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The GEORGE-ANNE

www.stp.gasou.edu

Wednesday

March 26, 2003

Volume 75, No. 75

NEWS: SGA's year in review as election day approaches

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BOMBS OVER BAGHDAD



Department of Defense

Second week of war in Iraq begins with more U.S. airstrikes, Najaf battle

Drive to Baghdad slowed by sandstorm, resistance

Associated Press

NEAR KARBALA, Iraq—Aiming for Saddam Hussein's seat of power, U.S.-led warplanes and helicopters attacked Republican Guard units defending Baghdad while ground troops advanced to within 80 kilometers (50 miles) of the Iraqi capital. President George W. Bush put a \$75 billion price tag on a down payment for the war.

The helicopter assault marked the first known engagement between forces in central Iraq, and many of the American craft were hit by Iraqi groundfire. One went down behind enemy lines—the cause was unknown—and the Pentagon said the two-person crew had been taken prisoner.

Five days into Operation Iraqi Freedom, resistance prevented American and British forces from securing the southern cities of Basra and An Nasiriyah and thwarted efforts to extinguish burning oil wells.

"These things are never easy," conceded British Prime Minister Tony Blair, on the day his country suffered its first combat casualty of the war. "There will be some difficult times ahead but [the war] is going to plan despite the tragedies."

Saddam sought to rally his own country in a televised appearance. "Be patient, brothers, because God's victory will be ours soon," he said, appearing in full military garb and

See Drive, Page 9



KRT Campus

U.S. Marine Staff Sgt. Brian Flaherty of New York, Delta Company of the Second Tank Battalion, disconnects a fuel bladder from a tank as a dust storm rages in preparation for an advance to the north of Iraq on March 25. The move north has been one of the most aggressive tank road marches in Marine history. Each bladder contains 55 gallons of fuel and will allow a tank to travel about 30 miles.

Throughout history, Baghdad has been difficult to defend, rule

KRT Campus

KUWAIT CITY, Kuwait—Mongols sacked it, the Ottomans controlled it and the British shaped it.

But none of them could hold it. Now, after a sprint of tanks and other heavy armor through a bleached, bleak desert, U.S. troops are bearing down on Baghdad.

Tasked as liberators instead of conquerors in their bid to topple Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and his regime, the Americans are following a well-worn path to an ancient city

that hugs the banks of the serpentine Tigris River.

From its heyday as a cultural center in the 8th and 9th centuries, to its sad fate in the early 21st century, Baghdad remains an eternal place, outlasting those who came to conquer and rule.

Sprawling on a plain, Baghdad's fate is wrapped in its geography, a city lying at the crossroads of an old trading route, in the heart of old Mesopotamia.

It is difficult to defend, difficult

to rule.

"You can conquer it. Baghdad is an open town," said Behnam Abu Al-Soof, an archeologist and Iraqi parliamentarian. "You can enter from all sides. But it is hard to run. The people never tolerate foreign occupation or foreign rule."

Hussein has signaled that Baghdad is likely to be the climactic scene of his 12-year conflict with the United States. He reportedly has moved in his

See History, Page 9

The number of dead, missing and captured since the beginning of the Iraqi conflict

According to the Associated Press as of March 24, 2003

American soldiers killed:	20
British soldiers killed:	17
Iraqi civilian casualties:	More than 200, according to Iraqi officials
Iraqi prisoners of war:	3,000, according to the Pentagon
American prisoners of war:	7, according to Iraqi officials
American soldiers missing:	14, according to the Pentagon
British soldiers missing:	2, according to the British military

Neither American nor Iraqi officials have released a total number of Iraqi soldiers killed.

Senate votes to slice Bush tax cut

KRT Campus

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Senate on Tuesday sliced President Bush's proposed tax cut in half, a stunning reversal that undermined a key element of his economic policy. The surprising vote reflected lawmakers' anxiety over the growing cost of the Iraq war, fear of record deficits, and doubts about the economic benefits of tax cuts now.

The Senate voted 51-48 to slash Bush's tax cut to \$350 billion over 10 years instead of the \$726 billion he sought.

Only last Friday the Senate had rejected, 62-38, a similar push to cut Bush's tax cut in half. But since then Bush has asked Congress for almost \$75 billion for the initial costs of the war with Iraq.

In addition, the smaller tax cut endorsed Tuesday would devote the money saved from Bush's proposal to reform of Social Security.

The Senate vote set a limit for any tax cut as part of a budget blueprint shaping legislation later this year.

See Cut, Page 11



KRT Campus

President Bush is applauded at the Pentagon where he spoke to military officials during a visit on Tuesday, March 25. At left are Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.

ON THE INSIDE:



Covering the campus like a swarm of gnats

Opinions

• Amanda Permenter scorns television media for sloppy war coverage.

• A GSU student discusses why he was against the war a week ago, but supports it now.

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Sports

• GSU Baseball wins three of seven games over spring break.

• GSU Softball falls in two of three games against the Furman Paladins.

• GSU Golf finishes 11th in Schenkel Invitational.

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Lifestyles

• 'Chicago' shines on Oscars night.

• Soul Embraced's album 'Immune' is Christian heavy metal with a slightly pop feel.

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George-Anne

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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.*

Campus Calendar

March 27

Senior Composition
Recital
Carol A. Carter Hall
8p.m.

March 28

Baseball
VMI at GSU
7p.m.
"George M!"
Performing Arts Center
8p.m. For tickets, call ext. 7999

March 29

Festival of Flowers &
Spring Plant Sale
Botanical Garden 10 a.m. Free Admission

March 30

Baseball
VMI at GSU 1:30 p.m.
Irish Pub Nights featuring
Tom O'Carroll
Archibald's
7p.m. and 9p.m.

April 1

Senior Composition
Recital
Carol A. Carter Recital Hall 8p.m.

April 2

Honors Day
Performing Arts Center 8:30p.m.
Annual Endowed Honors
Recital
Carol A. Carter Recital Hall 8p.m.

April 3

Studio Honors Recital
Carol A. Carter Recital Hall 8p.m.

April 4

International Fashion &
Talent Show
Union Ballroom \$3, 7p.m.

April 5

Youth Arts Festival
Sweetheart Circle 10 a.m.
Colonial Kids Fair
Sweetheart Circle 10a.m.
Astronomy & Space Day
Sweetheart Circle 10a.m.
Senior Recital
Carol A. Carter Recital Hall 8p.m.

April 6

Graduation Recital
Carol A. Carter Recital Hall 3p.m.

Police Beat

03-11-2003

• Jason Edward Burke, 18, of Johnson Hall, was charged with minor in possession/consumption of alcohol and public indecency.
• A window was broken at Veazey Hall.

• Officers issued one traffic warning, assisted five motorists and responded to six fire alarms.

03-12-2003

• Officers issued one traffic warning, investigated one traffic accident, assisted eight motorists and responded to two fire alarms.

03-13-2003

• John Michael Counihan, 19, of P.O. Box 2131, Tybee Island, Ga., was charged with minor in possession/consumption of alcohol.

• David Hutchison Lowery, 30, of 805 Statesboro Place, Statesboro, was charged with driving with a suspended license and improper stopping in the roadway.

• Brittany Kay Perkins, 18, of 1807 Chandler Road, Statesboro, was charged with driving with a suspended license and improper stopping in the roadway.

• Raymond Adam Thrasher, 19, of 3480 Duncan Bridge Road, Buford, Ga., was charged with minor in possession/consumption of alcohol.

• A CD player was taken from a vehicle in the Russell Union commuter parking lot.

• Officers issued one traffic citation, investigated one traffic accident, assisted five motorists and responded to two fire alarms.

03-14-2003

• Officers assisted four motorists and one injured person.

03-15-2003

• Jameel G. Gladden, 23, of 22 Lanier Drive, Statesboro, was arrested on a warrant for another agency.

• A vehicle was keyed in the Kennedy Complex parking lot.

• Officers assisted two motorists and two injured persons and responded to one fire alarm.

03-16-2003

• A broken window was reported at the Henderson Library.
• Officers assisted two motorists.

03-17-2003

• Rishawn Garrett, 22, of 14 E. Jones St., Statesboro, was charged with financial transaction card theft.
• Officers issued two traffic citations and one traffic warning, assisted two motorists and responded to two fire alarms.

03-18-2003

• Officers issued one traffic citation and assisted two motorists.

03-19-2003

• A window at the Henderson Library was broken.
• Officers assisted two motorists.

03-20-2003

• Officers issued two warnings and assisted three motorists.

03-23-2003

• Herminto Soto, 19, of P.O. Box 779, Hagan, Ga., was charged with driving with a revoked license.

• Officers issued two traffic citations and three traffic warnings and assisted two motorists.

03-24-2003

• Joshua D. Dollar, 23, of No. 40 Stadium Walk, Statesboro, was arrested on a probation violation warrant from Clarke County, Ga.

• A Housing employee reported several Winburn Hall residents were causing problems. The residents were referred to Judicial Affairs.

• A student reported her bicycle missing from the Hendrix Hall bike rack.

• An employee reported a tire on a University vehicle was punctured while it parked overnight at Hampton Hall.

• An Olliff Hall resident reported his bicycle missing from a campus bike rack.

-All Police Beat information is compiled by Lucrecia Johnson, assistant news editor.

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ENGLISH

M: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., 3 - 5 p.m.
T: 2 - 5:30 p.m.
W: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
R: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., 6 - 10p.m.

SOCIOLOGY/ PSYCHOLOGY

M, W: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
R: 1 - 3 p.m.

COLLEGE READ/STUDY

SKILLS

M, W: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
R: 1 - 3 p.m.

ALGEBRA - CAL 2

M-R: 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.
F: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

STATISTICS

M: 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
T: 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
W: 3:30 - 7 p.m.
R: 12:30 - 4 p.m.

JAVA

M: 3 - 6 p.m.
T: 8 - 10 p.m.
W: 12 - 2 p.m.
R: 7 - 10 p.m.

PHYSICS

M: 12 - 3 p.m., 7 - 10 p.m.
T: 12 - 2 p.m., 3 - 9 p.m.
W: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., 7 - 10 p.m.
R: 12 - 2 p.m., 5 - 7 p.m.

CHEMISTRY/BIOLOGY

M, T, R: 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
W: 2 - 6 p.m.

HISTORY/POLI SCI

T, R: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
W: 2 - 3:30 p.m.
F: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

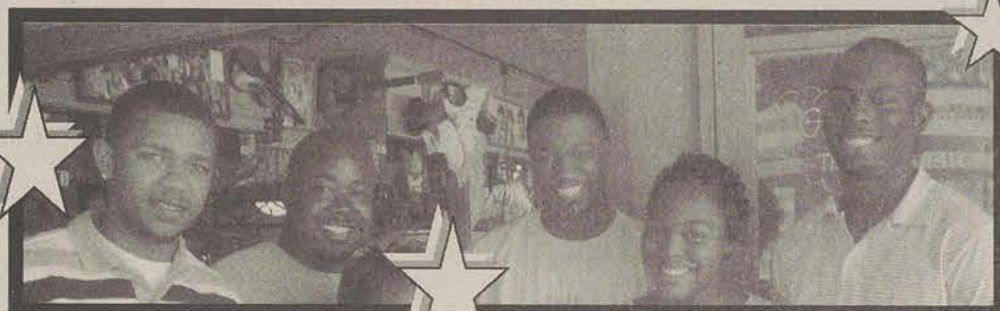
ANTHROPOLOGY

M: 5 - 7 p.m.
T, R: 3 - 4 p.m.
W: 3 - 5 p.m.

Thank You



For Serving
the University as
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2002-03 EE Team Leaders Clifton Reese, Major Programming; Brian Gibson, Global Awareness; Gregory Forbes, Eagle Cinema/Novelty; Tanesha Wilkins, PR/Promotions, & Michael S. Terrell, Traditions & Spirit.

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News Briefs

Arab satellite station says stock exchange retaliates for war



Internet Photo

Associated Press

DOHA, Qatar — Al-Jazeera, the Arabic-language TV network, said Tuesday the New York Stock Exchange is banning its reporters — a move the station attributed to its reports on the Iraq war.

"Al-Jazeera has received an official letter from the New York Stock Exchange informing it that the station's financial reporters can no longer present their reports from the exchange," the satellite channel reported on its morning financial broadcast.

The station reported that the letter said the exchange wanted to limit the number of television stations covering the exchange. But Al-Jazeera, which has been covering the NYSE for years, said it was believed to be the only channel affected by the action.

The station said the action occurred "because of al-Jazeera's coverage of the war on Iraq."

New York Stock Exchange spokesman Ray Pellecchia cited "security reasons" for the ban. He said the exchange had decided to limit the number of broadcasters in the stock exchange building and said it is "focusing its efforts on broadcasters that focus "on responsible business coverage."

However, he couldn't name any other news organization that had also been banned. He did not link the move to Al-Jazeera's war coverage.

Arab nations want emergency Security Council meeting



Internet Photo

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — Iraq's U.N. ambassador says Arab nations want an emergency Security Council meeting and vote on a resolution demanding the immediate withdrawal of the U.S.-led invasion force — even though they anticipate vetoes by the United States and Britain.

Mohammed Al-Douri said Monday the vote will show the strong opposition in the international community to the war against the government of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

Arab nations on Monday called for an emergency Security Council meeting following up on a decision taken by Arab foreign ministers in Cairo, Egypt, earlier in the day. They called on the United States and Britain to withdraw their troops from Iraq immediately and unconditionally, and urged a council meeting.

"We will ask that the invasion stop, that the invading forces will be withdrawn, and that Iraq's sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence will be preserved," said Arab League Ambassador Yahya Mahmassani.

Bush accuses Russian firms of aiding Iraq in war effort



KRT Campus

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Russia is putting American troops at risk by selling

antitank guided missiles, jamming devices and night-vision goggles to Iraq, the administration said as President George W. Bush called Vladimir Putin to express U.S. complaints.

Bush raised his objections in a tense telephone call with Putin, who in turn charged that the United States was creating "a humanitarian catastrophe" in Iraq.

It was the latest flare-up in a recently bumpy relationship between Washington and Moscow over issues ranging from missile-defense plans to NATO expansion. Russia sided with France and Germany to block a Bush-backed U.N. resolution sanctioning military conflict to disarm Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

After months of monitoring sales to Iraq, the United States received information in the past 48 hours about "the kind of equipment that will put our men and women in harm's way," Secretary of State Colin Powell said Monday on Fox News Channel.

Later, he told Britain's Sky News that he hoped to convey fresh information to Moscow. Asked if he is certain the equipment was in Iraq, Powell replied, "Yes."

White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said there was "ongoing cooperation and support to Iraqi military forces being provided by a Russian company that produces GPS jamming equipment." The technology blocks satellite signals that guide bombs, missiles and even troop movements.

Asked if the items were being used against U.S. troops, Fleischer said, "They were not provided for the purpose of sitting on shelves."

