



Brooks improves campus security.
See page 8.



Spring intramurals underway.
See page 12.

Vol. 33, Number 5

www.floyd.edu/sixmilepost

February 17, 2004

Catalog now computerized due to lack of funding

By Julianna Hunt
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Staff writer

Floyd College's catalog underwent a transformation this past semester. There was no paper publishing of the catalog for the spring 2004 semester. Instead, students received a CD-ROM version of the catalog.

According to Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Virginia Carson, the swap to the CD format was prompted by a lack of funds to produce a printed version of the catalog. Carson stated that many colleges are discontinuing the use of printed catalogs and moving toward online only versions.

The CDs are much more cost effective than printed versions, so the tight budget prompted the trial of the CD catalog.

FC also keeps an online version of the catalog. Carson stated that there are advantages to an online catalog, such as allowing a student to access information from the catalog from any computer with Internet access.

Carson plans to assess how this change in catalog format is affecting students and whether or not students prefer this method.

Marsha Welch, registrar, said, "I think our student body is more computer savvy and we are trying to endorse that." She also stated that with an online catalog there could be real-time policy changes that might take months to show up in a printed version.

Budget permitting, there will be both the CD version and a limited quantity of the printed catalog available to students for the 2004-2005 edition.

Construction of new Bartow Center described as 'going extremely well'

By Tabby Garrett
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Staff Writer

The building of the long-anticipated, full-service Bartow Center of Floyd College is going strong.

"Progress on this project is going extremely well," said Doug Webb, physical plant manager of Floyd College.

Webb applauds the aggressiveness of the contractor in working to complete the construction of the campus.

He said, "The completion date is Feb. 25, 2005. That date, right now, is 30 days ahead of the scheduled finish date and unless we were to have some very difficult weather, I think that (completing on schedule) is a very good possibility."

Floyd College's website states that the new campus will house "21 classrooms, four lecture halls, eight science labs, conference rooms, a student center, a bookstore and more," to accommodate the increasing enrollment of the Floyd College campuses.

The Bartow Center is also



Construction progresses ahead of schedule on the Bartow Center.

Photo by Josh Grubb

anticipated to house several new options for students, such as the possibility to achieve a larger variety of four-year degrees by way of continuing partnerships with four-year colleges and universities like Southern Polytechnic State University and the State Univer-

sity of West Georgia.

Aviation Contractors Inc. began construction on the new multi-million dollar campus in July 2002.

The new campus is located on 50 plus acres off Georgia Hwy. 20 in Cartersville, across from the

Wal-Mart shopping center.

The current Cartersville campus is located on Gilmer Street and serves approximately 700 students.

Students can expect to start classes at the new Bartow Campus of Floyd College by Fall 2005.

Future of HOPE, Heritage Hall renovation depend on Georgia legislators' actions

By Jessica Lovell
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Staff Writer

Currently before the Georgia Legislature are a number of issues to do with higher education in general and Floyd College in particular.

Two issues to be addressed will have a specific impact upon Floyd College students.

First, the well being of the HOPE Scholarship hangs in the balance, and secondly, \$3.9 million may be contributed to the renovation of Heritage Hall.

In November 2003, a report

was released proposing dramatic changes in order to preserve the health of HOPE. These changes include eliminating payment for books and fees, implementing a standard 3.0 grade point average and capping the number of eligibility hours.

"We at Floyd College feel it is crucial to maintain the integrity of the scholarship so that it will always be available to students," said Dr. Randy Pierce, Floyd College President.

Funding of the Heritage Hall renovation is included in the Minor Project category in the Governor's Budget. According to

Pierce, this project was approved by the Board of Regents several years ago and has now made its way into the top five on the list for funding.

If passed, the \$3.9 million will go towards the renovation of Floyd College's infrastructure at Heritage Hall. Heritage Hall was built in 1936 so the plumbing, heating and air-conditioning all need to be replaced.

Pierce hopes that at the end of the legislative session there will be money to fund the renovation.

The vote on the final budget will be held during the last week of this session.

Inside this issue:

-News-
Page 2

-Editorials-
Page 6

-Opinions-
Page 7

-Features-
Page 8

-Entertainment-
Page 10

-Sports-
Page 12

Joy Cash named one of University System's outstanding scholars

By Jessica West
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Staff Writer

Every year Floyd College selects one student for academic recognition by the University System of Georgia. This year is student is Joy L. Cash.

