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SPORTS

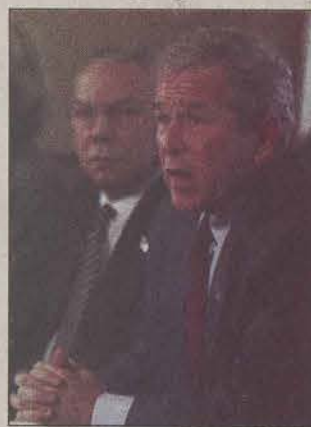
Eagle baseball splits weekend series with Bulldogs

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NEWS

Republicans preparing behind the scenes

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The GEORGE-ANNE

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February 23, 2004

Monday

Volume 76, Number 67

Three GSU students arrested on drug-related charges

88 indictments filed against 97 alleged drug traffickers – 68 arrests made last Wednesday

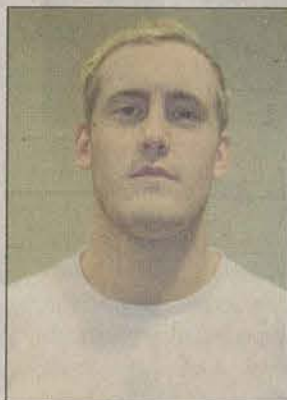
'Operation Infra' spanned 13 months, involved over 100 officers

Undercover operation included 128 transactions valued at \$18,514

Photos are Special to the G-A



Joshua Weyland Collins



Felin William Pipkin



Bahadir Sezer

By Scott Corwin
sdcorwin2@hotmail.com

For some it's a cup of coffee, but on Wednesday morning Player's Club resident Travis Lampert got his wake-up call from a gun – squarely aimed at his face as he opened his apartment door.

With helicopters hovering audibly above, Statesboro became the latest battleground in the government's war on drugs. It marks the end of a groundbreaking investigation into all local devices of trafficking conducted by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI).

Lampert, a 20-year-old freshman, had previously shared an apartment with Clayton Carlson, who is sought in connection with the blockbuster case.

"When they saw I was still in my boxers, he lowered the gun,"

said Lampert.

Assisting the GBI agents were several representatives from surrounding law agencies: the Statesboro Police, University Police, and Georgia State Patrol among others – over 100 officers in all.

On Monday and Tuesday, a grand jury sent the year-long case to the streets by providing 88 indictments against 97 alleged drug traffickers.

The initial wave, beginning at 4:30 a.m. Wednesday, scored a major success – officers made 68 arrests, seized 8 grams of cocaine, 50 methadone tablets, a half-ounce of marijuana, eight vehicles, and four firearms.

See Drugs, Page 9

Cancelled St. Pat's party on again after Savannah spat

By Russ Bynum
Associated Press

SAVANNAH, Ga. – For Mayor Otis Johnson, it was the sort of news Savannah couldn't afford: Portable Toilet Spat Cancels St. Patrick's Party.

So the mayor on Friday quickly resolved a quarrel between City Hall and organizers of the St. Patrick's riverfront festival – whose threat to cancel the party fueled fears that tourists would think Savannah called off its most profitable holiday altogether.

The dispute started two weeks ago when the City Council refused to pay \$12,774 for portable toilets during the two-day festival. The heated feud that followed led to organizers deciding Thursday to pull the plug.

"If anybody thought that port-a-potties would wreck St. Patrick's Day, I don't know what they were thinking. It's too important," Johnson said Friday after an agreement was reached to keep the party going.

If the Savannah Waterfront Association had canceled the riverfront festival, expected to draw 34,000 people, it wouldn't have scuttled the St. Pat's parade and other events that bring up to 400,000 each March 17.

But the news quickly spread beyond Savannah on Friday, leading to confusion from people wondering if they should cancel their St. Patrick's travel plans.

"Phone calls are coming in from people saying, 'Is the St. Patrick's Day celebration being canceled?'" said Anthony Schopp, president of the Savannah Convention and Visitors Bureau. "And we can't afford that."

St. Patrick's is the biggest tourism day of the year in Savannah, which boasts the nation's second-largest parade. A 2001 study estimated 97,100 partygoers attending the riverfront festival generated a \$30 million economic impact.

But heavy rains during St. Pat's last year put a serious damper on sales of \$5 wristbands required to drink outdoors

See St. Patrick's, Page 9

Asian Festival brings good tidings for the Chinese New Year



Celebration offers GSU students food and culture from the East

By Natalie Gazaway
ngazaway@hotmail.com

Asian Culture week at Georgia Southern was a success, bringing together Asian countries and their history through activities on campus.

The Asian Festival was held last Thursday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Rotunda. Booths were set up to represent such countries as Japan, China, Cambodia, Korea, India, and the Philippines.

Samples of food were offered at each table, as well as books and pictures to give students an insight into their culture and history.

Women from China and Korea had people lined up to get a souvenir of words written in their language. There was also a

table set up for those interested in traveling to Asia.

Pictures, figurines, postcards, books, clothes, and jewelry from all over the continent were displayed to show students the wonders of Asia.

Vicki Bostwick, administrative specialist from the Center for International Studies, made her rounds talking to students about the event and helping them understand the importance of Asian culture.

The events of the day that drew the most attention were the demonstrations of Jujitsu and Kung fu.

First, the Judo and Jujitsu club from GSU made an appearance.

See Celebration, Page 9
Photo by Hillary Jones/STAFF

Co-author of FISH! Philosophy to speak at PAC

By Tiffany Shaw
GAPgiri2k1@yahoo.com

Stephen Lundin, co-author of "FISH! A Remarkable way to Boost Morale and Improve Results," will be a featured speaker at the Performing Arts Center on Tuesday, February 24 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

The FISH! Philosophy has had a huge impact on the GSU campus.

According to Pearl Middleton of Career Services, "people are increasingly seeking meaning in their lives and want to be authentic at work."

In order to improve customer service and create an exciting work environment, many offices campus-wide are implementing the components of the FISH! Philosophy.

The four components of the FISH! Philosophy are play, be there, make their day and choose your attitude.

According to Melissa Muetzel, an office assistant in the Leadership and Outreach Programs office, the four components are an "epitome of being a great employee."

"Play simply means to create an exciting work environment and have fun while at work. 'The play component helps keep me sane,' Muetzel said.

'Be there' deals with the customer. Customer service is a business based on interacting with customers. This element emphasizes that the customer should feel as if they are what is most important."

'Make their day' requires that employees go that extra mile for their customers, and 'choose your attitude' gives the employee total control over how their day will go.

"All components of this philosophy are significant because they each play a very important role in FISH!," said Turena Johnson Lane, administrative assistant in the Leadership and Outreach Programs office.

The FISH! Philosophy was inspired by the fishmongers of Seattle's Pike Place Fish Market, where despite being in a difficult work environment,

See Lundin, Page 9

Weekday Weather

Monday



HIGH
66°
LOW
51°

Mostly Cloudy

Tuesday



HIGH
65°
LOW
53°

Rain

Only in America

- West Virginia child support hotline proves too hot for callers under 18
- Oklahoma city keeps its name despite temptation of veggie burgers
- A Pennsylvania mascot's head is finally returned



Page 3

Opinions

- One GSU student responds to a column labeling Abercrombie's advertising racist
- Marwand Roghaniwal of the Institute for War and Peace Reporting writes on the culture surrounding the cultivation of opium poppies in Afghanistan



Page 4

Sports

- Men's basketball upset by UNC Greensboro
- Newton leads Lady Eagles over Savannah State
- Softball finishes first in GSU Invitational



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Campus Calendar

February 23

Unity in Diversity
3:30 p.m.

This is the theme of a two-month-long exhibit at the GSU Museum. Dr. Beheruz Sethna, president of the State University of West Georgia, will give an inaugural speech for the exhibit which will be a great opportunity for all to learn about Indian culture, history and more. At the Georgia Southern Museum.

Student Appreciation Day
10 p.m. to 1 p.m.

This event is a combined effort of Career Services, businesses, employers, student organizations and GSU departments for a fun-filled day on the pedestrian. At the Rotunda.

Battle of the Sexes
8:06 p.m.

This event is a part of Alpha Phi

Alpha Week 2004. At Russell Union Room 2045.

February 24

Fish! Philosophy Presentation
10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Co-author of "Fish! A Remarkable Way to Boost Morale and Improve Results" will speak about this guide to motivation in the workplace. His talk is titled "Catch the Energy and Release Potential." At the Performing Arts Center.

Coffee and Majors Fair
12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

As part of Career Week, this event will host representatives from all seven colleges to provide major and career information to students. Students can also gather information on specific majors, meet with faculty, and learn how to declare majors. At the Williams Center.

Spring Softball
6 p.m.

Campus Recreational and Intramurals will sponsor Spring Softball. Entries to participate are due today. There will be a Captains' Meeting Wednesday. Teams will begin play March 1. For more information call 912-681-5436. At the Recreational Activities Center (RAC).

February 25

Voice Your Opinion
7 p.m.

Students are invited to come and voice their honest opinions about gay marriage. Participants are asked to be respectable and mature when attending and speaking their mind at this program. The Guest Speaker will be Dr. Gregory Brock, associate professor of Economics. At the Southern Pines Clubhouse.

Police Beat

02-18-2004

• A case of harassment was reported in the Forest Drive commuter parking lot.

• A television was taken from a room in Southern Courtyard.

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

- All Police Beat information compiled by Luke Hearn and Teresa Southern, News Editors.

News Briefs

GOP's Chambliss criticizes Kerry's devotion to military issues



Special Photo

U.S. Senator Saxby Chambliss

ATLANTA - Republican Georgia Sen. Saxby Chambliss insisted Saturday that Democratic presidential hopeful and decorated war veteran John Kerry has a weak record on military issues.

A Kerry spokeswoman called Chambliss a President Bush attack dog and encouraged those who want to debate Kerry's military record to "bring it on."

Chambliss told reporters in a conference call organized by the Bush-Cheney campaign that Kerry, as a Massachusetts senator, has repeatedly voted to cut military weapons programs.

The comments came in advance of Kerry's planned campaign trip to Georgia on Saturday night. The Georgia primary is March 2.

Chambliss also questioned Kerry's criticism of prewar intelligence.

Kerry spokeswoman Holly Armstrong shot back during a telephone interview, describing Chambliss' comments as election-year politics.

During the conference call, Chambliss also took some jabs at North Carolina Sen. John Edwards, who is in a two-man race with Kerry for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Chambliss said Edwards likes to call himself a Southern moderate. But Chambliss said Edwards' views are more in line with those of Kerry, who comes from left-leaning Massachusetts.

Mississippi family disappears

JACKSON, Miss. - Nearly a week has passed since relatives of Michael and Rebecca Hargon last saw the young couple and their 4-year-old son, all of whom appear to have vanished amid

unexplained violence.

Investigators spent three days searching the Hargons' house in the small town of Vaughan, about 40 miles north of Jackson, for clues to what might have happened the family.

What authorities found were dried blood droplets throughout the house, bullet holes in the walls and shell casings on the floor. There was no sign of robbery or forced entry. Dirty dishes were left in the sink. Rebecca's wedding and engagement rings were also left behind.

All three of the family's vehicles were accounted for.

Ten years ago, Michael Hargon's father was murdered on the same property, when it was a convenience store. Three men are serving prison sentences for that crime.

Authorities have said little about the current investigation, which is being treated as a missing persons case.

Texas group urging boycott of Girl Scout cookies



Special Photo

FORT WORTH, Texas - People in Waco, Texas, were more than a bit taken aback after turning on a Christian radio station and hearing a community leader call for a boycott of Thin Mints and Caramel deLites.

seminars.

The vaguely worded radio announcements are the latest and most public attempt by the group to discourage the Girl Scouts from even a casual affiliation with Planned Parenthood, an international organization that promotes reproductive freedom and provides health care services related to reproduction.

The Girl Scouts do not take a position on abortion or sex education, and none of the cookie money earned by the 6,000 girls in the 14-county district goes to Planned Parenthood or any other organization, said Beth Vivio, executive director of the Bluebonnet Council of Girl Scouts.

The council does, however, put the national Girl Scouts logo on posters for Planned Parenthood of Central Texas' annual summer sex education seminar for fifth- through ninth-graders, an event that 400 to 700 adolescents voluntarily attend every year.

So far, the fallout has been limited. Two of the 400 Girl Scout troops in the Bluebonnet Council's Central Texas district have reportedly disbanded after learning of the Planned Parenthood connection.

The controversy has made for better cookie sales in Waco.

Three soldiers indicted on murder charges

COLUMBUS, Ga. - Three Fort Benning soldiers have been indicted on murder charges in the stabbing death of a fellow soldier after a night at a strip club.

A Muscogee County grand jury indicted three former soldiers in the July 12 killing of Spc. Richard Thomas Davis of St. Charles, Mo.

