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The GEORGE-ANNE

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Thursday, June 17, 2004 • Volume 76, Number 93

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Number one: Harry Potter holds on to a number one spot at the box office
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SPLASH

'Boro water park is buckets of summer fun

By Luke Hearn

ganewsed@georgiasouthern.edu

Statesboro's water park "Splash in the 'Boro" held its grand opening Saturday in what turned out to be a wet and wild day for everyone.

After the welcome by Statesboro-Bulloch Parks and Recreation Department Director Mike Rollins and the introductions of the park committee and local dignitaries, the park was officially opened with the ribbon cutting.

But before anyone was allowed into the park, the members of the parks department and committee, as well as a few local politicians, issued the 21-water gun salute. The salute was done with super soaker water guns, with the water landing on most everyone waiting to enter the park.

As attendees entered the park, they did so to the music of the band A1A, whose Jimmy Buffett styled music was very appropriate for the event.

Being the only water park within nearly 150 miles, the grand opening of "Splash in the 'Boro" brought families from all over the southeast. Wayne Bell of Springfield said that he and his family were glad to see the park open up. "We're originally from Texas where we lived very close to Six Flags and lots of other parks," he said. "We miss that, but now we're glad to know that this park is here." His son, Josh, said that he was looking forward to playing in the "Lazy River," the 800-foot river that circles the park.

Mary Paul from Effingham County was enjoying herself as she danced to the music of A1A. "I really like the music. I'm a kindergarten teacher, the kids just went home, and now it's my turn to play," she said.

Opening day at "Splash in the 'Boro" went well, according to Brownie Gainous, marketing and communications coordinator for the parks department. "Everything went off without a hitch," she said, "and there were no major problems."

Gainous also said that over the course of the day, a total of about 1900 people entered the park.



Luke Hearn/STAFF

Water lovers from miles around converge at Splash in the 'Boro, Statesboro's only water park, for its grand opening festivities Saturday, June 12. The children's area features a giant overhead bucket that periodically dumps gallons of water on playing patrons. The park is located at Mill Creek Regional Park and offers three water slides, an 800-foot-long lazy river, two olympic swimming pools and ample parking.

GSU suffers death of recent grad



Whitfield

Former GSU student Lindsey A. Whitfield died on Friday, June 11, in an automobile accident. She recently graduated

from GSU with a degree in International Business and had plans to move to Savannah and pursue a career in international shipping.

At GSU, Lindsey was a member of Alpha Omicron Pi sorority. Her hobbies included photography, the outdoors, traveling, and spending time with her dog, Sammy. Lindsey was also a member of the Log Cabin Community Sunday School.

A memorial service was held for Lindsey on Tuesday evening in the Spring Hill Chapel in Atlanta.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Log Cabin Community School, 2699 Log Cabin Drive, Smyrna, Georgia, 30080.

Housing fees expected to increase in fall

By Jessica Crowe

Jessica_Crowe@hotmail.com

Georgia Southern residents should prepare to dig a little deeper in their pockets to pay for housing fees next semester.

This fall's housing fees were approved by the Board of Regent and are rising two to four percent. Why are housing fees increasing and what should students expect from the rising cost?

According to the Director of University Housing Vickie Hawkins, all residents – except for those in Southern Pines and Southern Courtyard – will be provided with a new micro-fridge, which is a microwave, refrigerator and freezer all in one.

Also at residents' request, students will no longer have to pay for their

See HOUSING, Page 3

Georgia Boys and Girls State Conventions come to GSU

By Rachel Weeks

crazedrachel@hotmail.com

Over 800 high school juniors are meeting at GSU this week as part of the Georgia Boys State and Girls State Conventions.

The meetings, although totally separate, are sponsored by the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary. The Boys State Convention takes place from June 13 until graduation on June 19. The Girls State Convention lasts from June 13 until graduation on June 18. GSU has hosted the Boys State Convention for 24 years, and the Girls State Convention has met at GSU for six years.

The purpose of Boys and Girls State is to teach the nation's future about the workings of government, from state to local political responsibilities. According to volunteer Counselor Grant Hawkins, students are chosen to represent their schools, "based on leadership credentials, grade point average, good citizenship, activities in their communities, and high achievement in student sessions."

Throughout the week, the Boys and Girls create a model 51st state, run for various governing positions, and then execute the responsibilities of those

See STATE, Page 3

Kathy Cox speaks to Boys and Girls State



Luke Hearn/STAFF

State Superintendent of Schools Kathy Cox answered questions from the participants at Girls State, many of which dealt with the state's standardized testing.

By Luke Hearn

ganewsed@georgiasouthern.edu

State Superintendent of Schools Kathy Cox was on the GSU campus Tuesday talking to the participants in Georgia Boys and Girls State.

Speaking to the girls in the Nessmith-Lane Continuing Education Building Tuesday afternoon, Cox opened briefly with "a talk from the heart on leadership." She talked of former President Ronald Reagan and his leadership in taking the nation out of the hard times of the late 1970's.

She said that he is one person in history who made a difference in the lives of many, and encouraged each of the Girls State participants to use their leadership abilities and make a difference in others' lives.

After her talk on leadership, she opened the floor for questions. She made a comment about the end of course tests which public schools

students are now required to take in eight subject areas before graduating from high school. She said that these tests will continue, but since the scores in many areas have been low, the state board of education has made changes to the exam, including a change that would make these tests count 15 percent of a student's final grade. Cox noted that this new change would help to ensure that students take these tests seriously.

Most of the questions asked to Cox dealt with the end of course tests, as well as the new curriculum that is being instated over the next few years. One question was on the state history curriculum that is being changed. The girl who asked the question wanted to know why the history curriculum was being changed to exclude some parts of history, causing a slight disturbance in the audience. Cox's answer to the question touched on the topic, saying that she just wanted to make sure that students weren't being re-taught information

See COX, Page 3

Weekday Weather

Thursday



HIGH
89°
LOW
75°

Isolated
Thunderstorms

Friday



HIGH
91°
LOW
75°

Isolated
Thunderstorms

Opinions

- Amanda Permenter has a gr8 column 4 U about webspeak
- Seth Borenstein writes on the U.S. Comptroller's most recent estimate of wasteful spending in Iraq



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A&E

- 'Chronicles of Riddick' scores high at the box office, but lacks great storyline
- The formulaic approach of 'Soul Plane' leaves viewers cold



Page 5

Sports

- GSU's Jermaine Austin voted third best running back in the nation by The Sports Network
- The Atlanta Braves currently lead the National League in errors this season



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Inside

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Police Beat

06-09-04

• Jack Blankenship, 46, of Old Columbia Road, Blakley, was charged with a stop-sign violation, driving with no insurance and being a wanted person in Alabama.

• Brent Daniel Stafford, 24, of Lee Road, Smiths, Alabama, was charged with criminal damage of property and being wanted by the Norcross Police Department for violation of probation.

• A door on a vehicle in the Southern Pines parking lot was damaged by someone who was attempting to enter the vehicle. No items were reported missing.

• Officers investigated one traffic accident and assisted seven motorists and one injured person.

06-10-04

• A printer was taken from the Technology Building.

• Twenty-five pounds of beef was taken from the Family and Consumer Science Building.

• Officers issued two traffic warnings and assisted two motorists and one injured person.

06-11-04

• Jerry Hinton Baker, 17, of

Brooklet, was charged with possession of marijuana with intent to distribute and possession of marijuana with intent to distribute within 100 feet of a school (GSU).

• James Thomas, Jr, 25, of #4 Stadium View Apartments, Statesboro, was charged with burglary.

• A cell phone was taken from Southern Courtyard.

• Officers issued three traffic warnings.

06-12-04

• Thomas Clayton Davis, 18, of Macon; William Gregory Hubbard, 22, of Athens; and Matthew Benjamin Smith, 19, of Macon, were all charged with possession of cocaine in the area of the Dingus MaGee's parking lot. Smith was also charged with underage possession of alcohol.

• Charles Edward Golden, 39, of Kent Street, Statesboro, was charged with misdemeanor obstruction of an officer and possession of cocaine.

• Josh Edward Griner, 22, of Claxton, was charged with possession of cocaine, possession of a schedule II drug and possession of a firearm in the commission of a crime.

• Casey Landon Phillips, 21, of Tennille, was charged with DUI, failure to maintain lane, and possession of a schedule III drug.

• Officers issued one traffic warning, investigated one traffic accident, assisted two motorists and responded to one burglary alarm.

06-13-04

• Officers issued one traffic citation and one traffic warning, and responded to three fire alarms.

06-14-04

• Officers issued one traffic warning and assisted seven motorists.

06-15-04

• A case of harassment was reported at Southern Pines.

