Students Speak Out at Rally

Participants Stake Out Positions on Election, War and Other Issues

By Lauren Hackney
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This year’s election will probably go down as one of the most divisive and polarizing in recent history, and understandably so.

Supporters of candidates are having their cars vandalized, signs stolen and are openly insulted for feeling anything at all regarding this election. Sigma Chi Eta, Gainesville College’s Communication Honors Society, decided that sponsoring a forum for students to express their feelings about current policies and candidates would be a constructive way for students to freely speak and exchange ideas without fear of retribution or ridicule.

“Speak Out” was GC’s response to the currently disheartening political schema. All students were invited to attend, with supporters of both political candidates.

Six GC students volunteered to voice their opinions at “Speak Out.”

David Preston spoke about the basic principles of America as a Constitutional Republic and the dangers of democracy as a stepping stone to Communism. When asked what he thought about attendance at “Speak Out,” Preston said he “wished more people had shown up,” but that “Speak Out” should become an annual event, so that voters don’t lie dormant for the next four years and have the opportunity to voice their opinions on policy when it is most important, “not just during elections,” Preston said.

Vandalism Runs Rampant Across Campus

By Dan Pera
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A rash of vandalism has reared its ugly head on the Gainesville College campus, leaving in its wake thousands of dollars in damage to artwork and GC property.

Damaged were ten pieces of artwork — all paintings — that were on loan from Dr. Bob Croft, Associate Professor of English and Coordinator of Humanities and Fine Arts at the Oconee campus. The largest of the paintings spans more than ten feet in width and is hanging on the wall in the Academic II building. The other nine paintings were hanging in various locations throughout Academic buildings II and III and have since been taken down to avoid further destruction.

In addition to Croft’s paintings, two large umbrellas from the cement tables in the Academic II courtyard were reported stolen, and one was discovered resting in a tree “as if it was thrown.”

Also, at least 13 room number signs were ripped from the walls and reported missing from the math division side of Academic III.

“This kind of criminal damage to private and government property shows a severe loss of control by the individual(s) responsible,” Director of Public Safety Marion Darracott said.

Darracott was summoned on the morning of Oct. 1, after a staff member reported Croft’s large painting damaged. The painting, valued between $3,000 and $5,000, sustained two large holes that had been cut out.

After filing a report, Darracott discovered that two of the three umbrellas in the Academic II courtyard were missing and found the third in a nearby tree. Later, he received reports of the missing room number signs in Academic III.

Throughout the day, the rest of Croft’s paintings were inventoried and nine were discovered damaged, each sustaining punctures and slits. Estimated value of the nine paintings is $4,900. Other paintings in the Academic buildings were left undamaged.
Electronic Withdrawal Open to Students

By Jenn Williams
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A new electronic student course withdrawal process has been added to Banner Web. It is easily accessible for students who need to withdraw from a class after the drop-add period has taken effect.

The old process has been criticized in the past for being extremely confusing and a hassle to attempt.

Dean Stoy said that at first the original process was to aid in communication between students and their advisors, but what they discovered was that students were having a difficult time locating their advisors and making themselves available when the advisor was present during their scheduled office hours.

He said he also discovered that communication occurred at the last minute. Students would wait till the very last day to turn in their withdrawal process, finding out too late that dropping the class would result in damaging consequences.

Now, students have access to the form 24/7 online.

Electronic withdrawal is not an automatic process but it does not need the signature of an advisor or a teacher.

Gainesville College is also keeping a paper version of the request form, because students should always have a back up plan if the electronic system fails in some way.

When the student fills out the form, an email is then sent to the Registrar’s office, the student’s advisor, and the professor of the class or classes they wish to drop. The request will be submitted for consideration, and if it does not hinder the student in any way, then within 24 hours the student’s trangrid will reflect the changes, or an email will be sent out stating the reason the request was denied.

The withdrawal system can not only be used to drop classes but to completely withdraw from college as well.

Dean Stoy replied that he hoped that the electronic process will one day be instantaneous, but they must first work out all the “bugs in the new system before they can continue to progress.”

Business Department Moves to CE Building

By Jaime Martin
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For most students, the fact that the Business department has moved all of its offices and classrooms into the Continuing Education building is not a surprise.

Planning and adequate funding has been in the minds of the Gainesville College administration since last fall.

The main reasoning behind the move is to better facilitate the rapidly growing student body.

“The students are our primary focus; everything else should be secondary,” said Associate Professor of Business Administration Kathleen Simmons.

Before the transition, the Continuing Education building included offices for a number of community organizations.

But the GC administration thought that, with the growth of the student body, there should be adjustments made.

The community is important, but student needs should come first.

Moving the business department has opened up room for the expansion of student services.

The Math Lab in the ACTT center has expanded its work area due to the move.

Before the rearrangement the speech classrooms and offices were located in a number of buildings, but all are now located in the Acd. III building.

At the beginning of the move no one was truly thrilled, but after everything settled, each professor has adjusted and now likes it.

The business classrooms have all been equipped with brand new computers and projection screens.

A mini computer lab has been added, so students will not have to walk all the way over to the ACTT center.

Simmons added, “Thanks to the terrific ITs and maintenance crew the classrooms were up and running by the first day of class.”
Emergency Alert System New to Campus

By Dan Pera
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In the middle of history class, a student suddenly begins convulsing and falling into a seizure. Before this semester, the collective action of the class would be confusion and panic. Instead the professor runs to the computer and alerts help.

Gainesville College has implemented a new safety alert system developed by IT specialist Brandon Haag and Director of Public Safety Marion Darracott at the request of GC President Martha Nesbitt.

It is designed to increase safety on campus, eliminate confusion during an emergency, and decrease response time to the problem area.

The new campus-wide alert system will send a minimum of six public safety personnel, all with the ability to assess the situation and request further assistance from emergency services.

“We need to be proactive and not reactive,” Darracott said. Even though he could not recall any specific events that led to the development of the program, he attributed the need for the system due to violent events that have occurred on campuses over the past year.

Darracott and Haag spent weeks poring through security catalogs and making phone calls to other institutions, both educational and security-based, to find a cost-effective and easy to use system to implement.

They concluded that developing the program internally would be the best course of action, mainly to make it function exactly how they had envisioned.

“The cost of implementation was pretty minimal since we developed it internally and much of the code necessary to create the application was already part of other applications we had developed.” Haag said.

The “Emergency Alert System” as it has been coined, works simply but effectively. The exact sequence to activate this alert cannot be disclosed due to the possibility of both pranks and dangerous individuals who would have knowledge of it. As a result, only faculty and staff have been trained for its activation.

All computers on campus are armed with a program that, when activated, sends an alert via mobile device and desktop computer to nearly a dozen staff members on campus, including the on-duty GC Public Safety Officer, the Director of Public Safety, the Assistant Director of Public Safety, the Director of Plant Operations, the administrative assistant to Plant Operations, every building director on campus, and predetermined evening shift personnel.

These personnel know exactly what classroom or office needs assistance but do not know the nature of the emergency.

As a result, they will treat each situation as though it is of the utmost gravity.

“This is the first program I have ever written that I seriously hope never has to be used.” Haag said.

Student Protest, Petitions Help Defeat Tuition Hike

By Jack Howland
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In the wake of a proposed 10 percent tuition hike that would have begun in January, hundreds of GC students participated in a statewide protest against the increase, which was dropped by the Board of Regents Oct. 12 after a meeting with Gov. Sonny Perdue in Atlanta.

SGA vice president Jay Davis, a second-year business major, organized a petition drive at GC that helped support the statewide student protest at the capitol.

“(We) are fed up with tuition hikes,” said Davis, who claimed that more than 250 people signed the petition on the first day he offered it.

Davis explained that GC’s petition specifically addressed the proposed 10 percent tuition hike.

But, he added, “the petition is not just directed at the governor, the schools or the Board of Regents. The reason for the petition is to find an alternative solution (to budget cuts) than just raise tuition.”

Davis admitted that while he could not offer any solutions for the budget cuts facing the University System, he hopes his petition at least made an impact on the Board of Regents to consider possible alternatives.

It has already made an impact on at least one state legislator, House Democratic Caucus Chairman Calvin Smyre, who blamed Perdue for the proposed tuition increase.

“(Perdue) struck a nerve with this tuition hike,” Smyre said. “When students start bringing you petitions, you've got to get out of the way.”

University System Chancellor Thomas Meredith said the students’ actions helped persuade regents to abandon the plan.

“The Board of Regents said all along we don’t want to do this,” Meredith said. “The students always have an impact. We’ve listened very carefully to them.”

The Regents' plan would have helped offset $65 million in state-ordered budget cuts.

Under pressure from Perdue, the regents instead dipped into reserves in the health insurance fund for University System employees and trimmed college operating funds.

GC President Martha Nesbitt said she is pleased that students won’t have to face a midyear tuition increase. But she believes the state must search for ways to restore cuts in higher education.

Gainesville College must cut its budget by $175,000.

“We can survive that, but it cuts into the quality of services for our students,” Nesbitt said.

She added that the college will have to delay some maintenance projects and filling some job vacancies.
Vandals Damage Artwork in Academic II

Continued from page 1

It was determined that all of the damage occurred Thursday evening or early Friday morning, and there were no signs whatsoever of forced entry.

Darracott was not sure if the missing umbrellas and room signs were related to the artwork, but was suspicious of the coincidental timing of the occurrences.

