

# THE SPECTATOR

February 23, 2012

WWW.VSUSPECTATOR.COM

VOLUME 83 ISSUE 22

## Inside This Issue

- **OPINIONS:** "Few hail to the future chief"
- **FEATURES:** "Monday makes music"
- **SPORTS:** "Freshman heroics in 2-0 win"



## Novel turns into play

Check out page 6 for the "A Lesson Before Dying" preview!

## On the Web

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

Visit the WebSpectator for more flash mob, presidential search coverage as well as audio clips from the concert band and wind ensemble concerts.

## USG bill may ban foreign students

If passed, House Bill 59 will bar illegal immigrant students from attending Georgia public colleges.

**Megan Harris**

Asst. Managing Editor  
[megharris@valdosta.edu](mailto:megharris@valdosta.edu)

The House Higher Education Committee met on Jan. 31 to discuss the bill that would ban illegal immigrants from attending all public colleges in Georgia.

House Bill 59, sponsored by Rep. Tom Rice, was proposed last year to prevent illegal immigrants from taking seats at Georgia colleges away from those students who are here legally, according to an article published in the Atlantic Journal-Constitution.

Although the bill was approved last year, the committee decided to delay due to its proven challenges as a hard and emotional issue.

Instead, the meeting served as a hearing in which speakers exchanged conflicting views and undocumented students delivered testimonies explaining how the bill, if passed, would affect their lives.

No date has been provided as to when the House Higher Education Committee will proceed to vote on House Bill 59.

According to Interim President Dr. Louis Levy, in October 2010 the Board of Regents approved a policy regarding the enrollment of undocumented immigrants into the University System of Georgia (USG) institutions.

The policy, which went into effect this past fall, allows illegal immigrants to enroll in Georgia universities and technical schools provided that the school has not turned away academically qualified students of legal residential status, but they must pay the higher out-of-state tuition.

According to Walter Peacock, director of the office of admissions at VSU, the in-state tuition for VSU is \$3,322, while the out-of-state tuition is \$9,310.

This means that under the current policy, an illegal immigrant, even if he or she has always resided in the state of Georgia, will have to pay approximately three times the tuition fee of legal in-state students in order to attend VSU.

According to the article, if House Bill 59 is implemented, illegal immigrants will be prohibited from enrolling in any of the 35 universities or 25 technical schools in the University System of Georgia. Colleges would be required to run students' names through a federal database to confirm that they are in the country lawfully.

Peacock, who opposes House Bill 59, said he believes the bill to be out of bounds and that the federal government is not doing enough to help illegal immigrants gain a legal status.

See **BILL**, Page 2

## Flash!: Surprise on mall



Ashley Curtis/CAMPUS RECREATION

Music blaring from nearby speakers, students gathered and witnessed as the Campus Recreation Group Fitness staff broke out into a flash mob along the Pedestrian Mall Wednesday afternoon. The group performed in order to raise awareness to its programs, namely its new program Sweat to Swag. To get involved with the program, a student can sign up at the Student Recreation Center front desk and receive a points card. The student then attends any of the various group fitness classes such as Yoga and Kickboxing, taking his or her card with him or her. Have the instructor sign the card to gain points. The more points gained, the higher the chance of getting a prize. These points can be redeemed at any time at the Front Desk, and participants can be contacted when their prize is ready to be picked up. The Campus Recreation site can be visited for more details. For video clips of the flash mob, visit the WebSpectator.

## Ga. gas prices will rise

**Joe Adgie**

STAFF WRITER  
[jmadgie@valdosta.edu](mailto:jmadgie@valdosta.edu)

Georgia prices for gasoline were on the rise Wednesday and are expecting to keep rising over the weekend.

Regular unleaded gas jumped from \$3.58 to \$3.63 in six hours, according to Motor Trend magazine's gas price chart.

According to a press release put out by GasBuddy.com, the sudden increase in gas came as no shock to GasBuddy.com senior petroleum analyst Patrick DeHaan.

"I expect stations to increase prices as much as 5 to 20 cents per gallon by the conclusion of the weekend with some stations starting to raise prices immediately," he said.

Peck Flanders, a worker at the former Phillips 66 on Baytree Rd., doubted the increase will affect business.

"It wouldn't change much, because this is more of a college store," he said. "They come and get gas here when they want." Courtney Bryller, who works in the Union Station game room at the Student Union, admitted that while her plans probably wouldn't be affected that much, more frequent plans would probably be changed.

"I'm taking a trip to Georgia Tech this weekend," Bryller said. "I don't do that very often but if I did, it'd probably change because the prices went up."

## Search progresses after sessions

Before the search moves on, feedback from the candidate sessions must be reviewed by the Screen Committee.

**Stephanie Turner**

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
[stturner@valdosta.edu](mailto:stturner@valdosta.edu)

In the past 10 days, four candidates visited VSU with the hopes of moving one step closer to the highly coveted position of VSU president.

If VSU's Presidential Search and Screen Committee decides

not to interview more candidates, the committee will choose three of the four candidates and submit an unranked list to the Regents' Special Committee. Out of that list will come the final name that will be put before Chancellor Hank Huckaby.

The four current contenders are Dr. Michael Lane from Emporia State University, Dr. Bill McKinney from Indiana Univer-

sity-Purdue University Fort Wayne, Dr. Cheryl Norton from the American Association of State Colleges and Universities and Dr. Ray Alden from Northern Illinois University.

All four candidates spoke for an hour in front of staff, faculty and students from various departments, such as Odum Library and VSUPD and were asked questions about their experiences

and plans for VSU.

One faculty member has already chosen his personal favorite based on the sessions.

"I think someone whose first name is 'Bill' instead of 'William' is a down-to-earth people person," said history professor Dr. Louis Schmier, who attended all four sessions.

See **SEARCH**, Page 2

## New flex deposit box installation possible

**Joe Adgie**

STAFF WRITER  
[jmadgie@valdosta.edu](mailto:jmadgie@valdosta.edu)

Student Government Association discussed the addition of a new Value Transfer Station machine, placed more stringent GPA requirements on SGA members and elected three more senators Monday night.

The VTS machine, which allows for cash deposits to Flex accounts, would be placed near the Student Union convenience store. Other ones are in the mail room at Hopper Hall and in Langdale Hall. Senator Reginald Merritt, who represents the Student Affairs committee, mentioned the devices are cost prohibitive, which explains the limited number of these machines around campus. Merritt said that there is no time table for this new machine being added but did say that it would be added in "the next few weeks."

SGA also increased the GPA requirements for Senators from 2.0 to 2.5 and Executive Branch members from 2.2 to 2.75.

Clint Gray, Lance Stephens, and John Hanna were elected as senators.

Visit the WebSpectator for the full version of this story.



I want to make it so that anyone who goes around the country, whether they're an alum or faculty member, anybody in the country can say, "Oh, you're the school that x, y, or z." What is it that VSU is? What's the next big thing?

> Dr. Bill McKinney



Clearly Valdosta State University is an excellent institution with wonderful and friendly people. I leave Valdosta more convinced that this is an exceptional opportunity.

> Dr. Michael Lane



There is a potential for growth on this campus. But, I think that growth for the sake is not what you really want to do. You want to grow and become better.

> Dr. Ray Alden



I'm most concerned about student success. I can assure that students have the best academic experience here. I want to provide students the resources to excel in their discipline.

> Dr. Cheryl Norton

## Question of the Week

- So what do you think about gas prices increasing?**
- A. Doesn't matter, still have to drive
  - B. That's outrageous, I refuse to buy gas now
  - C. Well, guess I will be biking/walking

## Previous question

Do you know the real meaning of Mardi Gras?

86%	It's French for "Fat Tuesday."
14%	Beads, booze and...party!
0%	It's that holiday with the masks, right?

## Weather at VSU

Today	Friday	Saturday
Partly Cloudy 79 H 47 L	Thunderstorms 73 H 47 L	Sunny 61 H 40 L

**Upcoming Events**

**THURS., FEB. 23**

**Employment Opportunity**  
*Student Union and University Center, noon - 5 p.m.*  
 Representatives from Wild Adventures Theme Park will be on campus to talk to students about local employment opportunities. Contact Career Services at 333-5942 for more info.