• Someone reported \$76 was taken from the Henderson Library.

• Officers issued three traffic warnings, assisted seven motorists and responded to one fire alarm.

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

News Briefs

Bush offers glowing tribute to Clinton at unveiling of portrait



Special Photo

Former President and First Lady Bill and Hillary Clinton.

WASHINGTON - President Bush offered a glowing tribute to former President Clinton on Monday as the White House unveiled the official portraits of the 42nd president and his wife, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Bush rode into office on a promise "to restore honor and dignity" to the White House after eight years of Clinton, and he was bitter at Clinton for defeating his father in the 1992 presidential contest. But on Monday, Bush delivered a lengthy, forceful defense of his predecessor, and welcomed dozens of Clinton administration officials back into the White House.

Mostly, Bush gave an almost nostalgic tribute to the Democratic former president.

Clinton and his wife returned to the White House for the official presentation of the portraits that will hang in the White House. The former president's portrait will hang near the Grand Staircase just inside the north entrance of the White House. It will bump a portrait of the first President Bush to another position in the hall. The portrait of Hillary Rodham Clinton will be displayed one flight below with other former first ladies.

Clinton's portrait was painted by Simmie Knox, a self-taught artist born in 1935 in Aliceville, Ala., to a family of black sharecroppers.

Georgia's oldest WWI vet dies at 107

TOCCOA - Georgia's oldest World War I veteran, 107-year-old Henry Roy Tucker, died Saturday.

He fought with the U.S. Army in Luxembourg, France and Germany during World War I, and was awarded France's highest honor, the Legion of Honor, in 1999 for work he had done nearly 81 years before.

"He considered himself very lucky to have gotten through the war," daughter Caffie MacLeod told The Tifton Gazette. "He got shipped to the front on Armistice day, so he missed a lot of the heavy fighting."

Tucker, originally from Alapaha, stayed in Germany after the war ended to serve in the occupying army for an additional ten months before coming back to the U.S.

When he came back to the United States, Tucker settled in Tifton and worked as the city's water meter reader. He was the city's only reader,

and credited all the walking for his good health.

Family members also said Tucker was independent long after he turned 100, living by himself at home until last November, when he moved to an assisted living home in Toccoa.

On May 9, 2004, his 107th birthday, the Georgia General Assembly acknowledged his achievements in a proclamation read before the assembly and presented to him.

Appeals court rejects former Georgia congressman's claims of defamation



Special Photo

Former U.S. Congressman Bob Barr.

WASHINGTON - Former Rep. Bob Barr cannot bring a \$30 million defamation suit against former President Clinton, Democratic political adviser James Carville and publisher Larry Flynt, a federal appeals court ruled Monday.

The Georgia Republican alleged that the three conspired to smear him by publishing information about his private life as retaliation for his outspoken role in the impeachment proceedings against Clinton.

A three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit said Barr failed to make his conspiracy claim against Clinton and Carville within the three years permitted by law.

As to Flynt, the panel ruled that Barr's claim is barred by the First Amendment because he failed to show that the information printed in a one-time issue called "The Flynt Report" was false or was published with knowledge that it was false.

Flynt's article included allegations by Barr's former wife that the congressman had an affair in the mid-1980s.

Barr alleged Carville gave Flynt Barr's FBI files and other documents as part of a smear campaign, but Flynt denied it, saying he obtained the information from a private investigator. A lower federal court had dismissed the case in March 2003.

Flynt obtained the information on Barr after he ran a full page in The Washington Post offering \$1 million to anyone who would acknowledge having had an extramarital affair with a member of Congress. Flynt said his goal was to "expose the hypocrisy" of members of Congress urging Clinton's impeachment over the Monica Lewinsky affair.

Barr served four terms in Congress before losing a primary campaign in 2002.

Eleven G8 protesters remain in jail, refuse to give names

BRUNSWICK - Eleven people arrested for protesting near the Group of Eight summit are refusing to give their names or post bail, hoping to bring attention to a legal system they consider corrupt, their lawyer says.

The protesters, who remained in jail Monday, were charged with dis-

orderly conduct last week for trying to cross a police barricade and block the road to Sea Island, site of the meeting of world leaders attending the G8 summit.

The protesters, 10 men and a woman, range in age from 17 to 27.

"They are persons of integrity and principle. They believe they did nothing wrong by exercising their First Amendment rights of freedom of speech, assembly and petition," said their lawyer, Bill Cristman.

Several of the protesters were not carrying identification when they were arrested, and some later refused to tell police who they were, leading to additional charges against them.

A hearing is planned today, when a court date will be set. Each of the misdemeanors is punishable by up to a year in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

Sen. Miller's book earned him \$175,000 in three months alone



Special Photo

U.S. Senator and former Georgia Governor Zell Miller.

WASHINGTON - Three months of selling a book made Zell Miller more money last year than 12 months of his Senate salary, according to personal financial records released Monday.

Miller's national best seller, "A National Party No More: The Conscience of a Conservative Democrat," fetched \$175,000 in royalties in fewer than three months of sales in 2003. That figure has likely soared this year along with the book's popularity.

His Senate salary was \$154,700 in 2003.

"It has been a huge surprise that I still cannot believe," said Miller, D-Ga., a former governor who is retiring from the Senate in January.

Miller pulls few punches in the book, which criticizes leaders of his own party by name and makes the case they are out of touch with Southern voters.

He is the only Democratic senator to endorse President Bush for re-election, and he has become a favorite speaker to call on for Republican campaign events.

"I guess it's given me an audience of people," Miller said of his book.

Beyond the book royalties, there was little new information in the personal wealth reports for Georgia's two senators.

Neither Miller nor Republican Saxby Chambliss reported asset ranges that would guarantee them membership in a sizable Senate millionaire's club.

Campus News

WVGS 91.9 FM continues to grow and improve

By Chris Coleman
Station Manager, WVGS
ccbroadcasting@execs.com

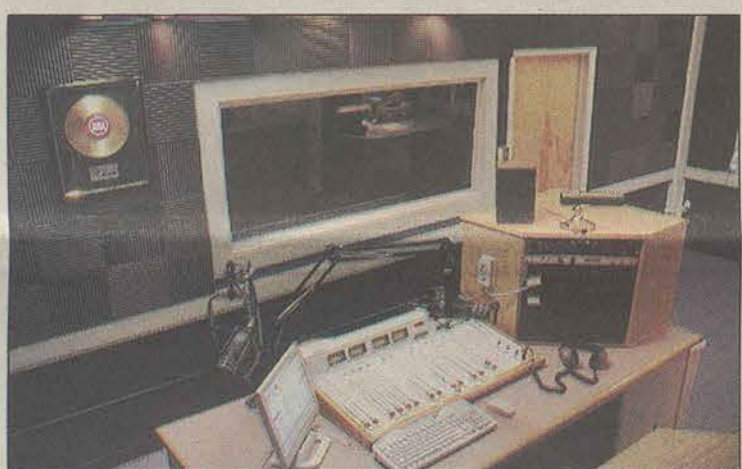
Over the last two years WVGS 91.9 FM has been undergoing renovations and updating its infrastructure.

This year the station is ready to show the university and community what it is capable of achieving. Starting at midnight July 1, 2004, WVGS will break out with its new theme, formats, and features.

For example, the new format will feature extended CNN Radio features and news coverage, plus the addition of George-Anne Radio News, and weather from the WVGS Weather Center.

Along with improved news coverage, efforts are being made to make WVGS the place to turn to for information about campus events and happenings.

There will also be changes to music,



Special Photo

The control room at WVGS has been renovated and updated with technology to make the station more modern.

but that's going to be a surprise. So listen to WVGS at midnight July 1st.

Hopefully, these changes will generate a new attitude towards WVGS from the university and the community, as well as provide a valuable learning ex-

perience for the students involved.

For more information about becoming involved with WVGS please call us at (912) 681-0877, or email the program director Stephen Yancey at syancey@mail.com.

Campus News

June 18

Crisis Advocate Training 1 - 8 p.m.

Crisis advocate volunteers work with the Bulloch County Sexual Assault Task Force (BCSATF) and support victims of sexual assault, including rape and incest. The BCSATF is a community effort. At the East Georgia Regional

Medical Center in the private dining room adjacent to the hospital cafeteria, 912-681-0222 or lpaige@georgiasouthern.edu.

June 22

Nature Photography with Pam Heckel 7 - 9 p.m.

Bring your camera (35mm or

digital) and let Pam show you how to use nature's beauty, color and form to enhance your photos. Pam is a graduate student in photography at the Savannah College of Art and Design and has taught previously at the Garden and at her studio in Litchfield, Michigan. Price is \$6 for members and \$8 for non-members. At the Botanical Garden.

