The George-Anne

November 2, 2017

Student Media, Georgia Southern University

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A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

The deal with GMO
Page 4

Federal Department of Education
analyzes GS Financial Aid
Pages 6-7
It’ll be in the low 80s this weekend as we face off with the fake GSU on Saturday. Sunday will be partly cloudy, with no end in sight for 80 degree weather.

Campus Life

Campus Recreation and Intramurals

Moonlight Bike Ride

Thursday, Nov. 2 - TONIGHT
8 p.m. Southern Adventures Center

Take an evening ride around Georgia Southern’s campus with Southern Adventures!

Bring your own bike or rent one at the Southern Adventures Center!

Contact Ariel Seehorn at ariel-seehorn@georgiasouthern.edu for more info.

UPB’s

FALL FAMILY WEEKEND BLOCK PARTY

Friday, Nov. 3
5 p.m. at the University Bookstore

Join the UPB and the Office of Admissions for a Fall Family Weekend Kick-off Block Party. The block party is free and open to all families and students of Georgia Southern University.

There will be FREE food, great music and giveaways!

Contact UPB@GeorgiaSouthern.edu for more information.

Guest speaker Ann Dowsett Johnson will be shedding light on the importance of your future and how drinking can affect it for the better or worse.

Contact Nicole Withers by calling 912-478-2462 or email nwithers@georgiasouthern.edu with questions or for more information.

Alcohol and Other Drugs Programs

DUI Mario Kart

Thursday, Nov. 2
8:15 p.m. Kennedy Multipurpose Room
National Organization for Women
‘THE VAGINA MONOLOGUE’ AUDITIONS

The Vagina Monologues is an episodic play written by Eve Ensler that delves into consensual and nonconsensual sexual experiences, body image and other topics through the eyes of women from diverse backgrounds. NOW is looking for people who identify as women to act out these monologues and bring the play to life!

Auditions will be held next week:

Monday - Nov. 6: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Tuesday - Nov. 7: 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Wednesday - Nov. 8: 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

*All auditions held in room 2288 of the Interdisciplinary Program Center (2nd floor of the Carroll Building).

Contact Tyler Hicks at th06356@georgiasouthern.edu with questions or for more information.

CRI’S EXPLORE ARCHERY
Every Sunday until Nov. 12
5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. at the Shooting Sports Education Center

Explore Archery is a versatile education activity program adapted for students that are interested in being introduced to the sport. In Explore Archery, the sport is introduced through participation in individual and team-building activities that are not based on athletic abilities or the capability to shoot a perfect score. Whether participants are trying to pop a balloon or create an archery painting, they will stay engaged and keep coming back for more! Equipment is included and registration is open to the public.

Contact Alex Schenk at joseph-schenk@georgiasouthern.edu with questions.

#WhereAtSouthern

If you guessed Gus’ eye outside of the Dining Commons, you got it right!

Keep your eye on @gsu.studentmedia on Instagram or @SeenAtSouthern on Twitter for new puzzles. Guess correctly and you could be featured in the paper!

If you want to add your free listing, contact ads1@georgiasouthern.edu.

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or
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thegeorgeanne.com
In the past few years, there has been a trend sweeping the nation. A scary sounding three letter acronym has caused millions of people to pay nearly 50 percent more for what they put in their grocery cart. GMOs (Genetically Modified Organisms) are organisms that have had DNA altered or modified in some way through genetic engineering. While reading that definition may make some people wish to mix ingredients from over seven billion people in the world right now, almost all of which have a very similar diet. With the population set to double by the end of this century, we must adapt in order to accommodate so many people. Over seven billion people growing on dry and salty land. GM crops can produce high yields by growing on dry and salty land. Agriculture Organization estimates that the world will have to grow 70 percent more food by 2050 just to keep up with population growth. Due to climate change most of the world’s arable land will be extremely difficult to farm on, but GM crops can produce high yields by growing on dry and salty land. The first GMO to hit the market was the FLAVR SAVR tomato in 1994. The story of the FLAVR SAVR tomato is an interesting one, as it shows exactly how the world would react to GMOs nearly a decade later. When the FLAVR SAVR tomato initially came to stores it was successful, selling nearly 2 million cans in its first couple of years. The fact that the tomatoes were genetically modified was not hidden, it was actually labeled on the can. The tomatoes were a scientific breakthrough as they allowed fresh fruit to have a longer shelf life and have a cost less than organic tomatoes. However, in 1998 a man named Dr. Arpad Pusztai announced on a broadcast that feeding rats genetically modified potatoes resulted in “biological effects” that “could” be attributed to the process of genetic engineering. Soon after there was a sharp decline in FLAVR SAVR tomatoes, and the product eventually was pulled from shelves. After the broadcast was released, Dr. Pusztai conducted a further independent analysis of the data and found his initial findings to be incorrect, the FLAVR SAVR tomatoes however never returned to stores.

