French students visit campus

By Jamie LaNier
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On February 13, 27 French students descended on Gainesville College. Few spoke English, most were heavy smokers, and all were inclined to enjoy their short stay in America.

Their visit was sponsored by students in an international perspectives class who are paying a visit to France over Spring Break. Several GC students and faculty members volunteered to host these students for the week. The students were given a free bed and meals, as well as a warm welcome. Host families shared their lives with students, taking them to favorite restaurants and treating them to an American way of life. It was a learning experience for everyone involved.

"We had a cold breakfast and didn’t understand the concept of cheese on a breakfast sandwich," said host student, Christine Arevalo, a business administration major. "They like coffee a lot.

As the students and their families learned more about each other, they started to spend more of their time together.

“We watched Dawson’s Creek,” said another host student, Amber Bennett, also a business administration major. “They watch all of those Will shows.

In France, they see episodes of the WB network one year after they are shown in America. Television programs are not interrupted by commercial breaks. Advertisements are aired at the end of TV programs.

“They said they were just so tired by the time [the TV show] got done that they didn’t want to do anything else,” said Bennett.

During each day, the French students’ visit was planned down to the minute. They visited such places as Chateau Elan and the Dahlonega gold museum. One day long excursion took them to Americus where they visited Habitat for Humanity. They also stopped in Andersonsville to see the infamous Civil War prison camp.

The students’ Friday evening and Saturday were spent with their host families. Separately, they were shown Zoo Atlanta, Mall of Georgia, or an IMAX at the Fernbank Science Center, as well as Mama’s Country Showcase. After they left their families on Sunday, they visited Stone Mountain, the World of Coca-Cola, and the Martin Luther King Center.

They left on the following Monday for their return flight to France, but they had to stop in New York City for their connecting flight. As the students left for Atlanta and then New York, they were excited about seeing some of the sites in the Big Apple.

“I am going to New York to visit the Statue of Liberty, the Empire State Building, and the Hard Rock Café,” said French student Cedric Gorius. “I want to visit the American label for Depoche Mode. I came to buy CDs because they are different than the ones in Europe.”

“I am looking forward to seeing the city and to party,” said fellow French visitor Gregory Prurnan.

The exchange visits are meant to be educational for the students in terms of culture and society.

“I think that America is not like what is shown in the media. I have gotten a better image of America. The people are very nice,” said Gorius. “When the French media speaks of America, they speak especially of New York and Los Angeles, but not of Georgia. They talk of the crime and serial killers and plane accidents.”

“I learned about where they live, so close to Germany,” said Arevalo. “When they go out, they go to Germany a lot. Where they live, a lot of people speak German. They are more blunt than Americans.”
Students, Regents await designs for campus changes

By Jon Kneeger and Karri Stevens
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The Gainesville College Master Planning Committee met on February 1 with hopes of finalizing plans for the future of the campus. The meeting ended, however, without the plans being finalized. When a decision is reached, the campus "master plan" will be presented to the Board of Regents by GC President Martha Neubitz.

"What [the Master Plan Committee] has been doing is upgrading the campus master plan," said Tom Walter, Vice President of Student Development. "It focuses mainly on facilities and the overall design of the campus."

The committee consists of GC administrative officials and a private consultant that was hired for the project by money given to the college from the University System of Georgia.

The master plan consists of three possible designs which will coincide with the planned re-routing of Interstate 985.

Schematics A, B, and C all involve upgrading the campus to better accommodate the growing number of students that are enrolled.

Scheme A calls for a new parking lot across from the Science Building.

Scheme B includes tying the campus together without any road splits and a new entryway strictly for campus traffic.

Scheme C is a combination of both Schemes A and B. A parking deck is may also be a possible addition to the reconstruction plans.

Also, according to Walter, the master plan is not "set in stone," rather it is a "guideline" for any construction planned for GC in the next 10 to 20 years. Any planned construction in GC's future must be shown to be in accordance with the master plan.

"This is a lengthy process," said Dean Michael Stoy. "It all depends on money, growth, need, demand, and, whether I like it or not, politics."

Intramurals under curfew

Preston will not travel without new rules

By Tricia Madison
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Students who choose to participate in intramural activities are going to be experiencing a few restrictions on their next overnight trip.

Glenn Preston, Faculty Advisor of Intramural Affairs, has decided to establish a curfew for Gainesville College students who participate in intramural activities that require overnight accommodations.

After traveling to Statesboro, Georgia to participate in a flag football tournament in Fall 2000, Preston was disappointed by some of the students' performances on the field.

"The students behaved, but the flag-football games would have been better if some of the students hadn't stayed out so late," Preston said.