U.S. officials declined to disclose how the Russian technology was transported to Iraq, but they said Iraq has its ways of importing items.

In particular, U.S. officials alleged Russian technicians were in Iraq during the last few weeks to provide technical support for the GPS jammers. The technicians were from a Russian private company, not the government.

GSU News Briefs

Bradford appointed founding dean of new College of Information Technology

Special to the G-A

James Bradford has been appointed the founding dean of Georgia Southern University's new College of Information Technology.

He is currently associate vice president for technology services at Western Illinois University.

Bradford's appointment will become effective on July 1, 2003, the same day the College of Information Technology becomes official.

Bradford earned a Ph.D., a M.Math. and a B.Math. in computer science from the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada. Prior to his appointment at Western Illinois University, he was an associate professor and chair of the computer science department at Brock University in Ontario. He taught computer science courses at Brock University and Western Illinois University.

Education Career Day
March 27

Special to the G-A

Georgia Southern's annual Education Career Day will be held on Thursday, March 27, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Recreation Activity Center (RAC). Education Career Day provides students the opportunity to learn more about teaching careers and job possibilities in education. School district representatives have registered to attend this event.

Students who attend Education Career Day will be able to learn about the specific skills employers seek in college graduates, as well as find out about opportunities for full-time teaching positions with the attending organizations. Faculty are encouraged to bring classes that meet between 9 a.m.-1 p.m. to the event and to ask students to attend as class assignments.

Visit the Career Services website at www2.gasou.edu/stal/career to see a listing of school districts attending. For more information, contact Amy Williams, assistant director of Career Services, at ext. 5197 or awilliams@gasou.edu.

Montclair State University
professor to speak
March 31

Special to the G-A

Shirley Steinberg, associate professor of education at Montclair State University and NNER member (National Network for Education Renewal), will speak on "Critical Media Literacy" on Monday, March 31, at 6 p.m. in the College of Education Lecture Hall. In her talk, she will look at current attempts to educate students on media literacy and the recent attempts to represent Arab and Muslim people in film.

The event is sponsored by CLEC, Center for Excellence in Teaching, College of Education, and the Department of Curriculum, Foundations and Research.

Poet Allison Joseph
to read her work

Special to the G-A

Poet Allison Joseph will be reading from her work on Wednesday, April 2, at 7 p.m. in the College of Education Lecture Hall, Room 1115.

Joseph is the author of four published volumes of poetry and recently won the 2003 Word Press Poetry Award for her newest collection, *Wordly Pleasures*, which will be published early next year. Her first book, *What Keeps Us Here*, won both the 1992 Women Poets Series Prize from Amersand Press, and the John C. Zacharis First Book prize from *Ploughshares* magazine and Emerson College.

Joseph is a graduate of Kenyon College and Indiana University. She is currently an associate professor in the creative writing program at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

The reading is free and sponsored by the Department of Writing and Linguistics and the Georgia Poetry Circuit. For more information, contact Eric Nelson at ext. 0739.



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OPINIONS

Page 4 — Wednesday, March 26, 2003

OUR OPINION

What Vietnam taught us about opposing the current war

American collective memory and popular discourse tells us that Vietnam was a war ultimately fought for nothing. Accordingly, we are also told that Vietnam resulted in no good whatsoever – just death and social turmoil at home and abroad.

Indeed, hindsight is said to be 20/20, and the reasons insisted upon by Kennedy and especially Johnson throughout the Vietnam conflict are largely disregarded now. The George-Anne agrees that Vietnam was a horrid, despicable act of American aggression.

But we would like to point out that the conflict in Vietnam did indeed teach us one lesson that remains imperative in our present war with Iraq: that regardless of one's opinions on the current American military effort, an intense and undying support for our troops must be maintained.

When troops returned home after many long, horrifying years of jungle and city warfare in Vietnam, they were ignored on the runways of San Antonio and elsewhere. By the time they were allowed to come home, the war had grown so unpopular that American soldiers were spit on, cursed, or neglected entirely by the large numbers of American public opposed to the war.

Just as American soldiers in Vietnam fought for a cause many of them had difficulty understanding, so is the case with our soldiers in Iraq at this moment. We must remain supportive of our troops no matter how we feel about the war. They are young Americans acting in the interest of their government.

It is certainly possible, and indeed quite respectable, to simultaneously oppose the war effort and support the troops conducting it. The George-Anne contends that the most honest and compassionate support for our troops is the desire to bring them home – NOW!

To oppose the war is not to oppose our troops. To oppose the war is to oppose the government forcing those troops to act as cogs in an unnecessary war machine.

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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You can't do that on television

There used to be a way of reporting news.

When I think of late-breaking reports, I picture black and white television men whose austere voices are as controlled as each strand of their pomade-stuck hair. I possess firsthand knowledge of how hectic a newsroom can be, but there's a grace that television reporters need—a stern charisma that disguises the chaos going on behind the scenes.

Obviously, presenting news in an organized manner is no longer a high priority.

Although I try not to watch it at all, I have noticed the television coverage shaping up sufficiently since the first night of attacks. However, I feel it's important to highlight the complete fiasco that was television media last Wednesday night.

It was nothing short of pathetic, and it isn't as if there wasn't plenty of time to prepare. Broadcast media had two full days to get its act together, and that's assuming it had been entirely brain dead regarding the eminence of war in recent months. In fact, all the major networks even had a ludicrous little stopwatch in the corner of the screen that ran constantly for exactly 48 hours after Bush's speech threatening war. I couldn't help wondering if the media and the government actually met to synchronize their watches.

Despite all that supposed preparation, studio broadcasters were still a fidgety, stammering mass of incompetence the night of the first targeted mis-

AMANDA PERMENTER



Journalists like Walter Cronkite could remain calm while reporting the entirely unexpected JFK assassination, but today's wet-behind-the-ears teleprompt readers can't even handle the details of a structured, anticipated cruise missile deployment.

Keep in mind, I'm not whining about mere inconvenience. Network news disappointed and ashamed me with its initial coverage. Of course, I'm sure many Americans truly thought they were inconvenienced

by the special reports that broke in on Will & Grace every time a siren went off in Baghdad, sparing little thought for the sheer consternation that Iraqi civilians were experiencing while we were cozy on our couches.

Communication technology changes so quickly that the way it is used differs with every war. We've gone from newspapers to "live via videophone" in the last century. But faster, closer and more visual does not mean better. In fact, the majority of the coverage is downright sick and tasteless. The nation went into an uproar over a video of twelve captured American soldiers as though it is somehow more horrifying a sight than a capital city being blown to bits halfway across the world.

I don't suppose there's any chance of preventing or reducing television and Internet glamorization of this war at this point, but it would be nice if someone somewhere would follow a protocol level of decency. Get the facts. Make a live report. If crucial new information comes across the wires while the tapes are rolling, simply interject: "This just in..."

Most importantly, cut the inconsequential fluff. Complete coverage is not the sum of dead air and speculation.

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



'THE HOUR OF OUR LIBERATION IS AT HAND—ASSUMING WE SURVIVE THE HOUR OF OUR OBLITERATION....'

Looking at war through different lenses

By Adam Johnson
Guest Columnist

I remember a week and a half ago discussing President Bush's foreign policy with fellow freshmen in the lobby of Hendricks Hall.

I remember being on the opposing side of an Iraqi invasion and thinking that President Bush had no right to wage war. I was thinking along the lines of many of the protestors seen in the multiple media: war for oil was wrong, and so was a war against Iraq as a country that harbors terrorists. No substantial link has been made between the Iraqi regime and the al-Qaida terror network, and that hasn't changed since the days after September 11.

In the past few days, however, I've changed my position on the war, coming to the realization that support of this war is the right thing. Through research and discussion, I've come to see the war differently. This war is not about the oil that the region has, or about links between Hussein and bin Laden. It's about a leader of a country who has no regard for his people or the countries around him. This war is right, and looking at the evidence between the lines is what supports it.

George W. Bush was elected (sort of) to fulfill several roles. As Commander in Chief, he is the leader of one of the greatest militaries the world has ever seen. As the leading diplomat, he can enter the government into agreements and alliances with other nations. The Constitution provides him with the opportunity to appoint people that will define the course of the Union. He's the one man that can take up fifteen channels' airwaves to say four words. He didn't have to speak directly to the Iraqi people in the tone of voice he used in his March 17th address, yet he spoke to them with compassion and sincerity. Simply put, he is the most powerful man in the free world. He has very little to prove.

If he did have something to prove, perhaps this war will do just that. He is, after all, a politician. Politicians, as we well know, can be voted out of office. Tony Blair is also a politician. As the Prime Minister of Britain, Mr. Blair came under intense scrutiny when he decided to

unite his country with the U.S. in attacking Iraq. Many British political pundits have said, as American pundits have said about Bush, that his re-election rests on the outcome of this war. For Mr. Blair, it would be a shame if he lost his position because of this war. He's done for his party in recent years what Mr. Bush promised to do for the American Congress on his campaign trail: he's united the Labour Party on several issues and brought about more moderation among its members. For Mr. Bush, it would be less of a tragedy if the war's outcome were negative. But he *does* want to be re-elected for another term, and he wouldn't do anything as drastic as starting a war that might cost him a second term. It seems highly unlikely that either of these men would step as far out on a limb as they have without a deep feeling that it won't snap. Neither of these men are the bullies that some would like to portray them as. The benefit to cost ratio would be too low for these two men to act like bullies.

If this war were about oil, then the costs would be too great in that respect too. Iraq is sixth on the list of oil exporters to the United States. According to the Office of Transportation Technologies, a division of the U.S. Department of Energy, the only countries that we import more oil from are Canada, Saudi Arabia, Mexico, Venezuela, and Nigeria. The Top Ten is rounded out by the United Kingdom, Norway, Angola, and Algeria. So what similarities are found in a comparison of the previous list with the list of countries in the "coalition of the willing"? The only country that's on both lists is the United Kingdom. Canada and Saudi Arabia have come out against the war, and Angola was recently dropped from the list of countries in the U.S.-led coalition. So what does this mean? It means that if the present administration were wrong about its attack on Iraq, it could potentially cost itself tens of thousands of barrels of oil a day. And in a time when the Republican President can't convince a Republican-led Congress (not just the House, or the Senate, but both) to drill for oil in Alaska, a loss of that kind of oil would be staggering. Again, the wrong war is not worth that kind of risk or effort.

Finally, I argue that little effort should be put into a boycott on anything French on the basis that they don't support us. Let's face it: boycotting the French for their lack of support would be like boycotting a computer company for not winning the government contract to supply the military with computers. The losing company isn't less patriotic than the winning company, it just saw their proposal as a better business deal; likewise, the French don't see the commitment of troops to be the best way to help with the situation. Nor do I think it is patriotic to smash Dixie Chicks records or stop watching certain television programs. To do either of these things is to deny one's self the simple rewards of quality entertainment in a time when the need for distraction from the tensions of war is the greatest it's been in a decade.

I urge the readers of this newspaper to become as informed as they possibly can on the issue of war against Iraq. You don't have to sit glued to the television watching round-the-clock coverage of the war. Things you can do include listening to speeches when presidents, prime ministers and legislators give them. Don't limit yourself to just American politicians or people you agree with either; British Parliament members and leaders from other nations, as well as politicians with opposing perspectives, present interesting points of view as well. Listen to or read (as most of these speeches are stored in any combination of text, audio and video forms online) these speeches critically; know the difference between rhetoric and honest opinion. Don't hesitate to discuss it with the people around you, including family members, friends, and especially people who will oppose you in an argument on the subject. And don't think that just because you support the war means you should vote for Bush in 2004. I certainly will not be doing so. Finally, do not simply go with the flow or opine without knowledge. As a teacher I once had put it: while everyone is entitled to voice their opinions, only those who are educated on the issue are entitled to the opinion to voice.

Adam Johnson is a first-time guest columnist for The George-Anne and can be reached at ajohns77@eagle4.cc.gasou.edu.

SGA 2002-2003: A year in review

By Andrea Mitchell
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This story was originally published on March 12, but was printed incompletely. The following is the original story in its entirety.

SGA has done several things on campus to enhance campus life. From entertainment to informative activities, they are working hard to promote a positive atmosphere for GSU students.

The beginning of a new SGA administration began in Fall 2002 and, under the leadership of President Jonathan Perkins, the Fall 2002 administration has succeeded in accomplishing several of their goals.

SGA members have been very busy volunteering, sponsoring events and serving the GSU student body as well as local area residents.

Community service is one component of SGA. Every senator in the 2002-2003 administration is responsible for participating in community service.

"This year, particularly, has been the most successful as far as community service. SGA Senators have been consistently visiting the Statesboro Nursing Home on a weekly basis," said SGA President Jonathan Perkins.

JoAnn Griffin, who is the activity director for the Statesboro Nursing Home, appreciates the time that SGA gives to the nursing home.

"They do several activities for the residents. They assist and interact with residents who are bed bound, and also play games as well as host holiday and birthday parties for them," said Griffin.

The residents always love it when students come by to visit, Griffin said.

Volunteering at the Statesboro Nursing Home is just one of the ways that SGA has given back to the community.

SGA performed a parking raffle, which gave students a chance to win one of five faculty and staff parking spaces. They also sponsored the "Quarter to Care" campaign, which

was held in the residence halls.

"The Quarter to Care campaign was basically a 'quarter war' amongst the different residence halls to see who could raise the most money. It was the first time this had taken place, but it was highly successful," said John Kim, Vice President of Academic Affairs.

In conjunction with Eagle Entertainment, SGA also sponsored the "Georgia Southern Idol" competition. The money collected from all of the fund-raisers was donated to the Student United Way campaigns. Overall, SGA raised \$2,627.80 for the campaign, which was more than the amount donated in the previous year.

SGA is always working for the students, but some of GSU's student body is not aware of the services being provided to them or the exact purpose of SGA.

"I know they are a Student Government Association but I'm not sure what they do. I went to one of their meetings and I still wasn't sure of what they did," said Deon Quinn, a public relations major here at GSU.

"SGA is supposed to be a student forum but it's more like a political circus. There are not many interactions between students and officials, but when candidates are running there is a lot of interaction. There needs to be a day when SGA meets with students and gets to know them besides during Student Appreciation Day because that's just one time during Spring Semester," Quinn said.

Some of GSU's faculty and staff think there should be more involvement between faculty, staff, and the GSU student body.

"SGA's involvement with faculty and staff is critical. However, I think they should try to incorporate faculty and staff with students," said Jeremy Hill.

Hill is a research associate for the Bureau of Business Research and Economic Development (BBRED) and a graduate student here at GSU.

SGA is involved with several campus organizations. They have

helped allocate funding for a plethora of organizations on campus. The end of semester report shows that SGA distributed a total of \$11,319.54 to student organizations for conferences, speakers, projects and other needs. The Spanish Club, African Student Association, Voices in Ministry, and Society of Manufacturing Engineers are just four of the organizations that have received funding.

