Gym Thefts Lead to Heightened Security

By Frank Reddy
Staff Writer
fred9596@gc.peachnet.edu

In response to mounting incidents of theft in the gym, Gainesville College Public Safety has kicked off a new program to help stop more crimes before they are committed.

Anyone who wants to enter the gym must now show their student identification card at the front entrance, or they will be turned away.

"Some people who come in here tell us they forgot their ID in their car," said gym monitor Ina Griffin. "Then they'll go outside to get it and never come back."

Identifying students helps security to monitor who goes in and who comes out of the gym. There are eight exit doors in the building. Part of the gym monitor's duty is to make sure all exits, except the main one, are locked to prevent entry.

"It's a very important task," said Director of GC Public Safety Marion Darracott. "It's to prevent anybody from bypassing the identification check."

During the month of December students reported three separate stolen vehicle incidents on campus. In every case the victim's car keys were

Continued on page 2

As You Like It Promises to Attract Large Audiences

The four main characters of "As You Like It," from left to right, top to bottom, are as follows: Rosalind, Orlando, Audrey, and Touchstone. Played by Chandra Owenby, Rosalind, the heroine of the play, spends most of the play dressed as a young man who is coaching her sultan, Orlando, in how to court her. Directed by Gay Hammond, the setting for 'As You Like It' takes place in late 19th century India during the British Raj. "As You Like It" will be showing at Brenau University's Hosch Theatre from February 15-27 at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays through Saturdays, and 2:30 p.m. on Sundays. For the complete story, please see page 12 in the Arts & Entertainment section.

GC E-mail Now Official Student-to-Staff Form of Communication

By Jessica Bougher
Staff Writer
abou9574@gc.peachnet.edu

You've got email! As of January 1, 2005 the Gainesville College email system is the official communications vehicle for students, faculty and staff.

This decision has been made by Gainesville College president, Martha Nesbit, and the campus IT staff.

The decision has a twofold purpose according to Alicia Caudill, Director of Student Activities. "To streamline communications making sure everyone gets their information and to know when it was sent." And also, "When students transfer to 4 year colleges, this is the process that they use."

"We want students to get used to using their college email, accessing it and checking it for important information," said Caudill.

Most employers have already implemented using email for official communications. This move by GC administration will serve to allow everyone an

Continued on page 3
Sloan Jones Awarded for Her PR Work

By Matt Lovell
Staff Writer
glov6145@gc.peachnet.edu

For 12 years Sloan Jones has worked behind the scenes as Director of Public Relations and Marketing and recently won the Distinguished Service Award for her public relations work.

She was individually nominated by Michelle B. Brown, Put Guthrie and Martha Nesbitt for her constant involvement in GC.

“She has helped with so many things it made it an easy win,” said Michelle Brown, Alumni Director who has worked with Jones on many occasions.

Unlike years before with the Georgia Education Advancement Council, the presidents of all schools in the university system nominate their finest in the areas of alumni relations development, public relations, communications, and overall institutional relations.

GEAC is a statewide organization for those at public and private colleges and universities who work in educational advancement including the areas of alumni, development, publications and communications.

GC Opens Doors for Blood Drive on Jan. 21 in Student Activities Building

By Derek Wiley
Staff Writer
dwil2166@gc.peachnet.edu

School is a lot of things, but scary is not typically one of them. Students think school is boring, confusing, or even a great learning experience, but not normally scary.

However, I went to school on Friday, January 21 a little frightened, not because of any tests, or projects, but because of what I was to do outside of class.

The American Red Cross held a blood drive at Gainesville College in the Student Center in Lanier ABC from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Ambassadors Club volunteered to help with the blood drive.

Now I am not scared of too many things, but needles are another story. Scary movies are just not scary. Death does not scare me. Big, long, skinny, sharp, skin-penetrating blood thirsty needles scare me. My folks will never have to lose sleep over me getting any tattoos, piercing, or getting addicted to heroine. If I ever decide to get buffed up by using steroids, I will have to get some of Barry Bond’s flaxseed oil cream. I just cannot handle needles.

However, I decided to suck it up and give my blood. I hope that conquering my fears will help others in the future conquer their fears, and give blood to the Red Cross. The Red Cross is always in need of blood, especially now with the recent tsunami victims in Asia.

So I overcame all my fears of needles to give a little blood in hope to help others. I hope to help others overcome their own fears, of more important things such as life and death. Giving blood is not going to kill me, but giving blood may keep someone else from being killed. If someone is in an awful car wreck, I would hate for them to not be able to get any help because of a blood shortage. I give my blood to help others who need it.

Concerning the blood drive, one GC student said, “Giving blood makes me feel better about myself, to give back to other people.”

Yet another GC student said, “I love my life and I am glad I can share it with someone in need so they can love their life too”.

Without a doubt, I reiterate the American Red Cross slogan that says, “Have you saved a life today? Please give blood”.

For more information on the American Red Cross, go to www.givelife.org on the web, or call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE.
GC Celebrates MLK with ‘I Have a Dream’ Speech

By Matt Welborn
Staff Writer
mwe23184@gc.peachnet.edu

History. If we didn’t have our history, where would we be today?
Would women be able to have the right to vote?
Would African Americans have the rights that they have now?

On January 19, of 2005 Gainesville College celebrated the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Numerous moments in the history of the civil rights struggle has been used to identify Martin Luther King Jr. Keynote speaker at the march on Washington, prime mover of the Montgomery bus boycott, youngest Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

In retrospect, however, these single events are less important than the fact that King, and his policy of nonviolent protest, was the dominating force in the civil rights movement during its decade of greatest achievement from 1957 to 1968.

GC student, Jesse Posnansky, says, “Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a good man because he stood up for what he believed in and never held back from the point he was trying to make.”

“When, as I’m looking around, I see that what he believed in is beginning to depreciate in the minds of youth today, it seems that there’s a lot people that don’t care about what he has done for us.”

Nick Bonelli says that the movie that was shown on January 19 was “insightful” and that “it’s hard to believe that our history was filled with that much hatred. Times have really changed a lot since then.”

It also seems that “the dream” of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. has come true: “I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: ‘We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal.’”

“I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave-owners will be able to sit down together at a table of brotherhood.

“I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a desert state, sheltering with the heat of injustice and oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

“I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

“I have a dream today.”

History is indeed made up of momentous events which shape our future and outstanding leaders who influence our destiny.

Introduction of ATM on Campus a Possibility for Spring ’05 Semester

By Howard Ho
Staff Writer
ch1420@hotmail.com

Gainesville College is in the process of getting an ATM.

Alicia Caudill, Director of the Student Activities Department, said, “It would be convenient for students, faculty, staff, and guests who need to access cash while they are on campus. For busy people, it would be nice to be able to get cash on campus between classes, and not have to make an extra stop at a bank when leaving campus.”

Debora Pilgrim, Vice President for Business and Finance, is contacting local banks trying to find out which banks would be interested in installing a machine on the campus.

gcompass.com

Unluckily, many students will have to pay addition usage fees in order to extract money from their accounts, unless they have accounts with the ATM’s bank.

“We will certainly negotiate for the usage free to be as small as possible,” said Pilgrim.

As of yet it is unknown as to which bank will supply the campus with their ATM, but Pilgrim also adds that hopefully the ATM, “will provide a more convenient source for students, faculty and staff to obtain cash without having to leave campus and fight the traffic on Mundy Mill Road.”

In the early process of this decision, an online survey was posted on the GC Notice Board to gather feedback from students, faculty, and staff.

Alicia Caudill, the author of the survey, said, “I think the survey was a helpful method for gathering information quickly...214 people completed the survey and of the 214, 202 indicated that if an ATM was placed on campus that they would use it.” The survey asked which bank they would like to be the provider of the ATM.

With negotiations still in process it is unknown as to which bank will be supplying the GC with an ATM and when it will be installed and accessible, but Ms. Pilgrim hopes that, “before the end of the semester we will have an ATM placed on the campus in the Student Activities Building.”
Expanding Numbers Cause GC to Construct New Building

By Jack Howland
Editor-in-Chief
jhow@peachnet.edu

In its ongoing effort to ameliorate the situation concerning the recent lack of space around campus due to the ever-expanding amount of students, Gainesville College is in the process of constructing a building that will not only house plant operations, but will also incorporate the public safety offices.

According to Martha Nesbitt, President of GC, the construction of a butler building benefits GC “By giving plant operations and public safety enough room to store equipment and materials and to have ample room for all of their offices.”