**Bingo Night**

*Library Auditorium, 8 p.m.*  
 Feeling lucky? Like to play the numbers? Join Natural High for Bingo. Great prizes. Snacks provided. It's all free! Valid VSU I.D. required.

**Palms Dining Discount Day**  
*Palms Dining Center, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.*

Any students, faculty, or staff who brings in five non-perishable food items will only have to pay \$5 to eat. This event is part of Chartwell's and SIFE's "iCan Week" food drive.

**Dancing with the Greeks**  
*Student Union Ballroom, 6 p.m. - \$5 Admission*

Come watch your favorite dance teams as they compete in Tango, Jive, and Cha Cha categories. There will also be two special performances by the Ballroom Dance Club Performance Team.  
 This event is sponsored by the

VSU Ballroom Dance Club. For details email ajritfeld@valdosta.edu.

**French Club Meeting**

*Odum Library 1480, 6 p.m.*  
 The French Club will be having its second meeting of the semester. Members are asked to bring dues to the meeting.

**SUN., FEB. 26**

**Alcohol Education and Risk Management Seminar**  
*Student Union Ballroom, 7 p.m.*  
 This seminar, by Dr. Lori Hart-Ebert, is hosted by VSU Greek Life. All students are welcome to attend.

**Franklin and Rosemary Traveling Boutique**  
*Student Union Meeting Room 1A, noon - 2 p.m.*

Chi Omega is sponsoring the boutique as a philanthropy event, with 10 percent of the proceeds going to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Merchandise available will include dresses, tops, jewelry, iPhone cases and more.

**MON., FEB. 27**

**Students Offering Support**  
*Powell Hall - Counseling Center Conference Room, 5:30 p.m.*

This student-led organization will be conducted in a small group setting designed to identify potential problems with substances and share stories of recovery. Use the entrance facing Georgia Avenue. If you have questions call 259-5111 or e-mail mfwillia@valdosta.edu.

**WED., FEB. 29**

**Fashion for Relay Model Casting Call**  
*University Center Magnolia Room, 7 p.m.*  
 Alpha Phi Omega will host model casting by KreActive Entertainment for its Fashion For Relay fashion show to raise money for Relay for Life. They are looking for male and female models.

**THURS., MARCH 1**  
**European Council Programs Application Deadline**

Travel to one of the major European cities, earn up to eight semester hours in just four to five weeks in the month of July and see the world at the same time.  
 For more information visit the Center for International Programs at 204 Georgia Ave., next to the Student Health Center, or call 333-7410.  
 You can also visit the Center for International Programs online at valdosta.edu/cip.

**Police Briefs**

**THURS., FEB. 16**  
 A stall door was kicked off of its hinges in the third floor men's restroom of Nevins Hall.  
 A cell phone was reported stolen from Georgia Hall.

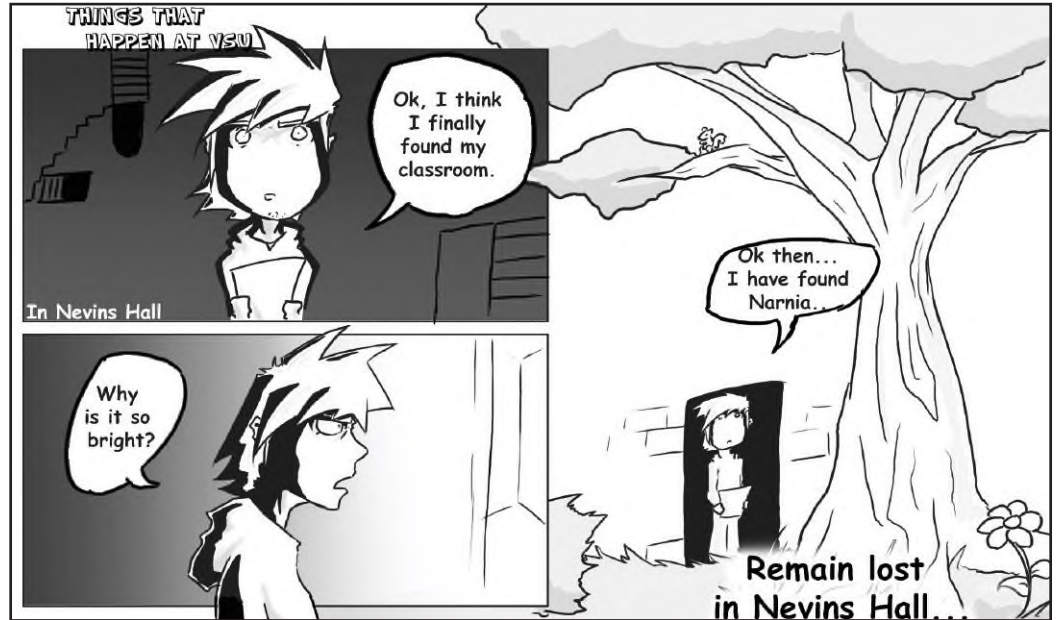
**FRI., FEB. 17**  
 A female was cut in the foot and face during an assault behind the Student Recreation Center at 2:15 a.m. The offender also ran over the victim's foot before fleeing in a black Toyota Camry.

Vandalism was reported in the infirmary lot after a large pile of wood was dumped onto the lot.  
 An elevator in the Sustella Street Parking Deck appeared to have been damaged by someone kicking something in.  
 A green NorthFace backpack and Vera Bradley laptop case were reported stolen from the third floor of Odum Library.  
 A recorder was reported stolen from a student at the Odum Library Media Center.

**SAT., FEB. 18**  
 The Nevins Hall gate arm was broken and multiple benches and trash bins were turned over during the early morning hours.

**MON., FEB. 20**  
 A burglary without force was reported in Hopper Hall.

**TUES., FEB. 21**  
 A black Verizon Pantech Cruz was reported stolen from the Student Recreation Center.



Comic by: Garrison Muelhausen /THE SPECTATOR

**Happy Tator Day!**

**TANNING**

- \*3 STARTER BEDS**
- THE TANNING STARTS HERE
- WOLFF'S PREMIER LAMPS
- 2400-2800 WATTS

**8 ADVANCED BEDS**

- TANS 4 TIMES FASTER THAN REGULAR BEDS
- 40-52 RUVA LAMPS
- 5,000-10,000 WATTS

**11 Beds**

**TROPICS**

**\*\$29.00 UNLIMITED** OPEN 6 DAYS, MON - SAT 9-7  
 1605 N. ASHLEY ST., VALDOSTA

1st Visit Free

ONLY 3 BLOCKS FROM CAMPUS

**B**irthright of Valdosta  
*You Have a Friend at Birthright*  
[www.birthright.org](http://www.birthright.org)

Non-Judgmental Friendship & Emotional Support  
 Confidential Services & Referrals  
 Free Pregnancy Tests

1205 Baytree Rd, Suite 4  
 229-244-5433 (LIFE)

24 Hour Hotline  
 1-800-550-4900

Close to VSU - Between CJ's Pub and Zuzby's

**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

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

Answers on Page 5

**Experience KSU**

If you are from Cobb, Cherokee, Bartow, Paulding or any other county near KSU, take advantage of your summer and earn some transient credits. KSU has flexible scheduling options and start dates so you can get ahead and still have time to enjoy the summer. Choose from sessions that run from two to eight weeks.

Classes begin as early as May 14 and end as late as July 30 depending on the session you select.

The summer listing of classes will be available March 5 online. Make plans to step up your credit options while enjoying the summer break.

The deadline to apply and submit a transient permission form for Summer semester is April 6, 2012.

Apply online now at:  
[www.kennesaw.edu](http://www.kennesaw.edu)  
 Office of Undergraduate Admissions  
 Phone: 770.423.6300

**Kennesaw State UNIVERSITY**

**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.

**Wanted**  
 Japanese Restaurant Server Wanted  
 Aligatou Japanese Restaurant  
 1922 West Hill Ave.  
 229-2440-4784

**For Rent**  
**House for Rent**  
 2 Bed / 1 Bath  
 Walking Distance from University Center on Williams St.  
 Call: 229-292-4400

**For Rent**

**FOR RENT**  
 RentValdosta.net  
 229-244-7800

REMERTON CONDOS  
 2/2.5, \$699/mo  
 1726 W. Gordon St. off Baytree

SETH TOWNHOMES  
 2/2.5, \$599/mo  
 2415 Seth Place, off Pineview

MOVE IN SPECIAL  
 1/2 off first month with Deposits \$400 with no application fee.

