

Sprinklers jam, wet sidewalk

Tameika Carson
Staff Writer

As you squish your way to class, you may be wondering why the sidewalks were watered, leaving you puddles to contend with.

VSU Plant Operations placed hundreds of sprinklers throughout campus for irrigation purposes.

Monty Griffin, director of Landscape and Grounds, apologizes for any accidents pertaining to the sprinklers, but points to the massive number of sprinklers as an explanation.

"The likelihood of thousands of sprinklers staying in a straight alignment constantly is very rare," Griffin said. "The sprinklers sometimes go hay-wire due to a bad [sprinkler] head."

The automatic sprinkler system is run by 25-30 electronic clocks set by the office of Landscape and Grounds. The automatic system is arranged by an ODD/EVEN method in which areas with even street addresses are watered on even numbered dates and odd street addresses on odd dates.

Some students complain that the ODD/EVEN method is not being practiced. Sophomore Jamaal Ferguson finds himself regularly avoiding sprinklers in the same area everyday.

"I have to dodge the same sprinkler every time I walk back from the library," Ferguson said. "It seems like the grass would be dead from all the water used to keep it damp continually."

While VSU obtains 80-90 percent of the water used for irrigation from its private wells, watering the campus is an expensive proposition.

"The majority of irrigation is

achieved electronically and electricity is not cheap," said Griffin.

In addition to set dates, the automatic sprinklers are run a maximum of 20-minute duration at a specific time of day. Different areas are watered at different times depending upon location, time of year, and type of plants being watered. Some students see things differently.

"I think they turn the sprinklers on at anytime," Danna Howell, a senior psychology major, said. "One day it was raining and the sprinklers still came on."

The time the sprinklers are set to turn on depends upon water regulations and VSU campus schedule. Last year's drought season set restrictions of irrigation between 10 a.m. and 11 p.m. No water was to be used for irrigation during these hours.

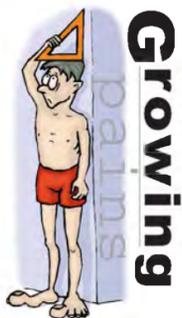
Although the rule no longer applies, Griffin schedules irrigation around a similar time frame—with some exceptions.

"It may be necessary to turn a system on at times during the day for irrigation repairs. If a problem occurs after 4 p.m. we will shut the system down until the next day," said Griffin.

Plant Operations keeps the night schedule of irrigation to avoid conflicts between sprinklers and students during the day. Therefore, little or no sprinklers will be run before 9 p.m. and after 6 a.m.

"The last thing we want to do is to upset anyone by clashing the time of irrigation with student's and faculty's schedules," Griffin said. "Water is an essential tool that plays a major part in having a beautiful campus, and that is my job, to provide

Concrete
see page 4



All hail Queen Holly Blount



Annie Johnson / The Spectator

Holly Blount, representing Phi Mu, takes her father's arm as the two pose for photos. Blount was named Homecoming Queen during halftime on Oct. 13.

TKE under investigation

Blenda Link
Staff Writer

The VSU Tau Kappa Epsilon chapter has been temporarily suspended after an allegation that a foreign substance was slipped into a female student's drink at the TKE kamikaze party Oct. 5, according to Richard Lee, assistant to the dean of students for Judicial Affairs.

Lee said he and Greek Life coordinator Jennifer Steedley are conducting investigations on behalf of VSU. Lee also said the local TKE chapter is

conducting its own investigations as is its national organization.

"We formally directed them [the local chapter] to do that," he said. Lee said the allegation was made Oct. 9 or 10.

Lee also said that the local and national TKE organizations have been cooperative in this matter.

According to a letter sent to the TKE chapter by Steedley, VSU's investigation centers around violation of the National TKE risk management guidelines, alcohol and drug section; violation of VSU's

Student Organization Regulations regarding the use of facilities; and the alcohol, drugs, hazing and joint responsibility for infractions sections of the Student Code of Ethics found in the VSU Handbook.

The letter states that TKE members are also allegedly in violation of the North-American Interfraternity Council's resolution in alcohol. "I've been here seven years and haven't had any dealings with TKE except one or two

TKE
see page 4

CORRECTION:

In a story about the SAVE campaign for a living wage, in the Oct. 11 issue, the Spectator contained an error of fact. One of the universities used for comparison was Georgia Southern University.

CLARIFICATION:

In a story about the SAVE campaign for a living wage, in the Oct. 11 issue, the Spectator contained an incomplete explanation. The wages used for comparison were taken as a random sampling and were not intended to reflect the whole or average of salaries in the University system.

It is Spectator policy to correct errors of fact.

Minutes called into question

Blenda Link
Staff Writer

Amid the difficulties of transition, SGA faces the task of coping with missing records and differing perceptions of the rules.

At the Sept. 25 SGA meeting, vice president Cody Guined suggested that all work done by last year's SGA administration is null and void due to a lack of records. Cancellation of last year's administration's work would force SGA to revert to the year before as the foundation for work to be done this year.

In response, Sen. Jaime Martinez asked if SGA justices brought in under last year's administration should be replaced. Martinez also asked if the minutes from the previous year could be approved during the current senate session. Guined said he would check into the situation.