**MY EXPERIENCE**

I make it a point to sit down with my grandparents every few weeks just to talk. Typically the conversation tends to shift toward “the good ol’ days.” Both of them growing up in the deep south, a thing they recall that surprises me is how long it took to prepare a meal. My grandfather grew up on a farm and he often tells stories of picking crops from the field and making sugar cane syrup. Making dinner was an all-day affair that required help from both of his brothers in the field with him, and his six sisters in the kitchen.

With the creation of genetically modified crops, our generation no longer has to spend all day in the fields or in the kitchen. The extent of our cooking (if we do not just go out to eat) is heading over to the store, buying a few packaged ingredients to mix together and then throwing it in the oven.

The main arguments in defense of organic food are that they are healthier and better for the environment. To quote Donald Trump from his first presidential debate “Wrong, Wrong, Wrong!” GM food products must be “rigorously tested” before they can be sold. The testing process can take up to ten years and must include evaluate the potential risks to humans and livestock as well as potential risks to wildlife and the environment. Genetically modified crops are among the most tested products in history.

I have a hard time dishing over an additional ten cents at Cookout for the tomato slice on my Big Double, so the fact that people are willing to pay so much more for organic food is amazing to me. Everyone wants to feel like it is the old days where you can step outside and pluck an apple from the tree. Genetically modified food may seem frightening but the truth is that in order to sustain our busy paced life and not spend every second working on dinner, we must be acceptable to adapting.

**STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS**

The George-Anne is the official student newspaper of Georgia Southern University, operated by GSU students using facilities provided by the University. The newspaper is the oldest continuously published newspaper in Bulloch County.

The newspaper is published twice weekly, on Tuesdays and Thursdays. During most of the academic year, there is an additional weekly publication. Any questions regarding content should be directed to the editor by phone at 912.478.2285 or at gazette@georgiasouthern.edu.

All submitted articles, reports, feature stories, editorials, and advertising inquiries must be submitted through the Student Media office. All submissions must be signed and include phone number for verification.

The George-Anne receives additional support in part from the Student Activities Budget Committee. For more information, new cards, or sample publications contact the advertising manager or student media director. The advertiser is responsible for any errors in advertisements and its responsibility for any errors is limited to the amount of space the error occupied.

The George-Anne reserves the right to reject any advertisement submitted for publication at the regular advertising rates.

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The George-Anne welcomes letters to the editor and appropriate guest columns. All copy submitted should be typed and single-spaced, not to exceed 250 words of text, typed, and sent via email to JAZY@georgiasouthern.edu or via Facebook to the Facebook page. All articles must be original and include phone number for verification.

GSU students should include their academic major, course and section number. The editor reserves the right to reject any submission and no admittance for lengthy. Opinions expressed herein are those of the individual(s) or author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the faculty, staff or administration of GSU, Student Media Advisory Board, or the Board of Directors of Student Media.
FORGOTTEN CINEMATIC GEMS TO STREAM THIS FALL

BY CASEY ROHLEN
The Defender Staff

Thanks to that generous pushover of a friend we all have, our generation has access to a plethora of streaming services to watch the newest movies and shows as soon as they are released. Yet, through no fault of their own, some flicks exist in a world unseened by many. They’re trapped in an obscure dark-alley of Netflix that we never scroll down far enough to see. Whether praised from their release and forgotten through time or predestined to be timeless dark horses that never got the credit they deserve, here’s three must-see movies to satisfy your refined cinematic palate.

The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou (Netflix)

In this unrivaled age of universal Bill Murray fandom, where the man could cough on your baby and you’d still laugh and give him a hug, you likely think you’ve seen all the Murray classics. The problem with your overzealous pride in your Ghostbusters knowledge is that many of us forget the streak of quality films Murray made in collaboration with the steampunk Renaissance man himself, Wes Anderson. Movies like The Royal Tenenbaums hit like The Grand Budapest Hotel and The Life Aquatic round out his unique directing style. The basic premise revolves around a world famous oceanographer, Steve Zissou, played by Murray (think Captain Ahab in a quirky stop-motion fever-dream) who takes to the high seas to hunt down the “jaguar shark” that ate his partner. The selling point with your overzealous pride for Anderson’s baffling ensemble cast is the baffling ensemble cast that has become one of his best performances, but then you have Cate Blanchett (The Aviator, The Curious case of Benjamin Button) as a darkly comedic and very pregnant reporter, longtime collaborator Owen Wilson (Wedding Crashers) as the estranged could-be son, and William Dafoe (The “Green Goblin” from THE REAL Spider-Man) playing Murray’s right hand man aboard the doomed search vessel. This movie is an endlessly quotable, cheeky, good time that would play the perfect third wheel on a date night.

