Rumble in the Jungle

More than 400 riders competed in the eighth annual Tumbling Creek Mountain Bike Rumble on Nov. 7 at Gainesville College. The bike festival attracted more than 1,000 people in attendance after the original scheduled date of Sept. 18 was postponed due to remnants of Hurricane Ivan. All proceeds benefited GC's mountain biking class, the Gainesville chapter of SORBA and Trips for Kids.

1,000 Turn Out for Tumbling Creek

By Jack Howland
Editor-in-Chief
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On Nov. 7, more than 1,000 people converged upon the GC campus to observe the eighth annual Tumbling Creek Mountain Bike Rumble. Presented by the Gainesville chapter of the Southern Off-Road Bicycling Association, the Tumbling Creek races incorporated all ages and abilities from children to professionals and all proceeds benefited the GC mountain biking class, the Gainesville chapter of SORBA and Trips for Kids, a nonprofit youth biking program that provides outdoor outings and environmental education for disadvantaged children.

With clear blue skies and very comfortable temperatures, 422 racers converged upon Gainesville College for the eighth annual festival. Winning first place in the Expert Masters I, ages 30-39, was Gainesville native Scott Unnold. He finished the 5-lap, 25-mile course in just over 1 hour, 51 minutes to top the second- and third-place finishers, Shey

Continued on page 10

4 Vandal Suspects Caught

By Dan Pera
Contributing Writer
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A Gainesville College student and three other men were caught in an apparent act of vandalism by GC Public Safety Officer Art Jetton last month near the Academic II building.

Jetton spotted the four men, whose names were not released because they were not charged with a crime, "jumping up and down in the flower beds adjacent (to Academic II)," according to GC Director of Public Safety Marion Darracott.

"One of the males carried a video camera as though (he) was recording the actions," said Darracott. Darracott recommended to the Office of Student Development that the GC student not be suspended.

One of the other males attends Lanier Technical College.

No further action was taken by the Department of Public Safety or the Hall County Sheriff's Department.

The four individuals remain under suspicion for similar incidents of vandalism at the Oakwood and Oconee campuses during the fall semester.

Nearly a dozen paintings by English professor Bob Croft were damaged in the Academic II and III buildings in early October.

The largest painting, valued between $3,000-5,000, sustained two large holes that had been apparently cut out on Oct. 1.
'Watershed Coyotes' New Student Film

By Adam Tapley
Contributing Writer
atap6791@gc.peachnet.edu

Now more than ever, Gainesville College has what every aspiring film student needs to go from independent artist to Oscar nominee: access to a continuously growing film department.

This film department is not just accessible to an elite group of people, but to any student. There are also many different film courses, creative writing courses, and theatre courses that are beneficial to the film making process.

“Patience is most definitely a necessity,” said GC student Jason Hanline, who is majoring in English. “People sometimes go in thinking they will take a weekend off and shoot a movie, but that is not the case.”

Hanline has just finished directing his film “Watershed Coyotes” using the equipment available through GC’s film department.

Hanline gives much of the credit to creative writing professor Dottie Blais and Tom Sauret, head of the GC film department.

“Professor Blais helped out a lot as far as writing the script … and Tom Sauret is essentially the producer. All of the editing equipment we need is in his office, and with no producer there is no film,” Hanline said.

Having a script ready before filming is one of the most important parts of the process.

“If you can’t tell a story, then anything you film is not going to make any sense,” Hanline says.

The hardest part to making a movie, Hanline adds, is not the actual filming, but finding people willing to work a camera and other equipment.

“It is definitely much easier to find a cast than it is to find a crew. Everyone wants to act, but not everyone wants to operate a camera the entire time,” Hanline said.

However, if a student has enough creativity, dedication, and patience, then GC has a film department that can help them achieve their dream of film production.

“GC actually has a very nice film department, and if a student has enough patience and a good story, then they can make some really nice stuff,” Hanline said.

Students interested in working with the film department should start off with Intro to Film, which, as Hanline describes it, is a “crash course in film making.”

Creative writing classes and independent studies courses are also beneficial to making a film.

Hanline plans on entering “Watershed Coyotes” into many different film festivals.

The movie is a splendid satire about making a gangster movie.

It stars Hanline as well as some fellow GC students and others from Hanline’s pool of friends.

Be sure to keep up with the English Club, as they are planning a premiere showing of the film at one of their meetings.

Vandalism

Continued from page 1

“In my opinion, someone became irate, disgruntled and took it out on Dr. Croft’s property,” Darracott said.

In addition, three large umbrellas from the Academic II courtyard were reported stolen, although one was later discovered resting in a tree “as if it were thrown,” Darracott said.

The four individuals involved in the Oct. 26 incident were caught in the same place as the missing umbrellas.

Another incident involved at least 13 room number signs that were ripped from the walls and reported missing from the math division side of Academic III.

Also, three GC faculty members reported that political bumper stickers were forcefully removed from their cars while they were parked on campus. All of them supported a Democratic candidate.

Vandalism

Jill Koffman, who is in charge of the event, sent out 122 letters to former GC art majors, and has only heard back from three.

“I hope to hear from many more,” Koffman said.

The exhibit will be a collection of pieces from successful artists who have graduated from GC.

It will house pieces from the past four decades, as well as new work in a tribute to the school’s anniversary.

Students will be able to view the artists work through Feb. 9 and will have an opportunity to meet with the former GC students at the opening reception at noon Jan. 19.

Alumni to Celebrate 40-Year Anniversary with Art Exhibit

By Caroline Cronic
Contributing Writer
crocr5562@gc.peachnet.edu

Gainesville College will play host to an alumni art exhibition beginning Jan. 14 in celebration of the school’s 40-year anniversary of its charter.

Stacy Koffman, who is in charge of the event, sent out 122 letters to former GC art majors, and has only heard back from three.

“I hope to hear from many more,” Koffman said.

The exhibit will be a collection of pieces from successful artists who have graduated from GC.

It will house pieces from the past four decades, as well as new work in a tribute to the school’s anniversary.

Students will be able to view the artists work through Feb. 9 and will have an opportunity to meet with the former GC students at the opening reception at noon Jan. 19.

2 GC Students Honored in All-USA Academic Team Competition

Dana Riley and Lady Cáceres were named as GC’s finalists for the Phi Theta Kappa and USA Today-sponsored competition, which honors the top 60 community college students across the nation.

GC Will be Closed for Thanksgiving

The campus will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday from Wednesday, Nov. 24 through Friday, Nov. 26 and will reopen for classes on Monday, Nov. 29.

Fall Open House Date Set for Oakwood Campus

Fall Open House for the Oakwood campus will be from 9-11 a.m. Dec. 4 in the Student Activities building.

Student Honored for Still Life Art

Nicole Renee Andreas has been awarded the President’s Art Award for Spring 2004 for her black and white still life.

GC Set to Host Georgia Science Olympiad

On Feb. 19, 2005, GC will be a Division B Regional site for the 2005 Georgia Science Olympiad. Contact Tim Howell at thowell@gc.peachnet.edu.

BRIEFS

NEWS
Mills Returns to GC to Celebrate School’s Charter

By Dorothy Howland
Staff Writer
dhow6017@gc.peachnet.edu

An important day in the history of Gainesville was in the year it became a location for a two-year college of its own.

On Oct. 20, Gainesville College’s founding president Dr. Hugh Mills addressed the college from noon to 1:15 p.m. in the Continuing Education auditorium, in light of the fact that this year is the 40th anniversary of GC’s charter.

Due to the special visitation of Dr. Hugh Mills, the Library closed at 11:15 a.m. and was re-opened at 1:30 p.m.

All attendees at the special colloquium on Wednesday were served a free sub sandwich lunch with cake for desert.

Thinking back to this special occasion, GC President Martha Nesbitt said, “I was very pleased with the opportunity for our current faculty, staff and students to hear about our first president.

“It was a great way to celebrate the 40th year of our charter.

Gainesville College founding president Hugh Mills spoke on Oct. 20 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the school’s charter. Mills was president of GC from 1965 until his retirement in 1983.

“I was very happy with the large turnout that included many retirees and people from the community who have supported the College through the years.”

In his speech, Mills talked about how he became president of GC in 1965.

A year later, classes began in downtown Gainesville until the opening of the campus in 1967.

In 1983, Mills retired from his position as president of GC.

His witty story of the founding of GC made the attendees laugh and smile through the entire speech.

Mills also spoke on how parents, in the beginning, did not desire to send their students to GC, because it was just founded and did not appear to be as professional as established schools such as the University of Georgia or Georgia Tech.

