

THE SPECTATOR

March 1, 2012

WWW.VSUSPECTATOR.COM

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- **OPINIONS:** "A new gunbill could mean disaster for students on campus"
- **FEATURES:** "Derby dames are dangerous"
- **SPORTS:** "GSC tournament starts tonight in Fla."



Valdosta Venom Roller Derby

Check out pages 6 and 7 for coverage on the Valdosta Venom roller derby.

On the Web

www.vsuspectator.com

Check out the web for more stories, a map of voting locations and Valdosta Derby photos.

Primary voting open early

Amber Smith
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With Super Tuesday growing ever nearer, time is running out for Georgians to voice their preferences for who will appear on November's presidential ballot. Super Tuesday refers to the Tuesday in February or March when the greatest number of states hold primary elections.

Advanced voting for Georgia's presidential preference primary is ongoing until 7 p.m. on March 2 at the Lowndes County Election Office.

The Elections Office, located at 2808 N. Oak St. in Valdosta, welcomes voters from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. through Friday. There is no voting over the weekend or on Monday as the official election date is March 6. Legally, no votes are allowed to be cast on the Monday before an election.

On Tuesday, voting hours are also 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. but ballots must be cast at voters' registered polling place.

Those registered to vote in Lowndes County may vote in person at the Elections Office this week or at their registered polling places on Tuesday.

Absentee ballots are also available for those who wish to vote but are registered in another county. These ballots can be filled out at the Lowndes County

Elections Office and mailed or faxed to the voters' home counties. Voters may also request to have an absentee ballot sent to them by mail. The deadline to cast an absentee ballot is Friday.

Due to the unpredictability of mail routes in other counties, Tiffany Linkswiler, absentee manager and admin clerk at the elections office, recommends that absentee ballots be cast by noon on Friday.

According to Linkswiler, peak

voting hours are currently between the hours of 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

"...[B]ut every day is getting progressively busier," she said.

Kathryn Grant, senior general studies major, feels that it is extremely important for students to get out and vote. "Voting matters," she said. "...I know that people have, many people have, gotten to the point of thinking that their vote doesn't count, but particularly at local elections and

even nationally there are a lot of examples of a small handful of votes having swayed the election."

Not all students share her sentiment, however. To Matt Stone, junior mass media major, the primaries just are not that important. "...[I]t doesn't really elect the president," he said. "It just decides who's gonna run for it."

Check the WebSpectator for the full story.

SGA: Building back on budget, cookout planned

Autumn Sullivan
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Plans for the new Health Sciences building are back underway according to the SGA meeting on Feb. 27 in the UC Magnolia room.

SGA Comptroller Drew McCall announced that thanks to letters written to legislature, the Health Sciences building for VSU medical field majors is now back on the budget.

"The letters were necessary because four schools from Atlanta got funding that was meant for VSU," McCall said.

The Health Sciences building will be located next to the South Georgia Medical Center.

New business was dominated by the plans for an SGA cookout. The publicity chairs of SGA presented a cookout in hopes to use some of the funds from SGA as well as create a bonding experience between the SGA and the students here at VSU.

See SGA, Page 2



Several students gathered in Student Union Rotunda for the CAB event to make street signs Tuesday at 7 p.m. For more information about CAB events, their website can be seen for more details: valdosta.edu/stulife/cab/UpcomingEvents.shtml.

J. Daniel Young/THE SPECTATOR

Internet privacy act proposed

Joe Adgie
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While internet privacy is a huge concern, both here at VSU and elsewhere, the Obama Administration has released what they call a Consumer Privacy Bill of Rights, which intends to give people the right to control how personal data is collected and used.

According to a press release put out by the Administration, the Bill of Rights, which is intended for the personal data of internet users, is intended to insure that users of the internet, referred to as "consumers" in the document, are given the ability to control how this data is used, and that this ability is easily available to the consumer.

"This initiative seeks to protect all Americans from having their information misused by giving users new legal and technical tools to safeguard their privacy," the press release reads.

See PRIVACY, Page 2

Zaxby's opens 199th Ga. location

Amber Smith
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There's a new chicken in town, in Lake Park that is.

Zaxby's recently opened their 199th store in Georgia, just off of Exit 5 with a brand new kitchen and dining room design.

This location is a kind of sister store to the one currently being built on St. Augustine Road in Valdosta. Both stores stand on previous Hardee's locations.

"When we had the fire at Baytree Road, we needed to try and decide on a new location and we really liked the Hardee's building in Valdosta," Wes Kennedy, Area Development Manager for Zaxby's, said.

"It was a two-store deal, basically. If we wanted that one, we were going to get this one too, so it was really kind of a diamond in the rough that we lucked into."

Details for the design, interior and exterior, were released last week.

"The bold, new restaurant design will enhance Zaxby's operational efficiency by showcasing a

new, open kitchen design, allowing multiple equipment options and additional storage capacity," the press release reads.

"The 90-seat restaurant will feature an open, inviting atmosphere with spacious seating and bright graphics. The unique interior includes a redesigned drink station to provide improved customer access and convenience, and a high-performance heating and air-conditioning system that reduces humidity and provides a comfortable seating area and kitchen."

Walking in, patrons will notice that the interior of this restaurant is much roomier than the typical Zaxby's design. Instead of the tight aisles and minimal floor space found at the store on Inner Perimeter Road, the Lake Park establishment is very open.

The new kitchen design in this store is a center-line kitchen where the "make table" is in the center of the kitchen.

The St. Augustine location will feature the same interior design, but with a box-kitchen, also known as a galley-kitchen, where

the "make tables" are placed around the perimeter of the box-shaped kitchen.

In keeping with the brand's farm-like theme, the restrooms--located at the front of the restaurant, near the counter--are labeled "hens" and "roosters." A glance at the high, black-painted ceilings will reveal fluted gooseneck light fixtures and a view from the underside of a corrugated tin roof.

The building's exterior features tin awnings and red siding reminiscent of a barn as well as a silo emblazoned with the company logo and topped with a working weathervane.

The design of this store, Kennedy said, is partly homage to the historic Baytree Road store that was destroyed by an accidental fire in March of last year.

"If you'll notice the tin awning roofs and the silo and in the dining room they've got kind of the same material lights hanging over the table and if you remember back at Baytree Road Zaxby's we had the old tin buckets and the tin awnings," he said.

Zaxby's created 45 to 50 new jobs in the Lake Park area by hiring locally to staff the store and plans to do even more to better the local area.

"Zaxby's is really...specifically, starting to dip their toes into really trying to become more of a partner in the community versus a business," Kennedy said.

He added that the company is interested in hosting fundraisers for local schools and organizations such as Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and churches.

The company currently has over 540 locations in 12 states. Menu items range from entrees such as chicken wings and fingers to sandwiches and "Zalads" and "Zappetizers" from fried mushrooms to "Tater Chips."

Operating hours for the Lake Park store, located at 1220 Lakes Blvd. in front of Mill Store Plaza, are Mon. to Thurs. 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., Fri. and Sat. 10:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. and Sun. 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Georgia Hall revokes resident visitation rights

Amanda Usher
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Visitation privileges for all Georgia Hall residents have been temporarily revoked for reasons that have yet to be clarified.

According to Leighia Hammond, associate director of Housing, the suspension of visitation rights is in response to numerous reports of vandalism and damage that have happened within the past few weeks.

Housing and Residence Life are working to ensure that students are made aware of the reasons for their recent visitation loss.

"We are in the process this week of meeting with the residents in a series of three meetings to be sure we can reach them all, and assuming things go well, look to reinstate visitation after that point," Hammond said.

She also mentioned that Bonnie Brackett, Complex Director for Georgia Residence Hall, and Shelli Ivey, Residence Hall Director for Georgia Hall, have been teaming up with all Georgia Hall Resident Assts., as well as Georgia Hall Council to find solutions to control visitation, including a hall watch program.

