

April 6, 2017

Updates on SGA and President Mapp - pg. 3

April 13, 2017

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THE SPECTATOR

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Standing room only at SGA Meeting

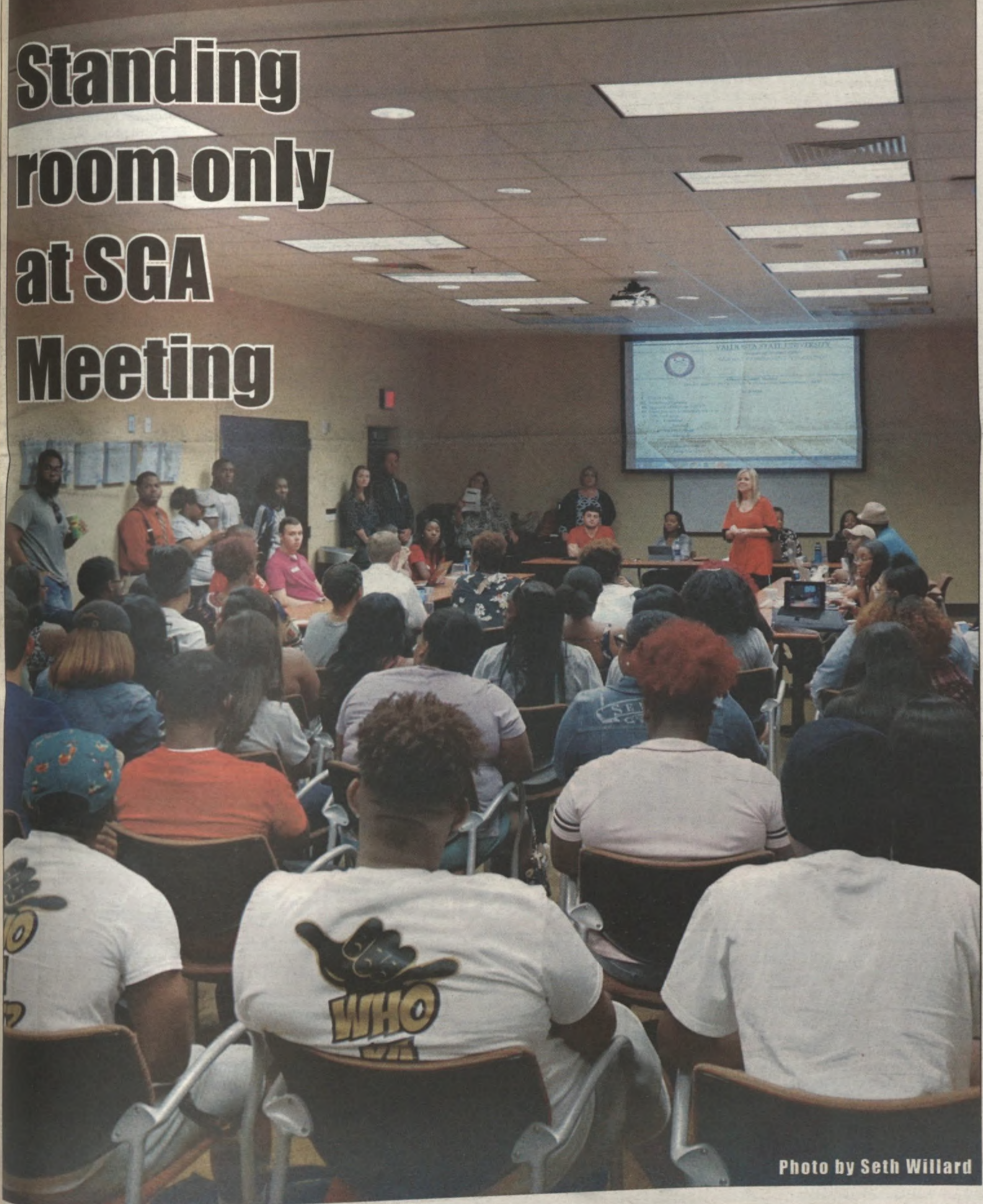


Photo by Seth Willard

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NEWS

SGA welcomes record crowd before election day

Julie Jernigan
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Monday's SGA meeting ran a little differently than normal. Besides the usual agenda, the executive board held a Q&A session with the student body to discuss their concerns.

The decision to eliminate the student organization offices was one of the main discussion topics.

Maya Mapp, president of SGA, said the decision was made by the Student Advisory Council, which is led by Dr. Vince Miller of the Student Affairs office, but he was absent during the session.

Mapp, who is a part of the council, admitted to missing a few meetings but said a variety of student organizations, such as the Creative Activities Board, International Students and SGA, were present to sign the agreement.

Chad Capers, Black Student League president, asked where all the organizations should put their belongings when they're kicked out on May 6.

"I do not know where you all can go, but there is no space in the Student Union," Mapp said. "I do know they are discussing it, but at this time, I have no suggestions to where student organizations can go."

Mapp elaborated, stating that the game room in the Student Union was allocated to be a new student organization center of sorts, but that idea was quickly shut down because of the students who regularly use that room.

"The students who were elected to be on this committee, such as VSL, NCAAAP, myself with SGA and CAB, those were the representatives who were supposed to speak up," Mapp said. "Every student received the email saying, 'Please can you

come to these meetings,' and some people don't check their email . . . you miss out if you don't come."

"Where were you guys nine months ago because we could have used people like y'all."
-Shannon McGee

Sen. Silas David weighed in on the conversation. "Ultimately, a vision was

established for student life and the campus in general, and they said they were going to combat the situation, but there are some people who are really going to benefit and people who are not," David said. "To be honest with you, it sucks, but at the end of the day that's the decision that they made."

At the beginning of the meeting, Shannon McGee, director of Auxiliary Services, stopped by to answer questions or concerns in an effort to make the student body more involved.

McGee discussed the changes to Palms Dining Hall, such as the expansive mural and updated floor, along with the hiring of Eric Davis, the new manager.

In Parking and Transportation, she discussed the Blazer Safe Ride program, which will replace the night shuttle starting this fall, and the only delay that stopped it from starting this

semester was the customization of the golf cart.

Another one of the main concerns discussed was having to sign up for a meal plan rather than having only the dining dollars option.

"There are certain things we have to comply with in the University System of Georgia, but we do hear your concerns, and we will bring that up to the dining advisory committee," McGee said.

Student feedback and involvement is the driving force behind change.

"Where were you guys nine months ago because we could have used people like y'all," McGee said. "Our first priority is cutting costs for students, and the only way we can do that is if we know what you want."

SGA meetings are every Monday at 7 p.m. in the Student Union in meeting room one

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Announcements

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The Campus Rec center is hosting a free trip to the beautiful Blue Springs at Lee, Florida. April 19 at 4 p.m.

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The Campus Rec center is hosting a free access to the challenge course for students on April 18 from 2 - 7 p.m.

Want to have your event featured in our upcoming activities section? Email your information to Editor-in-Chief Gabe Burns at gcburns@valdosta.edu.

