

S  **E** **C** **T**  **T**  **R**

THE **Equality Empowerment** VOICE OF THE STUDENTS.

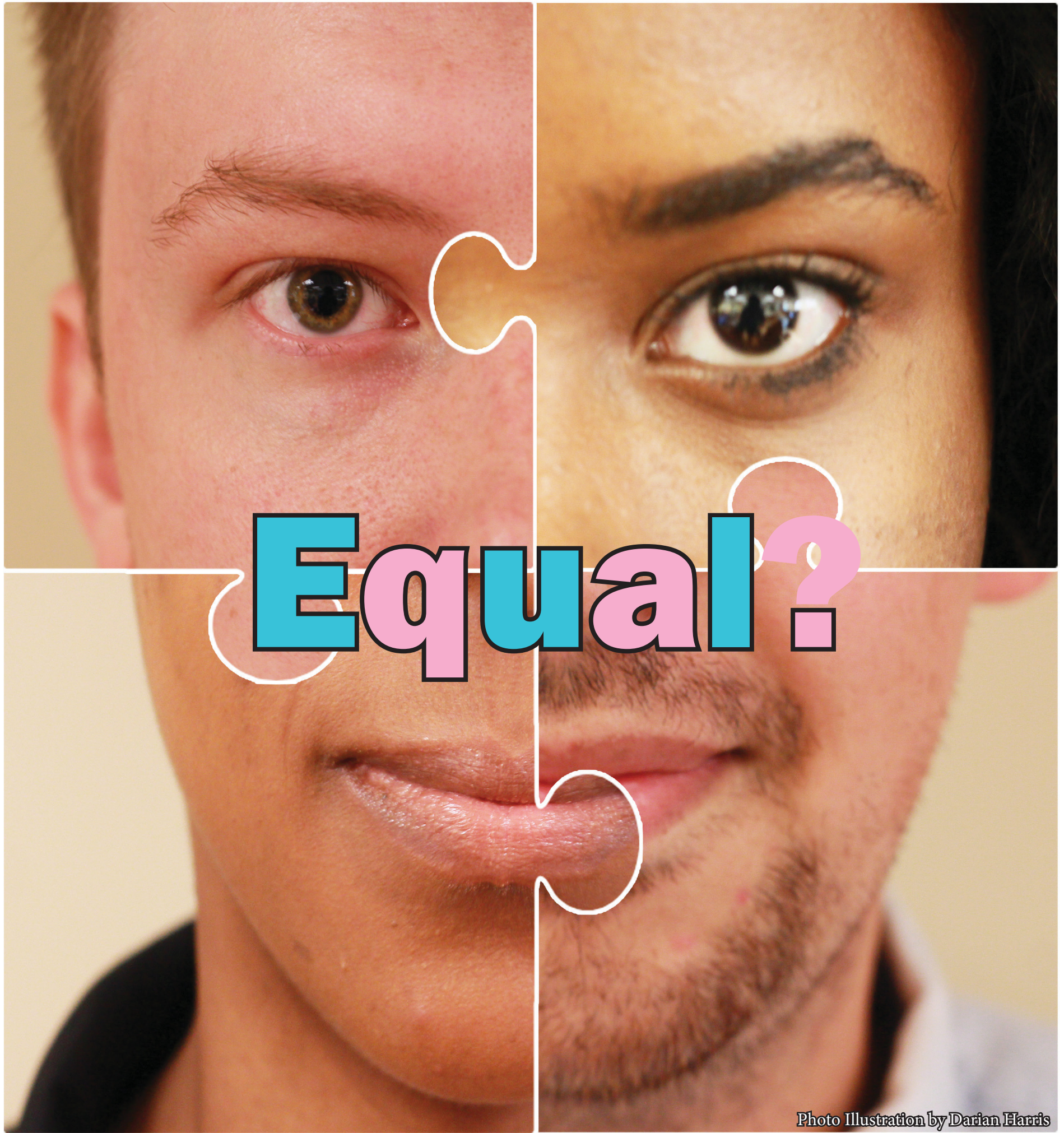
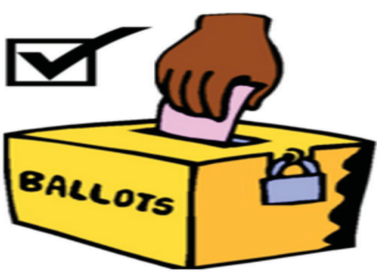


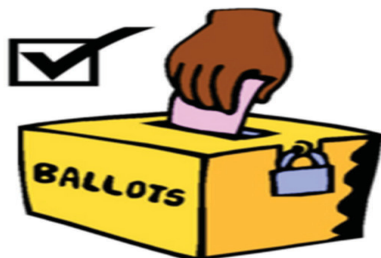
Photo Illustration by Darian Harris

GRAND TICKET



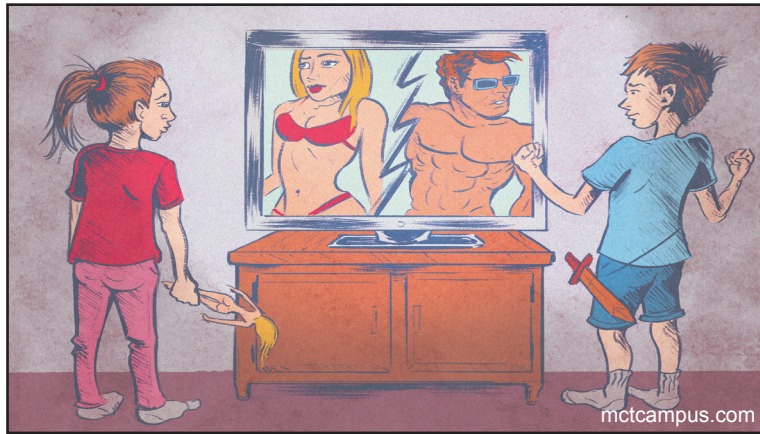
See Page 4 for full details

Are you voting in SGA?



MOMENTUM





DID YOU

KNOW?

On this day in 1997, the Howard Stern Show Radio Show premiered in Ft. Meyers, Florida.

Announcements

BraveSpace: LGBT Forum

The open forum will be held today for members of the LGBT+ community. The forum will be held in Meeting Room 2 of the Student Union. The forum will begin at 6 p.m.

Education Career Day

Education Career Day will be held today in both the Magnolia and Cypress Rooms, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event is for any student interested in working in education. Interviews with school systems will begin at 11:30 a.m. Over 45 schools are registered to attend.

Relay for Life

The annual cancer fundraising event will be held on Friday. The event will start at 7 p.m. and last until 2 a.m. Relay for life will be held on the Front Lawn. To register and for more information, visit www.relayforlife.org/vsuga.

