



**Georgia Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators  
Public Relations Committee  
Media Report**

**DECEMBER 2008**

**UGA lacks safety resources**

**Rides, courses assist University women**

By: KRISTEN COULTER

Posted: 12/2/08

They loom on campuses across the country, blue lights offering a "comfort situation" for students and parents alike.

The University of Virginia has more than 400. Florida State has 400 in a trail. The University of Alabama has almost 100.

The University of Georgia - zero.

"You go to the University of Georgia and you don't have call boxes?" Alabama Police Officer Andy Liles said in a phone interview. "That's amazing."

Safety is a prominent topic on campuses nationwide. But at a school such as the University, with an almost 60 percent female population, safety concerns are a part of daily life. Compared to other schools, the University lacks in some aspects - call boxes - but excels in others - safety classes.

"I think UGA does a good job. They offer a lot in terms of resources that students at other, smaller schools cannot offer," said Keith Simms, executive director of Safe Campuses Now.

"I think the Athens community also shares in this success through the various community groups and government agencies who also care about the well being of students."

**Call Boxes**

The University had about 25 boxes with a direct link to a University Police 911 dispatch spread throughout campus, but the service was terminated last year. The boxes were canceled, in part because the popularity of cell phones decreased use of the call boxes, University Police Chief Jimmy Williamson said.

He said BellSouth required the University to upgrade the phones from an analog system to digital. This change would have been expensive, costing several hundred thousand dollars. Maintenance cost about \$30,000 a month. The use did not support keeping the system, he said. If

the University didn't have to upgrade the system, it probably would have kept it.

"The cost to replace the boxes when they are not being utilized isn't feasible - again, especially when the vast majority of people on campus have cell phones," Simms said.

The University has emergency phones in parking decks. Williamson said these look like elevator phones.

Florida State University has a Blue Light Trail with 400 light poles with speaker phones directly connected to the police station.

FSU police officer Chris Fender said in a phone interview the trail is "highly effective." Though he didn't know the number of calls police get each month, Fender said the department "receives calls all the time."

If an individual is chased through campus, Fender said the person can hit buttons on call boxes as they run. Police track the person's path and help them.

The University of Alabama has 87 phones on its campus, Alabama police officer Andy Liles said in a phone interview. Police get few emergency calls, but he said they regularly get calls for directions or car help.

Liles said the phones are paid for several ways. First, the phones are bought by a special project fund. Second, the phones can be paid for by a group. Liles said Alabama's law school requested phones and paid for the implementation. Third, the phones are factored into the cost of all construction projects by a policy mandating phones be included by new buildings.

The University of Virginia has more than 400 phones on campus, UVA police officer Becky Campbell said in a phone interview. These phones are bought by the school's Safety and Security Committee, and the school pays for the upkeep.

Campbell said the phones are rarely used but serve as a "comfort situation" for students.

### **Safe Rides**

To help students move safely on campus, the University has Safe rides. Williamson said people use the rides regularly. The student group Watch Dawgs gives free rides home from downtown.

Simms said a University program offering rides home would be beneficial.

"I think if the service was expanded to reach specific 'student-based' apartment complexes ... students would take advantage of this service," Simms said. "Since last fall's 'man in the van' episodes, Safe Campuses Now has conducted more than 3,000 surveys about late-night bus ridership. More than 85 percent of respondents from the east side replied they would use this service."

Six years ago Athens-Clarke County had a late bus. Simms attributed few riders to poor promotion and a route from Milledge Avenue to the Arch.

FSU transports students with S.A.F.E. Connection, from 7 a.m. to 3 a.m. Fender said students

push a button on a call box, and a S.A.F.E. ride will pick them up.

The FSU student government provides The Night Nole, which takes students home from late-night venues. It goes to 32 apartments from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m., FSU's Web site states.

Alabama transit has an "Entertainment Route" from campus to social areas, from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m., Liles said. The transit system also has vans on campus.

UVA has three vans, which run Sunday through Thursday from noon. to 6 a.m. The vans don't drive groups of more than three, and passengers can't be intoxicated, Campbell said.

A late-night bus also runs until 3 a.m. on weekends.

Additionally, UVA contracted a cab company to drive anyone with a student ID home. Campbell said the bill is charged to the dean's office and put on the student's account. Campbell said this option is a "safety net, especially for females."

### **Programs for Women's Safety**

To promote safety for women, University Police teach two classes. One, a personal safety class, teaches about 5,000 to 6,000 women each year. The program began in 1990 and is updated often, Williamson said. It is taught with the intention to advise women how to reduce risk to crime.

Officers discuss safety on campus and other topics, such as alcohol use, date rape and apartment safety. Williamson said officers teach and try not to preach.

"We don't want anyone to think we're there to tell you how to live your life."

