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The GEORGE-ANNE

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Wednesday, September 29, 2004 • Volume 77, Number 31 29



SPORTS: GSU Golf finishes second at Adams Cup **Page 6**

STUDY ABROAD WITH THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

By Rachel Weeks
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Imagine taking classes this summer in London or Paris for about as much as paying to attend a semester at GSU. It is possible.

The annual Study Abroad Fair took place yesterday at the Russell Union, with students and professors who have traveled abroad either to take or teach classes. Many different programs are offered in a variety of countries all over the world. Financial aid and various scholarships make traveling abroad very affordable.

Summer Studies classes are offered in Mexico, the Czech Republic, Costa Rica, Spain, South Africa, Ireland, West Africa, India, Belize, London, Russia, Greece, and dozens more.

While visiting new scenes and meeting new people, students can earn up to six credit hours while taking summer classes abroad.

Study abroad includes summer sessions and six month or yearly student exchange programs. Most summer study abroad programs last from four to six weeks. Students go to classes half of the week, and the rest of their time can be spent traveling the countryside and visiting nearby attractions.

"In Europe, public transportation is huge. It's very easy to get around," said GSU student Matt Walker, who spent six weeks in Spain.

Some programs even offer Eurail passes, which connects Germany and 16 other European countries.

It is not required to speak a foreign language to study abroad, because most courses are taught in English. Available courses range from art appreciation, drawing, literature, writing, Italian, history, Spanish, geography, and anthropology to animal health, archaeology, and marine biology.

From taking animal health classes in Belize and getting to work at the Belize Zoo, to digging in the rich soil of South Africa as part of an excavation for anthropology class, study abroad is a great opportunity for any student.

"A lot of kids have the notion that they should wait until after their junior year to study abroad, but a lot of these courses are aimed at freshmen and sophomores," said Patricia Price, a member of the European Study Abroad Council.

Upper level courses are also of-

See ABROAD, page 5

Graphic designed by the College Relations Department at Floyd College in Rome, Georgia

The Norman Fries distinguished lecture series presents Jon P. Vollmer



Ryan Moore/STAFF

Jon P. Vollmer spoke at GSU Monday night on health care issues America deals with in today's society.

By Margaret Reeves

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One of the most pressing issues in American society today revolves around health care. Jon P. Vollmer addressed this very subject last night as he presented his lecture in the annual Norman Fries Distinguished Lecture Series. He addressed GSU students, faculty, and friends, providing facts and insight on this broad field.

His lecture proved to be both educational and entertaining. Vollmer is the executive vice president of Health Management Associates, Inc. This organization takes on the task of

remodeling rural hospitals to make them more efficient and successful. In addition to having such a prestigious role, Mr. Vollmer is also very active in his community; he holds board seats with organizations such as the Red Cross and the Chamber of Commerce. He is also a family-oriented man, and accompanies his children and wife camping, skiing, and even bungee jumping.

An overview of facts and figures compiled from the past twelve years shows that health care expenses have risen from \$2,700 per person

See LECTURE, page 5



Paul Leavy, The Valdosta Times/AP Photo

Emily Fuller, 10, left, Hillary Crosby, 14, center, and Catherine Carr, 7, walk through floodwaters in their neighborhood in Valdosta, Ga., Monday morning, following heavy rain from Tropical Storm Jeanne Sunday night and Monday morning which filled a retention pond and overflowed into the streets.

Hurricane Jeanne

Jeanne causes little damage to GSU campus

By Luke Hearn

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Tropical Storm Jeanne swept across Statesboro Sunday night, but all was pretty much well after she headed north across Georgia.

According to Ken Brown, Chief of the GSU Police Department, officers didn't have to respond to any calls related to the storm. "There were some tornado warnings, but luckily, nothing came of it. The only calls we received were from students wondering if classes had been canceled or not," he said.

The Georgia Automated Environmental Monitoring Network reported that Statesboro received approximately 2.32 inches of rain and, peak winds of 31.4 miles per hour.

Despite the harsh weather conditions, the GSU campus was affected very little.

"We weathered the storm pretty good," said Ray Durden of the department of landscape and ground maintenance. "There were some drains that were clogged with pine cones and limbs, but other than that, we were ok."

The decision to close the campus came at about 6 a.m. Monday morning. According to Brown, the President's office decided to cancel classes because many other schools around GSU were closed due to the impending weather.

Because of the late cancellation of classes, many students found out the news once they arrived on campus.

Senior Russ Garlow was pleasantly surprised when he arrived on campus Monday morning.

"I didn't have enough sense to check the GSU web site before I left for class," he said. "But to be honest, I would come to campus any day, just to be able to go right back home."

Junior Thomas D'Aleo also found out about the canceled classes when he arrived on campus, but he didn't really think it was necessary. "The storm was pretty rough Sunday night, but I don't think it was bad enough to cancel school," he said. "All the same, though, I can't complain about the day off."

State still assessing cost of storm response

Special to the G-A

ATLANTA - All the bills aren't in yet from a costly and damaging storm season in Georgia, but state officials say most of the costs of mobilizing for and responding to the disasters will be paid through the federal assistance grants.

But there's a catch.

The federal grants require a state match, typically met through the governor's emergency fund. If the match exceeds the available amount in that fund, lawmakers in January will be asked to find more money.

The governor's top budget advisers already are "looking at the possibility of needing additional funds to meet the state match," said Tim Connell, director of the Office of Planning and Budget. "There isn't a firm number yet."

The emergency fund now has a little less than \$3.5 million. Some budget analysts think the state may need another \$5 million to \$7 million to meet its share of the costs.

The figure isn't large compared to the state's \$16.3 billion budget, but adds one more item to the cost-side of a budget that Gov. Sonny Perdue and state legislators are working to keep lean.

State departments have been told they will have no new money to spend in January.

Perdue's spokesman, Dan McLagan, said, "The governor prudently kept the emergency fund for real emergencies like this. If we need to supplement the fund, we will. Our friends and neighbors have been struck by tragedy and we will be there for them."

One problem in figuring the cost is that emergency responders haven't had enough time between the storms to get all the bills together.

"We're responding to one incident when we're still in the recovery phase from other storms," said Lisa Ray, a spokeswoman for the Georgia Emergency Management Agency. "Everything kind of goes on hold when an active

See STATE, page 5

Weekday Weather

Wednesday



HIGH
89°

LOW
68°

Partly Cloudy

Thursday



HIGH
86°

LOW
66°

Scattered
Thunderstorms

Only in America

• Ohio judge OKs 30-foot dog replica on restaurant

• Tennessee lawmakers say unleashed dogs can still ride in the backs of pickup trucks

GA Page 3

Opinions

• Two New York Daily News columnists face off over whether classic media is a thing of the past

• KRT Columnist Anne Kim suggests ways for students to survive tuition increases through financial aid

GA Page 4

Sports

• Jermaine Austin named SoCon Player of the Week

• Player spotlight on Trey Hunter

• Get the latest on NASCAR NEXTEL cup

GA Page 6

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Only in America

Jesus found in middle of road

EAGLE PASS, TX. - Some in South Texas are taking it as a sign from above.

When Border Patrol agents spotted a body in the Rio Grande, they launched a rescue mission. But the supposed victim turned out to be a life-size fiberglass statue of Jesus.

Now, the faithful are flocking to the Eagle Pass police station to view the figure.

Two churches in the area have offered to take it, if the statue isn't claimed within the 90-day waiting period.

City officials add that no matter what happens, they won't be selling the statue of Jesus.

Woman arrested for talking too loudly

WHEATON, MD. - A pregnant woman said she feared for her unborn child's safety after a transit police officer forced her onto her stomach while trying to arrest her for talking too loudly on a cell phone.

Sakinah Aaron, who says the incident occurred at a bus stop earlier this month, says a doctor later said her five-month-old fetus was not harmed.

A police official says the officer followed proper procedure after Aaron refused to stop cursing loudly during a cell phone conversation. Police say Aaron was abusive and uncooperative.

Aaron says she was trying to get away from the officer to catch her bus, but he placed her face down and handcuffed her. She has been charged with disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

Photographer flashes women

COLUMBUS, OH. - The naked photographer won't be doing anymore flashing.

Stephen Linnen has been sentenced to a year and a-half in jail. Earlier this month, he pleaded guilty to 53 misdemeanor counts, including public indecency.

Authorities in Columbus, Ohio, say the nude Linnen would surprise unsuspecting women and take pictures of their shocked expressions. He's a lawyer, but won't lose his law license because of the convictions.

The judge in the case also decided not to sentence him as a sex offender. Linnen apologized to the court but the victims weren't there to hear it.

Troops enjoy sand golf in Iraq

HUNTSVILLE, TX. - Doug Murdock was inspired to collect golf clubs and balls for soldiers after hearing that the son of his friend, Claude Dance from Shreveport, La., had been sent to Iraq.

"Prior to his son going, Claude had seen that some of the troops were making makeshift golf courses. They would round up clubs and balls and play golf," Murdock said.

Before long, buckets full of clubs and balls were being donated and gathered at the Elkins Lake Golf Course.

Care package organizer Joe Peery attributed the response to the community's support of the troops in Iraq.

