BRIEFS

Compass Wins Awards
The Compass staff received 19 awards at the annual Georgia College Press Association Awards. More than the Compass has ever won before.

Foundation Hosts Auction
On Jan. 23, the GC Foundation hosted the annual meeting, dinner and auction to recognize contributors and to raise money for the scholarship fund. The auctions yielded $12,274.

Students Commended for Artwork
Hannah Sieveking was given the President’s Art award for her still-life painting and Lauren Howard was rewarded for her pottery piece. The pieces are in the President’s office and can be viewed during regular college hours.

Nesbitt Honored by Rotary Club
Martha Nesbitt, president of GC, was presented with the Award for Excellence in Vocational Service on Jan. 27 by the Gainesville Rotary Club. She has also been nominated for the Regional Award.

Administration to Hold Open House
From 9 to 11 a.m. on March 29, the GC Administration will hold an Open House in the Student Center to acquaint prospective students with the college.

Secretary of State to Visit GC
Cathy Cox, the Georgia Secretary of State, will be speaking in the CE building on April 14. The visit will be sponsored by GC professor Douglas Young and the Politically Incorrect Club.

Academic I Renamed for Supporters

By Drew Sherwood
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Recently several buildings on the Gainesville College campus have been renamed. These buildings were renamed to honor men and women for supporting quality education.

On Dec. 6, 2002 GC dedicated two campus facilities. The University Center will now be known as the James A. “Bubba” Dunlap University Center and the art department the Frances and James Mathis Visual Arts Center. Dunlap and the Mathises were commemorated during a formal ceremony.

Dunlap was appointed to the Board of Regents in 1960 by then Governor Ernest Vandiver. He quickly became a key member of the board, and in 1962, he was named its chairman. Dunlap served on the Governor’s Commission to Improve Education.

Frances and James Mathis have enriched the cultural life of Northeast Georgia in many ways. Both have a reputation for bringing complex ideas to reality. Mathis served as the chairman of the Gainesville-Hall County Education Task Force. His efforts were instrumental in the creation of GC in 1964.

The James A. Dunlap University Center serves as a clearing-house for baccalaureate and graduate courses at GC. The University Center, which was established in 2000 by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, is now able to enter into formal agreements with four-year colleges to provide a more reasonably priced quality education. The University Center has agreements with North Georgia College and State University and Southern Polytechnic State University.

The Frances and James Mathis Visual Arts Center includes many studios for art students to utilize for drawing, painting, pottery and sculpture. A collection of art was donated by Frances and James Mathis. This collection may be viewed in a display case located within the center.

Student Natalie Simmons observes the newly renamed Dunlap/Mathis Building, formerly Academic I.

As part of the dedication ceremony, GC president Martha Nesbitt had the privilege of announcing that three GC Foundation donors have exploited the advantages of a special giving opportunity. Each $50,000 donation to GC was able to fund a lab that will make a difference for many years to come. The $8.4 million building is considered one of the top teaching facilities in the state.

The Walters Biology Lab was donated by the family of Jim Walters in memory of his father, Daniel P. Walters. The Computer Information Technology Laboratory was dedicated to the memory of Ralph W. Cleveland by his family. Cleveland was also one of the founders of GC. The Geographic Information System Laboratory commemorates the memory of Elizabeth Smithgall Watts by her parents, Charles and Lessie Smithgall. Their daughter was a distinguished anthropologist at the time of her death.

The Hugh Mills Physical Education Complex was dedicated March 20, 1998. GC's faculty, staff, students, retirees and general well-wishers were among the many who gathered that day to honor GC's first president Hugh M. Mills, Jr. Mills was the president of GC from July 1965 to June of 1983. During his presidency, there was a flourishing athletic program on campus. Mills was a strong advocate of open enrollment. He believed the college should be available to any applicant regardless of their background or their preparation. He challenged faculty members to be student-oriented rather than take a disciplinary stance.

These people have helped to further the standard of excellence at GC for years to come.

Lucas Honored for Academic Excellence

By Blake Duncan
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Maintaining a 4.0 GPA is a difficult task for a traditional, single, part-time employed student. Imagine keeping up a GPA that high with over 62 credit hours, while balancing a job and a family. That's what Andrew Lucas does.

Lucas was recently selected out of a pool of five finalists to be the Gainesville College Academic Recognition Day representative by a committee chaired by GC professor Ray-Lynn Snowden. Lucas claims that he retains his high GPA through a healthy balance of school, work and family, along with a willingness to make sacrifices on his time. Dean Mike Stoy appoints the committee that selects the representative.

"The committee would have been comfortable with any of the five finalists," Snowden said. "We had a very strong pool, which speaks well for Gainesville College." Lucas will be recognized at the GC Honors Day ceremony.

The five finalists had to meet certain criteria to make the cut. The criteria, which are handed down from the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, cover GPA, which should be close to or be a 4.0, the student should be an undergraduate resident of Georgia and should represent an attitude of outstanding scholastic achievement.

The committee members include Snowden, Jeff Pardue, Angela Megaw and Mike Ryan. "I really enjoy committee work where I have direct contact with students, and I value academics in a student's life," Snowden said. "This is the type of service I prefer.

Heather Hodges, who has a GPA of 4.0 and is also a finalist, says, "I think that any one of us would have been honored to get the award, but just to be recognized out of over 4,000 students is an honor itself."

The five finalists were Lucas, Hodges, Erin O'Brien Arrendale, David Abner and Chandra Owenby.
GC Campus Becomes Target of Vandals

By Michele Hester
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With the exception of a few minor domestic spats involving personal property damage, the Gainesville College campus has been kept safe from violent acts in the past few years, thanks to GC security.

But last semester GC witnessed a rash of incidents in which cars were broken into and burglarized and automobiles were stolen from the campus. GC security also recovered a stolen automobile on campus.

The most recent incidents occurred during the week of Jan. 31 to Feb. 3. One GC student commented, “Normally, I am cautious. I lock my doors and hide my books in the trunk, but the scary part about this situation is that at least two of the newest incidents took place in broad daylight.”

Douglas Young, associate professor of political science and history at GC, reportedly left his vehicle in the parking lot in front of the gymnasium on Friday, Jan. 31. Upon returning to his car around 6:05 p.m., he discovered that an unidentified party had slashed and deflated all four of his tires. The front window had been shattered with a large rock that “seemed to be strategically” left on the dash, said Young. In addition to the damage that rendered the car undrivable, letters which appeared to be gang initials were carved on the left rear quarter panel and the left front door of the car. Young says that the Hall County Sheriff’s Department said that the incident has all the markings of gang violence, except gang tagging is usually spray painted.

Young does not feel that he was specifically targeted. “My car was one of three that was vandalized in a three-day period.”

The vandals caused over $2,000 in damage to Young’s car, which has since been repaired. Trying to maintain a positive outlook, Young said, “The car is now in better shape than it was before the vandalism took place.”

Also in parking lot D, next to the tennis courts, at the same time a white Plymouth Neon owned by a GC student was vandalized. The victim had left her car in the lot on Friday, Jan. 31. She did not notice that her right rear tire was slashed until she started to drive off campus the next day.

Another incident that happened at approximately the same time involved a large rock which was thrown through a rear window in the fitness center after it closed at 3:45 p.m. Friday. It is not known when this event actually took place, because it was not discovered until Sunday, Feb. 2 by a night shift security officer.

It has been speculated that the same person who is responsible for the two previous acts also caused the damage to the gymnasium. Large river rocks were recovered from inside the gymnasium as well as from Young’s automobile. Young says that he has been told by Hall County police that “they are following up on a few leads.” The HCPD was not available for comment.

The fourth reported act of destruction occurred on Monday, Feb. 3 between 9 and 11 a.m. A student at GC left her blue 1998 Chevrolet Cavalier in parking lot J above the soccer fields, while she was in class. She reported that when she returned at 11 a.m., her dash was damaged and her $180 CD player and CDs worth about $300 were missing. GC security was notified immediately and investigated to determine whether the front doors were both locked, but the back doors of the Cavalier were not.

According to the 2000 Census, between 1990 and 2000 Hall County grew approximately 46 percent, and with this population increase grows the need for more defense precautions. Before this growth, students chose GC because of its small size and rural appeal. Now, like more urban areas, Gainesville-Hall County is experiencing an increase in crime, which is pouring over to the GC campus.

One measure that students, faculty and staff alike should keep in mind is that this is the year 2003, and Gainesville is no longer just a “country town.” It is a booming industrial area that is culturally diverse and economically efficient, much like many larger urban areas.

“The growth of Gainesville-Hall County is not the only issue,” one student claims. The actual enrollment at GC has increased tremendously over the past ten years. “We need to think more openly about what we can all do to keep this the safest campus possible.”

After learning about the most recent violent incidents, GC students have expressed interest in increased security. Natalie Simmons, whose tires were slashed last semester, says she was very upset that the college did not get more involved after her car was vandalized. She believes GC “should be held responsible when these outbreaks of violence occur.”

She spent $100 on a tow truck, and the four new tires cost over $400. She also feels strongly that GC should look into “either hiring more security officers or installing a surveillance monitoring system, especially in the parking lots that have been affected” by the criminal activity.

GC’s security personnel work around the clock to keep the campus a safe place, but they cannot do it alone. Students, faculty and staff have to work alongside the safety department to keep up with the changing face of Gainesville-Hall County.

Young says that he feels safe on the campus, but he adds, “I’m not going to be staying here late on Friday afternoons anymore.” He urges that if anyone who has to be here at a time when the campus is not active, “at least park near a light and be on high alert, but don’t be paranoid. Hopefully, these are isolated, random events.”

GC security wants to remind everyone to take the extra time to lock car doors and be aware of what is going on around them. Everyone, whether student, faculty or staff member, is responsible for what happens on this campus. If something or someone looks suspicious, it should be reported immediately to GC security. Their direct line is 770-294-7227. All reports will be kept confidential.

GC Ranked Top 15 ‘Most Wired’ by Yahoo

By Blake Duncan
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An internet survey provided by Yahoo! Internet Life has ranked Gainesville College in the top 15 “most wired” two-year colleges in the nation, based on technical competence.

To meet the criteria of this survey, GC had to provide information on its computer systems, internet access and research capabilities, and the current plans to incorporate technology into the daily life of students on campus. “There are 850 to 900 computers between the main campus and Athens,” said Brandon Haag, assistant director of informational technology, “two-thirds of which are in classes and student labs.”

The Informational Technology group provides the behind-the-scenes work that amplifies GC’s technical competence. The 11-member group, headed by Rick Coker, works at the campus to maintain network servers, creates student accounts and e-mails, and maintains the Banner system.

There are two network servers located at GC, both of which are campus-wide and independent. The IT group added 24 computers to the ACTT Center, which was rebuilt to create an atmosphere of easier service and access. The addition of the Student Help Desk has contributed to that atmosphere by giving students a friendly face to seek when having computer problems.

The Help Desk is staffed by student aides, like Ryan Terrell, who work closely with the IT group. If the problem is beyond the capabilities of the help desk an IT member is available.

When asked about the IT group, Rick Coker said, “It’s the best IT group in the university system of Georgia. You won’t find a group that’s more dedicated to their work.”

Ryan Terrell, a student Help Desk worker, assists Billy Wang in the ACTT center.
Job Opportunities Abound at Disney

By Michele Hester
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Most college students have to work to support themselves. Wouldn't it be wonderful to spend a few months in the happiest place on earth, get paid to be there and receive college credit for doing it? Well, surprise...that is exactly what Walt Disney World is offering.

In 1981 Walt Disney World created a unique educational opportunity for about 250 college students. They combined real world experience with academic advancement. As a result, today over 3,000 college students per semester from more than 500 colleges all over the country are participating in the Walt Disney World College Program.

This is a one-of-a-kind paid internship for college students from all majors and backgrounds. Students have the opportunity to live with other participants in a multi-cultural environment and learn from the Disney management team, while earning competitive pay with one of the world's leading hospitality and entertainment companies. Students who participate in the program will grow both professionally and personally while they eat, sleep and breathe Disney, or as the WDWCP refers to it, "Live, Learn and Earn."

Working at Disney through the College Program means living a Disney lifestyle. Available housing is provided on the Disney property, with the students contributing the cost of the rent and amenities through weekly payroll deductions. The students share apartments with as many as seven others in a gated community with 24 hour surveillance and many extra amenities like high tech computer labs and on-site libraries. Free transportation to anywhere on Disney property is also provided.

