

## SGA prepares for SAC

Mary Ellen McConnell  
Staff Writer

SGA is preparing for the upcoming Student Advisory Committee meeting.

This meeting brings together all area SGAs. There are several things the allocations committee has yet to approve for the meeting before it can reach the senate, but Nick Overstreet, SGA president, said the SGA still has \$18,000 to spend this year.

"A good conference costs between four and five thousand dollars," Cody Guined, SGA vice president, said. "The best conference I have ever been to cost between eight and nine thousand dollars. This conference will not cost that much but with all the work we have put into it, it will be better."



## Spring is here... or is it?

Annie Ruok / The Spectator

Tara Tillman (left), sophomore accounting major, plays frisbee on the front lawn Wednesday. Meanwhile, Heather Whiteside, a freshman early childhood education major, and Mandy Van, a freshman nursing major, catch some rays. For the weekend forecast, see page 3.



## Retreat part of larger picture

Neil Skerratt  
Staff Writer

VSU is currently in planning, whether or not we feel it.

The strategic planning phase began in earnest Monday. Its next step will be to survey 500 randomly selected students via e-mail. Faculty and staff will also be surveyed.

Thomas Archibald, assistant to the president for Information Technology, said the surveys would be e-mailed March 11-15—in time for Dr. Zaccari's strategic planning retreat on March 21-23 at the University Center's Magnolia Room.

Students on academic probation will not get one of the 500 random surveys.

The retreat will include four

students, four faculty, four staff, employees from Solutions 21, an international consulting firm that not only assists colleges but also Fortune 500 companies, and Dr. Zaccari.

Dr. Zaccari has worked with Solutions 21 in his past administration of colleges, and he said he was pleased with the results.

"Strategic planning will be an ongoing process, and Solutions 21 will be called in annually," he said.

Archibald said, "There have also been outside individuals from the community and state invited to the retreat."

He also said Valdosta's Mayor Jimmy Rainwater as

**Planning** see page 4



## Students, activists meet at VSU

Amy Williamson  
Staff Writer

The Seventh Annual Women's Conference, "Where We Belong," will be March 14 to 16 in the University Center and aims to provide women with an answer to that question.

The conference will bring together a group of people who will present papers on various subjects. Various undergraduate and graduate students and community activists will give presentations during the conference, including 10 of VSU's own students.

"The purpose of the conference is to exchange ideas and join the national conversation on

how to make a better country and world," Dr. Viki Soady, director of Women's Studies, said.

"Educated citizens need to understand, if not agree with, ideas and solutions to social inequalities that exist outside their narrow context."

The conference is free. Anyone who is interested may attend.

"South Georgia is ready for

changes in social attitudes," Dr. Soady said.

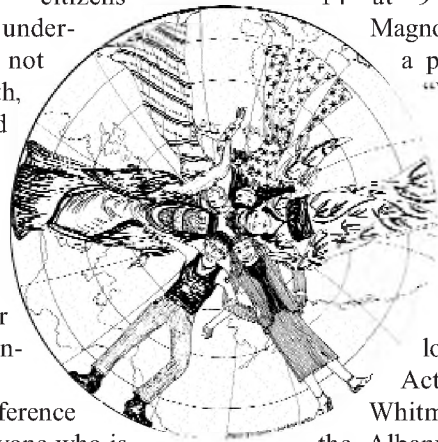
The conference begins March 14 at 9 a.m. in the Magnolia Room with a panel addressing "Women and Children in the Albany Freedom Movement."

The panel will feature Joan Browning, lifelong Civil Rights Activist, Angela Whital, curator of the Albany Civil Rights Museum, and Wilma King, distinguished scholar of black

social history who focuses her work on women and children.

Also on March 14, the Albany State University drama department will present a production of Ntozake Shange's "For Colored Girls who have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow was Enough" at 7 p.m. in the UC Theater.

Following the Speakout held by Kim Gandy, national president of National Organization for Women, at 1:45 p.m. on March 16, the conference will come to a close with a performance by the Veronica Women's Theatre group from Maine in the Magnolia Room from 3:15 to 4 p.m.



## What's happening at the Women's Conference:



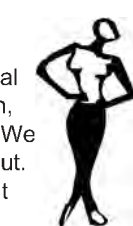
Friday, March 15 at 9 a.m.: Novelist Janice Daugherty will read and discuss her new work: "Massacre at Moniac Crossing."

Friday, March 15 3:20-4:20 p.m.: Satirist and poet Rosemary Daniell of Savannah will entertain with "Bad Girls and Artists: When Southern Women Break the Rules" in the UC Theater.



Friday, March 15 at 7:30 p.m.: Poet and author Marge Piercy will read, entitled "The Mind of Woman: Poetry and Commentary," in the Biology/Chemistry Building Auditorium.

Saturday, March 16 at 9 a.m.: Kim Gandy, National President of the National Organization for Women, will present a speech entitled "Where Exactly Do We Belong?" At 1:45 p.m.: Gandy will hold a Speakout. This will be the opportunity for students to present their views on various topics.



Lindsey Giddens / The Spectator

## TKE responsible on four counts

Laura Justin  
Staff Writer

Tau Kappa Epsilon is off suspension, but faces 18 stipulations including a two-year charter probation, after a Dec. 4, 2001, administrative hearing.

The fraternity was originally placed on suspension on Oct. 9, 2001, following an incident at its annual Kamikaze party Oct. 5, 2001.

TKE pled responsible to four violations, including conducting a social function that failed to comply with Georgia state laws and VSU regulations, using pooled funds to purchase alcohol to be used as a common source for distribution, conducting an open party to which no invitation was required and purchasing and/or serving alcoholic beverages to minors.

According to Richard Lee, assistant to the dean of students for Judicial Affairs, the Oct. 9 suspension and commencement of the TKE investigation was spurred by an allegation that a female in attendance at Kamikaze received a drugged beverage. This allegation, and other sources, served as a basis for initial suspension.

"[We based the suspension on] a police report, a public safety report, two, three, four, statements from

friends of the young lady," Lee said.

Adequate evidence was not found to support the female's allegations, and the fraternity was not found guilty of any illegal drug violations.

"The young lady was acting strange, that was a given," Lee said. "She was drinking and she was underage."

According to Lee, the female did visit the hospital at some point that night, but refused drug testing.

Jeff Mangold, who currently holds alumni status in TKE, was president at the time of the incident as well as the hearing.

It was a guilty until proven innocent type of thing.

-Jeff Mangold, past president of TKE

"The idea that someone spiked this girl's drink is ridiculous," Mangold said. "When I was [president] I preached, especially with women, to always conduct yourself as a gentleman. We were anti-drug completely. No one used [drugs], we didn't recruit anyone we knew that used [drugs]. I felt we were one of the cleanest organ-

izations on campus."

Upon closure of investigations, the local chapter had the option of facing a Greek Judicial Board hearing, in which it would contest the charges before a jury of its peers, or an administrative hearing in which the fraternity would accept responsibility for the charges and receive punishment from the administration.

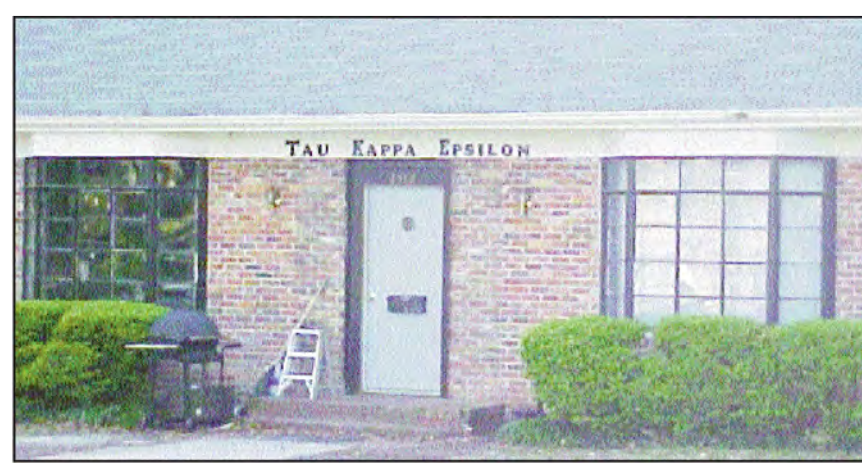
"TKE chose an administrative hearing because they accepted complete and total responsibility for all allegations lodged against them," Lee said.

The administrative hearing was closed to the public, and the verdict could not be appealed. "I was advised by my attorney [to choose an administrative hearing]," Mangold said.

According to Mangold, this decision was based on the fact that, at the time, his attorney was planning on taking actions against the school. He also stated that some of his fraternity brothers did not support this decision and wishes he had opted for a judicial hearing based on how the investigation was handled and the hearing's results.

According to Mangold, TKE felt it had complied with everything it was supposed to do prior to the function.

"We had a city cop there, we had a city permit, we had a school permit, we went through all the avenues we were supposed to go through so nothing



Laura Justin / The Spectator

Though the TKE house has been reopened, under the stipulations of the findings of VSU and National TKE, the house must remain alcohol free through the end of fall semester 2002.

would go wrong," Mangold said. "We took extra steps to make sure all our bases were covered. We did have alcohol, but we put it in separate bottles so there wasn't a common source. We had it locked away where different brothers took turns [accessing the alcohol]."

TKE was notified of its suspension via a letter from Russ Mast, acting vice president for Student Affairs and dean of students, at which point VSU began its investigation.