**Services**

**Pregnant? Now what?**  
 Answers at  
**Options Now**

A Life Choice Clinic  
 ~ Pregnancy Testing  
 ~ Limited Ultrasounds  
 ~ Confidential & at no cost  
 229-506-5017  
[www.optionsnow.org](http://www.optionsnow.org)  
[answers@optionsnow.org](mailto:answers@optionsnow.org)

**Services**

**Wanted**

**Bartenders Wanted:** Up to \$250 per day. No experience necessary. Training provided. Age 18+ OK. Call 1-800-965-6520 ext. 233

**Wanted**

**PLAY SPORTS! HAVE FUN! SAVE MONEY!**  
 Maine camp needs fun loving counselors to teach All land, adventure, & water sports. Great Summer! Call 888-844-8080, apply: campcedar.com

# Acclaimed author visits campus

**Megan Harris**  
ASST. MANAGING EDITOR  
megharris@valdosta.edu

The Department of English hosted a public reading with novelist Olympia Vernon Tuesday in Ballroom B of the Student Union.

Vernon was originally pursuing a career as a cop, but changed her mind after a college professor encouraged her to get her Master's degree in Fine Arts. Taking her professor's advice, Vernon began digging in her couch cushions for loose change to copy of one of her old novels to send to Louisiana State University, where she was accepted with a full tuition waiver.

Reflecting back, Vernon said she now realizes that her professor was right in urging her to pursue a career as a writer. "I can imagine myself as a cop pulling over a speeder and saying, 'Oh, okay cool, you're late? Well maybe I can turn my lights on so you can drive even faster to get to your girlfriends house before she leaves for the airport,'" Vernon said. "I'm just too liberal."

Vernon is now a critically acclaimed author of three novels, "Eden," "Logic" and "A Killing in This Town."

After opening with a poetic journal entry dedicated to the late Whitney Houston, the Louisiana resident read aloud to a room of around 50 students and faculty attendees.

After the reading, Vernon took questions and gave writing advice to the audience.

"...[I]f you ever happen to

stop in the middle of your writing, always stop on a scene when something is about to happen because when you pick back up, you'll get that same rush all over again," Vernon said.

Vernon also explained her interesting writing process to the audience.

"My process is very dangerous," Vernon said. "I don't eat for days when I'm writing. I usually get a vision. I don't use notecards or anything because I think when you try to map it out like that you piss off your characters. It's like you're telling them what to do."

Several of the audience members purchased copies of her novels "Eden", "Logic", and "A Killing in This Town" for thirteen dollars each at the close of the reading.

Brian Williams, freshman, engineering major, said he found Vernon's multifaceted and often controversial characters interesting.

Dr. Deborah Hall, creative writing professor, also found herself intrigued with Vernon's creative writing style.

"It's certainly a way of writing that's probably hard for beginning writers to do but once you learn the techniques you can progress to a process that is less restricting and more imaginative," she said.

Vernon completed a fourth novel last year, entitled "Queer", about a gay man named J.D. Foster on trial in rural Mississippi. Finding a publisher for this manuscript has been difficult, due to the controversial subject matter.

## Search

Continued from Page 1

"I got the sense he was a resonant leader...a moving person. I felt he was strong in his values, committed to his beliefs and lives a full, passionate life."

Dr. Louis Levy is currently serving as interim president, following the departure of former-president Dr. Patrick Schloss, who served as president for three years before leaving VSU last spring to become the University System of Georgia's Assistant to Executive Vice Chancellor.

Dr. Phyllis Holland, committee chair and Management and International Business department head, said the committee is making progress.

"Right now we are collecting feedback from the interviews and trying to digest the campus reaction to each of the candidates," Dr. Holland said. "All along the way, there is the possibility of the need to interview more candidates but there are no plans for that now."

The goal of the committee is to have a new president in place by July 1.

Dr. Holland encouraged students, staff and faculty to provide feedback on the search process through the Presidential Search website located through the VSU website homepage.

One of the candidates, Dr. Lane, had positive feelings about VSU after his day on campus.

"Clearly Valdosta State University is an excellent institution with wonderful and friendly people," Dr. Lane said. "Their interest in VSU is both impressive and important. I leave Valdosta more convinced that this is an exceptional opportunity."

Dr. McKinney would like for VSU to get more recognition.

"I want to make it so that anyone who goes around the country, whether they're an alum or faculty member, anybody in the country can say, 'Oh, you're the school that ... x, y, or z. What is it that VSU is? What's the next big thing?'"

Dr. Norton holds the student body in high regard.

"I'm most concerned about student success," she said. "I hopefully can assure that students have the best academic experience here. I want to provide students the resources to excel in their discipline."

Dr. Alden sees what VSU can aim for and become.

"There is a potential for growth on this campus," he said. "But, I think that growth for growth's sake is not what you really want to do. You want to grow and become better."

For any questions regarding the search, Dr. Holland can be contacted at pholland@valdosta.edu.

*Jacob McWhorter, Amber Smith, and J. Daniel Young contributed to this article.*

## Today in History

**Feb. 23, 1997: Scientists in Scotland announced they succeeded in cloning an adult mammal, producing a lamb named "Dolly."**

## Bill

Continued from Page 1

"If we don't educate these people we are compounding them down the road," Peacock said. "I think it's a travesty."

Peacock also said he finds it particularly upsetting that VSU is permitted to admit the least qualified student over the highest qualified one if that student happens to be an undocumented immigrant.

"These people have been here for years to no fault of their own," Peacock said. "We can get tons of economic advantage out of these potential nurses and doctors but instead we want to keep them peach pickers."

The topic of Illegal immigration in the United States is one that a vast amount of people are passionate about and students at VSU are no exception.

Their opinions on House Bill 59 run the gamut from those who hope to see the bill put into action and others who strongly oppose it.

"I don't think anybody illegally in the country should be able to go to college here," Jennifer McMullen, a freshman middle grade education major who supports House Bill 59, said. "They shouldn't even be able to stay because they don't pay taxes, and they don't contribute to our country because they send their money elsewhere."

Janique Segers, a freshman undecided major, knows firsthand the obstacles that immigrants face in working to obtain their U.S. citizenship.

"I was born in South Africa and moved to the states when I was 6," Segers said. "It took eleven years to get my naturalization certificate."

Segers said the entire process of obtaining U.S. citizenship is ridiculously long and super expensive.

"I don't think the bill is fair because if illegal immigrants are paying a higher tuition already why would they take away their right to attend universities when the schools are making money?" Segers said. "The schools should work with these students in order to help them obtain citizenship."

Ryan Wood, a freshman, computer information system major who supports House Bill 59, said, "Citizens should not support illegal citizens by providing them the same services as legal citizens."

Vilma Castillo, sophomore, psychology major, said being of Mexican ethnicity, she has friends who are illegal immigrants and hopes the bill is not put into action.

"These people are just trying to make a better life for themselves and this country is not giving them the support they need in order to do that," Castillo said. "They say we are the future of America, but by pushing this bill they are severing the future of the many potential doctors and lawyers who have the ability to better this country."

Dr. Levy said VSU will continue to work with the USG staff to carry out the current policies.

**Check out this week's WebSpectator for Trevor Smith's article on the new student organization Students Offering Support, more on SGA, and audio from the candidates in VSU's presidential search!**

# Exit 18 LIQUORS

1197 North St. Augustine Street • 229-245-0640

**Welcome Back Students**

**LARGE SELECTION OF BEER, WINE & LIQUOR**

Kegs Available

**Drive-Thru Window**

**Huge Walk-In Beer Cooler**

Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:30 a.m. - 11 p.m.  
Friday & Saturday 9:30 p.m. - Midnight  
Open Sunday! - Hours Subject to Change

**3 BEDROOMS**

**\$515 PER PERSON**

\$1,545 PER MONTH

**2 BEDROOMS**

**\$550 PER PERSON**

\$1,100 PER MONTH

- 1, 2 & 3 bedroom apartments
- Unfurnished apartments available
- Planned Resident Social Activities
- Resort Swimming Pool w/covered cabana area & gas grills
- Fantastic Fitness Center
- Game Room and gathering area
- Free Tanning
- Resident Conference Center for Study Groups
- Bocce Ball & Sand Volley Ball
- Car care center
- Control access gates
- Interior Entrance Halls
- Dog Park

\*Generous utility cap applies.

