

# The George-Anne

September 14, 2005

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High: 94 | Low: 70  
Partly cloudy  
Volume 78  
Number 26

## Ophelia still on

The on-again, off-again Carolina hurricane still a threat | **BRIEFS, p.3**



## University Lions Club gets charter for campus chapter

| **OPINION, p. 4A**

# THE GEORGE-ANNE DAILY

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2005

# No overhaul in store for transit

Additional buses will ease congestion; System named Southern Express  
There are no plans to add new stops; Buses will not run an additional route

By Adam Crisp  
Managing editor

Georgia Southern will not make massive overhauls to the schools' recently implemented transit system. Instead, school officials told students at a forum Tuesday night that the university plans to stay the course but add more buses in hopes that the current routes and stops will be adequate in the long haul.

Students shouldn't expect more stops or added routes, but GSU students should expect to see an increase in the transit fee next fall.

A panel of two school officials and one representative from Consigna, the bus operator, answered questions from about 50 students at the forum Tuesday night in the Russell Union.

Questions ranged from concerns about student fees and routes to specific concerns about lack of parking at the university's newest residence hall.

In the end, Wendell Hagins, GSU's interim director of auxiliary affairs, said he will not push for changes to the current bus system until administrators are sure "everything has leveled out."

"We aren't going to make any changes with the present route right now," said Hagins. "We are going to

run it the very best we can."

Hagins shot down suggestions from students who were pleading to have the bus system run two different routes concurrently. He said running buses in opposite directions would increase the time students had to wait at each stop.

"Right now, we want to make sure buses are always two minutes apart," said Hagins. "If we run two different routes, that doubles the wait time.... If a student was passed by three times that could increase the wait time to 30 minutes."

Hagins said students should notice an improvement in speed during the next week as he hoped to introduce two additional buses to the school's current fleet of seven.

"Hopefully by the end of this week we will have two extra buses so when we are running seven buses at peak times, if two go down, we will still be able to run seven when we really need them," said Hagins.

The school started the year with six buses in the fleet - one was a spare. One more has been added since.

The school pays Consigna \$100 per hour per bus to operate the system. Hagins estimated that adding one additional bus could cost the school \$6-8,000 per day.

Since school began, GSU has added



Grayson Hoffman/STAFF

Students load a bus in this file photo. School officials said Tuesday they will not modify routes or make massive changes to GSU's transit system. However, two additional buses will be added by week's end.

three buses and has driven the system well over the projected capacity.

"We projected that we would drive the buses 260 hours per week for the whole year," said Hagins. "Instead, we're going to run them 340 hours per week."

Hagins said GSU had originally

asked the Board of Regents to levy a \$40 transit fee per student. The BOR approved \$30 and thus created a \$150,000 funding shortfall.

Hagins was confident Tuesday that the school would ask for at least an increase to \$40 in the fall, but indicated the fee could be higher. However, he

said there would be no increases until the new school year.

"The student fee will be the same for the whole year," said Hagins. "We were already operating the buses with a \$150,000 shortfall... Auxiliary Affairs will work to absorb the deficit."

see **OVERHAUL**, page 3

## Southern Express is transit's new name

Staff reports

Put aside your curse words and frustrated expletives when describing Georgia Southern's seven white transit buses. Tuesday, the buses got an official name.

Southern Express is the new name for the often-cussed transit system.

The school shot down Gus' Buses and even Eagle Droppings as possible names.

Seven students suggested the name as a part of a multi-week naming contest. A committee picked the new name from 600 entries.

Brandice James was among the seven students who suggested Southern Express. Her name was chosen at random to receive a free mountain bike. The other six students were given \$25 gift certificates to the University Store.

## Next freshman class may face restrictions

By Koelling Borneman  
Staff writer

As the 2005-06 school year begins, there is a noticeable change on campus. The change is not just in the new buildings and never-ending construction, but in the masses of people crowding the pedestrian. Although official enrollment statistics for fall 2005 are not available yet, the campus certainly feels more congested than previous semesters.

With the ever-increasing enrollment numbers, rumors are flying that administrators will soon begin requiring freshmen to live on campus and restrict them from driving cars to school.

Many freshman feel that it would have deterred them from choosing Georgia Southern as their college destination had they been forced to live in dorms. However, others believe that on-campus housing is a beneficial experience.

"I didn't want to live in a dorm at first," said freshman Stephen Kirkus, "but now I'm glad I did it. I hardly have to drive anywhere and I can wake up five minutes before class and get there on time."

Greg Schlierf, assistant director of administrative services for the housing department said that although having all freshman live on campus may be the university's ultimate goal, there are no immediate plans.

"There is sound research that shows three things about students who live on campus," said Schlierf. "First, they feel more connected to their school. Second, they are more likely to return the next year. Third, they do better academically."

This research may constitute some of the reasons that GSU is in the midst of a 10-year plan to have 40 percent of the university's enrollment live on campus. According to Schlierf, GSU is currently **FRESHMAN**, page 1

# A Day for Southern breaks record

By Robert Greene II  
Staff writer

Yesterday Georgia Southern held its annual A Day For Southern, an annual event during which the university calls on business and community leaders to donate money for school programs not funded by the state.