"We met with students, the young lady involved, personal friends of hers, got their statements, met with TKE members, mostly students that saw and heard what happened," Lee said. "From there we derived charges."

Mangold said the investigation was improperly handled and that he was kept in the dark despite his efforts to remain cooperative.

According to Mangold, he was instructed by Lee and Mast not to speak to anyone, including the press, about the incident. Upon reading in the Oct. 18, 2001 issue of the Spectator that Lee had said TKE was under investigation, Mangold felt his fraternity was presented in a one-sided manner and destined for a biased investigation.

"It was a guilty until proven innocent type of thing," Mangold said.

**TKE** see page 4

### Inside Today

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### Next issue

## Community Service!

Who's doing it and how you can help...

### Web Watch

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

Mom and dad are gonna FREAK when they see what you've done to your face. Or maybe you don't have the guts to get that 30th piercing that's sure to throw their "understanding" natures overboard.

You don't have to, you can fill the urge to pierce, brand, tattoo or scar and use someone else's body as your canvas.

Mildred, and her friends Maurice and Melvin are here for you to use for your art. You

### This week:

WWW.MILDRED.COM

get points to use to buy more artwork and you get to compete against other human artists.

But watch out...if you don't take care of Mildred's body, she'll scar in ways you never intended.



# Campus Happenings

www.valdosta.edu/spectator

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

## POLICE BEAT

### February 16

Someone keyed a student's '91 Ford Escort while it was parked in the Oak Street parking lot between 12:30 p.m. on Feb. 16 and 7:30 a.m. on Feb. 17. The act is considered criminal damage to property.

### February 27

Someone took a student's wallet from the Fine Arts Building between 1:30 and 3:11 p.m. A Victim's Bill of Rights was completed. The case has been turned over to investigations.

### February 28

Stephen Ross Campton, 21, of 1307 Apt. M, Baytree Drive; Richard Brian Pulley, 22, of 950 Secret Cove Drive, Sugarhill, Ga.; and William Noble Hogan, 20, of 1601 Norman Drive, Apartment V8, were arrested at the north side of the University Center at 1:25 a.m. for disorderly conduct. Hogan was also charged with underage possession of alcohol. According to the incident report, all three men were using their fists on one another in the presence of an officer and a witness. All three men are VSU students and were taken to Lowndes County Jail.

### March 1

Thomas Jay Barfield, 20, of 3833 North Oak St. Extension, Apartment 20, was arrested at Williams Street and Cranford Avenue at 1:38 a.m. for giving false information to police and underage possession of alcohol. He was taken to Lowndes County Jail. He is a VSU student.

### March 1

Someone kicked a cinderblock loose from a wall on the second floor of Patterson Hall between 11:30 p.m. on March 1 and 9:30 a.m. on March 2. The act is considered interference with government property.

Someone entered a professor's office in Nevins Hall and took \$40 in cash between 4 and 8 p.m.

### March 2

Tommy Richard West Jr., 22, of 125 Wilkerson Ave., was arrested for driving with a suspended license at High Street and North Oak Street at 5:55 p.m. He is not a VSU student.

## Today

The Student Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management will host guest speaker Dr. Christine Vanchella, a psychologist and head of the psychology department at South Georgia College, at 3:30 p.m. in Pound Hall Auditorium on North Campus. Dr. Vanchella will talk about what graduate schools do not teach about the business world. This event is free and open to the public.

For more information, e-mail Francesca Taylor at [ftaylor@valdosta.edu](mailto:ftaylor@valdosta.edu).

Natural High will host cosmic bowling at Valdosta Lanes from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. VSU students need to bring \$1 and VSU I.D.

For more information, call the office of alcohol and other drug education at 259-5111.

## Friday

The VSU Blazers basketball team will play Paine College at 5 p.m. in the National Collegiate Athletic Association South Region Basketball Tournament at the Martinez Sport Center at the University of Tampa tournament field in Tampa, Fla.

If the Blazers win, they will face Henderson State at 5 p.m. on Saturday. The championship game will be at 4 p.m. on Sunday.

General admission tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and youth. Tickets will be available in the VSU athletic department.

For more information, call Lynne Sourwine-Capece, direc-

tor of athletic advancement at the P.E. Complex, at 249-2631 or e-mail her at [lscapece@valdosta.edu](mailto:lscapece@valdosta.edu).

The VSU Blazers baseball team will host "Faculty/Staff Night" at its game against Florida Tech at 6 p.m. at Billy Grant Field.

VSU faculty and staff with valid VSU I.D.s will be admitted free to the game and their immediate family members will be admitted for \$1.

For more information, call the athletics department/box office at 333-5890.

## Sunday

Judit Gabos, associate professor of piano at Esterhazy College in Hungary, will perform a piano recital at 3 p.m. in Whitehead Auditorium at the Fine Arts Building.

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

## Monday

Jakub Durr, of Palacky University in the Czech Republic, will present a lecture about the Roma in central Europe at 7 p.m. in Magnolia Room 2 at the University Center. Refreshments will be served after the lecture.

For more information, call the Center for International Programs at 333-7410.

## Tuesday

There will be a studio performance of "Awakening the Witness" at 4 p.m. in the dance studio at the University Center 2108.

The performance is a preview of original choreography by Catherine A. Schaeffer, assistant professor of dance, that seven VSU theatre/dance majors will perform at the American College Dance Festival.

VSU will be represented for the first time in the Southeast Region Festival on March 20 through 22 in Montgomery, Ala., at Huntingdon College.

For more information, call Schaeffer at 333-5825.

Political science students Jonathan Posey and Ryan Springer will present a brown bag presentation, "Voting Behavior in the U.S. Senate: An Analysis of Campaign Finance and Gun Control Legislation," from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. in West Hall 150.

Everyone is welcomed to bring a sack lunch and attend.

For more information, call Dr. James LaPlant, associate pro-

fessor of political science, at 333-5771 or e-mail him at [jlaplant@valdosta.edu](mailto:jlaplant@valdosta.edu).

**See the rest of the Campus Happenings listings and Police Beat on the Spectator's web site.**

## VSU upholds state history, 44th year

VSU made history in 1958 by establishing the first Georgia chapter of the Alpha Chi national honor society.

Now, 44 years later, VSU has made history again. On Tuesday, 116 juniors and seniors were inducted--the largest induction in VSU history. See the list of new members online at [www.valdosta.edu/spectator](http://www.valdosta.edu/spectator).

## Found Property

1. Man's black leather jacket
2. Sweatshirt
3. Eyeglasses with case
4. Eyeglasses

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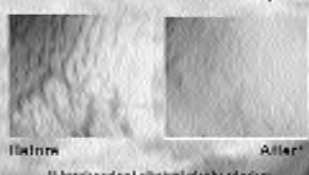
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Weekend Forecast

# News

www.valdosta.edu/spectator

Today	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
 UV Index: 6 Moderate Hi: 74 Low: 52	 UV Index: 3 Low Hi: 78 Low: 55	 UV Index: 7 High Hi: 76 Low: 47	 UV Index: 6 Moderate Hi: 65 Low: 38

## Dr. Zaccari gives first speech to VSU

Matt Stewart  
Staff Writer

VSU president Dr. Ronald M. Zaccari is a man of change and he plans for VSU to reflect that—but not immediately.

Dr. Zaccari delivered a 40-minute speech to more than 400 students, staff and faculty in Whitehead Auditorium in the Fine Arts Building last Thursday. In his speech, Dr. Zaccari discussed VSU's search committee process and his plans for the university.

"[Dr. Zaccari] did an outstanding job of painting a clear picture of VSU's future," Russ Mast, acting vice president for Student Affairs, said. "I'm excited about helping him accomplish that and excited about what he brings to VSU."

Dr. Zaccari reaffirmed the search process was extensive and complete and he won the appointment "fair and square over a national pool of candi-

dates." The process included several interviews with Dr. Stephen Porch, former chancellor of the Georgia university system, and meetings with current chancellor, Dr. Thomas Meredith, as well as a deep examination of Dr. Zaccari's background.

"I understand how some people fault the search process," James Brignati, vice president for Business and Finance, said. "But [Dr. Zaccari] works for the chancellor and he (Meredith) makes the final decision."

VSU's president, now in his second month of office, talked about his planning process for the university's immediate and long-term future.

