative, offensive genius of coach Mike Martz: gone.

The physical toughness: gone.

The mental toughness: gone.

The relentless hunger to be the best: gone.

The swagger: gone.

Add it up, and the Rams have an 0-3 record after their 26-14 loss Monday to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. This is what happens when a team goes soft because of casual, country-club training camps and practices. This is what happens when a team loses its confidence after being sucker-punched and humiliated in a Super Bowl it should have won. This is what happens when too many draft picks go bust, and too many free-agent signings flop. This is what happens when the head coach worries more about accumulating organizational power instead of coaching. This is what happens when the attention to detail drifts away.

The Rams have lost their edge. They just don't have the old sharpness. They're like a washed-up boxer with slow reflexes.

"We have to dig ourselves out of this hole and fight back," Martz said. "We created this situation and we have to be good enough to get out."

We've heard a similar mantra for

three weeks now. But Martz has failed to motivate, or fix, his team. And its big-name players aren't coming up big. Quarterback Kurt Warner threw four more interceptions Monday. One was returned for a touchdown; another set up an easy TD. For the season, Warner has one touchdown pass and seven interceptions.

And after Monday's game, the Bucs said Warner is locking onto his primary receiver, making it easy to read his intentions.

"All game we were getting good jumps on the ball," cornerback Brian Kelly said. "For some reason he has been looking real hard at his receivers."

If Warner's stunning decline continues, he'll soon be compared to Jim Everett. But really, is it any wonder that Warner has the happy feet going? His offensive line is getting bullied. Warner is being pounded.

And now future Hall of Fame running back Marshall Faulk's status is in doubt because of a strained neck that put him out of Monday's game. If the Rams lose Faulk for a lengthy amount of time, they're in deep trouble. Then again, they're already in quicksand. Faulk or no Faulk.

If we revert to the Super Bowl, the offense formerly known as the Greatest Show on Earth has averaged only 17 points over the last four real games. Hey, at least the Rams managed to outscore the baseball Cardinals, who had 13 runs against Arizona on Monday.

It's no joke. The Rams were expected to make an epic statement on national TV: "We're the Rams. We still rule. Watch us put on a show, just like the old days."

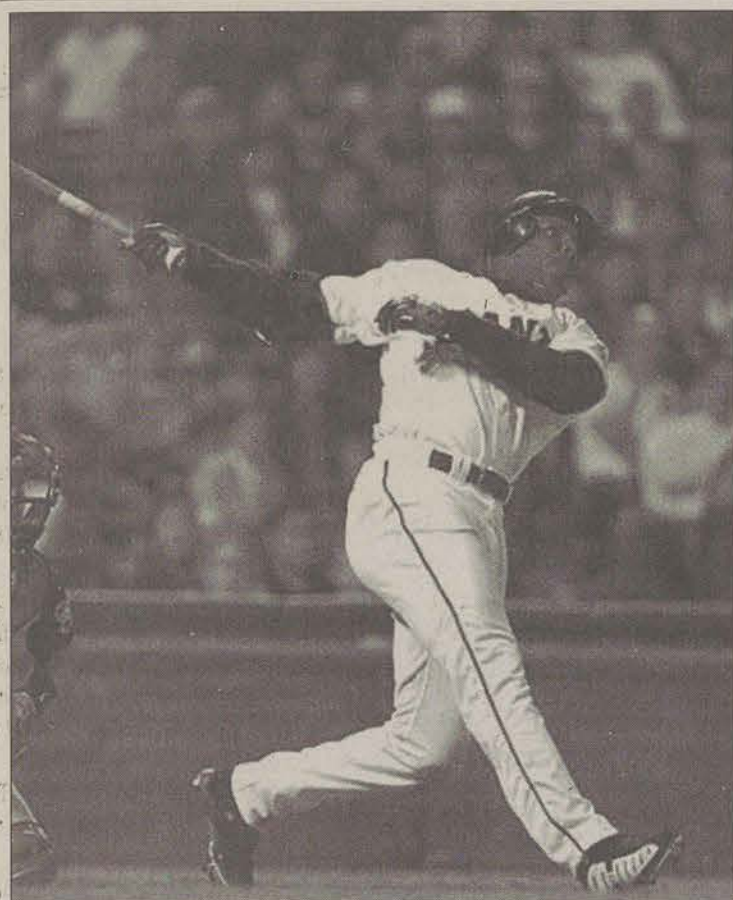
Instead, the Rams revealed all of their flaws, and could not hide from the truth.

The Rams' defense gives up too many early points, leading to quick, troublesome deficits. And Martz, who could dissect a defense like no other

coach, suddenly has lost his surgical touch. Where are the diabolical Martz plays that once left defenses so hopelessly disoriented?

The Rams gave us three wonderful years of dazzling entertainment. We thank them for it. We witnessed the three best three years in St. Louis NFL history.

Sad to say, but the 1999, 2000 and 2001 seasons already qualify as nostalgia.



Internet Photo

Barry Bonds is on his way to another record-breaking season.

Record runs enter final week

Associated Press

Look out, Babe, Barry has you on his radar again.

A year ago, Barry Bonds zoomed into the record book in the final week of the season, finishing with 73 home runs and breaking a couple of Babe Ruth's records with 177 walks and an .863 slugging percentage.

