



Look for this symbol for articles that wouldn't be here without women

March 9, 2017

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Volume 92, Issue 09

THE SPECTATOR

THE UNFILTERED, UNCENSORED VOICE OF THE STUDENTS.

VSU Says Take A Hike



NEWS

Super Bowl champion Malcolm Mitchell given key to his hometown

Darla Dunning
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March 6 was Malcom Mitchell Day.

The City of Valdosta gathered at Bazemore-Hyder Stadium Monday night to honor Mitchell for his accomplishments on and off the football field.

Before Mitchell became a wide receiver and Super Bowl champion for the New England Patriots, he played football for the Valdosta Wildcats.

Before the event, Mitchell talked about being back in his hometown of Valdosta after winning the Super Bowl with his team.

"It feels great to be home," Mitchell said. "It has been awhile since I've been here, and now I have the opportunity to come back and share things that I am fortunate enough to accomplish."

In addition to being a Super Bowl champion, Mitchell wrote "The Magician's Hat," which won



Darla Dunning/THE SPECTATOR

Malcolm Mitchell speaks as he is given the key to the city at Bazemore-Hyder Stadium Monday.

him the title of Children's Author of the Year by the Georgia Writers Association in 2016.

Mitchell spoke about the honors his book received and the message he wanted to share with

children to inspire them to read.

"The message that I would share is that you can truly accomplish whatever you put your mind to, and you can go after it with everything in you," Mitchell said. "That's a message that my mom has given me since I was a child, so this is a message that I will send."

During the event, Dr. Todd Cason, superintendent for Valdosta City Schools, spoke about Mitchell's book impacting young children throughout the city schools of Valdosta.

"Malcolm, we thank you for always making Valdosta a priority," Dr. Cason said. "The impact of your visits made on our young people was extraordinary. Last year, over 650 first graders took home a copy of 'The Magician's Hat' to help jumpstart their love for reading. We are looking forward to you visiting our schools again, so our students can read with a Super Bowl champion."

Dr. Cason announced he will have Mitchell's No. 26 Valdosta

Wildcat's jersey and No. 19 New England Patriots jersey hung in the new Valdosta High School, so students may be inspired to strive for greatness.

Allen Rodemaker, coach of the Valdosta Wildcat's and Georgia's Coach of the Year, spoke of when Mitchell played for the Valdosta Wildcats.

"We are always pushing our kids to be more like Malcom Mitchell," Rodemaker said.

"When someone asks me about Malcolm Mitchell, I don't talk about the wide receiver or the athlete. I talk about the man."

Along with speakers Dr. Cason and Rodemaker, Mayor John Gayle read a proclamation declaring March 6 Malcolm Mitchell Day and presented Mitchell with a key to the city.

"Mitchell is a winner on and off of the field," Gayle said. "We are honored to give you this key in recognition of your athletic achievement as a Valdosta Wildcat, Georgia Bulldog and New England Patriot and appreciation

of your dedication to transform young lives through literacy."

At the end of the event, Mitchell spoke about the honors awarded to him.

"There's no better feeling than sharing the triumph and victories with people that were there for you in the beginning," Mitchell said.

Mitchell ended his speech with another message.

"As I look at my life now, I'm only 23 years old," Mitchell said. "I'm an author and a Super Bowl champion, but if I don't achieve anything more in my life, I will be a failure. This means that I got too complacent, and I got too comfortable, because I let the victory stop me from going even further. So if I had to send a message today, it would be to encourage everybody to dig deep within them and ask yourselves, 'are you doing the best that you can,' because in life that is all you can be."

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NEWS

VSU opens an Interactive Fitness Trail



Bryce Ethridge/THE SPECTATOR

VSU President Dr. Richard Carvajal cuts the ribbon at the opening of the new interactive fitness trail Tuesday. VSU hopes to use it as a model for future trails.

Bryce Ethridge

STAFF WRITER

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VSU unveiled its new walking trail system with a ceremonial ribbon-cutting ceremony Tuesday.

Criminal Justice Professor Dr. Bobbic Ticknor opened up the event by telling the audience how the trail came to be and its current purpose.

"They (the University System of Georgia) wanted to solicit money to campuses who

do different projects related toward fitness, specifically a healthy walking trail," Ticknor said.

Ticknor also said they wanted the trail to not just promote fitness but also to promote a healthy balance between work and play.

"We decided that instead of just making it a trail, we wanted to expand it to something we could use for Admissions," said Ticknor.

Ticknor said that VSU is us-

ing the trail to help students as well as faculty to take a break, get fit and also learn about the school. Ticknor mentioned that USG has asked VSU to help other universities set-up their own trails by using the new trail as a model.

To help people around the campus learn about VSU, the maps at the 14 stopping points around the trail have QR codes that give an inside look at the history of VSU.

VSU President Dr. Richard Carvajal showed excitement

for the trail's opening as he gave his speech at the beginning of the event. Carvajal also showed personality as he poked fun at the audience by saying this was a commemorative moment for him since this was his first time not having to wear a dress jacket to a speech.

Carvajal brought the mood back down to a serious tone as he told the audience that the event was not about him, but about the students and showing attention to the beauty of the campus.

"This is just one day but this is one day that people will remember because of what they will get to enjoy for years and years to come," Carvajal said.

After the ribbon was cut, Carvajal asked the audience to join him in walking around the trail to commemorate the occasion.

"We're going to get to see some things that maybe all of us don't often enough stop to enjoy about the place that we call home," he said.

SGA considers new bill

Bryce Ethridge

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Senator Silas David returned from his hiatus Monday to propose a bill with the potential to change the way SGA operates.

"I felt like this bill needed to be presented and I'm ready to get back to work," David said.

