Danger Zone

Landrum Education Drive: The Most Dangerous Road at Gainesville College

A Definitive History of GC Sports

It's "Showtime!" at Gainesville College ... or at least it was when the Lakers ruled the courts in Oakwood. Have you ever wondered about the dozens of trophies that are housed inside the Hugh Mills Physical Education Complex lobby? It really was Gainesville College that won all those awards and honors from 1967-1985, when the school had one of the most competitive athletic programs in the nation while competing in the Georgia Junior College Athletic Association. Then known as Gainesville Junior College, the Lakers (named because of our proximity to Lanier) won state titles in basketball, golf, tennis, track and field and a number of other sports over that 18-year span. Those days are long since gone, but Compass sports editor Jacob Pomerene looks back with Gainesville College's first president, Dr. Hugh Mills, and many former coaches, players and faculty members in the first comprehensive history of competitive sports at this school.
**Student Escapes Communist Cuba**

By Kevin Moss
Contributing Writer
kmoss@bellsouth.net

Two gallons of formaldehyde hung over each side of a leaking ramshackle raft carrying 28 people, adrift somewhere in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico, desperate to find the shores of America.

One of these people was Nosleivys Falcon. In 1994, Nosleivys learned that formaldehyde was a popular shark deterrent for Cubans making the perilous trek across the Gulf Shore waters.

Fidel Castro's protest of the Clinton administration's refusal to lift the embargo and its tightened sanctions on boat people gave its citizens virtual passes to leave the island. "Anyone who wanted to leave could leave, if you had the means to," says Nosleivys. The "means" in this case were eight 55 gallon drums welded together and propelled by an antique car engine. Some of the raft was paid for with money Nosleivys's mother acquired after selling her apartment, a punishable act in socialist Cuba; many of the raft's parts were stolen. By other standards, this was state of the art. "People left in rafts made out of wood. Many of them died on their way over here."

This would be Nosleivys's second attempt at crossing the water barrier in the makeshift craft. The first ended where it had begun after swift gulf currents turned the raft back towards Cuba without notice from anyone on board.

By midnight their raft was starting to sink. Utilizing a fog light to assess the damage attracted a U.S. Coast Guard vessel. Soon all 28 passengers were transferred to a holding carrier. Once inside the belly of the ship, Nosleivys and her family found themselves lost in a sea of other detained immigrants. "We were on that ship for two weeks. But we knew anything was better than where we were." Later they would be taken to Guantanamo Bay, a U.S. Naval Station located on the southern end of Cuba. There they were given wrist bands with ID numbers, devices used to keep track of the many would-be immigrants being held there. While in Guantanamo Bay, Nosleivys attended school where she began learning English and enjoyed some of the freedoms denied to her by Castro's oppressive Marxist party.

On the island, visas were handed out by priority. People with handicaps and disabilities received them first, followed by single mothers with children and then families with sponsors living in the states. The latter would bring shelter from the storm for Nosleivys and her family. An uncle living in Miami would sponsor the family, providing them a place among the free people of the United States—providing them a new beginning.

Nine years later Nosleivys is married with children and living in Georgia. She is currently a Gainesville College student and says living in America has been a wonderful experience. She also knows how lucky she was. "If you leave the country and you are caught, you may end up in front of a firing squad."

**GC at Odds Over Attendance Policy**

By Kassie Davis
Contributing Writer
kda2586@gc.peachnet.edu

Students and teachers disagree when it comes to attendance policies.

A vast majority of students agree that attendance should be up to their discretion. The teachers say they don't enforce attendance policies to make it hard on students, but that they enforce them to prepare students for the real world.

"You don't buy a coke and then have someone tell you when to drink it," says Josh Purcell, a general studies major from Homer. "You are paying to go here, whether you chose to or not should not fail you."

Teachers argue that they are trying to teach students the importance of attendance in an everyday work environment, to show that repetitive absences are not tolerated.

Heather Banks, a dental hygiene major from Commerce, says, "If you can miss a few classes and keep up with your class work, then you should keep the grade you earn."

Tom Burns, assistant professor of business information systems, comments, "Intelligence is important, but how hard you work and the effort you put into a class is far more valuable."

Burns' attendance policy allows students to miss one class without any repercussions. Ten points is taken out of a 300-point system for every absence afterwards. But Burns does offer the chance to make up points lost through extra credit. He also gives students who miss a class the opportunity to attend the same class at a different time that day.

Elizabeth P. Hancock, a history instructor at GC, makes her attendance policy part of her grade, but instead of taking away points because of absences, you don't receive points. Her grading policy is based 25% on attendance. "This gives students 25% control of their grade. It seems to be working well," she says. "Most of the course work is not repeated after that day, so attendance is extremely important."
Landrum is Unsafe for Pedestrians

By Blake Duncan
News Editor
Bdun5653@gc.peachnet.edu

Corey Gossett, a GC student from Gainesville, sat waiting in his car while a pedestrian crossed Landrum Education Drive from the Continuing Education building to the Administration building. The oncoming car was barely able to stop and the car approaching behind Gossett was forced to slam on its brakes to avoid an accident. This incident, though, is not the first of its kind.

Over the course of the past few years GC Security has recorded three different accidents on campus, each relating to Landrum Education Drive. The victims in the accidents did not require medical treatment.

One accident occurred at the point where Campus Drive meets Landrum Education Drive, another at the entrance to the grass parking lot and the last accident happened at the triangle where Campus Drive turns onto Landrum. Marion Darracott, the director of Gainesville College's Security Department, says that motorist are not entirely to blame.

"We're seeing students walking across the street not paying attention, like talking on cell phones," Darracott noted.

Landrum Education Drive is a county-maintained road, and therefore not a part of the college. In the past, security has borrowed speed detection devices from the Gainesville Police Department and that "seemed to help," Darracott noted.

When asked why county police didn't patrol the road, GC Security said, "We have permission from Hall County to work traffic on that street at peak times, especially in the morning, during the rush." Darracott added, "It (the traffic) seems to be better when we're out there. They (Lanier Tech) have fully sworn off-duty Hall County deputies and yet I've never seen them work traffic."

While the Gainesville College Security Department does not have authority from the Hall County Sheriff's Department to actually dole out punishment, Darracott suggests that all students practice civility and safety while driving around campus.

Darracott stated that GC Security has the ability to call the Oakwood Police Department and the Hall County Sheriff's Department.

Campus Pointe Finally Opens Doors

By Michele Hester
Editor-in-Chief
ahes2131@gc.peachnet.edu

Originally scheduled to open in August, Campus Pointe has finally allowed their first residents to move in.

The apartment complex, exclusively for Gainesville College students, is located about a mile from the campus on Tumble Creek Road. The first students moved in the last week of September, and the remaining moved in the first week of October. "We were delayed almost two months," said Jim Oldeen, a Campus Pointe leasing consultant. "But now all 43 students who signed leases are moved in."

Unpredictable summer weather was the main reason for the delay in constructing the apartments.

Richard Kodak, first semester criminal justice student at GC, signed his lease back in August. "I was pretty upset that I couldn't move in when I was supposed to. The delay turned out to be a real inconvenience for me," said Kodak. "But now everything is fine."

Campus Pointe offers spacious apartments with individual 10 and 12-month leases available. A roommate service is also available.

Each apartment has three bedrooms, each with private baths. All utilities, except phone service, are included in packages starting at $385 per month. Full kitchens are equipped with microwaves, dishwashers and disposals. Washer and dryers are also included. Campus Pointe employees expect to have high-speed Internet access and cable TV in the apartments within the next week.

Although many of the units at Campus Pointe remain under construction, the first residents were allowed to move in the first few weeks of October.

Plans for community gatherings like pizza parties and billiards tournaments are in the works. Oldeen said, "We also have a fitness center with state-of-the-art equipment, but it is not as big as the game room." Campus Pointe is still looking to occupy around 200 more spaces. A co-signer is usually required for first time renters, but the application process is quick and easy and only takes about two or three days.
Spring Registration Begins Soon

By April Landry
Campus Life Editor
Alan1524@gc.peachnet.edu

Margie Clark, a first-semester student and engineering major at GC, waited until the last minute to register for classes this fall. Her full load of courses consists of what was left over.

When asked why she did not register online, Clark replied, “I have Math 0099, and you can’t register yourself when you are in learning support. So when I registered for classes, I waited too long and got stuck with ones at eight in the morning. Some days I have three hour breaks that make it impossible for me to go to work in the afternoon.”

For this spring semester, Margie will make sure to pre-register for the courses she needs at the times she desires. Margie has learned that pre-registration, a service that many students are unaware of, helps you get the classes you want instead of the classes that are left.

Amy Ivester, coordinator of academic advising, said that one of the things students can do to be prepared for registration is to go to the GC website and look up the list of classes, determine what classes are needed at what time, and write down the course reference number (CRN).

“The CRN will help you register quickly, especially those in learning support courses who can’t register themselves,” said Ivester.

According to Ivester, there is a reason behind why learning support students cannot register themselves.

“The reason learning support students must be registered by their advisor is to ensure that they register for the correct classes,” Ivester said. “Learning support classes are a prerequisite to everything else. Learning support students have a learning support advisor if they have three or more remedial or college preparatory courses.”

When asked what students need before registering for courses, Ivester replied, “My suggestion for students who want to self-register and would like to speak with their advisor should make an appointment early in the semester. That way, when registration time comes, it is a simple, quick process.”

Ivester also said that the blue card you get in the mail is very important.

“The date on the blue card is the earliest day you can register. Priority is given to students that have the most hours earned. So, typically, students who have a lot of credit hours can register earlier than those who have less, or new students. Soon, though, new students who apply early to the college will be given a spot to register at the end of pre-registration, whereas later applicants have to wait.”

GC Honored for ‘Best Practices’

By Blake Duncan
News Editor
bdun5653@gc.peachnet.edu

Gainesville College has been awarded a $15,000 prize for “Successful Practices to Prepare Students to Pass the Regents Test” by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. GC is one of only eight institutions, and the only two-year school, recognized by the board for best practices.