Soldiers in their spare time have shaped their own makeshift small golf courses - some of them up to six holes - in the Iraqi desert.

Peery said, "We just kind of started this wanting to give them something to do. A little diversion of any kind is a pretty good deal."

Nader not on Georgia ballot in November



Associated Press

Independent presidential candidate Ralph Nader addresses the media.

ATLANTA - Third-party candidate Ralph Nader, whose status in several states was decided Tuesday, will not be appearing on Georgia ballots in next month's presidential election.

A spokeswoman for Georgia Secretary of State Cathy Cox said Tuesday that Nader supporters had contacted her office, but never submitted the just over 38,000 signatures that would have been required for him to appear on the Nov. 2 ballot.

Instead, Nader has qualified in Georgia as a write-in candidate. Qualifying as such, which does not require signatures, means any votes written in for Nader will count.

Nader is on the ballot in more than 30 states and is suing for ballot access in several others.

The state Supreme Court in New Mexico ordered that Nader's name be placed on the ballot there and a Maine state judge ruled that Nader could remain on the ballot there.

American Taliban asks for reduced sentence

SAN FRANCISCO, CA. - John Walker Lindh asked President Bush on Tuesday to reduce his 20-year prison sentence for aiding the Taliban.

His lawyer, James Brosnahan, said that Lindh was fighting alongside the Taliban in a civil war against the Northern Alliance, that he is not a terrorist and that he never fought against U.S. troops.

Brosnahan said the sentence should be reduced because Yaser Esam Hamdi, another American citizen captured in Afghanistan on suspicion of aiding the Taliban, is being released after being held for three years as an enemy combatant.

National News Briefs

Lindh, a California native, pleaded guilty in civilian court to supplying services to the now-defunct Taliban government and carrying explosives for them. He and Hamdi were both captured in late 2001.

Truck wreck closes I-85

DULUTH - A truck carrying explosive materials overturned on Tuesday, closing Interstate 85 in both directions near the Gwinnett Civic Center for about two hours.

The truck driver was injured and taken to a local hospital. His injuries were not considered life threatening, said Gwinnett County police spokesman Dan Huggins. The interstate was reopened around 11 a.m.

Trooper Larry Schnall, a Georgia State Patrol spokesman, said none of the materials appeared to have leaked out.

The truck was carrying ammonium nitrate and blasting caps, Huggins said.

It is not clear what caused the truck to overturn.

Besides the civic center, apartment complexes and a discount shopping mall are in the immediate area.

Bus driver suspended for allowing gun on bus



Associated Press

Suspended bus driver Kathy Laney sits with son at her Kentucky home.

ULYSSES, KY. - In rural eastern Kentucky, where it's hardly unusual to find folks carrying shotguns in hunting season, the suspension of a school bus driver for giving one such hunter a ride has many parents asking: What's the big deal?

Lawrence County School Superintendent Jeff May said he's been swamped with calls from people ral-

lying in support of bus driver Kathy Laney even though she allowed a squirrel hunter on board with a 20-gauge shotgun.

Mays said that Laney, a bus driver for about six years, stopped on her route to school Sept. 15 to give 67-year-old Ralph Music a ride past some threatening dogs that were in the road.

Laney was apologetic for what she called a lapse in judgment. But she added that she knew Music, knew he was harmless, a wouldn't have done anything to endanger the 10 youngsters on her bus - a group that included her own children and Music's grandson.

Ronnie Blevins, the parent of three children who ride the bus, said the incident has been blown out of proportion.

But Beth Chapman, who also had three children on the bus, said she is upset with the bus driver and surprised that others don't share her feelings.

Laney reported the incident as soon as she returned to the bus garage, but rules forbid her from allowing anyone on the bus.

Until May makes his decision on her case, she remains suspended without pay.

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starting at

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This offer includes a complete eye exam and contact lens fitting plus a three month supply of clear, 2 week disposable contact lenses. Colored, Toric and Bifocal contacts are available for an additional cost. Some restrictions may apply. Appointments are recommended.

Coupon not required for this offer.

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our opinion

A word to freshman

The old saying, "hindsight is 20/20" is true.

As a senior looking back over the last four (or five) years of strolling, trudging, and crawling to class, it's suddenly easy to see opportunities missed. Be it finance, experience, or relationships, there are plenty of activities many a senior ends up wishing he or she had taken advantage of.

HOPE gets lost, fairs get missed, we don't speak up, class gets attended, and little by little we forget to try new things.

Keep HOPE as long as you can, but, for all that's holy, remember where you are. This is college – a time wherein one can do virtually anything and still have time to cover it up.

So, here's the real advice: Skip class every now and then. When you don't agree, speak up or yell. Try to get on the roofs of buildings. Make s'mores on campus. Go to public events, if for no better reason than to say, "I was there when Wofford lost 54-13." And, do what a tiny fraction of seniors can say they did: Find out what the school can do for you.

The Study Abroad Fair on the front page is a premium example. Imagine spending your first summer in college touring other countries.

But perhaps the most important words of wisdom a senior can impart on a freshman is a simple word about relationships. Try them. You're free, you're wild, and you've got four years before you have to get serious about anything. So take a chance. Go on a date, don't worry so much. After all, love will find us. But we can have a lot of fun while we wait.

letters to the editor

Alpha Phi Omega has lost its focus

It's a wonderful thing when one can take pride in their organization. However, sometimes that pride can transform itself into something less appealing: arrogance.

That is the case with Alpha Phi Omega, the co-ed community service fraternity here on Georgia Southern's campus. Throughout the past weeks it has become evident that the members of Alpha Phi Omega have lost their focus and become confused.

They have forgotten that they are a community service organization whose purpose is to assemble college students in a national service fraternity in fellowship of principles derived from the Scout Oath and the Law of the Boy Scouts of America.

As a member of a sorority in the Divine Nine it concerns me that these men have become so confused that they have forgotten their function. It appears to me that these men think that they are in a fraternity that belongs to the National Pan-Hellenic council.

The Divine Nine is comprised of: Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.; Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.; Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.; Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc.; Alpha Kappa Alpha, Sorority, Inc.; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.; and Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.

They have gotten so caught up in an unrealistic image that they actually believe they can compare to an organization that has been a beacon of light in the African-American community for decades.

As history tells us not many African-Americans attended college in the early 1900s. Not only did the founders of these organizations attend college, they took on the task of founding these organizations during a time when it was hard enough just to be in school.

Presently, the organizations that comprise the Divine Nine serve as pillars in the African-American community. Many powerful and respected icons in the African-American community are members of one of these organizations, and have impacted many lives through their membership.

In the Civil Rights era it was the members of these organizations that lead picket lines, sit-in demonstrations, and affected such change as the Brown vs. Board of Education decision. Leaders like Jesse Jackson, Bill Cosby, Thurgood Marshall, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, Shirley Chisholm, Maya Angelou, and Zora Neale Hurston have worn their letters with pride and esteem.

So, I ask you members of Alpha Phi Omega, if you want so badly to be a part of an organization that you have to mimic the long-standing tradition of another (by the way, thanks for the highest form of flattery), then why don't you just pledge the real thing.

Alpha Phi Omega, you need to improve your behavior and check your members. After all, isn't being friendly, courteous and kind the Boy Scout way?

Diane S. Thomas

Student feels wrongfully accused of traffic citation

Below is a statement of a situation that took place tonight of which I am truly outraged.

On the evening of Sunday, September 26, 2004, at approximately 11:30 p.m., I was pulled over by officer Holloway, badge number 230 of the Statesboro police.

As I approached the intersection of Georgia Avenue and Lanier Drive, the stoplight was green. Once I was maybe two meters from the stop bar, the stoplight changed from green to amber. There was no acceleration from my vehicle to indicate I was trying to beat the light because there was no need.

A few moments later I was approached by officer Holloway, who signaled me to pull over. I did so immediately across from the Fast and Easy on Lanier Rd. I pulled out my driver's license and vehicle registration from my glove box before he approached my vehicle.

When he arrived at my window I handed him my information as he asked the question, "Do you know why I am pulling you over?" I responded with "No, officer." Officer Holloway then hesitantly said, "You did not stop at the red light. As you turned the light was red." My passenger and I both responded by saying the stoplight was green, and as I was turning onto Lanier Drive it changed to amber.

I responded by saying the light was red so he would be right back. He returned with a citation for running a red light and the first thing he said was the fine is \$115 and is due on October 15, 2004. I responded by asking

when the court date was, and he replied with November 4. I then said I would see him in court as he smirked.

I asked for his full name as I signed the documentation and asked for a business card. He said he had none. I then said goodnight and left.

I am a parking and transportation officer on the Georgia Southern campus and I have knowledge of many rules of transportation. I have been a resident in Bulloch County for going on five and a half years, and, seeing that this has not been the first time have been pulled over for no good reason, I decided to take action.

As soon as I arrived home I sat at my computer and began to type out the situation so I could remember every detail while it was still fresh in my memory.

