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#SUSPECTATOR

THE UNFILTERED, UNCENSORED VOICE OF THE STUDENTS.

*Spring
Break*
2017



NEWS

Upcoming activities

Celebration of Dr. Seuss' Birthday

Celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday at the Honors House March 2 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free and the event is open to faculty, staff, students, alumni, retirees and friends of the university.

Science Saturday

Join the College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Mathematics and Department of Computer Science for Science Saturday, March 4 from 9 a.m. to noon. The event will be held in Nevins Hall. Adventures in Mathematics and Computer Science is aimed at middle grades, but all are welcome.

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

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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 \$18.50 for up to 40 words.

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Employment

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NEWS

Police Chief candidate talks with students

LaDaezjah Warrens
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Jason Morton, one of the candidates for Director of Public Safety and Chief of Police, presents the characteristics or values he believes a police department should exhibit to a campus and some ways to implement them here at Valdosta State University.

Starting first as a student employee, Morton has been with the Milton Tennessee State University police department for over 20 years and has worked in various aspects of the police department including, but not limited to: communications area dispatch, patrol officer and patrol supervisor, as well as being involved with investigations and training.

"I think the agency needs to be transparent, community-oriented, service driven, a professional and

ethical department, and accredited," Morton said.

Morton reflected that the department needs to have specific polices, standards, and rules to follow to ensure they are performing to the best of their capabilities. He especially emphasizes this when discussing touchy areas such as use of force.

Furthermore, Morton discussed some ways to involve the community to better campus safety and satisfaction. He hopes to implement "lighting surveys" to address concerns about areas that students feel do not have enough light and are unsafe.

He also discussed an "accessible complaint process" and revealed that if citizens have a complaint with the police department, he wanted to hear about it so that the situation can be addressed properly.

He really capitalized on the

importance of building a relationship with the community and "getting out of the patrol car."

When talking about officers he encourages them to encompass the idea that, "in the eyes of a citizen, you are not just a uniform."

He sent the message to VSU students, in light of recent vandalism events and any other unsafe situation that, "it requires a lot of give and take. Students need to be able to tell the police department what their concerns are and what's wrong.

He recalled that every officer he has met says they got into this line of work because they want to help people.

To students he implored them to tell the police department what the problems are even if they are not police related.

SGA discusses new bill

Julie Jernigan
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During Monday night's Student Government Association meeting, Sen. Dillion Roundtree proposed a new free speech bill that would encourage more thought-provoking and intellectual conversations.

Roundtree was asked by several student organizations to create a Chicago statement, which is a principle that says Valdosta State University will respect free speech. With this bill, more debates on diverse ideological viewpoints and timely topics may take place.

"It isn't to fix an administration problem," Roundtree said. "It's more about stimulating intellectual diversity on campus by getting people to talk about important issues from a bunch of different viewpoints and hashing them out publicly."

Some members were concerned whether this new bill would provoke violence or create a bad image of the university.

Roundtree assured members that in the State of Georgia there is a law pertaining to "fighting words," and if used, an individu-

al could be arrested for disorderly conduct, but he doesn't think the bill will touch that.

"This isn't really a bill, but more of a resolution, asking the university and separate colleges within the university to think outside the box in regard to courageous conversations that usually have references to specifics social issues like race, gender and class," Roundtree said.

The proposed bill is tabled for further revision until the next meeting.

Also in the meeting, President Maya Mapp presented the results from the referendum on the changes to SGA, which were approved by 258 votes. She thanked the members for putting in hard work to accomplish this goal.

Joy Ihedioha was also approved for the vacant senate seat and hopes that her knowledge and involvement with many organizations on campus will help better SGA.

The meeting ended with Vice President Adam Slaton congratulating the senate on the new, approved constitution and encouraging them to strive for new accomplishments to help the VSU community.

Malcolm Mitchell to receive key to city

Darla Dunning
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The City of Valdosta and the Valdosta County School system will celebrate Malcolm Mitchell's success as an athlete, author and a mentor to children at 6 p.m. Monday at Bazemore-Hyder Stadium.

Mitchell is an football player for the New England Patriots, where he plays as a wide receiver. Mitchell was drafted by the New England Patriots in 2016 and completed his first year with 32 receptions for 401 yards and four touchdowns.

He played an instrumental part in the Patriot's Super Bowl victory in 2017, which was the largest comeback in Super Bowl history.

The public is invited to fill the stands on the home side of the stadium and watch Mayor John Gayle present Mitchell with a key to the city and proclaim March 6 as Malcolm Mitchell Day.

During the event, Mitchell will be honored by Valdosta

City Schools with various presentations, such as Mitchell's framed number 19 New England Patriots jersey, which will be displayed in the new Valdosta High School.

Mitchell is a Valdosta High School graduate, where he excelled as a receiver and defensive back. As a Wildcat, Mitchell received the Under Armour All-American, Region 1-AAAAA Player of the Year award, and set a VHS single season reception record in 2010 with 77 catches for 1,419 yards and seven touchdowns.

In addition to his achievement on the field, Mitchell is the author of the children's book "The Magician's Hat," which he wrote in 2016. Mitchell traveled to different elementary schools to read his book to children to inspire them to read and dream big. In 2016, Malcolm's book received the Children's Author of the Year award by the Georgia's Writer Association.

Due to the large number of people expected to attend the event, no autographs will be given.

A Healthy Tip from VSU Student Health Center

March is National Endometriosis Awareness Month. Come to our Women's Health Awareness Seminar March 6 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Student Union Meeting Room 2.



VSU mourns Dr. Mitchell

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VSU lost a member of its community Wednesday.

