

MLK Day a day on

Angie Hiers
Staff Writer

VSU remembers the life of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during a commemorative program tonight at 7 p.m. in the Bio/Chem Building auditorium.

The program reflects the national theme "Remember! Celebrate! Act! A Day On, Not A Day Off!"

Dr. Beverly Richardson-Blake, assistant director for the Office of Equal Opportunity, said the program will feature guest speaker Rev. David Simmons, and include a local musical group and campus representatives.

"Rev. Simmons is a pastor of one of the largest African-American churches in Albany: Mt. Zion Baptist Church," Dr. Blake said. "He's young, energetic and very involved with the community. He exhibits the characteristics of a successful role model who can motivate the young people in search of positive role models."

The program is free and open to the public.

Editor's Note:

Check out the Spectator's coverage of the MLK program next week.

Zaccari visits SGA

Mary Ellen McConnell
Staff Writer

Dr. Ronald Zaccari, VSU president, came to the SGA meeting Tuesday to introduce himself to the SGA and to confer with the SGA to get an idea of VSU's needs.

"I am here to lead VSU to new and unique directions," Dr. Zaccari said.

Dr. Zaccari began by explaining his open door policy. He supports an open door policy, but wants students to make an effort to analyze problems before bringing them to him.

"I have a tendency not to be very tolerant of pushing issues rather than studying issues," Dr. Zaccari said. "Together we solve problems."

He then announced he will ask permission to address the SGA about every four to five weeks. Dr. Zaccari plans to hold a breakfast every five to six weeks with several SGA senators. Currently SGA plans to pick senators randomly to allow every senator a chance to meet with the president.

Dr. Zaccari is arranging another meeting with SGA representatives as soon as he returns from his trip to Atlanta, where he will meet other university presidents. Dr. Zaccari hopes his two-day session will help him catch up on some of

Zaccari see page 3

Death visits VSU twice



Tiffany Stoney, freshman CIS major, signs the memorial book outside the late Dr. Petrella's office. The book will be available for signing until Friday afternoon.

Dr. Gerald Petrella suffers heart attack

Staff Reports

Dr. Gerald Petrella, 55, died of a heart attack Saturday. Dr. Petrella taught Mathematics Education in the department of math and computer sciences. In the fall of 2000, Dr. Petrella was promoted to associate professor.

Dr. Petrella earned his doctorate in Mathematics Education from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1991, and began teaching at VSU in 1995.

Dr. Petrella was a member of several professional organizations, and published articles in

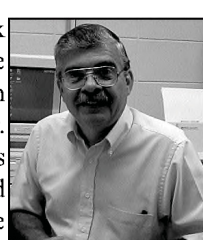
professional journals such as "The Indiana Mathematic Teacher," and "The Mathematics Teacher," a national journal.

"All of his colleagues in the math department really loved him for the work that he did with students and faculty," Dr. Kathy Simons, assistant professor of math and computer sciences, said. "He had a great sense of humor and was very professional. We will all miss him terribly."

The professors of the math and computer sciences have set up a book for those interested in memorializing Dr. Petrella.

The book can be found in front of Dr. Petrella's office, and will be available for signing until Friday afternoon.

"He was beloved by his students and friends," Dr. Levy said. "Dr. Petrella always had an encouraging word for his students and his love for mathematics enriched the lives of many teachers in our region. He was a warm man, with a very wonderful sense of humor."



Annie Johnson / The Spectator

The new recreation center will be open in late March or early April. Current work centers on the interior of the building.

Recreation center mandatory fees

Tameika Carson
Staff Writer

VSU student fees will slightly increase to pay for the new recreation center.

Students' concerns pertaining to the method of payment for the new recreation center has become common. James Brignati, vice president for Business and Finance, ensures students they will not pay any money, other than annual fees, to use the new facility. All fee paying VSU students will have the privilege of unlimited admission to the new recreation center.

"The new facility is intended for the students," Brignati said. "Therefore, we want to make it more convenient and directed towards the students."

The price of admission is considered a part of activity fees that are paid each semester by students registered for four hours or more. The additional money paid each semester in student fees will contribute to the cost of maintaining the building. The student fees will aid in paying for utilities in the new recreation center and the

salary of its employees.

"Even though fees will increase a moderate amount, you get a larger and better facility to use," Brignati said.

However, the exact amount or the percentage of the increase in student fees has not been confirmed and will not be in effect until the center has opened.

Some students understand and agree with increasing student fees for use of the new facility.

Miranda Glaze, a freshman mass media major said, "I think that it is reasonable that the student fees will increase because we are getting a center with an increasing amount of recreation."

In contrast to students, VSU faculty and staff will be required to pay a higher fee for a membership to use the recreation center. The price of the membership will be negotiated amongst the members of the a student committee. The student committee guarantees the voice of the student body is heard. The committee will also discuss issues addressing VSU alumni and their use of the new recreation center.

Retired teacher commits suicide

Staff Reports

Dr. Frank Marinelli, retired professor of psychology, died from a gun shot wound to the head, Tuesday. According to the Valdosta Daily Times, Charles Exum, county coroner, has ruled the death a suicide. Apparently, Dr. Marinelli set his house on fire before shooting himself in the head.

Dr. Marinelli taught psychology for 20 years at VSU. His area of specialty was clinical psychology. In his 20 years at VSU, Dr. Marinelli taught both graduate and undergraduate courses, especially in abnormal psychology.

Dr. Marinelli was born in Italy, and earned his doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of South Carolina at Columbia.

He served as a visiting lecturer at Chapman College and University of Arkansas, Little Rock and as an associate professor at University of Central Arkansas before coming to VSU in 1980.

Dr. Marinelli was licensed to practice psychology in Georgia, and before that had been licensed to practice in Arkansas.

"He will be missed by his many friends and colleagues," Dr. Louis Levy, acting vice president for Academic Affairs.

Students, faculty grade new add/drop

Kate Gauling
Staff Writer

Students are giving the updated add/drop system mixed reviews. The new online program, meant to decrease paperwork, was introduced last Tuesday.

"Before this, you had to hunt down a professor for their signature," Christian Shepard, criminal justice graduate student said. "With this system, a two-hour ordeal becomes a quick errand. No dealing with the Registrar's office, no long lines."

Most students seem to agree the system is convenient. Both Adam Floyd, undecided freshman, and Shane Ramey, senior philosophy major, used the system.

"As soon as I dropped the class," Floyd said. "I had my updated schedule."

Department secretaries, who deal with confused, wandering students during add/drop, referred to the new system for class openings. Both Janice Inman, senior secretary of mathematics and computer sciences and Maria Taylor, secretary of physics, astronomy, and geo-sciences, said there have been few student complaints and the usual rush has disappeared.

"It went much smoother this semester than it has in previous semesters," Judy Griffin, senior english department secretary, said.

While operation is smooth, the system has not ended all add/drop paperwork. Overrides are still handled manually. Regardless of these overrides, Gerald Wright, registrar, Lisa Long, assistant director of admissions, and Walter Peacock, director of admissions and enrollment, maintain the system has been successful.

Meanwhile, Dr. Kathleen Lowney, sociology professor, was not happy with the system. In the past, if a student added her class, she gave him or her a syllabus. With this new system, students can add her classes without coming to her for their syllabus and she prints out seven to eight pages of rolls everyday, for only five or six new names. She just received her proof roll last Monday.

"Some students probably think they've dropped my class, when they haven't," Dr. Lowney said. "Mid-term could find several disappointed, failing students."

CORRECTION:

In the first day tab issue people poll, The Spectator made an error of attribution. The photos of Rachel Wallace, sophomore early childhood education major, and Adriana Palatto, freshman business major, were reversed.

It is Spectator policy to correct errors of fact.

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Next issue

How does VSU tuition stack up?

Web Watch

Each week, the Spectator features a website that will benefit our readers.

You've just gotten into the professional article your teacher assigned when you realize that some people like to use big words just to impress others and that the author of

this article is just such a person. You decide to look up the word interdigitation, but your dictionary is so hopelessly out of date it has no entry for online. Yourdictionary.com might be

This week:


www.yourdictionary.com

a better place to look. The site has both thesaurus and dictionary options as well as a daily word--for those hoping to write professional articles--and best of all, it's free. Look it up.

Campus Happenings

www.valdosta.edu/spectator

Submissions for **Campus Happenings** can be sent to Blend Link at bjlink@valdosta.edu or brought to the Spectator offices on the second floor of the University Union on VSU's main campus.



POLICE BEAT

OFFENDER ARRESTED, VSU VICTIM

IMPORTANT CAMPUS SECURITY ALERT: Students, be aware of your surroundings at all times.

Cpl. Nealon, Crime Prevention Officer for Public Safety, sent the following campus security alert via the VSU e-mail listserv Jan. 7:

"There was an attempted assault on one of our [VSU's] female students in the Georgia Parking Lot at approximately 4:45 [p.m.]"

According to Cpl. Nealon, two witnesses near the scene were able to contribute information about the offender's getaway vehicle and tag number.

Chief Doner, director for Public Safety, said the offender was arrested last Thursday.

