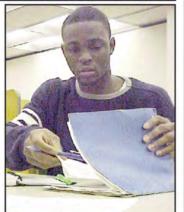


Jennifer Highsmith (above), freshman biology major, Tommy Kirkland, freshman biology pre-med major, Jackson Dove, freshman biology pre-med, and Lindsay Hall, sophomore biology dental major, study for their biology midterm in Odum Library. Drapier Johnson (right), freshman business management and human resources major, rifles through his notes. Midterm is Feb. 28. See "It's Academic: Midterm, advising and registration hit VSU," page 4, for more information on midterms.

Annie Ruok / The Spectator



Zaccari listening, learning, planning

Kate Gaulding Staff Writer

President Ronald Zaccari began his term on Jan 7. Since his arrival, he has well been

received

campus.

"I have been approached by

numerous individuals and groups and asked about issues and topics of wide-ranging concerns," Dr. Zaccari said.

According to Dr. Zaccari, he has already met with SGA, Faculty Senate and the Honors Program director, Dr. Brian Adler. He has not yet met with any Greek organizations, but hopes to hold Greek socials at his new residence in the future.

Dr. Zaccari also has plans to continue holding open house meetings for faculty, staff and

students. He will hire two vice presidents and open three searches for acting deans. He is also developing a 10-year campus master plan for constructing new residence halls, improving traffic congestion and planning new bicycle and pedestrian pathways.

"Valdosta State University is in a change of leadership and we must take an in-depth look at its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges," Dr. Zaccari said.

Dr. Zaccari will be holding a

strategic planning with Solutions 21, a corporate planning company, March 21-23.

"Planning is essential to the success of any enterprise, especially for a university serves forty-one counties in South

Georgia," Dr. Zaccari said.

Strategic planning is the organization of important documents, which should guide VSU's future. According to Dr. Zaccari, these planned documents will be revised on an annual basis.

"At this early point in the presidency, I'm attempting to be a good listener and learn more about the university and community, and not make decisions without a strong, wellformulated plan." Dr. Zaccari

Math becomes reality for Regents

Jason Howell Staff Writer

Students ready to test their math skills out will have a chance next year if they have to take the Regents' Test.

Math will be added to the Regents' Test during the summer of next year to accompany the essay and reading portions of the test that already exist.

"They are going to test run the idea next summer to see how smoothly the addition goes and if everything goes well, it will be a permanent addition in the fall of 2003," VSU math department head Dr.

Carnevale

said. Dr. Carnevale will be going to a Regents Advisory Committee meeting today in which he says all the details about the addition

of math to the test will be discussed. He also tells us that the format will most likely be multiple choice on a computer based program. The committee is also going to discuss whether the test should be skill based or just a literacy test.

The committee will also decide on exactly who will be required to take the test, but will not require anyone who has already taken and passed the Regents' Test to retake the test with the math portion. This will most likely only affect incoming freshmen and sophomores who have not taken or passed the Regent's Test previously.

The committee that will decide all of the details about the test is broken down into two subcommittees called the steering committee and the test development committee.

Dr. Louis Levy, acting vice president for Academic Affairs, is at the top of the steering committee. The steering committee will design the test, and the

test development committee will

The steering committee is trying to decide whether the content and skills of the Math portion should be those skills learned in algebra and mathematical modeling which are the two freshman level core classes offered at VSU or whether they should be the skills learned in math up to the end of the student's sophomore year. All of the skills taught should at least be covered in the school's core curriculum.

Dr. Carnevale said, "The purpose of the addition

of Math to the Regents Test is to give University System of Georgia an idea benchmark of how their students are performing in at least

one impor-

tant area in

-Jerry Wright, registrar

The math part of the

Regents' should test

what students learn in

basic college algebra or

mathematical modeling.

Jerry Wright, registrar, said, "Math as an addition to the Regents' Test should be used to test proficiency and this proficiency should be learned in Algebra and general math which includes any type of math above remedial math. The essay and reading portions of the Regents Test are a way for the University to test what the students have learned in English 1102 and the math part of the Regents should test what students learn in basic college algebra or mathematical modeling."

Dr. Barnette, philosophy department head and acting dean of arts and sciences, said "There should be some review or remedial classes offered to help students with the math portion of the Regents Test, like there are presently for the essay and reading portions of the Regents Test, but it is too far in advance to know for sure if this will happen."

Speech policy analyzed

Leah F. Cassorla Staff Writer

Editor's note: Over the past three weeks, the Spectator has looked at rules regarding free speech on campus. This week the Spectator is looking at the whole picture to see how our rules stack up.

VSU's rules regarding speech are based on restrictions of time, place and manner. Time, place and manner restrictions are Supreme Court specified rules that allow institutions to restrict speech in order to keep speech from getting in the way of other rights.

Dr. Francis Paterson, assistant professor of education leadership, specializes in higher education law. According to her, the University has the power to employ time, place and manner restrictions—which means that VSU can set reasonable rules about when, where and how you say something, but not about what you say.

In order to use these restrictions, the University has to allow the information blocked by the restriction to reach the community in some other way, such as through the newspaper or bulletin

For universities, the rules generally serve as a way ensure no one disrupts

boards.

classes or other authorized activities with their speech.

the way of the University's interpreted too generally to purpose.

This keeps one person's speech from infringing on another person's rights attend to class.

According to Dr. Paterson, the wording for the section covering the student expression area in the Student Code of Ethics (Appendix D, p. 45 of the current Student Handbook) is inartfully written.

"It may be that the language of our policy '[s]tudents and other persons who desire to speak on campus' would be considered overbroad." Dr. Paterson said. "Those

for the student handbook should consider changing it, and I sug-

responsible

gest looking

at policies at other colleges and universi-

The phrasing, according These restrictions are to Dr. Paterson, is too gendesigned to allow the uni- eral. It fails to make clear

The side that wins is the

one that has somebody willing to go to court. - Dr. Frances Paterson, assistant

professor of education leadership and higher education law specialist

speech between two people, anywhere on campus. According to Russ Mast, acting vice president for

Student Actitivies--the division responsible for producing the handbook--the Board of Regents approved the regulations. The handbook will have one change in the regulation next year that will allow community use of the free speech area

without a student organization sponsor.

Dr. Paterson also said the time, manner and place restrictions are specific and legally valid.

The only part of campus policy that deals with content is the approval of fliers posted on campus.

Organizations advertise off-campus events as long as the flier is not obscene and does not interversity to allow free speech the type of speech intended fere with the University as long as it doesn't stand in by the rule, and can be (Student Organization Regulations, page 35 in the

Student Handbook.)

"Sometimes we have organizations that want to advertise a [keg party]," Taylor said. "We can't do something like that."

