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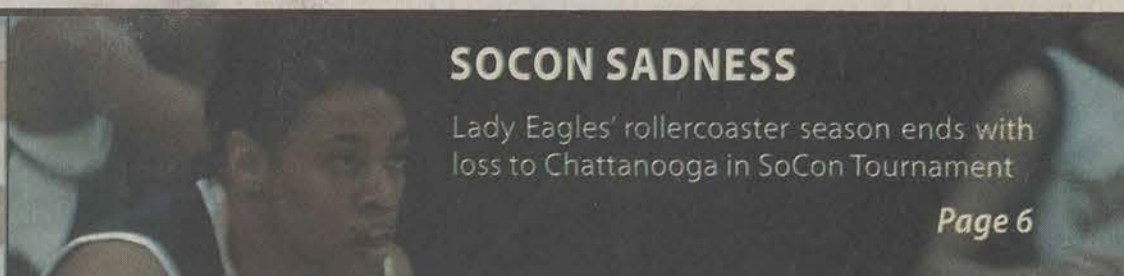
Monday, March 8, 2004 • Volume 76, Number 73



BUSH VS. KERRY

A no-holds-barred fight is expected in this year's upcoming presidential election

Page 9



SOCON SADNESS

Lady Eagles' rollercoaster season ends with loss to Chattanooga in SoCon Tournament

Page 6

Perdue: HOPE plan may not prevent future cuts

By Doug Gross
Associated Press

ATLANTA—A Senate plan to reduce HOPE scholarship money for books and fees if lottery revenues slip is a step in the right direction, but may not do enough to prevent future cuts to the program, Gov. Sonny Perdue said Friday.

Senate Republican leaders on Thursday floated a plan that would continue paying for books and fees under the scholarship unless Georgia lottery revenues dip below those from the previous year.

The first year, fees would be capped at \$500 a year. The second year that occurred, no fees would be covered. The third year, book payments would be dropped.

Perdue, a Republican, said he supports the idea, but that savings under the plan may not be phased in quickly enough if demand for HOPE money outstrips the money the lottery raises to pay for it.

"It limits our choices in the future and may mean that other action will have to be taken," Perdue said. "This is sort of a delaying effort and providing a more politically palatable way rather than saying, 'This is what needs to be done.'"

Meanwhile, Perdue said he likely would return \$125 million for books and fees to the state budget if lawmakers appear likely to pass the Senate plan.

Anticipating the Legislature would follow a commission recommendation and cut books and fees from HOPE, Perdue cut the money for the budget year beginning July 1.

"If the House and Senate will work together toward solutions on the HOPE scholarship, I'm prepared to work with them," Perdue said.

Lawmakers fear increasing demand for the scholarship, combined with rising tuition costs, could cause the program to run out of money.

The Senate plan also would switch to a new 3.0 grade-point standard for determining a "B" average.

The HOPE scholarship requires a "B" average, but because of the way the math works, fewer students would be eligible if the state changed how the grade is calculated.

The measure also limits the number of hours technical students may attend classes on HOPE scholarships and adds an extra checkpoint to determine if college students are maintaining the required "B" average.

Lt. Gov. Mark Taylor—who as a state senator sponsored the original HOPE legislation for then-Gov. Zell Miller—has argued there is no need to cut books and fees.

Instead, he proposes a temporary freeze on tuition and fees at state colleges and universities, arguing those are the real problem.

"Lt. Gov. Taylor is keeping a promise he made to the people," said Taylor

See HOPE, Page 5

Mocs shock Eagles



Eli Boorstein/STAFF

Sophomore guard Elton Nesbitt (left) tries to cut off the Mocs' Ray Trowell's path to the basket in the Eagles' 90-87 overtime loss in Friday's Southern Conference semifinal.

Men's basketball falls to UTC in SoCon Tourney semifinals

By Eli Boorstein
Netsroob17@hotmail.com

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C.—The semifinal round slump will continue at least one more season for the Georgia Southern men's basketball team.

Georgia Southern saw Chattanooga wipe out, and then overtake, a 19-point Eagle first-half lead, on the way to a 90-87 overtime defeat in the semifinals of the Southern Conference Tournament on Friday night at the North Charleston Coliseum.

"It was a game of flurries," said head coach Jeff Price. "You knew it wouldn't last. You knew they'd make a run back."

With the loss, the South Division top-seeded Eagles remained winless in four trips to the semifinal round of the SoCon Tournament, three of those defeats coming at the hands of North Division second-seeded Chattanooga.

As Friday's contest began, it seemed as if Georgia Southern (21-8) had all the momentum in the world, connecting on nine of their first 11 shots, including five three-pointers, to jump out to a 27-8 lead after not even eight minutes had past.

But, almost as quickly as the Eagles were able to build up that advantage, they saw it fade away, as Georgia Southern

See Basketball, Page 6

Jermaine Austin arrested Friday night Two others charged in incident at Player's Club

By Luke Hearn
lheard@georgiasouthern.edu

GSU football running back and SoCon Offensive Player of the Year Jermaine Austin was arrested for duty to move upon officers request Friday night in Player's Club according to a report from the Statesboro Police Department.

This was Austin's second arrest this semester following a DUI this past January.

Also arrested were Jermaine Marquise Durham and Bryce Morton, each charged with obstruction of officer and disorderly conduct.

Durham was listed in the 2003 GSU Football Media Guide as a red-shirt freshman, but is not listed on the 2004 roster.

The police report indicated that Durham is not a student.

Officers responded to a complaint regarding a large party in Player's Club and issued noise violations before arresting Durham, Morton and Austin.

According to the report, all three were taken to the Bulloch County Jail for processing and to await bond.

Too many easy questions on final exam at University of Georgia say officials

By Lori Johnston
Associated Press

ATHENS—Many university students probably dream of getting a final exam with questions like this: How many goals are on a basketball court? How many quarters are in a high school basketball game? How many points does a 3-point field goal account for?

To top it off, the exam was multiple choice.

The questions were on the final exam, and only test, that students took in a basketball class taught in the fall of 2001 by University of Georgia assistant men's basketball coach Jim Harrick Jr. The class was called Coaching Principles and Strategies of Basketball.

The 20-question test and transcripts of interviews with some of the students in Harrick's class were among 1,500 pages of documents released Wednesday by the university in its response to the National Collegiate Athletic Association regarding four rules violations in the basketball program.

The university agreed with the NCAA's findings, which included allegations of academic fraud and improper benefits.

The NCAA concluded Harrick fraudulently awarded A's to three basketball players after allowing them to miss class and tests.

After the allegations came to light, Georgia last March chose not to renew the contract of Harrick, the son of former head Georgia men's basketball coach Jim Harrick.

An attorney for the Harricks said Wednesday that Harrick Jr. would not comment, and that a federal lawsuit filed last week is their response. That lawsuit accuses university officials and others of defamation.

See Georgia, Page 5

Questions from the Coaching Principles and Strategies of Basketball test given in December of 2001:

How many goals are on a basketball court?

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 3
- D. 4

How many halves are in a college basketball game?

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 3
- D. 4

How many points does a 3-point field goal account for in a basketball game?

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 3
- D. 4

Source: www.ncaa.com

The 20-question final exam given to the Coaching Principles and Strategies of Basketball class taught by UGA's Assistant Men's Basketball Coach Jim Harrick Jr. composed the only test in the class.

Weekday Weather

Monday



Sunny

HIGH
62°LOW
34°

Tuesday



Partly Cloudy

HIGH
61°LOW
36°

Only in America

- Ohio waiter missing a digit after salad mixing accident
- Florida teen arrested after doing four laps on motor speedway
- Arizona man uses Queen Anne's silver for eating breakfast



Page 3

Opinions

- KRT columnist Lenore Skenazy proposes some constitutional amendments
- GSU student Joshua Mark Mote responds to the ongoing gay marriage debate



Page 4

Sports

- Softball suffers doubleheader sweep to Boston College
- Men's and women's tennis both top Chattanooga
- Baseball kicks off series with pair of wins over Appalachian State



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Police Beat

03-04-2004

- Glenn William Cole III, 18, of Olliff Hall, was charged with minor in possession/consumption of alcohol.
- Carl William Hart III, 19, of Southern Pines, was charged with minor in possession/consumption of alcohol.
- Timothy Edward Lentz Jr., 19, of Southern Pines, was charged with minor in possession/consumption of alcohol.
- A CD case and approximately 30

CDs were taken from a vehicle in the Sigma Chi House parking lot.

- Someone damaged a gate at the Auxiliary Services Warehouse.
- Officers issued two traffic citations, investigated one traffic accident, assisted four motorists and responded to one fire alarm.

- A fight was reported at Southern Courtyard.
- Officers issued two traffic citations and two traffic warnings, investigated two traffic accidents, assisted eight motorists and one injured person, and responded to one vehicle fire and one fire alarm.

03-03-2004

- A diamond ring was taken from a restroom in the Hollis Building.

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

Campus Calendar

March 8

'Our Bodies, Our Rights'

12 p.m.

The theme of Women's Awareness Month is 'Inspiring Hope and Possibility.' This panel discussion is the first in a week of events. Refreshments will be provided. The discussion is sponsored by the National Organization of Women. For more information on Women's Awareness Month, contact the Multicultural Student Center at ext. 5409. At Russell Union Room 2044.

Fiction Reading

7 p.m.

Laura Valeri, temporary assistant professor in the Department of Writing and Linguistics, will read from her award-winning fiction. Her short story collection, "The Kind of Things Saints Do," was published in 2002 and was

the winner of the John Simmons Short Fiction Award and the John Gardner Award for fiction from Binghamton University. This event is free and open to the public. At the auditorium of the Arts Building, 912-681-0739

March 9

Women's Awareness Week Event

9 p.m.

Women's Awareness Week continues with Self Defense for Women. The class will be taught by Drew McKenzie. At the Recreational Activity Center.

Graduation Gala

10 a.m.

This event is for all Spring, Summer and Fall 2004 prospective undergraduates and graduate candidates. At this event students can check on graduation plans and pay graduation fees, order your cap and gown and

announcements, order professional framing for diplomas, alumni information, clear parking fines, library fees etc, speak with financial aid counselors, leave forwarding address with Postal Services, gather information about graduate programs and get assistance with your resume and job search strategy. At the Nessmith Lane Continuing Education Building.

War of the Wings

3 p.m.

The sisters of Kappa Delta Sorority are sponsoring this event in which 18 local restaurants are donating hundreds of wings for participants to judge their taste. Tickets are \$5 and are available from sisters of the sorority. This is the sorority's annual Shamrock Event for the Prevention of child abuse. At the Kappa Delta House on Olympic Boulevard, 912-681-3062.

News Briefs

Ashcroft still in hospital, awaiting test results



Special Photo

Attorney General John Ashcroft.

WASHINGTON - Attorney General John Ashcroft remained hospitalized Saturday in an intensive care unit for treatment of a severe case of gallstone pancreatitis, a serious and painful abdominal illness.

Justice Department spokesman Mark Corallo said Ashcroft was being treated with antibiotics and painkillers. Corallo said there has been no change in his condition.

Doctors were still evaluating the attorney general and awaiting results of tests before deciding on their next steps, which could include surgery.