It turned out to be just a pre-amble for the 38-year-old slugger. Now Bonds is about to complete the best combined batting average-power season since Ruth hit .373 with 46 homers in 1931.

The final week of the season offers some opportunities for other record-breakers. For example, the New York Yankees could become the first team in 66 years to have five players with 100 RBIs, while Chicago Cubs outfielder Sammy Sosa is trying to become the first player with five straight 50-homer seasons.

Bonds' 44 home runs this season included the 600th of his career, joining Hank Aaron, Ruth and Willie Mays in that exclusive club. His drop in homers has been balanced by a bounce in his batting average. At .370 going into the final week, he should become the oldest first-time batting champion, three years older than Al Oliver in 1982 when he won his first crown.

Until Bonds, the oldest National League batting champion in history was Honus Wagner, who was 37 when he led the NL with a .334 average in 1911. Ted Williams was 40 when he batted .328 to win the AL crown in 1958.

Bonds also joins Colorado's Larry Walker in an exclusive club by leading the league in batting the year after he led it in home runs. Walker did that in 1997-98, with 49 homers followed by a .363 batting title. Aaron had the same perfecta in 1956-57, first winning the batting title with a .328 average and then the homer crown with 44 the next year.

With 191 walks, Bonds already broke his own record of 177 and he could become the first 200-walk man in baseball history. His on-base percentage of .581 is well ahead of the record .553 set by Williams when he hit .406 in 1941.

Bonds needs to get on base just six times in the final week to match his record of 342 set last season. The major league record for reaching base safely is 379 times set by

Bonds' old pal, the Babe, in 1923.

That Ruth record is safe—for now.

On other record tracks, the Yankees went into Monday with two players already having at least 100 RBIs—Jason Giambi (114) and Alfonso Soriano (100)—and three others closing in—Bernie Williams (99), Jorge Posada (96) and Robin Ventura (93). The last team to have five players with 100 RBIs were the 1936 Yankees, Joe DiMaggio's rookie year.

A year later, Joe (46) and Vince DiMaggio (13) combined for 59 home runs, a record for brothers. That could fall this season to the Giambi brothers: Jason (38) and Philadelphia's Jeremy (20) were one away through Sunday.

"Every year he gets better and better," Michael Barrett said, referring to teammate Guerrero. "He's consistently an amazing player. Only a handful of guys have that kind of talent."

Alex Rodriguez needs four home runs to become the first shortstop to reach 60 home runs in a season, and Minnesota's Jacque Jones needs one more leadoff homer to match Brady Anderson's record of 12 set in 1996.

Seattle's Ichiro Suzuki became the first player since Harvey Kuenn in 1953-54 to reach 200 hits in each of his first two major league seasons. Kuenn had 209 and 201. Suzuki had 242 when he was last year's American League MVP, and has 200 so far this season.

The most impressive pitching record already belongs to Atlanta's Greg Maddux, who reached 15 victories for the 15th consecutive season, matching the record set by Cy Young from 1891-1905.

John Smoltz, in his first full season as the Braves' closer, matched the NL single-season record for saves with 53. He is four short of the major league record set by Bobby Thigpen in 1990.

On the negative side, there is Jose Hernandez of the Milwaukee Brewers, who has struck out 188 times, two short of the record held by Bobby Bonds, Barry's father.

Hernandez sat out the entire weekend series with the Giants and hasn't started since Wednesday, when fans booed him for not striking out. He expected to play on the season-ending road trip, which includes three games in Houston and four in St. Louis.

NBA player on life support

Associated Press

PAPEETE, Tahiti—The brother of missing former NBA player Bison Dele reportedly is on life support.

The Los Angeles Times reported Sunday that Dele's brother, Miles Dabord, is "living only through artificial means," according to his mother. Dabord was found unconscious Sept. 14 in Tijuana, Mexico, and hospitalized in suburban San Diego. He has been in a coma since, and the FBI only learned his identity Thursday.

The Times reported that Dabord's mother, Patricia Phillips, said doctors discovered severe damage to her son's brain as a result of an insulin overdose and failure to take his asthma medication.

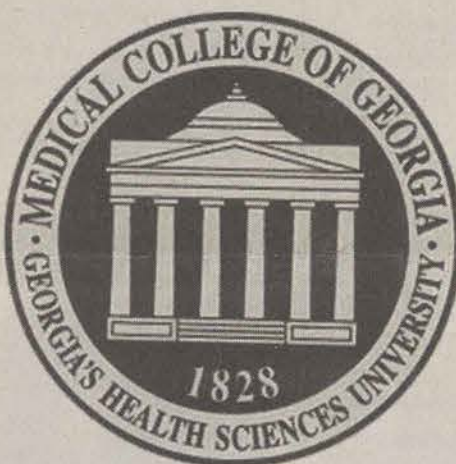
Phillips had told the Times she fears her son may have tried to commit

suicide because he was overcome with guilt, believing he was responsible for his brother's disappearance.

Investigators in Tahiti believe Dabord killed Dele, Dele's girlfriend and the French captain on board Dele's sailboat. Dele, his girlfriend Serena Karlan and the skipper, Bertrand Saldo, haven't been seen since July 8.

Phillips told The New York Times, in a story published Sunday, that she received a phone call from her son earlier this month, during which he was crying and told her: "I found something and I tried to cover it up, but I didn't do what they're saying. No one will believe me."