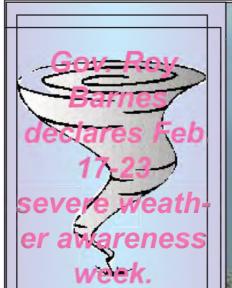
she could find no ruling related to prohi-

Dr. Paterson said

mean speech to groups or bition of fliers advertising off-campus events that included alcohol.

In the case of free speech, as with most laws, Dr. Paterson explained, being right doesn't necessarily mean you win.

"The side that wins is the one that has somebody willing to go to court," Dr. Paterson said.



Tornado and hurricane vocabulary:

-Tornado and hurricane watch - atmospheric conditions are conducive for the development of a tornado or hurri-

Tornado and hurricane warning - hazardous conditions have been spotted or indentified on radar.

What to do in case of tornado or hurricane:

-Take cover. Find a wall near the interior of the building away from windows and exterior doors.

-Individuals should ourl in a "ball" near the wall, place their hands over their heads and remain in that position until the severe weather passes.

-Do not leave the building during a tornado. If fire is not present and a clear exit is maintained, everyone should remain in the building until severe weather passes.

Inside Today

Campus Happenings 2	Darkside
Police Beat2	
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Weather 3	Classifieds
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CORRECTION:

The art exhibit story in the Feb 14 issue of The Spectator contained an error of fact. Donnte Thomas is a female.

It is Spectator policy to correct errors of fact.

Web Watch

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

So you have a really important question that you just can't discuss with your parents.

Your friends are quick with answers, but you're not sure they'd know, or maybe they all

have answers but can't seem to agree...or worse, you're too embarrassed to discuss it with

The problem is S-E-X, and you don't have Dr. Ruth's home

This week:

CollegeSexTalk.com

phone number.

You can ask your question at www.collegesextalk.com. A qualified sex professor will answer you--confidentially.

Reasons to Join

The Spectator

Learn to...

Play with a platypus

Ask...Annie, are you ok

Ride the QuarkXPress

Looking for the rest of the

Campus Happenings list-

ings and Police Beat?

They're on our website at

Wild Adventures

VDT#740379

www.valdosta.edu/spectator.

Shag a burger

Eat, eat, eat

Cop-a-squat

Tell time

Talk, talk, talk

Order take out

Campus Happenings

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.

POLICE BEAT

February 13

Someone took a student's brown leather Dockers trifold wallet worth \$20, containing \$10 cash, a driver's license, Sam's phone card and other papers and business cards from the Bio/Chem Building 3009. A Crime Victim's Bill of Rights was issued.

February 14

Artis Pye, 26, of 1102 Gordon St., was arrested at 12:39 a.m. at the Sunset Park ballfield for giving false information to police. He was taken to Lowndes County Jail. He is not a VSU student.

Gerald Estes Adams, 60, and Terrell Willard Adams, 59, both of 5144 Norma Lane Lot 18, were arrested at 8:25 a.m. at Baytree Road and Azalea Drive. Gerald Estes Adams was arrested for driving with a suspended license and driving too fast for conditions. Terrell Willard Adams, a passenger in the car, was arrested as a fugitive from justice on a Hempstead County, Ark., warrant for a probation revocation. Neither man is a VSU student.

February 15

William Robert Flowers, 21, of 159 William Gibbs Road, Tifton, Ga., was arrested at 1:39 a.m. at Baytree Road and North Oak Street for failure to maintain lane, DUI (refused test) and open container. He was taken to Lowndes County Jail. He is not a VSU student.

Gabriel Hampton Walker, 23, of 1318 Bethune St., was arrested at 1:30 p.m. at North Oak Street and Georgia Avenue as a fugitive from justice on an outstanding warrant for his arrest after being stopped for a traffic violation. He is not a VSU student.

<u>Today</u>

The Society of Physics Students will host an instructional session on how to set up and use telescopes at 7 p.m.

At 8 p.m., the session will end and the public planetarium show, "Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight," presented by assistant professors Dr. Cecilia Barbaum and Dr. Judy Grable, will begin on the third floor of Nevins Hall 3011.

After the show, if weather permits, attendees will be allowed to look through the observatory telescopes on the roof of Nevins Hall.

For more information, call the physics, astronomy and geosciences department at 333-5752.

varrant for his arrest after being e is not a VSU student.

The Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority will host a social in the Ashley Hall rotunda at 8 p.m.

Food and drinks will be provid-

ed. Cost is \$1. Everyone is

invited to attend.

Natural High will host a free bingo night from 9 to 11 p.m. in Powell Hall Auditorium. Free snacks, drinks and prizes will be available.

For more information, call the office of alcohol & other drug education at 259-5111.

Friday

Today is the deadline to register for the Regents' Exam.

Dr. Ellen Wiley, associate professor of curriculum and

www.valdosta.edu/spectator

instructional technology, will teach a seminar, "Online Lifeline," about how to use Adobe Acrobat from noon to 1 p.m. at the Education Center 124.

Attendees are encouraged to

bring their lunch.
For more information, call
Dr. Wiley at 333-5638.

The Writing Center will host a Regents' Test workshop from 6 to 8 p.m. in West Hall 204 for people wanting practice.

For more information, call the VSU Writing Center at 333-7387.

An informational dancer recruitment meeting will be at 8 p.m. in the University Center Theater for anyone interested in participating in the dance marathon.

If your organization has already entered a team, a representative from your team should be there.

If you have any questions, call the office of Student Activities at 333-5674.

<u>Wednesday</u>

The College Republicans will meet at 7 p.m. in the Bio/Chem Building Auditorium. Everyone is invited to attend.

For more information, e-mail vsurepublicans@aol.com.

Campus Outreach Ministries meets every Wednesday for "One80" at 9 p.m. in the Bio/Chem Auditorium.

For more information, call Jason at 671-9483.

<u>Tuesday</u>

Sheila Wakely, of the counseling center, will host a free seminar, "Body Image and You," from 8 to 9 p.m. in Hopper Hall on main campus.



<u>Thursday</u>

The VSU Mass Choir will perform some selections every Monday night at 9 p.m. in the Continuing Education Building starting tonight. Admission is free.

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

Campus Activities Board will host "Kids' Night Out" from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Dogwood Room at the University Center.

March 1

The music department will present the opera, "The Merry Wives of Windsor," by Otto Nicolai at 10 a.m. and again March 2 at 7:30 p.m. and March 3 at 3 p.m. in Whitehead Auditorium at the Fine Arts Building.

For more information, call ArtSouth at 333-2149 or 333-2150.

March 5

Certified Red Cross instructor Tim Yorkey will teach an adult CPR class from 8 a.m. to noon in the Continuing Education Building 240.

VSU students, faculty and staff are invited to attend. A registration form must be com-

pleted before taking the class. Cost is \$5.

Attendees will receive an American Red Cross certification card after completing the course. The maximum number of attendees allowed per course is 10.

Classes with less than four people registered will be cancelled. Attendees should wear comfortable clothes and arrive early. Customized classes for departments are available upon request.