Students learn by choosing to take any of the six courses taught by Walt Disney World instructors. Many institutions accept these credit hours toward graduation. The courses taught have been designed to be beneficial to most any field of study and are open to all participants. While enrolled in the WDWCP, students are still considered full-time students and it is not uncommon for students to take online courses through their home institutions.

Many companies expect interns to work for free. The experience is supposed to be enough. Disney realizes that most college students are not independently wealthy, and they therefore offer this as a paid internship. While the $30 to $45 hour week and the $6.00 an hour salary will not make anyone rich, the experience WDWCP participants take home with them is priceless. Students can work at one of four theme parks, more than twenty hotels and resorts, three water parks, or one of the many dining or retail facilities.

Disney believes that a stay shorter than five months would result in a less than perfect experience and require at least that long of a commitment to be accepted to the program. Auditions are held in the fall and spring with new programs starting every January and August. Most internships last between six and eight months, but interns are allowed to reapply to the program more than once. Bonnie Coker, a student of hospitality management at Gwinnett Technical College, has just returned to Disney for her second program, which will last around eight months. "Last time I was here, I decided to go back to Disney. I love working at Disney. This time I will be at the Studios working at Playhouse Disney." When asked why she chose to seek an internship at Disney, she replied, "You have to love what you are doing to really be good at it, and I truly love working at Disney. Also, what better company to have on a resume than Disney? I cannot imagine a better place to intern."

Along with a great addition to any resume, participants also receive 15 to 20 percent discounts all across the Disney property. Free admission to the parking lot and generous hotel discounts for family visits are just a few of the perks. They also have access to employees-only shops where Disney merchandise is marked down 75 to 90 percent.

The ends of the internships are often accompanied with many teary eyes and sad faces but also with delight. Each graduate of WDWCP receives a diploma and their own set of mouse ears complete with a graduation tassel. Interested applicants can find more information about the program at www.wdwcp.com.

A Back-Up Plan for Sex: The Morning After Pill

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In everybody's life there will come choices, and with those choices, there are consequences. One of the major choices that a young adult will make is whether or not to have sex.

Once the decision to have sex is made, the risk of getting pregnant develops. We've all heard about contraceptives and birth control and how those methods prevent pregnancy. But accidents will happen, like the condom breaks or a few pills are forgotten, and suddenly you find yourself stuck. Here is where Plan B comes into play.

Plan B, also known as "The Morning After Pill," is a two-pill emergency contraceptive that can prevent pregnancy within 72 hours of unprotected sex. Because it does not work if you are already pregnant, it is not an abortion pill. Plan B contains levonorgestrel, which is a synthetic hormone (progestin) commonly used in birth control pills. But in no way does Plan B protect against sexually transmitted diseases and should not be used in place of regular contraception.

When one young woman and her boyfriend, who wish to remain anonymous, had the condom break during sex, both were very worried about the chances of getting pregnant. She says this about the ordeal, "We knew we had to do something, but we didn't know what. My boyfriend got on the internet that night to look up information on what we could do. Our accident, to our dismay, happened on a Friday, so we didn't know if we would be able to slide under the 72-hour mark. My biggest concern, besides getting pregnant, was the hassle that this would cause. Having to get a doctor appointment, find time to get there, then go through an exam and a million different questions. I remember asking myself if it was really worth it."

The woman found Planned Parenting and got an appointment. She found that they had hours on Saturday and that the process was no hassle at all. "I was relieved to find out that there was no examination needed and all I had to do was fill out some paperwork, listen to the nurse talk about side effects, luckily for me I didn't have any and pay for the pills."

Cost is a major contributing factor as to why Plan B's popularity has not grown. Plan B is not covered by insurance. This, however, does enable Planned Parenting to have on-hand prescriptions they offer at the same price as any drug store. The two pills are $40 at Planned Parenting, $20 for each pill, but there is no office fee or other fees so $40 is all that is spent.

How and when a person takes the pills is very important to how effective they are. The pills are to be taken 12 hours apart, so it would be easier to take the first pill in the morning. They should be taken within 72 hours after the accident, yet research has showed that pregnancies have been prevented a few 72 hours. But the more time goes by, the less effective the pills are going to be.

It is important to stress that Plan B is not to be used as a contraceptive, and should only be used in emergencies. Anyone interested in obtaining Plan B by prescription should call his or her pharmacist to make sure that they carry the product, although most health departments and facilities of the sort carry the pills on-site. Plan B is not the only emergency contraceptives on the market, and it is strongly suggested that anyone in need of an emergency contraceptive contact his/her doctor to find out which is best suited for them.
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LIVE it UP!
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Elachee Invaded by Insects

By Jillian Huffman
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Hissing sounds and greetings from gigantic insects surround you as you enter their territory. Okay, so the insects inside aren’t real, but you have to admit, the idea of insects bigger than you is a bit intriguing.

Elachee Nature Center in Gainesville is now hosting their latest exhibit, "Insect Invasion." Here, you can observe mechanical insects which range from 15-22 feet long. The exhibit comes from Kokoro, a company based in Japan and Los Angeles. Kokoro is also the company which brought dinosaurs to the nature center over the past two years. The insects are controlled by interior computers which coordinate pneumatic valves, mimicking the motions of praying mantis, locust, butterfly, caterpillar and more.

The company sent two technicians to aid in the setup of the exhibit. According to Lavan Callahan, communications director for Elachee, volunteers were the actual creative input in decorating the rooms. Callahan said that since "Elachee" is not for profit, we have to rely on the kindness of our friends. Well, their friends did an excellent job in making the exhibit exciting with hands-on features included.

Terry Shuler, lead naturalist at Elachee Nature Center, stands under a giant praying mantis.

As you enter the first room, you are greeted by a praying mantis with open arms. Sitting peacefully next to the mantis is a grasshopper 22 feet long. All of the insects move slowly so that you don’t feel as if they are about to attack, using their graceful movements to intrigue you. Located in front of the insects is information about each of them. The most popular with the children, according to Callahan, is the 15-foot caterpillar. In the last room, you can observe two beetles fighting with each other—not to promote violence, but to show the nature of the animal. It really doesn’t appear as if they are fighting—it looks more like they are playing with one other.

Not only do you get to view the various insects, but hands-on activities are also offered. Microscopes with insect slides, a box in which you can dig for invertebrates, and trivia questions are only a few of the activities available. My favorite were the covered boxes into which you stick your hand and try to guess what the insect is.

The entire exhibit is set up to not only educate you, but to make your learning experience enjoyable as well. Callahan stated that the exhibit and the hands-on experiments "fit our mission in working with the students." You can also obtain a fact sheet to help guide you through the tour.

The exhibit opened on Jan. 19 and the center has already had more than 1,000 visitors. The center is also expecting 4,700 field trips before the exhibit ends. According to Callahan, "46 percent of students who visit the center come from Metro Atlanta." So if all these students are driving miles to come see this exhibit, doesn’t that make you just a little curious?

Admission is $5, unless you’re a member of the nature center, in which case admission is $4. They are open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday 12 p.m.-5 p.m. The exhibit ends April 27, so find the time to view these captivating insects.

Students Commended in Writing Contest

By Heather Hodges
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Several Gainesville College students were commended for their excellence in fiction and poetry writing in the annual GC writing contest. The contest, which ran through fall semester, was open to all GC students. Most entries were the result of assignments from Tom Sauer’s creative writing class. However, several entries were submitted from students outside of the class.

Works could be submitted in two categories, fiction and poetry. Winners were promised an award of $100, while second place winners received $75 and third place received $50.

Scott Ely, a writer from North Carolina, judged the fiction contest. GC professor Elizabeth Welk-Berliner judged the poetry contest.

Both first and second place in the fiction contest were awarded to Frank Reddy, an English major and co-editor of the Chesapeake Review literary magazine at GC. He said of his accomplishment, "Today, Gainesville College. Tomorrow, the world."

Third place in the fiction category went to Blake Duncan, an English major.

Journalism major and co-editor of the Chesapeake Review Matt Lewis won first place in the poetry contest. "I usually write fiction," said Lewis, "so I was really surprised by the award. But he notes that, despite the category, "It's always gratifying to find that someone appreciates your work."

Second place in the poetry contest was awarded to Jessica Murphy.

Michelle Gilstrap, an English major, won third place. While she writes poetry primarily for her own pleasure, she was glad to get some feedback on her work. "I didn't know that anyone else would consider my poetry good," she said.

Aside from the money awarded to the winners, each will have their short stories and poems printed in the Chesapeake Review. A reception for the Review will be held in early April, at which some of the winners will read their works. Contact Sauer or Lewis for more information regarding the Chesapeake Review, the writing contest or the reception.
GC Plans Women's History Month Events

By Leanne Anzola
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An array of young, accomplished women have garnered much attention in the past and continue to do so today. To witness the journeys and hear the stories of successful women, who have both jolted the gender gap and gone about life in their own way, is truly inspiring to other women. I will shine the light on four young women with four different professions: an actress, an in-line skater, a jazz pianist/vocalist and an author.

Of the millions who stormed to theatres this past year to see the second installment of The Lord of the Rings, many were first introduced to the dazzling talent of Australian actress, Miranda Otto, who portrayed Eowyn of Rohan in the film. Having been raised in a family surrounded by actors and performers, Otto learned and gained experience from the very best. While enrolled in school, however, she spent much of her time focusing on her academics and would pull away from the theatre. Days would come when she would feel not quite herself and shortly thereafter she became a victim of the acting bug. When it comes to acting on film, she believes that "the best things are the things you [do not] expect to say or do... Those moments in film are very rare, but that's what I strive for.

"I just want to show that girls can do anything they want to," said professional in-line skater, Fabiola da Silva. She shocked everyone when she proved herself to be just as tough as her male competition in the X Games. The proud bearer of three gold medals from the X Games, she won the first one at the young age of 17 in 1996. She admits that battling it out against the boys has only made her a better skater and has strengthened her abilities. Not much news has been currently said of this Brazilian athlete, but the fiery impact she has had on the world of in-line skating for females will never simmer.

Twenty-two year old Norah Jones, with her album Come Away With Me, has collected much admiration from the media and many Grammy awards. Jones has accepted her overnight fame with grace and her subtle display of talent attracts an additional fan daily. Unlike the flashy antics of other pop princesses, she has made a name for herself smoothly and quietly. This understated goddess of jazz has said, "I'm not really like the personality that emerges from the record. I'm not melancholy... I have a lot of energy. I just tend to like music that's mellow."

Louisa Luna, a native of San Francisco, took the long trip to New York City to pursue her career in writing at New York University. Her first novel, Brave New Girl, published by MTV, has attracted many young female admirers. The book revolves around the life of a teen and her family, friends and a mysterious older guy. Luna actually wrote Brave New Girl while in college and found it difficult to juggle writing a novel with taking classes and working. Though the trouble she faced in finding an agent and a publisher was a struggle, it will most definitely shape her into a writer whose future work will garner much acclaim and respect.

Women from all kinds of professions, backgrounds and interests have steadily continued to put boys to the test. Who will be next? The possibilities seem beautifully endless.
The Secret to Decoding Your Dreams

By Heather Daniels
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Have you ever woken up from a really bizarre dream and wondered why you dreamed it or what it meant? I do all the time.

I have always had a fascination with dreams. I've even looked at books on interpreting dreams, but they never really made sense to me.

On Feb. 6, I went to a workshop here on campus called "Understanding Your Dreams," and believe it or not, I learned quite a bit. Joy Evans, who works in the Counseling and Testing Center in the Student Center, presented this workshop. I didn't even know we had a psychologist on campus, let alone one who could help you to understand your dreams. She also says she will be more than happy to help anybody who would like to learn more. Evans discussed three main topics: remembering dreams, understanding their meaning and the various kinds of dreams.

She told us how to remember dreams first. She said to keep a dream journal beside your bed and as soon as you wake up from your dream write it down with as many details as you can remember. Don't wait until the next morning because you won't remember as much, if anything at all.

Second, she gave us a method on how to understand the dreams we have. In your dream notebook make three columns and label them, from right to left, dream, symbolism and emotion. After writing the dream down, write down what they might symbolize. For example, if you dream about a pink elephant, what things come to mind when you think of an elephant? You might consider it to be large and powerful, or might think of the saying, "An elephant never forgets." So you would write those things down, then add pink to the elephant. What do you think of when you imagine a pink elephant? Maybe the color makes you think of it as being feminine or compassionate or even something you would ignore. Whatever you think, write it down, and once you have all the symbolism written down, think about how it makes you feel. It might make you laugh, so write down that emotion in the third column.