From Dusk Till Dawn (Hulu)

Quentin Tarantino and Robert Rodriguez walk into a bar, the bar is staffed by sexy stripper vampires and a whole lotta’ weapons. The punchline writes itself. Tarantino, of Pulp Fiction and Kill Bill fame, and Rodriguez, director of Desperado and Machete, pack a silver-plated punch with their over-the-top dialogue in this purposefully “B Movie-esque” action/horror flick. Throw in Tarantino himself co-starring alongside a young George Clooney and what you get is one of the funnest rip-roaring movies you’ll ever set your bloodshot eyes on. The soundtrack alone is enough to keep you enthralled if it weren’t for Clooney plucking Murray’s out classic one-liners like McFlurries at Ronald McDonald’s funeral. The graphics are enough to hold you in there, but it’s the mood shift halfway through that will make you sit and contemplate your existence by the time it’s over. Violent to the point of hilarity, this movie leaves no gore-stone unturned as our antiheroes, a pair of murderous bank robbers named the Gecko brothers, battle their way through the heart of dive bar hell. Still not convinced? Ladies and gentlemen... Satanic Pandemonium.

Requiem for a Dream (Netflix)

Certainly the most mainstream of the movies on this list, this Darren Aronofsky adaptation of Hubert Selby Jr.’s pitch-black, brooding novel was named one of the top three movies of all time by IMDB. But the notion that it LOST money at the box office on its measly $4 million dollar budget says that your average moviegoer wasn’t ready for the product that was delivered. Requiem works as a crescendo while navigating through the intertwining stories of four recreational drug users who slowly find themselves consumed by their vices. The film’s score heightens the horror on-screen, you’re likely to learn a damning lesson about the human condition.

We accept Eagle Express!
On Aug. 3, 2015 then interim president Jean Bartels, Ph.D., received a message from the Federal Student Aid Office, an office of the U.S. Department of Education (DoE), detailing an extensive review of Georgia Southern University’s use of Title IV funds.

Included with this letter was a 26-page preliminary program review of GS conducted by three DoE agents from May 11, 2015 to May 15, 2015, during which they found and documented 13 instances of noncompliance perpetrated by the university, according to documents obtained from the university through a Freedom of Information Act Request (FOIA).

In the 2016 fiscal year, eight universities in the state of Georgia received their final determinations from the same process, resulting in the collective return of over $7.3 million to the Federal DoE. The smallest fine issued was $109,460 to Life University in Marietta, Ga., while Atlanta Metropolitan State College in Atlanta, Ga. was told to return $2,675,375.89 in funds to the DoE.

Although this process can seem daunting, it does not always necessarily result in large fines for the schools reviewed, and in some cases no fines at all. Savannah College of Art and Design received their final program review determination in September of 2015, and were found to have made satisfactory actions to correct their noncompliance citations, resulting in no fines being assessed.

The Initial Review
The topic was brought up at a faculty senate this past August, when a faculty member brought a question to the senate floor.

“Michelle Haberland said she had heard in a department meeting that [GS] had a problem related to Financial Aid that resulted in significant fines,” according to the senate minutes. “She asked President Hebert to clarify what was going on.”

To this inquiry President Hebert was noted saying that institutions throughout the nation were audited for Financial Aid purposes and asked Amy Ballagh, Ph.D., Interim Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, to clarify the status of the audit. At the time of the senate meeting Haberland stated that the university had recently sent documents to the DoE and was awaiting a response.

When asked whether the DoE had responded since the time of that senate meeting Ballagh said they had not. They also are not currently aware of the status of the review.

“We don’t know at this time. We are waiting,” Ballagh said in an interview conducted this past October. “We have not yet received a final program review determination.”

The DoE has also elected not to comment on the current status of GS’ review.

“Consistent with regulation, the Department’s policy is not to comment on any ongoing program reviews at institutions – including whether one has commenced,” a DoE spokesperson said. “Once the review has concluded and a Final Program Review Determination issued to an institution, that package will be made publicly available on the [Federal Student Aid] Data Center.”

