

The Spectator

www.valdosta.edu/spectator

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Valdosta, Georgia

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SGA wins awards at SAC

Casey Carpenter
Staff Writer

The Student Government Association has been hard at work all year, but as the spring Student Advisory Council came to a close last weekend, recognition was finally given.

SAC is a statewide body representing the 34 schools in the University System of Georgia. Each school sends delegates to the yearly conference. This year 25 schools were represented at the SAC conference last weekend.

Nicholas Overstreet, president of the SGA, received two awards, including Delegate of the Year, which reflects personal dedication to the students throughout the University System of Georgia, and the humorous "Drawl Award" as well.

"Just because we won awards doesn't mean we're done for the year," Overstreet said. "There's still a lot to do."

SGA's schedule includes various activities such as Watch till You Drop, Dance Marathon,

breakfast meeting with the president and elections.

Cody Guined, SGA's vice president, was also recognized for his service this past year as the vice president of the Student Advisory Council as well as for his induction into the SAC Leadership Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame award reflects the accomplishments of an individual who has dedicated countless hours to the students of USG.

"I have served on the Student Advisory Council since the summer of 1998 and have attended 18 conferences in the past four years," Guined said. "I have held two executive offices. Treasurer from 2000-2001 and then vice chair 2001-2002. It is nice to see that hard work pays off in the long run."

VSU's SGA won Delegation of the Year, an award which



Leah F. Cassorla / The Spectator

Nick Overstreet (left), SGA president, and Cody Guined, SGA vice president and candidate for SGA presidency for next year, show off awards they received at the SAC conference last weekend.

recognizes activities on campus, community service, and amount of business handled. That award brings the total to three out of five state awards for VSU.

The other two awards were Rookie of the Year and Adviser of the Year.

Four resolutions were passed at the conference. The average conference only yields one resolution. Overstreet pointed out that the resolutions are currently being presented to the Board of Regents and must be approved before any act is finalized.

- Resolution P16 is designed to allow schools to present information to children in lower level schools. This is designed to help make students more aware of the expectations as they graduate to higher levels of education. This program runs from pre-kindergarten through college.

- The second resolution is designed to standardize availability of Banner Web or its equivalent through universities across the University System of Georgia.

- The third resolution is designed to give students a voice in customer service evaluations of staff performance.



- The final resolution will allow students the option of buying into the USG health insurance pool to provide better care at lower prices. The cost of coverage coverage would depend on hours of enrollment per semester.

International students cook up a storm

Jaime Peck
Staff Writer

The annual Society for International Students dinner will be at 7 p.m. Saturday at Park Avenue United Methodist Church. It is open to everyone. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$8 for students and senior citizens and \$5 for children 12 and under.

According to Charlotte Davis, adviser for the Society of International Students, dinner will feature buffet-style food represented by 22 countries. It does not have a theme this year.

"The students just couldn't think of a theme this year," Davis said.

Some of the foods being prepared at the dinner include: German bratwurst, Bahamian rum cake, Indian Tandoori chicken, Belizian rice and

beans, Trinidad stewed chicken, Bulgarian muskaka (a kind of stew) and Ghana Jollof rice.

Entertainment will also be provided at the dinner, according to Davis. Singers and violinists will be featured, as well as a Belizian carnival, an African dance and an Asian fashion show.

All proceeds from the dinner will go to the Society for International Students. The organization has 239 members, with students from 57 countries represented at VSU. They participate in social and community activities, such as group trips, cookouts and charity Thanksgiving and Christmas donation drives.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call the Center for International Programs at 333-7410. Tickets are also available at the door.



Leah F. Cassorla / The Spectator

Maral Meredova, junior English major, cuts onions for Ishlekly, a Turkmen meat pie she'll be preparing for the International Student dinner. To learn how to make Ishlekly, see "International Students cook a feast," page 9.

VSU remembers slain professor

Kate Gauling
Staff Writer



**Brian Anderson
Junior
Speech
Communications**

"Dr. Blake always made class fun. He carried himself well, always with a smile. We always enjoyed being around him just because he made us feel better about ourselves."

Friday, a memorial service was held for Dr. Bobby Blake, who was assistant dean of Fine Arts, in Whitehead Auditorium. Visitors and friends had the option of signing a guest book.

Among the speakers was Dr. Ronald M. Zaccari, VSU president, Dr. John Gaston, professor of communication arts, and Dr. Louis Levy, acting vice president for Academic Affairs. They shared memories of Dr. Blake's charisma and sense of humor.

"His murder is out of character with the person I know," Dr. Gaston said. "So, the question of why it occurred is very important."

According to commander Steve Heaton of the Valdosta Police Department, the investigation is continuing. Two suspects, Charles Paschal, Jr., and Shimon Sanders, are in custody for the homicide of Dr. Blake. They have been charged with homicide. The police department has spoken to

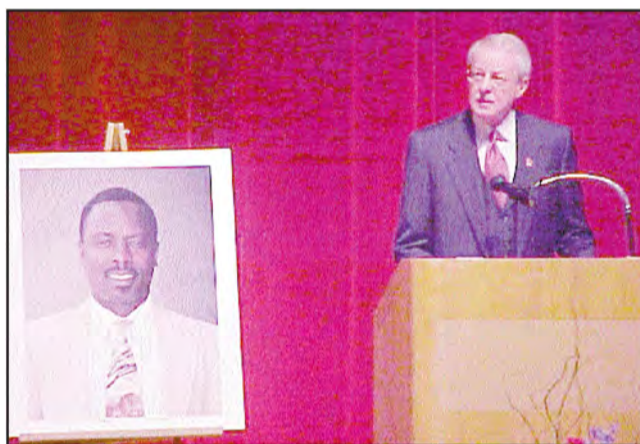
about 20 witnesses, Heaton said.

"They may not have seen the actual event, but they knew information prior to or shortly thereafter that would help us," Heaton said.

Dr. Blake taught African-American music culture and ethical issues in the arts. According to Dr. Carl Cates, department head for Communication Arts, Dr. Blake's classes were not canceled.

"We put together names of professors we knew had interests and expertise in the areas and we moved forward," Dr. Cates said.

Dr. John Magnasco, professor of Communication Arts, is now teaching ethical issues in the arts. Dr. Tayloe Harding said. According to Harding, Charles Todd, band director of Lowndes County High School was already teaching one section of the two-section African-American music



Vonetta Lawton / The Spectator

Dr. Zaccari speaks at Dr. Blake's memorial service last Friday at Whitehead Auditorium.

culture course. The two sections have been combined and Todd will teach the course until the end of the term.

"The strengths that will be missed are his ability to problem-solve, particularly with students and faculty, because he made a good mediator in that context," Dr. Cates said. "And people will miss his laugh."



**David Rossetti
Junior
Theatre**

"I worked in the box office, which is right across from the arts office and he would always say 'hi' and make his reservation. He was just really nice."



**Kemia C. Irving
Senior
graphic Design**

"I remember him as a person who was always smiling, always asking people how their day was going. Just always concerned about how the individual was."



**Amanda Leverett
Sophomore
Public Relations**

"I remember I would usually pass him everyday in the hallway and he would always have the silliest smile. He made everybody that came to his department feel welcome."



