



Annie Johnson / The Spectator

Lights, cameras add safety

Michelle Taylor
Staff Writer

Campus security is everywhere.

According to Cpl. Dennis Nealon, crime prevention officer, there are 20 cameras all over the campus. There are also lights, and many have new bulbs.

There are four cameras in the Oak Street parking lot. One videos the Langdale Circle parking that is attached to Reed Hall. A camera at the south end of Reed hall tapes the areas between the new science building and West Hall. A camera at the corner of Georgia Street tapes the parking lot behind Georgia Hall. At Nevins Hall, there are two cameras, one that videos between West Hall and Nevins Hall and one that videos the flag area at the front of the university. A new camera has been installed on the southeast corner of Brown Hall, which tapes Brown, Lowndes and

Patterson Halls. There is also a camera at the corner of Blazer Street and Hopper Circle.

There are four more cameras on the main campus. Two are at the University Center, one is at the basketball courts at the Fine Arts building and the last is at the Continuing Education building.

Only one camera is on North Campus. It is stationed at Billy Grant Field.

Cpl. Nealon is mostly pleased with the cameras.

"They've been helpful when used properly," he said. "The newer cameras work much better than the original 10."

Cpl. Nealon does have issues with some of the cameras' locations. He said the camera that is between two palm trees at Nevins Hall is not able to capture as much action at the site and the camera at the basketball court is attached to the Fine Arts building's chiller. This means the pictures from this camera turn out blurry because

the chiller vibrates.

"The cameras at Reed and the one that looks at Lowndes, Patterson and Brown does not show many things at night," Cpl. Nealon said.

But for as many problems the cameras have, they have many benefits. According to Cpl. Nealon, cameras were able to hone in on a traffic accident that occurred this week at the corner of Oak Street and Brookwood Street.

"The cameras also keep an eye on officers that do traffic stops," Cpl. Nealon said.

Lighting is another safety measure that Public Safety checks on. According to Cpl. Nealon, lighting has improved in the last couple of years.

However, the lights on Oak Street are not the jurisdiction of Public Safety or the university. Those lights are controlled by the city of Valdosta.

"They [the lights] can be a problem," Cpl. Nealon said. "We complain, but it's the city

of Valdosta's responsibility."

There are also night patrols, both on foot and in police cars. According to Cpl. Nealon, officers on foot patrol are required to go through the Residence Halls.

"It's a good security measure," he said. "It lets people see us. If we can stop something from happening because we are there, then it makes it worth it."

Cpl. Nealon also said foot patrol is more personal; officers get to talk to students.

Students are divided on whether or not they feel safe on campus.

"I never walk alone, and to me, being able to walk alone is a sign that it's safe on campus," Anna Taylor, freshman LAS major, said.

Dennis Fielding said, "It's pretty safe here. I'm not afraid and I don't hear of many crimes."

Zaccari faces hiring decisions

Michelle Taylor
Staff Writer

VSU president Dr. Ronald M. Zaccari has more on his mind than strategic planning. He also has the job of conducting a search for two vice presidents and three deans.

According to the VSU statutes, article III, the president has the right to either rehire vice presidents and deans from the previous president's term, or conduct a search to find new administrators.

Acting vice president for Academic Affairs, Dr. Louis Levy and acting vice president for Student Affairs and dean of students Russ Mast will have to apply for their positions again. Joining them is Dr. Ron Barnett, acting dean for the College of Arts and Sciences and Dr. Thomas M. Reed, acting dean for the College of Education. Dr. Lanny Milbrandt, appointed dean for the College of Arts, will retire in August.

Dr. Zaccari said he is slowing down the search process to work solely on filling the two vice presidents' seats.

"I'm finding it necessary to extend the search and put on hold the deans for the college of Education, Arts and Sciences, and Arts," he said. "It is appropriate for a new president to be actively involved in the selection of two key members of the president's

"It is equally important that the two new vice presidents also have a hand in selecting the new deans."

Dr. Zaccari wants to consult his colleagues across the US. This includes deans, chancellors and presidents he knows. He will send out letters to other

chancellors and presidents around the country to ask for nominations for the positions.

"What I hope to do is broaden the number of applicants applying for the position," he said.

There are two active committees searching for the two vice presidents' spots. Former VSU president Dr. Hugh C. Bailey selected these committees. For the vice president for Academic Affairs committee, the chair is Dr. John Hiers, acting associate dean for the College of Arts and Sciences, and for vice president for Student Affairs and dean of Students, the chair is Dr. Victor Morgan, director of the Counseling Center.

The other committees for the other positions are on hold at the moment.

Dr. Zaccari does have some expectations for the right vice presidents.

"In both searches, I need to have vice presidents who need to understand strategic planning," he said. "I believe in the power of strategic planning. Another quality is someone who believes in defined action steps. I need vice presidents who make decisions based on good data. They also have to believe in the power of working with people in open governance."

Dr. Zaccari also knows what he does not want in the vice presidents.

"What am I not looking for?" he said. "I don't want someone who has an incessant appetite to sit around and talk about things. I want people who are action oriented."

The vice presidents' positions will be determined by March 1.

Paper Chase: VSU regulations control placement and content of fliers and posters

Laura Justin
Staff Writer

Student organizations have a variety of forums available to them to express themselves through posters, fliers and banners.

According to the VSU handbook, campus displays, including posters, notices or banners, must not litter or damage campus property, interfere with normal operation or be obscene.

"We also ask not to tape to the windows, entrances and walls," Russ Mast, acting vice president for Student Affairs, said.

Any posting on VSU campus may only be conducted by organizations recognized by the university. Virtually all of the buildings on campus are available for student organizations to use in distributing fliers or postings.

"Student organizations, campus departments, colleges on campus, have every right to post, I just hope they would use the bulletin boards instead of any classrooms or hallways," Mast said.

Many campus buildings do require that students get permission before posting fliers to prevent overcrowding of papers.

The Student Activities Office, located on the 2nd floor of the University Union, is a place student organizations may obtain permission to promote an event.

"Student organizations come here

first," Trish Taylor, senior secretary of student activities, said. "They must be in good standing to post fliers. They can't be suspended or inactive."

The fliers will then be approved for display on the 1st floor bulletin boards. Organizations may advertise off-campus events as long as the flier is in good taste and follows school regulations, available on page 35 in the VSU student handbook.

"Sometimes we have organizations that want to advertise a [keg party]," Taylor said. "We can't do something like that."

It's not uncommon to see flyers on the bulletin boards of buildings like West Hall and Nevins Hall advertising everything from used textbooks to roommates needed, but so far there are no policies regarding academic buildings.

"This is something that should be brought before the Facilities Use committee," Mast said.

The steps of Odum Library are also an area where student organizations like to gather and promote events such as career day and study abroad fairs.

"Organizations will come and ask if this is all right out of courtesy, but we don't have any formal policy regarding the outside area of the library," Alan Bernstein, circulation manager for Odum Library, said. "We don't have any problem with [campus organization gathering on the steps and fountain] as long as they don't block the



entrance."

In order to post a flier in a particular dorm, a student must speak to the Residence Hall Director and get permission. To post in all residence halls, a student must get permission from the Office of Residence Life.

According to Renee Snider, associate director of Housing and Residence Life, solicitation is prohibited in residence halls, and no fliers may be placed on or under specific rooms' doors.

"In addition, we would prohibit publicity in which the student organization is acting as an agent for a non-university affiliated enterprise," Joe Mattachione, director of Housing and Residence Life, said. Publicity which is considered obscene or blatantly offensive to the prevailing standards of the VSU community, or publicity which would materially interfere with the regular and orderly operation of the university [is also prohibited]."

Banners seen around campus promoting events such as SGA elections or homecoming queen nominations may be placed on a first come, first serve basis.

"[Banners] shouldn't cause any safety concerns," Mast said. "You don't want to block any streets or anything like that. We ask them not to put it on the walkway over Oak St. in case it fell down on some cars that are driving by."

Organizations are asked to remove the banners once the advertised event is over.

"We usually give [organizations] a couple of weeks to post banners and then we take them down," Mast said.

The VSU Student Handbook also addresses the solicitation of businesses on campus. Business enterprises operated on campus will be considered auxiliary enterprises and fall under direct management of the vice president of Business and Finance.

"Outside companies are not supposed to come and put stuff on campus or on state property," Mast said. "[For example,] we don't allow credit card companies to come on campus to sign up students."



