Chancellor Portch Visits Gainesville College...

Chancellor Stephen R. Portch visited our campus Monday, Oct. 5 in the Continuing Education building. Many local officials were present to hear his speech on where the university system is and its future in the State of Georgia. Among those present were: representatives of Gainesville College and Lanier Technical Institute; the trustees of the university system; superintendents of surrounding school systems; members of local and state political offices; and several representatives of local businesses.

Chancellor Portch began by stating his satisfaction with Gainesville College’s performance as a University System of Georgia school. The results of a recent student satisfaction survey, he reported, reflected very positively. Students stated they are very happy with GC as a whole.

Portch went on to praise Georgia’s two year schools and explain their role in the system. He referred to two-year schools as a “place for students to begin.” Students can then graduate or transfer to a four year institution.

He mentioned the K-16 initiative that would allow students the backing of their own institution in transferring to another school within the university system. Portch gave credit to Dr. Nesbitt for her work in the conversion to semesters throughout the university system.

Chancellor Portch concluded by answering a question from a member of the audience about the two-year schools’ future. Using GC as an example, he said the two year school should be an “access point,” or “a hub,” for students not ready for a four year institution or simply for convenience purposes.

"The Good Times Are Killing Me"

The Gainesville Theatre Alliance opened the 1998-1999 season with “The Good Times are Killing Me.” The play can be seen at the Georgia Mountain Center. The play begins Tuesday, Oct. 6 and will continue through Sunday, Oct. 18. Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees begin at 2:30 p.m.

The play takes place in the 1960’s. The setting is a poor, newly-integrated neighborhood. The play follows two twelve year old girls. Edna and Bonna are drawn together by their passion for pop music.

Songs of Johnny Mathis, James Brown, Elvis, Herb Alpert and others weave together cartoon-like vignettes that transform childhood memories into the totems of an era.

Other characters in the play include an insufferable aunt, her daughter, a cheating dad, and a mother who escapes from reality to bear the loss of a son.

The play was written by syndicated cartoonist and National Public Radio commentator Lynda Barry.

The play is directed by guest director Heidi Cline. Cline recently directed the Horizon Theatre’s recent musical “Cowgirls.” Geoffrey Williams, a cast member from Horizon’s production of “The Good Times are Killing Me,” is serving as choreographer and assistant director. The set was created by Gainesville Theatre Alliance set designer Stuart Beaman.

The number to call for tickets or further information is (770) 718-3624.

Gainesville College has made a minor capital projects request for the replacement of its electrical system. The $1.1 million project has been submitted to the University System of Georgia for approval in the 1999-2000 budget.

The current system which was installed in 1966 is currently in use past its 20 year life expectancy. During the past five years there have been at least three cable failures.

The system now in use is a single point at which electricity comes on campus and then is distributed to the various buildings and structures that require power.

A site electrical distribution study was conducted on the GC system by Thompson Company, Inc., Atlanta. Its findings were that the “existing direct buried electrical distribution system is approaching the end of its serviceable life.”

Based on this recommendation GC suggests that the only alternative “for improving system reliability,” is to replace the current system completely.

The other major concern according to the GC administration is the addition of the new science building in summer of 2000. The administration believes that the present system will not be adequate for the additional demands.
The Compass

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Editorials
Decision '98

By David Cusumano

The Republican, Democrat, and Libertarian parties are all hoping to win the governorship and senate seat in November election. The Republican candidate for governor is Guy Milliner. Milliner ran for governor in 1994 and in 1996, he ran for the senate seat that Nunn vacated.

Guy Milliner is the owner of Norrell temporary service. He is hoping to become the first Republican governor in Georgia since the reconstruction. He is running on his business experience. Milliner’s platform is to control government spending by conducting an independent audit of state agencies. He wants to do away with the tag tax and reduce class sizes.

Roy Barnes, democrat, is a lawyer and has served in both the state senate and the state house. In 1990, Barnes ran for the democratic nomination for governor. He is running on his experience in state government and continuing Governor Miller’s legacy. His platform is that he will be hard on crime, and he will reform health care insurance. Barnes also proposes day care located in the work place.

The Libertarian, John Cashin, is an Atlanta restaurant chain owner. He also ran for the senate in 1996. He is running on limited government and more personal freedom. He favors the sales tax and cutting government spending.