**Justin Monday
Freshman
Music Education**

"I remember Dr. Blake as a caring person who would always say 'hi' to anybody he'd see. He gave me a view of African Americans as a whole and how they affected the world."

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This issue
Want to know how to make Ishlekly?
Or just want to know what it is?
See page 9

Web Watch

The Federal Consumer Information Center, in Pueblo, Colo., is a clearinghouse of information about everything from consumer concerns to Federal services. The site includes information

This week: www.pueblo.gsa.gov

on employment, building credit, how to buy a house, how to get government funding for school, how to cope with depression and how to find the best used car. The information at

www.pueblo.gsa.gov is available in several languages. It is also available by phone at 1-800-FED-INFO. The pamphlets and books available are free if you view them online.

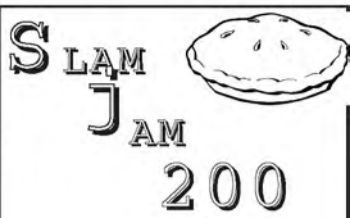
Campus Happenings

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.



Leah Cassorla



Win your chance to pie our editor!

The first 20 VSU faculty, staff or students to e-mail the correct answer to the question below to spec@valdosta.edu will each win the pleasure of pieing Leah Cassorla's face Friday April 19 at 2 p.m. at Palms Quad. All VSU faculty, staff and students are invited to watch Cassorla get her dues. Check out www.valdosta.edu/spectator for more details.

In which state is it illegal to put graffiti on someone else's cow?



Today
Kappa Theta Epsilon, the national honor society for cooperative education, is sponsoring its First Annual Co-op Student of the Year Award. The Georgia Association of Colleges and Employers is also sponsoring its 2001-2002 Jack Mangham Experiential Learning Awards. For more information or applications, call Ryan Whitfield at 333-7172.

The deadline for Campus Activities Board applications has been extended to Friday by 3 p.m. Applications should be dropped off at the CAB office on the second floor of the University Union.

Tutorial assistance is available for students from the office of equal opportunity programs and multicultural affairs through the VSU Achievement Program. For tutorial assistance, call 333-5463.

The Society of Physics Students will host the Third Annual "Gravity Day," a celebration of Isaac Newton and physics and gravity, between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on the lawn in front of Nevins Hall.

Fruit that has been frozen in liquid nitrogen will be catapulted on the lawn. Everyone is invited to attend.

For more information, call Dr. Frank Flaherty, professor in the physics, astronomy, and geosciences department, at 333-5665 or e-mail him at flaherty@valdosta.edu.

The VSU athletic training program will host its Second Annual Chicken Dinner Sale.

The \$6 price per person provides a half-piece of chicken, baked beans, potato salad and bread from Port A Pit.

To place an order or for more information, call assistant athletic trainer and instructor Lori Howard at 245-4380 or e-mail her at lchoward@valdosta.edu.

There will be a Residence Hall Spring Formal in the Georgia Hall Lobby from 8 to 11 p.m. All VSU residence halls resi-

dents are invited to attend this free event with their dates. The formal's theme is "A Night with the Stars." Canned food donations will be accepted.

For more information, call Leighia Lynn, residence hall director, at 249-4984.

Natural High will host a free game room night in the University Center from 9 to 11 p.m. Free subs and drinks will be provided.

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

The VSU Blazers football team will host the end of spring Red and Black Scrimmage at the Stadium at 7 p.m.

During the first and fourth quarters, the co-recreational Greek Team faces the campus recreational team. The Blazers will compete in the second and third quarters.

During halftime there will be a competition to see which fan can throw a football the farthest. Free food will be available in Drexel Park from 6 to 7 p.m.

For more information, e-mail Coach Chris Boden at cpboden@valdosta.edu.

Saturday

The Newman Center, the Catholic student center, will host its First Annual Frisbee Golf Tournament from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the P.E. Complex. There is a \$10 entry fee for individuals and a \$30 entry fee for teams of four. Cash prizes will be offered.

All VSU students, faculty and staff are invited to participate.

To reserve a tee time or for more information, call the Newman Center at 247-6707.

Monday

Dr. Kurt J. Keppler, associate vice president and dean of students at Georgia State University, will be interviewed on campus for the position of vice president for Student Affairs.

He will be asked to make a presentation at 2 p.m. in the

Bio/Chem Building Auditorium. All VSU students, faculty and staff are invited to attend.

See the rest of the Campus Happenings and Found Property listings on the Spectator web site at www.valdosta.edu/spectator.

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POLICE BEAT

April 2

Public Safety received a report that an unknown person had possession of a gun on campus at 12:30 a.m. at Hopper Circle.

April 4

Andre D. Avery, 21, of 304 Providence Road, Chesapeake, Va., was arrested for driving too fast for conditions and driving with a suspended/revoked license at 8:25 a.m. at Baytree Road and Boone Drive.

April 5

A VSU student reported that between 2:50 and 3:15 p.m., someone stole \$200 from her.

Rashad K. Allen, 19, and Reginald D. Rhodes, 20, both of 480 Murray Road, Apt. #85, were arrested at 1:33 a.m. at Patterson Street and Brookwood Drive. Allen was arrested for failure to maintain lane, no seatbelt and misdemeanor possession of marijuana. Rhodes was also arrested for misdemeanor possession of marijuana.

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Weekend Forecast

Today	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
 UV Index: 9 High Hi: 79 Low: 62	 UV Index: 6 Moderate Hi: 78 Low: 61	 UV Index: 9 High Hi: 80 Low: 62	 UV Index: 9 High Hi: 83 Low: 62

News

www.valdosta.edu/spectator

Sun exposure reported in UV Index



Annie Johnson / The Spectator

Stacy Quinn, freshman sports medicine major, checks the newspaper for her daily UV Index report. Checking the UV Index could mean the difference between a bad sunburn and cancer and a safe day in the sun.

Staff Reports

You have a great weekend planned. Your aim: to get a tan and think about something other than school. So you open up the Spectator and see great weather ahead. You arm yourself with 15 spf lotion and grab a magazine.

When you get inside, your skin is fried to a deep crispy RED. The kind of red a tomato would kill for. And you wonder why -- it was a little cloudy.

That's when you realize you should have checked the UV Index. Because the UV was "9 High."

The UV Index is compiled by the National Weather Service. It

is the measure of the amount of ultraviolet radiation that reaches the earth at solar noon. That time is noon local standard time and 1 p.m. daylight savings time. The NWS bases the forecast on three items: the sun's height in the sky, the amount of ozone in the atmosphere and the forecast of cloud cover.

There are many factors that affect exposure. Pay attention to the weather for the day. Partly or variably cloudy days give more exposure than rainy or overcast ones. If you burn, avoid going in the sun three hours before and after peak time.

The time of year also plays a part. Late spring and early summer are the worst times, and

Index Value	Exposure
0 to 2	Minimal
3 to 4	Low
5 to 6	Moderate
7 to 9	High
10 to or up	Very High

late fall and early winter are the best. Compiled by the National Weather Service greatly increase, according to the American Cancer Society.

What is really important is the effect UV has on the skin. No matter how long you have been in the sun, if you are exposed to a high level of UV, your chances of skin cancer

So next time you pick up a Spectator, check out the highs, the lows and the UV Index.