University Police also offer a self defense workshop. It is a three-night program, with women spending four hours each night learning self-defense techniques.

FSU police offer eight Rape Aggression Defense classes each semester. Courses are only for women and teach awareness, risk, prevention and self-defense. Two classes are for academic credit. Fender said police teach groups requesting training, such as sororities and school employees.

"RAD is our big thing we do for women's safety," he said.

Alabama began offering women's safety classes in January. Classes, which are for academic credit, were so popular the school will offer two more in 2009, Liles said.

UVA offers RAD Courses, Campbell said. Female UVA police officers also give one-hour safety talks.

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With violent crime in Athens rising by 15 percent in 2007, safety features are of serious concern to many women on campus.

Though University women don't benefit from the "comfort situation" call boxes provide, they have the advantage of University Police-sponsored safety courses.

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## **DUC Dining Hall Reopens After Small Fire in Kitchen**

By [Tasha Posid](#) Posted: 12/05/2008

The Dobbs University Center dining hall reopened yesterday afternoon after a kitchen fire early Wednesday morning suspended normal services for a day and a half.

When a DUC employee spilled cooking oil while pouring it into a tilt skillet a little before 7 a.m., the oil ignited and engulfed the small floor area and part of the equipment in flames, according to the Emory Police Department report.

The fire continued to spread in the kitchen, and the employees could not extinguish the flames with a fire extinguisher found near the stove.

Food Service Administration Senior Director Patty Ziegenhorn-Erbach wrote in an e-mail to the *Wheel* that responders from EPD and the DeKalb Fire Department finished putting out the fire after they arrived at 7:05 a.m.

The DeKalb Fire Department closed the kitchen and suspended dining services at the DUC until the DeKalb County Health Department had a chance to inspect the area.

“It was determined there was no danger, and the fire was completely extinguished,” Ziegenhorn-Erbach said.

Aside from the kitchen and dining area, unaffected portions of the DUC were reopened at 8:20 a.m. on Wednesday for regular services.

“There was minimal damage, but the fire suppressant caused the largest part of the mess,” Ziegenhorn-Erbach said.

Food Service Administration Associate Director Kenny Hemmer sent out a campuswide e-mail late Wednesday morning notifying students of the fire and the suspension of dining services. DUC employees served lunch in the Coca-Cola Commons on Wednesday. Students were invited to use meal swipes for select menu items at Cox Hall for Wednesday dinner, Dobbs after Dark late night dining services and Thursday breakfast.

— Contact [Tasha Posid](#).

<http://www.emorywheel.com/detail.php?n=26339>

## **Arrests made in campus robbery case**

**By: Corey Dickstein**

**Posted: 12/5/08**

Police have arrested and charged two men in the Nov. 6 armed robbery that occurred on South Clarke Street by the Governor's Mansion.

Georgia Military College students Robert William Renshaw, 19, and Rashawn Erek Abernathy, 18, have each been charged with armed robbery and counts of entering auto with the intent to steal. Both listed Magnolia Park as their residence.

The Milledgeville Police Department headed up the investigation with help from GCSU Public Safety. Detective Robert Butler was in charge for Public Safety.

"We started the investigation within hours of the armed robbery," Butler said. "We started by looking through school security footage. We have over 100 cameras on campus."

The tapes revealed footage of a possible getaway vehicle and information on the vehicle was passed on to patrol officers with Public Safety and MPD.

However, the first break in the investigation came from a call from the Milledgeville Applebees.

"Milledgeville Police Department was notified by Applebees of an individual who left the establishment without paying but left behind a credit card," Butler said. "The card came back to belong to one of the victims of the armed robbery."

That led to the Nov. 19 arrest of Renshaw. Abernathy remained at large until turning himself into MPD on Nov. 21.

Police believe the pair is also responsible for a number of the entering autos in the downtown Milledgeville area recently, but not all of them.

"It looks like what these guys were up to was just entering cars that were unlocked and grabbing anything they can see that was valuable to them," Butler said. "We believe the cars that have been broken into by breaking in windows is another individual or group of individuals."

Renshaw and Abernathy remain in custody after being denied bond, but Butler said both are cooperating with the investigation.

Now, Butler said, the focus on the investigation is recovering stolen property or getting restitution for victims.

"So far there has been a small amount of property recovered," Butler said. "At this point the Milledgeville Police Department along with university police want to clear our entering autos and help out our victims."

MPD has also arrested and charged a third individual with entering autos with the intent to steal.

Fellow GMC student and Magnolia Park resident James Seymour was arrested and let out on Bond.

"(Seymour) was the one whose car they were using," Butler said. Seymour was not charged in the armed robbery.

Butler urges students to lock their car doors and hide any visible valuables. He also said that installing car alarms is a deterrent to criminals.