The theme of this year's fundraiser, "Together We're Better-Community and Campus," manifested itself through the actions of the community as the total this year set a new record for fundraising by the university, as \$1,220,334 was raised in one day of fundraising.

"We've had millions before," said President Bruce Grube, who was among the GSU dignitaries who presented the staggering total of money, "but with the money given to hurricane relief, we were hoping to get around the same amount as we've gotten before. But this record total is absolutely fantastic."

A Day For Southern raises money for many different areas of university funding. Scholarships from the previous year received almost 850,000 dollars from the fundraising event. The GSU Museum and many of the university's cultural landmarks receive money from this event, as does the GSU Athletics program.

"We've heard the President talk about records, whether those records



James Hall/STAFF

Bulloch County's business and professional community contributed a record-setting \$1,220,334 during the 2005 edition of A Day For Southern, the annual one-day fund drive that benefits Georgia Southern. Left to right, GSU President Bruce Grube; A Day For Southern campaign chairman Charles Brown; GSU Office of Alumni Relations Director Frank Hook; GSU Foundation Director of Annual Giving Beth Mathews; GSU Athletics Director Sam Baker; Southern Boosters President John Mulherin; and GSU Vice-President for University Advancement and GSU Foundation President Billy Griffis.

are SAT scores or new students," said Charles Brown, an area lawyer and the chairman of this year's fundraising campaign, before unveiling the new total.

Last year's total amount in donations was \$1,101,056. But with this

year's record total, the university has raised more than one million dollars for eight years in a row.

Such high numbers for fundraising have shown the university's and the city of Statesboro's bond of mutual support, say school of-

icials. They believe this has led to millions being poured into the city by GSU students, and a rapidly climbing number of new students, culminating with the largest freshman class ever coming to GSU in the Fall of 2005.

## INSIDE

### Georgia West Nile

A 73-year-old man has been identified as having Atlanta's first reported case of West Nile virus this year. The man was hospitalized with a severe headache late last month.

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# Get away from it all

Take a trip with Southern Adventures

By Maria Folsom  
Staff Writer

As a vital part of Campus Recreation and Internurals, Southern Adventure seeks to promote a healthy and safe lifestyle for students along with providing some great traveling experiences.

Southern Adventures has eight trips planned for this semester. On one trip, students can explore forests on the border between North Carolina and Tennessee in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Longer trips are planned for the winter break, including Dogsledding in Minnesota, Dec. 14-19. Southern Adventures provides all the equipment needed for each trip.

The cost of each trip includes everything from transportation, leaders, group gear, and specialized gear

related to the activity, but students can bring their own equipment if they wish.

These trips just aren't for the trip but it is also a learning experience as well. Students learn how to set up tents, and provide for themselves in the wilderness. Trips are designed with the novice in mind but they do ask students who go on the trips to be mentally and physically prepared.

Southern Adventures wants everyone to take advantage of the great outdoor trips, so working with students with special needs is not a problem. Southern Adventures is committed to working with people with disabilities and trying to fit their needs so that they can attend trips as well.

All trip leaders are certified in some sort of medical training so that if the unexpected accident does arise, the trip leaders can handle it.

# First campus Lions Club charter in state.

By Cheryl Frost  
Staff Writer

The Georgia Southern Campus Lions Club received its own charter this spring and has plans for a productive year working in the Statesboro community.

The Lions Club International is the largest service club organization in the world, with more than 46,000 clubs in 194 countries and geographical areas.

The club primarily hosts activities to assist blind and visually impaired people, but their services expand to other disabilities and any at-risk community.

