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The GEORGE-ANNE

Monday, April 19, 2004 • Volume 76, Number 86

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SPORTS: Softball takes two of three from the College of Charleston **Page 6**

NEWS: Foreign contractors flee Iraq **Page 5**

NEWS: Kerry criticizes Bush on matters of foreign policy **Page 5**



Robert Kennedy, Jr. visits Georgia Southern

By Scott Corwin
sdcorwin2@hotmail.com

The Kennedy dynasty left its mark on GSU last Wednesday evening. The Campus Life Enrichment Committee invited students to listen to Robert Kennedy, Jr., on a range of environmental issues.

Kennedy, true to his name, has become a powerhouse activist and champion of conservation efforts by bringing suits against industrialists who bend and break pollution regulations. He is a member and chief prosecutor for the Hudson branch of the Riverkeepers - an organization dedicated to protecting the nation's waterways.

A gymnasium-sized room in the Nessmith-Lane Building quickly flooded to capacity with extra-credit entrepreneurs and interested spectators. After a slight delay that had guests scrambling for open seats, Kennedy took the stage to a standing ovation.

His voice wavered a bit as he introduced himself, but he quickly gained tempo as he laid out stinging criticism of government policy.

"I don't think it's a good thing if our environment is divided by party," said Kennedy. He then took the Bush government to task, citing several instances of relaxed legislation in favor of industry.

"[They] are the worst environmental administration in history," he said, "soon, we will have no enforceable environmental law."

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has become toothless, and several acts implemented since Nixon have been nullified or crippled, according to Kennedy. Hummers, instead of hybrid cars, receive tax incentives, fish contain dangerous levels of mercury in them, and children are at a greater risk of developing birth defects.

"We are living in a science-fiction nightmare," he said, and

recounted a flight over the Appalachians where he witnessed gigantic machines pulverizing mountains into rubble for their resources.

"There is no stronger advocate of free-market capitalism than me," he said adding, "good environmental policy is identical to good economic policy. Polluters raise their living standards by making others poor. You and I get the clean-up bill."

Strong guidelines, he said, are supported by over 80 percent of Americans, but the corporate lobbyists often outweigh their interests.

"You can hear [the corporations] whining when you pull the federal nipple out of their mouth."

"Democracy is intertwined with the environment," he argued. In the wake of disasters such as the burning Ohio River, the United States celebrated the first Earth Day and

See Kennedy, Page 5

Relay for Life exceeds goal

Over \$193,000 raised last weekend

By Luke Hearn
lheard@georgiasouthern.edu

Nearly 2,500 luminary candles lighted the way for walkers Friday night and early Saturday morning during Bulloch County's eleventh annual Relay for Life Event.

Seventy-seven teams were present and walking at the relay, an event that raises money for the American Cancer Society.

Many activities occurred throughout the night, including local music, relay races, a reverse beauty pageant, and a ceremony to honor those who have survived cancer, and to remember those who fell victim to the disease. Each name read was also on one of the luminaries that circled the walking track. Many food vendors were set up, and many teams had booths at the event.

The goal this year was set at \$155,000. But according to Kay Nay, the event chair, as of Saturday morning at 6:30 a.m., the total amount of money raised was \$193,530.

See Relay, Page 5

Spring Fest '04 brings festivities before finals

By Rachel R. Dobson
frostyblue1984@yahoo.com

Eagle Entertainment's Spring Fest 2004 was held last Thursday outside Landrum cafeteria. The theme of the festivities was "You had to be there."

Students really seemed to enjoy themselves. According to Mary Herrington, "The festivities are very entertaining. The perfect craziness before finals!"

Sheena Glover, assistant director of Student Affairs and coordinator of the festivities, was happy with the performances and said the entire proceeding went well, and Eagle Entertainment was now wrapping up performances and events for the year.

There were seven performances by different artists, and student reaction varied on each of them.

The most popular seemed to be Jonathan Keyes. His set included folk music and a blend of modern songs without forgetting the soft melodic rock.

GSU student, Efula Mensah-Brown said Jonathan Keyes was "very creative, and he gets points for changing it up."

The most interesting sideline amusement for students was sumo wrestling. During the event, participant Candace Grey yelled out, "I have fallen and I cannot get up." In response Brianne Brice-

See Spring, Page 5

Take Back the Night



Hillary Jones/STAFF

Students and faculty marched from Hanner Fieldhouse to the Russell Union in observance of Take Back the Night, a program designed to increase awareness about sexual assault. A clothesline project hung around the Rotunda last week displayed T-shirts in remembrance of those who have been abused.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month ends with march, rally

By Kember Franks
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GSU's Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) headed the fourth annual march, rally, and clothesline project promoting awareness of sexual violence.

SART was started at GSU in 1997, and holds Sexual Assault Awareness Month each year in April.

"[The purpose of the events that occurred were] to raise awareness of sexual violence against men and women and to lower the occurrence of sexual violence in and out of the home," said Jodi Caldwell, GSU psychologist and one of the organizers of the event.

A main attraction was the clothesline project. This consisted of different colored T-shirts decorated by GSU students

that were hung under the Russell Union Rotunda for viewing. There were five different colors of shirts, each signifying different kinds of violent action. The pink shirts were decorated by sexual assault survivors; the yellow shirts were survivors of domestic violence; blue indicated survivors of incest or childhood abuse; purple represented survivors of violence due to sexual orientation; and the white were in memory of someone murdered due to sexual violence.

One white shirt in particular read, "This is for Moira. We had not seen each other for a while... I knew she was in a bad relationship... I did not know how bad... And then it was too late. Now I feel... SAD HELPLESS SHOCKED ANGRY. Don't let this happen to you. Speak up, speak out, get out, get help."

On the other side of the Rotunda was a yellow shirt that read,

"How did you know where to hurt me so that the bruises didn't show? Why couldn't anyone see through your act to the violence within you? Why was I afraid to tell... to ask for help? Why did I believe you when you said, 'You deserved it.' Why?"

The Take Back the Night events took place on Thursday, April 15. The night started with a march that began in the Hanner Fieldhouse parking lot, went around campus, and ended up at the Russell Union. The march included yelling chants, handing out t-shirts and water bottles, and carrying signs.

Once in the Union, the rally began. Caldwell shared some interesting facts: "One in four college aged women will be sexually assaulted. One in six men will be sexually assaulted"

See SART, Page 5

Weekday Weather

Monday



Sunny

HIGH
86°
LOW
55°

Tuesday



Partly
Cloudy

HIGH
87°
LOW
57°

Only in America

- Vermont man finds hidden wallets containing pieces of history
- Cat flies cross country; finally debarks in New Hampshire
- California men sentenced after frying and serving a goldfish



Page 3

Opinions

- Eli Boorstein gives his thoughts on the anniversary of the Columbine tragedy
- Natasha Hartry describes her Player's Ball experience - or lack thereof.



Page 4

Sports

- Baseball sends Catamounts home with three-game sweep
- Golf competes in SoCon Championships
- Long-time athletic trainer Tom 'Doc' Smith honored



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Inside

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Campus News

GSU to become new home of children's literature publication

Special to the G-A

GSU will soon be the new home of one of the nation's children's literature.

Beginning on May 1, The Children's Literature Association Quarterly will be administered by an editorial staff based in the University's Department of Literature and Philosophy.

Richard Flynn, a professor of literature at Georgia Southern, is the new editor of the journal. His staff of three associate editors includes Caren Town, an associate professor of literature at the University.

Established in 1974, The Quarterly is the official journal of the Children's Literature Association, an organization that seeks to encourage serious scholarship and research in children's literature. The Quarterly publishes juried articles as well as special sections devoted to particular topics in children's literature.

"Above all, my editorial philosophy focuses on serving the interests of the membership, the readers and the contributors to the journal," said Flynn, who was named editor-elect of The Quarterly in June 2003.

