

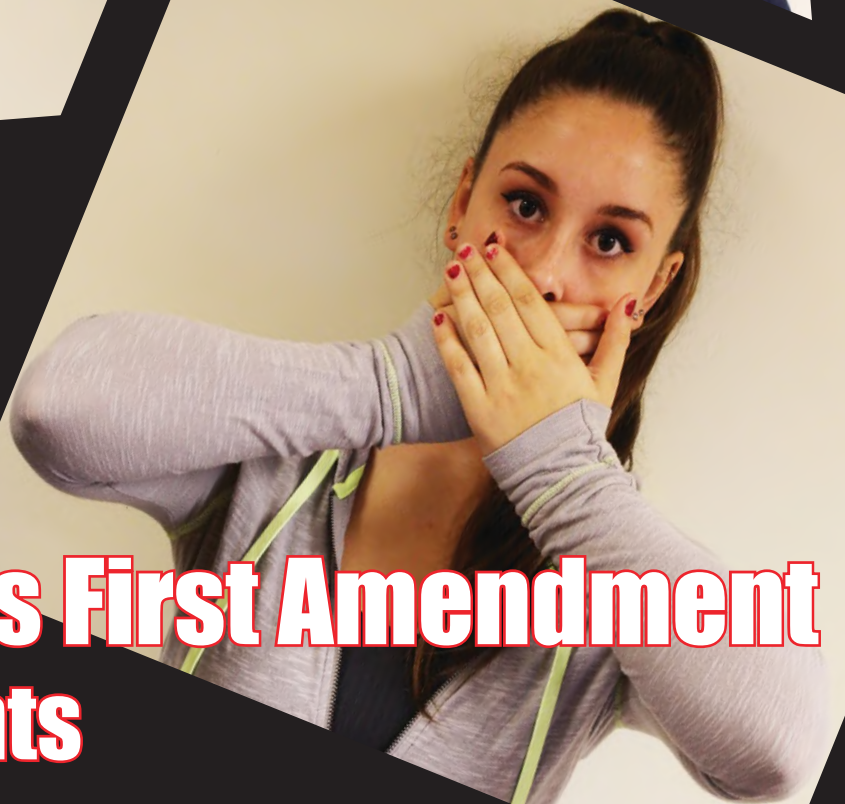
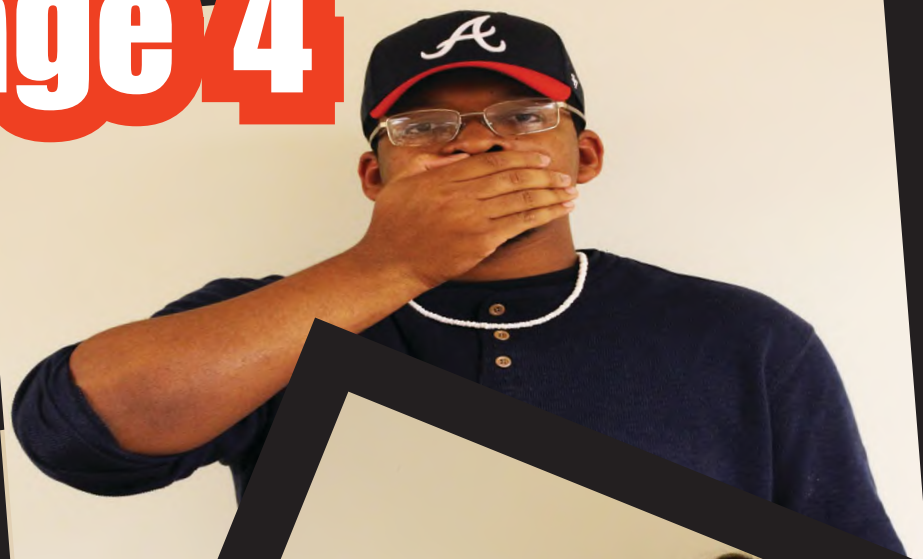
# THE SPECTATOR

THE UNFILTERED, UNCENSORED VOICE OF THE STUDENTS.



## Free Speech?

Page 4



Next week highlights First Amendment rights

# NEWS

## Homecoming is here

**Michaela Leung**  
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Oct. 17 – 23 is Homecoming Week and the theme is the 1980s.

VSU Student Life will be placing Rubik's Cubes all over campus in secret locations and prizes will be given to those who find them. Hints to the location of the Rubik's Cubes will be given on social media via handle "@vsu\_studentlife."

The kick-off event Monday will be carnival-themed with prizes, food and activities on the Front Lawn from 5 p.m. – 9 p.m. There will also be a sheet sign competition among the student organizations. That night there will be the "We the Beast" opening reception at 6 p.m. which is a collaboration of two artists, Patrick Vincent and Lauren Kinney, in the Fine Arts Gallery. It will be followed by a brass ensemble contest at 7:30 p.m.

On Tuesday, Wild Adventures theme park is free with a valid VSU ID from 5 p.m. – 9 p.m. Also that night is the Blazin' Downtown Throwdown 6:30 p.m. on the Courthouse lawn in downtown Valdosta. The KnockerBall competition will be held Wednes-

day on the Front Lawn.

Thursday is the Black Light Pep Rally at 7 p.m. followed by the Lip Sync Competition in the P.E. Complex.

The annual Alumni and Friends Golf Tournament is at 9 a.m. at the Stone Creek Golf Club. There is a \$100 registration fee for person and \$400 for a team. The Distinguished Alumni Dinner is at the University Center in the Magnolia room at 6:30 p.m. with a \$35 fee. There will also be the Rubik's Groove '80s concert which features a performance from an '80s band at 8 p.m. on the Front Lawn.

Saturday starts with the Homecoming parade on main campus at 11 a.m. The Alumni Tailgate is from noon to 2:30 p.m. and features the Blazer Nation Tailgate Competition. The Alumni Association has challenged alumni to come out and show their school spirit.

The Blazer Walk is at 1:30 p.m. before football faces Delta State at 3 p.m. That night at 7:06 p.m. is the homecoming step show hosted by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. It will be held in the P.E. Complex and tickets are \$15 at the door.

## Announcements

### Pokemon Costume Contest

Odum Library will host a family friendly Pokemon Costume Contest from 6:30-8 p.m. Friday. The New Media Center is providing games, snacks, lures and prizes. The contest starts around 7 p.m., with results announced within 30 minutes.

### Pink Out 5k

The VSU Colony of Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority, Inc. is hosting 5k run to raise money for the Breast Cancer Research Foundation Oct. 15 at 9:31 a.m. There is a \$15 entry fee for runners and a \$30 fee for organizations and businesses. For more information, email slg.pinkout90@gmail.com.

### Already thinking retirement?

The Campus Wellness Committee is partnering with VALIC to present "Social Security and Retirement" from 12-1 p.m. today in the University Center Rose Room.

Want to have your event featured in our Announcements section? Email your information to Editor-in-Chief Gabe Burns at gcburns@valdosta.edu.

### "Blood, Bone and Marrow"

VSU presents "Blood, Bone and Marrow: An Evening on Southern Author Harry Crews" from 5 p.m.-6:30 p.m. today in the Odum Library Auditorium. Dr. Ted Geltner, associate professor in the Department of English and author of "Blood, Bone and Marrow," will read selected parts of his book.

