



# SPECTATOR

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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- **FEATURES:** "Siblings' business promotes local music"
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## Paintless Paintball

Check out page 5 for coverage of VSU's first "Blitz Ball" event!

## On the Web

[www.vsuspectator.com](http://www.vsuspectator.com)

Check out the web for more stories including Pop Addict and a review of The Green Iguana!

# Sowing community seeds

Blazer Gardens plants a community garden at Woodlawn Terrace apartment complex to educate residents about safe, organic gardening.

**Jennifer Gleason**  
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Organically grown food and herbs is the new trend, and VSU's Blazer Gardens is reaching out to the community to teach people about safe gardening.

On Saturday, Blazer Gardens teamed up with the apartment complex, Woodlawn Terrace, at 1211 N. Forrest St., and helped start their first community garden.

"Blazer Gardens was initially supported by members of the Valdosta Community," Bobbi Hancock, founder of Blazer Gardens, said. "Without the initial supplies and monetary support provided by members and businesses in our community, Blazer Gardens would have had a very difficult time getting off the ground."

Students, residents of Woodlawn Terrace and members of Blazer Gardens gathered around a small plot in hopes to cultivate herbs and vegetables for the new season.

Preparations for the garden began last semester when Nancy Schmidt, property manager for Gateway Company and owner of Woodlawn Terrace, approached Hancock with the idea.

"Nancy and I met a few years ago while I was an employee at The Plant Station," Hancock said. "The garden members had already decided to do some type of service project for the spring semester so when the opportunity presented itself, we were more than happy to get involved."

Hancock and members jumped on the opportunity to pay the community back for the support and love they had devoted to their difficult start-up, when becoming an official VSU organization was a battle.

"[G]rowing organically comes from my reflections on the current state of our food system,"



Jennifer Gleason/ THE SPECTATOR

**Above:** Blazer Gardens members and Woodlawn Terrace residents prepare the gardens' three flower beds for planting. **Right:** Danielle Costello, Blazer Gardens member, plants tomatoes in trays Saturday at Woodlawn Terrace.

Danielle Costello, graduate student and Blazer Gardens member, said. "I don't want to eat food or support a system derived of exploitation, that poisons the bodies that grow, harvest and eat it, that destroys the earth and environment from which our food comes from. So growing my own food organically and working with the Blazer Gardens mission is a way of manifesting my beliefs about food into the world."

The gardening began with some tending to the soil, making sure trash and unwanted debris left by construction workers was not buried beneath the dirt.

Costello set up trays, showing students and residents the best way to plant small seeds secure-

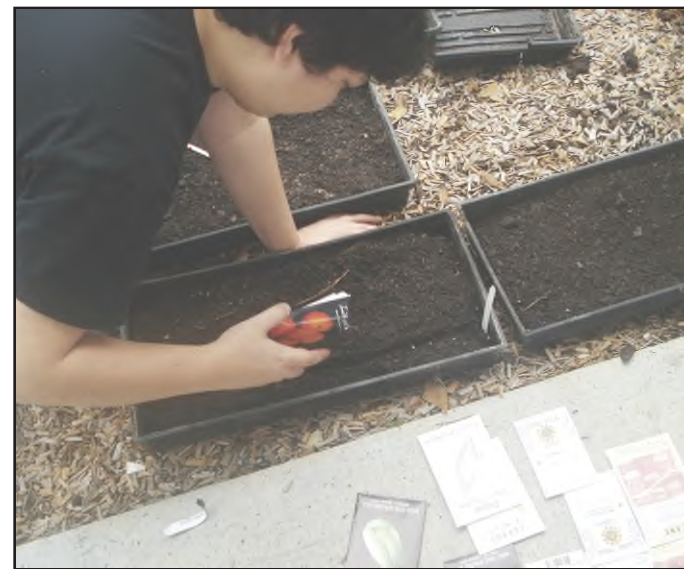
ly in soil until they sprout stalks that can be transported to the garden.

Lines were made by hand in the small trays of soil, and the seeds were carefully poured in the lines and covered.

As the gardening continued, Costello gave each nearby person a chance to plant seeds in the trays, as well.

"During World War II people had victory gardens," Costello said. "Forty-percent of our produce was produced in those victory gardens—40-percent was produced just by people gardening."

"If during World War II, 40-percent of our food could have been cultivated that easily, imagine what we could do now," she



said.

The community garden at Woodlawn Terrace is a small plot with three divided sections laid out by VSU alumni and Blazer Gardens' off-campus advisor, Jennifer Vieth.

Three large, raised sections were strategically divided for proper cultivation and with root competition in mind.

See **GARDENS**, Page 2

## Students take early vacation

Some students take a few extra days off and leave for spring break before classes officially end.

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The highly anticipated spring break tends to leave the classrooms bare as some students opt to skip out on Friday classes in order to jumpstart their spring break plans.

On average, students report seeing a 30 percent decrease in class attendance on the days prior to their spring vacation.

However, some students fear leaving early because of scheduled exams and important assignments that require a full week of class attendance.

"I do not leave early because that's when everybody gives a test," Sarah Demontt, a senior history major, said.

According to Dr. Larry Wiley, psychology professor, not all professors plan around students and their spring break plans.

"I don't manipulate my class to make them show up," Wiley said. "Frankly, I don't care if they're in class or not. I can't worry about that. I teach the material and I present it in a way that they need to be there."