David proposed the "Good March" bill which would cause a temporary prohibition of the law that states that candidates for presidency and vice presidency must attend eight meetings or be a part of SGA for a year.

"This bill was needed because, as you know, the immediate implementation of this rule (the conditions to become president) would be unfair to people who had a prior interest in running for those positions," David said. "I don't think that's right. If we were to do something like that it would call into question our judgement and invoke ideas as to if we're corrupt or not."

As David continued to explain the bill, senators from around the room said they felt he was underhandedly slandering other senators.

David reiterated that the rule was meant to give a fair chance to others who may have attended seven instead of eight meetings,

but also has the ample understanding of the position they are running for.

"I'm not open to lowering or getting rid of any standards," he said. "I'm not trying to repeal the rule itself but actually just put a moratorium or temporary suspension so that we can increase the candidate pool."

As the floor opened up for discussion, Senator Nia Phillips agreed with some of David's bill but refuted it with a counter-argument.

"I don't like the idea of someone who doesn't see how we work and what we do," Phillips said. "SGA is not like any other organization. You can't compare it to others because we do a lot."

Senator Aisha Johnson questioned his proposal by saying that he and the other senators already approved the conditions when they first went about making the constitution.

"Before our previous constitution, there was nothing stating a requirement, but we made a requirement," Johnson said.

After a heated discussion between Johnson and David, Phillips calmed the room down before SGA President Maya Mapp chimed in...

Read the rest at
VSUSpectator.com

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



Hot Yoga at the Rec



On March 6, Valdosta State Campus Recreation hosted Hot Yoga at the recreation center at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Both sessions were full of students experiencing the first-ever Hot Yoga event here at VSU. Yoga instructor Colleen Kavanaugh led the sessions and introduced students to introductory Yoga positions and focused the evening on relaxing the participants as midterms progress. Pictured above: A Valdosta State student practicing the Crow pose. Pictured to the left: Valdosta State students performing the Wild Thing pose.

Pictures by Seth Willard



Spring Break Hours

Building Hours	
March 10th	6am - 8pm
March 11th	12pm - 5pm
March 12th	4pm - 8pm
March 13th-17th	12pm - 8pm
March 18th	12pm - 5pm
March 19th	4pm - 8pm

Pool Hours	
March 10th	6am - 6pm
March 11th	12pm - 4pm
March 12th	4pm - 6pm
March 13th-17th	4pm - 6pm
March 18th	12pm - 4pm
March 19th	4pm - 6pm

Rec Center Events

The Ultimate Blazer Challenge will be held March 25. Two-person race teams participate in physical and mental challenges for a course totaling 1.5 miles.

A free womens' self-defense training class will be held on March 20, 22 and 27, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Student Union.

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

OPINIONS

Our point of view...

Stay safe on spring break



Panama City Beach stays packed during Spring Break MCT CAMPUS

Spring Break, you're out on the shore with your friends and a couple of brews, having fun. Students across the country will visit beaches with their friends to celebrate the week. Common spring break activities include a lot of drinking and partying, which is normal for most college students. Chances are you will have a great time, but things can go from good to bad in a matter of minutes. There have been a lot of controversial incidents at beaches. Beaches have banned alcohol, and hotels have raised the age requirement for booking hotels—all to avoid "spring breakers." In 2015, a college student was drugged and gang raped on Panama City Beach while she was unconscious. Making the case even more tragic, bystanders watched, but no one intervened. The video of the rape circulated and made its way to the news, where the woman in the video was able to identify herself by her tattoos. Sometimes all it takes is one person to step in. A lot of crimes could potentially be stopped if someone mediates or calls for help. It's easy to pass the responsibility on to others, but with that mentality, crimes like this will continue to take place while others watch. Take it upon yourself this spring break, and beyond, to say something if you see a crime taking place. You could be the reason for saving someone's life or preventing a horrific incident. Spring break is a time for fun, but be responsible and look out for those around you.

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



Technicians break down cannabis flowers after harvesting. MCT CAMPUS

Decreased THC levels infuriate medical community

Darla Dunning
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Georgia parents and marijuana advocates were infuriated after conservative lawmakers decided to limit the THC level in medical marijuana on Feb. 16.

The Georgia Senate passed Senate Bill 16, sponsored by state Sen. Ben Watson, which overwhelmingly downsized the amount of THC allowed in medical cannabis oil, reducing it from 5 percent to 3 percent.

SB16 decreased the amount of THC allowed in medical cannabis oil because proponents said a higher THC content would result in a public health risk, and the decrease would bring Georgia more in line with other states that allow limited forms of cannabis oil.

Unfortunately, the bill passed with a 41-12 vote, which left parents and marijuana advocates distraught. Multiple parents felt alienated from this bill because their children use the maximum amount of THC to treat their conditions and illnesses.

According to WebMD, THC is a component in marijuana that stimulates receptors in the brain by reducing pain and increasing appetite. It is mainly used to treat chronic pain, nausea and muscle spasms.

While there have been no reported problems with a 5 percent usage of THC in cannabis oil, supporters of SB16 still feel that it would cause patients to become addicted to the THC in cannabis oil.

The senators who are in support of SB16 made a terrible decision by allowing this bill to

pass.

This bill, regretfully, pushes Georgia a step backward. Families and children who use cannabis oil for debilitating conditions might respond better to a higher concentration of THC.

One such family, the Simpsons of Marietta, Georgia, worry that the reduced concentration of THC will affect their 7-year-old daughter Katelyn.

"Katelyn suffers from multiple seizures every day and needs the maximum amount of THC to

with the bill because more than 1,300 patients qualified for Georgia's medical marijuana registry.

In turn, this will result in doctors prescribing patients who use cannabis oil with a lower concentration of THC. This might also result in families violating the federal law by obtaining marijuana from illegal dealers.