Pancreatitis is treated with antibiotics and fasting, and often clears up after a week or so. But in some cases, surgery is required. In extreme cases, it can kill.

Ashcroft, 61, became ill Thursday but initially thought he had a stomach flu. His condition worsened and he was admitted to the George Washington University Hospital later that night.

Pancreatitis is an inflammation of the pancreas, a gland that secretes digestive enzymes and insulin. The two main causes are alcohol abuse and, as in Ashcroft's case, a gallstone blocking the passage from the pancreas to the beginning of the small intestine. It also can be caused by infection, injury or certain medications.

Symptoms include sudden, severe abdominal pain, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting and fever.

Parents charged after boy takes guns to school

SALEM, Ore. - The parents of an 11-year-old boy are facing reckless endangering charges after their son brought two guns to his school, officials said.

Barbara Ruiz-Velasco, 36, and Fernando Virveros-Hernandez, 26, were cited for the misdemeanor charge but they were not arrested, said Marion County sheriff's Deputy Michael Sommer.

The boy, a student at Four Corners Elementary School, brought a loaded .380-caliber handgun to school Feb. 25. The next day, he brought an empty, nonfunctional .22-caliber handgun and several rounds of ammunition.

The boy apparently wanted to show the guns to a friend, officials said. During the initial investigation last week, deputies who went to the boy's home in Salem found three other

guns - two 9 mm handguns and one .44-caliber Magnum handgun.

School officials have scheduled a disciplinary hearing for next week. A court hearing for the boy's parents was pending in April, Sommer said.

Water taxi capsizes in Baltimore's Inner Harbor; seven missing

BALTIMORE - A water taxi carrying 25 passengers capsized Saturday in Baltimore's Inner Harbor during a fierce rain and wind storm, leaving seven people missing, authorities said.

Eighteen people were rescued, and six of them were taken to a nearby hospital after being pulled from the chilly water, said Baltimore fire spokesman Kevin Cartwright. An adult and a child were among the injured, he said.

Divers were in the water searching for the seven missing passengers, Cartwright said.

He said a storm with heavy rain and powerful winds that came through Baltimore at about the time of the accident may have caused the vessel to capsize.

"It's very possible that the weather was a factor in this," Cartwright said. Officials did not immediately know what the temperature of the water was, Cartwright said.

The accident happened at around 4 p.m. about a mile offshore. A unit of the Naval reserves helped with the rescue.

The Inner Harbor is one of the nation's oldest seaports and draws millions of tourists every year. Water taxis ferry thousands of visitors each year to the many points on the harbor, including Fort McHenry, Fells Point and the National Aquarium.

Team of Justice Department officials heads to assist in war crimes trials



Special Photo

National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice.

WASHINGTON - A team of 50 Justice Department prosecutors, investigators and support staff is going to Iraq beginning this weekend to assemble war crimes cases against former President Saddam Hussein and others in his former regime, a senior official said Saturday.

The goal of the effort is to sift through thousands of pages of evidence and provide a roadmap for Iraqis to use when they eventually bring Saddam and others in his administration before war crimes tribunals. U.S. officials want the world to view the trials as an Iraqi process, not one run by Americans or other foreigners.

The U.S. team includes main Justice lawyers, FBI agents, U.S. Marshals Service members and others involved in the federal criminal justice system, said a senior Justice Department official.

The White House, via national security adviser Condoleezza Rice, gave the Justice Department the lead on the effort over other agencies, said Trent Duffy, a spokesman for President Bush.

The legal developments were first reported by The New York Times on its Internet site Saturday. The newspaper also quoted Salem Chalabi, an Iraqi lawyer in charge of the war crimes issue, as saying the trials might not begin until late this year and that Saddam might not be the first defendant.

The Justice Department has sent dozens of other officials to Iraq in the months since the war ended to help create a modern, democratic legal system. These officials have trained judges, prosecutors, defense lawyers, investigators, police and prison personnel, among others.

Drug busts made on Amtrak in Albuquerque

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. - Drug agents seized marijuana and cocaine on a train traveling through New Mexico and arrested two passengers.

Timothy Lee Wilson, 34, of Waterloo, Iowa, was booked into jail on a charge of possessing cocaine and possessing marijuana with intent to distribute.

Court records said a witness saw him board the Amtrak train in Flagstaff, Ariz., with a duffel bag that federal agents said contained nearly 3 kilograms of marijuana and 215 grams of cocaine. He was arrested Thursday afternoon after the train stopped in Albuquerque.

Drug Enforcement Administration officers also arrested another man on the same train in an unrelated drug bust.

Agents said they found Damon Darrell Ivy, 28, of Bellflower, Calif., with 13 kilograms of marijuana. He was charged with possession of marijuana with intent to distribute.

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

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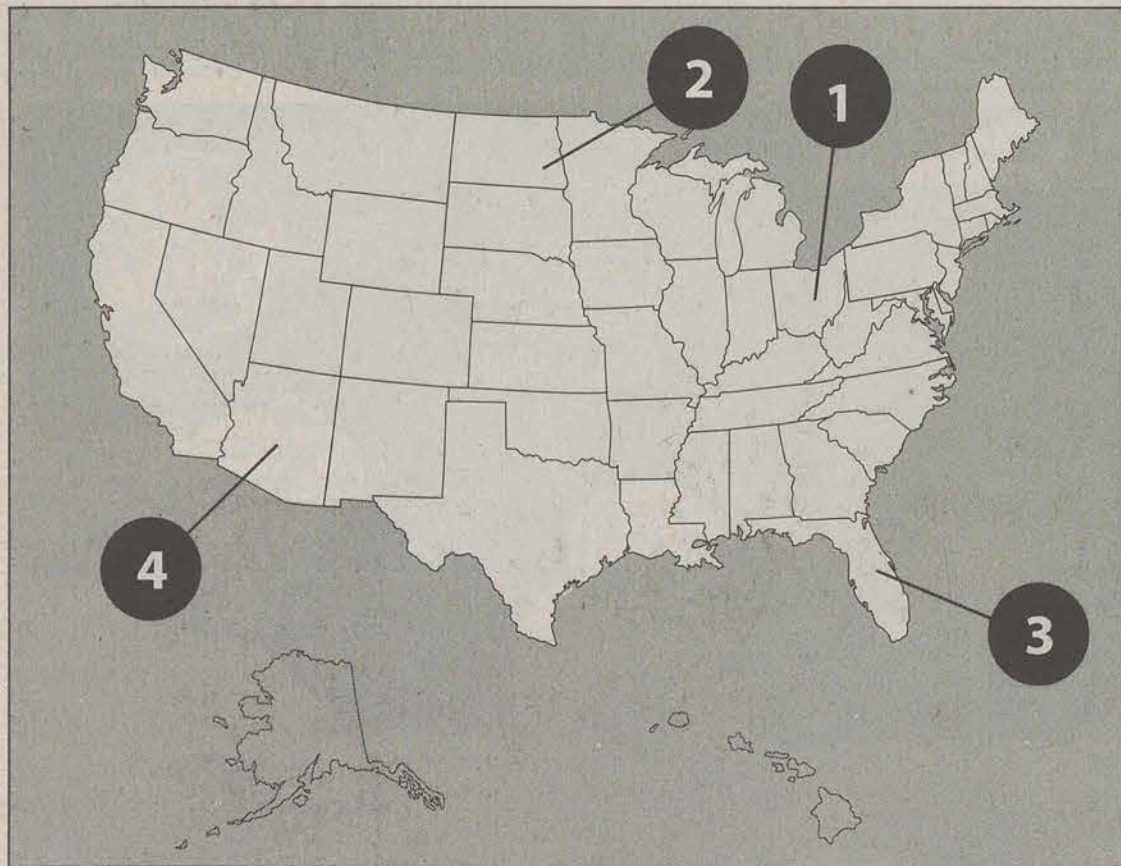
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1 Ohio

Waiter loses finger tip while tossing salad

CANTON - Talk about leaving a bad tip at the restaurant.

A 22-year-old woman found the severed tip of a thumb in her lunch salad at Red Robin Gourmet Burgers.

Stark County Health Commissioner Bill Franks said a worker at the restaurant, in the Canton suburb Jackson Township about 70 miles south of Cleveland, was chopping lettuce Monday night when he cut off part of his left thumb, including part of the fingernail.

Employees searched for the fingertip, but could not find it. The area was cleaned and sanitized, but the lettuce was placed in a cooler and then used for salads on Tuesday.

"It wound up being served at lunch time Tuesday to a 22-year-old woman," Franks said.

She had eaten most of her salad when she put the fingertip in her mouth, Franks said.

She first thought it was a piece of gristle, a health department report said.

Red Robin spokesman Dwayne Chambers said employees, in their haste to get the injured man to a doctor, failed to follow the chain's procedures and throw out all food in the area.

"We clearly had a breakdown," he said. "We are incredibly sorry about what happened."

Chambers said he spoke with the woman. "She obviously was pretty upset," he said.

2 North Dakota

Unknown donor gives \$500 to unemployed in Bismarck

BISMARCK - Job Service workers may never know the name of a woman who dropped off an envelope with five \$100 bills, but five unemployed people will never forget her.

Bismarck Job Service Director Wayne Brostrom was given the envelope after it was left at his office a couple of weeks ago. He opened it to find five \$100 bills and a letter.

"After receiving numerous rejection letters, I was recently hired for my dream job in Bismarck. I would like to thank Job Service," the letter said.

"Many people in Bismarck are actively seeking employment. In order to give them hope, I am enclosing \$500 in cash. Please give a \$100 bill to five unemployed people in Bismarck. Use your best judgment to determine the most deserving individuals."

Job Service consultants narrowed the field and voted for five people to get the money. Among them were a woman who lost her job after a difficult pregnancy, a woman with housing and medical problems and a man with severe back trouble.

Dollie Schaan, a single mother of a 21-month-old and a 6-year-old, cried when she heard she was one of the chosen five.

"I had just gotten a disconnect notice from (the power company), and had three diapers left," Schaan said. "Life looked really bad."

The gift, she said, was like a "big miracle."

The letter that was sent to Job Service with the money concluded:

"Tell each recipient that someone in Bismarck understands the pain and humiliation of being unemployed. I remember feeling hopeless, worthless and insignificant. On my darkest nights, I prayed for strength. The next day, the sun always came up!"

"My only goal is to offer encouragement to five unemployed individuals. By easing their suffering, if only for one day, I will have made a difference."

It was signed, "Someone who's been there."

Right after she got the money, Schaan found a job at a hotel. One of the other four recipients landed a job, as well, and the other three had hope.

"That someone would just take money and do that is amazing. You hear of stuff like that happening, but it's not the kind of thing that happens to me," Schaan said.

3 Florida

Racing teen finally caught after four laps

HOMESTEAD - A teenager stole a luxury sports car, barreled through a security gate at a motor speedway and then went four laps at 100 mph before he was arrested, police said.

Felipe Ramos, 18, stole the 2004 Infiniti G35 worth more than \$30,000 from a hospital construction site Wednesday after the driver left the keys in the ignition, police said. The driver had been lent the G35 by a dealership while his car was being repaired.

He sped past guards, crashed through a security gate and then began doing laps at the Homestead-Miami Speedway, home of NASCAR and Indy car races, police said.