Annie Johnson / The Spectator

Trish Taylor, senior secretary for the office of student affairs, stamps approved fliers with a date.

Off campus organizations are allowed to attend on campus events when sponsored by a VSU organization, but may not sell any items.

"For example, at The Happening, a lot of people come from outside of campus, but they're not allowed to

Fliers

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Next issue

Who's
zoomin' who?

Take another look at your communications board.
Free speech.

Web Watch

Each week, the Spectator features a website that will benefit our readers.

Hey all you sports fans! Are you ready to...well, are you ready to take on *THE WORLD*? Even if you aren't, the US Olympic teams are ready to do battle in your name.

The place to check out the winter Olympics, starting in 8 days in Salt Lake City, Utah, is at www.saltlake2002.com.

The site includes athlete bios, schedules, spectator information,

This week:

www.saltlake2002@om

shopping (of course) and activities--for your kid sister. You can find out what a biathlete is.

Check out the teams, learn about winter sports and vote on who will win--US of course!

Campus Happenings

www.valdosta.edu/spectator

Submissions for **Campus Happenings** can be sent to Blenda Link at bjlink@valdosta.edu or brought to the Spectator offices on the second floor of the University Union on VSU's main campus.



POLICE BEAT

January 10

August C. Love, 20, of 158 Lowndes Hall, was arrested at 12:25 a.m. in the Lowndes Hall lobby for disorderly conduct. A warrant was also filed for his arrest for simple battery.

January 17

A roll of stamps has been reported missing from a VSU employee's office desk at Thaxton Hall. This is the second time a roll of stamps has been taken from the employee's desk.

January 23

One of three males threw a plastic bottle that struck a wall in a VSU employee's office at the Office of Admissions. All three males were contacted, but the victim did not press charges. She could not positively identify which person threw the bottle.

January 25

Jabari LeKeith Leslie, 19, of 135 Patterson Hall, was arrested for misdemeanor possession of marijuana at 5:07 p.m. He was taken to Lowndes County Jail. He is a VSU student.

January 27

LaShuna Marie Crockett, 25, of 811 West Mary St., Apt. F3, was arrested at 9:55 p.m. at Mary Street and Sustella Avenue for driving with a suspended license. She is not a VSU student.

Today

The Financial Aid Office has applications for the Congressional Black Caucus Spouses Education scholarship.

Any full-time undergraduate, graduate or doctoral student with a minimum 2.5 GPA is eligible to apply. Applicants must reside or attend school in a congressional district represented by a CBC member.

For more information, call Wanda DeWeese in the Office of Financial Aid at 333-5935 before the Feb. 8 application deadline.

Kozu Takeuchi, euphonium, performs a guest recital at 7:30 p.m. in Whitehead Auditorium at the Fine Arts Building. Admission is free.

For more information, call the music department at 333-5804.

The National Pan-Hellenic Council will host a "Greek Happening" at 7 p.m. in the Magnolia Room 1 at the University Center.

For more information, call Devin Adams at 241-6860.

Sunday

Male music students interested in joining the music fraternity Phi Mu Alpha should call Colby Newman at 253-4214 as soon as possible.

The annual "Gospelfest" program will be at 6 p.m. in Whitehead Auditorium at the Fine Arts Building.

Soloists, musical groups, church choirs and spiritual

dancers are invited to participate.

For more information, call Dr. Beverley Richardson Blake, assistant director for Equal Opportunity Programs/Multicultural Affairs, at 333-5463 or e-mail her at brblake@valdosta.edu.

Monday

The student chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management will host guest speaker Don Prout, coordinator of the Human Resources program, at Valdosta Technical College.

Prout will speak at 3:30 p.m. in the Pound Hall Auditorium on north campus.

For more information, call Francesca Taylor or Becky Murphy at 259-5105.

Men's spring rush for VSU's fraternities will begin today at 5:30 p.m. at the University Center.

Recruitment counselors will be available at the University Center at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday to take rushees to visit the fraternity house they are interested in.

On Wednesday, rushees can visit any fraternity house they want to from 6 to 10 p.m.

For more information or to sign up, visit the Office of Greek Life in the University Union or call 333-5941 and ask for Jennifer or Emily.

The Honor Student Association meets in West Hall 254 at 6 p.m.

HSA will discuss upcoming conferences, the spring retreat, honors orientation, the Valentine's Day community service project and the monthly social activity.

For more information, call

Michael M. Black at the honors house at 249-4894

The Hepatitis B vaccine is available at the Student Health Center for \$30 a shot. The vaccine comes in a series of three shots.

Bring receipt of payment when coming to receive shots. Shots can be paid for individually or all at once.

For more information, call the Student Health Center at 333-5886.

The Student Health Center will offer free cholesterol, diabetes and blood pressure screenings to VSU students from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. Cost for VSU faculty and staff is \$5. Fees should be paid at the Student Health Center.

Anyone being screened should refrain from eating or drinking anything eight hours before testing.

For more information, call The Student Health Center at 333-5886.

Tuesday

A movie, "Abre tus Ojos," ("Open Your Eyes") starring Penelope Cruz, will be shown in West Hall 255 at 6 p.m.

The department of Modern and Classical Languages and the hispanic honor society, Sigma Delta Pi, are hosting this event.

For more information, e-mail Dr. Luis Bejarano, temporary assistant professor of Spanish, at lgbejara@valdosta.edu.

Sigma Alpha Iota will host a benefit recital with faculty and student performances at 7:30 p.m. in Whitehead Auditorium at the Fine Arts Building.

A donation is required for admission. Acceptable donations include women and children's socks, underwear, sweat suits, household utensils or monetary donations.

All proceeds benefit The Haven, an abuse shelter for women and children.

For more information, call Brooke Sutton at 245-9581.



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All recovered One Cards are turned over to One Card Services. Call Cpl. Dennis Nealon at Public Safety at 333-7816 to identify any of these items.

Looking for the rest of the Campus Happenings listings? They're on our web site at: www.valdosta.edu/spectator.

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Feb 12th Fat Tuesday

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FREE STUFF, Shirts, Masks & Beads all night long with broadcasting live!

Rock 108

First open house draws small crowd

Kate Gaulding
Staff Writer

It was a slow two days. Out of about 8,713 VSU students, only one student, Jennifer Duggar, National Panhellenic Council vice president, attended the President's Open House meeting on Monday. According to VSU president Dr. Zaccari, he and Duggar discussed holding Greek social events at the President's house and strengthening the Greek organizations. The President's office remained open from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Twenty-five faculty members met with Dr. Zaccari on Tuesday to familiarize themselves with the president. The day was reserved for faculty and staff. The visitors included maintenance, photographers and professors. Dr. Jane Whitehead, professor of modern and classical languages, came to meet the president. According to Dr. Whitehead, she heard about the Faculty/Staff Open House meeting through her colleagues and read about it in the Trail Blazer. There wasn't enough advertisement for it, she said. According to Dr. Zaccari, the meetings are set aside for first

acquaintances and students' concerns. "What I ask is the student have a clear understanding of the issue before bringing it to the table," Dr. Zaccari said. This is Zaccari's first Open House meeting. He plans to continue holding Open House meetings once a month. Dr. Zaccari said that, along with these Open House meetings, the SGA could collect recurring student concerns and present them at the Open House. The same goes for the Faculty Senate, he said. The next two Open House meetings are scheduled for Feb. 25-26 and April 8-9.



Vonetta Lawton / The Spectator

Jennifer Duggar, junior secondary English education major, shakes hands after meeting VSU President Ronald M. Zaccari. She was the only student who attended the student Open Day.