Hammond said that once they can find a proper solution for this issue, reinstatement will take place.

Ivey stated the suspension was not a consequence, but a necessity due to hall traffic.

"The main reason we decided to not allow visitation was to limit the amount of people coming in and out of the building," Ivey said.

See HALL, Page 2

Question of the Week

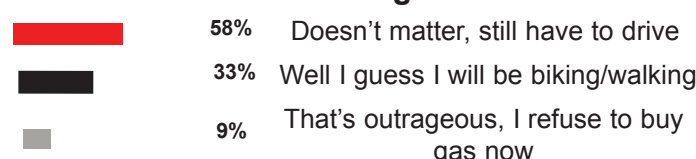
Early voting is now going on.

Go online to cast your vote in "The Spectator" primary.

Vote online at www.vsuspectator.com!

Previous question

So what do you think about gas prices increasing?



Weather at VSU

Today Friday Saturday



Thunderstorms 81 H 66 L Partly Sunny 81 H 66 L Thunderstorms 81 H 51 L

Upcoming Events

**THURSDAY, MARCH 1
Midterm**

This is the last day to withdraw without receiving a failing grade in the course. All withdrawals must be done before 11:59 p.m. and count towards the university's five withdrawal policy for undergraduates.

The policy can be viewed at valdosta.edu/academic/WithdrawalPolicy.shtml.

Game Board Night
Odum Library 1481, 8 p.m.

Join Natural High for Game Board Night. Bring your favorite game or play one of theirs. Snacks will be provided. For more information, call 259-5111

SHRM presents "Employer Liability"
University Center Cypress Room, 6 p.m.

The Society of Human Resource Management will host a guest speaker's discussion about employer liability. This event is open to the student body.

VSU H.E.R.O. Meeting
Student Union Meeting Room 2, 7 p.m.

VSU H.E.R.O. is looking for dedicated, loving and dependable members to become a part of one of the newest organizations on campus.

LASA Carnival
Student Union Ballrooms, 7 p.m.

The Latin American Students Association will be hosting a carnival with music, food and activities. The event will go on until 10 p.m.

Softball Tournament
Registration Deadline

Alpha Delta Pi will host its 2nd Annual Diamonds in the Dugout Softball Tournament with all proceeds benefitting Ronald McDonald House Charities. Both men's and women's teams are welcome. The registration fee is \$220.

For more information contact Desiree McCormick at dammccormick@valdosta.edu.

Odradek Submission Deadline

VSU's literary magazine, Odradek, is accepting submissions. Send poetry to odradekpoetry@gmail.com, fiction to odradekfiction@gmail.com, creative non-fiction to odradeknonfiction@gmail.com and art or photography to: odradekart@gmail.com.

Odradek requests that writers or artists submit only their best work and that submissions are edited.

For more information, contact Katy Click at keelick@valdosta.edu.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 2
Blazer Victory Worship Night**

Powell Hall Auditorium, 8 p.m.

All are invited to a night of Christian worship with Blazer Victory.

Play Quidditch

Front Lawn, 3 p.m.
This will be an informational meeting and practice hosted by The Round Table of VSU. For more information, contact Joshua Gomez at jbgomez@valdosta.edu.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 3
Moving for Music 5K Race and Fun Run**

Race Day Registration begins at 7 a.m. with the 5K beginning at 8 a.m. and the Fun Run starting at 9 a.m. The entry fee on Race Day is \$25 but prior registration for VSU students is \$15 and \$20 for all others.

For more information and details on registration, contact Bonnie Rainey at 244-6931 or Julia Baun at 247-7329.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 4
Ladder Golf Tournament**

Front Lawn, 2 p.m.
This event is hosted by Alpha Sigma Alpha and Phi Sigma Kappa. Registration for a team

of two is \$20. All are welcome to enter. There will be raffles and free food.

For more information about the tournament or registration contact Jenna Rogers at jenrogers@valdosta.edu.

OTHER EVENTS

Volunteer Service Fair

The Office of Volunteer Services invites organizations to donate prizes to be given away at the fair on March 29, make sheet signs to help advertise the event or get involved in many other ways.

For more information, email volunteer@valdosta.edu.

UPCOMING CORE

TRIPS

Sky Diving
March 3, \$165 per person

Grand Canyon and Las Vegas Road Trip West
March 10-18, cost is \$400 per person

Bouldering Competition
March 20, no cost

To register for a CORE trip, stop by the rental center during open hours with cash, check, or Flex to pay.

For more information or for rental center hours, call 245-2355 or 245-4306.

The Spectator
Your News. Your Views.



INTERESTED IN WRITING OR TAKING PHOTOS FOR THE SPECTATOR?

CONTACT STEPHANIE TURNER (EDITOR-IN-CHIEF) AT SDTURNER@VALDOSTA.EDU OR AMBER SMITH (MANAGING EDITOR) AT AMSMT@VALDOSTA.EDU.

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

TANNING

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

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

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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.

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REMERTON CONDOS
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Hall

Continued from Page 1

The thought to stop the use of elevators came up but was decided against.

Ivey said that some students are handling the action worse than others.

Taylor Dixon, a freshman undecided major, said that she believes that it is a punishment that affects the whole hall when it should only apply to a certain floor that has displayed misconduct.

"I feel that if I'm going to be

punished for what others do, then I also want to be rewarded for what others accomplish," Dixon said.

She goes on to briefly describe the types of vandalism that have taken place recently.

She mentioned that the fire extinguisher was set off twice, bulletin boards were set on fire, and buttons were removed from the elevators' panels.

Only parents and family members are permitted to visit at this time.

Jennifer Gleason and Megan Harris also contributed to this article.

ASBESTOS: Danger tape may have sounded false alarm

Jennifer Gleason
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Red tape and warning signs of an asbestos hazard kept students off of the sidewalk at the College of Education Wednesday afternoon.

The tape labeled "DANGER ASBESTOS" stretched from the sidewalk running along the edu-

cation building to the doors by Einstein's Bros. Bagels.

Construction workers who are replacing roofing and carpeting in the building said that asbestos was found inside, so they are reroofing to eliminate the threat.

Donnie, a member of the construction team, said any asbestos findings within the roofing could be easily confused with the roofing felt beneath the shingles used to prevent leaks.

"It ain't nothing but your regular 15-pound felt," Donnie said, after pulling up the roofing.

Interim President Dr. Louis Levy noted that the administration is always mindful of health concerns on campus.

"We are always careful about the safety of our students, our faculty, and our staff," Dr. Levy said. "It is my understanding that when replacing some carpet in a classroom in the College of Edu-

cation, asbestos was identified."

Dr. Levy said the project to eliminate the threat of asbestos will continue through the spring semester, and should be finished by graduation.

The Physical Plant and Facilities Planning Department, which is responsible for most maintenance on campus, and the College of Education stated that they were unaware of any asbestos threat when contacted.

Police Briefs

WED., FEB. 22

Money was reported stolen from a bag in the Recreation Center softball dugout.

THURS., FEB. 23

A bookbag was reported stolen from a study room in Odum Library.

A silver and black 8GB iPod touch was reported as lost in Jennett Lecture Hall. It has been missing for four weeks.

An individual was picked up for an outstanding warrant in the UC parking lot.

SAT., FEB. 25

A false fire alarm was pulled in Georgia Hall, room 1001. A front desk worker reported that "some drunk kids pulled [the] alarm."

A black male, 5 feet 7 inches to 5 feet 9 inches tall, wearing a black hoodie, a baseball cap, and blue jeans, was witnessed jiggling car door handles in the Sustella Parking Lot. The subject was last seen walking towards Azalea Trail.

