

COSA rewards staff excellence

Leah F. Cassorla
Staff Writer

When people speak of universities, they often speak of teachers, students, and administrators. Staff are not always recognized for the role they play in the daily workings of a university. The Council on Staff Affairs is working to change that.

Tuesday, COSA presented awards to recognize the work of five members of VSU's staff. The five were the finalists for Employee of the Semester for fall semester 2001.

The Employee of the Semester, Joanne Bass, secretary to the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, was not present at the ceremony. Bass was in the hospital undergoing tests. Bass was released from the hospital Wednesday.

Dr. Ronald Zaccari, VSU president, presented the four runners up; Robin Zacarias, senior secretary for Psychology and Counseling, Janice Kei, lab technician for Student Health Services, Walter Rollenhagen, technical assistant for Communication Arts, and Richard Peterman, art studio supervisor for the Art Department.

Each runner up received a framed certificate of recognition and a gift certificate for lunch at a local restaurant.

Bass will receive a framed certifi-

cate, a parking pass that will allow her free access to parking anywhere on campus except in handicapped spaced and a check for \$100 from the office of the president.

"There are so many deserving employees at VSU, and I consider

Joanne's being selected a tribute to her dedication to service and to the people with whom she comes into contact," said Dr. Ron Barnette, acting dean for the College of Arts and Sciences. "She is trustworthy, optimistic, and a sheer pleasure to work with. Her partnership in the dean's office enables the office to run smoothly, and to assist students, faculty and employees in their daily activities."

Bass's name will also be added to a plaque of past winners. According to Rebecca Kimbrough, chair of the employee recognition committee and administrative secretary for Student



Leah F. Cassorla / The Spectator

Rebecca Kimbrough, chair of the employee recognition committee and administrative secretary for Student Affairs, displays a plaque with the names of all Employees of the Semester.

Affairs, COSA hopes the plaque can be placed in a position of prominence in West Hall.

"I have some wall space in the president's area," Dr. Zaccari told Kimbrough at the ceremony. "That would look beautiful."

This year, COSA received 17 nominations, more than any other year since the competition started fall semester 1994. Letters requesting nominations are sent out to the departments during the semester prior to the awards ceremony.

COSA
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Leah F. Cassorla / The Spectator

Janice Kei, lab technician for Student Health Services, accepts her certificate and lunch as a finalist for Employee of the Semester fall 2001.

Dr. Zaccari approval high vsu governs media outlets

Michelle Taylor
Staff Writer

VSU's new president, Dr. Ronald M. Zaccari, does not have to work hard to impress VSU.

It seems he already has.

Students, faculty and staff have only worked with the new president a month and a half, and it seems they are impressed with Dr. Zaccari.

"I'm extremely impressed with him," Judy Griffin, English senior secretary, said. "He is very professional. He went out of his way to talk to me. He doesn't overlook anybody. He wants to know you and your part here at VSU."

Some students do not feel they have gotten a chance to know anything about him yet.

"I haven't seen him yet," Megan Culbine, freshman LAS major, said. "I haven't heard anything about him yet."

Amy Van, freshman LAS major, felt that even though she had not seen him, she has not seen any big changes to worry her.



Management, said. "He's a good listener and very personable. I think he's going to do a really good job."

Although there is much praise for Dr. Zaccari, students, faculty and staff all agree there are things Dr. Zaccari should consider in his presidency.

"He should come out and make himself more known," Culbine said.

Van said, "He should make sure to be considerate of everyone's feelings.

Griffin did not have a complaint, but a suggestion.

"I would like for the staff to be able to have a staff development conference," she said. "Like a retreat or something. The faculty gets to do this, and I think it would be beneficial for the staff as well."

Peacock had advice for the new president as well.

"Take your time," he said. "Get a wide range of views. Base decisions on good input from everyone."

Michelle Taylor
Staff Writer

VSU regulates speech, but those regulations are bound by the US constitution.

The Communications Board governs all media outlets on campus. This includes The Odradek, the literary magazine, the Spectator, the newspaper, and WVVS 90.9, the campus radio station. The purpose of the Communications Board is to decide on policies, select editors and station managers and rule on matters concerning the forms of student communication the board governs.

The Board meets each month, and additional meetings are called if needed. There are 16 members of the Board. One student member of the Campus Activities Board, five members of the SGA senate, the editors and station managers of all the media outlets, three faculty members (to be selected by the SGA), Russ Mast, acting vice president for Student Affairs and dean of students, Charles E. Harmon, director of University Relations, and Robin Vickery, associate director of Student Activities. The adviser of each media outlet may serve on the Board, but may not vote.

Cody Guined, SGA vice president, also chairs the Board. His duties include presiding over meetings, calling meetings and representing the Board at functions the Board is required to attend. He is allowed to vote, but only to break a tie.

The secretary of the Board is Brooke Dominy, SGA secretary. She must record events at meetings and preside over meetings when Guined is unable to attend meetings.

Not only does the Board gov-



ern each form of communication at VSU, but also each communication forum must adhere to government rules. For example, WVVS must adhere to the rules and regulations of the Federal Communications Commission. The FCC was established by the Communications Act of 1934 and is in charge of communication through radio, TV, wire, satellite and cable. The faculty adviser for WVVS is Michael Taylor, instructor for communication arts. The interim station manager is Mike Gebora.

As an editorially independent newspaper, The Spectator has more journalistic freedom. The newspaper must abide by all law affecting newspaper, including libel laws. The Spectator's primary job is to act as the school's fourth estate by reporting on government, including the SGA, faculty senate and the administration. The faculty adviser is Dr. Pat Miller, professor of English, and the editor is Leah Cassorla.

The Odradek is not only governed by the Communications Board but by the students who run it. Material printed in the literary magazine must meet the requirements on the application, which can be found on the Odradek link on the English department web site. The adviser is Dr. Jeffrey Vassuer, assistant professor of English, and the editors are Lee Campbell, Kemia Irving and Adam Tracy.

Zaccari welcomed at reception

Jaime Peck
Staff Writer

You're cordially invited to discuss VSU with the president.

