

# The Spectator

www.valdosta.edu/spectator

Thursday, August 30, 2001

Valdosta, Georgia

volume 69 issue 2

## Last pond pine on campus downed

Mary Dabbs  
Staff Writer

On Aug. 13, demolition began in preparation for the Odum Library extension. Of the 21 trees that were cut down, 10 were cut to make way for the building, nine were cut to save money and two were cut in ignorance.

Ten trees were in the area where the building would actually be built. The 11 trees that were not blocking construction were chosen from a list of deductive alternates to lower the cost of construction.

To build the library extension with all of the 11 surrounding trees intact would have forced Culpepper Construction, the company building not only the library extension but also the University Recreation Center, to acquire new and expensive equipment to work around the trees. There could also be added problems with specific trees that had roots coiling around pipes and utilities.

According to James Brignati, vice president for Business and Finance, the original cost for the building was \$11,089,000 — \$178,000 over VSU's budget for construction. By agreeing to allow the trees to be cut VSU saved \$50,000 in construction costs. The Board of Regents made up the \$128,000 difference to allow VSU to meet the bid price.

Dr. Brad Bergstrom, professor of biology and head of the Campus Beautification & Stewardship subcommittee for environmental issues, talked with the construction company about saving trees numbered three, seven, nine and 10, as well as an unnumbered tree. After Culpepper Construction finalized the contract with the Georgia State Finance and Insurance Commission, the state organization responsible for the land behind Odum during construction, the contractor determined that trees nine



Photos by Leah F. Cassorla / The Spectator

and 10 could be saved at an additional cost because they were over 60 feet away from the construction site and not over utility lines. Tree number nine was of specific interest to Dr. Bergstrom as the last specimen of a pond pine on the campus and the other was a slash

Because the contractor could not guarantee the trees would survive on the site with heavy equipment rolled over their root structures, Brignati stipulated that if the trees died or had to be cut down at a later date, the contractor could do so without additional permission.

This plan did not call for extra money for the contractor's equipment to help work around the trees.

Though not expected to, the subcontractor showed up early Aug. 13, ready to clear the lot. Once on site, the subcontractor asked Robert Tindall, head engineer of VSU Plant Operations, if he should cut down trees outside the construction fence line. Tindall responded that he was only supposed to cut down trees within the fence line and the subcontractor did. Including trees nine and 10.

According to Bob Bell, director of Plant Operations, Tindall had not received the letter pardoning the trees from the cutter's axe because he had been out of town and was not

**From both a horticultural and educational standpoint, [the pond pine] is extremely valuable and is irreplaceable in our lifetime.**

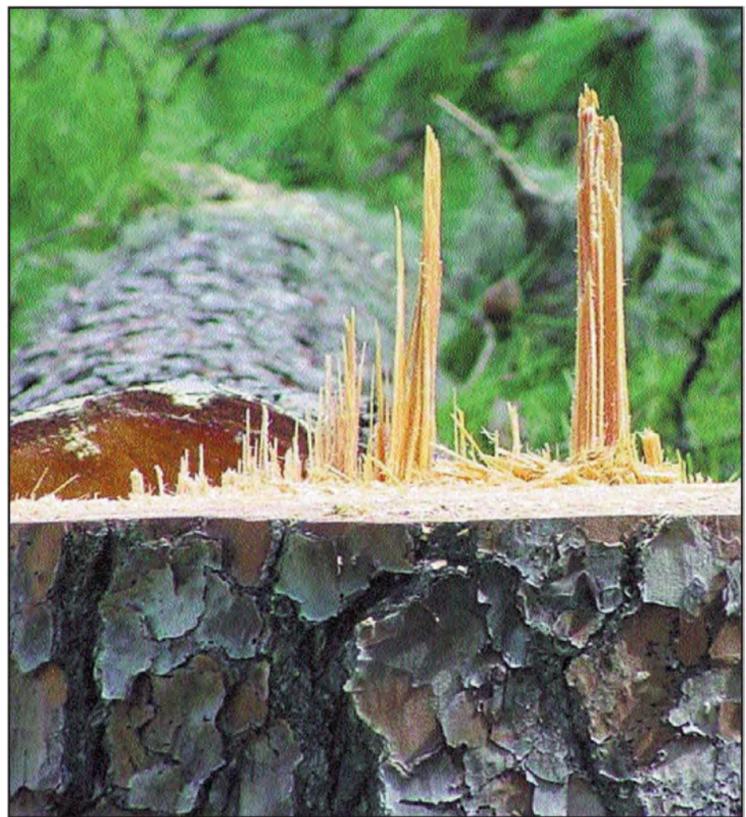
**-James Brignati, vice president for Business and Finance**

pine in such close proximity to the pond that if one could be saved, so could the other.

Because the contract was signed and the cost set, GSFIC refused to renegotiate. Brignati suggested to GSFIC on Aug. 10 that the contractor refrain from cutting down trees nine and 10.

"Tree number nine is the only pond pine (Pinus Serotina) on this campus. From both a horticultural and educational standpoint, it is extremely valuable and is irreplaceable in our lifetime," said Brignati's in a letter to GSFIC.

GSFIC agreed.



Construction crews clear the area behind Odum (above) to make room for the library extension.

Two of the trees were to have been saved.

A tree (left) lays where it fell near its stump.

authorized to tell the subcontractor anything about the construction process other than to define the limits of the construction area.

"Even if he was away from campus, he was receiving and responding to e-mail during and just after that time,

including Saturday," Dr. Bergstrom said. "Therefore, he had seen my e-mail of Thursday, in which I explained that the contractor had

**slashed pine** — see page 3

## Blazers butt heads with Rams



**Black Swarm** — see page 11

## Enrollment up 10 percent

VSU bucks trend as numbers increase

April Ard  
Staff Writer

As enrollment continues to increase at VSU, most colleges are suffering from a decreased student body. Approximately 9,086 students enrolled at VSU this semester; a 10 percent increase from last fall. Orientation prior to the current semester, which drew over four hundred people, is proof of an increased interest in VSU.

VSU has been campaigning for increased enrollment. Charles Harmon, director of



University Relations, spoke of how VSU "works very hard to tell the story of the college." The school also works closely with the news media and always is looking for interesting stories that may entice students to visit VSU.

Harmon said the college works closely with many two-year colleges such as Abraham

Baldwin Agricultural College and Bainbridge College. By doing this, transfer students are drawn to VSU to finish what they started at a two-year institute.

Many types of publications are prepared for distribution on the campus, such as newsletters, brochures and the alumni voice magazine. A 30-second promotion for the college was recently produced. It ran on two Atlanta television channels earlier this summer. Fox Sport Net, which is seen in seven states, also ran the promo.

### Inside Today

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### Next issue

A banner year for **R.O.T.C**

### Web Watch

We know you'll find this difficult to believe, but the Parking Lot is Full. That is, at plif.com, the "Parking Lot is Full"—possibly the world's sickest cartoon ever created—is available

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

This week: [www.plif.com](http://www.plif.com)

for your occasional viewing pleasure, as an email you get for free, or as a self-updating banner on your homepage.

You will be sucked in and your brain will become instan-

taneously addicted, but that's all part of the plan.

You will be reprogrammed and log on daily though you've read the archives and a new one only comes out once a week.

# Campus Happenings

www.valdosta.edu/spectator



## POLICE BEAT

### VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM THE VSU PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICE: BEWARE OF IDENTITY THEFT.

Seven people posing as Bank of America employees were caught by the VSU police illegally soliciting credit card applications Tuesday. VSU does not allow on campus soliciting unless authorized by Auxiliary Services. According to VSU Public Safety, David McGlaughlin, of the Attorney General's office said these people work for companies that are using the information collected to establish credit cards, checking accounts and home loans. Corporal Dennis Nealon, crime prevention officer for VSU Public Safety, said these companies are based in Jacksonville, Louisiana and Florida. Beware that falling for this credit card scam could lead to identity theft. Identity theft is a felony that could land those convicted 1-10 years in jail. Do not give out your social security number or personal information to strangers.

If you believe you have been illegally solicited on campus in this regard, call the VSU police at 333-7816 immediately. For more safety information, look up Public Safety's fall edition of "Safety Times" at [www.valdosta.edu/vsu/dept/bus/safety/unit/CP/news.htm](http://www.valdosta.edu/vsu/dept/bus/safety/unit/CP/news.htm).

#### August 16

Thaddeus Ashman, 21, of #9 Pinedale Circle, was arrested at 2 p.m. at Reade Hall for burglary of rooms 127 and 132. He was taken to Lowndes County Jail. He was a VSU student.

#### August 17

Someone took a student's ID from her purse while she was at a function at Palms Quad between 8-11 p.m.

#### August 19

Berwin C. Echols, 21, of 1685 Rogers Ave. SW, Atlanta, was arrested at 5:25 p.m. at Baytree Road and Boone Drive for an improper left turn at the Old Gym and Pine Hall and driving with a suspended license. He is a VSU student.

#### August 24

Paul Edward Kelley, 21, of 1206 Melody Lane, Remerton, was arrested at 8:28 a.m. at Baytree Road for driving too fast for conditions in a school zone and driving with a suspended license. He is a VSU student.

Dennis Crump, 22, of 7827 Honye Dr., Chicago, Ill., was arrested at 12:32 p.m. for driving without a seat belt and driving with a revoked license. He was taken to Lowndes County Jail. He is a VSU student.

#### August 25

Eric C. Camon, 24, of 402 S. 10th St., Lakeland, was arrested by VSU police at 10:40 p.m. for violating a criminal trespass citation he was issued on January 6, 2001.

#### August 27

Ninety dollars was taken from a student's billfold that was found on the sidewalk in front of Patterson Hall.

#### August 29

Roderick B. Paige, 20, of 4145 Cornell, Atlanta, was arrested at 8:15 a.m. for driving too fast for conditions and driving with a suspended license. He is a VSU student.

#### Today

"The Happening" will be from 1-4 p.m. at Palms Quad. Various organizations are participating with information booths.

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

There will be an ice cream social at the Alumni House from 2-4 p.m. All VSU employees are invited. The social starts the 2002 Faculty Staff Campaign.

For more information, call 245-4329.

There will be a meeting for all mass media majors and prospective majors at 6 p.m. in Sawyer Theatre at the Fine Arts building.

For more information, call Frank Barnas, mass media Area Head, at 259-5087.

Natural High will meet at 6 p.m. in the Dogwood room at the University Center. Snacks and ideas will be provided.

Interested people who cannot make the meeting can contact Mark Williams, coordinator for the Office of Alcohol and Other Drug Education, by calling 259-5111, by e-mail: [mfwillia@valdosta.edu](mailto:mfwillia@valdosta.edu) or by visiting his office in Powell Hall East on the second floor.

The Annual VSU Faculty Exhibition will be on display from now until Sept. 14 in the VSU art gallery at the Fine Arts building. Admission is free. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. - 4

p.m. Monday-Thursday and 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Friday.

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

#### Saturday

The VSU Blazer football team faces Fort Valley State at 7 p.m.

For more information, call the Athletics Dept. at 333-

#### Monday

NO CLASSES. LABOR DAY.

#### Tuesday

The Counseling Center will host a seminar, "Mission Impossible: Dealing with Difficult People and Situations." This is a two-part seminar presented by Faye Altman.

Part I, "What Part of No Do You Not Understand?" will be today from 4-5 p.m. in the Dogwood Room at the University Center.

Part II, "Why Me?" will be Sept. 11 at the same time and location.

The seminar is free to VSU students, faculty and staff.