After you have written everything down you can start to analyze your dream. What things are going on in your life right now that remind you of any small nuance of your dream? The last thing Evans talked about was the various general types of dreams. She gave the example of transportation. If you dream of transportation it could mean something in your life is moving forward or backward, depending on which way it is going. Also, the type of transportation can mean different things, like a subway underground could mean a number of things on the subconscious level that is changing, a train or car above ground means it's a physical aspect, or if it is in the air like a plane then it's a higher level of change.

This workshop taught me a lot on how to interpret dreams, and I was even able to interpret a few of my own. The important thing is to ask yourself questions. Why am I dreaming this? What does this represent in my life right now? Also, another important thing to remember is to never take just one answer from anybody or anything. Don't look at a book that only gives one definition to your dream or a person who tells you "exactly" what your dream means, because that is what it means to that person, not what it means to you.

Evans is more than willing to talk to anybody who is interested. She's been right there in the student center for anybody to visit. Who knew?
Committee Formed to Allocate Student Activity Fees to GC Athens Campus

By Priscilla Bugari
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Attention Athens Gainesville College students: Are you looking to get into something other than books?

This month and for the remaining semester, a calendar will be available listing all the student activities going on in Athens, including sports, food and socialization.

The funds for these activities, allocated from Student Activities and paid for by each GC student every semester, were given to a group of students who formed a committee with Athens' director of student development, Michelle S. Brown, to pick out activities that the majority of students would enjoy. Earlier this month, that committee encouraged other students to voice what they would enjoy doing outside the classroom. There will soon be a calendar with weekly activities available.

At the Athens campus, pizza has been served to both day and night classes for over a month. They will continue this until the activities for the campus have been set.

Jo McClendon, Athens night coordinator, says, "It's nice for the students because they are tired and are able to have time to socialize with others. We have in the past supplied coffee for the students and other types of snacks."

Brown has been the one who planned past activities, but she noticed that students had other activities of their own in mind, so she gave the students the chance to do what they wanted with the money. "It helps create a community here, not just a place to go to school," says Brown.

For more information, or to inquire about becoming a part of the new committee, contact the Athens campus offices at (706) 425-3070. They should be able to point you in the right direction.

Student Profile: Drew Sherwood

'You have got to wake up and see the world for what it is.'

By Leanne Anzola
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lan2688@gc.peachnet.edu

At times, in people from whom you least expect it, a glimmer of truth shines through. This glimmer, however, is unfortunately noticed by few and overlooked by many. Luckily, the spotlight has a chance to shine itself upon Andrew Wiley Sherwood.

In the past, you may have seen Sherwood riding around campus and collecting trash. He has been so busy with classes this semester there hasn't been much time for him to clean up after us. Georgia State University awaits Sherwood's arrival this fall. As long as all goes well during his final semester here at GC, Drew will be heading down to Atlanta to study and pursue a major in film and video. A dreamer, yet still managing to keep his feet firmly on the ground, Sherwood has a lot to offer the world of moving images. Society is in desperate need of new and unique voices, and he could lend it his views and opinions.

Surely, a great deal of what is on his mind expresses what most students feel here on campus. For one thing, Sherwood believes that grades are a poor way to judge one's intellect. "More emphasis should be placed on the application of information rather than the ability to memorize it," he explains. "I mean, anyone can memorize something, but when it comes down to actually applying it in your everyday life, that is where it really makes a difference."

Also, Sherwood makes another interesting point, that we are all mainly learning through our professors' own "filters." He adds, "You should not be so dependent on another person's ignorant views or perceptions. What you agree with, take that along with you in life, and just disregard the rest. Besides, everyone puts their own spin on things, who's to say you can't either?"

Although it has been said many times, this world is in dire need of simple human affection and admiration. People are being hurt, whether it is physically, verbally or emotionally, and it is seriously puncturing the heart of mankind. "These days people seem so afraid to put their true feelings out for the world to see in fear of being rejected," Sherwood says. "This whole world is one huge market of untold truths. Everyone should find what makes them who they are and stick to it. Be true to yourself and then maybe others will get the same idea."

Of course, seeking out the truth in people is a complicated task. As young adults, many may feel pressured to do things, becoming lost in the chaotic turmoil of the world. In response to this, Drew reveals that "when you are at your lowest, no one can bring you back up but yourself. You have got to wake up and see the world for what it is. People should always have hope, though. That is one of our redeeming qualities. A person's mere love and compassion can do a lot in making this possible."

Although you may know Drew Sherwood as a GC employee, he is also a GC student with big plans for his future.
BRIEFS

Bench Press Contest to be Held April 21
The GC Bench Press contest will be held on Monday, April 21 in the gym. It is open to men and women in every weight class. For more information, contact Glenn Preston at glpreston@gc.peachnet.edu.

Sign Up for GC Triathlon
Can you swim 200 yards, bike 3.5 miles, or run 1.5 miles? If so, then sign up for the GC triathlon to be held on Wednesday, March 26 at 12:10 p.m. For more information, contact Glenn Preston.

Tam Cao Wins 8-Ball Tournament
Tam Cao won the 8-ball tournament held on Wednesday, Feb. 12 at noon. Second place went to Ernesto Sandoval, and third place went to Andy Blimline. For information regarding upcoming tournaments, stop by the game room.

5-K Rumble in the Jungle Set for April 6
The Georgia Grand Prix racing circuit is hosting the "5-K Rumble in the Jungle" at GC on Sunday, April 6 at 2 p.m. Racing starts near the gym and continues around the nature/bike trails on campus. Contact Caywood Chapman for information at cchapman@gc.peachnet.edu.

Sign Up For Intramurals
Sign up for spring intramurals at http://www.gc.peachnet.edu/students/intramurals/. March sports include soccer and 5-on-5 basketball. Track and Field, 3-on-3 basketball, and softball begin in April. For more information or to sign up, contact James Howard at jhoward@gc.peachnet.edu.

SPLOST Greenway Proposal

Greenway Routes

- Aviation Blvd - Palmour Dr (Phase 1)
- Chicopee Woods (Phase 1)
- Alanta Hwy (Phase 1)
- Blistus Creek (Phase 1)
- Flat Creek - McEver Rd (Phase 2)
- Mid-Town (Planning Phase)
- Rock Creek - Downtown (Existing)

Bike Trail to Link South Hall County; Proposal Supported by SORBA

Natalie Simmons
Sports Editor
nsim1693@gc.peachnet.edu

Are you tired of stalking your fellow students for their parking spaces? How would you like to ride your bike to school on a personalized paved trail that connects Gainesville College with the rest of the city of Gainesville? Within three years, this might all be possible.

There is a proposal before the Hall County Commission to use future SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax) revenues for a 7.28-mile multi-purpose trail. This trail, also called a greenway, would be designed for walking, jogging, cycling and other passive recreational use.

“"It would also link a number of parks and greenspaces in South Hall,” said Tom Sauret, GC professor and SORBA advisor.

This ten-feet-wide concrete trail will open at dawn and close at dark. If built, the trail will also link subdivisions and local schools, making parking much more efficient for those GC students who would utilize it.

For the full 7.28-miles, an estimated cost of $6.4 million would be needed. However, this cost does not include land purchase.

You might be a sking, "why spend so much money on a bike trail?" Well, according to Bill Andrew, Hall County Grants Director, greenways preserve the environment, culture and history. “Greenways may preserve what is most fragile in our past and in our environment,” Andrew stated at the Winter Retreat for the Hall County Commissioners. He also went on and gave this statistic: A survey in Missouri indicated that 55 percent of Greenway users reported exercising more once having access to a Greenway.

“This project would not only provide recreation but also transportation,” said Sauret.

If you would like more information about the proposed greenway, then you can contact Sauret at tsauret@gc.peachnet.edu or check out the PowerPoint presentation by Bill Andrew at http://www.gc.peachnet.edu/humanities/tsauret/splost_greenway_proposal_1.pdf.

Scholarships Available for Fall 2003
Will you be a GC student this fall?
Are you interested in any of the following?
Writing, Editing, Photography, Drawing or Ad Sales
If any of these tasks interest you, then there is a place for you on the Compass staff.
Contact Michele Hester at ahes2131@gc.peachnet.edu if you are interested in being a Compass staff member in fall 2003.
Carter is Crazy for Rock Climbing

GC student Wayne Carter is nuts about rock climbing! Hanging upside down, eighty feet in the air, dangling by a thin rope is what Carter calls fun. I recently tracked Carter down from his busy schedule and this is what he had to say about his rock climbing experiences:

NS: When did you first get started in rock climbing?
WC: I became interested in senior year in high school when wrestling season was over, did I mention I was a state competitor? Anywho, I started climbing with some buddies of mine to stay in shape during the off-season.
NS: So for almost four years you have been climbing?
WC: Yeah, but only the last year and a half have I really taken it seriously.

NS: What do you mean by seriously? How often do you climb?
WC: I usually try to climb about two or three days a week. I always spend one day a week indoors at Atlanta Rocks in Doraville working on strength and technique. The rest of my free time I like to climb outdoors. That’s where the real adventure is.

NS: Where are your favorite outdoor climbing locations?
WC: I usually go to Allenbrook in Roswell, near Vickery Creek, but if it’s a nice weekend then I have to go to Sandrock, Alabama. It has the best views and is usually not crowded.
NS: Isn’t it more dangerous to climb outdoors?
WC: Nah, not too bad. I always carry a mattress with me just in case I fall.
NS: Does a mattress really help?
WC: Not at all, I just take one to make my mom feel better about the whole thing.
NS: So I’m guessing that you have fallen before.
WC: Yeah, the scariest time was right when I was learning to climb, my belaying partner forgot to pull the slack and when I lost my grip I fell about 20 or so feet and landed upside down on my harness.

NS: Did you have a mattress at that time?
WC: No, I hit the ground but wasn’t hurt, just pissed off.

NS: What about this summer? Are you planning any trips or outdoor adventures?
WC: Yeah, I’m going to Foster Falls, Tennessee for some great sport climbing, just about every route there is bolted. I plan to go about mid July and get back just in time for my 21st birthday at the end of the month.
NS: Well, Good luck with all of your adventures and be safe!

I was just about the leave the student center, which is where we met for this interview, when Carter stopped me and asked, “Aren’t you going to ask me if I have a girlfriend?” “No,” I replied, “Why would I?” “Well I could really use a female climbing partner, can’t you put that in the paper?” So I agreed to do this: If you would like any more information about rock climbing or would like lessons you can contact Wayne Carter at wcar2693@gc.peachnet.edu.

CHEESY SPORTS JOKES

Signs that you’ve chosen the wrong Mount Everest Guide:
5. The last three days, all you’ve had to eat is s’mores.
4. Every morning (s)he greets the group with “Wonder who will die today?”
3. The first day’s preparation is devoted to making snow angels.
2. (S)he keeps using the oxygen tank to make balloon animals.
1. And every ten minutes, stops and yells “RICOLA.”

*If you have a cheesy sports joke and you would like to see it featured in the Compass then email them to me at nsim1693@gc.peachnet.edu.

Physical Education Facility Hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fitness Center</th>
<th>Pool</th>
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<tr>
<td>M,W: 6-7:50 a.m. and 12-9:45 p.m.</td>
<td>M,W: 6-7:50 a.m. and 11-11:50 a.m.</td>
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<td>T,TH: 6-7:50 a.m. and 12-9:45 p.m.</td>
<td>4-5:30 p.m. and 7:45-9:45 p.m.</td>
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<td>F: 6-7:50 a.m. and 11-3:45 p.m.</td>
<td>T,TH: 6-7:50 a.m. and 4-9:45 p.m.</td>
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<td>Sat: 8-10:45 a.m.</td>
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<td>Sun: CLOSED</td>
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Gym

F: 6-7:50 a.m. and 11-11:50 a.m.

Sat: 8-10:50 a.m.

Sun: CLOSED
Jiu Jitsu Club Formed at GC, Classes Now Being Offered

April Landry
Clubs Editor
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Attention Gainesville College students: a new club has come to GC. The Jiu Jitsu Club teaches the art of Japanese jiu jitsu fighting.

James Goddard, who holds a Blue Belt in Japanese and Brazilian jiu jitsu and who is the course instructor explains, "It is one of the oldest martial arts in existence today. Japanese jiu jitsu encompasses all ranges of fighting: punching, kicking, throwing, blocking and grappling."