### Open House


VSU is hosting an Open House this Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Prospective students will be visiting the campus and meeting professors and students to get a feel for life at VSU. Contact Ryan M. Hogan at 229-333-5791 or rmhogan@valdosta.edu for more information.

### Dance Marathon Fundraiser

VSU will host a Blazer-A-Thon from 4:30-10:30 p.m. Friday in the Student Union Ballrooms as a fundraiser for Children's Miracle Network Hospital.

## VSU Odum Library

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www.valdosta.edu/academics/library/general/live-chat.php

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The *Spectator* prints free classifieds for current students of Valdosta State University only. These must be no more than 40 words, or a \$18.50 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

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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 stan-

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## Health Tip of the week

Oct. 15 is Global Handwashing Day, a global advocacy day dedicated to increasing awareness and understanding about the importance of hand-washing with soap as an effective and affordable way to prevent diseases and save lives. Go to <http://globalhandwashing.org/global-handwashing-day/> to learn more about the importance of washing your hands.

# VSU establishes Department of Diversity and Inclusion

**Bryce Ethridge**  
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In recent years, society as a whole has realized that we as people need to start recognizing or start to capitalize off our diversity.

Universities around the nation have begun departments focused on diversity and inclusion. Starting Oct. 1, VSU now has its own Department of Diversity and Inclusion led by interim director, Dr. Gerald Williams.

Dr. Williams was placed as in-

terim director due to his personal passion for the topic of multiculturalism, and he has had experience in creating such programs at two other institutions.

"It will be important to build and foster strong partnerships throughout the university community," said Dr. Williams.

He invites all student organizations to engage in the department to build programs for all students. Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Vincent Miller stated the inspiration for this program didn't come from pressure in the world,

but rather from how he's seen other campuses have programs when VSU does not.

"It is common with student affairs, but looks different throughout other campuses," Dr. Miller said.

Although VSU has organizations that support minorities of diversity, such as the Department of Social Equity or the Black Student League, Dr. Miller stated he noticed how VSU has no real program for diversity and inclusion for students. He believes the program is needed to represent

VSU's own diverse population so it can help students understand what multiculturalism is and help connect all students regardless of differences.

The current plans for the Department of Student Diversity and Inclusion are to look at the already planned events and examine what might be missing from those programs to include more of VSU's population. Dr. Miller also stated he wanted to bring focus to voting and getting to know all the candidates, including the independent candidates.

The department plans to build a relationship with other student organizations this semester so when next semester arrives they can build better events to gain an audience. Dr. Miller said he wanted to emphasize that he did not want the multicultural programs to feel forced upon the students. Most of all, both Dr. Miller and Dr. Williams want to stress that they want VSU to be "together as one campus community." There will be an event coming up in the next few weeks sponsored by the group, with details to come.

# Williams summoned for new department VSU alum returns to roots in assisting diversity program

**Kimberly Cannon**  
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On Oct. 1, Dr. Gerald Williams was named the interim director of the newly established Department of Student Diversity and Inclusion at Valdosta State University.

Dr. Williams' motto is to make the day productive; whether it turns out good or bad is irrelevant. Productivity is the goal, and it's built Dr. Williams a solid resume.

Dr. Williams started his career in higher education at VSU as a Coordinator for Student Life and then became Assistant Director. Dr. Williams left VSU after nearly 7 years, but when the opportunity arose to be the President of the newly formed Department of Career Opportunities, he returned to work at his alma mater, taking part as one of the leaders responsible for the growth of that department.

Dr. Williams now works to lay down the foundation of the new Department of Student Diversity and Inclusion, working with

LGBTQ, international and other underrepresented students.

The objective is to build connections between groups and assure that VSU provides a welcoming atmosphere for everyone, Dr. Williams said.

During 14 of the 20 years that Dr. Williams has been working on college campuses, he has played a role in diversity planning, either by establishing or building departments, leading diversity councils or writing grants.

In 1993, Dr. Williams came to VSU from Jacksonville, Florida, to be a student. He was working towards an undergraduate degree in pre-law, playing football for two years and participating in organizations such as Black Student League and SGA.

Just as he grew, Dr. Williams wants to watch and help students grow, not only academically, but as a person and citizen of the world as well.

Dr. Williams sees the diversity on campus, and knowing this he said he believes VSU is a prime place for personal growth and

experience.

"You can come here and experience a lot of different things and come in contact with different people and the different belief systems and ideologies and philosophies and grow as an individual that is fully developed and not just leave here with a degree," Dr. Williams said.

With the variety of students on campus, Dr. Williams said he understands the need for this new department.

"We [VSU] don't have a diversity problem on our campus," Dr. Williams said. "We are a diverse campus amongst our student population, but [we're] excited to do the work on the inclusion part," Dr. Williams said.

Dr. Williams said he believes that no other career could bring him the satisfaction that he gains from this one, where his goal is to help students succeed and to provide an environment that ignites conversations regarding inclusion and acceptance.

"I see my role in this [the

Department of Diversity and Inclusion] as to champion the beliefs of all students here, to make sure . . . that all students feel safe, and not just a physical safe, but safe to be who they are, celebrate who they are and hopefully, that

everybody will celebrate our individual differences and that be, really, a major thing for our institution," Dr. Williams said.



Dr. Gerald Williams is the interim director of the Department of Student Diversity and Inclusion.

Photo courtesy of VSU

**Got a news tip? Let us know!**

**Call the office: 229-333-5688**

**Tweet us: @VSUSpectator**

**Email us: Spec@valdosta.edu**

## WANT A SHOT AT WINNING \$500?!

### WORKSHOPS WILL BE HELD:

- Wed., 10/19 from 11:00 am-12:30 pm
- Fri., 10/28 from 3:30 pm-5:00 pm (in the New Media Center of Odum Library)

**Step 1:** Attend a workshop on Best Practices for Pre and Post Video Production with Kyle Culpepper

**Step 2:** Make your video about how to handle college life, study skills, and other important topics, using either your own smartphone or VSU flipcam from the New Media Center!

**Step 3:** Submit your video to the VSU Experience Video Contest to be held during Spring 2017! Registration information will be available at [tinyurl.com/vsuexperience](http://tinyurl.com/vsuexperience). You could win up to \$500 if your video is selected as the best in its category!

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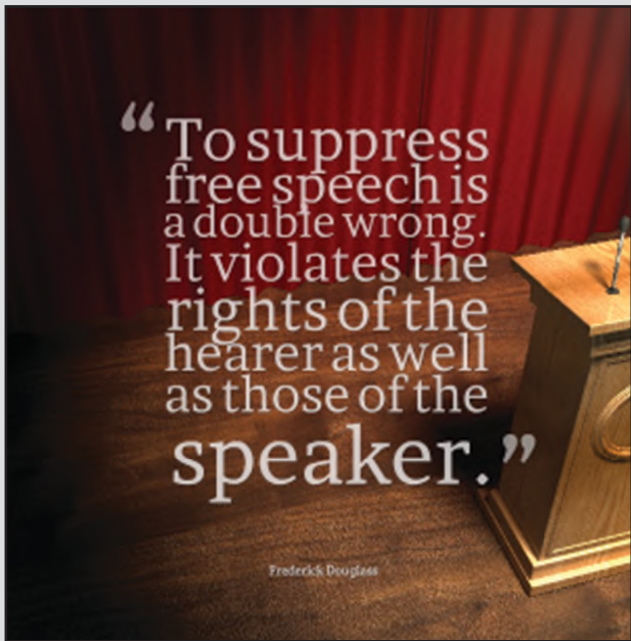
- Be a registered full-time VSU student (both Fall 2016 & Spring 2017 semesters)
- Be in good standing academically
- Must submit video by posted deadline in Spring 2017
- Must sign a release for videos to be used by VSU

\*Entrants are strongly encouraged to attend at least one of the workshops offered in October to prepare their video in line with VSU branding standards.