Republican State Rep. Allen Peake does not support the bill and has been working on a new bill, House Bill 65, which would leave the current THC level at 5 percent. HB65 will also add eight more conditions to the list for medical cannabis oil, such as HIV, AIDS, Alzheimer's and autism.

HB65 was passed by the Georgia House of Representatives on March 1, widening the legal parameters for the medical usage of marijuana. Next, the bill will move to the Georgia Senate where the senators

will either decide to sign or veto it.

"We've not seen a significant uptick of people driving while intoxicated with medical cannabis oil," Peak said during a press conference. "It hasn't become a public health hazard."

Hopefully, the Georgia Senate will rethink passing SB16, because medical marijuana can help patients lead happier, healthier and more manageable lives. According to WebMD, medical marijuana will not create horrible side effects for patients, because it is safe and natural.

Regardless, the choice of using medical marijuana should rest within the medical community and not within the government's hands.

SB16 decreased the amount of THC allowed in medical cannabis oil because proponents said a higher THC content would result in a public health risk.

stop the seizures," Lori Simpson, Katelyn's mother, said. "I'm worried about the bill reducing the THC level to 3 percent because it might not be enough to reduce the seizures for Katelyn."

The Hendersons of Tifton, Georgia, expressed similar concerns.

"I don't understand why they would pass a bill like this," said Mike Henderson, father of a son dealing with epilepsy. "My son isn't smoking this just for fun. It's saving him from suffering with his condition."

In addition, senators should not have reduced the amount of THC because 68 percent of patients use THC for seizures or cancer. According to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, public health officials are frustrated

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OPINIONS



Walmart displays its classic Rollback advertisement.

Julie Jernigan/THE SPECTATOR

Walmart sacrifices profit over customer loyalty

Julie Jernigan
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In order to compete with stores such as Target and Aldi, Walmart launched a price-comparison test in 1,200 stores in the Southeast and Midwest, according to Reuters. The retailer said it hoped to gain more customers by slashing prices, while still earning a profit.

In a spot check by Reuters, Walmart already has begun offering lower prices than Aldi, which is an improvement seeing as how, in the past few months, Walmart prices were consistently 20 percent higher. A gallon of milk and a dozen eggs cost about a dollar.

"Wal-Mart is trying to go back to where they were 10 years ago when they were absolutely the low price leader," an anonymous food supplier told Reuters. "We understand they are willing to give up profits to a large extent in some cases, so they can invest in their own brand."

Can the big box retailer afford to drop prices?

Recently, billionaire Warren Buffet sold \$900 million of his Walmart shares, which led many market experts to wonder if the chain is in serious trouble, according to Monetary Watch.

In a Berkshire-Hathaway meeting last year, Buffet said Amazon is to blame for big box chains' dwindling numbers.

"It [Amazon] is a big, big force, and it has already disrupted plenty of people, and it will disrupt more," Buffet said in the meeting, according to Bloomberg.

While Walmart's online sales can't touch Amazon's online profit, it's still ahead in overall sales, coming in at \$482 billion, four times Amazon's overall revenue, Business Insider reported.

In January, though, Walmart laid off 1,000 corporate employees from the human resource and e-commerce divisions in Bentonville, Arkansas office, according to Fox Business.

"To fuel our growth and our investments we have to manage our costs," Doug McMillon, chief executive of Walmart, told the Wall Street Journal. "From time to time, you'll see the company eliminate positions in an effort to stay lean and fast."

Even if more and more consumers are turning to online retailers, that still doesn't mean Walmart is nearing its end. People will always shop for groceries when it's convenient for them, and they don't want to wait on shipping.

I have Amazon Prime, and though that comes in handy when it comes to textbooks and clothes, it's not helpful when I need something right away. Why would I wait on something that will take at least two days to arrive when I can pick up something in five minutes at Walmart?

Walmart is not in trouble, but it's experiencing some small setbacks that it must overcome in order to stay competitive.



A cashier at Wendy's drive-thru hands a customer his order.

MCT CAMPUS

Self-ordering kiosks soon to replace Wendy's employees

Jeneva Crooks
STAFF WRITER
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Wendy's, the popular fast food joint that has been around since most of our parents' childhoods, has adopted a new tech savvy way of ordering food.

While many fast food restaurants have already stepped up their game by making ordering applications for your phone, such as Chick-fil-a's to-go app and Tapingo's "skip the line" initiative if you order ahead; Wendy's recently came up with the clever idea of self-ordering kiosks.

By the end of 2017, Wendy's plans to implement these self-ordering kiosks in about 1,000 of its restaurants.

This means about 16 percent of all Wendy's restaurants will be making this move.

Wendy's has decided that the kiosks would be the best move

for them because three kiosks can be set up in a restaurant for only \$15,000, drastically cutting down labor costs. According to futurism.com, it is predicted that automated systems will take over a great number of jobs during the next five to ten years.

Luckily, Wendy's new kiosks are made "in-house," which means that they are completely manufactured at the company's lab in the University District, so not all jobs are in danger.

But what about those who depend on their cashier job at Wendy's to make a living?

While these kiosks can greatly improve the customer service experience at these restaurants, they are sure to take away quite a few jobs from people that desperately need them and eliminate the face-to-face experience some people enjoy at Wendy's.

According to statista.com, in 2017 alone, there were 3,748,365

fast food employees. Imagine how many people will be losing their jobs with the implementation of things such as the kiosks and more mobile ordering applications.

"I wouldn't be too worried about it. I work at Chik-Fil-A and the ordering app hasn't taken away from my job responsibilities at all," said Melissa Duke, sophomore, business major.

Wendy's will not be the end of the self-ordering kiosk initiative. Although Wendy's is the first, popular competitors such as McDonald's and Burger King will be sure to find ways to surpass their attempt at a technology heavy fast food experience that will appeal to the younger crowds.