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Campus Courts:

Two students receive sanctions for misconduct

Blenda Link
Staff Writer

Two VSU students were found responsible for disorderly conduct violations under VSU's Student Code of Ethics at a double hearing Monday evening. Students August C. Love and Brianna Scott went before eight SGA judicial board justices regarding their confrontation in Lowndes Hall on Jan. 10. Four administrative witnesses and two character witnesses testified. Love, Scott's ex-boyfriend, was accused of breaching the peace, pushing Scott against a wooden wall in the Lowndes Hall TV room and disorderly conduct for interfering with the normal operation of the university. All violations are considered disorderly conduct under App. A, Sect. II, paragraph E, 1-3. Love answered "responsible" to pushing Scott. He answered "not responsible" to breaching the peace and interfering with the normal operation of the university. Scott was accused of breaching the peace and interfering with the normal operation of the university. Both are considered disorderly conduct under App. A, Sect. II, paragraph E, 1-2. Scott answered "not responsible" to both violations. According to testimony by the witnesses and both of the accused, the altercation began when Love was walking by and Scott said, "Why don't you come to my room and f--- me?" According to case paperwork, Scott said she was joking. Later in her testimony, she admitted that she had one or two drinks at a party earlier. Witnesses and both of the accused testified that Love and Scott exchanged obscenities. Witness Keith Grant, a Lowndes Hall resident, said Scott swung at Love and was in his personal space and that Love pushed Scott. Love and Grant testified that Love pushed Scott a short distance, approximately three feet. Love said he pushed Scott out of self-defense and could have pushed her harder, but did not. Witnesses and Love testified that Scott had previously made an offensive comment about his deceased mother in August. Leighia Lynn, Lowndes Hall residential hall director, testified that she called Public Safety to file an incident report. One VSU incident report indicates that at 12:25 a.m. Love, 20, of 158 Lowndes Hall, was arrested on the scene for disorderly conduct at the Lowndes Hall lobby and taken to Lowndes County Jail. Scott pressed charges the next day for simple battery. A second VSU incident report indicates that a warrant was filed for an additional charge of simple battery. In her closing statement, Scott said she did say some offensive words to Love but that he should not have physically approached her. "He can't put his hands on me...say whatever...but he can't put his hands on me," she said. In his closing statement, Love said he was very upset that night by Scott's comments. "I'm not a model person by nature...but to be in love with somebody and have them say something so hurtful [about his mother]..." he said. Dr. Victor Morgan, director of the counseling center, testified on Love's behalf as a character witness. He said he asked Love if he could testify and had his permission to share confidential information at the hearing.

Hearing _____
see page 4

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News



In the

Georgia metal company upsets families of World Trade Center attack victims with plan for profit:

International Agile Manufacturing in Statesboro, Ga., has sparked anger and outrage by World Trade Center attack victims' families. The Georgia metals company bought 500 tons of steel from the World Trade Center with the intent to create "commemorative medallions" priced at \$29.95 apiece. Victims' families are angered because they feel the company is heartless to make a profit off the tragedy. The company pledged 10 percent of profits to the Fund for the City of New York, but a spokeswoman from the Fund said it "never approved" the use of its name or agreed to take any money.

Florida Gov. Bush's daughter arrested for forged prescription:

Early Tuesday morning, Florida Gov. Jeb Bush's daughter, Noelle Bush, 24, was arrested for prescription fraud. Noelle Bush is accused of an attempt to use a forged prescription for Xanax, and anti-anxiety medicine. The attempt at prescription forgery took place at a 24-hour Walgreen's drug store in Tallahassee, Fla.

General Accounting Office to sue White House for access to documents:

Wednesday, the General Accounting Office announced it will sue the White House for access to President Bush's energy task force documents. GAO Comptroller General, David Walker, made the decision to force Vice President Cheney to release meeting documents from meetings with business executives last year.

President Bush takes State of the Union sales trip to southern states:

President Bush left Washington Wednesday to set out on a two-day tour to North Carolina, Florida and Georgia. The State of the Union sales trip will have the president restating his warnings about a prolonged war. He will also focus on the importance of volunteering initiatives including a new Citizen Corps to increase homeland security and doubling the Peace Corps.

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Laura Justin / The Spectator

Jon Kepner, senior business management major, posts a flier for Students in Free Enterprise. Fliers not approved by Student Activities will be removed.

Fliers

continued from page 1

campus, but they're not allowed to sell, they can just show you what they have or give away [products]," Mast said. A good [example] is Papa John's comes on campus and gives [pizza] away."

Non-university organizations and businesses can reach VSU via campus mail.

In order for a business to provide fliers to be distributed in mailboxes, they must pay a flat fee of \$22. If the flier is oversized, they will be charged additional amounts. There are also stipulations on what may be advertised.

"We don't allow alcoholic beverages to be advertised," Lisa Keaton, assistant manager of campus mail, said. "There are just too many underage students."

VSU organizations may have fliers distributed through campus mail at no cost as long as the flier is pertaining directly to a VSU function.

If a student organization fails to follow regulations for posting fliers or banners on campus they may be brought up to a review board of student affairs.

"If an organization doesn't follow regulations they could lose their right to be an organization on campus," Mast said.

Hearing

continued from page 3

Dr. Morgan said he became acquainted with Love when he began voluntary counseling sessions regarding the death of his grandmother, his ill mother, poor grades and his relationship with Scott.

"I've known him [Love] for two years and I've never known him to be violent," Dr. Morgan said. "He is a very sensitive and caring young man."

Dr. Morgan testified that, in his professional opinion, he thought the real problem rested with Scott, not Love. He said Scott did not attend any of the sessions Love and Dr. Morgan invited her to.

Love's father, Lawrence Love, also testified on behalf of his son as a character witness.

"When I first met Brianna [Scott], I said, 'Son, you better shop around,'" Lawrence Love said.

The judicial board found both

Love and Scott responsible for all charges brought against them individually.

Chief justice Zachary Hatcher delivered Love's and Scott's sanctions.

Love must send a written apology addressed to Scott and deliver it to Richard Lee, assistant to the dean for Judicial Affairs, by midterm. He was also urged to continue counseling with Dr. Morgan at the counseling center. Counseling for Love is not mandatory.

Scott must send a written apology to Love about the confrontation and deliver it to Lee by midterm. She must do the same for Lynn and the Lowndes Hall staff. She must also attend mandatory counseling for anger management with a counselor other than Dr. Morgan. She must attend at least two sessions or more if the counselor recommends it.

Attendance low at SGA meeting

Mary Ellen McConnel
Staff Writer

Tuesday's SGA meeting was unofficial. SGA did not meet quorum for the second time this semester. This has been a recurring problem for the SGA. SGA vice president Cody Guined plans to begin sending out impeachment letters if attendance does not improve.

Attendance is a factor for deciding which senators will be selected to attend the upcoming Student Advisory Council meeting. SGA president Nick Overstreet feels those senators who have been most involved in the SGA will be allowed to go.

"I suggest you write a bill," Overstreet said when asked what would qualify a senator to attend the SAC meeting.

Overstreet announced at the meeting that bill 602 on book buyback was passed at the Student Life Committee meeting. This bill will affect the time students sell back books.

The bill will change the buyback dates from November to a date closer to exams.

Tommie Miller, director of the VSU Bookstore, said the bill was not a long-term fix.

"From my perspective, this is a bit of short sighted thinking on the part of the SGA," she said.

According to Miller, last semester the bookstore served 496 students and paid out \$15,000 during the buyback period.

Bill 702 to use Farber Health Center without a One Card ID did not pass at Student Life.

"I am able to make changes without bringing the bill back to the senate," Overstreet said.

Overstreet intends to change parts of the bill. When the bill has been rewritten it will request IDs not be necessary at Farber after One Card office hours and during an emergency.

Overstreet believes these changes will get the bill passed in student life.

Overstreet made an announcement in response to the Spectator article last week.

He made SGA aware records missing were from past terms. Overstreet also announced this year SGA will archive all records. This will be the first time SGA has archived records since the 1950s.

Bayou Bills North

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Smile, you're on public saftey

Campus safety is improving. With 10 new cameras on campus the total has reached 20, and many lights have been replaced around campus, allowing the cameras to record more detailed images and students to not only see where they are going, but who else is there. For the most part, Public Safety's doing its job.

Does that mean we're safe?

The improved equipment is wonderful, but crime still happens. Beyond simple human error, two cameras on campus are poorly positioned, causing one to be blocked by a building and the other by a tree. These cameras have been this way for more than a year, and no attempt has been made to rectify the situation.

Add the cable connected TV that sits atop the security camera monitors.

Add to that plain old human error, and you have reason to be cautious.

Public Safety can't prevent all crime by putting a few cameras and some new lights around campus. Those things help, but it's up to you to take your own safety to heart.

Have a friend accompany you when walking around campus at night, carry mace, learn to yell "NO" real loudly. Or do all three.

There are many ways to protect yourself. Just being aware of your surroundings and carrying yourself with confidence will make you safer at night.

Public Safety offers a Rape Aggression Defense course, advertised on its website—www.valdosta.edu/vsupd.

