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The GEORGE-ANNE

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Wednesday, March 9, 2005 • Volume 77, Number 73

HOPE cuts to limit funding to 127 semester hours

From staff and wire reports

The Georgia House of Representatives voted at the end of February to cut the HOPE Scholarship for hundreds of college students across the state. In a vote on Feb. 22 the House voted 93-76 to limit the lottery-funded scholarship to 127 semester hours.

House Democrats attempted to bring the bill back before the legislative body for reconsideration, but their efforts failed. The bill is now headed to the State Senate for debate.

Most degree programs at Georgia Southern and across the state require 125 semester hours, but there are some, such as those in the field of engineering, that require up to 133 semester hours.

According to Elise Boyette, associate director of financial aid, there are currently 250 HOPE eligible students enrolled in degree programs that require more than 127 semester hours. This number includes 37 students that are in programs in nursing and accounting that allow students to work on a bachelor's and master's degree at the same time. According to Boyette, students in these programs were able to receive up to 150 semester hours paid for by HOPE.

Rep. Bill Hembree, R-Douglasville, who sponsored the bill, told the Associated Press "the bill is about fairness and equality for all college programs and all HOPE scholars." He also said that the bill – which would affect freshman

students starting college next fall – would save millions of dollars.

Boyette disagrees with the bill. "I think it's unfair to penalize students that are in programs that the university says they have to have 133 hours for to graduate," she said.

In his letter of support of the bill, University System Chancellor Thomas Meredith said that students having to pay for semester hours after their HOPE coverage runs out "will have years to plan for that modest expenditure."

State Representative Bob Lane, whose legislative district includes GSU, did not cast a vote for the main bill, but voted no for its reconsideration. Lane was not available for comment.

MAJORS AFFECTED BY HOPE CUTS

The following majors are over 127 hours and are directly affected by the recent cuts made to the HOPE scholarship.

- Bachelor of Music Education – Choral emphasis
- Bachelor of Music Education – Instrumental emphasis
- Building Construction/Management
- BS in Civil Engineering Technology
- BS in Electrical Engineering Technology
- BS in Industrial Engineering Technology
- BS in Mechanical Engineering Technology

AROUND the HOUSE

Sports

- GSU Softball goes 1-1 against Tennessee Tech
- Aron Price wins second straight golf tournament
- Women's Tennis beats Jacksonville State 6-1

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Opinions

- Amanda Permenter rewinds the Bush tapes
- Luke Hearn has a small request for Chancellor Thomas Meredith

Page 4

Only In America

Dog to go under the knife of governor

ATLANTA – Georgia's budget-slashing governor, Sonny Perdue, is preparing to unsheathe his knife once again, but this time it is a pooch and not a program that will feel the loss.

Perdue, a licensed veterinarian, has agreed to personally neuter a 9-month-old Rottweiler-Labrador retriever mix at an Atlanta animal clinic on Thursday, the Atlanta Human Society said on Monday.

The society invited the Republican governor to perform the 30-minute procedure to highlight responsible pet ownership. The dog, named Nelson, will be offered for adoption afterward.

"We want to draw attention to the need for spays and neuters in our state," said Sherry Greenblatt, a spokeswoman for the society, which is marking its 132nd anniversary. Between 3 million and 4 million unwanted cats and dogs are euthanized every year in the United States.

More OIA on

Page 3

Weekday Weather

Wednesday



HIGH
56°
LOW
37°

Mostly Sunny

Thursday



HIGH
63°
LOW
39°

Partly Cloudy

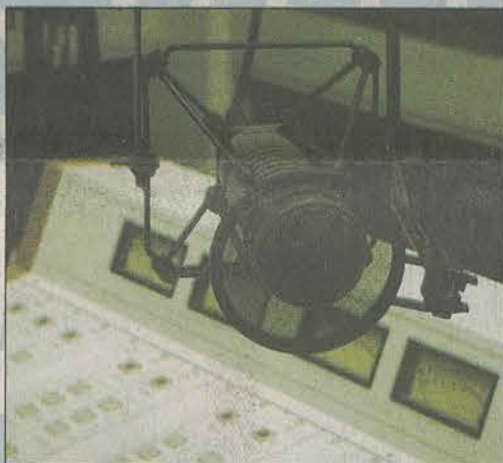
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SHAKING up the airwaves

Comm. Arts wants control of WVGS

By Adam Crisp
gadeputy@georgiasouthern.edu



File Photo

"We have no designs to make it a serious academic undertaking. It's still going to be a radio station where there are disc jockeys that play music that students like to hear. We want it to be more structured so it's more of a learning activity for students than it has been."

— Reed Smith, broadcasting professor

WVGS 91.9 FM, Georgia Southern's student-run radio station, will become part of the Communication Arts Department as of July 1, according to GSU officials.

Currently, WVGS's budget and day-to-day management is maintained by student media, a division of student affairs and enrollment management. While student media serves as the station's most visible leader, an instructor from Comm. Arts serves as the station's official advisor.

Some Comm. Arts officials say the takeover is still in the discussion stages, but Theresa Thompson, vice president of student affairs and enrollment management, said the changeover has been approved.

"The discussions have been going on for quite a while," said Thompson. "We've really been talking about it for more than a year. We wanted to find out what was the best way to make transition."

Acting under the belief that the change will take place, officials on both sides of the issue said they believe the takeover will cause changes in the daily management of the station.

Officials from Comm. Arts say they are the most qualified to run the station — pointing to about 50 years of combined broadcasting experience.

Bill Neville, coordinator of student media, who has worked closely with the station for nearly 19 years, said Comm. Arts has scarcely been involved in the operation of the station, despite a three-year-old agreement in which Comm. Arts pledged to take on a more active role.

See WVGS, page 2

Winners of Powell Award for Creative Writing announced

Special to the G-A

The Georgia Southern Department of Writing and Linguistics is pleased to announce the winners of this year's Roy Powell Awards for Creative Writing.

The winner in fiction is Jenny Pirkle for her short story "Heat." Ashley Landes won in the nonfiction category for "Fun In The Sun." In poetry, the winner is Eric Floyd for his three poems, "Sidewalk Slowly Drying," "Kindergarten" and "Cousins."

Pirkle, a senior from Thomson majoring in Writing and Linguistics, discussed why she writes: "... If I didn't write then my skin would split open and letters and commas and apostrophes would pour out. So really, I do it for my health."

Winners of the 2005 Roy Powell Award for Creative Writing

Fiction Writing

Jenny Pirkle

Non-Fiction Writing

Ashley Landes

Poetry Writing

Eric Floyd

Landes, a freshman

from Suwanee majoring in Early Childhood Education, said of her writing,

"I love to tell interesting stories, make people laugh or cry and bring people into my own little world. Even when I was a little girl, I came up with the most ridiculous tales just to grab the other kids' attention and interest. Writing is a gift and I want to use mine to give other people pleasure."

Floyd, a sophomore from Blackshear, is majoring in English for Secondary Education. He cites John Keats, Lord Byron, Robert Jordan and Joss Whedon among his literary influences.

Asked why he writes poetry, Floyd responded, "For a love of the art. There's just something so concrete, so permanent about writing. Speech is ephemeral. It's here one second, gone the next. The memory will last as long as the people who heard it, but when they're gone, the speech dies. With writing, even if no one else ever reads it, it's there, it survives."

The winners will receive a cash award of \$50, a framed award certificate and recognition at the University's Honors Day Ceremonies on April 6.