Michelle Ingram, President of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., applauds SGA's dedication to GSU organizations.

"I think their efforts and representation for the student body is great. Although we have not taken advantage of the opportunity, SGA has welcomed us to use all of the services provided through the Student Activity Center," Ingram said.

SGA has a presidential advisory council, which meets with presidents from each organization to solicit feedback on their needs. One faculty advisor would like to heighten the level of communication between advisors, organizational presidents, and SGA members.

"I think that SGA is doing a great job. They have provided the Graphics and Printing Association (GPA) with a lot of help. However, I think it would be beneficial for them to include advisors in these presidential advisory meetings to improve the level of communication between organizational presidents and advisors," said Dr. Don Armel.

SGA elections are steadily approaching and electoral candidates are beginning to campaign.

The primary voting times will be available on WINGS between April 1-3, and if needed, the election run-offs will follow shortly after, between April 8-10.

After students vote, they will have the option of filling out an off-campus housing evaluation form, which will give students who are living off-campus a chance to rate their living arrangements; the results will be available to the GSU student body on the SGA website.

SGA EXECUTIVE CANDIDATES 2003 - 2004

President

Jonathan Boyd
Reggie Brown
Chris "Ovaltine" Haseltine
Thomas Miller

VP Academic Affairs

Felicia Emanuel
Rachel Miller
Charisse Perkins

VP Auxiliary Affairs

D'Lee Pollock
Lauren Roberson
Tony Rouse
Melissa Seeker

Executive VP

Mike Hardy
Rusty Williams

VP Finance

Steve Crosby
Jessica Crute



Brittany Gates/STAFF

The current SGA administration hosted a debate for the 2003-2004 SGA Executive Board candidates Tuesday night. Around 100 students attended the debate, and WVGS 91.9 FM broadcasted the candidates responses live on the air. Pictured above from left to right are presidential candidates Jonathan Boyd, Reggie Brown, Chris Haseltine, and Thomas Miller.

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Thanks for reading *The George-Anne*.
We hope y'all had a good Spring Break!

Eagle baseball wins three of seven over break

By Eli Boorstein
Nietsoob17@hotmail.com

It was a rough go for the Georgia Southern baseball team during the past two weeks.

After dispatching of Binghamton with ease, the Eagles fought through the interference of Mother Nature only to be swept in a two-game series by ACC foe Clemson. Georgia Southern then closed out the break falling in two of three games at conference rival UNC Greensboro.

The Eagles (15-8, 5-3 SoCon) will try to get back on the winning side of things when they travel to Atlanta on Tuesday and Wednesday to meet Georgia State. They will then welcome VMI to town for a three-game set this weekend. First pitch is set for 7 p.m. on Friday, 4 p.m. on Saturday and 1:30 p.m. on Sunday.

March 11: GSU 16, Binghamton 1

The Eagles got things started on a bright note, handing Binghamton a 16-1 defeat in seven innings at J.I. Clements Stadium.

After the Bearcats scored first, they proceeded to allow nine runs to the Eagle batters in the first two innings. Catcher A.J. Zickgraf drove in four of those runs, bringing one runner to home in the first inning while connecting on a three-run home run in the second.

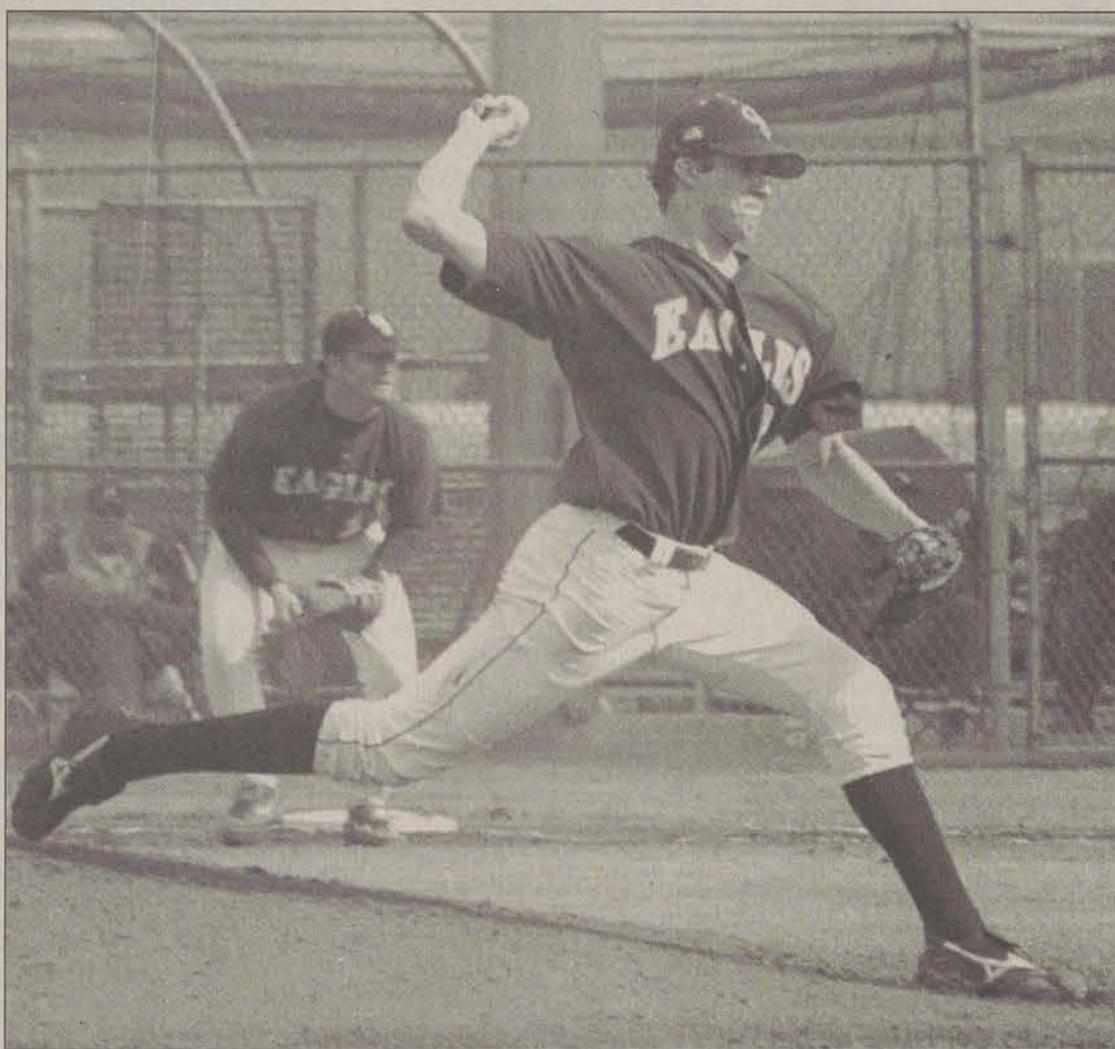
Five more runs came home in the fifth inning for Georgia Southern thanks to a strong power display. Brandon Long and Brendan Gilligan led the frame of with back-to-back solo homers. Zickgraf then added his fifth run batted in on a double before Brandon Burnsed and Adam DeLoach each added RBI of their own.

Brent Stephens then drove in the final two runs of the contest as he homered to right to score himself and Brandon Williams.

Zickgraf led the way from the plate, scoring three runs while collecting two hits. Gilligan and Greg Dowling each scored three times as well.

Scott Tolbert (2-0) was dominant from the mound, striking out seven and allowing just three hits as he tossed a complete game.

March 12: GSU 6, Binghamton 1



LaVene Bell/STAFF

The Eagles spent spring break both on the road and at home but were only able to add three marks to the victory list. The Eagles beat Binghamton twice and UNC Greensboro once. The Eagles lost four games during the break, twice to Clemson and twice to UNC Greensboro.

ton 1

The second game with Binghamton was much closer, but gave the same result, as the Eagles were able to rely on some strong pitching on their way to the win.

After falling behind 1-0, Georgia Southern posted four runs in the fourth. Adam DeLoach drove in the first run when he singled in Brent Stephens from second. Three batters later, Brendan Gilligan singled to drive in DeLoach and James Payne, who had been hit by a pitch. Brandon Long, who had walked, scored the final run on a Grant Burruss single.

The Eagles added runs in the fifth and seventh innings, as they were able to hold the Bearcats at bay.

Gilligan led the Eagle offense, going 3-for-4 on the night with two runs batted in. Stephens was 2-for-3 with three runs.

In his first collegiate start, freshman hurler John Carroll (3-0) gave up just one run off two hits while also striking out seven in five innings of work. The bullpen was equally impressive as three pitchers combined for seven strikeouts in four innings of work.

March 16: Clemson 11, GSU 1

In a series that was originally slated to start on Friday, March 14, the Eagles' battle with Clemson was eventually moved to Joe Riley Park in Charleston due to the rain-soaked field at Clements Stadium.

On Sunday, the Eagles were finally able to start the series, but after Georgia Southern kept the game close at the start, the Tigers blew the game open with an offensive explosion later on in the game. Clemson jumped on the Eagle pitching staff

to score 10 runs from the fifth inning on.

With the score tied 1-1, Tiger Brad McCann doubled to left to score the first run. Three batters later, Ryan Hub drove in McCann and Michael Johnson on a single. After Kyle Frank scored on an error from Eagle catcher A.J. Zickgraf, Brady Everett plated the fifth run of the inning when he singled to score Hub.

Following a single Clemson run in the sixth inning, the Tigers added four more in the eighth to bring the score to its final 11-1 mark. Johnson drove in the first run on a double before coming around to score on an Adam DeLoach error. Kris Harvey then homered to left to score the ballgame's final two runs.

No Eagle batter managed multiple hits as the Clemson pitching staff allowed just three singles on the day.

Brian Rogers (1-2) took the loss for Georgia Southern, allowing four runs before he was relieved one out into the fifth inning.

March 18: Clemson 8, GSU 0

The two teams planned on playing a doubleheader on Monday, but rains in Charleston caused the first game to be suspended until Tuesday. The third game was scrapped due to Clemson's travel plans.

Before the game was halted following the first inning, Clemson's scored their first runs off run-scoring at-bats by Brad McCann and Kris Harvey.

Eagle pitcher Brian Harrison, who came in to the game in relief of Dennis Dove when the game was restarted, allowed another pair of runs in the second when McCann doubled to right to plate two.

After a Ryan Hub sacrifice scored a run in the fourth, Clemson added their final three runs in the seventh off an Eagle error and solo home runs by Hub and McCann.

Brandon Burnsed went 2-for-3 to lead the Georgia Southern offense.

Despite pitching just the first inning, Dove (3-1) was credited with the loss by allowing the first runs of the contest before the suspension of play.

March 21: UNC Greensboro 10, GSU 3

The Eagles went back into conference play and were defeated handily by the Spartans at UNCG Baseball Stadium in Greensboro.

With the game tied 2-2 after the top of the second, the Spartans took advantage of four bases-loaded walks as they scored six runs in the bottom of the second.

Two more runs came around to score for UNCG in the sixth inning when Ryan Gordon took the pitch from Eagle pitcher Kevin Culpepper out to right for a two-run home run.

Grant Burruss and Carlos Love led the offense for Georgia Southern as each contributed a pair of hits.

In the defeat, Brian Rogers (1-3) gave up eight runs off four hits and five walks in two-plus innings of work.

March 22: GSU 15, UNC Greensboro 4

Buoyed by a ten-run ninth inning, the Eagles were able to defeat the Spartans with little trouble in the series' second game.

Georgia Southern scored their first run in the first when Brendan Gilligan, who reached on a triple, made it home on a Brandon Burnsed single.

After UNCG scored three runs in the second, the Eagles took the lead back with two runs each in both the fourth and fifth innings. A two-run homer from Grant Burruss took care of the runs in the fourth while back-to-back triples from Gilligan and Burnsed led to the fifth inning scores.

The Spartans managed to cut their deficit to one, but saw their pitching collapse in the ninth inning as the Eagle bats exploded for 10 runs. A.J. Zickgraf drove in the first runs on a two-run homer. After run-scoring hits from Gilligan, Burnsed, and Rocky Baker, Brandon Long plated two on a single to make the score 12-4. Adam DeLoach then accounted for the final runs when the doubled with the bases loaded to score three.

The Eagle offense managed 15 hits on the day, led by 3-for-5 nights from Gilligan, Burnsed, and Baker.

Dennis Dove (4-1) was the winning pitcher, striking out six in five innings of work.

March 23: UNC Greensboro 5, GSU 1

After being blown out in the second game of the series, the Spartans rebounded by taking the final game over the Eagles.

Carlos Love singled in Rocky Baker in the first to give the Eagles the initial lead, but a Clay Wehner double and Jason Sarvis home run put UNCG up 2-1 after the third inning.

Wehner added another double in the fourth to score two more runs before the Spartans scored their final run on a Justin Saltalamacchia single in the seventh inning.

The Eagles could never manage anything more than a single as they were held to just five hits on the day.

Brian Harrison (3-3) gave up all five runs off nine hits in seven innings of work to take the loss.

Softball takes one of three from Paladins



Tim Deaver/STAFF

The Lady Eagles hosted the Furman Paladins for a three-game series and won one of three against the Southern Conference foe. The final scores of the games were 8-3 in the first game, 4-3 in the second game, and 6-0 in the final game. The two losses brings the Lady Eagles to 1-2 in the conference and 17-14 overall.

By Todd Thomas
toddthomas@southern-connection.com

After winning the first game of their Southern Conference schedule, the Lady Eagle softball team lost two straight to the Furman Paladins over the weekend at Eagle Field. The Eagles moved to 17-14 on the season, and are 1-2 in the Southern Conference.

Game one was all Georgia Southern, as the Eagles started their conference schedule in successful manner with an 8-3 victory over Furman. Tiffany Urena had yet another strong performance in the circle, going the full seven innings and allowing only 2 earned runs. Most importantly, Urena did not relinquish a walk in the entire game.

"That was quite an accomplishment for Tiffany," said Georgia Southern Head Coach Natalie Poole. "It's not necessarily that she's making bad pitches, but that she's keeping the ball low, and sometimes umpires don't give her the low strike."

The Eagles struck quickly with two three run innings to begin the game. The Eagles capitalized on two Paladin errors in the first inning, highlighted by an RBI single from freshman Sam Steiner.

The second inning doubled the lead, as the Eagles scored three runs on four hits. Eagle shortstop Kim Griffin and Tiffany Urena both had RBI singles in the inning, scoring Shanita Black and Courtney Jones respectfully. Urena later scored on a pass ball by Paladin catcher Karen Myers.

Furman cut the lead in half in the top of the third inning. Meagan Johnson homered for the Paladins, and another run was able to score off an Eagle error.

The Paladins failed to score again, as Tiffany Urena held the Paladins scoreless the rest of the game. The Eagles added two more in the fifth, making the final score 8-3.