Parents wanted to send their students to bigger and better colleges or universities, Mills explained.

He added that many parents and students think that a “real” college is one that also includes intercollegiate athletics, which GC discontinued after the 1985-86 school year despite much success on the playing field.

Mills described the athletics issue as GC’s “breach.”

He encourages all of GC to “try our best to see if you can’t heal our breach.”

Volunteers Help Raise Nearly $90,000 During American Heart Walk

By Adam Tapley
Contributing Writer
atap6791@gc.peachnet.edu

Gainesville College students and faculty members helped raise nearly $90,000 for the American Heart Association during its annual Heart Walk on Sept. 25 at the Brenau University amphitheatre.

More than 40 GC volunteers collected contributions of $1,726 and the AHA received funds totaling $89,576 at the event, which far surpassed the goals set by first-year AHA chairperson Karen Pruett.

“To raise money for the event we had a silent auction with prizes donated by businesses and organizations,” Pruett said. “We also had a raffle and walkers asked for donations.

“The auction items that received the most attention were the two University of Georgia hats signed by (head football coach) Mark Richt. Each hat went for more than $50.”

Other events at the Heart Walk included live music, balloons for children and raffle stands. At the end of the walk, Subway provided everyone with sandwiches afterward.

Many sponsors made donations for the raffles and silent auctions.

Some of the sponsors were Andean Chevrolet of Cumming, Lake Lanier Islands, University of Georgia Athletic Association, and Georgia Tech’s Alumni Association.

GC’s Office of Student Activities, Texas Roadhouse, O’Charley’s rest-auant and Mary Kay also contributed.

Pruett added that she hoped next year’s Heart Walk would be just as successful.

“I am very proud of all the hard work of the GC Heart Walk team members.

“We raised one of the largest amounts Gainesville College has ever raised,” she said.

gccompass.com
Get Started Early on Final Exam Preparation

By Lauren Hackney
Campus Life Editor
lahc0218@gc.peachnet.edu

Soon the trees will be free of their leaves, and Gainesville College students will be hitting the books in preparation for the upcoming final exams. After exams are over, many will breathe a giant sigh of relief and begin the holiday relaxation process. But before you can head off to Tahoe or snooze by a giant fire, you have to pass the finals. No one wants to spend their holidays stressing out about passing a class. So here are some ways to make sure your holidays start easy:

1. Preparations to make your final exams a success.

The first thing to do to make sure finals fly by seems a little obvious, but make sure you know when and where your final exams are being held, at least a week in advance. The exam schedule can be accessed from the GC website by going to: www.gc.peachnet.edu/admin/Registrar/exam schedule.htm

Once you’ve found your exam date and time, write it down. If you are a creative sort, decorate the schedule. By decorating it, you’ll commit a lot of your schedule to memory, which is never a bad thing.

Next thing to do is check with your teacher. Your teacher might be able to give you study guides, hints, tips, or at least encouragement. They will also be able to tell you if the location of the final exam is different, or if there are alternate times to take the exam. It is GC policy to try and accommodate exam conflicts: most professors are very understanding when it comes to exam overload.

Now you need to study. Remember all the learning aids that come with your books? If you haven’t been using them, it might be a good time to check these out.

Many books list websites in the margins or index that help teach and reinforce subject matter. Pull out your old tests, if your teacher let you keep them. Review what you got right, and fix what you didn’t.

Proof read and edit your old essays, tests, etc, which helps you envision what your best work can be and it builds confidence in your abilities once you correct problem areas.

The night before the exam, you should not need to cram. Study a little, but don’t stress. Get a good night’s sleep, and plan on getting to the exam 10 minutes early. Even if you run late the next morning, you’ll still be on time.

Try to grab something to eat before the exam, and RELAX! If you’re prepared, then you’re ready. Take the exam knowing you’ll pass and make sure you have plans to kick off the holidays. You’ve worked hard all semester. Now it’s time to party!

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<th>EXAM TIME</th>
<th>Monday 12/13</th>
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<tr>
<td>8-10 a.m.</td>
<td>ENGL 1101 and 1102 day classes</td>
<td>7:30 a.m. TR 8 a.m. TR, MTWR</td>
<td>8 a.m. MWF, MW</td>
<td>9 a.m. TR 9:30 a.m. TR 8 a.m. Thurs.</td>
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<td>10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>1 p.m. Fri.</td>
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gccompass.com
Students Sulk About Shelling Out for Scantrons

By Jennifer Pannell
Contributing Writer
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At the expense of Gainesville College students, the commonly heard phrase “nothing in life is free” proves itself again.

Instead of receiving complimentary scantrons as they have in the past, students are now being asked to purchase their own 16-cent scantrons before they show up for a test.

This decision was made by Academic Delivery, which is composed of department division heads and the executive committee.

According to Dean of students Mike Stoy, this is something that has been discussed for a couple of years and the college could save an estimated $4,000-6,000 as a result.

"Last year there was a 24 percent decrease in funds from the state; yet we have double-digit increases in students each year," Stoy said.

For the school, this is a matter of funding and demand for resources. Stoy also mentioned that there is a two year delay in the state compensation that the college receives.

Some students may view cuts that eliminate things such as scantrons, with a raised eyebrow remembering the new desks that some professors received recently.

Stoy replied that state money is allocated for certain things, and money cannot be rolled over to other needs.

Some departments have heavier demands for scantrons than others. For example, Stoy said that the social sciences department was "always in the red" as opposed to other departments, like the math department, which has a much lighter need for scantrons, if any.

A handful of students have mentioned that they would prefer it if this added cost was incorporated as some kind of fee when they pay their tuition.

But since scantron dependency varies from teacher to teacher, according to Stoy, it is "not something that lends itself to a fee structure."

1,450 Students Complete Regents’ Test This Fall

By Leslie Adair
Contributing Writer
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If you thought writing essays in English 1101 was hard, it could be a good thing.

After hours of reading passages and writing essays, 1,450 GC students finished the Regents’ test, a required test for all students who reach 30 hours.

Ashley Blanton, a 20-year-old marketing major from Dacula said, "The only preparation I had was my English 1101 class. My teacher was strict and focused on preparing us for the Regents’ test. As long as you write a five-paragraph essay you should be OK."

Van Whitt, a 39-year-old science major from Braselton said, "I overcame my stress because I had a very tough English teacher, who was consistently a hard grader. I knew if I could do well in her class, I would do well on the Regents’ test."

Not every student felt prepared. Some students’ struggle was overcoming stress to pass.

Candice Boyd, a 20-year-old business major from Hoschton, conveyed two struggles she faced: "It was very difficult to write a good essay in an hour with four off-the-wall topics. Also, the reading portion can be tough because on some of the questions, two answers satisfied it."

Of the 1,450 students that took the Regents’ test, 288 students took the reading portion for the first time. Additionally, 433 students took the essay portion for the first time.

16,406 students took the Regents’ test system-wide last spring. Some students registered for spring semester will sign up for the test and become first-time takers. Students who exceed 45 hours at GC or those that fail the test must complete preparatory classes.

Signing up for the required test is as simple as signing up for classes online.

Students can sign up on Banner Web or stop by and see Frank Sherwood in the writing lab.

Frank Sherwood, who teaches Regents’ remediation classes, advises students to "stop by the writing lab for 800 topics to practice from for the essay portion of the test."

Continuing Education Offers Defensive Driving Class to Cut Down on Auto Insurance Costs

By Matt Lovell
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As of Nov. 15, GC’s Continuing Education department is offering a defensive driving class for anyone who has had a clean record for three years.

Students will be able to benefit outside of school by helping to reduce costs for their car insurance after participating in the class.

For the past 20 years, GC has conducted a drivers’ education class for young drivers.

However, a growing demand from the community spurred GC officials to begin offering the new defensive driving class in mid-November.

“A defensive driving class is an excellent opportunity for members of the community not only to improve (their) driving skills but also to reduce their insurance,” said Wendy Thellman, director of Continuing Education.

Scantrons can be purchased at the bookstore for 16 cents individually or $1 for a packet of six. Although this is only pocket change, students are somewhat bothered with this new cost.

Carolina Serpas, 24, an early childhood education major from El Salvador, said, "It is outrageous for them to make us pay for scantrons."

Regardless of how students feel, this is a new implement at GC, and the priority of the administrators lies in meeting budgets, not in student expenses.