"In my opinion, someone became irate, disgruntled, and took it out on Dr. Croft's property," Darracott said.

He determined that whoever vandalized Croft's property had some sort of knife or box cutters in the Academic buildings with which to cut the large holes.

"That really concerns me," he added.

When asked about his feelings on the situation, Croft said, "I am very sad that this kind of vandalism could occur, and I hope that anyone who saw or heard anything that might be a clue to solving this crime will contact Mr. Darracott."

Darracott added, "I would be surprised if no one else knew about these actions, because usually these types of things are done without much thought and planning."

Darracott encourages anyone with information pertaining to vandalism on campus to contact him at (770) 718-3724. All calls will be taken anonymously and in all confidentiality.

I am very sad that this kind of vandalism could occur.

Bob Croft
English Professor

GIL Express Offers Book Delivery Service

By Jaime Martin
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Have you ever wanted to check out a book that your local public or school library didn't have? Have you ever found a book in a different city and wished that it could be placed immediately in your hands?

The University System of Georgia now offers a way for Gainesville College students to search through the library catalogs of 34 different colleges and universities around the state, the Universal Catalog, and request to have it delivered directly to their school library.

Through GIL Express, an extension of the University System's GALILEO Inter-connected Libraries (GIL) program, students can search for a book from the University of Georgia, Valdosta State or Georgia Southern and have it sent to GC's John Harrison Hosch Library for pickup.

Students can access GIL Express in one of two ways:

1) Log onto the GC library's home page at (gil.gc.peachnet.edu) and search for the desired book using the local catalog. If you do not get a match, the site will redirect you to the Universal Catalog and re-direct your search.

2) Search the Universal Catalog directly at (gilexpress.usg.edu). When you find an item you want to borrow, select your school from the drop-down menu, enter your student ID number and last name and request the book to be sent to the GC library.

The library staff will send you a notice when the book is ready for pick-up.

You will need to show your student ID card when you go to pick the book up.

Career Fair Brings Job Opportunities to Campus

By Jaime Martin
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Many students made their way to the student center on Wednesday, Oct. 6 for the job fair held by Gainesville College.

Megan Robertson, a 20-year old business major, was just one of those students. She said, "The fair is a great place to learn more about different companies."

There were a variety of companies at the job fair such as Bank of America, Polo Ralph Lauren, Regions Bank, Athens Regional Medical Center, and Abercrombie and Fitch.

Dawn Townsend from Athens Medical Center commented on the advantages of attending the fair, "The fact that we were located approximately 45 minutes south, the job fair is a great way to get our companies name and information out to potential employees."

Breanne Tinsley, a 19 year-old accounting major, explained how much she enjoyed talking with each of the bank branches, "It was a great opportunity to be able to talk with different people who are currently working in a field I am interested in."

Shirley Lawson, a representative from Bank of America, commented on what a great turn out she had at the fair, "I've talked with a variety of students with many of them leaving with me their resumes. I've also been able to hand out a number of applications."

Lawson also said that the Bank of America branch across the street will continue to take accept students' applications.

Students who visited at least six stations and completed a student evaluation at the fair were entered to win different door prizes.

The job fair this semester was a great success for both students and the attending companies.
Latino Student Association Grows

By Lady Caceres
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Hispanic Heritage month, celebrated at Gainesville College in October, was a success thanks to the hard work of the GC Hispanic Outreach and Development office and the Latino Student Association, which has grown to more than 40 members this year.

LSA plays an important role at GC on teaching the Hispanic culture. Gabriel Vega, a 19-year-old engineering major from Gainesville and LSA member said, "LSA teaches the American people what the Hispanic culture is really about. "They think that all we eat are tacos and burritos, but with events like the food demonstration, they get an idea of what else we have that they don’t know about."

According to Margarita Muñoz, Coordinator for Hispanic Outreach and Development, the most successful events were "the speakers and food demonstration."

Edgar Lituma, president of LSA said, "LSA is definitely open to students of all races, religious backgrounds, and genders.

"The name serves to give us identity, it is not meant to segregate us from the whole student body."

The mission of LSA is to empower its members by promoting leadership, education, and culture by setting goals and sacrifices, as a group intends to nurture, guide, and encourage the Latino youth in the community.

Students interested in joining can do so by attending the meetings at noon every Wednesday in room 109 of the Dunlap/Mathis building.

They are added to a mailing list, and then they receive information with regular weekly summaries and event reminders.

LSA began in 1998, "according to the records that I have" said Muñoz. "Last spring when I took the group as advisor, there were three students meeting, they were discouraged and wanted to dissolve the group."

"From there, we started to work together and the good leadership of the officers helped a lot to bring others in the organization again."

"The key for success was advising, leadership, commitment and a clear mission statement among other elements."

The movies shown were "Like Water for Chocolate," "Guantanamera," "Men With Guns" and "The Comet."

Lisa Vaughn, an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Brenau University, delivered the presentation "Latinos and the Psychology of Cultural Differences."

Maritza Pichón, executive director of the Latin American Association, presented "Report From Governor's Latino Task Force."

The Latino Student Association is one of the fastest growing student clubs at Gainesville College. Members have spent the month of October celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month by decorating a display cabinet in the Student Center, holding a Latin food exhibition and holding events with guest speakers.

The Edge Offers Fellowship, Food and Fun Times for All

By Lauren Hackney
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With all that’s going on at the Student Center, it might be hard for some to keep up with, or even decide on, what to participate in.

On Wednesday, September 15, many students were drawn by the sounds of guitars and the rumors of food to Lanier AB room, where the Baptist Student Union hosts The Edge.

Aside from the food (which was there in plenty), The Edge proved to be a unique way to share in Christian fellowship and have some fun.

Chip Hogsed and Chris Westbrook lead a musical worship session, and Ken Jones, the Baptist campus minister, had a fun "get-to-know-you" activity for everyone that was not only fun, but positive.

The Edge is open to anyone, of any denomination and even of any faith, the message is, however, geared towards Christian teachings. The Edge meets every Wednesday at noon in Lanier AB room of the Student Center. Lunch is served at every meeting. BSU is one of the largest student organizations on campus.
Black Student Association to Hold 4th Chili Cookoff

By Jeremy Kuter
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In an effort to raise money for the North Georgia AIDS Alliance, the Black Student Association at Gainesville College will hold its fourth Annual Chili Cookoff Fundraiser on Wednesday, Nov. 10 at noon in the Student Center.

This year’s Chili Cook-off will raise money for the AIDS Alliance, an international organization which promotes global AIDS awareness.

The BSA will ask for donations, $5 entry fees and will also sell $1 tickets. These tickets will allow participants to sample from each chili pot so that he or she may choose the best chili.

After trying each sample the participants may give the ticket to his or her favorite table as a way to vote for that table.

In the past the BSA has supported families in the Gainesville City School System and Challenged Child, a private, non-profit organization devoted to helping young children with disabilities.

Last year the BSA raised $500 from 16 chili contestants for Challenged Child of Hall County.

Andre Cheek, GC’s Director of Minority Affairs and Multicultural Programs said, “The Chili Cookoff is fun and for a good cause.

“BSA encourages students and faculty to participate by entering the contest as well as attending.”

Each contestant will receive a certificate of participation and a trophy will be awarded to the contestant with the most votes.

This year’s Chili CookOff will also award the best decorated table. Registration ends Nov. 9.
Aaron Aids Alumni Tournament

By Matt Lovell
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The appearance of legendary local golfer Tommy Aaron, who is best known for winning the 1973 Masters tournament, as honorary chairman helped raise more than $19,000 at the 19th-annual Gainesville College Alumni and Friends Golf Tournament on Oct. 1 at Chicopee Woods Golf Course in Oakwood.

Aaron, a Hall County native and Gainesville High graduate, volunteered his time as honorary chairman and also conducted a skills clinic and question-and-answer workshop for the golfers. Proceeds from the event, which is organized by the GC Alumni Association, help support Gainesville College Foundation scholarships for deserving students.

"The tournament is a special event for the college and I hope my involvement helped raise a lot of money for the Foundation scholarships," Aaron said.

"Foundation scholarships make it possible for many local students to achieve their academic goals and dreams. Without the support we have gained from the community, this would not be possible."

GC President Martha Nesbitt played in the tournament.

"I like my irons better than my woods," quipped Nesbitt, who added that the event has become better every year.

"Success builds on success. I love this event. This is one of the milestones throughout the year."

Regions Morgan-Keegan Trust sponsored the entire event, and many local businesses sponsored specific holes at Chicopee Woods.

The large response from corporate sponsors was the key to the nearly 100 percent increase in profits at this year's event, said Alumni Association Director Michelle Brown.

"It was exciting to have Tommy Aaron as the Honorary Chairman," Brown said. "He really encouraged sponsorship and golfer participation."

The team of Dick Valentine, Mitch Ralston, Sam Halsey and Joyce Stephens won the Net Tournament. Gross Tournament winners were Steve Hill, Kevin Shields, Matt Montgomery and Mike Shields.

GC to Host Tumbling Creek Race

By Jack Howland
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Due to inclement weather and trail damage caused by hurricanes Ivan and Frances, the Eighth Annual Tumbling Creek Mountain Bike Race, presented by the Southern Off-Road Bicycling Association, which was scheduled for Sept. 18, was cancelled but rescheduled for Sunday, Nov. 7.