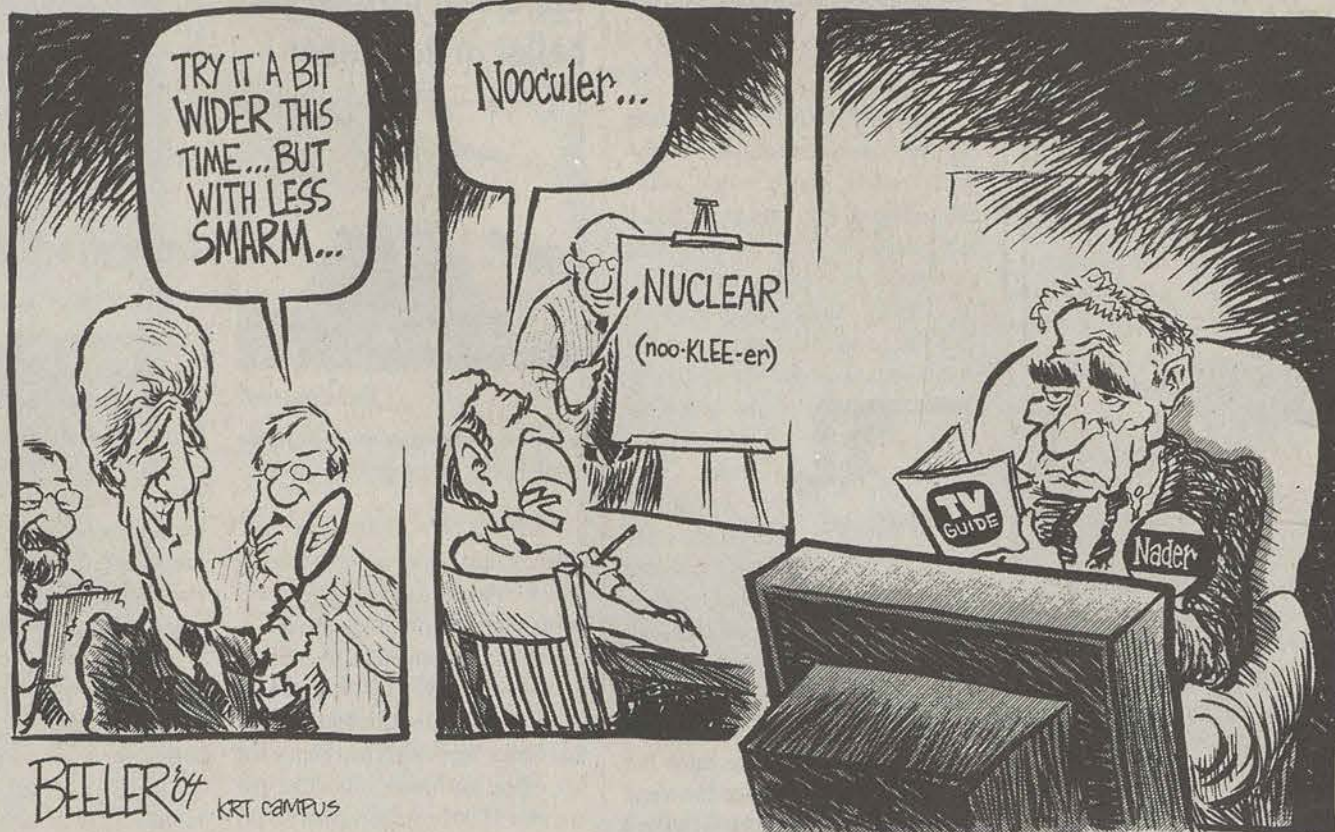
As a law-abiding citizen of this county I am outraged by the treatment by the police officers in this town. I get the point of making sure drivers abide by the law. Trust me, I know there are some crazy drivers around.

I have been writing citations for over a year, but it is people who do not follow the rules that should be punished. It is when the person whose job and duty it is to uphold the rules fails to do so with good judgment that parking officers or police officers get a bad name.

Eli Duval

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The Candidates RESEARCH for the DEBATES...



Is old media on the way out?

Yes

By Jay Rosen
KRT Campus

There's a revolution out there in media access. The key words in this upheaval are blogosphere and legacy media or old media. It used to be that when a citizen got steamed about something, a friend would say, "Write a letter to the editor." Sometimes the citizen did, and sometimes the letter was printed, but the point of saying, "Write a letter," was to remind the one with a grievance there are ways to speak out.

Today you might tell your friend, "Hey, start a Weblog." And anyone with a Net connection and a grievance can do just that. A Weblog, or blog for short, is just a personal page on the Web that is easily updated.

Having a blog is sorta like having your own column. And blogs have become extremely popular. There are 3 million of them on all subjects. Lately the political bloggers have entered the news in a big way.

Conservative blogs – some with 5,000 readers, others with 100,000 or more – helped in the recent knockdown of Dan Rather, one of the pillars of what some bloggers call the legacy media. Rather and company eventually had to apologize for a "60 Minutes" report on President Bush's military service that was apparently based on phony documents.

CBS had sworn to the legitimacy of the documents. But the bloggers had their doubts. As more and more of them examined the memos on the Internet, the vetting that was supposed to have been done at CBS was being done in the blogosphere. Any Web-savvy news intern would have seen the proof disintegrating online. But the network's powers-that-be seemed oblivious. The day after Rather broadcast the piece, his story was in trouble.

"I had serious suspicions about the authenticity of the documents on the morning after they were aired," said Michael Dobbs of The Washington Post, who began to check into the experts CBS had relied on. From there, the story unraveled. Bloggers kept the pressure on and other news organizations took a closer look.

Blogs have corrected a power imbalance that had given the citizen with a grievance few options beyond "vote the bums out" and "write a letter." Journalists have gotten used to a world where consumers of the news have choices. Now there's a new choice: Become a producer of news yourself, one of the checks and balances on big media.

Jay Rosen is chairman of the journalism department at New York University and author of PressThink.org, a Weblog. He wrote this for the New York Daily News.

No

By Al Tompkins
KRT Campus

It is good news that the public is so disappointed with CBS' handling of now questionable military service memos. The outcry says that the public still cares about the quality of so-called "old media," which I define to mean newspapers, TV stations and networks. When a Web site not affiliated with a newspaper or network prints a rumor that turns out to be wrong, we have come to dismiss such things as the fleas that come with the dog. You expect more from "old media" newsrooms. And you should. Our recent history has been filled with nearly heroic acts of journalistic excellence.

The Miami Herald and The Associated Press independently investigated the Florida elections to learn whether we can trust our government to conduct an honest presidential election.

CBS News, The Washington Post and The New Yorker reported the scandal at Abu Ghraib prison. Soon after the stories emerged, a Chicago Tribune poll found that half of all Americans favored restraints on the reporting of the prison abuse. Great media organizations act independently from public pressure, favoring the free flow of information instead.

The Boston Globe fearlessly investigated the scandal of sexual abuse by Catholic priests. Thousands of victims came forward. A cardinal, six bishops and three archbishops resigned.

"Old media" journalists risk their lives to see with their own eyes what is happening in Iraq and Afghanistan. More than a dozen have died.

"Old media" journalists in the Darfur region of Sudan provide firsthand accounts about the horrors of ethnic cleansing. Last week, "old media" journalists waded through the putrid floodwaters of Haiti to document more than 1,000 Haitian deaths.

The best things "old media" do are extensive and expensive. It is work that produces more light than heat.

"Old media" journalism is vital to a democracy when it observes, verifies, provides context, offers analysis, clarifies, explains and appropriately comforts or alarms us. Journalists do not pander to or protect a secret special interest. Responsible news organizations provide many truths, not just those truths that serve their interests.

Without those principles, it doesn't much matter who is talking, writing or blogging. You can't trust it and it ain't worth spit.

Al Tompkins is group leader for broadcast and online journalism and a faculty member at The Poynter Institute. He wrote this for the New York Daily News.

Own your education: Seek scholarships to counter tuition increases

By Anne Kim
KRT Campus

"I'm broke."

That's a phrase college students everywhere have uttered in a whining or worried tone at least once since entering the luminous halls of the ivory tower.

This phrase, however, might hold a more dire meaning for students and parents during the coming years as tuition continues to rise.

Tuition and fees at four-year public colleges and universities increased an average of more than 14 percent nationally last year from the 2002-2003 school year, according to the College Board.

In Washington state in the past 10 years, according to the Washington Higher Educa-

tion Coordinating Board, tuition and fees at public research universities have shot up an astounding 89 percent. Ditto for community colleges.

These shocking numbers should cause students either to revolt with pickets in hand or to rush to apply for scholarships and grants to help cover rising costs.

Yet, hearing from several other students, they aren't aggressively pursuing these options. Instead, many are taking out more loans, working part-time, or their parents are picking up the slack – all necessary options, yet better alternatives exist.

College students need to take more financial ownership of their education by taking advantage of the many scholarship opportunities out

there. They should view applying for scholarships as their annual responsibility, which can relieve some of the burden from parents and their own future budgets.

Higher education is expensive. That's common knowledge.

Indeed, students should expect to take out some loans and/or to work part-time to help pay for the rising costs. Yet only a few people I know actually apply for scholarships habitually. Students aren't aggressively pursuing these opportunities as they should.

