ALL TALK, NO ACTION
Put Your Vote Where Your Mouth Is!
**Amphitheater In Future For GC**

By Amber Day  
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After five years of planning, Gainesville College is getting an amphitheater.

Michelle B. Brown, director of alumni affairs and head of the alumni amphitheater committee, says that the vision for the amphitheater is to “serve as the Stone Mountain/Chastain Park for the Gainesville/Hall County area.”

It will accommodate GC faculty, staff and the local community with musical events, performances and other activities.

The amphitheater will be rented out to the community by Continuing Education on a controlled basis.

The amphitheater will be constructed of a wooden band shell on a concrete base, with ample electrical outlets for sound and lighting.

The amphitheater will take two weeks to build. Plans are already being made to dig the dirt and pour the concrete. It should be ready to use by Thanksgiving.

The amphitheater is expected to cost around $78,800. Additional money will be needed for a sign and landscaping. A GC alumni couple, John and Clarice Bailey, donated $35,000 to the project.

As promised by Martha Nesbitt, president of GC, the Educational Technology and Construction Trust Fund matched their donation, bringing the total to $70,000.

According to the building proposal, the contract cost of the wooden part of the structure and assembly is $55,900. The concrete/foundation, shingles/roof material and electrical expenses total $22,900.

The 2002 Alumni Concert and Fireworks Display brought in $4,000 from parking fees and the sale of glow necklaces.

The amphitheater will serve as the home for multiple GC and community events in years to come. Brown exclaims, “I am so excited to see it out there, with our next big concert being outside, having adequate power and a covered area we’ve needed for the past five years.”

The dedication of the amphitheater will take place at the 2003 Alumni Starlight Concert and Fireworks Display here at GC, to be held on June 14.

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**African-American Enrollment**

By Blake Duncan  
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Gainesville College’s black student population has grown more in the last five years than the overall school population. In the fall of 1998 there were 82 African-American students at GC, compared to 195 this semester. So what is GC doing to promote enrollment and retention among these students?

Part of the responsibility for implementing and maintaining these programs falls on Andre’ Cheek, director of minority affairs and multi-cultural programs for GC. Cheek says the goal of her office is to “reach, teach and hold” any student who is interested in helping with these volunteer programs or who desires the help of these programs.

One of the many ways GC is promoting enrollment is through the Mattie Moon Scholarship.

The Black Student Association is one of many organizations on the GC campus designed to attract and retain African-American students.

Four students received the scholarship this year. In the history of the scholarship it has mainly been awarded to minority students with goals related closely to the educational field, says Tom Walter, vice president for student development.

Through other programs, such as the Menteer/Mentor program, the college is seeking to promote student growth and stability, with a focus on retention until graduation. The Menteer/Mentor program gives students another contact on campus, other than their advisor. This contact will not focus so much on that student’s major as they will in helping the student get comfortable with campus life. The reason Menteer/Mentor has been so successful is that one out of every eight students at GC is a minority, so they like to have another person with whom they can gain a feel of the campus.

GC also offers gender-oriented focus groups like the Progressive Men’s and Women’s Organizations. At these meetings, graduates of GC speak with current students about career goals and educational plans, all the while giving encouragement about the hardships of school and work. The main goal of these organizations and programs lies in “making sure the students feel connected to the campus by addressing their needs,” says Cheek. “Studies show that students who are better connected to their campus perform better in the classroom.”
GC Faces On-Campus Car Thefts and Vandalism

By Josh Poole
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In addition to the many issues that the campus must face this semester, Gainesville College now has a new problem to address—car theft.

There were 1,165,559 reported motor vehicle thefts in the United States in 2000. Of these, 38,702 thefts occurred in Georgia alone. In mid-Sept., GC began adding to the statistics.

On Sept. 16, a stolen 1997 Honda Civic was recovered in the GC lower parking lot beside the wilderness trail. Eight days later, an Acura Integra was vandalized in the Continuing Education building’s parking lot. Following these two unfortunate events, a Honda Civic belonging to a GC student was stolen from the parking lot that serves the tennis courts and fitness center.

Foreign Students Tracked

By Diana Macrina
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The problem of updated information on foreign students’ school progress has been an issue since 1993; since the Sept. 11, 2001 tragedy, a solution has been reached.

Following the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center by an exchange student, the U.S. government decided that they needed to keep track of foreign students. The solution they devised was a computer system called Sevis.

As time progressed and news of the WTC bombing diminished, so did the demand for the system. Now, after the Sept. 11 attacks, the government has decided to pursue the system once again.

Foreign students enter the United States from 42 different countries on a visa called the F-1. These visas allow students to come to the United States to attend a college or a university. The student must give full information on him/herself, which is entered into computers, and is then monitored for changes in the student’s status using the Sevis system. If a student makes a change regarding his/her school or address, (s)he is to report it within 10 days, or risk being sent back to his/her home country.

All schools nationwide must participate in this system by Jan. 30, 2003. The state of Georgia, however, will begin this process Nov. 1, 2002.

Sevis is important to make sure that students attend their designated schools, since enrollment is ever-increasing.

When asked if Sevis is a good idea, Laura Lee Bernstein, director of international admissions at Gainesville College, said, “Yes and no: yes in the sense that it increases national security and will hopefully straighten out the mess in INS (Immigration and Naturalization Service); no because it requires our foreign student population to go above and beyond what any other student would have to go through, and we cannot assume that all foreign students could possibly be a threat to national security, when in fact the majority of foreign students are not.”

Authorities at GC hope that the Sevis system will prove successful once implemented in Georgia.

Four-Year Degrees at GC

By Kari Goodson
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It is possible for students to get a four-year degree at Gainesville College without leaving campus.

The University Center, located in Academic I, benefits students by allowing them to complete selective bachelor’s and master’s degrees on the GC campus without having to leave. I think more and more of our students will be able to start here and get a [four-year] degree,” said Ronnie Booth, assistant vice president for academic affairs.

Students like the convenience of the GC University Center. “It’s a good idea,” said Kelli Banks, a GC student planning to take courses offered by the University Center. “I will greatly benefit not having to drive to North Georgia every day.”

Since GC has a University Center, it can enter into formal agreements with four-year colleges and universities. The two main schools involved in the University Center are North Georgia College and State University in Dahlonega and Southern Polytechnic State University in Marietta. NGCSU offers all the needed courses to complete the most degrees, and GC considers it the “lead institute in the center,” said Booth.

Students taking classes offered by the University Center are considered NGCSU or SPSU students. These students can use all of the GC facilities and have access to any of the offered services, including their own e-mail accounts. The NGCSU faculty now have office space in Academic I and are on the GC campus every night until 8. This allows students taking University Center classes to talk to teachers from NGCSU.

The University Center classes take place in the late afternoon and early evening. This keeps GC from becoming overcrowded. “At night we’ve got the space to accommodate these students,” said Penny Mills, associate professor of political science and director of special programs at GC. To take classes offered by the University Center, students have to be accepted by the appropriate college or university.

“In can only help the school’s profile and reputation in the community,” said Booth. It is also a good recruitment tool for GC and it is a “plus for NGCSU because it would enhance their enrollment as well,” said Mills.

Over 300 students from NGCSU enrolled in classes offered by the University Center in the spring semester 2002. More than half of these students took classes only at GC, while the rest of the students attended classes on both campuses. SPSU had seven students enrolled in classes on the GC campus.

While the significant changes have already occurred with the completion of Academic I, there are still more to take place. GC is hoping to add two more degrees to the University Center. According to Mills, a master’s in Education and bachelor’s in Education Counseling may be added. One very long-term goal for GC is to offer a Master of Business Administration degree, but that is about five terms away.
Who's to Blame?

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Cultural differences and adjustments inhibit the enrollment of Hispanic immigrants at Gainesville College.

“I’m one of the first [college students] in my family, and my parents don’t have much of a background with education,” said Vanessa Burciaga, a third-year business administration major at GC. “But they really wanted me to go to school, that was one of the main purposes of them moving here.”

In the fall of 2001, GC had a total enrollment of 3,688 and a Hispanic enrollment of 126. According to Harriet Allison, instructor of ESOL at GC, these figures are a combination of many factors that can be traced back to the common root of being in an unfamiliar setting and culture.

Authorities at GC indicate that the disadvantages of being a first-generation immigrant are to blame for these low Hispanic enrollment and retention rates. “Most of the time you are dealing with first-generation, maybe even first-generation high school graduates,” said Allison. Their families are new to the country and may not “perceive the benefits for their children to go to college,” she said.

Allison also cited economic reasons for low Hispanic enrollment. “They need to contribute to the family income.” She added that family members often depend on one another for the economic welfare of the entire family and sometimes overlook the significance of a college degree. “It’s an information gap,” she noted.

“They don’t know they can apply for federal aid,” said Margarita Munoz, coordinator for the office of Hispanic outreach and development. Without the awareness of this information, many first-generation families, who are already struggling to support their families, disregard the notion of attending college because it is too expensive.

Another reason for the disparity is the “misconception of not being welcome,” explained Belinda Saurer, associate professor of Spanish at GC. Because some of the prospective students are not legal citizens, they are under the impression that they are not allowed to attend college. However, as stated by law, any Georgia high school graduate is eligible to go to colleges within the University System of Georgia.

GC has taken steps to increase the Hispanic population. One of the most significant efforts came with the Goizueta grant, which gave over $600,000 to the school in an attempt to increase the number of Hispanic students.

Burciaga, whose family is from Mexico, would qualify for the grant, but she says that she was unaware that there was a grant given to the school.

She agrees that many first-generation Hispanics have difficulty getting enrolled and graduating from college. She said, “Only two or three of my Hispanic friends from high school ever went to college.”

Contrary to Saurer’s comments, Burciaga claims that many Hispanic students are aware of laws admitting students who are not legal citizens to still attend college, but they feel that “they won’t be able to get a job after school without citizenship.”

Between 1990 and 2000, the Hispanic population in Georgia grew by over 300 percent. However, the population of Hispanics enrolled at GC in the fall of 2001 was only 3.41 percent. Said Allison, “The goal for any college is for that institution to reflect the demographics of where it is located.”

GC Honors Thirty Years of Service

By Denise Donaldson
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The Gainesville College Foundation will be awarding a scholarship honoring Frances J. Meadows, who was a GC employee of thirty years.

“It’s a tangible way to remember her and her legacy of assisting students,” said Steve Langston, director of financial aid. “People just gravitated to her, she was a very warm person.”

However, according to Pat Guthrie, the director and CEO of the Foundation, “It’s going to be a while before there’s any money available,” since the family has only recently given permission to proceed. Thus far, the scholarship has only received a small gift.

According to Guthrie, fundraising will need to be one avenue of increasing the scholarship’s funds. “This is a community as well as a college effort,” she said. The community’s involvement is integral to the scholarship because it will also commemorate Meadows’ service to the community. When she passed away, she was in her third term as Commissioner of Hall County’s Urban District. While further details are yet to come, one step will be the establishment of a committee to determine how to go about raising the funds.

