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The GEORGE-ANNE

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MAY 27 2004



Thursday, May 27, 2004 • Volume 76, Number 90

HOPE FUNDS TRAJECTORY

2005-2006

Book allowances may be reduced to \$150 per academic year for full time students

2006-2007

Book allowance eliminated for all students, except for Pell Grant recipients

2007-2008

Fees eliminated for everyone, including Pell Grant recipients; Pell recipients continue to receive \$300 book allowance

Freshmen 2007

High school academic requirements for HOPE will be a true 3.0 GPA, rather than an 80 numeric average

Georgia lawmakers attempt to save HOPE

HISTORY



HOPE ESTABLISHED

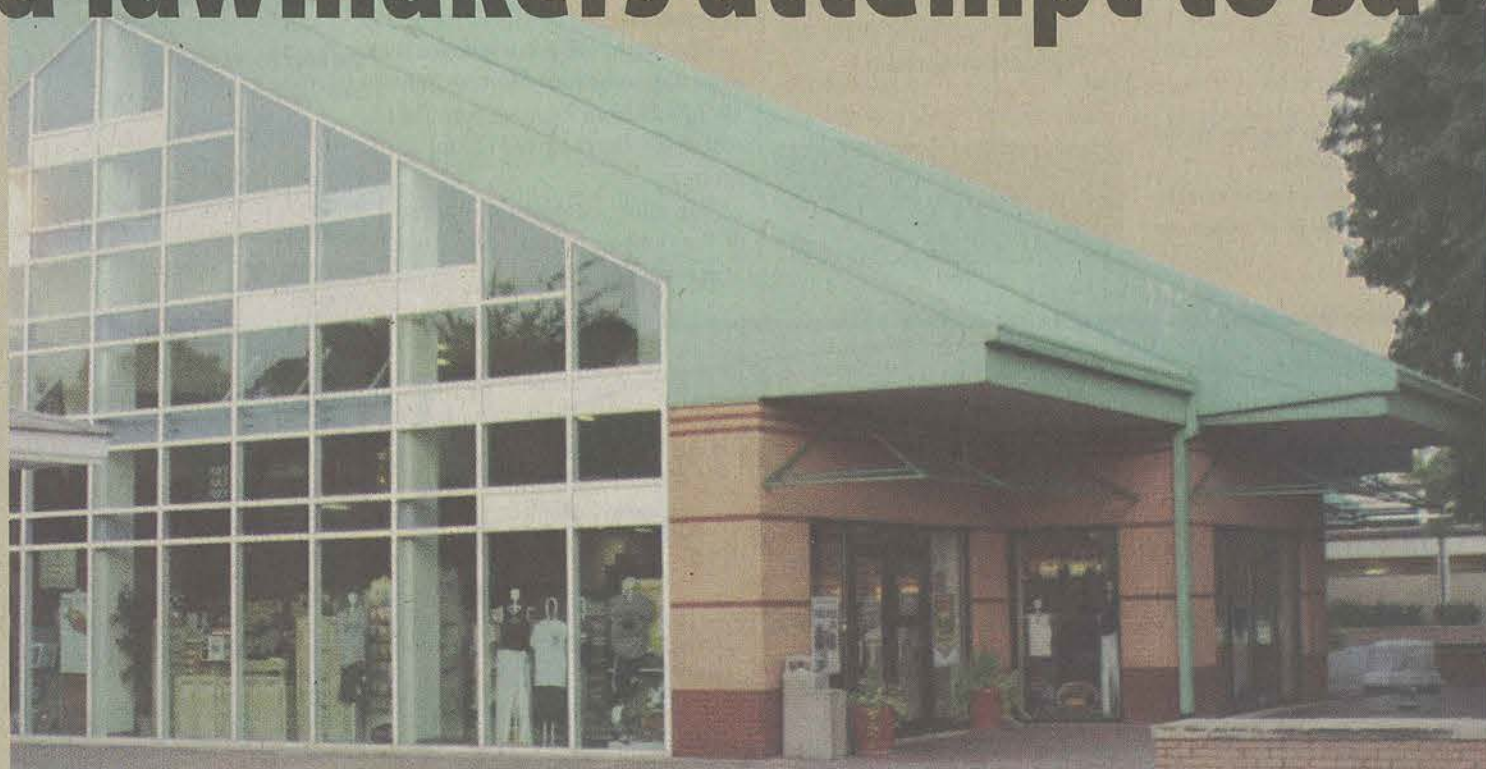
Former Governor Zell Miller established the HOPE scholarship, an idea he used in his 1990 campaign

FIRST AWARDED

The graduating class of 1993 was the first to benefit from the HOPE Scholarship.

HOPE TODAY

Since its inception, HOPE has added many other scholarships such as the HOPE Teacher Scholarship Program, the Georgia Military College Scholarship and the Public Safety Memorial Grant



LaVene Bell/Staff

One of the first HOPE allowances to be cut will be that for books, which will be reduced in the academic year of 2005-2006 if the Lottery's year-end budget is less than that of the previous year.

By Luke Hearn

lheard@georgiasouthern.edu

The Georgia General Assembly has finally made a decision on the future of the HOPE Scholarship.

Since its inception in 1993, the HOPE Scholarship has aided thousands of Georgia Students in attending college, virtually paying for their tuition and fees since the scholarship's inception. All of that is going to change as of fall 2004, as the Assembly attempts to put forth measures to save lottery-funded scholarship.

Over the past year, there has been much talk about the depletion of the

scholarship's funding and how it will be sustained for the future.

According to the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC), there are many changes to the scholarship, while other components are merely modified to be more budget-friendly. The first deals with HOPE checkpoints. Before, the Financial Aid Department evaluated a student's HOPE eligibility at the 30, 60, and 90 hour points for all students. They will still check at these points, but also at the end of each spring semester; this is only for full-time students. For part-time students—those taking less than 12

hours—their HOPE eligibility will be checked every three semesters instead of every spring.

Mandatory fees were also an issue addressed by the Assembly. Taking effect in the fall, the amount that HOPE will pay for mandatory fees is capped at what the fees were set at as of the 2003-2004 academic year. HOPE will not cover any amount above this limit.

Since GSU's fees were \$350.00, HOPE will not cover the increases approved by the Board of Regents earlier this month. This means that students will be responsible for roughly \$85 in mandatory fees

on their own, whether it be out of pocket or through some other form of financial aid.

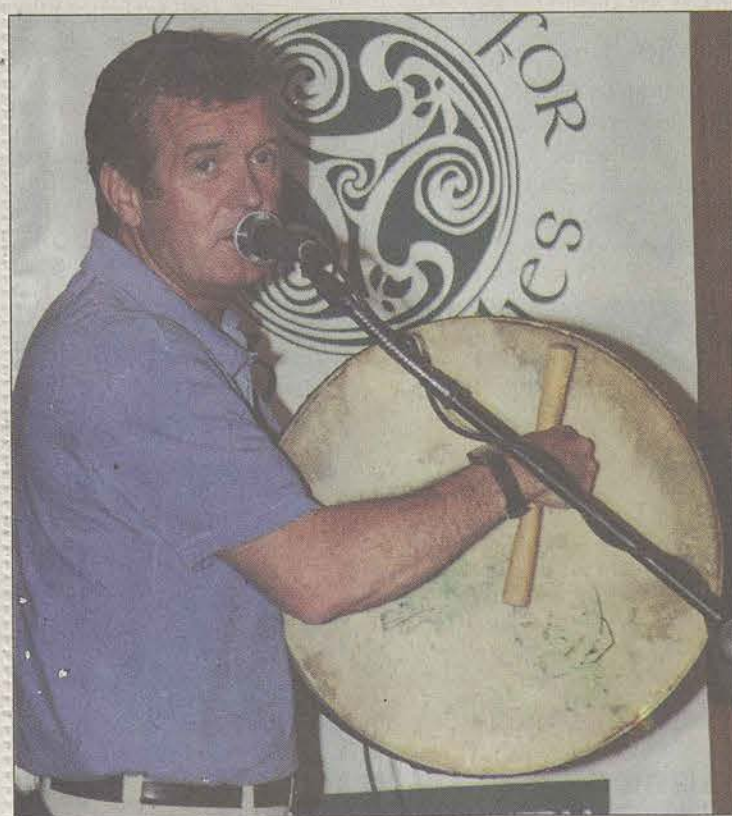
Included in the new changes are triggers for books and fees, that will be activated if and when lottery funds are lower than the previous year. For instance, in the academic year of 2004-2005, students will still receive their \$300 per year. But, if the Lottery's budget at the end of the year is less than the previous year's, then book allowance will be reduced to \$150 per year for full-time students and \$75 per year for part-time

See HOPE, Page 3

DID YOU KNOW...?

- HOPE funds not only pay for scholarships, but for Georgia pre-kindergarten programs and educational technology
- Originally the HOPE scholarship was for those whose household income was less than \$66,000 a year
- HOPE originally only covered tuition
- HOPE was initially for freshmen and sophomores only; it was expanded to all classes in 1995
- In 2007, instead of being awarded on an 80 numerical average, students must have a 3.0 on a state wide 4.0 scale to receive HOPE
- Eighty-six percent of GSU first year freshmen have HOPE
- GSU is second to UGA in the number who have received HOPE and fourth in the amount of money distributed since the program's inception
- There is currently a federal HOPE program and a number of states who are starting their own HOPE programs based on Georgia's

O'Donoghue repeatedly dazzles Archibald audiences



LaVene Bell/STAFF

Harry O'Donoghue entertained the audience at Archibald's with traditional Irish music and songs, like 'Blarney Roads', this past Tuesday night.