Guined holds that minutes must be approved because they provide proof of what happens during meetings.

"According to Robert's Rules of Order, if you do not accept the minutes, then everything that took place

within those minutes is 'null and void' because you have no proof of what actually took place, what was accepted, who accepted it, so on and so forth," Guined said.

The 1915 public domain version of

approval, which should be signed by the secretary [...] (Art. X, Sec. 60, prs. 2). The fifth paragraph in Article X, Section 60 states: "Where the regular meetings are held weekly, monthly, or quarterly, the minutes are read at

them.

Guined said he put three of last year's bills on the agenda, including the co-curricular transcript bill, the itemized receipts bill and the PC loan bill.

"I've asked senators if they know of any other bills that went through to please bring them to us so that we can check on their status," Guined said.

The Spectator acquired a copy of the bylaws from Guined, who said they were not the current bylaws. Guined said he does not know where the current bylaws are. The copy obtained from SGA is not dated.

The SGA bylaws, which override Robert's Rules in case of conflict, (as stated in the SGA bylaws) do not state that minutes must be approved to effect changes. Of meeting minutes, the SGA bylaws only state that minutes will be read: "unless copies of the minutes are made available" (Art. I, Sec. 2). The bylaws do not state that minutes must be approved in order to effect changes made during a previous meeting,

regardless of the time frame.

According to Ashley Bell, last year's SGA president, during the three years he has been involved in SGA, minutes were never provided at senate meetings.

"SGA has always followed a loose Rules see page 4

Know Your Rights:

Under Georgia State Open Meeting Laws Section 50-14-1, you have the right to:

- attend all open meetings of SGA.
- record all open meetings by visual, audio and visual and audio means.
- request and receive a copy of current minutes within two business days of the meeting. Minutes must be available once approved but no later than immediately following the next meeting.

"If you do not accept the minutes, then everything that took place within those minutes is 'null and void' because you have no proof of what actually took place."

-Cody Guined, SGA vice president

Robert's Rules of Order (Revised), available online at www.constitution.org/ror/ror-00.htm, provides a format for presenting minutes at meetings (Art. X, Sec. 60).

Robert's Rules state: "If minutes are not habitually approved at the next meeting, then there should be written at the end of the minutes the word 'Approved' and the date of the

the opening of each day's meeting, and after correction [,] should be approved [...]"

By "null and void" Guined said he meant the changes could not stand because the current administration does not have access to last year's minutes, which he said have not been approved. He said the judicial board had asked for copies of last year's minutes as well, but had not received

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Next issue

What's so scary about ANTHRA

Web Watch

Registration is upon us yet again, and you have to take that core course in underwater basket weaving. But 13 profs offer it, it's not in your major, and you've never heard of these people.

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

This week:

www.angelfire.com/ga/struitt

Do you prefer tough teachers who get the subject covered? Weird ones who prefer to discuss hair color? Easy ones who just want you to stop showing up so they don't have to?

Struitt's teacher's page is a place where you can and find out what students think of profs at VSU. Check it out at www.angelfire.com/ga/struitt and click on the teacher's page.

News

www.valdosta.edu/spectator

Today



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Friday



UV Index:
7 High
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Saturday



UV Index:
7 High
Hi: 80
Low: 53

Sunday



UV Index:
6 Moderate
Hi: 81
Low: 57



Nathan White / The Spectator

Students listen to lectures in the fall session of ELI, the program that helps international students with basic English skills that they will need to take classes at VSU.

ELI opens door to VSU

Ashlie Mash
Staff Writer

Learning English opens the door to a college education for some.

The eight-week fall session for the English Language Institute program ended Wednesday and the new session will begin Friday, according to Charlotte Davis, international student adviser.

The sessions are taught by Davis, Jim Fiveash and Danielle Buehrer, international advisers. The class has 13 students from countries such as Turkey, Korea, Mexico, Bulgaria, Japan, Puerto Rico and Russia. Six students are active in the half-and-half program, which allows them to take classes at VSU and ELI simultaneously.

According to Davis, students take advantage of learning the English language in order to enroll at VSU because they scored below the minimum requirements on the Test of English as a Foreign Language, a requirement for international students.

The course is divided into five levels.

"Some start at the advanced level, while others may start at the very beginning," Davis said.

According to Davis, for intermediate and advanced speaking students, one session may be enough, although the program allows for multiple sessions.

"One cannot get into VSU without speaking English fluently. It is not set up for students who know absolutely no English because it is mostly an

academic preparation," Davis said.

People from the community are welcome to take part in ELI. For one session, the cost is about \$3,381.00.

"If anyone has friends or relatives who need to study English for entry into VSU, they should contact the Center for International Programs," Davis said.

Astrid Roa from Columbia, a two-year resident of the U.S. and a business administration major, has completed two sessions in the ELI program and is pleased with her results.

"Sometimes when you're unfamiliar with where you're going and with English, people, and everything, it helps," Roa

ELI
see page 4

Policy allows withdrawal

Mary Dabbs
Staff Writer

Some students get colds and are out for a day. Some students have serious problems and are out for weeks or even months.

According to Dr. Louis Levy, acting vice president for Academic Affairs, students who need to withdraw from classes due to medical reasons need to contact Student Affairs and explain the reason for their

withdrawal.