Dr. Joseph Mitchell, associate professor of public relations and communication theory, died Wednesday after a lengthy illness.

Dr. Mitchell was a quirky professor with a sense of humor that came across in his syllabus.

One student shared her experience from taking his strategic design class.

"He had a lot of knowledge over the topics that he covered in my class," Kimberly Cannon, a journalism major, said. "His syllabus was very quirky, because a section of his syllabus stated 'If

you anger this instructor, he may use you as a horcrux.'"

Another student who had a public relations writing class and a strategic design class with Dr. Mitchell shared her thoughts about his teaching.

"Dr. Mitchell put a lot of thought into his classes," Ashely Mixon, a public relations major, said. "He came to his classes a week before he passed away, and I felt that it showed true dedication to his profession and students. I think he was very generous and willing to work with his students."

Dr. Mitchell taught at VSU for 10 years, and his research interests included public relations, integrated marketing communication, perception and gender.

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GREEK WEEK



Greek Week is a week long competition that places the fraternities and sororites at Valdosta State in head-to-head events and also includes a community service day. This year's Greek Week lasts from Feb. 27 until March 3. Pictured in the top right is Tristan Williams and Ben Heller representing Sigma Chi, moving counter-clockwise: Johnathan Williams competes in the orange passing relay; two members of VSU Greek life compete in the three-legged race relay; Robert Murphy representing Phi Beta Sigma participating in the balloon pop relay.
Photos taken by Seth Willard



OPINIONS

Our point of view...

The media is for the people

Journalism is not the enemy. Washington Post Editor Marty Baron is one of the premier names in American journalism. Best known as the figurehead of the Boston Globe's "Spotlight" findings, Baron's Post has gone head-to-head with President Donald Trump throughout the last two years.

Trump calls the media dishonest, an agenda-filled group of reporters who take aim at him and his administration. Baron disagrees.

In an interview with Recode, Baron said reporters aren't engaged in war with Trump. He said they're performing their function.

"The way I view it is, we're not at war with the administration," he said. "We're at work. We're doing our jobs. To use language that says we're scum, that we're garbage. You know, at one point, [Trump] said we're the lowest form of humanity. That wasn't enough, so he said we're the lowest form of life itself. So I don't know where we go from there. That's apparently where we are."

Perhaps Trump views journalism as a threat. If something goes bad on his end, already establishing a precedent of "dishonest media" provides a diversion. His attacks on reporters have become one of his signature traits.

The issue is it compromises the fourth estate. The nemesis of power is accountability.

If you're taking over a small country, the first to be annihilated are reporters. They are the ones who hold the higher ups accountable. Former President George W. Bush said as much on the "Today" show this week.

"I consider the media to be indispensable to democracy," he said. "We need the media to hold people like me to account. I mean, power can be very addictive and it can be corrosive and it's important for the media to call to account people who abuse their power, whether it be here or elsewhere."

The New York Times responded to Trump with a new marketing campaign: 'The Truth.' The campaign focused on the increased need for accurate reporting. It emphasizes the everlasting search for truth.

Interestingly, to concede a point to Trump, truth is in perception. We can't speak for every journalist. There's no question some publicly oppose him. There are exceptions to everything. Trump is allowing the exception to influence perception of the entire field.

The key doesn't necessarily lie in truth, but in fact.

Truth is built from analysis of fact. Social truth is created by one's perception of the facts. But if the individual disregards fact, how can he call the media dishonest? The truth he holds is jaded by analysis (or lack thereof) of fact.

Be it CNN, The Post, The Times or any other outlet, there is a shared purpose: to inform the public. The media's job isn't to alter feelings, it's to keep the public "in the know." Barring specific outlets from press briefings is simply counterintuitive to not just the nation's power balance, but to the First Amendment.

The confrontation between Trump and media won't halt until he accepts reporters' social roles, as Bush said. On the flip side, running constant stories attacking Trump and stirring the pot won't help relations either.

Ultimately, as the most powerful man in the country, Trump should embrace the media. Whether he likes it or not, that is his No. 1 connection to civilians. The press, meanwhile, will continue to do its job as it has for centuries.

If it's in the public interest, the story will be told. Investigations will be launched, research conducted and public figure after public figure interviewed. Trump has, at most, eight years in office. The media will continue for the rest of time.

Journalism is not the enemy. And he needs to acknowledge that sooner rather than later.

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

VSU students: What do you like to do on the front lawn?



"I like to come out here to study, do homework, and hang with friends."

-Maia Thomas, sophomore, marketing major



"I just like to hang in my hammock and watch Netflix."

-Julia Pitchford, freshman, undecided



"I just like to sit outside and study."

-Sarah Wells (left), junior geology major

"I like to play with puppies."

-Savannah Gutapfel (right), junior, geology major



"I like to just chill and study."

-Chanterria Williams, sophomore, communications major

All photos and interviews by Shanice Barnes

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OPINIONS



Rows of books sit untouched at Odum Library.

Hunter Terrell/THE SPECTATOR

If libraries don't adapt, they'll be scrapped

Julie Jernigan

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Libraries across the country are seeing a decline in attendance, and while technological advancement is partly to blame, insufficient government funding plays a major role.

According to The Atlantic, a new Pew Research Study found that 76 percent of Americans think libraries better their community, but only 44 percent visited their local library in the past year. The study advised that more libraries utilize their non-print services.

Another report conducted by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport showed that in the past year the number of adults who visited a library between October 2015 and September 2016 fell from 33.8 to 29.8 percent, and partial declines have happened every year since the survey began in 2005.

Library activists condemned the numbers, saying serious action needs to be taken.