Want to have your event featured in our Announcements section? Email Editor-in-Chief Jordan Barela at jlbarela@valdosta.edu to have your event featured.

VSU OFFICE OF CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

FULL & PART TIME JOB OPPORTUNITY BULLETIN FOR STUDENTS

POSITION	JOB #/TYPE	SALARY
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RETAIL SALES CONSULTANT	102/PT	DISCUSSED UPON HIRE
DELIVERY DRIVER	103/PT	DISCUSSED UPON HIRE
SALES ASSOCIATE/ PHOTOGRAPHER	104/PT	DISCUSSED UPON HIRE

Apply At:

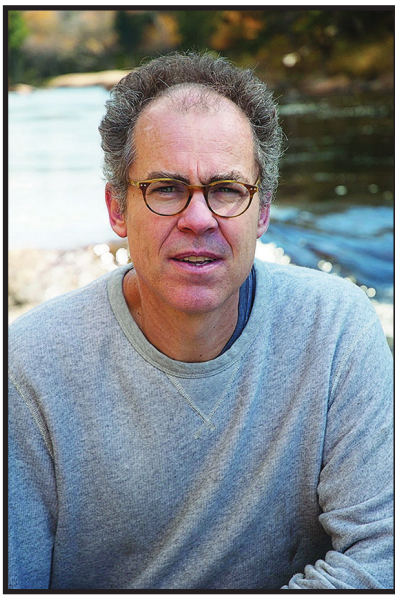
VSU Office of Career Opportunities

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BRING YOUR VSU ID TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

VSU Department of English Presents

JEFFREY HARRISON



Final Reading in the Contemporary Writers Series Wednesday, April 13th • 7:30pm • Student Union Theater

Jeffrey Harrison is the author of five full-length books of poetry: *The Singing Underneath*, *Signs of Arrival*, *Feeding the Fire*, *Incomplete Knowledge*, and *Into Daylight*, published in 2014 by Tupelo Press as the winner of the Dorset Prize. He has published poems in *The New Republic*, *The New Yorker*, *The Nation*, *Poetry*, *The Yale Review*, and many others. He visits many schools every year to read to students and teach about poetry, and he currently resides in Massachusetts.

Have a way for us to improve? Need to rant?

Head to vsuspectator.com, download our app, or shoot us an email at spec@valdosta.edu to send any suggestions. Also check our website and our app to submit a rant and rave!

Spectator Classifieds

The *Spectator* prints free classifieds for current students of Valdosta State University only. These must be no more than 40 words, or a \$13.90 charge will apply. Classifieds for faculty, staff, student organizations, student-owned businesses and the general public cost \$13.90 for up to 40 words.

Ads should be sent to the *Spectator* or delivered to our office in 1238 Hopper Hall. The deadline is 5 p.m. Thursday, a week prior. If payment applies, it should be submitted in a sealed envelope at the time the ad is placed or paid via

Mastercard, Visa, Discover or electronic check online through Aimee Napier, Advertising Manager. Email Aimee Napier at acnapier@valdosta.edu to pay online.

Ads must be accompanied by the name and phone number of the person submitting the ad. Students must also submit their VSU Student ID number. Ads must be resubmitted each week, as necessary.

The *Spectator* address is: 1500 N. Patterson St., Valdosta, GA 31698. Our email address is spec_advertising@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 mistakes due to a submitted error. The categories for classifieds include: For Sale, For Rent, Sublease, Wanted, Roommate, Services, Personnels and Employment.

vsuspectator.com

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Student Special
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VSU Students: Your Ad Here - FREE!



Health Tip of the week

“April is STD Awareness Month. Take three simple actions to protect your health: Talk. Test. Treat.”
-CDC.org

Bridging the gap: Exploring wage gap between male and female VSU professors

Julia Rodriguez
ASST. OPINIONS EDITOR
jlrdriguez@valdosta.edu

Valdosta State University has a gender wage gap. According to the Chronicle of Higher Education, Georgia state colleges pay their female employees thousands of dollars less than their male counterparts of the same qualifications and job title.

At VSU, male professors receive an average salary of \$70,821, while female professors receive an average salary of \$68,373. These differences could be due to factors such as how long an individual has been with the university. However, the gap is much bigger for assistant professors with an average \$3,546 difference, or the

instructor wage gap, with an average \$7,200 difference in wage.

It is illegal for men and women to be paid differently for the same work at the same job because of the Equal Pay Act of 1963. Prior to the signing of the Equal Pay Act, women made 58 cents of every dollar a man made, according to Info-please. Since the Equal Pay Act was signed, women’s earnings increased to 78 cents for every dollar men make.

Multiple sources such as Info-please and Center for American Progress suggest that women’s tendency to choose lower paying jobs, take time more time off for child care and maternity, and women’s hesitancy to ask for raises explains the gap. How-

At VSU, male professors receive an average salary of \$70,821, while female professors receive an average salary of \$68,373.
-Chronicle of Higher Education

ever, years of research has proven that the wage gap is due to more than just an individual’s personal choices. The Center for American Progress explains that even with personal choice considered, there is still no measureable reason for 40 percent of the wage gap. This means a significant amount of the gap is likely due to gender discrimination.

It is unclear whether the wage gap at Valdosta State University is due to personal choice or discrimination. To find out, individuals with the only difference being gender need to be compared. Two people with the same education, experience, job title, and time at the facility should be making the same amount of money, but in many workplaces

around the U.S., they are not.

Research has shown, according to the National Committee on Pay Equity, that women will not receive equal pay until the year 2059. The estimated date of equal pay for Black or Hispanic men and women is even further in the future.

In 2009, Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. According to the act’s description and the Supreme Court’s ruling, any individual who finds that they are being paid less due to discrimination can file an unequal pay complaint within 180 days of receiving a discriminatory paycheck. This allows the victims of unequal pay due to discrimination to receive the money they have worked for and deserve.

Online students can take the smarter path

Miles Brown
STAFF WRITER
milbrown@valdosta.edu

Starting Fall 2016, there will be a new option for online students at Valdosta State University. This semester, faculty and staff have been working carefully with VSU instructional designers to develop online core courses that will give students a direct path for completing their core courses through BlazeVIEW.

There will be three phases and one will be started this fall. SmartPath Core will establish a fixed path for online core completion for the purpose of helping make things easier for students. Phase one will start Aug. 17 and will last until Oct. 9 of this year.

The reason this initiative has been brought to VSU is a desire to create new opportunities for all

student populations. This includes on-campus students who want to pick up an online course as part of their load or when they go home in the summer.