"I believe that scholarship is a conversation, not a monologue. I have found that the pages of The Quarterly embody this principle of conversation, and I would like to contribute to helping that conversation continue."

Flynn's vision also includes a plan to increase access to the journal.

"Flynn is the author of a book, 'Randall Jarrell and the Lost World of Childhood,' as well as numerous articles that have appeared in Children's Literature, Lion and the Unicorn, Children's Literature



Flynn Town

in Education, Signal, and African American Review.

Also, Flynn has written chapters in "Gendered Modernisms: American Women Poets and their Readers," "Literature and the Child: Romantic Continuities, Postmodern Contestations," and "Jarrell, Bishop, Lowell, & Co.: Middle Generation Poets on Context."

Flynn was the winner of the 2002-2003 Georgia Southern University Award for Excellence in Research/Creative Scholarly Activity.

Town teaches adolescent literature and a course in teaching literature for high school and middle grades teachers. She has published several essays on female adolescence and Southern women writers in The Southern Quarterly.

Also, Town has written articles for Modern Language Studies, Twentieth Century Literature, and Texas Studies in Language and Literature. Her interests include collaboration between university English departments and secondary educators, and American Realism.

In addition to Flynn and Town, the editorial staff for The Children's Literature Association Quarterly includes Kenneth Kidd, who is an assistant professor English at the University of Florida, and Katharine Capshaw Smith, who is an assistant professor of English at Rhode Island College.

Campus Calendar

April 19

ASME Distinguished Lecturer 7 p.m.

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers will host Arthur W. Ebeling will present "Indy Racing and the Effect of Aerodynamics on the Car." Ebeling has compiled information on Indy cars for nearly a half a century, covering development and changes to the sport. Tickets for the lecture and dinner are \$20 for the general public, \$15 for students with ID AND 18 for ASME members. Prices for the lecture only are \$6 for the general public, ASME members \$5 and \$2 for students with college ID. At the Technology Building Room 2110, 912-756-5114

April 20

Holocaust Remembrance 7:30 p.m.

In honor of this memory, the Multicultural Student Center presents 'The Pianist,' Admission is free. Refreshments will be provided. For more information please call 912-681-5409. At the Russell Union Theater.

'A Little Night Music' 8 p.m.

'A Little Night Music' will be presented on three consecutive evenings from Wednesday, April 21, through Friday, April 23. Each performance is scheduled for 8 p.m. At the PAC.

News Briefs

Sheriff says missing student's body found



Special Photo

Missing student Dru Sjodin was found on Saturday.

CROOKSTON, Minn. - The body of Dru Sjodin, the University of North Dakota student who disappeared last November, has been found, the sheriff said Saturday.

Polk County Sheriff Mark LeTexier sobbed as he told volunteers, "Dru is home." He later confirmed that authorities had found Sjodin's body.

Volunteers had joined the search for the 22-year-old student on Saturday. A crowd at Crookston High School broke into applause after his announcement.

Sjodin's father, Allan, and her boyfriend were in a trailer at the high school serving as a makeshift command post for authorities organizing the search.

Sjodin, of Pequot Lakes, Minn., disappeared Nov. 22 from a Grand Forks mall. She was last heard from while talking on a cell phone to Lang.

Alfonso Rodriguez Jr., 51, of Crookston, has pleaded not guilty to kidnapping her. He was arrested in December and is jailed in Grand Forks on \$5 million bail.

Adult film actors willing to work despite HIV scare

LOS ANGELES - Adult movie actors said they would keep working in the multibillion-dollar industry despite an HIV scare, as more producers joined a voluntary moratorium that has shut down many sets.

About a dozen porn production companies halted shooting until at least June 8 after two performers

tested positive for the virus that causes AIDS.

The scare began last week when it was announced that a performer had tested positive for HIV, which he apparently contracted while shooting a film last month in Brazil.

A 22-year-old Canadian actress he worked with after returning to the United States, also has tested positive for HIV.

Many of those associated with the adult film industry said unprotected sex is common in shoots despite the HIV scare.

Pornography, a \$4 billion to \$13 billion annual industry based largely in the San Fernando Valley, differs from the heavily regulated sex industry in nearby Nevada, where prostitutes are required to have regular HIV testing.

The porn industry polices itself, and most major production companies refuse to hire actors unless they can produce a clean blood test taken within the past month.

Governor plans state bus tour, hopes to recruit few to the GOP



Special Photo

Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue.

ATLANTA - Republican Gov. Sonny Perdue sets out for a 20-city bus tour Monday to sign bills and trumpet his victories from this year's legislative session. But there's a few side trips planned for what would otherwise be a routine after-session tour.

Top Republicans say Perdue will make at least two extra appearances to announce that longtime Democratic House members are switching to the GOP.

Political announcements are planned today in Statesboro and Alma, home to Democratic Reps. Bob Lane and Tommy Smith, respectively. Lane announced Friday afternoon he would change parties, and Smith has said he's considering it.

Both Lane and Smith are powerful committee chairmen in the House, although Lane would likely lose his chairman title if Democrats keep control after this fall's elections. Lane and Smith also were handed more-Republican districts in a new state House map created recently by a federal court.

A spokesman for the state GOP, Marty Klein, said Perdue hopes to push Republicans to a majority in the House. The governor helped take control of the Senate last year with the same strategy, by picking off conservative Democrats he could lure to his party.

Democrats shrugged off Perdue's tour, hinting they may nab a few switchers, too. Four Republican House members who are now in Democratic districts may change parties, said Democratic Party spokesman Emil Runge.

Measles fears lead CDC to suspend adoptions from Chinese agency

ATLANTA - Adoptions from a Chinese agency where a measles outbreak has been reported should be temporarily suspended, the government said Friday.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended a halt to adoption proceedings for children from the Zhuzhou Child Welfare Institute in the Hunan province of China.

At least six adopted Chinese toddlers who were recently flown to their new homes in the United States have been confirmed to have measles.

The outbreak prompted U.S. officials to warn that passengers who traveled March 26 on four flights from Hong Kong to San Francisco and Seattle may have been exposed to three of the infected toddlers.

Internationally adopted children are not required to be vaccinated against measles, but health officials say they should be immunized within 30 days of entry into the United States. In 2001, a child adopted from China led to 14 measles cases among adopted children and their family members in eight states.

Measles can cause pneumonia, diarrhea, encephalitis and death. Thanks to vaccinations, most people in the United States are immune.

Metro to review closed-door restroom policy

WASHINGTON - Metro officials plan to review the transit agency's closed-door restroom policy, Police Chief Polly Hanson said.

Monday, Hanson said she will consider reopening subway station bathrooms to passengers.

"My desire is to get them opened, and not to keep them closed any longer than we have to," she added.

Restrooms in 83 stations have been closed since March 19 because of security concerns.

Hanson said last month they would be shut whenever the national alert level was raised to orange or above, when there was a terrorist threat to rail systems, or following a worldwide or domestic attack.

Metro officials also said they would review the policy if the restrooms were closed longer than 30 days.

Hanson said she considered reopening them earlier this month, but decided against it after receiving new threat information.

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

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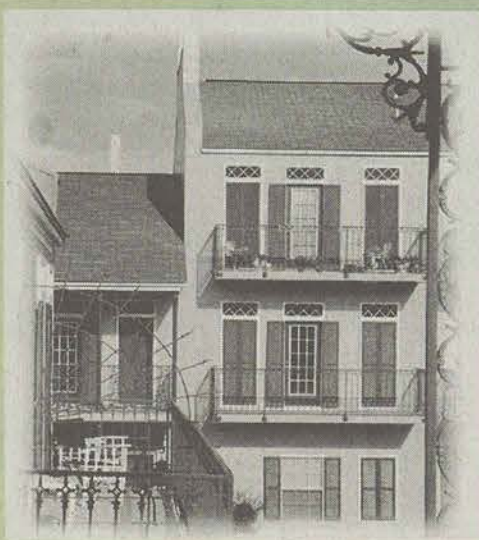
Police Beat

04-15-2004

- Officers issued four traffic citations and two traffic warnings, investigated three traffic accidents, assisted five motorists and responded to one fire alarm.