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Former SGA President

Juston Lewis
Asst. Sports Editor
justlewis@valdosta.edu

SGA President Maya Mapp has been coming under fire over the weekend. Over the weekend, Mapp and her staff had a twitter conversation that was oriented towards reflection on how Mapp's presidency was perceived. President Will Jimerso and other campus leaders were also involved in the conversation.

The conversation that Mapp was questioning where she was as President Othellious Cato. Many students had no idea about Cato's departure, which in turn drove Cato to tweet a thread of reasons why he left SGA.

Many of those reasons were related to Mapp and her lack of communication for students. He went on to rant by saying, "Othellious didn't think I was going to say something. Mapp

Students

Bryce Ethridge
Staff Writer
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Students around campus brought up their negative experiences with the Valdosta Police Department to President, who had a change that with the new chief.

Kaylyn Turner, sophomore, said she found out late that she was the city of Valdosta's first female police officer. She said she had a negative experience with the department that had to do with a negative experience instead of UPD.

Freshman Kayla Lewis said she has had two encounters with UPD. One encounter happened with her coach, and a friend of hers around to Georgia residence and were confronted in a non-parking zone. They were there for a short time.

Larry said even though he was a transfer student and he couldn't park there, he questioned them anyway. "It was just one of those where he was very

In...

NEWS

Former SGA vice president unleashes on current administration

Juston Lewis
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SGA President Maya Mapp has been coming under fire lately. Over the weekend, there was a Twitter conversation that was SGA oriented. The discussion called for reflection on how former SGA president Will Jimerson and other leaders were different than Mapp.

The conversation then turned to questioning where former Vice President Othellious Cato went. Many students had not known about Cato's departure from SGA, which in turn drove Cato to begin a tweet thread of reasons on why he left SGA.

Many of those reasons pointed to Mapp and her lack of support for students. He went on to end his rant by saying: "Oh I KNOW y'all didn't think I wasn't going to say something. Madam Pres.

Tell them how much you 'helped' them this year, please make a list."

While the tweets shed insight on the dealings of SGA, they also encouraged a bad-natured attack on Mapp, who only replied by inviting students to come to the general student government meeting on Monday night.

When Monday rolled around, a plethora of streamlines into the SGA galley, leaving standing room only for all late comers. After all business was conducted, Mapp opened the floor for discussion with the students. They made sure their voices were heard in the meeting that spanned nearly four hours.

The main discussion point of the meeting was the eviction of students from the organization offices on the second floor of the student union.

All student organizations are going to have to move their belongings before May 6 and there is no alternative location for those belongings.

That decision was made by Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Vincent Miller but was presented to the entire SGA executive board last semester, according to Mapp.

"When I first heard of that plan my first reservation was no, but I also have to ask the question why," Mapp said. "Why are you suggesting this change? What do you expect to come out of this?"

The decision is being made to bring the student life offices closer to the VSU students according to Mapp.

"What's a better way to force [student life] to be more involved with students," Mapp said. "You're putting them where they will be more accessible

to students. When you're more accessible, students can hold you accountable."

Many students in the meeting did not agree with the decision but now that it has been finalized they were looking for solution from Mapp. Mapp said that they signed off on this change but the presidents of Black Student League and NAACP say that they signed no such document.

Nevertheless, many groups keep every operation that they use to run their organization in the offices and hope to have another place to store their items.

"May 6 is coming, and we have to move our shit," one student said during the discussion.

As of now there are no alternative plans for the offices made and there are no signs of any plans coming.

Mapp is going to have to

deal with the backlash from this decision as she begins her campaign for re-election. This topic is one of the dimmer spots in her term, and she hopes to learn from her experience.

"I hate to be seen as the bad guy," Mapp said. "I want it to be very clear that I did my very best but there is always room to improve. If I could've gone back and changed some things, I'm sure I would've. After seeing the response from the student body that I would've said maybe not."

In previous interviews, Mapp has expressed her desire for her dealings to be more transparent. She's keeping those sentiments with the hope that she'll be re-elected.

"I'll have to be able to take the hit whether positive or negative," Mapp said. "All I can do is try my best to be more transparent."

Students want improvement from UPD

Bryce Ethridge
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Students around campus brought up their negative experiences with the University Police Department to the President, who had a hope to change that with the new police chief.

Kaylyn Turner, sophomore, said she found out later that it was the city of Valdosta Police Department that had caused her to have a negative experience instead of UPD.

Freshman Kayla Larry said that she has had two negative encounters with UPD. The first encounter happened when she, her coach, and a friend had drove around to Georgia residence hall and were confronted for parking in a non-parking zone even though they had only been there for a short time.

Larry said even though her coach, the driver, said that he was a transfer student and didn't know he couldn't park there, the officer questioned them anyway.

"It was just one of those things where he was very disrespectful

when he didn't need to be," Larry said.

She said that they had tried to get the officer's badge number and name but he would not cooperate. Larry said that she felt like the officer was profiling her and her group due to them being black.

"How can we as students trust them when they treat us like this and profile us," Larry said.

The second encounter happened when she and two friends had left the Sustella market after it had closed and wanted to be escorted back to her residence hall. She said they had asked an officer who had parked nearby to do it, but he said no.

"I don't feel safe at this school," Larry said. "I thought, when I got here, that when you're walking home by yourself you can call UPD and they'll escort you back to where you're going."

Larry said that they tried to file a complaint at the police department but felt like the staff who were at the desk didn't do anything about it.

Patrol Officer Juan Arzayus said that Police Chief Alan Rowe

is trying to get all of the UPD officers to be more interactive with students.

"We try to increase our community policing operations, which is trying to spend more time on-campus instead of just being in the car patrolling," Arzayus said.

Arzayus also said that when students have negative encounters with an officer they should come to the department and ask for a supervisor or a patrol supervisor when filing a complaint.

"Except for the few times I've seen them in the building I don't really see them," Davina Hurt, sophomore, said.

Hurt said that she doesn't know any of them since she only sees officers when she is in a study room and has not had any interaction with them.

Larry said that officers who outwardly show they don't care make it harder for students to trust the officers who actually want to help.

"I'm supposed to feel safe coming to you if I need help, and I don't because I feel like you don't care," Larry said.

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Standing Room Only

On Monday, Student Government hosted their weekly meeting in the Student Union. During the meeting, guests from Auxillary Services presented up to date statistics regarding parking and dining services. These representatives were greeted with several remarks urging them to work better with the student body. The gallery was completely filled, leaving only standing room available for attendees.

Top Left: VSU Student Government President Maya Mapp addresses the SGA senators and gallery after receiving a question from the gallery. Right: Director of Auxillary Services Shannon Mcgee answers questions from the gallery after concluding her presentation.

Below: VSU Student Government Vice President Adam Slaton onlooking the student-filled meeting room as SGA President Mapp responds to questions.