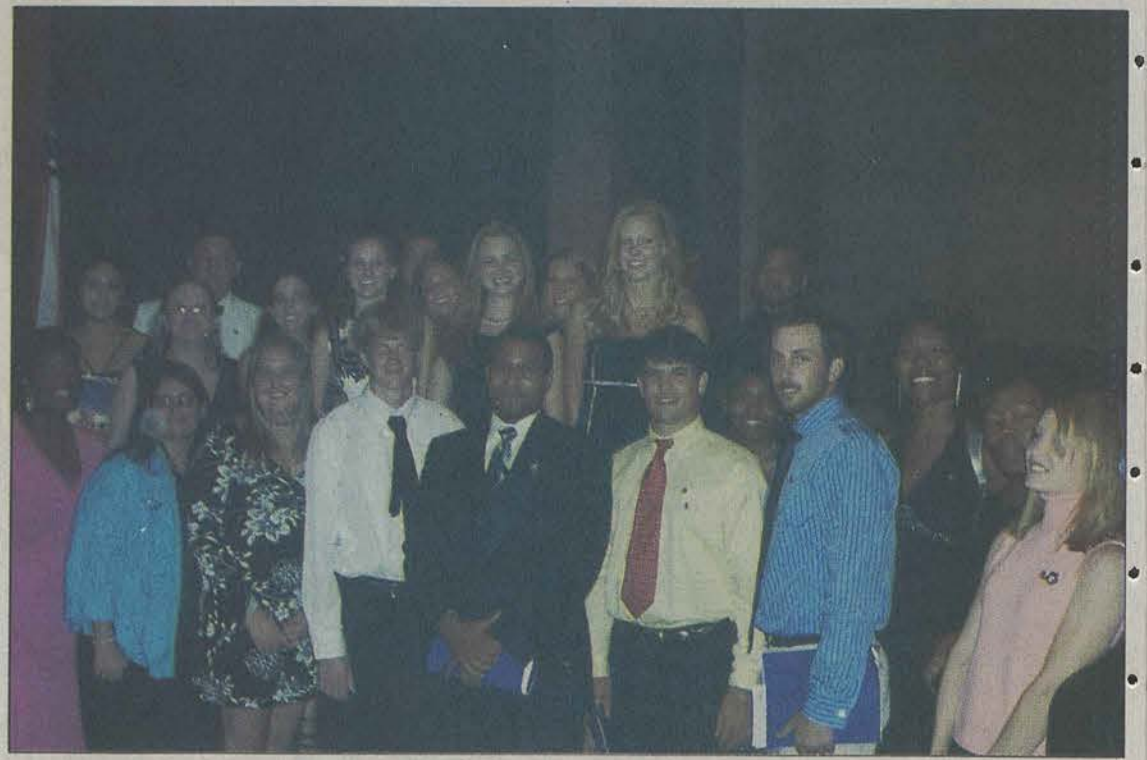
GSU gained its chapter because students were interested in doing more for the community, but didn't have a way to offer their services.

This interest became a reality with the encouragement and sponsorship of the Statesboro Noon Lions Club.

Although the campus charter was issued in May, the 37 student members of GSU's new chapter were ceremoniously acknowledged during a banquet last month at the Russell Union Ballroom.

It is the first campus charter in the state of Georgia said Lions Club member and Campus Club president, Virgil Watkins Jr.

"It's a really great organization that is respected internationally," said Watkins. "Their mission statement is great. And you get to help



Special Photo

Thirty-seven students were accepted into GSU's new Lions Club during a ceremony earlier this semester.

people."

Some of the activities the club is planning include a camp for the blind, book readings and "Bird Day," where disadvantaged students from area schools will be invited to the campus for a tour of the Lamar Q. Ball Raptor Center.

The group is also helping to assist victims of Hurricane Katrina by contributing to GSU's One Million Challenge.

Any GSU student who is interested in helping with or volunteering for services in the community are welcome to join the campus Lions Club.

Members can expect to spend approximately two to three hours per week helping in the Statesboro community and are encouraged to join at any time.

"You have access to so many resources," said Watkins, "With so

many chapters in so many places, you can be a part of the organization no matter where you go."

Meetings for Lions Club members are held Wednesdays at 5 p.m. in the College of Business Administration building.

For more information on the campus Lions Club and how to become a member, contact Virgil Watkins at [vwatkin1@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:vwatkin1@georgiasouthern.edu).

## Phi Mu Congratulates their New Ladies



Mollie Marie Barrs

Megan Bearden

Emily Beggs

Emily Blakey

Hailey Blakey

Erin Blalock

Elizabeth Campbell

Paige Campbell

Leigh Anne Dodelin

Katelyn Doyle

Abbie Dunster

Ashlee Ensley

Taylor Farley

Meaghan Frankish

Emily Goldstein

Casey Gravlee

Ashley Griner

Autumn Hall

Brittany Hall

Kati Hayes

Molly Holmes

Lauren Hover

Ashley Hylton

Anna Irvin

Lauren Jernigan

Whitney Kammerich

Lauren Kindard

Courtney Langel

Hannah Lee

Brandi Marsino

Katherine Million

Jane Marie Moody

Kandice Moore

Casey Munch

Rachel Nix

Anna Powers

Rachel Quasebarth

Leslie Rhodes

Carley Ross

Michelle Runyon

Abigail Shrader

Ali Smith

Danielle Thomas

Lindsay Timms

Amanda Trice

Ashley Marie Vollar

Hallie Watkins

Mandy Watts

Jenny Wells

Rebecca Whatley

Mary Willoughby

Lowery Wilson

Loren Woodard

## Freshman research begins at GSU

GSU News Service

Georgia Southern is one of 13 institutions in the United States that has been selected to participate in a national project studying how well each institution recruits, supports and teaches first-year students.

The Foundations of Excellence in the First College Year Project is used by colleges and universities to develop and refine their overall approach to educating new students.

Sponsored by the Policy Center on the First Year of College, which is based in Brevard, N.C., the project is supported by the Lumina Foundation for Education, a national philanthropic organization located in Indianapolis.

GSU is one of more than 200 four-year colleges and universities across the country who are participating in developing the standards that form the core of the Foundations of Excellence project.