Nesbitt also added that “Ultimately, the butler building is designed to handle plant operations and public safety, but it will also temporarily house the business, development, and administration divisions due to the upcoming renovations that will take place in the Administration Building.”

Scott Conaway, left, and Jeff Conaway, of JC Conaway and Company Inc. work on the construction of the new butler building that will be approximately 6,000 square feet.

The butler building, which is hoping to be finished by May of 2005, will end up costing GC about $275,000 and is being built with some of the funds used to replace the heating and air conditioning systems around campus.

GC also has future plans to add more classrooms around campus, however, that may not come into fruition for about four or five more years because GC has submitted a major’s project to the governor for approval. The major’s project is a budget plan that exceeds $5 million and can take up to five years to receive approval.

On a side note, concerning the renovations being done in the Administration Building this spring, the Administration and Registrar offices will relocate to the Faculty and Student lounges in the Dunlap-Mathis Building.

They will begin the move during the week before spring break.

The Admissions and Records offices will also be moving due to renovations in March, instead of in May, which was when they were originally planning on moving.

The Administration Building will be closed for six to eight months because of renovations on the duct work.

In relation to the construction at Plant Operations and the move of Public Safety to the Science Building, Public Safety is now recommending that everyone who checks out a GC vehicle for an overnight event to park their personal vehicles in Lot R in the Academic III lower parking lot nearest Landrum Educational Drive.

The reason being is because that is where Public Safety officers also park their own personal vehicles and also because it has sufficient lighting.

The phone number for the Public Safety officer on duty is 770-294-7227.

Scott and Jeff Conaway prepare the foundation for the future butler building. The building, which will cost GC about $275,000, is expected to be finished sometime in May of 2005.

GC’s Regents’ Test Scores 3rd in State

By Jenn Williams
A&E Editor
jwil4618@gc.peachnet.edu

Once again Gainesville College students Regents’ Test results are outstanding.

GC ranked third in the first time reading scores, with Medical College of Georgia and NGC slightly ahead, and first time essay examinees ranked third, with only UGA and Georgia Tech ahead.

All students should be proud to be apart of a two year college with such high rankings. The English instructors deserve huge congratulations for preparing these students.

Kelly Dahlin, Lara Kight, Frank Sherwood, and Peggy Strickland did a great job of working with these students on an individual basis. Gainesville College is known for professors who take the time to work with students.

Unlike a larger university, the student-teacher ratio is far less, therefore each student can feel like a name rather than a number.

Students taking the Regents’ Test again show a vast improvement in scores as well. The reading repeaters rank third behind Dalton State, and the essay repeaters rank second behind Dalton State and Waycross.

It is also shown that the students attempting the test for the second time have a better passing rate than similar students at all the state universities.

Congratulations to all students that attempted the Regent’s Test, and good luck to those in the future.

Remember that help is always available at Gainesville College, and now we have the numbers to prove it.
gccompass.com
Gainesville College is doing their part to aid in Tsunami Relief.

Theresa Dove-Waters, a professor at Gainesville College, has been working hard in organizing students, faculty and community help.

She said she choose the Red Cross because over 90 percent of their donations goes into helping the Tsunami Relief effort.

The college was closed when the disaster took place, but many clubs rallied together to help raise money. To date, the College has raised $455.

That amount continues to grow, as more and more students are becoming aware of what extreme need the tsunami victims are in.

Dove-Waters said, “I believe that we all have a responsibility to help each other, and help can come in many forms: monetary donations, mission efforts, food/clothes drive, government assistance, and the religious community.”

The tsunami disaster has affected us all. No matter how we help, we all need to work together to see that the victims are taken care of.

There are numerous ways to donate, including World Vision. This organization is geared more towards families, and helping orphaned children overcome this disaster.

Interested students can access www.worldvision.com, and donate, or sponsor a child, and save a life.

This list continues to grow, with various organization, and companies that are getting involved and making a difference.

Anyone can donate, but first, each donator must pick the organization that they feel the strongest for.

Dove-Waters said, “As most Americans, my heart go out to the people of Asia, especially the children, and I’m honored to do what ever I can.”

If you want to join the cause, go to www.redcross.org.

GC clubs, organizations, faculty and staff urge all students to help out in any way possible. Figure out what organization is for you and begin to help the relief.
Amigos for Christ Raise Money to Help Nicaraguans

By Jessi Stone
Staff Writer
jstone5617@gc.peachnet.edu

After the most devastating hurricane, which hit Central America in 1998 resulting in tens of thousands of casualties, Sarah Bollinger has dedicated her time to raising money for the refugees of Nicaragua.

Bollinger is a foreign language major at Gainesville College and is an active member of Amigos for Christ, an International Nonprofit organization based in Buford. Since 1998, Amigos for Christ has provided over $14 million in aid for the destitute poor in Chinandega, Nicaragua.

During hurricane Mitch, two rivers merged and flooded while villages disappeared under volcanic mud slides that didn't stop until they reached the ocean. Children were left orphaned and refugees were forced to live in a landfill that was contaminating the river in which they bathed.

All of the villages' livestock and crops were destroyed and the people of Nicaragua had to scavenger the garbage dump for food. "It's hard emotionally during the mission trips because I know where these people came from and what they have been through," Bollinger explained.

On her first mission trip, Bollinger witnessed cardboard Corona boxes being used as shelter and people that were so malnourished that their hair was yellow.

The efforts began when Bollinger's youth group raised $800 during a bake sale. Recently they have contributed to the construction of St. Martin de Porres Surgical Hospital, schools, feeding centers, and four building projects that provide homes for 579 families.

Another current development, Villa Catalina, is being built and will shelter 120 more families. Bollinger said that it can take a year to build one housing project and $3000 to build a home. She has been on ten mission trips to Nicaragua.

On the missionary trips, the group also visits children at Santa Lucia, the only school for the blind in Nicaragua. They relocate as many people as possible away from the landfill, get orphans off the street, and work on the most challenging problem: clean water.

"If I know they were here in United States they would be in school and would be getting the help they need," Bollinger said. In the spring of 1999, Amigos for Christ took their first trip to Nicaragua with 30 people and the trips have increased every year since then.

In 2005 there will be 14 missions contributing to the cause. Bollinger said these groups include other youth groups, a group from U.G.A., volunteer doctors, and high school groups.

Concerning the progress in Nicaragua, Bollinger said, "I can see a difference. It's not just a shelter anymore, it's becoming a home."

The next big event will be the 5th Annual Pedal for the Poor Bike-a-Thon on May 1, 2005 from 2-6 p.m. at Bogan Park in Buford. All donations will benefit the Villa Catalina Community in Chinandega, Nicaragua.

Bollinger said, "If you want to change your life for the rest of your life, this is the way to do it. Everyone is affected no matter what." For more information about upcoming events and how to donate money, medical, and school supplies email info@amigosforchrist.org or call (770)614-9250.

Students Share Opinions about Teachers at Ratemyprofessors.com

By Michele Hester
 Clubs Editor
ahes2131@gc.peachnet.edu

Have you ever studied all night, coming into a test thinking that you knew it all, only to find that you studied what was in the book instead of the lecture your professor preached? When you received that less than perfect grade, did you wish you could put a grade on the way that professor taught his or her class? Now you can.

The web site Ratemyprofessors.com is the largest and fastest growing list of college and university ratings on the net, and between both Gainesville College campuses, over 150 GC professors have been publicly rated by their students.

Students anonymously rate their professors on a five-point scale with 1 being the worst and 5 the best. Three categories are listed to rate on this scale: easiness, 1 is hard, while a 5 is easy; helpfulness, 1 is unhelpful, while a 5 is very helpful; and clarity, 1 for unclear and 5 for very clear. Students may also add comments about the professors, as well as rate the professors' physical appearance as hot or not. Ratemyprofessors.com insists the hot or not rating is "just for fun." A statement under the comment box indicates that anything libelous will be deleted.

Douglas Young, professor of political science, and Susan Doyle, professor of psychology, currently hold the GC record for the most ratings, each having 18.

Young, GC's 2004 teacher of the year, was praised by one of his former students as "an asset to the faculty" and "the greatest teacher." However, in a November rating from another student, Young was critiqued as a teacher who does not interact enough with his students in class. The comment posted said, "If you raise your hands, prepare to keep it up for a long time."