After doing four laps, Ramos either lost control or stopped. Track workers held him until police arrived.

Ramos was charged with grand theft auto, burglary, criminal mischief and reckless driving, and was being held Thursday on \$17,500 bail.

The car incurred about \$3,000

worth of damage to the bumper, hood and lights, according to preliminary estimates.

"Who knows what (Ramos) was thinking?" police Capt. Ed Bowe said. "It's kind of strange."

4 Arizona

Silver collector uses Queen Anne's spoon for cereal

PRESCOTT - It's not the silver's history that fascinates Charles Morgan though he does think about it nor is it the silver's value. Rather, Morgan collects the various pieces of antique silver simply because he thinks they are beautiful.

"Silver should be used every day," he said at his Prescott home. "It's a sin not to use it."

For instance, Morgan, a London native, owns a sterling silver wedding spoon that belonged to Queen Anne in 1708.

"I use that for cereal," he said, adding that he likes Shredded Wheat.

Morgan's love affair with silver began when he was a young boy and visited the home of some friends of his parents. Those friends had a silver tea service set that Morgan instantly liked.

Coincidentally, Morgan said a tea and coffee service set started his now huge collection of silver. He bought it in 1961, a year after moving to the U.S. from London.

Morgan said each piece he ends up buying motions him over with a crook of its finger and says, "come on."

During his travels, he said, he'll see something and simply have to have it. And sometimes, he'll decide on a whim that he simply wants to do up the entire dinner table in silver. When he has guests over for dinner, he'll get out all the silver.

He bought some of his earliest silver pieces at Gerald's in London and has pictures of Queen Elizabeth hanging on his walls, and of her mother and father, the Queen Mother and King George VI. He's written to both the Queen and her mother, and received letters back from each of them. He also has china featuring different English royalty.

But silver is his true love.

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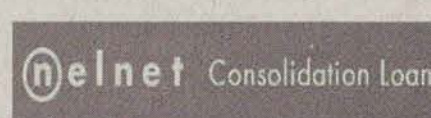
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NAUTICA



Our Opinion

UTC: Classless winners

At this past weekend's Southern Conference Basketball Championships, 21 different men's and women's teams saw their seasons come to an end.

Seniors' careers were ended. Many fans, after traveling hundreds of miles to cheer their teams on in Charleston, were sent back home with the dejected feelings of knowing that basketball season was over.

One university saw it fit to ignore all common aspects of sportsmanship and publicly shame and embarrass themselves in the process – the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

This is no way an attack of the Mocs' and Lady Mocs' basketball teams, who operated with the utmost class this weekend. The prime suspects in this case are Chattanooga's fans, cheerleaders and pep band.

Any Georgia Southern fan that attended the weekend's festivities would understand this as both of our basketball teams were bounced out by Chattanooga.

On Thursday, with the two schools' ladies' basketball teams facing off at McAlister Field House at The Citadel, Lady Eagle Lee DuBose collided with the Lady Mocs' Katie Galloway as both were heading for possession of the basketball. DuBose collided with Galloway, and in turn, was whistled for a sketchy intentional foul call.

As a result, any time DuBose had the ball in her hands, the Chattanooga fans in attendance would soundly boo the Georgia Southern sophomore. While the same might have happened if the roles were reversed, this was an unfair treatment for an incident that only came in the rush of battle.

The next day, it was the Chattanooga and Georgia Southern men's teams that faced off at the North Charleston Coliseum.

Throughout the game, the Chattanooga pep band insisted on playing a game of "anything you can do, we can do louder" with Hoop Troop, Georgia Southern's pep band. As Thursday's contest progressed, many times, when Hoop Troop started chanting or rallying the Eagles along, the Mocs' band would follow suit in the same way. In one instance, Chattanooga's band played the same song Hoop Troop did just as they had completed performing it, an act that a high school band would do, not, at a louder and faster, yet disorganized, pace.

Following the final buzzer signaling the Eagles' season-ending loss, a male Chattanooga cheerleader saw it fit to run to Georgia Southern's end of the court and – in front of the Eagle fans, cheerleaders and band – wave an oversized flag bearing the Mocs' logo. If this specific cheerleader had an ounce of class, he would have realized that he held his own life in his hands doing something as brave, albeit gutless, as he did.

Then, as the icing on the cake, Chattanooga's fan section started to launch our trademark chant of "Whose house? Our house!" It just seemed ironic that the game took place in Charleston, 450 miles away from their "house." It also seems ironic that, unlike Georgia Southern, they aren't even the biggest annual event at their own football stadium – the Division I-AA football championship is a championship that the Mocs annually have little, if any, chance of reaching.

Georgia Southern's football team regularly gets national attention. The only national attention Chattanooga's football team has received was on an episode of the MTV show "Made," which involved their dance team, the Sugar Mocs.

Georgia Southern claims alumni in many fields and professions – from congressmen to corporate executives. Chattanooga's most notable alumnus is Dennis Haskins, also known as Mr. Belding from the "Saved By The Bell" series.

We Georgia Southern fans can hold solace in knowing that, while the Lady Mocs won the Southern Conference championship, the men's team was beaten soundly in the final game.

When Chattanooga next faces off with Georgia Southern for their latest football humbling, they can keep the following image in their mind...



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Some amendments we really need

By Lenore Skenazy
KRT Campus

So President Bush wants to strengthen American marriage with an amendment? Bring it on! But let's do it right.

I mean – gay marriage? That's about as threatening to the wedding industry as Vera Wang. No, the real threat to your average, rock-solid, kid/dog/picket fence/credit card debt/Internet porn/2 a.m. Ben & Jerry's marriage is, according to an informal poll I just took: the remote.

Most men would happily marry Carson Kressley if he renounced all rights to the clicker.

And many women would "I do" the "Queer Eye" star, too, if only he would turn down the TV and establish eye contact when they said, "You know, I ran into Sheila today."

So in the interest of helping Bush solidify the very institution he is so worried about, I propose the following:

Amendment XXVIII: Resolved: Congress shall make a law requiring both spouses to spend at least one weekend per year doing something one spouse considers screamingly dull but the other spouse considers completely engrossing – e.g., antiquing, fishing, visiting a sister, visiting a sister who just had twins, attending a sporting event, even one that involves giant trucks (which really isn't a sport at all, if you ask most wives) and/or cleaning out the closets.

Furthermore, attendance at this event shall be effected without grumbling, drinking or audible sighing. Nor shall loud rock music be blasted throughout.

Amendment XXIX: No in-law shall, in time of peace, be quartered in any house without the consent of the nonblood-related relative.

Amendment XXX: The right of the wife to chat during TV shows shall be limited to commercial breaks, provided the right of the husband

to watch TV shall end after two half-hour comedies or one full-hour drama. This law shall be suspended during any episode of "CSI," which requires total concentration on the part of both spouses, because it is so confusing. Especially the one in Miami.

Amendment XXXI: The right of the husband to use the bathroom shall be contingent upon his leaving it free of gleaming globs on any porcelain surface.

Amendment XXXII: Similarly, the right of the wife to the bathroom also shall be curtailed if the fog of scented products becomes so thick that subsequent bathroom-users leave for the construction site smelling like Shalimar.

Amendment XXXIII: In all prosecutions dealing with whether a husband forgot a "special day," or even remembered the special day but not with a "special enough" gift, said husband shall submit to a speedy and public finger wag and then the wife shall get over it.

Amendment XXXIV: On the other hand, husbands shall also spend at least one day a month in a Hallmark shop, and not leave without a stuffed animal, card, candy box or combination thereof, no matter how astronomical the markup.

Amendment XXXV: Questions of, "Where is the butter?" cannot be submitted without the querying spouse first walking over to the fridge, opening it and actually looking inside.

Amendment XXXVI: Spouses shall not go to bed angry – unless they are angry at President Bush for trying to divert the nation's attention from its real problems by proposing a stupid and discriminatory amendment.

ABOUT THE WRITER

Lenore Skenazy is a columnist for the New York Daily News, 450 West 33rd Street, New York, N.Y. 10001; e-mail: lskenazy@edit.nydailynews.com.

Letters to the Editor

I am writing this article in response to the other two columns printed on regards to gay marriage. From the lack of logical explanation in supporting or even protesting gay marriage, I find myself trying to bring up a more intelligent argument.

Unlike Miss Glorieux, I do not plan on giving strong opinions against the Christian faith and their "agenda." Secondly, unlike Mr. Barbour, I do not plan on spending my entire column bashing both columns and then barely explaining the issue with the last paragraph. I want first for people to know I am not trying to profess a right or wrong in the area of gay marriage, only trying to open a door where more well thought opinions and arguments can flow.

First off, let me make clear that if I thought that this issue was all about the tax benefits and equal recognition about the Homosexuals, I would be the biggest supporter of civil unions this country would know. However, I feel the issue goes deeper than that and revolves more on a choice. A choice that is very important in a lot of peoples lives. A choice that is being taken away from a group of people based on gender. So let's try to understand what that choice is by looking at what marriage is.

Marriage is defined by the Merriam-Webster Dictionary as "the state of being united to a person of the opposite sex as husband or wife in a consensual and contractual relationship recognized by law." This is the traditional view of what we Americans know as marriage: A LEGAL and NON-RELIGIOUS union. Now, regardless of religious origins of this sacred institution, this is how the state of government recognizes what a marriage is. However, another form of marriage as defined by

Merriam-Webster is as follows "the institution whereby individuals are joined in a marriage." Man and Woman are not mentioned; this is, by all means, a gender-neutral example. Now that we have established what a marriage is, having both the legal definition and the secondary definition, I don't think it helps solve our problem. The more relevant issue I believe that is at the core of the whole thing is WHY do people marry.

So let's ask this question: Why do people marry? Well, let's go with a few examples. People marry for love, political advantage, financial security, emotional security, respect, and for many more reasons. If you noticed, none of those reasons require the union to be between a man and woman, again these are gender-neutral reasons. So, why can't a man and a man marry for love? Or why can't a woman and a woman marry for financial security? I do not understand why a person, who is homosexual, can be denied this choice in their life. If you are willing to deny this choice to two consenting adults, based on gender, than I believe that would be considered discrimination.

Well, people think that a heterosexual marriage is "ideal." Well, as little as 20 years ago people thought that a white and white marriage was "ideal." The thought of interracial marriage was taboo to a lot of people, and still is today. Yet it is far more acceptable now, and of course it is a woman-man marriage, usually.

I am not as bold to say that homosexuals are a minority group. Not quite yet anyway. Miss Glorieux was misinformed when stating that homosexuals are genetically pre-determined. That it is a genetic condition. Granted there is strong evidence to prove that homosexuality has strong biological and genetic factors, but

not definitive enough to actually confirm it as genetic. Personally, I do believe that homosexuals are largely affected through genetics. I do not believe they ever had a choice in determining their sexuality. The few gay friends of mine I've asked about if they chose to be gay have told me if they COULD choose, they would choose to be straight. This leads me to believe that most homosexuals don't have a choice in their sexual preference, and then again did anyone ever CHOOSE to be straight?