Although the scholarship is still a fairly new concept, this new avenue of financial assistance from the school is exciting for students. Langston added, “This scholarship is a fitting and appropriate tribute to her.”

Millions Needed For HVAC Systems

By Diana Macrina
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Renovations to the outdated HVAC systems at Gainesville College will cost $4.2 million.

GC hopes to renovate the heating ventilation and air conditioning systems in some of the buildings on campus. The average system’s life ranges from 15 to 20 years. The Administration Building, Student Activities Center, Hugh Mills Physical Education Complex, John Harrison Hosh Library and Academic III have all exceeded the life span by 10 to 15 years, which is why the new systems are desperately needed.

With $600,000 from the state, GC is hoping to reach its $4.2 million goal by next spring. GC also plans to air condition the fitness center and gymnasium by 2004.

Jerry Spiceland, director of plant operations, said, “By replacing the systems, buildings will have better air quality and energy efficiency.” Controlling air temperature has also been a problem, which will hopefully be resolved by the new systems.

Another reason for the much-needed systems is that the systems are so old that it makes finding parts a difficult task. Although $4.2 million is a lot of money to spend on HVAC systems, GC will be saving money by not purchasing parts to replace non-working systems.
For an instant rush, just add water.
**BRIEFS**

**12@12’s Mystery Trip**

On Friday, Nov. 15, the 12@12 program will continue with a trip to a mystery location. Following the success of the their skydiving and horseback riding activities, students will not want to miss this. Contact the student activities office for more information.

**Student Activities Hires Assistant**

The office of student activities has hired Patti Holden as the new administrative assistant. Drop by and see her at the activities office or she can be reached at ext. 3622 or contacted via email at pholden@gc.peachnet.edu. Welcome to GC!

**Date Set for Fall Festival**

On Nov. 1, SGA will present its annual fall festival from noon to 1:15 p.m. Come out to the various booths set up by the many different clubs at GC. Contact Jennifer Collom for more information.

**Dance Set**

On Saturday, Dec. 7, a dance will be hosted by the Education Club. The Education Club is an organization that brings future educators and faculty together. Contact John O’Sullivan for more information regarding the dance or the Education Club.

**Give Blood on Halloween**

On Oct. 31, the American Red Cross will sponsor a blood drive in the Student Center. Those wishing to donate may do so from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

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**Soft Board Could Replace Note-Taking**

By Matt Lewis
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J. B. Sharma, associate professor of physics at Gainesville College, stands before a white dry-erase board, filling it with complex and detailed equations as he instructs a class. His students listen attentively, but, oddly, no one is taking notes. The reason? Sharma is not using an ordinary whiteboard.

GC has become home to three SoftBoard systems. The SoftBoard is a recent development in lecture aides developed by the Polyvision Corporation. It is an electronic dry-erase board that copies the user's writing directly into a computer. The company's website explains that the board has a "net" of invisible infrared laser light scanning its surface. When the beams of light are broken by a marker pen, the movements of the pen and thus the writing of the user are captured and recorded. The lecture notes recorded are saved to the instructor's website, where they can be seen at the students' convenience.

The best part of the system, for Sharma, is that students can focus attention on the instructor and the material instead of concentrating on taking notes, especially in numbers-intense courses such as physics and math. Sharma says he has used the technology for about five years, but that GC has only recently obtained the systems. "Right now this is experimental, but there are three of these [systems] on campus," he says. The three systems are located in the departments of science, social science, and mathematics.

Unfortunately, the high cost of the boards has proven prohibitive, says Sharma. He adds, however, that a new, portable version of the technology, manufactured by the Virtual Ink Corporation, is much cheaper. Sharma hopes that it will be able to be used in more classrooms soon.

"I wouldn't go back to using an ordinary chalkboard," says Sharma. He is enthusiastic about the potential use of SoftBoard technology across the entire campus. "It would be wonderful for any subject, where students could be engaged with the material, and freed from the tyranny of transcription," he says with a smile.

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**Latino Senator Speaks to Student Body**

By Josh Poole
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On Sept. 26, Gainesville College hosted a speech by Georgia's first Latino Senator, Sam Zamarripa.

Zamarripa, the son of a migrant worker, seemed to have no interest in politics early in life, as he dropped out of high school at the age of 14. Zamarripa later returned to high school and attained two college degrees, including a Public Administration degree from Syracuse University in 1979 and a master's in Public Policy.

Zamarripa believes that his early struggles shaped him into the politician he is today. Because of the economic and emotional stress accompanying his parents' divorce, he feels that he can identify with the lower class. He said, "with that kind of experience, I could understand the needs of poor people in my district."

The Senator, sponsored by LSA and the GC Special Recognition Committee, spoke on the Latinization of the United States, mentioning that there has been a 314 percent increase in the number of Spanish speaking residents across the country, and five percent of Georgia's gross domestic product is claimed by Latinos. He also emphasized the growth of the Latino population, saying that 60 to 70 percent of the most populated states are also the states with the highest Spanish-speaking population.

"You are participating in the greatest transformation of Georgia in the state's history," said Zamarripa, to a full house of ethnically diverse students and faculty gathered in the CE building, adding that there are now three Latino members of Georgia's House representation.

Senetor Zamarippa informed GC students and faculty of Latinization in the United States.
GC Game Room Finally Reopens its Doors

By Summer LaPann
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Chalk up the cue sticks and put the best ping pong paddles forward, because the game room is once again open for business. And, if there are any students who cannot tear themselves away from those game systems, you may bring them, too.

Along with hiring a professional staff, the game room has been updated with large screen televisions for both viewing and game-playing pleasure.

Air hockey is also one of the activities students can show their talent in, not to mention playing cards and several board games.

In the past few semesters, a major issue that led to the closing of the game room is the lack of respect it received.

Since its close during spring 2002, the game room was like a ghost town. With a new staff as well as new equipment, it is once again open for students to use.

When asked why the opening of the game room was delayed, Alicia Caudill, director of student activities, explained, "The game room closed last spring because students utilizing the space continually abused the games and facilities in general."

She added, "Students smoked in the room and also spit tobacco on the equipment, walls and floors, so the previous director had no other option except to close the space."

Remember that there are smoking pavilions around campus, but the game room is not one of them. So only light up in those designated areas.

Many returning students may recall that students have operated the game room in the past. "We decided to hire a part-time, professional staff," said Caudill. "Therefore, in the time it took to open, we were searching for a quality staff to work in the space."

The faculty asks that students respect the games, equipment, each other and most importantly, please do not miss class over a ping pong game. So, sharpen up those air hockey skills and get in there and play.

The game room hours are 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. during the semester for everyone's game playing pleasure.

Absence Policy

By Melissa Maysonet
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Punishment for absenteeism? Those with high grades and high absences tend to argue.

Gainesville College students who feel that their grade should not be affected by their attendance seem to echo the opinion of student Bo Satterfield. "If someone wants to waste their money and not go to class, that is their right," he said.

The Board of Regents mandates that all post-secondary schools have an attendance policy. GC requires that each instructor provide students with a syllabus, acting as a contract between a student and instructor, stating this policy.

Paying close attention to the syllabus is key to knowing how attendance will affect your grade throughout a course.

Attendance is taken seriously by most instructors, as stated by Michael Stoy, dean of faculty. "We [instructors] know that success is primarily associated with getting to class." Stoy advised that if a student has a problem with an attendance policy, they need to make the professor aware of it at the beginning of the course. He also stated that there has not been a case filed where a teacher had an impractical attendance policy.

Most students were surprised to know that their attendance is reported to scholarship and grant providers. Those questioned were not aware that attendance for all classes they have taken, including those dropped, were kept on record for scholarship issuers to view upon request.

Students indicated a bit of concern once they realized that these reports often determine whether or not the student receives more scholarship money or maintains a preexisting one.

Overall, the power granted to GC's professors in determining their own attendance policy is similar to most other area schools.

Future of Nursing Looks Healthy

Natalie Simmons
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Despite reports of a national shortage, the future of nursing is looking healthy at Gainesville College.

Along with several other two-year colleges, GC is involved in a distance learning program. This allows students to complete a four-year degree without having to move or engage in a long commute. The University System of Georgia recently named GC part of the University Center. Students can sit at the GC campus and communicate with professors and other students from universities and colleges all over the state.

GC's nursing program is affiliated with North Georgia College and State University in Dahlonega, Georgia. Nursing students watch professors lecture from Dahlonega, Kennesaw and Cobb hospitals without ever leaving GC.

Donna DePriest, a second-year nursing student at GC, is thankful for the University Center. "This campus just seems more friendly toward nontraditional students," said DePriest, a 40-year-old mother of two. "I've always wanted to be a nurse but never pursued it, until now."

The nursing program at GC was originated by NGCSU in 1984, with only a handful of students. Now the program is booming with 23 first-year students and 25 second-year students on the GC campus. However, out of 48 students, only two are male and only 25 percent actually live locally. "They are attracted to GC because of the good reputation of the NGCSU nursing program and their success rate on passing the RN state boards," said Loretta Delargy, coordinator of the ASN program at NGCSU.

"Most people who come want to enter a 'caring' profession. It's a hard program academically so they have to really want to do it. They are also motivated because they know they can be hired anywhere they go," said Delargy. "Because of the nursing shortages, the hospitals here and even some in Atlanta begin visiting the students as early as their first year regarding employment."

On Aug. 1, President Bush signed the Nursing Reinvestment Act. This act was designed to encourage people to enter or stay in the nursing profession, and to recruit more nursing school faculty. Unfortunately, adequate funding has yet to be allocated for the project.

For any information regarding the nursing program or other medical programs at GC, please contact Sheree Corbin, office manager of the University Center in ACAD I, at scorbin@gc.peachnet.edu.
Library Updates its Antiquated Appearance

By Candice Wimberley
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There is a whole new look and feel at Gainesville College's John Harrison Hosch Library. Gone are the days of burnt orange, avocado green and tan of three decades ago. They have been replaced by cool neutral gray tones on walls and carpeting, which were influenced by the Emory University library. The computer lab has been expanded and a new AV room allows for comfort during lectures or while viewing a PowerPoint presentation, video or DVD.

On April 18, 2002, the GC library temporarily closed its doors to begin interior renovations. Student and faculty volunteers removed books from shelves and packed them into boxes. “The entire bottom floor had boxes stacked as high as five feet,” stated Angela Megaw, reference instruction librarian. “This project was a major undertaking.”

The bulk of the funding for the project was allocated by the Board of Regents' special funding. Bob Howington, vice president for business and finance at GC, stated that the total cost to renovate the entire facility was $167,956. Student Activities donated $5,100 towards the project.

The student art work in the library was chosen by Anne Bessac and Spacy Koffman, GC fine arts professors, and purchased by the Art Club. Said Koffman, “One of the advantages of having the art work in the library is that it can be checked out by faculty and staff for class study.”

The library reopened its doors on June 4, 2002.

Student Profile: Stephanie Kitchen

By Heather Hodges
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Most students could only dream of being President of Student Government, Secretary of the Student Advisory Council and a member of the Board of Education during their college career. But for 23-year-old Gainesville College student Stephanie Kitchen, these are just a few stepping stones in her climb to the top.

