GC Athens Center Gets New Home
Move to Truett McConnell Campus Begins in Summer
See the New Campus Pages 2 & 3

What is the GC Community Saying?
GC Opinion Poll Page 4
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GC Says Goodbye to Sallie Duhling Page 6
Arena Football Comes to Georgia Page 9
GC Events Calendar Page 23

War in Iraq

Inside:
**BRIEFS**

**Scientists Point Out Dying as Leading Cause of Death Worldwide**
Scientists at the Medical University of Libya claim that, after years of research, dying has been proven to cause death in 100 percent of the reported cases. Signs of dying include: cold body temperature, rigor mortis, lack of responsiveness, etc.

**Franz Ferdinand Found Alive, World War I a Mistake**
Historians in the Balkans have found Franz Ferdinand, the famed Archduke of Austria, alive and running a small bed and breakfast in southwest Serbia. Eastern Europe apologized for WWI at a news conference in Belgrade.

**Would You Believe She's 103?**
Archaeologists and other assorted scientists have discovered the corpse of singer/actress Cher under roughly 100 years worth of make-up build-up. Hollywood mourned and rejoiced the report.

**Snideness Level Reaches All-Time High**
The Compass Staff has reported that their own snideness level has reached a record high.

**Martha Burk To Hold 'Nude' Protests**
Martha Burk held a press conference to announce that the protests her group would hold during the Masters tournament would be nude. The press corps fled in terror, chaos ensued. A box of Pop-Tarts was stolen from Augusta grocery store during the riot.

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**Parking Deck to Replace Student Center**

By Blake Duncan
News Editor
bdun5653@gc.peachnet.edu

As most students will say, parking has become a serious problem at Gainesville College. Campus Security, along with the Hall County Zoning Committee and the Board of Regents have devised a solution to this overbearing problem.

"During the summer and fall semesters of 2003, the University System will be tearing down the Student Center and the Music building in order to erect a four-story parking deck over the existing parking lot," said a Board of Regents spokesperson.

Other building projects that are expected to last for two years or more will increase GC's student capacity to over 15,000. Academic II will see additions that will add a second and third floor, along with a larger courtyard area. Academic III will be expanded and turned into one building with the Administration Offices. The Science Building will gain three new floors and a helipad so that helicopters can transport injured chemistry students to local hospitals.

Campus Security is looking forward to these changes, stating that it will allow the department to expand and add another 45 security personnel to the payroll, along with 30 new trucks and a van or two.

This will be the most extensive rebuilding project GC has undertaken since installing the underground warehouse under the soccer field. As for tuition and student activity fees, both will go up, the administration office claims. Tuition for in-state students will rise from roughly $700 to around $4,500, and student activity fees will go from $39 to $390.

"The parking deck is the most important thing for us at the moment. Once we get that built we can open up the field on the west side of campus for development. Orange Julius and Sbarro have already contacted us about opening up shops there," said the same Board of Regents spokesperson.

Student Government Association and the Campus Activities Board will be working hand-in-hand with the Board of Regents to make sure that students do not feel the rise in tuition and fees is not appreciated.

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**Goose Sues Student for Hit and Run**

By Blake Duncan
News Editor
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During an afternoon news conference on Feb. 28, Gainesville College security officers announced that a member of GC's unofficial mascot group, the Geese, was suing a student at the school for pain and suffering inflicted by a hit and run accident two weeks before.

The incident happened on Feb. 16, at roughly 2:15 p.m., when the student, driving a four-wheeled unlead gas-powered vehicle, struck the goose at the campus's main entrance. Authorities responded within two hours of the event.

The investigation began almost immediately after the incident occurred. A GC student who is a member of PETA's militant wing phoned the Hall County Department of Animal Affairs, who in turn contacted the Georgia State Department of Animal Affairs, who in turn contacted the Oakwood police. The

The goose was unable to schedule a photograph session, so we bring you this totally unrelated picture of Elmo. But isn't he just so cute and furry. Don't you just want to cuddle him?

PETA member could not be reached for comment, but did release a statement saying that his/her group would be willing to forgive the student who maimed the goose if that person agreed to become a level five vegan and not eat anything that casts a shadow.

An unnamed and totally unconfirmed Oakwood police source claimed that the student who perpetrated the crime would remain anonymous throughout the course of the investigation, after which they would become the object of mass amounts of ridicule.

The goose in question will be undergoing therapy and treatment at South Hall Veterinary Clinic for injuries ranging from two broken wings to a fractured bill. However, the goose is currently in an upper-body cast and confined to a miniature wheelchair. The Veterinary Clinic says the goose will be in rehabilitation for at least the next three months, while the student faces a fine of $400 and jail time.
The New GC Athens Campus

The Campus
Many current GC Athens students have complaints regarding parking. This will be much less of a problem at the new campus.

Biology Labs
The biology labs, like the one pictured above in the Claude P. Smith building, are completely stocked with most things necessary for all science lab classes.

Computer Labs
The new Athens campus will provide students with many new computers. Technology will be up-to-date and more accessible to students.

Claude P. Smith Building
The Claude P. Smith Building houses many classrooms and labs.

The Library
Unlike the current GC Athens Center, next fall's GC Athens students will have a complete library at their convenience.

Student Center
There are multiple student seating areas around the new campus. This will give Athens students more of a feel for college life.
Emotions Run High at GC War Forum

By Heather Hodges
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Emotions ran high at the March 26 Gainesville College Iraqi panel discussion, where anti-war sentiments were drowned out by the many voices of war supporters.

The Politically Incorrect Club sponsored the event that brought together all of the GC community and even some outsiders to discuss the situation in Iraq. GC professors and students joined the panel to discuss their views on the war. Bunderlai Dunham, assistant professor of Spanish, served as moderator.

Pamela Sezgin, professor of anthropology, gave an introduction to better acquaint the audience with Iraq. She spoke about life in Iraq, the Iraqi government, family life, the oil industry, religions of the country and the geography of Iraq.

Each of the panelists then gave their opening comments expressing their views on the war. Kurdish GC student Shilan Amedi spoke first, followed by her brother, student Butan Amedi. Jason Mosser, a assistant professor of English, expressed his anti-war stance. He said that, while he supports the troops, he does not support the reasons for the war. Lewis Rogers, professor of geology and physical sciences and a war veteran, described himself as a “middle-of-the-roader.” But he said, “Right now, we've got to back these troops.” Martin Wilson, professor of history and English citizen spoke about support for the war in Britain, saying that support was by no means unanimous. He also noted that United Nations action 12 years earlier would have prevented much of today’s trouble. Finally, Douglas Young, a associate professor of political science and history, and advisor of the Politically Incorrect Club, supported the war. He said, “I do firmly believe that the risks of us not liberating Iraq are far greater,” due to humanitarian risks, risks to Middle East security and risks of terrorism.

The audience was then given an open floor to ask questions and to state their own views. More took advantage of the opportunity to have their views heard than to ask questions of the panel.

Student Emily Van Dyke expressed her view that, as a strong democratic country, it is America's moral obligation to liberate the people of Iraq. Nick Tillford, a nother GC student, opposed Mosser’s arguments in a very matter-of-fact manner.

Many supporters of the war expressed concerns as to the effects that protesters will have on the war and on public opinion. Young, however, defended the right to protest, stating that protesters were actually very patriotic.

From the audience emerged many war veterans, including student George Lambert and GC public safety officer Richard Thompson. Lambert, who has seen four wars in his lifetime, said that most people today do not know what war is. Thompson said, in an emotional speech, that the problem was in trying to negotiate with the UN, echoing what Wilson had said in his opening comments. Rogers concurred, saying, “The mistake was trying to get the UN to agree with us. We don’t need them now, and we didn’t need them then.”

Very little support came for the anti-war side. Andrew McAlister, a assistant professor of English, did voice his concerns about the war near the end of the discussion. Despite the imbalance, a respectful tone was maintained.

Would you like to send a letter or care package to the deployed troops?

Send Letters to:
Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Send Packages to:
SgtMaj William Johnson, Jr.
VMA-214
UIC 41017
FPO AP 96614-1017

*Packages will be sent to Marine Attack Squadron 214. The following items are prohibited: pornography, drugs, alcoholic beverages, firearms, ammunition and explosives.

What are your thoughts about the war in Iraq?

"Initially, I was concerned because President Bush did not present enough evidence to justify going to war. Since the war started, my attitude has changed because I see how happy the Iraqi people are since we liberated them from such a horrible aggressor."

Caitlin Wills-Toker
Assistant Professor of Speech

"This is the most successful military campaign ever in terms of having so few casualties. I have never been prouder of our troops. I love it that the campaign has been successful; I am just filled with pride. We have liberated one of the most depressed peoples in history."

Douglas Young
Associate Professor of Political Science and History

"I am totally in support of our troops and the actions we are taking. It is definitely in the best interest of our country to go over there and take care of things now and not give Saddam any more time to prepare. The U.S. troops are there doing their best."

Wendy DeRoche
SGA President

"The war is overdue. I believe in the next few months, we will find weapons of mass destruction and that will really justify the war. The French, Germans and Russians should not have very much say in the rebuilding of Iraq; we (the US) spilled our blood."

Michael Martin
G.I.S.

"We could do it much quicker and more efficiently...without using as much money."

Matt Killion
Computer Science

"Saddam Hussein should be removed from power, but I really don't think we should have ignored our allies. Soldiers are being killed and families are being torn apart. Before we got into the war I think we should have listened to the French who we have been allied with for hundreds of years."

Sara Nodine
Psychiatry
AMENITIES

- Private bedrooms with adjacent private bathrooms
- Individual bedroom locks and keys available
- Washer and dryer in every apartment
- State-of-the-art computer center
- Resort-style pool with sundeck and stereo system
- Great location near campus
- Gameroom including billiards room & foosball
- Professional management
- 24-hour emergency maintenance
- Individual lease by the bedroom
- Brand new Whirlpool appliances including: frost-free refrigerator with ice-maker, dishwasher, disposal and built-in microwave
- Fitness center featuring cardio equipment
- Free matching service if you need a roommate
- All utilities included except phone service

From Gainesville College, take Landrum Education Dr. to Frontage Rd. Make a left onto Frontage Rd. Take Frontage Rd. to Atlanta Hwy. Make a left onto Atlanta Hwy. Head North until you reach Tumbling Creek Rd. Make a left onto Tumbling Creek Rd. Campus Pointe will be on the right.
Bon Voyage, Sallie Duhling
After 28 Years at GC, Humanities Division Chair is Retiring

By Michele Hester
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After 28 years of service at Gainesville College, Sallie Duhling has made plans to retire at the end of spring semester.

Duhling started her career at GC in 1975 as an instructor of English. Two years later she became assistant professor of English, but she did not stop there. In 1982 while working as associate professor of English, she also proved her expertise as director of the English Department writing lab. In September 1987 Duhling received another promotion, this time to professor of English, and in 1992 she became acting chairperson of the Division of Humanities. In 1994 she officially took over as chairperson and has remained in that position since.

The Humanities Division is the largest and most diverse department on campus. According to Duhling’s close friend and colleague Carol Howard (formerly Carol Pinson), holding together such a varied group of individuals with such a wide range of personalities has been “one of Sallie’s biggest accomplishments” at GC. Howard also adds that she feels Duhling’s respect as an educator comes from her tolerance of other’s ideas. “She listens and is slow to show anger and disapproval,” says Howard. “She is so much fun to be around. I will miss her, and I will always remember how much fun we used to have at those 7 a.m. gossip sessions with Dr. John Bailey.”

Alfred Barker, a former GC student, met Duhling in an evening Learning Support English class in the mid-nineties. Barker recalls his first encounter with Duhling, “She entered the classroom, which was a couple of trailers parked outside Academic II, and immediately made us feel comfortable.” Barker recalls. Barker even remembers that Duhling was wearing “cotton pants, wool socks, and sandals,” and he could tell that “her desire was to help us prepare for college level English.”

Barker says that even though Duhling is an opponent of the ideas of war and Barker himself a retired Marine, they were always able to “sit and talk and share with each other” in ways that he never thought possible. “Dr. Duhling was always encouraging, and I found the discovery of English to be so enriching,” said Barker. Because of Duhling’s effervescence, Barker joined the staff of the literary magazine and eventually became president of the English Club. Today, thanks to Duhling’s constant encouragement and guidance, Barker is employed by the GC Continuing Education Department as a program coordinator for Information Technology.

Janice Nylander, GC humanities secretary began working at GC in 1987. At first she said she was very intimidated “working with so many highly educated people.” Then she met Duhling, one of the first people to “put me at ease and let me know that I, too, had an important place in the division.” Nylander says she was “ticked off” when she first found out Duhling was retiring because “I am older than she is, and I will miss her very much. I just want her to thrive and be happy and have a good time.”

Duhling has been a part of GC for so long, and she will be greatly missed. She has agreed to stay at GC as an adjunct teacher and will teach a few classes in the fall. “I am just glad I could be here for my students, my faculty, my peers, and my friends,” Duhling stated, “but for now, I am really glad that I will have enough time to just hang out and relax.”