According to the Department of Student Activities, the college has never established specific guidelines for GC students who participate in intramural activities.

Currently, the only guideline that has been decided upon is the establishment of a 11 pm curfew. Preston is in the process of developing a list of additional rules for the softball tournament in April.

"I am aware of a list of rules that the science department uses for field trip activities," said Preston. "I will probably be adopting some similar guidelines as well as adding some additional guidelines for intramural activities that require off campus travel."

Preston maintains that these guidelines are being set in order to protect the reputation of the college.

"I don't want students to feel that they are being punished," says Preston. "After all, they haven't broken any rules. However, I don't want GC to be thought of as a party school either."

Student Activities Advisor Michelle S. Brown has spoken with Preston in regard to the establishment of some guidelines for intramural students.

"I'm not sure if I agree with an across-the-board policy," Brown said. "However, to have the best performance in a game, I do feel it might be best to have some sort of curfew. I would rather leave those sort of issues up to the individual faculty or staff advisor who accompanies student groups."

Despite possible debate, Preston stands firm on his curfew decision.

"I will not go on another overnight trip with the intramural students unless a curfew has been set for them."
Hidden Hollow to host student tournament

From March 5 to April 9 will be a 9-hole golf tournament at Hidden Hollow Golf Course, off Exit 12 on I-985. Competitors will play during that period as often as they like and enter the four scorecards with the lowest scores to Glenn Preston on April 10. The top 20 will face off in a final tournament.

Spring blood drive taking place in late March

On the March 26, Gainesville College will be sponsoring a blood drive in the Physical Education building from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

PACE to sponsor résumé workshop

On March 29, Gainesville College will be featuring a workshop on Interviewing Skills and Resume Writing in the PACE center at 11:00 am and/or 5:30 pm.

Send all announcements concerning campus-related events for Spring, Summer and Fall to Campus_compass@hotmail.com by March 25, 2001.
Napster alternatives soon to be
Where to turn for free downloads when Napster dies

By Chris Keen
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Napster may have been shut down, but there are many alternatives readily available. Several Napster "clones," as well as ordinary sites dedicated to MP3 sharing are available. Many of these sites and programs require that you register with them, but no serious information and seldom is any cash requested.

Kris Hammond commented on the ban of Napster by saying, "The Government can do whatever it wants. Napster and other programs have made it impossible to regulate the internet."

Ryan Stevi, a computer science and programming student, said by saying, "Whenever the Government controls or allows someone to control, the consumer will find a way around."

Gnutella, created by America Online's Nullsoft development team, is available in a reverse-engineered beta form nearly everywhere. What this essentially allows you to do is search other people's computers without having to rely on a server, like Napster, to connect you. It will search for any type of information or file, not just mp3s, that the user can provide, and will continue searching until it finds a match or the user cancels the search. However, you still need a host to connect to the network. The developers, with this in mind, have created a site with the latest news, upgrades, and, yes, IP addresses. Visit http://gnutella.wego.com/ for Gnutella software.

Many other devices have been derived from this type of interface www.earshare.com and www.bearshare.com are just a couple examples of the many types of software currently available.

"Wrongly-convicted Johnson tells story of how he was released"

Speaker was 61st person freed based on DNA evidence; addresses how science assisted in his innocence

By Jon Krueger
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In 1983, Calvin Johnson was a 25-year-old living a comfortable life in College Park. He was engaged to be married. He had the loving support of his parents. But then Johnson was arrested and convicted of rape. He was sentenced to life in prison for the crime.

Nearly two decades later in 1999, Johnson was exonerated of all charges against him when DNA evidence proved that he was imprisoned for a crime he did not commit. He was the 61st person to be freed from prison based on DNA evidence.

In a speech delivered in the Gainesville College Auditorium on February 5, Johnson told his story to a captive audience of students, faculty and members of the community.

"I did 16 years in the Georgia Penitentiary," Johnson stated. "Sixteen long years for a crime I did not commit."

Johnson outlined to his audience the events that led to his imprisonment, up through his release to freedom.

In 1981, Johnson was arrested for a "petty crime." He said he did "some time" for the crime. Then in 1983, Johnson was arrested at his parents' home in College Park. He was charged with two rapes, one in Clayton County and one in Fulton County, and identified by the victim from old police photos from Johnson's 1981 arrest.

"[The police] said I was identified from a photographic police lineup," Johnson explained. "My earlier crime had come back to haunt me."

A preliminary hearing followed and the case was bound over for trial. "The case against me was very, very weak," Johnson stated.