For more information, call

Becky Murphy, assistant to the director/training coordinator, in Training and Development at the University Center 1148, at 259-5105 or fax her at 333-7419.

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- 5. Shirt

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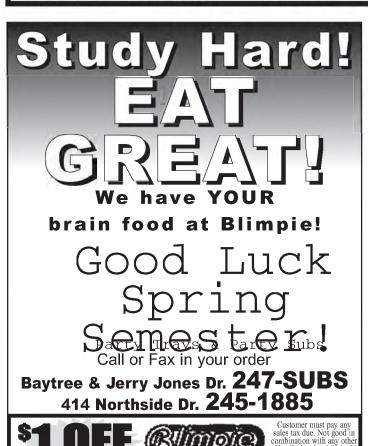
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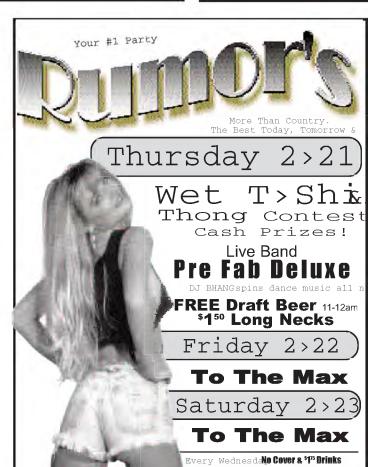
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News

www.valdosta.edu/spectator

Weekend

Today

5 Moderate

UV Index: Hi: 72

Friday

UV Index: 6 Moderate Hi: 65

Low: 36

Saturday

UV Index: 6 Moderate Hi: 66

Low: 42

Low: 53

UV Index: 6 Moderate Hi: 72

Sunday

Low: 45 SGA looks to fill seats

Mary Ellen McConnel

Staff Writer

The SGA recognized the VSU sailing club on Tuesday night. Dues for the club, in order to

attend regattas, are \$50. Students who are interested can participate without paying dues. "I'm really excited about the upcoming season,"

Courtney Kasun, VSU Sailing Club President. Nick Overstreet, SGA presi-

dent, did not attend Tuesday's SGA meeting due to illness. Cody Guined, SGA vice president, ran the meeting. Guined also announced that

the SGA will not wait for formal resignations from senators who have already given oral resignations. Several senators announced

their resignation, but did not turn in formal letters of resigna-

Senators who have done this will lose their seat

"I was mistaken last week when I said that Sen. Ryan



Vonetta Lawton / The Spectator

Cody Guined, SGA vice president, conducted the SGA meeting Tuesday night. President Nick Overstreet was absent from the meeting due to illness.

mal resignation," Guined said.

Five nominations were made for the newly opened seats. Mac Bryant, Jonathan Resort, Paul Smith, Nathan Magaraty, Brad Bonner, and John Harrington were all nominated and will speak for themselves at next week's meeting, which will be

Wilson had not given us his for- held at Buffalo's in Remerton. Guined announced he has finished the new constitution. The constitution must pass the rules

> the student body. The new constitution is approximately 15 pages.

> committee and then it will go to

Want to know more about how to get involved with the 2002 VSU Dance Marathon?

Check out the web Spectator to read this story in full and much, much more!

www.valdosta.edu/





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OPEN 24 HOURS 259-0500 - Norman Drive Ne

The Record to is looking for a few self motivated, outgoing people who can work well with the Advertising Department. These people will set their own hours while selling advertising space for the Spectator If this sounds like you call Wes at 333-5686 and make sure that you can pay your rent and eat this month.

It's academic: Midterm, advising & registration hit VSU

Advising no longer one week

> Tameika Carson Staff Writer

Midterm is not the only thing that should be on students Early registration begins March 11, and students need to get advised.

Advising helps students make choices about what classes they need to stay on track to graduate. According to Jerry Wright,

registrar, advising is not one week anymore. Since the implementation of Banner Web registration and the extension of the registration window, that has changed.

"Most students are not aware that advising is offered every term about an average of three to four weeks after classes begin," Wright said.

Some students like to prepare before going to see their advis-

"I prepare by having my schedule pre-made before advising by using the class schedule booklets," Tiana Speight, sophomore sports medicine major, said. The class schedule booklets

will be available next week in Nevins Hall in front of the registrar's office. Both summer and fall schedules are now available on Banner.

There are some students who consider adviser's suggestions while others ignore their guid-

"Even when students get properly advised, they do other things and take other classes," Dr. David Bechler, biology department head, said.

Some students are unaware of the consequences of taking unnecessary classes. Students receiving HOPE lose the grant February 10 March 12 Wed 19 14 12 13 25 26 17 19 21 15 16 18 20 22 24 26 28 23 25 27 30 31 GOT A QUESTION ABOUT WHEN MIDTERM, ADVISING OR REGISTRATION IS? MIDTERM: FEB. 28 ADVISING: STARTING NOW

once they exceed 127 accredited hours.

appointment to be advised in the designated department. There will also be signs posted to remind students to get advised. Students who do not get

advised can not register. Getting advised before early registration increases a student's chances of getting into desired courses. Students with an undecided

major can get advised in the liberal arts studies advising

Students who have not been assigned an adviser will be notified who their adviser is by

EARLY REGISTRATION:

MARCH 12: JUNIORS

MARCH 11: SENIORS & GRADS

MARCH 13: SOPHOMORES

MARCH 14: ALL LEVELS

Pre-registration for summer Students can make an and fall semesters will begin with graduate students and seniors March 11. Juniors will register March 12. sophomores March 13 and all levels on March 14. Early registration for the summer term will end at midnight on April 12. Fall registration will proceed until midnight on April 26.

> Students can register online through Banner or on the Telephone Information System at 245-2200. Students who do not register during early registration for the fall semester can register Aug. 16-20. For additional information, contact the registrar office at 333-5727.

Midterm grades out next week

> Tameika Carson Staff Writer

Students who need to withdraw need to act by Feb. 28.

Midterm lets students see their progress halfway into the

Students who withdraw from a course before midterm will not be penalized.

All professors are required to have midterm grades posted on Banner by noon Feb. 22. This is only for 1000 and 2000 level courses. Other course levels have the option to report

Students can access grades on Banner by 1 p.m. Feb. 22. Grades will be available until Feb. 28.

placed on their records, such as unpaid tickets, midterm grades cannot be accessed.

If students have a hold

Midterm and in-progress grades can be a wake up call for

"Midterm serves as motivation to students that are doing poorly in class," Kristen Johns, music professor, said.

Students use the in progress marks to determine what needs to be done in order to get the desired grade.

"Most people feel like they can take it easy before midterm because they can drop the class," Karen Shultz, sophomore public relations major, said. "After midterm grades are posted, people realize that they have to bust it to keep their grades up."

Withdrawal form are in the registrar's office. All withdrawal forms must be completed and turned in no later than 3 p.m. on Feb. 28.



