Enrollment Soars Above 5,000

Gainesville College has seen an overwhelming increase in student population over the past few years. The number of students enrolled “has grown by 29.1 percent over last year’s enrollment of 4,176” according to an Aug. 18 press release from Gainesville College. Full story Page 3

GTA Celebrates 25th Anniversary

Gainesville Theatre Alliance, a collaboration between Gainesville College and Brenau University, begins its 25th season with something for everyone.

Since 1978, Gainesville Theatre Alliance has been wowing audiences with its tremendous performances, while also winning many awards.

Jim Hammond, the artistic and managing director of GTA, says his organization is very proud of its many accomplishments.

GTA is known throughout the region as a leader in providing technical and dramatic talent. The award-winning theatre program consistently places its students in the top summer stock programs, taking on paid positions rather than internships.

With GTA’s combination of teaching technical and dramatic skills to all students, it produces some of the most well-rounded professionals in the business.

Many GTA alumni currently work in the nation’s top theatrical companies. Learn more about the Gainesville Theatre Alliance inside. Full story Page 16.
**Student Center Gets Facelift**

By Blake Duncan  
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Students returning to the main campus of Gainesville College this fall were greeted by the sounds of hammers, chop-saws and concrete mixers. Renovations started during the spring semester of 2003 are finally winding down.

The renovations taking place at Gainesville College began on April 28 as Lanier rooms A, B and C and the lower faculty dining room were given over to offices being moved from the main atrium of the Student Center. The Office of Minority Affairs and Multi-Cultural Programs moved, as did the Counseling and Testing Office and the Office of Student Activities. The restrooms in the student center were closed, forcing students to use the ones located near Lanier Room C.

When asked if the renovation work had been an inconvenience, Zeb Bortner, a psychology major from Clermont said, “Not really, all my classes are in Academic II, so [the construction} isn’t in my way.”

Gainesville College accepted bids from six local construction companies and finally settled on MCI. Due to subcontracting GC did not set a standard crew size, so the number of actual workers on site at any given time varied.

Jerry Spiceland, of plant operations, said the renovation work has proceeded very smoothly and has not encountered any major obstacles along the way, just the typical snags that any construction work faces. The weather, mainly the fact that Georgia has gone through one of the wettest summers in recent history, has presented a minor hindrance.

Renovation work continues outside the Academic Advising office in the Student Activities building.

“Work is still on schedule to be done by October 15, as originally stated,” Spiceland said, “a few offices will receive extra work after the October 15 deadline, but that will definitely be down the road. Funds were requested to enlarge the Student Center, but they are currently pending funding, and have not been approved.”

**Tobacco Policy Remains Controversial**

By Blake Allen  
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Controversy surrounded Gainesville College this fall as it welcomed students to begin the first tobacco free school year.

Concrete slabs and uncovered picnic tables stood where the student’s “smoke shacks” were once erected. Renovations have already begun to the old designated smoking areas as thoughts of smoking on campus seem to be only a distant memory to so many. The student body stands divided on the issue of smoking at GC as the debate grows more intense by the day.

Director of Public Safety Marion Darracott said, “I am proud of the maturity students have shown regarding the new smoking policy here on campus, cooperation has been better than expected.” Darracott went on to explain that so far he and his staff have only had to give verbal warnings to smokers. When asked who would be expected to punish students for smoking on campus, Vice President of Student Development Tom Walter added, “All employees of the institution have a duty to support the rules of the college.” Tobacco use is now only permitted within the comfort of your own vehicle, students and faculty are not allowed to smoke on, around, or next to their cars, doing so will be looked upon as a violation of the policy.

Some students are pleased with the college’s new smoking policy while others view it as a breech of personal freedom. This may have something to do with the fact that many of our founding fathers, including George Washington, James Madison and Thomas Jefferson, were tobacco farmers. These men took part in an industry that is now being scrutinized every day. Advocates of the smoking ban argue that the campus will be a cleaner environment without all the cigarette butts littering the ground. The smoking ban was put in place to protect non-smokers from second hand smoke and to protect smokers from themselves.

Smokers have had a great deal of trouble dealing with smoking in their cars in times when extreme heat makes it difficult to sit in their car long enough to smoke a cigarette. The designated smoking areas were located conveniently on campus near every academic building whereas now students must walk to their cars which may be parked across campus. Logan Walker, a political science major from Gainesville said “It is a huge inconvenience on the college community that the smoke shacks have been removed.”

GC is a recent addition to a long list of institutions banning tobacco use all together. Today in New York, as a deterrent for smoking, a pack of cigarettes costs $7.50 and no smoking is allowed in bars or public restaurants. The measures that the college have decided to take seem to be effective as many students find themselves without enough time to walk to their car for a between class cigarette break. One question remains unanswered for so many: is the new smoking ban an attempt to improve the student’s health or does the ban serve as an oppressing form of discrimination?
Increased Enrollment Raises Questions

By Michele Hester
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Gainesville College has seen an overwhelming increase in student population over the past year. The number of students enrolled has grown by almost 30 percent "over last year's enrollment of 4,176," according to an Aug. 18 press release from Gainesville College.

Much of the increase is attributed to the new Oconee campus in Watkinsville, where 1,743 students attend classes. That is almost half the size of the main campus in Oakwood.

It took 20 years for the main campus to enroll 1,744 students. When Gainesville College opened in 1966, 419 students were enrolled. Today there are 3,347 students enrolled at two campuses. Over 200 students take courses at both the main campus and at Oconee.

Concerned with the state of the institution if applications continue to pour in, GC's Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty Mike Stoy stated, "We need more space for students, but we are limited in financial resources."

Students walking across campus are lucky not to bump into each other on the crowded walkways. Classes, as well as hallways, are also a little more crowded.

GC was unsuccessful in 2002 when the institution made a request to the Board of Regents for a new academic building. Last year's budget restraints kept any college from requesting additional funding. It takes several years for the Board to approve a proposal, with a minimum of five years to get to the top of the list of approved projects.

The building size GC would require will take approximately two years to complete. Meanwhile, Gainesville College will be out of space on the main campus in three to four years.

GC has explored a few alternatives to try to accommodate this problem. One option is re-assessing the Continuing Education program. This does not mean that GC will be doing away with Continuing Education. Some of the courses like Pottery, Stoy said "may revert back to an academic divisional level. Pottery could go back to the art department instead of having a space specifically for Continuing Education."

Another area the institution has focused on is a new application deadline. Students who wish to attend Gainesville College in Spring 2003 for the first time, as well as returning students who have not entered another college since attending GC, must meet the Oct. 15 deadline. The new deadlines are a means of dealing with this issue.

GC does not expect to see an increase in class size, because the facility was originally built with small classes in mind and cannot accommodate more than 30 students per class. "We only have a few classes that can seat more than 45 people," Stoy said.

While class size seems under control, many students have expressed concerns with the classes they need being full.

Stoy suggested the key to getting the needed courses is to not wait until the last minute and register for classes as early as possible.

"The students that turned in their applications back in March or April were able to pre-register and get the classes they wanted. The students who waited until June 30 had to take what was left."

Food Expo Highlights Hispanic Culture

By Matt Henderson
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In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, the Latino Student Association sponsored a Latin Food Expo on Sept. 17 at the Gainesville College Student Center.

Hispanic Heritage Month goes on throughout September and is a nationally recognized event. Margarita Munoz, the head of minority affairs at GC, spoke of the vast number of GC students who hail from countries all over Latin America, "For us (Department of Minority Affairs) Gainesville College means a lot." Munoz said that native Latin American students feel it is important to show those students not from Latin America the reverence they feel toward the culture and traditions of their homeland.

Charmaine Gonzalez, a representative from the Boys and Girls Club of Hall County, spoke to attending students about tutoring programs offered by the Boys and Girls Club. Gonzalez wanted to encourage GC students to take part in these tutoring programs offered to middle and high school students. Gonzalez said minority students at GC could “further the African-American and Hispanic community as they further their education” and mentioned the importance that positive role models have in the lives of middle and high school students.

The crowd was sizeable at the event as GC students took part in the food, music and fellowship at the Latin Food Expo.

GC student Maribel Barroen said of the event, "It was a good way to introduce our culture and food to people who may not have known much about [the Latin American way of life]."

GC students enjoy festivities, including a lavish buffet of authentic Hispanic cuisine.

gccompass.com
Dr. Sixto Torres, the new Chair of Humanities and Fine Arts at Gainesville College, possibly has the greatest name of all time. In an interview with staff writer Kevin Moss, Torres discussed the big plans he has for the future of the division and a little bit about the man behind the name.

As the new Chair of Humanities and Fine Arts, briefly summarize your job description at GC.

The description of any “chair” is pretty wide and encompassing. The most important part of my job is encouraging faculty to perform at a higher level and to give them the opportunity to do the things they’ve been prepared to do. We’re on our way changing from a two-to-four year college. The transition would not be as great had the faculty not been working at this type of level before.

Is the switch from a two- to a four-year college because of the growing population?

I don’t know if the size has a lot to do with the changeover, but I do know that GC has several markers of excellence. Our theatre is rated first in the Southeast, the placement of students who leave us is extremely high, and the learning support system we have is helping students make long strides in development. The fact that we have those markers of excellence is something that qualifies us as a high level institution.

Why did you accept the position at GC?

I knew GC was a first-rate two-year institution. The opportunities for development are the kinds of things that attracted me here. As far as location, I think it’s ideal for faculty members and students. Also, I am more attracted to mountain areas. I was born in Puerto Rico, so I’ve always lived close to or in the mountains.

What are your short and long term goals for GC and how large of a role will state budgets play in these plans?

State budget plays a large role in any kind of planning that we do. We’re under the gun right now with the envisioned 2.5 percent cut for GC this year, and a projected 5 percent for next year. I’m hoping that those kinds of cuts do not affect the teaching component, but I think it will have some impact. One of the short-term goals this year is to bring some clarity to the divisional areas. This will help us establish goals and objectives that will identify what we do and what we value. We are a very creative division. We look toward that creativity as a source of power within the college.

For more of Kevin Moss’ interview with Dr. Torres, visit www.gccompass.com

By Scott McIntyre
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The Compass points at Gainesville College and it’s now on the Web.

The Compass Web site was started in 2001 by journalism students but was never maintained. Now the site is running and “failing to update it will not happen again,” said Michele Hester, editor-in-chief for The Compass.

The Compass Web site, www.gccompass.com, “is easy to access for students and others to learn about the college,” said Hester.

The Web site will feature the most important articles from The Compass. The site also has a 24-hour news section, which provides links to articles from other news sources, such as BBC World News and The New York Times. Past articles from the spring 2003 semester can be found on archived pages.

The site will allow the different clubs and organizations at GC to set up their own personal calendar, so members and other students can see what is going on around campus.

The editors of The Compass will maintain the site. Anyone interested in contributing to the maintenance of the Web site can contact Michele Hester at mh2968@gc.peachnet.edu.