100 Garden Dr. | Valdosta, GA 31602 888.844.9638  
theresidencesatfivepoints.com

## ATTENTION STUDENTS WHO PLAN TO LIVE ON CAMPUS NEXT YEAR

Reclaim process for current Centennial residents only--February 20 from 9am - 4pm, February 21 from 10am - 2pm, & February 22 from 4pm - 7pm, 2012 in Centennial Hall Classroom. Students who currently live in Centennial Hall will be able to reclaim their space if both students in the two bedroom or two of the four students in a four bedroom want to reclaim it.

Room Selection for the 2012-2013 school year is March 5 - March 7, 2012 in the Student Union Ballroom C.

Please check the Housing web site at <http://housing.valdosta.edu> for more details on both the Reclaim process and Room Selection. Please review the schedule listed below to find out what day and time you can participate.

TIME	MONDAY (3-5-12)	TUESDAY (3-6-12)	WEDNESDAY (3-7-12)
10:00 am - 12:30 pm	Undergraduates who have completed 60 hours or more & graduate students, & have a 3.25 GPA or higher	All undergraduates who have completed 22 - 59 hours	Undergraduates who have completed 21 hours or less, & have a 2.5 GPA or higher
12:30 pm - 3:00 pm	All undergraduates who have completed 60 hours or more & graduate students	Undergraduates who have completed 21 hours or less, and have a 3.5 GPA or higher	All Undergraduates who have completed 21 hours or less
3:00 pm - 5:30 pm	Undergraduates who have completed 22 - 59 hours, and have a 3.25 GPA or higher	All Undergraduates who have completed 21 hours or less & have a 3.25 GPA or higher	Participation is open to all current VSU students including students that do not live on campus
5:30 pm - 8:00 pm	Undergraduates who have completed 22 - 59 hours & have a 2.75 GPA or higher	Undergraduates who have completed 21 hours or less & have a 3.0 GPA or higher	

\*Each time slot is for current residence hall students only (including pulling in roommates), except the last slot on Wednesday.

\*\*GPA = Cumulative GPA

Our point of view...

# Few hail to the future chief

While people are interested in the GOP presidential nomination race, a search close to home has VSU looking at a different type of candidate.

VSU has been putting the VSU presidential candidates through their paces with interviews, meetings, and public speeches. The student attendance was minimal at the speeches. At Dr. Bill McKinney's speech event, the room was filled, but the number of students could be counted on one hand.

During these Q&A's, students were given the opportunity to question the candidates. Organizers even handed out a survey for students to provide their input

into the selection process. Which leads us to ask you: Do you realize the impact you can have on this presidential search?

History professor Louis Schmier gave us his wish list for the new president. One of the points that he brings to light is the comment: "I am looking for a president who doesn't want a bunch of 'Yes persons around him, who buries him or herself in meetings so that he or she is inaccessible.'" We want our president to be accessible.

If students don't offer their input, imagine where we will be if VSU hires another Dr. Ronald Zaccari. Do you want a president that uses his position to expel students with whom he has an is-

sue? We have been lucky with Dr. Louis Levy, the interim president. He has an open door policy with students.

If VSU hires someone who doesn't have that open door policy, our ability to speak directly with the administration could suffer. That might affect the SGA's ability to work with the president and administration. Imagine a campus where students don't have the ear of the president.

It is our place to question the candidates. After all, the president will steer this facility toward a possible new direction.

The candidate could lead us in utilizing new technologies, a goal

into which every college should be looking. The next president will be the new face of VSU, and we should try to put our best face forward. That face is best chosen with the assistance of the students, through asking questions and providing our input to the administration and board of regents.

It's not like the board of regents or administration has to illicit our input, but since they have, it is our duty to accept this opportunity.

Our presidential search may not be as grand as the ongoing GOP national search, but it will have a much bigger impact on VSU as a whole.



Garrison Muelhausen/The Spectator

This editorial was written by J. Daniel Young (jeryoung@valdosta.edu) and it expresses the general opinion of the editorial staff.

## Higher education poses a challenge for every student

J. Daniel Young  
PHOTO EDITOR  
jeryoung@valdosta.edu

The surprising element on the budget is his commitment to education. His administration strives towards the goal of a higher college graduate rate in the world by 2020. Some of the ways the administration hopes to achieve this goal are through the following:

The Pell Grant current rate of \$5,635 per year for post-secondary education will be maintained through the 2014 to 2015 award year.

Federal aid to colleges that do not assist in keeping tuition down will be stopped.

This mirrors the President's comments during the State of the Union address. Those colleges that do help to keep tuition down will share in the proposed increase from one billion dollars a year to eight and a half billion a year.

Another goal involves creating an incentive for colleges to keep costs under control through a one billion dollar plan to help colleges meet that challenge.

Awarding a portion of a 55 million dollar award that will assist colleges in developing strategies boosting higher education attainment and student outcomes.

Providing a partially refundable tax credit worth up to ten



An empty classroom symbolizes the difficult road most schools and student face in the future. Funding will be available for education, but students will need to be aware of the opportunities available to them.

thousand dollars over four years of college through the new American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC).

Improving access to higher education to minority students.

Investing in community colleges with a two billion dollar program to help develop programs that will foster assistance toward local and regional labor market demands.

Expanding opportunities for math, science and engineering students which will provide assistance in K through 12, which also helps to prepare students for higher education in these fields.

Recruiting effective teachers by providing a grant to teachers to teach in high-need schools.

While all of this is great, the most striking is a development that caught me by surprise. During this summer, Stafford loans interest rates are poised to double from 3.4 to 6.8 percent.

This proposal intends to hold that interest rate of 3.4 percent for another year.

With the current state of the economy, raising the interest rate this summer will have a definite impact on student's future earnings.

You may not be interested in

politics, the budget or any of the things happening in D.C., but the interest rates on student loans should be enough to get you calling your senator and demanding he support this budget or at least this portion.

As students, we have a voice and it's time for these voices to be heard when it comes to the future of our education and the dollars spent toward education.

If you don't contact your senator, then don't complain when your interest rate doubles over the summer.

## The Electoral College remains an outdated sign of the past

Autumn Sullivan  
STAFF WRITER  
acsullivan@valdosta.edu

The time has come to ask whether citizens of the U.S need representation through which to vote for the leaders of our country.

The Electoral College, which consists of the electors appointed by each state that then elect the President and Vice President of the U.S is unnecessary.

Why should we have any form of middle man when it comes to voting?

Are they afraid that we aren't

capable of expressing what and who we want in office?

Don't we as the American people have the right to designate exactly who we want to be our leader?

Let's have a definition of what democracy is to the average American.

"Democracy is for the people, by the people," Rebecca Stiller, a business management and political science major, said.

"If this is really true, then why do we need an electoral college to vote for president as well?"

What if for some reason the candidate that the people elect isn't good enough for them? Should we just be stuck with their

choice?"

Like Stiller, a lot of Valdosta State University students share the same sentiments.

Some believe though that a compromise of sorts can be worked out, without totally eliminating the Electoral College and giving the people the choice they want.

"Maybe we could vote on a candidate and whoever gets the most votes for the states in that region, that'll be the person to get the electoral votes," Seth Youmans, biology major, said.

It's a personal choice, an expression of the very freedom that we as a people should have.

The government is treating us

like little children. We want power and recognition as individuals, but we are being pushed aside and patronized.

To me it seems they're saying: "Let them think they have power."

Are we like the toddler in the kitchen, banging on pots and pans?

Believing we're helping mom prepare dinner?

Do we live in a guise of a make believe democracy? One thing is for sure, the average American (student anyway) believes the Electoral College is unnecessary, and I wholeheartedly agree.

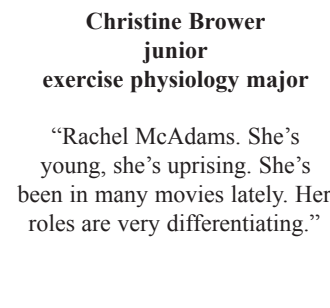
## People Poll:

### What actor or actress deserves to win an Academy Award?



Adonis Mundy  
sophomore  
international business major

"Angela Bassett. I think she is a phenomenal actress."