# OPINIONS

## Columbus was never heroic Holiday in his name needs examination

Our point of view...



### Blazer voices should be heard VSU needs to make policy changes

“You’re Fired!”

This may sound like a familiar quote from Republican nominee Donald Trump, but we aren’t talking about “The Apprentice.” The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education - otherwise known as FIRE--has given Valdosta State a speech code rating of red.

So what does that have to do with you?

Everything.

National Free Speech week starts Monday, which makes us wonder, “Are Blazers practicing free speech?”

The Blazer Creed states that we are to uphold the core principles of civility, integrity, and citizenship. Are Blazers upholding these values through communication? Are we respectfully discussing with each other the issues at hand in America? Race? Politics?

We question not only if Blazers are practicing free speech, but is the university infringing upon our free speech in any way?

FIRE states that a “speech code” is a “regulation or policy that prohibits expression that would be protected by The First Amendment in society at large.” Being given a speech code rating of red means the institution has at least one policy that clearly restricts freedom of speech. Does VSU prohibit free expression?

Prohibited activities here at VSU include “Any material that may defame, libel, abuse, tarnish, present a bad image of, or portray in a false light, the university...” Other prohibited activities include offensive material, chain letters, unauthorized mass mailings, email hoaxes or malicious codes.

Here at The Spectator, we feel as though students should be able to practice the First Amendment freely without any infringing upon by the university. To say that students should not be able to speak freely about the university, good or bad, is a clear violation of our rights as Americans.

Emory University, University of Georgia, and Georgia Southern have all also been given speech code ratings of red. Is this an ongoing state problem, where universities see fit to infringe upon student’s right to free speech?

We end this with a quote from Tommy Smothers that says, “The only valid censorship of ideas is the right of people not to listen.”

Letting your voice be heard is what being a Blazer is all about.

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

**Julia Rodriguez**  
OPINIONS EDITOR  
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Was Christopher Columbus a fraud?

Did we spend our holiday on Monday celebrating a man who wasn’t even the first non-native to step foot on American soil?

Truth-out.org states that Columbus was not even the first non-native to land in the “new world;” evidence has shown that Vikings and Polynesians came long before him.

Many of us learned in elementary school that Columbus was a brave explorer who discovered the land we now call the United States of America, and so we call him a “hero.”

As children, we saw him on coloring pages, standing at the edge of his boat or greeting natives with goods to trade. Likely because it would be considered inappropriate to give children coloring pages depicting what really happened: raping, pillaging and enslavement.

According to History.com, Columbus did not even land in America on his first voyage, he landed in what is now the Caribbean Islands, which were populated by tribes.

Columbus did not discover anything, he invaded inhabited lands.

Not being a true discoverer is the least of Christopher Columbus’ bad qualities, because he was also a rapist and murderer.

In Columbus’ journals, he described natives as well built and not knowing weapons, indicating that they would make good slaves, and that enslaving them could be easily done.

Then, many of the enslaved natives died in transit to Europe.

Columbus addi-

tionally enslaved native women not just for serving but for sex.

According to truth-out.org, Columbus bragged about the riches he encountered through selling young girls as sex slaves, and his crew wrote in their journals about the girls Columbus took for himself.

Unfortunately, enslavement was not the only horror that natives faced at the hand of Columbus and his crew.

Foreign disease brought to the “new world” by Europeans killed many of the natives, lowering their numbers drastically, according to History.com.

Thankfully, as more individuals learn about the real Christopher Columbus, the celebration of him has begun to die out.

Some schools have replaced Christopher Columbus Day with a day to celebrate Native American heritage, and others have just taken his name off the calendar.

According to npr.org, in Seattle, Columbus Day has been replaced with Indigenous People’s Day in an effort to take a stand against racism and hate. They are teaching everyone who Christopher Columbus really was and transforming the holiday into something good.

The entire country should follow Seattle’s lead and teach kids the truth. There should be more celebrations of heritage and culture, and less celebrating of those who destroyed civilizations and had no respect for them.

It seems as though the only good qualities of Columbus were his determination and courage, but the aim of these qualities were way off. His motivations were all rooted in becoming rich and well-known.

Christopher Columbus does not deserve the title of a hero, nor does he deserve a day dedicated to him.



Courtesy of Holly Cooper

Individual expressing opinion of Columbus day on instagram.

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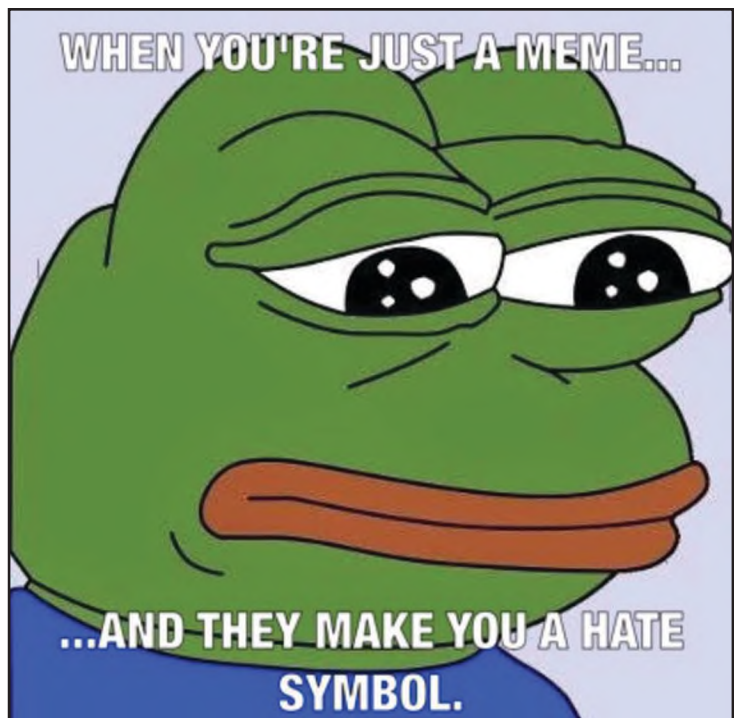
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OPINIONS

# Pepe is just a frog

Meme shouldn't be hate symbol



Created by Julia Rodriguez/THE SPECTATOR

A meme of Pepe sad about being a hate symbol.

**Brian Williams**

STAFF WRITER

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Pepe the Frog. *Who?* Google it.

When you Google "Pepe the Frog" you're going to find the words Donald Trump, Hitler and hate speech.