“SmartPath Core creates a new path for students to customize their undergraduate experience in a new way,” Meg H. Giddings, director at the Office of Extended Learning, said. “In partnership with this outstanding faculty, the Office of Extended Learning team is strategically developing courses designed specifically with the student in mind.”

SmartPath Core classes are available to all admitted undergraduate students including new freshman on campus, online students, and even dual enrollment high school students who want to earn college credit before graduating from high school.

“Students can register for these

classes now, and we are seeing traffic to the classes which is very exciting!” Giddings said. “The fall classes are just the first in a three-semester implementation plan, so in the spring of 2017 we will add five additional courses with the last phase being implemented in fall 2017.”

In the next year, eLearning will be monitoring enrollment, working with students and faculty to identify opportunities for improvement, and evaluating opportunities for continued development.

By Dec. 2017, full-time SmartPath Core students will be completing Areas A-E and will be working with advisors to define their next steps. The classes will be designed by professors so there is focus on online course development and instruction.

Need more information on SmartPath core? Visit <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/online-programs/smartpath.php>.

Photo of the week:



The Undergraduate Symposium began on Monday with a student art competition. The art competition was held in the Fine Arts Gallery. The symposium will end on Thursday with a poster session by the students.

Myth #6: Arts & Sciences Majors Never Land Good Jobs.



Dr. Cecil Staton
VSU Interim President
Undergraduate Major: Religion



Dr. Brian Gerber
VSU Interim Provost
Undergraduate Major: Biology



Dr. Sheri Gravett
VSU Associate Provost
Undergraduate Major: English



Dr. James LaPlant
VSU Graduate Dean
Undergraduate Major: Political Science



Brian Haugbrook
VSU Chief Information Officer
Undergraduate Major: Computer Science

VSU COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES
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NEWS

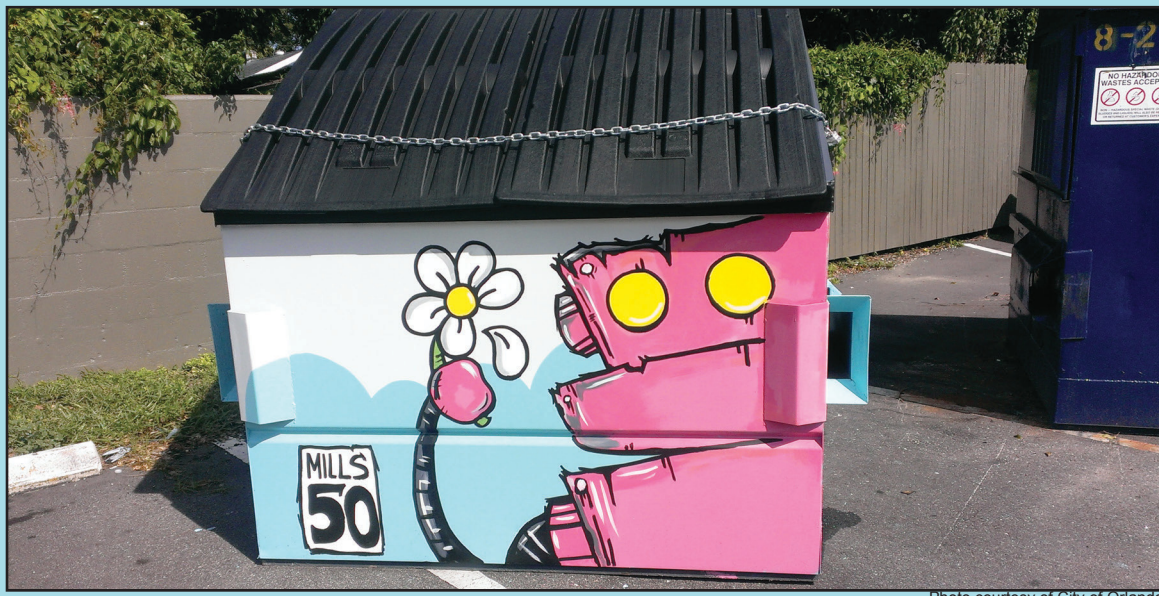


Photo courtesy of City of Orlando

Artists in Valdosta create “dumpster art” throughout the city, similar to what artists have done in Orlando, Florida, in the example above.

Artists make dumpsters a little less trashy, a bit more classy

Pam Agedah

STAFF WRITER

peagedah@valdosta.edu

For most of us, an enormous trash bin is not where we go to look for art. But that is soon to change here in Valdosta.

The City of Valdosta and Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts is inviting artists to participate in a project for the 2016 Georgia Cities Week. Every year in April, the state of Georgia has Georgia Cities Week celebrating the community.

Sementha Mathews, the public information officer for the city, wanted to try a different approach for this year’s Cities Week. So she began brainstorming ideas.

“I wanted to do something different, artsy, and I started brainstorming and I saw online some dumpster art, and I con-

tacted Mainstream and they were on board and the project began,” Mathews said.

Artists all over Valdosta are being given the opportunity to submit their conceptual designs for how to decorate Valdosta’s public dumpsters. A team of judges will select three designs that will for the dumpsters that will then be showcased.

“Dumpsters aren’t exactly pretty to look at but, it is a necessity, so by giving artists the opportunity to design it you, make something that is a necessity also beautiful,” said Mathews.

“There’s a project team that includes one person from the office, the city, the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, Valdosta Lowndes County Development Authority. The team is still being put together,” said Mathews.

The criterion for designs is something that reflects the City of Valdosta without any negative content.

“Art that reflects unique landmarks, art speaking to Valdosta, pure art that is attractive,” she said.

The Dumpster Art will be on display for a full year, and if it is successful, might return again next year. The project is open to the public, so anyone can send in a design.

“There’s an artist in everyone. ‘Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.’ If someone has a passion, they don’t need to be professional,” she said.

For more information, visit valdostacity.com/dumpster-art. The deadline for submissions is Friday.



Kyle Dawson/THE SPECTATOR

VSU students gathered in Jennett Hall to hear the plans that the SGA candidates have for the 2016-2017 school year.

SGA Elections: Time to make your voice heard!

Jyrell Wynn

CORRESPONDENT

jdwynn@valdosta.edu

As Blazers, it seems sometimes that students have little control over the situations that occur on campus. Students are simply just passengers as business continues as usual, but there is a silver lining as SGA Election Day approaches.

On April 6, a debate was held in Jennett Hall, where the candidates were able to state their goals in office. Transparency was the main issue discussed in the meeting as each candidate explained the importance of making information public.

Erin Shaw and Sam Stalvey are both running for the comptroller position. Stalvey wants students to feel welcomed and informed with responsible transparency.

Erin Shaw wants SGA and the senate to be open to diversity.