"In an age where there is a great need to arm the population with information and opportunities, these figures warn us that it's time to stop talking about dismantling of library services and instead to demand action," said Nick Poole, chief executive of the Chartered Institute of Librarians and Information Professionals in an interview with The Guardian.

The world, though, is becoming more and more digital, and libraries must adapt to the changing environment. For example, many avid readers are turning to e-books rather than physical books because they are more practical and environmentally friendly.

"I prefer e-books over physical books because I like to have my full library at my disposal whenever I have free time," Joanna Henderson, a junior psychology major, said. "I also hate waiting on shipping because I'm so eager to start the next book in a series."

On the other hand, many people still love the satisfaction of holding a bound book.

"I personally like physical books because I highlight and take notes in the margins," Kenzie Bowen, a communications disorder major, said. "I enjoy the 'new book' smell and being able to take it outside on a hot day without having to worry about my device heating up."

Even if libraries make e-books available, the range of products wouldn't touch the reality of what Amazon and Barnes and Noble offer.

Books are cheaper than ever right now, and most classic books can be purchased for free on Project Gutenberg or for a small charge on Kindle or Nook, according to The Telegraph.

Libraries are becoming obsolete, and local authorities are only acting on statistics and revenues when looking to close down branches. In order for libraries to remain open, employees and activists must make plans to adapt with technology to gain more visitors; otherwise, they will become a thing of the past.

Stay safe on Spring Break

Shanice Barnes

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Spring break is the time for students to let loose and forget about all the stress they endured during the semester.

Many students travel all over the world to exotic locations, in search of places with beaches to get the full spring break experience.

During spring break the beach is one big party, and like most college parties, alcohol is involved.

Alcohol is a huge factor for students when it comes to getting the full spring break experience.

While it is ok for students 21 and older to participate in responsible drinking activities, many students under the legal drinking age have been participating as well.

In the past, it has been relatively easy for students under the age of 21 to obtain alcoholic beverages during spring break, but due to recent events police have been cracking down on underage drinking more than ever.

In a recent article by NWF Daily News, they reported that authorities are gearing up for spring break. Some beaches have even proposed an overall alcohol ban on all public and private beaches.

Their biggest concern is

keeping students safe during the break.

Spring break is supposed to be a fun time for students, but it's also important for students to remember that they still have to obey the law.

Underage drinking is against the law, and could lead to jail time. While it may be all fun and games during your vacation, you have to remember that it doesn't last forever.

"I have seen a lot of underage kids get drunk on spring break," said Austin Richardson, junior, business major. "What they fail to realize is all the trouble they could actually get in."

Try to refrain from doing anything that possibly lead to charges and will affect your education in anyway.

To resist the urge to engage in underage drinking, students must steer clear of all things alcohol.

If you have friends under the legal drinking age who plan on participating in drinking activities explain all the reasons they should not, and strongly urge them to find activities that do not involve alcohol.

This spring break is the worst time to partake in underage drinking, authorities are not easing up and are taking it more seriously than ever.

So make sure you have fun, stay safe and do not engage in underage drinking.

Pure bred vs. hybrids show love for all dogs

Alex Dunn

STAFF WRITER

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Future pet owners sometimes go out of their way and pay hundreds of dollars for a pure-bred dog, while perfectly suitable "mutts" are waiting in the kennel to be adopted.

People who want pure-bred dogs probably purchase them because they like the way that breed looks or like that breed's personality traits.

People may also purchase with the intention of competing in dog shows or breeding pure-bred dogs.

A pure bred is acknowledged when a dog belongs to a registered breed and has papers proving the dog's parents were of that breed, according to The Fun Times Guide. Then, once the dog has been registered with a kennel club, the owner gets a pedigree signifying that the dog is pure.

When the dog has parents that are not defined as pure bred and are of different breeds, that dog is defined as a mixed breed or mutt.

However, the name "mutt" is not a derogatory word, according to The Fun Times Guide.

In fact, owners proudly refer to their dogs as mutts because they do not care about specific genetic traits, but instead care about companionship with their dog.

Then, you have a hybrid breed, which is the area that can be the most confusing.

Dogs are considered hybrids

when both parents are of a different breed, but both parents are pure-bred, meaning both parents are registered with a kennel club and have papers confirming such.

Hybrid breeds are also considered designer breeds, because people can breed two pure bred dogs and try and get two different sets of preferable genetics in one dog.

For example, the labradoodle has become quite popular in recent years.

"I have a labrador and I also have a 'choodle,' a chihuahua poodle," said Felicia Mink, sophomore math major. "I treat and love both of them the same."

However, some breeds, such as the labradoodle, are sometimes considered a new breed rather than a mixed breed.

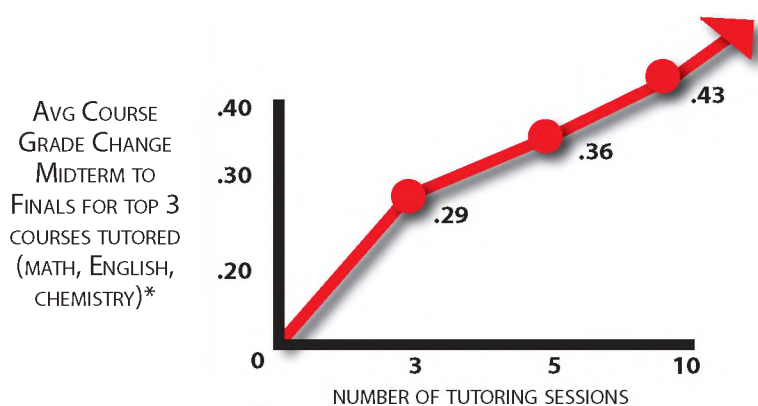
So, unless someone is buying a pure bred with the purpose of breeding or competing, why should it matter if it is a mutt or designer breed?