You're also going to see pictures of what looks to be a cross between a human and a frog, mostly just close ups of a frog's head with a wide range of facial expressions and a lot of depictions of a man's body and torso covered in green skin and the head of a frog performing various activities.

Pepe appears to be a very popular target of meme making today. The facial expressions of Pepe in memes being created and passed around include happy frog face to raging mad Pepe and almost every conceivable mood in between.

You can search Google for any trending topic along with the word Pepe and you're sure to find a Pepe related meme.

Out of the many characters Pepe portrays, the one that shows more repetition than others is a Pepe Donald Trump or a Donald Trump Pepe.

The unadulterated Pepe the Frog is a character out of writer Matt Furi's debut comic called *Boy's Club*, which gained fame through being shared on MySpace.com.

The comic features teenage monsters Andy, Brett, Landwolf, and Pepe who are always "drinkin', stinkin' and never thinkin'." The black and white drawn comic entails the characters in their daily lives together as they "play Nintendo, eat pizza, and have an occasional psychedelic metamorphosis."

In 2008 a 4chan.com member uploaded a page from the comic where Pepe was found urinating with his pants pulled down to his ankles and the catchphrase "feels good man" was his rationale.

The people of 4chan seemed to take a special liking the Pepe because of his "it feels good man" catchphrase that seemed to be his rationale that propelled him through life.

Now with the addition of color

and broader range of expressions and emotions, to show up in user created memes all over 4chan.

The most popular and creative variants of the memes amongst 4chan were seen as valuable and deemed as a "rare Pepe" and sometimes sold on ebay.com and craigslist.

Pepe is now popular not just on 4chan, but on reddit, ifunny, facebook and anywhere you can find memes.

On Sept. 12, 2016 an article written by Elizabeth Chan and published on Hilary Clinton's campaign website stated that Pepe was a symbol of hate. "Pepe's been almost entirely co-opted by the white supremacists who call themselves the 'alt-right.'" Chan said. "They've decided to take back Pepe by adding swastikas and other symbols of anti-semitism and white supremacy."

Now the Pepe meme has been deemed a white supremacy and hate symbol.

Why? Because the Anti-Defamation League said so. Who are they? An international Jewish non-governmental organization based in the United States. However, the league is non-government, so it means nothing.

People are reacting how people who speak loudly too often react: quickly, emotionally, and not very elaborately thought out.

I do not believe Pepe is a hate symbol any more than a tooth brush's purpose is to clean a toilet bowl. Pepe wasn't intended to be a hate symbol but if you insist, you can use it as a tool to do so.

Many individuals did not even know the meme was being used for hate until CNN ran an article about it becoming a white supremacy symbol. This just goes to show how small the group of people using and being impacted by the cartoon inappropriately was.

The meme's history make it very clear that the original intentions were not malicious by any means.

Someone's choice to alter the meaning of the image by changing captions should not be grounds to ban the cartoon as a whole.

# Millennials shouldn't be so hated

Older generations need to understand change not fear it

**Michaela Leung**

COPY EDITOR

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Lazy, unmotivated and self-absorbed. These are some of the words older generations use to describe millennials.

Often times, millennials are viewed in a very negative light due to the stereotypes associated with the generation.

Older generations associate celebrities like Justin Bieber, Lindsay Lohan and Chris Brown who are known for their wild antics as the representatives of our generation. It is wrong to group all millennials together for negative reasons without taking into consideration our positive qualities.

In fact, it seems any kind of bad quality is dumped as being a quality of a millennial, even if it is actually a quality of a different generation.

Not many people realize that millennials are those born from the early 80's to mid 90's. A lot of those who claim to hate millennials either are them or raised them.

Yes, millennials are head strong but it's because of our passion. We are open and ready to discuss and protest for what we believe in. This is a trait

that has also been seen in previous generations, specifically the Baby Boomers. With the fight for equality still going strong and social issues being brought to the forefront, millennials do have a purpose.

Older generations also need to understand that we are in a changing time. When time changes, so do priorities and standards. Time brings progression and we are moving forward. Of course things are not the same as they were years ago.

We're in a technological age with smart phones, tablets and new innovation. Millennials have been paving the way by advancing our technology. We use these tools to our full advantage.

Due to the fact that older generations didn't have these things they do not fully understand.

Instead, older generations should try and understand millennials instead of constantly criticizing.

It is understandable that change is scary, but it is necessary. It is because of change that we are closer than ever to equal rights for all races, genders and sexualities.

The problem isn't just with millennials. The age gap causes a disconnect between generations. A big factor in this is change. A lot of times people have a fear or dislike of change. People are so set in their ways and beliefs that they are not receptive to changing times and standards.

If there is actually a real problem with millennials instead of placing all of the blame on us, look at the generation that raised us. It seems they are the ones with the most complaints of how we turned out.



MCTCAMPUS

Individuals that represent those who make up the millennial generation.

# Common killers are preventable

Texting and speeding shouldn't take so many lives

**Hunter Terrell**

CIRCULATION MANAGER

hterrell@valdosta.edu

Driving when you're in a rush and using your cell phone are both considered equivalent to driving while intoxicated.

In 2007, before a mass of the American population carried a smartphone in their pockets, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reported that speeding was a contributing factor in 31 percent of all fatal crashes in the U.S.

"If people would make sure they leave on time instead of always running late, I think a lot of speeding tickets and crashes could be prevented," said Elise Halman sophomore, sociology major.

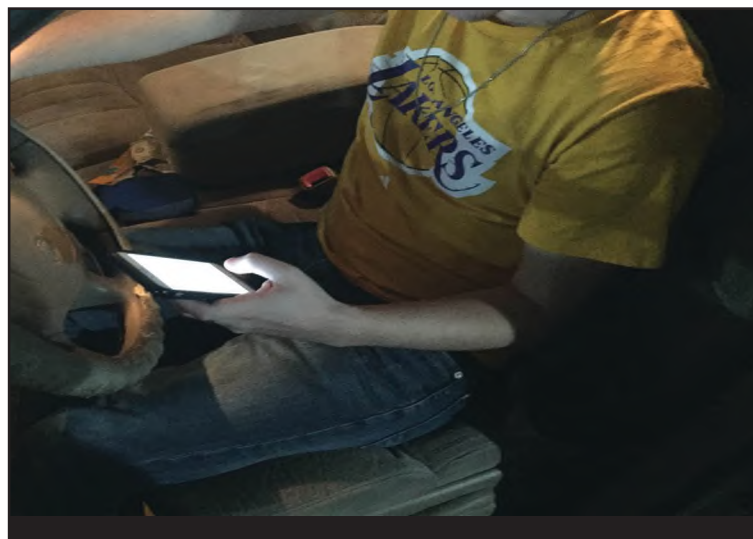
The city of Valdosta, Remerton and downtown area all have strict speed limits.

Probably the most dangerous driving habit is using your cell phone instead of paying attention to the road—also called distracted driving.

1.6 million or 64 percent of all road accidents in the United States involve a cell phone.

And if that does not raise an eyebrow, over 330,000 accidents caused by texting lead to severe injuries. This means that over 78 percent of all drivers are distracted because they have been texting while driving.