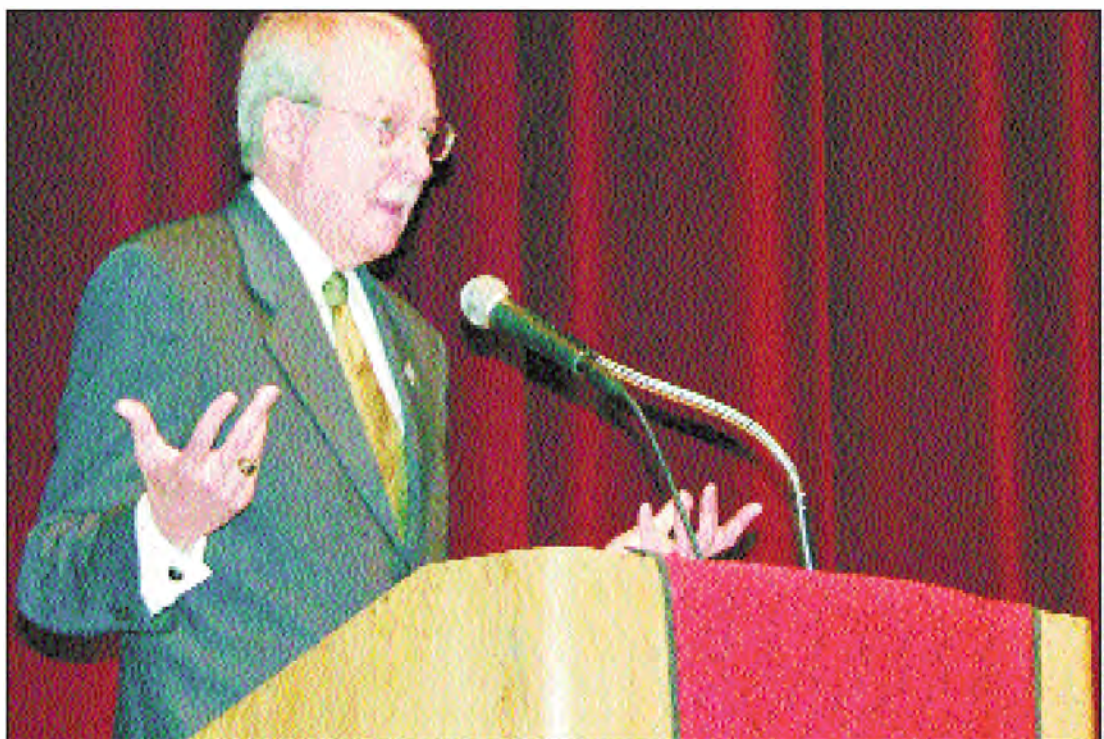
"The transformation at VSU will be intentional, deep and pervasive, affecting the whole institution, and will occur systematically over time," Dr. Zaccari said. "We're not going to turn anything upside down. The only intelligent way to proceed is to have a well developed

plan involving major stakeholders—you [students, faculty and staff].

"If we're not getting better, we're getting worse. Amid constant change, competing demands, constrained resources and proliferating options, inertia often reigns. We must be in control of our own destiny."

Dr. Zaccari presented a new plan he called the "inside/out model." The plan includes current university issues, including the idea of a new VSU football stadium. He said the new stadium would be planned in the context of other campus issues, such as new living environments, traffic flow and parking. In the near future, the president will research how a new stadium will benefit these smaller concerns now and 10 years from now.

In the next few months, Dr. Zaccari said he will travel extensively to keep networks open with other schools. He also said he is in the process of



Dr. Ronald M. Zaccari, VSU president, speaks to the crowd of about 400 students, faculty and staff Feb. 28 at Whitehead Auditorium. This is his first speech to VSU.

building a model for change that will frame the future of VSU.

"Changes make people nervous," Dr. Zaccari said. "We need people who are unafraid of change and willing to discover new possibilities."

Special to the Spectator

## New hold will be put into effect

Kate Gauling  
Staff Writer

Students have another hold to worry about.

According to Dr. Louis Levy, acting vice president for Academic Affairs, a registration block will take effect fall 2002 for students who have not signed up for the Regents test, but have more than 45 semester credit hours. The registration system will automatically sort out students who have failed or not taken both sections. Those students will not be able to conduct their registration by computer or phone, Gerald Wright, registrar, said.

According to Honey

Coppage, assistant to the vice president for Academic Affairs, coordinator of Employment Records and Procedures and custodian of Official Records, holds will only be placed on student records if the student is not in compliance with the Regents policy.

"Our intent is to place holds on those not in compliance, such as students who have not signed up for remedial courses, students who have failed or not taken the test and not registered, and students who are going to exceed 45 hours and not registered," Coppage said.

Students who will have holds on their records will be notified by mail. To have the hold

released, students must call the office for Academic Affairs at 333-5950.

According to Dr. Levy, students from outside the Georgia University System who transfer to VSU are allotted two semesters to sign up and pass the Regents test. Transfer students within the Georgia University System are expected to have completed the Regents test at their previous university. Students who fail either part or both parts of the Regents test must sign up for remedial classes. Students who sign up for the test but not the class or classes will receive holds.

"Most students have completed English 1101 and 1102

prior to 45 hours and are ready to take the Regents test," Dr. Levy said.

This Regents registration block has been used before, said Mike Gibbons, testing officer. Apparently, when VSU converted to the Banner student record system, the system would block students who had taken and passed both sections of the Regents Test.

According to Dr. Levy, the problem with the database has been corrected and the block is being put back into use on line.

"It will remind students to register for the Regents test and once they do, we'll remove the hold," Dr. Levy said.

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# News



## In the

### Fresh U.S. troops arrive for reinforcement

New U.S. forces were airlifted to the mountains of eastern Afghanistan to fight Taliban and al-Qaida holdouts Wednesday. The U.S. commander of the operation said his troops "have the momentum" even after defeating hundreds of enemy fighters. Although other defense officials felt the operation would be over in a few days, they said new ground assaults are likely in other parts of Afghanistan.

### Condit loses race to ex-aide

Following the disappearance of intern Chandra Levy, Gary Condit was defeated Tuesday in the Democratic congressional primary by former aide Dennis Cardoza. Condit's bid to keep the central California seat he held for 13 year was overpowered by Levy's disappearance. Condit admitted to an affair with Levy, but Washington police sources said he is not a suspect in her disappearance.

### 56 new counts brought against crematory operator

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation filed 56 new count of theft by deception against crematory operator Ray Brent Marsh Tuesday. He now has 174 counts pending while being held in Walker County Jail. The GBI has roughly one acre left to excavate and will finish draining the pond by Friday. They will use flat-bottom boats for an initial search, but it will be mid-month before they can start digging.

### Woman finally rescued after 10 hours of treading water

A 24-year-old female crew member of a luxury cruise liner Norway treaded water for 10 hours in the Atlantic Ocean before being rescued Tuesday morning. According to Coast Guard spokeswoman Anastasia Burns, the unidentified woman went into the water at 12:30 a.m. EST. She was picked up at 10:30 a.m. by the Norwegian Cruise Line liner when she was spotted in Bahamian waters about 135 miles northeast of Great Inagua Island. She was listed in stable conditions later that day.

## It's all financial

Leah F. Cassorla  
Staff Writer

It's that time of year again. Time to sit down and wrestle with government forms. What better time, then, for Financial Aid Awareness Month?

"It's time to do income taxes, so it's time to apply for fall financial aid," Tommy Moore, director of the Office of Financial Aid, said.

Moore explained that, traditionally, freshmen have a high rate of early application because they are encouraged to apply by their guidance counselors while they are still in high school.

"Getting them to reapply is tough," Moore said. Financial aid awareness month is designed to get students thinking about financial aid so they will apply.

According to Moore, it is important that students apply for renewal as early as possible because students make mistakes on their applications, and those

mistakes must be corrected before aid is approved.

By applying early, students allow time for corrections.

The Office of Financial Aid now files financial aid applications electronically. This quicker process means student aid is available sooner.

Students who need help completing their applications can find that help at the Office of Financial Aid.

Moore urges students to apply early, read carefully, and above all else come to the Office of Financial Aid for the facts.

"Do not listen to roommates, strangers, boyfriends or girlfriends," Moore said. "There are a lot of myths out there about financial aid. Check with us. Come speak to a counselor."

Students can reach the Office of Financial Aid at 333-5935.

## Tradition will be of the past

TKE continued from page 1

Mangold was instructed to give up his position as president within two weeks of the hearing.

His last day of office was Dec. 17, 2001, at which time Joe Adams took over the presidency.

Mangold, along with Jeremy Bodechon, former chaplain, Corey Shoemake, former pledge trainer and Keith Kemmerer, former sergeant-at-arms and social chairman, are prohibited from running for any TKE office in the future.

As a result of these incidents, the TKE tradition of Kamikaze will most likely be one of the past.

"I don't think their national office will allow it," Lee said. "I don't think we have to worry about that."

Mangold also agrees that this annual event will likely never occur again.

"[Kamikaze] was the one thing we did every year where every Greek organization was invited," Mangold said. "We felt like we were providing unity for the school. All races, all groups, could come to one place to have a good time."

**The Ruling:**  
TKE accepted responsibility on four charges in a Dec. 4 hearing.  
TKE was released from suspension with 18 stipulations.  
TKE was not held responsible for allegations that a female was drugged at Kamikaze.  
The president and officers had to resign their positions within two weeks of the hearing.

### Planning

continued from page 1

After the survey and retreat, an overall plan that reflects the views of the campus will conclude the strategic planning phase of Zaccari's plan.

The master plan deals with buildings, parking, landscaping, traffic flow and new instructional facilities. Dr. Zaccari said VSU will hire a team of architects to help.

The facilities plan deals with how VSU will maintain buildings and other facilities it already has. This part of the plan will include how much money will be budgeted for upkeep, renovations and general repairs.

The fourth and fifth sections of Dr. Zaccari's plan are closely related. The fourth part deals with budgeting, and the fifth with external fundraising.

According to Dr. Zaccari, external fundraising is needed because the budget VSU has will not be enough.

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# The Spectator

Leah F. Cassorla  
Editor-in-Chief

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Advertising Manager

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Circulation Manager

## Come together right NOW

So, you wanna pick up chicks, right? Of course you do. And believe it or not, your chance is here.

VSU is hosting its annual Women's Conference and this one's gonna be a doozie. It's a national conference, with presenters from across the country.

So you'll have your pick of chicks!

Of course, you will have to be your usual sensitive, introspective, intelligent self, because these chicks are not your average run of the mill chicks.

These chicks are WOMEN. They're strong, they're intelligent, they're changing the world—everything you're looking for in a chick.

They're going to be here to discuss everything from equality in the US to gender issues around the world.