Photos by Seth Willard

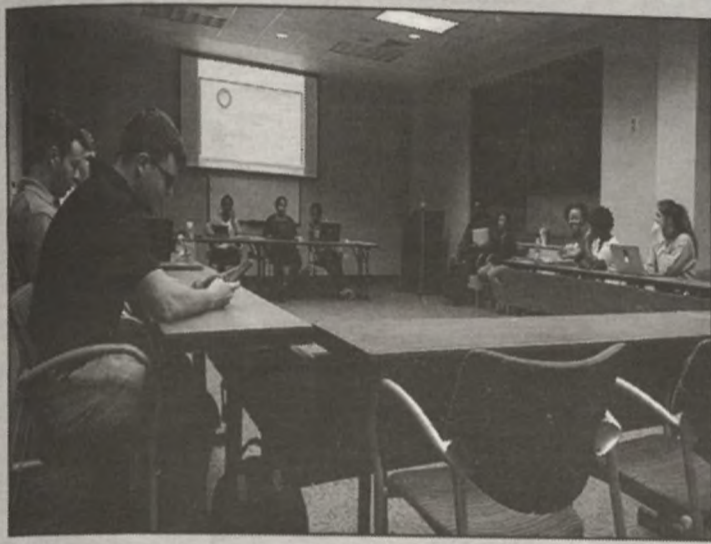


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Our point of view...

A conglomerate not doing enough



Hunter Terrell/THE SPECTATOR
SGA members sitting quietly at weekly meeting.

Why does nobody care until it's too late? The VSU SGA is asking that very question.

An evening questioning the VSU government administration led to the belief that students don't consistently attend the weekly meetings in the Student Union. The student body will simply have to do better than this.

Each Student Government meeting is at 7 p.m. Monday in the Student Union meeting room. The meetings are open to the public.

There was a variety of questions regarding decisions made both by the SGA administration and the university administration in the April 10 meeting. Questions arose concerning decisions and conversations that took place in past meetings without the incorporation of the gallery's opinions and ideals.

The problem lies in the fact that the gallery is typically less than 10 percent full and thus few opinions make their way to the administration.

The meeting Monday evening lasted hours and included a standing room only gallery of more than 50 attendees. The uncertainty in the diction of questions regarding the decisions made by the administration proves that the majority in attendance had not been consistently attending these meetings when such matters were discussed, debated and decided.

While it is true that SGA is the voice of the students, it is necessary for students to be at the meetings so you're informed enough to voice your opinions. This is the only way the administration can adequately represent you. That is the purpose of having open meetings.

As college students it is vital for you to not only stand up for your opinions but to be passionate enough about them attend meetings that can make an immense difference to your experiences in the VSU community.

Use your voice. Show your passion. Push your representatives to do what is right. Stay informed, but most importantly be present at each and every student government meeting to ensure your voice is not lost in the wind.

Too often your voice is not heard. Guarantee your voice is heard in its truest form via Monday's meeting.

This editorial was written by a member of the editorial staff and expresses the general opinion of The Spectator.

OPINIONS

Are millennials a bunch of narcissists?

Geneva Crooks
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I remember the first time my mother called me a narcissist. We were riding in her car to my high school. It was during the early morning hours and the light of the sunrise was just right. So of course, I had to "selfie." I mean, who can pass up perfect lighting? I snapped a few hundred photos of myself and asked my mom which looked best. She quickly retorted something along the lines of

"You're obsessed with yourself. They all look the same. You're acting like a narcissist."

So are we? We are, after all, the generation of selfie sticks, LED phone cases and entire social media sites dedicated to photos

we take of ourselves.

According to Metro, "Young people are apparently going to the effort of deleting photos that don't garner a sufficient amount of likes . . . more than 60 percent admit the platform [Instagram] is the most narcissistic social media app."

We as millennials have to admit that's true. Nowadays, we witness more people taking Snapchat videos at a party than actually having fun. People are more worried about their likes, comments, followers and viewers than they are with real life, social experiences.

"Yes, I do think that; in a way, we are a generation full of narcissists," Imani Huffman, a senior communications and public relations major, said. "I think that saying we are narcissistic is going a little far, but I definitely know a

ton of people who have narcissistic qualities and are obsessed with themselves."

By definition, a narcissist is a person who has an inflated sense of self-importance. If we really think about it, we know we find ourselves more important than we normally would because we have so many friends and followers on social networks.

We are products of our time, and it is almost inevitable that we are more obsessed with ourselves than previous generations with all that technology has to offer us. We have high resolution cameras, phones that can do more than computers could 20 years ago and computer software that can edit a photo to absolute perfection.

We may be slowly turning into a bunch of narcissists, but who can blame us?



(Left) Girl Scout's favorite cookie, Samoas, is available on Amazon, (Right) entire boxes can be distributed.

Selling Girl Scout Cookies on Amazon takes away authenticity

Tiana Foster
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Every year everyone anticipates the frenzy of buying Girl Scout cookies by quickly purchasing as many boxes as possible before the season is over. Now, that is no longer an issue because Amazon has America covered.

Amazon is now reaching into the Girl Scout vendor's market by selling the cookies for an outrageous \$11, according to the Amazon seller. The cookies are even available for two-day shipping for Amazon Prime members. Unlike purchasing from your local Girl Scout, Amazon allows someone to order his or her favorite cookies in bulk with one click.

It seems like Amazon has the advantage, but the cost difference may leave some buyers at a dis-

advantage. If you don't mind the search for your Girl Scout cookies, then you're lucky. A box of cookies normally cost \$4 or \$5, but Amazon has almost doubled the price. If you're a lover of Thin Mints, then expect to pay \$9 instead of the standard \$5. The most popular flavors could even cost you \$10.

Consumers should be aware of some issues though. According to the Huffington Post, future buyers should be aware of the authenticity of the cookies. A Girl Scouts spokesperson even admitted that some vendors recycle old boxes to sell fake cookies.

Being that Amazon is a third-party seller, they will profit from all sales and Girl Scouts USA will reap no benefits.

Amazon is known to be one of the biggest online retailers for everything. I love shopping on Amazon for amazing deals, and

I always take advantage of the prime member's feature. However, I'm against these type of vendors. Purchasing Girl Scout cookies from one of their booths is traditional and also serves a great cause. I do not agree with third-party sellers profiting and not sharing any of the success with the original organization.

"I think it's a good idea but then again it's going to take away from the meaning of little girls selling it," said Demya Milligan, a junior mass media major. "A lot of people will buy it though, and it's a profitable idea."

I'm interested to see how profitable the cookies will be on Amazon, but I'll stick to purchasing my cookies from the women and children who greet me with a smile while also making me feel good about supporting their cause.

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OPINIONS



Ask VSU: How do you feel about this genderless fashion movement?

"There shouldn't be any type of double standard; wear what you want to wear. Be comfortable."

-Thalia Elliott, senior, mathematics major



"Society is so focused on 'the norms,' what is appropriate and what is not. Just DO YOU!"

-De'Essence Cox, graduate student, higher education and leadership major



Well, it makes the fashion industry easier to sell. Androgyny is in. It's fine. There are so many other things to worry about, why have arbitrary classification?"

