

THURSDAY
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Partly cloudy.

High 74 | Low 44 | Friday 65

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The
Red & Black

An independent student newspaper serving the University of Georgia community
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HOMEMADE SOAP



► Local artists and musicians use their creativity to get clean.
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KATIE KERNS | THE RED & BLACK

▲ Keith Sims, executive director of Safe Campuses Now, shows a new ad aimed at safety awareness at the Ritz Wednesday.

Posters
remind
patrons
of safety

Perdue defends splitting district

By **KELLY PROCTOR**
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Gov. Sonny Perdue invited reporters to his state offices Wednesday to explain why he approved splitting Athens into two voting groups — a move that's sure to touch off a firestorm among state Democrats.

"I don't think it's an area where I should exercise executive veto," Perdue said, adding he found little racial and population differences among the redrawn districts.

The Republican governor later put his pen to paper, signing the bill and pushing Athens-Clarke County one step closer to a two-district split.

Perdue may also create an independent commission to make sure future redistricting is balanced and fairly drawn.

During the meeting, Perdue explained his opinions carefully, seeming ready for the hail of criticism he is sure to catch from Athenians.

"I've tried to stay far from (the redistricting battle)," Perdue said.

Democrats have been hoping the governor wouldn't split Athens, one of only two blue counties in Georgia. They charge state Republicans with gerrymandering the districts and diluting the county's power in Atlanta.

Republicans, meanwhile, say

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KRISTEN D. FAIRCLOTH | THE RED & BLACK

▲ Governor Sonny Perdue explains the new Athens redistricting bill at the Capitol building Wednesday. The bill will split Athens into two districts which may change the influence the county has in the Capitol.

FLORIDA 77, GEORGIA 66

Late plays by Gators

met with state campuses now to unveil the new series of posters in its Blitz Campaign.

"Our goal is to surround students with messages encouraging them to take responsibility of their safety and the choices they make," said SCN executive director Keith Sims in a press release.

Sims noted during the unveiling that the posters were not merely getting the message out to the University community but also to high schools and other colleges.

The posters address issues including drunk driving to date rape and walking home alone at night. A grant from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety funds the Blitz Campaign's posters concerning driver safety and posters addressing nightlife are funded through private donations.

"If you get into the University of Georgia, you are an above average student," said Robert Dallas, Director of the Governor's Office of Highway Safety. "It's tragic to see lives ended at such an early age."

Dallas commended SCN for its

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PHIL SANDLIN | ASSOCIATED PRESS

▲ Florida's Lee Humphrey (12) drives against Younes Idrissi during the first half of the game. The Bulldogs fell to the Gators, 77-66.

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Billy Humphrey (UGA) - 6

The struggling Florida Gators got more than they hoped for from the Georgia basketball team Wednesday night.

The Gators, led by Joakim Noah's 37 points and 11 rebounds, fended off a scrappy Georgia team 77-66.

Noah's 37 points were a career high.

Florida's win was the first in their last four games.

Georgia managed to hang on for much of the game and cut Florida's lead, which was as high as 11 points to four twice within the last four minutes of the game.

"We played about hard enough," head coach Dennis Felton said in a radio interview. "But we didn't play quite good enough in terms of making plays."

Several Georgia missed opportunities in the final minutes allowed Florida to pull away.

Georgia's poor 3-point shooting ultimately did them in.

The Bulldogs shot 4-19, 21 percent, from behind the arc. Florida,

however, shot 27-32 from the foul line.

"They made some terrific hard earned plays," Felton said. "Especially Noah and (Al) Horford down low."

Freshman guard Mike Mercer led the Bulldogs with 18 points.

The Bulldogs have now lost five of their last six games and are tied for last place in the SEC East with South Carolina.

Georgia has been out-rebounded by 80 in their last six games, including a 35-24 deficit against the Gators.

Florida's win was their fifth in a row over the Bulldogs.

"We did a lot of things successfully that we set out to do," Felton said.

"We got some good indicators of the progressing we're going."

The Bulldogs will host Arkansas (20-8, 9-6) on Sunday.

A win will secure a 5-seed for the SEC tournament, which begins Thursday.

Group preps minorities for college

By BRIE BRITZIUS
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For first generation college students, the process of applying to college can be confusing, but the Collegiate Candidates can help these students.

Collegiate Candidates, created by graduate student Kenya Reese, functions like a mentoring program for the minority male students at Clarke Central High School to get them apply to college.

The high school seniors attend workshops every two weeks during school hours.

The workshops educate them about the basics of applying to college, help them fill out applications, learn about financial aid and learn study skills.

"The overall purpose is to increase the number of students underrepresented in college," Reese said.

"Whether they go to UGA or

Athens Tech is up to them. (The goal) is for them to go somewhere, be in some type of educational setting beyond high school."

Reese had the idea when she was still an undergraduate.

She said during that time she realized what she was doing as a student and intern would not only affect herself but future generations.

"Somehow it clicked if people aren't getting to college, they can't even get internships to get a job," Reese said. "I asked myself, if people aren't going to college, what sort of future will they and their children have?"

After doing research for her master's degree, Reese said she was shocked to see so many high schoolers not attending college.

She began speaking with professors and others at the University about starting a program to help minority students.

She wrote a brief proposal and presented it to Clarke Central, which approved the program.

The first program began in 2004, and from that group 18 students are pursuing higher education and training.