"I was honored and very excited about what the award meant," said Cash.

Cash is a sophomore at Floyd College and is a general studies major. She has maintained a 4.0 grade point average throughout her career here at Floyd.

In the spring of 2003 she received the Who's Who Among Students in American Jr. Col-



Photo by Josh Grubb

Dr. Virginia Carson (right), vice president for academic affairs, congratulates Joy Cash on her recognition.

leges award, the U.S. Achievement Academy Collegiate All-American Scholar award and the Fellows Achievement Award. In the spring of 2002 she received the Spanish I award.



Photo by Ken Caruthers

Blood drive comes to Rome campus

Jina Ford, a student from Cave Spring, gives blood at the Blood Assurance Drive on campus Feb. 4.

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Floyd College Allied Health students offered unique opportunity to view autopsy

By Jennifer Allen
jalle07@floyd.edu
Assistant Editor

Why were Floyd College Allied Health students hanging out in the GBI Crime Lab during an autopsy?

On Jan. 28, 11 students from Floyd College went to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation Crime Lab in Atlanta for a firsthand experience in human anatomy.

This was the first of seven trips scheduled throughout the semester. Eleven students and one staff member will attend each autopsy for a total of 84 participants this semester.

These trips are designed primarily for students enrolled in Anatomy and Physiology I or II and microbiology students. However, a few criminal justice majors are also participating.

Sharryse Henderson, biology instructor and coordinator of the trips, said that although FC laboratories are well equipped with models, slides and specimen, instructors are continually searching for new techniques that will give students a more fascinating and rewarding experience.

Henderson commented that the initial idea for the trips came from a conversation she had with some students in her anatomy and physiology lab.

She was explaining to them how different the look, texture and color of tissues and organs are on a fresh specimen as compared to that of a preserved cat, which is what anatomy and physiology stu-

dents typically dissect.

After the first trip Henderson said that the experience "was very positive for all the students that went." She also commented that the trip was "more than she expected," in that they were able to actually go into the autopsy room and identify organs on the cadaver.

Students were able to witness one full autopsy and two partial ones, and they spent a total of two and a half hours at the GBI Crime Lab.

"It was very educational and was great to see the different locations of the organs and what they looked like. It gives you a different perspective on the human body," said Lena Payne, a nursing major.

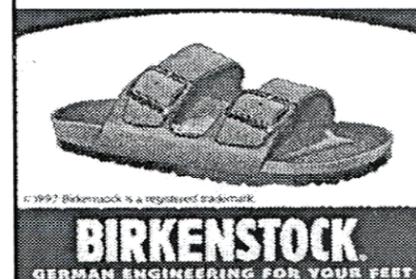
Henderson believes that these trips provide students with an incomparable experience that cannot be obtained in a laboratory setting. For many students it is a once in a lifetime chance that will ultimately help tie their coursework together.

While the trip is not currently a required part of the curriculum, Henderson hopes that it will be ongoing and that someday it will be incorporated into the allied health curriculum.

There is a \$10 transportation fee for those attending. However, there is no fee to actually view the autopsy.

Because the trip was a success and the spots to attend were highly competitive, Henderson hopes to offer two more trips in May. However, a final decision about that has not yet been made.

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Investigative report

Textbook order delays frustrate students, teachers and bookstore staff; some problems caused by publishers

By Sandy Watkins
 cwatk00@floyd.edu
 Staff Writer

Five weeks into the semester and some students still did not have their prepaid textbooks from the bookstore.

Students in nursing, Spanish, geology, social problems and psychology tried to make do with copied pages until the books arrived. Some instructors even had to alter assignments and testing schedules to accommodate the lack of course materials for students.

Can anything be done to avoid this situation in the future?

How it works:

The process of book ordering begins prior to registration for the upcoming semester and varies in each department.

The bookstore sends emails to the divisions and full-time faculty members notifying them of impending ordering deadlines for textbooks from more than 50 publishers.

The divisions compile statistical information from the enrollment database and make predictions on how many sections will be offered of a specific course and how many spaces will be available in each class. Unless a professor is placing his or her own order, the division's administrative assistants place the textbook orders with the bookstore.

The bookstore analyzes this information and must consider the total number of students in each class, the division's estimate of sections of the class, the number of books on hand, the projected number of used books to come in during book buy-back and the comparison of previous semester's sales.

Another consideration is that not all students purchase books from the bookstore. With this information, Jan Pearson, textbook buyer from Floyd College, places the orders with the various publishers.