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

Panel rejects efforts to link Saddam, al-Qaida

By Jonathan S. Landay
KRT Campus

WASHINGTON – The panel investigating the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks disputed Wednesday one of President Bush's key reasons for invading Iraq, saying there's "no credible evidence" that al-Qaida and Saddam Hussein were in league against the United States.

The bipartisan commission's findings substantiated earlier assessments by the CIA, other U.S. intelligence agencies, former chief U.S. weapons inspector David Kay and U.N. terrorism experts.

In making his case for war, Bush and his senior lieutenants asserted that Saddam maintained close ties with al-Qaida and had to be ousted before he armed the Islamic extremist network with chemical or biological weapons for an attack on America.

Vice President Dick Cheney was the most ardent promoter of such a scenario, insisting as late as Monday in a speech in Florida that Iraq "had long-established ties with al-Qaida."

Invasion advocates outside the government were even more categorical, contending that Iraq was complicit in the Sept. 11 attacks.

But the commission, which was given extensive access to U.S. intelligence reports and other information, said, "We have no credible evidence that Iraq and al-Qaida cooperated on attacks against the United States."

The commission also said that two senior operatives of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden who are now in U.S. custody "have adamantly denied that any ties existed between" al-Qaida and Saddam's regime.

Furthermore, it said that a purported meeting in Prague between a senior Iraqi intelligence official and Sept. 11 hijacker Mohamed Atta never took place.

The panel said that while bin Laden was living in Sudan in the early 1990s, Sudanese officials arranged contacts between al-Qaida and Iraqi operatives, and that a senior Iraqi intelligence official met bin Laden in the northern African nation in 1994.

Iraq, however, apparently didn't respond to bin Laden's requests for training camps and weapons, it said.

Contacts continued after bin Laden settled in Afghanistan in 1996, "but they do not appear to have resulted in a collaborative relationship,"

said the panel.

Sean McCormack, a spokesman for the National Security Council, said the administration stands by its charges about Iraq and al-Qaida. He said the allegations referred to nearly a decade of contacts between Saddam's regime and the terrorist network. "In terms of the ties to terrorism, that case is strong, we've laid it out and it's very clear," he said.

The administration's contentions of Iraqi-al-Qaida cooperation were based partly on information provided by Iraqi defectors supplied by the Iraqi National Congress, a former exiled opposition group.

U.S. intelligence officials subsequently determined that the defectors' information was marginal at best, and that some was exaggerated and fabricated.

The INC is led by Ahmad Chalabi, who lobbied for years for the U.S.-led ouster of Saddam and who's now under investigation for allegedly providing highly classified U.S. intelligence to Iran.

Chalabi denies the allegation, and his aides have insisted that they screened defectors as thoroughly as possible before turning them over to U.S. officials.

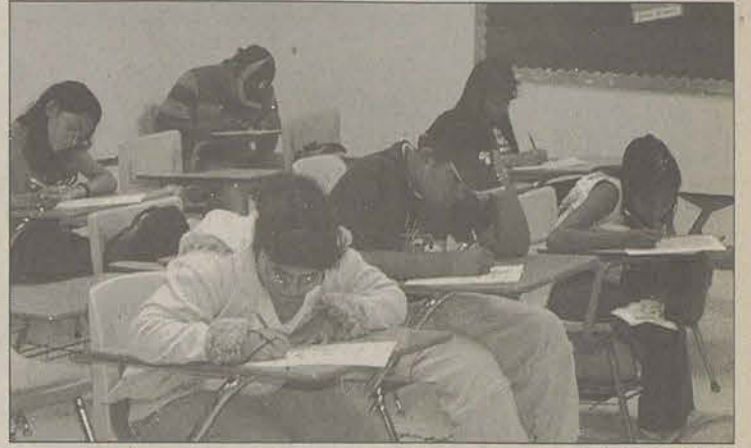
Camp to benefit those learning English

By Rachel R. Dobson
frostyblue1984@yahoo.com

"Steps to College" summer camp is specifically designed for middle and high school students with varying degrees of English proficiency. Katherine Cruz, the director of the program, said that a lot of planning was put into activities and the Center for Latino Outreach was pleased with the turnout. "We didn't expect this kind of response because this is only our first year," Cruz said.

There are several different classes, including English, math, social science, computer skills, and recreational sports such as soccer.

Mario Cruz, who teaches English skills, said they spend most of the classes not only with grammar but also in American culture immersion. No one is permitted to speak Spanish in the classes because they are learning to use English to express themselves. The camp has a formal class environment with structured lesson plans. The program does take into account that kids are not going to want to sit around all day especially during summer so



Luke Hearn/STAFF

The "Steps to College" summer camp helps those students needing assistance with English become more proficient in the language.

there is a multitude of extracurricular activities. So far the classes have visited the Raptor center, the GSU museum, and the RAC.

Although, the summer camp is geared toward Latinos, the director encourages anyone who needs assistance in English proficiency to attend. In fact there are two girls from India and one man from China in the group.

Arpita Patel says the other kids call

her an Indian baby, but she has fun in the classes because she will tease right back. Some of the kids are looking forward to college. Erick Quite said that he really wants to be a History major when he gets to college because he loves social studies.

The courses end June 25, 2004, and each participant will receive a certificate of completion if they have missed three days or less.

STATE, FROM PAGE 1

positions.

In both Boys and Girls State, there are four invented counties, divided into 3 or 4 cities for each. Every city has an elected mayor and additional necessary officials for the government process. If the legislature's laws are not obeyed, the offending person must pay the penalty, whether it is an extra tax or a summons to court. Through exercising and experiencing the workings of the government first-hand, students are able to better understand the responsibility of American citizenship.

Boys State meetings and sessions are being held in Russell Union, while Girls State sessions are held all the way across campus in the Nessmith-Lane Continuing Education Building. All of the students involved get a taste of college life as they stay in the dormitories. The boys are staying in Winburn Hall and Oliff Hall, and the girls are staying in Kennedy Hall. Even at lunch the boys and girls are separate. Boys eat at the Landrum Cafeteria, and girls have meals at Lakeside Cafeteria.

The Boys and Girls State sessions and meetings include speeches by established officials, including State School Superintendent Kathy Cox and Secretary of State Cathy Cox, campaigns for various government positions, elections, and execution of their invented state-to-local government.

The American Legion started the Boys State program in 1935, and the program has provided students with many opportunities. According to Daniel Sherrill of George Walton High School, "We get the opportunity to experience how the city government and campaigning works that we wouldn't get otherwise. I had the opportunity to hear the mayor of Statesboro speak. It's interesting to see how city conventions, campaigning, and the responsibilities of the political process work."

The American Legion Auxiliary created the Girls State program in 1939, and it has provided a valuable learning experience for many young women. Sarah Rackel said, "It's a remarkable experience. I really enjoy it. I've met so many people and learned so much about them. The role of women in government has changed a lot. We didn't have many rights not too long ago, and now we have so many that we're really ungrateful; we take it for granted."

Student-elected Mayor Jeneé Colar agrees that women's position in government has changed over the years. "I have learned so much about politics this week. Women do have a voice and we're strong when we are together, and it seems as though we are fearless when we have something that we are passionate about."

The Boys State and Girls State Conventions give upcoming high school seniors many opportunities, including experiencing internal government functions, meeting other knowledgeable students, and enjoying the GSU campus.

COX, FROM PAGE 1

they should already know.

A series of questions were on the topic of standardized testing in the schools, and some of the participants questioned the effectiveness of the tests. Cox countered with statistics of Georgia's dropout rate, saying that with the number being about 40 percent, "there can't be business as usual in high schools," and that without changes, the state would "continue down the path worse than mediocrity."

When someone asked her if a standardized curriculum and standardized tests are "dumbing down" education, Cox seemed to become irritated, saying, "no, it's just the opposite." She explained that there are three ways that teachers teach each, and said that each way has flaws. She said that whether or not a teacher teaches how they were taught, from the book, or to some standardized test, there is no consistency. She said because of this, "there has to be teachers using a curriculum to decide what to teach," but "teachers are able to decide how they teach the subjects." She said that any teacher who says that the new plan is lowering the bar is "talking garbage."

At this point, Cox's aggravation was evident. Cox was receiving the same flack from the participants at Girls State as she has from other critics across the state. However, the participants at Girls State are actually those who are affected by the changes.

A question about the issue of evolution lightened the mood of the room for a bit. Cox explained that her actions earlier this year to take the word out of the Georgia science curriculum was her being "overly sensitive" to those teachers that have to teach touchy subjects. She said it was good that the citizens of Georgia spoke up about the "firestorm" that the issue caused and said that the issue is currently resolved. Georgia's science curriculum – including the use of the word "evolution" – is in line with national science standards.

