

SGA records missing

Mary Ellen McConnel
Staff Writer

Kevin Cronin decided to exercise his rights Tuesday night at the SGA meeting.

Cronin, a VSU alum, hoped to shed some light on some of the stipulations SGA made before a petition was signed for a new recreation center that should be built for VSU. The 1995 SGA administration stipulated that alumni who paid for the building must be given an opportunity to use it.

"Do we have documentation because verbal promises mean nothing," Cody Guined, SGA vice president, said. Nick Overstreet, SGA president, said he was not sure he would be able to find documentation in SGA records.

A number of questions about fees students must pay were brought up at the meeting. In 1995, SGA proposed a petition to increase student activity fees in order to fund a new recreation center. The petition would require the signatures of 5,000 students. The center was the brainchild of former SGA president Keith Edwards. The proposal stated that students would pay a \$23 activity fee increase per semester to finance the building. By the

SGA see page 4

State tuition competitive

Jason Howell
Staff Writer

Tuition prices are at a standstill in Georgia.

Southern states tuition rose 9.2 percent this year. Except Georgia. According to the New York Times, Georgia's two-year schools have not had an increase, four-year schools have had a three percent increase and five percent increase at research schools.

According to the System Supplement, sent out by the Board of Regents, undergraduate tuition will remain at \$640 per semester, undergraduate tuition at four year colleges and universities will increase at \$56 a year, and undergraduate tuition at research schools will increase by \$126 a year. There are 13 two-year colleges, two regional universities and 13 state universities and four research universities.

"Georgia's tuition has not gone up because everyone in the state of Georgia wants to improve and raise the rate of participation of students attending our colleges and universities," Dr. Louis Levy, acting vice president for Academic Affairs, said.

William Peacock, director of Admissions and Enrollment Management said, "Also, our tuition has not gone up because our state economy has been our saving grace which has allowed us to be healthier than most other southern states."

He said Florida has had a terrible time since the Sept. 11 because it has no income tax. No one is coming into Florida and spending much money, so the tourist industry is down.

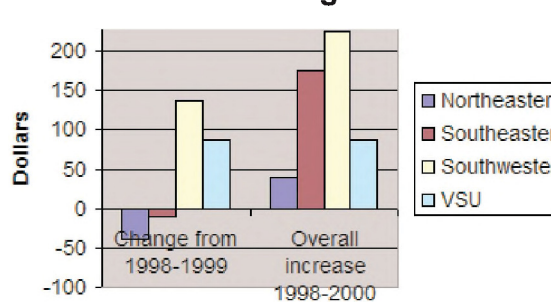
"These tuition statistics will probably not help or hurt VSU and they will probably not cause any more or less students to come to VSU because VSU is mainly competing against institutions in our own state," Peacock said.

He said VSU will include this information to draw more students but it probably will not make a difference.

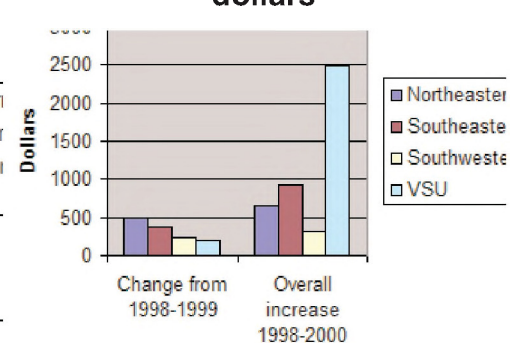
"Also, small increases in tuition are very low to in state students which hopes to attract students to the University System of Georgia and provide greater access to the two-year schools," Dr. Levy said.

Tuition is raised for various reasons. It is determined the costs of being in the business of higher education and keeping VSU as an educational bargain for students, while maintaining a good quality of education. It is the University System of Georgia's decision, not VSU's, to raise tuition. It is determined at the state level with no one at VSU involved.

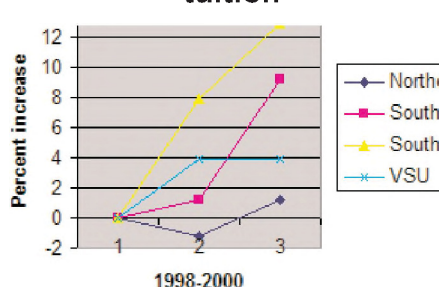
In-state tuition change in dollars



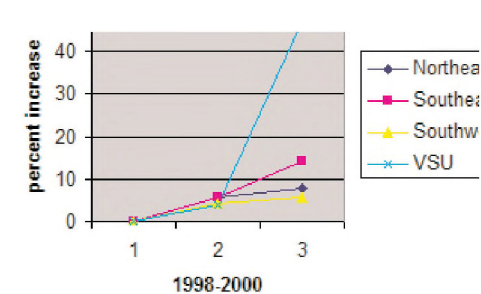
Out-of-state tuition change in dollars



Percent change in-state tuition



Percent change out-of-state tuition



The Spectator took an average of 4 year public institutions of approximately the same size as VSU to compare changes in tuition from 1998-2000. This key applies to all four graphs above.

- Southeastern colleges and universities
- Southwestern colleges and universities
- VSU
- Northeastern colleges and universities

Preacher raises speech questions



Wes Sewell / Special to The Spectator

Officers explain campus speech policy to Pentacostal evangelist Matt Bourgault.

Evangelist consumed by fire of the gospel

Blenda Link
Staff Writer

A traveling campus evangelist preaching outside the Student Expression Area, on a patch of grass between Odum Library and the University Union, was asked to stop by two VSU Public Safety officers early Wednesday afternoon.

At 12:10 p.m., Officer Russell Sevrens and Cpl. Bob Lee asked the campus evangelist Matt Bourgault to show identification and explained that the area where he was preaching to passers-by was not the designated free expression area. The officers told Bourgault he needed to contact Sage Archer, director for the Office of Facilities Use at the University Center, about reserving facilities. The officers left at 12:15 p.m. and Bourgault left his spot from the library. He was warned but not arrested.

In an interview, Bourgault said he was part of a traveling evangelical group based in Kinard, Fla.

that preaches on campuses throughout the nation. According to Bourgault's business card, the ministry's name is Consuming Fire Campus Ministries. He said he was affiliated with the Spirit of Holiness [Pentecostal] ministry.

"This is my ministry and we're traveling throughout the southeast right now because the weather is so nice," Bourgault said. "Our message is repentance to sin."

Bourgault gave some examples of the sin he was preaching against, naming drunkenness and homosexuality among college students.

"I'm not saying everyone [in college] is a drunk or a homosexual," he said. "Christ is central, yet sinners are doomed if they do not repent."

Bourgault said his ministry has already been to Florida State University and plans to continue visiting southeastern college campuses, primarily those in north Florida and south Georgia.

Speech laws apply to VSU

Blenda Link
Staff Writer

VSU is a public university on public property. Because VSU is on public property it cannot prohibit free speech; however, it can, under law, use time, place and manner restrictions that determine when, where and how people may publicly express themselves on campus. VSU can do so because it is

considered a limited public forum.

There are four types of forums under U.S. law.