Pearson says, "I have to order as close as possible because the



Photo by Sam Chapman

Jan Pearson, Floyd College textbook manager, coordinates the textbook orders each semester from her office in the bookstore.

publishers will only accept less than 10 percent returns for an order; so, for an order of 30 books if only 20 sell then the publisher will only accept three back and we are stuck with paying for seven that they won't take back.... This drives up costs for all students because it is passed along in other areas."

Students may order and prepay for any out of stock books. If they do not the bookstore has no way of knowing the extent of the shortage unless a class instructor notifies them of an additional need. Thus, if a student just waits around for the bookstore to get more books in he or she may not get the book at all.

The bookstore is owned by the college and is totally self-supportive. The bookstore cannot operate under a deficit since it must pay its employee's salaries separate from the college's state funding.

What's the problem?

Many students had problems obtaining the "Trato Hecho!"

Packet for Sheila McCoy's Spanish 1001 this semester. In this instance the packet was selected by the professor and ordered in November by the bookstore. According to order invoices, the publisher, Prentice-Hall/Pearson, canceled the order 11 times prior to Jan. 9.

McCoy told her students on Jan. 12, "Testing for the first four Temas of Leccion Uno will be postponed until everyone has access to course materials and not just copied pages out of consideration for fairness to those students who are still waiting for packets."

Subsequently, Prentice-Hall/Pearson cancelled the order four additional times between Jan. 5 and Jan. 19. Pearson reported that the publisher's representative kept reassuring her that the order had been filled and sent, giving no explanation as to why it had not been received.

Pearson resubmitted the order on the computer to no avail. She discovered that every time an order is placed that the publishing

company cannot fill because all of the components are not available, the publisher's computer automatically cancels the order. Components may include CD-ROM's, lab manuals, and audio CD's. Pearson stated that the warehouse held this order up because of two extra lab manuals.

On Jan. 16 Pearson instructed Prentice-Hall/Pearson to mail all prepaid orders to the home addresses of individual students. One week later, students still had not received books.

On Jan. 21, a student solicited Dr. William Muggleston, chair of the Social and Cultural Studies Division, for help in the situation. Muggleston stated, "I had no idea that students did not have materials for class. I thought the books had already come in.... I will take care of it."

Muggleston contacted the auxiliary services manager, Barbara Rogers. They collectively contacted Prentice-Hall/Pearson, and within 24 hours book packets arrived via

UPS at students' homes as well as the bookstore.

However, two of the packets that arrived at student addresses were missing lab manuals. Rogers said, "I called them the next day and really gave them a piece of my mind. Their incompetence was just unbelievable."

Some students did not get copies of "The Wilding of America" for Susan Claxton's Introduction to Social Problems class because the class unexpectedly was overloaded. Claxton stated, "More students than were projected needed the class to graduate. Not only human service majors needed the class but sociology and psychology majors as well. I couldn't see limiting class size because it would have affected about 10 people being able to graduate on time."

The bookstore placed an additional order for more books on Jan. 9. The publisher shipped partial orders. The first received was a total of four books and the three subsequent shipments had one book each. The last shipment received was the wrong edition with an explanation that the outdated edition was all that was available at this time.

The geology book shortage was resolved by Jan. 19 and was due to an underestimated projection of need and the upcoming edition change.

What can be done to improve the situation?

Pearson says that there are always unforeseen circumstances that can affect book availability like class overloads and edition changes. She said, "Most problems can be resolved with most publishers in a timely matter. However, for the last three semesters, we have had repetitive problems with Prentice-Hall/Pearson."

Pearson additionally states, "The only way to make them change the way they do business is for the professors and departments to not give them business... Then maybe they will be more conscientious with their service... There isn't anything that the bookstore can do about it, and unfortunately the students are the ones suffering for it."

Don't forget to vote on March 2.

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CAPP provides new advisement options

By **Kenneth Tucker**
 ktuck01@floyd.edu
 Staff Writer

A new advisement tool will soon be available for Floyd College students to use in SCORE.

According to Terri Borchardt, assistant records manager in the enrollment management division, Curriculum Advising and Program Planning, or CAPP, will allow students to view the progress being made towards their degree.

The student will be able to bring up a page that displays the classes he or she has taken and how each applies towards his or her degree.

