Campus Fire May Have Been Deliberate

The grassy area behind the library is blackened and charred after a fire broke out on the lawn around 2 p.m. Feb. 1. According to Public Safety director Marion Darracott, eyewitnesses said they saw two men start the leaf and grass fire and run from the scene. The incident has been reported to the state fire marshall assigned to Hall County and is currently under investigation.

Wintry Weather Forces GC to Close

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

All the ice had melted away from the early morning wintry storm on Jan. 26, but emotions are still high on why either Gainesville College campus was open at all on the day when the high temperature barely topped freezing.

Patches of ice could still be found on the Oakwood campus on the Tuesday after the ice storm. Students, faculty and staff watched their steps going from class to class and voiced complaints that the weather conditions were "horrible" on Monday when classes at both GC campuses went on as planned.

Many other schools in the area announced before 5:30 a.m. on local television and radio news of their closings due to the unsafe conditions. Lanier Technical College, across the street from GC, was one such school. GC President Martha Nesbitt, who spent the first part of Monday at the GC's Ocone campus, made the decision to keep GC open.

According to Leora Myers, Nesbitt's secretary, Nesbitt based her decision on accounts she received from correspondents in the Gainesville and Athens area. She was told that even though there was ice on the trees, the roads were free of ice and passable.

In Dr. Whiting's 10 a.m. Human Anatomy class, only about half of the 50+ students on the roll showed up for the lecture, even though Whiting has an attendance policy and had scheduled a quiz. Whiting went on with the quiz, but it will not count toward the students' final grades. Whiting didn't feel she could place students responsible for worked they missed due to inclement weather.

By 11 a.m., reports of more rain and freezing conditions led Nesbitt to change her first judgment and cancel all classes on both campuses.
Shaky Start Slows Campus Pointe

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

It was an eventful first semester for residents and staff at Campus Pointe, Gainesville College's off-campus residence community on Tumbling Creek Road in Oakwood.

A delayed opening that forced students to spend six weeks waiting for their new apartments to finish construction and a late-night incident in which a dozen students were arrested made for more drama than Kelley Eby would have liked.

But Campus Pointe's business manager, who moved in December from the Edgewater apartment complex north of Gainesville, said that growing pains were to be expected.

"There hasn't been anything like this at Gainesville College before," Eby said. "So it took awhile to get everything settled down. But we're growing quickly. We expect to have 90 percent occupancy next fall (in 2004) and we're already taking (pre-lease) applications this semester."

Campus Pointe has come a long way from its rocky start last August, when steady rainfall forced construction crews to delay the complex's opening for almost two months.

Residents did not begin moving into the 120-unit facility until late September. Management at the Caswyck Lanier complex on Dawsonville Highway allowed students to live there until Campus Pointe was ready.

"I'll tell you what, Caswyck was awesome to live at. But the whole thing was such a hassle," said freshman Jonathan "JP" Perry, a journalism major from St. Simons.

"This was my first time living away from home, so I was ready to unpack everything when I got here. But having to do it all over again, that wasn't cool... I had things boxed up for about three weeks (after moving back to Campus Pointe)," said Perry.

Added Tyron Jones, 18, "Caswyck was a lot bigger. You kind of had to get adjusted to living in a different place and moving out in the middle of the semester."

In November, management dealt with another situation in which a resident's party was put to an abrupt end by a Gainesville Police Department patrolman.

Twelve arrests were made for underage alcohol consumption and public drunkenness, although Lt. Jeff Harris could not disclose how many were GC students because of their status as minors.

Perry said he was glad something was done about his rowdy neighbors.

"(The party) was in the same building as mine, right above me, actually," he said. "The walls (between rooms) are kind of thin, so you can hear pretty much everything that goes on. You get used to it, but it was hard to concentrate some nights because it got so loud."

Said Eby: "You can't control everything that goes on. We've done everything we can to make it safe for our residents without making them feel too secure. There is a presence of the law here and I like that."

Harris added that it was only an isolated incident.

"We've gotten a few other false alarms from there, nothing much," he said.

Entering the spring semester, Eby is confident that Campus Pointe has worked out the kinks and will be inching closer to full residency as the year progresses.

"We've gotten a lot of positive feedback from students that know about us," Eby said. "We're hoping to establish a better relationship with the college administration and get the word out to more people that we're open."

"It's going to be a lot of fun to be here."
Meal Plan Could Be in the Works for Fall Semester

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

Donnell “Pops” Moorehead has wanted a meal plan since he first opened Elegant Expressions at Gainesville College three years ago.

The wishes of Elegant Expressions owner may soon come true. Moorehead said he hopes that “we will definitely have a meal plan in place by fall semester.”

GC President Martha Nesbit addressed students at a Jan. 23 Student Government meeting and said she was “open to any ideas” concerning the plan, but nothing has been finalized.

The plan Moorehead spoke of is in the preliminary development stages now, but Moorehead said students, faculty and staff will be able to purchase meal cards in $100 increments.

Students will be able to purchase the meal cards at the beginning of the semester during registration.

“They still have additional money left over from their tuition,” said Moorehead. “Then they will be able to reload the cards as needed, just as they would a prepaid phone card.”

In a recent report of 15 colleges in the region where students ranked their schools, GC students ranked faculty and staff attitudes toward students the highest but food service the lowest.

Business major Erica Rush does not eat at Elegant Expressions often, but she said she would if “we had a meal plan.”

GC’s Student Government Association President Justin Freeman wrote a proposal for the meal plan earlier this semester.

In the SGA proposal Freeman suggested a meal plan would do a great deal for GC by keeping students on campus for clubs and organizations instead of them leaving for lunch and keeping students from choosing to go to another college because GC does not have a meal plan.

The SGA proposed plan would offer several different meal plans, including two lunches per week to five lunches per week and five breakfasts per week, and would “actually make breakfast and lunch more affordable for students,” said Freeman.

“Why should I have to pay to graduate?”
-- Laura Brandt

Laura Beth Wheeler, front right, prepares to pay for her meal at Elegant Expressions, GC’s on-campus cafeteria, as Erica Rush and Elegant Expressions owner Donnell “Pops” Moorehead look on. Moorehead hopes to have a meal plan next fall.

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

Laura Brandt wants to graduate from Gainesville College. She has completed the necessary classes, filled out the graduation checklist and turned it in to the Registrar’s Office. She was told that an application for graduation would be mailed to her.

Then she encountered a problem. Like most other colleges and universities, Gainesville College has a graduation fee. Although GC’s fee of $25 is rather low when compared to other schools, Brandt, who was unemployed for nearly three months, doesn’t have an additional $25 to spend.

“I have bills,” Brandt said, “and when you don’t have an income $25 is hard to spare. I just recently got a job and I have limited time to work because I spend so much time at school.”

Brandt stated that she did not have any intention of participating in the Graduation Ceremony, which will be held May 6. Kim Armour, of the GC Registrar’s Office, said the graduation fee is “for the diploma, it has nothing to do with walking in the ceremony.” Brandt claims that she was told the $25 fee was for the cap and gown, as well as her diploma.

Susan Daniell, former GC Registrar provided information showing that 235 students had applied to graduate, as of Jan. 20. When adding up the graduation fees for these 235 students, Gainesville College has already taken in $5875.

Brandt doesn’t see the logic, “I don’t get it. If I’ve paid for all these classes, and I’ve got the grades and passed the classes, why should I have to pay again to graduate?”

Student Protests $25 Graduation Fee

JOIN THE COMPASS STAFF!
Email Michele Hester at ahes2131@gc.peachnet.edu or stop by office in Student Center.
Steve Langston, a GC Pioneer, Makes Plans to Retire in November

On Feb. 2, Heather Daniels spoke to GC Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management Steve Langston about his plans to retire in November and some of the changes he has seen at Gainesville College the last 25 years.

How long have you worked in the Financial Aid Office at Gainesville College?
I began working here in January of 1979, so I've completed 25 years. I'm starting on my 26th. I won't actually be retiring until sometime in the fall.

Why have you decided to retire?
It was just the time in my life to do that. There are some other issues that I need to focus on. It's rare to get the chance to start over again and I think that now is the time to do it. I have been doing this same role since I've been here and I think the institution is overdue for a fresher perspective.

What are some of the differences in the way things were like when you first started here and now?
When I started working at Gainesville College, the student tuition fees were $119 a quarter, which averages out to about $178 a semester. Now the student tuition fees are $778 a semester. It's amazing what the costs are now, fees have basically increased four times. Three-quarters for a full year cost $357, now two semesters for a full year costs $1556. Also back then almost every student was an in-state resident, the first two numbers of a person's social security number are based on the region of the country and the state and most everyone that came here had either a 25 or 26 and it's not that way anymore, which I think is pretty neat. HOPE has just changed the landscape. Before HOPE, which started in 1993, we dealt with students who mostly needed financial funding for school. Now there's a tremendous amount of students on HOPE Scholarship who don't need financial aid, it's all based on academics. Last semester over 2000 students were on HOPE.