If a student misses more than 20 percent of a class he or she is subject to failing that class, according to Georgia Board of Regents policy. If the reason for these absences is medical, students can often work with their instructor to help make up missed assignments or get extra credit assignments to do outside of class.

"The more communication between student and instructor

the better," Dr. Levy said.

Students who need to withdraw before midterm can do so without affecting their grades. Students who have medical problems towards the end of a semester may also leave the course with an incomplete and make up the last few assignments at a later date. According to Dr. Levy, students who need to withdraw after midterm

Medical
see page 4

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News

NEWS BRIEF:

Langdale: white powder scare

At about 6:45a.m. Wednesday, a custodial worker found a "white powder" substance on the floor of hallway 1-C in Langdale Hall.

The employee then notified Steve Blair, assistant director for Housing Facilities, who in turn immediately called Public Safety.

Public Safety, the Valdosta Fire Department and Sheldon Broomberg, VSU's Environmental Health and Safety Officer, all responded to the scene.

"We turned the powder over to the FBI, but we won't know anything for three to five days," Broomberg said. The FBI will hand-carry the material to Atlanta for testing by the Department of Health Resources.

"We have no way of sampling it here, so we turned it over to the FBI and let them do their thing," Broomberg said.

As for now, the Lowndes County Health Department has advised against testing individuals, according to James Brignati, vice president for Business and Finance. Should the substance test positive for biochemical agents, proper treatment will be available.

According to Broomberg, students living on 1-C are still able to get to their rooms. "We decontaminated the floor, so they are free to wander in and out," Broomberg said.

Public Safety will cooperate with the FBI on the investigation, according to Maj. Ann Farmer, assistant director of Public Safety.

"This act is considered a serious crime and individuals found guilty will be dealt with to the full extent of the law," Farmer said. "Any threat or hoax of a terroristic nature will be dealt with through federal prosecution."

Rules

continued from page 1

bit of Robert's Rules of Order, but never to the "T," Bell said.

Rather, he explained, Robert's Rules were used as a matter of convenience.

Bell also said making the actions of last year's SGA null and void would void the existence of that SGA because senators had been voted in during the session, as well as voiding all the work done by the judicial board.

Guined has said the senate will go through last year's business to check on the status of legislation.

Bell has problems with that approach.

"You can't just target what you want to make," Bell said. "You have to apply it to everything. The constitutional changes last year, the whole SGA ran off last year's constitution and bylaws."

Regina Hall was the secretary for SGA last year, but has since graduated. She could not be located for comment.

According to Bell, every bill passed last year went to the Student Life Committee, and copies of the Student Life Committee's minutes should show the votes on each bill.

According to Russ Mast, acting vice president for Student Activities, dean of students and SGA adviser, not approving minutes does not invalidate legislation passed during a meeting.

Mast said any legislation that was passed in "good faith" by the Senate should stand, in his opinion.

"In my opinion, it [not approving minutes] would not nullify last year's changes," Mast said.

According to the student handbook, the student Judicial Council of the SGA is charged with interpreting the SGA constitution and bylaws.

ELI

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said. "It's good that the classes are small. You feel more freedom to ask what you want."

Roa heard about VSU and the ELI courses through her brother who is studying here.

As a result of the attack on America last month, Davis feels it is possible that the number of international students entering the U.S. will be affected. Davis said Sen. Diane Feinstein of California asked for a six-month moratorium on admitting foreign students.

"These students bring in millions of dollars to the U.S. economy each year, not only through books and fees, but they spend money," Davis said.

Concrete

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such a campus."

The Office of Landscape and Grounds wants to improve the problem of unaligned sprinklers by assigning more than one person specifically to the issue. Currently there is only

one worker, John Lampeit, who has been authorized to complete the task.

"It's very hard for John to be in two places at the same time," Griffin said. "Therefore people have to understand that he is the only one on the job after office

hours."

With winter approaching, sprinklers will rarely be used. Griffin said the problem with irrigation will decrease as the weather cools. He also said he hopes the problem will be controlled next spring.

TKE

continued from page 1

minor instances," he said. Lee said an allegation was made a week ago from Tuesday or Wednesday.

He said a judicial council hearing has not been set.

According to Steedley, a Greek council hearing has not been set for the organization

because the investigation is still pending via the local and national chapters.

According to Darren Pastuha, director of Chapter and Member Services for the International Headquarters of Tau Kappa Epsilon (The Offices of the Grand Chapter) in Indianapolis, Ind., the VSU Zeta-Nu Chapter of TKE has been suspended in conjunction

with VSU as of Oct. 9.

Jeff Mangold, president of the VSU TKE chapter, was not available for comment at time of publication.

Blenda Link is a Spectator reporter and can be reached at bjlink@valdosta.edu

Ashlie Mash is a Spectator reporter and can be reached at lam1239@yahoo.com

Medical

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are usually listed as withdrawn passing, depending on how their grades were before their illness."

"Illness" includes physical and mental problems. Proof of illness is required with both if a student wishes to get a medical withdrawal.