When accessing CAPP the student must make sure his or her

major is accurate in the CAPP system. If the student has changed majors and not followed the proper procedures, the correct information will not be displayed.

Students contemplating changing their major will also have the option of a special "What If?" feature. This feature allows students to see how completed classes can be applied towards another program of study.

Borchardt expressed concern that some students who attended Floyd College before the switch to the semester system occurred will have a small problem while using CAPP because the system will not recognize classes completed under the quarter system.

Classes that students earned

credit for under the quarter system will still be viewable on CAPP under the "Extra Classes" section, but only courses taken during a semester will be organized to show the student how far from graduating he or she is.

Expectations seem to be very high for CAPP, and the amount of time it will save advisers looks to be very impressive. CAPP should also make it easier for a student to decide which classes to take.

While a few glitches are still present in the program, they are being worked out and CAPP should be ready to launch soon.

Eileen Walker, advising coordinator, said, "When running to full capacity CAPP will be an extremely useful advising tool."

FC students get involved in leadership conferences

By **Kim Yarborough**
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 Staff Writer

Several student leadership conferences/trips have taken place or are upcoming this semester.

The 18th Annual Student Leadership Training Conference (SLTC), held at the University of South Carolina, took place the weekend of Feb. 6-7. John Spranza, director of student life, took 15 students on the trip, most of whom were participants in the FELLOWS (Floyd Emerging Leaders to Learn, Organize and Win) and SEC (Student Engagement Council).

The students that attended SLTC were Titus Smith, Jen Henley, Megan Dixon, Penny Sutton, Zella Fleming, Brandy Norris, Ira Gonzalez, Chad Watson, Rae Thomas, Tyler Colium, Phillip Breaux, Lea Smith, Chris Lundy, Bo Bowling and Andrew Johnson. Kristi Casey from the Office of Counseling and Career Services also accompanied this group.

The Georgia College Press Association's conference was held in Macon Feb. 6-7. Many of the "Six Mile Post" staff attended this conference. "Six Mile Post" staff members will also be participating in the Southern Regional Press Institute in Savannah at the end

of February.

A currently on-going leadership program is Floyd College's involvement in the Northwest Georgia Crescent Alliance, which is a partnership of six area colleges: Floyd, Berry, Shorter, Kennesaw, Dalton and Reinhardt.

Each school selects five students to participate in a series of leadership development programs that are spread throughout an entire academic year. The students alternate traveling to the various campuses to explore a different aspect of leadership as explained by Alexander Astin, a nationally known expert on leadership.

The Floyd students involved in the program this year are Lundy, Bowling, Savannah Ruth, Bobby Moore and Henley. The next meetings for the Crescent Alliance are Feb. 18 at Dalton, March 30 at Shorter and finally April 22 at Kennesaw.

Spranza, along with several students, will be attending the national conference of the Association for the Promotion of Campus Activities (APCA) in Atlanta March 3-7. The APCA convention is a conference that blends components of leadership development and student entertainment.

During the four-day conference, the days will be filled with a variety of leadership seminars, while the nights will be filled with

entertainment showcases for performers auditioning to play on college campuses.

Spranza attended this conference last spring and booked most of this year's entertainers and events from the showcases he witnessed there. "It allows you to book an act for a greater discount," said Spranza.

The students attending the conference, Lundy, Bowling and Collum, are all SEC members. They will be traveling with the Berry College delegation to Atlanta.

A leadership training trip is also planned for April for the Insiders, the newly named group of student orientation leaders. These students have not yet been selected, but the application process is just getting underway and will last until Feb. 27. Interviews will follow the application deadline.

Once the new staff of Insiders is selected, they will begin training April 3 by participating in a low ropes course on the Berry College campus called the BOLD course.

Finally, Floyd is planning to send a maximum of 2 students to the state-wide LeaderShape Institute in Dahlonega, May 10-15. The students will be selected from an application and interview process, with more details about deadlines, forms and criteria to come later.

FC students get involved in leadership conferences

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Photo by Erin Gray

Michael Gattis, who is organizing the Floyd College debate club, hopes students from all campuses will get involved.

New debate club offers a forum for student opinions

By **Erin Gray**
 egray00@floyd.edu
 Staff Writer

Floyd College is organizing a debate club for students.

The club will be advised by Michael Gattis, temporary full-time instructor of history at the North Metro campus in Acworth.