And they expect you to be there, because it is about you. It's about all of us. Male, female, straight, gay, white, Hispanic, African-American, Asian, Native American, you name it.

We are all part of women's studies, because women's studies is about humans—and not just the lactating type.

Women's studies is a way for us to learn about who we are, how we behave and what we have to offer. And in the case of this conference, "where we belong."

The conversation is taking place on a national level, and next week, that national conversation is taking place in Valdosta.

You're invited to participate, to share your thoughts, to become part of the dialogue. You're invited to become part of a community of individuals working to see the individual in one another. You're invited to meet some power chicks who prove the granola-eatin', sandal-wearin', bra-burnin', man-hatin' feminazi stereotype is a fallacy.

*Spectator opinion written by Leah F. Cassorla*

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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.



Jason Howell

## We want you

For all those who are unsure of what they want to do with their lives, but want an adventurous lifestyle filled with travel and interesting people, then the U.S. military is calling you.

If you are against going to college enlisting in the military is a good way to go. If you are going to college and interested in the military, then try being an officer. The pay is good and you get to lead others serving your country. Most people will not ever have a chance to do in their lifetime.

My dad taught me great things about the military. I joined Junior R.O.T.C. during my senior year of high school and I enjoyed it. I had plans to become an Air Force officer just like my dad.

I enjoyed R.O.T.C. but it seemed like a lot of work during my first year of college. It was hard to keep my grades up to keep HOPE and work hard at R.O.T.C. Even though I enjoyed R.O.T.C. I also wanted to enjoy other aspects of college life. So I dropped R.O.T.C. and started looking elsewhere for profession. I still felt the military was calling me, but I realized I didn't have much chance of going in as an officer at this point in my college career.

I heard a couple friends talk about a U.S. Navy college program. It was a Bachelor Degree Completion Program for college Juniors or Seniors who want to be Naval Officers when they graduate. You had to be a full time junior or senior, with a 2.7 GPA, pass a Naval Battery test and a complete physical down at MEPS in Jacksonville, Fla. I have been in the program since last June and love everything about it. By the time I graduate the Navy will have paid me for my last two years of college along with full health benefits, privileges at any military base, 60 days vacation time built up, two years that count towards my retirement and a secure job, Surface Warfare Officer, from the Navy before I walk across the graduation stage.

Since joining the program I have quit my job and been able to enjoy college life. I also have more time for studying.

I loved the idea of serving my country, traveling and meeting new friends.

If you want to get out of the Navy after your four-year commitment is up, nothing looks better on a resume than U.S. military experience. Everyone in college and interested in the military should find out more about this wonderful program. I did and I don't regret it one bit because it's probably the best decision I have made.

## Earn your equality

These days I hear white people owe the black community an apology for acts of the past. How is it that the black community comes to this conclusion? Is it because we kept them in slavery—which is a terrible institution, but not unique to America—for over 200 years and tore them from their homeland? If these reasons are the justification for wearing the diaper of society, and making my life miserable then I am as angered as they claim to be. I have several questions for the misled Jesse Jackson followers out there.

If your grandfather committed murder and died before he could stand trial for his sins, how would you react if the law demanded that you pay for what he had done? You would be very angry, and would no doubt claim the only reason this was being done was because of your skin color. Well *hello*, I feel the same way. I ENSLAVED NO ONE! How can you have the nerve to say I should be responsible for what my ancestors have done? I feel



Trey Purcell  
Guest Columnist

terrible and ashamed about what happened but I had nothing to do with it! My white ancestors may have brought your ancestors over here, but the Africa that you love so dearly houses the ancestors of those who sold your ancestors to mine! If it is really so bad over here then the solution is simple: go back. See how warmly you are greeted. You tell the South it lost the war and should just get over it. Who should really get over it?

Answer: The black community

Another question: You want to be equal? Define equal. Every definition of equal I have read or heard does not include

providing preference to one thing/person over another. The very things your liberal politicians claim provide you with your flimsy, unrealistic equality go against every possible definition of that very word. It seems logical that you should not only want to feel equal in your own eyes, but also in the eyes of others. The white community will never see you as equal until you truly get things in the same manner in which they do. You want equality getting into college? STUDY! You want equality with how much money you make? GET A JOB! Don't tell me blacks have trouble getting jobs today. The public opinion is because blacks are the minority they are discriminated against. I consider this to be one of the biggest fallacies of current society. Blacks are the minority?

Think about how this is calculated. First with voting registration. Blacks have the low-

**Rights** — see page 9

### Mailbox

## Get it together, VSU

Dear Editor:

As a nontraditional student at VSU enrolled in developmental studies, I would like to express my concern about a professor who has encouraged me to withdraw from school instead of listening to me about my concerns. Before I enrolled I was assured that coming into algebra class with no prior knowledge of the subject was acceptable because they would teach it to me. As stated in the South Georgia Regional Education Consortium pamphlet, students would receive "plenty of one-on-one

attention from instructors." However, when I needed help, I had to turn to work-study students for assistance. As a paying member of the student population, I was encouraged, several times, to simply quit school rather than bother this man with my math concerns. Doesn't he know that without students he doesn't have a job? Teachers should encourage students rather than discourage them.

I am at VSU through the Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College Consortium. As an ABAC student it seems that VSU offers no assistance with any of my problems. ABAC and VSU need to work closer together to offer better orientation classes, and help with assigning advisers. It is past midterm, and I have yet to receive any orientation or been assigned an adviser.

When problems do arise, VSU doesn't want to help, saying I am an ABAC student. Who do I turn to?

In reading the Trailblazer, the regent's stated, "the increasing age of Georgians ties in with the regents' own data that indicate additional efforts are needed to see more older, nontraditional students as well as African-American males enrolled in college." Doesn't this mean that professors should help students and encourage them, especially with this older population making up a large majority of the students?

In closing, I would like to say that I enjoy learning and want to continue my education at VSU. It would be nice to feel that my presence is wanted.

Betty Gunter



Got something to say?  
Open mic on this page every week at the Spectator.

## Do you feel that Women's Studies programs are important?



"We learn more in these classes about a women's effect on society since we don't obtain this information from the history books."

**Maya Johnson**  
Senior  
Criminal Justice



"Yes, because it is important to celebrate the accomplishments of women."

**Angela Smalley**  
Senior  
Fine Arts



"All study programs are important to anyone who wants to know more about that particular subject."

**Thomas Fleming**  
Graduate Student  
Speech Language and Pathology



"Yes, it's important to have a male as well as a female point of view on all issues."

**Sean Gammon**  
Freshman  
Undecided



"Yes, because women have come a long way in history, and my mom's a woman and she had me and that's great."

**Bobby Cruz**  
Senior  
Graphic Design



"It fulfills the obligation required by educators to teach all areas of history that greatly involve women."

**Christi Waller**  
Freshman  
Early Childhood Education



Editor's Note

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.

DANGER THE DARKSIDE

If you have ideas or comments about the Darkside page, contact Darkside editor, Jeremiah Bass at loserkidblink@hotmail.com

sex & marriage

I DON'T THINK YOU CAN HANDLE

Jeremiah W. Bass Staff Writer

After watching the movie 40 Days and 40 Nights this past weekend, I walked away feeling proud to be a man. I saw a lot of myself in that movie.

In case you're not in the loop, 40 Days and 40 Nights is this newly arrived comedy blockbuster hit that portrays the strengths and weaknesses of the male, the weakness mainly being SEX and how the male genitalia sometimes has a mind of its own.

The strength was shown when Matt, played by actor Josh Hartnett, did all he could to withstand the various assortments of T&A for 40 days and 40 nights.

Temptation rears its ugly head all of the time, surprising us when we least expect it. We can't help but indulge in what we like every once in a while.

But let's just say, for the sake of conversation, that we were put in Matt's position...could we do it? What could we do to distance ourselves from sex and anything putting us in a compromising situation?

For us MEN, I guess there are many things we could do. Let me share with you my wisdom of abstaining from sex (who am I kidding? I couldn't get it from a female dog in heat if I wanted to).

For instance, covering your eyes with masking tape would be a good start. Just get a guide dog to get you wherever you need to go. The masking tape will prevent you from viewing the 'women-goods,' if you know what I mean. Be sure to shave your eyebrows first.

If you're thinking, 'I could get the words 'I'm gay' tattooed on my forehead, this could help keep the chicks away,' you're thinking wrong.

I've noticed that gay guys tend to be the ones with all of the ladies hanging off their shoulders. So instead, get the words, 'I'm a sexist pig and damn proud of it' tattooed on

your forehead.

Guys, try real hard to convince yourself that seeing two chicks French kiss is a bad thing and that you shouldn't watch that. It's gonna be pretty hard, though. I mean, just thinking about two chicks automatically triggers the hormones in a guy's body to think, 'Tongue action.' Instead, picture two 75-year old women necking. This should turn Mr. Pee Pee off for a while.

Get rid of all your Playboy channels, porn magazines, porn videos, condoms and roughed-up tube socks (you know what I'm talkin' about). Get someone to chop off your hands so you won't be put in a compromising situation between your rosy palms and your unit. I'm sure your hands will understand.

I'm sure you've gotta be asking yourself, 'Does any of this make any sense? What's this guy talkin' about?' And you know what? You're absolutely right.

The movie made me realize that it doesn't matter if we try to live our lives perfectly, if even for 40 days and 40 nights. Because deep down inside, we are all a bunch of HORN DOGS!

We have to realize that yes, as clichéd as it may sound, none of us are perfect and giving into temptation doesn't make you the next Osama bin Laden [remember that guy?].

