



SPECTATOR

THE UNFILTERED, UNCENSORED VOICE OF THE STUDENTS.

Trump to take TitleTown

See Page 3



Photo Illustration by Julia Rodriguez



'Campus Carry' bill has Georgia Senate in its sight

See Page 3



Men's Basketball set to

blaze

its way to tournament

See Page 11

Who's running for president?

Here are the candidates still running for their party's nomination.

Democratic



Hillary Clinton



Bernie Sanders

Source: Campaign websites
Graphic TNS

Republican



Ted Cruz



Marco Rubio



Ben Carson



John Kasich



Donald Trump

mctcampus.com

Announcements

BraveSpace

The open forum for members of the LGBTQIA community will be held today in Meeting Room 1 of the Student Union. The forum will be held from 6-7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend and the forum will be moderated by Becca Smith.

#MyBlackIsVersatile

The Black Student League will host the event showcase today at 7 p.m. The event will be held in the University Center Magnolia Rooms. The event will celebrate both the past and present of black culture. The event will explore culture in music, fashion and art.

The Vagina Monologues

The play will begin its showings tonight at 7 p.m. in the Student Union. The play will also have showings on Feb. 26 and 27. Tickets are ten dollars without a valid VSU ID and five dollars with a valid VSU ID.

Movie Showing: CREED

The "Rocky" saga continues with the seventh installment of the series. The movie will be shown on the Front Lawn tonight at 7 p.m. Free popcorn will be provided.

Want to have your event featured in our Announcements section? Email Editor-in-Chief Jordan Barela at jlbarela@valdosta.edu to have your event featured.

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The *Spectator* prints free classifieds for current students of Valdosta State University only. These must be no more than 40 words, or a \$13.90 charge will apply. Classifieds for faculty, staff, student organizations, student-owned businesses and the general public cost \$13.90 for up to 40 words.

Ads should be sent to the *Spectator* or delivered to our office in 1238 Hopper Hall. The deadline is 5 p.m. Thursday, a week prior. If payment applies, it should be submitted in a sealed envelope at the time the ad is placed or paid via

Mastercard, Visa, Discover or electronic check online through Aimee Napier, Advertising Manager. Email Aimee Napier at acnapier@valdosta.edu to pay online.

Ads must be accompanied by the name and phone number of the person submitting the ad. Students must also submit their VSU Student ID number. Ads must be resubmitted each week, as necessary.

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vsuspectator.com

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BLAZER COURTYARD
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909 Slater St.
(2 Blocks South of University Center)
NO APPLICATION FEE
with VSU ID

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A Life-Affirming Clinic Serving VSU

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- STI Testing
- Options Counseling

229-506-5017 214 W Park Avenue
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VSU Students: Your Ad Here - FREE!



Health Tip of the week

According to the CDC, "February is American Heart Month - Take time to collect your family health history information and share this information with your doctor and other family members."
-The Student Health Center

VSYOU marketing campaign spikes applications for fall

John Stephen

CORRESPONDENT

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VSU may finally be seeing the light at the end of the tunnel in regards to enrollment.

With undergraduate applications up 77 percent compared to this time last year, VSU Interim President Cecil Staton says he is confident the university will see its first enrollment growth in several years with the freshmen class of 2016.

Not only have undergrad applications tripled, but the number of accepted students is also up by 18 percent compared to last year, according to Tee Mitchell, VSU's director of admissions. Mitchell also said VSU has seen a significant increase in the number of attendees at this year's Open Houses, which are events that allow prospective students and their families to visit VSU and experience life on campus.

Ever since VSU hit its peak of 13,000 students in 2011, enrollment has steadily fallen year after year, dropping to 11,250 students in Fall 2015. This decline resulted in the dismissal of 31 faculty and staff members last August.

Dr. Staton cites several reasons for these declines, such as the economy, the choice of students to attend school closer to home,

the lack of population growth in South Georgia, the increase in opportunities for online education, and the decrease in traditional college students, resulting in more competition for fewer students.

"There is no silver bullet to change these things, but we have chosen to take certain steps to turn this trend around rather than wringing our hands while awaiting further declines," Dr. Staton said.

Mitchell attributes the substantial rise in applications to increased marketing and telemarketing efforts, continuous work by the admissions team, a new communications plan targeting prospective students, as well as Dr. Staton's leadership.

Dr. Staton said his primary focus as president has been to solve VSU's enrollment problem, which caused him to invest \$2 million into an aggressive campaign to strengthen the university.

"I came to VSU with a marketing, branding, and imaging plan for the institution," Dr. Staton said. "One of the things I constantly heard about VSU was that it was a hidden gem. We can't afford to be hidden any longer so we are polishing off this gem so that more potential students and their families can learn about its virtues."