A 1998 graduate of Jefferson City High School, Kitchen quickly became involved upon coming to GC. She took an active role in SGA, taking on the responsibilities of secretary, vice president and finally, in 2000, president. “I loved being SGA president,” says Kitchen. “I liked the collaborative effort of committees working with faculty and staff.” Her inside view of the school gave her a deeper appreciation for GC. “Compared to other colleges across the state, we have minimal problems,” says Kitchen. Her role as president also furthered her interest in the political system.

Since entering GC, Kitchen has also been, at various times, an active member of the Compass staff, the Art Club, College Republicans, and the Student Advisory Council.

Her biggest challenge came when she decided to extend her activities beyond GC. Urged by Republican Party Chairman of Jackson County, Candace Gunn, Kitchen decided to run for a position on the Jackson County Board of Education.

Campaigning was a feat in itself. She attended rallies, put out signs, participated in a mail-out and even traveled door-to-door to speak with voters. “I would compare my experience with campaigning to having 1,000 job interviews in a day,” says Kitchen, “but I did enjoy every minute of it.”

Her extensive campaigning paid off; Kitchen won the election. Some, however, were skeptical of the job she would do. “People looked down on me for my age, but once they realized that I took my position seriously and that I genuinely care about students, teachers and staff of the school system, they warmed up to the idea of having such a young member of the school board represent them.”

After two-and-a-half years of service, Kitchen feels that she has a firm grasp on her job. She is quick to note, however, that it takes the entire school board working together to really make a difference. “If it were not for the excellent teachers, the leadership of the principals, the supportive central office, a Superintendent who carries a great vision for our school system and the four other members of the board, Jackson County schools would not be where they are today.”

Surprisingly, Kitchen is not overwhelmed with balancing her hectic life. She says, “Sometimes it becomes difficult, but it is for every student at some point in the course of the semester.” She notes that understanding teachers have made balancing school and her job much easier.

Kitchen’s plans for the future look to be just as busy, as well as rewarding. She will continue to live in Jackson County so that she can run for a second term on the board. She will continue to attend school, with hopes to graduate from GC in spring with a degree in early childhood education. She has plans of transferring to North Georgia College and State University. Upon graduation, she hopes to teach school while working on her PhD. “I would ultimately like to be a superintendent,” says Kitchen, “but there are many steps I must take to get there.”

Do you know someone who should be profiled in the Compass? Each issue, we will highlight an outstanding student or faculty member. If you or someone you know is worthy of being profiled, contact Josh Poole at jpoole.7848@gc.peachnet.edu or stop by the Compass office.
GC Offers Opportunities to Study Abroad

By Christopher McDonnell
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Combining elements of both tourism and education, studying abroad has never looked more promising.

Through Gainesville College’s current study abroad plan, students may join schools from around the world. With one program titled “GC on the Go,” students can join a two-week program in which the destination changes each year. The second program is a five-week installment sponsored by the European Council of the University System of Georgia, of which GC is a member. According to Chaundron Gille, associate professor of French, the purpose of the program is to “give students an opportunity to experience cultural differences and have a global component in their education.”

For GC students, the opportunity to travel has increased over the past six years. The first GC on the Go trip was during spring break of 1995, where nine students visited London, Paris, Rome and Florence studying world civilization. In May, 2003, GC on the Go will be traveling to Vancouver, Canada.

For the past five years, the Georgia Board of Regents, the governing body of the University System of Georgia, has set the quota for students studying abroad in the USG at two percent. By 2007, the Board of Regents is hoping that the number increases to four percent.

Hillery Brothers, a student in Belinda Saurer’s Spanish 1002 class, is taking advantage of the Study Abroad Program. In 2003 she will be visiting Barcelona, Spain for four weeks to study Spanish. Brothers said, “I want to learn more Spanish and learn their culture.”

Brothers is one of only a few USG. Although scholarship money is available for students studying abroad, Gille said, “Scholarship money has gone unclaimed in some years at GC.”

If students register for the five-week program, they can travel to London, Paris, Greece, Italy or St. Petersburg, Russia, for $3,400-$3,845. Trips to Greece and Italy are affiliated with the European Council, but not administered by the EC.

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By Zack Tumlin
Sports Editor
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It was what so many riders throughout the southeast had been looking forward to that particular week.

The Gainesville SORBA (Southern Off Road Bicycle Association) hosted the Tumbling Creek racing event at Gainesville College campus on October 13, 2002.

"It was huge," stated GC student Barclay Judah. "By the time I got there at eight in the morning, the parking lot was packed!" There were over 400 contestants registered to ride; an outstanding turnout.

Riders traveled from all over the southeast. Several college teams were there including the University of Florida, Georgia Institute of Technology, the University of Georgia, Warren Wilson, Florida State University, Auburn University, East Tennessee State, Lees McRae and the University of North Carolina at Asheville.

They couldn't have asked for better weather. It was cool in the morning, but warm and sunny in the afternoon. The only concerns were about track conditions due to previous weather.

Several things have to go well in order to have a successful mountain bike event. Certain conditions, such as weather, track conditions, track layout and turnout are essential. The Tumbling Creek event was firing on all four cylinders.

First of all, the track layout was good, receiving compliments from several of the riders. The course at GC is a five mile setup with five laps. The course ranged in terrain from flat stretches to narrow and curving paths. The overall critique was that the course was speedy, demanding a lot of pedaling.

Several of Gainesville's own competed in the event, but local standout Scott Unold stole the spotlight in the expert veteran class (30-39). Unold, who is sponsored by local businesses Tire Barn and Bike Town, said that the home field advantage was the key to his win. According to Unold, "the track was very fast and exciting."

One part of the track, however, was very slick throughout the day. The bridges were more of an obstacle rather than a convenience. At one point in the track, riders would come out of the woods heading toward the bridge, but when they leaned into the turn off of the bridge, the wet wood caused them to crash and slide into the side of it.

The highlight of the day came from an awesome final stretch showdown in the most advanced class, the expert senior men (19-29). Benjy Coil from Stone Mountain was neck-and-neck with Dave Irving for the duration of the race. On the fifth and final lap, the two were sprinting down the final stretch when Irving's chain popped off. This immediately knocked him out of contention and into second place. After the race Coil stated, "the track was a blast. It was real fast and twisty." Coil is currently the points leader in the GAP series.

Another points series that was at stake at Tumbling Creek was the college series. Tom Hughes from Warren Wilson College in Asheville, North Carolina took the win in the fifth and final race of the college season. Hughes loved the track, as did his team. The Warren Wilson team placed second in the nation for Division II.

Second only to the thriller in the expert senior men class was the duel between two of Georgia's own in the expert women class. Allison Carter of Marietta beat rival Lisa Ropke from Woodstock. The two train together and are very good friends. Carter agreed with others about the track speed, but also pointed out the major problem with the course.

"That bridge was slick!," she said.

At the finish line, everyone was a winner. The weekend could not have been any better for the sport of mountain biking and the Gainesville SORBA chapter. Hundreds of riders came from all over the place to participate in the event, but more importantly, many locals got the chance to get involved in mountain biking on the primetime scene. Thanks to the numerous sponsors, the biking event was a spectacular advancement for the sport of mountain biking.
Why Does a Devil become a Saint? Causey Can

Last time we were on the lake with local semi-pro Corey Bradley. This time I am taking you to the basketball court, where former East Hall High School superstar Mark Causey likes to shine.

Causey established himself as a legend at East Hall by leading the Vikings to their first state championship in 2001. Do not get me wrong, East Hall was knocking on the door with current Gainesville College student Jess Clark’s team, but Causey walked through that door with his team on back.

That single feat would be the exclamation of a career for many. Not for Causey, though. He shocked the state when he declared a shot at Blue Devil basketball for Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, the nation’s top consistent program. To the surprise of many, Causey made the team that was the pre-season favorite to win the national tournament. He played with big names in college basketball, like All-American Jason Williams, and several other collegiate superstars including Dahntay Jones and Chris Duhon. This experience alone is something that serious ballers across the country could only dream about. However, another shock was to come.

This time, he left the prestigious program for another college team. That team is located in Dahlonega, Georgia and the school is North Georgia College and State University, a school that most in the GC community are familiar with as well.

But why would anyone leave Blue Devil basketball to become a Saint? The irony of the mascot change defines the shake up perfectly. I recently had a chance to sit down with Mark and talk about a few things. This is what he had to say.

**Causey’s Interview**

ZT: What was it like playing basketball for Duke?
MC: Pretty amazing. I was playing with the best in the world.
ZT: So how did you adapt to that lifestyle?
MC: It was tough at first. I had to be careful with my time schedule. We were in a different state each week. All I did was study and play. I didn’t have time for much else.
ZT: You came home with a diamond in your ear. Can you explain that one?
MC: (Laughing) Well, it was a wild idea one night with some of my buddies.
ZT: What was your single most favorite memory at Duke?
MC: I guess winning the ACC championship.
ZT: Everyone is wondering what brought you home. Anything in particular?

MC: Financial reasons and also to focus on education. I was talking with Mark when he first left and he said all he did was practice, practice and practice. It was clear that there was little time to do much else.
ZT: Explain the difference between North Georgia and Duke from a player’s point of view.
MC: Well, Duke was definitely bigger, but there is a difference in talent as well. The players at Duke did several things well instead of just one thing.
ZT: Where do you see yourself in ten years?
MC: With a good job, steady income and a nice family.
One thing is for sure about Causey: The man has his head on straight. I think he realizes that his basketball career climax at Duke University. He knew his chances of professional ball were slim. He made the right decision to transfer to NGCSU. There, he can still play, but he can also start to focus on the inevitable future we all have in finding a job to support ourselves. Causey was able to fire in a 3.03 GPA his freshman year, but will be able to give his best academic effort at the smaller school. I am sure the experience was absolutely amazing, but I respect Causey for the mature decision that he made about his future.
Heather Hodges  
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After multiple unsuccessful attempts, a gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) club has finally been formed on the Gainesville College campus.

The GC Alliance was established this semester to “serve as a support group for students that identify themselves as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender,” as outlined in their constitution. “I think it is important for the gay and lesbian student population to have a support group — a place to go to discuss their concerns and to educate others,” said Caitlin Wills Toker, instructor of speech and co-advisor of the club. “[They] have the added stress of facing social stereotyping, close-minded students and a lack of a support network.”

“On a campus that makes such an incredible attempt at addressing the needs of many different students, this is a group that has remained pretty invisible at Gainesville,” said Michelline McDaniel, instructor of sociology and co-advisor of GCA.

The Alliance is especially desired at GC since “some of the highest levels of prejudice are against the GLBT community,” said Connie Ringer, assistant professor of psychology and co-advisor of GCA. “I sense a lot of fear of gays and lesbians from some of the students here, and this seems based largely on the fact that most students have some very stereotypical notions of homosexuality,” said McDaniel.