The only thing we can hope is that they are also finding ways to secure jobs for their employees, which could easily be you or me.

Students should actively practice free speech

Jyrell Wynn
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With everyone wanting to get their opinion heard from political leaders to the Black Lives Matter movement, it can be difficult to filter out what issues should be allowed to be discussed.

The dilemma has arrived on college campuses as students are being encouraged to report other students or their professors for violations of speech that is offensive or cause political arguments.

Police officers, student conduct administrators and public relations staff are part of the "Bias Response Teams" that review the reports of students and activists.

As the definition of "bias" is a loose interpretation that involves any type of speech that subjectively offends anyone, administrators have been given the responsibility of determining what speech is deemed appropriate.

As college students, the right to freely debate about important issues is vital because you gain the skills and knowledge necessary to help transition into adulthood.

VSU needs to offer childcare services

Alex Dunn
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Getting through college as a regular student is hard, but raising a child while maintaining good grades is even harder.

Some colleges and universities offer a helping hand by providing childcare services and programs. Valdosta State University had these programs in the past, but they were discontinued.

Dr. Vincent Miller, vice president for student affairs, said the College of Education Early Childhood Program used to provide childcare as part of an academic lab for students, but he is unsure why VSU no longer offers such a service. The Dean of Students, Student Life and the President's Office were also unable to answer why.

VSU should offer childcare services to help students who are parents. Colleges and universities that do offer childcare keep it affordable. They understand the difficulty of finding a suitable daycare off campus.

According to BestColleges.com, a 2011 report from the Institute for Women's Policy Research said nearly 4 million students who were also parents were enrolled as undergraduates in U.S. colleges and universities. That is one-quarter of all undergraduates in the U.S.

BestColleges.com's 40 Best

College students should be allowed to talk about serious subjects, but educators should come together to make an agreement on how to handle the more sensitive issues that might be brought up.

Administrators are an important part of any educational institution, but educators need to take action and sit down with the student to discuss the actions of the student and why they did so.

Educators can put into context why the speech could be controversial to some people with evidence and understanding. The idea of simply punishing a student does not get the message across and does not allow for a final conclusion of the issue.

If a student feels offended by any type of speech, educators should be able to properly teach the student how to handle the situation or talk about the issue in a professional manner.

Due to instances of harassment and threats, free speech should be taken seriously, but should be allowed to nurture in a healthy environment that encourages education to prosper.

Colleges for Parents 2016 list included the University of South Carolina, University of Michigan, University of Florida and University of Washington. Among these colleges, expenses are kept in mind, so students can afford child care.

Some of these universities, such as the University of Florida, provide childcare centers for children of certain age groups,

VSU should offer childcare services to help students who are parents. Colleges and universities that do offer childcare keep it affordable. They understand the difficulty of finding a suitable daycare off campus.

and students living with a spouse or dependents qualify to be placed in family housing units on campus, according to BestColleges.com.

"I send my 2 and 4 year olds off to daycare every morning," said graduate student Emily Pierce "I wish VSU had a place on campus for my kids."

The University of Washington provides services for sick children, an emergency back-up system and resources for securing off-campus childcare. According to the University of Washington's

website, there are five residential communities that offer housing units to student parents.

Having these services for students who are raising children can make a big impact on their day-to-day lives, as well as have a positive effect on the university.

Parents can attend class knowing that their children are close by and are being cared for.

FEATURES

IWD brings attention to women's issues

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In honor of International Women's Day, millions of women around the world sacrificed a day's pay to rally together and protest President Donald Trump and gender inequality, such as the wage gap, on Wednesday.

Dubbed "A Day Without a Woman," the strike's purpose was to highlight how women keep businesses and households together.

Cassidy Findlay, a spokeswoman for the movement, said the protest was inspired by the recent rally titled, "A Day Without an Immigrant," which happened last month, according to Fox News. The rallies were held in cities in the U.S., such as Washington, Los Angeles and New York City.

"We provide all this value and keep the system going and receive unequal benefits from it," Findlay

told Fox. "Throughout history, the strikes that have the biggest impact are the ones when people who are already the target of oppression participate. It's when women of all backgrounds strike and stand together that we're really going to see the impact."

Forty-seven percent of women work in professions such as pharmacy, registered nursing and accounting, Fox News also reported.

President Trump, however, did tweet a message of support, which some women considered hollow, according to The Huffington Post.

"I have tremendous respect for women and the many roles they serve that are vital to the fabric of our society and our economy," Trump stated on his twitter page. "On International Women's Day, join me in honoring the critical role of women here in America & around the world."

Supporters deemed Trump's post a lie by referencing the hot mic comments from the 2005

conversation with former "Access Hollywood" host Billy Bush and the picture of Trump signing the anti-abortion executive order surrounded by white men, The Huffington Post reported.

Women, such as Tamika Mallory, Linda Sarsour and Carmen Perez, were arrested for disrupting traffic while protesting near Trump Hotel, Time reported. The women sang, "We Shall Overcome," while in custody.

"The fact that we're able to inspire so many other women out here in the world is truly an honor," Perez told Time after being released.

Celebrities, such as Adele, Ellen DeGeneres and Alicia Keys, posted inspirational messages on their social media accounts in support of IWD.

The IWD website wants everyone to #BeBoldForChange.

Tag us in your spring break pictures and use #BlazerSpringBreak to be featured on our Instagram! @vsu_spectator



Indestructible Nokia makes a comeback, snake included

Alex Dunn
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Nokia released a new version of its seemingly indestructible phone, the 3310, which is based off a model that hasn't seen the light of day in nearly two decades.

The company has taken the back seat over the years, occasionally releasing newer models to compete in the rising demand for smartphones.