Interested in layout or design for The Compass? E-mail Jack Howland at compass@gc.peachnet.edu.
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'Gypsy' a Huge Success

By Natalie Weathers
Contributing Writer
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Bravo to the Gainesville Theatre Alliance and friends for this month's performance of "Gypsy" at Brenau's Hosch Theatre.

"It's not an easy piece of musical theatre to perform. I am just so proud to have worked with such a talented cast," said Jim Hammond, GTA's artistic director.

After weeks of practice and pounds of makeup, the hard work has paid off. Responsible for this year's exceptionally crafted costumes were Jim Alford and Gay Hammond. GC student Tiffany Clown, who played the part of Agnes, said, "The outfits turned out so great. They were a lot of fun, too."

"Gypsy" was certainly the appropriate choice for this year's casting pool. Laughter and applause rang through the audience during the performance ensuring another theatrical success.

GC freshman Caroline Cronic said Gypsy was, "The best play I've seen in a while. The play was a breath of fresh air from local talent."

Said Leslie Adair, who also attends GC, "This might be three of the most entertaining hours of my life."

Exhausted and exhilarated actors wiped their brow and smiled ear to ear after the show. Backstage, leading lady Ingrid Cole said, "I've wanted to play Momma Rose since I was 15. Now I'm old enough. As a mother myself, I can really relate to my character."

Arthur Laurents' "Gypsy" is about a family trying to make it to the top in show business. The mother, Momma Rose, is a pushy and conniving woman who drives her daughters to be successful actors and to live her dream while forgetting their own. After losing her favorite daughter June, she trains Louise to be a pretty young lady and ironically ends up flourishing in the life of the burlesque. With a slight love story and a happy ending, this mother and daughter duo realize that both of their dreams can come true.

Alan Kilpatrick, who played Rose's love interest, Herbie, described his costars: "These students are eager, ambitious, and passionate and yet a little naive in the best of all possible ways. They are rejuvenating and refreshing to me as an actor."

GTA Elite Repertory Company to Perform Through March '05

By Jessi Stone
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Gainesville Theatre Alliance's Touring Repertory Company dedicated their time and energy to perform two free shows, "Medea" and "Jumping Mouse," until March 2005 for various schools across North Georgia.

Every two years, GTA students audition for a chance to be one out of the five cast members in the Repertory Company. This year's company is comprised of Amanda Rowell, Ebony Jordan, Derrick Ledbetter, Shon Sims, and Briston Chester.

Rowell feels that "it is a huge honor to be cast in the Repertory Company."

The Greek tragedy "Medea" was directed by alumnus Rory Ledbetter and adapted by Gay Hammond. "Jumping Mouse" was directed by Brenau professor Ann Demling.

The company's Native American costumes and elaborate masks were designed by Tiffany Towns, a student at GC. Boone Hopkins, a former GTA student designed the center piece of the set.

"Boone actually researched the Native American culture in order to design the piece," said Chester, who plays Brother Mouse and Brother Frog in "Jumping Mouse."

"It's an intense acting situation," Rowell said.

The Repertory Company has performed 10 shows since October.
'84, Charing Cross Road'  
A Book About the Love of Books

Set in the 1950s in New York City and London, 84, Charing Cross Road carries the reader through the humorous mind of Helene Hanff as she writes letters addressed to a bookstore: “Marks and Co.
84, Charing Cross Road
London, W.C. 2
England.”

On a fine day in New York, Helene discovers the “Marks and Co.” ad in a magazine, which states that the bookstore specializes in out-of-print, antiquarian books. But the word “antique” is a hindrance to her, as a scriptwriter, does not allow over $5.00 to be spent from her budget on individual books of her desire. She prefers antique books, but in America, she cannot afford them. In her own words, she said “all the things I want are impossible to get over here except in the very expensive rare editions, or in Barnes & Noble’s grimy, marked-up schoolboy copy.” She also hates the “stiff cardboardy” texture of American books’ jackets. Instead, she manages to borrow books from the local Library and even write in the margins of them.

Upon writing to the address, Hanff receives a letter from a person whose initials are F.P.D saying that they have cleared up one third of her book list she had included in her letter and that it would only cost $5.30 for the two books that they had enclosed to her address.

After several letters and book purchases, Helene writes letters to her new friends in London. All those who work at 84, Charing Cross Road and their beloved neighbors, return her love and even write to her on a non-business basis, for Frank Doel- F.P.D.- feels that he is the only one who can manage her book orders and reply-letters for “Marks and Co.”

Helene’s and her London friends’ utmost desire is that she may afford a plane ticket that will take her to London. She had once remembered a friend saying, “People going to England find exactly what they are looking for.” She had replied, “I’d go looking for the England of English literature.” He only nodded and said, “it’s there.”

By reading the book 84, Charing Cross Road, the reader can appreciate the passion of a true lover of books. Helene’s character will encourage the readers to read more than they already do. The book is simple to understand and will therefore encourage all readers to become more advanced in their reading. This novel will capture the hearts of the readers, no matter what kind of reader. It does not take long to progress into the book and after a couple of pages it is hard to put it down and may even be read in one sitting if the reader desires more of Helene Hanff’s humor and love.

Beastie Boys Rock Out in What May be Last Tour

The Beastie Boys: they are three emcees and one DJ. On Oct.15 at the Arena at Gwinnett Center, they got down with no delay.

Oct.15 saw the Beastie Boys storm into Gwinnett for their first performance in the Atlanta area in years. “I’d been waiting way too long to see the Beastes live, and this show was everything that I hoped it would be,” said Jessica Stowers, a 20-year-old business student from Athens. “Brass Monkey,” “Paul Revere” and “Shake Your Rump” were among the more memorable songs of the evening. The Beastes even played-two songs off their most recent album. “To the Five Boroughs,” which included “Ch-Check it Out” and “Triple Trouble.”

The band even came out on a moving platform to play two instrumental numbers. After the Boys finished their base set of songs, the lights were turned off and the audience cheered for an encore in darkness. Moments later the lights came back on and the group appeared at a smaller stage at the opposite side of the Arena and performed “Intergalactic.”

The Boys finished out the night with “Sabotage,” an “amazing song that just left everyone wanting to hear more,” according to Alayna Wade, a 20-year-old speech pathology student at UGA.

The Beastie Boys, which consists of M.C.A., Ad-Rock, Mike D. and the lesser-known Mix Master Mike, got their first taste of fame in the late ‘80s as they rapped about alcohol, girl troubles and rebelling against authority with such anthems as “Brass Monkey,” “Girls” and “Fight for Your Right.”

The ‘90s saw the group’s image shift with stories of M.C.A.’s conversion to Buddhism and the time and energy they devoted toward several Tibetan Freedom benefit concerts.

With their newest album, released in June 2004, the Boys chose to focus on politics. Songs contained heavy political themes, such as “Something’s Got To Give” and “Right Right Now Now,” and voiced the Boys’ views on the war in Iraq, terrorism, and even the current President of the United States.

Two things remained constant throughout the Boys’ nearly 20-year career: they consistently made fresh, interesting music and they kept their fans coming back time and again to hear what they had to say.

Oct.15 may have been the last time the Beastie Boys visit Atlanta. With all of the Boys nearing middle-age and M.C.A. sporting a head full of gray hair, the group is looking very weathered.

“This better not be the last time the Beastie Boys play Atlanta. After this show, I don’t know if I can take it if I never see them live again,” said Brian Montgomery, a 19-year-old business student at UGA.
Foxx Shines in ‘Ray’

Every once in a while, a movie has the chance to change the outlook on an individual’s perspective of an actor and the character that he or she portrays. Jamie Foxx gives an outstanding performance as the genius that is Ray Charles.

In Foxx’s previous films and work with “In Living Color” it was hard to believe that he could get the part of Ray just right. Foxx even spent time with Ray Charles before he passed away so as to feel compelled to give the performance of his life, which he did. Hundreds of thousands of fingers have hit typewriters and keyboards telling and retelling Ray’s story because it’s a unique American chronicle, an example of what we like to think is the best in us and of our way of life.

Ray is a biographical movie of Ray Charles, one of the best jazz/blues/gospel musicians of our time. Ray Charles Robinson was born in 1930 in Albany but grew up in Greenville, Fla. At age 6, he started to lose his sight from glaucoma after traumatically watching his brother drown in the washtub his mother used for doing the laundry. At the age of seven his mother sent him to attend the St. Augustine School for the Deaf and Blind, where he willingly learned piano, clarinet, alto saxophone, compose for big bands, as well as learning to read and write music in Braille.