Check out In the News on t

www.valdosta.edu/spectator -Mother faces death penalty for murder of five

-Body count rises at Tri-State Crematory with

discoveries in lake -TV psychic's powers questioned by Florida attorney

general

-Third-generation Olympian races to win gold

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Price of freedom v. cost of silence

In Atlanta you'd be sticking your neck out if you tie your giraffe to a telephone pole or street lamp. In Quitman, Ga., the chicken didn't cross the road, or it would have been arrested. And on VSU's campus, students can only get clearance to speak freely if they're in the Palms Quad from noon to 1 p.m. and 5 to 6 p.m.—and the administration says it's ok.

Why do we have these laws? Because no one's spoken

Some laws are ridiculous, and, unless people move to change them, they stay. Tolerated, laughable and ignored. But some rules need not be ignored.

As a VSU student you have the right to communicate ideas and information, but only in a brief allotted time slot. You also have a right to display fliers—which will be censored for content.

for two hours a day and are only considered mature enough to post a piece of paper if it doesn't mention alcohol. You're a chicken in Quitman—condemned if you want to

In effect, you only have the right to speak and be heard

get to the other side. The time, place and manner restrictions concerning the

Palms Quad are perfectly legal—they're just set up in a manner that's too restricting.

Forbidding the mention of alcohol on a publicly displayed flier goes against the U.S. Constitution and insults the intelligence of every student at VSU, but no one will be able to speak out until someone speaks up.

Speak to SGA. Speak to the new president. Whatever you do: *speak*.

The laws can be changed when they're not serving the

people. Right now the Student Handbook reads like a bad

Let's change the punch line.

Spectator opinion written by Mary Dabbs

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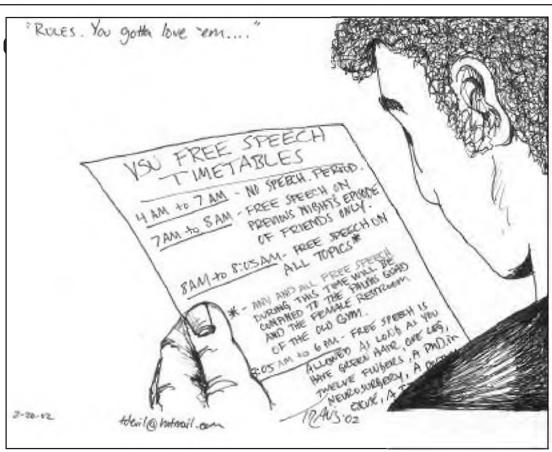
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Letters must include name, year in school, major, job title or other appropriate identification and phone number for verification. Letters should be no longer than 300 words in length. Letters are subject to editing for style, length, grammar, and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



View Points

Sports ain't the same

As I look back on the world and the many tests of faith that have been bestowed upon us within a short period of time, I'm constantly reminded of just how full of crap some of the things we do are. I take that back; not "we" specifically, but just a few back-stabbers.

This year, I watched as the New England Patriots outwitted by the St. Louis Rams in Super Bowl XXXVI. Truth be told (and you know this), it should have been the Oakland Raiders vs. the Rams. But due to a controversial call made in the fourth quarter of a conference game between the Patriots and Raiders, the Patriots prevailed on to Super Bowl bliss. Apparently, the refs had overdosed on Viagara that day or something, because their heads sure weren't in the game. That makes me start to wonder: Are these guys getting paid off? Does money really make the world go 'round?

I personally believe that these old geezers should go home. take their vitamins and take a nap. Let's get some young blood out there refereeing these games, not the guy who used to play hide-n-seek with Abe

This year's Westminster Dog Show was quite a hoot, too, if I must say. Although I did not watch the event, I was rather shocked to catch a look at the butt-ugly specimen that won the event. This dog they call 'Spice Girl,' or whatever, had to

Clean up

The plaza outside of Odum

Library could really use a major

campus



Jeremiah Bass

be one of the ugliest creatures I've ever seen! It looked like a big, black turd. There were so many other better-looking breeds of dogs to pick from, and I was left wondering: What judge got offered a million bucks for that trade? Seriously, who could honestly look at that poodle and say it deserved to win? I'm sure you've probably seen this on the news; that poodle is butt-ugly!

Next year, I think I'll bag up some cow manure, tie a leash around it and enter it into the Westminster Dog Show; because apparently, they're all about accepting 'crap.'

Perhaps the biggest 'What tha hell?' surprise came during this year's Olympics pairs iceskating event. Canadians Jamie Sale and David Pelletier were pretty much 'ganked' of their rightfully deserved medals, and Russian pairs Elena Berezhnaya and Anton Sikharulidze, who put on a terrible show, were given the gold. Sale and Pelletier were stuck with the silver medals.

This was mainly due to foul

Mailbox

The trees a\re not being cared

for and have branches going

every which way. The fountain

is a dried up water hole that

serves no purpose. It would be

a skate boarder's dream if only

renovation.

play by French judge Marie-Reine Le Gougne, who voted for the Russians, surprising including everyone, Canadian pairs.

The once-silver medallists Sale and Pelletier were given gold Sunday night, where they stood side-by-side with the Russians (who, by the way, got to keep their gold medals) and both pairs' native flag was raised during the ceremony.

It has been rumored that the French judge favored the Russian couple to ensure a gold medal for the French in the ice dancing competition. Okay, stop the frickin' presses...is it really that important? I mean, why risk getting interrogated and put through hell so that your country can win a gold medal in ice dancing?

Does anything make any sense any more?

The sports world has really been a letdown lately, mainly by the officials who make the big calls. It makes you wonder sometimes, who can you trust? When it comes to something as irrelevant as a dog show or two people floating on ice who don't get a fair shot, it's really pathetic, which makes me even more apathetic. Can you blame

Jeremiah Bass is a Spectator columnist and can be contacted at Looserkidblink@hotmail.com

fountain with some artsy-fartsy

statue and give the campus a

better look. The area around

that fountain seems so poor it

could make one cry in pity, and

students turn their heads in

Drugs are bad, M'kay

I heard it again yesterday. I had another conversation with someone who said he has a friend who is "strung out" on

A friend from my hometown died on Christmas. He didn't just die, his family had to make the decision to turn off his life support on that day. He had overdosed on the painkiller OxyContin and there was no hope left.

Let me stand up for my friend. His premature absence from this world is nothing less than a tragedy. He was a senior honor student at Auburn. He came from a good family. He had no idea how serious experimenting with drugs was because he saw too many people win Russian roulette. He wasn't a party boy. The difference is his body couldn't take

I don't know whether it's my luck to always hear about it or if the situation is getting worse.

I have a plea for anyone who is new to the college scene: Don't get talked into trying anything, because none of it is good. Not even once. If you've never tried drugs before, keep your innocence. Trust me, you'll be proud of it later. Your friends and family will thank

Drugs do you, you don't do them. You are not the judge of whether you get addicted to something or not; it is completely out of your control. The sweetest and smartest people can lose everything over a drug addiction. Drugs change your personality and your morals. They can also kill you the first time you do them.