Although exams scheduled before break do prevent students from ditching class, sometimes it is merely a coincidence for tests or projects to fall a day or two before spring break.

"I don't intentionally schedule tests to keep that from happening," Dr. Mark Smith, English Department head, said. "I sched-

See **VACATION**, Page 2

Check out this week's Spring Break Tab!



## Greeks to get on campus housing

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In Fall 2012, Hopper Hall will house select members of the

College PanHellenic Council (CPC) due to the lack of sorority housing available.

Among the reasons for moving sororities to on-campus housing, Greek Life hopes to see an increase in members staying in sororities, and an improvement in GPAs among participants—who, on average, stay above the 3.0 GPA range.

See **HOUSING**, Page 2

## SGA:

# Proposed gun bill discussed

**Joseph Adgie**

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SGA discussed a recent visit with the Board of Regents, a bill that would allow guns on campus, and issues involving Spring Break scheduling during a meeting Monday night in the U.C Magnolia room.

President Graham Davis and Vice President Derika Powers, as well as Senators Reginald Merritt and Christopher Hawkins, met with Regents Benjamin Tarbuton and Rusty Griffin, to discuss a few issues including school consolidation.

In order to cut costs, eight Georgia colleges and universities have been recommended to merge into four schools, which raised some concerns among SGA members.

"Someone had asked about a second list of other schools that

may be consolidated later on, and Regent Tarbuton responded that this Board of Regents currently has no plans for a second list," Powers said. "There is no telling what future Regents plan on doing, so as of right now, the only schools that are being consolidated are the first eight."

The schools being merged together are Gainesville State, North Georgia College & State University, Middle Georgia College, Macon State, Waycross College, South Georgia College, Augusta State and the Georgia Health Sciences University.

Powers also explained that the nation is watching Georgia to see how this consolidation goes, as Georgia is the first state in the union to actually merge.

"We're the first state that has actually gone through with consolidating schools," Powers said. "Other states have mentioned it and talked about it, but no one's followed through with it, so

we're under a magnifying glass to see if this works out."

Also mentioned was funding for the HOPE scholarship, and how requirements for HOPE have changed, as well as how alternative funding has been suggested for the scholarship.

"Basically, my question was along the lines of is there a plan for saving HOPE for future generations to come," Senator Reginald Merritt said regarding a question asked to Regent Tarbuton. "He basically said that, the last few years, (they have been) changing requirements for HOPE, so we really don't have anything to worry about."

Davis chimed in, mentioning the possibility of alternative funding being used to help fund the scholarship.

"Currently, it's funded by the lottery, and you all probably know that," Davis said, "but there are other forms of gambling that go on in the state, like

horse racing, and dog racing.

"I'm not condoning any of that, and the Board of Regents wouldn't either, but they are looking into alternate forms of revenue to help offset the cost of HOPE and where we are falling short."

In addition, Senator Jeffrey Brown discussed the possible adjustment of breaks, such as eliminating fall break, while Senator Tyler Barker mentioned an adjustment to Spring Break, which is a follow-up to something that was mentioned by Comptroller Drew McCall at a meeting a month ago.

"Something that came up was extending Thanksgiving Break, and eliminating Fall Break," Brown said, "but if we were to do this, there would be calls to extend the breaks, and to keep the fall breaks. Also, we have an approved calendar for the fall of

See **SGA**, Page 2

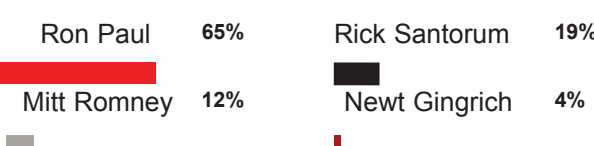
## Question of the Week

When do you leave for Spring Break?

- A. ASAP, sometimes a week early
  - B. Friday after class
  - C. I live at Hotel California, I never leave.
- Vote online at [www.vsuspectator.com](http://www.vsuspectator.com)!

## Previous question

Early voting is now going on. Who are you voting for?



## Weather at VSU

Today



Partly Cloudy  
82 H 58 L

Friday



Cloudy  
83 H 60 L

Saturday



Partly Cloudy  
73 H 55 L

**Housing**

Continued from Page 1

"Several years ago, PanHellenic sororities lived in Hopper Hall," Jennifer Stroble, assistant director of Student Life for Greek Life, said.

"Since the Greek community is now around 12 percent of the undergraduate student body, there is a large push from our Greek community for a living-learning environment," she said.

The Greek community, the administration and Housing and Residence Life discussed the possibility of sorority housing for two years before preparations were made.

"I think that this is a great decision," Samantha Garrett, Zeta Tau Alpha member and senior mass media major, said.

"The CPC sororities have been working towards Greek Housing for a while now and I think that is a positive move towards that for our Greek Life," Garrett said.

Student Life for Greek Life started a Greek Housing committee in order to examine the opportunities Housing has for Greek Life.

The office of Housing and Residence Life has prearranged 3/4 of a floor in Hopper for CPC participants.

"This will not affect non-affiliated students as there are actually more beds available this year for returning students compared to other years," Leighia Hammond, associate director of Housing, said.

The housing proposal came from the PanHellenic women and new Greek members to VSU's campus looking for a Greek living community like the communities found at other campuses in Georgia.

University of Georgia, Georgia Tech University, Emory University and Mercer University are among the Georgia institutions that provide housing for their Greek organizations.