Shanita Black had one of her best

games as an Eagle, going 3 for 4 and scoring two runs. "I think often times instead of looking at her batting average, with Shanita it's the on base percentage that we should really look at," said Coach Poole. "She always finds a way to either bunt her way on, punch it through, or force defenders into an error with her speed." Black also leads the team with nine stolen bases.

Furman won game two on Saturday, coming from behind with a four run seventh inning to win 4-3.

Once again the Eagles capitalized on errors by the opponent, as Shanita Black reached on an infield single, but advanced to second on a throwing error by Paladin shortstop Kelli Leachman. Black later scored on an error by Kate Morrison.

Georgia Southern added to the lead in the sixth inning, when Lindsay Jones got her first hit of the day. With Carolyn Chin at second and Christi Aitken at first, Jones doubled to right-center, bringing in both runners.

The Paladins had been forced to leave nine runners on base at that point by pitcher Janice Savage. Savage was able to leave the bases loaded in the second, and stranded two more runners in both the third and fifth innings.

It all came unraveled, as Furman scored four runs in the seventh to take the lead. LaKerah Barr started the inning with a homerun to right, making the lead 3-1. Sarah Matthews singled to left for Furman, followed by a 2-out, 2 RBI double by Alison McNulty to tie the game at three. McNulty then scored on a single by Rachel Henley to take a 4-3 lead.

Georgia Southern failed to score in their half of the inning, giving Furman the 4-3 win. Janice Savage received the loss for the Eagles, falling to 6-5 on the campaign.

On Sunday, it was all Furman as the

Paladins won the rubber game of the series 6-0. Meagan Johnson pitched six shutout innings in the contest, and helped her own cause with a three run homerun in the first inning. AJ Street got the loss for the Eagles, falling to 4-6.

"Sometimes other teams just get a lucky streak," followed Coach Poole. "They played much better ball Sunday than they did Saturday, and sometimes their balls were just a little out of our reach. And we're getting hits, it's just a matter of time until we put those hits together."

Freshman Sam Steiner continued to play well for the Eagles, going 4 for 9 on the weekend. Steiner leads the team with a .313 batting average and five homeruns.

"Well I try not to think up there," said Steiner "I just try to see it and swing the bat. But it's a team effort, and it's not just me doing the job. We're playing good defense and we're playing well as a team."

Steiner is part of a freshman class that worked hard in the off season, and transferred it well onto the field. "We've put a lot of extra time and work in. We're volunteering our own time by trying to come out an hour early or stay late to work what's needed," she says. "We're trying to not only work with the coaches, but work with each other."

The Eagles went 5-1 over spring break, highlighted by a no-hitter against Delaware State by Janice Savage. Delaware State just happens to be coached by Janice's father, Jeff. The ladies took two from Delaware State, two from Liberty, and split a doubleheader with Coastal Carolina.

The ladies now play their next six on the road with two three game series against UNC Wilmington and College of Charleston. The ladies return home April 9th, where they will play a double header against Georgia Tech.

Men's Tennis competes in busy spring break

G-A News Service

STATESBORO, Ga. — Georgia Southern won two of three doubles' matchups and captured five of six singles' events on the way to a 6-1 Southern Conference victory over UNC Greensboro Wednesday afternoon at Hanner Courts.

Danie Van Den Heever, Vincent Patry, Stephen Dubinski and Charles-Henri Trotter all recorded straight-set wins in the No. 2 and No. 4, No. 5 and No. 6 singles play while Uli Ebensperger took three sets to dispose of Pieter Visser at the No. 3 position.

The Spartans' Julio Moran was the lone singles winner after defeating GSU's Noah Tyler 6-3 and 6-1 at the No. 1 slot. Georgia Southern won the No. 2 and No. 3 doubles competition as the tandems of Ebensperger/Tyler and Patry/Mark Finnegan recorded 8-5 and 8-2 victories.

Georgia Southern (7-5, 3-1) returned to action at Miami Sunday when it opened a six-match non-conference road swing through the state of Florida.

The No. 39-ranked University of Miami men's tennis team posted a 6-1 non-conference win over Georgia Southern Sunday at the Neil Schiff Tennis Center. The Hurricanes improved to 9-5 with the victory while Georgia Southern dropped to 7-6.

The Hurricanes took the doubles point with wins from the first and third doubles pairings. Colin Purcell and Andrew Golub defeated Uli Ebensperger and Noah Tyler 8-6 in first doubles, while Luis Manrique and Eric Hechtman dismantled Mark Finnegan and Lasha Janashia 8-1 at third doubles.

In singles competition, Golub routed Tyler 6-0, 6-1; Manrique rallied to edge Finnegan 2-6, 7-5, (1-0) (7); Colin Purcell defeated Danie Van Den Heever 6-1, 6-0; Hechtman toppled Ebensperger 6-3, 4-6, (1-0) (7); and Shauny Hoyes beat Stephen Dubinski 6-1, 6-1.

GSU's next match was to be on Tuesday when it visited Florida Atlantic for a 2 p.m. match to take on the University of Tennessee.

The No. 26-ranked University of Tennessee men's tennis team edged Georgia Southern 4-3 in a non-conference match Tuesday morning at the Florida Atlantic University Tennis Center. The Volunteers improved to 9-6 with the victory while Georgia Southern fell to 7-7.

Because of a lineup deficiency in Tennessee's roster, the two squads played two rather than the customary

three doubles matches with each victory earning one point to the team scoring total. In addition, UT and GSU engaged in just five of six singles events.

The Volunteers took both doubles points, using a win by Wade Orr and Mark Dietrich over Uli Ebensperger and Noah Tyler (8-5) before Simon Rea and Mark Henderson handed Danie Van Den Heever and Vincent Patry an 8-5 setback. Georgia Southern captured three of the five singles' competitions when Tyler edged Dietrich 5-7, 6-3, 6-4; Ebensperger defeated Vincent Perna 6-2, 6-3; and Patry disposed of Orr 6-4, 6-2.

GSU continued its road swing through Florida when it visited Bethune-Cookman Wednesday in Daytona Beach for a 1 p.m. match.

The Georgia Southern Eagle tennis squad captured its first Florida road swing win when it handed Bethune-Cookman a 5-1 setback Wednesday afternoon.

Georgia Southern (8-7) closed out its trip at Central Florida Friday afternoon before returning to Southern Conference play when it hosted Davidson in an 11 a.m. match Sunday at the Hanner Courts.

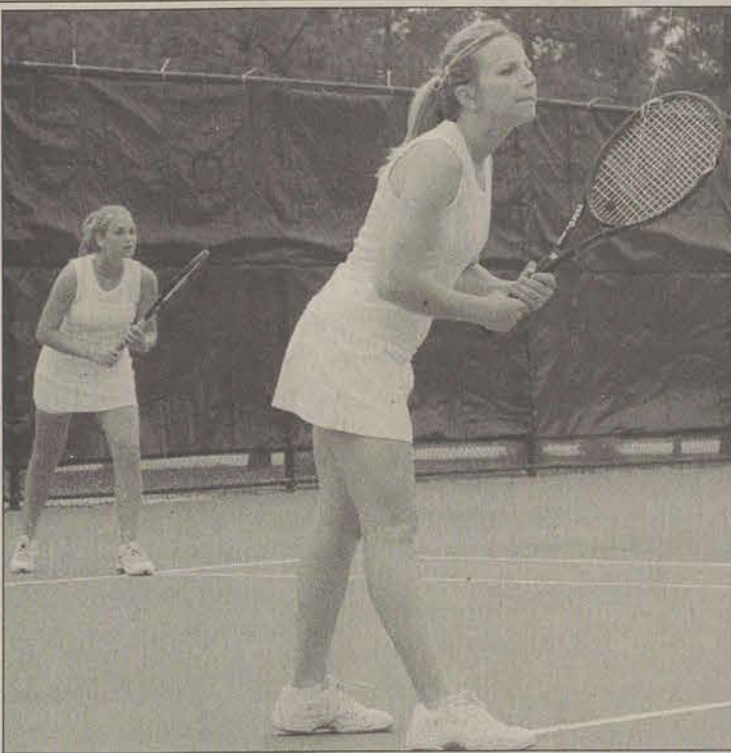
Davidson won four of six singles matches and two of three doubles events on the way to a 5-2 Southern Conference victory over Georgia Southern Sunday at Hanner Courts.

The Wildcats improved to 9-4 and 2-0 in league play with the victory while Georgia Southern fell to 8-8 and 3-2. Davidson won the first two doubles points, using an 8-6 win by Rob Haywood and Donald Miles over Mark Finnegan and Lasha Janashia before Jonathan Britt and Rob Gould also handed Noah Tyler and Uli Ebensperger an 8-6 setback. Danie Van Den Heever and Vincent Patry recorded the Eagles' lone tandem win when they dispatched Geoffrey Mullen and Bryan Stonestreet by an 8-3 count.

In singles competition, Haywood edged past Finnegan 6-3, 3-6, 6-3; Miles earned a 7-5, 4-6, 6-4 decision over Tyler; Stonestreet handled Van Den Heever 6-3, 6-4; and Russ Burns recorded a 2-6, 6-4, 6-1 win over Charles-Henri Trotter at the No. 6 slot to account for Davidson's scoring.

Georgia Southern took the No. 4 and No. 5 singles matchups, using wins by Ebensperger (6-4, 6-3) and Vincent Patry (6-1, 6-3) over Britt and Mullen, respectively.

Georgia Southern will be back in action March 29 when it visits Chattanooga for a SoCon match against the Mocs.



Tim Deaver/STAFF

The Lady Eagles hosted East Tennessee State Sunday afternoon and defeated the Lady Bucs 4-3 in Southern Conference action.

Lady Eagles edge ETSU, 4-3

G-A News Service

STATESBORO, Ga. — Freshman Marion Leuillier's three-set victory over Courtney McInnis in the No. 5 singles play clinched Georgia Southern's 4-3 Southern Conference victory over East Tennessee State Sunday afternoon at Hanner Courts.

The Lady Eagles improved to 5-5 overall and 2-1 in the SoCon while the Lady Bucs dropped to 8-8 and 0-2.

Georgia Southern took the doubles point with wins from the first and second doubles pairings. Stephanie Tyrell and Amy Bartlett defeated Gemma Halim and Jessica Irey 8-2 in first doubles, while Leuillier and Callie Ward posted an 8-1 victory over Sylwia Ziolkowska and Aimee Villavicencio at second doubles.

In singles competition, Georgia Southern and East Tennessee State split the first four matchups before Leuillier edged McInnis 6-1, 2-6 and 6-1 to seal the win for Lady Eagles.

GSU will be back in action March 26 at the College of Charleston for a SoCon match while East Tennessee State will play a non-conference match against Murray State Tuesday in Charleston, S.C.

GEORGIA SOUTHERN 4, EAST TENNESSEE STATE 3

Singles Play

1. Stephanie Tyrell (GSU) def. Sylwia Ziolkowska (ETSU) 6-2, 7-5
2. Gemma Halim (ETSU) def. Charlotte Bruneteaux (GSU) 6-4, 6-2
3. Amy Bartlett (GSU) def. Jessica Irey (ETSU) 6-0, 6-1
4. Jewel Aldea (ETSU) def. Kimberly Wollett (GSU) 6-1, 6-7 (3), 10-6
5. Marion Leuillier (GSU) def. Courtney McInnis (ETSU) 6-1, 2-6, 6-1
6. Tatiana Arriaran (ETSU) def. Callie Ward (GSU) 6-2, 6-1

Doubles Play

1. Tyrell/Bartlett (GSU) def. Halim/Irey (ETSU) 8-2
2. Leuillier/Ward (GSU) def. Ziolkowska/Aimee Villavicencio (ETSU) 8-1
3. Aldea/Arriaran (ETSU) def. Bruneteaux/Wollett (GSU) 8-5

GSU finishes 11th in the Schenkel

By Dennis Hightower
Hightower12181@hotmail.com

Wake Forest carded a three-round total of 844 (-20) to claim a three-stroke victory over Clemson in the 2003 Schenkel E-Z-GO Invitational held Saturday and Sunday at the par-72 Forest Heights Country Club.

Trailing by two strokes entering Sunday's final round, the Demon Deacons carded a third-round total of 275 (-13) behind senior Brent Wanner's 65 (-7). Clemson tallied a final round 280 to finish three strokes back at 847 (-17). The victory proved to be Wake Forest's sixth in the Schenkel.

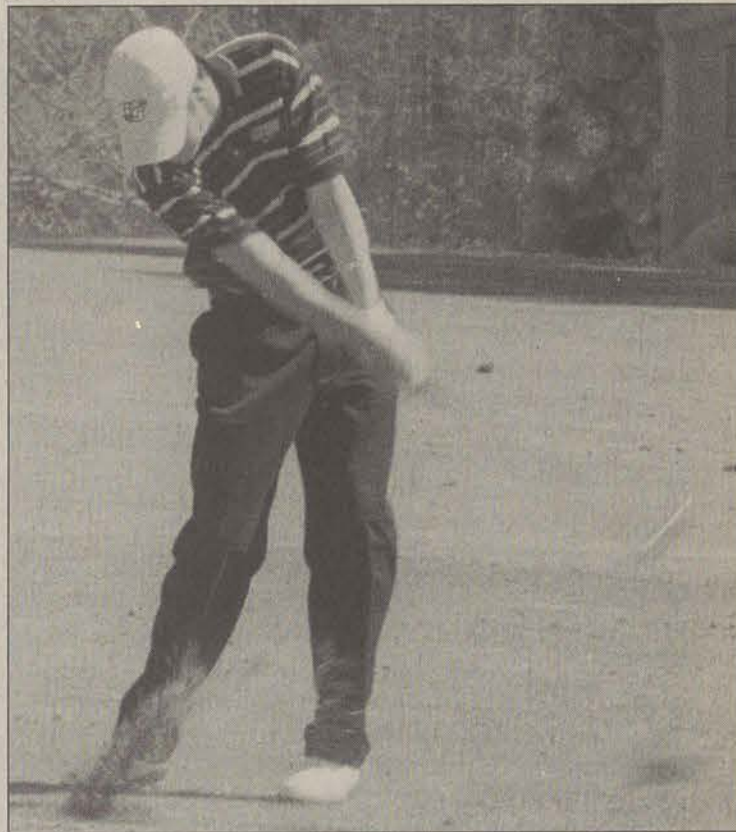
Wanner's final round 65 propelled him into medallists honors as he finished the two-day tournament with a nine-under 207. Clemson's Jack Ferguson and D.J. Trahan, Demon Deacon Bill Haas and Georgia's Kevin Kisner all tied for second at 210 (-6).