According to Tommy Moore, director of Financial Aid, students who withdraw for medical reasons after midterm automatically get their financial aid canceled for the next semester unless they notify the financial aid office they will return next semester. Students who withdraw before midterm

may need to repay financial aid they had for that semester. Students whose aid is dropped receive a letter from financial aid with an appeal form attached so they may appeal the decision to drop their financial aid in writing. Medical documentation is required.

"If students leave school we have no way of knowing why or if they'll come back," Moore said. "They need to come see us."

Mary Dabbs is a Spectator reporter and can be reached at kamikazeflutterby@hotmail.com

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Get the government you deserve

Contrary to public opinion, SGA does not stand for Students' Gargantuan Apathy.

It stands for Student Government Association. And it belongs to you. It affects the things you care about.

Like your pocketbook: Sick of paying taxes on your textbooks? SGA is working on a bill to change that.

Like your grades: SGA passed a bill that resulted in making in-progress grades available for 1000 and 2000 level courses so you could decide if you needed to drop a class.

Like your safety: SGA is currently working on a bill to make changes to lighting on campus so that you can see where you're going and who else is there.

The SGA affects the entire VSU community, yet we take it for granted. Last year only about one in 10 VSU students voted in SGA elections.

But SGA is here for you. It consists of a group of students who have asked for the privilege of becoming public servants—a privilege that comes with the responsibility of listening to and serving ALL voices on campus, not just special interests that appeal to those in service. Another of these responsibilities is to be answerable AT ALL TIMES to the people one serves.

Our SGA, primarily the members of the executive branch, is failing at these tasks. They have not made themselves answerable. They have not made records of their actions public, and they have made students, primarily members of SAVE, feel unwelcome at meetings. And they have gotten mired down in a set of rules designed to simplify.

In fact, SGA is in danger of grinding to a halt.

It needs emergency care.

It needs you to regularly attend meetings, check minutes and speak out on matters that interest you. It needs you to insist on accountability. It needs you to vote.

By making your government work for you, you can ensure that government will thrive and succeed.

Otherwise you're going to get what you pay for—a truly lousy government resulting from Students Guilty of Acquiescence.

Spectator opinion written by Leah F. Cassorla

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Letters must include name, year in school, major, job title or other appropriate identification and phone number for verification.

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.



Lindsey Giddens

Going to glory

Last weekend things were put into perspective for me. At the Baptist Student Union Fall Conference in Dalton, Ga., Vodie Bacham presented us with the Word. Just to let you in on a little bit about Vodie: He says things like they need to be said to college students who can handle the truth.

Vodie warned us against being spiritual pretenders. This means the way we live must match the things we say. Folks say, "Oh I'm going to heaven cause my parents are Christians, and I go to church every Sunday." Well, as Vodie put it, "Mama can save you a seat in church, but she can't save you a seat in glory." If going to church every Sunday makes you a Christian, that must mean standing in your garage will make you a car.

Those of us who are Christians and regularly attend church aren't perfect either. The divorce rate for people in the church is actually higher than those outside. In fact, Southern Baptists have the highest divorce rate in the church.

Last month our nation was faced with its biggest tragedy in years. Everywhere I turn I see "God bless America" and "We must pray for our nation." Why does it take a tragedy for our nation to turn to God?

Before, life depended on what Mother Nature had for us or what Buddha blessed us with or what Confucius had to say, but God was no where to be found. After Sept. 11, there is no Mother Nature, Buddha or Confucius. People wonder, "How could God allow this to happen?" He was there before Sept. 11. Were we really so far gone, it took something of that caliber to wake us up?

He has given us all so many gifts we fail to realize that they are from Him. We take each gift for granted and let our blessings go to waste. Martin Luther King said, "Unless your vision is high enough to reach heaven and broad enough to encompass eternity, then that is a wasted life."

We are unsatisfied with the things we have now. Vodie reminded us that we are not built for this place, that's why we are never satisfied. The best is yet to come and that is glory.

My outlook has changed drastically. I thank God for even the tiniest blessing. He was there before the tragedies, and He will be there long after. He is guiding me each day, and I know that one day I will be walking with Him. As Vodie put it, "By the time my head hits the ground, there will be a crown on it in glory."

Hey baby, let's motivate

My first college mid-term has passed and I've realized that I just might make it through college. I've known all my life that I'm physically capable of graduating from college, there was just a lack of motivation. Now I think I've found it.

Women have to be my motivation—where can you go wrong? They are God's gift to men. Beautiful, intelligent and... uh, beautiful (that sounds good doesn't it?). With a wonderful ratio of 3 to 1 the males on campus have an excellent opportunity at receiving "motivation."

If you look at all the positives, where can you go wrong? Women are intelligent enough to have their own cable channel that celebrates their apparent status as: "Strong, independent victims" and they're wise enough to place stick figure models on the cover of women's magazines (these same WOMEN mysteriously



Brandon Scott

grace the cover of men's magazines as well).

I have to consider the fact that my being a nice, sweet, intelligent and humble male will garner tons of admiration from the opposite sex. This has to explain why the drudges of the male gender spend countless hours with the upper-echelons of beauty, while Brandon has a "study group" with the Dragon Ball Z fan group and Beetlejuice's sister.

As my good friend Joe Dirt would say, "DANG!" I've struck out again. My personality draws about as much atten-

tion as a Barbie Hot Rod. So what, truthfully, is my motivation for college? John Madden Football for Playstation 2.