"This program will be assessed yearly within Housing and Greek Life for modification and continuation," Stroble said.

**Vacation**

Continued from Page 1

-ule tests at a time that is appropriate for testing,"

Spanish Professor Ericka Parra also feels her exams are coincidences.

"I don't strategically plan the exams right before break, but it usually turns out that way because of how the chapters fall in the textbook."

While the coincidences occur, there are still occasional rebels in the bunch.

"I leave early for spring break most of the time because I have to travel to Alabama to see my grandma," Ranesha Jackson, senior, early childhood education major, said. "If I'm going to travel six hours, then I need to leave early so I'm not driving for all hours of the night."

James Reffel, psychology professor believes that it is up to the student to make good judgments in regards to class attendance.

"I think that sometimes it is

more noticeable because more students choose to take that day, but students are paying for it. It's their education, and they take responsibility for it," Reffel said. Parra feels that having exams before spring break is actually beneficial to the students.

"It keeps students from having to worry about important assignments while they should be having a relaxing break," Parra said. "To me spring break means relax and have fun."

Some students have a more focused mindset regarding spring break.

"I usually leave after all my classes and I usually come home early so can feel refreshed before classes start again,"

Danielle Wilkerson, a junior history major, said. "I have noticed that many students are tired when they come back, probably because they have waited until Sunday night to return."

In the future, hopefully students will make wiser decisions regarding their spring break plans.

**SGA**

Continued from Page 1

2013 to the summer of 2014."

Senator Barker then mentioned the Spring Break issue.

"At an earlier meeting, the Comptroller mentioned that education majors were working with the school systems around the area with the internships, and they were complaining that their spring breaks were not in line with the school systems, and they brought that up," Barker said.

"Most students want it in the middle of the semester, so what they're doing is they're considering it for next year, and working with the school systems to try to get that."

Kathryn Grant, a senior general studies major, spoke to the SGA about House Bill 981, which would relax restrictions on concealed handguns on campus.

Grant, who expressed her opposition to the issue one week ago in the Spectator, said that she was "really concerned" about the issue, and has started a petition with a Georgia Tech student.

Senator Amber Worthy proposed an education session, where students would be educated on this potential legislation that would be passed. Grant liked the idea.

"I think that is a great idea, and I think that, too, would be a wonderful opportunity to bring in people who represent both sides (of the issue), so we can have a discussion about it."

Powers then said that an educational session would be set up for students on the bill, and clarified some parts of the current gun law.

"Just for clarification, if you have a gun permit, there are stipulations on where you can and cannot carry your gun, and government institutions and public schools are on that list, so they are currently not allowed on campus," she said.

**Gardens**

Continued from Page 1

"We have tomatoes, which will hopefully grow around the stands we placed in the center of the sections, then peppers because they are friendly with tomatoes and onions near that," Vieth said.

Even with large storm clouds and wind passing over, participants continued to work hard to get the garden started.

Once all the plants were buried beneath the soil and watered, residents were able to take a small tray with seeds back to their apartments. Many chose to take herbs.

Hancock made sure to relay to the participants who plan to tend to the garden as it germinates, that residents and students were not to neglect the garden.

No participant left Saturday afternoon without dirt under their nails.

**Have a safe Spring Break!**

**Police Briefs**

**Thurs., March 1**  
A vehicle was stopped for loud music in the University Center parking lot.

**Fri., March 2**  
A brown American Eagle wallet was reported lost or stolen from Brown Hall.

An arrest for driving with a suspended or revoked license was made in the Sustella parking deck.

**Sat., March 3**  
A Nikon D-300 Digital SLR

was stolen in the area of Carter Drive.

**Sun., March 4**  
A car parked at Billy Grant Field was broken into and had items taken from it.

An individual found two unknown males inside of her car in the College Street parking lot.

**Mon., March 5**  
The parking arm was reported missing from Converse Drive. A bag was reported stolen from Odum Library and later found in

the men's restroom. Two males tried to use a ICard that was not theirs in Langdale Market.

**Tues., March 6**  
A female reported Oreo cookies stuck to her car in the Oak Street parking lot.

**Happy 'Tator Day!**

**Upcoming Events**

**Mar 9: Ballroom Dance Club Master Class: Caroline Picart 4 - 5 p.m. - UC Dance Studio Room 2108**

Ballroom Dance Club is bringing in 2006 U.S. Open Cabaret Champion Caroline Picart to teach a master ballroom dance class. Free to all VSU students and faculty.

**Mar 19 - Apr 06: VSU Art Student Competition - All-Media Juried Competition**  
Mondays-Thursdays 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Friday 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Fine Arts Gallery.  
An opening reception will be

held on March 19 from 7-8:30 p.m. This event is sponsored by Dr. Don Mirate of Mirate Eye Center.

**Mar 20: Comedy Show**  
Show starts at 7:30 p.m. in the Student Union Theater.  
In celebration of Diversity Days, the Office of Social Equity will host a comedy show featuring Kansas City comedians Justin Leon and Grasshopper. Free and open to the public.