For more information, visit [www.valdosta.edu/counseling/fallsm01.htm](http://www.valdosta.edu/counseling/fallsm01.htm) or call the Counseling Center at 333-5940.

The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority is holding its annual rush at 7 p.m. at Mac McMullen/Southside Library on 527 Griffin Ave.

For undergraduate member-

ship interest form and legacy information, call Jennifer Copeland, graduate adviser at 293-9189.

There will be a "Diversity Week" planning meeting at 3 p.m. in the first floor meeting room at Odum library. All VSU students, faculty and staff are invited to attend and share ideas.

Call in ideas to Dr. Beverly Blake at the Office of Equal Opportunities Programs at 333-5463.

#### Wednesday

Relax and join the Campus Activities Board for a free game room night from 3-5 p.m.

at the University Center.

The Zeta Phi Beta Sorority is having its "Fall Mixer" in the Dogwood Room at 7 p.m. at the University Center.

For more information, call K.C. Irving in Campus Activities at 253-2946.

The Counseling Center will host a seminar, "Study Smart for Academic Success." This is a three-part seminar presented by Shelia Wakely.

Part I, "Time Management & Concentration" will be today from 4-5 p.m. in the Dogwood Room at the University Center.

Part II, "Test Taking Skills" will be Sept. 18 at the same

time and location.

Part III, "Test Anxiety Reduction" will be Oct. 2 at the same time and location.

Seminars are free to VSU students, faculty and staff.

For more information, visit [www.valdosta.edu/counseling/fallsm01.htm](http://www.valdosta.edu/counseling/fallsm01.htm) or call the Counseling Center at 333-5940.

#### Sept. 6

The Office of Alcohol and Other Drug Education will host a cosmic bowling night from 10 p.m. - 1 a.m. at Valdosta Lanes.

For more information, call 259-5111.



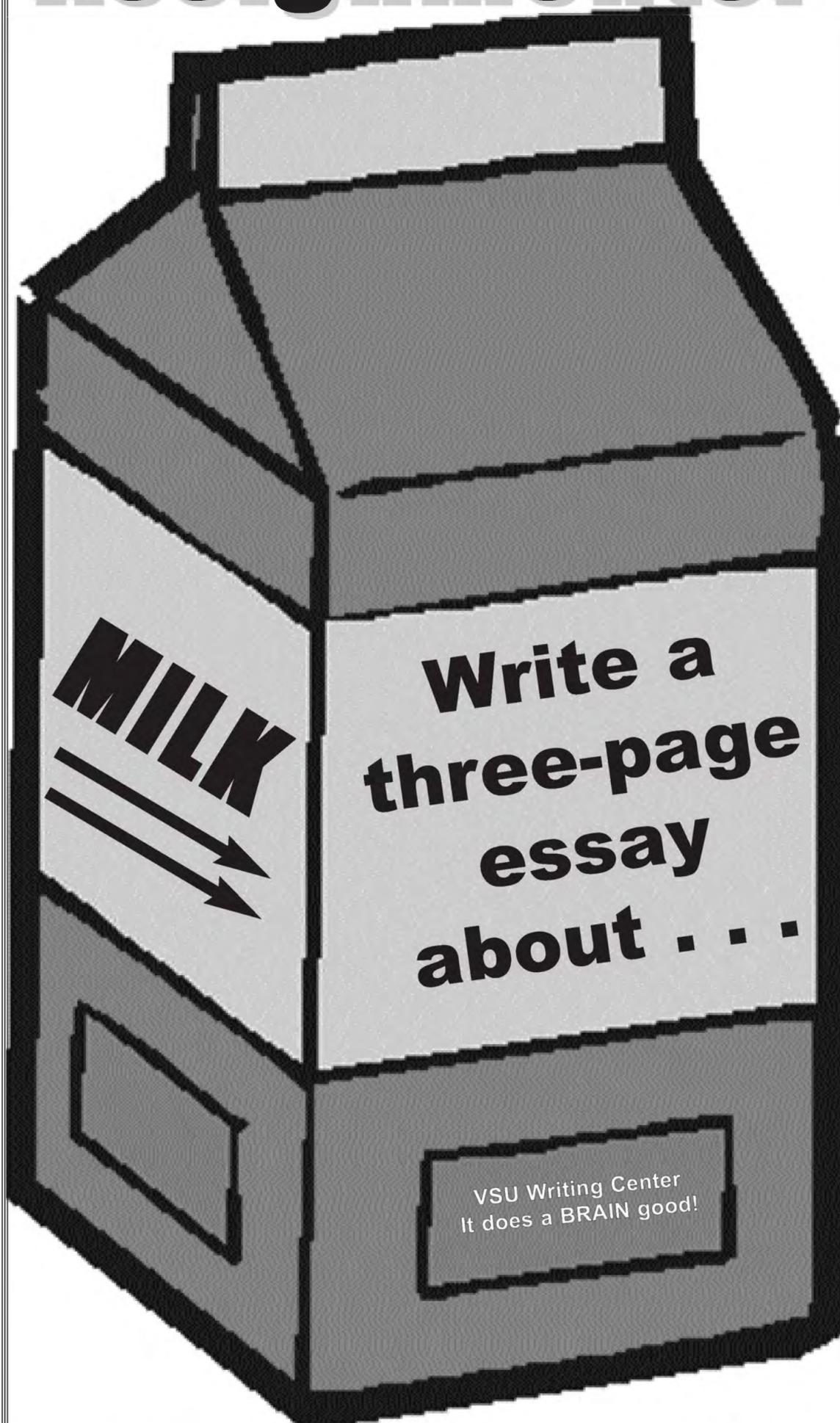
#### Lost and Found

The following property has been turned in to the VSU Public Safety office.

1. Necklace
2. Reading glasses
3. Sunglasses (2)
4. Set of keys
5. Bicycles (2)

All student IDs are turned over to One Card Services. To identify any of these items, call Cpl. Dennis Nealon at 3433-7816.

# Got Assignments?



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# News

www.valdosta.edu/spectator

Today



UV Index: 8 high

Hi: 91  
Low: 71

Friday



UV Index: 7 high

Hi: 89  
Low: 72

Saturday



UV Index: 7 high

Hi: 90  
Low: 73

Sunday



UV Index: 8 high

Hi: 90  
Low: 71

## Moving on down the road

Lindsey Giddens  
Staff Writer

Taking a step across campus, the Division of Student Affairs has relocated its office from Powell Hall West to the old bookstore in the University Union.

Beginning about nine months ago, Student Affairs chose to make the move in order to use the bookstore space and get closer to happenings on campus.

"We wanted to make some more conference rooms downstairs (of the Union), and to make some TV/study rooms for students to use," Russ Mast, acting vice president for student affairs, and dean of students, said.

Student Affairs has added a small game room to the Union after students voiced they would like to have video games closer to the residence halls.

"This gets it closer to the middle of campus and more accessible," Mast said.

In the old bookstore, students can now find the dean of students, judicial affairs, orientation, and Greek life.



Annie Johnson / The Spectator

**Russ Mast, acting vice president for Student Affairs and dean of students shifts through paperwork at his new desk at the University Union.**

"I like it," Mast said. "Being closer to the students makes us more accessible, and we can help with issues, and just give any help needed." The office is closer to Student Activities located upstairs in the Union.

Campus Recreation is currently occupying the old space in Powell Hall. When the new recreation center is complete, campus recreation will move thus freeing up the space, which, according to Mast, can hopefully be taken over by testing to give them more room.

"We're happy," Mast said. "I don't have a window, but I'm very happy and appreciative to Plant Operations for giving us this opportunity."

The TV rooms are waiting for the cable company before



Annie Johnson / The Spectator

they will be up and running, but Mast expects the rooms to be operational soon.

Mast points out there is a room downstairs in the Union reserved solely for student organization use.

**The new office provides a larger area (above) for visitors in the new sitting room.**

## Students score high on SATs

Jaime Peck  
Staff Writer

Freshmen may be the lowest class at college, but the 2001 freshman class could boast the highest average SAT scores in history.

Although official numbers will not be released by President Hugh Bailey to Mr. Walter Peacock, director of Admissions, until Sept. 7, he says preliminary averages (that is, before the last registration period) for freshmen SAT scores were higher this year by six points.

"Two-hundred-fifty students were in the last registration group so that could sway the final average," Peacock said. "We're not expecting to leap a mountain with these SAT scores, but I think it'll be something we can all be proud of."

Peacock said that high schools are now requiring 16 units of classes, including a fourth math, to graduate with a college preparatory diploma.

"This addition of algebra III or trigonometry could help them better understand the SAT and score higher," Peacock said.

As far as VSU is concerned, Peacock said the freshman index (a freshman's GPA multiplied by their SAT composite score multiplied by 500) of VSU has increased significantly since VSU raised its admission standards in fall 1997, requiring freshmen to have a separate score of 430 verbal and 400 math.

Vickie Burt, assistant superintendent for Lowndes County schools has other ideas to the increase in SAT scores. "I think recently there has been more interest in attending college and more interest in taking college preparatory classes," Burt said. "Also, we've made more of an effort in there being a closer correlation between secondary schools' quality of education and the requirements of college entrance. The curriculum is content-based with more emphasis on skills covered by the SAT. In addition, we have SAT-test preparatory classes available now in the schools, where most students find just learning how to take tests is helpful. There's also a lot of internet resources to help students be more prepared."

## Slashed pine

continued from page 1

explained that the contractor had agreed to try to work around these trees, and in which I asked Mr. Brignati to get the permissions and make it official, which he quickly did. If Tindall were at all concerned about those trees or the Tree Policy or faculty interests...it seems to me he would have checked with his boss or the contractor before just showing up at the construction site."

Robert Tindall directed comments to Bell.

In a letter to Dr. Bergstrom, Brignati called the tree cutting and events leading up to it as "extremely unusual," saying the problem would be a non-issue had the contractor called the subcontractor on the Friday before the cutting. Brignati also reiterated that no guarantee had been offered that the trees would be saved.

Dr. Bergstrom also added, "The last four years has seen the greatest deforestation on campus of any period in our history. We finally were starting to feel we had made progress in convincing our administration to truly respect the [tree] policy, but until every link in the chain of command is firmly on board, we, unfortunately, will continue to witness avoidable losses of our irreplaceable natural heritage."

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## News



A frustrated student in Langdale Hall tries to perform air conditioning magic on a room unit to introduce a cooling off period. Annie Johnson / The Spectator

## AC woes leave students, staff hot under the collar

Michelle Taylor  
Staff Writer

Lighting can make you burn up.

Complaints of no air conditioning were reported from Converse Hall Aug. 18 and West Hall, on the first day of school.

According to reports in years past, air conditioning problems have occurred in the first week of school almost every year.

Bob Bell, director of Plant Operations, said that this is not an unusual occurrence.

"It's thunderstorm season, so

it's nothing new when the power or air conditioning go out," he said.

Bell said that all of the air in the school is controlled by a system of loops, which help to regulate, and control the air and power outage at VSU.

"The buildings are all connected by a system of loops," he said. "This means that one building controls the air of others. So in fact, it is very likely that if one building goes out, then five others may go out too."

The only building on the main campus that is not connected by the loops is West

Hall. This is because the president's office is there, and the president is able to control his own heating and air.

Converse Hall was repaired by Aug. 19, but since the air conditioning did not go out of West Hall until Sunday, maintenance was unable to get to the air switch in time for the air to remain cool.

At this time, there have been no more reports due to air conditioning failure in the main buildings.