-Samantha Paul, Library Administrator



The exterior of Salty Snapper and sign on Gornito Road is the first thing you see when you pull in. Alex Dunn/THE SPECTATOR

Salty Snapper brings taste of the sea to Valdosta

Alex Dunn
ASST. FEATURES EDITOR
eadunn@valdosta.edu

If you like Southern-style seafood and a live band for entertainment, then the Salty Snapper is the place for you.

The Salty Snapper is located off of Gornito Road, right next to the YMCA. It was established in 2014 and has since been a popular spot among college students and older couples on date night.

The enthusiasm from the employees made the overall atmosphere much more inviting. You can tell right away that they enjoy working together.

The restaurant has wide open sections with spaces that can offer a secluded table for two or bigger areas for larger parties.

The waitress was very friendly and gave us some suggestions from the menu, highlighting her favorite dishes and describing how big the portions are for the ones we were interested in.

The baked oysters appetizer was delicious. The waitress said they are as fresh as they come, shucked on order and placed in the oven to bake with the selected seasoning that day and served on the half-shell on a bed of ice.

The entrée selection was diverse, from pork chops to lobster and dumplings. They also have a section of fried platters, where one can order a basket of fried combinations with a side of coleslaw and hushpuppies.

at The Salty Snapper since it opened. He explained how much he likes the atmosphere at work and said everyone has become friends from working together. He also suggested some of his favorite dishes.

"Two of my favorite items off the menu are the shrimp and grits and the fried chicken plate; I'll bring them home from work sometimes for dinner," Gardner said.

The menu as a whole was a little limiting, only being two pages. After being profitable and established after two years, I hope there is a plan to expand the menu.

The Salty Snapper is a small local franchise, other popular eating spots owned by the same person are the Woodstack BBQ Tavern, Manwell DeCoudres and Friends Grille and Bar.

On the restaurant's website, they say the main focus is providing a great experience through food, drinks, service and atmosphere, and they hope people leave full, happy and eager to return.

Overall, The Salty Snapper receives an eight out of 10. The service was great, the waitress was very friendly and helpful and the atmosphere was casual and relaxing.

The only issue was the menu. Although they had a variety of dishes, the overall food options were limited and over expensive than a college budget can afford.

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FEATURES

Undergraduate Research Symposium hosts student debate

Darla Dunning
ASST. OPINIONS EDITOR
ddunning@valdosta.edu

Four students from the national championship Forensics Team held a debate in the Student Union Theater on April 11, arguing whether or not they believe that violent protests are a legitimate counter action to oppression.

Dr. Michael Eaves, professor of communication arts, was the moderator of the debate.

Two of the students, Kelsey Townsend and Musiteli Mubuso, argued for violent protests as a legitimate counter action to oppression and the two other students, Nathalie Jaimes-Arias and Hannah Tabrizi, argued against violent protests.

During the debate, each student had seven minutes to discuss the three contentions for this topic, which included if historical precedence of violent protests has or has not led to a legitimate change, if an increase in awareness of protests has led to a change and if revolutions are the only way to change how the government is run.

The first contention discussed involved the Boston Tea Party, the Pussy Riots in Russia, ALF, PETA, Ferguson riots and other protests that were considered precedent.

In the second contention, Mubuso presented one of his main points regarding protests and change.

"The angle of all violent protests is for us to get to a goal," Mubuso said. "When you start a protest, your goal is to get to the negotiation table. Violence is a legitimate [counter] action to op-



Students hosted a debate to discuss whether or not they believe that violent protests are a legitimate counter action to oppression. In photo, from left to right, Hannah Tabrizi, Nathalie Jaimes-Arias, Dr. Michael Eaves, Kelsey Townsend and Musiteli Mubuso pose at the event.

pression." Tabrizi and Jaimes-Arias said people can put a Band-Aid over government, but it is ineffective.

"If we look at the Civil Rights Movement, the Civil War Riots and same-sex marriage, all these things are still present in today's society as ways in which the government has systematically oppressed people," Tabrizi said. "For example, the Civil Rights Movement, we can put a Band-Aid on an issue, but we still have a lot of systemic violence and systemic racism against people of color."

During the discussion of the third contention, Jaimes-Arias discussed the importance of revolutions.

"You have to change authority to actually have a legitimate change, so you have to overthrow your authority, and to do that you have to have a revolution," Jaimes-Arias said. "You can't just protest because government will not consider this and shut their doors on you."

Townsend refuted James-Arias' statement.

"You cannot wake up and start a revolution," Townsend said.

"It's a step by step process. Take a look at the Dakota Pipeline, where you have people actually protesting the environmental changes, these people helped stop the pipeline. It was not a legislative change but an actual idea that was put in people's head whether they were in an assigned position of the government or a regular citizen."

Once the debate ended, the audience voted on a team. Twenty-eight audience members voted for holding violent protests, and five audience members voted against holding violent protests.

Tabrizi, assistant debate coach, shared why she is interested in student debates.

"Debate has always been about becoming aware of things that you never knew about," Tabrizi said. "These debates argue different topics that college students should be aware of."

Dr. Eaves explained why students should start coming to student debates.

"It's a great campus showcase, and we debate issues that people care about," Dr. Eaves said.



An instructor demonstrates different yoga positions to students on Saturday morning.

Saturday morning cool-down

Cynthia Papaiiller
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On April 8, Campus Rec held its first Official Frontline Yoga event on the front lawn.

Students gathered in a semi-circle under the 9 a.m. sun to start their day off on a positive note. Adrian Marsh and two other assistants—who demonstrated alternative positions for both advanced and beginner yoga enthusi-

asts—led the session.

"Official Frontline Yoga is something we came up with as a team," Sarah Whiddon, a junior physiology major, said. "Every month we try to hold an event, and we decided that we should use the front lawn now that it's getting warmer."

Near the Campus Rec table, students were asked to sign-up and document their attendance.

Light refreshments were offered to each participant after the ses-

sion: water bottles, oranges and apples.

Delase Adzadi, a freshman, described the morning salutations as a "Tumblr-esque" experience, attributing it to the sun and beautiful surroundings of the front lawn.

Tiana Larmond, a freshman dance major, explained why she came out to the event.

"I'm a dancer, so I'm working on my flexibility," Larmond said. "So, I'm trying to do more yoga."



Students and instructors gather on the Front Lawn to learn different yoga positions and destress from exams.

'Carry the weight!' Students protest slut-shaming



Kelsey Dickerson/THE SPECTATOR

The women of Sigma Lambda Gamma held their annual Slut-Walk on April 7. Starting at 11 a.m., members of the group met on the steps of Odum Library and marched down the student mall to protest slut-shaming. Before the event, president Ashlee Thomas handed out fliers and invited anyone to participate in the march. Sigma Lambda Gamma members and other students came with homemade signs and carried a large spray-painted air mattress along with them. As they walked, Thomas called out chants like "Take back the night" while the group repeated. Onlookers took pictures and video as they passed. The event ran through lunchtime until 1 p.m. with any students walking to and from classes being invited to join in. Above, the members of Sigma Lambda Gamma begin the slut walk with Thomas at the lead. Behind them, two students take pictures.