Orphaned at 15, Charles went out on his own to perform in bands around Florida and eventually around the world. In 1948, at the age of 17, Charles took his $600 savings and moved to Seattle. There he formed the Maxim Trio, a group with a similar style as that of Nat King Cole and Charles Brown. The Maxim Trio had a major R&B hit in 1949 with “Confession Blues” on the Downbeat (later Swing Time) label.

Charles then toured with blues artist Lowell Fulson in the early ’50s, having R&B hits with “Baby Let Me Hold Your Hand” and “Kiss Me Baby” on the small Los Angeles based Swingtime Label. Over a decade passed before Charles felt obligated to kick the habit of using heroin and come clean for himself and for his family. Throughout all of Ray’s life his single driving force that propelled him was music and his love for composing fine works of art.

“I was born with music inside me. That’s the only explanation I know of.” Ray remarks in his autobiography. “Music was one of my parts ... like my blood. It was a force already with me when I arrived on the scene. It was a necessity for me, like food or water. Music is nothing separate from me. It is me.... You’d have to remove the music surgically.”

Grit Tops List for Vegan Food

Now I know that the sound of vegetarian food brings to mind hippie-looking waitresses serving such dishes that include various and sundry vegetables sautéed in soy with chunks of tofu scattered throughout. Such is not the case with The Grit, located on Prince Avenue just north of downtown Athens.

The Grit, which was made famous by their Golden Bowl (sautéed tofu and rice that can be served with cheese and veggies at an additional price), is, indeed, the quintessential vegetarian restaurant, minus the hippie-looking waitresses, simply because of the fact that nearly all of the meals prepared are both nutritional and do not necessarily have to contain tofu.

Upon entering the restaurant, I was reminded somewhat of what an old-fashioned coffee shop would look like, for The Grit has nearly the same “feel” to it. On the walls were chalkboards that displayed the specials of the day and the tables are made to look old-fashioned. Though the restaurant offers a vast amount of coffee and espresso products, they do also serve a vast array of both domestic and foreign beers.

While I opted not to order a meal with tofu; I ordered the Stir Fry (an assortment of vegetables sautéed in teriyaki sauce served over brown rice, addition of tofu increases the price), my friend ordered the Mondo Burrito, which is pita bread that has brown rice, salsa, black bean chili, veggies, cheese, and tofu scattered on top. It was not bad at all. The tofu tastes like chicken.

Though The Grit specializes in original vegetarian recipes and meals, they do, however, serve vegetarian food from such cultures as Middle Eastern, Mexican, Indian and Italian.

The Grit has even created their very own cook book that has gained much notoriety within many vegetarian and non-vegetarian circles alike. The cook book, which sells online for $18.95, contains over 130 recipes from many of their long kept secret meals. The cook book can be purchased online at www.thegrit.com or in the restaurant at 199 Prince Avenue in Athens. Their phone number is (706) 543-6592.

So if ever you are looking for a good vegetarian restaurant in Athens, then look no further that The Grit. The service if great, the meals are even greater, and you do not necessarily have to eat the tofu, which is good, by the way.
Riders in the Sport category sprint through the start line to begin the Tumbling Creek Mountain Bike Rumble on Nov. 7 at Gainesville College. Josh Fix won the division, followed by Paul Sherwood.

“Had it not been for the student and volunteer work, the event would not have happened this year.”

Sauret and his wife, Belinda, worked with the volunteers all day Friday, Saturday, and Sunday to ensure that the event went smoothly and as planned.

Sauret tentatively plans to change a few aspects for next year’s Tumbling Creek race, such as scheduling changes, possibly creating a longer course, having more volunteers and making registration quicker.

“Because the course is so short,” Sauret says, “it is hard to get 400-plus racers through the course without running them into each other every once in a while.”

The Gainesville chapter of SORBA was founded by Sauret nearly 10 years ago because, according to Sauret, “there were no trails at the time.”

With about 200-300 members, the Gainesville chapter is the second-largest division in SORBA.

The Atlanta chapter being the largest.

Continued from page 1

Linder and Tyler Grabovec, by over half a minute. Umold races for his very own team: Bike Better.

Concerning the event, Umold replied, “The course was fantastic. It is the best venue around.”

Krista Park, 2004 mountain bike national champion in the women’s ages 30 and up category, made an appearance at the event and won the Pro/Expert women’s of all ages race on Sunday beating Ursula Sandefur and Kim Moore by seven and 16 minutes, respectively.

Mountain biking prodigy Michael Cummings, 16, of Snellville, who races for team Bike Town USA, came in first place in the Senior Class, ages 19-29, with a finish time of 1 hour and 51 minutes.

He said he has to race in the 19-29 age range because there is no real competition in the younger age range.

He did, however, say that “he felt real good all throughout the race.”

Also competing in the races were a few of GC’s very own students. Kirk Lindquist, Daniel Elzey, and Duncan McGuire all competed in the Beginner Senior Men, ages 19-29, which made three laps around the course.

Daniel Elzey, an English major who was also the coordinator for the event staff, completed the race in 53 minutes and said that he was “thoroughly winded.”

Tumbling Creek VIII was Elzey’s second Tumbling Creek race, and he admits that turnout of spectators and participants was as good, if not better, than last year’s turnout.

As volunteer coordinator for the event, Elzey feels that to make the event better for next year, there will need to be more volunteers and he would like for them to be better utilized.

Kirk Lindquist, a Business Marketing major, said that the race was “Fast and fun. I wish I could have trained more throughout the season, though.”

Both Elzey and Lindquist participate in leading the Trips for Kids rides for inner-city children.

The yearly success of the Tumbling Creek races can not only be attributed to the great volunteers, but also to Tom Sauret, Executive Director of SORBA.

Regarding his participation and involvement with the race, Sauret said, “I am thoroughly exhausted.

“But I am really proud of the involvement of the students and volunteers.”

Of all of the eight Tumbling Creek races, I have never seen so much student involvement.

“Had it not been for the student and volunteer work, the event would not have happened this year.”

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The Atlanta chapter being the largest.

Tumbling Creek Races Across GC

ROX Plans Outdoor Caving Trip for Dec. 4

The Recreational Outdoor Experience club is planning a Dec. 4 caving trip to Howard’s Waterfall in Trenton, Ga., located 20 miles southwest of Chattanooga, Tenn. For more information, contact Daniel Luke at dluk1601@gc.peachnet.edu or Jack Howland at jhow68834@gc.peachnet.edu.

Fall Intramurals Takes a Break for Thanksgiving

The 5-on-5 intramural basketball season will take a break for the Thanksgiving holiday, but will reconvene on Monday, Nov. 29 for the final scheduled games at noon.

PE Facilities to Close for Finals

The PE facilities will close promptly at 7:45 p.m. during finals week, Dec. 13-17. The gym, pool and fitness center will also be closed during the Thanksgiving holiday (Nov. 24-27) and will reopen on Nov. 29.

Spring Events to be Announced

The dates for the sprint triathlon and the bench press in the spring contest will be announced shortly.

About 50 children, many of which participate in the Trips for Kids program, showed up to race against each other at the Tumbling Creek Mountain Bike Rumble on Nov. 7. Trips for Kids is a non-profit youth bicycling program for inner-city children.

JACK HOWLAND/The Compass

JACK HOWLAND/The Compass

gccompass.com
Close Rivalries Dominate November Intramurals

By Jaime Martin
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The November intramural season is proving to be truly eventful with both soccer and 5-on-5 basketball experiencing close rivalries.

While majority of soccer games are completed, the top four teams, the Giants, Crown Royal, Dominators and Estudiantes GC, will advance and compete for the championship on Nov. 17 and 19.

The Giants are in the lead with a record of 3-1. Not far behind them are the Dominators and Estudiantes GC, both with a record of 2-1.

Basketball players still have plenty of games left to play. Their games continue until the Thanksgiving holidays, and will pick back up for their last game on Nov. 29.

Ben Storz, a 19-year-old GC student, signed up for 5-on-5 basketball after already playing flag football and softball this year.

"Intramurals are great because you get to play with your friends and the teams are small, giving everyone an opportunity to play," he said.

Storz says he was active in sports in high school and feels that intramurals are a great way to keep that up.

"There are only two things that GC could do to improve intramurals. We need more games and please wash the jerseys," Storz said.

Both the Stokers and Headhunters have an undefeated record of 4-0.

For a complete listing of schedules and results, check out the intramurals website on the GC homepage.

The 5-on-5 basketball intramurals season is proving to be very competitive with two teams tied for first place with 4-0 records. The Stokers and Headhunters have dominated every game they have played and are scheduled to play each other at noon Nov. 19. The basketball intramurals will take a break for the Thanksgiving holiday, but will pick back up Monday, Nov. 29.

