Stowers Wins Big at Swim Meet

Marcus Stowers, right, a business administration student, won five blue ribbons on Feb. 25 competing in GC's bi-annual swim meet held in the gym. Stowers has a competitive background in the organization United States Swimming. Many others braved the waters with little or no professional swimming experience. Daniel Hulsey, center, is a biology major at GC.

Full Story Page 10

The Compass Salutes the Women of Gainesville College

By Michele Hester
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In 1987, Congress declared March as Women's History Month to celebrate the many accomplishments of women in American history. Each March Gainesville College takes part in this nationwide event by commemorating outstanding women.

Since GC opened in the fall of 1966 with an enrollment of 419 students, many great women have participated in making the school what it is today. Some of these women were here for a while and left for bigger and better things. Others have been at GC for nearly forty years.

What ties these women together is that they have all made an impact on Gainesville College.

During the month of March, Women's History Month, The Compass would like to recognize some of the great women of Gainesville College.

By no means is this a complete list of all the great women who have contributed to the history of the college. More nominees were suggested than we could publish in two pages.

With that, let's now pay tribute to Women's History Month by honoring Martha Nesbitt, Ann Purdy, Frances Meadows, Lillian Welch, Diane Carpenter and Andre Cheek.

Full Story, Pages 12-13

Continued on Page 3
Activity Hour Will Not Change

By Michele Hester
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Students and faculty at Gainesville College stood up to protest a proposed change in the activity hour and the administration listened.

Throughout January, GC administrators debated whether the activity hour should be changed to a different time. Instead, it will remain at noon-1:15 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Until 2001, GC had no activity hour set aside for students to participate in various clubs and organizations.

The current activity hour was designed to get more student involvement in campus events and make them feel more important to the college.

According to Tom Walter, GC's vice president of student affairs, "Students are more likely to stay at Gainesville College if they are involved on campus."

The proposed change in the activity hour was brought before GC's executive council due to the "outstanding enrollment numbers at Gainesville College," said Stoy.

"We are literally running out of space to hold classes," Stoy claimed the change would provide an extra hour of class time, opening additional time slots for morning classes.

On Jan. 16, Stoy and Walter met with 17 concerned students representing clubs and organizations across the campus and club advisors to discuss the possibility of moving the current activity hour to 1-2 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Tina Worthington, representing Second Wind and Future Health Professionals, spoke out in opposition of the change.

"This will not at all benefit the clubs that are vital at a commuter school," she said.

Politically Incorrect Club advisor Douglas Young attended the discussion and said he wished an estimate could have been made on how many additional classes the proposed activity hour change would bring.

Compass Wins 16 State Awards

From staff reports
The Compass
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Gainesville College's student newspaper, The Compass, brought home 16 awards at the 2003 Georgia College Press Association Better Newspaper Contest, which was held at the GCPA's annual convention Feb. 7 in Macon.

The newspaper won six first-place awards in the two-year college division, including Best Editorial and General Advertising Excellence. Copy editor Jacob Pomrenke reeled in two individual honors, Best Sports Story and Best Campus Community Service-Sports, for his story on the history of intercollegiate athletics at GC.

Former editor-in-chief Heather Hodges won Best Investigative News Story and Jason Flowers won Best Review for his October column on the fall movie releases.

The Compass was runner-up among two-year schools behind Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College for General Excellence.

"It's an honor to be recognized among our peers," said editor-in-chief Michele Hester. "We're very proud of everyone on our staff for their hard work and dedication."

Hodges and Flowers garnered second-place awards for Best Feature Story and Best Sports Photograph, respectively. The Compass also won second place for Best Campus Community Service in the News and Features divisions.

The Compass finished third in the following categories: Best Campus Community Service-Editorial Excellence; Layout and Design Excellence; General Photography Excellence; Best News Photograph (Jason Flowers); and Best Column (Frank Reddy).
Student Center Renovation Plans Being Made

Continued from Page 1

"It's an important first step," Walter said. "We're hoping to get this on the state budget for next year (2005-06) and go from there."

The Georgia Department of Transportation plans to build a new access road to Interstate 985 that would move the main campus entrance from its current location at the intersection of Landrum Education Drive and Mathis Drive to a new spot at the back of the CE building.

The renovated Student Center would serve as a "one-stop shop" for prospective and current students' needs.

"Frankly, we admit, the (current) student center is a dated structure," Walter said. "This new plan will give students more of a sense of pride in the school, we hope. Gainesville College won't be a place that they come to just to take classes. They'll want to spend their time here."

Added Alicia Caudill, director of Student Activities: "One of the difficulties we face now is that students have to go all around campus if they need the admissions office, the testing center and a lot of other administrative functions.

"We'd like everybody to have one place that they could find anything they need."

GC students played a major role in what additions were included in the proposal.

During February, Student Activities representatives conducted online and in-class surveys to get students' input on what features they would like to see in the student center.

They received about 200 responses that included such items as a larger cyber café, a reading room, hot food vending machines, more sitting areas and an outdoor dining area. Students also asked for more workspace for clubs and student organizations, Caudill said.

"We wanted to create smaller opportunities for people to gather together," she added.

Michelle Lindsey, a Campus Activities Board leader, was one of two student members—Daniel Elzey was the other—of the proposal committee that met to discuss possible changes to the student center.

"I think the new student center is going to make a tremendous difference here," said Lindsey, who helped lobby for an information desk to be added to the plan. "For a school that's growing as much as ours, it's something that needs to be done."

In addition to the survey, Student Activities also conducted two open forums, a noon session Feb. 25 and an evening session March 2, to garner student feedback.

"It's hard to conceptualize something so large, so new," Caudill said. "But we received a very positive response from all the students. It wasn't an issue that they wouldn't be here when the changes are done. The general feeling was that they hoped for (future) students to have the benefits that they don't have."

Walter said that most of the funding for the student center renovations will come from a state fund that pays for such programs.

The rest will have to be paid by the Gainesville College community over a period of several years.

"About $5 million will come out of the state revenue funds," he said.

"We would probably implement a separate student fee for the other $2 million. That would only be on a temporary basis until the project is finished."
**Communication Classes Tour Public Relations Firm**

By Michele Hester

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Building relationships was one topic discussed March 18 when students from Dan Cabaniss’ Mass Communication class and Caitlin Wills-Toker’s Business Communication class, took a tour of MS&L, one of Atlanta’s most prominent public relations firms.

Public relations is one of the fastest growing fields for students wishing to study communication. Students where given a short tour of the facility then spent over an hour in the agency’s training room where they listened to agents in the field speak about different aspects of public relations.

MS&L has been in the Atlanta area for over forty years and represents major companies as Coca-Cola, Home Depot and Home Depot to name a few.

Students were encouraged to ask questions about the industry. Jennie McDonough, vice president of human resources responded to a question about what she looks for when she receives a resume from a potential intern. She told the group she looks for a variety of things, but the major attribute that will catch her attention is a college student that goes above and beyond during their college career.

“If I get a resume that shows me a student made a difference during college by donating time outside of class to additional activities, it tells me they are hard workers and they want to succeed,” she said. “I like to hear about what the students have done in the past, so I can judge how I think they will do in the future.” She also said she does not only look for students who majored in PR.

Senior Account Executive Cathleen Miller is proof. Miller graduated from the Grady School of Journalism in print media at the University of Georgia and has spent the last ten years reporting for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, The Philadelphia Inquirer and the Wall Street Journal. She now leads a major department at MS&L. Miller said the most important aspect of searching for a job is to keep a network of contacts.

Charity Kassa, an account executive, agrees, “I found this job through a contact, and I have even directed friends to jobs through contacts I have made in the field.” Kassa also emphasized joining organizations to increase the “network of your contacts.”

“It was a very informative trip,” said journalism major Matt Henderson. “I learned a lot about the PR field.”

MS&L offers a summer internship that pays $10 an hour. Interns must be in their junior or senior year of college and must go through a concentrated screening process. The MS&L internship search begins every November and ends in February of the following year. Once chosen, interns work 40 hours per week for three months during the summer. For information about MS&L, go to www.mslpr.com.
Students Compete for Cash and Prizes

By Heather Daniels
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The people in the Student Center at noon on Feb. 16 were witnesses to the crazy antics of Preston Albert, the host of "The Real Deal Game Show."

Cash and prizes were promised to every participant and we all know how bad college students need money. Prizes ranged anywhere from cash to a pack of toilet paper to an MP3 Player. The prizes weren't always easily won, though.