The site will be updated about two days after each print issue is released.

Wesley Hughes, a computer science major, enjoys the convenience of The Compass online.

By Susan Schlegel
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While most of us were fighting the rays of the sun this summer, a beloved GC teacher was fighting for his life.

When Alpha Sheriff, a newer addition to the GC staff, started preparing for his 2003 summer semester, he seemed excited and eager to teach a new set of students. However, right before the summer semester began, his excitement turned to despair when the young teacher suffered a stroke.

Sheriff was immediately taken to the hospital for observation and word of his nightmare spread throughout the school. One of the first people notified was Sheriff’s close friend and colleague, Theresa Dove-Waters. His stroke “came as a complete shock,” Waters says, “It was not expected by any means.”

According to Waters, his troubles did not end there. “At the hospital he had a second massive stroke and had to have brain surgery.” It was a scary time but “it appeared that he was recuperating at a pretty normal rate.” However, soon after he went home, Sheriff faced another setback when an infection set in on his brain, and he was again, put in the hospital. He has suffered from one setback after another and “has been having a rough time.”

Orthopedic surgeon Dr. Bradley Noon said, “The average age of a stroke patient is 65. It’s like a magic age number, and the majority of patients I see suffering from stroke are at least that old.” So, for a young person in apparent good health, it’s quite rare. When asked about the situation, respected neurosurgeon, Dr. Karl Schultz agreed that, at 45 years old, “it’s very uncommon” for Sheriff to be suffering from this condition.

Sheriff’s students seemed equally devastated to hear of his absence. Kellie Sisk, a sociology major and one of Sheriff’s former students said, “he had a lot of enthusiasm and he really tried to get to know his students, he wanted to help people.”

Sheriff was in the process of creating a Sociology club at Gainesville College for the current fall semester. Sisk and many other students were fully prepared to join. “We all joined and now he’s not here, I don’t know what we were going to do” Sisk said.

Although Sheriff has encountered many set backs in his recovery both his friends and colleagues are optimistic. Head of the Sociology department, Dr. Charles Karcher is one such individual, “he has only been with us for a short time and has a lot to offer; he is tremendously missed and will hopefully be returning in the spring.”
Regents’ Test Policy Revised

By Kassie Davis
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The Board of Regents approved major changes in the 30-year-old Regents’ Test program, which allows students to exempt the test if they reach certain qualifications.

The new changes state that students who scored at least 510 in the SAT Verbal or equivalent score on the ACT will be exempted from taking the comprehensive section of the Regents’ Test. Students who score at least 650 on the SAT II English Writing test, a score of 4 on the International Baccalaureate Higher Level English test, or a score of 3 on the College Board Advanced Placement English test, will also be exempted from the writing section of the Regents’ Test.

Frank Sherwood, instructional laboratory assistant for English, says these new approvals are “good changes.” “Why should students be tested if, essentially, they already have been tested?” Sherwood asks.

The Regents’ Test serves as a tool to ensure that all undergraduate students have mastered the reading and writing skills needed for graduation.

Eric Thompson, a pre-pharmacy major from Buford, comments that the new changes are “for the best and should have been implemented before now.” Having already taken the Regents’ Test, he says these changes are of “no difference to me, but I am glad that the students get a break.”

VP Tom Walter Recognized for Commitment to Students

By Andrew Koppenaal
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Dr. Tom Walter, the vice president for student development at Gainesville College, won a nationally prestigious award at the American College Personnel Association national convention May 2 in Minneapolis.

Walter received the Esther Lloyd-Jones Award for his commitment to GC, not only as a teacher but as a student-development expert.

He was nominated by Barbara Anderson, a former president of the ACPA. Anderson worked with others in the association to support her choice of Walter for the award.

“I never considered myself the type for winning awards, so I was extremely happy for winning this award,” he said. “Now I know that all of my hard work and dedication has paid off for me.”

The award was presented to him for his commitment to professional services to the students that come to him for help.

“I am going to continue doing the things I have been doing all along and not worry about awards or recognition and just being the professional that I have always been,” Walter said.

He teaches psychology, leadership and a freshman orientation class at Gainesville College. Walter is an extremely busy person, but still manages to find time for his students.

Dr. Walter has been working for Gainesville College for more than 10 years and has been with the Student Development office since he came to GC.

He earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Illinois State University in 1974 and ’76, respectively, then his Ph.D. from Georgia in 1988.

Dr. Walter believes that he is doing all of the things he has always wanted to do.

Walter says he loves every moment of his job. He says he is not here for the awards; he is here to leave an impact on his students.

Flood Shuts Down Library

By Lauren Coffee
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The John Harrison Hosch Library was closed for four days in July due to flooding when the pipes in the ground floor restroom accidentally burst.

Campus security discovered the flood during the afternoon hours of July 13. One-third of the ground floor was soaked with a half-inch of water.

Industrial-sized vacuums were brought in to suck the water out of the carpet. After getting up all of the water, they placed 10 to 12 large dehumidifiers and 20 to 30 fans of various sizes throughout the library to dry up the remaining water and to prevent possible mildewing. The most difficult part of the cleaning process was drying the water underneath the bookshelves and the heavy microfilm cabinets.

There was no major damage as a result of the flood. The only thing that had to be salvaged was some books and papers stacked on the floor in an office. Regarding the damage, Byron Drew, director of the library, said the items were "small things that happened to be on the floor but not anything of great value." There was approximately $50,000 worth of paintings that were given to the school, stacked up and leaning against the wall of a storage room, that were somehow spared of water damage. "The water came in through the front door and made a little arc," therefore saving the artwork from harm, stated Drew.

"The really disheartening part for us (is that) we just got new carpet about two years ago. We had that old dirty carpet for about 30-something years, and to go through all the trouble during summer of taking it out and moving all the books out and putting in new carpet."

Just as the library staff became accustomed to the new carpet, the flood caused it to look as though the colors had faded together but after the cleaning crew finished, “the carpet (seemed) to have recovered.”

Oconeé Plans Student Activities

By Louis Vandenplas
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Ever wish there was something to fill that void of time between classes? If you’re a student at the main Gainesville College campus, then you’re in luck. However, for those students at the school’s Oconeé campus, it’s a completely different situation.

Currently, students who wish to relax or have some fun between classes have only a couple of options: play basketball or study in the commons area. The first logical question would be to ask where the student activities fee is going for those students who go exclusively to the Oconeé campus. The person who could answer that is Joshua Rood, director of student activities at Oconeé.

Rood says that he is in the process of “making things happen” and soon there will be many activities for students to take part in. Rood states that he is “planning on many special events, including a blood drive, a Halloween party, informative classes like identity theft protection or rape prevention and much more.”

Rood says that he has many plans for entertainment, such as the addition of a game room and athletic activities. The Oconeé Campus has a limited amount of resources, but Rood assures us that faculty members will do the “best we can with what we have.”

Rood’s main purpose is to “ignite student interest.” Rood also states that students with any ideas for activities should be sure to visit him. Rood can be reached in his office at room 508 or by e-mail at jrood@gc.peachnet.edu.
**SGA Plans For the New Year**

By Lauren Fuqua
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The sudden departure of Gainesville College's Student Government Association president is causing a re-structuring of the organization.

Due to family problems, LeAnne Pucket is no longer able to attend GC. The elected vice president, Justin Freeman, is temporarily stepping up to take over the leadership role.

"In the past, SGA has been an organization for the students by the students, but the only issues addressed were ones brought forth by SGA members," said Freeman.

"This year, we're trying to get more students into the SGA meetings, even if they aren't members. They can talk to SGA members and representatives and bring in new issues and concerns from outside SGA."

There have been problems in the past with leadership, which is part of why they are attempting this change. "We aren't too concerned with the changes in leadership, because we have amazing SGA members returning from last year," said Freeman.

Last year, the organization consisted of twelve students, filling various officer positions. Now SGA will try to work on a more broad-based arrangement, with representatives from all over the campus joining together to discuss campus-related issues.

"We're not as concerned with positions now. We just want to be productive," said Alicia Caudill, SGA advisor and director of Student Activities. SGA is currently conducting a membership drive, for which applications will be accepted through Sept. 8.

This year there are three returning students from last year's SGA, all working diligently to sift through applications and determine who should become an SGA member. They plan to ask all GC clubs to consider having one representative attend each meeting and work on committees. The committees include one for non-traditional and evening students, one that plans and organizes community service projects, and another for student services, such as parking, food and technology.

"SGA is a group of representatives of Gainesville College whose purpose is to make campus life as beneficial as possible," said Caudill. "They bring forth issues related to campus life and determine why things are the way they are."

SGA also works to promote the college in the community, change things, and improve them for students. Additionally, SGA informs the state government of occurrences at Gainesville College.

Meetings are held in the library at noon Fridays and are open to the public.

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**Focusing on Minority Student Issues**

By Kanashe Bailey
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For most minorities, the dream of attending college has little chance of becoming a reality. According to a recent poll by CNN, financial deficiency is the main reason minorities choose the workforce over furthering their education.

The office of Minority Affairs and Multicultural programs is striving to change those statistics. Led by André Cheek, who came to GC in the fall of 2001, the OMA serves students from diverse backgrounds through development programs, focusing on their needs.

Student mentoring, tutoring and cultural events are all programs offered to the students through OMA.

Students can also attend seminars on topics such as time management, study skills and résumé writing, as well as learn Power Point and web design.

OMA recruits potential student by going out in the community and visiting local high schools. Check said that her goal is "to reach, teach and to hold," which means recruitment and keeping students focused once they are in an academic setting.

Margarita Munoz, coordinator for Hispanic Outreach and Development said, "Recruiting students for Gainesville College and retaining them once they get here is my main focus."

Visiting local high schools, bringing students and parents to the college, along with a talk segment on a Hall County radio station are ways that Munoz hopes will encourage the Hispanic community and other minorities to enroll at GC.

Aisha Fowler, a social work major from Athens thinks "recruiting at surrounding high schools would get more minority enrollment at GC."

Edwin Atem, a business major from Cameroon, added that organizing, mentoring and tutoring programs are the best ways to attract minorities.

"Through different activities, the goal of OMA remains the same, to make students feel confident in enjoying schools, while at the same time raising self-esteem," said Munoz.

Many organizations exists at GC that focus on minority student issues. A few of these organizations are: Asian, Black and Latino Student Associations.

For more information or questions about OMA, contact André Cheek at (770) 718-3749 or acheek@gc.peachnet.edu.
Three New Study Abroad Destinations Announced

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This past May, Dr. Chaudron Gille, associate professor of French, Beth Hancock, instructor of history, and Dr. Harriet Allison, assistant professor of English and ESL, took eight students to Vancouver, Canada with the Study Abroad Program.