Traditional public forums were created so people could speak publicly and/or have been traditionally used by individuals to address the public (i.e. courthouse steps, public park)

Limited public forums were not created with the primary

intent of allowing people to address the public, but is still considered public property (i.e. Valdosta Civic Center, Mathis Auditorium, VSU)

Forums neither public nor private are owned by the government but not open to the public (i.e. jails, military bases)

Private forums are not open to the public (i.e. private schools/universities, privately-owned businesses)

Facts to Know about the Student Expression Area:

- The only designated "Student Expression Area" is in front of Palms Dining Center (commonly known as Palms Quad).
- Usage hours are during noon to 1 p.m. and 5 to 6 p.m.
- First priority goes to VSU students, faculty and staff or "administrative functions at the University."
- "Community use of University facilities [including the Student Expression Area] must have an educational or cultural purpose, and must have a University recognized student organization sponsor."
- Interference of the free flow of traffic to and from and in and out of buildings is prohibited.
- The "orderly conduct of University classes or other University activities" shall not be interrupted.
- Commercial solicitations, campus sales or fund-raising activities not sponsored by VSU students are not allowed.
- The person making the reservation for the area is responsible for leaving it clean.

How to Get Permission to Use the Student Expression Area

Get permission from Russ Mast, acting vice president for Student Affairs and dean of students, or Richard Lee, assistant to the dean of students for Judicial Affairs, in the Student Activities Office on the first floor of the University Union.

After receiving permission, contact Sage Archer, director for Facilities Use at the University Center, at least 48 hours in advance to reserve the Student Expression Area (Palms Quad).

VSU accommodates freedom of expression under the Student Code of Ethics, Appendix D: "Student Expression Area," of the Student Handbook.

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Next issue

What's with those **antennas** on the **Smokestack?**

Web Watch

Each week the Spectator features a **This week:** web site that will benefit our readers. www.kissthisguy.com

You've gotten into fights over the *real* lyrics to "What I Like About You," or maybe your fight was about the song "Two Chickens to Paralyze" (huh?) Think Eddie Money.

Here's your chance to settle the argument...or correct your version before you get caught. At www.kissthisguy.com you can get the scoop from folks who are actually willing to

admit they thought the words were, "What I like about Jews / If you give them a chance..." It's free, but be prepared to laugh. A lot.

Campus Happenings

www.valdosta.edu/spectator

POLICE BEAT

January 13

A student reported that an unknown female used her cell phone between 1 and 3 a.m., which had been misplaced at the Alpha Phi Alpha at 1514 N. Oak St.

January 15

Someone took a student's tan ID case with clear window containing her VSU ID and a Lerner's credit card at 7:30 a.m. from the Blazer Grill in the University Union.

January 19

Someone took a student's model 8260 Nokia cell phone and its black leather case from the computer lab on the third floor of the Bio/Chem Building.

January 20

Someone broke the Sigma Nu house's south east bedroom window with a champagne bottle at 10:05 p.m. on 111 East Brookwood Dr.

Today

Dr. Victor Morgan, director of the Counseling Center, will present a free seminar, "Coping with Post-holiday Blues," in the Dogwood Room at the University Center from 4 to 5 p.m.

For more information, call the Counseling Center at 333-5940.

Natural High will host a karaoke night from 8 to 10 p.m. in the Rose Room at the University Center.

Over 3,500 songs will be available with the words on the screen. Free mocktails, snacks and prizes will be available.

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

Students in Free Enterprise will host a financial seminar presented by Melba Bridges, representing the Consumer Credit Counseling Service of South Georgia.

The seminar will be from 7 to 8 p.m. in Pound Hall auditorium on north campus.

Josh McKinney, author, read from his new award-winning poetry book, "Saunter," at 7 p.m. in the University Center

Theater. Copies of his book will be available for sale.

For more information, call Dr. Jeffrey Vasseur, associate professor of English, at 333-5946.

Friday January 25

Interviews for employment opportunities for disabled VSU students are being held today through the Workforce Recruitment Program.

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

VSU will host a college bowl at 3 p.m. in the University Center Theater.

Saturday January 26

Dr. Laurie Sommers, director of the South Georgia Folklife Project, and Diane Howard, instructor of English, will host a Cook County and South Georgia heritage celebration from noon to 2 p.m. at Cook County Middle School on 1000 Elm Street in Sparks, Ga.

Student writing/readings about Cook County for the Folkwriting Project and a tribute to Cook County fiddlers of

the Folklife of the Georgia Wiregrass will be presented.

The "Folklife of the Georgia Wiregrass" exhibit will be on display at Cook Middle School during school hours until Feb. 25.

For more information, call Dr. Sommers at the South Georgia Folklife Project at 293-6310 or visit www.valdosta.edu/music/SGFP.

Sunday January 27

The United States Army Ground Forces Band will perform at 3 p.m. in Whitehead Auditorium at the Fine Arts Building. Admission is free.

For more information, call the music department at 333-5804.

Monday January 28

Farber Health Center will be giving HIV tests from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 4 p.m.

For more information, call student health services at 333-5886.

Dr. Ronald M. Zaccari, VSU's new president, will host the first President's Open House of the year in the President's Office at West Hall. Students are invited to attend from 2 to 4:30 p.m.

For more information, call the President's Office at 333-5952.

VSU's basketball teams will play North Alabama at the P.E. Complex. The Lady Blazers' game begins at 6 p.m. The Blazers play at 8 p.m.

For more information, contact athletics at 333-5890.

The Center for International Programs will sponsor Patrick Ireland, from Georgia Tech, as he discusses European immigration in the Magnolia Room at the University Center at 7 p.m. Admission is free.

For more information, call

the CIP at 333-7410.

Kristen Johns, horn, and Matthew Morris, bassoon, will perform at 7:30 p.m. at Whitehead Auditorium at the Fine Arts Building. Admission is free.

For more information, call the music department at 333-5804.

Tuesday January 29

Dr. Ronald M. Zaccari, VSU's new president, will host another President's Open House in the President's Office at West Hall. Faculty and staff are invited to attend from 2 to 4:30 p.m.

For more information, call the President's Office at 333-5952.

Jeffrey Olson, clarinet, will perform at 7:30 p.m. in Whitehead Auditorium at the Fine Arts

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

Building. Admission is free.

For more information, call the music department at 333-5804.

A Bible study group that meets every Tuesday night at 8 p.m. on the first floor of Odum Library.

Wednesday January 30

Students In Free Enterprise meets every Wednesday from 3:30 to 4 p.m. in Pound Hall auditorium. All students are welcome to attend.

For more information, call Dr. L. Wayne Plumly, professor of economics, at 333-3825.

Dr. John Grotgen, director of the Counseling Center, will host a free seminar, "Test Preparation and Test Taking," from 4 to 5 p.m. in the

Dogwood Room at the University Center theater.

For more information, call the Counseling Center at 333-5940 or visit www.valdosta.edu/counseling.

There will be a Blazer booster luncheon from noon to 1 p.m. in the Magnolia Room at the University Center. Cost is \$6 per person.

For more information, call athletics at 333-5890.

The Emerald Queens ladies will host an invitational social at 8:30 p.m. in room 101 in Odum Library.

For more information, call Jamaila Brooks at 253-4708 or Brandi Strange at 241-6841.

Thursday January 31

Kozu Takeuchi, euphonium,

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I.F.C. would like to Welcome President Zaccari to VSU!