After Cox's talk and question and answer session, the participants had mixed feelings. Ashley Brooks of Milledgeville said that she enjoyed the talk. "It was nice and educational, and it made me see the issues from a different point of view," she said.

Some felt differently. Tabitha Bailey from Hall County said that Cox's talk made her upset. "I'm upset at how the end of course tests count on out transcripts. I think they should only count once all of the standards are in," she said. Bailey also said that she feels Cox "walked around" some of the questions and is worrying about the big picture, ignoring the smaller things that are happening right now.

For more information on the end of course tests, and the changes to the curriculum, visit the Georgia Department of Education's web site at www.gadoe.org. All changes are open to public comment.

HOUSING, FROM PAGE 1



File Photo

Students living on campus can expect a rise of two to four percent in housing fees next fall.

laundry services.

An uncontrollable expense given to the Department of University Housing is a state increase in salary for employees, which was a two percent increase.

University Housing pays employee salaries out of its budget and therefore was a major part of the increase.

Another deciding factor in increasing housing fees was the fluctuating operating expenses. As cost of living increases, University Housing is also affected.

Other concerns of the department were the \$4 million debt

services, which is 40 percent of the budget.

Combining all of these increases is why resident housing fees went up.

Brandye Harris, a Southern Courtyard resident, says that she is unconcerned with the rising fees and feels that she should have no problem paying the extra increase.

This increase should be no surprise to students, as they were informed in February to expect a possible increase.

As of yet, the Department of Housing has had no complaints.

NOTICE

Summer 2004 Regents' Test

June 21 & 22

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

You must bring the following items to the test:

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

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

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

FREE Legal Advice

Attorney Troy Marsh will
give FREE legal advice to students
on June 14, 21, 28 and July 12.

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Call 489-7270 to schedule an
appointment or for any questions.



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Our Opinion

G8 info session strayed too far off topic

Earlier this month, GSU hosted a conference on the G8 summit. Since the G8 is a relatively unknown topic among most people, we sent a couple of reporters to cover the event in hopes that they would bring back enough information from the conference to convey to the rest of GSU exactly what in the world was causing such a ruckus just south of us at Sea Island.

Much to the disappointment of those from the G-A who attended, the conference was far from a G8 informational session. Most of the discussion was on economics. While the G8 does deal with economics, there's more to it than that. They also discuss issues such as AIDS, nuclear weapon proliferation, and terrorism, just to name a few.

One of the biggest disappointments of the conference, however, was one of GSU's own: Congressman Max Burns. What Burns prefaced as a summary of the G8 issues turned into a campaign speech for his re-election to the 12th Congressional District. While he did highlight some of the issues to be discussed at the summit, he thoroughly explained how most every topic related to his hard work in Congress to benefit the people of the 12th district.

When he mentioned that oil and energy prices would be discussed, he also mentioned that he has worked to lower such costs for Americans, especially for those in the 12th district.

On the mention that the G8 leaders would discuss economic policy, Burns made it clear to those listening, or in some cases not listening, that the 12th district had benefited from many of the so-called tax breaks and job creations that he and fellow Republican lawmakers had worked hard to pass.

By the end of Burns' talk, one who may have walked in and missed his safeguarding preface would have thought that they had walked into a campaign rally.

Burns was not the person to talk about G8 issues, regardless of his so-called "Washington Intelligence," and especially in an election year.

The lack of general G8 related information was disappointing. While many of the speakers were interesting and very esteemed in the world of academia, the common person, one without an extensive background in economics, was lost in the lexicon of trade deficits and gross domestic products. To advertise this conference as a G8 preview conference was an incredible misnomer.

The G-A published a letter last week that was critical of a faculty member. We regret that this letter was published as it involved what should have been an academic matter between a student and a faculty member. After further review it was determined that the letter may have contained substantial factual errors. It is our policy to print truthful commentary and other forum items, including letters to the editor, which focus on issues and ideas and not on personalities. The fact that we strayed from our own policy is regrettable and we apologize for any adverse reaction toward the individuals named that the publication of this letter may have caused. Causing hurt or harm to any of the individuals named in the missive certainly was never our intent.

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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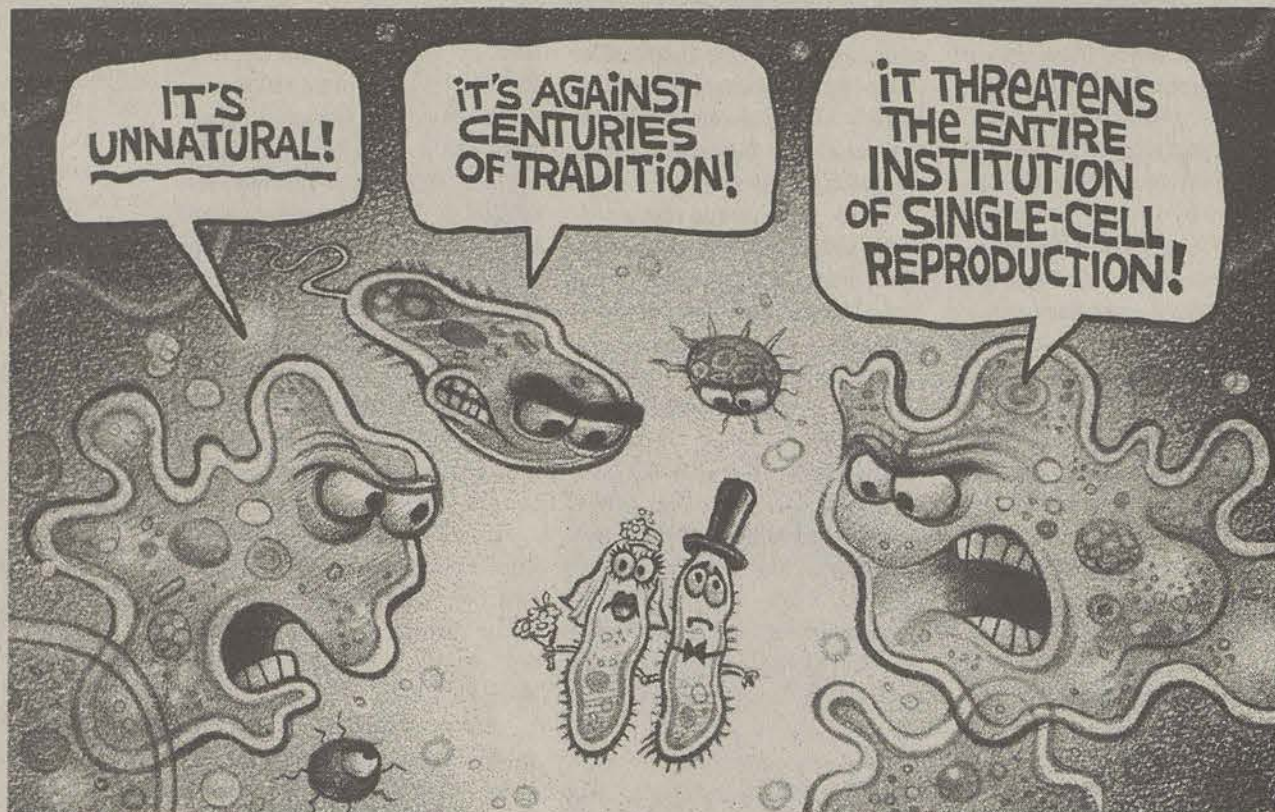
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50 BAZILLION YEARS AGO:

THE WORLD'S FIRST HETEROSEXUALS...



The joys of online language: OMG UR TEH SUXOR!!!11! LOL

A couple of weeks ago, a friend of mine introduced me to a bit of Internet slang with which I was theretofore unfamiliar. Since then, I've become linguistically somewhat obsessed by it. I love it. I think it's a fabulous phenomenon of typography, blending all kinds of semantic and morphological metamorphoses, but I'm having trouble finding much information on its origins. Apparently, it indicates extreme negativity in whatever it is being used to describe. Without further ado, the phrase is: *teh suxor*, and it has multiple orthographic variants, including (but not limited to) *teh suXor* and *teh suxOr*.

An example of how it might be used: "Dammit, I can't download anything. This dial-up connection is *teh suxor!!!*"

So far, I've gathered the following from a few helpful sites:

From SlangSite.com:

teh: Misspelling of the. Indicates that *teh* sentence to follow is not to be taken seriously.

From NetLingo.com:

Absolutely friggin' nothing.
Thanks, NetLingo. You are *teh suxor*.

Mostly, I found discussion threads like one from the MacGamer.com forums complaining in the most elaborate English with elitist angst about the agony of communicating with those who use what they call "1337" online.