On Friday, Phillips was at her son's bedside. "I wanted to hug him, to stroke his face, to hold his hand," she said.



Healthy Women Needed for Cervical Cancer/Genital Warts Prevention Study

If you are a woman age 16 to 23 and you don't have an HPV (Human papillomavirus) infection or a history of abnormal Pap smears, you may qualify to participate in a study to determine the safety and effectiveness of a vaccine intended to prevent HPV infection. HPV causes genital warts and abnormal Pap smears and may cause cervical cancer.

Benefits of the study include free Pap smears for 4 years and free HPV testing. Participants will be paid for their contributions to the study. For more information, please contact:

Medical College of Georgia
Department of Family Medicine

Alysia Poon
Project Manager
apoon@mail.mcg.edu

Lynn Allmond, RN, F
Nurse Practitioner
lallmond@mail.mcg.edu

Call Toll Free: (877) 643-1414
Principal Investigator: Daron Ferris, MD

Hispanic Awareness Month

September 15th-October 15th

"Hispanic Americans: Strength In Unity, Faith, and Diversity"

Salsa & Meringue Dance Lessons

Come learn how to dance the *Salsa* and *Meringue* in preparation for the dance tomorrow night. Have fun learning dance moves that will impress others!!!

October 7th

Recreation Activities Center (RAC)

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Sponsored by the Hispanic Student Association

"Noche de Sabor"

Night of Flavor Dance

Come dance the night away to the sounds of a variety of music that includes Hispanic, Caribbean and urban genres. Enjoy the music, festivities and door prizes.

October 8th

Russell Union Ballroom

8:00-10:00 p.m.

Sponsored by the Multicultural Student Center, Eagle Entertainment, Hispanic Student Association and the Spanish Club.

Comedian: Mimi Gonzalez

Enjoy the comedic flair of Mimi Gonzalez. She has toured the US and worldwide making people laugh. Her multi-ethnic humor illustrates the unique position of being an American as both an insider and an outsider.

October 15th

Russell Union Ballroom

7:00 p.m.

Sponsored by Eagle Entertainment

Multicultural Student Center, Georgia Southern University
Rosenwald Building, Suite 1065
(912) 681-5409

Poverty levels up for the first time since 1993

KRT Campus

The number of Americans living in poverty increased for the first time in eight years in 2001, and the nation's median household income declined, the U.S. Census Bureau reported Tuesday.

Both bits of bad news stemmed from the recent recession. The last time both measures sank simultaneously was 1993, when the economy was also recovering from recession.

Nationally, the number of poor people jumped from 31.6 million in 2000, or 11.3 percent of the U.S.

population, to 32.9 million in 2001, or 11.7 percent.

A family of four was considered to live in poverty in 2001 under federal guidelines if its annual income was less than \$18,104. Comparable figures were \$14,128 for a family of three, \$11,569 for a family of two and \$9,039 for unrelated individuals.

Children under 18, who make up only 26 percent of the population, accounted for 36 percent of the nation's poor, said Daniel Weinberg of the Census Bureau.

The median household income

— half of all U.S. households earn more and half less — dropped \$900, or 2.2 percent, to \$42,228 in 2001. It was the second straight year that the earnings measure has declined.

All regions of the country experienced declining income except the Northeast, where income was unchanged. The findings are estimates based on a Census Bureau survey of 78,000 households conducted in March.

Perhaps surprisingly, last year's economic downturn hit non-Hispanic whites the hardest. Their poverty rate,

while it remains the lowest among all racial groups, nevertheless rose the most, from 7.4 percent to 7.8 percent or 15.3 million people.

The recession's disproportionate impact on non-Hispanic whites is "a little bit unusual historically," Weinberg said. "But because they're the largest (racial) group, you're more likely to be able to find a statistically significant change for them than for other groups."

Poverty remained highest for blacks at 22.7 percent, up slightly from a historic low of 22.5 percent in 2000. The Hispanic poverty rate of 21.4 percent last year was an all-time low.

Poverty among Asians and Pacific Islanders jumped from 9.9 percent in 2000 to 10.2 percent last year.

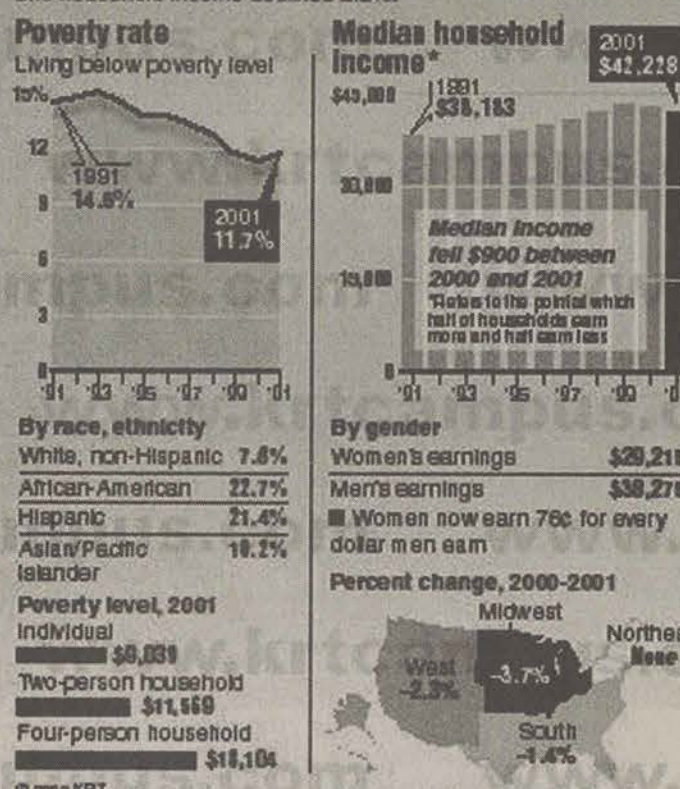
Median income for women increased 3.5 percent to \$29,215, while men saw no change in earnings at \$38,275. It was the fifth straight year that women's earnings have increased, and pushed the female-to-male earnings ratio to an all-time high of 76 percent.

