Each year students struggle with the cost of living, tuition, and books, but how will the upcoming election affect your student lifestyle?

McCain and Obama each agree that college should be affordable to everyone, but the problem is what each candidate can do to make it affordable.

McCain proposes to emphasize the aid system but not expanding it and adding more benefits. He also wants to allow parents to obtain more information on the aid systems already available to prospective students.

Obama has proposed a groundbreaking proposal that allows students to complete 100 hours of community service in order to earn a $4,000 tax credit for college. This, however, would replace tax credits from HOPE and Lifetime Learning which provide around $2,000 annually.

The $4,000 tax credit would be refundable so families that don't pay enough in taxes to benefit from the tax credit would still get the also.

The $4,000 aid would be based on last year's tax data, so families wouldn't have to fill out long forms such as FAFSA and face a long wait to see how much aid would be given.

McCain doesn't want to add new programs to financial aid but is in favor in making it easier to families to understand. McCain is in favor of helping low income families pay for college, so he would keep the programs we already have.

As students at Gainesville State College know, GSC tuition is less expensive than most universities. The tuition at GSC averages $1,000 a semester (excluding book costs).

Student loans also help students pay tuition but loans can also be evil to students. For example, Obama mentioned that he had just recently paid off his student loans.

Most of the loans students obtain are through banks that charge interest.
By Jaime Munoz
Photo editor
924151486@gsc.edu

Spring and Summer 2009 class registration is over for students on both the Gainesville and Oconee campuses. Students should have met with their advisers to develop an academic and course work goal.

If you missed registration this time, your next chance to register will be January 5, at late registration.

If a student is on academic probation with a 2.0 or lower GPA, he/she is required to meet with an adviser. If you need to and haven’t yet, email or call your adviser and see if you can set up a time.

To find out who your adviser is, log on to Banner Web from the GSC website. Next, navigate to the Student Tranguid. In the yellow-columned “Academic Information” section of the tranguid is the student’s adviser name, e-mail address and office location.

Students should print the GSC Advising Worksheet and fill it out to the best of their abilities before taking it to an adviser for review. This is important because it allows the student to check and review which classes they have already completed.

It also helps to show students other needed classes like learning support, areas A through F core classes or College Prep Curriculum required courses. It is helpful to record the CRN number of desired courses and have alternative classes in case the first choices fill up during registration week.

Students can go to www.gsc.edu/www/schedule/GL_200902.htm to find a 2009 schedule for spring and summer semesters classes. Students can generally self-register if they have fulfilled all learning support classes and do not have day fees or holds on their Banner Web accounts, such as parking tickets, library dues or any other outstanding balances. Students can check their statuses by logging on to Banner Web or consulting the postcard that should have been received in the mail.

If students know that they cannot self-register, they must fill out the GSC Advising Worksheet and have it signed by their advisers. Then they can take it to the Registrar’s office on registration day. To get more information about upcoming registration, visit the GSC Registrar page online.

Another important thing to keep in mind is the Regents’ Test. “All students who attend Gainesville State College except special status non-degree seeking students, those who seek a certificate and those who have already earned a baccalaureate degree must take and pass the Regents’ Test,” said the online GSC catalog. Many English 1101 and 1102 professors talk about taking the test. Because the test is so important and required, it is important to register for it as soon as possible. For more information, contact Kelly Dahlin on the Gainesville Campus at kdahlin@gsc.edu or Tracey Smith on the Oconee Campus at tsmith@gsc.edu.

To graduate after the Spring 2009 semester, fill out a Program Planning sheet and take it to your adviser so he/she will verify satisfaction of areas A through F as part of a specific major requirement. The adviser will sign it and students can take it to the Registrar’s office.

A good idea for transferring to another college is to learn as much as possible about the college. The advising centers at GSC is a good place to start. Information can be found by contacting the Oakwood Advising Center at advisingcenter@gsc.edu or (678) 717-3791 or the Ocone Advising Center at (706) 310-6290 or oconeeadvising@gsc.edu.

Another important thing to find out is whether courses earned at GSC will transfer to the desired college. Transferring within the state is easy since the most frequently transferred-to schools – including University of Georgia, Kennesaw State University, Georgia State University, North Georgia College and State University and Georgia Tech – are all institutions within the University System of Georgia.

For more information about the University System of Georgia and the Board of Regents, visit the website at http://www.usg.edu/.

College students have big effect on elections
By Caitlin O’Dell
Editor-in-Chief
924170651@gsc.edu

Since the voting age was lowered from 21 to 18 in 1972, 18- to 29-year-olds have had a growing impact on presidential elections. Not only is this age group the biggest, it is also the most diverse.

The history of the 2004 election supports this idea. The history of the 2004 election supports GSC college voters on page 5
GSC students have diverse political views

By Jarvis Johnson
News Editor
924186934@gsc.edu

A poll taken by the Politically Incorrect Club last spring revealed that Gainesville State students preferred Mike Huckabee as the next president of the United States. Students for a Progressive Society, a 20-plus member club, spoke against conservative values and policies at the spring Great Liberal and Conservative debate. Between the Politically Incorrect Club’s poll results and SPS’s pledge for tolerance, the GSC campus becomes a house divided in the liberal versus conservative tug-of-war.

Conservative students are not hard to find on the GSC campus. Pre-nursing major and University of Maryland, Baltimore County, transfer Julie Mathew wholeheartedly supports McCain.

“I think he has the right idea in terms of the economy,” said Mathew. Mathew did not hesitate to share her opinion about Senator Barack Obama.

“Barack’s solution to fixing the economy is giving people money,” said Mathew.

Students here, like many young people, sometimes follow their parents’ ideas.

“I’m voting McCain because that’s who my parents support,” said Jessica Ingram, education major.

“Based on my nine years at this campus I would say that my students tend to be libertarian conservatives,” said Douglas Young, professor of political science.

“All you have to do is look at the list of student organizations to get a feeling that this campus is conservative,” said Andrew Wilkinson, computer science major.

“Campus Crusade for Christ and the Pro-Life group, but no other religion or view of a woman’s right to choice is represented.”

Wilkinson notes that clubs such as Students for Life, a club that promotes alternatives to abortion, Campus Crusade for Christ and Baptist Collegiate Ministries outnumber clubs that differentiate from each other and political values at the spring Great Liberal and Conservative debate. After the debate, students had to vote for which candidate they support, Obama, McCain or libertarian Bob Barr. The results ended in an even split between Obama and McCain. Conflicting reports from members of SPS said that Obama won. Nevertheless, an alternative view point of conservatism derived from the poll.

“I’m voting Obama,” said Felicia Grier, pre-physics therapy major. “McCain to me is sort of like Bush. Obama is something new.”

“I feel this campus is more liberal in a few ways… more people are pro-choice,” said Jacob Davis, political science major.

A good look into any GSC parking lot shows that the number of conservative and liberal students is split at GSC.

“I think that professors are more liberal and students are more conservative,” said Philip Griffith, communication major.

“It’s really open… it’s hard to gauge whether this campus is conservative or liberal,” said Douglass Ealey, professor of political science.

How do the media affect us?

By Emily Hogan
924154922@gsc.edu
Staff Writer

From the newspaper to television we are practically force fed information. Would the gas crisis actually be a crisis without the various media outlets? It is important to examine the information we are given. Does it affect our decisions?

In the media today we are bombarded by information about the election through many different outlets. Right-wing and left-wing news, parodies and satirical shows fill the television and radio waves.

Gainesville State student Mandry Sommerfield, 20, says she gets a lot of her information from her father. “Dad keeps me posted, tells me how it is and I form my own opinions,” she says.

A Nielsen Media Research online report notes that for the viewing week of Sept. 29 the only news-based show watched was 60 Minutes. This does not include the local news, but it is interesting to see that people are more concerned with NCIS or who’s dancing with a celebrity. They also reported the top cable shows viewed. It was the week of the Vice Presidential candidate debate and those ranked high on the list. Also high on the list were shows that carried commentary of the debates and other news commentary shows.

It is also interesting to note what stations are most watched.

On the network side CBS and ABC rule, but on the cable side FOX News is ahead followed by CNN.

It is also important to look at other media outlets such as the radio and newspapers.

According to Arbitron.com most people in the Atlanta area listen to music on the radio. WSB 750, a news talk station, is listed second on the list. AM 640 and AM 1380 appear a little further down on the list. Their data are of people 12+ who listen Monday through Sunday 6 a.m. to midnight.

According to Scarborough Research’s 2008 report, the Atlanta area has a population of 4,552,000 and of those barely half actually read the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. In 2007 only 33.9 percent of 18- to 24-year-olds read the newspaper, which was more than the 25- to 34-year-olds.

It is important to be informed of conservatism derived from the poll.

“First help our overburdened, often elderly poll workers by letting high school and college kids earn credit for helping at the polls. Second, have more people volunteer to be poll watchers, election day attorneys and monitors to keep the count smooth and honest. And third encourage local and federal prosecutors to take voter fraud seriously this year.”

Election roots, continued from page 1

take office under a cloud where a significant number of people think he wasn’t elected legitimately or they had doubts about the real result,” wrote Fund.

“In 2000 we had relatively placid economic and international times,” he said. “Now we have an economic crisis at home and international challenges abroad.”

Fund is not the only one concerned about similarities with the 2000 voting fiasco, many government groups are struggling to regulate voting methods and practices.