Trump takes campaign to Valdosta

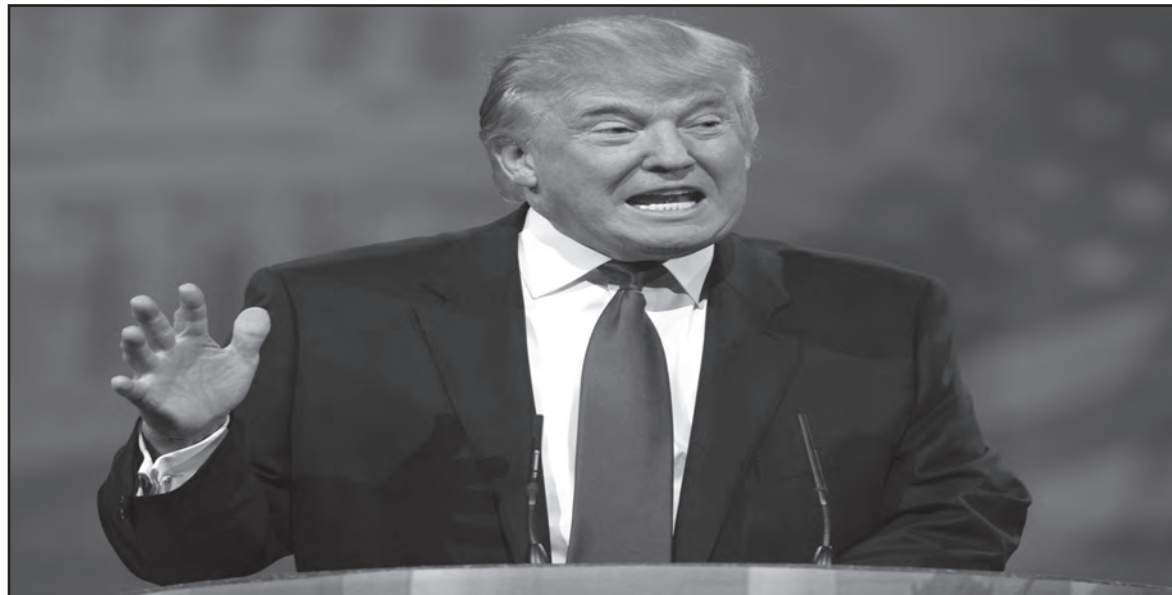


Photo courtesy of Gage Skidmore/Flickr

Republican candidate Donald Trump will speak at the VSU P.E. Complex on Feb. 29. It was announced that Trump will come to Valdosta this past Sunday.

Kenzie Kesselring

OPINIONS EDITOR

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On Monday, Feb. 29, Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump will hold a rally in the Valdosta State P.E. complex at 6 p.m.

The tickets to this event are free, but space is limited so it is recommended to reserve tickets online before the event. The doors will open at 4 p.m.

A statement released by VSU on Monday morning made it clear that Trump coming to the school to use the facilities was in no way an endorsement from the school.

According to a VSU press release, "This event is sponsored by Donald J. Trump for President

Inc. The use of VSU's facilities for this event does not constitute an endorsement by the university. The views of those invited to speak on campus are the views of the speaker and not of the university. VSU does not endorse or oppose any candidate or organization in connection with this or any other political campaign or election."

However, the statement did not stop some students from organizing a protest in response to the candidate's visit to campus.

The "Protest Trump at VSU" event was scheduled for Monday, Feb. 29 at 4 p.m. outside of the VSU P.E. Complex, but event organizer Megan Crawford was told that no protests will be allowed on VSU's campus or on the route the presidential candidate will

take to campus.

The VSU Police Department said that for the purpose of the event, the Trump campaign has rented the property and the area surrounding the property, and there is no place that would allow for pretests against the candidate at this time.

Crawford was told that her group has the option of protesting elsewhere if they wish, just not on VSU's campus.

"I have to say I am very let down by a college who will not allow their students to protest someone who says such blatant and hateful things," Crawford said. "It hardly seems legal, it definitely is sad."

For tickets or more information about Trump's rally, visit event-brite.com.



Student Activity Fee Budget Request Forms

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Registered student organizations wishing to request Student Activity Fee Funding for the 2016-2017 academic year may pick up Budget Forms from the Office of Student Affairs & Dean of Students, Student Union, Third Floor.

The deadline to submit Budget Request Forms is

NOON, FRIDAY, MARCH 11th

to the Office of Student Affairs & Dean of Students
Student Union, Third Floor.

**Budget Hearings Take Place
Wednesday & Thursday, March 23 & 24**

Questions?

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STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

What's new with SGA?

The proposed bill, Academic Forgiveness, has been changed to GPA Bill 2016. SGA hopes to have this bill implemented by Fall 2016.

A few other changes have been made to the bill. When a student retakes a course, instead of the new grade entirely replacing the first grade received in a class on the student's transcript, it will show on the transcript the original grade received, as well as the grade that was received when it was retaken.

SGA is also working on "text.com," which will allow students to safely buy and sell textbooks to other students.

NEWS

CAMPUS CARRY

HB 859 set to head to Georgia Senate

Jordan Barela
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VALDOSTA- Despite protest from Valdosta State, the Georgia Legislature could soon allow students to start packing heat.

House Bill 859 or what is referred to as "Campus Carry" is making its way through Georgia Legislature.

On January 27, the bill was reported to have entered the Georgia House. As of Monday, the Atlanta Journal Constitution reported that the bill was passed by the Georgia House.

The bill states that guns can only be carried on campus by licensed carriers.

The bill will allow license holders to carry on any building or property owned or leased by any public institution of postsecondary education. There is an exemption the bill as it prohibits any license holder from bringing a concealed weapon into any area used for sporting events and student housing, which includes

both sorority and fraternity houses.

The bill will only allow for licensed gun holders to carry concealed handguns.

The bill defines concealed as "carried in such a fashion that does not actively solicit the attention of others and prominently, openly, and intentionally displayed only for purposes of defense of self or others."

The bill would allow for handguns to be substantially concealed and not completely covered by the licensee's cloth-



ing and for concealed carry in an ordinary bag.

This is not the first Campus Carry bill to reach VSU. In 2012, Faculty Senate penned a resolution in opposition to campus carry. The resolution was written

by former Faculty Senate president Michael Noll and Kathryn Grant, a former student and now the Southeast Region Director of the "Keep Guns Off Campus" campaign.

According to the 2012 resolution, allowing guns on campus would "threatens the progress of education and the expression of ideas by imposing lethal weaponry within a place that harbors vigorous and often heated academic discussion."

"As far as the Faculty Senate is concerned, all senators have

been asked to take a closer look at the resolution that was passed in 2012 to see if there is a need to update it, even if general parameters may not have changed," Noll said.

Noll also added that he expects Faculty Senate to vote on the 2012 resolution at the next meeting.

"Based on conversation I have had with quite a few of colleagues, a significant majority of the Faculty Senate should again confirm that the only weapons we want on our campus are sharp minds and not guns," Noll said.

According to Noll, if the bill is passed, VSU would have no choice but to allow concealed weapons to be allowed on campus.

President Cecil Staton said at the last Faculty Senate meeting that VSU supports the current law.

According to legis.ga.gov, HB 859 has been read and referred by the Georgia Senate.

'Campus Carry' bill passed by Georgia House

Kristina Torres
MCT CAMPUS

ATLANTA- The Georgia state House voted Monday to legalize carrying concealed guns on Georgia's college campuses.

State Rep. Rick Jasperse, a Republican, said: "It's a real world solution to a real world problem. In today's world, it's a must."