Now, heaven knows, I love Macs. (I'm using one right now.) And I could probably be accused of having loved more than one gamer. But, given their environment, I think the folks on that message board are the ones abusing language. Just as one wouldn't expect to hear people at a baseball game speaking as though they're on the floor of the Senate, there is no need for us to over-extend ourselves with superfluous Standard English ramblings on the Internet.

Unfortunately, I find that many people simply don't realize the science behind the kind of misled linguistic snobbery in which they're engaging. They know they're being snobby; they just think they're being snobby in a good way. But, to those of us who are truly knowledgeable about linguistics, they're unwittingly making themselves look like morons.

Many of my friends are bothered by Internet slang. I don't blame them. It's a matter of personal preference, but what's important is that your preference be an informed one. As someone who has spent the last four years ardently studying the trajectory of the English language (and language in general) from its humble beginnings to where it is today, I feel I have the authority to hypothesize a bit about how intelligent people should consider Internet slang, acronyms, IM-speak, 1337, or whatever you want to call it.

Internet slang is not degradation of the English language.

It is a separate *variety* of language devised in an entirely separate environment, and it is effective and appropriate in that environment. I know the argument that it travels beyond the confines of cyberspace and into the classroom, but that is not the fault of the developing language, nor is it the fault of those who use it to communicate. It is, however,

the fault of educators, parents, or whoever else, all of whom seem to find it impossible to take 30 seconds out of their lives and explain to those experiencing acquisition of such language that there is a time and place for it.

We've heard the Internet compared to a global village, and people refer to "online communities." Those aren't just metaphors, they're entirely correct. The first thing communities must do is develop systems of communication, and the system that has been developing online over the past two decades is really rather complex. The degree to which the meaning of certain symbols and acronyms has become universal online should astound anyone interested in semantics. Here we are, watching a gorgeous model of language development, and instead of using it to our advantage, we're ripping it to shreds in the very environment for which it stands. The Internet isn't going anywhere, and neither is the language best suited to it – the language that has naturally developed from it. The only way to keep this language out of our freshman composition papers is to call a spade a spade and accept it as acceptable where it is acceptable: Online.

Would you tell people in Brazil they can't speak Portuguese there?

Notice I say speech, not writing. That's because it would be best if we were to think of online communication, with perhaps the exception of form^{al} email, as *speech* rather than as writing. It is understandable that we should expect paper-written language to adhere more to Standard English requirements. If a message appears on paper, it is usually going to be read and comprehended out of the company of the author, or passed on to many large groups of people with different linguistic backgrounds. It makes sense in that circumstance to take any possible measures in decreasing the likelihood of misinterpretation.



Amanda Permenter
editor-in-chief

See Permenter, Page 7

Wasteful spending in Iraq has topped \$1 billion, official estimates

By Seth Borenstein
KRT Campus

WASHINGTON – At least \$1 billion in taxpayers' money has been wasted in inefficient spending in Iraq, the federal government's top fiscal watchdog said Tuesday.

The estimate, by U.S. Comptroller General David Walker, is the first time anyone has put a number on the amount of misspending in Iraq.

It amounts to less than 2 percent of the \$60 billion the government has spent since March 2003 on waging war in Iraq and rebuilding the country. But it's more than the government spends on research into Alzheimer's disease and asthma combined, for example.

For months now, federal auditors from a number of governmental agencies have highlighted spending problems that stem from no-bid contracts, poor cost estimates and a lack of adequate oversight.

Walker told Knight-Ridder that getting an accurate figure on waste during the war is difficult because the Pentagon's accounting system is "abysmal."

During his testimony Tuesday before the House Government Reform Committee, Walker said the Pentagon got an A-plus for its ability to fight wars, but a D in financial management, bookkeeping transparency and

its ability to keep contractors' costs down.

Pentagon chief procurement officer Deirdre Lee declined to comment on Walker's assessment, but said the war posed a uniquely difficult challenge for defense officials responsible for directing spending in Iraq.

As an example of overspending, Walker's agency, the General Accounting Office, said the involvement of the politically connected firm Halliburton in a contract to feed U.S. soldiers in Kuwait had cost taxpayers an extra \$30 million.

Before the war, a Kuwaiti firm, Tamimi, had a contract to provide meals to troops at four bases in Kuwait. Just before the fighting started, the Pentagon turned that job over to Halliburton's subsidiary Kellogg Brown and Root.

As part of the switch, the Defense Department ordered KBR to rehire Tamimi to do the actual feeding, Waxman said. For undisclosed reasons, Halliburton was taken off the contract this April, and costs dropped from \$5 a meal to \$3 a meal, said Neal Curtin, the GAO's defense management chief.

Halliburton spokeswoman Wendy Hall said the costs dropped because Tamimi didn't have the start-up costs that Halliburton had.

That's not the way Democrats saw it. "Halliburton is gouging the taxpayer and

the Bush administration doesn't seem to care," said Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., the ranking Democrat on the House Government Reform Committee. "Halliburton acts like an individual spending someone else's money – which is exactly what Halliburton is doing."

Committee Chairman Thomas Davis, R-Va., dismissed that notion. "I understand why others feel the need to say the word 'Halliburton' as often as humanly possible. But we have more than just one contractor in Iraq, and lives are on the line."

In a separate matter, defense auditors said KBR also passed on to taxpayers another \$10 million in unjustified expenses for feeding troops in Iraq.

Bill Reed, the director of the Defense Contract Audit Agency, the Pentagon's audit arm, said Halliburton billed the government for 36 percent more meals than were served. In all, Reed put the amount of overcharging at \$186 million, and he barred the Pentagon from paying that amount.

Halliburton's Hall said the agency's figures were wrong and that it ignored the fact that KBR's contract required it to be able to feed a minimum number of troops no matter who showed up. If the Pentagon doesn't pay KBR, Hall said, the firm won't be able to pay its subcontractors.

TOP TEN LISTS

BOX OFFICE
(According to yahoo.com)

1. Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban
2. The Chronicles of Riddick
3. Shrek 2
4. Garfield
5. The Stepford Wives
6. The Day After Tomorrow
7. Raising Helen
8. Troy
9. Saved
10. Mean Girls

TELEVISION
(According to yahoo.com)

1. CSI
2. NBA Finals (I)
3. CSI: Miami
4. Without A Trace
5. Two and A Half Men
6. Law and Order
7. Everybody Loves Raymond
8. Crossing Jordan
9. Law and Order (Wed.)
10. Miss Universe Pageant

DVD & VIDEO RENTALS
(According to blockbuster.com)

1. Mystic River
2. Along Came Polly
3. Monster
4. Eurotrip
5. Pay Check
6. Lord of the Rings: Return of the King
7. The Last Samurai
8. Scary Movie 3
9. Welcome to Mooseport
10. Miracle

ALBUMS
(According to billboard.com)

1. Usher Confessions
2. Avril Lavigne Under My Skin
3. Gretchen Wilson Here for the Party
4. Prince Musicology
5. Slipnot, Vol. 3: (The Subliminal Version)
6. Hoobastank The Reason
7. D12 D12 World
8. Soundtrack Shrek 2
9. Various Artist Now 15
10. Method Man Tical 0: The Prequel

BOOKS
(According to New York Times Best Seller's List)

1. The Da Vinci Code Dan Brown
2. Rule of Four Ian Caldwell and Dustin Thomason
3. The Five People You Meet in Heaven Mitch Albom
4. Angel and Demon Dan Brown
5. The Taking Dean Koontz
6. Hidden Prey John Sandforth
7. Bergdorf Plum Sykes
8. The Narrows Michael Connelly
9. The Jane Austen Book Club Karen Joy Fowler
10. Memorial Day Vince Flynn

NEW ON DVD/Video:
June 22, 2004

Thrillers and dark comedies come to the video shelves next week. Included in the new arrivals are Johnny Depp's 'Secret Window' and Billy Bob Thornton's 'Bad Santa.' Both films topped the top ten box office last year.



'Chronicles': second place at box office, second rate story and film

By John Harris
johnwh@gmail.com

RATED: One star

What a crappy film!
Or more accurately, what we have in "The Chronicles of Riddick" is three crappy films, each trying to convince us it's the real film: the blessedly short early film weighed down with meaningless talk about space religion; the stupid two-parter filled to the gills with evil space fleets; poorly-kept statuary and black Mrs. Macbeth in a tortoiseshell dress; and the long middle film, about a prison escape from a jail planet that's more interesting than the entire rest of the film combined. Which isn't saying much.

