

# THE SPECTATOR

February 2, 2012

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## Inside This Issue

- **OPINIONS:** "Don't mess with how I dress"
- **FEATURES:** "Nerd turned rapper"
- **SPORTS:** "Signing Day 2012"

## HAPPY GROUNDHOG'S DAY!!



**Can you spot all the groundhogs hidden in this weeks issue?**  
If think you've found them all, tweet the number with the hashtag #SpecHog or e-mail the answer to [sdturner@valdosta.edu](mailto:sdturner@valdosta.edu). The first reader that responds with the correct number will win a prize!!

## On the Web

[www.vsuspectator.com](http://www.vsuspectator.com)

Interested in seeing more of John Gay's work or hearing some of that rapper's music? Check it out online now!

# SGA: VSU's task force and parking, spring break issues discussed Monday night

**Joseph Adgie**  
STAFF WRITER  
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The Student Government Association talked about topics such as VSU's brand new task force, spring break scheduling conflicts and HallNet issues during its meeting Monday at 8 p.m., in the University Center Magnolia Room.

The task force intends to transform VSU's image from just a "school in South Georgia," Vice President Derika Powers said.

VSU Interim President Dr.

Louis Levy has requested that the task force put together a proposal addressed to various research companies.

"We would tell them what results we want, and they would tell us how we are going to get them," Powers said.

"Our main goal is to know what VSU's institutional identity is going to be and to have a solid tag line that is universal so that everyone can associate with VSU."

VSU's current tag lines are "Simply a Great Choice" and the Admission department's "Do More, Become More."

Powers also said that this new institutional identity would inspire support from the school's alumni.

"It would also bring loyalty from our alumni and our donors," she said.

"Without our donors and alumni support, we would not be able to do a lot of things we do because they donate a lot of money every year."

Powers went on to say that the research company hired would put out focus groups and surveys to be completed by VSU students.

"They are going to take all the input from students, and that is

how they are going to decide what our reputation is now, what we are seen as, and what we think of ourselves."

Also on the budget was the topic of spring break.

SGA Comptroller Drew McCall brought up the matter of a discrepancy involving spring break for those in the Valdosta and Lowndes school systems.

"We have a lot of students that are doing their student teaching during that time, and because of that they have to take their spring break with the Valdosta or Lowndes County or other school systems in the area," he said.

McCall suggested requesting the school systems to moving their spring break or maybe VSU moving its spring break to meet both needs.

Also brought up was the desire for a ban on smoking on campus.

"Seeing that the student body wants a smoking ban, I think we should make legislation for that so it can be inserted for the upcoming election," Senator Samuel Logan said.

Logan also mentioned the perceived lack of parking spots compared to students on campus.

See SGA, Page 2

## Outage linked to usage

### The increased use of smartphones caused Hallnet outages, IT says.

**Taylor Kelly**  
[takelly@valdosta.edu](mailto:takelly@valdosta.edu)  
&  
**Joseph Adgie**  
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The Internet Technology department has traced the series of HallNet outages from earlier this semester to increased smartphone usage.

"Many users are now bringing three or four devices to connect to HallNet," VSU IT director Joe Newton said in an email to students on Jan. 20.

"We have seen as many as 200 BlackBerry smartphones connecting to HallNet, each consuming an IP address."

According to Newton, these phones consumed 10% of all IP addresses on campus.

SGA Vice President Derika Powers pointed this out in SGA's meeting Monday.

"Everyone now has smartphones and most people have it set up to where it automatically will connect to HallNet," she said.

As a result, the IT department has chosen to block smartphone usage from HallNet, which Newton said was a "temporary, stop-gap measure."

SGA President Graham Davis had an idea to why this was the case.

"HallNet as a whole is just really outdated," he said.

"Ever since I started here it's had that same issue, and I can't believe they haven't gone ahead and gotten rid of the smartphones until now."

The university is shopping around for a replacement, according to Davis.

"It really shouldn't be too long before they actually make a purchase and redo the system," he said.

VSU students have been quite vocal about the outages.

"For the most part, it's been a hassle," Staci Dyches, a freshmen undecided major, said.

"It will always randomly shut down and it is really annoying." Other students felt it was inconvenient.

"I hate it," Nicole Zent, a sophomore nursing major, said. "This semester has been even worse because it's frustrating when the Internet shuts down, especially when I am in the middle of a quiz."

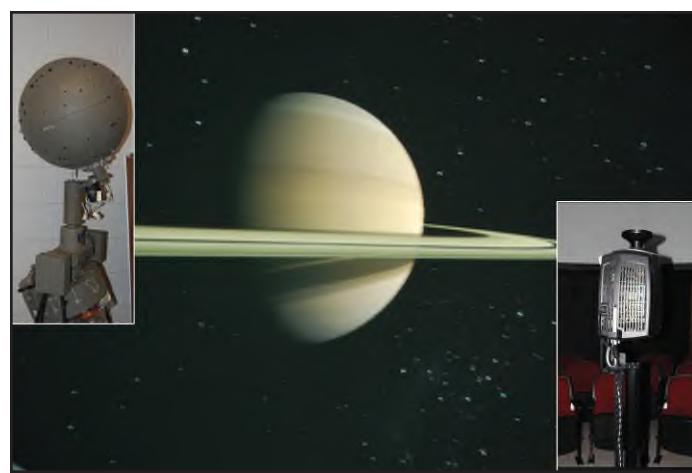
Some students suggested future changes to HallNet.

"I feel like it's slow," Gary Moulliet, a communications major, said.

"It needs a wireless connection that has a wider radius to accommodate the ongoing growth of the student body."

Smartphone users, for now, will have to depend on their data plan for accessing the Internet with their phone, according to Newton.

For all tech-related problems, the IT Helpdesk can be contacted at 229-245-4357.



J. Daniel Young/THE SPECTATOR  
The new Digitarium Kappa (right) replaced the 44-year-old Spitz A3P (left) and is now what VSU Planetarium uses for its shows.

## Gaze into the galaxy

Updated projector upgrades Planetarium's stargazing experience for show on Friday.

**J. Daniel Young**  
PHOTO EDITOR  
[jeryoung@valdosta.edu](mailto:jeryoung@valdosta.edu)

When Galileo first peered through his looking glass to view the stars, could he have imagined that future generations would be able to see the stars projected on the ceiling of their homes?

While he may not have been able to envision this future advancement, this is essentially what is happening in the Planetarium in Nevins Hall.

Winter Stargazing, the latest Planetarium show at VSU, is to be held on Friday at the Planetarium in Nevins Hall at 8 to 9 p.m.

The shows are free to the public and have a capacity limit of 47 people per show.

The new Digitarium Kappa projector was installed July 2011 at VSU.

Its streamlined design and narrower footprint is the centerpiece of the Planetarium's re-design during the installation, and it is one of the first of its kind in the world.

Dr. Kenneth Rumstay, professor of physics and astronomy, facilitates the Planetarium shows at VSU.

He explained the new projector's advanced technology over the previous one.

"One of the nice things that we couldn't do with the old planetarium is that not only can we simulate traveling to other bodies in space, but we can label the objects," he said.

He further explained that the lighting can be controlled at the console and a mixer can control the sound for the shows.

All of the computer software can be controlled from an iPad.