"It's true, I am unfortunately always on my phone. Play-



Julia Rodriguez/THE SPECTATOR

Texting and driving is one of the biggest killers of college students.

ing music, Pokémon, texting, Twitter. It's a bad habit that will probably get me in trouble," said Matt Furlan junior, business major.

Georgia enacted two new distracted driving laws in 2010.

One prohibits all functions of texts while operating a motor vehicle and the other prohibits anyone 18 and younger from use of a wireless device while driving. Both are around a \$150 fine.

The average speed in the US is about 55 mph. Taking five seconds to read a text means that the driver could go the length of a football field without looking at the road.

"My 18 year old cousin got a ticket for speeding as well as tex-

ting and driving. Both are pricey fines and both are super risky. It's best if everyone practices safe and methodical driving," said Zoey Poll freshman, undecided.

Overall, unsafe and distracted driving is a top killer in the U.S.

Car crashes are on the decline, but those involving cellular devices, is on the rise. Driving while using Snapchat or trying to run a yellow light is not worth anyone's life.

Instead, try to be on time, make sure you have clear instructions to where you are going, lead by example, follow state laws and always practice defensive driving. It could end up saving your life.

## DID YOU KNOW?

According to hispanicheritagemonth.gov, Hispanic Heritage Month begins on Sept. 15, marking the independence days of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.

## REVIEW



Students and follow ASA members in a traditional dance.

Eboni Register/THE SPECTATOR

## ASA brings 'Moves from Africa'

**Eboni Register**

STAFF WRITER

ebregister@valdosta.edu

On Oct. 5 African roots were brought to VSU's campus by the African Student Association.

ASA is an organization that caters to the special needs of and to mobilize African students at VSU while still informing others on campus as well as the American public on the important events occurring or affecting the African continent. A cultured twist was brought to Zumba class Wednesday night. The Class featured many traditional

moves and songs from African genres.

Throughout the evening, dance coordinator Philo Ampofo taught step by step choreography, forming an upbeat piece to challenge those who attended, alongside other ASA members who helped keep everyone in synchronization with this form of aerobic fitness.

"A lot of people love African culture but just don't know how to take part in it" said event coordinator, Oluchi Akpamgbo.

Getting others involved in the culture is one of ASA's biggest

goals as well as to bring everyone together as one.

ASA partners with other campus organizations and local businesses for community service projects.

This was one of many events that will be hosted by ASA in the 2016-2017 school year.

Their next event will be the Mr. and Miss ASA Pageant which will take place this Saturday in the UC Magnolia Room at 7 p.m., a night anticipated to be filled with much culture and elegance.

## Hispanic History month movie night 'Embrace of the Serpent'

**Brian Williams**

STAFF WRITER

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The department of Modern and Classical Languages held a screening of "Embrace of the Serpent" on Oct. 6 as a part of their Hispanic Heritage Month movie night series.

"Embrace of the Serpent" is a movie Directed by Ciro Guerra and features actors Nilbio Torres, Jan Bijvoet and Antonio Bolivar. The movie is based on diaries kept by scientists Theodor Koch-Grunberg and Richard Evan Schultes during their travels to the Amazon. It tells the story of past and present through the journey of the two white men searching for a sacred healing plant and their encounter with an Amazonian shaman.

"Embrace of the Serpent" is the first Colombian film nominated for an Academy Award for Best Foreign Film. The movie's characters Koch-Grunberg and Schultes are accurate depictions of the actual scientist, and Karamakate is a fictional character based on multiple encounters of shamans that both men had.

The film opens in 1904 with young Karamakate being approached by a boat carrying a clothed native Amazonian, Manduca and a very sickly Koch-Grunberg. Karamakate immediately scolds Manduca and his people for submitting to the white man without a fight. Manduca insist that Karamakate is the only shaman who can heal his sick travel partner.

The film shifts to 1940 with old man Karamakate who is drawing on a stone wall when a snake swimming in the water.

He is standing in passes, revealing Schultes approaching him on a boat.

Schultes asks the shaman to help him find a mystical plant called yakruna. Karamakate admits he has forgotten the teachings of the serpent and needs Schultes to help him remember.

Karamakate discovers Schultes has Koch-Grunberg's journal, and he starts to remember the journey they had together. We see the similarities in Karamakate's expe-

riences with both Koch-Grunberg and Schultes. The journal causes Karamakate to day dream, leading him to recall an instance where Koch-Grunberg and Karamakate walked up on a distraught tribesman who has been mangled from harsh working conditions of slave labor extracting rubber from the trees.

The movie passes back and forth between Karamakate with Schultes and with Koch-Grunberg. The land markers Schultes and Karamakate pass along the way awaken memories of Karamakate and we see into the past events where the outside influence of the white man show themselves. Koch-Grunberg and Karamakate encounter what's left of Karamakate's tribe, now taken over by missionaries preaching against their ways of life. Schultes and Karamakate then encounter the same and now there is a new white messiah in charge who resembles Jesus Christ and is indoctrinating the tribesmen with alternate religious beliefs and lifestyles. Both end with hostility.

Karamakate remembers how to prepare the sacred cocktail using yakruna that grows in his old homeland, and he and Schultes both drink the sacred potion. The movie ends in a psychedelic showing of Schultes dreaming and Karamakate relearning to embrace the serpent.

Moi Enomenga, an actual practicing shaman joined us for the viewing of the movie "Embrace of the Serpent."

It takes 30 years for someone to become a shaman, according to Enomenga. Shamans do in fact contact and receive messages from animal spirits, said Enomenga.

Enomenga also said that through his visions he was guided by the spirits and was able to foresee the travesties of Hurricane Katrina and the attacks of 9/11.

According to him, there will be a major Earth event happening on Feb. 15, 2028. The audience had a very limited time to ask him questions but he said he liked the movie and let the crowd know that it was decently accurate from his experiences.

## WILD ADVENTURES

THEME PARK

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VSU will provide round trip bus transportation from the Oak Street Parking Lot beginning at 4:30PM.

### Check next week's issue for:

A photo spread and review of Pops in the Park.

The VSU Music Scholarship Alliance will host Pops in the Park today from 6-8 p.m. on the Fine Arts building lawn.



COLLEGE LIFE

# Fall into a new concert season



**Kelsey Dickerson**  
COLLEGE LIFE EDITOR  
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VSU students gave a night of music for the community last week.

The Valdosta State Choral Department held its first choir concert Oct. 4, at 7:30 p.m. in the First United Methodist Church sanctuary. The performance was open to VSU students and faculty as well as the community.

Clockwise from top: Chamber singers perform "Cool Moon" by Richard A. Williamson; Makinsey Rosser sings a solo with The Spotlighters during "Change the World"; guest choir First United Methodist Chancel Choir perform "Walk Worthy" by Joseph M. Martin; Elizabeth DiGiammarino (right) sings a solo with The Spotlighters during "Waiting on the World to Change"; The womens choir stands in the audience while performing "Jubilate Deo, Alleluia" by Judith Herrington



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# DID YOU KNOW?

According to GamePedia, the character Rhydon was the first Pokemon ever created.



## JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME  
by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ONJAB

PNOYH

DIELEY

DRYIBH



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print your answer here: " [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] - [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] "

## Word Search

C E B P S P L L A B E V R U C Z V  
 U T K V U O D U G O U T Q G Y J T  
 S L A I H T H C A O C R F L J M Y  
 T E V Y R S L I D E O I R O H X L  
 S N Y P I T C H E R E P C V Y L K  
 V C U S A R S X T L E L Q E A P Z  
 B G O B V O R F D V M E P B R H V  
 A N H R M H A E I J Z P Y G H N M  
 T I B W E S R R D L B L Q F I O E  
 T N Y A T B D T Z N F A N U U P M  
 E N M B S E O B H Y U Y T N F A O  
 R I A L N E V A X Y B O D B G L H  
 A L L I Y D X J R F G E R Y O Q M  
 L K L E R I P M U D I W L G X Y V

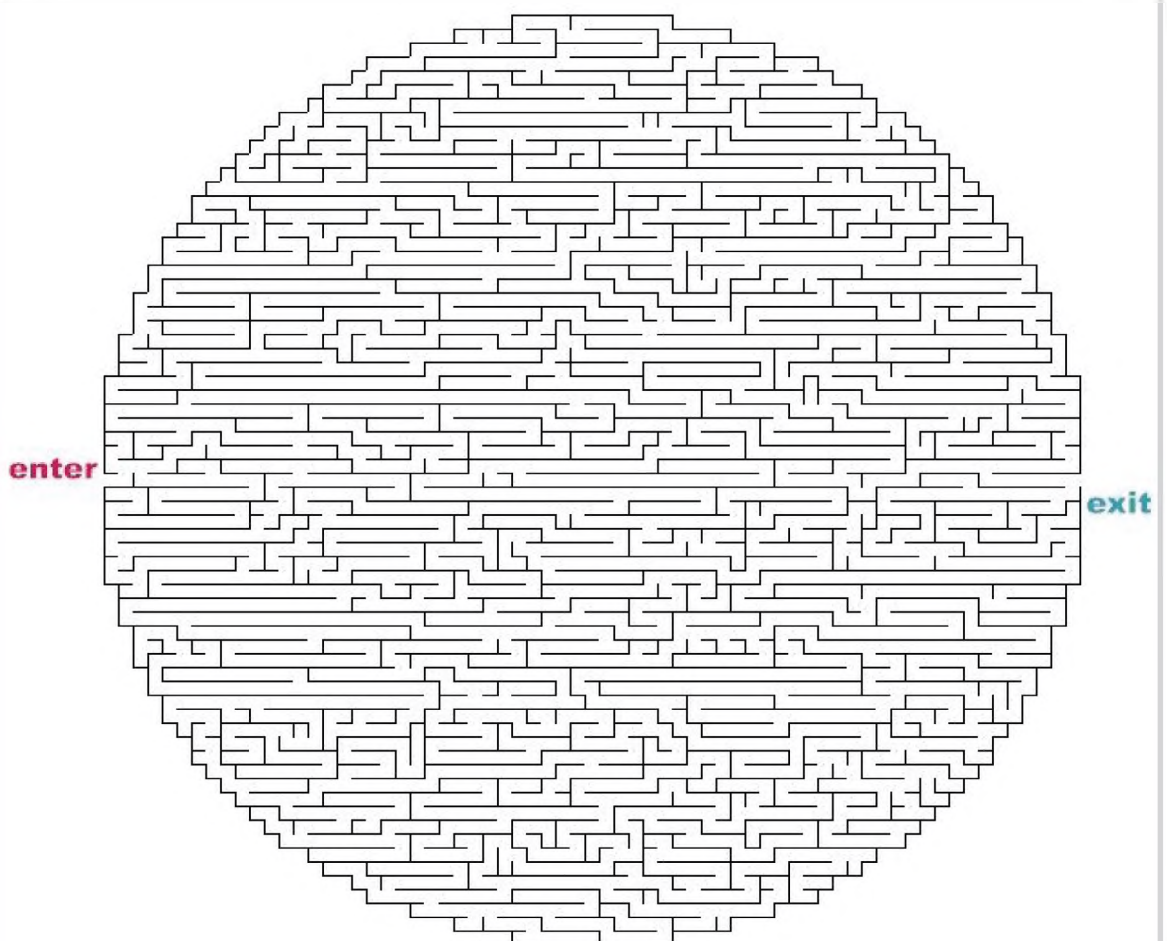
- Base Batboy Batter Bunt Coach Curveball
- Dugout Fastball Fielder Flyball Glove Grounder
- Home Inning Line drive Mound Pitcher Scoreboard
- Shortstop Slide Strike Triple play Umpire

## Sudoku X

\*Complete the grid so that every row, column, diagonal and 3x2 box contains every digit from 1 to 6 inclusive.

2	3	8		7	
7			1	5	8
3	5				1
	4			7	5
		5	2		
7	2			3	
2				1	4
	7	1	5		9
1		2	4		8

## Can you make your way through our maze?



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**DID YOU KNOW?** According to Lifebuzz, created in 1956, the first ever VCR was the size of a piano.

## Company unveils robot baby

As birth rate plummet in Japan, a new invention is introduced for childless

**Bryce Ethridge**  
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Plummeting birth rates in Japan have left many couples childless, resulting in a new automaton baby that is supposed to stimulate emotional connection and invoke maternal instincts for users.

Government statistics reported that in the last 50 years births have summed up to only a million a year, according to the Guardian. One in 10 women end up unmarried and births out of wedlock are frowned upon in Japan and much less common than in western developed nations.

A solution was invented to provide a substitute for the real thing, to bring out the maternal instincts in women and offer artificial companionship. This way women who cannot get pregnant can have something similar.

This baby robot plan was unveiled in Japan last week by Toyota's non-automotive department. Its name is Kirobo Mini, and it fits in the palm of the hand. Also included is a little "seat" or "cradle" that can fit in a car's cup holder, so it can go anywhere and everywhere with its owner.

Kirobo Mini is equipped with artificial intelligence, according to The Guardian, and has a camera built in so that it can recognize the person speaking to it and respond. It has a baby-like high pitched voice, so it can be even more realistic and invoke an emotional response.

The chief design engineer is Fuminori Kataoke, who reported to Reuters.com that the robot was designed to wobble when in a sitting position. This design method is meant to portray a sense of off-balance, to imitate a real baby in its early

developmental stages.

The Guardian reported that Toyota plans to sell the new automaton baby for 39,800 yen, which equals around \$390 in the United States. As of now, Kirobo Mini will have its debut date in Japan in 2017, with a great anticipation of it venturing to other countries in the long run.

With Japan already a significant leading user of industrial robots, this baby automaton is now part of a growing list of robots in Japan, according to ABC.net. Other inventions include a robotic lamb named Jibo and Paro, a baby seal that is supposed to help elderly people suffering from dementia.

Tim Kelly of Reuters reported that Japan has the second biggest concentration of robots next to South Korea. This new technological advance means that soon robots will leave the factories and start appearing in homes and offices around the world.

Kirobo Mini is seen as the stepping stone for further advances in robotic technology. With its innovative help, the goal of having more artificially intelligent beings around the world will greatly improve and become more diverse with the coming years said Kelly.