Faculty Profile: Gary Preston

PE Professor Receives Doctorate from Middle Tennessee State University

By Mhandi Johns

What do you consider to be your greatest accomplishments with respect to your career at GC?
I was Chair of the Department for five years. Just resigned June 30th this year. During that time, we added several new PE courses, two new degree programs, and a certificate program. It was not all me, but it was under my chair. I give most of the credit to the Dean.

You just received your Doctorate. Where and when did you get it?
I have a Doctorate of Arts. I graduated from Middle Tennessee State University in August of 2004.

Was it hard to find balance between being a teacher and a student?
The school let me take a leave of absence for a year and a half which helped out tremendously. I also spent my summers as a student. I think it was really good to be in that situation because I can see through student’s eyes now. I think that makes me a better teacher.

What was the hardest part about getting your Doctorate?
Writing my dissertation! It was the toughest part. It was a challenge, especially at the end. Collecting the data and writing the first bit was easy, but the end was hard. The chair of my dissertation committee changed five times. That really slowed me down a lot. I should have been done a year ago! I am just glad it is all over now!

Where do you plan to go from here?
I am very content here, but I keep my eyes open. If there is a challenge, I would welcome the opportunity.

Do you have any advice for students here at GC?
Try to learn good time management skills. It’s difficult trying to manage school, work, and a social life. Time management goes a long way in life!
SEA Receives Grant to Complete Boardwalk on Campus

By Brian Depa
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Gainesville College’s Students for Environmental Awareness Club has received a $6,000 grant to complete the construction of a boardwalk on campus.

Recreational Equipment Inc. made the donation for the boardwalk project that is close to 50 percent complete. Upon completion, the boardwalk will give students the opportunity to make observations, perform studies, and get out of their ordinary classroom and take a more hands on approach to their assignments. The club has also reserved $1,500 of the donated grant for conservation projects along the Chattahoochee River.

Last year, S.E.A. participated in many projects along the banks of the Chattahoochee.

Delbert Greear, instructor of mathematics, and Jennifer Jacobs, an administrative assistant in Student Development, helped to orchestrate these plans north of Helen and around the Mossy Creek area.

Jacobs, who is also a member of REI, mentioned the possibility of a grant from REI to Greear. The grant will be “a great help to the S.E.A.,” said Greear, who has overseen many of the club’s accomplishments.

Greear added that the extra help is a blessing. “S.E.A. operates off a very small budget,” Greear said.

For any students interested in joining S.E.A. or attending one of their meetings, the club meets every first and third Wednesday of each month.

The meetings are held in room 136 of the Science building. During the meetings, they discuss proposed community service works and any plans for upcoming camping trips.

S.E.A. uses the camping trips to clean polluted rivers, plant trees, and participate in other environmental conservation projects. A schedule of upcoming events appears on their webpage found on the GC homepage under student clubs.
BSA’s Annual Chili Cook-off Benefits Local Charities

By Jeremy Kuter
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The Black Student Association raised $356.69 with its fourth annual Chili Cook-off Fundraiser on Nov. 10 in the Student Center.

Participants were able to select the best tasting chili sample and an award for the best decorated table was also issued. The trophy winner (the table with the most votes for best chili) was the Politically Incorrect Club and the Art Club was awarded for its best decorated table, receiving a $25 gift card for Elegant Expressions.

All 10 contestants which included the Anime Club, Art Club, Black Student Association, Edith Smith, Latino Student Association, Patty Williams, Politically Incorrect Club, ROX Club, Student Government Association and Students in Free Enterprise, received a certificate of appreciation. The $356.69 was comprised of entry fees from each contestant ($5), $1 tickets bought by each participant, baked goods and soft drinks sold by the BSA, a silent auction ($30) and an initial donation of $50 by the Art Club as well as ceramic bowls that the club sold for a suggested price of $2.

No two contestants had the same type of chili and the “secret” ingredients were varied from the spicy SIFE recipe to the less herbaceous Patty Williams formula.

Nancy Mousa, a business major and a member of the Student Government Association described her chili as an Egyptian Chili recipe.

Edith Smith, who is the wife of a GC student and who wanted to help the BSA had her own secret ingredient: “Cayenne pepper,” she said, “because it is the only ingredient that doesn’t burn twice.”

The secret ingredient in the Politically Incorrect Club’s winning chili recipe was Worcestershire sauce. The club received a small trophy.

PE Club Could be in the Works

By Michele Hester
Clubs Editor
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Associate Professor of Physical Education Lillian Welch would like to speak to any Gainesville College student interested in joining a Physical Education club.

The new club will involve students in Physical Education and Exercise Science, as well as those students who wish to pursue Personal Training Certificates. The purpose of the club is to promote projects and service to the Physical Education profession.

Welch estimates that students would spend between two and five hours per month participating in various club activities, which will include the time spent in meetings.

This club is still in the preliminary planning stages, but Welch would like to anyone interested in such a club to contact her as soon as possible at lwelch@gc.peachnet.edu.

Students, faculty and community members posed after the results of the 4th Annual Chili Cook-off held by the Black Student association on Nov. 10. The Politically Incorrect club walked away with the trophy after receiving the most votes.

GC Clubs Welcome Elementary Students to 2004 Fall Carnival

By Lady Cáceres
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The annual Fall Carnival for Kids was held on Oct. 26 at noon in the Hugh Mills Physical Education Complex. The Gainesville College Student Government Association sponsored the event.

Approximately 200 children from Oakwood and White Sulphur Elementary Schools came to enjoy treats and activities that 17 GC clubs and organizations provided. Steven Metz, a 5-year-old kindergartener from Oakwood Elementary School, said the activity that he enjoyed the most was the moon walk, which, according to Alicia Caudill, advisor of the SGA, was “provided by the Campus Activities Board.”

Monica Villeda, a 21-year-old education major and one of the student coordinators, said, “Every member in SGA participated. We were really excited about it.”

Among the participating clubs and organizations were the Black Student Association with the cake walk, Future Health Professionals with a mystery box and candy bags, GC Ambassadors with the balloon toss and bowling, SIFE with a duck number-game, Engineering Club with a block building activity, Math Club with a number game, Peer Educators with a coloring sheet with trick-or-treating safety tips, Psychology Club with a fishing activity, Art Club with face painting, Asian Student Association with origami, and the Latino Student Association brought piñatas for the kids.
THE VOICE OF THE COMPASS

Student Voting Turnout is Positive

Just minutes after John Kerry conceded the presidential election on Nov. 3, media personalities were ready with their opinions and analysis concerning the outcome.

Throughout the election, political parties spoke of the importance of gaining the youth vote, and across the nation, both Senator Kerry and President Bush tried to convince young voters to stand with their party.

The end result was that more young people voted in this election than ever before in our nation’s history. Still, critics commented that neither party should have depended on young voters to win the election, because when anyone is dependent on young people for anything, then they are doomed from the start, since young people are lazy, apathetic individuals who only care about themselves.

Is this really the way young people are seen in our society? It may be the way the televised media sees young people, but judging from everything Gainesville College students did in preparation of the presidential election, the students here are neither lazy nor apathetic.

Several campus clubs went out of their ways to promote the youth vote. Politically Incorrect hosted numerous political speakers to give students insight on different political views. Sigma Chi Eta asked six students to Speak Out about issues concerning students in the election. And various print news organizations took notice of the fights GC students were taking to insure their place in the election.

These examples do not sound like they are about lazy, apathetic young people. Instead, the examples demonstrate that the students at GC care about what is going on in the world and want to stand up and do something about it. Congratulations Gainesville College for overcoming such a negative statistic and proving once again that the young people in America are the future of this great nation.

Another Great Tumbling Creek Year

A special congratulation goes out to the Gainesville chapter of SORBA and Tom Sauret, Executive Director of SORBA, for another successful Tumbling Creek mountain bike race. The event staff conducted the organization and registration of the participants in a timely and orderly manner.

To date, the eighth annual Tumbling Creek event was the largest in the eight years it has been around with over 1,000 people showing up to either participate or compete.

Also, the children’s bike workshop was so large, with over 50 children attending, that it had to be split up into two groups. Again, everything went smoothly.

The Tumbling Creek also offered a challenging obstacle course that very few participants were able to complete.

Additionally, the weather could not have been more perfect for racing bicycles with blue skies and cool temperatures throughout the day.