There is much that VSU does to keep this campus safe. But there is room for improvement—there always is.

The rest is up to you: be aware, not afraid, of crimes that can happen on campus.

Be careful out there.

Spectator opinion written by Mary Dabbs

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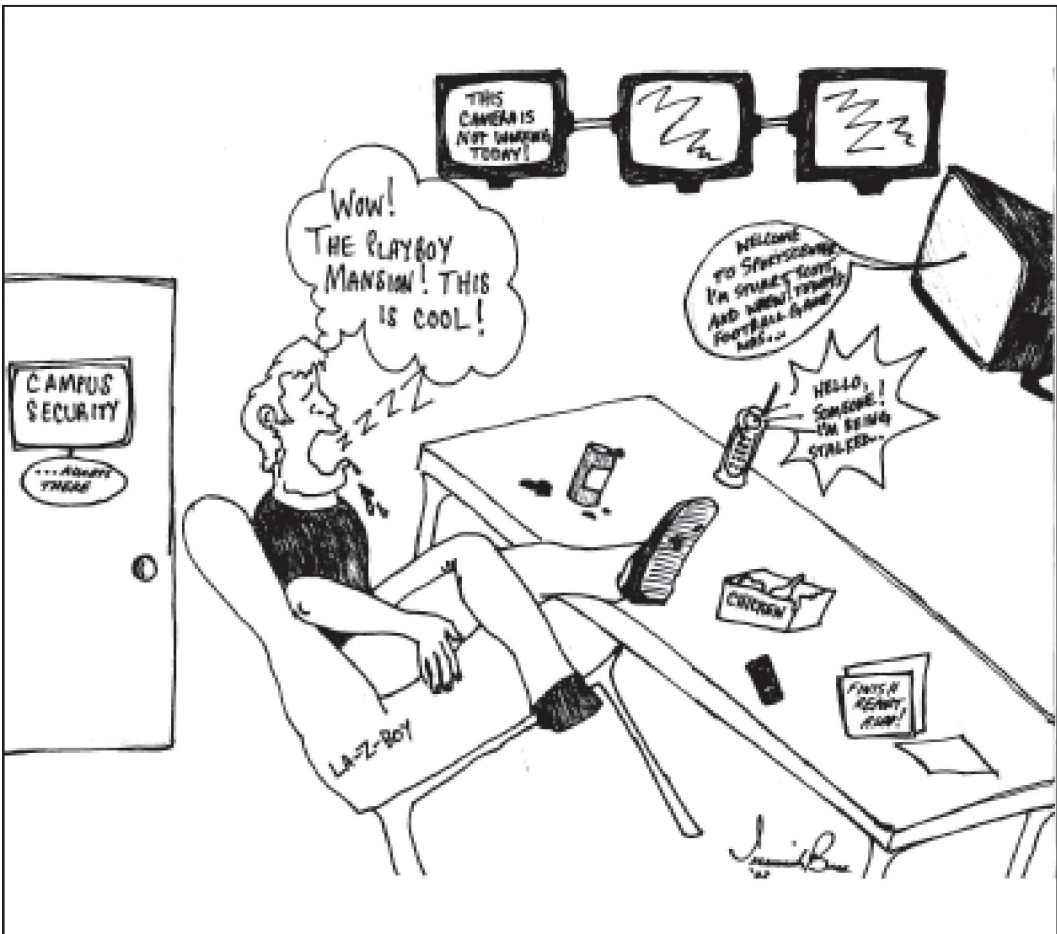
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Letters must include name, year in school, major, job title or other appropriate identification and phone number for verification.

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.



Chivalry is dead

"Snips and snails and puppy dog tails. That's what little boys are made of."

"Sugar and spice and everything nice. That's what little girls are made of."

Not quite.

Today's society consists of different kinds of boys and girls, and a different kind of relationship between the two.

Where are the days when women were respected and seen as virtuous, and the men as shy gentlemen who knew what lines not to cross? Although there's a slight chance that a handful of both sexes ARE actually innocent they are few and far between.

Or are they?

What's on the inside may be basically the same, but if you've had any exposure to the media lately, it would become painfully obvious that people these days, particularly women, seem to be doing all they can to seem everything but.

Sugar and spice? More like



Amy Williamson

pepper and Tabasco. You're likely to find a female wearing leather and midriffs with mouths like sailors than you are to find a sweet, angel wearing something that covers her up. Finding a woman who values her IQ over her weight is tough.

And the men. Snips and snails and puppy dog tails? I'm sure most women would agree that the "dog" part is mostly right. But personally, I think that like the 20th century, true gentlemen have gone out with a bang.

What caused this corruption? Can we blame it on commercials or the media? Is it our

parents' fault? Or should we blame stores who don't sell anything that hangs instead of hugs?

We're paying for the results this change in image has caused: little girls dressing like hoochies, more pregnancies-and more STD's, more abortions, more welfare, music that both demoralizes women and inspires crime.....the list goes on.

We've made advances. Different cultures and races are more accepted now, not to mention the technological advances that have been made in the past 40 years. But is the price we're paying worth it?

There was a time when people did not fear what problems the future would bring. This century has already gotten off to a great start, hasn't it?

Let's hope things turn around, because fear is becoming contagious, and with good reason.

Mailbox

This is financial aid?

Dear Editor:

From the outside, everything at Financial Aid looks so innocent, doesn't it? Well, it's not.

When no other students are in there I have to wait half an hour to talk to someone. If I call with a question, it's either busy or I hold for the same half hour.

Many of us students could surely starve to death or run out of gas trying to get to class if Financial Aid doesn't know what they are doing. I hear things like, "Umm, I'm not too sure." Well... FIND OUT! They are supposed to know financial aid stuff.

There are hundreds of stu-

dents looking for a job who would gladly come in and work hard to help students out. To VSU's authority, I say it's time for you to look past the surface of the services you provide.

Student logs parking problems

Dear Editor:

I am writing in regards to Beth Owen's editorial on the parking situation. I feel there are a few additional things that need to be addressed.

The administration is charging us \$50 a year to park on campus and it's not maintaining its lots. The Georgia Lot needs work. There are potholes as

you drive in and the bushes are growing over good spots.

Students need to learn how to park better in unmarked spaces. Simply put, parking's tight so tighten up your parking.

With increasing enrollment its time to limit those who may purchase parking passes to Juniors/Seniors only with exceptions for Freshman & Sophomores who live off campus.

A good idea might be to swap the faculty lot with the student lot on Georgia Ave. You create spots for students and break-even with faculty spots.

Tara Garrett-Houser

Editor's note:
Both letters were edited for space. Full versions can be found at www.Valdosta.edu/spectator



Got something to say?

Open mic on this page every week at the Spectator.



Tara Sherman

Join culture club VSU

Where's Valdosta on the map?

Anybody can point to the dot on the very bottom of Georgia. But what are Valdosta's special traits?

You see Atlanta. Being the capitol and a large city, it's a mosaic of cultures. Next door lies Athens. If it had a postcard, it would show college kids in their 'Go Dawgs' apparel, with beer funnels and shots of Jose Cuervo. Go east and hit up Savannah. There's sidewalk chalk festivals, museums and River St., Georgia's own New Orleans. Macon has its own culture, from an Allman Brother's gravesite to Cherry St., a music Hall of Fame and (no kidding!) the state's longest mall. Go to Albany and you can see the city that once had the highest percentage of teenage pregnancy in the country! For a final stop before Florida go to Valdosta! Here there's...

Well, you could check out Wild Adventures in Lake Park. Or, come check out VSU if you are thinking about college. There's plenty of churches if you're thinking about religion. A tennis court, a few palm trees...

Valdosta has potential for culture. VSU has interesting things to look at but they won't keep you busy for more than two hours. Maybe one day the Blazers can have their own stadium, now that people pay attention to them. The town's going to expand. Let's embrace it with style.

Downtown Valdosta should be showcased more. Throw a festival each year with local/popular bands. Valdosta can also use a skate park or a planetarium open to the public sans VSU ID. We need to attract outsiders to see the beauty of this town, so next time they're on their way to the beach they won't dump their McDonald's trash on the streets.

Maybe representatives will open up new circuits for taxpayers without increasing the amount by too much????? Instead of having over five police forces in one little South Georgia town, some of those taxes can go to cultural funds. Being metropolitan should mean more than getting another Old Navy. Valdosta needs to take some pride in itself.