Let me be the first to say that say that the "just" in "Just Say No" is a crock. "Just" implies simply and there is nothing simple about it. You're at a party, you've had some beers and your inhibitions are down. You do some drugs. It didn't seem like such a bad idea at the time. In fact, it seemed like a pretty good one. That's how it starts. It can also be how everything ends. It's hard and you have to have a strong will.

I've heard people say that they have never done a particular drug before, but they plan on it. Trust me, it's a bad plan. The company you keep is important, and true friends should respect who you are if you don't do drugs. It's an admirable trait to have an independent mind.

It's also an admirable trait to stay out of a pine box.

Beth Owen is a Spectator columnist and can be contacted at Bethluv45@,hotmail.com

those stoppers were removed. Maybe we could cover up the Megan N. Morley

shame.

Got something to say?



Dear Editor:

Open mic on this page every week at the Spectator.

Do you think it is fair that VSU has only two 'official' hours a day of free speech on campus? Why or why not?



"I think it is fair because students have a chance to voice concerns and opinions on topics that are on their minds."

Toya Raines

Junior

Psychology



believe you should have free speech 24 hours a day."

Ricky Tolefree Jr. **Sophomore Engineering**



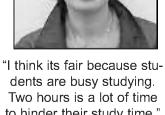
"I don't think the school should be able to limit our

constitutional right of freedom of speech."

Mike Orstretch

Freshman

Business



to hinder their study time."

Jae Branch

Junior

Secondary Education



"I think it's fair that students have only two hours to speak. Allowing more time could disrupt functions on

the campus." Michael Alexander **Senior Political Science**



school to restrict freedom of speech to a time frame.'

"I don't think it's fair for the

Jenna Neason Freshman **Biology**

Editor's Note

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.

)ARKSI

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

The Winter Olympics: Blazer Style, Baby!

Mary Dabbs Staff Writer

Since I've come to college I've been very active in the competitive freestyle jaywalking scene. Winter colds and smoker's phlegm have given me an edge in loogie hocking for speed and accuracy, and I'm a champion doodler during

Yeah, these aren't real sports, but they should be. The winter Olympics this year have left a lot to be desired, so I've decided to come up with some entertainment of my own.

First I thought making SGA look dumb would be a great sport, then I realized that we need something that's actually challenging. Here's what I've

come up with:

The parking here is atrocious, but instead of complaining about it, why not have fun with it? We should honor those who lay it all down for a parking

Drag racing competitions in Hopper Circle can be held between cars trying to get the last available space. Medals shall be awarded to those who stay in timed spots the longest without getting ticketed and laurels bestowed upon those whose total ticket cost pays for a VSU shuttle limousine.

Style points will be awarded for particularly ballsy maneuvers like parking in Dr. Zaccari's spot, or taking up spaces in the Parking and Transportation lot all day.

The Greeks are another source of sport. First, we get all of them to abandon the Greek letters on their cars/shirts/tote bags and walk around disguised as normal human beings.

The rest of us have to try to figure out who's Greek-try to hold a conversation with someone, those who can aren't Greek—and then we have to figure out what sorority or fraternity they belong to. I've got dibs on the gold medal for ZTA spotting. That's the sorority whose members I get along with best for some odd reason. Most of them are OK, but a few have sold out to their dark lord

For winter water sports the particularly dimwitted can swim through Blazer creek and drink straight from the water fountains on campus.

Then the rest of us can judge their mutations, rating them on the number of third body parts (eyes, arms, nipples) that they've grown and the biology students will have new subjects to poke at.

These are just some of the ways VSU can fill the gap the Olympics have left this year. Who knows? If snowboarding's finally made it into the Winter Olympics, perhaps professional loogie hocking has a chance

Only time—and the flu season-will tell.

-Mary Dabbs is a columnist and she can be contacted at kamikazeflutterby@hotmail.comFour Peasons to write for The DarkSide:

1. Jeremiah Bass will serenade you.

2. Anyone named Matthew gets a free Elton John mug.

3. You develop a 'mature' view on life. 4. President Bush keeps coming up with the goods.

-So if you have any ideas or thoughts, contact Jeremiah Bass at

loserkidblink@hotmail.com-

If you can't get in contact with him, he'll probably be at Hoover's.

PMS = Post 'Men' Syndrome

Tara Sherman Staff Writer

Tampax swings its magic wands to desperate women all across the country because it's clearly the fresher alternative. But what's offered to men who suffer from their own brand of mens-truation? Granted, men don't have to worry about not wearing white on certain days, but the term "hormonal" doesn't just apply to women.

Here at the Spectator, Jeremiah Bass and our sports editor complain of their monthly cycles.

Some of Jeremiah's symptoms include mood swings concerning women, hearing loss, stinky funky feet and lack of desire to shower. This usually happens about five times a

The sports editor's mood goes haywire during Dale Earnhardt, Jr. races and his cycles are more of a weekly thing. He gets a severe 5 o'clock shadow, a growing gut,

and, like Bass, stinky funky

Bass's form of Midol consists of working out to release bad thoughts, beer, porn and Top Gun. The sports editor relies only on deodorant.

Guys have periods, too. Granted, there is no

blood, but why do you think the term is called "mens-truation?" Maybe they should address this issue on The Man Show so that the word can get out and women don't have to be singled out as the only ones who PMS. You can usually tell

which guy is on the rag and which isn't. One boy in his cycle may be more likely to funnel eight Budweisers instead of four, or he may be the one to rip off his shirt while a WWF match is on TV. Other signs of a PMS-raging male? Extreme beer goggles.

During a period, many

women splurge on chocolate as a substitute for sex. Men usually have sex the most during their periods, as long as they manage not to piss off their partners with snide comments afterwards.

This issue has been swept

under the rug for too long. Fathers need to start taking their sons out "Welcome to

Manhood" supper when he first gets his taste of testosterone. Instead of just learning about wet dreams

and strange body hair during sex education, maybe the boys should receive tips to relieve cycle symptoms.

While the girls get step-bystep instructions for how to insert a tampon, the boys should get the psychological always right and you're not always going to get laid.

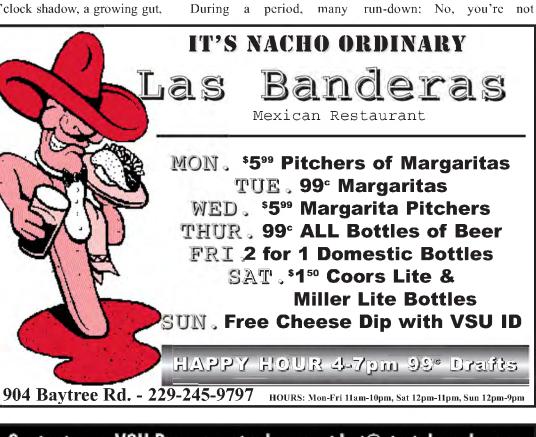
There is an advantage to the male period, guys. Use it to your advantage. When you and your roommate are arguing about how much weight Jared Fogul really lost at Subway, after you punch him in the nose, you can just tell him, "Sorry, Aunt Flo's in town, man." But I can't guarantee you won't get decked back.

