Officials Pull Plug On Notice Board

By Nicky Willis
Staff Writer

The Gainesville College notice board had its last announcement posted on Feb. 18, when Rick Coker, Director of Information Technologies, and Dean Michael Stoy decided to pull the plug and remove the notice board from student use.

This move comes in the wake of the discovery of contents that were inappropriate and obscene. The investigation into the content of the board began in September, when students started complaining about the language and content on the notice board.

The notice board was created three years ago as a means of communication for students. The board was mainly used for advertising books, housing and upcoming events. Even though there had been some questionable material in the past three years, the past six months saw a steep increase in contentious materials.

The decision to remove the notice board was made strictly by College officials, without any input from students. Still, Student Government Association President Cody Guined said he understood the administration's position. "I don't think that we deserve it (the notice board)," said Guined. "It's stupid that college students are acting like four year olds." Guined went on to say, "You have a right to freedom of speech, but you need to have some dignity while doing so."

When and if the notice board returns, there will be a few changes, officials said. It will not automatically come up when students log on from a Gainesville College computer. Instead, students will have to enter on a volunteer basis. Stoy emphasized that the GC administration is open to student comments regarding the use of the notice board.

Student Interest High in Presidential Election

By Ken Abbott
Staff Writer

Despite demographics suggesting very few young people vote, a large number of Gainesville College Students say they intend to vote this election. Among the reasons stated were concerns over the HOPE grant, the perceived importance of the 2000 elections, and the fact that many students will be voting for the first time.

"It's the first time I've been able to vote" said Justin Grafton, a proponent of student voting, claiming, "A well-organized, politically active numerical minority can absolutely run circles around an apathetic disorganized numerical majority," and citing such decisions as the adoption of English rather than German as our official language, the Nineteenth Amendment, which granted women's suffrage, and the admission of Texas, California, and Oregon as states, all of which passed by one vote. Grafton is also keeping a reserve of Voter Registration.

See Voting, Page 7

Gospel Group Plays GC

The African American Gospel Chorus from the University of Alabama performed in the auditorium of the Continuing Education/Performing Arts building on the Gainesville College campus on Feb. 18. A large audience heard the 45-person chorus, which included Gainesville native Corey Butts, a graduate of Gainesville High School.

See Rowing, Page 8

National Champion Rower Teaching Class at Lanier

Sara Nevin was a member of the national championship rowing team at the University of Washington from 1983-1985.

Sara Nevin

By Jon Krueger
Staff Writer

A three-time national champion rower and GoodWill Games participant is teaching a new rowing course being offered by the Gainesville College Physical Education Department.

The rowing class, which began during the GC Second Session of Spring Semester, is being held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 to 11:40 at the Olympic Rowing Venue at the Lake Lanier Rowing Club.

There were ten available spaces for students to sign up for the class, when the semester began. The only pre-requisite for the class is a swimming test where students will have to tread water for ten minutes. Students will be charged a $30 rental fee for the equipment to be used. The class will be worth one hour of credit.

The course's instructor, Sara Nevin, is the Executive Director of the Lanier Rowing Club. Nevin was contacted by Preston in mid-January and was asked if she would instruct a rowing course at the college. Nevin agreed to instruct the course because she "thought it would be neat."

Nevin pointed out that other colleges such as Brenau University and Piedmont College have rowing teams, and she thinks a Gainesville College rowing team could be in the near future, should it catch on here.

Nevin's credentials as a rowing instructor speak for themselves. She began rowing at her New Hampshire high school and then went on to be a member of the college championship rowing team at the University of Washington for three consecutive years in 1983, 1984, and 1985. In 1985 and 1986, Nevin was a member of the National Rowing Team, competing in Antwerp, Belgium, in her first year and Nottingham, England, in her second.

Nevin was also a participant at the first GoodWill Games in Moscow, Russia, and she was a boat driver for camera crews during the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta.

See Rowing, Page 8

Fees to Rise in Fall

Gainesville College students will be paying higher fees in Fall 2000.

The new fees will be $25 for students registered for seven or more semester hours, and $15 for students taking less than seven hours. The fees will be used to upgrade computers at the College.

It is anticipated that the revenue fees for technology in 2000 will be $157,815, according to GC Vice President for Business and Finance Bob Howington.