By giving Valdosta some color, the dot on the map shows visitors you don't have to be in Athens or Macon to have a good time. Just be sure to bring your own water.



"I feel pretty safe. I watch my surroundings like anywhere else. I'm used to walking around at night by myself."

Tiffany Johnson
Freshman
Theatre



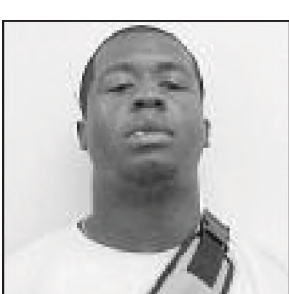
"I feel safe for the most part, but I do think we need more lights in the Georgia parking lot."

Adrienne Brown
Freshman
Nursing



"I feel safe because I walk with friends and it's usually well lit, but I hate the walk from the parking lot."

Taylor Biddle
Freshman
Business
Management



"I feel safe on campus because no body comes out at night. Everybody acts like they have to go inside when it gets dark."

Jason Walton
Sophomore
Computer Science



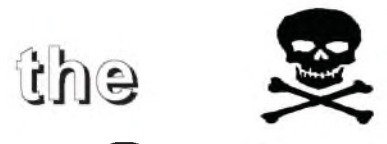
"I feel pretty safe because I know that I can protect myself to the best of my ability."

Lauren Aparicio
Freshman
Mass Media



"Very safe because I'm a man and women are more vulnerable."

Walt Moore
Senior
Finance/Economics



This page embraces satirical opinion pieces generally not suited for more serious news pages. The views expressed in the Darkside are not necessarily those of The Spectator, its staff and in many cases, even the contributors themselves.

If you have ideas or comments about the Darkside page, contact Darkside editor, **Jeremiah Bass** at jwbass@valdosta.edu

DarkSide

A humane kind of thing

Jeremiah W. Bass
Staff Writer

Can someone define human rights? I believe that a good, textbook definition of those two words would be: the liberty of life given to a human being, to have the right to live, to be human. What do you think about that?

You all know what happened on Sept. 11, 2001, right? Many people lost *their* human rights that day; some of us feel like *our* human rights have been taken from *us* as well.

Since that time, the Bush administration, led by such names as Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Secretary of State Colin Powell, have continued the manhunt for Osama bin Laden as well as taking down associated terrorist organizations, mainly the Taliban and al Qaeda fighters.

The Bush administration has been successful in bringing down some of the Taliban

forces, as well as al Qaeda. These terrorists are being detained at the U.S. naval base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where some human rights groups are stating that these terrorists are being improperly treated and should be classified as "prisoners of war" instead of "unlawful combatants."

The status of "unlawful combatants" exempts them from certain requirements under the 1949 Geneva Conventions.

Uh, yeah right. Like I'm really caring about what these guys are being classified as. Whatever!

I have just one thing [well, actually many things] to say to you human rights activists: climb off your frickin' trip and get in the game!

You have got to be kidding me. Who gives a rat's ass if these terrorists are called unlawful combatants?

Let's try telling that to people who lost loved ones to those terrorist attacks. Yeah, I'm sure that's their top priori-

ty. We have bigger fish to fry, like the Tyson incident. Maybe we should just send Tyson over to Cuba and have him chill out with the terrorists.

He could just bite them all on their ears and torture them to death as he tries to pronounce the word, "Ludicrous" properly. Well, come to think of it, that wouldn't be torture, that would just be funny.

As for how they're being treated...they are getting better medical care than some of our U.S. veterans...go figure.

They're getting plenty of food to eat, water and shelter. And how many people in the do we have in the USA and other countries with *none* of those necessities?

Even Tyson is going through a food shortage, which would explain why some reporters say he bit Lennox Lewis on the leg last week.

When asked about that situation, Tyson said, "Yeah, I was going for the thigh, which con-

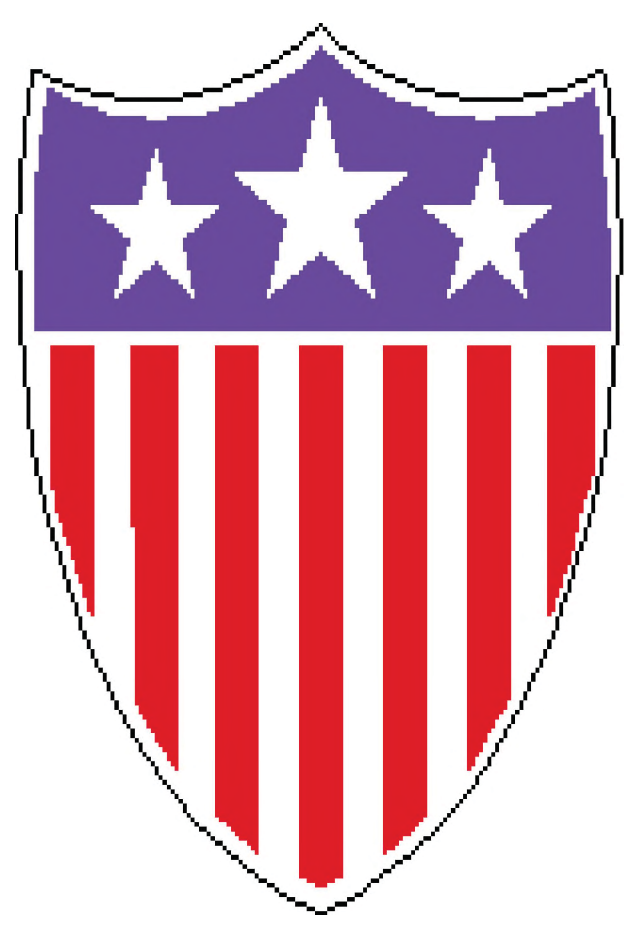
tains more of the white meat. But the side of his calf muscle had some nice, rotisserie-style dark meat. It was ludic...ludicrous...ludicrous...damn, I hate that word."

I don't know what exactly some of these human rights activists are barking about.

Only 158 terrorists are being detained, whereas thousands of people of different nationalities were not detained on '9-11-01,' but killed. How about that?

Let's keep our eye on the big picture here.

But right now, I consider choosing whether to go for the new calzone pizza at Pizza Hut or the cinnasitx at Domino's a bigger issue than what the detainees are going through. Actually, I've had the cinnastix before, and they were okay, but I think I'll try those new calzones. But they're so expensive, you know? I mean...whoa, sorry about that. That's a different story for a different time. Rock on.



All about

Tameika Carson
Staff Writer

According to the first amendment, everyone has the right to believe in any religion desired.

Along with this so-called freedom should be the right to ignore and blow off the salesman of religious organizations. Hallelujah!

Trying to lure someone into a particular faith is simply imposing on the few choices a person may actually have (unlike re-deciding the choices of Adam and Eve).

Pushing someone into a conversation about how many gods really exist when you already know the answer is just as bad as a snakelike car salesman telling you how good the ruby red car is (don't you love how history repeats itself?).

Soon, the main concern is not the condition of your gullible mortal soul but how many souls can actually be captured.

They remind me of vultures, and you are the prey. They simply don't understand that

approach is everything. Never begin a conversation down-playing one's perception of scriptures. It's a sure way to have unwanted words slung and bibles thrown.

Finding yourself running to



class or speeding through the halls to avoid the question, "Are you saved?" is simply ridiculous.

The question *should* be whether the targeted subjects are able to throw stones at others who throw scriptures.

What would happen if the victim actually spoke his/her mind about where they would like you to go with all of the striking questions and opinions of your faith?

I can definitely say that it wouldn't be where Elvis is king, riding white horses, but maybe where the heat is too hot to stay in the kitchen (see what I'm getting at?).

My advice is to be good and present yourself in a way that will ensure the disappearance of the trail of vari-

ous annoying religious campaigners stuck to the bottom of your feet (you can try wiping them off with toilet paper if you want).


When you see the religious activist approaching you, try to find another route to where you are going or pretend to be in a rush so you can avoid the holy conversation.

Hiding behind bushes always seems to work for me (what is a few grass stains anyway?).

If this doesn't work, hold your speaking tongue to become suddenly deaf or mute. This might give them the creeps and make em' disappear.

If all fails, whisper a prayer of your own. My favorite has always been, "I cross my heart, hope to die and try not to stick needles in THEIR eyes."


Can I get an Amen!