I spend hours perfecting my hand-eye coordination and bonding with males in the same predicament as myself. Madden is there for me whenever I need him: He doesn't judge me, he doesn't grade me and he damn sure doesn't ask why I can't hold a conversation with an incredibly intelligent, incredibly attractive female. Madden's voice is reassuring—letting me know that life is a game. You take risks, take the consequences, take the success, learn from failure, fight another day and always do what your heart tells you.

A video game has taught me all of life's lessons and I am grateful. Many have taken the Madden Challenge Course. Are you ready? Classes begin immediately at your nearest Playstation 2.

Mailbox

Satire has limits

Dear Editor:

I'm writing in response to the article "Isn't the Lifetime For Women Channel Enough?" in the Oct. 11 issue. I have read the editor's note regarding the section embracing satirical opinions. However, I believe that Jeremiah's article went too far when he stated, "This does nothing but make us hate you more for the little crap you do...!"

Hate is an extremely strong word. I'm sure that Jeremiah will defend himself saying it was a joke. When articles are written, regardless of their nature, we should NOT expect to undergo discrimination or to

be the recipient of degrading comments like the one Jeremiah wrote.

I hope that Jeremiah doesn't truly feel this way towards women. Our world is filled with individuals who hate other races, religions and sexes. I think it is inappropriate for Jeremiah to state he "hates" women, regardless if it was meant in a "satirical" manner. We should be trying to unite people, not separate them. Jeremiah has the freedom to write satirical articles, but PLEASE do not cross the line of being satirical and directing hate towards a group.

I think I should enlighten Jeremiah that many of the channels (SportsSouth, ESPN, Playboy, etc.) on television are intended for men. However, there are women who also

watch those channels, just as there are men who enjoy Lifetime. Jeremiah also mentioned he doesn't like to watch tampon commercials. Does he think females are thrilled to sit through penile erection commercials? Jeremiah, the simplest way to rid your "hate" of women directed channels/commercials is to TURN THE CHANNEL.

So, to all the women and men who do not feel hate towards other people, regardless of their sex, I say we rally together. Let's celebrate...to the nearest drugstore tampon aisle!

Julie Jernigan

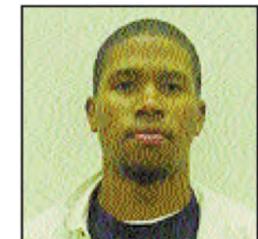
Editor's Note: for more letters on this subject visit www.valdosta.edu/spectator



Got something to say?

Open mic on this page every week at the Spectator.

How can students hold SGA accountable for their actions?



"They can possibly have SGA evaluations. They ought to have panels that see the SGA's contributions to the school."

Ralph Wright
Junior
Accounting



"The students should go to the group meetings to complain and to oversee the process."

Tas Smith
Junior
Political Science



"Attend meetings and create a web page where students can voice opinions and take polls on what the students are interested in"

Kate Gauling
Junior
English



"Students should be more informed about what is being talked about. SGA could be more open and ask students their opinion on questions that arise."

Crystle Roberson
Freshman
Business Management



"The most important thing is to be more open. If they are working for us we should know what they are doing through an open forum."

Brendan Griffis
Freshman
Biology



"Have them give a report of what they do. They need to make us know what their role is."

Nekeya Bryant
Junior
Nursing

Blazers barbeque Bison

Jason James
 Staff Writer

Riding the wave of last week's upending of Delta State, the Blazers came away with another victory against Harding University in front of a homecoming crowd of 8,072. The team will travel to Livingston, Ala., next week to take on West Alabama at 2 p.m. (ET) on Saturday.

VSU upped its record to 7-0 overall, 5-0 in Gulf South Conference play with a 51-17 victory over the Bisons (1-5, 1-4).

The Blazers came out roaring on offense, but turned the ball over three times in the first half, once on a fumble and twice from interceptions thrown by quarterback Dusty Bonner. Over all the team played flat according to defensive coordinator Kirby Smart. "We did not have a great

week at practice, but we won," Smart said.

Head coach Chris Hatcher said the team played unselfish football, continuing to show great blocking and compatibility.

"We're kinda beat up, but we are closer to where we need to be," Hatcher said.

Bonner continued to rack up yardage and touchdowns. He threw for 263 yards by completing 18-of-24 passes.

Bonner was responsible for four touchdowns while utilizing six different receivers.

Sophomore running back Aaron Jenkins ran the ball 15 times for 161 yards and two touchdowns. Jenkins also nabbed four passes for 94 yards.

The Blazers special teams play was highlighted by cornerback Shaunta Dismuke's 11-yard return of a blocked Harding punt.



Annie Johnson / The Spectator

VSU senior wideout Michael Greer avoids Bison line-backer Derek Ivory in last Saturday's 51-17 win.

The "Black Swarm" defense was outstanding according to Hatcher. The defense pulled down three interceptions; two of them by rover back Tabious Carter, who returned one for 20 yards and one for five yards.



#1 Valdosta St. vs. West Alabama

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Up Next:

VSU raids Tigers' den Saturday

Phillip Boyd
 Staff Writer

Following last weekend's 51-17 massacre of Harding at homecoming, the top-ranked Blazers (7-0, 5-0) look to continue their undefeated season this weekend against West Alabama (1-6, 0-5).

