

The Spectator

www.valdosta.edu/spectator

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Valdosta, Georgia

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Photos by Annie Johnson / The Spectator

Crew members work on landscaping in front of the Rec Center building.

Center nearly finished

Brandon Scott
Staff Writer

The construction of VSU's new Recreation Center is almost complete. But don't start planning your rock-climbing schedule just yet.

"[Moving into the building] will take time after being approved," Bob Bell, director of Plant Operations, said. "And as for the occupancy of the building, there's no real good time table."

Neither Richard Hammond, director of the Recreation Center nor Russ Mast, acting vice president for Student

Affairs, were available for comment.

Bell said the interior work should be finished in 4-6 weeks. The building can then be approved by building managers.

Next, "occupancy" of the building will include moving in the weights, basketball rims, offices and the like. This process is also likely to be lengthy.

"It took us about seven months to move into the Chem building," Bell said. "It'll be, roughly, about that same amount of time."



A worker grouts a window ledge at the Rec Center.

Farber Health Center earns high marks

Kate Gaulding
Staff Writer

Students are not the only ones getting graded.

The Institutional Research statistics are in for 2000-2001. VSU Health Services have a 20 percent excellent rating and a 48 percent good rating. According to Dr. Michael Crowe, director of Institutional Research and Policy Analysis, the VSU rating system is based on a yearly survey taken of graduating seniors and one and five year alumni. The survey asks students to rate VSU services such as parking, career planning and job placement on a scale of excellent, good, fair and poor.

Donna Nolan, nursing supervisor, said that, while helpful and positive, the survey is inaccurate. According to Nolan, between physician assistant appointments and walk-in appointments approximately 80 people are helped daily in the Farber Health clinic.

"We see over 15,000 students in 10 months," Nolan said.

Only 646 students answered the Institutional Research survey.

Dr. Crowe maintains a web page with ratings and student comments. The average complaint about Health Services on this page is that the VSU Health Services do not prescribe medi-

cine for students who need it. One-third of students who complete the survey generally give Health Services a fair/poor rating, said Dr. Crowe.

Approximately 7 percent of the 646 students gave VSU health services a poor rating.

"I would like for that 7 percent to be zero, but there are some things we can't do here because of facility limitations," Nolan said.

The nurses and doctors at Farber cannot perform surgery. Physicians are not on call at night. Nurses must rush seriously ill patients to the nearest

I would like for that 7 percent to be zero, but there are some things we can't do here.

-Donna Nolan, nursing supervisor



Annie Johnson / The Spectator
Donna Nolan, nursing supervisor, takes a patient's blood pressure.

explain your medicine well enough?"

"We periodically review both the surveys and the suggestions," Nolan said.

Farber Health Center prescribes medicine to students who need it. Students who are too sick to return to their dorm room can stay overnight in the Health Center. According to Tim Murphy, Assistant Director of Auxiliary Services, these services cost each student \$73 per semester, and are paid through mandatory fees.

"On a positive note, we are open 24-7," Nolan said. "We are always looking for ways to be involved on campus and to expand some of our wellness programs."

Typical student female

Tameika Carson
Staff Writer

Although, the student body is considered very diverse, there is a profile of a typical VSU student.

According to the Office of Institutional Research and Policy Analysis, the common student is a full-time Caucasian female from Georgia enrolled as a freshman in the College of Arts and Science. This average student is studious with a 2.85 GPA and a 1057 SAT score (539 verbal; 518 math).

The student profile is obtained annually through enrollment by admission applications. Each profile represents the previous year's enrollment. Therefore, this profile was obtained in the fall

2000 and was recorded in the 2001 VSU Factbook.

Even though the statistics stand for the year 2000. Some students feel the diversity of the student body has not changed.

"I agree with the student profile because the average student to me is a middle class Caucasian female that is a freshman," Dana Wilborn, a junior history major, said.

Many students disagree with the profile and are upset that it represents the student body as a whole.

"There really isn't a typical student because everyone is so different," said Chadwick Braston, a freshman undeclared, major.

The purpose of a student profile is to provide information for individuals making the decision to attend VSU. Those interested are able to look up the student information in the 2001 Factbook or the Institutional Research Website (a link from the VSU homepage).

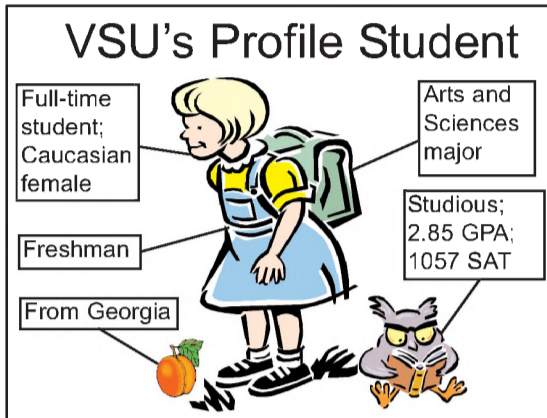
The student profile also aids in carrying out the overall mission of VSU by presenting research and analytical support. With this information, VSU decision makers are aware of higher education issues. The information obtained allows prospective students to make choices that affect the student body and confirm them with research and analytical support such as annual reports, facilities information, and responses to surveys.

Students define the average student by who they see most on campus.

"The average student to me is what I see on a daily basis, and it does not fit the same description," Braston said.

Wilborn said, "I choose my description of the average student because it is who I see everywhere I go."

For further student information, contact the Office of Institutional Research and Policy Analysis at 333-7831.



VSU called to serve

Blenda Link
Staff Writer

Over 20 different organizations passed out literature about their services at a community service fair hosted by VSU's Anthropology Club, Latin American Student Association and College Independents Wednesday.

Community organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, the Salvation Army,

Alzheimer's Caregiver Time-Out, Lowndes Associated Ministries to People and Literacy Volunteers of America-Valdosta set up information tables.

Campus-related organizations such as the Living Wage Campaign also set up tables.

Many of the participants said their organizations were invited one or two weeks ago by Kristen Webb, senior anthropology major and president of the

Anthropology Club, to come and provide information about their organizations.

Participants said the fair was helpful in getting interested students to sign up to volunteer.

Gwendolyn Scott, Habitat for Humanity representative, said the fair was beneficial.

"Quite a few people have come by and signed up," she said.

Service
see page 4

VSU retention high

Jaime Peck
Staff Writer

You can lead students to a university, but can you get them to stay?

VSU has an institutional retention rate of 71 percent, one of the highest rates in Georgia, for the 1999-2000 academic year. The retention rate is measured by the percentage of first time, full time freshmen in fall semester who persist in enrollment to the following fall, according to Dr. Louis Levy, vice president for Academic Affairs.

The 2000-2001 retention rate is not available until April or May, when it is officially released by the Board of Regents, according to Dr. Levy.

The 1999-2000 rate is the second-highest retention rate for VSU in 10 years, second only to the 1995 high of 78 percent.

Dr. Ronald Zaccari, VSU president, plans to keep the retention rate high through his strategic planning program. He said the president of a university must be responsible for leading the planning process, and

then all the other elements will fall into place.

"I plan to implement more student-centered environments, create new living environments, such as an Honors dormitory, 'villages' with kitchens and living rooms, and on-campus suites, hire the best faculty we can and continue to monitor academics to retain this retention rate," Dr. Zaccari said.

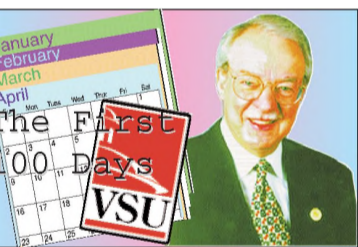
Dr. Levy attributes the high

What keeps students at a university is its social activities -- its Greek Life, recreation center, playing fields, etc

-Dr. Zaccari, VSU president

retention rate mainly to the raised academic standards for incoming freshmen. He also said the Freshman Year Experience program diagnoses problems early, and good advising for freshmen can also take some of the credit for VSU's high retention rate.

"When admission standards are raised, you have better students coming in and better students who stay," Dr. Zaccari



said. "It's an automatic relationship."

Dr. Levy said the average combined SAT score for VSU incoming freshmen is 1020, which is about the national

average. He said he didn't know ACT score averages for VSU because most incoming students do not take that for admission.

Dr. Zaccari attributes the high rate to VSU's advanced computer technology and challenging degree program.

"What keeps students at a university is its social activities -- its Greek Life, recreation center, playing fields, etc.," Dr. Zaccari said. "For \$30 [the Student Activities fee], students get to participate in most of the social activities on campus, and that's a much lower price than some of the other universities I looked at before coming here."

Inside Today

Campus Happenings..... 2	Darkside..... 7
Police Beat..... 2	Sports..... 11
News..... 3	Features..... 8
Weather..... 3	Classifieds..... 9
Opinion..... 5	In the News..... 4

Next issue

**Spring
Break
Tab**

Web This week: Watch

september11.archive.org

Monday was six months since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11.

Since the attacks, volunteer organizations have been collecting money for victims of the attack, newspapers have been

writing about the attacks and the War on Terrorism, and people have been creating web pages in memorium of the attack and victims.