The awards were presented on the campus of Valdosta State University on Oct. 8. Seventy-three submissions were handed in to the Board of Regents from 22 institutions across the state.

The program was developed to assist the state’s 34 public colleges and universities in becoming more efficient at offering help to students and more effective in their standard operations.

University System Chancellor Thomas Meredith labeled these institutions as examples that can serve as models to other universities in the system to help enhance operations, a key goal of the Board of Regent’s Strategic Plan.

The Best Practices competition was divided into four categories: academic affairs, finance and business, student affairs, and information technology.

Shelly Dahlin and Frank Sherwood accept an award for best practices here at the college.

GC faculty members Frank Sherwood and Kelly Dahlin, both tutors in the ACTT Center, were the actual hands-on staff members who implemented the practices that won first place in the academic affairs division. Sherwood and Dahlin developed a comprehensive instructional system that helps students prepare for taking the Regent’s Test.
New Discussion Group is at GC

By Davis Odom
Contributing Writer
rodo3277@gc.peachnet.edu

Students and faculty at Gainesville College have a new opportunity to discuss and understand the foreign relation policies of America.

Susan MacFarland and Charles Burchfield, faculty members at GC, have organized a Great Decisions program on campus. The program is a way to hear different opinions concerning the United States and the world. "It gives people a chance to discuss important issues," said Susan MacFarland.

The Great Decisions program was created to educate the public on foreign policy issues. Each year the association generates a list of eight foreign policy topics to be discussed at the meetings. A different topic is discussed at each meeting. Every topic has a leader that will get the discussion sessions going.

The Great Decisions discussions begin Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. and end at 1 p.m. in Academic 2 in room 147. Anyone wishing to sign up for any of the discussions they should speak to MacFarland at Academic 2 in room 135.

The Great Decisions sessions are expected to help attending teachers spread new ideas to their students, creating a ripple effect of information throughout the campus. "This program makes for a stronger intellectual community on campus," said Jason Mosser, one of the Great Decisions session leaders.

Charles Burchfield said, "The more informed our citizens are the better they can choose our leaders." After the discussions, the participants will fill out ballots on all the topics to send to government representatives. The program should help to create better foreign ties for our country by letting the representatives know how the public feels.

The topics for 2003 are: multilateralism vs. unilateralism, Afghanistan, U.-S.-Saudi relations, Nigeria, world trade, China, Europe and women's rights. Updates and descriptions on the topics can be accessed on the FPA website, www.fpa.org.

Academic Probation
Encouraging Students to Succeed

By Michelle Barrett
Contributing writer
mbar7057@gc.peachnet.edu

Students know and statistics show academic probation is a positive reinforcement.

Joshua Crisp, a current Gainesville College student recalls his experience after being on academic probation. "Academic probation reminded me of why I was here," Crisp said. "It reminded me that I was still accountable to somebody for what I was doing while on campus."

Having brought up his grade point average since, Joshua Crisp believes "whole heartedly that this policy was directly responsible."

A cumulative GPA of 2.0 is required for graduation from GC. This academic policy is enforced to discourage students from graduating late.

Students will be placed on academic probation if they do not meet their required cumulative GPA which is determined by the number of hours attempted each semester. "Once a student is placed on academic probation we mail out letters to students informing them of their academic status," commented Mike Stoy vice president of academic affairs.

When a student that is on probation earns at least a 2.0 from courses taken the following semester but is still unable to bring their cumulative GPA up to standards, the student with no penalty will be placed on continued academic probation. "I would prefer to send out merit and dean letters instead of academic probation letters," Mike Stoy added.

In the event that a student does not earn at least a 2.0 during that semester, academic suspension will be the result. The student will be suspended for one semester and may request an appeal to the admissions committee.

GC student Richard Atkins explains that "students feel they should get off probation in order to avoid suspension; this gives them positive pressure." Statistics show that in the past five years the percentage of students on academic probation was less than only 10 percent of enrollment at that time. This low percentage helps to show that the academic probation policy really works.

Unfortunately, records of a student's academic past will permanently be on transcripts.
Get College Credit While in High School

By Lauren Fuqua
Contributing Writer
lfuq5504@gc.peachnet.edu

Jordan Breit was able to get twelve hours out of the way before he graduated from Jackson County High School last year. “I really feel as if I missed out on a lot of things at the high school,” he said.

“Dr. Nesbitt strongly supports this program,” said Tim Buchanan, Director of Admissions at GC. “It creates an applicant pool of academically strong students, and nearly half of them remain here after they graduate.”

Chris Cash, a senior at West Hall High School, feels that being a PSO student is really helping him. “Now college won’t be such a big transition from high school,” Cash said. “It won’t be like night and day; it’s nice to take things in small steps.” Cash is currently taking two classes at GC.

One of the problems encountered at the college with PSO students is the level of maturity, according to Buchanan. “Ninety-five percent of the PSO students do well,” he said. “But some fail classes because they are not used to the new freedoms that weren’t at the high school.”

The state has a formula for the amount of money given to a high school in accordance with the number of students there. “If a student is at the college, we don’t see any of that money,” said Doug Saxton, a counselor at West Hall. Many of the classes taken at the college only count as a little more than half of a credit at the high school, but a student must take two similar classes in order to earn a full credit at the high school.

The state pays 75 percent of the cost of tuition, and it is up to either the college or the student to pay the rest. While many colleges make the student pay for the remaining 25 percent of tuition, GC does not. The student must pay for textbooks, and automobile and registration fees on their own.

The state mandates that the college make the PSO program available to interested students.

All joint-enrollment applicants must have completed two courses in algebra, two in science and must be on track for the College Preparatory Curriculum diploma seal. Their high school grade point average must be at least a B-average. The student must have received a composite score of 1060 on the SAT-1, or a 24 English and 23 Mathematics on the ACT. The applicant must also submit a letter of permission from their parent or guardian.

Sheriff Recovering Well After Tragedy

By Joshua Crisp
Staff Writer
jcr8479@gc.peachnet.edu

He has to wear a bicycle helmet to protect the hole in the back of his head, which is about the size of a tennis ball.

He has to keep a black three-ring binder with him at all times. The doctors call it his “memory book.”

He cannot drive, so a close relative must drive him whenever he leaves the house. He has to wear a bicycle helmet to protect the hole in the back of his head, which is about the size of a tennis ball. But Alpha Sheriff is in high spirits.

Sheriff is recovering from a series of tragedies that have affected him over the past five months. First, his brain hemorrhaged and he had to be rushed to Gwinnett Medical Center. Initially misdiagnosed as having a tumor, he was given a type of steroid meant to keep the swelling down.

The stimulant caused an infection in his skull that eventually led to two more operations—one to remove the infected bone matter, and one to remove the infection from part of his brain.

Lately, Sheriff has spent much of his time at the Emory Rehabilitation Center in Atlanta where he undergoes the therapy that will enable him to return to his job here at Gainesville College, hopefully as early as next semester.

“I don’t have to do most of them anymore,” says Sheriff, referring to the many types of treatments he has undergone while at Emory. He still keeps his “memory book,” which Dr. Anne Marie gave him as part of his speech therapy.

Inside is a calendar with all of his previously completed activities referenced inside, as well as a daily log that he keeps. The object was to re-teach Sheriff how to re-collect past events, a discipline that had been made more difficult by the brain surgery. However, now he just keeps it as an organizational tool.

For the remainder of his time, Sheriff only has to undergo occupational therapy.

It is designed to retrain the body to perform the basic functions that it did before the hemorrhage, such as walking, maintaining balance and, more recently, cooking and doing laundry.

“The object is to be able to lead an independent life,” he says with a laugh. “I never did those things anyway. Someone always did them for me.”

In one month, Sheriff will undergo one final operation which will replace his lost bone matter with a protective plate.
Kristy Sand: Looks and Feels Like A New Person

By Susan Schlegel
Contributing Writer
ssch5759@gc.peachnet.edu

In January of this year, nursing major Kristy Sand weighed almost 400 pounds, but when her friends see her now, only nine months later, they are astonished by her nearly 200-pound weight loss.

Sand underwent weight loss surgery commonly known as gastric bypass, a surgery that greatly decreases the size of the stomach, making it impossible to overeat.

For many Americans who struggle with obesity, surgery rather than dieting seems to be a quick and easy way to drop pounds. But for Sand, the seemingly quick and easy results of surgery turned out to be much more difficult than she ever expected.

What some critics of the surgery don't realize is the fact that gastric bypass is a major operation with major risks, and even though weight loss happens quickly, it is not an easy task. Erica Fauscett, a registered nurse who cares for gastric bypass patients, agreed. "A lot of people go into the surgery thinking it's going to be easy, but it's not because of the physical and emotional changes the body goes through."

Most surgeons try to prepare patients for these changes they will endure. But according to Registered Nurse Dana Burnett, it is difficult to prepare patients because "it's one thing for them to be told what they have to change but, when they actually have the operation, they realize that they have committed to much more hard work than they had initially expected."

That was the situation Sand was in when she awakened from her anesthesia in January, "psychologically I really wasn't prepared, and I got a little depressed."

The first month after surgery is apparently the most demanding on the body. Irene Hughes, a former gastric bypass patient agreed saying "it was hard on me, in the first month I would call my doctor crying because I wanted food." The change in diet is hard to adapt to, "your head still says your hungry but your body can no longer hold the food." Hughes said.

Although the changes were difficult as first, Sand said she is glad she did it and would not hesitate to have the surgery again. "now I eat whatever I want in moderation, and I still lose about five pounds a week."

Perhaps the greatest outcome for this mother of two is the newfound energy she has. "I have energy now that I didn't have before; I can keep up with my kids" Sand said.

In addition, her health has improved greatly; she gets tired less easily and is no longer diabetic.

Sand wants people to know that even though she is happy with her Post-op results "it's not the easy way out; I still have to watch what I eat and even how restaurants prepare it." Her ideal weight is 175 pounds but she said, "If I were to stop losing today I would be perfectly happy."