Jiu jitsu, or "gentle art" in Japanese, began when Japanese warriors saw a need for a standardized unarmed combat technique. A lifelong commitment to the art was encouraged. Other martial arts, such as judo and aikido, are offshoots of jiu jitsu.

"If you wanted to be a well-rounded fighter today, you would have to take four to five different arts and put them together to make what is commonly referred to as Mixed Martial Arts, or MMA. Most people do not realize that when they mix these, they are actually recreating Japanese jiu jitsu," says Goddard.

So, why join the club? "If you come to my class we do Japanese and Brazilian jiu jitsu, as well as some self-defense type stuff," Goddard says. "If you want to be a well-rounded fighter or self-defender, take jiu jitsu. You won't become a good puncher as a boxer, nor will you become as good a kicker as a kickboxer. But you will learn how to kick and punch, as well as learn how to identify your opponent and his weaknesses."

The jiu jitsu club is open to anyone, but only the first class is free. Starting March 4, Thursday classes will be from 4-6 p.m., and from 7-9 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays. The cost is $10 per class, $50 per month, or $100 for the entire semester. "We have new people show up all the time and we work them in and get them caught up. I try to do the class so that everyone learns every night," Goddard said. "You won't walk out the first night ready to compete in a tournament, but I guarantee that after one consistent month, they will be able to beat any Black Belt taekwondo student."

For more information on joining the club, contact James Goddard at jgod6341@gc.peachnet.edu.

Second Wind Breezes Into Semester

Club Looks to Assist Non-Traditional Students

April Landry
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There are two kinds of students at GC. There are traditional students, and there are non-traditional students. A non-traditional student is someone who has been out of school, or has been graduated from high school for five years or more. For this type of student, the Second Wind club was formed.

Education major and president of the Second Wind Club, James Yeomans says, "What I'm trying to do basically with Second Wind is give information to the members about the different services available to them on campus."

The Second Wind Club meets every other Wednesday from 12 noon to 1 p.m. in the lower faculty dining room. There is a free lunch provided for its members. "We bring in different people from different departments to speak about a topic they express interest in," says Yeomans. "We have had people from the nursing department, education department, secretarial department, and let students know that there are others out there and we can give each other a hand."
Calendar of Events

Mon: BASH NIGHT (ALL YOU CAN EAT WINGS / 5PM TO 10 PM)
Tues: 35 CENT WINGS (ALL DAY / EAT IN OR TAKE OUT)
Wed: BASH NIGHT (ALL YOU CAN EAT WINGS / 5PM TO 10 PM)
Thur: KARAOKE (8:00PM TO 12:00AM / OVER 21 ONLY)
Fri: LIVE BAND (8:00PM TO 1:00AM / OVER 21 ONLY)
Sat: LIVE BAND (8:00PM TO 12:00AM / OVER 21 ONLY)
Sun: KIDS EAT FREE (ALL DAY)

POOL ROOM IS OPEN TO PLAYERS OF ALL AGES
MADDEN 2003 TOURNAMENT ON PS2

ATTENTION STUDENTS
BUY 16 WINGS, GET 10 FREE
WITH THE PURCHASE OF A BEVERAGE & YOUR GC STUDENT ID
THIS OFFER IS NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER, COUPON OR PROMOTION

BUFFALO'S SOUTHWEST CAFE - OAKWOOD
ATLANTA HWY & ROUTE 53 (IN THE PUBLIX SHOPPING CENTER)
DINE IN OR TAKE OUT: 770 - 297 - 730
Are Women the New Face
Male College Enrollment Down, Female Enrollment Up

By Heather Hodges
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Next time you are in a classroom, try this experiment: First, look to your right. Now look to your left, and then back to your front and your back. What do you see? Most likely, your answer is "women."

This semester, female students at Gainesville College outnumber male students by 608. This is not only true for this semester, however. The percentage of female students at GC is growing. In fall 1981, the first semester for which gender data at GC is available, GC was 50.2 percent female. In fall 2002, females made up 57.2 percent of the student body.

Many GC faculty members have noticed this trend. "I notice the disparity between female and male students most often in my American Government classes, where it is not unusual to have the women outnumber the male students four or five to one," says Penny Mills, associate professor of political science and director of special programs. "There has been an imbalance since I have been teaching here at GC," says Diane Cook, associate professor of psychology, and a GC employee of nine years. This is not a trend confined to GC, but rather one of national concern. Since 1970, a gender shift has occurred in all 50 states, according to a study by Goucher College called "The Changing Gender Balance: An Overview."

Martha Nesbitt, president of GC, notes that this trend is true throughout the country. "It's definitely a trend in two-year colleges," she says. "Nationally, female high school graduates have been more likely to attend college in the fall immediately following graduation than their male counterparts throughout the entire 1990s," according to a study of Massachusetts schools, called "Gender Gaps in High School Dropout Rates and College Attendance Rates in Massachusetts and Its Localities: The Educational Benefits of Economic Boys and Their Families and Social Consequences."

Michael McDaniel, instructor of sociology, echoes this fact. "A study at Florida State University indicates that, as early as eighth grade, more girls than boys report that college is in their future plans." She says, "This expectation difference holds through high school. As a matter of fact," says McDaniel, "more women than men graduate from high school, which is certainly helpful if you plan on attending college."

Female students outnumber male students of all ethnicities—white, black, Asian, Hispanic, and American Indian. This is true also for nontraditional students. In fact, the gender gap widens as age increases, says the Massachusetts study.

Not only are females becoming the dominant face of colleges, but they are also more likely to earn degrees. "For more females are retained at GC and go on to earn a degree," says John Hamilton, director of institutional research.

Women outnumber men in attainment of Associates, Bachelor's, and Master's degrees. "Only among Ph.D. recipients do men continue to outperform women, but, even here, gender gaps in degree attainment have narrowed over the past two decades," says the study out of Massachusetts.

Why the Imbalance?"The ratio of male to female in our area is 50 to 50," says Hamilton. "Thus, as is the case at GC, there must be something going on."

So exactly what is going on? What is it that is encouraging women to enter colleges, or keeping men away from them? "It may have something to do with the way we are socialized. Boys go says McDaniel. "Boys become desirous, especially in sports, like sports. Another cliché is that the money is more highly earned, as masculine cultural ideal."

She says, "Girls continue to be praised for academic achievement all through school, so they are more likely to have parental and peer support for their continued studies."

"I don't think that men are actually being excluded from college," says McDaniel. "Rather, they are choosing not to go."

Socioeconomics may have something to do with this choice. "More men can obtain jobs without a college degree and potentially make a living," says Cook. "It is more difficult for women, especially since women are still getting 75 cents to the dollar compared to men's pay."

Others cite negative or nonexistent male role models as a major cause of the college gender gap. "Boys are losing adult male role models in key formative years, which is often the result of divorce or single-parenthood," says the Goucher College study.

Women, on the other hand, have been uncertain, notes McDaniel. "Today's young female grows up being told that they can do anything they want to do."

Because of this, college is becoming a standard, not a choice, for many women. "Women are setting their aspirations higher for careers, thus necessitating higher levels of education," says Mills. "More women are returning to school or coming for the first time after they have their children in school, so when they find themselves in situations where they must support themselves and children.

Dual-earner families are common in the U.S. today. The majority of families have "Today, for the way they want to live, two people working," says McDaniel. And so women have raised up to the plate, and with hesitation."

"The sheer number of women in the workforce the last 30 years has influenced younger generations of women to not only accept the possibility of working for a living, but also to look forward to personal fulfillment in a career that involves some specialization in knowledge and training," says McDaniel.

Women also possess certain characteristics that enable them to go the distance toward getting a college degree. Females have a longer range of vision, and are generally more future-oriented. "That's what college is all about," says Hamilton. Young men, on the other hand, are usually more self-gratifying and have a tendency to "live for the moment," he says.

Females will seek help in classes, says Hamilton. Men, he notes, "have a more difficult time dealing with the frustrations of college," and they often refuse to request assistance.

What Does It Mean?It is obvious that a gender gap exists. But what implications does this imbalance have for women, men, colleges and society? Is this a problem of a long-awaited boost for women?

"More women getting educated in the long run is really good for society, because it gives them an equality that they didn't have when they weren't educated and when they didn't own property," says Nesbitt.

Many see the increasing number of women in colleges as an opportunity. "I believe we will also see increasing numbers of women in leadership positions in employment, society and government," says Mills.

Some note that the impact of the gender gap could be negative. The Massachusetts study says, "There will be even fewer men in the professional and managerial ranks relative to the increasing pool of college educated women, especially among Blacks and Hispanics, but also increasingly among Whites."

Marital problems could result.

"Historically, men tended to have more education than women in relationships, and both parties were comfortable with this," says McDaniel. "Today, more men and women are accustomed to greater equality between the sexes."

"If the trend continues, women will face a real dilemma in finding partners who possess the same level of education and intellectual abilities," says Mills. "Women seldom marry men with considerably less formal schooling than they possess," says the Massachusetts study. "As women continue to outpace men in their acquisition of post-secondary degrees, one can expect well-educated women to confront marriage squeeze, faced with an increasingly smaller pool of potential male mates with similar levels of formal schooling."

"College tends to expand your outlook and expose you to different cultural interests that may or may not be shared by a non-college-educated spouse," says McDaniel. "This may sound unimportant, but research indicates that this type of issue can be quite a sore spot in marriages."

Other troubles may arise for men. "Nationwide, this trend could, over time, lead to less awareness and appreciation for the male perspective on life," said Susann Doyle, associate professor of psychology.

Doyle cites other potential dilemmas resulting from the gap, such as "an undereducated male population, which in turn could cause other problems, such as less earning potential for males, increased societal burden on females (unless males take over traditionally female roles), increased crime, etc."

"Colleges and universities will find it increasingly difficult to have a diverse student body with the male/female imbalance, but will face difficulty in attempting to remedy the situation because they are pressured to eliminate affirmative action programs," says Mills. The imbalance could also lead to a "less-balanced view of the world for the students in class," says Doyle. "Often times I have had class discussions where we need male input, but there hasn't been any because there are no, or few, males in class."

Good and bad, many consequences of the gender gap may not be observable for years, and some surely cannot be predicted.

But most concede that, education, for anyone, can have only positive effects. "The more highly our society values education, and the greater the percentage of women and men attend college, the stronger we all are," says McDaniel."
Real Respect Comes with Knowledge, Not Empathy

By Mariquita Davis
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In my life I have recognized that most females are familiar with or attend practice with a gynecologist. Most males I know have rarely or never seen a urologist, even my brother argued that a urologist was not a gynecological counterpart.

I have heard the rumors of the girls that have slept with entire sports teams and failed to hear the names of the team members slandered. I know of the legend that some virgin turned slut one night after taking several guys in bed.

Then there are the rapes and pregnancies with absent or periodic fathers that seep in to gossip, and I cannot recollect how many times in conversation where a female had told me she had been molested.

If one quiets themselves and their thoughts she or he could catch the pain of domestic abuse.

I live a safe and boring life here in southern suburbia unlike the lives of those unveiled to me. I have merely listened to the lives of women around me and in my case alone I have heard enough to jump start a revolution for these women. Can anyone imagine what other atrocities occur outside of one’s own preference? I haven’t begun to explain the knowledge that comes from a book or television.

My point is obscure, but oddly I feel as if these words I write will have a vague familiarity to the audience. There are women and men who take their knowledge of these travesties to the streets and courtrooms into the atmosphere with burning bras and silent protests of secret handouts of contraceptives, and even the hum of a medical dildo in a clinic far away from their husbands’ grasp.

I’m still listening and trying to understand how a well-manered and clean-cut man can voice his respect to me in 2003 by saying, “You work and go to school? You gotta respect a girl that has that much discipline!” (I’ll forgive him.)

I respect a man who can diagram my reproductive system, clitoris to fallopian tubes, and if he giggles it won’t be a problem because I do have a sense of humor. I’ll even talk testes and vas deferens with him and his one urethra. And if he enjoys the conversation I’ll take him to see it on stage, where women in character site a collaboration of monologues about vaginas and vulvas respectfully out loud with no worries. Maybe this man will be able to discuss gender ideologies and roles and if he can stomach it I can ask him what he feels about female genital mutilation and how I feel it’s correlation in sex is male gender bias. This fellow and I would be at the same level with one another. Such insightful propaganda would never match the breadth of recorded male history, could it?

I want to know more about my heritage and gender. Would my fictitious companion wish the same? Will you? Do you?

The periphery of my safe and boring life in southern suburbia has overwhelmed me. I will listen and I will learn.

