

# The George-Anne

June 18, 2003

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# The GEORGE-ANNE

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Wednesday  
June 18, 2003  
Volume 76, No. 14

**ON THE INSIDE:**



Covering the campus like a swarm of gnats

**Today's Weather**



• Scattered Thunderstorms with a high of 85° and a low of 71°.

**Only in America**

- A swarm of bees is named an accomplice in a Missouri K-mart shoplifting.
- A Nebraska man wins a lawsuit after choking on Green Giant's bean sprout.

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**Lifestyles**



• Mr. Charlie serves up more than just BBQ at Vandy's.



- The GSU Museum opens its doors to Gray's Reef for 'Habitat and Haven'
- 'Finding Nemo' stays at #1 in box offices across the country.

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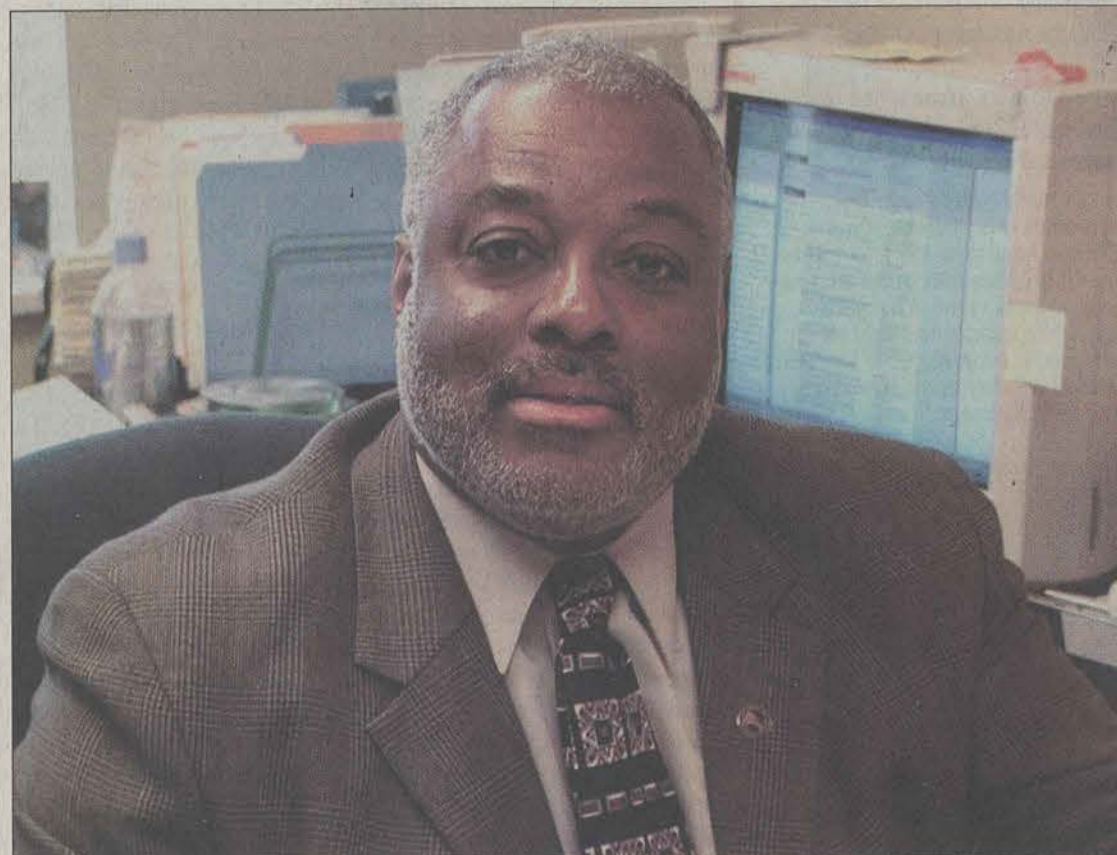
**Sports**



- The Hanner Fieldhouse Court will feature a new design next season.
- The Spurs win the NBA National Championship.
- Uli Ebersperger is named a member of the 2003 Verizon Academic All-American Team.

Page 6

## Georgia Southern says farewell



Brandon Sparks/STAFF

Dean of Students Dr. Randy Gunter will be leaving Georgia Southern on June 30 to move into his new position as Vice President of Student Affairs for Savannah State University.

### Dr. Gunter resigns after 23 years at Georgia Southern

By Brandon Sparks  
brandonwillplay@hotmail.com

After 23 years of work here at Georgia Southern University, Dr. Randy Gunter is moving to Savannah State University to take over as the Vice President of Student Affairs.

According to a published release from Savannah State, Gunter will take his new position on July 1 and become responsible for overseeing the Centers for Leadership and Character Development, Student Government Association, Intramurals, Health Services, Residential Programs, and Student Organizations.

Gunter may have started his career as a social worker in Augusta, but he has risen through the ranks to become one of Georgia Southern's top administrators, as the Associate Vice President of Student Affairs and the Dean of Students.

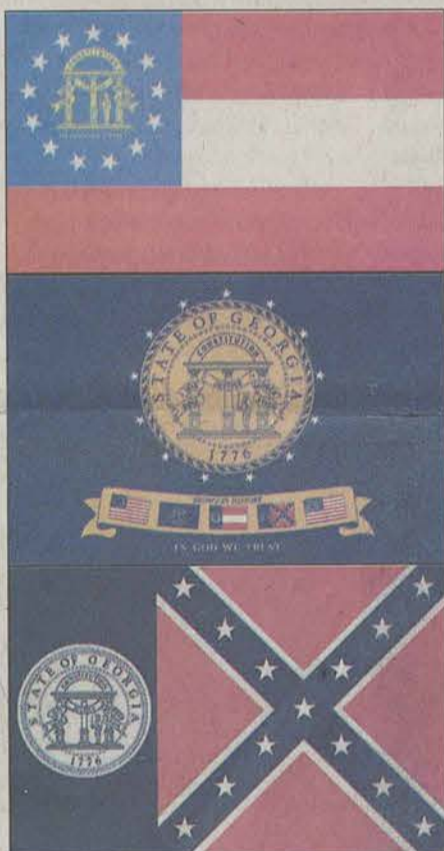
"I was rather content with the role of Director of Educational opportunities, then Dr. Grube asked me to serve as Associate Vice President, so I took that opportunity. I then had a chance to travel around the country, and decided that the next logical step was to assume the helm of Student Affairs, so I joined a rather vast field of candidates nationwide for the job at Savannah State."

Gunter joined Georgia Southern University in 1980, when he was hired to jumpstart both the Upward Bound and Educational Talent Search programs. Both were created to assist potential first generation and low-income college students. In 1991, Gunter was named director of Educational Opportunity

See Gunter, Page 2

## SACK SONNY?

Confederate group draws new battle lines over flag



Staff and Wire Reports

Some still have "Boot Barnes" bumper stickers on their pickup trucks, but members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans have a new catchphrase that aims their Georgia flag fury at a new target.

"Now it's 'Sack Sonny.' I'm pretty sure everyone here has coined that phrase," said Grady Bazemore, sweating beneath the gray wool of a Confederate soldier's uniform Saturday during the Southern heritage group's annual convention.

After playing a large role in the November election defeat of Gov. Roy Barnes, who retired Georgia's Confederate-dominated state flag, defenders of Dixie tradition are taking aim at Republican Gov. Sonny Perdue for failing to deliver a referendum to revive the old banner.