For example, the Washington Promise Scholarship – a merit- and need-based scholarship – alone will dispense more than \$6 million

See KIM, Page 5

THE GEORGE-ANNE STAFF

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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 250 words or less, 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. 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.

Judge tosses suit asking Moore to pay fees in monument case



Special Photo

Former Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore.

By **Kyle Wingfield**
Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. - A judge dismissed a lawsuit demanding that ousted Chief Justice Roy Moore pay \$550,000 in attorneys' fees for the groups that sued to have his Ten Commandments monument removed from the state judicial building.

The order by Circuit Judge Tracy McCooney, which attorneys received Tuesday, said the 10 citizens who filed the suit had no legal standing to seek the recovery of spent state funds.

McCooney's order did not explain the dismissal, but plaintiffs' attorney David Gespass said she indicated that "the governor is the only person who would have a right in her view to recover money wrongfully spent by a state official."

Gespass said an appeal to the Alabama Supreme Court was likely because there was little or no case law on the subject.

The plaintiffs - ranging from atheists to pastors - claimed that Moore had used arguments "calculated to lose" in his defense of the 5,300-pound monument. They did not explain why Moore would want to lose the case, but contended he knew his defense of the marker as an acknowledgment of God was doomed to fail.

Three groups - the American Civil Liberties Union, Southern Poverty Law Center and Americans United for Separation of Church and State - sued Moore within months of his placing the monument in the rotunda of the state courthouse.

A federal judge ruled that the monument was an unconstitutional endorsement of religion by government and ordered it removed.

Moore refused and, after being overruled by his colleagues on the Supreme Court, was expelled from office for violating judicial ethics canons.

After the case ended, the three groups asked the judge to award them attorneys' fees. They settled with the state on fees of \$550,000.

Moore claimed the state should have refused to pay any attorneys' fees in the case and that it was not his duty to reimburse the state for the fees.

"There was no legal basis for this action and the court recognized that," Moore said in a statement Tuesday.

Seven hostages released in Iraq

Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Kidnappers released two female Italian aid workers and five other hostages Tuesday, raising hopes for foreigners still in captivity.

But insurgents showed no sign of easing their blood-soaked campaign against the U.S. presence in Iraq, staging a show of defiance in Samarra and striking twice with deadly force in Basra.

Three Egyptian telecommunications workers abducted last week were among those freed Tuesday, their parent company, Orascom, announced in Cairo.

A fourth Egyptian in the group was released Monday and two others remain hostage.

Wavering voters anti-Iraq, wary of Kerry

Associated Press

WASHINGTON - In an election where most voters have already chosen sides, the presidency could be decided by a small slice of America in the mushy middle - wavering voters who are more likely than others to question President Bush's honesty and think the war in Iraq was a mistake.

An Associated Press study of 1,329 "persuadable" voters, conducted by Knowledge Networks in advance of the presidential debates, suggests these people are deeply conflicted about change in the White House.

While they have problems with Bush, they also have doubts about Democratic Sen. John Kerry's leadership skills and believe Bush is best suited to protect the nation.

ABROAD, FROM PAGE 1

ferred, with special concentrations in quite a few areas of study.

Financial aid can cover most of the cost for study abroad programs. HOPE scholarships, loans and grants that are available for summer classes at GSU also apply to study abroad programs. Some scholarships are available for students that have never traveled abroad. Also, the European Council is offering forty-five \$500 scholarships for study abroad.

Financial Aid Counselors, like Margaret Pigatt-Lanier, will work with you to help you find financial aid opportunities that can fund your trip. "We do everything that we can to help students," she said, "The money

is out there, and it's just a matter of finding what each individual student is eligible to receive. A lot of students are surprised. A good time to begin considering financial aid is right now."

Every student who had been abroad and was at the study abroad fair was enthusiastic about the experience.

Elizabeth Farley, who spent six weeks in Segovia, Spain, said, "You really cannot replace the experience of being abroad and getting to know other cultures. If you have to be stuck here in the summer, going to school, why not just do it in another country?"

KIM, FROM PAGE 4

to students in 2004 in Washington state. But according to Kris Betker at the Higher Education Coordinating Board, out of 10,000 students identified and invited as eligible to apply, only 4,300 actually submitted applications.

Loans are a popular option since they are readily offered and easily accessible. Nationally, the average student loan debt has increased 66 percent since 1997, according to Nellie Mae's 2002 National Student Loan Survey.

And, of course, these loans accumulate. The average student at a public college in the U.S. takes out \$16,000 in federal loans by the time he or she graduates from college. Students who attend private colleges take out an average of \$18,000 by graduation.

That's a significant amount of money to repay and not exactly something to look forward to with the limited job opportunities new grads are facing in today's economy.

So, why are students increasingly indebting themselves when other sources of funding are available? Are students just lazy?

Hearing from several college students-to-be, applying for scholarships is just too much work. They're

competitive and require essays and paperwork. How tragic.

Yet, especially for students who have their eye on graduate education, taking out more loans than are absolutely necessary isn't a smart long-term plan.

Forty-two percent of borrowers who opted not to attend graduate school said their already existing debt had a significant influence on their decision, according to a Nellie Mae survey.

Loans are a necessary and beneficial way to pay for one's education, but students shouldn't depend on them. They need to push themselves to actively pursue grants and scholarships. In doing so, they truly will own their education.

ON THE WEB

Read about financial aid and scholarship information online.

Fast Web: www.fastweb.com

College Board: www.collegeboard.com

Department of Education: www.ed.gov/finaid

Anne Kim is a writer for NEXT, a Sunday opinion page in The Seattle Times, and a senior at the University of Washington majoring in English literature. E-mail: NEXT@seattletimes.com.

LECTURE, FROM PAGE 1

to a stunning \$5,440 per person. However, the number of rural hospitals is on a decline. According to Vollmer, people are spending less time in hospitals. Where is our money going?

Vollmer said the many hard-earned dollars are going into current technology, such as computerized axial tomography (CAT) scans, positron emission tomography (PET) scans, and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) equipment.

The Health Management Association (HMA) tries to ensure that rural hospitals will be furnished with such equipment to provide everyone with top-notch medical benefits. One of the HMA's hospitals, East Georgia Regional Medical Center, is located right here in Statesboro.

Hopefully citizens will agree that having such adequate care will balance out with the extra money spent.

The life expectancy of males in the U.S. has risen in twelve years from 71.8 years to 74.7 years.

Average female life expectancy statistics have risen from 78.8 years to 79.9 years. Also, because the care provided is

more efficient, hospital visits will not be as lengthy.

"Your organization is only as good as your last satisfied patient," said Mr. Vollmer while trying to emphasize the importance of improving health conditions in the rural southern United States.

He has human compassion and a strong sense of community.

This attitude is certainly needed in times such as these. Perhaps this is why he was the youngest CEO in his corporation, and the key to why he is so successful.

Vollmer believes that financial trouble will be the most crucial. The quality of health care will also certainly be an issue, as well as legal disputes placed upon hospitals. Vollmer closed his thoughts by advising GSU students to "Make your education work for you."

This lecture was possible because of the late Mr. Norman Fries, founder of Claxton Poultry. A very successful entrepreneur, Fries committed his life to poultry production and was successful as a result. He placed heavy emphasis on education and society.

STATE, FROM PAGE 1

disaster is going on."

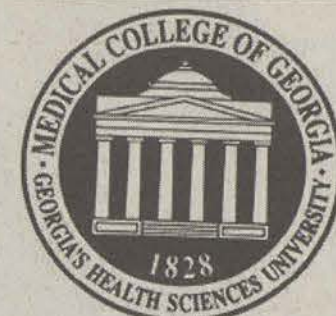
GEMA is in charge of disaster response but it's a relatively small agency of about 90 people. "We don't have the dump trucks, the fire trucks. But we know the state assets and where they are and we coordinate with the state agencies."

Costs such as those accrued by Red Cross-approved shelters and overtime pay for government disaster workers would be covered by federal disaster declarations.

On Tuesday, Perdue visited Lowndes, Charlton and Brantley counties in south Georgia - surveying areas where the storm did the most damage. He said he was impressed with the way neighbors pulled together there and how county and city officials and law enforcement worked to help those in need.

"Spirits are high," Perdue said. "You could see the spirit of America pulling together."

Perdue said he plans to lobby Congress for funds to help south Georgia pecan farmers, whose crops were damaged by the storm.



Healthy Women Needed for Cervical Cancer Prevention Study

Women age 15 to 25 with no history of treatment for cervical disease you may qualify to participate in a study to determine the safety and effectiveness of a vaccine intended to prevent HPV infection. HPV causes genital warts and abnormal Pap smears and may cause cervical cancer.

Benefits of the study include free gynecologic care for four years. Participants will be paid. All study visits will take place at Georgia Southern's Student Health Services.

For more information, please contact:

Medical College of Georgia
Department of Family Medicine

Angela Richardson
Project Manager
arichardson@mail.mcg.edu

Lynn Allmond, RN, FNP
Nurse Practitioner
lallmond@mail.mcg.edu

Call Toll free (877) 643-1414
Principal Investigator: Daron Ferris, M.D.