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News

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Today

UV Index:
4 Low
Hi: 78
Low: 58

Friday

UV Index:
3 Low
Hi: 73
Low: 50

Saturday

UV Index:
4 Low
Hi: 68
Low: 45

Sunday

UV Index:
4 Low
Hi: 67
Low: 48



Knight Ridder Tribune

MLK program a lesson in equality

Jaime Peck
Staff Writer

"Remember! Celebrate! Act! A Day On, Not a Day Off!"

This was theme of this year's Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., commemorative program, Jan. 17 at 7 p.m. in the Science Building Auditorium.

About 80 people came to celebrate the life and actions of the late equal rights advocate.

Dr. Shirley Hardin, director of African American Studies, presided over the commemoration.

The evening began with the song, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," led by Asia Gray of Sigma Gamma Rho.

Dr. Ronald Zaccari, VSU president, gave greetings.

"It doesn't matter if you're white, black, or any color," Dr. Zaccari said. "We're here tonight as a unified university, as educated men and women."

Heather Barnes, student, gave the welcome, and Brother William C. Morgan, pastor at Morning Star Baptist Church of Valdosta, gave the opening prayer.

"Thank you, Lord, for our grandparents who sat us on their laps with tears running down their faces and falling on their hands, telling us who we are, where we came from, and who we could be," Morgan said in his prayer.

Melissa White, Black Student League member, gave reflections.

"What will you do to remember, celebrate and act?" White said. "I challenge you to commemorate his memory."

The V Tech Chorale had the audience up on its feet, singing and clapping with two songs led by Russell Jackson, music director at Victory Temple Evangelistic Center.

Nick Harden, Black Student League member, rapped an urban poem about Rev. Dr. King, expressing feelings on racial hatred and comparing young African Americans then to now.

Charlcie Pettway, Odum Library's instructional librarian, introduced the keynote speaker, Reverend Dr. Daniel Simmons, a pastor at Mt. Zion

Baptist Church in Albany.

Rev. Dr. Simmons began by reading 1 Kings 18:1-21. The room, alive only moments before with singing, clapping, and laughter, turned serious and solemn.

"How long will America walk between two opinions?" Rev. Dr. Simmons said. "We have this notion of America becoming one nation, but the reality is that it's not one nation. There's a racial divide - a black nation and a white nation. There's even a divide among black people - light skinned vs. dark skinned."

Rev. Dr. Simmons went on to point out that everyone says we're all equal, but don't treat people equally.

"While we've made progress, we haven't made enough progress," Rev. Dr. Simmons said. "VSU was not designed upon its opening in 1906 to educate [black] people like me. But today, people like us can get an education. Now that's progress."

Rev. Dr. Simmons quoted E.B. White from 1901 saying, "'The problem with the U.S. in the 20th century is going to be the color line.'"

He said Atlanta was named Most Segregated City in the United States last year.

Rev. Dr. Simmons urged the audience to forget the "I Have a Dream" speech for a moment. He said there are other things he had read from Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s works that meant more to him.

Kanisha Hayes of Sigma Gamma Rho then sang a solo.

Maggie J. Viverette, acting assistant to the President for Equal Opportunity Programs and Multicultural Affairs, made the closing remarks and announcements, followed by the song, "We Shall Overcome."

Brian Anderson of the Baptist Student Union gave the closing prayer.

For more information on Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., or the African American Studies Program, contact Viverette in the office of Equal Opportunity Programs and Multicultural Affairs at 333-5463, or Dr. Hardin at 249-4843.

Spring enrollment third highest

Kate Gauld
Staff Writer

This spring marks VSU's third highest enrollment ever, according to Gerald Wright, registrar.

A total of 8,713 students were enrolled as of Friday morning.

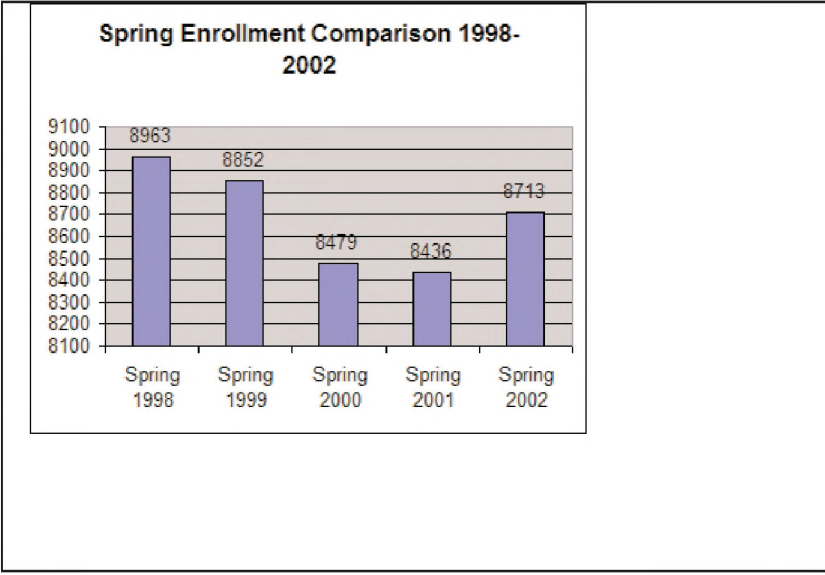
After 1998, enrollment decreased while admissions standards increased. Then semester system was initiated.

Walter Peacock, director of Admissions and Enrollment Management, said VSU uses 10 recruitment activities, including a campus visitation program, direct mail service, a web page and an admissions video, which is being updated. According to

Peacock, the King's Bay naval base, whose enrollment has not been included in the count, will increase the sum.

"New students are mostly transfer students," Wright said. "They're coming from two year colleges and undergraduate programs."

Fall freshman applications have increased from 2,383 to 2,720. VSU's accessibility, climate and affordability attract students, Wright said. He said low living expenses allow students to concentrate more on



college classes than on bread and butter jobs.

Wright said a continuing up-trend is expected based on

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Lay resigns from Enron

By Gregg Fields and Stella Hopkins

HOUSTON - Kenneth L. Lay, the besieged chairman of bankrupt energy trader Enron, resigned from the company Wednesday on the eve of Congressional hearings into the corporation's collapse, the largest in U.S. history.

The resignation marks an inglorious end to Lay's tenure at Enron. A Houston civic leader who was once a leading contributor and confidante of President Bush, Lay's reputation has been battered by Enron's implosion.

The company is under criminal investigation by the Justice Department, its offices were occupied by FBI agents this week amid allegations of document shredding, and its once highflying stock has been delisted by the New York Stock Exchange and now trades for pennies.

In perhaps the most telling sign of his fall from grace, even the president blasted the company this week for its failure to properly warn shareholders about the approaching calamity. Bush's mother-in-law, the president noted, lost \$8,000 last year investing in Enron.

Lay said he plans to remain a director of the

company. Meanwhile, Enron is in search of a new leader. The company said it is in the process of selecting a restructuring specialist to guide it through bankruptcy and, on an interim basis, serve as acting CEO.

Andersen, Enron's former auditor. The accounting firm has acknowledged it shredded Enron documents as government investigations went into high gear last fall.

David Duncan, the Andersen auditor fired for shredding Enron documents, said Wednesday he will not testify before lawmakers.