When asked what SORBA is doing and has done to prepare for the event, Tom Sauret, Professor of English and Executive Director of SORBA, says "We have cut out 14 fallen trees, cleared the trails, and hope to add a short new section."

With turnouts last year of upwards of 1,000 people, the Tumbling Creek Race is expected to attract even more people this year due to the fact that SORBA has instituted an NCAA mountain bike race which will incorporate such colleges as University of Georgia, Georgia Tech, Florida State, Western Carolina and Warren Wilson.

Of the 1,000 people who showed up last year 360 were racers from the Georgia Association of Promoters, which is an organization that promotes mountain bike racing across Georgia, 50 were college racers, 30 were children who raced, and 300 were spectators alone.

However, Sauret does admit that because the race is now on a Sunday the expected turnout will change somewhat. He says, "Many people who work at bike shops and in the bicycle industry will now be able to show up and participate because they will be closed on Sundays, but then there are those people who go to church who will not be able to make it to the event."

Among the many attractions that will be present at the event that incorporate mountain biking, there will also be attractions that appeal to those people who find watching mountain biking for hours on end to be quite tedious.

SORBA will be offering a yard sale, which starts at 9 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m., a bicycle clinic for children, and an obstacle course that starts at 3 p.m. and is fun for the whole family.

Sauret also adds that, "SORBA has had to re-adver-tise for the Tumbling Creek Mountain Bike Race and that the event depends solely on the nature of the weather."
Mountain Biking with Daniel Elzey

On Oct. 11, Jack Howland spoke to GC student and mountain bike racer Daniel Elzey about racing mountain bikes and the roles that SORBA plays concerning advocacy and the maintenance of trails in and around the Gainesville area.

Question: How long have you been going to Gainesville College? And what is your current major?
Answer: I have been going to Gainesville College since 2002. Almost three years now. Currently, I am majoring in English.

Q: Why did you choose to attend Gainesville College?
A: It was close to my home. I like the small school atmosphere. I plan to transfer to UGA and try to get into the law school up there.

Q: I understand that you will be racing in SORBA’s Tumbling Creek mountain bike race. What are you doing to prepare for the event and what inspired you to decide to race in the event?
A: Just getting out on my bike and riding. I also do Trips for Kids rides just about every other day. So I have an intimate knowledge of the trails. I decided to race just because of the aspect of competition, more so than just with group rides. But also for the fun of meeting others with a common interest.

Q: How long have you been mountain biking?
A: I started in 2002, when I started here at Gainesville. But I have always been interested in it. Tom Sauret, the Executive Director of SORBA, really got me into it, though.

Q: Have you ever raced mountain bikes before, or is the Tumbling Creek race your first event?
A: I have raced in four out of the nine GAP races so far this year.

Q: Do you have any future plans to race mountain bikes at other, much larger events such as the 24 Hours of Adrenalin in Conyers or a similar event?
A: Next year I want to race for a team and do the 24 Hours of Adrenalin, but for this year I will just finish up the GAP series races.

Q: Have you ever thought about racing road bikes, and if not, is there something about mountain biking that just interests you more?
A: Yeah, I have thought about racing both road and mountain bikes. I like the speed aspect of road racing.

Q: What type of role do you feel do you feel SORBA plays in popularizing mountain biking and if there were no SORBA, where do you think mountain biking, as we know it, would be today?
A: SORBA plays a very important role by improving trails and building relationships with landowners. If there were no SORBA, what trails we do ride on would have limited accessibility. There would be virtually no public access and we would not have the opportunities that we do now.

LOCKER ROOM RENOVATION MAY BE DONE THIS MONTH

By Ashlee Davis
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A five-month renovation of the locker rooms in the Hugh Mills Physical Education complex is nearing completion, pending a final inspection by state contractors in late October. This is the first renovation of the locker rooms since the complex was built in 1972.

"The project has taken longer than originally planned due to delays by the contractor and the shipment of the new lockers that are in place," GC Director of Plant Operations Jerry Spiceland said.

Other improvements that were made to the facility include new rubber floors replacing the old tile floor, new lighting, freshly painted walls and repairs to the showers. The approximate cost of the renovation was $175,000.

GC Associate Professor of Physical Education Gary Preston praised the improvements made during the renovation.

"I'm hoping that students once discouraged by the surroundings of the locker rooms will come back and see for themselves the new and improved look," he said.

Psychology major Emily Edwards of Braselton added, "Before (the renovation), I didn't want to lay my books on the locker room floor. " But now I would actually consider going barefoot on the rubber floors.

SWIMMERS GAIN MENTAL EDGE IN MEET

By Aron Dunn
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If you head to a swim meet thinking you will find heated competition among rivals and glorified celebrations for champions, you had better think again. Swimming is one of the few sports where competition is more internal than external.

Lisa Watson, a physical education professor at Gainesville College, knows all about the style of competition that swimming presents.

"The person you're really racing is yourself."

Watson has been teaching physical education for 20 years. Her favorite part of being involved in swimming is "basically seeing people start to realize they're getting stronger and that they can handle the workouts."

Swimming’s internal style of competition was put on full display at the bi-annual GC swim meet, held on Oct. 6. The event, which was organized by Watson and held at the swimming pool in the GC Fitness Center, saw students, professors and others swim in a variety of races.

The 17 swimmers competed in 11 different races, including breast stroke, back stroke, fly, freestyle, and relay, ranging from 25 yards to 200 yards.

Most races were divided into two heats, one for males and one for females. Several races, such as the 200-yard freestyle race and the 100-yard relay race, featured only one heat.

Ribbons were awarded to the swimmers with the best times in each heat, but no winners’ brackets or championships were held.

The common opinion of many swimmers is that their sport is very physically demanding, yet equally physically rewarding. Continually trying to better oneself and achieve faster times can become exhaustive, but swimmers feel that it is well worth the effort.

Diana Goodballet, an 18-year-old business major from Braselton, finished with the second best female times in both the 25-and 50-yard freestyle races. Goodballet said that the aspect of swimming she finds most difficult is "to pace yourself."

Abby Bowen, an 18-year-old secondary education major from Buford, finished with the best female time in the 200-yard freestyle race and the second best female time in the 25-yard fly race. Bowen said that while swimming is physically demanding, she likes "the competition. It keeps you in shape. It’s fun."
Libertarians Speak to GC Students

By Brian Hall
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The Libertarian Party is here at Gainesville College. Or, at any rate, it was here on Oct. 13 in the Continuing Ed. Auditorium.

Glenn Tatum, Libertarian candidate for the Georgia House of Representatives District 85 (that’s you, DeKalb County) and Director of the Georgia Libertarian Party, paid GC a visit to advance Glenn Tatum the controversial notion that there are more than ‘two choices this election.

Along with a few fellow Party members, he hosted a political forum in which no topic was taboo.

Aren’t you the party that wants people to smoke pot? (No, they’re just the party that doesn’t particularly care whether you do or not.)

Do Libertarians want to abolish gun control? (Not exactly. Libertarians just don’t believe in adding to or subtracting from the Second Amendment. So yes, you can buy an assault weapon. The law intervenes only if you shoot someone with it.)

Didn’t the Libertarians say they’d pull out of Iraq? (As a matter of fact, yes.)

Michael Badnarik, the Libertarian Party’s candidate for President of the United States, has stated that, if elected president, he would withdraw all U.S. troops from Iraq. The party remains divided on this issue.

For the uninitiated: The Libertarian Party is the largest third party in America. Badnarik will be on the ballot in 48 states and the District of Columbia.

And yes, Michael Badnarik wants to end the war in Iraq. It’s here that a good many GC students, not to mention Glenn Tatum himself, seemed uneasy.

As GC student James Peters said, “I can’t support the Libertarian Party when I don’t support their candidate for president.”

Though Tatum is a supporter of the war, he argued that what’s most important on Nov. 2 is to “vote your conscience.”

A vote for a Libertarian president is a vote for smaller government and the sanctity of personal freedoms.

If these ideas appeal to you, if you have a special fondness for the underdog, or if you just can’t stand Bush and Kerry, a trip to www.badnarik.org might be worth your time.
GC Plays Host to Informative Health Fair in Gym

By Susan Schlegel
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On Oct. 13, GC held its annual health fair on campus. At the event, students could take advantage of the many tables set up around the gym which featured various businesses and schools from the community.

One of the most beneficial stops students could make on their way around the gym was with the Lanier Tech EMT and paramedic students. Each student that stopped by was given an EKG to check their heart.

Shane Milford, a paramedic student giving the tests, thinks the importance for GC students to get this done is high. “School and social problems can cause stress on your heart, and it is important to catch problems early,” he said.

Physical Education Professor Glenn Preston said several years ago a GC student had a heart problem that he was unaware of and through the EKG done at the health fair it was found. “The student had a corrective procedure and is doing fine to this day.”

Beth Whitmire, a middle school education major, took advantage of one of the many tests given at the health fair. She stopped by on Oct. 13 for a free blood pressure check.

NASA Specialist John Casper Speaks to GC for Colloquium

By Dorothy Howland
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Even though the turn-out at the colloquium, held Sept. 25 in the Continuing Education building, was not a significant number, those who did arrive had the opportunity to hear NASA astronaut Col. John Casper.

He explained the problem with the landing of the Columbia space shuttle and the measures NASA is taking in order to make the three remaining NASA shuttles and all future shuttles space-safe.

Visiting with John Casper, were his father Col. John Casper Jr., his brother, his brother-in-law and his nephew.