REFLECTOR

yearbook archive

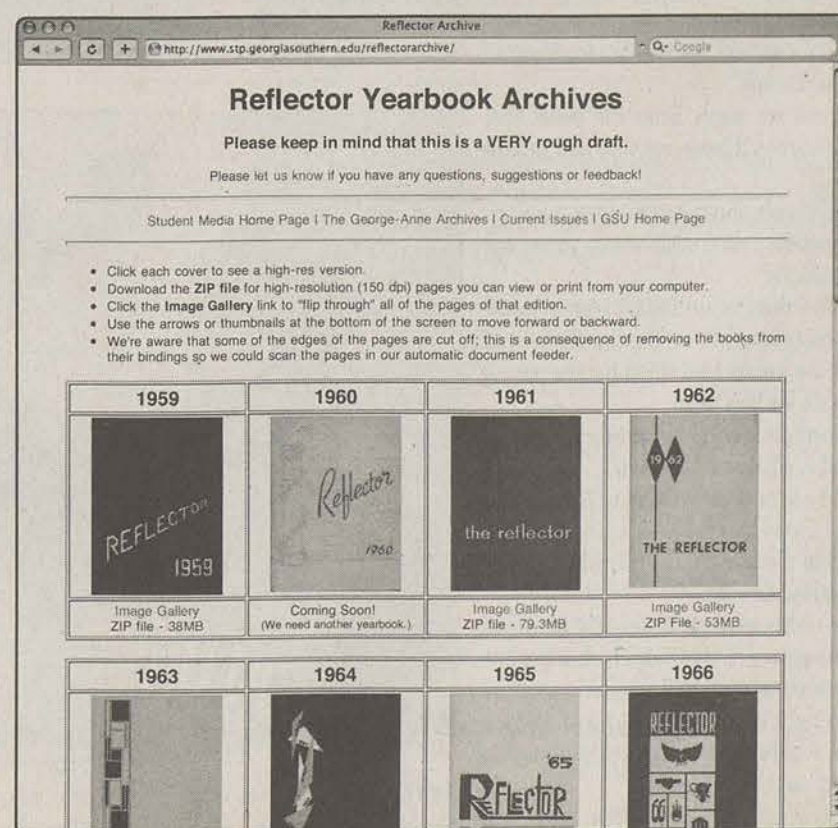
<http://www.stp.georgiasouthern.edu/reflectorarchive/>

We've begun archiving old editions of The Reflector yearbook!

Come by our site and see what the campus looked like 40 years ago!

You can view the covers, "flip-through" the pages and even download high-resolution images you can view and print on your computer!

Check back often, as we're adding new editions every day!



Georgia Southern's
arts and literature magazine
This semester's theme:

INJUSTICE

Stories, poems, essays, photographs, paintings, drawings, sculptures, collage, and other art will be accepted and reviewed for publication.

Submission information and applications are available at the Williams Center, room 2009.

Deadline for submissions:
October 15, 2004 by 2:00 p.m.

For more information, contact:
miscmag@georgiasouthern.edu

SPOTLIGHT ON

Trey Hunter

By Thomas Semans
tsemans@georgiasouthern.edu

Trey Hunter is coming into his fourth year as a letterman for the Georgia Southern Football team and his third year for the Georgia Southern Baseball team.

Trey returns for his senior season as the backup signal caller under Chaz Williams and is one of seventeen seniors returning for the Eagles. He signed with Georgia Southern in the Fall of 2000 and was redshirted for his freshman year. Hunter took over the backup role in 2002 and Trey has seen increased playing time ever since. Hunter played in all 11 games last season and has played in all 4 contests this year. Standing at 5'10, weighing 181 pounds, Trey has impressed the Georgia Southern coaching staff with his 4.6 second 40 time, his 325 pound bench press, and a strong accurate throwing arm. Trey's speed and strength make him a threat to run or pass at any moment. At this point in the Eagles season, Hunter has completed seven out of 11 passes for 103 yards and one touchdown. He has also rushed for 125 yards and two touchdowns on 21 attempts.

The Eagles have opened the 2004 season with a 3-1 record and a 2-0 record in Southern Conference play. The Eagles return to Paulson Stadium this weekend

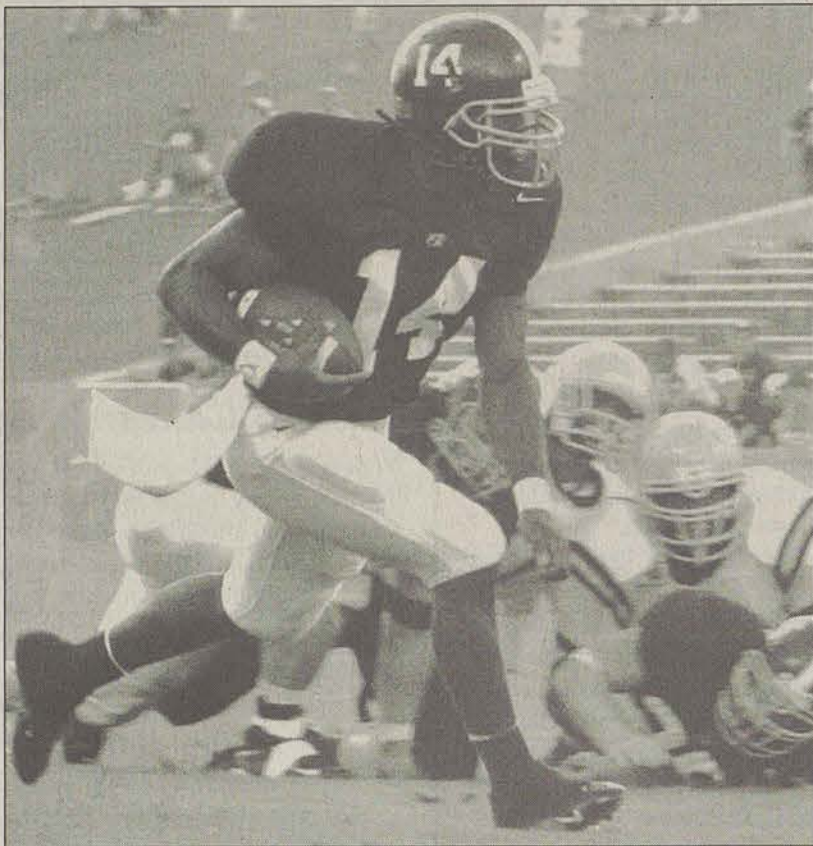
to face Elon at 1 p.m. on Saturday, October 2.

Trey speaks on the potential for the season saying, "We just have to take it one game at a time and to continue to play to the best of our abilities." When asked how he managed to play two sports at Georgia Southern, Trey states, "Football ends before baseball begins so it is not a problem." He admits that he has little free time but he still manages the conditioning and workouts for each sport.

Besides being a strong influence on the field, Trey also excels in the classroom. He is a Sport Management major and maintains a 3.0 GPA.

When asked about his plans for the future, he stated, "I'm concentrating on football now. I'll concentrate on baseball in the Spring. I'm just concentrating on getting our team back to Chattanooga."

Come out to watch Trey Hunter and all of our Georgia Southern Eagles this Saturday as they take on Elon at Paulson.



Trey Hunter rushes in for a touchdown.

LaVene Bell/STAFF

Newman wins at Dover; Jeff Gordon takes over NEXTEL cup lead in series

By Dick Brinster
AP Sports Writer

DOVER, Del. - Jeff Gordon has the lead in the Nextel Cup series, and after four series championships he's proven to be a great closer.

So, he's certainly a force to be reckoned with the rest of the way - a driver filled with confidence as the NASCAR circuit heads to Talladega Superspeedway.

"Obviously, we have some momentum," Gordon said after taking the series lead Sunday while Ryan Newman was winning at Dover International Speedway. "We finished seventh last week, third this week. That speaks for itself."

Newman has a plan to win the title even though the mathematics make that seem very unlikely.

"If we can finish in the top five in the last nine races, I can pretty much guarantee us a championship," he said. "But we can't finish 33rd, first and then 33rd."

He certainly can't, given Gordon's 107-point advantage with eight races remaining. Newman is playing catch-up because engine failure relegated him to a 33rd-place finish a week earlier in New Hampshire.

"But this is a big step in the right direction," he said of his victory in the MBNA America 400. "We'll just do the best that we possibly can, and if we don't deserve it then we won't get it."

Gordon agrees with Newman's assessment that consistency will win the title. He isn't that concerned with wins.

"What more can you ask for than top-fives every weekend," Gordon said. "That would do it."

He also believes Newman remains a threat, saying that one bad race should not knock a team out of championship contention.

Newman's optimism stems from the belief that practically every team will have one very bad race in the final 10.

"We've got to forget about today right now," he said. "If you're spending time celebrating, you're not spending time working."

Gordon finished third behind Mark Martin in the race and is one point ahead of Kurt Busch, who wound up fifth and lost the points lead when he was passed by Dale Jarrett with six laps to go.