See POWELL, page 2

Collegeresults.org rates GSU low

Numbers based on old data, officials say results much better than they look

By Jennifer Maddox
jennifer_a_maddox@georgiasouthern.edu

According to www.collegeresults.org, it looks as if Georgia Southern may not be doing so well in comparison to other schools.

As of 2003, GSU had a six-year graduation rate of 37.4%. This figure was based on students in a specific class that had graduated within a six-year period. Other figures for the state of Georgia included UGA (71.3%), Georgia Tech (69.3%), Georgia State (37.2%), and Georgia College and State University (34.8%).

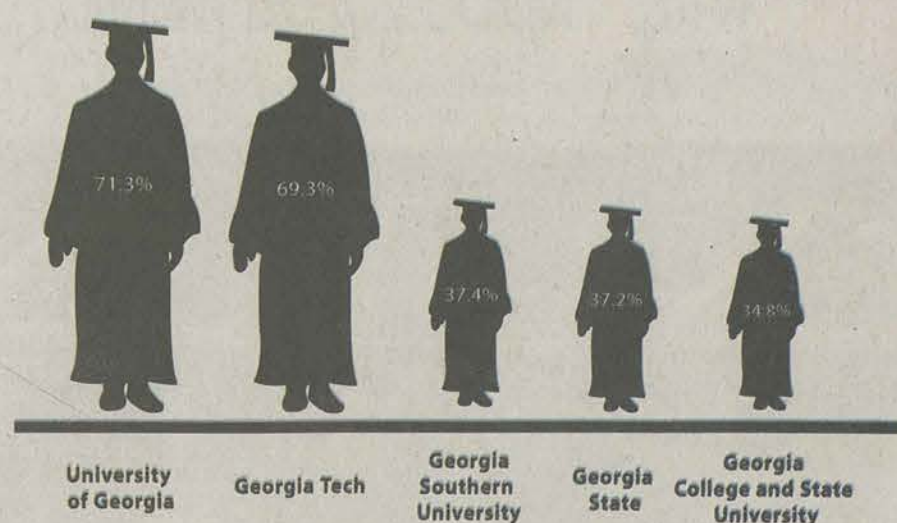
The low numbers might not be telling the whole story because the numbers for 2003 were based off of the beginning freshman class of 1997. Therefore, one can only understand why this number is so low if one considers the circumstances of the school at that time.

According to Mike Sullivan, spokesperson for Marketing and Communications, GSU's academic standards, such as SAT scores, were lower in 1997 than they are now.

There were also more students who did not stay until graduation either for personal reasons or because they decided to use GSU as a junior college, staying for a couple of years only to leave and finish their education somewhere else. This could also be contributing to the lower than average graduation rate.

However, things have changed drastically since the numbers were crunched. Since becoming president of the university, President Bruce Grube took action by raising the admission standards and finding ways (such as the Academic Success Center and

See GRADUATION, page 2



Figures based on students in a specific class that had graduated in a six-year period.

Graphic by Dallas Oliver

WVGS, FROM PAGE 1

Neville said Comm. Arts has been jockeying for control of WVGS for nearly two decades. But, time after time, the station's efforts have either been completely shot down, or university administrators have met the department halfway by giving them partial control.

This year, though, it seems Comm. Arts has gotten further than ever before in the process.

"In 1987, when I was just starting out here, the radio station was barely 10 years old. At that time it had been a student-run station and there had been a couple overtures to tie it to an academic department, but the administration had always decided that it was probably better off as a student activity," said Neville. "That way the student activity money paid to operate the station."

Since WVGS receives the bulk of its funding from student activities fees — an \$85 fee all full-time students paid this semester — Comm. Arts couldn't accept that money to fund a program that excludes students, said Pam Bourland-Davis, who Chairs the Communication Arts Department.

"That money is kept in a separate account... Theatre performance is operated through our department and it is supported through student activity fees," said Bourland-Davis. "There is already a model in place."

Thompson said the WVGS budget will switch from one department to another, but adds that student services will still insist the station be open to any student — not just broadcasting majors. Comm. Arts officials have pledged to keep the station's doors open to any student.

"We'll work with them on the budget. Whatever money is already there for WVGS, we will just transfer it over," she said. "It will be under the supervision of Comm. Arts."

Reed Smith, a broadcasting professor who has pushed for the Comm. Arts takeover, said he sees

"In 1987, when I was just starting out here, the radio station was barely 10 years old. At that time it had been a student-run station and there had been a couple overtures to tie it to an academic department, but the administration had always decided that it was probably better off as a student activity."

—Bill Neville, coordinator of student media

the changeover as a chance for students who major in broadcasting to get "real world" experience.

"We have no designs to make it a serious academic undertaking," said Smith. "It's still going to be a radio station where there are disc jockeys that play music that students like to hear. We want it to be more structured so it's more of a learning activity for students than it has been."

Though Smith admits his background in broadcasting is extensive, he is careful not to discredit Neville, who also advises The George-Anne, the Miscellany and The Southern Reflector.

"He's done a good job with both services, but it's something where we feel we've got the experience and we want to do it," said Smith, who has served as an advisor at the student radio station at Ohio University, as well as a manager of an NPR affiliate. "Bill [Neville] is primarily a print guy and he's done an outstanding job with The George-Anne. We want to make the station live up to its potential."

Neville cites concerns in the WVGS changeover. He says Comm. Arts has yet to fully invest their time into the program.

"We reached an agreement with student affairs, the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, and Comm. Arts (three years ago) where we would divide the duties of the radio station," said Neville. "Essentially, they were to be in charge of

programming. They were to directly supervise all the content that was put on the air. They were to integrate, to the extent they wanted to, any of the production and content needs with their classroom activities. They were to provide all the training, and they were to be in charge of the format of the radio station."

Neville said he wonders whether Comm. Arts ever fully lived up to the agreement.

"The Department of Communication Arts pledged to support this effort by making a faculty member with release time from classes so that they could spend that time devoted to supervising the radio station. The idea was to have someone who split their time 50-50, between WVGS and the classroom," said Neville. "We've never really had a broadcast instructor who was given any release time to work for the radio station. [Previous instructors] had to do WVGS in addition to teaching a full class load, which I thought was unreasonable... I don't think to my way of looking at it, that the agreement we reached has ever been fully implemented."

Neville said he plans to help with the WVGS hand over, even though he has concerns.

"I'm a hired gun," he said. "The decision has been made, and it's my job to now make that transition as smooth as possible while keeping the students' best interest at heart."

POWELL, FROM PAGE 1

In addition, their work will be published in Miscellany, the campus literary and arts magazine.

The winning manuscripts were chosen from many excellent entries,

according to faculty judges Phyllis Dallas, Eric Nelson and Peter Christopher.

For more information, please contact Peter Christopher at 681-5889.

GRADUATION, FROM PAGE 1

the Writing Center) to offer students some extra help in order to keep them here.

The average SAT scores for each class are steadily rising, and retention rates are higher they have ever been. As classes that are still here start to reach the six-year mark, we should see these numbers to get even higher.

"We're not there yet, but we are making progress," said Sullivan.

President Grube is not the only one

who can be proud of these changes. Sullivan believes that the Admissions Office can share the credit too. An increase in standards has resulted in higher admissions and steady growth in enrollment.

Increase in enrollment can also be contributed to the fact that more students return after their first year. Despite the numbers, GSU is on a course to continue increasing enrollment and retention.

POLICE BEAT

03-05-2005

•Justin Lee Bellah, 19, of Deer Path Road, Dawsonville, Ga., was charged with underage drinking, criminal trespass and possession of a fake I.D.