Although Duncan said he will appear in response to the subpoena, he will invoke his constitutional right against self-incrimination unless he is granted immunity, said his attorney, Robert Giuffra of New York.

The committee has no plans to offer immunity to witnesses, spokesman Ken Johnson said.

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Guantanamo Bay transfer of prisoners suspended:

The transfer of prisoners from Afghanistan to Cuba has been suspended by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld Wednesday. The suspension took place because the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay is almost full. Rumsfeld continues to defend the treatment of prisoners at Guantanamo Bay as "humane" and "appropriate."

Unidentified gunmen open fire on U.S. office in Calcutta:

Five people were killed and at least 20 injured when unidentified gunmen outside the U.S. Information Agency office opened fire in Calcutta Tuesday. A Pakistan-based militant group claimed responsibility. The group once fought the Indian army in the Kashmir province. India also says the group is backed by Pakistan's intelligence agency.

Abortion opponents rally over cloning on anniversary of Roe v. Wade decision:

As the Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion reached its 29th anniversary, abortion opponents rallied at the Washington Monument Tuesday as cloning gained their attention. President Bush has appointed a panel to discuss cloning issues including a push for a congressional ban on human cloning. Abortion-rights supporters say the debate is an attempt to use embryo rights as a way to undermine legal abortion.

Sea Island Co. donates four islands to state of Georgia:

Georgia received a present Wednesday from the Sea Island Co., which owns huge tracts of land in Glynn and Camden counties. The state received 10.2 acres of some of the East Coast's most endangered coastal real estate. A.W. "Bill" Jones III, the fourth generation head of Sea Island Co., said they will give the state four marsh hammocks-small tree-dotted islands surrounded by marshland, a total value of \$2.26 million-the first ever such donation in Georgia's history.

SGA continued from page 1

time the petition was official, Edward Dombrowski was SGA president.

Students must pay for the building because the University cannot receive government money for Auxiliary Services, the university division that will oversee the new recreation center. Students will pay for the building for the next 17 years in addition to the three years of payments that have already been made. When the recreation center bill was introduced, the estimated cost of the center would be \$3.7 million. By the time the petition was official, the costs had risen to \$4.9 million. According to James Brignati, vice president for Business and Finance, the cost of the center is now about \$14 million plus utilities.

Auxiliary Services is now asking for another fee increase

to be approved to pay for utilities once the recreation center opens.

According to Russ Mast, acting vice president for Student Affairs and dean of students, 1995's SGA did not take into account inflation and the cost of the loan the state provided VSU to build the center, plus the interest incurred by the loan.

In other action, the Senate passed Sen. Jay Hodgkins' Bill 0702. The bill recommends that Farber Health Center accept any picture IDs accompanied with the student identification number as well as the VSU One Card ID.

"They make you use a student ID card for their [VSU's] convenience, not because they can't do it another way," Sen. Hodgkins said. In the meeting the Senate said a student needing health care service could be forced to buy a replacement card before using a service he or she has paid for.

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We will have mocktails, snacks & prizes.

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

This event is sponsored by the Offices of: Alcohol & Other Drug Education, Campus Recreation and Housing & Residence Life.

The Spectator

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For the record: SGA must improve

Blood is thicker than paper. Or is it? Every living being has a complete genetic history locked away in its DNA. This history contains the inherent flaws and strong points of the organism and allows life to play out to its fullest potential.

SGA is a political organism that has horrendous gaps in its genetic history. Ideally records are kept of every meeting held, bill ratified and decision made. Those records are then archived for future reference.

SGA's record keeping is sporadic at best. Minutes for SGA have not been consistently archived in Odum Library since about the '40s or '50s. Bills and minutes are lost, misplaced and sometimes intentionally dumped. The political system is crippled.

With faulty record keeping students don't know what to expect. In 1994 when the recreation center was first proposed to the students, the plan was to charge students an extra \$23 per semester for the next 20 years with an extra \$4 fee for upkeep after the building was finished. There was a tentative plan to give students paying these fees a free lifetime membership or a membership at a special alumni rate.

Now the building is complete, but the bill that started it all cannot be located. There's even some doubt as to whether or not there was a bill in the first place.

While it is too late for records from the past 60 years, SGA can make sure the records problems that have plagued it since fall don't happen again.

The library will archive records from any student organization. For free.

Many organizations on campus take advantage of this. It's past time for SGA to join that list.

Because sometimes paper is thicker than blood.

Spectator opinion written by Mary Dabbs

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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.



Time changes lives

It's a fact. One hour is all it takes. All around us children are struggling. They struggle with school, family, friends and most of all, their self-confidence on a daily basis.

The Big Brothers Big Sisters of America program comes to the rescue.

Over the last 95 years, Big Brothers Big Sisters mentors have influenced the lives of over one 1,000,000 children. Mentors are people like you and me: high school students, college students, people with a lot of time and some with very little time. It only takes one hour a week to be a friend, hang out or simply show you care. Many of us spend that much time every day in front of the television.

Personally, if asked to choose between an hour of Friends reruns and mentoring a child, mentoring would win hands down.



Amy Williamson

Most children in the program are from single-parent homes. Many are having problems in school. Some have been abused. All are considered at-risk, and by volunteering, you benefit the child directly and help prevent him or her from being another dropout or drug user statistic.

According to teachers who referred students to the program, 64 percent of students developed more positive attitudes toward school. 58 percent received higher grades in social studies, languages and math.

Et tu, parking?

I am feeling a little jilted. I know VSU's parking problem has been beaten to death, but I am going to get on a soap-box anyway.

So, enrollment at VSU has gone up? Pardon me for sounding a tad presumptuous but...shouldn't that mean more parking spaces for those making it possible for the administration to wave the "Yay! Enrollment's up!" banner?

My response to the enrollment rise is a smug "Now-I-have-to-leave-the-house-20-minutes-earlier-and-still-walk-a-@#%&! -mile." Gee, pass the punch, let's celebrate.

I am happy enrollment has gone up, I really am. I feel we've got something good here. But can we truly facilitate an enrollment increase without serious inconveniences to students? I feel as though the ones truly signing the paychecks are being exploited.



Beth Owen

There is an entire "staff only" parking lot on Georgia Ave where I often see empty spaces. Though the temptation may be great, I advise against parking there for even a moment. The minute your back is turned, parking personnel drop from the trees with blood on their fangs and leave their mark on your car. It's a cult. What are they paying these guys, anyway?!

Last year I elected to splurge and buy a parking decal. It is to laugh. "For only \$50 you too

can drive in circles, be late to class and eventually park in the same yellow curbed spot two miles away that had your name on it last year!" Great pitch, guys.

There is always the other option. I like to call it "The Gamble." This option includes parking in a 20-minute space for your 50-minute class and gambling that you won't get cited. This option requires creativity. Switch it up a bit around campus so your car isn't always in the same row of 20-minute spaces. Believe me, they'll catch on. I don't choose this one much anymore because I can't shake the "They're on to me" paranoia.

It's funny-we all have our own system. The bottom line is: should we really have to try and be this sneaky just to find parking? I feel our stress level is adequate without dealing with Road Rage in the parking lot.



Leah Cassorla

Life versus choice

You know you're a redneck if...you think Roe versus Wade was a fishin' argument.

