

Bailey responds to Living Wage

Blenda Link
Staff Writer

After a semester laden with meetings, a forum, a press conference and a demonstration held on campus without permission, Living Wage Campaign advocates find themselves going to the next level.

On Nov. 19, Dr. Bailey, VSU president, posted a memo addressed to all VSU classified employees about compensation. The memo explains the route VSU's allotment of money takes before it reaches employees' hands. The memo states that VSU's allocations for employee salaries come from the Board of Regents within the

University System, whose allocations come from "the budget adopted by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor." The memo also states that VSU's budget claims losses of \$1 million this year and \$2 million next year.

LWC advocate, Ben Speight, sophomore political science major, said Dr. Bailey's memo is vague.

"It's very cryptic," Speight said. "The language is written in 'legalese.'"

Speight also said he feels Dr. Bailey is trying to divert attention from himself.

"Our [LWC's] perspective is he's trying to shift the blame," he said.

Speight said the LWC has taken its concerns to the next level.

"We sent 16 information packets to all members of the Board of Regents," he said.

When asked what action LWC advocates want from Dr. Bailey, David Klier, senior sociology major, said they want open communication.

"[We want] a date and a time for us to sit down together," he said.

Dr. Bailey said he wrote the memo because he felt everyone needed to "know the rules."

"There's been some discussion on campus about salary increases," he said. "Everyone should know the rules of the game."

employees will not receive benefits of the increase until Oct. 1.

"You can't just go in and negotiate a salary increase," he said.

"We have to wait until we get our allocation [from the BOR]," he said.

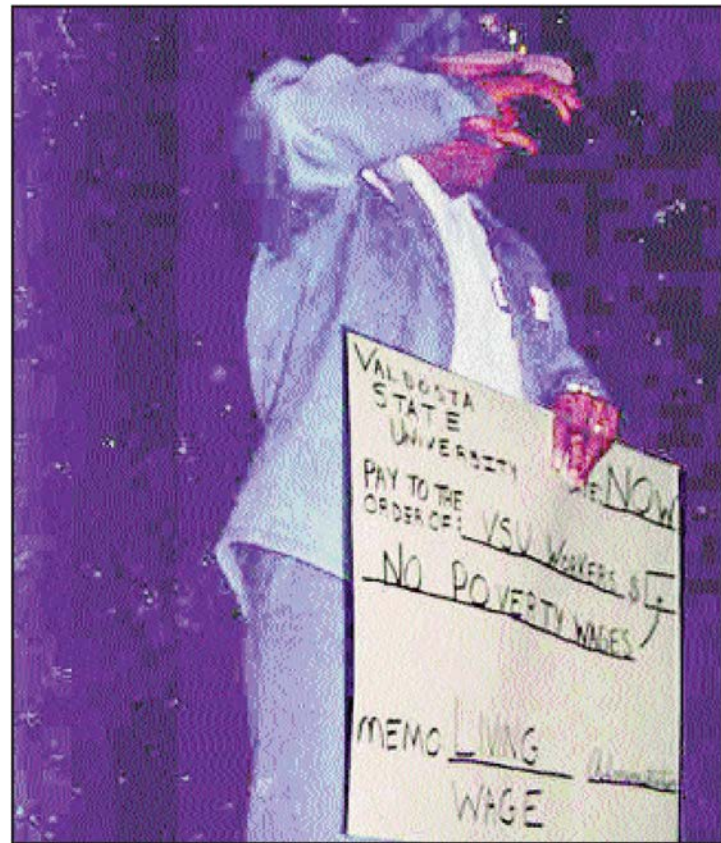
According to Bailey, one purpose of the memo was "to inform people that we [VSU administration] do not change salaries in the middle of the year."

He said if VSU employees would like to express concerns about increasing their wages they should first talk to their supervisor. He also said he is open to talking with anyone who would like to speak with him.

"I'll talk with anyone about anything, but I'm not going to make any changes without going through the line of command," Dr. Bailey said. "I do not do that."

"It starts out with the supervisors of the departments," he said. "You have disagreements with your salary, you should see your supervisor." He said the VSU administration was not intimidated by threats.

Dr. Bailey said he is proud of VSU's situation because of the number of applicants for jobs



Minori Ishibashi / Special to The Spectator

Henry Calhoun, Housing/Custodial worker, carries a sign calling for a raise in wages at LWC rally, Nov. 15.

each year.

"It [VSU] must be a pretty good place to work or we wouldn't have so many people wanting jobs here," he said.

Dr. Bailey has provided copies of a sheet outlining the cost distribution for entry-level

VSU employees based on VSU personnel data to SGA Vice President Cody Guined. At the SGA meeting Tuesday night, Guined said he had copies of this sheet for anyone who is interested.

Cost distribution for base pay of \$5.63/hour

Cost distribution compares actual take-home pay to true salary--net pay plus benefits (about 34 percent.) Below is a breakdown of benefits included in the available package for the lowest pay grade at VSU.

		<p>Benefits equal 36 percent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -FICA Match \$0.52 -Social Security \$0.43 -Basic Life \$0.07 -Holiday Pay \$0.33 -Vacation Pay \$0.33 -Sick Leave \$0.26 -Health Insurance \$1.12 Total \$3.06
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*Choice of health coverage can increase the total salary to as high as \$12.21/hour. Total salary excludes employee contribution for health insurance.

Living Wage Campaign Timeline

<p>Sept. 13</p> <p>-Fliers appear on campus about the Living Wage Campaign. A student organization, Students Against Violating the Earth, hosts a forum about VSU labor conditions.</p>	<p>Sept 25</p> <p>-LWC addresses 9-member administrative town panel at SGA's town hall meeting about wage increases.</p>	<p>Oct. 4</p> <p>-David Klier, LWC supporter, writes letter to editor of The Spectator admonishing the town hall meeting's atmosphere; calls for "another public meeting with the administration [...]" Ben Speight writes guest column in The Spectator outlining LWC's goals</p>	<p>Oct. 18</p> <p>-LWC addresses SGA, propopses base pay rate hike to \$8.50 an hour for VSU employees--fails SGA senate vote: 18 to 13, with 2-abstentions.</p>	<p>OCT 31</p> <p>-Dr. Louis II. Levy, acting vice president for Academic Affairs, sends Leigh Touchton, local NAACP president and VSU biology instructor and laboratory coordinator, letter of nine months' notice that she will not be employed at VSU after July 31, the beginning of the new fiscal year.</p>	<p>Nov. 14</p> <p>-LWC holds a press conference. About 15 people show up. Rev. Floyd Rose, a member of the People's Tribunal and NAACP, speaks of the letter Touchton received from Levy. LWC says Touchton was fired because she is the only vocal faculty proponent of the Living Wage.</p>	<p>Nov. 15</p> <p>-LWC holds demonstration in front of Odum Library without permission from Sage Archer, facilities coordinator. About 100 people show.</p>	<p>Nov. 19</p> <p>-Thanksgiving Break; Dr. Bailey sends compensation memo throughout campus addressed to VSU classified employees.</p>	<p>Nov. 26</p> <p>-Archer sends Klier an e-mail stating that SAVE may not reserve VSU facilities for the rest of the academic year. The e-mail states that SAVE violated the two-week advance notice policy for reserving rooms.</p>
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New president expected by Jan. 1

Leah F. Cassorla
Staff Writer

Just when it was beginning to look as though we might never find a replacement for Dr. Bailey, the Presidential Search and Advisory Committee has announced that it expects to have a president chosen by the end of this month.