Job Fair Offers Plenty of Opportunities for Students

By Michele Hester
ahes2131@gc.peachnet.edu
& Heather Daniels
hdani6161@gc.peachnet.edu

Technical internships at Best Buy and management careers with Coca-Cola are only a few of the opportunities Gainesville College students learned about during the Oct. 7 seasonal job fair in the student center.

In all 22 companies participated, with many declaring the day a success. "These job fairs are always positive," said U.S. Air Force Sgt. Bob Jones. "I have recruited students from Gainesville College in the past. The Air Force is a good option if for some reason college does not work out.

UPS representative Elaine Joseph said, "Gainesville College job fairs are great. We have good participation and best of all it is of no cost to the companies."

The job fair was organized by Counseling and Testing Center office manager, Becky Smith. "We want student to feel comfortable interviewing and this job fair gave them the opportunity to meet with 22 employers," said Smith. "Interviewing is a skill students can use throughout their lives. Limited space, due to renovations in the student center, kept more companies from being able to participate, but Smith was happy with the turn out, both from students and companies. "Job fairs give students the opportunity to find out about companies, talk to employers and establish a relationship while finding out what positions companies are looking to fill," said Smith. "Whether students are looking for a job for the holiday season or planning for the future, it's an asset to be able to say, 'I spoke to you at a Gainesville College job fair. The relationship is already established.'

Over 100 students filled out the questionnaire during the job fair. The survey asked students what companies they wish to see at future job fairs. Best Buy was invited this year at the request of many students from previous job fairs.

"We haven't received as many resumes as we'd have liked," said Jeff Payne, technical manager from Best Buy. "But we've had great traffic and have talked a lot of promising people."

For those who missed the job fair, a partial listing of companies and the jobs available are listed.
Dazzled by Mike Super

By Heather Daniels
Arts & Entertainment Editor
hdan6161@gc.peachnet.edu

If you were in the Student Center on Oct. 13 around 12 p.m. you most likely saw the comical yet amazing antics of illusionist Mike Super. Mike Super, 28, originally from Pittsburgh, Penn., performed many illusions on the stage in the Student Center to a crowded room. His illusions ranged from linking and unlinking “solid” rings to cutting and reattaching a piece of rope to actually levitating a person. His illusions were flawless and they amazed the entire audience. He was a great comedian as well, telling jokes while performing his tricks.

Instead of having an assistant with him, Super chose people from the audience to help him with his magical illusions. April Landry, 20, a journalism major, actually cut the rope time and time again and Super always made it reattach. “I have no idea how he did it,” Landry commented after the show. She was truly shocked that she stood right next to him and didn’t see how it worked. Super feels that to make the illusions more believable he needs to use members of the audience, people he has never met before, instead of an assistant that knows it all.

Super began his career at the early age of six while visiting a magic shop at Disney World. From then on he was hooked. “I used to do shows in my back yard every week and I’d wear my black Dracula cape from Halloween,” Super recollects, “It was pretty embarrassing.” He doesn’t wear the Dracula cape anymore and onstage is bit more extraordinary than the back yard, but he still puts on a great show to an astounded crowd.

To find out more about Super’s life, illusions, and shows; visit his Web site at www.mikesuper.com. You can even do a magic trick on his site.

Film Production in Full Swing

By Lauren Coffee
Contributing Writer
lcof9930@gc.peachnet.edu

Lights. Camera. Action! Gainesville College can experience the filmmaking process firsthand with a new class called Film Production. Tom Sauret, professor of English, said that this is an independent film class in which “the students learn how to put a film together as well as learn how difficult it is to do even a short film.”

Joshua Crisp, a journalism major from Monroe said, “This is the first time a class has ever been offered that is just about making a movie.” Students learn every phase of filmmaking.

Angelina Bellebuono, a GC student from Rutledge, wanted to take this class to “experience the process and find out about a different genre of writing.”

Throughout the four years GC has offered filmmaking courses, there have been over a dozen films created by students in Film and Literature and Introduction to Film classes.

“The Film and Lit. project isn’t about making a movie. They [students] have a choice to write a paper or make a movie,” said Crisp.

Sauret’s spring semester Film and Literature class made “Reservations”, a 12 minute film, which inspired Crisp to take filmmaking at GC to another level. Sauret told Crisp that if he could find 15 students interested in the class, then film production would be an accredited English course and will count toward graduation credits.
Non-traditional Students Get Second Wind

Matt Henderson  
Clubs Editor  
mhen4838@GC.peachnet.edu

The Second Wind club is not your typical college organization. Its members are not your typical college students. At many colleges and universities their typical meeting could easily be mistaken for an academic department head meeting. The people congregated in room 127 every other Thursday of the month aren’t professors, however, they are non-traditional students.

To be a non-traditional student you must have returned to college after at least a five year absence. Second Wind is composed of mostly female members many of them former stay at home moms pursuing a college degree. They are an outspoken group as serious as any at GC about getting an education.

Brenda Adams, the club’s advisor, takes a real interest in the plight of its members and offers all the help she can to these non-traditional students.

“We provide lunch for the second wind group and issue meal tickets for up to six dollars worth of food. Providing food is a stress reliever for them [Second Wind members].”

Each meeting features a new speaker who talks to the group about a topic relevant to their non-traditional education.

“We have speakers come who address issues that non-traditional students need help with,” said Adams.

The October 8 speaker was Alissia Scott of the GC office of financial aid. Scott talked about the financial aid available to all students at GC and how non-traditional students can take advantage of all her office has to offer. Following her speech Scott issued a financial aid “pop test.”

Comments circulated among those in attendance.

“A test! Brenda, you gotta get better speakers,” said member Kristi Sand. After the test was given and Scott revealed the answers, the conversation shifted to the ever controversial HOPE scholarship.

The group showed a lot of interest about the scholarship and asked many questions as to how it could work for them. Alissia took several questions and enlightened the group as to how they could receive money from the HOPE grant. The members of Second Wind wanted to know all of their options and took advantage of any opportunities for them to get a quality college education.

Members of the Second Wind club take their non-traditional status in stride.

“I had a young guy tell me that I looked 62 [years old], some of these young guys just don’t know,” said member Wanda Niles.

They have a very optimistic outlook on life and the aging process than many young folks could ever begin to experience. They are people who have experienced both the “college world” and the “real world.”

GC Alliance Club Encourages Diversity

By Blake Allen  
Contributing Writer  
ball1492@GC.peachnet.edu

To many students, sexuality is a topic that they would prefer keep private, an issue to remain at home away from criticism and ridicule.

Gainesville College is home to many diverse clubs with special interests however no club is as cutting-edge as the GC Alliance. The GC Alliance was brought together to serve as a support and advocacy group for the gay, lesbian and bisexual community on campus. Many other schools in the state of Georgia, including UGA, home to the Lambda Alliance for undergraduates, and GLOBES, for graduate students and faculty, already have clubs to bring about awareness of their GLBT community on campus.

There are a number of homosexual students who attend Gainesville College but they are essentially an invisible group. The Alliance meets Mondays at noon in the Academic two building in room 147, the club usually is host to between six and ten members with an extensive number of members on list-serve. Surprisingly, the club has not experienced as much protest or criticism as they had originally expected although some negative attitudes have been directed at the club as co-sponsor of the Alliance and Professor of Sociology Michallene McDaniel explains, “Our posters get ripped down on a fairly regular basis, but we’ll just replace them.” McDaniel went on to explain that, “the fact that we haven’t met more resistance speaks very well of our campus community.”

Most of the students on campus seem to feel that the club is a positive entity that serves as a comfort to those who would otherwise feel out of place. Layla Hege, an art major from Gainesville commented “I think it is a step in the right direction toward a more open-minded society,” while Patrick Lanham, accounting major from Cumming added, “I don’t think anyone should have a problem with the Alliance, if people are against it then they should just stay away from the club.” Those who oppose the club do not seem to have a strong enough grievance to try and stop it. In Northeast Georgia, inevitably there are those who feel uncomfortable or unsure about homosexuality “I don’t agree with it (The Alliance) but I suppose it’s a matter of personal preference” said Allison Smith an early childhood education major from Habersham County.

The Alliance continues to persevere and hope to accomplish future goals of promoting awareness as they are participating as a team for AidsWalk Atlanta in the near future. One thing is certain, with the inauguration of the Alliance, GC is home to one more club that are as diverse as they are brave.
Bike Race Raises $5,000 For Kids

Course Stays Dry As Racers From Across The Southeast Attend

By Jacob Pomrenke
Sports Editor
jpom1828@gc.peachnet.edu

By the time the rumbling in the sky began, more than $2,000 had been raised for charity at the seventh annual Tumbling Creek Mountain Bike Rumble, held Oct. 4 in the woods behind the Gainesville College intramural fields.

Despite the presence of rain clouds, the weather held up throughout the day to the delight of about 420 mountain bikers and outdoors enthusiasts from around the Southeast. Storms did not dampen the race, sponsored by the Gainesville chapter of the Southern Off-Road Biking Association (SORBA), until long after the money had been collected for Trips for Kids, a youth biking program that provides outdoor adventures for inner-city children.

“‘The conditions were a lot better than last year,’ said Bryan Rennell, a Lula resident who participated in the event for the second straight year. ‘It wasn’t as muddy and that made it easier when you went into the turns.’"

Added SORBA executive director Thomas Sauret, an English professor at GC: “We were very pleased with how it went. It’s been a long day and I’m tired, but it was nice not having to worry about the weather today.”

SORBA’s signature event, which was started in 1995 as a kids-only event, has grown into the largest event in the Georgia Association of Promoters (GAP) racing series. Experienced bikers were impressed with the way the event was run.

Allen Summers enters the woods of the Gainesville College bike trails during the running of the seventh Tumbling Creek Mountain Bike Rumble on Oct. 4. The annual event, sponsored by the Southern Off-Road Biking Association, raised more than $5,000 for Trips for Kids, a charity organization that provides outdoor adventures for inner-city children.