•James Wesley Clark, 19, of Smith Crawford Road, Thomson, Ga., was charged with underage drinking and obstruction of an officer.

•Trent L. Evans, 19, of Campus Club Apartments, Statesboro, was charged with DUI, underage drinking, criminal trespass, obstruction of an officer and possession of a fake I.D.

•Mitchell R. Griffith III, of Three J. Road, Evans, Ga., was charged with underage drinking and obstruction of an officer.

•Robert Wesley King, 19, of Crawford Place Road, Appling, Ga., was charged with underage drinking, criminal tres-

pass and obstruction of an officer.

•William Henry King, 19, of Yelton Road, Appling, Ga., was charged with underage drinking and obstruction of an officer.

•A case of criminal trespass was reported at the Sigma Nu House.

03-06-2005

•Thomas Dotson Stafford, 19, of Highway 67, Statesboro, was charged with DUI and having a fake I.D.

•Jonathan M. Wilkerson, 21, of Hendrix Bridge Road, Claxton, Ga., was charged with DUI, stop sign violation and failure to maintain lane.

•A case of harassment was reported at the Henderson Library.

•Someone reported that the word "die" was written on their vehicle in the Technology parking lot.

CALENDAR

Wednesday, March 9

Graduation Gala

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Career Services will host the annual Graduation Gala at the Nessmith-Lane Building. At the gala, students will be able to: order invitations, and caps and gowns; finalize graduation requirements; pay any outstanding fees; take graduation portraits; learn more about graduate school programs at Georgia Southern and much more. Refreshments will be served and door prizes will be awarded. For more information, contact Career Services at 681-5197.

Lewis & Clark exhibit.

11 a.m. to Noon

The Lewis & Clark exhibit, hosted by the Henderson Library will have a reception to open "Lewis and Clark at the Library: A Bicentennial Commemoration of the 1803-1806 Journey of the Corps of Discovery." Jerome Steffen, professor of history, will be the guest speaker. Culinary treats made from recipes featured in "The Food Journal of Lewis and Clark" will be available. The exhibit will run through Thursday, March 31 at Henderson Library.

Blood pressure screenings

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The University Wellness Council will offer free blood pressure screenings outside Lakeside Cafe.

'War of the Wings'

3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Kappa Delta will hold its largest fundraiser of the year, "War of the Wings," on Wednesday, at the Kappa Delta house. Tickets are \$5. Several local restaurants donate hundred of wings and the entire community is invited to come and select their favorite wings. Entertainment will be provided while participants enjoy the wings. Proceeds from the event will go to Prevent Child Abuse America.

International Film Festival

4:30-6:30pm

"Nightwatch" film is a Danish thriller, with characters with believable quirks, and twists that were not actually expected or used as a weak plot point. (Denmark, 1994). The film is presented by Dr. Bruce Krajewski from the Department of Literature and Philosophy in room 1124 of the College of Business Administration. For more information, contact Antonio Serna at 871-1375 or Maritza Bell-Corralles at 681-0113.

African Student Association Fashion Show Auditions

5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Takes place in the Russell Union, room 2080.

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Only in America

Man mauled by ferocious chimps

SAN FRANCISCO — A man who was severely mauled by two chimpanzees at an animal sanctuary last week was quickly overwhelmed when the apes attacked, his wife said Monday.

Davis, 64, and her husband, St. James Davis, were visiting Animal Haven Ranch when two male chimps escaped their enclosure and attacked.

St. James Davis, 62, lost all the fingers from both hands, an eye, part of his nose, cheek, lips and part of his buttocks in the attack.

A Kern County Sheriff's commander also said his genitals were mauled.

St. James Davis was being treated at Loma Linda University Medical Center, where doctors said his condition was "minute by minute," his wife said Monday.



California

Honey mustard pretzel is divine

ST. PAUL — A girl and her mother in Nebraska say they made a divine discovery in a bag of Rold Gold Honey Mustard Pretzels.

"We both kind of looked at each other at the time she brought it out and she turned it around and when she turned it around I said that looks like the Virgin Mary holding baby Jesus and she said that's what I think, Mom," said Machelle Naylor.

She and her daughter Crysta researched the bible after finding the pretzel and found out that mustard seeds, honey and even pretzels are mentioned in the bible.

The pair put their finding for sale on eBay.

Crysta is hoping the bids will reach \$1,000 so she can buy a horse.



Nebraska

School struggles with rat problem

BROWNSVILLE — A letter sent to students' homes from a Brownsville elementary school advised parents to equip their children with disinfectants to combat the rat droppings and urine found on school desks.

District officials would not identify the employee who warned parents of rat problems at El Jardin Elementary.

But while officials admitted the school has a recurring rat problem, they said students do not need to bring disinfectants to campus. Maintenance workers are handling the matter with mouse traps and glue boards, they said.



Texas

Helium balloon travels across U.S.

SAN MARCOS — Elementary school students who launched a helium balloon to study weather patterns were astonished when it ended up on a farm in North Carolina.

Fifth-grade students at Richland Elementary on Dec. 2 set off the



California

12-inch balloon, which carried information on how to contact the school.

On Feb. 19, a farmer in Ashboro, N.C., some 2,200 miles away, discovered the balloon's remnants.

Teacher Gary Nash said he initially doubted the farmer's wife, Carla Queen, when she contacted him to report the finding.

But he now believes a jet stream may have carried the red helium balloon to the other side of the country.

Judge throws the book back at man

IDAHO FALLS — After defendant Austin Later lost his temper and threw a file across a courtroom, 7th District Judge Jon Shindurling threw the book at him, adding years to his sentence.



Idaho

Shindurling first sentenced Later on Thursday to five to 15 years in prison.

Later then yelled profanities at the court and threw the file, hitting a clerk.

Shindurling then changed the sentence to the maximum 15-year penalty.

Bonneville County Prosecutor Dane Watkins Jr. said officials were deciding whether to charge Later for the courtroom incident.

Dog gets second chance with therapy

BEAVERTON — A hundred-pound Rottweiler that once mauled his owner's hand has received certification as a medical therapy dog.

Four-year-old Chopper is the pet of Marietta Sprout of Beaverton.

She plans to take him into nursing homes so patients can pet him and cuddle with him.

Sprout says the bite that ripped her tendons and broke several bones was an accident.



Michigan

She says she wanted Chopper to be a therapy dog to clear his name — and to show that Rottweilers don't deserve their bad reputation.

Chopper has been tested and registered by Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dogs, a national organization.

Old dime sold for \$1.3 million

BALTIMORE — A dime struck in 1894 at the San Francisco mint was auctioned Monday for \$1,322,500 US, a coin dealer said.

The winning bidder took part in the sale by telephone and was not identified.

The coin, described as being in nearly pristine condition, was one of only 24 dimes made that year at the San Francisco mint, whose director had requested them as gifts for visiting bankers.

Just 10 of the dimes are believed to remain.

The coin was consigned to the auction by Bradley Hirst of Richmond, Ind., who bought it for \$825,000 six years ago, according to John Feigenbaum, president of David Lawrence Rare Coins of Virginia Beach, Va., the auctioneer.



Maryland

National News Briefs

Senate defeats different proposals for raising minimum wage

WASHINGTON — The Senate defeated dueling proposals Monday to raise the \$5.15-an-hour minimum wage — one backed by organized labor, the other salted with pro-business provisions — in a day of skirmishing that reflected Republican gains in last fall's elections.