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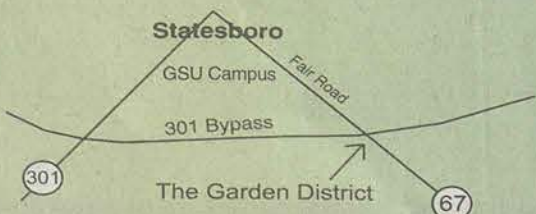
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1 Vermont

Man finds wallets hidden for 50 years

ST. JOHNSBURY – A construction worker found no cash but lots of history after stumbling on a stash of wallets hidden for 50 years.

The employee, Shawn Pelow, found the wallets while clearing a path for wiring at the new Railroad Street Mall.

The eight wallets ranged from inexpensive vinyl models to billfolds.

And while they didn't contain any money, some of the wallets were packed with Red Cross certificates, Social Security cards, driver's licenses, train schedules and pictures.

Most of the wallets had identification linking them to people from St. Johnsbury, Danville and Gilman.

One wallet owner, Merlyn Legare of Gilman, was born in 1899 and died about 25 years ago. Her wallet contained her 1952 Vermont driver's license, pictures

of a young man and a payment of \$5 on an overdue jewelry store account.

A leather wallet containing numerous intramural sports citations belonged to one Nancy Burden. Little is known about her.

Another wallet belonged to Joan Newman, also of Gilman. Acquaintances said Newman became a nurse and moved to New York state. She could not be located.

2 New Hampshire

Cat rescued after 19 days on a jet

MANCHESTER – If this passenger could get frequent flyer miles, he might be set for life, all nine of them.

Crews at Manchester Airport rescued a cat named Billy from the cargo hold of a US Airways jet on Friday, 19 days after he escaped his cage on a flight from Phoenix to Philadelphia. The airline says Billy crisscrossed the country ever since.

A cleaning crew heard "meows" Thursday night, and Friday, while crews tried to get to the cat, passengers trying to get to Pittsburgh and San Francisco on Flight 73 were delayed more than three hours.

Billy is doing well. At the Daniel Webster Animal Hospital in Bedford, Dr. Edward Rooney said Billy was treated for dehydration.

He said it was clear the cat had found food and drink in the cargo area.

David Castelveter, airline spokesman in Arlington, Va., said the passengers were understanding.

It turned out that "Billy," whose home is in Munich, Germany, was put on the jet on March 29 in Phoenix, Ariz. for a flight to Philadelphia, the first leg of a trip to Germany, Castelveter said.

Billy got out of his cage on the flight and his owner reported him missing.

When Billy was found Friday, the airline backtracked the flights the jet had taken and discovered the cat matched the picture of the missing one in Phoenix.

Billy is expected to remain at the Bedford animal hospital until Wednesday when he is to be flown home to Munich.

3 California

Two men sentenced to community service for stealing, eating fish

SANTA CRUZ – Two former fraternity brothers avoided jail time for stealing and eating a beloved jumbo goldfish that belonged to the University of California, Santa Cruz.

The men were drunk when they stole the 20-pound koi fish named Midas, fried it up and fed it to fraternity pledges last year.

Casey Loop, 23, and Matthew Cox, 22, pleaded no contest of misdemeanor grand theft and vandalism last month.

On Friday, a judge sentenced Loop, of San Jose, to 300 hours of community service. Cox, a Santa Cruz resident who

immediately apologized for the prank after the incident, was sentenced to 200 hours. They also received a combined five years probation.

They had faced a maximum penalty of two years in jail.

As part of their sentences, each man will have to work 40 hours at a Japanese garden where they can experience "the spiritual aspects of maintaining koi ponds," Judge Jeff Almquist said.

The incident was filmed for the MTV series "Fraternity Life," but never aired. Prosecutors used subpoenas to obtain out-takes bearing incriminating evidence.

In one of those clips, Loop gleefully held the dying fish as he returned from a pond owned by the university. The video also showed Loop slice open Midas and Cox pan-fry the 8-year-old fish.

Loop said all he wanted was catch and eat a fish – that he never intended to hurt anyone. Afterward he added

that all the hoopla surrounding the case, including hate e-mails, was unwarranted because the victim was a fish.

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'We will never forget'

Tomorrow will mark five years since 13 innocent people lost their lives in the tragic events at Columbine High School.

On that fateful day in Littleton, Colo., Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris opened fire, killing and injuring people at will. Since many of the students here at Georgia Southern were in their middle and high school years at the time, this event struck a particular chord in our minds.

No matter what clique each of us belonged to – the jocks, the preppies, the outcasts, the band geeks, etc. – we were all affected in some way or another.

Throughout the morning and afternoon that fateful day, we all watched the television coverage unfold, seeing the footage of injured victims escaping through windows. We heard the story about Dave Sanders, a popular teacher and coach, who, instead of escaping, went back into the hallways to help and instead lost his life at the hands of the two masterminds.

As the final months of the school year progressed, we heard all the possible reasoning that led to Klebold's and Harris' shooting spree, be it Marilyn Manson's music or computer games like "Doom" or "Duke Nukem." Regardless of what inspired the two shooters' ideas, many of us lost a little bit of the safety we felt within the halls of our schools. And, in other ways, it added a little bit of anger for the times when copycats would phone in pranks just so they could miss a test or a project.

In the weeks after the events at Columbine, my alma mater at Milton High School was evacuated after a bomb threat was called in to the school, one of a series of pranks across the metro Atlanta area that day. The students of Milton, a school of about 2,400 students, were marched across five lanes of a major state highway into a local church, a mess that should have never happened. While I was admittedly joyous to hear that the school day was cancelled, and the SAT delayed two weeks, as a result of the call-in, my mood would turn back into disgust wondering why someone would see fit to take advantage of the murders at Columbine.

Then, a month to the day after Columbine, this all entered my backyard once more – but, this time, it was no prank. One misguided student opened fire at Heritage High School, not too far away in Conyers. While no one was killed, it was still a matter to worry about, that these needless school shootings would continue, no matter what precautions had been taken since the attacks in Colorado.

I had been the target of various forms of bullying at points through my school career, but never did I imagine taking out my frustrations in such a violent and ruthless way. I got angry at times, but never did I want to resort to criminal means.

Why would these troubled minds rely on violence to vent their frustrations? I don't pretend to be a psychologist in trying to pick at what is in these kids' minds. It is something that we may never know for sure.

In no way do I intend to undermine the sadness of the other school shootings that have occurred across our nation, but the events at Columbine will forever hold a place in our minds as a catastrophe that could have been prevented.

Whether it is in Littleton, or here in Statesboro, many of the people across our nation have the same four words to lend in support: "We will never forget."



Eli Boorstein
sports editor



Decisions about number of guests in apartments best left up to tenants

For those of you who had the experience of being in Statesboro for the weekend, did you enjoy Player's Ball?

The answer is probably no, because it was non-existent.

I came to Georgia Southern University in August of 1999. Since I've been a student here at GSU, I've had the opportunity to enjoy a number of Player's Ball Weekend festivities. My friends and I would attend the clubs and walk up and down the "strip" (better known as Chandler Road on any other day of the year) looking at the out of towners with their nice cars and going to cookouts to mingle with my peers while enjoying a good piece of grilled chicken. But this year, everyone knew, except for the people who didn't know any better, that there wouldn't be a Player's Ball this year. There were no people walking the "strip," and there was no excessive traffic like in previous years.