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Feature

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Drinking one to three alcoholic beverages a day may be related to a decrease in dementia among senior citizens. To find out more about this, check out the

Drug fad has high price

Beth Owen
Staff Writer

There is a new monster out there. Its name is OxyContin.

Long gone it seems are the headlines of hazing and rowdy fraternity parties. An element of innocence can be tied with those college days when parents feared their child may be skipping class or smoking "pot." The effects of OxyContin, a product of the schedule II narcotic oxycodone, can be much more severe and permanent.

According to reports from the Drug Enforcement Administration, oxycodone products are increasingly abused pharmaceuticals, particularly in young people. The effects of OxyContin can be compared to that of heroin, making it an attractive substitute.

According to respondents to the DEA, National Drug Intelligence Center and National Drug Threat Survey 2000, the illegal use of OxyContin appears to be most concentrated in the East.

John Anderson, pharmacist at Farber Health Center, has an idea why this new fad is intensifying.

"They can get the best high off it because it's pure morphine," Anderson said. "Other

narcotics such as Loratabs have chemical radicals attached to them that prevent them from entering the bloodstream all at once."

Fiona Farrell, sophomore theater major, has not heard of OxyContin, but she has heard of young people taking narcotics recreationally.

"I don't think taking pain pills for fun is really necessary," she said. "People just do it to get a boost."

Edward Braun, senior English major, first heard about OxyContin from his father, a general surgeon.

"I have gotten to see a lot of influx and out flux of new medicines, like Phen Fen, for example," Braun said. "This is another new breed."

Farrell and Braun have both noticed a rising trend in recreational prescription drug use among people they know.

"I think people can get OxyContin for about twenty bucks a pill now on the street," Braun said.

OxyContin was approved by the FDA in 1995. The drug is a time-released opium derivative, which has the same active ingredient as Percocet and Percodan. OxyContin is intended for use by terminal cancer patients and people who suffer from chronic pain. The drug works on the body by depress-



Annie Johnson / The Spectator

Oxycodone is the source of OxyContin, a time-released opium derivative intended to treat chronic pain. It is the source of a new fad in drug abuse that is resulting in death.

ing the central nervous system.

"These kids have figured out how to take the time-release off the tablets so it enters the bloodstream immediately," Anderson said.

In an extensive overview of autopsy data, OxyContin has been related to 282 deaths in 19 months nationwide as of October, 2001.

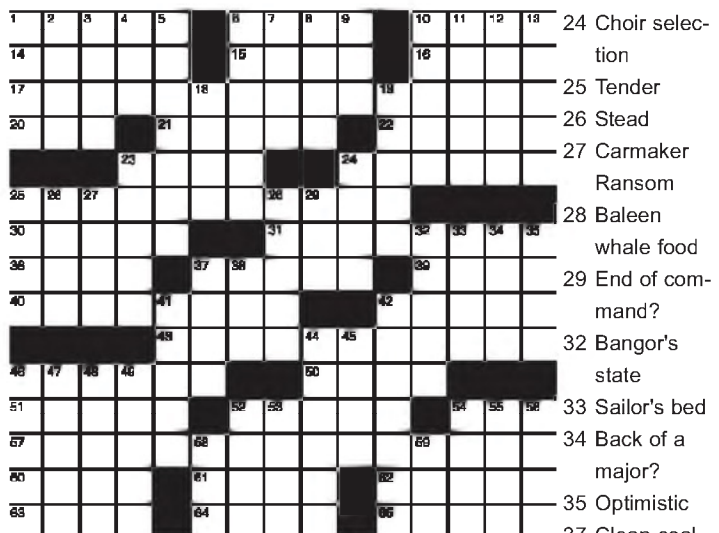
On July 25, 2001, the FDA strengthened the warnings and precautions concerning OxyContin following an investigation into reports of serious side effects. The FDA also strengthened the warnings on

the labeling of OxyContin.

The label change included a "black box warning," the strongest type of warning for an FDA approved drug.

"People need to think long term before they do it [take OxyContin]," Anderson said. "These kids need to think beyond right now."

Beth Owen is a Spectator reporter and can be reached at bethluv45@hotmail.com



Edited by
Wayne Robert
Williams

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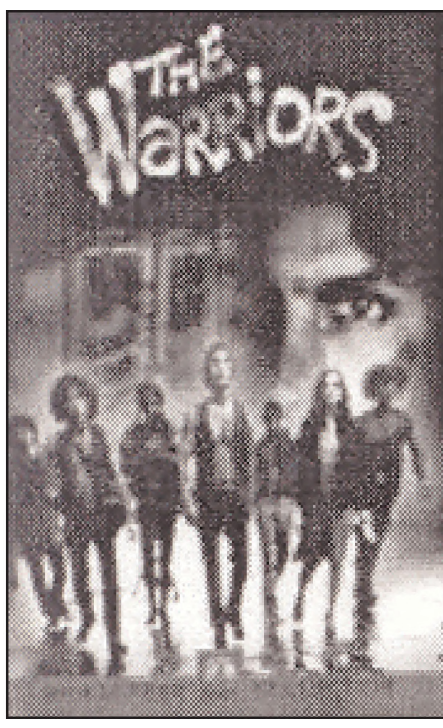
Rappers turn to old film for new ideas

Jason James
Staff Writer

Here's a surprising look at where rappers get all the inside references in their songs.

One movie that has been well looted for gang references is "The Warriors." This 1979 Paramount cult classic was directed by Walter Hill and stars Michael Beck, James Remar, Dorsey Wright, Brian Tyler and David Harris.

The movie is a 90-minute version of Michael Jackson's "Bad" video with a larger cast of gang members. "The Warriors" is part drama, action and fantasy. The film is filled with humorously dated, stylish



Special to The Spectator

costumes (the Warriors are clad in red jeans, brown leather vests, and no shirts), gritty

locales and many classic one-liners.

The plot is based sometime in the near future and begins with a whole host of the New York City gangs coming together to put their turf wars aside and band together to create a gang that far outnumber the NYC police and take over the city.

At their first meeting, the spokesperson for the gang is shot and the Warriors are fingered for the murder as the chaos of thousands of gang members ensues. Now the gang of Warriors must make it back

to their home turf of Coney Island while being chased by every other gang in New York.

The rap and hip-hop culture has picked up on this movie and drawn inspiration from its dark backdrop and gritty street style. References are found on many diverse hip hop and rap albums such as Chicago native Common's album Resurrection, Ol' Dirty Bastard and Coolio's collaboration on the rework of The Blackbyrds classic "Rock Creek Park". In one of Snoop Dogg's videos he recreates a scene from the film in which Snoop is clanging bottles together and challenging, "Warriors, come out and play."

In 1999 a movie entitled "The Twamps," which is 1990's remake of the Warriors, was released and starred Bay Area rappers B-Legit and Saafir. Saafir played the role of the lead gang member originally played by Michael Beck.

"The Warriors" is available for rental on VHS at Hollywood Video off Gornto Road.

Jason James is a Spectator reporter and can be reached at acdcbag113@hotmail.com

Counseling Center to talk about love, stress

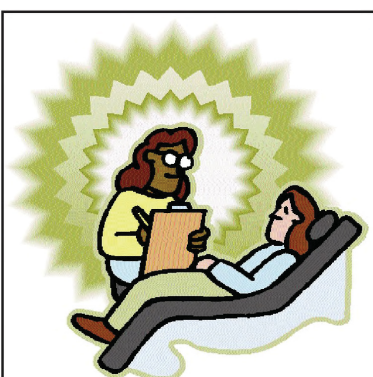
Neil Skerratt
Staff Writer

If students, faculty or staff need help, it may be literally right around the corner. The VSU counseling center offers a wide range of assistance to those needing help.

"Anyone who's a student, faculty or staff member can come to the center where everything is free and confidential," Dr. Victor Morgan, director of VSU's counseling center said.

The counseling center offers one-on-one counseling to anyone affiliated with VSU. The same counselor may counsel a person every time he or she goes, or if the person seeking help wishes he or she can see any staff member. There is no limit on visits to the center. The counseling center does not dispense medication, but if a counselor and client feel medication would be beneficial, the client can be referred to a physician in town.

The center will be providing two seminars soon. "Managing Stress," Feb. 7 at 4 p.m. in the University Union's Camilla



Room, is designed to teach relaxation techniques and better day-to-day stress management.