With Kirobo Mini's doe-like eyes and high squeaky voice, users will surely want to try out this substitute baby. It is cute and cuddly, and its primary function to invoke an emotional response like Kataoke said is making its debut in Japan highly anticipated in the coming year.

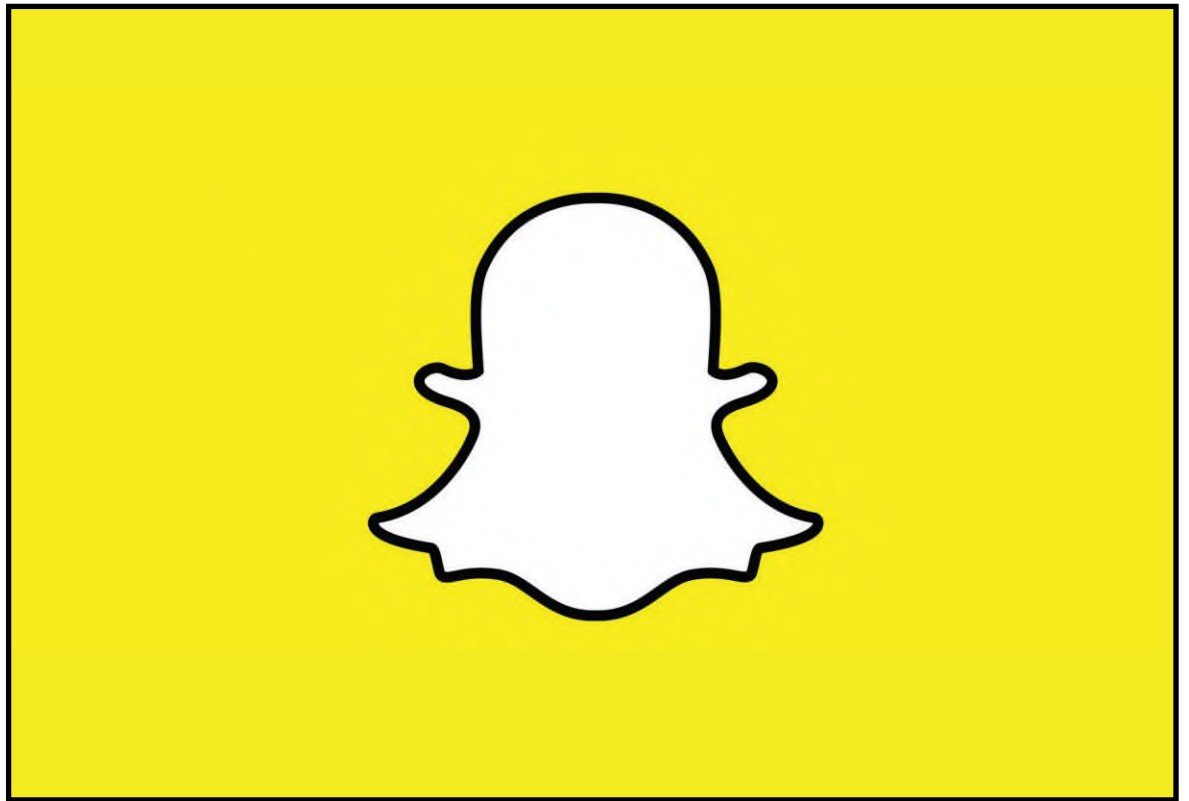


Photo Courtesy of Snapchat

## Snapchat's Discover page offers a variety of content

**Evelyn Dunn**  
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Snapchat is working overtime to make sure their users stay in the know. The snapchat discover feature gives users access to a multitude of news sites and television networks.

In January 2015 Snapchat introduced their new discover platform by releasing a statement on their website. According to the website the snapchat discover platform is "a new way to explore stories from different editorial teams." The website also said the new platform was "the result of collaboration with world-class leaders in media to build a storytelling format that puts the narrative first."

The Snapchat discover feature is a great way to stay up to date with current events and the unique format in which the publications are displayed

is unparalleled. Unlike Facebook or Twitter, each of the media outlets featured on the discover page are presented as snapchat stories that users can either tap through just as they would with the stories posted by their friends. Instagram is now the only other social media site to feature stories but has yet to add a platform similar to snapchat discover.

Snapchat's discover page currently features 27 major media outlets, including PEOPLE, COSMO, VOGUE and BUZZFEED; to subscribe to a story, users just tap and hold down the selected channel and a message box will pop up opting them to subscribe. Another cool aspect of the discover page is that the stories posted by the publications are only viewable for 24 hours before they are reset which means each day there will be a new set of stories ready to be viewed.

The content featured on the

discover page is both informative and entertaining. Each story contains a set of articles, animations, videos and fun facts for the user to enjoy. The publications make sure their snapchat stories are both interactive and informative to the user. For instance, there could be a serious article about the aftermath of hurricane Matthew in Haiti featured on the CNN channel and an article about the latest celebrity break-up/hook-up on the MTV channel. The discover feature provides content that can appeal to anyone which makes it even more awesome.

As a dedicated Snapchat user, I must say that I am certainly in awe of the innovative minds that created the discover page and I am in great anticipation of what they will do next.

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# DID YOU KNOW?

During the game against West Georgia, VSU quarterbacks threw passes to 12 different receivers, and three different receivers caught touchdowns. Quarterback Roland Rivers even had a reception on a running-back pass.

## Football looks to improve to 5-1 against Miss. College

**Juston Lewis**

STAFF WRITER

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Despite snatching the Peach Basket away from West Georgia, Head Coach Kerwin Bell said VSU football still has room to improve ahead of the matchup against Mississippi College.

Roland Rivers got the start against UWG after another week of competing with Adam Robles in practice. Rivers had complete control of the game until he went down early in the third quarter with cramps. This made way for Robles to enter the game, and his play kept the quarterback competition alive.

Rivers had 197 passing yards and 61 rushing yards to total 258 in the game. Robles had 184 passing yards while Rivers went to the locker room for his cramps.

"It was hard to bench Adam a week after he threw for 400 yards, but Roland just had that look in his eyes," Bell said. "We're going to let them compete, but Roland will probably be the guy going out there starting. I have faith in both of them and we're going to let them compete because it's making them both better."

While the competition is not over, Bell said it's nice that his players can sacrifice for each other.

"We were a team (on Saturday), guys didn't complain if they didn't play as much as they should and it started with our quarterbacks. When I told Adam he wasn't starting, he told me he'll do whatever's best for the team, but he'll be ready. Sure enough when Roland went down, Adam was ready to play."

Despite playing two different quarterbacks, the Blazers ran 93 plays and gained 546 yards of total offense. Bell said he thinks his team can still improve on these marks.

"We want to get faster than that," Bell said. "We can get faster, and there's a lot of areas we can improve on. We missed at



Kyle Dawson/THE SPECTATOR

Thomas Wright, a senior linebacker, hands the ball to the referee after recovering a muffed punt. Wright had four tackles against West Georgia.

least three drives that we didn't score on in the red zone."

A big area of improvement for the Blazers came from their offensive line. In the two meetings with UWG last season, the Blazers gave up a combined 11 sacks. In the victory on Saturday, the VSU offensive line allowed zero sacks.