FEATURES



Alex Dunn/THE SPECTATOR

An aisle of books sits untouched at Odum Library. Theft is not common but chalked up to be just accidents.

Library thefts: just accidents

Edward Rella

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Odum Library, built in the 1970s, currently holds 567,000 volumes, journals, government documents and everything in between.

Odum Library uses Voyager Circulation, an internal library system, to keep track of its media available for check-out. The media has barcodes for identifying and cataloguing into Voyager, allowing easy scanning for check-ins and check-outs. Commonly overlooked, security for the media is also in place.

Steven Scheuler, a circulation librarian at Odum Library, said the Voyager Circulation system is practically perfect.

"It's all internal and easy," Scheuler said. "If there is a book that hasn't been checked in within 60 days, its classified as lost. After 90, its classified as missing."

The circulation librarians can use that information and then search and find missing books.

Often, students pick-up a book and forget to check it out when leaving. But, according to Scheuler, 'the gates' located at the library entrance help solve that problem.

"[The] books have a magnetized strip, and the gates will pick this up if they have not been demagnetized by the desk," Scheuler said.

Despite what some may think, theft from Odum Library is not common. While you may find some older textbooks for your

classes in the library, there is a policy that prohibits the library from carrying all of the textbooks for classes, which prevents competition between the bookstore and the library.

Scheuler said there is no reason to steal from the library.

"If anyone wants to steal something, just check it out," he said. "If a student sets-off the gates' alarms, Scheuler and his coworkers always ask: "Do you have any library books?"

Scheuler said he believes accidents happen more often than not.

Library staff members, especially at the reference desks, are always happy to assist students find books. Librarians at Odum Library are knowledgeable, and it is their job to assist with student research and projects.



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New Deals, Every Day! Check out today's deals. [amazon.com/gp/goldbox?gbB](https://www.amazon.com/gp/goldbox?gbB) ...



Courtesy of Amazon

The picture Amazon posted on their Twitter page. Followers thought the image portrayed a dildo, but really it is an ironing board.



Alex Dunn
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Don't worry, it's just an ironing board

While some users simply commented on the photo and asked Amazon what was going on with its post, others gave their best guess as to what the photo was about.

"Are you telling me I need a new dildo?" twitter user, @333tentant, asked.

The incident was finally acknowledged by the company after comments accumulated on the original post.

"This product is an ironing board," Amazon Help stated. "For product details and pricing, please click tap on the link in our post above."

After this response, users started settling down.

At first glance, the image looks questionable, and it was apparent from comments that an ironing board was not costumers' first guess when it came to identifying the object.

The sexual wellness category on Amazon sells sex toys, but when compared to the photo of the ironing board, they do not look that much alike.

Amazon posted a questionable photo promoting its daily deals, and then it had to handle the aftermath.

Amazon features daily deals on its homepage, appealing to a wide range of costumers with the sales.

The online market place posted its usual promotion on Saturday. The image featured a long, blue, phallic shape on a white background. Costumers then started speculating if Amazon was trying to sell them something that resembled a sex toy.

Right above the "tip" is the Amazon logo along with the caption, 'New Deals, Every Day! Check out today's deals.' The product also had a 4.5 out of 5 rating from costumers, making the situation more comedic.

The followers of the online store started asking what the image was portraying and were confused as to why Amazon would post, what was later deemed, a 'rude' photo.

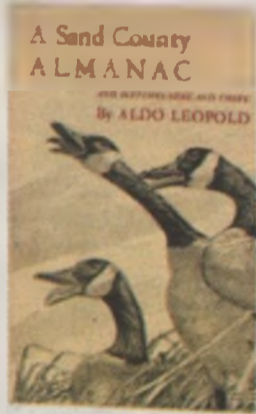
Environmental Philosophy

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ENTERTAINMENT

'ANTM' ditches age-limit

Alex Dunn
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Tyra Banks announced that the long-time show "America's Next Top Model" has ditched its age requirement, meaning aspiring models young and old can audition to be on the show.

Banks announced the show's change in an Instagram video on April 1, officially removing the age limit, which was 18 to 27 years old, according to Elle.com.

"You want to audition for 'America's Next Top Model?'" Banks asked. "I don't care how old you are, honey; you just need to know how to snize and be open to learning how to work the runway like a supermodel."

The show has gone through 23 cycles since Banks started it in 2003. In that time, the show trimmed up some of the restrictive participation requirements. There have been seasons that allowed both men and women to compete in the show and even a cycle that eliminated the height requirement, according to Elle.com.

There have been complaints over the years about the age limit, emphasizing the point that the relationship between age and beauty can be highly subjective.

Bruce Lee from Forbes.com said the age requirement did not just put a limit on how old someone is, but it also gave women the false idea that beauty wouldn't get any better after reaching 30.

"The previous age limit seemed

to suggest that once you get into your upper 20s, everything is downhill," Lee said. "It also seemed to rule out many 'late bloomers.' What kind of message does this send to everyone?"

Because of complaints similar to Lee's, Banks decided a change was needed. She explained in her announcement video that people always asked her why she had an age limit on the show, so she decided to cut it out completely.

Banks said she has always stood for diverse beauty and eliminating cookie cutters when it comes to what is deemed beautiful. So, there should not be restrictions that make women feel any less beautiful. Now, women of any age can audition.



Courtesy of contactmusic.com

Nasty Gal founder Sophia Amoruso wrote the book "Girlboss" in 2014. Now the bestseller will come to life as a new Netflix original series starring Britt Robertson.

New series 'Girlboss' scheduled to rule Netflix

HunterTerrell
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Calling all fashionistas and women trailblazers, new Netflix original, "Girlboss," will air April 21.

The comedy series will be based off of eBay's Nasty Gal Vintage owner and fashion entrepreneur, Sophia Amoruso.

"Tomorrowland" star Britt Robertson will portray Amoruso, with co-star's Viner Alphonso McAuley and actor Johnny Simmons from "Jennifer's Body" by her side.

Sophia, the atypical Californian girl, discovers her passion for rather dated fashion and becomes an unlikely businesswoman in the process.

Deidra Martinez, a freshman art major, said Nasty Gal was one of her go-to websites.

"I love Nasty Gal," Martinez said. "I can't afford half of the things on there, but it definitely gives me style inspiration."

The show was written by Kay Cannon, who is of "Pitch Perfect" and "30 Rock" fame, and is based

on Amoruso's 2014 memoir, "#Girlboss."

Robertson told Glamour magazine that being a "girlboss" meant taking ownership of what you want in life.

"For me, 'Girlboss' is about being the boss of your own life," Robertson told Glamour. "At 26, I still don't know what's happening in my life, but I'm asking: What will make me happy next?"

The three minute trailer previews Amoruso's eBay site's eventual shutdown, which only drives Sophia's desire to succeed more.