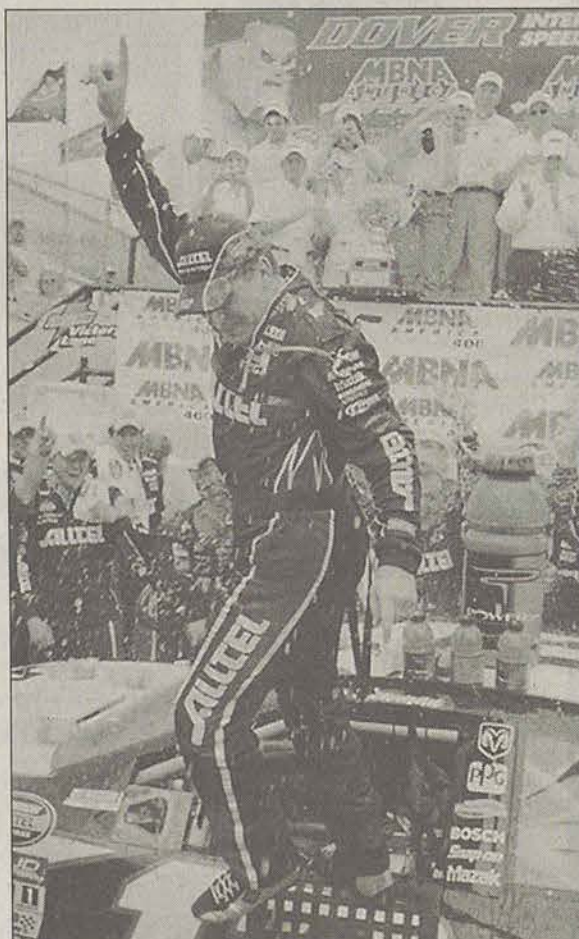
"I thought we might have a shot at Mark," Gordon said. "But we had nothing for Newman."

New Hampshire winner Busch came to The Monster Mile tied for the series lead with Dale Earnhardt Jr., who fell to third in the title chase by finishing ninth. He's 18 points behind Gordon.

Although he didn't make a large gain, Newman demonstrated the power of his Dodge by leading 325 of 400 laps. Newman, who started second, was ahead by a half-lap for much of the final quarter of the race with the margin reduced only because a caution flag bunched the field on the 327th lap.

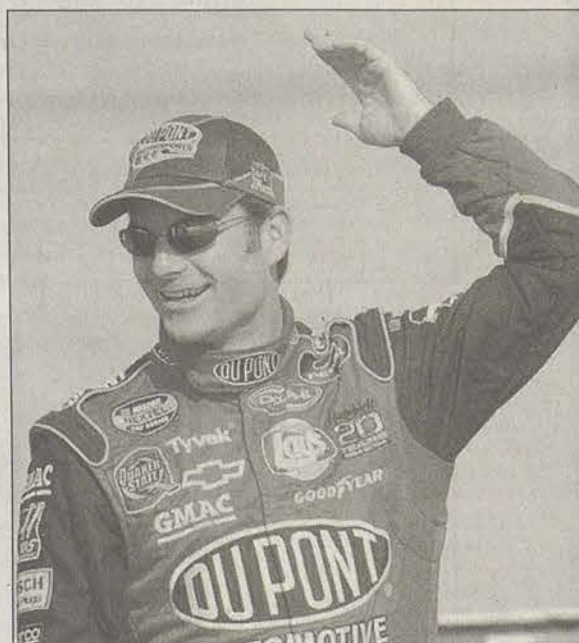
Newman's victory in the \$5.4 million event was

See NASCAR, Page 8



Ryan Newman jumps out of his car as he celebrates his win at the NASCAR MBNA America 400 at the Dover International Speedway in Dover, Del., Sunday, Sept. 26, 2004.

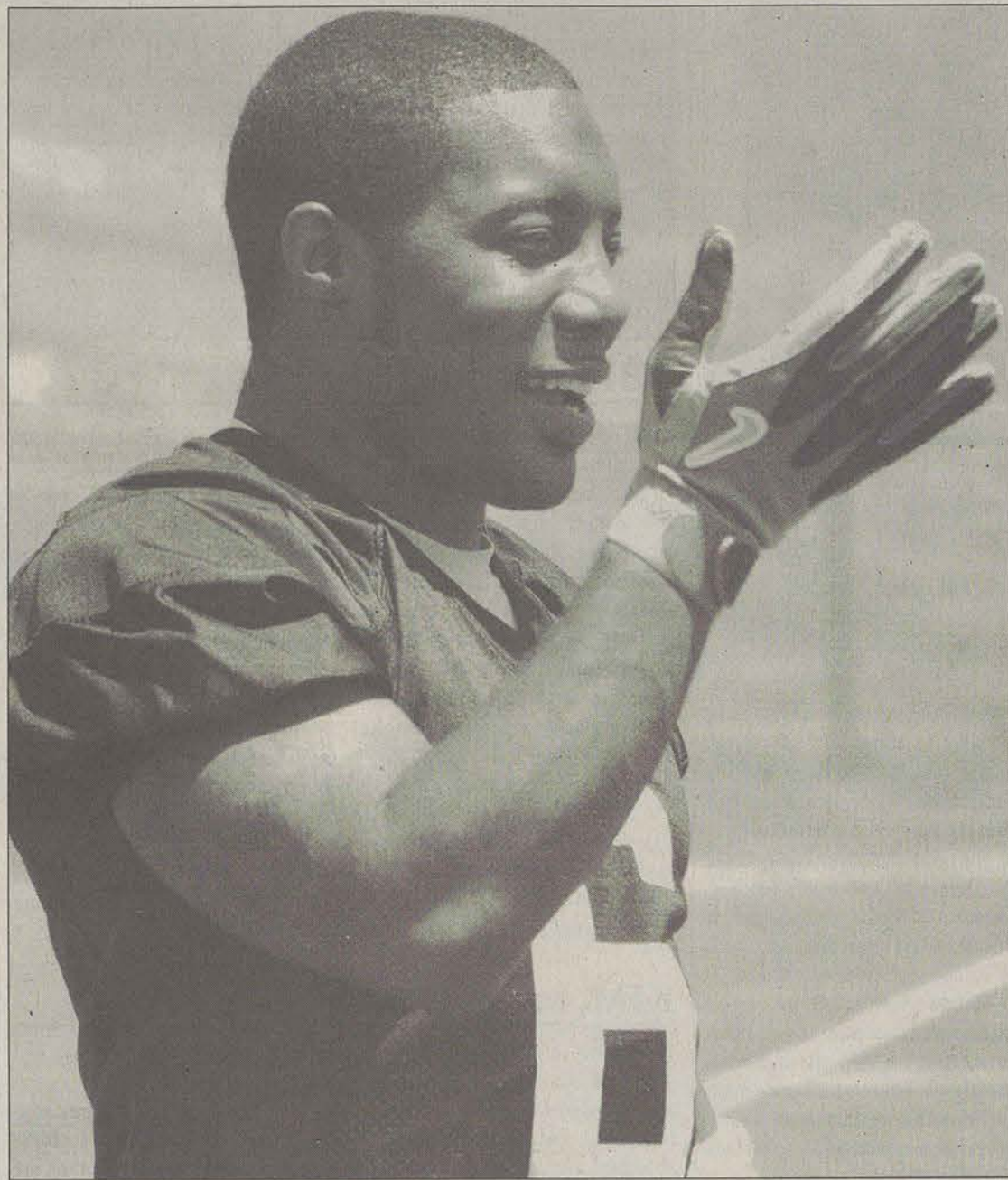
Chris Gardner/AP Photo



Jeff Gordon (24) talks with a friend prior to qualifying for the NASCAR Nextel Cup MBNA 400 at Dover International Speedway in Dover, Del., Friday, Sept. 24, 2004.

Pat Crowe II/AP Photo

Austin named SoCon Offensive Player of the Week



Jermaine Austin

LaVene Bell/STAFF

GSU Athletics Media Relations

SPARTANBURG, SC - The Southern Conference today named its football players of the week for games played on Saturday, September 25.

Fullback Jermaine Austin of Georgia Southern was named the Offensive Player of the Week, Furman linebacker William Freeman has been named the Defensive Player of the Week and Wofford cornerback Brian Kemp earned the Freshman of the Week award.

Austin, a 5-8, 205-pound junior from Darien, Ga. (McIntosh County HS) rushed for 167 yards on just eight carries in the Eagles' 51-17 win at Chattanooga.

Austin had two touchdown runs, of one and 63 yards, and averaged 20.9 yards per carry. He also had a second run of 63 yards in the game.

Freeman, a 6-2, 223-pound junior linebacker from Swansea, S.C., won his second consecutive Player of the Week honor.

Freeman recorded a career-high

15 tackles in Furman's 41-38 overtime loss at Pittsburgh on Saturday. He also collected three tackles for loss and two sacks for a loss of 20 yards while also forcing a fumble.

Kemp, a 5-11, 175-pound redshirt freshman from Bowling Green, Fla., returned an interception 55 yards for a touchdown in Wofford's 56-0 shutout of Johnson C. Smith.

Kemp had a team-high five tackles including four solos, as the Terrier defense held Smith to just six first downs and 90 yards of total offense.