TUES., FEB. 28

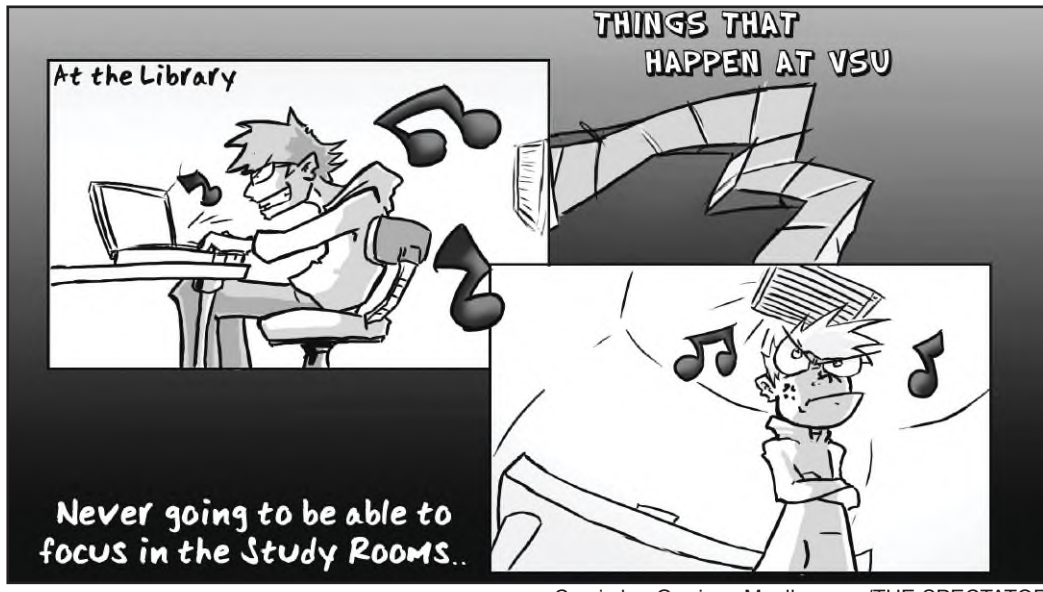
Possible marijuana possession was reported on the third floor of Converse Hall.

A TV was reported lost or stolen in the past weekend from Patterson Hall.

CORRECTION:

Last week's police briefs listed a voice recorder stolen from the media center on Feb. 17.

While the voice recorder was media center property, it was actually stolen from a student in



Comic by: Garrison Muelhausen /THE SPECTATOR

Privacy

Continued from Page 1

The release of the Bill of Rights has come at a time when discussion about privacy has been brought to the forefront, especially considering Google's recent decision to consolidate the privacy policies of all of their websites.

Google, which hopes for a policy that reflects their "desire to create one beautifully simple and intuitive experience," has come under fire for this, with critics expressing concerns about a user's information being combined across all Google-run websites, citing the lack of clarity in the new privacy policy about how this personal information will be used.

VSU users, many of whom are on Facebook, have expressed concerns about how this data has been used, and some have controlled what they put on the site.

"I am comfortable, because I don't put detailed stuff on there," Keating Conroy, marketing major, said.

Some VSU students were a little more aware.

"I am conscious of everything that I put on a social blogging network," Jamal Wilson, mass media major, said. "I wouldn't put anything that would compromise myself, or my image, or my family, in any way."

VSU student Megan Morrissey also felt online consciousness was important.

"I don't really put too much stuff on Facebook," Megan Morrissey, theater major, said. "I've heard stories online, just things getting into the wrong hands, so I just put out the basic information."

Facebook's privacy policy, which appears in a link on the bottom of the front page, explains what the site does with the personal data collected, and how

the personal data is used.

The page also explains that Facebook does not share information unless given permission.

"Your trust is important to us," the page reads.

The press release stated that enforcement of this Bill of Rights would be the domain of the Federal Trade Commission.

"FTC enforcement is critical to ensuring that companies are accountable for adhering to their privacy commitments and that bad actors do not disadvantage responsible companies," the release reads. "The Administration expects that a company's public commitment to adhere to a code of conduct will be enforceable under existing FTC authority, just as a company is bound today to follow its privacy commitments."

The Administration intends to work with Congress in an attempt to enforce this Bill of Rights.

SGA

Continued from Page 1

The cookout is scheduled for Tuesday in the Palms Quad from 1 to 3 p.m., and will be co-hosted by SGA and the Collegiate Men of VSU.

"We want to build Blazer pride," Samuel Logan, senator and publicity chair for SGA, said.

Logan estimated the prices for the food and sunglasses which are to be handed out during the cookout.

The cost of food came to about \$2,247.50, at \$8.99 a person. The sunglasses were estimated to be .93 cents each, coming to \$282.50.

Both figures were voted upon by the SGA members after two short intermissions.

At first the pricing for food was determined by the prices of Sam's club, however it was announced that all functions occurring on the campus, requiring food, have to be purchased via the catering service here at VSU.

"This new requirement has been incorporated because it's a contract with the in-house catering service which ensures business for the catering service," Logan said.

The amount of food purchased was determined by the amount of students that showed up to past SGA events.

Because of lack of attendance, less food will be ordered this time.

"It would be better to run out of food than to have excess," said Logan.

It is estimated that at least 400 students will attend the event.

All SGA members are required to attend and to wear black and or red VSU shirts.

Advertising for the cookout would be left to word of mouth and a sheet sign.

In other news issues with residence hall laundry rooms was discussed.

One of the senators brought to the attention of the floor that there are a lack of functioning washers and dryers in the residence halls.

Students waste money and time trying to dry clothes due to malfunctioning machines.

It was proposed that money be spent on the maintenance on the machines, however SGA Vice President Drika Powers said that the SGA could not cover such an issue, but it could be reported via work orders.

"If students call the number on the washer they will give you your money back," Shaquandra Mesidor, SGA senator, said.

Last on the list, the issues of smoking and dress code returned as two topics which could potentially gain headway with the floor in the future.

The ban on smoking, though, is more popular than the dress code for campus.

"The smoking ban has received more support than the dress code," Graham Davis, SGA president, said. "I think we need to stop talking about the dress standard because they put a wall up for it."

Both these policies, if taken through the steps with the floor, will be voted upon by the student body when presidential voting commences.

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Jackson Square

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Our point of view...

The halls run out residents

At the airport, we expect to be monitored. We expect to have to show multiple kinds of I.D. We even expect to have to walk through a metal detector to make sure we don't have any weapons on our person. To get on an airplane, this behavior is standard. It should not, however, be standard procedure to get to a room in the middle of the night.

As a university, VSU is responsible for their student body's safety. We all understand and appreciate that, but lately it seems the whole campus has been questioning the methods. Shutting down an entire residence hall's visitation rights in retaliation for a single unidentified prankster's

work, as in the recent events at Georgia Hall, is complete overkill. Throughout history, it has been proven that punishing the majority for the actions of the few is not only wrong, but also ineffective. We are college students, not 5-year-olds who can't have a friend over if Mommy's working.

Georgia Hall residents are not the only victims. Reade Hall residents were sent an email that threatened retraction of study room privileges due to residents leaving their belongings there. Did any one person deal with consequences of study room litter? No. Signs in the laundry rooms across campus declare that laundry privileges will be taken

away if students cannot keep them clean. Do these policies sound like preschool to anyone?

It is irritating to be told that one cannot use school resources under certain circumstances, but the freshman residence policy adds yet more disturbing light on the subject. Freshmen that do not have home addresses within 50 miles of the university are required to live on-campus for their first year. Subsequently, they do not get a choice about the money they pay for housing, whether out of pocket or in scholarships. Is it not unjust to force students to pay for housing and the resources that come with it, knowing full well that those resources can be taken away at

the first sign of trouble? Rather filling in the loopholes in security, the university appears to prefer removing resources on the assumption that the criminals will be punished among the flock. Freshmen do not pay for security; they pay to ensure their risk of being hung out to dry at the university's whim.