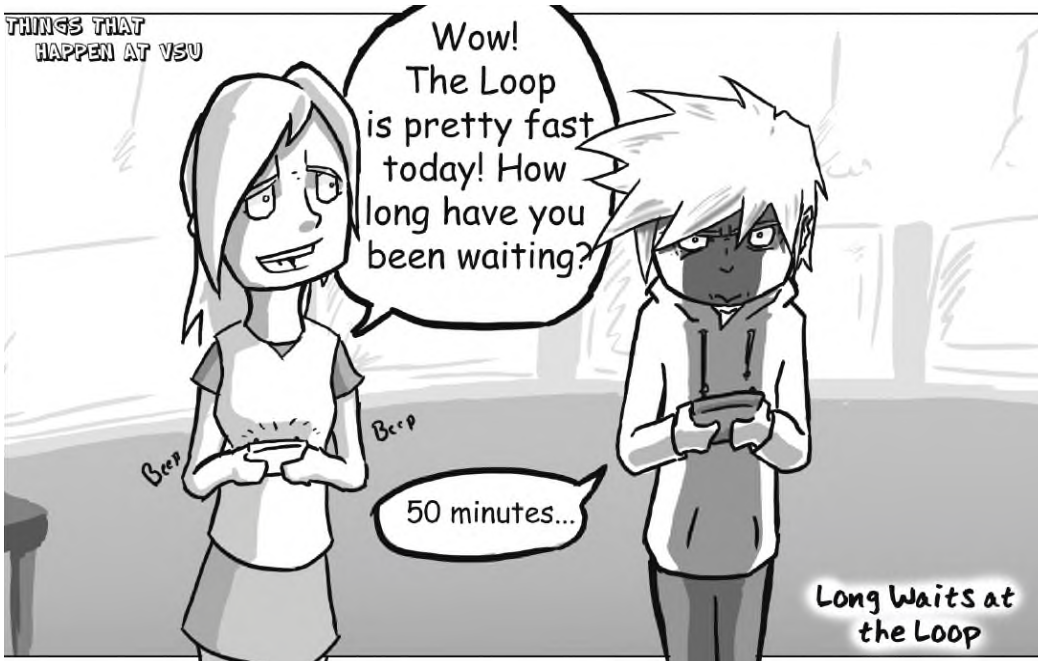
**Angles and Perspectives Brown Bag Series**  
Sessions begin at Noon and 1

p.m. in the Student Union Meeting Room 1 A & B.

In celebration of Diversity Days, the Office of Social Equity will host Angles and Perspectives Brown Bag Series.

Participants can learn what VSU faculty members are currently researching and teaching in the field of cultural diversity.

**Other events:**  
March 6 until Easter, or while supplies last.  
Dr. Susan Wold's Easter Land at Collins' Thrifts and More.



Comic by: Garrison Muelhausen /THE SPECTATOR

**Go online to check out more stories!**

**Spectator Sudoku**

The sudoku grid consists of eighty-one squares in a nine by nine grid. To solve the sudoku, each square in the grid must contain a number between one and nine, with the following conditions: Answers on Page 5

- \* Each row of nine cells must contain each of the numbers from 1 to 9 once and only once.
- \* Each column of nine cells must contain each of the numbers from 1 to 9 once and only once.
- \* Each of the nine 3 by 3 boxes of nine cells must contain each of the numbers from 1 to 9

9				7		2		
			9	4				
5				2	6			
			3	1			6	
	9		4				8	
8								
					1		3	
4				9				5
		1	8					

Answers on Page 5

**Cruise The Bahamas & Tour Florida**

The low season for cruises is in May so there are dramatic savings to be had. These reduced rates offered by Southern Destinations will only be for this cruise (May 11-13). Treat yourself by relaxing on some of the most beautiful beaches in the world on Grand Bahama Island because you deserve it. \$50 deposit due as soon as possible and the remainder due April 1. For more information please call 678-495-7249 or e-mail Michael Holmes at michaelholmes@yahoo.com.

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11 Beds

**TROPICS**

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**The Classifieds**

The Spectator prints free classifieds for students of Valdosta State University only. These must be no more than 40 words, or an \$8.00 charge will apply. Classifieds for faculty, staff, student organizations, student-owned businesses and the general public cost \$8.00 for up to 40 words. Ads should be sent to The Spectator or delivered to our office in 1238 Hopper Hall. The deadline is Monday at 5 p.m. If payment applies, it should be submitted in a sealed envelope at the time the ad is placed. Ads

must be accompanied by the name and phone number of the person submitting the ad. Ads must be resubmitted each week, as necessary. The Spectator address is: 1500 N. Patterson St., Valdosta, GA 31698 spec@valdosta.edu. The Spectator reserves the right to reject any classified ad. All ads are subject to standard editing procedures. The Spectator is not responsible for ads submitted under false pretenses or for mistakes due to a submitted error. The categories for classifieds

include: For Sale, Wanted, Roommates and Help Wanted.

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RentValdosta.net  
229-244-7800

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SETH TOWNHOMES  
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MOVE IN SPECIAL  
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Our point of view...

# Spring Break: Party smart

It's the Thursday before Spring Break and we're all thinking about how to spend the week off. Some of us are going on weekend beach trips and will soon be sipping beers by the waves and working on a tan, while others will stay in town. Either way, we'll all want to throw caution to the wind as soon as we leave our last class tomorrow afternoon.

But before you trade in books for binge drinking, don't forget that the same things keeping you level-headed during school apply during that week. Alcohol poisoning, STDS; they're still real threats.

We all know alcohol depresses nerves that control involuntary

actions. You talk slow, you walk funny, but you dance great—right? Involuntary actions include breathing and the gag reflex, which prevents choking. Too much alcohol will eventually stop these functions.