Also receiving consideration for Offensive Player of the Week were Appalachian State wide receiver DaVon Fowlkes who had 191 receiving yards, four touchdowns and 274 all-purpose yards in a 40-35 loss at Northwestern State; wide receiver Isaac West of Furman who caught seven passes for 127 yards, returned four kickoffs for 109 yards and also threw a 43-yard touchdown pass; Wofford running back Kevious Johnson who rushed

for 57 yards and two touchdowns in the Terriers' win over Johnson C. Smith, and Elon running back John Taylor who rushed for 154 yards in a loss at North Carolina A&T.

On defense, other nominees included Elon linebacker Mike Sheley who posted a career-high 17 tackles and five tackles for loss against the Aggies; Appalachian State safety Nygel Rogers who picked up 21 tackles against Northwestern State; Georgia Southern safety A.J. Bryant who made nine tackles in the win over Chattanooga; Western Carolina linebacker Jada Sullivan who made 11 tackles in a loss at Gardner-Webb, and safety Shawn Grant of The Citadel who made seven tackles and picked up a sack in a loss at Auburn.

Elon quarterback Kye Hamilton, who completed 16 of 27 passes for 127 yards against North Carolina A&T, also received consideration for Freshman of the Week honors.

Golf finishes second at Adams Cup

GSU Athletics Media Relations

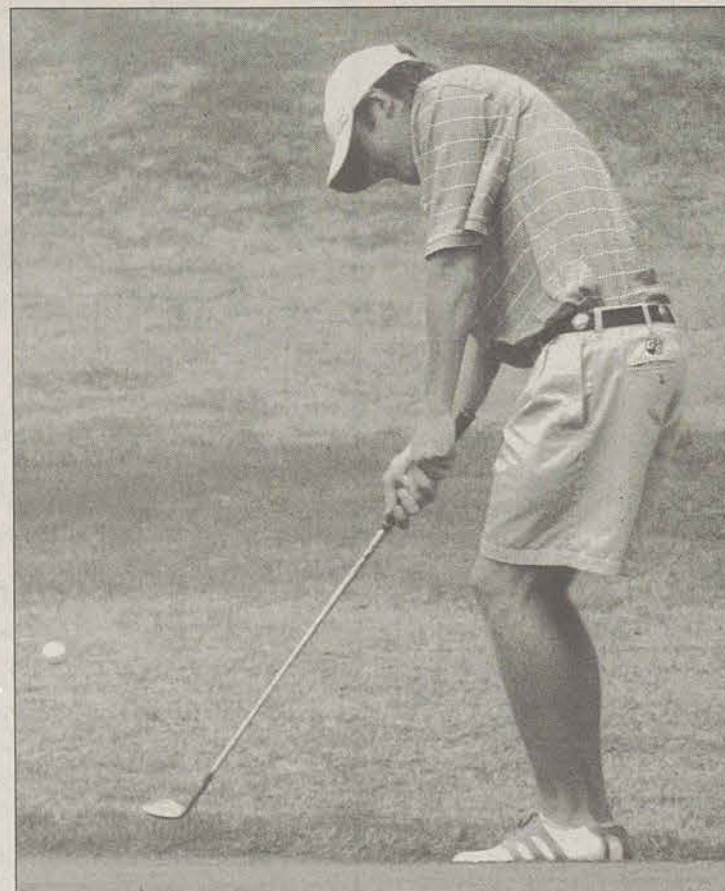
NEWPORT, R.I. - Georgia Southern saw a final day comeback bid ended by weather as the Eagles finished second at the 2004 Adams Cup being held at Newport National Golf Club Tuesday.

Trailing by nine strokes entering the final day of play, the Eagles were the only team under par in the final round when fog halted play and eventually caused a cancellation of the final round of the tournament.

With the final round cancelled, the final scores reverted back to Monday's two-round total, giving Michigan State a nine-stroke victory over the Eagles, who tallied a two-round score of 584 (+8). The total was originally a 12 stroke margin, by Michigan State's Ryan Brehm was disqualified Tuesday morning for signing the wrong card after Monday's second round of action.

The cancellation also gave Eagle junior Jon David Kennedy his first career victory. Kennedy carded a six-under 138 through the first two rounds and defeated Indiana's Jeff Overton by one stroke.

Senior Aron Price also tallied a top ten finish, compiling a 145 (+1) to complete the tournament tied for ninth. Meanwhile, junior



Hillary Jones/STAFF

Senior Aron Price chips onto the green yesterday at the Adams Cup.

Drew Bowen finished tied for 13th with a three-over 147, freshman David Palm completed the tournament in 37th with a 154 (+10) and senior Chase Jones was tied

for 58th with a 159 (+15).

The Eagles return to action Friday, October 8 when they open play in the Franklin Street Trust Invitational in Chapel Hill, N.C.

Crossword

ACROSS
1 God of love
5 Ship's tiller
9 Drips and
14 Latvian capital
15 Felipe or Moises
of baseball
16 Rent anew
17 Irons and
woods
19 Solo
20 Guided
21 Most tense
23 Exploitive one
25 Printers'
measures
26 Driving force
30 And so forth
35 Cook in an oven
36 Hockey or
curling
37 Angeles
38 Puccini song
39 Hasten
40 Navajo neighbor
41 Age proofs,
briefly
42 Tierney and
Kelly
43 Had aspirations
44 Unnecessary
46 Move backward
47 Moray
48 Excessively
acid
50 Navigation
device
54 In the midst of
59 Vidalia veggie
60 Incorrect
62 Steady throb
63 Stadium level
64 Capital of Italia
65 Invited
66 Brick carriers
67 Aroma

DOWN
1 Work units
2 Public disorder
3 Eye lewdly
4 Out of danger
5 Most robust
6 Dodge
7 High shot
8 Ponder
9 Sergeant
Friday's show
10 Fernize anew

Solutions

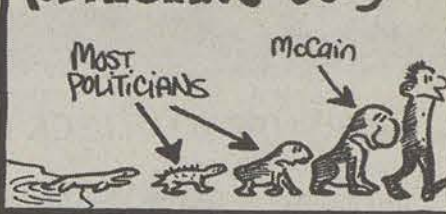
1000 SCOOB GEXSV
WVON WAIL ESTND
SNOONOHU NOINO
LSNOWNV SSVWOC
30003 SSSTOQEN
QEOH SENO SOI
IDOH AHHH VIVR
SOT IHOIS ISVOH
VREJOE ISNHU
ENOTV SNTOTOD
LETRB NOTOFOR
SBVHO WTEH VOHE

46 Currency of
gossip
49 Scullied
50 Manilow's
nightclub
51 Burden
52 Moo juice
53 Adam's third son
55 Actor Franco
56 Well-behaved
57 Japanese
wrestling
58 Russian ruler
61 Grande



MAN... I CANNOT
IMAGINE WHAT
IT'S LIKE TO BE JOHN
MCCAIN...

I MEAN, HERE'S THIS
RELATIVELY STAND-
UP GUY (AS FAR AS
POLITICIANS GO...)



HE'S A "MODERATE" REPUBLICAN WHO RAN
AGAINST GEE DUBYA IN THE REPUBLICAN PRIMARY
IN 2000...



THE SENATOR IS A
FORMER P.O.W. FROM
THE VIETNAM WAR...

...THE FIRST VICTIM
OF BUSH SUPPORTERS'
WAR ON VIETNAM VETS.



MCCAIN HAD TO ENDURE
RUMORS THAT IN-
CLUDED ACCUSATIONS OF
ABANDONING FELLOW
VIETNAM WAR VETS &
FATHERING AN ILLEGIT-
IMATE CHILD WITH A
PROSTITUTE...

...& NOW HE'S SHILLING
FOR THIS CLOWN IN
FRONT OF THE WORLD...



AHH... POLITICS. I CAN'T
WAIT TO SEE WHAT
HAPPENS WHEN JENNA
BUSH TAKES ON AN
IRAQI VET IN 2036...



20 Announcements

FEELING SAD blue be-
cause no one attends your
club meetings? Put an ad in *The George-Anne*
classified section and
fill those empty seats! Just
Rip Us Off, it's free!

HAVE A special friend or
significant other with an
upcoming birthday? Show
your love by announcing
to the world that it's their
birthday! Place an ad in the
G-A today.

WISHING JACKELYN Ray a
Happy 21st Birthday from
somebody who really
cares!

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to sell your old one? Place
an ad in *The George-Anne*
and 15,000 people are
going to read about it.

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\$1500 OBO. Call 912-541-
6134.

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4dr, auto, blue, runs good,
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PW, PDL, CD, \$2500 obo.
Call 912-687-5551.

1998 GEO PRIZM: 84K,
Excellent condition, beige,
auto, cool A/C, 4-door, tape
player, Good tires, \$3,000.
Call 912-784-5717.

2000 TOYOTA Celica GT,
blue, 64k miles, power eve-
rything, CD player, great
condition. Asking \$10,000
but no less than \$9,000.
Call 688-7938 for informa-
tion.

50 Auto Parts, Repair

BRAND NEW 18x7.5
chrome rims, 4 lug (2 differ-
ent bolt patterns), came off
Honda civic. No tires, \$750
OBO. Call 912-682-2762.

55 Books - Swap or Sell

NEED TO sell old books?
Buy new ones? Place an
ad in *The George-Anne*
and take care of the book
situation. Stop by the Wil-
liams Center, room 2023
for details.