The central computer allows for an endless variety of projec-

tions onto the domed ceiling from anywhere on the Earth's surface to one of Saturn's moons, all points between and beyond.

A projected view from Saturn's moons gives an extraordinary view of the planet's rings.

Views from around the world are as easy as a quick selection from the iPad.

Dr. Martha Leake, a professor at VSU and co-facilitator of the Planetarium shows, explained the new Digitarium Kappa projector.

"This one is patterned on the old digital system that had blobs for stars," said Dr. Martha Leake.

"But this one has been upgraded over the years so that the stars look pretty good."

It's all software driven, compared to the old Spitz model that projected the stars with a series of mirrors.

The 44-year-old Spitz A3P, the former planetarium projector was the old favorite.

According to Dr. Rumstay there are hundreds of them at various facilities throughout the world.

When the time came for a renovation of the Nevins Hall facility, funding was provided for an upgrade to the new projector.

In addition to a new projector, the couch-style seating was replaced with individual chairs that assist in limiting the capacity to the shows, which is helpful to maintain fire codes for the room.



## Artist paints mural



J. Daniel Young/THE SPECTATOR  
Former VSU student and local artist John Gay paints goddess mural on Divided by Zero's wall Jan. 26. The store is located on 2001 W. Gordon St. and opens everyday from 12 to 9 p.m.

## VPD robbery case terminated

**Amanda Usher**  
ASST. OPINIONS EDITOR  
[amusher@valdosta.edu](mailto:amusher@valdosta.edu)

The probe into an alleged armed robbery near the University Center has been closed after the alleged victim decided to sign a "termination of investigation" form over the weekend.

An email was sent out to all faculty, staff and students Jan. 26 describing an alleged armed robbery incident that took place on the 1100 block of N. Patterson

St., where a cell phone was stolen from the victim at gunpoint.

The email also mentioned that the alleged suspects were three African-American males and one African-American female driving a blue Toyota or Honda.

According to Lt. Aaron Kirk of the Valdosta Police Department, the alleged victim repeatedly changed his story concerning the details of the armed robbery.

Kirk said that the alleged victim initially said that he was

dragged around a building.

Later, he said that the incident occurred on the side of the road, and that there weren't any witnesses around.

However, Kirk said that the UC cameras caught traffic going by at the time of the incident.

The alleged victim still claims to have not known the attackers. No further details have been released.



## Question of the Week

Who are you rooting for to win the Super Bowl?

A. Patriots-go Pats!  
B. Giants

C. What's the Super Bowl?  
Vote online at [www.vsuspectator.com](http://www.vsuspectator.com)!

## Previous question

What do you plan on doing with your excess check?

Saving it-gotta pay rent  
85%

Buying a year's supply of ramen  
15%

Paying someone to do my homework  
0%

## Weather at VSU

Today Friday Saturday

Partly sunny Isolated Storms Partly cloudy  
79 H 54 L 74 H 57 L 77 H 57 L

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Jan 17 - Feb 3**  
**Valdosta National 2012 All-Media Juried Competition**  
 Mon.-Thurs. 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Fri. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. - Fine Arts Gallery

**Feb 2**  
**Student Veterans of America Meeting**  
 5 p.m. - 1060 C Nevins Hall

**Feb 3 - Feb 4**  
**VSU Theatre & Dance Presents 'Ramona Quimby'**  
 7:30 p.m. (2/3), 10:30 a.m. (2/4) Sawyer Theatre, VSU Fine Arts Building, First Floor  
 This dramatic comedy sets the scene for a delightfully funny and moving collection of vignettes from Beverly Cleary's books that trace Ramona's tumultuous third-grade year. Call 229-333-5973 for ticket information.

**Feb 3**  
**Public Planetarium Show - Winter Stargazing**  
 8 - 10 p.m. - Nevins Hall 3004  
 There will be two showings that evening at 8 and 9 p.m. Planetarium shows are suitable for ages five and up, and if weather permits the observatory atop Nevins Hall will be open to allow guests an opportunity to view the wonders of the heavens. Seating is limited to 47 visitors per show, and admission is on a first come, first served basis. Enter at the southeast tower and take the stairs or elevator to the third floor. For additional information, call 229-333-5752.

**Feb 3, 10 a.m. - Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m. - Feb. 5, 3 p.m.**  
**VSU Opera, Mozart's "Don Giovanni"**  
**10 a.m. - Whitehead Auditorium, Fine Arts Building**  
 Tickets are free for VSU students with ID, \$5 for non-VSU students, and \$15 for all others. Tickets can be purchased at the door or at valdostasympphony.org. For more information, call (229) 333-5804 or visit valdosta.edu/music.

**Feb 4**  
**Visitation Day - 10 a.m.**

**Feb 6**  
**Guest Recital, Bertram Turetzky, contrabass**  
 7:30 p.m. - Whitehead Auditorium  
 The VSU Department of Music will present world renowned contrabassist Bertram Turetzky and friends. Admission is free.

**Feb 8**  
**Mandatory Student Organization Meeting**  
 7 p.m. - Ballrooms A & B  
 This meeting is mandatory for the presidents of all student organizations. If the president is unable to attend, another member of your executive board must be in attendance. Advisors are not required to attend but are of course welcome if they want to come.

**BLACK HISTORY WEEK 2012**  
**FEBRUARY 6-10**

**"CELEBRATING THE LEGACY, BUILDING OUR OWN"**

**Mon., Feb. 6**  
**UNITY COOKOUT**  
 Free food, music and more!  
 Front Lawn, 4 p.m.

**Wed., Feb. 8**  
**BLACK IN AMERICA PANEL DISCUSSION**  
 Come join the conversation!  
 Student Union Theater, 7 p.m.

**Fri., Feb. 10**  
**"AMBITIOUS: ALL BLACK AFFAIR"**  
 Live music. Mix and mingle. Open mic. Fruits of the Garden Winery and Gifts, 115 W. Central Ave., 9 p.m.

**Thurs., Feb. 9**  
**BLACK HISTORY CELEBRATION PROGRAM**  
 Including our guest speaker, Ga. Representative Alisha Morgan and book signing afterwards!  
 Student Union Theater, 7 p.m.

**Tues., Feb. 7**  
**MEET AND GREET**  
 Come out and meet some of your favorite organizations.  
 Student Union Meeting Rooms A and B, 7 p.m.

**A CATWALK THROUGH THE PAST**  
 A fashion show like no other!  
 Bailey Science Center, 7 p.m.

**Don't forget to enter the Spectator's Groundhog Day Contest!**  
 See details below.



**SGA**

Continued from Page 1

"With us being SGA, it seems that every concern with parking and transit always gives us an excuse as to why we can't get our view across," he said. "The first issue always is parking, and they always insist that we have enough."

Logan went on to stress the need for more parking.

"Every time school starts, we increase student population, but parking does not, and they still insist on saying we have enough, but clearly we don't," he said.

Logan believes this could also affect the turnout at campus events.

"A lot of people come to campus for events at 7 p.m., and they might park in a 45-minute parking spot, so if they are going

around ticketing people, that just takes away from people actually coming to events on campus."

According to Logan, the problem was getting their opinions heard.

"I want to know how we can voice our opinions to getting them to change our policies."