The initial program review report, submitted on Aug. 3, 2015, found eight findings that require action by the university:
- Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)
- Inadequate Drug and Alcohol Prevention Program Requirements
- Failure to Perform Return of Title IV (RT4T) for Unofficial Withdrawals
- Entrance and Exit Counseling Not Conducted/Documented

**TERMS**

**Department of Education (DoE):**
The Federal Department of Education. The review was carried out by the Federal Student Aid Office, a subsidiary of the DoE.

**Program Review Report:** A report of the findings of the DoE agents initial assessment of the university. These findings are not definitive and are subject to change, until the Final Program Review Determination is submitted by the DoE.

**Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP):** A benchmark established by the institution to be applied to all students that determines whether a student who would otherwise be eligible for Title IV aid is maintaining reasonable academic standards. SAPs are evaluated on both qualitative (GPA) and quantitative (PACE) scales.

**Sliding Scale:** A SAP is considered to be on a sliding scale when the institution holds certain departments to a different standard than the rest of the university. For example GS’ qualitative SAP is 2.0 GPA, while education majors must maintain a 2.5 GPA.

**Drug and Alcohol Prevention Program (DAAPP):** Programs designed to prevent the unlawful possession, use and distribution of drugs and alcohol on campus and at recognized events and activities.
Inaccurate and Late Enrollment Reporting to the NSLDS
Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal Inadequate
Professional Judgment Not Documented
Ineligible Disbursement/ Not Meeting Satisfactory Academic Progress

Some of these findings simply require the university to take specific actions, however some of these instances of noncompliance can result in fines being assessed to the university by the Department of Education.

**Satisfactory Academic Progress**

The first finding listed in the program review was concerning GS’ implementation of the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy. SAPs are a benchmark established by the DoE to determine whether a student who would otherwise be eligible for Title IV aid is maintaining a reasonable academic career during their collegiate career.

SAPs are measured by two different factors. The student’s Quantitative (PACE) and Qualitative (GPA) progress. Quantitative is used to ensure that a student is completing their courses in a reasonable amount of time.

“All students will be evaluated at the end of each term to determine if they are making satisfactory pace of progression in their academic program,” according to the GS SAP policy. “PACE is calculated by dividing the cumulative number of hours the student has successfully completed (earned) by the cumulative number of hours the student has attempted.”

“[GS] is advised that the remedial measures cannot and do not diminish the seriousness of these violations nor do they eliminate the possibility that the [DoE] will impose an adverse administrative action and/or require additional corrective measures.”

**PROGRAM REVIEW REPORT**

US Department of Education

Students are evaluated at the end of each term, due to the fact that at the time the university evaluated SAPs at the end of the spring semester for all students, and the end of the summer term for students enrolled in summer courses.

“Because [GS] checks some students in the spring and some at the end of summer, a full time student who was checked in the previous spring and elected to enroll in the current summer term would exceed annual requirement when checked for SAP at the end of the summer term,” according to the review.

Another source of contention in the review was the way GS applies its qualitative SAPs. According to the review documentation, when an institution elects to hold a different standard for certain degree programs, it is considered a “sliding scale” SAP, which is the case for GS since education majors are required to maintain at least a 2.5 GPA, compared to the 2.0 GPA held by the rest of the university.

“[GS] does not use a sliding SAP scale,” according to the review. “However, concerning the latter case, [GS] does require its education majors to achieve a 2.5 cumulative GPA for purposes of graduation, which additionally requires the institution to maintain a separate SAP policy for these students, which it does not have and will be required to submit.”

Since the submission of the initial review report however, GS has updated its SAP policy accordingly.

**Drug and Alcohol Prevention Program Requirements**

Another finding reported by the DoE agents was the Drug and Alcohol Prevention Program Requirement.

“The Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA) and Part 86 of the [DoEs] General Administrative Regulations require each institution of higher education (IHE) to certify that it has developed and implemented a drug and alcohol abuse prevention program (DAAPP),” according to the program review.

In addition to this, every IHE is required to conduct a biennial review to be submitted to the DoE in order to determine the effectiveness of its DAAPP.

**Noncompliance**

“[GS] violated the biennial review requirement of the DFSCA and the [DoEs] Part 86 General Administrative Regulations. Specifically, it did not conduct a biennial review,” according to the review by DoE. “Such failures may contribute to increased drug and alcohol abuse as well as an increase in drug and alcohol-related violent crime at [GS].”

The review also stipulated that GS was required to immediately conduct a biennial review of its DAAPP, prepare a detailed report to be submitted to the DoE. It also indicated the seriousness of the violations.

“As noted above, the exceptions identified in this finding constitute serious violations of the DFSCA that by their nature cannot be cured,” according to the review. “[GS] is advised that these remedial measures cannot and do not diminish the seriousness of these violations nor do they eliminate the possibility that the [DoE] will impose an adverse administrative action and/or require additional corrective measures.”