Johnson went on to say that the only evidence against him, besides the victim picking him from a lineup, was that blood samples taken from him while in custody matched the type of blood found at the scene of the crime.

"I have type O positive blood," Johnson said. "Over 40% of the population has O positive blood."

At Johnson's trial, after a brief, 45-minute deliberation by the jury, he was found guilty and sentenced to spend the rest of his life in prison.

The jury at Johnson's trial was made up of all whites. Johnson, an African-American, believes this probably was the reason they found him guilty, despite the weak case against him.

"A trial of a white man for a crime against a black person with a black jury, probably would have gotten similar results," Johnson stated. "This shows the need for a fair and partial jury. Juries need to be diverse."

Johnson immediately began serving his sentence. He was sent to prison in Jefferson County and said it was the hardest work he had ever encountered.

"Little things I always took for granted were taken from me," Johnson said about prison life. "The ability to open a refrigerator and take out a sandwich, or taking a walk outside at night... it was all taken from me."

In 1984, Johnson went to trial for the rape he was accused of in Fulton County and was found innocent. It was a moral boost for Johnson, but it did nothing to reduce the sentence he was serving for the rape for which he was convicted.

Johnson spent the rest of the decade in prison, staying very quiet and bitter. He stated that while in prison, his fiancée broke off their marriage plans.

"I was doing life in prison," Johnson said. "She had to get on with her life."

In 1989, Johnson even withstood a prison riot at Riverstate Prison.

Then in the early 90s, Johnson first heard of DNA evidence freeing a person from a prison that was truly innocent.

Several more years passed and Johnson was able to retrieve the blood samples from his trial in 1983 with the help of a legal aid. From there Johnson contacted the Innocence Project in New York, run by attorneys Barry Scheck and Peter Neufeld.

"The evidence came back from [the Innocence Project] as inconclusive," Johnson said. Next, Johnson sent his evidence to a professor in California who sent back more accurate results.

"In November 1998, the evidence came back saying it was impossible for me to have committed the crime," Johnson said. "Then on June 15, 1999 after a hearing in an Atlanta courtroom, I walked out a free man."

Since then, Johnson has appeared on The Today Show, Montel Williams Show, The CBS Morning Show and has been covered by many different newspapers including The New York Times and the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

He said that according to Georgia law, he could not sue the state for wrongly imprisoning him, but he was compensated an undisclosed amount by the state for the 16 years he spent in prison.

Johnson says he is not bitter about what happened to him. He ordained into the ministry while in prison, and currently works for MAKT in Atlanta.

"I still believe in the system," Johnson stated. "And there's no other place I'd rather be than right here in America."
**GTA follows their Crazy past**

By Jamie LaNier
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GTA has again provided a grand theatrical experience with the southeastern premiere of Pride and Prejudice as adapted by Christina Calvit. Pride and Prejudice is the basic girl-needs-a-husband-quick story. Jane Austen was a genius for such fiction. She was able to convey a funny and light story from a dark and rather oppressive situation. In Jane’s time the only future a girl had was in the husband she chose, or more accurately, her family chose.

“Pride and Prejudice is hard to relate to today because we don’t feel that marriage is money or at a young age is important,” said audience member, Zachary Vaughan, a business major at GC. Pride is actually Jane’s first novel, but was her second publication after the success of Sense and Sensibility. Having seen only the film adaptations of these and other Austin classics, such as Clueless, which has a plot link to Sense, seeing GTA’s Pride performance was an enlightening experience for the audience.

Because of the abundant number of young women involved in GTA, due to the association between GC and Brunau University, Artistic Director Jim Hammond is constantly searching for productions which would allow GTA members to grow as actors. After looking for six years for an adequate adaptation of Pride and Prejudice, Jim Hammond and his wife, Gay, who acted as the period style consultant, stumbled across Christina Calvit’s version as the showcase of a Stratford Festival in Ontario. GTA’s production is only the third run of this version of Pride.

The set was created by Joseph Stell, who had a collage of Jane Austen books in mind. Every element on stage is a mixture of middle and high class styles of Regency England in the early 19th century.

The stage was raked, meaning it slanted forward at a three and a half degree angle. GTA has done this several times in the Pierce Auditorium at Brunau because many audience members are below the stage level. This helped the audience gain a full view of the period dances at the various parties throughout the play.

“There is a certain amount of the intensity and focus of the show that you feel is being dumped in your lap,” said Hammond of the rake. “The emotions and energy of what’s happening on stage has a tendency to roll toward the audience.”