According to Officer Bryce Whitener, investigator for Public Safety, the offender, Derek Sanders, 42, of 118 S. Love St. Apt. 1, Thomasville, Ga., was arrested in Thomasville, Ga., on a warrant for charges of aggravated assault with intent to rape, false imprisonment and public indecency in connection with the Jan. 7 incident.

Chief Doner said Sanders could face criminal charges.

Sanders is being held at Lowndes County Jail.

The case is still being investigated.

Today

VSU hosts the annual Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. commemorative program at 7 p.m. in the Bio/Chem Building auditorium.

Rev. Daniel Simmons of Albany, Ga., is the guest speaker. A reception follows.

For more information, call Dr. Beverley Richardson-Blake, assistant director for Equal Opportunity Programs/Multicultural Affairs, at 333-5463 or e-mail her at brblake@valdosta.edu.

The American Society for Quality, Section 1533, holds its monthly meeting in Austin's Cattle Company Restaurant at the Comfort Inn on Highway 84 and I-75.

The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Mike Rigg, an industrial and quality engineer, is the guest speaker. All VSU students are welcome.

For more information and to reserve a seat, call Bob Bauer at 333-5930 or e-mail him at bbauer@valdosta.edu.

There will be an informational meeting for VSU student organization presidents (or designated officers) and campus advisers.

The meeting starts at 6 p.m. in the Magnolia Room at the University Center. Attendees should arrive 15 minutes early to sign in.

Organizations' representatives must attend to keep the organization in good standing and to use campus facilities.

For more information, call Robin Vickery, associate director for Student Activities, at 333-5674.

Employment opportunities for disabled VSU students are available through the Workforce Recruitment Program.

Interviews will be next Friday.

For more information, call Kimberly Godden, acting director for Special Services, at 245-2498 or e-mail her at kgodden@valdosta.edu.

Orientation leader applications are available in the University Union until February.

For more information, call Brenda Beasley, Orientation & Leadership Programs Coordinator, at 333-5941, e-mail her at bfbeasle@valdosta.edu or visit this web site: www.valdosta.edu/orientation.

The Association for Computing Machinery shows a movie, "War Games," at 7:15 p.m. in the University Center theater.

For more information, call Esther Tuyul at 241-9395 or e-mail her at eptuyul@valdosta.edu.

Natural High hosts bingo in Powell Hall auditorium from 9 to 11 p.m.

Free snacks, drinks and prizes will be available.

For more information, call the Office of Alcohol & Other Drug Education at 259-5111.

Friday

Shannan Keef from the John Marshall School of Law talks to interested students in West Hall 256 at noon.


For more information, e-mail Jane Elza at jelza@valdosta.edu.

Phi Alpha Delta, VSU's pre-law organization, holds its first meeting at 3 p.m. in West Hall 145.

For more information, e-mail Jane Elza at jelza@valdosta.edu.

Saturday

Dr. M.L. Williams, assistant English professor, reads a poetry selection at the Lowndes-Valdosta Art Center at 7 p.m.



Lost it? Look for it below!

Found Property

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8. Cell phone

All recovered One Cards are turned over to One Card Services. Call Cpl. Dennis Nealon at Public Safety at 333-7816 to identify any of these items.

Looking for the rest of Police Beat and the Campus Happenings listings? Search for them on our web site: www.valdosta.edu/spectator.

January 3

Donnie Lee Poole, 67, of 2414 Gaines Lane, was arrested at 8:41 p.m. at the 300 block of Baytree Road for driving without headlights, being a habitual violator (felony) and DUI. He is not a VSU student.

January 7

Dr. George Gaumont, director for Odum Library, reported that between 1 a.m. on Jan. 1 and 11:29 a.m. on Jan. 4, someone damaged the book return receptacle outside the library. The act is considered interference with government property.

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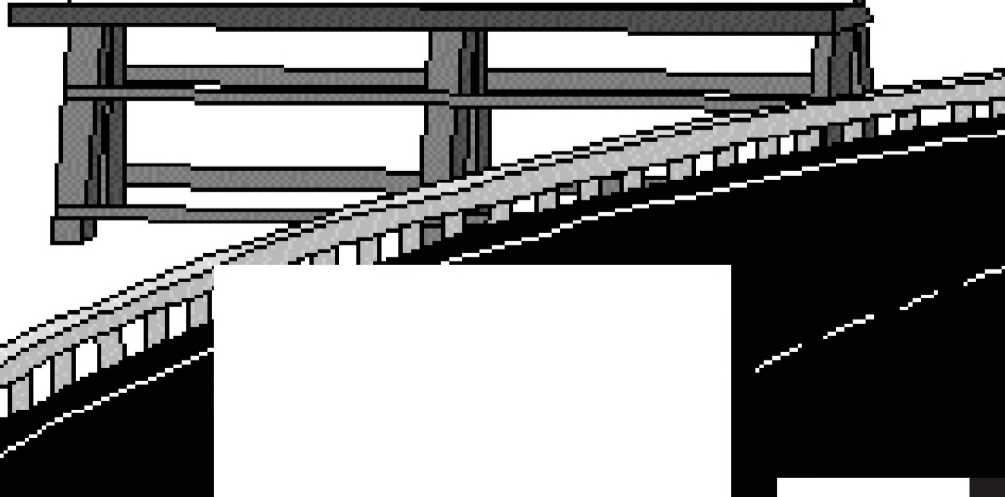
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News

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Today

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Blazer Grill gets a facelift

Tameika Carson
Staff Writer

The Blazer Grill is getting a facelift and a new name.

The Loop will replace the Blazer Grill in the University Union as early as fall 2002. Auxiliary services are not sure of the exact closing date but guarantee a month's notice before closing the Blazer Grill for the 90-day construction period.

According to Rob Kellner, director of Auxiliary Services, the Blazer Grill was last renovated in 1969.

"The Blazer Grill is not designed to serve a large and

growing enrollment that VSU is experiencing," Kellner said. "We plan to improve cash sales as well as services to the students by renovating."

The Loop will mainly be a pizza grill with a variety of other items such as burgers, subs, salads and shakes. VSU will also have the advantage of being the first chain to offer a breakfast menu.

"It is good to say that The Loop is more diverse and offers more than the Blazer Grill," Kellner said.

Jeremy Register, sophomore criminal justice major, is currently working at the Blazer Grill and looking forward to the

change.

"As a student and an employee, I feel that a new menu will bring in more business and a better choice of food," Register said.

In addition to a more diverse menu, The Loop will have longer hours to accommodate student schedules. The contract between VSU and The Loop states the restaurant is required to be open a minimum of 12 hours a day.

"Once we get the eatery opened, we plan to extend the hours even more to better serve the campus," Kellner said.

There will be no fee increase for students to pay for the reno-

vation and construction. Auxiliary Services ensures the money will come from auxiliary funds. A percentage of all profits made in VSU eateries are distributed into funds for renovations.

All meal plans and their amounts will be valid at The Loop. Equivalency meals, Flex and A La Carte will weigh and operate the same as any other eatery. The price of items on The Loop's menu will be compatible to rates in the actual restaurants causing prices to be higher than the Blazer Grill. The reason is The Loop is a branded company with a greater quality and quantity.

"For example, students may get a seven ounce burger at The Loop in comparison to about a 1/3 pound burger at the Blazer Grill," Kellner said. "Prices may be slightly higher but the product is better."

Many students are okay with higher prices for better food.

"If you want quality products, you are going to have to pay more," Angel Stephens, sophomore biology major said. "Students that don't want to pay more can go to Palms or the University Center and get the prices they can afford."

The possibility of delivering to Residence Halls from The Loop is in negotiation.

Deliveries will be paid by student Flex and A La Carte accounts only. Auxiliary services plan to place I.D card readers in front of every Residence Hall to ensure balances and pay for deliveries.

Students like Richarde McRae, a senior Spanish major, finds this an excellent idea.

"I think that it will serve as a convenience for the students because you won't always have to stand in the long lines to get your food," McRae said.

The Loop restaurant is popular in Tallahassee, Fl. and Duke University. Kellner and Auxiliary Services predict an even better outcome for VSU.



Dr. Ronald Zaccari, VSU president, addresses senators at the SGA meeting Tuesday.

Zaccari continued from page 1 the university's problems.

Dr. Zaccari closed his speech saying he is excited to be at VSU and hopes to make a difference. He then left while Nicholas Overstreet, SGA president, was talking.

After Dr. Zaccari left the meeting a new bill was brought to the floor. Bill number 06-02 would change the bookstore

buyback policy. Senator Jay Hodgkin sponsored the bill because he feels the buyback date is too soon. The buyback dates begin too early and "do not give every student an equal opportunity to sell back their books," Sen. Hodgkin said.

The bookstore begins book buy back as early as November in the fall and Sen. Hodgkin feels that many students like to keep their books until finals weeks so they can study. This

Vonetta Lawton / The Spectator

creates a problem because the bookstore only buys back so many books.

The bill was passed with an amendment stating that buybacks should begin three days before the official campus dead day.

Although SGA cannot change the bookstore policy they hope when the bill is brought before Student Life the problem will be brought to the bookstore's attention.

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News

NOW meeting at Carswell Hall



Vonetta Lawton / The Spectator

The VSU women's studies program has moved to Carswell Hall. The house, on Oak Street, is also where the Valdosta chapter for the National Organization for Women.