Good luck to Tom Sauret and the rest of the SORBA as they prepare to put on a ninth annual Tumbling Creek Mountain Bike Rumble.

To make a difference on the Gainesville College campus. Join the staff of The Compass. Writers needed immediately. Email: compass@ gc.peachnet.edu or call at (770) 718-3820.

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Questions about rates or billing should be directed to Jack Howland.

Help Wanted...
The Compass welcomes articles and letters from faculty, staff and students.

All submissions will be printed on a timely and space-available basis. Submissions should be in Word format, no longer than 300 words and delivered on a floppy disk.

The Compass editorial board will not consider submissions that do not meet these criteria.
Despite Election Results, Being An American Is Something To Be Proud Of

I was mad the morning of November 3. I was mad, disappointed, and generally grumpy; I was certainly not a pleasant person to be around. My candidate lost.

After spending time volunteering, calling people, and stressing out about the election, I felt like I had not only wasted my time, but that I had been cheated. I was ready to go and, ala the Clinton years, get a “Don’t Blame Me...I voted for Kerry” sticker.

As I was leaving school in my bitter mood, a sign on my windshield caught my eye. I was expecting some nasty little reminder from some overzealous conservative that I had lost...but it wasn’t.

There, on my car, was a scribbled, anonymous note offering condolences and hope. The note (thank you, “fellow real person”) lifted my spirits tremendously, and got me thinking. What, if anything, was a positive result of the election? So I sat and pondered the next 4 years, and tried to put at least a neutral spin on every-thing.

In the next 4 years, no matter what the spin doctors of network television, political analysts, or politicians might try to say about the state of America, I know, and maybe others should consider, that America has been through worse. America has made mistakes and recovered.

The fact that America can change, either for good or bad, and always remain America says something about Americans. It says that we, despite what other countries might say, are tough as nails.

Almost everyone can recall a major sacrifice their parents or grandparents made for America and the betterment of our lives.

It is foolish for me to think that America is weak, or not as good as the good old days—these will become our good old days, and I intend on making them the best they can be.

I also thought about the possibility of reinstating the draft. I thought about the weather in Canada, and if I knew anyone in Mexico. And then I really thought about it.

America at its absolute worst is still better than any country on the face of the planet. Yes, there are improvements that need to be made, but those improvements will never happen if people just bail. So no matter what the outcome on Nov. 2, I still won; you still won.We still have our freedoms.

It is not as important what right we are fighting for, or how we differ on reaching our goal, what’s important is that we are willing to, as the

Now I Have Cuter Reasons Watch NASCAR

Being of Southern descent, the word NASCAR has always been a part of my family, and I can remember watching the race with my dad.

But as we all do, I grew up and found that I had no interest in NASCAR, and I never could figure out why anyone would be interested in such a meaningless sport. All they do is circle around, and around, all over the track. I could do that!

I was invited to attend the Oct. 31 Nextel Cup race at Atlanta Motor Speedway, and I did not want to turn down tickets to a very expensive race, no matter how much I might be dreading it. To much dismay I went and, surprisingly, had a fabulous time.

NASCAR truly is a sport that someone cannot fully understand until they see it for themselves.

There is also a newcomer everyone is talking about that gives me another reason to watch.

Not only is Kasey Kahne one of the youngest drivers in NASCAR history, but his looks far exceed his talent.

After seeing him in person at the race, I can say he does justice to his jumpsuit, and I now have a different understanding for the sport.

The drivers still go around and around aimlessly, but now that I have seen the “better half” of NASCAR, it doesn’t seem to matter. Kasey Kahne breaks away from the regular image of a beer-bellied redneck and takes this sport to a whole other level.

He has yet to bring home a Nextel Cup victory, but each race he comes from behind and usually finishes in the top five and on several occasions has finished second.

With NASCAR having already finished up its season, I hope next year more people check out the races, whether in person or on TV.

If I had not witnessed this sport first-hand, I might not have realized that it was quite so exciting.

Cell Phones: Our Security Blanket

I’ve noticed, in my little over two years at this school, that this college, at times, treats us like high school students. (No smoking, taking attendance... etc) Well, if they must treat us this way, then why not take away things that are a little more problematic? My suggestion? Cell phones.

Anywhere you go, you can hear them; from the standard ring to melodic symphonies, the sounds are unmistakable.

Whenever I was in high school, we were not permitted to have cell phones on campus. At the time, I hated that we weren’t allowed to have them and I had a million arguments as to why we should. However, in the last 2 years, I have become more and more aware of the reasons why school is a more peaceful place without them.

There is nothing more annoying to me than the walkie-talkie phones. I’m sure you know the ones I am referring too. Those are the phones you hear beeping all over the place. As if the loud irritating beep is not enough, because they are radio phones, the observer can hear the entire conversation. I can’t walk a foot on this campus without hearing the latest news or arguments in the lives of strangers.

These phones have not only become a communication device but almost a status symbol, the more expensive, the better. I hear many people talking about their phones with great pride. “Mine was $190, on sale.” “On sale??”

Many of these phones are beginning to look like they were modeled after Inspector gadget; some have radios, cameras (still or moving) or even computers.

The gadgets are just the beginning to the problems when it comes to having them in class. I can’t count the number of times that my concentration has been interrupted in class because of the ringing; sometimes people will even answer the phone! Not only is that irritating it is incredibly disrespectful.

Furthermore, they are the reason why many students are late to class, and become even more disruptive.

It is sad that people are so dependent on their phones. It is almost as though people are unable to carry on normal conversations. Many times while waiting for a professor, rather than breaking the sometimes awkward silence with actual conversation, 90 percent of my classmates will break out their cell phones and play games or call one of the many people on their long list of contacts.

I will admit, I own a cell phone. However, as you may have guessed, I don’t use it much. I keep it in my car and I try to keep personal calls limited to when I am at home.

What happened to good old-fashioned talking, in person?

Sure cell phones are convenient and in emergencies are godsends. But I seriously doubt that the majority of calls that the students (who are annoying me on campus) are making are anything even close to emergencies or even a necessity.

So I ask you cell phone users to please take in to consideration other students when making your loud calls.
College Not Just About Passing the Tests

Do we have to know this for the test? How is this relevant to my life? I know you have all felt these frustrations even if you've been too polite to say them out loud to your professors.

One of the most difficult lessons students have to learn is what college does for you. Each of you is here for different reasons, but most feel you are here to get an education so you can get a better job so you can make more money.

None of these is an incorrect assumption or an unworthy goal. However, we cannot teach you every fact you will ever need in every job you will ever have along each and every one of your varied paths.

In this economy you are almost guaranteed to have more than one career, not to mention several jobs within each career! While getting a college education will help you get a better paying job, there is no single separate set of relevant facts for each student to learn until they know "enough" to get that diploma. That's not how it works, and that's not what we professors do.

A democracy cannot exist without an informed electorate. Those of you who finish any kind of degree will join an educated elite—only about 30% of the population has a 2 to 4 year degree.

There are some real rewards for going through what we put you through.

Our goal is to teach you to be effective in any new situation that life might throw your way. We want you to be able to sort out the relevant from the irrelevant. We want you to be able to separate your feelings from your abilities to analyze information. We train you to think logically about all these unrelated facts, and then to put them all back together in a new and hopefully unique manner that will solve some problem. We practice these skills in each of our disciplines.

You will need to take these skills and apply them in your jobs and your lives every day. You will be the worker who "thinks outside the box" and solves the boss's nightmare in a way no one else contemplated. You will be the politician who crafts legislation that solves a serious social or global problem. You will be the entrepreneur who builds the better mousetrap. Not because your faculty here at Gainesville taught you the exact way to build that mousetrap—but because we trained you how to think creatively on your own so that you can do things we could never dream of.

What is crucial is that you all learn how to handle new ideas and new points of view. That's what we strive to introduce to you daily.

We listen to where you are coming from, then we carefully introduce you to new information and points of view so that you can learn all those skills I mentioned above.

No one knows where the best bits of info will come from that you will shape into solutions. You've got to have input from all sources. We are playing devil's advocate all the time in every student's life—whatever is new and difficult to you is what we'll be challenging you with.

We are not advocating any particular concept other than this: all ideas must be examined carefully, mined for whatever useful information they may hold, learned so well that you can take them apart and use the best bits to craft an effective new solution. Then you have to put it all back together and explain it well enough to get it put into action.

So, the next time you feel like all this is so not relevant to what you want to do in life, remember this little essay.

And the next time you feel like your prof is picking on you by making you try on new points of view, turn on the news and look at world events.