So, why is it that if two consenting adults, who are in love, who are both homosexual and cannot help it, who would like to enter into the institution of marriage, denied this basic choice? Because the powers that be have decided to discriminate based on gender and sexual preference. Because the people in charge want to pass an amendment that would be legal discrimination. Because our Government wants to violate one of the principles Thomas Jefferson, one of our founding fathers, wrote in the Declaration of Independence "that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Yes, I do believe that a ban on gay marriage is wrong. I will hold fast and strong to my opinion and point until someone else can give me a logical explanation as to why gay marriage should not be allowed. Whether it is morally right or wrong is another matter. That is not my decision, nor should it be anyone else's but God's.

Joshua Mark Mote
serehnghe@yahoo.com

Today around the world

China, Cuba, Mauritania, Mongolia, USSR:
International Women's Day
Egypt, Libya, Syria: Syrian Revolution Day

Today in history

On this day in 1994, The Defense Department announced a smoking ban in workplaces.
On this day in 1983, President Reagan called the USSR an "Evil Empire."

Constitution snag shows power is shifting in Iraq as the end of the occupation nears

By Robert H. Reid
Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The snag over signing Iraq's interim constitution shows how power is shifting here, with Washington's ability to sway events diminishing as the June 30 deadline for the end of the U.S.-led occupation nears.

Weeks of intense negotiations under strong U.S. pressure produced a charter that American administrator L. Paul Bremer hailed as "really unprecedented" in Iraq's history and "in the history of the region" because of its protection of civil rights and promotion of the rule of law.

In the end, however, five Shiite Muslim members of the Governing Council refused to sign, because the country's premier Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Husseini al-Sistani, believed the document did not promote the power of the majority Shiite community.

The council later announced it would reconvene Monday to sign the charter after a weekend of consultations.

But even if that happens, the delay was more than an embarrassment for the Coalition Provisional Authority, which had invited the world's media to witness the Friday signing. By announcing that the occupation will end June 30, the Americans are now self-proclaimed lame ducks whose influence is ebbing, giving way to Iraqi politicians and the Shiite clergy.

From Washington to Baghdad, U.S. officials insisted that the ability of an unelected cleric to block a decision taken by the Iraqi administration represented the flowering of democracy.

"It's not unusual when a society is working to build democratic institu-

tions that there are going to be bumps along the road," said Scott McClellan, press secretary to U.S. President George W. Bush. "But the important thing is that Iraqi leaders are able to freely discuss those issues with one another and do so publicly without the threat of brutal action by an oppressive regime. And so democracy is moving forward in Iraq."

Nonetheless, the glitch in finalizing the constitution showed that despite 130,000 troops and billions of dollars in committed aid, Washington can no longer control events in Iraq absolutely. Among those who balked at signing was Ahmad Chalabi, a Pentagon favorite whose Iraqi National Congress has received millions of dollars in U.S. support.

"Of course we won't accept this constitution as it doesn't address our civilization, our reality, our homeland or our needs," said Ali Mohan, an Iraqi Shiite university student in Baghdad. If the Grand Ayatollah al-Sistani agrees on the constitution, all the Iraqi people will follow suit by the will of God."

Such growing independence, in thought and action, raises serious questions and challenges assumptions at the very foundation of U.S. policy in Iraq. For example, the Bush administration has expressed confidence that the next Iraqi government will support the presence of U.S. forces after the transfer of power June 30.

However, some Shiite clerics, notably Muqtada al-Sadr, are vehemently opposed to the presence of foreign troops. Although al-Sistani has followed a more moderate course, it is unclear whether he will impose conditions on the role of foreign troops and whether they will be as free to pursue their war against insurgents as they have been in the past.

Panel works to select new leader for Haiti; violence continues

By Jacqueline Charles, Trenton
Daniel and Nancy San Martin
KRT Campus

A three-member commission Thursday began working to select a new prime minister and organize a transitional government to end the crisis that plunged Haiti into a violent tailspin and forced President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to resign.

Some 120 Chilean troops arrived to join the international peacekeeping force that is expected to grow to 5,000 members. And Brazil announced it will send 1,100 soldiers.

But the growing presence of foreign troops did not halt sporadic gunfire in neighborhoods still controlled by armed gangs loyal or opposed to Aristide or quell violence in the countryside.

In Petite-Goave, about 20 miles west of the capital, residents stoned an alleged Aristide militant, flung gas over him and burned him alive.

In Gressier, about six miles to the west, four bodies were found, the hands of three of them tied behind their back, bullet wounds in the head.

The three-man commission met Thursday for the first time to begin the task of selecting a seven-member council of "wise men," which will

name a new prime minister and transitional cabinet.

The three members named to the commission are Leslie Voltaire, the minister for Haitians Living Abroad in the Aristide government; Paul Denis, a former opposition senator; and Adama Guindo, the U.N. Development Program coordinator in Haiti.

Among the names being tossed around as prime minister candidates are Herard Abraham, former acting army chief of staff, Gerard Latortue, an economist; and Smarck Michel, a former prime minister under Aristide.

Staff Sgt. Timothy Edwards, a spokesman for the international security force, said there were no immediate plans to patrol outside of Port-au-Prince or disarm the armed gangs still killing and burning in the dead of night.

"We're not tasked with disarming at this point," Edwards said. "That's a command-level decision."

"Hopefully, those outside the city will see what we're doing here and decide to disarm," he said. "Hopefully, we won't go out there."

Aristide, who was elected in 1990, ousted by a military coup in 1991 and returned to power by U.S. troops in 1994, fled Haiti on Sunday amid a rebellion that began Feb. 5



Fires rage near the Presidential Palace, white building on the left, on Sunday, February 29, after President Jean-Bertrand Aristide fled the country overnight.

and left more than 130 dead.

Opposition to Aristide's leadership stemmed largely from alleged fraudulent elections in 2000.

His departure came hours before armed rebels paraded into the capital and U.S. Marines took strategic posts at the airport, seaport and National Palace.

There were no signs of rebels in the capital Thursday, one day after they agreed to lay down their weapons. The Hotel Ibo Lele, which briefly served as their headquarters, was virtually abandoned.

Also Thursday, 70 Haitian po-

lice officers joined the international forces in street patrols, a clear sign that newly installed Police Chief Leon Charles was taking charge. Charles, a former head of the Haitian Coast Guard, had worked with U.S. authorities for several years in anti-narcotics trafficking efforts.

Aristide remained in the Central African Republic as allegations continue to fly about his alleged "kidnapping." South Africa on Thursday joined the Caribbean Community in calling for a probe into the circumstances leading to his resignation and flight into exile.

HOPE, FROM PAGE 1

spokeswoman Kristi Huller. "When he was elected in 2002, he made a pledge that he would protect HOPE for future generations and he has made a proposal to do just that."

On Friday, Perdue accused Taylor — a Democrat and likely candidate for governor in 2006 — of playing politics with the program.

"There are statewide elected officials who seem to think that the proper solution is to stick your head in the sand and everything goes away," Perdue said, acknowledging later that he meant Taylor.

"That's not true. This is an issue we must deal with and we must deal with in a responsible way."

Huller called Perdue's comments disingenuous.

"Clearly, with these accusations, the fox is guarding the hen house, because many of those pointing fingers and crying 'politics' never supported the program in the first place," she said.

As a state senator, Perdue voted against a bill implementing the lottery program. As governor, he has pledged his support for the program.

GEORGIA, FROM PAGE 1

According to the documents, one of Harrick's students called the final exam "the easiest thing that I've ever taken."

All the students in the class were given an A, according to the documents. The names of Harrick's students who were interviewed were blacked out in the papers.

"I remember when he assigned that, you know, he didn't seem to care if anybody showed up to take the final because he said, 'Well, if you know of anybody who is not here who needs to take the final, just tell them to come by my office. It's no big deal,'" the student told attorney Ed Tolley, who conducted the school's investigation.



Special Photo
Jim Harrick Jr., assistant men's basketball coach at UGA.

NOTICE

Spring 2004 Regents' Test

March 8 — March 10

Students registered to take the Regents' Test for Spring Semester 2004 can go to WINGS to view or print your Spring "detailed" schedule of classes for the date, time or location of the test.

You must bring the following items to the test:

- Several sharpened #2 pencils
- Several pens (blue or black ink)
- Picture ID
- Electronic or printed dictionary - (may only be used during the last 15 minutes of the essay section)

For sample tests and more information, visit the Regents' Testing Program website at <http://www.gsu.edu/rtp>

Would you like to learn more about the Regents' Test or brush up on some test-taking skills before you take the exam? If so, the Academic Success Center would love to help you! Anyone wanting to attend a workshop should call 681-5371 for more information.

Announcement — Student Media Positions Selection 2004-2005

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

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

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

THE GEORGE-ANNE

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

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

News Editor — The news editor should know basic news writing and should be familiar with news sources on campus. The news editor should demonstrate news judgment and should have served at least one semester on the staff of the paper. The news editor will be responsible for all news gathering operations of the newspaper. The news editor assists the managing editor in the preparation of the front page.

MISCELLANY

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

SOUTHERN REFLECTOR

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

Art Director — The Art Director should have served at least one year on the Southern Reflector staff and should be knowledgeable in all aspects of magazine production, including but not limited to layout and design, computer graphics, and all photographic processes used by the Reflector. The Art Director will be responsible for the management of photographic assignments and photographic production work. In addition to these duties, the Art Director shall perform other duties as assigned by the current Editor.

tion to these duties, the Art Director shall perform other duties as assigned by the current Editor.

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

WVGS/FM

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

Program Director — The program director should have completed at least one year of college work and should have served at least one semester on the staff of the station. The program director is responsible for reporting play-lists to trade journals, maintaining telephone and mail contacts with music companies, adding program materials to the station's computer system, and developing and implementing other programs.

Operations Manager — The operations manager should have completed at least one year at Georgia Southern and should have served at least one semester as a DJ (disc jockey) at the station. The operations manager is responsible for keeping WVGS in compliance with all Federal Commu-

nications Commission rules for noncommercial radio stations, producing PSAs (public service announcements), and producing quarterly issues lists. The individual who applies for this position should be well organized, skilled at using station equipment and facilities, and able to interact with other people effectively when enforcing compliance with FCC and station regulations.

DEADLINE: The deadline for the receipt of all applications for any of these positions is **Friday, April 2, at 5 p.m.** Applications should be sent to Bill Neville, chairperson, Student Advisory Media Board, in care of Box 8067, or delivered in person to Room 2022, Williams Center.

COMPENSATION: Payment rates for board members are pending final budget approval by the Student Activities Budget Committee and the Student Media Advisory Board.

INTERVIEW DATE: All candidates for board positions **MUST APPEAR PERSONALLY** for interviews as follows: for WVGS on Friday, April 9, with a nominating committee. WVGS candidates who are nominated must return Friday, April 16, for an interview with the full board. Candidates for the George-Anne, Miscellany Magazine, and Southern Reflector must appear Friday, April 16. All interviews will be held at 3:30 p.m. in Room 2007 of F.I. Williams Center (Upper Floor).

APPLICATION FORM AND WAIVER

INFORMATION: Questions regarding these positions should be directed to the advisors of the media: Bill Neville (The GEORGE-ANNE) at 681-0069 or Box 8067; Mike Mills (MISCELLANY) at 681-0228 or Box 8026; Laura Kaloniatis (REFLECTOR MAGAZINE) at 486-7450 or Box 8026; or Ray Harris (WVGS/FM) at 681-5369 or Box 8091. Additional information and interpretation of the qualifications may be obtained from the chairperson, Bill Neville (681-0069 or Box 8067).