Davis' charred body was found by Army investigators in a wooded area Nov. 7.

Authorities said Davis, 24, was killed after the group of 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, soldiers went to a topless bar to celebrate their homecoming from Iraq.

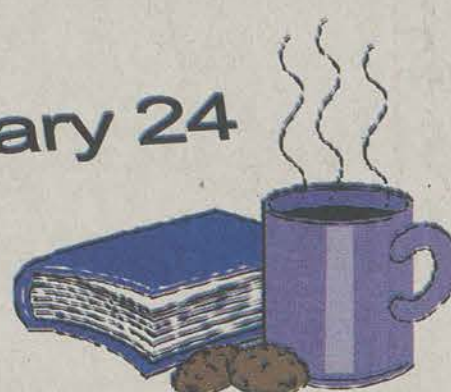
Besides murder, the three men face other charges, including aggravated assault.

- All News Briefs compiled from wire reports by Luke Hearn and Teresa Southern, News Editors.

Coffee & Careers

Tuesday, February 24

12:00-2:00p.m.



Nessmith Lane Multipurpose Room

Majoring in Procrastination or Confusion?

Meet with faculty from all colleges to help find the best major and career for you while you enjoy a hot cup of "joe."

☐ Have a chance to win door prizes by attending this event.

☐ First 180 participants will receive a FREE coffee mug.

Questions? Contact Karen Townsend in Career Services, 681-5197 or townsend@georgiasouthern.edu



South Asian Students Association (SASA)



India Week Celebrations
February, 23rd - 27th, 2004

Monday, 23rd
Indian Exhibits in the Georgia Southern Museum

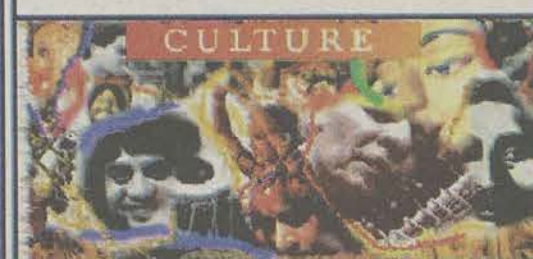
The Program:

Monday, February 23, 2004.

Inaugural Speech

Dr. Beheruz Sethna
President, State University of West Georgia

Time: 3:30 P.M. Venue: Georgia Southern Museum



Tuesday, 24th
Indian Tourism:
An audio-visual presentation

The Program:

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Indian Tourism: An audio-visual presentation. Dr. Aniruddha Mitra, Assistant Professor, School of Technology, Georgia Southern University.

Time: 2:00 P.M.

Venue: Russell Union Room # 2047

Repeat presentation

Time: 6:00 P.M.

Venue: Russell Union Theatre.

Wednesday, 25th

Indian Movie: Gandhi



The 1982 film Gandhi (film) is a dramatized biography of Mohandas Gandhi, the non-violent leader of the Indian revolt against the British colonial government. Mohandas Gandhi was played by **Ben Kingsley**, who won an Academy Award for his performance. The movie, directed by **Richard Attenborough**, also received 7 other Academy Awards, including those for best picture and best director.

The Program:

Wednesday, February, 25, 2004.

Movie - "Gandhi"

Time: 6:00 P.M.
Venue: Russell Union Theater.

Thursday, 26th
Lecture Series

Lecture I - "India: Unity in Diversity - Gandhi's Vision"
Dr. Merigala Gabriel, Assistant Prof., Literature & Philosophy, Coll. Of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Georgia Southern University.

Lecture II - "India: A Composite Culture"
Dr. Gautam Kundu, Asso. Prof., Literature & Philosophy, Coll. Of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Georgia Southern University.

The Program:

Thursday, February, 26, 2004

Lecture I

Time: 2:00 - 2:40 P.M.
Venue: Russell Union 2047

Lecture II

Time: 2:50 - 3:30 P.M.
Venue: Russell Union 2047

Friday, 27th
Indian Dresses and Cuisine- A Cultural Event

The Program:

Friday, February, 27, 2004

Indian Dresses and Cuisine.

Time: 4:00-10:00 P.M.
Venue: Russell Union Room # 2080



Unity in Diversity - SASA

Contact Gita Andukuri, President, SASA, for more information. Ph.# 912-681-1004

1 West Virginia

Child support questions guided to phone sex line

CHARLESTON—Residents trying to reach the West Virginia's Child Support Enforcement bureau are instead being connected to a phone sex line. The mix-up occurred after the bureau dropped one of its toll-free telephone numbers, but continued to use some documents that listed the number, said Department of Health and Human Resources spokesman John Law.

The federal Administration for Children and Families lists it as the West Virginia contact number for child support enforcement. And the number is featured at the top of a child support letter to a North Carolina man from the Boone County child support office.

The number had belonged to a hot line the department started in 1995 to answer questions about tax returns being intercepted by the state for child support but was discontinued.

"As far as we can tell, it's been two years since we used that number on any type of form," Law said.

He said he wasn't aware that the federal government still advised people to call the number. The number is now a gateway to a sex line that asks for a credit card number. Callers are invited by a woman's voice to call a different number "for exciting people nationwide."

2 Maryland

'Black book' a window into high-tech prostitution

FREDERICK — The newly opened "black book" of a Frederick County madam reveals how high-tech the world's oldest profession has become.

Thousands of e-mails, including date requests, were made public Wednesday as the city of Frederick complied with a court order to release police records of a 1999 raid on the Corporate Affair Escort Service.

Printouts of electronic messages both titillating and mundane comprised the bulk of 8,500 pages available for supervised public inspection in a makeshift reading room outside the city attorney's office. The

city also released videotaped police interviews with three witnesses and pictures of the crime scene.

Three compact discs containing pornographic images were available for viewing or for purchase, at \$20 each, by people 18 and older. Those pictures apparently were made for a Web site run by Angelika Potter, who pleaded guilty in 2000 to operating a "place of assignation," or brothel.

Copies of all the printed material could be purchased for \$3,000, but as of late Wednesday afternoon, the only buyer was The Frederick News-Post, which led the fight for public access amid allegations that Potter's customers included public officials. The only public official known to be named in the records, then-Alderman Blaine Young, acknowledged in June 2001 that he had hired some of the women to dance at parties.

Some of the e-mails are explicit. A correspondent with a "house.gov" address, indicating a possible connection to the U.S. House of Representatives, seeks employment as an escort. He is told in a reply that one of the women wants to have sex with him on camera. Frederick is about 45 miles from Washington.

Just one private citizen joined the crowd of reporters lining up for a look at the material when City Hall opened at 8 a.m. He was Daniel Trey, a retired construction worker and local political gadfly who filed a request for the material under Maryland's Public Information Act in 2000, like the News-Post and The Associated Press.

3 Pennsylvania

Phillie Phanatic's head returned

PHILADELPHIA — The Phillie Phanatic's head and body have been reunited.

The noggin of the Philadelphia Phillies' furry green mascot was returned Tuesday after being stolen a week ago during a charity sale and auction of mementos from soon-to-be-demolished Veterans Stadium.

Tom Burgoyne had taken off the costume for a break and found the head missing when he returned to his makeshift changing room.

There were no leads in the case until Tuesday morning, when a listener called a disc jockey, saying he found the head and that he would bring it to the radio station's downtown offices.

Police arrested Bernard Bechtel,

37, of Whitehall Township, Lehigh County, after he brought the \$3,000 head to the studio about 1 p.m.

"It was a crime of opportunity," Detective William Urban said. "He saw a chance to get a really good souvenir."

Bechtel was charged with felony theft. It was not immediately clear if he had a lawyer.

"The Phillie Phanatic is a Philadelphia treasure," said Tim Sabean, operations manager at the station, WYSP-FM. "We are so pleased to be able to facilitate the return of his head."

4 Oklahoma

Slaughterville keeps name despite request

OKLAHOMACITY—A truckload of veggie burgers wasn't enough to get a small central Oklahoma town to change its name to Veggieville.

Members of Slaughterville's town council amicably heard presentations by members of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals before voting against the suggestion Tuesday night.

PETA officials contend the current name conjures up images of violence against animals.

"It was almost as if it was a comedy hour," said Ravi Chand, PETA's campaign coordinator, who is also a corporal in the U.S. Marines and an Iraq War veteran.

"They didn't applaud at my speech, but they did applaud the fact that I am a U.S. Marine."

More than a dozen people at the standing room only meeting offered their opinions on why the town should keep its name, said Chand, of Sacramento, Calif.

Residents of the town of 3,600, located about 20 miles south of Norman, point out that the town was named after a grocery store run by James Slaughter in the early part of the 20th century.

PETA had promised \$20,000 in veggie burgers to the school district near the town.

Before the meeting PETA gave away veggie burgers and Mark Peters stood outside the town hall dressed in a cow costume.

"I am trying to change society one step at a time," said Peter, of Fort Worth, Texas.

Nearby, residents of Slaughterville gave away hot dogs and held

up signs that said, "Beef, it's what's for dinner."

Inside, audience members, including Slaughter's great-grandson, urged the town council to reject PETA's request.

"We don't live around here anymore, but we want you to keep the name," said Rick Bonner, who added that his great-grandfather gave food to the needy. "Please keep the name."

Chand said the Norfolk, Va., based animal rights group targeted the Oklahoma community because they thought a name change would boost the town's image.

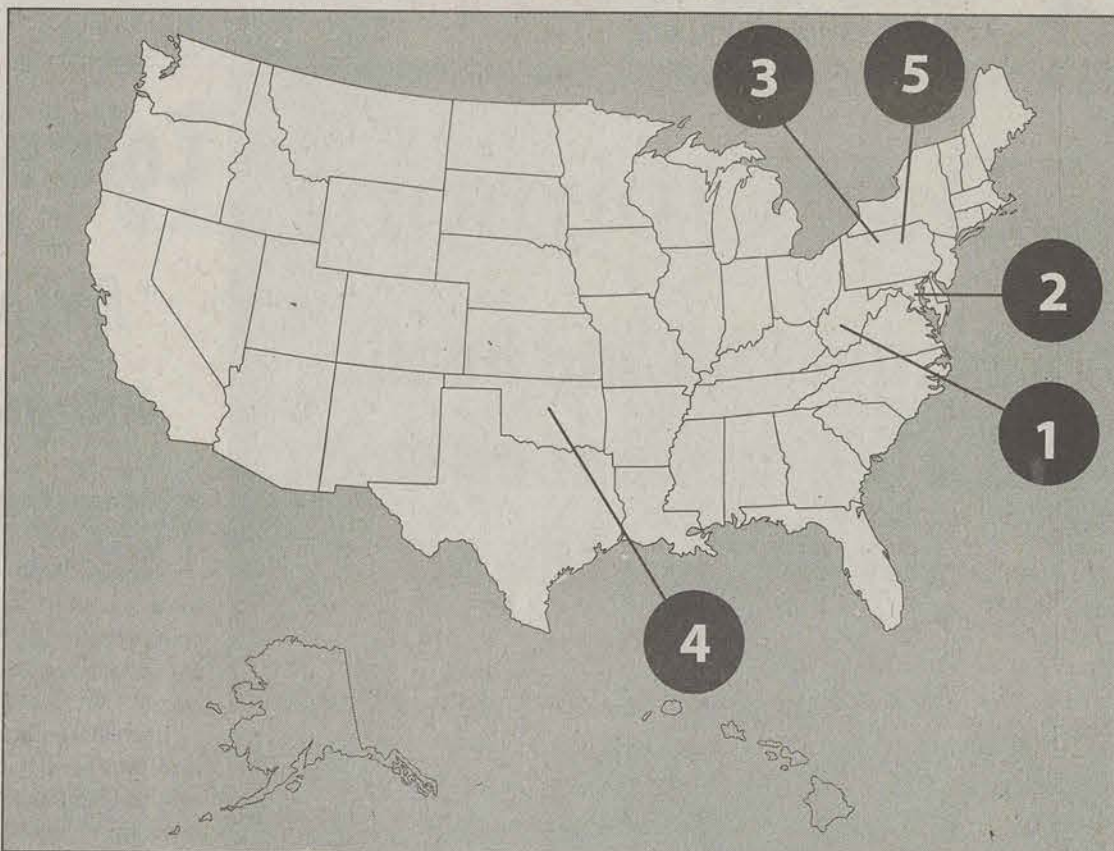
"We're always looking for amusing ways to make serious points," Chand said. "We've found that doing something that makes people laugh, also makes them think about serious issues, like that fact that eating meat supports cruelty."

Mayor Ron Bledsoe offered an amendment to PETA's request that may do more to help animals in the area, he said.

"While no one in Slaughterville condones cruelty to animals, we do have an animal problem here and no money to deal with it," Bledsoe said.