But in a 90-minute debate before the 113-59 vote, Democratic state Rep. Virgil Fludd said the bill would allow the weapons with "no instruction, no training,

no supervision."

"We're putting (students) in volatile situations with alcohol and hormones," Fludd said.

The bill would allow anyone 21 or older with a weapons license to carry a gun anywhere on a public college or university campus, except for inside dormitories, fraternities and sorority houses, and at athletic events. It also would



mandate that those weapons be concealed something pro-

ponents say make it safer since Georgia requires gun owners to apply for "concealed carry" permits that require fingerprinting and background checks.

Recent events close to the Georgia Capitol, however, have added to the latest push. A few blocks from the Capitol building, robberies at Georgia State University's downtown campus library committed within weeks of each other, with two occurring on the same day have increased support among some students and lawmakers for the right to carry concealed weapons on campus.

The state's Board of Regents, which regulates the state's 29 public colleges and universities, has long opposed "campus carry," and it has blocked previous attempts to allow guns on campuses. The most recent attempt came in 2014 when the state House voted to legalize campus carry as part of a broader effort called the "Guns Everywhere Bill." The state Senate, however, stripped the campus-carry language out of the bill before it was passed.

With Monday's House passage, the campus-carry bill goes to the Senate for consideration.

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OPINIONS

Beyoncé stands up for her race

Our point of view...



MCTCampus

'Campus Carry' a sticky issue

To carry or not to carry? That was a question many government officials, college students and faculty debated tirelessly over a year ago when a "Campus Carry" bill was struck down by the Georgia Senate. However, a similar bill has been proposed and is on its way to being passed.

The new bill would allow anyone 21 and older with a gun permit to carry a concealed handgun on campus. It would exclude athletic facilities and student dorms, but would allow guns to be carried most places including classrooms.

Both supporters and those who opposed the bill have cited robberies and other crimes as causes to allow and prevent the carrying of guns on college campuses.

According to statistics from the National Center for Victims of Crime, the amount of crime occurring on college campuses has decreased considerably since the 90s. A 2014 Department of Education Criminal Offense report indicates that burglary, motor vehicle theft, rape and robbery were amongst the highest reported crimes on Georgia campuses in 2014. The highest of these crimes was burglary with a total of 264 offenses being reported. While campus crime has decreased over the years, we can see why numbers like this are still a cause for concern; the VSU community has seen its fair share of crime over the past year.

Still, we at The Spectator have been asking ourselves the same question that many people have been grappling with over the past few years: is it a good idea to allow students to carry guns on campus?

Our answer is not definitive. The new bill would provide students and faculty with a way to protect themselves at a moment's notice. It allows them to feel better about walking around campus at night and at least partially eliminate the fear that something bad could happen to them and they won't be able to protect themselves.

On the other hand, a bill like this could make crime—or at least the fear of crime—much worse for students and faculty members. Going to class everyday knowing that the student sitting next to you might have a gun can make a lot of people uneasy. Even if someone has no intention of shooting other people, accidents are always a possibility that people on campus would have to be wary of.

We, at The Spectator, believe that students should be able to protect themselves and that no one should have to walk around in fear, which is why this isn't simply a black and white issue for us. While we may not all agree on the best way for students, faculty and staff to protect themselves, we all can agree that the safety of students and university officials is of the utmost importance.

This editorial was written by a member of the editorial staff and expresses the general opinion of The Spectator.

Jada Dukes

STAFF WRITER

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Grammy Award winning pop icon Beyoncé Knowles caused quite the stir earlier this month with her remarkable performance at the 2016 Super Bowl 50 half-time show. On Jan. 7 it was announced that the singer was to perform alongside fellow musicians, Bruno Mars and Coldplay. On Feb. 6, the day before the big performance, Beyoncé shocked everyone by quietly releasing a brand new music video for her new song "Formation."

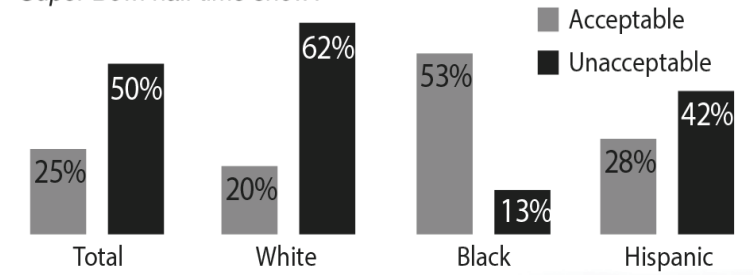
While this isn't the first time Queen Bey has dropped new music on us without any promotion whatsoever, the singer was still able to generate an overwhelming buzz on the Internet. Because both the song and the music video were so transparently pro-black that even a three year old would be able to grasp the message Beyoncé was sending. Social media was lit ablaze with anticipation.

There was a lot of speculation as to whether or not the songstress would be performing her new single at the halftime show and luckily Bey did not disappoint. The 34-year-old singer stepped out in an all-black ensemble with a posse of female dancers dressed as the Black Panthers in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Black Panther party's founding. Beyoncé killed her performance per usual and pretty much stole the show. But sadly, not everyone was as dazzled by her performance.

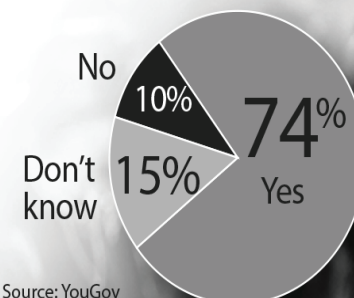
Beyoncé received a lot of hateful comments after her performance from Twitter users and even news reporters. Some Twitter users created the hashtag, #bocottbeyonce to go along with their mean comments. Most of the

Black Panther Beyoncé

Do you think that it was acceptable or unacceptable for Beyoncé to make references to the Black Panthers movement during the Super Bowl half time show?



Are you able to still enjoy the work of an artist or musician whose work you think is good even if you discover they have very different political opinions from you?



Source: YouGov



MCTCampus

unkind tweets criticized Beyoncé for celebrating the Black Panthers at the Super Bowl and even went as far as to call her a racist.

Popular online Republican commentator Tomi Lahren said that Beyoncé was seeking "attention" with her the performance and that the halftime show had "become a way to politicize and advance the notion that black lives matter more."