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

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

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

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

Signed _____ Box No. _____

Social Security No. _____ Date _____

E-Mail address _____

This (1) application/waiver form (or facsimile), together with a (2) resumé and a (3) letter of application for each medium in which a position(s) is sought, is due by Friday, April 2, 2004, by 5 p.m. delivered to: Student Media Advisory Board, Bill Neville, chair, Rm 2022 Williams Ctr Box 8067, GSU, Statesboro, GA 30460. Interviews are April 9 for WVGS, and April 16 for all other media, and WVGS final candidates.

Eagles' championship hopes shot down by Chattanooga

BASKETBALL, FROM PAGE 1

could only muster four more field goals for the remainder of the half. The Mocs took full advantage of the Eagles' missed opportunities, closing the half on a 32-14 tear, as a Charles Anderson basket just before the buzzer cut Chattanooga's deficit to just 41-40 entering halftime.

After an Ashley Champion free throw tied the game at 43-43 less than a minute into the second half, the Eagles responded with another run, scoring eight of the next 10 to build their lead back up to 51-45 by the 15:51 mark.

However, Georgia Southern's troubles quickly returned as the Mocs tied the game once more at 57-57 before taking the lead for the first time all night on a Ray Trowell free throw. A Jean Francois jumper gave the lead back to the Eagles. They were unable to take advantage of the chance, missing a tip-in, lay-up and a pair of free throws over the next minute.

Chattanooga, on the other hand, took full advantage of the Eagles' shooting woes, going on a 13-2 run over a five-minute lapse.

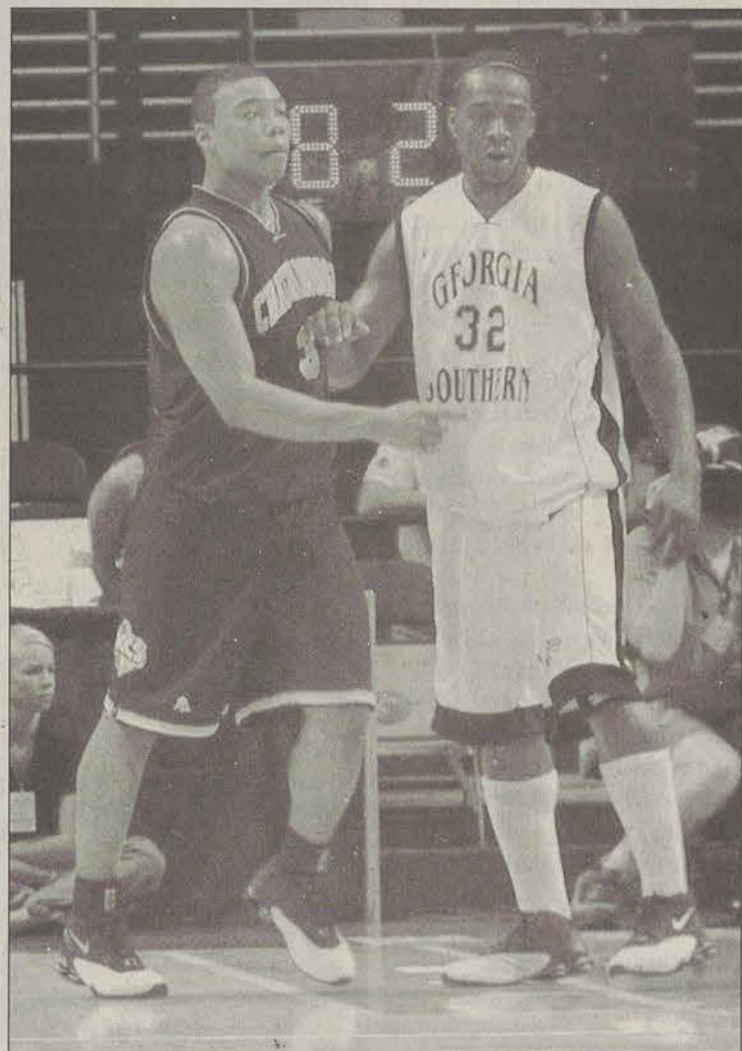
Georgia Southern still managed to keep their composure, as a pair of shots from Francois set the Eagles off on a game-saving run, which saw the Mocs unable to close out the game before the Eagles tied the game at 75-75 on a Frank Bennett lay-up with 27 seconds left.

The Mocs' had the chance for the game-winning basket, but Trowell lost hold of the ball, as Francois grabbed it and called a timeout with 4.1 seconds left in regulation.

A jumper from Elton Nesbitt at the end of regulation then fell short as the game went into overtime.

Chattanooga threatened to put the game away quickly, scoring the first seven points of the extra period, but Georgia Southern responded by bringing the Mocs' lead down to 88-87 as Terry Williams sank a pair of free throws with 26.4 seconds left.

The Mocs responded with two free



Eli Boorstein/STAFF

Senior Frank Bennett (32) battles for position with Chattanooga's Alphonso Pugh in Georgia Southern's 90-87 overtime defeat in Friday's Southern Conference semifinals. Bennett scored 12 and grabbed 10 rebounds in his final game as an Eagle.

throws of their own to go up by three, as the Eagles called their final timeout. But, after the inbounds, there was no future to the Eagles' season as a pair of last-ditch threes from Nesbitt and Williams fell short as Chattanooga eked out with the win.

Free throws proved key for Georgia Southern, as the Eagles took advantage of them to lead them to a fighting chance in the overtime period, but looked back to 14 missed attempts at the charity stripe as the game-changing factor.

"In tournament games, you've got to make free throws," said Price. "We fouled them and they made their free throws."

Williams led the Eagles with 23 points on the night off 5-of-13 field goals - including four threes - and 9-of-10 free throws. Nesbitt added 21, including four three-pointers of his own.

Frank Bennett saw his career as an Eagle wind to a close, as he posted a double-double with 12 points and 10 rebounds in 42 minutes of action.

"He's just been a warrior for our program for four years," said Price about the team's frontcourt specialist. "He's just a kid that fought until the end."

Chris Brown led Chattanooga with 24 points and 10 rebounds while Champion and Trowell each added 20 points.

Eagles whip Wofford to open tournament

By Eli Boorstein

Nietsoob17@hotmail.com

Though they gave them a little bit of a scare in the first half, Wofford was no match for Georgia Southern.

The Eagles cruised to an 82-69 win over the Terriers in the quarterfinal round of the Southern Conference Tournament on Thursday at the North Charleston Coliseum.

Georgia Southern dominated the ballgame early, as two Sean Olivier free throws gave the Eagles a 12-4 lead with 13:53 left in the opening half.

For the next five minutes, however, Wofford (9-20) returned the favor, breaking loose on a 12-4 run of their own, before the Terriers tied the score at 16-16 on a fast break lay-up from Adrian Borders.

The scare did not last long for Georgia Southern though, as they

responded to build their lead back up to 10 points, punctuated by a Frank Bennett slam. Wofford got their deficit back down to six points briefly before the Eagles settled the halftime score at 35-25.

The Terriers' hopes for a comeback were all for naught, as Georgia Southern's lead hovered around double-digits for the rest of the game, rising as high as 15 points after a Jean Francois free throw with just over a minute to play.

"The first half of this game was very key," said head coach Jeff Price. "I thought if we could weather the storm in the first half, we'd be okay."

Elton Nesbitt keyed the Eagle victory with 17 points while Bennett scored 15 and grabbed nine rebounds. Francois managed a double-double with 12 points and 13 rebounds. Courtney Joseph, making his first start since Dec. 1, scored



Eli Boorstein/STAFF

Jean Francois leads his case after an official's call went against the Eagles on Thursday night.

a season-high 10 points.

"I thought the depth was really good tonight," said Price. "It helped us win the ballgame."

Borders led Wofford with 23 while Howard Wilkerson scored 17 while grabbing 12 rebounds.

Eagle, Lady Eagle tennis both top Chattanooga

GSU Athletic Media Relations

Georgia Southern rallied back after dropping the doubles point to win five of six singles matches and hand Chattanooga a 5-2 Southern Conference setback Sunday afternoon at the Hanner Courts.

The Eagles (4-4, 3-1 SoCon) used wins from Ciara Finucane (6-2, 6-4) at No. 1, Charlotte Bruneteaux (6-4, 6-3) at No. 2, Szilvia Zsakay (6-3, 6-4) at No. 3, Krystel Sauvageau (6-3, 1-6, 6-2) at No. 4 and Heather Reynolds (6-3, 6-3) at the No. 6 slot to secure the victory.

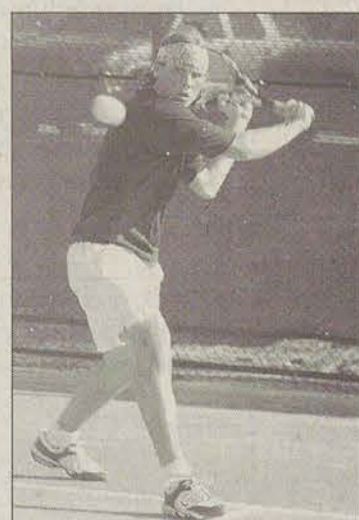
Chattanooga (3-7, 1-2) swept all three doubles matches, turning in 8-4, 8-5 and 8-4 triumphs.

Georgia Southern will return to action Wednesday, March 10 when it hosts UNC Greensboro for a SoCon match beginning at 2:30 p.m.

GSU Athletic Media Relations

Four singles victories, including straight-set triumphs by Doruk Baglan, Lasha Janashia, Stephen Dubinski and Germano Knorr helped the Eagles survive a doubles point loss and record a 4-3 Southern Conference win over Chattanooga Sunday at Hanner Courts.

Georgia Southern (6-9, 1-3 SoCon) will return to action at the College of Charleston Friday, beginning at 1 p.m.



Luke Renfro/STAFF

The Eagle men's tennis team came out victorious against Chattanooga, joining the women's team on the successful Sunday.



Eli Boorstein/STAFF

Nicole Newton (31) and **Lee DuBose** were two of the bright spots for the Lady Eagles, as Georgia Southern was upended by eventual SoCon champs Chattanooga 73-50 on Thursday. Newton led the Lady Eagles with 12 points and seven rebounds while DuBose scored eight.

Lady Eagles unable to solve Lady Mocs

By Eli Boorstein

Nietsoob17@hotmail.com

CHARLESTON, S.C. - The women's basketball teams of Georgia Southern and Chattanooga met in last year's Southern Conference championship with the Lady Mocs winning convincingly.

Though the two teams met in the quarterfinal round this time around, the result was much the same, as the Lady Eagles (15-14) were outmatched by a superior Lady Mocs squad 73-50 on Thursday at McAlister Field House on the campus of The Citadel.

Chattanooga, who cruised through the regular season a perfect conference record and just two losses overall would use the win as a springboard towards their unprecedented fourth consecutive Southern Conference title on Saturday.

"My hat's off to Wes," said Cram about Mocs' head coach Wes Moore. "What they've accomplished, it's nothing short of incredible."