At the end of his speech, John Casper surprised the audience by giving Gainesville College a collage of items that he took up to space. Once, he even flew in the military along with his father in Vietnam War, but he said, “it made my mother nervous.”

His father inspired him to become an astronaut. Casper encourages Gainesville College students “to be persistent in your work” and “to keep at your dream” in order to succeed. “Just keep at it,” he repeated while explaining his point. For he did not get accepted as a NASA astronaut after the first time applying, but it was through much work and persistence that he was accepted the second time of application. Even if one fails in a subject, he must “keep at it” and be “persistent.”

The aspiration to become an astronaut was because he sought after “the challenge, the adventure, and the unknown”

The one thing that he wants people to know about him is “that I am married, I have four children, and I am proud of them. And even though I have been in space as an astronaut, I am a normal person.”
If Alpha Sheriff, GC's professor of sociology, had showed up eight minutes later at Gwinnett Medical Center, he would have been pronounced dead by doctors. Overcoming last year's acute brain hemorrhage, Sheriff said, "After suffering a brain trauma, I am still in the process of rehabilitation. "I am 99 percent better, though." Sheriff is back at GC teaching nine hours, instead of a full load. President Martha Nesbitt said, "We are grateful to have him back in the classroom, but most of all, we're grateful for his good health."

Faculty and students are still amazed at Sheriff's recovery. Theresa Dove-Waters, Special Alpha Sheriff, professor of sociology, overcame a brain hemorrhage so that he could come back to teach at GC. He is currently teaching sociology here at Gainesville College Mondays through Fridays.

Sheriff went into a coma, hit two cars, and continued to drive. The police blocked Sheriff's car with the bumpers of other police cars. Once his car stopped, Sheriff was asked to open the car door. In a coma, he could not respond.

After testing negative for alcohol consumption, the police assumed something medically was wrong with Sheriff. He was sent to Gwinnett Medical Center around midnight, and it was discovered that a vein in his brain had burst. In and out of Gwinnett Medical Center and Emory, and completing physical, speech, and occupational therapy, a year later, Sheriff continues to pick up where he left off, teaching at GC.
Alex Cohen advocated the drilling of the Alaskan National Wildlife Refuge, arguing that America should use its own resources and become independent of other countries. Cohen is “interested in pursuing a career in politics and saw the event as an opportunity to sharpen her public speaking skills. To those unable to attend “Speak Out,” she urges anyone interested to watch the movie the library made of the event.

Vincent Farrell gave a humorous and poignant speech on the responsibility of Christians in America to regulate their own behavior and not to “legislate morality,” as is the case with the “War on Drugs” which is sucking up tax dollars with no obvious victories. Farrell feels that expressing one’s opinions and fighting for what’s right is “more than a message, it’s more than a cause, it’s more than politics; it’s a battle.”

Christy Beyer posed questions to President Bush, such as why he went to Iraq when Osama Bin Laden was still free, and why America’s troops are in a situation with no clear victory route.

Donald Fisher used his platform to attack John Kerry.

Fisher feels that he is “a neutral figure who can listen to the concerns and opinions of others,” though many felt that Fisher inappropriately used the non-debate forum to criticize previous speakers.

Josh Purcell ended “Speak Out” on an uplifting and inspirational note, urging all present to find their “common ground” as Americans.

In the end, “Speak Out” showed that, regardless of party affiliation, age, race, sex and other demographics that separate, Americans are still, in the end, American. The ability to freely exercise the rights afforded in the U.S. Constitution is what makes America. Only in America can groups freely assemble to criticize, support, question and challenge the government and governmental policies. If anything, “Speak Out” proved that Americans really do have a “common ground.”

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I Remember the First Time I Voted...

By Michele Hester

The election on Nov. 2 is going to be the first time many Gainesville College students will be able to cast their ballots and vote for the next president of the United States of America. I am not a first time voter. One might even say I am a veteran at the practice, but I remember my first time like it was yesterday. I remember walking into Sawnee Elementary in Forsyth County with my head held high, because I knew I was about to be a part of history. I cast my vote for William Jefferson Clinton, and I do not believe I have ever been more proud to be an American than I was on that cold November morning.

That morning I was so happy to live in the freest country in the world, because I knew that being an American meant that I was able to choose my leaders by just taking a few minutes out of my busy day to stop at a nearby polling place and casting my vote. I also knew that being an American citizen meant I could cast my vote for any candidate. No one told me I had to vote for anyone, nor did they tell me I had to vote at all, but I did. I was a proud American on that day, and I am a proud American now.

On this Nov. 2, I will be first in line at my new polling place, and I will hold my head high as I wait for the proceedings to begin, because just like I felt on that day so many years ago, I know that casting my vote for the next president of the United States will show that I am proud to live in such a great country where I can be a part of making a difference.

I am not going to divulge who I will vote for, but regardless of who wins, I will know that by voting I exercised one of my basic rights as a citizen of the United States of America.

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Majority of GC Students Planning to Vote for Bush

Opinions editor Susan Schlegel randomly polled Gainesville College students to find out how they plan to vote in the upcoming presidential election. See the graph below for the results.

* Figures are based on 3 percent of Gainesville College students. For more on how GC will vote, go to page 20 to see direct quotes from this poll.
A Brief Look at the Presidential Candidates

It’s Hard to be President George W. Bush

Over the past almost four years, President George W. Bush has faced many challenges. He began his term as president with much opposition from the opposing side, because he narrowly defeated Al Gore, in what many refer to as the biggest election debacle of all time.

Like many of the drawbacks that were to come for Bush, he overcame the scrutiny and prevailed, proving he was an effective leader of the United States of America. His biggest test, the tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001, not only united America, but it gave Bush the opportunity he needed to show the American people that they made the correct decision when electing him.

Bush’s first term is coming to a close. He and his Democratic opponent John Kerry are neck-and-neck in the polls, but Bush is not backing down. He is standing by his original proposals to reform America’s public schools, transform national defense, provide tax relief, modernize Social Security and Medicare, and encourage faith-based organizations to work with the government to help American in need.

President Bush was born in New Haven, Connecticut and grew up in Texas. He attended Yale and Harvard and served as an F-120 fighter pilot in the Texas Air National Guard. After graduating from Harvard business school, he returned to Midland, Texas, where in the energy business and worked on his father’s successful 1988 presidential campaign. Then, with a group of partners, he purchased the Texas Rangers baseball franchise and served as managing general partner until he was elected Governor of Texas in 1994. Bush is the only governor in Texas history to serve consecutive four year terms.

Throughout his term as president, Bush has signed into law public school improvement initiatives making schools more accountable for the success of students. He has been instrumental in giving rebate checks and tax relief for all tax payers in America. He has increased pay and benefits for military personnel and is working on updating and strengthening Medicare and Social Security.

President Bush demands that the country be hard on terrorists and defend his use of force against Iraq. He is a strong supporter of America and the American people, and he made that clear when he stood up and said, “I believe the most solemn duty of the American president is to protect the American people.” He believes the fight against terrorism does just that.

Bush’s web site states, “Americans can count on President Bush to strengthen our communities, stand by our families and share our values. And President Bush will continue to build a path to security by pressing for reform of the intelligence community and the transformation of our military to meet the threats of the 21st century.”

More information on the president and Vice President Dick Cheney is available at www.whitehouse.gov.

Senator John Kerry Has a Plan for America

Presidential hopeful Democratic Senator John Kerry of Massachusetts has a plan for America, and that plan is to defeat George Bush on November 2.

After Bush’s defeat, Kerry’s plan kicks into high gear. He is going to strengthen the economy by creating high-paying jobs and keeping them in the United States. He is going to make healthcare affordable for every American. He is going to make the U.S. less dependent on Middle Eastern oil and is going to strengthen the military by leading the way for new alliances to form.

Kerry says he is “running for president to make America stronger at home and more respected around the world,” because, as his web site explains, he “wants to restore the values that has always made America a leader in the world.”

Kerry was born in Fitzsimons Army Hospital in Colorado. The family moved to Massachusetts soon after John was born in 1943.

Kerry was about to graduate from Yale when he enlisted to serve in Vietnam. He served two tours of duty. On his second tour, he volunteered to serve on a Swift Boat in the river delta, which is considered one of the most dangerous assignments of the war. During his time in the military, Kerry received a Silver Star, a Bronze Star with Combat V and 3 Purple Hearts.

Upon returning home from Vietnam, Kerry became active as a Vietnam Veteran Against the War. During his time in battle, he saw men die because “Washington was making bad decisions,” he said.

Kerry spoke out against the war and testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in April 1971.

Kerry continued to fight for Americans by graduating from Boston Law School in 1976 and later became a leading prosecutor in Massachusetts. He is credited in putting top organized crime figures behind bars.

In 1982, he was elected Lieutenant Governor, and two years later was elected to the Senate, where he has won four consecutive terms.

While in the Senate, Kerry has fought to improve public education and healthcare. He has stood up for the environment and the economy.

Kerry’s presidential campaign focuses highly on those same issues. He has a plan for affordable healthcare for every person in America, and he plans to protect social security. He plans to strengthen the middle-class by creating higher paying jobs, and he plans to give tax breaks to business owners who keep their companies in the United States. Kerry also believes that George Bush has “failed to see the situation in Iraq and failed to effectively fight the war on terror.”

According to their book entitled Our Plan for America, John Kerry and John Edwards “will stand up for America’s values and have a plan to build an America that is strong at home and respected in the world.”