A student who didn't know of Amoruso gave her opinion on the upcoming series.

"I have never heard of Amoruso or Nasty Gal, but it looks like it's going to be a good show," Micayla Logan, a junior nursing major, said.

Putting Amoruso's early career in the spotlight, the series will mostly cover Amoruso's struggles and wins behind building the Nasty Gal brand. Laughs and a hint at Amoruso's love life will also be in the works.

Wild Adventures brings varied sounds of summer to Valdosta

Briana Salem
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The Wild Adventures summer concert series began this month and will continue into August, featuring artists such as Christian singer Kirk Franklin, the country duo Maddie and Tae, and rock group Skillet.

The Wild Adventures 2017 summer concert series line up was a pleasant surprise for freshman nursing major Elisia Everson.

"I did not know that they [Wild Adventures] had such good artists on the line up," Everson said. "I am a huge fan of Kirk Franklin and will try my best to make his concert at the end of May... The concert series spices up the park and gives kids and parents more to do than just ride rides."

Although there are multiple ways to gain admission to the theme park's concerts, the easiest way is through general admission, or by purchasing a season pass or general park admission, the concerts are free.

Freshman biology major Nadajah Sparrow said she appreciated the affordable tickets.

"Being a college student and hearing the words 'free with admission' is a good thing," Sparrow said. "I think the prices of the park and concerts will benefit everyone."

The park also offers reserved seats; however, spots are limited. If guests have a Gold Season Pass, then they can get a reserved seat for an additional \$5 prior to the day of the concert. If a guest purchases a general admission ticket and would like a reserved seat, then they must pay an ad-

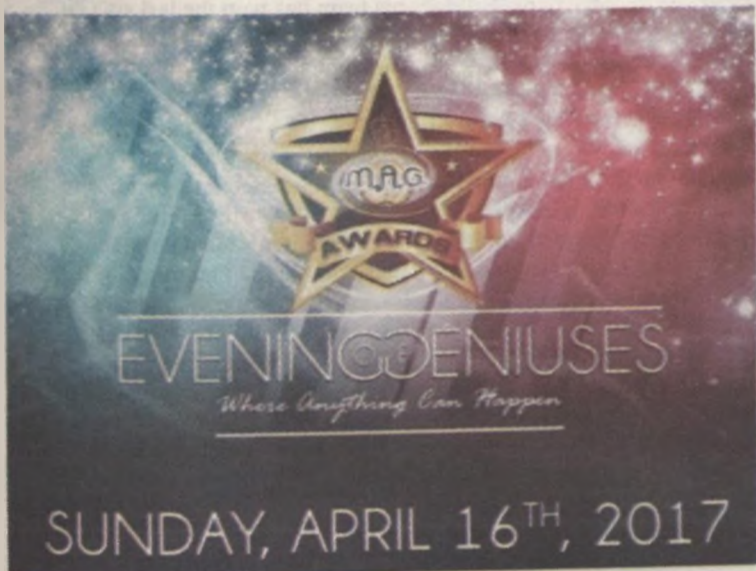
ditional \$10 prior to the day of the concert.

When looking to purchase tickets, be aware of the guidelines. If a guest waits until the day of a concert to try to reserve a seat, they must pay \$15, and only seats that have not been sold will be available.

Sparrow said the Wild Adventures concert series will benefit students taking summer classes.

"I know a lot of people who will be spending their summer at VSU for classes, and the park and concerts will give them something to do on their free nights," Sparrow said.

All guests interested in these deals can get general admission tickets, season passes or reserved concert seats online at WildAdventures.com or call the park at 229-219-7080.



Annual EOG award show coming this Easter

Eboni Register
STAFF WRITER
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Evening of Geniuses is coming up, an event recognizing the talents, efforts and inclusion of students at VSU.

This event is the biggest and best of the year brought to you by Media Art Geniuses. You can expect to see a big crowd and a lot of "beat" faces that will lead to a great time.

The event is on April 16 and will start at 7 p.m., but the red carpet will open at 6 p.m. to give all attendees a chance to stop and show their style of "dress to

impress."

MAG has put in a lot of hard work and preparation to make this event successful, according to MAG president, Roderick Stillwell, as he shared how he prepared for the event.

"You have to make sure you know your team and everyone who has a position in it," Stillwell said. "If you don't do that, then there is possibility of your event becoming stressful and turning bad."

Any student free on Sunday night should prepare to slay or dapper up to attend the event of the year. "Where Anything Can Happen."

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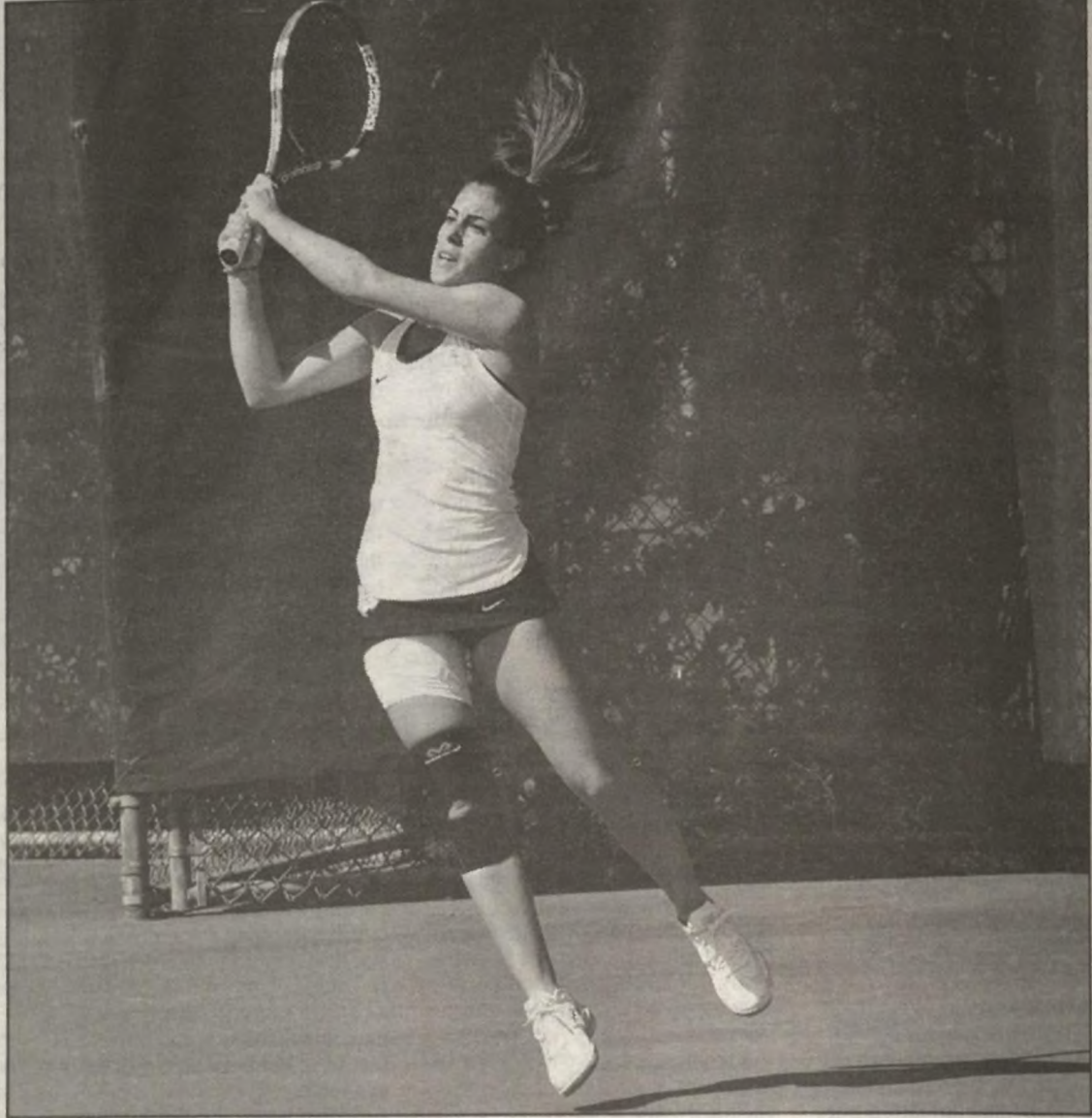
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SPORTS