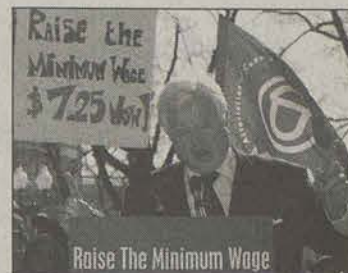
Both plans fell well short of the 60 votes needed to advance, and signaled that prospects for raising the federal wage floor, unchanged since 1996, are remote during the current two-year Congress.

"I believe that anyone who works 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year should not live in poverty in the richest country in the world," said Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., arguing for the Democratic proposal to increase the minimum wage by \$2.10 over the next 26 months.

Republicans countered with a smaller increase, \$1.10 in two steps over 18 months, they said would help workers without hampering the creation of jobs needed to help those with low skills.

The Democratic amendment was defeated, with 46 votes for and 49 against. The GOP alternative fell by a wider margin, 38 for and 61 against.

While the outcome was never in doubt, Democrats said in advance they hoped to use the issue to increase chances for passage of state minimum wage initiatives in 2006, as well as to highlight differences with Republicans who will be on the ballot next year.



Associated Press

Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., speaks in support of raising the minimum wage during a rally on Capitol Hill Monday.

Children removed from Hinesville foster home

SAVANNAH — Georgia child welfare officials have relocated the 39 children who had been living in a Hinesville foster home after staff members left behind a toddler during a weekend field trip.

The children of The Gabriel House are being temporarily relocated to new foster homes while the Division of Family and Children Services investigates how Kiara Leigh Davis, 3, was left behind on the day trip.

She was found safe later Saturday.

Removing the children is standard procedure in responding to viable complaints against foster-care facilities, said state Division of Family and Children Services spokesman Ari Young. The Liberty County Department of Family and Children Services filed a complaint with the state after the incident.

Investigators from the Office of Regulatory Services will consider whether the center should lose its license. One staff member was fired as a result of the incident.

None of the adults chaperoning a field trip to Chuck E. Cheese and Star Castle Family Entertainment Center apparently noticed when a child disappeared during an unscheduled stop at Forsyth Park.

At about 3:45 p.m., a woman discovered the little girl alone, munching on a bag of chips, in Savannah's Forsyth Park. The woman called police after searching for the girl's parents for an hour.

Kiara's identity was determined only after a television viewer recognized her photograph on the Saturday evening news.

- All News Briefs compiled from wire reports by Morgan Marsh.

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Announcement - Student Media Positions Selection 2005-2006

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

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

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

THE GEORGE-ANNE
Executive Editor -- The executive editor should have completed two years of college work, at least one year at Georgia Southern. The executive editor should have served on a student publications staff one year and should display capabilities required for the position, including demonstrable knowledge of basic journalistic and business practices and an understanding of media law and ethics. The executive editor is responsible for the preparation of a commentary section for each edition. The executive editor serves as the chief executive officer of the newspaper and is responsible for the total content of each edition in consultation with editors in chief of companion publications.

Managing Editor for News -- The managing editor for news should have completed at least one year at Georgia Southern and should have served at least one semester on a student publications staff. The managing editor for news should be familiar with basic journalistic practices such as news gathering and reporting practices, news and feature writing, copy editing and proofreading, photojournalism, layout and design and media law and ethics. The managing editor for news will be responsible for coordinating the editorial content in all sections of the newspaper, such as news, sports, features, companion publications or related media and other duties as assigned by the executive editor. The managing editor for news (with the assistance of the news editor) will be responsible for the preparation of the front page.

Managing Editor for Operations -- The managing editor for operations should have completed two years of college work, at least one year at Georgia Southern. The managing editor for operations should have served on a student publications staff one year and should display capabilities required for the position, including demonstrable knowledge of basic journalistic and business practices and an understanding of media law and ethics. The managing editor for operations is responsible for the overall day-to-day operations and office management of the newspaper, its subordinate divisions (advertising, marketing and production), and all companion publications or related media. The managing editor for operations serves as the chief operations officer for the newspaper.

News Editor -- The news editor should know basic news writing and should be familiar with news sources on campus. The news editor should demonstrate news judgment and should have served at least one semester on the staff of the paper. The news editor will be responsible for all news gathering and reporting operations of the newspaper, including recruiting reporters, writers,

and photographers, provided training in the basics of news gathering and writing, working in cooperation with the managing editors on staffing the news, features, sports, photography and related departments, maintaining an assignment calendar for the benefit of all departments of the newspaper, and other duties as assigned. The news editor assists the managing editor or news in the preparation of the front page for each edition.

MISCELLANY

Editor in Chief -- The editor in chief should have completed two years of college work, at least one year at Georgia Southern. The editor in chief should demonstrate both the interest and the talent to create a quality publication which showcases the arts -- literary, visual, and, to the extent practicable, performance arts -- on behalf of the university's students, and to promote the arts in the university community through the staging of various arts-oriented events. The editor in chief will select contributors for the magazine. The editor in chief should be familiar with basic editing and design duties, as well as media law and ethics. The editor in chief is responsible for all editorial operations for each edition, which will be published as a supplement to the student newspaper, and will coordinate its publication with the executive editor of the student newspaper. The editor in chief will be responsible for the total content of the magazine.

SOUTHERN REFLECTOR

Editor in Chief -- The editor in chief should have completed two years of university work, at least one year

at Georgia Southern. The editor in chief should have served at least one year on the staff and should be familiar with magazine copy writing, magazine photojournalism, layout and design of pages, and media law and ethics. The editor in chief is responsible for all editorial operations for each edition, which will be published as a supplement to the student newspaper, and will coordinate its publication with the executive editor of the student newspaper. The editor in chief serves as the chief executive officer of the magazine and is ultimately responsible for the total content of each edition.

DEADLINE: The deadline for the receipt of all applications for any of these positions is Monday, April 4, at 5 p.m. Applications should be sent to Bill Neville, chairperson, Student Advisory Media Board, in care of Box 8067, or delivered in person to Room 2022, Williams Center.

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

INTERVIEW DATE: All candidates for board positions MUST APPEAR PERSONALLY for interviews as follows: Candidates for the George-Anne, Miscellany Magazine, and Southern Reflector must appear Friday, April 15. All interviews will be held at 3 p.m. in Room 2007 of E.I. Williams Center (Upper Floor).

APPLICATION FORM AND WAIVER

INFORMATION: Questions regarding these positions should be directed to the advisors of the media: Ryan Honeyman (The GEORGE-ANNE) at 681-0172 or Box 8055; Mike Mills (MISCELLANY) at 681-0154 or Box 8026; or Laura Kaloniatis (REFLECTOR MAGAZINE) at 486-7450 or Box 8026. Additional information and interpretation of the qualifications may be obtained from the chairperson, Bill Neville (681-0069 or Box 8067).

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

GEORGE-ANNE

() Editor in Chief () Managing Editor/Operations
() Managing Editor/Operations () News Editor

MISCELLANY

() Editor in Chief

REFLECTOR

() Editor in Chief

1. Students interested in applying for an elected position is required to present (1) a resume; (2) a letter of application explaining the candidate's qualifications and their plans or objectives for the media position sought; and (3) a signed waiver (included below) which gives permission to the chairperson of the Media Committee to validate the candidate's academic standing.

2. Students seeking a position on an editorial or broadcast board must have a CUMULATIVE GRADE POINT AVERAGE of at least 2.0 and must not be on scholastic or disciplinary probation. If at any time a board member drops below these standards, that member must relinquish the position.