At the Georgia Southern University student center where about 400 members of the group met Saturday, bumper stickers shouting "Sonny Lied" and "Sonny Barnes: Another One-Term Governor" were being sold alongside \$35 replicas of the former flag and G.I. Joe dolls in Confederate costume.

And though Perdue recently signed into law another new state flag based on the former national flag of the Confederacy, the group's Saturday business meeting began with a gray-uniformed color guard presenting the 1956 state flag with its Confederate cross.

"We didn't ask for the first national flag. We asked for a vote," said Randall Burkhardt of nearby Brooklet, one of several uniformed members who formed an honor guard at the doors with muskets and bayonets.

State Superintendent of Schools Kathy Cox was on GSU's campus Tuesday to speak at the Boy's State program, and com-

See Flag, Page 3

## Henderson Library to be remodeled



Photo Illustration

Above: An artist's interpretation of what the Henderson Library will appear after both phases of construction are completed. The construction is estimated to take place over the next four years.

Brandon Sparks  
brandonwillplay@hotmail.com

Henderson Library is going to be getting a facelift in the next few years.

This spring the Georgia General Assembly approved the sale of \$20.5 million in bond to fund a project that will remodel the existing library. According to Anne Hamilton the Associate Dean of Henderson Library, the remodeled building will be almost twice as large as it currently is.

The project is divided into two separate phases. The first phase will consist of adding on an additional wing, which will be where the Blue Building now stands. The Department of Human Resources, and the other occupants of the Blue Building will be moved to the Rosenwald

Building. The second phase will include the remodeling of the existing building and another small extension near the Carroll Building.

The design includes construction of an atrium made of glass where students will be able to enter on the ground level, near where the Blue Building currently stands. There is also an entrance on the second floor in the back of the building near the faculty parking spots.

The only entrance to the library proper will be on the second floor.

"The library plans to continue its twenty-four hour service and access. We will be adding close to seventy

See Library, Page 3

## Boys and Girls State come to Georgia Southern

State Superintendent of Schools Kathy Cox speaks to a full house in the Union



Brandon Sparks/STAFF



Both Boys and Girls State are week-long programs to educate students about government as well as provide hands-on experience in exercises like mock elections.

By Brandon Sparks  
brandonwillplay@hotmail.com

The American Legion sponsors Georgia Boys State and Georgia Girls State organizations currently here on campus for a week-long camp to learn about Georgia government.

The students who participate in mock elections from the city level to the state level are chosen by their local American Legion posts and Auxiliary posts in their area.

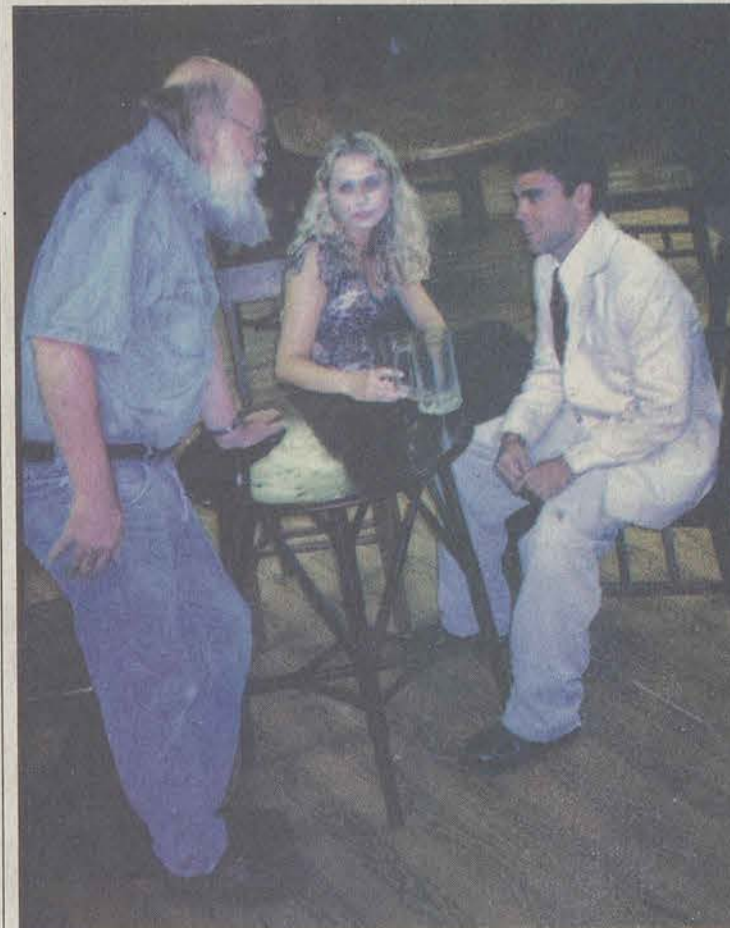
The American Legion is only for

veterans who served during wartime or in conflicts, but an auxiliary is composed of female veterans, wives, children, mothers, and grandchildren of veterans. The students are required to have a minimum of a 3.0 GPA and most are active in organizations such as churches and even the JROTC.

The staff is made up of American Legion Volunteers, Georgia State Patrol Officers, and former Boy and Girl Staters.

See State, Page 6

## 'Ah, Wilderness'



Special Photo

Gary Dartt, Director/Scene Designer discusses a scene with actors Jenifer Pollack and Jay McKiney during a rehearsal for Theatre & Performance's production of Eugene O'Neill's autobiographical comedy, 'Ah, Wilderness.'



# Police Beat

06-10-2003

• Officers issued five traffic warnings and assisted five motorists.

06-11-2003

• A faculty member reported that someone damaged a wooden section of the front door at Cone Hall.

• Officers issued two traffic

citations and three traffic warnings, assisted two motorists and one sick person, and responded to one fire alarm.

06-12-2003

• Dan Allen Thompson, 18, of 403 Knight Drive, Apt. 2, Statesboro, was charged with criminal trespass at the Henderson Library.

• A staff member reported that \$265 was taken from a room in Cone Hall.

• A staff member reported that several articles of clothing, \$20 in cash and a portable CD player were taken from several rooms in Cone Hall.

• A staff member reported that a vehicle damaged two street signs next to Plant Drive near the Nessmith-Lane Continuing Education Building.

• Officers issued one traffic citation and one traffic warning, investigated one traffic accident, and assisted four motorists.

06-16-2003

• Someone reported \$410 missing from the Admissions Office.

• Officers issued one traffic citation, assisted one motorist and responded to one fire alarm.

**Editor's Note:** Police Beat appears in every edition of the George-Anne in an effort to inform the GSU community of the amount and nature of crime. All reports are public information and can be obtained at either the GSU Division of Public Safety or the Statesboro Police Department.

-All Police Beat information is compiled by J. Wright, News Editor.

## GUNTER, FROM PAGE 1

Programs and Upward Bound, Educational Talent Search, the Ronald E. McNair Post Baccalaureate Achievement, and the America Reads Challenge programs all stayed under his watch. Gunter moved into the position of Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students in 2000.

"In the 23 years that I have been here at Georgia Southern, I think that the most satisfying thing is the growth, development, and the opportunity of potential growth that has occurred. There seems to be the tendencies everywhere to overlook the mission of education, but here at Georgia Southern, there are people that care a lot about the students that are enrolled here."

In his most recent capacity here at GSU, Gunter was charged with overseeing Student Media, Counseling and Career Development, Educational Opportunity Programs, Judicial Affairs, Multicultural Programming, and Student Disability Resources.