Georgia completed the tournament in third place, using a final round 278 (-10) to tally a three round total of 854 (-10) while Florida was fourth with an

858 (-6). Auburn completed the top five with a two-day total of 860 (-4). The rest of the field included: N.C. State at 861 (-3/6th), South Carolina at 869 (+5/7th), North Carolina in eighth at 872 (+8), East Tennessee State at 873 (+9/9th), Augusta State at 877 (+13/10th), host Georgia Southern in 11th at 879 (+15), LSU at 880 (+16/12th), Tennessee with an 883 (+19/13th), Duke at 887 (+23/14th) and Ohio State with an 899 (+35/15th).

Individually for Georgia Southern, Travis Mobley tied for 32nd with a 218 (+2) while Aron Price carded a 219 (+3) to finish tied for 35th. Jon David Kennedy finished with a 220 (+4) to complete the tournament tied for 41st while Chase Jones tallied a 222 (+6) and was tied for 47th. Toshi Hirata rounded out the Georgia Southern team with a 18-over-par 234, tying for 71st place.

The Eagles return to action Friday, April 4 when they compete in the first round of the Cleveland Golf/ASU Invitational at Forest Hills Golf Club in Augusta, Ga.

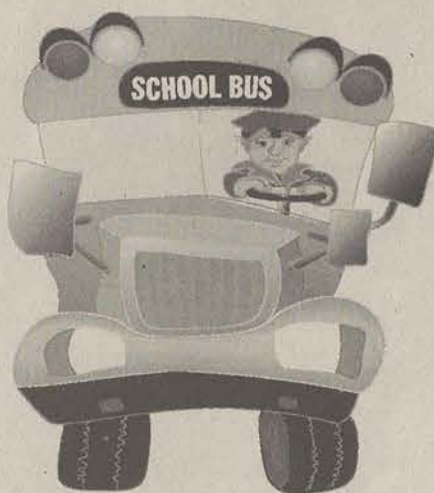


File Photo

The GSU Golf Team hosted the 2003 Schenkel E-Z-GO Invitational and finished 11th in the tournament.

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Lifestyles

Wednesday, March 26, 2003 – Page 8

Oscars crown 'Chicago', a few surprises

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES – The best-picture Academy Award for the flashy musical "Chicago" was one of the only predictable elements of a ceremony that included three key wins for the Holocaust drama "The Pianist."

On a night when the war with Iraq set a somber tone, Adrien Brody took best-actor and Roman Polanski earned the directing prize for "The Pianist" against higher-profile front-runners. The Japanese film "Spirited Away" won for feature-length animation against cartoon behemoths from Hollywood. Eminem took the best-song Oscar against a field that included veterans Paul Simon and U2.

The ceremony included an angry

indictment of the Bush administration from documentary winner Michael Moore and a tearful moment of empathy for war victims from Brody.

With six awards, "Chicago" was the main winner at a ceremony where pageantry took on greater solemnity because of the U.S.-led war on Iraq.

"Chicago" became the first musical to win best picture since 1968's "Oliver!" Catherine Zeta-Jones, supporting-actress winner for "Chicago," was the first performer to win an Oscar for a musical since 1972.

Nicole Kidman won for lead actress as author Virginia Woolf in the somber drama "The Hours." Chris Cooper earned the supporting-actor Oscar for the twisted Hollywood tale "Adaptation."

Kidman, Cooper and Zeta-Jones

had been acting front-runners, but first-time nominee Brody was something of a longshot in the best-actor field, where each of the other contenders already had at least one Oscar. Jack Nicholson of "About Schmidt" and Daniel Day-Lewis of "Gangs of New York" had been viewed as best bets to win the lead-actor trophy.

"The Pianist" was based on the life of Holocaust survivor Wladyslaw Szpilman, a Polish Jew who eluded the Nazis in the Warsaw ghetto. Brody told the Oscar crowd the film was a tribute to Szpilman, and he fought back tears as he said the role gave him a taste of the dehumanization that comes with war.

"It's just a very difficult thing to do, to celebrate when there is sadness and conflict in the world. Our achievements as artists and

filmmakers and actors are valid, and we deserve to celebrate that," Brody said backstage. But "the timing for me is a little odd."

Polanski had been a bit of a longshot for director. Martin Scorsese was viewed as the likely winner for "Gangs of New York" through much of Oscar season, but Rob Marshall's triumph for "Chicago" at the Directors Guild of America awards made it look like a horse race between Scorsese and Marshall.

A Holocaust survivor himself, Polanski has been an exile from the United States since he fled 25 years ago to avoid sentencing for having sex with a 13-year-old girl. Polanski would have faced arrest had he entered the country to attend the Oscars.

"The Pianist" also earned the adapted-screenplay award for Ronald Harwood.

"Chicago" came in with a leading 13 nominations, followed by the crime epic "Gangs of New York" with 10. But "Gangs" was shut out in every category.

"Chicago" was adapted from the Bob Fosse stage hit about two Jazz Age murderesses using their jailhouse celebrity to further their singing careers.

Musicals gradually fell out of favor in Hollywood after their critical peak in the early 1960s, when "West Side Story," "The Sound of Music" and others won best picture. "Moulin Rouge," a best-picture nominee a year ago, helped rekindle the genre, and "Chicago" has become a huge box-office success with a domestic gross of \$134 million and climbing.

"I just hope that we continually do musicals," said "Chicago" producer Martin Richards. "I just

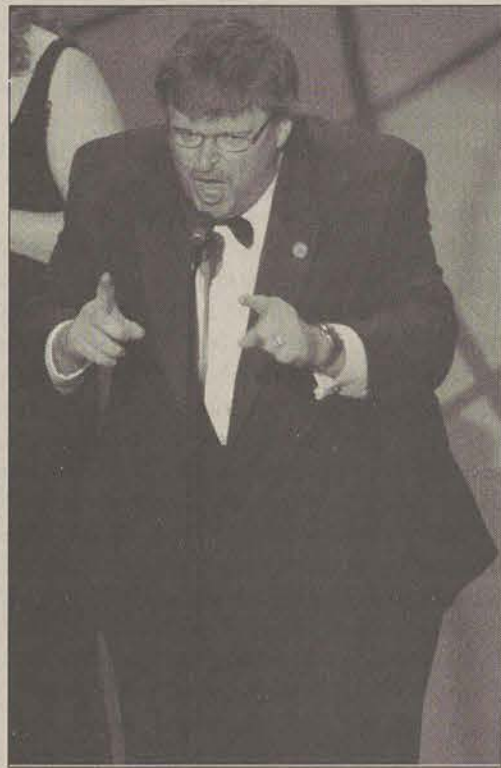
hope that they don't do one musical after another just because it's the flavor of the week, and that they do good musicals, and we bring back at least one of them a year. That would be my joy."

"Spirited Away," from Japanese animation master Hayao Miyazaki, was a huge hit in his home country, but an English-language adaptation did only a modest \$5.5 million in the United States last fall. The animated-feature Oscar seemed more likely to go to one of the Hollywood films, like the \$100-million-plus hits "Ice Age" or "Lilo & Stitch."

Eminem won his Oscar for co-writing "Lose Yourself," a song from "8 Mile," in which he also starred.

Oscar organizers scrapped much of the ceremony's revelry in light of the Iraq war. A celebrity or two decided against attending because of the conflict, while some wore peace pins or drove to the Oscars in fuel-efficient vehicles to protest American reliance on overseas oil.

Moore, whose "Bowling for Columbine" won the feature-length documentary prize, railed against the White House, saying, "Shame on you, Mr. Bush," for going to war. He received a standing ovation as he headed to the stage, and his angry speech was greeted with a mix of applause and boos.



Special Photo

While accepting his Oscar for feature-length documentary, Michael Moore protested the war in Iraq.

"Bowling for Columbine," Moore's alternately hilarious and horrifying examination of gun violence in America, also condemns U.S. policies and intervention overseas.

"We kill each other at an enormous rate, more so than virtually any other country on this planet," Moore said backstage. "What was the lesson that we taught the children of Columbine this week? This was the lesson, that violence is an acceptable means to resolve a conflict."

For a change, Oscar organizers moved the show along swiftly, bringing it in at just over its scheduled 3 1/2-hour time. Some past Oscar shows, including last year's, topped four hours.



Special Photo

Amongst those accepting Oscars were (left to right) Chris Cooper, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Nicole Kidman, and Adrien Brody.

Linkin Park follows up 2001 top-selling album with 'Meteora'

Associated Press

Before Linkin Park was Linkin Park – when they were looking for a demo deal – guitarist Brad Delson asked each member to write down his ultimate goal for the band.

Lead singer Chester Bennington wrote that he wanted a gold album. Delson wanted to sell out a show in his back yard, and vocalist-songwriter Mike Shinoda wanted to win a Grammy.

Drummer Rob Bourdon just wanted a record deal.

"At that point, it seemed like it was a possibility, (but) it seemed like it was a long way away," Bourdon says. "We were showcasing for labels at that time and getting rejected by every label."

"The first album has feelings of

confusion and anger and paranoia. There were really aggressive elements and really introverted elements," Shinoda said. "We were writing about those from the perspective of young 20-year-old guys and stuff... and now, they're still scary, but we have a little bit more experience with them."

"Meteora" contains plenty of hand-banging guitar licks and drumbeats, sneering vocals from Bennington and frenzied rhymes from Shinoda that are filled with angst, a term Shinoda dislikes because "it seems to trivialize what we're talking about."

Shinoda says the album's lyrics reflect the band's maturity.

The band mates, who range in age from 24 to 27, are humorous, polite and eager to talk – except Hahn, who spent most of his time checking his

PDA-cell phone.

In several of the songs, "especially in the first single, you'll hear like a hint of optimism or hopefulness, which is kind of new ground for us," Shinoda said.

The band also cautions that their new disc is not a retread of their first.

The members of Linkin Park don't pepper their songs with curses – and they make it a point to avoid alcohol and drugs. (Bennington has talked about beating drugs in his past.)

"It's easy to say something just for the sake of saying something for shock value," says Bennington with a shrug. "I find it much more challenging and much more honest when you search for the real definitions of your feelings."

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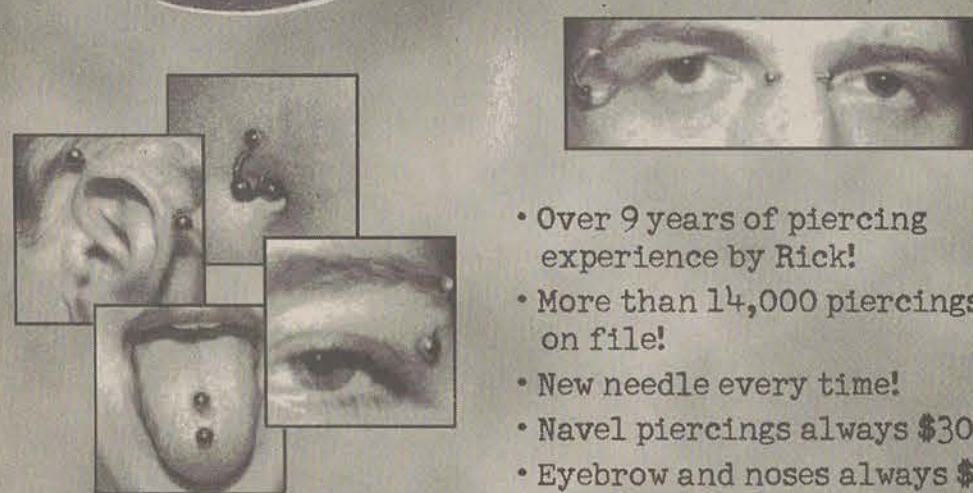
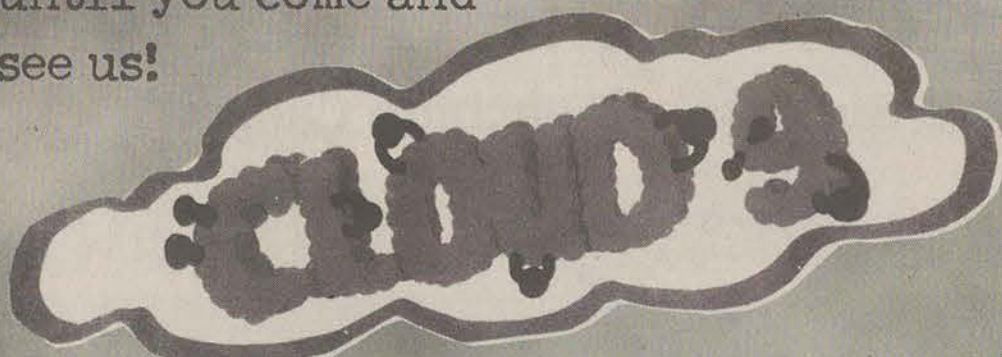
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This study is being conducted in cooperation with Georgia Southern Health Services. All study visits are conducted at Georgia Southern's Health Center.

This study has been approved by the Human Assurance Committee at the Medical College of Georgia as well as by Georgia Southern University's Institutional Review Board.

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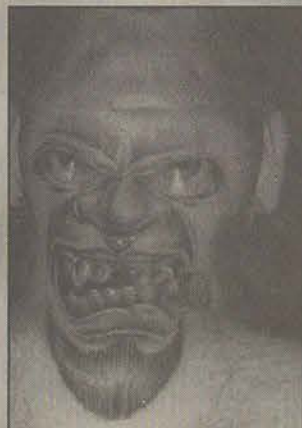
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DRIVE, FROM PAGE 1

seeming more composed than in a taped appearance broadcast last week.

Despite Saddam's defiant pose, a military barracks in the northern part of the country was bombed, and Baghdad fell under renewed air attack by day and by night. Iraqis set up mortar positions

south of the city and piled sandbags around government buildings and other strategic locations, in evident anticipation of a battle to come.

"Coalition forces are closing in on Baghdad," Maj. Gen. Stanley McChrystal told reporters at the Pentagon.



KRT Campus

U.S. Marine Sgt. Louis DeMarco, of New York, Delta Company of the Second Tank Battalion, fuels a tank as a dust storm rages in preparation for an advance to the north of Iraq on March 25.

HISTORY, FROM PAGE 1

crack troops, the Republican Guard, to defend the city.

In rambling speeches, Hussein has sought to link Baghdad's past greatness and past battles with his own sense of destiny. In an address on the 12th anniversary of the first Persian Gulf War, Hussein even compared President Bush and the American forces to the Mongols, vowing that invaders would be bloodied at Baghdad's gates.

Hussein's modern capital — and his rule — are anchored in the precincts west of the Tigris, where broad boulevards link key government ministries, many of Hussein's presidential palaces and a military airfield. Beyond the regime's power centers — many already targeted in intense aerial assaults — is the elite residential district of Mansur, with its shops and imposing homes.

Heading to the east bank across 10 bridges lie sprawling residential districts, scarred by years of international sanctions and the slow destruction of the country's middle class. In the city's heart is a warren of alleyways and shops around Rashid Street, an area that retains British colonial architecture.

"Ancient Baghdad as we know it is gone," said Thomas Leisten, a Princeton University Islamic history and art professor who has lived in the city.