The interpretation was light and funny, especially with Gay Hammond’s loud performance as Mrs. Bennet. There were several times the audience couldn’t help but to explode with laughter, such as when Michael McCracken carried Jane Bennet (Amy Cain), as though he were a horse. Caroline Bingley, played by Chandra Owensby, was a very believable snob, as was Mr. Darcy, played by Alan Kilpatrick. Elizabeth Bennet, brilliantly portrayed by Ariel Weeks, is not at all distraught about not having a husband yet.

The 19th century courting dances, which involved a number of actors interacting with choreographed moves, were interesting to watch.

The play could slow at times because this particular adaptation is a story-telling within a scene, so the characters face out at times and finish lines to the audience in third person instead of first. It is a different concept and a bit unnerving at times. Some audience members couldn’t understand the presence of the child who appeared on stage at very awkward times. She said nothing and just stared at the characters as they spoke.

Overall, GTA’s performance was easy to enjoy.

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**November unoriginal, Hannibal disgustingly fun; Aparo returns with emotional tunes**

Sweet November
Warners Brothers

There is supposedly a 1968 version of Sweet November, I haven’t seen it, but I do think that the 2001 version is exactly like Autumn in New York, which was released only about six months ago. It resembles the infamous Love Story, too, which meant that Sweet November follows the exact plot and even copies the same characters as these other films.

An energetic and free-spirited girl, Sara (Charlize Theron, The Cider House Rules) gains the interest of a successful business man, Nelson (Kevin Reeves, The Matrix) after a chance meeting. He is in the middle of some nervous breakdown. She convinces him to give up his successful life, change his ways, and fall in love with her. They spend only a few weeks together, but fall madly in love (I’m still not convinced of that, I think I went to the bathroom during that scene).

She conveniently forgets to tell him that she’s dying in a month.

Oh, and she does this kind of thing with all of the time; every month is a different guy. But this one she wanted to keep (too hoo…). There is no hope for a miracle because there is no cure (double too hoo).

So the poor boy loses his girl, his job, his entire life and walks off into the sunset.

As far as the acting goes, it was believable, at least if you use your imagination. Not many movies are set in San Francisco these days, so I didn’t even know where I was for the first half of the film. It’s not a film that will win any awards for “best-anything”.

Sweet November makes me feel like I am watching the same movie over and over again. If only there was some way to tell the producers in Hollywood that we want something original.

— Jamie LaNier

Hannibal
Universal Pictures

Anthony Hopkins once again proves his worthiness as an actor in Hannibal, the sequel to The Silence of the Lambs. Despite the absence of the original movie’s female lead, Jodie Foster (who won a best actress Oscar in the role she created), Julianne Moore shines in the role of Agent Clarice Starling, bringing new energy along with a taste of Foster’s sarcasm.

This time around, Hannibal Lecter is being preyed upon by one of his former victims and a new agent, via a foreign police inspector, Dr. Lecter reacts in his pure “Hannibal the Cannibal” fashion with vigor and fear.

Although less scary than it’s predecessor, Hannibal is far more gruesome, but just as “deliciously” scary.

If there wasn’t enough excitement over the release of this Lambs sequel, it may be great news to many that Hopkins has already signed on to do at least one more sequel.

— Laurel Ancil

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**Keanu Reeves and Charlize Theron portray young, sudden lovers in Sweet November, which was released in February.**

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**Angie Aparo The American Melisma/Arista Records**

Angie Aparo’s Melisma/Arista debut album, The American, is one of those rare albums that captures the entire spectrum of human emotion and initiates the rediscovery of oneself. Most of the lyrics are depressing, yet each song performed by the five-member band conveys feelings of inspiration and reawakening within listeners.

The American is a 13-track album (including the semi-hidden title track), full of mostly phenomenal songs like “Hush” and “Wonderland”, in which Aparo’s incredible voice and the band’s remarkable talent is displayed.

Aparo is an amazing and noteworthy addition to the music industry and The American should be an imperative element in every personal music collection. It is a kick-ass album, no matter what genre of music you prefer.

— Kami Stevens
Aries (March 21 - April 19) There is nothing going on today. Go back to bed and check back tomorrow.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) Beware of the purple slime creatures hiding in your refrigerator. It hatched from your mom's left over lasagna.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20) Start your day clean. Next time, check your underwear.

Cancer (June 21 - July 20) There are communication problems at home. Stop pretending that you don't speak English.

Leo (July 23 - August 22) Have you seen that new green catsup? If you use both kinds, it will look like Christmas on your plate.

Virgo (August 23 - September 22) Your friend burns a ride home, but he forgets to give you gas money. Next time drop him off at the sewage treatment plant.

Libra (September 22 - October 22) Opposites attract! That's why your boyfriend/girlfriend is so good looking, clever and successful.