Of course, all of those suggestions I made about ridding yourself of sex and anything sexual were just a lot of bizarre suggestions.

The real suggestion is: dig in every once in a while. This goes for not just the guys, but the gals, too.

Buy those magazines and those videos. Go to Hooter's and 'enjoy the scenery.'

Hey, if you're going to Hooter's, let me know.

Mirror, mirror on the wall, w. newest trend of all?

Tara Sherman Staff Writer

Some folks like to deck out their rides with shiny rims and a loud system. Some folks trade in their initials for Greek letters. Others just want to get married! VSU has plenty of other trends taking bloom, but these have existed longer and are still going strong.

Around the dormitories you see all the crazy ways people can screw up their cars. Some like to install speakers that rattle the trunk and quite possibly the engine. Black lights are being installed on dashboards as an ad for the Rick's after-party. Some cars look like the paint job was done on a strange acid binge and I swear some of them glow in the dark.

Also around this trendy campus you will see an array of letters you didn't have to learn in your ABC's. Whether they are on handbags or bumper stickers, these special letters make the students who wear them special people. Also, the same can enjoy all-access to the hippest parties in town, where you'll drink with the same people once again.

Some don't want to waste

their cash on car accessories or fraternity fees. What better way to blow it than on an engagement ring?

Go ahead and trade in your ride, your books and your life so she can say "yes" when she really meant "no." That goes for males, too. Embrace yourself for the possibility of even more enjoyable trend years down the line: divorce court!

Call me a cynic but I just have a hard time believing that so many people my age think they've found "The One." This is the time when we're supposed to be young and not have the "mister" or "misses" tag. College is supposed to be the best years of your life, when you date and find out who you really are. I don't see why someone would want to imperfect a perfect relationship by adding a marriage license. Try going through a divorce and drag a few kids along with it and you'll soon understand that it's okay to say, "I don't."

Congrats to the soul mates who just can't resist walking down the aisle. Some will be fortunate in their endeavors. But with the chances of a perfect marriage slimmer than Enron's paper shreds, my

advice to you is don't throw the dice; stick to boyfriend/girlfriend. It may sound 'soooo last year,' but in the end, it may be worth it.

When you're being pressured to make your motor sound like a Jack Black fart or to join Iada Pie or if your lover is tempting you with a diamond in your face, make Nancy Reagan's words actually useful and just say no.

This may leave a damper on your social life but trust me, your parents will thank you.

You'll get a rifty pat on the back for saving them the money and the trouble.

-Tara Sherman is a columnist for The Spectator and can be contacted at cloud9tara@aol.com

Or if you're shy, contact The Spectator at 333-5685.

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## Home school produces independent student

**Matt Stewart**  
Staff Writer

An air of intelligence emanates from Christina Johnson. She'll tell you the credit belongs to her mother. But a large percentage of it is a direct result of the self-reliance she accrued from home schooling at an early age.

Johnson, a junior theatre major (emphasis in dance) in her second year at VSU, spent the genesis of her academic career in her own home until eighth grade when she transferred into public schools. She began home school in Duluth, Ga., because her mother wanted to raise and discipline each of her children independently—all nine of them.

"It really wasn't because of the school system," Johnson said. "My mom thought the best way to teach someone discipline is to do it herself. She thought having us at home would be better and that's what she wanted to do her whole life."

Johnson, the elder of the nine siblings, says an average day of home school began at 7 a.m. with breakfast and then the learning began. All of the basic subjects were covered each day as in public schools, but the end of the day depended on how fast she wanted to get her workload done. Johnson normally liked to be finished around noon, three hours ahead of the

final bell at public schools.

"If you procrastinated and decided you were going to goof off, you had a lot to do the next day," Johnson said. "The way we thought of it, the faster you finished your schoolwork, the faster you could get out and play."

The lack of social interaction was the one of the few problems Johnson saw with home school. But she suggested there were alternatives. She became involved with a home school group that allowed for active participation in extra-curricular activities. Johnson took up ballet as a hobby and eventually turned it into her major at VSU.

"That was something that very much concerned my mom," Johnson said. "She didn't want us to be anti-social. A main thing for her was to make sure we could make it socially in life."

Georgia law requires home school students to attend classes 180 days per year, equaling that of public schools.

"Sometimes we'd miss [school] for vacation and we'd have to do school on vacation. That was always a thrill for everyone," Johnson said.

Johnson's mother was responsible for turning in an



Special to The Spectator

**Christina Johnson, a junior theatre major, spent the first eight years of her academic career being home schooled with her eight brothers and sisters.**

attendance sheet to the superintendent of the county's school board and for keeping track of whether or not all subjects had been finished for the day's lesson plan. Johnson was also required to take the same standardized tests as the ones issued to Georgia public schools.

She transferred to a local Christian school in eighth grade and then attended South Forsyth High School in Cumming, Ga., where she received her high school

**Home school**—see page 8

## Men compete in pageant

**Jason James**  
Staff Writer

It's time for the men to be paraded around like a piece of meat.

The Mr. Rhomania Pageant, hosted by Sigma Gamma Rho, will be Sunday at 8 p.m. in Whitehead Auditorium. It is a chance for 10 VSU men to show their physical attributes as well as their prowess on stage.

Since January, signs posted on bulletin boards throughout campus have provided information for students to enter the pageant. The contestants will be judged in four different categories. The first is a dance and introduction portion. The talent portion will be next, followed with the bedroom wear model

section. The judging will end with a question and answer, and the men dress in formal evening wear.



There will be two intermissions with a violin soloist and a vocal soloist, both from the college of fine arts. The pageant has grown each

year and expectations are high for the event.

"This is my third year coordinating the pageant and I think it will be the best so far," Devin Adams, senior special communications major, said.

Tickets for the pageant are \$4 in advance and \$5 the day of the event.

The proceeds will go to the R. Jackson Scholarship Fund, a fund created in 1991 after her passing. Jackson was a Sigma Gamma Rho sister.

Jason James is a Spectator reporter and can be reached at [acdcbag113@hotmail.com](mailto:acdcbag113@hotmail.com)

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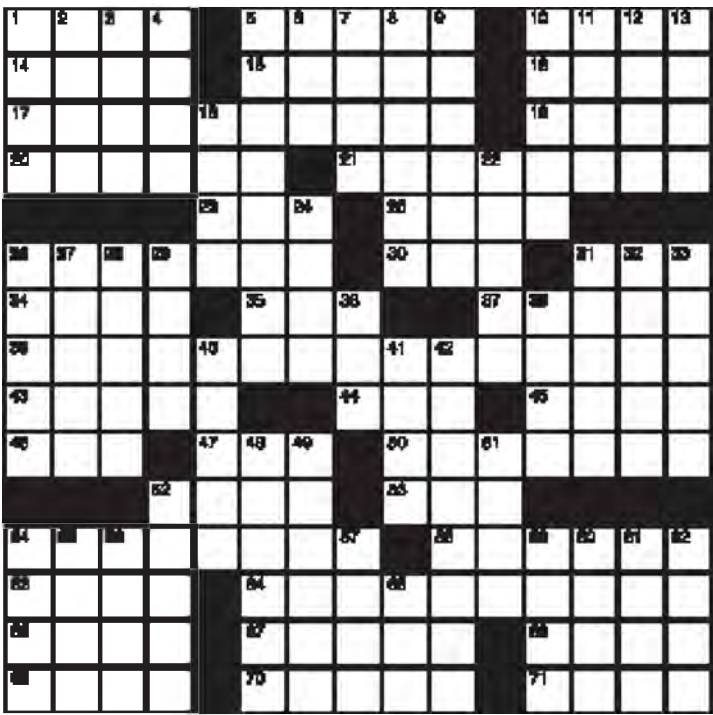
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Crossword



Puzzle



Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

**ACROSS**

1 Dutch cheese  
5 Use credit  
10 Guitarist Hendrix  
14 Machete  
15 Broadcaster  
16 Part of USMA  
17 Drink choice  
19 \_\_\_ bene  
20 Multi-speaker system  
21 Water-powered engines  
23 Compass pt.  
25 Bunny moms  
26 Atlantic vacation spot  
30 One-time connection  
31 Unit of work  
34 Fragrance  
35 Knock  
37 Twangy  
39 Spike Jones classic  
43 Squeeze  
44 "Are \_\_\_ Lonesome

**DOWN**

1 Flows back  
2 Sap  
3 African plan  
4 Wasteland  
5 Yokohama

Tonight? farewell  
45 Launch forces  
46 USNA grad  
47 Exclamations of surprise  
50 Destroyers  
52 Vegas machine  
53 Meriwether or Grant  
54 Dashboard gauge  
58 Relaxed "Damn Yankees"  
63 "Canto  
64 Drink choice  
66 Coastal bird  
67 Shaquille of the NBA  
68 Bomb type  
69 Sea of Asia  
70 Convulsive breaths  
71 Big cheese

farewell  
6 19th-century  
Wimbledon  
winner  
7 Part of Q.E.D.  
8 "Canto General"  
9 Plant fungus  
10 Singer Joplin  
11 God's image  
12 Spouse  
13 Lupino and Tarbell  
18 Consider  
22 Form of bingo  
24 Actor Morales  
26 Italian bowl  
27 Decorate  
28 Deceive  
29 Large, com  
36 Double over  
38 Jason's ship

40 Wooden peg  
41 Spirit  
42 Burial services  
48 Grandstander  
49 Breastbones  
51 Forest denizen  
52 Little  
54 Gymnast  
55 Gloomy  
56 \_\_\_ podrida  
57 Deli breads  
59 Wild shot  
60 Yugoslavian leader  
61 Slaughter of baseball  
62 Turns down the lights  
65 Chart  
Answers to crossword on page 9.  
32 More crude  
33 Luster  
36 Double over  
38 Jason's ship

# Jason Fernandez takes radio show another level

Tara Sherman  
Staff Writer



Tara Sherman / The Spectator

**Jason Fernandez, senior mass media major, is host of "Harmonically Distorted," a radio show comprised of punk and a little humor. He will host 10 spin-off episodes on VSU TV-12 beginning tomorrow at 10 p.m.**

When *Harmonically Distorted* is mentioned, some recall flyers with a picture of Joey Ramone screaming, "I'm dead! But my legacy lives on!" For Jason Fernandez, *Harmonically Distorted* is his "illegitimate baby."