Camille Carswell
Staff Writer

The beginning of this semester marks some major changes for VSU's women's studies program. Entering its seventh year, women's studies made its move from an office in West Hall to its own building, Carswell Hall, 1526 N. Oak St.

According to Dr. Viki Soady, director of women's studies, there were many competing demands for the house.

"Many programs asked for it, and it could have been given to

others," Dr. Soady said. "Dr. Bailey and Dr. Levy decided to give it to us, and I believe for that they deserve credit. Receiving the house is a vote of confidence in the status of women and issues of diversity."

The women's studies program is deeply concerned with

changing minds and extending understanding about issues of

"I do know that having the space and the validation of the university to continue to work on those issues is a big vote of confidence in our faculty and what we do."

-Dr. Viki Soady, director of women's studies

race, class and gender.

One way women's studies promotes this understanding is through community outreach.

One such organization using the facility is NOW, the National Organization for Women. NOW's website, www.now.org, defines itself as such: "[NOW] is a non profit organization dedicated to making legal, political social and economic change in our society in order to achieve our goal, which is to eliminate sexism and end all oppression."

The local chapter of NOW is chaired by Cherie Hicks, who organized the group by herself and Carla Lampos. The Valdosta chapter has been around for just under a year. NOW meetings are held in Carswell Hall on the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. and open to anyone in the community.

"I'm not sure if you open hearts to open minds, or if you open minds to open hearts," Dr. Soady said. "But I do know that having the space and the validation of the university to continue to work on those issues is a big vote of confidence in our faculty and what we do."



In the

The "American Taliban" faces life in prison if convicted of aiding the Taliban.

The "American Taliban," John Walker Lindh could face life in prison if convicted of conspiring to kill U.S. citizens and aiding terrorists. Attorney General John Ashcroft announced the charges on Tuesday and said, "Youth is not absolution for treachery." Walker is an American citizen who provided support to terrorist groups such as Al-Qaida and engaged in prohibited activity with the Taliban.

An alleged Taliban financial backer turns himself in Wednesday to U.S. military intelligence.

Wednesday, U.S. military intelligence officers received good news when an Afghan said to be a financial supporter of the Taliban surrendered himself voluntarily. The unidentified Afghan turned himself in at the gates of the U.S base at Kandahar airport. "He wanted to offer us information, some interesting information," marine spokesman first Lt. James Jarvis said. "Military intelligence is jumping with joy over the opportunity to talk to him."

Yucca Mountain designated as nation's nuclear waste site.

Yucca Mountain in Nevada was closed Jan. 10 to become the nation's burial site for thousands of tons of nuclear waste. Depositing the highly radioactive used reactor fuel currently stored throughout 31 states at Yucca means thousands of tons of radioactive waste could travel through the nation's Heartland. Congress still has final say on the site, however.

Fayette man arrested for 1997 disappearance and slaying of his wife, Beverly Watson.

Beverly Watson's 1997 disappearance in Fayette led to her husband's arrest for her murder years later. Her bones were found three years ago, and Jim Watson was indicted Tuesday by a grand jury. Watson claims his wife left the house in 1997 following an argument, and he had nothing to do with her murder. Krista Hinkle, a childhood friend of Beverly Watson said, "Even if he is not [found guilty], at least everybody will be able to hear what we haven't been able to say...His life will never be the same."

Dance Marathon plans underway

Jaime Peck
Staff Writer

Dancing can make dreams come true.

The second annual VSU/Children's Miracle Network Dance Marathon is April 27, from 10 a.m. until midnight.

Marathon chairpersons are Chrissy Simpson, overall chair, Susan Embry, external chair, and Lauryn Watson, internal chair. They will meet with Robin Vickery, director of Student Activities, today to assign committee leaders and set a goal.

"Last year, we raised over \$20,000, and anything over that is going to be wonderful," Vickery said.

All proceeds will help ill children at SHANDS Hospital

in Gainesville, Fla.

During the marathon, several local children and their parents in affiliation with SHANDS Hospital will talk to participants. Also, a physician from SHANDS will speak about the children's illnesses and the importance of fundraising.

Next week dance marathon chairpersons and committees will start recruitment meetings for people who can create teams to participate in the marathon.

"This year, we're having five people on a team instead of 10," Vickery said. "This will make it easier for residence halls and other organizations on campus to get a team together."

For information about participating in the marathon, call Student Activities at 333-5684.

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Marijuana put to vote in Michigan

By Bill Laitner
Knight Ridder Newspapers

For years they've warned of school-yard pushers, of liquor stores that don't check IDs, of new drugs popping up in teenage bloodstreams.

Now there's a new enemy in Michigan for substance-abuse educators like the Troy Community Coalition and the Macomb County Prevention Coalition — an enemy bigger and better financed than just about anything.

It's a California foundation that has won major fights to ease drug laws in California and Arizona. Financed by billionaires George Soros and Peter Lewis, and by multimillionaire John Sperling, the Campaign for New Drug Policies began an effort last month to do the same thing in Michigan.

The trio hopes to duplicate in Michigan, Ohio and Florida their recent successes in the West, using the mantra "treatment, not jail" for first- and second-time drug users.

That news has Michigan's drug-prevention leaders girding for a fight in 2002. The battle is expected to be fought with petitions, speeches and public-service spots leading to the ballot box in November.

Central to the fight will be community coalitions, the mostly volunteer antidrug groups in scores of Michigan cities, including nearly two dozen in Oakland County. Under federal law, the nonprofit coalitions generally can spend up to 20 percent of their budgets "to educate voters," said Betsy Glick, spokeswoman in Washington, D.C., at the movement's center — the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America.

On Dec. 14, President George W. Bush cheered coalition leaders from across the country at their national convention in Washington.

Then he signed a bill giving them five more years of federal funding — \$450 million through fiscal-year 2007, hundreds of millions more than ever.

And Bush pointed to Michigan, singling out the Troy Community Coalition for its success in changing attitudes toward drugs and in helping start other coalitions across the state and the country.

The Troy coalition's leader, also head of a regional group of 13 coalitions, is Mary Ann Solberg, nominated by Bush last year to be his deputy White House drug czar.

Awaiting Senate confirmation and choosing her words carefully, Solberg said last week she couldn't comment on how Michigan's coalitions will fight the politicking of the Santa Monica-based Campaign for New Drug Policies.

But Solberg said she is determined to see more coalitions spawned and strengthened. And if confirmed, she is

community attitudes and market the coalition movement.

The new petition drive seeks to amend the Michigan Constitution by scaling back mandatory drug-crime sentences and giving judges more discretion in sentencing drug offenders. It is expected to make the ballot with 302,711 signatures.

Last year, leaders of metro Detroit coalitions fought another statewide campaign over drug laws.

Prompted by petition circulators seeking to ease Michigan's marijuana laws,

debates are best left to voters.

Michiganders are far from uniform in their views on drugs, said Lansing pollster Ed Sarpolus, vice president of EPIC/MRA consultants. In a 1999 statewide poll, about 55 percent of state residents supported legalization of marijuana for medicinal use if prescribed by a doctor, Sarpolus said.

Yet Michiganders in other polls overwhelmingly rejected suggestions to legalize drugs across the board, Sarpolus said.

Many voters seek a middle ground between jail and legalization, said Bill Zimmerman, executive director of the California foundation that has launched the Michigan campaign. He cites a nationwide poll last year by the Pew Research Center for People and the Press, in which Americans by a 52-35-percent majority said drug use should be treated as a disease, not a crime.

Michigan's drug czar is unresponsive to that softer line.

On Jan. 10, Craig Yaladoo is to deliver a battle cry in the state's war on drugs to members of the Macomb County Prevention Coalition.

Yaladoo will rev their enthusiasm for the electoral fight ahead at a meeting open to the public, at 2 p.m. in the Freedom Hill conference center, 15000 Metropolitan Parkway in Sterling Heights. He will call the foundation's plan "the moral equivalent of giving our children rat poison."

Last week Yaladoo said the foundation's ideas on sentencing guidelines and treatment plans "are all a hoax." He is a former Wayne County assistant prosecutor, named last year to head Michigan's Office of Drug Control Policy.

Crucial to stopping the initiative will be the pavement-pounding and door-knocking of people in community coalitions, Yaladoo said.

"They've always brought in teachers and parents and volunteers of all kinds, anyone who yearned for a way to get involved" in fighting drugs, he said.

For more on the Campaign for New Drug Policies, see www.drugreform.org

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expected to help them play a key role in opposing any easing of drug laws. Behind the scenes, Solberg is "spearheading the campaign against this initiative," said Diane Dovico, a part-time community organizer for the Royal Oak Community Coalition.

"We're all looking to educate people. We'd like to squelch this before people vote on it," Dovico said.

Solberg's swan song before moving to Washington might be Jan. 26, when coalition members from across Oakland County are to gather at a Troy church for a Saturday morning meeting on ways to find and keep volunteers, change com-

munity heads began approaching city and county officials with resolutions condemning marijuana.

They got hearty support at council meetings in Detroit, Allen Park, Clawson and Troy. And they won approval from commissioners in Oakland and Macomb counties.

But at city halls in Berkley and Huntington Woods, elected leaders balked. That prompted coalition leaders in Oakland and Macomb to call a halt to further canvassing.