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

Signed _____ Box No. _____

Eagle ID No. _____ Date _____

E-Mail address _____

This (1) application/waiver form (or facsimile), together with a (2) resume and a (3) letter of application for each medium in which a position(s) is sought, is due by Monday, April 4, 2005, by 5 p.m. delivered to: Student Media Advisory Board, Bill Neville, chair, Room 2022 Williams Center Box 8067, GSU, Statesboro, GA 30460. Interviews are Friday, April 15.

Our Opinion

Station stores surprises for Comm. Arts

The Communication Arts department has been trying to get its paws on Georgia Southern's student-run radio station for years.

Now, for the first time in history, it looks like they'll actually succeed.

Comm. Arts justifies its motives for the annexation with its years of broadcasting experience. Never mind the fact that WVGS has – besides a few glitches in the 80s – been on the air since 1974 as a considerably successful student-based project, having provided literally hundreds of students with invaluable broadcasting experience.

The switch will, in effect, make the station the "property" of Academic Affairs rather than Student Media. The change in focus from an exploratory training ground for students to a classroom ruled under the strict fists of curriculum and academic review will undoubtedly narrow the station's objectives. But to what ends?

Communication Arts might claim otherwise, but much will be sacrificed. Broadcasting is hands-on work, and for more than 30 years students have been able to use the station to gain leadership skills while experiencing firsthand the nitty gritty of broadcast journalism and the ever-changing music scene.

Gone will be the students' creative license, the chance to work at one's own pace and on-air opportunities for students who aren't broadcast majors.

One thing's for sure: If the folks down at the trailer think running the station will be some sort of cake walk, it's because the hard-working, dedicated students who've poured their hearts and souls into it until now have made it look easy. More often than not, some member of the management staff can be found at the station, no matter what the hour, whether they're airing automation or a DJ's show. Are officials at Comm. Arts prepared to haunt the old halls of the Williams Center at all hours the way these devoted kids do? They can't schedule classes for 2 a.m.

And what makes those cool dudes think they know what appeals to students better than students?

Of course, we understand the appeal of the station. It's only natural that broadcasting professors would want the chance to play deity with any available airwaves. And, hey – with the station added to their domain, they'll finally be able to lay claim to part of an edifice that isn't propped up on cinder blocks.

As cynical as we are about the takeover, we don't wish failure on anyone. As with any progressive development on campus, we wish them all the best, and sincerely hope we won't have to exercise our right to broadcast a big, bold "told you so."

OPED

Canada endangering America

It's Canadian airspace, but our lives

By Peter A. Brown
The Orlando Sentinel

Living next to the world's only superpower must be frustrating for the folks north of the border who don't share our views, values and fears.

Yet the idea that Canada could demand America consult with its leaders before we shoot down a missile aimed at the United States that is over Canadian soil is the most ridiculous notion I have heard in some time.

That, however, is Canada's position entering Tuesday's meeting with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice over the U.S. proposed anti-ballistic-missile system. "This is our airspace; we're a sovereign nation, and you don't intrude on a sovereign nation's airspace without seeking permission," Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin said.

His stance evidences a childlike quality that assumes Ottawa has the ability to mandate something that it can't possibly enforce – requiring launch approval for the United States to defend itself. It showcases surprising naivete about the logistics involved – most important the lack of time – that would make giving the Canadians such power a practical impossibility.

Therefore, it makes it difficult to take the Canadians, who are America's biggest trading partner and historic ally, seriously on the many other matters on which we disagree.

If Martin is serious, he ought to have a long talk with himself about the world in which he lives. Even if it evokes the image of the Ugly American popular with U.S. critics, this is one of those times when the United States must heed its national interest. If the Canadians don't like it, too bad. In that real world, there is nothing they can do about it.

President Bush has decided to go ahead with the missile-defense system. If the Democrats

can't stop him from doing so, only a foreign leader with a highly inflated sense of his own influence would delude himself into thinking he can.

Bush asked the Canadians to participate in the project, given our geographic proximity. Under that scenario, Canadians would be in the control center of such a system.

But Martin, apparently playing to his anti-American domestic political audience, declined the invitation, which is certainly his prerogative.

The Canadians – and it's not just their leaders – are still angry at the Bush administration over Iraq. Public opinion polls show that almost half the Canadian people view the United States unfavorably. In fact, Rice has postponed plans to visit Canada, but Canadian officials asked for a neutral-site meeting with her to smooth things over.

It's not just over Iraq that we disagree. There are a host of issues – fundamental issues such as the proper level of taxation and size of government programs and lifestyle matters such as gay marriage, legalized drug use and the role of religion in society. But those are matters on which we can happily disagree. After all, each of us can live as we choose on our own sides of the border.

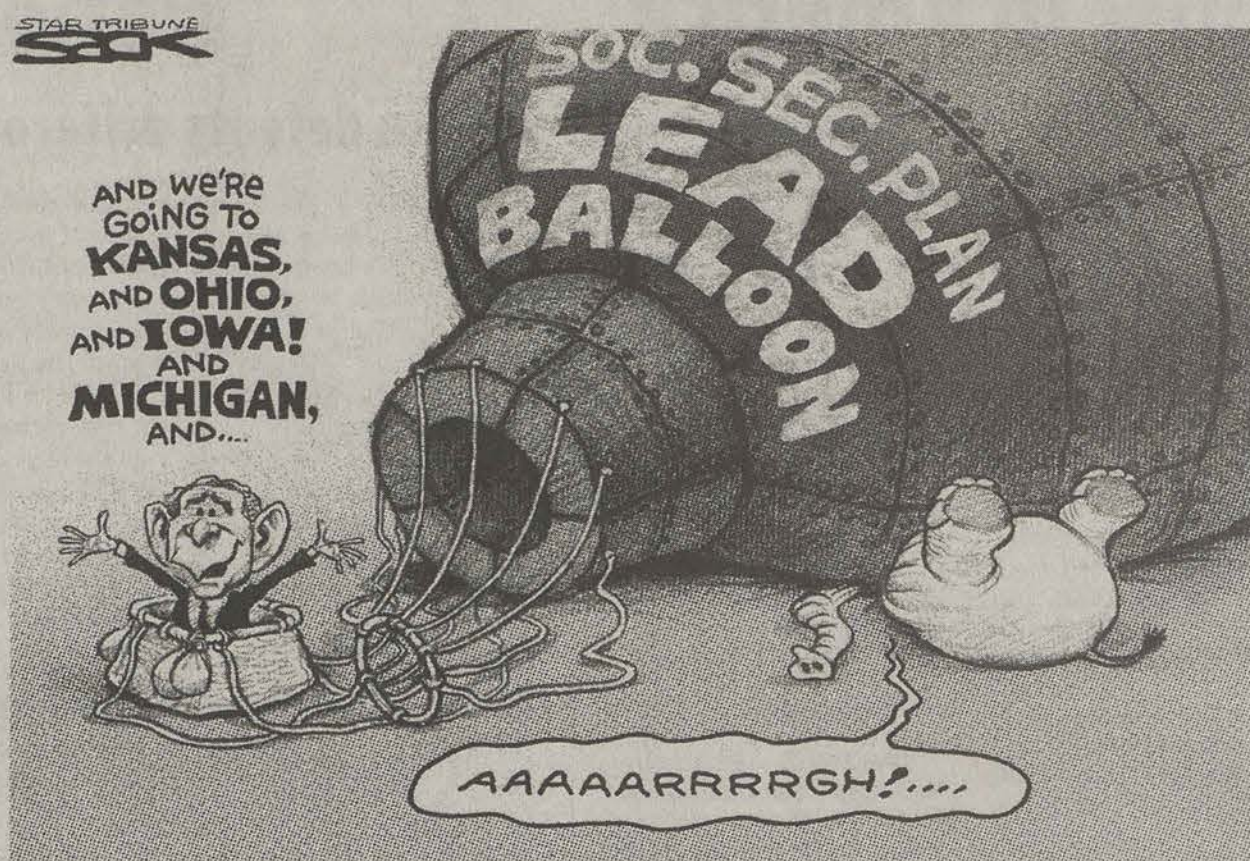
However, it is on external matters, such as how much to depend on international organizations like the United Nations to solve world problems, that the differences can get testy.