A greater increase in housing annoyance could explain why more and more students have wanted to move off campus by next semester. If this does not say something about university policy, we do not know what will. Next semester, you'll probably find more students hitting the road before paying to be treated like criminals.



Garrison Muelhausen/The Spectator

This editorial was written by Rebecka McAleer (rmmmcaleer@valdosta.edu) and it expresses the general opinion of the editorial staff.

Super Tuesday draws nearer as candidates get narrower

J. Daniel Young
PHOTO EDITOR
jeryoung@valdosta.edu

Your Georgian vote isn't important to current GOP candidates Mitt Romney, Ron Paul and Rick Santorum. At least that's what they would have you believe.

Today's CNN debate was cancelled on Feb. 16 because three of the four GOP hopefuls decided that their campaigning would be better suited elsewhere, in advance of Super Tuesday, instead of debating in Georgia. Romney, Paul, and Santorum had decided not to participate in the CNN debate, leaving only Newt Gingrich in attendance. CNN cancelled the debate as a result.

Super Tuesday can set the course for the rest of this see-saw race for the GOP bid. With 10 states, including Georgia, and one territory voting during this large primary event, the number of delegates up for grabs could make or break any of the candidates.

The close call this week in Michigan between Santorum and Romney could be played out on a grander scale when 437 delegates come up for grabs next Tuesday. Romney squeaked by Santorum in his home state of Michigan, pulling ahead by using negative ads.

When Santorum won Colorado and Minnesota on Feb. 7, the trend of an upset started there and the party base's continued to show dissatisfaction with Romney on Tuesday. The sheer closeness of the Michigan race showed Romney to be vulnera-



The final four candidates for the GOP presidential nomination stand onstage together as the Super Tuesday primaries draw nearer. The candidates did not take the chance to debate each other recently, perhaps opting to campaign for more votes rather than express their policies onstage.

ble. Now that Santorum is starting to give Romney a run for his money, his commentary is starting to show how ill prepared he is for the job of president. Calling Obama a "snob" for wanting to make secondary education more easily available to Americans, Santorum seems to be ignoring that the American dream is still alive and well in the hearts and minds of most Americans.

In an interview with George Stephanopoulos, Santorum commented that the idea of separation of church and state makes him "want to throw up." Comments such as that could be harmful to the Santorum campaign. What would happen if Romney wins the GOP and ultimately the presidential race? Would Santorum like it if Romney were to jettison the separation of church and state and declare Mor-

monism the new state religion? What about Islam, or any other religious belief?

We were founded on the separation of church and state for a reason, and that would be to keep people like Rick Santorum in check. Unfortunately, Georgians didn't have the opportunity to question the candidates and call out this type of rhetoric, because remember: they didn't come to Georgia.

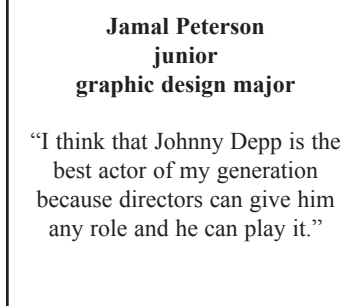
People Poll:

Who is the best actor or actress of your generation?



Tayo Ikuesan
junior
education major

"The best actor of my generation is Will Smith. He made us laugh as children, and he made us cry as adults."



Jamal Peterson
junior
graphic design major

"I think that Johnny Depp is the best actor of my generation because directors can give him any role and he can play it."



Kayla Barber
sophomore
mathematics major

"I think Halle Berry is the best actress of my generation and I think that Robert Downey Jr. is the best actor of my generation."



Marcus Shine
junior
management and marketing major

"I think Will Smith is the best actor of my generation and because I'm also a fan of comedy, I will say Zach Galifianakis is the best comedy actor because I love 'The Hangover'."



Tusdai Downs
freshman
biology major

"I would say that Angelina Jolie is the best actress of my generation."

Raves of the week



"Valdosta State University is a great school and environment that provides numerous opportunities to the students. I really appreciate the student activities emails weekly that keep the students informed of what is happening on campus."

-Will Jimerson, sophomore, international business major

"One thing that I really love about VSU is their ministries. Since coming here, I have gotten involved in campus outreach, an interdenominational ministry, which has provided so much growth and vision, as well as genuine friendships in my life."

-Emily Vaught, sophomore, communication disorders major

"Valdosta State University is a wonderful environment with great scenery. I love how the school is set up and the people around campus. Activities and classes are great. The SIFE program is excellent and a great way to help the Valdosta community and the people."

-Dominick Maddox, junior, marketing major

"With some classes only 50 minutes long, it would be nice to see more timed parking spots. In and out without the hassle of the parking deck."

-Stephanie Clark, sophomore, history major

"While super-section courses will never be viewed as the most solemn of places, the complete lack of respect of those around you is astounding. When the level of your voice, your phone and/or your conversation drowns out my ability to think, there is a problem. Even while the lecture is going on, these inconsiderate people continue to disrupt a course I paid to take."

-Darryl Taylor, sophomore, computer science major

"The wifi on campus is horrible. They took away wifi access for cell phones with no notice. Hallnet only works about 10 percent of the time"

-Bridgette Render, sophomore, marketing major

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Online at www.vsuspectator.com

A new gun bill could mean disaster for students on campus

Kathryn Grant

SPECTATOR CORRESPONDENT
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You may have heard about HB 981, a bill introduced a couple of weeks ago in the Georgia Assembly that relaxes restrictions on the possession of concealed handguns on all school campuses, both public and private throughout the state.

You'll want to read it for yourself because it's really important that you understand the facts. I'll briefly highlight just the main points but before I do, you need to know that the likelihood of this bill passing isn't far-off.

For almost three years, I've been researching bills similar to HB 981, all intended to allow guns into schools in Georgia. It was from an article on the front page of The Spectator in early 2010 where I first learned about a legislation like this. I remember standing in West Hall, next to the paper stand by the door, staring at the headline, paralyzed. Since then I've made a point of learning as much as I could in an attempt to find an explanation to why guns in school is a good idea. I still haven't found one but I understand more clearly now a lot of things that were very confusing before.

The politics of guns is part of this conversation and that includes the National Rifle Association, self-described as "the oldest civil rights organization in America." They're widely acknowledged as being a powerful lobbying group and have close ties to many members of the Georgia Assembly. The Republi-

can Party is another piece, a political party that has taken a very clear position on Second Amendment rights. In contrast, Democrats have not taken a formal position, leaving gun policies up to individual party members to decide.

The interpretation of the Second Amendment, contained in The Bill of Rights, is another troublesome issue. This too is an area of strong debate. What's interesting about HB 981, and previous bills like it, is that the lawmakers who have been working to forward this agenda for some time have not asked students or faculty what they thought. Considering the implications of what introducing a lethal weapon on campus means, you'd think they would.

Since 2010, there have been at least four shootings where the assailants were either students or faculty; Tucson, University of Alabama, Virginia Tech (2011) and this week Ohio. There were also numerous school shootings before that, including the infamous Columbine High School Massacre, which claimed the lives of 13 people and ended in the suicide of the two gunmen who engineered it. Shootings on campus are the heart of this debate and where opinions are most strongly expressed and divided. Those in favor of carry on campus suggest that guns are a necessary means of defense in the event of a violent outbreak. However, campuses have historically been low crime areas. VSU has its own police force, trained to react to scenarios like those experienced on other campuses. After all, students aren't police.

Those who think guns on campus poses enormous public safety risks include national associations and governing bodies that oversee educational institutions and campus police forces across the country. Nearly all colleges and universities currently have policies that prohibit or severely restrict the possession of firearms on campus. The Journal of American College Health, the American Psychiatric Association, the National Institute of Health, The National Study of Student Hazing and the Report of the Virginia Tech Review Panel commissioned by the state of Virginia in the aftermath of the deadliest shooting by a single gunman in US history, are just a few examples of a large body of expertise that takes a very strong position against guns on campus.