"Dogs and cats are routinely let loose in Slaughterville, eventually to starve or be eaten by predators. I've adopted four dogs and can't handle any more."

"On behalf of the town I would ask PETA, an organization with 800,000 members, to contribute \$20,000 to Slaughterville to help us come up with a way to deal with our problem animals."



5 Pennsylvania

International Tree Climbing Championship comes to Pittsburgh

PITTSBURGH—The world's top tree climbers will test their skills on the mammoth oaks near Pittsburgh's National Aviary this August for the International Tree Climbing Championship.

The Aug. 7-8 competition is part of the 80th Annual International Society of Arboriculture Conference and

Trade Show going on at a convention center in the city, The Tribune-Review newspaper reported Thursday.

"We have everything from the guys who climb and drag bush every day to Ph.D.'s doing research on trees," said Jim Skiera, interim executive director of the Arboriculture Society. "And all those people will be in the park ... for the finals of the International Tree Climbing Championship."

Up to 3,000 people are expected to attend the convention, including 50 elite male and female tree climbers.

Last summer in Montreal, Bernd Strauss from Germany and Kiah Martin of Australia won the championships.



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The Miscellany needs your submissions!

DEAD LINE

Monday, February 23

The Miscellany is Georgia Southern's magazine of the arts and literature.

We are looking for submissions in fiction,

creative non-fiction, and

creative essay, up to 1500 words,

in poetry or prose-poetry of any

length, and in the visual arts of any

medium, such as drawing, painting,

photography, graphic design, sculpture,

etc. Submissions must be received in

electronic form, along with a printed

copy. Submission packets, which include

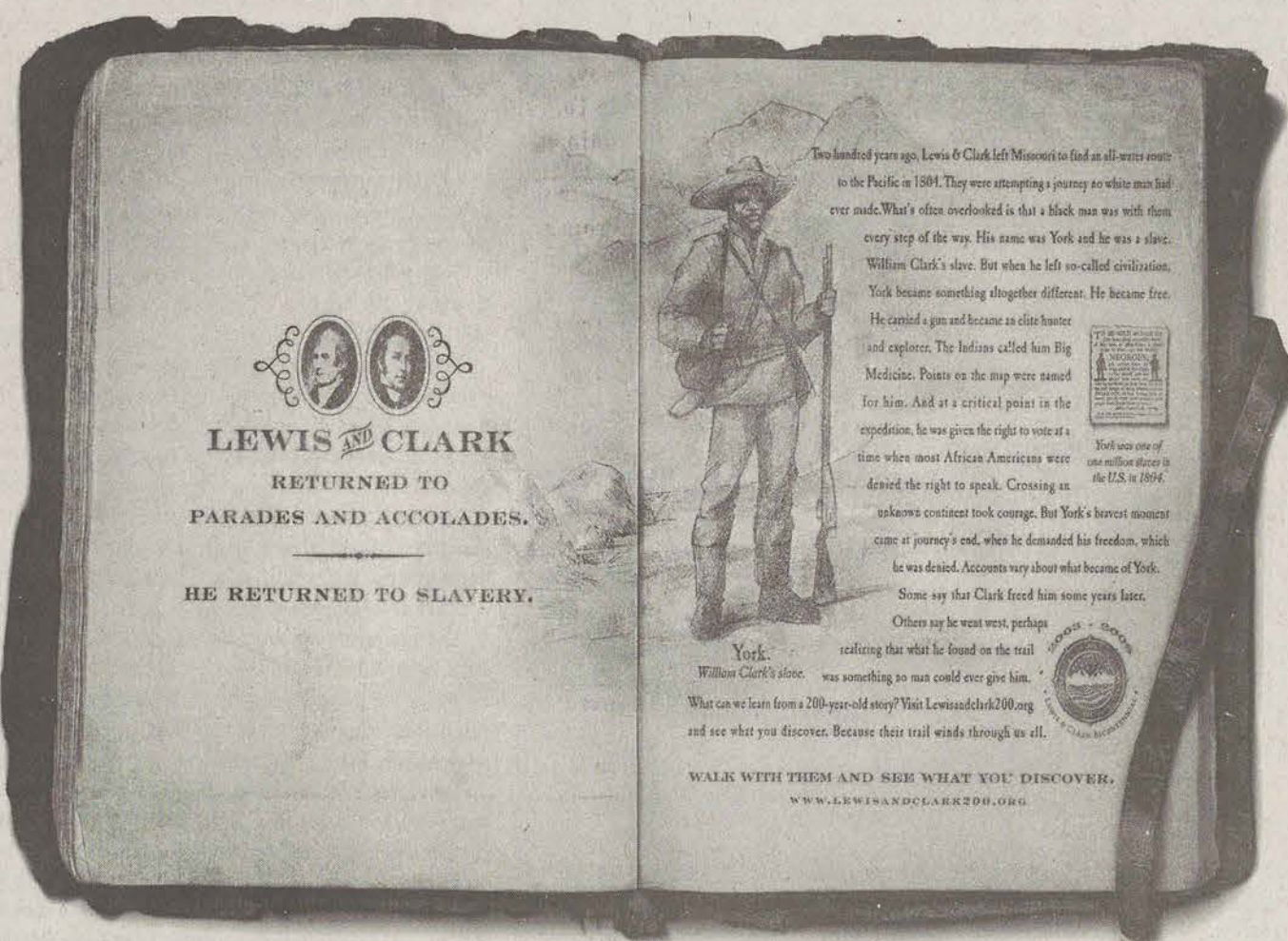
a cover sheet and submission guidelines,

can be picked up at the Miscellany office,

Williams Center 2009. Submissions can

be sent to Jerome Powell, P.O. Box 8001,

or emailed to miscmag@gasou.edu.



Our Opinion

Forget Phil and Beau: The G-A groundhog says spring is in the air

For the first time in many weeks, the students of Georgia Southern University have been able to walk down the pedestrian and enjoy the natural beauty our campus has to offer. It is starting to feel like spring in southeast Georgia, and nature is finally showing her true colors.

To attend this school at this time of year is a gift. Our attractive, uniform pedestrians wind around flowing willows, proud oaks and towering pines. Our placid spring breezes aren't interrupted by overwhelming exhaust fumes from overcrowded city streets. There are countless areas on campus where we can study outdoors in complete silence.

It's just warm enough to risk leaving our jackets at home, but not yet quite warm enough for those notorious summer adversaries – the gnats.

Indeed, the Georgia Southern campus is beautiful, and it has taken a long time and a lot of hard work to get it to this point. The Physical Plant employees work hard to keep this campus pristine, not only for the students, but the Statesboro community also.

Although there are as many students here at GSU as there are at many of the more urban schools, our campus is still quaint and green. Instead of parking decks and four-lane highways, we are fortunate enough to have a campus that allows us to enjoy the beauties of nature: Birds flying, squirrels chasing each other from tree to tree, ducks splashing in the lakes, and turtles sunbathing on the banks. All of these things make us different. They make us lucky to be residents of a scenic, peaceful area of the southeast, and fortunate to be students of GSU!

With all this being said, we need to make an effort to keep all of these beautiful things. All along campus there are trashcans, ashtrays and recycling bins – these are out there for a reason. If you're walking along campus smoking a cigarette, don't throw it on the ground when you're finished. (Squirrels don't like cigarettes.) Wait to throw it in one of the many ashtrays. The same goes for a drink – when you're finished, throw it in the trashcan. Or, better yet, if it's plastic or aluminum, put it in the proper recycling receptacle.

As the days become longer and warmer, let spring not return in vain. Make an effort to keep GSU beautiful.

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, preferably via email or on Macintosh disk in Microsoft Word 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.

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Confessions of a former poppy grower

Part one in a two-part series

By **Marwand Roghaniwal**

The Institute for War & Peace Reporting

NANGARHAR, Afghanistan – There is simply no other crop that pays as much as opium poppies. That is why people in this poverty-stricken region grow – and will continue to grow – the flowers.

In my village, located in the Rodat district in the province of Nangarhar along the border with Pakistan, the scent from the flowers alone is enough to make me dizzy when I go out walking in the fields during harvest season.

Here in one of the biggest poppy-growing regions in the biggest poppy-growing country in the world, the flowers are everywhere.

Growing them is so common that no one even bothers to hide their crops.

Central government authority does not reach the villages out here and what police there are usually owe allegiance to local strongmen involved in the drug trade.

Our family has farmed the flowers for generations, stopping only a couple of years ago when we moved into town.

We moved in part because the Taliban's

ban on poppy cultivation made farming life unsustainable and to ensure a better education for the children.

However, we lease the land we still own in the village to farmers who continue to grow poppies. There is simply no other option for people around here.

Wheat earns a pittance compared with what the same plot planted with poppies will earn. And growing grain requires much more water, a scarce resource in this area.

One young man told me how he turned half of his fields over to wheat last year. "At the same time, my cousins reveled in the money they earned from poppies," Ghulam said. "They bought cars and would not even salam (greet) us they became so haughty. This year, I cultivated poppies on all my land and will buy a Land Cruiser."

It's not just to acquire such luxuries that people grow the crop. When I was growing up, my father had 17 people in our family to support. Years of drought had made wheat nearly impossible to grow.

When the Taliban first took power, poppy cultivation initially increased. Then they banned it, causing great hardship for many farmers.

I don't know why they did it. Some said that local Taliban commanders were themselves involved in the drug trade and had stockpiled their own supplies. By banning additional production, they allegedly were hoping to

drive up the price of their own supply.

Whatever the reason, there was almost no cultivation in 2001. An edict by the Taliban was taken very seriously since they were known to inflict harsh punishments on violators.

The ban on growing poppies drove many people to the wall. A number of farmers who were unable to support themselves by growing wheat simply left the land.

Other growers had taken cash advances against their poppy crop, leading to clashes between farmers and the money lenders.

This, in fact, continues to be a problem, now that the poppy has returned. With such a high-value crop, and so many farmers borrowing against future production, a lot is riding on weather conditions and fluctuating prices. Violence is sure to follow when crop expectations are not met.

One problem that poppy production has not brought to the villages is opium addiction. It may sometimes be used as a medicine, but smoking and using drugs for pleasure is seen as very bad under Islam.

I know that it does not make much sense but while hashish is actually quite widely used, opium is still seen as taboo.

Myself, I can't even use snuff, how could I use opium?

The American bombing and the overthrow of the Taliban regime came just at the right time – planting season – and the poppy seeds went straight back into the ground.

Letters to the Editor

In response to a February 18, 2004 column, 'The fair-skinned Abercrombie image is just plain racist'

I just read your article in *The George-Anne*, a school newspaper at Georgia Southern University.

I am some what surprised even by today's standards that an article like this could actually get published. I am appalled by the whole entire article.

Why do you pick Abercrombie out of the line up to declare a racist company?

How is FUBU not racist in the same way? How about Roca Wear, and Sean John? And Starter?

If you think Abercrombie is racist then I think you should try shopping at Growers supply in Metter, Georgia. They offer a full line of Carhardt brand clothing. Try browsing the aisles while old, white Georgia farmers look you over. Surely the Carhardt company has to be campaigning a racist ideal.

My little sister has in fact modeled for the Abercrombie company, you might see her on a few billboards and in a few catalogs. The fact is that the Abercrombie image represents the majority of the population in the U.S. You hip, clean cut, stylish individuals. In this company case the majority of the customers are white. According to figures in March 2002, only 13 percent of the U.S. population was black. Abercrombie is

doing no worse than any other company that tries to sell to a target customer base. Using this type of reasoning, one could name almost every company in the United States a racist company in some way. Because you are misassociating a targeting customers with prejudicial targeting.

The only explanation I can think of that you would write this article is to get a reaction. The shock column, so to speak.

Whether you just wrote this article from poor taste, bad judgment, shock factor or because of your own prejudices, you need to go back to school and go back to the drawing board.

Whether you realize it or not, your little article too promotes racism, one white college student at a time.

Rob
gt40@enla.ne

Response from the Editor

Dear Rob,

While I sincerely thank you for your response, I do feel the need to point out a few incongruous elements in your argument.

Your use of the second person in this reaction is not entirely accurate. The Abercrombie column is a campus wire service piece. If you had read the entire column, you might have plainly seen contact information for the writer at the Seattle Times. I did not write this column. No one on my staff wrote this column.

That being said, responsibility remains in my hands. I'm the one who chose to run it, and I'll explain why:

The column's basic message happens to coincide with our editorial stances on the damaging effects of impossible standards of beauty in American culture. This columnist decided to single out Abercrombie, not because of its target customer base, but because the majority of its ads present whites as compelling and attractive, and do so to the exclusion of other demographic groups.