Dr. Ronald Zaccari, VSU's new president, met with students and faculty at a reception Tuesday in the UC Magnolia Room.

I wish he'd make it easier to graduate.

-Patrick Norton, junior business management major

hands with the president, discuss ideas about the campus and eat finger foods.

Students expressed some concerns about changes they want made on campus.

"I want the president to have more involvement with student organizations," Katie Childs, a sophomore political science major, said. "I want there to be

more contact, for him to be more available and make more appearances at things on campus."

According to Dr. Zaccari, he plans to get more involved with the students once he and his wife find and settle into a residence.

"We're going to host some socials, attend some campus functions and take advantage of invitations given," he said. "As far as getting more involved with the faculty, I've already scheduled some Faculty-Senate sessions and I'm going to meet with the director of the Honors Program to discuss some ideas about that."

Junior Patrick Norton, a business management major, said he'd like Dr. Zaccari to build a



Vonetta Lawton / The Spectator

Matt King, junior art major, Crissy Simpson, senior interior design major, and other students share their concerns with Dr. Zaccari at the reception Tuesday afternoon in the University Center Magnolia Room.

Greek Row and a parking deck.

"Also, I wish he'd make it easier to graduate," Norton said.

Dr. Zaccari, himself a Greek and member of Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity, said he plans to work closely with all Greeks and he plans to study the parking problem, although he said that every university

he's ever been to claims they have a parking problem.

"Once we get our house, we're going to invite all the sororities and fraternities over to eat pizza and discuss ideas about the Greek system," Dr. Zaccari said. "I want to see about possibly closing a section

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Next issue

From
classes at
home to home at
VSU...

Web Watch

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

Why do we tell each other "I love you" on this particular day? Who was Saint Valentine? Did the ancients give chocolate covered cherries? Did the Romans really pick up chicks

This week:

<http://www.holidays.net/amore>

by drawing a name from a hat? All good questions, and the answers are available at www.holidays.net/amore, Amore' on the Net.

Forget the silly music playing

in the background. There's information to be had here, from gift ideas to the history of valentines day, to cards and crafts you can make yourself. Happy Valentine's Day.

Campus Happenings

Submissions for **Campus Happenings** can be sent to Blendal 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

February 7

Someone damaged the new tile floor on the A wing of the third floor of Langdale Hall. The act is considered criminal interference with government property.

February 8

Someone took a student's fanny pack from Nevins Hall 3015 between 2 and 3:10 p.m. The fanny pack contained a change purse, \$40 in cash, an ATM card and driver's license, old checkbook with no checks and miscellaneous pens and pencils.

Today

Tim Lee, VSU alumni, will present a lecture, "The Mis-Education of the African American," in the Bio/Chem Building Auditorium at 7 p.m. The lecture is part of the African American Studies Lecture Series, "Healing our Nation Through Empowered Education," as part of VSU's celebration of Black History Month.

For more information, e-mail Dr. Shirley Hardin, director, at shardin@valdosta.edu.

The VSU chapter of Habitat for Humanity is holding a Valentine's Day bake sale from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the University Center. All items will be 50 cents.

For more information, call Dana Render, president, at 253-2941 or e-mail her at vsukitten@aol.com.

The Zeta Phi Beta sorority will host a masquerade ball, "Love in Disguise," at 8 p.m. in the Magnolia Rooms at the University Center. See a Zeta for ticket information.

The Annual Juried Exhibition featuring VSU art students will run until March 2 in the gallery at the Fine Arts Building. The gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday. Admission is free.

For more information, call the art department at 333-5835.

Natural High will host a free night in the Game Room at the University Center from 9 to 11 p.m. Free pizza, drinks, valentine candy, music and dancing will be available.

For more information, call the Office of Alcohol & Other Drug Education at 259-5111.

Saturday

The VSU cheerleaders will host a cheerleading clinic for grades kindergarten through 5th grade from 9 a.m. until noon in the Old Gym. A \$10 registration fee applies.

Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. Participants will learn cheers, chants and dances, but no stunting. Participants will receive T-shirts and souvenir pom poms. They will also do a group cheer or dance at half-time during the Blazer basketball game at 8 p.m. Participants will be admitted to the game for free.

For more information, call Linda Reinhard at 241-8504.

Certified instructor, Tim Yorkey, will teach a free "AAA Driver Improvement" course from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Plant Operation training room for VSU employees. Cost for employees' relatives is \$5.

Participants will receive an AAA certificate after attending and passing the written test. This is a required course for employees who drive University vans, but every VSU employee is welcome to take the course.

For more information, call the training office at 259-5105.

Sunday

VSU's faculty jazz combo will perform at 8 p.m. in Whitehead Auditorium at the Fine Arts Building. Admission is free.

For more information, call Cary Brague at 333-5806.

Monday

Dr. Bruce Rafert, dean of the graduate school at Michigan Technological University, will speak in the mathematics department conference room, Nevins Hall 2214 between 2 and 4 p.m.

Tuesday

There will be a Regents' Test workshop from 6 to 8 p.m. for people wanting practice. For more information, call the VSU Writing Center in West Hall 204 at 333-7387.

Wednesday

Campus Outreach Ministries meets every Wednesday for "One80" at 9 p.m. in the Bio/Chem Auditorium. For more information, call Jason at 671-9483.

Thursday

The VSU planetarium will host this year's third public show, "Global Warming: A Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight," at Nevins Hall 3007. Dr. Cecilia Barnbaum and Dr. Judy Grable will host. The show is suitable for ages 5 and up. Seating is limited to 65 people.

For more information, call the department of physics, astronomy, and geosciences at 333-5752.

There will be an informational meeting at 8 p.m. in the University Center theater for

anyone interested in helping out with the Dance Marathon.

For more information, call Student Activities at 333-5674.

Feb. 22

Today is the deadline to register for the Regents' Exam.

Dr. Ellen Wiley, associate professor of Curriculum & Instructional Technology, will teach a seminar, "Online Lifeline," about how to use Adobe Acrobat from noon to 1 p.m. at the Education Center 124.