Remember that you are the future leaders of our corporations and this country and the world. Remember that the problems are real and pressing. And remember that in just a very few years, they will all be yours to solve.

We wish you all the best. That's why we're so tough on you now. Take good care of our legacy to you when we're gone.

Ballroom Dancing: A Gentleman's Way of Meeting Women

Several weeks ago I found myself in a half-full theatre, (I like to think myself an optimist) settling down to see a movie that I'd been anticipating for some time.

As the lights dimmed, and the previews began, I took a look around, and noticed that, while attendance seemed pretty good, that I was pretty well surrounded by women...

In fact, I was the only guy in the house. I was getting ready to watch Richard Gere, and J-Lo's Shall We Dance, and judging by my peers, it was going to be a chick flick.

For those of you that don't know, Shall We Dance is a movie about, of all things, ballroom dancing.

Now, this isn't a movie review, but I do find it interesting how accurately the attendance of the movie on that night depicts our society's views on classical dancing: Not for straight guys.

But as I sat in that theatre, and watched J-Lo do things that were both elegant, and at the same time, very, very sexy, I realized that there's a little more to ballroom dancing than fruity guys in sparkly outfits.

It's a sport; one that requires grace, and poise, strength, and balance, and above all else... a little bit of rhythm.

Furthermore, it looks like a whole lot of fun. So...I joined a dancing class. Actually, I joined the dancing class offered here at Gainesville College, and it's been a real blast.

I showed up on the first day thinking to myself that it would probably be the most emasculating experience of my life.

Here I am a little more than half of the semester later, and instead of feeling gay, I get to get up every Monday and Wednesday, come to class, and dance with a bunch of pretty girls for an hour.

More than that, though, I actually have a clue as to what it is that I'm doing.

I'm waltzing, and tangoing, and swinging girls around like I'm a stud in some 50's jazz club.

Friday night rolls around, and I can go to a club and really dance, instead of standing there as a girl grinds her body against mine.

It's just nice, knowing that I joined a class, dreaining what people would think when I told them I was going to dance class, and now feeling that sense of pride when I walk out of there with a girl on each arm, and a smile on my face.

My opinion of ballroom dancing has completely changed from the stereotypical redneck view of it being a "sissy's hobby" to the more refined opinion of it being a gentleman's way of working it on the ladies.
By Josh Rood  
Student Life Coordinator  
octulife@gc.peachnet.edu

This campus has incredible potential. This student body is capable of so much and part of my job is to help students, all students, begin to realize that potential, the potential to have a high quality of life.

Student Life is here to provide a balance to the work-a-day hub-bub of the academic experience. Going to class is a requirement, it serves a distinct purpose in this society, but when you come to this school, it is not all you have to do.

Student Life exists to put on events and provide activities that cover cultural, educational, social and recreational realms. I created the College Survival Series this semester and, by the numbers, not a whole lot of students participated. Poor attendance hurts my feelings.

Yes, I know I should not take it personally, but that is the type of person I am, a family type, and I feel like my brothers and sisters are not interested in what I have going on for them.

I have a few years on most of you so I try to think about what I needed to know, or would have liked to have known and provide that. Evidently I have misread your desires and have yet to fulfill the fun quotient here at GC. Food is a given, basic needs, we do not have anything here, I understand, but what else do you want?

Plenty of people have been interested in skydiving, and I have been quite happy with the action in intramural flag football, is that all you want? What is the motivating factor?

You do not have to wait for an event to participate in student life. If you have been reading the Compass you know about the variety of clubs available here at the OC. The clubs exist to bring students of like mind and interest together. They serve as a forum to have your voice heard, they serve as a way to focus your interest for your future path, and they serve as a way to maintain a well-rounded academic profile. If you would like more information about clubs, or if you want to start your own club, come see me in 502.

I suspect that many of us are looking down the road and the future endeavors that lie before us. I tell you what, the University is not going anywhere, but before I lose you to the Dawgs, I would love to make your experience here a great one, full of memories and good times. I live to serve, and I am here to serve you. Let me help you tap into that potential. Come talk to me. Office 502, tell me what you would like to see happen on this campus, tell me what you want to do, and I will do my best to make it happen.

Ramadan a Time for Sharing Blessings

Have you ever thought about not eating and drinking from sunrise to sunset? Well for me, Ramadan has been a great period for me. Many people think that I would lose weight during the month, since I only eat before early morning, and break my fast at sunset.

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. Islam uses a lunar calendar—that is, each month begins with the sighting of the new moon. Because the lunar calendar is about 11 days shorter than the solar calendar used elsewhere, Islamic holidays “move” each year. In 2004 Ramadan will begin on Oct. 15.

For more than a billion Muslims around the world—including some 8 million in North America—Ramadan is a “month of blessing” marked by prayer, fasting, and charity. This year Ramadan precedes Christmas and Hanukkah.

But while in many places these holidays have become widely commercialized, Ramadan retains its focus on self-sacrifice and devotion to Allah.

People might ask why Ramadan is the only month that Muslims perform fasting. Muslims believe that during the month of Ramadan, Allah revealed the first verses of the Qur’an, the holy book of Islam. Thus, it is a very special month that comes only once a year.

My family and I wake up early in the morning, before sunrise so we can have time to eat. The food consists of heavy food, such as pizza, chicken with rice, and sandwiches. Basically, it’s like eating a heavy breakfast in the morning. Then for drinks we have juices, coke, etc. after we finish eating, each one prepares for Fajur, the Morning Prayer.

At sunset, we break our fast with dates. Then we eat soup and drink juice. After Mug rib, the evening prayer, we eat dinner; it consists of delicious foods such as lasagna, rice with vegetable stew, a spicy-Asian potato dish, and many others. For me, Ramadan has the best and delicious foods!

Sometimes on the weekends, we go to the Community Iftar, to break our fast together with other people. Each weekend a different ethnic food is served. People from each ethnic group brings food and presents it to the community, which is very interesting. The Mosque which resembles a church, becomes really crowded with people from different countries. I’m so glad that I had the chance to meet and connect with different ethnic groups such as Indians, Pakistanis, Arabs, Turks, Africans, and Americans.

Ramadan ends with the festival of Eid al-Fitr, which, in 2004, occurred on Nov. 14. Literally the “Festival of Breaking the Fast,” Eid al-Fitr is one of the two most important Islamic celebrations. At Eid al-Fitr people dress in their finest clothes, adorn their homes with lights and decorations, give treats to children, and enjoy visits with friends and family.

A sense of generosity and gratitude colors these festivities. Although charity and good deeds are always important in Islam, they have special significance at the end of Ramadan. As the month draws to a close, Muslims are obligated to share their blessings by feeding the poor and making contributions to mosques.
Lack of Classes Frustrates Students

It’s that time of the year again, when the temperature drops, and the winter clothes are being worn. For everyone except Oconee students, the visions of turkey and maybe even a sugarplum fairy come to mind. Rather than the Nutcracker, Oconee’s vision is more like the nightmare before Christmas variety. This nightmare has a name…class registration.

Every student has been affected by the lack of classes offered at the Oconee Campus, whether it is in disjointed schedules or not getting the classes they need at all. This leads to the students driving to Oakwood just to complete their degrees because a majority of the majors offered cannot be completed on our campus.

The problem before us is clearly stated, but wherein lies the answer? More space is the obvious answer, space costs money, money that is being cut every year by the Georgia General Assembly.

Until a great engineer finds a way to create the money needed for our extra classrooms, I suggest we increase our patience. Just don’t look for the engineer to come from Oconee, it’s one of the many majors offered by GC that we can’t complete.

Fill in the Gaps with GC Student Activities

Although to most, Gainesville College is but a mere stepping-stone in one’s academic career, GC is a wonderful place to get started. Not only does GC offer an aesthetic atmosphere in which to learn, but it does so in an intimate and personal way. The students here at Oconee get an education while being looked upon as a person, not just as a number in a sea of freshmen.

All of that said, it is disappointing to see the lack of interest in student life activities. This year, Oconee was graced with its own full time student life coordinator, Josh Rood, who has acted tirelessly on behalf of the student body. Rood’s job is to give the students a little something more between classes to make the experience at Gainesville a full one. There is a small group of diehard students that attend events and participate. Unfortunately, out of a student body of near 2,000, it is a small, but appreciated, percentage.