Jenny Garrett, 18, an education major from Canton, was one of the many students among the audience to be chosen. Garrett's task was to find a gum ball in a plate of whipped cream. Easy enough, you say? Not when the plate is sitting on the floor and all she can use is her mouth. Too make it even harder on her another audience member, Jon Johnson, 20, a biology major from Buford, was instructed to shake the plate while Garrett's face was planted in the whipped cream. It was a messy task (the janitor was scrubbing the carpet after the show), but Garrett was able to get the gum ball. She then got to spin the cash wheel to find out how much money she won. The money on the wheel ranged from $1 – around $50. The wheel stopped on $35. Then Garrett had a choice, take the money or take what was in the black box. She was offered $10 to take the surprise. She accepted and was the proud recipient of a box of Swiss Miss Hot Chocolate (and the $10, of course).

Albert also gave audience members $1 if they were the first to produce random items, like the first person to show him their car keys, etc. It was quite a sight to see half a dozen people in the front row throw themselves across other and the stage for a buck.

Stephanie Ricketson was the show's last contestant. She was asked to put seven marshmallows in her mouth and say to the audience, "Okay, I'm finished." She then spun the wheel and also landed on $35. She also chose the $10, but then had a choice between two boxes. She chose the second box and received a portable CD player. Ricketson was then given another chance to spin the wheel which Albert had added a $50 and $100 label. Unfortunately, it landed on $7, but she was again given the choice to pick the box. She did and to her great surprise she won an MP3 player. Ricketson said she never wins anything.

Campus Lawn Fire Still Under Investigation

By Blake Duncan
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Gainesville College was once again vandalized, according to two eyewitnesses. Marian Darracott issued a press release Monday, Feb. 2 stating that two white males had been spotted setting leaves aflame, sparking a grass and leaf fire that charred the lawn beside the library Sunday.

The two suspects then ran from the scene, according to two eyewitness accounts. Hall County Fire Department units were dispatched and responded within minutes to extinguish the blaze.

Gainesville College's on-duty Public Safety Officer, Buddy Waldrep, reported to the building and, using a broom, swept leaves away from the library building.

The structure suffered no damage and no one was injured in the fire.

GC reported the incident to the State Fire Marshal that is assigned to Hall County. The investigation is being conducted by Lt. Byron Cash, who stated that the department does have a suspect in the case.

"I have an idea who one of them (the alleged perpetrators) is and we are currently hunting him down," Lt. Cash stated.

"The suspect has a warrant out for his arrest in another county and we believe he may be hiding from that.”

Literary Contest Winners

By Heather Daniels
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Every year Gainesville College has a campus wide literary contest. Students are able to enter essays, poems and short stories for a chance to be published in either the Hoi Polloi or the Chestatee Review.

There are four categories that are judged: Informal Essays, Formal Essays, Poems and Short Stories.

Many of the short stories and poems come from the Creative Writing class offered in the fall. This class is taught by Professor Tom Sauret. The students work hard all semester to perfect their writings. Their work is then judged by professional writers and professors.

The essays come from many of the English classes offered. Professors submit essay papers that received A’s.

This year’s winners are as follows:

POETRY:

1st place – Claudia George
2nd place – Angelina Bellebuono
3rd place – Melissa Turner

SHORT STORY:

1st place – Angelina Bellebuono
2nd place – Lauren Coffee
3rd place – Heather Daniels

INFORMAL ESSAY:

1st place – William S. Burrows
2nd place – Thomas Curran
3rd place – Carly G. Tilden

FORMAL ESSAY:

1st place – Kirstal McKenzie
2nd place – Kirstal McKenzie
3rd place – Josh Purcell
GC Hosts Science Competitions

By Jessica Bougher
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Middle-school students from across North Georgia converged on the Gainesville College campus Feb. 21 to compete in the 20th Regional Science Olympiad.

The events tested the students’ knowledge of chemistry, physics, ecology, forestry and even astronomy. While many events were held behind closed doors, events like the “Naked Egg Drop” “Storm the Castle” and “RoboBilliards” drew great crowds.

“We try to make it interesting for the students,” Dr. Tim H owe ll, GC coordinator for this year’s event. The 15 student teams were competing for the opportunity to go on to state level competition and hopefully to nationals. Instructors from Gainesville College and people from the Gainesville-Hall County community served as judges for various competitions.

March 6 was the second time this semester that a group of students took over the GC campus. Their objective this time was to win the Regional Social Studies Fair. The event was held in the gym.

The event was sponsored by the Georgia Council on Social Studies and was judged by professional educators from local Colleges, Universities, Technical Schools and High Schools.

Sixteen competitors from grades 5-12 participated and moved on to the state Social Studies fair March 20 at Clayton State College. Last year, there were 48 participants, with several later becoming state winners.

Coordinator Dixie Watkins of Gainesville High School summed up the spirit of the event, “They are all winners for participating and some drive a nice distance to participate.”

The disciplines covered by projects in the competition are Anthropology, Economic, Geography, History, Political Science and Sociology/Psychology. “Each project is designed to show research about the study of people in relation to their physical and social environment,” said Watkins.
Now's the Time to Apply for Summer Internships

By Jessica Bougher
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With summer break just a few weeks away, now is the time to start looking for summer internship opportunities. Many students ask why they should consider an internship, and Becky Smith offers three very good reasons.

1. Learn job skills
2. Build a resume
3. An internship is "an eye opening experience to see if you really want to work in that area."

Smith went on to say that traditional as well as non-traditional college-age students are excellent candidates for internship positions.

An internship provides an opportunity for unique hands-on-learning. Businesses like having interns working for them because they bring fresh ideas and learning into the workplace. The interns fill a need within the business while gaining valuable real-life job experience.

That real-life job experience translates to valuable skills and experience needed to build a resume. Many companies will look at a student who worked while going to school and see a potential employee with a good work ethic and a desire to learn beyond the classroom. Internships often lead to full-time positions upon graduation.

Possibly the best reason to consider an internship is the once in a lifetime opportunity to see first hand if the dream career is a match made in heaven, or a nightmare lurking just beyond graduation. Internships offer the opportunity to try a job on for size and see if it is a good fit before the lifetime commitment is made.

There are a few things a student should consider when applying for internship positions. Internships may be paid or unpaid. There is no standard to which an internship must conform. An example would be that a journalism internship with a newspaper would normally be a paid position while a magazine internship seldom offers financial compensation. Government internships occasionally have a stipend or allowance attached, but recent budgetary issues mean that fewer offer any type of financial compensation at all.

A variety of internship opportunities are available to students every year. The key to finding them is being aware of possible placements and asking questions. Job fairs are an excellent place to make contacts and hand out resumes. Instructors and department heads at school are often aware of internship positions. A recent walk through the hallways at Gainesville College resulted in five internship opportunities in locations such as Mt. Rushmore, Washington D.C., Yellowstone National Park and New Orleans.

Internships here at home are just as plentiful and just as exciting. Law offices often have internship opportunities for Paralegal student that can lead to full time employment upon graduation. A visit to the Career Counseling Office in the Student Activity Center may provide valuable information to aid in finding internship opportunities.

Below is a list of a few possible summer internships:

- The Institute on Philanthropy and Voluntary Service
  www.dcinternships.org
- The Time-Picayune New Orleans
  3800 Howard Avenue
  New Orleans, LA 70125
- Mt. Rushmore
  www.xanterra.com
- Yellowstone National Park
  www ypss.com
- Georgia Secretary of State Internships
  www.georgiasecretaryofstate.org
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Bright Lights, Big City and GC's Art Club

By Eva Griffin
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To the anticipation of many GC Art Club members, the annual trip to New York City was March 18-20. The stayd downtown at the Hyatt and visited several area museums. Highlights of the trip included excursions to two very different but equally fascinating museums, the Metropolitan Museum of Art and, for the first time ever, the Whitney Museum of American Art.

Founded in 1870, the “Met” is one of the world's largest art museums. It is home to more than two million works of art, spanning 5,000 years of human history. Just a few of its collections include the famed Unicorn Tapestries, costumes such as an evening gown by Christian Dior, and a life-size reconstruction of an ancient Egyptian chapel. Another interesting feature of the Met is a huge, indoor antebellum mansion.

The Whitney was founded in 1931 by Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney, an heiress and sculptor. She was a patron of the arts and supported some of the twentieth century's most famous artists, such as Edward Hopper and Georgia O'Keeffe. The Whitney has followed in her footsteps, featuring unconventional—and often controversial—works by lesser known American Artists. This year's Biennial, a huge exhibition which occurs once every two years, is sure to be no exception.

“The Whitney Biennial has mixed media exhibits, usually really out there. They push the limit,” said sophomore Micki Davis.

The art club visited several other venues as well. The Kitchen is a very avant-garde institution that focuses on often bizarre and intriguing performance art. Described as “Brooklyn's version of the Metropolitan” by the New York Times, the Brooklyn Museum of Art is the second-largest museum in the country. Students also visited the Pratt Institute, a postsecondary school in New York with a substantial art and design department.