"We've had several iterations of interviews, as you know," Dr. Fred Ware, professor of business and chair of PSAC, said. "We think the uncertainty of not having a chancellor was causing some of the problems."

Dr. Ware also said that this month's round of interviews, the fourth since the search began should be the last. According to Dr. Ware, the importance of having a chancellor named to the Board of Regents makes all the difference.

"Stability is the word," Dr. Ware said. It's not just a rallying around Dr. Meredith, though his reputation is very

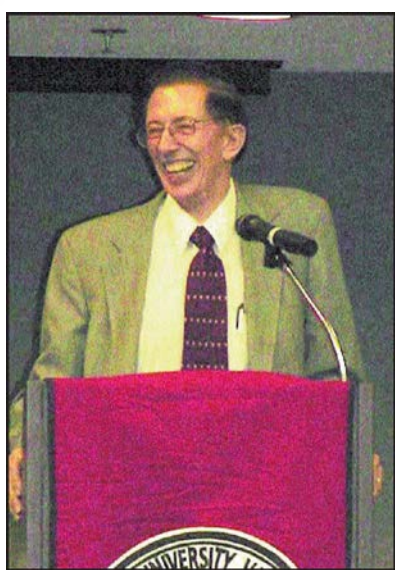
solid."

According to Dr. Ware, the greatest dilemma is that the PSAC and A.T. Kearney, Inc., the executive search firm hired to help in the search, are recruiting people who are not necessarily looking for a new job.

"We have to convince them to pull up roots and move to Valdosta," Dr. Ware said.

With a chancellor on board, recruiting becomes easier because candidates know with whom they will work and can meet that person in advance.

Though no one expected the search to last this long, Dr. Ware said it was unavoidable. The search was supposed to be completed by May 11, with the list of candidates going to the chancellor. The decision was scheduled for three weeks after that. About the same time the first list of candidates was given to the chancellor, Dr. Portch announced his retire-



ment. This announcement, according to Dr. Ware negatively affected the search.

"It was a series of unavoidable events," Dr. Ware said. "There's nothing we could have done differently."

If upcoming interviews yield a list of candidates, the new chancellor will be asked to narrow the field, and then a hiring decision should be announced by the beginning of January.

Departments looking to ease growing pains

Michelle Taylor
Staff Writer

VSU's growth spurt this semester has ended and preparations for next semester are beginning.

Though enrollment was up 10 percent this semester, Walter Peacock, director of Admissions and Enrollment Management, says spring semester will not see such drastic growth.

"In the spring, enrollment always drops," Peacock said. "History has shown that it drops, plus, you can't just replace all the students who graduate in December."

According to Peacock, there are many reasons as to why there is a drop.

"There's homesickness, money reasons and of course, mom and dad pulling kids out due to grades," he said. "There are many, many reasons."

The retention rate is usually calculated at the end of the school year.

"Retention is calculated from

fall to fall," Peacock said. "I can say that we have a 72 percent retention rate from the freshmen that came in fall 2000."

Admissions is not the only department that will see a decrease in students. According to Joe Mattachione, director of



Housing and Residence Life, residence halls will see about 130 students leave the dorm.

"We will be close to full spring semester," Mattachione said. "We don't plan on having

a waiting list."

Class number and size may also be affected.

"Spring semester may see some classes added or classes may add seats to certain sections," Peacock said. "It all depends on the funding and if there are available teachers for extra classes. But it'll be tough with the budget cuts this year."

Gov. Roy Barnes asked units of the University System of Georgia to cut their budgets by 10 percent. This means that VSU will have to cut \$1.1 to \$2 million dollars from the budget this year.

In preparation for spring semester, Tommye Miller, VSU bookstore director, expects to provide more copies of books for students.

"In comparison to fall, we do see an increase in a need for books," Miller said.

Some students had to struggle to get classes after finding out their payments for fall were not entered. To prevent this

Growth
see page 3

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This issue

Ok, so you're graduating...
NOW WHAT?!
get tips on finding a job in the
the
Graduation Tab--
inside.

Web Watch

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find in the paper each week, you'll find short length film explanations of national stories, sports and movies. The WebSpectator also contains articles not found in the print

version, as well as full versions of articles and columns that have been cut for space. There's so much more to find online. Check it out at www.valdosta.edu/spectator.

Campus Happenings

www.valdosta.edu/spectator

POLICE BEAT

November 27

Nathaniel McNulty Lanham, 20, of 605 W. Alden Ave., was arrested at 3:40 p.m. at VSU Blazer Boulevard for improper left turn and misdemeanor possession of marijuana. He is a VSU student.

November 28

Someone took a cutting torch, torch handle and a welding head from the storage room on Langdale Hall's fifth floor between 9 a.m. on Nov. 20 and 9 a.m. on Nov. 28.

November 30

Someone entered a student's room in Patterson Hall between 11:05 p.m. and 1:30 a.m. Dec. 1 and stole a lap top computer, computer mouse, wireless Internet card, Spanish CD and stereo connection/hook up adapters.

Today

African American Studies hosts a Harambee meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Nevins Hall 1138. For more information, call Dr. Shirley Hardin, director, at 249-4843.

VSU's new biology club, Sigma Prime, hosts a presentation on careers with a science degree by Dr. Linda Chamberlin, associate professor of biology.

The presentation starts at 5 p.m. in the Bio/Chem Building 1025.

For more information, e-mail Paul Jones, president, at paulj_21@yahoo.com.

Sigma Prime offers biology study groups each day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. from now until Dec. 14 on the second floor of the Bio/Chem Building outside the biology department office where the furniture is. Free snacks will be provided.

For more information, e-mail Paul Jones, president, at paulj_21@yahoo.com.

Students interested in participating in the annual "Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative" program

should call Dr. Beverley Richardson Blake ASAP at the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs and Multicultural Affairs at 333-5643. Dr. Blake can also be reached by e-mail at brblake@valdosta.edu.

The program is scheduled for Jan. 17 at 7 p.m. in the Bio/Chem Building auditorium.

Friday

The Student Health Center provides free cholesterol/diabetes and blood pressure screenings for VSU students from 8:30 to 10 a.m. Cost for staff and faculty is \$5, payable at the Student Health Center. Those being screened should not eat or drink anything eight hours before testing.

For more information, e-mail Angie Willis at awills@valdosta.edu.

The Student Health Center offers Hepatitis B vaccines to VSU students, faculty and staff from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This is a series of three shots, costing \$30 each. Shots can be paid for individually or all at once.

Fees should be paid at the Bursary. Bring receipt of pay-

ment when coming to get each shot.

For more information, e-mail Angie Willis at awills@valdosta.edu.

Dr. Aristotelis Santas' Philosophy 2010 class performs a play, "Passenger 56," about terrorism and discrimination with regard to the events of Sept. 11.

The performance starts at 1 p.m. at the University Center Theatre.

For more information, call Dr. Santas at the philosophy department at 333-5949.

Saturday

The South Georgia Fine Arts Coalition hosts its grand opening gala of the Quitman Gallery at 7 p.m. on 109 East Screven

St., Quitman, Ga.

VSU art professors Dick Bjornseth and Mich T. Schmidt and eight other south Georgia artists will have art on display.