Tom Tuggle, GC professor of English, also recently announced his plans to retire at the end of the semester. Tuggle and Duhling attended graduate school together at UGA and have remained friends throughout the years. When asked about their long-time friendship, Tuggle said, “We decided many years ago that we have to stay friends because we know too much about each other.” Tuggle, who has taught at GC since 1981 and headed the Honors Program for ten years, says he plans to “do some things that I haven’t had time to do, like reading and maybe volunteering in the community.” When asked what he will miss the most about GC, Tuggle replied “the interaction with my colleagues and my students.” Tuggle plans to teach a few classes at GC’s Athens Center in the fall.

Where Are Your Fees Going?

Kassie Davis
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With the economy down and prices high, many students at Gainesville College are counting every penny. Where financial aid and parents help some students with tuition, books and additional fees, many students do not share in this luxury.

For a full-time, in-state student to attend GC, the average cost is $745. This cost includes the $666 tuition, $30 technology fee and the $39 student activities fee. If you use auto registration, they also tack on an additional $10. Most students realize what the tuition pays for, the ability to attend this college, and the technology fee, the ability to use computers and other technological aids, but some question the student activities fees.

Jessica Duncan, a full-time student, says this “I don’t know what the student activities fees are for; if I did I would feel a lot better about dishing out another 40 bucks.”

Student activity fees are used in a number of ways to help light up campus life and to make college more enjoyable. There are currently 30 clubs at GC that receive primary funding from our student activity fees. Some of these include the Art Club, Compass, Film and Literature Club, Student Government Association and the Visual Arts Magazine, just to name a few.

The amount of money given to a specific club is decided in budget hearings. The spokesperson for the club stands before the budget committee and gives them a list of reasons why their club needs a certain amount of money. The committee then decides who gets what and how much. The budget hearings for 2003 fall semester were held Feb. 28 and March 3, 5 and 7.

Other services funded by the Student Activities Fees include but are not limited to the use of the game room, free copies of the Atlanta Journal Constitution, free day trips, student IDs, discount movie passes, campus courtesy phones and the Honors Day program.

Other GC Faculty/Staff Planning to Retire This Summer

Tom Tuggle
Tuggle started working at GC in 1981 as a professor of English. He has headed the Honors Program for 10 years and was coordinator of the English department for nine years.

Ann Forziati
Forziati began working at GC in 1990 as secretary to the music and art faculty.

Ray Hughes
Hughes became employed at GC as custodian in the gymnasium in 1992 and will continue that job until he retires in August.
April Declared National Trend-Challenged Month

In light of all the current months dedicated to different groups in American culture, I find myself slightly left out. I imagine having an entire month dedicated to you would make you feel somewhat upbeat—and lately upbeat is anything but how I’ve felt. I’m five foot nothing, yet somehow thick, if you will. I wear large, black horn-rimmed glasses and my hair is starting to recede, yet I still wear it somewhat shaggy and parted on the side. The only job I could get is at the local mall selling women’s accessories to pre-pubescent girls for a couple dollars over minimum wage an hour. I spend way too much time searching for old vinyl records and vintage clothing on the Internet. Sometimes, if I’m feeling a bit frolicsome and in the mood to cut a rug, I make an appearance at a local venue, that hosts a n 80s-theme dance on

Thursday nights, where I can showcase my vintage daisy duke shorts. Where most people my age enjoy listening to music on the way to school, I enjoy listening to talk-radio (my day is just not complete without the cutting-edge consumer advice of Clark Howard). To top it off, I actually like to read.

Let’s face it, I’m a geek. In case you don’t know what a geek is, it is defined as anyone whose actions cause him to retreat into a subculture of the same ilk, and does not conform to the norm of society. However, as horrible as this may sound, I am extremely privileged to fit into this elite sect of unrecognized individuals all over the planet. That is why I propose to make April national trend-challenged people’s month, where geeks, nerds, dweebs, dorks, techies, lamer-o’s, losers, bookworms, and yes, trekkies can unite around the world and claim the attention that is rightfully theirs. For years, trend-challenged people have been ridiculed by popular culture and regularly downtrodden by hip people everywhere. Geeks everywhere can proudly wave their dungeon master’s guide in celebration of national trend-challenged month. I hope to make it acceptable to wear pocket protectors, suspenders and use musical spray year-round. So, next time you’re about to call someone a nerd, trip a geek, or god forbid put down William Shatner, remember April is national trend-challenged peoples month, so be nice, we’re probably going to be your bosses someday.

You Think You Know Me?

Whoop di doo! You think I’m happy, don’t you? Or, I could be sad—my face wearing a mask of joy. These emotions, however churning within me, are my own. They are mine to release at any time, no matter whose day I mess up or whose life I make horrible, or utterly icky.

Interesting, is it not? An array of emotion can cause people to lift an eyebrow in amusement, or cuddle within a corner in fear. I suggest that more people wear their hearts on their sleeves. Sure, this may lead to an uproar, causing women to consume an unlawful amount of Midol, and men to acquire a lifetime of black-eyes. I say, the more emotion, the merrier!

Ha! Just imagine, if you will, a roller-coaster ride called life: where everything is ten times as intense, frightening and freaky. When you are happy, skip down your neighborhood street, yelling “Look at me! Look at me! I am happy! Hee! Hee!”, as you throw brightly colored confetti all around, creating your very own happy parade. When you are angry at someone, take a stuffed animal (preferably a cute little teddy bear with glossy eyes and soft stuffing) and go up to that person, entertain them with a stunning display of teddy-bear-abuse and proclaim “This is what will happen to you if you tick me off again. Alright?” Or, when you are bored out of your mind, find the most revolting and hideous get-up, carry around a camera, and introduce yourself to random people asking “Excuse me, sir/ma’am. I have never seen anyone as odd and peculiar as you about these parts. I am in total awe. May I have my picture taken with you?”

Hmmmm. See? Life can be fun, but only if you let it be. Take your luster-lacking smile and brighten it to an insanely high voltage. Take your frown, never turn it upside down, and suck so hard that by the age of thirty you will appear to be twenty years older. Unleash the drama! Let it grow a deep, harsh burden within you and others. Giggle in ecstasy, cry in agony. Let it be known that you are free. You are an animated, feeling (and alneeding of extensive therapy), but life is far too short to be lived from the sidelines.

Turn up the volume of your existence and get down with your emotional self!

The Night is for Lovers

The Advantages of Being a Night Owl

I am a night-owl, and not the kind that whoops a nd hollers and blasts their music to annoying decibel levels. I’m not the kind who gets arrested for drunk and disorderly conduct or dances the night away till I’m a blubering lush, either. I pretty much stay out of trouble. I have to. It takes considerable amounts of time to cultivate the level of boredom required to seek out trouble, and I just don’t have it to spare.

Me, I simply enjoy being awake much more at night than I do during the day. The night is quieter, with fewer distractions, and fewer people to get in my way. Just the cool stillness of the evening coupled with the soft se renades of the crickets outside my window.

Forget that 10,000 Maniacs song that goes “Because the night/Belongs to lovers…” The night really belongs to the not necessarily maladjusted misanthrope. Think I’m kidding? No. The traffic. No telemarketers. Go to Wal-Mart after midnight when the ratio of employees to customers is three to one. You’ll be dancing up and down the aisles all the way to your no-wait line at the register and wondering what anybody needs with that sunlight stuff anyway.

(Just don’t slip up and forget the ratio of cops versus non-cops at that hour on your way home. That one doesn’t quite work out in your favor—especially in a community devoid of either a Krispy Kreme or a Denny’s.)

Being awake at night has its advantages. As any night-owl cursed with a dial-up modem will tell you, fewer people awake means faster service from your internet provider. It’s much easier to get away with skinny-dipping under the stars. Horror movies are scarier when watched in the dark, curled up with somebody who knows just what makes you queasiest. Conversations are free to progress unhurriedly, exploring each delicious tangent.

And nothing cures a bad case of procrastination than reaching the night before something’s due, because, for some reason, creativity seems to awaken with the bats, possums and n d moths outside my window. That of creative spark shines brighter in the dark, so to speak.

Which leads me to this question: If, in certain places within the Perimeter, I can get a Guinea at 3 a.m. (and I can get just about anything I want scattered, smoothed and covered almost anywhere in the southeast), why can’t I get an education? With increasing numbers of illegal aliens 15 to a house and seamen aboard nuclear submarines sleeping in shifts and sharing the same bunk, why shouldn’t I be able to share a desk with someone who feels more alert during the day? And don’t give me that evening school crap. Evening school schmeceening school. What I want is hardcore Midnight Mathematics. Teach me a Romance Language when I’m feeling most romantic.

Think of how many second-winders would sign up for third-shift school. Single moms in a daycare pinch wouldn’t have nearly the difficulty finding someone to watch their sleeping angels. Outdoor enthusiasts could choose to forego sleep occasionally after a night of classes in favor of playing during the day. We’d be increasing our enrollment and reducing the percentage of class discussions interrupted by the incessant ringing of cell phones in one fell swoop.

Who am I kidding? What I’m suggesting is an idea whose time has not yet come—which is just fine by me, not necessarily maladjusted misanthrope that I am.
CORRECTIONS

There were several mistakes in last month’s issue. The Compass would like to take this opportunity to correct these errors.

- There are only two “p”s in Mississippi. The Compass regrets the error.
- The Hellmouth is not located in Academic II. The Compass regrets the error.
- Playing “Counterstrike” will not result in impotence. It will result in brain damage. The Compass regrets the error.
- Ground glass is not a suitable replacement for baking soda in recipes. Oops!
- Tattooing four-letter words on your face will not in fact keep you out of the Army. Uh-oh!
- The Humanities Department does not hold human sacrifices every solstice. It does so every equinox. The Compass regrets the error.
- The Science Department is not building a nuclear weapon. Forget you ever heard anything about it. These aren’t the droids you’re looking for. Move along. There is nothing to see here.
- Suzanne Somers is not a criminal sociopath. She is a Television Personality. Really?
- Light bulbs are not edible. Oops.
- The Compass Staff are not gods. They are merely god-like. Or are they…?
- That belt does not go with those shoes.
- Old “Popeye” cartoons do not contain hidden messages inciting armed revolution.
- That funny thing in your armpit probably is a tumor. Whoops.
- -NBC’s “Friends” is not suitable viewing for minors, or anyone else for that matter. The Compass regrets the error.
- Five out of four people do not understand statistics. The Compass regrets the error.
- Janet Reno was not offered the role of Chewbacca in the next Star Wars movie; she was, however, offered the role of Professor Dumbledore in the fifth and sixth Harry Potter films. The Compass regrets the error.
- Special Operations forces did break up a suspected terrorist cell in the Cyber Café. Way to go!
- The correct temperature for baking puppies is 450 degrees F, not 350. The Compass regrets the error.
- Yes, that does look infected. The Compass regrets the error.
- Contrary to previous reports, April’s boyfriend is a jerk after all. You were right. The Compass regrets the error.
- Anti-war celebrities should not be boiled alive. They are more tender if simmered gently over a low heat. The Compass regrets the error.
- Inhabitants of the CyberCafe should report to their local Soylent processing center on May 6, not May 8. The Compass regrets the error.
- Yes, the problem is you. The Compass regrets the error.
- Repeated playing of “The Breakup Song” by the Greg Kihn Band will not, in fact, alleviate post-breakup misery. It will actually make you want to kill yourself. The Compass regrets the error.
- Kirk could kick Picard’s ass. Get over it.
- That thing under Geraldo’s nose is apparently a mustache after all. The Compass regrets the error.
- Gainesville College is not moving to Wisconsin, as this would be completely pointless. The Compass regrets the error.
- “Herbal Essence” shampoo does not offer the same pleasure as a sexual experience. Apparently this is a commercial ploy. The Compass regrets the error.
- “CounterStrike” players were not offered free on-campus housing in an act of pity by the administration. They were in fact threatened with physical violence if they didn’t stop playing. The Compass regrets the error.
A Driving Force in Arena Football

By Heather Hodges
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The score is tied. There are 10 seconds left in the game. The ball rests on the goal line. The kicker goes for the game-winning field goal. The ball hits the goal post and bounces back onto the field...and a player from the other team runs it in for a touchdown to win the game? Yes, it is football, but not the kind to which most Georgians are accustomed. It's arena football, and it has hit Georgia with quite a Force.

Since their 2002 debut, the Georgia Force have impressed sports fans and sports analysts alike. After just two seasons the team is third place in the extremely competitive Southern Division of the National Conference of the Arena Football League.

Drifting the Force to their success is head coach Marty Lowe, who joined the team midway through last season. Formerly a player in the AFL, a serious knee injury cut his career as a quarterback short. But he seems to have

found his calling as a coach. Pat Haden, football analyst for CBS, said, "Imagine Jon Gruden coaching the AFL. That's Lowe." He is similar in age to many of his players and even younger

The most devoted Georgia Force fans are at every game with blue and white hair.

than others. For some coaches, this might be difficult, but not for Lowe. "If you know what you're doing, and I'd like to believe that I do, then you are very intense in what you are doing and [the players] know it's important, then it doesn't matter," he said. "I don't look at age, and they don't either."

This season, Lowe has led the team to having the top defense in the league. But he says the recipe is "Good players. That's the bottom line." Haden calls Darryl Hammond, Force linebacker, "the best defensive player...this year—by a long shot."

Kicker Steve McLaughlin is first in the league in field goal percentage, making 52.6 percent of his attempts.

The team even defeated the 2002 ArenaBowl champions, the San Jose SaberCats.