For more information about the Kerry campaign, go to www.johnkerry.com.
Symphonic Concert Wow Audience

By Chris Sensel
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The most recent social event provided by Gainesville College was the Fall Concert featuring the Symphonic Band and the GC Chorus. Many various styles of music were performed including sacred opera choruses, Armenian dances and excerpts from the "Phantom of the Opera," including a duet with Noelle Haines and Robert Valentine.

The astonishing show also included the GC Male Ensemble performing "Climbin' Up The Mountain" and "Lost Without You." "We expected a really good turn out this year, and that's certainly what we got," Valentine said.

"I really enjoyed working with Noelle. Phantom of the Opera has always been one of my favorite shows. I was honored to perform it for everyone." The concert took place at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 19 in the Ed Cabell Theatre.

The show was free for everyone who wanted to enjoy the music. "The music was fantastic, the performers were phenomenal, and the directors did an excellent job." For more information, see Mrs. Lathem, Mr. Crook or Dr. Santander if you are interested.

By Jessi Stone
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WonderQuest, Gainesville Theatre Alliance's theatre for young audiences, has taken children to magical places from France to Africa for 30 years and this season children traveled to ancient Asia in the well-known tale of "Sleeping Beauty."

Gay Hammond, who adapted and directed "Sleeping Beauty," was very pleased with the final results. "Every element of the show was strong; costumes, set, lights, and especially the cast." The silk and chenille fabrics used for the handmade costumes were special ordered from California and sewn by Costume Designer Jim Alford and other cast members. The fairytale kept the kids' attention with choreographed sword fights, magic spells, and dragons.

The dedicated cast and crew performed over eight day shows for surrounding schools and two family nights that sold out for the first time ever. Hammond's only concern was "the lack of Gainesville city school audiences and why they have failed to attend." Claire Guy, charge scenic artist, who also portrayed Lady Cherrycough, had her hands full both onstage and offstage. Guy, a sophomore at Gainesville College, said her most challenging obstacle technically was "making sure I produced the concept that the director and the designer wanted. It was also extremely important to me as an actress to make my character unique and true to what the playwright had written."

Once known as Gainesville Children's Theatre, the name changed eight years ago to WonderQuest as it expanded outside of Hall County and gained a broader audience. Hammond commented on how she came up with the name, "I like the idea of wonder and curiosity and quest is the journey I want the children to take."

"There was just a wonderful atmosphere, I really enjoyed myself," said one concertgoer. "The Department head Lynn Lathem was also impressed by the performance. "The GC Symphonic Band has grown to 40 student performers since the school's opening and continues to excel in performance," she said. "We are always looking for talented students to join our music organizations." GTA Starts Off Strong Season with Asian 'Sleeping Beauty'

By Natalie Weathers
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Starting Nov. 9-21, the Gainesville Theatre Alliance will open curtain on "Gypsy," a PG-13-rated production written by Arthur Laurents, at Brenau's University's Hosch Theatre. "Gypsy is a classic in musical theatre," said GTA Artistic Director Jim Hammond, who directs the production.

The director cast GC student Mary Elizabeth Williams as the part of Gypsy Rose Lee. "Mary Elizabeth is a fine actress, dancer and singer, perfect for the role of Gypsy," Hammond said.

The male lead role, Tulsa, is played by GC student Will Bradley, whose part required him to take dance and choreography lessons. "It's a lot of work," Williams said. "It's a joyful, good work when you can trust your fellow cast members.

"I've grown immensely through this process along with those I work with. It's going to be a huge show." Hammond agreed, saying Gypsy was an appropriate choice for this year's casting pool. Liz Brendel plays the part of Mazeppa, a stripper with impressive gimmicks who humorously influences Gypsy Rose Lee's decision to join a burlesque theatre. "Everyone can benefit from seeing a play," Brendel said. "It's a good opportunity to see students act in an unusual part. It's one of the craziest characters I've ever played."

Auditions were held Aug. 29 at the Hosch Theatre. Practices began a month later and have lasted for several hours per night every week. "It's not easy managing this school," Williams said. "You should see my planner. I have it color-coded."

A stage tour and peek behind the scenes will be held at 6 p.m. Oct. 26 at the Hosch Theatre.
By Ashley DeBoer
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Members of the Gainesville College art department will tell you that they are artists first and teachers second.

The Roy C. Moore Art Gallery, located in the Continuing Education Building, opened its doors for the Faculty Art Show on Oct. 11-Nov. 10. The opening reception for the gallery was at noon Oct. 13.

The art show hosted a variety of works from GC staff members, including Anne Bessac, Jennifer Graff, Stacy Koffman, Vivian Liddell, Michael Dixon and Cynthia Lollis. This is the second time that GC has played host to a faculty art show, the first being quite a few years back.

The works being featured will involve a variety of mediums including drawings, paintings and sculptures.

When asked what she liked most about the faculty show, Bessac said, “We are artists first; teaching students by giving them a model of what they want to be. This is who we are.”

Bessac entered a piece into the faculty show that took her more than two years to complete.

“It is an abstract (piece) with representational elements. It evokes a nightmare,” said Bessac.

The piece is about Bessac’s late dog Sally, who passed away in 2002.

Gallery director Vivian Liddell said, “The opportunity to see recent works by my fellow faculty and the chance to talk with students about my work and the work of my coworkers is (what I like best).”

Liddell entered a piece entitled “Francis,” an abstract painting of a large baby head.

“The idea of it has to do with some feminist issues in the art world, including the historical separation of ‘high’ and ‘low’ art.”

Stacy Koffman, the faculty advisor for the art gallery, stated, “(The show) gives the art faculty an opportunity to share their artwork with the students, faculty and staff of the college.”

Koffman has entered five small oil pastels on paper.

“They are all abstracted from outside surroundings. They are landscapes of life. They are about choosing our paths, or about the paths we have already taken, or even the path we are on at this moment,” said Koffman.
Get Ready for Halloween with some ‘Frankenstein’

In the novel *Frankenstein*, Mary Shelley has her readers pretend that a lonely captain is the storyteller, even when she is the author. It is a novel with intense feelings of love and hate, and good and evil.

The journey through the story began with the captain’s greatest desire to navigate his ship where no men had ever traversed. This captain was lacking friends and, until the discovery of a man who was lying on a floating and melting iceberg, was the loneliest man alive. The stranger was immediately rescued and taken to the captain’s bed to be nourished back to health. Upon the recovery of the stranger, the captain began to question the foreign man. He learned that the stranger’s name was Victor Frankenstein and that he was pursuing a demon’s life, which he desired to terminate. Frankenstein then told the story of his life to all who would hear him and believe his tale.

It was in Naples, Italy that Victor Frankenstein was born. His parents, who were natives of Geneva, Switzerland, were traveling in the south of Europe when they bore Victor. Later in their travels, they came across a young and beautiful orphan girl named Elizabeth who lived in a family that could not properly care for her. Their hearts told them that this child was destined to become theirs and took action in adopting her. From the start, Elizabeth was Victor’s most beloved friend and was favored by all those around her. Several years later, the family grew to add two more brothers and a sister.

At the age of thirteen, Frankenstein discovered a science that fascinated him enough to pursue it in college. That subject was on the elixir of life and how man lived. He wanted to show the world something new that none had ever attempted. After his arrival at the location of his college, Frankenstein began to study hard and later made a decision that later haunted him: to create a human with his own hands. But upon creating the last portion of the eight-foot tall human, he realizes that he had created a monster, not a human. For when he became alive, “his yellow skin scarcely covered the work of muscles and arteries beneath.” Appalled by his work, Frankenstein fled to his dorm room, where he hoped to escape the hideous being of his creation.

In the years that followed, Frankenstein discovers that he would have been better off staying home with his family, for the monster learned how to speak, read, and later hate because he was hated. None looked upon him in love even after he rescued a girl from drowning in a rapidly flowing river. Through the monster’s hate and malice, Frankenstein learns to detest his own life, and wish he were dead. The only hope for Frankenstein is to be found on the day that he would be married to his beloved Elizabeth and rest in her love and care.

Rock Out with the Soulful Sound of Bain’s Accordion

Bain Mattox of Athens, Ga. has been taking the local scene by storm for the past 2 years as a singer and songwriter that is known as “the only man on Earth that can rock out on an accordion.”

When asked about how he got so big so quickly, he responded, “one minute I was winning the Smith’s Olde Bar Open-Mic Madness contest in front of 100 people, and the next I was in front of 2,500 at the House of Blues in Orlando.”

Bain’s style of music is unique mix of dark melodious rock and precise vocal harmonies. He also has such influences as Shawn Mullins and Jump Little Children. Bain’s whole roundness is incredible as he plays such instruments as the accordion, mandolin, and banjo.

Mattox also teamed up with Count Kellam (electric guitar, backing vocals and musical saw). In a recent interview Bain was asked about his main inspiration as a singer/songwriter, “I view life like a sit-com. We’re all characters in something bigger. I love to write about people’s real life experiences as though I am watching them on TV.”

Bain has opened for such artists as Sister Hazel, Butch Walker, and has formally written songs with John Mayer. In August of 2003 Mattox recorded his self-titled release with the astonishing ear of a producer Don McCollister, who was also responsible for acts like Sister Hazel, Shawn Mullins, Indigo Girls, and are ready to take over the Southeast.