Cassidy Phillips and Othelious Cato are both running for vice president. Phillips argued for leading by example through having healthier options in the Student Union and Cato wants to raise standards in SGA to be more effective.

Belinda Bell and Maya Mapp are both running for president with Bell focusing on making parking safer, ensuring healthier restaurant options, and providing a 24-hour online learning service. Mapp wants to connect Valdosta State with the Lowndes community, embrace diversity and encourage students to be great.

On Thursday at 12:01 a.m. to Friday at 11:59 p.m., students can vote through the VSU homepage for the candidates they want to see in office.

VSU named fifth best school for online degree programs in Georgia

Julie Jernigan

STAFF WRITER

jjernigan@valdosta.edu

Valdosta State can’t stop and won’t stop reaching new levels of achievement for education. VSU has once again ranked among the top schools in Georgia for exceptional online degree programs according to TheBestSchools.org.

The university was ranked No. 5 on TheBestSchools.org due to

the quality of programs, degrees offered, awards given, and reputation. Affordable Colleges Online also recognized VSU by ranking 15 out of 22 of the Best Online Colleges in Georgia, because of our rigor of courses, student support, and affordability.

U.S. News and World’s 2016 Best Online Graduate Education Programs list ranked VSU as 83 out of 267 public, private and for-profit institutions.

“This ranking affirms our commitment to providing online programs that offer a high degree of student engagement, strong student services, diverse online learning technologies, and highly qualified faculty who are trained in online delivery,” Interim Dean Dr. Lynn C. Minor said. “Our educator preparation programs focus on using data for continuous program improvement to ensure our candidates demonstrate the

knowledge, skills, and dispositions necessary to positively impact the learning and achievement of their P-12 students.”

VSU offers more than 40 bachelors, masters, and doctoral online programs. Some majors are a Bachelor of Arts in criminal justice, a Bachelor of Business Administration, a Master of Education and they’re adding more each year. For example, beginning this fall they’re offering

a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy and religious studies.

“Our programs integrate the flexibility of online programs with exceptional and student-focused faculty and support,” Meg H. Giddings, director of VSU’s Office of Extended Learning, said. “Ultimately our graduates earn a degree from a traditional institution that they know and trust.”

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OPINIONS

Period shaming has got to go

Our point of view...

It's time for more gender equality

Since the mid-1800s, women have been fighting to have the same rights as men. Since then, women have fought for the right to serve in the government, equal pay, and to be viewed not as more empowering than men, but to be at least viewed at the same level as men.

Nearly 170 years later, not much has changed. Yes, women can vote. Yes, women are able to leave the house and have jobs. However, women are still viewed as the weaker sex. Phrases such as "You hit like a girl," and "wearer of the pants in a relationship" still exist.

We live in a world where women are viewed solely as sex symbols and not as human beings. We live in a world where women are chastised for sleeping with "too many" men, whereas men are praised for having a high body count. We live in a world where, in Hollywood, far more women are employed behind the scenes while men take the majority of the credit. We're still fighting

to change a world that find it acceptable to pay a woman less money to do the same job as a man who has the same credentials as her.

When will women finally be able to break through the glass ceiling and reach their highest potential in their careers? When will the women's sports teams at VSU be called Blazers instead of Lady Blazers?

We as an editorial staff feel that it is time to not see color, not see gender, but to instead see the human race. Whether we have beards or have menstrual cycles, we are all human beings.

It's time that women stop being held back by society. It's time that men stop being considered the dominant sex rather than being equivalent to women in society.

Genetically, a woman may never be as physically strong. However, this doesn't mean that a woman can't be just as intelligent, just as capable, and just as privileged as a man.

Tyra Mills
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR
tmills@valdosta.edu

Every woman can relate to the feeling of anxiousness her period produces. She thinks, "Is it leaking through my pants? Do I smell? Are people staring at me?" and the list goes on.

Having a period has its downsides naturally: cramping, mood swings, and other pains. But to have society add even more insult to injury has become the norm and it is quite frustrating. When did having a period become some sort of curse? We can't help it.

It's how our bodies biologically operate, so why does it feel like society bullies us about it rather than try to help and support us?

Period shaming happens everyday, sometimes unintentionally but more times than not on purpose. The scariest part of period shaming is the fact that a lot of women don't even realize how affected they are by this toxic thinking.

Women are embarrassed when they are caught having pads or tampons in their possession in public, because we are taught to conceal it at all costs. It's almost like an undercover drug deal just to ask another woman if she has a tampon you can borrow. We whisper as not to disrupt other people with our natural body problems.

I can only wonder if period shaming would exist if men could menstruate...

But why is it seen as a "problem"? A visible leak to a woman is the end of her reputation, but why? Why is this something we have become ashamed of? Why do people mock it as disgusting? It is natural, it is something we cannot stop, and it is a part of the female body.

However, when it comes to advertising or marketing for period products, ad companies choose to make periods seem like a disaster or problem that needs to be fixed. They make it seem like having a period is a curse that we must fight and defeat. They use words like "cleaner," "easier to manage," and "embarrassing" to give off the notion that having a period is an issue. This only helps

to perpetuate the idea that periods are anything but natural and are almost offensive to those who don't have them.

Throughout history, periods have been saturated with all type of connotations. In the Bible, at Leviticus 15:19, it says that if you touch a woman that is menstruating you will be defiled "until evening." It also says that anything she touches or lays on will also be defiled. The Qur'an states at 2:222 not to touch a woman until she's "purified of it." Pliny the Elder of Ancient Rome was also quoted saying "their bite becomes poisonous as in rabies."

Not only are these ideologies from the past, they are still theories people live by to this day. There are people who actually believe that women shouldn't water plants if they are on their periods because it will kill the plants. People actually think menstruating women shouldn't swim because it will attract sharks.

Can we please put an end to these myths, misconceptions and connotations? People with uteruses are going to be menstruating as long as they are on this Earth. It is not a curse, it is not a natural disaster and it is not going to stop. Can we learn to make menstruation a celebration, rather than an uncomfortable topic? I can only wonder if period shaming would exist if men could menstruate.

This editorial was written by a member of the editorial staff and expresses the general opinion of The Spectator.

ObamaCare's promise for access to birth control for all under attack again

Jada Dukes
STAFF WRITER
jldukes@valdosta.edu

In October 2010, President Obama officially signed the Affordable Care Act into law, and in 2012 the Obama administration put forth several provisions to the Affordable Care Act that would directly benefit women.

The provisions were put into place to give American women access to the healthcare they desperately need and deserve. According to the ObamaCare website, only about 12 percent of the healthcare plans sold in the individual market offered maternity coverage, and women were paying \$1 billion more than men each year for identical health plans in the individual market before the ACA.

