

West Ashley's Newspaper

{ WEST OF }

INVASION: WEST ASHLEY

The Army Men Project marches into town this week

STAVRINAKIS
THROWS HAT
IN 119 RING

John Graham
Altman III won't
seek reelection

By Lorne Chambers
Editor

It looks like John Graham Altman III won't be heading back to Columbia in 2007. Speaker of the House Bobby Harrell confirmed on Monday that the controversial West Ashley State House Rep would not seek reelection. The announcement, which was as a shock to many in the district, came just days following Charleston County Council chairman Leon Stavrinakis' public announcement that he was running for Altman's 119 seat.

Also, former City Councilman and local businessman Greg Hart has been running an aggressive campaign for a June primary and assumed face off with Altman. Now it looks like Hart will have to retool his campaign and prepare, not for Altman in June, but for Stavrinakis in November.

On Thursday, March 9 Stavrinakis held a press conference at his West Ashley home. With his entire family with him, the county councilman walked out onto his front lawn and made official what many had already expected.

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Marilyn Armstrong of Charleston Drinking Liberally holds up one of the soldiers pressed into duty for the Army Men Project. Over 1,000 little green army men will invade Charleston this week to protest the Iraq War.

By Warren Cobb
Community Editor

Ever-present in the minds of almost every American is ongoing conflict in Iraq. One group wants to bring the war to the forefront of the American consciousness. This group will bring the "Army Men Project" to West Ashley this week. Look for them in grocery stores on a box of Dove soap, atop gas pumps, on the washers at the laundry mat, crawling out of the light bulbs at Home Depot. The little green soldiers are meant to serve as "green plastic pinpricks to the American conscience,

to help create an environment in which it becomes increasingly difficult to ignore the war, the loss of life, and the unending destruction."

One of the leaders of the project is Marilyn Armstrong. She is one of the founders of the Charleston chapter of Drinking Liberally, who, in conjunction with Charleston Peace, brought the Army Men Project to town. "The mainstream media doesn't talk about why we're fighting this war," says Armstrong. "It doesn't talk about the human casualties. The army men project is a way to bring people's attention to it."

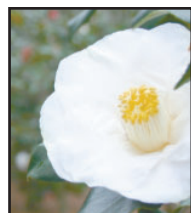
The idea was started by the antiwar website mouthswideopen.com. The "green plastic pinpricks" quote is from the site. The statement continues. "We want people to realize that by doing nothing they contribute to a war that has cost the lives of ... American soldiers and many, many thousands of Iraqi civilians."

According to the most recent numbers released by the Pentagon, 2,307 American soldiers have died in Iraq and 17,004 more wounded. The Iraqi civilian death toll is still being debated (one British antiwar website, iraq-bodycount.org, put the

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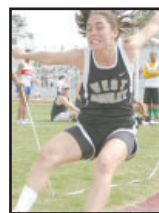
Leon Stavrinakis announces his candidacy



COMMUNITY
COLD WEATHER
FLOWERS IN BLOOM 10
Camellias aplenty at West Ashley plantations



CENTER SPREAD
NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL
TOURNAMENT
BRACKET 14
Fill it out. Keep it.



SPORTS
WEST ASHLEY IS
RUNNING WILD 21
Wildcat Relays bring 16 schools to West Ashley