Dedicated to my friend Kat Luthi.
Spring has Sprung, Swimsuit Season is Near
A Guide to Finding a Suit That Fits You

By Michele Hester
Staff Writer
ahes2131@gc.peachnet.edu

Finally, spring has sprung. It’s so nice outside. The temperature is generally between 65 and 80 degrees. No one has to wear bulky coats anymore. It’s not too cold to walk across campus. The birds are singing. The flowers are blooming. It’s a wonderful time of the year.

A wonderful time for the beautiful people, that is. Spring is a lot less complicated for perfect people. It’s the season for exquisitely sculpted abs, long tanned legs, and overall buff bodies. So for the five or six people who fall under this category, spring is going to be a breeze. It’s so much easier to decide what to wear when you look like a Sports Illustrated swimsuit model. The only big decision for them will be whether to wear light blue to match their eyes or pink that is going to glisten so nicely next to their bronze skin.

Spring is supposed to be a time of fun and relaxation, but to some spring is about depression and sheer torture. Nothing is more stressful and dreaded than a fitting room at a swimsuit boutique. Some girls spend hours trying on suit after suit after suit, hoping to find the perfect suit for their body type. Then, finally, after hours in front of three way mirrors, under fluorescent lighting, they become tired and give in and spend $70 on a suit that’s not right for their body type.

The main goal, just like most aspects of life, is to maximize the assets and minimize the liabilities. In short, this means to show off what’s good and cover up or conceal those trouble zones.

Almost everyone has something they don’t like about their bodies. It’s human nature. I once read that even though Jennifer Lopez has the most famous backside in Hollywood, she thinks her chest should be larger. Now that’s not saying that J-Lo needs to get implants. She could always just wear bikini tops with padded cups and underwire to define and lift. A 1960’s surfer-girl-inspired bra could always just wear bikini bottoms and ruffles is great for a short waist. The v-neck top draws eyes up away from bust. The bikini bottom ties at each hip and provides much coverage in the back. Available at www.tropicalies.com for $84.

Tankini by XOXO adorned with polka dots and ruffles is great for a short waist. Available at www.neimanmarcus.com for $126.

Black v-neck one-piece suit by Gottex with white trim running diagonally creates the illusion of a thinner waist. Available at www.neimanmarcus.com for $126.

Top silhouettes even the smallest curves. Gathers across the chest can also pad the top and ruffles and v-necks draw eyes toward the face and away from an uncomfortable area.

On the other hand, many girls complain about having breasts that don’t fit into two-piece bathing suits. One thing to keep in mind is that a string bikini is not the only kind of swimsuit that comes in two pieces. Tankinis, two-piece swimsuits with a top that looks like a tank, are very popular now. They balance out the figure and many even have built-in shelf bras that can add coverage. Thicker, woven fabrics as well as underwire allow well-endowed women to wear bikinis because they add that extra support needed.

Breast size is by no means the only complaint when choosing a bathing suit. Girls with short waists can look less boxy by choosing suits with low, ruffled waist bands or low rise boy shorts. Even a small, low belt would lengthen the appearance of the torso.

Alternately, long waists need suits that will create the illusion of a shorter waist. Suits with horizontal stripes and lines at the waist cut the torso’s appearance. High-cut leg openings lengthen thighs. And again tankini’s are great because they are longer for a better fit.

The greatest criticism in the fitting room is from full-bottomed girls, which probably explains why they actually have the most options. The most common way to target the troublesome back side is the traditional cover-up. They come in a variety of styles, colors, and even lengths and can be strategically placed exactly over the problem area. But who wants to spend the whole day lounging by the pool covered up? Board shorts are a great alternative. Many swimsuit makers even have board shorts to match swimsuit patterns and designs. That way it looks more like a fashion statement than like you’re trying to hide something. If cover-ups are not for you, the best way to conceal a few extra pounds in back is to try to balance out the figure. Soft, built-in cups add lift, while suits with an empire waist and lines on the top accent the bosom instead of the derriere.

Looking great means feeling great, but comfort should always be the first consideration when making a bathing suit. ...
Steve Earle in Concert

By Dustonia Call
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In the midst of a sold-out crowd at the newly re-opened Orange Peel in Asheville, NC, the choice topic of conversation wasn’t Steve Earle or even how much longer till opening act Garrison Starr took the stage, (for the record, 10 p.m.). Instead, on this, the night after Great White’s Rhode Island tragedy, necks craned and heads turned skyward, seeking out sprinklers and exit signs, the collective jitters of the compressed, standing-room-only audience oozily compounded by the strangely flame-like yellow-orange strobes at each end of the bar bathing us in flickering light each time an emergency exit was opened.

Our fear dissipated as a cute Garrison Starr grabbed first our attention, then our hearts with tracks from her 2002 release, Songs From Take-off to Landing.

Then Steve Earle took the stage, opening with songs from his current Grammy-nominated release, Jerusalem, including “America v. 6.0” and “Ashes to Ashes,” steering clear of songs maybe a bit too vocally demanding for his current condition, yet still managing to include concert favorites, “Guitar Town” and “Copperhead Road.”

Fatigued from an extended bout of something like the flu with a voice not yet recovered, Earle’s vocals took on a gravelly feel, growing steadily worse with each new song, though by no means cutting his set short because of it. Instead, with a dull look in his eyes, he played through the pain, allowing the audience to raise their beers and take up his slack.

Filling the space between songs with the Steve Earle-sns his fans have come to expect, Earle was like an evangelist preaching to his choir, explaining his recent illness and show cancellations, (“I didn’t even cancel that many when I was on dope!”), defining paranoia (“Paranoia is unfounded fear with no basis in reality...They may not be watching you, but I promise you they’re f—ing watching me!”) and urging those present to get involved in their government. (“In democracy it is never, ever wrong to question those in authority!”

Earle finished with an extended encore, including a rousing rendition of The Chamber Brothers’ “Time Has Come Today” and a poignant version of The Youngbloods hit “Get Together,” that so mehow fit the mood in the air, the pre-war sentiment in a liberal town, where his voice finally gave way in a mighty crack during the chorus, and having planted the seeds of an urging for greater understanding, he left us to ponder our own existence and ideals.

Steve Earle plays at the Orange Peel in Asheville, North Carolina on Feb. 21.

‘Servant’ Masters Art of Comedy

By Carrie Wood
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“Servant of Two Masters” is a wildly funny portrayal of the most confusing love story I have ever seen.

Jim and Gay Hammond have successfully brought their adaptation of Goldoni’s comedy to life and found a way for it to feel at ease in the 21st century. Considering the play was written in the 1700’s, they succeed brilliantly in their attempt to revise and revive this masterpiece.

The Hammonds hosted a stage tour before the play was due to open. A stage tour is where the public is invited to watch a rehearsal and learn how the play is put together. According to the Hammonds, they experimented with three different scripts and three different translations of “Servant of Two Masters.” Two of the scripts were British and one was an unpublished version. One version was very vulgar, but extremely funny. The second was also very funny, but the Hammond’s thought it to be a little too British. The third translation was a sort of middle of the road version and at times too incomprehensible. The Hammonds also explained that the original script is MIA (missing in action), which makes the Hammonds’ adaptation as original as the original.

The directors admitted during the stage tour that the scariest part of being a director is trying to be funny, but after seeing the performance, they have nothing to be afraid of. The room was rumbling with laughter and at times howling. The audience participation was one of the best aspects of the show. I eagerly awaited the next time Truffaldino or Smeraldina would come out of the context of the play and begin to joke with an audience member. Not to mention there is a hilarious moment, which involves the cell phone of an audience member who, I must add, looks a lot like Jim Hammond. Hmmmm...

Jimmy Ray Ward did a spectacular job on the stage design and architecture with the help of some very talented assistants. The set is full of surprises. For example, not all the doors open the way normal doors do, and the audience feels as if they are at a fun house. One simple slide of a beam made the set change tremendously. The sense of architecture perfectly nails the period the play is set in, very Italian.

Christine Beaman, the costume designer, has done a stupendous job portraying the insanity of the play. The costumes are as loud and colorful as the dialogue itself. It is a parade of bright colors throughout. I recommend that anyone who is a fan of not just comedy, but remarkable, up-beat, laugh-out-loud, obnoxious sarcasm (my personal favorite) see this play and bring your friends. You will most assuredly have a hilariously rapturous evening.
Did Cornwell Find the Real Ripper?

I decided to take a detour from the types of books I normally review and hit on something a little bit different. So far, all of my book reviews have been on fiction novels, but that’s not what everybody reads. So this time I picked a recent novel from the True Crimes section of Barnes & Noble. Portrait of a Killer: Jack the Ripper: Case Closed by Patricia Cornwell is the recipient of my attentions for this issue of the paper.

Now, some may call this novel a work of fiction, or fiction based on nonfiction, because Cornwell is convinced she has found out who the most notorious killer of 19th century London is. Many people are still not convinced, even after reading all her evidence that the case has been solved. For the sake of this review, let’s not ask questions and just assume that Cornwell is, without a doubt, correct in what she believes.

We all know the history of the Jack the Ripper murders. He went around the East End of London killing prostitutes in very vicious ways. He taunted the police with letters supposedly written in the victim’s blood and not once did the police ever come close to capturing this serial killer. Patricia Cornwell takes her extensive knowledge of police investigating and modern forensics to London to solve the case. After much research, sleepless nights and haunting dreams she believes she has found the culprit. And who is the unlucky recipient of her convictions? None other than the famous painter, Walter Richard Sickert.

Cornwell takes us step-by-step on how she came to this conclusion. She goes into detail about the life of Sickert, the life of a prostitute in that day and age and, the most interesting of all, into the mind of a psychopathic serial killer. She wants her readers to understand completely how she came to the conclusion that she did. She gives hard and damning proof that Sickert was, in fact, the night stalker of so many of London’s “unfortunates” (the name prostitutes were given in the 1880s). Many of Sickert’s paintings look very similar to the morgue pictures of the Ripper’s victims, as you can see from the many photographs that are included in this book. That is one of many “coincidences” in the almost parallel lives of Jack the Ripper and Sickert.

When I first picked up this book to read for the review, I thought that Patricia Cornwell would be a stuck-up snob who thinks she knows everything, but being a book critic I can’t really be biased, so I gave it a shot. The first few pages of chapter two changed my opinion. Cornwell said that she “was frightened and uneasy about what [she] was doing.” She said there was no joy in investigating and writing about Jack the Ripper; she felt he was stealing her life away. That made me pause and think. She may be convinced she knows who did it, but she was worried about the rest of the world believing her. Dead or alive, she didn’t want to convict an innocent man. But because she believed she was right, she went ahead with the book. I enjoyed reading this book and would recommend it to others, especially those interested in true crime. It taught me a lot. I’m not saying that I fully support what Cornwell says, but it does give the reader quite a bit to think about.

Reason #658 Why TV is Bad

“It’s not the end of civilization, but you can see it from there!” These words were uttered by Robin Williams in reference to last year’s “Celebrity Boxing” TV show, but by extension, he was referring to the entire gamut of so-called “reality TV,” and I can see his point. This, apparently, is what we, the television-watching public, have been reduced to—voyeurism-by-proxy (so to speak).

From the pathetic wannabees of “American Idol” to the shameless gold-digging money-grubbers of “Joe Millionaire,” this genre of television has grown by leaps and bounds in recent months, fueled, apparently, by an insatiable desire on the part of the viewing public to watch our neighbors whose themselves on TV for their Warholian fifteen minutes (allow me to point out that Andy was in fact being SARCASTIC. You do NOT deserve to be on TV).

In view of the increasingly banal (not to say venal) nature of “reality TV,” I find myself cynically wondering about the motives behind the genre. It’s obviously profit-driven, but another facet that I think is being overlooked is the fact that these shows require no talent whatsoever on the part of anyone involved with them. There are no writers, no directors, no actors, only producer after producer after producer. What does this imply for the quality of the programs? The production companies have obviously realized that not needing talent is a great way to save money. You can throw a bunch of reasonably good-looking people onto an island somewhere and make them eat scorpions and they’ll do it, no questions asked, as long as you get them on TV. And the promotion of these series is as overwhelming as it is shameless; you can’t look anywhere on TV without seeing another endless stream of ads for reality-based television. And what really gets me is the fact that almost all these shows are on broadcast television, which means that none of them can actually deliver on their promises, whether of titillation or of danger. And there’s the rub. This stuff is no more “reality” than anything else you see on the idiot box. There is no real danger; nobody on “Fear Factor” or “Survivor” is actually going to die, that hot chick (or guy, if you prefer) on “Temptation Island” is not going to get naked, or if she (or he) does, we’re not going to see it.