Michelle Taylor is a Spectator reporter and can be reached at pferde14@hotmail.com

### No room at the inn

## Higher numbers result in housing shortage

Ashlie Mash  
Staff Writer

About 80 VSU students have yet to find a place to live. According to Joe Mattachione, director of Housing and Residence Life, the living arrangements for about 30 women and 50 men have not been decided. Because of the enrollment increase, Housing and Residence Life has its hands full placing students in rooms because there are no vacancies.

"At the present, most of the women awaiting definite housing plans are residing in Langdale Hall, but will soon have to disperse since renova-

tion is planned to begin on Oct. 1," Mattachione said.

If no solution is found, students will have no choice but to live in an apartment or commute from their permanent address, according to Mattachione. For now, students without rooms have opted to live in hotel rooms and others decided to forgo the fall semester and return to school spring semester.

"It is actually better to have close to capacity (1016) than to have open beds," Mattachione said. "We still have to pay our bills."

James Brignati, vice president of Business and Finance, said that due to the changing

expectations of students and the increased enrollment, VSU may be looking at private housing for fall 2002.

According to Brignati, the Board of Regents would not allow private housing until recently. It wanted students to live in residence halls because of the halls' durability.

"Now we can go with private companies and plan for new apartment-style homes, such as Little Jo Court, except larger, to meet our students needs," Brignati said.

Ashlie Mash is a Spectator reporter and can be reached at iam1239@yahoo.com

## Take care with credit

Rachel Sams  
Knight-Ridder Tribune

Responsible use of a credit card can be the first step toward building a solid credit history. But, if students don't exercise restraint, credit cards can create problems that take years — and thousands of dollars — to fix.

The cards are easy for students to get. Some students sign

up for one card after another.

Two recent studies — a joint survey by the Education Resources Institution and the Institute for Higher Education Policy and a survey by the firm Student Monitor — found that nearly two-thirds of college students had at least one credit card. Between 6 and 13 percent had four or more credit cards.

"I think students should have credit cards for emergency use

only," Liz Akom, certified financial planner with Akom Financial Consultants, said. "Keep a low credit limit on your card so you're not tempted, and don't charge more than you can pay back." Most important, financial advisers say, remember that just because a company offers you a card doesn't mean you have to take it.

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# CHECKING

COLLEGE TIP #23

## You can wash whites and darks together on the "cold" cycle.

Don't tell your mother we told you this, but you can wash lights and darks together. Just dump in the dunks. Toss in detergent. Set the temp to cold. Wait 15 minutes and you're done. No need to sort. Cold water gets them all clean. Not necessarily bright. But clean. Here's another convenient tip: sign up for Student Checking 101™. No need to shop around. Get 15 transactions per month and a check/ATM\* card free at The Park Avenue Bank. Stop getting taken to the cleaners. Drop by Park Avenue today.

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Wes Sewell / The Spectator

Nicholas Overstreet, SGA president, hands junior marketing major, Paige Altone, a petition to fill out. The petition asks students to support the end of a tax on textbooks. Each textbook carries the Georgia state tax of 7 percent.

## SGA fights taxation

SGA asks students to sign petitions against taxes on textbooks.

**Michelle Taylor**  
Staff Writer

SGA is asking students to "S.A.C. the Tax" this year.

The student government associations of the University System of Georgia have decided to petition against the 7 percent book tax placed on all textbooks.

A table was set out at the bookstore Aug. 20 to give students the chance to sign the petition. Between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Nicholas Overstreet, SGA president, collected 900 signatures at the bookstore alone. At this time, over 1000 signatures have been collected at VSU.

"Our goal is approximately 2500," Overstreet said.

In January, the SGAs across Georgia will meet in Atlanta to give the petition to the Student Advisory Council, the governing body over the SGAs in the University System of Georgia. If the Student Advisory Council is in favor of removing the tax, it can write a formal proposal to the state to have the tax removed.

There is no set number of signatures needed to sway the opinion of the Student Advisory Council.

"We just want to show that the students care," Overstreet said.

Ashley Bell, former SGA president, started the petitioning process at VSU. Overstreet is continuing Bell's vision.

To reach more students, SGA has plans, with permission, to send petitions to student organizations across campus and to classroom settings

such as the Freshman Year Experience classes to encourage students to sign.

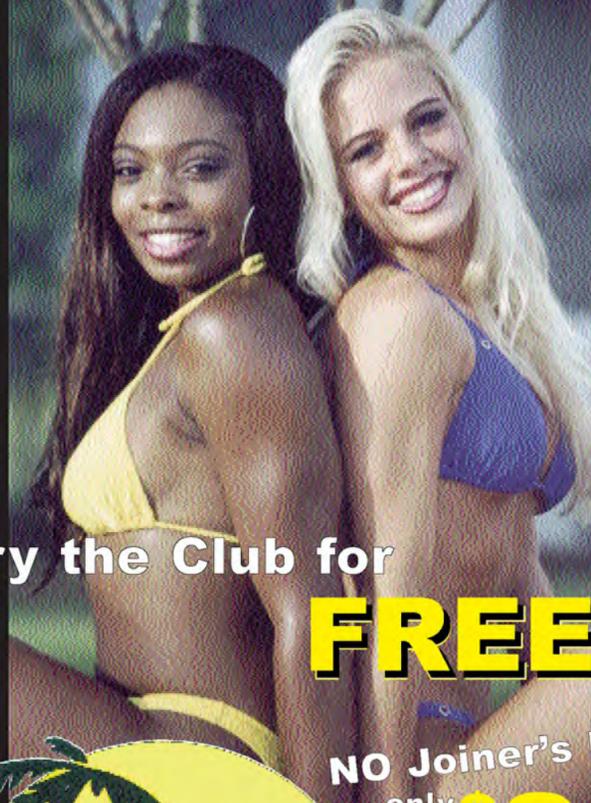
"We want to cover as many places across campus with information about this petition as we can," Overstreet said.

SGA will have a table set up at the Happening, an event held at Palms Quad from 1-4 p.m. to collect more signatures.

Michelle Taylor is a Spectator Reporter and can be reached at pferde14@hotmail.com

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

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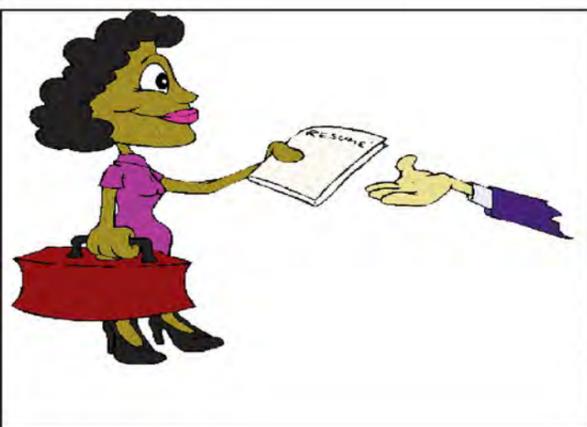
259-0500 - Norman Drive Next to Books-A-Million



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The Department of Parking & Transportation would like to wish you a very successful academic year. Please remember to obtain your 2001/2002 parking permit if you plan to park a vehicle on University property. Also, we encourage everyone to utilize our shuttle bus services. Please call us at (229) 293-PARK (7275) if you have any questions. Or visit our web pages at:

<http://services.valdosta.edu/parking.htm>



## Job outlook grim for some

**Bianca Johnson**  
Staff Writer

Seniors have more to worry about than just passing their classes. Now seniors have to worry about finding a job. With the economy in a downturn, there are fewer jobs available for graduates.

A survey of VSU's 2001 graduates showed that 75-80 percent of seniors found jobs related to their majors.

According to Kevin Taylor, career development specialist, the key to finding a good job is beginning the search early.

"Three keys to successfully finding employment upon graduation are starting early, having relevant experience and being flexible with location," Taylor said.

Taylor works in the office of career services, which helps students in their search for a job. All students are eligible to use the services available at career services. Some of these services include answers on how to make use of a specific major and construct resumes.

A few of the resources offered to graduating seniors this year are resume workshops and mock interviews.

Companies such as Belk, Sherwin Williams, Walgreens, Consolidated Electrical Distributors and internships such as the Governor's

Internship have scheduled on-campus interviews in September and October. Most interviews are open to all majors. To attend the interviews, students can register with career services via GeorgiaHire.com.

Other upcoming opportunities for employment include two job fairs on Oct. 23 and Nov. 20 in the P.E. Complex's mezzanine level. All students are welcome to attend.

Companies that participate in these job fairs may require a minimum GPA of 2.5 or higher.

Other questions and concerns can be directed to the office of career services at 333-5942.

Bianca Johnson is a Spectator Reporter and can be reached at burp\_l@hotmail.com

### READ IT!

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

All the latest stories and more.

# New organization seeks to improve communication

**Lindsey Giddens**  
Staff Writer

Making VSU a better place for students has become the goal of the Partners for Campus Excellence.

Partners for Campus Excellence is a campus-wide service training program that hopes to enhance the efforts of departments and individuals giving them both appropriate training materials and techniques that will promote positive relation among both internal and external constituents with a special emphasis on recruitment and retention.

"This is not an organization," said Rebecca Murphy, project manager for Partners, and training administrator for auxiliary services. "It's an on going process where we are constantly looking at VSU's campus and trying to improve it."

Partners hopes to enhance internal working order, improving inner communication and teamwork. This means allowing each department to get an understanding of what other departments do so there can be less misinformation and sending students to wrong offices when they have questions.

In 1998, when VSU raised its admissions standards, Rob Kelner noticed a need for training that looked at the interaction with students and also with parents. Along with Murphy, a proposal was written up and submitted to James Brignatti, vice-president for business and finance. Brignatti approved and Kelner and Murphy pre-

Action Planning, and A Blue Print for Service Excellence at VSU. Student employees must attend training on work Ethic and Ability, Knowledge of VSU, Communication Skills, and Handling the Difficult Situation.

Over the summer, pilot classes were run involving financial aid, the bursary, the registrar,

financial aid, and One Card were grouped together to enhance relationships between the three departments.

Evelyn Mitchell, and outside consultant, helped run the pilot classes and also will be teaching a "Train the Trainer" class.

Partners is using a revised edition of Noel Levetz's Advanced Connections which is a training guide for campuses.

"We just want to make sure these improvements don't stop in the classroom," Murphy said. "We want to make sure management supports it, and it continues planting seeds for service culture."

If students want to get involved, the measuring committee headed by Anthony Bryant still has meetings to measure the effectiveness of training.

For more information, contact Rebecca Murphy at 259-5105 or check out the Partners website at <http://services.valdosta.edu/excellence/>.

Lindsey Giddens is a Spectator reporter and can be reached at [journ81@bellsouth.net](mailto:journ81@bellsouth.net)

**It's an on going process where we are constantly looking at VSU's campus and trying to improve it.**

-Rebecca Murphy, project manager for Partners, and training administrator for auxiliary services

sented the plan to Dr. Bailey and asked permission to put it before the President's Cabinet.

The plan was approved and the Cabinet selected representatives from each area on campus to make up an advisory committee. This included SGA representative, Nicholas Harder, Faculty Senate representatives, and COSA representatives. The committee then went to brainstorming how to increase student satisfaction.

Classes were organized to train staff, administration, and student employees in certain key areas that will improve relation skills. These classes for staff and administration include Building a Service Culture, Communication,

dining services, One Card services, and admissions.

"Those that came in with the attitude that they knew everything they needed to know about their department, left with that attitude, but overall we had a positive reaction to the pilot classes," Murphy said.

With feed back from those involved, a few revisions were made to the classes before getting started with student employee training which began last week and will continue through September. Staff and administration training begins in November.