By Jessica Crowe

jessica_crowe9@hotmail.com

Irish, folksinger Harry O'Donoghue dazzled audiences yet again with traditional Irish folk music and witty toasts during the Irish Pub Nights held Monday and Tuesday, an event sponsored by the Center for Irish Studies.

O'Donoghue, who is a native of Ireland, brought to Statesboro an eclectic array of traditional Irish songs along with a splatter of contemporary pieces. Using his authentic Irish voice, guitar and bodhran—a drum made out of goat skin—O'Donoghue takes the audience on an hour and forty-five minute tour to Ireland, defining the life and history of the country.

O'Donoghue's music and energy filled the room as the crowd became excited and enthused. The music and feeling that he is able to create causes a wave of excitement.

GSU student Pippa Mpunz-wanna really enjoyed the event. "It

was truly a memorable experience," she said. "Harry O'Donoghue delivers a great performance that is light hearted and filled with tons of laughter and good times... enough to lift anyone's spirits."

Archibald's Bar and Tavern provided O'Donoghue with a warm, inviting setting, creating an easy, fun-loving atmosphere. An opportunity to spend an evening with Harry O'Donoghue is a chance to enjoy good music and make long-lasting friendships.

O'Donoghue is a friendly and welcoming soul who goes out of his way to meet his many fans. He had the audience participate with many of his songs and made sure that everyone was having a good time.

Before leaving the stage, O'Donoghue said, "Here's to you and our time together, I'll share with you a parting glass and bid adieu with a smile and laughter, our time apart will be short and pass."

Meal plan price to increase

Despite popularity, rollover plan will be eliminated for next year

By Luke Hearn

lheard@georgiasouthern.edu

Meal plan prices are increasing in the fall. According to the Director of Food Services, Tom Palfy, each one of the plans will increase in the fall by three percent. Originally the department had requested a six percent increase reduced it to three after deciding to no longer continue the roll over meal plans.

The roll over plans were experimental this past year, coming from a suggestion from the Student Government Association (SGA). Instead of students losing their un-used meals each day, they had a week to use them up before they became void. Many students used their left over meals at the Pickle Barrel, located in Landrum Center. Palfy said that the roll over plans "weren't working out financially."

Palfy attributes the increase of meal plans to the rising prices of food products. "We're seeing the highest prices we've ever experienced," Palfy said, noting that beef and chicken prices are up due to diseases, and the increase of dairy prices as well. He also said that the cost of living as a factor.

Currently for a meal plan of five meals per week, the price is \$400. As of fall, the plan will be \$425. The 10 meal per week plan will increase from \$800 to \$850. The 14 meals per week plan will increase from \$1000 to \$1030, while the 19 meal per week plan will be \$1133, up from \$1100.

Palfy said that Food Services is a business entity on campus and is viewed as such by how much profit the department make. He said that the meal plan prices include in them a factor dealing with how many meals are missed by students. With the roll over plans, less students were missing meals, therefore reducing profits. Palfy said that this is part of the reason that the roll over plan will not be in affect next year.

Weekday Weather

Thursday



HIGH

96°

LOW

70°

Partly Cloudly

Friday



HIGH

96°

LOW

71°

Mostly Sunny

Opinions

• Amanda Permenter wonders why The Salvation Army is waging a war against New York City

• Lenore Skenazy says good riddance to Cracker Jacks

GA Page 4

A&E

• Showtime's 'Soul Food' came to an end Wednesday night

• 'Day After Tomorrow' displays disaster, but not human mortality

GA Page 5

Sports

• GSU Baseball loses 5-2 in the first round of the SoCon tournament against Davidson

• Eagle Golf misses NCAA championship by three shots

GA Page 7

Inside

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Police Beat

05-19-04

- A domestic dispute was reported at Olympic Boulevard.
- Omar Jamal Gibson, 21, 110 Harvey Street, was charged with DUI, driving with suspended license and failure to maintain lane.
- Justin Caleb White, 20, 8 Tillman Street, was charged with theft by taking and minor in possession/consumption of alcohol.
- Officers issued three traffic warnings and responded to one fire alarm.

05-20-04

- A laptop computer was taken from the College of Business Building.
- Officers issued three traffic warnings and responded to one burglar alarm.

05-21-04

- Officers issued one traffic warn-

05-22-04

- Artemio Gufracio Ayala, 22, of 210 Lanier Drive, Statesboro, was charged with public drunk.
- A bicycle was stolen from the Southern Courtyard bike rack.
- Officers issued two traffic warnings and assisted four motorists.

05-23-04

- University custodial employees reported that someone pried open the door and entered College of Education Room 4100 and attempted to pry open the door to Room 4127 in the same building. No items appeared to be missing.

05-24-04

- A case of battery was reported at Southern Courtyard.
- Two laptop computers were taken from the College of Education Building.

- Officers issued one traffic warning, investigated one traffic accident, assisted one motorist, and responded to one burglar alarm and one fire alarm.

05-25-04

- Blake Earl Deal, 20, of 4519 Middleground Road, Statesboro, was charged with DUI, possession of marijuana, and driving in the wrong side of the road.
- A case of harassment was reported at Henderson Library.
- A case of harassment was reported at Watson Hall.
- A license plate was damaged on a vehicle in the Perimeter parking lot.
- Officers issued four traffic citations and three traffic and assisted two motorists.

- All Police Beat information compiled by Luke Hearn, News Editor.

Campus News

GSU hosts summer basketball camps

Special to the G-A

The GSU Men's Basketball team is sponsoring summer basketball camps. Their shooting camp will be held Friday, June 18-19. The cost of this event is \$125 for overnight and \$75 for commuters.

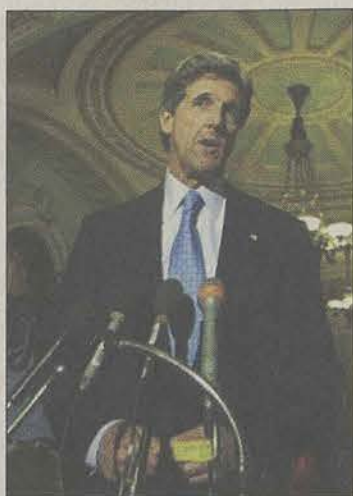
They are also sponsoring a post-player camp, which will be held on June 19-20. The cost of this camp is \$125 for overnight and \$75 for commuters.

The team will also sponsor a day camp to be held Monday, July 19- July 23 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. The cost of the day camp is \$125 for all campers.

For more information on any of the camps, contact coach Tom Spencer at 681-5328.

News Briefs

Kerry decision on convention expected this week



Special Photo Democratic Presidential Candidate Sen. John Kerry

WASHINGTON - John Kerry is expected to decide this week whether he will delay accepting the Democratic presidential nomination, his timetable moved up under pressure from party officials.

Several advisers want him to forgo the nomination at the Democratic convention in late July and wait five weeks until President Bush accepts the GOP nod. That would give both candidates the same time to spend \$75 million in public money set aside for the general election.

Campaign officials began telling fellow Democrats on Tuesday that a decision should come in the next day or two.

They did not say which way Kerry was leaning.

No matter what he decides, the Democratic convention will be held in Boston July 26-29. The question is whether Kerry technically postpones the nomination, which he secured in early March after a series of primaries and caucuses that began in January.

Once nominated, Bush and Kerry must decide whether to accept the \$75 million each would receive in public money for the general election campaign. Both are expected to do so, because raising that much money would be difficult and time-consuming.

By scheduling their convention five weeks before the Republicans, Democratic leaders put their nominee at a disadvantage: Kerry would have to stretch the same \$75 million over a longer period of time.

Interior Department suspends contracts for Iraq interrogators

WASHINGTON - The Interior Department has blocked the Army from hiring new civilian interrogators in Iraq while it investigates whether a past contract was awarded properly, a department spokesman said Tuesday.

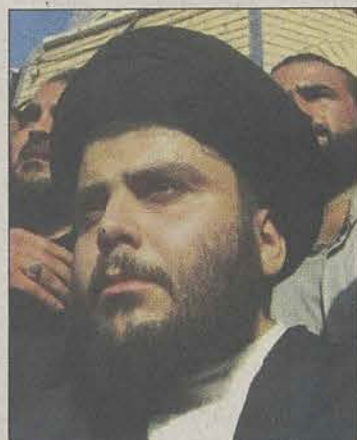
At least one civilian interrogator working under that contract has been accused of taking part in abusing prisoners at the Abu Ghraib prison outside Baghdad.

The Army hired interrogators from CACI International Inc. of Arlington, Va., starting last August through a "blanket purchase agreement" overseen by the Interior Department. That agreement was to provide information technology services, said Interior spokesman Frank Quimby.

Interior's Inspector General is investigating whether it was proper to hire interrogators under an information technology contract, Quimby told reporters in a conference call Tuesday.

The Army told Interior officials last week it was satisfied with CACI's performance of the contract, Quimby said.

Clashes between US and Shiite militiamen intensifying in Najaf



Special Photo Shiite militia leader Muqtada al-Sadr.

NAJAF, Iraq - Parts of one of the most sacred shrines of Shia Islam suffered damage during clashes Tuesday between U.S. forces and radical Shiite militiamen.