Martha Burk, chairwoman of the National Council of Women's Organizations, a bipartisan network of more than 100 national women's groups, said the numbers were encouraging, but "the fact we still have such a huge pay gap is wrong in the richest country in the world. Women ought to be making wages on par with men."

The Northeast was the only region where median household income was unchanged at \$45,700. The Midwest median income fell the most, down 3.7 percent to \$43,800. The West fell 2.3 percent to \$45,100. The South fell only

Poverty rate up, income declines

There were 32.9 million Americans living in poverty last year, and household income declined 2.2%.



CAREER SERVICES GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

Eagle Expo Career Fair Week October 1-3, 2002

Schedule of Events

October 1, 2002

Making the Most of The Expo.....10:00 AM, 12:00 PM and 2:00 PM

This workshop will guide students on how to get the most out of a career fair. It will teach them the skills on how to land that job, internship, or co-op. Russell Union Room 2084

Career Day Workshops and Panel Discussions

October 2, 2002

Career Day Workshops.....1:00 -4:00 PM Russell Union 2084

These events provide students the opportunity to learn about "hot" topics prevalent in today's job market.

Resumé Writing.....1:00-1:30 PM
Professional Interviewing.....2:00-2:30 PM
Networking for Success and Job Search.....3:00-3:30 PM

Panel Discussions4:15-5:30 PM, Various locations

Each College will host a question and answer session, for students with professionals in their field on the prevalent topics of today's job market. Please contact our office to get information on where your College's Panel Discussion will be held.

Dining for Success

October 2, 2002

Dining for Success.....6:30-8:30 PM, Russell Union Ballroom

The event is sponsored by Career Services, the Office of Alumni Relations, and company sponsors. The Dining for Success is designed to teach students the proper ways of dining etiquette. More and more, employers are taking prospective employees to dine during an interview. Company sponsors will be encouraged to participate in the meal and to network with students. The event includes a Dressing for Success Fashion Show identifying the proper ways to dress in a business environment.

Eagle Expo Career Fair

October 3, 2002

Eagle Expo.....9:00 AM-2:00 PM, RAC

The Eagle Expo is a great opportunity for employers to demonstrate the benefits of their organization to hundreds of potential employees in a casual and friendly atmosphere. Students will benefit by learning about specific organizations and industry leaders that may hold the key to their future career.

Signing up for Events

If you are interested in attending any of these events, follow these instructions to sign up:

- Go to our website: <http://www2.gasou.edu/sta/career>
- Click on the Student menu, then click on EagleTRAK for on campus interviews
- Log in to your EagleTRAK account (if you don't currently have one, please create an account. Your initial password will be gasualumni)
- Click on InterviewTrak, then find the Box Titled "Presentations." Adjust dates and find presentations
- Select the presentations you plan on attending and register.

For more information about any of these programs, please contact Pearl Middleton at (912) 681-5197 or at pmiddleton@gasou.edu, or come by our office. Career Services is located on the bottom floor of the Williams Center, Room 1047/1058.

Jerimiah Freed debuts with a refreshing album

By Daniel Miles
surf5bum@hotmail.com



Internet Photo

New band **Jerimiah Freed** from left to right: Joe Smith, Kerry Ryan, Jake Roche, Nick Goodale, and Matt Cosby.

In a society that has been assaulted by pop music, it is uplifting to know that there are still bands aspiring to establish themselves as rock musicians. With the release of their first album, Jerimiah Freed is beginning to revitalize this musical genre. This self titled compilation, which was released by Universal Records, shows a band with a lot of talent, especially considering that the members graduated from high school just two years ago.

From Portland, Maine, Jerimiah Freed is composed of Jake Roche and Nick Goodale on the guitar, Matt Cosby

on the bass, Kerry Ryan on the drums, and front man Joe Smith.

In their album, the band uses great vocals, well written lyrics, ample guitar riffs and solos, along with jolting beats on the drums. The first song on the album, entitled "Stranded," starts the CD off with slow guitar and vocals which lead into a fast paced and catchy ending that defines the rest of the album. With songs like "Again," which was the band's first single, "Rain," and their acoustic track "Ginger," it's not hard to see that this band is going to be around for a while.

This CD is great from beginning to end. It is a must have for anyone who loves rock and needs something new.

OLLIFF, FROM PAGE 1

done, the lack of Internet access, lack of air in the halls and some rooms and mildew/water damage.

"The Internet is now up and running," Romnini said. "We're going to try to keep the workers out of the building as much as possible until Christmas break, hopefully that will cut down on some of the noise and workers in the hallways."

In many hallways, space has been made to install the new air conditioning units.