The wounds are fresh and so is the information.

The Library of Congress has set up an archive site with links to many of the sites dedicated to the attack.

To get more information or just browse and remember, log onto september11.archive.org.

Campus Happenings

www.valdosta.edu/spectator

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 19**
Someone damaged a student's vehicle while it was parked in the Oak Street lot between 6 p.m. Feb. 19 and noon March 5.

March 5
Someone entered a student's vehicle while it was parked in the Oak Street lot between 11 p.m. March 5 and 4 p.m. March 7 and removed radio equipment worth \$5,550.

March 7
Seven VSU students were arrested at 3:55 a.m. at Patterson Street and Brookwood Drive for underage possession of alcohol. All were taken to Lowndes County Jail.

The offenders are Mickey V. Giordano, 19, of VSU Box 9019; Jeffrey B. Buckman, 19, of VSU Box 8061; Christopher J. Patat, 19, of VSU Box 8277; Matthew B. Palm, 19, of 26160 Miles Road, Easton, Md.; Matthew G. Milner, 19, of 2388 Smith St.; Thomas F. Gooch, 18, of VSU Box 9056; and Zachary R. Goodman, 20, of P.O. Box 1666, Tifton, Ga.

Someone entered a student's vehicle while it was parked in Hopper Circle between 1:45 and 2 p.m. and took her cell phone. A Crime Victim's Bill of Rights was issued.

March 12
Jermaine Charod Gosier, 19, of 809 Penny Place, was arrested at 1:42 a.m. at the 100 block of Brookwood Drive for no headlights, no tag and misdemeanor obstruction. He was taken to Lowndes County Jail. He received a fourth charge for no license and a fifth charge for no insurance.

***This incident was not reported until March 9.**

Write... or lose your right to Write.

Today

The Campus Activities Board is looking for new people to fill several paid positions while planning fun activities for VSU students.

Applications are available in the Student Activities Office on the second floor of the University Union. Applications are due March 22 by 3 p.m.

The Alpha Iota chapter of Alpha Epsilon Lambda, the national graduate honor society, is accepting nominations for outstanding graduate students. For a membership application, visit: <http://chiron.valdosta.edu/dtwasieleski/AELApplication.html>.

For more information, call Dr. David Wasieleski, associate professor, in the department of psychology and counseling at 333-5620 or e-mail him at dwasiele@valdosta.edu.

VSU's women's studies program and the Southeastern Women's Studies Association will host the seventh annual Women's Studies Interdisciplinary Conference today through Saturday at the University Center.

Visit the women's studies web site for the list of times, places, speakers and events: www.valdosta.edu/women/sewsa2002/pages/fullprogram.htm.

This event is free and open to the public.

The Valdosta Symphony Guild has turned the house of VSU's former president, Dr. Bailey, into a temporary decorator showhouse which will be open until March 30.

Admission is \$10 for students with valid VSU I.D.s and \$15 for anyone who is not a VSU student. This event is a fundraiser.

To see pictures and more information, visit www.valdostadecoratorshowhouse.com or call 245-3801.

The annual National Juried Art Exhibition will be open until April 5 in the art gallery at the Fine Arts Building. This year's exhibition includes 38 selected works of almost 150 entries submitted from all across the U.S.

Gallery hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday.

For more information, call the art department at 333-5835.

Natural High will host a free night in the Game Room at the University Center from 9 to 11 p.m. Free pizza and drinks will be available.

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

Tuesday

VSU's annual Easter Egg Hunt will be on the lawn in front of West Hall at 4:30 p.m. Children of all VSU students, faculty and staff are invited to attend.

Thursday

There will be a "Safe Spring Break Fair" in Palms Quad at 2 p.m. Free food, drinks, music, prizes and safety information will be available.

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

March 18

The VSU Bookstore's pre-spring break sidewalk sale begins today and ends March 22. There will be additional savings of 10 to 30 percent off of reduced merchandise.

March 19

Political science student Patricia Rusoff will present a brown bag presentation, "Democracy in the Former Soviet Union," from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. in West Hall 150.

Everyone is welcomed to bring a sack lunch and attend.

For more information, call Dr. James LaPlant, associate professor of political science, at 333-5771 or e-mail him at jlaplant@valdosta.edu.

March 21

Alpha Epsilon Delta, the pre-health professions honor society, will meet at 7 p.m. in the Bio/Chem Building 1023.

Guest speaker Dr. Lopez, a local neurologist, who has also practiced in Mexico, will give a lecture.

For more information, e-mail William Parker, president, at wtparker@valdosta.edu.

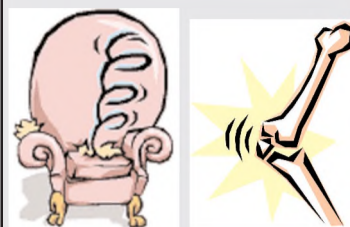
April 1

The Honor Student Association will meet at 6 p.m. in West Hall 254.

For more information, e-mail Michael Black at mmblack@valdosta.edu.

See the rest of the Campus Happenings listings and the Found Property list on the Spectator web site.

E-mail this picture puzzle's answer to bjlink@valdosta.edu



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Spring Break Announcements

- Shuttle bus services end March 22 for Spring Break and resume April 1

- Odum Library will be closed March 23 and 24 because of a power outage caused by the construction project. Regular Spring Break hours resume on March 25

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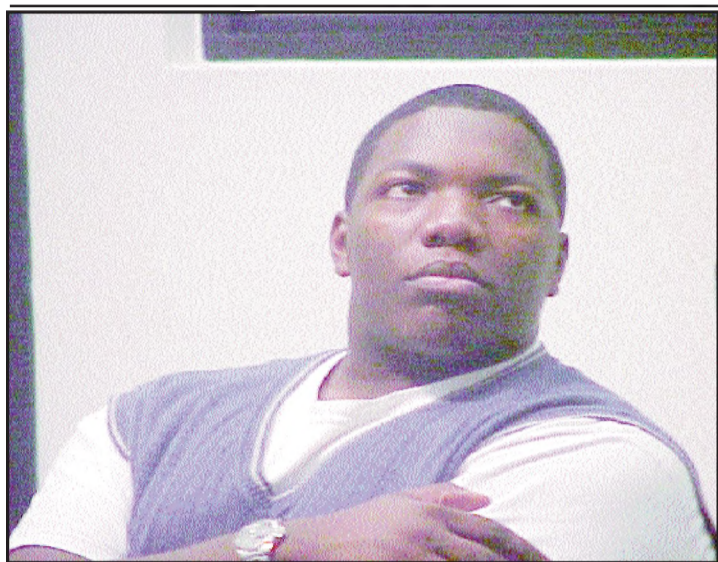
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News

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Today	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
 UV Index: 7 High Hi: 74 Low: 47	 UV Index: 8 High Hi: 80 Low: 52	 UV Index: 7 High Hi: 78 Low: 59	 UV Index: 7 High Hi: 78 Low: 61



Vonetta Lawton / The Spectator

Bobby Ficklin, senior political science major and SGA president pro-tempore, listens to discussions about spending money on SACS and other expenditures.

SGA creates budget for SACS

MaryEllen McConnell
Staff Writer

Partners in Education Program. The current total for this is \$328.50.

SGA appoints a senator to read to CPIE students every week. The senator goes to the classroom and reads books to

Cody Guined, SGA vice president, began Tuesday evenings meeting by reappointing people to committees. The recent turnover in senators had left some of the committees short. The senate is filling back up and there are four seats left.

SGA is still accepting senators. The senate accepted Ashley Spencer, Junior, unanimously Tuesday night.

"I really want to be involved during such an important time," said Spencer in a statement to the senate. At this time Guined took a nomination for Nick Chambles. Chambles will speak at next week's meeting.

After Spencer's acceptance allocations were brought up. SGA will buy two signs for the SAC as well as 150 mugs and 150 canvas bags for the attending senators. SGA will spend a total of \$3,750 on these expenses for SAC.

Other allocations brought up on Tuesday included a microwave for general use in the University Center. SGA will also pay \$10 admissions for senators to participate in dance marathon. SGA plans to take 20 kids from its Cooperative

children. SGA will take these 20 elementary students to a baseball game.

"We can spend some time with the kids and give them an opportunity they don't normally have," said Nick Overstreet, SGA President, when asked

why CPIE students were being taken to the baseball game.

Overstreet brought up an idea for a fundraiser at the meeting. The money will go toward Dance Marathon. Overstreet hopes to have SGA hold a fundraiser called Watch Till You Drop.

The fundraiser would consist of student paying \$1 to enter and watching TV all day with one bathroom break. The student must stand the entire time. Prizes for the students still standing will include such things as stereos, telephones, DVD players, and TVs.

"The only stipulation is that you must be a VSU student," said Guined. The tentative date for Watch Till You Drop is April 20.

Students begin early registration

Casey Carpenter
Staff Writer

This week ends the first week of early registration. Early registration allows students to sign up for summer and fall semesters.

