



**Former employee Terrie Buckner asks for \$1.3 million in damages.**

## Univ. employee could pay \$1 million

*Ex-co-workers battle in court*

By **SHANESSA FAKOUR**  
THE RED & BLACK

The University is considering filing an appeal on behalf of a staff member who is court ordered to pay \$1.3 million in damages to a University employee.

After a three-day trial, a jury found that the actions of Karen Shetterley, the University's senior public service associate in the Georgia Center for Continuing Education, resulted in the false arrest and malicious prosecution of Terrie Buckner.

"The University believes Shetterley was acting properly" and within the bounds of her duty as an employee, Tom Jackson, vice president for public affairs, said in a phone interview Monday. Discussions are underway as to whether there will be a settlement or an appeal. The deadline for the University to file an appeal is Wednesday.

As an employee of the state, Shetterley is backed by state insurance under the department of administrative services. The insurance covers state employees up to \$1 million.

The marshal of the middle district of Georgia has received a writ of execution from the U.S. District Court demanding the debt from Shetterley.

If an appeal is filed, Lee Parks, Buckner's lawyer, will follow with a response to the court, and the court will make a judgement.

"We are very confident the judgment is valid," Parks said in reference to the jury awarding Buckner \$1.3 million in damages.

Parks submitted a reply brief to the court in support of Buckner's bill of costs and motion for attorneys' fees, which Shetterley argued on Dec. 22.

Buckner is asking for Shetterley to cover more than \$300,000 in attorney fees.

In 2004 Shetterley was Buckner's supervisor when Shetterley allegedly gave police false information regarding

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## Indicted football player to transfer

By **KRISTEN COULTER**  
THE RED & BLACK

A former University football player looks to continue his collegiate career even as he faces a felony indictment in Athens-Clarke County Superior Court.

On Dec. 10, a grand jury indicted Michael Lemon on charges of battery and aggravated battery. According to rivals.com,

Lemon made a recruitment visit to North Carolina State University on Dec. 12. Lemon told The Red & Black Thursday the university accepted his application. He plans to start classes in May.

As for the indictment, Lemon said in the phone interview he has not entered a plea because he hasn't talked to his lawyer.

After he was suspended from the University in



**Michael Lemon plans to attend N.C. State despite possible felonies.**

August, Lemon transferred to Georgia Military Academy and played football for the school's team last season.

The aggravated battery and battery charges stem from a June 26 incident in which Lemon is accused of punching University junior DeMarius Jackson five times in the eye, according to police reports.

The two were at a cook-out by the pool of The Exchange apartment complex, and Lemon accused Jackson of having a relationship with Lemon's "girl," the police report

states. After the exchange with Jackson, Lemon allegedly hit him repeatedly.

Jackson's eye was seriously damaged, but he is on the mend. His friend, sophomore Dyci Manns, said in a telephone interview Thursday that Jackson's eye is not completely healed, but he is able to see out of it.

Jackson was unavailable for comment by press time.

## Gym Class Clown



DANIEL SHIREY | THE RED & BLACK

▲ Abby Stack, a senior Gym Dog, goofs off in the foam pit. Stack serves as both the team's leader and jokester.

## Gym Dogs need 'goofy, positive' team leader 'more than ever'

By **TYLER ESTEP**  
THE RED & BLACK

Gymnastics is supposed to be a sport of finely-tuned performances, perfected execution and refined elegance.

It's supposed to be a very serious sport. Abby Stack didn't get the

memo.

If anything, Stack, one of Georgia gymnastics' four seniors, is a serious goofball, the consummate practitioner of anything ridiculous, random or wholly inappropriate.

"She's almost cartoonish," said freshman Gym Dog Amber Trani. "She's very out there.

She's not afraid to do anything whether she looks like an idiot or not. She loves to have fun and make people smile."

Things can no doubt get a little stressful for a record-setting gymnastics program, but as the Gym Dogs prepare for a run at a fifth straight national title, Stack is there as the poster child for comic relief.

"She's the jokester. She has so many jokes and she remembers them and she tells them perfect and we're like, 'Really Abby? You're really going to tell that

joke right now?'" senior Courtney Kupets said. "And sometimes you really need that, you need that kind of humor every once in a while. Even if you have to tell her, 'That's not appropriate, Abby.'"

"She'll do these skateboard moves when we're on vault like across the tumble track," junior Courtney McCool said. "And she can do any sport ever. She can ski, she can skateboard, she can play ball. She just adds so much

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JIM DIFFLY | THE RED & BLACK

▲ Members of The Buddy System, Mat Lewis and Craig Sheldon pose downtown.

## Artist puts sad memories to happy tunes

By **KATIE ANDREW**  
THE RED & BLACK

Start with half a cup of power pop and a handful of harmonies, stir in a viola, add a pinch of crazy animation and Voila! A great night out.

Local artists Allison Weiss and the Way She Likes It, Venice is Sinking and The Buddy System are taking the stage tonight at the 40 Watt to merrily demolish conventional standards of music — and look great doing it.

In the four years that Allison Weiss has lived in Athens, she's become quite the lady about town. Determined to gain headway in the

### Venice is Sinking, Allison Weiss, The Buddy System

When: 9 p.m. Tonight  
Where: 40 Watt  
Cost: \$5 (21+), \$7 (18)  
More Information: <http://www.40watt.com>

music business, Weiss has now collected a sizable fan base that can't get enough of her lighthearted tunes of love and loss.

"I think it's catchy and easy to relate to," Weiss said. "I like to say that it's your saddest memories sung to the tune of your happiest."

After naming their 2008 summer tour a grand success, Weiss and her bandmates were ready to hit the recording studio again.

"We released an EP in October, which is the first release I've had with a full band," Weiss said. Until about a year ago, Allison's act consisted of her and her younger brother A.J. Weiss.

"I just put up an ad on Craigslist for my drum and bass players," she said. Responses came from ex-Winter Sounds drummer Donovan Babb and former Beyond Tomorrow bassist Alec Wooden, and just like that, a band was born.

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See how the Lady Dogs fared against Ole Miss in Oxford Thursday night.



### Now what? page 8

The football season is over, but we've got a 10-item to-do list for Coach Mark Richt.

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