"I have taken pride in helping the students of Georgia Southern University that may have had some questions about their potential when they came to here, and then seeing them go on and graduate," said Gunter.

"I now have a chance to be the chief student affairs officer. In other words, to be the 'conscience' of the university," Gunter added.

"This gives me the opportunity to work to motivate the staff of Savannah State into my vision of inspiring student life."

According to Dr. Edward Bayens, the director of judicial affairs, Gunter is "a trusted colleague and a friend."

"I have always thought of him as a fair man, and always, always, looking out for the students," continues Bayens. "He is someone I can go to and talk with, trust his judgment and his insight. Georgia Southern's loss is Savannah State's gain. I hate to see him go, but I wish him all the best in all that he does."

# GSU News Briefs

## Georgia Southern Chorale will perform on Georgia Public Radio

Special to the G-A

The Georgia Southern University Chorale will be among the featured performers on an upcoming Georgia Public Radio program.

A recording of the chorale's performance at a regional music education conference will be played on the "Studio GPR" program, which is broadcast twice each week. The program featuring the Georgia Southern Chorale will be aired on Thursday, June 19, at 8 p.m., and then again on Sunday, June 22, at 10 p.m.

Choirs from seven colleges and universities performed at the conference, but only the ones from Georgia Southern, Florida State University and Columbus State University made the cut for "Studio GPR."

"We are honored that of all the wonderful performances at the conference, ours was chosen to be featured on GPR," said Rodney Caldwell, the director of Choral Activities at Georgia Southern. "I believe this is a testament to the hard work of our students and faculty, and will further help us promote music at the University."

The Georgia Southern Chorale is the top touring ensemble in the vocal/choral area of the University's music department. The 40-member group tours the United States annually and performs internationally every three years. The chorale appeared in Germany, Austria and the Czech Republic in 2002, and it will return to Europe in 2005.

The recording of the Georgia Southern Chorale that will be played on GPR was made in Savannah during the group's performance at the January conference for the Southern Division of the National Association for Music Educators, the largest such organization in the country.

Each year the regional conference

features specially selected lectures and performances. The Georgia Southern Chorale's appearance at the conference marked the seventh time in eight years that the University ensemble has been picked to perform.

"Each performance and lecture is selected through a blind audition/review process," Caldwell said, "and as a result represents the finest quality in the Southern Division."

The Georgia Public Radio Network includes the following stations: WSVH 91.1 FM in Savannah, WUNV 91.7 FM in Albany, WUGA 91.7/97.9 FM in Athens, WACG 90.7 FM in Augusta, WWIO 88.9 FM in Brunswick and 1190 AM in St. Marys, WUWG 90.7 FM in Carrollton, WJSP 88.1 FM in Columbus, WPPR 88.3 FM in Demorest, WNGU 89.5 FM in Dahlonega, WJWV 90.9 FM in Fort Gaines, WDCO 89.7 FM in Macon, WABR 91.1 FM in Tifton, WWET 91.7 FM in Valdosta and WXVS 90.1 FM in Waycross.

## Summer brings more mosquitoes, increased West Nile risk

Special to the G-A

Calvin Hancock and Rich Simpson spend a lot of time crawling under highway bridges. The two Georgia Southern University students are mosquito hunters. Twice a week, they strap on their "Ghostbuster-looking" suction equipment and go out to collect mosquitoes. The undersides of highway bridges are great places to find them. So far this year, the hunting has been very good.

"We've been catching more," said Hancock. "We've mainly been seeing two kinds, but we're seeing a lot more of them."

Hancock and Simpson work for Georgia Southern biology professor Bill Irby. A forensic entomologist, Irby specializes in diseases spread by insects, especially the West Nile Virus and mosquitoes.

"I've been seeing mosquitoes this spring like I haven't seen in years," Irby said. "The potential is there for perhaps a hundred times as many mosquitoes as we've seen in previous years. That's a wild guess but is indicative of the kind of year we might have."

Irby blames the increase on the weather. The rainy spring throughout Georgia may have ended the drought, but it has left expanses of standing water, the mosquito's favorite breeding ground.

Birds are the primary host for the West Nile Virus; over 50 different species have been identified as carriers. A female mosquito picks up the virus when she bites an infected bird for its blood to gain nutrition to lay her eggs. The virus moves from the insect's stomach to her salivary glands, where she can inject it into another bird, a horse or a human. Fortunately for humans, Irby says, most female mosquitoes die after laying their eggs and don't usually have the opportunity to take another meal.

"Only a small number of mosquitoes are actually infected," said Irby. "Lots of mosquitoes are not infected and if you get bit by one of them you are only going to get an itch."

Irby says even if a person is unlucky to be bitten by an infected insect, the odds are still in their favor. Only about one in five become ill and only about one percent of those infected die.

There are steps Irby recommends anyone can take to protect themselves and their family.

First, avoid being outside at dusk and dawn, when mosquitoes are most active.

Second, if you do need to be outside, use a repellent with the chemical DEET. It is the only thing that will work.

Third, eliminate the mosquito's potential breeding spots in your yard. Mosquitoes have short lives and usually don't fly very far.



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It is a desire of The George-Anne to print the news of Georgia Southern University as accurately as possible. If you believe that something covered is in error, contact the editor at 681-5246 as soon as possible.

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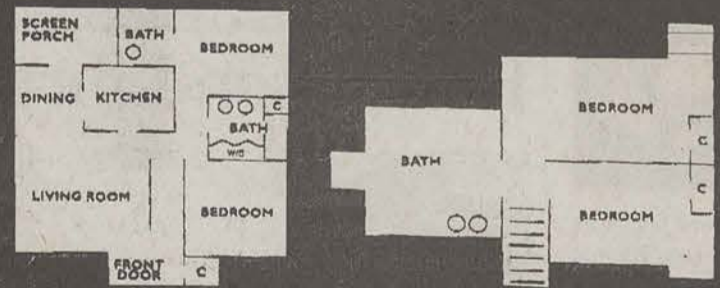
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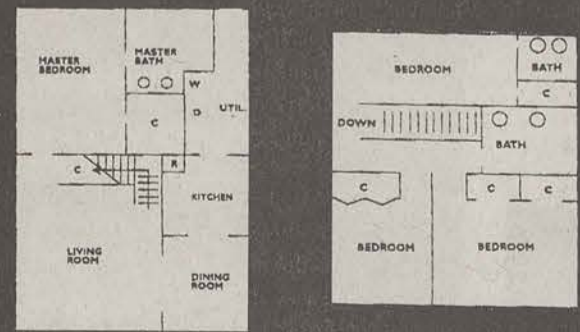
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## 1 Missouri

### Swarm of bees help alleged shoplifter escape Kmart

SEDALIA - A shoplifter released a swarm of honeybees in a Kmart restroom, creating a diversion that allowed him to escape, authorities said.

Store security spotted the man shoplifting Monday and followed him to the restroom to confront him. When the worker opened the door, about 100 bees buzzed out. The suspect apparently let the bees out while he was in the restroom.

"He probably started yelling 'Bees! Bees!' or whatever the case may be, then created that big diversion, then got out," said Cmdr. John DeGonia, of the Sedalia Police Department.

According to a police report,

the man stole about \$60 worth of CDs, perfume, batteries and a pair of scissors.

Store employees pulled cans of bug spray off store shelves to kill the bees. No one was stung.