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21) Someone will tell a really bad joke, but you'll be the only who gets it. We all pity the fools.

Sagittarius (November 22 - Dec. 21) You will never get a complete horoscope and will wander aimlessly the rest of your life.

Capricorn (December 22 - January 20) Always finish what your start. Unless, of course, it's a gallon of ice cream.

Aquarius (January 21 - February 18) During class, you really have to go to the bathroom... really bad... he'll stop talking in a second... maybe... why did you have to drink so much... only five more minutes left in class... OOPS.

Pisces (February 19 - March 20) Go ahead, scratch it. No one is looking.
Brashear shares Men of Honor life

By Tricia Madison
Tmad_compass@hotmail.com

It may be difficult to believe that a man who was once pronounced "dead-on-arrival" could later become the first amputee diver to serve in the U.S. Navy, as well as the first African-American to reach Master Diver status.

Carl Brashear is the man who did just that.

The 2000 movie "Men of Honor," starring Cuba Gooding Jr. and Robert DeNiro, only touches on the tremendous adversities that Carl Brashear faced throughout his life. His story is one of struggle and triumph, but his only goal was to follow his dream.

In 1931, on a sharecropping farm in Kentucky, Carl Brashear was thrust into a humble life during a time of extreme racial prejudice. He attended a small segregated school in Senora, Kentucky until the sevenths grade when he began working a large sharecropping farm with his father.

Today, Brashear notes his accomplishments by saying, "I have made it from the outhouse all the way to the White House."

He is a modest man with a lightful sense of humor. His early life, however, did not mirror the years that would follow.

Shortly after Brashear's enlistment into the Navy at the age of 17, President Harry Truman issued Executive Order 981, which ended all segregation in the military. This allowed Brashear the opportunity to advance from the mess hall - a common placement for African-Americans before and after World War II - to the coast of Florida where he began his love affair with the ocean.

At the time of Brashear's enlistment, the U.S. Armed Forces were notorious for their history of racial discrimination against African-Americans. After being denied acceptance into diving school on several occasions, Brashear was transferred to another ship, the U.S. Tripoli, which decided to grant him the opportunity of becoming a Navy diver.

However, Brashear's struggle with racial discrimination was far from over. While attending diving school, he encountered death threats as well as racial slurs from white officers. Brashear considered quitting the program, but stayed on in order to prove to them that he could and would succeed.

After flunking out of the diving school in 1960, he made his second attempt and finally completed 26 weeks, graduating third in a class of seventeen.

"My lack of early education had left me at a disadvantage when it came to the difficult subjects that I had to learn in diving school," said Brashear, "but when I returned, I studied math day and night from 1961 to 1963."

Three years later, Brashear and his team of divers were sent on a salvage mission to retrieve a hydrogen bomb from the depths of the Mediterranean Sea. Upon arrival at the surface, a sea swell occurred causing the receiving ship to break loose from the vessel that carried the hydrogen bomb. Suddenly, a pipe came loose and flew across the deck of the ship striking Brashear below the knee.

The injuries to his leg were so severe that the flesh had been ripped away, exposing the bones and tendons of his lower calf. Brashear was bleeding profusely and the nearest doctor was six miles away from his current position. With only two tourniquets tied around his upper leg, Brashear survived the 6 mile journey and was hoisted onto a helicopter bound for Spain. To his dismay, the helicopter ran out of gas and was forced to make an emergency landing.

While waiting for a small plane to pick him up, Brashear continued to lose several pints of blood. Six hours after the accident had occurred, he was pronounced DOA (dead-on-arrival), and sent to the hospital's morgue. However, Carl Brashear was not dead. Thanks to a physician who decided to check his pulse one last time, Brashear later received over 18 pints of blood and regained consciousness. But his leg was beyond repair.

Brashear was determined to continue his service in the U.S. Navy as a diver. He snuck out of his hospital room on several occasions to take photographs of himself in a full Mark V dress, which weighed a total of 290 pounds. Brashear had to prove to the U.S. Navy that he was capable if not more than capable of remaining on active duty.

After enduring strenuous tests to challenge his abilities, Brashear became the first amputee diver to ever serve. However, his dream was not yet accomplished. It wasn't until June 1970 that Carl Brashear received the honor of being named the first African-American Master Diver in the U.S. Navy. He had faced many obstacles on his journey but he had finally accomplished his dream.

Today, Carl Brashear is retired with three children and living in Virginia. He went on to further his education, as well as serve under President Eisenhower in Washington D.C.

Brashear is proud of his accomplishments and he is grateful to have the opportunity to have his story told.