GC Student Speaks About Life in Iran

By Michele Hester
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Each semester the Politically Incorrect Club at Gainesville College promotes projects to raise awareness of numerous social and political issues that affect GC students. On March 1, the club continued to increase consciousness at GC by hosting guest speaker Dena Davani, an Iranian immigrant who escaped with her family in 2001 and found freedom in the United States with the help of the United States government.

“My family received political and religious refuge,” said Davani, 19, who is now a biomedical engineering student at GC.

In Iran, Davani's father was a Christian, while her mother was a practicing Muslim. To be able to marry, her father had to convert to Islam but afterwards wanted to convert back to his Christian roots. “It's not illegal to be a Christian in Iran,” said Davani. “But it is illegal for a Muslim to convert to Christianity.” To keep from being arrested and eventually sentenced to death, the elder Davani fled Iran through Turkey and sought asylum with the United States government. It took two years before the family could join him in the U.S.

“It is so much better here,” she said. “In Iran, women have no rights at all.”

She spoke about the harsh dictatorship that governs Iran and requires women to cover themselves after middle school. Davani loves it here in the U.S. but would like to go back to Iran one day. When and if she does, “The hijab [veil] will go back on,” she said.

All of Davani's paternal relatives are in the U.S., but her mother's family is still in Iran. “My mother misses them all very much and is planning to take a trip this summer to see them,” Davani said. She will be traveling under her maiden name since her husband is still an Iranian fugitive.

“I feel so lucky that I came here,” Davani said. “There are so many more opportunities in the United States.”

After graduating high school in Iran, “Getting into the university is the greatest thing, but it's not about how smart you are,” Davani said.

“My brother failed the test three times, and he was so smart,” she said. The Iranian government administers severe tests to university applicants to screen the way the person has adhered to the government and its policies. Any minor indiscretion would reduce the chances of being accepted into the university.

Davani is very happy to be living in a country that is so open to education. She plans to one day pursue a career in dentistry, a profession most women in Iran likely would never consider.

Gainesville College student Dena Davani spoke to the Politically Incorrect Club on March 1 about how much better the living conditions are in the United States. Davani's family fled from Iran in 2001 seeking freedom in the U.S.
Swim Meet Brings Contenders of All Ages

By Jesse Turcotte
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The competition was wet and heated at the bi-annual swim meet on Feb. 25 in the Gainesville College fitness center. The wintry weather rolling in that night didn't stop 23 swimmers and a small army of spectators and volunteers from attending the event.

"This is the best turnout we've ever had," said Lisa Watson, fitness instructor and founder of GC's swim meet. The attendance represents an increase of almost 300 percent from the event in 1999, when there were only six swimmers.

The swimmers ranged in age from 18 to 61, including Dr. Beata Hebda, GC mathematics instructor, taking home three blue ribbons for her age group. Hebda volunteered in the swim meet last fall and promised herself to compete this time.

"I swam as a child, as a small child, you know, competitively," Hebda commented, her hair still dripping after winning the 25-yard freestyle swim, which is one pool length using any competitive stroke.

Marcus Stowers, who took home five blue ribbons, and Nikala Vizzan, who won four blue ribbons, also have competitive backgrounds in a program called United States Swimming (USS). Stowers and Vizzan were the only swimmers in the 100-yard IM (Individual Medley) event, which is four heats (a heat is one pool length) using four different strokes: butterfly, back, breast, and freestyle.

Most of the other swimmers braved the rough waters despite having little or no experience swimming competitively. Ribbons were provided for all of the first through sixth place winners, and every swimmer received a T-shirt for participating. A full list of the swim meet's blue ribbon winners is presented below. Congratulations to all our swimmers, and thanks to all the volunteers who helped to keep time and log the results.

**Individual winners**

**WOMEN**

Casey Wood (W18-24): 50yd free, 100yd free, 50yd back
Marissa Cook (W18-24): 200yd free, 50yd breast
Miranda Anderson (W18-24): 25yd back
Beata Hebda (W40-44): 25yd free, 25yd back, 25yd breast

**MEN**

Justin Hearon (M18-24): 25-yd free
Marcus Stowers (M18-24): 50-yd free, 50-yd free, 50-yd back, 50-yd breast, 100-yd IM
David Parks (M18-24): 200yd free, 25yd breast
Jeff Holloway (M18-24): 25-yd fly
Cesar Gutierrez (M25-29): 25-yd free, 25-yd breast, 50-yd breast
Hyung Ar (M25-29): 50-yd free, 25-yd back
Z Zimler (M40-44): 25-yd free, 50-yd free, 200yd free, 25-yd breast
David Park (M40-44): 100-yd free, 50-yd breast

**RELAYS**

100-yard Medley Relay: Miranda Anderson, Marcus Stowers, Nikala Vizzan, Casey Wood
100-yard Free Relay: Sandy Petrut, Catie Beaulieu, Marissa Cook, David Parks

Nikala Vizzan won four blue ribbons during the swim meet on Feb. 25. She is one of only two swimmers who competed in the 100-yard individual medley event, which uses four different strokes: butterfly, breast, back and freestyle.

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**P.E. Facility Hours**

**Fitness center**

M, W: 6:7:50 a.m. and 12:8:30 p.m.
T, Th: 6:7:50 a.m. and 12:9:45 p.m.
F: 6:7:50 a.m. and 11:3:45 p.m.
Sat: 8:10:45 a.m.
Sun: CLOSED

**Gym**

M, T, W, Th: 8 a.m.-9:45 p.m.
F: 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
Sat: 8:10:45 a.m.
Sun: CLOSED

**Pool**

M, W: 6:7:50 a.m., 11:11:50 a.m., 4:5:30 p.m. and 7:45:9:45 p.m.
T, Th: 6:7:50 a.m., 11:11:50 a.m., 4:9:45 p.m.
Sat: 8:10:50 a.m.
Sun: CLOSED
Judah Wins 9-ball Pool Tournament

By Michele Hester
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Maybe it was skill, or possibly it was the will of a higher power. Either way, Gainesville College student Barclay Judah, who plans to attend seminary school one day, took home a $30 grand prize after defeating James Culpepper in the championship match of GC's single-elimination 9-ball tournament held on Feb. 11 in the game room.

Prior to the tournament, all 17 participants agreed to play by official 9-ball rules, with one exception. Due to a problem that occurred during a Fall 2003 tournament, players could not “push” the cue ball to keep an opponent from having a shot.

“An hour is really not enough time to play a pool tournament,” said Collier Cato, a GC religion major who also runs the game room for Student Activities.

“But we are also here to go to school, so we try to not take up too much time,” he said. “Normally, we would play a double-elimination game, but time constraints keep us from doing so.”

At the beginning of the tournament, GC students Lee Ewing and Tam Cao, both regulars in the game room, were expected to make it to the finals, but each were eliminated early in the rounds. Cao has won two previous GC pool tournaments.

During the semi-finals, Charles Sullivan scratched on the 8-ball leaving Judah with ball-in-hand on the 9-ball, meaning he could place the cue ball anywhere on the table.

Brandon Twell, an engineering major who plans to attend Georgia Tech in the Fall because “they have lots of pool tables there”, “kissed” the cue ball off the six making the 9-ball fall and sending Twell to the finals, along with Judah, Culpepper and Justin Hurst.

Nursing student April David, who oversaw the tournament, said she had “never seen him [Hurst] play so well.” But Hurst was quickly defeated by Judah.

In the meantime Culpepper left Twell with a few shots, but Culpepper came through in the end.

The competition for third-place between Twell and Hurst was dominated by Twell, who won $10 for his effort.

During the last few minutes of the championship match, the game room grew quite. Many who had been defeated had already left for their next class. Judah thought it was all over when he went for the 7-9 combination and missed, but Culpepper made the costly mistake of scratching on the 8-ball, leaving Judah once again with ball-in-hand on the 9. Culpepper received $20 for his runner-up finish.

There are more game room events scheduled over the next few weeks. An 8-ball tournament was March 3, and a singles ping-pong tournament is set for March 24. Then on April 5 Dr. Cue, a billiards expert and motivational speaker, will be demonstrating trick shots.

Cato hopes these activities will draw a larger crowd to the game room. “We’d like to see a more diverse group using the game room,” he said.

David said she has “been hanging out in the game room since last semester” when she had a five hour break between classes.

Students Turn Out for Intramural Flag Football

By Jenn James
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Feb. 16 was a cold day to be outside playing Flag Football, but that is exactly what some members of the GC Intramurals Club were doing. Only two of the scheduled four teams played that day, but they had a great time in the round robin competition. MVP was unable to play due to a lack of the two required girls per team, and Not Fit 4 TV forfeited their chance by simply not showing up. TD played against Hairy Dawgs and lost. Other teams include the Raiders, Jets, Team Ballz, Kings, and the Gainesville Survivors.