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

The VSU Blazers basketball team faces Southern Wesleyan at the P.E. Complex at 7:30 p.m.

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

Sunday

The Valdosta Symphony Orchestra hosts its holiday program, "Christmas Moods," at 3 p.m. in Whitehead Auditorium at the Fine Arts Building.

Tchaikovsky's "Nutmcracker Suite" and "The Many Moods of Christmas" by Robert Shaw

Submissions for **Campus Happenings** can be sent to Blendalink at bjlink@valdosta.edu or brought to the Spectator offices on the second floor of the University Union on VSU's main campus.

and Robert Russell Bennett will be performed.

Performers include the VSU concert choir and Valdosta Symphony Orchestra community chorus, directed by David Lee Johnson as well as soloists Carol Mikekelsen, soprano, and Johnson, baritone.

VSU students and their children (limit three children) get in free with VSU ID, courtesy of Target.

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

Monday

The VSU jazz ensembles will perform at 7:30 p.m. in Whitehead Auditorium at the Fine Arts Building. Admission is free.

For more information, call

the music department at 333-5804.

Tuesday

Larry Scully, piano, will perform "Beethoven II," a faculty recital, at 7:30 p.m. in Sawyer Theater at the Fine Arts Building.

For more information, call the music department at 333-

Looking for the rest of the Found Property listings, Police Beat, and Campus Happenings listings? Search for them on our web site: www.valdosta.edu/spectator.



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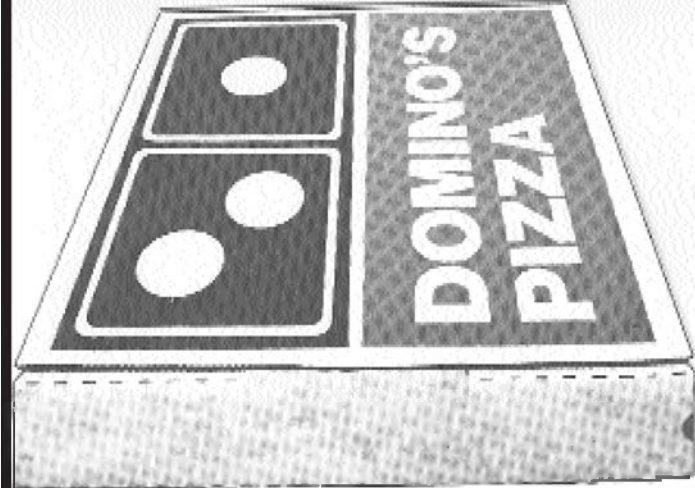
Baked Cornish Hens
Carved Honey Baked Ham
Wild Rice w/ Scallions & Fresh Cranberries
Mushroom Pie
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Today

UV Index: 4 Low

Hi: 79
Low: 54

Friday

UV Index: 3 Low

Hi: 79
Low: 53

Saturday

UV Index: 3 Low

Hi: 73
Low: 44

Sunday

UV Index: 3 Low

Hi: 69
Low: 45



Olympic torch begins journey in Atlanta

The Olympic torch began its 13,500-mile journey Dec. 4 in Atlanta. The torch will travel more than 400 miles a day and during its journey will pass hands about 11,500 times. The torch will arrive in Utah for the Feb. 8 opening ceremonies in Salt Lake City. The torch began as Muhammad Ali, 1960 boxing gold medalist, gave the torch to Peggy Flemming, 1968 ice skating gold medalist and her former coach to begin the relay. The torch will pass through 46 states before the end of its journey.

Heat wave continues

Northerners, who usually see ice and snow by now, are experiencing the warmest weather they have had in forty years. The weather has stayed in the 60s and 70s since the beginning of fall, and forecasters do not expect any major winter weather anytime soon. Many cities, such as Philadelphia, have broken heat wave records set in the 1960s. The South, which usually experiences milder cold weather than the North, has hit highs in the '80s.

Former Dekalb County sheriff suspected in Sheriff-Elect slaying

It's been almost a year since the death of Dekalb County Sheriff-Elect Derwin Brown, and police now have a lead. The former sheriff, Sidney Dorsey, has been charged with the murder of Brown. Brown was gunned down at his home Dec. 15: three days before he was to be sworn in as sheriff. On Monday, an informant led police to a weapon suspected in the slaying. The weapon, a Tec-9 semiautomatic pistol, is a supposed favorite weapon for drug dealers. At this time, no additional arrests have been made.

Sanctuary announced for medicinal marijuana

The West Hollywood Center, created in 1996, provides patients with marijuana to treat the symptoms and effects of AIDS, glaucoma, epilepsy, cancer and other serious diseases. The city council in West Hollywood has declared West Hollywood a sanctuary for marijuana use. The announcement is only a resolution, but not a law. Federal law still prohibits the use of any illegal drug, medicinal purpose or not.

Growing Pains: Fall growth spurt slows

Growth

continued from page 1

happening again, the bursary plans to double check students' accounts to make sure all the financial aid students are to receive is included in the account.

"On Jan. 7 we are going to look at students accounts," Bob Green, bursar, said. "We will make sure that the authorized aid has been accepted and make sure that students have received all the aid they were supposed to get."

The bursary is trying to

expand ways to pay for fees. It is in the process of making it possible to pay online.

As of now, students may pay fees over the phone by credit card, or by visiting the bursary, located on Patterson Street.

According to Green, students should also check to make sure their fees are paid in full.

"Check your accounts Jan. 4 and 5, as well as Jan. 7 through the 11," Green said.

Fees are due Dec. 14. The bursary will call students who have partially paid their fees by Jan. 7. Classes will be dropped starting Jan. 7, according to

Green. Students who have paid nothing will be dropped as well.

Growth has been both a blessing and a curse. According to the VSU Bookstore, the enrollment increase has been a blessing.

"We are always happy to see new VSU students," Miller said. "Our textbook sales have improved as well as other items in the store."

Mattachione agrees that the increased enrollment helped his department as well.

"It's always a good thing," he said. "Raising standards has

attracted more students, and students are now of a higher caliber than ever before. It's a good thing; good for the whole university."

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

Meeting lasts nine minutes

MaryEllen McConnell
Staff Writer

Food and a party followed a nine-minute SGA meeting Tuesday evening. Thirty-nine senators attended.

Next year's meeting schedule was announced. All meetings next semester, except on Feb. 26, will be at the Bio/Chem Building Auditorium.

Nick Overstreet, SGA president, announced Student Life turned down the bill for change machines. SGA cannot pursue this any further because it is only its responsibility to write the bills, according to Overstreet.

Overstreet also had a meeting with Dr. Hugh Bailey, VSU president, earlier this week to discuss the possibility of pro-

viding the campus with a more versatile One Card system. In theory this system would allow students to use their One Card at businesses such as Wal-Mart and Papa John's.

One of the major problems that Overstreet mentioned about this idea is the difficulty in controlling the purchase of alcohol. The One Card cannot be used to purchase alcohol because of Federal code 20 section 1011i: a state university will lose funding if use of alcohol by students is encouraged or ignored.

Before adjourning the meeting, senators voted Justin Martin via general consensus into the last senior position in the senate.