OK. Not exactly classy, but nonetheless, for a 29-year-old Supreme Court decision, Roe V. Wade embodies one heck of an argument for something boats and boots aren't involved in.

In 1973 the U.S. Supreme Court made abortion legal—within certain limits. To pro-choice advocates, the decision meant women gained the freedom to choose when and under what circumstance to be pregnant. To pro-life advocates, the decision meant murder.

And that is exactly why this question will never stop being a hot-button of emotion in this country.

Pro-life and pro-choice advocates will never reach a common solution to the difficult problem of abortion because the two sides can't even agree on what the problem is.

The pro-life argument centers around the life of the fetus, while the pro-choice argument centers around the life of the pregnant woman. The pro-life argument tends to center around religious questions of life and identity, while the pro-choice argument removes those questions from consideration and deals directly with civil rights.

So how far have we gotten in 29 years? We've gone from demonstrations to bombing women's clinics and murdering doctors who perform legal abortions. We've gone from arguing about whether an abortion is killing a child to killing in the name of keeping fetuses from being aborted.

Thank goodness, we've also gone from back-alley coat-hanger abortions performed by untrained people to safe abortions performed by medically trained doctors.

I say all this as a miracle baby. My mother was told she should abort me. That I would be deaf, blind and likely brain damaged. My mother chose to take that chance. I'm glad she did. But were she to have to do it again, I would not have her choice taken away from her.

Not on my life.

Leah Cassorla is a Spectator columnist and can be contacted at kokopeli_la@hotmail.com



Got something to say?

Open mic on this page every week at the Spectator.

Why is it important for SGA to keep records at their meetings?



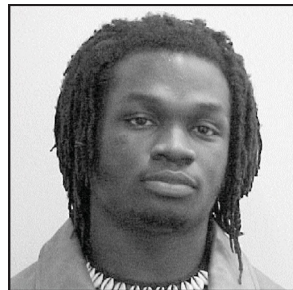
"So they can function in an organized and efficient manner."

Renee York
Senior
Accounting



"Because you always want documents to back up anything that might come under question in the future."

Ryan Brooks
Senior
Psychology



"To keep up with the important information at the meeting for a further date and to keep from having dispute."

Bit Braxton
Senior
Criminal Justice



"If they publish records we can know if they are accomplishing any of the things they set out to do."

Jessica Newman
Junior
Organizational
Communications



"So the students are able to go back if they have a question about what's going on they will know what was talked about."

Jessica Pierce
Sophomore
Speech Pathology



"So students can know what SGA is doing and to credit SGA for what happens."

Rick Loftis
Freshman
Biology



the



DarkSide

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.

Jeremiah W. Bass
Staff Writer

Sometimes, it takes quite a blow to bring people together. For instance, a fighting couple could be brought together by the discovery that there will soon be a newborn in their lives.

It's nice to see how the United States of America has come together since Sept. 11, 2001, or has it?

What's that flag thing about, anyway? I've seen so many flags on cars for the past three-and-a-half months, I think Lady Liberty is gonna sponsor a USA flag car in the *Daytona 500* [Bob Dole is betting his money on the *Viagara* car].

It's amazing to me: I can see some person driving and cut someone off with USA flag-detail on the car, and the person who got cut off starts beeping the horn until it suffers from oxygen deprivation.

And all of that time, I'm just wanting to ask this person, "So what does that flag mean to you? Just wondering."

"God Bless America," who knows what that means? A couple of months from now, it'll be the slogan at *Hooters* [as if it already isn't].

So many people say these three precious words now, that it's gotten to the point where I am not sure if I even know what it ever meant.

I bet you can go to a New York Knicks basketball game, and before the game, during the

national anthem, you can look around and see everyone teary-eyed and saying, "God Bless America" after the anthem.

Then, during the game, that same person who was all choked-up during the national anthem will be the same person calling LaTrell Sprewell a "jerk-off" because he missed the three-pointer. [No offense to New York, or anyone else].

I gotta admit, it's good to see that things are getting back to normal in the state of New York.

Yeah, the taxi drivers are really bringing back their spice to New York by making sure to greet and send off every customer with the genuine, the old-fashioned, New York "finger." If you're *really* lucky and catch them during rush hour, you get the courtesy of becoming road kill while attempting to cross the streets.

The sports world was to be seen as one of the inspirations in bringing America together. Yeah, that may have been true for a while, but I think they forgot to send that memo to Shaq.

I don't think that "God Bless America" means sling your 40-pound fist at the other team as they attempt to "Hack-a-Shaq" [for those of you who don't know what I'm talking about, "Hack-a-Shaq" was a term coined by some sports commentators and NBA teams at their attempt to foul L.A. Laker Shaquille O'Neal because he sucks at shooting free-

throws]. See, we learn something new everyday.

I guess you really shouldn't try to play the part of "Good American," just make yourself. Make yourself a *better* American.

You don't have to be perfect, none of us are. Watch *The Man Show*, eat a *New Yorker* pizza, have a beer, occasionally fall asleep during a class, choke on a pretzel and faint after hitting your head on the edge of the coffee table, call that hockey player a jack-ass if you want.

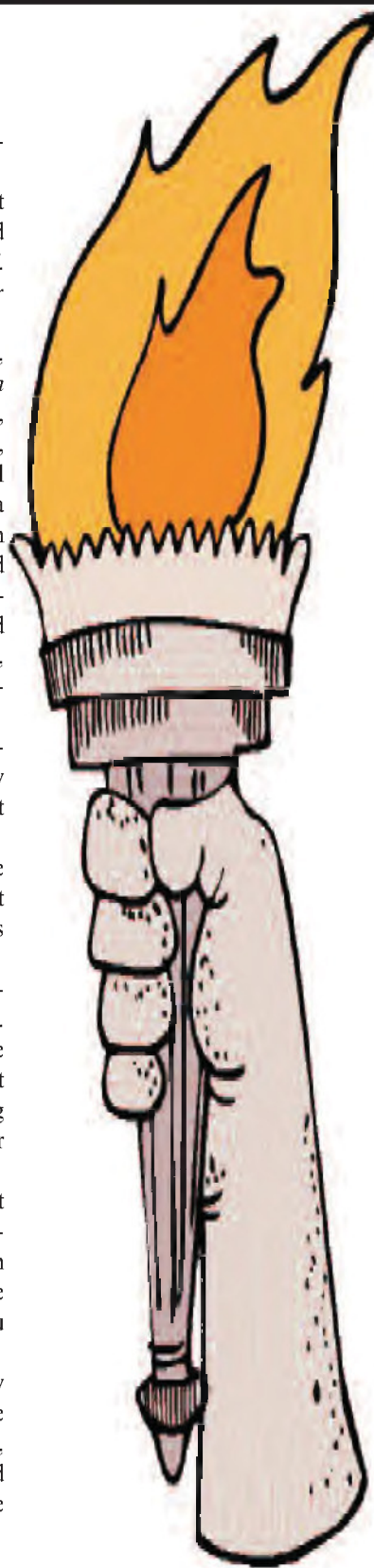
Get involved in organizations and totally forget why you got involved in the first place.

Fall in love [if you have the guts to do so], sneak a peak at that hottie [go ahead, no one's lookin'].

Because the fact of the matter is, these things *are* America. Don't coin some term and use it at your every disposal. Don't go getting every American flag you see and put in on your vehicle.