Their perfect 5-0 record in games televised on NBC was broken in the April 6 game with Tampa Bay. When asked if he thought there might be something psychologically to this streak, Lowe said, "If it's mental, let it stay mental." Untelevised games have proven slightly less successful for the Force.

Even with their victory on the field, the Force has drawn even more success with the fans. For each home game "Force Fanatics" pile into the newly built Arena at Gwinnett Center, which seats 11,200 during football games. Parking is free, there is a wide selection of concessions from which to choose and there are restrooms at each gate.

After enjoying what one of the most state-of-the-art arenas in the state has to offer, the fans get another treat once the game begins. Players enter the field a mid clouds of fog and fireworks as their names are announced. With each touchdown the Force scores, a member of the "Stunt Force" rappels from the ceiling waving an American flag, a practice that has become especially anticipated given the recent increased patriotism.

Games for the fans provide halftime entertainment. A crowd favorite is one in which a fan must put his/her head on a bat, spin around 10 times, and then, in a dizzy stupor, touch four different signs to earn money.

The AFL made its debut in June 1987 with only four teams. It has since grown to 16 teams. Realizing that no league could compete with the NFL in traditional American football, AFL visionary James Foster knew he must do something dramatically different with the sport when he mapped out plans for a new league. Aside from bringing the game indoors, many other changes were made to make the game unique and more intense.

The game of four 15-minute quarters is played on a field that is 50 yards long. There are no sidelines, but the walls on each side serve as boundaries. This, along with the small size of the arena, brings fans closer to the action. If a ball goes into the crowd, the fan who catches it keeps it as a souvenir. On either side of the field goal are nets, off of which the ball may be played.

Arena football is largely a passing game. Players play both offense and defense, except the kicker, quarterback, offensive specialist and two defensive specialists. There is generally more scoring in arena football, with a

combined score averaging about 100 points per game.

As a former University of Georgia player, Lineman Jermaine Smith has experienced firsthand the differences between arena football and college football. But when asked how playing for the Force compares with UGA football, Smith said, "All of it is a great experience." But he said, "When you are on the field you don't see how many people are in the crowd—it's just like a wall, you are in there by yourself."

There are four games left for the Force this season, with a chance at the playoffs and a possibility of hosting the 2003 ArenaBowl.
Learn to Dress for Interview Success

By Michele Hester
Staff Writer
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As graduation quickly approaches, many GC students are making plans for the future. Some will be transferring to four-year colleges. Others will be starting their careers. Either choice will more than likely involve some type of interview.

While the content of a job interview and a college entrance interview will greatly differ, the guidelines for successful interview dress will remain the same. It is always better to lean toward the conservative side when choosing clothes for an interview.

An interview, no matter what kind, is almost never the place to exhibit fashion individuality. The key is to make a lasting impression but not with flashy or inappropriate attire.

Depending on the company or the interviewer, the way a person dresses for the meeting is as important as his/her qualifications, education or experience. Of course, dressing the part does not come cheap. As the old saying goes, “You have to spend money to make money,” and this is especially true when purchasing interview-wear.

The ideal interview outfit for a woman is a two-piece wool-blend skirt suit in black, navy or gray, accompanied by a neutral shade, silk blouse. The skirt should fall just below the knee, while the jacket should fit loose enough to hide any bust-line curves. Skin tone hosiery are a necessity, and shoes should be ultra-conservative, leather pumps with a heel no higher than 1 1/2 inches. A leather briefcase or planner are more professional than a purse, but a purse can be carried only if it is of the same color and quality leather as the shoes. An added touch would be a gold or silver black ink pen. Simple jewelry and minimal perfume are also appropriate.

For men, a two piece business suit in dark blue or gray is best. Neckties are very professional but only if they are silk with a conservative pattern. Dark socks and shoes are preferred, and shoes should be shined. Facial hair should be neat and trimmed, except for beards, which are not appropriate in an interview. It is also a good idea to get a hair cut. The only acceptable piece of men’s jewelry is a wedding band. Again, a briefcase or planner in the same quality leather as the shoes gives a more professional appearance. Hopefully, these few tips will make the interview process a bit easier. But if you are still unsure about what to wear, it can never hurt to call the company or college with which you plan to interview and ask what would be appropriate dress for the interview. Good luck!
Chicks, Booze, Tanker

By Drew Sherwood
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A furious explosion of sound overtakes me as I sit outside a small room stacked with amps and other musical equipment that would take me decades to figure out. The music does not seem to simply spring forth from these musicians; it seems that it rips from them like a demon might be ripped from an exorcism victim. When the music pauses for even a second, I realize I’m exhausted. The music has not driven away my energy, but the lack of it drains me.

All the members of the band Tanker seem satisfied, if not calm, when they play. I don’t mean calm in some quiet way, but calm in a sense of peace at a single moment. But this moment is fleeting.

The music swings into a nether region of subconscious that did not exist previous to this moment. The music has changed, and now it throws you into a non-stop whirlwind of sound. It tears at your insides, your entire body seems to quiver and shake with against the music. It seems as if something so good can be nothing shy of overwhelming. Tanker is like uncut heroin when it hits your system. You believe you will surely die, but you are merely strapped in for the ride.

As a writer, I am sad to admit my abilities are not defined enough to truly convey what this music is or why it is so good, but some things are based on feeling and energy. Things you can’t convey without electric thunder, torrents of pounding drumbeats, a kaleidoscope of noises and a seething, subtle anger...

There is something inside the chaos that relates to us the essential truth. You will never understand what you don’t know if you don’t try. The music is ever changing; it constantly aazes and confuses. The sheer power of their performance propels you into a prolonged sense of something beyond yourself. You want to know more, feel and destroy everything. This is chaos at work. They all move and work together as one force that lulls you to a still calm only to destroy with all the cunning of a jungle predator. In this "reporter’s" opinion, these guys are the best thing for my money. Also, I’m hoping they get famous, because if nothing else, I think The Suckstreet Boys and N’suck will go into hiding when they see these guys. They should, too. I’ve seen the master plan.

Jared Forester plays the bass. Ken Williams plays the rhythm guitar and sings lead vocals. Creed Carder plays the lead guitar; he is also the noise maker. Josh Skelton beats the hell out of those drums.

Tanker has been together for two and a half years. Their album is called The Red Immortals. You can currently buy copies of the CD from Williams here at GC or on their website at www.tankermusic.com.

Williams said, “The hope of becoming a musician forever makes me happy.”

So that is my view of Tanker. All of you who know me have already stampeded Ken to get CDs. All of the rest of you morons are probably staring at this page, furrowing your brow in a vain attempt to understand what these words mean. Well, I command you to either go buy The Red Immortals or punch yourself in the face. You call that a punch? You can hit harder than that little girl. What? You think you’re better than me?

The Tanker CD is available at tankermusic.com

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Encounter Evanescence

A chillingly haunting and mysterious new sound has found its way into mainstream music. Evanescence’s debut album, entitled Fallen, has recently been featured in the much-anticipated movie, Daredevil. This flick’s soundtrack includes two songs from Fallen: “Bring Me to Life” and “My Immortal.”

Vocalist Amy Lee and lead guitarist Ben Moody are the founding members of the band, along with guitarist John LeCompt and drummer Rocky Gray. Having met in late adolescence, Lee and Moody collaborated to create a sound deemed as a rarity in their hometown of Little Rock, Arkansas. Lee describes their music in saying, “We’re definitely a rock band, but the twist is that the band’s music is [a mix of] epic, dramatic [and] dark rock.” A majority of Fallen delivers an ambient and gothic presence, expressing deeply intimate emotions both delicately and eerily.

On the first track, “Going Under,” Lee belts out the frustration of giving all one has and not receiving anything in return. As a result, she becomes victim to a love that is destructive to her soul. She reveals, “I’m dying again/I’m going under/drowning in you/I’m falling forever/ I’ve got to break through.”

A short intro showcasing the fragile, ethereal quality that Lee’s voice can take on when paired with a piano, begins the now popular “Bring Me to Life.” This track soon evolves into an anthem with pulsating beats and Moody’s heavy guitar chords, both reappearing and growing with each additional track.

By far, the most stunningly intimate song on Fallen is “My Immortal.” Paired up once again with only a piano in the background, Lee’s voice resonates with a heart-gripping tone. Her lyrics speak of love lost and the hurt that still lives within her: “...this pain is just too real/there’s just too much that time cannot erase...and I’ve held your hand through all of these years/but you still have all of me.”

Truly, two of the most gothic and chilling songs on this album would have to be “Haunted” and “Tourniquet.” Lee’s vocals at times can be downright creepy and raw, as clearly indicated in “Haunted.” Lee actually arranged back-up vocals—a chamber choir with the intention of pleasantly frightening the listener.

When “Tourniquet” begins, it seems you have been ushered into a dark, hidden place deep within the mind of Lee. “do you remember me/? I lost for so long/ will you be on the other side/ or will you forget me?”

The album then appropriately sinks into a sweeping epic of beauty as bestowed in “Imaginary.” Lee escapes from reality and asks you to join her and travel into the imaginary, singing, “in my field of paper flowers/ and candy clouds of lullaby/ I like inside myself for hours/ and watch my purple sky fly over me.”

Unleashing more feelings of a wandering heart and mind, the touching “Hello” showcases Lee’s radiant lyrical and vocal abilities. She releases an emotion that most singers can’t even reach: “...soon I know I’ll wake from this dream/ don’t try to fix me, I’m not broken/hello, I’m the lie living for you...don’t cry.”

Encounter a realm of pure emotion and breath-taking talent only Evanescence can provide.

Of Anime, Oscar and Misplaced Protest

Well, another Oscar telecast-cum-self-congratulatory-snoozefest has come and gone, and not much in the way of surprises. Chicago took Best Pic (yawn), Nicole Kidman got Best Actress (snore), and Spirited Away won Best Animated Picture (zzz... what? WHAT?) Did I just write that? Did a Japanese animated film just win a freakin’ OSCAR? Well, I’ll be dad-blamed. I’m pretty sure that some of the Academy (who have never been known for their smarts) voted for it just because Sen to Chihiro no kamikakushi sounded artsy, but what the hell? Hayao Miyazaki rules! Finally, some legitimacy for the anime industry. The otaku triumph! All these years of trying to convince people that anime was good stuff, finally I am vindicated in the eyes of... well, all right, pretty much nobody, but you understand the feeling. (A side note: I just realized that MS Word doesn’t automatically put the red zig-zag under the word anime any more. It must be mainstream!) It was pretty obvious that Cameron Diaz hadn’t a clue what it was she was talking about as she introduced the films, but she tried gamely to pronounce Miyazaki’s name, and good for her. Maybe now Disney will be a little more forthcoming in releasing the rest of Miyazaki’s and Studio Ghibli’s works, which they quietly bought up recently. Only the most cynical among us would venture to suggest that they did so in order to keep the American releases of these films small, in order to lessen competition with their own garb-ag-er, I mean, their own pictures. Not that I would suggest that. I’m just saying, you know?

But enough about me and my slavish devotion to Hayao Miyazaki. Let’s talk about Michael Moore. Let us attempt to understand what would make a filmmaker (and by extension any celebrity) so cocksure that they are willing to foist their opinions, however unpopular or misguided, upon a captive audience. Moore, for those of you who don’t know, is a documentarian whose films, such as Roger & Me and The Big One, and whose TV series, “The Awful Truth” and “TV Nation,” have done much to expose government and corporate wrongdoing. He is quite the left-winger, and he won the Oscar for Best Documentary this year for his film Bowling for Columbine, which explores how the American predilection for gun-based violence may have exacerbated the situation at Columbine High School. Well and good. Unfortunately (to paraphrase Douglas Adams) , Moore is not above a little political speakmaking in the same way that the sea is not above the clouds, but no one was expecting the tirade he unleashed during his Oscar acceptance speech. I won’t weary you with the details, as I’m sure everybody has heard them by now, but I will use this as a jumping off point to express my thoughts on mouthy celebrities.

It’s been pointed out, but it bears repeating: Celebrities’ opinions are no more or less valid than anyone else’s. Just because one is a celebrity (read: TV or movie actor) has no bearing on his or her ability to form reasoned judgments about government policy. I don’task Donald Rumsfeld or Colin Powell or Condoleeza Rice to make an award-winning movie; similarly, we should not be getting our information regarding foreign policy form Martin Sheen or Mike Farrell or Barbra Streisand. That said, I will allow that Michael Moore, by dint of his experience with government and corporate malfeasance, may well be more qualified than some others to comment on the situation in Iraq. But his judgment in doing so during an Oscar telecast at which every effort was being made deliberately to keep politics out of the picture was extremely questionable. The fact is, Moore made a damned fool of himself on national television. I mean, even Susan Sarandon, of all people, managed to restrain herself to a quick peace sign after her presentation. Moore, who often has good points to make, and who I quite admire, if only for his ballsiness, really went too far this time. He took an opportunity for graciousness and turned it into a forum for his political views, which, right or wrong, were totally out of place.
An Online RPG Without the Online

Anyone who has played a massively multiplayer online role-playing game (MMORPG) knows how much fun they can be. Games like Everquest have thousands of people who play everyday, some a little more than they should. Then there are smaller MMORPG’s that are free, like Tibia. Bandai looked at the popularity of this genre and also took into account the popularity of the Playstation 2 and came up with a game that’s an imitation of an MMORPG called .Hack//Infection. If the idea of a fake MMORPG wasn’t enough, they package the game with the first volume of the .Hack original video animation (OVA) .Hack//Liminality.