Canada and America have had a relationship similar to an old-style Catholic marriage – the partners may fight but they understand that they are destined to be joined together forever, for better or for worse.

So the Bush administration is going forward with its plans to begin construction of

See CANADA, Page 5

STAR TRIBUNE
S&K



Bush tapes: Not exactly duct tape

It's been over two weeks since reports broke that President Bush was taped in 1998 during casual conversations with a friend.

The most publicized content on the tapes referred to marijuana use by the president and an admitted refusal to "kick gays."

Well, what do you know? Turns out the man's human, after all.

My interest, however, is in the decided lack of hullabaloo tailing this whole scandal. Hasn't anyone been paying attention? The Almighty Dubya passed the peace puff and agonized over how to properly pacify the queer-fearing religious right!

Aren't we shocked and appalled? Are we dumbfounded? Have we learned our lesson about beating the dead horse of presidential perjury? Or are we simply continuing in our well-formed habit of cutting him a brand of slack we wouldn't reserve for anyone else?

I have my own ideas about the tapes. I've talked to a range of liberals and conservatives about my theory, and they've all sort of given me the awkward eye in response. So I'm guessing I'm alone on this one. But I'll share it, anyway.

Ready?

I think the tapes were a ploy – and a good one at that – put up by Bush to stir sympathy in the hearts of the nation's liberals. That's not to say all the liberals of this country are raging potheads. I'm certainly not. But it makes him appear curious and fallible, and therefore real.

For another thing, the comments he made about gays are too carefully measured. They

sound scripted – just mild enough not to cause a riotous upheaval in the Christian community, but just adverse enough to his ongoing legislation pressures to give the impression of fair-mindedness.

It makes average gay rights advocates, assuming they can't see this whole sham for what it is, think the president might be listening, since at some bygone point he at least seemed more sensitive to the issue.

Bush is known for his resolve, so we know he has the guts to run such a game.

But, hey... It worked on me. I almost feel sorry for him.

For conservatives and a lot of working class America, much of Bush's appeal lies in the down-to-earth, good-ol'-boy vibes they all seem to catch him giving off. But what serves to impress them only offends liberals, as they don't see how a man who teathed on a silver spoon can dare presume to identify with the concerns of the average American family.

For many liberals, experience makes a man. Evidence of bad experience might actually be a more appealing quality in presidential candidates, but only if they're willing to own up and show they've learned from their mistakes.

No, this doesn't explain why Clinton was so vehemently defended by most liberals for his lies and personal practices. (It could have something to do with the fact that there was no wide scale U.S. involvement in war, nor were there any catastrophic economic crises while he was in office. We all know he set those dominoes up to fall on the shoulders of the next president.)



Amanda Permenter
editor-in-chief

But, since Clinton's downfalls are the example conservatives so often jump up and point to, let's explore them for a while, as there are discrepancies aplenty.

When Clinton smoked marijuana and used political and family influence to avoid frontline service in Vietnam, he was a pot-smoking, draft-dodging hippie. But when George W. Bush did essentially the same thing, there's nothing doing. What gives?

The fact is they're both wrong. They are both guilty of deceiving the American people.

Unfortunately, we don't seem to hold honesty in as high esteem as we once did. We're too busy persecuting people for being people.

So, as long as we're going to condemn leaders for giving into arguably natural curiosities and for being desirous of a life that is both continuous beyond the age of 20 and not speckled with haunting memories of brethren and enemy dead, let's do it consistently. Shall we?

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

Chancellor Meredith: Stand up for students

Well, they're at it again. The Georgia Legislature has voted for another round of cuts to the HOPE Scholarship, what is arguably the force behind Georgia's high college attendance rates and the increasing prestige of the colleges in the state.

Debates on the future of the scholarship started heavily about a year or two ago, when lawmakers and other state officials realized that the scholarship was headed towards bankruptcy. Their efforts have been to cut here and chop there, hurting only those that need the scholarship the most.

Instead of revising the eligibility requirements and enforcing practical rules on who can receive the scholarship (such as institute income cap, raise standards), legislators decided to start cutting the benefits to students, inevitably increasing the financial load that those who have earned the scholarship have to bear.

The most recent talks about amending the scholarship target students in academic programs that require more than 127 credit hours, those studying music education, construction management and engineering.

It's a shame that people are going to be punished for choosing a major that the Board of Regents requires more than 127 hours for when other majors only require 125.

It's an even bigger shame that Chancellor Thomas Meredith, the head hog in the University System,

sent a letter of support for this insane bill. He said in the letter that he thinks HOPE scholars who will have to pay for the last part of their college classes, will be OK, "because they have years to plan for that modest expenditure."

I thought I liked the guy up until this point. I think his support of this bill shows utter contempt for the students of Georgia, and the HOPE Scholarship in general. The man who heads this great university system, whose record of achievement in the state is due in some small part at least to HOPE, has gone against the students of the state.

A man who makes in excess of \$300,000 a year (\$300,950.04, to be exact) can call the price of a semester of college a "small expenditure." Money is most likely viewed differently at his house than it would be in a normal household, where the state average income per person is barely over \$30,000 per year.

Meredith has done a great injustice to the students of Georgia, especially those who benefit from HOPE money. Maybe he should have stayed in that search back in 2004 for the job of President of the University of Tennessee.

In that case, chances are we would have a chancellor who supports the students and doesn't put them second to the state lawmakers.

Luke Hearn is news editor for The George-Anne and can be reached at ganews@georgiasouthern.edu.



Luke Hearn
news editor

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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 sent via e-mail 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. Submissions are run on a space-available basis.

CANADA OPTS OUT OF U.S. MISSILE DEFENSE SHIELD...
WILL GO IT ALONE

CANADA, FROM PAGE 4

the anti-ballistic-missile shield despite mixed results in testing parts of the system. And the Canadians, who have historically lived under the U.S. defense umbrella, seem to feel they are under no real threat of attack.

The U.S. desire for a shield originated during the Cold War when the Soviet Union was the perceived threat. But, in today's terrorism-anxious world, those who suggest that an anti-missile shield might be superfluous, even if it is workable, ignore the new reality. The spread of nukes to rogue states such as North Korea and, perhaps Iran, argues for creating such a shield.

Meanwhile, the prudent Canadian might wonder about the reliability of, say, North Korean technology. Would you bet your country on the possibility that the crazy folks in Pyongyang might

not hit Toronto when they aimed for Chicago?

Hey, if Canadians want to take their chances, who are we to say otherwise?

On the other hand, it's laughable that an American commander might have to check with Ottawa for permission to fire when he's alerted to an incoming attack from a missile streaking across Canadian soil.

I hope the Canadians are just venting. They have their reasons, after all: the bleakness of the continuing cold this time of year, or their unhappiness over the cancellation of the National Hockey League season.