Guys, get together with your buddies for a Kotex moment. Be sure to bring your Traci Lords collection and hit up the convenience store before midnight.

Discuss your not-so-fresh moments. You'll laugh, you'll cry, you might even challenge each other to a fistfight.

Isn't punch better than choco-









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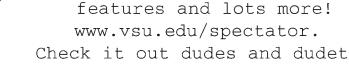
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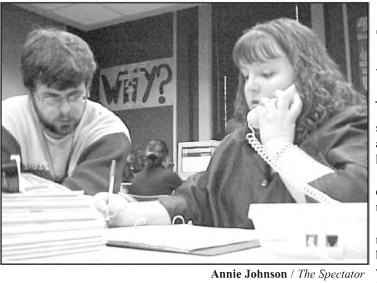
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Features



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Mandy Zeitlin, a junior deaf-education major, discusses appointments with Matt Varnell in the writing center where she is a tutor. "I chose deaf education because I have a special love for persons who are deaf," Zeitlin said of her major. "I will be making a difference in the lives of others.'

Students learn a new language

Amy Williamson Staff Writer

Whoever said it's better to be seen and not heard didn't know a thing about the deaf. They have a language all their own.

Now VSU students have the chance to both learn and teach that language.

The deaf education major now offered at VSU has only been offered since fall 2000 when VSU was awarded a State Improvement Grant, allowing the school to establish both deaf education and American sign language/interpreting pro-

According to Dr. Nanci Scheetz, professor of deaf education and American sign language/interpreting, it is estimated that seven to 10 students will graduate from VSU with this major annually.

Mandy Zeitlin, a junior deafeducation major, is one such student.

"I chose deaf education because I have a special love for persons who are deaf and hard-of-hearing and I feel that I will be making a difference in the lives of others," Zeitlin

Deaf education is also an

49 Discovers

56 Vert. bars

on goods

Crossword

50 Bellow

51 Border

area critically in need of teachers, according to Dr. Scheetz.

Zeitlin said the need for teachers in this area also affected her decision to major in the area. She plans to immediately begin graduate coursework upon receiving her bachelor's degree and pursue a job at the residential Georgia School for the Deaf in Cave Spring.

By the time she was 12, Zeitlin knew what her future would hold. After making friends with a deaf girl at a summer church camp, she said she was immediately inspired

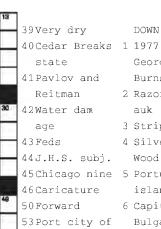
to work in a field where she would be able to help special persons in some way.

Learning sign language is a key aspect of the major's requirements. There are four levels of sign language courses at VSU. Other classes required for the major include a variety of education courses, special education courses and communication disorder courses.

For more information on the deaf education major, contact the College of Education at 333-5925.



Crossword Puzzle



53Port city of 54 Mai tail 55Ulysses

58 Think alike 10 Dishwasher 31 Slightly 59 Warsaw, for tile center 26 Part of TGIF one 60 Furnish, for

20 Food scrap 28 Calf location a time 61 Acts the amends bookworm "Vissi d'art&4 Retarding 62 Stage signal

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2 Razor>billed18 Experiences 34 Showers 19 Materialize 3 Striped gem 24 Yearned 4 Silver or 25 Stick 'em lqu!

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45Chicago nine 5 Portuguese 27 Ferry of Roxy Music islands 6 Capital of 28 Volcanic Bulgaria

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products 48 Pass out

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Orleans Answers pros on page 8. 46 Instant 47 Web>footed mammal

33 Overlook

35 Film

44 New

37 Mix up

43 Pretenses

affection

38 Buffalo coin Tenn.

REQUIRED COURSE 52 Pianist Hess 53 Jacob's twin 57 Neighbor of

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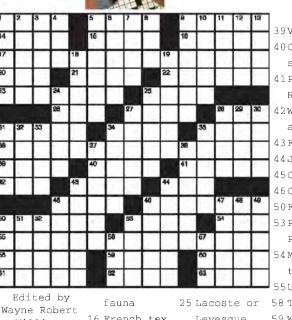
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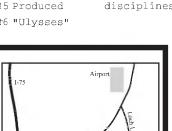
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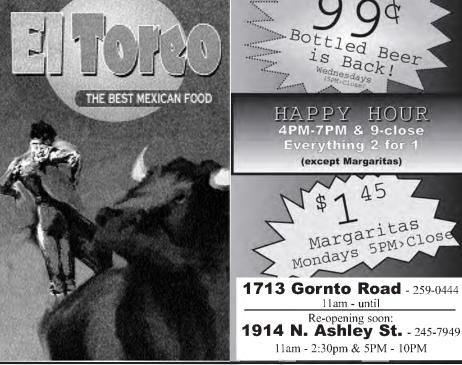
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Road Trip + Concert = lot Board of Regents turns seventy

Jason James Staff Writer

The Board of Regents has begun its 70th year of existence and many students do not know what it is and what it does.

The University System of Georgia's Board of Regents was created in 1931 during a reorganization of Georgia's state government. With the creation of such a board, Georgia's education system was finally unified under a single governing and management authority.

This new unification brought a single budget, designed to eliminate confusion and lobbying of different groups in the education system. The Board convened for its original meeting on Jan. 1-2 in 1932. The original 11 members met for 30 hours. They created a system intended to be consistent with goals, research and student

Today the Board has expanded to 16 members, 11 from each congressional district and 5 from the state-at-large. The Board elects a chancellor who serves as

the chief executive officer and the chief administrative officer of t h e

University System.

According to the Board of Regents web page, the Board oversees 34 institutions: four research universities, 2 regional universities, 13 state universities, 2 state colleges, and 13 two-year colleges. The Board now acts to over

see and set overall policies for all upper level institutions in the University System of

Wooden

Georgia. The group now acts to

approve items for each college such as budgets, masters programs and hiring of faculty, staff and the president of the university; the Board also

empowers emin e n tdomain. Even though t h e Board of Regents

such powers, it tries to leave as much authority to the university president as possible. In essence, the Board sets the overall tone for the System.

c n a c t s

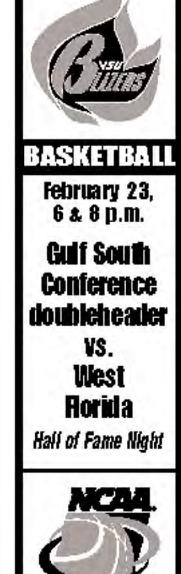
When asked about what students thought of the Board of Regents, many responses were returned. "I'm sure it's a pretty good

thing to know and I'm glad that you are writing an article to inform us about the Board," Kelly Innocenti, sophomore marketing major, said.