But Fund fears that it won’t be enough and suggests some quick remedies for state governments to enact immediately.

“First help our overburdened, often elderly poll workers by letting high school and college kids earn credit for helping at the polls. Second, have more people volunteer to be poll watchers, election day attorneys and monitors to keep the count smooth and honest. And third encourage local and federal prosecutors to take voter fraud seriously this year.”

Voice your opinion of the new president at gscompass.com.
Friendship, gas savings — all in a blue Mini

By Lauren Blais
Staff Writer
924203752@gsc.edu

It has taken 51 miles of asphalt and concrete, four counties of construction and cops, and an hour and half of traffic, but the blue Mini Cooper finally parks in front of the student activities building. Somehow the four guys that climb out from behind the two doors of the tiny, boxy car are unscathed by the long and difficult journey from that distant land of Oconee County.

And just how bad is their ride?

“We talk, listen to the radio, crack jokes, have fun in the car,” said James Stocklinski, the driver of the Mini Cooper.

Stocklinski and passengers Ryan Harrast, Nick Waters and Zach Cook couldn’t get classes on the Oconee campus for the fall semester. Realizing they were all in the same boat, they decided to get in the same car. Which isn’t always the tiny blue Mini Cooper.

“We take everyone’s (car) twice a month,” said Waters.

At the Gainesville campus carpooling is primarily geared toward and pursued by students from the Athens/Oconee area. GSC’s brochure “So You Gotta Go To Oakwood?” exists for students like Stocklinski, Harrast, Waters and Cook who opted for the Oconee campus but must to travel to Oakwood for one or all of their classes. Detailed directions to campuses warn of the (now former) speed trap through the city of Arcade. In addition an alternate route is listed beneath the rhetorical heading “Even Winder Has Traffic.”

Recognizing that the hour-plus commute is not an easy one to make alone, the last page of the brochure features a place to write down someone who might be willing to make the journey with you.

The guys ride together on Tuesdays and Thursdays. “It’s better than commuting by yourself,” said Waters.

In addition to saving their sanity, carpooling saves them all gas. “I used to fill up every three days,” said Harrast, “and now I fill up every two or three weeks.”

Filling up — how much and how often — is not a concern exclusive to those travelling from the Oconee area. All commuters destined for the Gainesville campus have felt the effects fickle gas prices and stressful shortages, in addition to never-ending road construction, unmoving traffic and parking lot over-crowding.

Carpooling could benefit more than just those students who didn’t end up on their desired campus. In fact, carpooling might be significantly easier to achieve for drivers in surrounding counties than it is for students like Stocklinski and his friends.

The GSC RideShare at https://portal.gsc.edu/students/rideshare/ is a secure, 924 log-in site that exists to facilitate more carpooling. Students can list their schedules, destinations and starting points.

The majority of the active requests on RideShare are from the Athens area. Nevertheless most students do not come from Athens or Oconee.

According to self-reported mailing address zip codes, 28 percent of students who take at least one class on the Gainesville campus reside within Hall County. It probably comes as no surprise that the home of the college holds the greatest concentration of GSC attendees, yet although students here have the greatest chance of finding a ride, only one of the 34 active carpool requests on RideShare lists Gainesville as a starting point.

“I think people aren’t considering carpooling in Hall County because it (the Gainesville campus) is so close,” said Leslie Ancieta. “It’s our everyday thing; it’s just like going to the grocery store.”

As an Oakwood resident Ancieta couldn’t live much closer to the college. In contrast to Stocklinski and his friends’ hour-and-a-half commute, her drive to the Gainesville campus is a mere 10 or 11 minutes. There has never been a reason to consider carpooling.

“I’ve done it to lunch, but never to school or from school,” she said, noting that riding with someone to the restaurant allows her to leave her car and thus preserve her hard-fought parking space on campus for the remainder of the day.

If Ancieta and her lunch partner carpooled to campus in the mornings, she would only have to fight for that parking spot half the time.

“My neighbor actually goes to Gainesville,” she said. “Maybe we should consider it.”

If 15 percent of students living in Hall County paired up and rode together it would save the same amount of parking spaces as if all the students who commute from Athens-Clarke County and all the students who commute from Oconee County carpooled to the Gainesville campus.

Carpooling with a friend or a peer means that both students get a parking spot for half the cost. If just two out of every 10 students carpooled together from the nearby and surrounding counties of Hall, Gwinnett, Forsyth, Jackson, Barrow, Habersham, Athens-Clarke, Dawson, White, Lumpkin and Oconee, 519 parking spots would open up.

That’s more than what both the new gravel lots add and the new parking lot will add. Which means GSC could put the $4.5-plus million into classrooms instead of asphalt.

Saving gas, filling up less, not having to face traffic alone, greater ease of finding a parking spot and ensuring one’s school to better spend its money all seem like sound benefits for taking on a passenger. But students may feel a nagging obligation that once they start carpooling they must commit to it forever.

“It doesn’t have to be an everyday thing,” said Ancieta. “You can do it twice a week.”

Stocklinski notes that students may be afraid to ride with other students they do not know. But every friend anybody has ever had started out as stranger. He encourages students to step out of their comfort zone. Before carpooling Stocklinski was friends with Harrast but did not know Waters or Cook very well.

“I gave them both a chance just like they gave me a chance,” he said. “(Students) just need to get outside their box.”

“I’m 6-foot-3 and I get in the back of a Mini Cooper,” added Waters. “You just gotta get over it.”

Stocklinski, Harrast, Waters and Cook couldn’t shorten the road from Oconee to Oakwood. But in the tiny blue Mini Cooper, they’ve made the ride better.
Let tasty hot drinks keep you toasty

By Leah Perdue
Campus Life/Op Ed Editor
9241616398@gsc.edu

The weather is cooling off and everyone is looking for ways to stay warm.

While many students are bundling up, huddling for warmth or just shivering in the quad, some have found a smart and delicious way to keep the cold at bay.

They are packing thermoses … full of delicious hot cocoa, coffee, or tea.

A thermos full of your favorite hot drink is a surefire to stay warm during those long, cold walks from the Library to the CE Building.

Even if the winter weather in Georgia is far from frightful, warm drinks are a great snack or, as many students have learned, meal substitute.

My favorite cold-weather liquid treat is Brazilian Hot Chocolate, found in “The New Mixer’s Guide to Low-Alcohol and Nonalcoholic Drinks.”

This recipe pairs the rich warmth of chocolate and hot coffee with a touch of spice.

Brazilian Hot Chocolate
Ingredients:
- 1 ounce of sweet baking chocolate
- 1/4 cup of sugar
- 1/8 teaspoon of salt
- 1 cup of boiling water
- 1/2 cup of hot milk
- 1 teaspoon of pure vanilla extract
- 1 ounce of sweet baking chocolate
- 1/4 teaspoon of ground cinnamon

Preparation:
Combine chocolate, sugar and salt in top half of a double boiler over simmering water. Cook, stirring, until chocolate is melted; then stir in water. Cook, stirring, for four minutes. Add milk, half & half and coffee. Beat with a whisk or hand beater until frothy. Add vanilla and cinnamon; whisk well.

If you are over 21 and planning a party or just looking for something to complement your quiet, warm evening at home, try a less-virgin warm drink.

Everyone is familiar with Irish coffee or Kahlua and coffee, but there are many more tasty drinks with an added “grown-up” touch.

I’ve always loved apple cider and cocktails.com’s Indian Summer is a great adult twist on this fall classic.

Remember, this drink is only to be enjoyed by those who are over 21.

Indian Summer
Ingredients:
- 2 ounces of apple brandy
- 1 pinch of sugar
- 1 pinch of cinnamon
- 1 ounce of hot apple cider
- 1 cinnamon stick for garnish

Preparation:
Pour the apple brandy, cinnamon and sugar into an Irish coffee glass. Fill with hot apple cider. Stir well. Garnish with a cinnamon stick.

Whatever your preference for coffee, cocoa or tea, there is a toast-y warm treat that you can enjoy.

Looking for more recipes? Try these links to sites with great ideas.
http://cocktails.about.com/od/crocktailrecipes/a/warm_drinks.htm

Almanac predicts a chill

By Dao Cao
 Clubs Editor 924168841@gsc.edu

Have you ever wanted to plan a vacation in advance, but were hesitant to do so because you were not sure of what the weather would be like then? Now that problem can be solved by taking a look at the new 2009 Farmers’ Almanac that just hit newsstands back in September.

The Farmers’ Almanac, started in 1818, is an annual North American periodical that is famous for its long-range weather predictions. Along with predictions, the Almanac gives advice on gardening, cooking, fishing, human-interest crusades and its well-known blend of humor and trivia.

It was founded by editor David Young and publisher Jacob Mann. The Almanac has had seven editors over the years.

Although the Almanac has many other aspects, weather prediction has always been its major feature. These predictions are made two years in advance and are highly secretive.

The Almanac uses solar science, like studying sunspot activities, tidal actions, planetary positions and many other factors to help make the predictions. The Almanac usually includes 16 months of weather predictions for seven different U.S. climate zones.

This year’s edition is not only forecasting a cooler winter, with below-average temperatures for at least two-thirds of the country, but is also looking ahead many decades to suggest that we are in for a global cooling, not warming.

The predictions are about 80 to 85 percent accurate, according to the Almanac, but others dispute that accuracy level. Still, many people are starting to worry about the high cost of keeping warm this winter.

