

The Spectator

www.valdosta.edu/spectator

Thursday, September 13, 2001

Valdosta, Georgia

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BSU dedicates Edge to tragedy

Mary Dabbs
Staff Writer

What are the right words? For a group of over 130 students at the Baptist Student Union Tuesday, the words were found not in English, but the language of prayer. Every Tuesday the BSU hosts an evening of prayer and worship at 8:12 p.m. This Tuesday, the prayers were for our nation, ourselves and

We get through this through prayer, through pulling together.

-Mike Whelan, senior campus minister

the victims of the terrorist attacks in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania.

The meeting began with songs of worship. Souler Seven's playing was at first greeted with mumbles, then embraced by the audience. Then Mike Whelan, senior campus minister, spoke.

He offered a message of tears and hope, focusing on biblical verses dealing with tears such as Revelations 7:17, Luke 7:38 and Psalm 126:5.

"Tears may not stream down our face, but I pray tears stream down our heart," Whelan said during his oration, to which he added on the terrorist tragedy: "We get through this... through prayer, through pulling together."

er." He ended that portion of his sermon and asked audience members to take a moment for silent prayer, inviting them to sit, stand, walk around or kneel as the spirit struck them. As the students prayed in the dark, some cried, some held their head in their hands. Some comforted each other.

Prayer was interrupted just as President Bush began his address to the

nation.

After the President's message, the praise and worship program began again.

At 7 a.m. on Sept. 19 the BSU and several other organizations will pray for our country around the flagpole in front of West Hall, according to Joe Lamon, a senior speech communications major and BSU member. Prayer will be for one hour and is sponsored by several other religious organizations on campus including Presbyterian Student Ministry, Newman Center for Catholic Students, Methodist Student Center, FCA and Team Jesus.

All VSU students are invited to attend.



Leah F. Cassorla / The Spectator

Students at BSU's The Edge bow their heads in silent prayer. The students focused their usual Tuesday night prayer meeting on the terrorist attacks of the day.

Attack brings military class cancellations

Beth Owen
Staff Writer

This is the real thing.

As the tragic events of terrorism unfolded Tuesday morning, the United States military was put on highest alert worldwide. Moody Air Force Base, Kings Bay Submarine Base and VSU ROTC students were also put on alert.

As of approximately 10 a.m. Tuesday morning, Moody and Kings Bay stepped up their security posture to an increased security condition. "THREATCON CHARLIE." THREATCON CHARLIE is implemented when an incident occurs or when intelligence is received indicating that some form of terrorist action is imminent or has already taken place.

"What we've done is stepped up the security posture," Moody Air Force Base Master Sgt. David Reagan, said. "The only thing you can do in a situation like this is to be on the lookout around the base for any possible terrorist activities. We're just maintaining a heightened sense of awareness around the base right now."

Moody was closed as of noon Tuesday, with only essential personnel remaining on base, one of the conditions of THREATCON CHARLIE.

ROTC students and faculty evacuated Barrow Hall Tuesday morning.

"Every branch in the government is in the highest state of readiness," Maj. Scott Steman, adviser for VSU's ROTC program, said.

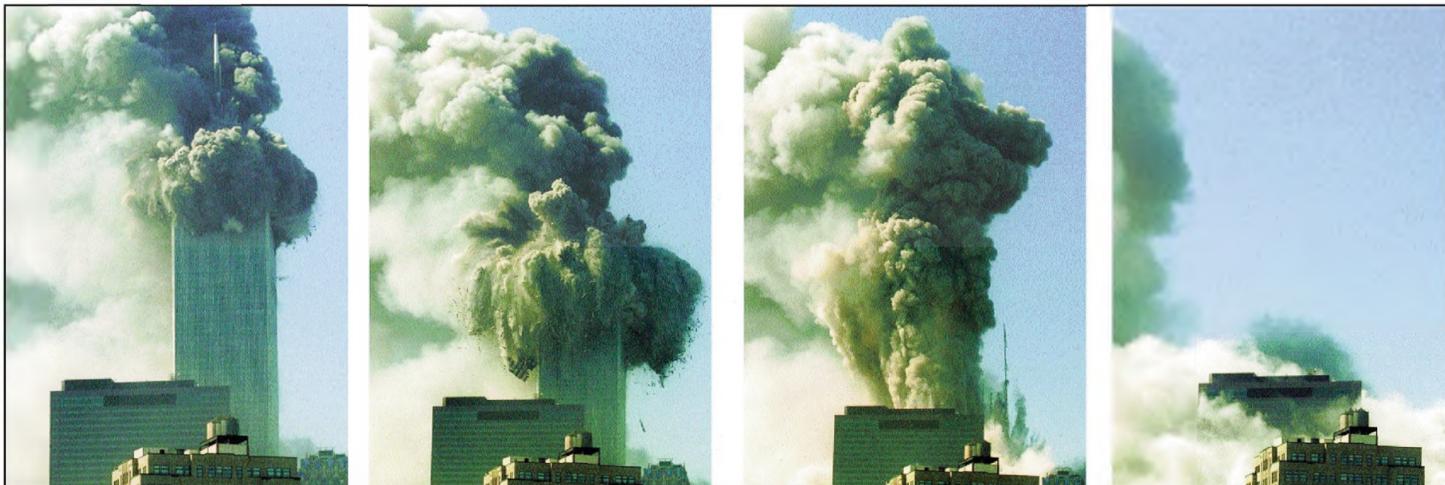
The ROTC program currently has 100 students enrolled. None of the students are on active duty.

Tuesday's events opened up the eyes of VSU students in the program and alerted them to what the real world of the military entails, according to VSU student Wing Commander John Marx.

"This is great preparation for active duty," Marx said.

All classes at Moody, Kings Bay and for ROTC students have been canceled at least until Thursday. If class cancellations continue, students will be notified individually. Classes held on military bases will not be reinstated until the military alert level allows for non-essential personnel to return to military installations.

For more information on how the terrorist attack has affected Valdosta, see page 4.



Todd Plitt / KRT

The north tower of the trade center collapsed at 10:28 a.m., 23 minutes after the south tower collapsed. The buildings' collapse damaged building 7 of the World Trade Center Complex. Building 7 collapsed at 5:20 that evening. As of press time, the building at One Liberty Place is about to collapse.

Terror strikes at heart of America

Leah F. Cassorla
Staff Writer

Americans woke up to a world of shock and terror Tuesday as two commercial planes were hijacked and crashed into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York. A third hijacked plane hit the Pentagon an hour after the first attacks, and a fourth plane crashed outside Pittsburgh,

Pennsylvania.

As the day progressed, and more information became available, the military was put on alert and all federal buildings in Washington DC were evacuated. The city of Washington, D.C. declared a state of emergency.

The Federal Aviation Administration halted all air traffic. Flights have been reinstated to allow stranded travelers to return home.

President Bush addressed the nation three times over the course of the day,

promising that America would not fail this test of courage and that the perpetrators would be found and punished.

As the numbers of casualties rose, the American Red Cross put out a plea for blood.

Security officials in the Pentagon are so far refusing to discuss what actions will be taken by the government to find the terrorists responsible. During a Pentagon briefing, U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld refused to comment on whether the government

had received intelligence of a possible attack, though Sen. Bob Graham, (D-Fla.) chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said he "was not surprised there was an attack."

As Americans dealt with the tragedies, Major League Baseball was suspended, college football games were cancelled and a movie featuring a bomb has been delayed.

As of press time, CNN reports that Air Force One and the White House were intended targets.

8:45 a.m. - A hijacked airliner crashes into the south tower of the World Trade Center.



9:03 a.m. - A second plane crashes into the North tower.



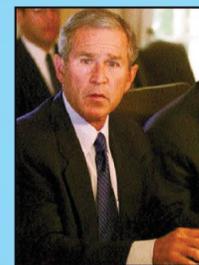
9:43 a.m. - A third plane crashes into the Pentagon. The FAA halts all flights nationwide.

10:45 a.m.- The government evacuates all federal buildings in the Washington D.C. area.



4:10 p.m.- Building 7 of the World Trade Center collapses.