The premise of the game is very unique. The year is 2007 and you play as a kid who’s trying to fix the glitches in an online gaming world appropriately called “The World.” Deadly viruses are damaging The World and are also harming players. Your friend, who was creatively named Bob, has slipped into a coma after being data-drained by a creature not of the game. The story takes you from place to place in the game trying to find clues as to what the strange creature was, about the ghostly girl it was chasing and to the mystery of your friend’s coma.

Every aspect of the game has an up and a down to it. Visually (8), the game is beautiful. Yoshiiyuki Sadamoto (Neon Genesis Evangelion, Nadia) does character designs for the game and details are done very well and colorfully to boot. On the other side of the blade, though, dungeons can be rather bland and repetitive. Localization (9) is one of the game’s better points. The voice-overs can be listened to in Japanese or English with a good list of veteran anime voice actors on the roster. Music (5) though, is rather bland, and battle themes are only a slight variation on the field music. The battle system (7) is similar in ways to Phantasy Star Online, and Chrono Trigger. Characters jump into battle with no load time whatsoever. Sadly though, battles can get repetitive and the camera angle will screw you over more than once. You have no control over the other characters in your party, but you can set a general battle command for them to attack, heal or assist. The type of action after that is strictly their doing (remember this is supposed to be a simulated MMORPG).

The difficulty of the game is nil if you’re a seasoned RPG’er. There is a slight learning curve for the battle system, but that is easily tackled in an hour of gameplay. Originality and plot (10) are where this game shines the most. The uniqueness of the game is more than enough to encourage someone to purchase it, and what little of the story is given is very interesting.

.Hack places players in the year 2007, trying to save the online gaming world from deadly viruses. The game proves to be impressive.

.Hack//Liminality is set for a May release. The first game in the series didn’t give enough narrative to make it a stand-alone classic, but just enough to get you interested in purchasing the other three. Overall, the length of the game, around seventeen to twenty hours, makes it a good game for a lonely weekend. Hopefully the second game can breathe some life into series. My friend suggested I increase my rating system to ten. In doing so, I give this game a 7 out of 10 with specific ratings in parentheses on each category above.
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Aries:  
The Ram  
March 20 to April 19  
I'm sure all Arians' school years have been splendid! But what is one to do now? Take your freight liner sex-drive and combine it with your unethical selling abilities to create an abundance of whorish fun! Rams tend to go full-force on things, so if that venture ends rapidly, you can sell your organs. Now I know how Conan O'Brian feels.  
Summer Prediction:  
Someone is having nasty dreams of you in pudding.

Taurus:  
The Bull  
April 20 to May 19  
Speaking of whores, did you know that there is such a thing as a whore-master? That's what I call a hero's title! This is a perfect job for the seemingly prudish Taurean! Yeah, whore, yeah! (crack of whip and scream)  
SP: Diet Dr Pepper really does taste like your hair.

Gemini:  
The Twins  
May 20 to June 20  
Dionysus gives his blessing and encourages an early start in celebrating your upcoming birthday! When your day approaches you may spend it relaxing in the haven of Betty, Goddess of the Addicted.  
SP: Your job as a nun ends, your career in a sorority/fraternity begins. Yes I said career.

Cancer:  
The Crab  
June 21 to July 21  
It's the end of a hard school year for you, but keep on your toes, and don't let that pervert lick your feet again.  
SP: When people touch you in the right way do not mace them.

Leo:  
The Lion  
July 22 to Aug. 22  
Psst.. You want to know how to make someone really mad? Before running away tell them their lack of emotional grounding is due to their lack of education. Professors love that one. Rock the boat and bail.  
SP: Your addiction to love grows, you will produce enough offspring to fill a small country.

Virgo:  
The Virgin  
Aug. 23 to Sept. 21  
Everyone knows you Virgos still reek of BO. There's a cliché that says, "It's better to burn out than to fade away!" You have nothing to worry about, that stench doesn't even wash out, much less fade away.  
SP: You will dress up like the funky woman you are, make some awesome art, and you will not feel dirty.

Libra:  
The Scales  
Sept. 22 to Oct. 22  
The star-stone for your sign can be obtained by uncovering the undiscovered tomb in Azerbaijan wherein lies a mummified sorcerer that grips the stone with his dead ancient hands. OR you could just by the overpriced knock-off at Wal-Mart, Indy.  
SP: You will survive. Don't forget to change your locks.

Scorpio:  
The Scorpion  
Oct. 23 to Nov. 21  
I'm really disappointed in your lack of skepticism this month, Scorpio. I can't believe you thought there was a war going on! We're really at war with alien life forms! Haha! Fooled you again! Sucker.  
SP: There will be many empty fast food containers surrounding your sofa this summer. Don't move.

Sagittarius:  
The Archer  
Nov. 22 to Dec. 20  
If there is anything valuable I can leave you Sagittarians with this year, it is this: In history and presently, everything has to do with honkers and wankers. Think about it.  
SP: You'll make fun of your friend for having dysentery and then fall ill with Ebola.

Capricorn:  
The Goat  
Dec. 21 to Jan. 19  
Don't be paranoid, Capricorn, be elite! After finishing with all your banana peels do not waste them, instead throw them onto smaller people and tell them to do their job.  
SP: You will finally realize you have bad taste.

Aquarius:  
The Water Bearer  
Jan. 20 to Feb. 17  
There seems to be prayer for everything EXCEPT for mullets. I decided to mimic Aquarian creativity and make my own ode to mullets. Here it goes: Your mullet, that art uneven, Hallowed be thy mane! Thy front be short, thy back be long, on Earl as it is on Heather.  
SP: Your attempts at contortionism will delight those you are around, literally.

Pisces:  
The Fish  
Feb. 18 to March 19  
Show your support behind R&B artist R Kelley by exclaiming, "The remix to Ignition is hot and fresh out of junior high..." What are the requirements to be in his fan club, hmmm?  
SP: You will end up in a Mexican jail with a guy named Juan Moore.
The Compass staff is split on our opinion of the new tobacco policy. Some of us believe that the decision to ban tobacco on the Gainesville College campus is a smart one, beneficial to everyone. Others of us see this policy change as an invasion of a right. While we hold different opinions of the policy itself, we can all agree on one thing—enforcement of this policy will be difficult.

Since the new policy has been announced, the Student Affairs Committee has been asked to discuss and make suggestions as to how a tobacco-free campus can become a reality.

On the surface, it all seems relatively simple. “No smoking” signs will be posted throughout the campus and everyone will quit smoking, right? Of course not. Has any policy ever been instituted without opposition or without at least one person choosing to disregard the policy? This is why strong enforcement of policies is a necessity. But exactly how can a policy such as this be imposed? Many rumors have spread throughout the campus about how the policy will be enforced.

A notice recently posted on the notice board identified GC as a “community.” It said that certain rules must be established in order to accomplish the goals of the community (in this case, having a tobacco-free campus). It said, “It is incumbent upon any member of the community to play an appropriate role to enforce those rules.” Therefore, as members of the “GC community,” faculty, staff and students will be expected to help with the enforcement of this policy. The notice even compared enforcement of the policy to the “responsibilities that come along with the rights of citizenship,” such as voting and serving on juries.

Expecting students to turn in fellow students who light up on campus is absurd. We are not in elementary school; few of us get a rush from being “tattle-tales.” And let’s hope that students will not be expected to turn in their professors for smoking a cigarette. That would be an awkward situation for both teacher and student.

Asking faculty and staff to enforce the policy may seem a little less illogical. However, this poses a real threat to relationships on the GC campus. One of the great things about this college is the close relationship between students and professors. This is what distinguishes GC from a closely patrolled high school or from a university, where it is uncommon for professors to know students’ names. Students at GC have the atypical opportunity to make close connections with those who teach them, to talk with them as they would their friends, and to form relationships that go beyond the classroom, and in some cases, extend past the college years. Asking faculty and staff to enforce this would seriously compromise the possibility of such a relationship.

Leaving the responsibility to security is likewise risky. Their duty is to keep the people and property on the GC campus safe from harm, and this is a huge job. Besides, a cigarette hardly poses the kind of threat that a potential car thief does, as we have seen in recent months.

Expecting the “GC community” to impose this policy is problematic on many levels. We all already hold multiple responsibilities on this campus. Do we really need another? And can enforcing a tobacco-free campus really be compared with the citizens’ responsibility to go to the polls? Can students who are paying money to attend GC really be expected to “rat out” their peers? Certainly not, but a rational decision as to the implementation of this policy must be reached before the policy can be successfully instituted.

Let Your Opinions Be Your Own

Protests against the Iraqi conflict have been making headlines for weeks now. Every day they become more strident and more evident across the world. But some of the protests in America seem to be somewhat uneven, and at least partially misguided.

We at the Compass would like to make it clear that we are in no way against protesting anything. America was built on protest. As journalists, we have a deep understanding that freedom of speech is one of the single most important facets of American culture. Americans can and should protest anything they feel is unjust or unfair. In fact, like voting, protesting is a responsibility that far too few Americans take seriously. The fact that we can protest against our government is one of the things that separates us from the authoritarian dictatorship we are engaged against. But it seems that many people are protesting just because it’s the party line, or because their friends are doing it or because some celebrity they admire says it’s the right thing to do.

We should not protest because someone tells us to. We should look at the situation, carefully examine every side of the story, realize that all political parties have agendas, and form our political decisions based on that knowledge. Get all the facts, and temper your reaction to the facts with the knowledge that there is no black-and-white answer. All life is grayscale. Sometimes the gray is so dark as to look black, and sometimes it’s so pale as to look white, but it’s still gray. Protest with your brain, and protest because you know it’s the right thing to do. If, after careful consideration, you still feel that your cause is justifiable, then take to the streets. It is, after all, your civic duty to do so. But don’t just grab a sign and chant “No blood for oil” until you really understand the situation, the underlying agendas on both sides, and exactly what it is you’re protesting against.
LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Thanks for Your Help

I must admit that my year as Editor-in-Chief of the Compass newspaper has been more difficult than I could have ever predicted. But, as my final semester at Gainesville College comes to a close, I realize that, in my position, I could have encountered much more difficulty, had I not received substantial assistance from the GC community. And for this support, you all deserve praise.

I must first thank the staff and editors of the Compass. Beyond the hard work that you put in, you all are what made working on the paper so much fun. Not a day went by that I could not go into the office to cheer up. You guys can always make me laugh. I am amazed at how well we all got along and how unbelievably close we have become. Some of you have become some of my best friends, but I am proud to call each and every one of you a friend. I leave GC with many fond memories, but I must say that some of my greatest happened with you guys. You all are amazingly talented and unique. I wish all of you the best of luck in the future.

To Dan Cabaniss, my newspaper advisor, I owe more thanks than I could ever express. For the last two years, you have been my professor and my advisor, but also my friend. You have taught me so much in my time at GC. Your teachings were not limited to journalism, though. You taught me about life and gave me knowledge that I will always take with me, be it in school, a career or any other experience. Thank you for always having your door open. I value your opinion, and I will continue to call on you for advice even after I leave GC. I wish you and your family the best.

To my professors I owe much gratitude. The knowledge and experience that I have gained in each of your classes has helped me considerably with my daily responsibilities as editor of the Compass. I must also thank you all for understanding my obligation to the newspaper and for being so forgiving during deadlines, when my attention was less-than-devoted to classes.

All of the faculty members at GC have been extremely supportive of the staff and of myself. Many of you contributed opinions or stories to print in the Compass. We also received many ideas for articles. Some of you even distributed our papers to your classes. You were willing to work with us when we requested interviews, even on short notice. From some of you we received criticism, but even that is to be commended. Without critics, we would not be the award-winning paper we are today. But above all, we have received constant encouragement from faculty who let us know that we were doing our jobs.

Many other people at GC play an indirect role in putting together the Compass. Those of you in the Student Activities and the Humanities offices are always so helpful when we request your help. Thank you also to the security, food service, maintenance and custodial staff. You all play a bigger role in putting our paper together than you often realize. The IT staff has been extremely helpful this year. Thanks for the countless hours that you have spent in our office.

GC students continually show their support by reading our paper. Thank you for your contributions and comments, both positive and negative. You are the main reason we put out the paper, so getting feedback from you is always important.

And finally, I’d like to thank all of the people in my personal life who have been so supportive of me this year. You often provided a much-needed ear upon which I eagerly vented my frustrations and you always gave the encouragement I needed to do the best work I could.

It’s hard to believe that I almost left GC after my first semester, fall 2001. It was only during my second semester, after I joined the Compass staff, that I began to really enjoy my time here. I am so glad that I made the decision to stay for another year. As I head off to Athens, I will take with me the many wonderful experiences from GC. Thank you all for helping me to make these memories.

Sincerely,

Heather Hodges
Editor-in-Chief

Letter to the Editor

Student Reacts to Tobacco Policy

I was deeply concerned when I learned that President Nesbitt arbitrarily decided to ban smoking on our campus. Despite the figures quoted by Dr. Nesbitt stating that an overwhelming majority of faculty/staff support her decision, of the several employees at Gainesville College I spoke with, not one has said that they supported her decision. Of the students that I have spoken to, smokers and non-smokers alike, not one has supported the ban on smoking. Quite the opposite; in fact, among the people on campus that I spoke with, every one was concerned that college students who are supposed to be treated like adults are thought of as children who need their decisions made for them.