The album’s 10-tracks embrace such issues: “Jet Black Ash”, based on Jennifer Toth’s novel about the mole people residing in abandoned subway tunnels of New York; “Slumber Plane”, where Mattox describes his battles with insomnia; “Peripheral People”, trials and tribulations caused by the ability to see the supernatural and; “Heartburn Boulevard”, an epic tale about the misconceptions of love and heartbreak.

He is currently touring in support of his newest CD Room to Breathe.

Besides his talent for making music he’s also notorious for seeing spirits. In an interview he says, “I was born with the ability to see spirits. I know that sounds weird, but I have seen ghosts my entire life. I can usually describe exactly who they see or feel. One time I read this woman who had someone with her and she had two other ghosts in her house that she had actually seen. I described each one to her.”

Other than seeing ghost and telling people about it, Bain is looking forward to continuing his tour and hopefully getting back into the recording studio to follow up on Room to Breathe. Bain Mattox is making his next appearance in Atlanta when he plays Eddie’s Attic Saturday Oct. 25 at 7pm for only $8.
Athen's Cafe Displays What Italian Cuisine is All About

Located on the eastside of Athens on Barnett Shoals Rd. across from Papa John's and Jittery Joe's, is a quaint little Italian café best known for its fine wines and exquisite Italian cuisine.

DePalma's embodies the true spirit of an Italian restaurant. Upon entering the restaurant, I was impressed not only with the delicate use of Italian antiques and ancient wine bottles that lined the walls, but also with the fact that DePalma's is only a small two-room café.

At first, the restaurant made me feel quite claustrophobic, but after sitting down at our booth, I was overwhelmed with the cozy and homely feeling that the restaurant emitted. Not only were the waiters and waitresses very polite and prompt (very important), but combined with the antiques, wine bottles, and scent of fine Italian dishes, I truly felt as if I were dining in Italy at a roadside café somewhere in Monaco or seaside San Remo.

However, DePalma's is also a true Athens restaurant. DePalma's complete with a fully stocked bar with any American drink one could possibly want. Yet the café places an extra emphasis on their fine wines and Italian beers such as the Peroni Gran Riserva. Though I did not notice it at first but the restaurant played strictly Italian music, which only reinforced the Italian aura of the café.

The menu at DePalma's is not exceptionally large, but the choices with which to pick from are incredible. I had a very tough time deciding what to order because everything looked delicious, even their pizzas, which I try to stay away from as much as possible. Finally, I decided to order their featured item of the day: the vegetarian lasagna, which was baked with red, yellow, and red peppers, garlic, basil, ricotta and two other cheeses, and marinara sauce. Complete with garlic bread and a field greens salad, the vegetarian lasagna was by far the absolute best Italian meal that I have ever had in my entire life. Period.

Though I asked for the dessert menu, there was no way on earth that I would have been able to eat their delectable cheesecake or any other fine Italian dessert that graced the pages of the menu. My friend who accompanied me to the restaurant ordered the Rosemary chicken. The dish featured stuffed chicken breast with baked potato wedges and crisp green beans. Needless to say, I ate nearly half of her meal on top of my meal.

When the check came I half-expect to empty my wallet, but the bill only came out to about $35 (tip included). I was seriously impressed with the quality of the food in relation to the price. If you are ever on the eastside of Athens and are looking for a good Italian café, look no further than DePalma’s.

‘Shaun of the Dead’ Spoofs Classic Horror Films of Past

When you think of a romantic comedy, most people think about a sweet movie that leaves all of us with warm fuzzy feelings. However, my pick for this year’s romantic comedy leaves viewers with a slightly different feeling.

“Shaun of the Dead” is a brilliant comedy that touches on a deeper subject, and that is zombies and love. Who would have thought that anyone could so effectively combine romantic comedy, fart jokes, and zombies all in the same movie? “Shaun of the Dead” is a spoof of the old classic “Dawn of the Dead.” Unlike the American spoofs, such as “Scary Movie,” “Shaun of the Dead” shows a great understanding and gives respect to the horror movies that have came before it.

The film is directed by Edgar Wright, well known in England for his series “Spaced,” which stars several of the actors in “Shaun of the Dead.” Edgar teamed up with Simon Pegg, who plays Shaun, to write the script.

The first word that comes to my mind to describe this movie is ‘British.’ It is a typical British comedy that borderlines on the humor of Monty Python. Its gross antics and sidesplitting comedic jokes are typical dry ‘British’ humor. If you love Monty Python, I guarantee that you will love this movie as well.

The movie continually makes comparisons to the normal behavior of today’s society in association to zombie behavior. The movie keeps you on the edge of your seat, because in the beginning the characters are oblivious to what is happening, which allows for some very funny moments.

Not only is the humor excellent, but the special effects are the best I have ever seen for a spoof movie. There are actually moments in this movie that made me cover my eyes.

After all of that, the best aspect for me was the hero role. Shaun is a nobody, and he feels it is his duty to save the world. He feels this way partly to win back the love of his life, but even though the audience knows this fact, we still feel compelled to root for him. He is the slacker that we can all see in ourselves. His relationship is going down the tubes, his roommates and best friend hold him back, and he is not at the place he thought he would be at that stage in his life. His character is beautifully written, because it makes the audience connect emotionally with the character.

Peter Jackson, well known director of “Lord of the Rings,” said that this movie, “Breaths new life into the ‘dead’ genre. Most entertaining film I’ve seen all year.”

This movie has everything. It offers romance, sadness, gore, action, and humor. If there is one movie that you see this year, make sure it is “Shaun of the Dead.”
Student Protest Was Well Worth It

We can all breathe a big sigh of relief this month after a small victory was won for GC students.

A few weeks ago, there was talk that tuition may be raised at Gainesville College and all other schools under the University System of Georgia, by as much as 10 percent.

After hearing this, hundreds of GC students rallied together in a state wide protest, beginning SGA’s petition against the hike. Much to everyone’s surprise, it worked.

On October 12 the board of Regents dropped the idea of raising tuition when cutting the budget.

Hallelujah! It is exciting to know that we, as students, can make such a difference. This is especially inspiring to students who think that something so small could end up actually affecting the outcome.

Perhaps most of us would have figured that if even if we didn’t like something, that taking a stab at changing it would be more trouble than its worth.

Give yourself a pat on the back if you were involved with changing the Board of Regents decision, even if it was only contributing your “John Hancock”. We should be proud that, as students, we took a small piece of paper and turned it into a big success.

We are glad it’s over and the outcome was fantastic. College is tough enough without the added stress of wondering if we may not be able to afford to attend another semester. Our only concern should be what classes to take!

It is a relief to know that our interests are truly considered in making decisions that affect us.

Vandalized Paintings a Disgrace to Community

In this issue of the Compass, we reported a story regarding vandalism of artwork on campus.

Let’s begin by stating that the recent acts of vandalism are first and foremost lame.

Yes, lame. Vandalism is, in our opinion, a desperate cry for attention due to lack of self-confidence and creativity.

When someone deliberately destroys and deforms someone else’s property, it is because they cannot derive pleasure from anything except the suffering of others.

Because many of us know how it feels to have had property vandalized, we feel for Dr. Croft.

The Compass staff hopes that he is able to recover what he lost and that he will not judge the entirety of GC by the actions of one.

Also, one can see a connection between vandalism and terrorism. Both are acts by a disturbed minority that reflect negatively on the majority.

Both terrorism and vandalism seek to undermine the accomplishments of society through sneaky, under-handed guerrilla tactics.

Hopefully the coward who destroyed property here at GC will be caught and prosecuted. Meanwhile we all should remain vigilant to this destructive behavior.
Christian Voters Not as Ignorant as Writer May Think

By Ben Nichol
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As a Christian voter, I thought it perfectly natural that the first two lines of Anita Turlington’s contribution to the opinions page of this newspaper both caught my eye, and turned my stomach.

Ms. Turlington, though you were clearly exercising a degree of sarcasm, I would like to say outright that I am offended by your allusion to the ignorance of “Christian voters.”

More importantly, though, Ms. Turlington, your article is entirely fallacious. You make several arguments, but offer no justification for any of them. You outright that I am offended by your implication that I am ignorant of the meaning of Christianity.

More importantly, though, Ms. Turlington, your article is entirely fallacious. You make several arguments, but offer no justification for any of them. You outright that I am offended by your allusion to the ignorance of “Christian voters.”

Here’s a fact for you. John Kerry is a liar. There are many issues surrounding Senator Kerry, and Vietnam. Earlier in his campaign, Senator Kerry claimed to have the support of all his fellow Vietnam Servicemen. He had to change that stance rather abruptly when 12 of those servicemen threatened to sue him for using a photo displaying his platoon. Why? Because of the 23 men in Kerry’s platoon, only 2 of them claimed to support Kerry in his campaign for presidency. The 12 aforementioned service-men all claimed that Kerry was unfit to lead, and would not stand for his lying about their supporting him.

Whether or not Bush’s four years in office have proven him to be a moral president, I hardly think anyone has grounds to question the priorities of his administration. Contrary to what you said in the very first paragraph of your article, Ms. Turlington, Bush does not promise “above all” to think the same way we do about morally debatable issues. President Bush has been very steadfast in the fact that, he promises to protect America.

Senator Kerry, on the other hand, has changed his stance on American defense issues numerous times. He actually voted against many of the weapons systems that were so crucial in the American campaigns in Iraq, and Afghanistan. Kerry claims that too many American lives are being lost in Iraq, and that it’s a war that we really have no business fighting. Bush fights for democracy in Iraq.