Attendees are encouraged to bring their lunch if they desire. This event is sponsored by the Department of Curriculum and Instructional Technology of VSU.

For more information, call Dr. Wiley at 333-5638.

There will be a Regents' Test workshop from 6 to 8 p.m. for people wanting practice. For more information, call the VSU Writing Center in West Hall 204 at 333-7387.

Feb. 26

Sheila Wakely, of the Counseling Center, will host a free seminar, "Body Image and You," from 8 to 9 p.m. in Hopper Hall on main campus.



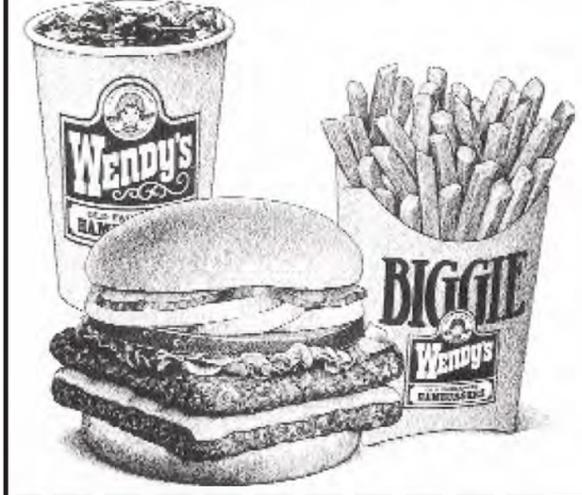
Happy Valentine's

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



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News

www.valdosta.edu/spectator

Weekend

Today	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
 UV Index: 5 Moderate Hi: 60 Low: 35	 UV Index: 4 Low Hi: 64 Low: 39	 UV Index: 46 Moderate Hi: 64 Low: 35	 UV Index: 5 Moderate Hi: 64 Low: 41



Vonetta Lawton / The Spectator

Carl Raye, motivational speaker, author and actor gets into his one-man play, "A Killing in Choctaw: The Power of Forgiveness and Education" last Thursday night.

Lecture series heals through empowerment

Kate Gauling
Staff Writer

VSU is trying to heal through empowerment.

Today at 7 p.m. in the Bio/Chem Building Auditorium, Tim Lee, a VSU graduate, will present the next lecture in the African American Lecture Series entitled, "The Man in the Mirror: The Historical Mis-Education of the African American."

According to Dr. Shirley Hardin, director of African American Studies, the African American Studies Program hosts a lecture series every year focusing on current and historical events in America's progression. This year's theme, "Healing Our Nation Through Empowered Education," deals with the terrorist attacks in relation to racial hatred within American society.

"All four lecturers have routinely used their artistic talents," Dr. Hardin said. "Speaking, performing, painting to expose hatred and

racism while offering solutions to the problems."

Last Thursday, Carl Raye, a motivational speaker, presented the first lecture. His one-man play, "A Killing in Choctaw," documented his father's murder by a Caucasian man and his forgiveness of that man.

"We're living in times, especially after 9/11, when forgiveness isn't something you hear about," Carl Raye said. "I want people to understand forgiveness is possible."

The lectures are free to students and faculty.

Friday, at 7:30 p.m., Dr. John Gaston will speak on "The Education of the African American Male" and perform his one-man show, "The Brothers." On Feb. 27, Eric Jones, a VSU graduate, will present his art exposition "African American Artists: Educating our Nation through Art" in the Magnolia Room.

"Everyone can learn something from this lecture series," Dr. Hardin said.

COSA

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According to Kimbrough, any member of the university community can nominate a staff member for recognition. Students can nominate by speaking to a faculty or staff member.

The committee chose Bass from among the 17 nominees based on her record and recommendations.

"We chose her for her willingness to work and her dedication to VSU as a whole," Kimbrough said.

According to Kae Sinkule,

assistant director for Dining Services and COSA chair, COSA will try to organize a formal presentation for Bass when she recovers.

"I feel like employee recognition is an important function of COSA," Sinkule said. "Efforts of staff are not recognized on a broad enough level. We're trying to recognize the people out there who bring a standard of excellence to the job."

To be nominated, staff members must have worked at VSU at least a year, must work at least 20 hours a week and cannot be members of COSA.

SGA does not

Mary Ellen McConnell
Staff Writer

For the second time this semester and the third time this school year, SGA did not make quorum.

According to Brooke Dominy, SGA secretary, there have been several resignations from SGA. Adam Floyd and Melissa Ogle have given formal written resignations.

Verbal intent to resign has been given by Sens. Wilson and Martinez.

"If I don't receive formal resignations by the end of the week I am just going to open up the seats," said Cody Guined, SGA vice president, in reference to the verbal resignations

he has been receiving.

Attendance is down in the senate and those who have not been attending regularly may lose their office.

Guined said he is planning to write letters of impeachment if he can. The SGA is accepting nominations for the seats that have opened recently.

"There are people who have not attended a meeting in two months," Dominy said.

Several announcements were made in the unofficial meeting. Nick Overstreet, SGA president, announced he would not be giving a State of the Association address this semester.

"President Zaccari is new and we do not want to bombard him with all kinds of stuff,"

Overstreet said.

President Zaccari is scheduled to give an address on Feb. 28 at 11 a.m. in Whitehead Hall.

Also, Brooke Dominy announced that though minutes are not archived yet, they will be archived in the end of the semester with all other SGA records.



Vonetta Lawton / The Spectator

Jennifer Beal, deaf education major, librarian by the tens to the SGA meeting Tuesday night.

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News

American Taliban pleads not guilty

John Walker Lindh pleaded not guilty Wednesday to charges he conspired to kill Americans in Afghanistan and aided Osama bin Laden's terrorist network.

The parents and widow of CIA officer Johnny "Mike" Spann, killed in a prison uprising in Afghanistan after interrogating Lindh, watched in the courtroom and later denounced Lindh as a traitor.

"Not guilty, sir," Lindh told U.S. District Judge T.S. Ellis III.