Dr. Nesbitt claims that one of the main reasons for the smoking ban is health concerns. I am a smoker myself and at 30 years of age I believe that I can make my own decisions concerning my health. If Dr. Nesbitt is so concerned with our health, why doesn’t she ban all the snack and soda machines on campus? According to the American Obesity Association, “approximately 127 million adults in the U.S. are overweight, 60 million obese, and nine million severely obese.” The AOA also states that “obesity increases the risk of illness from about 30 serious medical conditions and obesity is associated with increases in deaths from all-causes.”

Whatever Dr. Nesbitt’s reasons are for imposing the campus wide ban on smoking, I find it difficult to swallow that she is concerned for our health. If she were really concerned about her students’ health, maybe she could arrange a group health insurance policy for GC students. That would be a real and productive incentive for healthy students.

Suzanne Polk

Just A Thought

“GC’s new tobacco policy allows students to play nars. I am in full support of protecting the health of those who do not smoke, yet agree that something more should be done to the ‘smoke shacks’ to accommodate the smokers who are also paying to attend here. I think it is unfair to ban smoking altogether when we could compromise with enclosed smoking facilities that would allow non-smokers to be healthy and smokers to live with their own devices.”

-Kassie Davis
First of all: I am not pro-war. Let me reiterate that a little more loudly: I AM NOT PRO-WAR. Nobody is pro-war, with the exception of people who do not understand what war is about. That said, I must point out that I cannot necessarily call myself anti-war either. There are times when war is a necessary evil. This is one of those times.

Now, before you all go freaking out in a self-righteous left-wing rage, let me clarify. I don't care for George W. Bush. I didn't vote for him, I can't say I like some of his policies and I certainly don't like his lack of specchmaking ability. I have little doubt that this conflict is happening in so me small part due to a certain "cowboy"-like tendency of his, if you will. I also do not doubt that oil plays a part in this whole thing, but then any idiot could tell you that. Nothing happens in the Middle East that does not involve oil, either directly or indirectly. I cannot say that I think that people should not be protesting our actions in Iraq. Protest is a good thing. It is a part of our national culture and heritage. Americans, almost by definition, protest things they do not like.

HOWEVER: What I see going on around me is not protesting. It is ranting, plain and simple. No one seems to be able to come up with an alternative solution to the real problem, and none of the protesters I have spoken to even seem to be aware of the real problem, which is this: radical Islamic terrorists MUST BE STOPPED. This is the real reason we are at war. This is why we attacked Iraq. Forget what you hear about broken UN sanctions, genocide by Saddam Hussein, weapons of mass destruction, and so on. We are there to stop this message to radical Muslim terrorists: you will no longer be tolerated.

Events have finally reached a point (in fact they reached that point on September 11, 2001) at which the Western world has woken up to what these terrorists are capable of. It has become an us-or-them situation. They have demonstrated quite clearly that they are not willing to share this planet with us, and will perform any act they think they can get away with in order to cow us. These actions cannot be allowed to continue. The invasion of Iraq is the first step (it is to be hoped) in the removal of those who would randomly slaughter innocents in the name of religion. There can be no negotiation; there can be no diplomacy (Tom Daschle notwithstanding). They will not be satisfied with appeasement. They want us dead. ALL of us: peace protesters, warmongers, celebrity politicians, and those who do not agree on the solution nor the point (in fact they reached that point on September 11, 2001). The Western world has woken up to what these terrorists are capable of. It has become an us-or-them situation. They have demonstrated quite clearly that they are not willing to share this planet with us, and will perform any act they think they can get away with in order to cow us. These actions cannot be allowed to continue. The invasion of Iraq is the first step (it is to be hoped) in the removal of those who would randomly slaughter innocents in the name of religion. There can be no negotiation; there can be no diplomacy (Tom Daschle notwithstanding). They will not be satisfied with appeasement. They want us dead. ALL of us: peace protesters, warmongers, celebrity politicians, and those who do not agree on the solution nor the point (in fact they reached that point on September 11, 2001).

In light of trying times, and wars and rumors of wars, I want to encourage you to check out the upray.org website. Upray.org accepts prayer requests and offers encouragement to military families and friends. Many of us are proud of America's courageous military. We congratulate our Service men and women for their sacrifices.

There are many courageous young Americans who choose to serve in a non-military fashion, as well. For instance, many of America's clergy, teachers and hospital workers, serve thus. Also, there are those who choose to serve outside the military for other reasons.

Many men and women have objections in their conscience and choose not to kill. Who, but God and the individual, can judge another's conscience for him or her? Also, lest we are hasty in judgment, there are those who have physical, mental or emotional reasons for non-military life choices too.

This leads me to reflect upon anti-war voices and choices. Specifically, what about those who protest all of war's atrocities? The lives of our young men, women and children, whether they are military or civilians, cannot be replaced. Who doesn't want peace? Yet, some don't, I suppose.

What common ground can be found for discourse? First, most agree that all ultimately want peace and are at a nergy at the ugliness of war. Let's face it. All of us have been challenged by the accelerated war events in recent weeks. (Who hasn't felt churned and mixed emotions recently?)

What is the answer? Many people experienced disillusionment during past governmental cover-ups, political scams, failings and mishandlings. Such leaves many folks unsure whom to trust. People will fail. Leaders are people, after all.

So, when possible, love people, but only put your complete trust in GOD. (Check that coin in your pocket. "In GOD we trust" is more than a slogan, folks.) As for the current situation in Iraq and other hot spots on this globe, pray for all people and then trust God. For whom and how do we pray? Start in your own life, praying for leaders, nations, our young service men and women who are sacrificing their very lives for freedom. Pray for those war refugees who search for peace each waking moment. Yes, pray and remember war protesters are praying folk, too. Pray and speak up. Yes, Americans have a right to speak up, without fear of our tongues being cut out. (Some leaders don't offer that option, we have learned.)

People around the world may not agree on the solution nor the issues, however, America, we must stand together, not apart. We are The UNITED States of America, for goodness sake. So, whether you are for military service or boldly chant protests in the streets, pray and speak up with due respect for one another's rights. Both soldiers and innocents are caught in the middle of these troubled times. I believe that God wants to heal the scars, whether those of soldiers of freedom or voices of protest. These past few months, many young adults have been forced to mature too quickly. Those young adults, along with their elders, search for an understanding of the times. All of us here at Gainesville College, whether or not we agree on solutions, let's agree to stand together as citizens of this nation...and not let civil strife create more war zones.

Rather than fighting amongst ourselves, why not recall these wise words. "A Kingdom divided against itself cannot stand." Does this sound familiar? Abraham Lincoln spoke these words when our nation was healing from the fresh wounds of civil war. Yet, these words originate from a Higher authority, not our former beloved President. These words were spoken by Jesus Christ and are recorded in the Holy Bible.

Yes, we all search for ways to voice our heart cries. Check out upray.org as we pray for our nation's young adults—whether they serve in the military or if they serve to lift up their protest against the effects of war on innocent people in its midst.

Last of all, war, for whatever reason, should not be entered into lightly. Yet, while protesting the sacrifice of America's young Soldiers and the innocent civilians, caught in the midst, let's not protest for the sake of protest. Lest, inadvertently, we cause further chaos and violence in our streets. Ecclesiastes chapter three says that there is a time for everything—a time of war and a time of peace. It's true. Like it or not. So, let's pray for and support peace. Support our fellow Americans who have left families and comfort of home to bring freedom from terrorism to all people. Yes, RETURN, PEACE, RETURN. Let us not take peace for granted any more. Then, read "The prayer of St. Francis of Assisi. (Did you know that St. Francis was once a prisoner of war?) Someone has said, "All gave some," but "Some gave all." Remember to pray for the families of those who have "given all" in military service. PLEASE, PRAY—TODAY. (As a daughter of World War Il veteran, PFC Robert Duncan, I, MaryDuncan Reddy congratulate America's young men and women who serve in the U.S. military. Many here at GC likely have served in the military. Or you may have a loved one or friend in the U.S. Military. Obviously, with so many young women and men currently in many distant lands, many are praying. Remember, check out upray.org.)
Iraq: The Mathematics of Morality

Of all the areas of study a person can engage in, the most definitive, most irrefutable area is undoubtedly the field of mathematics. Regardless of where I am in the universe or what time I exist in, I know that math will always yield the same result. I could be on the other side of all known space, five billion years in the future, and I will be able to add $2 + 2$ and get $4$. I will always, without exception, be able to add one to any figure and get a higher number. Pi will always be the same integer with an infinite number of decimal places.

With that in mind, let’s toy around with some basic algebra in respect to the ongoing war in Iraq, shall we?

$W$ = Number of innocent Iraqis Saddam Hussein and his sons will probably kill in the future. This is an estimate based on data from the last 24 years of his regime’s existence, and does not include the number of Kuwaiti citizens massacred in 1990 and 1991 during Hussein’s brief occupation of their country. This number has been estimated as high as 500,000 (looking at the number of people who have mysteriously disappeared into the desert night, never to be seen again), but as long as Saddam remains in power, there’s no way to verify any number. We’ll stay on the conservative side and say that $W = 200,000$.

$X$ = Number of non-Iraqi civilians Hussein’s regime could kill if he is allowed to possess weapons of mass destruction. This is, obviously, a very hard figure to estimate. An atomic bomb set off in downtown New York at 9 a.m. on a business day could instantly incinerate a few million people, not to mention those who would die of radiation poisoning later. Of course, this is a worst-case scenario—a chemical or biological attack, depending on where and when it is used, could easily result in tens of thousands of deaths. To err on the side of caution, we’ll have $X = 10,000$.

$Y = Number of innocent people who will likely die during the ongoing liberation. The casualty figures from the 1991 Gulf War place civilian deaths around 2,300 (during a time when only 10 percent of all bombs and missiles were precision-guided—today, that number stands at roughly 90 percent). Let’s make this an absurdly high number — based on some of the most outrageous estimates propagated by the radical left. We’ll say $Y = 50,000$—more than 21 times that of the first Gulf War.

$Z = Number of coalition soldiers who will die during the liberation of Iraq. The number of U.S. deaths during the 1991 Gulf War was 269 (killed in action and due to non-combat incidents). Of course, we are presently engaged in a much larger campaign, and although there have been vast technological improvements designed to save the lives of troops during battle, we can expect a larger number of casualties. We’ll more than triple this number and round up, saying that $Z = 1,000$.

Thus, $W + X$ is a very conservative estimate of warranted deaths should nothing be done to remove Saddam’s regime. $Y + Z$ is a very liberal estimate of unjust deaths due to the ongoing war. The calculation looks like this:

Estimated number of unjust deaths should Saddam be allowed to remain in power ($W + X$) = $210,000$.

Estimated number of unjust deaths due to the ongoing war and resultant complications ($Y + Z$) = $51,000$.

So, based on figures most advantageous to the anti-war faction, we can expect roughly 210,000 unmerited deaths to occur in the future if “peace” is chosen over war.

(If you use the term “peace” here loosely. The anti-war pack is somehow under the impression that the Iraqi people have enjoyed a peaceful existence during the past 24 years. Anyone having even limited knowledge of Saddam’s dictatorship knows this to be incorrect.)

What the heck. Let’s add another 100,000 for Iraqi soldiers (recent estimates put Iraqi troop casualties during the 1991 Gulf War at about 20,000). Of course, their stance as supporters of the Hussein regime makes their lives less of a priority than the lives of innocent Iraqi people or coalition troops. Nevertheless, we’ll throw this figure into the mix.

Even with this addition, the total is still 59,000 bodies higher if we leave Hussein’s government in place, and that’s with estimates heavily slanted against the ongoing liberation.

The “peace” movement wants the world to believe that war is inherently evil. I wonder: How does this group view Saddam Hussein? Is he just an annoyance; a lukewarm, inconsequential aspect of daily life in Iraq?

Even if the anti-war crowd believes Saddam Hussein to be the very definition of malevolence, the absence of a suggested alternative to war is painfully obvious, and demonstrators have conveniently ignored the need for a substitute. We should remember that Saddam Hussein has barely noticed the sanctions leveled on his country in the past 12 years (which have, incidentally, lead to even more death and suffering among the Iraqi people—we won’t even get into those numbers).

To demonstrators around the world, I pose a question: What else is there to do? Ask Saddam nicely? Maybe we should try bribing him. Would a two-week vacation at Club Med make it worth his while to abandon his dictatorship? A new BMW M3, perhaps? A big-screen TV? A 1978 Fender Stratocaster Guitar with humbucking pickups and solid gold tuning machines? If a realistic alternative cannot be suggested, war is a tragic necessity.

Numbers don’t lie. All that is mentioned above is based on a real-world analysis—not the bloated, emotional crying session that has been going on in leftist circles during the past few months. The facts in this case are fully oblivious to politics, history, motivation or personal vendettas. The facts don’t watch CNN, and are not horrified by pictures of Iraqi children who have been killed or wounded during the bombing of Baghdad. The facts are apathetic to the popular vote in the 2000 Presidential election, and don’t care why George W. Bush and Tony Blair are doing what they are doing. The facts don’t lie, but the best thing that can be said about the anti-war movement is that it lives in a constant state of willful ignorance.