According to survey results posted on onlineschools.org 50 percent of men and 60 percent of women said that every night, they drank until they passed out. It won't be so hilarious when you have to turn your friend on his side so he doesn't choke on his own vomit.

Another thing; the threat of coming in contact with an STD doesn't simply disappear during Spring Break. The same survey revealed that half of sexual en-

counters during Spring break are "random," "unplanned" and "unprotected."

Let's face it. Alcohol gets you going—ladies, you too. If your plans include hooking up during Spring Break, be safe.

Another scary fact of Spring break is that 60 percent of students have a run in with a cop at some point. Whether you're staying in town or traveling, don't drink and drive. Call a taxi or walk. Imagine being caught drinking underage in a city you've never been—or worse, abroad. Even cruise ships don't take kindly to intoxication.

Even scarier is the thought that while some students may return to campus with a stain on their

record, some students don't come back from their week of debauchery. How many stories do we hear about the drunken college guy underestimating the length from one eighth floor balcony to the next? Or, what about the pretty girl dancing in the hottest new club in Panama City that got separated from her friends and was never seen again? We don't want to hear about an unfortunate event involving a VSU student.

Don't get me wrong, the last thing I'm suggesting is to hide in your dorm room all week and not participate in any of these activities. You can travel; you can drink; you can have fun. But be smart about it.



MCT

This editorial was written by Ariel Felton (arfelton@valdosta.edu) and it expresses the general opinion of the editorial staff.

## Religion drives wedge between confused voters

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Do you know what scares me about the current GOP primary? Let me broaden that question: Do you know what scares me about the state of politics today? It's how religion has hijacked the conversations surrounding politics.

On the marquee at the Presbyterian Student Center on the VSU campus, it states: "All that is needed for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing." The poor attendance on Tuesday certainly shows a lack of action. With the way the rhetoric is headed this election season, it may soon be time for good men to act.

The results of Super Tuesday were lackluster. Some pundits have commented that it's in part due to this rhetoric that keeps religious beliefs at the forefront of the political landscape, instead of the more important topic of the economy, both at home and

abroad.

People aren't engaging in the political process because it has become so divisive. A large part of that divisiveness is the religious undertones that politicians are taking.

When Rick Santorum makes comments about how the separation of church and state sickens him, or how the conversation continues about Mitt Romney's religion, this type of rhetoric starts to take on a life of its own. It becomes a focal point that's hard to dismiss.

I am all for the President to have morality associated with religion, but when evangelicals take over the conversation and lead it toward issues that are constantly in turmoil, it concerns me that President Santorum would turn us from a democracy to a theocracy (or theocracy). Funny, considering this is what he seems to be concerned with if we end up with President Romney.

Santorum was quoted in a 2008 speech, "Freedom of worship is not just what you do with in the sanctuary. It's how you



SXC

The sign outside the Presbyterian Student Center is seen by students who walk and drive on campus every day. The low turnout for the GOP primary is something that might interest religiously-inclined organizations at VSU.

practice your faith outside the sanctuary." What frightens me is not what he is doing in his sanctuary, but outside of it: spreading half (or less) truths and keeping the focus on socially divisive issues.

The good thing about the San-

torum/Romney race is that it shows that GOP's base is uncertain and with both candidates. Hopefully, that means that electorate isn't buying what the candidates are selling, because maybe they are concerned about the state of politics today, too.

## Missing classes not the end of academic opportunities

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I don't think attendance should affect a student academically in regards to skipping classes. Professors stress the importance of students attending classes, but it really doesn't make a difference.

"If students can miss class and still pass they shouldn't be penalized," Kylee Thrash, a senior early childhood special education major, said. "People should not be punished if they don't go to their class. If they can still not go and still make a passing grade, they should be allowed to do so, especially throughout the core classes."

According to the current VSU policy, students are allowed to miss 20 percent of class and not be penalized, yet there are some professors who take it into their own hands and reinforce their own policy.

I have encountered numerous professors throughout my four years here who after two or three absences drop the students grade a full letter. Why?

If the student can account for the information taught in class,

then attendance shouldn't matter.

"Often in class, faculty will explain or expand upon key concepts, respond to questions from students about points of confusion, explain expectations for assignments, and so on," Dr. Jane Kinney, a professor of English, said. "Students who don't attend class on a regular basis thus miss several things that can't be learned from the text/readings alone but that often are part of what they are tested on or expected to demonstrate in assignments."

Yes, there are some materials that a student can get in a classroom that they can't get from the text, but there are these meetings called study groups where students can get together with other students in the same class and help each other in the event that something was missed, misunderstood or not clarified.

"If students aren't there, they miss the basic information," Mrs. Louise Wildes, a professor of history, said. "Let's face it, they won't read the book."

While this is true to an extent, it is just as simple to meet up with another student who was in class, copy the notes and get any information on assignments as

well as updates.

As for professors who post their notes and discussions on BlazeVIEW, you're just asking for students to not show up to your class except on test days; especially large lecture classes that don't even take attendance at all.

There are several professors who try to cheat the system and have random pop quizzes to ensure that students are in class, but if the information is known on test day, once again, why does the attendance matter? Simple answer: it doesn't.

Students have different ways of learning. Not every student learns from lectures in class. A lot of students can self-teach. A professor cannot make a student learn their way.

Many agree that grades should be based on what the student knows and learns.