However, only 13 of those institutions are members of the Inaugural

National Select Cohort, which will work during the 2005-2006 academic year with the Policy Center and its research partner, Educational Benchmarking Inc.

The criteria for inclusion in the cohort included a strong campus commitment to students and readiness to engage in evaluation and improvement.

"Providing a high-quality experience for students in their first year is essential to achieving our goal of national distinction," said Linda Bleicken, the provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at GSU. "We look forward to participating in the self-study process and to implementing changes designed to engage students more effectively in the life of the university."

Because research has long indicated that new students who are successfully integrated into college are much more likely to succeed, many institutions work hard to create a quality experience for first-year

students.

According to John N. Gardner, the executive director of the Policy Center, attention to the first year carries the double benefit of helping students meet their educational goals while helping colleges and universities retain students through graduation.

The members of the Inaugural National Select Cohort will measure their effectiveness in recruiting, admitting, orienting, supporting, advising and teaching new students. Each institution will then be able to make programmatic improvements that will increase student learning, success and persistence.

"The blueprint represents a holistic examination of the many elements that get students off to the right start," said Chris Caplinger, the interim director of the First Year Experience at Georgia Southern.

For more information, visit <http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/fye/>.

### CALENDAR

Thursday, September 15

5:30 p.m.  
International Club meeting  
Russell Union 2080

8 p.m.  
Nitty Gritty Dirt Band,  
PAC

Friday, September 16

7 p.m.  
"You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown"  
Averitt Center

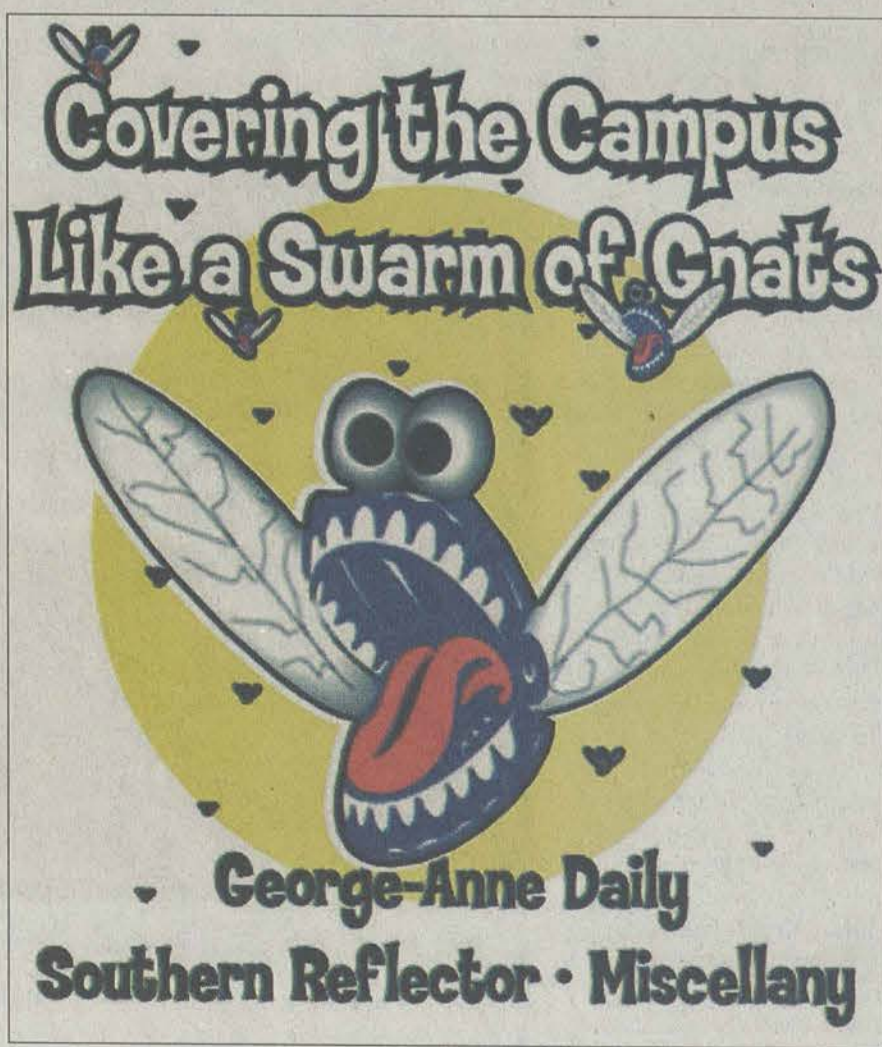
Tuesday, September 20

7:30 p.m.  
The Director of the Kennedy Space  
Center and GSU alumnus James W.  
Kennedy will deliver the Norman Fries  
Distinguished lecture  
PAC

Wednesday, September 21

11 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Blood Drive  
Russell Union Rooms 2041, 2047

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Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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THE BIG STORY

# Bush takes full responsibility for slow response to Katrina

By Lara Jakes Jordan  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON—President Bush said Tuesday that "I take responsibility" for failures in dealing with Hurricane Katrina and said the disaster raised broader questions about the government's ability to respond to natural disasters as well as terror attacks.