8:30p.m. - Following meetings with security personnel, President Bush addresses the nation.



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See page 3 for information about a possible Hurricane

Web Watch

Each week, the Spectator features a website that will benefit our readers. Valdosta, though it may seem a long distance to the tragedies in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, but regardless of whether you know someone involved, you are just a click away from helping your fellow

Americans. The Red Cross has put out a national call for blood and has other opportunities for those interested in helping with relief efforts. The Red Cross site is at

This week:

www.redcross.org. It may take a while to get on, but it is well worth it. The Red Cross site is up year round with ways to help in times of calm as well as emergency.

Campus Happenings

www.valdosta.edu/spectator



POLICE BEAT

*August 30

Someone took a \$90 cell phone from a student's bookbag in a classroom in West Hall at 3:30 p.m.

September 6

Kathleen Rebecca Murphy, 26, of P.O. Box 3183, was arrested at 9:32 a.m. at Ann and Patterson Street for a seat belt violation and driving with a suspended license. She was taken to Lowndes County Jail. She is not a VSU student.

September 7

Someone took a student's red Jansport bag containing two pencils and her VSU ID from Odum Library.

A criminal trespass report was made after Jim Richards, 50, of 1500 N. Patterson St., complained that someone damaged his vehicle in the Jeanette Street lot while he was at work between 9 a.m. and 1:40 p.m.

September 8

John Edward Chalmers, 21, of 1506 Slater St. Apt. 2, was arrested for at 3:13 a.m. at Brookwood Drive and N. Patterson St. for a tail light requirement and DUI alcohol (.106 Blood Alcohol Content). He is a VSU student.

Brandon K. Taylor, 20, of 104 Randall St., Sylvania, Ga., was arrested at 5:08 a.m. for failure to maintain lane and driving with a suspended/revoked license. He is a consortium student with Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

September 9

A student complained his car was damaged between midnight and 2 p.m. at the parking lot between the Bio/Chem building and West Hall. The case is under investigation.

*This listing was not available at last week's printing.

Friday

This is the last day to register for the Regents' Exam or change sections.

Saturday

The VSU Blazer football team faces Southern Arkansas at 7 p.m. at Bazemore-Hyder Stadium.

For more information, visit www.valdosta.edu/athletics/.

Family Day begins at 8 a.m. at the University Center.

Campus and downtown tours are scheduled throughout the day.

A planetarium show will be at 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. and a

cookout from 5-7 p.m. before the football game.

For more information and to register, call Student Activities at 333-5674 or visit www.valdosta.edu/activities/fam.html.

Sunday

Doug Farwell, on trombone, will perform a faculty recital in Whitehead Auditorium at the Fine Arts building at 3 p.m.

Admission is free. For more information, contact the department of music at 333-5804.

Monday

The athletic department is having its booster luncheon in the Magnolia Room at the University Center from noon-1 p.m.

Cost is \$6 per person. For more information, call the athletic department at 333-5890.

Instructor Tim Yorkey will teach a two-day defensive driving course is offered today and Sept. 19, from 2-5 p.m. at Continuing Education 240.

Cost is free to VSU employees, \$5 for employee relatives. Registration is required. Call the Training office is 259-5105.

Dr. Victor Morgan presents a free counseling seminar, "No More Butterflies: Overcoming Speech Anxiety," for all VSU students, faculty and staff from 4-5 p.m. in the Rose Room at the University Center.

For more information, call the counseling center at 333-5940 or visit www.valdosta.edu/counseling/fallsm01.htm.

Latin American Student Association will host a BBQ at Palms from 5-8 p.m.

Call Jaime Martinez, president, at 630-4720 or e-mail him at jaimecamartinez24@hotmail.com.

Tuesday

Shelia Wakely presents a free counseling seminar, "Test Taking Skills," from 4-5 p.m. in the Dogwood Room at the University Center.

For more information, visit www.valdosta.edu/counseling/fallsm01.htm.

Ping pong tour starts at 5 p.m. in the game room at the University Center.

Campus Activities Board will hold a block party at Palms Quad from 6-9 p.m.

Wednesday

The gameroom will be free at the University Center from 3-5 p.m.

The counseling center presents a free two part seminar, "Understanding and Managing Your Anger."

Part I, "Understanding Your Anger," will be today from 4-5 p.m. in the Dogwood Room at

the University Center.

Part II, "Managing Your Anger," will be Sept. 26, same place, same time.

Thursday

The Society for Human Resource Management is sponsoring a seminar presented by Michael Spremulli, VSU clinical psychology alumnus, about work related behavior and how to be happy at work.

All VSU students welcome to attend from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the University Center theatre.

September 21

Honors Student Association members are holding a movie night at Honors House. Time and movie to be announced.

For more information, e-mail Michael Black at mblack@valdosta.edu.

September 22

The VSU Blazer football team faces Central Arkansas at 7 p.m.

September 25

SGA is having a Town Hall meeting at 8 p.m. in Powell Hall West.

Lost and Found

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

1. Graphic Identity Manual
2. Ladies' glasses
3. Bike
4. Set of keys
5. Change purse
6. Bracelet
7. Sunglasses

Call Cpl. Dennis Nealon at the VSU public safety office at 333-7816 to identify any of these items.

All student IDs are turned over to One Card Services.

September 26

The Freshman Year Experience and Housing and Residence Life will host "Origami" with Wing Lee and Leighia Lynn from 7-8 p.m. in Lowndes Hall lobby.

For more information, call Leighia Lynn, Residence Hall director, at 249-4984.

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11am - 2:30pm & 5PM - 10PM

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Coupon not valid with take-out. Fajitas & Quesadillas excluded. Limit one coupon per table. Expires 9-27-01.

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ATTENTION VSU STUDENTS
All Valdosta State University Students are required to have their student identification card with them at all times while on campus or at recognized VSU functions.

Students who wish to attend at-home athletic events or use facilities where ICARD readers are located must meet the following criteria:

1. Must be a registered student and have paid all fees (Athletic, Health, Student Activity, Transportation).
2. Must be attending campus classes.
3. Must provide a CURRENT VSU I.D. (ICARD) that is not worn of damaged.

NOTE: Any VSU I.D. (ICARD) that has been replaced with a new one will not work and should be destroyed. If you reported your current VSU I.D. (ICARD) lost and had it suspended, it will not be available for use until you notify the VSU ICARD Office to un-suspend it. Any questions concerning problems with your ICARD should be directed to the ICARD Office at 259-2593

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Lake Park
Lakes Boulevard
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News

www.valdosta.edu/spectator

North Florida threatened by major storm

Jason James
Staff Writer

As of Wednesday, a tropical depression was spotted 255 miles off the Florida coast in the Gulf of Mexico and is headed for the Florida panhandle. The tropical depression formed Tuesday. Flooding is possible in all of Florida for rest of the week.

According to the National Weather Service, the state should expect three to five inches of rain from Wednesday through Sunday. The storm is expected to upgrade to tropical storm Gabrielle by Thursday morning. To reach this status, the storm must reach winds of 39 mph.

As of 5 a.m. Wednesday morning, the storm was located 255 miles west of Naples and was moving northwest at six mph, churning out winds of 30 mph.

The storm is expected to turn northward toward the panhandle and hit the Tallahassee area by Saturday morning.

The Weather Channel predicts scattered thunderstorms through Sunday for the Valdosta area but no threat of a tropical storm.

In the event of severe weather, the VSU emergency response manual states, "Instruct students, employees, and others in the immediate area to find a wall near the interior of the building away from windows and exterior doors. Individuals will curl up in a 'ball' or fetal position near the wall, place their hands over their head and remain in that position until the severe weather passes."

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

Weekend

Today	
	UV Index: 3 low Hi: 80 Low: 69
Saturday	
	UV Index: 6 moderate Hi: 82 Low: 57

Friday	
	UV Index: 3 low Hi: 82 Low: 61
Sunday	
	UV Index: 8 high Hi: 83 Low: 57

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REMINDER :

Parking permits from the 2000-2001 academic school year expire on 9-15-01. Please renew your parking permit for the current Fall Semester before the expiration date of September 15, 2001, to avoid any citations for expired permit. Thank you for your cooperation and have a great semester. 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>

SAVE fights for a living wage

Angie Hiers
Staff Writer

Concerned students, faculty, staff and community workers attended the Living Wages Forum Wednesday night in Powell Hall auditorium to discuss labor issues.