Gattis feels very strongly about free speech, saying "Limits on our freedom of speech take away from our individuality." He also feels that society today comes with too many labels. The debate club will provide an environment where students can dis-

cuss many of today's current issues along with economic and political views without being judged.

Some other benefits of being in the debate club include being able to overcome the fear of public speaking and having something to add to transfer applications and college resumes.

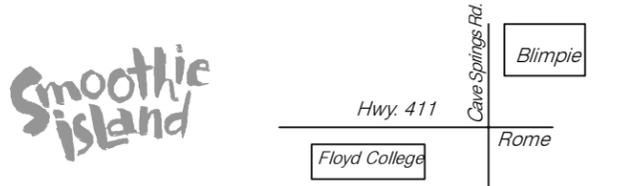
The club also hopes to travel to other campuses for meets.

People on all campuses are welcome to join, including faculty. Those who are interested may contact Gattis at home 770-773-7215, or via email at mgattis@floyd.edu.





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March 2 Georgia primary attracts student interest

By Michael Miller
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Staff Writer

With the Georgia presidential primary coming on March 2, Floyd College students are starting to focus on the 2004 elections.

Josh Chandler, a biology major from Rome, said he votes "because I don't want a bunch of old guys making decisions for me and I need to have a say in the government."

"I don't want others making decisions for me," agrees Jessica Rice, an elementary education major from Rome.

Computer science major Heather Elston feels it is important to vote "because it controls how the country is run and how it affects us."

Brandon Buford believes "it is important to vote, but only if you know the information, not to vote just to vote."

On the other hand, some Floyd College students, such as Danielle Nichols, a pre-nursing major from Feltin expressed regret for not voting when they had the chance. "When you don't vote, you don't have a say," she said.

To help educate and encourage students to take action, John Spranza, director of student life, hopes to bring in Meridith Wingate, a voter education coordinator, to run a registration drive this spring and fall. During her "drive" last year Wingate helped register 48 students on the spot, and 20 more took home registration forms.

Although the deadline to register for the Georgia presidential primary has already passed, students can still register for the Georgia and U.S. Congressional Primaries as well as the General Election. The Congressional primaries deadline to register is June 21, and the general election deadline is Oct. 4.

For those who have not registered, forms are available at the Student Information Station located in the student center near the Office of Student Life. Also, the following convenient resources allow quick registration: DMV, public library or online at www.cspan.org

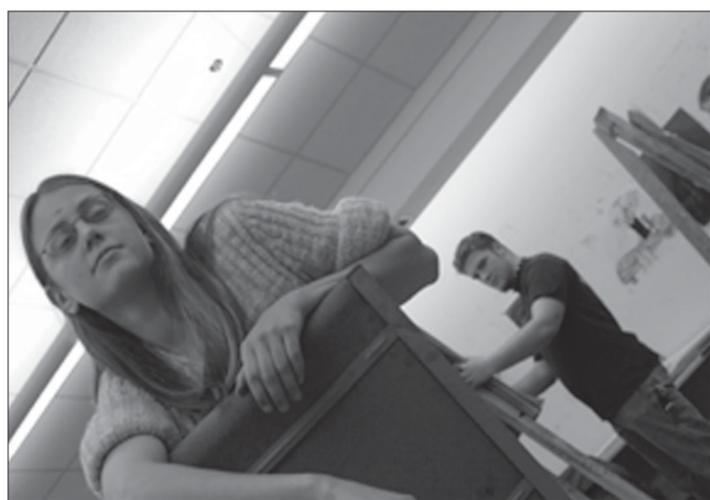


Photo by Ken Caruthers

Art lab uses live models

Art student Casey Jones (right) sketches Casey Shore, a student modeling for Brian Barr's Drawing II class.

BOOK FORUM MARCH 9

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PREGNANCY CENTER of ROME

GCPA names SMP a top Georgia two-year collegiate newspaper

By Sam Chapman
Schap01@floyd.edu
Editor

The Georgia College Press Association has named the "Six Mile Post" one of the top three collegiate newspapers in the state.

Over the weekend of Feb. 6 and 7, eight SMP staff members along with SMP advisers Dr. Kristie Kemper, professor of English, and Fred Green, associate professor of English, attended the GCPA's annual state conference in Macon.

The conference, held at the Crown Plaza Hotel, lasted approximately six hours and consisted of nine 45-minute discussions, beginning at 9 a.m. with a welcome to all schools that attended and ending at 2 p.m. with a luncheon in which winners of various categories were announced.