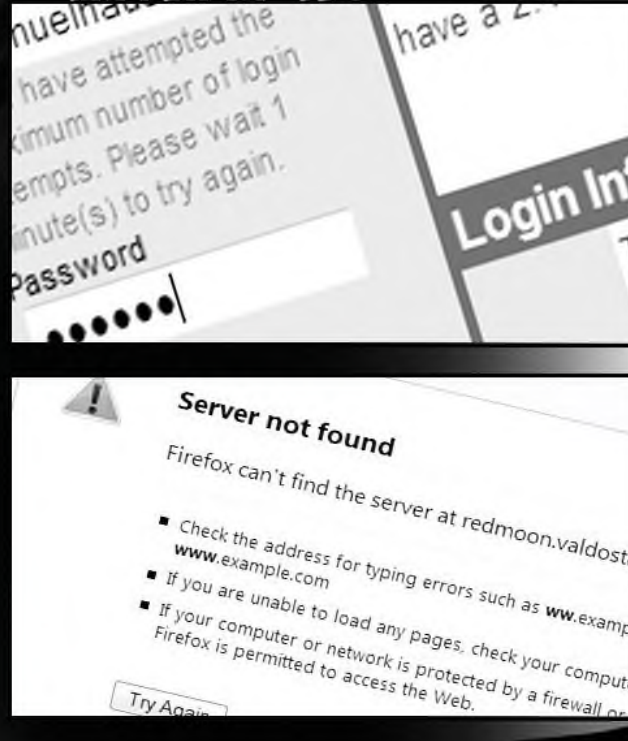
Powers then asked that the senators write their proposals and problems with Parking and Transportation and send them to Senator Dustin Patton.

The recent HallNet outages were also discussed. For more detail, see HallNet Outages Spark Outrage.

SGA holds its meetings every Monday at 8 p.m., in the University Center Magnolia Room.

For more information on VSU's Student Government Association, see their website at valdosta.edu/studentaffairs/sga/.

**THINGS THAT HAPPEN AT VSU**



**POLICE BRIEFS**

**Jan. 18:**  
 A textbook was reported stolen from the Student Union.

**Jan. 19:**  
 A textbook was reported stolen from Langdale Residence Hall.

**Jan. 23:**  
 A black Jansport book bag was reported missing or stolen. Multiple females reported theft by a single student from Georgia Residence Hall.

**Jan. 24:**  
 Clothes were reported stolen from Georgia Hall.

**Jan. 25:**  
 A resident reported windshield damage to a vehicle in the Sustella Street Parking Deck.

**Spectator Sudoku**

The sudoku grid consists of eighty-one squares in a nine by nine grid. To solve the sudoku, each square in the grid must contain a number between one and nine, with the following conditions:  
 \* Each row of nine cells must contain each of the numbers from 1 to 9 once and only once.  
 \* Each column of nine cells must contain each of the numbers from 1 to 9 once and only once.  
 \* Each of the nine 3 by 3 boxes of nine cells must contain each of the numbers from 1 to 9

				7				
8	6				2			
		1					3	
					8			
	1		2				7	
4	5				6			
			8	9				
				2	4			9
7	8							5

Answers on Page 5

**Groundhog Day Contest Ground Rules**

- 1) See this guy to the left? He's a groundhog. Find all of his friends in this issue.
- 2) Post the number of groundhogs you find to Twitter (#SpecHog) or email it to Stephanie Turner (sdturner@valdosta.edu).
- 3) The first person to correctly guess the number of groundhogs hidden in this issue will get their picture in an upcoming issue of the Spectator AND will receive his or her own stuffed groundhog.



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**The Classifieds**

The Spectator prints free classifieds for students of Valdosta State University only. These must be no more than 40 words, or an \$8.00 charge will apply. Classifieds for faculty, staff, student organizations, student-owned businesses and the general public cost \$8.00 for up to 40 words. Ads should be sent to The Spectator or delivered to our office in 1238 Hopper Hall. The deadline is Monday at 5 p.m. If payment applies, it should be

submitted in a sealed envelope at the time the ad is placed. Ads must be accompanied by the name and phone number of the person submitting the ad. Ads must be resubmitted each week, as necessary. The Spectator address is: 1500 N. Patterson St., Valdosta, GA 31698 spec@valdosta.edu. The Spectator reserves the right to reject any classified ad. All ads are subject to standard editing procedures. The Spectator is

not responsible for ads submitted under false pretenses or for mistakes due to a submitted error. The categories for classifieds include: For Sale, Wanted, Roommates and Help Wanted.

**Help Wanted**  
 Tired of working for minimum wage? Or working around somebody else's schedule instead of your own? Go to 1800mz.com to see how you can take back your life, or call 229-232-9401 for a recorded message.

<p><b>For Rent</b></p> <p><b>FOR RENT</b>                  RentValdosta.net                  229-244-7800</p> <p>REMERTON CONDOS                  2/2.5, \$699/mo                  1726 W. Gordon St. off Baytre</p> <p>SETH TOWNHOMES                  2/2.5, \$599/mo                  2415 Seth Place, off Pineview</p> <p>MOVE IN SPECIAL                  1/2 off first month with 14 month lease. Deposits \$400 with no application fee.</p>	<p><b>Services</b></p> <p><b>Pregnant? Now what?</b>                  Answers at  <b>Options Now</b></p> <p>A Life Choice Clinic                  ~ Pregnancy Testing                  ~ Limited Ultrasounds                  ~ Confidential &amp; at no cost                  229-506-5017                  www.optionsnow.org                  answers@optionsnow.org</p>	<p><b>Wanted</b></p> <p><b>Bartenders Wanted:</b> Up to \$250 per day. No experience necessary. Training provided. Age 18+ OK. Call 1-800-965-6520 ext. 233</p>
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# Don't mess with how I dress

SGA President Graham Davis and Vice President Derika Powers proposed during SGA's meeting on Jan. 23 and town hall meeting on Jan. 25 that VSU enforce an in-classroom dress "standard." If the standard moves forward, it would allow a professor to take action against students who are dressed, in the professor's opinion, inappropriately.

The purpose of the standard is to improve the student image upon the professor as well as VSU's image upon the community, according to Davis.

"We are here for a higher education and ultimately most of us will use our degrees to go into the work force so why not have standards much like other scholarly institutions and businesses across America," Powers said.

When it comes to the classroom, students should have to

worry about tests and papers, not how they are dressed. Everyone is different, including professors. What one professor deems appropriate, another might not. A teacher's personal taste should not affect a student's.

It shouldn't matter what is on your back but what's in your head. Teachers should judge you based off of what you can do. Your work and manner will leave a deeper imprint upon the university and its professors than if you wore pajamas to class or not.

When we got accepted to VSU, we left the restrictions of high school behind, including a dress code. We are all adults here, but we are also trying to explore ourselves and our futures away from the comforts of our guardians' nests; we should be free to express ourselves and dress as we like. We are forced to follow dress codes in elementary, mid-

dle and high schools. In the professional world, businesses have their own dress codes. Following the same rules for so long without a period of free expression could cause students to harbor resentment for professional dress and lead to rebellion once they hit the "real world." The problem is, rebelling against the dress code in a work setting could cost them their jobs.

For most of us, college is home away from home. You don't have to dress up at home; you shouldn't have to dress up here. Don't come to class barely clothed, but you shouldn't have to come in a suit either.