With the Affordable Care Act, women are given access to many different forms of healthcare including, but not limited to, gestational diabetes screening, domestic and interpersonal violence screening and counseling, and HIV screening and counseling for sexually active women.

One provision in particular has been seen to be quite

troublesome by many religious figures and organizations. In 2014, this was brought to the attention of the Supreme Court when the Christian corporation, Hobby Lobby, argued that providing their employees with healthcare plans that give them access to certain forms of birth control would go against the religious beliefs held by the corporation.

According to Cosmopolitan, the Supreme Court agreed to allow "for-profit businesses like Hobby Lobby to sign a form objecting to the coverage, and the federal government would then step in to facilitate the insurance company to provide the healthcare directly to the employee."

Cosmo also reports that this is the same process used for all non-profit religious groups other than churches. After the ruling, it seemed as though everyone had come to a truce, but unfortunately it seems this issue has reared its ugly head yet again in the form of Zubik v. Burwell.

According to Cosmopolitan, Zubik v. Burwell "is a consolidation of several lower court cases" and the plaintiffs are arguing that "the administration's requirement that all insurance plans offer no co-pay contraception to those it in-

dures is a violation of the religious beliefs of those religious nonprofits and advocacy groups."

The plaintiffs also feel the 2014 Supreme Court ruling is a violation of their religious liberty and "feel they are being forced into being complicit in the act of providing birth control for their employees."

The Zubik case can be compared to that of a greedy child who has already had dinner but insists that they are still hungry. The Supreme Court ruling in the Hobby Lobby case was more than fair. The Supreme Court found a way to give both parties what they wanted without there being any substantial afflictions on either end.

Although the religious groups are being required to choose healthcare providers that offer forms of contraception may not be ideal, it is still fair because they are not being forced to pay for these forms of contraception. This is such a small problem amidst so many extensive evils facing Americans today. If we put more effort into learning to respect each other's differences and chose to promote love instead of hate, every single person in this country would be better off.

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Contact Us

VSU Spectator
Hopper Hall, Room 1238
1500 N. Patterson St.
Valdosta, GA 31698

Newsroom

(229) 333-5688

Advertising

(229) 333-5686

Business

(229) 333-5686

Fax

(229) 249-2618

E-mail

spec@valdosta.edu

Adv. email

Spec_Advertising@valdosta.edu

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Ways to empower the sexes

Jordan Barela
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
jlbarela@valdosta.edu

Mayah Cantave
COLLEGE LIFE EDITOR
mcantave@valdosta.edu

1. It's okay to be the breadwinner in the relationship
2. It's okay to be a housewife
3. It's okay to wear the pants in the relationship
4. It's okay to let a man take charge
5. You can be a girly-girl
6. You can be a big tomboy
7. It's okay to have an active sex life
8. It's okay to not have a sex life
9. It's okay to wear make up
10. It's okay to not wear make up



Gender roles are outdated stereotypes from the past. We live in a society that advances but can often be stuck in old mentalities. Gender roles can be negated to empower both sexes, and two editors have gathered a list of ways you can leave these roles behind.



1. It's okay to show emotions
2. It's okay to dress how you want
3. It's okay to be openly gay
4. It's okay to let a woman be in charge
5. It's okay to not be the most masculine man
6. You can be a manly man
7. It's okay to not have a beard
8. It's okay to sing and T.Swift
9. It's okay to not be good at sports and Beyonce
10. It's okay to be a feminist

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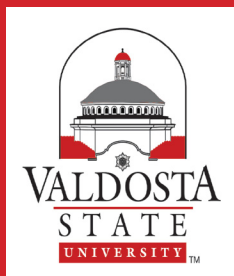
COMPUTER SCIENCE
DEGREE



"I wasn't totally sure what I could do with a CS degree, but I knew whatever it was would be fun and fulfilling.

Fast forward to graduation. I had several offers doing different types of software engineering, thanks to the skills I acquired in the VSU CS program.

The CS professors at VSU are infectiously passionate, too. They will get excited about certain lessons, and those are the ones you end up remembering the most, after catching the excitement."



Start here. Stay here. Succeed everywhere.

* A typical worker with a bachelor's degree earns \$1.19 million more than a typical high school graduate, according to Hamilton Project's "Major Decisions: What Graduates Earn Over Their Lifetimes."



DID YOU KNOW?

According to BBC News, in the 17th century it was stylish for men to wear high heels.

Alumnus lands role on NBC drama:

Myles Grier credits VSU Theatre Department and professors for achievement

Kyle Dawson
PHOTO EDITOR
kkdawson@valdosta.edu

VSU alumnus Myles Grier began looking for new job opportunities while he was waiting to hear back about his audition for the upcoming NBC drama "Game of Silence." Finally, the 2011 graduate got the call he was waiting for.

Grier will play the younger version of the show's main antagonist. The show will premiere next Tuesday.

"Demetrius Grosse was cast as the older Terry Bausch and I

auditioned for his younger self," Grier said. "After seeing Demetrius' photo, I had a feeling I had a pretty strong chance, since we have similar features."

Grier, who was a theater and dance major, credits VSU, and more specifically professors Jacque Wheeler and Duke Guthrie, with honing his acting skills and getting him ready for auditions.

"Jacque Wheeler and Duke Guthrie always pushed me to be better and are excellent at preparing their students for the professional theatre or on-screen world," said Grier.

After moving to Los Angeles

after graduation, Grier spent eight months working at internships and other jobs while also auditioning for roles in order to save enough money to buy a car. Since then, he has starred in the short film "Intruders" and the drama series "Black Boots" as well as appearances in ABC's "Scandal", CBS's "NCIS" and NBC's "Aquarius."

"My favorite part of acting has been the freedom to explore a totally different human being, while finding the similarities between myself and that other person," Grier said.

Grier prefers more dramatic roles, which is evident by the

parts he has played in the past.

"I've really enjoyed playing complex characters, which I got to explore in theatre while at VSU" Grier said. "I've been fortunate to work on some TV dramas that have great characters and story, which makes the job so much more enjoyable."

Although he lives in Los Angeles, Grier actually got the role for "Game of Silence" through his former agent in Atlanta where the show will be filmed. The show's creators have also worked on successful dramas including "Friday Night Lights," "NCIS" and "CSI," and Grier is excited for the premiere, which he and

some other cast members will be live tweeting.

While Grier graduated five years ago, he has not forgotten about the university that helped him become an actor.

"All four years in the theatre and dance area were some of my most valuable years learning and working out my craft, preparing me to have the level of skill to work as a professional actor," Grier said.

To learn more about "Game of Silence" go to @NBCSilence on Twitter or @NBCGameofSilence on Instagram.

