Expedition: Spain in los bluejeans.

by Jessie Gifford

My journey began among the blue and white sky that turned to sunset, stars, and into sunrise. After 10 hours of restlessly staying seat-belted on a Delta flight, land was once again beneath me. The green, gold, and brown patches of land looked like a rumpled quilt threaded together by long roads. Soon cities and towns began to poke small holes in the quilted country of Spain.

Bienvenidos a Madrid!

Welcome to Madrid. I soon found out that three years of high school Spanish was going to pay off. Our first journey out on the streets of Madrid led me to the conclusion that it was the city of crazy drivers! Hordes of buses, taxis, and Geo size cars zipped by on streets that had no lanes. I started to look for the speed limit, but was stunned to find there wasn't one.

Madrid was what I imagined New York City would look like except with a little more class and culture. Modern corporate buildings, shops, monuments, and palaces all lined the streets. As people passed me by I soon became very aware that I looked really out of place in my T-shirt and jeans — typical American style — versus the leather jackets and shoes, stylish pants, and nice button down shirts and blouses. Let's just say that Americans dress for expression, and the Spanish dress for impression.

Con't on three.

One of Antonio Gaudi's many pieces of artwork in Barcelona.

Pig Crosses Cultural Lines at the Spring Fling in March

by Jennifer L. Ponders

Cromartie got the most votes in the Kiss the Pig contest sponsored by the Multi-Cultural Association at GC. Students, faculty and staff voted by giving money in the name of their favorite faculty or staff member. The results were announced at the Spring Fling on March 24. Michelle S. Brown was named runner-up.

The money raised was donated to provide book scholarships and for club activities. The group raised approximately $188. Club members: Adrian Warthen, Chanese Ivory, and Camera.

Herbert headed up this event. The star of the show was late for his date because of his immense weight. The trailer had a flat tire.

Herbert the pig is owned by the Jefferson County Future Farmers of America.

Con't on three.
Editorials

Conflic in Yugoslavia
by Kerry Banks

At the present time, America and the rest of NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) are in conflict Yugoslav troops and their leader Slobodan Milosevic. If you don’t know a whole lot about the crisis here is a little history as to how the conflict began. Slobodan Milosevic, leader of Yugoslavia ordered the genocide of all the ethnic Albanians. The mass murder of all the ethnic Albanians was advertised on all mass media and those who killed were treated like national heroes. Machetes were ordered and stockpiled from other countries to be given to the Yugoslav people to carry out the murder of hundreds of thousands of ethnic Albanians. Since most Yugoslavs do not own guns and weapons, most of the attempted genocide has been carried out with farm equipment. President Milosevic passed a bill ordering the ethnic cleansing of all ethnic Albanians and he will not stop. The more and more I read about Yugoslavia; the more it sounds like Nazi Germany in WW2.

America and NATO (America is part of NATO) have stepped in to try to stop the genocide before it is too late. Yugoslav troops and civilians rally in the streets with anti-American banners and burning American flags. I cannot help but think this is much more serious than it is being made out to be. Yugoslav troops have beaten and captured three American soldiers that were not in a war zone and now there are talks of war crimes.

We have successfully bombed many sites in Yugoslavia but now there is a new challenge for NATO. Hundreds of thousands, maybe a million refugees that were driven from their homes have disappeared from their makeshift campsites. NATO fears that the refugees have been taken hostage and are now being used as human shields. Even by late Wednesday, March 10 Pentagon officials insisted they are still not sure where the refugees are.

Twenty Dollars or Your Life
by Jennifer L. Ponders

By now we have all heard the story of a 21-year-old gay student from University of Wyoming who was murdered in Wyoming.

Russell Henderson was convicted of luring Matthew Shepard from a bar in Wyoming while pretending to be a homosexual. The reason for their action was to steal Shepard’s wallet. At gunpoint Shepard refused to hand over his wallet and McKinney allegedly began beating him with the Magnum pistol. In the next few minutes the two men stole not only his wallet containing $20 and his shoes, but also his life. Aaron McKinney is an alleged accomplice and the trial is still pending.

Wyatt Skaggs is the attorney for the defendant, Russell Henderson. Skaggs said that the killing of Shepard was not hate crime. He stated, “Russell Henderson...is not a hateful person. I know you (reporters) would love to make this into some sort of hate crime with the politics involved in it, but it’s not.”

I do not understand Skaggs justification of the actions of Henderson. I have never heard of someone killing out of love. The act of murder is a hate crime and there is no other way to look at it. Any act of violence is a hate crime.

I agree completely with the prosecutor Cal Rerucha. In response to Skaggs comments he stated, “Two types of people commit this crime: either someone so full of rage that they can’t stop themselves, or a person that actually delights in doing this to another human being.” Henderson was not controlling his actions that evening. He intentionally posed as a homosexual man, and he left a beaten man in a prairie to die.

Currently, President Clinton is taking action to have the Hate Crimes Prevention Act to be enacted to also serve to protect hate crimes committed to people based on there sexual orientation. Currently, the federal prosecution can only prosecute if the crime is based on race, religion, national origin, color, or if a person is attempting to keep a person from exercising rights granted to us as citizens (voting, attending school, etc.).