In these past four years, President Bush has lead one of the most successful and admirable campaigns in the history of America. He carried us out of the 9-11 tragedy valiantly, and answered the terrorist threat immediately. Since 9-11, the American economy has consistently grown, undoubtedly because of tax cuts exercised by the Bush administration. He’s increased federal funding for schools by 49 percent, increasing per student funding by almost 60 percent. President Bush has done his job, and will continue to do so, long as “duty calls”.

In the Senate, John Kerry’s record of his constituent services has been lackluster at best, and most of his colleagues, despite their public support, are hard-pressed to list an accomplishment. Just last fall, a Boston TV reporter ambushed three congressmen with the question, “name something John Kerry has accomplished in Congress.” After a few nervous giggles, two could think of nothing, and a third mentioned a baseball field, and then misidentified Kerry as “Sen. Kennedy.” I beseech you, Ms. Turlington; find me a list of John Kerry’s accomplishments so that I may see what it is you’ll be voting for. At the very least, find for me some degree of justification for just one of Bush’s shortcomings that you hinted at, because for me, “Bush is a bad Christian” doesn’t quite swing me to vote Kerry. Especially when all the substance you give me to back up your theory consists of a few pieces of scripture, and your personal opinion on Christianity.

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Bush Cares About His Country, Means What He Says

By Lesley Weiss
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Ms. Turlington hopes our President will lose the upcoming election. She believes he has lured supporters under the guise of being a good Christian, lacks “the faith to run a campaign and an administration that is truly different from the norm,” doesn’t meet the standards his Christianity suggests, and has made false claims to the American people.

We have known GW (George W. Bush) for four years now. We’ve seen a man who loves his family, the people of this country and, like our Founding Fathers, wishes liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all humanity.

We’ve seen a man who suffers along with families who lost loved ones in the 9/11 disaster, as well as with those who suffer the casualties of warfare, not only among our troops, but on a global scale as well.

We’ve seen a man who will do everything in his power to protect America from tyrannical leaders, terrorists, and violent political dissidents. We’ve also seen a Commander-in-Chief who means what he says, and says what he means.

I do believe GW has an administration “that is truly different from the norm in political life.” Please recall the conduct of the President Clinton. I don’t think we’ll ever find that GW has had an intern under the desk in the Oval Office; nor has our President pointed his finger at me, told me to listen and listen good, and then lied to me and my fellow Americans about an adulterous relationship. I am convinced GW “walks the walk in addition to talking the talk.”

He respects the sanctity of marriage between a man and a woman, as well as the unborn child’s right to life. His opponent in the upcoming election does not.

The televised debate which aired on Thursday, Sept. 30, revealed a conscientious, compassionate man, husband, father, colleague, and Commander-in-Chief who is committed to human welfare.

GW expressed his solemn duty to defeat ideologies of hate. The way to fight tyranny, he said, is to spread freedom. I believe a person can defend against the threat of evil and still call himself a Christian. Thomas Paine wrote in Common Sense, his first pamphlet published in the colonies urging independence from Britain, “The cause of America is in a great measure the cause of all mankind (and) the concern of every man to whom nature hath given the power of feeling.”

Now the enemy is different. But the cause is the same.

Ms. Turlington states that the President “stretched the truth a little in order to be elected.” She brought under attack some conduct of his campaign involving money.

Unfortunately, Ms. Turlington didn’t substantiate these accusations with examples, and unless the editors of this publication left something out, her points are unclear and, consequently, invalid.

She even questioned his understanding of the Gospels, citing him for claiming to model his life after Jesus Christ, yet falling short of the teachings in the Sermon on the Mount. Who on this earth wouldn’t fall short of that measure? I will gently remind my readers that Mother Teresa is not an option.) As for Ms. Turlington’s forgiving our President; I believe forgiveness is God’s concern.

I support Ms. Turlington’s high aspirations for our leaders. I believe, as Americans, we must hold our standards to heaven’s gate; but unless Jesus Christ is on the ballot, (and I’m pretty sure he won’t be), I’m voting for George Bush.
Question, Listen, Vote

By Brad Strickland
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Our country began as an experiment. So far, it has worked pretty well.
The experiment was to give sovereign power—the power to make decisions and to govern—to the people, not to an aristocratic elite. In the United States, we are the government, all of us. We, the people, make the decisions, through our elected representatives.

Sometimes that’s hard to realize. We complain about “the government” often enough, without pausing to realize that we are the government.

That’s okay. As Americans, we have the God-given right to complain. Something would be wrong with us if we didn’t.

Still, along with the complaining, we have an obligation to do something. For you, that means voting. It means speaking your mind, in representatives but for the flashiest.

Our responsibility is to look behind the surface, to dig and explore and ask the hard questions. If necessary, we should be willing to change if the answers run contrary to what we believe to be right, just, and fair.

A successful democracy is not one where the majority rules. It is one where the people as a whole insist on fair laws, on equal protection for everyone, and on protection of the weak.

It is too easy for majority opinion to become the tyranny of the majority. That’s what we have to guard against. Don’t climb on those bandwagons. Think before you act, look before you leap, and investigate before you vote.

In the end, that kind of approach is the best weapon in America’s arsenal, more powerful than any missile or bomb, more deadly to our enemies than any nuclear device. It’s simple, but not simplistic.

Keep yourself informed. Ask the questions that you know need to be answered. Then listen to the answers from those who aspire to power and act—and vote—accordingly. If everyone did this, our democracy would be in good hands, and the experiment would be an unqualified success.

Lack of Parking Spaces is a Problem

By Ashley DeBoer
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Are you one of the many who drive around in circles every morning trying to find a parking spot?

Or better yet, one of those who arrive a half hour early for their nine o’clock class, anxiously hoping to find some place to park?

I, for one, am tired of leaving an hour early for school, when it only takes me 15 minutes to get here.

I love the fact that the Gainesville College isn’t overpopulated, that’s one of the reasons I first chose this college to begin with. I like the idea of smaller class sizes and a smaller campus in general. I was accepted into many colleges back home, though I wanted something different. So, I chose Gainesville College, a college that is over 1200 miles from my home.

However, in the two years that I’ve been here, this college has grown, and nothing has changed to reflect the growing population. This can easily be seen by the lack of parking spaces available every morning.

Now, I know there are plans to expand the Student Activities building, which I never frequent unless I’m buying books, and plans to renovate the Admissions building and such, but I haven’t heard of any plans to expand on parking.

There was talk last year about building student housing next to the Continuing Education building, but we need that grass parking lot.

I don’t understand why they haven’t paved that grass lot yet. Sure, the ducks and geese, who are in some way our mascots, eat off that grass, but there are plenty of other places for them to graze.

If I were on the planning committee, I would focus on creating more parking lot spaces rather then feeding our friendly mascots.

You are, after all, paid by the students at this college, not the geese.

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Who are You Voting For?

Katie Bradford
Undecided major

“I believe (Bush) has the interest of Americans at heart, and he reflects what our government was founded on.”

Voting for Bush

Walter Louis
Business major

“I’m getting tired of paying so much money for gas.”

Voting for Bush

Justin Lewallen
Secondary Education major

“He is a steady, strong, and moral president unlike the opposing candidate.”

Voting for Kerry

Mayes Hopkins
Speech/Drama major

“While Kerry presents a very optimistic platform, I wonder if change is what we need in these volatile times.”

Not Voting

Blake Smith
Theatre major

“At this point I will vote for anyone but Bush, and I like John Edwards.”

Voting for Kerry

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In Absence of Certainty, Intuition Tells Me it’s Bush

By Anita York
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How can one really know for sure who will be the better leader of a country when all one has to go on are campaign promises and propaganda? My experience reveals that it is really impossible to predict how a candidate for President of The United States will act once that candidate actually takes office. Besides relying on my personal feelings about a candidate, I believe that actions speak louder than any words thrown in a campaign.

Such is the case in the 2004 Presidential Campaign. After doing research about the campaign, I find there are pros and cons to each platform. First of all, there are the main issues regarding budget, health care, and education. The candidates for both major parties have varying plans regarding these issues. In the end, both appear to move toward the same goal. Issues regarding same-sex marriages and pro-life/pro-choice leave me with my head spinning because these issues are too personal for policy makers to decide for the citizens.

And when it comes to the war... let me just say that I prayed there was another way. However, I recently heard a speaker on this subject with whom I agree that we had to do something to stand up for ourselves, lest the terrorist groups would think we would just roll over and take whatever they chose to send our way.

Needless to say, I grapple with the issues, and certainly have no magic in deciding who will be the best man for the job. I have to rely on my feelings, “intuition” if you please, and I choose to vote for President Bush. I was impressed with President Bush’s response after the 9-11 attacks in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania. He showed a true compassion for the victims, their families, and the country as a whole; he stood strong in the face of adversity, and still remains strong on his own convictions while working to shape the future of our country.

One final thought... we have to remember that the President of The United States has little power to make anything happen on his/her own. Whoever you choose for President, rest assured that by exercising your right to vote, you are giving credence to our founding fathers’ vision of “government by the people.”

Administration’s Dishonesty Makes Kerry Clear Choice

By Deena Patel
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Over the last three years the price of college has increased by 35%. Over 200,000 students who qualified for college had to drop out because tuitions were too high.