Christine Brower  
junior  
exercise physiology major

"Rachel McAdams. She's young, she's uprising. She's been in many movies lately. Her roles are very differentiating."



Austin Green  
freshman  
athletic training major

"Robert Downey Jr. He can play any kind of eccentric role and he plays it well. He's overcome a lot of obstacles and become a successful actor."



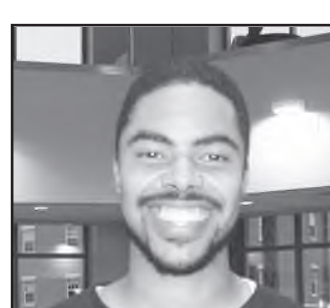
Kenneth Preston  
junior  
chemistry pre-med major

"Will Smith. He's made a lot of good movies and I like him as an actor."



Darrell T. Bowner II  
senior  
mass media major

"Viola Davis. She's overdue for an Oscar and she's always so good."



### Spectator Staff

**Editor-in-Chief:** Stephanie Turner  
**Managing Editor:** Amber Smith  
**Business Manager:** Lori Paddock  
**Advertising Manager:** John Pickworth  
**Circulation Manager:** Morgan McFarland  
**Opinions Editor:** Mikayla Beyer  
**Features Editor:** Ariel Felton

**Sports Editor:** Chad Stone  
**Photo Editor:** J. Daniel Young  
**Multimedia Editor:** Jacob McWhorter  
**Web Designer:** Rebecka McAleer  
**Copy Editor:** Shambree Wartel  
**Cartoonist:** Garrison Muelhausen  
**Faculty Advisers:** Dr. Pat Miller, Dr. Ted Geltner  
**Reporters/Photographers:** Trevor Smith, Maya Kellam, D,

LaBrit Bulluck, Kat Grigoriadis, Megan Harris, Sharleece Bellagosi, Denise Pleasant, Taylor Kelly, Jerry Ingram, Kristin Hunt, Ritsuki Miyazaki, Jessica Ingram, Star Reese, Courtney Perry, Jennifer Gleason, Shaundi McDaniel, Quasha Ross, Kyara Thompson, Autumn Sullivan, Alex Fletcher, Jamie Baker

**Newsroom** (229) 333-5688  
**Advertising** (229) 333-5686  
**Business** (229) 333-5686  
**Fax** (229) 249-2618  
**E-mail** spec@valdosta.edu

### Contacting Us

VSU Spectator  
1500 N. Patterson St., Valdosta, GA 31698

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 by Tuesdays before 5 p.m.

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

Opinions expressed in the Spectator other than editorials are the opinions of the writers of signed columns and not necessarily those of the Spectator and its staff. All rights reserved. Reprints by permission of the editors. Views in this newspaper are not necessarily those of the Valdosta State University administration, faculty and staff.

# Monday makes Music

## VSU graduate mixes classical violin with upbeat hip-hop

**Amanda Usher**  
Assistant Opinions Editor  
amusher@valdosta.edu

Former VSU graduate Justin Monday is striving to make a name for himself in the orchestra world as he has found a way to incorporate hip-hop into his musical performances.

Monday, 29-years-old, was raised in Decatur, Ga., with his older brother before making his way to Valdosta, where he majored in music education and violin performance at VSU. He graduated in 2006.

Monday has been playing the violin for 17 years and piano for 15 years.

While attending VSU, he studied under Nina Lutz, string area chair at VSU.

Originally, he was dedicated to playing saxophone.

However, one of his teachers gave him reasons why he should quit playing it, including the fact that there is much competition among sax players.

Monday used to be a member of "The Exchange," an acoustic band under the direction of Michael Coons.

He joined the band when it formed in 2010.

He currently plays with Sean

Newberry, a guitarist, and Adam Hopper, a singer. The trio performs under the name Justin Monday.

**"You only get one life to live, so why not just have fun?"**

- JUSTIN MONDAY

Monday got the idea to mix hip-hop with his violin performances from Coons.

His lyrics are about topics such as partying, living life and even discovering that a girl has cheated. He is all about the enjoyment of life.

"You only get one life to live, so why not just have fun?" Monday asked.

His inspirations include Itzhak Perlman, a violinist, and Boyd Tinsley, an American violinist for the Dave Matthews Band.

Monday is aiming to be an inspiration himself with his music, but there is also another goal.

"The goal is not only to inspire, but [I] want to be among the elites," he said.

Along with playing with his band, he is also an orchestra teacher at Chapel Hill Middle School in Decatur, Ga. He's been teaching there for three years.

Before joining the Chapel Hill staff, he taught at Cedar Grove Middle in Decatur for three years.

His band is currently awaiting the release of his music video in mid-March for his song, "It's Like This."

"Our EP will be coming out in April," Monday said. "The goal after the EP comes out [is that] we will keep trying to take over the Atlanta scene then go south."

They plan on touring colleges including VSU and Georgia Southern in the future. After, they will head to more places including Florida, Alabama and Tennessee.

"It will definitely be exciting to come back to Valdosta and play," Monday said. "I played a few times in the bars when I was in college so it will definitely be fun to do it again."



Melissa Holcomb / Contributed photo

Justin Monday, VSU graduate, has been playing violin for 17 years. Recently, Monday hooked up with Sean Newberry and Adam Hopper. Look for the band's EP in April and a music video for "It's Like This" in March.

Go online to hear "It's Like This" by Justin Monday!



Melissa Holcomb / Contributed photo

Do you know a VSU student, faculty member, or alumni with an interesting hobby or outstanding talent?

Let us know who deserves a profile!

Contact features editor, Ariel Felton, at arfelton@valdosta.edu.

**Sudoku Answers**

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



**Student Activity Fee Budget Request Forms**

**AVAILABLE NOW!**

Those registered student organizations wishing to request Student Activity Fee Funding for the 2012-2013 school year may pick up Budget Forms from the Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Office, Student Union third floor.

Please call 333-5941 with any questions and ask for Andrea Butler.

**The deadline to submit Budget Request Forms is NOON Friday, March 9**

**to the Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Office third floor of the Student Union.**

**Budget hearings take place Wednesday, April 4, 2012 and Thursday, April 5, 2012**



**TIME IS MONEY!**



**Student Success Center**

**SSC Hours**

**Monday - Thursday**  
9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

**Friday**  
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**Saturday**  
Closed

**Sunday**  
4 p.m. - 8 p.m.

**We Can Help You With:**

Math  
Writing (any subject)  
Chemistry  
Biology  
Spanish  
French  
German  
Physics  
Sociology  
Anthropology  
Geography / Geology  
History  
Philosophy  
Literature  
Political Science

**Free Tutoring in Core Courses**  
**Free Professional Advising**  
-One-on-one sessions  
**-Workshops in Time Management, Study skills, Notetaking, etc.**

**On-Campus Employment Opportunities**

[www.valdosta.edu/finadmin/human\\_resources/studemp/](http://www.valdosta.edu/finadmin/human_resources/studemp/)  
**Phone: 229-333-7574**  
**Fax: 229-333-7577**  
**Mon-Thurs: 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m.**  
**Fri: 8 a.m.-3 p.m.**

Visit [www.valdosta.edu/ssc](http://www.valdosta.edu/ssc) for more information

**Langdale Hall** Phone: 229-333-7570  
(Between Palms Dining and Georgia Hall) Fax: 229-333-7579

*Eat, Drink, & Be Happy*

## CJ's Pub & Pool

- Largest Chemistry Set to Make Drinks
- **March Madness is coming**
- Play-in Basketball Brackets
- Happy Hour 4 - 7 Every Day!**
- Tuesday 99¢ (Domestic Bottles)**

**Best Sports Bar in the South!**  
Kitchen Closes at 2:00am (12:00am Sunday)  
1201 Baytree Road  
**2 2 9 . 3**




**50% Off On Pool**  
for one hour  
\*must present this coupon\*

# VSU gets 'A Lesson Before Dying'

**Jennifer Gleason**  
Assistant Features Editor  
jgleason@valdosta.edu

Starting today, students will be able to see "A Lesson Before Dying," a theatric performance in the Lab Theatre on the second floor of the Fine Arts Building room 238.

The performance, which is based on Ernest Gaine's novel, has a theme centered in Bayonne, La. in the late-1940s.

A Louisianan black man named Jefferson is accused of murder and is sentenced to death. The play follows his life from the sentencing to his execution.