Reese originally wanted to work with all underrepresented students, but the counseling department at Clarke Central requested she work mainly with black and hispanic males since they are at the greatest risk for not continuing their education.

Sam Hicks, a counselor at Clarke Central, said the counseling department has its own group that helps first generation college students but felt Reese's program would be a perfect complement to the measures they had already taken.

"(W)e had far too many African-American and

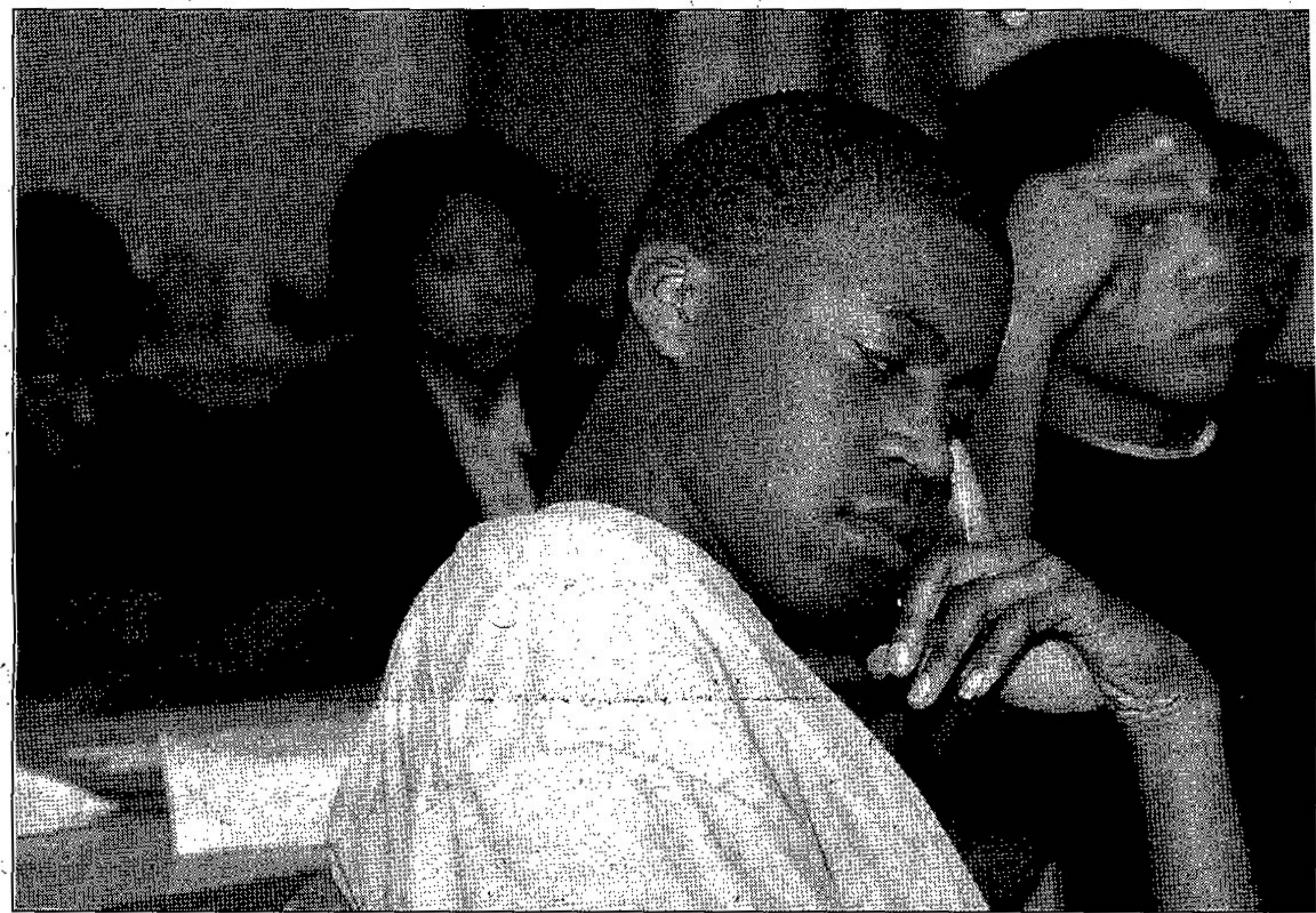
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EMILY ANNE CRAWFORD | THE RED & BLACK

▲ Kenya Reese, founder of Collegiate Candidates, prepares for a panel discussion at Clarke Central High School Wednesday.

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EMILY ANNE CRAWFORD | THE RED & BLACK

▲ Demetrius Campbell listens as University student members of Collegiate Candidates, discuss the college application process at Clarke Central High School on Wednesday.

STUDENTS: Organization aims to target male minorities

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and other minority males who were not going on to college," Hicks said. "They had taken all of the preparatory courses but were not following through. We thought that with some support we could increase the number of minority males enrolling in college."

Collegiate Candidates has

only recently become a student organization at the University. Junior Tionya DeBerry serves as its president. Her duties include marketing the program, developing a Web site and helping Reese with the students at Clarke Central. Like Reese, DeBerry feels it's a duty to herself and others to participate in the program.

"Getting [students]

involved and getting the proper education and preparing for the future is very important," DeBerry said.

Markis Callahan, a high school senior in the program said he benefited from attending.

"I wanted to learn more about college life," Callahan said. "We learned about what to do (when applying) and learned how to study."