Valdosta has two locations where you can adopt domestic pets, the Lowndes County Animal Shelter as well as the D.A.R.E. Animal Rescue program.

Lowndes County Animal Shelter is open for adoptions Tuesday through Friday from Noon to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday from Noon to 3 p.m. Dogs are \$125 and cats are \$105 each.

Many dogs are sitting in kennels waiting to be adopted. They're just waiting for the right owner to stop by.

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FEATURES

Writer branches out to VSU

Darla Dunning

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Prospective student writers learned from a Georgia Hall of Famer on Feb. 23.

Janisse Ray is the author of six books and a collection of eco-poetry. Her latest non-fiction book, "The Seed Underground: A Revolution to Save Food," has won five awards and deals with the exploration of the seed-saving community.

She was inducted in the Georgia Hall of Fame and has multiple awards, including a Southern Book Sellers Award for Poetry.

"You can find Janisse studying her culture and roots, digging in the dirt, getting feisty over pine trees and seeds around her," Dr. Deborah Hall, professor of English, said, as she introduced Ray.

Dr. Hall told the audience Ray lives on an organic farm in Reedsville, Georgia, where she gets up at 5 a.m. and writes until her adopted daughter wakes.

Ray began by reciting her newly written essay, "Cheyenne," to an audience for the first time.

"I will warn you all that this is a sad piece," Ray told the audience.

While reading her essay, Ray talked about how her family became attached to a horse they bought. Because of the horse's old age, it slowly began to die, and Ray's family learned how to grieve from this incident.

Ray said "Cheyenne" deals with attachment and how the most enriching life a person can have comes from attachment to family, children and the natural world.

"The old mare grazed placidly through the pasture, wise, kind and sad, unable to recover from whatever had befallen her," Ray

recited from "Cheyenne."

In her second essay, "Exultation of Elk," she talked about her connection with animals and her experience with elk during her backpacking trip in Montana. Ray said she went to Montana and hiked in the wilderness with her husband and friends.

"The elk were a couple hundred feet away, and there were multiple in number," Ray recited from "Exultation of Elk." "I could see more bronze splashes and random movement. Unbelievably, elk poured like molasses behind the scrim."

At the end of her reading, Ray answered questions from the audience about her books and writing techniques.

"My first memoir, 'Ecology of a Cracker Childhood,' came out in 1999 and alternates chapters about growing up on a junkyard in rural Georgia," Ray said when asked about the books she has written.

Ray also gave writing advice.

"One should read voraciously and attend as many creative writing classes as possible, and just start practicing," Ray said. "Like any skill, writing requires a lot of practice."



Darla Dunning/The Spectator
Janisse Ray stayed after her talk to sign copies of her work and meet students and community members who attended.



Easy garlic potatoes are great for a lazy morning. Erin Turner/ THE SPECTATOR

Erin Turner

STAFF WRITER
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Bust out the eggs and bacon. These tender on the inside and crispy on the outside potatoes are perfect for a lazy Sunday morning; the process is super easy, and most importantly, it's delicious!

Ingredients:

3 russet potatoes
1 teaspoon seasoning salt
1 teaspoon paprika
½ teaspoon garlic powder
½ teaspoon cayenne pepper (optional)
1 teaspoon black pepper
3 tablespoons vegetable oil

Steps:

1. Dice your potatoes into small cubes.
2. Boil potatoes in a pot, until they are tender. Not mushy.

bottom of a heavy skillet. Heat over medium heat.

4. Add drained potatoes and spread them in a single layer.

5. Let sit until bottom of potatoes start to crisp. About 6-7 minutes. Cook well.

6. Start adding seasonings. Seasoning salt, paprika, garlic powder, cayenne pepper, and black pepper. Season now and again closer to the end.

7. Stir the potatoes and slowly let them crisp up for about 15 min, or until they are the texture you desire. Add seasoning as they begin to crisp. The key to perfect breakfast potatoes is patience!

8. Remove from skillet and enjoy!

Once you master the timing of the dish, onions and garlic would be great add-ons.

3. Add 3 tablespoons of oil to the

Spring break Savings

Julie Jernigan

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Spring break doesn't have to be expensive. With these helpful tips, you can save money without skipping the fun.

1. Skip the hotel and stay with friends or family

Avoid paying \$100 or more on hotel costs by calling friends or family who live or have vacation homes in the area of your choice. Chances are there's someone you could call and ask to crash for a couple of nights.

2. Skip restaurants for breakfast and lunch

Meal costs can be one of the most underestimated expenses. Lower your food costs by picking up groceries for breakfast, lunch and snack time to avoid costly meals at overcrowded, tourist restaurants, or see if your lodging offers continental breakfast.

3. Use your student I.D.

There are so many places you wouldn't think take a student I.D. but do. If there's not a sign, just ask, and you might save a couple of dollars.

4. Choose the road less traveled by

Stay away from tourist traps

that are in the middle of everything because they tend to be the most expensive. Look at quaint bed and breakfasts that offer great group deals, or avoid it all together to camp out under the stars. Camping equipment tends to be pretty cheap, and if you stay in government-owned campsites (Recreation.gov), it's even cheaper.

5. Rent a bike or bring your own

Cut costs on taxi rides and gas by cruising around your destination on a bike. It's a good source of exercise, and it'll help cut down on your carbon footprint

6. Use your phone to budget

Budgeting can be tough, but with the help from popular apps, such as Mint, Intuit's personal budget app, it's simple. It allows you to input the money you have to spend and helps keep you on track with your daily expenses. A little extra planning goes a long way.