Last year VSU thumped the

Tigers 50-20, as Dusty Bonner led the way with six touchdowns. The Blazers are 18-1 all time against UWA. Kickoff is at 2 p.m. in Livingston, Ala.

Blazer Offense

The Blazers played well last week but were sloppy at times. In spite of three turnover, they still put 51 on the board. The Air Raid leads the conference in

scoring (49.4), pass efficiency (186.8) and passing touchdowns (30). This does not bode well for UWA, who has a tendency to give up the big play and has allowed 11 touchdowns through the air, second most in the GSC. Look for the Blazers

UWA preview — see page 7

GSC Standings

	GSC	Overall
Valdosta State	5-0	7-0
West Georgia	4-1	6-1
Central Arkansas	4-1	6-1
Arkansas Tech	4-1	5-1
Delta State	5-1	4-1
Arkansas-Monticello	5-2	4-1
North Alabama	2-3	3-3
Southern Arkansas	2-2	4-3
Harding	1-5	1-4
Ouachita Baptist	0-5	1-5
West Alabama	0-5	1-6
Henderson State	0-5	0-7

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 Look for the Legend

Lady Blazers add new faces

Matt Stewart
Staff Writer

The Gulf South Conference East division player of the year in women's basketball... gone. The fifth leading scorer in GSC and VSU history... gone.

VSU's Lady Blazer basketball squad lost center Tracy Sprolden due to graduation, but all is not lost for head coach Kiley Hill. The Lady Blazers, coming off a 15-12 season and a berth in the first round of the GSC, open the season Nov. 16 against the University of Tampa at the Complex, where VSU was 10-3 last year.

The team returns five players from last season, including returning starters Deanna Earl, Danielle Hernandez and Nichole Lowe.

Hill picked up two possible answers to the Sprolden dilemma in the off-season with the addition of freshman Courtney Parker and junior Jennifer Ehlers. Parker, a 6-foot-1 post player, and Ehlers, a 6-foot-2 transfer from Division I Troy State, will try to fill Sprolden's shoes.

"It's going to be a different variety of game for us this year," Hill said. "Every year is different with the personnel you have. Hopefully we will have another All-American come through, but right now we don't have that on paper so we're going to find out what will get the job done."

Hill's off-season recruiting class was bolstered by the addition of two more D-I transfers in Erin Green and Heather Wilson. Green, a junior guard,



Nathan White / The Spectator

Lady Blazers work on agility drills in the off-season in preparation for their Nov. 16 opener versus Tampa.

averaged 6.4 points with 88 assists and 42 steals for Elon College (NC) last season.

Wilson, a sophomore guard, will come to VSU after playing one season at South Florida.

UWA preview — continued from page 6

to keep piling up the yardage this week.

Tiger Defense

West Alabama is susceptible to the run, as evidenced by West Georgia's Nick Price, who ran roughshod over the Tigers for 185 yards and three touchdowns in the Bisons 35-14 loss last weekend to the Braves. Look for reigning GSC Offensive Player of the Week Aaron Jenkins to run wild.

Blazer Defense

VSU leads the GSC in scoring defense (13.1); enough said.

Tiger Offense

West Alabama could be in for a long day. They squeezed out

only 265 total yards last week against West Georgia.

Blazer Special Teams

The Blazers made some plays on special teams last week by blocking two punts. Look for the Blazers to keep up that sort of pressure.

Tiger Special Teams

UWA's punter Ben Thoma blasted one punt 74-yards last week and downed another inside the one-yard line in Carrolton. He also has a 54-yard field goal to his credit.

Bottom Line

Bonner throws, Jenkins runs, the Swarm swarms and the Blazers take the Toothless Tigers to the woodshed.

**Blazers 52
Tigers 13**

Deja vu; Jordan courts return again

When he said it the first time, we were shocked. He had nothing left to prove. The "Shot Heard Round the World" was this time a collective thud as the hopes of Chicago-land and many others went down in a mighty heap. His Airness had stepped off the throne at the tender age of 30.

He signed with the Birmingham Barons of the Southern League, Chicago's White Sox affiliate, to take a shot at baseball. Fortunately for all of us, it was a phase. Turns out MJ couldn't hit a curve... or a slider.

Two words is all it took. "I'm Back." And he was. He was far enough back to single-handedly whip the Atlanta Hawks his fourth game back.

Rustproof.

He had six championships in

his "final" six full seasons, to make no mention of all the scoring titles, and All-Star appearances. He retired, again, in January '99; this time "99.9 percent" sure he would never play again.

In deference to the tragedies of New York and Washington, MJ gave his "I'm Back, Part Deux" speech via a fax. He is going to donate this year's salary of \$1 million to relief efforts in those cities.

While the majority is glad to see His Airness back on the court again, some feel



Phillip Boyd

stabbed in the back because he is not back with the Bulls. I say that is Bull.

Granted, there is a long list of athletes who played forever with a team, only to have

their legend "tarnished" by playing in another uniform at the end of the line. Willie Mays is a popular example. The point is this: MJ will always be a Chicago Bull. If he can get his jollies playing for Washington at the age of 38, who am I to tell him he is wrong?