The GC announcement comes in the wake of the recent controversy ignored when Gov. Roy Barnes proposed removing the payment of student fees from HOPE scholarship grants. One of Barnes' arguments was that schools were increasing fees knowing HOPE would pay.

According to Howington, "We were asking for the fee before HOPE would pay for it, in December of 1998. We did not go up in request even though HOPE pays for the fee."

Only one third of the students currently enrolled in Gainesville College have HOPE.

Seth Mooney, a student at Gainesville College who has to pay fees, said, "They need to take the money from somewhere else and have one straight fee. We've got enough fees as it is."
Club Briefs

Computer Club Announces Contest

The GC Computer Club is holding a Student Webpage Contest that is open to all students who are not presently enrolled in the club. Entries are due by April 1 and will be judged by club members. Please see Tom Burns (tburn@mercury) in ACAD III to enter webpage or for more information. The cash awards are: first, $60, second, $30, and third, $15.

SGA to Stage Battle of the Clubs

The SGA is currently holding a contest called Battle of the Clubs. Each club should participate and raise as much money as possible. The SGA wishes to raise at least $2,500 for Summer Scholars Program. If this happens Cody Guiney, SGA President, will have his head shaved completely bald. On February 16, the SGA displayed international foods in the Student Center. There were foods from Israel, France, Italy, Cuba, USA, Germany, Britain, and Greece. The SGA held Magic Candle Art on February 7, Star Flix Totally Interactive Video from 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. on February 14, and Casino Day from 10 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on February 28.

Psychology Club to Visit Six Flags

The Psychology Club is offering Six Flags tickets to current and new members. The club intends on taking a "field trip" on a day that has not yet been determined. If you are interested in joining the club see Susann Doyle in ACAD II.

BSU's Gatlinburg Trip Rescheduled

Due to snow the BSU rescheduled for March 10-11. Contact Tommy Johnson (tjohnson@mercury). The BSU hosted a seminar called "Creation Science" by Dr. Robert Swanson. The club also attended Spring Conference February 25-26 at First Baptist Church in Jonesboro. The theme for February was Love.

Math League Competition Held

Math Club members participated in a Math League Competition on February 9. The test consisted of algebra and trigonometry problems.

SGAE to Distribute Children's Books

The SGAE collected new and used children's books to distribute to area children. The SGAE held a meeting in Room 158 of ACAD II on February 8 to make plans for Spring Conference that will be held April 21-22.

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Club News

SIFE to Compete in Regional Meet

Club Heads for Atlanta in April

By Nicky Willis
Staff Writer
Persistence pays.
This definitely is true about the Gainesville College SIFE team. They are once again hard at work preparing for an upcoming regional competition in Atlanta.

The SIFE (Students In Free Enterprise) team will travel to Atlanta on April 10, for a chance to advance to the international SIFE competition in Kansas City, Missouri.

The Gainesville College SIFE team is no stranger to the international competition, since they have been there for the past seven years. At the competition the team must present a twenty-four minute PowerPoint presentation about events they have sponsored over the past year.

SIFE may be business oriented, but it is open to any student at Gainesville College. "If you are a business major you are crazy not to be in SIFE," said SIFE President Davina Schwartz.

The Compass is now online at:

Send us your club news at:
compass@mercury.gc.peachnet.edu

 Clubs Directory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Art Club</th>
<th>Contact: Laurel Avil (lavil@mercury)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Meetings: Wednesdays 12:30 p.m., Room 119, Art Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baptis Student Union</td>
<td>Contact: Tommy Johnson (tjohnson@mercury)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Meetings: Tuesdays 11 a.m., Lanier AAB</td>
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<tr>
<td>Campus Crusade for Christ</td>
<td>Contact: April Alden (aalden@mercury)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Meetings: Fridays 11 a.m., Lanier AAB</td>
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<tr>
<td>College Republicans</td>
<td>Contact: Stephanie Kitchen (skitchen@mercury)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Meetings: Wednesdays 12:00 p.m., Stage in Student Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer Club</td>
<td>Contact: Brian Winterschlegel (bwinterschlegel@mercury)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Meetings: Every other Wednesday 11 a.m., Room 504, ACAD III</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cross-Cultural Connections</td>
<td>Contact: Ryan Taniel (rtaniel@mercury)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Meetings: Wednesdays 12:00 p.m., Room 181, ACAD III</td>
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<tr>
<td>Democrats/Republicans Club</td>
<td>Contact: Susan McFarland and Douglas Young</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Meetings: Wednesdays 12:00 p.m., Room 103, ACAD II</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fiction &amp; Literature Club</td>
<td>Contact: (Film) Jeff Buchino (jbuchino@mercury)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Literature) Selena Johnson (selena@mercury)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Meetings: Tuesdays 11 a.m., Room 127, ACAD II</td>
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<tr>
<td>Film &amp; Literature Club</td>
<td>Contact: (Film) Jeff Buchino (jbuchino@mercury)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(Literature) Selena Johnson (selena@mercury)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Meetings: Tuesdays 11 a.m., Room 127, ACAD II</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latino Students Association</td>
<td>Contact: Claudia Monreal (cmontreal@mercury)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Meetings: Wednesdays 12:00 p.m., Prep Office in Student Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Math Club</td>
<td>Contact: B.J. Cline (bcline@mercury)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Meetings: Wednesdays 12:00 p.m., Room 138, ACAD III</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multicultural Association</td>
<td>Contact: Jamila Hunter (jhunter@mercury)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Meetings: Every other Wednesday 12:00 p.m., Face Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Contact: Daniel Henton (downtune@mercury)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Meetings: Wednesdays 12:00 p.m., Room 158, ACAD II</td>
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</tbody>
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Second Wind Club
Contact: Brenda Adams (bacular@mercury) |
Meetings: Every other Wednesday 12:00 p.m., Lanier C

SORBA
Contact: Matt Barwick (mbarwick@mercury) |
Meetings: Every other Wednesday 12:00 p.m., Room 158, ACAD III

Student Georgia Association of Educators
Contact: Amber Jamison (ajamison@mercury) |
Meetings: Every other Wednesday 12:00 p.m., Room 158, ACAD III

Student Government Association
Contact: Cody Guiney (cguiney@mercury) |
Meetings: Every other Wednesday 12:00 p.m., Room 158, ACAD III

Students for Environmental Awareness
Contact: Dr. Mike Johnson (mjohnson@mercury) |
Meetings: Every other Wednesday 12:00 p.m., Room 158, ACAD III

Students in Free Enterprise
Contact: Katie Simmons (ksimmons@mercury) |
Meetings: Wednesdays 12:00 p.m., Room 181, ACAD III
By Jennifer Ponders
Staff Writer

Despite the rain, the Division B Science Olympiad went as planned on Saturday, February 12. Nearly 500 middle school students from 16 area schools filled the halls of the Science Building, the Student Center, the gym and the track. The students competed in one or more of the 23 events that are included in the competition.

The students prepared for their respective events for many months. Therefore, many won medals and a few teams even won an invitation to the state competition held in Atlanta. At state they will vie for an opportunity to compete at the national meet in Tacoma, Washington.

The Science Olympiad seems to be a valuable tool for students. Paul Stumb from Holy Innocents placed third in Experimental Design, and also participated in the Pentathlon, Trajectory, and Rocks and Minerals. He believes that the Science Olympiad taught him the importance of teamwork and the proper way to write a lab report. These lessons will be very valuable for the students.

Francis Crickmore is a Title I Reading and Math teacher at Hart County Middle School. This is Hart’s first year in the Science Olympiad. Yet, Crickmore is a seven-year veteran. She has coached teams in South Carolina and at Stephens Middle School. “It teaches them how science can be useful in real life, how math and science are integrated, and cooperative learning,” she said. “They also become familiar with the lab equipment and the metrics system.”

Dean Michael Stoy also had some comments. He said, “It gives students a chance to apply their knowledge. They are only taught theory in a classroom. They see a new level of education.” He also relayed that it gives students a chance to come onto campus and meet with G.C students, faculty, and staff that are coordinating the event.

The schools participating were Booth, Chestatree, Five Forks, Gilmer, Hart County, Limestone, Lumpkin County, North Hall, Rabun County, Richards, and West Cobb. The event of another school closing due to inclement weather, the loamworthander proper way to the metrics of the event of another school closing due to inclement weather, the is the number is.