It is interesting you should mention FUBU and Carhartt. Let me start with FUBU, or For Us By Us. For many blacks, this company represents black empowerment. And, yes: If there were a white FUBU, that would be bigotry. (I actually prefer that term to "racism" since race is a scientifically invalid concept – there may be many cultures, but there is only one "race," and that's human.) Why would a white FUBU be bigoted? Well, because white fashion designers are not a minority group, and neither are white consumers. Sean John and Roca Wear serve much the same function. Starter? Eh... I don't see the relevance. They sell that stuff at Wal-Mart these days.

Of course, now you're asking why it has to be black and white and yellow in the first place – why can't a clothing company be for everyone? Well, because there are, unfortunately, still power imbalances in our society based on whether you are black, latino, gay, female, etc. As long as there are elements of social hierarchy holding some people down, there will be counteracting force from the side of the oppressed. At least, I hope so.

As far as Carhartt goes, that's quite comparable to something like John Deere. It's occupational clothing. The Carhartt company makes a lot of clothing for specific members of the working class. I know this because my dad, a carpenter, wears it all the time. He named his dog Carhartt – the company makes things that are helpful for him, such as overalls, jackets with specially designed tool pockets, and underwear that keep you warm when you're working outside in freezing weather.

Carhartt makes clothes for people who do manual labor in inclement environments. That's quite apparent in the nature of their merchandise. I haven't seen many Carhartt ads, and the ones I have seen show the logo or the clothing, not people. In fact, on their website, their products are hardly shown on people.

On the other hand, visit the Abercrombie & Fitch website. You'll promptly be greeted by a myriad of shirtless white men. Why are they shirtless? Doesn't Abercrombie sell shirts? Moreover, A&F models appear throughout the website. Amongst the many white models, I managed to find two black women on the site – one a model with extremely light skin, the other a track athlete.

The A&F image is clearly less focused on its product line than on the people wearing it.

Finally, allow me to introduce a realistic figure based on something only remotely related to race. You stated, "The fact is that the Abercrombie image represents the majority of the population in the U.S. You hip, clean cut, stylish individuals." I beg to differ. Even without the companies prices to judge, Abercrombie & Fitch markets to the upper-middle to upper class. The 2002 census estimates show that seventy-two million households in America have annual incomes below \$50,000. Households with more than that coming in per year: Just over four-hundred thousand. That's clearly not the "majority of the population in the U.S."

Now, we've seen here that companies like FUBU serve an important sociological purpose. And, companies like Carhartt serve an occupational purpose. What does Abercrombie do?

Well, they make clothes, plain and simple. And, if they're not going to make them affordable enough for everyone, or in response to some injustice, or in order to provide useful products for some unique profession, it is the humble opinion of columnist Mary Andom (and myself) that they should at least market them to everyone.

I fail to see how that view promotes racism in any way, nor how it warrants a return to school and drawing boards on my part.

Amanda Permenter
editor-in-chief
gaeditor@georgiasouthern.edu

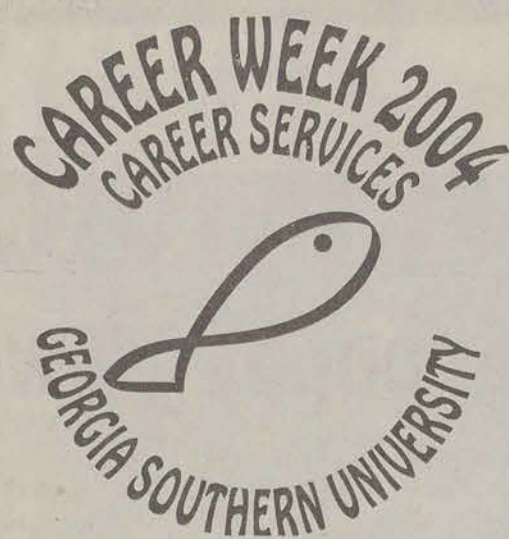
Today around the world

Brunei: National Day
United States: Two Jima Day

Today in history

On this day in 1997, scientists announced they succeeded in cloning an adult mammal, a lamb named Dolly.

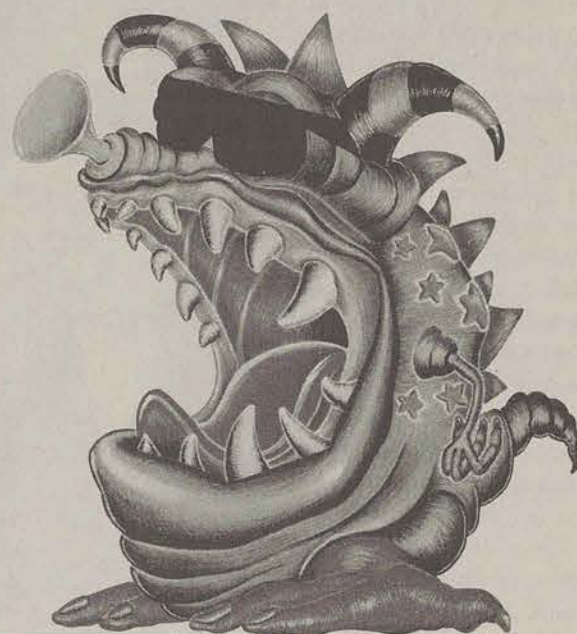
On this day in 1940, Walt Disney's animated 'Pinocchio' was released.



CAREER WEEK IS HERE!

**STUDENT APPRECIATION DAY =
FUN • FOOD • FREEBIES**

**RUSSELL UNION ROTUNDA
MONDAY » 10AM - 1PM**



**CAREER AWARENESS & STUDENT INVOLVEMENT DAY =
A SEA OF OPPORTUNITY
NESSMITH-LANE BUILDING
TUESDAY » 9AM - 5PM**



FISH! Catch the Energy, Release the Potential —

Presented by Stephen C. Lundin, Ph.D., Author

» Performing Arts Center (PAC) • 10AM and 2PM

The FISH! Philosophy is a global phenomenon that is helping thousands of organizations become alive, engaged and more profitable. Come learn what FISH! has to offer. Tickets are free but required, and should be picked up at the PAC Box Office between 10AM and 5:30PM. Call 486-7999 for details.



Student Involvement Fair

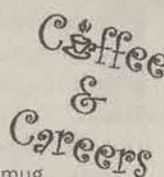
Presented by Volunteer Services & Student Organizations

Visit with Community Agencies and local campus groups to see how you can become involved and make a difference. Multipurpose Room 1602/03 • 11AM - 2PM

Coffee & Careers Majors Fair

Coordinated by Karen A. Townsend, Career Services

Representatives from all university colleges will be attending this event to provide valuable major and career information to Georgia Southern students. Through the "Coffee and Careers" program, students will be able to gather information on specific majors and careers; meet with faculty advisors about majors; how to change/declare their major and register on the Career Services EagleTRAK system. Refreshments will be served. The first 180 students to attend will receive a **FREE** coffee mug. Multipurpose Room 1601/02 • 12PM - 2PM



Interviewing Skills Workshop —

Presented by Madie Queen, GEICO Direct

Do you know what it takes to ace an interview? Come learn the steps you should take in order to ensure a second interview. • Room 2903 • 9AM & 1PM

Your Career in the Sports & Fitness Industry —

Presented by Rachel Payne, House of Payne

As you enter the sports and fitness industry, what do you plan to do to create opportunities for yourself that will get you the career you want? What do you want to do? How are you at selling yourself? Come learn how to get your plans in shape! • Room 2905-A • 9AM & 12PM

Careers with US Foreign Service —

Presented by Ambassador James Ledesma, U.S. Department of State

Learn about the work of State Department Foreign Service Officers and the steps for entry into the State Department as a diplomat. • Room 1915 • 9AM Only

Better Investing Seminar —

Presented by Dr. Sandy Gallemore

Overview of money management and risk, reasons for why people lose money in investments, getting started with a small amount of money and information about investment clubs. • Room 1909 • 11AM Only

Financial Management-College Years & Beyond —

Presented by Desiree Freeman, New England Financial Debt management, what you need to know about insurance, paying off student loans, and Investing 101. A brief overview of the financial skills you should know before leaving college. • Room 1915 • 11AM & 1PM

Stress: It Really Is All In Your Head —

Presented by Dr. Melissa Lickteig, School of Nursing

This program addresses being able to identify personal stress reactions, and understanding the roles of stress in our lives. Also discussed are ways to change our thoughts and perceptions in efforts to keep stress reduced to healthy levels. • Room 2901 • 11AM & 12PM

The Power Interview —

Presented by Michael Sullivan, Marketing & Communications

You'll cover all the basics... the stuff you need to do to just to stay on the playing field. This includes things like dress, presentation, handshakes, answers to the standard questions and so on.

In The Power Interview, you'll learn how to use a simple sales cycle to direct the interview in their favor and ultimately close on the job. This is the part that is not covered in most job interview workshops or books. It's a little different but it is highly effective. For someone going into sales it is an absolute "must" but works well for other types of jobs also. • Room 2903 • 11AM & 3PM

Working Effectively in a Diverse Environment —

Presented by Dr. Marcia Jones, Office of Institutional Compliance

This presentation will discuss both employees' rights under various workplace legal provisions, and the responsibilities of contributing to an effective, productive, work place environment. • Room 2904-A • 11AM Only

Enhancing your Professionalism —

Presented by Whitley Moretti, Enterprise Rent-A-Car

Are your job search correspondence skills up to par? Phone etiquette, the follow-up after applying, attire, the interview itself, and a post-interview thank-you are all pieces of the puzzle in a successful job hunt. Make sure you do it right! • Room 2904-B • 11AM & 1PM

Marketing Yourself with Soft Skills —

Presented by Dr. Ellen M. Moore, USC Moore School of Business

Learn lifelong basics for successfully marketing yourself. Find out the importance of critical thinking and reframing. Discover essential self-presentation skills to fundamental conversation and interaction. • Room 2905-A • 11AM & 1PM

Staying on Good Terms: Credit and Debt —

Presented by Nicki Jones & Jason Cromer, Peer Financial Counselors

Learn how to use credit more wisely, consider the cost of using credit, consider how credit cards may affect future buying power, taking steps toward debt recovery. • Room 1909 • 12PM Only

How in the Well Are You?

Presented by Dr. Tobin Lovell, Counseling & Career Development Center

In this workshop, attendees will learn the importance of personal wellness for success in the world of work. Self care will be highlighted with a focus on stress management and relaxation techniques. • Room 2911 • 12PM Only

How to Strategize Your Way Through a Career Fair—

Presented by Wandie Toldeo-Bethune, Inroads

Sponsored by the Minority Advisement Program

This program will teach students how to maximize their time at a career fair in a way that will be beneficial to them, how to search out employers that correlate with their major, what questions to ask and how to make a powerful 90 second intro. • Room 2904-A • 1PM Only

Now That You've Got The Job...

Financial Considerations for the New Graduate — Presented by Richard Lane, AIG VALIC

A free form discussion covering important decisions that will be faced by the common college graduate. Topics to include: Employee Benefits, Financial Planning, Insurance Considerations, Good Debt vs. Bad Debt, and other topics as warranted by participants. • Room 2905-B • 1PM & 3PM

What Type of Leader are YOU? —

Presented by Theresa Beebe Novotny, Center for Student Leadership Development

Come and learn what the Five Practices of Exemplary Leadership are based on major research and a New York Times Best Selling Book, The Leadership Challenge. You will get a basic understanding of what leadership skills are headed in today's ever-changing world. Room 2909 • 1PM Only

Becoming a Millionaire: Savings and Investments — Presented by Nicki Jones & Jason Cromer, Peer Financial Counselors

Learn how to use set goals, know the importance of saving regularly, see the advantages of starting an investing plan early, investigate different investment options, know the consequences of defaulting on a student loan. Room 1909 • 1PM Only

Choosing to Understand: Student Loans —

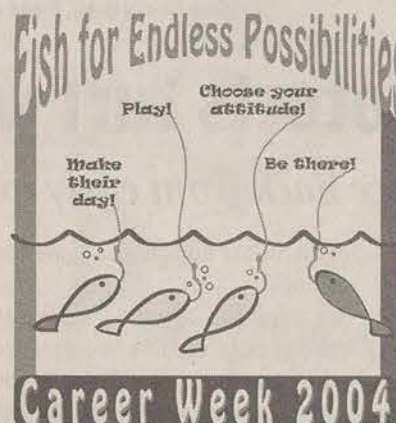
Presented by Hope Grant, Peer Financial Counselors

Get an understanding of the size of student debt, learn the difference between subsidized and unsubsidized loans, understand the impact of interest on your debt load, know the consequences of defaulting on loans. Have a realistic view of starting salary. Room 1909 • 3PM Only

Making It on a College Budget —

Presented by Taurance Hurst, Peer Financial Counselors

Learn needs versus wants, setting goals, "making it" with the money you have, sticking to a spending plan. Room 2909 • 4PM Only



This Week's Activities Coordinated By Georgia Southern Career Services
912-681-5197 » <http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/career>

Program Additions And Changes Are Available On The Career Week Website
<http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/career/careerweek>

Dining For Success

Sponsored by: Career Services, Employers, and Alumni Relations

WEDNESDAY @ NESSMITH-LANE • 6PM-8PM

Georgia Southern Career Services'

Eagle Expo Career Fair

& Education Career Day
THURSDAY @ THE RAC • 10AM-2PM

International Coffee Hour

Sponsored by Career Services & Employers

FRIDAY @ THE UNION • 11:30AM-1PM

Baseball tames Bulldogs for series split

G-A News Service

Georgia 6, Georgia Southern 3

Sophomore centerfielder Kyle Keen drilled a pair of homeruns and drove in three runs while Josh Morris added three hits, including his team-leading fourth homer, to lead Georgia to a 6-3 non-conference victory over Georgia Southern Saturday afternoon at J.I. Clements Stadium.