Dr. John Gaston, dean of the College of the Arts, and H. Duke Guthrie, Associate Professor of Theatre, co-directed the stage adaptation by Romulus Linney, an American playwright who wrote over 20 plays.

"It's an experience for the students—we try to give them a variety of different kinds of characters to play," Dr. Gaston said.

The small cast consists of seven players: Mark LaMont Hance

as Jefferson, D'Amante Wilson as Miss Emma Glen, John Holladay as Paul Bonin, Jonathan Butts as Grant Wiggins, Clark Franzman as Sheriff Sam Guidry, Diamond Do'zia as Vivian Baptiste and Anthony Scott

**"I found the play incredibly powerful and exciting in a very challenging way..."**

- H. DUKE GUTHRIE, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF THEATRE

as Rev. Moses Ambrose.

Both Guthrie and Gaston believe the show will shed light on the hardships endured during the late-1940s for African Americans.

"I found the play incredibly powerful and exciting in a very challenging way, but I felt that I would need the cultural perspective that Dr. Gaston would bring, and his wisdom," Guthrie said.

Dr. Gaston feels a good collaborative effort has been made.

"I think we've been able to go a little faster because he sees things that I don't see, and when we put those together, it allows us to make progress," he said.

Others also feel the energy given by the performance.

"I like the intimate feel for being in the lab so close to the performance," Michael Driggers, technical director, said.

Despite the closeness of the performance, seats are filling up fast.

Remaining times for the performance are Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Sunday at 3 p.m. and Monday through Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

VSU Students get into the show for free with a valid ID. All other ticket prices are \$12 for adults, \$10 for senior citizens and \$8 for children. Tickets are only \$7 for groups of 10 or more.

Tickets can be purchased by calling the VSU Theatre and Dance Box Office between the hours of 2 and 5 p.m. at (229) 333-5973 for advanced reservation. Reserved tickets can be picked up approximately 30 minutes before curtain call.



From left to right: Clark Franzman as Sheriff Sam Guidry, John Holladay as Paul Bonin, D'Amante Wilson as Miss Emma Glen, Mark LaMont Hance as Jefferson, Anthony Scott as Rev. Moses Ambrose, Johnathan Butts as Grant Wiggins, and Diamond Do'zia as Vivian Baptiste.

# Amazon kindles bigger Fire

This issue of Spec Tech is all about new phones, BlackBerry's OS 2.0 update, and E-reader tablets.

Companies are still announcing smartphones, even though the Mobile World Congress isn't until next week. Samsung announced the Galaxy Ace 2 as well as the Galaxy Mini 2.

The Galaxy Ace 2 has a 3.8-inch WVGA screen, 800MHz processor, 5-megapixel camera, front facing VGA camera, microSD card slot, 4GB of internal memory, GPS, USB 2.0 port and will launch with Android 2.3: Gingerbread OS.

The Galaxy Mini 2 has an 800MHz processor, USB 2.0

port, microSD slot, 4GB of internal memory and launches with Android 2.3 but the other specs are less powerful than the Ace 2. It will have a 3.27-inch HVGA screen, a 3-megapixel camera and a front facing camera. It will also have HSDPA support, so it is a world phone.

A global release for these phones will be sometime in or after April.

A Japanese blog, Macotakara, reported that the next iPhone will release in the fall, like the 4s did this past year, and claimed that Apple will continue this trend for the phone.

The iPhone 4s was the first iPhone to be released in the fall and not the summer, but I expect

## Spec Tech with Steven Setser

this rumor to be true. Apple is not well known for releasing new products within the same year, except for MacBook Pro's. Releasing the iPhone 4s right before the holiday season helped with sales, so I expect Apple to release the next iPhone in the beginning of October.

Chinese phone manufacturer, ZTE announced two new Android 4.0: Ice Cream Sandwich devices. The ZTE PF200 has a 4.3-inch QHD screen, 8-megapixel camera, 1080p front-facing camera, GPS and an HDMI-out port. LTE support is in the phone, but they have not announced what company it will be on.

The ZTE N910, on the other hand, has a WVGA touch screen, 5-megapixel camera, 1080p front-facing camera, GPS and will only support 3G networks. Do not get excited yet though, as ZTE has not announced what countries these phones are coming to, but it is expected to debut here in America.

If you have the BlackBerry PlayBook, then rejoice! The new operating system, OS 2.0 is here, giving you everything it should have had a year ago.

With a built-in e-mail, calendar, and a contacts app, the update also allows for more Android apps to work on the device. Sadly, it still does not have integrated BBM. The update is available now for free.

Barnes & Noble has announced an 8GB version of the Nook Tablet for \$199. All of the specs are the same as the 16GB version. Barnes & Noble has done this for direct competition with the Kindle Fire, since the Fire is the second best selling tablet, next to the iPad. The

8GB Nook Tablet is now available on the Barnes & Noble's website.

A report from DigiTimes says that Foxconn is making a 10-inch Kindle Fire for Amazon. The original Fire is only a 7-inch tablet. It would be set to launch in the second quarter of 2012.

The question for this week is, "Who do you think has the better E-reader, the Nook Tablet, Kindle Fire or iPad?" I am asking for the enjoyment of reading, not which tablet has the most features. E-mail me at smssetser@valdosta.edu or comment on the Spectator website, vsuspectator.com.

Don't forget to check online for more features, including Pop Addict with Maya Kellam! This week: a behind-the-scenes look at Whitney Houston's funeral, and Chris Brown and Rihanna hook back up for two remixes!

# VSU Greeks Jive, Tango and Cha-Cha

**Morgan McFarland**  
Circulation Manager  
msmcfarland@valdosta.edu

The members of the Improvisation Troupe will be hosting Dancing with the Greeks at 6 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom.

If you enjoy the competitive atmosphere of smooth and rhythmic steps of a ballroom dance competition, then this event is for you.

The event was founded by the Ballroom Dance Club's former president Taylor Marie Berry, a member of Alpha Sigma Alpha. She put the competition together as another creative way to raise funds for their organization.

"It was an idea for fundraising," Andrew Ritfield, President of the Ballroom Dance Club, said.

"We may open that up to more

organizations to keep finding ways to make it bigger and better."

Hosted by Jeffrey Clifford and Isaac Huntington, this 2nd annual competition is centered on teams of four couples from each fraternity or sorority that will be teaming up and performing choreography in either the Jive, the Tango, or the Cha Cha.

The competitors include members from Alpha Sigma Alpha, Delta Chi, Phi Mu, Kappa Alpha Order, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Alpha Phi Alpha, Kappa Delta, Sigma Chi, Zeta Tau Alpha and Phi Sigma Kappa.

The event will be open to the whole campus with an entry fee of \$5 per person.

"We encourage everyone to come," Ritfield said. "Everyone should enjoy our events and our organization as well."

While the brothers and sisters donate money, the money along

with the entry fee will be put up and 10 percent of the proceeds will go towards the winners and their philanthropy.

"It was an idea for fundraising. We may open that up to more organizations to keep finding ways to make it bigger and better," Ritfield said.

Although this is an extravagant event, you are encouraged to wear whatever you have as long as you come out and support.

"Wear what you got; really just be there to enjoy the event and see what we are about," said Ritfield.

The Ballroom Dance club meets every Friday at 3 and costs only \$20 for the whole academic year.

For those interested in being a part of the Ballroom Dance club, contact Andrew Ritfield at ajritfeld@gmail.com.

## This is Your Chance at your 1.5 Minutes of Fame

Start honing those talents Blazers, and keep reading The Spectator and [www.vsuspectator.com](http://www.vsuspectator.com) for more details on the 1.5 Minutes of Fame Talent Show! Shortly we will be asking you to send us your 90 second videos performing your talents to be posted on [www.vsuspectator.com](http://www.vsuspectator.com). Weekly winners will get to participate in our talent show at the end of the semester.

**Hungry?**  
You know who to call!  
247-6341  
210 Northside Dr.

**Campus Special!**

vs1 Medium One Topping OR vs2 Large Cheese \$5.99

vs11 Large Unlimited Toppings \$9.99

vs8 Wings & Cheesybread \$7.99

vs13 Sandwich Combo OR \$6.99

vs15 Pasta Bread Bowl & Drink

vs14 Sandwich & Small 1 Topping \$8.99

**ORDER ONLINE**  
[www.dominos.com](http://www.dominos.com)

247-6341  
210 Northside Dr.