ΣΑΕ Mourns the Loss of Paddy Murphy



Paddy Murphy, a famous SAE Alumni, died Wednesday. Mr. Murphy known throughout the community for his gracious acts of philanthropy and good looks, acquired in his early years bootlegging throughout the Southeast. Services will be held Tuesday, April 16th. Georgia Sigma wishes to extend its warmest welcome to all their distinguished alumni.

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Share your thoughts

Neil Skerratt
Staff Writer

Give your opinion. VSU's Annual Senior Exit Questionnaire allows you to comment on every area of VSU.

The fall 2001 survey's results showed 88 percent of last year's graduating seniors polled rated VSU in either the "good or excellent" categories when asked about their overall experiences here. According to last year's seniors, VSU also ranked about the same when it came to the seniors' opinion of VSU's academics and social experiences at VSU.

The item on the survey that scored best was the VSU homepage. Sharing the number two spot was counseling services and campus student employment. Other heavy hitters on the survey as far as what VSU is doing well were the VSU undergraduate bulletin/catalog, university work-study program, minority programs, veteran's services and the post office.

Where there was room for improvement, according to the survey, was what seniors observed as the parking prob-

lem, with 89 percent of people listing parking as either fair or poor with a majority, 62 percent, listing it as poor.

Jill Ferrell, director of VSU Parking, said her office doesn't use the survey's data explicitly.

"It's not very constructive, and we do look at it but I couldn't say we use it," Ferrell said. Other departments used the senior exit survey in evaluating themselves such as Auxiliary Services.

"We check how we compare to previous years when Dr. Crowe summarizes the information," Rob Kellner, director of Auxiliary Services, said.

Support services for international students had a combined fair and poor score of 49 percent. Other areas that had the largest percentages in the fair and poor categories were the housing and residence halls, with a combined score of 49 percent.

The other sections of the survey with the most responses in the "fair or poor" column as VSU's shuttle bus services, VSU food service and handicapped accessibility for VSU facilities.

In the section of the survey

where seniors can write their comments, either positive or negative, the most common complaint was that VSU needs better parking. Other top comments called for more computer labs, a better pool for advisers, improved financial aid services, lower bookstore prices, dorm renovations and an updated library.

When asked whether they would recommend VSU to others, 41 percent said "definitely yes," 51 percent said "probably yes" and the remaining 8 percent said "probably no."

Seniors were also asked if they started college over whether they would choose VSU. The answers to this question are a little more varied. Thirty-five percent said "definitely yes," 43 percent said "probably yes," 19 percent said "probably no" and the 3 percent left said "definitely no."

According to Dr. Michael Crowe, director of VSU's office of institutional research and policy analysis, only seniors are targeted because the university wants baseline data for a student's entire four-year experience. Crowe said there had been talk of administering a

survey to beginning freshmen, but many felt that they could not adequately judge what it has to offer because they were too new to VSU to judge it.

"Seniors have been here long enough to know all aspects of campus life and would better be able to answer the questions on the survey," Dr. Crowe said.

Dr. Crowe also said while VSU does not currently survey all of its students yearly, the Board of Regents does conduct an annual survey of all state campuses in Georgia. In fact, Dr. Crowe adds, it just recently completed the survey. He will make the results public as soon as he receives them from the state.

Anyone who needs a copy of the survey should contact the office of institutional research and policy analysis at 333-7831. All information found in the senior exit survey can also be found on VSU's homepage under the office of institutional research and policy analysis link.

Neil Skerratt is a Spectator reporter and can be reached at ntskerratt@hotmail.com



Israeli security Cabinet allows military offensive to continue

Even hours after a suicide bombing killed eight people in Haifa, Israel's security Cabinet agreed Wednesday that they will continue military offensive against the Palestinian militants. U.S. President Bush has repeatedly asked for an immediate end to this offensive, and this decision to continue will further complicate the mission of U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell who will be arriving in the region Thursday. Cabinet ministers also said until 200 armed Palestinians holed up inside the Church of the Nativity surrender, the siege of one of Christianity's holiest shrines will not end.

Police officer kills self after slaying five and wounding one

A veteran New Jersey police officer was found dead Wednesday morning apparently from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The officer had allegedly killed five of his neighbors then driven to a nearby town and shot his boss. Edward Lutes, a Seaside Heights, N.J., police officer was found dead in his car in the parking lot of a shopping mall 15 miles from where his shooting rampage took place. Lutes' boss, Police Chief James Costello, was shot three times and is hospitalized in stable condition.

New study shows alcohol as threat to college students

A new study served a sobering notice to college students who look at excessive drinking as a "rite of passage." This study announced Tuesday that alcohol-related accidents kill 1,400 of their peers each year. College student alcohol consumption contributes to 600,000 assaults, 500,000 injuries and 70,000 sexual assaults every year, according to the study by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism's Task Force on College Drinking. In 2001, more than 2 million students admitted to having driven a car with alcohol in their system, and 400,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 acknowledged having unprotected sex while under the influence.

Scientists investigate possible new matter based on strange stars

Puzzled astronomers have begun to consider the likelihood of a new and exotic form of matter when two rogue stars failed to meet scientific expectations. These new stars, quark stars, if confirmed, would fall between neutron stars and black holes when comparing densities. When investigated more closely, the presumed neutron stars suggest they may be composed of quarks, or crystals of sub-nuclear particles rather than neutrons. More evidence must be gathered before any conclusions are made.

SGA members dine with the president

Neil Skerratt
Staff Writer

Would you like to sit down to a meal with the President? Well that's just what current SGA members are having the opportunity to do with VSU president, Dr. Zaccari.

According to Nick Overstreet, SGA president, issues of concern to students, like parking, are being discussed at the meetings.

Another item on the menu to be discussed is the Student Advisory Council. The strategic planning retreat that just took place was also a topic of conversation Overstreet said.

"These meetings are intended to be informal settings so we can have open forums to improve communication," Dr. Zaccari said. "I find these meet-

ings to be extremely productive, and I would like for every senator in the SGA to attend one of the meetings."

"The four top SGA positions of president, vice president, secretary and comptroller are always to be in attendance with a changing six-member SGA representative group switching out," Dr. Zaccari said.

Overstreet said, "The same people have not been in attendance except for the four top officers that don't swap out."

According to Overstreet, the meetings take place about every six weeks at 8 a.m. on Wednesdays. They are held in the president's dining room located in the University Center.

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News

Help wanted:**47 companies come to Career Day**Casey Carpenter
Staff Writer

Jobs came looking for students this week. Tuesday the Career Planning and Placement Center held another Career Day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the P.E. Complex Mezzanine.

Forty-seven companies and organizations were present. Students had a variety of people to talk to about job opportunities.

Representatives from banks such as Suntrust and Regions, police departments from Gainesville, Montgomery, and Tallahassee, financial investment companies, rehabilitation centers, hospitals and Army and Navy recruiting offices were just a few looking for applicants.

All students were welcome to come. Seniors had opportunities to interview and submit resumes to specific companies.

Some companies had specific wants in an employee.

"We are looking for applicants with sales experience, basic accounting skills, community service, and a 3.0 G.P.A.," Tricia Skates, Suntrust representative, said. "We don't require a specific degree and a credit history report isn't done in Georgia."