In Huntington Woods, city commissioners met the delegation with silence. Later, Mayor Ron Gillham said drug

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The Spectator

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The worst kept secret at VSU

So, finally, we have a new president. It will no doubt take Dr. Zaccari a while to get used to VSU, just as it will take VSU a while to get used to him. But just because the search is over doesn't mean the questions raised by the search have been answered. The Board of Regents and the administration tell us that Dr. Zaccari is the best candidate for the job. And there is little doubt he is.

But some questions still have to be answered. We were told at the outset of this search that the process had to be a closed one. That other than members of the search committee, members of the VSU community would be kept in the dark about who applied and who was interviewed.

In this way, we were told, we would get the best president. The really *good* candidates, we were told, would not apply for a presidency unless the process was closed.

Yet members of the community fought hard to get the process to be an open one. Georgia state law was not on the side of the community. The process remained closed and was fraught with gossip, rumors and suspicions of wrongdoing. And that's no way to start a presidency.

Dr. Zaccari is the unwitting proof of how false a premise the closed search was.

VSU wasn't the only place Dr. Zaccari was looking. He was also a candidate at the University of Louisiana at Monroe. That search was open. Anyone who wanted to could log on to the web and see a list of applicants as well as each applicant's resume.

We have a president, finally. But what we still don't have are answers.

As VSU enters more job searches, for vice-presidential and dean's positions, it would do well to learn from the problems encountered in the presidential search. We might not be as lucky next time.

Spectator opinion written by Leah F. Cassorla

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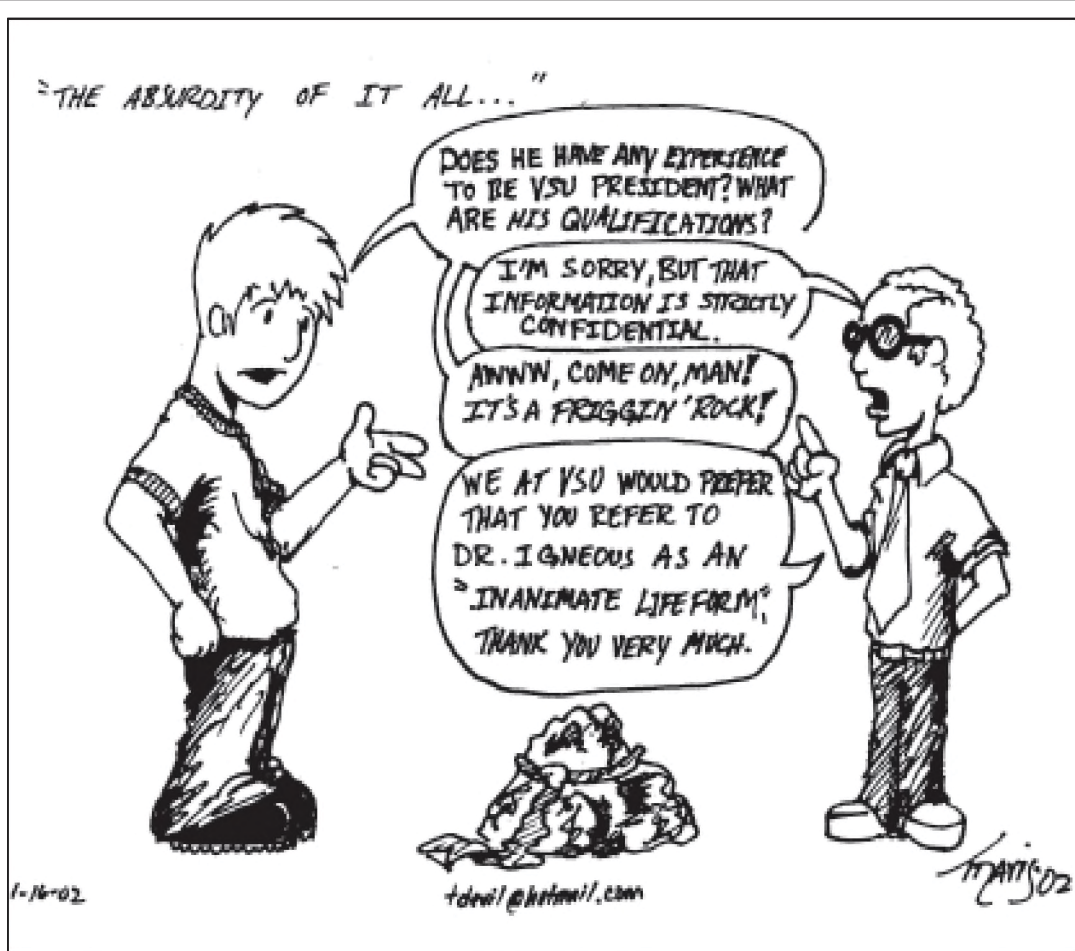
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Letters must include name, year in school, major, job title or other appropriate identification and phone number for verification. Letters should be no longer than 300 words in length. Letters are subject to editing for style, length, grammar, and libelous material. Not all letters are published. Letters should be typed and turned in with a disk, or e-mailed as an attachment.



One day at a time...

With another New Year comes a million resolutions. Most of them will be unfulfilled and left at the wayside. This brings the question to mind: Why do people feel the need to make resolutions only at the new year?

Let us look at the question from society's point of view. The New Year brings a clean slate to many of the hopefuls. "It's a new year, time to make myself new!" they say. Many strive to quit smoking, lose weight, get in shape, quit drinking too much and waking up in strange places, ect. So, with this newfound enthusiasm the troubled go out into this new year with high hopes and expectations only to be overwhelmed by their large obstacles. Well I made one of these res-



Jason James

olutions. My goal is to get back into shape to continue my Peachtree Road Race tradition (which I broke last year due to inactivity). To complete my goal, I must not only run the entire 6.2 miles; I will finish under 50 minutes. I had resolutions in the past which I lost sight of. This year I made a pact with others to complete this

goal. The key to beating your resolutions lies in taking on your task day-by-day. Instead of telling myself I will run the Peachtree, I tell myself I am going to run one mile everyday this week, then two miles everyday next week, and so on. Starting with one mile is more attainable than trying to run the 10K I have set up for myself come July 4.

So take comfort in knowing that your goals can be met with perseverance and will power, not a resolution made on Jan. 1. A resolution can be made at any time during the year. You just have to want it bad enough!

Jason James is a Spectator columnist and can be contacted at acdcbag113@hotmail.com

Mailbox

A new way to die

Dear Editor:

I am writing this letter to warn everyone on this campus about the deadly drug OxyContin.

This Christmas I was at the local hospital. One of my best friends was in a coma. He had overdosed on OxyContin on a night he was just out to have fun. After four days the doctor said he was completely brain dead. His family had no choice but to take him off life support. On Christmas day my friend died. There is nothing I can do for him, but I can learn from him and hope others do as well.

OxyContin is very popular right now. The Atlanta Journal - Constitution produced an article on August 19, 2001, stating that this drug is spreading through Georgia. Anyone who has taken OxyContin or wants to, beware. This is serious. My friend is not the only person to die from this drug. That same article from the Atlanta Journal-Constitution says

authorities are expecting around 100 deaths from OxyContin this year. There were 62 deaths last year. If you know anyone who has anything to do with OxyContin let that person know it will kill them.

If you think you are only hurting yourself when you do drugs, you are wrong. Drugs hurt others as well. I went through the hurt this Christmas. If anyone has questions or comments please e-mail me at lcbystro@hotmail.com.

Lyndon Bystrom

Blazing basketball

Dear Editor:

If you didn't watch the men's basketball game on Jan. 8 between your VSU Blazers and the West Georgia Braves you missed something special.

The Braves were an extremely talented basketball team. One that would outmatch a team with less heart than the Blazers. You could

see the effort and energy the Blazers possessed.

This energy and enthusiasm stems from one man: Coach Yarborough. He has the Blazers believing they can win against any team. If fans ever wonder how the team gives the effort they do for a game, watch the effort Yarborough gives. The virtues Yarborough possesses rub off on his team. The Blazers lay it on the line for their school, coach and themselves.

I've watched Blazer basketball for the past four years and never saw a game played with more heart than the one played Tuesday. Their effort should not go unnoticed.

Thank you to Coach Yarborough and every Blazer player for showing us how sports are supposed to be played: **ALL HEART!**

Greg Olsen

Editor's Note: Both letters were edited for space. Visit www.valdosta.edu/spectator for full-length versions



Got something to say?

Open mic on this page every week at the Spectator.

How does the search for administrators at VSU affect the average student?



"The presidents don't interact with students very often. I didn't know we had a new president until I saw the sign."

Jamie Gordon
Freshman
Accounting



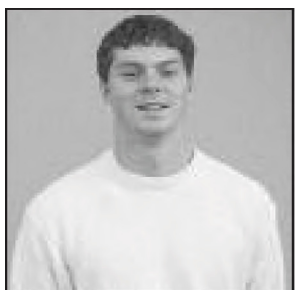
"I didn't know we had a new president until I saw him talking to students outside the grill."

Bridget Neal
Sophomore
Psychology



"It didn't affect me because all I do is go to classes. I don't see or talk to any real administrators."