"Board of Regents? What is that?" Brandy Lloyd, fresh-

man, undecided, said. Cassandra Anne Carpenter, senior English major, feels the Board's decisions have a direct effect on the education and lives of students.

"I feel that the Board of Regents is a crucial element in the university system," Carpenter said. "They set the standards to get us in school and provide the framework to get us through."



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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

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The Spectator

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

No. 2 ranked Blazers open season Saturday vs. Auburn-Montgomery, 2 p.m. on courts.

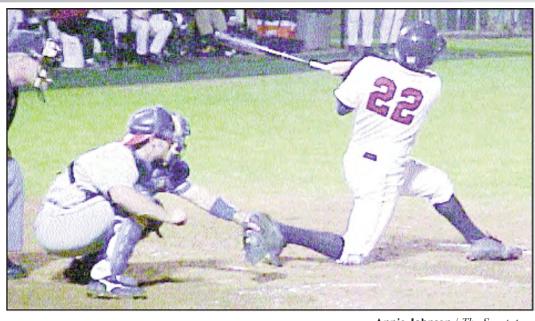
Thursday, February 21, 2002 - Page 9

Upcoming Games

Blazer golf @ Florida Gulf Coast Invitational Fort Myers, Fla. March 2-3



www.valdosta.edu/spectator



Annie Johnson / The Spectator

VSU junior third baseman Jay Berryman connects on a pitch in the Blazers 11-5 win over No. 8 Columbus St. Wednesday night at Billy Grant Field.

Blazers headed to Tupelo

VSU clinches GSC tourney berth; hosts UWF for top East division seed

> **Brandon Scott** Staff Writer

In the Jim Yarbrough era, losses at home come few and far between.

In avoiding a sophomore slump, VSU basketball head coach Jim Yarbrough owns a 21-5 home record and has the Blazers (19-6, 9-4 Gulf South Conference) on the eve of the



Marcus Williams

school's first GSC East championship.

"One of goals was to return the program to the upper half of the league," Yarbrough said. "So that every year we can compete for a conference championship."

The Blazers have already

secured its first berth in the conference tournament in five

However, the Blazers don't have time to celebrate. This Saturday at 8 p.m., VSU will host the West Florida Argonauts (15-10, 8-5 GSC) with a few preseason goals within reach. Among them are a 20-win season and the first seed in the conference tourna-

"It feels good to finally be in control of our own destiny," senior forward Nick Gast said.

Heading into Saturday's game the Blazers own a threegame winning streak, with the Montevallo Falcons becoming the latest victim. Down 10 with eight minutes to go, the Blazers staged a fierce comeback behind the heroics of senior guard Marcus Williams and junior guard John Prise. Up 71-70 with 35 seconds to go,

Home finalesee page 10

Blazers rain on CSU, 11-5

Neil Skerratt Staff Writer

If you showed up at 4:00 p.m. yesterday to see VSU beat the eighth ranked Columbus State Cougars you would have showed up about three hours too early. The rain at Billy Grant Field merely delayed the inevitable, an 11-5 victory for the No. 24 ranked Blazers.

"Tonight's game was the most complete game we've played to date," VSU head coach Tommy Thomas said. Thomas continued by saying that VSU committed no errors and that this would really

increase his team's confidence will be called with the leading because CSU is a nationally ranked team.

The game had no score until the top of the fourth inning when the Cougars (11-2) scored one run. In the bottom of the same inning the Blazers shook loose four runs. No runs were scored in the fifth, but VSU (9-4) managed to score again in the bottom of the sixth with five more runs increasing its lead to

The pressure was on in the seventh inning because of the "mercy rule," which is if either team is up by 10 runs by the end of the seventh then the game

team taking home the victory. No score took place in this inning continuing the game. By the middle of the eighth

inning, senior pitcher John Rose's low scoring game was ruined when CSU scored another four runs, making a pitching change necessary.

"The most important thing is to have a great offense backing you up," Rose said. Following CSU's half of the inning VSU scored another two runs making the final score 11-5.

Senior third baseman John Martin went 3-for-4 with two

Lady **Blazers** decimated by injury

T.A. Glanton Staff Writer

Heading into the season, a book entitled "Great Expectations" would have best described the Lady Blazers basketball team. Instead, as the season ends the most fitting title is, "Things Fall Apart."

Saturday, VSU (10-15, 4-11) has the chance to end a disappointing season on a winning note when they take on the Lady Argonauts (10-15, 6-9) of West Florida at 6 p.m. in the Complex. In the season's earlier meeting between the two

Lady Blazers see page 10

China Doll

Karaoke! Dance Fun!

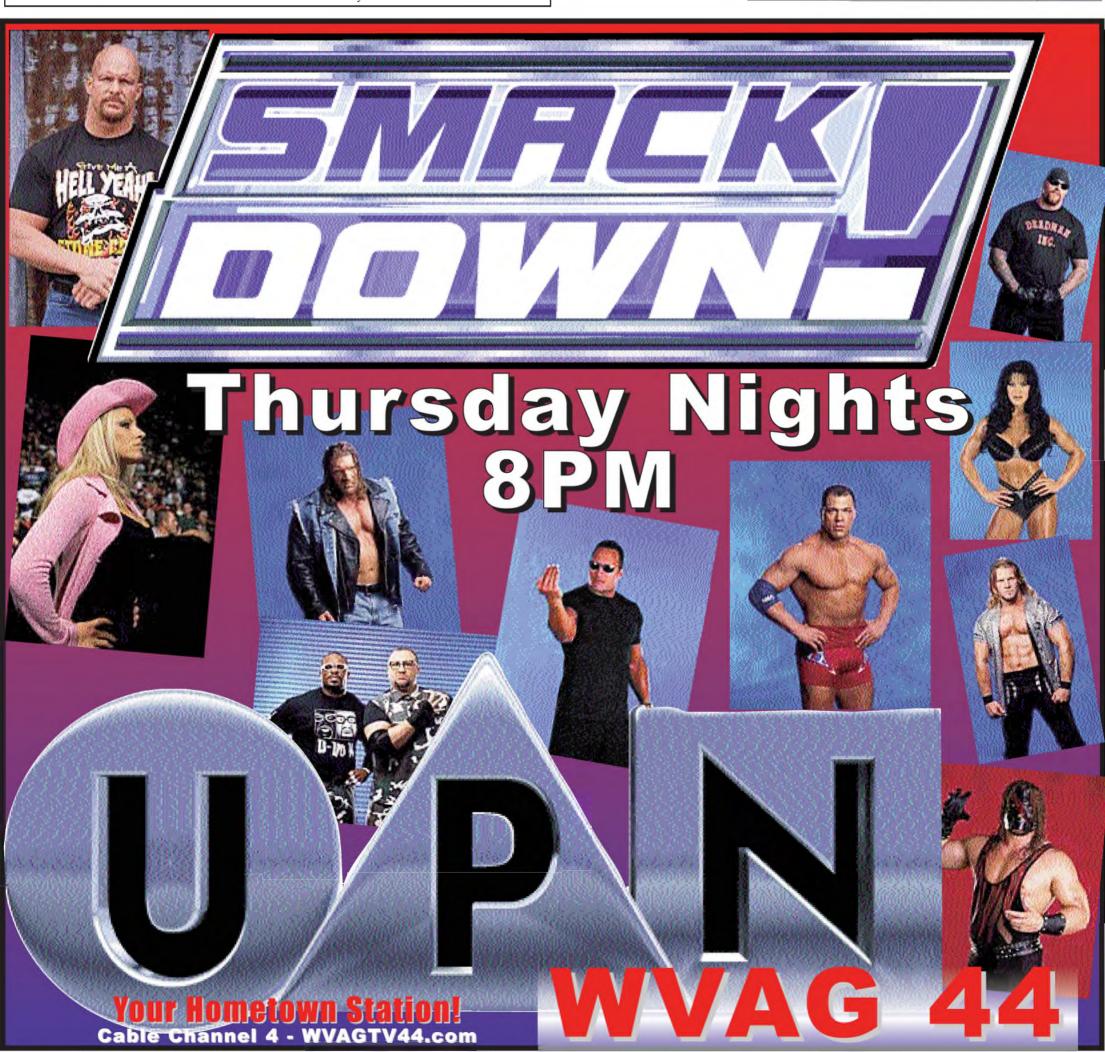
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Home finalecontinued from page 9