VSU student lands in rap song

Jada Dukas
STAFF WRITER
jldukas@valdosta.edu

Donald Trump's appearance at VSU in February made headlines. About 30 minutes into the rally, several VSU students were removed. One of the 30 students removed from the rally has now made her way into the music world after an interview she gave about being kicked out.

The day after the Trump rally incident, there were images and videos of the VSU students on a multitude of media outlets, such as MSNBC, CNN, and USA TODAY. Among these interviews was teary-eyed Tahjila Davis. Just moments after being kicked

out of the rally, Davis is seen in a video recorded by a USA TODAY news reporter vehemently expressing her feelings on the incident.

Although it may seem as if everything has blown over, Davis is now once again in the limelight, as she has recently been featured on a rap song written by well-known rappers, YG and Nipsey Hussle. On March 30, Hussle released his new song, entitled "FDT," via his Twitter. The first 20 seconds of the song has Davis's statement from the USA TODAY video play right before Hussle begins repeating the phrase "f**k Donald Trump".

Davis says she found out about

the song while she was sitting in class. She says that a friend of hers mentioned her on Twitter and asked if that was her voice at the beginning of the song. The sophomore mass media major said that her initial reaction to the song was excitement, because she "loves Hip-Hop and being that it was YG and Nipsey Hussle it just felt amazing."

Although she is a huge hip-hop fan, Davis says that she thinks the song is "too vulgar," but she understands that the world of hip-hop "has no filter whatsoever," so she is not too upset about the harsh lyrics. Davis says that she sees it as "an honor" to be featured on a song by two artists

of whom she respects deeply, but she also feels that she should have been contacted before the song was to be released.

Davis says that either of the two rappers could have taken time to contact USA TODAY to get her contact information so that they could ask for her permission to use her vocals on the song. Davis also wishes to be compensated for the song in some way.

Davis might just get her wish, because it has been confirmed that both of the rappers are currently in the process of filming a music video for their new song. Davis says that all of the publicity she has been receiving from

the USA TODAY video and will be receiving from the rap song is great and that she thinks it will "shed a light on what's really happening."

Davis says that her Blazer pride is not at all tarnished and she has every intention of finishing her undergraduate career at VSU.



'Oklahoma!': the review

Kelsey Dickerson
STAFF WRITER
kedickerson@valdosta.edu

Valdosta State Theatre & Dance's run of "Oklahoma!" opened last Thursday to a nearly sold out theater and a well-deserved standing ovation. The first night of "Oklahoma!" at VSU marked the 73rd anniversary of the musical's opening night back in 1943.

"Oklahoma!," a classic Broadway musical by Oscar Hammerstone II, follows the love story of Curly McLain and Laurey Williams, capturing the lives and struggles of an eclectic cast of characters in a small town outside of Claremore, Ok., as the story unfolds.

The show started on a high note with Wendell Hester as Curly singing the iconic "Oh, What A Beautiful Morning" and only went up from there.

The tense dynamic created between Jud Fry, a rough-looking farm hand who is in love with Laurey, Laurey herself, and Curly was believable and almost palpable thanks to the acting skills of John Sanders, Larren Wood, and Hester. Sander's performance in "Pore Jud is Daid" and "Lonely Room" brought the character of

Jud to life with a warm singing voice that was arguably the best in the show.

Ado Annie Carnes (Haley Agüero), was another among the amazing cast of characters who shown through. Ado Annie, a ditz, boy-crazy girl who "Cain't Say No!" is stuck trying to choose between peddler Ali Hakim (Austin Vickers) and cowboy sweetheart Will Parker (Brandon Chandler) over the course of the show. The three-some created the perfect comedic relief that kept the audience laughing the whole way through.

All actors stayed in character throughout the show, creating a sense of realism. The level of professionalism of each dancer and actor on stage lent itself to a truly impressive show of very high quality.

Valdosta State Theatre & Dance will wrap up the year with two non-ticketed events. Graduating seniors from the musical theatre program will hold performances on Thursday, April 21 and Saturday, April 23 at 7:30 p.m., while the theatre will present "Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind: 30 Plays in 60 Minutes" on Friday, April 22 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, April 24 at 3 p.m.

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Most Popular Video Games of the '90s

(according to unikGamers)

1. The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time (1998)
2. Chrono Trigger (1995)
3. Final Fantasy VII (1997)
4. Super Mario 64 (1996)
5. Super Mario World Developed by Nintendo (1990)



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TECHY TIP

For iPhone users, there may not be a 'Back' button but in Messages, Mail and even Safari, you can simply swipe right from the edge of the screen to go to the previous window instead. It even works in some third-party apps.



Photo Courtesy of MCTCampus

Pain tolerance higher in men

Erin Martin

STAFF WRITER
erimartin@valdosta.edu

Considering childbirth, menstrual cramps, and the occasional and tragic broken nails, you would reason that women must have a high pain tolerance, right? Well, with developing technology and science, studies have revealed that women actually don't handle pain as well as men do.

Science is ever changing and almost always on top of things that we would be ignorant about otherwise. These studies are showing that men have a higher pain tolerance and a higher threshold for pain than women do. This means that women were quicker to acknowledge their pain and they didn't cope as well with the pain as their male counterparts.

The multiple studies went on for a span of 10 years. The results were published in "The Journal of Pain." DNews on YouTube provided us with some information to open up our minds and consider the ways both men and women deal with our discomforts.

To record how much pain the average person can take, people would be put through different torturous events. To

the people who chose to participate, they were put through physical trials with extremely cold things, electric shocks, and different amounts of pressure being put on parts of their body. In the study involving cold presses, it was consistent that women did not react well to the pain.

However, the studies do admit that there are social and physical factors that affect how much pain certain people may feel.

The 116 American students, and 119 Indian students surprisingly showed the difference in cultures in a thought-provoking way. Expressing pain in an overt way was less acceptable for the Indian students. It suggests a kind of known belief that Eastern cultures express pain less, while Western cultures believe that pain shouldn't be endured, and be quickly eliminated.

College students in India were also able to accept pain for a longer time than American students. For cultural reasons, some researchers believe that the set of Indian students were a lot more reluctant to express feelings of pain. Participants who have also have chronic or past medical conditions were less distracted by the pain. This study suggested that pain, to a degree, is a taught and learned

behavior.

A similar result was consistent between the genders. It was interesting to read that men and women also have different views and perceptions on what "pain" is. Most of the men in the study admitted that it wasn't appropriate for men to confess their pain. Following the unwritten rule that men are expected not to react, or only show a little reaction, this influence was a result of a huge variation in pain ratings.