Tumbling Creek Mountain Bike Rumble VII
Class Winners
First-timers: Giovanni Rojas, Taylor Hayes
Beginners: Anne Lewin, Julie Stewart, Laura Brayfield, Ashley Summers, Jay Swift, Joe Tatman, Eric Watson, Paul Sherwood, James Halgat, Zach Kovaly
Sport: Norma Rainwater, Krista Park, David Smith, Kevin Crowe, Dan Coy, Doug Stacks, Cleve Blackwell, Michael Mather, Aaron Sniker, Chris Hong
Experts: Erin Winter, Eric Ritenour, Scott Unnold, Sam Fontenelle, Christian Fontaine.

“The grass bogged you down a little,” said Daniel Elzey, 23, an English major from Cumming. “But there was no mud out there. I thought the course was great.

“This race brought people from all over. I saw a guy riding around in a jersey from Chattanooga, Tennessee. It’s a good event for the family because so many things were going on.”

In addition to the race, a silent auction, kid’s race and yard sale were held. Sauret said he hopes to increase the number of activities scheduled for next year’s race.

“We’re looking forward to jazzing it up a little,” he
The Coolest Game on Earth is Now Here

By Blake Duncan
News Editor
bdun5653@gc.peachnet.edu

The somber notes of Amazing Grace filled Philips Arena as an opening-night crowd of 17,918 watched the Atlanta Thrashers pay tribute to one of their own before an Oct. 9 game against the Columbus Blue Jackets.

A solo bagpiper played the melodious hymn as a stirring montage of clips from Dan Snyder’s brief career played on the matrix board.

Snyder, 23, and Thrashers teammate Dan Heatley were involved in a Sept. 29 car crash that claimed Snyder’s life six days later.

It’s impossible to say which team will hoist the coveted Stanley Cup next spring. What’s even more uncertain is the looming possibility that the NHL might not exist after this season.

The players and owners are engaged in a labor struggle that is threatening to collapse the already unstable infrastructure of the league. Regardless of the NHL’s fate, hockey fans in Northeast Georgia will have another option to get their fill of the “coolest game on earth” this season.

The Gwinnett Gladiators of the East Coast Hockey League, equivalent to the Double-A level, opened their season Oct. 24 in the Arena at Gwinnett Center.

Hockey fans expect good things from the team and the coaching.

Pro Hockey
Atlanta Thrashers
What: Home games scheduled through April 2
Where: Philips Arena, Atlanta
Tickets: $10-$225
Contact: (800) 326-4000
Web site: www.atlantathrashers.com

Gwinnett Gladiators
What: Home games scheduled through April 3
Where: The Arena at Gwinnett Center, Duluth
Tickets: $10-$24
Contact: (770) 497-5100
Web site: www.gwinnettgladiators.com

Exercise Lacking Among GC Students

By Michele Hester
Editor-in-Chief
ahes2131@gc.peachnet.edu

Despite the dozens of fitness and recreational opportunities available on campus, many Gainesville College students are still opting for a less active lifestyle as they juggle other school and job-related obligations.

An informal survey conducted in the Student Activities building in early October suggests that students are more concerned with their grades and occupations than their health and wellness.

Almost half of the 57 students surveyed at GC said they engage in no physical activities at all. About 45 percent said they worked out at least once a week, while only 15 percent of students interviewed said they worked out between 20 to 60 minutes per day for at least three to four days per week.

When questioned about their workout habits, both Kanesha Bailey, a dental hygiene student, and Lauren Fuqua, a journalism major, said they have “no time.”

A few students complained that they have nowhere to work out and no one to work out with. Glenn Preston, coordinator of physical education facilities and fitness center director, says that GC has plenty of recreational opportunities available for students of all needs.

He added that GC has something to appeal to even the least motivated individuals, including intramural sports such as soccer and basketball, tennis courts, walking trails and an all-weather track. In addition, the school offers more than 40 physical education courses during the semester.

If students need additional encouragement, the physical education department has also started a new new personal training certificate program. Personal training is a resource for anyone who wants to start a workout plan, but does not know where to begin, says Preston.

“The key is to want to do it,” said Preston, who suggests keeping a journal to record goals, meal plans and exercise routines, and set aside a certain time to workout. “If you don’t enjoy what you are doing, you are going to quit. About 20-34 percent of people who start a workout regimen quit within three to six months.

Just Enough Space For A Shot

Ben Starz, left, of the 76ers intramural basketball team attempts to block Jessie Ausec's, right, shot as Steg’s teammate Matt Stegherr looks on. Softball was the other sport offered by the intramurals program in October. Sign-ups for soccer and 5-on-5 basketball concluded on Oct. 27.
A Look Back at Gainesville College’s Intercollegiate Tradition, 1967-1985

Lakers Flying High

By Jacob Pomrenke
Sports Editor
jpm1828@gc.peachnet.edu

“I guess that was one of my mistakes,” said Dr. Hugh Mills as he took a wistful glance at the trophy cases in the lobby of the gym that bears his name. The longtime former president of Gainesville College took a deep breath and shook his head sadly.

It’s not often that the 81-year-old has something other than a smile on his face when he talks about college athletics. But his fond memories of GC’s glory days are checkered by the story of their inevitable demise. It almost seems like Mills was a young man when his beloved Lakers were sweeping through the ranks of the Georgia Junior College Athletic Association like it was yesterday’s news.

“We did alright, you know,” he said, pointing as proof toward the dozens of trophies and plaques enclosed in glass at the Hugh Mills P.E. Complex.

Over a period of 18 years, Gainesville Junior College, as it was then called, won region and state championships in baseball, basketball, golf, gymnastics, soccer, tennis and track and field. The Lakers held their own against the likes of North Georgia, Truett-McConnell, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Georgia Perimeter and other two-year schools across the state.

One Man’s Dream

It wasn’t long after Mills was named the first president of Gainesville Junior College by the Board of Regents in 1965 that he began to study the idea of fielding competitive sports teams at the school.

In his younger years, as a 6-foot-2 sharpshooting guard, Mills had received a basketball scholarship to North Georgia before his studies and World War II took priority over sports. But he wanted GJC students to feel the pride of athletic success, as well.

“My feeling was that a higher education institution without a sports program would be viewed as, well, not a college,” he said.

Just a year after holding its first classes at the Gainesville Civic Center, awaiting construction of its own facility down in Oakwood, GJC formed baseball and basketball teams under head coach and athletics director James “Bubba” Ball, with games being held at City Park.

Mills’ affinity for athletics was shown as progress was made on the campus site in the late 1960s. Mills made sure that physical education would not be overlooked with the addition of a well furnished gym, complete with a basketball court and bleachers, an indoor swimming pool and a recreational room that would first be used for gymnastics and later turned into the fitness center.

The obviously careful consideration that had gone into the gym made more than a few faculty members envious.

Ben Jones (32) of Gainesville Junior College goes above the rim to score 2 points in the Lakers’ 65-55 win over Truett-McConnell on Nov. 5, 1984. After basketball was discontinued at GJC following the 1984-85 season, Jones went on to play at the University of Massachusetts.

“Then they’d all say, ‘Look at old Mills. He builds a palace for sports and outhouses for school.’ But a good sports program is a very good thing for a school, I think,” said Mills with a laugh.

Oh, they grumbled about that, boy,” said Mills with a chuckle. “That was a great thing.”

After moving to Oakwood, the College expanded its blossoming athletics program. Steve Blair and Wendell Whiteside soon began tennis and golf teams, respectively, while Jim Kirkland was hired to start up a gymnastics squad in 1970. A soccer team was even formed for a few years when several exchange students from Iran expressed interest in having one.

Kirkland said the teams struggled on their limited budgets even then.

“We had to beg for everything we got,” said Kirkland, who was the assistant professor emeritus of physical education when he retired in 2001. “Those were the good ol’ days. It was a lot of fun, but it was hard work, too.”

In the early 1970s, the focus at GJC shifted toward basketball; the other sports, which did not bring in as much money, soon began to be discarded as budgets got tighter. Baseball and gymnastics were two of the first to go.

Nicky Gilliland, who played baseball and basketball in 1971-72, said it was difficult for students at that time to realize the financial difficulties the programs faced.
Gainesville finished 1-2 in the Region 17 standings every year until 1980, with the Lady Lakers winning region in 1974, '75, '77 and '79 and Truett taking top honors during the other years.

Truett owned bragging rights over Gainesville on a national level, as the Lady Danettes won the 1980 national championship in Overland Park and finished fourth in '85. The Lady Lakers' highest finish was seventh in 1979.

“That was cutthroat city right there,” said Kirkland of the rivalry. “The winner of those games would always end up being the region champion.”

The men also began to have more success in the mid-1970s, after Whiteside took over for Ball as the school's athletics director. Coach Mike Nordholz, a former Alabama standout who also had a stint in the American Basketball Association, took the team to its greatest heights in his five years at the helm.

His Lakers also advanced to the national tournament in Hutchinson, Kan., after going 22-8 and winning the state title in 1981. They won state again in 1983 under Tony Harris.

“I was real proud of the fact that we got better every year,” Nordholz said. “I think in five years, we won more games over that time than any other school in the state.”

The school's other squads fared as well in their fields.

The women's tennis team, coached by Barrett, won five state titles in the 1970s and were region champs in 1981 and '82. The men's team, led by Blair, won back-to-back-to-back state titles from 1978-80, finishing sixth in the national tournament in '80 and '83.

Whiteside's golf team held the region and state titles in 1978 and were runners-up in both divisions in '80. They also finished 12th in the national tournament in 1979.

The men's track team, with Kirkland at the helm, finished as region winners and was second in the state in 1976. They were runners-up in Region 17 the following year before disbanding after the 1978 season.

“I'd say we were clearly the best all-around two-year school in the state,” Kirkland said. “Most of our kids came from high schools that had good athletic programs.”

End Of An Era

But as the school moved into the 1980s, GJC's financial constraints were growing stronger.

Mills had already made the decision to discontinue several sports by the time he retired in 1983. That year, Watkins, a community-oriented leader from the University of Alabama, took over as the school's second president. It was up to him to solve Gainesville's athletic dilemma.

For years, support had been waning from both faculty and students. Many faculty members had expressed displeasure that the sports teams were receiving so much money, despite the fact that a lot of the funding came from the private Gainesville College Foundation and not from the school's annual budget.