Georgia (6-0) used a two-run homerun by Keen to jump out to a 2-0 lead in the top of the third inning. Joey Side opened the frame with a single to centerfield off Eagle starter John Carroll before Keen lined a two-out, 0-2 pitch over the leftfield wall.

Georgia Southern (3-5) quickly evened the contest in its half of the third. Brandon Burnsed laced a one-out single into centerfield against Bulldog starter Paul Lubrano and moved to second when James Payne reached on a catcher's interference. Brandon Ponder cut the deficit in half with a run-scoring single to center to drive in Burnsed before Greg Dowling followed with a base hit to knock in Payne.

The Bulldogs reclaimed the lead for good in the top of the fourth when Morris launched a solo shot over the left-centerfield wall on a 2-2 pitch from Carroll. An inning later, Georgia extended its cushion to 4-2 on Keen's second round-tripper of the day, an inside-the-park version which rattled off the right-centerfield fence and eluded GSU rightfielder Trey Hunter.



LaVene Bell/STAFF

Outfielder Jason Hurst (16) crosses the plate in the Eagles' 12-6 victory over Georgia on Sunday. Hurst was 2-for-5 in Sunday's game, which saw Georgia Southern avoid the two-game sweep against their northern rivals.

Burnsed greeted Georgia reliever Sean Ruthven with a two-out RBI single to score Logan Phillips in the bottom of the sixth to help trim the Eagle deficit to one at 4-3.

Georgia added two more runs in the eighth to push the Bulldog lead to 6-3, benefiting from a two-out error by GSU third baseman Ponder which scored Josh Smith and Morris, who had opened the frame with a single

and walk, respectively.

Lubrano (2-0) worked the first five innings and allowed two runs on six hits while fanning seven and not surrendering a base on balls during his 77-pitch outing. Left-hander Will Startup earned his second save of the year after giving up just two hits in two and two-third shutout innings.

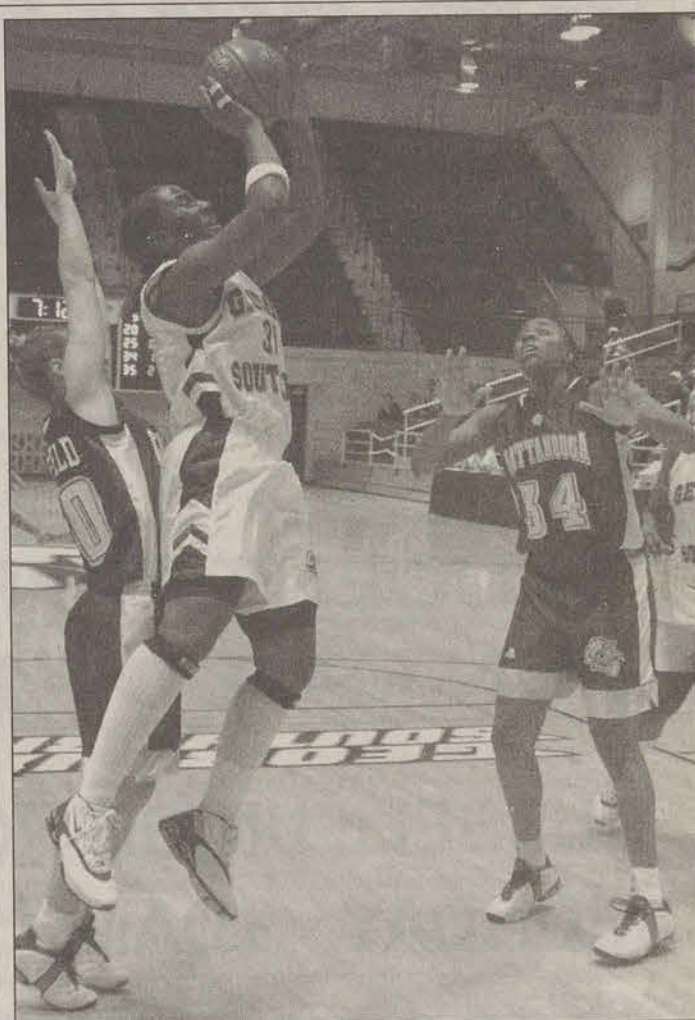
Carroll (0-1) also turned in a strong performance despite suffer-

ing the loss, scattering seven hits and four runs in seven innings. He walked one and struck out three during his 93-pitch effort.

Georgia Southern 12, Georgia 5

Freshman left-hander Everett Teaford allowed just two hits and struck out nine in five scoreless re-

See Baseball, Page 8



LaVene Bell/STAFF

Sophomore Nicole Newton, pictured above in an earlier game, was the spark in the Lady Eagles' 75-59 victory over Savannah State on Saturday. Newton scored 17 while grabbing a career-high 11 rebounds.

Newton leads Lady Eagles over Tigers

By Eli Boorstein

Nietsroob17@hotmail.com

With a knee injury having sidelined team leader Shawnica Hill for the past five games, the Lady Eagle basketball team needed someone to step up entering the postseason.

That person could end up being Nicole Newton, as the sophomore led Georgia Southern to a 75-59 win over Savannah State at Hanner Fieldhouse on Saturday evening.

Newton, a 5-foot-10 guard from Dublin, collected the first double-double of her career with 17 points and 11 rebounds, both team-highs. The rebound total was a new personal best, while she was one point off her scoring high.

As a team, the Lady Eagles shot 42.9 percent, territory that has treated them well thus far. In the eight games where they have topped 40 percent, Georgia Southern has yet to lose. On the flipside, the Lady Eagles are just 3-13 when they fail to reach that mark.

One of the factors Newton attributed her team's success towards was a strenuous practice the the Lady Eagles were run through by head coach Rusty Cram on Tuesday.

"That was a motivator for this game," said Newton about the practice session, which consisted of on-court drills as opposed to shooting.

"They didn't want to go back to that Tuesday practice, I'll tell you that," said Cram.

Georgia Southern did not take

long to show their Coastal Empire rivals who was the better team, jumping out to a 13-0 run less than four minutes after the opening tip. Newton accounted for nine of those points off three field goals and a pair of free throws.

Though the Tigers were able to mount a small rally of their own, cutting their deficit to 19-12 with 11:02 left in the half, Georgia Southern remained unphased, building their lead back up to as much as 18 before entering halftime with a 16-point advantage at 40-24.

The second half started in much of the same fashion as the first, as the Lady Eagles enlarging their lead to 25 points when a Cameron Krellner three-pointer made the score 60-35 with 9:16 remaining.

The Tigers responded with a late rally, cutting the Georgia Southern lead to 14, but by that point, the game was well in the Lady Eagles' favor.

Jessica Everett added 16 points and eight rebounds for Georgia Southern (12-13) while Lee DuBose scored 12 off four three-pointers.

"We finally settled down and started playing well," said Cram.

Nicole Hunter and Caroline Moore each notched 14 to lead Savannah State (6-19) while Tiffany Stephens scored 12.

Georgia Southern will next travel to Boone, N.C. to face Appalachian State on Wednesday at 7 p.m. before closing out the regular season at home with East Tennessee State on Saturday at 7 p.m.

Eagles upset by Spartans in nail-biter

By Eli Boorstein

Nietsroob17@hotmail.com

Fresh off a season-sweep of arch-rival Charleston, the Georgia Southern men's basketball team was in the driver's seat in first place with just a handful of games left before the conference tournament.

However, a team without any hopes of a high seed managed to put a dent in the Eagles' joy, as UNC Greensboro snuck out of Hanner Fieldhouse with an 80-79 victory Saturday night.

After an first-half Eagle lead was erased by halftime, the Spartans came out of the lockers to lead much of the second half, and were ahead by five, 79-74, with 27 seconds left in the game.

Following a Jean Francois tip-in to cut the UNG Greensboro lead to three, the Spartans made it back into a two-possession game with 15 seconds on the clock when Ray Bristown sank one of two free throws to put his team up by four.

Francois then came through with the big shot once more, canning a three-pointer, just his third of the season, bring Georgia Southern within one with 7.6 seconds left.

After an Eagle timeout, the Spartans, underneath the Eagles' basket, inbounded the ball to Jay Joseph, but Joseph was swarmed by Eagle defenders and lost the ball to Terry Williams.

Williams had the ball inside, but quickly had his open look closed by UNC Greensboro bodies and dished the ball out to Elton Nesbitt, who could not get a shot off before the final buzzer sounded.

"I got the steal," said Williams, who scored 10 in the losing effort. "But, I thought I wasn't wide open."

Though Georgia Southern was unable to take advantage of the opportunity at the end of the game, head coach Jeff Price was quick to downplay the effect of Williams' steal, and the subsequent action, on the game's outcome.

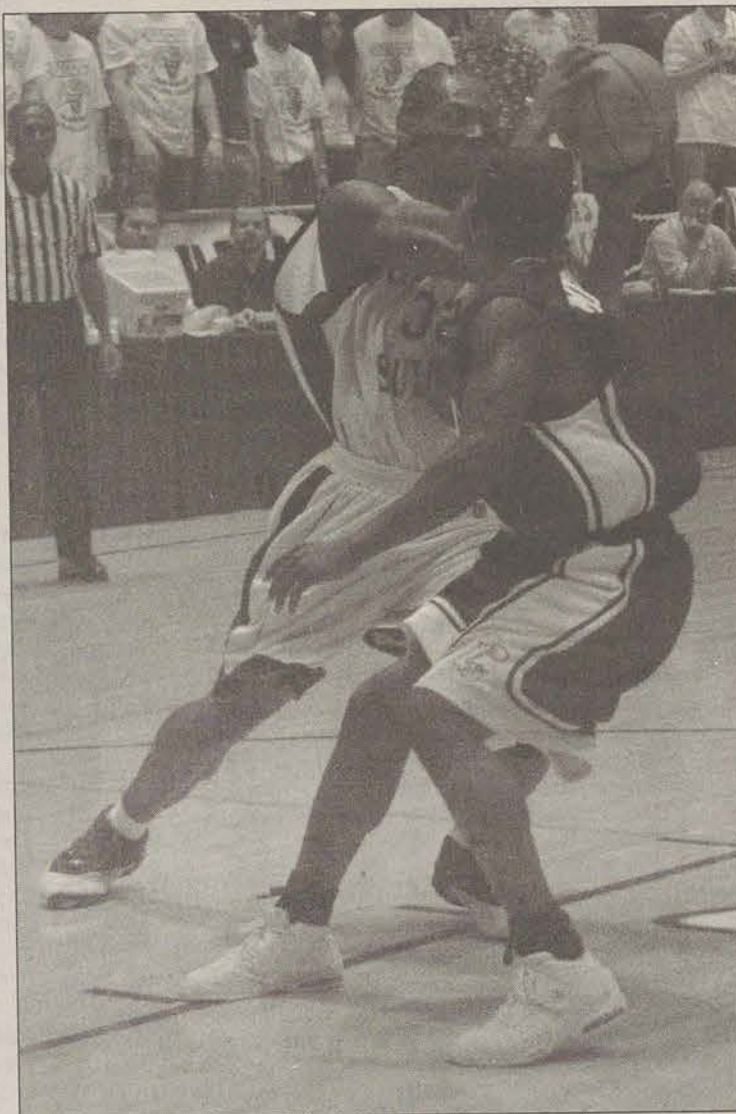
"This game was lost well before the last play of the game," said Price. "We had no business being in this game."

With the game tied at 4-4 early on, the Eagles used a run of 13 unanswered points to jump out to a 17-4 lead just over seven minutes in.

With the score at 27-16 in favor of the Eagles, UNC Greensboro escaped on a run of their own, as a 17-5 Spartan rally put the visitors ahead 33-32 with 3:30 left in the opening half.