Heidi Williamson, representative of Nine to Five, the national association for working women based in Atlanta. She spoke to approximately 60 people in attendance about labor and union issues in Georgia. Representatives from the "American Food Service and Cafeteria Workers" also spoke and answered questions.

The forum was sponsored by Students Against Violating the Earth. Students David Klier, president of SAVE, and Ben Speight, a sophomore political science major, worked together to organize and lead this meeting.

Speight said the focus of the forum was to educate workers about the living wage campaign, a national issue that examines ways to address working conditions. The forum was not limited to VSU workers, but open to all community workers.

According to Speight, this forum is the program of action for SAVE. While most people think of SAVE as an environmental organization, Speight says it has broadened its interest to include both environmental and humanistic concerns.

"SAVE stands for Students



Bianca Johnson / The Spectator

Heidi Williamson, representative for Atlanta based women's group Nine to Five spoke at the Living Wage Forum.

Against Violating the Earth and humans inhabit the earth," Speight said. "We are one with the earth."

Fliers were posted advertising the event and Speight said there have been several calls from interested people. One aspect of the forum concerned student workers getting better

SAVE stands for Students Against Violating the Earth and humans inhabit the earth. We are one with the earth.

-Ben Speight, SAVE

wages. According to the fliers over 800 student workers are among the lowest wage group on campus, making \$5.50 an hour, and are denied pay raises and benefits - basic rights for any worker. The fact sheet indicates that minimum wage has become inadequate to meet

the needs of working people.

The Living Wage Campaign works to raise the base pay for all workers working for publicly funded institutions, including students, custodians, dining services, grounds and maintenance services. According to the fact sheet, VSU's Living Wage Campaign has set a wage goal of \$8.50 per hour, based on the US Department of Health and Human Services poverty level for a family of four during the year 2001.

"The purpose of this meeting is to get organized and to have a voice to represent their interests," Speight said.

Both he and Klier are student workers on campus.

For more information about the living wages campaign call 229-219-7652 or email vsulivingwage@yahoo.com.

Bringing back your books

Laura Justin
Staff Writer

Get used to your books. They're yours forever—well, for the semester anyway.

This semester's bookstore returns and exchange numbers were consistent with past semesters.

"Particularly we see a lot of brand new freshmen just coming to the institution who aren't familiar with courses needing refunds or exchanges," Liz Rose, textbook manager, said.

English books had high rates of return and exchange due to scheduling changes.

While the deadline has passed, students may receive a refund in special cases.

"Under some circumstances causing a withdrawal from school, we will work with the students to give a refund," Rose said.

Books sealed with CDs, or books containing a password for web access cannot be returned.

"If a teacher plans to use the



Bianca Johnson / The Spectator

The bookstore is still accepting returns under special circumstances.

very same book the next semester, we guarantee a 50 percent refund of what the student paid," Rose said. "If this is not the case, the wholesalers will purchase it at about a third of the original price."

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Wednesday

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Time: 8:00PM Location: VSU PE Complex

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On Campus : (VSU Students, Faculty, and Staff only)

University Union (Student Affairs Office)

Cash & credit cards or Flex accounts at this location.

Off Campus :

Boothill Western Wear - 242-0337

Legends Fitness Center - 259-0500

Tickets & Tours at Moody Air Force Base - 257-3280

Limit
4 tickets
per visit

For more information please contact the VSU Student Activities Office at 333-5674.

News

VSU reacts to terrorism

Most people calm but resolute

Jason Jones
Staff Writer

As the nation faces its greatest challenge since Pearl Harbor, the emotions of students and faculty members on campus range from sadness to anger to collective calm.

Dr. Louis Levy, vice president for Student Affairs, has encouraged all department heads and faculty members to use appropriate judgment in supporting students and employees. He hopes to keep the campus engaged in normal activity.

Dr. Michael Baun, associate

professor of political science, said that he was horrified and couldn't believe that such an event could happen, it reminded him of a bad movie, but that it is too early to say who is responsible.

"This is the price you pay to be a global superpower," Dr. Baun said. "The U.S. will remain an open, democratic society even after this tragedy."

Dr. Baun said the biggest challenge for the government will be to punish the attackers without creating more loss of innocent lives.

"We need focus on what to do," Shanna Henderson, a junior early childhood education

major, said. "Something worse is going to happen. It is so sad that innocent people just going on trips are hijacked and don't know what's going on."

Bobbie Warren, a full-time instructor of English, has a son and daughter-in-law in the Navy. Her son is in Norfolk, VA and says that they [Navy] mean business. Her daughter-in-law was in the Mall next to the Pentagon. She had not talked to her yet because there was a lockdown on all military phones.

Karis Moses, a senior exercise science major, has a brother, Cecil Moses, who is an engineer working in the Pentagon.

He was at work this morning but was sent to Virginia for business just hours before the hijacked airliner struck the Pentagon.

"This is just awful," Moses said, "It's something major, but it's going to get worse."

Dr. Levy called for a calm and supportive reaction from students, faculty and staff.

"As a college campus we expect students to understand that we are a learning community and we want people to have free access to ideas," Dr. Levy said. "That's what separates us from people who bomb buildings."

OIP shares concerns

Angie Hiers
Staff Writer

International students share feelings of shock, fear and concern with American students about the recent Trade Center attacks, said Dr. Tracy Harrington, director of International Programs at VSU. He has already started taking precautions for the 225 international students here from over 50 different countries.

"We have sent a message explaining that this is a very serious and difficult time in our life as a country," Dr. Harrington said. "They need to

be aware that some people who are angry and afraid might target foreigners."

Dr. Harrington said he hoped no backlash would come to VSU. The students generally feel and they feel part of the community, he said.

"We don't want to alarm them. We just want them to be aware," Dr. Harrington said.

Dr. Harrington received five emails Tuesday morning from concerned families who had heard the news back in their home countries and were trying to get in touch with students.

VSU has emergency procedures

Blenda Link
Staff Writer

When emergencies happen, VSU has a plan.

The Environmental Health and Safety Office in the Biology/Chem building 1096 has pamphlets outlining VSU's emergency response plan available to students, staff and faculty. The pamphlet outlines protocol in several different areas: evacuation, explosion/aircraft crash procedures, earthquake, snow, ice, flooding, bomb threats, violent/criminal behavior and civil disturbance/demonstration.

According to Sheldon Broomberg, Environmental Health and Safety Officer, all VSU employees are required to complete an online training course regarding the Right To Know Act, which covers basic information about contact with chemicals in the workplace. He said VSU administration should have all completed training with regard to the emergency response plan.

Broomberg said when emergency evacuation is necessary, the fire alarms are set off in the buildings to be evacuated. This includes residence halls. He said public safety officers with megaphones also help with

evacuation alerts so the public is assured that the alert is for real and not a prank.

According to Joseph Mattachione, director for Housing and Residence Life, said on campus residents need to watch residence assistants for instructions. He said students should not panic during an evacuation. He said they should calmly exit outside according to procedure and then see their RAs and or public safety officers for further instructions.

Broomberg said there has never been an entire campus wide evacuation at VSU. He said the most extensive evacua-

tion VSU has had yet occurred last Tuesday when there was a natural gas leak at the University Center. Besides the UC, the Speech Pathology, Bookstore and Martin Hall buildings were also evacuated. Broomberg said the evacuation lasted one hour and 45 minutes. He said the evacuation was initiated by word of mouth via University officials.

In case of emergency, students, staff and faculty can call (229) 259-5555. Broomberg said a dispatcher is available to take calls 24 hours a day. An alternate number to call is (229) 333-7816.



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5 Tenders, Fries, Slaw, Texas Toast, Sauce \$3.99

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all day on Sunday. 1 coupon per person. Expires 9-25-01
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241 > 2095

Valdosta Red Cross in need of blood

Brad Harrison
Staff Writer

The Valdosta area chapter of the American Red Cross is in great need of donations of both blood and platelets to assist victims in response to Tuesday's bombings.