Also, being a commuter school, with no students living on campus, it was difficult to garner support from the student body. Many worked full-time and had no desire to come back to school to attend games in the evening. The intramurals program was more popular: participation numbers in it had soared since Kirkland took over in the early 1970s.

“One of my other jobs,” Kirkland said, “was to take tickets for the basketball games. There would be some days that we would fill the gym, but there were many others that we'd have just 50 people there.”

It fell to Watkins to deliver the final blow.

In March 1985, Watkins asked the Student Affairs Committee, the Faculty Senate and the Student Government Association to consider dropping basketball.

“If the program had a following and we felt the students were into it, the money would not be that important,” Watkins said at the time. “But it's a question over whether the college is getting that much mileage out of it.”

On April 11, Watkins held two on-campus forums to help determine the fate of GJC’s basketball squads. About 300 people attended the morning session and, according to published reports, gave Watkins positive input for continuing the program.

But four days later, Watkins made the fateful call: Athletics had run their course at GJC.

“We fought it,” Kirkland said. “We all fought it.”

Women's coach Seth Vining said he understood why the decision had to be made.

“It all came down to what was best for everyone involved,” said Vining, who left to coach Johnson High the following year.

Fading Away

After Watkins terminated GJC's athletic program for the 1985-86 school year, he quickly reallocated the resources that had been going to sports toward scholarships and student activities, such as intramurals, drama, music and the student newspaper.

Attendance continued to grow in record numbers and the academic levels of GJC rose throughout the 1980s and into the 21st century.

In 1987, the Board of Regents authorized the deletion of the modifier "junior" from the school's name to emphasize the fact that students attending GC were, indeed, receiving a "real college experience,” whether athletics was a part of it or not.
Academic

Spring Semester
Pre-Registration Begins
Nov. 3
2nd Session Midpoint
Nov. 6
Thanksgiving Holidays
Nov. 26 - 28
Spring Pre-Registration
Fees Due Dec. 2
Classes End
Dec. 6
Final Exams
Dec. 8 – 12

Student Activities

Fun Flicks Student Activities
Building 9:00 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Nov. 3
Souper Study Break: Locations across campus.
Nov. 11
XP PowerPoint Workshop
3:00 p.m., Room 160
Academic III
Nov. 4
Black Student Association
Meeting Noon, Room 187
Academic III
Nov. 10
About American Indians Workshop
Noon, Room 187
Academic III
Nov. 12
Web Page Design Workshop
Noon, Room 187
Academic III
Nov. 17

Sports

17th Annual GC Alumni and Friends Golf Tournament
Chicopee Woods
Golf Course
Nov. 7

Cultural Events

Gainesville Theatre Alliance
“Anything Goes”
Brenau’s Hosch Theatre
Nov. 4 - 16
Eric Mack: Painting In Rhythm
Gainesville College
Roy C. Moore Gallery
Oct. 15 - Nov. 24
Family Holiday Concerts
GC Ed Cabell Theatre
Dec. 1 and 2, 7:30 p.m.
Denise McMorrow:
Markings Memory
Gainesville College
Roy C. Moore Gallery
Dec. 1 - Jan. 9

Clubs

Final Day: Submissions for Philosophy Essay Contest
Nov. 14
Sagittarius
The Foot Archer
Nov. 22 to Dec. 21

An old admirer will make an overdue appearance in your life to inform you of something he or she wanted to tell you all these years. Seems like that person never admired you to begin with but tried rather hard to ask you whether you purposely tucked your shirt into your underwear, but you always ran away when confronted.

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

Being punctual is not one of your virtues but it is about time you hung up the old “living coat” and crooked. You have put off dying for a century and now you’ve started stinking up your house. Everybody’s doing it, even Elvis kicked the bucket. Would you like a bucket of KFC, too?

Aquarius
The Water Bearer
Jan. 20 to Feb. 18

It has been a while since your last dream but soon you will have one about an old friend. As soon as your old buddy comes to you in the dream wake up and call him or her, let your pal know that a simple phone call would have sufficed.

Virgo
The Extinct Virgin
August 23 to September 22:

I see a camel in your future. One big camel, that’s all. Oh wait, I’m holding it the wrong way...I think this is the right direction...whoa. I don’t know what the hell that thing is but it is definitely NOT a camel.

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

The buffet gods glisten down on you this month. Your plates will fill again and again, the sneeze guard will be clean and you needn’t worry about spilling food because you can always get another. All you will concern yourself with is the position of the sun from the time you enter the restaurant to the time you leave.

Scorpio
The Scor-pi-oooo
Oct. 23 to Nov. 21

Sco-pi-oooo: The stars gaze down upon you this month and make you feel very uneasy. Soon enough you will begin to switch all your plans to the day and refuse to leave your house at night. You will board up your windows and create plans for a technical device that can shoot laser beams at heavenly objects and destroy them. Nighty, night you paranoid freak.

Taurus
The Bull Sheet
Apr. 20 to May 20

This is the month you decide to give up alcohol and that’s a shame. Everyone was beginning to like your belligerent mannerisms at awkward moments like weddings and funerals. I overheard someone at church say, “Hey, the drunk person came naked to service today, sweet.” Well, good luck in AA and remember...this Bud’s always for you.

Cancer
The Crab Walk
Jun. 22 to Jul. 22

Traditionally it is uncommon for fortunetellers to give advice about the lottery (that’s how lowly fortune cookies are for) but I would hate to see Virgos waste money on the lotto this month. In other words: If you are going to scratch anything this month it might as well be your ass.

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

Co-workers will come forward to tell you that you are a bit of a control freak. If they are so worried about your leadership skills they should try to walk in your shoes for once. It is not easy to command a flock of penguins in funny little hats to dance and make finger sandwiches, no-sir-ee, not easy at all.
GTA’s ‘Stone Soup’ is Fun for All Ages

By Heather Daniels
Arts & Entertainment Editor
hdan6161@gc.peachnet.edu

“Stone Soup” is a classic children’s story that the Gainesville Theatre Alliance has turned into a memorable play for all ages.

Directed by Gay Hammond and musically composed by Dale Grogan, “Stone Soup” is based on a well loved children’s tale about sharing. There are many versions of the children’s story, but Hammond chose to use the original story by Marcia Brown written in 1947.

Hammond hosted a stage tour for “Stone Soup” Sept. 30 to show audiences what goes on behind the scenes of a play like this one. The audience was able to meet Hammond and Grogan, as well as the costume designer, Antonia Grib and the set designer, Chris Simpson, a GC student. The audience was also able to ask questions about “Stone Soup,” any upcoming plays and past plays. Stage tours are designed to educate and the directors of the GTA are always more than willing to share their knowledge.

“Stone Soup” opened on Oct. 9-10 and 13-15 for schools and on Oct. 10-11 for family and friends at Brenau University’s Pearce Auditorium. The show was performed to over 5000 children, representing about ten counties and twice as many schools. The show put on for the schools was very different from the one performed for the family and friends. The actors on stage were much more interactive with the audience full of children than with the audience mostly filled with adults. And everybody knows that if a person falls down a kid is going to laugh a lot harder than an adult would. “The children’s shows are the clearest indication of what we’re all about,” said Hammond about the differences between the school shows and the family and friends shows, “When you have 700 children in there, it’s just a completely different feeling because they respond much more loudly.” The family and friends show was a much more “smiling audience opposed to a guffaw and stomp my feet audience,” laughed Hammond, “which is what the children do.”

The GTA for Young Audiences, formerly known as WonderQuest, did a remarkable job of capturing the theme of the story, though they did change it a bit to fit the cast and audience and to make it sillier. “Stone Soup” is set in a French village of non-sharing people who always keep to themselves and don’t-like strangers. They don’t even share their food and crops with each other. Then a group of soldiers come through the village asking for food and a place to rest. When nothing is offered to them they concoct a plan to make soup from a stone. The villagers are intrigued and want to know how to do it. Soon enough the entire village is donating food to put in the soup, to make it the best soup. Jeremiah Chapman, 11, a home schooled student attended one of the school performances. He said, “I love the story! I already knew the plot, but the play was different from what I read.”

“Stone Soup” was full of whacky characters with silly names of food, such as Madame Beignet, Madame Mouton and Brie. Chapman raved that his favorite character was the female soldier, Brie, played by Chandra Owenby, 21, a GC graduate and junior at Brenau University. She presented a comically loyal soldier to her commander, Camembert, played by Boone Hopkins, 22, a senior at Brenau. Cliff Smith, 23, a senior at Brenau, played the only foreigner in the village, a Scotsman. Though his part was small, he played a memorable

and funny character because you couldn’t understand a work he said. “The people working with GTA make the experience very familial,” said Smith, who has been with the GTA for four years now, though this was his first GTA for Young Audiences performance, “The kids keep everything so alive.”

Since Hammond’s husband, Jim, became director of the GTA 14 years ago, Hammond herself has adapted many plays and musicals to the wants and needs of the GTA. Though the GTA is celebrating its 25th season, GTA for Young Audiences has been producing “fully-realized stage shows” for children for 30 years.

Hammond said, “We [GTA for Young Audiences] were always meant to be tied in with GTA because both of those theatres were started by the same person.” GTA for Young Audiences and the GTA were both founded by Ed Cabell, a retired professor from GC.

Look for many more outstanding plays by the GTA and the newly renamed Gainesville Theatre Alliance for Young Audiences.

Symphonic Band is Complete

By Scott McIntyre
Contributing Writer
smc16240@gc.peachnet.edu

Finally, the Gainesville College Symphonic Band is made up of entirely GC students.

“This semester is the first time we’ve had a complete band, made up of students on campus,” said Mercer Crook, symphonic band director and part time teacher. “It’s much easier to rehearse and prepare music and you don’t have to go outside to add additional performers.”

“The students take pride in a group that is representing of them,” said Lynn Latham the music department area leader. “You have a higher quality performance when you don’t have to bring in last minute outside players.”