Now, the original, iconic model has been updated to have features similar to the smartphone, while still sporting the essence of the older version.

"A modern classic reimagined," the company's website said.

The phone has a 2.4 inch polarized and curved screen, battery standby for up to a month and four color options.

Nokia also updated the legendary game Snake. The game is now in color, with other updates, making the game more fun for new and old players alike.

The Nokia 3310 was featured at Mobile World Congress, in Barcelona, Spain, where a nostalgic crowd surrounded the new gadget. However, some people wondered why this phone model that hadn't been around for almost two decades suddenly resurfaced. Samuel Gibbs of The Guard-

ian speculated that the company is launching this retro phone because it has either run out of ideas, released it as a marketing ploy, or wants to state that modern day individuals are too connected to their smartphones and should go back to a simpler time.

"Realistically, it's unlikely that smartphone addicts will be swapping their high-powered devices for the Nokia 3310 any time soon—unless they're in need of a digital detox," Sophie Curtis of Mirror said.

The MWC displayed the state of the phone industry in 2017.

According to Gibbs, people turned their heads from new innovations that would have been rocking the boat with potential buyers. Sony had a new phone with a 4K HDR screen, LG's G6 now has split-screen apps and Blackberry will release a new model with a keyboard.

Smart phones are the norm for this generation. Everyone has one. They are all the same. They have a camera, play music, have hundreds of apps and provide internet access in the palm of your hand.

The Nokia 3310 offers a nice, nostalgic trip for the people who had them when they were popular in the early 2000s. Now that it has been updated to a more modern version, old and new users of Nokia might be willing to try it out.



Courtesy of Wikimedia

The new Nokia 3310 reboot comes with a rounded, sleek frame.

THIS CONTENT IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY A WOMAN
 THE SPECTATOR SUPPORTS NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Midterms: do or die?

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College students hate midterms. It's not a secret. So, why should another simple exam make or break a student?

Well, it doesn't, according to Dr. Catherine Oglesby, a history professor at VSU.

"Even though it is the cutoff for withdrawals, and it may be difficult to turn things around, but it's still another exam," Dr. Oglesby said.

To Dr. Oglesby, the midterm is an indicator, a great wakeup call to students who are in trouble, missing class or lacking a good work ethic. Midterms help the professor and student have a malleable performance gauge.

"Midterms aren't supposed to weed students out at all," Dr. Oglesby said. "It's just an old tradition for schools to have a test in the middle of the semester to base a student's performance from."

Dr. Oglesby is a big supporter of professors reaching out to students and vice versa. Professors enjoy building relationships with their students. They want to see their students succeed as much as students want it themselves.

"Often, I write them," Dr. Oglesby said, regarding students with many absences or poor grades. "I like to set up conferences to talk to them and figure out how to help."

Dr. Napoleon Bamfo, professor of political science at VSU, also conferences with struggling students. While most students asked for extra credit during these times, Dr. Bamfo offered advice to students. Professors know their course better than anyone else

and can offer a huge helping hand when students struggle with material.

"Many students get surprised by their grades, but some don't do as well as they wish," Dr. Bamfo said. "It serves as a point of understanding, and students can begin to rededicate their time to school."

Dr. Bamfo said midterms are purely designed for students to know and understand where they stand in the class.

"It's part of school, and students need to learn how to cope with it," he said.

Midterms are only a gauge of performance in class, how you are doing with the material or how you should be doing, Edirin Ekokotu, a freshman chemical engineering major, said. A bad grade on a midterm should help motivate students, not scare them away. The final is the only test that will fully test a student's comprehension of all the material in a course.

"[Midterms] are important, but it's still another test in college," Ekokotu said. "If you do bad, you shouldn't drop your class. Take it as a where you should be at in the class."

"Many students can recover from poor grades; finals can make the amends from bad scores," Dr. Bamfo said.

According to Dr. Bamfo, students who stick it out through midterms and study hard always come around for the final and do well enough to get a grade they are proud of.

Again, midterms are only another test, another grade, and it should help the students know where they stand in a class.

COMBAT THE MIDTERM SCARIES

•Reach out to your professors. They take pride in having students who are willing to learn and comprehend the material rather than just passing the class.

•Take time studying your material. Don't try to cram in one night and lose sleep; it can hurt you more than you think.

•Utilize the Student Success Center. The tutors are upper-class students who have been in your shoes!

•Communicate with your peers by forming study groups to tackle tough units.

FEATURES

Blazer spring break destinations

Quotes and photos courtesy of Spectator reporter Briana Sale. ♀



Nadaijah Sparrow, freshman biology major

“I’m going to Miami with my girls and then home to Atlanta.”



Scarlette Ashe, junior mass media major

“I’m celebrating my 21st birthday and going to the Georgia Aquarium to see beluga whales.”



Kandler Pearson, freshman electrical engineering major

“I’m going to Eufaula, Alabama, to fish and hang out.”



Tyson Ross, sophomore biology major

“I’ll be chilling at the crib university for spring break.”



Kyle Sartain, freshman criminal justice major

“I am going to St. Simons Island Beach.”



Kalie Ahl, Sophomore pre-vet biology major

“I’m going to St. Simons to the beach.”

ENTERTAINMENT

Get 'Schitty:' Binge watching chronicles



usa.newonnetflix.com

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Get ready to spend hours watching another television series in rapid succession, because Netflix recently dropped a gem on their site.

If you've ever felt the need to clear your whole weekend schedule just to catch up on "Grey's Anatomy," just know you're not alone. Many people, especially college students, participate in endless binge-watching. So, since you've already watched "Stranger Things" in a mere three days, here is a show that will definitely cause a lot of knee-slaps.