Courtesy of Wikimedia commons

NOTICE

The Student Activity Fee Allocation Committee is now accepting funding request applications for next fiscal year. A number of changes to the committee allocation process and use of activity fees has taken place as a result of Board of Regents policy changes and decreases in fee revenue. Student Activity fees are now allocated in three different ways – described below. Currently the committee is accepting applications from those departments and organizations that traditionally have been awarded \$1,000 or more per year in current and prior fiscal years. Please carefully review the Student Activity Fee Allocation Committee website and links associated with allocations, use of activity fees, and application information for important details regarding this process. **Deadline to apply is March 22, 2017; no late submissions will be considered for large allocation awards.**

Student Activity Fees at VSU are reviewed and allocated in three different ways:

1. Student Activity Fee Allocation Committee - Fall Meeting (Fee Funded Departmental Allocation) University Departments and building projects that are funded by a set fee amount must present their budget each year to the SAFAC and provide evidence of efficient and responsible use of student fees. At this time, any proposed increase, decrease, or repurpose of a student fee amount must be presented, discussed, and voted in favor by the committee to recommend any changes to the University President and Board of Regents.

2. Student Activity Fee Allocation Committee - Spring Meeting (Large Allocation) The SAFAC meets each Spring to hear proposals to fund eligible departments and organizations that historically receive large allocations greater than \$1,000 total for the year. Each department or organization invited must present a detailed budget for review by the Committee and provide evidence of efficient and responsible use of student fees. Funding for a prior year does not guarantee funding for future years and the amount requested may be more or less than what is actually allocated by the Committee. If any organization is not funded through this one-time process, they are eligible to request funds from the Student Government Association.

3. Student Government Blazer Allocation Committee - Fall and Spring semester (Small Allocation) At the Spring meeting of the SAFAC a large allocation of funds is provided to the Student Government Association to allocate throughout the upcoming Fall and Spring semester to any student organization and individual student that meets the requirements of the Blazer Allocation Committee process. These awards are less than \$1,000 total for the year to any one organization or individual with the intent of making more funds available throughout the year to a greater number of students.

Student Activity Fee Allocation Committee Website:

<http://www.valdosta.edu/student/safac/>

Deadline to submit for Large Allocation: Wednesday, March 22

Invited Presentation to Committee: Monday, March 27

FEATURES



Bryce Ethridge

STAFF WRITER

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Things could 'bee' better now

As most of us know, our favorite friends, the honeybees, are dying out at a pretty unusual rate, but one student is preparing for the worst.

Anna Haldewang, a senior at Savannah College for Art and Design, wants to educate people about the importance of honeybees through her bee drone, as reported by CNN Tech.

"I would love to see people use it in their backyards and even create custom gardens with it," Haldewang said. "With an actual bee, it's so small you don't notice it and how it's pollinating flowers. With the drone, you can see how the process works."

According to CNN Tech, Plan Bee is a personal robotic bee designed to mimic how bees pollinate flowers, while being controlled by a smart device. Halde-

wang came up with the idea after her professor dared her to create something that was self-sustained and promoted the stimulation of plant growth.

While researching, Haldewang thought of the need for water, sun, soil and cross-pollination, and through pollination, her research led her to her to bees.

"I had no idea about the danger to honeybee colonies and that bees were disappearing," Haldewang told CNN Tech.

Soon after, Haldewang created a hand-sized prototype that is black and yellow but looks nothing like a bee. Haldewang said she wanted to give the essence of the bee, while not completely copying the insect.

CNN Tech reported that Haldewang went through 50 design variations before settling on the current one. The final design is made out of a lightweight foam core covered by a plastic shell with a pair of propellers to keep

it airborne. In addition to that, there are tiny holes on each of the device's six legs that suck and store pollen and then releases it to cross-pollinate other flowers.

"When you flip it upside down, it looks like a flower," Haldewang said

Haldewang said this was her way of honoring the flower's role in cross-pollination.

Plan Bee is one of many new concepts that SCAD design students create every quarter as part of their coursework, but Haldewang's concept has impressed even the Dean of the School of Design, Victor Ermoli.

"It is outstanding," Ermoli said. "The design is self-explanatory, and it offers a very clever solution."

Though Plan Bee is still in its early stages, Haldewang filed a patent application and hopes to start producing a marketable product within two years, CNN Tech reported.



Schematics of the bee drone show its pollination process.

Courtesy of SCAD

Fashion

And the award goes to... Oscar's best dressed

Jacorey Moon

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"I would like to thank the Academy."

The Oscars. An assembly of A-list actors competing with upcoming talent for an incredible honor seems like a battle, but it's so much more than that. Dating back to 1929, being nominated for the Oscars has always been a pivotal moment in any actor's career. The only thing almost as important as the win/nomination is the famous question, "Who are you wearing?" This past Sunday, America watched live, as celebrities showed up in their best get-up. So, were the looks Gold or Bronze? Here are some of my favorite and least favorite looks. Let's start with the Gold.

Taraji P. Henson dazzled the Oscars' red carpet in a custom Alberta Ferretti gown. This gown not only made Henson a stand out, but she brought a little piece of old vintage Hollywood to the carpet. From the silhouette, to the hairstyle, Henson was styled perfectly. The gown was made out of navy/night blue velvet, with a plunging neckline. GOLD.

Known for her breakout roles in the films "True Grit" and "Pitch Perfect 2," Hailee Steinfeld showed she grew up by wearing the bare necessities. On Sunday, Steinfeld showed she could dabble in haute couture effortlessly, wearing a custom Ralph and Russo gown, which has a very interesting story.

It was told to red carpet reporters that Steinfeld's dress was unfinished.