The GC Symphonic Band has been a class, off and on, since the college was built. The symphonic band restarted four years ago and has gone through three directors. Mr. Crook is in his second year as GC Symphonic Band Director. Latham hailed Crook for doing a good job of recruiting and retaining students and for raising the quality of the literature.

“When I first came here in fall semester 2001 there were eight people in the band. Now it’s nearly tripled in size,” said Lee Ewing, a music education major and GC Symphonic Band member from Winder-Barrow.

This semester the band has 35 students, representing seven counties. In addition, there are three music education majors in the band. “A concert band setting is not just for music majors, it’s for students from all areas of campus life,” said Crook. “Some of the greatest musicians were engineers, accountants, and medical students.”

‘Anything Goes’ Opens 25th Season for GTA

By Heather Daniels
Arts & Entertainment Editor
hdan6161@gc.peachnet.edu

The Gainesville Theatre Alliance will be opening their 25th Anniversary Season with the musical classic, “ Anything Goes.” The performances will be Nov. 4-16 at Brenau’s Hosch Theatre. Performance times are 7:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Sundays. There will be a preview performance on Nov. 3 at 7:30 p.m. $8 general admission. The costs for shows are $16 on weekdays and $18 on weekends for adults, $14 on weekdays and $16 on weekends for senior citizens and $10 on weekdays and $12 on weekends for students and children. There are several free shows for students including the preview show and then also on Nov. 3, 5, 6, 11 and 12. For more information, directions and to order tickets call 770-718-3624.
‘Rhythm In Paintings’ Is Here

John Furst
Layout Editor
Jfur3591@gc.peachnet.edu

A busy cityscape, an altered sense of surreal juxtaposition and a beautiful array of lively colors are to be expected from the new art exhibit.

Eric Mack’s “Rhythm in Paintings” is the latest art exhibit to be revealed at the Continuing Education building. This exhibit will continue until Nov. 24 and is free and open to the public.

Mack’s art is best described as abstract. “He works with very bright colors. The work that I’ve seen doesn’t rely on the figure at all, and its things you wouldn’t see in reality,” remarked Vivian Liddell, the gallery director and adjunct professor of art here at the college. “It looks like he was working with a system of shapes that appeared to be based on cityscapes.”

Eric Mack, a barber by trade, describes the theme of his art on www.faygoldgallery.com, “sound, rhythm, pattern and color are related to us and the world we live in. The rhythm of life is inhaled and exhaled with each day that is given to us. By using the fundamentals of our daily visual experience, individuals can relate and appreciate the role the rhythm plays in our lives.”

Assistant Professor of Art, Stacey Koffman said, “students, faculty, staff and people from the community are all welcome to attend the artist receptions that are part of every exhibition. This gives everyone the opportunity to meet with the artist and discuss their work.” The paintings are up for viewing but cannot be purchased at the exhibition. “All his work is for sale, but has to be purchased through Fay Gold Galleries” said Liddell.

Liddell’s personal thoughts reflect her enthusiasm for the new art exhibit, “I’m really happy to have his exhibit,” said Liddell, “we are looking to show more contemporary artists. I think the students would be interested in seeing what’s going on in the contemporary art scene in Atlanta.”

According to Liddell, Eric Mack might speak to the studio classes here on campus and will speak at the closing reception. He is enthusiastic about talking to students about his work. For more information on the Rhythm in Paintings art exhibit, call (770) 718-3707 or visit www.faygoldgallery.com.

Riley Wins Presidential Award

By Amanda Cagle
Contributing Writer
Acag7033@gc.peachnet.edu

A passion for art that began years ago with her first box of crayons has brought Dana Riley, a non-traditional art student, Gainesville College’s top art award. Riley was named the recipient of the GC President’s Award for Art.

This award was first proposed in 1997 by President Martha Nesbitt. Assistant Professor of Art, Stacey Koffman and Associate Professor of Art, Anne Bessac agreed that this award would be a good way to recognize those students who excelled in this craft.

The only criterion the students must meet is that the artwork created in one of the studio art courses offered at GC. Once the criteria is met, the student’s work is judged by Koffman, Bessac, and one other art professional from an area college or university. “We had many strong works to choose from and it was definitely a difficult decision,” Koffman said about judging the artwork.

Riley’s artwork came about due to a studio assignment which was a diptych self-portrait. A diptych is a work made up of two matching parts. Students were to spend at least 15 hours on each piece of the work.

When asked how being a non-traditional student affected her artwork Riley replied, “Being a non-traditional student in a way made it easier to do this assignment, especially since I have more life experience to draw from.” Her two charcoal drawings are a self-portrait and an image of a tree with a bear’s claw mark embedded in it.

The second drawing, Riley said, “is a self-portrait which came from underneath the surface. It is a mixture of grief and determination; those were my feelings at the time,” said Riley.

The emotion came from past events in her life. “It is a somber piece that causes me to reflect on the seriousness of life,” commented Nesbitt on Riley’s artwork.
Drug Addict Gets a Sour Taste of Reality

James Frey is brutally honest in "A Million Little Pieces," a true accounting of Frey's time spent in a rehab center for drug and alcohol abuse.

Frey takes us through his experience as a junkie hooked on every drug imaginable and the hardest liquor available; then he shows us his life in a rehab center. Frey, 23 at the time, enters the rehab center after waking up on an airplane with no idea where he is or where he has been with his front four teeth missing, two black eyes, a hole in his cheek that later takes 41 stitches to close, and a broken nose. He is also wanted in three states. He is in extremely bad shape, but with the help of his parents and brother he decides to get help before he kills himself.

The doctors at the rehab clinic can not believe Frey is even alive with so many different drugs and alcohol flowing through his system. His morning ritual is puking up blood and the inside of his stomach and this has been going on for years. He meets some amazing people in the rehab center who quickly become his friends and most are as messed up as he is. His greatest influences come from a mob lord, a judge, a champion boxer and a prostitute. All are in this same facility with some of the same problems.

While in the rehab center, Frey realizes many things that change his life; he learns to love and he also realizes he doesn't want to die. Frey makes the decision to stay at the rehab center because he knows that if he goes back out into the world and starts back into his old way of life he will die in a matter of weeks. One of the most memorable parts of the book is where Frey goes to the dentist to get his teeth fixed. He has to have surgery and caps put on his teeth. Frey goes into detail during this experience; he is not allowed to have any anesthesia or pain killers because he is staying at the rehab center and they are not allowed.

Frey uses very unique language in his novel; he writes using no quotation marks in between his thoughts and dialogue. No paragraphs are indented; all words are lined up on the left side of the page, it makes for a very interesting read. He also capitalizes random nouns such as criminal, nurse, addict and alcoholic. When you first start to read you have to really concentrate on where spoken words are written and thoughts begin. But after a while it's easy to interpret.

Frey is a very brave man to willingly share his experiences, his past, and some of his darkest fears and secrets with the world. It's also a way to give hope to those who may be having some of the same problems because Frey has been clean for nine years now. This was an extraordinarily powerful book and I recommend it to anyone who is interested in reading something that will undoubtedly have an impact on their lives forever. Frey is currently working on a screenplay for his story.

From the Underworld to the Mystic River and Back

I know you are all waiting for the midnight showings of "Matrix Revolutions" and "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King." However, there are a few movies filling the theaters until then. I just wanted you to know that the money hungry production companies are still interested in your buck even when there are no trolls or machines on the screen. But this humble critic wants you to spend that dollar wisely, so here are a few quick notes on the current shows to tide you over till the Oscar push hits.

First up for review is the flick "Underworld." I say flick because that is what this movie is at heart. With this one just go get your popcorn and coke, and then hang on for a couple of hours. The action is very well spaced out and good with a lot of sword play and hand to hand combat. A bonus is that the story is something actually worth following. Yes, you need to stay in your seat till the end or you will miss key pieces of information.

Just in case your date is not in the mood to see a rabid dog and a blood sucking bat square off, then go see "Mystic River." This is a serious movie with serious actors (Sean Penn, Kevin Bacon and Tim Robbins) and directed by Clint Eastwood. These actors, however, don't chew up the scenery; they let this sharp script do the work.

The movie is about three men who take different paths in life after a childhood tragedy. They are strangely drawn back together after the character played by Penn loses his daughter to murder. The only negative is that this film kind of drags on and you feel like it should have ended about 15 minutes sooner. But on the up side you will never see the ending and it leaves you with the feeling that not everything is black and white.

If you are thinking about seeing a horror film, try to restrain yourself unless you are into self torture. The two movies out right now are that bad. First off, "Texas Chainsaw Massacre" is just tiring to watch and has the fright power of a mouse. Next, "House of the Dead" is so bad you will leave half way through it, no matter how much you paid to get in.

Instead, go and see the best buddy film to come out in years, "The Rundown." This movie is The Rock's first shot at carrying an action film on his own. Surprisingly, he pulls it off beyond expectation. The laughs come easily and the action makes you go "Whoa, did you see that?" Yes, it is a little formula and the dialog is lacking, but this formula works and with Christopher Walken any script sounds good.

My last movie to review is Quentin Tarantino's "Kill Bill." This one is easy to write about. Go and watch this movie only if you are an avid Quentin Tarantino fan. If you are, you will love it and pre-order tickets for the sequel. If you are not a die hard fan of his movies, you will demand your money back and think the rest of us are just off in the head.
Earfood: Good For the Ears Say Doctors of Rock

By Trueman Coe Allan
Contributing Writer
compass@gc.peachnet.edu

As dozens of anxious Athenians filed into the upstairs section of Tasty World on October 8th, the mass was eagerly expecting an incredible night of jazz-tinged rock by local favorite Fiasco. Although it is important to note that Fiasco did not disappoint, the buzz of the evening was an up and coming improv band by the name of Earfood. Earfood, led by energetic lead guitarist AJ Purcell, pumped out high octane jams that soon had the Fiasco faithful frothing from the mouth. Leaning on airtight percussionist Phillip Pelot and the perpetual funk of bassist Eli Purcell, the band roared through their hour and a half set list. The band cleverly weaved originals with well-chosen covers, showcasing their funk, blues, calypso, and psychedelic influences. Most interesting, however, may be the band’s impressive improvisational skills, as well as the musical chemistry shared by the trio.