The GC Intramurals Flag Football is co-recreational and plays Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from around one to two in the afternoon, depending on the players’ class schedules. All registered students, faculty, and staff are eligible to play so long as they have signed the liability waiver. Registration is on-line. All equipment, including flag belts, footballs and referees are provided. For more information, including rules, player lists, and scoring details, go to the GC website, under Clubs and Organizations.

For more information about GC intramural sports, go to the the intramurals website at http://www.gc.peachnet.edu/pe/intramurals.
Martha Nesbitt
Gainesville College President

There was never a question growing up that Martha Nesbitt would go to college. The question was whether she would be a teacher, nurse or secretary.

"Early on I aspired to be a teacher," she said. Nesbitt entered Duke University with the idea of becoming a high school math teacher, but like many other students, after a bad experience with college level math, changed her major to political science. During her senior year, she decided to stay on and get her masters.

Her first teaching experience was in an Atlanta public high school. "It was a good experience," she said, but the amount of discipline needed in public school and a move to Indiana led Nesbitt to her first part time teaching job at a university.

A few years later Nesbitt moved to the Atlanta area, started working toward her PhD at Georgia State University and found her first full time teaching job at Dekalb Community College. She was so excited. "I remember thinking, I am now a college teacher," she said.

She was eventually promoted to Vice President of Academic Affairs and was happy in that position. "Within five years I knew I wanted to be president," said Nesbitt.

When then president Foster Watkins announced that he planned to retire, a presidential selection committee chaired by Caywood Chapman formed and Nesbitt was one of 16 who were invited to interview. After a few more interviews, Nesbitt had connected with the search committee and was named President of Gainesville College. She is the first female to hold this position. "I was on pins and needles when I received the call from the chancellor," she said. "When I became the president, I felt like I just had been awarded an Emmy."

During the seven years Nesbitt has been at GC, the college has experienced many changes. A two-story science and technology building was completed in 2000. In May 2001 Gainesville College became the first two-year institution in the University System to have funded an Eminent Scholar Endowed Chair when Jim Lorence, Eminent Scholar of History joined the faculty.

The Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools awarded GC the unusually high number of five commendations. Last semester GC received a Best Practices award by the University System in regards to preparing students for the Regents Test, and the new Oconee campus has increased enrollment by almost 30 percent.

Nesbitt said she is very proud of all that GC has accomplished, but she is the most proud that GC "is the only institution in the University System that is completely tobacco-free." As far as plans for the future, Nesbitt said she would like for GC "to grow a little more modestly so we can keep up better. We will be seeking a change of status, but our overall focus is to remain the premier two-year college."

- By Michele Hester

André Cheek
Director of Minority Affairs and Multi-Cultural Programs

André Cheek is in her fifth semester at Gainesville College, and her mission statement is simple: to keep our campus culturally educated. She is the Director for Minority Affairs and Multi-Cultural Programs in the Student Activities building. Among her many duties, Cheek is the advisor for the Black Student Association and the chair to the Special Recognitions Committee.

In the weeks before each Fall or Spring semester, Cheek hand signs over six hundred letters to welcome new students and to keep them informed of upcoming events within her department. During the school months her task is to teach leadership skills that minority students might not have gained in high school, and to ensure that the students are on track.

The Minority Affairs and Multi-Cultural Programs Department organize many recreational activities for students including basketball competitions, a Chili Cook-off in October and Community Outreach. During Community Outreach, the department travels to different communities within Hall County to invite prospective students to Gainesville College.

Every year the Black Student Association raises funds for their annual retreat. In her first year with the program (2002) the BSA went on three day camping hike which Cheek remembers as "An enlightening experience for us all... we got really dirty". Last year the students took a cruise to the Bahamas. - By Jeremy Kuter

Lillian Welch has been she was a student here but she joined GC on a part-t the opportunity to teach the opportunity to teach another people. Welch holds three memories that she keeps especially has spent at GC.

First, she was homecoming queen while she was a student at GC. First dates that her and her husband had been on prior to getting married.

Second, in the year 2000, she was awarded the Alumnus Award, Frances Meadows (who was once a teacher at Gainesville College, t.

Third, she was elected Outstanding Faculty Member in the spirit of many other faculty members, among whom Christy Yeager is a member. Purdy, who also taught at GC but died in a car accident. Welch said that "I consider Gainesville College my home away from home," she said.

Concerning her future goals, Welch plans to stay at GC for as long as teaching here until I retire." - By Jack Howland
of Gainesville College

Ann Purdy
Professor of English

The morning of Oct. 22, 1996 will remain in the memories of many people at Gainesville College for the rest of their lives. In this day, beloved mother, friend and GC english Professor Ann Purdy died suddenly on her way to school in an auto accident.

Longtime friend and colleague Sallie Duhling recalled, “Whenever she taught Western Literature, the class overflowed.” Duhling said, “Ann could get away with things with students that others could not. Students were not in her class, Ann would go up to the Student Center, and I would talk with students that others could not.”

Janice Nylander, Humanities department secretary, keeps a framed photo, inscribing the spirited Purdy with her bold, contagious smile.

“Ann was a kind and compassionate friend,” said Tom Sauret.

Diane Carpenter was a wonderful asset to Gainesville College life. From Jan. 3, 1989 up until her death on July 16, 2001, Carpenter developed many close relationships while making a large impact on the campus. Carpenter was non-traditional student here at GC. During her time as a student here, she was elected to Who’s Who in American Junior Colleges and graduated with an Associated Degree in Business Administration. At North Georgia College she was inducted into the honors society of Phi Kappa Phi. She graduated from Brenau University with a Master’s degree in Business Administration. While earning these degrees, Carpenter had unconditional support from her late husband, Dr. Arthur Carpenter.

Not quite out of school yet, Carpenter began working at GC and an administrative assistant, held many positions over the years and became the head of the advising center.

In 2000, Carpenter won the Eleanor Crawford Award as an outstanding faculty member. She also served the Gainesville College Women’s Organization and serving as Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President and President over the years.

Both faculty and students alike dearly miss Diane Carpenter. Sarah Booker, another co-worker and close friend of Carpenter’s said that, “Diane was a great friend. She was a wonderful student, a faithful Gainesville College employee, and she will be greatly missed. But we have many fond memories of her.” - By Jenn James

Frances Meadows
Assistant Director of Financial Aid

One of Hall County’s most influential female leaders got her start at Gainesville College.

The late Frances Meadows, who became the first African-American woman elected to the county commission in 1992, was also the first minority employed by GC. After being hired in 1969 following her graduation, she developed the school’s first automated data-processing system for grades and registration. Later, she became GC’s first Minority Student Recruiter, where she mentored many subsequent enrollees before serving as the Assistant Director of Financial Aid.

In 1991, Meadows received GC’s Eleanor Crawford Outstanding Staff Member Award; she won the Drum Major of the Year Award, a local civil right honor, the following year. The Gainesville native retired from her post in 1999.

But Meadows’ contributions to GC pale in comparison to her influential leadership in the community.

Elected as the District 4 Commissioner in 1992, Meadows played an instrumental role in bringing the 1996 Olympic rowing and canoe/kayak events to Lake Lanier and helped Gainesville and Hall County forge a water agreement the next year. She served as Vice-Chair of the County Commission in 1999 and was the senior member of the board when she died from leukemia-related complications at the age of 59.

On April 2, The Office of Minority Affairs in support of National Women’s History Month will present the 3rd Annual Women Leaders of Hall County Luncheon in memory of Frances Meadows. - By Jacob Pomrenke

Diane Carpenter
Coordinator of Advising Center and Director of Disability Services

Diane Carpenter was a wonderful asset to Gainesville College life. From Jan. 3, 1989 up until her death on July 16, 2001, Carpenter developed many close relationships while making a large impact on the campus. Carpenter had been diagnosed with lung cancer, but she did not allow her illness to affect her duties. Co-worker Becky Smith said, “When it came down to choosing between her health and helping a Gainesville College student, she would be here.”

Carpenter was a non-traditional student here at GC. During her time as a student here, she was elected to Who’s Who in American Junior Colleges and graduated with an Associated Degree in Business Administration. At North Georgia College she was inducted into the honors society of Phi Kappa Phi. She graduated from Brenau University with a Master’s degree in Business Administration. While earning these degrees, Carpenter had unconditional support from her late husband, Dr. Arthur Carpenter.

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Capricorn:
New 2004 Resolution: Don’t leave wrappers at the scene of a stake out.

Aquarius:
2004: Let go of your luxurious past and get back to stirring cabbage stew for your ten toothless rug rats.

Pisces:
2004: Must teach your dozen cats to use the toilet. Litter box is running over.

Aries:
2004: Plan the perfect double murder to knock-off your in-laws.