"I don't think a student's grades should be effected by their attendance in class because their grade should reflect their knowledge of the material, not their attendance or lack of," Lindy Pope, a junior Marketing major, said.

Yes, professors are here to pre-

pare us for the real world and teach us responsibilities that help us to further our knowledge, but sometimes we need a break.

There are times when students are stressed by work-overload. Many students juggle projects, tests, and jobs all in one week, a reason some students decide to skip class.

"I believe that students should not be punished for skipping class," Amy Gonzalez, a junior biology major, said. "There are days when you just need a break. As long as you do well on your assignments and tests, it shouldn't matter if you are physically there or not. Some students even learn better on their own than in a room listening to lectures. I fully agree! If I can show up on test days and pass my tests and keep up with all the assignments that are assigned, why does it matter if I am in the classroom?"

As for the professors, you are all still getting paid, so why do you care? You're paid to teach and as long as the student is learning, whether in class or not, your job is done.

In my opinion, professors just care about the numbers. So my advice is focus on the grading stats, not the attendance stats.

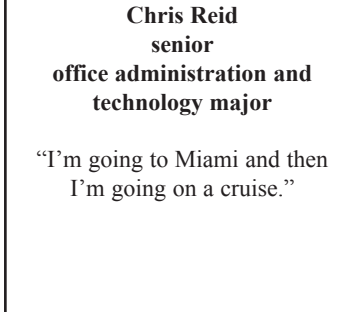
## People Poll:

### What are your plans for Spring Break?



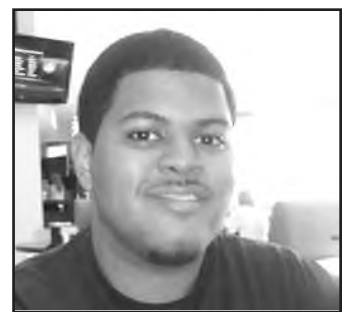
**Kellen Stark**  
junior  
exercise physiology major

"S & D in Panama City Beach."



**Chris Reid**  
senior  
office administration and technology major

"I'm going to Miami and then I'm going on a cruise."



**Mitsuki Yamashita & Asami Kadokura**  
Foreign Exchange Students

"We will go to New York."



**Marquasha Law**  
junior  
business marketing and management major

"I am going to Panama City Beach with my friends."



**Nathaniel Washington**  
junior  
psychology major

"I am going to Savannah for a couples retreat."



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1500 N. Patterson St., Valdosta, GA 31698  
Letters must include name, year in school, major, job title or other appropriate identification and phone number for verification. Letters should be no longer than 300 words in length. Letters are subject to editing for style, length, grammar, and libelous material. Not all letters are published. Letters should be typed and turned in with a disk, or e-mailed as an attachment by Tuesdays before 5 p.m.

Online at [www.vsuspectator.com](http://www.vsuspectator.com)

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# Siblings' business promotes local music

**Jennifer Gleason**  
Assistant Features Editor  
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&  
**Kristin Hunt**  
Staff Writer  
kahunt@valdosta.edu

Music Magazine from Dr. Patricia Miller, a VSU professor.

The internship propelled Amanda's work with music marketing.

Aaron studied Film and Music Production at Georgia State University and works as the company's videographer and video editor. "Aaron is a self-taught video prodigy," Amanda said.

Currently, Aaron is out-of-town working on a project.

Adam has been working as a graphic designer for more than seven years, and currently owns a freelance web designer page: www.adambiss.com.

"For the last couple years I've really been focusing on photography and really honing my



Siblings Amanda, Aaron and Adam Bissonnette run a family owned business known as Helicon Trio Promotions based out of Alpharetta. The business, started in 2011, helps local bands, musicians and venues connect with a larger audience.

skills," Adam Bissonnette, co-owner and photographer, said. "So I approached my sister and brother with the idea of using all of our skills for good. Music is a medium we are all inspired by and love."

In promoting music, Helicon

Trio Promotions also takes on aspiring musicians, works with venues for live performances and supports any businesses that also support the music industry.

"Music is a medium we are all inspired by and love," Adam Bissonnette said. "And there is nothing

better than going out and hearing live music down at your local pub or bar."

Hoping to help musicians get to the next level, Helicon Trio aims to help upcoming artists with promotional photos and videos to post on their own so-

cial networking sites.

"When you go to their website and see poor quality photos and shaky videos it really doesn't pump you up to go out to see one of their events," Adam said. "So we want to take advantage of that market and help these groups bring in more business and really get noticed."

The trio plans to see their artists gain a record deal from their promotion.

The Bissonnette family would like to see their business

reach out and assist many musicians and a variety of venues throughout Georgia.

Helicon Trio Promotions has their own website with more information at helicontrio.com.

Don't forget to look online for the latest celebrity gossip with Maya Kellam's Pop Addict!

Be sure to pick up the issue after Spring Break for a indepth profile on VSU's bicycle club!

## Apple announces new iPad sans Siri

This week we have some Verizon phone leaks, a possible console coming from Steam, and the iPad 3.

Verizon accidentally let slip the release dates of two unannounced phones, the LG Cayman and Droid Fighter. There were no specs with this story, but these phones will be on store shelves at the end of March and the beginning of April.

If you read last week's issue talking about the Nokia 808 PureView with an amazing 41-megapixel camera, I am sad to report that it will be available in most countries, but not the United States.

This is not all bad news though, as vice president of Nokia, Jo Harlow, said "The 808 PureView's 41-megapixel camera sensor is on its way to Windows Phones, and it will not take very long."