Doyle's critiques were not as kind. She received an overall rating of 2.4 to Young's 4.4. Doyle did, however, have one student say, "She is one of the best professors I have ever had." Still, others commented that Doyle is a very hard teacher who "doesn't know your name" and "tries to impress liberal views on the class."

The Web site has received criticism from college professors across the country, because many feel the critiques give inaccurate portrayals of their teaching abilities, since students' feelings toward their teachers are often reflected by the grades they receive.

The creators of Ratemyprofessors.com are "just common, ordinary people who believe that students are the customers of professors...and absolutely have a right to voice their opinions," and say, the purpose of the site is "to be a resource for students," that allows students to "make a difference in their education."
Club Fair 2005 Draws Lighter Crowd

Over 20 Gainesville College Clubs and Organizations Represented

By Michele Hester
Clubs Editor
ahes2131@gc.peachnet.edu

More than 20 Gainesville College clubs and organizations met in the Student Center on Jan. 12 for the annual spring semester club fair, only to find that over half of the students attending the fair were other club representatives.

The club fair is designed to give students the opportunity to find out which clubs and organizations are available on the Oakwood campus. Jenn Williams, vice president of Sigma Chi Eta, GC's communication club, said, “We had hoped to recruit a lot of new SCH members during the club fair, but there just was not enough student interest.”

The clubs decorated their tables with display information about their clubs, passed out literature, and even offered snacks and candy hoping to persuade potential members. Still, a few clubs left with only minimal new names for their membership rosters. “We packed up early,” Williams said. “This early in the semester, everyone is too busy worrying about their new schedules and do not have the time to participate in extra curricular activities. It would be great to have another club fair later this semester.”

In the meantime, students interested in joining a club or organization can check out the GC web site or handbook for a listing of the clubs available. Clubs and organizations can also email their upcoming events to compass@gc.peachnet.edu.

SIFE advisor Katie Simmons, left photo, talks to interested students during the Jan. 12 club fair in the Student Center. GC SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise) has been competing in SIFE competitions since 1992 and has won 30 Regional and National awards. SIFE meets Fridays at noon in room 116 of the CE building.

The Asian Student Association representative Shu Li, right photo, encourages music major Joey Centeno to join ASA, citing the positive aspects of holding membership in the club, which is open to all students.

Campus Crusade for Christ still Active and Growing

Campus Crusade for Christ, a nondenominational Christian club open to all students at Gainesville College, offers opportunities for personal growth in a fun-filled atmosphere.

The club meets as a large group to listen and discuss interesting topics with guest speakers or study leaders. Every third meeting the club members divide into care groups with their care group leader to share concerns, prayer requests, and study God's word.

Prayer for each other is an integral part of all meetings. Spiritual counseling and Christian literature offered by club advisors, Dale Crandall and Elizabeth Hancock, help club members answer questions. Speakers from area churches speak on various topics at special events. Hancock leads Bible studies using a theme pertaining to a special day observed during that particular month.

In February, Hancock will lead a Valentine’s Day study of true love. In October, just before the election, Hancock spoke on a Christian’s responsibilities as a citizen, in November, everyone learned about the first Thanksgiving proclamation, and in December, everyone enjoyed hearing the Christmas story from the Gospel of Luke. Questions were answered by Hancock regarding why December 25 is celebrated as the birthday of Jesus Christ.

All who attended the fall kick-off on October 25 enjoyed lots of fun, food, and fellowship. Campus Crusade for Christ offered free pizza and gift bags containing a double book by Josh McDowell, a New Testament Bible, CD’s, and poster putty. Upbeat Christian music by Brad and Christy Beasley of Finish Line drew quite a crowd. Rachel McClain, College Age Advisor of Corinth Baptist Church, spoke to students from her heart.

The spring semester kick off will be Monday, January 31, from 12:00 noon until 1:00 p.m. in Lanier AB of the Student Center. Meetings are held in Lanier AB on most Mondays from 12 noon until 1:00 p.m. A well-known Christian sports figure will be invited to speak during one spring meeting. Watch the bulletin boards in the Student Center for more details. Notices of all meetings are posted on the bulletin board beside the door as you enter the cafeteria portion of the student center. Meetings are held in Lanier AB on most Mondays from 12 noon until 1:00 p.m.

Homemade treats and other refreshments are served at the meetings with soft drinks. Your presence will be welcome at Campus Crusade for Christ.
Progressive Club Forming at GC

Anyone student interested in the creation of a Progressive Student Group on the Oakwood campus should contact History Professor Elizabeth Hancock, who is more than happy to act as faculty advisor. Interested students should email Hancock at ehancock@gc.peachnet.edu, or stop by her office in Acad. II, room 113.

Compass Staff to Compete in Better Newspaper Contest

On February 5, The Compass staff will travel to Macon for the annual Georgia Better Newspaper luncheon and contest.

For the past two years, The Compass has placed second in General Excellence for Georgia two-year colleges, bringing home 16 awards in 2004. The staff hopes to prevail this year with the coveted first place honor.

“We have really gone above the call of duty this past year, and I am sure it is going to pay off in the end,” said Jack Howland, The Compass Editor-in-Chief.

“I am real proud of The Compass staff for all the hard work they do all through the year,” said Wesli Bannister, Compass opinions editor, who just recently joined the newspaper. “I am looking forward to the conference next week, meeting others with my same interests, and hopefully, walking away with more awards than any other two-year school in the state.”

Would you like to make a difference on your college campus? If so, write for The Compass. Scholarships are still available. Staff meetings are Wednesday at noon in the office behind the Cyber Cafe in the Student Center.

FEBRUARY

2
Math Club - Guest speaker
12 noon, Room 138 Acad. III

5
The Compass goes to Macon to compete in the Georgia Better Newspaper Contest

7
Politically Incorrect Club - Guest Speaker
U.S. Army Colonel Benjamin Purcell - the highest-ranking American Army P.O.W. held by the communist North Vietnamese during the Vietnam War.
12 noon, CE auditorium

12
ROX
Ropes course at Lapdog. Meet in gym parking lot at 9 a.m.

14
Campus Crusade for Christ - Love by Elizabeth Hancock
12 noon, Lanier AB St. Act.

16
Math Club - Guest Speaker
12 noon, Room 138 Acad. III

18
ROX
Rock climbing, camping and rappelling at Sand Rock and Horse Pens 40 in Alabama. Meet at the gym at 2:30 p.m.

23
Math Club - SML Test
12 noon, Room 138 Acad. III

28
ROX - Fundraiser (TBA)

Contact Michele Hester at ahes2131@gc.peachnet.edu to have your club’s events listed in The Compass.

gccompass.com
Volleyball and Football to Kick Off Intramural Season

By Jack Howland
Editor-in-Chief
jhow8834@gc.peachnet.edu

With the warmer weather and high hopes, this semester promises to be an enjoyable one because the intramurals that are planned hope to bring in large numbers of participants.

Flag football and volleyball are the sports that are going to be played during the month of February, with the first game being played on Wednesday, Feb. 2 at noon.

The seven teams that are scheduled to play flag football, the Patriots, the Eagles, Freeruz, Big Tymers, Head Busters, Head Hunters, and the Ball Busters, will contend for the title that will be determined in the championship game in late February.

The volleyball intramurals consist of three teams, Dig, Set, and Spike that will also compete for the championship to be determined in late February.

Three Gainesville College students play a game of basketball in anticipation for the intramurals for the month of March, which will feature both 5-on-5 basketball and also soccer. Sign-ups start February 11. The first games start at noon on Wednesday, March 2 in the gym for basketball, and the fields below the gym, for soccer. This semester promises to be an enjoyable intramural season.

SORBA Announces List of Events, Two New Chapters

By Jack Howland
Editor-in-Chief
jhow8834@gc.peachnet.edu

In December of 2004, the Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association conducted their end of the year meeting and released on Dec. 28 their list of events for 2005.

During the meeting, the board members also inducte two new chapters into the growing mountain biking club. The two new chapters that were added was the Free Ride Alliance (SoFA) and SORBA Huntsville.

SoFA is the first SORBA chapter solely dedicated to freeriding, which is a style of mountain biking that concentrates on highly technical downhill riding while also incorporating stunts that require the rider to wear protective body gear and oftentimes full-face helmets.

SORBA Huntsville is quite monumental because it is the first SORBA chapter in Alabama. SORBA Huntsville builds and maintains over twenty miles of trails in Monte Santo State Park.