Lindh's divorced parents, Nancy Walker and John Lindh, a former Justice Department lawyer, were also seated together in the Alexandria, Va., courtroom.

Spann's relatives sat less than 20 feet away.

The younger Lindh's comrades killed Spann Nov. 25 at

the Qala-I Janghi compound in northern Afghanistan. No charges have been filed against Lindh in Spann's death.

As both families left the courtroom, Lindh's father approached Johnny Spann Sr. Court security officers blocked him, and Spann didn't object.

Outside the courthouse, Spann's widow, called defendant Lindh a traitor who deserved the death penalty.

Gail Spann said her son was a hero "not because of the way he died, but because of the way he lived."

"Americans will not tolerate traitors," Johnny Spann added.

Judge Ellis rejected a motion by both sides asking for a November trial date, and suggested they agree on another "between mid-August and September."

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Welcome

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of campus to traffic so students can get to class faster, so they won't have that traffic slowing them down. I want to see about putting some bicycle paths on campus and making a place for emergency and maintenance vehicles to get by."

Dr. Zaccari said he hopes that by attending SGA meetings (he's met with them four times since he's been here), he can further open the lines of communication between the students and the faculty.

"How can I be a good president if I don't even know what's on students' minds?" Dr. Zaccari said.

Dr. Zaccari said that his approach is not to change many things overall, but to involve a planning system that will involve the campus. He said the key to maintaining a VSU's

success is to stay ahead of the increasing enrollment.

"Dr. Bailey built an excellent university," Dr. Zaccari said. "I'll just continue to build onto that."

Dr. Brian Adler, professor of English and director of the Honors Program, said he thinks Dr. Zaccari is an interesting and creative person.

"I don't want him to change things, exactly, because he has his own agenda," Dr. Adler said. "I think it'd be nice to see more innovative programs, more visible art and more expansion of a few programs at VSU."

Dr. Zaccari said he encourages students' input on ideas about VSU, but he asks that students research the problem first, organize their thoughts about the problem and offer suggestions for solving the problem before they approach him.



Ashcroft places U.S. on highest state of alert.

Tuesday, Attorney General John Ashcroft urged the nation to remain on "the highest state of alert." This warning came a day after the FBI warned that another terrorist attack could be imminent. The FBI has asked Americans to be on watch for a Yemeni man and 16 alleged associates.

Controversial ice-skating decision raises questions concerning partiality of judges.

Olympic ice-skating sets the stage for controversy after the Russian defeat of the Canadians Monday. Questions about impartial judging are raised as the International Skating Union plans to conduct a rare "internal assessment." Allegations include the French judge voted for the Russians to avenge a loss by the French ice dancing team to the Canadians at the Grand Prix in Canada in December.

New Yorkers receive royal honors for work after Sept. 11.

Queen Elizabeth II bestowed an honorary knighthood upon former New York City mayor Rudolph Giuliani Wednesday. Along with Giuliani's honorary knighthood, Thomas Von Essen, New York's former fire commissioner, and Bernard Kerik, former police commissioner, were made honorary Commanders of the British Empire. In the tradition-filled ceremony at Buckingham Palace, the three received royal honors for their service after Sept. 11.

8 Great Reasons to Keep Reading the Award-Winning Spectator

General Awards

- 2nd place, Best Website
- 2nd place, Best Campus Community Service—Features
- 2nd place, General Advertising
- 3rd place, Senior A division, Best Campus Community Service—News
- 3rd place, General Photography

Individual Awards

- 2nd place, Michelle Taylor, Best Feature
- 2nd place, Mary Dabbs, Best Investigative or Interpretive News Story
- 2nd place, Leah F. Cassorla, Best Editorial or Editorial Series

* All All awards won Jan. 26, in the Georgia College Press Association Better Newspaper Contest, Senior division A.

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If you have any questions call 244-6168

The Spectator

Leah F. Cassorla
Editor-in-Chief

Abby Griffin
Business Manager

Wes Sewell
Advertising Manager

Casey Coleman
Circulation Manager

Strategic partnership planning

There comes a time, in any new relationship, when the honeymoon is over. But before the honeymoon is over, is the best time to share information that will affect the rest of the relationship. Partners need to learn each other's history and get an idea of each other's expectations.

And a university presidency is just like any other relationship. The president needs to work in partnership with students, faculty and staff.

We have a history of being treated like children. That needs to end.

We are adults with valid opinions and ideas. We must be treated as such. Treating students like children only keeps them from developing the adult skills they are supposed to learn in college. Treating faculty and staff like children results in unhappy, uncooperative, unproductive workers and a lousy work environment.

Decisions that affect our lives should not be made without our input.

And they most certainly must not be made behind our backs.

This requires that Dr. Zaccari do more than listen to our ideas: he must include us in the decision making process. It requires that every member of the VSU community be treated with respect.

In that vein, we must also take responsibility for our problems. Dr. Zaccari has repeatedly asked for our input. He has also made clear that he expects us to come to him with research and possible solutions when presenting ideas to him.

He seems to be asking for leadership on our part. This is a golden opportunity to take charge and get shared governance. It may be the chance to fix our own problems instead of expecting someone else to do it for us.

Let's just hope this relationship outlasts its first Valentine's Day.

Spectator opinion written by Leah F. Cassorla

Spectator Staff

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"THE VSU DECISION PROCESS AT WORK..."



2-13-02

tboi@hotmail.com

Valentine's dilemma

Every girl awaits Valentine's Day with the hope of being struck by cupid's arrows.

While women dream of the perfect date, men dread the irresistible holiday. Some men are too traditional and usual when it comes to the gifts they give their valentine. Cards, candy, flowers, balloons and teddy bears may get the girl to smile, but it won't necessarily get her heart.

Isn't that the point?

Can someone actually calculate how many typical Valentine's Day gifts a girl can accumulate in her lifetime? It gets pretty old and begins to lose its value. Valentine's Day does not have to be the holiday for red, pink, white or other colors for love, nor does it matter how much a person pays for his or her chosen gift.