Looking ahead to next summer, the Almanac is predicting a near-normal temperature for most places. However, the Southwest is in for unusually hotter weather in mid June and July. Georgia, Florida and the Carolinas will get also get harsh July heat and humidity as well.

This year’s edition also includes tips on how to keep gardens alive, even in snow, how to get great gas mileage and how to live to be 100.

If you would like to find out more information about the upcoming weather, you can now go pick up this year’s Farmers’ Almanac at any drugstore.

It can also be viewed online at Weatherbug.com.

College voters, continued from page 2

“I would generally expect the majority of GSC students to vote for Sen. McCain,” Turlington said, “though I believe that we will see more students voting for Sen. Obama than those who voted for Sen. Kerry in 2004. The demographics of our student population are changing, however, and my impression is that most of the students here who are identified as ethnic minorities lean more liberal.”

As an adviser for the Students for a Progressive Society, Turlington sees the “very active membership of about 30-50 student who would identify themselves as progressives or liberals, supporting Sen. Obama for president. Many of these students are minority students.

“My impression is that young people around the country seem to be leaning more toward Obama because of his message of change,” Turlington said. “In Georgia, a conservative state, his message seems to be resonating with some students but probably not the majority.”
Tips for making your gas dollar go further

By Paul Holley and Caitlin O’Dell
924182578@gsc.edu,
924170651@gsc.edu

With gas prices finally decreasing (but no promise of staying low), the financial institutions of our country in sway and a war in progress, economic soundness of mind has become a must-have quality for most people. While students can’t do much about gas prices, financial institutions or war, they can try to spare themselves some monetary pain by living wise economically.

One of the ways to do this is to drive responsibly.

Bill Roper, co-owner of the Tire Barn in Gainesville, suggests regular maintenance on vehicles to help save precious mileage. It is easy to “save 10 percent or more in gas” by checking air pressure in tires and changing the air fuel filters regularly.

Oil changes also help with mileage. Roper recommends synthetic oil because it is “way slippier,” which means less friction for the engine to push through.

Driving with the windows down can also be a deterrent to saving at the pump. “The air conditioner requires extra horsepower … it uses more gas” when driving more than 45 miles per hour, said Roper. Modern cars, though, because they so aerodynamic, get better gas mileage with the widows up and the air conditioner on when driving more than 45 miles per hour.

Putting supplements into a car’s gas tank may not be the best thing in the world. “Most don’t have any (benefits),” said Roper. “The people who make them say they are good.”

A clean fuel intake, though, can be affected by additives, and that does help gas mileage.

One of the more important factors to getting good gas mileage is good front end alignment. When a car is aligned, the tires are set so they point straight.

If the tires are not pointing straight, said Roper, the car slows down like a skier slows down when he points his skis any other direction than straight. Driving with an unaligned front end is just like putting the brakes on and spending a lot more money.

The U.S. Department of Energy has also released some tips on ways to save some cash at the gas pump. First, it recommends that you drive efficiently by driving sensibly.

“Speeding, rapid acceleration and braking waste gas,” said fueleconomy.gov. (So, drivers trying to burn some rubber at the roundabout on campus, think of that burning smell as money burning out of your wallet.)

In addition to this, The USDE also recommends that you drive within the speed limit.

“You can assume that each 5 mph you drive over 60 mph is like paying an additional $0.26 per gallon for gas” (www.fueleconomy.gov).

In addition to this, The USDE says that driving a vehicle that gets good gas mileage is a wise choice.

The least fuel-efficient vehicle overall was the Toyota Prius with an average 48 miles per gallon city and 45 mpg highway. “Everything will be a hybrid someday,” said Roper, commenting on the Prius’ impressive gas efficiency.

The Lamborghini Murcielago disappointed this year though, coming in as the worst fuel-efficient car at 8 mpg city and 13 mpg highway.

Energy efficiency in buildings and homes is also important.

“We’ve already replaced some of the lighting in Academic II, said Bill Moody, director of Plant Operations at GSC. “It has less carbon output now. We also plan to update the lighting in the CE Building in the next year.”

GSC has also instituted a computerized energy management system at GSC that regulates energy consumption.

“The system helps cut down on running time on air and heat units. It has helped with the power consumption,” Moody said. “Every building on the Oakwood campus is on the system. We are trying to add the system to the Oconee campus in the next year.”

That scary holiday is an ancient tradition

By Lindsey Blalock
924193294@gsc.edu
Asst. News Editor

“BOO! Scared you didn’t I?”

That is just one of the phrases that you may have heard Hallowe’en night.

After the tricking and treating is over, have you wondered what Halloween is all about? Hallowe’en is celebrated every year on the 31st of October, but where exactly does the holiday originate?

Most people think that it is an American tradition, but actually it comes from Europe. In fact, Halloween has been celebrated in Europe for more than 2,000 years.

The first to celebrate Hallowe’en were the Celts. Halloween was the last date of their calendar year, and on this day they believed that the spirits of the dead would visit people’s home and take over their bodies.

One thing that we do know is that on that night they tried so many ways to confuse or scare the evil spirits of the dead away. We believe that they built bonfires, wore fancy dresses, played practical jokes and made lots of noise.

The playing of “trick or treat” is probably Christian, although the origins of the holiday rest with the Celts. One popular game that people play is known as apple ducking.

Originally, the game was played with the first person who bit an apple being the first to marry in the coming year.

Later on, as Christianity spread, the Pope created All Saints’ Day on November 1 as a way to change what people did on the old Celtic holiday. All Saints’ Day is still celebrated as a day to honor the dead.

Halloween is not as popular as it used to be in Europe, but it would be hard to top the American holiday.

With a better understanding of the holiday, enjoy tricking and treating next year.
How to: Carve a great pumpkin
By Lindsey Blalock
Asst. News Editor
924193294@gsc.edu

You're probably done with pumpkin carving for this year, but we have some great carving tips for next year you can save. Have you ever wondered how pumpkins became a well known part of Halloween? Here are some answers!

Without a doubt the most recognizable symbol of Halloween is a pumpkin carved into a Jack-O-Lantern. The word pumpkin originates from the word pepon, which is Greek for "large melon."

We have the Irish to thank for bringing the idea of the Jack-O-Lantern to America. The original Jack-O-Lantern was not a pumpkin. His name was Stingy Jack and he liked to play tricks on just about everyone until one day he tricked the devil. Stingy Jack made the devil promise not to take his soul when he died.

Jack finally died and went to the gates of heaven, but was not allowed to go to heaven because of all the bad tricks he used to play on people. He was condemned to hell. The devil kept his promise and would not allow Stingy Jack to enter hell either.

Because he was scared when he was walking in between heaven and hell, the devil gave Stingy Jack an ember from the flames of hell. After this, Jack put the ember in a turnip, which was one of his favorite foods. From that day on, he roamed the earth lighting his way with his Jack-O-Lantern.

Another thing that comes to mind upon thinking of pumpkins is the childhood movie "It's the Great Pumpkin Charlie Brown." "How do you carve a great pumpkin?" Well, it is very easy.

Step 1: Pick out the great pumpkin. Make sure that it is nice and round. It should be smooth on the outside and without bad spots.

Step 2: Draw a circle or hexagon on top of the pumpkin in preparation for making an opening large enough for your hand to reach through.

Step 3: Cut through the stem end of the pumpkin along the outline with a sharp knife or pumpkin-carving tool.

Step 4: The stem end, will act as a cap. Make sure you scrape off any seeds or pulp. Also, use a large spoon to scoop out the seeds and pulp from inside the pumpkin.

Step 5: Choose a pattern that you want to put on your pumpkin. Tape the paper with the pattern on it to your pumpkin, and then go over it with a sharp tool. You can also draw a face with a marker on your pumpkin.

Step 6: Follow your pattern as you cut all the way through the pumpkin.

Step 7: Push the cut-out features gently from the inside of the pumpkin and discard the pieces.

Step 8: Place a candle inside the pumpkin to create an eerie glow.
Debate Watch sparks campaign excitement

By Michelle Bennett
Asst. Features Editor
924186957@gsc.edu

Both students and teachers from Gainesville State College found it difficult to remain silent as they watched the last 2009 presidential debate. The event, organized by the Debate Club, took place in the Continuing Education auditorium. About 70 people attended.

“The debate watches are a project of the Commission on Presidential debate...the CPC sponsors many debates watches like ours throughout the nation,” says Tom Preston, head of the Debate Club and professor of communication at GSC.

Organizations like the Black Student Association, the Students for a Progressive Society, the Office of Minority Affairs, Sigma Chi Eta, and the Compass cosponsored the event along with the CPD.

Students congregated early in time for election history trivia. The winner of the trivia contest received a $25 gift certificate from Pizza Hut, donated by an anonymous giver.

The actual debate lasted 90 minutes.

Bob Schieffer of CBS News posed questions to McCain and Obama regarding tax cuts, foreign oil dependence and energy and climate control.

McCain’s comment, “Senator Obama, I am not President Bush. If you want to run against President Bush, you should run four years ago,” sent eruptions throughout the auditorium.

Responses were not limited to murmurs. Laughter, applause, and sighing were also prevalent during the event.

After the debate watch, students participated in small group sessions. Professor Tom Preston posed two questions for the small groups to discuss: “Who won the debate?” and “Who would you vote for?”

“I think Obama kept his composure more,” said one GSC student.

“McCain pointed out more points. Obama was very broad,” said another.