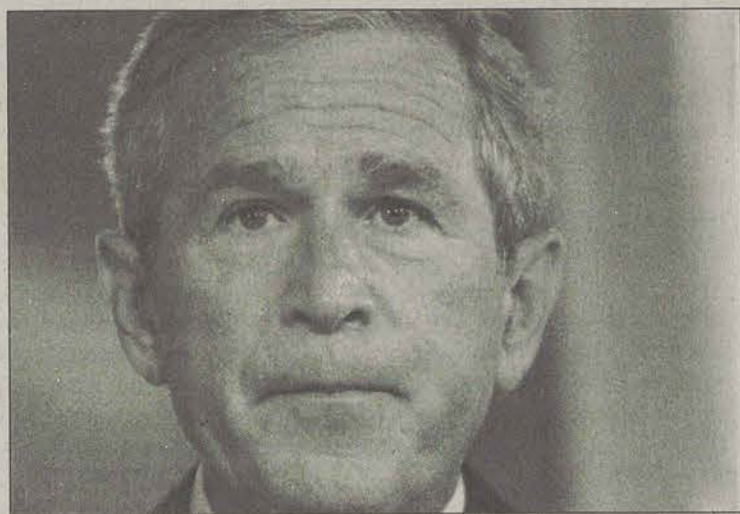
"Katrina exposed serious problems in our response capability at all levels of government," Bush said at joint White House news conference with the president of Iraq.

"To the extent the federal government didn't fully do its job right, I take responsibility," Bush said.

The president was asked whether people should be worried about the government's ability to handle another terrorist attack given failures in responding to Katrina.

"Are we capable of dealing with a severe attack? That's a very important question and it's in the national interest that we find out what went on so we can better respond," Bush replied.

He said he wanted to know both what went wrong and what went



Ron Edmonds / The Associated Press

President Bush said Tuesday that "I take responsibility" for failures in dealing with Hurricane Katrina and said the disaster raised broader questions about the government's ability to respond to natural disasters as well as terror attacks.

right.

As for blunders in the federal response, "I'm not going to defend the process going in," Bush said. "I am going to defend the people saving lives."

He praised relief workers at all levels. "I want people in America to understand how hard people worked

to save lives down there," he said.

Bush spoke after R. David Paulson, the new acting director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, pledged to intensify efforts to find more permanent housing for the tens of thousands of Hurricane Katrina survivors now in shelters.

## Overhaul

from page 1

Hagins told the crowd that the proceeds from parking tickets will help offset the transit system deficit.

Cognisa rep Mitch Skier said the schools decision to add more buses makes sense.

"It's smart to start out a little small and stretch from there," said Skier. "If you order to many buses, you are locked in. It makes a lot of sense to operate this way. You want to always have 20-30 percent (of the fleet on standby)."

Hagins suggested Tuesday that when parking at the Eagle Village residence hall is completed, parking at Paulson Stadium will be reduced. He indicated that once parking is more convenient there, the stop at the RAC could be moved to Akins Blvd. Not having the buses pull into the RAC will reduce the trip time significantly.

Joe Franklin, GSU's vice president of finance, said he hoped Eagle Village's parking would be complete in the next ten days.

Although Hagins said all the suggestions brought forth by students would be considered, he all but promised that a return the school's forming parking plan was out of the question.

"We (had) 8,000 students driving at peak times and 4,000 parking spaces," said Hagins. "If we went back, you'd have the same gridlock as before. We can't go back to that system."

Bob Chambers, the head of the schools transportation services department, said there are still 140 parking spaces available near the ceramic studio off Forest Drive. The permits cost \$120.

"There is still parking available... It may not be exactly where students want to park, but it's there," he said.

## Freshman

from page 1

rently about one-third of the way through this plan.

"We do have enough housing for all freshmen to live on campus, but that would displace everyone else who wants to live here, and we can't do that," said Schlierf.

Although University Housing may be considering some future changes, parking and transportation are not currently looking in the same direction.

Wendell Hagins, interim director of Auxiliary Services, said he has had no part in any discussions regarding alleged freshman driving restrictions and does not believe there is any truth to the rumors.

"Just look at all the new residence halls. They are built with parking adjacent to them," said Hagins, referring to

## Quick, what's new

### IN GEORGIA

#### West Nile case reported in Atlanta

ATLANTA — A 73-year-old man has been identified as having Atlanta's first reported case of West Nile virus this year.

The man was hospitalized with a severe headache late last month. He has since fully recovered, but blood tests have confirmed he had the illness.

Last year, Fulton County had nine cases and all recovered from the illness. Georgia has had three human cases reported so far this year.

### THE REGION

#### Ophelia regains hurricane strength

WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH, N.C. — Vulnerable islands were evacuated and mainland schools were closed Tuesday as Ophelia again strengthened to a hurricane and wobbled closer to land with a threat of flooding rain.