The event of another school closing due to inclement weather, the is the number is closing. The number is (770) 711-3639. The following television and radio stations will have also have information regarding any closing. The television stations are WSB-TV, FOX 5-TV, and WXIA-TV. Radio stations with information are WSB-Radio, WGIST-Radio, WDUN-550AM-Radio, WLET 106.1 FM, 101.7 FM, 102.1 FM, 1340 AM, WGAI, 960 AM WIFC, WJJC 1270 AM, WCON 99.3 FM, and 1450 AM.
Mini Movie Reviews

Eyes of the Beholder

Director and screenwriter Stephen Elliott says, “I think films can still challenge the audience and ask them to fill in the blanks. With Eyes of the Beholder, I raise a lot of questions I don’t set out to answer.” Unfortunately for us, the audience, Elliott doesn’t really answer any of the questions he raises in his movie. The new movie, Eyes of the Beholder, based on Marc Behm’s 1980 book by the same name, is a cross between Rear Window, Mission Impossible and Silver, but not as good as any of those movies. Starring Ashley Judd (Double Jeopardy) and Ewan McGregor (The Phantom Menace), this movie is definitely not worth $7 to see.

McGregor plays a British spy named Eye who is assigned to follow his boss’ son who is suspected of stealing his father’s money. Eye finds Judd’s character, Joanna Eris, and becomes obsessed with her after she brutally stabs Eye’s boss’ son to death. Eye then follows Joanna wherever she goes. From New York, to San Francisco, to Boston, to Chicago, to Death Valley, to Alaska, it is nearly impossible to keep up with where these characters are located and even why they are there. The movie’s ending brings no real closure to the story and leaves the audience either scratching their heads or wiping the sleep out of their eyes.

McGregor’s choice of character for this movie is quite a change from his other recent roles. If there is one silver lining in this movie, it is his acting. He plays a character with all the potential of a walking zombie with more passion and dedication than it deserved. Judd’s character is even less than McGregor’s, but she manages to squeeze a small bit of life out of her, but great acting could not squeeze any life out of this movie.

Jon Knueger

The Beach

“The Beach” is the first movie I have seen in a long time that made me want to sit back down and watch it over again at the end. “The Beach” is a powerful example of the problems with trying to create a utopia. It shows you how some things, no matter how good they seem to be, can often be a wolf in sheep’s clothing. It is a dangerous, exciting, and sometimes downright funny movie. Though the psychotic humor does not reach the extremes of last fall’s “Fight Club,” it does have its moments. The film revolves around three main characters, Etienne (Guillaume Canet), Francoise (Virginie Ledoyen), and Richard (Leonardo DiCaprio). They are travelers caught up together while trying to search for that certain something that will allow them to experience life to the fullest. But when they find their ultimate dream of a beautiful paradise, they soon realize how ugly it can become. The Beach also highlights the long awaited return of Leonardo DiCaprio, after his two-year hiatus from the big screen.

Nick Brown

Scream 3

“Scream 3” continues the roles of past “Scream” characters played by Neve Campbell, Courtney Cox, and David Arquette. The adventure deepens and things we thought we knew from the past movies change. “Scream 3” plays into the current trend of prequel type movies arriving recently onto the movie scene. While not truly a prequel, by the standards of “Star Wars Episode I,” the movie revolves around the history of things that occurred before the first film, “Scream.” It gives us the background of Sydney’s (Neve Campbell) mother, and wraps up why everything in the three movies were happening in the first place. A deep, involving story line and a great soundtrack, including Creed, highlight “Scream 3.” The Scream movies have always been famed for their antics and special guest appearances, which included Jay and Silent Bob (Clerks and Mallrats) and Carrie Fisher of “Star Wars” fame. But the lack of actual screaming is where the film gets its bruises. This causes some to sit back and wish for the intensity of the first film. When interviewed, most fans agreed that they were soaking up the story line, more than sitting on the edge of their seats. As one Josh Krollman wrapped it up best, “It was very entertaining, but it didn’t have the shock value of the first two movies that I was expecting.” If you want to scream, do not go see this movie. If you want to go see a good movie, then go see “Scream 3.”

Jackson Wins Audition

Gainesville College student Pam Jackson (above) has been named one of five student members of the Gainesville Theatre Alliance to win auditions at the Southeastern Theatre Conference in Norfolk, Va., in March.