Talking about this issue isn't exactly easy nor is it a simple conversation. People often have really strong feelings making it hard to communicate them to others who don't seem to agree. It's important to get the facts and learn about HB 981 and legislation like it. Along the way talk to people, ask questions and try and understand another point of view even if you completely disagree. I found it hard at first, but now can agree to disagree. What's important, I think, is that we start talking now because this bill or others like it isn't going to go away. A series of open forums to talk about guns on campus are being planned now. Stay tuned for more info. The bill can be read in full at www1.legis.ga.gov, along with many other impending bills.

History could repeat

**Peter H. Schuck
Ron Hoskins**
MCT

The primary election campaign has intensified a justified concern about inequality in America: People at the top are rising much faster than everyone else. Even low-income Americans consider relatively high levels of inequality acceptable if they have a decent opportunity to improve their condition. But because they may work fewer hours and at stagnant wages, their gains are very limited.

Among the poor, surprisingly, never-married mothers have gained the most in recent decades. Their story shows the best way to reduce poverty and inequality: by encouraging individuals to work more and by supplementing their earnings with tax credits, child-care subsidies and other benefits for low-income working parents.

In 1996, congressional Republicans and President Bill Clinton collaborated on a welfare reform law requiring adults on welfare, including never-married mothers, to work.

Many of Clinton's strongest political supporters predicted that poor women and their children deprived of welfare would die in the streets.

The data refute these dire predictions. In fact, according to Census Bureau data, between 1996 and 2000, the percentage of never-married mothers in jobs increased by about a third (to 66 percent), while the poverty rate for these mothers and their children declined by about a third (to

40 percent). Yet even in the worst recession since the Depression, more are employed and they are less poor than they were before the 1996 law. In fact, researchers Bruce Meyer of the University of Chicago and James Sullivan of Notre Dame have found that if all the work-based benefits given to low-income workers were included — such benefits are mostly ignored by the official poverty measure — the incomes of these mothers and children would be even higher and their poverty rate even lower.

The reasons for this policy success are clear, suggesting some lessons for the future. The 1996 law created strong incentives, both positive and negative, for the most uneducated, untrained and unpromising welfare recipients to join the workforce.

Most politicians did not cave in to the intentionally inflammatory "dying in the streets" rhetoric; instead, they figured that the program could hardly be worse than the status quo of welfare dependency and that many of the poorest of the poor would end up better off.

The gains from the 1996 welfare reform and other work-related subsidies are certainly no cause for smugness. Even after 15 years, the law's incentives have not yet lifted all mothers and their children out of poverty — not by a long shot. After all, many who have benefited from the program are stuck in low-wage jobs, and others still don't work at all. Many are so disabled that no program or personal desire to work will enable them to hold decently paying jobs. Still, the never-married mothers — and single mothers more generally — have clearly improved their and their children's living standards and prospects, and interview studies show that they express pride in these gains and in their status as workers. Over time, they may be able to progress further as the economy improves. Poverty is arguably America's greatest domestic enemy today. Our first priority should be figuring out how to reduce it permanently by increasing work and human capital among the poor. Welfare reform shows what is possible. This is not only just; it is also the only enduring way to reduce poverty and inequality.

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

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Derby dames are dangerous

Valdosta Venom: 'If you can't play nice, play derby!'

Morgan McFarland
Circulation Manager
msmfarland@valdosta.edu

Picture the women you see every day—teachers, single moms, nurses.

Now picture those same women, skating around a rink at full speed, determined to knock each other out of the way.

That's exactly what the ladies of the Valdosta Venom roller derby team are all about.

Lisa Gray, a skater known as RX Queen, is a single mom and works in a hospital.

Ginger Corriell, or Bernie Wreckster, is a seamstress.

Jessica Williams, also known as Hardbody Rock, is the team captain and during the day serves as a social worker.

Melissa Johnson, the owner and founder, also known as Jinx LaRue, works in the legal field.

Growing up in the rink, Jinx was no newbie.

"I was a rink rat," Jinx said.

"That's the proper term. Every Friday, Saturday, Sunday—

Wednesday,

I even went to the Christian

skates just to get in

extra skating when I was

younger. I lived there."

Jinx was able to find love in a sport that already fit her personality. The sport also brought together women from all different walks of life.

"This sport typically is full of misfits that don't really fit into one type of genre," said Jinx.

"Women that would probably never meet under any other circumstances get a chance to come together with one common bond."

No matter their race, prefer-

ence, background, or experience, the sport brought a special bond to all those that play it.

"I haven't been on skates since I was six years old," said Laurie Mellors, Pissed-Off Jam Shaft, a player originally from New Jersey. "Once you get the hang of it, it's a lot of fun."

Originally Jinx wanted the name of her team to be the Valdosta Vixens, but a team in Vero Beach already had the name.

Because roller derby does not allow team name repetition, Jinx settled for the next best thing, the Valdosta Venom, with a king cobra as their icon.

The interesting nicknames are meant to represent each different personality.

Corriell chose the name Bernie Wreckster to serve as a mix between retro and pin up to portray her personality and look.

"You will know your nickname once you find it. It will just fit," said Jinx.

Although the team has yet to play, they practice hard. The ladies all carpool to a skate rink

in Douglas

for two

hour prac-

tices.

"I coach these

girls myself," Jinx

said.

Most people

think

there's nothing to

the game other

than to aim and hit,

but during these

practices, Jinx drills

her girls on the

techniques and

skills that go into

this sport.

During practice,

the team works

on different drills,

like the shopping

cart. In this drill,

three skaters line

up and hold on to

one another. The

skater first in line

eventually breaks

off and must skate

around the rink

one full turn before

catching back up

with her two

teammates. This

continues until

everyone has had



J. Daniel Young / THE SPECTATOR

The ladies of the Valdosta Venom line up and prepare to run drills at a Saturday practice. The team expects to start bouts in the summer.

a turn.

The girls also practiced "T-stops", angling their skates into a T to make a sudden stop.

Other than skating, the girls learn how to hit, fall, and block to avoid major injuries.

During practice, the ladies also practiced different ways to fall—single knees, double knees, and six points, when knees, elbows, and hands hit the floor.

Bruises and bumps come with the sport, but if you don't know the techniques and methods on the basics you can harm yourself severely.

Roller derby is a full contact sport and can be a bit aggressive, a little less aggressive than hock-

ey or football.

Half way through a practice, Jinx yells, "Yay! Nobody puked!"

The ladies of Valdosta Venom gave insights on their pre-game techniques.

Some may rough each other up while others, like Pissed-Off Jam Shaft, sit back and listen to music until it is time to play.

Some even paint their faces to look tougher while others stretch and get in their zone.

"It's really amazing how big the fan base and the type of people that are in to watching," said Ashle' Suttles (Foul Pacino), "Guys love it."

Foul Pacino also explains how

older men walk up to her to see when their next bout (game) is.

No matter the distance, other leagues go out and support each other as well. Even rivalries seem to get along after it is all said and done.

"You could have two girls gunning for each other during the bout; you could have two girls beating the crap out of each other on the track, at the after party they are hugged up sharing a beer and loving each other," said Jinx.

With Go Waiter being Valdosta Venom's main sponsor the monthly dues are kept low at only \$35 a month. This covers the cost to rent rinks for prac-

tices. Boys can be officials or volunteers in the all-female sport, and it only requires the will to gain

"You either get bit by the derby bug or it's not for you."

- JINX LARUE

knowledge of the sport and monthly dues of \$25.

The male refs get to pick nicknames too.

Ben Skender, VSU student, goes as Skender Bender while in the rink.

Gear, consisting of skates, pads, a helmet and mouth guard, depending on the quality and quantity, can be rather pricey, about \$200 or more.