Over the next minute-plus, Georgia Southern found a way to jump back ahead, building up a four-point lead. But, the Spartans once again tied the score at 37-37 on a Jelani Lawrence lay-up. After a pair of free throws from Williams, Lawrence tied the

See Basketball, Page 8



LaVene Bell/STAFF

Senior Frank Bennett, pictured on Jan. 24 against Charleston, had a 23-point outing spoiled as the Eagles were upset by UNC Greensboro Saturday night at Hanner Fieldhouse.

Softball protects turf with GSU Invitational title

Lady Eagles bounce back from early loss to win five straight

By Chike Nwakamma

cnwakamm@georgiasouthern.edu

The Georgia Southern softball team protected its home turf this weekend at the GSU Invitational.

The Eagles defeated Mercer University 3-0 Sunday afternoon in the championship game of the tournament.

The game culminated what was a terrific tournament for the Eagles. As they did all weekend, the Eagles got another strong performance from a pitcher. Tiffany Urena pitched seven shutout innings, giving up seven hits.

Urena never seemed to be in any real trouble, especially after the Eagles scored first in the bottom of the second inning. The Eagles added two more insurance runs in the third when shortstop Kim Griffin singled second baseman Lindsay Jones home. Shanita Black scored on the next play when

Sam Steiner brought her home with a single.

After managing to score only two runs in the first two games of the tournament, the Eagles offense exploded, scoring 22 runs in the final four games.

"Everybody finally settled down a little bit," said catcher Sam Steiner, who had a big home run in Saturday night's game against Birmingham Southern. "We adjusted [to the speeds of the pitches] better."

With the offense catching fire, the Eagles were very tough to beat. They didn't exactly make it easy for opponents to score any runs. The Eagle pitching staff combined to give up a total of six runs the entire weekend. The Eagles threw three shutouts and struck out 32 batters.

The dominance by the pitching staff

may have had hitters fooled, but not head coach Natalie Poole.

"I am expecting a lot out of them [pitching staff]," Poole said. "They did a pretty good job overall."

The Eagles came into the GSU Invitational on a two game losing streak after losing to Florida State. They then lost their first game of the tournament to make it three losses in a row. The Eagles (5-3) responded by winning the rest of their tournament games and are confident as they are now riding a five game winning streak.

According to Coach Poole, the Eagles have the potential to keep winning. The offense is scoring runs, and the defense is shutting opponents down.

The Eagles' next home game is Saturday at 3 p.m. against Georgia State.



GSU Athletic Media Relations

Catcher Sam Steiner was one of the Lady Eagles' key offensive weapons in the GSU Invitational. The sophomore collected six hits, while scoring three times and driving in eight runs.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL BOX SCORE

SAVANNAH STATE (59)
Moore 6-15 2-2 14, Stephens 6-13 0-2 12, Martin 2-6 0-0 4, Barnett 0-2 0-0 0, Hill 2-5 0-0 4, Myers 2-3 2-3 6, Hunter 5-10 4-4 14, Whitley 1-7 0-2 2, Walker 0-0 0-0 0, Ray 0-0 0-0 0, McCray 0-1 1-2 1, Dinkins 1-2 0-0 2. Totals 25-64 9-13 59.

GEORGIA SOUTHERN (75)
Everett 7-16 2-3 16, DuBose 4-7 0-0 12, Wells 0-2 2-2 2, Newton 8-9 2-2 17, Tiller 2-12 0-4, Pijaux 0-1 0-0 0, Edgerton 3-4 0-0 6, Spoon 0-3 0-0 0, McCorkle 1-10 0-2, Early 0-1 0-0 0, Krellner 1-4 0-0 3, Melvin 1-1 0-0 2, Benemon 1-7 3-4 5, Jessie 2-2 2-2 6. Totals 30-70 10-12 75.

Halftime—GSU 40, SSU 24. Three-point goals—SSU 0-5 (Martin 0-1, Hill 0-2, Whitley 0-2), GSU 5-16 (DuBose 4-6, Wells 0-2, Tiller 0-4, Krellner 1-4). Rebounds—SSU 33 (Hunter 7), GSU 49 (Newton 11). Assists—SSU 17 (Martin 7), GSU 19 (Wells 4). Total Fouls—SSU 15, GSU 12. Fouled Out—None. Technicals—None.

MEN'S BASKETBALL BOX SCORE

UNC GREENSBORO (80)
Burrell 8-11 10-10 27, Clifton 0-1 0-0 0, McCarthy 1-1 1-1 3, Taylor 6-15 0-0 12, J. Joseph 7-15 3-4 20, Hickman 0-1 0-0 0, Wilson 2-3 1-3 5, Bristow 0-2 1-2 1, Hargrove 0-0 0-0 0, Gross 2-4 2-2 6, Lawrence 3-4 0-0 6. Totals 29-57 18-22 80.

GEORGIA SOUTHERN (79)
Olivier 0-3 0-0 0, Bennett 10-16 3-6 23, Nesbitt 4-13 0-0 9, Williams 2-9 4-10 10, Fleming 4-6 1-2 9, Gennie 0-1 0-0 0, Mobley 2-2 1-2 6, Gibson 3-8 0-1 8, Francois 4-8 3-4 12, C. Joseph 1-2 0-0 2, Byams 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 30-69 12-19 79.

Halftime—UNC 39, GSU 39. Three-point goals—UNC 4-10 (Burrell 1-1, Taylor 0-2, J. Joseph 3-6, Bristow 0-1), GSU 7-26 (Bennett 0-1, Nesbitt 1-7, Williams 2-9, Mobley 1-1, Gibson 2-7, Francois 1-1). Rebounds—UNC 41 (Burrell, J. Joseph 9), GSU 33 (Francois 9). Assists—UNC 14 (Taylor 4), GSU 21 (Williams 7). Total Fouls—UNC 20, GSU 20. Fouled Out—Bennett, Technicals—None. A-3,052

UPCOMING EAGLE ATHLETIC EVENTS

Monday

Men's Basketball vs. Elon, 7:30 p.m., Hanner Fieldhouse
SENIOR NIGHT

Tuesday

Women's Tennis at Winthrop, 2:30 p.m.
Baseball vs. Mercer, 6 p.m., J.I. Clements Stadium

Wednesday


Softball vs. Georgia State, 3 p.m., Eagle Field
Women's Basketball at Appalachian State, 7 p.m.



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Track and field sets personal highs at South Carolina Invite

GSU Athletic Media Relations

COLUMBIA, S.C. – Georgia Southern set eleven personal records over the weekend at the South Carolina Invitational.

In the shot put event, five Eagles set new personal records. Nikki Slocumb finished third with a distance of 48'1.75, with teammate Jamilla

Minnifield in fourth with a 44'6.75 throw. In sixth place, Amber Tiggs threw a 40'9, with Emily Greeson finishing after her in seventh with a throw of 40'2. Kellie Mitchell rounded out the event for GSU, finishing eighth at 40'1.25.

The weight throw event was a record breaking event as well, with Slocumb finishing third in the sec-

ond event of the day, with a throw of 51'4.5. Shaletha Lightfoot and Tiggs tied for fourth place with a throw of 50'25, while Greeson came in seventh (44'6) and Markaysa Norwood in eighth (43'1). All five distances set new personal records.

In the high jump, Kellie Mitchell set her second personal best of the day, with a jump of 5'5, good enough for

second place. In the 55 meter hurdles, Marlo Mincey's time of 8.30 gave her fifth place, while teammates Lindy Petteway and Brittney Chase finished in seventh and eighth, respectively with times of 8.36 and 8.49.

The Eagles will return to action on Friday when they travel to Johnson City, Tenn. for the Southern Conference Indoor Championships.

Men's tennis outplays Mercer

GSU Athletic Media Relations

MACON – The Georgia Southern men's tennis squad swept all three doubles matches and won four of six singles competitions as the Eagles posted a 5-2 non-conference victory over Mercer Saturday afternoon.

Georgia Southern (5-6) used straight-set singles wins from Vincent Patry (6-4, 6-1) at No. 1, Doruk Baglan (6-2, 6-2) at No. 3, Lasha Janashia (6-2, 6-1) at No. 5 and Charles-Henri Trottet (6-1, 6-1) at No. 6.

The Eagles also captured the doubles point after triumphs by the tandems of Patry/Danie van den Heever (8-4) at No. 1, Baglan/Janashia (8-5) at No. 2 and Tom Green/Trottet (8-4) at No. 3.

GSU will return to action Saturday, when it hosts Appalachian State at 11 a.m., for its first Southern Conference match of the season.



David Casselli/STAFF

Men's tennis had a successful trip up Interstate 16 to Macon, taking care of Mercer on Saturday afternoon.

We have RAISED the bar! for MGC-Dublin Center's 2004 Battle of the Bands Friday, March 12 • 7pm

MGC-Dublin center is seeking entries from bands who are interested in gaining exposure and being critiqued by **music professionals**, including Paul Hornsby (recording for Marshall Tucker, Charlie Daniels Band), Alan Walden (2003 Georgia Music Hall Inductee, former manager of

Lynyrd Skynyrd) and Jason Walden (talent scout for Velocete Records in Atlanta). **Bands vie for first prize of \$500 and recording time in a studio that has produced gold records. Second prize takes \$300!**

All Genres are Welcome!

Country • Metal • Christian • Rock 'n' Roll • Alternative • And Anything in Between!

To enter, complete the form below and mail with \$35 entry fee, band bio and demo CD of at least two songs by February 27 to

Battle of the Bands • MGC-Dublin Center
1900 Bellevue Road • Dublin, GA 31021

Band Name _____		Band Member/Contact _____	
Genre (circle)	Country Rock Metal Alternative	Phone _____	
	Christian Other _____	Email _____	
Previous awards _____		Address _____	
		City, State, Zip _____	

Nominations Being Accepted!

Nominate your student organization or student leader(s) for the 2004 Student Leadership Awards sponsored by The Center for Student Leadership Development.

Individual Awards

John F. Nolen Jr. Hall of Leaders
Southern Talon
Catch A Rising Star
Volunteer of the Year
Graduate Student of the Year
Unsung Hero Award

Student Organizational Awards

Student Organization of the Year
Most Improved Organization of the Year
Advisor of the Year
Best Program of the Year
Community Service Project of the Year
Fundraising Project of the Year

Application packets are now available on-line at

<http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/leadership>

Packets have been mailed to all student organizational officers.

Please download a copy if your organization did not receive a packet.

ALL NOMINATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY FRIDAY, MARCH 26.

This is the week after Spring Break. Plan Early.

Come to our session on How to Apply for an Award?

Monday, March 1 at 5:00 pm in Russell Union

For more information

e-mail: leader@georgiasouthern.edu

Office: Russell Union 2022

Phone: 871-1435

Women's tennis falls to Furman in league opener

GSU Athletic Media Relations

GREENVILLE, S.C. – The Furman Lady Paladins won 12 of 13 singles sets and earned the doubles point with 8-3, 9-8 and 8-3 wins on the way to a 7-0 Southern Conference victory over Georgia Southern Saturday afternoon at the Mickel Tennis Center.

The Lady Paladins recorded decisive triumphs in five of the six singles positions. Freshman Heather

Reynolds forced a third set during her 3-6, 6-0, 6-3 setback to Marti Morris at the No. 6 position.

Furman (3-1, 1-0) was perhaps tested the strongest in the No. 2 doubles match where Shannon Moore and Lisa Bornt-Davis outlasted Krystel Sauvageau and Szilvia Zsakay 9-8.

Georgia Southern (1-3, 0-1) will return to action Tuesday at 2:30 p.m., when it faces the Winthrop Lady Eagles in Rock Hill, S.C.

BASKETBALL, FROM PAGE 6

score back up at 39-39 with a basket as the first-half buzzer sounded.

Georgia Southern came out strong in the second half, holding the lead for the first four minutes, before two free throws from the Spartans' Josh Gross tied the score at 43-43.

From that point on, the Eagles would not sniff the lead again for the next 13 minutes, until Francois' two free throws put Georgia Southern ahead briefly. That lead lasted just a mere few seconds before UNC Greensboro would jump on top one final time.

The Eagles were unable to find much of a stroke from the field all night long, shooting 43.5 percent as a team. From beyond the three-point line, Georgia Southern only managed to make 7-of-26 shots.

On the flip side, the Spartans managed to ride off of a 56.7-percent first-half performance, as they shot 50.9 percent overall.

"They made the tough shots," said the Eagles' Williams. "They were hit-

ting while we were missing."

The defeat spoiled a 23-point night from Frank Bennett, who made 10-of-16 shots before fouling out inside the final minute. Francois added 12 points and a team-best nine rebounds to pace the Eagles (19-6, 10-4 SoCon).

Ronnie Burrell was the spark in the win for UNC Greensboro (8-16, 5-9 SoCon) sinking 8-of-11 field goals and 10-of-10 free throws on his way to 27 points. Joseph added 20 points and nine rebounds.