The club hopes to “educate and promote awareness of the GLBT community. Exposure to different types of people promotes understanding, and understanding tends to promote tolerance,” said McDaniel. “Not necessarily acceptance, but tolerance.” Through planned campus and community activities, the GC Alliance will promote open-mindedness, while striving to gain the support of the GC community. “The promotion of tolerance and understanding is a fundamental goal of our colleges and universities,” said Martha Nesbitt, president of GC. “The acceptance of diversity in all areas is vital to society’s health.”

The GC Alliance is open to all students to join. Members will be equally treated despite “race, religion, gender, age or sexual orientation,” according to the GCA constitution. “The Gainesville College Alliance shall in no way discriminate.”

Advisors of the club want prospective members to know that they can come to meetings expecting a “friendly, supportive and fun environment” that is also “warm and light-hearted.”

By Jennifer G. Kent  
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Anime is Resurrected

By Jennifer G. Kent  
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The Anime Club has been resurrected once again, only this time it appears that the club’s resurrection will actually be successful.

The hard part to believe is that the reanimation of the club can all be attributed to one member and Anime Club president, John Furst.

“It is a love of anime that brought this now close-knit group of students together. The Anime Club would like the students to know that anime is a multigenerational thing that anyone can watch. Anime is Japanese animation characterized by intricate artwork and an incredible attention for detail, and advanced and intellectual plot lines often accentuated by strong romantic themes and action-packed fight scenes.

However, don’t judge anime by what “Toonami” plays — anime is not all “Dragon Ball Z” and “Sailor Moon.”

Take a chance and drop by one day and see for yourself what the club is all about.

President: John Furst
Advisors: Patricia Worrall
Time: Wednesdays 3:15
Place: Rm. 170 in ACAD II
Mission Statement: The club’s purpose is to promote an interest in and appreciation of anime through viewing anime films and television series and through discussion sessions.

The GC Alliance has been formed to support the GLBT community of Gainesville College.

By Jennifer G. Kent  
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Clubs Team Up to Help

By Jennifer G. Kent  
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The Computer Club and Students in Free Enterprise have teamed up and are working hard to give back to the community.

Starting on Oct. 17, the Computer Club began taking donations from GC students, faculty and staff. They also picked up donations from several computer stores throughout the Atlanta area. Donations can consist of a variety of items, such as money, laptop bags, computer software and hardware, and even whole computers.

The Computer Club will work to use the donated items to build computers. Then they will meet with SIFE for “Make a Difference Day” at Oakwood Elementary School. The students who have been working throughout the semester to earn SIFE bucks will be allowed to come in and shop around through the various items that were donated.
GC Athens Campus Acquires House for Offices, Lounge

By Michelle Callner
Staff Writer
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The Gainesville College Athens campus has a new addition. It is a beautiful historical house across Milledge Avenue from the original Athens area campus location.

The top floor of the house is acting as office space for staff members and the bottom floor is for students. Students may use the area to "hang out, study, use the computers, take make-up tests, check out reserved materials and receive tutoring assistance primarily during the hours of 9 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.,” said Michelle S. Brown, director of academic and support support services. In addition, students can relax on the two huge porches, which are equipped with chairs and small tables.

Safety has been a concern of many, since students and faculty will have to cross the street to get to the house. “While there are always concerns about safety anytime there is student traffic crossing a street, I don’t see the need for any major initiatives to assist in this area,” said Brown. “Students are already crossing several streets when parking...We’ve been fortunate that we have not had any pedestrian accidents.”

Funding for the house came from a few sources. "The primary source of funding that allows Gainesville College to rent the house is from money received from the University System of Georgia. GC made and was granted some funding as part of a supplemental budget allocation,” said Brown.

The exact age of the house is unknown, but Brown guessed that it was probably built “around 1920 or 1940.” The time period architecture adds to the house’s charm and is evident throughout the house, from the wide round columns on the large wooden porches, to the expansive entry staircase next to the colorful stained-glass window. The character of the house speaks for itself, and with the diversity of design throughout the home, everyone can find something that they appreciate.

Students Left Stranded

Due to record enrollment, new students at the GC Athens campus may be left high and dry when they attempt to register for spring semester.

By Mariquita Davis
Staff Writer
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According to resources, the enrollment for the Gainesville College Athens campus had an outstanding 200 percent increase this fall. While most schools would be reveling in the achievement, the Athens campus is taking a different route as they are faced with a new problem: limited space.

This semester there are an approximated 600 students who attend the campus, which accommodates 425 tightly. There are even classes that are held at the local middle school in an attempt to relieve the stuffiness. Dede de Laughter, GC’s Athens office manager, stated that this is a temporary situation that Ronnie Booth, vice president of external affairs, is working diligently on fixing. “We are working very hard to locate additional space in Athens,” said Booth. “Several properties have been considered to date, with a goal of being in new facilities by next fall.” He went on to explain, “We do not anticipate a 200 percent increase in enrollment like we experienced this fall.”

The initial fear of current Athens students is one of displacement but, as both de Laughter and Booth reassured, the precaution is geared toward prospective students for spring, as the current student’s integrity will be rightly obliged.

Letters have been sent to those students making them aware that, though they might choose to attend school in Athens, the facility might not accommodate all the classes (s)he desires. This could lead prospective students away, but right now it appears to be in the best interest of GC. The letter can be viewed on the Athens Campus Website at web: http://www.gc.peachnet.edu/admin/gcuc/athens/regardingspringenrollment.htm.

The GC Athens campus has experienced a record enrollment this semester. Due to the cramped circumstances, students entering GC in spring who are wishing to take classes at the Athens campus may be out of luck. A letter was sent to all potential Athens students notifying them of the situation. Current Athens students do not need to worry, as the limited space will go to returning students. GC is currently looking for a new space to house a larger number of GC students.
The Future of Voting

It's quick, it's innovative—it's voting made easy, boasted Anne Phillips, Hall County Election Director of elections and voter registrations.

On Aug. 20, registered Hall County voters had the opportunity to use the new automated touch-screen voting system for primary and special elections. This was made possible by Georgia's decision to use the new automated system in the upcoming general election.

The purpose of these new innovations in voting is "to be futureproof," Phillips emphasized the differences that futuristic advances can make and how recent the new voting systems are. "It's the newest and we have right now," she said. Phillips added that, due to the simplicity and ease of use, the new computer program is quick and less time-consuming. To reduce the possibility of user error, the voter's selections are recorded at the end of the process. This gives voters the opportunity to correct any mistakes made before they commit to their decision.

Hall County Board of Elections strongly urges inactive, non-registered voters to register and participate in the Nov. 5 general election. Based on census 2000 figures, nine new precincts have nearly 50 percent population growth in Hall County from 2000 to 2005. In reference to the escalating number of voters, Phillips said that the new machines "will make a difference."
So Why Should You Vote Anyway?

Kerry Stewart
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When I was asked to write this article, I hesitated. It is evident that most young people have little or no interest in politics and government. This is sad because everyone, whether they realize it or admit it, is affected by what goes on at all levels. Why is it then that the very people who are affected pay so little attention to those who make the laws and policies in this nation? More often than not, the excuse I have heard comes in two forms. First, my vote doesn’t really matter. Second, there really isn’t a choice, all of the parties are the same. So why bother?

Addressing the second issue first, the parties are not the same, if you choose to look beyond the Republicans and Democrats. Even the two major parties approach policy implementation differently. There are more than the two generally accepted favorites, such as the Libertarians and the Green Party.

Now, I want to address the first excuse for not participating in the political process. The privilege to vote is not only your right as a citizen, but your responsibility. When you don’t participate, you are accepting the status quo, whether you think government is doing a good job or not. As a result, you really have no business complaining if things don’t go your way. To claim that your vote doesn’t count is a copout, an excuse used by lazy people. It should be more than evident after the 2002 election and the fiasco in Florida that every vote does count. When you vote, you are not necessarily electing an individual, but expressing a belief and values that should be important to you. For this reason, no one should ever vote for the lesser of two evils, which I have heard on many occasions is the reason why some voters feel the way they do. Vote your conscience, vote your heart and beliefs. If more people actually did this then they might turn to the other parties for a choice. If more people voted alternative parties, even if they do not win, the Democrats and Republicans might listen to the dissatisfied voices of a populace crying out. Maybe young people would become a louder voice in this nation. Anything is possible.

Emily Van Dyke
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It is incumbent on American citizens in an election to choose candidates who best represent their views. This right to choose is often overlooked. The citizens of this nation have an obligation to future generations to ensure that the will and voice of the people prevail.

Many countries around the world have only recently been granted the right to vote. In other places, people die for the chance. To choose representatives in free and open elections is the very definition of a self-governing society. A nation that is not content to tolerate tyranny or oppression must have this democratic principle in place.

In the present climate of American politics it may be easy to turn away from the electoral system in disgust. Corporate scandals, questionable campaign contributions and negative attack ads have left many with a cynical view of politics. While some of this sentiment is warranted or even arguably correct, the fact remains that voters, not corporations or interest groups, choose the individuals who control government. A person who does not vote is accepting the status quo and is rendered passive in elections.

Failure to participate by voting is a slap in the face to all who fought and died for freedom. My grandfather was wounded at the Battle of the Bulge, my father served in Vietnam and, now that I am older, I can begin to comprehend the sacrifice each veteran and soldier must face and the love of country that each must feel. The same love can be found with those who fought the evils of racism during segregation, as with the suffragettes who fought for women’s rights. We owe them all a debt we can never repay.

On Sept. 11, we saw that American values and spirit could rise to any occasion. Police, firemen and citizens rushed into burning buildings to save lives, and many lost their own. citizens aboard United flight 93 decided to take matters into their own hands to save fellow Americans. These were ordinary people who made extraordinary choices—to risk almost certain death so that others might live.

When I go to the polls this Election Day, it will not be the nasty political ads I think of and use for guidance, but those brave individuals who keep the hope of America alive. On Election Day, honor the men and women who have sacrificed so much for rights we take for granted. The voice of freedom is a vote.

By Jason Hanline
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Okay, we are quite aware that most people do not spend every day pondering candidates and issues. Most of us have lives to worry about. Besides, if you miss this election there will always be others, right?

But are you unsatisfied with the current state of politics? Do you have a gripe against one of your elected officials? Do you feel that there needs to be a change in something? If the answer to any of these questions is yes, how can you go about making a difference?

You could stage protest. They are fun and get attention, but are usually short-lived. You could have a discussion with friends, but afterwards the conversation is usually forgotten. The one surefire way to make sure that you are doing your part and making a difference is to VOTE.

In this country, we are raised with the notion that everyone gets a vote and, frankly, we take this privilege for granted. An entire war was fought in this country for the right to vote. People from all over struggle to get to this country because they know that they will have a voice to make changes. There are still countries and governments that do not let their people vote. Voting is a privilege.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, people age 18-24 are the least likely to vote. In fact, only 50.7 percent are registered to vote, and out of that only 36.1 percent actually vote. For those of you who are not math majors, that is a little over one fourth of the total population. This is surprising, considering that college campuses are generally considered hotbeds of political debates.