Valdosta Venom has rink practices every Sunday and endurance practices a couple of times a week starting Feb. 26.

There is no experience needed and all shapes, sizes and fitness levels are welcome.

Everyone is invited to come and watch a practice.

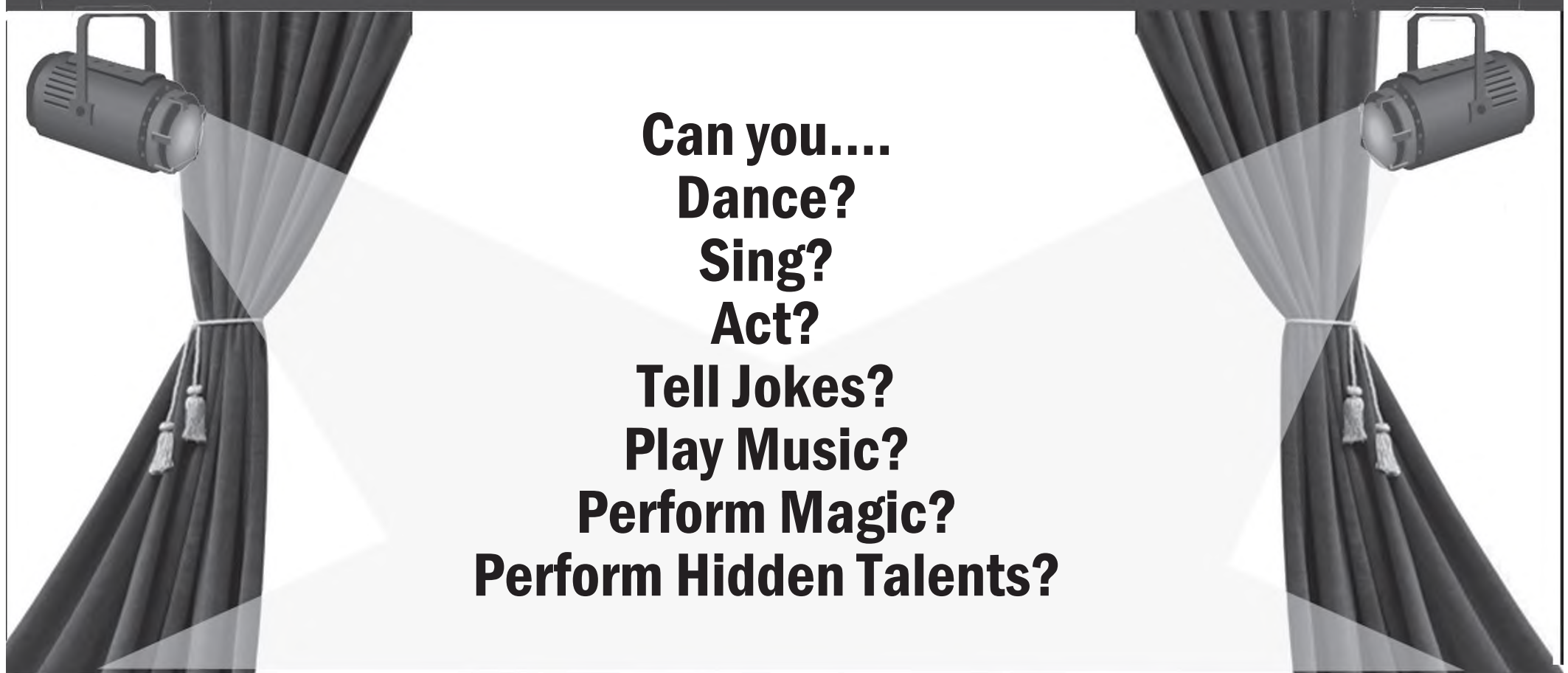
You can also contact the Valdosta Venom Roller Derby team at valdostavenom_rollerderby@live.com or Valdosta Venom - Roller Derby on Facebook.

Jinx constantly encourages what the team calls 'freshmeat.'

"What I tell people when they message me is to just come check out a practice," Jinx said.

"If you think about it too much, you probably won't stick with it. You either get bit by the derby bug or it's not for you."

Check the web for video interviews and exclusive practice footage of the Valdosta Venom ladies!



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Act?
Tell Jokes?
Play Music?
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Perform Hidden Talents?

This is Your Chance at your 1.5 Minutes of Fame

Who: Any VSU Student with a talent to show off!

When: Voting will begin the week of March 19 and winners will get to compete in our end of the semester talent show on April 26.

How: Film your 90 second video and upload it to youtube. Send us the link and we will put it up on our website for everyone to vote on!

Keep reading The Spectator and 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.

Weekly winners will get to participate in our talent show at the end of the semester.

All photos by photo editor, J. Daniel Young



Right: At the beginning of practice the girls gather up to hear what they'll be learning that day. Below: Team Captain, Hardbody Rock, and skater Foul Pacino practice shopping carts Saturday.



Melissa Johnson, also known as Jinx Larue, is the owner and founder of Valdosta Venom, Valdosta's roller derby team. "It's emotional! You get a bond with all these girls," Jinx said. "I love all these girls—as much as I might bark at them at practice."

Jinx Larue: "You can see all different shapes and sizes. You don't have to have any experience—no skills. We teach you everything."



Lisa Gray, aka RX Queen grew up skating just like Jinx. "I've been skating since I could walk," RX said. "My first job was at Sonic."

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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 3.0 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

Drake acts up, Lohan to host SNL

Hello guys and dolls, do you have your cups ready? Because I have some hot tea for you guys!

As if there isn't enough controversy surrounding him already Chris Brown has been accused of allegedly snatching a woman's phone outside of a Miami nightclub.

24-year-old Christal Spann took a picture of Breezy with her white iPhone4 while he was in the car with Young Money rapper, Tyga.

Breezy put his hand through the car window, snatched the phone and said "B**** you ain't going to put that on no website."

Spann was recorded by TMZ cameras saying, "I just want my phone back".

Spann has filed a police report. Authorities are investigating, and if Breezy is arrested he could possibly serve some jail time.

The Oscars were this Sunday and, as usual, it was a snoozer. Great fashion, but boring show.

Host Billy Crystal was trying to be comical, but it wasn't quite working.

Jean Dujardin of the silent film "The Artist," won for Best Actor.

The greatest living actress of our time, Meryl Streep, beat out Viola Davis for best actress in her role as Margaret Thatcher in "The Iron Lady."

Christopher Plummer, 2 years

younger than the Oscars, won best supporting actor for his role in "Beginners."

In what was the most touching win of the night, Octavia Spencer took home Best support-



ing actress for her role in "The Help." She received a standing ovation.

Lindsay Lohan is going to be hosting Saturday Night Live on March 3 where LL will host for the first time since 2006.

LL has told SNL creator Lorne Michaels that nothing is off limits to joke about, which means we can expect jokes about DUI, arrests, court appearances and her crazy dad.

Wendy Williams has a way of offending people by just opening her mouth.

The natural community was not too pleased with Wendell, oh I mean Wendy.

She said that natural hair wasn't "formal" for the Oscars. This was during a segment of her show when she was talking about Viola Davis wearing her natural TWA (Teeny Weeny

Afro) as us "naturals" call it. Viola Davis looked stunning and said her husband actor, Julian Tennon, is the reason why she decided to let the wig go.

"My husband said, 'Be who you are.' Davis said, 'Step into who you are. And I really have.'"

Lola Ogunnaike, Vibe Contributor, said Drake and all his emotions lost the cover of Vibe Magazine for being a "DIVA".

"He was slated to appear on the cover of VIBE magazine to accompany this story 'The Dark Side of Aubrey Graham,' but he fouled that up when he arrived more than eight hours late to the shoot and refused to wear any of the wardrobe provided for him," Ogunnaike said.

"He brought his own clothes, which was mostly Hermès and leather bomber jackets. But it was a shoot about spring fashion.