The National Hurricane Center upgraded the storm's status Tuesday evening, saying maximum sustained winds had reached 75 mph, with higher gusts. The storm was graded a Category One hurricane, but the center said further strengthening was possible in the hours ahead.

### THE NATION

#### New Orleans death toll climbs to 423

NEW ORLEANS — The airport reopened to commercial flights Tuesday for the first time since Hurricane Katrina struck more than two weeks ago, and the port was back in operation, too, as a battered New Orleans struggled to get up and running again. The death toll in Louisiana climbed to 423.

Mayor Ray Nagin said that dry areas of hurricane-ravaged New Orleans — including the French Quarter, Uptown and the central business district — could be officially opened from dawn to dusk as soon as Monday, provided the Environmental Protection Agency finds the air and water are safe.

#### Roberts declines to get specific on abortion, acknowledges it is settled

WASHINGTON — Chief Justice nominee John Roberts repeatedly refused to answer questions about abortion and other issues at his confirmation hearing Tuesday, telling frustrated Dems he wouldn't discuss matters that could come before the Supreme Court.

### THE WORLD

#### U.S. raids militant stronghold in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq — U.S. forces widened their operations against insurgents in northern Iraq on Tuesday, launching an attack on the Euphrates River stronghold of Haditha only days after evicting militants from Tal Afar.

Residents also reported American air strikes in the same region near Qaim. The Americans called in bombing raids in Haditha, 140 miles northwest of the capital. They captured one militant with ties to al-Qaida in Iraq and killed four others.

the new Eagle Village freshman dorm, which opened this year, and the recent additions of Southern Courtyard and Southern Pines. All of these residence halls were constructed with parking lots included.

When asked about possible future problems with campus parking and traffic due to increased enrollment, Hagins did say that Auxiliary Services

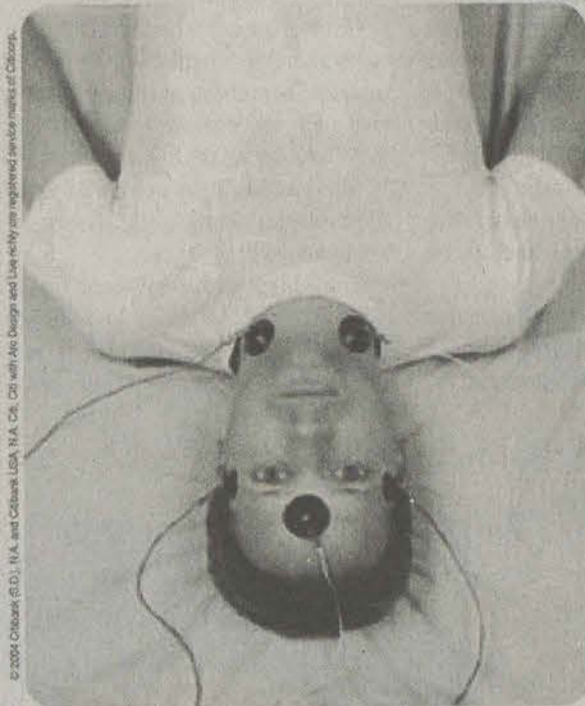
"will continue [their] planning and adjusting of parking and transportation facilities to meet the changing needs of the university community."

As for now, current freshmen can continue to rest at ease in their apartments and drive to class, while future students may have a few more things to think about before choosing a college.

## Homecoming King & Queen Applications Available NOW!

Homecoming 2005 King and Queen applications can be downloaded off the Homecoming 2005 site at [www.georgiasouthernhomecoming.com](http://www.georgiasouthernhomecoming.com)

All applications must be typed in the provided Word file. They can be dropped off at the Office of Student Activities, Russell Union 1058. Applications will be due by 4 p.m. on September 16th.



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## Attention, Men: Are You At Risk For Genital Warts?

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) causes genital warts. It is one of the most prevalent sexually transmitted disease in sexually active men. The virus often causes no symptoms, so most men may not know they have been infected. If the infection persists, genital warts may result. In rare cases, HPV infection may lead to penile and anal cancer.

Dr. Daron Ferris and his colleagues at the Medical College of Georgia are working with a leading pharmaceutical company to test the effectiveness of a vaccine designed to prevent certain types of HPV associated with genital warts and penile and anal cancer.

To qualify for this study, you must be:

- A healthy male age 16-23 with no history of genital warts

Qualified participants will be compensated for their time and will receive the following at no cost:

- Medical exams and tests related to the study.
- Study vaccination

For more information, please call (706) 721-2535 or Call Toll Free (877) 643-1414

Principal Investigator: Daron Ferris, M.D.

# OPINION



## THE GEORGE-ANNE DAILY EDITORIAL BOARD

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"If this were a dictatorship, it'd be a heck of a lot easier, just so long as I'm the dictator."