Though the eighth-seeded Lady Eagles were the decided underdogs, they still fought admirably, as the game was physical throughout.

"We knew they were going to come out physical," said sophomore Lee DuBose. "So we had to do the same thing."

That statement became evident early in the second half, as DuBose and the Mocs' Katie Galloway were both closing in on the ball. DuBose collided with Galloway and the officials whistled DuBose for an intentional foul, though it appeared to be an inadvertent collision.

"It's just my opinion, but that was a weak call," said head coach Rusty Cram about the intentional foul call.

Lady Mocs claim fourth consecutive SoCon crown

By Pete Iacobelli

Associated Press

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. - Tiffani Roberson had 20 points and Katasha Brown added 16 Saturday to lead Chattanooga to its 26th straight victory and fourth consecutive Southern Conference championship.

The 86-68 victory over Western Carolina put the Lady Mocs in the NCAA tournament with a chance to make history.

No Southern Conference team has won an NCAA tournament game. The league is 0-for-15 at the NAAs, including the past three defeats by Chattanooga.

The Lady Mocs (28-2) haven't lost since a 79-73 defeat to Butler on Nov. 28. They had already established a school record for victories in a season. Now, they own the league mark for consecutive tournament titles.

This is Chattanooga's sixth trip to the NCAA tournament. The closest they came to an upset was in 2001, when the Lady Mocs lost to Clemson 51-49.

Brown and Katie Galloway combined for 11 points as the Lady Mocs took a 15-3 lead. The margin never dipped below eight points the rest of the way.

Jennifer Gardner's 3-pointer closed the gap to 23-15 with 8:02 to go. But then Chattanooga went on a 15-2 run to end all doubt. Miranda Warfield scored all 12 of her points

Chattanooga showed just why they have dominated the Southern Conference in recent seasons, as they quickly ran away with the lead early in the game with Georgia Southern unable to build up much offensive momentum. The Lady Mocs held a double-digit lead from the 10:53 mark of the opening half on through the rest of the afternoon.

Chattanooga led by as much as 21 during the first half before the Lady Eagles closed the period out with four straight points to enter halftime down 39-22.

The second half was no different as any time Georgia Southern was able to score, the Lady Mocs responded with points of their own, and then some. Chattanooga's largest lead of 28 points came when Lyndi Sippel sank a pair of free throws with 3:56 left in the game.

Nicole Newton was the spark for Georgia Southern with 12 points and seven rebounds. Kellie Tiller added nine points while DuBose scored eight. Senior Jessica Everett, the Lady Eagles' leading scorer, was held to just four points in her finale.

"Jessica played tentatively," said Cram. "They did a good job keeping her in check."

Katasha Brown, the conference player of the year, led Chattanooga with 16 points while Miranda Warfield scored 13.

Though the Lady Eagles suffered through a rollercoaster of a season, DuBose, who will be counted on as one of next year's veteran leaders, is prepared to come back next fall and help bring the team back to its past glories.

"We just remembered the times we were down," said DuBose. "We don't want to come back there."



Eli Boorstein/STAFF

Heather McDivitt, pictured above in Thursday's game, scored nine points to help Chattanooga to their fourth straight SoCon title.

in the second half.

Western Carolina (14-17), which knocked out the third and second seeds in Davidson and Furman the past two days, could not find the stamina to stay with the Lady Mocs.

Gardner led Western Carolina with 16 points and 12 rebounds. Tiffany Hamm, the SoCon scoring champion, was held to 11 points on 4-of-12 shooting.

It's the fourth time in six seasons coach Wes Moore has taken Chattanooga into the NAAs, averaging 25 victories a year since 2000.

The Lady Mocs might have a better chance to break their NCAA futility this year. Chattanooga is one for the 16 tournament hosts for the tournament in two weeks.



MEN'S TOURNAMENT

OPENING ROUND

(4S) Furman 73, (5N) W. Carolina 68
(3N) Elon 66, (6S) The Citadel 56
(5S) Wofford 85, (4N) UNC Greensboro 82 (OT)
(3S) Coll. of Charleston 71, (6N) Appalachian St. 61

QUARTERFINALS

(1N) East Tennessee State 94, (4S) Furman 84
(2S) Davidson 68, (3N) Elon 61
(1S) Georgia Southern 82, (5S) Wofford 69
(2N) Chattanooga 89, (3S) Coll. of Charleston 78

SEMIFINALS

(1N) East Tennessee State 96, (2S) Davidson 84
(2N) Chattanooga 90, (1S) Georgia Southern 87 (OT)

CHAMPIONSHIP

(1N) East Tennessee State 78, (2N) Chattanooga 62
TOURNEY MVP: Tim Smith, East Tennessee State

WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT

FIRST ROUND

(8) Ga. Southern 65, (9) Appalachian St. 58
(10) Coll. of Charleston 59, (7) UNC Greensboro 50
(6) Western Carolina 60, (11) Wofford 38

QUARTERFINALS

(5) Elon 84, (4) East Tennessee State 68
(1) Chattanooga 73, (8) Georgia Southern 50
(2) Furman 77, (10) Coll. of Charleston 56
(6) Western Carolina 66, (3) Davidson 58

SEMIFINALS

(1) Chattanooga 67, (5) Elon 37
(6) Western Carolina 75, (2) Furman 66

CHAMPIONSHIP

(1) Chattanooga 86, (6) Western Carolina 68
TOURNEY MVP: Katasha Brown, Chattanooga

GSU WOMEN vs. CHATTANOOGA

GEORGIA SOUTHERN (50)

Early 0-10-0-0, Everett 1-8-2-24, DuBose 3-12-2-8, Newton 5-7-2-5-12, Tiller 3-8-2-2-9, Pijaux 0-0-0-0-0, Wells 1-3-0-0-3, Edgerton 0-2-0-0-0, Spoon 1-2-0-1-2, McCorkle 1-4-1-1-5, Krellner 0-0-0-0-0, Melvin 0-1-0-2-0, Benemon 2-6-1-2-4, Jessie 2-2-0-1-4. Totals 19-56-10-18-50.

CHATTANOOGA (73)

Roberson 4-9-3-4-11, Patton 3-4-1-3-7, Brown 5-12-2-16, Galloway 3-7-2-10, Mattison 3-5-0-1-6, Talley 0-3-0-0-0, McDivitt 1-3-5-8-8, Stephens 0-0-0-2-0, Warfield 6-10-0-13, Smith 0-0-0-0-0, Sippel 0-4-2-2-2. Totals 25-57-15-25-73.

Halftime-UTC 39, GSU 22. Three-point goals-GSU 2-12 (DuBose 0-4, Tiller 1-4, Wells 1-2, Edgerton 0-1, McCorkle 0-1), UTC 8-22 (Brown 4-7, Galloway 2-5, Mattison 1-2, Talley 0-2, McDivitt 1-3, Warfield 1-2, Sippel 0-2). Rebounds-GSU 33 (Newton 7), UTC 44 (Patton 8). Assists-GSU 9 (DuBose 4), UTC 13 (McDivitt 5). Total Fouls-GSU 26, UTC 18. Fouled Out-McCorkle. Technicals-McCorkle.

GSU MEN vs. WOFFORD

WOFFORD (69)

Wilkerson 6-11 4-6 17, Berg 0-5 2-2 2, Borders 6-14 10-13 23, Eaton 0-3 0-0 0, Fields 2-4-1-15, Taylor 5-10-2-6-13, Marshall 2-10-2-4-7, Daniels 1-8 0-0 2. Totals 22-65 21-32 69.

GEORGIA SOUTHERN (82)

Bennett 5-9-4-9 15, Joseph 4-8-2-2 10, Nesbitt 6-12-3-17, Williams 1-4-2-5, Fleming 3-6-1-1 8, Gennie 1-1 0-0 2, Olivier 0-0 2-4 2, Mobley 1-4 6-6 8, Gibson 1-6 0-0 3, Francois 2-9-8-12 12, Byams 0-0-0-0-0. Totals 24-64 28-39 82.

Halftime-GSU 35, WOF 25. Three-point goals-WOF 4-23 (Wilkerson 1-3, Borders 1-4, Eaton 0-1, Fields 0-1, Taylor 1-3, Marshall 1-6, Daniels 0-5), GSU 6-18 (Bennett 1-2, Nesbitt 2-7, Williams 1-3, Fleming 1-2, Mobley 0-1, Gibson 1-4). Rebounds-WOF 47 (Wilkerson 12), GSU 47 (Francois 13). Assists-WOF 14 (Taylor 5), GSU 18 (Fleming 4). Total Fouls-WOF 28, GSU 26. Fouled Out-Fields, Wilkerson. Technicals-None.

GSU MEN vs. CHATTANOOGA

CHATTANOOGA (90)

Champion 5-10-10-12-20, Katelynas 1-2 1-2 3, Brown 6-13-9-11 24, Trowell 6-16-6 20, Rogan 1-4 0-0 2, Pugh 4-9 0-0 9, Richardson 1-4 0-0 2, Long 3-4 0-0 8, Anderson 1-1 0-2 2. Totals 28-63 26-33 90.

GEORGIA SOUTHERN (87)

Bennett 5-8-2-5 12, Joseph 2-4 0-3 4, Nesbitt 7-18-3-4 21, Williams 5-13-9-10 23, Fleming 4-8 0-0 10, Faulk 0-0 0-2 0, Gennie 0-1 0-0 0, Mobley 0-2-2-2, Gibson 1-3-2-4, Francois 4-9-3-5 11, Byams 0-0-0-0-0. Totals 28-64 21-35 87.

Halftime-GSU 41, UTC 40. Three-point goals-UTC 8-21 (Champion 0-2, Brown 3-6, Trowell 2-3, Rogan 0-2, Pugh 1-3, Richardson 0-3, Long 2-2), GSU 10-27 (Nesbitt 4-10, Williams 4-12, Fleming 2-3, Gibson 0-2). Rebounds-UTC 46 (Brown 10), GSU 38 (Bennett 10). Assists-UTC 14 (Trowell 4), GSU 19 (Williams 6). Total Fouls-UTC 26, GSU 25. Fouled Out-None. Technicals-None.



Boston College sweeps away Georgia Southern

By Kimberly Keys

kimberlylashawn3327@hotmail.com

Saturday was a doubleheader indeed - double the softball and double the Eagles.

However, it was the Eagles of Boston College that pulled away with the victory in both contests by scores of 4-2 and 6-0 at Eagle Field.

Boston College was the first to score against our Eagles (8-6) in the first game due to a hit, sacrifice bunt, and an error.

The Boston College team scored another three runs earlier in the inning taking the score to 4-0.

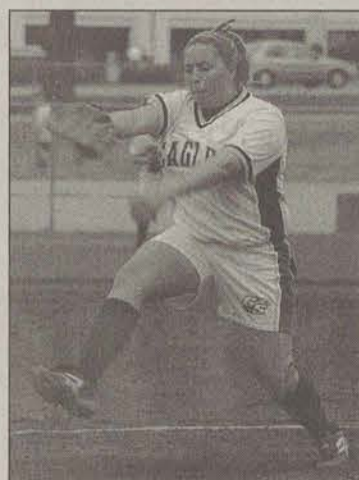
Georgia Southern remained scoreless until a Sam Steiner single sent Shanita Black across the home plate in the bottom of the third inning.