Paul Coverdell is working hard to keep drugs out of neighborhoods. He is the author of the Drug Free Neighborhood Act which is designed to stop drugs at the border and equip communities to be more effective with anti-drug campaigns. Also, he is the founder of Operation Drug Free Georgia a organization which raises awareness of the drug epidemic and encourage Georgia teens to be drug free.

Senator Coverdell was invited the hardest working member in the senate. He has demonstrated leadership capabilities. He holds majority secretary which is the fourth highest position in the senate.

He stood up against Clinton’s government takeover of health care. A vote for Coverdell will mean that we are much closer for true IRS reform and health care reform that will actually help the patients, not the lawyers.

Vote Coverdell on Nov. 3.

Chips and “Salsa”

by Katie Cofer

Fun was had by everyone who joined in the Salsa Party on Thursday, Oct. 1. The dance lasted an hour, in Lanier A and B, and was open to all students. With the help of professional dancers, Anibal and Carmen, many students learned the Salsa and various other Latin dances. A big thanks to Cross Cultural Connections and the Latino Student Association, who sponsored the event.

We Would Love To Hear From You....

For those of you who love the art of writing, The Compass would love to have the opportunity to print some of your greatest works. You get to pick the subject and with the use of tasteful writing have something of your own in the Gainsville newspaper.

Poems and editorials are what we are looking for to go into The Compass. You can contact us through E-mail, telephone (718-3820), or drop by our office (located in the student Activities Building). I have told you what we are offering you all you have to do is write! So go find you a quiet spot alone and get those thoughts a rambling. Hope to see one of your stories in the next newspaper!!!

The Compass is proud to lead the way!!!
Semester Transition Reaction

When twenty-five second-year students were asked what they thought of the switch from quarters to semesters, the majority of them were in full support of the change. Eighty-six percent of the students who answered in favor of semesters all agreed that having that extra day in between classes made it significantly easier to get the work done that was needed for their classes. Meg Peercey claims that she likes not having all of her classes “crammed” into one day, because it allows her to remember more about what she learned, making test taking less stressful. However, the remaining fourteen percent voted against the change. Complaints ranged from classes being too long, to not remembering what was discussed in the last class. Greg Dickey gave an example, say you take a class offered on Monday and Wednesday, by the time you get around to Monday again, four days have already passed and you can’t remember what was discussed. A simple solution for students suffering with Greg…study! Robert Black, along with the remaining fourteen percent, complained of the classes being made longer. Some students reported having trouble paying attention to the lengthy lectures. Most everyone we inquired found the change rewarding, and said that they liked the semester system more than the quarter system. The five professors who were asked their opinion on the matter stated that they too liked having more planning time, believing that it benefits everyone.
The Compass

Intramural Sports
by Brett Cook

The flag football season is underway here at Gainesville College. The teams are competing on Tuesdays and Thursdays here on campus. Coach Kirkland would like to remind all teams that is impossible for all them to compete at the same time. Keep in mind the flag football state championship is less than two months away.

The intramural program also started a tennis tournament on Oct. 2. It was held on campus and consisted of a best two out of three game format. The championship third round is set for Oct 16.

Anyone interested in participating in either basketball or golf should contact Coach Kirkland. Events are set to take place this semester.

A fishing tournament is also set to take place this semester. It will be held at the lower pond. First place last year was a five-pound catfish. If you are a fisherman and a student you should sign up soon.

Intramural Sports also sponsored a catfish tournament. The fishing tournament is also set to take place this semester.

SIFE Team Elects Officers

The GC SIFE team has elected the following officers for the Fall Semester 1998: President--Jessica Mattson, Vice-President--Johna Norman, Secretary--Michelle Miller, Treasurer--Melissa Chandler, Historian--Davina Schwartz and Project Committee Chair--Wendy Preston.

The SIFE team members are currently training to teach the Junior Achievement curriculum to second and fourth grader classes at several Hall County and Gainesville Elementary Schools. Students at Centennial, Fair Street, McEver and Oakwood Elementary Schools will learn about the workings of our market economic system through the interactive lessons and class projects presented by SIFE team members. Last year SIFE members worked with fourth and fifth grade classes at Jones and Fair Street Elementary Schools. Everyone had a wonderful time and really enjoyed this project. The SIFE team is excited about expanding the program to include more SIFE and elementary school students.