Valentine's Day should show a person's true passion and emotions towards that special

someone. This is what distinguishes this holiday from any other day. Valentine's Day should be everyday for two people that share the inexplicable feeling called love. There can never be too many ways or enough days to say those three special words and actually mean them.

A Valentine's Day gift is only as good as the person's heart. The expression "a gift from the heart is just as worthy as the most expensive gift" says it all.



Tameika Carson

The motive of giving the biggest bouquet of balloons or the sweetest chocolates every year will decrease the chance of a big hug or a sweet kiss.

I find home made cards with a personal poem very thoughtful. Flowers, other than roses, with an aroma that reminds you of your valentine's hair or scent will always remain a favorite.

Creativity is the key to a girl's heart. Finding an extraordinary way to express your feelings other than what Carlton has to say is best.

So fellas, next time you go to Hallmark or your local gift shop, dig deep down in your imagination instead of your pockets. You just might get the reaction from your Valentine you were always looking for.

Tameika Carson is a Spectator columnist and can be contacted at tmcason@valdosta.edu

The waiting game

It's that time of year again. I don't know about you, but Valentine's Day is not exactly my favorite day of the year. Sure, it's great when you're in love. But for those who aren't, spending V-day alone can make you think, or stress, about, well, being alone.

My advice? Don't fret. Chill by yourself for a while. Don't be in a rush. Think about the qualities you want in a partner and focus on them. Although sometimes you may think your dream guy is non-existent, I guarantee you he will pop up when you least expect him to.

Think about it. If you settle for a no-good-bum instead of that cute, generous, smart, funny guy you really want, what good will come of it? Nothing. Just a



Amy Williamson

right flash of your smile, throw of the hip, or even shed of a tear often makes it hard for men, gullible as they are, to say no.

Bottom line—keep your standards and don't drop them when choosing a partner. Things happen for a reason, and your dream guy or girl may be just around the corner. So whether you're being pampered by someone else this Valentine's Day or not, make sure that you pamper yourself and look after your own needs. That will outlast any holiday season. And remember, Valentine's Day comes around every year. A lot can happen in a year!

Amy Williamson is a Spectator columnist and can be contacted at amymwilliamson@hotmail.com



Got something to say?

Open mic on this page every week at the Spectator.



Laura Justin

I don't give a hoot

Valdostans cried for cleanliness.

Their prayers have been answered.

We all know slang terms for a woman's breasts: jugs, knockers, melons—Hooter's. Having said that, there are two issues we all need to face.

First, let's drop the whole pseudo "owl" theme and stop pretending we're referring to a nocturnal animal. Second, they serve mediocre wings, and if it were quality wings you were after, you would go to Buffalo's.

Now that we're all being honest, let's look at who attends Hooter's and why. Your typical customer is going to be a middle-aged male looking to get some cheap thrills when his waitress bends over in caution-sign orange shorts. Okay, men—that's disgusting. Most of the girls that work at Hooter's are in their early 20's. They were zygotes when some of you hit your drinking age or joined the military.

The girls, however, are not innocent bystanders. Women across the nation have been working for years to gain equality and respect among men. Feminists have taken long, hard steps to create a better social atmosphere that doesn't allow men to exploit women. However, all it takes is one dumb blonde willing to throw on a pair of orange shorts and run around like a giggling idiot to undo the progress other women have made. As long as she exists, men will never learn to take women seriously.

It is disheartening to know our society has socially conscious rules prohibiting discrimination and sexual harassment on one hand, and on the other can condone something as blatantly sexist as Hooter's. It's a sad reminder that women still have a long way to go in the fight to be seen as a gender equal to men, not a gender for exploitation or sexual gratification.

And so, here is my message to every guilty party involved in the Hooter's conspiracy. Men: stop lusting after women as sex objects. Women: respect yourselves a little more and join your sisters in the fight for equality instead of working against them. And finally, to Hooter's: shut down your sorry restaurant and see if we can't finally get an Olive Garden in this town.

Laura Justin is a Spectator columnist and can be contacted at justin_laura@hotmail.com

What do you expect out of the new VSU president?



"To be there when the students need him and show that he cares"

Ashley Leon
Freshman
Undecided



"Fix public transportation. The shuttle buses need to run at a faster rate."

Shannon Walker
Freshman
Sociology



"I expect the president to bring fresh ideas to our campus. I would like to see housing and transportation problems taken care of."

Jon Humphries
Sophomore
Political Science



"More interaction with the students. I feel he will listen and care about us enough to make positive changes that will satisfy us."

Stephanie Smith
Senior
Marketing



"Better facilities and parking. Hopefully better school organized events for everyone, like concerts."

David Bragg
Freshman
Undecided



"I expect the new president to the best that he can."

Julian Stone
Senior
Physical Education

Editor's Note

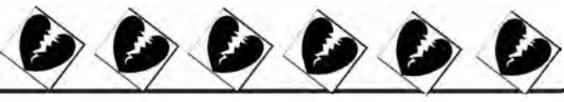


HEARTBREAKERS

DarkSide EDITION

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

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.



Bush and my homies...Let's

Jeremiah W. Bass Staff Writer

A few weeks ago, President Bush gave his State of the Union Speech in which he addressed the economy and the war against terrorism...you know, the usual small talk. If there's one thing I noticed throughout those 40-somethin' odd minutes that Bush was up at the podium, was that every time he ended a sentence, everyone felt the need to give a standing ovation. I'm just wondering, is that part of the script? If I were to give a speech about how there should be a bottle of A-1 Steak Sauce at every dining table, would you

stand up and start giving me shout-outs? If I stood up and said that women should still burn their bras, would you give me a 'standing o'? I'm pretty sure that Clinton would give me my props on that one. It was kind of hilarious watching that speech. It was almost like the House was obligated to give their applause. I caught the camera on the Rev. Jesse Jackson a few times; he was usually seen clapping and thinking to himself, "Wait...why am I here again?" Sen. Hillary Clinton showed up at the speech looking like she had just taken a dump or somethin'. For a second, I