A person should not be sentenced by their fellow citizens to die for the “crime” of homosexuality. It should not matter to us whether a person is of another race, religion, national origin, or sexual orientation, we were all put here for a purpose and we are alike in many ways. The quality of our life should not be as invaluable as the $20 taken from Matthew Shepard’s wallet five days before his death in a Colorado hospital.

These opinions are from staff writers but do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Compass. Please send your opinions to us via e-mail.

From the Editor:
It has come to my attention that several readers may have misinterpreted last issue’s headline. The headline was not meant to offend anyone and we are taking steps to avoid such offensive statements.

Robert Gittens, Managing Editor
Spain...

North of Madrid toward the mountains a 200-ton cross rises high above rocky terrain in the Valley of the Fallen, a monument built for those who fell in Spain's civil war. No words can describe the feelings I had when I entered the Basilica beneath the rocky mountain and approached the altar over which a crucifix stood. As my eyes traveled upward it almost felt as though I had been moved to heaven when I saw the grand many-million piece mosaic of Christ surrounded by angels. The Valley of the Fallen truly took my breath away.

A day's journey took me south of Madrid to a medieval town of Toledo (Toe-lay-dough). Cobblestone streets and old ornate buildings made this town quite charming, but perhaps the castle and its tall walls around the city made this city all the more enchanting.

Spain blends ornate architecture with modern structures.

Spending five days in Madrid was nothing compared to the day and a half I spent in Barcelona — the city of Antoni Gaudi, a brilliant architect whose name reflects his work. I cannot begin to explain all there is to see in Barcelona, but looking out into the street from my hotel room I suddenly felt like I was in Miami. Palm trees, the blue Mediterranean Sea, squawking green parrots, and the more casual atmosphere made me feel at home, more so than I had in Madrid. Maybe it was just the fact that the Hard Rock Cafe was just around the corner.

Olympic cities are usually special cities, but Barcelona was extraordinary. There were markets of fresh fruits, veggies, fish, whole pigs, and flowers. Gaudi's monumental buildings and phenomenal park as well as several castles stood high above the city laid out in a perfect grid Barcelona has only one road running diagonally through it. There were also many ethereal temples and churches — and the list goes on.

My weeklong Spanish excursion ended sooner than I would have liked. The availability of public transportation is a luxury I could have enjoyed a little longer, but I think somewhere along the Spanish streets I must have developed a hole in my jean pockets cause I was running low on cash. Someone once told me that once I visit Spain I would not return the same person I was. I believe it to be true. Hasta manana!

Arts...

direction of Gainesville College Assistant Professor of Music, Lynn Latham will perform a variety of works. The jazz band's performance will include a variety of jazz favorites. The jazz band is directed by Gainesville College Associate Professor Roy Forrester and Gainesville College Adjunct Faculty Member, Andrew Santander. Both events are free and the public is invited. Details: Gainesville College Speech and Fine Arts Department at (770) 718-3865.

Steele: Learns to Build Scholastic Foundations

Staff Reports

Kandis S. Steele, Assistant Professor of Political Science and the Coordinator of Professional Development at Gainesville College, will be a participant in the 1999 Governor's Teaching Summer Symposium Program. A resident of Gainesville, she will attend a two-week symposium on the University of Georgia campus. The symposium will include a combination of structured instructional and faculty developmental activities and independent study.

The Governor’s Teaching Fellows program was established by former Governor Zell Miller, to provide Georgia’s higher education faculty with expanded opportunities for developing important teaching skills. Miller envisioned that this program would address the pressing need faculty members have to use emerging instructional technologies. To improve the quality of instruction in Georgia’s public and private colleges and universities, this program assumes the complex challenge of moving college faculty members to the leading edge of instructional practice.

Steele has already proven herself to be innovative in her teaching style and this program will certainly build upon this strong foundation. She was the first faculty member on the Gainesville College campus to teach American National Government in a computer lab using research workbooks and the Internet.

Leprechauns Abound at GC

by Jennifer Rickett

As most of the students on campus have already noticed, we have a leprechaun in our midst. Although he's a size or two larger than your average leprechaun is, he does have the lucky gold that leprechauns are always associated with. Although this leprechaun isn't as stingy as the leprechauns we all have heard about. This leprechaun willingly passes out his gold to everyone on campus that he can find.

He's our own Jeffery Thornton, 21, an art major who "enjoys doing things different, which is why I do these things." He likes to see the reactions that people have when they see him in his outfit.

Jeff is also known for his "Button man" outfit that he wears on Halloween. Last year, Jeff wore his "Button Man" costume to work, at Wal-Mart and had people guess how many buttons he had on his outfit for one dollar, to be donated to the American Cancer Society.

Swimming Instructors

The Gainesville College Continuing Education has openings for experienced swimming instructors and life guards for the Summer Swim program. Applicants must be certified in both CPR and First Aid. Having Water Safety Instructor certification is desirable.