In times of disaster, trained workers from the American Red Cross provide aid to the disaster areas. One of those ways is by manning donor centers for the purpose of donation of blood and platelets.

Approximately 80,000 blood donations in the American Red Cross blood inventory are ready to ship to the affected areas according to need. The Red Cross is currently evaluating the needs of each disaster area.

With the need for blood and platelets high as a result of Tuesday's disaster, a golden opportunity is presented to help the victims of the heinous attacks.

The Valdosta area branch of the American Red Cross, located at 1725 Bemiss Road in the Mackey Center, will accept any people willing to make donations. The center's hours are 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday and Friday. The phone number for the Bemiss Road location is 259-7255. To contact the Southern Region of the American Red Cross, call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE.

"If we have donors, we will not leave," said Kate Wagner, Valdosta district manager of Blood Donor services for the American Red Cross. "The bum victims are going to need plasma and people will be bleeding that need plasma. There will be a huge need."

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News

Identity theft scam hits VSU

Blenda Link
Staff Writer

Georgia's Attorney General's office has an active case concerning a scam uncovered by VSU Public Safety. Ten people have been issued criminal trespass warnings for illegally soliciting Bank of America credit card applications on campus in the past three weeks. If they come on campus again, they will be arrested for violating the warning.

According to VSU public safety incident reports, three people were found soliciting Aug. 21 at Patterson Street and Brookwood Drive. A week later, seven more people were found soliciting in front of Odum Library, the Old Gym and Nevins Hall.

VSU Public Safety confiscated approximately 200 Bank of America credit card applications from the seven solicitors. Bryce Whitener, VSU Public Safety investigator, said

approximately 50 applications contained students' social security numbers, e-mail addresses, mailing addresses and phone numbers.

The incident report states that David Adams, vice president for Bank of America, came to the Public Safety office advising those involved that Bank of America does not use J-IV (the company the first three solicitors claimed to work for) or any other outside party to solicit credit card applications. The solicitors said J-IV is based in Jacksonville, Fla.

According to Cpl. Dennis Nealon, crime prevention officer for Public Safety, approximately 17 people have been issued criminal trespass citations between Jan. 2000 and now.

Whitener said the last seven solicitors work for three different companies: Persad Promotions in Metairie, La.; PMA Marketing in Jacksonville, Fla. and Fast

Track Marketing in Texas. Whitener said one solicitor found out about the companies on www.monster.com. No such listings were available on Tuesday.

Whitener said Bank of America confirmed they do not contract with outside companies for credit card applications.

"All the applications they receive are sent to Phoenix, Arizona," Whitener said. "They have a privacy policy." According to Whitener, contracting out to other companies would jeopardize clients' privacy. Whitener said officers told solicitors Bank of America does not do outside contracting. "Of course they all acted as if this was news to them," he said. "It may or may not have been."

Whitener also said officers explained VSU does not allow any soliciting on campus that has not gone through its contracts department (Auxiliary Services); Sage Archer, facili-

ties coordinator; Russ Mast, dean of students; and other proper authorities.

On Aug. 30, Cpl. Dennis Nealon, crime prevention officer for VSU Public Safety, sent out e-mails via the catfish announcement system, warning students to beware of possible identity theft. Nealon said when a person has access to someone's social security number and birth date, he/she can do irreparable damage to financial history and credit records.

The damage could take several years to be fixed.

It is not certain how solicitors obtained blank Bank of America credit card applications. Nealon said he thinks solicitors could have picked up blank applications from the Bank of America information table at one of the orientation sessions this summer and made copies for distribution.

ID theft is a felony punishable by 1-10 years in jail.

Next week the *Spectator* will follow up on the stories printed concerning the terrorist attack. For extra information, visit the *Spectator* web site at www.valdosta.edu/spectator.

College of Nursing exceeds pass rate

Tameika Carson
Staff Writer

In order to serve as an aid to society, a completion of 120 credits approved by the Georgia Board of Nursing is required.

After this long enduring process, a passing grade on the ERI a licensure examination, is mandatory.

This computerized, five-hour exam consisting of 75-265 questions seems to be easy for nursing graduates at VSU. The extremely high passing rate of 94.6 percent exceeds the passing rate for Georgia.

"We have an excellent facul-

ty as well as very dedicated students. The selection of students during the admissions procedure plays a major role in their dedication," Dr. MaryAnn Reichenbach, dean of the College of Nursing, said.

The faculty provides ample preparation for students to build confidence before taking the ERI. A series of tests are periodically given to determine a student's weak and strong points.

"This strictly benefits the students," Dr. Reichenbach said. "They learn from their mistakes and try hard to perfect them. All of my students truly want to be the best and therefore their

dedication drives them toward it."

The faculty tries to adapt to the students' desired method of learning.

"Some students are visual learners while others prefer comprehensive learning," Dr. Richardson, assistant dean of Student Development and department head of Continuing Education, said.

Dr. Reichenbach said that there is absolutely no relation to the high scores on the ERI to the demand for registered nurses.

"The Council of the State Board of Nursing has no intentions in lowering the standards

to produce more nurses and neither do I," Dr. Reichenbach said. "Therefore, the students have to work just as hard as before and have shown no bother in doing so."

Although there are no predictions for next year's passing rate, Dr. Reichenbach and Dr. Richardson are pretty confident that VSU will consistently rise above the state's rates.

"Our goal is to produce graduating competent nurses, and confidence is the key to doing that," Dr. Reichenbach said.

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No fear: Americans will unite

Since Tuesday, Americans have watched more TV, made more phone calls and sent more e-mails than ever before in such a short amount of time.

There is no one appropriate way to respond to an act as horrifying as a terror campaign. As Americans we are used to feeling secure in our country, in our freedom. That luxury is no longer ours. But as we face this tragedy, we cannot abandon our way of life.

The main goal of terrorism is to instill fear. More than death, it is fear. More than damage, it is fear. A terrorist's victory comes when we give in to that fear and allow it to change the way we live our lives. When we allow it to make us remove and disregard our own system of freedom.

The greatest weapon we have in our arsenal against terrorism is to refuse to let it change us. Even as we mourn, we must continue to live our lives and champion our freedom.

We must meet that challenge.

In such times of crisis, anger is an immediate response. But until we know who perpetrated this act of war, we must hold our anger in check. And when we do find out who is responsible, we must aim that anger with laser precision. We must refrain from causing more harm than has already been done.

Everyone at VSU must face the challenge of reacting to what has happened. We must meet that challenge as a community of Americans—as people who believe that freedom, liberty and justice are paramount. We must lose our hypens. We are not African-Americans, Latin-Americans or Asian-Americans. We are Americans.

We also have in our community many who are not Americans. They are our guests. Some are our colleagues. Some our friends. They are not guilty by association. International students and faculty are far from home and family. This is an equally harrowing time for them. They need our support as we need theirs.

Only by supporting each other will we find the strength to support our country.

Please, donate blood, donate food and clothing if you can, and donate your shoulder to someone in need.

Prove your courage to be an American.

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.



TV numbs the brain

Lauren Braswell
Columnist

I was sitting around with my friends Tuesday evening and the only thing that we could talk about was the terrorist attacks on America. It's obvious to me that it has been the only topic of conversation for many people the past few days. Yet, I am disgusted by the mental images that television has fed to me.

Over and over again Americans, including myself stayed glued to the television repeatedly seeing an airplane crash into the World Trade Center making us somewhat numb to this image. I feel like the news has demoralized what happened on Tuesday.

Yes, it was bad. Yes, it is certainly news. But, do we really have to see that plane crash into the building from every angle

possible. The more we see these images the less moved we will be by them.

I was sitting on the sofa with my roommate watching one of the numerous news feeds on the WB—of all channels—when we were finally able to see the money shot. We were given the perfect angle to see the airplane crash and disappear into The World Trade Center.

six hours constantly watching such a tragedy, like it was entertainment. We have become obsessed with the visual images, removing us from the tragedy.