“It was definitely McCain’s last shot,” said Daniel Oneal, leader of one of the small group discussions. He said this was evident by McCain’s attitude when responding to Obama.

“There was certainly a mix of both Republicans and Democrats who attended the debate watch. The diversity of the student body was not only clear through each party represented, but also by the students’ comments.

One student talked about McCain’s “...little snide comments” and said that at times he was thinking, “...he shouldn’t have said that.”

“It seems like Obama is a blank screen,” said a GSC student. Another agreed saying, “Obama’s plans are just basically change.”

“From my culture, it is very good that McCain is older. It means he’s more experienced,” said an Asian student who asked to be referred to as Vu.

Some students felt McCain could not as easily relate to his young audience simply because of his age.

“Clearly, student apathy is not an issue on our campus,” says Tom Preston. “The Debate Watches, thanks to lots of help from various organizations and faculty and students across campus, have been a huge success, as was the Liberal vs. Conservative Debate...I cannot say enough about the wonderful efforts and leadership put forth by students on the Debate Club, as well as other groups.”

Your voice is heard in SGA

By Katie Taylor
SGA President
924190997@gsc.edu

Our institution actually has a Student Government Association! SGA serves more than 7,000 students on this Gainesville Campus.

The Student Government Association is advised by the Director of Student Life, Cara Ray, and is here to meet your needs.

Members of SGA participate in various campus wide committees, ranging from Student Fee Allocation to Faculty Member of the Year.

So, what exactly does SGA do? That question is entirely up to you!

One current project that the Student Government is working on is the addition of healthier options to the vending machines around campus.

Recently, members of our group distributed surveys to classes and students in the Student Center. You voted, and we are working to respond to the needs of all our GSC students.

Have you seen the bloodmobiles on campus? Student Government also sponsors blood drives on our campus to give you, the students, the opportunity to give back to the community.

We host meetings with the president of our college, Dr. Martha Nesbitt, the chief of campus police and other members of GSC faculty and staff.

So, why get involved with SGA? As Jeremy Hall says, “I joined SGA to have my voice heard.”

Getting involved is easy! We have weekly meetings on Fridays at 1 p.m. in the Student Life Office. We are excited to soon be moving into our new office across from the bookstore.

If you have any questions about how you can get involved, e-mail SGA at sgagainesville@gsc.edu or join our Facebook group titled the Student Government Association of Gainesville State College.

Join GSC’s string ensemble

Did you know that our campus has a string ensemble? This is the second year that Gainesville has had string players of all different levels unite.

You can have an opportunity to privately study with Gainesville’s faculty instructors, and an opportunity to earn college credit while having some fun.

Our ensemble is open to anyone who has experience playing the violin, viola, cello, or string bass. We meet Mondays at 7 p.m. in the Music Building here on campus.

We host a few concerts in the winter and spring and also play at local retirement homes. Look for the concert dates on the notice board and on flyers around campus. Interested? Contact the director, Laurin Smith, at lsmith@gsc.edu.

Get your club

Put a notice in The Compass
Contact Caitlin O’Dell, Editor in Chief
924170651@gsc.edu
Film club more than movies

By Sutton Shirley
Staff Writer
924173541@gsc.edu

Are you looking to get some free popcorn, free pizza, free coke, and free admission? Well look no further! This is what the Film Club offer students every week.

Along with the free food, the Film Club also shows a movie from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. every Friday in Academic II, room 171.

"It is very important for students to get exposed to films that aren't just carried at Blockbuster," said Film Club adviser and media studies professor David Smith. "The Cheerleader has been my favorite movie that we have seen so far, because I wouldn't have normally been exposed to that kind of movie."

"Film Fridays exposes casual viewers to things they haven't seen," said Jeff Marker, media studies professor. "It promotes film culture on campus."

This semester, the Film Club still plans on showing Feast, Heart of Darkness, Like Water for Chocolate, Bedazzled and Princess Bride.

GSC student David Dorcas, a member of Film Club for three semesters, is looking forward to the future showing of Bedazzled. "It's the original, from 1967," said Dorcas. The Film Club doesn't just have Film Friday. In fact, they are very active in other ways, according to Smith. They perform video news releases, short projects, tape the club fair and also do student interviews.

"Students get to be crew members so they get real life experience with the equipment," said Smith.

William Davis, a Film Club member, likes the camaraderie of the group and believes it will help him in his future career. "The film industry is not a one-man show, but a group, and this club has helped prepare me for that," he said. "Being in a club is like being in a family. You have to learn to adapt."

The Film Club meets every Wednesday at 12:15 p.m. in Academic II, room 171.

Hispanic culture celebrated

By Michelle Bittner
Staff Writer
924161161@gsc.edu

Each year on July 4 the United States celebrates our heritage of independence. As our country grows more diverse, we celebrate other countries’ heritage as well. National Hispanic Heritage Month is the most recent of our celebrations of heritage.

In 1968, Congress authorized President Lyndon B. Johnson’s proclamation to designate the week of September 15 as National Hispanic Heritage Week. National Hispanic Heritage Week was then expanded into a month-long celebration in 1988 by President Ronald Reagan.

The National Hispanic Heritage Month begins on September 15 and ends on October 15 each year.

September 15 is the anniversary of independence for five Latin American Countries; Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. On September 16, Mexico was granted independence. Two days later on September 18, Chile was granted its independence.

During the National Hispanic Heritage Month, America celebrates the culture and traditions of U.S. residents whose ancestors originated from Spain, Mexico and the Spanish-speaking Nations of Central America, South America and the Caribbean.

Hispanic culture has had many positive influences on America. There are also many Hispanic figures which impacted American through art, politics and law. These influential Hispanics figures range from celebrities and athletes to architects and politicians. Hispanics are one of the largest ethnic groups in the nation. As of today, there are over 40 million Americans who claim a Hispanic origin.

Art, music, food and faiths of the Hispanic population has contributed to America’s everyday life while preserving their unique lifestyle and traditions.

Cultural diversity a bonus of LSA

By Samantha Zampella
Staff Writer
924198330@gsc.edu

The Latin Student Association gives students of all Hispanic descents a chance to unite, learn about each other’s cultures and become one in the community.

Member Juan Moreno dishes about the growing club here on GSC campus.

"LSA is a club that brings the many different Hispanic cultures within our school together," Moreno said. "So many people think that Mexicans and Puerto Ricans are the only Latinos out there, when really there are many more cultures such as Dominican Republic, Colombia, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Brazil, El Salvador, Peru, Honduras, Argentina, and Chile."

Moreno joined LSA this year in hopes of getting more involved since it was his freshman year. He also wanted the chance to meet different Latinos at GSC.

Learning about different Hispanic cultures is a privilege that the members of LSA do not take for granted.

"LSA to me means the unity of the Latino Community," Moreno said. "It’s a learning experience of how other Hispanic cultures differ from mine. LSA is a family."

"For example, all my heritage is Mexican and the little time that I have been in LSA I have vicariously traveled through Peru, Argentina, Costa Rica, Colombia, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Cuba, Dominican Republic and many more places," Moreno said.

"I know it sounds insane, but I thank all of the people I have met in LSA, he said. "And by them sharing with me their culture I have been able to experience those heritages."

Even though Moreno is not an officer, he considers himself an active member of LSA. Moreno also believes that by attending every meeting, it makes the experience of being a member of the club more rewarding.

Moreno joined LSA this year in hopes of getting more involved since it was his freshman year. He also wanted the chance to meet different Latinos at GSC.

Moreno also plans on being in LSA in the future, as well as the International Student Association, where he is again, an active member.

"Definitely, I’m quite intrigued as to what other cultures will join in the future semesters."

LSA have a little over 50 members, and with the constant promotion of the club, each meeting brings in more members.

The meetings usually start off with an ice breaker. This way, those who join the club that particular day can have the opportunity to get to know more people.

LSA meet every Wednesday at noon in Academic III, room 182.
Traditionally considered the living room of the campus, the student union is the gathering place of the college. After months of anticipation, our living room of the campus, our student center, is almost complete.

This new edition brings students the ultimate one-stop shop for life at Gainesville State. It is complete with offices, study rooms, a Cyber Café, meeting rooms, a brand new stage, a food court, and a game room. This new student center has been open just a few short weeks.

We will have a Formal Dedication ceremony on January 28, 2009. The entire day will be full of events, both formal and informal, hosted by different offices and clubs around campus. Our formal ceremony, made complete with ribbon cutting and a dedication to Dr. Robinson and to all of you, the students, will be at noon on January 28.

Letters of invitation and a schedule of events will be mailed to all students the first week in January. Mark your calendars to take part in a memorable day in the history of Gainesville State College!

New student center dedicated to you

By Katie Martin
Staff Writer
924167175@gsc.edu

Since 1967 the Gainesville State College Foundation has provided more than 7,000 scholarships for students in the community. The foundation is non-profit and was formed as a source of support for Gainesville State College.

"Alumni and other leaders get the community excited about all of the educational opportunities Gainesville College offers," said Pat Guthrie, Director and CEO of the foundation.

The foundation provides such things as innovative teaching grants and scholarships for students who narrowly miss their HOPE scholarship. The foundation takes care of the fund-raising and the financial aid office determines which students receive the financial scholarships. Division chairs also request certain amounts for students that excel in specific areas.

"It is our mission not to turn away any student that meets our academic criteria simply because they cannot afford tuition," Guthrie said.