Individual awards were the first to be given out.

"Six Mile Post" sports columnist Bobby Moore won first place for Best Column and Ken Caruthers, chief photographer, won second place in the Best Fea-

ture Photo category.

Former editor of the "Six Mile Post" and outgoing president of the GCPA, Daniel Bell, received a first place award for Best Feature Story and third place in the Best Editorial category.

Other former SMP staff members Brandy Thomas and Michelle Huskins also won awards. Thomas won second place for Best News Photograph, and Huskins received third for Best Feature Story.

In overall categories, the "Six Mile Post" won second place awards in the categories of General Photography Excellence, Layout and Design Excellence and Best Campus Community Service for Editorials.

The SMP also received third place awards in General Advertising Excellence; Best Campus Community Service for Sports, Features and News; Improvement; and General Excellence.

Staff members who attended the convention were Caruthers, Moore, Rusty Causey, Sam Chapman, Lindy Dugger, Scott Hale, Julianna Hunt and LaShay McBurnett.

STEAKS & SEAFOOD

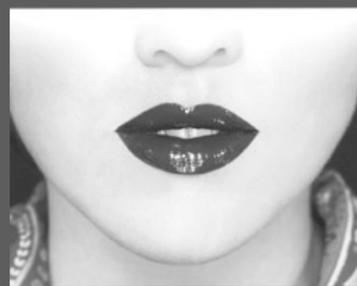


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It seems that at some point society decided to quit producing memorable leaders to take us to new and better advances in civilization. No one really stands up for what he or she believes in anymore enough to risk material possessions, families or his or her own life

for the sake of a societal changing cause.

There are those who risk their lives every day, firefighters, the police, men and women in the military, etc. Those individuals help maintain the safety of their communities. They are protectors. But that is different compared to going against the grain and trying to establish a change in society and to strive for a more equal, fair and balanced lifestyle.

What can you do if your books don't come in on time?

- **Wait until the publisher sends them to the bookstore.**
- **Copy pages from a student that already has the book.**
- **Try to find the book at Waldenbooks, Barnes and Noble or half.com@ebay.**
- **Call other college bookstores to see if they have the book you need in stock.**
- **Pray.**

And the state of the state is...

I've been thinking about politics and elections in general a lot lately and with all the ridiculousness that seems to be coming from the government these days, I can't help but wonder, what does this country, even this state, need, and how well do we know the people we elect? And most of all, what the hell are they doing anyway?

This is the first presidential election in which I am eligible to vote, something I surely intend to do. A friend of my family is running as a Republican candidate for Floyd County Sheriff. While at this point I don't even know his stance on any issues, I find myself considering giving him my vote, simply because I know him to be an honest man.

CSPAN broadcast Howard Dean meeting his Iowa constituency. I saw these people tell Dean they loved him and ask him questions they already knew the answers to and then tell him about their brother's farm. It led me to wonder if all this country really needs is someone to once every now and again get on the bullhorn and holler, "RELAX! EVERYTHING WILL BE OK! EVERYTHING IS JUST FINE!"

Most of Georgia's politicians are easily accessible, willing to speak or meet with you via phone or Internet and even in person.



Editor's Box

By **Lindy Dugger**
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 Assistant Editor

We might be acquainted with our politicians, but do we *know* them? Fun fact of the day: former Georgia senator Bob Barr is now the defense attorney for Chester Doles, former Imperial Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan.

The Georgia State Government could be considered one of the weakest in the nation. The legislature only meets 40 days out of the year. All the top state executives are independently elected, thus all officials have their own agendas and platforms, creating an unhappy and usually unproductive working environment.

God flooded the entire world in 40 working days, so what have these people done?

With a little research I have found that so far House Bill 1176 passed, which added blind persons to the list of individuals allowed to park in handicapped parking spaces. Proposed House Bill 1101 makes worm farming officially a branch of the agricultural industry, and the Green Tree Frog is now on the way to becoming the state amphibian. Nationally, the

United States has more laws governing sexual behavior than all the countries of Europe combined, and now I'm hearing a rumor about banning same-sex marriages...

That is not everything the legislature has done this year, and by all means, I'm not bashing them. They do a lot of good things. Without the HOPE scholarship, I wouldn't be in school. I'm just curious, that's all. Seems to me as though there are more important things to focus on.