VSU does not currently have a dress code in the Student Handbook, Dean Russ Mast, Student Affairs vice president and dean of students, said.

That's how it should be at this stage of our education. We

should be focused on prepping for the future.

During our time here we should therefore feel liberated, not stifled.

SGA wants student inputs and feedback on this issue. If you are all for letting a job you don't even have yet dictating your daily life, then by all means, support the standard. If you like liberty with your wardrobe, let SGA know now.

Attend an SGA meeting; they are held Mondays at 8 p.m. in the University Center Magnolia Room. Contact Graham Davis or Derika Powers; their emails can be found on SGA's VSU website. They are our student body representatives. Let them represent you the right way.

Take action. Remember you have a chance to stop this before it starts.



Garrison Muelhausen/The Spectator

This editorial was written by Stephanie Turner (sdtturner@valdosta.edu) and it expresses the general opinion of the editorial staff.

## Separating church and state

**J. Daniel Young**  
PHOTO EDITOR  
jeryoung@valdosta.edu

In December, a bill was filed in Indiana and referred to a state education committee. The bill in question, State Bill 89, would require that schools teach creationism alongside evolution. Incidentally enough, this same issue has been addressed in the Supreme Court case of Edwards v. Aguillard in 1987, where the court ruled against schools being forced to teach creationism and evolution in a biology class. States often have to revisit their education standards. Texas and Kansas are other examples of having to deal with the creationism and evolution teachings. Which asks the question: how many times will state educational departments have to revisit this issue, especially now that creationism has been redecorated as "intelligent design"?

This brings me to the First Amendment, specifically the issue of religion and government. The Edwards v. Aguillard case isn't the first time that the Supreme Court has had to deal with issues of church and state, nor will it be the last. This becomes more evident in the current political climate when the religious beliefs of politicians are often at the forefront of their campaigns. This becomes a

problem when their religious beliefs are imposed on those who don't share them.

The religious leanings of our politicians are almost as prevalent as their stand on the issues – which are often impacted by their religious beliefs.

Take Michelle Bachmann for instance. She touts that her relationship with God is primary in her life. Then she goes on to talk about how women should be subservient to their husbands and how gays should be in therapy. These are all statements that she credits to her religious beliefs.

Mitt Romney's religious faith has been attacked by backers of his GOP opponents who called his Mormon faith "a cult." Let's not forget the mistaken belief that President Obama is a Muslim, even with no evidence.

Tennessee State Senator Stacey Campfield has been advancing his agenda against homosexuals by introducing a bill that prohibits the teaching of anything other than heterosexuality in elementary and middle schools, all based on his religious beliefs.

No one is saying that religion has no place in society, or even in politics. However, when religion is being used by politicians to suppress anyone, be it women, gays, blacks, Muslims; then we need to take a step back and



Associated Press  
Mitt and Michelle share a moment at an event. Both have been vocal about their religious-centered political leanings. question whether we are allowing our political leaders? Were that the case, then we wouldn't have to worry about separating church and state because then we wouldn't be keeping people under the thumb of either religion or the government.

## People Poll: How do you celebrate Black History Month?

**Sebastiana Laremat**  
freshman  
mass media/bursness major

"In the past my private school would do different commemorative events to MLK, Malcolm X, Maya Angelou."



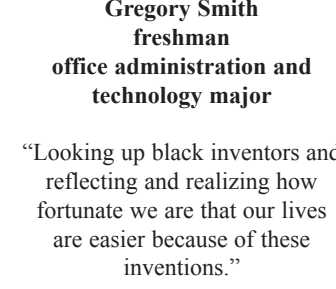
**Gregory Smith**  
freshman  
office administration and technology major

"Looking up black inventors and reflecting and realizing how fortunate we are that our lives are easier because of these inventions."



**Briana Hines**  
freshman  
mass media major

"I celebrate Black History Month by talking to my family about different inventors and let them run history by me."



**Bryon Johnson**  
junior  
accounting major

"I like to catch up on my history and renew my culture and remember what my ancestors went through to get this month."



**Curtis McGruler**  
sophomore  
mass media major

"I try to enjoy it day by day anyway because you don't need a month to appreciate who you are."



## Girls Scouts face boycott over welcoming a transgender girl

**Denise Pleasant**  
STAFF WRITER  
dnpleasant@valdosta.edu

A 14-year-old Ventura County resident declared a boycott on Girl Scout cookies after hearing the Girls Scouts of Colorado was considering allowing a transgendered child to join.

According to New York Daily News, The teenager uploaded the YouTube video in protest of 7-year-old Booby Montania joining the organization.

The video argued that Girl Scouts was an all-girl experience and that families trusted that girls would be in a safe and nurturing environment.

The video went viral after just a few weeks, but shortly after hitting the news both the account and video were removed from YouTube.

The video has caused an up rise of voices in the Gay and Transgender Rights groups. Ambassador Girl Scout, Glynese Hill, a freshman criminal justice

major, responded with outrage.

"I personally believe that it shouldn't matter if transgendered children are in Girl Scouts," Hill said.

"I believe that Girl Scouts is an equal opportunity organization."

Many responses to her video have been posted on YouTube with concerned viewers voicing their opinions.

Maya Austin, a junior early childhood and special education major, has been involved with Girl Scouts since childhood and saw both sides of the controversial decision.

"Boycotting cookies is extreme," Austin said.

"If they're taking an overnight trip I could see her not going, but if she has a problem with Boy Scouts she should be able to join."

Austin feels that since Montania is only seven, it's not going to be much of a problem.

"She's going to be in the Brownie section and in that

**"I believe that Girl Scouts is an equal opportunity organization."**

**-GLYNESE HILL, AMBASSADOR GIRL SCOUT AND VSU STUDENT**

section they don't learn about personal hygiene or care like they do in the Cadets and senior section," Austin said.

Austin even suggested possible changes.

"As she rises up the troop may have to change some of the curriculum and programs," Austin said.

Since the controversial issue hit the news, various troop leaders in the global Girl Scout community disbanded their girls and left the Girl Scout community.

Since then Montania has been

entered into the Girl Scouts of Colorado.

The organization released a statement through GLAAD (Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation), claiming that if a child identifies as a girl and the child's family identifies her as a girl, then Girl Scouts of Colorado welcomes her as a Girl Scout.

For Girl Scout Intern and junior early childhood & special education major, Kieya Smith, Girl Scouts is all about equal opportunity.

"I believe that it is very unfortunate that the young lady could call herself a Girl Scout, recite the promise and law, and feel that it is okay to say that they should ban a "girl" because she is a little different," Smith said.

"GSUSA is an organization that is all about equal rights not just for girls/women but for all people."

### Spectator Staff

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# Nerd turned Rapper

## VSU student takes a new approach to hip-hop music

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Michael Schwartz is a nerd. I still live like a five-year-old," he said. "What I need is my Super Nintendo, my N64, my GameCube, my music and that's really it."

"I don't need a Lambo, don't need a beach house, don't need any of that."

He doesn't have a car and doesn't see the need for one.

Schwartz is average height and dresses like your average 20-year-old nerd from the suburbs would.

When I met him for lunch, he was wearing a layered sweater, ankle-baring khakis, long socks and loafers.

When we went outside for pictures, he donned very '90s shades and a very '90s blue beanie.