He is not going to tarnish his reputation as the greatest basketball player ever. That bald head has been on more high-light reels, cereal boxes, sports drinks, you name it, than anyone else. Not even that Tiger guy can keep up, and Jordan has been "retired" for three years. Now that is some reach.

But if he did somehow tarnish his legend—it is kind of ironic that he will play a game against the team that bronzed a statue outside of its stadium, at that stadium. We ought to take the opportunity to see the man in action one more time and just be grateful, and leave the worry about the legend to him.

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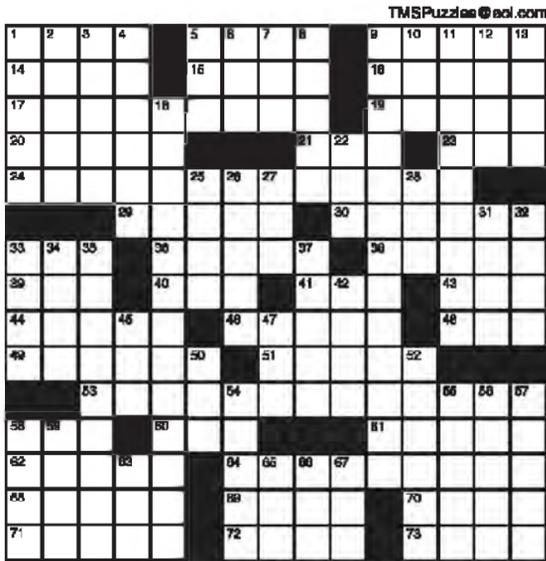
Features

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

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answers page 10

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

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| ACROSS | 1 In this place | 5 Separate | 9 Torn tickets | 14 Above | 15 Small combo | 16 Painter Matisse | 17 Packs heat | 19 Ryan or Tatum | 20 Waiting in the wings | 21 Crow's cry | 23 Picnic invader | 24 SUV's ancestors | 29 Irk | 29 Japanese horseradish | 31 Climbing plants | 33 Fire safety device | 38 Unruly group | 40 Hanoi holiday | 41 Figure of speech | 42 Unsuitable | 44 Became more severe | 33 Masticate |
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| 30 Iroquois tribe | 33 Truck compartment | 36 Cafeteria stack | 38 Water pitchers | 39 "Ben ___" | 40 "And I Love ___" | 41 ___ | 43 Vegas | 43 Ready to go | 44 Delete | 46 "Thou ___ not..." | 48 A couple | 68 Kiel or Suez | 69 Needle case | 70 Rachel or Simon | 71 Dawson or Gide | 72 Latvian | 73 Bump off | 34 Surrounding glow | 35 Parade group | 37 Great ___ Lake | 42 Came down to earth | 45 Newsman Donaldson | 47 Concealed | 50 Likable '50s candidate? | 52 Threaded fasteners | 54 Lucy's landlady | 55 Of musical sounds | 56 "Martha" or "Norma" | 57 "I Am Woman" singer | 58 Singllass | 59 Son of Judah | 63 ___ excellence | 65 Goddess of criminal folly | 66 Same old same old | 67 Mind the children |
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VSU sees stars

Michelle Taylor
Staff Writer

The stars don't just come out at night, they also come out at the planetarium.

The VSU Planetarium will open its season of shows with "Volcanoes: The Fiery Mountains of the Solar System," at 8 p.m. on Oct. 25. The show will be presented by Dr. Martha Leake, physics and astronomy professor. It will cover the start of volcano development and their relations to the planets that they cover.

All shows are free and are on a first-come-first-serve basis. They last an hour, and if weather permits, there is an observatory open house. The planetarium is on the third floor of Nevins Hall, and the Observatory is on the roof of Nevins Hall.

Other shows include, "The Star of Bethlehem" on Dec. 13, "A Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight: Global Warming," on Feb. 21, and "Light Pollution: A Veil Over the Heavens," on April 18.

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Hitting the slopes

Lindsey Giddens
Staff Writer

Hitting the slopes, French-Swiss ski instructors and an hour of activity credit sound like a dream come true.

Dr. Michael Maina, assistant professor for kinesiology and physical education, will be taking students to Boone, N.C., Dec. 16-19 for three days of skiing and snowboarding. This trip, now in its fourth year, includes two days at Appalachian Ski Mountain and one day at Beech Mountain.

"We offer this course for students to have the opportunity for a lifetime," Dr. Maina said. "It gives them exposure to something that they wouldn't get to experience."

A student can be registered in KSPE 1070 for beginner skiers or KSPE 1071 for intermediate skiers.

Prices for the trip vary depending on which activity a

student chooses and how many will stay in a room. For a four-person room, skiing is \$315 and snowboarding is \$337. The cost is only \$300 for students who own equipment.

All prices include three sessions of skiing or snowboarding instruction with the French-Swiss Ski College at Appalachian Ski Mountain, slope tickets, rental equipment, transportation and lodging for three nights at the Quality Inn in Boone, N.C.

Food is not included in the cost of the trip, but Dr. Maina suggests \$100-\$120 for food and other souvenirs. There is also a grocery store near the lodging.