Beyoncé absolutely was trying to get attention at the halftime show but she most definitely was not trying to put focus on herself. It was obvious throughout her music video and throughout her halftime performance that Beyoncé wanted to bring forth the issue of police brutality within the black community on the largest

platform possible.

She had her dancers dressed as the Black Panther party because the Black Panthers were an organization that fought against police brutality. Beyoncé is a notable celebrity who understands that she has a lot of influence over the younger generation and she is using her influence to bring awareness to a problem that has plagued the black community for far too long.

This month Beyoncé showed the world that while she is an internationally known singer, dancer, and performer, she is still a black woman with a black husband and a black child, living in a country where black people are killed every day for no reason.

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OPINIONS

Free College would be an investment in America's future

Terrance Johnson
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Anyone who has ever attended college could easily argue that tuition should be free and recently, it has finally become the center of political conversation.

President Obama has already proposed a bill that would make the cost of attending a community or two-year institution free. Bernie Sanders is proposing an idea that all colleges and universities should be free to attend for every American who studies hard.

"College needs to be free," said Bevon Williams, accounting major at VSU. "There is no point in putting us in debt before we enter the real

world." Debt is perhaps the most logical reason that some may never attend college.

The taxpayers of this nation should have the option of attending college if they want to, regardless of their financial situation. Sanders and Hilary Clinton, presidential candidates from the Democratic Party, are both advocating for free higher education, however they're plans are different.

Sanders wants Wall Street to fund this project, along with decreasing the current interest rates for student loans. Also, over the next decade, it has been estimated that the federal government will make a profit of over \$110 billion on student loan programs.

This is a bad business model, because if we can't educate our people effectively, then the rest of the world will surpass us. Sanders' website contends that more than 1,000 economists have endorsed a tax on Wall Street speculation. The site also states that today some 40 countries throughout the world have imposed a similar tax including Britain, Germany, France, Switzerland, and China.

America has to stop being concerned with the short term, and invest in the long-term success of this country through education. We have to rise above, and realize that our selfishness can affect the generations of our families that come after us.

Need to rant and rave?

Submit a rant and rave through The Spectator app and we'll post them!

Please keep submissions to under 200 words. No Rant and Raves using personal attacks will be accepted.

Senate must do its job and consider nomination

SHENEMAN/THINK FOUTER AGENCY



MCTCampus

Miles Brown

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Looking through articles online and in the news, it has been really disgusted and alarming to see how the media and political world has dealt with the death of Justice Antonin Scalia. It seems as though everyone is more concerned with the person who is will "replace" this human being than his death.

The nastiness behind some politicians and elected officials is discouraging but not surprising. The Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia died last week at age 76 and thousands of mourners came to the Basilical of the National Shrine of the Immaculate

Conception in Washington shortly after 11 a.m. for his funeral. Meanwhile Democrats and Republicans are trying to see what direction or approach the President should take on electing the new Supreme Court justice.

It seems as if there are many who think President Obama is somehow linked to Scalia's death, which is utterly ridiculous. Not only are these rumors disrespectful to all parties involved, but they were created to be a reason as to why this country's president should not be eligible to appoint. This usually stems from the person or group is own political agenda.

CNN reported that Senate Majority Leader

Mitch McConnell, a Republican from Kentucky, declared the "vacancy should not be filled until we have new President." However it is extremely rare that there has been a Supreme Court seat vacant for nearly a year.

There have been other presidents who have appointed justices close to the end of their presidential term, and there have been three other cases in which Supreme Court justices were appointed days before the president left office, so this is just another way to make President Obama's job harder. Republicans and many other critics like to criticize President Obama sometimes just to discredit his accomplishments.

Don't freaka over the Zika

Julie Jernigan
STAFF WRITER
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We've all heard horror stories about the new mosquito-borne illness Zika, but just how worried should we really be?

According to the Center for Disease Control, the symptoms of contracting Zika are rash, joint and muscle pain, red eyes, and headaches. In addition to adult symptoms, cases of the virus have been linked to the development of microcephaly in infants. Microcephaly is a condition where children are born with severely under-developed brains and smaller than normal heads, as well the development of Guillain-Barre syndrome, where the immune system attacks the nervous system, possibly resulting in total

paralysis.

The CDC recognizes three methods of transfer for the Zika virus, a bite from an infected mosquito, through semen during sexual contact, and from any pregnant person to their child.

The Georgia Department of Public Health says that two types of mosquitos in Georgia could carry the virus, though no mosquitos in the U.S. are infected just yet, and only one in five affected people develop symptoms. It's still better safe than sorry when it comes to Zika, and though you shouldn't cancel Spring Break plans any time soon, preventative measures are important.

If you're planning to travel out of the country it could be best to check out the CDC's list of countries where the virus is known to be directly transmit-

As we approach warmer months and peak mosquito season it would be in our best interest to take precautions but not to panic.

ted by mosquitos to humans, and pack long clothing and bug-spray accordingly. Both the CDC and the Georgia Department of Public Health acknowledge that the best way to keep the Zika virus out of the U.S. is to keep yourself from being bitten by any mosquito while you are infected, as the virus can be transferred to whole colonies this way.

As we approach warmer months and peak mosquito season it would be in our best interest to take precautions but not to panic. This outbreak seems reminiscent of the West Nile scare, and we shouldn't stop enjoying the warmer weather because of an infected mosquito.

The news tends to sensationalize sickness, but we should only pay attention to the facts. No mosquito in the U.S. is known to carry the virus, so even when

summer starts there's no real reason to panic. People going outdoors should keep themselves from being bitten, but no one should worry just yet about a bite.

We should be more concerned with the health of our neighboring countries and how they're dealing with the virus than worrying about a population of uninfected mosquitos within our country. If our government works to help rid nations close to the border of the virus it will ultimately inhibit the virus from spreading into the U.S. now.

Should we worry about Zika in the U.S.? Not so much. We should take precautions, and we should help our Zika-infected neighbors in the south, but the virus is no reason to become a shut-in any time soon.