It’s also interesting to look at the double standard these shows promote. When one of the contestants on “Joe Millionaire” was revealed to have been in a light, non-pornographic B&D movie, it actually made the national news, as if were possible that this woman could somehow lower the tenor of the show—or as if it were something even remotely newsworthy to begin with. Remember the fuss when Darva Conger, the original woman who wanted to “Marry a Millionaire,” posed for Playboy? It was as if she had tarnished the show’s otherwise impeccable reputation! This points to a fundamental flaw in American morality, which I guess is a holdover from our Puritanical beginnings. We seem to be able to mark an invisible line, over which it is not permissible for our celebrities to cross. The weird thing is that this line is in a different place for each celebrity, and for some it seems not to exist at all.

All of this reminds me once again why I don’t watch television. At least with movies you don’t get the pretentious hypocrisy of these programs. Harlan Ellison is right: TV is a glass teat at which the masses suckle, trying in vain to get some intellectual nourishment but receiving only empty calories and saccharine.

Well. An entire column without once mentioning The Lord of the Rings. I’m quite proud of myself. See you next time.
See Watts Up at the Electric Burrito

Let's face it, Taco Bell isn't quite the same as a Mexican restaurant that serves dishes including fresh ingredients and that are made to order. The Electric Burrito offers a “Southern-Mex” style of burritos, tacos and quesadillas.

The Electric Burrito sits in an older building known as the Nickel Building in downtown Gainesville. The place is very charming with exposed brick walls, and the tiles on the ceiling are the originals. I found it interesting when I was told that the wood floors came out of an old house. Being a fan of conservation, this place had already won points in my book.

As you walk in, you may discover a smoky atmosphere due to the fact that they smoke all of their meats in-store. It's rare to find many places that smoke their own meat, thus this reflects the quality of their product. All veggies are freshly cut every morning and are purchased locally. The chips and salsa are also homemade.

Ordering food is similar to Subway style. You begin at one end of the counter, place your order, and move on down guiding the staff as to what ingredients you prefer on your food. I had to try those homemade chips, and they were worth every penny. Accompanying my chips was a side of cheese dip with finely chopped jalapeno peppers, resulting in a mouth-watering dip. I also ordered a veggie quesadilla, which includes cheese, black beans, roasted red peppers, tomatoes and sour cream. I added black olives simply because I can't resist them. Unlike many places, the Electric Burrito grilled my quesadilla, which made a world of difference when compared to one that has been microwaved. For dessert, (which I, for some odd reason, did not indulge in) there is a variety of “novelty” ice cream bars.

Prices at the Electric Burrito are more expensive than the extremely cheap Taco Bell, but still affordable. You can eat anywhere from $2 to $8, solo, that is. The meat items range from $5 to $6. For prices that are not unreasonable, the quality of the food is superb. If you aren't in the mood for Mexican food, but your friends insist, the Electric Burrito also offers hot wings, which are 10 for $5.99 or 20 for $9.99.

Generally, the Electric Burrito is worth a visit. Not only are pitchers of margaritas available, but there is also a full bar. Live music is offered on Friday and Saturday nights, and there is no cover charge. There are televisions in the back that allow the restaurant to have Super Bowl parties. Smoking is prohibited, so those of you who enjoy smoking with some drinks will have to stand outside during that smoke break.

The Electric Burrito is open Monday-Saturday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Box lunches, catering and a party room are available to those interested.

Let Norah Jones Take You Away

I have yet to hear an album as smooth and delicate as Norah Jones' Come Away With Me. Her effortless vocals enable her to bring listeners deep within a world of glowing sunrises and cool twilight. She has the oh-so-gentle ability to transport a person out of mind and body and into heart and soul.

Not surprisingly, her first single released late last year, “Don't Know Why,” attracted much attention and helped to bring jazz into the mainstream. Her voice is so light and exquisite it can haunt you at times. This song drips of sadness and an apology to the one she left behind and will never forget.

The bass in “Cold Cold Heart” gently thuds the rhythm of New York City into a song dealing with a person scared to love in fear he will be hurt again. If only the one that cares for him could find a “way to free (his) doubtful mind and melt (his) cold, cold heart.”

Jones lures you in deeper, this time into a song far more romantic than any I have heard. “Come Away With Me” is a hulaby love song and proves itself as the most precious track on the album. A timeless song with such splendid imagery as “I want to wake up with the rain/ falling on a tin roof/ while I'm safe in your arms” surely settles one after a seemingly never-ending day. Jones questions the end of a summer love in “Shoot The Moon”: “of all the flowers you plucked if only/ you knew the reason/ why you had to each be lonely/ was it just the season?”

The lovely and tender “Turn Me On” is about a women yearning for the man she adores. Submerged in figurative language it begins “Like a flower waiting to bloom/ like a light bulb in a dark room/ I'm just waiting for you to come on home and turn me on.”

In the whimsical “Painter Song,” Jones dreams of being a painter so that she may paint the memories she holds most dear to her heart.

Along with “Come Away With Me,” the track entitled “Nightingale” is also written by Norah Jones herself. Like many songs on this album, it has a questioning, searching undertone as to why love is lost and where it can be found again. She delivers a song laced with truth and sincerity, singing “Nightingale/ sing us a song/ of a love that once belonged/ Nightingale/ tell me your tale/ was your journey far too long?”

The final track on Come Away With Me, “The Nearness of You,” elicits a softness that only Jones can produce with a voice so appealing and unforgettable.
The Ultimate Fighting Game

Now that school is well underway and drop dates are past, most people are very busy working on million page projects and presentations. So with all those built up nerves, people need something to do to relieve them. (Get your mind out of the gutter.) A fighting game is perfect for mid-semester stress relief.

The fighting genre has always been a favorite of mine. The involvement level in these games is next to nothing if you’re a button masher. That’s what makes fighting games great during these times. There’s no deep story that keeps you up into the wee hours worrying about your character’s future when you should be worrying about your academic future. It’s also not a fast paced, high stakes adventure that can only lead to frustration and possibly a broken TV if a stage cannot be beaten. Fighting games let you take out your aggression on pixels. You can beat the crap out of something and move on; everyone’s happy.

One such fighting game that is excellent therapy is Marvel vs. Capcom 2: New Age of Heroes. Anyone who had the privilege of owning this beautiful game on the Dreamcast got a treat for the eyes. Playstation 2 owners now have the chance to experience the game, and it’s just as good as its Dreamcast predecessor.

Marvel vs. Capcom 2 is almost the perfect fighting game. Anime fans will enjoy the colorful, 2D sprite fighters. Fighting fans will enjoy the simple, Street-Fighter-like controls. The graphics come from a Naomi arcade port from two years ago, and the game keeps true to the arcade in every way. This is actually the fourth installment in the MvC series. MvC2 is a culmination of all that was good from the others into one mean game. The game adds several new characters to those from the first MvC for a whopping fifty plus characters. It takes the best characters from Street Fighter and Capcom’s most famous games, mixes them with Marvel’s greatest super heroes to come up with a very diverse game. Then it added in several very fun play modes and a secret “shop” factor and gave us a blend for a phenomenal fighting game.

Graphically, the game mixes 3D backgrounds with 2D fighters in a seamless blend. Characters are well animated and move smoothly without slowdown.

The music is not like your usual heavy metal fighting game soundtrack. It’s a mix of jazzy upbeat tunes that you’ll either love or hate. The audio is the game’s only major problem. The announcer, characters’ taunts, and move names are rather muffled and could be cleaner. It sounds like they’re trying to talk through a pillow.

The game play is very solid. Getting the moves down is the rather easy part. If anyone has ever played any of the thousand Street Fighters, they know the button scheme for this game. The unique aspect about the fighting system is the attributes you assign each character after choosing them. These attributes include heal, anti-air, balance and more. These affect how each character comes in and assists, and this adds a tint of strategy to the fights.

The points system will have you playing again and again to unlock character favorites, new stages, artwork and different colors for your characters. The downside to this is that it’s too easy to gain points this way. Just leave your PS2 on in training mode for a couple of hours, take a nap, grab a drink, and you have several thousand points without any effort on your part.

All in all, this is a very solid game that will have you playing it with your friends for hours.
Starr Shines with Spunky Confidence

By Dustonia Call
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"I'm definitely one to mouth off," says singer songwriter Garrison Starr from aboard her tour bus outside the Orange Peel in Asheville, North Carolina. "When somebody says so something that irritates me, it's hard to keep quiet." The spunky girl, dressed in pin-striped jeans, a t-shirt, and a navy jacket, lounges comfortably, her well-worn black boots propped up on the table in front of her. For some reason, taking in her laid-back appearance and her easy smile, I'm having a hard time believing her.

Starr is finishing up a six-week tour opening for songwriter Steve Earle, in support of her 2002 release Songs From Takeoff To Landing. After the tour ends, she'll head home to L.A. to take a well-deserved break and start a new album.

In addition to opening for Earle during both legs of his United States tour, in the last year, she's opened for Melissa Etheridge and Caitlin Cary, and subbed for Mary Chapin Carpenter for three shows with Emmylou Harris, Patty Griffin and Bruce Cockburn.

Touring with her bass player, Cary Beare, Starr laments that they couldn't afford to bring her drummer on the road with them. Instead, Earle's brother Patrick is sitting in on drums on parts of this tour.

Cary, twice her age and yet ageless, used to come up to Starr after her gigs in L.A. and give not-so-subtle hints that he'd like to join her band.

"I was just like, 'Who's this guy, why's he keep coming back?' I'd never seen him play. I didn't know if he could play...Anyway, he was just very persistent and always around. It just so happened that my bass player I'd played with for two years in L.A...got busy with another project and was taking a lot less gigs...and I was like, 'Well, I'm going to have to find somebody else.' Then I played this show one night, a woman in rock night at the Mint, and I saw Cary play...and I was like, 'Omigosh, there's that guy that keeps coming up to me, that's Cary! He's great'...So I went up to him and was like, 'Dude, I don't know if you remember me now or not, but you expressed interest in playing with me. I need a bass player for this gig we're doing. Do you want to do this?' And he was like, 'Yeah, totally.'"

I'd originally scheduled the interview with Starr to talk about her experiences as a female singer songwriter, making her way through a male-dominated industry, but our conversation consistently shifted elsewhere, because it became apparent to me that before me sat a woman who hadn't the time to waste on divisive labels and gender distinctions. She was, simply put, a songwriter, gender be damned.

Born Julia Garrison Starr in 1977 in tiny Hernando, Mississippi, Starr gives me a run-down of her life so far. "Went to Ole Miss for a year and a half. Hated it. Left there. Went to Memphis and got a job working for Aural Records, then I got signed to Geffen after playing in Memphis for a while. So I did the Geffen thing for a couple years, then they merged with Interscope. Then I left Interscope and took a couple years off because I was upset and frustrated and didn't know what I wanted to do. Finally, I started writing some songs I thought were really good and started to play again and figured out how to make a record with this friend of mine. Made Songs from Takeoff to Landing and I've been touring behind that for a year. That's where I am now."

Julia, what's up with that?

"Julia? Nobody ever called me Julia. Ever. I'm called Julia at the airport or by, like, my insurance or credit card company."

You mean telemarketers?

She giggles, "Exactly. People I don't want to talk to. 'May I speak to Julia Starr?' Um, no. Never heard of her. No such person lives here, sorry."

Things that piss you off?

"Really?" she says, in a tone that suggests she's surprised anybody'd be interested. "I don't know why I'm drawing a blank on things that piss me off, maybe because I'm not in a very pissed-off mood. Can we come back to that thing that piss me off?"

She grins.

Best advice you've ever been given?

"I don't know if anybody ever said this to me, but I'd have definitely taken this to heart. The best piece of advice I could give to somebody else would be to know who you are...You need to know that 'cause otherwise, you'll be ripped to shreds."

Thirty minutes into the interview, as I'm sure I should be wrapping this thing up, she brightens, "I've thought of something that pisses me off! It pisses me off when I'm sitting somewhere and a dadgum Harley Davidson goes driving by—the loud noise it makes—it infuriates me!

"It also pisses me off when I'm onstage and somebody comes up and talks to me. One time, I was at O! Miss and me and my friend Neilon Hubbard...He's one of my best friends and we played gigs together in college. We'd been playing an acoustic set, just me and him. One time this drunk girl came up to me and started having a conversation, mid-song...Neilon was flabbergasted."