The group first traveled to Victoria, BC, where they went on a grand canoe adventure, a coastal rainforest hike and a whale watching tour. When asked to name her favorite parts of the trip Hancock said, “I loved all of the native activities: the canoe trip, the native feast and all the gorgeous scenery.”

After their four-day stay in Victoria the group took a ferry to Vancouver. In Vancouver, the group visited the aquarium, the Punjabi Market, the Chinese Cultural Centre, as well as the Capilano Suspension Bridge.

Student Brian Gandy, an undecided major from Marietta, said, “The trip was a lot of fun and I recommend the Study Abroad Program. I’ll find a good program for study abroad at UGA, and I’m sure I will, then I will jump at the chance of going again, as long as I can afford it.”

There are three trips available for next May.

The first trip, led by Hancock, is the Grecian Odyssey, a 12-day trip to Greece. This trip will cost $2,200, not including tuition.

Sights students will see are the Parthenon, the Acropolis, Olympia, the Temple of Poseidon and many more. This trip is not worth missing, Hancock agrees. “With the Olympics coming to Athens next year, it will be a great time to visit, especially after the renovations and before the crowds.”

The second trip, led by Gille, Francine Dibben and Margarita Munoz, is to Mexico on May 19-June 1, 2004. The trip will cost $1,950.00. Students will go to Guanajuato, Mexico City and Acapulco.

On this trip, students will be able to see the former home of artist Frida Kahlo and murals painted by her husband Diego Rivera. Students will also take an International Perspectives course (INED 2930) and earn three hours of course credit.

“When Margarita and Francine asked me to work with them on the trip to Mexico I was thrilled because I have never been there, and the theatre and arts focus of this trip is appealing to me because I love the theatre and arts,” stated Gille.

The third trip is to Germany for 9-10 days, led by Dr. Doyle and Dr. Cook, both associate professors of psychology.

The trip will cost $1,850; the group will visit many German towns and historic sites. Students will specifically be looking at the lives of King Ludwig II and Adolph Hitler when focusing on the question: what makes a behavior normal or abnormal.

The complete itinerary has yet to be completed.

For more information contact Doyle or Cook. Also, check out the study abroad website, www.gc.peachnet.edu/admin/studyabroad/basic.htm.

Evening Student Tricks

By Becky Lutz
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Most evening students are probably juggling a myriad of responsibilities, including work, family obligations and a heavy course load. While it is important to get the most out of the college experience, it is not always clear on how to go about that feat.

In addition to managing life outside of school, many classes are not offered in the evening that are offered during the day, the cafeteria closes after lunch and walking to the parking lots after that 10 p.m. class lets out can be frightening.

This column is aimed towards the GC evening students and will include happenings around campus that occur in the evening, as well as helpful hints for evening students.

Below, find a quick and easy recipe that can be started before going to work in the morning and will be ready to eat after work or school in the evening. Take note, this recipe requires no standing over a stove while studying is what needs to be done.

Beef with Acorn Squash and Potatoes

- 2 pounds lean beef
- 1 acorn squash, peeled, seeded and cut into pieces
- 2 large red potatoes, cubed
- 1 large onion, quartered and sliced
- 1 package dry mushroom gravy mix
- 1 can (14 oz) diced tomatoes with juice
- ½ teaspoon allspice
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- ½ teaspoon pepper
- 2 large bay leaves
- salt to taste

Combine ingredients in slow cooker or crock pot. Cover and cook on low for 8-10 hours. Serves 6.
School celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

By Michelle Barrett
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Enjoy ethnic music, dancing and Latino food and hear great speakers as Gainesville College celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month during September and October.

Here on campus there are many fun events planned in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month. The celebration is ongoing through Oct. 15.

Margarita Munoz, head of minority affairs said, “This will be a great opportunity to show what GC is doing.” Hispanic Heritage Month will be celebrated in honor of its past and future.

In hopes that the Hispanic culture and history may be recognized and better appreciated, the following events have been organized and are open for anyone to attend.

Included events are movies, dancing, ethnic music, a Mexican food expo and opportunities to hear many speakers.

On Sept. 29, Christopher Crommett, the executive vice president and general director of CNN en Español, will speak on “Caminos y Conexiones” in the Continuing Education building. He will be providing us with his “great intelligence and deep knowledge of many cultures.”

Munoz added, “The speakers are all great, and there are many varieties.” On Oct. 2, join in the fun by cooking tamales at the same location. On Oct. 8, enjoy music of the Andes: Llajasuyo on stage in the student activities building. These are just a few of the opportunities for students to get involved and have a great time.

Margarita Munoz expects a great outcome for this celebration. “Hopefully people will have a better understanding of Latinos as a culture and a group. This is just a taste.” Details and calendars can be found all around campus and in local newspapers. You can also ask any professor for the information.

See Margarita Munoz in the Minority Affairs department located in the student center for more information, including details on the study abroad trip to Mexico planned for May-mester of 2004.

GC Beats Heat With Summer Camps

By Andre Faulkner
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This summer, Gainesville College was the host of the seventh annual Northeast Georgia Post Secondary Readiness Enrichment Program (PREP).

PREP is an academic support and outreach initiative program created by the Board of Regents and directed by Lee Anzola.

The goals of PREP include assisting students, trying to increase their academic success skills, increasing their self-esteem, and providing motivation through a year-round program as well as an intensive summer experience. The PREP program consists of three components.

The first component provides seventh-graders the opportunity to participate in educational and motivational programs on the campus. These campus visits serve to introduce the students to the campus, student life, educational opportunities, and the preparation necessary to be accepted to the institution. The second component provides seventh-graders and their parents with quarterly enrichment projects that encourage students to continue their education through the secondary level and beyond.

The third component consists of periodic visits by the program coordinator to the area middle schools. The coordinator provides the “personal touch” the program’s participants. In addition to the year-round program, the summer component is an integral part of PREP. It serves to carry the students through the months they are out of school, reinforcing the success they achieved during the school year.

In the four-week summer component, students attend classes in various subjects including math, language arts, social sciences, computer science, and other subjects. Discipline is also an aspect of the program.

Appropriate conduct and classroom behavior are taught as part of the summer curriculum. Additionally, students enjoy subject specific field trips and even experience life in a college residential setting.

Summer Scholars, located here on the Gainesville College campus, is the summer component of PREP, and serves approximately 220 students. Summer Scholars Institute is an early intervention program entering its twelfth year. It was adopted as an integral part of the Post-Secondary Readiness Enrichment Program in 1997. It is a three-year program that targets students in grades seven to 10. Students attend three summers, and those students who are second and third year participants will earn one full high school credit towards their graduation. The Institute’s current returning student retention rate is 85 percent.

Today’s youth face many obstacles. These programs offer youth ages 10-15 a chance to better themselves and guide them on their path to a more productive and fulfilling life. For other students, the programs represent their last chance to avoid a diminished future.

As U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige said, “We have a responsibility to our children. While they represent only 20 percent of our population, children are 100 percent of America’s future. They are our greatest investment, and it is up to us to help them realize the importance of investing in themselves.”

On Sept. 11, campus flags were lowered to half-staff to commemorate the passing of the innocent victims lost in the terrorist attacks of 2001. Students, faculty, staff and members of the community met at noon at the flag poles in front of the administration building to read a litany written by Professor of Education and Religion Teresa Dove-Waters. GC President Martha Nesbitt and Dr. Tom Walter, vice president of student affairs, each made comments and reflected on the tragedies. The GC chorale, led by Lynn Latham, sang two selections in remembrance.
Welcome to the Student Saver, a column created specifically to rebuke the starving college student cliche. Student Saver's intent is to help students work through college on a limited budget while still enjoying college life.

Does this sound familiar? “I don't have a problem balancing work and school; I just wish I had more money left over”. Saving money will ease the strain on our wallets and here are a few tips to help.

Your first pass to savings is probably already in your wallet. Your GC student I.D. entitles you to many privileges, including significant discounts on products and services. Think of your I.D. as your magic pass to savings. AMC theatres offer a $2.00 discount, and the kicker is, it's even good on the new movies that aren't accepting coupons or passes. Check it out at amctheatres.com, and keep an eye out for the Moviewatcher program (moviewatcher.com, which exchanges free admission to the movies for a certain amount of your old ticket stubs.

Another way to save is to buy in bulk at local wholesale distributors. A membership at Sam's Club (samsclub.com) is about $35.00 per year, but being added to someone else's account as a secondary user, it is much cheaper. (Just last week I bought a gallon of fat-free milk for under $2.00 and a 55-pound bag of dog food for under $10.00.)

In addition, it is a good idea to stock up on Rubbermaid containers to divide bigger portions into smaller quantities and freeze until needed. Do the same with bread, cereal, cheeses, lunchmeat, and practically anything else!

One thing you must never do when trying to save money is to go to the grocery store on an empty stomach. Sound funny? Well, it is a proven fact. Would you believe that impulse buying accounts for 20-50 percent of grocery bill totals? Save yourself some dough by taking the time to list exactly what you need, and tell yourself while you shop to “Only buy what's on the LIST!”

Less impulse shopping equals more spending money in the pocket for fun things, and who couldn't use a few more dollars?
Intramurals Kick Off Fall Season

Hairy Dawgs, Spit Fire Teams Win Pools in Flag Football

By Jacob Pomrenke
Sports Editor
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Tim Birdette’s eyes lit up when he began to describe a crucial play in his team’s game Friday afternoon.

His intramural football team, which calls itself Spit Fire, had been holding onto a slim one-touchdown lead in its final round-robin series game against the Silver Bullets at the West Field on campus.

“I was trying to go around the corner toward the sideline and this girl was about to cut me off ...,” he said breathlessly.

“I just turned and spun and ...”

The 2002 Jackson County High graduate smiled and pointed at the end zone as he recounted the play that put Spit Fire ahead for good and gave his team its fourth straight win in as many weeks, good enough to secure its place at the top of the standings of Pool 2 in this fall’s intramural flag football schedule.

Mike White, a physical therapy major from Gainesville, of the Silver Bullets attempts to run upfield during an intramural flag football game against the Hairy Dawgs on Sept. 5 at the East Field. The Silver Bullets finished runner-up to Hairy Dawgs in Pool 1 during the annual September season.

There are no pads, no tackles and few blocks in the sport that kicks off Gainesville College’s annual recreational season. But the intensity is the same for these players as you’ll see on a Friday night under the lights at any high school in the state.

Birdette is one of almost 100 wanna-be student-athletes who signed up to play intramural flag football for the month of September. The 19-year-old business major says that he has continued to stay involved in sports throughout his life.

“That’s the best way I stay in shape, I guess,” he said. “I played basketball and ran track in high school, so I never really stopped playing.

“And after I got here, Crystal (Rainwater) told me about intramurals, so I decided to come out here and play. It’s always fun to come out and make plays, you know ... Plus, it fit my schedule pretty well. I like it.”