After the fighting eased, people gathered at the Imam Ali shrine to look at the damage. The inner gate of the shrine, leading into the tomb of Imam Ali Ibn Abu Talib, appeared to have been hit by a projectile. Bits of debris were scattered along the ground.

Supporters of radical Shiite militia leader Muqtada al-Sadr accused the Americans firing mortars at the mosque. There was no comment from the U.S. command in Baghdad.

Fighting in Najaf and other Shiite shrine cities south of Baghdad have raised alarm among Shiite Muslims throughout the world who fear damage to the sacred sites.

U.S. officials say they have been careful to avoid damaging the shrines and have accused al-Sadr of using holy places to store weapons and seek sanctuary.

- All News Briefs compiled from wire reports by Luke Hearn, News Editor.

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Blood drive held at GSU in honor of four-year-old boy

By Luke Hearn

lhearn@georgiasouthern.edu

GSU hosted an American Red Cross blood drive on Tuesday in honor of a little boy named Devon Boyles, a four-year-old diagnosed with a primary immune disease called Common-Variable Immuno Deficiency (CVID).

This disorder comes in different forms, and Devon has Agamma Globulin Immune Deficiency Anemia. To sum it up, he has low levels of immunoglobulins and antibodies in his blood. He is unable to fight off infections and has a higher chance of becoming infected with other diseases such as cancer.

The disease is not contagious, nor is it genetic. It is very rare, and as one of Devon's doctors said, "one would have a better chance of winning the Mega Millions lottery than having the disease."

Every month, Devon receives Intravenous Immunoglobulin Therapy (IVG). This blood product contains the necessary amounts of white blood cells and other nutrients to keep him free of infections. It takes about seven people to contribute for one month of his treatment.

The blood drive held here at GSU was very successful. Their goal was to



Hillary Jones/STAFF

The blood drive held on Tuesday outside of the Russell Union was held in honor of Devon Boyles, a four-year-old infected with a rare immune deficiency disorder. The drive was successful, exceeding its goal of 30 donors.

have 30 donors, and Devon's mother said that the goal of 30 was exceeded, with 37 people donating their blood on Tuesday.

Dan Foglio, chairman of the GSU blood drives, said that all went well. "We've had a good day, and things have ran smoothly," he said. "But I was really annoyed that *The Statesboro Herald* wouldn't cover the story since the boy isn't from the community."

Devon's mother Angela encourages everyone to donate blood. "It's

such a small act that goes so far to help so many people," she said. She also said that people who donate with the American Red Cross, no matter where, can request to donate their blood for Devon.

The next blood drive here at GSU will be on Wednesday, June 16, from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the RAC.

For more information on Devon's disorder, visit the Immune Deficiency Foundation's Web site at www.prima-ryimmune.org/.

Over-the-counter emergency contraceptive pill rejected by FDA, mixed emotions on GSU campus

By Rachel Weeks

crazedrachel@hotmail.com

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) rejected over-the-counter sales of the morning-after pill, also known as Plan B, on May 6, stating concerns about young teenagers' use of the pill. The pill is a form of emergency contraception, and it should be used when a mistake is made with other methods of contraception.

The pill works by disrupting normal follicular development and maturation, inhibiting ovulation, and thickening cervical mucus.

With three million unintended pregnancies each year [according to 2004 Managing Contraception], contraception is an important issue, especially to young adults attending college.

The Plan B pill is available by prescription at the GSU Health Services Center for an affordable price of \$18. Health Services offers many methods of contraception including the

patch (OrthoEvra), which is paper thin and is easily concealable; the vaginal ring (Nuvaring), which is placed at the base of the cervix; injectable contraceptives administered once every three months (DepoProvera); and progestin only pills (mini-pill), as well as male and female condoms.

ElDonna Hilde, women's health nurse practitioner said, "It is much easier to deal with preventing pregnancy than it is to deal with the situation once you become pregnant, especially if it is unplanned or unintended."

"My only concern with the

emergency contraceptive pill is that women will use it instead of a consistent method of contraception.

With all the methods of contraception available, we encourage women to come in and choose one that's right for them," Hilde said.

Around GSU campus, opinions on the issue vary. Senior Alexis White said, "I think that the FDA rejecting the pill teaches young people responsibility, and if they're going to get into that situation, they should suffer the consequences."

While some people feel that the pill promotes irresponsible sexual activity, others feel that the emotion surrounding the issue may obstruct individual rights. Some feel that the pill can prevent unwanted pregnancies, while others feel that the emergency contraceptive pill is similar to abortion.

Dr. Catherine Chaput, Assistant Professor of Writing and Linguistics said, "The issue of abortion is so emotionally fraught that it creates a smoke screen that shuts down consideration of

what is helpful for women and men who are forced into parenthood before they are ready. I don't think the government should have the ultimate say over individuals and their bodies."

Other students note some of the pill's drawbacks. "The morning-after pill doesn't protect from STDs [sexually transmitted diseases], and if it's widely available, I think women will start using it instead of other forms of contraception that reduce the spread of STDs," said senior Amanda Carmical.

Junior Natalie Woods agrees with the use of the pill, "Most people who



don't have this and have the baby have to give it up for adoption, or get it taken away. The pill is like stopping it before it starts."

Ashley Herndon disagrees with use of the pill, "I just don't believe in it. It's kind of like having an abortion. It shouldn't be as easy as it is to get it. It's promoting people to be as careless as they want to be," she said.

Margaret Anne Ritter, of the Crisis Pregnancy Center also disagrees with the use of the pill, "Making a rash decision on the morning after could easily be one that is regretted. We encourage young people to consider parenting or placing the child for adoption. We give them the opportunity to meet a family that is waiting and ready to adopt a child," she said.

Junior Stephanie White said, "In a way it's a good thing if it's used correctly. Some girls may be scared to go to the health center. I wish it could be available over-the-counter, but it shouldn't be available to kids. Everyone should show ID to prove they are 18 before they have access to the pill."

Covenant Care, Counseling for Crisis, offers 24 hour counseling at 1-800-226-5683. The Crisis Pregnancy Center offers counseling at 912-764-4303.

FBI warns of possible terrorist attack, have 'credible intelligence' to back claim

By Shannon McCaffrey

KRT Campus

WASHINGTON - Warning that al-Qaida is plotting a deadly attack this summer in the United States, the FBI reinvigorated a manhunt Wednesday for seven terrorist suspects and launched a massive canvass of American Muslims in the hopes of gathering fresh intelligence.

A steady stream of credible new information from multiple sources suggests that the terror network al-Qaida is nearly ready to attack again, Attorney General John Ashcroft said. Ashcroft said that in an ominous warning following the March 11 train bombings in Madrid, an al-Qaida spokesman revealed that arrangements for an attack on America were 90 percent complete.

"This disturbing intelligence indicates al-Qaida's specific intention to hit the United States hard," Ashcroft said at a news conference Wednesday with FBI Director Robert Mueller.

The threat information doesn't contain specifics about a time, place or method of attack, and Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge said there were no immediate plans to raise the nation's color-coded threat level.

But Ashcroft said a number of high-profile events leading up to the presidential election in November present attractive targets. Those include the G-8 economic summit in Georgia, the political conventions in Boston and New York, the dedication of the World War II Memorial on the National Mall in Washington on Memorial Day weekend and Fourth of July celebrations.

A federal law enforcement official who spoke on the condition of anonymity said the threats contained warnings about a spectacular attack that would result in "mass casualties."

The FBI issued "Be On The Look-out" alerts on Wednesday, asking the public and local law enforcement for help finding seven people with ties to al-Qaida. It's not known whether the



KRT Campus

FBI Director Robert Mueller shows posters of individuals sought in connection with possible terrorist threats against the United States during a news conference at FBI Headquarters Wednesday in Washington. Mueller said the U.S. has 'credible intelligence from multiple sources' that al-Qaida is determined to launch an attack in the U.S. in the next few months that could be linked to events such as an upcoming international economic summit and the summer political conventions.

people are believed to be involved in a terror plot or whether they're in the United States.

Ashcroft described the seven as "armed and dangerous."

Most of the names were already fixtures on the FBI's Web site. Six of the seven have been sought for months - or, in some cases, years - by the FBI. Chief among them is Saudi-born Adnan el Shukrijumah, whom law enforcement officials have likened to Sept. 11 ringleader Mohamed Atta. Shukrijumah lived for years in South Florida and is fluent in English. He came to the attention of U.S. authorities through the interrogations of captured al-Qaida planner Khalid Shaikh Mohammed.

The new addition to the FBI list is Adam Yahye Gadahn, a U.S. citizen from Southern California who converted to Islam, attended an al-Qaida training camp and is known to have performed translations for the group. In a Web posting called "Becoming Muslim," Gadahn, 25, claims to have grown up on a goat ranch in rural Riverside County. He wrote that he was obsessed for a time with "demonic heavy metal music" before moving to

Orange County and discovering the Islamic faith.

Ashcroft said that while al-Qaida suspects remain primarily men in their late 20s and early 30s, he cautioned Wednesday that the "face of al-Qaida may be changing." He said the terror group's operatives may be traveling in the United States with a family or portraying themselves as Europeans in order to avoid detection.

Ashcroft said that al-Qaida may have been emboldened by the attacks by Islamic extremists earlier this year in Spain. That attack influenced Spanish elections and led to the withdrawal of Spanish troops from Iraq.