When 22-year-old senior mass media major Jason Fernandez aired his last show of *Harmonically Distorted* on V91 last semester, he knew it wasn't the end. With one semester until graduation, Fernandez got to bring even more life to his show by bringing it to television on VSU's TV-12.

Originally the host of a radio show with die-hard fans, Fernandez interjected the two hours of homemade punk-rock blends with humorous approaches. For him, it was more like a two-hour party, making *Harmonically Distorted* easily one of the most popular radio shows on V91.

As part of the requirements for the mass media curriculum, Fernandez was required to take MDIA 4960, where students get together and produce a TV show. When ideas for a show were in the air, Fernandez immediately raised his hand to suggest a TV-version of his radio show. While the initial objective was to create a 10-episode spin-off, the only similar trait the TV show has is the humor.

"We're still working on that, too," said Fernandez.

Being producer and host of this show means a lot more work than just being the DJ.

"I have really high expectations for this show and sometimes they're too high," Fernandez said. "The whole class hates me. They f\*%ing hate me."

"Working together, our instructor [Mike Savoie] likens us to a dysfunctional family. We don't bicker that much, we get the show done and we leave."

The Nijem Brothers Jewelers interview is Fernandez's favorite segment. "Those guys are wild! They're the kind of guys where I just let them go and just kept rolling tape," Fernandez said. "We talked about their wacky commercials, some of the Catholic stuff they do on TV, like Joe Nijem's crucifixion demonstration." That airs tomorrow night at 10.

Other segments include an interview with Neil Kumar, a filmmaker and VSU student, and a student, who Fernandez labels "not-so-slim," dancing with the VSU Red Hots. Musical guests have included Lucky Stranger, Clydesdale,

some hip-hop acts and "other homegrown anti-cover bands." Since drums are too loud to record live in the studio, Fernandez hopes to tape the last segment in Whitehead Auditorium so Lucky Stranger and other talented locals can take the stage.

According to Fernandez's high standards, some of the packages were poorly produced. But as producer, he blames himself. He also fears some audiences will not grasp the humor. "I go for the obscure stuff. This is the Conan O'Brien instead of Jay Leno," Fernandez said. "And it's closer to home. Don't be a loser! Watch my show!" You can check out *Harmonically Distorted* on Friday and Saturday nights at 10 p.m., only on TV-12.

Tara Sherman is a Spectator reporter and can be reached at cloud9tara@aol.com



## Home school

continued from page 7

diploma. She insists her home schooling experience was advantageous.

"When you're home schooling, you pretty much teach yourself," Johnson said. "You are very self-motivated. I think that's the biggest problem with public schools. The kids get the mentality that the teacher is there to teach them, when in all actuality the teacher is there to motivate them to learn. Without self-motivation, you're not going to learn anything."

Now at VSU, Johnson has taken an average of 22 hours per semester because she can handle the workload thanks to the discipline she received as a child.

"There was a lot less focus [in public schools] on academics than there was in home schooling," Johnson said. "It was a lot more on whether or not you fit in with the group and whether or not you can impress the teacher."

Johnson sees herself dancing for a professional company in the future but is also interested in dental hygiene.

As for the education her children will receive when they are ready to attend public schools, Johnson hopes home schooling will give them the same essence of self-reliance it gave her.

Matt Stewart is a Spectator reporter and can be reached at blazersports@aol.com

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Wild Adventures  
VDT#750329



# Let bygones be bygones

**Rights**  
*continued from page 5*

est percentage of qualified voter registration of all races. Another way to figure race percentages is by census. A very large percentage of census brochures aren't even filled out by the black community. Census workers from every city go around to doors asking personally to have a member of the household fill out the paperwork, but think about this; how many people do you know that are willing to go to neighborhoods like downtown Harlem asking for a brochure to be filled out? Don't say I'm being racist by saying this either. It's merely exercising common sense.

Another thing: if the black community is so damn tired of the word "nigger" then why do

I hear them referring to each other as nigger? No matter how I try to reason this out the answer escapes me. It's a double standard. White people must never even say the word in passing conversation. All I hear is the "N word" when what they should be able to say "nigger." Remember, what you love about America is the freedom you have here. Is freedom of speech not afforded to us anymore? The word has negative connotations to the black community, but if it means that much why say it?

The United States will never be a place of total racial harmony. Our differences are what make us interesting. That said, I want to make sure it is clear that I am not referring to the entire black community in this article. I have met many black individuals who worked hard for what they have. Whatever

the color, you will be more respected if you gain knowledge and experience through hard work. I am simply referring to those who use the crutch our seemingly pluralistic society has handed them.

I don't want to seem like a racist person, and it angers me that I should have to clarify myself. Some will damn me for my words. So much literature is put out by the "oppressed" black community, describing their hardships. If you have an open mind, you will see that this article is simply one in the same; an article by someone who is proud of his race and is tired of being falsely accused.

*Trey Purcell is a guest columnist and can be contacted at redshift299@yahoo.com*

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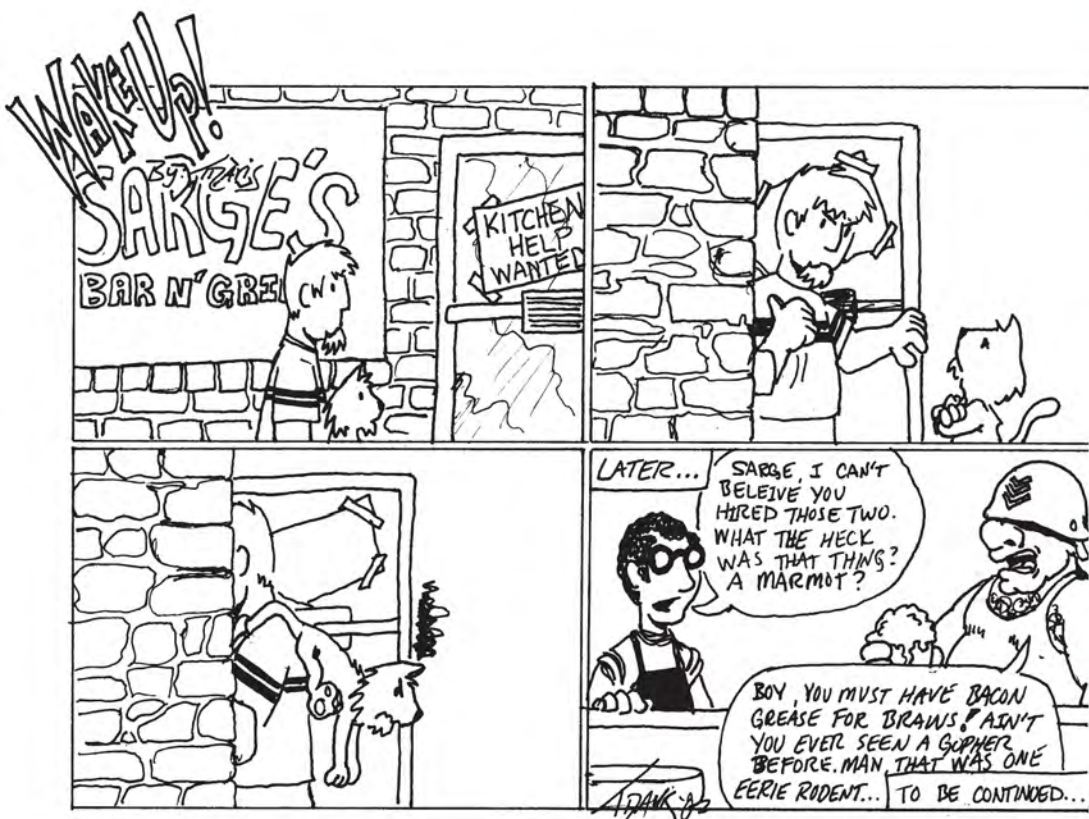
**Elton John**  
Saturday, 7:30 p.m.  
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**Natalie Merchant**  
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Melbourne, FL  
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### Feature editor's choice of the week:

Leftover Salmon  
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## Crossword d Answers



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ARNE	HERA	EERIE
SLEEPOVER	AVILA	
TEX REEL	TRACER	
TRIBE	AHEM	
STRODE	OVERPASS	
IRENE	TRESS	RKO
TOMS	PADRE	STIR
UNIT	MAKES	TONER
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# Sport