It may be hard to believe, but there is something very unusual about this sophomore from Roswell, Ga; he can rap.

Schwartz has gone by many aliases since he started rapping in middle school, but his current stage name is arguably the most ironic.

"The name made sense," he said. "My dad's name's Freddy and my brother's name is Jason, and I'm Michael; Michael Myerz."

If that's not ironic enough, according to Myerz, his mother's family can be traced to Jamie Lee Curtis who played Laurie Strode, Michael Myers' sister, in the Halloween movies. Curtis' father, Tony Curtis, was born Bernard Schwartz but changed his name due to Hollywood Anti-Semitism at the time, according to imdb.com.

Nightmarish fame must run in the family, because Jamie Lee's mother, Janet Leigh, has a little bit of a horror history as well. Leigh was the girl from the infamous shower seen in Alfred

Hitchcock's Psycho.

With such a famous Hollywood family, it would seem that Myerz has some big shoes to fill. But he says he wants no part of that.

"I want to perform. Period," he said.

He wants no part of the com-

**"I'm not trying to sound cocky here, but nobody raps about anything I rap about."**

- MICHAEL SCHWARTZ

mercialism or the stigmas rampant in hip-hop music today. He doesn't look like the "average rapper," but that's because he's not. His music is definitely not anything like what comes bumpin' out of everybody's car stereo speakers.

Myerz raps about being a nerd, about life, about dumb stuff. He has fun with it, and it shows through his music. He's not about the "money, hoes, cars, and clothes" lyrics of T.I. or Afroman's stoner themes.

"That's not what rap's about," he said.

He feels like people don't really take him seriously in the U.S. because of his Jewish ethnicity and nasally voice.

"That's why I'm not really appreciated as much in the States as I am outside the country, because outside of the country [society]'s way more open-minded," he said.

He does have fans, however, and plenty of them. His fans aren't exactly you're typical rap audience.

"I have people that literally

listen to zero rap that are like, 'You're the only rap artist I'll listen to because you rap about what I wanna hear,'" he said.

"I guess I just want to convey the point that you do not need to look like anyone to make a certain type of music, especially when it comes to rap.

You don't have to put on some kind of façade that you're a thug or that 'I sell all these drugs and I shoot people and if you mess with me I'll cut you up,' and I'm almost sort of mocking that in some of my songs because it just seems like rap today is just a giant joke and it can't be taken seriously."

"I'm not trying to sound cocky here, but nobody raps about anything I rap about."

His inspiration comes from everywhere, from his favorite band—Black Moth Super Rainbow—to Aqua Teen Hunger Force voice-actor MC Chris.

His first album, "Nightmare from the 90's," was inspired by cartoons and videogames he played when he was younger. His next album, "Nightmare on Rosedale," was much more personal.

"It's kind of more of showing who I really am," he said.

"Rosedale," he feels, is much deeper and something that people could take more seriously.

Both of these were digital releases, but Myerz' next release will come in a hard copy. He is already working on his new EP, "Tropical Bananas and Spray Cans," which he plans to release this summer on his label, Wozy Tribe.

As far as future plans, Myerz plans to change his undecided major to English and has always dreamed of working for Cartoon Network, but Myerz is serious about his music. If he could have it his way, he would never have to worry about getting a "real job."

Myerz pointed out that, contrary to popular misconception, a



J. Daniel Young/THE SPECTATOR

Michael Schwartz may not look like your typical rapper, but this VSU student has already dropped several digital albums and is preparing to drop a physical album this summer.

person's hobby, passion, and calling are really three different things. He explained that something can be your hobby—something you do for fun—but if your heart's not in it you won't be any good.

Interestingly, something can be your passion that you're absolutely trash at. But that's okay, he advises, just keep doing it.

"There's a difference between your hobby, your passion, and [...] your calling," he said. "If it's your passion, go with that. Like, if you love drawing but

your drawing just sucks, just do it. It can also be your hobby. But if it's your calling, make sure that what you're putting out—what you want people to see—is actually legit."

In other advice to up-and-coming artists, Myerz said, "Stay true to yourself. Don't try to copy anyone and if anyone tells you your music sucks, give 'em the finger."

Though Myerz has been rapping since the sixth grade, he never considered himself officially a rapper until last year. His

friends heard some of his stuff, he said, and encouraged him to make an album.

Even though he's only recently gotten serious about his hobby, Myerz has already played some pretty impressive shows.

He's done house shows and performed at venues in Atlanta and Orlando. He has another show at the Drunken Unicorn in Atlanta coming up in late March. He also plans to start rapping at the Deep Release Poetry Society meeting on campus.

Myerz' is also working with Nicole Tieman of Williams Street Shows to get on the list for a late March show at the Williams Street House, 1100 Williams St. in Valdosta. Check out Williams

Street Shows on Facebook to keep up to date with up-

coming performances there.

Despite his recent success, Myerz is still a single man. In case you're interested, he described his "Dream Girl" as a girl who loves his music and who can play videogames, especially Donkey Kong.

"I need someone who's into being a nerd with me," he said.

You can find Myerz' music on Soundcloud and his Bandcamp page. Follow him on Twitter and Facebook to keep up with all of his shenanigans.

## Madonna disses Janet, Snooki gets pregnant

Hello guys and dolls, get your cups ready because as always I am serving some hot tea!

The Legendary Don Cornelius was found dead in his house Wednesday of an apparent suicide. The man responsible for the classic show Soul Train was 75.

Leslie Carter, the sister of Nick and Aaron Carter died at toe age of 25.

If you are not familiar with her she was on the family's E! short-lived reality show, House of Carter. No cause of death has been reported.

T.O. went on Wendy Williams accused his publicists Mo and Kita of going behind his back pitching a show.

It has been a long and strenuous search for the replacement of Regis Philbin. Well rumor has it that the guy who is going to be sitting next to Kelly will be Howie Mandel.

Look, I loved Howie Mandel's cartoon Bobby's World but him as a replacement for Regis not so much.

Snooki a parent? Supposedly Snooki is pregnant by Hobbit in shining armor Jionni LaVelle.

If this is true we hope she puts the bottle down.

The City of Hoboken, NJ will not take part in the ignorance that is to be Snooki and JWOWW's spinoff.

Hoboken residents want to protect their "quality of life".

Homewrecker isn't just a song by Gretchen Wilson.



Maya Kellam

Some would say it would describe Kandi Burruss of Real Housewives of Atlanta.

According to a Facebook page by a young lady named Mela. Kandi stole her man. That's not it though, turns out that he was a cameraman on the show.

The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills reunion was what you would expect form rich women who dogs bill can pay off at least twenty students' loans.

Arguments were over whose dogs are the cutest, having a bachelorette party at the Palms

Casino or Planet Hollywood in Vegas, and my personal favorite Kyle busting wide open (splits) at an engagement party.

Vanessa "Ca-Ching Ca-Ching" Bryant turned down VH1's offer for her to join the cast of Basketball Wives.

Bryant has never been one to be in the limelight. This is very sad for us who always wonder what she was like but, good for her and her daughters.

Madonna took some time out of her busy rehearsal schedule for the super bowl to throw a little shade at Janet Jackson. I live for the divas being divas!

Madge said about her performance: "I'm planning something super entertaining."