Biology was also a factor in this study. Infrared technology was used to look at the pupil behavior of the participants and watched the rates that their pupil dilated. This measure was much more concrete and unbiased, because it was something that people couldn't manipulate on their own. It was a direct correlation of how much stress they were feeling at the moment of pain.

This discovery shows that men feel pain a lot more than women do, but a lot more of our reactions may really be influenced by our perceptions and cultural beliefs. Some people can simply choose to manage their pain differently than others.

Ten years ago, top singles were both annoying and addicting

Carlus Williams

STAFF WRITER
carwilliams@valdosta.edu

We take a look back at the music that topped the Billboard Music charts 10 years ago this week.

"Bad Day" – Daniel Powter

"Bad Day" was initially recorded in 2002 but due to difficulty finding a label it was put on hold. (Songwriter-Universe.com) "Bad Day" was a pop single featured on Daniel Powter's debut album. Most fans of "American Idol" remember it as being the "elimination song." The song was parodied by "SNL," Weird Al Yankovic and even Alvin and the Chipmunks. This song was about an inspiring yet struggling musician. "Bad Day" was the cheesiest yet catchiest song of 2006.

"Temperature" - Sean Paul

This was Sean Paul's biggest record in the US. It spent 17 weeks in the top 100 Billboard. The song is still popular nowadays in the club. "Temperature" had the longest run in the top 10 for a single in 2006. It also became Sean Paul's first single to sell more than one million digital downloads and earned platinum certification. There were originally two versions of the song.

"So Sick" - Ne-Yo

The most popular love song about hating love songs. This song was the go-to break up song in 2006 and would instantaneously make you miss an ex. This is the perfect

example of a Pre-Drake love song. It makes you love/hate at the same time. The song features lyrics like "why can't I turn off the radio." Seems like Ne-Yo wanted to enjoy the heartbreak.

"You're Beautiful" - James Blunt

It still remains as James Blunt's only hit in America. It was most likely top three of the most annoying songs of 2006. It was played almost everywhere and anytime. It even annoyed the singer on it, who said it was "force fed to the public."

"Be Without You" - Mary J. Blidge

One of Auntie Mary's million love songs about getting let down by a lover. It went double platinum. Also broke a record by spending 15 weeks at No. 1 in Billboard. The song was so famous it got moved to a recurrent R&B station. Typical "love gives me hope" song of 2006.

"Lean Wit It, Rock Wit It" - Dem Franchise Boyz Feat. Lil Peanut & Charlay

One of Georgia's trendsetting dances that broke onto Billboard. The song was everyone's favorite dance in 2006. This was the time when everyone wore tall tees and Girbaud jeans. Still played in most clubs to this day.

"Yo (Excuse Me Miss)" – Chris Brown

When Chris Brown was innocent and everyone imitated his dance moves. It peaked at No. 7. It appeared in a dancing game. This song made every girl love Chris Brown and every guy want to be him.

☰ Listen Now

Shuffle Playlist: Staff Favorites



Strawberry Syrup Sixteens
Audrey Air | Strawberry Syrup

-Webmastress



Not Good Enough
Blood Orange | Cupid Deluxe

-HBIC



Stretch My Hands Pt. 1
Kanye West | Life of Pablo

-Twitter Lyricist



Roses
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The Kerwin Bell era has begun

The Blazers prepare for a 2016 title run as spring practice kicks off

Aldean Starr

STAFF WRITER

astarr@valdosta.edu

It may be April, but it's always football season in Valdosta.

The VSU Blazers are months away from the Sep. 3 opener against the Albany State Rams, but they started preparing last week.

For the first time in nine seasons, the Blazers started spring practice with a new head coach. Kerwin Bell, a former Florida Gator and NFL quarterback, arrives fresh off a successful tenure at Jacksonville University.

"These guys have been trained," said Bell. "They're in a good program and you have to give Coach Dean and all the coaches a lot of credit. They understand the process: that you have to work hard for anything you get in life."

Bell will be tasked with replacing a record-setting back in Cedric O'Neal and a starting quarterback in E.J. Hilliard. Roland Rivers, who received significant playing time in 2015, is expected to be the starting signal caller. Rivers possesses a cannon arm and an aggressive mentality that perfectly suits Bell's pro-style offense.

The Blazers kick off the spring returning four of their all-American honorees and 39 new signees this year. VSU started its spring practice in full equipment on March 28 and will continue until the spring game on April 23 at 4 p.m.

"I am really pleased with just the way the guys are focused," said Bell. "They are competing their butt off. I will say it has been some very competitive practices and guys are trying to get better. They are trying to compete and win spots, and it has been a real joy to coach them so far."

Throughout spring practice the Blazers will host two scrimmages and a spring game. The first scrimmage is this Saturday at 9:30 a.m.

"If you want to come out, come watch these practices for the next three weeks, it will be entertaining," said Bell.



Clockwise from top: Offensive line gets work in with new staff; Kerwin Bell works with receivers; physicality takes over the practice (bottom two); Roland Rivers (9) and Jacob Chesser (19) drop back to throw as Stephen Denmark runs a route.




Photos by Gabe Burns/THE SPECTATOR

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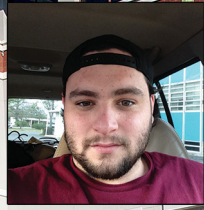
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SPORTS

Blazers playing balanced baseball

Austin Wells

STAFF WRITER

amwells@valdosta.edu

The Blazers are playing their best at the right time.

With the season winding down and the conference tournament in sight, VSU is trying to make sure they're one of the top teams going in.

Coming off the 20-5 blowout win at Georgia Southwestern, the Blazers have won four in a row and looked to continue their hot streak against Mississippi College on the road.

The first of three games took place Saturday night, where the offense continued to roll. After scoring two runs in the fourth inning to tie the game, the Blazers would score four in the sixth, highlighted by a go-ahead two-RBI single by catcher Clint Carr, who had three total RBIs in the game.

Along with the good offense, senior Mitchell Cody provided great pitching as well, going eight innings only allowing three runs and racking up eight strikeouts. Dustin Hersey closed the 6-3 victory for VSU with a perfect ninth, retiring all three batters he faced and striking out two of them.

Following the Saturday victory came a Sunday afternoon doubleheader, and in game one, clutch offense and great pitching continued to be the theme.

The game was scoreless until the sixth inning, when Cliff Bryant's homer finally put a run on the board for VSU. After scoring four more runs in the seventh and eighth innings, including a Carr two-run homer. Senior southpaw Kellan Bailey finished the game he started, pitching a complete-game five hit shutout.

With an easy victory in game one, the Blazers looked to sweep

in game two, but Mississippi College would give them a lot more trouble in the series finale.