Chris Maurer
Freshman
Undecided



"I don't think it affects the average student. Only those in SGA and organizations that get involved with the administration."

Scott Foss
Freshman
Business
Administration



"It doesn't affect us. We don't ever see the president. He should spend more time trying to meet the average student."

Blair Popham
Freshman
Business
Administration



"It is what the president does when he gets here that affects the students."

James Wright
Senior
Special Education



Tara Sherman

The flag fad

Driving down Ashley Street seems a little different.

I see red, white and blue across flagpoles, windshields and T-shirts. There are billboards advertising a newborn pride. "These colors don't run," blazes from all 50 stars, shining some light on hope and morale.

It's a comfort to see "United We Stand" with an American flag in the background, without some company's logo to clutter it up.

On TV ads you'll find neo-Aryan 20-somethings sharing picnics in their tailored sweaters, khaki cuts and straw hats, giggling like children while the National Anthem hums in the background.

That was a quick hello from Tommy Hilfiger, reminding me amidst CNN and its up-to-date terrorism report, I can check out his new fragrance.

Tired of hearing "We're gonna get him," I flip to MTV. Colors red, white and blue are everywhere, from the flashy background tube lights to the bling-bling apparel of overrated stars. Some videos have skin-clad bimboes wearing flag-printed bikini tops, making their bulging breasts more noticeable than the flag.

Then a pause for MTV News about Sept. 11 and how stars want to help, plus a few reminders of upcoming album releases.

What better time to soothe the aching with a fresh marketing tool? Tommy Hilfiger believes he and I will be united if we wear the same scent. I should buy that new album because it represents patriotism... in some form.

That's what marketers want us to believe. Would these same marketers ditch seven-figure salaries to enlist? Do their proceeds actually benefit a charity or does anyone bother to check?

I believe in patriotism and in the flag. But you won't find any flags lying around my apartment or on my car. I don't have to have one to be patriotic. I'm an American when I cast my ballot. I'm an American when I exercise my first amendment right by writing this column. Most important, I'm an American within my heart because I believe in freedom and equal rights. I don't need perfume or a bump'n'grindin' CD to be one.

For all the moms with flag stickers on the back of their minivans, you go girls. The same goes to the "USA!" chanters at concerts and the upcoming Olympics. National pride is necessary. Don't let it fade out, becoming the out-of-style big hit, red, white and blue exchanged for the new hot colors of the season, available at your local mall.

Editor's Note



If you have ideas or comments about the Darkside page, contact Darkside editor, Jeremiah Bass at jwbass@valdosta.edu

This page embraces satirical opinion pieces generally not suited for more serious news pages. The views expressed in the Darkside are not necessarily those of The Spectator, its staff and in many cases, even the contributors themselves.

DarkSide

Men are from Mars...for sure!

Beth Owen
Staff Writer

Men are from Mars. Period. Guys think the same about us, true, but give a gal some room to vent, eh?

I mean, really. Let us try to understand the boys for a moment.

Where to begin, where to begin...aaah, here it comes.

I have one word that describes men above all else: *simple*.

Simple pleasures, simple conversation, simple dress, simple views, simple hobbies...the list can go on.



I know, I know. You protest and thou I hast offended.

Your great great grandfather's hobby was building authentic sixth century Viking boats and then putting them into itty bitty bottles. Hurrah.

I'm referring to the young men of today and their "if it moves, shoot it!" philosophy.

Not to mention the "if it moves..." you know the rest.

I'm not trying to be rude. Really. We gals just yearn for understanding. I have my own top ten questions I'm sure girls nationwide would love

answered.

10. Does it feel better when you sneeze if it registers on the Richter scale?

9. Has any man anywhere ever received a date after a cat call?

8. Has any man anywhere ever received a date after 10 Budweisers and a poorly planned proposition?

7. Has any man anywhere ever gotten a thumb splint after 26 1/2 hours of Playstation?

6. Has the chemical equation ethyl alcohol + testosterone =



"WHOOO HOO!" ever been officially tested?

5. If so, why don't warning labels and ear plugs come with all beer cases?

4. Is it really that hard to remember dates; like, oooh say, birthdays? (We've already accepted the anniversary thing as a goner.)

3. Do you get embarrassed when you adjust yourselves in public?

2. How do you feel after you gun the engine when driving by a group of girls (and yell something, of course)?

1. Where *have* all the flowers gone?

I know there is the other side to the story. "Girls are so complicated!" you say.

My only answer to that is: You guys were created first!

We must simply be compensating for your simplicity, or, "evening things out," to put it simply.

I suppose that puts us back to the drawing board.

-Beth Owen is a staff writer for The Spectator and she can be contacted at bethluv45@hotmail.com-

Hello, I am your DarkSide editor, and fellow Martian Jeremiah Bass. Just reminding you to check out The Spectator on the web at www.valdosta.edu/spectator. Also, check out my new book entitled: "The Women of Venus: Part 2." You won't wanna miss *this* action.



Tamekia Glanton
Staff Writer

Hey, did you hear the one about the man with the bomb in his shoe?

How about the one with the businessman who made it through two airports with a gun in his brief case?

Okay, I admit that the man with the bomb in his shoe should get credit for simply having a brilliant idea, nor should we overlook the craftsmanship of the shoe.

About the businessman, he was probably wearing an expensive-looking suit and tie, which could ease nearly anyone's suspicions.

Unbelievably, clothes alone will get you off the "potential terrorist" list.

Nowadays, airport security

equals airport uncertainty. Did you know that those people who work as airport security are no longer required to have a high school diploma?

So for all you college students who had visions of having your very own shiny badge with your name engraved in gold letters, forget about it; you are overqualified.

A note to airport security: the object is to stop those people who have weapons from getting onto planes, not let them on.

You know that 70-year-old woman you keep looking at funny because you think she is in disguise? Guess what? She really *is* 70 years old. You are wrong again.

The person who was standing in the same line two spots ahead of her wearing the neon pink sign with electric blue letters that read, "I am a friendly terrorist," was the person you were supposed to stop. I guess the word "friendly" grabbed your attention and would not let go.

Apparently, it is far too much of us to ask airport security to do its job. It would be even further beyond their reach if we asked them to play detective.

Instead, let's see if they can simply play watchdog and sniff out anything that smells funny.

What happened to the days when people were required to have references in order to obtain a job?



Huh?
Yeah, I think we should hold that person until the authorities get here. I don't care that she's 88 years old. She was clipping her finger nails with that little funny-



-Hello. This is Jeremiah Bass again. If you have something to say about this column, or any other aspects of The DarkSide, e-mail me at loserkidblink@hotmail.com. Ask me anything, but don't ask about my relationship with Penelope Cruz...that's top secret.

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Feature

The Spectator welcomes ideas and comments from the public. Please contact justin_laura@hotmail.com

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Looking for a fun time on the web while searching out ways to not get stressed? Check out the Spectator site for a video clip!

Lose weight the healthy way

Jeremiah Bass
Staff Writer

As usual, when we venture off for home, or wherever we are headed for the Christmas holidays, we come back with the added bonus of five pounds or more. This usually comes from eating plenty of holiday foods, ranging from turkey to red velvet cake. Worried about the extra pounds? Don't panic just yet, there are some ways to give them a swift kick out of the door.

Dr. Michael Maina, professor of kinesiology and physical education, gave some tips on how to lose weight—and how to maintain a daily regimen.

"You shouldn't lose more than a pound a week," Dr. Maina said. "[Many people] try to do a lot [of exercising and dieting] too fast. That'll be water and muscle that you'll lose. All a person would be doing is dehydrating [him/herself]. Try not to make major changes. For every coke you have, have a drink of water, too."

Two of the major things to do is exercise [this includes cardiovascular with strength training] at least three to five times a week and watch when it comes to eating. Another example of keeping down the weight that Dr. Maina mentioned was to have only half a piece of cake instead of downing the entire slice.

Dr. Maina talked about how one's metabolism plays a part in the process of weight gain and/or weight loss.

"The more you exercise, the more your metabolism speeds up," he said.

As metabolism increases, fat

vigorously again. This pattern, according to Dr. Maina, is known as the "yo-yo diet." This occurs when a person

weight, they should get into an exercise program [start off slowly and gradually work their way up] and make small changes in their diet [decrease saturated fat and sugars]. A good habit is to avoid fried or greasy foods [fast food can be included in this category].

Lisa Noyes, fitness coordinator and personal trainer at the YMCA, talked about some healthy foods that could be included in a diet, ranging from fruits and vegetables [which have more nutrients than vitamins], to lean proteins, fish, lean beef, chicken and whole grains.

According to Noyes, 90 percent of the diet should be composed of healthy food and the other 10 percent should be for "play time," meaning the

person dieting should be able to splurge every once in a while.

Noyes talked about how women, specifically, should keep a high self-esteem.

"Believe in yourself," Noyes said.