He was going on and on about wearing his leather bomber, and wasn't letting it go. He said the [female] stylist was too aggressive, that he wasn't a model and he wasn't feeling the vibe. He hopped in his SUV and left."

It seems that foolery is rampant over at Young Money, from Nicki's exorcism to Drake's Diva display. I miss good old Aubrey when he was humble and in a wheelchair.

Well guys, let's wash out those cups! As, always I will be back serving tea that is guaranteed to be hot.

More hot tea from Maya:

Dancing with the Stars is returning March 19 with a new cast of surprises and unknowns. From Steve Urkel to Gladys Knight this cast is a wild card. Here are the 12 celebrity contestants and their pro partners:

- The View's **Sherri Shepherd** and **Val Chmerkovskiy**
- Actress **Melissa Gilbert** and **Maksim Chmerkovskiy**
- Extra Reporter **Maria Menounos** and **Derek Hough**
- Actor **Jack Wagner** and **Anna Trebunskaya**
- Cuban Actor/Model **William Levy** and **Cheryl Burke**
- Music legend **Gladys Knight** and **Tristan MacManus**
- Actor **Jaleel White** and **Kym Johnson**
- Singer **Gavin DeGraw** and **Karina Smirnoff**
- Tennis legend **Martina Navratilova** and **Tony Dovolani**
- NFL receiver **Donald Driver** and **Peta Murgatroyd**
- Disney Actor **Roshon Fegan** and **Chelsie Hightower**
- Singer **Katherine Jenkins** and **Mark Ballas**

VSU graduate opens The Vixen Boutique

Denise Pleasant

Staff Writer
dnppleasant@valdosta.edu

"Glamorous" is just one word VSU graduate, Lisa Thurmond, uses to describe her new business.

According to its Facebook page, The Vixen Boutique is a shop that "represents the power and femininity of a woman."

Located on 1650-C Baytree Rd., the boutique has been in operation since Feb. 9, but will present its grand opening Saturday.

"The Vixen contains today's fashion, but at an affordable price", Thurmond said.

Walking into The Vixen, anyone can tell that it is a unique boutique that focuses on the empowerment of women.

The bright pink walls are covered in photographs of Marilyn Monroe and inspiring, encouraging quotes, one of them reading, "The secret of having it all, is knowing you already do."

The boutique sells glamorous style clothes, accessories, and purses and even has a shoe line

coming in soon.

Thurmond created The Vixen with friend and business partner, Joy Kelly, a family and marriage therapy graduate student.

"I wanted The Vixen to be a place where a girl could come in and feel like they are the best girl they can be," Thurmond said.

Attending VSU for both undergraduate and graduate school, the English major turned business owner, Thurmond, finished school in 2010.

While working in retail, she took a public administrations class for her master's program that taught about entrepreneur skills.

"After taking it, I knew I had to be an entrepreneur," she said.

For Thurmond, finding unique clothes was a hassle.

"I'd have to travel to Tallahassee or Atlanta to get unique clothes that not everyone had," she said "I knew I had to make a store to stop having to travel."

The Vixen offers affordable clothing for women in college, offering an exclusive experience by only carrying one size of each

clothing piece.

Taylor Thomas, a sophomore early childhood education major, noted it provided an opportunity for girls to be more individualized. "It helps portray uniqueness," she said.

Thurmond hopes to make The Vixen into a chain.

"I would like 10 stores throughout the country, specifically in Los Angeles, New York, and Miami," she said.

The Vixen Boutique is actively involved with the young women of the community.

One program that is offered is "Pretty Prom Princess, a program that brings underprivileged girls into the boutique, at the beauty glam bar, to get their hair and nails and make-up done for prom."

Freshman Nursing major, Hannah Bray thinks that the various programs are great.

"It's great that their making a difference in girls lives," Bray said. "I've heard of The Vixen Boutique before, and now I really want to check it out."

Like this week's student profile?

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DJ Davis

STAFF WRITER
ddavis@valdosta.edu

The VSU men's club lacrosse team picked up one of the most unlikely players this season and he wants to quickly make an impact on a team searching for their first ever win.

Hampton Raulerson may look a bit different than the other players on the team because he was born missing his left arm from the elbow down.

Raulerson, a sophomore political science major, is not letting this stand in the way of his goal of raising the VSU lacrosse team to new heights in the next few years.

The lacrosse team was founded in 2010 and played its first two games against well-known opponents in The Savannah Art

of College and Design and Georgia Tech.

Hampton is one of the five new players this season making up the young nucleus of this team along with the four new players to join last season.

"Lacrosse as a whole is a relatively new idea to South Georgia and many people who come out to play have had no experience playing," Brandon Corley, team captain and cofounder, said.

Corley goes on to say that although Hampton's situation does limit him, he has picked up the sport as fast as any of the new players and has already proven he can mix it up with any of the other players out there.

The team is currently 0-5 this season after losing to Georgia State, Georgia Southern, Palm Beach Atlantic, Florida Atlantic, and Florida Gulf Coast Atlantic.

The team is positive that they

are ready for an upswing despite the fact they have yet to win a game.

"We'll change that in March," Mike McGuire, a junior communications and public relations major and team cofounder, said.

They showed a lot of promise recently in their game against Georgia Southern on Feb. 11. Although they lost 7-6, it was a huge improvement over last year where they lost 24-4.

The team will get its next chance for victory when they face Stetson University and Morehouse University on March 25 at home on the fields by the tennis courts.

The 18-year-old Raulerson plans on having as much impact as anyone with a competitive drive he has had from a young age.

"I played a little football in middle school and I did Brazilian Jujitsu for a year and a half,"



J. Daniel Young / THE SPECTATOR

Hampton Raulerson goes to scoop a loose ball during the VSU men's club lacrosse team's inaugural game on Saturday, Feb. 11 against Georgia Southern University. VSU lost 7-6.

Raulerson said.

Raulerson brings a lot of drive and confidence to the field that is evident to his teammates.

"He brings dedication more than anything," Corley said. "His situation has not stopped him one

bit from picking the game up. He is always there and willing to do what is needed to get the job done."

VSU lacrosse is looking to be on the fast track to a long successful run with a full team and

coach hopefully within the next five years. Some players, especially Raulerson, do not want to wait that long.

"Hopefully when I'm a senior we are really boomin'," Raulerson said.

Check out the Spectator online to read Chad Stone's newest edition of **STONEWALLED!**
www.vsuspectator.com

Follow Spectator Sports on Twitter!

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Games this week

Friday Baseball @ Palm Beach Atlantic - 6 p.m.	Sunday Tennis @ Auburn-Montgomery 1:30 p.m.
Saturday Women's Soccer vs. South Georgia Jr. - 10:30 a.m.	Tuesday Softball vs. UNC-Pembroke (DH) - 1 p.m.
Baseball @ Palm Beach Atlantic (DH) - 1 p.m.	Wednesday Baseball vs. Georgia Southwestern - 5 p.m.
Tennis @ West Alabama - 1 p.m.	
Women's Soccer vs. VSU Men's Soccer Club - 3 p.m.	Home games in italics (DH) denotes doubleheader

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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

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GSC tournament starts tonight in Fla.

Eric Jackson

ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR
epjackson@valdosta.edu

The regular season is over and now it's time to get ready for "The Best Basketball at the Beach."

The Gulf South Conference tournament tips-off Thursday night in Niceville, Fla., at The Arena on the campus of Northwest Florida State College just 15 miles from Ft. Walton Beach.

The men's team, due to their less than satisfying regular season conference record (3-11), have earned the seventh seed in the tournament.

The women's team, which finished with a promising (10-4) record, take the third seed.

Lady Blazer forward Brittany Ferguson, despite being close to a white sandy beach, is making sure her team doesn't get distracted from the objective.