I'm not asking you to go out of the ordinary and start committing crimes, just be an American if that's what you're gonna be, if that's what you *wanna* be.

Represent this country by being yourself [but if you're looking for a good role model, I highly recommend Beavis...or Butthead...they've done wonders for me!]



Television...where did

Tara Sherman
Staff Writer

The movie *Requiem for a Dream* brought up an interesting addiction in the common American: the need for television.

Sometimes it's helpful. Sometimes it's nice to know whether to carry your umbrella, who's running for office, who's out on the loose so you can lock your doors.

Let's face it. When do we actually use the Weather Channel? Who actually votes? What would a serial killer want in south Georgia?

TV is that slow and steady injection of luxury. No work, all play. Let the spirals in your eyes keep spinning like the *Wheel of Fortune* or Johnny Knoxville's brain. Beer goes good and hug the couch, you're about to see the world!

Behind the tube, you can pretend you're undercover, peering in on people's lives when they don't have a clue about yours.

We know everything, from O.J.'s latest traffic ticket to Britney's elusive virginity. Want to know more? Just flip the channel.

TV is the most fashionable media fix, leaving your pals here at the newspaper behind.

While its side effects include lots of commercials and hot flashes of entertainment (especially on HBO), one has to wonder, is it a little too much?

Granted, I love my dose of

Sex and the City just as much as the next girl, but most of the crap I see is useless, pointless information.

Jerry Springer feels inclined to show the family trees with only one branch, WWF brings out She-man, I mean Chyna, to stage an ass-whooping when after the show, she and the other wrestlers are hanging out like buddies. If I want to watch someone kicking another's ass, I want it to be for real!

Russell Crowe's hot but I don't care to hear about his string of girlfriends. Unstable marriages with age gaps, divorces, drunken behavior and designer pants are common hoopla surrounding the Hollywood buzz, making it harder to understand that these people are in fact, humans!

Yeah, Gwen Stefani does eat and drink, N-Sync lets farts that stink and George W. made another grammatical error. Whoops!

Take your drugs in moderation. This goes for TV. You don't have to trash the thing for crying out loud, but give yourself some time before you build up a tolerance and you watch TV all day.

Go outside. If the folks on *Survivor* can do it, you probably can, too.

Check the mail, walk someone's dog (what about yours?), go toilet paper your ex's house.

Don't worry, he or she won't notice if you catch them during *Friends*.

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Features

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

www.valdosta.edu/spectator

The nature of poetry

Angie Hiers
Staff Writer

Former VSU professor, Dr. Joshua McKinney, returns to campus tonight to read from his new book of poetry, *Saunter*, recently published from the University of Georgia Press.

"The title for the book comes from an essay by Thoreau, where he speaks of walking with a kind of designed indirection — just moving forward without destination," Dr. McKinney said. "The poems in *Saunter* deal with this notion of sauntering through a wilderness of language and they also deal with nature and its connection to spirituality because wilderness is, like language, a place frightening and yet capable of leading to enlightenment."

One of Dr. McKinney's personal favorites is a piece titled "An Opening," because, he explains, the syntax of the poem stays just ahead of the reader's intelligence, and ends with a calming effect rather than in a panic of disorientation.

Dr. McKinney taught at VSU from 1993 - 1999 as his first tenure track job after receiving his Ph.D. from University of

Denver. Since leaving VSU, he has been teaching at California State University in Sacramento. Aside from his duties as husband and father, his two main activities are poetry and Japanese swordsmanship.

"I am very fond of VSU and



Special to The Spectator

Dr. Joshua McKinney, former VSU professor, is the author of a new book entitled "Saunter." He will read from his book tonight at 7 p.m. in the University Center.

the Valdosta area," Dr. McKinney said. "I've always been a bit of a nomad, and the six years I lived in Valdosta mark the longest time I've ever lived in one city. I'm excited about seeing my friends and former colleagues, taking a peek at the swamp, and maybe going for a run on one of my many old running routes around town. And bring on the south-

ern food!"

Dr. McKinney is grateful to Dr. Jeffrey Vasseur, associate professor of English, for setting up his visit to VSU.

"Josh McKinney was one of the most devoted teachers of Creative Writing that I've ever been around or seen in the classroom," Dr. Vasseur said. "He was pure inspiration — a wonderful combination of discipline and playfulness — someone who meant business when it came to poetry. Plus, he runs like the wind, speaks some Japanese, is an expert in kendo and other martial arts. He also happens to make some wonderful banana pudding. Seriously. Really good stuff. I think he puts some sake in the recipe, orientalist that he is. But I'm not quite sure."

"All of Josh's former students here will never forget the love of language which he brought to every single class he taught. I miss him regularly, as do

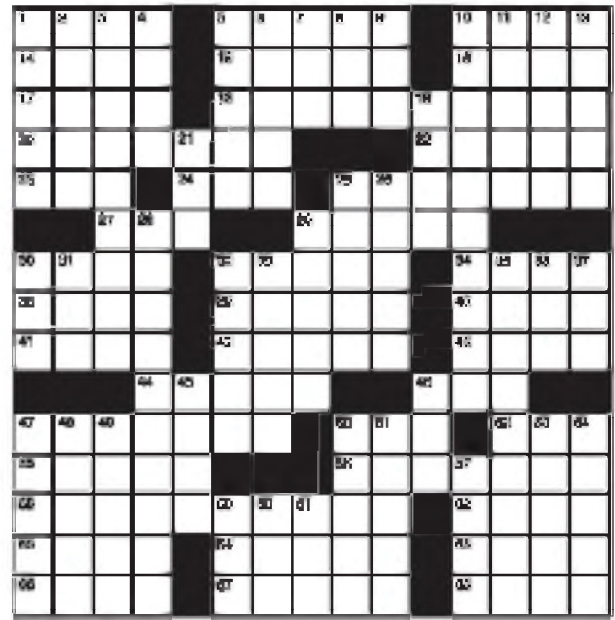
many others in the VSU community. In a word, he is a pro. And his new book, *Saunter*, is lovely."

The reading will begin at 7p.m. in the VSU theatre in the University Union.

"I hope that I will have the opportunity to meet and chat with any students who are interested in poetry, or swordsmanship for that matter," Dr. McKinney said.

"There's really little difference between them."

Angie Hiers is a Spectator reporter and can be reached at angelica119103@yahoo.com



Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

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5 Knitting stitch

10 Time frames

14 Last blow in the ring

15 Character in "The Tempest"

16 Yesteryear

17 Puts on years

18 Showing astonishment

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35 Revelati

36 Major IS company

37 Hosp. pe

45 Greek god war

46 Native of: suff.

47 Saxon

48 Like the Arctic

49 Blather

50 Without co

51 Buns atop heads

53 Rock, Australia

54 Chutzpah

57 Iditarod

59 You betcha minus

60 Author of "Foucault's Pendulum"

61 Hither s partner

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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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Go Blazers

Theatre goes on tour

Tameika Carson
Staff Writer

VSU's theatre department will demonstrate a message of peace to a younger generation through the play "1,000 Cranes."

Every year VSU presents a youth production intended for a juvenile audience ranging from kindergarten to the third grade. "1,000 Cranes" has a serious tone allowing this year's audience to increase with students from the third to eighth grade.