With the College of Charleston suffering a non-conference loss on Saturday, the Eagles did not lose any ground on first place, but cannot afford any more lapses entering the final two games of the season.

Georgia Southern will close out their Hanner slate on Monday when Elon enters for a 7:30 p.m. tip-off. The game will also serve as Senior Night, with Bennett, Marcus Byams, Kordel Gibson and Prentice Mobley being honored for their contributions.

BASEBALL, FROM PAGE 6

while Georgia Southern used a pair of six-run innings to post a 12-5 non-conference victory over Georgia Sunday afternoon at J.I. Clements Stadium.

The Eagles batted around twice during the game and got multiple-hit performances from James Payne (three), Jason Hurst and Greg Dowling, who also blasted his third homerun of the season.

Georgia (6-1) opened the scoring, pushing across a run in the top of the second against Eagle starter Brian Harrison. Josh Morris started the frame with a double, moved to third on Marshall Szabo's ground-out and scored on Brandon Lowe's sacrifice flyout to leftfield.

The Bulldogs added three more runs in the third, using a RBI-infield single from Justin Holmes and a two-run double by Morris to increase their lead to 4-0.

Georgia Southern (4-5) sent 10 men to the plate and benefited from six bases on balls and a pair of errors in a six-run third inning. The Eagles chased Georgia starter Michael Hyle (1-1) with one out after he issued four free passes and a pair of hits, including an infield single by Payne and Hurst. UGA reliever David Timm inherited a bases loaded situation and walked Logan Phillips to force in GSU's sixth run before Matt Woods was summoned from the bullpen and quickly ended the rally by forcing Brandon Long to bounce into an inning-ending double play.

Georgia tried to answer back in the top of the fifth, loading the bases with no outs against Harrison. After Holmes led off the frame with a double, Jonathan Wyatt followed with a single and Kyle was hit by a pitch to knock Harrison out of the contest. Josh Smith greeted Teaford (3-0) with a run-scoring fielder's choice to cut the deficit to 6-5, but the southpaw bounced back to strike out Morris and Szabo to end the threat.

The Eagles batted around for the second time in the contest, accounting for six runs in the bottom of the eighth to finally reach Woods and put the game out of reach. Back-to-back run-scoring singles by Long and Payne helped push the Georgia Southern lead to 8-5 before Brandon Burnsed knocked Woods out of the game and highlighted the inning with a triple into the left-centerfield gap to score two and give GSU a 10-5 cushion.

Dowling capped the frame with a two-run blast over the centerfield wall to welcome UGA reliever Brooks Brown and give Georgia Southern a 12-5 advantage.

Harrison worked the first four innings, scattering six hits and five runs while fanning four. Hyle lasted just two and one-third innings, allowing six runs and three hits.

The Eagles will be back in action Tuesday, hosting Mercer at Clements Stadium in a non-league contest scheduled to start at 6 p.m.

2004 SOAR team selected, prepares for successful summer orientation

By Jessica Luber
jluber@georgiasouthern.edu

Being a leader takes hard work, dedication, and a whole lot of school spirit, and the 2004 Student Orientation Advisement and Registration (SOAR) team here at GSU has just that.

Each year, a team of twenty-three students is chosen to represent the university and to show freshman and transfer students just what Georgia Southern is all about.

SOAR gives the new students and transfer students a chance to come and find out exactly what the University has to offer.

It is during SOAR that students can ask questions, get their student IDs, pay for a parking pass if needed, meet with advisors, and get registered for class. They also get to spend one night in a residence hall and take walking tours of the campus. The students also get to

spend the first night at the RAC where activities and games take place.

Recruitment for the summer SOAR leaders begins in the fall with acceptance of applications. This past fall, over 85 students applied for the 20 spots.

Within the first week in January, the three-step interview process begins. The first round of interviews involve one faculty and staff member and up to two applicants. The second interview stage is more of a group activity. The applicants are put into small groups and are given two tasks, each task being observed by different people. By doing this, the observers can see how the students interact with each other and how they handle situations. After this step, a cut is made. This past fall, 42 students were invited back for individual interviews.

So, what does it take to become a SOAR leader? Orientation Coordinator Kellie Pickett explained that the

interviewers look for a combination of attributes when deciding which candidates to select. They want a strong representation of Georgia Southern and what it has to offer. They look at where the applicants come from, what their interests are, and their personalities. They need to make sure that each new student can relate to at least one of the SOAR leaders.

This past fall, three of the 2003 SOAR leaders returned for a second go around. Even though they have to reapply, those that are selected to come back play an active role in the selection and recruitment process.

The SOAR team that is chosen goes through an extensive training process. All students have to attend the GSU 2222 class, designed specially for leaders on campus. It is in this class they are taught the history of the school, leadership skills, and the student development

theory. This class is to ensure that they can answer any questions that a new student or parent might have.

At SOAR, 17 of the chosen leaders are given a small group of 20 to 25 students. It is in this small group where the new students can get personal and ask questions about what a true day at Georgia Southern is like. The other six or seven leaders work with the parents, answering any of the questions they may have.

But it is not just a learning experience for the new students.

2003 and 2004 SOAR leader Thomas Miller explains, "You go into a session thinking you are about to teach 20-25 students about Georgia Southern but they are actually teaching you at the same time."

SOAR has proved to help new students become better acquainted with the University, making their first year a wonderful experience.



David Caselli/STAFF

The 2004 SOAR Leaders (in no particular order): Matthew Bryant, Jonathan Buckner, Christina Calloway, Jose Castro, Clarissa Crawford, Amy Eakin, Amy Green, Kerry Heffernan, Candis Hill, Matt Jones, History, Samantha Kosko, Liz Maloy, Jeff McGhee, Monique McKenzie, Rachel Miller, Thomas Miller, Katherine Mueller, Denia Phillips, Tony Rouse, Jon Sheppard, Brandi Stone, Kevin Wigley, and Bethany Wood

DRUGS, FROM PAGE 1

As of Friday, the arrest tally was at 80 and climbing while the 17 remaining accused are tracked down.

Paulson Stadium served as base camp for the crackdown, nicknamed "Operation Infra." Among those brought to the football arena for questioning and processing were four Georgia Southern University students, according to a university spokesman.

Initial evidence gathering hinged on undercover agents who purchased a variety of illegal paraphernalia from local students and residents.

According to police, the most common buy was crack cocaine - which was a whopping 86 out of 128 transactions - which for first time offenders can carry anywhere from one to ten years in prison.

Law enforcement is confident that their charges are ironclad because of the direct circumstances of the purchases.

"When we can, we will make arrests," said Micah Ward of the

GBI.

Ward, who spearheaded the round up, said that the local drug market should be on alert.

According to Bulloch County Sheriff Lynn Anderson, the apprehensions were made without incident.

'Operation Infra'

Wednesday's round up of alleged drug dealers includes narcotics purchased from 97 accused defendants.

The drug buys break-down is as follows:

- Crack cocaine: 86
- Powder cocaine: 19
- Marijuana: 17
- Prescription pills: 3
- Ecstasy: 2
- Hallucinogenic mushrooms: 1

Totals: 128 transactions, valued at \$18,514

20-year-old convicted of murder six years ago wants a new trial

Associated Press

ATLANTA - A 20-year-old Fulton County man who was convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison about seven years ago is back in court and asking for a new trial.

Michael Lewis, also known as "Little B," was 13 when he was arrested for allegedly shooting 23-year-old Darrell Woods on Jan. 21, 1997, as Woods sat in his car with two young sons. Witnesses told police that Lewis thought he had been disrespected because Woods wouldn't turn off his headlights.

Lewis' attorney Tom West said Friday that his client has a below-average IQ and childishly assumed the first jury would realize he didn't shoot Woods.

West told Judge Cynthia Wright that a competency hearing should have been held before the initial trial since Lewis was so young when he was arrested.

The hearing continues Monday.

ST. PATRICK'S, FROM PAGE 1

at the party along Savannah's riverside strip of oyster bars and T-shirt shops, said Waterfront Association president Cheryl Power.

Without the city paying for portable toilets, she said, the association expected to be left \$14,000 in the red.

Things got worse. Association members took offense at City Council asking whether the non-profit group had mismanaged its budget.

More bruised feelings came from accusations that an association member had "cursed" someone on City Council.

"We are not going to be cursed by anybody and expect, then, to be nice and friendly," said Johnson, who did not elaborate on the accusation.

Power responded: "I don't believe it's true. I just believe somebody made it up."

After a two-hour meeting at City Hall, the association agreed to foot the bill for the outdoor commodes.

And the mayor immediately told reporters to get the word out: St. Patrick's Day wasn't going down the toilet.

CELEBRATION, FROM PAGE 1

Mats were put down on the concrete, and students performed moves as the instructor walked the audience through it. First, sport judo was demonstrated. They would start by "fitting in," where they would square off to each other before each move. The important thing about these throws is to learn how to fall correctly. They would land the same way on the mat for their safety.

Self-Defense Jujitsu came next and stirred up the crowd. Jujitsu is originally known as the "gentle art" but watching the performers' faces as they were put in holds, gentleness wasn't displayed. When the pain was too much to bear, they would "tap out," or hit the mat so their opponent would stop.

The Chien Hong School of Kung Fu from Atlanta performed the final demonstration.

Two men, accompanied by a drum, showed off numerous Kung Fu techniques by expressing art through hand motions. A huge, colorful dragon costume was draped over them as they danced around the Rotunda.

The Asian Festival attracted many students and gave everyone a chance to learn more about the exciting culture and history of Asia.

LUNDIN, FROM PAGE 1

they found ways to bring remarkable energy, commitment and creativity to their work.

Lundin's presentations are a part of Career Awareness and Student Week, which includes a career fair and workshops on such topics as job interviewing skills, personal finance and networking.

"We are extremely fortunate to have him visit Georgia Southern," says Middleton.

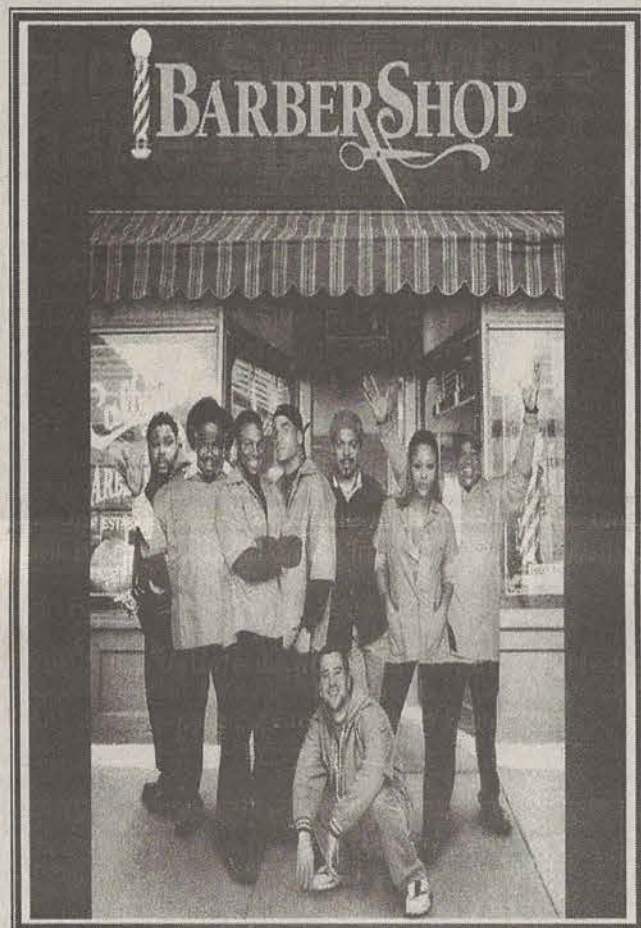
Admission to Lundin's presentations are free.

However, seating at the PAC is limited; therefore, attendees are advised to pick up tickets ahead of time.

For additional information, contact the Career Services office at (912) 681-5197.

E-Cinema

Eagle Entertainment and The Multicultural Student Center Present...



Thursday

February 26

Russell Union Theatre

7:00pm & 9:30pm

Calvin (Ice Cube), who inherited a struggling barber shop on the south side of Chicago from his father, views the shop as nothing but a burden and a waste of his time. After selling the shop to a local loan shark, Calvin slowly begins to see his father's vision and legacy and struggles with the notion that he just sold it out. The shop is filled with an eclectic cast of characters that share their stories, jokes, trials and tribulations. Eddie (Cedric the Entertainer) is an old barber with strong opinions and no customers. Jimmy (Sean Patrick Thomas) is a highly educated barber with a superiority complex who can't stand Isaac (Troy Garity), the new white barber who just wants a shot at cutting some hair. Ricky is an ex-con with two strikes against him and is desperately trying to stay straight. Terri (Eve) is a hard-edged woman who can't seem to leave her two-timing boyfriend.