"Saddam's planning has had an impact," he said. "This is why you have big boulevards, to bring in the tanks."

Those same boulevards could be used against the regime.

But then, Baghdad always has been a place that rulers sought to defend.

It was built in the 8th century by Abu Jafur al-Mansur, an Abbasid caliph, or leader, who led an Islamic dynasty and ruled a vast empire.

"It was a perfect circle, with fortifications in the center for the palace of the caliphs and a grand mosque," Leisten said.

Al-Mansur called his city Madinat as-Salam, or "City of Peace."

Baghdad was a city rich in treasure, knowledge and culture, where ancient Greek works were translated into Arabic, a hospital was founded, and an observatory created.

Over the centuries, the caliphs and the city steadily lost prestige and power. In 1258, the city was overrun by the Mongol forces of Genghis Khan's grandson, Hulagu. The city walls were wrecked, and a mountain purportedly was created from the skulls of scholars and city leaders.

"They supposedly took the last caliph, rolled him in a carpet and suffocated him," Leisten said. "We know a part of the city was destroyed. But we also know there were people in Baghdad."

Mongols, Persians and Turks fought over Baghdad until the city became part of the Ottoman Empire in 1638.

Nearly 300 years later, the British arrived.

An initial British assault towards Baghdad ended disastrously. In 1915, troops under Major Gen. Charles

Townshend marched from Basra and got to within 25 miles of Baghdad. Overconfident, lacking sufficient transportation and medical equipment, the British were battered by a Turkish counterattack in the battle at Ctesiphon.

They retreated to Kut-al-Amara, endured a 147-day siege and eventually surrendered in late April 1916. Nearly half the 11,800 captured troops died in captivity or on their way to prison camps.

In March 1917, British-led reinforcements marched back up the Tigris and claimed Baghdad.

British Gen. Frederick Stanley Maude telegraphed the news to London, an announcement that lifted a veil of despair from a country engaged in the grinding stalemate of World War I.

Maude was lauded as a hero. Within eight months, he was dead of cholera, one of 31,000 deaths suffered by the British and Indian armies during the four-year Mesopotamia campaign.

Maude's grave lies in a sandstone temple in the center of a cemetery out by Baghdad's old north gates, where a railroad once ran.

There are 7,000 to 10,000 graves in the cemetery, with rows of sun-bleached British headstones, a clump of unmarked Turkish graves and an empty expanse once used for funeral pyres for Hindu soldiers.

An engineer supervising the cemetery's refurbishment, Mo Muhesen al-Hashimi, said that each day at sunset he pauses at the cemetery's gate and says a prayer for the dead.

"I believe they were victims," he said of the soldiers. "They were sent by their governments."

Baghdad became the administrative center for the British, who created Iraq in 1920 and exerted power long after the country's 1932 independence. They filled Baghdad with their bureaucrats, businessmen and teachers, even a social club that still remains. In 1958, the British lost their influence when the Iraqi military toppled a Hashemite monarchy in a violent coup.

Ten years later, the Baath party took power in Baghdad, setting the nation on a course that would lead to Hussein's rule.

American diplomat George Kennan, who visited the city in 1944, described Iraq as "a country in which man's selfishness and stupidity have ruined almost all natural productivity."

Kennan wrote that "those few Americans who remember something of the pioneer life of their own country will find it hard to view these deserts without a pang of interest and excitement at the possibilities of reclamation and economic development."

But Kennan concluded, "They will restrain their excitement at the silent, expectant possibilities in the Middle Eastern deserts and will return, like disappointed but dutiful children, to the sad deficiencies and problems of their native land."

He said U.S. Apache helicopters attacked Saddam's Republican Guard forces arrayed around Baghdad while another official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said a "large portion" of the day's bombing runs were dedicated to hitting the same units.

Defense officials at the Pentagon said the Apaches encountered heavy ground fire during their assault on the Medina armored division. One official said many Apaches were hit by fire, but managed to destroy about 10 Iraqi tanks before cutting off their attack.

The U.S. Air Force flew more than 1,500 sorties over Iraq on Monday. So far, 80 percent of the bombs and missiles used by the Air Force have been guided by lasers, radar, satellites or video cameras, a defense official said.

The Pentagon says the munitions are highly accurate, but Iraq claimed that 252 civilians had been killed Sunday, including 194 in Baghdad. It did not give any figures for military deaths.

Asked about ground forces, McChrystal said, "We have not gotten into direct firefights with Republican

Guard forces."

That seemed a matter of not much time, though.

The Army's 3rd Infantry Division was within 80 kilometers (50 miles) of the capital, battling sandstorms more than Iraqi fire as it neared the approaches to Baghdad.

Some Iraqis waved or gave a thumbs-up as the convoy passed on its dash through southern Iraq, while others stood stoically.

The advance of long columns of thousands of vehicles was aided by heavy air protection that wiped out a column of Iraqi armor at one point and sent some of Saddam's outer defenses withdrawing toward the capital. The convoy passed bombed anti-aircraft guns, empty foxholes, and berms dug for tanks that had been abandoned.

President Bush invited senior lawmakers to the White House, and aides said he would ask Congress for nearly \$75 billion. Of that, \$62.6 billion would be in direct war costs, according to these aides, for 30 days of combat. The request was also expected to include up to \$3 billion to

guard against terrorist threats, as well as aid to Israel, Afghanistan and other U.S. allies, a down payment on humanitarian aid for Iraq and for rebuilding the country, and money to increase security for American diplomats.

Bush, scheduled to confer in Washington later this week with Blair, also talked with Russian President Vladimir Putin by phone, complaining that Russia is selling anti-tank guided missiles, jamming devices, and night-vision goggles to Iraq.

Polls taken since the war began show growing support for the military campaign. But there were fresh anti-war

protests across the United States and abroad. Police arrested more than 123 people in San Francisco, and at least 50 in Hartford.

Iraqi television showed pictures of one American helicopter in a grassy field, and men in Arab headdresses brandishing automatic rifles as they did a victory dance around the aircraft. Hours later, Iraqi television showed two men it said made up the crew.

The U.S. war commander Gen. Tommy Franks confirmed a two-man crew was missing. However, he denied Iraqi reports that the craft had been shot down by farmers.



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Graduation Rate	85%	75%	65%	55%
Research Funding	\$10M	\$5M	\$2M	\$1M

What Do Other Georgia Schools Have?

College	Georgia Tech	Georgia State	University of Georgia	Georgia Southern
Enrollment	20,000	15,000	10,000	5,000
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KRT Campus

California State University at Fullerton Daily Titan writer Ron Larson, 39, tests the satellite phone he will be taking to Kuwait. Larson is the only journalist for a college newspaper to be embedded with military forces to cover the war in Iraq.

Only embedded journalist for college newspaper hits Kuwait

KRT Campus

SANTA ANA, Calif. — While his classmates at California State University, Fullerton, are scoping out sunny locations for spring break, Ronald Paul Larson arrived Monday in a very warm place.

Kuwait. It's nice this time of year in the desert kingdom — well, except for the severe sandstorms, such as the one that recently blew down 17 U.S. Army tents.

Grilling, 120-degree heat is just a few weeks away. Nary a river nor a lake interrupts the country's flat carpet of sand.

So why did Larson spend \$1,403 for a round-trip airline ticket to Kuwait City?

He wants to cover a war. Kuwait is the staging area for much of the U.S. military buildup in the Persian Gulf. Tens of thousands of U.S. soldiers set up camp there, poised to attack Iraq.

Larson's decision to practice journalism halfway around the globe came as he neared the end of course work for a master's degree in history.

The studied pace of a college professor, his goal when he enrolled at Cal State Fullerton, has been replaced by a new aspiration — correspondent. At 39, he's older than most of the other staff at the Daily Titan, but he's perhaps the most driven.

Besides the airfare, he reached into his own wallet for a satellite telephone rental (\$185 a month, \$1.80 per minute), antenna, transmission data kit, adapter and batteries (\$308) flak vest (\$130) and a used Kevlar helmet (\$85). The helmet's former owner apparently was "Pewitt." That's the name printed on the inside.

Pay will be a hearty thanks from the Daily Titan and perhaps two credits for "independent study." After he has sent his dispatches to the Daily Titan, the paper will make them available to college

newspapers around the nation.

He also will be writing for the Kenosha (Wis.) News, his hometown newspaper; Red Eye, a newspaper for young people in Chicago; and The Orange County Register. Each of those papers will pay him a piece rate for his work. At best, Larson probably will earn enough to pay for his trip and equipment.

Unless the final diplomatic forays succeed, Larson is unlikely to be in Kuwait very long. He is traveling with an Army unit pressing into Iraq soon after U.S. bombers hit targets in and around Baghdad.

Larson frets less about his safety than possible technological problems with his laptop computer, satellite telephone, video camera and 35mm still camera. Should the improbable happen, though, and all that equipment fails, Larson may be able to entertain the troops. In high school, he tap-danced a number in his school's production of "No, No, Nanette."

When he was told earlier this month that the Defense Department had accepted his application to cover the Middle East buildup, Larson said he was excited but also nervous that he might be getting in over his head.

"I still feel that way," he said before leaving.

His parents and older sister, all back in Kenosha, where he grew up, are "worried, nervous and excited" about his trip, he said.

His editor and the Titan faculty adviser are confident.

"It's a great opportunity for Ron and the Daily Titan," said Professor Tom Clanin, the paper's faculty adviser. "He's going to focus on profiles and personalities — he will put a human face on the war."

And he has seen combat.

After completing his Army service mostly guarding weapons in Germany,

Larson journeyed to Afghanistan and spent a month taking pictures of Mujahedeen soldiers fighting the Soviet army.

Larson wonders whether he will be deep in Iraq a month from now. He will be eating, sleeping and traveling with the unit he is attached to, a radical departure from the access allowed journalists in previous conflicts.

His role model is Ernie Pyle, the famed World War II correspondent who focused on the ordinary soldier's life. He says he "questions the wisdom" of the U.S. attack on Iraq, "but as far as my job, I'm apolitical."

"My job will be to explain what life is like for these soldiers," he said. "I just hope my equipment will not break, and I will do a good job."

KRT Campus

The following story was written on Sunday, March 23 by Ronald Paul Larson. He is a graduate student at California State University, Fullerton, and a correspondent for the school's newspaper, the Daily Titan. He is the only embedded journalist for a college paper.

CAMP CAMDEN, Kuwait — Four more Scud alarms sounded Friday; one in the morning, the rest in the afternoon, and another on Saturday about 6:30 p.m. There were none on Sunday. I am told there were 15 altogether, but I lost track. The soldiers are grateful that there are fewer alarms. They are ready to get out of the hot, uncomfortable chemical protective suits, or what Cpl. Delon Lee from Tampa Bay, Fla. calls "Gumby" suits.

Since the first Scud attack, the soldiers have had to wear the suits all the time. Fortunately, they do not have to wear the boots, gloves or masks constantly. That would be impossible. They merely have to carry them, just as they carry their M-16s. The soldiers are issued a camouflage duffel bag that they sling over their shoulder case that holds the protective boots and gloves.

That is not all that they have to carry. The soldiers must also wear their helmet and flak jacket at all times. Walking around in a chemical suit, helmet and flak jacket while carrying a nuclear, biological and chemical bag, an M-16 and a protective mask on your hip is very tiring and makes going to the bathroom a seriously considered decision.

Many soldiers don't wear pants or a shirt when they wear the chemical protective suit because of the heat.

One of the officers I am bunking with is Nathan "Herb" Hancock of Gulf Shores, Ala. A West Point football teammate gave him the nickname "Herb" after Herbie Hancock, the fa-

mous jazz musician.

One morning I saw Capt. Hancock put on his suit wearing only his underwear.

"If I'm going to get slimed by a chemical attack I don't care if I have any clothes on," he said.

Camp Camden, named after Camden Yards baseball stadium, is much smaller than Camp Arifjan. Often the camps are called ballparks because they are named after baseball stadiums. At Camp Camden there are no permanent cinder block buildings. It is made up entirely of tents, parked Humvees and trucks, cargo containers, and portable bathrooms. There are probably less than 100 tents here but more troops seem to arrive daily. In my tent last Thursday, for example, there were two or three others. Now at least six more have arrived.

I am embedded with the 36th Engineer Group. The 36th is an active Army unit normally stationed at Fort Benning, Ga. The unit's job is to command different types of engineer units that are capable of designing and constructing everything from roads to camps with running water and electricity, including prisoner-of-war camps. The units that the 36th commands are known as combat heavy engineer battalions. They are the construction battalions of the army.

At the moment the 36th consists of the 46th Engineer Battalion, an active duty unit stationed at Fort Polk, La., and the 109th Engineer Battalion, a National Guard unit from South Dakota. Two firefighting units under the 95th Fire Fighting Headquarters and the 21st Facilities Engineer Team are also with the group. The 21st is made up of National Guard members from Massachusetts, Virginia and West Virginia. The soldiers in this unit are senior officers and non-commissioned officers who have expertise in repairing

damaged water supply, electric distribution, and sanitation facilities.

Col. Michael Biering commands the 36th Engineer Group. Biering is an energetic man in his late 40s, born and raised in Charleston, S.C.

"One day I hope to go back," he said. He started the junior ROTC unit at Goose Creek, a South Carolina high school, and has been wearing a military uniform ever since. He received an appointment to West Point in 1974 by former Sen. Strom Thurmond and graduated in 1978.

I think someone once said that rumors are the soldiers' currency in trade. I was put in a tent that had two of three officers in it. When I woke up on Friday morning, one of them said that the 101st Airborne Division had dropped into Baghdad.

"The 3rd ID (Infantry Division) is lethal. I know, I was with them," he said. He said that the reason we didn't have any more Scud attacks was because the 3rd ID had moved so far north. We ended up having five more Scud alerts after he said this.

Since Friday, the sky to the north has a solid gray at the horizon, which turns a lighter gray as you look up. I was later told that the gray sky was caused by seven oil wells that were on fire.

On Saturday I was awakened by a major who said that the Army had bridged the Euphrates and that an entire Iraqi regiment had surrendered.

These types of rumors are common, even in the age of CNN. This is because the soldiers themselves generally do not have access to news.

Soldiers often ask other soldiers that have come in from the outside if they have heard any news.

Julie Campbell of Hendersonville, Tenn., said the enlisted personnel have a \$20 pool on when they will go home. The last date is December.

Announcement — Student Media Positions Selection 2003-2004

The Student Media Advisory Board of Georgia Southern University announces its selection process to choose student editors and managers of the 2003-2004 broadcast and editorial boards of the university's official student media (The George-Anne, Miscellany Magazine, Southern Reflector Magazine, and WVGS/FM). Students interested in applying for an elected position will be expected to present (1) a **resume**; (2) a **letter of application** explaining the candidate's qualifications and their plans or objectives for the media position sought; and (3) a **signed waiver** (included with this advertisement) which gives permission to the chairperson of the Student Media Advisory Board to validate the candidate's academic standing. Students may indicate the position(s) sought either in their letter of application or on the waiver form. However, a separate application packet (a **resume**, a **letter of application** and a **signed waiver**) should be submitted for each medium, if a student wishes to apply for more than one.