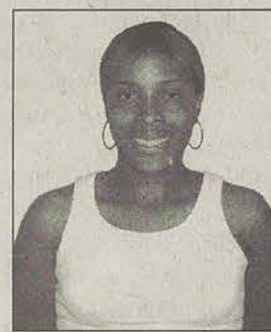
Last year, when every club owner happened to "mysteriously" go out of town or just decided not to open their clubs, and the cops decided they wanted to stop every black person who even looked remotely suspicious, they should have known that they had successfully ruined the event and it would be no more.

Unfortunately, for the residents of Player's Club Apartments like myself and a host of my friends, that was not the case. The property manager "claimed" that the local authorities told her to limit the amount of people allowed inside the complex. Since this was just your typical weekend, and not Player's Ball (as so many authorities thought), I could not understand why I could only have two guests at my house for the entire weekend.

I was harassed by ignorant security guard cop-wannabes about who was in my car, and whether or not they had an ID. There is always sufficient parking in Player's Club, but my issue was about who could park in the complex. And I'm sure the police didn't tell her that there could only be two visitors per resident visiting any time. So I decided to take a detailed look at my leasing agreement. I made sure that I looked closely at every minute detail before I mentioned that there is nothing in my lease that states the number of people that I can have occupying my residence.

Being that these are people who visit me on a daily basis, I couldn't understand why I was informed that I could only have two registered guests and that they had to be in my vehicle with photo ID or they would not be allowed to enter. It's not like I was throwing a party or anything. If these are guests I have on a daily basis, and they are not creating a nuisance any other time during visitation, why were they restricted for an event that didn't even take place, regardless of the number of helicopters you saw flying around or the increase in the number of motorcycle cops? Even when I saw one guy pulled over by six cops in Johnson Hall's parking lot, I figured the cops really wanted to make it a Player's Ball, even though it was just a normal weekend in Statesboro, with the same amount of visitors as there always are. But if you came to Player's

See Hartry, Page 8



Natasha Hartry
guest columnist

LETTER AND SUBMISSION POLICY

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

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Letters to the Editor

Letter in response to all recent articles about homosexual marriages involving Christianity

First of all I want to state that several Bible verses in Ms. Permenter's article and other articles by the editors were used way out of context. It sounds very ignorant when Bible verses are stretched beyond their true and clearly intended meanings. If you try hard enough, you can twist any statement that anyone makes beyond its intended meaning and make it say what you want. Some journalists, politicians and lawyers are good at this.

In no way does the Bible ever support homosexuality. In fact it clearly speaks against it (and yes in more than just one place). The Christian homosexuality argument is not just based on one Old Testament passage. Take 1st Corinthians for example, it states "Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by their Spirit of our God." (1 Corinthians 6:9-11) That says to me that yes these things are wrong and God does not approve of them (Note: He calls them offenders. In the KJV He calls them "abusers of themselves.") However, through Jesus' sacrifice and God's infinite mercy, He forgives these sins when we ask him to. So, He hates the sin they are committing, but clearly loves the person (that is where that statement comes from.) That passage is both in the New Testament and speaking against homosexuality. In Romans 1:18-32 it talks of God's wrath against the Romans partly due to homosexuality.

See Christian, Page 8

Traffic violations are serious business

I find nothing humorous in Teresa Southern's story regarding her large number of traffic tickets.

I'm sure she's been told before that a 2000 pound car traveling even 35 mph is a lethal weapon, but she obviously doesn't consider driving a serious responsibility.

I hope Ms. Southern realizes how serious it really is before her habit of running red/yellow lights results in an innocent person getting killed. I take great offense to her cavalier and extremely immature attitude, as the person she kills could be my wife or one of my children.

If it were up to me, she'd be riding a bike, but since it's not, my only hope is that she grows up soon.

Jim Reichard
Associate Professor

Today around the world

Cuba: Bay of Pigs Victory Day
England: Primrose Day
Sierra Leone: Republican Anniversaries Day
Uruguay: Desembarco de los "Treinta y Tres"
Venezuela: Declaration of Independence Day

Today in history

On this day in 1995, a truck bomb outside Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City killed 168 and injured 500.

On this day in 1982, Sally Ride was announced as the first woman astronaut.

Contractors flee Iraq, even as U.S. plans to bolster forces

By Robert Moran, Soraya Sarhaddi Nelson and Ken Moritsugu
KRT Campus

Bagdad, Iraq – Foreign contractors scrambled to catch planes leaving Iraq on Thursday, even as three Japanese hostages were released and the Pentagon announced it's beefing up U.S. forces in Iraq by extending tours of duty.

In another tense day, an Iranian diplomat was killed in Baghdad, two American soldiers died, and top U.S. military officials warned that they cannot wait much longer before launching new offensive operations against insurgents in Fallujah and Najaf.

The deaths of the two soldiers, one by a bomb and the other from an "acute cardiac event," raised the April toll to 89, the most in one month since U.S. troops arrived in Iraq 13 months ago.

Elsewhere, Arabic satellite television stations broadcast an audio-taped message said to be from al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden. The tape cited the March 11 train bombings in Madrid and offered a truce with those European nations that withdraw their troops from Muslim countries. Several European leaders quickly rejected the offer.

The State Department ordered all non-essential personnel at the U.S. Embassy in Saudi Arabia and their families to leave the country. The move comes after a new round of violence between Saudi authorities and Islamic militants left four Saudi police officers dead this week.

In Iraq, Russia evacuated several hundred workers in three charter planes Thursday. Other countries also have urged their civilian contractors to leave Iraq until the crisis subsides.

The latest developments followed the grim announcement late Wednesday that an Italian security contractor had been savagely executed by his captors.

Leaflets were distributed in various neighborhoods in Baghdad warning residents to stay home for a week because insurgents would "transfer the

resistance fire" to the capital. It was signed by "your brothers the Mujahadeen companies."

Coalition officials have said that about 40 hostages from a dozen countries have been kidnapped, though many have been released. Japanese officials were investigating a report that two more Japanese civilians were taken hostage.

The three Japanese who were released were handed over to the Islamic Clerics Association and later taken to the Japanese Embassy.

When their blindfolds were removed, they initially didn't comprehend that they were free.

"I thought I would die," said Naoko Takato, 34, a volunteer aid worker. "Is this really Baghdad?" she asked. Takato later collapsed in tears of relief.

The release was greeted with joyful screams in Japan, where family members of the hostages were in the midst of a news conference in Tokyo. Family members crowded around a small television set and broke into elated screams when the hostages appeared on screen.

"Wow, here he is!" Noriaki Imai's brother, Yosuke, shouted. Imai's father, Takashi, collapsed on his knees and bowed to the television, putting his hands together as if he were praying, overcome with tears and unable to speak. A crowd of supporters surrounded the relatives, jumping for joy amid tears and laughter.

In Washington, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld announced that 20,000 American soldiers who'd been scheduled to return home would remain in Iraq for up to three more months. About 6,000 are in the National Guard or Army Reserve.

The move will allow the United States to maintain 135,000 troops in Iraq in the coming months.

"Needless to say, we regret having to extend those individuals," Rumsfeld said at a Pentagon news conference. "They had anticipated being in the country... something like up to 365 days. But the country is at war and we need to do what is necessary to succeed."

About 11,000 of the extended troops are from

the Army's 1st Armored Division based in Germany and Fort Riley, Kan. Another 3,000 come from the Army's 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment based at Fort Polk, La. Several hundred more are from three other bases. The 6,000 guardsmen and reservists come from more than 20 states.

Rumsfeld said Thursday that the death toll was worse than he expected. A year ago, he said, "I certainly would not have estimated that we would have had the number of individuals that we have had lost in the last week." In a visit to Baghdad, Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, acknowledged a "significant security challenge" in Iraq.

Marines have suspended attacks on Fallujah, a mostly Sunni Muslim city, where four American security contractors were killed and mutilated two weeks ago. Hundreds of Iraqis have since been killed there, fueling anger in other cities against the coalition.

A senior military official said Thursday that there are between 1,000 and 2,000 gunmen fighting Marines in Fallujah.