College is not just about getting to classes on time and making good grades. It’s also about involvement and personal experience. There have been countless opportunities this semester to attend Student Life sponsored events, to taste foods, to watch salsa dancing, and to play flag football. Where are all the students? Hurrying to get to UGA. The University will be there when you get there, but today you’re at Gainesville, why not enjoy it while you’re here?
Canned Food Drive Nets 2,000 Items for Athens and Oconeé Food Banks

By Jerry Calbos
Staff Writer
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Oconeé Campus faculty and staff collected close to 2000 cans for the Athens and Oconeé Food Banks between August 4 and October 29. The campus’s first ever canned food drive was headed by Stephanie Austin, administrative assistant to Dr. Penny Mills.

Austin provided a fun element to it saying she, “divided the faculty and staff into teams named us and them”. Austin, who used to work at UGA in the Continuing Education Center where they had a drive every year, thinks “it gets people in the Christmas Spirit”.

The teams competed against each other, with the winning team receiving a thanksgiving lunch provided by the losing team. Aubrey Smith, front office manager and leader for the ‘them’ team, helped her team win with a whopping 948 cans.

Student life, the counseling office, the Spanish Club and the Rotoract Club all helped out as well. The Student Life Office had a “Taste of Oconeé,” with the admission being one can; they received 30-40 cans.

OC Faculty Profile: Dr. Bob Croft

Bob Croft, a professor of English and Coordinator of Humanities and Fine Arts at the Oconeé Campus, has taught for twelve years at Gainesville College. He received his BA from the University of Florida, his MA from Valdosta State, and his Ph. D. from UGA.

What brought you to this school?
I was lucky enough to get the job a year before I graduated and it was close by.

What courses do you teach?
English Composition, American Literature, and Cinema.

What is your favorite aspect of teaching?
The interaction with students.

Did you wish to pursue a teaching career as a child?
Actually I thought I would be a psychologist. But I always had great teachers and that must have influenced me.

What is your opinion about the Oconeé Campus of GC?
I think it is a great service to the students here and I hope the college will continue to support this campus and the students’ needs.

What hobbies do you have?
I enjoy reading, writing and painting.

How long have you been a painter?
Two years, since February 2002. I saw the movie ‘Pollock,’ and was intrigued by his style. Plus, my wife paints and enjoys it. So I told her I’d try it.

What emotions and thoughts do you wish to convey through your artwork?
They are very suggestive, my more abstract work, it is up to the viewer. Sometimes it is a concept, and almost always energy. Imagination. The viewer needs to use their imagination to get into the paintings.

Do you sell your work?
Some. It depends on the size. Some have gone for $300-$400, smaller ones less. I give some away. The ones hung around Gainesville College are on loan.

What is your favorite medium to work with?
Acrylic.

You’re also a writer, what have you written about?
I’ve written four books, two on novelist Anne Tyler, one on African American writer Zora Neal Hurston, and a grammar book being used by Gainesville College.

How did you come about writing about these novelists?
I had interest in those particular authors and their writing.

What advice would you give students as they pursue their degree and struggle with college?
Try to get an education, not just a degree.

GC Oconeé Clubs & Organizations

Oconeé Compass Student Newspaper
Meetings- Wednesday at noon in room 564
Editor- Elizabeth Fields
Contact- efie4340@gc.peachnet.edu
Faculty Advisor- Dan Cabaniss
Contact- dcbananiss@gc.peachnet.edu
Office 555

Future Health Professionals
Meetings- 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at noon in room 501
President- Carla Walker
Contact- cwa0119@gc.peachnet.edu
Vice President- Paul Meade
Faculty Advisor- Jim Konzelman
Contact- jkonzelman@gc.peachnet.edu
Office 554

Psychology Club
Meetings- Wednesday at noon in room 503
President- Louis VandenPlas
Contact- Lvdplas@charter.net
Faculty Advisor- Tom Hancock
Contact- thancock@gc.peachnet.edu
Office 556

SIFE- Students in Free Enterprise
Faculty Advisor- Anne Duke
Contact- aduke@gc.peachnet.edu
Office 557

Juggling Club
Faculty Advisor- Helene Hendon
Contact- hhendon@gc.peachnet.edu
Office 540

BSU- Baptist Student Union
Meetings- Monday at noon
President- Josh Goza
Contact- joshgoza@charter.net

Rotoract
Meetings- Monday at noon
President- Andrew Hart
Contact- ahart5467@gc.peachnet.edu

SEA- Students for Environmental Awareness
Faculty Advisor- Eleanor Schut
Contact- eschut@gc.peachnet.edu

Politically Incorrect Club
Meetings- 2nd and 4th Thursday at 2:00 p.m. in the atrium
President- Jaime Harvey
Contact- jahar4986@gc.peachnet.edu
Faculty Advisor- Lance Bardsey
Contact- lbardsey@gc.peachnet.edu
Office 547

Spanish Club
Meetings- Wednesday at noon in room 560
President- Anita York
Contact- ayork8133@gc.peachnet.edu
Faculty Advisor- Sara Burns
Contact- sburns@gc.peachnet.edu
Office 551

Study Abroad
Faculty Advisor- Chaudron Gilre
Contact- cgille@gc.peachnet.edu
Office 105 (Main Campus)
Classes Strained by Influx of Students

By Park Brannen
Staff Writer
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The small size of the Oconee campus has put a stranglehold on the variety of classes available to its students. When will it get better? The answer is all together troubling. Penny Mills, associate vice president in charge of academic affairs, said, “As long as we have the current classroom space, the offerings are not going to change.”

The continuing growth of the student population has led to a tighter squeeze for classes and the move to get students to drive to the Oakwood campus. Students, however, have a different opinion of the situation.

Science majors have found that organic chemistry’s second semester will not be held at the Oconee campus. Second-semester students are faced with the problem of driving to the main campus.

Brandy Sims, biology major from Statham, epitomized the stance of most students when she said, “If I had wanted to go to the main campus, I would have applied for it.”

The groans can be heard around campus, and even with the growing discontent of students, the faculty remains optimistic about the situation.

Concerning the job that the GC administration is doing. Dr. Jim Konzelman, a chemistry professor said, “I think they’re doing a good job with the limited resources offered”.

There is a possibility of relief in the near future, as Mills explained, “in the spring of 2006, Saturday classes may start, and 19 to 20 additional full time faculty members are expected on campus in the fall of 2005”. Until then, it will be a long drive to Oakwood to give students what they need to fill schedules.

GC Foundation Now Fundraising in Oconee

By Elizabeth Fields
Oconee Compass Editor
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The GC Foundation, which offers scholarship money to Gainesville students, is actively fundraising in the Oconee Area. The GC Foundation, which is the largest foundation for any public two-year college in Georgia, is a non-profit organization that raises money for student scholarships, technological advancements, and faculty and staff development.

The foundation had a dinner party recently at Jennings Mill Country Club in Oconee to meet people from the community.

Pat Guthrie, head of the Foundation, said, “The community is very happy we’re here,” adding that the dinner was “the first step” in the fundraising campaign.

The GC Foundation presently has three trustees in Oconee and, “will probably add on a few more,” said Guthrie. The GC Foundation has no intention to split between the two campuses. Although the school and foundation are growing, “we will all be part of one foundation,” Guthrie said.

Guthrie also emphasized that GC, which serves “all of North Georgia,” will have “scholarship money available to all Gainesville students on both Oakwood and Oconee campuses.”

Students who want to learn more about the scholarships can go to www.gc.peachnet.edu/development/foundation.

New Advisement and Registration Periods a Success

By Emily Cook
Staff Writer
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The three weeks of advisement and registration at the Oconee Campus proved to be a success. The separation of the two events made the program run more efficiently and helped to promote participation among students.

According to Michelle Brown, director of student development and enrollment management, “We are committed to the process of separating the two events.”

Advisement week was held Oct. 25-29 in room 512. Approximately 730 students attended the event.

Workshops and training to prepare for the event were held for all full-time professors, but as Brown said, “We do not have enough full-time staff.”

Concerning the minor problems, Brown replied, “We will continue to change the process to make things smoother.”

“A lot of students do not choose to be advised,” Brown said. “It is important that students enrolled in learning support classes, students with CPC deficiencies, and students who have not taken the Regent’s exam within the time they are required, come to advisement week.”

Enrollment for spring 2004 was 1,551 and has increased for next spring to 1,773. Brown approximated the numbers to increase to close to 1,900 students after new registrants apply on January 4, 2005.

However, the increase in enrollment creates problems. According to Brown, “It got rougher as classes began to close, and for those students who did not go to advisement week.”

Brown encourages “students to go to advisement week and not to wait until registration to ask questions. Advisement and registration are for the benefit of the students.”