Edmond Burke said “All that is needed for the forces of evil to triumph is for enough good men to do nothing.” The world has been doing nothing for far too long.

So, when people ask me how I justify waging war in Iraq, I simply ask, “How can you justify any other course of action?”

I am still waiting for an answer.

Regents Test is Insulting

Welcome to Gainesville College, home of standardized testing, otherwise known as the Regents Test.

It would figure that, after years of I.T.S., testing, graduation tests, SATs, midterms and final exams, everybody would know how to read and write. I guess the University System of Georgia assumes otherwise, because you are required to take the Regents Test.

The test involves a one-hour essay and an hour of reading passages and answering questions. I find this test insulting because you have to take this test before you accumulate 40 hours or you aren’t allowed to take any more English classes. Yet I don’t get how you can accumulate 40 hours if you aren’t already know how to read and write.

If you don’t pass both parts of the test, then you have to take a three-hour course that supposedly helps prepare you for the test next semester. But does this course help with your GPA? No. It is a pass or fail class with countless essays and homework. Who needs that added to your already overloaded schedule? Not me.

But once you have been sucked into the world of trick questions and redundant essays of the Regents Test and those doors have been closed, say goodbye to bathrooms and water fountains and say hello to Hell.

The Trap is Set

By John Furst
Are Humans Just Critical Animals?

Every day that goes by, I wonder how people choose the paths they take. I live in a college town, where people live life to please others, live to fit in, live to hate and, most of all, live to feel. I have been running into people who are what they are, and people who are not what they are, or for that matter, will never be.

Look at society and how we judge people. For instance, sororities and fraternities are looked at as good, true people. But if you look into the houses you’ll see for yourself they’re not perfect.

If you really think about it they are just like gangs. Anyone who is not a part of the gang is shut out. Who determines who is good and who is bad? If you think about it, we do, society does. But no one should be ignored.

A great conversation came up with a friend the other day, and we were relating humans and animals. She said, “we are all animals, the only difference is we have criticism.” We all go on our instincts, but we are judged on everything we do. If this did not exist, would we be happier? Maybe, but who can answer that question unless we live that lifestyle?

Think about it in this perspective. Have you ever read Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus? It helps people understand people. It gives men the ability to understand women and vice versa. How strange is it that we are all humans, yet still we need to understand each other to live? Well, unless solitary confinement is your way of living… but I really don’t believe anyone truly chooses that lifestyle.

Do you really think a lion needs books to understand another lion, or even a monkey? How ironic is this? We live to survive, just as animals do. Do you think animals make it difficult to live? I know humans do.

So humans are animals who criticize, but if there was no criticism, would we live happily ever after not wondering if anybody is accepting us or not? I don’t know.

I wish I knew everything, but I don’t. Sometimes I’d like to think it, but in all actuality, I don’t. I just have ideas and opinions. I feel like everyone has opinions and everyone should have the right to speak them. I believe opinions are important. So my point in all this rambling is be open-minded, and understand that everyone has an opinion, maybe not like yours, but it still matters.

You’ll Be the One They Test Someday, Frank Reddy


In essence, Frank Reddy said in his March 12, 2003 article that he was staying in college to avoid being drafted one day. Ironically, I joined the Army because I couldn’t afford a college education otherwise. I remained a soldier for reasons I can’t fully articulate. I find Mr. Reddy’s article offensive because Mr. Reddy presumes to know soldiers (my generic term for members of all branches of military service).

I believe American military history adequately records the fact, but if not, I, a soldier in the U.S. Army, will go on record as saying, “War is an undesirable state which soldiers least desire.” Despite the repugnance of war, I and other soldiers will engage in war for a myriad of reasons as diverse as the soldiers fighting the war. Please note, Mr. Reddy, that neither I nor any other soldier ever gives or want to give his life for his country (after all, as Patton said, the object of war is to let the enemy die for his country), but rather the life of a soldier is taken during war. Likewise, no soldier wants to kill enemy soldiers. Soldiers, perhaps more than civilians, realize that enemy soldiers are people, who, like us, have wives, children and the desire to grow old. The American Army consists of soldiers who were your classmates in high school, a friend from Scouts, a teammate, a guy you never really knew but you noticed around town or other people just like you. American soldiers come from and reflect our society—a society which values life.

I cannot speak for others; I cannot divine whether the present conflict or any future conflict is just or unjust. I do know that sometimes, in the still, wee hours when the Frank Reddys of this world are asleep, I am awake fighting anew battles with General Death and wondering of how to save Ron Foster, a boy from New York who was then a soldier and who should be 41 now, except that he did what I told him not to do and ended up dead at age 18; or Carlton Zeigler, another soldier who, in another time, was a fellow Boy Scout in my Troop and who died a soldier five days before his wedding; or Lamar Thornton and Bobby Davis, my basketball teammates in high school, who also died soldiers before they were 20. Other skirmishes go on in the small hours when I should be asleep, but my list goes on and continues to grow. I re-fight the battles to keep others from dying because these soldiers who were known to but a few were my friends, my responsibility; and any of these soldiers could’ve found the cure for the common cold, but instead they are dead much too soon. I re-fight the battles so the Frank Reddys of this world can say, without fear of reprisal, or rebuke by me or anyone else, that they do not want to be soldiers and they do not have to be soldiers.

Inevitably, and war is as inevitable as it is unfortunate, one day, Frank Reddy, and those who feel as he, will be the ones we draft and test someday on the battlefield. Frank Reddy will fight, even if the United States is wrong, because he will realize that the enemy doesn’t care whether Frank Reddy wants to be on the battlefield or what Frank Reddy thinks.

If it did not dawn of Frank Reddy during high school Civics, the skirts of college education which he hides behind will reveal that American soldiers do not pick wars for America. Civilians, through elected representatives, choose war or peace for the United States, and rightfully so. War is too important to be left to soldiers. A soldier’s job is simply to fight, try to win and stay alive.

My advice to Frank Reddy is to stay in school, learn as much as possible and pray that war, either the imminent conflict with Iraq or future conflict with a another country, does not come to the doorstep via a draft notice. Should war come, Frank Reddy, the U.S. Army can use privates with a college education who do not want to be in the Army. You’ll join a list which includes Sergeant York, one of our bravest soldiers, who was morally against war, A. Rooney, a reluctant soldier, but one of our most well-published soldiers, and others whose name and story will be known only to you, in the small hours of the morning.

Responses to Moorer’s editorial may be dropped off, in a sealed envelope addressed to him, to Snowden’s office, room 117 in Academic Hall, until the end of the semester.
**Opinions**

**Come On and Play in the Dirt Again**

Ahh! Spring is in the air. The sun is shining, the air is warm, and I am honestly glad I haven’t pulled the trigger of the gun pointed at my head yet because I’ve convinced myself that I just might make it through the year. Of course, I am being sarcastic.

I’ve just been so stressed out that I can’t be rational, or much less, serious about anything I say or do. Call me crazy, I’ve accepted it.

So here goes. I have always been told that everyone has a purpose...and this seems reasonable, but thinking about it right now makes me want to beat my head against the wall until I reach unconsciousness, so I can dream about running, lost in an enchanted forest where the birds sing Cat Stevens songs, and my existence is based purely on the contentment that I am far away from the cruelties of such a “Wild World.”

Apparently, I can’t help but to dwell on my past when I am stressed (dwell on being a kid, that is), but if I grow up anymore, it means I’m going to have to get a job in a large office building in the city, and learn to accept that I am just another product of society and there is nothing I can do about it. NO! I seriously would kill myself first.

The conclusion that I have come to is that I do not belong anywhere near the corruption and confusion of civilization. I need to be in a place where the population doesn’t judge you based on your yearly income. It seems like every job out there is based on deceiving other people for their money. This means that we are all here learning the sciences of robbing each other. I don’t know about you, but I love stealing from innocent people (obviously, I am not being serious). Do you want to spend your life counting numbers and loathing in meaningless green paper made from the trees that you hate to see destroyed? I would rather spend my life living and feeling than being confused with the principles of how to calculate revenues for my parasitical boss who is just using me to cheat the unaware, all in order to win an endless competition to the top of the money chain. School systems today teach us that this particular form of deceit is what should be our main purpose, and that we should be passionate about it.

Remember being a kid, rolling around in the leaves in the fall, playing barefoot in the rain, and hiding under your bed from the only problems you had (In my case, dad’s belt and Freddy Kreuger)? I guess my problem is that I still do these things. Though I enjoy the privileges, I never want to grow up if I have to face the stresses and tragedies that I have encountered in the primarises of a adulthood again.

I just wish people wouldn’t take their adult lives so seriously, because we are all swimming in a big pool of ruthless deception. We all need to be kids every once and a while. So next time you are alone, or just feeling weighed down by the viciousness of the expected role you are supposed to play in society, jump in a puddle of water with the intent to splash the water as far as it will go, or eat dessert before dinner. I call it a state of mindlessness, which others would refer to as foolishness. But if that’s what you think, so be it.

**Why Should You Quit Smoking?**

Letter to the Editor

Smoking is the destruction of your health. By smoking, you are doing a great damage to your respiratory system, so you are killing yourself gradually and painfully, and the worst consequences will come in your old age. Here it is an example: one of my coworkers started smoking at the age of 11 because her parents were smoking too. Then, her parents quit smoking, but she kept smoking, going quickly from five cigarettes to one pack of cigarettes per day, and it is increasing. That was a sad reality for me because she is a really intelligent and beautiful girl, who wastes her life and talents, who is a slave for a frightful vice, who can’t find in this wonderful existence something more valuable, and exciting to make her feel happy and satisfied other than smoking. Also, smoking is the main cause of many fatal health problems and diseases such as pulmonary emphysema, asthma, asphyxia, loss of vision, weight disorders, and nervous system disorders, among others.

Smoking is a significant obstacle to socializing. It is extremely uncomfortable for a person talking to you when you just finished smoking. Your breath smells terrible, and sometimes you cause headaches for the person with whom you are talking. In addition, the strong smell of cigarettes impregnates your entire being; your hair, and all your clothes too, in other words, you stink so badly that individuals who don’t smoke will try to keep distance from you. However, that doesn’t mean that you are worthless, but it does mean that you have an unfavorable or a displeasurable smell. I recommend that after you smoke, put in your mouth a piece of gum, or a hard candy such as peppermint, or menthol drops that would change your breath. If it is possible, brush your teeth.

In summary, smoking or not smoking is your personal choice, but taking the appropriate care of yourself is your responsibility. Reflect on the great number of consequences that you might suffer from smoking such as the creation of a horrible vice, destruction of your health, restriction of your social life and loss of your freedom. You should consider the cost by weighing what is most important to you. Determine what has real value for you now plus for your future. You can do it for yourself as well as for others. Quit smoking please.

Marcela Mejia
GC Student

**Just A Thought**

Why do you drive on a parkway but you park on a driveway?

- Brett Poole

Scholarships Available for Fall 2003

Will you be a GC student this fall? Are you interested in writing, editing, photography, drawing or ad sales? Contact Michele Hester at ahes2131@gc.peachnet.edu if you would like to be a part of the 2003 Compass staff.
April

15
GTA: "Proposals" Begins; Ed Cabell Theatre; 7:30 p.m.

16
Honors Day
GTA: "Proposals"; Ed Cabell Theatre; Free Night for Students, Faculty and Staff

17
Chestatee Review Reception; Lanier AB; 12:30 p.m.
GTA: "Proposals"; Ed Cabell Theatre; Free Night for Students, Faculty and Staff
GC Graduating Student Artworks; Roy C. Moore Art Gallery; Runs Through June 25

18
Philosophy Club Movies; CE 108; 1 p.m.

21
Bench Press Contest; Fitness Center; 12:10 p.m.
Deadline for Computer Club Webpage Contest

22
GTA: "Proposals"; Ed Cabell Theatre; Free Night for Students, Faculty and Staff
Turbo Kick Class; GC Gym; 7 p.m.

23
Stress Breakers; Student Center; 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
GTA: "Proposals"; Ed Cabell Theatre; Free Night for Students, Faculty and Staff
Earth Day Celebration; Outside Student Center; 11:30-1 p.m.
Learn About Anime; Academic II, Room 170; noon

24
Spring Concert: GC Chorale and Symphonic Band;
Blackshear Place Baptist Church Auditorium; 7:30 p.m.

25
Registration Deadline for TOEFL Test; 3 p.m.

27
GTA: "Proposals" Audio-Described Performance; Ed Cabell Theatre; 2:30 p.m.; Q & A at 1:30 p.m.

Classes End
TOEFL Test; 6 p.m.