Phyllis Lawson, representative from the Georgia Dept. of Corrections, said, "We are looking for students with Criminal Justice, Sociology, or Psychology majors. We also look

for work experience, internships, and areas of interest; G.P.A. doesn't necessarily play a factor."

Most companies agreed the ability to present yourself professionally was at the top of the list.

The Career Placement Center offers assistance to any student preparing a resume, researching various companies and establishing mock interviews to create a higher comfort level to nervous applicants.

Students seemed to be pleased with the Career Day.

"I was impressed with the number of companies and found it helpful," Bekah Whelan, sen-

ior, said.

Other students felt they did not find many opportunities due to the lack in companies or organizations in their job field.

"I think that it is a great idea, but I wish that there were more job representatives from my field here," Meredith Jones, senior, speech communications major, said.

The Career Placement Center can provide several useful techniques in landing a job. For information on other Career Days or help, call 333-5942.

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

**SGA fails to meet quorum**MaryEllen McConnel
Staff Writer

At Tuesday's meeting SGA did not make quorum. According to Cody Guined, SGA vice president, because of the lack of quorum the constitution will have presented to members via e-mail, and then voted on at a later time.

According to Nick Overstreet, SGA president, elections will be held next week on Tuesday from noon to midnight. He also said if it is needed, SGA can hold elections over until the fall.

Only three students have applied for the executive board. Cody Guined is running for president; Jason Lewis is running for vice president, and Raquel Aque, current SGA comptroller, is running for secretary. There is no candidate for comptroller.

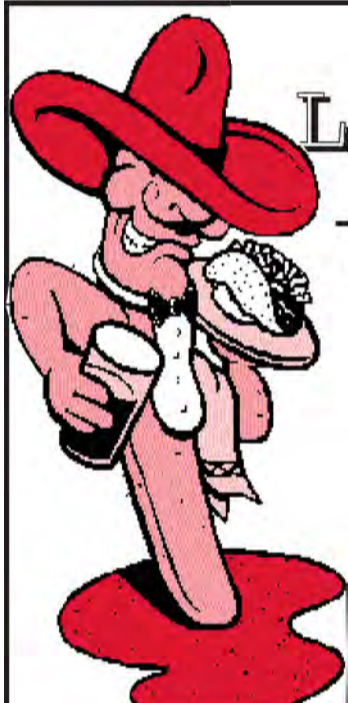
Overstreet announced that at the SAC conference VSU's SGA was voted delegation of the year. Overstreet won delegate of the year and Guined won the hall of fame award.



Vonetta Lawton / The Spectator

The SGA executive board addresses the few members present Tuesday night. SGA did not meet quorum.

See a story brewing? The news section welcomes any story suggestions. Contact Michelle Taylor, managing editor, at pferde14@hotmail.com



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vs.

SGA President - Nick Overstreet

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VSU 1card SERVICES

Spring
2002
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Account
Information

All FLEX Accounts will be shut down on Tuesday, April 30th for the annual rollover / refund process to take place. FLEX Account balance's that are rolled over (see info. below), will be available for use again on 5/1/02.

If you anticipate having a FLEX Account balance of \$25.00 (or more) at the end of Spring Semester, you may choose from the following:

- Sign a FLEX Rollover form in the VSU 1Card Office by the April 24th deadline and have the \$25.00 (or more) balance rolled until next spring semester, or depletion. You may still access your FLEX Account funds through April 29th.

OR

- Leave the \$25.00 (or more) balance in the FLEX Account and it will automatically be credited/refunded to your Student Account on April 30th. (Please review your FLEX Account Agreement for more details)

Please Note: A FLEX Account balance of \$24.99 or less will automatically be rolled over; you don't have to do anything. As stated on your FLEX Account Agreement, any balance rolled over for (1) one year on an inactive FLEX Account will result in a forfeited balance and account closure without prior notice.

*** Summer Financial Aid deposited in a FLEX Account will be available for use starting 5-7-02 provided all account requirements are met***

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The Spectator

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Your government needs you

Kudos to SGA.

Not only did SGA bring the Student Advisory Committee conference to VSU this year but swept the awards at the conference banquet.

Nick Overstreet, SGA president, and Cody Guined, SGA vice president, both won awards for their work as members of our SGA and of SAC.

The SAC conference brought more than 100 student representatives from 25 University System schools to VSU.

The conference itself yielded four resolutions, which will now go to the Board of Regents for approval. The average conference brings *one* resolution—and there's no guarantee of even that.

Definitely a case of the good.

Yet, by application deadline, only three people had applied for the four positions available for next year's SGA executive board.

Guined is running for president. Raquel Aque, current SGA comptroller, is running for secretary, and Jason Lewis is running for vice president.

And no one is running for comptroller.

This leaves SGA with no officer handling money for next year unless students use write-in votes. According to Russ Mast, acting vice president for Academic Affairs and dean of students, it's likely SGA will have to hold a special election to get a comptroller.

Definitely a case of the bad.

The lack of involvement in VSU student government is far more than pathetic—it's apathetic.

This past year has clearly been a benchmark year for SGA. Hard work has brought recognition from other schools. There is a budget surplus in a year SGA started with a \$3,000 deficit.

With an active SGA, students should be getting more involved.

The simple fact is if you don't get involved, directly as a senator or indirectly by voting and voicing your opinion, you have nothing to complain about.

And that's definitely a case of the ugly.

Spectator opinion written by Leah F. Cassorla

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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.



Get some standards

It didn't take much for me to be a lucky kid in high school.

I wasn't popular, and god knows I wasn't athletic, but I knew how to take a standardized test.

Standardized tests are what education comes down to, now more than ever. It doesn't matter that I got sex education by reading my mother's *Cosmos*, critical thinking skills from watching *Blue's Clues* with my nephew and musical appreciation from the sweet sound a rubber band makes as it's plucked. All that matters is that I can make the crucial decision between A, B, C and D.

Yeah, I'm pissed, too.

The government's going crazy with standardized testing, and some schools are revamping their entire curriculum so it produces kids capable of answering multiple choice, essay and short answer questions within a limited time peri-



Mary Dabbs

od. That's not a bad idea in general, but there's more to learning.

All standardized tests *test* is your ability to take a standardized test. They don't test your ability to think or retain, they don't encourage any form of creativity or give an outlet for expression, and they don't teach you anything. They just look at your ability to suck in BS and spit it out in a 45 minute time period. While that is a vital life skill and has saved my butt

in class discussions, it doesn't give me much of a future as anything other than a "yes-man."

So, what's the point I'm trying to make here? Well, let's take a look at the following question:

The author's column presents a belief that:

A. Standardized tests are vital to true learning and understanding of the world around you

B. Standardized tests are good in small doses, but let's not forget the rest of the curriculum

C. Steve from *Blue's Clues* is a "hottie"

D. B and C only

If you chose B then you've gotten the picture. If not, well, I won't fault you for it, but pretty soon our entire public education system will.