Do you feel that you've accomplished as much as you had hoped in the 25 years that you have been here?
I've worked with a tremendous amount of students and gotten some good feedback. I deal with a lot of students' money and it's a great position to be in as long as you do it correctly and don't leave the students hanging or anything like that.

What plans do you have for after your retirement?
I have thought about going back to school and maybe doing something in health care. But we'll just have to wait and see how it all shakes out.

For more of Heather's interview with Steve Langston, log onto www.gccompass.com.

FDR Speaks at GC

By Margaret Burriss and Heather Daniels
Compass staff
compass@gc.peachnet.edu

On Jan. 14, the guest Colloquium speaker was President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.
Franklin Roosevelt was portrayed by Dr. Edward Beardsley, a history professor from the University of South Carolina who began presenting historical figures to his classes in order for them to understand and appreciate both the history and the importance of these figures.

Beardsley made his presentation more significant to the area by using references on the impact of the New Deal in Gainesville.
Students felt this created greater interest. "He (Beardsley) discussed history thoroughly and explained things I never knew before," said Lindsay Lancaster, a nursing major from Gainesville.

The CE Auditorium was packed full of students and teachers, and not just from Gainesville College. Over half the seats were taken up by middle school students from a nearby private school. GC students were lined up along the walls and sitting on the steps so they could hear what the ex-president had to say.

Many different mediums were incorporated into Beardsley's presentation including old photographs and political cartoons as part of a running slide show. He also played a radio speech of Huey Long attacking Roosevelt. The presentation was further aided by his period costume, including a wooden wheelchair, crutches, his cigarette holder and leg braces similar to those worn by Roosevelt.

Beardsley also spoke on various political aspects of Roosevelt's presidency. He admitted the faults as well as the virtues of the

Weather

Continued from Page 1.

While frequently traveled interstates like I-985 and I-85 and state routes like Ga. 53 and Ga. 20 were drivable, the "side roads I take into school were icy so I didn't even attempt to drive," said Lisa Bogard, an early childhood education student at GC.

Television news reported until early Tuesday to be aware of "black ice", a condition of freezing water on asphalt that motorists generally do not see until they are already upon it. Mary Reddy could not get out of her driveway. "I didn't want to take the chance of having an accident or falling down."

The ultimate decision to close GC is that of Nesbitt, and any further decisions about inclement weather will be handled in the same fashion as Jan. 26.

For information regarding future school closings, tune to local television and radio or check the GC website for postings.
The Student Center became the focus of Gainesville College's political world on Jan. 21 when a presidential candidate forum and voter registration drive was held there.

Jason Mosser and Susan MacFarland, both professors at GC, organized the forum for the purpose of familiarizing students with Georgia's primary election system and recognizing some of the Democratic candidates in this year's election. Georgia will hold an open primary on March 2. An open primary means that a voter does not have to be registered with a particular party to vote in the election.

MacFarland played the part of master of ceremonies for the event while also speaking for John Edwards and John Kerry. She discussed the platforms of both candidates, starting with Kerry and his proposition to rebuild the economy and reform health care. Kerry, a war veteran, is campaigning for "progressive internationalism" and peace in Iraq, while working toward strengthening homeland security. Kerry has taken an oppositionist stance to the war in Iraq.

John Edwards, unlike Kerry, supported the war. Edwards, a multimillionaire trial lawyer, supports working with the lower classes and focuses on the "plight of the powerless."

Mosser, a strong Clark supporter, took to the stage to voice the concerns and issues of his candidate. Clark, a retired Four-Star General, has great leadership potential and foreign policy experience, stated Mosser. The former general supports a repeal of the Bush tax cuts for people with incomes over $200,000. He is "solidly democratic" and opposes the Patriot Act.

"For those of you that are interested," Mosser said, "Clark supporters in Athens meet every Monday night, up until March 2, at Tasty World."

GC English professor Anita Turlington spoke for Vermont Governor Howard Dean and even placed Dean Campaign memorabilia on a table in front of the stage.

Dean has "harnessed the anger and frustration Americans have at this administration," Turlington said, "and he's not afraid to make waves."

His anti-war platform has carried his campaign to this point, but he has seen a drop in support since the primary elections began.

"I think the presentation went very well," said Charles Karcher, the head of the Social Sciences division.

MacFarland estimates that roughly 40 to 50 voter registration forms were handed out. Over 120 students attended the forum, with many faculty members in attendance as well.

Michallene McDaniel, a member of GC's Social Sciences and Education division, said, "It would be nice if students understood that these issues have something to do directly with their lives."

The Compass is looking for staff writers who can contribute stories that maintain the general excellence that is Gainesville College and the students who make up the staff of The Compass. Contact Michele Hester at ahes2131@gc.peachnet.edu.
30 Things Every GC Student Needs to Know

For many new students at Gainesville College, finding out which class is in which building is a huge challenge. Studying has suddenly gone from virtually never in high school to sometimes three or four hours a night in college. For those students who do not have the time to explore all GC has to offer, the Compass staff has compiled a list of things that may reduce some of the stress involved in attending Gainesville College.

1. Academic II has an outdoor courtyard for student use.
2. DVD’s and videos can be checked out from the GC library.
3. The library is the only building open to students on Sunday.
4. The track around the soccer field is open for public use.
5. There is a student lounge in the Dunlap/Mathis building.
6. The ACTT Center has two computer rooms (158, 160) where video games can be played.
7. GC has a greenhouse near the second pond.
8. Elegant Expressions does not accept credit or debit cards but welcomes personal checks.
9. The Cyber Café can be used by any GC student, not just the gamers who dominate it.
10. There are surveillance cameras over the desks in the testing area in the ACTT Center.
11. GC has a public bike trail.
12. Students who are in Learning Support math or English cannot withdrawal from a LS class without withdrawing from all non-learning support classes, unless the student also has another LS class.
13. GC does not mail out grades, but students can access their grades on BANNER WEB on the GC website.
14. GC’s walking trail connects to the student apartments at Campus Pointe.
15. Many professors give extra credit to students who attend campus events (clubs, Colloquium speakers, plays, etc.)
16. Students must reapply for financial aid every spring.
17. The ACTT Center is open on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
18. All GC offices close at 3:00 p.m. on Friday.
19. At the beginning and end of each semester the GC bookstore holds book buy back days.
20. Counseling and Testing Center holds workshops throughout the year given by trained counselors. The counselors welcome walk-ins, as well as take appointments. All visits will remain confidential.
21. GC has an Olympic size indoor pool and a state-of-the-art workout room. GC identification is required for student use.
22. The Student Center closes at 10:00 p.m. Monday – Thursday and 3:00 p.m. on Friday.
23. Every student enrolled at GC has access to 400 sheets of computer paper they do not have to pay for. The paper is included in the student technology fee which is calculated into tuition. The paper does not roll over from semester to semester, nor can students use it to make copies on a copying machine.
24. Tutors are available in the writing, language and math labs in the ACTT Center. No appointment is necessary.
25. English professors suggest that students take the Regents’ exam soon after completing ENGL 1102. Students may sign up for the exam on line.
26. There is a $25 graduation fee for all students who graduate from GC, regardless of whether the student participates in the graduation ceremony.
27. Students who wish to withdrawal from a class may pick up withdrawal forms from administrative offices around campus. It is no longer a requirement to have your advisor sign the withdrawal form.
28. GC has three award-winning student publications: The Chestatee Review, Hoi Poiloi and The Compass.
29. GC has over 25 clubs and organizations for students to join.
30. GC has been ranked on the top 10 list of most-wired colleges by Yahoo.
31. Students can actually obtain a four year degree at GC through North Georgia College and State University.
Students Take Dip in Hot Wax

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

Anyone walking around campus on Jan. 12 probably noticed students carrying rainbow-colored wax hands. The Gainesville College Campus Activity Board sponsored the Wax Hands event that has been rated the “Best Campus Novelty Event” by the National Association for Campus Activities four years in a row.

Sam Ferguson was just passing by when he saw the wax hands. “I had a few hours to burn, and it looked neat.”

More than 130 GC students took the dip and placed their hands in the hot wax.

“It wasn’t just hot,” said nursing student Tammy Waller. “It was like third degree burning.”

Other students concluded that the wax was not too hot, and the company makes every effort to keep the participants as comfortable as possible.

“First, you put your hand in the ice water for 15 seconds,” said Wax Concepts artist Shane Wickliffe. After that, students place their hands in the hot wax between seven and nine times, and then the hand goes back into the freezing ice water to completely harden the wax form.

To finish the project, the extra wax is cut off, leaving an exact replica of the participant’s hand. Students could then choose from red, blue, yellow and black to paint their hands.

“Red is my favorite color,” said engineering student Sara Cagwin. “Wax Hands was a lot of fun.”

Wax Concepts has been in business since 1996 and is based in Dallas.

“We travel to campuses all over the country. We usually go between 15 and 17 schools per month,” said Wickliffe.

CAB representative Michelle Lindsey said, “The Wax Hands company gave us such a good deal, and it is such a fun event for the students.”

CAB has many more events scheduled for the spring.

Delbert Greear: Amateur Archaeologist

By Natalie Simmons
Campus Life Editor
nsim1699@gc.peachnet.edu

Long before Delbert Greear began teaching at Gainesville College, he made the discovery of a lifetime.