She then added, "Yep, yep! You don't have to show nipples to be interesting and it doesn't necessarily mean you're cutting edge if you do, right?"

Well if that is not the pot calling the kettle black. Isn't Madonna the same woman that kissed Britney Spear and Christina Aguilera at the VMAs.

Time to wash out the cups! As always come on back because I will be serving tea that is guaranteed to be hot!

Head to The Spectator website to hear Michael Schwartz' rapping skills for yourself!

## First Presbyterian Church hosts Valentine dance

**Shaundi McDaniel**  
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On Feb. 3 and 4, Valdosta's First Presbyterian Church is hosting their 16th Annual Father Daughter Dance at the James H. Rainwater Conference Center.

This event is for fathers and daughters of all ages. There are two sessions: Friday 6 to 8p.m. and Saturday 9 to 11p.m. Fathers and Daughters may attend both nights.

Tickets are online at [www.fatherdaughterdance.org](http://www.fatherdaughterdance.org) and start at \$10.00 with a \$2.00 processing fee.

When Co-founder Jeff Stewart started this event 16 years ago, 175 fathers and daughters attended which was more than what

was expected.

The year after, the dance took place in our very own Woman's Building where 425 people attended. Each year the number of people that attended increased, which is why it has now moved to the James H. Rainwater Conference Center. The number of tickets sold last year reached up to 4,800.

The dance is suitable and close to restaurants nearby. Light refreshments will be provided but reservations for dinner should be made prior to the dance. Glamour Shots Studio will be taking pictures at the event and have special packages available for the dance. Sunday dress is the suggested attire for the dance. For those that are interested, T-shirts are also available online on the dance website. The music is fam-

ily friendly, so everyone is ready for a great time.

There are Father Daughter dances in other locations for those who cannot attend: Waycross on Feb. 25, Buford on Feb. 4, and Barnesville on Feb. 11.

Proceeds from this dance will go to the First Presbyterian Church for their ministry services.

There are also opportunities for people that want to volunteer with decorating, serve refreshments, etc.

For information on the dance call (229)-460-3800 or visit [www.fatherdaughterdance.org](http://www.fatherdaughterdance.org).

## English department hosts Writer Series

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The Contemporary Writers Series, hosted by VSU's Department of English, is an annual event presenting award-winning and well-known authors around the country.

The Contemporary Writers Series will present Dr. Tony Barnstone today at the University Center Theater at 7:30 p.m.

"I have written four books of poetry—12 books altogether," Dr. Barnstone said. "I am also

the Creative Writing Professor and American Literature Professor at Whittier College in the small town of Whittier, California."

Dr. Barnstone has won many awards, particularly the Grand Prize of the Stokestown International Poetry Festival, the Pushcart Prize in Poetry and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Dr. Barnstone received his B.A. from the University of California and his M.A. and PhD from University of California.

Poetry runs in the family with two other family members who are also considered poets.

His father, Willis Barnstone, is

a poet and Professor of Comparative Literature at Indiana University.

"My father was going to come with me, but had to stay back because my mom fell and hurt her back, so it will just be me," Dr. Barnstone said.

Willis Barnstone is an author of 12 publications and has received several awards and recognitions for his work, such as the Guggenheim fellowship, National Endowment for the Arts, Emily Dickinson Award of the Poetry Society of America, W.H. Auden Award of the New York State Council of the Arts, Midland Authors Award, Book

**"I really love to play with multimedia and poetry...I like to show people that you can do more with your poetry."**

- TONY BARNSTONE

of the Month for three selections and three Pulitzer nominations.

Last October, the Department of English presented Lise Haines, an author of three novels, two of which had the rights sold to movie production companies, with an award.

Haines has also written several short stories and essays which have appeared in different literary journals.

The following November, Marianne Boruch, an author of six collections of poetry, and four books, two on the topic of poetry, one of poetry and the other a memoir came to visit VSU with the Georgia Poetry

Circuit.

Dr. Barnstone will be continuing his rounds of the Georgia Poetry Circuit without his father, but will still give poetry readings and show the crowd a bit of his experiments with cohesion and poetry.

"I really love to play with multimedia and poetry," Dr. Barnstone said.

"I'm working on a graphic novel book for poems, making graphic cards like tarot cards with poetry and even turning poems into a folk-rock music album. I like to show people that you can do more with your poetry."

# Opera brings Mozart to VSU

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This Friday marks the beginning of musical sounds as the VSU Opera and Valdosta Symphony Orchestra perform Mozart's "Don Giovanni" in the Whitehead Auditorium at 10 a.m.

"It's been a tradition to do a Friday youth performance. Children from schools are usually bussed-in for it," Dr. Carol Mikkelsen, head of the voice area of the Department of Music and producer for "Don Giovanni," said.

"Due to the nature of "Don

Giovanni" itself, we're not playing to elementary school children..."

The performances are mainly for high school students.

Mozart's "Don Giovanni" revolves around the wretched main character, Don Giovanni, who is a terrible "womanizer."

This politically incorrect, tragic comedy is bound to raise eyebrows and get a chuckle out of audiences.

Along with Mikkelsen, faculty such as Dr. Kenneth Kirk, a professor of Music and conductor of the Valdosta Opera, will be conducting the performance.

"Don Giovanni" is one of the great artworks of Western civilization. It is an honor to be able

**"It takes hundreds of hours, and dozens of specialized artists to put together a production like this."**

- DR. KENNETH KIRK

to recreate this piece, and we are fortunate to have the resources to do it," Kirk said.

The cast and crew have been hard at work since the idea was drawn up last spring.

"It takes hundreds of hours,

and dozens of specialized artists, to put together a production like this," Dr. Kirk said.

"VSU Opera meets as a class in the fall, and at this point we have been in intensive weekend rehearsals since the beginning of January."

In the balcony, younger musicians will be playing different pieces of music to which the peasants will dance, allowing some youth to actually be included.

Alongside Mikkelsen and Kirk is Dorothy Barnes, a part-time teacher in the Theatre Department, who is working on the costuming.

"She's doing beautifully! They're gorgeous costumes... We

haven't updated ["Don Giovanni"] at all," Mikkelsen said.

Joe Muncy, the Technical Whitehead Auditorium Manager, has been building the sets for the Opera.

Hollis Barnett, professor of Art and Projection Artist for the performance, has been working in the animation lab to make projections.

"We've been using [projections] for the past few years, since Whitehead is just a big auditorium, on the back wall to project certain images," Mikkelsen said. "And it's animated! It's like a Disney movie!"

"Don Giovanni" is set in Spain and the Spanish Mission

architecture on campus is going to make up some of the backdrops.

The rest of crew includes: Stage Director William Dwight Coleman, Choreographer Maria Taylor, and Media Artist Kathleen Kirk.

There are a couple of student artists from Georgia State University coming as guests to perform.

"It's kind of a large cast, so I had to import a couple of guests," Mikkelsen said.

"Don Giovanni" will also be performed on both this Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. with three different showings for the youth, VSU students, and the community.

## 'Red Tails' lacks historical accuracy



Photo by Twentieth Century Fox Film

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The newly released film, "Red Tails," produced by the great George Lucas and directed by Anthony Hemingway, lacks a few, certain elements that are important to the success of a great war movie, giving it somewhat of a lackluster vibe.