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Art


Closing Reception and Gallery Talk, Amalia Amoki, March 8, noon GC Continuing Education/Performing Arts lobby.

Artest 2000 Exhibit, featuring student works from area schools, March 13-21, GC Continuing Education/Performing Arts lobby.

Artest 2000 Festival, featuring demonstrations of printmaking, watercolor, papermaking and collage. March 18, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., GC Continuing Education/Performing Arts parking lot.


Gainesville College Student Art Exhibit shows April 19-June 2. Opening Reception April 24 at 6 p.m. in the GC Art Gallery.

Music

Big Band Show, March 6-11, at 7:30 p.m. in The Ed Cabell Theatre, in the GC Continuing Education/Performing Arts building. For tickets call (770)718-3865.

Spring concert, April 24 at 7:30 p.m. in the lobby of the GC Continuing Education Building Performing Arts building featuring the Jazz Band, Choir, and Chamber Winds. Free admission and open to the public.

Theatre

"Godspell" showing April 18-30 in the Ed Cabell Theatre at Gainesville College. Box office ticket sales for single tickets opens April 3. Prices range from $17 for adults, $15 for seniors, and $10 for students. For tickets call the box office at (770)718-3624.

Speakers/Workshops

Resume Writing Workshop, March 1 at noon or 5:15 p.m. in the PACE Center.

Interviewing Workshop, March 8 at noon or 5:15 p.m. in the PACE Center.

Colloquium Series, March 14 "The Temple Bombing" with Melissa Fay Greene at 10 a.m. in the Continuing Education 108 on March 14.

Understanding Your Dreams Workshop, March 15 at noon or 5:15 p.m. in the PACE Center.

Preparing for Regents' Test, March 16 at 1 p.m. or at 5 p.m. in Academic III Conference Room.

Transfer Workshop at noon or 5:15 p.m. in the PACE Center on Mar. 22.

Dr. Jack Levin, April 26 at noon in Continuing Education 108.

Student Activities

Ping Pong Tournament, March 8 at noon in the Student Center Game Room.

Career Fair, March 15 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Student Center.

St. Patrick's Day Celebration, March 16 from 6:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m. in the Student Center.

Sand Volleyball Tournament, March 22 at noon at the Peach Pit.

Beach Party, March 23 from 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. in the Student Center.

Five Person Soccer Tournament, April 4 at 11 a.m. on the Soccer Field with the track.

Spring Fling, April 5 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. outside the Student Center.

Earth Day, April 12 at noon in the Student Center.

Honors Day, April 19 at noon in the Gym.

Pancake Study Break, April 19 from 6:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m. in the Student Center

The Big Final 8 Ball Tournament, April 25 at 11 a.m. in the Student Center Game Room.

Academics

Regents' Test Application deadline on March 3.

Regents' Test, March 22, 23 at 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. and March 24 at 2:30 p.m. All tests in Continuing Education 108/109 110.

Spring Break Week begins March 26.

Classes end on April 28.

Final Exams, May 1-4.

Graduation, May 4 at 7 p.m. in the Georgia Mountain Center.
Due to the improper material on the Notice Board, the decision was made to deny student access. The Notice Board was originally designed to be a convenience for students. It was intended to allow teachers and students to post messages that were in the general interest to the student body. This included, but wasn’t limited to, speakers, club meetings and activities, books for sale, and books needed. Unfortunately, the information contained in the Notice Board strayed from the ideal state. Simply put, it became a chat room.

So the question is, was the Notice Board beneficial or a nuisance? For those who properly used it, it was very beneficial. It provided them a chance to find out what was available around campus. It also allowed them to access this information off campus. During finals, it was very helpful for those selling or looking to buy books. The Notice Board provided an easily accessible way to locate or advertise books.

Students need to have access to the Notice Board. One suggestion may be to have a few students who have access to the board. Whenever someone has a post, they could take it to a designated person. The person would then post student notices and weed out the ones that didn’t apply to the student body. By doing this, students would be able to have access to important and appropriate information. This would help prevent unneeded conversations from appearing on the GC system or web page.

While this is just an option for consideration, it is still important for students to have a means to communicate with each other. This is not a one-building schoolhouse where students are close-knit. This is a school where people have varying schedules. Therefore, there needs to be a median between the students.