If they are serious, though, that is no

laughing matter. It would be a shame for that Catholic couple to divorce. But there are some things in a marriage — even one of convenience — that are sacred. Being able to defend yourself is one of them.

President Bush has decided to go ahead with the missile-defense system. If the Democrats can't stop him from doing so, only a foreign leader with a highly inflated sense of his own influence would delude himself into thinking he can.

Peter A. Brown is an editorial page columnist for the Orlando Sentinel. Readers may write to him at the Orlando Sentinel, 633 North Orange Ave., Orlando, Fla. 32801, or by e-mail at pbrown@orlandosentinel.com.

Youth finds Bush plan for privatized Social Security right on the money

By Kirk Johnson and Brian Phillips
The Heritage Foundation

In his State of the Union address, President Bush made it clear that Social Security reform would top his domestic agenda this year. But it might be a hard sell for younger Americans. Conventional wisdom holds that, for anyone under 40, retirement security is low on our list of priorities.

However, a closer look shows that as a group, we favor (in both perception and practice) the sort of Social Security reform the president is proposing.

For starters, a national poll conducted by Quinnipiac University in January found that more than two out of every three Americans under 40 do not "expect Social Security benefits to be there for them when they retire." Nor do we expect Social Security to be much help even if we receive it. Only one in 10 "Generation Xers" expressed strong confidence that Social Security could meet their financial needs when they retire.

Further, more than two thirds of young people believe that Social Security is either in a "crisis" or has "major problems." Maurice Carroll, director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute, says, "The Social Security generation gap shows younger voters have lost confidence in the system." Young people simply do not believe there is anything "secure" about the system.

As a result, more and more of us have begun investing in personal retirement accounts to provide financial stability when we retire. Carroll says young people want to build a nest egg of their own, and nearly 60 percent of us support investing a portion of our Social Security in the stock market to do so.

And why not? We would be much better off if we did. According to The Heritage Foundation Social Security Calculator, under the current system a 25-year-old male can expect a payment of roughly \$2,600 per month when he retires. If allowed to invest his Social Security in a personal retirement account that earns about 5 percent, he could receive more than \$8,700 every month.

Younger workers don't fear the stock market; we're embracing it. About half of the 35 million Generation X households already own some type of personal retirement account, such as a 401(k), 403(b), IRA,

etc. To these investors, the current "guarantee" of Social Security is simply not seen as a viable option for anyone seeking long-term financial stability.

Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., has likened the president's proposal to a gamble. "It's more like Social Security roulette," he claimed. Of course, the smart money says personal retirement accounts are a very safe bet.

Over long periods of time, stock market investments prove extremely secure. There has never been a 20-year period in which stocks lost money, and this is significant because retirement funds are usually held for several decades.

Generation Xers already have invested more than half a trillion dollars in personal retirement accounts, the typical account having more than \$30,000 in it. It's hard to imagine that the 17 million families who own these accounts feel that they are simply rolling the dice. In fact, they leave the money in these accounts because, over the long term, they're seeing growth.

On the other hand, Social Security is neither profitable nor guaranteed. Its rate of return is awful. For younger workers it's actually negative, meaning they'll invest more than they'll ever get back out. Even for those who will come out ahead, the rate of return is worse than an old-fashioned passbook savings account.

The experts agree that in order to maintain the current system in coming decades, Congress will eventually have to both raise taxes and cut benefits — unless it allows younger workers to create personal accounts that would grow over time and generate wealth.

That's why, for young workers, President Bush's Social Security reform only builds upon what we already know to be true: Personal retirement accounts are the path to achieving real security in our old age.

ABOUT THE WRITERS

Kirk Johnson, 31, is a senior policy analyst and Brian Phillips, 27, is a media-relations associate at The Heritage Foundation, a Washington-based public policy research institute.

Readers may write to the authors in care of The Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington, D.C. 20002; Web site: www.heritage.org. Information about Heritage's funding may be found at <http://www.heritage.org/about/reports.cfm>.

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GSU freshman Robyne Siliga steps in to take a hack at Tennessee Tech during yesterday's double-header.

Brian O'Connor/STAFF

Softball hosts Tennessee Tech in Tuesday double-header

GSU Athletic Media Relations

On a day that saw two sisters play on opposing teams, the Georgia Southern softball team was able to claim a split of Tennessee Tech in a Tuesday twinbill. The Eagles fell 5-4 in the opener before taking a 6-1 victory in game two.

The second game of Tuesday's action saw Eagle junior A.J. Street pitch against her younger sister, Tennessee Tech freshman, Sarah Street. GSU's A.J. got the better of her sister, who started in the circle for the Golden Eagles, even managing to hit a two-run homer from the plate.

The Eagles were also carried on the day by the bat of Robyne Siliga, who went a combined 6-for-7 on the day with two doubles. The freshman is now batting .288 on the season, having increased her average over 60 points in her last four games.

GAME 1: Tenn. Tech 5, GSU 4

Though Tennessee Tech (12-11) struck first, scoring a run on Ashley Potts' double in the top of the first, the Eagles (12-15) struck back just as fast, posting a three-spot in the bottom of the inning.

After Heather Smith drove a two-out double into center, her tenth, Robyne Siliga followed up with a double of her own to drive Smith in. Sam Steiner and Maria Laurato then reached base on a hit by pitch and single, respectively, before they both scored on an RBI single from Gina Sterchi.

The two squads exchanged scoreless innings through the second and third before Tennessee Tech jumped on Eagle starter Tiffany Urena in the fourth with four runs.

The Eagles were able to stage a rally in the bottom of the seventh, as Siliga singled up the middle to drive in Aurora Johnson, but Steiner struck out swinging to end the game.

Siliga batted a perfect 4-for-4, the second Eagle this season to tally four hits in a game, with two RBI and a run scored. Laurato also had an impressive performance from the plate, going 2-for-2.

Potts and Samantha Lovelady each tallied a pair of hits for the Golden Eagles.

Urena (2-4) allowed all five runs off seven hits before exiting the game one out into the fourth inning. Logan Free completed the game for the Eagles, striking out three and allowing just one base runner the rest of the way.

Bonnie Bynum (4-4) got the win for Tennessee Tech, striking out six Eagle batters.

GAME 2: GSU 6, Tenn. Tech 1

The bats continued to produce for the Eagles in Tuesday's nightcap, as they totaled 10 hits for the second time on the day.

Two of those hits came in Georgia Southern's two-run second inning. After Sam Steiner got on with a two-out single, A.J. Street connected on an 0-2 pitch from her sister Sarah, taking it over the fence in left for a two-run homer, Street's first of the season and of her career.

Three more runners came around to score for GSU in the fifth, as the Eagles built their lead up to 5-0.

After the Golden Eagles broke onto the scoreboard in the top of the sixth with a solo homer from Samantha Lovelady, GSU responded with a run of its own in its half of the inning, as Johnson walked with the bases loaded, letting Katie Smith cross home plate, giving the score its final 6-1 margin.

Siliga went 2-for-3 in game two, adding her second double of the day, eighth on the season. Gina Sterchi went 2-for-2, while Katie Smith scored a pair of runs.

Lovelady and Ashley Potts once again led the Golden Eagles with two hits apiece.

Along with homer she hit from the plate, A.J. Street (5-7) also excelled from the pitcher's circle, striking out 11 batters, marking a season high point for both her and for any Eagle pitcher.

Sarah Street (2-2) allowed five runs off eight hits in 4.1 innings of work before being relieved by Rachael Darr.