April 5 may be the day to get a new phone with Verizon, as a rumored \$199 version of the Samsung Galaxy Nexus will release.

This phone will have all of the same specs as the \$299 phone, except it will have only 16GB of data.

This amount of data is only concerning because there is no MicroSD card slot, but if you do not store lots of music on your phone; this will be a great alternative to other phones.

Samsung has told us that they will reveal a successor to the Samsung Galaxy II in the first half of the year. Website ZDNet Korea has stated that the Galaxy III, what it is most likely to be called, will debut in April.

Samsung has denied this release date, but that could be the case. The company stated that they would announce it when it is closer to commercial availability.

Google may be working on a voice assistant like the iPhone 4s' Siri. Now remember that Android has had a voice assistant for some time now, even before Siri.

The new voice software is known as "Assistant" and will help users with completing tasks with just their voice. Google will allow for third-party developers to use this system for their apps. It may be released by the end of this year.

Google may also have the names for their next two operating systems!

Android 5.0: Jelly Bean is expected to release this year on tablets and would also allow this to run on Windows 8 tablets to dual run operating systems.

The next version would be Android: Jelly Bean. Reports are unsure if this would be Android 6.0 or a different version

of Android 5.0.

Sony is holding a webcast for the PlayStation Vita on Friday called, "PlayStation Vita Game Heaven."

This event will announce more games, talk about upcoming releases, and more Vita services.

Sony will also be giving away 20 Vitas, both 3G and Wi-Fi, but it seems like it will only be in Japan.

Valve may be developing a home console system, dubbed the Steam Box. Reports say that it will be revealed at either the Game Developers Conference or at this summer's E3.

The console would ship with a controller, but would have swappable components with real-time feedback. The console would work with any computer

The question of the week is, "What do you think of the new iPad. Is it worth it or has Apple doomed itself to minor upgrades to the device in the future?"

You can email me at sm-setser@valdosta.edu or comment on the new Spec Tech blog at vsuspectator.blogspot.com/

Please have a wonderful and safe spring break!

### Sudoku Answers

6	9	4	5	1	8	7	3	2
3	7	2	6	9	4	5	8	1
1	5	8	7	3	2	6	9	4
2	4	7	3	8	1	9	5	6
5	6	9	2	4	7	3	1	8
8	1	3	9	6	5	2	4	7
9	8	5	4	2	6	1	7	3
4	3	6	1	7	9	8	2	5
7	2	1	8	5	3	4	6	9

## Spec Tech with Steven Setser

or TV display.

Of course the heart of this console would be connecting online and with Steam. Reports say this will shake the industry because Steam is run with all digital games with frequent sales, so all of the games are cheaper than traditional console rivals.

I think it would be interesting to come out, but I would be worried because systems like the Xbox 360 or PlayStation 3 rely on software sales. If Valve wishes to make lots of money, their console may cost more than current consoles.

The next iPad was announced; there is no new name, so it is called "The new iPad." It now has a retina display, which has 264 pixels per inch and a new quad-core A5X processor. Both cameras have been updated.

The back camera is a 5 megapixel camera with the same tech that is in the iPhone 4S. You can also record 1080p HD video.

The keyboard will have "voice dictation," not Siri. It can be used to type your voice instead of using the keyboard.

The new iPad will surprisingly have 4G LTE on both AT&T and Verizon! The battery life is the same as the iPad 2. Amazingly though, it will get nine hours on 4G. The prices are the same as they are now.

You can pick up this new iPad on March 16; pre-orders start today. A 16GB Wi-Fi only iPad 2 is now on sale for \$399 as well.

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# CAB sponsors paintless paintball

**Shaundi McDaniel**  
Staff Writer  
sjmcdaniel@valdosta.edu

The Late Night Committee for CAB teamed up with Legacy Entertainment Group, bringing in a crowd of 120 students with its first Paintless Paintball Blitzball event Tuesday night.

The event ran from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. in the Student Union Ballrooms A and B.

There was one basic rule of the game: you get hit, you're out.

Although the function was indoors, the ballrooms were decorated similar to an actual paintball field to give the effect for the players.

Equipment included a harmless pressure gun that shot the rubber-like ball—substitutes for actual paintballs—and protective masks.

"I think it's fascinating that we have masks because the masks kind of distort what you see," said Malcolm Mayfield, executive chairman for Late Night Committee of CAB. "Although it's not like real paintball,



J. Daniel Young / THE SPECTATOR  
Tuesday night, CAB sponsored a paintless paintball event, also known as Blitzball. In teams of five, students battled from 6 to 11 p.m. The event brought out around 120 students.

you get some elements of real paintball through the use of the masks."

At the door, students signed up and were grouped into teams of five.

Many groups were able to cycle through for rematches.

"In all the matches we've ever hosted, women and men teams compete," said Dave Flory, event coordinator for Legacy. "The women's team has never lost."

This tradition held at VSU as the women again beat the men.

The game was thrilling and competitive between the players.

Information for upcoming events hosted by CAB and the Late Night Committee can be found at:

[www.valdosta.edu/stulife/cab/UpcomingEvents.shtml](http://www.valdosta.edu/stulife/cab/UpcomingEvents.shtml)

All events sponsored by CAB are free for VSU students.

Legacy offers other entertainment services such as Black Light Casino nights and X-Box Game Zone.