Along with announcing two new chapters, SORBA also announced their list of events for 2005, which includes the Helen Fat Tire Festival from March 13-15, Nimblewill MTB Festival in Dahlonega on from Aug. 20-21, National Take a Kid Mountain Biking Day on Oct. 1, and the Tumbling Creek MTB Rumble IX from Oct. 8-9.

The National Take a Kid Mountain Biking Day is brand new for 2005 and was designated by Congress to be observed annually as a great way for kids to become more active and knowledgeable about the outdoors.

The Helen Fat Tire Festival is designed to promote bicycle safety and to raise money for local children's charities, mountain bike trail development, and SORBA. The race will start in Helen and make a loop through Unicoi State Park before heading back towards Helen.

The Nimblewill MTB Festival will be held at Camp Wahseha 4-H Center. The festival will consist of multiple group rides, bike games, a bicycle movie, and a mystery/adventure bicycle ride.

gccompass.com

A local freerider at the 2005 Thompson Day/ Middle Georgia Mountain Bike Festival takes a jump on the trails during the daylong festival. Freeriding is a new and fast-growing type of mountain biking. Freeriding celebrates the challenges and spirit of technical riding and downhill riding.
Jackson Embodies Heart of True Story in ‘Coach Carter’

Coach Carter brings about a noble message of believing in young student athletes, but unfortunately the smaller story behind that imminent message is what most viewers will leave the theater talking about. Many viewers will get lost in the action of the basketball games, the story lines of each player, the comedy, and forget what this movie is all about. Coach Carter’s humorous remarks only complement his demeanor. While the players are running suicides Coach Carter yells out, “I don’t want you to commit homicide. I said run suicides.” One of the Richmond players replies back with, “this ain’t the track team coach”. Coach Carter yells back, “this isn’t the debate team either.”

The movie “Coach Carter” is based on the true story of Coach Ken Carter, a businessman who takes on the job as Richmond High School’s basketball coach. Coach Ken Carter is a rare coach in that he teaches his students as much about life and learning as he does about basketball.

Coach Carter expects more out of his players in the classroom instead of on the court. The district requires for athletes to maintain a 2.0 GPA, but Carter demands a 2.3 for his players. Ken Carter makes his players sign a contract with rules in which they will abide by such as wearing a tie on game days and sitting on the front row in all their classes.

Coach Carter’s Richmond basketball team goes on to a 16-0 season including winning a tournament, but when the team gets back from the tournament, Coach Carter finds progress reports stating that most of his players are either failing or not even going to class. Suddenly all he has worked for, and all his team has accomplished by going 16-0, means nothing. Coach Carter decides to take drastic measures, and locks the gym until his players get their grades up. This causes an uproar in the small community including a trial and a rock through the window of Ken Carter’s sporting goods store, but Coach Carter continues to stand up for what he believes in, which is academics over athletics.

“Coach Carter” also shows some great moments of teamwork. One player has been kicked off the team, and in order to get back on he must do 2500 push ups and a thousand suicides by the end of the week. The end of the week comes, but the player doesn’t finish. His teammates decide to do the pushups and suicides the player didn’t finish. After Richmond’s last game, Coach Carter tells his team, “I came to Richmond to coach basketball and you became students. I came to coach boys, and you became men”.

Go watch Coach Carter and see a coach who fought for what he believed in and succeeded.

Experience the World with Athens’ East West Bistro

If you are ever on Broad Street in downtown Athens on a weekend night and are feeling in the mood for some “fusion” cuisine, then you must stop by the East West Bistro right next to the Porterhouse Grill. The East West bistro defines their food selection as a derivative of the foods found in the Asian Pacific Rim mixed Italian dishes and popular American foods.

Founded in 1993, East West Bistro is best known for its award winning wine menu, which adorns one entire page of the alcohol menu. The Bistro also features a full bar, an appetizing martini menu, and an expansive beer selection, complete with Athens’ own Terrapin Rye Pale Ale on tap.

The restaurant is split up into two main dining rooms, one called East West Downtown and the other East West Uptown. There is also a catering room for parties of up to 60 people.

The East West Downtown is of a more relaxed and casual atmosphere that is complete with an open kitchen, full bar, booth, and even patio seating outside. Adorning the walls in the expansive Downtown dining room are paintings that only help to complement the simple yet classy environment of the restaurant. The menu for the Downtown dining room features an ample appetizer list with prices that range from $4.00 to $10.00, sandwiches, pastas, steaks, some seafood, and even pizzas. Meals range from $6.00 entrée style salads to $26.00 steaks.

The East West Uptown is a fine dining room with a menu that is geared more toward traditional Northern Italian pasta dishes, which include a selection of bruschettas, mussels, salads, and entrees. However, East West also unites certain aspects of both Italian and Hong Kong cuisine resulting in a fusion of foods that can be experienced in one single enjoyable meal.

While at the East West Bistro, I ordered the Garden Linguini, which is a tasty mix of linguini noodles sauteed in estate garlic olive oil tossed with basil, rosemary, seasonal vegetables, roasted red peppers and pistachios in light chicken veloute, and is sprinkled with feta cheese.

Though the tab can run slightly high, more than what most college students would consider paying for a meal, the service was great and the food was incredible. I highly recommend eating at the East West Bistro be it for a date, a business meeting, or for a friend’s birthday party. Regardless, the East West staff will make you feel quite welcome.
Belli Pays Tribute to Her Family and Home Country

In her autobiography “The Country Under My Skin : A Memoir of Love and War,” Gioconda Belli narrates her life from her protected childhood to her restless and haphazard life as an adult, torn between devotion for her suffering country, Nicaragua, and love for her family. While it is informatively political, Belli’s account of her involvement in the Nicaraguan revolution is also intensely personal. She draws her readers into her life and involves them in her internal struggles, trying to make the right decisions, her search for love, her fears, and her dreams.

Born into an upper-class Nicaraguan family, Belli grows up relatively sheltered in a country divided and oppressed by the Somoza dictatorship. Dissatisfied with her marriage, she is drawn into a love affair. Her lover shows her passion, gives her confidence, and introduces her to the Nicaraguan guerrilla, the “Frente Sandinista.” Hesitant at first, Belli soon devotes her life to the fight for a free Nicaragua. She helps the “Sandinistas” to secretly collect information on the regime, falling back on her bourgeois background, and her reputation as an up and coming poet, and holds meetings at her house until her involvement with the “Frente Sandinista” is disclosed to the government, and she has to go into exile.

Being exiled from her country is an agonizing experience for Belli. She has to leave behind her two young daughters, and the country she loves. Although the separation from her daughters and her family is painful, Belli never seriously doubts her involvement with the guerillas.

Finally, after watching the fall of Somoza’s government in July 1979, from her exile in Costa Rica, Belli triumphantly returns to her beloved Nicaragua. However, the ecstasy of victory soon fades as the liberated Nicaragua faces its first problems, in the light of the United States disapproval, it is trying to keep the promises made to the population. Tensions between Nicaragua and the United States increased when a delegation of Nicaraguan representatives, Belli among them, travels to conferences in Russia, Algeria, and Libya, looking for support.

After her political victory, Belli is finally able to straighten out her personal life as well, and ultimately finds love.

Gioconda Belli captivates her readers with the intensity and pace of her life and her reports of meetings with contemporary authorities of politics and arts, such as Fidel Castro and Gabriel Garcia-Márquez. Without bitterness or resentment, Belli shines a light on the unfortunate involvement of the United States in the politic history of Nicaragua, and introduces her readers to a different perspective of history.

Best Buy Plays Host to Atl’s Own Collective Soul

It was Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2005 and the stage was set up in Customer Service at the Best Buy store in Buford. The sound guys were getting everything ready for 99x’s Live X of Atlanta’s own Collective Soul. Collective Soul did not even go on until 7:00 p.m. which gave the fans enough time to show up.

Greg, one of the sound technicians who has been touring with Collective Soul ever since they started ten years ago to the day, said, “It’s been a lot of fun touring with these guys and believe me we’ve had our crazy moments.”

In recent interviews with Collective Soul they talk about their new CD and how they were taking the “Do It Yourself Philosophy” to its limits, releasing their newest album on their own El Music Group label. “This is not just an independent label; we’re doing it from the ground up. We’re assembling our own team and are going to tour our asses off,” Dean says.

“We’ve got a great team surrounding us,” Ed adds. “It’s like truly building your own house with the material that you choose.”

“As for the major differences in running your own label,” Ed says, “our ideas are listened to for a change, which doesn’t mean they’re acted upon, but they’re listened to.”