A tornado in February 1975 that ravaged parts of White County also helped Greear unearth a 24-foot-long canoe, the largest Cherokee artifact ever found in the United States.

The canoe now rests at the Cherokee Museum in Cherokee, N.C.

“It’s been years since I’ve been there to see it,” Greear said. Greear still gets a twinkle in his eye when he talks about his find.

“We were just floating down the Chattahoochee River below Helen,” Greear said, when the large, wooden object came into view.

With the help of his friends, Greear dug up the artifact by hand and rolled it over to discover that it was hallowed out.

“It was only waterlogged, still perfectly intact,” Greear said. “There had been a tornado days before. We just used pieces of styrofoam from the destroyed chicken houses to float the canoe down the river.

“I paddled it out myself,” he added.

Once it was loaded onto a friend’s truck, the canoe measured 24 feet long and more than 2 feet wide. The canoe was made from one solid piece of wood with a base that measured 3 inches thick.

Greear preserved the artifact at his house.

“I wrapped it in plastic wrap and set it back in the water. I tried to preserve it myself but ethanol triglycerin is expensive.”

Greear contacted a Native American anthropologist in Cherokee, N.C., and after a year of sitting, he donated the artifact to the Cherokee Museum. Cherokee High School’s Class of 1976 drove down to haul the canoe to the museum.

“I received a certificate from the Cherokee Chief thanking me for that donation,” Greear said.

Advisors’ Signature No Longer Needed for Class Withdrawal

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

As of Jan. 30, Gainesville College students no longer have to depend on their advisors to withdraw from classes.

Students who wish to withdraw from a class will be able to pick up withdrawal slips from campus offices and fill the forms out themselves in order to drop the class.

Many students found problems in the way GC previously conducted withdrawals, a process that required students to have their advisors’ signature before a drop was permitted.

In the past, students could only obtain a withdrawal form from their advisors, who can often be hard to find. After an appointment with the student, advisors were required to sign the form and students had to go to the instructor of the class they wanted to drop and leave the withdrawal form with that instructor, who would send the form to the registrar.

This process could often take days or weeks, depending on when faculty members found time to fulfill their duties in withdrawing a student.

The new system will cut down on the amount of time it takes to withdraw from a class.

This is a project the administration has been looking into for awhile now and, with many instructors teaching at both the Oakwood and Oconee campuses, it should be a relief for everyone involved.

Dean Michael Stay agreed that students would be pleased by the new withdrawal process. He added that new ideas are being considered to further simplify the process.

“I’m hoping to move toward an optional electronic system of withdrawing from classes, sometime in the near future, possibly even this summer,” he said.

There are still a few special circumstances that will prevent students from withdrawing from classes themselves: Students in Learning Support courses will still have to see their advisors. If a Learning Support class is dropped, other classes must also be dropped, unless the student has more than one Learning Support class. Then a withdrawal is allowed, but only by the advisor.

Another example of a special case that will prevent a withdrawal is classes that have co-requisites, like lecture classes that also have a lab. If students drop one, the withdrawal will not go through unless they also drop the other.
GC Students Celebrate Black History

What Can I Do to Change the World?

The Office for Minority Affairs invited all enrolled Gainesville College students to participate in an Essay Contest in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Six contestants each entered a 300 word essay elaborating on the following topic: "What Can I Do to Change the World?" Carey Beckerdite won first place in the contest and received a $30 prize. Kimberly Radford was second place, winning $35. James Culpepper took home the third prize of $20. GC professors Douglas Ealey, Penny Mills, Peggy Strickland, John O'Sullivan and Monique Kuczykowski judged the contest. Beckerdite's winning essay follows:

By Carey L. Beckerdite
Spring 2004 Black History Essay Contest Winner

I am very proud to come from a family of educators. Both my mother and my sister have spent many days in an elementary school classroom, passing knowledge on to small, squirming children.

These amazing women both consider their profession a calling, not just for those who enjoy educating, but for those who wish to make a difference. Standing in front of a classroom, teaching third graders about reading and math, can seem like a very small thing.

Small, that is, until a former student one day returns as an adult, just to tell their third grade teacher what a lasting impact she had. Changing the world seems like such an awesome task, imposing at best, impossible at worst.

What my family of educators taught me, however, is a very simple, but very profound lesson: changing the world begins by changing the world around us.

Stanford University's website for theirMLK Papers Project goes into extensive detail about Martin Luther King, Jr. the man, and his life's work.

When examining this biographical sketch, one of King's primary philosophies is mentioned time and again: the necessity of direct action by each individual.

Though King succeeded in transforming a nation, he began on a small scale, by aiding one oppressed group, or even one oppressed individual, at a time.

If each of us adopt this direct action teaching, and apply it to our own lives, we will not only honor the memory of Dr. King, we will truly begin the process of changing the world as we know it.

Just as ideas of anger and hatred can gain impetus, and poison entire populations, taking direct action in our communities can spread to the point of becoming the norm.

The key is to actually begin the movement.

For me personally, this means refusing to conform to societal mandates that tell us to distance ourselves from one another.

I strive to always be cognizant of those around me, whether in class, at church, or even in line at the grocery store. Perhaps I only have the opportunity to offer a smile, or a bit of polite conversation. Often, because of this first interaction, I have a greater opportunity to directly act.

Each time one person is affected by a direct act of kindness, they are more likely to be kind to another, allowing this kindness to spread.

Employing Dr. King's philosophies of direct action really can change the world, if each of us is willing to begin by changing the world around us.

Direct action can mean many different things to many different people.

While I directly act by increasing personal interaction, my mother and sister directly act in the lives of young people in their classrooms.

Regardless of how we put Dr. King's teachings into practice, it is important to remember one simple fact, proven irrefutably by the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. himself.

It only takes one small move to create a very large movement.

Black History Month Events at GC

Panel discussion: "I Have A Dream"
When: Noon-1 p.m. Feb. 16
Where: Cont. Education, Room 108
Have you ever wondered what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. meant when he delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech?

Movie: "The Fist of Freedom"
When: 12:30 p.m. Feb. 17
Where: Student Activities Building, Lanier C
A documentary on Tommie Smith 1968 Olympic Gold Medalist, 200 Meter Race in the 19th Olympiad in Mexico City with a time of 19.83 seconds. Tommie made a commitment to dedicate his life to champion the cause of African-Americans. Popcorn and Drinks will be served!

Play: "A Trace of African-American History"
By BSA members
When: Noon-1 p.m. Feb. 18
Where: Continuing Education, Ed Cabell Theatre

Dance: "Step Show"
When: Noon-1 p.m. Feb. 25
Where: Student Activities Building, stage
Elegant Expressions will be serving "soul food" as various performers entertain people at the Student Activities Center with a dance style, "Stepping," that flourished during the Black Power and Africa-centered movements of the 1960s.
Communication Honor Society and Club Formed at GC

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

Gainesville College now has a communication club despite the fact that GC does not offer a major in communication. Sigma Chi Eta is the official Communication Honor Society of the National Communication Association for undergraduates in two-year colleges. The club’s objective is to explore options for further undergraduate and graduate communication studies.

Sigma Chi Eta is represented by the Arabic letters S, C and H to symbolize “Students in Communication with Honors.” Caitlin Wills-Toker and Allison Ainsworth are advising the club that was first established nationwide in 2000 but did not reach GC until now. The goals of Sigma Chi Eta are to recognize, foster and reward outstanding scholastic achievement in communication studies. Toker and Ainsworth also hope to stimulate interest in the communication field.

The club will promote and encourage professional development and allow an opportunity to discuss and exchange ideas with others interested in communication.

The formation of SCH and the creation of the new Communication 2300 class Toker also teaches “couldn’t have come at a better time,” said Toker. According to Toker, communication is one of the fastest growing career fields today.

SCH held their first meeting Feb. 4 and decided to meet the first and third Thursdays of each month from 12:30 - 1 p.m. Interested students who cannot meet at this time should contact Toker or Ainsworth. There has also been discussion on having additional meetings in the evenings if night students are interested.

SCH has plans to participate in two campus projects in spring. Members will decorate a display case in the Student Center on Feb. 20 to promote the club. Then on April 2, SCH will organize GC’s second speech contest.

The format of contest will be very similar to the contest held last semester at the Oconee campus. COMM 1100 students and professors will choose speakers from their classes to present either a persuasive or informative speech for a panel of judges. Three faculty members and two students will judge the contest. Prizes will be given in each category.

Katie Ramey, a general studies student who would major in communication if GC offered it, is involved in both the club and the class. “Communication is possibly the most important skill anyone could have when trying to enter the workplace,” said Ramey. “I am really excited about the club and the speech contest, and I look forward to participating in projects that will increase the awareness that GC needs a communication major.”

Tokers has wanted to teach a professional communication class for “a long time,” she said. Her COMM 2300 class will focus a great deal on the public relations aspect of the communication field.