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College Degree: Valdosta State University
Cum Laude Bachelor of Science

Specialty: Family Practice with Obstetrics

Board Certification By: The American Board of Family Practice

Member: The American Academy of Family Physicians

Medical Degree: Medical College of Georgia
Augusta, GA, Class of 1995

Internship & Residency: Family Medicine
The Medical Center
Columbus, Georgia

Practice and Experience: Private Practice, Elberton, GA

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News



Photo Illustration by Annie Johnson / The Spectator

Credit cards may have a lot of good deals, but those "good deals" can turn sour if students do not read the fine print. Bad deals usually result in cut-up credit cards.

Shopping for plastic

Jaime Peck
Staff Writer

It's a difficult decision for most.

Students get credit card applications every day but don't know what to look for in getting a credit card.

According to Irma Whitten, director of Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Southwest Georgia, college students should apply for their first credit card through their parents' bank because the bank considers their parents' banking relationship and credit history. Many credit card companies require students have at least one of their parents cosign to even get a credit card.

"I have no idea what the interest rate is on my Visa Platinum card," sophomore Fiona Farrell, a theatre major, said. "I got it through my dad and he pays it off when I use it."

Whitten said the dangers of credit cards have to do with the owner's lack of personal responsibility, resulting in the misuse of the card. The two main misuses of credit cards are getting cash out of the ATM with it, which sometimes charges large fees and interest on the cash, plus a fee from the ATM itself, and using the card in excess and never paying it off.

Freshman Yokeia Wright, a business and marketing major, said she got her Bank of America Visa debit/credit card when she signed up for her checking account. It does not

charge a cash advance fee when she gets money out of a Bank of America ATM.

Whitten advises students to "shop" for a credit card and not to get the first card they're approved for.

"Look for a card with no annual fee and a low interest rate," Whitten said. "Don't be fooled by a low introductory rate."

She defines a low interest rate as 10 to 15 percent and a high interest rate as anything above 16 percent.

Senior Adam Rogers, an exercise science major, stated that his USA Mastercard has a 6.9 percent fixed rate.

"I got it for emergencies, mainly, and it had easy approval," he said.

An annual fee is a charge certain credit cards require customers pay at the end of each year of use. Some annual fees are as high as \$72.

"The annual fee is just another way credit card companies make money," Whitten said. "Those who pay off their balance every month don't pay any interest charges, so credit card companies make money off them this way."

To get a credit card, credit card companies ask potential cardholders to fill out an application either over the phone, on the Internet or with an actual paper application, according to Whitten. They ask for personal information, such as your social security number, if you have a job, how long you've been employed, your name and address, and your total yearly

income. Then they can run a credit report, a detailed list of how you pay your debt, which determines if you'll get a credit card and how high your credit limit will be. Credit reports are run through the three major credit agencies, Equifax, Transunion and Experian.

"The more times you apply for credit, the worse your credit rating gets," Whitten said. "It looks like you're getting desperate to get credit anyway you can."

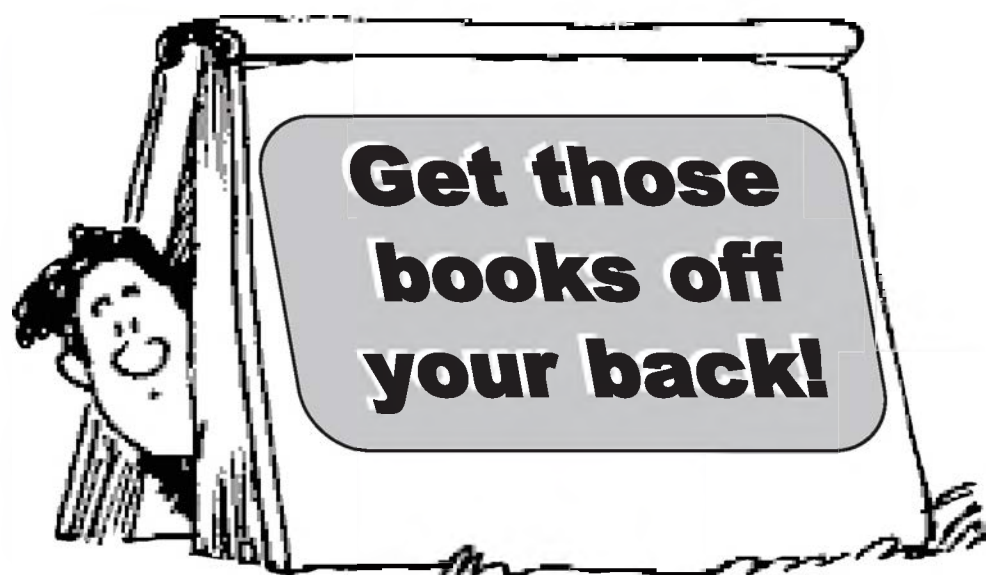
Whitten said you'll know you're approved for a credit card if the actual card comes to you in the mail.

According to Whitten, the keys to maintaining good credit are to pay your bills on time and only have two credit cards maximum. Excessive overdrafts from checking accounts could cause bad credit if they are turned over to a collection agency.

"Students should really only have one credit card," Whitten said.

She advises students to not get caught up in promises made by credit card representatives at orientation or other campus wide functions. She said credit card companies are in abundance at these types of events, and they usually offer students a wide variety of freebies to entice them to get a credit card.

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



Take your books to any of these locations to serve you:

- 1) VSU Bookstore
- 2) North Campus
- 3) Main Campus Between Nevin & West Hall

Mon-Thur, Dec 10-13 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.,
Friday, Dec 14 9 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.

VSU Bookstore Only

Mon-Tue, Dec 17-18 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.

The VSU Bookstore pays

up to 50 percent of the new book price for books that will be used for classes at VSU next semester, regardless of whether your book is new or used. All this semester, we have been working hard with academic departments, getting their book requests for next semester's classes so that we can offer you the best possible prices.

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While used books may be brought in at other times for price quotations, the best time to sell back your books is during finals week. The sooner you sell your books, the better your chances of getting 50 percent. During finals week, our inventories are the most depleted and we know which books will be required for next semester. By the first day of next semester, we usually can't pay you 50 percent because we've already stocked enough copies of the books we need. It is also a good idea to sell your books as you finish each semester rather than waiting until graduation. The average life of a textbook is two years from the copyright date. Outdated editions usually have no value and cannot be resold.

Sample Titles Buyback Price

This is only a partial listing.

AUTHOR	TITLE	PRICE
Adler	Understanding Human Communication	\$28.00
Bett	Drawing	\$31.00
Billstein	Problem Solv. Appr to Math 7th ed	\$14.00
Brown	Chemistry	\$50.00
Clouse	Student Writer	\$21.00
Dodds	Ready Reference Handbook-w/internet guide	\$17.00
Duffy	Motor Speech Disorders	\$37.00
Gay	Educational Research	\$35.00
Hill	Chemistry & Life	\$49.00
Mack	Norton Anthology World Masterpieces Vol 1	\$26.00
Mack	Norton Anthology World Masterpieces Vol 11	\$26.00
Moody	Coming of Age in Mississippi	\$3.00
Slavin	Educational Psychology (set)	\$37.00
Tobin	Asking about Life	\$44.00
Tortora	Prin. of Anatomy & Physiology	\$51.00

This is only a partial listing.

Watch for the Buyback signs on Campus.

VSU Bookstore



Need More Information? Contact Mrs. Liz Rose, Textbook Department Manager, at 259-5029 or Mrs. Tommye Miller, Bookstore Manager, at 333-5666.