Before registering, students must be advised. If not, students have a hold on their record and are unable to sign up for classes.

Early registration for summer will end at midnight on April 12 and early registration for fall will close at midnight

on April 26.

If classes close too quickly, students are forced to sign waiting lists for classes they need. Waiting lists do not guarantee a spot in the class.

"The hardest classes are the lower level ones because everyone wants to get into them," Niki Youngblood, senior English major, said.

Some students think early registration gives them a chance to get the classes they would rather have.

"I'm a little concerned about

the lack of a selection of nighttime classes, because it would fit my fit my schedule better," Christine Wetherington, freshman business major, said.

Students can either register on the Banner system or by telephone. According to Jerry Wright, registrar, more students prefer Banner over the telephone system.

"The user percentage using the phone vs. the web system has held pretty steady at about 35 percent phone to 65 percent web use ratio each recent

term," Wright said.

Students can log on to Banner on www.valdosta.edu or call 245-2200 to register by phone.

Students who do not register early can sign up for classes Aug. 16-19. Late registration is Aug. 21-23.

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

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News

Who's Who honors 97 from VSU

Angie Hiers
Staff Writer

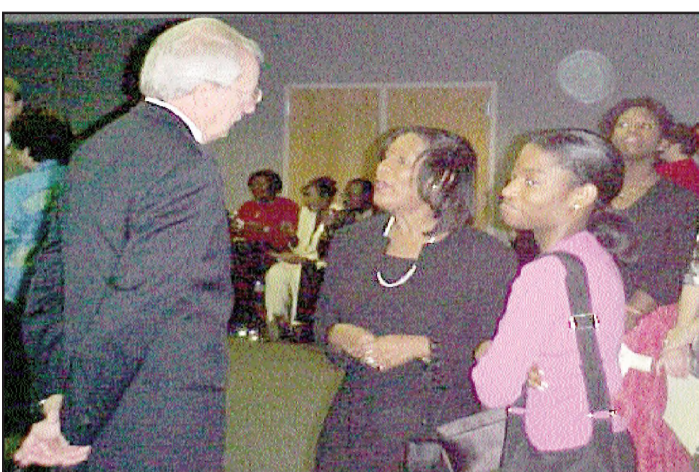
the ceremony, including students and their families. A reception followed.

Who's Who is a national program that recognizes juniors, seniors and graduate students who are well rounded in academics and involved in the campus and community.

"We look for students who excel not only in the classroom but in all areas including campus activities," Mast said.

Student Affairs reviews nominations and then make selections. The number of winners is based on enrollment. VSU was allowed 98 spots this year and 97 students were selected.

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



Photos by Annie Johnson / The Spectator

Above: Students talk to Dr. Ronald M. Zaccari, VSU president, after the ceremony.



Left: Dr. Zaccari congratulates David Brown, junior business management major

This year's recipients of Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities were recognized at a ceremony Sunday in the UC Magnolia room at 3 p.m.

According to Russ Mast, acting vice president for Student Affairs, 106 students were nominated from VSU and 97 were selected.

"This is the largest class of recipients we've had in a long time," Mast said.

The awards ceremony began with a few words from Dr. Ronald M. Zaccari, VSU president, who presented each student with a certificate. Recipients had the opportunity to be photographed with the president, Mast said.

About 170 people attended

www.valdosta.edu/spectator



Student Government Association

Attention Students:

It's that time again: SGA Elections. Positions available are:

- President
- Vice President
- Comptroller
- Secretary

Packets will be available April 2nd in the SGA office in the Student Union.

All Applications are due in the Student Activities Office upstairs in the Student Union, April 8th by 3 pm.

Important dates:

Campaigning
(begins 12 AM on 4-9-02)

Elections
(begins 12 AM on 4-16-02)

Run-off Elections
(if needed will begin 12 AM on 4-23-02)

For more information come by the Student Activities Office or call 333-5674.



In the



Rockdale County teenagers receive long sentence

Two Rockdale County teenagers received 20-year sentences Tuesday. Nine years of the sentence will be spent behind bars for committing the worst case of vandalism in Rockdale County history. Bryan Lee Gratham, 16, and Rex Terry Newman, 17, were charged as adults for burglary and interference with government property after causing more than \$250,000 worth of damage to J.H. House Elementary School.

Allied forces claim control of Shah-e-Kot

Coalition forces gained control of the Shah-e-Kot valley Wednesday. The troops then continued through the eastern Afghanistan valley, sweeping up al but a few small groups of the al-Qaida and Taliban holdouts as they worked their way through the mountain caves. The announcement by U.S. forces came after U.S. B-1 bombers pounded the remaining al-Qaida and Taliban positions.

Homeless man only lived hours after being struck by car

Gregory Glenn Biggs, a homeless man of Fort Worth, Texas, was struck by a car Oct. 26 and left to die while lodged in the car's windshield. Chante Mallard, the 25-year old nurse's aide, struck Biggs and apologized but never got help. Previous reports said Biggs lived two to three days before dying and being dumped in a park, but new developments say the loss of blood from the near amputation of his leg would have allowed him to live only hours after the accident.

New remains discovered at Ground Zero

Tuesday, workers at Ground Zero recovered the remains of 11 firefighters and two civilians from the rubble of the World Trade Center. The bodies were found at the south roadway below what was the South Tower of the World Trade Center, the second building struck and the first to collapse. Deputy Fire Commissioner, Francis Gibbons, said the southeast corner is the last remaining area where significant numbers of people were.

Service continued from page 1

Auxiliary captain corp officer Wanda Trayler passed out several pieces of literature detailing the Salvation Army's services.

"It's been great," she said. "A lot of students and even people from the other tables have been coming by."

Participants such as Brandy Millirons, senior sociology major who represented LAMP, said the fair was a good way to reach students on campus.

"We just want to let the community know about the different services LAMP offers," Millirons said.

Blenda Link is a Spectator reporter and can be reached at bjlink@valdosta.edu

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The Spectator

Leah F. Cassorla
Editor-in-Chief

Abby Griffin
Business Manager

Wes Sewell
Advertising Manager

Casey Coleman
Circulation Manager

Mail call for VSU

Take a look at this week's mailbag and you will find one of the essential ingredients of the Spectator—you.

Letters to the editor are a way for members of the VSU community to participate in the public forum. They are a way for us to hash out issues and come to an understanding—of each other.

Newspapers have a long tradition of being the forum for sharing opinion and hashing out ideas. It is part of a newspaper's job to provide its community with that space, because that space is not, in any way, dependent on who the speaker is.

You don't have to have a permit, you don't have to have money, you don't have to know anyone in power.

There are rules. The 300-word limit is designed to allow as many people to use the space as possible. The Spectator will not print personal attacks because personal attacks are not issues—they are rants. The Spectator edits for style, grammar, libel and space. All letters must include contact information. This allows us to make sure John Doe wrote the letter with his name on it, and not someone trying to set John Doe up. Finally, without an extenuating circumstance, the Spectator will not print a letter anonymously. This keeps all comments aboveboard.

The concept of having a place to hash out ideas is called the "marketplace of ideas." It is a place for you to come sell your wares, but also a place for you to shop around. Listen to others and learn from them. Even if you don't agree with an opinion, it is likely to open up your eyes and allow you to more clearly see the issues at hand.

This marketplace requires only that you get the letter to us in time for us to publish it. E-mail your letter to the Spectator at spec@valdosta.edu. Letters brought to the office on the second floor of the University Union should be typed and include a copy on floppy disk.

There you have it. A space to say what you will. Agree with others, disagree with them, learn what others have to say about the issues that concern you.

Just do it.

Spectator opinion written by Leah F. Cassorla

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Michelle Taylor

No witch to burn in Texas

Some people should keep their mouths shut.

Especially Andrea Yates' lawyer, whose client drowned her five children, placed them in the bed she and her husband shared and calmly called 911 to confess.

When asked his thoughts on the Yates' verdict, two counts of murder, defense lawyer George Parnham said, "I'm not critiquing or criticizing the verdict, but it seems to me that we are still back in the days of the Salem witch trials."

Excuse me?

I was taught the Salem witch trials were based on thoughts that some midwives in Salem were witches, and expanded to an all out hunt, resulting in the deaths of many women. All of whom were innocent.

The trials had nothing to do with women getting the verdicts they deserved. Which is what Yates got. And Yates was definitely not innocent.

This goes back to the Yates' defense believing that Yates should be not guilty based on insanity. The woman murdered her five children, one by one, without a thought. Of course she's insane. No one who kills her own children is sane. Susan Smith, the woman who strapped her kids into her car and drove them into a lake didn't get "not guilty by reason of insanity." She is in jail, where she belongs, and that's where Yates will stay—unless she is given a death sentence.

And to place Yates in the same category as the innocent woman burned at the stake is asinine.