## 2 Nebraska

### Jury awards \$300,000 in Green Giant bean choking lawsuit

NORTH PLATTE - A jury has awarded \$300,000 to a woman who sued Pillsbury Co. after a bean sprout lodged in her throat from a can of Green Giant French cut style green beans.

Susan Stickney of Stapleton ate the green beans in December 1999. The federal jury awarded the money last Friday after a four-day trial.

Stickney accused Pillsbury of providing her with a product that

was "unfit for human consumption and unreasonably dangerous to the consumer in that it contained a foreign substance."

Pillsbury parent company General Mills disagreed with the verdict and was considering its next step, spokeswoman Marybeth Thorsgaard said Thursday.

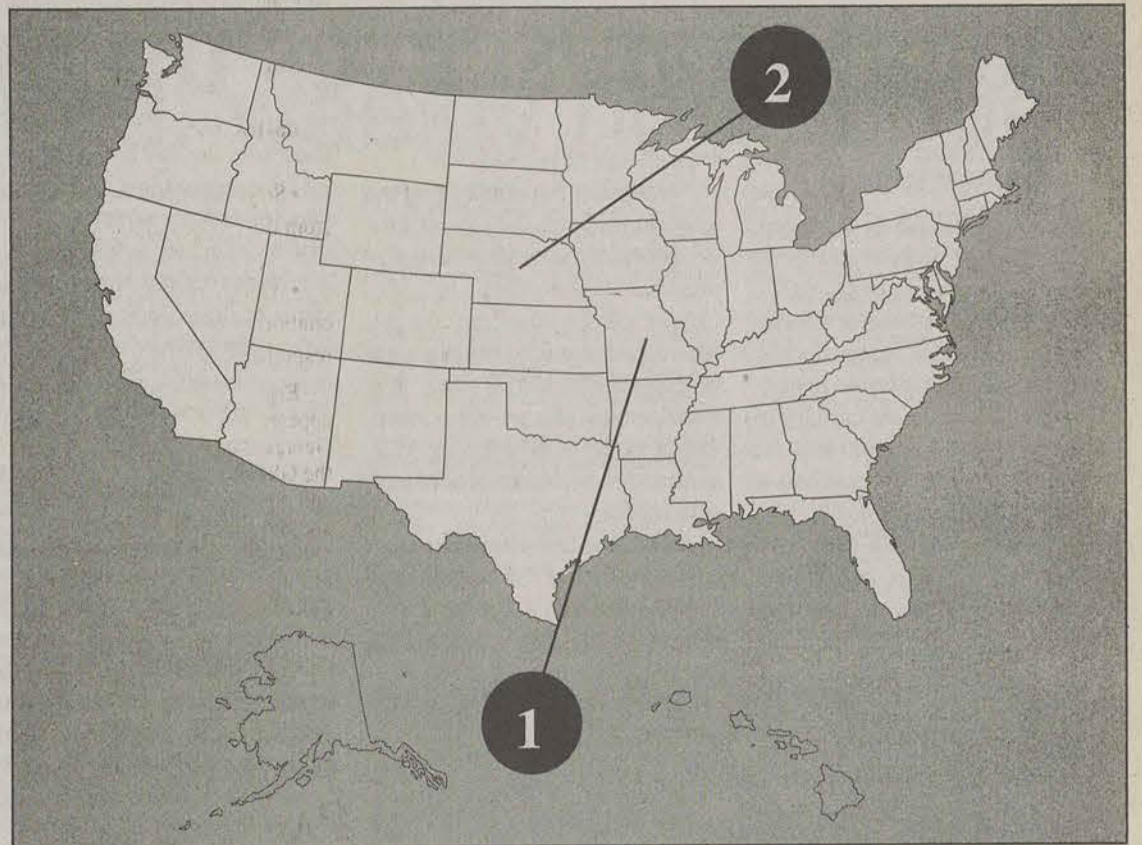
Stickney said she consulted a doctor after the incident and had a particle of the bean sprout removed from her throat with a scope.

Two separate surgeries later, Stickney contacted the company about her troubles.

"They offered her free coupons," attorney Terry Waite said.

Stickney filed the lawsuit two years ago, seeking damages for physical and emotional pain and suffering, travel expenses, loss of earnings, loss of the ability for intimate relations and loss of enjoyment of life.

Waite said his client was happy with the jury's verdict.



## FLAG, FROM PAGE 1

mented on the effects the debate over the state flag have had on the state's agenda for education.

"I have been able to hear from the teachers of [Georgia]," said Cox. "And they reflect negatively on not being able to see education issues on the agenda for the General Assembly."

The delegates' meeting was closed to reporters, but Sons of Confederate Veterans officers said most of the talk centered around mundane matters like the group's budget.

But Jack Bridwell, commander of the Georgia division, summed up the top issues on his members' minds as "a change of heart in '04 or a change of Legislature in '05."

In other words, the group plans to pressure Georgia lawmakers next year to put the 1956 flag back on the ballot or face consequences when they seek re-election.

A flag referendum has already been approved for March, but voters will get

a choice only between the newer flags adopted under Barnes and Perdue.

Sons of Confederate Veterans spokesman Dan Coleman says the flag issue has caused membership in Georgia to jump 10 percent in the last year to 4,255 members statewide.

Because it's a tax-exempt organization, the Sons of Confederate Veterans as a group is prohibited from endorsing or opposing political parties or candidates.

So some members are forming their own political action committee, tentatively named the Southern Heritage PAC, so they can target individual lawmakers who oppose their cause.

"It's something us Southerners haven't ever done here in Georgia, had some organized resistance," said Tim Pilgrim of Smyrna, the PAC's secretary. "We're not going to be working for anybody. We're going to be working against the anti-Southern politicians."

Pilgrim said the PAC initially plans to distribute 5,000 decks of playing cards similar to those printed by the military to hunt Saddam Hussein and his top lieutenants in Iraq.

But these decks will feature Georgia lawmakers who voted against putting the 1956 flag to a statewide vote, though it hasn't been decided if Perdue's face will grace a card.

Not all members of the Confederate group are so steamed. Member Roy G. Morris of Savannah says he can live with the most recent flag of red and white stripes extending from a blue field, though he prefers the 1956 flag.

"I don't really think it's that much Perdue's fault," he said. "I don't think Perdue's that happy with it either."

Morris turned to his friend James C. Rahn and asked, "Are you still for Perdue?"

"Unless they can bring back Robert E. Lee or somebody," Rahn answered.

## LIBRARY, FROM PAGE 1

new computers. There will be three hundred and seventy public computers that are hardwired and the ability to do wireless. We currently have a little more than 1,000 seating right now, but after the remodeling we will have close to 3,000 seats. We will also be adding more studies, we currently have ten, we will have thirty-four after the remodeling. The Center for Excellence in Teaching, will be moving to the first floor," Hamilton said.

"The thing I am the most excited about will be the Automated Retrieval System (ARC), which is a high density storage, that will have compactable shelving. It will work and look like a warehouse. It is designed for a three-aisle storage system that will be used to store the low used material, which an example would be the pre-1971 document, which we still wanted to keep. It is an economical way

to store materials. We plan to put half of our collection into the ARC. This will leave more space for windows and seating," continued Hamilton.