The evening was accented by a surprise conga player joining in on the jam. The trio delivered a heavy dose of reconstructed favorites ranging from Band-of-Gypsies-Era Hendrix to early String Cheese Incident. As an audience member I was swept away by AJ’s composure. AJ’s poker-face playing style is something to admire. His fingers rippled over the guitar in such a way that my attention lingered there. AJ’s groove escalated and the audience’s bodies responded with erratic physical motion, all the while AJ rhythmically shook his head as he strategically moved his body to produce this musical montage. The energy peaked as the crowd welcomed the fresh, upbeat addition to the already feel good atmosphere. The band explored a Caribbean vibe as the show wound down.

The band encourages everyone to join in on the good time at Buster’s in Dahlonega on Oct. 30 for a pre-Halloween shakedown. Come out and enjoy music that is noted by guitarist AJ Purcell as “spacey sometimes and joyously upbeat at others.”

‘Cowboy Bebop’ The Best Animated Series Ever Made

I’m so happy I get to write this review. I know the series this month is a couple of years old, but it still needs to be mentioned. “Cowboy Bebop” is my favorite anime in the entire world and even the entire universe, assuming other galactic cultures have Japanese animation. It is an honor to be able to brag about this classic piece of animation masterpiece. I’m all warm inside just thinking about it.

“Cowboy Bebop” is a story about five bounty hunters (cowboys) in the solar system. They all gather in an old fishing boat converted to a spaceship called Bebop. Like the music genre it entails, the crew of Bebop "will play freely without fear of risky things. The work which will become a new genre itself will be called Cowboy Bebop.” This quote from the back of the DVD describes it best. This series will bring you through a rollercoaster of emotions from happiness, to remorse, to even shedding a tear in the end. Each episode more or less revolves around Spike Spiegel and his bounty heads. Sounds fairly straightforward, but add a frayed past, a large crime syndicate and lost love and you have the makings of a masterpiece. Each episode reveals a little more of Spike’s tumultuous past and gives insight into his personality.

The animation is top notch, sleek, sexy, and classy. It’s neither the bright colors of a full fledged comedy nor the dark shades of a serious anime. Rather, it blends the two very nicely to create a more real experience. Moments of seriousness like “Ballad of Fallen Angels” are marked with gray and brown overtones to set the mood, while episodes like “Mushroom Samba” are bright and bouncy. This series masters color expression.

“Cowboy Bebop” is a series that is driven by music if the title wasn’t enough of a clue. Yoko Kanno and her band The Seatbelts have become my favorite Japanese musical group. I had said last month that The Pillows had become my favorite group. I popped in one of my “Cowboy Bebop” disks and quickly came back to The Seatbelts. Every type of music is portrayed here in this series. Heavy metal to classical and country and blues, no music genre goes unexplored. The voice acting fits each character perfectly in both English and Japanese dialogs. Subtitles are right on the money.

With a cast like Jet Black, Spike Spiegel, Faye Valentine, Ein, and Edward Wong Hau Pepelu Tivrusky IV, “Cowboy Bebop” is sure to entertain a fan of any type of genre. With a hew of unique characters and intense backgrounds, this is a series that is an instant classic with the right amount of humor and seriousness that will keep you glued from beginning to end.
Speed and Accidents are Factors on Landrum

Landrum Education Drive is dangerous. On any given day, motorists speed past the 20 m.p.h. speed zone signs, never slowing to acknowledge those who must cross this unsafe pedestrian walkway. It is very common to see pedestrians running across the road to avoid a narrowly missed accident, and if something is not done soon, someone is going to be hurt or worst killed.

Since Landrum Education Drive is actually a county maintained road, GC public safety cannot issue speeding tickets because there is no way to record actual speeds. So, the matter is then left up to the Oakwood Police Department. If that is the case, why is it that we never see police officers patrolling the campus to ensure real “public safety”?

You might be asking, what is the purpose of having a Gainesville College Public Safety department if they cannot deter potential violations from occurring? Public Safety personnel are on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year insuring safety on campus. Nevertheless, Landrum Education Drive is not officially on the GC campus. It is not their jobs to make speeding drivers slow down.

Installing speed breakers on Landrum, like the ones on the road that runs parallel, would be one way to slow traffic. Another option that would make GC a safer place would be having a caution light at the intersection of Landrum and Campus Drive. Something must be done before the next news story on campus is: Gainesville College student injured after speeding motorist ignores pedestrian crossings.

Congratulations to GC For ‘Best Practices’

Students come to Gainesville College from all over the state. Some choose GC for the affordable tuition; others prefer the small class size. However, there is another reason students choose GC, and we rarely acknowledge it enough. That reason is, GC has some of the most compassionate and gifted educators around. Finally, someone has really taken notice of that fact.

On Oct. 8, Gainesville College was recognized for “Successful Practices to Prepare Students to Pass the Regents Test,” by the University System of Georgia’s Board of Regents. The Regents Test is required for students to graduate from a University System of Georgia college or university. The “Best Practices” award signifies GC’s desire for students to succeed and marks a precedent because GC was the only two-year college presented this pristine honor.

The Compass staff would like to say congratulations to Dr. Martha Nesbitt and the GC faculty and staff for their diligence in keeping GC students on the forefront of academic achievement.
Dawgs Thrashing Vols

I will admit before the entire Bulldog nation, my faith in the Dawgs has been edgy. After seeing the 2nd half against Alabama, I really did not know what to expect against Tennessee. It seemed as if Georgia was wondering what was for dinner that night and we were just going through the motions. They were not focused on what was at hand. For the first time, David Greene seemed rattled and confused. The question I had after the Alabama game was: Which offense was going to show up against Tennessee: the team in the first half which scored 37 points or the second half team that seemed dazed? My question was answered very quickly.

Not since 1994 when Tennessee lost 31-0 to Florida, had they been beaten that badly at home. Neyland Stadium, one of the largest stadiums in the country, is where opponents are supposed to come in, get beaten, and go home crushed. Never in my wildest imagination did I think that we would beat Tennessee by a score of 41-14. As my week went by, I was predicting a close score of 21-14 Georgia, or 24-21, certainly not 41-14. As I sit down to write this article, I am looking at a picture of defensive end #47 David Pollack sacking Tennessee quarterback Casey Clausen. They say that a picture is worth a 1,000 words. In this case, it certainly is.

The Dawg nation is glowing after this past weekend. As Tyson Browning says, “It’s a changing of the guard.” He goes on to state, “Right now, we’re just trying to let everyone know that we’re taking control of the East.”

With the showing of this past weekend, Tyson can certainly say that. At this point in time, one could argue that we are the best “one loss” team in the nation. The Dawgs are certainly in prime position to take the ninety minute trip back to Atlanta for the Southeastern Conference championship.

Mark Richt has turned around a program that had come to expect eight or nine wins a seasons. Now, Dawg fans expect 11 and 12 wins a seasons. Our players know what is expected of them, and they have their eyes on the prize. One more loss could prove to be fatal.

Please Give NASCAR a Chance

This really bugs me! Most of the time whenever I mention my undying love for the sport of NASCAR people say “I just don’t get it,” or “all they do is go around in circles.” People, you’re overanalyzing. There is nothing more to “get” in NASCAR than there is to get in baseball, football or basketball. They do go around in circles for 400-600 miles. Yes it can get boring at times. But hey, the boring parts are great for getting snacks or finishing homework (yeah, right). Still, NASCAR at its most boring is more exciting to see than the Braves get humiliated every post season without fail, or the Falcons and Hawks getting owned even before their respective seasons get started.

Don’t get me wrong, I am a huge fan of the Braves, the Falcons and the Dawgs. I just get so fed up with the carnage every year and sports junkies not giving NASCAR the sports status it deserves. Granted, I was once like you, overanalyzing and not “getting” NASCAR. That all changed in February 2001, when I actually gave NASCAR a chance and watched an entire race. At the end, I thought “Hey! This isn’t all that bad.”

The great thing about NASCAR is that you never know what’s going to happen next. One minute a car is running around a track at 180 mph, the next minute, boom the car rams the wall and bursts into flames.

There are about five races left in the season. I dare you “don’t getters” to watch at least an hour of a race. All you have to do is pick a car out of the 43 and root for him or her. If the car gets wrecked, pick another car.

One last thing to all you non-NASCAR fans out there, if someone asks you to go to a race, decline them. Racetracks are jammed packed with people who have been crazy about NASCAR all their lives, and have the number of their favorite driver shaved into the hair on their backs (no joke I’ve seen it) which might scare the average viewer. Just try keeping an open mind about NASCAR. You might like it if you give it a chance.
Can Schwarzenegger Save California?

"You begin to care about politics when you stop getting tax checks and start writing them."

What makes a good politician? Better yet, who makes a good politician? When I heard that Arnold Schwarzenegger was running for the position of governor of California, I honestly didn't think much of it. First of all, you must realize that I hardly take a stance when it comes to politics. I really don't know why this is; maybe I just don't think it applies to me. However, recently a dear friend of mine asked me that same question and their response was "you begin to care about politics when you stop getting tax checks and you start writing them". This really affected me so I began following the California governor's race. So all of that leads me back to my original question: will an actor make a good California governor?

One issue in particular that concerns me is that little known fact that the state of California has more debt than some third world countries, or so says CNN Headline News. Also, 60% of the state's spending will be at the disposal of the governor. In Arnold's defense, he has created for himself a large and profitable fortune. How did he do that and more importantly can he do that to the third largest state in our nation? Is Arnold going to make social laws to benefit the needy or the popular majority? Will he help those wealthy few who have helped him over the years or consider those less fortunate?

I guess the real question is will he be able to know when he is caught up in the muck and mire of professional politics. Will he be the politician working for a special interest group? As Governor he will be pushed and pulled in every direction by lobbyist and by family. The biggest influence on the republican governor's office will be Arnold's democratic wife Maria Shriver. How much will this Kennedy family member and journalist change California's future? She defended her husband when the allegations of "gropping" were announced. Almost sounds like another political scandal, do Hillary and Bill ring a bell? If anything like that unfolds in California, then this will be an interesting four years. So with all of these questions that I have imposed upon your minds, are you now considering your stance in politics? Start preparing for the Presidential election in 2004, the political mud-slinging will start to commence at the end of this year. Now is the time to investigate your beliefs and choose a side, before the candidates choose it for you.