John Kerry and John Edwards plan to give a tax credit of $4,000 for each year of college attended. I researched Bush’s plan concerning education, and I found that his administration plans to give up to $1,500 in tax credits for only the first two years of college attended.

I don’t know about you, but that is definitely not enough. His website also discusses his strong support of No Child Left Behind. Yet the republican controlled senate underfunded the program by more than $8 billion while the Bush administration sat back and did nothing.

Not only is the Bush administration unreliable, it is also dishonest. In September of 2002, Donald Rumsfeld said that there was indeed credible intelligence that suggested that Al-Qaeda and Iraq had agreements under which Al-Qaeda contacts in Iraq could help them acquire weapons of mass destruction. Then in October of 2004 Rumsfeld said that “To [his] knowledge, [he has] not seen any strong evidence that links the two,” referring to Saddam Hussein and Al-Qaeda.

Someone who deliberately deceives us (the people) should not be leader of this country. We need strong leaders who we can trust.

Finally how dare Bush and his administration feel that it has the right to amend the constitution, banning gay marriage when this country was founded by people tired of having other people’s religious beliefs infringing on their rights. The Bush administration is stripping thousands of men and women their basic right to marry whom they love. Yet Bush’s administration insists on amending the constitution to fit their beliefs.

The founders of our country knew what they were doing when they provided for separation of state and religion. We should up hold our founding fathers wishes.

Student Opinion Poll

What Characteristics Do You Look for in a Presidential Candidate?

“Honesty, integrity, loyalty and credibility.”

Ashley Day
Major: Nursing
Hometown: Oconee County

“He has to be ambitious and look out for the well being of all groups of people.”

Kerri Key
Major: Pre-Medicine
Hometown: Maysville

“Somebody that is not a Republican or a Democrat.”

Charlie Williams
Major: Undecided
Hometown: Athens

“Someone who is not uptight and understands us students.”

Brandy Sims
Major: Biology
Hometown: Statham

gccompass.com
Wanted: Full-time Professors at Oconee

Must be able to be on campus other than class time, have a sincere commitment towards students and be able to jump buildings in a single bound.

Ok, so the last thing stated probably isn’t necessary, the first two though are vital reasons why the Oconee Campus is in desperate need of more full-time professors.

Professors serve not only as instructors but also should be available to answer questions by students. Questions that might need to be asked other than the sparse time allotted for office hours by most part-timers.

Being a good student means being a committed student, you get out of bed, even if you don’t want to and you get the job done.

We expect the same out of the professors. Scheduling conflicts for part-timers is a problem. It should not be our problem if professors have overlapped classes between jobs, learn time management and don’t over schedule your self. We have to pay for these classes, regardless if the professor shows up.

How about hiring at least half as many full timers? As it stands there are only 20 full time Oconee professors and 94 part-timers. These numbers are greatly skewed. The result is inefficient teaching. No matter how great a professor is, it isn’t any use to us if there not here.

No Taxation Without SGA Representation

Oconee Campus has no Student Government Association. Because of this Oconee Campus students are left in the dark. We are the last to get news, and definitely last in getting our opinions in.

For example, we were the last campus in the University System of Georgia to get the petition to stop the tuition increases and we only received a copy after a concerned student inquired about getting one. It took about three days to receive it, the petition was finally received from the SGA at UGA, not from our own sister campus.

The SGA leaders at the main campus have no idea about what goes on down here at this campus.

They’re making decisions for us in which we have no control over, because we don’t even know about the decisions being made.

What is the best response to this problem? Let us have an Oconee Campus representative or two Vice Presidents, one to represent each campus. However the situation is handled, the bottom line is Oconee needs some way to be in direct contact with the main campus.

We pay the same amount of money as the main campus does for student activities and services. Do we have to pay more to get representation, or will we always be out of the loophole?
Counseling Office Offers Personal Help to Students

By Britney Compton
Staff Writer
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New to the Oconee Campus is the Career and Personal Counseling Office. Coordinating the new department is Melinda Hawley who, among other things, counsels students dealing with alcoholism, anxiety and eating disorders.

The career-counseling office is located in room 108 in the administrative building.

Students can make an appointment by signing up on the sheet outside the door or by contacting Hawley, who only counsels students in person.

The personal counseling sessions are to “meet the [student] where he or she is,” says Hawley, allowing her to assist with any problem the student might encounter from the stresses of college and personal life.

The career-counseling office is set up to help assist students search for a career.

Since the average adult will “change careers 4-5 times in a lifetime,” Hawley says she provides “students with several different and fun tools to find what they are best suited for.”

Hawley emphasizes, “Confidentiality is extremely important.

“All appointments are private unless otherwise decided by the student.”

Hawley is committed to students and speaks to no one about what goes on in a session.

Her office hours are currently 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Fridays. Students can reach the office at (706)310-2243 or mhawley@gc.peachnet.edu.

Hawley encourages anyone who is interested in counseling to stop by her office.

Wireless Network Up and Running at Oconee

By Park Brannen
Staff Writer
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As you sit waiting for a computer in the ACTT center you wonder if the game players and e-mailers will ever get up.

Sure, you waited too long to read that article for class that starts in 30 minutes, but you can’t miss your reading again. Don’t get angry, get wireless.

Although many Oconee students may not know it, but our campus is home to a wireless web for any student with a laptop and an 802.11b card.

Stretching from the library to just outside the atrium, those student technology fees we pay have given us both a valuable asset and a practical one.

“This is just another technological asset we have at our campus,” says technology coordinator, Brian Wesnofske.

“Our campus is completely wired with smart classrooms, save one, giving our technology savvy professors ways to reach the students.”

These smart classrooms include computers, DVD players, and VCRs, which are all directly wired to the projectors, which make multimedia presentations possible for the entire class to view.

Being a part of Yahoo! Wired’s Top Ten technologically advanced junior colleges is a testament to the hard work done on this campus towards giving the students another avenue of learning.

As well as insuring you’re never in jeopardy of sending your professor that paper five minutes before it is due.

If you have any questions regarding our campus technologies contact Brian Wesnofske at bwnosfeske@gc.peachnet.edu or stop by his office in Room 504 in the SRC.

Clubs Guide

Oconee Compass Student Newspaper: Meetings Wednesday at noon; President: Elizabeth Fields; Contact: efie4340@gc.peachnet.edu; Faculty Advisor: Anne Duke; Office 557

Juggling Club: Faculty Advisor: Helene Hendon; Contact: hhendon@gc.peachnet.edu; Office 540

Baptist Student Union: Meetings: Monday at noon; President: Josh Goza; Contact: joshgoza@charter.net

Future Health Professionals: Advisor: Jim Konzelman; Contact: jkonzelman@gc.peachnet.edu; Office 555

Psychology Club: Meetings: Wednesday at noon; Faculty Advisor: Tom Hancock; Contact: thancock@gc.peachnet.edu; Office 546

Students in Free Enterprise: Faculty Advisor: Anne Duke; Contact: aduke@gc.peachnet.edu; Office 557

Sigma Chi Eta (Honor Society): Faculty Advisor: Allison Ainsworth; Contact: aainsworth@gc.peachnet.edu Office 188 (Main Campus)

Second Wind Club: President: Carla Walker; Contact: cwa0119@ gc.peachnet.edu

Politically Incorrect Club: Advisor: Lance Bardsley; Contact: lbardsley@gc.peachnet.edu; Office 547

Foreign Language Club: Advisor- Sara Burns; Contact: sburns@gc.peachnet.edu; Office 551

Study Abroad: Advisor: Chaudron Gille; Contact: cgille@gc.peachnet.edu

Team Skeet-Skeet practices on the intramural fields at the University of Georgia on Friday, Oct. 15.
Student Protest Halts Tuition Hike

By Jerry Calbos  
Staff Writer  
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On Tuesday evening, Oct. 12, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia made a compromise with the Governor, Sonny Perdue. Tuition increases will not occur; the education budget has to be balanced this year. The petition was drawn up by Dr. Lance Bardsley, Political Science Professor, the Oconee Compass Newspaper and Josh Rood, Student Activities Coordinator, Oconee Campus. Students became informed about the petition and were given a chance to sign it.

Full-time Professors in Short Supply on Oconee Campus

By Park Brannen  
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Though you may not know it, they walk among you. Looking normal with good intent, they blend in almost perfectly. No, this is not the story of some secret foe in the latest Dan Brown book; it is a problem much more real, the staggering number of part-time instructors. Here at the Ocone Campus we have 20 full time professors and 94 part-time professors. As a Gainesville College student, this issue may not seem to be of great importance, but in fact it does hold great bearing.

Light up Christmas with Toys for Tots

By Emily Cook  
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Starting Nov. 1 through Dec. 13, the Gainesville College Oconee Campus will be taking part in the Toys for Tots Program. Stephanie Austin, Administrative Assistant at the Oconee Campus, will be heading the program that requires participation from faculty, staff, and students at Gainesville College in order to be successful. By conducting Toys for Tots, Austin hopes to "contribute to our community by donating to underprivileged and needy children."

To help encourage participation and spark interest among participants, there will be a competition between all clubs at the Oconee Campus. All faculty, staff, and students who are not in clubs are also welcome to join in on this notable program.

The U.S. Marine Corps Reserve conducts the nation-wide Toys for Tots Program throughout local communities. The mission of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program is to collect new, unwrapped toys. The Marines then distribute toys to needy children on Christmas Day. Marines distribute an average of 8,000,000 toys annually to over 4,000,000 needy children.