the Blazers held on for the road

"Defense is so important down the stretch now..." Yarbrough said. "Because everyone runs pretty good stuff

Williams scored a Blazer season-high 26 points, defeating the only team to win at the Complex this season. "It was a

and you'd better be able to stop

payback game," Williams said.

Lady Blazers—

continued from page 9

teams, UWF had four players

reach double-figures in points

on the way to defeating the

VSU head coach Kiley Hill

"A combination of three

things helped to derail our sea-

son," Hill said. "Our overall

lack of leadership, our lack of

experience and our inability to

keep healthy people on the

The Lady Blazers are com-

ing off a loss on Tuesday at

Montevallo 62-54. One bright

spot in the loss was freshman

center Courtney Parker's 16

points and 20 rebounds. UWF

enters the game coming off a

knows this was not the season

he or his team envisioned.

Lady Blazers 75-61.

"They ended our win streak [back in January] and it was a great win for us." Prise, who scored

the game's final six points, finished with

Barring a top seed-

ing in the national tournament, seniors Williams, Gast and center Matt Jones will be playing in their last game in front of the Complex Crazies.

"I think it's gonna be emonow we are all familiar with

the freshman duo of Parker (9.5

ppg) and Amber Daniels (9.2 ppg) who spearhead the Lady

Blazers offensive attack. VSU

is averaging 59.2 points per

game and shooting 43 percent

Lady Argonaut Defense:

UWF has a defensive trio com-

posed of two window cleaners

and a thief. Karly Geller (7.8

rpg) and Lyndsay Munro (3.8

rpg) wipe the glass clean, col-

lecting rebounds and Kelly

Barrett does her part averaging

2.1 steals per game. The Lady

Argonauts are surrendering 72

points per game on the season.

Lady Blazers Defense: Again,

Parker (9.8 rpg) leads the way

on defense while getting help

from teammate Jennifer Ehlers

(4.4 rpg). VSU holds opposing

from the field as a team.

I think [Gast] is gonna cry.

-Marcus Williams, VSU senior point guard, on playing in his final home game with teammate Nick Gast.

tional," Gast said.

Williams said, "I think [Gast] is gonna cry."

The seniors will be playing a West Florida team where the

them from getting the

the game: "They've got great perimeter shooting and we've got to be right there with them. We have to control the defensive boards, keep

starting five and the

sixth man all average

double digits in scor-

Yarbrough's Keys to

easy points. We negate that and play great defense, we have a great opportunity to win."



Vonetta Lawton / The Spectator

Senior guard Monique Kyles is attended to by trainers in Monday night's 62-54 home loss to Montevallo.

only 62.6 points per game. Lady Argonaut Offense: Just as

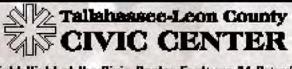
UWF had a trio leading the way on defense, the same formula applies to the offensive end of the floor.

ppg) and Brooke Crawford (11 ppg) lead the way on offense. These three account for 56 percent of the team's 67.2 points per game.

Go to www.valdosta.edu/spectator for more Blazer sports including news on VSU golf, football, softball and the Hall of Fame Induction.



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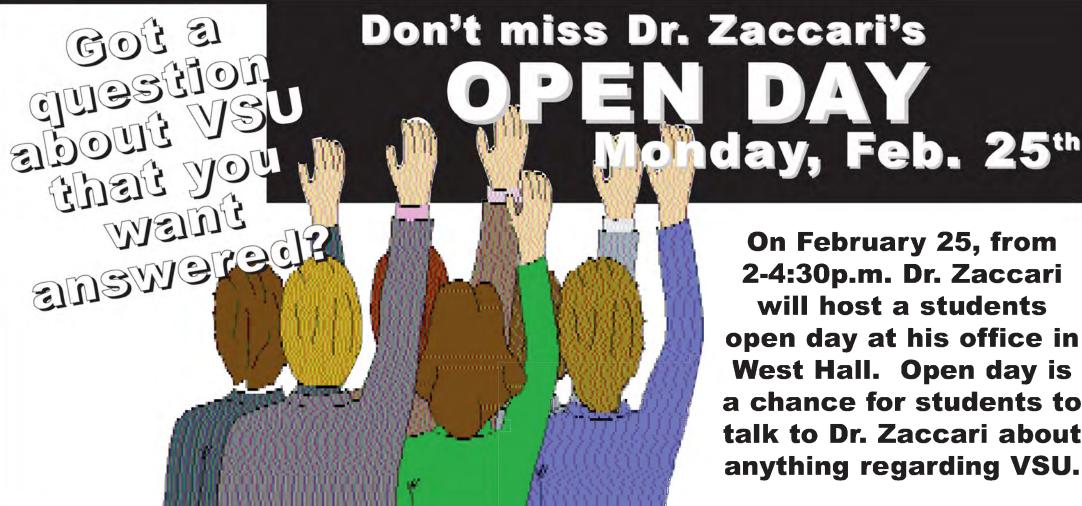


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Blazers & Spectator





On February 25, from 2-4:30p.m. Dr. Zaccari will host a students open day at his office in West Hall. Open day is a chance for students to talk to Dr. Zaccari about anything regarding VSU.