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Tues - Kids eat free with paying adult

Wed - Buckets of Bud/Bud Light - 5 for \$6⁹⁹

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The Spectator

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Simmer down now

Let's not go starting any trouble. Life would be a whole lot easier for everyone, if we would all just keep our mouths shut and not point out the inconsistencies between what's said and what's done around here.

But the gap between what we're told and what we see as a university community is vast, and needs to be addressed.

Each year, for one week exactly, the University tells us that we should celebrate our differences and that diversity of religion is a good thing. Then, during the rest of the year, the university clearly negates a Constitutional mandate for separation of church and state by celebrating Christian holidays with Christmas trees and Easter egg hunts. Meanwhile, we have no regulation protecting students from academic penalty for celebrating non-Christian holidays.

The University regularly speaks of doing best by its employees, but treats a student and staff effort at improving wages by ignoring them and calling it a non-issue—until, that is, those students and staff demonstrate. Suddenly, there's an issue and the administration is willing to discuss it. What's lacking here is the basic respect required for listening to new ideas before judging them.

The University insists it cares about the environment and campus beauty, but in the past two years has cut down more than 13 rare and old-growth trees—trees the administration itself called irreplaceable.

Well, if you're going to talk the talk, you better walk the walk.

Students groups regularly demand it. The Faculty Senate regularly demands it. The Spectator regularly demands it.

But when it comes down to action, we are told again and again: Now, don't go starting any trouble.

Why speak out? Because the difference between what VSU says and what it does measures its integrity.

Because the fruit of silence is oppression.

Because "trouble" is only trouble to a status quo unwilling to meet its own ideals.

Spectator opinion written by Leah F. Cassorla

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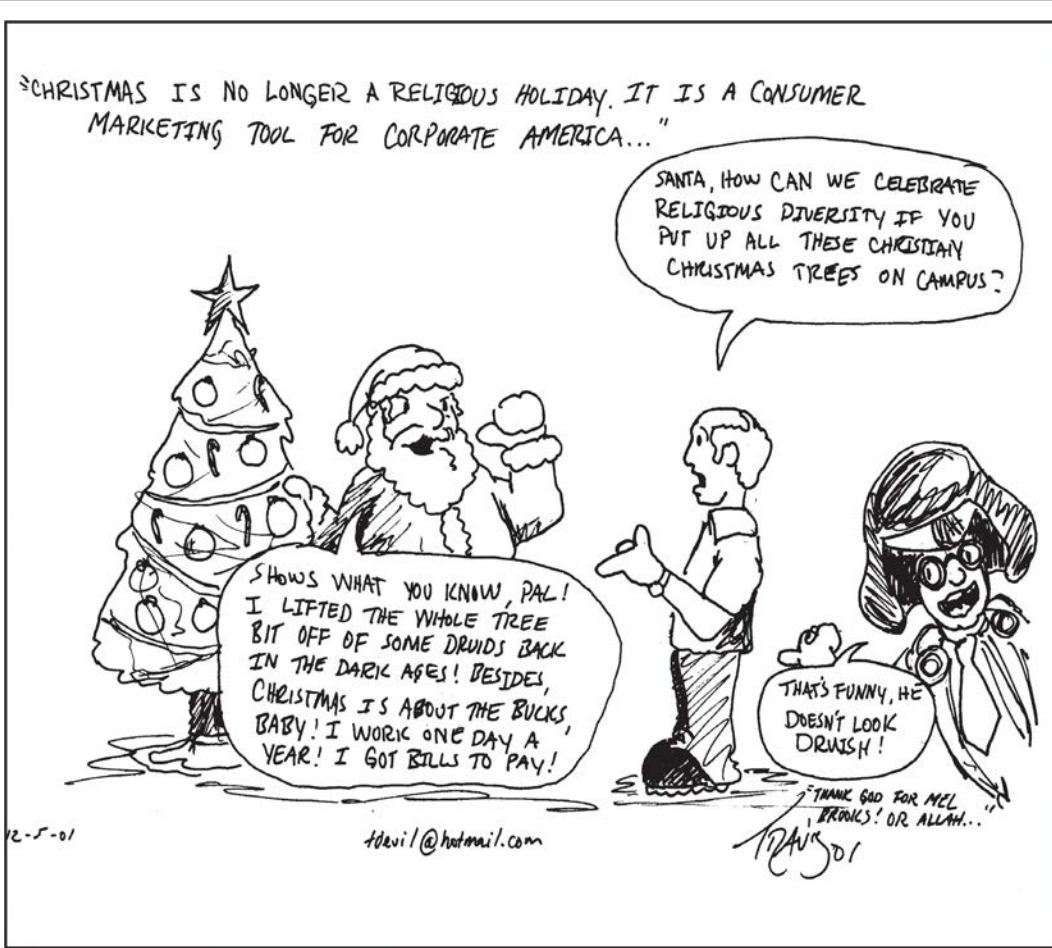
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Letters must include name, year in school, major, job title or other appropriate identification and phone number for verification. Letters should be no longer than 300 words in length. Letters are subject to editing for style, length, grammar, and libelous material. Not all letters are published. Letters should be typed and turned in with a disk, or e-mailed as an attachment.



Substance over sex

In the battle of the networks to compete with cable TV's edgy and uncensored fare, a recent special on ABC scored unexpected attention - from the government.

"The Victoria's Secret Fashion Show" opened more than a few eyelids when its televised lingerie exhibition uncovered body areas seldom seen on network TV. It also prompted about 600 telephone calls and e-mails to the Federal Communications Commission, according to Commissioner Michael Copps.

The viewers had their own undies in a knot over the near lack of knickers on the program's fashion models. One of the complainants happened to be Copps' 27-year-old daughter, who is a new mother.

ABC expressed surprise at the negative reaction. After all, the network heads intoned,

viewers were warned. The program was rated "TV-14 D, S, L." In the television ratings code, that means "This program is not recommended for viewers under age 14 because of its dialogue, sexual content and language."

But to most viewers that's about as meaningful as a license plate number. They're still waiting for a rating system they can understand.

Rating? How about "K" for "ka-ching," the sound of cash registers?

This program was essentially a 60-minute infomercial interrupted mostly by commercials for - what else? - Victoria's Secret lingerie. ABC is fending off complaints while celebrating its biggest audience in the 9 p.m. Thursday time period so far this season - 12.4 million viewers.

But then, what were the other

network choices during that time slot? You could turn to CBS' "CSI," which won its biggest audience ever with a story line about S&M sex. Or you could turn to Fox, where "Temptation Island" brought together young, healthy, unmarried and scantily-clad couples in a "reality" show that nudges the participants to cheat on their partners.

And network executives wonder why they are losing viewers to cable and other media.

The answer's no secret. For years they have insulted viewers with unimaginative junk, and their only answer now is to copy the prurient material coming from their upstart competitors.

(c) 2001, Chicago Tribune

Mailbox

Student wants a real plan

Dear Editor:

As freshmen at VSU, there are certain things we have to do to be here. The worst one is to have to sign up for an outrageous meal plan. Come on, \$1142 for fifteen weeks of food is enough to feed a family of four for the same amount of time. We all know that the food is not that great anyway. I thought they were supposed to offer variety. Then there is the whole matter of the excess money that we don't use. Say we get the 21 meals a week meal plan, the most "economy"

plan, and we actually eat all the meals, the school is steal--oops, I mean still--making off with around \$75 dollars. Then there is the deal with the 14 or 10 meals a week meal plans. The food services say to get these if we won't eat all 21 meals. If we get the 14 meals a week, we only save a whole \$30. We would save that in a week by not eating dinner. That's really a big save. The 10 meals aren't better.