Departments are grouped together to get a better understanding of each other's operations. For example, the bursary,

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LIVE MUSIC NIGHTLY

# The Spectator

Leah F. Cassorla  
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## Oops! They did it again

Sometimes, you just can't win for losing. If you're a biology student—even a non-major taking biology—you've just lost a resource even the administration has called "irreplaceable in our lifetime."

Of course it was all just a mistake. The administration really meant to save the last Pond Pine on campus, it just didn't turn out that way.

Sorry, folks. Understand, this is not just about a tree.

This is about whether you go to school at a university that values your education—and not just your tuition dollars.

This is about whether the faculty have any say in their work environment. We graduate. They're here to stay. And if this University continues to disregard the faculty's call for a voice in how the school is governed, this school has no hope of attracting more good professors as it grows.

And of course, this is about money.

VSU saved a whopping \$50,000 by cutting ten extra, old growth trees behind the library. That's out of \$11,089,000.

And the bid was STILL \$128,000 higher than the available budget.

That hasn't stopped VSU. The Board of Regents is making up the difference, and VSU has not seen any reason to cut anything else out of the plan.

The administration's "Oops I did it again" attitude is growing old. VSU is sorry. It was a mistake. The school really didn't mean to do it. Likely true, but nonetheless problematic.

Sooner or later (we hope sooner) the students and faculty will have had enough. We will let the administration know that sorry doesn't cut it—chainsaws do.

If we don't demand accountability, if we don't make noise, the administration will assume that little old-growth, last Pond Pine on campus "mistakes" are just all right with us.

Equally as important, the administration will know that it can get away with treating students as monetary units and faculty as expenditures.

*Spectator opinion written by Leah F. Cassorla*

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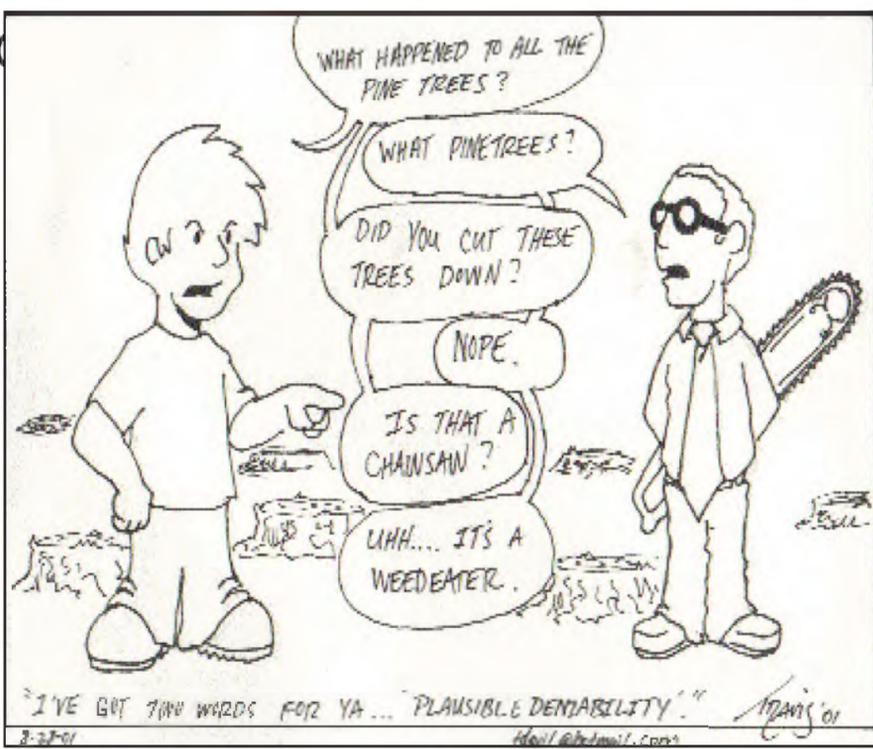
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## Deep thoughts from Phillip

Bailey retire last year?? There was this great hurrah, commotion, and speech-giving thrown in for good measure last spring to send him off in style. For all I knew the station wagon had ridden off into the sunset for good. Imagine my surprise when rounding the corner at Nevins I spied the old battlewagon in its familiar parking place.

I know that some people have a hard time staying retired Class has been in progress for a week or so now. In this time I have had many random thoughts and enough time to contemplate various issues concerning VSU. To this end, I hope that you are all familiar with stream of consciousness writing. If not, may this be a badly executed crash course for you all, as I am subject to lapses in good judgment and good writing.

During my time at VSU I have come to notice the ever-present problem of parking. I have wondered if VSU offers a valet service. More importantly, would HOPE cover it? Someone please let me know and I'll pass word along.

While venting my random thoughts, am I crazy, or did Dr. because they either get bored or decide that golf and fishing do not constitute a full life, but sheesh, even I could hack it for a little while.

As testament to my aforementioned poor judgment,



Phillip Boyd

there are a few changes I'd like to propose for the campus. For example, how about an Intramural Frogger team wherein the participants take turns sprinting across Patterson? Bonus points will be awarded for not getting hit by a cement truck.

Second, the VSU maintenance trucks will forever more be required to look and sound like the ice cream truck from our childhood. Imagine the glee of the student body as "Pop Goes the Weasel" bays over the loudspeakers.

Also, I would make it mandatory for people to say hello when met on the sidewalk. Is it really that hard? I cannot say how many times I have made eye contact with someone and said hello only to have that person look at me as if I just fell off the proverbial turnip truck. Is it an invasion of your little universe? Am I being too demanding? I hope not. I do not request the greeting in a Can't-We-All-Just-

Get-Along way. Think of it more along the lines that this is not a huge place and you'll probably be sharing these side-walks with me again. Hopefully next time we meet with hellos.

Lastly, I propose that the Oak Street parking lot be destroyed and replaced by a huge tomato patch for the purpose of having an annual tomato-throwing festival like they have in Bunol, Spain. They call the tomato flinging "La Tomatina." From what I gather, that event was started by kids throwing lunch at each other on the last Wednesday of August sometime in the '40s.

While we may not make the cut-off date this year, just think of the possibilities for the university... we could tout VSU as the greatest agricultural university in the world, better even than ABAC. Just as people flock to Bunol they would flock to VSU. Instead of having the number one ranked Division II football team in the country, perhaps enrollment would jump enough for us to be the numero uno D-I team in the land. Besides, since no one can get a place to park now, how much worse is it really going to be minus a few (hundred) spaces?

*Phillip Boyd is a Spectator columnist and can be contacted at philippe\_45@hotmail.com*

## Mailbox

Why is this space empty? Because it's reserved for you and you alone! Send us your opinions and we will put them here. Send your letters to P.O. Box 7052, Valdosta, Ga. 31698 or email them to us at spec.valdosta.edu



Got something to say?

Open mic on this page every week at the Spectator.



Jeremiah Bass

## Advice for the newbie

Incoming freshmen and other new students...let me tell you now, stay focused.

Whoa, college! It really does exist; there are many things that this place has to offer [on and off campus], and if you are around here for a while, you'll get the chance to see what I'm talking about.

There are going to be people, all around you, trying to persuade you from your studies but...don't let it happen. Don't get me wrong; fun is good, especially when you're in college. BUT, you mustn't forget why you are here in the first place, to get an education...right, maybe? I don't know, maybe some of you are here to party, but if you're given the opportunity to go to college, take a minute to learn something.

I have been dragged [not physically, haha] from my studies to go out. Because of that, I have missed simple questions on tests, forgotten to go over my notes before a class, and it's not a good habit to develop. Get your work done people; it *does* pay, off eventually. You don't want to be out every night when you know that big chem test is coming up. Yeah, sure, your friends may be telling you to hang out for a while, but keep in mind; they may not necessarily have the same burdens that *you* have. Worry about *you* first; because no matter how you look at it, your friends can't help you pass every class.

I have friends who I like to hang out with, but I know that I have my own obligations to attend to, as do they. And I hope you freshmen and other new undergrads aren't coming here thinking, "Dude, I can't wait to step foot in a club and groove all night." Clubs aren't all they're cut out to be. Just because your buds are going *doesn't* mean you have to go every time *they* do. Do your own thing. Don't let yourself *down*. Stay focused. So what if you can't go out when everyone else does...is that so bad? Maybe everyone else has already done their physics homework and reviewed their American Lit. notes. How are you gonna look when you bust up in class and don't know what the hell is going on? Just

**Freshmen**  
see page 8

## How do you feel about campus construction's impact on campus ecology?



"As long as it doesn't interfere with where I'm trying to go it doesn't really bother me."

**Teresa Logrono**  
Freshman  
Biology Pre Med



"Doesn't really bother me. They're planting new ones [trees] behind Patterson"

**Charlotte Dombrowski**  
Freshman  
Undecided



"Bothers me that they messed up the area behind the library"

**Termaine Pender**  
Sophomore  
Business



"Never really thought about it. They've always talked about how great the library will be."

**Sekivia Prayor**  
Freshman  
Mass Media



"I don't mind. Just leave enough trees for me to continue breathing."

**Chet Loesing**  
Sophomore  
Graphic Design



"I don't think there is any impact because we will replace them and they had to cut them to build the library"

**Fallon Richardson**  
Freshman  
Computer Science

# Enough's enough.

New isn't always best. Take C-wing in Langdale for instance.

I moved into what was supposed to be a renovated room. It was supposed to be clean, attractive and brand new.

Well, it was all those things and more.

I arrived the Wednesday before school started to find a hole in my wall where the phone line should have been. I thought to myself, "Be patient."

I still have no phone line.

Oh, don't get me wrong; a very nice gentleman installed a jack to cover up the hole with the wire sticking out.

But it was only half the problem, and I'm not the only one.

Hall 2C has strong buzzing in its phone lines. Many cable lines still do not work.

The air conditioning units are leaking, making the room so humid. Students feel like they are in a sauna.

Showers are backing up. Ceilings, floors and even closets are moldy. Some of the ceilings are even peeling.



Michelle Taylor

After all, they only care about paying their bills.

I am not only angered for myself, but for the approximately 150 other women who live in Langdale who have to live in less than new conditions.

These problems should not be occurring in a much-touted renovation. This is poor planning. Surprise!

The air conditioning problem I understand; it is a problem everyone has to live through at least once in a dorm.

But bad phone connections? NO connections? Ridiculous. Mold? Atrocious. Pools from the air conditioning under beds? Horrifying.

So for those of you who will begin life on the next renovated wing, Hall A, be forewarned: our nightmare could be yours.

*Michelle Taylor is a Spectator columnist and can be contacted at pferde14@hotmail.com*

I understand there are problems with new places.

What really cracks me up is the response I received from Housing and Residence Life: The Governor's Honor's Programers apparently destroy a lot.

I want to meet those GHP people who are strong enough to tear a phone jack out of the wall. Perhaps, as punishment, they can carry my books for me; I need help with that too.

All the problems make me want to not live on C wing. They also make me take another look at off-campus housing. Perhaps this is what Housing and Residence Life wants.

Tired of those empty weekday nights?

Is cable TV your pathetic excuse for companionship?

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call Leah Cassorla at 333-5688 for more information

## Freshman *continued from page 7*

worth going out the other night and waking up with a hangover?

I'm not your parent...drink if you're gonna drink; stay out all night if you want. I'm just a friendly Spectator voice telling you how it is. If you want to get a degree in Beerology or Pimpology, go for it.