Schitt's Creek is a Canadian sitcom that sarcastically portrays the story of a family's life collapsing. Once being rich and

in charge, the Roses are kicked out of their fluffy lifestyle and forced to rebuild their life in the rundown town of Schitt's Creek. Though the town was bought as a joke for the son, they are forced to call it home. The parents live in a small motel room with their pampered adult children. Their many adventures and cluelessness to the middle-class lifestyle makes for a twisted but comedic show.

The cast features comedic legends, such as Eugene Levy and Catherine O'Hara. Being the humorous actors they are, the show is perfectly executed to become your newfound favorite. Though, with only one season available on Netflix, it's hard to fully enjoy the show. Don't fret too much though, season two and three are waiting to be enjoyed on a variety of other websites!

And the winner isn't: Award show mishaps

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Millions of people tune in to television, social media and the web to catch a glimpse of award shows.

For most award shows, viewers are able to vote, so people eagerly await the moment they find out if their favorite music artist or actress will walk away with the plaque. But many times, their favorite doesn't actually win, or the plaque ends up on the floor.

There is nothing more surprising than tuning in to these glamorous events with red carpets and posh, expensive clothing and witnessing an epic fail. But you'd be surprised, they happen a lot.

Steve Harvey definitely took the cake for most epic award show fail when he crowned the wrong woman as Miss Universe in 2015.

"It didn't happen that quick," Steve Harvey told Jimmy Fallon. "It wasn't that quick. It was four minutes of pure hell."

In 2015, Harvey hosted the Miss Universe pageant and announced that Miss Columbia was the big winner of the night. She wasn't, and not only did he have to correct himself, but he had to take that big shiny crown off her pretty little head.

Did that girl sue? Because that looked like a lawsuit waiting to happen.

Harvey wasn't the only host to announce a wrong winner though. During this year's Oscars, "La La

Land" received a very short-term victory. They were awarded the best picture plaque, only to have it torn away and given to its rightful owner, the coming-of-age movie "Moonlight."

But wait, that wasn't this year's only Oscars blooper. Michael Keaton, like many others at the Oscars, struggled to get a grip on the all-black leads who starred in "Fences" and "Hidden Figures." To everyone's enjoyment, he mashed up the titles and proclaimed the movie's name: "Hidden Fences."

Don't feel terrible for laughing, it's hard to remember that celebrities are humans too.

Let's take it back to 2009, when Kristen Stewart won best female performance at the MTV Movie Awards but, literally, dropped the ball. Upon being handed the sacred golden popcorn trophy, a very nervous Stewart dropped her award after giving her heartfelt speech.

It's okay Kristen. We understand it must be terrifying to speak in front of hundreds of cameras and thousands of people, but we won't forget. We will never forget.

Fails have to be one of the most fun parts of viewing an award show. Celebrities are distant beings who seem to live in their own bubble. There's something nice about knowing they make mistakes too, even while on screen. Let's all rejoice that there will be many more award show fails to come.

Mass media professors speak out about WVVS's demise



WVVS 90.9 website

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WVVS or Blaze FM has been defunct for a while, becoming a forgotten topic to students. However, the Mass Media Department provided its own reason as to how it became that way.

Mass media professor Frank Barnas said the Federal Communications Commission paperwork was constantly delayed to the point where the FCC stopped accepting the application.

"Basically, VSU kept asking for extensions for the license, and after so many extensions, the FCC says no, and so we're left in the situation we're currently in," Barnas said.

According to Barnas, the Mass Media Department tried for 20 years to help the radio station gain stable ground but have been repeatedly stopped by VSU.

"It's a university station that is for the students, and we recognize that," Barnas said. "We've said 'Listen, if there's some way that

we can put it inside of the curriculum or give it some sort of faculty supervision, and still let the students maintain their autonomy, more power to them.'"

Barnas said being blocked by VSU was frustrating since the majority of WVVS workers were mass media students.

"If there was some way we could work this out in the future so that we could be involved, we would love to help," Barnas said. "This is not us wanting to take over programming. Students are best at picking out formats and music styles for other students."

Barnas also said while the Mass Media Department wants students to handle the radio station's content, the department can handle the administrative parts as well as the paperwork, so the station won't be in the status it's currently in again.

Currently, a group of students are working with Phil Allen, executive assistant to the VSU president, in order to get the radio station running again.

"We're trying to gather a group of individuals who are willing to

actually help and who want to put in the work to gather information in regards to actually keep the show going for a long period of time, not just a certain period of time," Zuriel Heron, a junior, said.

Heron said they hope to bring in a diverse staff, so they'll be able to create a happier and more inclusive environment on campus.

"We don't really have any diversity within this campus," Jordan Shell, a sophomore, said. "It's just white and black. We don't want to just speak on behalf of one race, one gender, one sexual preference. We have a broad amount, and this is a university, so we want to speak on behalf of everybody."

The group is gathering members of different majors and minors.

"We want people who actually know what they are speaking on," Shell said. "Instead of just shouting out their friends back home, they want to actually talk about things we're dealing with on campus and congratulate the things people are doing on campus."

Tracking the diss

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Throughout the history of hip-hop, diss tracks have been used as an outlet to discuss animosity or resentment between artists within the industry. From feuds between legends such as 2Pac and Biggie to recent hip-hop icons such as Nicki Minaj and Remy Ma, the aftereffects of a diss track seem to have slowed to retweets and likes, rather than long-term radio discussion and coastal disputes.

With the most recent dispute between Nicki Minaj and Remy Ma peaking with Remy's track, titled, "shEther," the conflict between the two New York artists has reached a standstill, as fans await Minaj's response. Remy took shots at Minaj's past relationships, family difficulties and career credibility on one track, causing social media to erupt

for several days then die down, as Minaj maintained her silence. When comparing today's industry guidelines to the criteria dating back to the early 90s, the dilution of diss tracks has become apparent.