Film One takes place on Helion Prime and begins after we're given a couple of wholly unnecessary scenes to establish Riddick's (Vin Diesel) character. (For those who missed Pitch Black, that's "amoral ass-kicker.") He shows up and sees a holy man who evidently Riddick has some sort of past with. I didn't get the full effect of these scenes because I could barely hear what Vin Diesel was saying. The

man's voice is so low it makes Henry Kissinger jealous.

Also around this time we meet Ariel, not the Little Mermaid but an Air Elemental, played by the semi-invisible Judi Dench. Elementals "calculate," we're told, but we're not told what. Taxes? Actuary tables? Poker odds? Ariel's role is to be a bargain-basement Bene Gesserit in a film that looks, when it starts blabbing about prophecy and faith in unconvincing ways, like it'd dearly like to be "Dune" if it weren't trying so hard to be space opera.

That brings us to the second film, set inside of the (please understand it causes me pain to write this) Necromongerspaceship. The Necromongers are trying to reach either the Omniverse or the Underverse, depending on who's talking. Necromongers operate by turning the people they conquer into Necromongers themselves, but it's not obvious why they do this since the procedure doesn't seem to instill any sense of loyalty. They are led by the Lord Marshal (Colm Feore), a guy who visited the Omniverse personally, and according to The Invisible

Dench, "came back as a different being. Stronger... stranger." In film terms this means he can swoosh about real fast and has, I swear to God, H. R. Giger's comb-over.

Oh, and he can take people's souls. Early on, he runs up to someone in casual evening-wear and pulls out a transparent version of him in transparent evening-wear. The rather surprised, de-souled guy looks back kind of wistfully, like he wants to shout, "Hey man, I need that to be with!" then collapses. When I saw this happen, I realized it was only a matter of time before Riddick himself became the target of this half-baked Fatality.

The third film has little to do with the Necromongers and saving the universe, in which the schmucks from the beginning come back and take Riddick to a completely pointless prison world so he can meet up with his old girlfriend. It's not great cinema, but there are actual people here. At least there isn't any soul-taking, alien-toupee'd idiot swishing around in Man-E-Faces' helmet.

How bad was this film? The audience I was with laughed at it. They



Special Photo

Vin Diesel's anti-hero Riddick searches for a plot and a decent film in his newest 'Chronicles of Riddick.' It is being touted as a horrible knock off 'Dune.' The film begs to question was there really a need for a sequel to 'Pitch Black'?

laughed at the dumb neon-faced Necromongers standing around like gecko lizards. They laughed at the stupid alien uniforms, which look like a cross between Roman armor and a pillbug. They traded dumb lines in the lobby outside the door. I heard one kid say

about this particular groaner: "There is only one speed... my speed." There are lots of film I don't like, but rare is there a film in which the audience joins in on the hating.

It was beautiful. But the film, let's be clear about this, was not.

DYNAMITE SAYS!

Entertainment Reviews and More...

By DJ Dynamite
wvgs91driver@hotmail.com

X-ECUTIONERS...the superheroes of the new Hip-Hop bring their vest best in new release

The X-ECUTIONERS released their latest album. The new album, already in stores, is entitled "Revolutions." The new album features a team of Hip-Hop heavyweights, such as Black Thought, Dead Prez, Cypress Hill, Fat Joe, and Ghostface Killah. The X-ECUTIONERS, who were originally known as the X-MEN, were formed in 1989. They changed their name due to copyright reasons and continued to perfect the art of turntable music. The album, "Revolutions," is a progressive witness to the changes in the Hip-Hop culture in the last decade as well as the personal changes within the group.

The X-ECUTIONERS, who describe themselves as "the overqualified but under-appreciated blue-collar superheroes of the new Hip-Hop," are some of New York's most talented deejays. The group, which includes

the turntable skills of Roc Raida, Total Eclipse, Rob Swift and Mista Sinista, signed to Asphodel Records in November 1997. While dominating national and international deejay competitions, the X-ECUTIONERS have also found time to work with other artist like the Jungle Brothers, Showbiz and AG, Artifacts, Bill Laswell, Large Professor, The Beatnuts, Sadat X, Lord Finesse, Akinyele, and Common Sense.

The X-ECUTIONERS latest album, "Revolutions," was made in the absence of long-time group member Mista Sinista. Nonetheless, "Revolutions" is a great piece of Hip-Hop genius. The album displays the group's new, intense focus on the perfection of their art (turntabling) and the successful mix of their skills with today's most influential underground

MCs. But please understand the X-ECUTIONERS are turntable fanatics who produce powerful beats through mixing, scratching, and the beat juggling of great hip-hop tracks. The X-ECUTIONERS have never relied on an MC to convey a verbal message but have always managed to speak to their audience through their fingers.

Although the majority of "Revolutions" is amazing from a Hip-Hop standpoint, there are a couple "alternative" tracks that I believe should have been held or placed on a "B-sides" album. For instance, track thirteen ("Even More Human Than Human"), featuring Rob Zombie, Slug from Atmosphere, and Josey Scott) throws off the rhythm of the entire album with its harsh heavy metal rock sound. Though the album returns to its original Hip-Hop groove, the interruption

is unforgettable. My advice to Roc Raida, Total Eclipse, and Rob Swift is, "just because something can be done, doesn't always mean it should!" All in all, I am very pleased with the X-ECUTIONERS new album, "Revolutions," and you will be too!

DJ Dynamite says, "Revolutions," the latest release from the X-ECUTIONERS, is a great album featuring many new breakthrough MCs and classic Hip-Hop turntabling. If you are a fan of underground Hip-Hop, then you will be an instant fan of the X-ECUTIONERS and their album. "Revolutions," by the X-ECUTIONERS, gets a FOUR FINGER SLAP on a FIVE FINGER SCALE!"



"SOUL PLANE"...crashed and burned at box office and with audiences

In the film "Soul Plane," an all-star cast of black entertainers came together to tell a story of an airline service created to cater to the urban community. The main character

Nashawn Wade (KEVIN HART) is awarded a \$100 million settlement from a commercial airliner after he endures a humiliating flight that leaves him traumatized. Compelled to prevent the same misfortune from happening again, Nashawn buys the airline service and converts it into an urban-friendly mode of transportation.

Assisted by his cousin Mugsy (METHOD MAN) and Captain Mack (SNOOP DOGG), Nashawn and his crew set out on the maiden flight of their aircraft, NWA 0-69 (non-stop from Los Angeles to New York). While "flying the friendly skies," Nashawn encounters his ex-girlfriend Giselle (K.D. AUBERT), and is forced to confront his unresolved feelings towards her. As if past relationships aren't difficult enough, Nashawn and his outrageous crew try to keep the plane from crashing and their

wacky and bizarre passengers safe and satisfied.

Further assisting Nashawn on NWA Flight 0-69 is Co-pilot Gae-man (GODFREY C. DANCHIMAH), bathroom attendant Johnny (D. L. HUGHLLEY), security staff Jamiqua and Shaniece (SOMMORE and MO'NIQUE), and flight attendants Bianca (SOFIA VERGARA), Tamika (STACY TRAVIS), and Flame (GARY ANTHONY WILLIAMS). The NWA passenger manifesto includes the talents of JOHN WITHERSPOON, TOM ARNOLD, and newcomer RYAN PINKSTON. Cameos by LIL JOHN, THE YIN YANG TWINS, and MTV Veejay LA LA provide an extra layer of humor as passengers and crew party in the clouds.

Director Jessy Terrero and screenwriters, Bo Zenga and Chuck Wilson, collaborated on the script for "Soul Plane" in 2002. As more and more superstars signed on to the project, excitement about the film circulated. Many hard-core hip-hop fans counted down the days until the summer 2004 premier. And it is very possible

that all of the hype surrounding the project was its downfall! Simply put, "Soul Plane" does not live up to the expectations. The film, by box office standards, crashed and burned. In its opening weekend, "Soul Plane" didn't even finish within the top five grossing movies of the week. From a productions and business standpoint, "Soul Plane" was a failure! There was just a supreme lack of funny!

The positive thing about the movie "Soul Plane" is that it showed thousands of aspiring film directors what not to do when taking on a major studio production. For instance, "Soul Plane" taught us that a film is not a two-hour music video! So if you have the urge to cast everybody you know and everybody they know in your film, its probably going to bomb!

Also, if your "A-list" talent cannot successfully deliver the punch line, change the scrip or change the actor. And, if seventy-five percent of your jokes are about "fart sounds and smells," then your film is probably not as funny as you think! But the most important thing "Soul Plane" taught



us was that America is tired of seeing Snoop Dogg playing the role of a laid back, marijuana smoking smart-ass!