"(Renshaw and Abernathy) said in their interviews that they were scared away from entering a Jeep Wrangler when its alarm went off."

Protecting the campus community is the main goal of Public Safety.

"Our goal is to try and keep the university campus safer and Bobcat village and anywhere our students are housed and attend classes," Butler said. "I can't stop an armed robber, but we do what we are doing whenever someone victimizes our students and we're going to go after (the criminals) to the fullest until we track and arrest them."

<http://media.www.gcsunade.com/media/storage/paper299/news/2008/12/05/CampusNews/Arrest.s.Made.In.Campus.Robbery.Case-3570175.shtml>

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## **Alert and vigilant**

### **GCSU community comes to the realization that it's not as safe as it used to be**

**By: Claire Childs**

**Posted: 12/5/08**

GCSU is in the real world with real danger and students must know what to do when the possibility of being a victim to a crime arises.

Recently, armed robberies and burglaries have taken place around campus and while some suspects have been arrested, similar incidents can and will happen again.

"Be vigilant, aware of the possibilities, and willing to call us," said Public Safety Crime Prevention Sergeant Michael Baker.

There are several simple things that can help students stay safe, such as programming the number for Public Safety in your phone. Some have already learned the importance of this number.

"I have called them before, they were very helpful and good with follow-ups," Freshman Psychology major Lindsey Griffith said.

Always assess the risks of a situation. When walking at night, stay in well-lit areas and try to be

with a buddy or with a group. Be aware that danger could be present and know to call campus police if anything seems suspicious.

"Know how you are getting from point A to point B," said Baker. Most crimes are crimes of opportunity that result from students not being aware of their surroundings, said Baker.

Baker concedes that students definitely have a false sense of security here at GCSU. For many students it is the first time out on their own; home was always safe, so some assume that school is no different.

Some students feel that even though Public Safety is not on every corner, they are still safe.

"I would be worried if I saw cops on campus; I'd feel like something was going on," said Stephanie McCondichie.

Public Safety is watching, with over 150 surveillance cameras all around campus, they can see a lot, but not everything.

Always make sure that all the car doors are locked and that expensive items, including purses, are out of sight. In the recent car burglaries, all items lifted for the cars and the Village parking lots were taken out of unlocked cars, said Baker.

"All we can do is try to prevent crime by educating our students," said Baker.

### **Safety Tips**

? Vary your routine and use different routes everytime

? Have your keys on your hand

? Report all suspicious activity and program

University Police number in your phone:

(478) 445-4400

<http://media.www.gcsunade.com/media/storage/paper299/news/2008/12/05/CampusNews/Alert.And.Vigilant-3570211.shtml>

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### **Reinstating SNAP**

**By: Claire Dykes**

**Posted: 12/5/08**

Public Safety hopes the Student Night Auxiliary Patrol will be reinstated as early as Jan. 2009 as an internship program for criminal justice majors and to provide further safety for students.

The SNAP program, cut in 2005, brought students to and from main campus and the residence

halls from dusk until midnight. Student volunteers drove a six-person golf cart Sunday through Thursday relying on two-way radios to pick up students. Public Safety cut the program due to both lack of funding and the shuttle filling the need for after-hours transportation.

In efforts to restore the program, Public Safety hopes to team up with criminal justice majors to give them experience working with SNAP.

"It could work as an internship with the criminal justice program," said David Groseclose, assistant vice president for public safety said. "It would be great to get them involved with dispatch. Even some of our current officers were once on the SNAP."

"The program started when public safety was in charge of parking," Groseclose said. "It was funded by parking tickets. But when we were no longer responsible for parking, we couldn't afford it."

The patrol would circulate between front campus and the residence halls, accepting calls directed to public safety for rides in designated areas. Although many students live off campus, the patrol would only be able to travel from main campus to the dorms due to insurance liability.

"We're not going to run a drunk shuttle," said Groseclose.

Financing remains the main issue in reinstating the program.

"We expect the program to be pretty expensive. Maybe up to \$20,000 per year," Groseclose said. "We need equipment and uniforms. If the program takes off like I think it will, we'll try to get another golf cart."

"This is a great way to further enhance safety on campus," said Bryan Jackson, GCSU's director of university communications. "I started to hear people talking about reinstating it right after the holdup a few weeks ago. The president thinks it's a good idea."

The patrol could provide students working late in the library a safe ride back to the residents halls as opposed to having an officer in a patrol car relinquish other duties to escort them. Opportunities such as these keep officers available for other calls.

In efforts to make the SNAP more reliable, the patrollers would be paid and require a uniform to be worn on the job.

"The idea is to make it a little more professional," said Jackson. Hopes are to have the patrol running every night.

Criminal justice majors may not be the only ones benefiting from this possible employment opportunity. Students who choose to take criminal justice classes may also be eligible to become a patroller.