Mailbox

Palestine deserves peace

Dear Editor:

I am responding to Leah Cassorla's "Prayer for Peace" column. There are no words to describe the atrocities committed against the Palestinian people by Mr. Sharon. He has killed nearly 300 Palestinians over the last 10 days, nearly 2,000 over the last 18 months, yet the ONLY thing the US media, and for that matter, the VSU Spectator focuses on are the suicide bombers and the few Israeli victims. Ms. Cassorla adds to the dehumanization of the Palestinian people by promoting fallacies when she says, "There are no words for the pain I feel when I think

about women knowingly sending their children out to kill and be killed. I've been in the US military. I know about choosing to serve my country, and yet it never occurred to me that a mother would knowingly and happily send her child off to be a human bomb and kill civilians who were worshipping." I wonder what Ms. Cassorla's agenda is in perpetuating such lies? Palestinians are human, surprise, surprise and NO Palestinian mother or father would ever 'happily send off their child to be a human bomb.' When children in the US carry a gun to school and kill classmates and then themselves no one implies that the family encouraged the child to do so, instead we try to understand why. Believe it or not Palestinians actually love their children. Young Palestinians commit suicide for the same reasons as anyone else—the

loss of the will to live, desperation, and, in the case of the Palestinians, rage. Rage that Sharon and the Israelis are directly responsible for, rage that comes from hunger, violence and the injustice of 50 years of occupation, stems from being humiliated on a daily basis, from being called a terrorist for defending your family and homeland, from asking for freedom, for asking for basic human rights and mostly from seeing your friends, neighbors and family members mutilated, tortured and killed. My nephews were rounded up by the Israeli soldiers, in the same way Anne Frank and other Jews were rounded up during WWII by the Nazi soldiers—going door to door and taking all those who were guilty by ethnicity—this time the crime is

Palestine—see page 7



Got something to say?

Open mic on this page every week at the Spectator.



Tara Sherman

Making the grade

Someone once told me the grade you make doesn't reflect how smart you are. This is true. Some students lack motivation. Others who rarely exceed "average" scores on exams could talk themselves out of a speeding ticket or never miss a bill payment, with the help of common sense and quick thinking. In other cases, the grade could fall from teachers without you in their good graces, regardless of your performance. Good ole' biased bad luck.

It's frustrating to watch the professor's pets, who struggle just as much as you do, receive a grade worth hanging on the fridge, along with brown fingerprints from when they rubbed their noses. Disheartening, isn't it?

Be friends with your teachers. That way, when you've got a problem it won't be so hard to talk to them about it. It's fun to catch professors enjoying time off at the bar. You can catch them on a different level and carry on a conversation that isn't tied in with school. There's nothing wrong with that.

What bites is when this gives students a secret license to slack off in class without making a dent in their GPAs. It doesn't necessarily take a round of shots to get on the teachers' happy lists as long as you show some leg or walk with them to class everyday. Be sure to ask if you can baby-sit their kids after you tell them your plans of becoming president.

Those not part of the elite can only hope the kid sitting on the teacher's throne will one day face a bitter spoonful of reality; maybe they'll realize that their wings aren't golden and they can't fly. All it takes is a humbling experience in the workplace and someone of high rank seeing through the conversational melodrama, or having a "no talk, just work" motto so the work these so-called stars produce come up lacking.

If you're one of those students who never soars on test grades and report cards (you're not alone!), this doesn't mean you're an idiot. And, just because you get the good-good on the grades doesn't mean you're Einstein. Those of us uninformed on how to get a good grade with half the work should learn a few tricks from the kids on the front row, the ones "on the down-low" with the professor, and get a hold of that secret special license that keeps them on the honor roll.

Why do you think there is apathy towards student government on campus?



"Probably because most students don't actually see what it is that the student government actually accomplishes."

Angela Clark
Senior
Psychology



"Because the student government needs to interact more with the students and get more involved with the students."

Candice Lindsey
Freshman
Accounting



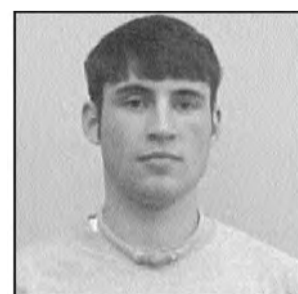
"Because they aren't aware of the organization or what it has to offer the students."

Angela Killough
Senior
Public Relations



"Because student government doesn't really handle all the different situations of the different student populations thoroughly."

Ellis Stanley
Junior
Physical Education



"Students have no idea what is going on with the student government. Half the students are lucky to know what's going on in their classes."

Casey Horn
Freshman
Undecided



"People don't really believe that their opinions will make a difference and they aren't aware of how student government functions."

Lisa Leclair
Senior
Public Relations

Mail box continued

Palestine

continued from page 6

being Palestinian. "Jewish only" is the sign and message everywhere. This is genocide and racism at its worst.

I would urge Ms. Cassorla to take the high moral ground and start by reporting the truth about the current reign of terror the Palestinian people face daily, the assassination of civilians, the bombs, the destruction of their homes and the looting of their money and possessions. Today's international press reports that even Foreign Minister Shimon Peres is worried about the expected international reaction as soon as the world learns the details of the tough battle in the

Jenin refugee camps, where more than 100 Palestinians have already been killed in fighting with IDF forces, "In private, Peres is referring to the battle as a massacre." The whole world is protesting Israel and it's time for the US to wake up and understand why and make some serious foreign policy changes starting with a demand for Sharon's resignation.

Most importantly the US must give young Palestinians a sense of hope and a reason to live.

Dr. Susan Wehling

Workers shoulder the burden

Dear Editor:

News of multi-million dollar cuts to VSU's budget is serious.

Beyond the number of dollars being cut by the state are real people, you and me, who are being told to "help shoulder the burden" of a slumping economy. The demands of an economic recession, so say corporate economists, require that we "restructure" and "reorganize" the way we spend our public funds. But for working people in this country, news of "restructuring" and "reorganiz-

ing" translates into threats to their jobs and livelihoods.

So it is for workers at VSU. An additional cut of \$400,000 in the university's budget is now being added on top of cuts of over \$2 million previously mandated by the state. According to Mr. Brignatti these cuts are going to primarily hit VSU's "operating budget"--the funds going to workers wages and benefits in addition to other basic services needed to keep the university running. According to the Business and Finance VP, VSU is not planning on firing any workers as a result of the cuts. Instead, the money will come through a process of "restructuring" that includes, among other things, a "hiring freeze" on new employees, the non-replacement of

vacant positions left by workers who have retired or quit, and the reduction of merit goes from 3.5 to 3.25 percent.

Although the budget cuts may not lead to mass layoffs at VSU, the message is clear: those who will be asked to shoulder the heaviest burden are the very ones least able to carry it. Folks working on poverty wages, having to struggle to make it to the next paycheck, can ill afford to swallow the pill of heavier workloads, workplace instability, and raise reductions. Whether "restructuring" means layoffs or other schemes to reduce the number of workers on the payroll, the effect is the same. Soon, workloads are going to increase even more, leading to increased rates of health and safety prob-

lems, lower morale, lower productivity and a general negative effect on the functioning of the university and the services provided to students. Rather than making the burden even heavier for low-wage workers, the VSU administration ought to think about alternative ways of addressing the budget cuts. But a "restructuring" at the administrative level including an end to wasteful spending, corruption, and grand prestige-building projects seems unlikely. More probable is the prospect of deteriorating working conditions and cuts in the pay of VSU workers. Clearly some of us are going to have to carry more of a load than others.