In Summer 1996, 2Pac initiated the infamous altercation between himself and Biggie with "Hit Em Up," beginning his lyrical onslaught by releasing music videos ridiculing and targeting Biggie, slowly advancing to events that created a beef expanding across the West and East Coast. Fast forward two decades to Summer 2016, and one could observe that Drake and Meek Mill have experienced a similar feud.

After Drake released, "Charged Up," "Back to Back" and "Summer Sixteen," aimed at Meek Mill due to allegations of ghost-writing, Mill decided to stay silent, mainly commenting on his upcoming album, "Dreamchasers 4," displaying that the importance

of retaliating to diss records has slowly diminished, with artists only needing to remain silent as their careers recover with time.

While it is understandable that there is increased safety through hip-hop's lack of controversy, the purpose of music serves to express emotion and ideas, which would deviate if artists decided that diss tracks are irrelevant.

As remaining oblivious to diss records slowly becomes the norm, with the instance of Remy Ma and Nicki Minaj's beef currently being dormant, this leads to hip-hop becoming stagnant. Conditions like these can make a hip-hop fanatic wonder how different the industry would be if Nas and Jay Z wouldn't have responded to each other or if Ice Cube would have decided to just ignore N.W.A. and his records.

SPORTS



Seth Willard/THE SPECTATOR

Austin Hamilton pitched against West Alabama on Saturday. Hamilton has the second best ERA in the GSC.



Seth Willard/THE SPECTATOR

Shortstop Ryan Slaughter (above) has the second most stolen bases in the Gulf South Conference with 13.

VSU walks off against Flagler

Juston Lewis

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It took nine innings but the Blazers got it done.

Chipper Andzel hit a two-run game-ending double to defeat No. 20 Flagler University on Wednesday night.

The Blazers trailed 3-2 going into the bottom of the ninth. Tyler Morris took a walk to lead off and Harlan Harris was hit by a pitch to get the runners on base for Andzel.

The hit fell just out of the reach of the left-fielder and as Harris slid into home plate the Blazer dugout stormed the field to celebrate the victory.

Andzel flied out to center field

in his at bat prior to the RBI double.

"I got beat by a curve ball the last at bat so I knew he'd come back with it and I just took a hack at it," Andzel said. "I knew off the bat that he wasn't getting to [the ball] but I honestly thought it was out."

Luke Suchon, who has the best batting average in the Gulf South Conference, got his first home run of the season tonight in the second inning to put VSU ahead 1-0.

A few hits with runners on in the third and fourth innings gave Flagler a 2-1 lead. Morris then singled home Dalton Murray to tie the game at two. A VSU wild pitch in the eighth gave Flagler the lead back, which they held

until Andzel's heroics.

VSU's Beau Blair got the win to put him at 1-1 on the season. Starting pitcher Daniel Williams was pulled in the fifth inning after allowing seven hits and two earned runs. VSU left eight men on base, while Flagler left six men on base.

While this win was not against a GSC opponent, it felt no different to Anzel.

"I'm glad we got a win tonight," Andzel said. "They are a regional opponent and they're a damn good team."

The Blazers are currently 14-6 and will be in action against Shorter on Saturday at 1 p.m. in Rome, Georgia.



VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Matt Anderson will look to help VSU win their only home match this year.

VSU hosts tournament

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The VSU golf team is getting set to tee off their spring break here in Titledown for the prestigious First Federal Southeastern Collegiate golf tournament. The Blazers will compete against 17 other teams in this 54-hole event at Kinderlou Forest Golf Club March 12th, 13th and 14th.

VSU Head Golf Coach Jared Purvis said the Southeastern Collegiate is arguably the most admired golf tournament in the region.

"It's an honor that we host, probably, the best regular season event in the country," Purvis said. "We are fortunate that we have a course that allows us to make our event a three-day event instead of the normal two-day event."

Junior Davis Roche said hosting the tournament definitely means the convenience factor will be on VSU's side.

"Playing the tournament in three days is really nice because in the two day tournaments we play 36 holes in one day," Roche said. "Playing 18 a day is something everybody looks forward to. It's more relaxed, and there's not as much wear on the legs."

Playing well in this tournament plays a significant role in VSU's regional postseason hopes. Purvis said he knows the importance of the tournament after coaching at VSU for 15 years, which includes a win in the tournament in 2010. Purvis said playing at Kinderlou will give the Blazers an advantage.

"We have an advantage on the greens," Purvis said. "However, when 14 of the 18 teams in the event are ranked in the top 24 in the nation, that advantage becomes less."

One of the top ranked teams competing in the tournament will be the West Florida Argonauts, who are at the top of Golf Coaches Association of America

coaches' poll. The Blazers are no stranger to the Argonauts, as they faced off in The Matlock in February. West Florida finished first in the Matlock and will be the largest threat in the Southeastern Collegiate.

The Blazers are entering the tournament after finishing sixth at the Pirate Invitational. Sophomore Matt Anderson was the low scorer for VSU, finishing 12th out of 68 golfers. Roche and sophomore Jake Harpe both finished in the top 20. The Blazers are currently ranked 14th in the nation with three tournaments to go before the Gulf South Conference tournament on April 23-25.

"At this point in the year we're looking more at the regional rankings because that's what gets us to the post-season," Roche said. "We've got a few teams we need to take care of in the next few tournaments."

Coming into the Southeastern Collegiate, Purvis said he's telling his players to simply stay in the moment, focus on their strengths and follow through with their game plans. Purvis said the keys to success for performing well are to keep the ball in play off the tee and to maximize all birdie opportunities.

"We know we have a good squad this year, but we know we can play better if we play our best golf," Roche said. "It's up to us to go out there and shoot some numbers."