Based on the true story of the famous Tuskegee Airmen, the movie's big names are Cuba Gooding Jr. and Terrence Howard. However, both play a much more secondary role to that of the airmen themselves.

With good intention in mind, the folks behind "Red Tails" were obviously trying to emphasize the racial prejudices that were undoubtedly present during WWII times.

Unfortunately, [they] did not emphasize it enough.

The real Tuskegee Airmen were subjected to far crueler treatment by their white counterparts and the movie simply fails to capture the harsh bigotry that plagued that time in history.

"It was not quite what I was

expecting from a movie about war," Jason Weatherington, 28, said. "Some parts were a little boring, but I think it was decent overall."

Furthermore, as the plot unfolds and then concludes, one never quite seems to establish an emotional connection with any one member of the Tuskegee pilots, giving the viewers a much less sense of remorse when certain members of the fleet fall victim to enemy gunfire.

Deep connections with one or more characters in a good war movie tend to get the audience wholeheartedly involved and sympathetic, a characteristic that "Red Tails" fails to capture.

Unfortunately, "Red Tails" also incorporates multiple and unnecessary romance scenes which take away from the main idea of the story - war.

"It was a little long and drawn out for my taste," Jamie Cantrell, 36, said. "I would not recommend paying to see it in theaters, but instead just wait for the DVD."

Much of the film's love affair between an airman and an Italian woman could have easily been scratched from the film, cutting

the movie time down by a solid half hour and saving the action-seeking audience the unexciting drawl of kissing and tears.

On a positive note, there are many scenes throughout the movie of intense air-combat [and] these scenes definitely prove to be the highlight of the film.

Lucas and Hemingway do a bang-up job on the effects and the dog fights do indeed grab and hold the viewers' attention.

Generously critiquing the film, "Red Tails" earns a 'B-' at best for its lacking elements and historical inaccuracy.

The best bet would be to wait until it comes out on Netflix, making it possible to skip over one third of the movie.

### Sudoku Answers

2	9	4	5	3	7	8	6	1
8	3	6	4	9	1	2	5	7
5	7	1	6	8	2	9	3	4
6	2	7	9	1	8	5	4	3
9	1	3	2	4	5	6	7	8
4	5	8	3	7	6	1	9	2
3	4	2	8	5	9	7	1	6
1	6	5	7	2	4	3	8	9
7	8	9	1	6	3	4	2	5

Reporters!  
Photographers!  
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The Spectator needs you!

Contact the staff to sign up for freelance reporting!

## Sonic, Tails, Amy travel through time

When Sonic CD was released in 1993, I was so excited. But, I did not have a SEGA CD console, so I never got the game.

In the end of 2011, Sonic Team released an enhanced port of Sonic CD on pretty much anything that can connect to the internet. Is this enhanced port worth your time and money?

The Story of Sonic CD is simple. A planet, called "Little Planet," arrives on Sonic's world at the end of every year.

Sonic and Amy Rose arrive to see the view, but find that it is covered in metal and chained up by Dr. Robotnik.

Robotnik's newest creation, Metal Sonic, captures Amy and leaves Sonic in the dust.

Sonic must collect the Time Stones to change the past to make a better future and save Amy.

The gameplay feels just like any other SEGA Genesis Sonic title; it is good 2D platforming. What separates this from other Sonic titles, at the time, was that Sonic could travel to the past and future of any level. This meant that every act actually had three levels in it.

In the past you must destroy a robot generator and a Metal Sonic hologram to achieve a "good future". If you go to a "bad future," the game is much more difficult and has more enemies to defeat.

### Spec Tech with Steven Setser

In addition, you can enter a special stage if you have at least 50 rings when you beat an act. The special stages are in 3D.

You must destroy all of the UFOs floating to collect a Time Stone.

There are seven levels with two acts and a third act that serves as a boss stage.

So, what makes this an enhanced port?

Well SEGA teamed up with a fan, Christian Whitehead, who helped create the engine that this version of Sonic CD is running on. This allows for the game to

run in widescreen at 60 frames-per-second.

In addition, they added the ability to choose to use the original spin dash attack or use the spin dash from Sonic 2, which is much better.

The player is also able to choose between the U.S. soundtrack and the Japanese soundtrack, which I prefer.

Lastly, they added Tails as a playable character after you beat the game one time with Sonic.

Although, you cannot earn achievements with Tails, it is fun to see him in a game he was not meant to be in.

I highly recommend anyone to this game that loved the SEGA Genesis trilogy.

Sonic the Hedgehog CD is available on the iOS App store and Android Market for \$2.99 as well as Xbox LIVE Arcade, PlayStation Network, and Steam for \$5. Later, this year it will be released on Windows Phone 7 platforms.

For anyone who is concerned, I have played the iOS version and the touch controls are very responsive and accurate.

## Like this week's student profile?

Know a member of student or faculty with an outstanding talent or interesting hobby?

Contact us to let us know who you'd like to see profiled in an upcoming issue!

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# Signing Day 2012

## VSU "Black Swarm" gets stronger; offensive recruiting brings new targets for quarterbacks

### Recruiting Class 2012

**Donovan Bolden**  
WR 5'9", 170 - Charlton County

**Anthony Brumbley**  
LB 6'1", 180 - Colquitt County

**Stevon Bruten**  
DT 6'3", 275 - Nassua CC

**Javon Cameron**  
WR 6', 170 - LaGrange

**Jayson Crum**  
LS 5'10", 175 - Lowndes

**Jeremy Daniels**  
OL 6'6", 360 - Lanier County

**Terrance Foster**  
DB 6', 185 - Valdosta

**Rashad Guyton**  
SS 5'9", 183 - Madison County

**Jonathan Hester**  
LB 5'11", 221 - Valdosta

**D'aron Hill**  
FS 6'1", 185 - Peachtree Ridge

**Juwan Johnson**  
RB 6'1", 210 - Robert W. Groves

**Milton Lamar**  
DT 5'11", 265 - LaGrange

**Jamuari Love**  
FS 6'1", 175 - Pike County

**Oscar Luna**  
K 5'7", 180 - Colquitt County

**Ken Murphy**  
LB 6'1", 224 - Tattall County

**Kaleb Nobles**  
QB 5'11", 180 - Fitzgerald

**Cedric O'Neal**  
RB 6', 187 - Dublin

**Brandon Paden**  
WR 6', 178 - Lee County

**Tevin Roundtree**  
LB 6', 201 - Madison County

**Calvin Shenault**  
LB 6'1", 194 - Jonesboro

**Jon-Henry Tolbert**  
WR 6', 177 - Norcross

**Nick Utley**  
WR 6'2", 189 - Tift County

**Jake Walker**  
K 5'11", 163 - Pierce County

**Lorenzo Washington**  
FS 5'11", 201 - Trinity Catholic

**Sharmaine Washington**  
LB 6'2", 230 - Colquitt County

**Mckinley Weldon**  
OL 6'5", 292 - Auburn

**Dalton Wetherington**  
OL 6'1", 263 - Lincoln County

**Keldrick Williams**  
LB 6'2", 226 - Madison County

### DJ Davis

STAFF WRITER  
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National Signing Day is the day that every fan learns about their new players and hope they will be the ones to lead their team to the football promise land, and VSU is no different.