Al-Qaida may perceive that a large-scale attack in the United States this summer or fall would lead to similar consequences, Ashcroft said.

A new report from the International Institute of Strategic Studies in London suggested that the ranks of al-Qaida are still strong despite the U.S.-led war on terrorism.

It said the group has 18,000 potential terrorists scattered around the globe.

HOPE, FROM PAGE 1

students. However, recipients of the Pell Grant will not be affected by this change. The earliest that this change could happen would be academic year 2005-2006.

If, for a second year, the Lottery's budget at the end of the year is less than the previous year, then the book allowance will be eliminated totally, except for Pell Grant recipients, who will still get the full \$300 per year allowance.

If the Lottery's year-end budget is less than the previous year for the third year in a row, HOPE's coverage of fees for everyone will be eliminated, including those who receive the Pell Grant.

Another change that will affect the high school class

of 2007 is the required average to receive the HOPE scholarship. Instead of the requirement being that of a B, the standard is set at a 3.0, since a B differs across the state.

According to GSU's Director of Financial Aid Connie Murphy, the new changes will affect all students in Georgia, but she doesn't anticipate any changes in enrollment. "If a person has their heart set on going to college, they will go to college, and find a way to get the financial assistance," she said.

All of the above changes will officially take effect on July 1, and HOPE recipients should expect to pay some of their fees this coming fall.

REFLECTOR yearbook archive

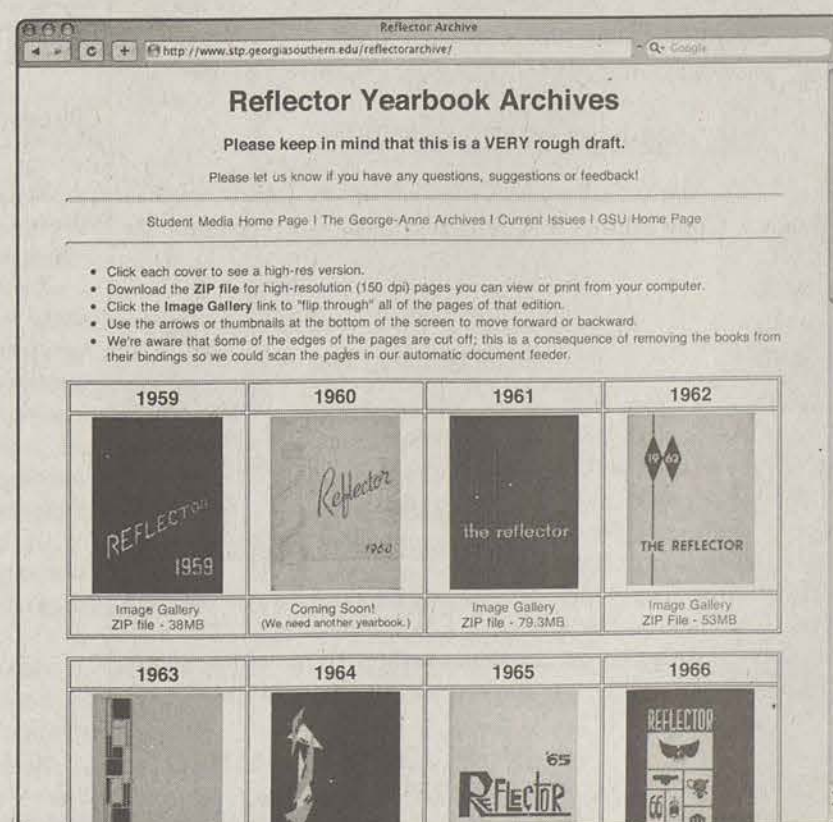
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Done with school? Jenna and Barbara Bush could enlist

By Bill Earls
KRT Campus

If President Bush is serious about the war on terror and respects the men and women in the military, he could do something no president in decades has done:

He could suggest that his twin daughters enlist.

Why not? For the last four years, the Bush twins Jenna and Barbara have enjoyed the life that children of affluence accept as their due: education at a good college. On Monday, Barbara graduated from Yale. Jenna graduated on Saturday from the University of Texas. Grad school is not immediate, and certainly they have more options than most people their age.

The military might be an option – and a good idea.

For one thing, they could continue a family tradition. Their grandfather, the first President Bush, enlisted in the Navy after high school and flew planes into combat in World War II. Their father also served – if not in a combat zone, at least he flew airplanes. Neither Bush daughter would have to become a pilot. Instead, the military could use the two liberal arts educations in intelligence, administration or operations.

A Bush enlistment would emphasize that this war needs men and women from every stratum of society, including the affluent.

Many people think that the military is an option mostly for blue-collar and lower-middle classes. They point to large numbers of minority recruits, a disproportionate number from poorer states and counties. One reason for the publicity surrounding the death of former National Football League player Pat Tillman, killed as an Army Ranger in Afghanistan in April, was that he gave up a lucrative career to serve – which is very unusual in 2004.

It wasn't always so. In World War II, affluent young men signed up by the thousands. President Franklin D. Roosevelt's sons enlisted, as did the sons of senators, congressmen and ambassadors. Were the Bush twins to enlist, it would do more for troop morale and recruitment than all the TV "Army of One" ads.

Enlisting might permit the Bush twins some personal growth. One problem with privilege is that people born to it often think that the whole world operates by the same rules as their household or school: Food will always be in the refrigerator, the car will always start, everyone gets interesting vacations, and most people are polite and deferential and want to do things for you. Not a bad way to grow up, but most of the world doesn't work that way.

And neither does the military. If Barbara and Jenna Bush would enlist, they would learn about a different world, one in which reveille goes off at 4 in the morning, and people dumber than you (or, in some cases, smarter) demand that you do push-ups, stand in line, shine your shoes. Someone has to stand fire watches, dish out mashed potatoes, clean heads, give up weekends, and there is nothing like doing it for a few months or years to make you appreciate what you have and the other men and women who do it.

Affluence breeds a form of insularity. Even Yale and the University of Texas, which advertise their diversity, are limited to people who can attend Yale and the University of Texas. There are lots of children of affluence in both places but not many Alabamans, Puerto Ricans, cowboys, children of mail carriers and cops. The military, as perhaps the most inclusive institution in the nation, has all of those. Being around that mix of people is, in its own way, an education as valuable as Yale ever provided.

Finally, if the Bush twins enlist, they will earn GI Bill money. In two or three or four years, when they apply to grad school, the federal government will pay for it.

By then, they'll be older, smarter, have a better sense of what they want to do with their lives – and they'll make better teachers, lawyers or whatever because of it.

I can imagine President Bush saying, "Sign up."

ABOUT THE WRITER

Bill Earls of Middletown, Conn., left Holy Cross College after a semester to serve in the Navy from 1961 to 1965, and he later used the GI Bill to earn bachelor's and master's degrees. He wrote this for the Hartford Courant.

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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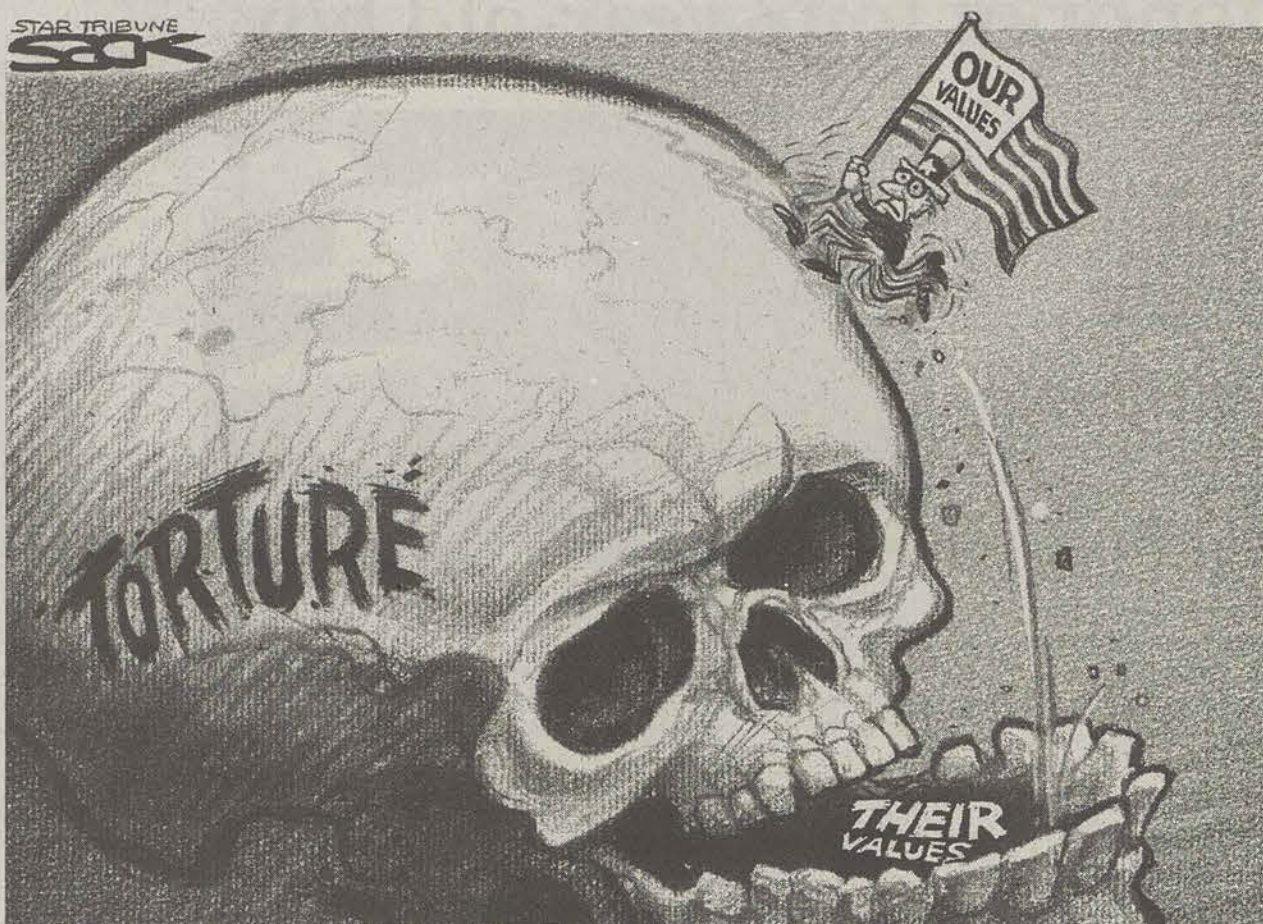
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THE SLIPPERY SLOPE

'But the greatest of these is charity'

It's the burning question giving most hot issues their steam: Abortion, war, and, believe it or not, even same-sex marriage.