If Parnham is referring to the fact that crazed mobs condemned the so-called witches to death, again, he is sorely mistaken. This again has no connection to Yates' verdict. It was only 12 jurors who, after careful selection by both the prosecutors and defense, came to the verdict that Yates was found guilty of two counts of murder. Most of the jurors had children themselves. This wasn't a trial to "burn a witch." This was a trial to decide if a woman, who confessed her guilt, deserved a lesser sentence. This wasn't a trial to make an example out of her. Smith would be the first to be used as an example.

Parnham should think about what he says from now on. That stupid comment alone could cost him some clients.

And that would his worst nightmare.

Michelle Taylor is a Spectator columnist and can be contacted at pferde14@hotmail.com

A price too high to pay

Sex is not always for sale. Tuesday I was angered by a breaking story I saw on CNN: "Victim awards to be set in Boston pedophile priest case."

According to the news brief, 70 victims and 16 of their parents have sued John J. Geoghan, a defrocked Roman Catholic priest from Boston convicted for molesting children during a 30-year period. Cardinal Bernard Law in Boston, has now admitted he knew about allegations since 1984 but did not speak of them until recently. At the time I wrote this column, CNN reported that a settlement of between \$15 and \$30 million is being discussed.

This case serves as another reminder that we live in a society whose justice system allows convicted sex offenders to get away with a little jail time and paying restitution fines for damages suffered by victims.

Monetary restitution will never soothe the lifetime of



Blenda Link

trauma victims of sexual crimes suffer because some demented person thought forced sexual encounters are acceptable. For all its capitalistic free market enterprising, America needs to avoid the current advertising message sent to sex offenders.

America needs to reject the "It's ok. Fondle, abuse and rape victims now at your leisure, but be prepared to pay them money for it later," message. Case in point: about 30 years went by before Geoghan was to pay fines for damages to victims. Repeatedly, sex offenders have only been punished by a little

jail time and a few thousand dollars' restitution. Sex appeal may sell in today's age, but some people have erroneously interpreted that cliché to mean a victim's sexual dignity is also for sale. A victim's dignity is never for sale.

Allowing offenders to make up for their wrongdoings by paying a settlement is not enough.

Many people will argue the politically correct side of my argument, rambling off amendments—the Eighth and the Fourteenth come to mind.

Let me offer a politically incorrect solution that would make sure the first time would be the last time a sex offender committed his or her crime: "Nip it in the bud." Take it as you want, but I mean it both literally and figuratively. Maybe physical punishment would be a better deterrent from sexual crimes—because jail time and fines have proven to be ineffective.

Mailbox

Kudos to Dr. Zaccari for actions

Dear Editor:

Since Dr. Ronald Zaccari became the president of VSU in January, he has excited many folks with talk of "change" and "transformation." When the president met with representatives of the Living Wage Campaign Steering Committee on Feb. 16 he was largely open to the concerns we raised and made an expressed commitment to continue to research the problems of low wages and poor working conditions on campus.

The meeting was a historic

event for the VSU student and staff movement. The former administration's policy towards our organization was to obstruct all of our efforts and refuse even to meet with our representatives. President Zaccari seems to be taking a new approach to solving staff and management conflicts.

At his first address to VSU on Feb. 28, the president continued to refer in general terms to his vision of "strategic planning," "transformation" and "change."

VSU workers and concerned students know just how deeply our campus needs change and we are very clear on what kind of change needs to take place.

As staff and student assistants, we continue to receive poverty wages for our hard work. Health insurance for the full-timers is still way too

expensive. Management is still over-stepping its boundaries.

The president's call for change is exciting for many of us. Indeed, change must be "systematic," "deep" and "intentional" for VSU to survive. The demands of VSU workers cannot be over-looked or forgotten. Any real transformation will not be complete without a commitment from the university to the idea of a living wage and the guarantee of a job with dignity and security to all VSU employees. We can change this university together! Justice for VSU workers!

Ben Speight

More mailbox on page 6.



Got something to say?

Open mic on this page every week at the Spectator.

How do you express your opinions on campus?



"The only time I express my opinion is during in-class discussions."

Lindsay Lanier
Public Relations
Sophomore



"I express my opinion by talking about stuff with my friends."

Candace Persons
CIS
Freshman



"If I have a problem with something I talk about it to anybody who will listen, not caring what anybody will think."

Kelsey Sellers
Computer Science
Freshman



"The only real opinions I've expressed are my opinions about Christ because I feel that's the most important question there is."

Donny Erven
Art
Freshman



"Through my FYE teacher, Mrs. Tillman."

Quentin Mobley
Undecided
Freshman



"I don't really participate in any groups but I'll write things for the suggestion boxes."

Erika Michel
Secondary Education
Freshman

Mailbox Continued

My God has the goods

Dear Editor:

In ordering religion these days, I've found that there is a smorgasbord of choices on the menu. Some order salvation and say, "Hold the cross of Christ and add self-effort and good works." Other customers

specify a **S U P E R S I Z E D** God — not one but many. And concerning the issue of sin, there

are those who reply, "No thanks. I have enough. It doesn't exist anyway." This sounds good doesn't it? The more choices the better, right? If you look closely though, these views send a message loud and clear — Truth is not absolute, it is not enduring, and it is subject to change. Does it scare you that there may be no solid foundation to stand on?

Many think it is cruel to proclaim that there is only one God and one truth in light of the fact that there are so many other beliefs. But if there is only one true faith, wouldn't it be unfair for those who have experienced it to keep silent?

I only have one response to those who believe that the menu of religion is full — What does your God or god do that my God (the God of the Bible) can't do? My God created the world in 6 days, split the Red Sea, rained down bread and quail from heaven to provide for His people, sent His Son to suffer the consequences for our

sins, rescued me from a fiery hell, granted me the right to live in perfection and bliss for all eternity, raised the dead, healed the sick, cares about people, encourages and believes in people, gives life, transforms lives, is kind and compassionate and merciful, forgives all my sins, loves us more than anyone ever could, cares for us like a father and mother would their child, has a relationship with His children, blesses me, gives me the desires of my heart, provides for all my needs, satisfies my

What does your God do that my God can't do?

-Vanessa Fultz

sends His angels to protect and watch over me, loves me enough to show me when I'm wrong and set me straight, and guides me on how to live with instruction from His Word. May I take *your* order?

Vanessa Fultz

A cadet sends his thanks

Dear Editor:

Kudos to Jason Howell for his article which puts a positive spin on the military. As a cadet and future military member the often negative portrayal of the military in mass media saddens me, but Jason's article was a breath of fresh air.

Joel Van Horn

Responses to a guest columnist Racism is bad for business

who had never done anything to offend him other than be born black and ask for a decent salary for a hard day's work.

Leigh Touchton, President Lowndes-Valdosta NAACP

Dear Editor:

In three years at VSU I have never read anything so blatantly racist as Trey Purcell's guest column of March 7.

America is now in an era of litigation, and corporations which hire racists and adopt racist practices are finding that federal courts are willing to slap them with multi-million dollar judgments lawsuits. The New Knights on Bemiss Road was found guilty of unbelievable racial discrimination in violation of federal laws, and it is shameful that VSU black sororities and fraternities continue to patronize that establishment.

The NAACP collects evidence of racially discriminatory practices within corporations and public institutions. Should Trey Purcell ever become an employee of a corporation scrutinized by civil rights watchdog groups, he would be a major liability. Most corporations don't hire people who publicly adopt quasi-KKK or neo-Nazi ideologies because they are a public relations embarrassment and a liability in the event of EEOC investigations or civil rights lawsuits.

How sad that Mr. Purcell let his racist ideology become part of the public record. Not only has he damaged his own career prospects, he has insulted students and laborers here at VSU

Clarifying a couple of points

Dear Editor:

While I was reading Trey Purcell's article on racism I overheard a black girl commenting on how his article was "ignorant," "uneducated," and "unresearched." I would like to respond to these comments with a logical response.

The fact that blacks commonly use the word "nigger," which is considered a vile, racist term for whites to even utter is a double standard. Why? Because the connotations of the word are determined by the skin color of who uses the word. It takes a racist perspective to define the word by skin color.

The idea of an apology and reparations for slavery is based on unsound reasoning. The false premise here is that a race is collectively responsible for every action a member of that race has done. This is flawed because one cannot justify punishing one person for another's actions. If one person owns a slave and another does not, then the one who does not own a slave takes no legal or moral responsibility for the

one who does.

And finally, I would like to point out that the term "racist" has been turned into a tool to apply social stigma to those who disagree with the liberal left's ideology. If you disagree with liberals, you might find yourself being labeled a racist. One premise behind this practice is because of "the history of slavery African-Americans have endured," they have developed a sense of morality that is superior to anyone else's. Therefore, many people believe it is nobody's place to question their moral judgments.

Sound policy and morality is based on sound logic, philosophy, theology, and critical thinking, regardless of skin color or race.

Eric Haddix

Black Liberation begins

Dear Editor:

It never ceases to amaze me what new levels of unprecedented ignorance individuals in this "democratic" society can lower themselves to. First things first, I have to extend my sincere thanks to Mr. Purcell for stating his true opinion. Regardless of how moronic it is, having the guts to state such an erratic argument without any real research deserves applause. (Score one for the slow team!)