GSU now has the next eight days off before traveling to California to take part in the San Diego Softball Classic March 18-20. Participating teams include Oregon, host San Diego State, UC Santa Barbara, Longwood and Towson.

Price wins second straight golf tournament taking home top honors at Hyatt Plantation Club Intercollegiate

GSU Athletic Media Relations

DORADO BEACH, PUERTO RICO - All-America Aron Price fired a one-under par in the final day of competition at the Hyatt Plantation Club Intercollegiate, finishing at 10-under par and taking home his second straight individual title. The GSU team carded a score of 290 (two-over par), coming in second place. 19th ranked Kentucky came back to defeat the Eagles while host school Georgia State finished in third.

18th ranked Price won his second straight tournament at 10-under par, marking his sixth individual title as an Eagle. In the 2004-05 season, GSU has competed in eight tournaments and has brought home five individual titles, coming from three individuals.

GSU will return to action on March 19-20 as they participate in the Schenkel E-Z-GO Tournament held at Forest Heights Country Club in Statesboro.

Braves spoil Big Unit's Yankee debut

By Mike Fitzpartick
Associated Press

KISSIMMEE, Fla. - The New York Yankees waited a long time to acquire Randy Johnson and send him to the mound.

They'll have to wait some more to see his best fastball.

The Big Unit finally made his much-anticipated Yankees debut Tuesday, working two innings in an 8-2 loss to the Atlanta Braves. He threw 36 pitches, 22 for strikes, and gave up a two-run homer to old nemesis Chipper Jones in an uneven performance.

"I know I still have a long way to go to be ready for opening day," Johnson said. "But we'll get there."

Facing the Braves for the first time since he pitched a perfect game against them last May, the five-time Cy Young Award winner struck out his first batter, Nick Green.

But Brian Jordan singled and Johnson fell behind 2-0 on Jones before he drove a 92 mph fastball over the left-field fence.

"It looked like his first spring outing," said Jones, a .370 career hitter against Johnson with six homers in 27 at-bats. "I don't think anybody in baseball expected him to come out blowing 97. A guy like Randy's got to get his feet under him, just like the rest of us. He'll be on his game come Oct. 1."

That's right, October.

The Yankees didn't start pursuing Johnson last summer just to add a few wins during the regular season. No,

they pushed to finally complete a drawn-out trade with Arizona in January because they needed an ace in the postseason.

And that's exactly why nobody sounded worried about the 41-year-old Johnson losing his first outing of spring training.

The 6'10" left-hander hit 94 mph on the scoreboard radar gun but was mostly in the low 90s with his fastball.

Nearly two hours before the game, fans were lined up four rows deep behind the New York dugout. Meanwhile, Johnson was sitting quietly in the clubhouse, reading a newspaper and watching television alone.

The Yankees noticed how serious their new teammate is on the day he pitches - even in spring training.

"I didn't know if we should be laughing in there," slugger Gary Sheffield said.

Johnson is yet to put on pinstripes in a game - he wore a navy blue No. 41 jersey for this trip to Atlanta's complex at Disney World and received a big ovation from the crowd of 10,683 as he walked out to the mound.

He downplayed the significance of his first outing with the Yankees, but did say it was exciting to get back on the mound. He said he stuck mostly with his fastball and slider, though he acknowledged they weren't sharp.

Mike Hampton looked fantastic again for Atlanta, yielding only a single in three shutout innings. He got Jeter



David J. Phillip/AP Photo

Yankees pitcher Randy Johnson, top, throws a pitch to Atlanta Braves' Nick Green during the first inning of their Grapefruit League game yesterday.

on a called third strike and recorded five groundouts. Coming off left knee surgery, Hampton opened the spring with two hitless innings against the Dodgers last week.

Braves starters have not allowed a run this spring, combining for 12 scoreless innings with only one walk and six strikeouts.

Jones added a double and scored twice. Jordan finished with two hits, including an RBI single, and is 7-for-10 this spring.

Women's tennis caps weekend road trip with 6-1 victory

GSU Athletic Media Relations

JACKSONVILLE, Ala. - The Georgia Southern women's tennis team claimed a 6-1 win against non-conference foe Jacksonville State Sunday afternoon, putting the finishing touches on a perfect 2-0 weekend road trip. The Eagles won five singles matches and also came away with the doubles point against the Gamecocks.

The Eagles were able to establish a 1-0 lead by winning two of the three doubles matches. At No. 1, Ciara Finucane and Szilvia Zsakay defeated Michelle Dushner and Babette Lombardo 8-2 for the sixth win of the spring. The team of Stephanie Tyrell and Kim Wollett was also victorious, improving to 2-0 with their 8-4 win against Layla Abby and Robin Gorman at the second spot.

GSU (4-4, 1-0 SoCon) followed by quickly extinguishing any hope of a Jacksonville

State comeback by capturing five singles matches, all in straight sets against the Gamecocks (4-5, 1-1 OVC).

Tyrell posted her first win of the spring in convincing fashion, blitzing Zeynep Gorkaynak 6-0, 6-1 at No. 1. Charlotte Bruneteaux and Zsakay won at No. 3 and No. 4, respectively, to remain tied for the team lead with six wins. Bruneteaux defeated Gorman 6-1, 6-1 while Zsakay prevailed 6-2, 6-4 over Erin Higgs. Georgia Southern won at the fifth and sixth spots also, as Heather Reynolds and Wollett both won their second matches of the weekend.

The Eagles will look to remain perfect in SoCon competition this weekend with two matches against conference rivals. Appalachian State will visit Hanner Courts March 12 at noon, and GSU will host East Tennessee State March 13, also at noon.



Grayson Hoffman/STAFF

GSU sophomore Stephanie Tyrell awaits the ball during a tennis match early in the season.

The Rapp Report QB spot in question



Matt Rapp
Sports Editor

The Georgia Southern football team kicked off their spring practice this Monday, as they do every year, along side beautiful Eagle Creek.

Coming off a disappointing campaign this past season, the Eagles look to produce another national championship - something that Eagle fans haven't seen since 2000.

With all the seniors now gone from the 2000 squad that defeated Montana 27-25 in the Championship game in Chattanooga, the Eagles must look for leadership from players like Jermaine Austin.

Austin, a senior All-American, knows what it takes to win in one of the country's fiercest division I-AA conferences. But Austin and the Eagles have come up short in every attempt.

As important as that might sound, the Eagles have more important things to worry about right now, like who will be the quarterback next season.

While spring practice is a time to figure out which players will play which positions, there is no position more important than the QB.

Both starting and backup quarterbacks will be graduating this year, which leaves a big hole in the Eagle lineup. Upon graduation, Chaz Williams and Trey Hunter, who accounted for 131 of the team's 135 pass attempts last season, the Eagles are left with only two quarterbacks with game experience.

Freshman of the year for 2004 Jayson Foster has proved that he can not only throw but also catch and run. The only pass that Foster completed was a 54-yard pass against South Dakota State in October. Foster actually accounted for a touchdown in five different ways in 2004 - throwing, rushing, receiving, kickoff return and punt return.

Darius Smiley will also compete for the starting position. Last year he rushed 17 times for 67 yards and one touchdown. During his freshman year, he played in five games, recording 91 rushing yards on 11 carries.

Redshirt freshman Melvin Smiley and sophomore Pierre Washington are listed on the depth chart behind both Foster and Smiley.

According to head coach Mike Sewak, "We will run things like we have in the past. The quarterback will be put into tough situations and we'll see how they react. Both Jayson and Darius were recruited as quarterbacks and they are excited about the opportunity."

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