"The Heating-Ventilation Air Conditioning units were supposed to

arrive nine weeks later than scheduled this summer," Romanini said. "Now, when you consider that there are only 13 weeks in the summer, that gives you some idea of how far behind we are running with this project."

When the HVAC units finally did arrive, they weren't completely put together.

"The units came to us without dampers, which are designed to open to control the amount of outside air coming into the unit," Hawkins said. "The warm air coming in from outside is smashing into cold air coming from the units themselves, and that is causing rapid and extreme condensation, which is causing the water damage and mildew problems."

Because it takes about three hours to install a single damper, that part of the renovation will be put off until the hall empties up for the holiday break. Plans are being made to seal off the dampers in each room, which Romanini hopes will solve the condensation and mildew issues.

Residents suffering mildew damage were asked to provide the housing director with a list of damaged belongings. She promised to pass the list, along with all of the complaints, to the contractor at a meeting scheduled for Thursday.

"I understand that they're trying to make the dorm better, and I think it will definitely be worth it, but right now it's just irritating," said Mary Olaitan, a second floor resident. "I mean, you're studying and all of a sudden you here this noise, like the wall is coming down on your head."

Jerimiah Chapman, one of Olliff's resident advisors, encourages the residents to hang in there and be patient just a bit longer.

"It's getting there, I see people working every day, so I'm assured we're working towards something," he said. "I know this is all for a good cause. Renovations are never an easy thing, but if we all stay patient, soon we'll be able to enjoy everything later."

ATTENTION GSU STUDENTS!



"WHERE ALL STARS SHINE BRIGHT"



All-Girl Open Team Tryouts

Thursday, October 3rd – 7:30-9:30pm
Thursday, October 10th – 7:30-9:30pm
Sunday, October 13th – 6:00pm-until

Registration: \$25 • Monthly Fee: \$30

Tumbling Requirements:
Standing BHS, Standing Tuck
& Running Tumbling

For more information, please call
Keyshia at 764-7827 or visit our
website at www.cheersouthallstars.com



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"You have brains in your head, you have feet in your shoes...you can steer yourself any direction you choose."

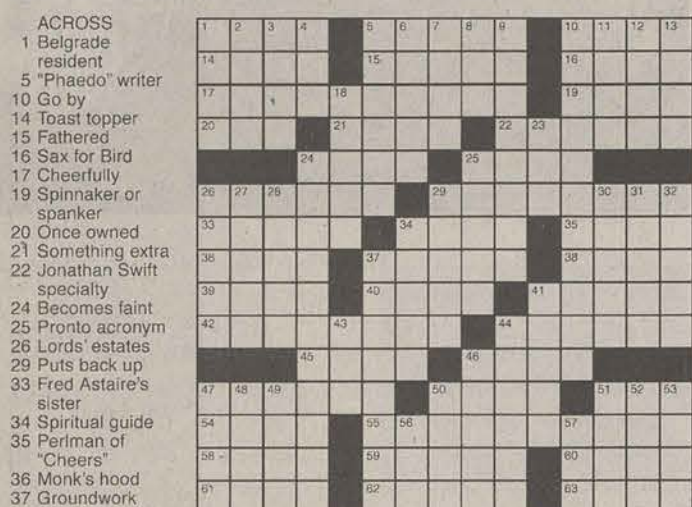
-Dr. Seuss

Classifieds, Etc.