VSU reeled in a huge recruiting class in terms of size and stature yesterday on National Signing Day, bringing in 29 new players.

The Blazers landed 15 players on defense, 11 players on offense, and three special teamers highlighted by the 6'6", 360 lb offensive lineman, Jeremy Daniels.

VSU scoured all over Georgia and north Florida—from LaGrange and Savannah, Ga. to Madison and Deland, Fla. to find the recruits that will hopefully push the Blazers back into play-off contention.

The Blazers last won the Division II National Championship back in 2007 and are hoping that these recruits, including a few hometown boys, will lead them back to the "Title Town" fame they are used to.

VSU added longsnapper Jayson Crum from Lowndes High School, defensive back Terrence Foster and linebacker Jonathan Hester from Valdosta High School.

Crum is especially excited to be staying in his hometown. "I saw VSU as a good school to go to and it's home," said Crum. "A lot of kids go off to college and don't like it, plus VSU has a great pharmacy school and that's what I want to do."

The Blazers seem as if they are attempting to continue their tradition of a strong defense aptly nicknamed "The Black Swarm"

### ESPN.com Top 10 Division I Classes

- Alabama
- Florida State
- Texas
- Florida
- Georgia
- Ohio State
- Michigan
- Miami (FL)
- Clemson
- Notre Dame

as they welcomed a whopping eight more linebackers along with five defensive backs.

On the opposite side of the ball the Blazers seemed to focus on shoring up the passing game by adding five new players at the wide receiver position.

Team speed seemed to be a priority of VSU as five players, three offensive and two defensive, ran track in high school.

VSU also showed that they will most likely be running a similar offense in the future as they run currently.

The Blazers ran their offense out of the shotgun a majority of the time last year with a lot of plays featuring a QB option of some sort. Just about every quarterback currently on the VSU roster has some rushing ability.

New QB recruit, Kaleb Nobles, continues that trend and is considered one of the best dual threat QB's in the state of Georgia. Nobles turned down an offer to Clemson to play for the Blazers.

With a recruitment class of seven less players than last year fans will have to wait anxiously to see what kind of impact these players will make on the field later this year.

# Unstoppable force



Mac Ingram /THE SPECTATOR

Brittany Ferguson (21) shoots a jumper against West Georgia on Saturday, Jan. 21.

The Lady Blazers are on a romp right now, winning 13 of their last 15 games including a four-game win streak they hope to continue when they travel to Delta State tonight.

The team is major threat in the Gulf South Conference where they sit in third place with a 5-2 conference record only one game behind Delta State and Alabama-Huntsville who are tied in first with records of 6-1.

Leading the way is senior forward, Brittany Ferguson (21). Ferguson just nabbed her fourth Gulf South Conference Player of the Week award after leading the team to two victories last week. She now leads the conference in total player of the week awards earned.

Against non-conference foe Flagler Ferguson shot 10 for 12 from the field for 21 points in the 61-49 win over the Saints. She followed up this stellar performance with a double-double, her seventh of the season, in the 57-53 victory over conference foe West Florida.

After facing off against Delta State tonight, the Lady Blazers will travel to Christian Brothers for another conference game before returning home to face Alabama-Huntsville next week.

Tip-off for the game tonight will be at 6 p.m. followed by the men's game at 8 p.m.

# Field of softball dreams

### Eric Jackson

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The VSU Lady Blazer softball team is prepared to begin their 2012 campaign towards a national championship and thanks to a promising recruiting class they will have the talent to do so.

No. 6 ranked VSU plays their first game of the season this weekend with a squad that returns seven starters and adds several top tier newcomers.

Four of the seven returning starters were recently honored by being chosen on the preseason All-Gulf South Conference softball team.

The four standouts are all infielders and are all seniors.

Natalia Morozova was picked at the first base position and led the team in RBIs last season. She also has the ability to pitch which she did for the Russian National team; however, she will be strictly at first for the Lady Blazers.

April Hutchens was chosen at the second baseman position in the preseason selection after making it to the second team in 2011.

Sam Posey, the leadoff specialist, made the All-GSC first team last season and honors the third base spot.

All-American Marti Littlefield closes out the list unsurprisingly at shortstop.

Littlefield is approaching a couple new milestones including needing just 11 more homers and 49 RBI to set the GSC all-time mark in both categories.

She believes that this particular team can give the seniors on this team the ideal finish to their careers of winning a national

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MARTI LITTLEFIELD  
SENIOR SHORTSTOP

championship.

"I feel like this year is our year," Littlefield said. "We got a lot of potential, we got a lot of young girls and they got a lot spunk. They know the game and are catching on pretty fast."

Several newcomers will also be expected to come out and make an impact early on.

Freshman catcher Courtney Albritton, a highly ranked recruit, has been given the starting job at her position right off the bat.

The loss of All-American pitcher Holly Satterfield will hurt the rotation however UGA transfer pitcher Alanna Hadley is expected to potentially fill the gap.

Iowa State transfer Erika Trojan, third baseman, has the role of keeping a strong defensive glove at the hot corner while Posey sits out a couple weeks with an ankle injury.

New pitchers freshmen Courtney Gunby and Stetson transfer Abigayle Kohler have been also been brought in to improve the depth in the bullpen.

Head Coach Thomas Macera emphasizes that his skillful seniors aren't the only ones who will need to play well constantly for VSU to have a successful season.

"I can't have seven have a great year and win it," Macera said. "We have to have all ten

kids playing well. It's not tennis, it's a team sport. If you have a breakdown anywhere on your field, you aren't going to win in the post season. You can win games but not championships. We need to be clicking on all cylinders."

The Lady Blazers have won the GSC championship the past three seasons however they haven't competed for their ultimate goal of a national championship since 2010.

The team that sent VSU home early from the NCAA South Georgia Regionals last season was GSC rivals Alabama-Huntsville Chargers.

The Chargers lost to UC San Diego in the 2011 National Championship game.

The defeat marked the third consecutive year that a GSC team had come up one win short of the gold.

Although UAH was chosen to win the conference again, the defending champs are not in the slightest bit worried.

"They're probably our best competition that we have in our backyard," said VSU junior outfielder Morgan Johnson. "We'd love to be first but it puts a big X on your back. It doesn't matter what you're ranked at the beginning of the season as long as you're ranked high at the end of the season."

Coach Macera is 18 wins shy of becoming VSU's all-time win ingest softball coach and will inevitably accomplish that milestone this season. The season starts Saturday at the University of West Florida Regional Crossover Tournament in Pensacola, Fla. against Barry. First pitch is at 4 p.m.

### Games this week

#### Baseball

Comfort Suites Classic

VSU vs. Lindenwood  
Friday 2:30 p.m.

VSU vs. North Georgia  
Saturday 5 p.m.

VSU vs. Saint Leo  
Sunday 2 p.m.

#### Softball

West Florida Regional  
Crossover Tournament

VSU vs. Barry (DH)  
Saturday 3 p.m.

VSU vs. Nova Southeastern  
(DH)  
Sunday 2 p.m.

Home games are in bold  
DH denotes a double-header

#### Basketball

VSU @ Delta State  
Thursday  
Women's 7 p.m.  
Men's 9 p.m.

VSU @ Christian Brothers  
Saturday  
Women's 3 p.m.  
Men's 5 p.m.

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