The play begins with the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan in 1945. During this time Sadeko Sasaki, the main character, was not directly harmed. Ten years later at the age of 12, the young Japanese girl developed leukemia and was hospitalized. While suffering from cancer, Sadeko's only wish was cured. Her friend, Kenji, told her a Japanese legend that if she folded 1,000 paper cranes, the gods would grant her wish.

Sadeko was only able to fold 654 paper cranes before she died at the age of 12. Sadeko's friends finished making the 1,000 paper cranes and built a children's monument in the peace park in Hiroshima in her honor.

"1,000 Cranes" is based on a true story of Japanese culture, and is recognized as an aspect of the secondary level English curriculum. Dr. Randy Wheeler, director, said "1,000 Cranes" involves a lot of symbolism of the Japanese culture.



Vonetta Lawton / The Spectator

Cast members rehearse a scene from "1,000 Cranes," a play exploring Japanese culture and the aftermath of Hiroshima. The play will open Feb. 1.

"It is a lovely play that symbolizes a child's outcry for world peace," Dr. Wheeler said.

The play also gives cast members a chance to familiarize themselves with aspects of Japanese culture. "The cast members have to spend an amount of time learning Japanese symbols and what they symbolize in order to direct them towards the audience," Dr. Wheeler said.

Dr. Wheeler also said "1,000 Cranes" is beneficial to cast members because it exposes them to good training in children's plays.

"A lot of job opportunities are in children's entertainment and I find this good practice for my

students," Dr. Wheeler said.

Casting for "1,000 Cranes" was done during fall semester. A few cast members of the play includes Heather Robinson who plays Sadeko Sasaki, Randy Kemper as Kenji, and Ashli Mayne and Jonathan Irby as Sadeko's parents.

VSU theatre department will entertain a total of about 10,000 children with the moving play "1,000 Cranes". There will be four public performances on Feb. 1 and March 1 at 7:30 p.m. as well as Saturday Feb. 2 and March 2 at 10:30 a.m. The "1,000 Cranes" cast members will begin touring various schools on Feb. 4.

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Look! It s the crossword answers



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Rock 108

Patriotism meets music

Neil Skerrat
Staff Writer

Got patriotism? If you're running a little low, plan a free trip to see the United States Army Ground Forces Band at 3 p.m. Sunday in Whitehead Auditorium.

To get a ticket drop by the Valdosta Daily Times' office to pick one up or call them directly at 244-1880. A ticket is not needed in advance but ticket holders will be let in first, with the remaining seats given to the general public arriving the night of the concert.

According to Master Sgt. Morris Foor, who is also a member of the band's percus-

sion section, said the music played will include well-known classical pieces, lighter instrumental pieces such as famous jazz pieces and, of course, patriotic compositions.

Dr. Kenyon Wilson of VSU's music department said that it is not uncommon for the band to ask members of the military past and present to be recognized for their service.

"The concert will likely close with the favorite 'Stars and Stripes Forever' by John Phillips Sousa," Foor said.

As far as the caliber of the performance that can be expected, Dr. Wilson states that in the service this band should be exceptionally good as the only bands that are supposed to be of

higher quality of the service are those based in Washington, D.C.

The band is made up entirely of Army personnel, making their total number 48. The band is based in Fort McPherson, Ga., and most band members have at least bachelor's degrees in music with many in the band also having advanced degrees in the field.

"These are not people that just happened join the service and know how to play an instrument. They must audition for a position in the band before their enlistment in the service," Dr. Wilson said.

For more information call Dr. Wilson at 249-4965.

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To contact sports editor
Matt Stewart, e-mail,
blazerssports@aol.com

Sports



Upcoming Games

VSU women vs. West Florida
When: Saturday, 6 p.m.
Where: Pensacola, Fla.

VSU men vs. West Florida
When: Saturday, 8 p.m.
Where: Pensacola, Fla.

www.valdosta.edu/spectator

It used to be a kid's game

Whatever happened to sports being a bit fun? You know, it used to be where parents could take their kids to their pee-wee league basketball game and record the game, laugh about it, and have fun.



Jeremiah W. Bass

No one really cared if the other kid was pulling down the other kid's shorts, preventing him/her from advancing. Nowadays, if 'that other kid' is hitting a tad bit too hard, one of the parents decides to end the situation by killing another parent with his/her bare hands...hmm. For those of you out of the loop, on the fifth day of July, 2000 at the Burbank Ice Arena in Reading, Mass., Thomas Junta, a 44-year-old father of two, committed manslaughter on an informal referee, 40-year-old Michael Costin [also father of one of the kids on the ice]. Apparently, Costin had dismissed Junta's concerns about body-checking and other unnecessary roughness going on during the game, this happening minutes after the two exchanged words and shoves. Junta says that he was 'sucker punched,' and that everything happened so fast that he had to defend himself. Even if this were the case, Junta outweighed 156-pound Costin by 100 pounds, he's a truck driver and stands six-feet tall. I don't by it. Unless Costin held the secret force to *The Matrix*, I don't wanna hear that crap about self defense.

But back to the subject, kids should not have to see this. There were probably some kids playing in this particular hockey game who wanted to go on to the pros, but after seeing 'Hockey slaughter man,' maybe their goals have

changed. Think about how long this might live with them. Call it living through the kids' dreams or whatever...if someone is 10 years old, he/she should not be worrying about the scout coming down from Connecticut to watch the game. Parents...there are enough worries. Don't take away possibly the *one thing* that your kid/s may enjoy.

On Jan. 11, 2002, a Massachusetts jury convicted Junta of involuntary manslaughter, and he now faces 20 years in prison. His brother asked of the judge to have compassion in sentencing his brother. The way I look at it, Junta is getting off pretty damn good. At least he didn't suffer from 15 separate areas of trauma, including a severed artery that, according to the testifying medical examiner, caused the death of Costin after blows to his neck and head severed the artery to his brain. This is but a mere example of what goes on at sporting events. Only, *this* example is one that will stand out for a while. No matter what you say, it shouldn't have ended like it did. Costin leaves behind four children. Did you catch that last part? Four kids. Let that marinate in your head for a while.

Gone Complex Crazy

Jason D. Howell
Staff Writer

Some students just enjoy college basketball more than others. At VSU, those students have joined to form the Complex Crazies.

The group is made up of 12 founding members, some are VSU baseball and football players. P.J. Brown, outfielder, founded the group during the winter pep rally. Other dedicated members of the group are Josh Grube, infielder, Mike Roberts, Allen Baker, Adam Brown and Bill Epps, offensive guard.

The Crazies serve as a nuisance to visiting teams. Blazer opponents are shooting 59.2 percent from the free throw line, thanks in large part to the distraction of the Crazies. VSU is 8-1 in the Complex this season.

"I can't say enough about those guys," senior forward Nick Gast said. "The other teams free throw percentage is always under 50 percent when they come here."