To find out more information about the SNAP program, contact Public Safety at (478) 445-4400.



Media Credit: [Maggie Jensen](#)

*Public Safety hopes to reinstate SNAP to escort students during the late hours to increase safety and comfort on campus,*

<http://media.www.gcsunade.com/media/storage/paper299/news/2008/12/05/CampusNews/Reinstating.Snap-3570209.shtml>

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## **Top Stories of Fall 2008**

Written by Compiled by Staff

Wednesday, 10 December 2008 19:03

### **Suspicious Note Found on Campus**

Georgia Southern's Public Safety department released the initial incident report for last Wednesday's "suspicious note" found in the College of Information Technology (IT).

According to the report, the complainant went into the men's restroom on the first floor and found the note around 9:20 a.m. He then handed the note, which he stated suggested "terrorist activity", over to Associate Dean of the College of Business Affairs Susan Williams. Investigations are still ongoing on the event and who left the note.

Interim Dean of the College of IT Ronald Shiffler said that he was notified and public safety was contacted. From that point it was in their hands, he said. Several students also reported a large police presence outside the College of IT.

"Officials immediately responded and they are continuing to proactively investigate," Senior Communications Specialist Paul Floeckher said last Wednesday.

According to Floeckher, no specific threat was made to GSU.

"We have been in contact all day with university Public Safety and if there had been a threat, then we would have sent an alert," he said.

SGA President Brandon Cook was also informed the day of the incident.

"To my understanding, the reason it was handled the way it was handled was so you don't create a panic," he said.

Students should report suspicious letters and packages to the Office of Public Safety at 912-478-5234.

## **Report: Police await lab results before proceeding on alleged rape at fraternity**

**Posted: 12/12/08**

A woman's claim of rape at a Sigma Chi party in October remains under investigation while University police await results from the backlogged crime lab at the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, a newspaper reported Friday.

The Athens Banner-Herald reported police completed their questioning of people involved in the incident, but will wait for lab results before proceeding further.

University police told the Banner-Herald a woman was seriously injured at a party the night of Oct. 3 and claimed she was raped. She suffered a fractured jaw and lost several teeth in the room of a fraternity member, police told the Banner-Herald. She was apparently injured in a fall, but police would not say how the accident happened.

At the hospital, a nurse performed a rape exam, and her companion from the party voluntarily gave investigators a sample of his DNA, police told the newspaper.

*The Athens Banner-Herald contributed to this report.*

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## **Suspect: SSU shooting was self-defense**

By Savannah Morning News  
Created 2008-12-12 00:30

The man accused of shooting a fellow Savannah State University student last month says he was defending a friend's honor when he pulled the trigger of his gun.

From behind foggy, bullet-resistant glass Thursday morning at the Chatham County jail, Devon McIntosh, 19, who was wearing a dark, starched polyester jail uniform, said he fired two shots in self-defense after he was pummeled by Quinton Winfield, 22.

"He's older than me and he's bigger than me," McIntosh said, shrugging his shoulders and explaining that day in a pleading voice. "I just tried to fight back, but he's twice my size."

On Nov. 21, Winfield was shot by McIntosh at University Commons, an on-campus apartment complex at Savannah State, campus police have said.

McIntosh's roommate took Winfield to Candler Hospital. He later was transferred to Memorial University Medical Center, where Winfield was treated for gunshot wounds in his arm and torso.

Meanwhile, campus police placed the entire SSU campus on lockdown until McIntosh was found hiding in the trunk of his Lexus ES300.

The case has since been turned over to the GBI, said Chris Hosey, special agent in charge of the department's Statesboro office. Hosey said another agent is "putting the file together for the district attorney's office."

Hosey would not say whether GBI is considering the self-defense claim.

At Savannah State, McIntosh's status as a student hinges on an administrative adjudication process, said university spokeswoman Loretta Heyward.

McIntosh is being held at the jail on an aggravated assault charge, said Lt. Tommy Tillman, spokesman for the Chatham County Sheriff's Department.

Winfield has been discharged from Memorial, said Bryna Gordon, a hospital spokeswoman, on Thursday.

On the morning of the shooting, McIntosh said he walked into his University Commons apartment about 11 a.m. and found Winfield waiting for him in the kitchen.

Winfield asked why McIntosh questioned a comment he made about a woman, McIntosh said.

"I didn't even have a chance to respond. Before he even finished his own sentence, he hit me," he said.

McIntosh said he broke away from Winfield's assault and ran to his bedroom.

"I couldn't even think. I had been hit so many times in the head, my head was throbbing. I was angry. I was scared," he said. "I didn't know what to do. I had ... an object in my room."

McIntosh said the object was a handgun he kept for safety, claiming several students on campus carry guns.