The Spit Fire crew, the largest of the eight teams, was also the best of the bunch, judging from the results on the field. Comprised of Birdette, Rainwater, Carrie Dethlefs, Jace Brewer, Jordan Brent, Derek Wiley, Evan Crawford, Sergey Petreski, Justin David, Sara Morris, Ashley Rainwater, Wendy Massey, April Stephenson, Kayla Stephenson, Eddie Rector and Pedley Sainvil, the Spit Fire team won all three of its early-season games in pool play.

On Friday, they swept past the Silver Bullets to win the first of three round-robin games against the top two finishers in each pool. On Wednesday, they will face Hairy Dawgs, winners of Pool 1, in a match-up of the only undefeated teams in the bracket. The game will be from noon-1 p.m. on the East Field.

Chris Watts of Hairy Dawgs says he is looking forward to the game.

“Just because we can’t hit each other doesn’t mean there’s no competition out here. We still play hard and a lot of these guys can be pretty tough to go up against. There’s some good athletes involved.”

Hairy Dawgs is made up of Watts, Rustin Smith, Jeff Sutton, Bobby Pirkle, Casey Ryals, Jess Clark, Ashley Little, Melody Brock, Justin Lewallen, Thad Hulse and David Nichols.

Smith, a criminal justice major, says that he likes having the chance to satisfy his competitive urges on the football field.

“It kind of makes me wish I had played sports more in high school,” said Smith, a 2002 graduate of East Hall High.

“Some of my older friends made up a team here last year, and that’s how I got involved. It’s a lot of fun. I’d definitely be interested in playing more if I could.”
How Come GC Doesn't Play 'Real' Sports?

There is talent here at Gainesville College. There are guys who have strapped on shoulder pads and girls who have bumped in the paint. Their high school glory days may be behind them, but the urge to compete — and to excel — is not.

These potential student-athletes, however, don't get the chance to show off their skills on the fields and courts of Gainesville College. There are no competitive sports offered now, despite an illustrious history of region championships and national tournament appearances. Banners line the gym walls and trophy cases are located in several areas around campus for all to see.

It has been 25 years since Gainesville College's Lady Lakers basketball team won its last Georgia Junior College Athletic Association state title. Many of the same teams that our Lady Lakers schooled on the hardwood in 1978 are still playing competitive sports in the GCCAA.

It wouldn't take much to get a program started, says Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College athletics director Alan Kramer, who coached that school's men's tennis team to the 1999 national title.

"The key is figuring out what sports you want to run," Kramer said. "It doesn't really cost the school anything at all, except for building the facilities. For us, and we run six programs plus a spirit team and a rodeo team, there's a $69 athletic fee for all full-time students. That's it. That covers all of our expenses." There are a number of issues that must be resolved in order to make competitive sports a reality at Gainesville College. The school must pass an athletic fee through the Board of Regents, decide how to comply with Title IX and work out transportation and scheduling arrangements.

But with a growing enrollment, now over 5,000 strong, perhaps it is time for Gainesville College to reconsider offering competitive sports to its student body. Successful athletic teams build school pride within the community and increase the exposure that potential students have to Gainesville College.

Needless to say, it also gives athletes a chance to hone their skills in a competitive arena. It is time to give our young stars a chance to shine.

Red Devils Find a Fan in Oakwood

Billy Wong, a business major from Hong Kong, shows that GC students are fans of sports all over the world. Wong is wearing the away jersey of Manchester United, an English Premier League soccer team, widely considered the most popular "football" club on the planet. With superstar midfielder David Beckham leading the way, Manchester Ltd., also known as the Red Devils for the color of their home jerseys, won the Premiership title in 2002-2003.

SORBA to Hold Annual Bike Race in October

The Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association is getting ready to rumble again in October.

For the seventh straight year, SORBA's Gainesville chapter will be holding the Tumbling Creek Mountain Bike Rumble on Oct. 4 at the Gainesville College campus in Oakwood.

Started in 1995 as a kids-only event, the race has grown into the largest event in the Georgia Association of Promoters (GAP) racing series. Proceeds will benefit the Trips for Kids youth biking program, which provides outdoor adventures for inner-city children. The day's events include a cross country race, children's race, super obstacle course and yard sale.

First-time racers, who are not required to hold a GAP license for the race, are encouraged to attend.

Thomas Sauret, executive director of SORBA and a professor of English at GC, says that the event will play host to veteran mountain bike racers from all over.

"The prizes are great, the course is fun and it's close to Atlanta," Sauret said.

Expert class racers will compete for a $500 cash prize. Beginners and Sport class racers compete for prizes and medals. A GAP racing license is required for all experienced racers. Registration fees are $20 for SORBA members and $25 for non-members. The registration period ends 30 minutes before each skill class begins its race; however, those who register on race day are subject to a $5 late registration fee.

Registration is available online at www.bike4fun.com or www.sorba.org.

For more information, contact Sauret at (770) 718-3674.
So Many Clubs at GC, So Little Time to Meet

By Christina Kelley
Clubs Editor
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As a brand new academic year begins at Gainesville College, many clubs are in wait for students that are ready to get involved. If you are one of those students who are eager to make an impact on the campus... or just plain have fun, here is a list of the clubs you can find on campus.

Asian Student Association (ASA)
Advisor: Harriet Allison & Karen Peters
When: 1st & 3rd Mon. at noon
Where: Rm. 146 Academic III
ASA's main purpose is to promote the awareness of Asian culture and provide guidance to Asian students on campus. ASA hopes to let Asian students join together and share their different cultures.

Legacy (Campus Crusade for Christ)
President: Jimmy Maisonneuve
Contact: Tammy Wolfe
Advisor: Amy McGhee
When: Mon. at noon
Where: Music Building, Room 21
Legacy is an international, interdenominational Christian organization that provides outreach, encouragement, fellowship, friendship and a means for Christian growth for students and the community.

The Compass
Advisor: Dan Cabaniss
When: Every Wed. at noon
Where: Compass Office in Student Activities
The Compass is an award-winning student newspaper and the voice of Gainesville College. No experience is necessary. The Compass seeks motivated and creative individuals to fill various positions on staff. Contact Michele Hester at mhes2131@gc.peachnet.edu for more information or stop by the Compass Office.

Art Club
Contact: Micki Davis
Advisor: Stacy Koffman
Time: Mon. and Fri. at noon
Place: Student Lounge Academic I

The Art Club wants to get fellow students more actively involved with the community through the use of art. Student who are creatively inclined or just appreciate art should consider joining the Art Club.

Future Health Professionals (FHP)
Advisor: Jim Konzelman
The goal of the club is to raise awareness about health-related issues on campus and in the community, while providing an opportunity for students to develop leadership skills. Website: http://www.gc.peachnet.edu/fhp%20webpage/fhpclubpage

Baptist Student Union (BSU)
President: Justin Freeman
Advisor: Jason O'Sullivan
When: Mon. at noon
Where: Science Building
The BSU has two main goals: opening up missions opportunities for students and to reach out to the community. They will be involved with many outreach programs throughout the semester. They are currently organizing a Bible study group and prayer partners.

Gainesville College Alliance
President: Hope Bising
When and Where: Mondays at noon, in room 147, Acad. II
The only criteria required to be a member is an open mind. Our mission is to further the health, welfare, diversity, tolerance, and awareness of the GBLT on this campus. We serve as a support group for the GBLT community.

Chorale
Advisor: Lynn Lathe
When: Tues. and Thu. 11:12:15
Where: Rm. 119 Music/Art Building
The Chorale is open to all students interested in singing. Lathe is always on the lookout for talented students who enjoy singing. The main requirement is having a pleasant singing voice. The class teaches you how to read music and rhythms. No formal experience is required, just a love of music is needed.

Education Club (SGAE)
President: Charlie Mehl
Advisor: John O'Sullivan
When: Every Other Wed. at noon
Where: Either Lanier C or Rm. 103 Academic II
The Education Club has the goal of providing social, professional growth and service opportunities to the campus's education majors. Club members are able to join the state's professional associations for educators and may receive scholarships.

Film and Lit. Club
Contact: Angelica Bellebuono
Advisor: Tom Sauert
When: Fri. at 1:00
Where: Rm. 169, Acad. II
The Film and Literature Club is responsible for the publication of GC magazines the "Chesapeake Review", the "Hoi Polloi" and they also sponsor the GC Writing Contest, which boasts cash prizes for the winners.

Engineering Club
Advisor: Jeff Turk
When: Every Other Mon. at noon
Where: Rm. 228 Science Bldg.

The Georgia Society of Professional Engineers student chapter at GC is a professional organization created to encourage and enhance engineering professionalism and student awareness of pertinent issues related to the engineering profession. It is a chance to increase perspective on the actual career, gain hands-on experience and learn about the ethics that accompany the job.

Black Student Association (BSA)
Contact: Edwin Atem
Advisor: Andre Cheek
When: Every Other Wed. at noon
Where: Rm. 187, Academic II
BSA's purpose is to culturally educate the campus through workshops, seminars, forums and speakers. BSA invests in the community through outreach programs, tutorial sessions and fundraising.

International Student Association (ISA)
Advisor: Chaudron Gille
When: 1st & 3rd Mon. at noon
Where: Rm. 181 Academic III
Their goal is to bring students together who share an interest in cultures from around the world. ISA has international student members, along with students who have never traveled outside of GA. ISA does activities to gain insight into different cultures. Visit their website: http://data.gc.peachnet.edu/www/clubs/orlange/
Jazz Band
Advisor: Andrew Santander
When: Tue. & Thu. 1-2:15
Where: Band Room
Music/Art Bldg.
See Jazz Combo below for exact information.

Math Club
Advisors: Delbert Greear,
Jerry & Ellen Graverman
When: Wed. at noon
Where: Rm. 138 Academic III
The Math Club’s purpose is to provide academic and social opportunities for students outside the classroom. The club sponsors Math League competitions, a mathematics tournament for two-year colleges, Math Awareness Week and the Problem of the Week competition. Visit their website: http://data.gc.peachnet.edu/www/clubs/math/.

Physics Club
Advisor: J.B. Sharma
When: Mon. at noon
Where: Rm. 212 Sci. Bldg.
The purpose of the Physics Club is to get students interested and involved with physics. They promote fun and fellowship working with physics and they encourage students to enjoy physics activities. Visit their website: http://data.gc.peachnet.edu/www/clubs/sp/sps/.

Students for Environmental Awareness (SEA)
Advisor: Caywood Chapman
When: 2nd & 4th Wed. at noon
Where: Rm. 136 Sci. Bldg.
The purpose of SEA is to raise environmental awareness. Activities include volunteering, field trips and the Wetlands Observation Platform. Visit their website: http://www.gc.peachnet.edu/science/rclay/SEA/Sea.htm.

Second Wind
Advisor: Brenda Adams
When: Every other Thu.
noon
Where: Acad. III, room 187
This club is for students returning to school after five years or more. Members can meet fellow non-traditional students who will share their experiences and help others face college challenges. So why join this club? It’s not only a support group, but it will help students learn how to juggle the many roles as a non-traditional student and how to become a more successful student in the process.