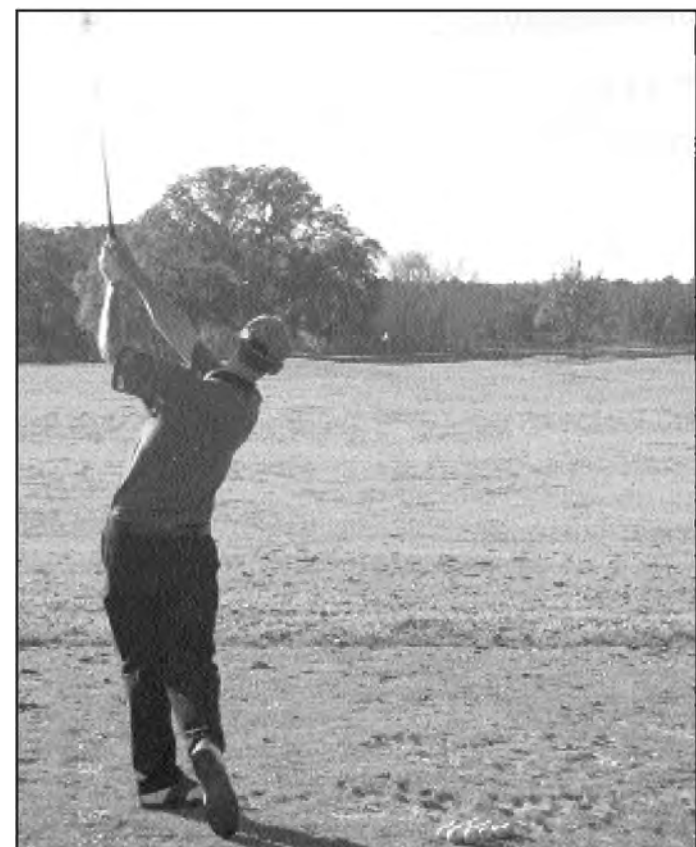
## Upcoming Games

Lady Blazer softball @ West Alabama  
March 9, 10  
Livingston, Ala.

For full coverage of VSU softball, go to [www.valdosta.edu/spectator](http://www.valdosta.edu/spectator)

[www.valdosta.edu/spectator](http://www.valdosta.edu/spectator)

# Blazers catch fire for runner-up finish



Jason James / The Spectator

VSU sophomore Michael Collins practices on the range at Stone Creek golf course in Valdosta.

**Jason James**  
Staff Writer

Thursday and Friday the Blazer golf team travels to Tallahassee, Fla., for the

Florida A&M Invitational ranked 17th in the nation and reeling off a come-from-behind second place finish in last weekend's Florida Gulf Coast Invitational. The first day of the tournament is an

18-hole round followed the next day by another 18-hole round. VSU will once again pit its skills against many formidable Division I opponents. Coach Miles Hannen will send senior Andy Blanton, sophomores Thomas Pecout and Michael Collins, and freshmen Chris Erwin and Brian Hurtak to Tallahassee.

Blanton, Erwin and Pecout are all coming off top 10 finishes in last week's tournament and hope to continue the solid scores.

The Blazers shot a day's best two-over-par 290 to move from fifth to second place on the final day of the Florida Gulf Coast Invitational held at Miramar Lakes Golf Club in Estero, Fla. The only team to best VSU was host team Florida Gulf Coast University with a final score of 291 beating out the Blazers by four shots.

Individually, Erwin finished with a score of 227 for a third place finish overall. Blanton tied for fourth with a final 228 and Pecout placed seventh with a score of 229. Senior Matt Cottle tied for 30<sup>th</sup> with a final 245 and Collins finished tied for 40<sup>th</sup>

with the help of an impressive final round score of 75. The Blazers improved

their overall record to a convincing 60-34 and kept a top 25 ranking with the superb showing.

# VSU tennis hosts GC&SU

**T.A. Glanton**  
Staff Writer

Huning, Borges, Kreutzfeldt & Davies—sounds a lot like an international law firm. Well they're not, they are four reasons the Blazers are the No. 3 ranked team in Division II men's tennis.

This weekend, the Blazers and the No. 36 ranked Lady Blazers will look to ace their opponents off the court when they play host to Georgia College & State University and Fort Valley State.

Saturday, VSU will face-off against GCSU on the tennis courts of the P.E. Complex at 1 p.m. VSU's women (0-3) will be looking for their first victory when they stare across the net at the No. 14 ranked Lady Bobcats (4-4). The Lady Blazers have had a tough season so far, trying to win and build confidence against top-ranked opponents; talk about on the job training. Again, the team will have to overcome circumstance as they are faced with the same situation. Head coach John Hansen knows that the combination of match play and confidence will only help his team to become better.

"The women need to get a few more matches under their belts," Hansen said. "They need to find some confidence in themselves. They're really a lot better than they think. It's not about the fact that we lose, what's important is how we react to losing."

The Blazers (1-1) will also be faced with a tough task on Saturday as they take their swings against the No. 33 ranked Bobcats (4-3). Hansen knows along with a No. 3 national ranking for his team, comes the pressure to prove its worth.

"The players like the fact that there is pressure and certainly they feel it, but they seem to be handling it quite well," Hansen said. "It's the coaches that are feeling the pressure."

Talk about youth being served. The GCSU men's team is comprised of seven sophomores and two freshmen. There's no doubt that experience or lack thereof, will be a

key factor on Saturday.

Sunday, both the women and the men head back to work as they entertain Fort Valley State at 2 p.m. on the tennis courts of the P.E. Complex.

"Just look at our record, we're not exactly walking over

anybody," Hansen said. "So anyone we play, we have to take the seriously."

Neither the FVSU men (0-2) nor women (0-1) are ranked. The Wildcats have been outscored 17-1 in matches this season.

# REZ Week 2002

The Christian Ministries come together to invite the students of VSU to come experience Jesus Christ.

Monday, March 11

7-9 am - Prayer (United Methodist Center)  
8 pm - Worship (New Science Bldg. Auditorium)

Tuesday, March 12

7-9 am - Prayer (United Methodist Center)  
9 am - Evangelism Training (Presbyterian Student Center)  
12:30 pm - Lunch (\$1) at the Baptist Student Union  
3 pm - Evangelism Training (Presbyterian Student Center)  
3:30 pm - Evangelism on Campus (Meet in front of West Hall)  
8 pm - Worship (Magnolia Room at the UC)

Wednesday, March 13

8:00 pm - Worship (New Science Bldg. Auditorium)

Thursday, March 14

12:10 pm - Prayer Chain around the Campus Quad  
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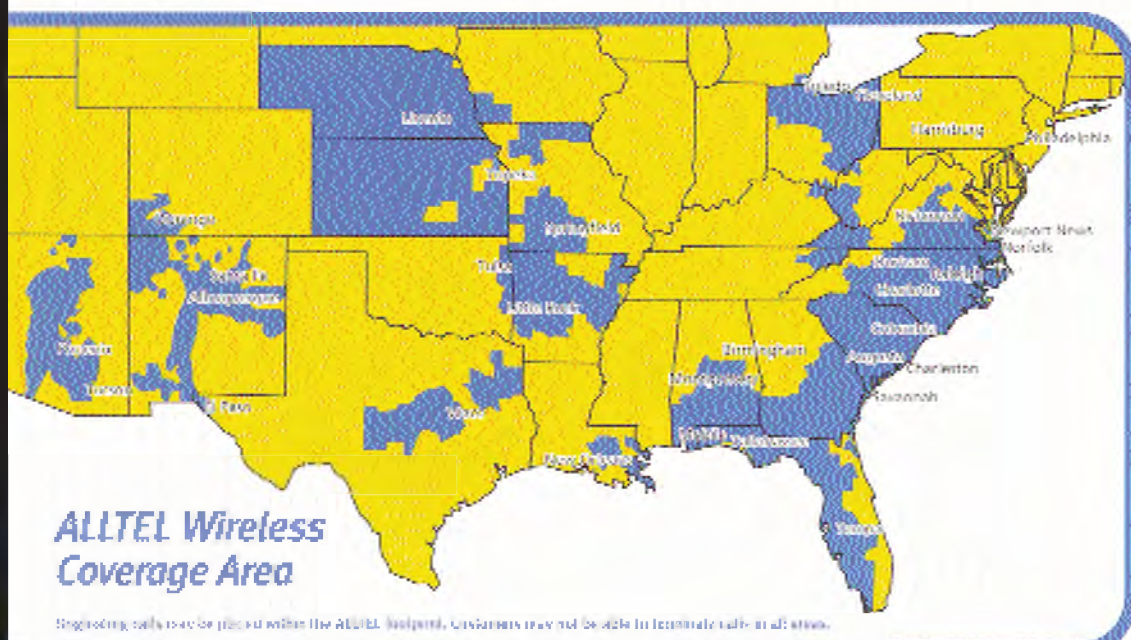
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# Blazers break into top 10

Jana N. Cook  
Staff Writer

Last week's No. 12 VSU Blazers have inched their way even further up the Division II collegiate poll, landing this week in the No. 10 spot.

After being voted into the No. 40 position in the pre-season poll, the Blazers have turned some heads by landing in the top 10 in Tuesday's poll. As a result, Coach Tommy Thomas has changed "curious optimism," his motto when the season began, to "enthusiastic optimism."

"I'm getting excited about the boys winning," Thomas said, referring to the Blazers' 12-5 record.

Last Sunday's match-up against undefeated Georgia College and State University was cancelled due to weather and rescheduled for Thursday at 3 p.m. on Billy Grant Field. The No. 1 GCSU Bobcats (15-

0) defeated the Blazers earlier this season 5-4. The rematch will give the Blazers a chance for redemption against the undefeated Bobcats and move the Blazers higher up in the polls.

"We should've beat them," Coach Thomas said. "But we made crucial mistakes, and that's how you lose a game."

VSU also faces Sunshine State Conference Florida Tech this weekend at home.