McIntosh fired a warning shot into a wall, but Winfield still approached him, he said.

"I fired once more. I never aimed at him in any way that would hurt him," he said. "I just wanted him away from me."

But Winfield suffered two gunshot wounds, and McIntosh said Winfield then ran from the apartment and jumped into a white Chevrolet Impala. The driver was McIntosh's roommate, who took Winfield to the hospital.

McIntosh said he didn't know Winfield was hurt. He went to a neighboring apartment of the same friend who Winfield allegedly insulted and gave her his gun. McIntosh left campus, but soon returned to the woman's apartment to explain what happened.

"After that, I just had crazy thoughts in my mind that he was going to come back for me. I couldn't go back to my room because he knew where I lived," McIntosh said. "I just went to my car. That was it. I stayed there just balled up in the trunk."

McIntosh slept in the Lexus for five hours as police scoured the campus with search dogs. He woke up about 4:45 p.m. to a scratching sound.

He then stuck his hand out of the trunk to let officers know he was inside, he said.

The campus lockdown was lifted, and McIntosh was taken to jail.

His attorney, Nicholas Pagano, said he planned to file a petition for another bond hearing.

Meanwhile, McIntosh said his days of classes and homework have been replaced by praying and "watching sports" on TV in jail.

**Source URL:**

<http://savannahnow.com//node/634722>

## **Self-defense claimed in Savannah shooting**

### **Man says he was hit by fellow student**

By Arek Sarkissian II | Morris News Service | Story updated at 11:09 pm on 12/12/2008

SAVANNAH - The man accused of shooting a fellow Savannah State University student last month says he was defending a friend's honor when he pulled the trigger of his gun.

From behind foggy, bullet-resistant glass in the Chatham County jail, Devon McIntosh, 19, said he fired two shots in self-defense after he was pummeled by Quinton Winfield, 22.

"He's older than me and he's bigger than me," McIntosh said, shrugging his shoulders and explaining that day in a pleading voice. "I just tried to fight back, but he's twice my size."

McIntosh shot Winfield Nov. 21 at University Commons, an on-campus apartment complex, campus police have said.

McIntosh's roommate took Winfield to Candler Hospital. Winfield was transferred to Memorial University Medical Center, where he was treated for gunshot wounds in his arm and torso.

Police placed the entire campus on lockdown until officers found McIntosh hiding in the trunk of his Lexus ES300.

McIntosh's status as a student hinges on an administrative adjudication process, said university spokeswoman Loretta Heyward.

McIntosh is held at the jail on an aggravated assault charge.

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Winfield then ran from the apartment and jumped into a white Chevrolet Impala, and McIntosh's roommate took him to the hospital. McIntosh went to the neighboring apartment of the woman who Winfield allegedly insulted and gave her his gun. McIntosh left campus, but soon returned to the woman's apartment to explain what happened.

"After that, I just had crazy thoughts in my mind that he was going to come back for me. I couldn't go back to my room because he knew where I lived," McIntosh said. "I just went to my car. That was it. I stayed there just balled up in the trunk."

Originally published in the Athens Banner-Herald on Saturday, December 13, 2008

[http://onlineathens.com/stories/121308/new\\_366916597.shtml](http://onlineathens.com/stories/121308/new_366916597.shtml)

## **A "Trusted" Friend Arrives**

A college freshman's life is all about making new friends, but for one young man at Georgia State University, a new friendship nearly cost him his life.

Cops say the student had come to know Frank James Brown III, also a freshman, when on Sept. 2, 2006 Brown called to invite him to watch a football game at a local bar.

He told Brown that his sister was on her way to visit and he would have to come later, but cops say Brown was adamant.

The man insisted that he had to wait for his sister to arrive, and when she did, police say, he phoned Brown who came right over.

Cops say Brown arrived around 8 p.m. with a friend -- a male dressed up as a female. Another friend drove and waited in the car.

The man thought it was strange, but cops say he considered Brown a friend and had no reason to worry.

Then, cops say, Brown pulled a gun and demanded the man give him all of his money.  
Cops: Student Shot In Attempted Robbery

Then, cops say Brown asked the man to speak with him in private.

The man took Brown to a back bedroom where cops say he introduced Brown to his sister, then offered to introduce him to a roommate who was in another bedroom.

That's when the young man noticed that Brown was acting strangely. Cops say Brown paused and looked dumbfounded, then walked into the bathroom.

"Let's just talk in here," Brown said.

The man was confused, but complied.

Then, cops say, Brown pulled a gun and demanded the man give him all of his money.

When the man laughed at his so-called friend, thinking he must be kidding, cops say Brown pistol whipped him over the head and demanded the money.

The man realized this was no joke and began to fight for his life, according to police.