-George W. Bush  
 Washington, D.C., Dec. 19, 2000

## OUR VIEW

# Let's give the transit system a chance

AT ISSUE: Administrators say new changes to transit system will be positive

As Cognisa and Auxiliary Affairs roll through the first month of Georgia Southern's new transit system, many problems have become apparent. But Cognisa and the GSU administrators have at least listened to the problems students by attending SGA meetings and taking part in a special Parking and Transit Forum last night.

Since the buses first began running, students have had many opinions about their efficiency.

They have angrily talked about buses that are too overcrowded, too hot, take too long, and the fact that there are not enough stops and

buses stall traffic on Lanier Drive.

The first concerns were about the buses without working air conditioning in the hot August weather. The problem was brought up in an SGA meeting and the buses' air conditioning systems were fixed during the following weekend.

The problem with overcrowding is being addressed this coming week, as two more buses will be added to the route.

The additional buses should make riding more comfortable as well as shortening the time students have to wait.

The school is getting new buses — for a total

of nine — and Cognisa estimates that buses should arrive every two minutes.

At the corner of Georgia Avenue and Chandler Drive, construction is beginning on a lane so buses can pull off of the road and not risk traffic accidents with every stop.

Many students have suggested that having two routes would shorten the wait time between buses.

Some have recommended that one route run only from Paulson Stadium to the University Bookstore.

University officials have researched having

two routes and determined that the double routes would also double wait time between buses.

Students may have complaints about the transit system, but at least their complaints are being heard and the problems are being addressed.

So give the transit system a chance. Sure, it's only been a month since the system was introduced to the campus, but that's not very long considering the enormity of the project.

Administrators have promised that the system will get better, and we're convinced they're right.

## Luke Hearn RAMBLINGS OF A RAGING LIBERAL

# Let's open the doors of chivalry

As promised in Monday's edition of The G-A, I have compiled a list of a few rules regarding chivalry.

The following list is not complete by any means, but I thought sharing some of the most common chivalric gestures would be beneficial to many on campus.

First things first, opening doors can turn a man into a gentleman as quickly as the door is opened. For instance, when you're walking into a building on campus and there is a lady behind you, open the door, and allow her to enter before you.

If you're taking a girl on a date, and you're driving, open the car door for her, wait until she's in all the way, and then shut it. Now, whether or not you should open it when you arrive at your decided destination depends on her.

If you pull in the parking spot and she opens her door and gets out — problem solved. But if she sits there and waits, that's her indication that she likes to be a little pampered with chivalry, and you should follow suit.

There are a few rules in particular that are centered on dining, particularly at a restaurant. For one, pull her chair out for her (obviously, this doesn't work in a booth).

I used to think this was hard to do, fearing that I would slam the chair into the back of her knees, causing her to fall on the ground, thus ruining the date.

However, I have learned it's not that bad. Here's what you do: slide the chair out. When she goes to sit, carefully but deliberately slide the chair in a little bit; she will finish sliding up a comfortable position to the table.

The second thing to remember at the table is to let your female companion order first.

When the waiter asks what you'd like to eat, ask her to go ahead and order. Even further, ask her before the waiter returns what she would like to eat, and then order for her when he arrives. Finally, whenever possible, make it obvious that you are going to pick up the bill.

Now I understand that sometimes it is appropriate to go Dutch, but when you can, go ahead and pay for hers too.

One rule that I recently learned has to do with walking on sidewalks. When doing so, never let your female companion walk closest to the curb; that's where you walk. And you don't have to make it very obvious.

When you go to walk on the sidewalk, allow her to step up first, then take your place beside her. One final major rule: give up your seat to a girl whenever possible.

If you're riding on the transit and you take one of the last seats and at the next stop people pile on with some having to stand, if a lady boards and is standing close by, offer her your seat. This simple gesture says a lot about one's character.

Now ladies, it's vital that if a man performs any of the above tasks for you, that you do not make him feel like an idiot. If something makes you uncomfortable, let him know, but don't react as if he has just punched you in the face.

If you're not used to having a guy be chivalrous, give it time; you'll appreciate it.

OK, so here they are, the simple rules that will prove to a lady that you guys are capable of being a gentleman. It may take a little practice, but pretty soon these things will become second nature...trust me.

Editor's Note: See my column on Monday regarding the woman's role in chivalry and how feminism plays a part.

Write Luke at [gaeditor@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:gaeditor@georgiasouthern.edu)



## John Evans: YOUR TURN

# Raising money for Katrina relief does not make you a hero

I would like to respond to the article about the self-proclaimed "Bus Stop Heroes" (Monday, Sept. 12). I would like to suggest that the organizations involved in this project change the name of this venture in order to better serve the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

First, I do not believe that the groups involved are truly heroes, nor do they grasp what a hero truly is. I believe heroes are the servicemen and servicewomen who risk their lives down in New Orleans

to save lives and restore order to the city. Heroes are those who unselfishly gave their lives to save others during the 9/11 attacks, without asking for thanks and admiration. Those who serve in Iraq and around the world in the Armed Forces and risk their lives for our freedom are heroes. Teachers, firefighters, police officers and missionaries are all self-sacrificing people who do not seek personal glorification, but instead live to serve others and do not seek admiration for others.