Time seemed to fly by quickly as I started to notice that over 500 people surrounded the stage and the disc jockeys of 99x were instigating the crowd.

Crash Clark, a 99x DJ, came out to introduce the band by saying, “After four years out of the public eye, Collective Soul singer Ed Roland has a message for the world: ‘Let the word out/I got to get it out.’

Collective Soul then came out and grabbed their acoustics guitars and started playing their new single “Better Now” off their newest release entitled “Youth.”

“Youth to me is a mindset, not a number,” Ed, Collective Soul’s lead singer and guitarist, says. “We’ve been doing this for ten years and we’ve never felt more youthful and more ready to be in the position that we’re in.”

“Even the music represents that starting over to some degree. We switched gears and went to more of our roots on the music level and production level,” Dean, the lead guitarist, adds. “It does feel like a 10-year cycle, we were just starting out, playing similar venues and seeing people that we’re seeing today. Yeah, it definitely feels like we are starting over on many levels, but starting over with a big head start.”

It seems that the boys from Collective Soul have really recaptured the hunger and determination of an indie band just starting out.
By Howard Ho
Staff Writer
chi1fool@hotmail.com

An art exhibition displaying works from Gainesville College Alumni is currently on display at GC's Roy C. Moore Art Gallery located inside of the Continuing Education building. The opening reception was held on January 20. The exhibition was held in commemoration of GC's 40th year anniversary.

The opening reception gave current GC students a chance to meet with alumni and discuss some ideas as to what they might want to pursue as artists.

"As an art student I found that meeting some Gainesville College graduates and seeing what they are doing now to be an encouraging opportunity" said Dana Riley, a GC art student.

Cynthia Lollis, director of the Roy C. Moore Art Gallery, introduces the alumni artwork at the opening reception on January 20 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The exhibit displayed different works such as oil on canvas, ceramics, photography, and digital print.

The reception also gave some publicity to the gallery. "The Roy C. Moore art gallery is the best kept secret at Gainesville College," said not many two-year colleges have an art gallery so it's something to be proud of," replied Cynthia Lollis.

Dean Stoy spoke at the reception while Cynthia Lollis, director of the art gallery, introduced the artists. Lollis comments, "I felt that we had a successful turnout, many friends of the artists as well as the artists' families came out in addition to some administration such as Stacy Kauffman, who is the administrator of Humanities and Fine Arts department, different offices on campus, and many current art students."

The exhibition displayed works from throughout the college's history. The featured artists are Dorothea Adams, Ingrid Bolton, Lauren Alyssa Howard, Lisa Kennedy, Karen Legg, Debbie Martin, Mark Mitchell, Connie Quinn, Holley Shafer, Christian Thomas, and Jeff Thornton. There were a variety of different medias on display such as oil on canvas, ceramics, charcoal and chalk pastels on bag paper, photography, vine charcoal, digital print, and intaglio.

Currently, many of the artists of the exhibition are running businesses, working for other companies, and/or continuing their educations. Holley Shafer owns a studio called Culture Shock Studios, and Dorothea Adams is a self-employed graphics designer working as Adams Graphics. Christian Thomas is working for Imex USA doing graphic design. Jeff Thornton, who is hoping to eventually work for Pixar, works for smaller animation companies in the Atlanta area. Lauren Alyssa Howard currently attends the University of Georgia where she is pursuing a BA in Fine Arts.

The exhibition will be on display from January 14 to February 5.

By Claudia Happel
Staff Writer
chap4989@gc.peachnet.edu

Premiering February 15, 2005, Gainesville Theatre Alliance's latest production of Shakespeare's "As You Like It" will take the audience on an artistic adventure to 19th century India.

Duke Senior, banished to the magical forest of Arden by the usurper Duke Ferdinand is later followed into his exile by his daughter Rosalind, whom duke Ferdinand perceives as a security risk, and Duke Ferdinand's own daughter, Rosalind's friend Celia. Rosalind, disguised as a young man, takes impish glee in coaching Orlando, who came to the forest fleeing his brother's rancor, how best to court her. Finally, old enmities are settled as love triumphs in the forest of Arden.

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'SAs You Like It' to be Performed at Brenau from Feb. 15-27

By Claudia Happel
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Saris and safari gear, as well as the scenery of a British colony in India and a magical Indian jungle will treat the audience to surprising exoticism - a brief getaway.

When choosing the setting for Shakespeare's play "we were looking for a time period with many different groups of people" says director Gay H. Hammond. India during the British Raj was the perfect choice. This romantic time period, according to Hammond, not only reflects the romance in "As You Like It," but its many strata of people, British colonialists mixed with Indians from various castes, also represent the different social classes of Shakespearean England, aristocracy, bourgeoisie, and servants.

It will certainly be interesting to experience Shakespeare in this unexpected environment. Shakespeare fans, however, must not be afraid. The setting will be reflected in the scenery, the costumes and the relationships of the characters to each other. Shakespeare's poetry will not be compromised.

This comedy, written by Shakespeare in the middle of his career, features sheer farce, exuberant physical comedy, paired with Shakespeare's matchless verbal wit. "'As You Like It' is about identity and the discovery of who we really are - which frequently we don't know until we fall in love," says director Hammond.

"As You Like It" will be showing at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays through Saturdays and at 2:30 p.m. on Sundays from February 15 to 22, 2005, in Brenau's Hosch Theatre. For all those anxious to find out more about Shakespeare in India, there will be a preview of the play on Monday, Feb. 14, at 7:30 p.m.

Students can pick up free tickets for the shows on Friday, January 21, 22, 23 and 24 at 7:30 p.m. from the Gainesville Theatre Alliance Box Office, Room 107 Continuing Education/Performing Arts Center. Tickets to all other shows are $5 for students and $16 general admission. Make sure to bring your current GC Student ID to receive student discounts. Tickets can also be ordered by phone 770-718-3624 or email bholmes@gc.peachnet.edu.
Thefts Give GC Bad Name

With the recent thefts that occurred in the gym last semester, along with the car thefts, one has no choice but to worry about whether or not they are next.

The Office of Public Safety has now set up a policy that anyone who wants to go into the Hugh Mills Physical Education Complex has to show their student identification card, or another form of identification, which is great, because there have been no reported thefts in the gym since the beginning of the semester.

However, those thefts still happened last semester and no one can do anything to take back what happened.

But the fact that there have still been thefts, not nominal items such as notebooks, pencils, or book bags, but things like cars, wallets, and even money, creates a bad name for Gainesville College.

And not to denounce the hard work that the public safety officers are doing. They have patrolled the campus around the clock vigilantly in order to decrease the amount of crime that occurs. Marion Darracott and the rest of the public safety staff should be commended for their hard work.

What if you were a future college student and were looking at Gainesville College as a prospective institution with which to pay to study but found out that there have been recent thefts concerning stolen cars and personal property?

Would you, upon learning about this disturbing information, like to come here?

ATM on Campus Would Be a Benefit

Gainesville College is currently in the process of obtaining an automated teller machine to be installed in the Student Activities Building. What a blessing that would be.

For those poor students, faculty, and staff who do not have a credit or debit card with which to buy meals, or who did not bring any cash with them for a meal in the cafeteria, or forgot to bring in their checkbook could easily stroll up to the ATM and withdrawal as much cash as they needed.

And it's not a matter of space either. There is plenty of room in the Student Activities Building.

The reason that it is taking some time, and why GC does not yet know if we will even be getting an ATM, is because GC is still trying to pin down the bank that would provide the lowest service charges.
Students in Serious Need of More Coffee Machines

There are many things to like about Gainesville College. I like the smaller student/teacher ratios, the easy campus layout, and the lower tuition prices. I generally see faculty and staff who are more interested in each individual student’s success than you would typically find at a University. I enjoy the intramurals, student activities, speakers, clubs, the newspaper, plays, and concerts. There is much to appreciate. Overall, I am very happy with Gainesville College.

Nothing is ever perfect, though. And changes are never made until a “squeaky wheel” is heard. So, there are a couple of things I’d like to see our tuition or student activities fees pay for. And one policy that I’d like to see changed.

I find it discouraging that we do not have ready access to ice. When Elegant Creations is open, they have ice. They will charge you by the cup for it. Not everyone can, should, or will drink the beverages offered by the cafeteria or in the existing vending machines, which means that just one public ice machine, like the one secured away in the gym, placed in the Student Activities building would be so helpful and appreciated.