Taurus:
2004: Must quit smoking to increase longevity of life and the chance to see aliens and robots fight for control of human slaves.

Gemini:
2004: Quit beating your children, start beating the clock.

Cancer:
2004: Must stop lying about New Year’s resolutions but continue lying in general.

Leos:
2004: Quit using foul language to yourself and begin doing it toward other people very, very loudly.

Virgo:
2004: Must realize and accept you were raised on an Amish Farm far, far away from Compton.

Libras:
2004: Must stop being too sexy and try to wear hair in bun.

Scorpio:
2004: Bury treasure and make a map made of fruit roll ups and licorice. Hide map for others to find or when you are starving.

Saggitarius:
2004: Stop eating meat and begin eating rocks with small plastic forks.
**March**

Regents Test Mon., March 22 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.  
CE/PA Building

Regents Test Tues., March 23 2:30 p.m.  
CE/PA Building

Singles Ping-Pong Tournament Wed., March 24 Noon – 1:15 p.m.  
Student Center Game Room

Careers in Business Wed., March 31 Noon -1 p.m., and 5-6 p.m.  
Career Center in Counseling and Testing Center, Student Center

**April**

Qi Gong for Positive Mental Health Thurs., April 1  
Noon -1 p.m., and 5-6 p.m.  
Lanier C, Student Center

Producing a “Great” Resume Tues., April 6  
Noon -1 p.m., and 5-6p.m.  
Career Center in Counseling and Testing Center, Student Center

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**Students from the Black Students Association** pose for the camera with Director of Minority Affairs Andre Cheek after a Step Dance Show in February. The group has been together for over a year. They formed last February to honor Black
Don’t Forget 50 First Dates

50 First Dates is by far one of Adam Sandler’s funniest movies. The movie is also good to see on a date (a first date perhaps?). Of course, Adam Sandler has to insert some of his crude slapstick humor into the movie, but 50 First Dates has a great storyline as well. Adam Sandler plays Henry Roth who is a Hawaiian local (yes, one more movie set in Hawaii) who likes to go out with beautiful vacationing women for the duration of their stay in Hawaii and them dump them the day before they have to depart back to their homelands. Henry is also a residing veterinarian at the local aquarium. He dreams of one day sail off to Alaska in his homemade boat to study walruses while they live underwater. While at a diner one day, Henry meets a charming girl by the name of Lucy (played by Drew Barrymore). They hit it off. And they agree to meet the next day, at the same place, at the same time. Well, the next day rolls around and Henry approaches Lucy (who is wearing the same exact clothes as the day before) at a booth, but Lucy does not recognize him. She just tells him to go away, that she has no recollection of ever meeting him. This perplexes Henry, but he is soon informed by the owner of the diner that Lucy was in a car accident a little more than a year before and she suffered damage to her brain. She is afflicted with short term memory loss. She can remember everything up to the day of the accident, but after that she can’t remember anything else. She is living the same day over and over again. Finally, Henry convinces Lucy to have breakfast with him, which she does. But then Henry is forbidden, by Lucy’s father, to see Lucy in the diner anymore. So Henry devises ways in which he can see Lucy outside of the diner (one occurrence that involves Henry’s friend Ula, played by Rob Snyder, getting the crap beaten out of him by Lucy with a baseball bat). And then one day Lucy finds out that she has brain damage. After finally accepting her fate, Lucy trusts Henry enough to go out with him. And every day Henry gets Lucy to fall in love with him all over again. Lucy eventually comes to the conclusion that she does not want to put Henry through this anymore, so she decides to break up with him. So Henry heads to Alaska, but he turns his boat around because he cannot stand the thought of being away from Lucy and he asks her to marry him. The last scene leaves the viewer feeling impressed and inspired by what Henry has done to get Lucy to stay with him. "50 First Dates" is another work of art on the part of Adam Sandler.

Jack Howland is a twenty-year-old Journalism Major who is attending Gainesville College for his second year. He hopes to transfer to the University of Georgia and earn a degree in Journalism. He also hopes to write for an outdoor magazine or catalogue when he graduates.

Dixon Drive is Revved Up

A new band that just started performing last year, Dixon Drive has what it takes to make it to the top. They have great chemistry together on and off stage and they love what they do, not to mention they have incredible talent.

Dixon Drive is comprised of four guys, all who contribute quite a bit to the band. Michael Smith is the lead singer, plays guitar and harmonica, Russel Reed plays lead guitar, Bud Harris plays bass and Carl Smith is the drummer. They each give and sacrifice to make things work. Michael feels that the reason Dixon Drive is going to make it is because of what they do for the band. "I can come to the band with a song that has cords, a melody and lyrics, but by the end of the night it will have transformed into a great work because of what these guys do," he says.

They were all part of different bands, but each fell apart or dissolved and they eventually came together. Though Dixon Drive has been together for a few years, they didn’t start performing live for the public until January of last year. After goofing off and just having fun, the members of Dixon Drive decided to buckle down and get serious. Their first show was at Buffalo’s in Oakwood, but they have since played at Sports Time, Monkey Barrel and DT’s in Athens.

Dixon Drive is a hard rock group, but they have more to give to the community than just screaming and noise. They want people to be touched by their music when they hear it and go away with a wonderful experience. They all feel that if the audience went away each night feeling the same way the band members felt, they’d be the biggest music group to ever come out of Georgia. It could happen.

Each member of Dixon Drive has his own musical influences, ranging from The Rolling Stones, Tool, The Doors and the Deftones to U2, Jimi Hendrix, Led Zeppelin and yes, even Enya. Bud says that he loves music that is aggressive and beautiful at the same time and everybody realizes it. Carl likes bands that are socially aware and speak to people through their words and music.

I’ve never talked to a more devoted group of guys than these four are towards their goals and beliefs, the music they love and the people they are playing for. They all have their own opinions and suggestions, but like Russell says, what dysfunctional family doesn’t. Their next show is scheduled for March 27 at The Monkey Barrel in Gainesville. Everybody is encouraged to come out and take a look and listen at this great new band.

Heather Daniels has been a student at Gainesville College longer than she cares to admit. She has been working with The Compass for the past two years and loves every minute of it. She is an English Major and will be graduating in the summer. Her life long dream and goal is to be a famous author of fiction.
Uncovering Da Vinci’s Code

“The Da Vinci Code” has been raking in millions since its release in 2003. It’s been on the best seller’s list from the beginning and it looks like it will be there for a while.

The “Da Vinci Code” by Dan Brown is probably one of the best mysteries I have read in over a year. I love mysteries and books that take the reader to a different place. This book does exactly that.

Brown takes us through a maddening murder mystery that happens in The Louvre, the most well known museum in Paris, France. The prime suspect and also probably the only person who can solve the murder of the curator of the museum, Jacques Sauniere, is Robert Langdon, professor of Religious Symbology at Harvard University. Langdon finds himself teamed up with Sauniere’s niece, Sophie Neveu, an agent and cryptographer for the police department in Paris. They race throughout the entirety of Paris trying to stay one step ahead of the police who are chasing them, interpol and the murderer himself to unlock all the mysteries surrounding the curator’s murder. Langdon and Neveu figure out clue after clue using cryptography, symbology and sometimes just plain common sense. Once the reader thinks they’ve figured it out another wrench is thrown and they’re back at the beginning.

This novel is filled with historical facts about Leonardo Da Vinci, the Louvre, Paris, the Catholic Church and a European secret society called The Priory of Sion. Many of these facts are common knowledge, others are not. How many people, before reading this story, knew that Da Vinci was a homosexual, or that it’s been debated for years that the model for the Mona Lisa painting was very possibly a male?

There are mixed emotions on how true all the history in “The Da Vinci Code” really is. I personally didn’t care. This book is a work of fiction, people need to remember that. Though, in my opinion, I do believe that Brown took a lot of time to research this book and make sure the facts were right. It wouldn’t be on the best seller’s list still if it didn’t have at least most of the facts right. Critics would have torn it apart before it was even published.

People that I have talked to about “The Da Vinci Code” say that they couldn’t put it down once they started reading it. The book was that good. I can honestly say that I was able to put it down a time or two. So it didn’t keep my attention hooked from beginning to end. However, I do recommend this book to anyone who’s looking for a good fiction or mystery to read. Other books by Dan Brown are “Angels & Demons” which also stars Robert Langdon and is the prequel to “The Da Vinci Code,” “Deception Point,” and “Digital Fortress.”

Heather Daniels has been a student at Gainesville College longer than she cares to admit. She has been working with The Compass for the past two years and loves every minute of it. She is an English major and will be graduating in the summer. Her life long dream and goal is to be a famous author of fiction.

A Midterm Game Addiction

If you were one of the seven unlucky people to buy Civilization: Play the World then I feel sorry for you and your family because you are a loser. And you’ll always be a loser, so go back to Loserville, you loser!