How do we measure the value of human life?

The Salvation Army has threatened to pull completely out of New York if the city passes legislation allowing partners of gay employees to receive spousal benefits. According to *The New York Post*, the Army would rather give up \$70 million a year in city funding and leave an estimated five million needy New Yorkers to their own devices than accept the policy as law. This most certainly isn't to say they should worry about the money involved. The money is only the support system they'd be refusing by abandoning the people they're famous for serving.

Most of the city's homeless, its troubled teens, its HIV sufferers, and its orphans would suddenly have nowhere to turn.

It is shameful enough for conservative and religious organizations to ignore the spiritual needs of human beings based on which gender they happen to fall in love with, but it goes beyond atrocious when millions of needy people (whose sexual preferences aren't even known) are forced to suffer because of one group's prejudices.

This isn't the first time the nation has watched The Salvation Army practice blatant discrimination, and in the past it has even had the endorsement of our president in doing so. In July 2001, *The Washington Post* broke a story about an internal Salvation Army document exposing a "secret deal" between the Bush administration and the organization. The document contained an agreement in which The Salvation Army would work to promote and direct more government funding to "faith-based" charities. In return, the White House promised to "issue a regulation" that would make such charities exempt from laws that prevent hiring discrimination based on sexual orientation. In other words, religious organizations would be allowed to discriminate if they wouldn't mind receiving governmental preference in funding.

Wait, who will be making the real sacrifices here? Well, the charitable organizations offering the same services that don't happen to be faith-

based. The needy, homeless, sick and orphaned of the world. Or, all of us, since our government – which should be enforcing religious freedom – has decided that only Christian charity should exist, whether the people receiving help from charity are Christian, Jewish, Muslim, or whatever else.

The 2001 document regarding The Salvation Army and the Bush administration forewarned the benefits issue now at hand, stating, "[White House officials] first want to move the charitable choice provisions in the legislation and use the political momentum of this effort to push forward religious exemptions to domestic partnership benefit ordinances and municipal contract clauses that protect against any form of sexual orientation discrimination."

The international homepage of The Salvation Army now exhibits a prominent image featuring smiling people of different nationalities, and it says, "to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination." The organization is obviously aware that it is being accused of unfounded discrimination. But, beyond designing a colorful banner ad for their website, what are they doing to help it? Even in 2001, after the internal document became public knowledge, The Salvation Army admitted with pride to spending anywhere from \$88,000 to \$110,000 a month in support of Bush's "charitable choice effort."

One would expect more from an organization that has been so helpful to HIV patients, even if they have admitted to using the disease as "an entry point" for preaching the gospel. There appears to be an incredibly disgraceful lack of perspective involved in this Army's "gay war." As a global establishment, The Salvation Army should be more capable than anyone of standing back and making humanity a priority.

If the God they serve would have us neglect the needs of our fellow man and turn our backs on the cries of an entire municipality, I am glad to boycott their cause. I would much rather take the time to actively seek out charitable groups that would not put the health of a city at risk in the name of their prejudices.

Amanda Permenter is the editor-in-chief of *The George-Anne* and can be reached at gaeditor@georgiasouthern.edu.



Amanda Permenter
editor-in-chief

Cracker Jacks deserve to be struck out

By Lenore Skenazy

New York Daily News

Hey, Cracker Jack – goodbye and good riddance! Get outta town! Don't come back until you show a kernel of self-respect!

Yes, the time-honored treat has been tossed out of Yankee Stadium, the only big-time ballpark with the guts to do what's right. This is great news even though in Jack's place comes the candy corn also-ran, Crunch 'n' Munch.

"Travesty!" "Ignominy!" "Other big word meaning I'm irrationally peeved about something trivial!"

Oh, quit yer yapping! So what if it seems like next thing you know George Steinbrenner's gonna replace Coke with ShopRite Cola? Fact is, it's Cracker Jacks that's got molasses on its hands. The caramel-coated classic let us down. Buy me some peanuts and Crunch 'n' Munch, I don't care 'cause Jacks screwed up a bunch.

How so? Here's how: For more than 100 years, Cracker Jacks came just the way we liked 'em – in a waxy little box with a great big history. It was in 1893 when Fred and Louis Rueckheim introduced the sugared show-stopper at the

Chicago World's Fair. But it wasn't until a fella named Henry Eckstein figured out how to wax-seal the box three years later that the future phenom hit a homer. Suddenly, instead of being sold by the scoop, the cavity catalyst could be shipped across the country, staying fresh.

Or as fresh as Crackers Jack ever stayed, anyway. They always kind of squeaked, right? By the time Rueckheims started tossing in a prize – 1912, year of the Titanic – the kiddie confection was on its way to icon status. Everyone loved the stuff. It deserved that free ad of a song.

Now fast-forward almost a century. Cracker Jack's prizes, once whistles and tops, have become tiny, tired tattoos. The nuts are harder to find than WMD. Frito-Lay bought the company in 1997 and by 2002 was thinking the unthinkable:

Jacks in a bag.

Imagine Fritos in a box! Jim Beam in a can! Budweiser served in individual ketchup packets! That's how stupid Cracker Jacks look in a bag. Limp and pathetic. If ever a candy product needed Levitra, this is it.

All the other stadiums just rolled over and said, "Fine." Sold the sticky stuff in bags softer than a David Wells sock puppet. But not the House that Ruth Got Popcorn Stuck Between His Teeth In. And for a while, by golly, that Steinbrenner spine got results.

Last year, Frito-Lay produced big boxes of Cracker Jack just for Yankee Stadium. "If anyone still has one of those boxes, it's a collector's item," says Charles Nicolas, a Frito-Lay spokesman. Because the deal was this: By 2004, the company would sell bags and only bags to all the ballparks.

That's when the Yanks said no thanks. Called up Crunch 'n' Munch and cut a deal.

That brand may be bland as a Boise strip mall. Prize-free. Charmless. But at least it comes in a box, which makes it stand tall.

Just like Yankee Stadium.

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.

TOP TEN LISTS
BOX OFFICE

1. Shrek 2
2. Troy
3. Van Helsing
4. Mean Girls
5. Man on Fire
6. Breakin' All The Rules
7. 13 Going on 30
8. New York Minute
9. Kill Bill, Vol. 2.
10. Supersize Me

TELEVISION



1. CSI
2. CSI: Miami
3. American Idol (Tuesday)
4. American Idol (Wednesday)
5. Without A Trace
6. Law and Order
7. Law and Order: SVU (10 PM)
8. Everybody Loves Raymond
9. Two and a Half Men
10. Law and Order: SVU (9 PM)

DVD & VIDEO RENTALS



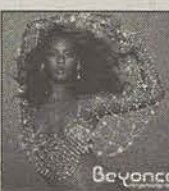
1. Scary Movie 3
2. The Last Samurai
3. Big Fish
4. Master and Commander
5. Stuck on You
6. Love Actually
7. Kill Bill, Vol. 1
8. Calendar Girl
9. In America
10. The Haunted Mansion

ALBUMS



1. Usher Confessions
2. Gretchen Wilson Here for the Party
3. 8 Ball & MJG Living Legends
4. D12 D12 W
5. Hoobastank The Reason
6. Teena Marie La Dona
7. Prince Musicology
8. Various Artist Now 15
9. Mario Winans Hurt No More
10. Petey Pablo Still Writing my Diary: 2nd Entry

SINGLES



1. Burn Usher
2. I Don't Wanna Know Mario Winans
3. Yeah! Usher
4. Naughty Girl Beyonce
5. The Reason Hoobastank
6. Overnight Celebrity Twista
7. This Love Maroon 5
8. If I Ain't Got You Alicia Keys
9. All Falls Down Kanye West
10. Freak-A-Leek Petey Pablo

BOOKS



1. The Da Vinci Code Dan Brown
2. The South Beach Diet Arthur Agatston
3. Angels and Demons Dan Brown
4. The South Beach Diet (Good Fats/ God Carbs Guide) Arthur Agatston
5. Big Russ and Me Tim Russert
6. Eats, Shoots & Leaves The Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation Lynne Truss
7. The Rule of Four Ian Caldwell
8. The Five People You Meet in Heaven Mitch Albom
9. Oh The Places You'll Go Dr. Seuss
10. The South Beach Diet Cookbook Arthur Agatston

'Tomorrow' signals the return of the disaster film

By Anthony Breznican
Associated Press

When the real world is filled with war, desperation and terror, "The Day After Tomorrow" could have turned out like a barbecue in the middle of a forest fire.