Get online for a slideshow of more photos from the paintless paintball event!

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Those registered student organizations wishing to request Student Activity Fee Funding for the 2012-2013 school year may pick up Budget Forms from the Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Office, Student Union third floor.

Please call 333-5941 with any questions and ask for Andrea Butler.

The deadline to submit Budget Request Forms is **NOON Friday, March 9**

to the Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Office third floor of the Student Union.

Budget hearings take place Wednesday, April 4, 2012 and Thursday, April 5, 2012



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The time has come Blazers. The first videos will hit [www.vsuspectator.com](http://www.vsuspectator.com) on Thursday March 22. Upload your 90 second video to youtube and email the link and your contact information to [jtpickworth@valdosta.edu](mailto:jtpickworth@valdosta.edu). The earliest submissions have the best chance of winning a spot in our April 26 show! Remember to keep all acts PG-13 and check [www.vsuspectator.com](http://www.vsuspectator.com) often to cast your vote!

\*Brought to you by The Spectator and SGA\*  
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**Last**

**Lady Blazers head to Winter Park, Fla. for NCAA D-II basketball tourney**

**Eric Jackson**  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR  
epjackson@valdosta.edu

The Lady Blazers postseason run is still alive despite making an early exit from the Gulf South Conference tournament last weekend, falling to North Alabama 50-48 on a buzzer beating shot.

Since VSU lost the first day of the GSC tourney its NCAA entry was in jeopardy and they easily could have found themselves done for the season.

All the finger crossing and hopeful attitudes stopped on Sunday night when the official announcement came from the NCAA which revealed the eight-team South Regional.

VSU received the go ahead with such a strong regular season performance earning the sixth seed of the southern region. It is their sixth NCAA playoff berth in the past eight seasons.

"The feeling is good," Head Coach Kiley Hill said. "It's good for the program, and it's great for the kids. It's something this program strives themselves on each and every year."

The top seed Rollins College will host the first three rounds of the tournament in Winter Park,

**" The feeling is good. It's good for the program, and it's great for the kids. It's something this program strives themselves on each and every year. "**

HEAD COACH KILEY HILL

Fla. from Friday to Monday. If VSU makes it through the first three rounds they will travel to San Antonio, Texas for the quarterfinals on Tuesday, March 20.

The first round will be hosted by Rollins College, second seed Florida Southern, fourth seed Alabama-Huntsville, fifth seed Delta State, seventh seed Florida Tech and the eighth seed will go to Gulf South Conference champion West Alabama.

The first opponent the Lady Blazers will face is the two-time Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference champion Fort Valley State Lady Wildcats (23-6) on Friday.

The last time these two teams matched up VSU defeated the Wildcats 50-49 during the 2010 regionals.

Hill believes that his team can ride momentum well and that

getting through the first round would be a major boost in team confidence.

"It's massive," said Hill. "It's always about the first game. You get past the first game there is just an immediate sigh and those goes for both sides of the spectrum."

2012 SIAC Player of the Year Jasmine Birdsong will be leading the Lady Wildcats.

The senior forward averaged nearly a double double this season.

Brittany Ferguson is one of the three seniors on VSU's roster who is trying to avoid their last game in a Blazer jersey.

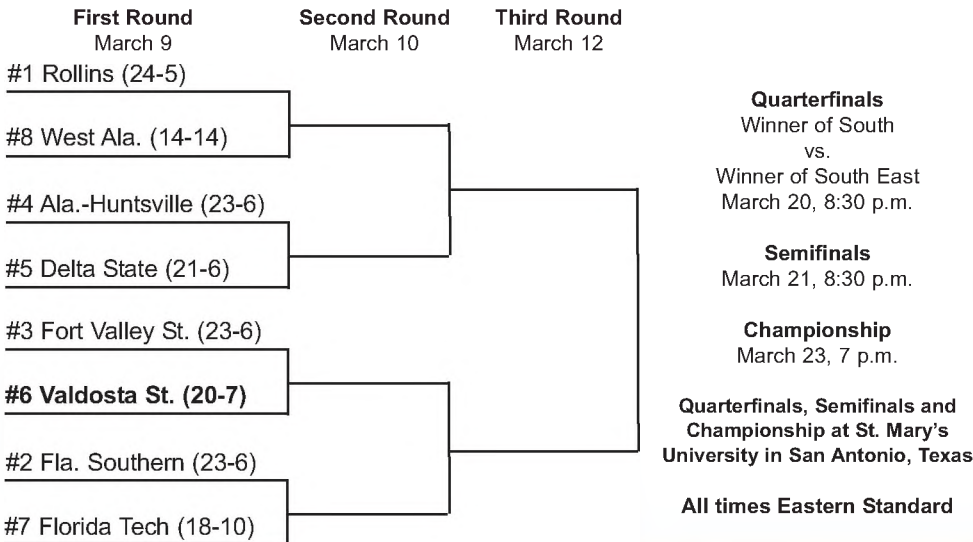
Ferguson, who recently made the ALL-GSC first team again for the second year in a row, probably will be shadowing the skilled Birdsong most of the game.

The Lady Blazers will try to repeat history and advance to the second round by defeating the Wildcats again.

GSC entered four teams into this year's tournament compared to the Sunshine State's three participants.

Opening round of the NCAA Division II South Regional Tournament takes place at the Warden Arena inside the Alford Sports Center on the campus of Rollins College in Winter Park, Fla., at noon Friday.

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