It was hilarious in 1993, but now its just gotten old. Snoop Dogg needs to stop playing those roles and give them to Redman. I guarantee, if Redman were Captain Mack, the movie would have been ten times funnier! If you do decide to see the movie "Soul Plane," don't expect much. That way, you won't be disappointed. Watch it with friends, lots of friends! This movie is actually better if you talk through it and provide your own humor!

DJ Dynamite says, "Soul Plane," directed by Jessy Terrero and starring Kevin Hart and Snoop Dogg, gets a ONE FINGER SLAP on a FIVE FINGER SCALE!" [You pick the finger!]

DIRECTOR: Rawson Marshall Thurbur
ALSO DIRECTED: Nothing
WRITTEN BY: Rawson Marshall Thurbur
STARRING: Ben Stiller as White Goodman, Vince Vaughn as Peter La Fluor, and Christine Taylor as Kate Veatch.



Dodge Ball

PROGNOSIS: Falling into the ranks of most Ben Stiller films, the film has Stiller as an over the top character. His supporting cast is usually trying to keep him in line. The film actually might be funny. His wife Christine Taylor, last seen in "Zoolander," is along for the ride as a reporter that is trying to bring him down. Overall it looks like another "Zoolander" without the modeling.

ESTIMATED RATING: One and one half stars, +/- one half.

DIRECTOR: Steven Spielberg
ALSO DIRECTED: Too much to name
WRITTEN BY: Sacha Cerveasi and Jeff Nathanson
STARRING: Tom Hanks as Viktor Narvorski, and Catherine Zeta-Jones as Amelia



The Terminal

PROGNOSIS: The combination of Spielberg and Hanks is bound to be spectacular film. When a film takes place in a single setting, a film tends to wear on the character and the audience, but Hanks seems quite entertaining in this fish out of water tale. Zeta-Jones along for the ride only helps, as the Academy Award winner plays a clumsy flight attendant.

ESTIMATED RATING: Three stars +/- one half.

DIRECTOR: Frank Coraci
ALSO DIRECTED: "The Water-boy," "The Wedding Singer"
WRITTEN BY: Jules Verne (French Novel), David Titcher, David Benullo, David Goldstein.
STARRING: Jackie Chan as Passepartout, Steve Coogan as Phileas Fogg and Cecile De France as Monique.



Around the World in 80 Days

PROGNOSIS: The brain-dead film of the summer. The original book was an utterly engaging tale of travel for its own sake, though with a slightly off-putting taste of colonialism. This film will probably lack both the original's colonialism and sense of fun. That's not to say it might not be good for its own sake. Throw out every damn thing you might remember from the novel, because if you've read that, you will not like this film. Just so you know, I've read it. Phileas Fogg was not a bumbling inventor, he was not in any way zany, and Passepartout sure as hell wasn't Jackie Chan. He was a Frenchman, if you must know. And he was cool despite that fact.

ESTIMATED RATING: One and one-half stars, +/- one half.

WHEN IN HOLLYWOOD...

1) Give an ex-singer a talk show and expect it not to fail...



90s 'soul singer' Michael Bolton set to launch a new syndicated talk show in Fall '05.

2) Get engaged and then dedicate a website to your nuptials...



'The View' co-host Star Jones has created a website devoted to her impending wedding to her fiancée Al Reynolds (Who?)

3) Give a hotel heiress a show, and then allow it to return for a second season...



Wednesday night signaled the return of Paris Hilton and Nicole Ritchie's show 'The Simple Life 2' on FOX.

4) Give hush money for something you swear you didn't do, and then expect it to stay a secret...



It was inadvertently released that in 1994 Michael Jackson paid his accuser over 23 million dollars to settle the case.

PERMENTER, FROM
PAGE 4

Online, things move at a faster pace. People are on message boards, in chat rooms, on instant messenger, writing blogs or what have you. They can clarify themselves with much more immediacy if need be. And, as someone who has been active online since the mid-nineties, I can tell you: Need usually doesn't be. The only way in which online communication resembles writing is typography – the fact that it's being typed with characters rather than articulated with phonemes.

A basic southern variety of English is a great thing to speak on a Saturday night when sitting around with friends in Statesboro, Georgia, USA. Would anyone expect someone in that environment to speak Standard American English? Of course not, especially since *no one* actually speaks that Standard, not even the news broadcasters. A vernacular variety is more effective and appropriate in that circumstance and many others. Likewise, acronyms and other forms of slang have developed online naturally, like all language does, in order to facilitate more expedient understanding between communicating parties.

Now, before anyone can accept the above assertion, they must already be able to accept language on the level that linguists accept it: No language or dialect is inherently inferior to another. Ever. Language is a system of codes. Languages are naturally structured by the language communities that speak them and the human minds from which they spring forth. Languages will develop whether or not you have dictionaries. They will continue to thrive without people who write books about how the grammar of them operates. In fact, the only way to kill a language is to prevent people from using it.

So, now those who hate the IM-speak say, "Oh, hallelujah, it can be done!" But, honestly: Who wants to kill a language? Who wants to kill something that makes it possible for people all over the world to communicate quickly and easily?

To many, it's annoying and sounds childish. Did you know people said the same thing about Shakespearean English? Many people mistakenly think of that as a more elaborate form of English, but the language with which Shakespeare chose to compose was not the formal language of the time. English was a laughable pile of crap in sixteenth century England. It was still struggling to become more than bastardized street lingo. The elite still spoke French, and practically made a sport out of looking down on the lower-class English speakers.

My, how far we've come. Perhaps French speakers still look down on English speakers, but the economic dynamics have changed a bit. English has been around for a while now, and we hope it will be around for a long time to come. The Internet has been around for a couple of decades now, and I hope it will be around for a long time to come, as well. And, if it's going to stick around, I certainly hope we can have a continually developing method of communication exclusive to that environment.

Keep preaching the glory of SAE and other standards in the classroom if we must. But, just as a teacher shouldn't attempt to dictate how Sally and Jimmy should and should not speak to each other when they hang out after school on their completely private plane of communication, no one should try to dictate what kind of grammar I use in my online journal, or how I choose to express emotions to my friend in an instant message. It's a completely different linguistic setting.

Language is constantly changing, developing, growing. If people become too critical of it, it dies. If it stops changing, it dies. If people stop using it, it dies. Millions of people using a system of code to communicate does not from any reasonable perspective constitute death of a language.

So, next time any of you want to get all huffy because someone has hurled an OMG, LOL or WTF in your direction, try to remember to look at languages as continually developing systems of codes. Remember that a language isn't just a tree trunk – it has branches. If you don't at least try to look at it all with an open mind, you are definitely *teh* *suxor*.

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

Fielding woes continue
to haunt Atlanta BravesBy George Henry
Associated Press

Chipper Jones blames the scorekeepers. Rafael Furcal thinks the infield dirt at Turner Field is too hard. Mark DeRosa really doesn't want to talk about it.

Regardless, entering their game Tuesday against Kansas City, the Atlanta Braves often look like fools in the field. With 55 errors, the Braves lead the NL and rank second-worst in the majors.



"It's embarrassing," said Furcal, who has nine of his team's major league-leading 16 errors at shortstop. "Sometimes, the ball bounces up so hard that you worry about your head getting knocked off, but we have that kind of thing in a lot of places. We just

have to keep working and play better, that's all."

DeRosa pushed his team's lead in errors to 11 Thursday when he booted a grounder in a 7-4 loss at Detroit. Furcal, who committed the second-most errors in the majors in 2002 and '03, joined second baseman Nick Green in making errant throws in the White Sox's 10-8 victory Saturday in Chicago.

"It does make it tougher on the pitchers if we make errors," Green said. "It makes them throw more pitches and that creates a problem, too."

The pitchers have struggled, too. Travis Smith and C.J. Nitkowski each had throwing errors in a 10-3 loss to the White Sox Sunday. Starters Jaret Wright and Mike Hampton, a Gold Glove winner last year, also have been charged with fielding miscues this season.

Braves' opponents have committed 36 errors this season. Last year, the Braves also made more errors than their opponents, 121-108.

As the Braves continue to chase an unprecedented 13th straight division title, their problems in the field are worsening. DeRosa has shouldered his share of the blame, particularly after committing four errors in a 13-4 loss May 2 at Colorado.

He tied the Atlanta record, which third baseman Darrell Evans set on Sept. 20, 1975. With second baseman Marcus Giles and pitcher Horacio Ramirez combining for three errors that day against the Rockies, the Braves matched the team franchise mark that was set July 22, 1973 against Philadelphia.

"Can't we talk about something else?" DeRosa asked jokingly during the last home stand. "No, seriously, it's not just one thing. You can't blame the grass or the dirt or the circumstances or the weather or whatever else. We're just not making plays, pure and simple."