Ben Speight

Catholic, not cursed

I'm not ashamed.

And yet it seems that people think I should be. Because I am Catholic.

Catholic. Think about that. What comes to mind? Ah, yes, priests molesting young boys.

I am as appalled as any Catholic, any Christian, any Jew, any Muslim—anyone of any religion should be. The priests should be defrocked and jailed. And given help. And those covering up the accusations should be punished as well. There is no excuse for any of these actions.

I am shocked, but it's not a new concept and not limited to Catholics. According to an MSNBC report, there have been 10 Baptist ministers charged. And five Methodists. And the list expands to include other Christian sects, Rabbis, and other men of religious



Michelle Taylor

crimes. And 75 is a big number...until you take into consideration that there are thousands of priests.

And it's not being Catholic that causes these men to molest children. Molestation is about power. Not about sexual frustration. When a priest takes his vow of chastity, he is not permitted to partake in any sexual activity of any kind. A Catholic knows this from the beginning.

These men committed an unthinkable act—made all the more detestable because they are supposed to be the most

trustworthy men in the Church.

But condemning an entire religion, or believing that "those heathens are at it again" is ridiculous and wrong.

Condemning an entire religion, or believing that 'those heathens are at it again' is ridiculous and wrong.

-Michelle Taylor

those who offended both Church and God.

Don't blame me or mine for the

actions of a few. As it says in the Bible, "Judge not, that ye be not judged."

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

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Entries due April 26th.
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5. Large Cheese Pizza
6. 2 Double Cheese Bread

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Features

Looking for a fun time on the web? Searching out ways to not get stuck? Check out the Spectator site for a clip!

www.valdosta.edu/spectator

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

International students cook a feast

Leah F. Cassorla
Staff Writer

For many cultures, food is a form of communication. Turkmen culture is no exception. Maral Meredova, junior English major and international student from Turkmenistan, found that out the hard way.

"I was away [from home] and I thought 'I miss food from home,'" she said. "So I thought I'd try."

In Turkmenistan, cooking is a time for women to gather and talk. Maral calls it "quality time."

As a child, Maral helped in the kitchen. Assisting in the cooking, she saw how the dishes the family ate day to day were made.

"I'm confident that now I can cook anything from my country," she said. "Maybe it won't taste as good as my mom's."

Maral spoke as she prepared Ishlekly (ish-LEK-lee), a meat pie she'll be preparing for the International Dinner, Saturday. The dinner will be held at the Park Avenue Methodist Church at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for students and \$12 for the general public. The food will be cooked by international students.

Ishlekly is a simple dish to make and an average meal in Turkmenistan. Though Maral makes the dish with beef, at home the dish is made using lamb's meat.

After rediscovering her ability to cook her home foods, Maral cooked Turkmen foods for herself and her house family about once a week. That has tapered off some.

"I miss cooking with my family," she said. "Sometimes, I don't like to cook because I



Photos by Leah F. Cassorla / The Spectator
Maral Meredova, junior English major, presents Ishlekly, a traditional Turkmen meat pie. She will prepare this dish for the international dinner on April 13.

feel so lonely."

This weekend, as Maral prepares Ishlekly she won't feel as lonely. Her mother, who has been working in the U.S., will be cooking with her.

Maral explained that for the Turkmen people, food and hospitality are a necessity.

"You always have the kettle boiling," she said. "You never know who's going to come by. You give them tea and cookies, and while they're eating the cookies, you make food. You never let them go away without feeding them."

In Turkmenistan, even a fam-

ily with very little will make sure that some food is available in case guests arrive.

As Maral explained hospitality and customs in her country, she also talked about being an international student.

"Every opportunity I get, I try to let people know about Turkmenistan," she said. "I'm proud to be a Turkmen."

Maral's explanation of Ishlekly was simple, but clearly came from trial and error.

"I change the recipe every time," she said.

*Measurements for the recipe that follows are not exact. Cooking in Maral's family is done by sense and practice.

- shlekly - Turkmen meat pie:
- 1 cup milk
 - 1 1/2 tbsp sour cream
 - 3 tbsp margarine
 - 1/2 tsp. baking powder
 - 1 egg
 - Salt to taste
 - 1/4 lb. ground lamb or beef
 - 1 can diced tomatoes
 - 2 (or more to taste) finely diced onions
 - Flour

Pour milk into a mixing bowl and add sour cream, margarine, egg, salt and baking powder, continually mixing the ingredients. When the ingredients are well mixed, add flour until mixture doesn't stick to hands. In separate bowl add meat, onions and tomatoes. Mix well. Add salt to taste.

Separate dough into two balls, one approximately 2/3 and the other 1/3 of the dough in the bowl. Roll out each ball into a circle 1/4 inch thick. Place the larger round on a pizza stone. Spread meat mixture evenly over dough. Place smaller round on top of meat mixture, and gather the lower and upper edges of the dough, pinching them together as you work around the pie.

Bake at 425 degrees for 25 minutes or until golden brown.

Immediately after removing pie, rub margarine over the top and allow to cool slightly before serving.

Ishlekly is traditionally served with green tea, as are most meals in Turkmenistan.



Meredova demonstrates pinching the dough.



The meat mixture should be spread evenly, leaving one inch around the rim of the dough.

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for VSU - Students, Faculty & Staff

Sponsored by VSU Catholic Newman Center

WHAT: 19 hole golf course around the VS campus
WHEN: Saturday, April 13, 2002
TIME: 8:00AM - 4:30PM
WHERE: Next to PE Complex (Baytree Rd. side)
COST: \$10 per person or \$30 for a team of 4

\$300 to the group winner
\$200 for individual winner

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- Complete rules & course will be given out at registration. Deadline to reserve a tee time is Thur, April 11, 6 PM.
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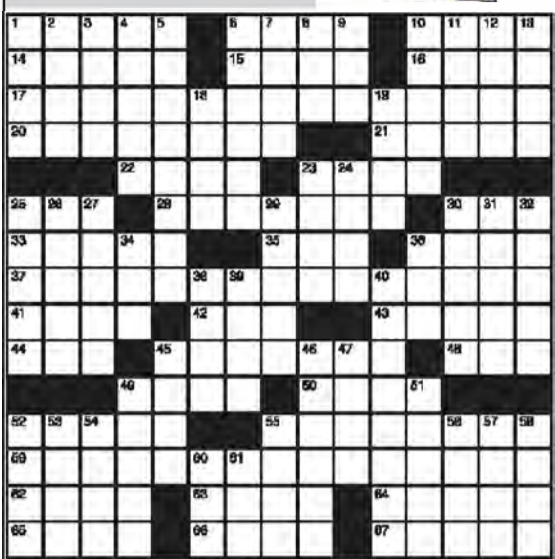
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45 Tackles, guards, etc.