"Unsolved Mysteries (of the Heart)," Feb. 13 at 6:30 p.m. in Patterson Hall, will focus on the unsolved mysteries and insecurities of creating intimacy. This is a forum where participants are free to ask questions and state opinions.

These are the last two seminars of the seven scheduled for the first half of this semester. Following midterm, a new set of programs will be slated.

The center also offers educational counseling, teaching students how to improve their academic performance. This may include more efficient study skills, how to get over test anx-

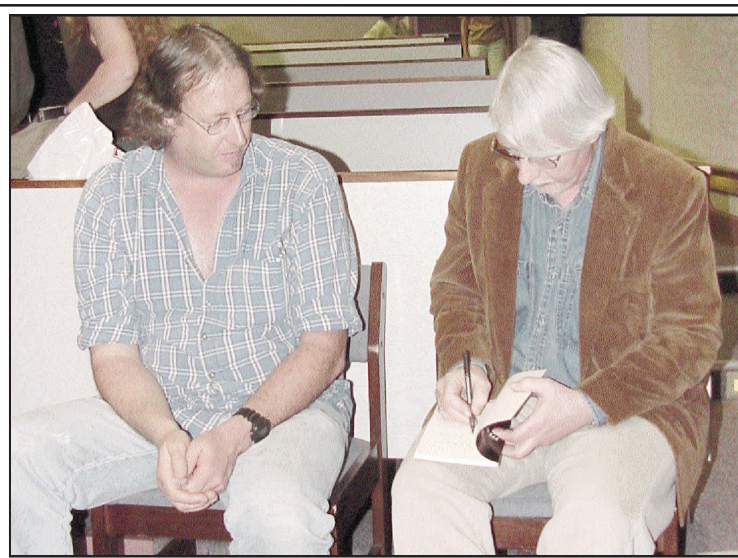
iety, effective time management and speech anxiety.

The Counseling Center also offers help in the form of outreach activities, and can design seminars to fit the needs of individual campus groups. Programs include Suicide Prevention, Leadership Skills and Providing Superior Customer Service.

"A lot of freshmen may not have been exposed to the Counseling Center yet, and believe it or not a lot of graduating seniors say, 'you know I wish I had known about this place I would have come here a long time ago,'" Morgan said.

To get an appointment at the counseling center members of the VSU community can call at 333-5940 or drop by the center on the second floor of Powell Hall East. The center is open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. It is open from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Fridays. The center also has a website www.valdosta.edu/counseling.

According to Dr. Morgan, a student can see a counselor within a day or two.



Leah F. Cassorla / The Spectator

R. T. Smith, right, signs books for students after his reading Wednesday night in Pound Hall. Smith read a short story and some poems from his new book of poems, "Messenger."



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2002 Season Opener 3 PM
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2002 VSU Home Schedule

February	1, Fri	Florida Southern	3 PM
	2, Sat	Florida Southern	1 PM
	3, Sun	Florida Southern	2 PM
	7, Thur	Edward Waters (DH)	3 PM
	9, Sat	Embry-Riddle (DH)	1 PM
	10, Sun	Thomas College	2 PM
	12, Tue	Brewton-Parker	4 PM
	20, Wed	Columbus State	4 PM
	23, Sat	Tampa	2:30 PM
	24, Sun	Tampa	2 PM
March	<i>Nijem Jewelers Classic</i>		
	1, Fri	Dowling	6 PM
	2, Sat	St. Leo	Noon
	3, Sun	GA College	3 PM
	8, Fri	Florida Tech	6 PM
April	9, Sat	Florida Tech	2 PM
	10, Sun	Florida Tech	2 PM
	13, Wed	GA College	5 PM
	23, Sat	West Florida (DH)	1 PM
	24, Sun	West Florida	2 PM
	6, Sat	Ala-Huntsville (DH)	1 PM
	7, Sun	Ala-Huntsville	2 PM
	11, Thu	Albany State (DH)	4 PM
	16, Tue	Armstrong Atlantic	5 PM
	24, Wed	North Florida	7 PM
27, Sat	North Alabama (DH)	1 PM	
28, Sun	North Alabama	2 PM	

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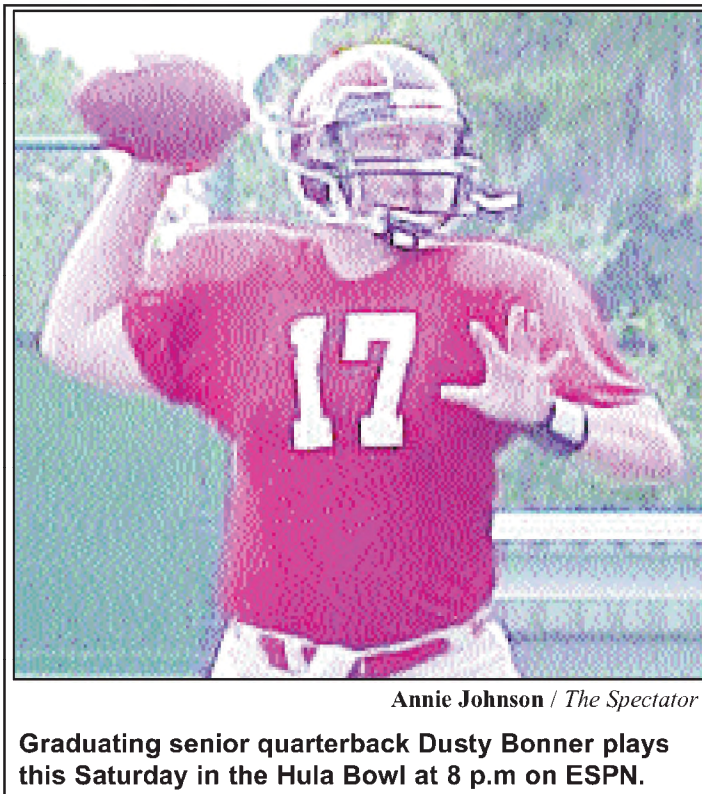
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Annie Johnson / The Spectator

Graduating senior quarterback Dusty Bonner plays this Saturday in the Hula Bowl at 8 p.m on ESPN.

Bonner says ‘Aloha’

Matt Stewart
Staff Writer

It's time for VSU quarterback Dusty Bonner's first job interview. But Bonner won't be wearing a suit and tie or writing a resume. He'll be dodging linebackers and reading defenses in a live audition for NFL scouts. Bonner will don the VSU helmet one last time this Saturday in the Hula Bowl Maui All-Star Football Classic at 8 p.m. (EST). The game will be held in Maui, Hawaii, and televised on ESPN.

2001 Heisman Trophy Winner Eric Crouch (Nebraska), Walter Payton Award Winner Brian Westbrook (Villanova) and Bonner, two-time recipient of the Harlon Hill Trophy, will be showcased. Bonner is one of four quarterbacks listed on the South roster, joined by Major Applewhite (Texas), Nick Rolovich (Hawaii) and Yosuke Ozaki (Kwansei Gakuin University). The players arrived in Maui Monday morning and will practice the remainder of the week, while NFL scouts look on. Lenny Klompus, CEO of the

Hula Bowl, said Bonner is likely to start, and that Bonner's chances of playing on Sundays are good. "Don't be surprised if the Redskins take him [in the NFL draft]," Klompus said. Former University of Florida head coach Steve Spurrier will serve as an assistant coach of the South squad. Spurrier was named head coach of the Redskins two weeks ago. Bob Stoops, head coach at Oklahoma University, will lead the South team. A heavy downpour of rain on Monday and Tuesday in Maui forced both teams inside, canceling two critical days for Bonner to showcase his talents. VSU head coach Chris Hatcher knows how difficult it is to play in front of NFL scouts. Hatcher played in the Snow Bowl in Fargo, N.D., following his senior season in 1994. "It's tough to learn a new system in three or four days," Hatcher said. "You have to take snaps from a new center and throw to different receivers." According to the third-year Blazer coach, a representative from each NFL team will be in Maui this Saturday to scout.