I urge you to not lose sight of what actually happened Tuesday. Innocent American lives were taken, and we really have no clue why. We are in the dark no matter what the news tells us. Let's not take each other for granted. Call your family and friends and tell them you love them and maybe America will have something to gain from this tragedy. I know for a fact we have already gained patriotism from this experience.

Lauren Braswell is a Spectator columnist and can be contacted at laurenbraswell@hotmail.com

I am disgusted that I sat in front of the television. . . watching such a tragedy, like it was entertainment.

We are taking away from what happened by being excited about actually seeing this plane crash from a good angle. That's disgusting. It's not about the best shot, it's about America being under attack for reasons the public does not understand.

I am disgusted that I sat in front of the television for about

How do you think that the U.S. Government will respond to recent terrorist actions?



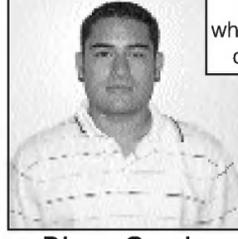
"I don't know. I just think there's going to be war and we should prepare for it."

Cemencia Cobb
Junior
Biology/ Criminal justice



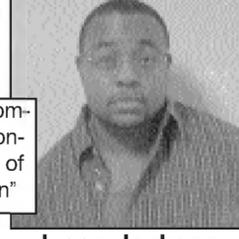
"If it's Palestine we're going to cut off all aid, hopefully mobilize the military and begin revamping our policy on the middle east."

Mike Creech
Senior
Special Education



"I think we should find out who's responsible for this and deal with them first hand"

Diego Garcia
Freshman
Pre-Medicine



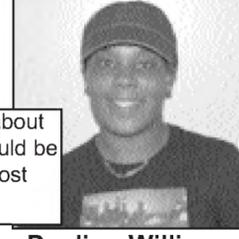
"First the U.S. should find a committee to figure out who's responsible and make sure this type of tragedy doesn't happen again"

Jesse Jackson
Junior
Secondary Education



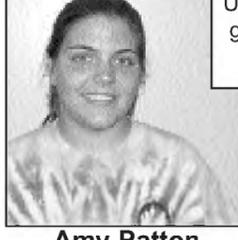
"I feel that they should resolve it in the most peaceful manner possible"

Mindy Post
Sophomore
Art



"They need to be careful about what they do. More lives could be lost. Enough lives were lost already."

Paulina Williams
Sophomore
Psychology



"Use caution, find out what's going on, go on high alert and then strike back."

Amy Patton
Sophomore
Middle Grades Education



"The first thing is to find out who's responsible after aiding the victim's families in any way possible."

Harley Hall
Junior
Sociology



Donna R. Delany

Morals and Marijuana

Ever thought about what it would take to make you stop and say to your employer, "I just won't do that"? How about if you're a teacher and school board policy prohibits you from teaching evolution? Or, you're the reporter at a newspaper that won't cover stories that put the local sheriff in a bad light? Ok, what if your boss wants you to hold back this month's figures till after the board meets to decide next year's budget?

What if you're a police officer, sworn to uphold the law, and the law requires you to search out marijuana fields and arrest the growers? But wait. Before you answer, what if the local restaurateurs have stopped serving you because the locals have decided that the law is wrong and immoral? What if the majority of the community is so incensed by your actions they've banded together to thwart you by giving hourly bulletins on the radio about your location so growers and distributors can stay one step ahead, and even shoot at police helicopters involved in hunting down the ganja fields? By the way, we've left the realm of the hypothetical question: this last scenario comes from a 60 Minutes II report on marijuana control efforts in and around Mendocino County in northern California.

Police have always been obliged to enforce some pretty odious laws, but what happens when the restrictions apply, not to an irresponsible fringe of society, but to an ever-growing cross-section of just plain folks who find those laws repugnant and immoral? When the public so thoroughly hates what you're doing that it won't sell you a sandwich and a soda, policing starts to resemble armed occupation of enemy territory.

Alcohol Prohibition never had the support of more than a large but very loud minority of Americans; most considered it a major intrusion into their lives and liberty. Police in the 1920s found themselves at odds not just with low-lives, but with regular folks who had no qualms about defying a law they considered illegitimate. But after 14 years of it, with thousands dead and many more imprisoned; with families and communities torn apart, federal prohibition was repealed, allowing each state to decide on its own.

Mendocino Countians, along with most other Californians, have expressed their desire to ntry, and the world. Just as we want the cop on the street to take responsibility for the decisions s/he makes, we need to take some responsibility for the laws we have quietly watched ruin the lives of millions of Americans: Most of the more than two million prisoners in American jails (most of them poor and brown-skinned) are there because of drug laws that make no sense and protect us not at all. Even our last two presidents freely admit to illegal opt out of the federal prohibition against marijuana, but they can't: The federal government won't let them. Same

Marijuana—see page 8

Technology, toothbrushes and Thoreau

You can't escape technology. Believe me, I've tried. I'm not talking about life-affirming technologies such as plumbing and hotpockets, but frivolous technologies that complicate life and don't serve much of a purpose.

We tool-wielding apes have traveled so long and hard that we've actually forgotten the true purpose of technology -to make life easier. The problem is best shown by the invention of "toothbrush technology." America's culture has evolved to the point where serious scientific thought can be devoted

to the toothbrush. The societal implications are staggering.

Our culture puts too much emphasis on little things and leaves big problems hanging. Even as I write this some advocate of oral hygiene is defending his or her belief in the right of all people to have rounded bristles and wider handles on their brushes. Better reach for all! While children around the world starve, these advocates fight for the rights of tooth enamel and continue to buy expensive brushes when buying a cheaper tarter terminator would allow for them to save

money and donate it to worthier pursuits. I am sure that time or money donated to a worthy charity would put a bigger smile on someone's face than a special diamond-shaped brush head. These bleeding gum activists make me sick.

Toothbrush advances and other such things don't make life easier or solve problems, they just add more details that



Mary Dabbs

fritter away at human consciousness. Then again, I haven't had half the problems with my toothbrush that I have had with my computer. And at least toothbrushes serve more of a purpose than cosmetics and cell phones but bottom line, people: simplify, simplify, simplify.

Thoreau had the right idea there. He had his sanctuary in the woods called "Walden" for when society got complicated.

I'd go live in my own log cabin in the woods, but I'd spend half my time trying to figure out where to plug in the microwave.

I do choose to simplify. I am still trying to understand how I may live simply (so that others may simply live), but so far all I know is that it doesn't involve cutting myself off from humanity or technology. It just requires putting both in perspective. Technology isn't for its own sake. It's for our sake. We begin to complicate life once we put things over people. And once we do that it's easier to invent new distractions with

the technology we already have.

The next time you want to buy designer jeans (or toothbrushes) take a moment and ask yourself how they benefit and complicate your life. Even with the Tommy Hilfiger label on your jeans, your rear is no warmer than with the Kmart brand label. Start with the little things and work your way up. Simplify, simplify, simplify.

Mary Dabbs is a Spectator columnist and can be contacted at kamikazeflutterby@hotmail.com

Don't undervalue the underdog

I've never been tall. Always the shortest in my class, over the years I've gained the nicknames Shorty, Pygmy and Munchkin over the years.

Many people believe that if you are small, slow or young, you automatically belong at the end of the line. Usually we're left behind and called the underdogs. But the case of the underdog being on the bottom of the pile does not always ring true.

For example, I hate professional sports. Watching the Braves bores me to death, and Tom Glavine, Javy Lopez and Chipper Jones can hit the showers. But give me the Albany, Ga., American Legion Post 30 baseball team with Michael Kennedy on the mound, Chad Hall at first base and Matt Rucker behind the plate, I am entertained and cheering all afternoon.

This team isn't anything special or outstanding when you look at records. The guys are all about 5-foot-10, kind of

scrawny, with a 33-18 record going into the Southeast Regional Championship. In fact, the only reason they were even competing in the regionals was because they won the bid to host the Championship a few years earlier.

The reports were they didn't stand a chance. Even parents and fans expected them to go into the three games of round robin play and end it on the Saturday afternoon of their third game. The suspicions were all but confirmed when their first game left the team with a 13-0 loss against a 47-1 team. This team from Sanford, Fla., had all but been assured to win the World Series after the regionals.