Student Government Association (SGA)
Vice-President: Justin Freeman
Contact: Cheril Bowers
Advisor: Alicia Caudill
When: Fri. at noon
Where: Lanier AB
Joining SGA is a good opportunity to learn more about the college. It gives students a chance to influence how things are run at GC and to decide what issues are addressed in meetings. It gives students the option to discuss issues that affect all the students at GC. SGA is working hard to collect and determine issues that the students are looking to change or have addressed.

Politically Incorrect Club (PIC)
Advisor: Douglas Young
When: Mon. at noon
Where: Rm. 101 Academic II
The PIC is an organization that encourages true diversity, opening up new perspectives to students by allowing the expression of all points of view. It promotes students to speak up and voice their opinions in open discussion. PIC gives students a deeper understanding of how the government works and illustrates the importance of getting registered and voting. The club is run and organized by the students and is open to everyone. In the past they have had a number of guest speakers, including politicians and have hosted field trips as well. Visit their website: http://www.gc.peachnet.edu/soscsci/piclub/.

Intramurals
Advisor/ Organizer: James Howard
The purpose of intramurals is to promote the health and physical well being of the students. The GC Intramurals is a unique experience allowing everyone the opportunity to join a sport and to have a blast in the process. Sign-ups for October intramurals ends Sept. 27. Visit their website: http://www.gc.peachnet.edu/pe/intramurals/.

Philosophy Club
Advisor: Dr. Charles Burchfield
When and where: Room 101, Acad. II every Wed. at noon
Food and beverages are provided and members discuss topics ranging from the philosophies of religions, science and politics to science fiction movies. Our mission is to foster a forum for philosophical dialogue and to have fun. Everyone is welcome!

Anime Club
Advisor: Dr. Patryce Worrall
When and where: Room 170, Acad. II every Wed. 3:30-5:30
The Anime Club’s purpose is to promote an interest in and appreciation of anime through viewing anime films and television series and through discussion sessions.
September

25 Thursday
• Catch the Compass!! New Edition released today!!!

24 Wednesday
• Myra Nash “Small Scale Works” Closing Reception (CE Building) Noon
• Tropical Breeze, UGA Steel Drum Band (S. A. Building) Noon.

26 Friday
• SGA Meeting (Library, Rm. 134) Noon
• Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown

October

1 Wednesday
• 10 AM Multicultural Programs (XP PowerPoint) Workshop (Acad. III, Rm. 160)
• 12-1 P.M. Dance: Danzas Genéricas de Colombia (S.A. Stage) 2 Thursday
• 12-1:30 P.M. Cooking Mexican Food: Making Tamales (CE, Rm. 110)
• Oct. 2-5 & 8-12 “Eleemosynary: Autumn Mainstage Theatre” at Sautee Nacoochee Theatre. 8 P.M., Sun. 3 P.M.

6 Monday
• Multicultural Programs Mente/Mentor Meeting (Acad. III, Rm. 187) Noon
• Talk: Melissa Lazarin from National Council of La Raza (CE, Rm. 109-110) 12-1:00 P.M.

7 Tuesday
• 8:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. Multicultural Programs Visit UGA
• 2:00 P.M. Movie: “La Muralla Verda” (Acad. II Building, Rm. 170)

8 Wednesday
• 1st Session Classes End
• Music: 12-1 P.M. Music of the Andes: Llajtasuyo. (S. A. Stage)

9 Thursday
• 1st Session Exams
• Talk: 12-1 P.M. Ms. Bazzano-Nelson shares about Mexican Muralists (CE Building, Auditorium)

10 Friday
• SGA Meeting, noon (Library, Rm. 134) • 12@12 Sky Diving (S. A.)
• GTA–“Stone Soup”, Pearce Auditorium, Brenau 7:30 P.M.

13 Monday
• Columbus Day (Observed)
• Mike Super, Magic & Illusion (S. A.) Noon
• Multicultural Programs BSA Meeting (Acad. III, Rm. 187) Noon

14 Tuesday
• 3:00 P.M. Multicultural Programs: Web Page Design Workshop (Acad. III, Rm. 160)

15 Wednesday
• Health Fair 9-1:00 (Gym)
• Multicultural Programs: Learning About People With Disabilities

Workshop (Acad. III, Rm. 187) Noon.
• 12-1 P.M. Colloquium Series Speaker, Don Scherer “Green Ways to Green Space” (CE Auditorium)
• Movie 2 P.M. El Jardín del Edén (The Garden of Eden) (Acad. II, Rm. 170)

16 Thursday
• Talk: 12-1 P.M. Ignacio Escárccega, Director of the National School of Theatre/National Institute of Fine Arts (Ed Cabell Theatre)
• 5:00 P.M. Pizza Party (S. A.)

17 Friday
• Mid-Semester Break

20 Monday
• 2:00 PM Multicultural Programs Come to Focus On: You Workshop Parts I & II (Acad. III, Rm. 187)

21 Tuesday
• 2:00 PM Multicultural Programs Come to Focus On: You Workshop Parts I & II (Acad. III, Rm. 187)

23 Thursday
• 8:00 AM - noon Multicultural Programs Visit Kennesaw State University

27 Monday
• Multicultural Programs BSA Meeting (Acad. III, Rm. 187) Noon
• 12:15 PM Wild Goose Chase/5K Run & 1 Mile Run/Walk

28 Tuesday
• End of 1st 10-wk Session Classes
• 12:30 PM Multicultural Programs Sign Language Workshop (Academic III Room 187)

31 Friday
• 11:30-1:30 Fall Carnival (gym) • 1st 10-wk Session finals
• Standard Time Returns: (Remember: “Spring, Forward & Fall, Back”

Do life’s questions have you thinking in circles? If so, join the Philosophy Club!

Open your mind to the possibilities.
Meetings are Wednesday at noon in Academic II, room 101.
Come and participate in enlightening conversation, enjoy great movies and hear great speakers while having fun exploring the depths of your mind with others.
Virgo
The Extinct Virgin
August 23 to September 22:

I have the slight suspicion your birthday has past. Does that upset you that I can't dedicate a celebration to you? I could have said, "Hey, you're older and you can party," but instead you're just old and lonely. Doesn't that suck? Man I think that sucks.

Libra
The Scales of Whales
Sept. 23 to Oct. 22

Hey Birthday folks, it is your time to shine. Actually you have a small window to party before the Virgos become enraged with jealously and track you down one by one to destroy all of you. Honestly I'd hide.

Scorpio
The Scorpion of Death
Oct. 23 to Nov. 21

The truth comes out: You took Avril Lavigne on a date and spoke entirely of differential equations so she made a song about it, I think you know what I'm talking about... "Why'd you have to go and make things so complicated?" Hey, you try to write this material, Bub.

Sagittarius
The Foot Archer
Nov. 22 to Dec. 21

Don't bother auditioning for American Idol. It's not the Idol Worship you were hoping for. There won't be any human sacrifice or figurine worship in your honor. Too bad you spent a long time working on your own hymn.

Capricorn
The Goat of Pain
Dec. 22 to Jan. 19

Look around you. Notice that you're not surrounded by beautiful people? You're in college you fool! Everyone knows that beautiful people don't need education, they have their looks and you don't.

Aquarius
The Water Bearer
Jan. 20 to Feb. 18

Your boss will be very impressed if you label yourself as a Water Bearer. He or she will be doubly impressed if you added Child bearer to your resume. I promise.

Taurus
The Bull Sheet
Apr. 20 to May 20

Sit down and ponder the idea of the perfect circle, dot...dot...do you really have a cootie shot?

Gemini
The Uni-Twins
May 21 to Jun. 21

Friends say: Stop trying to contemplate what you ate for the past month and get over it. Everyone knows you didn't eat corn.

Cancer
The Crab Walk
Jun. 22 to Jul. 22

Holy shit! Yale officials desperately want to pay you to attend their honorable institution! Ahahahahaha, sniff, hahaha, you poor fool. I crack myself up.

Leo
The Lion of Love
Jul. 23 to Aug. 22

You will be engulfed with joy as you bask in the attention that everyone around you will give. I will be miserable and lonely because you and your entourage won't hang out with me.

Aries
The Butt Ram
Mar. 21 to Apr. 19

Divorce is for quitters, and 95% of the married population in the past decade.
By Heather Daniels  
Arts & Entertainment Editor  
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Jim Hammond, the artistic and managing director of the GTA, feels that "the upcoming season has something for everyone, from the sparkling musical comedy, 'Anything Goes,' to the stylish thriller, 'Dracula,' to the hilarious satire, 'Comic Potential.'"

Even before any of these three shows are performed on main stage, WonderQuest, GTA's Theatre for Young Audiences, is putting on "Stone Soup," which is a well-known and loved children's story about sharing. "Stone Soup" is scheduled for performances on Oct. 10th and 11th at Brenau's Pearce Auditorium. There will be a stage tour of Stone Soup at 6 p.m. Sept. 30 at the Pearce Auditorium. A stage tour is a way for the audience to get a look at what goes into the making of a show.

"Anything Goes" is the first main stage performance, which has been described as a musical/comedy/love story performed on board a ship with the inspiring music of Cole Porter, who also wrote the music for many other famous musicals such as "Kiss Me, Kate" and "Can-Can." This show is scheduled for November 4-16 at Brenau's Hosch Theatre.

The second performance of the season is "Dracula." GTA started out using the script for "The Passion of Dracula," but Jim and his wife Gay Hammond felt that it wasn't what they were looking for, so Gay is writing GTA's own collaborative adaptation of the script. "Dracula" is scheduled for Feb. 10-22, 2004 at Brenau's Hosch Theatre.

"Comic Potential" will be GTA's final performance of the season and is a hilarious social satire set 50 years in the future. This show is scheduled for April 13-25, 2004 at Gainesville College's Ed Cabell Theatre.

All students are welcome to audition for any show, though auditions have already been held for "Stone Soup" and "Anything Goes." For auditions, the directors lean more towards people interested in a career with the theatre, but anybody is allowed to audition. There are many different positions people can audition for, not acting alone: lighting, props, sound, backstage help and more. If students are truly interested in the theatre, William S. Beaman offers a Theatre Practicum class (THEA 1010) that allows students to actually work on upcoming shows.

Jim also says that even though the Oconee Campus is too small to have its own theatre, they do have part time staff teaching Theatre Appreciation and are keeping an eye out for any potential theatre majors.

To celebrate their continued success, the GTA will be hosting a 25th Anniversary Celebration in May. They will be inviting everyone who has ever been involved with the GTA for the past 25 years.

Bessac Named Art Department Head

Margaret Burriss  
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The art department at Gainesville College responded to the increase in student enrollment by appointing a new head this fall.