Now let's get down to the

dirt. You want truth? Ever since the United States was created, it has been a country founded on the wants and desires of WHITE people and the exploitation of people of color. Europe and the U.S. would be NOTHING if it weren't for the subjugation, exploitation and rape of my people (THE FIRST PEOPLE: AFRICANS). We built this country, as your ancestors stood idly by and took credit.

Racism is still one of the biggest political platforms in this country. How does it work? Allow me to explain. Racism is defined as prejudice + power. It is when you are prejudiced and have the power to enforce those prejudices. The new racism is institutionalized. It's when the "white people" control the money for the education system-seeing to it that our schools fall apart while their schools stay in impeccable order. It's when black men are killed continuously by the white police officers, and no matter how much we protest, those officers stay in their positions. Who created the ghettos? Who wrote the history books that lie continuously? You know the answer.

Yes, the black community has its own problems. It comes from 500 some odd years of being killed and kicked to the side mentally, physically and spiritually.

However, our issues are not your own to articulate. You want the complaining to stop? Cool. No problem. Then from this moment on, the Black Liberation will begin.

Jermaine Robinson



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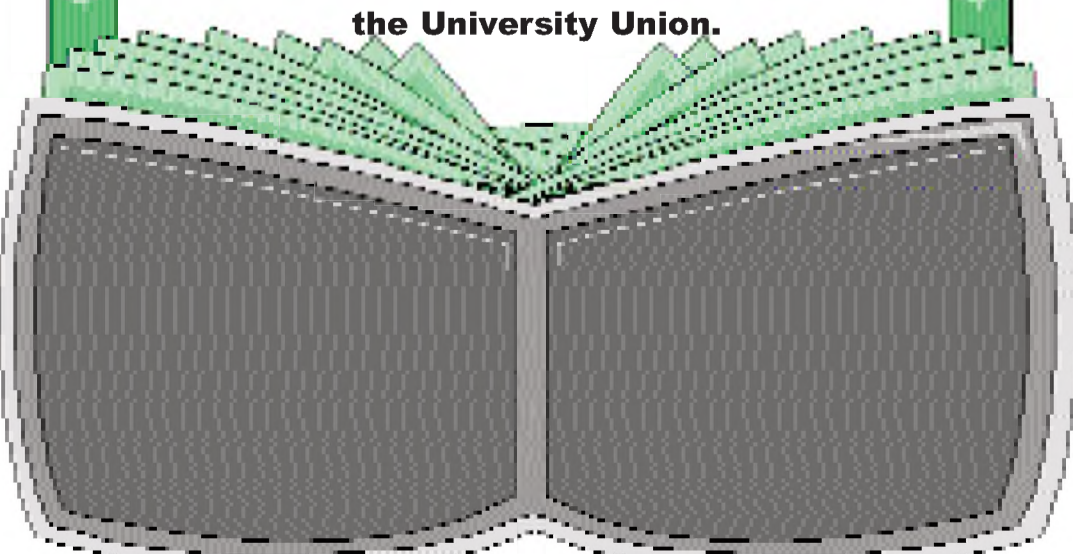
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This page embraces satirical opinion pieces generally not suited for more serious news pages. The views expressed in the Darkside are not necessarily those of The Spectator, its staff and in many cases, even the contributors themselves.

THE DARKSIDE

If you have ideas or comments about the DarkSide page, contact Darkside editor, Jeremiah Bass at loserkidblink@hotmail.com

50 SWEATY NUT>SACKS, DUD

Jeremiah W. Bass
Staff Writer

When I first began my undergraduate quest for knowledge here at VSU, I thought that dorm life would be awesome. The possibilities of bringing some chick back to my room to 'study' just filled my head with awe and pure happiness. Not having to worry about working in order to pay for rent and utilities in an apartment was an added bonus. I just wish the Office of Housing and Residence Life had included in its brochures the possibilities of smells from hell and residents who find kicking in cinderblocks to be a Zen thing. Yes, I said cinderblocks.

Now that I am a senior and still living in Patterson Hall, better known as, "P-Hall" [whatever the hell that means], I often wonder how some RAs put up with half the crap they put up with from some of the residents!

Follow me here: I knew that 50 residents living on one floor could be a recipe for disaster; I figured this out my freshman year, but this, by far, has been the weirdest dorm-year-living experience that I have ever seen.

Residents are always complaining about the stench that lurch through the hallways, the toilets that have been stacked with overflowing turds the size of Bill Gates' bank account, toilet paper being found on the floors in the hallways and exit signs being stolen [I kid you not, this actually happened].

Even I have added my two cents about the condition of the basement Wellness Floor of Patterson Hall, but why even complain?

I doubt that the RAs are getting together and creating these

calamities themselves. I mean, if you find me one RA who's willing to take a dump in the middle of the hall [and not even wipe his/her ass], then consider this lifestyle normal. Find me *one* RA who drops a condom right on the floor next to seven frickin' trashcans. Seven trashcans! Half of them not even full, and some 'jack-off' says to himself, "Hmmm, I'll just leave it right here. Yeah, no big deal."

I can take a joke here and there, but not if it means I have to pay extra fees because Ronny, Bobby, Ricky and Mike want to steal EXIT signs off the doors. Not that it's even about the money, but dare I say it? It's the principle involved. "What?" you may say to yourself, "Jeremiah believes in principle?" Yeah, I do. Better yet, I even know how to spell it! How's them apples?

"Dude, there's f***in' toilet paper all over the bathroom floors!" Uh, here's a crazy solution...PICK IT UP, OR DON'T PUT IT DOWN THERE IN THE FIRST PLACE! That's just what some of us Homo Sapiens like to call, "Common Sense." Honestly, you'd be amazed at the powers of the trashcan. Yeah, it's been known to consume 'TRASH,' hence the name *trashcan*. I learned that one when I was like two years old or somethin'.

If I were Residence Hall Director of Patterson, I'd probably make the residents pay a fee. I mean, who in their right mind sits there and says to him/herself, "Gee, I think I'll steal some EXIT signs today. Yeah, that should be a good activity to fill my time." Read a book! Watch some porn, even!

It reeks in almost every building here at VSU, but

Patterson Hall just takes it to another level. It's like, "Dude, did you have a skunk McMuffin and a side of sweaty gym socks for breakfast?"

Some of the smells that plaster down in the Wellness Floor of Patterson are just remarkably, southernplayalistically, expi-ala-dociously, funkadelically foul! As my once counterpart DSider Jimbo Cook put it, "Patterson Hall smells like 50 sweaty nut-sacks!" Ah...how we miss ol' Jimbo and his questioning quirks of wisdom.

And what is up with going up and down the hallways yelling for NO DAMN GOOD REASON? I'm trying to sleep, dumbass! Shut up! Why do that? What kind of satisfaction are you achieving by just yelling, "Yeah...Yeah" or "Ooauoaaooaouo." Are you experiencing an orgasm every time you walk down the hallway or something? Residents, if you feel the urge to yell about sh**, just stuff a cinderblock down your throat until the temptation goes away! Stop doing that crap! It's totally unnecessary and annoying to the utmost.

So, you know, be a bit responsible if you want to enjoy dorm life, however weird that sounds. I know it's not exactly living in the Ritz Carlton, but it is a way to save money.

Wouldn't you rather take a dump in the toilet rather than on the floor? Wouldn't you rather throw that condom you just whacked-off with in the trashcan rather than toss it on the floor? No one wants to step on that crap! Imagine the aftermath...!

If you try these things, better known as common courtesy tools, you'll go a long way in life, dudes...or not.

Southern Buffet

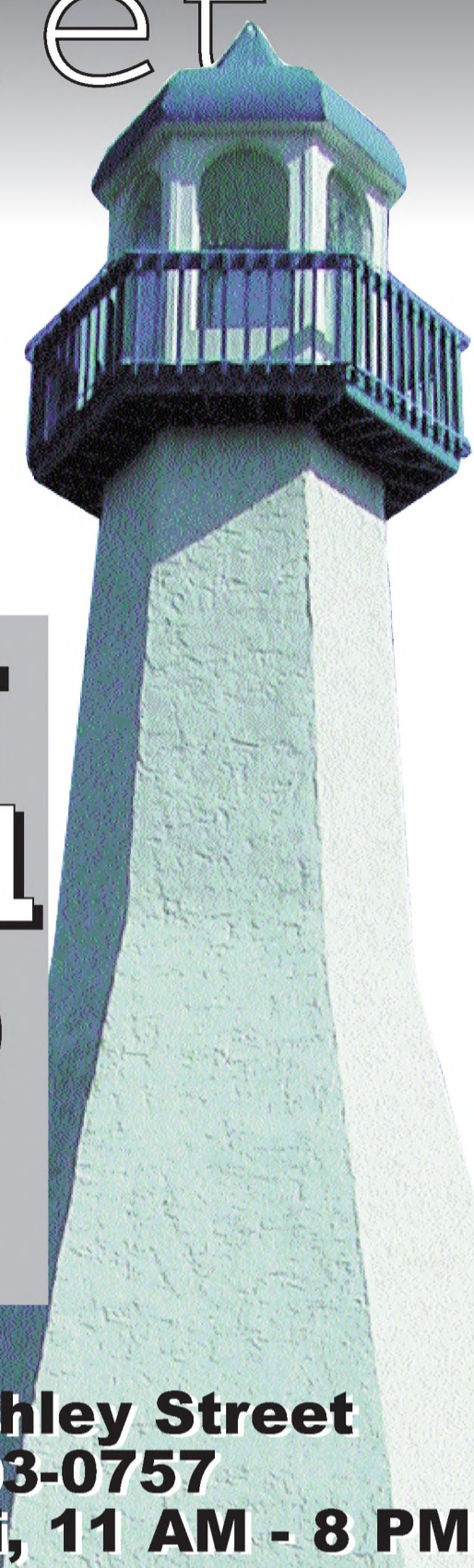
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Cast me

Mary Dabbs
Staffwriter

Are you looking for a companion who will love you unconditionally, no matter what your flaws are? One who will cuddle up with you on the couch?