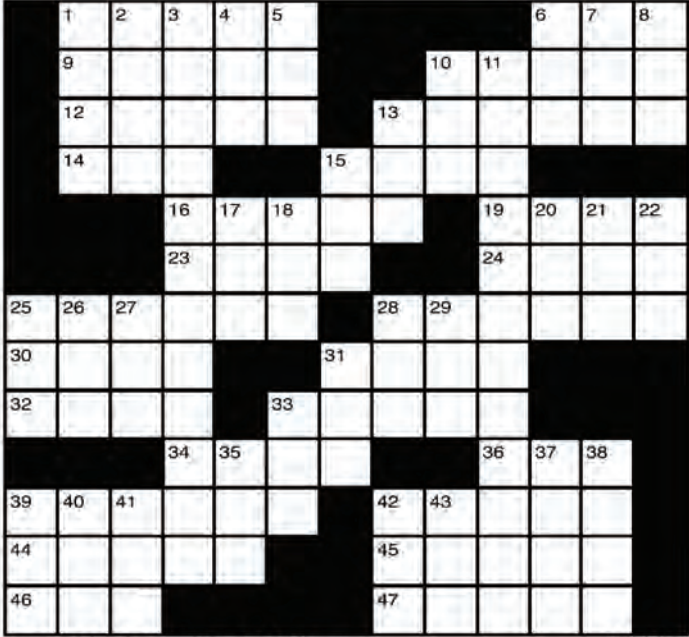


DID YOU KNOW?

According to BuzzFeed, The Pokémon Drowzee is based on the tapir. According to Japanese folklore, tapirs eat dreams and nightmares.

THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

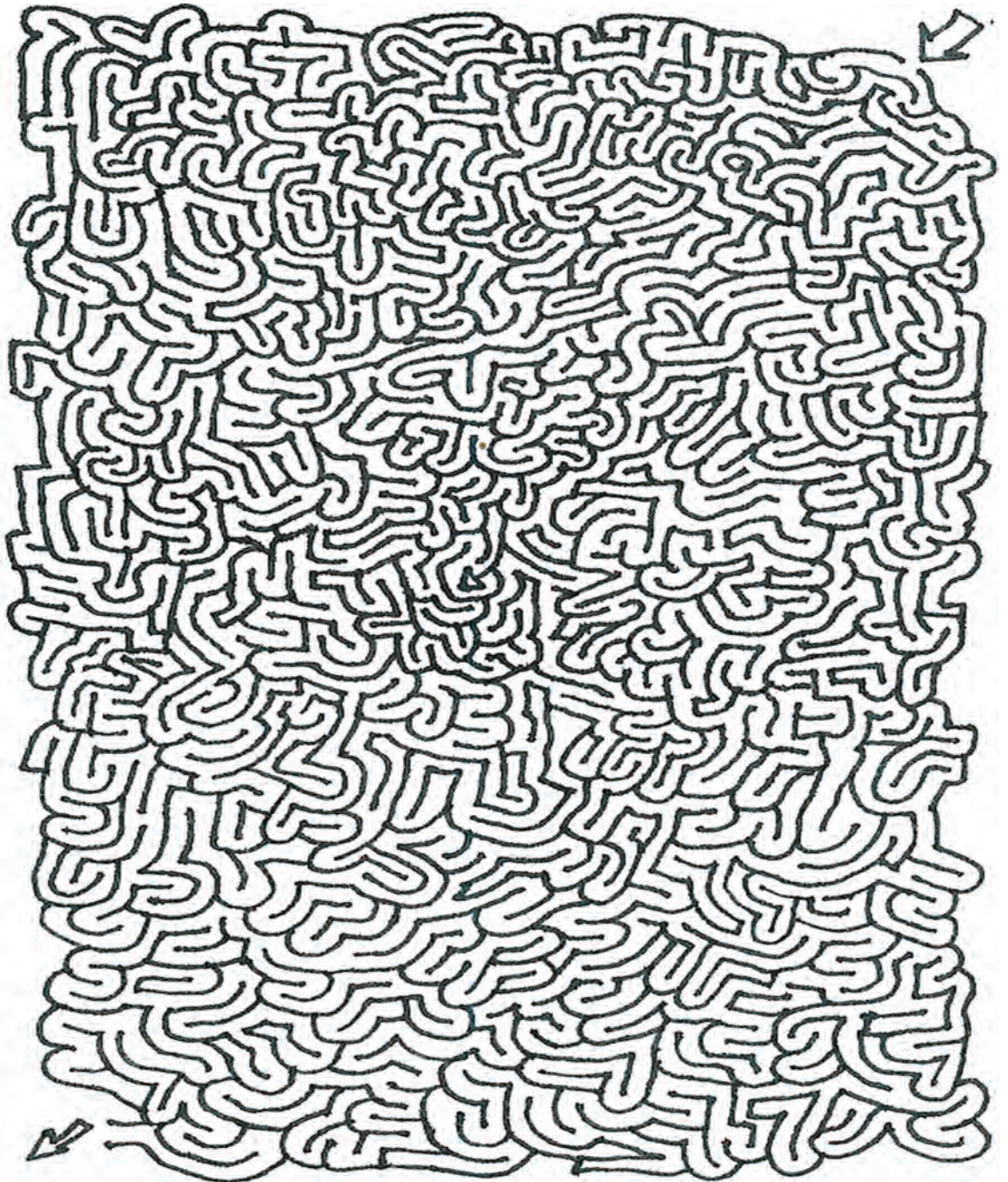
ACROSS

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- 9 Edmonton hockey team member
- 10 "Mad ___ You"
- 12 Fred ___ of "Hunter"
- 13 Sinatra and Gifford
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- 15 Suffix for press or forfeit
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- 20 "Up ___ Night"
- 21 Suffix for project or text
- 22 Actor Romano
- 25 ___ about; flit around aimlessly
- 26 Actress McClanahan
- 27 Ms. Lupino
- 28 Cribbage marker
- 29 180' from WSW
- 31 Actor ___ Chaney, Jr.
- 33 "The ___ & Stimp Show"
- 35 Night on which we watch "Scorpion": abbr.
- 37 Alma mater for Prince William and Prince Harry
- 38 Actress Redgrave
- 39 Pigeon's sound
- 40 Curry or Cusack
- 41 Actress Peeples
- 42 Plead
- 43 Building annex, often

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DID YOU KNOW?

According to NYU, the first television was successfully demonstrated on Sept. 7, 1927.