May

Graduation

8
New Smoking Policy Instituted

12
Maymester Classes Begin

26
Memorial Day Holiday

30
Maymester Classes End

June

2
Maymester Exams
Orientation and Registration for Summer Classes

3
Summer Classes Begin

14
Starlight Concert and Fireworks Show; GC Lower Pond; 6 p.m.

30
First Session Finals

July

1
Second Session Classes Begin

4
Fourth of July Holiday

28
Summer Classes End

August

13-14
Fall Orientation and Registration

18
Fall Classes Begin

Send calendar events for fall semester to ahes2131@gc.peachnet.edu.
from

The Compass Staff

DISCLAIMER

You have just read the April Fool's issue of the Compass, traditionally the issue in which we, the Compass Staff, have some fun and print a lot of silly stuff just for the heck of it. We'd like to assure our reader(s) that the humorous articles you have read are not, in any way, intended to be serious or to disparage any person or institution. No geese were harmed in the making of this issue. In addition...oh, who the hell am I kidding? Nobody's reading this. Nobody ever reads disclaimers. I might as well write out the periodic table in rhyme as write this disclaimer. In fact, I think I will: There's antimony, arsenic, aluminum, selenium and hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, rhenium and nickel, neodymium, neptunium, germanium and iron, americium, ruthenium, uranium. Have I passed a hundred and fifty words yet? No? All right then: There's europium, zirconium, lutetium, vanadium and lanthanum and osmium and astatine and radium and gold, protactinium and indium and gallium and iodine and thorium and thallium and thallium. How about now? Yes? Good. Now I can go home.
**BRIEFS**

**Earth Day Coming Up**

On April 23, the annual Earth Day celebration will be held outside the student center from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event will feature the jazz band, free food and environmental displays. T-shirts and plants will also be sold.

**Old Email Addresses to be Removed**

All GC email addresses now utilize the gc.peachnet.edu form of the address. Anyone still using the @mercury.gc.peachnet.edu should inform their contacts that, as of May 12, 2003, this address will no longer be active.

**Changes Made to Testing Center**

In an attempt to make the ACTT center testing facilities more quiet and secure, cameras have been moved so that every two carrels can be monitored. In addition, the cameras were wired for sound, and all cell phones must now be left on the shelves provided in the testing center.

**Register for Regents Test**

On-line registration for the summer semester Regents’ Test is now active. Remember that the test must be taken before 45 hours are acquired.

**Women Leaders Honored at Luncheon**

On March 14, the office for Minority Affairs held the second annual Women Leaders of Hall County Luncheon. Many GC students were invited to attend, along with area high school students, to celebrate the memory of Frances Meadows. The Alpha Kappa Alpha society of Gwinnett County awarded a scholarship to GC in her honor.

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**Student Profile: George Lambert**

**The Most Non-Traditional GC Student, In Every Sense of the Word**

Kassie Davis  
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When most people think of modern-day college students, they think of mostly fresh-out-of-high-school students mixed with a minority of middle-aged students. George Lambert is a current student at Gwinnett College and an exception to this common conception.

George Lambert is a 75-year-old part-time student at GC. He was born in 1928 in Syracuse, New York and moved to Georgia in 1968 because of a company transfer (and his wife not wanting to spend another winter in New York). He currently lives in Gwinnett, Georgia.

Lambert married in 1948 and has two children, a daughter and a son. He is still employed with an insurance company, yet is “too busy” to go into work. When Lambert was 17 he enlisted in the 108th New York Infantry as a medical corpsman. There was a year left in WWII when he entered.

Lambert fills his time doing many things in the Gwinnett area. He is Vice President of Friends of the Hall County Library System and a friend of the Clark County Library System. He is a patron of Pro Musica of Brenau. He enjoys theatre, loves to dance and is interested in getting back into photography.

Lambert also dabbles in the stock market, holding shares in companies such as AOL, AT&T Wireless, and Chevron-Texaco. He is a member of the Wall Street Club and a member of El Fuenta, a local Hispanic organization.

He is the oldest member of Fitness Zone, a fitness center in Gwinnett, as well as the oldest student enrolled at GC.

Lambert does not spend all his time within the Gwinnett City limits. He has traveled a great deal overseas, including Belgium, Mexico, and he has visited many areas of South Africa. He says he is “busier now than [he] was 25 years ago.” He attributes some of his constant energy to “Viagra and women.”

Lambert graduated from Syracuse University in 1945 and took classes in English and Retail Store Management. Lambert enrolled in GC in the spring and is taking a Spanish class. He says the reason behind his decision to go back to college is because he “wanted to take Spanish” because he thinks it is very important. He also said he “enjoys the presence of young people.”

George Lambert enjoys every aspect of attending GC and helping out the Gwinnett community. When asked what keeps him is such good spirits and fuels his desire to live life to its fullest he says, “don’t think about the hard times.”

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**Students Enjoy Spring Fling Despite Rain**

By Michele Hester  
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Last Monday, April 7 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Gainesville College’s Campus Activity Board hosted the annual Spring Fling.

“Despite inclement weather and several other cancellations, the Spring Fling was a great success,” says Campus Activity Board member and GC student Aaron Bennett. Originally, the event was to be held outside, but the weather forced the event to be moved inside the very cramped student activities building.

While many students dined on free hamburgers and chips, cotton candy and popcorn, others took advantage of the Bungee Run. The competition challenged runners to race to the finish. Players attached a bungee cord to their bodies, ran and were jerked back to the start. Michelle Lindsey and Ashley Green spent many hours constructing the balloon dart throw and ring toss games, and prizes were awarded to the game winners. All prizes had a Hawaiian theme and many students who attended left with leis around their necks, tropical drinking glasses in their hands and beach bags on their shoulders.

CAB originally scheduled a caricature artist who cancelled prior to the fling. The artists' renderings would have been free to all who attended and would have been a nice addition to the event.

The band Well Water, who won the Battle of the Bands earlier this semester, were scheduled to play during the fling but cancelled about an hour before the event started. “It was very frustrating at first,” Bennett said, “but students and staff alike went to their cars and brought in their own CDs and everyone ended up having a great time.”

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Student Will Gilchrist competes in the bungee run.
A Deeper Meaning to Dr. Seuss

For our final issue of the Compass this semester I decided to take a step back from recent novels and review a classic. There are so many classics in this day and age I am sure you are asking yourselves, “How could she pick from all the wonderful selections out there?” There are many classics like The Count of Monte Cristo, The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, Pride and Prejudice and Dracula.

The list goes on and on, but I have decided to review one of my all-time favorites, Green Eggs and Ham by Dr. Seuss.

Before reviewing this book, I had not read it in years and it brought back many childhood memories. It was one of my favorites as a child, but as an adult I have to question Dr. Seuss and what Green Eggs and Ham is really about. I read Green Eggs and Ham several times when I chose it for my book review, and let’s face it, it doesn’t take that long, but I came to a startling discovery while reading it. Dr. Seuss uses green eggs and ham as a metaphor for a much deeper meaning.

At the start of the book, we see the main character, who is never given a name, being annoyed by Sam-I-Am. Then, Sam asks him if he likes green eggs and ham. The main character says he does not. Throughout the book Sam proceeds to ask the main character if he likes green eggs and ham in various different situations, such as with a mouse, in a house, in the rain, on a train, in a car, or up a tree, and on and on and on. Finally, just to shut Sam up the main character tries the green eggs and ham and he likes them. And he will eat them with anything and anywhere.

I believe that Dr. Seuss had an underlying meaning in this book. Green eggs and ham is a metaphor for sex. The main character is obviously scared and intimidated by sex of any kind. Sam is trying to introduce him to his world of all sorts of different acts of sexual exercises. The main character does not like Sam either and it’s most likely because Sam is so loose with his sexual activities. We find sex in the form of voyeurism: on a train, in the rain and on a boat; bestiality: with a mouse, with a fox and with a goat; and there’re also normal sexual situations: in a house and in the dark. Once the main character tries sex, he is addicted to it and he will have it with anything and anywhere, even possibly with Sam-I-Am himself.

So think in terms of sex the next time you read Green Eggs and Ham and you will be surprised and maybe slightly appalled at what you discover. I know I will never read it the same way again, and who knows how many of his other books have such underlying meanings. I think a good question you should ask yourself while reading this book is, did Dr. Seuss write from personal experience?

Finally, the Respect They Deserve

For my final restaurant review for the semester, I must pay homage to all the finer eateries in Gainesville. Many people take advantage of these places, and I feel it is due time to show them our appreciation.

Let’s start with the basic two—McDonald’s and Burger King. Never before has a hamburger been as tasty as the patties served at BK. The way they char-grill that burger like they invented the grill is quite extraordinary. While the more fancy burgers are a little more costly, ranging from $2-3, a few value burgers can be found for a mere $0.99. These burgers are also just as tasty, and with a deal like that, who can resist? While McDonald’s serves burgers as well, it is their fries that put them on the map (along with the beauty of their golden arches). Everyone has tried them at some point in their life and everyone knows just how delicious they are. I believe the friess make a trip to McDonald’s worth it. Also notable at McDonald’s is their vast array of desserts. At what other fine restaurant can you find a parfait for under $2?

Okay, okay, I almost forgot Wendy’s. If burgers and fries aren’t on your palette for the day, Wendy’s offers much more. Baked potatoes, salads and chili are always an option. The potatoes are quite sensational, giving customers a choice of toppings. They also have burgers, but let’s face it—Wendy’s is a treat for those soup and salad fans.

Let’s move on to the ethnic category. If Mexican is what you are searching for, Taco Bell has it all. From their tasty tacos to their cheesy quesadillas, Taco Bell is bargain city. If one taco isn’t enough, nachos are quite the side item. Not only can you eat fine Mexican food without the cost, but they are open late as well, so you can enjoy the Bell just about any time you like. The only dessert they carry is the Choco Taco, but hey, with a menu as plentiful as theirs, who needs dessert?

I haven’t forgotten about those health nuts. While it’s nice to splurge sometimes, we all have our health to worry about. This brings me to Subway. Deli sandwiches with your choice of ingredients, what a concept. They even build your sandwich for you! They walk down the line with you as you decide—it’s like an ice cream shop really, each delicious topping is added only by your request. Not only are Subway’s sandwiches appetizing, but they are low in fat as well. Just ask Jared—he’s a new man because of Subway.

At the end of the meal, we all like to splurge. This brings me to dessert and the sweets offered at Dairy Queen. Blizzards are always a plus, the chocolate chip cookie dough being exceptionally scrumptious. I shouldn’t have to say too much about this place—any way you want your ice cream, they can deliver. With summertime right around the corner, it’s hard to resist the cool treats that Dairy Queen has to offer.

As I wrap up my compilation of the higher quality foods in Gainesville, I realize just how lucky we are to have such a fine selection of cuisine. Although these places will not cater, they are always there with a smile, and always willing to make just as many burgers as you wish. I hope that all of you will treat yourselves to some of the delectable meals that fast-paced service food has to offer.
**CLUBS**

**BRIEFS**

**Politically Incorrect Club to Host PIC Day**
The Politically Incorrect club will host National Politically Incorrect Day. A meeting will be held to discuss all things political, in an incorrect and political fashion.

**Math Club Plans Trip**
The Math club is taking a trip to visit Albert Einstein's grave in Princeton, New Jersey. The Club will calculate the exact length in feet that Einstein's body lay, and then count the bones! What fun!

**Cyber Geek Club Holds Unofficial Meeting**
The Unofficial Cyber Geek Club will be holding its daily meeting in the Cyber Café to discuss important topics such as Counter Strike, Warcraft and hygiene. Just kidding... that last one is a joke.

**Skin Divers to Dive in Alaska**
The GC Skin Divers will be sponsoring a trip to Alaska in fall semester. The trip will include activities such as an underwater adventure through the Alaskan Pacific in the middle of winter!! Sign me up!

**Compass Luks**

4 Nu Rites

The Compass is looking for nu rites four the payper. If you are a talented riter and you are interested, please email Michele Hester at ahes2131@gc.peachnet.edu.

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**Grab Your Halter Tops and Daisy Dukes, Strip Club Coming to Gainesville College**

April Landry

Clubs Editor
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Are you an attractive person? Do you take pride in your body? Do you like to dance for money? Well, then, Missy! The Strip Club is right for you!!

Gainesville College is proud to announce the arrival of its very own Strip Club. Meetings are Mondays at noon at the flag pole in the front parking lot, and Saturday nights at the Clermont Lounge in Atlanta (only the finest will do!). Dress is casual skank: leather, lace, lube; it doesn't matter! It won't stay on long!

Just think of the money you can raise shaking your "groove thang" in the face of a very appreciative contributor. Pay can range from $300 to $600 a night! The money made in the first few meetings goes towards the building of an arena for the Strip Club on campus, complete with stainless steel poles and LOTS of Formula 409. After that, it's as good as cash in your garter, sweetheart!

Joining member Peter Puffer says, "I've always wanted to be a part of an organization thatallows me to have complete creative freedom over my sweetass. The Strip Club does just that, and I think that will make people come," says Puffer, "and I want to join the Club in support of that freedom."

So what exactly do you have to lose? A few pounds couldn't hurt, but isn't necessary.

President of the Strip Club, "Candi", explains "We'll take just about anybody. You don't gotta be teeny tiny or nothin', I mean, shoot. Fat bottom girls rule the world, aight!"

So fellas, grab your cowboy chaps. And ladies, don't forget your tassels (we're not talkin' graduation here...)! Come join the sweaty fun and grind on down to the Strip Club today!! For more information, contact Candi Kane at candikane_stripclub@gc.edu by email, or by phone at 1-900-STICKIE.

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**Their Secret is Finally Out**

Young Detectives of Gainesville College are Working for You

By Leanne Anzola

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An exciting new club has been discovered here on the Gainesville College campus. Through diligent research, I have come across the very secretive and highly mysterious, Young Detectives of Gainesville College, or the YD of GC.