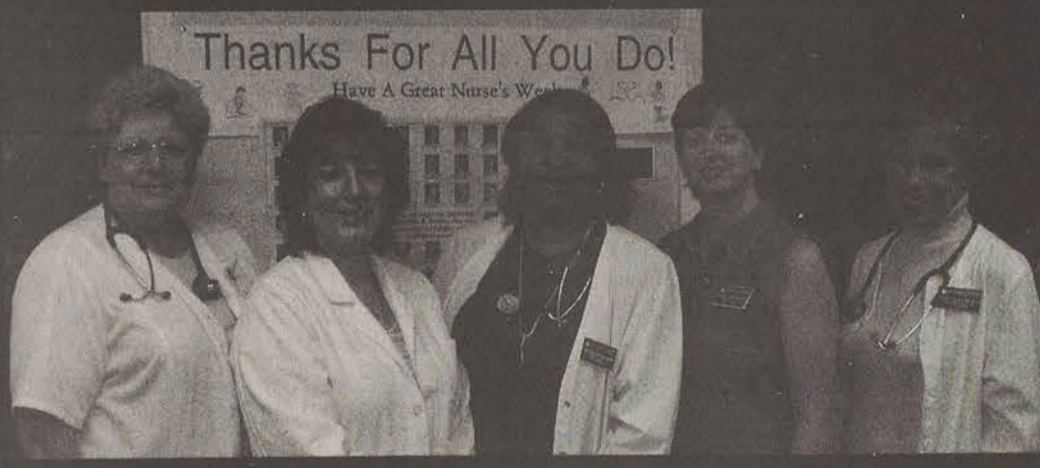
Students will go to a computer and find the article that is stored in the ARC, and request it online. It will send a message to the librarian and take around fifteen minutes for the librarian to deliver the stored document to the student.

According to Myron Powell, the Georgia Southern University Architect, both phases should take about two years each.

"We hope to have the bonds sold by the end of the year, and have a bid date sometime in September or October. We are lucky that we are the only major outlay project in the budget. Major outlay is a project funded by the state, which is over eight million dollars," said Powell.

Dr. Robert Haney, the Associate Provost said in a published statement "In Academic Affairs we are especially grateful for the funding of the Library addition. The Library is at the heart of our goal of academic distinction. We know that great institutions have great libraries, and the expansion and renovation resulting from this project will enable the faculty, staff, and administration of the Zach S. Henderson Library to continue their tradition of excellence in supporting the teaching and learning initiatives of the University. The expansion will also provide a permanent home for the Center for Excellence in Teaching (CET), the unit that supports faculty development in all aspects of instruction. We hope that the new, central location will enable more faculty to take advantage of the superior programs offered by the CET."

## Nurse Practitioner Appreciation Week



L-R: **EIDonna Hilde**, Women's Health Nurse Practitioner, 36 years of Nursing. Graduated from Union College Lincoln, Nebraska BSN. Masters from Medical College of Georgia. Post Masters from Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia.

**Kathleen Bridges**, Family Nurse Practitioner, 22 years of Nursing. Graduated from Georgia Southern University, BSN, MSN, and FNP.

**Mae Francis Anderson**, Woman's Health Nurse Practitioner, 29 years Nursing. Graduated from Brunswick Jr. College, ASN. Emory University; OB/GYN Advanced Nursing Certification.

**Sharon Nolamd**, Family Nurse Practitioner, 7 years of Nursing. Graduated from Eastern Kentucky University, BS, Vanderbilt University MSN, FNP.

**Penny Collins**, Family Nurse Practitioner, 32 years of Nursing. Graduated from Emory University, BSN, Medical College of Georgia, MSN. Georgia Southern University FNP.

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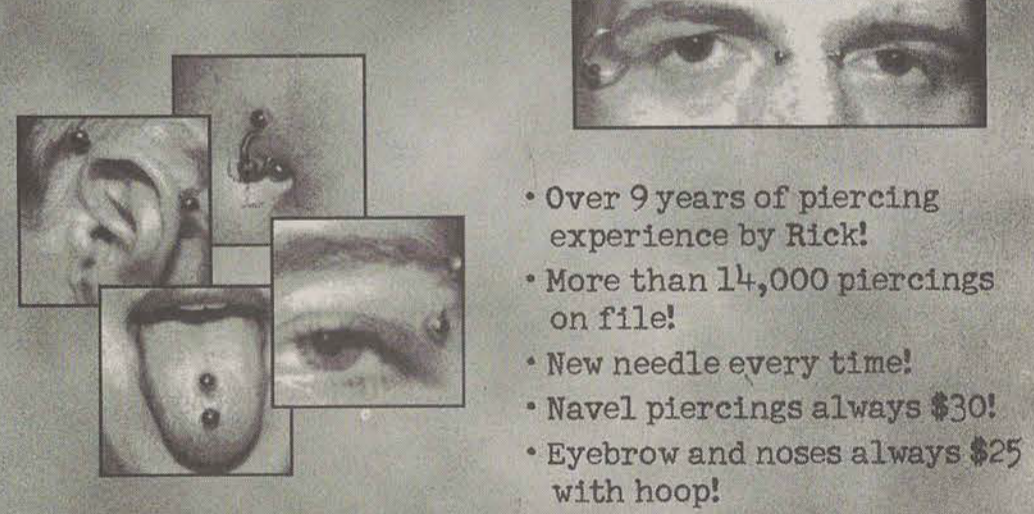
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Check out the newly remodeled Cloud 9!

## Local man serves up more than just good BBQ

By Adam Bonner  
Adam\_bonner2000@yahoo.com

While most people are still asleep, Charlie Pierce of Vandy's lights the fire that fuels Statesboro's BBQ love.

A native of Statesboro Mr. Charlie, as he likes to be called, has been around for quite a while. Born here in Bulloch County and living on the outskirts of Statesboro, Mr. Charlie has seen the passing of time and has been witness to most of Statesboro's growth.

As I talked with Mr. Charlie he wasn't shy of talking about all the good and bad he has faced. "Times were tough, but we got by," he said with the

same attitude he faces life with. With hands that aren't strangers to work, they tell the tale of this extraordinary man with. Beginning his day at 5:30 a.m., Mr. Charlie climbs down into the pit where he has called his place of business for the last 34 years. It's a dark place; the pit is no more than a large wood-burning grill surrounded by cinder blocks and a tin roof.

Wood has been split the day before by one of his helpers and is now piled and scattered at the bottom of the pit. Grease still

drips from the day before. Using old local newspapers, Mr. Charlie coaxes the coals back to life. "A little bit of grease helps," he said. I can't get over how someone who works in these dark smoky conditions always has such a bright smile on his face. Leaning out of the pit's door we talk a bit about Statesboro.