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50 Andes auto

52 Warty amphibians

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62 Hint

63 Hari

64 Border

65 Shoe part

66 Front of the calf

67 Irregularly notched

26 Without a doubt

34 Tenth mo.

36 Spherical object

38 Yale alum

39 Trig function

40 Devise

45 Young lady

46 Minimum of ten

10 Cancel

11 Forbidding

12 Blues singer

13 Capone's nemesis

18 Kind of pick

19 Sentry's command

23 "Trinity"

24 Secondhand author

25 "It's a Wonderful Life" director

26 Native Alaskan

27 Evening tool

29 Moby Dick, See

30 Shooting sport

31 Delete

32 Domestic

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VSU alum scores an Oscar

Jason Howell
Staff Writer

VSU now has one Oscar to its name thanks to Cook County native and VSU theater alumni Ray McKinnon.

McKinnon graduated from VSU in 1981 with hopes of becoming a successful actor and director. After leaving Valdosta, McKinnon moved to Atlanta, then to California to begin his career in film and television.

"I never had the opportunity to teach Ray because I came to VSU the year after Ray graduated but I have kept in touch with him via telephone and I know he has become very successful since graduating from VSU," Dr. Randy Wheeler, VSU theater professor, said.

Over the past 20 years, McKinnon has been very successful in Hollywood. As an actor, Ray has appeared in over 50 films and television shows such as "Driving Miss Daisy," "Bugsy," "The Net," "A Perfect War," "NYPD Blue,"

"Designing Women," and "Scarlett." He also played the guy who slugged George Clooney in "Oh Brother Where Art Thou."

McKinnon recently began writing screenplays within the last couple of years. He has now completed three feature length screenplays and has a number of others in development. Most of his stories are set in the south and his interest lies in telling the stories that go outside of the usual Hollywood/southern story line.

At this same time, McKinnon met his future wife, Lisa Blount. Blount won a Golden

Globe for playing the mean girlfriend in the movie "An Officer and a Gentleman," and has also gone on to star in over 20 feature films like "Great Balls of Fire," eight MOW's, two television series and many various guest star appearances over the past few years.

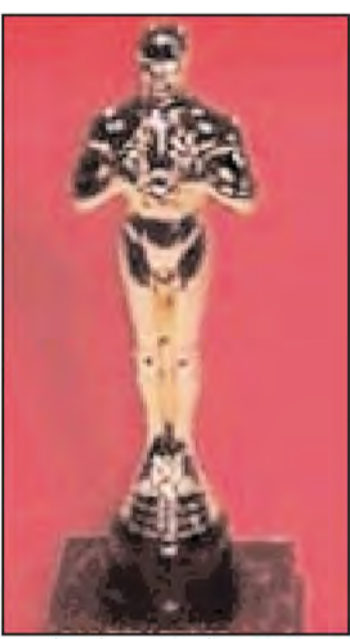
McKinnon and Blount just recently married and they formed "Ginny Mule Pictures," a film production company. Later, Producer Walter Goggins, form Georgia, combined his talents with the company. The three work great together in all aspects of acting, writing, producing and directing which led to their big hit short, "The Accountant." "The Accountant" is a 38-minute

comedy about two farmers facing the loss of their family farm and they ask for the help of an accountant to help them keep their farm. Blount was the executive producer of this film while McKinnon wrote, starred in, co-produced and directed it.

"The Accountant" was such a big hit at many of the conventions it was shown at that it went on to win an Oscar for Best Live Action Short Film at the 74th Annual Academy Awards on March 24 in Los Angeles.

"We want to make more movies and when we started 'The Accountant,'" McKinnon said, "the idea was to show that we were great, but winning the Academy Award was not part of the plan."

McKinnon said, "I now understand what they mean though about it [winning an oscar] taking a while for the shock to wear off and letting the whole thing sink in."



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Upcoming Games

Baseball @ West Georgia
When: Saturday, 1 p.m.
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Golfers tie for fifth at Southeastern Invite

Jason James
Staff Writer

After superb individual performances in the Southeastern Invitational, the No.13 Blazer golfers are looking to regroup as a team and charge into the Gulf South Conference Tourney.

The GSC tourney will be held Monday and Tuesday at the Hot Springs Country Club in Hot Springs, Ark. The Blazers performance in the tourney will

decide their fate in making the NCAA Division II national tournament.

VSU will send senior Andy Blanton, sophomore Thomas Pecout, and freshman Chris Erwin. Coach Miles Hannen is still debating on the other two players to send. After the Southeastern Invitational, held at the Valdosta Country Club last Monday and Tuesday, the scores of freshman Ben Bramlett, an overall 244, and sophomore Michael Collins, an

overall 250, will help decide the new lineup.

"I am pleased with three of my guys' performance," Hannen said.

Hannen will try to send freshman Brian Hurtak, who is battling an illness and possibly senior Kip Moore or senior Matt Cottle.

The Blazers finished tied for

fifth overall with Georgia College and State University in the Southeastern Invitational

with rounds of 71, 68 and 72 for a final 211. Erwin shot a best single round score of 66 on his

way to a fifth-place individual finish of 196. Pecout finished 26th overall with a 226.

No. 4 Rollins finished first overall with a final score of 876. Rollins was led by the performance of Alex Smith, who

had rounds of 69, 73 and 72 for a final of 214, and Rob Oppenheimer, who finished with a 215. No. 2 Florida Southern's Steve Paramore shot rounds of 71, 76 and 69 to help the team finish second with an 885.

The Blazers will be ready for the GSC Tourney next week according to Hannen.

"If I am any kind of coach, I'll rally my guys and we'll take the tournament," Hannen said.

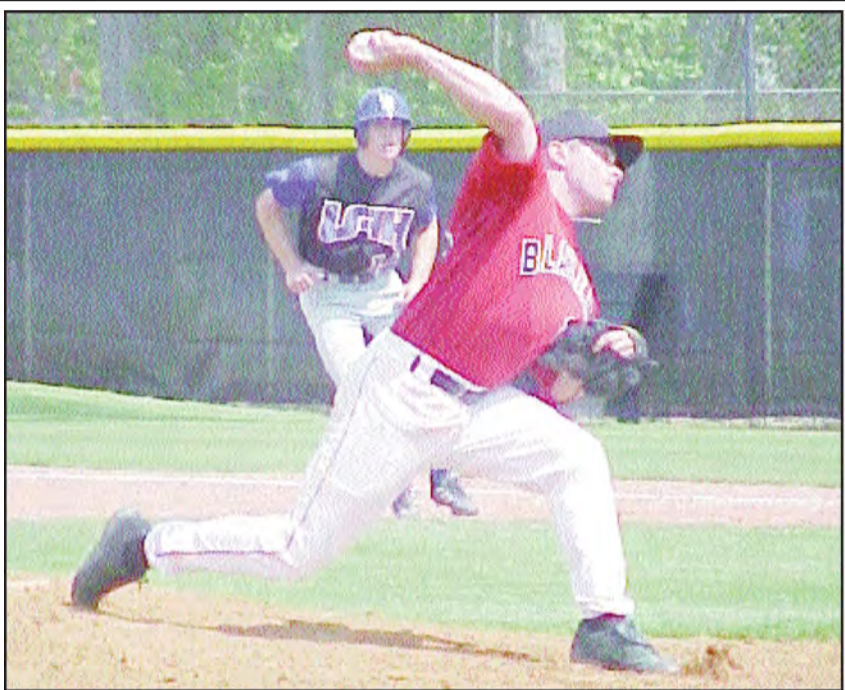


If I am any kind of coach, I'll rally my guys and we'll take the [GSC] tournament.