Another frustration I have is that, in the evenings, there is rarely coffee. There never is hot water for hot chocolate or tea. Yes, I know that the morning’s leftover coffee from the cafeteria is passed on to the Cyber Café. That quantity of leftover coffee does not always last long enough to serve everyone who desires it. Besides, sometimes it cannot be consumed without revulsion. Additionally, some people like their coffee cold - as in “over ice”. Last spring or summer, the GC notice board had a message regarding how expensive it is to supply free coffee to us. I knew I could help with this and I was glad to do so. I immediately brought in several pounds of Starbucks coffee, for the sleepy or caffeine addicted people who would trek to the Cyber Café to consume it. Did we get a coffee maker with a reusable metal filter, a grinder, real cream in those carafes, or anything else necessary to use that coffee? No. I don’t even know where that coffee went. I do know that if it had gone into those carafes in the Cyber Café, I would have recognized it. I would prefer to see GC get a couple of coffee makers, one for coffee and one for hot water, along with the necessities mentioned, placed in the Student Activities building. If not, just one coffee/ hot chocolate/hot water machine would be so nice. I recently discovered a coffee vending machine in the Business Education building. It is not very accessible. No additional condiments are available with it. If we can’t have coffee makers, more of these coffee vending machines on campus would be helpful. That still would not solve the hot water issue.

This brings us to the one policy that I am especially not fond of. That thing would be the class attendance policy at Gainesville College. The one I am referring to states that with each absence or collection of two tardies, a student’s grade is negatively affected.

Attendance/penalty rules are outlined on every class syllabus a student receives. This policy is so rigidly enforced by some instructors that all absences, even those due to hospitalization, will be counted against you. We students have paid to be here. Most of us feel that the attendance policy reduces us to a high school level. Some people will learn more out of the textbooks than they will in class. Not everyone’s learning style is most compatible with lecture based education. Some people will be late or absent and still do a good job of completing the assignments, meeting the deadlines, and/or taking the tests. Do the majority of other higher learning institutions employ a policy where students’ grades are determined more by their punctuality, than a measurement of their actual gained knowledge?

Anyway, some of us are probably late to class because of the long lines of students at the QT, Racetrack, and other stores. We were likely all there together trying to get ice, coffee, or hot water.

Student Opinion Poll
What Do You Think Sexual Responsibility Is?

"Abstinence."
-Steve Thibodeau

"Adequate, clear decisions in one's self, in relation to one's sexuality."
-Richard Smith

"It means being clear about what you want. It's very important to use protection."
-Hope Bisbang

Interested in writing for the Compass? Opinionated? Then please e-mail us at compass@gc.peachnet.edu
Georgia Highways Should Consider a Speed Limit Facelift

Have you ever driven down Highway 316 through Gwinnett County or going towards Athens for that matter? Have you ever driven anywhere on Highway 400? Have you ever driven on I-85 past the Suwannee exit going south? Or on I-985 past Gainesville going north? Well, I have. And I must tell you that I hate it. Wanna know why? The far too low speed limits.

Now I am not saying that I am a racecar driver or anything (even though it takes little talent to race in NASCAR), but let’s be serious: some of the roads can suffer the speed limits to be raised at least ten miles an hour.

Take Highway 316, for example. The speed limit is reduced to 55 miles an hour past the Highway 78 overpass going towards Athens. Not because the road becomes more technical or more dangerous or anything. The fact of the matter is, I do not know why the speed limits are so low. But I can speculate.

First of all, the majority of Highway 316 is 65 miles an hour, which I still think could warrant an increase of five miles an hour, but once 316 hits 55 miles an hour, that is when it gets ridiculous.

My biggest complaint, however, is I-85 going south past the Suwannee exit when the speed limit goes from 70 to 65 then quickly down to 55, for reasons unbeknownst to me. I mean, wasn’t the interstate system built for those wanting to get from one place to another in a quick and timely manner? Instead, we now have low speed limits and drivers who do not know the left lane from the right lane (you know, the slow lane, the lane where they belong), which brings me to a rabbit trail that I have no choice but to go down. (Note to reader: if you drive the speed limit, i.e., ten miles an hour over the posted speed limit sign, then you may skip the following paragraph.)

I would like to address those overly ambitious semi drivers, those beat up 1970’s hunk-of-junk-I-think-my-Ford-Chery-or-Dodge-is-still-great-drivers, the elderly, and soccer moms: stay in the right lane. If you can’t even do the minimum speed limit, then I suggest taking side roads and/or hiring a chauffeur because the interstate was not made for you. Or maybe you were not made for the interstate.

Whatever the case is, leave room for those attempting to do the speed limit because with you in the left lane, clogged interstates are inevitable.

Two-Year Colleges Offer Big Head Start

When I first came to Gainesville College I was a little embarrassed, because most of my fellow graduates were all being shipped off to Georgia State, North Georgia, or UGA, on parental or scholarship funds. And here I was, still stuck in Gainesville.

I’d go up to their dorm rooms and apartments on the weekends to drink with them and hear their tales of real college life. Somebody who didn’t know me might ask if I had so-and-so professor for English. Feeling a little ashamed, I’d tell them that I didn’t go to their school but, that I intended to transfer to a real college soon.

I continued living with my parents and made it my resolve to study as hard as possible to finish my core classes and get out of “Oakwood U,” to rejoin my colleagues. However, after a couple semesters something funny started happening. My high school classmates started showing up in my classes at Gainesville College.

Well, why was that happening? Easy. They were all flunking-out because they were a bunch of irresponsible drunks and potheads with too much freedom they didn’t know what to do with. In that situation I would’ve failed too. You put me out on my own when I turn 18 and just a couple months after I get out of high school; pay for all my meals, put alcohol within my reach, tell me it’s time to focus on scholastic endeavors, and just see how wisely I use my time. Study? No, busy tonight. I’m going to be up till 2 a.m. smoking pot and trying to feed beer to a hermit crab.

If you’ve got half a brain you can get through high school without studying. Just try it in college. Yes, community college, too.

It’s nearly impossible. I got through my first two years here, because I made a conscious effort to sit down and study every day, and I had a relatively distraction-free life at the time.

So for all you freshmen who feel a little down and lonely, because all your old friends have left town to get an education, give it a couple semesters and it’ll be like a high school reunion at GC.

Think of your decision to come to this school as getting something necessary out of the way.

You can relax, when you get to whatever university, with the knowledge that you’ve got a big head start on a lot of these guys who do half-hour keg stands and scorched raccoons.

Interested in writing for the Compass? Are you an opinionated person, or like layout and design, photography, or editing? If so, then please e-mail Jack Howland at compass@gc.peachnet.edu.
Bookstore Manager Offers Tips on Purchases

There are several ways to make your trips to the bookstore less painful and quicker for all parties involved. Some of them seem really simple, but we deal with you every day and just want to make sure you are aware of the nature of the beast.

First, we always put the used books on the top of the stacks, so there is no point in digging through our formerly neat stacks to try and see if that last book in the back has a used sticker attached to it. I assure you it does not. We try our best to guessestimate the number of students taking a class before the semester. Often times our guess is way off. We order the books based on what the professors tell us, and sometimes the professors wait for the day before the semester begins to order his or her texts.

When this is the case, there is almost no way to order any used copies. We do not enjoy making students pay the exorbitant prices at all. There has been a war between the book publishers like Random House and Pearson Prentice Hall and the resellers such as Follett, and the students are merely collateral damage in this ongoing conflict.

Feast free to shop online. Amazon, Half.com, and Powells.com are just some of the better sites offering competitive prices. We will gladly let you scope the ISBN number and please make sure to get the correct edition. You can also usually purchase the novels and dictionaries and atlases at Barnes and Nobles and Borders.

Second, please be quite certain to bring your wallet, credit or debit cards and check books with you when you come to the store. We do not take American Express. You would be amazed at how many students get to the front of the line and forget the most important item. Also it makes it much easier on us to put your refund when you are returning your books back on the plastic instead of shelling out the cash. After the initial rush is over at the beginning of the semester, we simply do not have the adequate amount of greenbacks to give everyone the $132.12 for that Economics book.

Hold on to that receipt. We attach them to a bookmark for more than the reason they won't fit conveniently in your purse or wallet. We want you to have them for returns and read that after a certain point in the semester; you may no longer be able to bring them back for 100% of your purchase price. This date may seem arbitrary to some, but it is actually decided long before the beginning of the term to give students a chance to decide if they really wanted to take that Anthropology course long before you get to mid-terms and discover you are cruising along with a D- or worse.