Associate Professor of Art Anne Bessac, who has been a professor at Gainesville College since Fall 1989, was appointed head of the Art Department at the end of the spring semester. Bessac has enjoyed the position. "It [the position] has been fun giving structure while letting teachers be who they are and letting students be who they are," she said.

She came into the position with two goals in mind. The first is to make the studio art classes "not [just] for the talented," but for the untalented as well. The second goal is to create "openness between students."

"My intent is that all students at Gainesville College who are interested in taking a studio art class feel comfortable."

Middle Education major Suzanne Polk from Jefferson, who is taking a ceramics class this semester, agrees. "They [the art majors] help the non-art majors. The atmosphere is very comfortable and I am very comfortable in class," Polk said.

The art department also has three new adjunct faculty members teaching the art appreciation courses.

Adjunct professor Michael Dixon is a figurative artist with a Masters of Fine Art from Indiana University. Adjunct professor Rienstra-Kiracofe has a Masters of Art History from the University of Georgia. Adjunct professor Vivian Liddell has a Masters of Fine Art from the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn and has also had her work on display at The Eyedrum Center in Atlanta.

Bessac is pleased with the professors that are in the department. "What the faculty brings together as a whole is greater than an individual professor on his or her own, like a composition," she said.
No Longer a Comeback, Mac's Here to Stay

By Douglas Young,
Assoc. Professor of Pol. Science

Fleetwood Mac's Say You Will CD, their first studio album with Lindsey Buckingham and Stevie Nicks in 16 years, disproves F. Scott Fitzgerald's adage that "there are no second acts in American lives." Though Christine McVie's lovely vocals and soothing piano are absent, Buckingham and Nicks compensate with a bevy of compelling songs and their finest double harmony since 1973's Buckingham Nicks. Say You Will is also Mac's hardest-rocking release without diluting the band's eminently danceable pop anthems. Anchoring all is the most reliable rhythm section this side of the Rolling Stones' Charlie Watts and Bill Wyman — Mick Fleetwood and John McVie — who are so good that their dependably crisp drums and bass get taken for granted.

While everyone excels, Say You Will is brilliantly dominated by Buckingham. Co-producing and engineering every track, his sumptuous guitar work has never been more original, varied, or pronounced throughout a Mac record. Ranging from a riot of Hendrix-esque solos on "Murrow Turning Over in his Grave" and "Come" to the most touching acoustic sounds of "Say Goodbye," and seamlessly melding both extremes in "Miranda," Buckingham's fret work here is his finest yet.

Even on Nicks' numbers, Buckingham's guitars compete well with the cute little witch's legendary voice. His endlessly innovative instrumentation forms the CD's common denominator, like lovely gingerbread touches on a pretty old house. So, while resembling the Beatles' White Album in that each song is clearly its singer-composer's, Say You Will sounds more unified.

Replacing hitler late '70s love-gone-bad laments are more mature, forgiving songwriters glad to have loved and learned. While Nicks is usually ensconced in Loveland, her seventies ex (Buckingham) displays a considerably larger, albeit often opaque, lyrical palate which even broaches politics — though thankfully sans the stridency afflicting some constipated celebrities.

While no song is filler, many help define this record, such as the LP's opener, Buckingham's "What's the World Coming To," a straight-ahead upbeat rocker with a compelling hook and engaging harmonies. Though pessimistically observing that "You can't plant no seed where there's only greed," the song is enveloped within a delightfully danceable framework. Throughout this CD, Buckingham's vocal range has never been more broad, nuanced, or vibrant.

Nicks stand-outs include "Illume (9-11)," a hypnotic funk-meets-country homage to NYC heroes. Its mix of musical genres and vocal distortions is quite winning. More entrancing is "Thrown Down," an infectious tale of a young Buckingham trying to woo Nicks back. Overseen by her signature singing style laced with a rapid echo guitar and joint harmonies, this number epitomizes the essential Fleetwood Mac sound. But the title cut is Nicks' most sublime single since "Gypsy" off 1982's Mirage — immediately intoxicating music complemented by joyful harmonies. If you don't dance to this song, you don't dance.

"Peacekeeper" is Buckingham's best single since Rumours' "Go Your Own Way" in 1977. From the opening riffs reminiscent of CSN & Y's version of Joni Mitchell's "Woodstock," it's full of aural treats beautifully blended with Beach Boysque harmonies and soaring yet controlled guitar work chained to a delightful melody. Far more complex than most radio tunes, it's a plaintive plea for peace because "Love is the sweet surprise."

Despite a deeper vocal range, some repetitive lyrics, and Nicksville remaining mired in romantic soap operas, Nicks' songs are still consistently catchy, visual, memorably phrased, and infused with that gloriously distinctive voice, alternately tender and forceful, but always captivating.

Music Department Gears Up

By April Landry
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The Gainesville College Chorale and Symphonic Band plans to hold events on and around campus, such as a traditional Christmas montag, a spring concert and a jazzy tribute to Big Band.

The chorale, led by chorale director Lynn Latham, plans to hold their popular family holiday concert on Dec. 1-2 at 7:30 p.m. This event, now in its 12th year, has added an additional day and is free to the public. Held in GC's Ed Cabell Theatre, the chorale is in conjunction with the Gainesville College Symphonic Band, led by band director Mercer Crook. The band will play accompaniment, as well as their own Christmas favorites.

"We have a complete band enrollment for the first time in the school's history, and we are planning several performances for the fall semester," said Crook.

Following the holiday concert, the chorale is joined by the Gainesville College Jazz Band and Combo to perform the 20th annual Big Band Show.

"There are costumes and props, and we dance in almost every song," said choral student Shelby Fowler. Showcasing types of jazz, swing and blues, the show will be held at 7:30 p.m. March 4-6 at the Ed Cabell Theatre in the Continuing Education building. Tickets are $12 for adults, $6 for GTA subscribers and $8 for children, seniors and non-students. The box office opens Feb. 23, 2004. Reservations are recommended; call 770-718-3624 for tickets.
‘The Lake’ Will Pull You In

In the novel “The Lake of Dead Languages,” Carol Goodman takes us through so many surprising situations we don’t know what to believe to be the truth till the very end. This book has twists and turns that would befuddle the most avid readers of mystery. Goodman alludes to things we want to know about, but have to keep reading to find out. We don’t want to put the book down because we can’t wait to find out what happens.

This is a story about the past catching up to the present. 20 years after graduating from The Heart Lake School for Girls Jane Hudson goes back to teach there. As we read Goodman gives us little snippets of the past at varying stages. The book starts out with a recurring dream Jane has and then goes into the present. She gets a piece of paper slipped into her homework folder that turns out to be from her journal she had lost senior year of high school. As we continue to read we find out that the past is starting to repeat itself. When Jane was a senior her two roommates committed suicide. Now, the suicides are happening again and much more of the past is revealed than Jane would like.

I don’t want to give anything away because to say too much would reveal things better left to the imagination. So I will leave you there with more questions than I’m sure you began with.

The language is something you have to get used to because the book skips so often between the past and the present that it’s hard to keep up. But Goodman uses present tense when talking about the present and past tense when remembering things. It’s a different way of writing and you find yourself shifting gears to accommodate the tense change. The book is also written in first person so we only get the thoughts and feelings of Jane. This makes it all the more interesting because it keeps you guessing as to what the other characters are thinking. The details are also exquisite in this book. The details are so precise and thought out you get a perfect image of what is happening. And you can easily imagine what the scenes look like. But then it doesn’t give you so much that you get bored after a while. Trust me, you’ll never get bored reading “The Lake of Dead Languages;” it will make you gasp, cry and laugh. It’s a great book to read if you like being surprised. It’s also a fun book to keep you guessing because the second you think you have figured it out things change and leave you dumbfounded once again. It keeps you wanting to come back for more. The motto for the school is after all “The heart will lead you back.”

Summer Movie Wrap Up

This summer the movies were like one long night at your favorite watering hole. There was a lot of expectation and hope, but ultimately a bad taste was left in our mouths. We sat around watching the previews and talking about what a great time we were going to have. We began by viewing the movie “The Matrix: Reloaded” and hoped those hunks and babes would provide us with some action. The conclusion of the previews led us through a new door, entering the summer movie season.

Upon entering the theater, we almost felt as if we were revisiting our favorite bar. All of the same people were there, just like before. But hey, we expected them to be there. What disappointed was that “The Matrix: Reloaded” had even less personality than its predecessor. That, plus the same ol’ tricks meant after five minutes boredom had already set in. So, to “The Matrix: Reloaded” we said, nice talking to you and we hope that the final movie leaves us less confused and more satisfied.

So we moved on to the next big hit, “X2: X-Men United” and hey, here is what we paid the cover to see. This was like talking to someone who looks ok from far off, but great close up. Plus, this flick had teeth. For the comic fan it stayed true to story and provided great action for all of us. We expected a mediocre movie, but what we got was a brilliant piece of work that left us wanting to see more. In bar terms this was a number we definitely got and one we were sure to call.

As we moved through the night we ran into a few mindless, just blow ‘em up, who-the-hell-cares type flicks. “The Hulk” reared its ugly head like a jealous ex. “Bad Boys II” and “Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life” turned out to be good to look at, but without any plot they left us wishing for someone with a more stimulating personality. One action flick didn’t disappoint. That movie was “Swat.” Hey, all we expected was for Samuel L. Jackson to be cool and Colin Farrell to be a hunk who says smart little quips and kicks ass...and that’s exactly what we got.

Fed up with all flash and no carry through, we turned to the comedy corner of the room. Once there we found that the guy at the door forgot to check IDs. Just about all the movies here were of the teen and younger generation. With movies like “Uptown Girls” and “Freaky Friday” the norm, we felt like dirty ol’ men hanging around for too long. The bright spot was the new entry from the “American Pie” series “American Wedding”. Just like an old friend this movie entertained us with the same conversation that never gets worn out. Sure, some of it wasn’t quite up to par, but it had a story and the wedding gave you a good date feel.

So finally we arrived at the end of the night and started looking in the direction of the horror flicks. With “Freddy vs. Jason” and “Jeepers Creepers 2” we decided we could have a little fun while we were here. To a point these flicks were a lot of fun, but they weren’t worth spending money on again so we in­nayed the ritual exchange of numbers.

As we left, the realization set in that the three top grossing movies were “Finding Nemo”, “Spy Kids 3D”, and “Pirates of the Caribbean”. Unfortunately, these were the three most popular as well. So a cartoon fish, a boring franchise movie, and Johnny Depp in mascara were the best out tonight. Like a bad night out, we acquired a few good stories and a few good memories, but many more we’d just as soon forget.
Broken Sky Breaks Out at the Masquerade

The best way to tell if a band is good is to see them perform live and to watch how they interact with each other off stage. Broken Sky has everything: the chemistry, the stage presence, the talent, and the ambition to make it to the top. A local band, who has only been together for seven months, Broken Sky has accomplished what most bands take a life time to achieve. They have played at the 40 Watt, their favorite venue to perform at. In all seriousness, this band rocks. And with influences such as Alice in Chains, Filter, Nine Inch Nails, Helmet, Sevendust, and Injected there’s no doubt that they rock in more ways than one.