After trailing the Choctaws by three going into the fifth inning, the Blazers' offense would explode and score six runs total in the inning, making it look like VSU would cruise to the sweep.

However, the Choctaws would score two runs in the bottom of the inning and then eventually tie the game at six in the seventh inning. Looking like the Blazers' win streak could come to an end, Chipper Andzel made sure it wouldn't happen with a go-ahead RBI double in the eighth inning.

Beau Blair would close the game with a perfect ninth and secured the wild 7-6 win and the sweep for VSU.

Now having won seven in a row, the Blazers will look to stay hot this weekend in a home series against Alabama-Huntsville.

A change of culture

Ronald Moore

STAFF WRITER

ronmoore@valdosta.edu

For years, females have been somewhat of an afterthought in professional sports.

Maybe that's finally changing.

Sports culture sexism shows itself through past male athletes' objection to female journalists. Even today's female journalists, such as Julie Dicaro, still experience unacceptable treatment.

Women, contrary to popular belief, have not been absent from male dominated sports.

Today's prominent women include Michelle Roberts, Lesa France Kennedy, and Jeanie Buss; the accomplishments of these women may not be showcased mainstream, but the impact these women have on their sport is without question.

Women have made monumental progress in baseball, football and basketball. This development has occasionally been referred to as an "invasion" of male sports. The term "invasion" only further highlights an unacceptable culture that dominates mass thought.

The recent lineup of women pioneers in the male sports industry includes the likes of Becky Hammon, Sarah Thomas, Jen Welter and Justine Siegal.

Not only is the female

presence growing, but women are obtaining larger roles as well.

The NBA's Becky Hammon led the way by being the league's first full-time female coach. Hammon received the coaching invite from legendary San Antonio Spurs coach Greg Popovich. Hammon immediately silenced critics by going on to lead the Spurs to an NBA Summer League title. When asked about the issues her gender may create, Hammon responded "Character, working for each other, trusting your teammates... that stuff is universal."

The NFL's rocky relationship with women is widely known. Sarah Thomas, the first female to officiate a college bowl game, ascended to becoming NFL's first full-time female official.

Through an internship with the Arizona Cardinals, Jen Welter made her mark as the NFL's first female coach. Jen's experience as a rugby and football player, coupled with her knowledge of the game, made her a great fit. Cardinals players have noted their respect for her emphasis on physicality.

Justine Siegal is the first female coach in MLB history. Siegal got her position as an instructor for the Oakland A's fall instructional league.

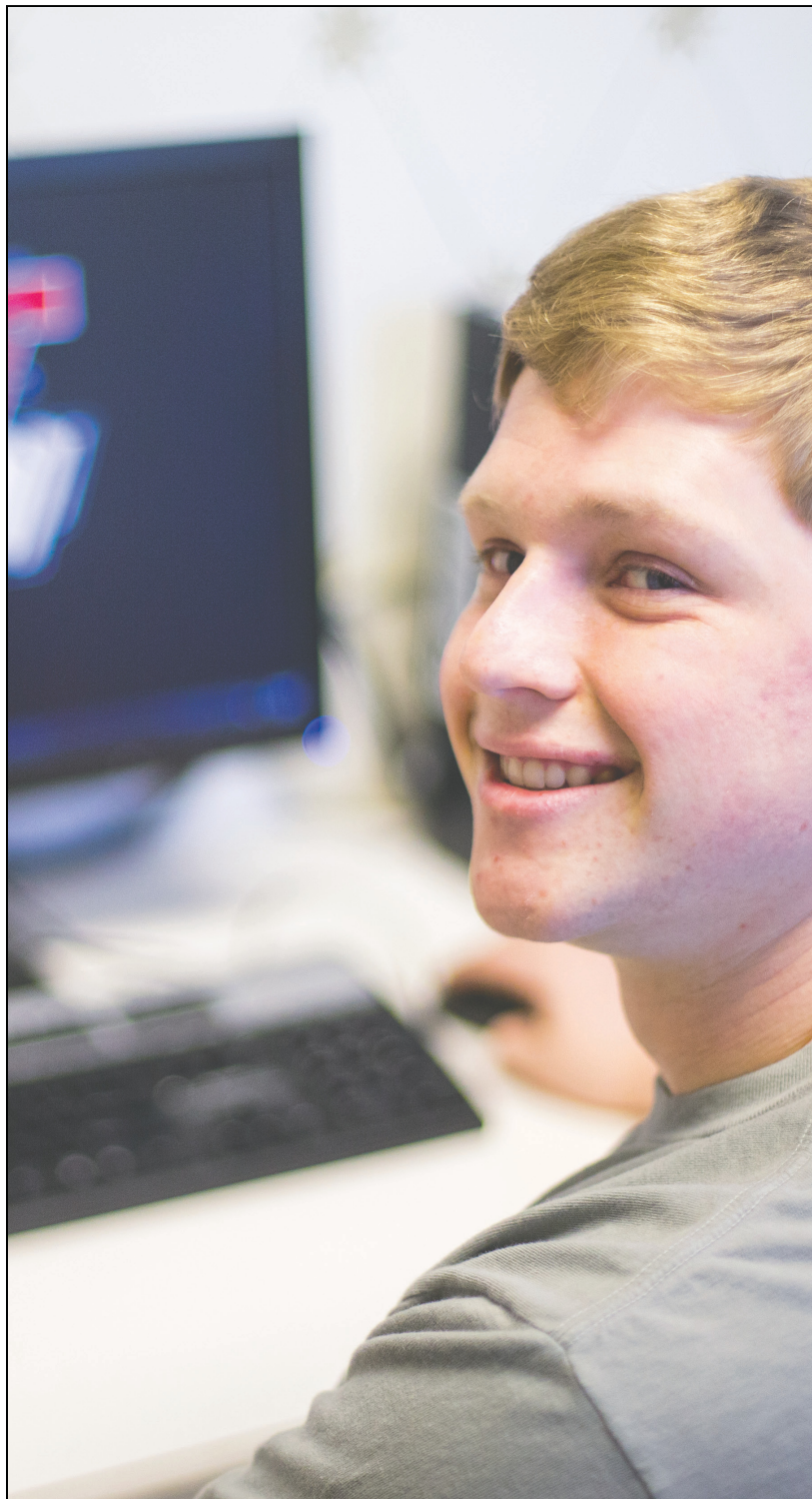
These women have not been the only women of recent progress and will not be the last.

Upcoming Home Schedule:

-Saturday, April 9: Vs. Alabama-Huntsville (DH), 3 p.m. & 6 p.m.

-Sunday, April 10: Vs. Alabama-Huntsville, 1 p.m.

-Tuesday, April 19: Vs. Thomas, 5 p.m.



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