-Miles Hannan, head golf coach

with a score of 890. Blanton, the Blazers lone senior, won individual low medallist honors

overall with a final score of 876. Rollins was led by the performance of Alex Smith, who



Senior righthander Josh Kitterman pitches in VSU's weekend series with No. 10 Alabama-Huntsville in Valdosta. UAH took two of three games from the Blazers.

Annie Johnson / The Spectator

Blazers in late season swoon

Jana N. Cook
Staff Writer

The Blazer baseball team found itself headed in the wrong direction this week in the NCAA Division II polls.

After spending five weeks in the Top 10, the Blazers (30-11 overall, 7-5 Gulf South Conference) plummeted from No. 7 to No. 21 after being

shutout 12-0 last Wednesday by Columbus State and losing two out of three games at home to No. 10 University of Alabama-Huntsville over the weekend. The weekend series left the Blazers in third position in the GSC standings behind North Alabama and UAH.

VSU will be busy this week, playing seven games in as

many days.

The Blazers play a double-header at Billy Grant Field against Albany State on Thursday. The first pitch is slotted for 4 p.m. The team will also have another round of conference play this weekend at the University of West Georgia, who holds the last

Baseball — see page 12

Red/Black clash in Spring Game Thursday

Brandon Scott
Staff Writer

When the Blazers take Cleveland Field Thursday night, so will the Greeks. Head coach Chris Hatcher will continue his tradition of joining the Greeks in the annual Spring Red/Black Game. The culmination of spring practices will end in a much more lighthearted atmosphere.

"We're gonna concentrate on letting the players play," Hatcher said.

The Blazer football team will be entering Bazemore-Hyder Stadium for the first time in 2002. This will also be the first time the Blazers will enter that stadium without All-Everything quarterback Dusty Bonner.

Assuming the reins of the "Hatch Attack" will be, drum roll please... 2001 backup

sophomore Buster Faulkner. Faulkner has looked steady throughout spring and has never relinquished his hold as the number one quarterback.

Junior Ken Barnett will lead the Red squad as the team's number two quarterback.

Defensive coordinator Kevin Shirley will also let his players "play."

"We're gonna play base defense," Shirley said. "We just want to play hard and not get anybody injured."

Playing hard and producing leadership has been the motto throughout spring practices. Shirley feels confident he has found some on-the-field coaches in two of the returning starters.

"Tabious Carter, Cedrick Dickerson, those two really stand out," Shirley said. "They are trying to make other people follow them. And we're still



Annie Johnson / The Spectator

Buster Faulkner

Spring Game — see page 12

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Tennis top fives battle Saturday

Fourth ranked Blazers look to avenge last year's season-ending loss to Rollins College

T.A. Glanton
Staff Writer

Everyone has a nemesis. Batman has the Joker, Tom has Jerry, Bill Clinton has Kenneth Starr. The VSU men's tennis team has Rollins College.

Payback is a ... well, you know. After dropping two spots in the rankings, the No. 4 ranked Blazers (11-3, 4-0 Gulf South Conference) will clash against No. 2 ranked Rollins

(18-2) Saturday at 11 a.m. on the tennis courts of the P.E. Complex. Assistant coach Sachin Kirtane knows the match against Rollins will be a fight of Division II top five teams.

"Rollins has traditionally been one of our biggest rivals over the past seven or eight years," Kirtane said. "They've basically got the same team coming back from last year. We're going to have to step up and play. Just from the point of view of building up confidence, I think it's a very important match."

Twice in 2001, the Tars defeated

the Blazers by the identical score of 5-4, with the first Blazers loss on April 14 at Rollins and the second loss on May 11 in the quarterfinals of the men's national tennis championships. Freshman No. 6 singles player Andrew Davies knows this team ended VSU's season last year, and the first step in payback begins Saturday.

"The match for most of the players is a revenge match," Davies said. "I think we have the confidence now. Maybe last year we didn't have as much confidence."

The Tars have three of their singles players ranked in the top 50 in Division II tennis: No. 7 Carlos Custodio, No. 11 Mark Thompson and No. 50 Matt Umbers. Thompson and Umbers team up to for the No. 16 ranked doubles team in Division II. The Blazers have a few of their own players in the top 50: No. 18 Tobias Huning, No. 35 Marco Borges and Peter Kreutzfeldt. Kreutzfeldt is tied with Umbers at No. 50 in the country. Huning and Borges boast the No. 1 ranking among doubles teams.

The results of VSU's match Wednesday with No. 19 Armstrong Atlantic State University were not available before press time.



Annie Johnson / The Spectator

Andreas Von Michaelis

Baseball

continued from page 11

spot in this week's GSC standings. The UWG series will begin with a doubleheader on Saturday at 1 p.m. and one game on Sunday at 1 p.m. as well.

Senior righthander Steve Bowerman (1-1) will get his third start in the first game against Albany State, while jun-

ior lefty Scott Brinson (0-0) will get his first start in the second game.

As for the weekend series against UWG, the pitching will look somewhat different than last weekend's lineup. Senior righthanders Braxton Fernald (7-0) and John Rose (4-3) are slated to start the doubleheaders on Saturday, with senior righty Josh Kitterman (6-4) starting the game on Sunday to finish up

the series. Junior lefty Michael Smith (5-2) will be held as a reliever for the week. VSU won its second in a row Wednesday afternoon after defeating Thomas University 12-6 in Thomasville, Ga. Smith picked up his fifth win of the season in relief of starter Davey Covey.

The Blazers pulled an outstanding ninth inning comeback on Tuesday at Armstrong

Atlantic State in Savannah, Ga. The Blazers scored three runs in the second inning to take an early lead, but remained scoreless until the final inning.

Losing 7-3 going into the ninth, the Blazers rallied for five runs in the top half of the inning and held Armstrong in the bottom of the inning for the win. Freshman lefty Zach Stewart (2-0) picked up his first start in Tuesday's game. Stewart

pitched into the fourth inning, relieved by sophomore Render Parkman (1-0) after AASU scored a run to put the Pirates up 6-3. "Parkman did an outstanding job in relief," Thomas said of the righthander who only gave up one run in three innings. Senior righty Brett Bennett (2-0) was the closer for the Blazers, picking up the win with four strikeouts in two

innings. "Bennett definitely put the fire in it," Thomas said. So, is the Blazer team feeling shaky since last week's disappointments? If so, it's hard to tell.

"We had a big win against Armstrong Atlantic," Blazer head coach Tommy Thomas said, which proved to him the Blazers weren't affected by their No. 21 spot in the polls.

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Spring Game

continued from page 11

looking for a lot more."

A lot more could include returning starters junior linebacker Mike Fowler and sophomore safety Wesley Brown. Fowler and Brown finished as the team's second and third leading tacklers, respectively.

Although Shirley does not expect a dramatic drop-off from last season, he doesn't know if the Black Swarm is in championship form just yet.

"We've got some people that have got to figure out what 100 percent effort means," Shirley said. "What it means to be a team player, what it means to sacrifice, what it means to hustle."

2002 Spring Game

When: Thursday, 7 p.m.
Where: Bazemore-Hyder Stadium



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