The foundation also supports the Summer Scholars Institute Program. SSI is an early intervention program for sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students.

The program was started in 1996 with just 26 students; by 2004 there were 140 participating. The goal of the program is for the students to complete all three years, graduate high school and college and become productive members of society.

The foundation raises the funds through an Annual Funds Drive, the Starlight Concert, and other events such as the Alumni Open Golf Tournament.

The foundation has raised more than $100,000 for smart classrooms alone. There are six different donation levels based on amount but any gift is considered a great help, Guthrie said.

"We're starting a program to get students involved," she said. "Even something as small as the price of a cup of coffee would be a tremendous help."
Student Contributions

Photos by Crissy Clouse

Picture your art or writing here! E-mail Caitlin O’Dell at 924170651@gsc.edu to make submissions.

Why is there a traffic circle on Gainesville State College’s campus? Find out in our next issue, coming late November.

Don’t forget to visit our website at www.gsccompass.com.

Join a discussion about the election, election results and how glad you are that it’s finally over!
Teacher Feature: Joseph Lavalle

By Christina Beck
A & E Editor
924145320@gsc.edu

Compass: What do you teach at Gainesville State College?
Lavalle: I teach Spanish, and I direct the NASILP program. It’s a program that’s helping us grow from a two-year to a four-year college. Some of the languages available will be German, French, Chinese, Russian, Arabic, and Italian.

Compass: What brought you to GSC?
Lavalle: I actually was retiring and saw an advertisement for adjuncts for the Oconee campus. I called and talked to them, got interested and everything’s been positive ever since.

Compass: What previous schools have you taught at?
Lavalle: I taught high school for 14-years, TA at UGA, extension program at Truett-McConnell College, and I taught workplace Spanish at North Georgia Technical College.

Compass: How do you like GSC?
Lavalle: I love it. I’m very happy here. It’s a school that really puts students first.

Compass: How long have you been with GSC?
Lavalle: I was an adjunct for five years and I’m on my second year of full-time work.

Compass: How many foreign languages do you know and what are they?
Lavalle: I’m certified in Spanish and French.

Compass: What made you decide to learn a foreign language?
Lavalle: My parents and family are Italian. I grew up in Brooklyn, N.Y. I had a lot of exposure to foreign language. My step-grandmother was from Spain. I have no Spanish blood but I have Spanish heart because of her.

Compass: How many countries have you visited?
Lavalle: I’ve traveled through Europe, Thailand, Mexico and Guam. Not as well traveled as my father was.

Compass: Did the language differ from what you were taught?
Lavalle: I wouldn’t say it did as knowing the language helps unlock the culture and get a deeper knowledge of the culture and people.

Compass: How long have you lived in Georgia?
Lavalle: I came here to graduate school at UGA in 1970 and have been here ever since.

Compass: What colleges did you attend?
Lavalle: IGA, and I graduated from the University of North Carolina. I hope to pursue a doctorate at Georgia State University.

Compass: Do you believe every student should learn at least one other language?
Lavalle: Yes, it’s the key toward moving toward globalization. It’s one thing a student should do to get a sense of it.

Compass: What are some of your favorite hobbies and pastimes?
Lavalle: Golf, golf, and golf. I have one passion and it’s golf. I play everyday I’m physically able and can get away from the house.

Compass: What are some of your favorite foods?
Lavalle: Anything Italian.

Compass: What are some of your favorite books and television shows?
Lavalle: The Bible, and sports shows. I don’t watch much else.

Compass: What’s your favorite type of music?
Lavalle: Jazz. Sinatra and Dean Martin.

Compass: I know you have children, do they know other languages?
Lavalle: My son is 25 and graduated from the Oconee campus. My daughter is on her second year at college here. My daughter is more of a linguist. My son is a business major, didn’t get into languages much.

Compass: What do you enjoy about teaching?
Lavalle: The main thing I like so much is watching students prepare for the world.

Compass: Anything you’d like to share?
Lavalle: I would like to make a statement. I don’t like when people refer to college students as partiers. The students here seem to be ambitious men and women. My belief is our youth are able.

College will crack down on smokers

By Landon Johnson
Staff Writer
924182231@gsc.edu

Students at GSC are violating the school’s tobacco-free policy by smoking cigarettes all over campus, and the administration will be cracking down.

“Tons of cigarette butts on the sidewalk and even on the grass,” said junior Bethany Cavender. “I see people smoking in their parked cars on campus every day.”

The school began its tobacco-free policy in 2003, which prohibited the use of any tobacco products by students and staff members on campus.

“Many things were taken into consideration when the decision was made five years ago, including health issues, fire hazards, and the opinions of the people who comprise the school,” said senior Trent Johnson.

In a 1998 survey, the vast majority of faculty and staff members preferred for tobacco to be outlawed and over half the students did as well. The student government’s input was also taken under advisement.

Obviously the issue is still unresolved based on the number of students who continue to smoke on campus. The problem is not going unnoticed, though, and action will indeed be taken, according to GSC President Martha Nesbitt.

“The administration will focus on the issue through a number of ways: alerting faculty and staff, alerting security, informing students of the policy, and doing a better job of enforcing the policy,” Dr. Nesbitt said.

Students sit on both sides of the fence on the smoking issue, some more bothered than others.

“It’s really not fair for those of us who don’t smoke to be exposed to the same harmful effects of cigarettes produced by those who do,” said sophomore Trent Johnson. “It shouldn’t be that difficult to follow the rules and drive of campus if you insist on smoking.”

Freshman Katherine Blackmon said she’s not bothered by people smoking unless they come near her. “Unless someone comes right up to me and blows smoke into my face, it isn’t that big of a deal,” Blackmon said.

Students who smoke may disagree, but they should also be aware of the rules, Dr. Nesbitt said. The college will begin enforcing the policy soon, and smokers will need to begin smoking only off campus.
The student voices of Gainesville State College

Political parodies bring youth to polls

October 31, 2008

Caitlin O’Dell
Editor-in-Chief

Paul Holley
Assistant Editor

Michelle Bennett
Features Editor

Leah Perdue
Campus Life/Op Ed Editor

Dao Cao
Clubs Editor

Ian Bowling
A & E Editor

Joe Patrick
Sports Editor

Jarvis Johnson
News Editor

We’re all still Americans

America was built on compromises. In everything, we Americans have learned to get along with tragedy and hardships and still look for the best.

We survived the “gas crisis” a month ago, we made it through 9/11 with our heads held high and we’ll make it through this scary time of electing a new leader.

That’s what we do. We Americans, as Garrison Keillor wrote, “Here in the U.S.A. we believe that problems are an opportunity. Take that stone in your shoe and make soup from it. ... We’re optimists.”

While everyone agrees that we need a change, we disagree on how that change should be implemented. Rather than engage in another civil war, we Americans choose a new leader.

Let’s not hold grudges this political season. This will be a smooth transition. The next president, we the staff are sure, will know what he’s doing. And we Americans should be proud of him and support him. After all, we’re the ones who put him there.

And if you don’t like him, we urge you to learn more and get involved in politics to make your voice heard.

Americans are good at adapting to changes, big and small, and we will do the same thing come January.

Regardless of who we voted for, we are still a unified country and will always be.

“Operation Give Back”

Objectives:
• To enable us to give back to the community that is affording us an education.
• To utilize our leadership and organizational capacity to generate resources that can be distributed to those in less fortunate circumstances.
• To develop our experience working together as a group and to realize the goals of our group.
• To obtain donations of clothing from students, the campus community and elsewhere and to donate these to a responsible charity.
• To satisfy the Gen. Ed requirements of the SOC1160 (CRN5075)

Help others this November by donating your old clothes. Look for collection boxes around campus or contact Laurin Friend at 924177896@gsc.edu or Professor George Danns at gdanns@gsc.edu for any questions.
A Happy Halloween and a Merry Christmas to all!

By Christina Beck  
A & E Editor  
924145320@gsc.edu

It’s that time again. As you walk through the stores shopping or browsing you can hear wonderful sounds of Christmas music playing over the speakers. Brightly lit Christmas trees decorate the area along with huge assortments of decorations and gift sets. Yet, as you walk down another aisle you see witches, ghouls and monsters. Wait, that’s not right. It’s only October. As many may have seen, the Christmas season starts earlier and earlier each year. With two holidays left to go it would seem that there wouldn’t be such a rush to get all the Christmas items on the shelves early. Many big retail stores have started the tradition of Christmas before Halloween. It’s odd to find costumes and merchandise depicting death next to an aisle that is dedicated to good spirit, gift giving, and everything pure. And poor Thanksgiving seems to have been skipped all together.

One reason retailers say they are putting Christmas out so early is because of the rough economy in America right now. When they get merchandise out earlier it gives customers time to be more prepared and not stress over those last minute gifts. Also there are fewer items left over at the end of the season. The items have had more time on the shelves and get shopped more, leading to fewer clearance items, meaning retailers don’t lose profit.

No matter the reason, it is still a shock to see Christmas so early. Most people would never imagine they could shop for Halloween and Christmas decorations all on the same day. Although it may seem strange, more and more retailers are jumping into this new idea that will, more than likely, be around for many more seasons to come.

Biden brings experience as VP nominee

By Leah Perdue  
Campus Life/Op Ed Editor  
924161398@gsc.edu

The presidential race is more heated than ever. With Election Day closing in, the candidates are appearing almost non-stop and the debates are becoming overtly hostile.