I have found out that, in the end, when it's test time, or quiz time, it's usually just YOU, all by yourself. Ready for that test? Your friends

can't always help you cheat. When you're sitting there waiting for your copy of the test to be handed to you, knowing that you're in over your head, whatcha gonna do?

Give yourself a chance to learn something while you're here. You're getting a fresh start, so do with it what you will. Like I said before, you don't have to listen to me. To each his own, right?

*Jeremiah Bass is a Spectator columnist and can be contacted at jwbass@valdosta.edu*

# Human cloning needs more checks

By Arthur Caplan

Cloning is giving our legislators the ethical creeps.

The House of Representatives has passed a bill outlawing human cloning along with any attempt to make embryos using cloning techniques. Tom Daschle, majority leader of the Senate, says that he is "uneasy" about cloning. And President Bush has made it clear that he disapproves of human cloning of any kind for any purpose.

Many Americans share the moral revulsion that talk of cloning evokes. The yuck factor runs especially strong when talk turns to using the recipe that produced Dolly the sheep to make babies.

There are hundreds of reasons to push for a ban on human cloning: the many deformed, stillborn, diseased and dead animals made on the way to Dolly. As much as we're being told that human cloning is "just around the corner," in fact even the scientists best at cloning have achieved a very poor track record making cloned animals.

To date, only a few species — sheep, pigs, cows, mice, an ox and the rare oxlike gaur — have been cloned. While the media have been keen to announce their various birthdates, they have been less than responsible in announcing their premature exits to the hereafter. The third cow to be cloned in the United States unexpectedly dropped dead last month. The ox, the gaur and other cloned animals also suffered sudden, rapid deaths.

Add in the dozens of deformed and stillborn animals that cloning has also produced, and you begin to

get a picture that cloning is absolutely unsafe to try on humans. Putting a damaged DNA blueprint, which is what DNA from an adult is, into a place where it normally does not go — an egg — may simply be a recipe for creating dead, sick or impaired creatures. Until more animal work proves otherwise, a ban is the right thing.

Matters are different when the issue is making a clone from an egg and adult DNA to try to create a source of stem cells. If it is true that we don't know whether mixing DNA from our nose or lip can make a human being, then it may be that creating embryos by cloning is a less ethically contentious place to turn for stem cells than either newly created human embryos or some of the tens of thousands left frozen at fertility clinics. It seems correct to call an egg into which human DNA has been transferred an "embryo, one that has most of the same power as an embryo made when sperm meets egg."

Despite the hype and irresponsible babbling about human cloning being "imminent," we should not forget there is every possibility that cloned embryos made this way cannot become anything except a source of cells. Banning this kind of cloning — which is sometimes referred to as therapeutic cloning — is a mistake.

There is yet another problem with broad bans against cloning. Biology is not done yet with trying out its new power to make clones. Some scientists are now working on a technique in which instead of coring out DNA from a cell in your skin or mouth and sticking it into a cored-out human egg, they will transfer the contents of the egg around the DNA.

Question: Does moving things in the other direction constitute cloning? What if scientists try, as they most certainly will, to transfer not all the DNA used in cloning from a cell from your hand or foot but half the genes from your skin cells and the other half from a cell taken from another body. What if they only use cells to clone from people who are dead? What if they use one chromosome each from 46 different people to build a genome and cloned that? What if they do not actually destroy a clone embryo but simply let it develop to 16 or 32 cells, remove one of those to grow specialized cells for transplant, and simply freeze the remaining embryonic cells without destroying it? How about using DNA from a human in the egg of a primate to try to grow cells?

Confused about what to call all these creations? Good. You should be. I find all of this confusing too. But it tells me that aside from a ban on using cloning to make people, Congress and the President should back off trying to prohibit or ban anything else. When Congress or the President say we need to ban the creation of human clones for research, I get very worried that they are trying to apply 19th-century ideas about the metaphysics of life to 21st-century biology. The old categories and the old ways of talking don't cover the new possibilities that the genetic revolution presents.

Not that we have to accept whatever science has to offer — just that it's a little too soon to decide whether we will or won't.

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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.

THE



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

# you might be a freshman if

**Jeremiah W. Bass**  
Staff Writer

Hi freshmen, I'm your Darkside editor, and you will get to know me very quick, and very well. You will grow to hate me, and you know what...I won't care! I'm here to pretty much make your first year at VSU a living hell! I will make fun of you, I will call you out on the lame things you do. I will make sure that you are put in your place; don't forget...you're freshmen!

To start off the year, I figured I'd list some stuff that of singles you guys out and puts you in the spotlight. For some of you 'smart' freshies, while you're reading this, you'll notice that some of these mannerisms describe you. On the other hand, you 'not-so-smart'

freshies will wait until the next day, as you're walking down the sidewalk and be like, "Oh yeah, I am kind of a geek, I guess."

So anyway, buckle up and enjoy...maybe you'll learn something. And remember, I do this *not* to make fun of you (yeah right), but because I'm a concerned senior who wants to see you all spread your wings and fly [or something like that].

You might be a freshman if you walk around looking up, back and forth, at every building and sign. It's one thing to be lost and looking for the name of a building, but slow down for cryin' out loud.

Don't work up a sweat and run into everyone because you're twisting your head 360 degrees trying to figure out

where you are. You know what I think? I think there is some powerful force, like Conan O'Brien's evil twin, using a joystick to control you all while he sits on top of a mountain drinking a dark ale. Yeah... he's causing you to trip on sidewalks and get lost...yeah.

You might be a freshman if you have all new gear from Sears and JC Penny's. Look, you're in college now...no one cares if you have the newest pair of cargo pants.

We [non-freshies] also don't care about you owning the newly arrived Polo book bag. Chances are, it'll get stolen anyway...if you play your cards right. I can see it now: first day of class. Tom wakes up, and looks over on his chair and sees the new jeans and but-

toned down shirt he laid out last night. Then he looks down at the new Adidas, he just can't wait to hit the campus sidewalks and classrooms sporting that new wardrobe. NEWSFLASH...it don't matter dude!

Or you have the occasional Sue who can't wait to put on her new 'Naughty' tee shirt and her low-cut Levis...well, that may not be much of a problem. Yeah, sorry Sue, go ahead and wear that.

You might be a freshman if you carry around the George W. Bush look [always confused]. You know how our wonderful president of the United States of America is with his mannerisms.

He always looks like he got a burrito shoved up his ass, and he doesn't know if he should take it out now or later. He's

always got this expression that makes him appear to be saying, "Huh?" all day.

That's who you freshies remind me of sometimes. It's like, "Oh, you have to go to the bookstore to buy books? What a neat idea." [Kind of a twisted example, but you get what I'm saying].

You might be a freshman if you walk into Palms, get your food, and while in the process of getting something to drink, drop your tray and drink. Then you don't know what to do, so you start talking to the people around you, sayin' stuff like, "Oh man, that really blows, right?" No. Don't do that.

Just marinate in your embarrassment by yourself. Look at it as a lesson to be learned. I have seen this happen so many times, it's not even

funny...wait, yeah it is. If you weren't concentrating so hard on trying to find someone to sit with you, these types of problems wouldn't happen. Besides, once you're seated at the table and eating, you'll be heading for the nearest toilet...if you get my drift.

Hmmm...I'm tired of writing. I'll need to check you freshmen out more and see what other ridiculous things you all do, like trying to pay for a Domino's pizza with your student ID. Now *that* would be really funny.

Best of luck, we'll chat later.



# TRENDS, TRENDS, GO AWAY, come again some other

**MaryEllen McConnel**  
Staff Writer

When I walk around the very asthetic campus of Valdosta State, besides the heat, everything is pleasant until suddenly I hear the tell-tale sound of annoying electronic music.

People on both the right and left of me are answering and struggling to hear over the static of cell phones.

These phones are attached to the person with what I have determined is a super bungee cord.

This trend becomes more popular by the minute until I truly believe I am the only person on campus without a cell phone.

All over campus thousands of times a day, cell phones ring. While some students are attempting to talk to people beside them, the person on the

phone creates so much racket that many people give up.

Another unnecessary, popular campus trend is blaring car stereos. Not only do these drivers feel the need to shake sidewalks, but they also leave their windows down so everyone can hear their music. If everyone wanted to hear their music they would go and buy the C.D.

Then there is the parking of the music blaring, cell phone screamers. Now, I am not in favor of parking tickets anymore than anyone else, but when a car blocks the road with the emergency lights on the music blaring and the air conditioning on (and I might add that the hood is not popped) I am extremely irritated. In general my list of trends so far is respect among students but the University itself seems to have problems, too.

I've searched all over, and I still have not found one spec of

gold, dust or electronics in any of my books. Now under normal circumstances I don't think that anyone pays \$130 for anything but jewelry or electronics, but at VSU this is a normal book price.

Personally, for that price, I want a gold spine! The paper in the book cannot cost more than ten dollars and the labor is easily paid with volume so the bookstore has to be making serious money.

After paying a ridiculous price for the books on the first week of classes, we got to go to class with them soaking wet because after the air-conditioning went out the humidity soaked everything.

It seems that the trendy thing to do on this campus is to allow

dorm air-conditioning to go out on the first day of school. As buildings suffered the fatal trend, students slipped on floors and fought to keep the expensive books readable.

I think the people on this campus are probably capable of coming up with lifestyles that make a little more sense for the situation.

*-MaryEllen McConnel is a staff writer for The Spectator and she can be reached at workingmary@hotmail.com-*

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Jillian Jenkins, Stephanie Johr  
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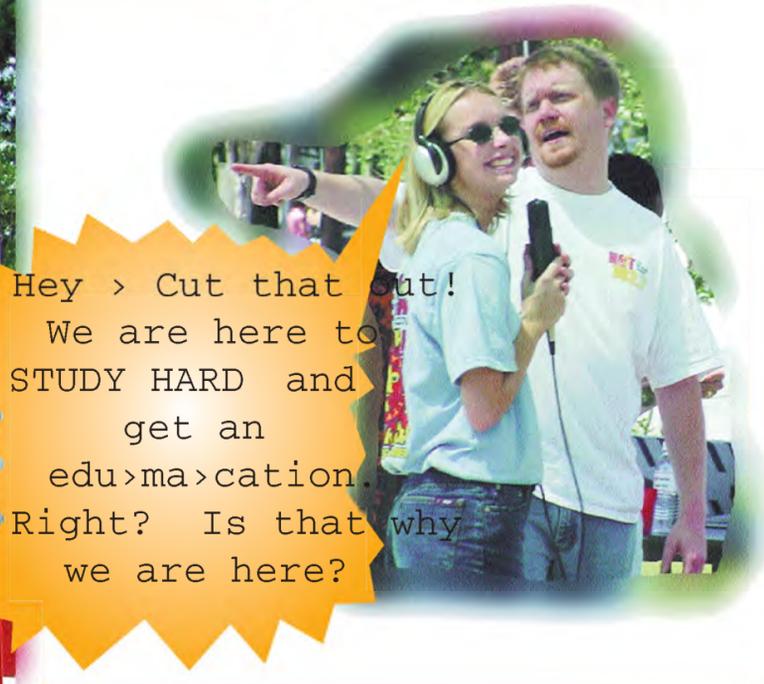


# HOT 1027

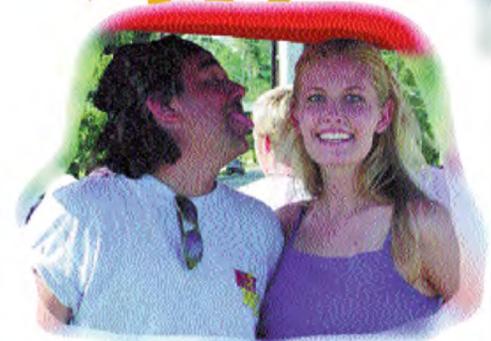
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# Sport

VSU Blazers  
Albany St. Rams

## Last Week's Scores

VSU Lady Blazers	30	30	30	-	3
Converse College	15	17	26	-	0



www.valdosta.edu/spectator



Annie Johnson / The Spectator

The Blazers score their first touchdown of the season against Albany State in front of a record-setting 11,437 fans Saturday at Bazemore-Hyder Stadium.