If you bought the newest expansion Civilization III: Conquest, however, then I commend you, good sir. This expansion is everything the first one should’ve been. It even has the multiplayer pre-packed with it. This expansion does to this game what the expansion to Diablo II did: it makes a great game almost perfect. Diablo became perfect...and a whole year of my life in hours was spent playing it. Finally after medical rehabilitation, I was able to put that game down. Anyway, C:C has a similar grasp on my life right now, but the slower game play allows me to do homework between turns, and after a thousand turns of the game (you can adjust the number of turns in the expansion from the standard 540 up to 1000), I’ll put it down until next semester, hopefully.

Civilization: Conquest has the same graphics and audio as the original. The improvements are in the new fifteen civilizations, and other game play aspects. More governments, wonders, units, scenarios, a great map editor, and more customizable options when starting the games make each random map more enjoyable.

Some bugs still exist though, but nothing major enough to hamper game play, more just aesthetic hindrances. Some of the new wonders don’t show up on the overhead view of your city. I search frantically to find my Temple of Zeus. After crying I came to the conclusion someone built it outside of town.

Also, the civlopedia was expanded in Conquest to accommodate the new items. The Civlopedia is a wonderful thing; it gives historical accounts of every unit, building, wonder, and government in the game. I’d rather read through that to study for a history exam than some of the overly expensive textbooks here at college.

I haven’t played the online part of this game, but the taste of Play the World is still sour in my mouth so I’m afraid to. If you just stick to the main game, downloading maps from fan sites, it’ll be more than enough fun to keep you occupied and away from online play.

John Furst has been playing video games since before he could even tie his shoes. While getting into anime at the age of nine, John later discovered roleplaying to coincide with his already geeky lifestyle. John is current president of the Anime Club here at Gainesville. He has a major in Computer Science and Journalism.

GTA's Dracula Captures Approval of Audiences

By Heather Daniels
Arts & Entertainment Editor
hdan6161@gc.peachnet.edu

The Gainesville Theatre Alliance’s second main stage performance, “Dracula” was a spine-tingling success. Once again the GTA pulled off an exceptional performance. The vampires were believable, as was the blood and the death scenes. Well, they were as real as could be expected in a fantasyland. Audience members couldn’t keep their eyes off the stage during the entire show.

One of the most memorable and chilling scenes was during the first Act when Dr. Seward was watching after Lucy on her sick bed. Seward fell asleep and Dracula called to his newest “family member.” Lucy rose from the bed, and as the haunting music played in the background, she plunged off the stage to her death.

Though the whole of the show was suspenseful and thrilling, there were a few tense-breaking moments when the audience laughed. The most amusing character, the one that the entire audience loved throughout the show, was crazy Mr. Renfield, played by Eddie Rector. Rector did a marvelous job portraying Renfield, a patient at the Bedlam Insane Asylum, and Dracula’s most faithful follower. Rector kept the audience very much entertained with his anecdotes, quips and just plain and simple, his behavior.

Michael McCracken made the role of Dracula his own. He was intriguing, mysterious and romantic in his portrayal. Though McCracken will always be remembered for his comedic roles, no one will ever forget his astounding role as Dracula. Jim Hammond, the director of GTA and “Dracula” was right, sometimes the actors known primarily for their comedic talent can cross over and be a part of the dark side.

The entire cast was well chosen for this show, from the vixens and the Bedlamites to the main characters. They were all so very real. Chandra Owenby portrayed Mina. Vinnie Farrell played Jonathon Harker. Kristina Sutton played the role of Lucy exceedingly well. Cliff Smith was Dr. Seward. Gordon Lawson was Wilkins, the unfortunate Asylum employee later killed by Renfield. And we can’t forget the wonderful actor out of Atlanta, Chris Kayser, who portrayed Prof. Van Helsing.

A huge round of applause also goes out to Boone Hopkins, who was in charge of the lights and kept the mood suspenseful; and also to Stuart Beeman for his wonderful set design; Gay Hammond for her exceptionally written adaptation and the beautiful period costumes; and to Chris Moore for his amazing effects with surround sound.

A lot of hard work was put into “Dracula” and it paid off. The GTA’s first step away from their usual shows, was a good one.

The Gainesville Theatre Alliance’s “Dracula” captured the audience with such fervor that it will be a show none will soon forget.

GTA Has Potential

By Heather Daniels
Arts & Entertainment Editor
hdan6161@gc.peachnet.edu

The Gainesville Theatre Alliance closes their 25th season with “Comic Potential.”

Directed by Richard Garner, Georgia Shakespeare Festival’s Producing Artistic Director, “Comic Potential” is a futuristic satire on love. A screenwriter falls in love with his leading lady, who isn’t exactly human, she’s a robot. The show is supposed to be hysterical with nonstop laughter.

Jim Hammond, the director of GTA says, “‘Comic Potential’ is a hilarious social satire that cleverly questions what it means to be a Ryan Gerard plays the washed up screenwriter/movie director and Kristina Sutton plays the “actoid” that he falls in love with. Other notable members of the cast are Cliff Smith, Amanda Rowell, Jack Hulse, Siobhan Collins and Ann Demling.

There will be a Stage Tour on March 30 at 6 p.m. for anyone interested in how a show like “Comic Potential” operates.

“Comic Potential” runs April 13-25 at Gainesville College’s Ed Cabell Theatre in the Continuing Education building. Tickets are: Adults $16, Seniors $14, Non-GC students $8 and GC students $4. Performance Times are Tuesday-Saturday 7:30 p.m. and Sundays 2:30 p.m. There will be a preview performance on Sunday, April 11 at 6 p.m., general admission $8.
THE VOICE OF THE COMPASS

Student Voices Affect GC Policy

Congratulations to all the Gainesville College students and faculty who spoke out against the proposal to change GC's activity hour. You voiced your opinions on this issue and the administration at GC listened.

It is not often in a college setting that administrators will take the time to hear what students have to say, but our administrators not only took the time, they actually listened to and cared about how we feel on the subject. Dean Michael Stoy and Vice President of Student Development Tom Walter set aside time from their busy schedules to meet with many students and faculty members who were upset at the idea to change the activity hour.

Representatives from almost every club and organization on campus met with Stoy and Walter and expressed views discouraging the change. Students argued that extra-curricular activities are vital components required in obtaining a true college experience; in some cases, even more important than class time. Stoy agreed but suggested that GC is running out of room for classes and needed to do something to accommodate the large numbers of students who continue to apply to GC.

Suggestions for more Friday and weekend classes were introduced, as well as the addition of more online courses. Stoy and Walter announced that every possibility would be thoroughly considered before a decision is made.

After numerous committee meetings, the announcement was finally made. The Gainesville College activity hour would remain unchanged. The Compass feels that the same decision might not have been made if students had not expressed an outpouring of concern about the issue.

The students involved in clubs and organizations at GC are involved because they choose to be. Clubs and organizations on a college campus are in many cases the only means for students to meet other students with similar interests. These organizations give students a sense of belonging.

When that meaningful sense is threatened, students must stand up for what they want and need. That is exactly what the students who met with Stoy and Walter did: They stood up for a cause and the result was a positive one. Everyone on this campus could learn a lesson from students who stood up for what they believed in. As former President John F. Kennedy once said, “One person can make a difference ... and every person must try.”

Safety on Campus Still Remains a Concern for Many Students at GC

Throughout the month of March, the Compass has received numerous emails and messages from Gainesville College students who are concerned with their safety on our campus.

John Ash emailed us on March 3 asking if someone from the Compass would do an investigative report that would explain why the lights on the lower parking lot next to the tennis courts did not light up at night. The investigation is underway.

On March 18, a female student sent an email to say she is scared to walk to her car at night because of the insufficient amount of lighting in any GC parking lot. She said that she even went as far as contacting Jerry Spiceland, head of plant operations at the college.

Spiceland said that over the years, he has received “very few complaints” concerning the lighting in the parking lots. He said that if evening students should take common-sense safety precautions (such as not cutting through corners and walking on the sidewalks) in order to feel secure on campus. Spiceland added that campus security is always available for anyone that does not feel safe.

If not a safety hazard, the dim parking lot lights have been a nuisance for years. Cars have been burglarized and vandalized; even a stolen automobile was recovered on this campus recently. Within the last few weeks, a fire was started on the lawn grass next to the library. These incidents may not have harmed anyone at GC, but they certainly could contribute to an insecure feeling among the student body.