Hours:  
11 AM - 1 AM Sunday - Thursday  
11 AM - 2 AM Friday & Saturday

# Collapse doesn't change Braves ways

Flashback to Sept. 28, 2011. There I was sitting on the couch, tense, waiting; it was the top of the 9th. September had been a rough month for the Braves, but there was still a chance to secure a coveted wild card spot in the postseason. All we needed was a ground ball and the game would be over, but instead the Braves suffered one of the worst collapses in the history of America's pastime leaving fans and players slack-jawed and speechless.

So I, like any good Braves fan, moved on. I have been a diehard for 20 years now, and I have seen all the fantastic seasons followed by postseason collapses, but this past year planted a sapling of doubt in the back of my mind that is slowly growing into an indestructible tree of hopelessness as I watch the Braves returning to spring training after a stagnant offseason that saw little change to the Braves while the rest of their division got much stronger (aside from the Mets; sorry guys).

There are some positives of course. The pitching staff is looking pretty strong with Jair Jurrjens and Tommy Hanson returning after being injured for the majority of last year.

It's great to see these two healthy again alongside Brandon Beachy and Mike Minor because they are going to have to step up and fill in for Tim Hudson for the first month as "Huddy" recovers from offseason back surgery.

Derek Lowe is gone after a very disappointing season that saw him go 9-17 in 34 starts with a 5.05 ERA. The Braves have too much young talent that need as much play time as possible to hone their skills, so keeping a lackluster oldie like Lowe



MCT  
Atlanta Braves center fielder Michael Bourn walks toward Champion Stadium during the third day of pitchers and catchers workouts in the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex, Wednesday, in Lake Buena Vista, Florida.

around was counterproductive.

The biggest problem that I have, and something that has been an issue for the Braves in the past few years, is offensive production. The bats are so inconsistent, and no one is stepping up and filling that clutch power hitting position.

Chipper Jones, 39, isn't getting any younger and holy crap he's looking a little rough at spring training.

Did anyone see the picture on ESPN.com of Mr. Jones, pudge edition? Chipper, easily one of my top 5 favorite Braves past and present, needs to stay healthy and keep his bat hot this year, but if that doesn't happen (which isn't likely given his track record) then I think it might be time to hang up the jersey and hit the cages training the

young guns on how to be an all-star hitter like he was in the past.

Another x-factor is right-fielder, Jason Heyward. His bat really cooled off last year after a pretty great rookie season. He was dealing with an ongoing shoulder injury and difficulties hitting balls on the inside of the plate (which opposing pitchers exploited like any smart team would), but if he doesn't start to show improvement then it may be time for the Braves to start looking elsewhere.

I know it seems like I am really ripping into my favorite team of all time in any sport, but after the dismal performance at the end of last year, it is hard not to question the lack of activity and just attribute it to having a young team that will somehow just do better this year in a division that

got a lot stronger during the off-season.

The Miami Marlins (it's going to be hard to not call them Florida anymore) made major moves to acquire big names including starting pitchers Mark Buehrle and Carlos "Big Z" Zambrano, shortstop Jose Reyes, and closer Heath Bell who had 43 saves last season. These major additions along with the bat of right fielder Mike Stanton could provide some major problems for the Braves.

One team that looks lackluster on paper but seems to hand the Braves all sorts of trouble every year are the Washington Nationals. With a healthy Stephen Strasburg and a one-year deal for closer Brad Lidge the Braves could be scratching their heads once again.

And now we move on to the opponent that ultimately decided the Braves' fate on those dark September days; those damned Philadelphia Phillies. Out of 18 games in 2011, the Phillies beat the Braves 12 times including being undefeated 6-0 in the second half of the season. They may have lost one of their star pitchers in Roy Oswalt, but they added the big bat of Jim Thome at first base and allstar closer Johnathan Papelbon.

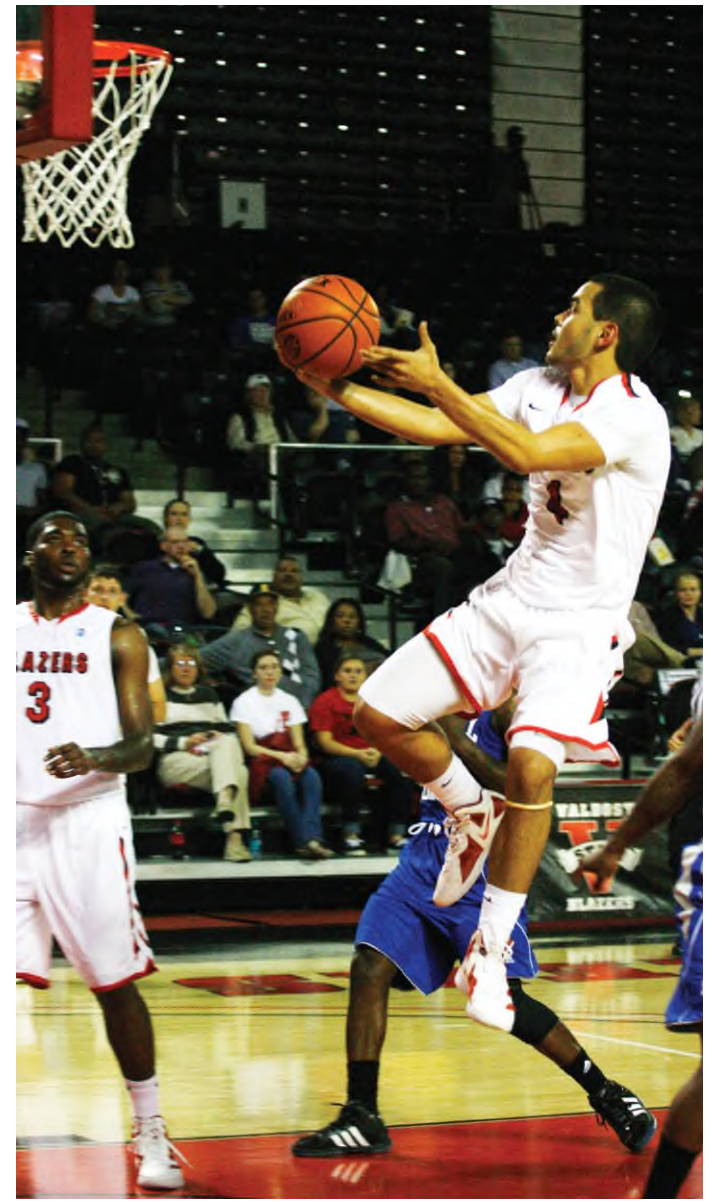
Even the New York Mets are pretty good at being a thorn in the Braves side splitting the games in 2011 9-9, but the chances of them being a greater threat in the NL East is slim.

Braves fans may have to settle on the fact that this season may be a lesson in patience for both the players and fans, but one thing is for sure, good or bad, there is always next season.

The beauty of all sports is the prospect of a next season however bad the last one was.