Well, you're not going to find that special someone at the local bar. More like the local pet store. But if you want the latest in trendy companions, try an outcast.

Outcasts make great pets. It's a little-known fact that I, an outcast since middle school, have learned. We don't require much care, we're honest and house trained.

If you're looking for someone who will be honest with you when all of your other friends are starting to sound like "yes-men" then you definitely need an outcast. One of the requirements on the outcast entrance exam is a complete disregard for the emotions of non-outcasts. So that means we'll tell you when you sound like an idiot, look fat or act bitchy. Hey, honesty is the best

policy and we don't care how you react! How do you think half of us became outcasts to begin with?

Also, the "computer geek" is beginning to acquire, if not prestige, then certainly tolerance. Having a computer geek for a pet, err...friend, is becoming a necessity in the modern world. That kid you gave a swirly to in high school could, even now, be plotting to hack into your computer system and delete your term papers. Or worse, he or she could be taking notes from *Hackers*, the movie, and be signing you up on a personals site for necrophiliac transvestites. I can think of a few jocks from high school who'd look great in a negligee and I'm sure VSU's hackers can, too.

We outcasts have been underrated throughout history, and it's time for a change.

Outcasts are "in," and we're not going away. So accept us, befriend us and give us the occasional scratch behind the ears.

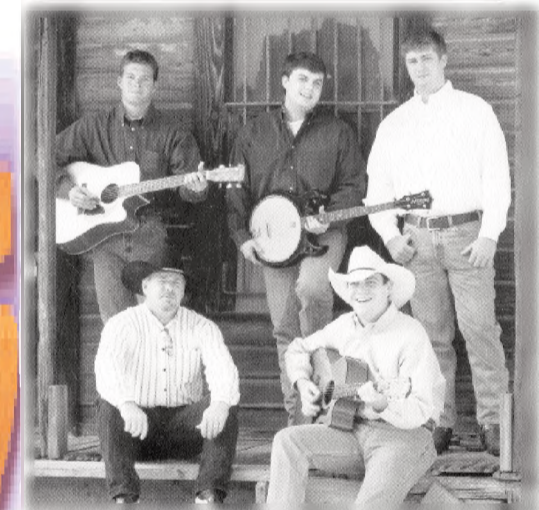
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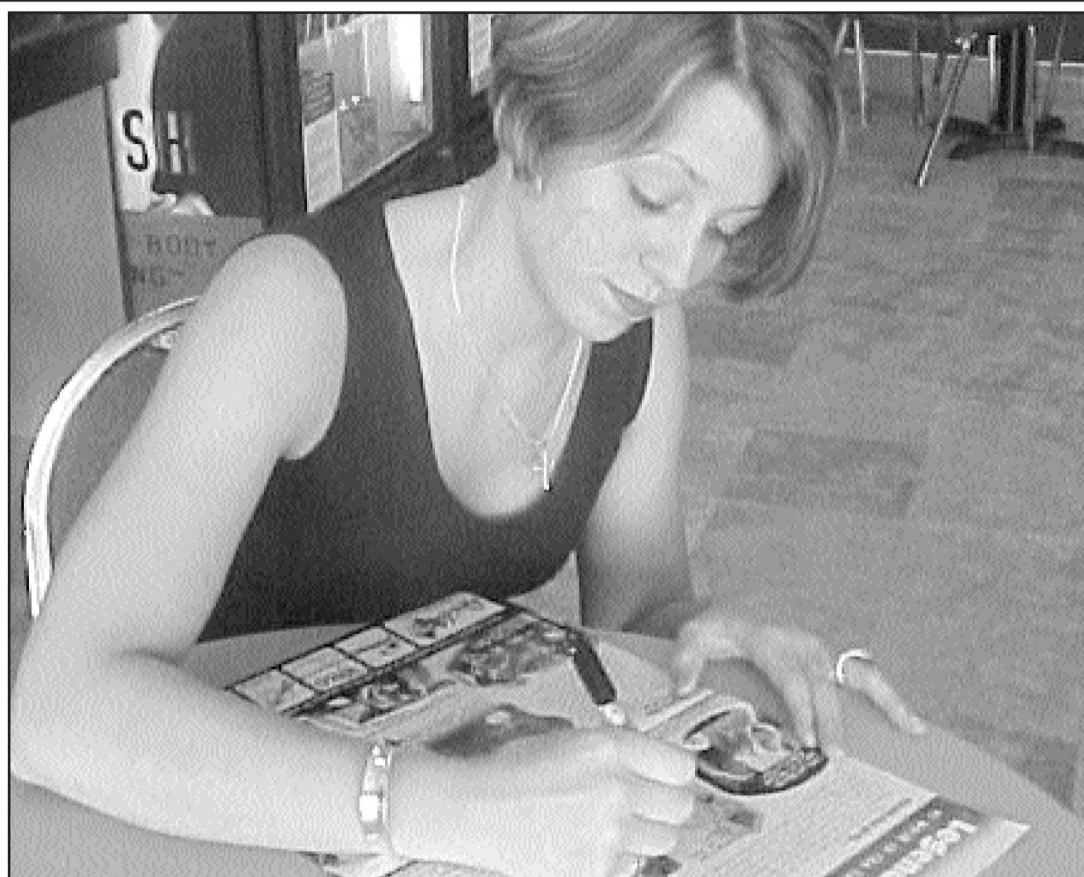
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Features

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

www.valdosta.edu/spectator



Vonetta Lawton / The Spectator

Holly Nelson, sophomore business major, signs a calendar featuring her and other Legend's girls. As a Legend's girl, Holly participates in community service, fundraisers and promotional functions.

Exercise with a cause

Neil Skerratt
Staff Writer

It's a tough job, but someone has to do it: Posing for calendars, exercising regularly and helping the community. These are some of the things a Legend's girl does.

Club Legends holds a meeting yearly to decide who should do community events and grace the pages of their non-profit calendar. In the fall they will be looking for more ladies.

According to Legends girl Joannie Knight, who coordinates their events along with Bonnie Pfister, the Legends girls are local women ranging in professions from VSU students to managers and other professionals. Knight added most of the Legends girls work full time, and some of the girls who are VSU students work full time as well.

To become a Legends girl,

those interested must be a member. If a girl is picked then she will receive free membership at the club. In the annual interview session the girls are asked why they would like to become Legends girls. Joannie Knight said another requirement is one picture taken in a bikini because they will have to be in the calendar. The ladies will also have to be in good shape, and it is required they work out at least three times per week at Club Legends. Joannie Knight added that while they are looking for attractive people, an extremely outgoing personality also counts for a lot.

In addition to a free membership, the girls get paid for events that are strictly for the promotion of Legends Club.

However, most of the time Legend's girl participate for charitable causes.

"We ask them if they only want to be one for popularity, or because they want to do some real community service," Knight said

The girls have done fundraisers for a Texas girl who needed a liver transplant. The Legends girls' calendar is making money for the Red Cross and the United Way.

Other events Legend's girls attend are Rock 108 live remotes, and they have done various expos here in town. Also, they can be seen in a few upcoming local parades.

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Supplements may add too much

Laura Justin
Staff Writer

Everybody's popping pills these days. But these pills aren't meant to decrease health, but improve nutrition and performance.

Herbal supplements and ergogenic aids are becoming more popular these days. An herbal supplement is anything taken in addition to normally ingested food, and an ergogenic aid is something taken outside the natural diet to enhance performance.

According to Tom Jones, a Tropical Smoothie employee, creatine is a commonly requested ergogenic aid.

"Creatine is one of our top three choices for what customers want added to a smoothie," Jones said. "They've reported positive feedback that it works."

According to Health World Online and Ray Sahelian, M.D., creatine is a naturally occurring nutrient formed in the body by a combination of three amino acids and is found in meat and fish. It helps provide energy for muscle activity.

Creatine supplements are thought to increase muscle size and improve strength. Results can be detected within a few

days, but muscle mass will decrease if creatine use is discontinued. This might pose a problem for potential users, because creatine is not recommended for indefinite use.