The garment features a plethora of flowers, and each flower is hand painted onto the fabric. Ralph and Russo flew the dress and the painter to Los Angeles, and the painter placed the flowers over the parts that are supposed to be covered. Therefore, Steinfeld decided to wear the gown completely nude. This worked in her favor, because she had a perfect red carpet moment, which will be

remembered. GOLD.

Now let's get into some of the Bronze recipients...

To start, prominent actress and now mommy-on-the-go, Halle Berry's fashion spotlight was very dim this past Sunday. Berry strutted down the red carpet in a custom Versace gown, but it didn't seem very custom. The shape of the garment wasn't very flattering nor was the color. The color didn't compliment her skin tone very well. Even the hairstyle Berry wore didn't suit her. From head-to-toe, Berry needed a revamp. I always loved her early 2000s red carpet looks. A shorthaired Berry, with a tastefully done dress that accentuates her curves, is a part of my expectations. Although Berry is a mom now, I don't think she should forget her fashion roots. BRONZE.

Felicity Jones. She was one of the Hollywood celebrities who showed so much promise in the fashion world.

Every red carpet season, Jones made a statement. Lately, she has been nothing but dull on the red carpet. Sunday, Jones wore a Dior gown which was beautiful, but just not for her.

The gown featured a very dull, eggshell color, and it washed her out. This look completely fell flat. Not only did the gown not have enough "umph," but the eggshell-colored shoes Jones wore really made this a boring look. As a result, the audience saw how beautiful the gown was, but Jones didn't make the look her own. BRONZE.

The Oscars is an important piece of iconography, not only for the entertainment industry, but also for the fashion industry. If Joan Rivers were still alive, this year's Oscars wouldn't have been the same. There were more gold recipients than bronze recipients this year, surprisingly.

Red carpet season is always a daunting time for celebrities. With that being said, don't only thank the Academy, but also thank your stylists.



Courtesy of ABC Oscar promotions

The Feb. 24 Academy Awards featured some unforgettable outfits and an unforgettable mess up when it came to the award for best picture.

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ENTERTAINMENT

‘Childish’ set to play childhood favorite

Tiana Foster
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Disney brought back memories for 90s kids after confirming the remake of “The Lion King” movie in September. Jon Favreau, head director, has teamed up with Walt Disney to produce a more modern version of the 1994 film.

Favreau is known for directing the innovative version of “The Jungle Book.” He said “The Lion King” remake will look more realistic compared to the original animated hit.

This is not the first animated Disney movie to be remade, as “Cinderella,” and “Beauty and the Beast,” were remade as live-action films.

“The Lion King” remake is not live-action but will be a photorealistic version of the film without human characters, unlike “The Jungle Book.”

Favreau revealed two starring cast members of the upcoming film via Twitter. Donald Glover, known as Childish Gambino, plays the role of Simba, and James Earl Jones reclaims his role as Mufasa.

Glover is currently exploring his career as an actor, after enter-

ing the scene as a writer for NBC comedy series “30 Rock.” He starred in his own series, Atlanta, and was cast as Lando Calrissian in the upcoming Star Wars movie.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, Favreau met Glover last year and told the rapper he was a huge fan of his music.

“Looking forward to working with this legend #Mufasa,” Favreau tweeted along with a picture of Jones.

Jones voiced Mufasa in several different movies, including the original movie and the sequels, “The Lion King 2: Simba’s Pride,” and “The Lion Guard: Return of the Roar.”

The original “Lion King” has left people with high expectations for the new film, as the original won Grammy Awards and Academy Awards. According to Disney’s press release, the movie grossed more than \$900 million. “The Lion King” was also performed on Broadway and is one of its longest-running shows. It has won six Tony Awards, since its first show in 1997.

I’m mostly excited to see the visuals and hear the familiar voice of my favorite character, Mufasa, but there is no official release date for the remake yet.



Bryce Ethridge/THE SPECTATOR
Students anchors, Michaela Leung and Nick Bell prepare for the Monday morning newscast. They do a brief rundown to prepare.

News class prepares students

Bryce Ethridge
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Eighteen years ago, the city of Valdosta received its own news station, and since then, it has been the only Valdosta-based news cast in South Georgia.

Head of the program, Professor Frank Barnas, runs News Valdosta, along with the students, providing local news to the community.

“By default, the students working here are the news station that is based in Valdosta and covers all news locally,” Barnas said.

Barnas said the focus is local news because when students get jobs, they are more likely to get the local news openings.

“That’s (local news) where entry level jobs are, so that’s what we prepare them for,” Barnas said. “It’s nice because we don’t look at ourselves as a college

station. We look at ourselves as a local TV station that happens to be based at a university.”

According to Barnas, the station’s format is not constant. It has varied from being 30 minutes with one issue per show or doing a longer form documentary during the week. This semester, Barnas is focusing the class around five minute updates.

“The format shifts, but it’s always News Valdosta in some intonation,” Barnas said.

In terms of benefiting students, the program provides students enrolled in the class the ability to gain experience in anchoring, technical directing, floor directing, audio, producing, writing a teleprompt and on-camera experience.

“It has helped me to become a better anchor/ host,” Jessica Thompson, a senior, said. “Sometimes I get nervous, but overall it has been a fun experience.”

Since nearly everyone in the

class is a mass media major, these students are given a real look into what they are going to be doing in a few years.

“It allows me to be comfortable and make my mistakes now, so when I apply for a job I know what I can or can’t do,” Khamberreal Williams said.

While the students get to experience what equipment they’ll use, they also get to know what it’s like to work with a real news team.

“It’s a unity thing, and if one person makes a mistake, the whole show is off,” Williams said.