thought that she was being controlled by a remote control. Bush went on and on about the new U.S. slogan, "Let's roll!" This part was edited out, but when he said that statement, apparently, everyone took out their bongos and later started chanting after Ludacris, "Roll Out!" When you think about it, most of these speeches are just a bunch of crap. I mean, the obvious is always stated and everyone is in some kind of suit. Wouldn't it be cool to see Bush step up to the podium holding a 'cold one' and sportin' a pair of jeans and a T-shirt? His security guards

would be guys from Club Subliminamabal, and his top issue would be about the lowered stature of the chicks at Hooters. I mean, yeah, it's always good to know what is going on with the economy and war and stuff, but sometimes, I know that even the politicians get tired of it. Of course, many things have been a bit funky in the political world these days. Like the fact that U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft had the lady statue's bare breast that stands behind him at his speeches covered up with an \$8,000 curtain. Yeah, that's money well spent. I also hear that Clinton is work-

ing on a bill to have every female statue in the U.S.A. stripped! Sheesh! That's gonna be \$8,000 per boob. I don't know, Clinton, wouldn't it be easier to just take a road trip to every female strip club in this country? With the extra cash, you could buy Al Gore that new Norelco shaver set. I bet that Clinton would get many standing ovations by just getting up at the podium and giving the House 'the thumb.' Somewhere in the audience, you would see Hillary giving him "the finger." That's who should give the next State of the Union Address...Bill Clinton! Yeah, he's been out of the limelight

for a while. I'm sure we'll hear about him again when the FBI finds a stained dress in the West Wing. So when you're watching the tube and come across one of Bush's speeches, just notice all of the claps. If it doesn't catch your attention, I don't know what will; maybe seeing Mike Tyson standing by his side, sharpening his teeth and directing Bush's words to foreigners. -Contact Jeremiah Bass at loserkidblink@hotmail.com-

A whole lotta lyin goin

Neil Skerratt Staff Writer

Enron, a major energy supplier, has just declared bankruptcy, mostly because it has been supplying that energy to paper shredders. They've been wasting so much paper that many trees are quoted as saying, "My father died for nothing, and why couldn't his remains have ended up wasted at an honest business venture like O.J. Simpson's search for the real killers?" Tragic indeed. Everyone is furious and everyone is very outspoken about the rights of the now near-penniless employees of the firm. But I don't see anyone feeling sorry for the executives. I don't see anyone trying to tolerate their greed. Sure, they have millions in the bank, but they're out of a job just like everyone else. Not only that, they have to keep the mortgage payments on their three houses, the car notes paid up on their Mercedes, and now they can't go on long drawn out "business" trips to Hawaii because their jobs are gone, too. Let's try and be understanding,

folks. Okay, back to reality. I think that these Enron dudes like Kenneth Lay should go to prison, and I don't mean minimum-security-rich-white-dude prison, either. I mean the kind of prison (to quote Richard Pryor) "where there's rapists and robbers and rapists that rape robbers." As far as their pleading the fifth and not answering the Senate's questions into the matter, I think that for people to judge someone as guilty for exercising his or her right against SELF-INCRIMINATION would be wrong. Okay, but wait...it is the right against self-incrimination so maybe there is something to that. Also, look at the long line of people who never testified on their own behalf, like O.J. Okay, sorry. Bad example. What made matters worse was when Kenneth Lay's wife appeared on TV to say that she was 100 percent sure that her husband did nothing wrong. Yeah, right. Some people associated with Enron's top executive are saying that maybe he didn't know that Enron was going down, and if true, making him a top contender to be president and

CEO of Idiot Enterprises. I mean, let's get real, people. When a ship sinks, the cap-

tain doesn't wake up on a life raft totally clueless. Some people are saying that

we should wait and see how the Congressional investigation

goes before we prematurely slam them. I say, "Why wait?"

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Features

Check out this week's web exclusive: the easy way to do your taxes, learn about models right here and read a preview of tonight's Jazz Dance. Check it out at www.vsu.edu/spectator/

The Spectator welcomes ideas and comments from the public. Please contact justin_laura@hotmail.com

www.valdosta.edu/spectator



Annie Johnson / The Spectator

Rick's and Someplace Else, located on 2159 Bemiss Rd., offers free rides home on Saturday nights to its patrons to reduce intoxicated driving.

Venues offer safe rides home

Ray McKrow
Staff Writer

The old wives tale of putting pennies in your mouth won't save you from a costly trip to jail, but this information will.

According to the tale, the copper in pennies cancel out the alcohol on your breath, but considering that pennies are no longer copper – the only "cop" will be in the front seat escorting you to Lowndes County Jail.

Instead of being escorted by a

cop, how about someone else, and instead of jail, how about home?

There are many alternatives around Valdosta to driving intoxicated. A popular solution for many Greek organizations, as well as Rick's and Someplace Else, is a man for hire named Harvey Moore. Moore drives a mini-bus, which is ideal for cutting down on individual rates. He offers his services to anyone, but is reserved every Saturday night to provide free rides for paid visitors of Rick's and

Someplace Else. Moore has also been used for several Greek functions. The Greek Life office requires Greek organizations to provide sober drivers. Jessica Katz, junior art major and Alpha Delta Pi sorority member, has used Moore's services at functions and loves the convenience.

"Harvey is really nice and easy to get along with," Katz said. "He doesn't seem aggravated with what he's doing, which makes the trip pleasurable."

Taxicabs, such as Azalea City

Cab, run group rates for students traveling to the same general location. Military personnel can get sober rides throughout Valdosta through 25-SOBER (257- 6237).

Many nightclubs offer sober rides, so check with the establishment. Just remember, driving under the influence costs people their jobs, money, and lives. Whatever you do, please drive sober or don't drive at all. Be smart and careful, but have fun.

Get your last minute gift

Tara Sherman
Staff Writer

Attention all procrastinators!

If you want to have a good time tonight, here are some sweet tips that will have your Sugarbaby cooing. This includes those two nice perks we all like: CHEAP AND EASY! Forget blowing your paycheck on a cheesy jingly bracelet thingy that she'll lose or toss. Don't buy him a pet that will chew through your jeans. Besides, if it's a dog, chances are he'll love it more than you. Here's how to be a cheapskate with style.