“SCH and the new COMM 2300 class could not have come to Gainesville College at a better time,” said Toker. The class will travel to a public relations firm in Atlanta on March 18 to gain a real-world look into the field of PR. Dan Cabaniss’ Mass Communication class is also making the trip.

For more information on SCH, COMM 2300 or GC’s speech contest, contact Toker at cwillst@gc.peachnet.edu or Ainsworth at ainsworth@gc.peachnet.edu.

Philosophy Essay Contest

Just write an essay of 1500 words on some aspect of Philosophy, i.e. ethics, metaphysics, epistemology, aesthetics and turn it in to the the Social Sciences office in Academic II on or before April 9 for Dr. Kerry R. Stewart or Dr. Charles Burchfield. Winners will be announced on April 28.

(Sponsored by *A posteriori*: The Philosophy Club at Gainesville College. Join us every Wed. at noon in Acad. II, room 147.)
February
Overcoming Test Anxiety Seminar
Tues., Feb. 10
Noon - 1 p.m., and 5-6 p.m.
Career Center in Counseling and Testing Center, Student Center

Second Wind Club Meeting
Wed., Feb. 11 Noon
Lower Faculty Dining Room, Student Center

Sign up for Intramurals Soccer and 5 on 5 Basketball
Wed., Feb. 11
Time and Location TBA

“Majors” Fair
Wed., Feb. 11 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Student Center

Movie Ticket Giveaway
Thurs., Feb. 12 5 p.m.
Student Center Stage

Movie Ticket Giveaway
Fri., Feb. 13 Noon
Student Center Stage

Real Deal Game Show
Mon., Feb. 16 Noon
Student Center Stage

Education Fair
Tues., Feb. 17 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Lanier A/B, Student Center

Careers in Health Science
Wed., Feb. 18 Noon and 5 p.m.
Career Center in Counseling and Testing Center, Student Center

PROBE Transfer Fair
Thurs., Feb. 19 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Student Center

March

Careers in Psychology
Wed., March 3 Noon and 5 p.m.
Career Center in Counseling and Testing Center, Student Center

Colloquium Speaker: Dr. John Hamilton
Wed., March 3 Noon
CE Auditorium

8-Ball Tournament
Wed., March 3 Noon - 1:15 p.m.
Student Center, Game Room

Spring Break
Mon., March 8 - Fri., March 12
Campus Closed

Careers in Business
Wed., March 31
Noon - 1 p.m., and 5-6 p.m.
Career Center in Counseling and Testing Center, Student Center

April

Qi Gong for Positive Mental Health
Thurs., April 1
Noon - 1 p.m., and 5-6 p.m.
Lanier C, Student Center

Producing a “Great” Resume
Tues., April 6
Noon - 1 p.m., and 5-6 p.m.
Pro Wrestler Makes a Living Being A Villain

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

It's not often that you see a bad boy in high school wrestling. And you certainly don't ever see wrestlers from Jefferson High School playing the role of the villain when they're on the mat.

But Matt Sells isn't your typical high school wrestler.

The Jefferson sophomore, who also attends joint-enrollment classes at Gainesville College, hasn't spent a single minute on the mat for the No. 1-ranked Dragons this season. Not only that, but he doesn't plan to join a squad that is vying for its fourth consecutive state championship in 2003-04.

Instead, Sells bides his time in the ring at the National Wrestling Alliance Arena in Cornelia where he is fighting to earn a regular spot on the NWA's weekly televised Total Nonstop Action program, which airs at 8 p.m. Wednesdays on Pay-Per-View.

Sells weighs about 30 pounds less than Styles, but that doesn't stop him from taking on larger opponents in the ring — or from playing the role of the bad guy. In fact, it's one that he prefers.

"It plays with your ego when you hear yourself getting booed," Sells said. "You have to train yourself to want to be booed. I'd be more disappointed if I didn't get that reaction because that's the one I'm looking for. If I got cheered or laughed at, then I would be doing something wrong.

"It's kind of fun to get people not to like you, though. The crowd will let you know how you're doing. You've got to be convincing or else they're not going to want you to be out there."

Sells began training for the NWA circuit during the summer of 2002 when he attended a three-week fight school called the "Funking Conservatory," run by pro wrestling great Dory Funk, in Ocala, Fla. Funk began his wrestling career in the late 1950s and won the NWA world title in 1969 and has been involved in the sport for the last 35 years.

"That's where I decided that I really wanted to do this," Sells said.

Currently, Sells spends most of his time working out and preparing for the weekly Friday night events ("Family Night") at the NWA Arena in Cornelia.

He has yet not been tapped to make an appearance on the television show, which is taped on the first and third Saturdays of the month. But he's hopeful that it will come soon.

"It only takes one time to make a name for yourself," Sells said. "Any time you're in the ring, somebody can notice you and give you a call."

For now, he'll keep honing his craft in Cornelia. And he'll also keep training a bit of an outsider among his peers. What other wrestler can say he's taking post-secondary classes at GC? Sells, who plans to be an English major, got a bit philosophical about his chosen path.

"If it's done right, it's an art form," he said. "It's kind of like Shakespeare. There's drama and tragedy in it and there's some comedy involved. It's no different than any of the soap operas that are on TV ... only a little more violent. But it's entertainment and it's a fun way to earn a living."

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**Spring Intramurals Schedule**

**February**
- Flag Football
- Volleyball

**March (sign-up on Feb. 11)**
- Soccer
- 5-on-5 Basketball

**April (sign-ups on March 10)**
- Softball, Badminton
- Track and Field

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**Water Aerobics Classes Offered**

Water aerobics classes are being held from 5:30-8:45 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Contact: (770) 718-3605.

**Pump Some Iron at Bench Press Contest**

A bench press contest will be held at noon April 28 in the fitness center weight room. For more information, contact the fitness center at (770) 718-3790 or (770) 718-3686.

**Run For Your Lives at Sprint Triathlon Event**

There will be a sprint triathlon at 12:15 p.m. March 31 on the GC campus.

The event will include a 200-yard swim, a 3.5-mile mountain bike race and a 1.5-mile run.

Contact the Fitness Center at (770) 718-3790 or (770) 718-3686 for more information.

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**Classes Offered**

8:45 p.m. Monday classes are being offered.

**Contact Information**

Water aerobics, (770) 718-3605.

**Iron at Bench Press Contest**

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**Spring Intramurals Schedule**

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- Flag Football
- Volleyball

**March (sign-up on Feb. 11)**
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**April (sign-ups on March 10)**
- Softball, Badminton
- Track and Field
To: Katie Blake  
From: Josh Purcell  
I Love You so much  
Happy Valentine’s Day!

To: Crystal  
From: Chris  
Good luck this semester.

To: Trish  
From: Winston  
You are the greatest gift  
God could have ever given me! When I’m with you my life makes sense.  
I love you with all my heart!

To: All my friends who mean so much to me  
From: Amber Day  
Thanks so much for all your love and support.

To: Miranda  
From: Your Sweetheart  
I love you.  
You complete me.  
Will you be my Valentine?

To: Amanda  
From: Moises  
You are the best wife in the world.  
I Love You

To: Fritzi Valdez  
From: J.L.S.C.  
Te deesco lo mejor  
T.O.M.M.M.M.

To: My husband, Frank  
and son, Frank  
Thank you for your love and support.

Valentine’s Day Guys

1) DON’T give her an appliance. Just because you want waffles doesn’t mean she does.

2) DO make something original, because nothing says “I love you like finger paint.”

3) DON’T give her lingerie. It makes her feel fat even if she is a size 0 (especially if it’s your mom).

4) DO write her a poem (this will get you farther than the lingerie).

5) DON’T invite your friends along on a date in hopes of an orgy.
Dos and Don’ts

Girls

1) DON’T display your Valentine’s Day lust in public. This will only decrease his hopes of “landing the deal”.

2) DO make a private dinner for two. Men love food, almost as much as they love sex; i.e., waffles...

3) DON’T expect things to be sappy and romantic. Guys don’t work that way. Well, except for Clay Aiken. He’s straight, right?

4) DO get him something he can use like a hat of his favorite team, like, the A-Team.

5) DON’T point and laugh. Enough said.

To: My Family
From: Katrina
Thank you for all your support.
I Love You!

To: Shawn Bogard
From: Lisa
I love you so much. I thank God for every second He has given us together. You are a Godsend.
Love, Me

To: Kris
From: April
To my little yogurt jammer. Happy Valentine’s Day. I Love You.

To: Kelly
From: Michele
Happy Valentine’s Day to my best friend. I Love You.

To: Karl Threadgill
From: Sarah Fuller
I hope we are forever in each other’s eyes.

To: Kitsune-chan
From: John
My muse, my siren and goddess. You are my world. I’ll always love you.

To: Alvaro Leis
From: Noelia (Gorda)
You fill my heart with love. Happy Valentine’s Day!

To: Jenn
From: Chrissy
Happy Valentine’s Day!
Caps-in-yo-corn:
Lonely? Tired of imagining that bottle of lotion has feelings? Cheer up little fella its time to put down the bottle and pick up a can, on the side of the road! You’ll be amazed at how many friends you make on the chain gang!