In the past, News Valdosta won several awards, ranging from regional to national awards. Currently, the station has won 28 awards, including Best News Cast in the Nation.

News Valdosta is shown on VSU TV, which is Mediacom channel 16 and available through On-Demand using Mediacom Digital Cable.

Fans get a decent buzz



Kevin Paul
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Thundercat’s clarity presented itself in his newest release, “DRUNK.”

“DRUNK” has 23 tracks, featuring contributions from R&B icons Flying Lotus and Kenny Loggins. Hip-hop artists Kendrick Lamar and Wiz Khalifa also offer their talents. The album plunges into the perspective of both sobriety and intoxication.

The album’s first quarter opens in a corridor of recollection with Thundercat speaking on a previous night’s events, opening with songs such as “Rabbit Ho” and “Captain Stupido,” submerging the listener into Thundercat’s wild night.

Using skills gained from performing with bands such as Young Jazz Giants and Suicidal Tendencies, Thundercat’s bass guitar shreds through tracks “Uh Uh” and “Bus in These Streets,” showing his potential has yet to peak. This is apparent throughout “DRUNK,” as each song uses

effects ranging from ethereal sounds to high chiming strings. However, as Thundercat’s performance on each track has consistent quality, the repetition is also apparent.

Each song tends to run parallel into the upcoming track, with prime examples being “A Fan’s Mail” and “Lava Lamp,” both including a soft and seducing tone, yet only seeming to differ through lyricism.

When compared to Thundercat’s previous full length album, “Apocalypse,” “DRUNK” allows room for various artists to contribute to the project. The individual verses seem to fit its own position, whether executing its purpose, such as Kendrick Lamar on “Walk On By,” or oddly playing its role, such as Wiz Khalifa on “Drink Dat.”

Thundercat’s “DRUNK” presents a strong theme of viewing life through both intoxication and sobriety but dilutes itself throughout its ideas. All in all, “DRUNK” is an album worth diving into but offers shallow diversity.

SPORTS

Blazers v. Flames: VSU Women go to second round

Juston Lewis
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Now that Delta State has been dispatched, VSU Women's Basketball will have the biggest test of the season on Saturday, and it's not a midterm.

A 66-41 victory over Delta punched VSU's ticket to Birmingham for the semifinals, but the Blazers will have to defeat Lee University for the third time this season to make it to the GSC championship game.

Jazmin McIntosh returned for VSU to help defend Delta at every offensive turn.

Delta shot 18 of 58 from the field including a one of 10 performance from distance. They were also out rebounded by the Blazers 44-21.

McIntosh, who is known for her defense and rebounding, has been sidelined with injury for the two prior games.

"I took it to heart because this could be the last game we played on this floor," McIntosh said. "The fact that I got back in my jersey and was able to play; I took that on with a full head of steam."

McIntosh received high praise from Head Coach Carley Kuhns, who noted the difference she made in the game.

"She has been our spark plug all season," Kuhns said. "She just gives us another body in the rotation and a completely different look for our team because she can rebound and defend so well. I'm happy for her. It's nice for her to have that early success and gain some confidence for this weekend."

The game against Lee in the semifinals of the GSC Tournament is a matchup that will pit the Blazers against the Flames for the third time this season.

The Blazers won both matchups with Lee, but not without some resistance from the Flames.

On Jan. 7, the Blazers won in Cleveland, Tennessee, after a last second layup by Sonya Franklin.

When the two teams met in



Seth Willard/THE SPECTATOR

Aaliyah Cheatham (35) had 11 points, four assists and four rebounds against Delta State. She'll look to help VSU advance through the GSC tourney.

Valdosta on Feb. 25, Lee fought back from a five point deficit with less than a minute remaining to send the game to overtime. It took 20-point outings from Aaliyah Cheatham, Madi Mitchell and Kenya Samone' Dixon to finally put the game to bed and walk away with a victory.

McIntosh is looking forward to this matchup because she was unable to play in the last game against Lee and had to watch the entire game from the sidelines.

"I definitely have a chip on my

shoulder because I had to sit there and watch that whole game," McIntosh said. "It doesn't really matter who we're playing to be honest because we're coming with full head of steam. We know what we want."

VSU and Lee are two teams that are familiar with each other and have a respect for each other. The teams' tournament meeting will be the second in the span of a week.

The Blazers are hoping to accomplish a feat that is often es-

sential for a title run: beat a team three times in a single season.

"It's about who can execute better and who can put some points on the board," Kuhns said. "It felt like we just played them yesterday."

With these teams playing so closely together, it could be seen as an advantage for the Blazers, but Kuhns didn't see it that way.

"It might be a disadvantage," Kuhns said on facing Lee once again. "They probably feel like they should've won those games.

They're going to come guns blazing and fist throwing. We're going to have our work cut out for us."

Kuhns made sure to not have her expectations of Lee on Saturday be mistaken for doubt in her own players, however.

"We've put in the work all season and we're going to prepare the same way," Kuhns said. "I think we have as good a chance as any. I don't think it's going to be easy but I do think it's going to be fun."

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SPORTS

DID YOU KNOW?

VSU Softball has been ranked 5th in the nation in the latest National Fastpitch Coaches Association poll. Third baseman Chelsea Canara was recently named the Gulf South Conference player of the week. The team is currently 17-3 (6-0 GSC).

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Suchon: raking through the GSC

Briana Salem
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When VSU Baseball's Luke Suchon comes to the plate, take the over on him getting on base.

The Blazer first baseman has the best batting average in the Gulf South Conference at .545 and the best on-base-percentage at .594. In turn, VSU is in third place in the conference with a 11-4 record on the season (4-2 in the conference).

"Luke's our best hitter on the team and it seems like he's always on base getting three and four hits per game," senior outfielder Marcus Sigmon said.