## 'Black Swarm' devours ASU

**Brandon Scott**  
Staff Writer

Valdosta State defeated Albany State 41 - 6 last Saturday... big surprise? Nope. VSU's "Black Swarm" defense seemed as though it spent more time in the backfield than ASU's running backs. In a coming out party for new defensive coordinator Kirby Smart, VSU forced and recovered four fumbles, sacked ASU's Marcus James five times, allowed only 191 offensive yards and basically treated ASU's offense like it was a high school team... with no coach.

VSU plays at Fort Valley

State in Fort Valley, Ga., at 7 p.m. Saturday as the Wildcats look for revenge after last year's 46 - 0 drubbing at the hands of the Blazers.

Heading into the third quarter of last weekend's game, the Blazers offense, holding a 27-6 lead, took the field after a 14-yard kickoff return from senior wide out Reggie Mosley. The "Air Raid" went to work as Bonner aired the ball out with a 50-yard pass reception by Carlos Johnson. On the ASU 5-yard line the Blazer's were called for holding, backing them five yards. No problem - On the next play C.J. Lofton caught a 10-yard strike for the touchdown. The Blazers

would not score again until the fourth, as the backups, led by second string freshman quarterback **Buster Faulkner**, drove the ball 79 yards on 8 plays, paced by **Michael Leslie's** 42-yard sprint. Freshman tailback **Tyrann Robinson** scored on a 5-yard rush. The game ended on the ASU 14 after the Blazers recovered a Ram's fumble.

"The defense just put us in great field position every time," VSU Head Coach **Chris Hatcher** said of the struggles of

the "Air Raid" offense. "The offense just didn't execute as we tried to force some plays, but give credit to ASU. We always have trouble with [Golden Rams defensive coordinator] **Mike White's** defense."

Hatcher was especially pleased with the five-man front defense "because it allowed the linebackers to roam a little more free, allowing them to make plays."

The running game was also a welcome surprise for the Blazers as **Aaron Jenkins** and **Co.** rushed for 158 yards, with

"Swarm" \_\_\_\_\_  
see page 13

**Next Game:**  
#4 VSU Blazers  
vs.  
Fort Valley State  
Wildcats  
Sept. 1, 7 p.m.  
Fort Valley, Ga.  
Radio: WWRQ,  
107.9 FM

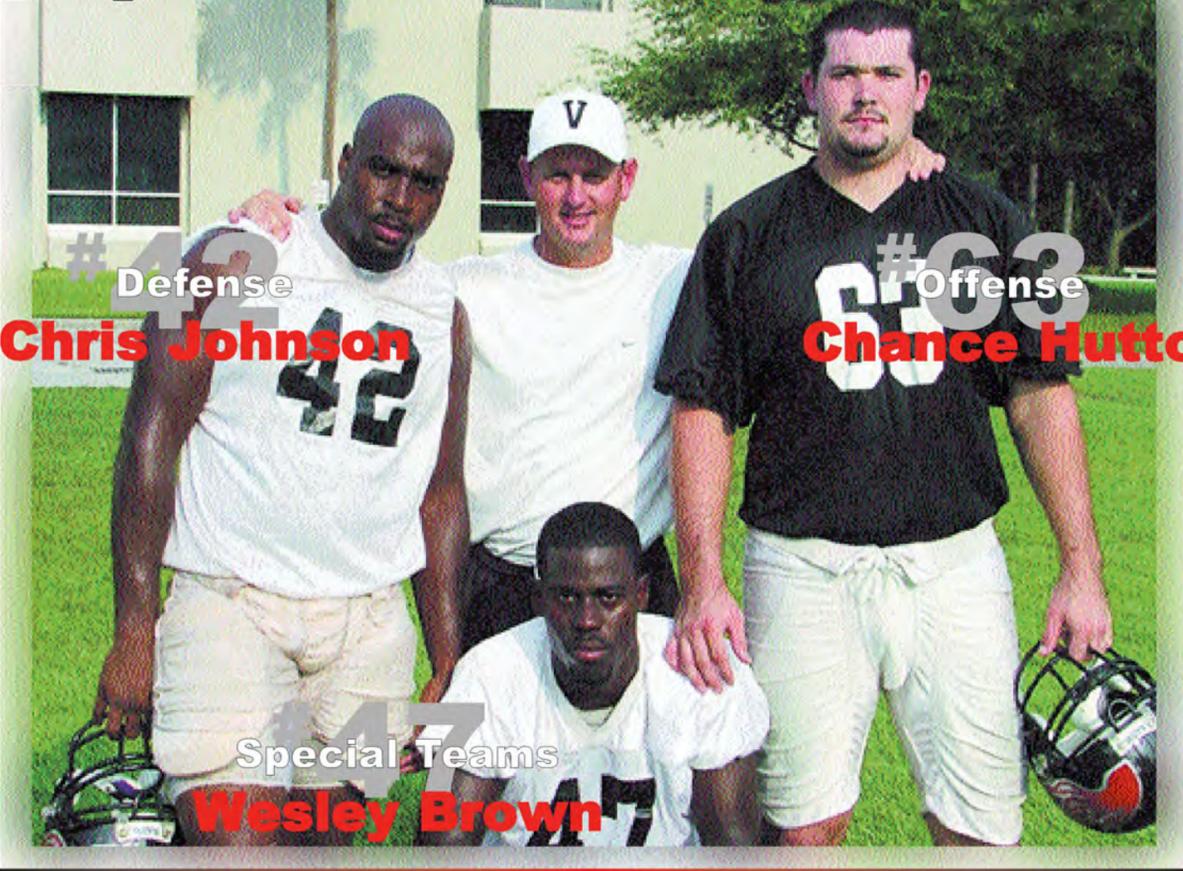
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# Coach Hatcher's picks of the week!



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Football Preview

# Revenge on Fort Valley's mind

After last season's 46-0 win in Valdosta, Blazers focused on crushing Wildcats again

**Matt Stewart**  
Staff Writer

Hmmm... does this scenario seen familiar to anyone else?

VSU (1-0) rolled over Albany State 41-6 Saturday at Bazemore-Hyder Stadium in the season opener, while the Fort Valley State Wildcats (1-0) struggled to finish off Morehouse College in their season opener, eventually winning 33-27 in double overtime.

Last season, both VSU and FVSU came into their match up with victories in their season openers; the Blazers crushed ASU 42-10 while FVSU marginally defeated a poor Morehouse team 27-12. The Wildcats came into last season's game with the Blazers ranked in the top 10 in the nation.

FVSU left Bazemore-Hyder Stadium with a 46-0 loss and hurt feelings.

This time, the Blazers travel to Fort Valley, Ga. for a 7 p.m. kickoff.

**Blazer Offense**

The "Air Raid" attack rolled up 455 yards on the Golden Rams of ASU. Doesn't seem like VSU's offense has skipped a beat from last season. Senior quarterback Dusty Bonner needs only two touchdown passes to become the sixth quarterback in Gulf South Conference history to pass for 60 touchdowns.

**Wildcat Defense**

FVSU allowed 383 yards per game to opposing offenses last season and were mainly susceptible to the run, giving up 184 ypg on the ground per con-

test. To correct last season's problems, the Wildcats defensive staff now puts eight men on the line of scrimmage, similar to a 4-4 defense.  
**Advantage: Blazers**

**Blazer Defense**

Defensive coordinator Kirby Smart may have inherited the best defense in the GSC. Combine that with the ability to substitute almost the entire defensive roster during a game, and you've got a fresh defensive unit that swarms on every play.

**Wildcat Offense**

FVSU can be dangerous on offense with transfer quarterback Matt Davis (6-4, 220), running back Orlando Wiley and wide receiver Kent Schoolfield, Jr. Davis transferred from Shepherd College in West Virginia and threw for 229 yards, completing 16-of-21 passes against Morehouse. Wiley gained 142 yards last Saturday after earning the starting position when Cleo Stinyard, last year's starter, left school early for the NFL draft. Schoolfield, the head coach's son, is a deep threat.  
**Advantage: Blazers**

**Blazer Special Teams**

FVSU is most likely practicing blocking on the punt team right now. The Blazers blocked two punts last week against ASU and if the punt does get off, senior wide out and punt return specialist Reggie Mosley will be waiting to return it. Place kicker Reid Bethea did miss his first PAT for the Blazers, but don't worry. Bethea was solid for the remainder of the game and is a transfer kicker who once kicked in a bowl game for Southern Mississippi.

**Wildcat Special Teams**

FVSU place kicker Andrew Jacas missed a second quarter extra point against Morehouse and then shanked a 25-yard field goal attempt in overtime

that would have won the game. Watch out for Schoolfield, Jr. on kickoff and punt returns. He could get loose.  
**Advantage: Blazers**

**Final Prediction:**

**Blazers 38  
Wildcats 13**

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## Football Forecast Faculty vs. Students



VSU 35  
FVSU 28

Dr. Jane Kinney  
Associate Prof. of English



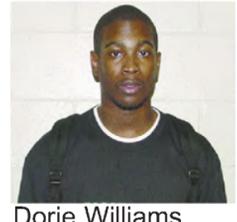
VSU 35  
FVSU 7

Robert Compton  
Grad. Assistant  
Political Science



VSU 24  
FVSU 14

Dr. Mark Smith  
English Prof.



VSU 28  
FVSU 14

Dorie Williams  
Junior, Accounting



VSU 31  
FVSU 10

Dr. Louis Schmier  
History Prof.



VSU 46  
FVSU 0

Moansenee Lewis  
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# Volleyball season starts out with new coach

Matt Biggee  
Staff Writer

As the volleyball season begins, it brings with it the high expectation of a new year; and in the Lady Blazers case, a new era.

The enthusiasm is sky high as the Lady Blazers have added a new outlook, and some new faces. One of those new faces is newly appointed Head Coach John Teetzel the newest member of the VSU volleyball family.

VSU opens its season at

**"SWARM"**

*continued from page 11*

Jenkins averaging a ridiculous 5.2 average on 14 rushes. Michael Leslie's three carries for 51 yards (for an insane 16.7 average) allowed VSU to control the clock in the fourth quarter.

"First, credit is due to the offensive line — they played great, as well as Albany's defense," All-American senior quarterback Dusty Bonner said. "We just weren't that polished since it was the first game." Bonner finished the game completing 25-of-37 passes for 276 yards, but because of the balance established with the suc-

cessful running game there wasn't a pressing need for Bonner to throw for 300+ yards.

home in the VSU Challenge Sept. 7 and 8 at The Complex. The tournament will include Fort Valley State University and Voorhees College, as well as VSU.

Teetzel's task as the new coach is not an envious one. He must replace the father of VSU volleyball, Paul Cantrell. Cantrell resigned as the Blazer's coach earlier this year to take on the job at Fairfield University, a Division I school in Connecticut. When the door opened up in the Gulf South Conference there was no way

breaking up a possible interception. Aaron Jenkin's two-yard scamper upped the score to 13-0 after senior place kicker Reid Bethea nailed the extra point.