Aquariums:
You’ll put on some makeup, turn on the 8-track and pull the wig down from the shelf. Suddenly you’ll be Miss Farrah Fawcett from TV and then you’ll wake up and turn back to your self.

Sleeping with the Pisces:
Me, me, me is all you EVER care about! Wow, I didn’t know you felt that way about me! No one has ever felt that way about me. Let us leave this place, you and I, and we’ll never look back again.

Ariezy-fo-shiezy:
You’ll take a trip down memory lane this month and realize that today’s psychoactive drugs aren’t what they used to be so you decide to go to school and polish up on your chemistry to fight the good fight, the war for drugs.

Tore-us-apart:
Friends have mistaken you for a good listener because of the eternal expression of concern on your face and your failure to respond to anything. This month they will realize you are a disfigured coconut.

1+1= Gemini:
Looking to live a life less complicated? Drop the affairs with your friend’s spouse, your professors, your boss and your high school sweetheart’s mother.

Cancertainly-doodley-do:
It will become harder for you to breathe this month if you continue to bury your head below ground.

Lions and Tigers and Bears:
Do not be shocked when you see that you poop the first letter of your name sometime this month. DO NOT show anyone and flush it immediately unless your name begins with B, K, P, R, X or Y.

Virgo fast, Yah:
It will take people a while to realize that you were hypnotized and told to give people money and remove there vehicles when they say, “Perkins, come get this junk car and get out in a hurry.”

Librarians:
Go to jail for breaking and entering, reform your moral values and beliefs, compose an entire CD from lyrics about your new lifestyle and advertise its release and purchase availabilities on TV all for the smashing price of 19.95.

Scor-pi-ooooo:
You will become a part of the All-American family when you act now and purchase Direct TV for 39.99.

Saggy-Tits-R-Us:
When you realize your arch-nemesis is color-blind, you coordinate your entire wardrobe in green to better your chances at taking your enemy down.

MYSTICS

Gift Shop
New Location: 4315 Mundy Mill Road, Suite B3, Oakwood
770-531-7766
675 Buford Drive, Suite 16, Lawrenceville
770-962-7894

T-Shirts
Crystals
Incense

MC Jackets
Body Jewelry
Jewelry

Indian Crafts
Oriental Arts
Wind Chimes

Collectibles
Smoking Accessories
Martial Arts Supplies
When Good Things Go Bad

Quick question: Which of the following events signaled the end of all things good for NBC’s “Friends”? A. Phoebe has her brother’s triplets, B. Ross and Rachel get together—again, C. Marcel the Monkey gets a pink slip, or D. Chandler and Monica say “I do.”

Not that I’m a fan of “Friends,” I personally think of it as mindless drivel, but for the few obsessed out there, the answer, of course, is B. Anytime two characters get together multiple times during the course of a television show’s existence, it usually means the writers have begun to recycle plots, in turn signifying the downward turn of a show’s creativity and popularity.

Jon Hein explores the downfall of “Friends,” and various other shows, musicians, actors, politicians, countries and sports stars in his book “Jump the Shark.”

The idea of something jumping the shark was born in 1987 at the University of Michigan. Hein, then a sophomore at UM, and a few friends, were discussing their favorite shows, and the conversation turned to when their favorites ramped up and “jumped the shark.” Jumping the shark refers to the scene in an episode of “Happy Days” when Fonzie jumps over a shark while skiing in the Pacific Ocean.

(Note: Fonzie was wearing his trademark leather jacket, just in case the average viewer forgets who he is.)

The conversation spawned an idea that brought Hein on a 17 year journey. He learned HTML, the romance language of the internet, and designed www.jumptheshark.com. The website allows fans, people, web-surfers and the common everyday non-technically inclined person to vote on the exact moment that their favorite, or even their most hated show, jumped the shark. Millions of votes have since been cast for over 2000 programs.

“Jump the Shark,” the website or the book, does not limit itself to TV programs. Take Michael Jackson, for instance. No, seriously, please take him, we don’t want him anymore. The voters have spoken and cried out that Jackson took the leap when he told Wesley Snipes who was bad. Forgiving the fact that Jackson has turned himself into a ragged old white woman, I find myself agreeing with this statement.

Concerning sports, Hein’s readers have taken to heart the issue of the National Basketball Association and trying to locate where the NBA got behind the boat and jumped the shark. The general consensus was the retirement, attempt at baseball and subsequent retirement therefrom, un-retirement, and subsequent retirement of one Michael Jordan. Sports Illustrated, one of the greatest sports magazines of all time, was sent flying over the shark by the invention of ESPN. A 24-hour sports network was enough to spell mediocrity for a weekly magazine.

Hein continues to run his Web site while making visits to the Howard Stern Show and Good Morning America. He has been featured on NPR and has published articles in USA Today.

Blake Duncan, a third-year sophomore at GC, is majoring in Journalism. He hopes to graduate one day and attend North Georgia College & State University in the beautiful mountains of Northeast Georgia. He hates, with a ferocity unmatched, writing about himself in the third person.

Dungeon Siege is Still Alive

Video game time again! This month it’s a game with a little age behind it that can still kick butt. With the release of a full-fledged sequel due out later this year, Dungeon Siege is a well established game with a strong engine that has carved its own niche into the role-playing world.

While Diablo II really set the bar for this genre of Role-playing games, Diablo’s popularity has waned because of version 1.10, annoying drop-offs, and lag from duping. Dungeon Siege rides the fence between fast-paced action like Diablo II, 3D graphics like Neverwinter Nights and a party system like that of Baldur’s Gate II.

Dungeon Siege was published by Microsoft Games. The siege engine is capable of pushing out stunning and lush environments with no load time between areas. Verdant landscapes are plagued only by flattening when the player approaches areas that signify “out-of-bounds.”

Music is generic over the edge symphonic role-playing type. Most will probably turn down the music several hours into the game because after awhile it all starts to sound the same.

There are one or two memorable pieces, but that’s really it. The ambient noises are beautiful and are what really saves the sounds area. While walking through the forest, gamers are treated to chirps and howls of different animals.

The trees crack and snap with the wind, and the bushes shuffle as enemies pass through them. All ambiances sound real and are very well done. Voice acting is a little above par and done well. The voices fit the characters well. The great thing about this game is that you can beat ass all the way through and never get tired of it. Playing with a friend in a LAN is also great fun.

The bad thing is the game is VERY linear. A player goes from point A to point B with no detours whatsoever. Well, there is a dragon, but he’s so close to the main path that he doesn’t count. The game is so linear that actually one can beat it in a very long one day gaming session if they’re a high enough level. Menu navigation is a breeze and keystroke shortcuts help you even further.

Leveling up in this game is also very fun. You can major in four different classes; melee ranged combat magic, nature magic. Using different classes helps level up a character’s strength, dexterity, and intelligence, respectively. The max level for characters will take a lifetime to reach. So those who will play an RPG to max out characters are going to spend many lonely years at it. (Damn me and my persistence)

Visual: 8.5  Game Play: 8.5  Sound: 9  Ingenuity: 7  Overall: 9

John Furst is a Computer Science major at GC and also the Layout Editor for the Compass. He is the president of the Anime Club. He loves everything that has to do with anime and video games.
Big Fish Reels in Crowds

The brainchild of renowned producer Tim Burton, “Big Fish” puts a twist on often sappy heart-warmth with whimsy and humor. With an all-star cast including Ewan McGregor, Danny Devito, and Steve Buscemi, this tale of a young man set out to find himself becomes a series of tall tales and fabricated adventures.

Edward Bloom, played by Albert Finney, tells his stories to anyone who will listen. The stories of his growing up in and ultimately out of, a small Alabama town lead him through adventures one could only imagine... or only does.

Ewan McGregor plays young Edward Bloom; the ambitious young man from Ashton, Alabama who has big plans for himself. In leaving the sleepy town, Edward discovers bizarre places and people his eyes have never seen before. His journeys bring him through mystical forests, to serendipitous towns, and through a lake with a very large fish. Throughout these adventures, Edward makes the acquaintances of a few odd characters. Matthew McGrory plays Karl the Giant; a larger-than-life behemoth with a heart of gold, and circus ringmaster Amos Calloway played by Danny Devito, to name a couple. Edward also finds the love of his life played by Alison Lohman whose classic look makes her stunning as young Sandra Templeton.

Everyone loves Edward’s wild stories, except for his son, Will (Billy Crudup). To Will, the tales are all he’s ever known of his father. But now, with Edward’s health in jeopardy, Will is ready for the truth. The difficulty lies in separating fact from fiction; the man from the myth. Will has to learn to give way to the childish fantasies and possibly tell some of his own.

Once again, Burton has created an opulent universe to lose ourselves in. His illustrative mix of fantasy and reality gives the story a magical spirit that puts you in the mood to open your mind and take in the impossible. This film was a colorful masterpiece that brought heart back into film making. Taking a lesson from that “Planet of the Apes” thing, Burton has created gold.

This film was as real as it was enchanting and left us with the idea that there are plenty of big fish in small ponds, but the ocean is much bigger and much different.