Interested applicants please call Brenda Perry at (770) 718-3705. Starting date is June 14.
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11:00am
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1.5 Mile Run (GC Trails)

For GC students, employees & dependents and Laker Society members only.
FREE T-SHIRTS to all competitors.

AWARDS
Top Male & Female: Overall and Master’s
Top 3 Males & Females in following age groups: 10 & under, 11-14, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-69, 70 & over

For more information contact Glenn Preston 770.718.1100

Entry Form

Last Name: __________________________ First Name: __________________________
Address: ____________________________
City/State/Zip: ________________________
Age: __________________ Circo. Male or Female
In consideration of acceptance to this event, I waive any and all claims for myself and my heirs against officials, volunteers and sponsors of the 1999 Mini-Triathlon for injury or damage which may result directly or indirectly from participation in the event. I further state that I am in proper condition to participate in this event.

Signature: __________________ Date: __________________________
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Movie Reviews

by Staff reports

The Mod Squad
Hollywood again tries to cash in on a moderately successful television series. The cast consists of the talented Claire Danes, Omar Epps and Giovanni Ribisi as Julie, Line, and Pete. There isn't much of a plot to this movie. None of the original members of the television series makes a guest appearance. The movie doesn't use the best part of the series- the opening music.

Analyze This
Billy Crystal and Robert DeNiro team in this comedy. Billy Crystal gives his best performance since City Slickers. Can you really remember a Billy Crystal movie since City Slickers?

Robert DeNiro plays a mobster who turns to psychiatrist Crystal when he begins having emotional problems.

Forces of Nature
Ben Affleck and Sandra Bullock star in this romantic comedy. Affleck meets Bullock on a plane ride to his wedding. The plane never really takes off and Affleck and Bullock become buddies attempting to both make their way South. Along the way, Affleck is left to ponder how does one know when he has found the right woman to marry. Bullock has that effect on some men.

True Crime
Clint Eastwood returns as actor and director in this drama. Eastwood stars as a reporter with a troubled past. He gets assigned a story about a person on death row. Eastwood's character lacks compassion as the man on death row explains his innocence. If you've seen any television show about the potential innocent person on death row, then you've seen this movie.

EdTV
Ron Howard directed this enjoyable comedy. Although it may remind you of The Truman Show, the cast and humor make it fun. Matthew McConaughey plays an average guy who has his life put on television 24 hours a day. Jenna Elfman and Martin Landau are terrific as McConaughey's girlfriend and stepfather. If you want to escape for 2 hours, go see EdTV.

Phish Announces its Summer Tour
by Kerry Banks

It's that time of the year again for all of you Phish people. That's right, summer tour will soon be here. All tour dates have been announced and are on the official Phish web page, www.phish.com. Phish will be spending two days in Atlanta at the Lakewood Amphitheater on May 7-8. Mail order has already passed so if you want tickets you will have to get them through Ticketmaster when they go on sale. The announcement of the American summer tour was a pleasant surprise for 1999. There was an Internet rumor that Phish was going to be spending the summer tour in Europe, skipping the '99 American tour season all together. If you plan to go and see Phish get your tickets as early as possible or you might not get any at all, they can sell out fast.

GC Teacher Named Author of the Year
by Staff reports

Gainesville College teacher Brad Strickland has received the Georgia Author of the Year Award for his young-adult novel The Specter from the Magician's Museum. Strickland, a Professor of English, has written more than thirty-five novels.

The awards ceremony was jointly sponsored by the Georgia Writers Organization and Mercer University. Other winners included former President Jimmy Carter for his book The Virtues of Aging and Congressman John Lewis' memoir Walking with the Wind.

Strickland's novel won in the Young Adult category. His book is a Gothic mystery set in the 1950's. He says he was "surprised but very honored" when he was announced as the winner in his category. "This book isn't a regional one," he explains. "In fact, most of it takes place in Michigan."

His forthcoming novel, When Mack Came Back, is a regional historical novel for young readers. "It takes place on the home front during World War II," he says. "It's a story of a young North Georgia farm boy and his brother's hunting dog. That book draws heavily on Strickland's memories of his grandfather's Forsyth County farm."
They conquered everything but death.

Part world rulers like Alexander the Great, Napoleon, and Julius Caesar have all had one thing in common: they conquered everything but death. They're dead now. It makes men want to follow a ruler who has conquered death... and a world leader who promises to render the world through peace.

Jesus Christ is that ruler. He claimed to be God, was crucified for our sins, and then rose forty days later. And we promise to return to this issue the soonest. For a free article on this remarkable person and his relevance for your life, call 1-800-336-9238, or e-mail lovestory@mercury.gn.peachnet.edu

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Coming Soon

The Wild Horse is coming to Gainesville. The Wild Horse will be one of the largest country dance clubs in Georgia and will feature:

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All of this is located in an energetic country atmosphere. The Wild Horse is currently accepting applications for a number of positions. For more information on the Wild Horse, our schedule of events, and employment please call: (770) 531-0051