Many of you may think, "how much difference can my one vote make?" Consider this: in the last election, there was a district in Arkansas that decided the outcome of the election in that area by only one vote. Sadly, only one person in that district turned out to vote. How many people in that district do you think were just a bit upset over that outcome?
GTA Spotlights Local Heroes

By Michelle Gilstrap
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Needless to say, the Gainesville Theatre Alliance is a little bit excited about having the first rights to “Ragtime” in the Southeast. But the members of the alliance want the surrounding Gainesville, Hall County and Georgia communities to be excited as well. To ensure at least a greater understanding and hopefully enjoyment of the production, Artistic Director Jim Hammond and Publicist Francine Dibben implemented the “Ragtime Local Hero Project.”

The project is actually based on a program used during the national tour of the Broadway hit. When interviewing and auditioning Jerold Solomon for the starring role of Coalhouse Walker, Hammond asked Solomon to describe the best show experience he had while on the national tour. Solomon described a 10:00 a.m. show for about 15 high schools in Dayton, Ohio. Every student who attended the show had read the script, researched the historical background and some of the well-known historical figures portrayed in the show (early 1900's time frame), and then participated in making some kind of art project. Solomon told Hammond and Dibben that “the actors connected with that audience in a way that most actors only dream about connecting with an audience; it was just exhilarating.”

According to Dibben, she and Hammond had been trying to figure out a way to make the “Ragtime” production a more memorable and meaningful experience for the audience even before their discussion with Solomon, and afterwards they knew they had to do something.

Dibben feels that the show deals with many issues that are still issues today, and that audiences can learn from the story how to successfully handle concerns like racism and immigration. But to really learn from the story, audiences should do more than just watch the show once. Dibben searched on the Internet for theatres in Dayton, Ohio and “Ragtime” productions and found the Victoria Theatre. She contacted the theatre’s educational promoter, Tina McPherson, who sent Dibben a notebook full of the information pertaining to the high school program. From that information and little work by her and Hammond, the Ragtime Local Hero Project was conceived.

The project focuses on high school students researching the play and its characters and then finding people in the local community “who’s actions or words have led to greater understanding between the races, and appreciation of people of different ethnicities and backgrounds,”

Ceramics is a Smash

By Jillian Huffman
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This semester, art majors as well as art lovers had an additional course to choose from. For the first time in over six years, a ceramics class is being offered at Gainesville College.

The class is taught by Stacy Koffman, assistant professor of art. “Ceramics is a foundation course offered at most other University System schools within Georgia,” she said. “It is important that we also have these courses available to the students at GC.” Koffman has her master’s in painting but said, “I spent half of my graduate hours in ceramics.” She also received a bachelor’s degree in ceramics from the University of Tennessee.

The course was made possible by James and Frances Mathis, who wanted to see a ceramics class added at GC.

Twenty students enrolled for the ceramics class this semes-
Audiences Get Caught in the WonderQuest Web

By Michelle Gilstrep
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WonderQuest makes its ninth season a great one with an amazing production of "Charlotte’s Web." Director Gay H. Hammond commented that this cast was her favorite so far, and I have to agree.

Chandra Owenby was an amazing Charlotte. She has a small, thin frame that went over very well as spidery. Her grace and the soothing quality of her voice helped even the most avid insect-hater enjoy seeing a five-and-a-half foot spider in an enormous web.

Boone Hopkins played a great "dirty rat" in James Cagney-gangster style as Templeton. With his great costume, including plaid pants, suspenders and a fedora, Hopkins slinked around the stage and set pieces scaring other characters and cracking more mature jokes than others for the sake of the adults in the audience.

Wilbur, however, stole the show. Stephanie Ferguson was the cutest little pig I’ve ever seen. From the backwards cap with ears attached to the fattening body suit made to look dirty, the costume turned a sweet girl into a sweet, loving boy pig who loved life and loved Charlotte for saving his.

My favorite costumes, though, belonged to Goose and Gander, a married goose couple played by Amelia Hammond and GC student Derrick Ledbetter. WonderQuest always does animal costumes the same way: with a hint of animal characteristics. This gives talking animals a more human appearance while keeping the illusion that the characters really are animals. Goose and Gander were dappled with feathers galore and swimming flippers as their webbed feet. I have to believe that the flippers made walking and moving like a water foul easier, but getting around backstage must have been a chore. In short, good job Jennifer Wood.

The audience’s biggest treat came at the end of the play when Charlotte’s egg sack hatched. While Wilbur talked to the over 500 baby spiders that were supposed to be flying away, large glitter fell from the lighting cove in the ceiling of the theatre. Children squealed and adults laughed at the realization that they were being covered with magical should-be spiders and were suddenly included into the setting and action of the play onstage. I even heard one child ask if she could keep the “spider” she pulled out of her hair. Hammond finds some way to include lots of glitter in every show, and this has to be my favorite incorporation thus far.

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*In Selected Homes
Yahoo is King of IMing

This is a refresher course in instant messengers. Anyone who doesn't know what an instant messenger is by now, shame on you. But since no one wants to leave you poor people in the dark forever, here are the good, the bad and the truly ugly sides of everyone's favorite messengers. So come back from the dark ages and join the technological revolution.

Let's start with the top four messengers. Since most people are familiar with them by now, going back over these little beauties should be a snap.

Starting off, an oldie but a goodie is ICQ. However, this instant messenger is not exactly instant. As a matter of fact, ICQ is an internet-relay chat messenger. This means that a message being sent to someone else first goes to the ICQ server and is then transferred to the other user. Another downside to this product is that it's difficult to figure out all the controls for beginners, not to mention it's a memory hog (any older computer systems might not be able to handle this little program). On the bright side, there is a new file sharing system that works like a charm. And for anybody feeling bored, there is a Random Chat Search, which allows a user to browse over potential chat contacts by viewing their age, sex and a brief profile. Still, any computer newbies should skip past this messenger and keep reading.

Moving on to AOL Instant Messenger. Despite its severe flaws, such as lack of privacy/security, it remains a user favorite. The popularity of this browser could just be that it is so widely advertised that everyone knows about it and, therefore, uses it. There are just so many little irritating problems with it that it's best to skip it altogether. Problems like constant connection boots for AOL users, especially when they are talking to several other AIM users, are a problem. Truthfully, this messenger only has one thing going for it that none of the other messengers have: the buddy icon. So unless anyone is itching to get that nifty little icon, it is recommended that everyone skip past this one.

Another popular messenger (although not necessarily a user favorite) is the MSN messenger. Once installed, this messenger pops up every time a user pulls up Internet explorer and can't be closed while Explorer is open. MSN is also a memory hog with no featured support of video chat. The upside is that there are lots of MSN users and it isn't bad with security issues. But until MSN snags video chat from its cousin, Windows Messenger XP, don't bother.

Yahoo Messenger is currently the best out of standard messengers sporting video, audio, IMVironments, file transfers, animated emoticons and all the fun little goodies anyone could want out of a messenger. However, there are still some ugly little security issues that appear to be common for instant messengers. But overall Yahoo is the messenger to use. There is another problem, though. Yahoo may be the best, but if everyone you know is on AIM, you can't talk to them from Yahoo. Here is where Trillian comes in. It is the only interoperable messenger that is worth mentioning. It will work with all of the afore mentioned messengers and it will even use some of the capabilities unique to each of the messengers.

Now you have the 411 on the top messengers out at this time, and if the information here isn't enough to appease your knowledge hungry appetite, then click over to www.cnet.com. Cnet has all the information you will need to make the right decision.

Real Halloween Horror Flicks

And here we go again...Halloween! My favorite time of year—or at least it used to be. Halloween is supposed to be a time when we are reminded of the things that scare us. The dead walk the earth, werewolves howl from the hillsides, demons prowl the darkness and the Oct. issue of “Martha Stewart: Living” shows us yet another recipe for bat-shaped sugar cookies. The horror... Anyway, it's also traditionally the best time for horror movies. It's an oddity of our species that we enjoy being frightened, or grossed out, or disturbed, but of late, the genre really hasn't been getting much in the way of decent, really SCARY films. I mean, come on. Did you see “Fear.com”? Please. Another problem that I find is that I am increasingly unable to be "scared" by films. I am, however, still able to be disturbed and grossed out. So, ever-willing to foist my opinion upon an unsuspecting world, I present some recommendations for the filmgoer who wants a little something more in the frights department. So here are a few flicks you might want to consider for Halloween viewing that will definitely keep you up all night.

"Begotten" (1991) This one is out there. I mean REALLY out there. Not the kind of film you want to watch while eating. A very twisted take on creation myths. The Old God destroys himself and gives birth to a New God, who is then killed by man, and then the cycle begins anew. Filmed in a chiaroscuro black-and-white that makes it (intentionally) hard to see at times. No dialogue, no music, just incredibly obscene imagery assaulting your eyes. I challenge anyone to sleep easily after watching this film.

"Tetsuo: The Iron Man" (1988) and "Tetsuo II: Body Hammer" (1992) These films take the Japanese obsession with transformation to amazing ends. The destruction of the psychic self through physical means is the basic theme of both movies. I don't have room for the details, but trust me on these two. Seriously mind-blowing stuff, here.

"Eraserhead" (1977) "Eraserhead" is the stuff of legend, and rightly so. Seldom has anything so twisted come from an American director. David Lynch redeems himself ahead of time for making "Dune" in 1984. Man, this film is something—whether pretentious art-house dreck or seriously surreal cinema is for you to decide. Either way, its imagery is not easily forgotten (more's the pity. I still see the dinner scene in my nightmares). Be careful, though. The clerks at Blockbuster will stare at you oddly for renting this. Ignore them and get it anyway.

Almost any film by David Cronenberg. Ranging from "Shivers" (1975) to "eXistenZ" (1999) and beyond, Cronenberg has consistently made bizarre films that hinge on concepts of transformation and physical externalization of emotions and libido. "The Brood" (1979) is a classic example. When the climax comes, it's so stomach-churning that you almost can't watch. "Naked Lunch" (1991) is not as sickening, but is even more visually grotesque. " Videodrome" (1983) is a classic of twisted SF/S&M/BD/ [insert your own acronym here] horror, and makes statements about the television age that are oddly prophetic, in the hindsight of twenty years on.

These only a few of the offerings in the “Disturbing” section of the video store that is my brain. Want more? E-mail me and we'll talk. Sleep well, kiddies...
A "Wicked" New Perspective

If anyone were to pick up "Wicked" by Gregory Maguire and expect to read another version of "The Wizard of Oz," I am afraid they would be deeply disappointed. The full title of Maguire's novel is "Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West." This tells exactly what the book is about, starting with the day of the Witch's birth and ending after her death. I would guesstimate around 70 of the 400 pages parallel the story "The Wizard of Oz." Now don't get me wrong, this does not take away from the reading at all, in fact it actually adds to it and keeps it interesting. Who wants to sit and read another story telling about the hardships that Dorothy and her new friends go through while visiting Oz? Instead you can get an inside's look at what made the Wicked Witch of the West...well, wicked.