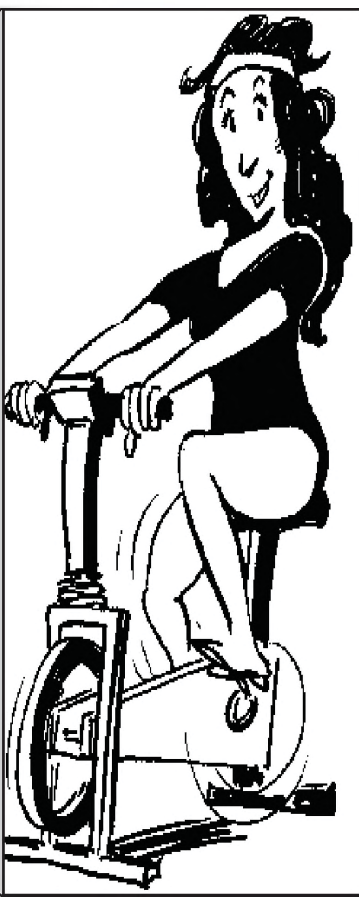
She talked about some of the typical downfalls to dieting and exercising.

"They [people attempting to lose weight] haven't made a commitment," Noyes said. "It's either all or nothing. Do the little things. All things add up. People take it for granted."

Jeremiah Bass is a Spectator reporter and can be reached at loserkidblink@hotmail.com

Six tips for a healthy way to lose pounds:

1. begin an exercise program. Include cardiovascular work such as running, swimming or aerobics. The average person burns 100 calories for every mile you walk or run.
2. Include a weight lifting program using machines or free weights. Your body will continue to burn calories for up to 24 hours after a weight-lifting session.
3. Minimize foods high in fat and sugar, as well as fried foods.
4. Eat breakfast. This jump starts your metabolism to burn more calories throughout the day.
5. Drink at least eight glasses of water a day.
6. Eat five to six smaller meals through the day. This will keep your energy levels higher and will result in burning more calories.



Popular junk foods and healthy alternatives:

Junk food:	Healthy alternative:
1. Soda	1. Sugar-free Kool-Aid, 100 percent fruit juice, water
2. Chips	2. Air popped popcorn (minus the butter), pretzels, sliced fruit
3. Pizza	3. Make your own pizza with fat-free, skim cheese, or order one with half the cheese.
4. Beer	4. Drink a light beer or a glass of red wine. The darker the beer, the more calories it contains.
5. Cake/cookies	5. Fat-free brownie mix, granola bars

weight will decrease. When a caloric restriction is decreased, the metabolism process slows down. As this happens, the person attempting to lose the weight eventually starts to cat

dicts, starts eating the wrong foods again, diets, starts eating unhealthily again and this cycle continues.

Dr. Maina said that for college students looking to lose



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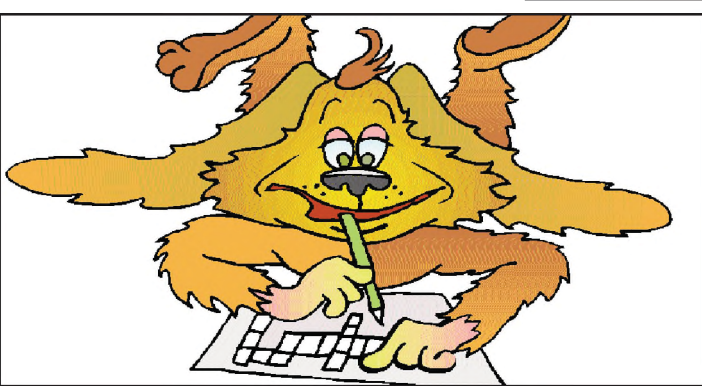
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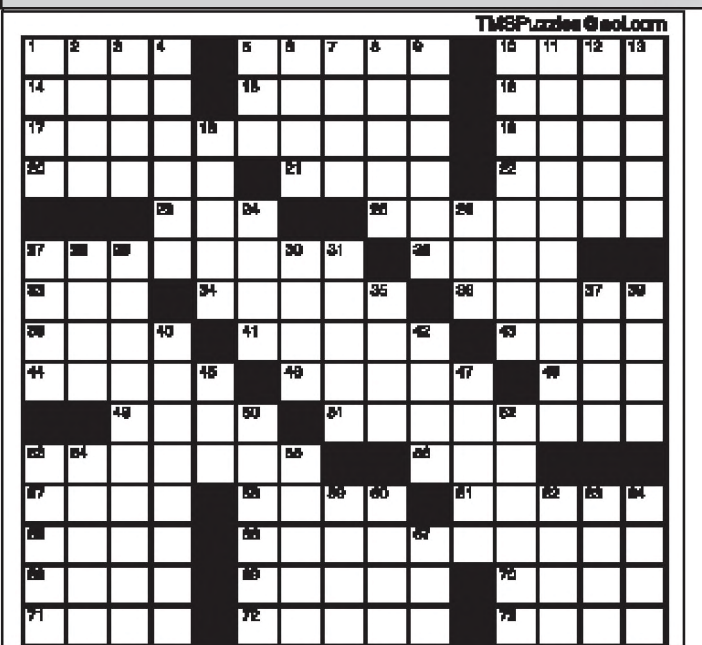
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Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS	laughter letters	73 Stout's Wolfe	emacian
1 Chatters	34 To be heard	35 Carp cousin	37 Depraved
5 Coats and cloaks	36 Boldness	DOWN	38 OK city
10 "American Gigolo" star	39 Military group	1 Swell guy	40 Fur traders
14 AC/DC power	41 R. Dysart series	2 Jai ___	42 Electoral district
15 WWII hero	43 Bridle strap	3 ___noire	45 Observe
Murphy	44 Art grouping	4 Madly delusional	47 State-run gambling
16 Bleacher bleats	46 Window sticker	5 Pallid	50 Below standard
17 Road to a star?	48 Actor Wallach	6 Hold sway	52 Annual golf tourney
19 Fertility goddess	49 Work shift	7 First father?	53 Say something
20 Related product	51 Sent another way	8 Centerfold	54 Make into two
21 Big birds	53 Improve to standard	9 Playground plank	55 Sticking stuff
Down Under	56 Sot's shakes	10 More ghostly	59 Bread choices
22 Since, in Scotland	57 Insect's feeler	11 Road to financial security?	60 Vamoosel!
23 Iomega drive	58 Obstacles	12 German river	62 Swiss river
25 Pat of "The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour"	61 Drink to "Cosmo"	13 German city	63 The slammer
27 Deliberate subversion	65 "Cosmo" rival	18 Screenwriter	64 Van Gogh's brother
32 Court order	66 Road to madness?	24 Gloomy effect	67 "___ Pinafore"
33 Chat-room	68 Asseverate	26 Coffee server	
	69 Mr. T's outfit	27 Fake coin	
	70 Buffalo's lake	28 First-rate	
	71 Piano parts	29 Road to a wrong turn?	
	72 Break times	30 Incite	
		31 Swiss math-	

Crossword answers on page 10.

Art with a cutting edge

Casey Carpenter
Staff Writer

If Victoria Skinner sees you reading a magazine, she'll tell you to cut it out.

Skinner's bold use of mixed media is the theme of one of her largest displayed works, "Duke of Diatoms." The exhibit opened at 7 p.m. on Mon.

Skinner graduated from the Maryland Institute, College of Art, with a master of fine arts degree. She currently maintains her own studio in Lake Worth, Fla.

Skinner's collages incorporate black and white photography, magazine clippings, x-rays, and computer-generated prints. A collage makes the work appear to have depth, looking 3-D and surreal. Within the same piece, one finds eastern and western influences, old and young people, seashells and leaves, and animals and humans.

Skinner admits said her work has been viewed ranging from amusing to ambiguous to disturbing.

"Each person relates to each piece differently," Skinner said. "There isn't a common thread that ties it all together.



Vonetta Lawton / The Spectator

This piece, entitled "Prince of Protozoa," is one of several works displayed in Victoria Skinner's exhibit, "Duke of Diatoms." Skinner's works incorporate black and white photography, magazine clippings, X-rays and computer generated prints. The exhibit will be displayed at the VSU art gallery through Feb. 1.

Skinner's pieces range in size (5 x 8 to 5 feet tall) and involve anything from Victorian queens to viruses.

Skinner said she works on more than a dozen pieces at a time. She fills her studio with a multitude of supplies, and cuts and pastes until each piece

completes itself. Some pieces take a day; others take a year.

The art gallery is open Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. until Feb. 1 at the Fine Arts Building.

Casey Carpenter is a Spectator reporter and can be reached at cassandraanne@aol.com

Tunes for Tots comes to VSU



Your tot could be the next Beethoven or Brahms, and here is your chance to find out.

According to the Valdosta Daily Times, The Valdosta Symphony Guild is conducting the annual Tunes for Tots. The program is this Sat. from 10:30 a.m. to

noon in Whitehead Auditorium in the VSU Fine Arts building.

Tunes for Tots was created for children from K-4 through second grade. It introduces them to instruments and different styles of sound they make. Children will be allowed to touch, feel and play the different

instruments, as well as view demonstrations.

This year's Tunes for Tots theme is "Carnival of Animals," featuring composer Camille Saint Saens' "Carnival of the Animals."

The program is free. For more information, contact ArtSouth at 333-2150.

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VSU Box 7052, Valdosta, GA 31698
or e-mail at spec@valdosta.edu. The Spectator reserves the right to reject any classified ad. All ads are subject to standard editing procedures. The Spectator is not responsible for ads submitted under false pretenses or for mistakes due to a submitted error. The categories for classifieds include: For Sale, Wanted, Roommates, Employment and Personals. Categories may be added or deleted as necessary.