**Compass Staff**

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**Notice Board:**

**Benefit or Nuisance?**

Students at Gainesville College are likely to believe that their chances of contracting HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, are pretty slim. I wonder if this is a realistic assessment of the actual risk that GC students have of contracting AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. Is it worth taking the risk? Would you want to risk infecting your partner if you were carrying the HIV virus and didn’t know it? Just how common are sexually transmitted diseases?

**Georgia 8th in the U.S.**

Nationwide, one in four adults will contract a sexually transmitted disease (such as chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, genital herpes, or genital warts). Lovely sounding names for some not-so-lovely infections. Georgia has the dubious distinction of ranking eighth in the nation in terms of HIV/AIDS infections, sixth in terms of rates of chlamydia infection, fifth in terms of gonorrhea, and tenth in terms of syphilis. Georgia has the highest rate of HIV infection in young heterosexuals aged 18-30 is growing faster than any other segment of the population. Remember the recent PBS ‘Frontline’ special about the syphilis outbreak in Conyers, GA? Sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS are here.

Sexually transmitted diseases spread because people are having unprotected sex with infected partners. How does that start? Well, it starts with sex. Do we need to define sex? Since this is a family publication, I’ll leave out the details. Basically, sex is intercourse. If you think other things are sex, they probably are. If you (as a woman) consider it awkward to ask your partner to wear a condom, consider that a woman’s reproductive anatomy makes her more vulnerable than a man to becoming infected with the HIV virus (or another sexually transmitted disease).

**Use a Latex Condom**

What’s unprotected sex? Having sex without using a latex condom with a water-based lubricant. Condoms for women are also available, but their effectiveness remains unproven. If you (as a woman) consider it awkward to ask your partner to wear a condom, consider that a woman’s reproductive anatomy makes her more vulnerable than a man to becoming infected with the HIV virus (or another sexually transmitted disease).

How does a latex condom protect you and your partner? It greatly reduces the risk of transmitting disease-causing organisms like bacteria (that cause gonorrhea and syphilis) and viruses (that cause genital herpes, genital warts, or AIDS). You may not be aware that you are carrying a sexually transmitted disease; a vast majority of women, in particular, have NO symptoms, and therefore do not seek treatment. Left untreated, sexually transmitted diseases often cause sterility, and the consequences can be considerably more serious than that.

What do sexually transmitted diseases have to do with AIDS? It’s pretty simple, actually. If you are infected with a sexually transmitted disease (remember, you have a 1 in 4 chance) then you have had (and perhaps are still having) unprotected sex. You are, therefore, at risk for contracting and spreading the HIV virus which causes AIDS. In spite of all the media hoopla about combination therapy, AZT, and drug cocktails, AIDS is still a disease that kills. AIDS kills more teenagers and young adults now than ever before. There are vastly more people infected with AIDS in the world today (and in the U.S.) than in the past, and the future looks grim.

**Change Your Behavior**

How can we deal with AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases? Education! Changing people’s behavior! If you do not wish to pass a sexually transmitted disease or HIV on to your sexual partner, you need to be tested for those diseases in order to know whether or not you are infected. One of the most dangerous things about the HIV virus is that you can carry the virus for up to 15 years or more and not feel sick or have symptoms of the disease AIDS. During that time you can infect other people, including people you love. The only way to know if you are infected with the HIV virus is to get a blood test. One in three Americans has already been tested for HIV. Testing is simple, confidential and anonymous.

Once people have become educated about AIDS, how should they change their behavior? This is not an easy task! Sexually transmitted diseases like AIDS have proven particularly difficult to control in the past, simply because changing people’s sexual behavior is a complicated undertaking. What about other possible means of controlling the spread of AIDS? The HIV virus has unique characteristics which make development of an AIDS vaccine particularly challenging. Implementation of mandatory AIDS testing has serious ethical as well as practical considerations. Most public health agencies remain convinced that education and behavioral changes are the best weapons to prevent the spread of HIV.