The series against Florida Tech begins Friday at 6 p.m. at Billy Grant Field and continues through Saturday and Sunday with first pitch slated for 2 p.m. both games.

The 2002 season is Florida Tech's head coach Les Hall's 24th season with the Panthers. Hall leads his team into the weekend series with a 9-11 record, 0-3 in SSC match-ups.

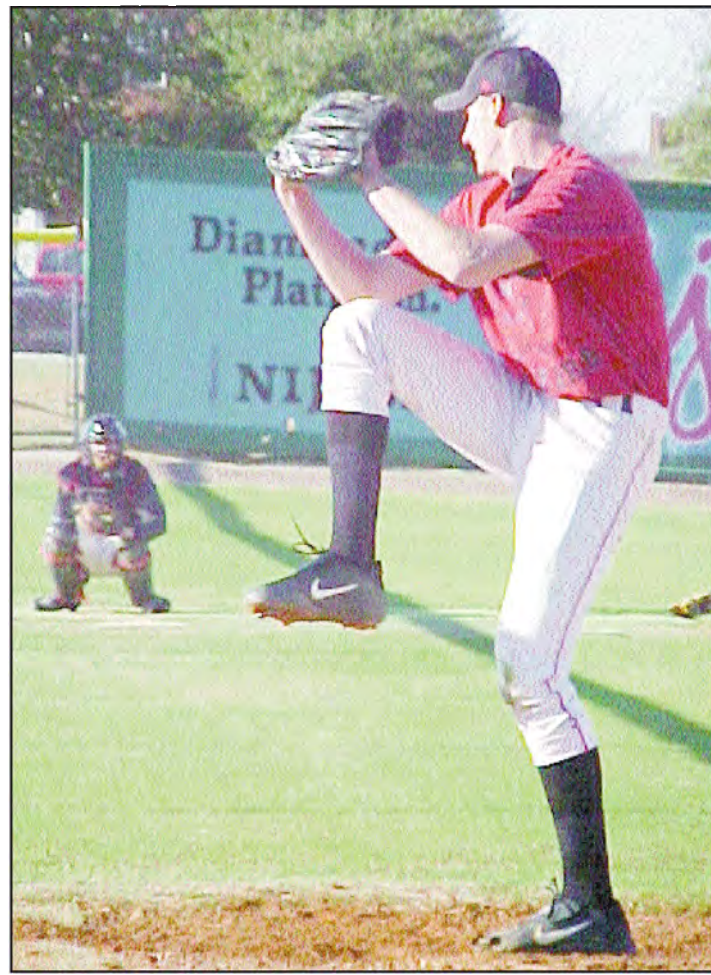
Coach Hall brings some key players to town, including first

baseman Ryan Self (.323) and catcher Michael Greco (.234). Both sophomores, Self and Greco have a total of 25 RBIs so far this season.

On the mound, senior Jed "Jedo" Withers (3-2), has been bringing fire for the Panthers

with a 3.52 ERA. The righthander, along with sophomore Greg D'Esposito (2-3) and freshman Matt Vanfleet (2-2), will most likely be the

**Top 10**  
see page 12



Vonetta Lawton / The Spectator

Junior lefthander Michael Smith to junior catcher Eric Stiefel in the bullpen on Billy Grant Field.

# VSU adds coach, loses another

Brandon Scott  
Staff Writer

You win some, you lose some. It's a stupid saying, but hey if the shoe fits...

VSU's football team will enter spring practice with a lot of holes to fill. It was announced Wednesday that defensive line coach Levorn Harbin accepted the special teams coach position at Georgia Southern, leaving the Blazers with the task of hiring an entirely new defensive staff.

"We're in the process of hiring a new defensive line coach, linebackers coach and so forth," head coach Chris Hatcher said. "But we just hired our defensive coordinator.

Kevin Shirley."

Shirley hails from a dominant Hoover High School program that in his two-year tenure as head coach went 28-2 in Alabama's largest classification.

"He runs pretty much the same stuff Kirby [Smart, the former defensive coordinator] used to," Hatcher said.

The Blazers will also have to fill a glaring need at the quarterback position, considering former All-Everything quarterback Dusty Bonner has graduated.

"Right now and heading into spring practice our No. 1 QB is Buster Faulkner," Hatcher said. "One name that you probably haven't heard of is Ken Barnett,

but right now it's a wide open race."

Spring practice starts March 15 and runs through April 11 on Reames Field, excluding the week of spring break. The annual Spring Game is April 11 on Bazemore-Hyder Stadium.

There will also be a race for the line that protects whoever takes the starting job. Junior right tackle Chance Hutto and freshman Torrey Howard will be the only players returning who played significant time on the line.

Some names to keep an ear out for—Chris Fowler a junior cornerback whom Hatcher is "very high on," and junior linebacker Andre Zellner.



Annie Johnson / The Spectator

Football head coach Chris Hatcher referees at practice Wednesday.

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# Blazers go dancin' in Tampa

Seniors Marcus Williams and Nick Gast named to all-GSC squad

**Brandon Scott**  
Staff Writer

The last time VSU was in the national tournament, senior center Matt Jones was almost a one-year-old.

"It's something [VSU] hasn't done in a long time," Jones said.

Well, Mr. Jones, it's been 22 years since VSU landed a berth in the national tournament.

The Blazers earned the No. 3 seed behind Sunshine State

Conference winner and host Tampa and Gulf South West division champion Henderson State. The Blazers received the at-large bid despite losing in the Gulf South

finals to #5 seed West Georgia 72-69.

"Everyone was kinda down

after we lost," senior forward Nick Gast said. "And when we found out, the whole mood on the bus just changed."

And so, Gast, who was named second team All-GSC for the second year, and his teammates will play in the first round of the 48-team tournament with renewed vigor, renewed purpose and no pressure.

"They've realized that this [national tournament] is why you works so hard," head coach Jim Yarbrough said. "This is what, virtually, six months of work is for."

The Blazers will play at 5 p.m. on Saturday in the Martinez Sports Center and play Southern Intercollegiate

Athletics Conference winner Paine College, of Augusta, Ga.

Averaging 20 points a game, senior guard Yari Scott leads the Lions in scoring and steals. The Lions feed off of the offensive glass, which

has been a thorn in the Blazers side all year long.

However, Yarbrough believes



Annie Johnson / The Spectator

**Second team all-GSC forward Nick Gast and the Blazers need three wins to make the D-II Elite Eight.**

the team has the advantage in the match-up and anxiously awaits the chance to face a new team.

"I like the fact that we're facing a new team," Yarbrough

said. "They won't know how to play us."

It will be Yarbrough's first time facing Paine, but will be the second for Gast and fellow senior Marcus Williams. In the only battle between the schools, the Blazers defeated the Lions 77-62 during the 1999-2000 season.

Williams scored 17 points and Gast contributed 8.

And although the Blazers failed in their bid to claim the school's first GSC championship, the Blazers will continue their miraculous season. In doing so, VSU will travel in its shortest road trip (except for Albany State) of the season. So how does the team feel about that?

"Its cheese,"

Williams said. What was that? Ah, never mind Marcus, we'll let that one slide. And it's not because you were named first team All-GSC guard.

All-Gulf South Conference Blazers									
<b>First Team All-GSC East Division</b>									
Guard	Marcus Williams	SR	5-11	169	Decatur, Ga.				
FG%	3PT%	FT%	R/G	A/G	STL	BLK	PTS/G		
.425	.335	.886	2.8	1.7	45	8	15.4		
<b>Second Team All-GSC East Division</b>									
Forward	Nick Gast	SR	6-5	215	Jacksonville, Fla.				
FG%	3PT%	FT%	R/G	A/G	STL	BLK	PTS/G		
.540	.313	.746	5.1	1.1	25	14	11.3		

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# Baseball hosts #1 Bobcats Thursday

**Top 10**  
continued from page 12

defensive backbones for Florida Tech.

The Blazers aren't lacking in hitting and pitching skills either, though. Junior second baseman Scott Simpson has an astounding .411 batting average with 13 RBIs on the season. Infielder/DH Jay Berryman (.326) has become the team's

doubles king with 11 under his belt and has racked up 12 RBIs.

The pitching staff is also credible for the 12-5 record the Blazers currently hold. Lefty Michael Smith (1-0) will start against GCSU Thursday on the mound.

Smith won't be starting this weekend but looks forward to the series against the Panthers.

"Florida Tech's a pretty good team," the junior said. "They should be a real test getting us

ready for the upcoming conference games."

The Blazers play their first conference game March 16 against Montevallo.

Braxton Fernald (3-0), Josh Kitterman (3-2) and John Rose (2-1) make up the starting rotation for the Blazers against Florida Tech through the weekend. Fernald recorded 17 strikeouts in the Blazers last game, a 6-3 win over Dowling,

**Collegiate Baseball Newspaper's March 4th Poll**

1. Ga. College and St.
2. Alabama-Huntsville
3. Florida Southern
4. Cal. St. Chico
5. North Florida
6. Armstrong Atl. St.
7. Kennesaw St.
7. Delta St.
9. Central Missouri St.
10. Valdosta State

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**The Coaches' Players of the week!**

**Lady Blazers Coach Kiley Hill**

**Blazers Coach Jim Yarbrough**  
in the locker room after becoming the Gulf South Conference Champs!

**Lady Blazers:** Lucy Harris, Courtney Parker, Amber Daniels

**Blazers:** Matt Jones, Marcus Williams, Nick Gast

Thanks for all the great memories! Good Luck in the Future!

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