**Conclusion**

It is important to note that the review is still under review and that findings are not definitive until the final review report is submitted by the DoE agents. Currently the university has not made any plans in place in the event that the DoE should hand down any fines, according to Ballagh.

As of the publication of this article the last correspondence between the university and the DoE is Oct 23, 2017, according to documents obtained from the university through a FOIA request.

*Jozsef Papp also contributed to this article*
GS RESEARCHERS SET TO CONDUCT CLIMATE CHANGE BASED RESEARCH IN NEARBY FISH HATCHERY

BY GEORGE ANDERSON
The George-Anne Staff

Georgia Southern University researchers are set to conduct research on aquatic life and the effect climate change could have in the Bo-Ginn National Fish Hatchery located in Magnolia Springs near Millen, Georgia.

The university recently signed a contract with the United States Fish & Wildlife Services permitting GS students and professors to use the facility for research. Much of the research conducted will be used as a potential way to identify how aquatic species will react to changes in the ecosystem in the future.

BO-GINN NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY

The hatchery and aquarium, set on 127-acres of land, currently serves as a “refuge for threatened and endangered aquatic species and other rare species of concern,” according to fws.gov.

The hatchery was temporarily closed in 1996, however, it was brought back to functionality after an agreement was made between the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and the hatchery in 2009.

According to Fish & Wildlife services, the hatchery’s springs have a flow of nearly nine million gallons a day.

“This facility has a unique and stable water source which can be vital in times of drought and other impacts including accelerating climate change,” Allan Brown, Fisheries Program Supervisor for the Service’s Southeast Region told fws.gov. “Bo Ginn NFH [National Fish Hatchery] can play a vital role in establishing a safe haven for imperiled, threatened and endangered fishes and other aquatic species.”

RESEARCH PLAN

Led by Biology Associate Professor Checo Colon-Gaud, Ph.D., GS researchers plan to use this fish hatchery to conduct research that will help explain how climate change could potentially impact a species’ life-cycle in ephemeral ponds.

Ephemeral ponds are bodies of water that fill from rainfall but dry out weeks or months later and are vital habitats for many species in the southeastern U.S.

Because it is predicted that climate change could have an effect on how long ponds and other bodies of water stay full during a season, GS researchers plan to use the hatchery as a way of running controlled experiments on how this may adversely affect different species, according to GS news.

“The key question is whether animals such as amphibians and insects can complete their life cycles as ponds dry out faster or fill less predictably,” Colon-Gaud told GS news. “The hatchery gives us the ability to manipulate the duration of flooding in many ponds at once so we can measure how aquatic communities respond.”

While much of the research that will be conducted will be on the ephemeral ponds in the hatchery according to Colon-Gaud, this research may be the “key to the health of surrounding forests.”
BY KAITLIN SELLS

The women’s basketball team opened its season with a 92-47 win over Fort Valley State in an exhibition game in Hanner Fieldhouse on Tuesday night.

FIRST HALF

The Eagles led the first quarter 15-6, and ended the first half leading the wildcats 39-17, with the help from a 14-0 run in the second quarter. They shot 36.6 percent from the floor, and 25 percent from beyond the arc. Although they pulled ahead in scoring, they weren’t too careful about their fouling.

“Two things we were a little disappointed in, particularly in the first half, were turnovers and fouls,” Coach Kip Drown told gseagles.com. “We fouled five shooters in the first half.”

SECOND HALF

GS continued to move and pass the ball steadily, shooting 55 percent from the floor and 54 percent from the three-point range. In the third quarter alone the Eagles drained six 3-pointers. Although they did have nine turnovers in the second half, they made up for it by coming away with a 45-point victory.

“I thought in the second half we came back out strong, and I really thought it started with our post players passing the ball well,” Drown told gseagles.com. “It all started with our post players.”

ANALYSIS

By the end of the game, Georgia southern had 21 assists on their 37 field goals, and an impressive three players that shot into the double digits. Senior Sierra Butler scored 16 points, sophomore Nakol Franks totaled out at 12 points, and another fellow sophomore Alexis Brown shot 10 points. The Eagles’ defensive and offensive rebounds were also quite impressive, overall having 61.

“We needed that,” Coach Drown told gseagles.com. “We needed to shoot the ball in the second half like we did.”

The Eagles will start regular season on Friday, November 10, by traveling to Greensboro, N.C. and facing North Carolina A&T at 5 p.m.
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Reflector FALL FESTIVAL

WEDNESDAY NOV. 15
11 AM - 1 PM
@ The Rotunda