"If there is one thing that people learn from watching the movie Men of Honor, I hope it will be that if you love yourself, set goals, and work toward them with all of your might, you can accomplish anything. Be inspired to have a dream and never let anybody come between you and that dream."
Floating sculpture to launch in April

By Laurel Ancil
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The Art Club Members traveled to New York City in Nov. 2000, where they visited the Guggenheim, MOMA, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The Art Club has been participating in new and exciting events for the spring semester. After Spring Break, the first ever Art Club T-shirt will be ready and worn around campus. There will also be a mural constructed in a retirement community.

In April, the group will be working with an artist from Georgia Southern University who is part of the French Letterist movement. The art club is sponsoring him to come and speak, as well as to launch a floating Letterist sculpture on one of the campus ponds. Along with trips to the HIGH to see Degas, the art club will be going to Georgia State and UGA to tour their art programs. "[The Art Club] is definitely the club to go out and have a great time with, see artwork from all the big name artists from around the world, and just enjoy the company of other artists," said Art Club President Jessie Milligan.

Where do you go from here?

Once you've finished your associate degree,
It's time to take the next step!

The State University of West Georgia in Carrollton, Georgia, is a great place to pursue your baccalaureate degree. Our 19:1 student-to-faculty ratio keeps classes small and dynamic, and students have easy access to advanced technology, as well as research opportunities not usually available to undergraduates. We offer 12 bachelor's degrees in more than 55 programs of study:

- Bachelor of Arts
- Bachelor of Business Administration
- Bachelor of Fine Arts
- Bachelor of Music
- Bachelor of Science
- Bachelor of Science in Chemistry
- Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science
- Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- Bachelor of Science in Recreation
- Bachelor of Science in Earth Science
- Bachelor of Science in Education
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- Bachelor of Science in Recreation

Visit us on Transfer Visitation Day!

Tour the campus and attend sessions on academic and extracurricular programs, admission requirements, residence life, transfer of credit, financial aid and career services.

March 29 • 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. • Kathy Cashen Recital Hall, Humanities Building
**E D I T O R I A L**

Common courtesy on campus: Where is it?

We realize that some people on campus are extremely polite and we appreciate this. Please realize that the following does not apply to those that fall into the “courteous” category:

It's not too difficult to hold open a door for the person directly behind you, or better yet, say “thank you” to the person kind enough to open a door for you.

While driving, quit ignoring the crosswalks and take two seconds to let pedestrians cross the street.

If a person is having car trouble, ask if there is anything you can do to help. We’re not suggesting that you should offer to pay for a tow-truck or locksmith, but if you have a cell phone, slim-jim, jumper cables, etc., put them to good use.

When it comes to the volume of music, we don’t want to hear what we’re not listening to in our own vehicles. Turn it down — please. Not everyone enjoys the same type of music.

Don’t litter. Those responsible for cleaning up around campus shouldn’t have to pick up things which can be disposed of easily. Which brings us to another thing: cigarette butts. There are designated bins in which to discard smoked cigarettes. How about using them?

Also, there are various courtesy phones placed around campus. The time limit on these phones varies from 3 min. to 5 min. If people are waiting to use the phone you happen to be speaking on, please abide by the time limit posted. After all, these phones are a free service provided for GC students.

Everyone should try to follow the infamous Golden Rule: Don’t be a jerk. If people on campus kept this policy in mind daily, then it would be easier for all of us to come to school with a better mindset.
OPINIONS

YOU HEARD ME...

Hello friends,

The article that you have just started reading is my eighth attempt at writing my column for the month of March. There are a number of ideas that I want to address and comment on, many of which are national issues that my relentlessly smartass remarks attack on a regular basis.

But now the pressure to provide those comments has reached its ultimate peak. When I’m at home in the evenings, I sit down and turn on the news (yeah, I know, it’s not that surprising). Minute after minute, an anchor or correspondent will tell me about one tragedy after another. There are rare days that the media can share some good news with the public, but those days seem to be disappearing at an unbelievably fast rate.

Or maybe it’s just me. No...I take that back. It’s everyone.

Based on observations I’ve made throughout my life, it seems that there is only one solid element that connects all human beings: we’re all able to make each other very nervous. By the time you finish reading this article, I hope my point will be made very clear, but my view may be wrong. After all, I’m sure you’re a gifted person, one who assumes that if you don’t do anything idiotic, then nothing idiotic will happen to you.

Many people call that way of thinking, “Step 1: Denial”.