Philadelphia manager Larry Bowa disagrees. A former shortstop whose 16-year career ended in 1984, Bowa believes the dirt at Turner Field betrays Atlanta infielders.

"The texture is messed up," Bowa said. "It flakes. I don't know what it is because I'm not an expert, but I was an infielder. When you put spike marks out there and it all crumbles, it's tough to play on. It reminds me a lot of when we played over at the other place. Bad hops."

Not surprisingly, Braves manager Bobby Cox insists that Ed Mangan, the team's longtime grounds crew director, hasn't changed the amounts and mixtures of grass seed, dirt and water since Turner Field opened in 1997.

"Ed's the best," Cox said. "There's nobody better."

Mangan didn't return telephone calls or reply to e-mails, and Andrew Worrell, one of his top assistants, declined further comment as he briefly stopped trimming the grass along the first-base line Monday morning.

"I'd really prefer that you ask Ed," Worrell said. "That's his job, to talk about the field to reporters, not mine."

If Jones had his way, Atlanta scorekeepers Mark Frederickson and Mike Stamus would be more generous to the home team, but the Braves have committed one more error on the road (28) than at home.

"Let me put it to you this way, if I were the official scorer in the city of Atlanta, we would not be leading the league in errors," Jones said.

"Trust me. Don't get me started. We've voiced our displeasure with them. Believe it or not, that plays on the mind of certain people. The fact that an infielder knows he has to be careful. He has to be perfect. If he dives for a ball and makes a great play and then throws it away, he knows that's going to be an error when it should probably be a hit."

Jones, an everyday third baseman from 1995-2001, could start in the infield Tuesday for the first time in two years. After serving as designated hitter last week in AL ballparks, Jones is nursing a sore right hamstring that may not allow him to return to left field this season.

"I haven't played infield in a few years but I haven't seen the quality of the infield drop off," Jones said in defense of Mangan and his staff. "It's always been hard, it's always been fast, it's always been bumpy."

Jones agreed with Cox that the grounds crew waters the infield dirt as much as it did in 1998, when the Braves had the second-best fielding percentage in the majors.

"You can water that infield down as much as you want, and two innings later it's going to be dry as a bone," Jones said. "When it gets chewed up it's going to get bumpy. Sometimes you feel like you've got to wear a face mask out there."

Batting coach Terry Pendleton, the 1991 NL MVP who led Atlanta to its first World Series that year, has heard many players decry conditions at Turner Field.

"I've heard our infielders and other infielders complaining about it," Pendleton said. "I can tell you that much."

Among the top three

Austin rated third best running back in nation

GSU Athletic Media Relations

The stark, white number 25, emblazoned upon a maroon jersey, might as well be a bulls-eye.

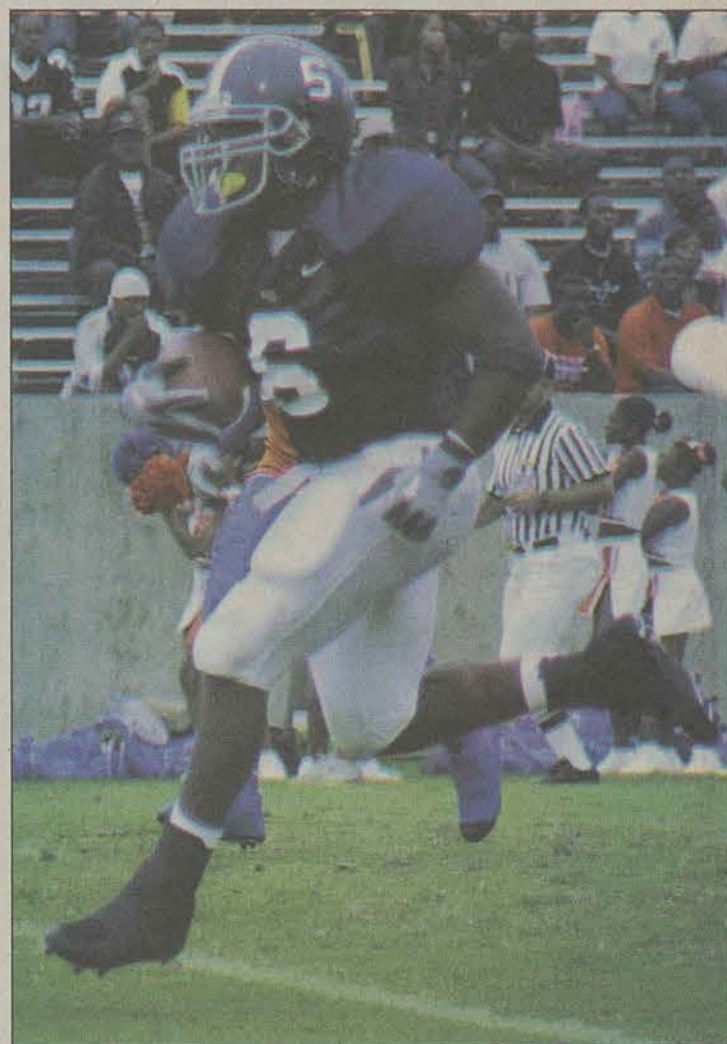
For Colgate running back Jamaal Branch, who won the Walter Payton Award following a phenomenal junior campaign, being a marked man will come with the territory in 2004. Many of the same defenses that were leveled by Branch during the Raiders' 15-1 season will key specifically on the Mashpee, MA native this season, looking to deny the senior a place in history. No player has won back-to-back Paytons since the Awa

Georgia Southern's Adrian Peterson looked like he might be a three-time winner when he ran away with the honor as a sophomore in 1999, but Furman's Louis Ivory beat him to the punch in 2000 and another fair player, Villanova's Brian Westbrook, outshone both Ivory and Peterson in 2001. Weber State quarterback Jamie Martin was a junior winner in 1991, but fell victim to injury and ceded the '92 hardware to Marshall's Michael Payton.

Will Branch again rumble his way through a roster of opponents that may have taken him lightly in 2003? Or will the Raider succumb to the same fate that befell Ivory, Peterson, or Martin before him? Either way, a history lesson awaits I-AA supporters in 2004.

Below is a look at the returning running back for the 2004 season, as selected by The Sports Network based on a variety of factors. His profile includes the perspective of an opposing coach:

3. **Jermaine Austin, Georgia Southern (Jr., 5-8, 205).** Austin has spent two seasons trying to outrun the very long shadow cast by former GSU great Adrian Peterson, and while he hasn't approached Peterson's numbers, the fullback has certainly matched his efforts. The Darien, GA native posted nine 100-yards games during the Eagles' disappointing 7-4 season, including one of more than 200 (207 against Florida International) and



LaVene Bell/STAFF

Georgia Southern junior Jermaine Austin was selected as one of the nation's top three running backs in 2004 according to a preseason preview article by The Sports Network. Austin was GSU's lone All-America pick a year ago after finishing ninth in rushing (132.8 ypg) and earning honors as the SoCon Offensive Player-of-the-Year. He needs exactly 1,000 yards to move into second place on the school's all-time rushing list (3,788).

none where he rushed for fewer than 92 yards. Austin averaged 6.5 yards every time he touched the ball, though the diminutive star curiously scored just six times. A couple of more end zone journeys will help boost Austin's Payton stock, as will a return to playoff form for he and his Eagle teammates.

Furman head coach Bobby Lamb on Austin, "I'm a big, big fan of Jermaine Austin. He is the guy that last year was injured during our game with them and was supposed to not play, and then of course I knew would play because he

has a tremendous amount of heart. He runs so low to the ground that he gets tremendous amounts of yards after contact. A great competitor, and he's no doubt the player of the year in our league on offense. He's tough to bring down, because he's always got forward lean and he's always got great body control. He's a lot like [former Furman great] Louis Ivory, except he's more powerful than Louis was. And he's just got a great heart for the game and a great nose for gaining yards with the football."

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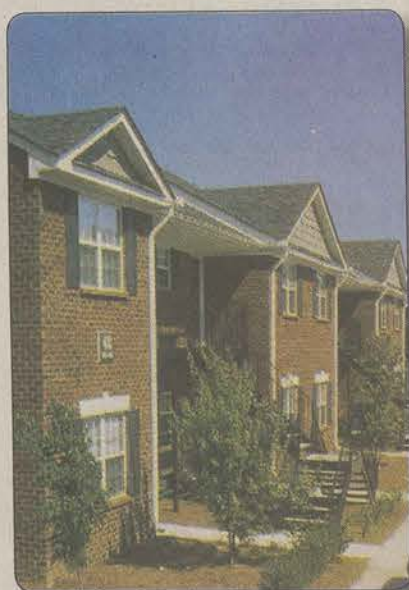
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