SELECTION AND TERM: The editorial and broadcast boards will be selected by members of the committee based on a majority of those voting, according to committee by-laws. The term of office for the editorial and broadcast boards shall extend through the end of the next spring semester.

QUALIFICATIONS: Specific qualifications for persons holding board positions are listed below. Prior experience may be considered in lieu of stated qualifications. The board positions for each medium are listed in ranking order.

THE GEORGE-ANNE

Editor in Chief — The editor should have completed two years of college work, at least one year at Georgia Southern. An editor should have served on the staff one year and should display capabilities required for the position. The editor is responsible for the preparation of a commentary section for each edition. The editor serves as the chief executive officer of the newspaper and is ultimately responsible for the total editorial content of each edition. (Pay: \$1,900 per full semester)

Managing Editor — The managing editor should have completed at least one year at Georgia Southern and should have served at least one semester on the staff. The managing editor should be familiar with basic journalistic practices such as layout, copy editing, and news and feature writing. The managing editor will be responsible for coordinating the editorial content in all sections of the newspaper, such as news, sports and features. The managing editor (with the assistance of the news editor) will be responsible for the preparation of the front page. (Pay: \$1,800 per full semester)

News Editor — The news editor should know basic news writing and should be familiar with news sources on campus. The news editor should demonstrate news judgment and should have served at least one semester on the staff of the paper. The news editor will be responsible for all news gathering operations of the newspaper. The news editor assists the managing editor in the preparation of the front page. (Pay: \$1,700 per full semester)

MISCELLANY

Editor — The editor should have completed two years of college work, at least one year at Georgia Southern. The editor should demonstrate both the interest and the talent to create a quality publication which showcases the arts — literary, visual, and, to the extent practicable, performance arts — on behalf of the university's students, and to promote the arts in the university community through the staging of various arts-oriented events. The editor, in cooperation with an assistant editor, will conduct a juried selection of contributors for the magazine. The editor will be responsible for the total editorial content of the magazine. (Pay: \$650 per full semester)

SOUTHERN REFLECTOR

Editor — The editor should have completed two years of university work, at least one year at Georgia Southern. The editor should have served at least one year on the Reflector staff and should be familiar with magazine copy writing, magazine photojournalism, layout and design of pages, and staff management. The editor is responsible for the all editorial operations for each edition. The editor serves as the chief executive officer of the magazine and is ultimately responsible for the total content of each edition. (Pay: \$1,150 per full semester)

Art Director — The Art Director should have served at least one year on the Southern Reflector staff and should be knowledgeable in all aspects of magazine production, including but not limited to layout and design,

computer graphics, and all photographic processes used by the Reflector. The Art Director will be responsible for the management of photographic assignments and photographic production work. In addition to these duties, the Art Director shall perform other duties as assigned by the current Editor. (Pay: \$1100 per full semester)

Managing Editor — The managing editor should have completed one year at Georgia Southern and should have served at least one semester on the staff. The managing editor should be familiar with magazine production and university business procedures. The managing editor is responsible for promotional activities in support of the magazine, advertising operations, routine office management, and financial review, and distribution of the magazine. In addition to these duties, the Managing Editor shall perform other duties as assigned by the current Editor. (Pay: \$1050 per full semester)

WVGS/FM

Station Manager — The station manager should have completed two years of college work, at least one year at Georgia Southern, and should have served at least one year on the staff of the station. The manager should display leadership qualities and should have a basic knowledge of Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules and regulations, broadcast equipment, and budgetary matters. (Pay: \$1400 per full semester)

Program Director — The program director should have completed at least one year of college work and should have served at least one semester on the staff of the station. The program director is responsible for reporting playlists to trade journals, maintaining telephone and mail contacts with music companies, adding program materials to the station's computer system, and developing and implementing other programs. (Pay: \$1300 per full semester)

Operations Manager — The operations manager should have completed at least one year at Georgia Southern and should have served at least one

semester as a DJ (disc jockey) at the station. The operations manager is responsible for keeping WVGS in compliance with all Federal Communications Commission rules for noncommercial radio stations, producing PSAs (public service announcements), and producing quarterly issues lists. The individual who applies for this position should be well organized, skilled at using station equipment and facilities, and able to interact with other people effectively when enforcing compliance with FCC and station regulations. (Pay: \$1,300 per full semester)

DEADLINE: The deadline for the receipt of all applications for any of these positions is **Friday, April 4, at 5 p.m.** Applications should be sent to Bill Neville, chairperson, Student Media Advisory Board, in care of Box 8067, or delivered in person to Room 2022, Williams Center.

COMPENSATION: Payment rates for board members are tentative and pending final approval by the Student Activities Budget Committee.

INTERVIEW DATE: The Board has established two interview sessions for candidates. All candidates for board positions **MUST APPEAR PERSONALLY** for interviews as follows: for WVGS on Friday, April 11, with a nominating committee; for the George-Anne and Miscellany Magazine with the full committee on Friday, April 18; and for Southern Reflector and WVGS/FM on Friday, April 25. All interviews will be held at 3:30 p.m. in Room 2007 of F.I. Williams Center (Upper Floor).

APPLICATION FORM AND WAIVER

INFORMATION: Questions regarding these positions should be directed to the advisors of the media: Larry Anderson (The GEORGE-ANNE) at 681-0128 or Box 8091; Mike Mills (MISCELLANY) at 681-0228 or Box 8026; Dianne Lamb (REFLECTOR MAGAZINE) at 681-0534 or Box 8091; or Ray Harris (WVGS/FM) at 681-5369 or Box 8091. Additional information and interpretation of the qualifications may be obtained from the chairperson, Bill Neville (681-0069 or Box 8067).

Position(s) applied for (Please check ALL that are applicable):

GEORGE-ANNE	MISCELLANY	REFLECTOR	WVGS/FM
<input type="checkbox"/> Editor in Chief	<input type="checkbox"/> Editor	<input type="checkbox"/> Editor	<input type="checkbox"/> Station Manager
<input type="checkbox"/> Managing Editor		<input type="checkbox"/> Art Director	<input type="checkbox"/> Program Director
<input type="checkbox"/> News Editor		<input type="checkbox"/> Managing Editor	<input type="checkbox"/> Operations Mgr.

- Students interested in applying for an elected position is required to present (1) a **resume**; (2) a **letter of application** explaining the candidate's qualifications and their plans or objectives for the media position sought; and (3) a **signed waiver** (included below) which gives permission to the chairperson of the Media Committee to validate the candidate's academic standing.
- Students seeking a position on an editorial or broadcast board must have a **CUMULATIVE GRADE POINT AVERAGE of at least 2.0 and must not be on scholastic or disciplinary probation**. If at any time a board member drops below these standards, that member must relinquish the position.

I, _____ do hereby authorize the Media Committee, in relation to the above criteria for board positions, to contact the GSU student records representatives to validate my academic standing for compliance. This validation may be at a time of application and at any time during the period I would hold a board position.

Signed _____ Box No. _____

Social Security No. _____ Date _____

E-Mail address _____

This (1) application/waiver form (or facsimile), together with a (2) resume and a (3) letter of application for each medium in which a position(s) is sought, is due by Friday, April 4, 2003, by 5 p.m. delivered to: Student Media Advisory Board, Bill Neville, chair, Rm 2022 Williams Ctr Box 8067, GSU, Statesboro, GA 30460.

CUT, FROM PAGE 1

The House of Representatives has already adopted a budget calling for Bush's full tax cut. The new Senate number will have to be reconciled with the House's, but the emergence of a narrow Senate majority against Bush's position strongly reduces his chance of getting anything near what he wants.

A handful of key moderates insist they will not accept any tax cut larger than \$350 billion, and if the Republicans among them stand with most Democrats, they could hold that line. Republican Sens. Lincoln Chafee of Rhode Island, Olympia Snowe of Maine and George Voinovich of Ohio voted Tuesday to shrink the tax cut.

"The uncertainty of the war and the realization that we're operating in a deficit and not a surplus are all factors that allowed to pass a reduction in the tax cut," said Sen. John Breaux, the Louisiana Democrat who helped spearhead the move.

Final Senate passage of the budget could occur as early as Wednesday. Republicans vowed to propose a number of amendments that would restore some of Bush's tax cut money, but chances that they would succeed appeared slim.

The key player Tuesday was Sen.

Ernest Hollings, D-S.C., who sunk Friday's effort to cut the tax cut in half. Hollings opposed that proposal, saying he would prefer no tax cut at all. But Breaux resurrected the amendment, changing it slightly to match language Hollings had supported in an earlier Budget Committee vote.

"He was able to look at this amendment on the floor of the Senate and support it," Breaux said.

To secure Hollings' vote, Senate moderates specified that the money taken out of Bush's tax cut would be placed in a "reserve fund" to help pay for changes to Social Security. Republicans scoffed at the adjustment, saying it made the money available for further spending.

"The history of such reserve funds is that they serve as a piggy bank for more spending," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said. "We'll see what ultimately comes out of the Senate. They have a lot more voting to do."

Though a rebuke to Bush, Tuesday's vote makes it virtually certain that Bush will get some kind of tax cut this year — a remarkable achievement during wartime when the deficit is pegged at a record \$305 billion, even before war costs are added.

"Above all else, never think you're not good enough."

—Anthony Trollope

Classifieds, Etc.

Wednesday, March 26, 2003

Page 12

Crossword

ACROSS
1 Get well
5 Johann and Richard
10 Andy's pal
14 Ms. Bombek
15 Dwight's rival
16 Dealer's model
17 Legal claim
18 Green years
19 First of billions?
20 Study of trees
22 Square of three
23 Top-drawer
24 Storyline
26 Quibble
29 Canyon reply?
31 Onager
34 Groza and Gehrig
35 Edible submarines
37 Definite article
38 Tiger Woods' org.
39 Woody Allen movie
40 Writer Levin
41 Loop layer
42 Up for the day
43 Verse form
44 Gallery display
45 Commanded, old-style
46 Kitchen fixtures
47 Fortas and Lincoln
49 Wait a minute!
51 Childhood taboo
53 Short-haired, blue-eyed feline
59 Joie de vivre
60 Loader
61 Alone
62 "The of the Ancient Mariner"
63 Slugger
64 Garciaparra
65 Vices
66 Edibles
68 Angry gaze
69 Votes against

DOWN
1 Kept back
2 HOMES part
3 Prayer conclusion
4 Four-wheeled convertible

carriages
5 Conductor's stick
6 One Astaire
7 Asp victim, briefly
8 Dangle
9 Endlessly laborious
10 Hersey's bell town
11 Contemplative period
12 Musical's land
13 Vague amount
21 Fish eggs
25 Defeat
26 Beta precursor
27 Maris or Mudd
28 Cuban bay
29 Deleite
30 Ice-cream container
32 Eddie Murphy movie
33 Clothes lines?
35 Pestering
36 Geraint's loyal wife

02/08/03
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Solutions

ACROSS
1 GET WELL
5 JOHANN AND RICHARD
10 ANDY'S PAL
14 MS. BOMBKE
15 DWIGHT'S RIVAL
16 DEALER'S MODEL
17 LEGAL CLAIM
18 GREEN YEARS
19 FIRST OF BILLIONS?
20 STUDY OF TREES
22 SQUARE OF THREE
23 TOP-DRAWER
24 STORYLINE
26 QUIBBLE
29 CANYON REPLY?
31 ONAGER
34 GROZA AND GEHRIG
35 EDIBLE SUBMARINES
37 DEFINITE ARTICLE
38 TIGER WOODS' ORG.
39 WOODY ALLEN MOVIE
40 WRITER LEVIN
41 LOOP LAYER
42 UP FOR THE DAY
43 VERSE FORM
44 GALLERY DISPLAY
45 COMMANDED, OLD-STYLE
46 KITCHEN FIXTURES
47 FORTAS AND LINCOLN
49 WAIT A MINUTE!
51 CHILDHOOD TABOO
53 SHORT-HAIRED, BLUE-EYED FELINE
59 JOIE DE VIVRE
60 LOADER
61 ALONE
62 "THE ANCIENT MARINER"
63 SLUGGER
64 GARCIAPARRA
65 VICES
66 EDIBLES
68 ANGRY GAZE
69 VOTES AGAINST

DOWN
1 KEPT BACK
2 HOMES PART
3 PRAYER CONCLUSION
4 FOUR-WHEELED CONVERTIBLE
5 CONDUCTOR'S STICK
6 ONE ASTAIRE
7 ASP VICTIM, BRIEFLY
8 DANGLE
9 ENDLESSLY LABORIOUS
10 HERSEY'S BELL TOWN
11 CONTEMPLATIVE PERIOD
12 MUSICAL'S LAND
13 VAGUE AMOUNT
21 FISH EGGS
25 DEFEAT
26 BETA PRECURSOR
27 MARIS OR MUDD
28 CUBAN BAY
29 DELEITE
30 ICE-CREAM CONTAINER
32 EDDIE MURPHY MOVIE
33 CLOTHES LINES?
35 PESTERING
36 GERAIN'T'S LOYAL WIFE

PAUL

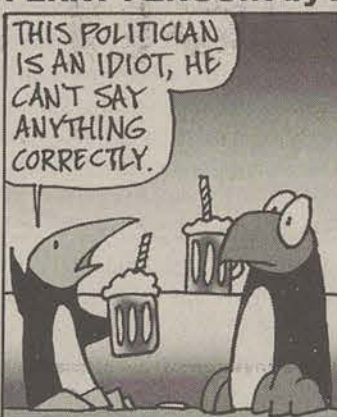


BY BILLY O'KEEFE

WWW.MRBILLY.COM

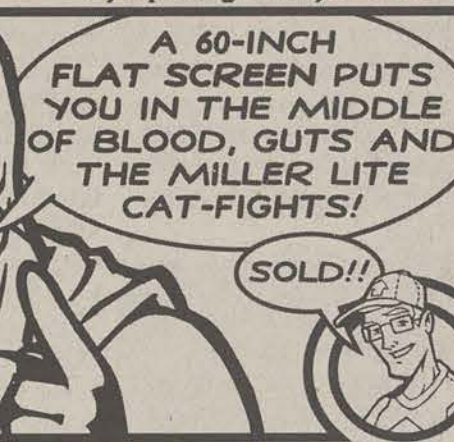


PERRY PENGUIN by Andrew S. Williams



CAPTAIN RIBMAN® in Super [Sales] Man : Part 3

by Sprengelmeyer & Davis



10 G-A Action Ads

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS: The George-Anne is the official student newspaper of Georgia Southern University, owned and operated by GSU students and utilizing the facilities provided by GSU. The newspaper is the oldest continuously published in Bulloch County and Statesboro, Ga. The ideas expressed herein are those of the editor or the individual authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Student Media Committee, the administration, the faculty and staff of Georgia Southern University, or the University System of Georgia. The George-Anne is published three times weekly during the academic year and five times during summers. Any questions regarding content should be directed to the editor at by phone at 912/681-5246 or fax at 912/486-7113. Readers may also send electronic messages to the newspaper staff by visiting our web site at <http://www.stp.gasou.edu>.