Third, don't sell back your books for classes that use the same text twice.

Macro and Micro Economics, Biology as well as Algebra and Trig-tronomy are just a few of the classes where you should not sell back the book unless you really need that quick influx of cash.

The book resellers like Follett do not know that these classes use the same book twice in a row. Nor do they know you are taking the second class in a series the following semester. Does it make sense to get $10 now for a book that you are going to have to repurchase at $69.75 a week later?

Please realize a lot of the temporary people we hire are your fellow students, or at the very least former students. We are basically standing on our feet for eight or nine hours and are just as tired, cranky and stressed out as you. We really do want to help you find your book as quickly as possible.

Visit to Mexico Inspirational for GC Study Abroad Group

"So this is why I went on this study abroad," I kept thinking to myself.

After three weeks of traveling, this was probably the highlight of the whole experience.

There we were at the top of the pyramid looking as far as fifteen miles away.

The people below stared up at the top, though they couldn't see us.

We were at the top of the second highest pyramid in the world.

No, I'm not talking about the pyramids in Egypt, but the Pyramid of the Sun at Teotihuacán, México.

I had only seen pictures of great mysterious groups of pyramids, now called the Teotihuacán, whose culture vanished about two thousand years before the Aztecs made a mark on history.

It had always been one of my "life goals"—something I felt like I had to do before I died.

I wasn't the only one on this trip though. There were the three instructors who coordinated this mammoth effort for sixteen students: Margarita Muñoz, Hispanic coordinator, Francine Dibben, from the theatre department in Gainesville, and Chaudron Gille, a French professor.

Over the course of three weeks we visited Guanajuato, the birthplace of internationally acclaimed artist and communist Diego Rivera; Ciudad de México, also simply known as México throughout the Spanish speaking world, and the beautiful city of Acapulco on the Pacific coast.

I've realized how important it has been for me to take this study abroad trip, especially being a political science major. We met people whom I will never forget.

Moreover, I realized how blessed I am to live in a house with doors, heating and air conditioning that work, and food on the table every day. I also learned a little bit of history and culture as well as seeing Mexican art along this short journey, which will keep in my heart and memory forever.

Student Opinion Poll: What is Your Ideal Way of Spending Valentine's Day?

"With someone I love."
-Sara Ward
Undecided
Snellville, Ga.

"With my husband...AND NO KIDS!"
-Sonia Green
Paralegal Studies
Athens, Ga.

"Getting drunk because I have no one to spend Valentine's Day with."
-Brett Aube
Political Science
Athens, Ga.
Calling All Recycling Conscious Students

We are all busy; students, professors and staff. Most of us are tired, but does this give us an excuse to be lazy as well? Gainesville College Oconee Campus is extremely unconsciously of environmental issues. We are too lazy to recycle our bottles and paper. We are too lazy to walk across from the classroom building to the SRC building to recycle a can. What is going on? What year is it anyway? Aren’t people aware of the fact that if we don’t recycle we will deplete our earth’s natural resources; we need to breathe people, this isn’t a want, it’s a must; and we must do something now.

There are a few people trying to organize at a grass roots level. Dawn Graham, Library evening coordinator, is one such person who has made a conscious effort on campus. There are can recycling receptacles in the atrium of the SRC building thanks to Graham and paper recycle containers in the library. Please use them for recycling.

The paper situation is way out of control. Just because students have 300 plus ‘free’ sheets doesn’t mean they need to be wasted on printing anything and everything. Think about it, if it’s just a few words you need from a website, write it down.

It is not hard to be aware of the environment we live in and to make conscious decisions which will help to make our world a better place. The ripple out effect is true and proven; it does start from the individual, from the school. Our actions can make a difference and should.

We are students and professors and staff members; we are not apathetic lazy Americans sitting back watching our earth die. Get up and do something, stop being lazy and start recycling. The earth will thank you.

OC Tsunami Relief an Ongoing Process

No one really knew the devastation of the tsunami until news cast revealed satellite photos of the destruction and ruins of the regions. It was world’s most powerful earthquake in more than forty years which struck deep under the Indian Ocean, triggering massive tsunamis that obliterated villages and seaside resorts and killed more than 140,000 people in eleven countries including Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Maldives, Somalia, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Tanzania, Kenya, and Seychelles.

As for the victims and the survivors, life will not be the same for them. Schools, hospitals, business buildings, restaurants, medical clinics, cars have all been swept away. Food and fresh water is difficult to find. Some regions have not received anything at all due to difficult transportation and muddy roads.

Gainesville College Oconee Campus has pulled together to raise money for the victims through bake sales and donations, which can still be given to Rebecca Coates in the library. The Ella Rose Society is having a charity dating auction with all proceeds going to the victims, even if you don’t want a date you can still attend and donate.

Oconee clubs and organizations are getting together to plan a fundraising event. Students, faculty and staff, should contact organizations and donate. The United Nations website, www.un.org, has information on how you can help as well as links to other organizations. Supplies are needed and can be taken to churches, mosques or temples for donation. There are many ways to contribute and help out, the devastation is far from over and the survivors are the ones who now desperately need our help.

Make a difference on the Gainesville College campus. Join the staff of The Compass. Writers needed immediately. Email: compass@gc.peachnet.edu or call at (770) 718-3820.

gccompass.com
Krimson Kafe Offers Unique Fare Nearby

By Park Brannen
Staff Writer
jbra4655@gc.peachnet.edu

With little available food on campus, what to eat is often a harder question than many found on exams at the OC. Fortunately, take a short drive to downtown Watkinsville and you will find your answer.

Krimson Kafe is located at 40 Greensboro Highway, and is an interesting choice for the health conscious, or those looking for a restaurant with a more personal feeling.

“I think we’re a good alternative to the fast food places in town,” owner Krimson Black had to say about her eatery, which is now in its fifth year of operation. Serving sandwiches, soups, and salads, the restaurant caters to the lunch crowd and is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, and opens an hour later on Saturdays.

From the eclectic art on the walls, to the wide array of reading materials available to the customers, the Krimson Kafe has certainly assured itself a unique identity in town.

This trend is continued on the menu, which offers many vegetarian items. something one would often have to travel to Athens to find.

A relaxed atmosphere makes anyone feel at home, as well as affordable prices for those of us on a budget. “I feel Gainesville College students are definitely welcome here,” Black said. The next time the vending machines won’t satisfy your hunger, stop by.

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Ella Rose Society Organized to Unite Women Via Service

By Sara Stenett
Contributing Writer
sate2042@gc.peachnet.edu

The Ella Rose Society is one of Oconee’s newest clubs.

The club, which was formed in November of 2004, was created to, “unite women together through education, service and leisure” said Deena Patel, the clubs founder and president.

Dedicated to, “exploring all aspects of being a woman,” the Ella Rose society focuses on “social work and creative activities,” Patel said.

The society is currently accepting donations for AIDS Athens, Project Safe, and various tsunami relief charities.

Upcoming events include a date auction, which will be held Feb. 10 in rooms 512/522, with all proceeds going to their tsunami relief fund.

Creatively, the society conducts “various activities, such as making homemade cards and picture frames,” explained Patel.

The club meets the first and last Monday of every month from 12 p.m.-1 p.m. in the atrium of the SRC building.

For more information contact Deena Patel at dpat9838@gc.peachnet.edu or Rebecca Coates, faculty advisor, at rcoates@gc.peachnet.edu.

gccompass.com

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Immaculate Focuses on the ‘Classic Feel’

By Britney Compton
Staff Writer
bcom2499@gc.peachnet.edu

Debuting at Last Call less than two months after their formation, The Immaculate hit Athens with vigor. The band consists of five musicians whose music is influenced by the Doors, Jimi Hendrix, and the Allman Brothers Band.

The goal of the band is “to bring back the ten minute song and long guitar solos,” said Brian Sigerfoos, lead vocals.

“We are definitely a rock-and-roll band,” said Chris Williams, drummer.

Bassist, Seth Brown, and rhythm guitarist, Tyler Bunner, along with Sigerfoos all attend Gainesville’s Oconee Campus. Dave Williams, lead guitar, and brother Chris Williams round out the band whose name comes from the poem “Wasp,” by Jim Morrison.

Bunner and Sigerfoos collaborated at the end of last year and started composing their four original songs. Their music is “trying to revive the classic feel,” said Bunner.

“We play well together,” said Brown. This is proven with their quick bookings at different locations, “Athens has spoken,” said Josh Rood, Campus Life coordinator.