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Dark brown sofa set (one three seater, one two seater, one armchair) in very good condition. Willing to sell either as a three-piece set or individually. Call 245-0935 for more details

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S'not the flu: or is it..

Angie Hiers
Staff Writer

As winter blows in, so does the cold and flu season, but careful prevention may help lessen the chill of flu discomfort.

According to Donna Nolan, director of nursing at Farber Health Center, flu-like symptoms include body aches, high fever, dry cough, sore throat and runny nose. But the major sign of the flu is body aches and a fever of 101 degrees or greater. A throat culture sent to the Center for Disease Control for testing will determine if someone has the flu.

Nolan says early prevention is the key to decreasing flu

symptoms.

"This is the time to take better care of your body. Increase fluid intake and get lots of rest," Nolan said.

Lack of rest means a weakened immune system that leaves a person more susceptible to being sick, she said.

She advises students to wash their hands after touching areas where people have coughed or sneezed to prevent spreading or contacting germs. If someone in class is sick, try to avoid sitting near that person.

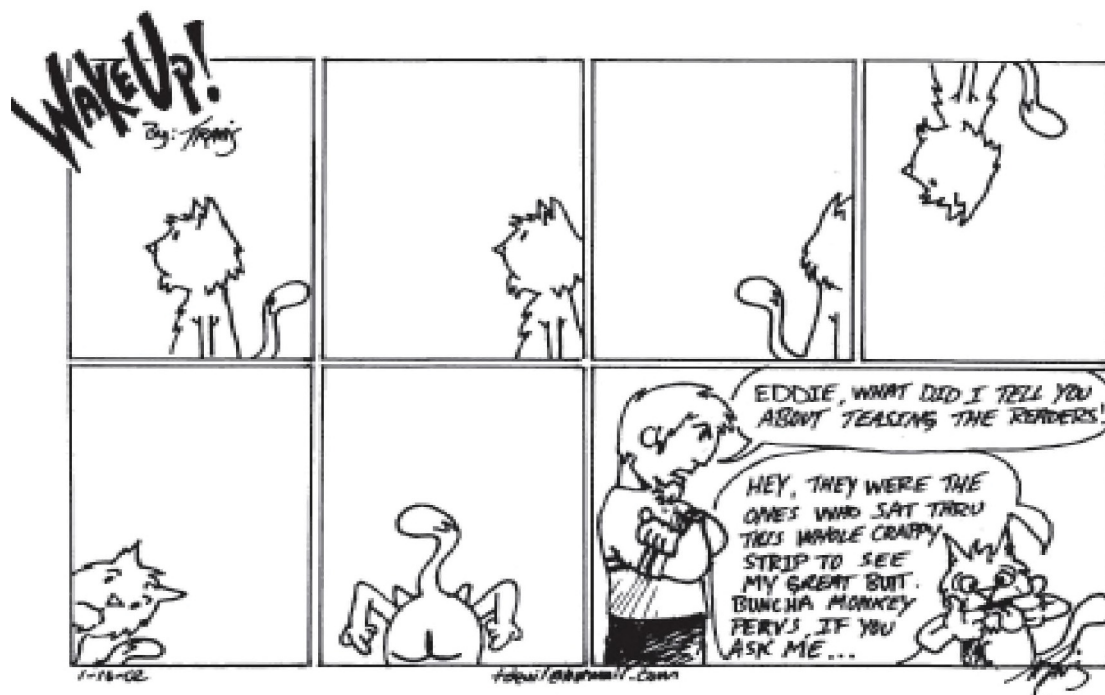
If you are sick, Nolan suggests getting proper rest and drinking liquids, such as water, juice, hot tea and soup and to avoid alcohol, which causes dehydration.

A few students have com-

plained of flu-like symptoms, Nolan said, but no flu cases have been reported yet.

Flu shots were available last fall at Farber, but currently are out of vaccine. Nolan said fall is the best time to get the flu shot because it takes approximately six weeks for the body to buildup antibodies. If someone gets the flu after receiving the vaccine, Nolan said it will be a much milder case. She said the majority of those who got the flu shot had suffered from the flu previously.

In addition, the CDC web site provides information on flu prevention, vaccine supplies and flu facts at www.cdc.gov.



Hey you cheater!

We caught you looking at the answers to the crossword puzzle!



Annie Johnson / The Spectator

Brandi Dempsey, freshman psychology major, blows her nose...again. She has had the flu since Christmas break.

DO YOU NEED TO REGISTER FOR THE REGENTS' EXAM?

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If there is any student who did not get registered for the Regents' Exam during regular registration you may come by the Office of Academic Affairs (West Hall 107) and sign up for a section at your convenience. Please remember that seating is limited and on a first come first serve basis. The deadline to register for the exam will be Friday, Feb. 22, 2002. If you are uncertain about the Regents' Exam please consult your advisor or major department for more information. This exam is a requirement for graduation from all University System of GA institutions. At VSU it is a requirement for Associate as well as Bachelor's candidates.

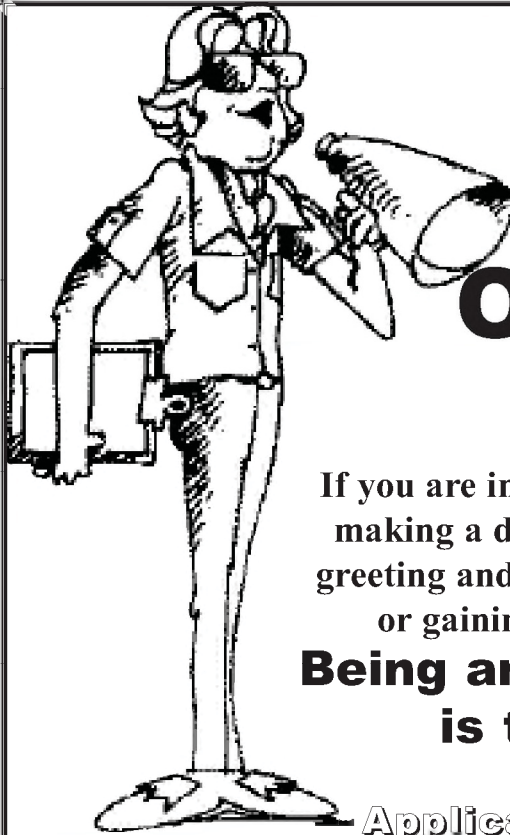
Who can sign up?

Any student who has < 45 hours of earned semester credit. Any student currently enrolled in RGTE 0199 and/or RGTR 0198. Any 1st or 2nd semester transfer student from outside the University System (had to have transferred in > 45 hours of earned credit to qualify as a 1st or 2nd semester transfer) - for example, a student from GA Military who transferred in 65 hours of credit and this is his/her first or second semester at VSU.

Any student needing to change sections may do so in the Office of Academic Affairs until Friday, Feb. 22, 2002. There will be no changes in registration for the exam past this date. There will be no registering late for the exam. This semester seats are going quickly so please come in and register today.

The Deadline is Friday, Feb. 22nd.

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Sport



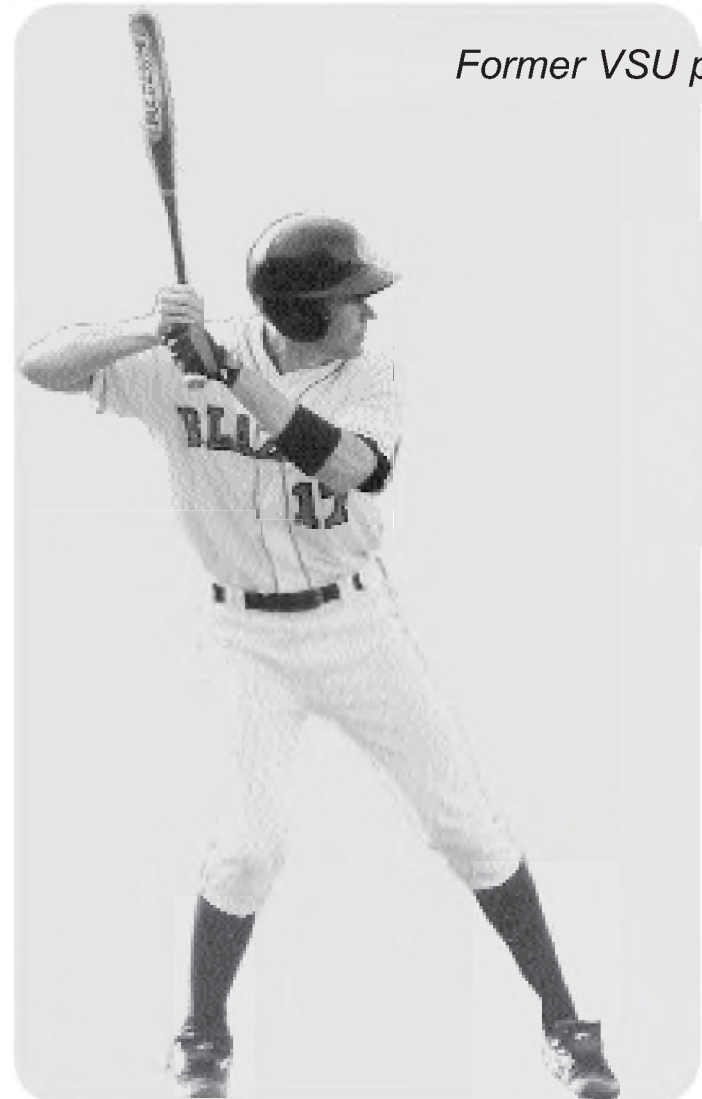
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Where: Huntsville, Ala.

www.valdosta.edu/spectator

Former VSU pitcher Jason Bulger invited to Arizona D'backs Spring Training in February



File Photo

Hitting the Big Leagues

Jana N. Cook
Staff Writer

You don't have to play for a major Division I baseball program to make it to the big leagues. Jason Bulger is living proof.