Black, who remained consistent in her infield play, was sent to home plate once again this time by a Maria Laurato ground out in the fifth.

Even though our ladies held Boston College scoreless for the remainder of the game, Boston College won 4-2.

Starting pitcher Cary Moone gave up four runs, though only one was earned, off of eight hits in three innings of work. Mandi Stophlet, Moone's substitution at the top of the fourth, proved successful as she gave up no runs and one hit in four innings of work.

The next Eagle versus Eagle contest remained a back-and-forth pitching battle where both team's score lingered at zero until the fourth inning when Boston College capitalized on errors,



Luke Renfro/STAFF

Freshman pitcher Mandi Stophlet came in strong in relief in the Eagles' 4-2 loss in the opener of Saturday's twinbill with Boston College.

walks and hits to score six runs.

In a Georgia Southern effort to put more runs on the board with bases loaded and two outs, Carolyn Chin struck out, which would bring the game to a close in a Boston College 6-0 sweep.

"We're better than what we showed today," said head coach Natalie Poole.

"Mistakes were made at crucial times," said senior Kim Griffin.

The softball team's next games will be away, including a March 10 doubleheader at Charleston Southern and March 12-14 appearance at the Charlotte 49er Classic.

They will finally return home to Eagle Field beginning March 27 with a 1 p.m. doubleheader against Southern Conference foe Chattanooga.



Luke Renfro/STAFF

The Eagle baseball team took a pair of victories from Appalachian State over the weekend, winning 20-2 and 11-7 at J.I. Clements Stadium. The two clubs will close out the series this afternoon at 4 p.m.

Look for a full recap of the three-game series in Wednesday's *George-Ann*.

UPCOMING GEORGIA SOUTHERN ATHLETIC EVENTS

Monday	Wednesday
Baseball vs. Appalachian State, 4 p.m., J.I. Clements Stadium	Softball at Charleston Southern, 2 p.m.
Monday-Tuesday Golf at Hyatt Cerromar Beach Intercollegiate, San Juan, Puerto Rico	Women's Tennis vs. UNC Greensboro, Hanner Courts, 2:30 p.m.

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East Tennessee State claims second straight SoCon title

By Pete Iacobelli

Associated Press

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. - Tim Smith scored 25 points and East Tennessee State earned the NCAA tournament's first automatic bid Saturday, beating Chattanooga 78-62 for the second straight year to win the Southern Conference crown.

Smith, as he's been for two seasons, was the difference for the Bucs (27-5). The 5-foot-9 sophomore was selected the tournament's MVP for the second year in a row. Now, he'll look to accomplish one thing that escaped him during his stellar freshman season - an NCAA tournament victory.

Smith and the Bucs came close, though, throwing a major scare into Wake Forest last March before succumbing 76-73.

It's East Tennessee's sixth NCAA trip, all since 1989. The Bucs' most memorable and successful tournament came in 1992 when they upset Arizona before losing to Michigan.

Smith brought NCAA fever back to campus last year. And his full-speed attack blitzed through the Southern Conference all season long. The Bucs have won 19 of their last 20, the only thing that stood between them and SoCon perfection was a two-point loss to the College of Charleston last Saturday.

No matter. The Bucs and Smith showed that loss was well behind them with their dominating performances this week. Smith scored 24 points in an opening game win over Furman, then 29 against Davidson to reach the final. He's gone for at least 20 in five of his six career SoCon tourney games.

Against Chattanooga (19-11), Smith took off quicker than ever. He had two straight baskets as the Bucs took the lead for good 14-10. His 3-pointer four minutes later made it 22-17. And his steal and uncontested layup right before halftime increased the edge to 43-35.

Smith, who surpassed the 1,000-

point mark with his performance, continued to fire in the second half. He opened the period with a straightaway 3-pointer, then had back-to-back baskets as the lead grew to 56-39.

Chattanooga made a habit this week of falling behind and clawing back. The Mocs trailed Charleston by 14 points and Georgia Southern by 19, yet still made it to the title game. They did it here, as well, cutting it to 63-58 with 6:17 left on Mindaugas Katlynas' follow shot.

But with leading scorer Ashley Champion on the bench, an injured left ankle, this hole proved too much to climb out of for the Mocs.

Zakee Wadood, the league's player of the year, had a three-point play to restore things for East Tennessee State. Moments, Smith added a desperation three from outside the NBDL line with the shot clock running down that swished through.

Smith raised his arms as the buzzer sounded, leaping into the arms of teammate Sam Oatman who Smith replaced at the point last year.

Alphonso Pugh led Chattanooga with 20 points.

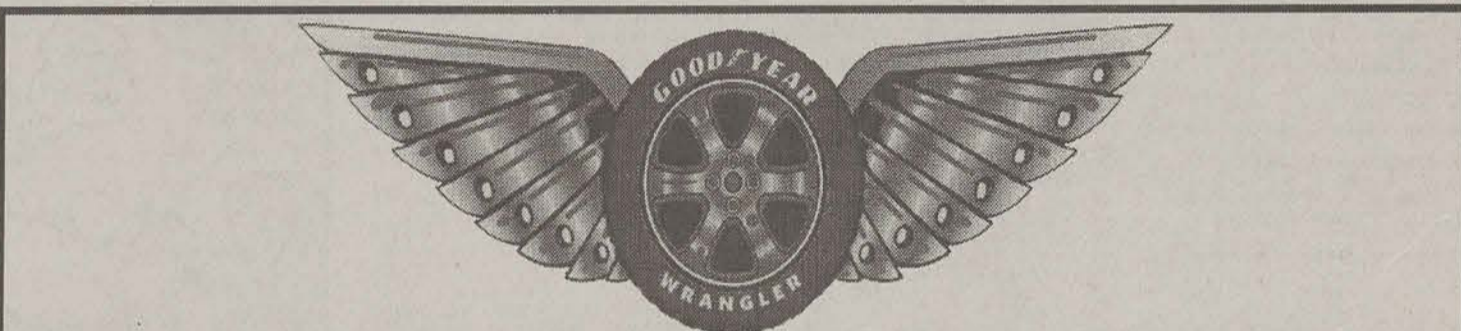
Champion, who had 46 points and 22 rebounds his first two games, crashed to the floor after his only basket at the 18:55 mark of the first half. He hobbled off the court, his face contorted in pain, and did not return.

Without Champion on the inside, the Mocs were forced into poor outside shots. They missed 14 straight 3-pointers during one stretch as the Bucs kept them at bay.

Chattanooga's lost four straight to its state rival, including a 97-90 defeat in last year's championship game.

It's the second NCAA tournament appearance for first-year East Tennessee coach Murry Bartow, the other coming with Alabama-Birmingham in 1999.

As long as Smith stays around, it might not be the last for Bartow or the Bucs.

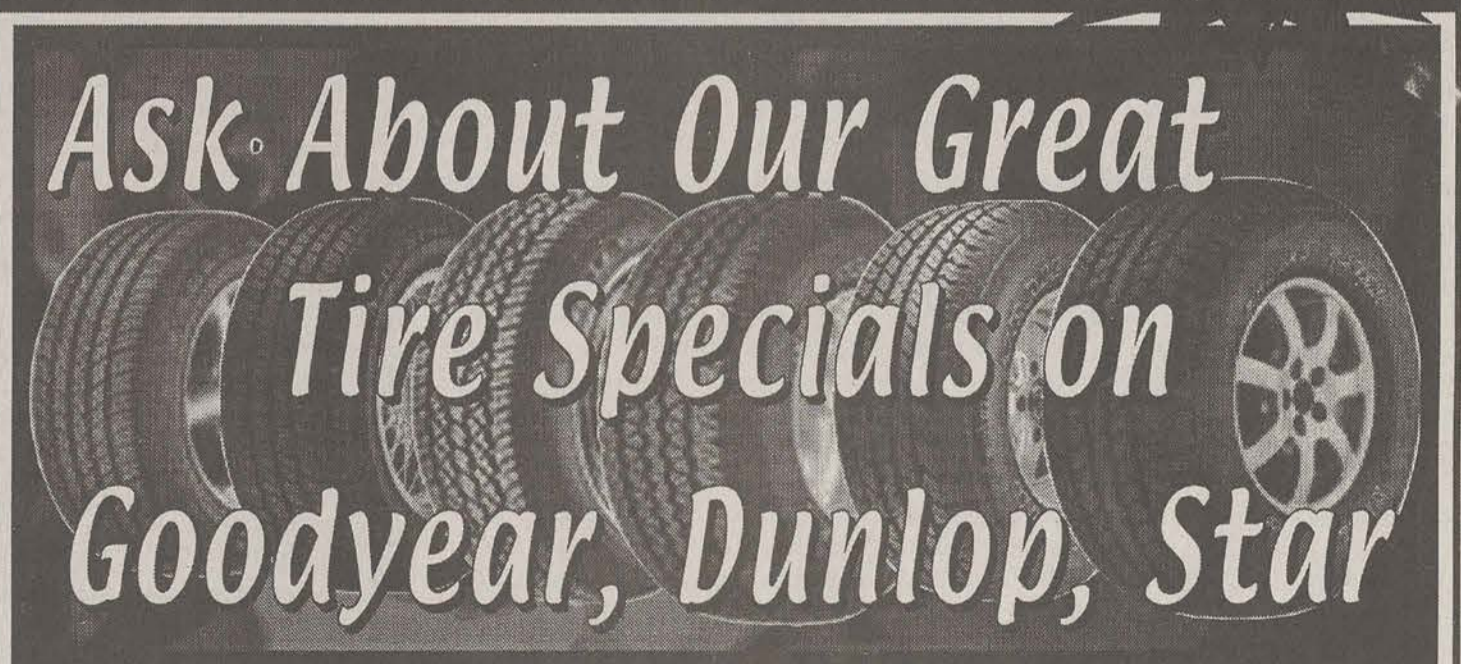


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NCAA TOURNAMENT BOUND

MEN

Atlantic Sun: Central Florida

Big South: Liberty

Ivy League: Princeton

Ohio Valley: Murray State

Southern: East Tennessee State

WOMEN

Conference USA: Houston

Ivy League: Penn

Metro Atlantic: Marist

Ohio Valley: Austin Peay

Southeastern: Vanderbilt

Southern: Chattanooga

West Coast: Loyola Marymount

Kerry vs. Bush match will be a no-holds-barred fight

By Dick Polman
KRT Campus

ATLANTA — John Kerry versus George W. Bush: It won't be pretty.

The first guy, a Yale graduate from a rich family, already says the second guy is a captive of his conservative base and the credibility-challenged steward of an "arrogant, reckless" foreign policy.

The second guy, a Yale graduate from a rich family, will say the first guy is a captive of his liberal base and a career waffler who always puts a moist finger in the wind before making up his mind.

It'll be a contest that mirrors the clashing priorities of a polarized nation, it'll surely cost more than any previous presidential election and it could inflame political passions like no other race in a generation.

Bush has sparked more hostility among Democrats than any president since Richard Nixon — they're incensed that he's governing from the right despite his thin win in 2000 — but in a recent speech he did say one thing that almost everyone can agree on: "Great events will turn on this election. The man who sits in the Oval Office will set the course of the war on terror and the direction of our economy. The security and prosperity of America are at stake."