# Out with a bang

## VSU rout Coastal Ga. 100-65 in last home game



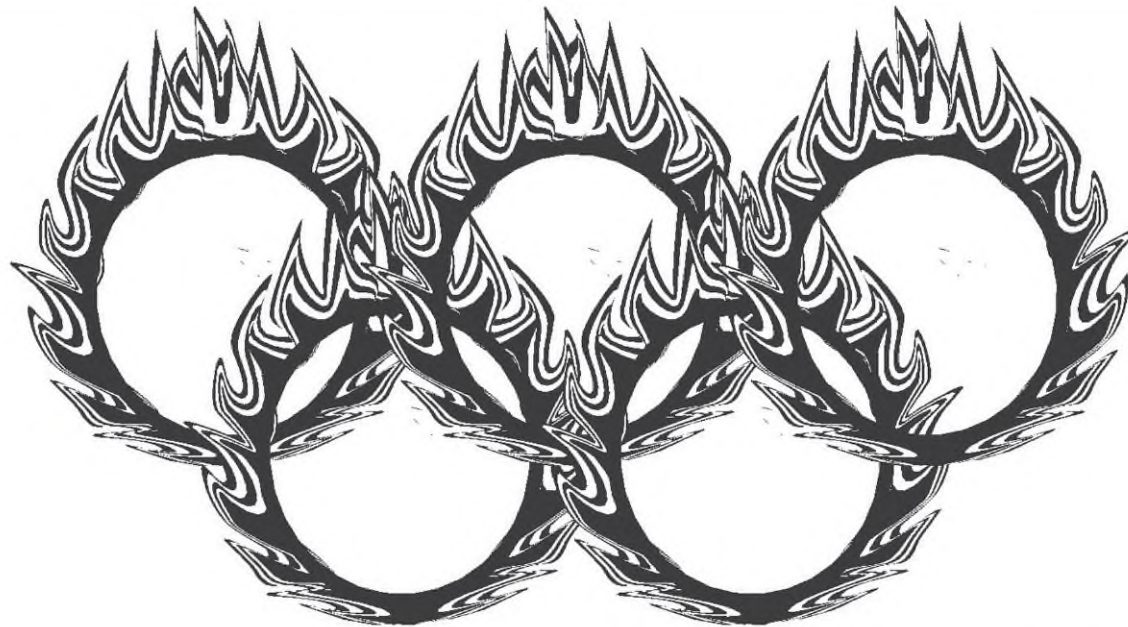
Mac Ingram /THE SPECTATOR  
Brandon Klunder, senior guard, goes up for a layup in VSU's 100-65 win over Coastal Georgia Wednesday night. VSU plays their final regular season game on Saturday at West Florida. The GSC tournament will start Mar. 1 in Niceville, Fla.

### VSU Baseball Home Games This Week

vs. Barry, FRI. @7 p.m.  
vs. Florida Southern, SAT. @7 p.m.  
vs. Tampa, SUN. @6 p.m.

Check out our new sports Twitter for news and scores  
**@BlazerSports**

Interested in writing for the sports section of The Spectator?  
Email Chad Stone at:  
**cstone@valdosta.edu**



## THE LEADERSHIP GAMES

TRAIN PERFORM SUCCEED

VALDOSTA STATE

Saturday, Feb 25  
Student Union

Check-in 8:45-9:15am / Union Lobby / Conference End Time 2:00pm

OPEN TO ALL VSU STUDENTS

Pre-registration not required, but preferred  
email: [bfbeasle@valdosta.edu](mailto:bfbeasle@valdosta.edu)

Continental Breakfast, Lunch, conference T-shirt and  
LOTS of prizes throughout the day.  
Guest Speaker: Dave "Gonzo" Kelly

# Freshman heroics in 2-0 win

*Softball is clicking on all cylinders with sweep of GSW in Wednesday's doubleheader; 2-0, 9-1. Improve to 9-2 record.*

**Eric Jackson**

ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR  
epjackson@valdosta.edu

VSU freshman centerfielder Courtney Albritton hit a walk-off two-run homerun shot to secure the Lady Blazers first victory of the doubleheader against Georgia Southwestern Wednesday afternoon 2-0. The rest of the team contributed tremendously in the second game with a 9-1 win leaving the Canes stunned and winless for the day.

The true freshman's homer was one of the only two hits the Lady Blazers recorded the entire opening game.

Albritton began the day playing like a typical freshman striking out twice before her opposite-field slam and VSU Head Coach Thomas Macera loved seeing the young blood stay focused and come up big for the team.

"She's a beast," Macera said. "I don't like singling out kids, but she is a freaking ball player and she doesn't act like a freshman. That's the difference."

Both teams had a tough time getting on base because of impressive pitching from both star pitchers.

GSW's senior ace Jessica Martin had seven strikeouts but found her no hitter interrupted in the final inning.

VSU pitcher Alanna Hadley led the Lady Blazers on the mound allowing just three hits and tallying seven strikeouts as well.

Martin committed two of seven walks in bottom of the first inning putting VSU in scoring position.

However, the final out of the inning came when third basemen Sam Posey was called for runner interference after she ran into GSW shortstop Janna Anderson.

In the top of the second, Hadley obviously starting settling in retiring the first three batters she faced.

The side included her making a difficult bare-handed throw to first and recording her first strikeout of the day.

During the bottom of the inning, Martin allowed two walks again putting herself in another early jam.

VSU was in a good position with runners on first and second base with two outs left in the side, but they were stranded when senior second basemen April Hutchens lined out.

Despite the missed scoring chance, the Lady Blazers continued to be defensive minded and it showed the next inning.

The top of the third inning was highlighted by a Hadley strikeout and great defensive grab by outfielder Morgan Johnson.

In the bottom of the inning, Johnson managed to steal second base after being walked.

Senior captain Marti Littlefield picked up her second walk of the day, but both runners were stranded once again.

GSW third basemen Gabbi Buck was caught looking on three pitch strikeout by Hadley in the top of the fourth inning followed by a ground out from GSW star hitter Avery Purser.

Purser leads the team with a .433 batting average.

The bottom of the fourth continued the pitching showcase with Martin finishing off the side striking out Hutchens.

Hadley wasn't on the mound for long in the top of the fifth inning getting assistance from teammates on defense.

In the bottom of the fifth inning, Martin was showing no sign of slowing down striking out All-GSC Littlefield and game one hero Albritton in the side.

The next inning VSU's de-



J. Daniel Young / THE SPECTATOR

Courtney Albritton, freshman centerfielder, is greeted by her teammates at home plate after a walk-off homerun in the bottom of the seventh sealing the victory in the first of two games Wednesday afternoon 2-0.

fense held with a three and out.

While GSW struggled swinging the bats, Martin showed no weakness recording two more strikeouts in the sixth.

The Canes looked to make a late score in the seventh with the score deadlocked at 0-0 when Buck hit a leadoff double.

GSW leftfielder Rachel McElroy's sacrifice fly moved Buck up to third base.

With a runner 90 feet away from home, the Canes were in position to finally take the lead.

Hadley pitched aggressively and made her last strikeout of the day in perfect timing.

Littlefield made a diving grab in the infield for the final out.

This exciting play got Hadley out of a huge jam.

Martin, who held the VSU offense without a hit through six innings, saw her great outing squandered in the final inning.

Junior outfielder Sarah Vaughn stepped in as a pinch hitter and hit a single up the gap.

Albritton was up, and despite her rough at bats prior to the inning she connected for her third home run of the season.

"The first three at bats I was really frustrated, but the last at bat I was told not to think, just react and that's what I did," Albritton said.

UGA transfer Hadley picked up her fifth win of the season and is proud to have a young teammate who can step up for this team.

"I have just as much confidence in her as some of the seniors knowing that she can get the job done, and I think it's awesome," Hadley said. "It's great for Coach Macera and the years to come."

VSU got a lot more offensive production in the second game of

the doubleheader forcing the officials to consider the mercy rule ending the game after the fifth inning because the Lady Blazers were up by more than eight points.

Julia Fink and Brianna Hancock pitched for the Lady Blazers in the second game.

After Fink put in 1.2 innings Coach Macera replaced the senior with Hancock who took credit for the win with 3.1 innings of work.

The sophomore only gave up three hits and zero runs.

The Canes took the lead early in the second inning when Johnson committed an error fumbling a sure out in the outfield.

Johnson redeemed herself in the bottom of the inning when she cleared the bases on a double to left field pushing VSU to a 3-1 lead.

The junior finished the game

with four RBI's.

VSU continued to play strong defense leaving GSW runners stranded on base in the top of the fourth.

During the bottom of the inning, Posey hit a RBI single to drive Steinhilber home who was on third base prior to this play after hitting a double.

The defeated Canes were scoreless in the top of fifth inning. VSU, leading 8-1, just needed one more run to clinch the mercy rule.

Johnson in the bottom of the fifth hit a pop fly to centerfield. Although it was an out, it drove in the game ending run who was on third.

The Blazers move to 9-2 on the season while Georgia Southwestern drops to 5-9.

"This team is as solid as they get. We have the best defense in the country," Coach Macera said.

come see us March 2, 2-5pm

# Open House

FREE FOOD, PRIZES, GAMES & TOURS

pay zero deposit

SCAN > LIKE



**BLANTON**  
COMMON

NEW SHUTTLE TO CAMPUS • UPGRADED INTERNET COMING THIS SUMMER

1505 LANKFORD DRIVE | 229.293.0099



Rates, fees, deadlines and utilities included are subject to change



AN AMERICAN CAMPUS COMMUNITY