Anyone can join the Crazies, but must prove to be a little nutty, excitable, fun, shameless, avid



Annie Johnson / The Spectator

Members of the Complex Crazies have cheered the Blazers to a 14-3 overall record and a No. 16 national ranking in the Division II polls.

fans and a little crazy. The group only performs their antics during men's basketball games because baseball practice is during the women's games. The Crazies will continue all season long despite

the fact that baseball season overlaps basketball season. The Crazies are looking for replacements to attend games and perform during games. Regular members will miss. If anyone is interested, tryouts are held at VSU men's home basketball games and are judged by the infamous Crazies themselves. Dr. Zaccari, VSU president, was recognized at the game and was cheered heavily by the Crazies during his recognition. "I have taken the opportunity to observe the crazies and I think they show really high school spirit which is great for the university and is one of the reasons why I chose to come to VSU in the first place," Dr. Zaccari said.

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Montevallo stuns VSU



Annie Johnson/ The Spectator

Blazers suffer first Division II loss; retain slim GSC East division lead

Brandon Scott
Staff Writer

The VSU men's basketball team will head into West Florida's Field House on Saturday with a fragile GSC East Division lead. VSU (14-3, 5-1) will battle UWF (11-6, 4-2) as the East Division leader. However, with a loss, VSU could drop as low as third-place.

After suffering their first conference loss of the season, the Blazers look to focus on preseason goals.

"We have to refocus on our mission, to be the No. 1 seed in the Gulf South tournament and win 20 games," junior guard John Prise said.

VSU will play a West Florida team that plays similarly to the Blazers.

"It will be a dual of backcourts," head coach Jim Yarbrough said. "They have two very exceptional guards."

Those guards are senior Marcus Tanner and junior Bernard Turner, who lead the Argos in scoring averaging 12.8 and 13.5 ppg, respectively.

Yarbrough Keys: "Our big guys in the 3, 4 and 5 spots have to step up. The team with the largest number of easy buckets and off-the-bench support will win this game."

Blazer offense: After scoring a season-low 54 points in a losing effort to Montevallo, look for the entire team to rebound. Although the Blazers did hold a rebounding advantage, it was the missed putbacks that swung the momentum. Sophomore forward Ernest Scott proved himself a solid player off the bench. Scott led the team with 17 points off the bench. He proved

he could fill in for senior center Matt Jones.

Argos defense: The Argos hand over 72.6 ppg and force almost 16 turnovers a game. The Argos don't play particularly strong defense. They force opponents into shootouts.

Blazer defense: In giving up a 16-0 run to Montevallo, the pride of the Blazers took a huge blow. Defensive presence inside will have to be tough and forcing bad inside passes will be key heading into Saturday's game. Scott continues to shine in quality minutes. He leads the team with 23 blocked shots and continues to elevate his game.

Argos offense: The aforementioned guards are the Argos offense. The forwards and centers play complimentary to the free-ranging guards. Also, senior guard Sean Ryals is a serious threat off the bench. Averaging 10.5 ppg, Ryals is a small (6-0) guard who leads the team in assists (5.5 per game) and is second in steals, with 27 total.

GSC East Division Standings		
	W	L
Valdosta St.	5	1
Montevallo	5	2
West Ga.	4	2
West Fla.	4	2
Ala.-Hunt.	3	3
North Ala.	3	4
Linc. Mem.	1	5
West Ala.	0	6

Freshman forward Tony Baker dunks in the Blazers 73-54 loss to Montevallo Monday night at home.

Lady Blazers prep for UWF

Tamekia Glanton
Staff Writer

This Saturday the Lady Blazers basketball team (8-10, 2-6) will look to get rid of a nagging six game losing streak when it travels to Pensacola, Fla., to take on the Lady Argonauts of West Florida (7-10, 3-4). Last season the Lady Blazers swept the home and away series, winning both games by an average margin of five points. Head Coach Kiley Hill believes the teams are

matched up evenly.

"As far as our size, the post players are evenly matched and the quickness of the guards is pretty much the same," Hill said. "Both teams are struggling right now; it will just come down to who wants it more."

The Lady Blazers are coming off another frustrating loss dealt by Montevallo's Lady Falcons, 70-67.

Lady Blazer offense: The offensive attack is lead by the duo of freshman forward Amber Daniels, who leads the team in scoring (10.7 ppg) and

sophomore guard Danielle Hernandez, who is just behind Daniels (10.1 ppg). As a team the Lady Blazers are shooting a respectable 44 percent from the field.

Lady Argonaut defense: UWF is allowing a hefty 75.2 ppg to their opponents and. Senior forward Karley Geller proves a tough task for any opposing team, collecting 8.1 rpg with help from junior guard Kelly Barrett who contributes just under two steals a game on the defensive end.

Lady Blazer defense: VSU's

opponents are managing a hard-fought 64.1 ppg and shooting a paltry 40 percent from the field. Six-foot-one freshman center Courtney Parker leads the team with 9.1 rpg.

Lady Argonaut offense: UWF averages 67.6 ppg. Their offensive attack is led by the same duo that heads their defensive stand, Geller and Barrett. On offense roles are reversed, Barrett takes the lead averaging 14.6 ppg followed by Geller (13 ppg) who shoots a formidable 46 percent from the floor.



Annie Johnson / The Spectator

Sophomore guard Danielle Hernandez defends Bridget Hollis in Montevallo's 70-67 win Monday night.

Blazers rearrange 2002 lineup

Jana N. Cook
Staff Writer

The 2002 Blazer baseball season will open in Valdosta at 3 p.m. Feb. 1 at Billy Grant Field when Florida Southern rolls into town for a three-game match-up with the Blazers to kick-off the Blazers' 55-game schedule.

Returning from a 35-22 record from the 2001 season, the Blazers face replacing six starters in its lineup by graduation. Head Coach Tommy Thomas' projected starting line-

up looks almost completely different that last year's, with only a few familiar faces in line to charge the field. In the infield, junior Scott Simpson will move to second base from his position as shortstop. Senior Denny Bryant and junior Jay Berryman are both in line to play first, with freshman Blake Thompson, the only freshman in the projected line-up, at first base as well. Senior John Martin is listed to play third base. Josh Veres and Josh Grube, both juniors, will split time at shortstop. Catchers Eric Thomas' projected starting line-

up looks almost completely different that last year's, with only a few familiar faces in line to charge the field.

The project line-up for the outfield is as fresh as the infield. Junior Sammy Watson is expected to fill the left field position, with junior Scott Fletcher in center and junior P.J. Brown in right field. Senior Greg Olsen and freshman David Lewis will also provide quality depth in the outfield when needed.

The bulk of the Blazers' bullpen remains the same, despite losing relief pitcher Jason Bulger to the Arizona Diamondbacks in the first

round of major league drafts at the end of last season. The Blazers' top pitchers include seniors Braxton Fernald and John Rose and juniors Michael Smith and Corey Wachman. Other top pitchers include Josh Kitterman, Davey Covey and Steve Bowerman.

Blazers Season Opener

Feb 1 vs. Florida Southern, 3 p.m.
Feb 2 vs. Florida Southern, 1 p.m.
Feb 3 vs. Florida Southern, 2 p.m.
--all games at Billy Grant Field



Annie Johnson / The Spectator

Junior outfielder P.J. Brown takes batting practice Wednesday on Billy Grant Field where the Blazers will open the season Feb. 1 against Florida Southern.

The Coaches Players of the week!

Lady Blazers Coach Kiley Hill

Blazers Coach Jim Yarbrough



Lady Blazers Jennifer Ehlers



Lady Blazers Amber Daniels



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