First, start with the music. Music is a surefire way to get a smile (unless you're hoping Backstreet Boys will help you get laid). I'm sure someone you know has a CD burner. Put together a compilation he or she may enjoy. (Just don't violate

copy right.) For those looking to venture forward for the Holy Grail late tonight (or early tomorrow morning), may I suggest some sweet lil' beats that might stir a flame or two. Yeah, Marvin Gaye's got the flavor for gettin' down, but who hasn't gotten "Sexual Healing" at one point in time, even if it was sitting at the Huddle House?

Part of charming is being original, so surprise your mate with some oh-damn-it's-hot-in-here tunes he or she may not have heard. May I suggest Erykah Badu's second album, "Mama's Gun," for some good fusion funk with slow beats and passionate lyrics. Portishead (get the live album! It's more intense!) is great for nasty beats with a kick drum and that extra slow tempo. If you want something more romantic, check out Coldplay's Parachutes for those "Oh-I-love-you-so-much-I-

can't-see-straight" stares into each others eyes. The Rising Tide from Sunny Day Real Estate, or get classic and pop in Billie Holliday. She's classic for a reason.

Next... what to eat! Can't let your Honey go to bed with an empty tummy. But you got a problem. Mac-n-cheese isn't going to tickle her fancy. Run to Target and find a "Kiss the Cook" apron, then run to Fazoli's and order some Italian favorites you both will enjoy. Things will get sappy if he or she thinks you whipped up Italian cuisine and candlelight on your own. And, if you have a couple more bucks, splurge on Arbor Mist wine in cheap and easy flavors. Blackberry Merlot should get the pheromones kicking in with the lasagna steam.

Here's something romantic and free. Feeling really full



after consuming all that pasta? Not ready to cut the lights out yet? Sometimes, conversation can stir some of the most intense feelings. If you live near a park, suggest taking a walk together. Create your own Lover's Lane: act like kids on the swings and see who can go higher. Sit on top of the monkey bars and make faces at each other. Or if you're feeling randy, make out in the bushes.

Overall, make the best of it. Valentine's Day isn't about all the cash you waste. Make priceless memories. Now hurry! Go get your tunes, your food, and your date.

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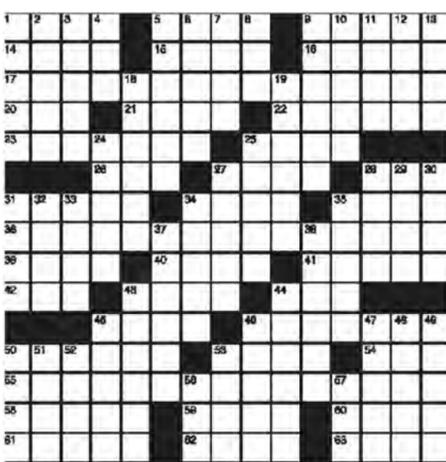
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Features

Crossword Puzzle



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- 25 Stick 'em up!
- 27 Ferry of Roxy Music
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- 48 Pass out
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- 50 Bellow
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Edited by Wayne Roberts

ACROSS

1 Poetic tentmaker?

5 Where most of us are?

9 Lawn makeup

14 Justice Black

15 Displays of fauna

16 French textile center

17 Ulysses

20 Food scrap

21 "O don fatale" or "Vissi d'arte"

22 Rained in fine drops

23 Type of diver

25 Lacoste or Levesque

26 Part of TGIF

27 Ice mass

28 Calf location

31 Make amends

34 Retarding force

35 Produced

36 "Ulysses"

39 Very dry

40 Cedar Breaks state

41 Pavlov and Reitman

42 Water damage

DOWN

1977 George Burns film

3 Striped gem

4 Silver or Wood

5 Portuguese islands

6 Capital of Bulgaria

7 Greek letter

8 Gray shade

9 Applying epoxy

10 Dishwasher cycle

11 Dismounted

12 ___ gin fizz

13 Dispatch

Answer is three columns over.



Students best in show

Neil Skerratt
Staff Writer

The Fine Arts department hosted a student art exhibition Monday night at the VSU gallery.

Larry Tobe, juror of the show, chose Donnte Thomas' "Beloved in Colored Purple" as first among the 42 entries.

According to Thomas, a senior art education major, his acrylic painting took about two months to paint.

One crowd favorite was an oil painting by Krissy Hall, who placed second. Thomas said the painting "had quite a presence." The third place winner was Hannah Scranton.

The Best of Show award went to Trellis Payne. There were also several Honorable Mentions.

The types of work on display included paintings, sculptures, ceramic works, digital photography and videos.

About 100 people attended the showing. The evening began with guests admiring the works on display. The artists and those attending then gathered to hear the names of those who placed.

"These exhibitions help VSU's students get key exposure in shows where their work is judged," Karin Murray, assistant professor of art and VSU's

gallery director, said

Some of the pieces were up for sale, with the highest asking price at \$1,030. Murray said many works were not for sale because for some artists, this was their first exhibition, and many wanted to keep their work.



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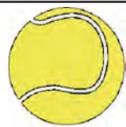
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Huning said it-- 'losing sucks'



Tennis Preview

Brandon Scott
Staff Writer

When VSU's men's tennis team gets on the court, everybody notices. That's the kind of pressure you face when you're ranked second in the country.

"If you know what winning's like, you know how much losing sucks," senior Tobias Huning said.

Huning and doubles partner, junior Marco Borges didn't do much losing during the fall season. Winning the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Small College Super Bowl this fall earned the

pair a wild card at the 2001 Omni Hotels National Intercollegiate Indoor Championships. In tournament that is comprised of mostly Division I teams, the pair fared surprisingly well, losing in the consolation semifinals.

Huning is a senior transfer from Lander University (Greenwood, S.C.). The duo was ranked No. 1 in the nation in doubles after the fall season.