So far in 2017, the Blazers have ridden the offense of Suchon and his teammates, such as Dalton Murray who has the second best average in the conference at .500. VSU has scored seven or more runs in 11 of their 15 games.

Suchon, however, has been performing at the plate for quite some time. Baseball is in his blood.

Suchon was introduced to the sport by his father, who spent time in the New York Mets' farm system. Suchon first picked up a ball as a three-year-old, and he hit his first home run at 10.

Although he is originally from Clearwater, Florida, Suchon played high school baseball for Clay High School out of Green Cove Springs, Florida.

"In high school, I was on junior varsity up until half-way into my sophomore year," Suchon said. "I was moved up to varsity to play in the playoff games and was on varsity from there on out."

Suchon transferred to VSU after playing junior college baseball at Seminole State College of Florida for two years.

While at SSCF, Suchon was a second team all-conference player as a freshman for the Raiders. As a sophomore, he was named the All-Mid-Florida Conference defensive player of the year.

"He was a really good hitter in junior college," said Head Coach Greg Guilliams. "I also was in contact with Head Baseball Coach Ross Jones from St. Johns River State College out of Jacksonville, Florida, and he told me you better get him because we couldn't."

About halfway through Suchon's sophomore season at SSCF, he began having contact with Guilliams.

"I came on a visit and loved Valdosta and was hooked right away," Suchon said. "A combination of the field, the coaching staff, and the city all contributed to my decision of coming to Valdosta State."

Suchon is at the top of a lot of stat categories. Along with average and on-base-percentage he leads the GSC in hits (30) and he has a 1.000 fielding percentage. He also has been a part of 11 double plays, which is second



Seth Willard/THE SPECTATOR

Luke Suchon is great at the plate for VSU, but he also is a brick wall at first.

most in the conference.

Guilliams said Suchon is a well-rounded player on and off the field.

"In three words, I would describe Luke as intelligent, hard-working and a team player," Guilliams said.

Although Suchon is only a junior, he said he has hopes of paying baseball professionally or pursuing a career with his history degree after college.

If Suchon stays hot at the plate, he could join some former VSU Baseball greats in the minor leagues such as Austin Glori-

ous, who plays for the Single-A Greenville Drive and Dominic Demasi, who plays for the Single-A Lynchburg Hillcats.

Suchon said playing baseball at VSU has given him life skills as well as baseball skills.

"Playing for VSU so far has taught me to be a leader in life and not just in baseball," Suchon said. "It also has taught me to really love your teammates and the people that you work with."

The team's next game will be played in Valdosta against West Alabama on Saturday, March 4 at 1 p.m.

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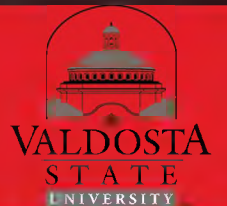
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SPORTS



Seth Willard/THE SPECTATOR

Beau Justice hit five three pointers in a row early in the first half against North Alabama on Tuesday to bring VSU back from a 14-7 deficit. The Blazers led for the remainder of the game.

VSU breaks records on way to second round

Juston Lewis

ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

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VSU Men's Basketball hasn't lost very much this season, but one of the team's four losses came against the team VSU will face in the next round of the Gulf South Conference tournament: Christian Brothers.

VSU displayed their true fire power in a 115-94 victory over North Alabama as they set school and conference tournament records.

The Blazers' 115-point performance is a new conference record for points in a tournament game. The 22 three-pointers made is a new VSU record, barely edging out the 21 made against West Florida in the 2014-2015 season.

The Blazers were led by GSC Conference Player of the Year, Jeremiah Hill, who finished the game with 28 points and 10 assist, leading the team in both categories.

"We felt like they were going to bring their best hit at the beginning of the game but we knew we could take a punch," Hill said on North Alabama's hot start. "This time when we got hit we were able to hit back right from the jump."

Part of being able to respond to those punches comes with sharing the ball, which the Blazers have had no problem doing all season. Tuesday was no exception.

"I trust them as much as I trust myself," Hill said on leading the team in assists. "So why not pass them the ball?"

Beau Justice added 26 points on 8 of 13 shooting from deep, which included hitting five threes in a row in the first half. He said he's confident the Blazers will keep up their momentum.

"Coming off a night like tonight where we saw our potential, it makes us even more excited to play," Justice said.

The student section has acted as a sixth man for the Blazers all semester, but there won't be as many Blazer fans on the road. The lack of fans doesn't rattle Justice, and he said he still has confidence in his team.

"That's where us getting closer together as the season has gone on has helped us," Justice said. "I can rely on my teammates just as much as the avengers [student section] they were tonight and all the other fans."

The Blazers are currently ranked 16th in the nation, and they will take on Christian Brothers in the semifinals with an opportunity to play in the conference finals.

VSU split the season series with the Buccaneers, losing 85-77 on Dec. 15, and winning 79-65 on Feb. 11.

When the two teams met on Feb. 11, CBU sat out three of their normal starting five. Hill said the Blazers haven't forgotten about the loss they suffered in February.

"I feel like we owe Christian Brothers a game because they sat three of their five starters out," Hill said. "I don't know what that was about but I kind of felt disrespected by that. It didn't make me happy."

Helfer said he isn't going to change his pregame strategies or preparation for the semifinal game.

"When you get to late season basketball, you don't really change," Helfer said. "Just do the things that do. You try to do them very well, over and over and over. Just believe in what you've been doing for four months."

The games to come won't be easy, but Helfer is prepared for the challenge.

"[We] just have to play through the ups and the downs and hopefully if we can do that we'll win the game," Helfer said.

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