But, after the loss Post 30's spirits were not daunted. They came back on Friday to beat a team from Dothan, Ala., and again on Sunday to conquer the



Lindsey Giddens

Georgia state champions from Alpharetta.

The surprise win threw the team into another match-up against the dreaded Florida team. The game determined which team was on their way to

Yakima, Wa., to compete in the World Series.

Florida was now 51-1 and attitudes were cocky. Post 30 fans figured Kennedy did not have another nine innings in him. Boy, were they surprised. The final score of the game - Albany 5, Sanford 1.

Now I know none of you know this team, or these guys, or maybe even care, but I do have a point here. These guys were considered the underdogs, the David to Sanford's Goliath. No one thought they stood a chance, and yet they made it all the way to the

World Series.

So just because you're little or slow or young, don't let anyone tell you that you can't do something. Just like these guys, you can come back and be something great. All it takes is determination.

The shy, quiet one can go on to star in a Broadway musical and bring home a Tony; the kid always picked last in kickball can progress to play for some major league team; and the student who just can't seem to make the grade can end up head of some major corporation.

And for those of you who insist on making fun of those a little less blessed than you are, my word of advice to you is simple. Don't doubt the underdogs. You never know when they just might come out on top.

Lindsey Giddens is a Spectator columnist and can be contacted at journ81@belsouth.net

Marijuana

continued from page 7

story in Alaska and Arizona. Enforcement of drug laws is tied to a thousand unrelated funds (highway, housing, education, etc.), tangling the states in the federal quagmire, and stripping from communities the ability to steer their own courses.

The "I was just following orders" mindset has been so parodied for so long that it's hard to quote it with a straight face, but it's a response we still hear every day, from all around this coudrug use, but the only thing they lost were a few brain cells. The only winners in this crazy, self-destructive nightmare are the law enforcement agencies that receive windfall benefits from asset forfeiture laws and the for-profit prison corporations that feed on the misery of America's weakest segments.

It's time to call our legislators and let them know that when it comes to supporting shamefully corrupted laws, "We just won't do that."

Donna R. Delany is a Spectator columnist and can be contacted at dr@image-doctor.org

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



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

Hold that thought...

Jeremiah Bass
Staff Writer

I was totally out of the loop, all of this chaos still hitting me like a bullet at close range. Planes hi-jacked, lives at stake, World Trade Center bombings, attacks on our Nation's Capitol...death and destruction. Who would ever think that little 'ol me would speak out?

I was thinking about writing about reality television and its many mishaps with real life, but then I got to thinking, this is as real as it gets. Wake up world! This is what, and where, we're living...the here and now. Y'all *do* realize that, right?

We go through everyday not really thinking that it could come to this, but it does. You say I'm being harsh? You damn right! It's about time *someone* stand up and just lay all the cards out on the table. I feel very sorry about what has happened; it is catastrophe to the utmost. But let's not panic here [as crazy as that may seem]. Let's keep in mind where we are at...stay grounded.

We actually hate each other [as demonstrated by the previous hi-jackings and bombings], we dislike each other, some of us to the point where more hate is in the mindset, as well as finger-pointing. Once again, LET'S GET REAL! We don't know who did it. Don't

come to me talking about some guy with a long beard and a big hat from another country being the cause of the problem.

I'll admit, when I first heard of the hi-jackings and bombings that occurred, I did *not* [initially] start thinking the worst; I didn't want to believe that this was caused by someone from some other country [notice that I am trying to avoid the word, "foreigner"].

I am doing my best to do what the rest of America should do...be calm. I know that this may not be the route that many want to take, but it is a healthy route.

We mustn't choose to add more darkness to the situation. It is best to stay calm. We shouldn't, we *mustn't*, get so angry that we start blurting out who should be punished. We don't know if this was American-planned or done solely by foreigners [so, I said it]. Hey, remember Timothy McVeigh? Yeah America, he was one of us...you know, American. Don't blow this out of proportion, I'm only letting you know that "the pea *don't* necessarily have to be from a different pod."

I know you're angry. Well let's face it, you're pissed off! Some of you are frustrated, confused, dazed even. That's all right, we're only human. Many of you may be asking yourselves, "What's this guy talking about?" I am just doing my best to come to grips with the situation, and how I should attack it. There's been

enough hate put out already. So what good would it do any of us if I sat here and babbled on about how bad the person(s) involved with the hi-jackings and bombings was? Bush has already taken care of that in his speech. I know it is his duty to protect the American people; it's a tough task. Let's just stay calm and get our facts together, you know?

British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat were two of the first world leaders to condemn the terrorist attacks. I'm not being naïve, but let's not shoot down the ones who seek to console us in our troubled times.

America, now is not really the time to point fingers [uncontrollably] and say who did what. We must band together and accept the fact that, more wrongs will not make this right, no matter how it's looked at. I know that these times are full of pain, disbelief, shock, whatever.

Just know that before you go off saying who is to blame, you should take a look around...you're alive, you have the opportunity to be positive about this and not pre-judge others, whoever "the others" may be. Just chill out, and pray to God, or who ever/whatever you may believe in, that this thing gets worked out properly. I highly doubt any of us want to experience war.

If this situation gets blown out of proportion, then hey, don't say I didn't tell you so.

Jeremiah's note: This column stresses serious views, as crazy as that may seem. As always, you, the reader, will have your own perceptions about this message. Just know that I, too, have a sense of seriousness about the world we live in, which at sometimes, is completely trampled by extreme hate and finger-pointing. Don't be so quick to judge this column. Read through it, try to comprehend, and then, let your thoughts flow. Hopefully, this will be a beautiful learning experience for us all.

...The Spectator sends its condolences to the families and others who lost loved ones in Tuesday's massacre of Americans...

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Features

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When writing a letter home to your about your first college experience the one thing you would be sure to put out? Give us your advice. Send it to justin_laura@hotmail.com

Amidst the terror in NYC

Michelle Taylor
Staff Writer

Barry Owens and his 18-year-old son Brandon had planned to sleep in their own beds in Lawrenceville, Ga., but a bed was a luxury they would have to do without that night.

Barry, a toy distributor, and his son traveled to New York Tuesday morning for a toy show. As their plane headed toward LaGuardia, Barry pointed out some of the landmarks surrounding the city to his son.

"I pointed out the Statue of Liberty, and Staten Island," he said. "Then I pointed out the Trade Center Towers before we headed to our final decent."

As the plane approached the airport, the Trade Center Towers appeared in the window again. The scene outside unnerved the Owens.

"I looked at the towers, and there was smoke everywhere," Barry said. "I thought it was a smokestack. I had no idea."

Brandon said, "I saw the smoke coming out of the building. We got off the plane, and some girl told us that a plane had flown into the tower."

The Owens tried to get into Manhattan via cab, but couldn't. After they finally got a cab, they only got as far as 228th Street, a part of South Bronx, before being stopped by road-

blocks. "While we were in the cab, we heard about the other plane," Brandon said. "I knew then that it was no accident that the plane had crashed. It had to be terrorists. After that, I asked my dad 'what else could they hit in New York?' It was then that we heard that the Pentagon had been hit as well."

By walking and hitching rides from cabs, the Owens made their way along the almost 20 miles to Broadway Street. Tired and hungry, the two stopped their search. There were no vacancies in New York

City. "There was a 200-person waiting list at the Sheridan," Brandon said. "People were not leaving their rooms because they were scared, so people who had reservations for the night were turned away."

With nowhere else to stay, the Owens decided to spend the night in the International Toy Building, only 25 blocks (two miles) from the Trade Center. No one else was sleeping in the building that night.

After setting down their things, the two left to find something to eat. Stepping outside, the Owens found the

streets empty. For Barry, who has visited New York many times, the situation was bizarre.

"Never have I ever seen Broadway so bare," he said. "I could walk in the middle of the street. New York is always so full of life; it was surreal."

The Owens walked down the nearly empty street. The only vehicles to be seen were emergency vehicles and school buses. Barry thought the buses were going to be used to transport the National Guard into the city. Overhead, fighter jets zoomed past. Flags throughout the streets were set at half-

staff. The city was a ghost town.