Oakwood is not the same town it was when this school started in 1966. Our GC community is growing larger every semester. In order for GC to keep up with this growth, it's time for Spiceland and Marion Darracott, director of public safety, to get more help on the security front. There is only so much they can do to ensure our safety. A more visible security presence, as well as more visible lights in the parking lots, would go a long way toward regaining the trust of students when it comes to their safety.
Mars Mission = Mistake

Blake Allen
Opinions Editor

In case you haven’t heard, George W. Bush has proposed a $1 billion dollar boost to NASA’s budget over the next five years in order to start a program that would place a permanent base on the moon and eventually land a man on Mars. Analysts predict that in order to complete this mission of interplanetary exploration that hundreds of billions of dollars would have to be spent. This recent decision comes as one more ideal that the current president has borrowed from his father, who had a similar space exploration plan in 1989. Luckily George Sr.’s plan never left the launch pad as Congress turned it down after learning that it came with a $400 billion dollar price tag.

The decision to travel to Mars is nothing but a political gimmick during election time to uphold U.S. supremacy and begin another cash consuming space race. I don’t foresee a future where we inhabit barren, lifeless terrain with conditions not suitable for us. I really feel that it is not in America’s best interest to invest enormous sums of money to inhabit a small portion of the moon when the money could be better spent making the earth more habitable for future generations.

I believe I have an explanation for Bush’s spending plan for space. He is a Republican through and through: born with a silver spoon in his mouth, a person who has gotten to where he is through special privilege, who has forgotten how he achieved his status, and bases his policies on how exceptional he is. Wake up! The deficit is increasing, the economy is in the toilet, there are no jobs, the war effort is draining money by the day, and more than one billion people around the world are malnourished and starving. Why then are we even entertaining the thought of spending ridiculous funds to play Johnny Space Cadet and ignoring the problems we face here and now.

I have heard that America will lead the way and that we need to do this for the future. How can we worry about the future when the present state of our planet is in jeopardy. Everyone is so encompassed by the idea that we might find little green men that they are blind to the price tag that comes with such an expenditure. I urge all of you to oppose such unnecessary spending and vote someone into office who can save this country’s financial situation. As Pink Moon once said “You can take a road that takes you to the stars, I’ll take the road that will see me through.”

Be Aware of Safety Laws

A recent article in our school newspaper, The Compass, as well as some media coverage by one of our Atlanta television stations highlighting the dangers of crosswalks and drawing attention to the rights and responsibilities of both drivers and pedestrians, prompts me to address the concerns that many of our students, faculty and administrators have expressed about the crosswalks on our campus.

The area of most concern seems to be the crosswalks across Landrum Educational Drive. Many have voiced their concerns about cars and speeding through the crosswalks (the posted speed limit on Landrum Educational Drive is 25 m.p.h) and about cars failing to stop for those who are crossing.

First, I believe it is important to point out that a majority of those driving on Landrum Educational Drive at the peak hours for classes are our students and students from Lanier Tech. Gainesville College Public Safety personnel have been assigned by the college administration and authorized by a Hall County ordinance passed in 1994 to direct traffic and assist pedestrians as they attempt to cross Landrum Educational Drive during the peak times when pedestrian traffic is the greatest and have done so for the past several years. These officers are posted at the two (and often, three) positions used most by pedestrians several times each business day.

Some of the observations made by these officers and myself include seeing students talking on cell phones as they cross the street and often failing to even look in both directions before entering the street. Some students continue to cross the street diagonally rather than crossing in the marked crosswalks or walking directly across the street as state law requires.

Some drivers, when cautioned about driving through the crosswalks, acknowledge that they weren’t paying sufficient attention to the road or to the people trying to cross the street. Many have stated that they did not know that state law requires drivers to stop for pedestrians in crosswalks. And again, many of these drivers were talking on cell phones when they failed to stop for pedestrians in the crosswalks.

I believe that it is important to emphasize that the responsibilities for safely crossing the street at any location on our campus by both the driver and the pedestrian.

Pedestrians do not have the right to dart out in front of traffic. Pedestrians must exercise caution and due care before entering the street by looking both ways and giving drivers ample time to notice them and to come to a complete stop. Statistics have shown that a human being struck by a car moving at 20 m.p.h has about an 80% chance of survival; however, the percentage rate for survival after being struck by a vehicle moving 40 m.p.h decreases to about 40%.

Drivers of motor vehicles are required by state law to stop for all pedestrians who have entered into a marked crosswalk on that side of the street on which the vehicle is being driven. This law does not mean that the driver must only slow down. It means that the vehicle must come to a complete stop. When a motor vehicle comes to a complete stop the weight of the vehicle shifts from the front of the vehicle to the rear with a significant degree of movement dependent upon the speed at which the vehicle was traveling. The same law that requires a complete stop at all stop signs also applies to crosswalks.

The most often-used excuse heard by the officers working these crossings each day are (1) I am late for a class and (2) I just wasn’t paying attention. Both of these excuses have remedies—(1) leave sooner and drive slower (2) delay using the cell phone, playing loud music on your car radio so that you can concentrate on your driving responsibilities.

More importantly, extend the same kindness to those who are trying to cross the street in front of your vehicle that you would expect if it were you instead of them. Next time it may be!

Report violators to the GC Office of Public Safety and get a tag number and physical description of any vehicle that fails to obey the law or the physical description and location of any person who fails to follow the guidelines imposed upon pedestrians by state law.

Violations by non-college persons or vehicles will be reported immediately to the law enforcement agency having proper jurisdiction and violators who are members of the campus community will be reported to the proper administrative office for advisement or disciplinary action.

It is imperative for us as individuals and as members of our campus community to take it upon ourselves to be aware of our surroundings and to take every step humanly possible to avoid injury to another person(s) and to obey all state laws that have been enacted for that very reason.

Marion J. Darracott
GC Director of Public Safety

The Compass staff has meetings every Wednesday at noon in the office behind the Cyber Cafe in the Student Center. Contact Michele Hester for more information, ahes2131@gc.peachnet.edu.
GC's Cyber Culture Gets Mixed Reviews

I Would Like to Use the Cyber Café, Too

Amber Day
Contributing Writer

Think back to your childhood when your mother used to tell you that “spending too much time staring at a computer screen or a TV would affect your vision.”

Well, we obviously have some vision-impaired students at Gainesville College. “Obsessive Gamers” is the term I choose to use to describe them. They are the people who are glued to the computer screen and don’t seem to budge from the time I get here at 7:30 in the morning until I leave at 5 in the afternoon. I see the same people in there playing Counter Strike day after day.

Don’t get me wrong; I believe that everyone needs a break from studying every once in a while, but when do they ever go to class? I think they should put cots in the Cyber Café and sleep there.

Seriously, though, I realize that the Cyber Café is the only place on campus where you can play games and chat, but sometimes I need to check something online or look up something for one of my classes in a hurry. Often, the computers in the ACTT Center are taken and I can’t do what I need to do.

Also, every time I walk by the Cyber Café, there is yelling and screaming going on. It’s worse than children fighting over the slide on the playground. I feel sorry for the Compass staff, who probably can’t even concentrate on writing papers and editing because all they hear is “Kill him,” “You shot him in the head” and other crazy comments. I mean, the poor newspaper staff has to cram into a very small piece of a room with no air-conditioning, while the gamers have a huge space to play their violent, distasteful games.

I personally think that the Cyber Café should be made into the Compass office. There are a lot of people who are on the newspaper staff and space is needed for editing, proofreading, sorting, folding and so on.

Maybe the two spaces should be switched, since less space is needed to play a game than to put a newspaper together.

A second alternative would be to monitor the time each person spends in the Cyber Café. That way, the people who need to use the computers for educational purposes can do so. Each and every one of us contribute to the payment of the computers in the Cyber Café as part of our Student Activities fee. I don’t want to have to pay for something that I can’t even use.

I feel that if the gamers spent as much time studying and in class as they do playing games, they would be a lot better off. Gainesville College is a learning institution, not Electronics Boutique or Game Spot.

The Horde of Gainesville College

Adam Stevenson
Contributing Writer

In a game known as Warcraft, there is a specific race of inhuman beings with green skin, an almost unintelligible language and loads of attitude. They are known as Orcs, and the common reference towards their society as a whole of “The Horde.” The Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary defines the word “horde” as a people or tribe of nomadic life, or a teeming crowd or throng.

Gainesville College has it’s very own horde, a loosely-connected band of people who have managed to dominate several areas of the campus with impunity. Yet just as the Orcs in Warcraft continue to argue and fight amongst themselves over incredibly petty differences so does GC’s horse, which is why they have no real organization that can be recognized by the Student Body, such as BSU has. These individuals are gamers – young men and women who spend nearly all of their free time in front of a computer playing, as their name implies, games. They fill their hours with first-person shooters such as Counter Strike and Half-Life, real time strategy games such as Warcraft and Battle Realms; just recently, a Role-Playing Game has been added to the already vast list of entertainments.