The Southeastern Collegiate begins Sunday at 8 a.m. and will finish on Tuesday.

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SPORTS



Seth Willard/THE SPECTATOR

Sonya Franklin had 10 points, five assists and six rebounds in the Gulf South Conference championship game, which VSU won over West Florida 91-79 after outscoring UWF 13-1 in overtime.

VSU Women trying to keep momentum going

Juston Lewis

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Uncharted territory is ahead for VSU Women's Basketball. In Carley Kuhns' first year as head coach, she has produced two Gulf South Conference first team all-conference players. She also guided a team that was expected to finish eighth in the GSC to a conference tournament title.

Now that VSU is here, they are going to have to figure out how to navigate the national tournament.

The first stop on the road to a championship is in St. Petersburg, Florida, where the No. 1 seed Eckerd Tritons are hosting the South Region tournament.

VSU got an automatic bid to the NCAA DII tournament because of their GSC Championship win. They were selected as the No. 6 seed in the South Region and will face No. 3 Benedict College.

The Lady Tigers won the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference for the third time in five years. The team went 14-1 in the conference and finished the season winning their last 15 games.

"We play a totally different type of basketball from them, which can benefit us," GSC first-teamer Madi Mitchell said. "They're really athletic and we're going to have to play our game on the offensive end, but the defense is going to be huge for us."

Defense was a major key in the Blazers' victory over West Florida in the GSC championship game.

Women's Basketball

v.

Time: 2:30 p.m.
A live stream can be found at vstateblazers.com.

Team	VSU	RC
Points/Game	70.4	75.1
Rebounds/Game	42.4	45.3
Assists/Game	11.1	13.9
Steals /Game	5.7	10.6
3 Pointers/Game	24.6	6.9
Blocks/Game	1	2.8
Field Goal %	.413	.318

In overtime, they forced the Lady Argos to shoot zero of eight from the field for one point while the Blazers had 13 points.

"I guess like they say, three times a charm," Kenya Samone' Dixon said on beating West Florida.

The Blazers have to face the reality that they are six games away from doing something that has never been done at VSU: winning a Women's Basketball National Championship.

Kuhns said she isn't allowing herself or her team to think about that big picture right now.

"We're just going to take it one step at a time," Kuhns said.



Seth Willard/THE SPECTATOR

Kuhns will look for VSU to play with the same tenacity the team showed in the Gulf South Conference Tourney.

"We've got to move past the excitement of winning a championship and not let that cloud our focus. Right now our goal is to beat Benedict. Beat Benedict and then worry about the next game."

The game against West Florida was something for the Blazers to build upon, but they cannot change what they've been doing

all season.

The Blazers will face Benedict on Friday at noon with the chance to potentially face West Florida again on Saturday if both teams win in the first round.

"What got us here is going to have to keep us here," Samone' Dixon said.

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SPORTS



Seth Willard/THE SPECTATOR

Blake Justice gets a fast break started in the first round of the Gulf South Tournament against UNA. Justice will play a key part in VSU's push during the NCAA Division II Regional Tournament.

VSU Men take on March Madness

Juston Lewis

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It might've taken a loss for VSU Men's Basketball to win.

After being out gunned in the Gulf South Conference finale, VSU is headed to Huntsville, Alabama, for the NCAA DII South Region Tournament this weekend.

The Blazers were selected as the No. 2 seed in the South region of the NCAA DII tournament just hours after being beat 94-91 by Alabama-Huntsville in the GSC championship game.

The Blazers trailed UAH by six with 48 seconds in the game before Jeremiah Hill drained a deep three-pointer. The two teams traded buckets as the clock wound down. Jimmy Kodet got off a three-pointer that would've potentially tied the game for the Blazers, but it clanked off the side of the rim as time ran out.

Three points is all that separated VSU from hosting the NCAA South Region and being selected No. 1 overall for the region.

The Blazers would have benefited from hosting the tournament, but they will have to figure out how to get through the region on the road.

"It wasn't in the cards," Head Coach Mike Helfer said. "We've got to go on the road. The good thing is that we've had a lot of success on the road this year in a very difficult conference. Hopefully, we can take some of that experience to play on the road in the NCAA Tournament."

The players don't feel that the GSC tournament loss will impact their play in the National Tournament, especially senior guard Josh Lemons.

"It's not a big deal to us," Lemons said on the loss. "We're going to go to Huntsville with our same confidence level." GSC Player of the Year Jeremiah Hill was held to 14 points in the matchup with UAH. He's using the loss as a wake-up call.

"I feel that it put us back in our place," Hill said. "[We're] human, people can beat [us]. It put a respect back on our opponent for us



Seth Willard/THE SPECTATOR

VSU will miss the Firepit in the NCAA tournament against Rollins College.

to come in practice focused and do what we need to do to learn the insides and outs of what we're going to do."

The focus is shifting from the GSC to Rollins College, the No. 7 seed in the South region.

Rollins won the Sunshine State Conference Championship and has won eight games in a row.

"I think Rollins is playing as

well as any team in the country," Helfer said. "If you win the Sunshine State Conference Tournament title, you are a good basketball team. Every [team] is good at this point and time."

The respect and preparation won't change for the Blazers, but the circumstances are higher than ever now.

The game against UAH will be

Men's Basketball



Time: 3:30 p.m.
A live stream can be found at vstateblazers.com.

Team	VSU	RC
Points/Game	88.7	80.8
Rebounds/Game	40.8	31.6
Assists/Game	14.4	16.8
Steals /Game	7.3	8.8
3 Pointers/Game	9.1	9.9
Blocks/Game	3.5	2
Field Goal %	.377	.416

held on Saturday at 3:30 p.m. EST in Huntsville.



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