But director Roland Emmerich, whose disaster film wipes out Earth's northern hemisphere, describes his weather-run-amok story as chaos with a conscience. Unchecked pollution will cause havoc with Earth's natural balance, he says, so ordinary people need to start being more responsible.

"It says to be a little more concerned about what we're doing to our environment, to think about tomorrow," Emmerich said, adding with a smile: "And the day after."

Despite the film's fantastical science, Emmerich's logic has been embraced by former Vice President Al Gore and numerous environmental groups and scientists as a way to invigorate the public on the issue of global pollution.

The director's city-smashing has not always had such noble aspirations.

In 1996, he had alien invaders detonate the White House and the Empire State Building like Fourth of July fireworks in "Independence Day." In 1998 he allowed "Godzilla" to trash New York City like Motley Crue at the Holiday Inn.

Disaster used to be good fun in those days. "Armageddon" and "Deep

Impact" pummeled continents with asteroids, "Volcano" scorched the self-obsessed residents of Los Angeles, President Harrison Ford fist-fought terrorists on "Air Force One," and "Titanic" tested whether young love could survive an uncomfortable sinking feeling.

It's a whopping understatement to say that catastrophe ceased to be so entertaining after real planes crashed, real buildings fell and real people died by the thousands on Sept. 11, 2001.

"I think something like 'Independence Day,' I wouldn't do today," the German-born Emmerich said. "You cannot so innocently blow up buildings anymore."

But he says you can still cause havoc, as long as it's done with sensitivity to what the audience wants to see, or NOT see. It also helps that the villain here is not human, it's hubris, by way of Mother Nature.

In "The Day After Tomorrow," toaster-sized hail pulverizes Tokyo, tornadoes rip apart downtown Los Angeles, and a massive tide leaves only the tops of New York's skyscrapers above water before a high-altitude super-storm flash-freezes everything north of Texas into a new ice age.

"In those waters, which run over thousands of people and cars, you never see any bodies floating around," said visual effects producer Mike Chambers. "There were a couple references to people who pass away, some frozen people, but there is never any grand scale gruesome stuff. I think that was a conscious choice."

Only two characters actually die on camera, one is instantaneously frozen solid, and another is whacked by a flying billboard. Emmerich's theory: Audiences don't want to see the human cost of realistic disaster.

"I think if we showed it the people would say, 'Ugh...,'" the director said, scrunching his face in mock disgust and waving his hands in front of his face. "There's a couple close-up shots of people panicking and falling in the water, but it's not necessary to get the idea across, seeing people die."

The no-death approach was also employed by such recent doomsday movies as "The Core," with natural disasters mainly targeting monuments like the Golden Gate Bridge; and TV's recent "10.5," in which an earthquake swallows a passenger train, although no passengers are shown.

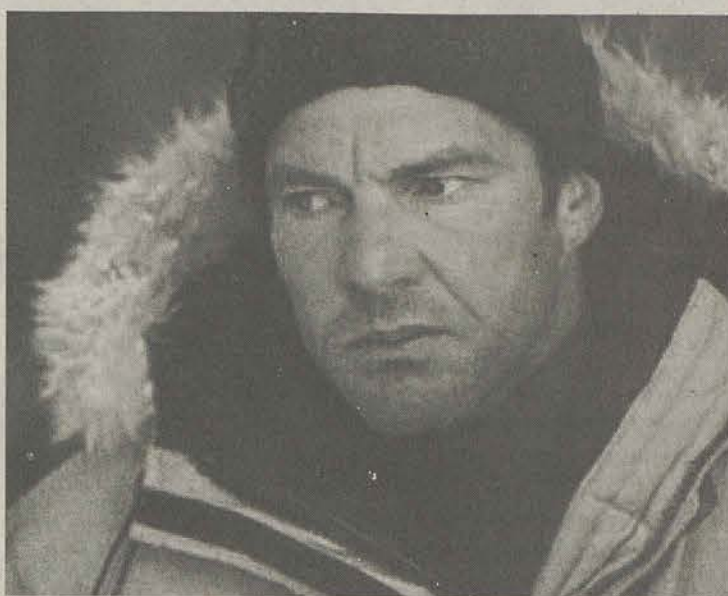
"10.5" was a viewer bonanza, with 20.5 million viewers. "The Day After Tomorrow" is poised to be a summer blockbuster.

Dennis Quaid is an environmental scientist who risks his life to rescue his teenage son, played by Jake Gyllenhaal. Sela Ward is a doctor who must choose whether to stay behind with a cancer-stricken child. Kenneth Walsh is the Dick Cheney-lookalike vice president who dismisses the initial scientific findings.

Some of the imagery was crafted to avoid comparisons to Sept. 11.

For instance, tornadoes tear off the corners or sides of buildings, but no buildings fall.

"I didn't want to see it, and I



Internet Photo

As Professor Jack Hall, Randy Quaid leads an all-star cast in the first of this summer's big budget action movies that will predominate the summer box office.

thought it would be bad taste," Emmerich said.

He was nervous about devastating New York with a super-storm, but decided that he wanted to reflect the camaraderie and goodwill that the city's residents displayed in the face of real calamity.

"It's not just a disaster in New York, but also the people surviving this disaster. There's nobody looting, there's nobody being a bad guy," Emmerich said. "Just people making the right or wrong choices."

Emmy Rossum, a 17-year-old actress from New York who plays Gyllenhaal's would-be girlfriend who

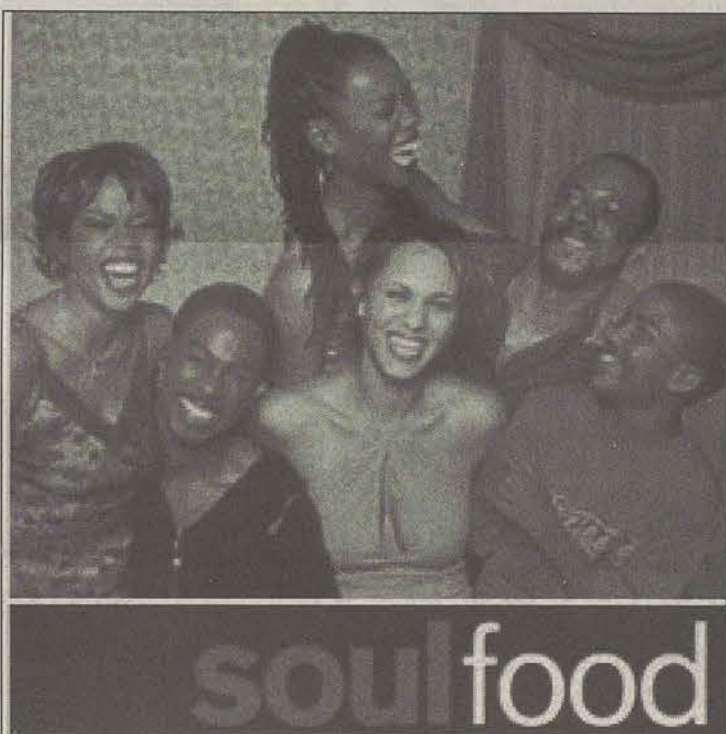
risks her life to save others, hoped that the city's residents aren't troubled by the make-believe destruction.

"After 9/11, in the past few years New Yorkers have shown themselves to be very strong, very resilient people," she said. "The movie really shows people coming together and bonding together in the time of a crisis to survive and help each other."

There's also New York as a symbol, such as when a giant wave strikes the city.

"If so much water would hit the Statue of Liberty, it would topple over," the director said. "But on purpose, it stands still. This affected by 9/11."

End of 'Soul Food' leaves no black dramas on television



Internet Photo

Critically acclaimed and award winning television show 'Soul Food,' Showtime's sleeper hit, ended its five year run Wednesday night. The show ends its run as the longest running African-American drama on television. There is little hope that its void will be filled.

By Janice Rhoshalle Littlejohn
Associated Press

The fifth and final season of television's longest-running black drama, Showtime's "Soul Food," is serving up its last episode, leaving behind an uncertain future for the genre.

Based on the 1997 hit film of the same name, the multigenerational saga of one Chicago family has been one of Showtime's most popular series, making stars out of Vanessa Williams (not the former Miss America), Nicole Ari Parker and others.

Fans held "Soul Food" viewing parties and the show's official Web site amassed over 10,000 hits daily.

But after the finale aired Wednesday night, there will be no significant black dramas left on the air.

So why is "Soul Food" ending now?

Showtime decided it was best "to go out on top with high ratings and high-quality storytelling," said series executive producer Tracey Edmonds.

Although increasing production costs might have been a factor.

Yet Edmonds said the story line will be left "open-ended enough" so that another network could revive the series if it wanted to.

"This show speaks to its audience on a personal level, especially in the African-American culture. That's because we have African-Americans writing for these characters, African-Americans directing episodes, reflecting their true lives and lifestyles.

While it never came close to being as big a cable deal as something like "The Sopranos," the NAACP Image award-winning series marked a turning point, said Ron Simon, curator for the Museum of Television and Radio in New York.