Cops say Brown shot the man once in the back, then tried to shoot him again, but the gun wouldn't fire.

Brown ran from the apartment and police say he's been on the run ever since.

Cops say the victim's sister quickly called for help, and the man survived the brutal attack.

Brown is described as a quiet person. He has a diamond stud in his left ear and wears his hair in corn rows.

Cops say he has family in Columbus, Ga., Columbia, S.C. and Ansonia, Conn. where he may be hiding.

He has limited financial resources, and cops fear he may strike again.

Call our hotline at 1-800-CRIME-TV if you know anything about Brown's whereabouts.

Information valid as of last update.

Aggravated Assault ; Sep 02, 2006

Attempted Armed Robbery, Atlanta, GA; Sep 02, 2006

Carrying a Weapon on School Property, Atlanta, GA; Sep 02, 2006

<http://www.amw.com/fugitives/case.cfm?id=61630>

December 13 2008

## **Editorial: Backlog at crime lab needs quick attention**

Athens Banner-Herald | Story updated at 7:45 pm on 12/14/2008

For a real-world lesson in why across-the-board budget cuts are an ill-advised way for any government to address fiscal shortfalls, look no further than the Friday story in this newspaper headlined "Lab load holds up fraternity case."

According to the story, the case of a woman who claims she was raped at the Sigma Chi fraternity house more than two months ago could be stalled for additional weeks or months as University of Georgia police wait for evidence to be tested at the State Crime Lab.

The lab, a chronically overburdened facility, has a backlog of more than 10,000 cases as of Nov. 30 - the backlog comprises any case that is more than 30 days old - according to a Georgia Bureau of Investigation spokesman quoted in Friday's story.

That backlog is up more than 4,000 cases since June 30, the end of the last fiscal year, in large part because of a \$4.1 million budget cut at the crime lab in the current fiscal year, which started July 1. With further budget cuts likely as the state government wrestles with the problem of declining tax revenues in the ongoing economic downturn, there's little reason to expect that backlog won't grow, and little reason to expect that evidence in the pending UGA fraternity rape case will be tested and processed in any kind of reasonable time.

As the state budget crisis has widened, Gov. Sonny Perdue has ordered all state agency heads to prepare plans for various percentages of cuts. Such an across-the-board approach is - in the abstract, anyway - a reasonable way of dealing with fiscal challenges. As a practical matter, however, the elegantly simple across-the-board slashing of government expenditures can produce any number of problematic outcomes.

By way of immediately pertinent example, it makes no sense to impose the same percentage of budget reductions on the State Crime Lab - which carries out an important facet of law-enforcement work, one of the bedrock duties of government - as is imposed on a state park, for example, as providing recreational opportunities isn't a particularly vital government function.

In times of fiscal difficulty, it ought to be incumbent on the state government's leadership to develop a set of priorities, ensuring adequate funding to the most vital governmental functions even if other functions are drastically curtailed. To the governor's credit, that has been done to some extent, with K-12 education not being subjected to the same level of cuts as other state government departments. But, as the situation at the crime lab sadly illustrates, there are other parts of state government that ought to get similar treatment.

As things stand now, the UGA chapter of Sigma Chi, the woman who allegedly was raped, and the UGA police department will be forced to live with the incident being unresolved, at least as far as the processing of evidence is concerned, for an unconscionably long time. Sadly, the backlog at the crime lab is an indication that other people and other police agencies are faced with similarly frustrating delays.

When the state's legislators gather next month for the 2009 session of the Georgia General Assembly, they should be mindful of the backlog at the State Crime Lab and the adverse

implications of that backlog with regard to the administration of justice around the state, and should take steps to address the situation as quickly as possible.

Originally published in the Athens Banner-Herald on Monday, December 15, 2008  
[http://onlineathens.com/stories/121508/opi\\_367569759.shtml](http://onlineathens.com/stories/121508/opi_367569759.shtml)

## **School Accuses Georgia Tech Student Of Misusing \$40K**

Monday, December 15, 2008 – updated: 6:16 pm EST December 15, 2008

**ATLANTA** -- A Georgia Tech student has been suspended and is the subject of a criminal investigation by the university, Channel 2 has learned.

Georgia Tech confirmed that Ronald Burgos is suspected of misusing more than \$41,000 in student activities money. The student's lawyer said he expects his client will be exonerated.

The tech campus cleared out quickly Saturday after exam week was capped off by commencement. But at least one student ended the semester in a nasty dispute with the university over allegations that he misused or even stole more than \$40,000 in student activities money.

According to a legal filing by his attorney, 22-year-old Burgos was the president and captain of the Georgia Tech Paintball Team from early 2005 through the end of 2006. The university contends it was during that time that Burgos spent tens of thousands of dollars for which he cannot fully account.