New self-filling water bottle to revolutionize fresh water

Julie Jernigan

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California and other parts of the world are experiencing extreme drought problems, so conserving water is a must right now. Since only 2.5 percent of the Earth's water is drinkable, we need to come up with new ways to access drinkable water before we run out. Kristof Retezár, a designer in Vienna, did just that when he invented the Fontus water bottle.

According to techinsider.io, the Fontus water bottle, "...takes in moisture from the surrounding air, and can produce clean, drinkable water in under an hour."

Retezár didn't want to rely on difficult purification systems, but wanted to invent something simple that everyone could use. The device hooks on to a bicycle, because it is the main mode of transportation in drought ridden/poverty stricken cities, and Retezár wanted something convenient for them. This water bottle merely uses condensation from the humidity that's in the air. As the air flows into the bottle, it hits a series of hydrophobic "teeth" which look like toothbrush bristles, and help turn the water vapor into water droplets. There is also a solar panel on the top of the water bottle to keep the device charged.

"The bottle works best between 86 degrees and

104 degrees Fahrenheit and between 80 and 90 percent humidity," Retezár said in Techinsider.io. This bottle would definitely work in the heat of South Georgia summers.

The Fontus could revolutionize the way we access clean drinking water, which could change the world. The down-side to this device is the fact that it only hooks on to a bike during transport to catch air, and not by sitting somewhere, but Retezár is working on it.

This neat water bottle is still in testing mode, so there are still some kinks they still need to work out like the filtration system that can filter out large contaminants like bugs, but not small like sediments. The creator hopes to optimize the device to work better in air-polluted cities, according to livescience.com. The website also reports that the prototype currently cost \$40 to make, but the company hopes to lower the cost with buying cheaper materials.

There is no current date for the release of the Fontus water bottle, and the company is working on making a website for crowd funding to help. The price for the water bottle is a little steep. Livescience.com reports that the future price of the water bottle will be under \$100, but can you really put a price on saving the earth?

Hopefully, this project can get off the ground, because this change is the first step in making our earth great again.

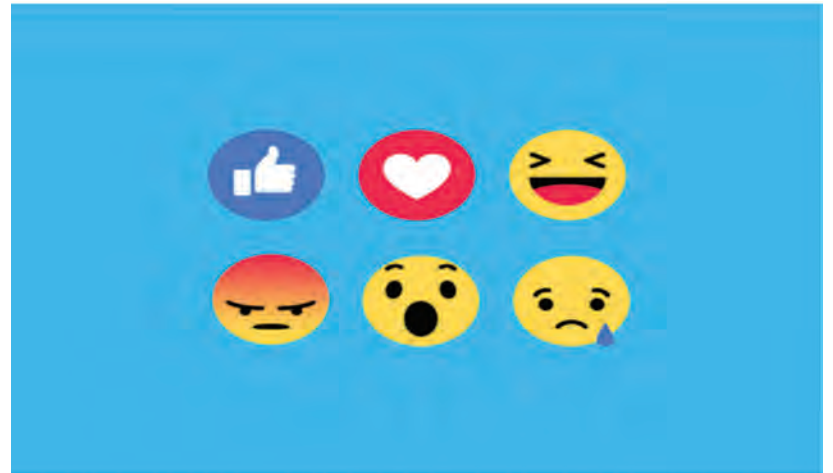


Photo courtesy of Wired

Facebook introduces new way to 'like'

Kayla Stroud

WEB EDITOR

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Facebook has introduced a new emoji feature to express whether a post is likeable enough.

After months of testing, the social media platform is rolling out five new reaction

emojis - "love," "haha," "angry," "wow," and "sad" - that will accompany the "like" button.

While there still is no dislike button, the emojis are a step in the right direction.

Back in November, The Wall Street Journal reported that user activity was down. Users were said to be posting less and liking more. The new feature is a way to increase user activity.

The feature is available on iOS, Android, and desktop computers.

New surgical microchips: the key to the future

Meaghan Bitters

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Imagine a world where people can enter buildings and turn on machines using a tiny microchip in their hands. Well, that future—at least for Sweden—isn't too far out.

A few office workers in Sweden are being injected with a microchip the size of a grain of rice "that will open doors, turn on machines and serve as a business card," according to Q13 Fox.

The Swedish company plans to eventually have the chip allow workers to pay for their meals at the office café as well. Epicenter is a high-tech office complex in Sweden. The point of this product is to test the efficiency of the technology.

"We want to be able to understand this technology before

big corporates and big government come to us and say everyone should get chipped - the tax authority chip, the Google or Facebook chip," Hannes Sjoblad, chief disruption officer of Epicenter, said.

Government microchips are already a concern in America. According to the recently passed H.R. 4872 bill, the implantable radiofrequency transponder system is intended to enable access to patient identification and health information. The bill also states that manufacturers of the microchips have to complete certain government testing requirements and submit a premarket notification before putting them on the market.

Such testing includes: biocompatibility, information security, software validation, migration testing of implanted responder, performance testing of implanted transponder, performance testing of inserter, performance testing and

hazard analysis of electronic scanner, electromagnetic compatibility, electrical safety performance testing, sterility, magnetic resonance imaging compatibility, and labeling for any precautions for packaging and sterility.

Accusations of the government chipping all Americans and being able to locate people by their chip cannot be confirmed. As of now, the only information that can be confirmed is that the FDA has approved radiofrequency identification devices that enable access to patient identification and provide corresponding health information. Basically, these chips would be able to confirm the person to be who they say they are; an implanted social security, or health insurance card. More advanced chips that serve as a debit card are likely to be created in the future.



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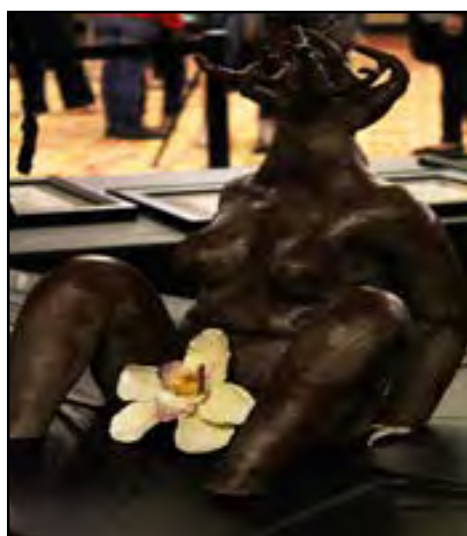
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DID YOU KNOW?