"Soul Food" represents the beginning steps of trying to answer the question: How do you deal with the new African-American reality on television?" he said.

"It's not dealing with stereotypes and the way (white people) think things are. It just shows the great potential of African-American drama on television."

And for that, said Rochell Thomas, an associate editor at TV Guide, "Soul Food" deserves more credit from those who've dismissed it as a mere movie spin-off.

"The fact that it worked is what matters," said Thomas, adding, "in general, dramas are having a hard time right now if they aren't law or cop shows. It's just that no one is willing to give a black drama a chance."

She and others attribute this to an attitude among TV executives that black dramas don't sell well in national syndication and overseas—markets where television shows typically make much of their profits.

Showtime President Robert Greenblatt, whose network is developing two new black dramas, said that argument is erroneous "until networks and studios have enough shows to really amass some real research on that."

"To not access those characters and that culture in a dramatic form is just stupid," he said.

Todd Boyd, professor of USC's School of Cinema and Television, questioned whether today's benchmark of black success on television should be drama.

"Looking at the broad spectrum of television, there's a different image you get, and in many cases black people have infiltrated spaces that are prominent and visible. It may not be dramas, but there is a certain visibility," Boyd said.

But the reality of network television is that it is driven more by profits than social consciousness, so unless an "ethnic" show has crossover appeal to a wider audience, it will never achieve true hit status.

"Soul Food" did well enough for a pay-cable program, but it was never able to attract a significant white audience and therefore would not have been considered successful on a broadcast network.

"You have to appeal to blacks and whites in the audience," said historian Tim Brooks, "and the black audience isn't big enough if whites won't watch, too. Whites certainly will watch black shows if they don't feel excluded by it."

"That may be part of it," said director Paris Barclay, who was an executive producer on CBS' defunct black serial, "City of Angels."

"But even if you have a show identified as a black show, just from the title, 'Soul Food,' white people don't want to sample it."

Dee LaDuke, author of "Making Great Television," agrees. She noted that white shows have become part of the "normal TV viewing experience" for black viewers, "but white people don't themselves make (black shows) a first choice."

Convincing the broadcast networks that these lives are as rich and sexy, tragic and funny as any that have succeeded on television — is the next step for the reflection of race on television.

Blockbuster deal for movie renters at one major chain

By David Koenig
Associated Press

of view and the economic's point of view."

Blockbuster customers, who must drive to the store to return movies and pick up new ones, have more-convenient options for movie-watching, such as pay-per-view on cable and mail-order rentals by companies such as Netflix Inc.

Shepherd said the subscription plan gives consumers something they want: a set price for their movie-viewing habits instead of the uncertainty of late fees if they fail to return a title in time.

Giving customers a way to reduce late fees is a double-edged sword for Blockbuster.

The fees have been a sore spot with customers for years, spawning several class-action lawsuits. However, they have contributed greatly to Blockbuster's revenue.

Blockbuster no longer discloses how much it makes from late fees,

but it probably earns a much larger share of its revenue from the fees than do its competitors.

Video Store Magazine estimates that late fees generated an additional \$1 billion for retailers in 2003, or about 10.4 percent of gross revenue. In 2000, before Blockbuster stopped disclosing the information, 16 percent of its revenue came from late fees.

"All charges that customers expect but don't like will eventually cost you customers," Shepherd said. The subscription plan, he added, "is about winning new customers and getting current customers to rent more often."

Chief executive John Antioco said recently that the company hopes 10 percent of its customers sign up for the movie plan by the end of 2005.

Blockbuster said the new subscription plan would cover all DVD



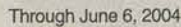
Internet Photo

Blockbuster Video offers a new monthly unlimited video rental card for its customers beginning this summer.

and VHS titles in the stores. Last year, the chain started a similar program for renting games for \$19.99 a month. Customers can rent an unlimited number of games but can keep just one or two at a time.

Blockbuster is a publicly traded subsidiary of Viacom Inc., which is exploring spinning off the video chain. Blockbuster has about 8,900 stores around the world.

New On DVD
06/01/04



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Davidson takes Southern in Tourney game



Special Photo

Georgia Southern's quest for its fourth NCAA Regional appearance in the last five years hit unexpected turbulence Wednesday when the second-seeded Eagles opened play in the Southern Conference Tournament by dropping a 5-2 decision to No. 7 Davidson at Joe Riley Park in Charleston, S.C. GSU will look to bounce back in the loser's bracket today when it faces either East Tennessee State or The Citadel at 1:00 p.m.

GSU Athletic Media Relations

CHARLESTON, S.C. - Brian Akin allowed just two runs in a complete game to lead Davidson to a 5-2 victory over Georgia Southern in the first round of the Southern Conference Tournament Wednesday afternoon at Joe Riley Park.

Davidson (20-31) opened the scoring in the top of the third inning. Eagle starter Everett Teaford walked Ronnie Shore and Eli Heafner to open the inning before Jay Heafner sacrificed both runners into scoring position. Taylor Shoop's ground out to second drove in Shore for a 1-0 Wildcat lead.

Georgia Southern (33-24) answered in the bottom of the frame with a Logan Phillips RBI single. With one out, Brandon Ponder reached on a single and stole second before moving to third on a wild pitch. Phillips followed with a base hit under the glove Shoop at first base to drive in Ponder and tie the score at 1-1.

The Eagles gained their first lead of the game in the fourth with a two-out hit by Jason Hurst. Brandon Long singled to open the inning and moved to second on a Grant Burruss base hit. Greg Dowling sacrificed both runners into scoring position, allowing Long to score on Hurst's infield single to give GSU a 2-1 advantage.

The Wildcats plated three runs in

the fifth to reclaim the lead. With one out, Heafner walked and moved to second as Shoop singled to center. Alex Entekin drove in both base runners with a double to left-center and scored himself as Sam Navarro doubled to give Davidson a 4-2 lead.

Davidson closed out the scoring in the top of the eighth. Brett Peiffer singled to left to open the frame and stole second.

Andrew Musashe moved the leftfielder to third with a ground out, allowing him to score on a Shore single to left, upping the Wildcat lead to 5-2.

Akin allowed nine hits and walked two but struck out six as he recorded his second complete game of the year in improving to 8-3. Entekin tallied four hits in five at-bats to lead the Wildcats at the plate while Navarro was two-of-five.

Long, Burruss and Phillips all collected two hits for Georgia Southern. Teaford gave up six hits and four runs in four and two-thirds. The freshman left-hander walked four and struck out three as he fell to 7-6.

Georgia Southern returns to action Thursday at 1:00 p.m. when it will play the loser of Wednesday night's The Citadel-East Tennessee State contest. Josh Lairsey is scheduled to start for the Eagles.

sports editorial

Oh, say can you just sing the anthem right?

By Steve Kelley
The Seattle Times

SEATTLE - For this one moment before almost every sporting event in this country, the buzz is silenced. The cacophony from the loudspeakers is muted. Vendors stop selling. Ushers stand at attention. We all rise.

For this one moment, no matter what your politics, no matter who you are rooting for, no matter how excited you are for the game to begin, you stop to listen to somebody or some band negotiate through the web of words and rhythms of "The Star Spangled Banner."

At almost every live American sporting event since World War II, the game hasn't begun until the anthem has been sung.

And, as perfunctory as it seems, there is something comforting, in a time when an administration is treating dissent almost as if it were treason, to remind ourselves, even at a ballgame, that we still live in the "land of the free."

Sportswriters listen to as many as 200 versions of the anthem every year. We hear it boomed, screeched, rapped and trilled. We hear versions as long and meandering as a drum solo at an Iron Butterfly reunion, or as clipped and quick as an advertising jingle.

There are times we hear it botched so badly it should be retitled "The Scarred Mangled Banner." Singers forget the words. Or reinvent the lyrics.

Instead of "gave proof through the night," they sing, "gave proof 'TO' the night." Instead of "o'er the land of the free," they sing "FOR the land of the free."

Before the second Muhammad Ali-Sonny Liston fight, Robert Goulet sang, "dawn's early night." At the 2001 Indianapolis 500, Steven Tyler of Aerosmith was booed when he sang, "home of the Indianapolis 500," instead of "home of the brave."

But every once in a while, someone steps to the mike and sings a version so stirring it creates a buzz that, for a moment, transcends the game.

Seattle Opera baritone Greer Grimsley does that. He thunders the anthem so profoundly and so perfectly at Safeco Field, he doesn't need a mike. He probably could be heard past the center-field bleachers and all the way up to Capitol Hill. He, and for that matter all of the singers from the Seattle Opera who come to Safeco, deftly make their way through the anthem's two-octave range like Randy Johnson going through the Atlanta Braves' batting order.

"I just sing the words and mean it," said Grimsley. "I've always thought that the national anthem is something that is bigger than any ego or personality."

"I take it quite seriously. I just sing it. I sing it straight. I don't add riffs, because I consider that disrespectful. I just feel this is the anthem we have. Until we vote to change it, that's what we have and let's do it."

Oh, say can you remember some of the most disrespectful anthems?

Roseanne Barr, for instance, on July 25, 1990, shrieking her way through it, then spitting on the ground and grabbing her crotch in some weak mime of a baseball player.

Or Carl Lewis in the Meadowlands before a New Jersey Nets-Chicago Bulls game in 1993, losing his voice at "the rocket's red glare," stopping and promising the crowd it would get better. But it got worse and even Michael Jordan was laughing when Lewis finished.

