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MLK Jr. day used for service

'A day on, not off' for many

By **MIMI ENSLEY**
THE RED & BLACK

More than 700 volunteers united forces Monday to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy as a part of Hands on Northeast Georgia's day of service. At 25 project sites, teams of Girl Scouts, University students and Athens residents left warm beds behind as they faced near freezing temperatures to give back to the community on what

project leaders called "a day on, not a day off." The day was especially relevant to some who saw direct ties between Martin Luther King's message and Barack Obama's inauguration today. "You see a start with Martin Luther King that's greatly progressed up to this point," said Patrick Dever, a junior from Atlanta. At Barrow Elementary School, volunteers combined their Martin Luther King Jr. service projects

with efforts to prepare for the school's inauguration celebration. While some groups hauled mulch, pulled weeds and built a sandbox for the school's Pre-K, others hung red, white and blue streamers from classroom doors. "The connection [between Martin Luther King and Barack Obama] speaks for itself," said Emily Baggett, as she reached up to secure some patriotic ornaments. Baggett, a junior from Warner Robbins, volunteered with her fraternity, Phi Sigma Pi.

Other University groups also participated in the day's activities. Gospel Pilgrim Cemetery was just one of the sites that attracted University students. Representatives from both the University's Horticulture Club and Terry College's Leonard Leadership Scholars Program helped clear wisteria, English ivy and privet from the severely overgrown site. From the time it was founded in 1882, the Gospel Pilgrim Cemetery was "the place to be buried" for African Americans, said Gail Tarver, the site's



▲ **Ben Katz, 22, from Macon, along with other community volunteers, helps clear debris from Gospel Pilgrim Cemetery on MLK day.**

project coordinator. Corporation now works to restore the
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▲ An estimated one-half million gather outside the Lincoln Memorial on Sunday for events leading up to President-elect Barack Obama's inauguration.

D.C. 'patriotically bedazzled' before inauguration

WASHINGTON, D.C. — If there is one thing that I have learned after the past two days in Washington, D.C., it's that the inauguration of Barack Obama, more than any other in history, yields a tremendous amount of opportunity — an opportunity to make some fast cash. The first African-American president — this sequined portrait is worth every cent! This moment will go down in history — buy this cup, and get this one for free! Posters and coasters, shirts and des-



CHELSEA COOK

serts! DVDs from the "We Are One" concert! Cupcakes for change! "Yes We Can" Tattoos! We call this coffee the "Obama Blend" brew! These vendors act like they

didn't expect Obama's biggest crusaders to already own some Obama gear. Nevertheless, people are eating it up. Perhaps we should embrace it, after all, isn't over-marketing the American way? I just can't imagine that when Barack Obama started his campaign, he ever thought his face would be patriotically bedazzled on beanies and backpacks. This whole experience has been riding on a very fine line between commemorating and idolizing, respecting

and exploiting. I, too, will probably splurge on an inauguration coffee mug or an "I Was There" pin, (although I am very pleased with my Obama-edition Metro pass) but if this merchandising goes too far, won't he become more of a celebrity than anything else? Has he already? We could blame him for being just so damn likable. (Who hasn't come up their own nickname for the guy? Mine's Bam-Bam.) But

CELEBRATE ON CAMPUS

View the Inauguration with the University community at the following locations:

- UGA Chapel, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Fine Arts Balcony Theatre, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Russell Library Auditorium, 12 to 2 p.m.
- East Campus Village Fireside Lounge, 12 to 2 p.m.
- Tate Student Center Theater, 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- Memorial Hall, room 407, 11:45 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- The Georgia Theatre, free inauguration party, 7 p.m.

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ON THE WEB

See video footage of the Gym Dogs

Gym Dogs pink out Utah

By **TYLER ESTEP**
THE RED & BLACK

After watching tape of Utah late Sunday night, or early Monday morning, Gym Dogs associate head coach Jay Clark sent head coach Suzanne Yoculan an ominous e-mail: "We may lose tomorrow." The meet was even at 147.775 after the first three rotations, but the No. 4 Gym Dogs made Clark look bad Monday afternoon, topping rival Utah 197.150-196.725. "I told them, 'Don't compete to stay on, don't hold back,'" Yoculan said. "They were competing so tentatively on balance beam and almost afraid to make a mistake, like they were competing not to make a mistake. And you can't do that."



DANIEL SHIREY | THE RED & BLACK

▲ Senior Courtney Kupets flies through the air as she performs the floor exercise at the meet against Utah on Sunday. Kupets scored a 9.900 on the floor.

After besting Louisiana State by nine-tenths of a point Friday, Georgia's 197.150 in its annual Pink Out meet Monday was its season high and just the second 197 posted by any team in the nation this year. With the score knotted going into the final rotation, Georgia stepped up on floor. Senior Courtney Kupets led the way

with her third 9.9 or better of the meet, and 9.875s from Abby Stack, Hilary Mauro and Tiffany Tolnay solidified the win after Utah had a fall and two significant wobbles on beam. "On floor, sometimes we come with more of a spirit of timidity, but we really attacked it tonight,"

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Reality Bites

Alumnae goes on reality TV

By **COURTNEY SMITH**
THE RED & BLACK

University alum Erica Renee Johnson thought being chosen as a contestant for the CW's new reality show "13: Fear is Real" would be a fun way to branch out and challenge herself. Little did she know it would turn out to be some of the most harrowing and difficult weeks of her life. "I didn't really have any information about the show when I tried out so I was expecting it to be kind of a Real World type thing in a haunted house, but I was so wrong," said Johnson, who graduated with a telecommunications degree in Dec. 2004. "We didn't get to stay in a nice hotel and drive to do challenges on camera or anything like that. They really just dropped us off in the middle of the Louisiana bayou to fend for

ourselves with only a little broken down cabin where we had to sleep on the hard floor."

But, according to Johnson, the contestants were not the only things that called the dingy shack home. Apart from the alligators they could hear swimming around in the lagoon just a few feet from the cabin's door, the show's participants also shared their beds with two types of creatures that Johnson lists as the only things she fears: roaches and rats.

As the show progressed, she found that, although disgusting, the rodent infestation was the least of her worries. In order to win the \$666,666 prize, she had to combat her own mind and body as the show's producers slowly set the stage for them to turn against her. "A lot of the time we would all just be sitting around and

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Warm, fuzzy dogs page 6

Find out who called the men's basketball team "soft" after its ego-crushing loss to the Kentucky Wildcats Saturday.



Southern comfort page 5

Look inside to understand how the Drive-By Truckers create a symphony of sound for the senses and socks it to the proverbial man of "pre-packaged sound bites."

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