Have you ever wondered what the Wicked Witch of the West's real name was? Or what her childhood was like? What about her parents? And we can't forget her dear sister, the Wicked Witch of the East, and the slippers that Dorothy takes from her after the Witch's untimely death. All of these things are revealed in "Wicked."

The witch's real name is Elphaba, and her friends call her Elphie. Yes, the witch did indeed have friends growing up, and even as an adult she is loved by others. One of the more interesting friends she has is her old roommate from college—none other than Glinda the Good Witch. You meet her friends, enemies and lovers.

The things happening in Oz, strangely enough, paralleled many things that we deal with in real life. There are religious issues. The residents of Oz can choose to believe in the teachings of the unnamed god, the great Wizard of Oz, or the Fairy Queen Lurline, who supposedly found Oz. Oz also has political debates going on in the kingdom. The great and powerful Wizard of Oz overthrew the rulers of Oz during Elphaba's lifetime. He killed the Ozma Regent who was the same age as Elphaba herself. He is feared by all and hardly anyone is allowed to have an appointment with him, though Elphaba and Glinda both go to see him during their time at college. Oz is also wreaked with racism, or in Oz it would be more like animalism. The Wizard has outlawed any animals from having important roles in anything other than what regular animals do. The animals are different from regular animals in that they can talk and have a spirit; they can be educated and very intelligent beasts. Elphaba takes on a role to help these beasts have more rights in the society of Oz.

Unlike "The Wizard of Oz," "Wicked" is not a book meant for children. It has quite a bit of adult content that is not appropriate for certain ages; it is most definitely meant for an older audience. There is violence, murder and sex, to name a few. They all fit nicely into the story, though. As you read, you will find yourself sympathizing with the Wicked Witch of the West and despising the Wizard. You see a side of the Witch, one that has experienced love, disappointment and friendship, and you understand why she became a bad "Witch" in the end.

I truly enjoyed this story; it gave me an insight into things that I had honestly never thought about before. It also made me want to go back and reread "The Wizard of Oz," just to see how things were effected. Maguire has a few more novels out that are sure to prove just as interesting as this one did. One of which is "Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister." We all know where this one is headed.

What's On Your Dashboard?

Emo. By now, this is probably a word that everyone and their mother have used at some point. Bands like Saves The Day, the Get-Up Kids and Jimmy Eat World are some of the flagship bands underneath the banner of emo, which is short for emotional.

So what is emo music? In this critic's opinion, emo is this: bad high school poetry disguised as lyrics, minor chord progressions that are supposed to be inventive but end up falling flat, and trying to intone the early 80s wail of Morrissey for the lead vocals. In other words, emo music is a bunch of wailfish, whiny, suburban kids who got picked on in high school that decided to pollute the earth with their music, and in the court of emo, Chris Carraba, aka Dashboard Confessional, stands as king.

Dashboard Confessional has been hailed as a genius by the throats of emo boys and girls that wish to be him or be with him. I think this is because his album contains all the elements of an emo classic: bad poetry disguised as lyrics, minor chord progressions that are supposed to represent ingenuity, and the anthemic choruses that sound strikingly like the same choruses of such 70s balladeers as Air Supply, Christopher Cross, and Captain and Tennille. All the songs reek of self-indulgence and the exploitation of the "anti-cool" image as something new and wonderful. This album sounds a lot like something you would hear in the background while shopping at Target as Dashboard wails and whines on and on about girls and how evil they are. How inventive!

The only bright spot on this album comes from the track "Again I Go Unnoticed," a song so insanely catchy that you'll crank it on your car stereo as loud as possible and sing along. Aside from that, Dashboard does his best to not mess his hair as he pretends to hate all this attention that the mainstream music press is lauding him with. Yeah, sure you hate it.

In all honesty, I hope this guy never makes another album. Dashboard's music is unoriginal, devoid of any inventiveness musically or lyrically, and, oddly enough, seems to lack the emotion he tries so hard to convey. If you want to hear how emotion should be mixed with music, go buy Joy Division's "Closer" album. If you like having your music mixed with pretentious and cryptic lyrics about ex-girlfriends, then buy this album...and then throw it away.

Please feel free to contact any of our columnists with questions, comments or for more information at:
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Kevin Mann: kman7097@gc.peachnet.edu
Capricorn:
The Goat
Dec. 22 to Jan. 20
You guys really respect authority figures, and I'm here to throw a wrench in that subordinate concept. Get off your tidy butts and go toilet paper a house! Halloween is a good time to do this! Actually, I have a cop that lives in my neighborhood...

Aquarians:
The Water Bearer
Jan. 21 to Feb. 19
Ever had someone tell you, "Gee, guy, you're weird!?" That's because you people ARE. While most kids were talking to an imaginary friend you were busy heading an invisible commune in an environmental clean-up movement. How'd that go, by the way?

Pisces:
The Fish
Feb. 20 to March 20
Here is what your dating ad should read: SM or SF, non-smoker, seeks Pirate, preferably with own ship, to mark my heart with an "X." I love parrots and wooden legs. Hope to ride the high seas with you!

Sagittarius:
The Archer
Nov. 23 to Dec. 21
Rapid thinkers you are, Sagittarians! Here's a fast one: Why did the chicken cross the-oh! What? How did you know THAT? You ARE rapid thinkers! If I docked your thinking a radar, it would be, like, 200mph, or really fast, for thinking, yeah.

Scorpio
The Scorpion
Oct. 24 to Nov. 22
It's your birthday, Scorpio, so take center stage by arranging a fictional skit between you and a group of your friends that you guys can perform on the Jerry Springer show! Imagine: A group of strangers chanting derogatory mantras toward you because, far as they know, you're a pregnant maphrodite harlot who vacillates between several lovers of different age and sex. Throwing this trashy scam together will be cheap AND easy, exactly what Scorpios crave!

Virgo:
The Virgin
Aug. 23 to Sept. 23
I envision Virgoans to be the type of people that know what glockenspiels are and how to use them. How LAME. Everyone knows that xylophones are cooler... Will you be my friend?

Taurus:
The Bull
April 21 to May 21
I read that Taureans are good "craftspeople" in their work, and that reminded me of the movie, "The Craft." Where Witchin' is Bitchin'? I heard Salem is nice this time of the year. This month, see if you're lighter than a duck, possess a small clan of adolescent girls in 19th century Salem, and just plain have fun!

Gemini:
The Twins
May 22 to June 21
I'm going to take advantage of the fact that there are quite a few serial killers that are Geminis. The verdict: All Geminis are to be worshiped this month and bestowed with chocolate macadamia nut cookies. Should one not pay their due, they shall be chopped in itty-bitty pieces and baked in a batch of girl scout cookies.

Cancer:
The Crab
June 22 to July 22
You guys love pranks and mischief, so here's an idea. Start pulling pranks on yourself! You could get really drunk and hide all your toiletries, order a ridiculous amount of pizza to your house, or even prank call yourself by using a cell phone to call your house. Yeah, you're right, laughing at other's misfortune is better.

Leo:
The Lion
July 23 to Aug. 22
This month I do not like Leonians, excluding Jessie, she's my friend; but including my brother, who smells like feet cheese. If you know a Leo tell them they stink, and run away, fast.

Libra:
The Scales
Sept. 24 to Oct. 23
Let your sociable self ride full gear this fall. The months for Libra have past with a mellow tide and now it is time to ROCK AND FREAKIN' ROLL! You might be thinking: Crop Circle Hoax! I'm thinking: birthaday suit and Clinton mask for Halloween costume. Decisions, decisions.
October 28, 2002

The Misadventures of Anchor Man
Written by Drew Tranquillo
Illustrated by Nick Evans

Government Soup

Mild-mannered Johnny Laker cruises around GC on his trusty golf cart...

Anchor Man senses danger and springs into action!

Murduck, AM's archenemy, is on a rampage again!

Murduck is dropping his "landmines" all over the walkways!

Will Murduck conquer GC?
Will Anchor Man save Wendy Muffer in time?
Will that one guy from the smoke shop ever go to class?

CIA
EPA
FEMA
DOD
FBI
HUD
DOE
FCC
OHS
DOJ
FDIC
SEC
EEOC
FEC
USDA

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DOWN

1. That on which one may write
2. Frolic
3. Type of exam
4. Southwest Asian fruit
5. Cold month
6. Favorite Cajun vegetable
7. Respond
8. Tribe of Laos
9. Divination
10. What bread should do
11. Excessively absorbed with
12. Nymph
13. Indian butter
14. Depreciate
15. What a puppy may do
16. Shells
17. Very loud utterance
18. Second President of the U.S.
19. African-American Association
20. A principle
21. Popeye, e.g.
22. Drop loudly
23. Nautical term on a ship
24. Drop
25. Pro
26. A spelling
27. Home-run hitter Hank
28. Just manage
29. Unchin
30. Theater
31. Must showery
32. German mathematician Felix
33. Pang
34. Combined form meaning revived
35. Detergent brand
36. Up a
37. Bedrock
38. Arts
39. Saltwater
40. Son of Adam
41. Volcano
42. Enthusiasm
43. Street sarcastic
44. London cleaning woman
45. Italian soul
46. Deem
47. "...and carry a big...
48. Port town at mouth of Tiber
49. Lounge at the Waldorf
50. One of the seven deadly sins
51. Missy place to live
52. Reveal
53. Ability
54. Companies
55. Worse than 65 across
56. Shirt brand
57. Poorly
58. A scale of gradation
59. Solicitor
60. Informer
61. U-Mich hockey arena

ACROSS

1. Caspian is one
2. Fruit being spike of ear of corn
3. Overgrown houseboat
4. Dustpan
5. Panoramic
6. One related by marriage
7. Tlingit tribe
8. Vertical along which an
ordinate is measured
9. Hormel product
10. Informal spelling of a
preposition
11. Enclosure
12. Seaweed
13. Maze of history
14. Barbie's boyfriend
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73. Informer
74. U-Mich hockey arena

Join the Compass Staff!

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Give Notice Board a Second Chance

The notice board pops up every time someone at GC logs on to a computer. For some students, this is a constant source of annoyance, but for many GC students, this is a primary source of information.

A large variety of information can be found on the notice board. Students can view information about club events, activities going on in the Student Center, vehicles for sale, and information on tutoring and academic assistance. So what if a student has something that (s)he needs to post?

The one downfall of the notice board is that students do not have direct access to it. In order for students to make a posting, they must go through a faculty member. This can be a huge inconvenience. Many students do not even know that they have this option. So why is this?

Years ago, before most current GC students were enrolled at GC, students were allowed to make postings on the notice board. A few students, however, abused their privilege. They used the board to make childish postings, and to have what ultimately became a "notice board war." Basically, it was a prime case of a few immature students ruining it for all students, even those of us who were not here to witness the misuse.

Due to this misconduct, students were forbidden to use the notice board. However, at the time this policy was set, it was also stated that the issue would be revisited at a later date.

Well, it is now a later date. These students are no longer at GC, and with them probably went the desire to act like a bunch of elementary school students. True, there will always be people who break the rules. But isn't it time to give current GC students the opportunity to prove that they are more mature? Today's students could be greatly benefited by the use and convenience of the board. So why not revisit the issue now?