I believe that if you truly want something bad enough, you will succeed beyond your expectations. Then again, things you may desire might not be the best thing for you or the state of California as the situation goes. I can't help but feel uneasy about the future of California. I'm just glad that he didn't run in Georgia.

California governor-elect Scharzenegger, doing what he does best, posing for the camera. He is pictured here with recalled California governor, Gray Davis.

PHOTO / Courtesy of CNN
It’s Easier to Complain

Complaining is something that we learn at an early age. When your sibling takes your toy away from you the first response is to complain. Unfortunately, this trait has followed us since then. When you are sitting in a restaurant and your food is cold, we complain. When waiting in the doctor’s office for hours on end, we complain. Do you ever complement when your food is fresh and hot, or when the doctor sees you immediately? I will venture a guess and say no. It is easier to be driven to complain than it is to compliment. Hence the reason I am writing this. This afternoon walking back to my car I reached into my pocket to pull my keys out to find that they were not there. Not good. I stroll up to my car to see my keys lying in my driver seat, mocking me. Great! I have a test in an hour, starving, and money as well as my books is in my car. What am I to do? I see a man in a golf cart and tell him the situation. He tells me help is on the way. Then Richard Thompson comes to my rescue. Richard Thompson, a man that has never met me, comes to my aid. Mr. Thompson saved me eighty dollars and/or an ear full from a parent saying how irresponsible I am.

I have seen this knight of the parking lot helping others before, anything from jumping a car to fixing the idler on under the hood. This man and the rest of his co-workers need praise. They have easily saved students and faculty thousands of dollars due to OUR mishaps. So I have taken the time to write this and let the school know that the next time you need help, be grateful and let them know you are.

Good Books Are Out There

People read books for much the same reason that children climb trees: to get a glimpse of the universe beyond their back yard. I never met a kid yet who didn’t feel the urge to stretch her vision beyond the picket fence, beyond the neighborhood, beyond the home town. Children want to know what life is like on the other side of the world; their curiosity and imagination drive them to consider an environment beyond themselves and their immediate surroundings.

Yet the older we grow, the busier we grow, and our world starts to shrink. Our favorite leisure activities become those which demand nothing whatsoever in the way of thought, and we forget to be curious. At one time, if were asked what we were curious about, we could answer without hesitation. Now, we have to think about it.

Kelley Switley
English Instructor

While reading, we connect once again with that curiosity, that spirit of exploration, which came so naturally to us in days gone by. Through reading, we take into ourselves those experiences beyond our surroundings that we once only daydreamed about.

Love of reading isn’t born in anyone, it is developed. Even young people who read often, as I did, may not realize their love for the activity until a single book wakes them up and takes them to a place they hadn’t thought about before. For me, the book was Hugo’s Les Miserables, which my father recommended when he insisted I spend at least part of my eighth grade summer reading. Granted, it was the abridged edition; I was only twelve. But once I entered Hugo’s world, I loved it and wanted to know more. I had to find a full edition and read the whole thing to satisfy the curiosity the book sparked.

Not everyone learns from reading in the same way. In fact, ways of reading are as distinct and varied as fingerprints; they mark us as individuals. I don’t expect anyone else to read the way I read, or to be drawn to the same books that draw me. When students in French class go on and on about the boring, endless, mind-numbing nightmare that is Les Miserables, I can only smile and nod. My book will not be their book.

Curiosity is the key to finding and responding to a book. So I ask my students these essential questions: What interests or fascinates you? Whatever our answers to those questions may be, reading can take us there. Each text we absorb adds richness and substance to our view of the world, for it gives us a fresh angle from which to view it.

Retail Etiquette 101

This is for anyone who has ever worked retail, shopped at a retail store, or ever just been inside a retail company. In other words, this is for YOU!

I have worked retail for almost ten years now and I am here to say that sometimes customers can just down right suck! I have gathered some information from various friends about the different retail establishments they work for and what they say annoys them the most about customers. So let me give a little advice to those of you who are customers or potential customers of retail. I would like to teach you how to be a good customer.

First off, gift receipts do expire. Don’t take a gift back after the expiration date and expect to be able to return it. And don’t yell at the employee when you don’t get your way. It’s usually a company policy and it’s not up to the employee whether you can or can’t get your money back. The employee could get fired for it. This goes for coupons too. The expiration date is not decoration, it’s there for a reason.

In all honesty, I don’t recommend yelling at an employee, period. We don’t get paid enough to take that kind of crap. You don’t even have the right to get upset with an employee unless they have truly done something to offend you, like cuss you out, yell at you or spit on you. Those are valid reasons.

I found out that no matter where you are or who you are, customers are the biggest slobs I have ever met. I don’t care how well people have been taught to pick up after themselves, it seems like the second a person walks through the doors of a retail establishment all those teachings just go out the window! We are not janitors or housekeepers. Pick up your own stuff!

I also think that customers leave their patience at home when they go out shopping. Remember, retail can sometimes become busy, especially around Christmas time (and that’s a whole other opinion), so just learn to bring your patience with you. Not everything is going to necessarily go your way all the time, no matter how hard the employee tries to make it happen.

Another pet peeve I have is when customers just throw their money on the counter. That shows rudeness and lack of respect to the employee.

How would you feel if you had your hand out waiting for your change and the cashier just tossed the money on the counter with absolutely no regard for you? I’d be offended, honestly. So hand your money over nicely to the waiting cashier. You’ll get much better service.

If you are in a fast food, or any kind of food and drink restaurant, do not order something you have never had and then when you don’t like it blame it on the employee. It’s your own fault for trying something new. Don’t get me wrong, I am all for trying new stuff, just suck it up and accept it if you don’t like what you got.

Also, just a side note, stores do on occasion run out of items, be it clothing, books, coffee, etc. That’s why customers are there after all, to buy stuff. So if we don’t have something you want, don’t get huffy, order it if you can, or wait patiently till something new is made.

Do not go into a store five minutes before they are about to close and expect to get exceptional service. Usually the employees are tired and ready to get out of there. Remember, we still have to clean up the store after you leave. We have lives too and would like to get on with them as soon as possible.

Just remember, if you are nice to employees of retail, they will be nice to you back and it will be a happy day for every body!
Oconee to Host First GC Speech Contest

By Britney Compton
Oconee Photographer
bcom2499@gc.peachnet.edu

The Oconee campus has been chosen to host the first Gainesville College speech contest.

Hosted by the McGraw-Hill Publishers, the contest will have approximately 10-20 participants, with the top three winning cash prizes of $100, $50, and $25. The contest will be held in room 522; on Nov. 12 at 3 p.m. Spectators may attend.

The Oconee campus Communication classes are nominating one or two students to participate. The nomination process is up to the discretion of the professor.

Allison Ainsworth, mentor of the contest, has allowed her students to choose.

The speakers write on a topic of their choice. Most are revisions of speeches written during speech classes. The speeches are to be less than six minutes long.

Students were informed of the contest a month to six weeks in advance.

The judge panel will consist of two faculty members, Dan Cabaniss, Assistant Professor of English, and Robert Croft, Associate Professor of English, a GC student, April Gore, and an alternate, Caitlin Wills-Toker.

The next speech contest will be held the following semester at the Gainesville Campus. Next years events have not yet been determined.

Mexicali Grille is a Hit

By Justin Wilson
Staff Writer
jwil3098@gc.peachnet.edu

While many of us may not have the funds in our piggy banks to jet off to Cozumel for authentic Mexican cuisine, it would be willing to bet my two cents that nearly anyone can afford to enjoy the Ath-Mex experience.

One of the most popular Mexican restaurants among students in Athens is Mexicali Grille, particularly because of its college-friendly prices.

Mexicali has three locations (Atlanta Hwy, W. Broad St, and College Station) so your never far away from a belly full of beer and burritos.

Both the W. Broad St. and College Station locations boast awesome patios perfect for a first date or just hanging out with friends.

In June 2003 Mexicali won 2nd place in the Athens Banner Herald “Readers Choice Awards” for best patio, right behind Hilttop Grille.

Also, and maybe more importantly, in the same contest Mexicali was voted numero uno for the best margarita in town.

These margaritas come in 12 oz. and 60 oz. versions, with a classic flavor or try one of the many flavored margaritas such as: strawberry, raspberry, mango, peach, or pink lemonade.

They also offer flavored daiquiris that seem to be a favorite among the female population.

For the guys out there Thursday nights are the best because it is $2.99 pitcher night or $6 a beer night if that sounds better!!

With all the drink choices Mexicali has, I bet your wondering how the food is.

Awesome!!!

Every table gets chips and salsa brought to their table to start the meal.

This is great and doesn't have the processed consistency of the store bought stuff.

Mexicali also offers great appetizers such as several dips, nachos, quesadillas, and poppers.

After you have finally decided on your drink and your appetizer it is time to decide what you want for an entrée.

Mexicali offers many combination platters that include burritos, tacos, quesadillas, chalupas, enchiladas, and tostados.

These items can be had in nearly any combination you can think of and are all priced between $5 and $8.50 for dinner.

I know you are probably tired of making decisions by now but you still have to try there dessert.

Thankfully, they only offer three desserts: sopapilla, sopapilla with ice cream, and flan.

Sopapillas are flour tortillas with butter, honey, and cinnamon.

Flan is a classic Mexican desert made with custard covered with caramel.

Any one of these deserts would be an excellent way to end your night here at Mexicali.

Next time you are driving around town with an empty belly and nearly empty pockets, don’t forget that there is an awesome Mexican restaurant nearby (especially if it is Thursday night)!!

Brett Bussey is a server at Mexicali Grille on West Broad Street in Athens. A night at Mexicali is not complete without the huge margaritas and never-empty baskets of chips and salsa. Stop in on Thursday nights for drink specials.