Now let's talk about the service. How many of you have been in line at Palms, The Blazer or the UC and they have told you that they are out of out of something? Most times, it is the entrée. It happens more often than you think. I was at the UC Sunday. First they ran out of chicken tenders, then they ran out of chicken wings.

When the people in line asked what they were going to serve next, they said what ever the cook could find. Come on. What is going to happen when the Blazer Grill is closed for most of the spring semester for the remodeling for the new food service? The UC and Palms will be the only places for us to eat. The UC will be the only place to eat on the weekends. I think the staff has some planning to do. When VSU has more than 9,000 students this semester, and the majority are freshmen who have the meal plan, why don't they order enough food to feed all of us at a reasonable price?

Tamber Ward
Freshman
Secondary Education



Got something to say?

Open mic on this page every week at the Spectator.

Do you think that VSU is hypocritical in its administration of policy?



"Yes. The students' interests are not put first in decisions. They don't consult with other firms that voice the students' opinions."

LaMichael Hendrix
Junior
Speech
Communication



"Yes. I think they are in it for themselves."

Quincy Pou
Senior
Criminal Justice



"Yes. They say that they try to help students, but they help them only as long as it helps the university as a whole."

Caroline Benton
Senior
Communications



"No. All of the professors and faculty are willing to help the students."

Crystal Craig
Junior
Biology



"Yes. For instance the Sigma Nu incident went to different boards, but nothing really happened"

Shunnette Briscoe
Senior
Criminal Justice



"No. I think that they are giving everyone a fair shot."

Brad Bamford
Junior
Computer
Information Systems

All you need is love



Beth Owen

Don't take anything you may receive this holiday season for granted. Especially the chance you are given to spend time with those closest to you.

It has been almost three months since the attack on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, and we can all see the repairs Father Time is making. Holiday shopping still continues, lights are being put up and school semesters still end with one final attempt to drive students mad.

But this year is different.

This year I hope everyone recognizes their mortality. This year I hope all students hug their parents, brothers and sisters one extra time. And then one more.

Everything can be gone in an instant. The last burden anyone should bear should be one that goes something like: "If only I had told them I love them..."

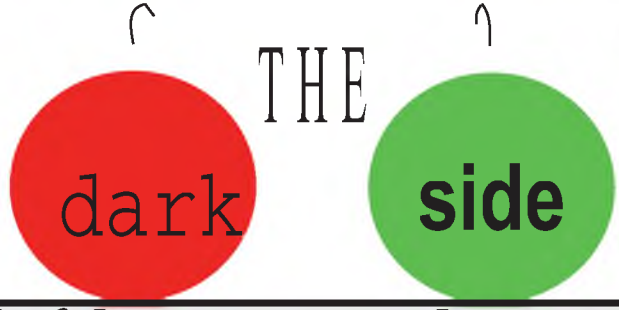
Use this time at home wisely. Family reunions during the holidays are only what you make of them. I hear so many people complain about how their families "drive them crazy" at Christmas or Thanksgiving. I bet your father's endless questions about school would be charming if you knew today would be the last time you ever saw him. Let your mom fuss about your hair and clothes; she's your mom and she can do that. She loves you.

As 2002 approaches, I am sure many of us want to put the terrible tragedies of this year behind us. But be careful: Learn from the horrible things that have happened and do not simply repress the bad memories. Don't let time give you amnesia. Remember the families who have huge voids in their hearts this holiday. Realize there is no guarantee in life other than time will run out. It's just a question of when. Make the most of the time you have right now.

Saturday I volunteered at Winterfest downtown, helping kids get their pictures made with Santa. Yes, all the kids were adorable, but one little boy really stood out to me. When Santa asked him what he wanted for Christmas, his response was simply "love." Isn't that what we all want? That story may sound like a Hallmark cards, but it happened. Don't forget to make sure and give plenty of love to those close to you this year. Wrap it however you like, but love is the most important gift.

Beth Owen is a Spectator columnist and can be contacted at bethluv45@hotmail.com

Editor's Note



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

merry xmas vsu

Ho ho ho...and a bottle of rum, jack daniels, some new socks, a sweater, eggnog and some real sleep...

Jeremiah W. Bass Staff Writer

You want to know how to figure out if you're getting old? Ask yourself, "What do I want for Christmas anyway?"

I thought about it, and I can't really think of anything I want for Christmas [besides Tyra Banks and Jessica Alba].

think of possible gifts for yourself? I don't know, maybe you could ask Santa for a piece of bin Laden's goatee.

Another idea for a gift is gluing yourself to a bed, locking yourself in a room for 24 full hours and sleeping your ass off.

which they will supply Gore with some loud rock n' roll music to liven up the audience once they fall asleep.

the elixir, of course. I guess I wasn't daydreaming last year when I saw some dude with a big, white beard, rosy cheeks and a red jump suit on with four little guys reeking of spiced rum, as they passed by me in a convertible.

Chris Ober Staff Writer

Cable can be a great thing when it comes to the distribution of information. But, sometimes, there is just too much info to take in at one time.

channels offer so much news to the public that they seem to run out of things to say.

works have something else to talk about. But, the same problem exists. There is just a limited amount of information available to them.

leaders being taken. The other thing that these "news" channels are doing during this time of conflict is reporting unconfirmed information to the public.

which they will supply Gore with some loud rock n' roll music to liven up the audience once they fall asleep.

Adam Platto Staff writer

Supposedly, college students have to take the Regents' test to prove that they know how to effectively write.

properly? The IOWA test, PSATs, SATs, and the ever so condescending graduation test, have bombarded us through childhood.

spending 12 years in this state's wonderful public education system, I am still being forced to take tests to prove that I can function on the same educational level as the rest of society.

take the Regents' test? Maybe the Board of Regents' is using the test as a moneymaker. All I am trying to say here, ladies and gentlemen, is that the Regents' test goes against everything college is supposed to be.

Advertisement for Courtyard Apartments featuring a swimming pool and modern buildings. Text includes: "Tired of the Dorms? Hurry! Reserve your Space For Next Semester." and "480 Murray Rd. 912-259-9400 Fax 912-259-0550 www.universitycourtyard.com"

Advertisement for House of Dreams featuring a house image. Text includes: "House of Dreams would like to thank VSU, Remerton and Valdosta, for the warm welcome and wonderful response we have received." and "House of Dreams THE ADULTS ONLY STORE! (229) 244-8374"

Advertisement for Macadoo's Grille featuring a chicken tender dinner. Text includes: "Macadoo's GRILLE Chicken Tender Dinner 5 Tenders, Fries, Slaw, Texas Toast, Sauce \$3.99" and "\$1 OFF any chicken dinner"

Advertisement for Tall Tree Apartments featuring a snowman illustration. Text includes: "Tall Tree's Wonderful Winter Specials!" and "\$50 off 1st Month's Rent! Come See Us or Call For more Details"

Advertisement for RJ's Disc Exchange featuring a CD/DVD image. Text includes: "RJ's sells New & Used CD's, Posters & Novelty Lights. We repair scratches on both Music CD's & Game CD's"

Advertisement for El Toro featuring a bull image. Text includes: "FREE DINNER Buy One Combination Dinner, Get One of Equal or Lesser Value FREE!"