"Long-term effects are unknown," Dr. Michael Maina, assistant professor of kinesiology, said. "I strongly do not suggest using creatine. It's putting a chemical in your body for quick results."

According to Health World Online, the recommended dosage is three to five grams per day for a month, following a break, then return to use in cycles. The recommended dose for women is two to three grams per day.

Side effects from these dosage levels can include loose stool. High dosages can result in nausea, stomach upset, weakness and dizziness. Doses 20 grams or higher, when used for




Photos by Annie Johnson / The Spectator
Jaime Nicks, a freshman business major and Mike Buchanan, a freshman finance major, read the promised effects of an herbal supplement.



Annie Johnson / The Spectator

GNC is one of several stores in Valdosta that offers supplements such as creatine, protein and herbal medicine. There are some positive and negative aspects of these supplements.



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The Spectator prints free classifieds for students of Valdosta State University only. These must be no more than 40 words, or a \$6 charge will apply. Classifieds for faculty, staff, student organizations, student-owned businesses and the general public cost \$6 for up to 40 words. Ads should be sent to The Spectator or delivered to our office in the University Union. The deadline is Monday at 5 p.m. If payment applies, it should be submitted in a sealed envelope at the time the ad is placed. Ads must be accompanied by the name and phone number of the person submitting the ad. Ads must be resubmitted each week, as necessary. The Spectator address is:

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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 as necessary.

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Vonetta Lawton / The Spectator

The College Republicans of VSU meet Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in the Science Building auditorium.

Republicans take flight

Tara Sherman
Staff Writer

It was only January when the College Republicans of VSU was first established, but has already taken flight.

Initialized by Senator Paul Bennecke, a chairman of the Georgia College Republicans, Bennecke contacted students to get an organization in Valdosta. While there are about 70 recorded members, 30 to 40 are active.

"We're basically a volunteer basis for Republican candidates and we help them by making signs, phone calls, any advertising we can to help get their names out," Tas Smith, senior political science major and president of the organization, said.

The College Republicans attended the Okefenokee tour, where all the U.S. Senate, Executive and other Republican candidates for Georgia gathered for the "South Georgia Swings." They traveled to

Waycross, Jesup, Brunswick and Douglas while having the privilege of nice weather and free food.

As well as past achievements, the College Republicans are also looking forward to achieving exciting goals. A top priority is getting the word out for new members and Republican candidates. When the Aug. 20 primaries grow near, the members will be working harder to reach that objective, as well as organize a debate with the College Democrats.

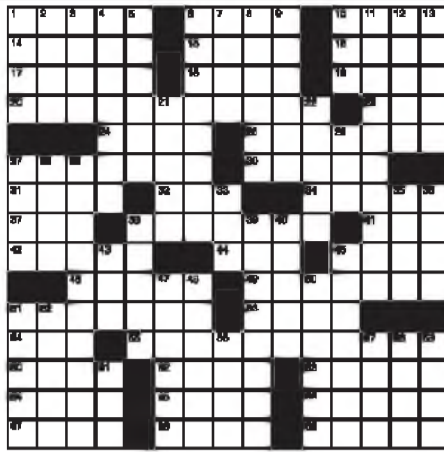
Phillip Potter, a junior criminal justice major, has helped bring the "Students for Sonny" program to Valdosta. Sponsored by Sonny Perdue, candidate for governor, this allows him to get students' support and participation. This includes more voter registration and access to absentee ballots.

On Mar. 19, there will be a Lowndes County Republican Party at J.P. Muldoon's. On Mar. 20, a candidate for governor in the primary, Linda Shrenko,

will have booths at the UC, Business School and library to pass out information about voter registration.

"I've had a great time with this organization and I'm actually really surprised," Potter said. "I thought the South Georgia Swings would be just a lot of work, and I thought I would be bored just standing there talking to people but it turned out to be one of the most fun experiences during college."

For information about the College Republicans of VSU, check out their website at www.valdosta.edu/republicans or stop by one of their meetings Wednesdays 7p.m. at the Science Building auditorium.



Ending 26 Last of a...
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Aromatic compound

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams
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ACROSS
1 Port of Iraq
6 Burden
10 Healing sign
14 Was sore
15 Johnycake
16 Top-rated
17 Vacuous
18 Perry's pen
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20 Legitimate
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53 British oomposer
54 That girl
55 Brother's keeper?
60 Soho subway
62 Civil disorder
63 Actress Taylor
64 Etc.'s cousin
65 Diminutive
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39 Processed seawater
40 Door
43 Amazement
45 Ones who Security cash
47 Bellowed
48 Deep-seated mutual hatred
50 TV dinner element
51 Photorealist painter
52 Inclined trough
56 Bit
57 BTU part
58 Mobutu
59 Glum drop?
61 Santa's helper
See answers below.

Herbs

continued from page 9
of energy, and protein is used to build and maintain muscles. When the body is forced to process protein for energy because carbohydrates are absent, results can be drastic. "This diet can cause very low energy levels, depression, loss of strength and endurance and can make people physically sick," Dr. Maina said.

For a more natural supplement, some herbal remedies have proven to be effective. "Chamomile has been approved for medical use in Germany," Dr. Maina said. "It's thought to suppress muscle spasms such as menstrual cramps."

Other herbal supplements include Ginkgo Biloba, an herb used in traditional medicine to improve memory and mental illness. It cannot be combined with blood thinners, aspirin or painkillers.

Echinacea is an herb derived from a purple coneflower and is used to boost the immune system. However, in a recent study, it worked no better than a placebo.

"A general rule in taking herbal supplements in to talk with your physician or pharmacist first," Dr. Maina said.

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THURSDAY MARCH 14

8 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. Registration & Goodies Lobby, University Center
8:45 a.m. - 9 a.m. Opening Remarks, Magnolia Room I
9 a.m. - 10:50 a.m. Plenary Session One - Magnolia I, The Freedom Movement, Magnolia Room I
11 a.m. - 12:10 p.m. Concurrent Sessions A
12:10 p.m. - 1 p.m. LUNCH, Magnolia Room II
1 p.m. - 2:10 p.m. Plenary Session Two, The Freedom Movement, UC Theater
2:20 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions B
3:40 p.m. - 4:50 p.m. Concurrent Sessions C
4:50 p.m. - 6 p.m. Concurrent Sessions D
6 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. Reception sponsored by the Valdosta Chapter of the AAUP, Magnolia I
7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. Plenary Session Three, "For Colored Girls..." Albany State U Drama UC Theater - Coffee House at Giulio's

FRIDAY MARCH 15

8 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. Registration & Goodies Lobby, University Center
8:45 a.m. - 9 a.m. Opening Remarks, Magnolia Room I
9 a.m. - 9:50 a.m. Plenary Four - Magnolia I, A Reading by Janice Daugharty Writer-in-Residence, VSU
10 a.m. - 11:10 a.m. Concurrent Sessions E
11:20 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions F
12:30 p.m. - 1:50 p.m. LUNCH, Plenary Session Five, Magnolia Room II
2 p.m. - 3:10 p.m. Concurrent Sessions G
3:20 p.m. - 4:20 p.m. Plenary Session Six (A) Rosemary Daniell (Magnolia I) (B) Lynn Weber (UC Theater)
4:30 p.m. - 5:40 p.m. Concurrent Session H
5:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. A&S / Women's Studies Cookout, Carswell Hall, Oak St.
7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. Plenary Session Seven, Marge Piercy Biology/Chemistry Building
The President's Reception - Atrium B/C BLDG

SATURDAY MARCH 16

8 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. Meeting of the SEWSA Steering Committee, Registration and Goodies, Lobby University Center
8:45 a.m. - 9 a.m. Opening Remarks, Magnolia Room I
9 a.m. - 9:50 a.m. Plenary Session Eight, Kim Gandy President of NOW Just Where DO We Belong? Magnolia I
10 a.m. - 11:10 a.m. Concurrent Sessions I, A Writing Workshop with Rosemary Daniell, The Woman who Spilled Poetry All over Herself: Writing and Living the "Zona Rosa" Way
11:20 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions J
12:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. LUNCH, SEWSA Annual Meeting, Magnolia Room II
1:45 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. SPEAKOUT WITH KIM GANDY, Magnolia Room I
3:15 p.m. - 4 p.m. Performance, Frederica Chapman and the Veronica Women's Theatre, Magnolia Room I
4 p.m. Closing Remarks

For more information contact:
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To contact sports editor
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Blazer tennis @
GSC East
Jamboree
March 15-17
Livingston, Ala.



www.valdosta.edu/spectator



Annie Johnson / The Spectator

VSU pitcher John Rose throws to a Bobcat batter
Wednesday night in the Blazers 4-1 win over GC&SU.

Blazers skin Bobcats, 4-1

Jana N. Cook
Staff Writer

The VSU Blazer baseball team is halfway through the 2002 season and still has yet to play a Gulf South Conference game.