In Najaf, there was little progress toward ending the standoff between radical Shiite Muslim cleric Muqtada al-Sadr and the American troops massed outside the city limits.

The military is seeking to arrest al-Sadr in connection with the slaying of a pro-Western Shiite cleric a year ago.

U.S. military officials also want to destroy al-Sadr's Mahdi Army, which draws from the thousands of the largely poor and uneducated Iraqis who are the core of his following.

Many residents carried around gray and white leaflets denouncing al-Sadr that witnesses said had been dropped onto the city by a coalition plane the night before.

"Muqtada al-Sadr is a murderer and has to stand trial, but now he's trying to flee," said the Monopoly-money sized leaflets in Arabic. "He and his people are responsible for what is happening in our holy cities, from chaos to killing innocents."

Kerry criticizes Bush foreign policy

By James Kuhnenn
KRT Campus

Palm Beach, Fla. – Sen. John Kerry on Sunday accused President Bush of having a "stunningly ineffective" foreign policy; said stability, not democracy, should be the first concern in Iraq; and indicated that only a new president would be able to build a bigger international alliance in the war-torn country.

In an hour-long interview on NBC's "Meet the Press," Kerry portrayed Bush as untrustworthy, charging that the president has misled the public and members of his own administration.

"It's important to understand why so many countries may be unwilling to come to the table right now," he said in describing the need for more foreign help in Iraq. "It may well be that we need a new president, a breath of fresh air to reestablish credibility with the rest of the world so we can have a believable administration."

On Sunday, Kerry, effectively the Democratic presidential nominee, took his campaign to Florida, a key battleground state where he intends to spend three days capitalizing on the 2000 election recount that left Democrats spoiling for a fight.

In the "Meet the Press" interview, Kerry seemed to back off his long-standing commitment to raise the gas mileage of American cars. He conceded that federal budget deficits might force him to curtail some of his spending proposals.

And he sidestepped his past complaints that Florida presidential politics have prevented adjustments in

United States policy toward Cuba.

In another issue important to Florida's large Jewish population, Kerry voiced support for Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon on Israel's decision to retain some Jewish settlements in the West Bank in concert with an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Gaza Strip. Israel captured both areas in the 1967 Mideast war.

But Kerry accused the Bush administration of mishandling the announcement of its support for Sharon's plan.

"There were Arab leaders who were taken by surprise by this announcement," he said. "I don't think that surprise evidences the ground-work of diplomacy necessary."

But Iraq dominated the interview, with Kerry conceding that President Bush was now seeking more international help and had given the United Nations a greater role in selecting the interim Iraqi government that will retake control of the country on June 30. But he said that wasn't enough.

"In effect, he's transferred to the U.N. now just the decision about what government we will turn it over to, but he won't transfer over to the U.N. the real authority for how the government emerges, how we will do the reconstruction of Iraq," he said. "That is a prerequisite to bringing other countries to the table."

Former Montana Gov. Mark Racicot, the chairman of Bush's re-election campaign, described Kerry's performance on the nationally televised program as "little more than contradiction, confusion and inaccurate attacks."

RELAY, FROM PAGE 1

According to Nay, this year's Relay for Life was the most successful ever in Bulloch County—with the highest attendance and most money ever raised. The total could go over \$200,000, as money can still be collected for the next six weeks.

There were also over 200 survivors present to participate in the annual survivors walk.

Nay said this event was successful due in part to the help of everyone in the community.

According to Betsy Millsap, a manager at the American Cancer Society and GSU graduate student, between 75 and 80 percent of the money raised goes to research programs and services, such as cancer awareness programs and support groups. "The American Cancer Society has been consistently ranked in the top for stewardship," she said.

According to the American Cancer Society's Web site, Relay for



Hillary Jones/STAFF

Participants in this weekend's Relay for Life walked the track which was illuminated by nearly 2,500 candles, which were dedicated to those who have survived or died of cancer. This year's event was the most successful that Bulloch County has had in its eleven years of having the event.

Life began in 1985 when a doctor in Washington ran 24 hours in honor of his patients. He ran for a total of 83 miles, raising \$27,000.

SPRING, FROM PAGE 1

stated, "This is so comical... totally hilarious." Travis Nicholson chimed in with, "This is the most fun I have had since childhood."

There was also Frisbee spin art and fun photos.

Free food attracted students' interests as well. Papa John's pizza, a Coke wagon and snow cones were among the offerings available.

Another Spring Fest next year is in order, and suggestions for activities from students include a slip and slide, mud wrestling, light saber fighting, and open mike.

KENNEDY, FROM PAGE 1

revolution in favor of stronger environmental standards followed.

Some countries, where citizens have little choice, continued without new legislation. Today, according to Kennedy, over one-fifth of Russia is uninhabitable due to radiation, and Beijing citizens visit oxygen bars for fresh air.

"There is a battle going on to steal the air out of your lungs. We will elbow our way into the courtrooms and the backrooms of Capitol Hill," he concluded, "we have an obligation to the next generation."

The speech ended a few minutes

over the hour mark. Afterwards, Kennedy took a few questions before departing. Reaction tended to be positive. "It was very informative, I thought he made a good point," said Jessica Cole.

Kennedy is a graduate of Harvard University. He studied at the London School of Economics and received his law degree from the University of Virginia Law School. He also received a Masters Degree in Environmental Law from Pace University.

To learn more about him, his recent book "The Riverkeepers," and his organization, visit www.riverkeeper.org.

SART, FROM PAGE 1

in his lifetime."

Doris, a courageous woman who is a victim of sexual assault, shared her story with the audience. Here in Statesboro in 1982 a man broke into her home, held a knife to her throat and eventually raped and robbed her. He was later convicted and sentenced to 24 years without parole.

Another brave woman, a GSU student, also took the microphone to share her story of rape. "Just because someone is your friend doesn't excuse them from that kind of behavior," she said.

Take Back The Night was concluded with a candlelight vigil and the disassembling of the clothesline. The T-shirts will be in the Union next year.

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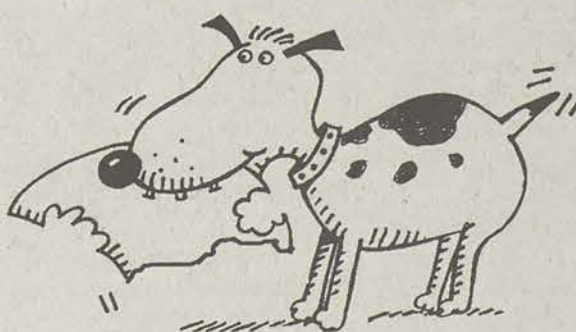
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Baseball sweeps away Catamounts

By Matt Rapp
mattrapp111@yahoo.com

The Eagles took three games from Western Carolina this past weekend at J.L. Clements stadium.

Extending their conference record to 14-4, the Eagles are sitting nicely towards the top of the Southern Conference rankings.

Coming off a four-game winning streak, Friday's 3-1 victory set the pace for the weekend.

Sophomore John Carroll (5-4) pitched a great game Friday night. In the third inning Carroll made a diving catch that retired the side, keeping the game scoreless.

Western Carolina grabbed a run in the fourth off a double. But with two balls, two strikes and the pressure on, Carroll threw the third strike to end the inning.

Catcher Flint Wipke caught Brandon Zollman stealing in the fifth for out two. The Catamounts put two on the bags off errors. Greg Dowling bobbled a grounder to first, but saved the inning with a dive to beat the runner.

Sophomore Mike Economos broke the hitting drought in the bottom of the fifth with a line drive to center. Wipke followed with a ground ball off the pitchers foot to get the Eagles rolling. Brandon Ponder got two RBI from a lazy fly to right field, which Catamount Chad McKown lost the ball in the stadium lights, allowing Ponder to make it around the bases all the way to home plate.