Chris Williams said the lyrics and music of their songs are “both equally important. You cannot have one without the other.” The band realizes the importance of allowing the music to happen, as opposed to forcing it.

Their lyrics come from the experiences of Sigerfoos’ life. “I just want people to pay attention to the lyrics and learn from my mistakes…to free their mind,” said Sigerfoos.

Dave Williams said that it would satisfy these guys “to have one song live forever.” For The Immaculate, it is not “the money, it’s the freedom,” said Bunner.

The band is currently working on a demo and they will be performing at a tsunami benefit in February.
OC Staff Profile: Brian Wesnofske

Brian Wesnofske, system support specialist, takes on the role of Superman when it comes to Oconee Campus' technical difficulties. This native New Yorker, self-proclaimed nerd, and entrepreneur mends the Campus' troubles ranging from paper jams to projection malfunctions.

What responsibilities are given to you with this job? I get to sign papers...coordinate a lot of projects. With the campus new, there are a lot of projects. I make sure things are running right. I do workshops for students and teachers. Eric (Mullins), my partner in crime, works full time, he does solely computers. I work with staff and what they need to get done.

What is the most common problem? I forgot my password.

What is the funniest technological problem you had to deal with? Recently had a problem printer in a faculty office. We thought we fixed it; the next morning it was working fine, but still printing gibberish. Come to find out it was the same piece of paper before that the faculty member was recycling.

How did you develop the interest in technology? I always liked taking things apart, kinda got it from my pops. I joined the computer club for the video games, when online games just came out. The president was the typical nerd, when I inquired about the inside of a computer; he was amazed I did not know. So I bought a few books and read up.

What is your education background? I graduated from GC with a business degree and information technology certificate. I worked at the desk as a student. Sixty percent of my knowledge came from the people I worked with. They all became my teachers. Then I moved out here and now am going to UGA in MIS (management information systems).

What is your favorite aspect of the job? The fact I get to come into work everyday and not dread it. It goes hand and hand with the people I work with. You would be surprised what good people will do; make you stick around.

What is the worst? The first couple weeks and the last couple weeks of a semester. You can grow weary by the end of the week.

How do you spend your time when you are not on the job? I like to play music, mostly guitar and a little keyboard. I don't like to run, but I do it and tennis. Frisbee, golf and basketball.

How can people get in contact with you? My cell number got out, but we fixed that. But I constantly check my email. I get up at 6:30 and check it. I'll eventually come in about an hour later. If it is serious I'll come in and fix it.

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GC Oconee Clubs & Organizations

Oconee Compass Student Newspaper
Meetings- Wednesday at noon in room 564
President- Elizabeth Fields
Contact- efie4340
@gc.peachnet.edu
Faculty Advisor- Dan Cabaniss
Contact- dbananis
@gc.peachnet.edu Office 555

Future Health Professionals
Meetings- 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at noon in room 501
President- Carla Walker
Contact- cwal0119@gc.peachnet.edu
Vice President- Paul Meade
Faculty Advisor- Jim Konzelman
Contact- jkonzelman
@gc.peachnet.edu Office 554
*Sponsors of Allied Health Fields, Veterinary, Med and Nursing, EMT, Pharmacy and many more fields that students are interested in. We also coordinate campus tours each semester. J. Konzelman is our staff advisor.

Psychology Club
Meetings- Wednesday at noon in room 503
President- Louis VandenPlas
Contact- Lvdplas@charter.net
Faculty Advisor- Tom Hancock
Contact- thancock
@gc.peachnet.edu Office 546

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

Juggling Club
Meetings- Every other Wednesday at 4:45-6:00 p.m. in room 512/522
Faculty Advisor- Helene Hendon
Contact- hhendon
@gc.peachnet.edu Office 540

BSU- Baptist Student Union
Meetings- Mondays at noon
President- Josh Goza
Contact- joshgoza@charter.net

Rotoract
Meetings- Monday at noon
President- Andrew Hart
Contact- ahar5467@gc.peachnet.edu

SEA- Students for Environmental Awareness
Faculty Advisor- Eleanor Schut
Contact- eschut
@gc.peachnet.edu Office 556

Sigma Chi Eta (Honor Society)
Meetings- Every other Wednesdays at 12:00-2:00 p.m.
in room 110/111
President- Michele Hester
Faculty Advisor- Allison Ainsworth
Contact- aainsworth
@gc.peachnet.edu Office 188 (Main Campus)

Second Wind Club (Non-traditional students)
Meetings- Every 3rd Thursday at 11:00-noon in room 512
President- Carla Walker
Contact- cwal0119
@gc.peachnet.edu

Politically Incorrect Club
Meetings- 2nd and 4th Thursday at 2:00 p.m. in the atrium
President- Jaime Harvey
Contact- jhar4986
@gc.peachnet.edu
Faculty Advisor- Lance Bardsley
Contact- lbardsley
@gc.peachnet.edu Office 547

Spanish Club
Meetings- Wednesday at noon in room 310
Faculty Advisor- Sara Burns
Contact- sburns@gc.peachnet.edu Office 551

Study Abroad
Faculty Advisor- Chaudron Bale
Contact- cgille
@gc.peachnet.edu Office 105 (Main Campus)

Campus Ministry Outreach
Faculty Advisor- Dawn Graham
Contact- dgraham@gc.peachnet.edu Office in Library

Progressive Club
Meetings- Wednesday at noon-1:00 p.m. in room 522
President- Deena Patel
Contact- dpat9838@gc.peachnet.edu
Vice President- Nickie Cole
Contact- nickiecole@hotmail.com
Faculty Advisor- Jason Mosser
Contact- jmosser@gc.peachnet.edu Office 553

SGA- Student Government Association
Faculty Advisor- Josh Rood
Contact- jrood@gc.peachnet.edu Office 508

Ella Rose Society
Meetings- 1st and last Monday at noon-1:00 p.m. in room 512
President- Deena Patel
Contact- dpat9838@gc.peachnet.edu
Secretary- Samantha Wise
Contact- bettiwire@hotmail.com
Faculty Advisor- Rebecca Coates
Contact- rcoates@gc.peachnet.edu Office in Library

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gcompass.com
Student Band The Immaculate Taking Athens Clubs by Storm

The Immaculate, from left to right, consists of Dave Williams, Seth Brown, Brian Sigerfoos, Chris Williams, and Tyler Bunner. Brown, Bunner, and Sigerfoos are all students at GC Oconee. The band, which is currently working on a demo, is shown here performing at DT's Down Under in Athens. For the full story, please see page 18.

OC Commuter Board Offers Students Rides

By Jerry Calbos
Staff Writer
jcal7704@gc.peachnet.edu

Getting a ride to the main campus used to be difficult, until now. The Student Development Division at the Oconee Campus has come up with a solution, a commuter board.

Students simply place a ride needed note on the board, including contact information. Students are encouraged to pay "gas money" to the people "who are helping them out," says Dr. Melinda Hawley, campus personal and career counselor. The Student Development Staff is not conducting background checks, so Hawley suggests that "students check the driver out themselves."

"Student Development staff is continually seeking ways to better serve students," says Hawley. So stop worrying about how to get to the main campus and get on the board.

Scholarships One Click Away

By Elizabeth Fields
Oconee Editor-in-Chief
efie4340@gc.peachnet.edu

At Gainesville College Oconee it is as easy as a click of a button to start searching for money to help pay for educational expenses.

The first stop is the Gainesville College Web Site. Under faculty and staff are all of the college's departments, divisions and programs. For every major; there is a corresponding home page. Each departmental home page offers scholarship information.

Although "most Gainesville scholarships are need based," says Awbrey Smith, Financial Aid coordinator for Oconee Campus, "It's good to keep good class standing," Smith says, because "the departments decide on the departmental scholarships," and she feels "the harder you're working, the better off you look when applying for them."

The GC Foundation is an organization that has been awarding students scholarships since it was incorporated in 1967.

The Foundation's office number is (770)718-3844. The Foundation, headed by Pat Guthrie, director of Development, offers "fellowships which are available to students" says Smith.

The Financial Aid office is located in the Administration Building, room 115.

Smith heads the department where information on financial aid can be obtained.

The Financial Aid office is open 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon-Thurs and 10-3 on Fri. The number is (706)310-2241.

Smith's advice to students who are seeking out scholarships is to, "write a letter of query to the department you want a scholarship from and to keep your G.P.A. up."