According to Uberfacts, people who let their anger out report having more fulfilling careers and lives than people who keep their emotions bottled up

Students express multiculturalism through visuals



Julia Rodriguez
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'So worth loving' creates a movement: VSU student's message of love and self-worth

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With so much uncertainty happening around us, it is understandable for many people to be anxious about the future.

Fortunately, "So Worth Loving" shines as a candle in the darkness with a message of love and self-worth. Starting from humble beginnings as an inspirational blog to share stories of self-worth on Tumblr, Eryn Erickson decided to use the phrase to create a

clothing brand company and a movement that would connect people.

As an American Sign Language/English Interpreting major, Elaine Krivsky found the message of self-love and value compelling as she became a campus representative of the company. Her goal is to create a centralized group that can hand out encouragement and hold events where people can discuss their struggles without judgement.

"That's what this movement is

about," Krivsky said. "Share your story. Love yourself. Love other people and just create that more loving environment. Everyone has come from somewhere and is headed some place next. Along the journey, share your story and have the courage to love yourself and others."

"So Worth Loving" can be followed on on Instagram at @swlatvsu or by checking out the hashtag #SWLatVSU.



Photo courtesy of Elaine Krivsky



Mayah Cantave
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Fashion Week: The Visual Album, released on Feb. 18, seems to be a visual masterpiece. The album created by artist Zaena and Jason Maek, contains elements of art, dance, and many other forms of visual arts. The album contains a collection of 10 songs including individual videos for each song. Some of the

songs include "Birthday", "Get up", "Texting You" and much more.

Maek and Zaena have not only mastered music but they've seem to master many other forms of arts. Their album includes instrumentals, fashion, art and dance.

"In this project, we were more than musicians, we were designers or that's how we wanted it to feel," Maek said.

For this album, the two musi-

Fashion Week inspires: Musicians create a visual collection

cians channeled Fashion Week. Zaena and Maek contacted fashion designers and used some of their techniques.

"We wanted it to feel like it would come down a runway versus come through a speaker," Maek said.

For each song, a mood board was created with various clip-pings, images, and textures much like how fashion designers create their lines. Mood boards is how designers create concepts for their looks.

"Instead of normal songwriting process, we talked to a lot of different designers around the world to get an understanding of what they go through to create the garments and lines that they do."

The album was not created in one setting. The album was recorded anywhere they could set up their equipment. The duo

were equal partners in the whole process of recording and directing the videos for the album.

"The project was done on the go. We wrote it, we recorded it, we executive produced it, we engineered it," Maek said.

"Anywhere we could set up our equipment," Zaena said.

Many of the scenes in the videos are not what they seem. Like movies and other videos, the album has been masterfully edited.

"Most of the things you are seeing is movie magic...you have the million dollar ideas on nickel budgets," Maek said.

For the release of the visual album, the duo held a live streaming party that allowed fans

to stream their reactions to the album. This allows the artists to connect with their audience and make them feel as if they are part of the experience.

Hopefully, with the success of their visual album, there will be much more from this creative duo.



Photo courtesy of Josh Knapp



VSU in 5
 Kyle Dawson
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Fit Fighters Fitness, located in Remerton, offers workouts geared around boxing. Dominique Moses, the owner, said that 75 percent of Fit Fighter's Fitness are VSU students.



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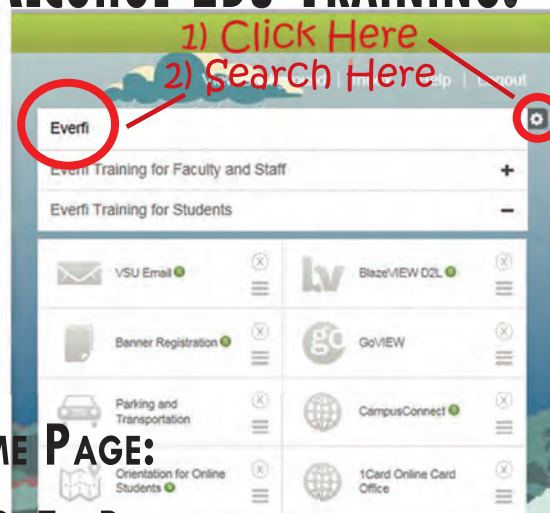
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Part Two – March 29th

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VSU Office of Social Equity

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In honor of us bringing home nine awards from the Georgia College Press Association Press Institute, the English Department will host a reception tomorrow. The reception will begin at 4 p.m. on the front steps of West Hall. Refreshments will be provided. This is also a great chance to meet some of the editors!



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DID YOU KNOW?

There are 42 days remaining until Major League Baseball's opening day. The Atlanta Braves will host the Washington Nationals to begin their final season at Turner Field.

VSU faces must-win battle to host tournament game

Gabe Burns
SPORTS EDITOR
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VSU men's basketball wraps up its regular season at West Florida this Saturday with a home game on the line. Fortunately, a matchup with the

Argonauts is just what the Blazers need.

West Florida is the worst team in the Gulf South Conference with a 5-16 record (6-18 overall) before Wednesday's game versus Spring Hill. Though there will not be tournament play this season for the Argonauts, the team will attempt to play spoiler against VSU.

The Blazers (16-10, 12-9) took a hit when they lost to the West Georgia Wolves last Saturday. A win would have almost locked VSU into hosting a tournament game, but all-in-all, a five-point road loss to the second best team in the conference is not dooming.

That defeat, however, makes this weekend even more important. VSU sits a game behind Union, Delta State and North Alabama in the standings. The Blazers split the season series with each team.

VSU needs a top four spot to host a rival in the GSC tournament. The top two seeds are already locked in for Alabama-Huntsville and the Wolves, so two of the aforementioned four teams will have to take the road in their tournament opener.

Union is in the driver's seat at the third slot. The Bulldogs take on seventh-seeded Christian Brothers facing the opportunity to secure a home game with a win. Delta State has a favorable contest with bottom-feeding Mississippi College. North Alabama takes on AHU, a game in which the Chargers will be heavily favored.