In this election the vice-presidential nominees are more important than they have been in recent memory. Many are concerned with Sen. Barack Obama’s lack of experience and Sen. John McCain’s advanced age. The potential vice-presidents will play a crucial role in helping voters decide what choice they will make on Nov. 4.

Obama’s running-mate Sen. Joe Biden is the most qualified and best person for the job. Biden has the experience and the political know-how to serve as America’s number two and the leader of the senate when they are jumped on.

Biden has more than three decades in Washington politics. Elected to his current seat in 1972, Biden is the fourth-longest-serving Democratic senator in Congress. Biden has constantly reiterated his sound plan to help Obama achieve his goals of reform at every level of federal government. Biden is strong on the issues and that is frequently overlooked in the media circus surrounding Palin and her “down-home” antics.

The Obama-Biden ticket shows strength on foreign affairs. Biden serves as the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations committee. Biden has the experience in dealing with allies and threats alike, and would prove a strong advisor and vice-president.

In social issues Biden in moderately liberal with support for gay rights, women’s issues and expanding the definition of hate crimes.

Biden believes in investing in alternative energy and clean fuel sources. Biden has voted consistently to provide tax incentives for consumers who turn to energy-efficient and alternative energy sources.

Biden believes in “modernizing, simplifying, and expanding health insurance”. He has been consistent in voting to expand government healthcare and provide insurance opportunities to middle-class families.

Biden knows what the American people need and is well aware of the constitutional limits of the role he strives for.

According to Biden, “These times require more than a good soldier. They require a wise leader. A leader who can change, make the change that everybody knows we need.”

McCain’s idea of change out of touch

By Ian Bowling  
Assistant A&E editor  
924205782@gsc.edu

Eight years ago, America “voted” for the presidential candidate that we thought we could go out and have a beer with. Now, after the country is engulfed in two wars in Islamic nations against an unseen enemy and an economy that has slowly been sliding into a recession, the country has for the most part changed its mind.

We, as a nation, need a change. That change is not necessarily seen in the ideals of the McCain/Palin ticket. John McCain quite possibly would’ve been the right choice in the 2000 election. However, now, in 2008 he is not the right choice.

The John McCain of the 2000 presidential election is different from the McCain of present times, who has aligned himself more frequently with President George W. Bush than he has in the past.

This is something questionable since he has claimed that he would keep the bush tax cuts but voted against them in 2001 when they were proposed.

If John McCain represents change, it is a change from what we want to what we want to get rid of.
I’ll keep my money, you keep your ‘change’

By Andrew Woodrum
Staff Writer
924172933@gsc.edu

Giving one point of your hard earned 4.0 GPA to someone who has a 2.1 GPA would be like voting for Obama.

Sure Obama wants to support low income families, but he wants to steal from the rich and give to the poor like Robin Hood. The thought of raising the capital gains tax is a bad idea. McCain is in favor of keeping the tax low, and promises to cut the tax in 2009 and 2010.

Our economy, as most Americans are aware, is in a state of despair. Jobs are getting harder and harder to find and tons of people are collecting unemployment? McCain has proposed that the government eliminate taxes on unemployment benefits. That is just one step in McCain’s plan for economic relief.

McCain’s homeland security experience is far greater than Obama’s.

The war crisis we are in is one major issue in the upcoming election. McCain wants to commit to the war until Iraq is stabilized.

If we were to use Obama’s plan to pull out for the first sixteen months in office, wouldn’t the war just continue to us?

Obama said, “John McCain says he’d follow (Osama) bin Laden to the gates of hell, but he won’t even follow him to the cave where he lives.”

I am not sure if Obama has the knowledge, experience or judgment to begin looking for bin Laden. He would be like a puppy chasing a car. He wouldn’t know what to do with it when he caught it.

On the issue of government spending, McCain wants to eliminate wasteful government spending. Obama proposes to increase federal spending. Which would reflect back on our children’s future.

Obama and other Democrats attempt to wrap George W. Bush around McCain. Just because they are both Republicans does not mean they represent the same values. Believing that every Republican is the same would be like racism to political parties.

 Palin was a good choice for McCain campaign

By Paul Holley
Assistant Editor
924182578@gsc.edu

From Alaska, the final frontier, a leader has emerged to add her name and experience to the choices of election season of 2008

Sarah Palin, governor of Alaska, has already shown herself to be an elaborate and experienced woman leader.

John McCain’s decision to choose Palin as his running mate has renewed the intensity and added fresh perspective to his campaign.

Palin has only been governor of Alaska for two years but her experiences stretches beyond that. She was a member of the city council in Wasilla, Ala. for two years, mayor of Wasilla for two terms, ran for Lieutenant Governor of Alaska but lost, and in 2006 was elected as Governor of Alaska.

Palin accomplished many things as governor of Alaska. She said at her acceptance speech at the Republican National convention in September, “I came to office promising major ethics reform to end the culture of self-dealing. And today, that ethics reform is a law.”

“Our state budget is under control. We have a surplus. And I have protected the taxpayers by vetoing wasteful spending, nearly $500 million in vetoes.”

As a mother of five, Palin is a strong conservative who believes in high moral values. Palin has demonstrated her pro-life stance by giving birth to a child who was diagnosed with Down syndrome. She has also declared her opposition of same-sex marriage.

Your question to him [Joe Biden] was whether he supported gay marriage and my answer is the same as his and it is that I do not,” Palin said at the vice presidential candidate debate in September.

Palin has brought a ferocity to the McCain campaign that was clearly lacking. During the Vice Presidential candidate debate that was held in September, Palin showed her fierceness.

“Say it ain’t so, Joe, there you going pointing backwards again. You prefaced your whole comment with the Bush administration. Now doggone it, let’s look ahead and tell Americans what we have to plan to do for them in the future.”

Chip Coffey: Normal, no ‘Para’ about it

By Jon D. Hoekstra,
Asst. professor of biology
jhoekstra@gsc.edu

Chip Coffey represented the “paranormal phenomena” industry at GSC’s Continuing Education auditorium Oct. 27. The crowd responded appreciatively to Mr. Coffey’s odd mix of pop psychology, positive thinking, homespun humor and witchcraft.

In the interest of full disclosure, I am a scientist and a skeptic. What’s more, I have a personal grudge at stake here.

My father was a community college instructor and a kind, intelligent, dedicated family man. In his retirement years, he fell for one scam another. He invested in a man who claimed to find oil by dowsing and even got relatives to invest money with a shady stock trader who eventually vanished into thin air.

He had a big basement room filled with alternative medicine “health remedies” that he sold and swallowed. I argued and begged for some skepticism, and in each case the “hook” was the promise of wealth and health through some kind of privileged secret. Against this siren song rational arguments carried no weight. My father’s involvement in these schemes hurt him and his family.

Mr. Coffey, I think, is part of the same industry that took my Dad for a ride. In this industry, claims, promises, and solutions are peddled without much concern for evidence. In return for trust and money, the client is provided with a reassuring story and a promise of future benefits.

Mr. Coffey began with a short slideshow. Next, he promised to tell questioners about their futures and to help them contact the dead.

After each question he paused briefly with his head cocked, as if listening to the spirit world, and then delivered the goods. Almost every time he asked about a detail, he was contradicted or led to a better answer by the questioner. The audience seemed untroubled by these strikeouts. A random hit, on the other hand, was viewed as a home run.

He asked one woman if she was thinking about moving. “Oh my gosh!” she said, amazed.

On one occasion Mr. Coffey insisted that he sensed an infection. The questioner gave a firm no as he probed for infections among family and friends. Ever inven-
tive, Mr. Coffey eventually returned to another person nearby, in an overlapping “energy field.” Did she have an issue with an infection? No, well, somebody close to her? No, well she had better be careful, because it may be an issue in the near future.

It was hard to believe that some could sit through this nonsense without feeling a twinge of doubt. The evidence and reasoning against the independent existence of
Coffey, continued from page 15

paranormal phenomena is very convincing – to a skeptic. For many people, a well-crafted story holds far more power because it promises escape, certainty, and a happy ending. And isn’t that what we all need? Are Mr. Coffey's answers white lies, or black magic?

To decide, we must evaluate consequences. The “help” offered by Mr. Coffey costs money – hundreds of dollars an hour for private consultations. It fosters dependence on the psychic. Mr. Coffey, with no real information, projected total confidence that his questioners were in the right and would succeed at whatever they attempted. Sounds good, but… If you talk to someone who really knows you, you may get better advice and insight!

At its worse, the “paranormal industry” may encourage dangerous actions: substituting “psychic” interventions for needed medical or psychiatric care. Many have encouraged vulnerable children? 

experience truly helpful for these troubled, and follow my old alma mater, Chestatee County Public Schools product, I'm not the least bit afraid to still keep up with my roots and follow my old alma mater, Chestatee High School.

And with so many competitive teams around here and so many intense rivalries (my reach out to those still secretly bitter about the North Hall vs. Gainesville rivalry), there's no reason to say that being a college student means turning a cold shoulder to all things high school sports, including football.

And to those who aren't a local, and just a fan at heart, you're not hopeless. With seven high schools in Hall County alone, you're guaranteed to find a home game somewhere around campus on any given Friday night. Every high school in the county plays in Classification AAA, Region 7, which means that a game with meaning is almost always guaranteed.