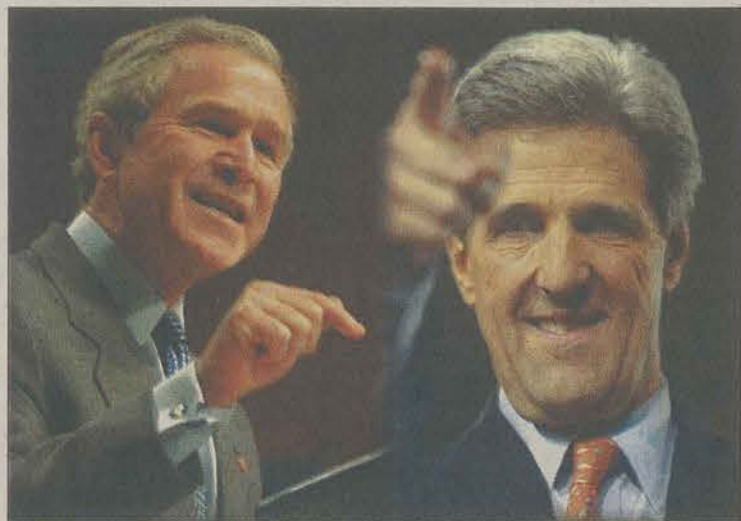
Now that the battle is truly joined, Bush is trying — with his first multi-million-dollar TV advertising salvo — to start rehabilitating his own image, which took a beating during the Democratic primaries. He's on the air, being ballyhooed as a strong and steady leader, in 17 key states. The ads aren't expected to target Kerry.

That'll be left to the Bush surrogates on talk radio, in conservative think tanks, in Congress and in the conservative press.

They've been dishing it out to Kerry already, trying to chip away at his war-hero image before voters start to think that maybe a Democrat can have national-security credentials after all.

They have to soil Kerry before he goes to the Democratic convention in late July and gets four days of free national coverage, along with the inevitable post-convention bounce in the polls.

They have to persuade voters that,



President Bush (left) and Sen. John Kerry (right) face a long campaign process that could be one of the most intense of all time.

no matter how well he fought in Vietnam, he hasn't shown much courage under fire in all the years since.

Bush set the tone for the campaign at a fund raiser in Los Angeles Wednesday evening by casting Kerry as a waffler.

In what could be potential grist for the Bush team in every state South of the Mason-Dixon line, the National Journal, a nonpartisan magazine for policy wonks, has named Kerry as one of the most steadfast liberals in the Senate, based on his voting record.

In particular, the Bush team may point out all the times that Kerry voted to raise taxes.

And it's a cinch that the White House will highlight Kerry's opposition, during the 1980s, to various weapons systems, as well as his opposition, in 1991, to the first Persian Gulf War. This is one of the reasons that senators rarely get elected president: They're saddled with lengthy voting records that are easy to shoot at.

The Bush team also will try to tie Kerry in knots on the question of why he opposed the 1991 Gulf War but supported last year's war against Iraq.

That will tie into the larger accusation that he's been a model of inconsistency throughout his career, voting, for example, for the North American Free Trade Agreement in 1993 then assailing the pact during the 2004 primaries.

Of course, circumstances differed between the 1991 and 2003 wars, and between the 1993 drafting of NAFTA and how it looks after 10 years of results, but Kerry will be on the defensive

trying to explain such subtleties.

Privately, a fair number of Democrats have qualms about Kerry.

Some complain that his patrician demeanor and occasional senatorial verbiage don't connect well with common folk. But they like the fact that he travels the land with his "band of brothers," the Vietnam vets who validate his manly credentials, and they like that he hunts pheasant, rides a Harley and pilots airplanes.

Democrats think that all stacks up pretty well against a president who still can't fully account for his whereabouts during his Vietnam-era stint in the Air National Guard. That issue went nowhere in 2000, but then it was peacetime, and now Bush is, by his own definition, "a war president."

For Democrats, that links nicely to the larger issue of Bush's credibility: the absence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, despite all the claims that he and Vice President Dick Cheney uttered in the buildup to war. The recent report by chief weapons inspector David Kay — who told Congress that virtually everything U.S. intelligence thought it knew about Iraq's weapons turned out to be wrong — damaged Bush on the trust issue; the latest polls show his credibility is now at the low ebb of his presidency, and Kerry will try to keep it there.

At this point, there's only one certainty: Half the population will be disappointed in the November results, and that may not bode well for prospects of renewed civility in the public square.



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District attorney says family could change death penalty strategy

By Sheila Hardwell Byrd
Associated Press Writer

YAZOO CITY, Miss. — District Attorney James Powell says he'll seek the death penalty against a man accused of murdering a family of three despite the admonition against capital punishment by a relative who is a Catholic priest.

Earnest Lee Hargon is jailed without bond, facing three capital murder charges. He's accused of shooting to death his cousin, Michael Hargon, and strangling Michael Hargon's wife, Rebecca, and 4-year-old son, James Patrick.

The Hargons had been missing for two weeks before their bodies were recovered March 1 from rural Covington County, about 100 miles southeast of their home in the Vaughan community.

By then, Earnest Lee Hargon had been charged, and Powell had vowed to seek the death penalty.

During funeral services for the family last week, Rebecca Hargon's uncle, the Rev. Dan Hirtz, urged mourners to put love before hate and let Earnest Lee Hargon live rather than die by capital punishment.

Powell, who tried to attend the service but couldn't get inside the crowded sanctuary, said he would not seek the death penalty if the request was made by the family.

Wesley Evans, the court-appointed attorney for Earnest Lee Hargon, said last week that he would file motions in advance of a preliminary hearing for his client.

Evans said no date had been set

for the hearing, but he planned to file the motion as early as this week.

Authorities believe Earnest Lee Hargon, a 43-year-old cattle truck driver, acted alone in killing the family. While no single motive had been put forward, there was speculation the cousin was angry at being written out of his adoptive father's will that gave Michael Hargon several acres of land in nearby Madison County.

Meanwhile, relatives of the Hargons are saying little about the case or the man charged.

Powell said a capital murder charge is difficult to prosecute, but evidence collected in the investigation bolstered the case.

Powell said it could be at least three months before the evidence is presented to a grand jury.

Family members describe Michael Hargon, who worked for a construction company, as a caring man, who often put others before himself.

"If this was going on with another family, Michael would have been there from the very beginning," Alexander said.

Rebecca Hargon worked as an assistant physical therapist, Alexander said.

The Rev. George Butler, pastor of Ellison United Methodist Church in Vaughan, which the Hargons attended, said he is unable to answer the question that everyone asks.

"Why did this happen to this couple? They seemed to have it all together," Butler said. "There's really not an answer."

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Iraqi hospitals remain bleak without U.S. aid, lack of proper hygiene

By Ken Dilanian
KRT Campus

Amaal Hameed sat hunched over on a chair, sobbing quietly. Her 2-month-old baby lay dead on the hospital bed, wrapped in a black robe.

Flies buzzed about. Blood stained the

floor. The nearby toilets were backed up with feces.

This was the cardiac unit of Iraq's premier children's hospital, but there were no nurses around to comfort Hameed, no orderlies to help pack her belongings.

A young off-duty physician happened to be showing journalists around, so he stopped to review the dead baby's chart. The boy had a heart defect, the kind fixed by a simple operation in developed countries. Even in Iraq, the operation is sometimes possible, the doctor said; it

wasn't clear why it wasn't performed.

What is clear is that 10 months after the U.S.-led coalition promised to make things better, Iraq's shattered medical system from Baghdad to Basra, from Kirkuk to Karbala remains a mess.

Basics such as pain pills or latex

gloves are often unavailable. Doctors routinely are threatened or attacked. Facilities are overrun with administrative staff who chat over tea while bathrooms clog with filth, resulting in the spread of lethal infections.

One in 10 babies born don't make

it, experts say, about the same rate as before the war.

U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson, who visited a filthy hospital in Baghdad last week, remarked that conditions would improve "if they just washed their hands and cleaned the crap off the walls."

But Dr. Mahdi Jasim Moosa, the director of another Baghdad hospital, Yarmuk, said that was easier said than done. For one thing, there are shortages of cleaning supplies. For another, he can't fire maintenance workers who don't follow his orders, he said, "because they might shoot me."

Although many hospitals were looted in the aftermath of the U.S.-led war, it wasn't the war that wrecked Iraqi health care. Once the Middle East's gem, the system was starved of resources by Saddam Hussein under 12 years of international sanctions.

Doctors were paid next to nothing and cut off from outside knowledge. In 2002, Saddam's regime spent just \$16 million on health, American officials say. Only Saddam's cronies got decent care.

So Iraqi doctors don't blame the United States for creating the dreadful conditions under which they work each day. But they don't understand, with all the billions of dollars being spent on reconstruction in this country, why very little in their world has changed.

"We are disappointed, because we thought the conditions and the situation would improve a lot faster," said Dr. Esam Khalaf, 28.

James Haveman, the senior U.S. health-care adviser for Iraq, said such criticisms made him angry. He pointed out that the American military, the Coalition Provisional Authority and aid agencies have spent hundreds of millions of dollars on Iraqi health care, and he said conditions had indeed gotten better.

The coalition has hired thousands of security guards, bought tons of drugs, repaired dozens of hospitals and generally returned the system to its prewar status.

Haveman noted that Iraq's 2004 health-care budget is \$950 million, mainly funded by oil revenues. He acknowledged that that's insufficient to fix what's broken, but another \$793 million has been budgeted though none of it has been spent yet out of the \$18.6 billion in U.S. money that Congress appropriated to rebuild Iraq.

Haveman said he was impatient for the congressional appropriation to be released, but that it hadn't been yet. And that it was unrealistic to expect an immediate turnaround.

Yet there are those who wonder why, for example, a \$26.3 million renovation of Iraq's Umm Qasr naval base near Basra, which is under way, took precedence over fixing the sewage system at the country's biggest children's hospital, al Iskan, where toilets sometimes overflow into the leukemia ward.

Haveman said renovations began Monday at the hospital, under a \$9 million grant from Spain.

But the U.S.-led coalition clearly isn't tackling Iraq's health-care system the way, for example, it's fixing the electrical grid. Hundreds of Western engineers and contractors are working furiously to improve electricity before the summer, and by year's end the coalition will have spent \$7 billion on electricity, officials said last week. By contrast, Haveman said he began with a staff of 37 that's dwindled to 15.

In the wake of news reports on Iraq's health-care woes, Haveman met reporters at Iraq's Health Ministry, an 11-story building that looters had gutted and burned after the war.

From 1991 to 2002, Haveman worked for John Engler, the Republican governor of Michigan, as state health director. Previously, he was a social worker with International Aid, a Christian relief organization that combines health work with proselytizing.

Haveman said he'd seen "amazing" improvements since he arrived last June. Told that doctors were complaining of shortages, he appeared to grow flustered, saying at one point, "Logistics isn't easy, folks; it's only been 10 months."

One major accomplishment, Haveman said, is the \$1.7 million refurbishment of the Health Ministry headquarters. The building's interior was freshly painted, and new office furniture was stacked in the hallways. Haveman boasted that a wireless Internet network was planned.

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