The Blazers will need a win on top of at least two losses by the teams ahead of them. Home court advantage is critical to VSU, which is 11-4 at The Complex this season. The only teams carrying better home records are the very ones that the Blazers are chasing in the standings.

In the event the Blazers cannot earn a home game, the school is likely to be the fifth or sixth seed. Even with a loss, the worst the team can finish is sixth given that Christian Brothers is several games back.

The Blazers' first tournament game, regardless of location, will be held March 1.



Darian Harris/THE SPECTATOR

Rusen and Calhoun lead softball to conference wins

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Blazer softball looks primed for another deep run with a 14-3-1 record through 18 games.

VSU started off strong, winning six of their first seven games. They cooled off afterwards, however, when the Blazers went on to tie with Rollins College and then lose both games of a double header to conference rival North Alabama.

Things seemed to be going south, but the team is now riding an eight game winning streak, with six of those victories coming against conference opponents.

After losing the games against North Alabama, the Blazers bounced back the next day against them with a 6-1 victory. The team then went on to sweep a double header against Albany State 7-0 and 6-3, with the first victory being head coach Thomas Macera's 700th victory.

The team's next three games were against Christian Brothers, and the Blazers won all three in dominant fashion.

The first game of a Saturday double header resulted in a 9-0 victory, led by a complete game shutout from pitcher Caitlyn Calhoun, only allowing three hits and striking out 12 batters. The offense continued to roll in game two with Kiley Rusen and Brandy Morgan both homering and leading the Blazers to an 11-3 victory.

The third and final game against Christian Brothers was another 11-run scoring game for the Blazers and another game with home runs from Rusen and Morgan. It was also the second shutout in three games for Calhoun, pitching five innings and racking up four strikeouts while only allowing two hits.

The Blazers most recent two victories came in another double header Tuesday against Florida

Tech, one of which being another victory for Calhoun.

While the first game was a victory, it was a much tougher battle than the previous wins. The Blazers won a tight 3-2 matchup against the Panthers, and despite giving up runs in each of the last two innings Calhoun pitched, she still finished with a complete game and six strikeouts.

The Blazers went back to their dominant ways in the second game, outscoring the Panthers 12-1. Hayley Cruthers, Heather Robinson, and Chelsea Canara all homered in the game, and pitcher Huntire Elling threw four shutout innings.

With Calhoun (9-1, 1.39 ERA) and Rusen (10 home runs, 32 RBIs, 1.060 slugging percentage), it's hard to see the Blazers slowing down any time soon. The team will look to continue winning, and winning big, this Saturday at West Florida.

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Chris Bilbo leads the Blazers into the regular season finale against West Florida. A win could result in VSU hosting a tournament game at The Complex on March 1.

SPORTS

Baseball breaks out the brooms against Bucs

A conference sweep has built momentum headed into clash in Pensacola

Gabe Burns

SPORTS EDITOR

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After dropping a Valentine's Day matchup with Florida Tech, the VSU Blazers have rebounded quite nicely. The team closed out a tight 6-4 win over Georgia College and State before sweeping the weekend's conference -opening series against Christian Brothers.

That makes the Blazers 10-3 through 13 games for the third season in a row. It also gives VSU the most overall wins in the conference.

It is not the fact that VSU swept the three games, but rather the fashion in which it was accomplished. The first game was called on a mercy rule after 12 Blazers touched home in the seventh inning.

In game two, the Bucs scored the first two runs, but nine unanswered from VSU resulted in another blowout.

The Blazers brought out the brooms on Sunday, finishing the sweep with a 14-4 win. In all, VSU out-scored Christian Brothers 39-12 on the weekend.

While the Buccaneers are

far from a traditional power, that showing was a microcosm of how the Blazers have won games in 2016. VSU has used a congregation of hot bats to become the top-ranked scoring offense in the Gulf South Conference with 101 runs. Through 13 games, that is 11 less than 2014 and 35 less than last season (granted, last season's numbers were skewed by non-conference blowouts, as the mercy rule only applies in GSC competition).

Even with that comparison in mind, this group might be the best-rounded of them all.

"We have the potential to break out and score bunches of runs," said Blazers coach Greg Guilliams. "I could get nit-picky and say there's things that we still need to get better at and do, but at the end of the day, we can score runs quickly and because of that, you're never out of a ball game."

An offense performing at such a high level will obviously boast a number of individual successes. Dalton Duty leads the GSC with a .500 average. He is also tops in hits (21), walks (15) and stolen bases (9).

Marcus Sigmon has made his way around the bases a

conference-leading 15 times. His 24 RBIs are seven higher than the next best in the GSC.

Ryan Smith, Tyler York, Michael Gouge; it is a big list of standout batters for the boys in red and black. But if VSU is going to succeed when deeper in conference play, it is going to take pitching.

VSU is sitting in the middle of the GSC with a 4.02 team ERA while pitching in the most innings with 112. Opposition is batting .278 versus Blazers pitching and has scored 50 earned runs, both of which are third-worst in the conference.

It has not been the best start, but the pitching should hit its crescendo by midseason. Already the group is starting to show signs of promise.

Kellan Bailey had a nice outing on Saturday, throwing a complete game. Mitchell Cody has pitched better than his 6.10 ERA would indicate, and that is likely to balance out in time. Dustin Hersey and Roman Donofro have been important assets out of the bullpen.

The school is either going to sink or swim on the performance of its arms. The competition is about to hit the next gear with

a road trip to West Florida this weekend. The 5-5 Argonauts are not amongst the conference's elite, but the team presents more of a challenge than the Bucs did.

"What's been crazy is that our starting pitching has probably been the weakest part of our club right now, and going into the spring, I thought that was going to be our strength," Guilliams said. "I still think that they're

going to be fine. Their talent hasn't changed."

Wednesday's clash with Georgia Regents was postponed, so the Blazers return to the diamond on Saturday in Pensacola after six days of rest.

The next home game is March 2 against non-conference foe Georgia Southwestern.



Photo courtesy of VSU Athletics
Tyler York reaches for a put out. York was named Gulf South Conference Player of the Week after opening weekend.

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