**Reduce the Risk**

Given that changes in behavior are the best way to prevent AIDS, what are the behaviors that should change in order to reduce your risk of contracting HIV (and other sexually transmitted diseases)? Here they are:

1. Choose abstinence. It’s the most effective method of protection against HIV.
2. If you choose to be sexually active, use a latex condom with a water-based lubricant correctly and consistently every time you have sex (see above definition).
3. The fewer sexual partners you have, the less your chance of becoming infected with HIV.
4. If you are sexually active, get an AIDS test. Ask your partner to get tested, too.
5. Don’t use cocaine, marijuana, or other recreational drugs (including alcohol) to the point that they impair your judgement about sex. You’re more likely to have unprotected sex under those circumstances. The saying is, “Sex when wasted is wasted.”
6. Don’t use intravenous drugs. Many IV drug users share needles and risk contracting AIDS through shared blood.
7. If you get pregnant, get an AIDS test. Drugs are available to be administered early in pregnancy that will greatly reduce the chances that your child is infected with the HIV virus before or during birth.
8. If you are HIV- positive and you have a baby, don’t breast-feed. The HIV virus can be transmitted from mother to child through breast milk.

**Protect Yourself**

What are the behaviors that WOULDN’T put you at risk for contracting the HIV virus? Everything else. For instance, you cannot contract the HIV virus in any of the following ways:

• From toilet seats or public restrooms
• From holding hands, hugging, kissing, or giving and receiving body rubs
• Sharing coffee cups, telephones, drinking fountains, or any other casual contact with someone who might have the HIV virus
• Donating blood or receiving donated blood. All blood is thoroughly tested before it is used.

I hope you get the picture. Don’t make the mistake to make intelligent changes in your behavior? The stakes are potentially very high. Protect yourself and the people you love.

Carol Riley is an Instructor of Biology at Gainesville College.
Voting Continued from Page 1

forms in his office for any who would like them.

Young also cited quotes by Plato, who claimed, “The penalty good men pay for indifference is to be ruled by evil men” and Hitler, who agreed, “What luck for rulers that men don’t think.” Young added that only 16% of 18-24-year-olds voted in 1996 and 1998, whereas only 48% of the nation as a whole voted in the 1996 elections. Although not the vast majority predicted, several students at Gainesville college do not intend to vote this year. Monica, a future Marine Biology major, explained “[I] haven’t had time to look at all the candidates and know what they stand for.” Corrie, a Cosmetology major, stated her opinion much more plainly. “I don’t want to; I’m just lazy.”

Register to Vote in Student Center

Gainesville College students can register to vote in the GC Student Center from March 6-10 between 11 a.m. and noon. Registrars will be available on the Student Center stage.

Voter registration forms are also available in any public library, as well as at the Office of Hall County Elections. In addition, due to the Motor Voter Act of 1994, it is possible to register to vote while renewing a driver’s license.

Ken Abbott

Fees Continued from Page 1

In the past, the administration has raised money through donations and through a matching grant made possible by the Lottery Trust Fund, in which the Lottery matches the money that Gainesville College raises, providing they raise at least $58,000, according to Howington. Commenting on the fees, he said, "They will help for the future."

When asked if Gainesville students could expect another fee hike in the near future, Howington said, "Not anywhere in the foreseeable five-year future. I believe Gainesville College is one of the best equipped, technology wise, in the university system, especially in a two year level." He added, "It takes money."

Gainesville College would not be the first to institute a technology fee. Several institutions have a technology fee, including Clayton College and Floyd College, $300, Georgia Tech, $75, Georgia Southern, Kennesaw and Perimeter, $38.

The new fees would go to upgrading hardware and software. Howington said, "The student 300 page limit would certainly be increased." Another Gainesville College goal is to make computers more accessible. Howington mentioned the Cyber Cafe in the Student Center, and added, "Computers will be needed in the new Science Building."

Richard Coker, Director of Information Technology, said, "Where looking a three-year life span for computers and technologies." The computers will be upgraded with whatever the latest technologies are by Aug. 2000. Coker said, "Currently they are Pentium III 600 MHz processors. We will also be changing our operating systems (on the student computers) to Windows 98, and plan to change the network server to run the new Windows Millennium version, Windows 2000. Also, we are looking at upgrading to Office 2000."