As dinner time approaches, our conversation turns to food.

OK, anything you've always wanted to be asked?

"That's a great question. Nobody's ever asked me what kind of food I make best."

Well, what kind of food do you make best?

"Tuna fish!"

What do you put in your tuna?

A lot of mayonnaise, some lemon juice, (you put the lemon on the tuna before adding all the other stuff to make it less fishy), celery sweet pickles, sweet pickle juice, and onions. Oh, and white albacore tuna, drained. I got the recipe from my mom and it's the best tuna on the planet!"

I could tell where her mind was. My 30-minute interview had stretched into an hour, and 20 minutes into her scheduled dinner, we finally said goodbye.

Later, she takes to the stage, radiant in the stage lights, but her glow coming from somewhere within. In a pretty indefinable category in her own right with songs full of poetic lyrics, yet rocking harder than any coffeehouse queen, she holds the audience in rapt attention with songs from her current album, her between-song banter reminiscent of the humor experienced at Ani DiFranco's live shows. She seems more comfortable with 900 pairs of eyes and ears on her than she was with just mine.

The next day, she'll finish up her tour with Earle in Atlanta. Her parents will be there, and so many friends will have driven in that she'll struggle to find places for all of them on the guest list. During her last song, a scathing critique of the shallow mindlessness in appearance-driven pop called "Knucklehead," Earle's roadies will accost her on stage, duct-taping her legs together and anointing them with cans of silly string, to the delight of the crowd. She'll grin really big, but she won't miss a note.
**Pices:**

The Fish  
Feb. 18 to March 19

Do you feel another year of aging kicking in? Well that's what you get when you don't brush your teeth. They're just not the same white they used to be. They're actually not in the same order they used to be, did you realize you're missing a tooth? I wouldn't say words with the letter 's' this month.

**Aries:**

The Ram  
March 20 to April 19

You need pity from your loved ones this month, so tell all your friends that your dog died. After the news have a big fake funeral for it, cry a lot, and make everyone feel really uncomfortable. Then start laughing as your dog runs around the corner. Laugh harder as you tell him to play dead!

**Taurus:**

The Bull  
April 20 to May 19

A good friend will call on you this month. This friend will come to you with a dilemma, so listen carefully and do what you do best: manipulate his/her words, tell everyone you see and ruin your friend's life! HA!

**Libra:**

The Scales  
Sept. 23 to Oct. 22

Take a breather and relax. When you are refreshed you can go back to playing another 24 hours straight of EverQuest, and remember, you are my hero. You and Dustonia Callie, she gave me a kick ass parking space one day.

**Gemini:**

The Twins  
May 20 to June 20

You will not engage in sexual acts with any clowns this month. If you feel the urge to do so, I would say shoot yourself, please. It took me 20 years to get over my fear of clowns and you want to do them? That's repulsive.

**Scorpio:**

The Scorpion  
Oct. 23 to Nov. 21

Others aren't fooled by your innocent masquerade! Take off your mask! No, seriously, take that thing off, you've had it on since Halloween of '97.

**Cancer:**

The Crab  
June 21 to July 21

Think you have hit rock bottom? Well you haven't hit anything until you've hit crack rock! Skip the gateway drugs and jump right to the top of the drug hierarchy! You could call it a One-Step Program.

**Capricorn:**

The Archer  
Nov. 22 to Dec. 20

You wear black now because you were on the yearbook staff in high school and failed to realize then that you could have vanted your adolescent frustrations by skipping class, smoking dope and trying to get laid. I wouldn't have asked you to sign my yearbook. Way to go, buddy!

**Leo:**

The Lion  
July 22 to Aug. 22

Turn back the clock and make amends. Call everyone you hated in high school and remind them that you STILL HATE THEM and that you put an ancient death-by-explosion curse on them! This may have you question that 12-Step Program.

**Aquarius:**

The Water Bearer  
Jan. 20 to Feb. 17

This is the month to make napalm! Whoopsies! I didn't mean to say that! I am only human unlike all you cyborgs!

**Virgo:**

The Virgin  
Aug. 23 to Sept. 22

Clean up your act, it stinks! Everyone can smell you. For God's sake at least try to cover up the stench! When I think about it I take a shower.

**Sagittarius:**

The Archer  
Nov. 22 to Dec. 20

You have bright days ahead of you, but then you will go permanently blind because your rods and cones will melt when you stare at the sun too long, you dummy.
EVERYTHING SEEMS OKAY ON THE OUTSIDE. BUT HOW ARE YOU REALLY FEELING?

Your friends might think you have it all together, but what's really going on inside? Do you ever feel like life is missing something? Like there's something you haven't found yet? An itch waiting to be scratched?

Then join us at Campus Crusade for Christ, you just might find the answer.

Campus Crusade for Christ International is an interdenominational ministry committed to helping students in GC get to know God. We meet every Monday at 12 in Lanier A, B. Join many college students for powerful praise and worship, challenging speakers, great relational connections and, of course, free food. Come and see!!!!!
THE VOICE OF THE COMPASS

Athens Decision Should be Made

The Gainesville College Athens Center, much like the main campus, has seen a dramatic enrollment increase for the 2002-2003 calendar year.

The current enrollment is 617, an approximate 200 percent increase from fall 2001 when the GC Athens campus first opened to a meek enrollment of 218 students. GC is not expecting another 200 percent enrollment increase for fall 2003, but Dede deLaughter, Athens Center office manager, projects enrollment to be over 800, “depending upon where we will be conducting classes,” she says.

With no definite plans for the location of Athens Center, many students are curious about the future of the campus. The facilities being used now are already overcrowded. It’s hard to imagine a possible addition of 300 students to a campus that is too small for the amount of students already there. Therefore, it is imperative that the Board of Regents and all other parties involved put the Athens campus at the top of their agenda, and proceed with haste to secure a campus fitting to the needs of the growing number of students and faculty.

Progress has been made toward making the Athens Center a better place for students, faculty and staff. In fall 2002, the GC Athens Center began renting a three-story house on Milledge Avenue to accommodate some of the problems the enrollment increase has caused. The top floor of the house is being used as office space for staff members while the bottom floor is for student recreation and educational purposes. The acquiring of this house proves that GC is pleased with Athens Center’s rapid enrollment expansion, but a larger campus is still a necessity, in order for the Athens campus reach its full potential.

So the question that remains is, why are there no definite plans for a location to hold classes for fall? Ronnie Booth, vice president for external programs, says, “We have a number of options before the Board of Regents and it will be mid-March before any action can be taken.” Meanwhile, students who attend Athens Center and those who may be considering enrolling for fall, especially students who live in the Athens area, are facing a very big decision: wait and see if GC comes through with a facility by fall, or transfer to that other little college in Athens.

It’s already March. The goal is to be in a new facility by August. That gives GC almost five months to find a location for the new campus, vote on the location, have the location accepted and still renovate the location into a college campus suitable enough to be a satellite of GC. What will happen if GC doesn’t find a suitable location for Athens Center? How many of the more than 800 students planning to register for Athens Center fall classes will be denied due to a lack of place to have classes?

The selection for the GC Athens Center site is scheduled for the March 11 and 12 Board of Regents Agenda. A decision should be made for the good of Athens Center students, faculty and staff.

Our Name has Changed, And So Has Our Image

As you may have noted, if you read this issue of “The Compass” closely, we, your humble editors and staff, won a fair number of awards recently from the Georgia College Press Association.

We have a wall in the newspaper office filled with such awards. We’ve been getting them, as “The Compass,” for several years now.

The front of every issue quite clearly states our name, in 80-point Eras Bold. We’re getting noticed out there, and it’s nice to have the recognition—which is why it really kind of stumps us as to why people on our own campus, many of whom are faculty, still refer to us as “The Anchor.”

This would not be a problem, except for the fact that there hasn’t been an “Anchor” on campus since spring 1999 (apart from the one out front, of course).

We’re not pointing any fingers here; it’s obviously not being done deliberately, but it is being done, and it’s a little frustrating. We don’t publish “The Anchor.” We publish “The Compass.”

We work very hard to put out this little paper, and the fact that we can hold our own in competition with larger (not to say better-funded) college newspapers speaks to the dedication and skill of our staff. The fact that some people can’t seem to get our name right is quite frankly, somewhat insulting. We realize it’s being done out of carelessness and habit, not malice, but it’s still a little hurtful.

On behalf of our staff, and all the people who work so hard to put out our paper, we’d like to ask that those of you who haven’t gotten the hang of the name change to please try to do so. We don’t think it’s much to ask.
Don’t Believe in Psychics, Believe in Rip-Offs

After watching mentalist Steve “Banachek” Shaw’s show in the Student Center, I was gratified to hear him declaim at the end: “Anyone who tells you they are a psychic is either lying to you or lying to themselves.”

I’ve read up on Banachek, and the more I see, the more I am impressed with the man and his work. He is a debunker of psychics, an exposé of frauds, and never claims that his own illusions are anything more than just that. We could do with more of this level-headedness in our society, and I think the Campus Activities Board is to be applauded for bringing him here.

We can learn an important lesson from Banachek. Gullibility is dangerous. Uncritical belief in things like psychics leads to fraud and what’s worse, it engenders an atmosphere of anti-intellectualism. Lack of critical thinking ability is often rewarded by teachers and professors, and the problem seems to me to stem from the fact that no one is taught how to think critically. No one taught me; I had to come across the information myself. I spent much of my youth believing in flying saucers, Bigfoot and psychics before coming to the realization that I was deluding myself. If someone had taken the time to teach me how to be critical in my thinking about such matters, I’d not have wasted my time for all those years.

I get very tired of the constant barrage of misinformation, untruths and downright fraud foisted upon us by phony psychics (a redundancy in itself) and their ilk. The emergence on television of programs such as “Crossing Over with John Edward” or James van Praagh’s psychic circus leads me to believe that there is even more credulousness and apathy in our mendi-blitzed society than I might previously have thought.

Just consider for a moment the amount of intellectual energy (not to mention money) that’s spent on psychics. Look at the books, the TV shows, the websites and so on. How much of this stuff do you suppose actually matters? Think for a minute about how many psychics, astrologers or other “fringe thinkers” you can name, then think of how many Nobel-prize-winning scientists you can think of, and you’ll see my point. The fact that the one group is lionized and lauded and taken very seriously while the other has little respect except within their own purview is disturbing to say the least.

People often accuse me of being closed-minded. I reply that, to the contrary, I’m the most open-minded person they’ll ever meet. I’m willing to believe anything, anything at all, provided you can prove it to be true. And the cold fact is that “psychic” powers just don’t exist. The amount of money raked in by charlatans such as Sylvia Browne and “Miss Cleo” is absolutely sickening, and the intellectual price we’re all paying is even worse. Make no mistake, people. There are no such things as psychics. There are, however, such things as rip-off artists.

Michael Jackson is a Freak

Here’s a moral dilemma that just about everyone will understand, with the possible exception of Michael Jackson. The Fox Network is paying the troubled singer millions to give his side of the story after he went ballistic about the TV special where he confessed to sleeping with young boys.

Actually, there are not two sides to that situation, even though Jackson is so confused he doesn’t know it. If you are somewhat of a normal individual, you know not to sleep with children who are not part of your immediate family. Jackson states that he was conned by the British interviewer, Martin Bashir, and can provide out-takes backing up his opinion from the damning, original interview that ran on ABC. One of the out-takes shows Bashir telling Jackson, “Your relationship with children is spectacular.”

Well, that’s just fine and dandy, but who cares what Martin Bashir thinks? What’s important here is that Jackson stated on camera, “I have slept in a bed with many children.” Not fine and certainly not dandy, especially since 10 years ago Jackson allegedly paid some 12-year-old boy $25 million to keep quiet about bedding down together.

So there is a moral dilemma in any business dealing with Jackson, and it is not hard to see. Jackson is being paid millions solely because of this controversy. He is not promoting a record, or a movie or a concert tour. The allegations that he is a child molester are making him rich! Obviously, there is something very disturbing, and ethically wrong with this situation, and I’m not just talking about Jackson’s wardrobe.

But a case can be made, and perhaps the new TV special can make it, that Jackson deserves a chance to defend himself with counter-evidence. NOT! However, there is no question that Jackson wants money to tell his tale.