Greg Dowling was back to his usual self in the sixth, slamming an RBI double against the right field wall.

Economos brought in Dowling, lining a single over the first baseman's head, extending the lead to four runs.

Carroll let two get on in the eighth inning. With only an out, junior Catamount Jared Greenwood sailed a homer to right-center shrinking the Eagles lead to one run.

Junior Brian Harrison came to close things out in the ninth inning. Harrison was moved from the starting rotation after eight starts and has come up big with five saves.

After two quick outs, shortstop Wayne Kilmer hit a home run to tie up the ballgame at five to extend the game to the bottom of the ninth.

But then, a single by Travis Adkinson allowed Economos to race home for the winning run preventing extra innings and gaining a clutch win.

Freshman Everett Teaford pitched game two on Saturday night to a packed house of 1,255 fans after a pre-game tailgate that included plenty of free food and entertainment.

Six errors by Western Carolina helped Georgia Southern take another 6-5 decision from the Catamounts.

Western Carolina threatened early in the game, starting off the second inning with a double and a single, putting runners on the corners. A bloop single to right dropped in play to allow a run to score. Staying focused, Teaford got out of trouble with two consecutive strikeouts.

The Catamounts extended their lead to five runs in the third, already having recorded eight hits for the day.

Jason Hurst took his first pitch long in the bottom of the third putting the Eagles on the board.

With runners in scoring position, a hit-and-run call by head coach Rodney Hennon paid off as the Catamounts lead was cut from five runs to two off a double by James Payne.

Wayne Kilmer had his third error of the game at shortstop, overthrowing the ball at second, allowing the Eagles to tie it up at 5-5.

Georgia Southern brought in freshman Dustin Evans for relief in the sixth. Evans found himself in a hole in the eighth inning with the bases loaded. A high chopper to third called for a close throw at first that Dowling stretched out



LaVene Bell/STAFF

The Eagle baseball team moved within distance of the SoCon lead after a three-game sweep of Western Carolina. Georgia Southern took two 6-5 wins before freshman Josh Lairsey guided them to a 3-0 win on Sunday.

to retire the side, saving the runner at third from scoring.

In the bottom of the eighth, the Eagles should have scored but a running mistake by Payne shattered the chances. Running through a stop sign put up by Hennon, Payne was out at home by a mile.

A sacrifice fly by Grant Burruss put the Eagles ahead by a run to boost back the team's spirits.

Brian Harrison closed things out in the ninth to keep the one-run lead.

Freshman Josh Lairsey from Waycross recorded his first collegiate win in game three of the series, pitching eight scoreless innings. Lairsey remarked how the team's confidence is high right now, as they are on a seven-game winning streak. As Lairsey stayed ahead of the batters all day, he made his job look easy.

The Eagles wasted no time getting

on the board as Greg Dowling hit an RBI single to right driving in James Payne.

Flint Wipke scored in the fifth off two singles and an error by Catamount Chad McKown extending the Eagles lead to two before a Mike Economos single drove in the final run in the eighth.

The game went quickly to the eighth inning as Lairsey only allowed two hits with no runs.

Brian Harrison recorded his fifth save of the season as the Eagles won 3-0.

"Different players are stepping up now and we don't have to rely on certain players to perform," said Hennon. "The team is showing more confidence now."

Georgia Southern will next travel to Spartanburg, S.C. for a battle with Wofford this weekend.



Luke Renfro/STAFF

Pitcher Cary Moore won the series-opener against the College of Charleston, but her 11 strikeouts on Sunday, which gave her a team-record 154 for the season, were not enough as Charleston won the closer in extra innings.

Lady Eagles fail to wrap up sweep over Cougars

By Chike Nwakamma

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The Georgia Southern Lady Eagles dominated the College of Charleston Lady Cougars in the first game of their doubleheader on Saturday.

The Eagles got another strong performance by a member of their pitching staff as they shut the Cougars out 3-0 in the first game.

Cary Moore had another impressive outing, striking out seven batters in seven innings. Moore started off a little slow, walking the first batter she faced and throwing a wild pitch later in the inning. That was the only hiccup in Moore's performance as she gained control to throw a complete game, giving up only three hits.

Shanita Black also played a huge role in the Eagles' win, going 3-for-4 and scoring two runs. Black got things going leading off the bottom of the third inning with a single. She then stole second base to get in scoring position. Maria Laurato singled to left field, scoring Black and giving the Eagles their first run.

The Eagles added two more runs and that proved to be enough insurance. The win brought Moore's record to 11-8 on the season.

The Lady Eagles won a seesaw battle in game two of their doubleheader. The game had two ties, two lead changes and included nine runs, ending with a 6-3 Eagle victory.

The Cougars drew first blood when catcher Brittany Pohlen doubled in the first run in the top of the second inning. However, the Eagles responded by scoring the next three runs.

Carolyn Chin singled home a run in the second inning to tie the game at 1-1. The Eagles took the lead in the third inning after Sam Steiner doubled to leftfield, scoring two runs.

The Eagles appeared poised to take control of the game before the Cougars rallied in the fourth inning. Pitcher Tiffany Urena got into a little trouble, loading the bases with only one out. Urena, who has been pitching with an injured shoulder, left the game with the score tied at 3-3 and the bags full.

Logan Free entered the game in relief and retired the next two batters. Free pitched the remainder of the game, going 3 2/3 innings with four strikeouts and no runs.

"I felt really relaxed," Free said, "More relaxed than I've felt for a while."

Free was able to come in the game and locate her pitches. She only walked one batter in her appearance.

"Coming in [relief], you have to be on right away. You have to be able to hit your spots," said Free.

"[Free has] definitely grown quite a bit throughout this year," said Coach Natalie Poole. "She's been more prepared [each time]."

The final game in the series between the Lady Eagles and the Lady Cougars saw Charleston hit back-to-back homers to win 3-1 in eight innings.

The Eagles scored first when Maria Laurato hit a sacrifice fly to center, scoring Shanita Black. However, that would be the Eagles' only run of the game, as the Cougars would tie the game on a Brooke Flowers' home run in the top of the fifth inning.

"We struggled a little bit at the plate today. We had multiple base runners in scoring position," said Coach Poole. "We weren't getting them [runners] around and scoring them."

Pitcher Cary Moore also struggled. Pitching for the second straight day, Moore gave up three earned runs, all on homers. Moore gave up homers to Amanda Cone and Bridget Loudermilk in the deciding eighth before being relieved by Logan Free.

Moore did have 11 strikeouts making her Georgia Southern's all-time leader for strikeouts in a single season with 161.

After their series with the Cougars, the Eagles have a 24-21 overall record and are fourth in the conference at 6-6. Charleston is 34-17 overall and 8-4 in conference play.

The Eagles' next game is a home doubleheader versus Georgia Tech on Wednesday at 3 p.m. They resume conference play on Friday when they travel to play UNC Greensboro.

Eagle golf prepares defense of conference crown

Special to the G-A

SPARTANBURG, S.C. - The 2004 Southern Conference Men's Golf Championships are set to begin on Sunday, April 18 and run through Tuesday, April 20.

The three-round, 54-hole event is scheduled to take place at the par 72, 7147-yard The Ridges Golf and Country Club in Jonesborough, Tenn. with East Tennessee State serving as the host institution.

Georgia Southern enters this weekend's tournament looking to defend its 2003 team title. Led by junior Aron Price, who is ranked number one individually in the conference and 18th nationally by Golfweek with a 71.3 stroke average, the Eagles are the top-rated team in the SoCon this season. Also returning from GSU's 2003 championship squad is Jon David Kennedy who, in that 2003 event, finished in a tie for fifth place with Price.

Furman seems poised to challenge GSU's supremacy, as the Paladins boast the second-best team scoring average in the conference and have two wins and one second place finish in their last three events. Furman also has two of the league's top eight individual players in Matt Davidson and Buddy Davis. Davis finished in a tie for ninth last season while Davidson's top SoCon performance was a 10th place finish in the 2001 event.