Advertisement for El Toro featuring a bull image. Text includes: "99c Bottled Beer is Back! Wednesdays 5PM-Close"

Advertisement for El Toro featuring a bull image. Text includes: "HAPPY HOUR 4PM-7PM Call for details"

Advertisement for Lulu's Restaurant featuring a logo. Text includes: "For that special occasion. . . lunch, dinner or Sunday brunch!" and "Lulu's RESTAURANT 242-4000 132 N. Patterson St."

Advertisement for El Toro featuring a bull image. Text includes: "FREE LUNCH Buy One Lunch, Get One of Equal or Lesser Value FREE!"

Advertisement for El Toro featuring a bull image. Text includes: "\$1.45 Margaritas Mondays 5PM-Close"

Advertisement for El Toro featuring a bull image. Text includes: "1713 Gornto Road - 259-0444 11am - until Re-opening soon: 1914 N. Ashley St. - 245-7949 11am - 2:30pm & 5PM - 10PM"

Feature

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

www.valdosta.edu/spectator

Can't stand to be without the Spectator over the holiday break? Check out this week's issue and our archives on the web when you start feeling down.

Make gifts for less

Lindsey Giddens
Staff Writer

Tired of maxing out your credit cards and running out of cash to find the perfect presents for your family and friends? Have no fear; now there are creative and inexpensive ways of finding gifts your loved ones are sure to cherish for a lifetime.

A good place to start is at Michael's, a craft store in Valdosta, in the rubber stamp aisle. Here you find stamps with almost any kind of picture that would be perfect for making your own Christmas cards. The stamps range from \$1.99 to \$19.99--plus right now they are 20 percent off. Assorted colored stamp pads can be purchased, and a pack of blank cards and envelopes cost \$4.99 with 20 percent off. Although the stamps might get a little expensive, keep in mind they can be reused countless times.

Another fun creative project is to make your own chocolate suckers. Assorted colors of chocolate candy for \$2.49 can be melted down and poured into molds of different shapes and themes (Michael's \$2). While the chocolate is still soft, stick a sucker stick (Michael's \$1.99) into the center of each and stick the whole tray of

molds into the refrigerator to harden. Then pop the suckers out, tie a bow around them and you've got an assortment of chocolate suckers to give to your friends.

For \$9.99 at Michael's you can buy Candle Creations. You get four candleholders colored waxes and wicks - everything you need to make four beautiful candles you can give to four different people for less than \$10 in all.

For those a little more artistic, Michael's has plaster ornaments in all different shapes

paint pens or anything else to give a frame the one of a kind touch. Instead of putting a picture inside the frame, try adding a poem about friendship or love or even the holiday season.

For those a little more in touch with their inner selves, try a homemade Zen garden. Find an interesting dish or bowl at Michael's, Wal-Mart or even your kitchen cabinets, fill it with sand and find some interesting rocks. Use a plastic fork or chopsticks tied together to make designs in the sand and give it to a special someone.

Special colored sands can be bought at Michael's for \$2.50, but regular sand found on the ground will work too.

And for those completely devoid of cash, try getting on the computer and creating coupons for IOU's such as car washes, mowing the lawn, doing the dishes, back massages, (nothing illegal); the possibilities are endless. Possibilities abound for inexpensive and creative holiday gifts. Just visit Michael's, Wal-Mart or other craft stores and allow your imagination to run wild.

Lindsey Giddens is a Spectator reporter and can be reached at journ81@bell-south.net



Nathan White / The Spectator

For the cost of sand and a dish, a Zen garden can be made for those in touch with their inner self.

and characters for only 79 cents apiece. Each ornament is white, but you can paint the details into any style you prefer. Collect your favorite colors of acrylic paints for around 89 cents a bottle. Although the paint prices might start adding up as you buy an assortment of colors, remember that one bottle of paint can be used for multiple ornaments.

Visit dollar stores to find cheap plain picture frames and decorate them yourself. Add shells, writings with markers or

Sing out at open mic

Jason James
Staff Writer

The original music template of Valdosta is growing further with the Deli Bar's new open mic showcase on Thursday nights. The Deli Bar is on Northside Drive and open mic begins at 9 p.m. The open mic showcase is followed by two sets of Valdosta blues favorites, 6L6.

Nov. 27, the Deli Bar hosted the duo of Michael and Angelique Riley first. Their performance was a collection of acoustic renditions of such tunes as The Sunday's "Fade Into You" and a rollicking banjo-led "Come on People

Now." The duo was sincere and constantly in tune with each other. Riley sang with a mystique I have not heard in a long time.

Next up was Jeff Dufaco, sophomore English major, who transforms his background of emo and punk into finely crafted acoustic melodies. Dufaco, played a six-song set composed of originals mostly requested by his adoring young female fans. His set began with a traveling "Sooner or Later" followed by others such as "Heaven Sent" and "Song for Melissa."

Dufaco and the Riley duo will return Tuesday for your enjoyment along with others. So get to the Deli Bar early for

\$1 draft beer and some of Valdosta's acoustic gems.

Way to go BLAZERS!
congratulations on a great season!

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BASKETBALL

December 8, 7:30 p.m.
Blazers vs. Southern Wesleyan
Moody Air Force Base Night

December 17th, 7:30 p.m.
Blazers vs. Florida Tech
in the Old Gym

December 19, 7:30 p.m.
Lady Blazers vs. Albany State

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Harlon Hill
 VSU quarterback
 Dusty Bonner is one
 of three finalists for
 the Harlon Hill trophy
 to be awarded
 Friday in Alabama.

VSU Basketball
Blazers vs. Southern Wesleyan
 Saturday, 7:30 p.m., VSU P.E. Complex
Lady Blazers @ Mississippi U. for Women
 Saturday, 3 p.m., Columbus, Miss.

www.valdosta.edu/spectator

Blazers battle UNA

Late Show: The Blazers contest with North Alabama was not finished by press time. Visit www.valdosta.edu/spectator for game results.

Brandon Scott
 Staff Writer

VSU's Blazer basketball team is gearing up for the meat of the schedule. Conference play began Wednesday at North Alabama - a continual thorn in the side of the Blazers. "It'll be a war," head coach Jim Yarbrough said. "It always is."

The Blazers (5-2) will face North Alabama (2-4) in an early season conference game on the road.

"They got some really great athletes from the JC ranks," Yarbrough said. "Their biggest problem is getting them to play cohesively."

Yarbrough's own team has been playing tough as of late... well early. The two losses come after tough battles with Division I foes South Alabama and Lefty Dreisel's dangerous Georgia State.

In what Yarbrough called a "tune-up" for his team, the Blazers' margin of victory was, on average, 37.4 points.

In the final "tune-up" game, VSU played Selma University in the finals of the Park-Avenue Classic.

VSU jumped to an early 16-4 lead, keyed behind the howlings and hecklings of the "Complex Crazyes."

VSU jeopardized its large lead, allowing Selma to close within 24-22 in the first half.

"I guess we kind of got big headed with a 14-point lead, and we let them back in the game," junior guard Jeremy Brooks said. "We knew we had to come out in the second half and be strong."

The Blazers continued its dominance in the second half. Leading Selma 47-28 early in the second half, the Blazers



Annie Johnson / The Spectator

Blazer freshman guard Ben Mallet defends sophomore forward Ernest Scott at practice in the Complex.

didn't even make things close.