Buford’s Hopper Goes Solo

Eric Michael Hopper has been performing for about 11 years now, but he’s been writing songs since childhood. He started playing the piano at age 6 and eventually grew into his own style. On Jan. 16 he performed at the Vinyl in downtown Atlanta. His own mixture of sounds definitely got the small dance floor moving, in spite of technical difficulties. Hopper first started in the industry with the band “Wil’s Drama” and is now trying to make it as a solo artist.

Inspired by Billy Joel’s consistently great songs that took him to other places, Hopper’s slightly pop rock, mostly Americana sound, with just a touch of country style takes us back to simpler times. Hopper has also written and recorded some hip-hop songs and hopes to someday produce.

Hopper’s band has been very loyal and volunteer much of their time. With Greg Partridge on the bass, Scott Shiflett on guitar, Kevin Caudwell on drums and Scott Patton on keyboards and guitar, they certainly make the music come alive.

All of the band members give a high-energy performance by jumping around, stomping their feet to the beat and sweating like crazy.

This smiling guy from Erie, Pa. doesn’t feel as though the industry has changed him much. Hopper says that music creates a community among those who make it, the people they work with and their friends that are also their fans.

While writing songs from many genres, Hopper lets the mood take over. If he remembers the lyrics and sound a few days later, he goes for it. It’s as if “there’s this great song just waiting to be tapped into and you’re the radio antenna.”

Hopper has a solo debut album, which is available to buy. I got my copy of “Inside Out” at the show, but it can also be found at towerrecords.com or cdbaby.com. The first song he wrote for this album was “Just Around the Corner,” though his favorite is “Border Town.” His strong voice can also be heard on the video of “The Last Three Days.” It was shot on the railroad tracks in Buford, so some people will recognize the background.

Hopper can be heard on 96Rock (WKLS-FM) and 99X (WNNX-FM). The songs being played on the radio stations are all songs he wrote and recorded in the past, so they won’t be found on his new CD, but they will give you a taste of his sound.

To find out more about Eric Hopper, visit his Web site at www.ericmichaelhopper.com.
GTA Takes a Trip Through the Terror of Dracula

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

The Gainesville Theatre Alliance is taking its newest show to Transylvania and London.

Most people have either seen the movie or read the book, but if they haven't then they've at least heard of Dracula and know the general story.

The GTA has decided to take a detour from their usual shows of comedy, music and drama and produced a play unlike any other they have ever done. “Dracula” is a dark tale of fantasy and horror, filled with murder and things that go bump in the night.

Michael McCracken, 22, a senior at Brenau University, who will be portraying Dracula, says, “Everybody has their own view of what Dracula is, so it will be interesting to see how we live up to their expectations.”

Jim Hammond, the director of the GTA, says that the tale of “Dracula” is a battle between light and darkness; light representing knowledge, darkness representing ignorance. Dracula and his evil thrive and survive because he is banking on the fact that people don’t want to know what he does.

Hammond asks the questions, “How much do you really want to know about the evil in the world? Are you willing to be a part of whatever force is required to defeat that evil?” He adds, “Only by knowing, only by getting the information can you actually attack and destroy an evil like Dracula.”

Professor Van Helsing, played by Chris Kayser, an Atlanta actor, is the light that ultimately shines through the darkness that is Dracula. “So into this environment where Dracula has been wreaking havoc and women and children have been killed walks Prof. Van Helsing, who has made it his life to know and has been pursuing this evil his entire life,” Hammond explains.

Boone Hopkins, a senior at Brenau University and the lighting designer for “Dracula,” has worked hard to make the lighting fit with this idea. Much of what goes on in the show transpires in the darkness and is only suggested. “The idea of doing that is because sometimes the most frightening things, our imagination fills in.”

Gay Hammond, Jim Hammond’s wife wrote the adaptation to “Dracula” that the GTA will be using. Gay has written many adaptations for the GTA, including “Servant of Two Masters” and “The Tempest.” She did a lot of research for “Dracula” and was able to incorporate several aspects that she liked. One important aspect was using a unit set.

A unit set can become a dozen different locations and it has a dream-like quality to it. That is what Jim was going for. “We want this play to be an experience for the audience that is like going through the dark woods at night, a kind of scary, creepy night with only a flashlight in hand. Following this trail, you know there’s something off to your right, but not quite sure if you really want to shine your light over there.”

Stuart Beaman, a GC professor and the set designer for “Dracula,” brings that concept to reality in his designs for this show.

GTA, including the costumes, lighting, set and sound-come together.

Gay Hammond is also the costume designer for “Dracula” and she is putting together some fabulous costumes portraying the late 19th century gothic look. Jim also likes the costumes because “with Dracula you have a bit of a chance to enter into fantasyland and have fun with things like the [Vampire] Vixens costumes. The vixens will be wearing partly gypsy-like outfits with long beautiful wigs. Dracula will be wearing the traditional black cape and a black wig as well.

“Dracula” has an amazing cast that are taking on very challenging roles considering this is a type of play no one has ever done before.

McCracken is best known for his comedic and musical roles with the GTA, such as Truffaldino in “Servant of Two Masters” and most recently as Lord Evelyn Oakleigh in “Anything Goes.”

Hammond has great confidence in McCracken, “People who are known as comedians can often times cross over and be great as wicked villains.”

McCracken says the hardest part is learning to speak with a Slavic accent. As soon as he has the accent down he says he can concentrate on the acting. “It’s a very different role than I’ve ever played and it’s a lot of work.”

Chris Kayser, mentioned before as Van Helsing, has worked with the GTA on other memorable shows like “My Favorite Year” and “Oliver.”

McCracken feels Kayser is a great addition to the cast. “He’s an inspiration to watch, the way he thinks as an actor and is always on top of things. He knows what questions to ask for himself and helps us out.”

Vincent Farrell, 20, a GC sophomore, will be playing Jonathan Harker; Chandra Owenby, 22, a junior at Brenau, will be Wilhelmina; Kristina Sutton, 21, a Brenau senior, will be Lucy; Cliff Smith, 23, a senior at Brenau, will be Dr. Seward; and Eddie Rector, 23, a GC sophomore, will be the crazy Mr. Renfield.

“One thing that I think is great about the show is that everybody is playing parts they aren’t used to playing. Everyone is being challenged with this show, including the set designer and lighting designer,” McCracken said. Chris Moore, a GC student, is doing the sound effects for “Dracula.” He will be using surround sound for the show, something that is not very common. The only other show that he knows of that ever used surround sound was “Phantom of the Opera.”

The audience can expect many wicked sights and sounds including raging storms, howling wolves and writhing vixens. It will be very exciting to see all the aspects of this show—cast, costumes, lighting, set and sound—come together.

Following the opening night performance, the Coffee Shop of Horrors will be catering a reception in the lobby. Theatre-goers are encouraged to come out in their finest gothic attire.
AMENITIES

- Private bedrooms with adjacent private bathrooms
- Individual bedroom locks and keys available
- Washer and dryer in every apartment
- State-of-the-art computer center
- Resort-style pool with sundeck and stereo system
- Great location near campus
- Gameroom including billiards room & foosball
- Professional management
- 24-hour emergency maintenance
- Individual lease by the bedroom
- Brand new Whirlpool appliances including: frost-free refrigerator with ice-maker, dishwasher, disposal and built-in microwave
- Fitness center featuring cardio equipment
- Free matching service if you need a roommate
- All utilities included except phone service

From Gainesville College, take Landrum Education Dr. to Frontage Rd. Make a left onto Frontage Rd. Take Frontage Rd. to Atlanta Hwy. Make a left onto Atlanta Hwy. Head North until you reach Tumbling Creek Rd. Make a left onto Tumbling Creek Rd. Campus Pointe will be on the right.

LIVE it UP!

The way College Life Should Be!
Meal Plan Would Benefit GC

As a member of the University System of Georgia, Gainesville College exhibits many of the same qualities as the state’s other two-year colleges. Our school has always been committed to offering its students the full college experience. GC’s first student housing complex opened last fall, and plans are slowly but surely in the works toward more four-year degree programs being available for students here.

But despite being the home of a popular cafeteria, Elegant Expressions, that operates every day inside the student center, one element that GC does not currently make available to its students is a meal plan. A meal plan is not a way for students to eat whenever they want. Rather, it lifts a burden off students who are learning how to manage their money by offering them a safety net of fiscal responsibility while still taking care of their basic needs.

Whether paying their own way through college or depending on financial aid, students would have the chance to purchase a meal plan early in the semester at the same time that tuition is due. Students who are already opening up their checkbooks for textbooks and fees probably wouldn’t mind shelling out a little more money if they didn’t have to worry about where their next meal is coming from.

If you’ve ever run out of money halfway through the semester and Krystal burgers and French fries end up being the staple items in your diet, the hot meals served by Elegant Expressions every day sound awfully delicious between classes.

Elegant Expressions would also benefit from the stability that a meal plan would bring to business. Donnell “Pops” Moorehead, who runs the cafeteria, says he hopes to have a plan in place next fall.

The Student Government Association has also written a preliminary proposal listing the advantages to having a meal plan. President Martha Nesbitt has said she would be interested in hearing ideas regarding a meal plan, although she admitted that it is not a top priority.