Originally, the lead singer, Kerry Kramer, 21, and the lead/bass guitarist, Andre Ducote, 18, were in rival bands. Each band broke up, so Kerry and Andre decided to put aside their differences and form a new band. A mutual friend and also ex-band member brought in Duncan McGuire, 21, the drummer. Duncan is also a student here at GC. Kerry came up with the band’s name. He noticed one day that it was only raining from one section of the sky which made it look cracked. Now they joke that they are named Broken Sky because every time they have a show it rains. And I am here to testify that it does in fact rain every time they have a show.

Broken Sky puts on an awesome performance. They are all very animated on stage and you can tell they love what they do. When asked about the future, Kerry said, “We all love each other and all we want to do is perform together for as long as possible. If we can we would like to make a living off our music.” They all currently have other engagements keeping them from doing what they love full-time, but that will all change when they land a record deal.

If you like hard rock music that has an awesome beat and great lyrics, then you should visit their Web site and listen to some of their songs.” The Web site also has their bio, news updates and a listing of all their upcoming shows. They currently have no shows scheduled for this month because they are going to record a new demo at Rex Trax studio in Suwanee.

At their last show, Broken Sky played many of their new songs intermingled with their old for the first time. All of their songs are originals. Some of their new songs include “Burn It Down,” “Duncan’s Song,” “Walk Away” and “Iscariot.” All of which will be on their new demo that you will be able to get a copy of at one of their shows or through Broken Sky’s Web site. The new songs have a slightly different sound than the older ones, they are edgier and more complex. Melissa Moore, 25, a fan for several months now said, “Their new songs rock! They are harder and angrier than before. ‘Iscariot’ is my favorite song by Broken Sky because it proves that sometimes good things can come from betrayal.”

Fooly Kooly (or FLCL): It’s So Good It Doesn’t Matter

Score: 10

Is it furi, or is it kuri? What is Furi Kuri? Both of these questions and many others will, unfortunately, not be answered here or in the anime FuriKuri. This oddly titled anime was recently aired on Cartoon Network on adult swim. That was the wisest move Cartoon Network has made since re-airing Cowboy Bebop. FLCL rocks all that can be rocked; it’s a non-stop, laugh out loud anime. One of the best I’ve seen in a long time and I’m so glad they produced it in my lifetime so I could witness this masterpiece. Produced by the same people who did Neon Genesis, FLCL is what the Gainax artists create on their off time.

This is an anime about a boy named Naota. His older brother went to America to play baseball and left his girlfriend with Naota. Mamimi begins to flirt and hang around Naota after his brother’s departure, but she always calls him by his brother’s name, something he doesn’t like. This is a girl with issues. Beside this, he lives in a town with an alien space ship in the shape of a steam iron, that lets off steam at a certain time each day. To make matters worse for Naota, an alien girl, Haruko, runs him over one day with her motorbike, and to add insult to injury, she knocks the snot out of him with her guitar.

This creates a problem for Naota, because a robot named Kanchi sprouts from his head. Kanchi ends up as the housemaid for Naota, his father and grandfather, whom he lives with. Later, Haruko moves in with Naota to investigate his powers, which she unleashed after hitting him. That’s only the beginning to this odd story.

The music is top notch. Move over Seatbelts there’s a new favorite Japanese band on my list, and that’s The Pillows. This group is the perfect choice to make the soundtrack to this series. With their Japanese punk style, The Pillows will have you stepping to the beat while watching fight scenes. They really put the emotion into this series. Without them FLCL would only be half as good.

Graphically, this series is stunning. Faces are detailed very well and the color selection is top notch. Many other details help. From the overly emphasized lips on Mamimi, to the wires on Kanchi, every detail was thought of in this crisp-looking anime. The animation itself is also fast. After watching a few episodes you might want a nap or at least take a breather, because this is an anime that will wear you out with visual goodness.

The series has a great cast of voices. No expenses were held choosing the right cast for both the Japanese and English dialects. This means localization of the series was flawless, another big bonus. There are few animes that can execute dialog this well. Each character’s English voice actor was just right for the part. Haruko’s high-pitched nasal voice is implemented with character like precision.
What are GC’s Future Plans?

For the past several months, Gainesville College has been in numerous news stories. The most recent involves the overwhelming increase in student enrollment. With this number of students at GC continuing to grow at an explosive rate, many questions remain about how the administration will accommodate. Rumors abound of GC’s transformation to a four-year college. Professors have even spoken of this change, but still, definite announcements have not been made. In theory the studies are still being done and decisions are having to be made at higher levels.

It is the opinion of the compass that Gainesville College is at a turning point much like a small business getting ready to expand. The time is now to decide whether or not GC will expand to a four year school. The process of expansion is a very bureaucratic one and will take several years to facilitate. Plus GC will not suddenly offer four year degrees in every major. The expansion will be necessarily staggered to better prepare the campus and staff.

As demonstrated in this issue we have enough students to facilitate such an expansion, and the community is growing by leaps and bounds. Just remember that when you communicate to the dean your desire for a four-year program, you tell them we can also take the growing pains.

Pizza Man Saves the Day

The Compass staff would now like to take the time to thank an important element in our college lives: our GC food service, Elegant Expressions. Gainesville College is blessed with such a wonderful food service staff. Mr. Donell “Pops” Moorehead at Elegant Expressions makes the best pizza.

One afternoon, while having a Compass staff meeting, we decided to order one of his delightful pizzas. Disappointingly, “Pops” discovered that he was fresh out of his famous pizzas, but he promised that the next week he would provide us with a complimentary one. The next Wednesday, the Compass staff received a delivery of not one but two pizzas. Mr. Moorehead went above and beyond and stood by his word. Thank you Elegant Expressions for becoming a part of our Gainesville College family.

We Need Your Opinions

The Compass is looking for opinions. Lately it seems like the Compass staff and contributing writers are the only opinionated people on the campus. We’ve asked for people to send us articles about issues they feel passionately about and we’re still waiting. So, just how opinionated are you? Do you feel like your voice isn’t being heard amid the roars and bellows of your vocally opinionated peers? Do something about it. Let the Compass know how you feel on these issues.

A Special Thanks to Brian in IT

As much time as Brian Gibbs spends in the Compass office, one would think he was a key member of the editorial staff. Actually, he is not a staff member at all. He is GC’s Student Computer Network Specialist, and without his help, no one would be reading this Compass issue today. The Compass staff would like to extend a special thanks to Brian and the other IT personnel for their diligent work in solving our computer problems. Thanks.
Stop Lying to the Kids

I don't understand why so many parents feel that it is a commendable thing to lie to their children. It is a bit humorous when you stop and think about the outlandish, ridiculous ideas we put in our children's minds. For example, I don't know who's idea it was to suggest to small children that every year on Jesus' birthday that a jolly old man would break into your house after he arrived on flying reindeer. Another fabrication we like to tell our kids about is the Easter Bunny, all over the world people celebrate the death and resurrection of a savior by explaining to their children that a giant bunny came and left chocolate eggs in a basket. I am not claiming to be a biblical scholar but I have browsed over the good book and I didn't notice the words bunny or chocolate egg anywhere.

Making Dreams Come True

I am a poor girl. Nobody loves me. And thanks to Financial Aid, I'll stay that way. Seriously, though, I recently applied for Financial Aid in hopes of at least partial reimbursement for my near $1500 in tuition, books and fees for this fall semester. I filled out a confusing application, hunted down both mine and my mother's tax returns, and entered personal information about both incomes. While I completely understand why the money is necessary to reach an estimate on the amount the state is willing to give me, one question in particular really pissed me off. On the application, it asked me to list the amount of child support given a year to any child in the household. I have a 17 yr. old brother who gets $1300 a month from my father. I am 20 yrs. old, and no longer receive child support from my dad. I don't see a penny of that money. My mother makes less than $27,000 a year. Anybody knows how little that is for a woman supporting two kids. But because of the money my dad contributes toward my brother, which puts us over the mark for me to get any money from the state for school. Why does the system punish me for my parent's divorce? So I continue to support myself through school and that's the critical thing: that I'm actually trying. I know I could have it worse. However, I'm probably going to have to drop the classes I paid for out of pocket (which I can't be paid back for...) in order to get a second job to help out my family. Thanks a lot, Financial Aid. You really make dreams come true.

JOIN THE COMPASS STAFF!
Meetings Wednesday at noon. Email compass@gc.peachnet.edu for more info.
The Bookstore Money Pit

Now, don’t me wrong. I love Gainesville College. In fact, I’m sure most students here feel that we have a pretty terrific campus. What other schools do you know where teachers not only let you into their offices but also their lives?

For example, I have Mr. Jeff Bigglesworth-for World Civilizations and the other day he was telling our class how he was excited about getting his family their first pet (it was one of those hairless Mr. Bigglesworth-from-Austin Powers cats.) Now at UGA, do you think teachers even care to bring their personal lives into a classroom of 200 or more students? It’s just the little things that the faculty and staff do to make each and every day special.

However, that does not mean that GC is the perfect college. There is always room for improvement. This statement I am directing toward the “Money Pit”, and no, I’m not talking about that cheesy 80’s movie with Tom Hanks. I’m talking about the GC Bookstore. Let’s face it. It’s a fact. College textbooks are expensive.

Nevertheless, the GC bookstore is nothing more than a modern-day Microsoft. Even Bill Gates himself would agree that the bookstore is a monopoly. This semester, I spent around $400 in the school bookstore. On one book alone, I shelled out $160. After my wallet was emptied, I jumped online to search for more efficient options. I discovered my new best friend, Half.com. There I was able to purchase the same $160 book for only $67 plus $2.95 shipping.

For all you math majors, that was a savings of $90.05. Just think of how many $0.99 Junior Bacon Cheese Burgers I can now get at Wendy’s. So my question is: What is the college doing with all that turn over profit? Honestly, my Half.com textbook was a week late, but well worth it. Is convenience really that expensive?

Now this is not intended to be an anthem to enrage all you students who were unjustly cheated out of your own money. This is merely a warning for next semester.

Think before you purchase and when you do have to fork out more at the bookstore, be nice to the GC workers.

It’s not their fault; in fact they are some of the nicest people on our campus. Just smile and think, “Next semester, I’ll plan ahead and save!”

I Love Women So Much!

I have recently had a renewal of my appreciation of woman. They truly fascinate me and while I have always held them in high regard I recently have found everything about them beautiful. I love all of them in every form imaginable. I like how they look whether it is in shorts with legs that go on forever or covered up to lend that air of mystery. I love the fact that not only is the variety so huge among the female population, but a single woman can change her look every day. Everything about the form alone is just breath taking. I came to the conclusion that men are just utilitarian and when god made woman he improved on his first model to include beauty. However what I love most of all is the fact that they are the most complicated people around.