"It took us 45 minutes to find a place to eat," Brandon said. "It was the weirdest thing. Dad said that New York is always so busy, and planes can't fly overhead. It was strange."

Looking around, Barry and Brandon saw a few people physically affected by the attack.

"We saw people dirty and cut up," Barry said. "It was like Mt. Vesuvius erupted; people were covered in gray."

The Owens were amazed by the stillness of the city; they

had half expected some type of panic.

The Owens wanted to leave at 6:40 Tuesday night. Both hoped they would be able to leave the next day.

But on Tuesday night, Brandon made a bed out of eight chairs, and Barry settled in a corner. It was going to be a long night—for them and an entire country.

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

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The wheels on the bus go round and round

Lauren Braswell
Staff Writer

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to drive around crazy college students all day who continuously complain about being late? Wonder no longer; here's the scoop on driving a bus for VSU all day and how one woman excels at it.

If you get on the red-line bus in the morning or early afternoon, you will probably be greeted by a warm smile from Josie Butler, a VSU employee of five years. She can currently be found driving the red-line bus, which runs from Palms Dining Hall to North Campus, back to main campus, over to the UC and then back to Palms.

Butler starts her shift at 7:30

a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m. Breaks are rare for bus drivers. "We get one 15-minute break in the morning and a 45-minute lunch break," replied Butler.

When asked what to do when nature calls and the bus is filled to the brim with students, Butler said she tries to work around that and wait until there is no one on the bus. "But that's hard for ladies sometimes," Butler exclaimed.

Butler went through rigorous training in Lowndes County to obtain her commercial driver's license which enables her to drive a bus at VSU. A CDL is given after a two-part test has been passed. It consists of a written test and the actual driving of a bus. The drivers are tested on backing-up, parallel parking and

many other things.

Butler reaps the benefits that VSU has to offer to its employees. In recent years, Butler has attended night school here at VSU as part of the employee re-imbursement plan. This plan enables/encourages VSU employees to go to school with the offer to re-imburse the money for classes if they pass the class.

It has been three years since Butler last attended school. "I look forward to getting back into school," Butler said.

Butler said she hopes to someday be a counselor to children, because of her love of interacting with students.

Because of the increase in enrollment, parking has become more of a problem, and traffic is more congested, leaving the bus drivers in a jam.

Butler also noted that the job was sometimes stressful because of so much pedestrian traffic.

At the same time, there is much road construction around campus on busy streets such as Patterson.

"Construction should be done at night when there is less traffic," Butler said.

According to Butler, the buses are monitored by a supervisor, and the staff work together to make the bus system work well and get students to class on time.

Butler has driven for all three lines here at VSU; the green,

red and blue, and loves them all.

Butler said she isn't concerned with complaining about her job or the system here at school, she simply comes to work everyday and helps out many students and faculty by giving rides around campus. Butler said she loves coming to work just to hear students say "good-morning," as they climb sleepily onto the bus.

A student gave Butler a letter as he was getting off the bus one morning. The letter said, "Don't take driving the bus lightly, because you minister to students every morning with a

smile."

This letter meant a lot to Butler, and she is happy to know that students appreciate her smile and good attitude throughout the day. Butler may not have a degree in counseling, but she counsels and consoles students at VSU on a daily basis.

Driving a bus all day "can be pretty hectic with traffic and everything, but it's a good job."

Lauren Braswell is a Spectator reporter and can be reached at lauren-braswell@hotmail.com



Nathan White / The Spectator

A VSU shuttle bus pulls out of Sustella Parking Lot during its course on the blue-line. This line is one of three routes VSU transportation offers students.

A dangerous mix

Beth Owen
Staff Writer

"Get it up. Keep it up. Any questions?" Yes, as a matter of fact, there are.

This slogan is found on Sobe Adrenaline Rush energy drinks. Bars and dance clubs around the country are serving energy drinks such as Sobe Adrenaline Rush and Red Bull, mixing these drinks with alcohol. This practice has become popular because people can stay up all night dancing and drinking without passing out due to the energy drinks' stimulant content.

Red Bull contains a high amount of sugar (about 28 g) and the amount of caffeine found in a cup of coffee. Sobes also contain a high amount of caffeine and other ingredients such as guarana seed extract, a

common ingredient found in appetite suppressants. But the combination of these stimulants with alcohol can be dangerous?

"Any time you mix stimulants and depressants it creates bad effects," John Anderson, pharmacist at Farber Health Center, said. "There's no way of telling how much is too much for one person. The combination could cause instant death in some people."

Red Bull has recently been under investigation by Sweden's National Food Authority. Three people died after consuming the drink, two from combining it with alcohol, according to a report in the London Times on July 12, 2001.

As a precaution, the NFA issued a warning not to use energy drinks that contain caffeine and taurine as thirst-

quenchers or mix them with alcohol. The investigation has not turned up any scientific evidence against the drink, although those with a high sensitivity to caffeine are urged not to drink it.

The Food and Drug Administration has issued no warnings concerning the drinks.

Locally, Sobes and other similar energy drinks can be purchased at most convenience stores. Charley O'Corley's Irish Pub and Grill also sells Sobe Adrenaline Rush. According to O'Corley's bartender Zack Whitfield, the most common alcohols to mix with the Sobes are rum and vodka.

"We don't sell that many," Whitfield said. "I don't see it becoming a big trend at all here. Most people ask for Red Bull."

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LIVE MUSIC NIGHTLY

Silence is a deadly disease

Laura Justin
Staff Writer

By the time Ronald Reagan administered his first public speech on AIDS, the disease had already claimed 25,000 American lives.

In 1988, Randy Shilts published "And The Band Played On," a non-fiction account that meticulously tracked the history of AIDS, covering social, medical and political issues surrounding the virus. The HBO dramatization also entitled "And The Band Played On" reveals some of the issues raised in Shilts' book.

The movie opens in 1980, starring Matthew Modine as Dr. Don Francis, a retrovirologist involved in AIDS research at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta. In 1981, Dr. Francis and other researchers at the CDC first learn of a mysterious new illness plaguing gay men in California, and by October the virus has claimed 88 lives. The gay press is calling the disease the "gay cancer" or "gay pneumonia" and

the straight press does not address it at all.

Dr. Francis and his colleagues begin research, striving for ways to initiate a fight against the deadly new disease. They find themselves in the midst of a volatile era, charged with emotions ranging from extreme fear to alarming apathy.

The movie follows Dr. Francis' relentless efforts to

fight this disease. In order to bring awareness to the public, he must

scientifically prove his suspicions, but with government funding repeatedly denied, laboratory research is almost impossible.

Lacking hard evidence, many of his efforts prove futile. The gay community fears the CDC's

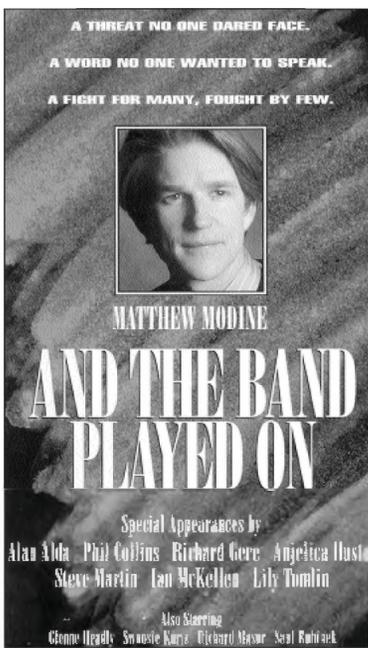
attempts to prevent sexual transmission are intended to suppress their burgeoning sexual revolution, and the general public isn't

concerned with the "gay" disease. Blood banks across America don't want to spend 100 million dollars a year screening donations with a test that is only 86 percent effective, and continued to administer blood without any precautions until 1985.

"And The Band Played On" is a candid look at the early years of the AIDS virus. It reveals a shocking apathetic stance the Reagan administration took on the disease, as well as courageous efforts by gay activists, doctors and researchers. It delves into the lives of some of the earliest AIDS victims who were overwhelmed with fear of a disease people would not mention in public.