"It was just guys stepping up and sacrificing for the team by putting their bodies on the line. They have some of the best defensive ends in the country and to not give up any sacks against them is pretty impressive. That's where the game was won for us."

The offensive line play was a direct correlation to the Blazers success but the defense was just as important. The Black Swarm

defense had four interceptions on the night, which brings their total to 15 on the season. The Blazers held West Georgia to under 25 minutes of possession, and the Wolves were one of eight on third down conversions.

"Our defense has been a championship style defense all year," Bell said. "When we've struggled offensively they've given us the opportunity to win every game that we have. They've played extremely well and they are consistent."

The Blazers will need that consistency on the road this weekend as they travel to Clinton, Mississippi, to face Mississippi College in a Gulf South Conference Matchup. It will mark the first away game for the Blazers

since the loss at North Alabama on Sept. 17.

Bell told his players after practice that there was still room for improvement.

"Saturday was a good performance but it wasn't our best," Bell said at the end of practice. "Keep working. Keep getting better."

Mississippi College is currently 0-4 in conference play with a -110 point differential in those four games.

The Blazers will look to keep their momentum on the road trip before they come back home for homecoming to play a Delta State team that beat Mississippi College, 61-31.



Kyle Dawson/THE SPECTATOR

Head Coach Kerwin Bell argues an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty in the game against West Georgia.

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**Next Week:**

A look at Damien Strange. Strange is a senior wide receiver who has developed as a red zone threat this season. Strange has five touchdowns over the past two games.



VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

## Adam Robles looking for a championship

**Hunter Terrell**

STAFF WRITER

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Adam Robles just got to Valdosta earlier this year, but he has already made a big impact as the part time leader of VSU's offense.

Robles, a sophomore, transferred from the University of South Florida in Tampa to VSU, which is around 220 miles north of USF. Robles said the move couldn't have been done without the team's support.

"My transition was smooth," Robles said. "I was worried when I came here over the summer just to start working things out because you never know what kind of team you're going to have or how the team will receive you. They have been great. They really just took me in, and I've been hanging out with a lot of them more and get to know them more."

Robles has many reasons for coming to VSU, including the campus.

"I love a lot of things about VSU. The campus was the first thing that stood out to me. It is just beautiful. I've also enjoyed my professors. I've enjoyed everything academic wise, but from an athletic side, Coach Bell has been great, as for all the coaches."

Robles said he has no specific goals for the rest of the season, but he does want to help accomplish some team goals.

"We obviously want to win championships. We want to win the conference, but the ultimate goal is to win a national championship. If you're not playing to win the national championship, there is no reason to play."

The Blazers have been "grinding and getting better" and he only wishes to have the enthusiasm he needs in order to better his teammates, according to Robles.

"I'm trying to get better every day, and I'm trying to make my teammates better," Robles said.



Kyle Dawson/THE SPECTATOR

**Robles had 184 yards and two touchdowns against West Georgia.**

"I think that is a major part of the quarterback's job."

Robles said he is proud of his teammates and appreciates all of the work that he has done with them.

"Just in the quarterback room, Roland Rivers and I, we were here in the summer together, going out every evening throwing the football," Robles said. "The offense as a unit has been great as well. David May, Josh Adams, Kemp and of course the receivers: Donovan, Day; we all push together and hold each other to high standards because at the end of the day we are family."


Robles and Rivers also broke

VSU's record for 575 passing yards against Kentucky State on Oct. 1.

"I didn't know we broke a record until a little bit after the game, but I did think it was neat," Robles said. "I usually don't look at my personal statistics after a game, I didn't know how yards I have thrown, I came in the next day and people were asking me."

Robles said he will remain enthusiastic and team oriented as the season goes on.

The next VSU football game is Oct. 15 against Mississippi College in Clinton, Mississippi at 4 p.m.



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Who is your MVP from the Peach Basket game?

1. Roland Rivers (QB)
2. Damien Strange (WR)
3. Cedric Hollingshed (RB)
4. Raymond Palmer (DB)

Rivers-22/35 197yds 3 TD	25%
Strange-40 Rec. Yds. 3 TD	11%
Hollingshed-138 Yds. 1 TD	15%
Palmer-2 interceptions	49%

72 votes • Final results

Raymond Palmer, a junior defensive back, was voted the MVP of the game against UWG. Palmer had two interceptions, one of which was returned for a touchdown, but brought pack when Palmer narrowly stepped out of bounds. He also added a tackle during the Blazer win. Palmer's two picks were a part of a five turnover day for the Blazers.



Kyle Dawson/THE SPECTATOR

Adam Robles came into the game after Roland Rivers left with cramps.

## Flag protests not happening at VSU

**Bryce Ethridge**

STAFF WRITER

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In the sports world, the topic of conversation of late has not been Xs and Os, but instead it's whether to stand for the National Anthem or not.

Numerous NFL players have been protesting the anthem, and the protests have spread to other sports at all levels. The protests have infuriated some while inspiring others to do the very same.

The reason for most of the protests are due to issues of inequality, police brutality and overall racial oppression. The protests started when Colin Kaepernick, quarterback of the San Francisco 49ers, knelt in protest of police brutality. The protests, in conjunction with other problems, have led to a decrease in viewers of NFL games, as reported by Forbes.

VSU has not seen a lot of protests during the anthem. Mike

Swan, head volleyball coach, said he doesn't like the protests.

"I am not a fan of protesting during our national anthem," Swan said. "Peaceful protests are definitely acceptable, but I prefer they be done at a more appropriate time, and not when we are honoring and respecting our nation."

Kaepernick's protests were met with a large amount of criticism. Many people said his actions were "unpatriotic" or "disrespectful" towards military veterans.

"I agree with it" said Gabriella Velez, libero, when asked her opinion on the protests.

The protests have spread to high schools. In Oakland, California, players and band members alike have participated. Students are not only protesting on the field, but they also protest on social media.

"I get it," James Sampson, drum major of the Blazing Brigade, said. "I believe in the First Amendment. Freedom of speech

and freedom of right. People definitely have the right to do it."

People have also brought up the less famous verses of the anthem that promote slavery such as: "No refuge could save the hireling and slave from the terror of flight or the gloom of the grave."


The principal of Lely High School in Naples, Florida, said that students who don't stand or stay quiet during the National Anthem will be asked to leave the game, according to the Miami Herald. Public schools, however, are not able to discipline students who silently protest the anthem if they are not disrupting the school's operations.

Many people don't mind the protest, but they dislike protesting during the anthem, which many people view as a tribute to fallen military members.

Regardless of opinion, the protests have shed a lot of light on issues concerning racial prejudices and police brutality.

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# SPORTS

## Football takes Peach Basket back from UWG



VSU football took the Peach Basket away from West Georgia on Oct. 8, after they beat the Wolves 38-27. The Blazer defense intercepted four UWG passes during the win. VSU's offensive line allowed zero sacks in the game, and Roland Rivers and Adam Robles combined for 381 yards passing. Freshman running back Cedric Hollingshed had 138 all-purpose-yards. His performance earned him Gulf South Conference freshman of the week for the second time this year.

Photos by Kyle Dawson/THE SPECTATOR



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