Remember to Say Thanks

They lock the doors behind us, they prepare our food, they clean up our office and so much more. They are the staff of Gainesville College.

Every day of the week, the janitors, security guards and the staff at Elegant Expressions play an integral role at GC. Without their help, we could not put out our monthly issue of the Compass. We rely on them for more than we often acknowledge.

Every morning, Tony Phillips or one of the other custodians on the GC campus comes in to clean up our office. And every time that we need something, be it a table to set up a bake sale, a ladder to hang awards or assistance moving something, they are always there to help.

Countless nights, when we are working hard to finish an issue, campus security waits on us while we frantically gather our things from the office. They are always extremely patient, even when we are running behind; they always allow us those few extra minutes to get it all together. And we can count on them to be there every morning, bright and early, to unlock our door so that we may begin another day of working on the Compass.

We also know that each morning and afternoon, we can count on seeing Mel Spain or one of the other Elegant Expressions staff members, should we get hungry or thirsty. Sometimes, it is the nourishment that they provide that gives us that extra push that we need to finish a paper.

And beyond the routine activities of all of these people, we can always count on a warm greeting from each of them.

We at the Compass know the value of these people, even though we may sometimes forget with our busy schedules, to thank them. But remember, we are not the only people that they assist. Every day, they, along with the entire GC faculty and staff, help students, but are all too often overlooked. So next time you are the subject of their assistance, say "thanks." It may seem like a simple word to you, but to people whose daily jobs are built around helping others, it can mean a lot.
Sexism: It's Not Just About Women

I worry for boys. The upcoming crop of males is being subjected to what I call discrimination and unfair treatment.

America likes to say that males have the advantages. There is truth in that, but by my own observations and the observations of many so-called experts, it is becoming less and less popular to be a male. People have witnessed numerous cases in our public education system, where a male was presumed to be guilty of a classroom rule violation due to his gender. Teachers make statements to the effect that males are "bad." Don't think young boys are indifferent to these remarks. If we tell or show them that they are bad, that's exactly how they will act.

Years ago I read a book about the anti-male movement in public schools. In the book, a female psychologist pointed out her observations that many times (and more increasingly), boys are being discriminated against or unfairly treated and often times down-right abused because of their sex. Let's not forget our boys. Let's face it, they have it tough. Sometimes our society does them a disservice. They are expected by our society to be "able to take it," as in whatever hardship that comes down the pike. Yet, we tell them it is not okay for them to cry. That's sad.

So the question is, here at Gainesville College, are we immune to the anti-male movement? No way! Plenty of male students speak about "those professors" with anti-male ideas who are quick to make male-bashing statements or to give the male students a disadvantage or handicap in the classroom. It's horrible, but believe me, it does go on.

I wanted to write an article of this type since my first year as a citizen of the GC Nation. I guess I was just trying to get my estrogen level high enough to actually put pen to paper. I have always found male-bashing to be an interesting topic. I don't know why, but it comes up quite frequently in conversations I start. In fact a rather surprisingly large number of male GC students have said that certain professors have put male students at a disadvantage or unfairly harassed male students in the classroom. I believe them because I, too, have observed it. Some female students make the remark that they have observed professors who acted coldly towards male students, who are trying just as hard to get an education as females.

Do some male professors working at GC discriminate against males? I'm sure they do! Let us not forget that there have been plenty of incidents where female school teachers were found to be discriminatory to female students.

Last spring semester, I probably attended more of the Women's History events than any other male at GC. I went to all of them. True, I wanted the extra credit. However, I found the conferences interesting. They were thought-provoking. And I did notice several things. For one, there were several occasions where speakers did not know what they were speaking about. Independent investigation and research on my part showed this. This brings me to the "Killing Us Softly" video. I have seen that movie more than any other human being on the face of the earth. Every classroom I went into, the professor would say, "I have a movie for you to see." Sure enough, there it would be! I'm thinking about being a guest speaker if they decide to do a revised edition of it. This semester while in Dr. O'Sullivan's class, there it was again. I didn't mind though, despite my ability to quote the movie. There is a number of problems with this movie. The speaker's assumption that men are not hurt by sexism is wrong. Some of her arguments are hysteria and over-reaching. For example, they mentioned males are depicted as being taller in advertisements. Hey, I hate to inform her of this, but on the average males are generally the first to know when it's raining. If she doesn't like this, she is free to write a letter of complaint to all of the mothers of males and to God while she is at it. The other is the advertisement for the "Yellow Pages," which depicts a woman and the statement, "Let your fingers do the talking." This, she says, suggests that women should be quiet. Apparently the speaker has never watched the television in her life. Remember who was the spokesman for the "Let your fingers do the talking" campaign? Actor Jon Lovitz. Men have been in those advertisements too! While I agree there were excellent messages in the movie, a lot of it was a big stretch.

Some of you may think I must be some macho meat-head. It's not the case. I have my share of feminine moments. I think Enya's music is great, have lots of clothing with flowers on it, and although I like beer, I have been picked on many times for ordering a fruity "chick drink." I also cry easily, especially during "Old Yeller." I do hate Barbara Streisand; I am not offended when women have short hair! I don't think it's wrong to give male friends hugs, and I frequently make conversation with strangers while using stand-up urinals. I also think men are the true weaker gender.

Do professors who discriminate against males realize that they are behaving in this manner? I think a lot of them do, some may not. Some of them may be reading this right now thinking, "Hmmm...I wonder if I ever had this guy in my class?" I hope you will at least open your mind to the possibility that you are being unfair to all three genders. Let's all strive to try and be fair with everyone regardless of their gender. I'm just a harmless fuzz ball trying to get an associates degree here at GC. Please do not discriminate against me, or the future males who may think GC is a safe haven for males. Maybe other male students will have the guts (to say "balls" is sexist!) to write in and say they have witnessed sexism. Maybe some of the female students will too! Meanwhile, I will do my best to make sure I have a nice strong person of either gender to walk me out to my largely male-purchased variety of automobile and protect me from the angry mobs.

Please Donate to the "Buy Frank a Led Zeppelin Box Set" Fund

I went to a party the other night, and met this girl who said she was an English Major. I was pretty excited because there's not many of them I meet in the crowd I run around with.

We started talking: "So who's your favorite author?" I ask.
"Oh there's just so many of them! I don't know. Who's your favorite?"

I thought about it for a few seconds. My, what a question, to make a choice like that is a little tough. Really, you need a few days to think about it, but at that particular moment, on that particular night, folks making drunk noise all around me, I decided, "Jack Kerouac."
"Oh, really!...Who's that?"

Frank Reddy
Contributing Writer

I smiled a little, laughed an obligatory laugh. Then I looked at the static, doe-eyed expression on her face, and realized that she was serious.

I immediately almost puked on her, but I stopped myself and said, tossing the redeeming bone, that he was one of the writers of the Beat Generation.

"Beat Generation?"

"NO!" I yelled and dashed till she was completely out of my sight.

This wasn't the first time such a tragedy has occurred. Many a night I've come across a professed lover of literature, half-drunk, but sober enough to hold mental competence by the hand, going on about the genius of Jewel's new poetry book, and/or "that Hemingway guy who wrote that story about that big-ass fish...what was it called? Moby Dick!"

People at this school, and this generation in general, need an economy-sized dose of culture. Walk this campus, and I challenge you, the reader, to find one person in a crowd who can tell you who Lou Reed is, who played the role of Norman Bates in Alfred Hitchcock's "Psycho," or why Billy Pilgrim has come unstuck in time.

And it kills me, not that I ever gave a crap about my generation in the first place, but that people like this are alive, consuming resources that could be mine, spending money on "The Fast and the Furious" DVD that could easily be donated to the "Buy Frank a Led Zeppelin Box Set Fund."

MTV, Star 94, and Maxim don't cut it. Get off your asses and make an effort to learn. There are classes here at GC that can help you. Take an American Literature class with Dr. Jason Mosser, or a film class with Professor Dan Cabaniss. They know their stuff thoroughly, and you'll learn a lot. You too can be culturally competent!

And if you choose not to be, well, free country, that whole cliché, but don't come within 500 feet of me if you plan on peddling your drivel.
Return My Peace

Speaking of the cycles of life and nature, in Ecclesiastes, Solomon writes, “To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven” (Ecc 3). Yes, the seasons of life differ. Birth, life, and death, laughter and tears, grief and joy, love and pain, war and peace, these are mankind’s heritage. A few decades ago, during a time of turbulence and war, a popular song rang true to the times. It is entitled “Turn, Turn, Turn,” written by Pete Seegers. The lyrics mesh with Solomon’s original text to prove the point.

Pete Seeger began recording in the early 1940s and is, perhaps, one of the most influential figures in the American folk revival. “Turn, Turn, Turn” sings, of course, of seasons specifically, seasons of war and peace. Since there has been so much talk about war and peace, the past few months, I offer my personal quest for a return to a season of peace. I wrote a poem, in fact, called “Return My Peace”, in Jan. 2001, while recovering emotionally from a season of private turmoil and pain. Perhaps, “Return My Peace” echoes, on a minute scale, the heart cries felt all around the world after the tragedies of Sept. 11, 2001. I reread my poem. Return My Peace speaks of a quest for peace. It is my own personal opinion that God is good. He heals and wants peace for this planet. Personally, I am thankful for Jesus Christ who still speaks: “Peace be still” to storms. As Seegers says, it’s not too late.

Return My Peace

The anguish my soul knows
It knows well
And...contemplates the matter
Crushed red
Crimson rushes in, to wash the pain,
the emptiness
The waters trickle
Then rush... past the bruises
When will my healing be perfected
When the earth is old enough, Will I be
Cleansed of its clay
Will my heart bear the death of that love
Or will it rather claim that star in the night
And wash the pain from my soul
With a shower of light
In the morning
Come morning
Pull this heart from the mire
Softly breathe upon my spirit
Fires, smoldering beneath my breast,
be free to flicker
Once, then, twice
Ignite and blaze upon my heart, my purity
Question the rain
Gaze upon the colors
And return my peace.
Return, my peace...

Technique is Wasted Style

I am a slave!
I trapse around this campus everyday, overly anxious about numerous commitments and assignments that are only going to lead me to harder, more extensive commitments and assignments. In other words, a perfect illustration of a “dead man walking.”

Slowly, I have come to realize that college is not so concerned with “personal,” but indeed, “general,” in reference to learning. I believe that some technique is required in order to function in an area of expertise, but lately I have consumed so much information that my unique personality has deteriorated. I feel like a robot. Ask me anything about the discovery of America, I can consecutively narrate each and every event that occurred from George Washington’s presidency to the industrial revolution. I can even dissect word parts to tell you what you are really saying. The funny thing about these abilities is that, very simply, I could care less! Since that glorious day of high school graduation (sarcastically), useless, but industrializing information has been eating away at my personality. The person I am is forced to conform, and strive to become, is the well-respected “ideal” business executive that is fascinated with the power and money they indulge themselves in. To me, these people really just look like a bunch of seemingly successful, yet spineless cowards, trapped in their own insecurities. I feel sorry for them. These people are not the people I came
to college to be, but I feel like I am becoming more like them every time I go to class.