You never know what will appeal to them on any particular day or moment. This used to drive me crazy but now I see it as a challenge. Like the weather; a woman will never let you know ahead of time what to expect from her. So instead of letting this tie me in knots I have decided to relish it. I go with the flow and love the fact that one day a girl will pay attention to me and the next just ignore me. That on a particular day she likes that I am cocky and the next she wants the sweet sensitive type. It means that I have to adjust my game plan and develop new strategies. I hate to say this is a game, but if you just remember that this game has serious consequences then it can be fun to play.

So guys remember to just look around and wonder what these lovely creatures see in us. Always keep your attention on high because what worked yesterday will not work today. Always pay attention to not only what the lady says, but how she says it. Give them credit for knowing us better than we know them. Enjoy the fact we do not know them that well and see it as an epic adventure. I just know the journey that is women has no end, but in this case the trip is the reward.

Surprise! Religious Liberalism Exists

What do the following two statements have in common: “Congress shall make no law regarding an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,” and “We have based the future of our nation on our ability to obey the ten commandments of God?”

Stumped? I’ll tell you what they have in common. They were written by the same man, James Madison. He was the writer of the Bill of Rights and he believed that the success of the Constitution depended entirely on the individuals ability to recognize and obey the same commandments that the Alabama court voted unconstitutional.

Madison was not alone. The same founding fathers who drafted our Constitution stated boldly to the people of the new country that in order to insure that God was with them, they needed to “…confess and bewail our manifold sins and transgressions, and by sincere repentance and amendment of life, appease his [God’s] righteous displeasure, and through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, obtain his pardon and forgiveness.” These words were part of a Congressional Fast Day proclamation in March 16, 1786.

So ask: how likely it is that everyone, including our founding fathers, misinterpreted their own document for the first 190 years. I submit to you that what has happened is that, for the past forty years, certain judges have been abusing their authority by purposefully reinterpreting the constitution to serve shifting liberal ideologies.

It is the personal choice of these people to not believe in God, but they should not drag our nation down with them.
I’m the Guy With the Bowtie

Since my arrival on campus over a month ago, several of my colleagues have ribbed me lightheartedly about my dress. Yes, I’m the guy with the bow ties. But, the ribbing is nothing new as even my children have recently asked, ‘Dad, why do you wear church clothes all the time?’

As a somewhat private person (my wife would cringe at the thought), I have never been one to draw attention to myself nor causes that I am passionate about through public displays. However, as a black man, I have found that much of what I do outside of my community is exaggerated both by my gender and race. Before you write this article off as just another plea for race-based diversity from a black man, I hope that you will hear me out.

When most of us engage diversity issues, the issue is generally shaded mostly by race and gender. My personal view is that the issue is broader than these issues or, at least, the discussion should be much broader in scope. Having spent time in several states, academic institutions and disciplines, and professions as a student and instructor, my background is fairly eclectic. While I would be the last person to consider myself an expert on diversity, I do believe that my eclectic background has done much to lend itself to understanding the issue in a more pronounced fashion to say the least.

For me, an awareness of diversity began with my own personal biases about academic choice. Several years ago, I decided to enter seminary. In the selection of an appropriate academic institution, I avoided a local seminary for personal ideological reasons only to end up teaching at the same institution. Probably the most important lesson that was learned in seminary was how to deal with the tension of ideas that conflict with my own personal ideas and philosophical views. One of the most influential persons impacting my approach to academic diversity was my systematic theology professor. He and I shared very little by way of cultural and ideological background. Our cultural, philosophical, and racial differences were obvious in our academic exchange as we disagreed on most theological issues. However, although the professor could have looked at our points of disagreement as an opportunity to dismiss my point-of-view as uninformed and academically inept, this professor was more interested in weighing the strength of my arguments relative to the facts rather than exercising his academic muscle and imposing his ideological will. This has helped to shape my own interaction with students and colleagues alike.

In a broader sense, the seminary experience, both as a student and instructor, taught me how to live with the tension that exists between my personal belief system and the belief system of others. I believe that a core principle of diversity is acceptance, especially, of other peoples’ intellectual positions. For me, this has meant accepting others in their different ideological and philosophical persuasions. When I deem my view is right or at least most ideologically sound and preferable, including religious beliefs, political preferences, or personal perspective, I seek to understand the rationale without attempting to convert. Acceptance is more than the infamous, “Can we all just get along?”. This merely implies tolerance.

As I convey to my students, many suggest that America is a “melting pot” where we blend together. I believe that it is a stew where all of the main ingredients are clearly identifiable. Diversity is like a stew where our differences are pronounced and regarded as important even in the midst of the heat.

When I decided to come to Gainesville College, I felt a genuine sense of belonging. This sense of belonging was both because of the common points of identity with my colleagues and, especially important were, the differences. The day that I spent on campus made me feel like I was apart of a community which shares a common academic bond (student centered education as opposed to dispensing of information). But, I also felt that we share a common struggle to workout ideological and tensions. This struggle is a group effort to deal with the somewhat obvious and pronounced racial homogeneity both within the faculty and student body. This contributes to an undiverse intellectual climate. But, the struggle is also to incorporate a philosophy that respects diversity of ideas, academic endeavors, gender preferences, religious persuasions, and cultural distinctions. I didn’t come here singing a chorus of “We shall overcome.” Maybe I’ll hum, “We are the World.”

A few months ago, two articles appeared in the Atlanta Journal Constitution that were of particular interest to me regarding diversity. One article conveyed the thoughts of Harry Belafonte’s criticism of Colin Powell’s loyalty to the Black community because of his political party preference. The article essentially conveyed Belafonte’s criticism of Powell in the form of asking the question, “Is Colin Powell black enough?” My concern was that Belafonte clouded a democratic right to political choice with racial identification. The Black community is not monolithic political community that thinks and embraces the same views on all issues. I am, like many people, progressive and even liberal on some issues and moderate and conservative on others. I believe that Powell is the voice of reason in the midst of Cheney, Rumsfeld, Rice, and Wolfowitz. Besides, he drives my favorite car – PT Cruiser.

In another article, Al Shapton was quoted as criticizing the movie Barber Shop for perceived derogatory remarks about Dr. King, Rosa Parks, and Jesse Jackson. While I personally, think that the remarks were distasteful, I do believe in artistic and ideological free expression. Again, not all believed that Martin and Jesse Jackson were or are the voice of the black community.

As a political scientist, I believe in the ideals of democracy that allow for free expressive interactive dialogue. In my classes, I convey to my students that many of our ideals of democracy are myths. These beliefs are myths in the sense that, they symbolic postures that reflect what is partly realized and ideal. More than all else, the creeds that we adhere to are tenets of our diversity.
New Campus Aids Enrollment Growth

By Kristi Nix
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Gainesville College officials never imagined that there would be such a high enrollment at the Oconee campus.

According to Michelle Brown, director of enrollment management and student development, "We expected 1,200-1,400 students.”

This semester has an enrollment of 1,772 students, a huge increase compared to the 615 students enrolled last semester in the Piedmont College facility.

Brown said that many factors have spurred the huge increase in enrollment at the new campus and former site of Truett-McConnell College in Oconee.

These include transfers from Truett-McConnell, the more accommodating size of the new facility, and the success of "word of mouth” advertising, or as Brown put it, "The word got out.”

A big concern now is that the Oconee campus facilities max out at an enrollment of 2900 students.

Although Brown could not say what plan of action the administration is going to take, she did say, "They’re currently looking at methods to manage growth at the Oconee campus.”

Students face other problems as well. About 140 students have to take classes on both the Oconee and Oakwood campuses. Brown said that most of the classes taken at the Oakwood campus are not offered in Oconee. "Depending on your Area F curriculum, classes like art studio and microbiology are only given at the Oakwood campus.”

Though the administration is looking at ways to manage growth, some students will continue to take classes at both campuses.

Brown hopes that pre-registration will give the students taking classes at both campuses an opportunity to get a full load at the Oconee campus.

However, Brown also pointed out that Gainesville College students can register at either campus and if more students want to transfer from the Oakwood campus to Oconee, they can.

40 Watt Club the Epicenter of Athens Nightlife

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To those unfamiliar with Athens, or perhaps just unfamiliar with the Athens music scene, the west end of Washington Street isn’t always the most desirable place to spend your Friday nights downtown. You’ll see lots of black clothing and the occasional unfriendly face. You’ll see the starving musician sitting outside the Engine Room, swirling a PBR and sucking on an American Spirit. You’ll hear whiffs of pseudo-bookish conversation floating through the air; discussions of politics and the constant ragging of George "Dubya.” You probably won’t run into many people who are involved with the UGA sorority and fraternity scene and you will probably get dirty looks from people who suspect you aren’t hip enough to know what Orange Twin (the local recording company) is.

But the west end of Washington Street is different, because there you will find some of the best original and non-mainstream music coming out of Athens, Georgia today. The epicenter of this music scene is the 40 Watt Club.

The 40 Watt is nestled at the end of Washington Street between a small record shop and a polish sausage stand. For the most part, you have to be 18 years of age to enter the club and (of course) 21 to buy alcohol from the bar. There is one large main room, lit brilliantly with Christmas lights and morrow balls, with 2 bars on either side and a stage on the far back wall. To the right of the stage is a game room/lounge which takes you to the backstage area.

Seating arrangements depend on the show and the anticipated crowd. A smaller show on, say, a Tuesday night, will more likely house a room full of tables, chairs, and an array of used couches that are so comfy you could almost catch those much needed Zs you’ve been fighting with your snooze button for.

I can’t say that I’ve ever been to the men’s bathroom, but I do know that the women’s bathroom doesn’t give off the cleanest vibes, but hey, what bar bathroom does?

Various music styles can be heard at the 40 Watt each week. While it’s mostly indie rock bands, you can find shows for harder bands and your typical 80’s dance DJs.

Local favorites such as Elf Power, Kruh Girls, The Good Ship, I Am the World Trade Center, and Maserati often play their larger shows here. Often you will find more famous names playing, such as Jonathan Richman, Sonic Youth, or Modest Mouse.

Outside the 40 Watt is J.B., the polish sausage man, with his famous "come back sauce.” His little cart, with its massive cylindrical grill, is open almost every night except Sunday. The sauce indeed has made me "come back” (though trying to digest the spicy sauce, onions and sausage will compound your wretched hangover) and there are tofu dogs for the herbivores among you. Shortly after the music dies at the 40 Watt, a line begins forming up Washington, fill of hungry drink people who are willing to pay $4.00 for one of J.B.’s weiners.

You can purchase advance tickets to shows at Low Yo Yo, the record store adjacent to the 40 Watt, or at School Kids Records which is located on Clayton Street. You can also buy them online at www.40Watt.com or call the 40 Watt at 706-549-7871. Unless it’s a big show, you can usually pay at the door at 285 W. Washington Street.