Such members of this tightly operated organization are in high abundance all over campus. I was not able to derive an exact number of members or even names of these so-called YDs. They do, however, have certain characteristics about themselves that blow their cover. If you have ever had that one person in every class that always shows up five to 10 minutes late to class, walking in as if they had caused no disturbance whatsoever. The professor doesn't even seem to mind and that student is usually on a cell phone or holding a cup of coffee. That, my dear Watson, is a member of the YD of GC!

They are obviously on their cell discussing a top secret agenda for the day, probably the theft of a purse or wallet, or perhaps the frightening glares a fellow student has received and now fears for their safety. The cup of coffee, of course, has their next meeting location written strategically either around the rim or on the bottom.

Admittedly, the YD of GC has not been so successful yet in investigating various forms of crime around campus. Lately, if anyone has lost a personal item and this item decides to magically reappear when you turn back around, the YD of GC are to thank. Do they what they can to make fellow GC students feel safe and try to at any cost to put an end to campus crime, large or small. In fact, their club motto is as follows: "Together we will be one, the one to protect our fellow students from others and even themselves sometimes."

How touching.

No one knows who has begun this fleet of Young Detectives, our very own investigators. One thing is certain, whoever began the YD of GC deserves a warm hug or at least a sincere smile from all of us. If the president of the YDs would happen to be reading this, I would ask of him or her to please come forward and let GC bask in your blinding glory. Thank you.
**BRIEFS**

**New Intramurals Offered this Month**
Four new Intramurals sports will now be offered. They include naked mud wrestling, underwater soccer, cosmic badminton and flashlight tag. If you are interested then see the P.E. department for more details.

**Sign up now for GC Easter Egg Hunt**
Sign up now for the 2003 Gainesville College Easter Egg Hunt. The hunt will begin at 11:00 p.m. on Easter Sunday and will continue until midnight. The eggs will be camouflaged and some even include special prizes. Be sure to not mistake the goose eggs for the Easter eggs, they also enclose special prizes. See the Easter Bunny for more details.

**Game Room hosts Jenga Tournament**
A Jenga tournament will be held on April 12 at noon. Sign up in the game room and Jenga blocks will be provided for those who participate. Be sure if you're under the age of 18 to sign a waiver before taking part.

**Geese Bowling Cancelled Due to Lack of Willing Geese**
Sorry students, but due to the lack of willing geese to participate in the goose bowling event, geese bowling is cancelled until further notice. All complaints should be taken up with Gus the Goose, the official mascot of GC.

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**The Sports Enthusiast...**

Interviews By Natalie Simmons

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**Counterstrike Chosen as Official Sport; Gamers Everywhere Rejoice in Decision**

Gainesville College has finally named its official school sport: Counterstrike! After many years of debate, the decision did not come lightly for the GC committee. Several sports were considered for this prestigious honor but only one could go home with the gold, and that one group was the Cyber Café Gamers. With their heads held high and with pride in their hearts they have claimed the GC campus with this triumphant victory. The Gamers leader and spokesperson Shannon S———- met with me after this announcement went public.

NS: So how does it feel to have this great honor bestowed upon you and your followers?
SS: It's a wonderful feeling Natalie, words can not express the gratitude and joy that I am feeling.
NS: Well, for those who have been living under a rock for the last few years, what is Counterstrike?
SS: I can't imagine anyone not knowing the joy and excitement that Counterstrike brings, but for me Counterstrike is a religion, not just a computer game. And now this so-called game, more like a lifestyle, will be the official game for all of Gainesville College.
NS: How did you and your followers first discover Counterstrike?
SS: Well, I like to say that it found us, just like the shits find ya after eating at Taco Bell.
NS: That's a disgusting way to put it. So is that when you started playing it religiously, or did it take a while to really hook you in?
SS: I guess I started playing it right when my grades starting falling. Weird, huh? I guess I needed something to occupy my time instead of studying and going to class.
NS: Some say you guys have turned the Cyber Café into a cult? What is your response to that?
SS: People always mistake us for a cult. We really try to keep the sacrifices to a bare minimum. Every since that whole mess goose incident, people have been turning up their noses to us.
NS: Another big question that several have raised to my attention are the health risks. Are there any medical hazards that are connected with playing Counterstrike or just the blank staring at the computers all day?
SS: Besides the cramped fingers and blurred vision, not really. I mean, there was that one time when we all came down with that weird rash from sitting too long, but that wasn't really hazardous.
NS: So what do you plan on doing with the blurred vision and cramped fingers? Have you seen a doctor?
SS: Yeah after the rash broke out, my mom sent me too the doctor for some ointment. He said that if I kept this addictive behavior up then my eyes could be permanently damaged. Doctor, smoker... what does he know? He limited my usages to two hours every other day, but that doesn't stop me.
NS: So you admit that you have become addicted?
SS: Oh yeah, over Christmas holidays I went through major withdrawals. I started shaking and having uncontrollable outbursts of "Bang bang" and "Take that you communist." So mom and dad had to allow me to play. I guess that's when I hit rock bottom. But luckily GC only closes down on Sunday, which gives me six straight days to save up.
NS: It sounds like you have more of an obsession rather than an addiction?
SS: Naw, I wouldn't say that. Get off my computer you freak before I get out my real gun!
NS: How do your parents react to this game? No I'm sorry to this lifestyle?
SS: At first, it was hard for them to understand my passion. But now that it has become the official sport of the school that I attend, they have no objections to it. Counterstrike and I have a special bond, we recently set our wedding date for sometime in May, so this is more than a game for me. I plan on making Counterstrike a permanent fixture in my life.
With that said, I had no need for the interview to continue. Not only was I scared for Shannon but I am now terrified for GC.
**Student Activities to Offer Goose Poop Bingo**

By Dustonia Call  
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Students still feeling a budget crunch from their recent spring break debauchery, take heart. Someone feels sorry for you, and they work in the Office of Campus Improvements. According to department head Ned Sterney, “Gainesville College has a long-standing tradition of being a rest area for wayward waterfowl. This spring, before they all fly to cooler climes, it is our intention to both recognize them for what they add to our campus, and to reward students for their patience in dealing with our feathered friends. Therefore, it is my pleasure to announce GC’s first annual Goosepoop Bingo.

“During the third week of April, for an entry fee of $5, each student will receive a magnetic decal which may be attached anywhere on their car. The first student to call the number listed on the decal and be confirmed to have somewhere on their car an undisturbed gooey gift from the goose wins tuition and books for a semester, courtesy of the Office of Campus Improvements,” says Sterney.

Certain additional rules do apply. Any token of goose love found to be smeared or otherwise manipulated is automatically disqualified. Goose may not be lured in any way. Cars may not be parked on campus overnight. Driving over a patch to get green tires does not count. The winning specimen will be subject to sampling and testing, and any found not to be of goose-origin will result in a reduction of the prize by one third the total amount of the award.

Adding an additional layer of excitement to the game, Sterney indicates that a powerball-goose will also be used. “A fifty dollar cash bonus also will be included if either the splendid splat is actually on the decal itself, or the powerful poopie is a biproduct of the official bingo mascot— who is currently under quarantine and being fed a diet of blackberries.

 Asked his reasoning for developing such a contest, Sterney responds, “We feel it’s important to acknowledge that it’s not always easy to wait for a line of waddling webfeet to cross the road when you’re five minutes late for class, and our guests of honor do make running across our lush green lawns to get to that class a little more exciting, especially on dress-shoe day. For all the good things our goose-friends do for us, there are certainly some drawbacks. Our contest seeks to make those little marks in the negative column a bit more bearable.”

Visit the Office of Campus Improvements to get your Goosepoop game piece for a chance to win tuition and book money.

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**Squirrels, Geese and Seagulls Compete for GC Mascotship**

By Blake Duncan  
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A campus-wide electronic vote is planned for April 16 to decide the campus mascot.

In the course of Gainesville College’s history, the goose has been the unofficial mascot. Recently, however, new challengers have appeared. With Lake Lanier reaching full pool for the first time since 1998, seagulls have made their return to the Gainesville-Hall County area, and as such have begun a campaign to become the unofficial mascot.

The goose became the unofficial mascot in 1997, at a time when gas prices were at least 20 cents cheaper a gallon, a new car was only $15,000 (depending on the make and model) and Bill Clinton was President. The seagulls claim that if they are elected, their first push will be to make the mascotship official, and to gain an office in the Administration building.

“The geese are the establishment of this school, and they’re not pretentious about it,” said one student, who then added, “It’s a horrible situation; I saw two seagulls bullying a goose in the lower parking lot. This has really gotten out of hand.”

Campus security also decries the current state of affairs, claiming that they will be calling in the Hall County Department of Animal Affairs if the situation is exacerbated.

The flock of seagulls are not the only group band-standing to become GC’s mascot. When the gulls announced that they would challenge the geese in the electronic vote, the squirrels came out in great numbers. Squirrels have long been a mainstay of the GC campus, and finally are getting the attention they have sought for so long.

“I’m behind the squirrels in this one,” another student claimed. “The geese crap everywhere and the seagulls are just too dang annoying. Plus, you don’t get fined if you run over a squirrel.”

A spokesperson for the squirrels stated that her group did not want to be left out in this vote, because they are a vital part of this campus, and come April 16 they will be recognized as the unofficial mascot. The squirrel platform is one of oak and birch.
**BRIEFS**

**Scientists Point Out Dying as Leading Cause of Death Worldwide**

Scientists at the Medical University of Libya claim that, after years of research, dying has been proven to cause death in 100 percent of the reported cases. Signs of dying include: cold body temperature, rigor mortis, lack of responsiveness, etc.

Franz Ferdinand Found Alive, World War I a Mistake

Historians in the Balkans have found Franz Ferdinand, the famed Archduke of Austria, alive and running a small bed and breakfast in southwest Serbia. Eastern Europe apologized for WWI at a news conference in Belgrade.

**Would You Believe She's 103?**

Archaeologists and other assorted scientists have discovered the corpse of singer/actress Cher under roughly 100 years worth of make-up build-up. Hollywood mourned and rejoiced the report.

Snideness Level Reaches All-Time High

The Compass Staff has reported that their own snideness level has reached a record high.

Martha Burk To Hold 'Nude' Protests

Martha Burk held a press conference to announce that the protests her group would hold during the Masters tournament would be nude. The press corps flew in terror, chaos ensued. A box of Pop-Tarts was stolen from Augusta grocery store during the riot.

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**Parking Deck to Replace Student Center**

By Blake Duncan
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As most students will say, parking has become a serious problem at Gainesville College. Campus Security, along with the Hall County Zoning Committee and the Board of Regents have devised a solution to this overbearing problem.

"During the summer and fall semesters of 2003, the University System will be tearing down the Student Center and the Music building in order to erect a four-story parking deck over the existing parking lot," said a Board of Regents spokesperson.

Other building projects that are expected to last for two years or more will increase GC's student capacity to over 15,000. Academic II will see additions that will add a second and third floor, along with a larger courtyard area. Academic III will be expanded and turned into one building with the Administration Offices. The Science Building will gain three new floors and a helipad so that helicopters can transport injured chemistry students to local hospitals.

Campus Security is looking forward to these changes, stating that it will allow the department to expand and add another 45 security personnel to the payroll, along with 30 new trucks and a van or two.

This will be the most extensive rebuilding project GC has undertaken since installing the underground warehouse under the soccer field. As for tuition and student activity fees, both will go up, the administration office claims. Tuition for in-state students will rise from roughly $700 to around $4,500, and student activity fees will go from $39 to $390.

"The parking deck is the most important thing for us at the moment. Once we get that built we can open up the field on the west side of campus for development. Orange Julius and Sbarro have already contacted us about opening up shops there," said the same Board of Regents spokesperson.

Student Government Association and the Campus Activities Board will be working hand-in-hand with the Board of Regents to make sure that students do not feel the rise in tuition and fees is not appreciated.

**Goose Sues Student for Hit and Run**

By Blake Duncan
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During an afternoon news conference on Feb. 28, Gainesville College security officers announced that a member of GC's unofficial mascot group, The Geese, was suing a student at the school for pain and suffering inflicted by a hit and run accident two weeks before.

The incident happened on Feb. 16, at roughly 2:15 p.m., when the student, driving a four-wheeled unlined gas-powered vehicle, struck the goose at the campus's main entrance. Authorities responded within two hours of the event.

The investigation began almost immediately after the incident occurred. A GC student who is a member of PETA's militant wing phoned the Hall County Department of Animal Affairs, who in turn contacted the Georgia State Department of Animal Affairs, who in turn contacted the Oakwood police. The

The goose was unable to schedule a photograph session, so we bring you this totally unrelated picture of Elmo. But isn't he just so cute and furry. Don't you just want to cuddle him?

PETA member could not be reached for comment, but did release a statement saying that his/her group would be willing to forgive the student who maimed the goose if that person agreed to become a level five vegan and not eat anything that casts a shadow.

An unnamed and totally unconfirmed Oakwood police source claimed that the student who perpetrated the crime would remain anonymous throughout the course of the investigation, after which they would become the object of mass amounts of ridicule.

The goose in question will be undergoing therapy and treatment at South Hall Veterinary Clinic for injuries ranging from two broken wings to a fractured bill. However, the goose is currently in an upper-body cast and confined to a miniature wheelchair. The Veterinary Clinic says the goose will be in rehabilitation for at least the next three months, while the student faces a fine of $400 and jail time.
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