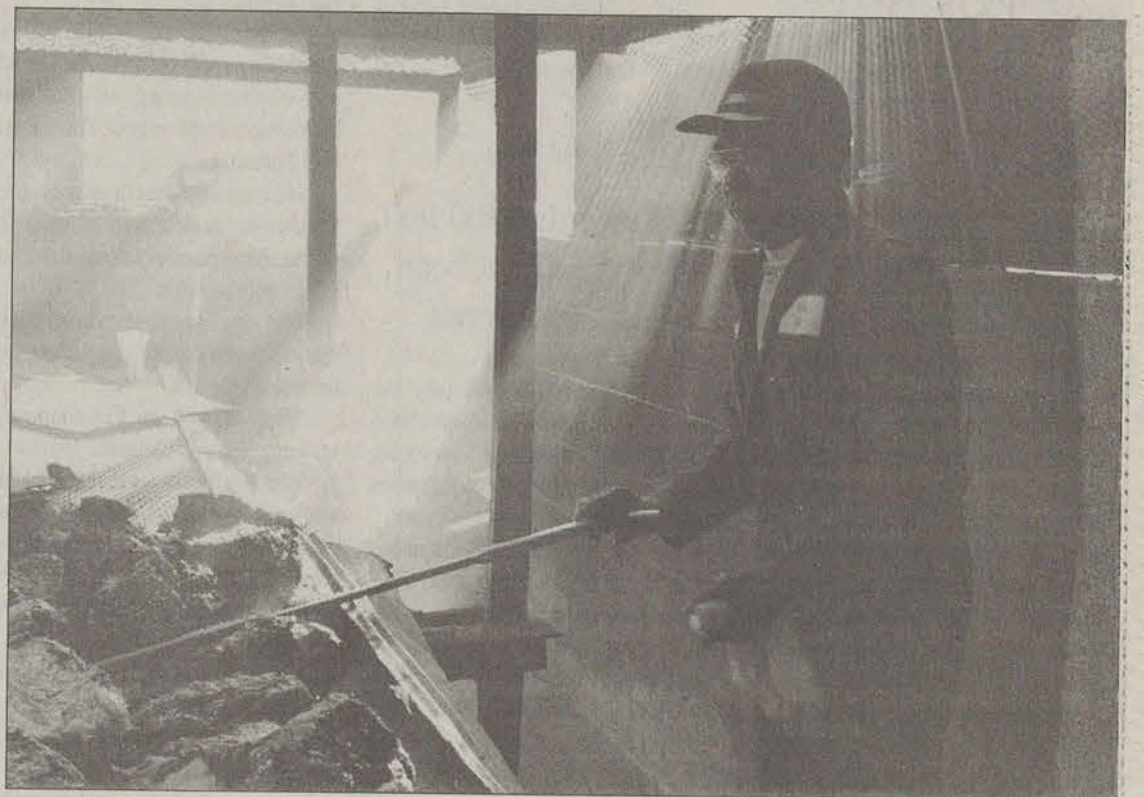
Even for another Statesboro native it is still amazing to hear about how this little town has changed so much.

The smoke rises from inside the pit and out of the chimney at the top. You can thank Mr. Charlie the next time you are driving around Statesboro in the morning and smell his BBQ cooking. Next the pork that makes up the BBQ is brought out.

Laid across the grill, Mr. Charlie has to cook all of these pieces of pork for the many customers that will visit Vandy's two locations that day. "You should see it on Saturdays, when there is a football game. There's always twice this much," hard to believe as the grill is already full.

Just as Mr. Charlie takes the time out to talk to me, so does he with most of the people that stop in to see him. One by one he greets them with his smile a handshake and a story or two. Although they come for the fellowship they leave with Vandy's covering them the whole day. I guess some people, such as myself, would call that a perk of the job.

When I asked Mr. Charlie what



Adam Bonner/STAFF

Mr Charlie has made the pit at Vandy's his place of business for the past 34 years. It is here where the world famous Vandy's BBQ is smoked to perfection. Mr. Charlie, a Bulloch County native, enjoys fishing, weeding his garden and above all being around people, in addition to cooking BBQ.

he liked about his job, the reply was simple, "I have a boss that doesn't bother me and lets me do things how I want to do them. He trusts me to do a good job."

Before long the pork has been cooked and is taken into the restaurant to be chopped and turned into the famous Vandy's BBQ. Served with a glass of sweet tea,

Mr. Charlie has found his art form. He has been featured in most of the surrounding papers and even the Atlanta Journal and

Constitution. He has been on TV and given countless numbers of interviews, and he never minds telling his story.

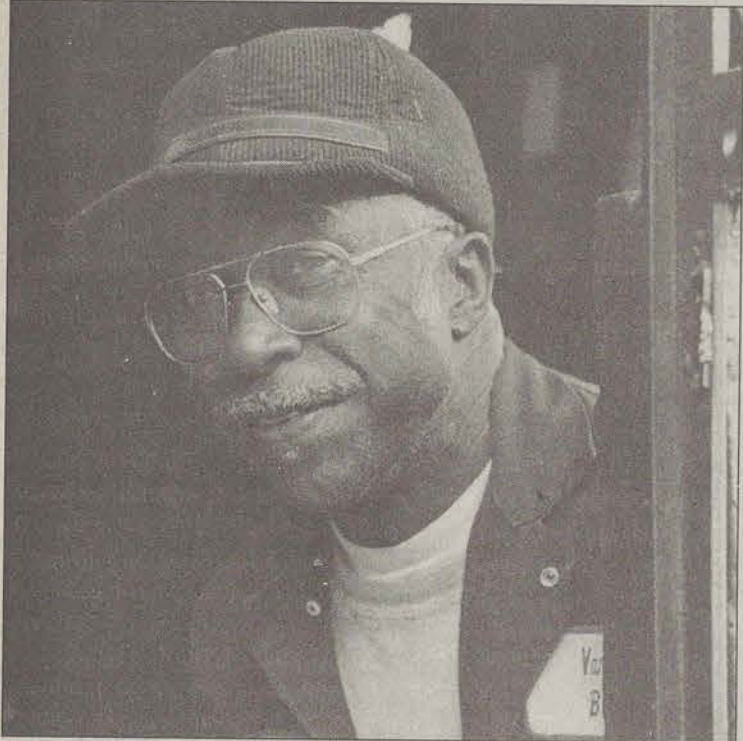
This simple man has simple pleasures that he enjoys outside of work. After leaving work Mr. Charlie usually heads for his little fish pond. From here at his home he greets more people that might stop by.

For Mr. Charlie he takes his pride in his work and in his garden. He still lives by the idea that

a man is responsible for his own piece of the world.

I've been fortunate enough to be able to have spoken to Mr. Charlie on several occasions. Each time he has always greeted me with the same smile and welcome.

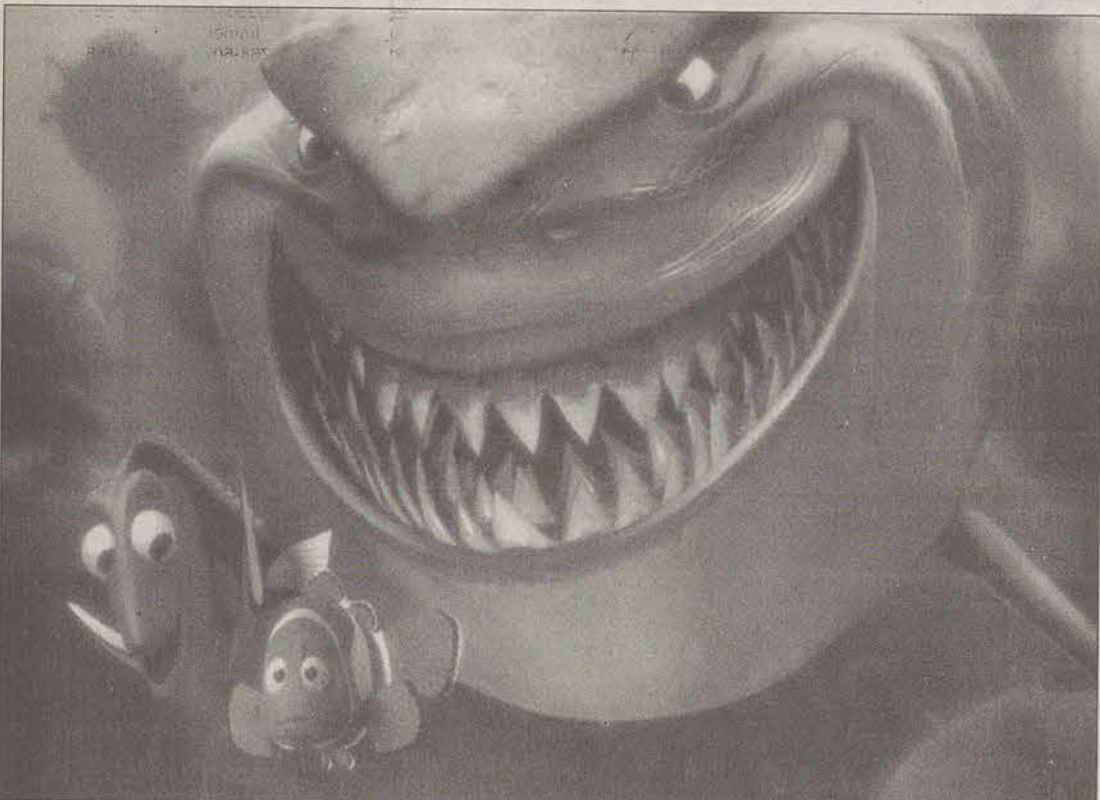
Mr. Charlie has the old tradition of helping his neighbor, and that is exactly what he does. More than cooking BBQ, fishing, or weeding his garden, Mr. Charlie is a man that loves people. And