Seth Willard/THE SPECTATOR

Jamey Medders will look to be a mainstay VSU's defensive midfield this fall.



Seth Willard/THE SPECTATOR

Laura Ubeda will look to help the VSU Women dethrone West Florida as the Gulf South tournament Champions.

Soccer signs new players

Briana Salem

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VSU Soccer is having an exciting spring complete with hiring new head coach, Stephen Andrew, signing new players and hosting the alumni game.

The 2017 signing class was mostly recruited by former coach Rebecca Nolin, but Andrew is a big part of why the recruits stayed at VSU.

"A lot of the recruiting is done in advance; for example, we are already looking at juniors for the 2018 class," Andrew said. "We try to stay one class ahead, and we look at club games, school games and any other related activities that involve the sport."

Andrew said he uses the campus to recruit players.

"Outside of soccer, we try to get them on campus, have them come to games and visit games, so they can get a feel for Valdosta and what it has to offer," Andrew said.

The players are recruited on their academic abilities as well as their personality in addition to their on-field ability.

"I was playing in a tournament game when one of my coaches contacted their graduate assistant and coach," Riley Tennant, a sophomore midfielder, said. "From there, we kept in contact, and it just worked."

Andrew is bringing in players at an assortment of positions for the 2017 season.

Haille Paterson is a forward from Coral Shores High School in Key Largo, Florida, while Jamey Medders from Sylvester and Madison Mascheri of Lake Mary, Florida, are defenders. VSU is also bringing in goalkeeper Caroline Embler from Anderson, South Carolina.

Medders said she chose to

come to VSU because she fell in love with the VSU community.

"[Coach Nolin] did some training sessions with my former travel soccer team out of Tifton," Medders said. "I love how close the team is with one another, and I feel that I'll fit in well."

She said she hopes to get some playing time in the fall.

"My goal is to be an all-around better soccer player," Medders said. "I plan to work hard and try to earn a spot in the starting 11. I also hope to make an impact on and off the field by supporting my team."

One gaping hole for VSU is in goal. The Blazers' lone star last year was Alyssa Curtis, who got VSU's single-game save record last season. The team currently has no backup for Curtis.

"We are really excited about our goalkeeper coming from South Carolina this upcoming season," Andrew said. "She will compete with our senior goalkeeper for the starting position."

The new recruits will join the team in the summer in an effort to get acclimated to collegiate soccer both physically and mentally.

"Sometimes with freshman, they struggle their first year because college is a lot more physical and a lot faster than high school and club," Andrew said. "We make sure they qualify in all areas so that we are not only recruiting good players as well as good people."

Tennant said she thinks the new players will benefit from doing some extra training before they arrive in Valdosta.

"I would tell the girls from the incoming class to work out and come in pretty fit," Tennant said. "We all work out together, so they shouldn't stress but just stay focused."

VSU Tennis ready for GSC

Joshua Miller

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VSU Men's and Women's Tennis are streaking into the GSC tournament as the men will look to repeat as champions. Next Thursday, the Blazers will head into the Gulf South Conference Championships in Montgomery, Alabama. The men are ranked seventh in the nation and third in their region, while the women are ranked ninth in their region.

"Preparing for match situations and making sure we stay healthy is our focus coming into the tournament," Head Coach John Hansen said. "As long as everybody is on the same page, plays for the team, and does their job we should do well."

The pair of blowout wins against Lee caps off nine-game winning streaks for both men's

and women's tennis. Both teams will be looking for their 10th win in a row as the second seed of the GSC Championships.

The men will be led by their number-one singles player, Leo Blay as they look to repeat as champs.

"We basically have the same team as last year," Blay said. "We're entering with the same approach as last year. I think we're ready."

Blay said the team is looking to avenge their loss from last year.

"We have a pretty good group," Blay said. "Maybe we can make it to the national championship [again]."

Men's tennis is 8-1 in conference play. The team's only conference loss was on February 7th to West Florida, which is the first ranked team in the conference.

"It's 50/50 playing against [West Florida]," Blay said. "They

are a tough team."

The Lady Blazers are led by senior singles player Bea Morales Hernandez. The women's team's only loss also came against West Florida.

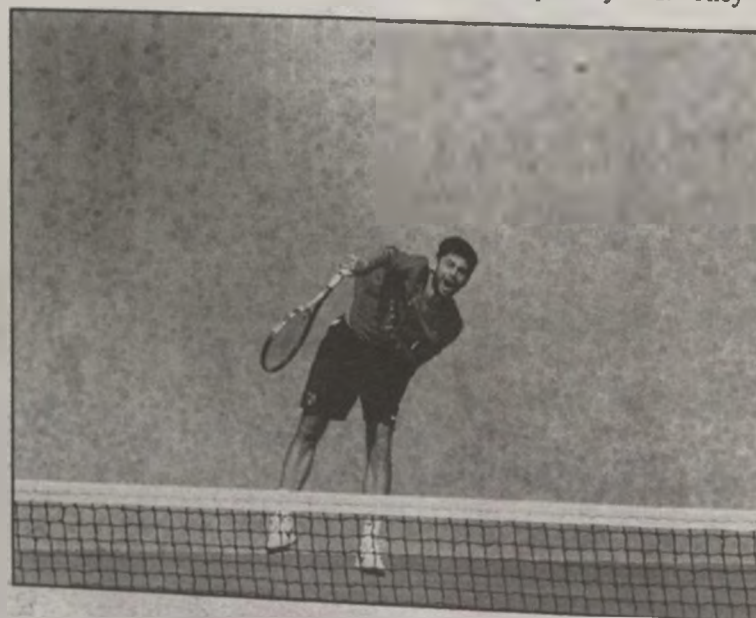
The West Florida women's tennis team has won the last six GSC Championships and is the favorite to win it again.