Wednesday, September 25, 2002

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Crossword



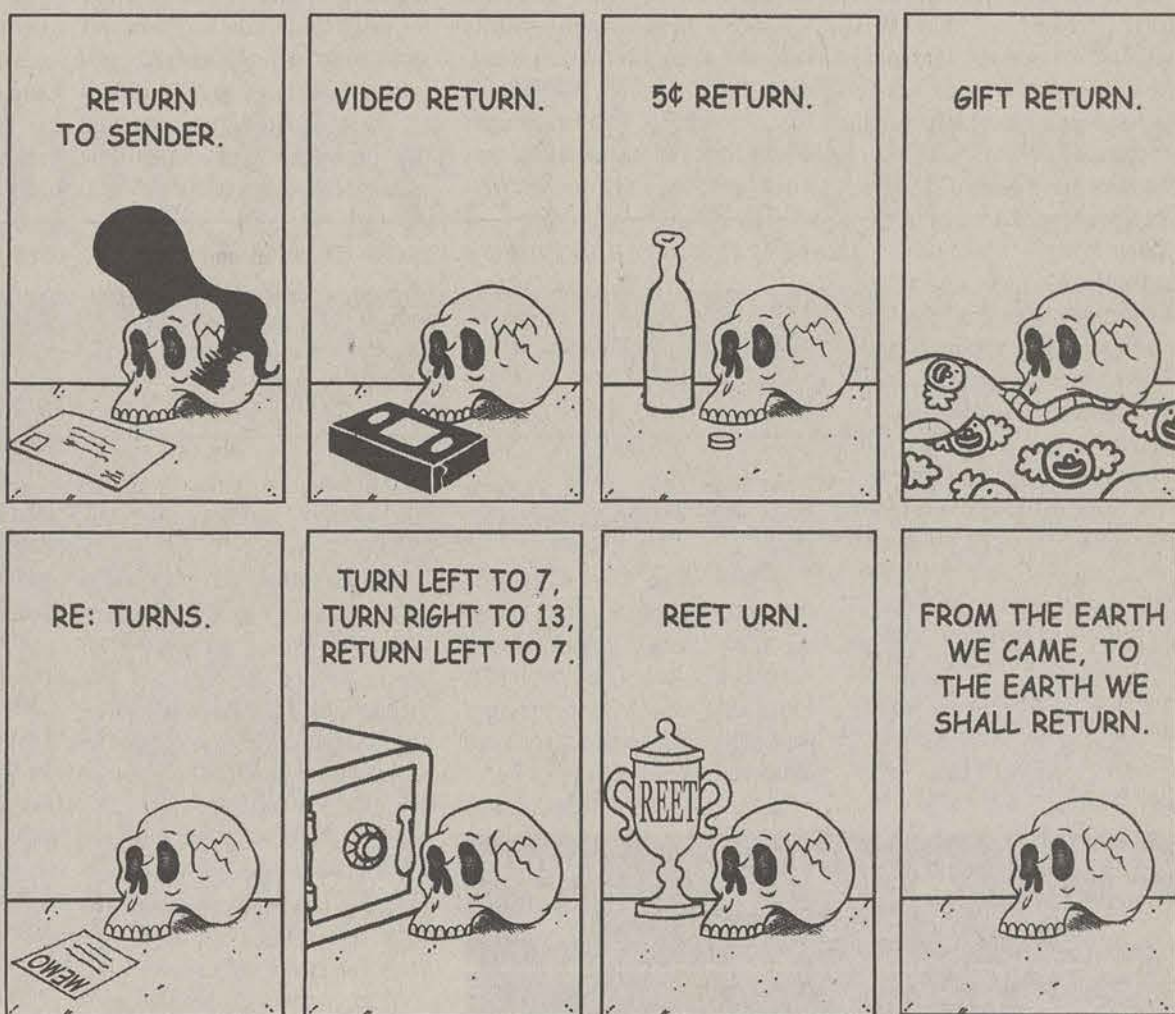
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ACROSS
1 Belgrade resident
5 "Phaedo" writer
10 Go by
14 Toast topper
15 Fathered
16 Sax for Bird
17 Cheerfully
19 Spinnaker or sparker
20 Once owned
21 Something extra
22 Jonathan Swift specialty
24 Becomes faint
25 Pronto acronym
26 Lord's estates
29 Puts back up
33 Fred Astaire's sister
34 Spiritual guide
35 Perlman of "Cheers"
36 Monk's hood
37 Groundwork
38 Sawyer's pal
39 Comply
40 Actress Sommer
41 Intuit
42 Banned war weapon
44 Squabble
45 Ruckuses
46 Jaunty
47 Need for liquid
50 Actor Ferrer
51 Botanist Gray
54 Good-hearted
55 Open vehicle of the 1920s
58 Second word of a limerick
59 Finished
60 Sty sound
61 Laurel or Musial
62 Hangman's knot
63 Contributes

DOWN
1 2nd-year co-ed
2 Ms. Fitzgerald
3 Lou or Willis
4 Feathery scarf
5 Proverbs precursor
6 Chemist Pauling
7 Liberal
8 Part of GTE
9 Homer's hero
10 Verb tense
11 Jai follower
12 Recipe direction
13 Flat fish
18 Skyline feature
23 Swiss river
24 Spotted trout
25 Cliff dwelling
26 City in Georgia
27 Unburnt brick
28 More up-to-date
29 Sweetened biscuits
30 Narrow fissure
31 On edge
32 More rational
34 Celebratory events
37 Fathered
41 Warning device
43 McMahon and Ames
44 Neighboring
46 Skin openings
47 Boxing decisions, in brief
48 Tip
49 Ancient Peruvian
50 Self-defense system
51 LSD, for short
52 Hourglass filler
53 Roomy boats
56 Yoko
57 Tibetan gazelle

THE ADVENTURES OF SKULLY BY WILLIAM MORTON ©MMII

SKULLY RETURNS AGAIN



#126

or Bill Neville, Student Media Coordinator, (912) 681-0069.

PROOFING/ERRORS/OMISSIONS: The newspaper makes every reasonable effort to present correct and complete information in advertisements. However, the advertiser is responsible for proofing the ad upon publication and should notify the newspaper immediately in the event of an error. The newspaper is not responsible for any errors in advertisements and its liability for adjustments is limited to the amount of space the error occupied in the ad. Further, the newspaper is not responsible for any damages caused due to an ad's omission from a particular edition and its responsibility solely is to reschedule the ad in the next regular edition at the regular advertising rates.

CLASSIFIED ADS: Free classified ads from students, faculty and staff must be non-commercial in nature and submitted in writing, with the name of the sender, local address, and phone number. **No free ads taken via telephone - at this price we don't take dictation.** One free ad per person per week. Commercial classified are 20 cents per word with a \$4 minimum per insertion. Tearsheets are \$2 extra per insertion.

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NOTICE: Readers may pick up one free copy, and a second for a roommate or acquaintance, at distribution sites. Additional copies are 35 cents each and are available at the Williams Center. However, unauthorized removal of additional copies from a distribution site constitutes theft under Georgia law, a misdemeanor offense punishable by a fine and/or jail time. Editors will seek to have any person(s) who removes more than the authorized number of copies from distribution sites prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

NOTE: We gratefully acknowledge the theft of our slogan - "Liked by Many, Cussed by Some, Read by them All" - from Robert Williams of the Blackshear Times. Call Bob and he can tell you who he stole it from originally.