Adam Bonner/STAFF

Mr Charlie has been a witness to many changes in the years that he has been in Statesboro, but still constant is his warm and charming personality and outlook on life.

## Fish tale 'Finding Nemo' regains top spot with \$29.2 million



Special Photo

Disney and Pixar's "Finding Nemo" can't be caught. The film regained the number one spot at the box office this weekend, grossing almost \$200 million in just 17 days.

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES - The animated fish story "Finding Nemo" hooked audiences to regain the top box office spot, while "2 Fast 2 Furious" stalled and new movies had weak openings.

"Finding Nemo" had \$29.2 million in ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday. The story about an ocean fish trying to rescue his son has grossed \$192.3 million in 17 days of release.

"It's poetic justice that a movie about a father and a son would be the No. 1 movie of Father's Day weekend," said Chuck Viane, Disney head of distribution.

Although it opened at No. 1 the previous weekend, "2 Fast 2 Furious" fell to second place with a gross of \$19.1 million. Ticket sales tumbled 62 percent.

"Bruce Almighty," was third with \$14.2 million.

Final figures were to be released Monday.

New movies had middling debuts. "Rugrats Go Wild," which blends the Nickelodeon "Rugrats" and "Wild Thornberrys" cartoon franchises, was No. 4 with \$12.5 million in ticket sales, followed by the Harrison Ford-

Josh Hartnett comedy "Hollywood Homicide" with \$11.7 million.

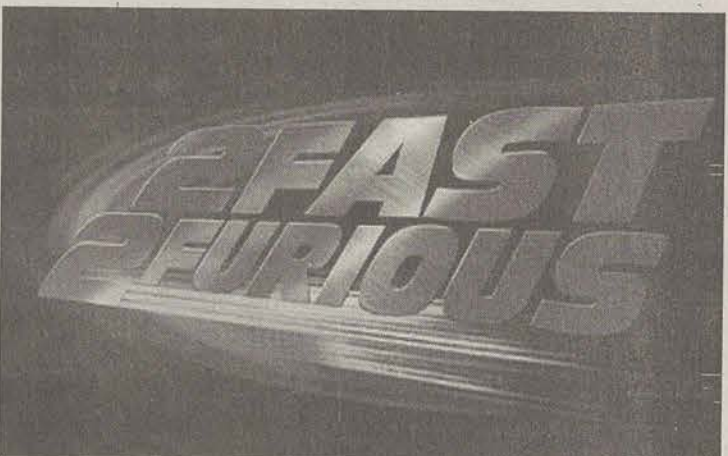
The idiot-buddy prequel "Dumb and Dumber: When Harry Met Lloyd" was No. 6 with \$11.1 million.

Lacking a strong new movie, the overall box office took a dip after rising for two straight weekends. The top 12 movies grossed \$118.6 million. That was off 24 percent from the same weekend last year, when "Scooby-Doo" opened with \$54.2 million.

Theater business was expected to

heat up again this weekend with the arrival of "Hulk." "Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle" arrives a week later, followed by "Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines" and "Legally Blonde 2: Red, White & Blonde" over Fourth of July weekend.

"It's been a summer of fits and starts, a couple of weekends up, then down the next," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Exhibitor Relations. "There's no question that over the next few weeks, starting with 'Hulk,' we're going to see a resurgence."



Special Photo

2 Fast 2 Furious seemed to slow down a bit, with ticket sales falling 62 percent from the films number one opening weekend.

## GSU Museum presents aquatic wonderland

Special to the G-A

Visitors to the Georgia Southern Museum will have the opportunity to travel 23 miles into the Atlantic and 50 feet underwater through an interactive and colorful new exhibit focusing on the Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary. Running through Oct. 5, the exhibit includes videos, photographs, models and hands-on activities.

"Our visitors might try being an underwater scientist writing, collecting and measuring on the ocean bottom," said Brent Tharp, museum director. "Guests can also chart the travels of 'Rat,' a Northern Right Whale, or enjoy beautiful video footage from this submerged national sanctuary."

Gray's Reef stands out from the otherwise unremarkable sea floor along Georgia's coast. The rivers and streams of Georgia's eastern watershed deposit massive amounts of sediment and nutrients into the coastal Atlantic waters.

The endlessly shifting, sandy, mucky bottom is interrupted just off the coast from Sapelo Island by a 23-square-mile outcropping of sandstone and limestone.

"Hundreds of species of sponges, tunicates and algae attach themselves to this rocky oasis, and in turn support a complex and dynamic marine ecosystem," said Tharp. "For life of all shapes and sizes, from microscopic plankton to the mighty Northern Right Whale, Gray's Reef is habitat and haven."

Awarded Federal protection in 1981 and designated in 1986 as an International Biosphere Reserve by the United Nations, Gray's Reef is a resource of global significance. It is a little-known but remarkable natural treasure for Georgians.

The exhibit is sponsored by the Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary and curated by Georgia Southern biologists and Gray's Reef researchers Daniel Gleason, Steve Vives and Allen Harvey.

"This is our most significant exhibit to date. The opportunity to enjoy high quality underwater footage on a big screen, and to explore both the biological diversity and the modern research techniques employed at the reef is truly wonderful," said Tharp. "And what a great time of year to come in and take a cool imaginary dive into this surprising and remarkable world!"

Accredited by the American Association of Museums, the Georgia Southern Museum is located on the campus of Georgia Southern University. The museum is free to all visitors and open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The museum will host an opening reception for the exhibit on Wednesday, June 18, from noon to 2 p.m., which will be open to the public.

For information on exhibits and programs, call (912) 681-



Dallas Oliver/STAFF

Habitat & Haven is the name of the new exhibit at the Georgia Southern Museum, which focuses on Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary. The Museum will hold an opening reception today from noon until 2 p.m., which is open to all of the public.



## Competitive thread ties Spurs to NBA championship trophy

KRT Campus

SAN ANTONIO - The seeds were planted years ago, hidden in the shadows of the champion Los Angeles Lakers, but nurtured nonetheless.

Even as Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant collected their annual hardware, the possibilities were being cultivated.

Sunday night, they blossomed in San Antonio.