Georgia Southern University • Center for Student Leadership Development



Invites all student leaders or interested students leaders to apply for the

2004 Georgia State-Wide LeaderShape Institute

May 10 - May 15, 2004.

ONLY 3 students can attend!

Registration fee is covered by the Center for Student Leadership Development. Students must be enrolled at Georgia Southern University through May 2005.

What is LeaderShape?

It is a 6-day leadership development experience that will focus on personal and group leadership, leading with integrity, and creating personal goals for the future. You have the opportunity to meet students from other institutions throughout the state. Only 40 students from the State of Georgia will be selected and only 3 from Georgia Southern University.

Application due no later than Friday, February 26, 2004.

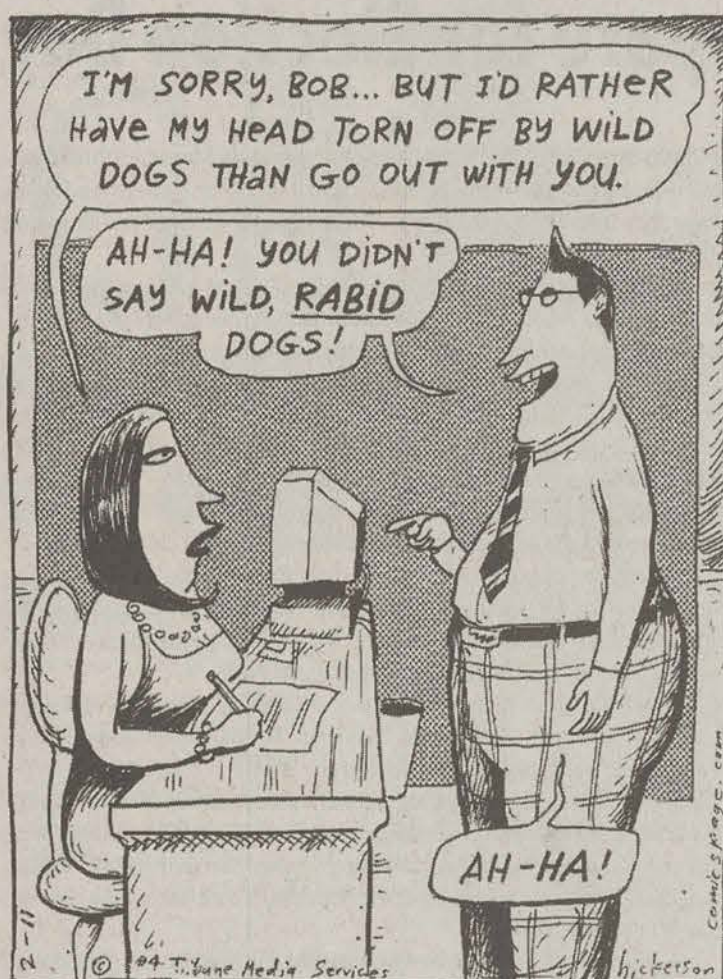
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NEON BUDWEISER sign for sale. Email Adam@greer.net for pictures and information.

FOR SALE, pearl necklace with matching pearl earrings. Asking \$50. For digital picture of item or to purchase, send email to gbrock@georgiasouthern.edu.

FOR SALE: 13" TV/VCR combo w/remote, \$80. Sharper Image CD player w/subwoofer, \$75. Small water fountain, very relaxing \$15. Call Barry 660-0442.

FOR SALE: Dual Kegerator with matching bar. Includes taps, spouts, kegs and glasses. Perfect for an apartment! \$600.00. Call Mike 678-1510.

FIREPLACE INSERT w/blower, \$300.00; computer desk \$25.00; recliner \$50.00; couch w/recliner on both ends \$100.00; twin bed \$125.00. Call 764-7469.

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APARTMENT AVAILABLE for sublease beginning of May at The Woodlands. All utilities are included. Please call 229-344-1426 for details.

LOOKING FOR someone to lease apt. in Southern Courtyard for Summer 2004. Contact Christina 688-8016.

PLEASE SUBLEASE St. James Place Apt. 106. One bedroom, rent \$325 with water included. Months June and July. Call Teresa 478-320-7753.

\$200.00 PER month. Good mobile home for rent on beautiful farm. Looking for settled, responsible renter. Also, opportunity to earn some money while living on the farm. Located about 20 miles from GSU. 478-982-2816.

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IF YOU are looking for a nice used mobile home, please let us know. We will get you the best quality for the best price. We will beat any price in town. Contact: Something Nice at 478-982-2816, leave a message.

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3. Pick a category header under which your ad will appear.
4. Pay for your ad (checks or money orders, only, please)
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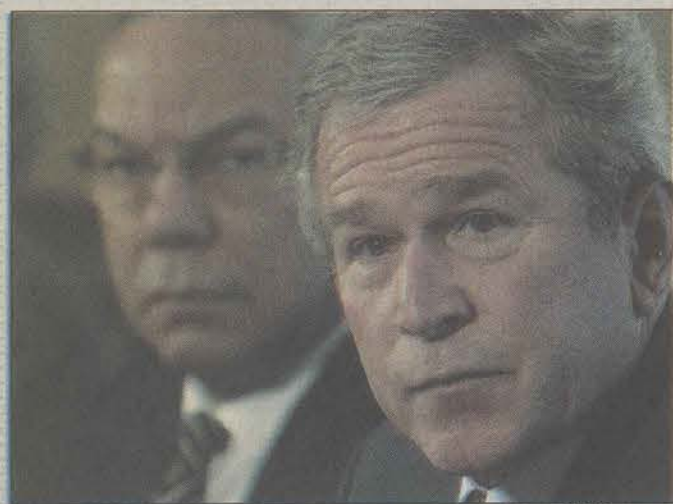
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Republicans working behind the scenes to prepare for Election Day



KRT Campus

President Bush says he is focused on being president and not on his re-election, but \$144 million raised for his campaign says otherwise. He is well ahead of previous campaigns in money and organization.

By Ron Hutcheson
KRT Campus

President Bush says he's focused on his job, not his re-election, but that's not the way it looks at his campaign headquarters in the Washington suburbs.

Working from a nondescript office building in Arlington, Va., Bush's political operatives are quietly building what they hope will be the best campaign organization in history. While Democrats focus on the high-profile task of selecting a presidential nominee, Republicans are preparing for the political equivalent of hand-to-hand combat.

Bush may be sagging in the polls, but his national network of supporters, his record-breaking campaign bankroll and his ability to leverage the power of his office for political gain make him a formidable opponent for any Democratic nominee. Nine months before the November election, Bush is well ahead of previous campaigns in money and organization.

The president has raised more than \$144 million for his re-election effort, more than four times the total raised by President Clinton for his 1996 re-election and roughly five times the amount raised so far by Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts, the front-runner in this year's Democratic nominating contest. And Kerry's spent most of his already.

Bush's campaign organization is equally impressive. More than three dozen paid campaign workers have been dispatched to 13 key battleground states, where they have lined up campaign leaders in every county and in at least 7,000 voting precincts.

The campaign also boasts 163,000 active volunteers and 6 million e-mail correspondents. About 170 full-time Bush campaign aides work at his re-election headquarters, which opened without fanfare nine months ago.

"We never had an organization in place like we have now. It's unbelievable," said Rep. Candice Miller, R-Mich., who has been involved in the state's politics for 24 years. "The Democrats are getting all the attention. But we are getting ready."

The Republican focus on campaign organization reflects concerns in the White House that Bush is headed for another agonizingly close election.

Top Bush campaign advisers believe most Americans have made up their minds about the president, with only about 10 percent of voters considered truly undecided. That means the election is likely to hinge on which candidate does the best job of getting his supporters to the polls.

In the razor-close 2000 election, the outcome in at least six states was decided by fewer than 8,000 votes. Bush won Florida, the deciding state, by 537 votes. He lost New Mexico to Al Gore by 366.

Although Bush came out on top, his advisers came away from the experience determined to improve their get-out-the-vote operation. Karl Rove, Bush's chief political strategist, was particularly chagrined that as many as 4 million evangelical Christians, a key part of the Republican base, sat out the election, according to his estimates.

In Ohio, Bush's 9- to 12-percentage-point lead in pre-election polls shrank to 3.6 percentage points on Election Day 2000, primarily because Democrats and their labor union allies did a better job of turning out their supporters.

"We just got whupped," said Jason Mauk, a spokesman for the Ohio Republican Party organization. "We realized we needed to improve."

Nearly all of the efforts underway now are aimed at influencing events in the final 72 hours before Election Day. The goal is to make sure that the campaign personally contacts as many Bush supporters as possible.

"2000, if nothing else, demonstrated that organization is important. People realize that turning out 10 of their friends can make a difference," said Scott Stanzel, a Bush campaign spokesman. "You're more likely to go to the polls if your neighbor or friend or co-worker asks you to vote for President Bush than if you see a TV advertisement."

Republicans tested their get-out-the-vote techniques in the 2002 election, with notable success.

In Georgia, more than 3,000 volunteers and paid workers knocked on 150,000 doors in carefully targeted areas. After a pre-election rally with Bush, nine busloads of volunteers fanned out in the heavily Republican Atlanta suburbs to prod voters to the polls. More than 2 million GOP households received telephone reminders about the election.

The work paid off when Republican Sonny Perdue was elected governor and Republican Saxby Chambliss defeated Democratic Sen. Max Cleland.

Of course, voters are likely to see plenty of Bush on television, too. The first campaign ads are ready for broadcast next month, as soon as the Democratic race is settled. The ads portray Bush as a principled, steadfast leader, while casting Kerry as a hypocrite. In a direct shot at the Democratic front-runner, an ad titled, "Unprincipled, Chapter 1," ridicules Kerry's claim that he's an opponent of special interests.

Previews are available on Bush's campaign Web site. Bush will also ramp up his travel schedule, especially to pivotal swing states. Most of his trips will be heavily subsidized by taxpayers. A formula devised in 1982 allocates costs for election-year travel according to how much time a president spends on official "presidential" business, as opposed to partisan politics.

For example, if Bush spends 25 percent of his day at political events, his campaign would pick up roughly 25 percent of the tab. But that doesn't include the cost of security and other expenses that are considered mandatory for a president.

"Just because it's an election year doesn't mean he stops being president," White House spokesman Scott McClellan said.

One of the easiest ways to get involved in grass-roots politics is through campaign Web sites. President Bush's Web address is www.georgewbush.com. John Kerry's is www.johnkerry.com. John Edwards is www.johnedwards.com. You can also volunteer through the state or national political parties.

Date for return of Iraqi power questionable

By Tom Lasseter and Hannah Allam
KRT Campus

The top American civilian in Iraq promised Thursday that the U.S.-led administration would return sovereignty to the country by June 30 as planned, but said blueprints for an interim Iraqi government remained in flux.

L. Paul Bremer said dozens of plans to return Iraq to independence have emerged, indirectly acknowledging that U.S. efforts to organize an interim government on the basis of nationwide caucuses have collapsed.

At the United Nations, Secretary General Kofi Annan said Iraq wouldn't be ready for direct elections before the June 30 hand-over date.

With the United States retreating once again from earlier plans, Bremer was unable to say how the United States would extricate itself from its role as the occupying power in Iraq.

"It is a very complicated task to do it if you don't do it with elections," Bremer said.

Bremer, typically a polished diplomat who favors dark suits and pocket-handkerchiefs, appeared flustered when asked to discuss the U.S.-led coalition's next move.

Although the Bush administration continues to insist that the hand-over be done by June 30 before the U.S. presidential election campaign moves into high gear, a growing number of American officials are worried that the arm-wrestling among Iraq's Shiite

Muslims, Sunni Muslims and Kurds could escalate into factional conflict or even civil war.

As recently as Monday, Bremer's top spokesman, Dan Senor, said, "We are moving forward on the implementation of the caucus plan." But that changed Tuesday, when top Bush officials in Washington said they were scrapping the complex system of caucuses that would have culminated in a national assembly. The idea had come under attack from a wide range of Iraqis.

Expectations have grown in Baghdad that the U.S.-appointed Governing Council, originally meant to be dissolved by June 30, may continue, perhaps in an expanded form, until elections are possible.

"For the U.S., there is no better alternative. What's the alternative? Partial elections? Put Iraq under the rule of the U.N.?" said Sadoun al Dulame, the director of the Iraq Center for Research and Strategic Studies, an Iraqi independent research center and polling agency.

Mahmoud Othman, a council member who advocates forming a national congress said the people need a change.

"The majority of Governing Council members are in favor of continuing the Governing Council. The Iraqi people are the ones who would benefit from a congress," Othman said.

The council is wrangling over an interim constitution, which is due by the end of this month.

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