Maybe it’s just mass paranoia caused by the media, but in the past 5 years alone, there have been nearly a dozen school shootings that have been exploited before the entire nation, including the March 5 lone gunman rampage near San Diego. Remember, a dozen of these events have made it to national television. Have you ever thought about how many schools there are in your country? Your state? Your county? If you’ve answered, “Too many to count,” then you’re probably right. See if you can answer this one just as easily: How many acts of school violence do you think occur daily across the country that we will never hear about?

And how many students in this country will grow up while seeing the same frightening events again and again?

What makes you so sure that the person sitting next to you will not appear on the news next, whether something happened to them or they made something happen themselves?

See? This is just at home. There are so many other pressures worldwide that are resting on the fate of our future. We’ve got warfare brewing in the Middle East, the constant threat of nuclear tyranny from both domestic and foreign powers, global warming, widespread disease, poverty, homelessness.

And let’s not forget the worst intimidator of all, the absolute destruction of society as we know it...brought to you by the new AOL Time Warner.

Oh, did I forget to mention the only thing more powerful than anything I listed above? The only thing that could save us from all of these fears that we see or read about every single day?

Our own conscience, and for many people, their conscience is lacking common sense.

With so many people on this planet, I think we’ve begun to lose the ground we stand on. Everything has become based on money, religion, territory, or simple selfishness. World peace is becoming more of a hopeless joke than it has ever been before. It just leaves many people, including myself, asking, “Where did it all go wrong?”

And will we ever hear any good news again?

I guess the overall point I’m trying to make is that there are plenty of reasons to be scared. Maybe I’m just losing faith in the stability of the world as we know it. Why not? Based on everything I’ve said above, I’ve got every reason to be, as do you, unless of course, you just don’t care.

But if you’re going to keep yourself in that naive way of thinking that makes you feel invincible to anything that is tragic or destructive, then welcome to “Step 1”. Be sure to take your medicine twice a day and call me when you wake up to reality.

--David is editor in chief of The Compass. You can respond to his thoughts at edchief@compass@hotmail.com.

March 9, 2001

SORBA is dedicated to help kids

Belinda Sauret is an Associate Professor of Spanish at Gainesville College.

NICK BROWN is a staff writer for The Compass.

As you can see in this issue of The Compass, there are a number of things that need to be said about the sorority SORBA. The organization is dedicated to helping kids, and their efforts continue to be recognized by the college community.

In the past five years, colleges across the country have been switching their academic schedules from the quarter system to the semester system. Now after several years of the semester system in place, some college students are questioning whether it is truly better for the college student.

The quarter system is set up to have three main sessions a year: fall, winter, and spring, each being three months long. In the quarter system, a student usually takes around 3 courses, usually worth 4-5 hours of quarter credit each, and attends those classes daily.

In the semester system setup, a student takes around 5 classes. Each of these classes is worth 3-4 hours of semester credit, and the student only goes to those classes 2 or 3 days a week depending on the student’s individual schedule.

Many teachers are saying that full-time students, especially those that are involved in extracurricular activities, are truly overloaded to perform their best in their school work. I can see both sides of the issue said Michael Ryan, Instructor of Economics, “but while the lighter work load in a quarter system would be better for some students, the semester system also makes you ready for the future miles of trail while coaxing, cajoling, and reassessing a sixth grader that he/she can go down that scary-looking incline, up the other side and be thrilled by the zoom-zoom of the ride. You can stand beside the trail just at the point where he/she is sure he/she is going to fall (he/she won’t) and promise to catch him/her.

You can do this because you don’t have to drive some place else: This community service takes place right on GC’s campus and each day is a small commitment of time.

You can do this since you’ll have something to show for it afterwards: credit on the co-curricular transcript for taking the trouble to get involved and the adoration of middle school students who can’t believe that you took an interest in them.

You can get in contact with Tom Sauret at 770-718-3674 or tsauaret@gepeace.net or with me, Belinda A. Sauret at 770-718-3893 or bsauaret@gepeace.net. You can also come to a meeting of GC SORBA in Academic II-172 on Wednesdays at 12:00PM.

Quarter system is more beneficial

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Students await Spring Break: March 12-16

ACADEMICS

Spring Break runs through the week of March 12-16.

Regents Testing on March 19 & 20 and March 22 & 23 in the Cont. Ed. Building at 2:30 & 7:30 p.m.

Classes End on April 26.

Finals run through April 30 and May 1-3.

Graduation is on May 3.

MUSIC

Big Band Show on March 8-10 at 7:30 to 9 p.m. in the Ed Cabell Theater. Reservations are recommended. Box Office opens Feb. 19. 770-718-3863 or 770-718-3624 for tickets.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Spring Fling on March 21 in the SC at 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Dollar Dinner on March 22 in the SC at 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Sand Volleyball Tournament on March 23 in the Peach Pit at noon.