Just behind Furman in the team rankings is UNC Greensboro, the fifth place team at last season's championships. The Spartans are led by senior Andy Bare, who has claimed two individual tournament titles this spring and ranks third in the conference's individual stroke averages at 73.4.

Other top finishers from the 2003 Championships who are returning in 2004 include East Tennessee State's Chase Baldwin and Wofford's Daniel Sloan who tied for fifth with GSU's

Price and Kennedy at a two-over par total of 218.

East Tennessee State has won 16 SoCon Men's Golf titles, yet this is the first time that they have played host to the event. Georgia Southern's victory in Statesboro last season marked the first time that a school had won on its home course in the 71-year history of the SoCon tournament.

Conference newcomer Elon is led by Ryan Loucks (73.5 average), while Steve Mayo (74.2) looks to lead Davidson's charge and Tucker Ervin (73.8) hopes to bring the College of Charleston its second conference title in three years.

The sixth-rated SoCon team, Chattanooga, has been led by Matt Brock (74.4) who finished 14th in 2003.

Western Carolina, Appalachian State, and The Citadel, the three schools who round out the SoCon rankings in 2004, will also look to make history this weekend. The Cata-



Sunday Update: After the first round, Georgia Southern sits in a third-place tie at +9 (297), 12 strokes behind leader Furman. Bryan Jones' round of -1 (71) leads the Eagles, and places him in a tie for fourth place overall.

mounts' top returnee is Tim Eckberg who had WCU's best finish last season. ASU returns last season's 20th place finisher, David Thomas, while The Citadel's Jeff Spencer and Matt Frye, both top 20 finishers in 2003, hope to lead the Bulldogs to their first SoCon Men's Golf title since 1964.

Awards given to long-time athletic trainer, students

By Eli Boorstein
Nietsoob17@hotmail.com

Throughout a season's worth of ballgames, an athlete is bound to accumulate his or her share of wear and tear - from bum ankles to separated shoulders.

In 1971, Tom "Doc" Smith came to Georgia Southern College with the unenviable task of handling the training needs of seven different teams, and almost single handedly, as he had only had one student assistant at his disposal.

Throughout his 23-year tenure at Georgia Southern, Smith was instrumental in seeing the university's athletic training program grow from scratch into the thriving department it is now.

For his efforts, Smith was honored with an award on Saturday in the Lupton Building, as a group of athletic training students looking to follow in his mold were also honored with awards of their own, including one named in Smith's honor.

Jeffie Trammell was twice-honored on the day, as he was presented with the inaugural Tom "Doc" Smith Award for outstanding performance and the Aimee Gunnoe Memorial

Scholarship.

The scholarship was named after Aimee Gunnoe, an athletic training instructor who died in a car accident on April 7, 2002 at the age of 29. The scholarship provided Trammell with a \$300 award to use towards the National Athletic Trainers' Association certification exam.

"I had Aimee in a class and she was a wonderful person and mentor," said Trammell. "It's an honor to accept an award in her name."

Trammell was equally moved by receiving the award named after the day's guest of honor.

"It's an honor because I know what he's done for the program," Trammell said about Smith. "He's been through a lot of stuff here at Georgia Southern."

The program's graduate assistants were honored as well, each given plaques and personalized nameplates. Selected undergraduates also received honors while superlatives were announced for various students and instructors.

As the man who laid the stepping stones for the program that all the students sitting in the Lupton Building on Saturday, Tom "Doc" Smith



Ryan Moore/STAFF

Tom "Doc" Smith is presented with a plaque by Brant Berkstresser, assistant athletics director for sports medicine.

reflected on the past.

"It's very refreshing," said Smith. "Around 1987, we considered an athletic training curriculum and in the early 1990s we hired a curriculum director."

With a trainer largely responsible for maintaining the health and well-being of the student-athletes they watch, their proper education needs to be assured.

"An accredited program has got to meet a lot of requirements," said Smith. "The main thing is we need a program like that to supply all the trainers we need."

Women's tennis closes regular season with loss to Charleston

GSU Athletic Media Relations

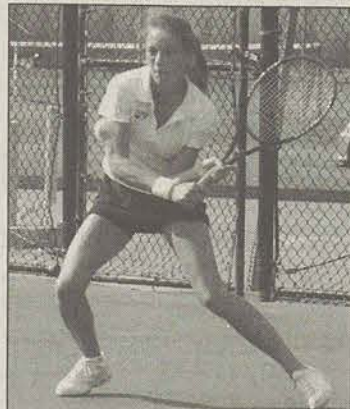
The College of Charleston rallied back after dropping the doubles point to win five of six singles matches and hand Georgia Southern a 5-2 Southern Conference setback Friday afternoon at the Hanner Courts.

The Cougars (16-7, 8-2 SoCon) used wins from Rachel Magory at the No. 1 position, Gabriela Moreira at the No. 2, Whitney Malina at No. 3, Maxine Capewell at No. 4 and Ashley Willis at the No. 6 slot to secure the victory.

The Eagles' lone singles triumph came from Amy Pazahanick's victory over Lauren Stewart at No. 5.

Georgia Southern (11-11, 4-6 SoCon) won two of three doubles matches, turning in 8-4 and 8-1 wins by Ciara Finucane/Szilvia Zsakay and Charlotte Bruneteaux/Krystel Sauvageau, respectively.

The match served as the regular season finale for both squads. The Cougars and Eagles will now prepare for the Southern Conference Championships, which begin Thursday in Charleston, S.C.



Hillary Jones/STAFF

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

Singles

No. 1 - Rachel Magory (CofC) def. Ciara Finucane (GSU) 2-6, 6-3, 6-1
No. 2 - Gabriela Moreira (CofC) def. Charlotte Bruneteaux (GSU) 7-5, 6-2
No. 3 - Whitney Malina (CofC) def. Krystel Sauvageau (GSU) 6-1, 6-1
No. 4 - Maxine Capewell (CofC) def. Szilvia Zsakay (GSU) 6-2, 6-3
No. 5 - Amy Pazahanick (GSU) def. Lauren Stewart (CofC) 4-6, 6-3, 6-1
No. 6 - Ashley Willis (CofC) def. Heather Reynolds (GSU) 3-6, 6-1, 6-2

Doubles

No. 1 - Finucane/Zsakay (GSU) def. Capewell/Moreira (CofC) 8-4
No. 2 - Magory/Stewart (CofC) def. Pazahanick/Kim Wollett (GSU) 8-1
No. 3 - Bruneteaux/Sauvageau (GSU) def. Malina/Willis (CofC) 8-1

UPCOMING GEORGIA SOUTHERN ATHLETIC EVENTS

Monday-Tuesday

• Golf at SoCon Championships in Jonesborough, Tenn.

Wednesday

• Softball vs. Georgia Tech (DH), Eagle Field, 3 p.m.

Thursday-Sunday

• Men's & Women's Tennis at SoCon Tournament in Charleston, S.C.

Friday

• Baseball at Wofford, 7 p.m.

Saturday

• Outdoor Track at Irwin Belk Invitational in Davidson, N.C.
• Softball at UNC Greensboro (DH), 1 p.m.
• Baseball at Wofford, 1:30 p.m.

Sunday

• Softball at UNC Greensboro, 1 p.m.
• Baseball at Wofford, 1:30 p.m.



University System Chancellor Meredith to address graduates



Special to the G-A

Georgia Southern University will conduct its Spring 2004 Commencement on Saturday, May 1, at 9 a.m. in Paulson Stadium.

Thomas C. Meredith, the chancellor of the University System of Georgia, will deliver the commencement address.

Approximately 2,000 students are eligible to participate in the ceremony, including those students who will finish their graduation requirements during the upcoming summer semester.