The base of operations apparent for Gainesville College’s gamers is the Cyber Café, which serves as a relay point of sorts for them. Here they install and play their games, share ideas and opinions with one another and download amusing items off the Internet to show anyone who’s interested. Sometimes a gamer will discover a particularly amusing video or animation, which when shown to his fellows raises his standing by some small measure. Of course, there is no real power structure within the society of the gamers; that would denote that they actually cared about such things as social power structures.

The main way to gain respect in the world of the gamers is through the ancient art of one-upsman ship. If you’re faster, smarter and just plain better than somebody else, you’ll do just fine. If that fails, there is a second means of gaining recognition amongst their number: find another way to cure the ever-present threat of boredom that looms forever just above them. One gamer did just that when he began an actual game of Dungeons and Dragons in the Cyber Café, and the result was that for the next few days, many of his fellow gamers thronged towards him as a tribe of pygmies chasing after its next meal. From the reactions of the Dungeon Master-to-be, it was apparent he had not been expecting the overwhelming response his actions had brought about.

If even this fails, there is always the last resort of bribing your way into their collective. This is usually accomplished through the gifts of soda, junk food and offering to give them a ride someplace (this, however, will not work if you insist that they pay you gas money in return.) A gamer’s diet consists of whatever edible material can be attained cheaply, if not freely, at that current time. To their credit, there have yet to be reports of their stooping to the level of theft.

The Empire of Gainesville College Gamers stretches from its core at the Cyber Café to outposts in the ACTT Center and ends just short of the Science Building next to Lanier Technical Institute. The reason for this is that the gamers are social creatures at heart, and would suffocate from lack of social atmosphere if placed within Lanier Tech. Fortunately, no gamers were hurt in that experiment.

When dealing face-to-face with most gamers it is usually best if you keep your most treasured opinions to yourself, as they will drag them through the mud if given the chance. Always remember that to most gamers your opinions do not matter! Many gamers have managed to break this stereotype but, sadly, not enough to lift the stigma of arrogance and self-importance that many label them with.

This truly is unfortunate, as there are many who would make excellent friends and companions; and though they can be initially unsociable it is possible to reach the point of being able to refer to such people as ‘extended family.’
Non-Traditional in a Traditional World

Oconeé Opinion

I decided to start college at the age of 27. I wanted more out of life, I wanted a job I wouldn't hate in 20 years or five years or a month.

I started college for many reasons, not only for better pay, but also for better peace of mind, to show myself I could do it, and to provide a better life for my daughter, Erin.

People choose to start, or go back to school later on in life for many reasons. The trend is growing and Gainesville College seems to be a place where nontraditional students are happy to call home.

A few of the things I first noticed about Gainesville College were the small class sizes and the diversity in age; there were students in my classes older than me! When I recently asked a couple of nontraditional students about their motives for attending Gainesville, they said the main reason was the class size. Going back to school can be very overwhelming, smaller classes help cushion the blow.

There are challenges nontraditionalists face, juggling school with jobs, kids, husbands or wives. I talked with two women in my political science class who both have children. “It’s difficult to do homework” says Janet McNulty, a general studies major “I make flash cards and bring them everywhere with me.” Antoinette McKinney an education major agrees with McNulty saying, “it’s hard, I put my kids to bed early and study all the time.”

For any college student, regardless of age, you must have the will and determination to succeed. For nontraditional students it means jumping through a few more hoops.

Being older can mean being more focused, “I’m grateful for being older and back in school,” says Mark Somers, a business major, “I have more discipline, with more discipline I’m able to do what I have to do instead of what I want to do.”

On the Oakwood Campus there is a thriving club dedicated to the support of nontraditional students called Second Wind. As of yet, there is not an Oconeé Campus chapter.

If anyone would like to help form a chapter on the Oconeé campus, contact Brenda Adams at badams@gc.peachnet.edu.

The good thing about Gainesville College is that you know you’re not doing it alone; there is support on all levels, from the administration down to the students.

It's nice to see older people pursuing a higher education. It gives me the courage to move forward, and not give up.

Student Opinion Poll:
What are your feelings toward the addition of Friday classes?

Bina Ali
Psychology major

“I don’t like having school on Friday. I am not taking any. I now only have Tuesday and Thursday classes.”

Ben McLarn
Spanish Education major

“It’s a great thing. It shows growth in the college.”

Melissa Smith
Undecided

“I don’t like Friday classes. I think Friday is a good opportunity to catch up on work, personal time and to have a part-time job.”

The Oconeé Compass staff is looking for dedicated student writers. Meetings are at noon Wednesdays. Contact efie4340@gc.peachnet.edu for more details.
Need Help Choosing Your Classes?  
Preregistration is March 29 - April 1

By Justin Wilson  
Staff Writer  
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Advising week at the Gainesville College Oconee Campus will be March 29-April 1. Michelle Brown, Director of Enrollment and Student Development said “this week will be very important for students who need to find out what classes they need for summer and fall pre-registration.”

Each day from noon until 2 p.m. students can drop by room 512/522 in the Student Resource Center to see advisors from the different majors/disciplines. On Wednesday, March 31 from 5-7 p.m. there will be a time available for students who can only come to school at night.

All students who come to advising week must bring a copy of their transcript. “This will help advisors quickly discern what courses a student has already taken and outline what courses a student needs to take in the future terms” Brown said.

After advising week, students should be prepared for pre-registration which begins on April 5. Pre-registration is for students who want to be enrolled at Gainesville College during the upcoming summer and fall terms.

Brown said “with the high number of new applicants to Gainesville College it is important for all currently enrolled students to pre-register to assure the best selection of courses” and that “currently enrolled students are invited to pre-register based on number of total hours one has completed.”

Each student is sent a blue card to the address listed in BANNER that outlines the day that one is first eligible to pre-register. During this time, students will be eligible to pre-register for both summer and fall terms.

Students can check out summer course offerings online at the Oconee Campus by accessing the “Schedule” icon at the GC webpage at www.gc.peachnet.edu.
**Penny Mills: A New Voice For Oconee**

Dr. Penny Mills, currently the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Director of Special Affairs at the Oakwood campus, recently took on a new full time job as the Oconee campus Chief Academic Officer. In an interview with Oconee editor Elizabeth Fields, Mills discussed her new position and her plans for the Oconee campus.

**What will your responsibilities be as the Chief Academic Officer?**

The major responsibilities will be, planning and operation of academic programs, curriculum development, coordination of course scheduling, the academic advising program and coordination of registration.

**What do you see as the challenges you will face, in creating an Oconee campus community?**

On top of my agenda is to get more full time faculty. We have several searches going on for faculty and hopefully they’ll be on board with us in the fall. The second priority for me is to build and enhance our advising program.

**What motivated you to take this position?**

I see it as a challenge and also an opportunity to see the campus community grow and flourish.

**How will the students be affected by your new position?**

I’ve taught in a college setting for twenty years, so I hope that experience will allow me to work closely with the students and respond to their needs. I’m also very accessible and I hope students will take some time to visit with me and talk about any problems they see with the campus.

**In what direction do you see the Oconee campus growing?**

Obviously, were limited by space. We’re probably blocked at about 2,000 students. What I see in terms of changes will be getting more full time faculty, but also growing the community relationship with the college. I’d like to eventually think that the Oconee campus relationship is as good as what we have here at Oakwood.

**Do you see any new buildings or intramural fields in the future?**

In terms of buildings, probably nothing in the near future. In terms of student services and intramural facilities, that’s going to be something that Michele Brown will be responsible for. I know she’s been working on that, but hasn’t had enough time because she’s been dealing with things like advising. I’m hoping with my presence over there, she and I will be able to work very closely together and go ahead on some things.

Committee Pushes for Student Government at Oconee Campus

By Louis VandenPlas

Staff Writer
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The Gainesville College Oconee Campus welcomes the newly formed Oconee Committee, which hopes to function as a subsidiary of the main campus’ student government.

According to Jerry Calbos, the founder of the Oconee Committee, the group plans to petition the Student Government Association (SGA) on the main campus Friday, March 26.

The petition is a revising of the school’s current constitution, to better serve the Oconee Campus and to establish a new Oconee Campus student government.

If the Oconee Committee’s petition is approved by the SGA it will then go to the Board of Regents in the fall and ideally will lead to the formation of a Student Government Association in place by the fall semester on the Oconee campus.

How to Start a Club

Starting a club or an organization at the Gainesville College Oconee Campus may not be as daunting as some students believe it to be.

As outlined by Michele Brown, Director of Enrollment Management and Student Development, “an officially recognized organization must have three things in order – five active members, a constitution, and a faculty/staff advisor.” In order to receive funding, “students must have these three things on file.”

The person to contact, when forming a club or organization, is Josh Rood, Student Life Coordinator, because he “can assist students with ways to connect with other students who perhaps have the same interests.” Rood can be e-mailed at jrood@gc.peachnet.edu.