John Evans, a Junior International Trade major from Atlanta, believes real heroes are those helping in hurricane victims New Orleans, not those collecting money at GSU.

I do not believe organizations doing required service hours and philanthropy requirements should call themselves heroes. Those who do such are dishonoring the names of those brave men and women who have served others without asking for any admiration. One woman serving in the National Guard of Louisiana was asked on television if she was a hero, she replied, "No sir, I am just doing my job." We all could learn a lesson from this brave woman.

I suggest all student organizations should come together under the name of Georgia Southern and help to unite as a school body to pool our resources and work together as a group. We should not consider ourselves just simply part of a student organization, but more as a school, a country and a citizen of the world, that strives to help their brothers and sisters in times of need, without asking for anything in return.

Finally, remember the old adage, "United we stand, divided we fall."

Write John at [jevans26@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:jevans26@georgiasouthern.edu)

## The Athens Banner-Herald: STATE EDITORIALS

# Is the state of Georgia prepared for a major hurricane?

Suppose Hurricane Katrina had struck Savannah or Brunswick. Suppose Atlanta suddenly was bereft of electric power for days. Suppose Macon, Augusta and Columbus were flooded, plunged into darkness and left without communications.

What if the entire state ran out of gasoline and interstate highways were so congested with out-of-state traffic that no one could move?

What would happen? How would we react? Would federal, state and local government in Georgia respond differently - and more efficiently - from the way government answered the New Orleans catastrophe?

Georgians would try harder, we hope. Whether the outcome would be any better is doubtful.

Georgia might be no more ready than Louisiana for a full-scale disaster.

Oh, sure, emergency planners have designated evacuation routes. A little food and water might be stored here and there. A few shelters have been identified.

Georgia's government certainly is doing its share to help Katrina's victims. Such after-the-fact relief aid ought

to improve our expertise in emergency management.

Still, are we ready?

The answer: probably not. The reason: Government at every level does not have any realistic notion of what to do about the immobile poor.

Certainly, authorities can tell folks to leave town as soon as possible, or to assemble at Point X to receive emergency rations and further instructions.

Those with cars or cash can do as they are told and survive. What of those without transportation or money? What of those paralyzed by poverty - the penniless sick, old and lame?

Are we prepared to take care of the have-nots? And what of the cruel gangs who stay behind to prey on the helpless?

Are our governments determined to deal with marauders, even in a lethal way if necessary?

The tragedy of New Orleans sent a message. America's government at every level might have lost sight of a primary mission: caring for those who cannot care for themselves.

## Brandon Smith COLUMNIST

# Are equal rights too much to ask?

Last Thursday I wrote an opinion column disagreeing with the title conservatives have labeled liberals: "Un-American."

I have received a few comments to the article, both positive and negative. However, it appears most of the conservative crowd disagreed with me before even reading a word.

Surprising. The side many of us liberals take on certain issues are often misinterpreted or taken out of context by conservatives. To clarify a few of my views I'm going to quote one of the responses I received.

The first thing the writer attacked was my belief in the need for gun control.

He claims he wants "the right to bear whatever arms I choose to purchase and aim at looters coming to steal my life and property."

Gun control has nothing to do with taking guns off the market. Automatic weapons and rifles with exceptional scoring range are not manufactured with "defending a home" in mind. These weapon types need to be limited to the military and the military only.

Next he attacked the idea of allowing two men or two women the benefits a man and a woman get with marriage. Even if you don't believe in true equality among all, it's time to think about issues like the children of homosexuals.

Right now, if a homosexual couple is raising a child and one partner dies, the living partner and child get next to nothing. Many of you know that if one of your parents died, the other would struggle to maintain your current lifestyle if nothing was received from the death.

## Bill Maher said it best: 'If Jesus came back today he'd be a skinny Michael Moore.'

He also claimed "[liberals] want to punish Christians for this 'Jesus' person they pray to."

First off, no liberal has ever voted to punish a Christian for being Christian. We just say keep it out of our government.

Second off, I'm sure many liberals like Jesus, Bill Maher said it best: "If Jesus came back today he'd be a skinny Michael Moore." Think about it.

Conservatives also claim liberals think "the government can spend our money better than we can." Although this claim is a slight exaggeration, many liberals, including myself, do feel the government needs more money to help overcome issues such as poverty.

If a country such as the United States wants to base its economy around capitalism, it's important not to forget about the lower class.

While only 10 percent of our population falls into the upper-upper, lower-upper and upper-middle classes, nearly 50 percent fall into the lower class.

This isn't because our citizens are lazy or unintelligent, it's because that's how capitalism is designed.

Let a small percentage flourish while the majority works two to three jobs to barely put food on the table.

Without this cycle capitalism would never survive. So it should be each of our duties to help the foundation of our nation by paying a few more dollars in tax money. Hopefully these broad liberal views can prevent some confusion among conservatives.

We don't hate the government, and we fight only for the equality of all life, no matter the sexual preference or economical class.

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