That will change over the weekend, however, as the No. 7 Blazers will travel to the University of Montevallo to kickoff the conference schedule. The 14-6 Falcons and the 17-5 Blazers will play Saturday at 3 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m.

"We're finally getting to the games that count," second

baseman Scott Simpson said. "At least we know something by now about the teams we're up against."

The Blazers play Edward Waters College Thursday in Jacksonville, Fla., a NAIA team the Blazers defeated 12-1 and 10-1 earlier in the season.

Coach Tommy Thomas is sticking to his original game plan as he prepares his team for the weekend of conference play.

"We just have to keep playing good defense, getting good pitching and making those timely hits," the Blazer head

ROSE, SIMPSON EARN GSC PLAYER OF THE WEEK HONORS	
	
Rose	Simpson
Junior second baseman Scott Simpson and senior pitcher John Rose have been named Gulf South Conference eastern division players of the week for their performances during the period ending March 10. Simpson hit .600 (9-15) with three doubles and seven RBI, leading the Blazers to a 4-0 week. He leads VSU in hitting (.451) and RBI (20). Rose surrendered only two hits and struck out 12 in a 5-1 win over Florida Tech, improving his record to 3-1 and lowering his ERA to 3.74. Rose has K'ed 50 batters in only 33.2 innings.	

coach said. Georgia College and State University 4-1 Wednesday at Billy Grant Field.
Baseball see page 12

VSU golfers dominate FAMU Invite

Jason James
Staff Writer

The Blazer golf team has upped the ante in the Gulf Coast Conference and the South region after a first place finish in last week's Florida A&M Invitational in Tallahassee, Fla.

The Blazers finished with an overall score of 577, four shots ahead of second place Winthrop.

Once again, senior Andy Blanton led the way with rounds of 72 and 70 for a sixth place tie. Sophomore Thomas Pecout shot an overall 143 for a tie for seventh.

VSU backhands Drury

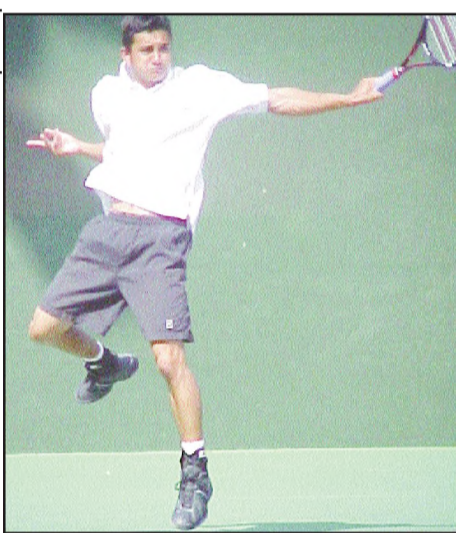
T.A. Glanton
Staff Writer

It's the most wonderful time of the year; it's "March Madness." But it's not basketball, it's tennis. Just consider it "March Madness" with racquets.

Wednesday was a beautiful day, but things were awfully dreary for Drury. The No. 3 ranked Blazers (5-1) defeated the No. 5 ranked Panthers (6-2), 5-4, on the courts of the P.E. Complex. Assistant coach Sachin Kirtane isn't about to downplay the size of the win for the Blazers.

"The win is huge," Sachin said. "Drury has come to be known as the most resilient team, they just don't go away. It was close until the end."

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday,



Annie Johnson/ The Spectator

Junior Marco Borges lost to Drury 6-7, 6-2 at No. 2 singles Wednesday.

the Blazers and the No. 36 ranked Lady Blazers will be in Florence, Ala., competing in the Gulf South Conference East Tennis Jamboree on the campus of North Alabama.

If you have ever heard the

phrase "don't believe the hype," forget that you heard it, because the Blazers are better than advertised. VSU, who is favored to finish atop the GSC East Jamboree, will look to fend off challenges from Lincoln-Memorial (0-0, 0-0), Alabama-Huntsville (0-2, 0-0) and host, North Alabama (2-2, 1-0). The Blazers' biggest threat, West Florida (10-2, 1-0), won't participate in the Jamboree. The teams will meet next month.

"We've got a bulls eye on our back," Sachin said. "Everyone can play, everyone can win so we just have to come out ready."

This weekend gives VSU a chance to work on its game and

Tennis see page 12



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VSU's national title run cut short

Blazers fall in Sweet 16 of South Regional to West Georgia Braves

Brandon Scott
Staff Writer

Tell Cinderella she can have her slipper back. VSU is the belle of the ball with no magic required.

Okay, so the Blazers aren't happy ever after... yet. However, after finishing the season with a sweet 16 berth in the NCAA Division II tournament, VSU will no longer be a sleeper.

"I think the league still underestimates a bit," head coach Jim Yarbrough said. "I think, finally though, we're starting to get

some respect."

Treating the West's best like Osama at a Fourth of July concert certainly helped that. The Blazers average margin of victory against Delta State (in GSC tourney) and Henderson State (in South Region tourney) was 21 points.

In their final game, an 81-69 loss to in-state rival West Georgia, the future of Blazer basketball was on full display. All-South Region tourney junior guard John Prise scored a double-dou-

ble with 20 points and 10 rebounds, while freshman guard Tony Baker scored 14. Also named All-South Region Tournament was senior guard



Special to the Spectator

Blazer fans: Daniel DeLaigle, Sean Calhoun, Lucy Harris, Stephanie Brown and Lori Sandburg saw VSU advance to the Sweet 16 in Tampa.

Marcus Williams who averaged just over 22 points a game, while scoring a career-high 29 points in the second round blowout of HSU. However, with this newfound

respect come newfound expectations. "We will not be chasing this season," Yarbrough said. "Next

season will be its own journey and its own set of goals."

Juniors Prise, Jeremy Brooks and Marcus Ghent (coming off a medical redshirt) will all be asked to fill in the roles left by seniors Williams, Nick Gast and Matt Jones.

"John [Prise] can bring that worker mentality," Yarbrough said. "Jeremy [Brooks] is a natural leader, and guys will follow his lead, and Marcus [Ghent] can give us that emotion we need."

Much will be expected of the basketball team next year. It feels good to be able to say that about a sport other than football. However, if anyone can do it, it'll be the National Association of Basketball Coaches' South Region Coach of the Year candidate Jim Yarbrough.



Special to the Spectator

Blazer coach Jim Yarbrough talks strategy during a timeout in VSU's season ending 81-69 loss to West Georgia in the finals of the South Regional in Tampa.

Lady Blazers fall to No. 12 UNF

Matt Stewart
Staff Writer

One year ago Kendra McDaniel was just an interim head softball coach, filling in for the time being. Now she's in charge of the VSU softball program and her record speaks for itself.

The Lady Blazers, 45-32 in two seasons under McDaniel, travel to Columbus, Ga., for the Columbus State Tournament Friday. Preseason No. 10 Alabama-Huntsville (14-9, 4-2), Mississippi University for Women (9-5, 1-3) and VSU make up the Gulf South Conference triumvirate in the tourney. Columbus State and

Kennesaw State will also be there.

The Lady Blazers then host Lincoln Memorial (11-7) Saturday at 2 p.m. on the VSU Softball Complex. VSU will have to rebound from 2-1, 2-0 losses to No. 12 North Florida Wednesday in Jacksonville, Fla. The loss snaps a five game winning streak.

"We couldn't string our hits together," McDaniel said. "We outhit North Florida but we left seven [runners] stranded in the first game and



Annie Johnson / The Spectator

Junior Ashley Thierer takes batting practice Tuesday at VSU's Softball Complex.

five or six in the second."

But one season ago, Lady Blazer softball was on the

rocks. Former head coach Shelly Lis resigned two months prior to the start of the season following a 14-38 record in her first year. McDaniel took the reins and led a young group to a surprising 28-23 overall record in 2001 and a runner-up finish in the Gulf South Conference tournament in Meridian, Miss.

Now the Lady Blazers are 17-11 overall, 8-2 in GSC play and have sole possession of first place in the GSC east division.

Tennis

continued from page 11

to work its way closer to another conference title.

"With the way the new regions have shaped up, conference assumes much more importance for us," Sachin said.

VSU hasn't lost a match in the past two years at the Jamboree.

The Lady Blazers (1-5) are what you would call a "sleeper." But, in order to claim the title, VSU will have to deal with No. 35 ranked North Alabama (4-0, 2-0).

"If we can win all five of the matches this weekend then we would be the second seed from the east, but our first goal is just to get into the season-ending tournament," Hansen said.

Baseball

continued from page 11

Junior righthander Davey Covey started the game, holding the mound for five innings and striking out five GC&SU batters. With the game tied 1-1, junior lefty Michael Smith (3-0) pitched a scoreless sixth inning. Senior righthanders John Rose and Braxton Fernald held GC&SU at one run in the seventh and eighth. Junior righthander Corey Wachman picked up his fourth save by striking out three consecutive batters in the ninth.

Designated hitter Jay Berryman's double in the bottom of the sixth broke the 1-1 tie by driving in left fielder Sammy Watson. Catcher Tim Kelly followed with a two RBI double.

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