20 Announcements

ASSISTANT COLLEGE Marketing Reps needed to support marketing efforts for Motown, MCA, Universal, Elektra, and Def Jam. Build resume, network, gain experience. E-mail resume to crpducations@hotmail.com

SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY meeting Sept. 18, 7:00PM in Union Rm 2043. Organization is very active in Statesboro community. All students invited to attend. I NEED help in determining the value of an old coin collection. Possible sale. GSU Professor. Phone 587-9220.

THE SOCIETY of Professional Journalist meeting Wed. September 25 in Comm. Arts 1006 at 7:30. Come and get involved with GSU's newest club.

JOIN SPJ Society of Professional Journalists, the newest club on GSU's campus. Join the fun on Sep. 25 2002

\$250/day potential
Bartending
Training provided
1-800-293-3985, ext. 312

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Comm. Arts 1006.

EAGLE ENTERTAINMENT is holding auditions for First Wednesday Live - Southern Slam Poetry Jam - Sept. 26 at 8:00PM in UNION. For more information stop by the Student Activity Center.

STEFFAN HAPPY 21st Birthday. We shall send you to St. Louis!

40 Autos for Sale

1994 CHEVY Blazer for sale. Runs good, new paint, new tires, AC, Auto, 4 door, auto L/N. Must sell, call Devin 681-7372 and make an offer.

1988 CROWN Victoria \$1500 OBO looks good runs good must sell. Leave a message on cell phone if no one answers 912-678-1050.

1999 COUGAR \$10,500 red, leather, sunroof, perfect condition, must see! Call 601-1502.

1973 CHEVROLET Chevelle Laguna, white, 350 with 4/barrel carb, runs great! Cold A/C, automatic CD player, 125K, Call Dean 688-3454 \$6500

50 Auto Parts, Repair

FOUR 17 inch ENKIE Aluminum polished rims with four tires \$500. Set in great condition. Call Tina @ cell 308-2492 or 912-772-6251.

60 Business Opportunities

Associates of Pre-Paid Legal Services, Inc. will be expanding our services in the statesboro area. We are looking for new associates to help us build our business. For information, please contact pierce mason, independent associate, at 912-681-9115

80 Computers & Software

COMPUTER FOR sale P3 86gig harddrive, 32mb video, quality sound, w/ monitor \$500. Call James 688-2627

COMPUTER FOR sale! One year old Compaq Desktop excellent condition! All original software, keyboard and speakers included. Standard speed and memory. Great for Internet usage. \$950 OBO. Only serious calls Valerie @ 912-690-9756

90 Education

FUN & STUFF Visit our Web site for list of things to do that are educational and fun. On-line at <http://www.stp.gasou.edu/funstuff/>

120 Furniture & Appliances

FOR SALE matching loveseat and chair.

Great condition only \$150. Call 481-1915 ask for Brandi leave message.

150 Lost & Found

FOUND: CAR key. Identify attached item and it's yours. Call Jason at 871-3128.

160 Miscellaneous for Sale

KEYLESS ENTRY system with remote start. Brand new. Still in box. Only \$50. Call Brad at 481-1790

SEGA DREAM Cast for sale. One controller, all wires, one memory card; four games NBA2K, NFL2K1, crazy taxi sonic adventure \$70. Call 1-706-832-1021 ask for Matt.

165 Mobile Homes

MOBILE HOME for sale. 16X80 3BR/2BA, near GSU, central AC, heat and stereo. Washer/dryer and refrigerator. No money down. Good condition. \$16,900. 857-5037.

180 Musical

GUITAR TUTOR needed 1-2 days weekly flexible hours \$5/hour. I only have one month experience. Call Lena 681-4884. Please leave a message.

200 Pets & Supplies

FREE PUPPY, female black lab mix - first shots, dewormed. Ten weeks. Will be too big for my apartment. David 481-0256

2 HAMSTERS with cages, food, bedding, etc. FREE!!! Please call Lauren @ 489-5498 or 912-282-8032.

220 Rentals & Real Estate

TOWNHOUSE AVAILABLE NOW! Looking for 2 responsible people to take over lease for 2 bedroom 2 1/2 bath townhouse in players Club Apartments. If interested please call Stephanie 681-8848.

1BR in 3br apt. in Garden District \$375/month includes all bills and furniture. 2 female roommates huge bedroom with private bath. Call Stacey 601-1502

NEEDED SOMEONE to sublease Park Place Apartment #43 2bed/2bath \$430/month. Call Jeremy for more details 871-3879 or 690-0332. Available October 1st.

230 Roommates

FEMALE NEEDED to sublet 3 bedroom 3 bath apartment at Garden District with 2 other female roommates. Rent is \$280 + 1/3 utilities. Call Dawn 912-596-7405.

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'West Wing' creator Aaron Sorkin talks of comeback from off year

KRT Campus

There's one thing that Aaron Sorkin, creator of "The West Wing," wants to make very clear: Last season was a tough one for what has been network television's best drama.

In fact, says Sorkin, the best thing about the new season of "West Wing" — which begins Wednesday night with a two-hour episode — "is that it's no longer last season."