The movie includes actual footage from the times portrayed, and has an all-star cast including Phil Collins, Richard Gere, Angelica Houston, Steve Martin and Lily Tomlin.

As of June 2001, AIDS has claimed over 17 million lives worldwide.



Special to The Spectator

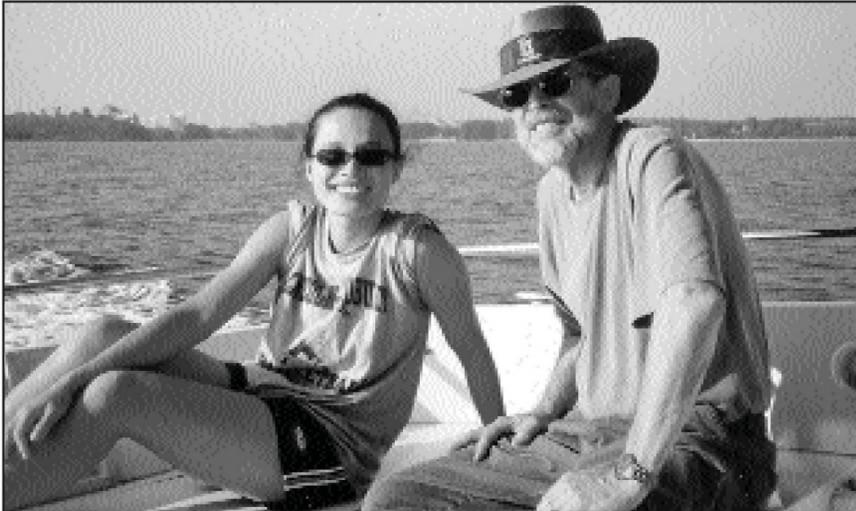
A summer in Malaysia

Jaime Peck
Staff Writer

Imagine a place where a sparkling sea, powdery white sand, and sunlight filtering through coconut groves awaits you. Imagine a resort island in full swing, with an abundance of fine hotels, discotheques, and all-night restaurants. Imagine a people nicknamed *bumiputera*, which translates as "sons" or "princes of the soil." Imagine Malaysia.

Dr. Steven Childs, professor of anthropology, did more than imagine this summer when he took a trip to a rural area of northern Malaysia for five weeks. He traveled to northern Malaysia, to the state of Perlis. Perlis is on the Thai border and the coast of the Strait of Malacca.

"I spent my time in Malaysia meeting people and conversing about topics in which I have interest, especially religion, kinship, and law," Dr. Childs said. "Malaysians, whether



Special to The Spectator

Dr. Stephen Childs, professor of Anthropology, off the coast of the Malaysian island Langkawi. He is with his daughter, Rachel.

ethnically Malays, Indians or Chinese, are very hospitable, and are gracious hosts to travelers."

Dr. Childs said Malaysia is a country of contrasts, in terms of ethnicities, religions, languages, and life styles. He

explained there are some large, densely populated areas, some rural areas, and all gradients in between.

Dr. Childs financed the trip himself, and was accompanied by his wife and daughter. In the future, he said he would

like to take a group of VSU students to northern Malaysia on a school field trip.

Jaime Peck is a Spectator reporter and can be reached at jaimepeck18@yahoo.com

Diet Dangers

Michelle Taylor
Staff Writer

Enjoy that diet drink. It might be your last.

Aspartame, a sweetener used in diet drinks and artificially sweetened foods, has been linked to cases of multiple sclerosis, systemic lupus, and other diseases. Aspartame is found in diet drinks, Equal, NutraSweet and other sweetening agents.

When the temperature of Aspartame reaches 86 degrees or more, the wood alcohol ingredient in the sweetener converts to formaldehyde then to formic acid, causing metabolic acidosis, which could lead to death.

With temperatures in Valdosta reaching up to 90 degrees or more, dangers of Aspartame can be a threat. Students who leave diet drinks in their cars could be inadvertently poisoning themselves.

Some symptoms linked to Aspartame are loss of vision, seizures, joint pain, vertigo, cramps, numbness in the legs, headaches, slurred speech or memory loss—symptoms also associated with multiple sclerosis and systemic lupus.

Independent studies state these claims may be wrong or bogus. Several well-known health specialists and centers have claimed that aspartame is okay for everyone.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's web site, "After

investigating consumer inquiries, the CDC concludes that, although certain individuals may be unusually sensitive to aspartame, there is no evidence of any serious, widespread, adverse health consequences attendant upon its use." Some students drink diet drinks because they feel that diet means healthier.

"I want to lose weight, so I eat a lot of sugar-free, low-calorie and fat free food, and drink lots of diet drinks," Mary Taylor, a freshman LAS major said.

According to Dr. H.J. Roberts, a diabetic specialist and world specialist of aspartame, "Aspartame only makes a person crave carbohydrates, which makes people fat." Therefore, students might in fact be gaining weight. Dr. Roberts also said that after his patients got off diet drinks, they lost an average of 19 pounds per person.

Although there are many claims that aspartame is okay and not dangerous, many web sites concerning aspartame suggest otherwise. Out of 20 web sites listed under the heading "Aspartame" from www.google.com, 16 of those were against aspartame.

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

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Sport



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Last Week's Scores

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www.valdosta.edu/spectator

'Black Swarm' faces first test

Brandon Scott
Staff Writer

This year the roles are reversed.

Southern Arkansas, last year's preseason favorite to win the conference, will be playing in a raucous Bazemore-Hyder Stadium Saturday at 7 p.m. as the Blazers begin their quest for another piece of the conference championship. This season, the Blazers are one of the favorites to win the Gulf South Conference, falling one vote short of being the GSC coaches pick to win the conference championship. The Delta State Statesmen were voted to win the GSC 116-115 over VSU. The Blazers will face a Muleriders squad coming off a close

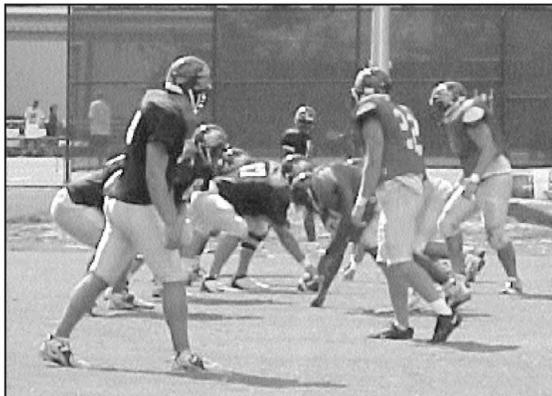
offense does not change its game plan from week to week, but rather that the offense works on executing the existing one. Running back Aaron Jenkins has also been a pleasant surprise to the offense, giving the Blazers yet another dangerous weapon.

"Aaron Jenkins has played real well for us, giving us another dimension," Hatcher said about the 5-7, 180-pound sophomore.

If Jenkins can continue to bolster the Blazers ground attack, then opposing defensive coordinators will be forced to prepare for both the running game as well as the "Air Raid" offense. Southern Arkansas brings a defense that allowed only 71 yards of passing offense in its season opener.

VSU defensive coordinator Kirby Smart said the defense's task is much more difficult with Southern Arkansas' flexbone offense that is physical and well executed.

"This week there won't be any freelancing, whereas the past two games the linebackers were allowed to roam and



Annie Johnson / The Spectator

VSU practices on Rheames Field in preparation for Southern Arkansas Saturday at 7 p.m.

make plays," Smart said. "This week everyone has an assignment, and if one person misses an assignment then that play might fall apart."

Southern Arkansas' offense presents potential problems because the quarterback has the multiple option of pitching to another player, usually a speedy

back, or keeping the ball if he spots an opening.

"Their offensive line is extremely physical, and that might be a problem, but we expect to wear them down with our depth by constantly substituting players, keeping our defense fresh," Smart said.

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Pass Defense	175.5	71.0
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Rush Defense	59.5	240.0
Total Offense	440.0	321.0
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Check out more VSU sports on the web at www.valdosta.edu/specator. Get an in-depth preview of the VSU-Southern Arkansas game with analysis and predictions. Plus, you, the fan, can vote for the winner of Saturday's game.

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