60 Business Opportunities

SPECIAL REMINDER: time
spent at the career center
is inversely proportionate
to the time spent living in
your parent's basement. To
learn more, call 681-5197
today!

70 Child Care

NEED A babysitter? Place
an ad in *The George-Anne*
classified section, and we
promise, one of the 16,000
students on this campus will
respond.

NEED A babysitter? I love
kids and would love to baby-
sit for you! Call Jacinda at
489-6639.

75 Churches

DOES YOUR church have
student services or meet-
ings? Place an ad in *The George-Anne* and new
members might join.

80 Computers & Software

WANTED: KEYBOARD,
mouse and speakers for
laptop. Black or gray, USB
compatible. Call 688-3013
with price of items to sell.

90 Education

FUN & STUFF Visit our
Web site for list of things
to do that are educational
and fun.
<http://www.stp.georgia-southern.edu/funstuff/>

100 Etcetera

SUBLEASER NEEDED for
spring '05. Campus Club,
pool side, all utilities includ-
ed. Will work w/ rent. Fully
furnished. Call 912-663-
5259 for info.

ACTORS AND Actresses

Needed, Major Studio Pro-
duction Filming in Savan-
nah October 30th. Good
Pay. E-mail Tony @ GSUS-
TUMEDIAPR@hotmail.com.

SUBLEASE APT. One bed,
\$295 per month. No de-
posit required. Contact Jamar
at 912-541-4106. Stadium
Place, spacious bedroom,
in nice complex, available
as soon as possible.

120 Furniture & Appliances

TWIN MATTRESS with col-
apsible frame and sheets.
\$150 obo. Call 871-6574.

140 Help Wanted

AMERICA READS needs
your help! If you enjoy
helping children and are
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ACTORS AND Actresses
needed. Major studio pro-
duction filming in Savannah
October 30th. Good pay.
E-mail Tony at GSUSTUME-
DIAPR@hotmail.com.

150 Lost & Found

LOSE SOMETHING? Find
it by placing an ad in *The G-A* today.

160 Miscellaneous for Sale

NEED TO sell something...
anything? Put it in *The George-Anne's* classified
section. One man's trash is
another man's treasure.
CALL ME 912-687-3126. I

have T720 Parts Package;
one gray swivel phone clip
and two back and front
faceplates, one clear, one
maroon all \$20.

SPACE AVAILABLE in local
storage unit for only \$23 a
month. My furniture only
takes up half. Call 912-656-
2490 for more info.

170 Motorcycle

MOTORCYCLE HELMET
for sale. Fulmer AF 65-DOT
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\$60. Call Linda 912-681-
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for sale with hard case.
Almost brand new. Asking
price \$300 comes with a
small amplifier. Call 912-
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month @ Garden District.
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private upstairs 2 bed/1 bath,
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JJ @ 912-228-0280.

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a roommate in no time.

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to do that are both educa-
tional and fun. On-line at
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DITHERED TWITS by Stan Waling

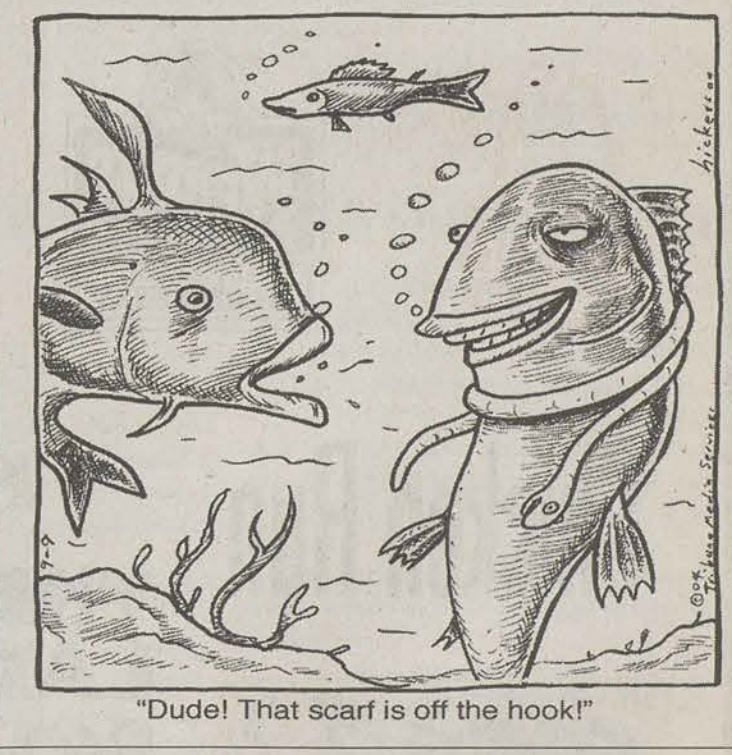


"Hey, aren't you that Ralphie dude
I use to pick on in high school?"

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People who were NOT awarded
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"Dude! That scarf is off the hook!"

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The George-Anne is the of-
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Georgia Southern University,
owned and operated by
GSU students and utilizing
the facilities provided by
GSU. The newspaper is the
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Bulloch County and States-
boro, Ga. The ideas ex-
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staff of Georgia Southern
University, or the University
System of Georgia. The
George-Anne is published
three times weekly (Mon-
day-Wednesday-Thursday)
during the academic year
and six times during
summers. Any questions
regarding content should
be directed to the editor at
by phone at 912/681-5246
or fax at 912/486-7113.
Readers may access the
newspaper and its archives
staff by visiting our web

site at <http://www.stp.georgiasouthern.edu>.

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The George-Anne screens
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per strives to accept ads for
legitimate products and
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particularly those which re-
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other personal information,
or money in advance of
the delivery of a product or
service. Students are also
urged to report to the news-
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which they might see in an
ad. Remember, if an offer
seems too good to be true,
it probably is.

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EXCEPTIONS.

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Center. The George-Anne,
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Statesboro, Ga. 30460.
912/681-5246 (News) or
912/681-5418 (Advertising)
or 912/486-7113 (Fax);
912/681-0069 (adviser).

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ADVERTISING INFORMATION

The George-Anne reserves
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giasouthern.edu; or Bill
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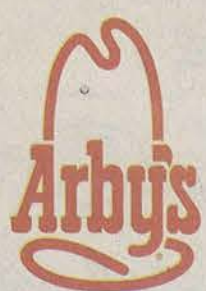
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The
GEORGE-ANNE
Wednesday, September 29, 2004

University of South Carolina treats 800 to halt meningitis

By Ellyde Roko
KRT Campus

A first-year University of South Carolina student remained hospitalized in intensive care Tuesday.

Eight-hundred students received antibiotics as a precaution after the freshman was diagnosed with bacterial meningitis, a contagious and potentially fatal disease, a university spokesman said Tuesday.

Kirkland Darby, a 19-year-old student from Georgetown, S.C., was admitted to Palmetto Health Baptist on Monday, said his stepfather, Charles Ragsdale.

Darby was briefly in a coma, but had made progress by Tuesday afternoon, Ragsdale said.

"He's saying a few words, and the doctor is very encouraged. It's looking better every hour that he'll make a full recovery."

It is unclear when or how Darby contracted the disease.

But the type of meningitis Darby has is the most serious form, said Terry King, director of clinical services for the Thomson Student Health Center at USC.

It progresses rapidly, but can be treated by antibiotics if caught early, he said.

In addition, there is a vaccine for the disease, which is called meningococcal meningitis and is caused by the *Neisseria meningitidis* bacterium. However, the vaccine takes up to two weeks to take effect.

By Tuesday, about 800 students who might have come in contact with Darby were given a precautionary antibiotic, said USC spokesman Russ McKinney.

The school targeted students with whom Darby might have had direct contact within a week before his diagnosis — those in his dorm, in the fraternity he was pledging and at the tailgate party he attended before Saturday's football game.

Bacterial meningitis can be spread by coughing, sneezing or prolonged close contact, including kissing or sharing the same utensils, said Dr. Jerry Gibson, state epidemiologist with the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control.

"I was really scared," said Karissa Lindsay, a freshman who also lives in LaBorde. "I knew about meningitis. I didn't think there would be an outbreak."

Lindsay said her doctor did not recommend the meningitis vaccine when she was getting ready for school, but she got it anyway.

USC's Thomson Student Health Center saw about 900 students in the first 36 hours after Darby was diagnosed. A single oral dose of Cipro was given to students at no charge if they were deemed to be at risk, King said.

Of the students screened at the center, two or three were sent to the hospital for further testing, but none tested positive for bacterial meningitis, he said.

For an official diagnosis, spinal fluid is extracted from the lower back and examined under a microscope for bacteria.

The school is instructing students who think they need to be screened to visit the student health center or a physician.

Catching the disease early is the key to survival.

NASCAR, FROM PAGE 6

his third at Dover, where he swept the races last year. He got his second victory this season and 11th of his career, beating Martin by 8.149 seconds on the high-banked concrete oval. Martin got his fourth Dover victory in June.

"We made some adjustments but we didn't have to make many," Newman said. "Once you get it right on this concrete it stays right."

"The race was decided on the last restart," he said. "I found out what the 12 (Newman) really had."