Election Websites

Bill Bradley’s official site:
- http://www.billbradley.com/
- Pat Buchanan’s official site:
- George W. Bush’s official site:
- http://www.georgebush.com
- Al Gore’s official site:
- Alan Keyes’ official site:
- John McCain’s official site:
- http://mccain2000.com

A political program that encourages teens and young adults to vote, sponsored by MTV:
- http://www.mtv.com/nav/intro_chooseorlose.html

Updated quotes from the candidates, info about their campaign status, and their views on the issues:

Here is a site that can help find a candidate that best fits one’s criteria:
- http://www.selectsmart.com/PRESIDENT/
- Allows for voter registration:
- http://www.govote.com/

An informative site that encourages involvement into political volunteerism:
- http://www.rockthevote.org/
- Federal Election Commission calendar:
- http://www.fec.gov/pages/2kdates.html

A Political dictionary:
- http://www.fast-times.com/political/political.html

Campaging 2000 help & information:

Where do you go from here?

Once you’ve finished your associate degree, it’s time to take the next step!

The State University of West Georgia in Carrollton, Georgia, is a great place to pursue your baccalaureate degree. Our 19-1 student-to-faculty ratio keeps classes small and dynamic, and students have easy access to advanced technology, as well as research opportunities not usually available to undergraduates. We offer 12 bachelor’s degrees in more than 50 majors:

Bachelor of Arts
Bachelor of Business Administration
Bachelor of Fine Arts
Bachelor of Music
Bachelor of Science
Bachelor of Science in Chemistry
Bachelor of Science in Earth Science
Bachelor of Science in Education
Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science (begins fall 2000)
Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies (begins fall 2000)
Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Bachelor of Science in Recreation

Visit us on Transfer Visitation Day!

Tour the campus and attend sessions on academic and extracurricular programs, admission requirements, residence life, transfer of credit, financial aid and career services.

March 23 • 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Humanities Building, Kathy Cashen Recital Hall

April 15 • 1:30 to 5 p.m.
Physical Education Building

STATE UNIVERSITY of West Georgia
Educational excellence in a personal environment
770.836.6416 • E-mail: admisst@westga.edu • Web site: www.westga.edu
Register online at www.westga.edu/~admisst/visit.html
Women’s History Month Features Career Seminar

By Kerrie Mathews
Staff Writer

National Women’s History Month was declared to let women know in America that they are appreciated even though they are often overlooked in a male-dominated society. Because of National Women’s History Month, people are able to celebrate the countless women who have enriched our lives and our nation.

Penny Millis, sponsor of the Gainesville College Women’s History Month activities, said, “We feel it is important to demonstrate how difficult it has been for women to gain status in America, and showing our success in the struggle for equal rights between sexes is an example for all young women.”

Gainesville College is celebrating National Women’s History Month with many activities across campus.

From March 1-23 Barbara Moore, a retired teacher, will be displaying her art in the GC Student Center. On March 23, Bowen will also be hosting a tea in the Lanier rooms at GC (which is open to the public) and will be speaking about her experiences as a breast cancer survivor.

On March 4, nine female GC students representing eight international regions and the U.S. will be speaking about their experiences about women of all ages in their home country and making comparisons to their experiences as a females in the U.S. in the Continuing Education building from 11 a.m.-noon.

On March 19-20, there will be a seminar held for students called “Dare to Dream,” designed to show participants the wide variety of career opportunities available to women today. There will be a $5 fee for all who participate.

If you would like to find out more about National Women’s History Month, visit the GC web site or call the Gainesville public relations office at (770) 718-3836.

Pam Slappey poses during a recent trip to Paris. She will represent GC at the state Academic Recognition Day ceremony.

Rowing

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Summer Olympics. Nevin currently oversees all operations at the Lake Lanier Rowing Club.

Nevin urges interested students to sign up for the rowing class because she says it is “the best form of exercise.” Nevin says rowing builds “muscular endurance” and is the equivalent of doing 50 pound clings for six minutes. She believes that because rowing was originally an Ivy League sport, it hasn’t quite caught on in the South like it has in New England and other northern regions of the country. Nevin says, however, that, “Rowing is for everyone. It doesn’t matter how rich you are, or how much Latin you know.”

Coach Gary Preston has gotten approval for a horseback riding class to be offered during the May-mester for three to four interested students, with a fee of around $180. The class would be taught at the Lake Lanier Island’s Equestrian Center, and also have beginning and intermediate levels. In the fall, Preston also plans to offer a snowboarding class, to be taught at the French-Swiss Ski College in Boone, North Carolina. A canoeing and kayaking class will also be offered.