It’s so easy to see, and feel. The atmosphere at a high school football game is like nothing else. Whether you're a former student returning to see what progress your team has made (or hasn't made) or just a football junkie like myself just looking for a good game, Friday nights have their own aura. The drumline introducing the team, the cheerleaders in front of the student section, the obnoxiously loud and often crude parents of players, all comes together to create that harmony that is Friday night lights.

Next time you have a chance, throw a little love out to your local high school football team. The dreams of thousands of high-schoolers begin within 100 yards.
Atlanta Hawks look forward to tough season

By Will Hess
Asst. Sports Editor
924201904@gsc.edu

With the baseball playoffs winding down and the BCS standings out, this can only mean one thing. It's time to go inside and play some basketball. Last spring's NBA playoffs left some teams excited for next year and some teams looking forward to 2010.

The hometown team, the Atlanta Hawks, had two major objectives this offseason, which were to re-sign the two Joshes [Childress and Smith]. But first, they had to resign their head coach as well as to find a new General Manager. Much to the chagrin of most fans, Mike Woodson was resigned with a two year extension as head coach.

The Hawks looked long and hard for a GM that would not make the same mistakes as [former GM] Billy Knight, and made a surprising move by signing Rick Sund, former Supersonics GM. Sund is not known for his drafting and scouting, but more for his ability to deal with finances. This boded well considering two important players, Smith and Childress were restricted free agents. But Sund proved that he really shouldn't have a job in the NBA, but rather as an accountant.

The more athletic of the Joshes, Smith, had no decision other than to resign with the Hawks. With the Clippers signing Baron Davis and the 76ers trading for Elton Brand, no other teams had room for the expensive Smith. The front office lucked out on retaining Smith, but during the summer it seemed Smith wanted to be anywhere but Atlanta. The front office nearly dropped the ball on Smith, but they had another chance to drop it with the negotiations on Childress.

Josh Childress was one of the best "sixth men" in the NBA last year, but he wanted to be a starter and make more money. He couldn't find that kind of job here in the United States. So he bolted out of Atlanta and headed to Greece and signed with Olympiacos for two-years and 20 million Euros.

Chil-Childress made a surprising but smart move considering how bad the U.S. economy is right now. Childress is set to make double what he was expected to make if he stayed in the NBA. He was offered a three year deal from the Hawks worth only $5.6 million a year. Although taking $4.4 million more than he would have made might make a Hawks fan cringe, it must be making the Childress family grin.

With Childress gone, the Hawks had to find a sixth man who could play defense as well as rebound. They found NBA journeyman Maurice Evans, whose best game last year was against the Hawks. He should be able to help out the team, but he is no where near Childress' ability.

Marvin Williams needs to improve this year with Childress out, and it is reported that he is working on his perimeter game which has lacked in the past. If Marvin can turn into the player that he has the potential to become, then the Hawks could have some success.

But don't expect Marvin to turn into a Kevin Garnett type player just yet. He is too small and needs to put on some weight to be considered a Power Forward. For now, he will still be known as the guy the Hawks drafted over All-Stars Chris Paul and Deron Williams.

Joe Johnson, Josh Smith, and Al Horford will all have great years if they can stay healthy, but it doesn't look like the Hawks will be able to return to the playoffs. Even though they are in the much weaker Eastern Conference, the Hawks will stay under .500 for most of the year and will find themselves once again with a lottery pick.

As always, there's the issue of whether the organization can address in-season problems. While Sund almost has to be an improvement over his predecessor, particularly on draft day, the concern remains that Atlanta's ownership will prevent him from making aggressive moves if it involves taking on more salary.

Although the Hawks might have made some new fans during the playoffs, they will end up losing them due to their poor contract negotiations and the current lawsuit between the current owners and Steve Belkin, a former owner.

With the Magic dominating the Southeast division and the Heat looking much stronger, the Hawks will take a step back. A third-place finish in the division would be considered a major victory.

Sports bring unity, increased tuition

By Edward Hooper
Staff Writer
924181973@gsc.edu

If you're attending Gainesville State College then you already know that we do not have any dorms, no place to eat on campus except vending machines until the new Student Center is open, limited parking and that GSC has no sports teams. Did you know that at one time GSC did have sports teams but they were cancelled. In fact it was 1985 when the sports teams at GSC were cancelled due to financial reasons. However now that GSC enrollment is on the steady increase and is quickly becoming a popular college around northeast Georgia why doesn't GSC get sports teams back?

GSC student Daniel Shadburn says "I believe sports will give a better connection between students." Holly Loney agrees with Shadburn by saying "Every school should have sports teams. It brings the students together in a moment of unity."

With the current state of our economy and the lack of unity shown in Washington, many questions of how GSC would pay for sports are being raised among students. Georgia State University who is currently in the process of beginning a football program for their school began to raise tuition for every student by more than 500 dollars over a year and a half ago in order to raise money. If raising tuition seems like an insane idea for students at GSC just know that in the interviews conducted 8 out of 10 GSC students support the idea including student Kyle London who also said he would fully support the raising of tuition to help pay for sports.

If Gainesville State College does get sports teams back then their teams can play at the Junior College level (JUCO). If playing at the JUCO level seems pointless because of what some say is a lack of talent, just know that Georgia Military College is a JUCO team and supplies about 10 players a season to The University of Georgia for their football team. Also, having sports teams at GSC would bring in a revenue for GSC that the college could spend for academic expansion projects, like the new academic building that is planned to start construction next fall.

Golf tournament to cure cancer a success

By Joe Patrick
Sports Editor
924202892@gsc.edu

The second annual Sam Robb Memorial Golf Tournament was quite a success.

The tournament, held on October 12 at Lake Lanier Islands Golf Club, raised over 12,000 dollars in donations. Along with the 90 golfers that attended, there was also a cooking class offered to 15 people who wanted to help donate, but do not play golf.

Sam Robb, who the tournament is in honor of, passed away at only twenty years of age. Families and friends of the Robb are raising money for Sam's cause. The tournament was a huge success and passed away from complications due to cancer 17 months ago at only twenty years of age. Families and friends of the Robbs ranged from Centennial High School, Blessed Trinity High School, Roswell, and Alpharetta.

Students at UGA are undertaking a grass roots campaign, with two fraternities purchasing hole sponsorships, as well as "friends of Sam" tee shirts. All of the proceeds will be donated to CURE Childhood Cancer.

Students interested in participating in the next annual tournament for the Sam Robb Fund will include a 5k run in November, as well as a holiday basketball tournament for middle schools in December. Sam played football, basketball, and baseball in high school.

For more information or donation opportunities, please visit the SAM ROBB FUND at www.curechildhoodcancer.org.
From the Vault: Live at the BBC

By Chris Bell
Assistant professor of English
cbell@gsc.edu

The Beatles’ “Live at the BBC,” released in 1994, captures the band at a crucial juncture in its career. Featuring recordings from 1962-1965, the songs capture the band’s roots, a time when it was merely the best rock outfit in the world. With the release of “Rubber Soul” a few months after the final BBC sessions, the group began a string of recordings that ultimately became recognized as the most important music of the twentieth century. But the myth of the Beatles became so great that many forget the boys themselves were simply four kids in love with rock-n-roll.

The BBC recordings capture the awe inspiring breadth of the Beatles’ catalog at a time when each was barely twenty years old. The album features covers of artists such as Elvis Presley, Chuck Berry, Buddy Holly, Ray Charles, Carl Perkins, Smokey Robinson and the Miracles and composers such as Leiber and Stoller, Burt Bacharach and Phil Spector. Thirteen Lennon/McCartney originals are included as well. This range of material, from rock to pop to rhythm and blues and beyond, remains unmatched.

All the recordings are live, a treasure for Beatlesheads, as none of the bands’ concerts are worth collecting on record, so great was the wave of screaming that came from the audience. Although by 1965 the boys had begun turning the studio into a science lab, their effort never wanes, even with the primitive recording devices in the BBC studio. The band was tight, furious, and fun, although some of the recordings sound as if recorded from a well.

The spirit of the BBC recordings matters most. By 1965, the tide had turned and the boys were already becoming disillusioned with fame. The ethos of peace and love became more of an ideal than something the Beatles themselves practiced. Yet the BBC recordings reveal the joy was palpable for a time. Derek Taylor once wrote that the Beatles were the twentieth century’s greatest love story. “The Beatles Live at the BBC” proves this testament.

Mid-semester concert highlights five soloists

By Elizabeth McKinnon
Asst. Clubs Editor
924167751@gsc.edu

On October 7, the GSC Jazz Band and the GSC Chorale gave their mid-semester concert at the Ed Cabell Theatre.

With an amazing mixture of the old and the new, each performance was received by a standing ovation. The Jazz Band picked a number of Latin style songs in honor of the Latino Heritage Month.

Both groups performed at least eight songs, to a staggering 11 songs. Among these songs were “The Ballad of Sweeney Todd” from the Chorale and “Bret’s Tune” from the Jazz Band Combo.

“Bret’s Tune” was a composition by the Jazz Band’s guitarist Bret Ward, and what an amazing tune it was. It also received a standing ovation.

The highlight of the Jazz Band’s performance had to be the five soloists that participated. All seemed to be at home on the stage and four out of five were amazing performances. Nerves seemed to be running high and played a major factor, but they performed marvelously.

The Chorale performed and seemed completely at ease with the setting and the audience. They were very professional and looked the part.

Both sets were toe tapping and amazing. This writer highly recommends either show at any time. They were amazing and really into the music. The sections in the Jazz Band bounced as much as Dr. Andrew Santander, the director, did while playing the piano.