On ASU's ensuing possession, VSU senior defensive end Anthony Poole forced and recovered a fumble on a run play that was read easier than Hooked On Phonics. Starting on their own 22-yard line Dusty and Co. went to work, and after two quick passes of nine and 11 yards, Jenkins scored on another two-yard dart. The "Black Swarm" then decided to smother ASU worse than a mother seal after rolling over to protect her young, forcing ASU into a three-and-out. Bonner then drove the Blazers 41 yards in 8

Coach Teetzel could pass up the chance to come back.

Teetzel spent some time in the GSC during his college days. He played baseball for Blazer foe Lincoln Memorial and was a graduate assistant at West Georgia before becoming a head coach. Coach Teetzel's experience doesn't rely just on the GSC. Before landing at



Coach John Teetzel

VSU he coached at Keuka College in New York and led Frostburg State (Md.) to a national tournament bid last year. The coach referred to the national tournament trip as his fondest volleyball memory.

The Lady Blazers new coach seemed excited about the opportunity to come back and take on some of the best teams in the GSC, such as Alabama-

plays that led to another touchdown after Aaron Jenkins fumble on the one-yard line was recovered by tight end C.J. Lofton in the end zone.

Hatcher gave the game ball to the defense for "executing the game plan, giving the offense great field position and hustling on every play."

Brandon Scott is a Spectator reporter and can be reached at [brandon-wrestler@hotmail.com](mailto:brandon-wrestler@hotmail.com)

Huntsville. The team has adjusted well to the new change in coaches and seems optimistic about the upcoming season. What other aspects does Teetzel bring to the team?

"A new perspective," he replied.

You can tell what kind of leadership the new coach brings to the table by just looking at his office where signs hang on his wall that read "Teamwork" and "Integrity."

VSU currently holds an overall 1-3 mark, but with these new qualities the Lady Blazers have

inherited, VSU should be a team to be reckoned with in the near future.

Matt Biggie is a Spectator reporter and can be reached at [tabasco086@aol.com](mailto:tabasco086@aol.com)

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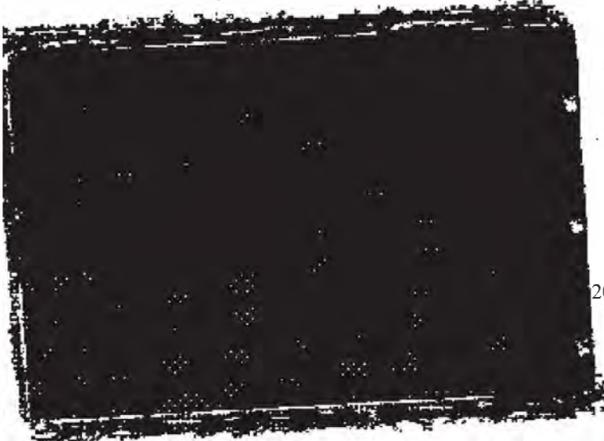
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# College football forecasts

AH! College football season is finally upon us. Preseason hype is at its best and lofty expectations are made for... oh, every major college football program (except Duke, but at least they have basketball). Athletic Directors are setting conference championship goals and coveting the ultimate prize, the Sears National Championship Trophy, more highly than a squirrel looking for a nut in the middle of the Sahara - while watching his best friend in Yellowstone National Park eat an 8 inch acorn on DVD. However, there can only be one National Champion (or two if the BCS computers decide to screw up again... and it will. Maybe not this season, but it will.) That road is hard, long, rocky and damn well worth every minute of it. So without further ado... **Brandon's Prophecies for College Football 2001.**



Brandon Scott

There will be TWO quarterback controversies this year... At Florida and Texas. Brock Berlin will win out over Rex Grossman... eventually. Major Applewhite will take over for a struggling Chris Simms  
Florida will lose a game it shouldn't because of... big surprise here, defense. (Wherefore art thou Bob Stoops?!)  
Now that the injury bug has wrecked Florida State's house worse than the Ebola virus in an overpopulated subterranean city, Georgia Tech has no reason for losing come Sep. 15. (If you didn't know, my 'Noles have lost 3 receivers, two for

the season.) But Georgia Tech will. Lose that is.  
Nebraska will lose Eric Crouch to injury.  
Having your quarterback as the leading rusher is like giving an attractive young intern to a married congressman...it just means trouble.  
The Nation's most feared pass-rusher will not be Eric Brown, but Southern California true freshman Shaun Cody. Blocking him is like asking Phillip-Morris to stop selling cigarettes - it ain't happenin'. Cody had 33 sacks as a junior in high school, and in his senior season he was double and triple-teamed and still recorded 22 sacks. NUFF SAID.  
Miami's Ken Dorsey will win the Heisman.  
Miami has the best field general in college football. Basically, if I were in the middle of the Battle of Gettysburg and my troops needed food - I'm confident I could give Dorsey \$20, some food stamps and coupons... and he'd come back with food like collard greens, cornbread and fried chicken for 300 Southerners AND have some change left over! He makes things work and he wins.  
There will be three undefeated teams come bowl season. Oklahoma, Miami and Oregon... err, Oregon State. (Hey! YOU try and chose between the two.)  
My final prophecy is the National Champions will be... VALDOSTA STATE!



Annie Johnson / The Spectator

2001-2002 Lady Blazer runners: (L-R) Angela Martin, Cassie McGeehan, Kelly Smith, Heather Franks, Cindy Barkley, Meredith Middleton, Jennifer McCall, Amanda Bennett, Teresa Isom, Danielle Potter, Jennifer Franks.

## VSU Cross Country running toward GSC tournament

Tameika Carson  
Staff Writer

If the Blazer and Lady Blazer cross-country teams don't make the Gulf South Conference tournament, they may have to take a hike.  
All of the hard work and dedication will be first put to test on Saturday. The Blazers and Lady Blazers will take their place on the starting line at the West Florida Invitational at 9 a.m. in Pensacola, Fla. This meet will be followed by four others to determine whether the Blazers and Lady Blazers prediction of a conference tournament appearance is valid.  
"They all better make it to conference," VSU Cross-Country Head Coach Johnny Lancaster said jokingly. "If not, I'll make each one walk to Tennessee and back!"  
Lancaster predicts a more victorious year than last season.  
The enjoyment of the summer's leisure has come

to a halt. The VSU cross-country team has returned to the track once again in order to prepare for the 2001 season. Six daily practices a week, lasting a minimum of one hour consist of running four to nine miles. Nevertheless, the miles ran are not only run on a track, but on hills, gravel and asphalt as well; they do it all. However, this is only a small factor of the enduring preparation. The team is still required to weight train, strengthen individual skills and keep a clear mind pertaining to Gulf South Conference competition, which is scheduled to start Oct. 27.  
"Both the Blazers and Lady Blazers were very successful in 2000-2001," Lancaster said as he prepared the team for a daily workout. "I am pretty confident that we will make an

appearance at the conference tournament this season."  
This year's Blazer cross-country team consists of only six runners, the smallest male group ever to represent VSU. In comparison to last season's count, this may appear disturbing, but Lancaster expects a continuation of last year's

success for this year.  
"Although I lost a couple of males in the top groups, the remaining six are very strong," he said. "It is quite obvious that the size of the team is not essential, but the size of the runner's heart makes all the difference."  
On the other hand, the Lady Blazers should be just as successful with only a loss of two runners from last season. They had a hard flourishing summer and therefore foresee a good season. The majority of the Lady Blazers are sophomores and juniors with the exception of one incoming freshman, Danielle Potter from Savannah, Ga. Potter also predicts a successful season with high hopes of placing in the women 5K run at the GSC tournament.  
Lancaster, who also forecasts that she will make it in the top five, supports Potter's anticipation.  
"This team has put in a lot of hard work which isn't a bad thing because they are so motivated," Potter said.

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# Feature

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## Fulbright scholar travels to Germany

Angie Hiers  
Staff Writer

Dr. Charles T. Johnson, assistant professor of history, is a recipient of this year's Fulbright Scholarship.

According to Dr. Tracy Harrington, director for the Center of International Programs, the Fulbright Scholarship is a highly competitive national award, funded by the federal government.

The scholarship provides opportunities for international, educational exchange between the U.S. and other countries. The U.S. Fulbright Scholar Program sends 800 scholars and professionals to more than 140 countries each year, where they lecture or conduct research in a variety of academic and professional fields.

Dr. David Williams, head of the history department, explained that Dr. Johnson will

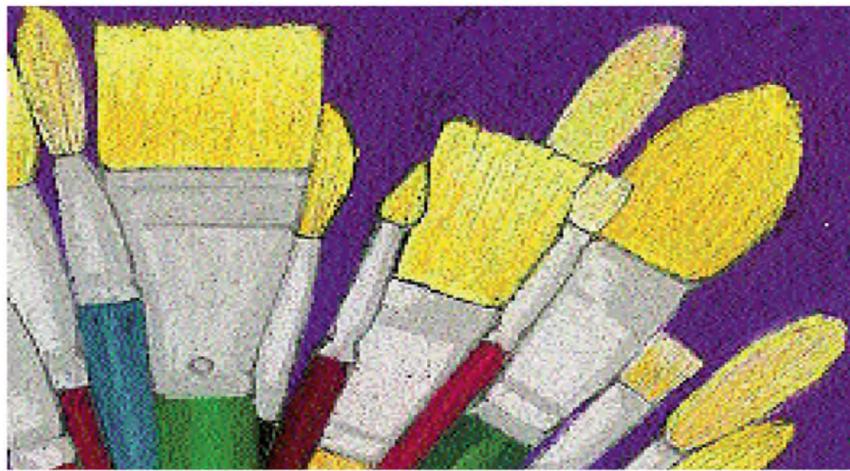
be teaching in the American Studies program at Tuebingen University in Germany.

"Dr. Johnson did his dissertation on German-American history, so his interest in Germany has deep roots," Dr. Williams said.

Dr. Johnson said, "One aspect of my position is teaching senior level undergraduate and graduate courses in American Cultural History. I will also be giving lectures in Germany and other parts of Europe during this time."

Angie Hiers is a Spectator reporter and can be reached at angieca119103@yahoo.com

## VSU faculty shines in art reception



Nathan White  
Staff Writer

The Fine Arts Gallery opened its doors Monday for their first reception of the new semester.

The Annual VSU

Faculty Exhibition drew a crowd of nearly 200 students, faculty and patrons of art.

The exhibition allowed faculty in the art department to show their own works, as well as to be critiqued by their stu-

dents. The exhibition puts the works of 20 faculty members on display and proves their capability as artists.

Most of the artwork is for sale, and prospective buyers spoke with the artists during the recep-

tion while admiring each other's works. The pieces include photography, ceramics, oil paintings and jewelry.

The reception, complete with punch and coffee, lasted from 7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. and by the end of the evening several items were sold. The exhibit itself will be on display until Sept. 14. The prices range from \$75 to \$2000, with nearly forty pieces for sale.

Nathan White is a Spectator reporter and can be reached at natedanak@yahoo.com

Laura Justin  
Staff Writer

Saturday, nine people were killed, including 22-year-old R&B star Aaliyah, when their plane crashed in the Bahamas at 6:45 p.m. The sole survivor was airlifted to Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami with serious injuries.

The plane, a Cessna 402B, suffered engine failure and crashed just seconds after take-off, exploding on impact a

mere 200 feet beyond the runway at Marsh Harbour International Airport on Abaco Island.

Aaliyah had just finished filming her new video "Rock The Boat" before taking the ill-fated flight.