The SIFE team is also excited about working with SGA on the Halloween Carnival, and about sponsoring several business seminars here on campus. During the last week in October and the first week of November, SIFE has several workshops planned in collaboration with the University of Georgia Business Outreach Service Center, the IRS and the Georgia Department of Revenue covering the laws governing the collection and sales, income and payroll taxes. These seminars are free and open to the public and would be of benefit to anyone who currently owns a business or is planning to open one in the near future. Contact Katie Simmons at 770-718-3683 for more information about these programs or to learn more about Students in Free Enterprise.

If you have any club news, please let us know!
UFO Speaker Sighted at GC...

By: Jennifer Rickett

On Sept. 24, 1998 Gainesville College had a visitor of another kind. His name was Peter Jordan, a specialist on the topics of aliens, cattle mutilations and crop circles. He has been featured in widely known magazines and on several television programs such as: The New York Times, Omni Magazine, and on 20/20 and Unsolved Mysteries. He has 20 years of research behind him and has always been interested with the unknown.

His talk included a diverse range of topics, from the real Men in Black to the government’s conspiracy to withhold information about UFOs and the aliens within them. He also told about his own true-life alien encounter. A bright beam of light entered my room through my bedroom widow, after a period of loud mechanical sounding noises. I couldn’t believe it. I screamed for help. But not even my mother, who is a very light sleeper, did not hear my cries. The light beam continued to shine through the window, and the noises did not stop for a few moments. After the encounter, he wrote himself several notes to make sure it was not a dream. In the morning, the notes were still there and his mother stated that she never heard him scream.

Giving a brief history of the world’s UFOs and other mysterious happenings, Jordan gave insights to the intriguing Area 51, which is said to hold some of the world’s most shocking information. Of the many secrets it contains, Jordan says the 1947 Roswell Region UFO crash is the most sought after and highly protected information that the government is hiding inside. Over 100 witnesses saw the alien ships and alien bodies. When the government is asked about this phenomenon, they claim that they were wrong and it never was an alien encounter.

Highly regarded in his field of study, Peter Jordan states, “As technology advances, videos and photographs will be harder to prove false.” The new programs make photos look more realistic and detailed closer to the real thing. “Also nature is odd and has its own flukes that may be taken as encounters.”

Peter Jordan continues his search for the truth about UFOs while the government continues their efforts to cover their tracks. One day, he hopes that they will release the information that he and his associates are trying to prove now.
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Movie Review

By: Eric Franklin

Rush Hour

Comedian Chris Tucker, and martial arts star Jackie Chan pair up for this action thriller and prove that the age-old cop-buddy movie (Lethal Weapon) is still in style. Tucker is hired by the FBI to babysit Chan and keep him out of their way while they investigate an international kidnapping. The two are on the case and while searching they run into many comedic situations. Tucker takes his time teaching Chan to dance and finally by the end they are grooving down the streets, making you leave the movie laughing out loud.

Urban Legend

We've all heard the old urban legends about the killer lurking in the dark who has a hook in the place of his hand, but in this new horror flick these teens are living out these legends. The story going around the campus is that about fifty years earlier a campus worker went crazy and killed students going to the school. When the legend comes to life, people start thinking "just because it didn't happen, that doesn't mean that it can't."

What Dreams May Come

For those who believe in eternal love, no explanation is necessary; for those who do not, no explanation is possible. Robin Williams' newest film proves that love knows no bounds when he is killed in a car accident and goes onto Heaven, a paradise dreamed up by his love for art. When he finds that he can never again be with his wife, Annabella Sciorra, he goes to the gates of Hell to find her. This visually stunning movie will bring you to the brink of tears.

Music Review

By: Eric Franklin

The newest rage in the music business is the Anewage@swing. During the last year many new bands have erupted onto the scene. There's The Brian Setzer band, the Cherry Poppin' Daddies, Squirrel Nut Zippers, and many more. The newest group to make it big in the Big Band music is the Royal Crown Revue. Their latest release, The Contender, is guaranteed to make you want to get up and swing the night away. The group burst into swing music in early '95 and hasn't disappeared since. And with this newest release, their popularity will be sure to grow.

Fiona Apple's newest release, Shadowboxer will be sure to definitely be one that you will want to add to your collection if you even somewhat liked her previous release, Criminal. With it's mellow sound and harmonic gracefulness, her voice will enchant you.

The latest singer to break onto the blues scene is 17 year old Jonny Lang. The teen broke into the world of blues at age 15 when he got up on stage at a local concert and from there he went onto stardom. His strangely mature voice makes many wonder how this kid could know so much about the blues and how to play them so well. These new releases in music will definitely be ones that will keep you in style with the newest music and you surely won't be sorry you got them.