"The week off helps us prepare because we have a couple minor injuries, but the question is if we will be tournament ready after taking a week off," Hansen said.

The women's team will face Lee again in the first round of the tournament, while the men will face Delta State. The men beat Delta 7-2 in March.

Hansen said the keys to winning the tournament are mental.

"[We must] have confidence and a winning mindset," Hansen said.



Seth Willard/THE SPECTATOR

Leo Blay will be the VSU men's number-one singles player in the tournament.

Keep Up with VSU Sports! Follow us on Twitter:



@VSUSpecSports

SPORTS



Seth Willard/THE SPECTATOR

The Spring Game allowed more inexperienced players such as Dondre Butler (number one) to get a lot of touches. VSU will look to these players if injuries carry into the regular season.

Unlikely stars lift Red team to victory

Juston Lewis

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Because returning starters were black and blue, the 2017 VSU Spring Game featured Red and Black teams with a lot of young players.

The Red team won the game 38-28 after two scores from upcoming junior Stewart Spence, who transitioned to offense this spring after playing linebacker last year.

Last year's starters, Dallas Baldner, Roland Rivers, Cedric Hollingshed and Donte Robinson did not participate in the game. Their absence made way for players that redshirted last season or did not receive notoriety to get a chance in the spotlight.

The quarterback matchup featured last year's starter Adam Robles facing freshman Rogan Wells, who redshirted last season. Robles never seemed fully comfortable with the offense and had to share time with Bryce Jenkins behind center.

Wells controlled his offense with ease, balancing the run and pass game, while keeping the Black team's defense off balance. Wells said his success can be attributed to his time in practices this spring.

"This spring I've been getting a lot of reps," Wells said. "In the beginning I was nervous but as the game progressed I was calmer."

Wells said he attributes his confidence to his teammates, more specifically to Robles.

"We sit next to each other in the locker room, and we try to pump each other up," Wells said. "We tell each other what we need

to work on."

With GSC Offensive Freshman of the Year Hollingshed not playing, other VSU running backs got a chance to display their skills. Isaiah Johnson made the most of his opportunity, scoring two touchdowns before spraining his ankle and having to leave the game in the fourth quarter.

Johnson was modest in his response, and he gave senior running back Jordan Germany credit for providing him with inspiration.

"I think I played pretty good for my first scrimmage," Johnson said. "Guys like Jordan motivate me every day. They make sure we are all good at all times."

Head Coach Kerwin Bell made note of the talent that his players showed. He said he is already looking forward to the impact they can make on the 2017 season.

"We've got some good young talent that we redshirted," Bell said. "For some of those guys like Isiah Johnson, we've liked what we saw all spring, so now it's time for him to show what he can do. It's going to really help us next year as we go into the fall."

Going into the fall a lot of Blazers have lingering injuries. The Blazers will get the month of May off before having to report to camp at the start of June.

Summer camp for the team will feature the 31 new freshman recruits as well as other players who could not participate in spring practice. Building chemistry isn't a concern for Bell. He said he will focus on changing gears and pulling the best out of his players.

"Going into the second phase of our offseason, we have to get

everyone healthy," Bell said. "We hope to have everyone cleared by June 1, and we'll start workouts on June 5. Then we have eight weeks where you can really separate yourself."

Even though VSU will lose a

lot of players, especially on the defensive side of the ball, Bell said a good summer will help the team improve on their 8-3 record last year.

"ves [this summer], Bell said.

The first opportunity to for the

Blazers to improve will be on September 2 in Albany, Georgia, where the Blazers open their season against Albany State University.

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SPORTS

Re-lax, lacrosse is back

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Asst. Sports Editor
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The Lacrosse Club will have their first game at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University this weekend.

The lax club has not been active since 2014. The team was revived by sophomore mass media major Ray Hannah. Hannah is the president of the club and one of the captains of the team.

"It was a dormant club when I got here as a freshman," Hannah said. "Me and a few of my buddies decided to get it going. It started with three of us and it was hard getting members but now we have about 15 members."

The desire to bring the club back stemmed from a fondness for the sport according to Hannah.

"The real idea was that we all loved the game," Hannah said. "We all wanted to play sports in college ... and make a fun league for us."

With the club growing at a rapid pace, the team has run into struggles with novice players.

According to Hannah, more than half of the players had little to no experience when they came out. The team's lack of experience is a challenge that the team has taken on with open arms.

"You need to be a teacher instead of a teammate," Hannah said. "It's really all about confidence and helping each other

out. It's more of a family oriented thing, we're a team we do every thing together."

The team will be competing against three other schools in what Hannah has dubbed the 2017 inaugural games.

Morhouse, Morgan State, and FAMU will all participate in the tournament on FAMU's campus Saturday.

"I'm not expecting much but we should be able to see how we play as a team against other players," Hannah said. "It's more of a learning experience for both teams, but I'm competitive so I'm going to want to win."

The game will be a seven on seven as opposed to the traditional 10 on 10, with six players on the field with the goalie.

Hannah said the progress of the team has been better than expected and he said he was excited for the future of the club.

"It's good to think about how we brought it from the ground up," Hannah said. "It was very stressful, and I wanted to quit a lot, but now that it is up and running, it's great."

The team is under campus recreation, so it is open to all students. Practice is Monday and Tuesday nights at the turf field behind Centennial. Hannah said the team is still looking for players.

"You're welcome," Hannah said to any players that want to join. "We're not going to turn

you down. Whether you've never played a sport in your life or played sports all your life. If funding is an issue we can help with that; we have a ton of extra stuff. We're just looking for people who want to learn about the game, enjoy the game, and have a good time."

Follow us on Spotify @VSUSpectator and look for our weekly Spectator Staff Playlist.

SOFTBALL

Update

This past week, VSU went 1-2 against Alabama Huntsville. The Blazers lost both Saturday games, 9-2 and 3-1, but they finished the series out with a 9-0 win. The two losses caused VSU to drop two spots in the Gulf South Conference standings with a 16-8 conference record.

Stats

Stat	GSC Rank
Hits 385	1st
Avg. .339	1st
Runs 292	1st
RBI's 257	1st
FLD % .964	6th
OB % .405	2nd
ERA 3.72	8th
Opp. H 319	9th
Opp. BA .293	9th

Player of the Week



Kathryn Carter is this week's player of the game. Carter was named GSC Freshman of the Week after shutting out Alabama-Huntsville last Sunday in VSU's 9-0 win. She only allowed 3 hits in the game.

Next Week

VSU plays three games against West Georgia this weekend. West Georgia is seventh in the GSC. Next Tuesday, VSU plays a doubleheader with regional rival Albany State University.

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

NINTH ANNUAL

Graduate Student Research & Scholarship Symposium

The Best Time For Beginning is NOW!

Friday, April 21
4:00 - 6:00pm

- UC Magnolia Room
- Free & Open to the Public
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