The "Complex Crazyes" began to chant, "Warm up the Bus!"

The bus ride home for Selma would not be a good one. The

Blazers sent Selma back to Alabama with a 81-54 loss.

The Blazers' leading scorer was senior guard Marcus Williams with 18 points.

Las

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VSU drops GSC opener

Ashlie Mash
 Staff Writer

The Lady Blazers fell 90-55 Wednesday night to North Alabama in the conference opener for both teams.

VSU (5-3, 0-1 Gulf South Conference) shot 48 percent from the floor but turned the ball over 27 times. Sophomore guard Danielle Hernandez led the Lady Blazers with 11 points. Junior guard Erin Green added seven.

Saturday, VSU plays its second GSC game of the season versus Mississippi University for Women in Columbus, Miss., at 3 p.m.

According to VSU head coach Kiley Hill, MUW senior shooter Porsche Jones, along with three other returnees are scoring threats.

"Mississippi was real quick and hard for us last year," senior point guard Monique Kyles

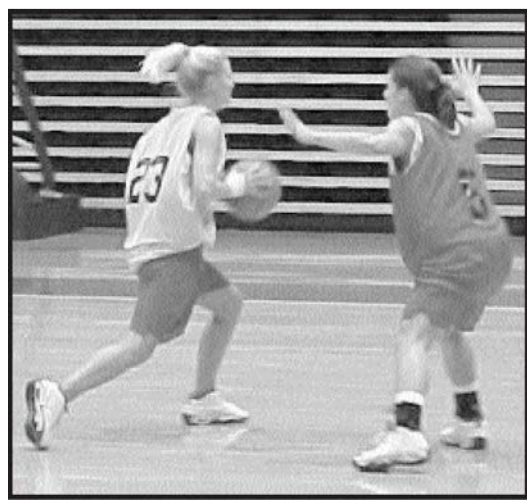
said. "We had already made it to the tournament and we weren't focused."

The Lady Blazers recently defeated Flagler College 90-65 in a home game Saturday.

"You're never satisfied," Hill said. "I'm pleased with their effort and unselfish play."

Kyles said in her four years of playing for the Lady Blazers, Flagler was her best game ever. She scored 23 points, had five rebounds, seven assists and three steals.

"Our biggest weakness is that we're young," Hill said. "That's nothing that can't be corrected with time and day-by-day experience."



Annie Johnson / The Spectator

Sophomore guard Heather Wilson drives on junior guard Erin Wilson at practice.

Senior Nichole Lowe left the team for personal reasons last week, reducing the team's senior count to just one.

"You always hate for kids to leave your program," Hill said. "In the long run it won't affect us, we'll find a way to get it done. Our goal is to get to the top four [in conference]."

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Sports

Blazers receive postseason honors

Matt Stewart
Staff Writer

VSU's storybook football season ended prematurely, but the postseason awards continue to roll in.

Seven Blazer football players were named to the Daktronics all-South Region team released Monday, nearly two weeks after a school record 14 players were named to the all-Gulf South Conference team. Five Blazers were named to the Daktronics all-South Region first team and will advance to the national ballot.

Those five players are VSU senior quarterback Dusty Bonner, junior wide receiver Reggie Mosley, junior tight end C.J. Lofton, senior center Tully Payne and senior offensive tackle Jason King.

Sophomore tailback Aaron Jenkins and junior rover/safety Ced Dickerson were selected to the Daktronics all-South Region second team.

"Our players are very deserv-

ing," second year head coach Chris Hatcher said. "There were a lot of other players that could have been named to the teams. I was glad to see some of the underclassmen selected. Hopefully that will help us toward our goal of another national championship run next season."

VSU's seven picks are the most among the 25 schools represented in the selection process. Catawba College and West Georgia each placed six players on the team.

Daktronics, Inc., designs and sells arena and stadium scoring systems worldwide and annually selects the top collegiate players nationally in football and basketball.

But the players weren't the only ones honored. Hatcher was named Region 2 coach of the year for Division II by the American Football Coaches Association. Hatcher has led the Blazers to a 22-3 record and consecutive playoff appearances in two seasons at VSU.

Bonner one of three finalists for Harlon Hill trophy

Staff Reports

VSU senior quarterback Dusty Bonner, the 2000 Harlon

Hill winner, was selected as one of three finalists for this year's trophy. The award will be given out Friday in Florence, Ala.

The two other candidates for

the honor are Grand Valley State junior quarterback Curt Anes and South Dakota State junior running back Josh Ranek.



Dusty Bonner

Senior athletes bid farewell

Matt Stewart
Staff Writer

For 22 VSU senior athletes, collegiate competition is over. But life goes on.

Three university sports teams ended seasons this fall, and with the end of each season comes the bittersweet farewell to the seniors.

The Blazer football team's season came to an abrupt end Nov. 24 with a 37-34 overtime loss to Catawba College in the semifinals of the Division II playoffs. But the football program coaches its players to excel in the classroom as well as the gridiron. Eighteen VSU football seniors must move on and begin work on an advanced degree or face the working world.

Last year, the Gulf South Conference honor roll was loaded with VSU players. Senior wide receiver Dennis Fryzel and senior center Tully Payne were named to the 2000 all-academic team. Fryzel held a 3.87 GPA in computer science and was also named to the 1998 all-academic team, while Payne boasted a 3.31 GPA in management.

Three other seniors from this year's squad were named to the conference honor roll. Quarterback Dusty Bonner (3.62 GPA in finance), corner-

back Derek Braxton (3.75 GPA in criminal justice) and offensive guard Keith Gosse (3.07 GPA in health/physical education).

Gosse said it's time to hang up the cleats and move on.

"I'd like to get a GA (graduate assistant) job first, but if that doesn't work out I want to coach high school football," Gosse said. "I've played long enough. It's time to take a different path."

VSU's cross country team will only graduate one runner this spring, senior Jim Wright. Wright was named to the GSC

all-academic squad in 2000 with a 3.02 GPA in special education. Wright finished with the fastest time in three of the Blazers' seven meets, with a season's best third place finish at the Jacksonville Invitational on Oct. 12.

Wright said he plans to receive his degree in the spring and go on to teach high school special education classes. But he's keeping his options open.

"I hope to compete in the 2004 olympics in the marathon," Wright said. "I want to keep running."

The Lady Blazer volleyball team said goodbye to three seniors Nov. 6 at the Complex. Seniors Anna Einarsdottir, Madalyn Loehr and Jeanna Talley ended their careers at

VSU with a convincing win over Georgia Southwestern State. All three were named to the conference honor roll in 2000. Einarsdottir held a 3.88 GPA in health/physical education, Loehr had a 3.6 GPA in communications, and Talley posted a 3.13 GPA in secondary education.

Einarsdottir finished her undergraduate studies before her four years of eligibility were up and has already begun working on her master's. She is scheduled to receive the degree next December but plans to help out with the volleyball team in the meantime.

"I would love to coach [after graduation]," Einarsdottir said. "But right now, I don't know where or at what level."


Daktronics South Region first team Blazers

Dusty Bonner
Reggie Mosley
C.J. Lofton
Tully Payne
Jason King

Daktronics South Region second team Blazers

Aaron Jenkins
Ced Dickerson

AFCA Region 2 coach of the year
VSU head coach Chris Hatcher

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