There's little question that "The West Wing," which is as much a romantic comedy as a drama, had a tough year. It got off to a rocky start, including a post-Sept. 11 special episode that was criticized for being too preachy and stiff. Where it once artfully avoided the obvious plot clichés of TV drama, it used some truly hoary devices and resolutions, most notably in the romance between White House Press Secretary C.J. Cregg (Allison

Janney) and Secret Service agent Simon Donovan (Mark Harmon).

It wasn't bad enough a year to keep the show from being nominated for 22 Emmys and winning five, including a third straight statue for best drama. But it was a disappointing one — to the "West

Wing" audience and to Sorkin, who writes every episode of the series.

"There is one irreplaceable element in 'The West Wing,' and it ain't the eight [primary cast members]. It's the guy who sits in that office and writes 22 episodes a year."

— John Spencer, "Leo McGarry"

"The whole season was a search for what I wasn't doing that makes the show work," acknowledges Sorkin, who had a few problems of his own last year, including a well-publicized drug bust, a stint in rehab and a split with his wife.

"One week, I'd think I was with the terrorist attacks without disrupting the parallel universe of "The West Wing."

"I didn't think that it was right that it just be a regular episode of "The West Wing," that people be tearing around the corridors and flirting with each other and being glib," says Sorkin. "Some sort of respect had to be paid to the event that just happened."

But, he admits, "I don't think it was a good episode of 'The West Wing.' ... I'm not even sure it was good television" although "its heart was in the right place."

"I'm a writer," Sorkin says with a sigh, "I know there were ways to deal with Sept. 11 on the show and do it well. But I wasn't able to find them."

And when "The West Wing" returned to regular episodes, says Sorkin, the country was "ready for a diversion, to laugh again, to feel in some small way like we felt on Sept. 10. But rooting for fictional heroes felt something like bad taste, because our hearts were with the real ones."

In addition, says Sorkin, "The West Wing" has a particularly tricky problem with suspension of disbelief, and it's one that doctor shows or cop shows don't have. There's more than one emergency

room in Chicago, so you can watch "ER" and have no problem believing that this is one of them.

"But there's only one president and one White House."

After the season, the show hit another hard patch over the summer when it announced that Rob Lowe — who plays presidential aide Sam Seaborn and who was the original star of the show — was leaving in what has variously been described as a pay dispute and dispute over air time. (It probably didn't help Lowe's disposition that he was the only member of the regular cast not to get an Emmy nomination.)

"No one wants Rob to leave," maintains Sorkin "We're crossing our fingers about him staying. I talk to Rob nearly every day. He wants to stay. I want him to stay. The situation is regrettable. There's no villain in this scenario."

And even if Lowe does leave, "Sam Seaborn won't be killed," leaving the door open for the character's return.

As it is, Lowe is scheduled to do most of the season — 16 of 22 episodes — and is being lobbied heavily by Martin Sheen, who plays the president, and other cast members to stay.

John Spencer, who plays chief of staff Leo McGarry, says he told Lowe immediately after the announcement



Internet Photo

Featuring an all-star cast, "The West Wing" has already won three Emmy's for being television's best drama.

that he was being foolish to leave a quality show. "There is one irreplaceable element in 'The West Wing,' and it ain't the eight" primary cast members, says Spencer. "It's the guy who sits in that office and writes 22 episodes a year."

That would be Sorkin, and the good news for the show is that he feels good about the coming season. That includes Wednesday night's season premiere — "20 Hours in America"

— which follows President Josiah Bartlet starting his campaign for re-election. (It won't be a long campaign, with the "election" episode scheduled for November, timing that suggests Republican candidate Robert Ritchie (James Brolin) doesn't win the race.)

"When I came back to begin writing the show," says Sorkin, "I suddenly felt comfortable in my chair again."

"The show felt good and fun, and it felt right."

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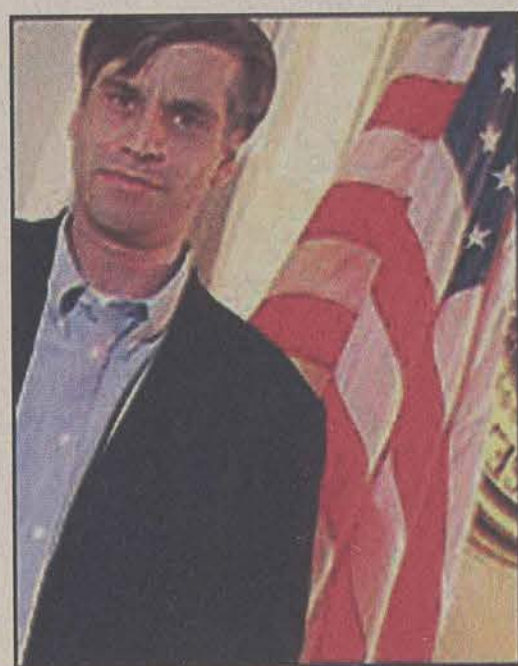
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Internet Photo

Aaron Sorkin, writer/creator of NBC's "The West Wing" promises another season of great television despite personal setbacks.

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9 p.m. EDT Wednesday, NBC

Creator:

Aaron Sorkin

Cast:

Martin Sheen, Rob Lowe, John Spencer, Allison Janney, Bradley Whitford, Richard Schiff, Janel Moloney, Dule Hill, Stockard Channing, Mary Louise Parker, Lily Tomlin

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