Bulger, the former VSU Blazers relief pitcher, was recently asked to join the major league Arizona Diamondbacks for spring training in February.

After a summer of negotiations, Bulger finally agreed to sign with the Diamondbacks

with a bonus and other incentives worth around \$950,000 a year. Since then, Bulger has played with the Arizona Fall League's Scottsdale Scorpions. Bulger was 0-1 with a 3.00 ERA with the Scorpions. He pitched four times, including three starts. In 12 innings he gave up 14 hits and four walks, striking out seven.

"[The Scorpion team] is the most prestigious of all the fall/winter professional leagues," Shannon Jernigan, VSU's assistant baseball coach, said.

According to Jernigan,

Baseball America named Bulger the No. 9 prospect of the entire Diamondbacks organization.

If spring training goes well, Bulger expects to start the upcoming season in Double A baseball with a team out of El Paso, Texas. He hopes to reach the major league roster by the end of this season.

"To be on that roster is my number one goal," Bulger said. "But it's something that will be very difficult to accomplish."

Believed to set a national record, Jason Bulger and his

two brothers, Kevin and Brian, were all picked in the Major League Baseball draft last spring. Jason was picked 22nd in the first round of the draft in June by the Arizona Diamondbacks, setting the record for the highest draft pick ever for a VSU athlete. Both picked by the San Francisco Giants, shortstop Kevin Bulger was picked in the 43rd round, while pitcher Brian Bulger was chosen in the 49th round.

Jason has spent his entire off-season in his home in Snellville, Ga., working out and getting himself in shape. He will leave for Tuscon, Ariz., at the end of this week to start the season.

"I do miss Valdosta very much," Jason Bulger said. "[I] hope I can come down and visit when my season is over!"

D-I, JUCO transfers commit to VSU

Football Recruiting Update

Blazers ink four early commitments; National signing day Feb. 6

Matt Stewart
Staff Writer

The VSU football program is steadily becoming a safe haven for Division I and junior college transfers.

With national signing day around the corner, the Blazers inked four early commitments to begin the spring semester, three of which already have collegiate experience.

Dantra Clements, a junior corner back/wide receiver, will trade in one red and black helmet for another. Clements spent the last three seasons as a reserve defensive back for the University of Georgia. He made eight tackles in 10 games in 2001 for the Bulldogs. VSU head coach Chris Hatcher said that Clements would play wide receiver next season because the Blazers will return six defensive backs that played regularly in 2001. Clements played quarterback in high school, but according to Hatcher, his forte is at the wide out position.

Highly touted junior college transfer Chris Fowler was a

two-year starter at corner for Middle Georgia. Fowler, an upcoming junior, earned all-region and all-America honors in 2001. He recorded 62 tackles and led the junior college division with 13 interceptions.

Freshman Andre Zellner, a tight end and linebacker in high school, led Hargrave Military College in solo tackles, adding nine sacks and three interceptions in 2000. He did not play this past season. Zellner was originally a UGA signee and is the cousin of Peppi Zellner, a defensive end for the Dallas Cowboys of the National Football League.

Demarcus Simmons, a freshman wide receiver/defensive back, was a VSU signee last spring out of Laney High School. He had 73 tackles and 13 catches as a senior at Laney in 2000.

All four have enrolled at VSU for the spring semester and will take part in spring practice beginning March 11-21 and April 1-10. The annual VSU spring game is scheduled for April 11. National signing day, the deadline for high school recruits to sign with a college, is Feb. 6.

With the addition of the four new players comes the loss of another defensive coach to the D-I level. VSU defensive backs coach

Blazer Football Signees

Andre Zellner: 6-4, 225-pound freshman linebacker
--Hargrave Military College transfer
--originally signed with UGA out of high school
--Mary Persons High School (Forsyth, Ga.)

Dantra Clements: 5-10, 188-pound junior wide receiver
--University of Georgia transfer
--played quarterback in high school
--East Coweta High School (Sharpsburg, Ga.)

Chris Fowler: 5-10, 180-pound junior defensive back
--Middle Georgia JC transfer
--Led nation in interceptions with 13
--Liberty County High School (Hinesville, Ga.)

Demarcus Simmons: 5-10, 185-pound freshman defensive back/wide receiver
--2000 VSU recruit
--73 tackles, two INTs, 13 receptions for 317 yards
--Laney High School (Augusta, Ga.)

Danny O'Rourke has accepted a position at the Naval Academy under former Georgia Southern head coach Paul Johnson. O'Rourke came to VSU from Georgia Southern in the spring of 2000.

"We're still looking [for a replacement]," Hatcher said. "We won't do anything until after signing day."

The Blazers lost defensive coordinator Will Muschamp and defensive line coach Mike Pelton after the 2000 season. Muschamp took over as linebackers coach at Louisiana State University, while Pelton accepted a position at Troy State.

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Blazers break into top 25 rankings

Blazers ranked No. 25 nationally, No. 2 in South region

Brandon Scott
Staff Writer

Life as a ranked opponent starts now. For just the second time in school history, the men's basketball team will battle as a Division II top 25 team. "Others see us as the team to beat right now," head coach Jim Yarbrough said. The 25th ranked Blazers will also take a school-record 10-game winning streak with them this weekend to Huntsville, Ala. The Blazers (12-2, 4-0 GSC)

will face an Alabama-Huntsville team (11-4, 2-2 GSC) that would love to be the first team to hand VSU a Division II loss. That might not have been the case, given the close call the Blazers survived Monday. Blowing an early lead, the Blazers stopped Lincoln Memorial 76-75.

"We had a chance to blow the game open," Yarbrough said. "But we didn't make the easy baskets, and some bad turnovers put us in a bad position."

Blazer offense: VSU is averaging 77.4 points per game, with senior guard Marcus Williams leading the team in scoring (15.1 points per game). Yarbrough believes the transition baskets will be key in this game. Also the to-do list this week: force the line. Blazer

opponents have attempted far more free throws, 92 to be exact.

Charger defense: UAH is allowing opponents only 54.5 points per game. Its inside presence is led by three big guys, centers Saevar Sigurmundsson, a senior, freshman Daniel Easterly and sophomore forward Zach Carpenter.

Blazer defense: VSU's defense was ranked No. 2 in the nation in the latest statistics, allowing opponents a paltry 54.8 points a game.

Charger offense: Remember those three big guys? They got shots. Carpenter and Sigurmundsson are averaging 12.2 and 11.6 points per game, respectively. Carpenter is also shooting 52 percent from the three-point line.



Annie Johnson / The Spectator

Blazer sophomore forward Antavious Hilliard defends West Georgia guard Bryant Redd in the Blazers 76-65 win Jan. 8. VSU is now ranked No. 2 in the South region.

VSU drops four straight

Brandon Scott
Staff Writer

The Lady Blazers (8-8, 2-4 GSC) have a challenge ahead of them this Saturday when they visit the Lady Chargers of Alabama-Huntsville (7-7, 2-3 GSC). That challenge—stopping UAH senior guard Kim Young.

"As she goes, the team goes," Lady Blazers head coach Kiley Hill said.

Young leads the conference in scoring (21.7 points per game), is second in 3-pointers made (2.43 per game).

The name of the game for the Lady Blazers will be ball control. In Monday's loss to Lincoln Memorial, VSU committed 22 turnovers.

"While we had 22 turnovers," Hill said, "we only had six in the second half. I can really see this team about to turn the corner."

Lady Blazer offense: The co-leaders on offense are sophomore guard Danielle Hernandez and Daniels. Hernandez is the team's highest scorer (10.7 ppg). Daniels is the constant, shooting an amazing 54 percent from the field goal.

Lady Charger defense: UAH is allowing opponents to score an average of 62.9 points per game. The Lady Chargers play a four-out-and-one defense. They will try to force the Lady Blazers into bad perimeter shots.

Lady Blazer defense: Parker is a monster force inside the paint. The frosh sensation, and native Valdostan, is eighth in the league in rebounds per game. Her 110 defensive grabs are second in the conference. The team is giving up 62.9 points a game—as are the Chargers.

Lady Charger offense: Kim Young; stop her and the Lady Blazers stop the Lady Chargers.



Annie Johnson / The Spectator

Sophomore guard Heather Wilson shoots in VSU's 62-50 loss to West Georgia Jan. 8.

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Lady Blazers **Courtney Parker**

Blazers Coach **Jim Yarbrough**

Blazers **Marcus Williams**

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