The joy in the face of Tim Duncan, the satisfaction in the tears of David Robinson told only part of the story of how the Spurs had sown a championship.

Almost as impressive as the result was how the Spurs built a winner while also hoarding as much as \$16 million to spend this summer on free agents or in trades.

The point guard, Parker, was drafted out of the French League. The shooting guard, Jackson, had been cut by three teams. The sixth man, Ginobili, was an unknown Italian League scorer from Argentina.

Try selling Kobe and Shaq on that as a supporting cast.

Yet the reason it worked in San Antonio is because Duncan and Robinson worked on faith when it came to the plan of Popovich and General Manager R.C. Buford.

This was not Michael Jordan mocking Bulls General Manager Jerry Krause at every turn.

"We're blessed with two guys that just trust us," Popovich said. "Not because we're wonderful people, but because that's their nature. They are respectful, mature guys who believe in people - until we prove them wrong."

"If we started bringing guys in and it was failure, failure, failure, then they

might look at us a bit. But they trust us, maybe because we've done some other things."

To Popovich, it goes back to the team's previous title, in 1999, when Duncan and Robinson had won while surrounded by the unheralded likes of Jaren Jackson, Avery Johnson and Mario Elie.

"We had a little bit of a record of bringing in people that we thought would fit for a variety of reasons and it worked," Popovich said of that first championship. "So when we talked to them about these guys, they said, 'OK, fine.' But mostly it's because they are trusting people and we had a history of it working before."

With Robinson and Duncan, the restructuring of the roster was a partnership.

"It doesn't make much sense to go do things and go to the people who are the stars of your team after the fact and say, 'We did this,'" Popovich said. "At least, that's what we do. We include them."

"Because if Tim Duncan says to me, 'I can't play with that guy,' or, 'What the hell do we want that guy on our team for?' I don't think it's real smart on my part to go get that guy."

If Duncan were not so unassuming, the plan could have disintegrated before construction began.

"They have done a great job of scouting and recognizing talent," Duncan said. "With Tony and Manu and Jack, all of these guys are guys that

kind of got passed by. Tony was at the end of the first round and Manu was a second-round player and Stephen gets cut the year before by 1/8th the Nets 3/8.

It's all about recognizing talent and giving these guys an opportunity."

So Duncan listened, offered his perspective, and ultimately signed off on what would emerge as a championship roster.

"I didn't know a thing about Tony, not a thing about Tony," he said. "They talked about him and said they were excited about him. Manu, I knew that we had his rights and that he was playing very well when he was over in Italy."

"And Stephen, I just thought he was just really talented. When I saw him on the free-agent list, I didn't know why he was there, and asked Pop about it, so they kind of looked into it."

With Robinson retiring and with the Spurs in position to reload, Duncan again will be brought in to consult.

"I guess it's basically how much you want to be involved," he said.

Until now, Duncan has signed off on complementary pieces. This summer, there will be matter of replacing Robinson and reloading. Only Duncan, Parker, Ginobili, Malik Rose and Bruce Bowen are under contract for next season.

"R.C. and Pop, those guys have done an incredible job of getting players and putting them on the floor and giving us a chance to win," Duncan said. "We'll fill a void and we'll find a way to hopefully get back here."

*"I guess it's basically how much you want to be involved."*

- Tim Duncan, The San Antonio Spurs

## Hit the floor!



Special Photo

The Hanner Fieldhouse arena floor recently got a new, classic look for the upcoming basketball and volleyball seasons. The court underwent its first design change since August 1999.

## Ebensperger named Academic All-America

G-A News Server

STATESBORO, Ga. - Georgia Southern tennis student-athlete Uli Ebensperger has earned selection to the 2003 Verizon Academic All-America Men's At-Large Team for the University Division as released Tuesday by Verizon and the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA).

Ebensperger, who was a second-team member of the prestigious national academic squad, recently completed his four-year career and degree requirements with a perfect 4.00 grade point average in international business.

On the court, Ebensperger posted an 18-13 overall singles record during the 2002-2003 season, which included a 15-7 mark in spring matches. The Altdorf, Germany native won six of nine Southern Conference events primarily playing at the No. 4 position under the direction of Eagle head coach Justin Miles. In addition, Ebensperger helped turn in a 13-13 record as part of a doubles tandem.

The Men's At-Large category for Academic All-America honors contains the sports of fencing, golf, gymnastics, hockey, lacrosse, rifle, skiing, swimming, tennis, volleyball, water polo and wrestling.

The Verizon Academic All-America Teams program recognizes student-athletes who have succeeded on the field and in the classroom. Individuals are selected by votes from CoSIDA, the 1,800-member College Sports Information Directors of America. To be eligible, an athlete must be a varsity starter or key reserve and maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.20 on a scale of 4.00. Since the program's inception in 1952, over 12,000 student-athletes have been honored with the award.

Under an agreement with CoSIDA, Verizon has been the exclusive sponsor of the Academic All-America program since 1985. A Fortune 10 company, Verizon Communications (NYSE:VZ) is one of the world's leading providers of communications services. Verizon companies are the largest providers of wireline and wireless communications in the United States, with 136.6 million access line equivalents and 33.3 million Verizon Wireless customers.



Special Photo

GSU's Uli Ebensperger was selected for the 2003 Verizon Academic All-America Men's At-Large Team this week. Ebensperger recently attained an international business degree from GSU with a 4.00 GPA.

Verizon is the third-largest long-distance carrier for U.S. consumers, with 13.2 million long-distance lines, and the company is also the largest directory publisher in the world, as measured by directory titles and circulation. With approximately \$67 billion in annual revenues and 227,000 employees, Verizon's global presence extends to the Americas, Europe, Asia and the Pacific.

### STATE, FROM PAGE 1

The students, who are called citizens for the week, are divided into two political parties the Nationalist and the Federalist. They are assigned to a city and a county in which they elect mayors, county commissioners, and sheriffs.

State Superintendent of Schools Kathy Cox spoke to them on Tuesday to ensure all of the citizens that in life they will fail, but that is part of the success in life. She used the examples of Lincoln, who lost every election that he entered until he won the presidency. She challenged them to get involved and not be afraid of the consequences.

She then began to tell them her own story, and how she had to weight the consequences to get where she is now.

Looking at the consequences she rationalized that the only election that she had ever won was the pledge president of her sorority at Emory, Kappa Kappa Gamma. With that in mind she decided to enter the race for the Georgia House of Representatives, against two other Republican Opponents. She was considered the dark horse, but she managed to get into a run-off with the incumbent. In the run-off she won her precinct by one vote and the over-all district by 97 votes. In an interview with the George-Anne, Cox said she first learned about the programs ten years ago when a local guidance counselor asked her to help select students for the program. "I feel real proud that I have helped to jump start the program in Fayette county" said Cox.

She added, "We need more leaders to stand up and be counted. This is giving them the opportunity to see that there are responsible leaders out there."

### H.O.P.E.S. (Helping Other People End Silence)

Meets on Thursdays starting June 5, 2003, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

at First Presbyterian Church in Statesboro

H.O.P.E.S. is a support group for women who have been victims of violence. In this group, we will provide a safe and confidential environment where women may share concerns or just listen and learn. Topics covered in this group will include:

- Adult Survivors of Crime, Rape Issues, Domestic Violence Issues, or any other issue that has resulted from a violent act.

Childcare provided at no cost.

For more information, please call (912) 681-2053.

Hope to see you there.



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