Dr. Thomas, the choir director, was energetic and comical. The students in the audience were just as energetic while taking notes. They seemed into the concert as much as the musicians were.

The concert was astounding and a pleasure to behold. The groups were delightful and the music was impressive.
Oktoberfest is about more than just beer

By Wil Petty
Staff Writer
924183283@gsc.edu

As the beginning of autumn approached the quaint, Bavarian town of Helen, the villagers prepared for the annual Oktoberfest.

Helen’s Oktoberfest is the south’s longest, running from September 11 until November 2. The festival is modeled after the main Oktoberfest held annually in Munich, Germany. Several cities and towns in the United States hold their own Oktoberfest, but the major one for the country is in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The reason why Oktoberfest in Helen lasts longer than the others is because the city ties in Oktoberfest with their other fall festivities. This includes a massive fall celebration that happened October 18.

Since 1970, when Helen was transformed into a Bavarian alpine village, Oktoberfest has been a major success. Helen became an alpine village after people in the town decided they wanted more industry in the town of around 500.

City clerk Kym Smith said that she is not sure when Helen decided to have an Oktoberfest other than it began around the same time it was transformed into a Bavarian town.

The town has around three million tourists every year, mainly from Georgia and across the United States. Approximately one-third of these tourists come to Helen specifically for Oktoberfest and the other fall festivities.

“I’ve been to the actual Oktoberfest in Southern Germany and I was surprised at how similar the two events are,” said Kathleen, a first-time visitor from Pennsylvania, “I am definitely coming back next year and bringing friends, because it is so much cheaper than flying to Europe.”

The history of Oktoberfest begins in Germany in the early 1800s, after a horse race was thrown in Munich for a Royal Wedding. There were five days between the wedding and horse race where a festival was thrown. In the years that followed, more organization was made by the citizens and other events, including carnival booths and a parade soon to follow.

Oktoberfest is also an opportunity to listen to new music. Typically Bavarian style Polka music is performed to go with the town’s atmosphere. In October, not only did the polka bands perform all around the town, but other groups and musicians such as the Chris Rosser Band, Small Potatoes and Greg Klyma had concerts.

Just because Oktoberfest is nearly over doesn’t mean that you should cancel any plans of coming to Helen. Throughout November the town will be holding many concerts, including Elvis at the Remember When Theater.

Also after Thanksgiving, the city will begin their Festival of Trees from November 28, after the annual lighting of the village, until December 13. This is held at Unicoi State Park which is just outside the city limits.

To get to Helen is pretty simple. From Gainsville, take US Highway 129 to Cleveland. From there turn right on to Georgia Highway 17. That road goes straight to Helen.

Taste of Atlanta showcases haute cuisine

By Leah Perdue
Campus Life/Op Ed Editor
924161398@gsc.edu

Smells of cinnamon, garlic, curry, roasted meat, chilies and fresh seafood float through the air in downtown Atlanta. “Foodies’ wanders the streets with plates of barbecue ribs, sushi or pan-seared foie gras.”

This was the scene in Atlantic Station on Atlanta on October 10 and 11 when Taste of Atlanta took to the streets, showcasing local restaurants and vendors.

Taste of Atlanta was founded by Dale DeSena in 2002. DeSena said she created the event because she realized “Atlanta had an incredible restaurant community but not an amazing food festival.”

In its seventh year, Taste of Atlanta certainly is an amazing food festival. Celebrity chefs Ted Allen, the snarky critic from Food Network’s “Iron Chef America” and Richard Blais of Top Chef fame took the main stage to delight fans with their culinary creations.

Local chefs like Chris Espanol of Straits Atlanta and Thomas Schoborg from Rosa Mexicano also showcased their regional recipes.

Taste of Atlanta is increasingly family friendly with the 2008 addition of Amica Insurance Kids Avenue. Children can enjoy cooking demonstrations from young chefs, decorating cookies and personalizing kid-size chef hats.

Taste of Atlanta also includes a VIP wine and beer tasting experience. Beverages from every corner of the world were available to savor. Copeland’s Cheesescake and Bistro showcased New Orleans’ taste with a crawfish ravioli. Bhojanic highlighted north Indian cuisine with a chicken tikka. The Mediterranean Grill served up lamb gyros straight from a vertical rotisserie.

Overall the flavors were amazing. From the simple decadence of chocolate fondue from The Melting Pot to “Better-than-Backyard” barbecue ribs from Jim ‘N Nicks to the complex weave of flavors displayed by LocaLuna’s traditional paella, the event had something for everyone to taste.
When it comes to Man Man it’s all about the music. This philosophy wears all the way through to their garb, which consists of white clothes coupled with equally-colored face paint. I can’t say for sure, but maybe the white (a color that reflects all others) is a symbolic gesture of how their music reflects so many different and vibrant aspects of life. I only say this because their music does reflect so many different and vibrant aspects of life; so much that almost anyone can find something to enjoy in their music, even if they don’t enjoy the jazzy, gypsy, honky-tonk sound of it.

The date was September 25. Clad in their white-shorts-and-t-shirt uniforms, Man Man seized the stage. It almost seemed like they were going to war (with their instruments). Honus Honus (yes, they all have pseudonyms; keep in mind the focus is on the music itself) and Pow Pow were stationed out front, the former on a Rhodes keyboard and vocals and the latter on drums; the rest of the band formed a line behind consisting of points A, B and C. Their instruments, you ask? Well there were a lot and they were always being switched up, but for description’s sake there was (at least): a guitar, a trumpet, an empty, metal air tank, and a wooden stool; the last two of which were used percussively...and surprisingly. Glad I caught your attention.

So onto the music itself, Man Man could not have chosen a better set list. It spanned all three of their albums, but most of the emphasis was placed on the new one, “Rabbit Habits.” Off of that album they played: “Harpoon Fever,” which teeters back and forth between the sonically soft and hard, “The Ballad of Butter Beans” which makes great use of the xylophone and “Mister Jung Stuffed,” an obvious choice seeing as how it’s the single off the record. The rest of the set was sprinkled with crowd-pleasers from their previous albums.

When they broke into “Black Mission Fever,” things heated up and the crowd went wild. Man Man had worked the crowd into a full-fledged frenzy, if they would have told the audience to jump we would have screamed, “How high?”

But instead, they held us in that manic state until none of us could take it anymore and then proceeded to drop us like we were hot (potatoes). They left the stage: it was time to cool off.

The encore was nothing less than beautiful. By this time, my dancing shoes had worn thin and I took up a spot in the back which allowed me to see over everything, as well as oversee everything. The encore was short and sweet; only 3 songs. The last two which were: “Sarsparilla” and “Van Helsing Boombox.” To those of you who don’t know, “Van Helsing Boombox” is rarely played live, mainly because of the deeply, personal nature of it. For example, Honus Honus sings, “I wanna sleep for weeks like a dog at her feet/even though I know it won’t work out in the long run.” As much as that lyric is personal, it’s all universal. Who hasn’t felt the awful effect of unreciprocated love? Then, he drives the feeling home by crooning, “When anything that’s anything becomes nothing that’s everything/and nothing is the only thing you ever seem to have.”

All the crowd could do was sway back and forth, I actually think I could hear tears hit the floor. Apparently the band could too, because they retreated: the end.

As with most pleasant memories, the feelings are always bitter-sweet. For sure, I’m glad I could see them (for the second time this year), but at the same time, I wish the show could’ve lasted forever. Mostly, though, I’m just glad I could witness the excitement, energy, and heartbreak of it. Correct me if I’m wrong, but it’s all about the “feeling,” right? And they definitely have the magic touch.

Well, now I’m speechless.

Staff Writer
By Ben White
924190458@gsc.edu

Man Man is a experimental indie rock band from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It's most recent third album Rabbit Habits was released earlier in April of this year. For more information, check out the band on Myspace: www.myspace.com/wearemanman.

The encore was nothing less than beautiful. By this time, my dancing shoes had worn thin and I took up a spot in the back which allowed me to see over everything, as well as oversee everything. The encore was short and sweet; only 3 songs. The last two which were: “Sarsparilla” and “Van Helsing Boombox.” To those of you who don’t know, “Van Helsing Boombox” is rarely played live, mainly because of the deeply, personal nature of it. For example, Honus Honus sings, “I wanna sleep for weeks like a dog at her feet/even though I know it won’t work out in the long run.” As much as that lyric is personal, it’s all universal. Who hasn’t felt the awful effect of unreciprocated love? Then, he drives the feeling home by crooning, “When anything that’s anything becomes nothing that’s everything/and nothing is the only thing you ever seem to have.”

All the crowd could do was sway back and forth, I actually think I could hear tears hit the floor. Apparently the band could too, because they retreated: the end.

As with most pleasant memories, the feelings are always bitter-sweet. For sure, I’m glad I could see them (for the second time this year), but at the same time, I wish the show could’ve lasted forever. Mostly, though, I’m just glad I could witness the excitement, energy, and heartbreak of it. Correct me if I’m wrong, but it’s all about the “feeling,” right? And they definitely have the magic touch.

Well, now I’m speechless.

Staff Writer
By Ben White
924190458@gsc.edu

Man Man is a experimental indie rock band from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It's most recent third album Rabbit Habits was released earlier in April of this year. For more information, check out the band on Myspace: www.myspace.com/wearemanman.