According to Burgos' lawyer, the student left Georgia Tech at the end of 2006 and did not re-enroll until August 2008, the start of the just-completed semester. It was then, said Burgos' lawyer, that Georgia Tech's auditors began to question how Burgos had managed the student funds two years earlier.

Georgia Tech sent Channel 2 a statement which read, in part, "An internal audit determined that \$41,385 of student activity funds were inappropriately accounted for and may have been diverted for personal use by Mr. Ronald Burgos. Mr. Burgos was suspended under the rules of the student code of conduct. The Georgia Tech Police Department is completing a criminal investigation."

A lawyer for Burgos asked a Fulton County Superior Court judge to restrain Georgia Tech from suspending the student before the close of the semester, but the judge declined to intervene.

Channel 2 was able to reach Burgos by phone, but other than confirming he was from Florida, he declined comment.

His lawyer told Channel 2 by phone that he believes the suspended student will be exonerated.

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<http://www.wsbtv.com/news/18283676/detail.html#->

## **GSU buys Apex, Legends land**

### **SPECIAL**

Posted: Dec. 18, 2008 8:24 p.m.

Updated: Dec. 18, 2008 8:49 p.m.

Georgia Southern University has acquired two pieces of property adjacent to its campus formerly occupied by the Legends and Apex clubs.

The property will be used for University Auxiliary Services operations including storage and maintenance. Terms of the purchase were not disclosed.

The purchase is part of the university's Campus Master Plan.

"Georgia Southern University has wanted to purchase the two properties for some time," said Bruce Grube, president of Georgia Southern. "The proximity of the property's location to our main campus and the need for additional space for auxiliary service operations were our primary reasons for purchasing these properties."

"From a public safety standpoint, we are very pleased that the university purchased these two properties," said Ken Brown, chief of Georgia Southern's Police Department. "My number-one concern is for the well-being of our students."

The university continues to work with the local community to improve safety on and around its campus.

"Georgia Southern University is a growing institution attracting students from across the United States and from more than 80 countries. We want to ensure that when they are here, they are provided the opportunity to live and learn in a safe, but enjoyable environment," Grube said.

<http://www.statesboroherald.com/news/article/16576>

## **OTC law enforcement academy given full certification**

### **SPECIAL**

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Ogeechee Technical College's new law enforcement academy was recognized by the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council (POST), which gave the academy full POST certification.

The OTC new law enforcement academy is one of six now located on the campuses of six Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) colleges.

Academy classes will begin in January at Ogeechee Tech as well as at Augusta Tech, Coosa Valley Tech, DeKalb Tech, Savannah Tech and South Georgia Tech.

According to information provided by Barry Turner, public relations director for OTC, the Basic Law Enforcement Academies (BLEA) project is a collaboration between the TCSG, POST and the Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC).

"It allows new law enforcement officers to receive their basic training at a state technical college and obtain college credit at the same time," he said.

The program also has the endorsement of the state Board of Public Safety, which has been working to craft a long-range solution to the need for more space for training of the state's law enforcement officers, he said.

Ogeechee Tech president Dawn Carte expressed excitement about the new

program.

"Full POST certification is important to our academy because it means those seeking law enforcement training locally through Ogeechee Tech have the assurance that every state standard and requirement has been met by our college," she said. "In especially critical economic times, our local governments can look forward to having their officers trained close to home which should help them save on expenses, while offering a more convenient option for the students."

Students attending BLEA classes will receive a technical certificate of credit (TCC) after completion of the program. With the TCC in hand, the new law enforcement officers can choose to continue their education toward a degree in criminal justice.

"This is an outstanding collaboration between our technical colleges and the agencies that oversee Georgia's public safety training programs," said TCSG Commissioner Ron Jackson. "These academies will open the door for every trainee to utilize their basic training as part of a seamless education process toward a two-year degree in criminal justice."

As students enrolled in college credit courses, most trainees will be eligible to receive Georgia HOPE grants and federal Pell grants that will offset the cost of their technical college education, Turner said. The academy's admission standards require all students to undergo a thorough background check and adhere to all rules as set forth by the state POST Council. Students will also have to meet minimum scores in English, reading and math.

The program will take between 16 and 20 weeks to complete, he said.

Ogeechee Tech's Basic Law Enforcement Academy is located at the College's Workforce Development Center on U.S. 301 in Claxton.

The emergency vehicle operators portion of the training will be held at OTC's driving range in Hagan.

"We expect the availability of this law enforcement training to be a great benefit not only to our three-county service delivery area (Bulloch, Evans, and Screven Counties) but to quite a few neighboring counties as well," Cartee said. "This certification is the culmination of quite a bit of work that has been done not only by those who are employed at Ogeechee Tech, but also by local legislators, Public Safety Board members, and law enforcement administrators. We would not have this Academy without the joint effort of many people."