OFFICES, MAIL, PHONES: Room 2023, F. I. Williams Center. The George-Anne, P.O. Box 8001, Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, Ga. 30460. 912/681-5246 (News) or 912/618-5418 (Advertising) or 912/486-7113 (Fax)

ADVERTISING INFORMATION
The George-Anne reserves the right to refuse any advertisement.
DISPLAY AD DEADLINE: The deadline for reserving space and submitting advertising copy is Noon, one week prior to the intended publication date.
For more information, rate cards, sample publications, contact: David Brennaman, Advertising Director, ADS, (912) 681-5418; 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.

CIRCULATION INFORMATION: Mail subscriptions are not available at this time. However, readers may visit our web site for free access to current and past issues. Visit www.stp.gasou.edu. It is the goal of the newspaper to have its edition placed on-line within 24 hours of publication. Breaking news will be placed on-line as warranted. The George-Anne is distributed free of charge on the Georgia Southern University campus through delivery sites located in campus buildings, at off-campus sites, and in residence halls.
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 All" — from Robert Williams of the Blackshear Times. Call Bob and he can tell you who he stole it from originally.

STUDENTS BEWARE
ATTENTION — The George-Anne screens all advertisements prior to publication. The newspaper strives to accept ads for legitimate products and services only. Students are urged to exercise caution

when replying to ads — particularly those which require a credit card number, other personal information, or money in advance of the delivery of a product or service. Students are also urged to report to the newspaper any suspicious offers which they might see in an ad. **Remember, if an offer seems too good to be true, it probably is.**

FREEBIE INFO ALL FREE
student and faculty ads to be run in the George-Anne must have a **NAME, P.O. BOX AND PHONE NUMBER.** Ads will be rejected if they do not have this information. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

20 Announcements

NEED A Jolly Jumper for your next party? Great for kids birthday party's or college frat/sor. events. Call 541-3588 for rental details.

SOUTHERN EXPLOSION Dance Team Tryouts, March 29th and 30th for more information email at gusdancers@yahoo.com.

PRE-ORDER Mitchell and Ness Throwbacks for \$175. Call Brian with team, size, color. Pre-order before Spring Break. 688-2969.

SAGE THE Student Alliance for Green Earth is holding Earth Day 2003 April 22 from 10AM - 3PM at the Rotunda. Interested? Meeting are 9PM Sundays at Southern Union Room 2052.

NEED MONEY? Check this home based business out. <http://Katsuki.quickpros.biz/> If I can do it, you can too!

THURSDAY, MARCH 13th 7:00pm HRM students are presenting Mediterranean Cuisine Night managed and produced by HRM students. To make reservations call Leslie Fur at 681-5617 Thanks!

40 Autos for Sale

1985 BUICK Regal (white) for sale. Brand new tires. Needs carburetor work. \$1500 OBO. Call Sandra 489-2110 after 6 PM.

1996 PLYMOUTH Neon, red, 4-door, 5-speed, rims, new Sony CD Player, good condition. \$3000 call 541-7400.

1995 NEON 4dr, manual, 104 K, rebuilt engine, new radiator, new battery, new tires. Asking \$3000. Call now! Leave message 688-2114.

1991 ISUZU Rodeo 4X4. Brand new transmission, tires, and AC. Only \$2000 - it's a steal under whole sale. Call 912-541-2211.

'96 TOYOTA Corolla for sale...3,000 OBO, 84,000 miles, minor damage to body. If you are interested please call 912-531-3232.

2001 POLARIS trailblazer 4-wheeler for sale. Low hours, white with yellow trim, 3000 negotiable. Comes with 4X8 ft. Trailer. Call Jason @ 541-3588.

FOR SALE 1992 Chevy Cavalier convertible, looks great and runs even better. Call for details. Asking \$1500 OBO, Call 489-2270.

1995 HONDA Accord EX, Dark green, Sunroof, 4 brand new aquatred tires, Strict maintenance schedule, 118K Highway miles, \$5,500. Call 489-3131.

50 Auto Parts, Repair

18" RIMS and tires 5 lug pattern chrome wheels with low profile tires. Rims in good condition tires in great condition. \$650 OBO. 404-934-9891 or 912-681-1563.

RIMS 4 sale: 16 inch Dayton on Vogue tires. One tire new. Call 706-466-3166.

60 Business Opportunities

★
\$250/day Potential
Bartending
Training Provided
Local Positions
1-800-293-3985 ext 312

80 Computers & Software

FOR SALE: 100mb zip Disk Drive with parallel port hook-up and installation disk. Good condition and great price. Call Now! 764-6443.

COMPUTER FOR sale. HP Pavilion X856 933MHZ 256S DRAM 40GB HD DVD. CD-RW, 56K modem, HP MX70 monitor. Asking \$350, 681-3105 EXT 232, Sam.

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

ANTIQUE WALNUT dining room table and 5 chairs. Table is expandable form 6 to 8 feet. Built in leaves are included. Needs refinishing. Rectangular shape with mitered corners. \$500. Call Heather @ 871-4112.

140 Help Wanted

SUMMER INTERNSHIPS Earn \$3000 to \$7000++ and gain valuable business experience working for the **Official Campus Telephone Directory**. Excellent. Advertising, Sales, and Marketing opportunity. **GREAT RESUME BOOSTER!** Call Paul at AroundCampus, Inc. 1-800-466-2221 ext.288. www.aroundcampus.com.

160 Miscellaneous for Sale

PAINT BALL GUN, tank, mask - only \$100 has 2 tanks. Call 912-541-2211.

SPECIAL BUY one platinum FUBU shirt for \$30. Or buy two shirts for \$50. Call Eddie at 871-3680.

CABELA 9 ft. Fly Rod with graphite reel only used once \$50. 912-871-7835.

8 PIECE setting of Noritake fine china. Pattern is Fairchild. Tea/coffee server included in set. Never been used, pristine condition. \$500. Call Heather @ 871-4112.

180 Musical

DRUMMER AND bassist needed for hard rock band. Leave a message at 871-3686.

BASS PLAYER needed for local band Orion. Experience and love of hard rock are musts. You will make money! Call 681-2739 for more info.

1950 BALDWIN Acronsonic upright piano. Physically in excellent condition. may need tuning. Bench included. \$1500. Call Heather @ 871-4112.

195 Personal Electronics

FOR SALE: Nokia 5170 cell phone w/ 3 faceplates, leather case, and charger. Good Price! Call Now! 764-6443.

200 Pets & Supplies

FOUND: mixed lab puppy needs a yard to run, very sweet, I would love to keep her, but no room. Free to a good home. 706-284-5519.

220 Rentals & Real Estate

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230 Roommates

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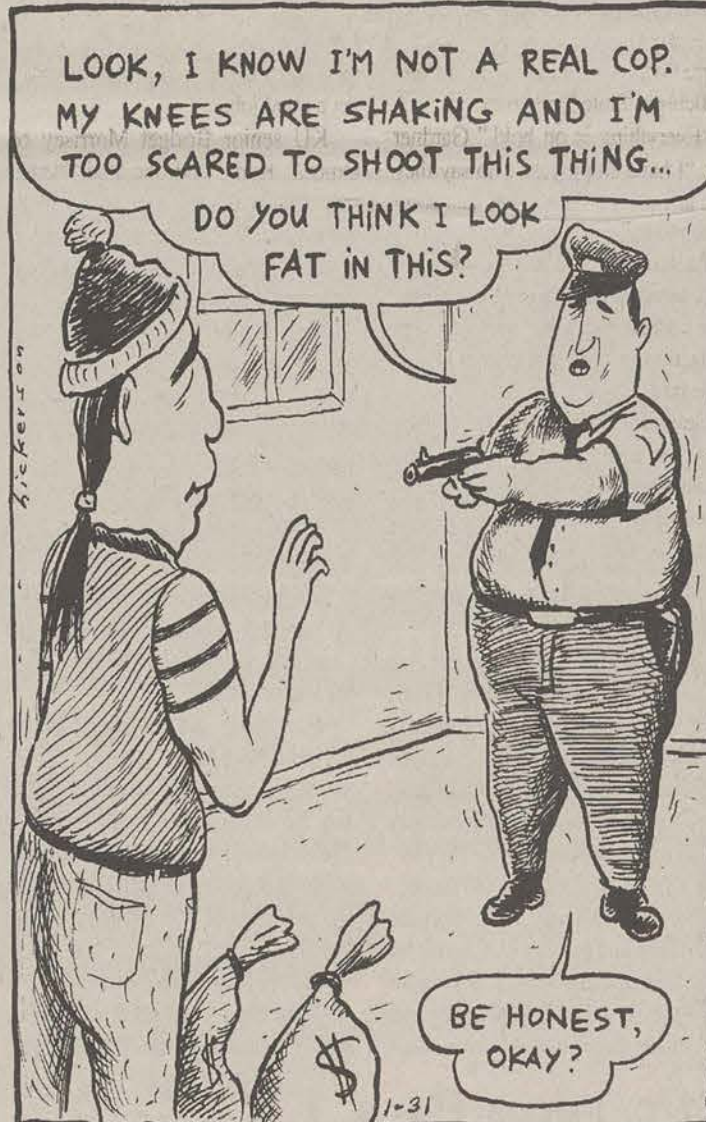
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KRT Campus

Amanda Denning is working her third internship, this one for a PR firm representing the makers of Twinkies, and is confident on getting a job after graduating from college.

Graduates-to-be will face greater uncertainty in a bleak job market

KRT Campus

KANSAS CITY - Spring break traditionally is a time for college students to escape their burdens and loll on sunny beaches.

Amanda Denning has friends at the University of Kansas who will carry out that custom in Acapulco, Mexico, and she could go with them. But with the job market for college graduates shaping up as the worst in a decade, Denning instead decided to visit companies in Austin, Texas.

She is setting up "informational interviews" in the public relations field, hoping they will lead to job interviews.

"I have friends who graduated with the very same major as mine last year, and they still are looking," said Denning, 22, who will graduate in May. "It's very scary. Very, very scary."

The booming job market of the late 1990s started to give way early in 2001 and soured significantly last year. This year it is even tighter. The bumpy economy and a potential war with Iraq have dissolved earlier hopes that things might turn around this spring, said Philip Gardner, director of the Collegiate Employment Research Institute at Michigan State University.

"Everything is on hold," Gardner said. "I have employers who say they have intentions to hire. They just don't know when."

At universities in Kansas and Missouri, career placement directors see the same uncertainty. Some companies are hiring, they said, but not in the numbers of the past.

Graduates are in relatively the same fix as their counterparts were 10 years ago with the recession of the early 1990s, according to Gardner and others. The difference, they said, is that 10 years ago everyone knew that the economy would turn around after companies restructured.

This time, it is harder to predict when things will shake out, said Douglas Buchanan, director of career services at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

"Now it's like everybody is waiting on something," Buchanan said. "Everything depends on everything else."

That inability to predict a turnaround also weighs on Gardner. Because of it, he said, "in all my (20) years of doing this, I haven't been quite as pessimistic."

In August, a survey by the National Association of Colleges and Employers showed that employers expected to hire 3.6 percent fewer graduates this spring. When the survey was updated in December, one-third of the respondents said they planned additional cutbacks.

"A lot of kids are trying really hard and still coming up short," said Camille Luckenbaugh, the association's employment information manager.

"Last year people were hoping the first quarter of this year would be a turning point, but that is not happening. ... We keep hoping we'll see a spark somewhere, but we just haven't seen it yet."

Last month, the association released a report that showed salary offers to many new college graduates were lower than they were a year ago.

The average offer to computer science graduates sank 13.1 percent, from \$51,429 in January 2002 to \$44,678 this January. Starting salaries slipped in many engineering disciplines and increased about 1 percent for liberal arts graduates.

At the University of Missouri-Columbia, the 400 engineering students who will graduate this spring are feeling the pinch, said Matthew Reiske, assistant director for the school's careers office.

"I think we got spoiled a couple years ago because the economy was so good that students could push things off until last minute and still receive very good

employment," Reiske said. "Now the companies that are hiring are not filling as many positions, so the market is pretty competitive."

Although the overall hiring picture looks glum, graduates in education, health care and the food industry are among those who should fare better than most, area universities reported. Graduates in computer science, technology and consulting have bleaker prospects.

"The most optimistic place for college graduates right now is employment with the federal government," said Gail Rooney, director of Career and Employment Services at the University of Kansas. The government is not growing, she said, but 50 percent of the federal government's employees are eligible to retire between 2005 and 2010, and some are retiring now.

MU senior Jonathan Lloyd of Kansas City thinks his chances are improved because of potential retirements in his field of parks, recreation and tourism. The 23-year-old, who has one class to take this summer before graduating, said he initially might have to do something he doesn't like. But in the long run, Lloyd is optimistic he will get a good job.

KU senior Bridget Morrissey of Ottawa, Kan., said she had friends majoring in art who wanted to work at museums but who were so unsettled by the employment prospects that they weren't even looking.

Morrissey, 21, will graduate in May with a degree in psychology. She hopes to land a job in sales and has had several interviews. If nothing pans out, she plans to go to graduate school.

She is not the only one thinking along those lines.

Applications for MU's law school in Columbia are up, Assistant Dean Donna Pavlick said.

Pavlick said that the school usually receives 700 applications for the 150 spots in its freshman class. Last year, with the big drop in the job market, applications soared to 903. This year, Pavlick said, she expects them to hit 1,000.

At Kansas State University, placement officers are talking about how to help those they call the "NIKE" graduates - "no-income kids with education," said Kerri Day Keller, interim director of K-State's Career and Employment Services.

Keller said she expects some graduates who fail to find jobs will return home this summer and live with their parents. With a "NIKE in the home," she said, those parents may start pushing their children in their job searches. K-State plans to offer online help, she said.

No one has had to push Denning, the KU student who is skipping the trip to Acapulco. She has had internships with Sprint Corp. and KU and is doing another now with a communications company near the Country Club Plaza.

Denning, from Basehor in Leavenworth County, said she would be delighted to get a job offer in Kansas City, but she also thinks Austin would be a good place to live.

Denning has turned to members of the KU Alumni Association and others to help her find company employees in Austin willing to meet for those "informational" interviews. She will share something about herself and ask for information about the public relations field.

She hopes the companies will remember her when a job opens up.

Denning gets a little envious when she thinks about her friends lolling on the beaches of Acapulco.

"But they may be jealous of me when they come back and I have a job and they don't," she said. "At least that's what I am hoping."



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