Meredith was named chancellor of the University System in January 2002. He is responsible for

the state's 34 public colleges and universities, which include nearly 250,000 students, 35,000 faculty and staff, and an annual budget of \$4.6 billion.

Since taking office, Meredith has managed several tough state budget cuts, vigorously defended further erosion of the University System's state funding and secured approval from the Board of Regents for the System's new long-term strategic plan.

Prior to his appointment in Georgia, Meredith served as chancellor of The University of System of Alabama. In that capacity, he was responsible for three doctoral research universities that have a combined enrollment of 40,000 students, 17,000 employees and an annual budget of \$1.8 billion.

Due to the anticipated large crowd, guests are encouraged to arrive at the stadium one hour before the scheduled start of the commencement exercises.

In the event of inclement weather, commencement will be held in Hanner Fieldhouse. For more information, visit Georgia Southern's Spring 2004 Commencement Web site at http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/registrar/graduation_info.html.

Troops in Iraq killed at rates approaching Vietnam War-era levels

By Drew Brown
KRT Campus

WASHINGTON — With fighting in Iraq now at its worst, the number of U.S. troops killed by enemy fire has reached the highest level since the Vietnam War.

The first part of April has been the bloodiest period so far for U.S. troops in Iraq.

There have been 98 deaths by hostile fire so far this month, more than in the opening two weeks of the invasion, when 82 Americans were killed in action.

"This has been some pretty intense fighting," said David Segal, director of the University of Maryland's Center for Research on Military Organization. "We're looking at what happened during the major battles of Vietnam."

The last time U.S. troops experienced a two-week loss such as this one in Iraq was October 1971, two years before U.S. ground involvement ended in Vietnam.

There are 135,000 U.S. troops in Iraq. Nearly 700 American troops have died since the beginning of the war. As of Sunday, 503 had been reported killed in action. At least 3,630 more have been wounded.

The Vietnam War started with a slower death rate. The United States had been involved in Vietnam for six years before total fatalities surpassed 500 in 1965.

The year President Lyndon B. Johnson ordered a massive buildup of forces, there were 20,000 troops in Vietnam by the

end of 1964. There were more than 200,000 a year later.

By the end of 1966, U.S. combat deaths in Vietnam had reached 3,910. By 1968, the peak of U.S. involvement, there were more than 500,000 troops in the country.

During the same two-week period of April that year, 752 U.S. soldiers died, according to National Archives records.

U.S. officials say that comparisons with Vietnam are invalid and reject the idea that Iraq has become a quagmire.

But the two-front battle that U.S. troops have been waging against Sunni and Shiite insurgents for the past two weeks is the most widespread resistance U.S. forces have faced since the war in Iraq began.

Senior U.S. officials insist the current fighting is only a "spike" and not indicative of a widening war. On Thursday, Gen. Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, described the current fighting as a "symptom of the success" U.S. forces are having in Iraq.

"The sole intent of the insurgents is to stop Iraq's transition to self-governance and democracy," Myers said.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said Thursday that the death toll was worse than he had expected a year ago.

He also announced that more than 20,000 troops, mostly from the 1st Armored Division, would remain in Iraq for three more

months to deal with the insurgency instead of coming home after a year of duty.

Gunfire has been the biggest killer of U.S. troops, followed closely by improvised explosive devices. The two account for more than 250 deaths.

Those killed represent a wide range of military specialties. Truck drivers and clerks are getting killed just as often, if not more often, than infantrymen and other combat specialties.

That's an indication of the kind of battlefield environment in Iraq.

"Even Vietnam was a more conventional war than this," said Charles Moskos, a sociologist with Northwestern University who specializes in military issues and worked as a correspondent in the Vietnam War.

Another striking difference is age.

The average age of a casualty in Vietnam was 20 years old. The average age of a casualty in Iraq is nearly 27. The youngest American soldier killed in Iraq was 18; the oldest was 55.

More than 12 percent of those killed have come from the Army National Guard and Army Reserve, which helps explain why the average age of the dead is higher.

"Reserve components tend to be older," Moskos said. Another reason is that a number of special operations troops were also killed in the early days of the war, and they tend to be older as well.

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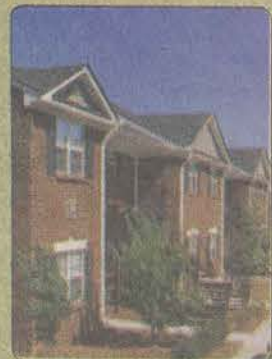
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G-8 to affect Sea Island residents

ST. SIMONS ISLAND, Ga.— For the upcoming G-8 summit, several area waterways and two small airports will be closed and security sweeps of traffic could cause hourlong delays, the Secret Service warned local residents Friday.

As the closest community to Sea Island, site of the June 8-10 summit of world leaders, this island of more than 16,000 residents can expect some of the heaviest security restrictions.

Dave Wilkinson, special agent in charge of the Secret Service in Atlanta, gave some idea of what to expect to 300 people attending a Chamber of Commerce luncheon. But he said most of the security plan for protecting President Bush and the leaders of Britain, Japan, France, Germany, Italy, Canada and Russia would remain on a "need-to-know basis."

Because St. Simons sits between Sea Island and the mainland, security officers will conduct sweeps of cars traveling the 4-mile causeway linking St. Simons to Brunswick, the nearest inland city.

Wilkinson said residents could expect to see security measures in

place the first two weeks of June meaning up to a week before Bush and the other leaders arrive.

"All traffic on the causeway will be monitored with some vehicles being subject to additional inspections," Wilkinson said. "Commercial vehicles and passenger vehicles should plan on as much as one hour of delay."

Wilkinson said all "residents, business owners and employees" would be allowed to travel to and from St. Simons. He did not mention whether protesters would be allowed passage to the island, the closest they would be able to get to the world leaders.

The closest he came to mentioning anticipated protests in the area was, "law enforcement will respond expeditiously ... to any disruptions in the St. Simons area."

The Coast Guard has proposed a plan to close waterways around Sea Island, St. Simons and neighboring Jekyll Island including waters up to 3 nautical miles out to sea and within 100 yards of bridges. That would result in the closing of three area marinas.

HARTRY, FROM PAGE 4

and other apartment complexes in Statesboro this weekend, you would have thought it was Mardi Gras — or, better yet, an actual Player's Ball — by the way the entrances were guarded and the authorities were out in full force.

Do I have a case against my property manager of violating my leasing agreement? Maybe I do. Maybe I don't.

I'm sure there's some loophole I may have mistakenly overlooked that could be used to refute my argument, but my lease does lack specificity. I know I have rights as a tenant, and they shouldn't be taken away for some weekend that doesn't exist anymore.

Natasha Y. Hartry is a staff writer for The George-Anne and can be reached at nhartry@yahoo.com.

CHRISTIAN, FROM PAGE 4

the only example of God's wrath partly due to homosexuality either — Sodom and Gomorra, even Noah's Ark.

Yes, we are commanded to love one another unconditionally; however there is nothing saying I have to support homosexuality. I do not hate homosexuals. I do believe that homosexuality is morally wrong as the Bible clearly states. However, it is between them and God ultimately. All I can do while I am on this earth is to show them God's love through me.

I am not trying to shove my beliefs on you anymore than you are trying to shove your anti-Christian, anti-Jewish beliefs on me. Just because you do not believe in Christianity, does not mean you do not have a belief. Your belief is simply that there is no God or that there is another god. That is no reason to attack Christianity, just because I believe something different than you. We are taught religious freedom and religious tolerance in this country, except when it comes to Christianity, in which case Christians are expected to be quiet and let people run all over us.

I know that not everyone believes in God and some do not see how Christians can believe in Him. Personally, I do not see how people can live without God in their lives everyday other than that they are scared to admit God's power.

I am not claiming to be perfect or better than anyone else. I make mistakes everyday, because I am human just like the rest of you, but I am forgiven for my mistakes.

Brian Harrison
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