But with enrollment numbers increasing rapidly, and a rising movement toward four-year programs being offered here, the administration at Gainesville College should look at implementing fringe benefits like a meal plan in order to ease the growing pains that the school is already facing.

Like the four-year programs and the student housing complex, a meal plan is just one of the many necessary elements that GC will need to have in order to offer its students a full college experience.

Safety Should be the Main Concern When Inclement Weather is Upon Us

When inclement weather appears, students and professionals alike huddle around the television or radio and listen intently to see if their school or workplace will be closed.

On Jan. 26, Gainesville College students and faculty were disappointed to learn that they were among the few schools in the area who had to attend class in the sub-freezing temperatures. Many students traveled across dangerous roads and slid through ice in order to make it to their early-morning classes.

Lanier Technical College, GC’s neighboring campus, made a wiser move by cancelling its classes before 5:30 a.m. Though GC made an effort to hold all classes as scheduled, the professors who did show up were often greeted by half-empty classrooms. As conditions worsened, GC finally made the decision to cancel classes starting at 11 a.m.

While students were no doubt pleased with the college’s decision to close campus, many others were angered that it took so long to make the decision. If driving on slick, icy roads has to be done at all, it should be done with extreme caution. Students should not feel pressured to make it to class in unsafe weather conditions.

Even the administration at GC would agree that if students don’t feel safe driving to campus when the roads are dangerous, they shouldn’t take the risk. GC students come from all over North Georgia, and the conditions in Oakwood are often not the same as they are in other areas. Students should be advised to use their own discretion about driving to school in inclement weather.

Hopefully, in the future GC will hold the safety of its students in a higher regard when it comes to making a decision on holding classes in bad weather.
Outrage Toward Gays Still Present

I don't understand why there are so many people who accept lesbianism into our world, but these same people are completely disgusted toward gay men. Is the world still predominantly run by men?

Many men think that it is very sexy for two women to be together. I don't agree with this scenario at all.

Some of my best friends are gay men, and I have often heard that gay men are a girl's best friend. In fact, if you think about it, why wouldn't they be?

Gay men usually have great taste in fashion, they are caring and charismatic, they are great for girl talk and they are people who need to be loved, just like the rest of us.

There is no study to prove that homosexuality is something that is chosen, or if it is in a person's genes. Therefore, who are we to judge what a homosexual person does?

Consider the possibility that homosexuality is something that isn't chosen...it could be a chemical imbalance in the brain for all we know, would it still be wrong?

Many people are in sexual relationships. Why would someone want to take something that great away from a person just because of the gender they choose to have sex with?

I do realize that the Bible says that homosexual relationships are wrong...but if we are playing that card, the Bible also says that a lot of other things are wrong...and some of these things still constantly occur in our everyday life.

I will admit that I don't want to see gay men make out or have sex in front of me, but then again, I don't particularly want to see heterosexuals or two women doing that in front of me, either.

Evolved (or Created) Enough to Know Better

Can someone please explain to me what State School Superintendent Kathy Cox is thinking? In her efforts to reach a compromise between creationists and evolutionists, her novel idea has been to replace the word "evolution" with the phrase "biological changes over time."

Maybe I'm just missing the link, but I fail to grasp how changing the word "evolution" to the phrase "biological changes over time" is going to accomplish anything for anyone, except perhaps by adding to the word count of Johnny Student's term paper. What Mrs. Cox is proposing is not to actually alter or clarify the idea being taught, but to rename it— with a rather cumbersome, ideo-

logically neutered synonym that does nothing to change the meaning of the word that caused so much controversy in the first place.

As a Christian Sunday school teacher, I am confused. As a scientifically-minded individual, I am frustrated. But as a lover of the English language and its use of clear, efficient words, I am outraged beyond all capacity for explanation.

If there is a valid problem in the way we now teach evolution, then change it: find some way to balance the need to teach unbiased scientific facts with the rights of individuals to interpret those facts as they see fit. Don't run for cover from the imaginary threat imposed by a harmless word, and don't let voter-hungry politicians win your blind trust by proposing some meaningless alteration that is guaranteed only to cause more confusion and strife in an already clouded issue.

I don't care what religious creed or scientific theory you aspire to, it is the duty of every truth-loving American to stand up against government idiocy when it rears its ugly head, particularly in the direction of the children it is feigning to educate.

Community College Prepares Students for the Bigger and Better

College is a place where youth is everywhere, talking, laughing, running to class, and is the last place where full indulgence is expected and encouraged. You make friends you never forget.

College is, in fact, a lover that you love deeply. The love may be shifty, but it's passionate, and it's true. In her, you see loveliness and unique vision, and through her eyes you explore the outside world fully before graduating and joining it. New ideas, broadening viewpoints; and, ultimately, focus.

Focus back, Gainesville College. Tense shapes everywhere, walking briskly, descending, head down and high mileage. Driving cars alone, sterile, tired. If college is a lover you love deeply, then community college is a cheap local mistress.

We need her to hold us for a while, and she exists because of that need. She does her job well, but not too well, politely and unobtrusively. She avoids the complications of personality by freezing a vague smile on her otherwise forgettable lips, the doorways, the buildings.

She has no quarrel because she takes no stance. She is always here, with cement and barren yellow grass, and we flood to her with hungers to be satisfied as quickly, as loveless, as wordlessly as possible.

As we satisfy our needs, we focus out the window on the horizon, on UGA or Georgia Tech. She demands little, and expects less. No sacrifice. No love.

Despite the sadness of this apathy, I'm ultimately resigned to accept it. For the next year, I will step on community college, and I will keep my eyes ahead, in the sunlight. I don't believe in fate; but I've noticed that every institution, like every person, has a task at hand.

The Compass staff brought home 16 awards from the Georgia College Press Association Better Newspaper Contest on Feb. 7 in Macon.
Encouraging Independent Thinking in America

It's time I came out to the GC community: I'm a liberal. Also an atheist, a feminist, an absurdist, and—maybe worst of all—a Florida Gator fan.

If my students are reading this instead of what I assigned for this week, they're not surprised. They've heard it all before, at about the same time the tears they don't have to agree with me do well in my class, as long as they write well.

(Sometimes I keep the Gator thing under my hat until after Drop/Add.) Rhetoric isn't necessarily about winning and losing, I say, since you're often dealing with questions that can't be answered with any finality. What's important is you bring your "A-game," and match your youthful, passionate moves against an increasingly inflexible but crafty veteran (me) who's had years to get a death grip on my perspective on the world. Come out and play, whippersnapper, and take it to the hoop—if you can!

So it's with simultaneous amusement, disgust, sobriety, and disappointment that I read recently that U.S. Representative Jack Kingston (R-Savannah) has introduced federal legislation to stem the tide of (as he sees it) liberal indoctrination that has taken over America's colleges and universities, stifling dissent and inhibiting diversity by stigmatizing conservative views.

The amusement comes from my experience teaching at seven different schools in the last 14 years; even when I was in an identifiable majority liberal department, I never knew any professor, including myself, who graded on ideology. Further, I never taught at any school whose liberal factions weren't thoroughly counterbalanced by a differing slant to other departments.

The disgust settles in later, after I've given due respect to Kingston's (and the Right's) chutzpah in asserting such a thing, and I go back to English teacher mode. There, I consider, and am dismayed, that at a time when Republicans control the White House and Congress, when popular culture political programming is overwhelmingly conservative, and when the culture generally is belligerent toward those holding tight to liberal views (who was the last politician you heard proudly proclaim themselves a liberal?), a Congressman is trying to disguise an entrenchment of power as freedom of speech, and furiously co-opting hard-won liberal advances in inclusiveness over the past five decades in order to guarantee that dissent must always share its meager stages with its bullying counterpart. It's a clever, but corrupt, use of political power to paint a dominated cultural discourse (liberalism) as an "oppressive" one, thereby claiming victimhood for your poor widdle ideology.

The sobriety and disappointment kick in because Kingston is appealing, here, to fear and alarmism, and that rarely fails; and because I've already seen some of the conservative student attitudes he hopes to "protect." In my opinion, they don't have much in common with real learning. Last spring a class of mine drew me into a discussion of the then-imminent invasion of Iraq. After protesting that this wasn't the central business of the class (except insofar as how the war was being "marketed" through rhetoric), I told them I'd answer any questions they had about my opinions.

What was significant wasn't that they disagreed (graciously) with me on almost every major point of the discussion; I'd expected that. But they literally couldn't imagine why I might not believe President Bush's Chicken Little-esque claims about WMD and an imminent threat to American safety. Far from being indoctrinated into liberalism, they lacked the game to even conceive of a logic beside that handed to them by a government set on militarism as its mechanism of diplomacy.

Are there liberals in the academy? You bet. In journalism, too. Both professions attract smart people who aren't necessarily committed to making as much money as they might in another field, and who have a professional imperative to question everything, especially if it comes from an authority figure. Small wonder, then, that both fields are systematically accused of liberal bias by conservatives.