VSU softball ‘expects to win’

T.A. Glanton
Staff Writer

Last season the Lady Blazers softball team motto was, "Expect the Unexpected." There is no catchy slogan this season, but the Lady Blazers expect to improve on last year's second place finish in the Gulf South Conference. VSU's season opener is Feb. 9 at 3 p.m. here at home where they will face conference juggernaut West Florida. However, before that the team has two scrimmage games (Saturday at Gulf Coast Community College, 3 p.m., Sunday at Lake City C.C., 2 p.m.) and the annual Alumni Game (Feb.8) where they will be looking to redeem

themselves from losses the past two years. The Lady Blazers look to continue their improvement under the guidance of second year head coach Kendra McDaniel, who led the Lady Blazers to a 14-win improvement from the previous season in just one season at the helm. According to McDaniel, the biggest difference between this season's team and last season's 28-23, 17-12 team is experience. "The same fire and drive that we had last year is here," McDaniel said. "Last year we had five freshmen in the starting lineup. So now that they're sophomores and have a lot more playing experience I think they will be a little more confident and do the job a little better than they did last year."

After a second place finish in the conference tournament last season, a better job this season can only mean one thing — a GSC championship. "We only lost one person from last year's team," McDaniel said. "The experience of playing together last year and the

experience of being in those games are going to improve our overall record. "Our expectations as a team are to repeat and go back to the conference tournament, if not win it. My expectations as a coach are just for the girls to go out and give their all every game." This season's team is led by six seniors; Lindsay Ellingsworth, Tammi Momborg, Tara Wellborn, Lindsey Law, Rachael Milligan and Tamika Hill, whom the coaching staff and fellow players will look to for leadership and production. "Our seniors work well with the underclassmen, better than they work with each other," McDaniel said. Among the 19 players that make up the Lady Blazer softball squad, there is only one freshman, pitcher Ryndell Langford.



Vonetta Lawton/ The Spectator

Outfielder Rachel Milligan makes a diving catch in front of Ashley Thierer.

2002 Softball Schedule	
Feb 2 at Gulf Coast C.C., 3 pm	
Feb 3 at Lake City C.C., 2 pm	
Feb 8 Alumni Game, 7 pm	
Feb 9 vs West Florida, 3 pm*	
Feb 15-16 at Delta St. Tour.	
Feb 22 vs. Alabama-Hunts., Noon*	
Feb 23-24 GSC-SSC Tournament	
Feb 27 vs. Columbus State, 5 pm	
Feb 28 at Ga. SW St., 2 pm	
Mar 5 at West Georgia, 3 pm*	
Mar 6 at St. Leo, 6 pm	
Mar 9 at West Alabama, 2 pm*	
Mar 10 at West Alabama, 1 pm*	
Mar 13 at North Florida, 5 pm	
Mar 16 vs. Lincoln Memorial, 2 pm*	
Mar 21 at Ga. College & St., 4 pm	
Mar 23 vs. North Alabama, 1 pm*	
Mar 25-30 at West Fla. Spring Fling	
Apr 3 vs. St. Leo, 5 pm	
Apr 10 at West Florida, 5 pm*	
Apr 13 at North Alabama, 1 pm*	
Apr 14 at Alabama-Hunts., 2 pm*	
Apr 19 vs. West Georgia, 4 pm*	
Apr 20 vs. Miss./Women, 2 pm*	
Apr 21 vs. Miss.Women, 1 pm*	
Apr 28 at Lincoln Memorial, 1pm*	
May 4-5 GSC Tournament	
Meridian, MS	
*Conference Games	







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Annie Johnson / The Spectator

John Prise fires from 3-point range against North Alabama Monday night. The Blazers dropped the Lions 81-71 in the Complex, ending a two-game losing streak.

VSU tied atop GSC

Brandon Scott
Staff Writer

Bottom-feeders relish the role of underdog. Ask the Florida State basketball team. They are the only team to blemish No. 1 Duke's season record.

This weekend the West Alabama Tigers (6-12, 0-8) will play host as both the cellar-dweller and underdog. VSU (15-4, 6-2) will enter Pruitt Hall in a tie for first place in the Gulf South Conference East division.

This, after rising to No. 16 in the national polls and subsequently losing two-straight games and falling out of the NCAA Division II national poll.

"It hurt me to lose winnable games," senior guard Marcus Williams said. "We knew what we had to do [against North Alabama] and we did."

In the season-sweep of North Alabama, the Blazers got back to Blazer basketball, defeating the Lions 81-71.

"It was a very good win, against a very talented North Alabama team," head coach Jim Yarbrough said. "Hopefully it puts us back on a

track where we can start another streak."

In looking for its second straight win, the Blazers must first defeat a lurking UWA team.

"They're gonna beat somebody," senior forward Nick Gast said. "We're definitely gonna make sure that team's not us."

Yarbrough's Keys: "This team would love nothing more than to be the last place team that knocks off the first place team. They're not a team you can take lightly."

Blazer Offense: The win Monday was the highest offensive output since an 84-46 smack down of Southern Wesleyan, way back on Jan. 7. After a dismal two-game stretch, the offense found its stride and its rebounds. Shooting 72 percent from the field in the second half didn't hurt either.

Tiger Defense: Defense wins championships, they say. In this case, defense loses games. Even though they allow 70.9 points per game, UWA opponents are only shooting 43 percent from the field.

Blazer Defense: The nation's No. 2 scoring defense continues to come through in clutch

situations. Against UNA, the defense played the role of momentum killer, forcing 17 turnovers.

Tiger Offense: The Tigers have two players averaging double-digits points. Steven Sims is averaging 15.4 ppg and Richard Stone 14.6. Beyond the arc, West Alabama is led by Jonathon Poe with a team-high 31 treys.

Blazers open up Friday

Jana N. Cook
Staff Writer

A familiar name to VSU baseball returns to town this weekend for a rematch against Coach Tommy Thomas' Blazers after a series split last season.

Pete Meyers, top assistant coach for Florida Southern College, will accompany Moccasins head coach Chuck Anderson to Valdosta for a 3-game series season opener on Friday. Meyers worked seven years at VSU under Thomas, two years as a graduate assistant and five as recruiting coordinator.

The series begins Friday at 3 p.m. on Billy Grant Field and continues through the weekend. Saturday's game is scheduled for 1 p.m. and Sunday's is at 2 p.m.

Moccasins veteran Jeff Lucas moved from center to second base and holds a .341 career batting average. Other Mocs hitting over .300 include first baseman Jared Powers and rightfielder Justin Hancock.

But FSC isn't without loss. The Mocs lost shortstop Josh Hollingsworth to an injury in preseason practice and first baseman Michael Tucker signed with the Florida Marlins.

Right-hander John Connally Barnett holds the top pitchers' position for FSC with a 3.34 ERA from last season. Barnett averaged more than 10 strikeouts per nine innings, ending up with a .198 opponents' batting average. The FSC bullpen has five returning veterans, but other than Barnett, the rest of

the starting rotation has a combined total of five career starts.

After rearranging the line-up from last year's loss of six players to graduation, Thomas says

the revised Blazer team is a mix of new and old players, each getting another chance to prove himself on the field.

Thomas plans to start the 2002 baseball season with a new theme he calls "curious optimism."

"The players show promise in practice," Thomas said. "Now I'm just curious to see how they'll react when the bell rings."

Coming off a 35-22 record from the 2001 season, the Blazers, ranked No. 40 by the NCAA Division II pre-season poll, will revive their rivalry

with the No. 9 FSC Moccasins, whose 35-18 record from the 2001 season kept them out of post-season play.

Senior Scott Simpson, who started 57 games last year with the Blazers at shortstop, ended the season hitting .265. Simpson will start at second base this season.

Left fielder Sammy Watson hit .321 last season in 43 games.

Right-hander Braxton Fernald (8-6, 5.71 ERA in 2001) will head up Thomas' pitching rotation this weekend. Right-hander John Rose (6-1, 5.96 ERA) and left-hander Michael Smith (2-1, 6.40 ERA) are also expected to be regulars in the rotation.



Annie Johnson / The Spectator
Scott Fletcher

GSC East Division Pre-Season Coaches' Poll

School	Total Votes
Alabama>Huntsville	47
Valdosta State	41
North Alabama	34
West Georgia	33
Lincoln Memorial	26
West Alabama	19
West Florida	14
Montevallo	7

The Fast & The Furious

What are you doing **Thursday, Jan. 31st, at 8PM?**

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For more information call the Office of Alcohol & Other Drug Education at 259-5111. This event is sponsored by the Offices of: Alcohol & Other Drug Education, Campus Recreation and Housing & Residence Life.

The Coaches' Players of the Week!

Lady Blazers Coach Kiley Hill

Blazers Coach Jim Yarbrough

Lady Blazers Erin Green

Lady Blazers Amber Daniels

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