Blood Drive on March 26 in the Gym at 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

X-Treme Air on April 2 outside 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Job Fair on April 4 in the SC at 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

 Doubles Ping Pong on April 9 in the Game Room at noon.

INTRAMURALS

Power Lift Meet on March 28 in the Fitness Center at 12:15 P.M.

Cross Cultural Connections: Meetings: Wednesdays at 12 p.m. in Room 181 of ACAD II
Contact: Ryan Terrell (rterrell@mercury.gc.peachnet.edu)

Democrat/Republican Club: Meetings: Mondays at 12 p.m. in Room 103 of ACAD II
Contact: Dougie Young (dyoung@mercury.gc.peachnet.edu)

Future Health Professionals: Meetings: Every other Wednesday at 12 p.m. in Science Building
Contact: Davina Schwartz (dsch9442@mercury.gc.peachnet.edu)

Latino Student Association: Meetings: Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in PROF Office in Science Building
Contact: Lee Arizto (lizarito@mercury.gc.peachnet.edu)

Literature and Film Club: Meetings: Wednesdays at 12 p.m. in Room 117 in ACAD II
Contact: Edith Amoreles (ean2010@mercury.gc.peachnet.edu)

Nath Club: Meetings: Wednesdays at 12 p.m. in Room 138 of ACAD II
Contact: B.J. Cooksey (bcoksey@mercury.gc.peachnet.edu)

Multicultural Student Association: Meetings: 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 12 p.m. in Lower C of Student Center
Contact: Maris Helson (mhelson@mercury.gc.peachnet.edu)

Physics Club and Engineering Club: Meetings: Bi-Monthly in Room 228 of Science Building
Contact: J.B. Sharma (jsharma@mercury.gc.peachnet.edu)

Ambassadors: Meeting: Every other Thursday at 11 a.m. in Lower A of Student Center
Contact: Shannon Miles (sml072@mercury.gc.peachnet.edu)

Anime Club: Meetings: Thursdays at 3:00 p.m. in Lower C of the Student Center
Contact: Dean Trippe (xam@ad.com)

Art Club: Meetings: Mondays at 12 p.m. in Room 119 of Music/Art Building
Contact: Stacey Kothman (skothman@mercury.gc.peachnet.edu)

Baptist Student Union: Meetings: Wednesdays at 12 p.m. in Lower ABC of Student Center
Contact: Julie Sotelo (psotelo@mercury.gc.peachnet.edu)

Campus Activities Board: Meetings: Every other Friday at 12 p.m. in Lower Faculty Dining Room in Student Center
Contact: Michelle S. Brown (rbrown@mercury.gc.peachnet.edu)

Campus Crusade for Christ: Meetings: Mondays at 12 p.m. in Lower A of Student Center
Contact: Sarah Booker (bbooker@mercury.gc.peachnet.edu)

College Republicans: Contact: Stephanie Kitchen (skitchen@mercury.gc.peachnet.edu)

Computer Club: Meetings: Every other Wednesday at 12 p.m. in Room 138 of ACAD II
Contact: Tom Burns (burns@mercury.gc.peachnet.edu)

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President’s Council: Meeting: November 17
Contact: Michelle S. Brown
(mbrown@mercury.gc.peachnet.edu)

Second Wind: Meetings: Every other Thursday at 12 p.m. in Lower Faculty Dining Room of Student Center
Contact: Brenda Adams
(badams@mercury.gc.peachnet.edu)

Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association (SORBA): Contact: Tom Sautel
(tsaulet@mercury.gc.peachnet.edu)

Students for Environmental Awareness: Meetings: Friday at 12 p.m. in Room 136 of Science Building
Contact: Mike Johnson
(mjohnson@mercury.gc.peachnet.edu)

Student Georgia Association of Educators: Meetings: Tuesdays at 12 p.m. in Student Center
Contact: Rachel Baer
(rbaer@mercury.gc.peachnet.edu)

Student Government Association: Meetings: Every other Friday at 12 p.m. in Lower Faculty Dining Room in Student Center
Contact: Michelle S. Brown
(mbrown@mercury.gc.peachnet.edu)

Students In Free Enterprises: Meetings: Fridays at 12 p.m. in Room 186 of ACAD II
Contact: Kate Simmons
(ksimmons@mercury.gc.peachnet.edu)

Anyone who needs to add/change any information can contact Carmen Brookes at clubs_compass@hotmail.com

Send all announcements concerning club news and events for Spring, Summer and Fall to Clubs_compass@hotmail.com by March 25, 2001.