"It's a business trip," Ferguson said. "I'm just hoping to keep playing. We might get side tracked because we're going down to the beach and get to stay in a condo. That fun stuff must stay in the back of the mind. We can only enjoy it if we take care

of business."

The Lady Blazers face the North Alabama Lions in the quarterfinals Thursday night. VSU split the season series with UNA this year losing the first game 76-69 in Birmingham then a month later beating the Lions in the P.E Complex by one point, 59-58.

Being played on a neutral floor should make the tiebreaker an exciting game.

VSU Head Coach Kiley Hill says that taking care of the basketball will be highly stressed this weekend.

"That's been our achilles heel as of late," Hill said. "Valuing the basketball is going to be a big piece of the puzzle. When we don't turn the basketball over we become a very good basketball team."

Nevertheless, the Lions posted a (5-9) GSC record this season and undoubtedly are the underdogs in this matchup.

The men's team will compete on Friday afternoon against the No. 2 seed Christian Brothers who are ranked No. 8 in Division II NCAA basketball.

The Blazers were swept by the Buccaneers in the regular season and are (0-3) against nationally ranked teams.

Although men's Head Coach

Gulf South Conference Rankings	
Men's	Women's
#1 - Alabama-Huntsville 23-3 (13-1)	#1 - Delta State 20-5 (12-2)
#2 - Christian Brothers 21-5 (11-3)	#2 - Alabama-Huntsville 21-5 (11-3)
#3 - West Georgia 21-7 (8-6)	#3 - Valdosta State 20-6 (10-4)
#4 - West Florida 18-10 (8-6)	#4 - West Alabama 11-14 (6-8)
#5 - North Alabama 15-11 (7-7)	#5 - West Florida 10-16 (6-8)
#6 - West Alabama 8-19 (5-9)	#6 - North Alabama 14-12 (5-9)
#7 - Valdosta State 11-15 (3-11)	#7 - West Georgia 10-16 (4-10)
#8 - Delta State 6-20 (1-13)	#8 - Christian Brothers 5-21 (2-12)

Mike Helfner just finished his worst season (11-15) in his career at VSU, he has reached the semifinals of each of the last four GSC tournaments, the longest such streak in school history.

Both the men's and women's championship games will be televised by ESPN3 and ESPN Full Court on Sunday.

The Lady Blazers are expected to have much less trouble advancing to the semifinals, where they will run into Alabama-Huntsville or West Georgia depending on the winner of that game.

Ferguson could care less who

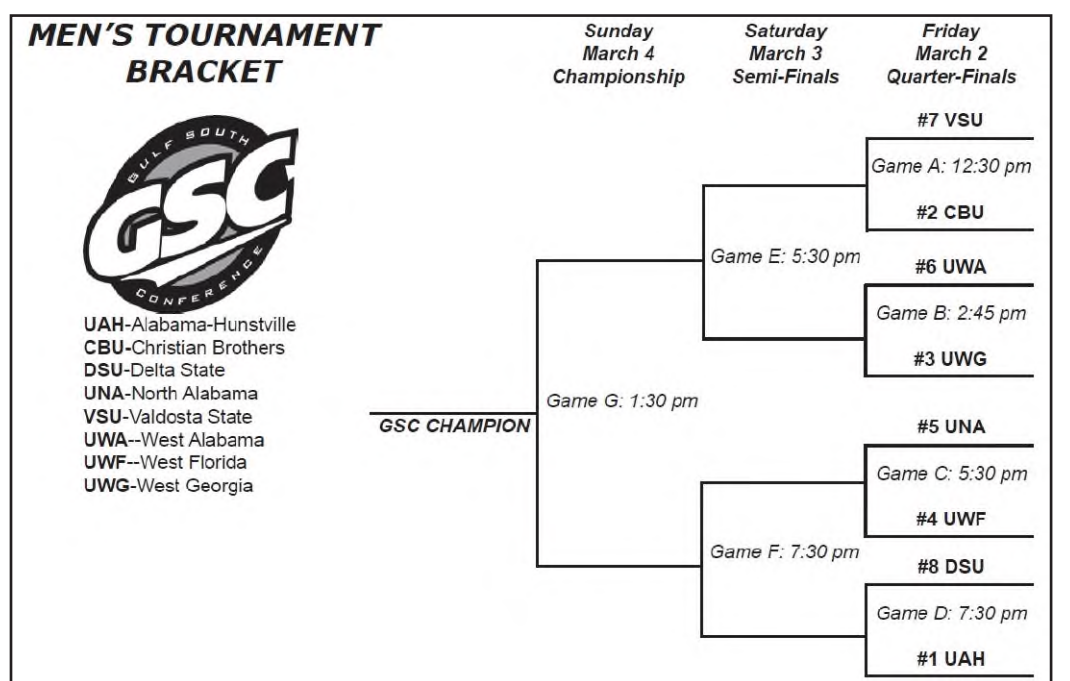
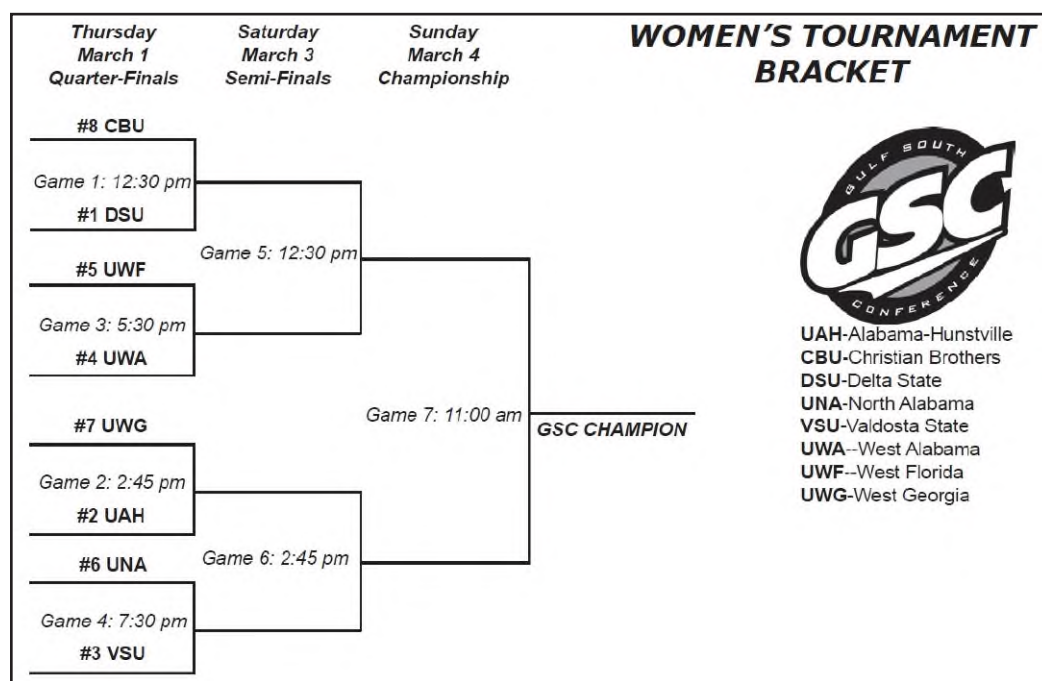
the following opponent might be and describes every team the Lady Blazers face this weekend as "roadblocks" from winning their first GSC title since 1984.

Hill has put together another remarkable season to add to his tenure, and his team has their eye on the prize.

"This late in the year, it's not as much physical," Hill said. "It's 90 percent mental. You can take all those records and throw them out at conference time because at this time of the year you've played everyone twice. It just comes down to who is going to execute and defend."



Mac Ingram / THE SPECTATOR
Tristan Steele, senior guard, shoots a jumper against Coastal Georgia in VSU's final home game of the season on Thursday, Feb. 22. VSU won the game, 100-65.



Graphics courtesy of Gulf South Conference Athletics

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