I grew up knowing that Michael Jackson was a disturbed man who should be kept away from all children, including his own. Anybody who would mutilate his face the way this sicko has is self-loathe in my opinion. This is wrong and dangerous, and the authorities should be ashamed for not taking a more aggressive approach to monitoring Jackson’s behavior with minors. The quote I saw online from the Santa Barbara County DA that said, “Sleeping with children is not a crime,” is simply outrageous. If it were up to me, I would not pay Jackson Monopoly money for this story. Any business deal with this guy is creepy, and, perhaps, immoral. We are living in a time and a country where boundaries of decent behavior are collapsing all around us. Michael Jackson is the poster boy for that. He should be shunned.

New Smoking Policy Will Fail

Smoking will be banned on GC’s campus. I think this is a stupid change in policy. I don’t know what the thoughts are behind this, but I know that none of the goals will be obtained.

If the administrators think that this will help kids to quit smoking, then they are wrong. Kids are going to smoke out of youthful ignorance, it does not matter what the side effects are. If this is in order to rid our beautiful campus of cigarette butts, then that objective will also fail. If cigarette smoking is banned all over campus then there is no reason for smokers to remain trapped in those shacks. People will just walk around smoking. If you get on to them for doing that, they will just hide in the bushes and smoke. I understand that people will be allowed to smoke in their cars. Well kiss my car-less butt!

Butts will be everywhere, and I’m not talking about the attractive kind, I’m talking about the leavings of smoked cigarettes. The parking lots are going to be really bad also. Way to create a ton of more work for the plant operations workers. If you want a good punishment for smoking, then make the students who continue to smoke pick up cigarette butts. At least then people might realize how poisoned our grounds have become.

What are your thoughts on the new tobacco policy? Let us know. Email your response to jmat4160@gc.peachnet.edu.
Don’t Swear at the Air

Ever get the feeling that you want to harm something that has no physical feeling? For example, punching waves in the ocean when they keep washing you into the shore, or secretly cursing at the chilly winter wind when it will not stop blowing. Personally, things like this are what put me in a bad mood. Lately, more than ever, I have noticed that the population isn’t striving to make statements, but rather, hiding in corners and wasting their short lives, selfishly, on themselves. I’ve seen a lot of this, especially here at GC.

Recently, someone very close to me died. Every time something like this happens, a side from the grief, reality slaps me in the face and says, “no matter what you do, you are going to die one day.” Aside from religious beliefs, I think it shouldn’t matter what you do as long as you are happy. If you want to smoke, then smoke. Contrarily, if you like to exercise, then exercise. Either way, your body and mind deteriorate. So try not to waste too much time distinguishing what you should and shouldn’t do. Just be yourself and don’t feed off of other peoples’ opinions, come up with your own.

I am so tired of other people telling me what is right and wrong. The twisted rules and mores of our culture make me sick. I am robbed of more of my freedoms every day by the government, and even more ridiculous, my school. Why don’t you people take a stand? I hear much complaining from my peers about how they hate all of these policies and rules. Out of all the people that love to complain at GC, I only receive about eight opinions each month to put into the school newspaper. I hope you people realize that by staying discreet about your opinions, you are not only cowardly, but you are letting other people define who you are. But, by all means, if you like being a coward, be a coward. I’m just wondering why nobody is willing to express their opinions to the open public.

I will admit to silently eavesdropping on conversations that go on around me while I’m walking to class. I often hear the debate of the righteous liberal venting about his/her rotting freedoms, or more simply, the fulsome jock constantly flirting with a neighboring atraction, and then later secretly complaining a bout how he never gets any action. This is the kind of stuff that people need to hear.

From one extreme to the next, I wish people weren’t so content with striving for the ideal, opinions and all. So, basically, this editorial is a plea for everyone to stop comfortably complaining to their friends, and do something about the criticisms that they so discreetly stand for.

Tattoos Fade, But Not as Fast as Trends

Lately, everyone I talk to seems to want a tattoo. In the past, tattoos were seen as taboo, and now have become a common accessory for many students. The act, once seen as rebellious, has become ultra-trendy.

The feeling of independence of getting a tattoo is not as prevalent; instead it is commonly done to be accepted. One of the most common tattoos is of fraternity and sorority’s Greek letters. Designs are not symbolic of a greater meaning to many people. Unfortunately, this causes some people to put little thought into the content of the art. Remember that the image you choose will be on your body forever. I can’t begin to imagine what goes through the mind of a man who thinks getting a tattoo of the Tasmanian devil holding a flaming eight ball is gnarly. Everyone has been embarrassed for the obse biker with a tattoo of a naked lady riding a metallic serpent stretching a cross his back or the middle-aged woman with Conway Twitty a dorning her chest. Not to mention these people dish out tons of money to make themselves look only slightly less stupid. Don’t get me wrong, I am a fan of the art, but I just find it faintly entertaining when I squint my eyes to some meaningless design, that is a summed nothing short of artistic, but it has no definable significance.

Even the barb wire designs that were so popular a few years ago are only appropriate if you are a professional wrestler. The trends of today are fleeting, so before you rush to your local tattoo parlors for the newest design, put some thought into the content. Tattoos fade, but not as fast as trends.

Find Beauty in Disaster

Look to Nature for an Answer to Your Problems

Everyday I wake up and wonder what the day is going to be like. I always say, “today is a good day,” praying that I make it through the day. You step outside your door and the sun is shining, it is so peaceful. You can even hear the birds singing. Then you get into your car and at your first glance at the rearview mirror there is that asshole who will not get off your ass.

Who, what and why is all you can think of. Who is this person? Where did this person come from? What made him decide to wake up and conspire a way to make someone’s great day, in plain English...suck. And why me?

I have decided that so many people in this world focus on negativity. I think many individuals forget about the positive aspects of life. People are filled with many wants and needs, but so many fall because they focus on their wants, and not needs. Then they miss the best parts of life.

Have you ever stayed up all night to watch the stars, then the sunrise? Feeling the light hit your face, and feeling the cool breeze that flows through your veins. It makes you feel alive. Or just sitting by a river, listening to the waves crash up against each other, causing a humongous hydraulic, watching it and telling your self, “This is nature...nothing I do nor say can control this.” I never realized how beautiful it was until now. I truly envy nature. It never is, and never will be, controlled. If lightning wants to strike it will, and if thunder wants to roar, it roars as loud as it possibly can. There is no stopping this. Just like when it rains, it pours!

This is a mazing to me because we, as humans, forget about this magnificent world that surrounds us. But we shouldn’t because when we do think about it, and see it, we are content. Unfortunately, the horrific crimes and violence are out there, but they balance our universe out. Beauty may find its genesis in disaster, but once we rid ourselves of disaster, beauty will remain.

Are you going to be a GC student in fall 2003? If so and you are interested in writing, advertising, photography or editing for the Compass, contact Michele Hester at ahes2131@gc.peachnet.edu.
In the wake of war, there is, of course, the possibility of a draft. I've been told you've less a chance of being drawn from the hat if you're in college.

I've weighed the options. Getting shot at vs. reading books and feigning intelligence. Gotta go with the latter. Anybody else out there who doesn't wanna get shot? Or is it just me, the coward? The lone yellow kid who thinks it's a real stupid thing to die for an ideal that ain't that pure to me in the first place.

Not to discourage those of you who do, cuz it's important to like what you do. And if you like dying for ideals...be my guest. I'm sure your name will be written in the history books, your family will be proud, etc.

I'm used to being the odd man, the minority, the weird one, so I'll just say it without worrying about ruining any kind of prior-existing reputation I have for going with the flow.

Screw that. I don't want to die. I'm of the opinion that this is your one shot at living, and I don't wanna end it all for some collective cause. What good's your name on a plaque if you ain't around to read it? Can somebody please tell me? I don't get it.

I know, I know, without folks risking their lives for certain collective causes we wouldn't live in such a great country. And I'm not knocking that, the fact that folks died to make this this a great place, understand. All I'm saying is don't draft me. I don't want to put my ass on the line. I don't want to shoot folks I never met. I don't want to be SHOT by folks I never met. There are two types of people: those who die to make this country great, and those who simply throw in their two cents, and contribute to the greatness (without getting killed in the process). This country wouldn't be the wonderful land of the free, home of the brave it is if it weren't for certain things. There are things beside martyrdom that make this country a great place. Like, for instance, the arts. If we draft all the artists, and they get their asses blown off, what then? We got a country, yeah, but a crappy one.

My point is this. Let the folks who wanna fight, wanna die for their country, wanna be in the history books, revered by their peers, let 'em go. I'm all for it. If dying for one's country is something that makes his/her life better somehow, then they should definitely go. No question about it. It's very altruistic, and I thank them for it, understand. But what about those of us who don't wanna die for our country? Stuck here in this weird time, when planes are flying into buildings, fatal white powder's pulsing through the post office, and all we wanna do is live-out our lives, perform our respective trades, never dreaming of raising a fist, much less a gun, at some poor soul, who's probably more puzzled than us at why he's staring down the scope.

Are we cowards? Are we freeloaders? Why are we not willing to pay the price of freedom, like all the others? Because we're just not good at it. We're good at stuff like writing about these horrible wars, criticizing our leaders, and having the balls to come out, risking ostracism, and saying things like I'm saying, because, isn't that what's so great about this country, being able to voice a minority opinion, and not being burned at the stake for it by Big Brother? If it weren't for the existence of the minority opinion, and the individual's freedom to declare his/her dissent, this country would just suck, and not be worth fighting for in the first place.

Anyway, before I digressed so wildly I was just going to say that the possibility of a draft has driven me to stay in school, continue my education, improving my chances of not being drafted, to ensure that I don't get thrown into a battlefield, killing for reasons I don't understand.

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**GC STUDENT POLL**

**Why do you think there is a greater percentage of women than men in colleges?**

"Women are increasingly more career-oriented than men...and they want to take all of the steps possible to get on top of the career world, including a college education."

**Brett Poole**
Criminal Justice

"Women are more pressured to get an education so they can get better jobs...so that they do not have to be dependent on men!"

**Lauren Howard**
Art

"Men have huge responsibilities. For example, supporting their families and working more...sometimes they do not have time to go to college."

**Sam Ashworth**
Art

"It seems that women want to go ahead and begin their lives more now, than ever...and they want to support themselves along with their families."

**Joey Stewart**
Art Education

"Women are becoming more liberal, resulting in a growing interest in their own education...and I think that the women of today have more opportunities than men."

**Brittany Nutt**
Early Childhood Education

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**Just A Thought**

"People are like Slinkys. They're basically useless, but it's lots of fun to watch them tumble down stairs."

-Matt Lewis


**MARCH**

12
Pizza Party; Student Center; 5-8 p.m.
Sexism in Film; CE Auditorium; noon
PowerPoint XP Workshop; Academic III, Room 160; 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

13
"Where to Go"; Lanier ABC; 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
"Preparing for the Regents' Test"; Lower F/S Dining Room; 1 p.m. or 5 p.m.

16
Run for the Children; GC Campus; 1 Mile Walk - 2 p.m.; 5K Run - 2:30 p.m.

17-21
Spring Break

24
Intramurals: Deadline to Sign Up for Basketball, Softball, and Track and Field
"Chore Wars"; CE Auditorium; noon
Deadline for Women's History Month Essay Contest

26
Women in History; CE Auditorium; noon

28
Battle of the Bands; 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

29
Spring Open House; Student Center; 9-11 a.m.

30
Challenge 5K Run/1 Mile Walk

31
GTA: Box Office Opens for "Proposals"
Musical Program: Women Composers; CE Auditorium; noon

**APRIL**

1
GTA: "Proposals" Stage Tour; Ed Cabell Theatre; 6 p.m.
"Producing a Great Resume"; Lower F/S Dining Room; 11 a.m. or 5 p.m.

2
Intramurals: Swim Meet; GC Pool; noon-1 p.m.
Intramurals: Basketball, Softball, and Track and Field Begin; noon-1 p.m.
Nathan Deal's Ninth Congressional High School Art Competition Ends
"To Get a Great Job-FOCUS"; Student Center; 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

3
Old Tyme Photos; Student Center; 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
"Interview Skills"; Lower F/S Dining Room; 11 a.m. or 5 p.m.
Southern Literary Festival; GC; Runs Through April 5

6
5K Rumble in the Jungle; GC Walking Trail; 2 p.m.

7
Spring Fling; 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Students in Free Enterprise Regional Exposition; Atlanta

8
Ice Cream Social; Student Center; 5 p.m.-8 p.m.

10
Job Fair; Student Center; 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

11
Part-Time Faculty Appreciation Dinner; Lanier AB; 6 p.m.