Students must pay all fees up front. Once a student has paid, Dr. Maina will register the student in the class. The deadline for registration is Nov. 14. All but \$75 is refundable up until one week before the trip. After that, no money is refundable.

Fees must be paid either to Dr. Maina or Sue Lampert, student accounts. Checks can be made who handles short term loans at the Bursary.

There is also some financial aid available to students interested in this class. According to Lampert, students can obtain a short-term loan through student accounts. This is not through financial aid.

Students can also pay by credit card.

"In past years we have had about 25 students go with us, but this year we would really like to take up to 40," Dr. Maina said. "Just remember we will only take the first 40 that sign up."

For more information, contact Dr. Maina at 333-5906 or mpmaina@valdosta.edu. For a video of last years trip and more information, check out www.mpmaina.itgo.com.

Groove is in the

Ashlie Mash
Staff Writer

Dancing is an expression; whether you can hear the music or not.

According to Kimberly Godden, director of Special Services, a full house is expected at the Whitehead Auditorium as the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind dance troupe from St. Augustine, FL performs for the fourth year in a row to celebrate Disability Awareness Month.

The approximated 20-30 partial hearing and deaf costumed dancers will dance to music ranging from the 50s to popular hits of today, Godden said. At the end of the show, the high school students will

give information about their various disabilities as well as FSDB, the credit they are receiving for traveling with the group and answer any questions the audience may have.

Last year the dancers presented their routine in the Magnolia room where seating was standing room only. According to Godden, Dr. Tayloe Harding, department head of Music, has provided much larger Whitehead Auditorium where his class and others are normally held.

"If it wasn't for he [Dr. Harding] and his faculty, we wouldn't be able to have such a large audience," Godden said. "He agreed that it was something his students might want to see."

According to Godden, the

auditorium seats between 700-800 people, and the performance, a part of the diversity week activities, is open to all students and classes at VSU. Children from local schools Echols County, and Cairo are planning to attend the event.

"Usually people who see it come back, because it's just pure fun," Godden said. According to Godden, there are a lot of myths about those with hearing impairments.

"This group blows the myths out of the water," she said.

Ashlie Mash is a Spectator reporter and can be reached at lam1239@yahoo.com

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Mon. Oct. 22nd - Open 6:00 PM
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Editor's Note

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

BAR



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

Can I say

Jeremiah W. Bass
Staff Writer

For those of you who don't know already, a few weeks ago, late night talk show host Bill Maher's show [Politically Incorrect with Bill Maher] was pulled off the air by some ABC affiliates.

This was because of what Maher said about Pres. Bush's characterization of the terrorists as "cowards." Maher said of this remark, "We [the US military] have been the cowards lobbing cruise missiles from 2,000 miles away. That's cowardly. Staying in the airplane when it hits the building, say what you want about it, it's not cowardly."

Maher later apologized for his comments, saying, "In no way was I intending to say, nor have I ever thought, that the men and women who defend our nation in uniform are anything but courageous and valiant, and I offer my apologies to anyone who took it wrong."

Do I think he should have apologized? Yeah, it may have been the appropriate thing to do. BUT, let's not forget, peo-

ple say crap all of the time that they don't mean, or that may get taken out of context...it's called the "passion of the moment." It's when you're not afraid to say something sucks.

Don't ban Maher's show just because he's not afraid to "speak." If that were the case, I would have been exiled from VSU a long time ago.

For instance, I know that many people out there don't agree with stuff I write. Yet, I keep on writing it. Wanna ban me? Wanna start a protest? Go ahead...I'll bring the popcorn and sodas.

I said it once, and I'll say it again...the Parking Nazis need to find a new hobby and leave our fine automobiles alone. Take those tickets and shove 'em where the sun don't shine. Oops! See? I did it again! Go ahead, ban me!

Say what you want about my columns...feed me! Insults are like beer...they get better after you've had a few.

Whoa, did I just mention beer? What's my problem?

Are you gettin' my point? If not, the "I'm too slow 101 class" starts next semester.

Laura Justin
Staff Writer

I have to say it.

Oops, Britney did it again.

That is, she made a complete fool of herself at MTV's Video Music Awards, outdoing last year's soft-porn strip tease.

What's with MTV's obsession over Britney Spears? Take, for example, the pre-show interviews.

Darling Britney was in the same interview with Rolling Stone's Mick Jagger, arguably the most legendary band of our time. Those two aren't in the same galaxy when it comes to musical talent.

Another example is the lineup during the awards show. Does anyone find it disturbing that Britney was the finale per-

formance, that she performed after U2?

It must be her graceful dancing, wonderful singing voice and profound lyrics that landed her the final gig.

Gone are the innocent school days when she begged listeners to "hit her one more time," (I wish someone would), and all that's left are licentious proclamations of being a love slave. Um, Britney, are you sure you're still a virgin?

The more famous Britney Spears becomes, the less clothing she wears. At the Teen Choice Awards, Britney sported an unbuttoned shirt revealing a good two-thirds of her bra. Great example for the adolescent girls of America, Britney.

If I had it my way, I would zap her back into Mickey

Mouse land, making sure she brought her mouseketeer buds Christina Aguilera and Justin Timberlake along for the ride. But, hey, I don't call the shots at MTV, so rock on, Britney.



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