Huning and Borges will be the key to this year's national championship run. However, the Blazers are loaded with underclassmen. The only juniors on the roster are Borges and Andreas Von Michealis. Freshmen Matt Anderson,

Andy Davies, Peter Kreuzfeldt and Philipp Laucht all must step up for the Blazers to bring home its first national championship.

Considering all the expectations, the players must have the national championship on the brain, right? They've got to be thinking about that road trip to Kansas City [the city hosting nationals], right? Any loss along the way is just an aberration, right? Wrong.

"We won a match last week [exhibition game with ABAC] and we want to win our match next week," Huning said. "We have to take it one match at a time. Of course you want to win nationals, but you can't look that far ahead."



Photos by Annie Johnson / The Spectator



(Top): Senior Tobias Huning transferred to VSU from Lander University last season and now he and junior Marco Borges (right) are ranked as the No. 1 doubles team in Division II.

DSU tourney awaits VSU

Jana N. Cook
Staff Writer

The Lady Blazers softball team will travel to Tunica, Miss., this weekend and join 10 other fast-pitch teams for the Delta State University Classic, the GSC crossover tournament.

West Florida, along with Henderson State and West Georgia, are the only GSC teams not participating in the DSU Classic. The only other non-GSC team in the tournament is Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, ranked No. 15 nationally.

VSU is scheduled to play SIUE first on Friday at 10 a.m.

DSU head coach David Kuhn includes the Lady Blazers in his list of the expected teams to dominate the tournament.

"Ark.-Monticello, UAH, VSU, and SIUE are the top teams to beat," Kuhn said.

McDaniel said, "Right now I think we are the best team going into the tournament. But we haven't seen the west division teams play this year yet."

The Lady Blazers are 2-0 on the season after sweeping Division II No. 6 West Florida in a doubleheader last weekend.

Senior Lindsay Ellingsworth racked up 16 strikeouts. "I definitely don't expect to go out there and lose," Ellingsworth said.



Annie Johnson / The Spectator

Senior outfielder Tamika Hill throws in to the infield.

This story was edited because of space. To see the entire article, go to www.valdosta.edu/spectator.

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VSU falls to LMU late, 46-45

T.A. Glanton
Staff Writer

And down the stretch they come.

This season, there will be no photo finish for the Lady Blazers. Instead of sprinting toward the finish line, VSU limps in just one position out of last place in the conference.

Saturday, VSU (9-14, 3-10 Gulf South) takes on the Lady Chargers of Alabama-Huntsville (13-10, 8-5 GSC) at 6 p.m. in The Complex. With their hopes almost non-existent of gaining a tournament berth, Lady Blazer coach Kiley Hill knows his team can relish the role of spoiler.

"It's a situation where we have three things to play for—pride, respect and to be a spoil-

er for those above us," Hill said.

With an upset win, VSU could snatch away the coveted tournament invitation awaiting the Lady Chargers. VSU freshman forward Amber Daniels knows it will take a tea effort.

"We want to have a team effort where everybody can contribute," Daniels said.

VSU is coming off a nauseating loss at the hands of Lincoln-Memorial, 46-45, Monday night at the Complex. The Lady Blazers second year head coach called the game a "cliff notes" version of the entire season.

"Again, it's just a situation where we came up a bucket short, a pass short and a block off short," Hill said.

UAH enters the game coming off a non-conference loss at Oakland-City, 76-71. The loss

puts the Lady Chargers into a fourth-place tie with West Georgia for the final tournament spot in the East.

Lady Blazers Offense: The two-headed monster of Daniels (9.6 ppg) and freshman center Courtney Parker (9.1 ppg) lead VSU's offensive attack. As a team, VSU shoots 44 percent from the field and averaging just under 61 points per game.

Lady Chargers Defense: One word describes the Lady Chargers defense—stingy. Kim Young (8.0 rpg) and LaKendra Hogg (4.7 rpg) own the inside paint. UAH allows only an average of 60 points per game and hold their opponents to a discomfoting 39 percent shooting from the field.

Lady Blazers Defense: Parker leads the way on defense collecting 9.3 rebounds per game.

Opponents are managing 63.3 points per game and shoot a chilly 40 percent from the field.

Lady Charger Offense: When asked what the strengths of UAH are, Hill responded with just one name, "Kim Young." Young leads the team in scoring, averaging a rowdy 20.5 points per game.

VSU freshman center Courtney Parker scores late in the second half of Monday's 46-45 loss to Lincoln Memorial in the Complex.



Annie Johnson / The Spectator

VSU, UAH battle for GSC invite

Brandon Scott
Staff Writer

When the Alabama-Huntsville Chargers visit the P.E. Complex this Saturday, VSU can ill afford a loss.

The Blazers (17-6, 7-4 Gulf South Conference) are in a fragile tie for second place with West Florida.

However, VSU is coming on strong after Monday night's 73-52 shellacking of Lincoln Memorial at the Complex.

Meanwhile, the Chargers (16-7, 6-5 GSC) bring a seven game road win streak and dreams of the GSC tourney.

Blazer Offense: The transition game is back and has the Blazer offense returning to its early

season form. Four Blazers scored in double-digits with junior guard John Prise recording a double-double Monday night.

Yarbrough's Keys: "We have to score more points than them. We're going to have to limit their three-point shooting. We have to make them work for everything."

Chargers Defense: The Blazers have to be careful not to fall into the clutches of the GSC's No. 3 scoring defense.

Blazer Defense: Take your hands and squeeze your cat's neck. See that reaction? That's what the LMU Tigers looked like after becoming yet another victim of the nation's No. 5 defense. The Gulf South's

leading scorer, senior Craig Zeigler was held to an Enron-profit low four points. The Blazers will have to stifle the potent Charger attack. Perimeter defense will be key.

Chargers Offense: The offense is the strength of the Chargers, as they have six players averaging double-digits in scoring. Saevar Sigurmundsson is 6'7" and Zach Carpenter is 6'6" - and they shoot the three.



VSU junior guard John Prise skies for a board in the Blazers 73-52 win Monday at the Complex.

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