Born Aaliyah Haughton on Jan. 26, 1979, in Brooklyn, NY, Aaliyah released her first album at 15, "Age Ain't Nothing But A Number," which received two Grammy nominations. Her second,

platinum-selling album, "One In A Million," was released in 1995. She had just released her third self-titled album last month, which debuted at No. 2 on Billboard's Top 200 charts.

Aaliyah also debuted as an actress last year in her highly acclaimed role as Juliet in "Romeo Must Die." Her performance landed her a role in the sequel to "The Matrix," for which she had recently finished initial shooting.

The U.S. National

Transportation Safety Board and the Civil Aviation Department of the Bahamas will jointly investigate the crash. Blackground Records has not yet decided if it will release the video Aaliyah filmed just before her death.

Laura Justin is a Spectator reporter and can be reached at justin\_laura@hotmail.com

## Rising R&B star

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**Student Government Association**

**Thursday** SGA Senate Elections  
Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> - UC 9am-5pm

**Tuesday** First Senate Meeting  
Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>  
Powell Hall West, 8pm

**Tuesday** Town Hall Meeting, Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>  
Powell Hall West 8pm

4 Meet with VSU Administration  
4 State of the SGA Address

**Host of the 2002 Spring Student Advisory Council Conference**

The Student Advisory Council is the governing board of each institution's SGA in the University System of Georgia. The VSU SGA is proud to host this conference that every SGA will attend.

# Students travel from Big Ben to Belize

**Lauren Braswell**  
Staff Writer

While some VSU students spent their summer aimlessly staring at Jerry Springer episodes, others played it smart by making the summer classroom a foreign country. Some students got the chance to learn and have fun while traveling a new country. VSU sent students to Belize, Russia, England, France and Mexico.

Every study abroad trip is unique in the fact that they are usually topical. The Belize field school for example, is primarily an anthropological study of Belizean culture.

Haley Wars, junior art major, studied abroad this past summer in Belize, June 3 through June 29. Wars heard of the opportunity from Dr. Matthew Richard, professor of anthropology, during introductory anthropology class last spring.

Wars gained six hours credit from her classes abroad. She took classes such as Development of a Modern Nation and Ethnographic Writing.

The requirements for the Belize field school are a 3.0 GPA, or permission of the professor. Financial aid and schol-

arships are available to qualifying students. The cost of the trip is around \$1900.

Wars did not just study for her classes, she also traveled the land. "My favorite was the rainforest, definitely the rainforest," she said. "Jumping from the waterfalls- it doesn't get much better than that."

In recent years, the trip consisted of constant travel around Belize and a short trip to Guatemala, with a focus on Belize's rich, diverse, culture throughout the country. This past summer, the students stayed in a small town called Punta Gorda in Belize, focusing on a more detailed look at one town's rich culture. The students shared a house in the town.

"We really felt like we knew the people in that town," Wars said. "At the beginning of the trip, I felt like a tourist, but by the end I felt like I was a part of their culture."

Wars felt like the trip to Belize was life changing. "I've learned not to take everything for granted," she said.

Bert Hayden, senior criminal justice major, studied abroad in Guadalajara, Mexico this summer from June 17 through July 25. While



Special to The Spectator

Left to right: Crystal Harris, a junior sociology major, Haley Wars, a junior art major, Laura Snell, a junior sociology major, Shelley Blount, a junior public relations major and Mindy Post, a sophomore art major enjoy the seashore of Belize.

searching the VSU website, he came across information about the study abroad program. Hayden took six hours while studying abroad; Spanish 1002 and 2110.

Hayden's trip was much different from Wars'. He stayed with a host family and actually attended the Universidad de Guadalajara. Classes were held everyday in Guadalajara in Spanish.

"Class was rough at first,

then I realized that I had to work to pass these classes," Hayden said. "I realized I knew less than I thought I did."

Hayden assured that other students interested in studying abroad to Mexico would be able to get around the town in a few weeks.

"In five weeks you learn enough Spanish to not only get in a cab and get across town, but also order food and ask for directions," he said. "I learned survival tactics."

The VSU students took a retreat to Cancun while they studied abroad in Mexico. Hayden was disappointed about this aspect of Mexico. "It

was like Daytona," he said. "We spent five weeks immersed in a rich culture like Guadalajara, learning Spanish and then we were dropped off in Cancun and we were not allowed to speak Spanish because the natives there wouldn't speak anything but English."

VSU sent students to London this past summer. Senior history major Josh Stauber studied abroad there June 27- Aug. 1. Stauber lived in dorms on the University of Surrey's campus in Roehampton. He found some similarities between VSU's residence halls and Surrey's.

"Everything was pretty much the same except for the private showers," he said.

Stauber took six hours this summer, picking up two history classes. Stauber's classes were taught by VSU professors. The classes took field trips on Tuesdays and Thursdays to places such as the British Museum and Winston Churchill's birthplace.

Students in the London program were allowed to travel outside of London on weekends, but Stauber said he was unable to, after losing his wallet five minutes after he reached London.

Like Wars and Hayden, he found his trip enlightening.

"There were so many different people there," he said. "Uniqueness counted, but differences and race didn't matter. England was a melting pot for race."

For Stauber, the most important information attained while studying abroad is "that opportunity waits for no one, and you must seize every chance that you get."

When asked if he would like to Study Abroad again, Stauber immediately answered "yes, back to England next summer."

Studying Abroad gives VSU students the opportunity to study in their respective fields while seeing the world. Studying Abroad changes students' lives.

## WVVS open for service 24 hours a day

**Beth Owens**  
Staff Writer

Make a wish, WVVS!

VSU's radio station, WVVS 90.9, celebrated its 30th birthday in July and recently upgraded to a new 24 hour automation format, a computerized system that does not require a DJ.

"Before, we would have a live DJ for a couple of hours,

then we'd have to have dead air with no music before the next one could come on." Mike Gebora, operations manager, said.

According to Gebora, the station plays alternative, metal and some punk rock music, but, since the automation, leans toward mainstream names such as Limp Bizkit. "Already, since the automation has been put in,

there has been a listener expansion," Gebora said. "We are getting a lot more requests."

All students are welcome to apply for a DJ position. Students may DJ and earn one elective credit hour by taking MDIA 4960, open to all students. Paying positions are reserved for executive staff. Applications on the station door, of the University Union.

## DO YOU NEED TO REGISTER FOR THE REGENTS' EXAM?

COME ON INTO :  
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS  
(WH 107) TODAY!



This is a reminder that anyone needing to register for the Regents Exam for Fall semester 2001 needs to come by the Office of Academic Affairs (WH 107) to do so. The deadline to register is Friday, Sept. 14th. There will be no registration for the exam after this date. Seats are filling up quickly.

Students who currently have < 45 hours of total earned semester credit (transfer and VSU credit) may register for the exam. Students currently enrolled in RGTR 1098 and RGTE 0199 may register for exam. If you do NOT pass course you will not be allowed to sit for exam. Transfer students from outside University System in their 1st or 2nd semester at VSU (those who transferred in > 45 hours) may register for the exam.

If you do not meet the above criteria you may not register for the exam and may be in violation of the Regents Testing Policy. If you are not certain please contact your advisor to check this out. You may also find this information in the Undergraduate Bulletin.

Again, the Deadline is

Friday, Sept. 14

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Features

# Exhibit celebrates sacred harp tradition

**Laura Justin**  
Staff Writer

Over 250 people attended the Aug. 17 grand opening reception of Okefenokee Heritage Center, host of the new permanent exhibit, "Let Us Sing, Sacred Harp in Southeast Georgia." The exhibit features photos, videos and six panels of text illustrating Sacred Harp traditions.

The exhibition is a collaboration between the center, VSU's South Georgia Folklife Project (SGFP) and the southeast Georgia Sacred Harp com-

munity. "The purpose of the exhibit is to help support and encourage musicians and community-based traditions," Dr. Laurie Sommers, director of SGFP, said.

Sacred Harp is a musical tradition throughout Georgia dating back to the mid-1800s. The group consists of three to four acapella singers, who may clap in time to the music or dance the music with their feet.

They typically sit in a hollow square formation: bass, treble, alto and tenor singers facing inward. Singers use oblong-shaped music books, containing different shapes standing

for each of four of the eight musical pitches: fa, sol, la, and mi. The most well known of these music books, written by B.F. White in 1844, is "Sacred Harp," from which the tradition derives its name.

The Sacred Harp traditions were originally practiced predominantly in Protestant services, but have become non-denominational, taking place outside of formal worship.

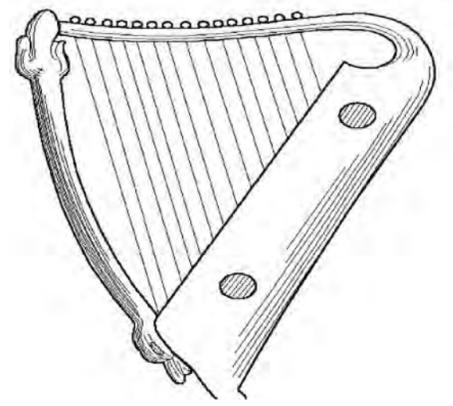
Dr. Sommers founded the SGFP in 1996 with a grant from the Georgia Council of the Arts. "I tried to do applied research that will benefit the University and the artists and communities

of South Georgia," Sommers said.

Her research includes field surveys in southeastern Georgia of folklife traditions such as crafts, music, stories and recipes.

Sommers hopes to work with local schools in the future to integrate folklife into school libraries and lesson plans targeting young people.

*-Laura Justin is a staff writer for The Spectator and she can be reached at justin\_laura@hotmail.com-*



# The blues sound comes to Valdosta

**Jason James**  
Staff Writer

Get the blues, Pat Ramsey and the Blues Disciples CD.

The Blues Disciples, composed of Pat Ramsey on harmonica, guitarist Dave Renson, bassist Will Anisworth, and drummer Al Piccininni, are currently touring the eastern U.S., promoting their album "Live At The Grand."

The live album was recorded at the Grand Casino in Gulfport, Miss., and released on Ramsey's label, Rampant. The album is a mix of blues and rock Ramsey describes a left-field blues band. Original songs as well as rare covers make a solid mix. The band holds a tight, solid blues sound on such highlights as "Chitlins Con Carne," Howlin' Wolf's "Highway 49" and Robert Johnson's "Dead Shrimp Blues."

Ramsey began playing his brother's harmonica at 17. Unable to afford a guitar, Ramsey spent the summer of 1970 practicing his harmonica.

By the late 70's Ramsey began performing with blues legends such as Johnny Winter and Butch Trucks of the Allman Brothers Band. "The experience was like attending the university of the blues," Ramsey said. Later, Ramsey joined the Tallahassee band Crosscut Saw. The band he opened for artists such as B.B. King, Johnny VanZandt and 38 Special. After two more projects, with the help of friends and musicians, Ramsey released his first solo album.

Pat Ramsey and the Blues Disciples will be performing at Loozie Anna's on Oct. 26 and 27.

*-Jason James is a staff writer for The Spectator and can be reached at acdcbag113@hotmail.com-*



Special to The Spectator

**Chi Omega would like to welcome our new members:**

Whitney Adams, Sarah Allen, Morgan Brannan, Lindsey Buchanan, Audrey Byars, Cacey Cain, Jodi Cartaker, Rebecca Dorough, Courtney Ellis, Sabrina Ernst, Sheryl Ernst, Charl Griffin, Nikki Hitchens, Nancy Hi Kimberly Ingram, Kayla Keelan, Ke Murray, Lindsay Meadows, Nikk Pee Melissa Rainey, Haley Reed, Ashie Spencer, Kris Spencer & Heather

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