Since the 1968 World Series, when Jose Feliciano caused a firestorm with his improvised version of the anthem, singers of every ilk have tried to put their thumbprints on the song. Some have succeeded, but most have embarrassed themselves in the attempt.

"It makes me nuts," Grimsley said. "I think when something is added it says, 'Look at me.' The anthem is supposed to draw us all together. It's about us, all of us. I don't like it when it becomes a commercial for somebody as opposed to something respectful. People say it's just an anthem at a game, but to me it's about all of us, as individuals standing together."

"Baseball's an American sport and I think anytime we can remind ourselves of what our country was founded on is a great thing. But the song is difficult, because it goes so low and it also ends fairly high. It keeps climbing at the end. And I think, perhaps to mask the awkwardness for some to sing it, they feel they have to change it."

And yet, unless you're at Safeco to hear it sung operatically, or in Yankee Stadium to hear opera legend Robert Merrill's recorded version, the anthems that are most remembered are ones that have been improvised - Marvin Gaye's at the 1983 NBA All-Star Game, Jimi Hendrix's Woodstock wake-up call in 1969.

The secret to a successful anthem, Grimsley believes, is to maintain an "etiquette."

"A singer shouldn't think, 'This is my big moment,' " Grimsley said. "It shouldn't be a commercial for the singer. Still, for me, when I hear a superstar performer sing it, it can be very moving for me to see them just come out and sing it, with a certain amount of meaning and thought."

It always is the opening act and almost always is forgotten by the time the first pitch, first punch or first pass is thrown.

But it also is the only thing we do together at a ballgame. We can disagree on wars and taxes. We can rage at bad calls and bad plays, but at almost every game, for a couple of minutes, we stand together for the national anthem, hoping all the words are remembered and no singer spits on the ground when it's over.

Diamondbacks' Randy Johnson: Aged to perfection

By Paul Newberry
AP Sports Writer

ATLANTA - Randy Johnson is aging to perfection.

Since turning 40 last September, he has tossed a one-hitter, a two-hitter and, now, the ultimate masterpiece - a perfect game.

Johnson became the 17th pitcher and oldest to accomplish the feat when he led the Arizona Diamondbacks to a 2-0 victory over the Atlanta Braves on Tuesday night.

Twenty-seven up. Twenty-seven down.

And the Big Unit made it look downright easy.

"It wouldn't shock me if he threw two or three no-hitters in one year," Braves manager Bobby Cox said. "He has the stuff to do it."

Johnson returned to Turner Field on Wednesday with a hefty charge on his hotel bill - he treated everyone on the team to drinks after the game - and plenty of phone messages to return.

He was certainly in demand. During batting practice, Johnson taped a segment for "The Late Show with David Letterman." The subject: Top 10 Cool Things About Pitching A Perfect Game. No. 6 on the list: Can walk up to guys who've thrown no-hitters and whisper, "Loser."

On a more serious note, Johnson hopes to be a role model for the younger pitchers on the Arizona staff.

"The more you learn now, it's going to make the game a little bit easier for you at a later age," he said. "Your work-ethic now will instill discipline in you and you'll have a routine. If you learn those things now, you'll only get better as you get older and more experienced."

Johnson certainly hasn't been hurt by time. The left-hander has main-

tained his overpowering repertoire of pitches into his 40s, while honing the finer points of his craft.

"As a power pitcher, you don't want to think you're losing your stuff," Johnson said. "You want to think that you're getting better."

He'll get no argument from the Braves, who struck out 13 times and came close to reaching base just a handful of times.

Steve Finley had a good view of Johnson's pitches while playing center field. He was amazed at the movement.

"Almost nothing went over the middle of the plate," Finley said. "He was hitting the corners all night, but the problem for the hitters was that most of those pitches came in there at 97, 98 and 99 mph."

Johnson has come back strong from knee surgery that limited him to 18 starts and a 6-8 record last season. In his first start as a 40-year-old, he faced just one over the minimum while one-hitting the Colorado Rockies.

The Big Unit kept right on rolling this year, giving up two hits in a 5-0 win at San Diego last month.

"Obviously, having knee surgery last year, there were some doubts in certain people's minds," Johnson said. "A lot of people would be inclined to say, 'He's not going to be the pitcher he was.'"

His record (4-4) isn't all that impressive, but that's mainly due to a lack of run support by Arizona's feeble offense. In Johnson's last three starts, the Diamondbacks have managed just three runs.

The other numbers look more familiar. Like ERA (2.43). And strikeouts (an NL-leading 81). And hits allowed (just 34 in 63 innings).

"He's a guy who gets better with age," Atlanta's Chipper Jones said. "He

Pitcher perfect

Arizona Diamondbacks pitcher Randy Johnson became the 17th major league pitcher to throw a perfect game (retiring all 27 batters in order) against the Atlanta Braves May 18. The others:

John Richmond (1880)
John Ward (1880)
Cy Young (1904)
Addie Joss (1908)
Charlie Robertson (1922)
Don Larsen (1956*)
Jim Bunning (1964)
Sandy Koufax (1965)
Jim "Catfish" Hunter (1968)
Len Barker (1981)
Mike Witt (1984)
Tom Browning (1988)
Dennis Martinez (1991)
Kenny Rogers (1994)
David Wells (1998)
David Cone (1999)

*World Series game
Source: Major League Baseball, KRT Photo Service
Graphic: Tim Goheen

has started to master the outer part of the plate."

Johnson has certainly come a long way since his first no-hitter. On June 2, 1990, while pitching for Seattle, he no-hit Detroit but walked six.

"That was far from perfect," Johnson recalled. "I was a very young pitcher who didn't have any idea where the ball was going."

With a fastball near 100 mph and a devastating slider, Johnson has always seemed capable of throwing a no-hitter on any given night. Over the last 14 years, he had four one-hitters and five two-hitters.

Johnson sure acted like his perfect game was no surprise. He pointed to the heavens in tribute to his father but ceded most of the celebrating to his teammates and the Atlanta fans.

As catcher Robby Hammock charged toward the mound following the final out - appropriately enough, Eddie Perez struck out on a 98 mph fastball - Johnson began to stick out

his right hand, as if expected to get the customary handshake following a win.

It's certainly no fun trying to hit him, especially for an offensively challenged team such as the Braves. Their lineup took a major hit during the offseason when Gary Sheffield, Javy Lopez and Vinny Castilla signed elsewhere. Now, Atlanta is having to get by without Marcus Giles (on the DL with a broken collarbone) and Rafael Furcal (unable to start because of a jammed finger).

The Braves thought they hit rock-bottom Sunday when Milwaukee's Ben Sheets put up 18 strikeouts - the most in the majors in three years.

They were wrong. Johnson made the Braves look even more helpless.

"Without a shadow of a doubt, we are at an all-time low," Jones said. "I know he's a Hall of Famer, but it doesn't take away the disappointment we have. From a personal standpoint, I was embarrassed."

Eagles miss NCAA Championship qualification by three shots

NEW HAVEN, Conn. - Georgia Southern fired its best round of the tournament with an 11-over-par 291 Saturday during the final day of the NCAA East Regional, but fell three shots short of a top 10 finish and automatic qualification to the NCAA Championships.

Junior Aron Price shot an even-par 70 during the final 18 holes and completed play with a two-over 212 to earn a ninth-place finish and advance to the NCAA Championship Tournament, June 1-4 at the Cascades Golf Course, The Homestead in Hot Springs, Va.

The Eagles finished with an 885 (+45) total after carding a 302 on Thursday and a 292 Friday to earn a 15th-place standing, 29 strokes behind champion Clemson but just three shots off the pace of 10th-place North Carolina, the last squad to earn a spot in the championship field.

Other Georgia Southern scores include Bryan Jones, who tied for 59th at 223 (74-71-78/+13), Chase Jones (t85th/74-78-76=228/+18), Toshi Hirata (t85th/80-75-73=228/+18) and Jon David Kennedy, who finished tied for 117th (84-79-72=235/+25) at the par-70, 6,749-yard The Course at Yale.

"We dug ourselves a big hole on the first day," said GSU coach Larry Mays. "However, we played hard, gave a valiant effort and showed a lot of character to fight back the way we did. Obviously, we are all proud of Aron's accomplishments. He'll certainly have an opportunity to prove his All-America credentials and stature."

Price's advancement marks the fourth time in Georgia Southern golf history that an individual has advanced to the NCAA Championships on his own, and first since Bo Fennell earned an 81st-place standing at the 1991 national tournament.

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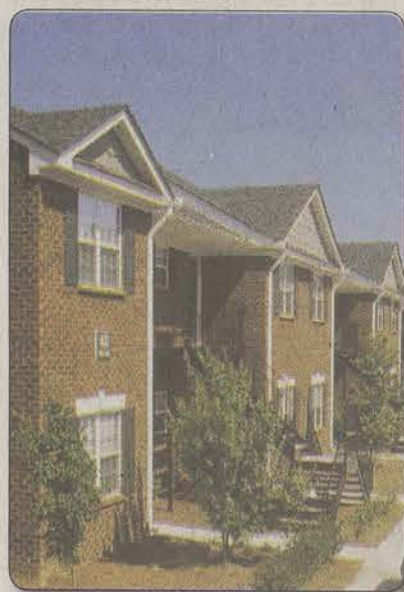
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