Local law enforcement leaders, including Statesboro Police Chief Stan York, Bulloch County Sheriff Lynn Anderson and Georgia State Patrol Sgt. First-Class C. Lamb were not available for comment Friday regarding the program.

Updated: Dec. 26, 2008 9:37 p.m.

<http://www.statesboroherald.com/news/article/16622>

## **Best of the 2008 police blotter**

Athens Banner-Herald | Story updated at 9:11 pm on 12/27/2008

### **Impersonator gets deal on tickets - Sept. 4**

A ticket-buyer posing as a University of Georgia official convinced a student to lower his asking price by claiming it was illegal to re-sell football tickets, UGA police said.

The man answered the student's ad to sell six season tickets to see the Bulldogs play at Sanford Stadium.

The student arranged a meeting Aug. 27 at Tate Student Center, according to police.

Police would not say how much the student was asking for the tickets, but said the man used a fake official title to coerce the student into selling the tickets for \$250 less.

Police would not say who the man claimed to be, but said he faces charges of impersonating an officer and theft by deception.

Police would not release any more information, citing the ongoing investigation.

12/30/2008 12:01:00 AM

### **Officials confiscate 2 zebras** ***DNR says owners failed to get proper permits***

**Crystal Tatum**  
**Staff Reporter**

OXFORD - A zebra named Barcode that made national headlines when he became part of a prank at Oxford College earlier this year has been confiscated from his owners by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division.

Barcode and another zebra, a 3-year-old female named Jazz, were seized after their owners, Curtis and Sherry Jackson, failed to obtain proper permits to house wild animals, according to a WRD official.

The Jackson's declined to comment for this story.

The zebras have been shipped to a zoo in the Midwest, said Todd Nims, a wildlife biologist who supervises the WRD's Special Permit Unit.

"We try to find a licensed facility that is inspected frequently to make sure we're sending them somewhere that is doing the right thing and treating the animals correctly," Nims said.

In April, staff at Oxford College discovered Barcode roaming the third floor of Seney Hall, presumably put there by students pulling an end-of-the-school-year prank.

The highly publicized practical joke drew the attention of the DNR, whose officers soon discovered the animals were not permitted.

The DNR commissioner issued an administrative order to confiscate the animals. The Jackson's appealed, but in October, the order was upheld by an administrative law judge in Atlanta.

The couple had another opportunity to appeal, this time to Newton County Superior Court within 30 days, but elected not to, according to Nims. The zebras were seized on Dec. 12.

Nims said the Jacksons have had ample opportunity to get the proper permitting: The couple was first issued a warning for unlawful possession of a zebra in 1998.

They were granted a wild animal license in September 1999, but failed to renew the following year as required by law. Nims said at least one renewal reminder was sent to the couple.

Due to personnel changes and other issues, the case "slipped through the cracks," and was all but forgotten during the following eight years, Nims said.

In 2005, the Jacksons bought another zebra, a female, from Kentucky. Sherry Jackson told the Citizen earlier this year that she planned to breed the animals. They never applied for a permit for the second zebra, Nims said.

"They knew they had to have a license. They knew how to contact us. The phone number hasn't changed in that time. The address hasn't changed in that time. It's their responsibility to make sure their licenses stay up-to-date," he said.

The Jacksons considered the zebras pets, which is not an approved use for exotic animals in Georgia.

Exotic animals are only permitted for retail or wholesale purposes between licensed businesses or for public exhibition, Nims said. Initially, the Jacksons stated in their application that they planned to breed their zebra to create and sell zdonks, half-zebra, half-donkeys which are a bit of a hot commodity, though that apparently never occurred, Nims said.

Regulation of exotic animals is necessary to prevent introduction of disease or pests and harmful competition for wildlife and natural resources and, most importantly, to protect human safety, he said.

Zebras in particular can be very aggressive and dangerous, and are not, as they are often portrayed in movies or cartoons, just "striped horses," he said.

"They evolved around things that would eat them, so their defense mechanism is to bite and kick and when they bite and kick, they bite and kick very hard," he said.

In fact, Sherry Jackson testified in court that one of the zebras injured her and she required hospitalization, he said.

"Georgia law is fairly restrictive. If it's not a run-of-the-mill cat, dog, horse, cow or pig, it's going to require a license," Nims said.

Even some smaller animals, like ferrets, which are allowed as pets, must meet certain requirements, such as having rabies shots and being spayed or neutered.

"If anybody is contemplating getting some type of unusual animal, they should give us a call and make sure the animal is not something that is prohibited as a pet in Georgia," he said.

For inquiries or more information, call 770-761-3044.

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<http://www.newtoncitizen.com/main.asp?SectionID=2&SubSectionID=2&ArticleID=6342>