Consequently, I am losing all of my originality so that I can know how to produce a story in MLA or AP style. For example, I wrote a very stylistic and insightful essay on my corrupted hometown. The paper was written in MLA style, but it contained a few, understandable, grammatical errors. Surprisingly, I received a 55 on this assignment due to my style of writing. The next paper, I converted my style, put myself into a “dumb-blonde” trance, and wrote “I love my doggy because...” I received a 95 on this paper. From that point on, I have written simple, monotonous essays that I am ashamed of, and I will never refer to, or look at again. I am embarrassed to say that I received a “B” in both English 1101 and 1102 using this state of mind. I can’t even ask a girl out on a date because I feel like I might correct her if she uses a sentence fragment.

Lately, I have felt like a walking contradiction. Everything I stand for is subliminally being forced to sway, or coincide with a teacher’s, or author’s views, who basically state that I should conform to the masses so that I don’t stand in their way. For example, I hate politics! But I can argue either side. See what I mean?

My point is simply that a student shouldn’t let the information that is forced upon them restrict his or her ability to be set apart from the rest. Being diverse is not a crime, though it may seem. I urge people to run from everything that is normal, so that we can get away from this era of perfection and accuracy. Why strive, when realizing that we are not the “ideal” only makes us feel bad about ourselves? Technique is wasted style.

As of Oct. 2002, I vow to never again let anyone transform me, except myself. I will do what I want, when I want, so that my sanity and my imagination might stick around long enough for me to get through it and graduate.

Mr. Right vs. Mr. Right Now

Who said being with someone is the right approach? I think I am happy, but I might be tricking myself into believing that. Have you ever liked someone who you were around and you two just hung out, went out to the movies, ate dinner, had a drink and everything is perfect the way it is? Then, something happens... What do we do then? I believe it should just be left alone and let the energy take its own path.

Why try to stop what is naturally supposed to happen? We fight against all the great possibilities, when really we need to let the great work by itself. Just because beautiful connections between two people occur,
doesn’t mean there has to be a relationship that leads to marriage and children. Enjoy it while it lasts, because we never know how long it will last. When it is gone it is gone, and there should be no turning back. Unfortunately, we turn back all the time. That is where we get hurt. We can love, because in order for us to love we must hurt, and in order to hurt, we must love.

My mother use to always tell me “the right man will come, but you cannot be looking for him.” Well, I’m not, but that great man is taking a long time to get here. I don’t believe there is one great love in everybody’s life. If that is the case, then I missed mine. People have connections with many types of people. Have you ever loved more than one person in your life? I know I have. But every time you love someone it changes. No one love is the same. It comes in dif-

Priscilla Bugari
Contributing Writer
Changing the College Stereotypes

College students are a weak link in our society. They are lazy. They spend most of their time drinking and going to parties. They have no idea what is going on in the world around them and they don't make many positive contributions to their community.

Do any of these statements sound familiar? In the past several years there have been numerous documentaries on television and in print media that portray the darkest side of college life—parties where student drink too much alcohol and die, events where students demonstrate cruel lack of respect toward other students, cheating, theft, violence—the list of negative images goes on and on. The media, and consequently society in general, do not paint a very pretty picture of college students.

However, those of us who work on this campus or attend Gainesville College know that the truth is far different from the images portrayed by the media and generally believed by American society. It is this understanding that motivates us to come to campus each day. In fact, we know that the college community is a great place to experience life, diversity, new ideas, friendships and learning. College is a place where future leaders emerge—a place where people build a foundation of knowledge that allows them to change their communities and their lives. Unfortunately, the good stories about college students rarely earn any media coverage beyond a short blur in the local media.

My challenge to GC students is to work hard to change these stereotypes. Make so many great things happen on campus and in the community that you cannot be ignored. Following are four ways I think you can begin to make this happen.

1. Vote: Register to vote in local, state, and federal elections. You can pick up a form during registration days on campus or look on the web for a form you can download. Educate yourself on the candidates and the issues. You can easily do this by reading your local paper and Atlanta Journal Constitution (available on campus). In addition, watch the news and do research on the internet. Attend the political debate that will be held on campus. There are many issues that our state and federal government will vote on in the next year that will have a direct impact on your education. Make sure your voice is heard.

2. Vote in the GC Student Government Association elections, too. Each spring you have the opportunity to elect your student body president and vice president. These students can work to create a better campus community. Learn about the issues they promote and share your feedback with them. (You can attend SGA meetings every other Friday at noon in Lanier AB or you can put your feedback in the SGA suggestion box in the Student Center.) Take an active role in shaping the campus experience for yourself and your classmates.

3. Show genuine respect for others. Students who show a lack of respect for other students, faculty and staff can perhaps become one of the most frustrating aspects of our jobs for those of us who work on a college campus. Be kind to students, faculty and staff. Say hello. Hold open doors. Say please and thank you. If someone asks you to do something that is reasonable and/or follows campus policy, willingly do it. For example, if a staff member reminds you that smoking on campus can only occur in designated areas, walk to that area and honor the policy designed to benefit the entire campus community, even though it may be an inconvenience for you as an individual.

4. Take responsibility for yourself. You are an adult who has been given the privilege of pursuing a higher education. However, we are all still learning and growing and we make mistakes. If you make a mistake, admit it, apologize if necessary, and move on. Don't blame it on someone or something else. This will earn you much more respect from other students, faculty and staff.

I challenge you to consider these points and to be the generation of college students who truly change the way students are stereotyped in society. The energy, enthusiasm and potential of students at GC truly make this campus one of the most exciting and rewarding places to work.

Just A Thought...

"When you go out to your car in the parking lot, get in, turn on the engine, and put your foot on the brake so the taillights come on, please follow through and LEAVE. I'm sure your phone conversation, your makeup, your homework or whatever you're doing is extremely important, but so is the class I'm missing by waiting for your space."

- Matt Lewis

GC STUDENT POLL

How do you think student activities money should be spent?

"Seminars...things that could help us deal with the college life."

Amber Day
Journalism

"Once a month...maybe a meal for the people in the night program, or a smoking area that's closed in so that we're not sitting out here freezing our butts off."

Ashley Crump
Public Relations

"People don't even go in [Student Activities] half the time...the money should be used towards scholarships."

Donna Crane
Education
## October

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Intramurals: 5-on-5 Basketball, Soccer and Pool Volleyball, noon</td>
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<td>BSU-Speaker on Halloween Origin, Lanier AB, noon</td>
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<td>Softball-Braves vs. Cardinals, noon</td>
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<td>BSA-Chili Fund Raiser/Cock-off, Student Center, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.</td>
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<td>Men’s Tennis-Allison/Reed vs. McDonnell/Hamm, Mocny/Starnes vs. Warner/Barrette</td>
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<td>Tunes and Treats, Student Center, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Athens Campus-1* 10 Week Session Exams</td>
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<td>GC Ambassadors- Blood Drive, Student Center, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.</td>
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## November

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>SORBA-Halloween Night Ride, GC, 6:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Deadline for Chorus Application Fee (Optional)</td>
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<td>SGA-Fall Carnival for Kids, Gym, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Signup begins for Nov. 15 at 12</td>
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<td>Softball-Cardinals vs. Mud Dawgs, noon</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Art Club-Artichoke Museum and Lunch, Two Dog Cafe, 12 noon</td>
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<td>Intramurals: 5-on-5 Basketball, Soccer and Pool Volleyball, noon</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>SORBA-Trail Building, Lake Russell WMA, 10 a.m.</td>
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<td>Ed Mayhew: Earth Art Exhibit begins, CE Building</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>GTA-“Ragtime,” Invited Dress, Hosch Theatre, 6 p.m.</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Intramurals: 5-on-5 Basketball, Soccer and Pool Volleyball, noon</td>
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<td></td>
<td>International Club-Origami, Academic III, Room 181, noon</td>
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<td>Regents’ Test, CE Building, Room 108, 2:30 p.m. or 7 p.m.</td>
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<td>GTA-“Ragtime,” (Free for Faculty, Staff &amp; Students), Hosch Theatre 7:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Regents’ Test, CE Building, Room 108, 2:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Images of the 1990s Exhibit begins, Art Gallery</td>
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<td>Communication Skills and Interview Workshop, Athens Campus</td>
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<td>GTA-“Ragtime” Performance, Hosch Theatre, 7:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>BSU-Speaker and Lunch, Lanier AB, noon</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Intramurals: 5-on-5 Basketball, Soccer and Pool Volleyball, noon</td>
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<td>Phi Theta Kappa-Induction Ceremony, Lanier ABC, 4:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>BSA-“Where Do I Go From Here?”, CE Building, Room 109, noon</td>
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<td>Athens Campus-Last Day to Drop 2nd Session Classes</td>
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<td>Social Science Scholarship Application due, Academic II, Room 164</td>
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<td>GTA-“Ragtime” (Free Night), Hosch Theatre, 7:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>“College Transferring,” Lanier AB, 11 a.m. or 5 p.m.</td>
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<td>Transfer Fair, Student Center, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>SORBA-Night Ride, Chicopee Woods, 9:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>BSA-Progressive Men’s Organization, CE Building Room 109, noon</td>
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<td>GTA-“Ragtime” (Free Night), Hosch Theatre, 7:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Intramurals: 5-on-5 Basketball, Soccer and Pool Volleyball, noon</td>
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<td></td>
<td>BSU-Progressive Women’s Organization, CE Building Room 109, noon</td>
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**KEY:**

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<tr>
<th>Clubs</th>
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<tr>
<td>GTA</td>
<td>Schedule Deadline</td>
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<td>Student Activities</td>
<td>Counseling &amp; Testing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intramurals</td>
<td>Athens</td>
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The Future of Voting

It's quick, it's innovative—it's voting made easy, boasted Anne Phillips, Hall County director of elections and voter registrations.

On Aug. 20, registered Hall County voters had the first opportunity in Georgia to use the new automated touch-screen voting systems during the primary and special elections. This was made possible by Cathy Cox, secretary of state.

The purpose of these new innovations in voting is "to be uniform statewide," replied Phillips. Phillips emphasized the differences that futuristic advancements in voting will make, and how recent the new voting systems are. "It's the newest and most up-to-date equipment that we have right now," she said. Phillips added that, due to the simplicity of the machines, voters who are blind or have a sight impairment can vote without assistance through an audio program.

According to Phillips, the new computer program is very accurate. Recounts are more precise, and less time-consuming. To reduce the possibility of user error, there is a summary page of all of the voter's selections at the end of the process. This gives voters the opportunity to change or correct any mistakes made before they commit to their decisions.

Hall County Board of Elections strongly urges inactive, newly qualified and unregistered voters to register and participate in the Nov. 5 general election.

Based on census 2000 figures, nine new precincts have been added due to the nearly 50 percent population growth in Hall County from 1990 to 2000.

In reference to the escalating number of voters, Phillips confided that the new machines "will make a difference."

By JJ Matthews
Opinions Editor
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