Asking questions tends to interfere with taking orders. And yet there's balance across society. On a broad level, recall how close was Bush's victory in the first place; more specifically, to speak only from my experience, most of the police officers, bankers, and ministers I've ever known have tended to be more conservative.

Good on 'em, I say. It's a free country. And I suppose the reason Kingston doesn't think they need to be compelled to present balanced views by federal legislation is because they don't have the opportunity to "poison the mind of America's youth." (As if no young person ever took a cop, banker or preacher as a role model. Right.)

What a sham. The real corruption of young minds is to entrench them so thoroughly in dogma, left or right, that they defensively refuse to question everything when they get to college—the legitimacy of their own ideas; the "truths" espoused by their religion; their identity, sexual and otherwise; their country's adherence or lack thereof to its rhetoric of freedom and opportunity; my credentials as an educator. They should question all this and more, including the ideological bent of every one of their professors—because all their profs have one, including those that purport to speak "objectively." That's the oldest trick in the book for making oneself the voice of authority, and students shouldn't fall for it. We all speak from some position, and not coping to the specifics of that position is to pretend I can speak as something other than a middle class white man, educated in public schools and private colleges, born late enough to adamantly deny being a Baby Boomer, and happy and lucky to be an educator.

I'm not sure if Kingston wants a "safer" learning environment, or a numb one. I favor a sweaty one. Professors should advocate their ideas, and expect students to advocate theirs back—not their pastor's, their boss's, their parent's, or their president's. That's the only way for students to know what their ideas are, and learn to articulate them—to find out how much game they have here in school, where the questioning is the game. Out in the world, you may not win, but here, where "liberal orthodoxy" supposedly reigns, what matters is you play hard. Your ball.

The Compass staff is looking for dedicated student writers. Meetings are Wednesday at noon in The Compass office in the Student Center.
Enrollment Remains an Issue at Oconee Campus

By Justin Wilson
Staff Writer
jwl3098@gc.peachnet.edu

Enrollment at Gainesville College's Oconee Campus has increased by leaps and bounds since its infancy at the Athens Center on Milledge Avenue.

Michelle Brown, Director of Enrollment Management and Student Development, said enrollment jumped from 615 to 1,561 at the Athens Center from the spring semesters of 2003 to '04.

While spring enrollment was slightly lower than that of this past fall, Brown said, "No new students were accepted for the Oconee Campus in the spring, but there are strong indicators, such as the number of applications that have already been received for fall, that enrollment will increase."

To help with the increased enrollment Brown said, "Moving to (full-week) sections in the spring has contributed to there being more choices for students as far as course offerings."

Brown also said, "There have been discussions about the possibility of raising admissions standards for those who transfer into Gainesville College."

The future development of Gainesville College's Oconee campus is uncertain. But Brown said, "Several efforts are being developed, including a strategic planning day in February for the majority of full-time Oconee faculty and staff, development of a three-year plan and communication between Executive Council and the Enrollment Management Committee."

Brown went on to say that "students will most definitely be involved in this process to find out what their top priorities are going to be."

Currently, Brown said, "The administration has outlined that our facilities and schedule can allow for a maximum capacity of around 2,100.

"However, Gainesville College Oconee Campus definitely needs more resources to hire more full-time faculty and staff to better meet the needs of the students that are currently enrolled."

THE OCONEE COMPASS STAFF

Elizabeth Fields
Oconee Editor
"You can either laugh or cry, and I'd rather laugh."

Britney Compton
Photographer
"Twenty years from now, you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did." - Samuel Longhorne Clemens

Louis VandenPlas
Staff Writer
"Never trust a computer you can't throw out a window." - Steve Wozniak

Justin Wilson
Staff Writer
"True love is hard to find, sometimes you think you have true love and then... nude people jump out of your bathroom blindfolded... ready to double team your girlfriend." - Mitch Martin

Interested in writing, editing, layout or photography?? The Oconee Compass wants to expand and needs your help! Contact Elizabeth Fields at efie@gc.peachnet.edu.

Biology, Birds and West Nile Virus

Mary Reddy recently spoke to Oconee adjunct professor Jill Goldstein about life as a biology professor in Northeast Georgia.

Where did you grow up?
I grew up in Massapequa, a town on the south shore of Long Island, in New York. It's a suburban neighborhood not far from the beach. I was fortunate to live in the same house my whole life growing up, in fact my mom still lives in the house I grew up in.

What prompted your move to Georgia and ultimately to Gainesville College?
I came to Georgia to work with a professor at UGA for my doctoral degree. I was interested in her research in birds and animal behavior. I am now teaching part-time at Gainesville College for part-time work, and, most importantly, for the experience. I plan to (continue to) teach college-level biology when I finish my doctoral degree.

This semester you are teaching at Oconee, right?
I haven't been at the Oconee Campus that long. One difference I can already see is that there are fewer older students at the Oconee campus. At the Gainesville campus, there were more "non-traditional", older students who were returning to school after years of working and raising families.

Do you have any biology-related hobbies?
My husband, Stefan and I are both biologists, and we love to spend time outdoors observing nature. I have spent a lot of time studying birds in the wild, and he has a background in estuarine and marine organisms. We used to do a lot scuba diving and bird watching in Florida. Recently, we found a dead crow in our backyard, and I brought it in to a lab at UGA to get tested for diseases. It tested positive for West Nile Virus! That was exciting.

Is this the career you thought you'd be in, growing up?
No. I've always been interested in Biology, but I thought I would be a medical doctor. Then I got to college, and wasn't too mature, and didn't make the grades necessary for medical school. But, I did start working with professor as an undergraduate, assisting her with bird research, and that changed my life.

What surprises you most as an educator?
That student performance is so dependent on effort. I hate that so many people are told from an early time that their ability is limited. I think people believe what they are told, and that they don't pursue all the things they want in life because they have been robbed of self-confidence. It is hard to succeed if you are convinced from the beginning that you will fail.

What is the best/most fun thing about your job? Seeing students get excited about how things work, such as nature or their own bodies. Biology isn't a textbook, it's everything in the natural world, and all things are interconnected.
Oconee Campus Finally Gets a Life

By Louis VandenPlas
Staff Writer
lvns5004@gc.peachnet.edu

Students currently attending the Gainesville College Oconee Campus can finally rejoice in knowing that they are being provided that “little bit extra” they have been looking for and paying for — school sponsored activities and events.

The person responsible for organizing these activities and events is Student Life Director Joshua Rood. Rood, a Recreational Leader Studies grad student at UGA, discussed his goals, accomplishments and problems encountered with the Student Life organization.

“Student Life is here to provide activities of various natures to the student body of Gainesville College Oconee campus,” said Rood. “Our goal is to make sure there are things to do outside of class.”

Rood also emphasized that students will be able to “engage and interest their heart, mind, body, and soul” into other facets of campus life.

Since its founding in fall 2003, Student Life has been quite successful. When Rood first took the position as Student Life coordinator he was told to “emphasize quality over quantity.” He was more than happy to report that the organization has done “pretty well.” Furthermore, Rood also stated that he will be able to dedicate a lot more time and energy into this part of my life.

Rood has encountered a few problems along the way. Some of these problems were serious, such as not having an office phone which made “just doing normal business a real headache.” Rood’s biggest snag was participation, recognizing that “we’re in the shadow of UGA, and we can’t compete with what downtown can offer.” Rood learned from these problems and “embraced the fact that a lot of people here’s goal is to be a Georgia Bulldog.”

“Ultimately, I would love for the entire student body to be involved with something,” says Rood. Also, he wants to “get everyone to know there is something else to do besides what you think there is.”

As far as his views of how the student life organization has progressed from its inception, Rood states that, “Now it’s less intimidating and more exciting.”

Ideas and comments about student activities at the Oconee Campus can be emailed to Rood at oceilife@gc.peachnet.edu.

By Elizabeth Fields
Oconee Editor
efi4340@gc.peachnet.edu

The London Cab Company got its financial start on TV.

Brian Smith, 29, was tired of working as a dishwasher. The long hours, meager wages and no way to save money made him feel trapped. Then his mother called one day and told him the game show “Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" was having auditions in Atlanta.

Smith went to the auditions and beat out 250 people for a spot on the show. He won $8,000, bought his first London Cab from England, had it shipped to South Carolina and The London Cab Co. was born.

Athens is home to only a few taxi services, so Smith wasn’t tackling a saturated market. Smith said he opened a cab company because he was looking for “variety” in his life, it wasn’t “physically demanding” and he enjoyed “meeting lots of interesting people.” He currently has seven employees.

Having a small business is hard work, Smith attests.

Smith’s business is expanding with the help of Sammy Ho, a taxi driver who became a partner, and a private business investor, who is helping Smith buy three more London cabs.

London Cab Co. can be reached at (706) 549-5966, and the black London cab can be reserved by calling (706) 351-0594. Special They also offer special event and all night rates.

Oconee Compass
Seven Clubs and Organizations Formed for GC Oconee Students

By Elizabeth Fields
Oconee Editor
efi4340@gc.peachnet.edu

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Brian Smith stands in front of his black London cab he bought for $8,000 and had shipped from England. The former dishwasher started the London Cab Company in Athens after appearing on "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?"