We vote to allow certain people to run our lives, in an indirect sort of way, at our discretion. Who are these people and are they doing what we pay them to do? We ought to keep an eye on 'em. Remember when they changed the state flag when no one was looking? Who knows what is next... A ban on naming your boy Sue? The adoption of a new state symbol, but this time it's the solar powered flashlight? Ladies and gentlemen by 2010 it will be illegal for your coaster to stick to the bottom of your cup...

The Six Mile Post extends its sympathy



Samantha Lynn Armstrong

2/19/82 - 2/2/04



Corey Price

3/24/83 - 1/31/04

Lynn Armstrong was a psychology major who attended the Rome and Waco campuses. Corey Price was an undeclared major attending the Acworth campus.

6MPost@floyd.edu

Six Mile Post

The Student Voice

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Letters to the Editor may be brought to the SMP office, emailed to 6MPost@floyd.edu, or mailed to Editor, *Six Mile Post*, P.O. Box 1864, Rome, GA 30162-1864. Letters must be signed by the author. Publication and editing of letters will be at the discretion of the editors.

Time to laugh again

By Jason Sapp
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Staff Writer

More than 12 years after I wrote my first article for a newspaper, I finally had a chance to write what had made me want to start writing in the first place, my very own column.

Even though it had been a long time, I still remembered my pre-set up to writing. A 16 oz. coke, a new black pen where you can smell the ink when you first take the top off and some blaring rock music in the background.

Now I was ready. I drank my coke, bobbed my head, put my pen to the paper and did nothing. Absolutely nothing. My mind was a complete blank. In the past, I had plenty of ideas to write about but now that I had a forum for them nothing was coming out.

So now what?
In an attempt to recapture some of the lost magic, I dug out my old tote box that held all my stuff from elementary school through Floyd College. I kept looking for my old articles but I could not find them. I was getting quite aggravated.

As time passed by, something else caught my eye. I stopped looking for my articles and started looking through the items that represented all of the highlights of my life; high school graduation pictures, Eagle Scout pictures, speaking awards and pictures of myself, my friends and family vacations.

As I looked through this stuff, I was transported backwards in time as each picture or award brought back images that allowed me to re-live the whole experience. It was fantastic.

Then I found my old "Six Mile Post" articles. They weren't much help.

As you grow older and as your mental outlook changes, one often feels old thoughts were ridiculous. This is the way I viewed my old articles.

However, my articles did help me for that in looking for them, I

found something else. I realized before I got tangled up in working 60 hours a week as a manager in a hectic environment, I used to do something else.

I used to smile and laugh out loud. I used to enjoy living life. I used to dream and ponder and experiment. I used to be a canvas of untapped potential just waiting to make my mark in the world.

I have not done this for a long time. I am older now and have many responsibilities, probably much like yourself. One thing I have always regretted is that we are never properly prepared for the potholes in the road of life, whatever they may be. Dead end jobs, pregnancy, drugs, alcoholism and family problems are just a few examples.

Many people, like myself, have already hit one or more potholes of life, or are soon to be one of the individuals to hit a few of them.

You know the old statement, stop and smell the roses. I never heard of a simpler concept that was so hard to achieve. Life is a very busy activity and most people are busy avoiding or getting out of these potholes.

Well, I am going to try to achieve this simple concept. I am going to try to look deep inside myself and rediscover the real me, the person that I used to be before I became bogged down with the negative side of life. I will become the old me, every once and awhile.

I invite you to make this journey with me. To do the same no matter what challenges, big or small, you may be facing at the moment. The good times and bad times are like two sides of the same coin. It takes one to appreciate the other.

I have lost eight years of my life by just working and not living. I won't make the same mistake the next eight years. I will keep on working a hectic schedule, and I will also continue going to school to finish my degree. But most importantly, life is worth living, so I will find the little and big joys of it and start laughing again.

Letter to the Editor...

Dear Editor,

The other day I was leaving campus, I had just pulled out of my parking space and started toward the exit of the parking lot when a speeding car running across the parking lanes almost hit me. After slamming on the breaks to avoid an accident I looked over at the other driver to find they were talking on a cell phone!

...Studies have shown that driving while using a cell phone is more dangerous than driving

drunk. There are currently six bills in the Georgia Legislature concerning cell phone usage while driving.

We at Floyd College need to move to the forefront of this dangerous issue... Behind the wheel is no place to talk on the cell phone. Developing good cell phone habits now may not only save your life but prevent a ticket in the near future.

Michael Ball
Information Technology
Rome, Georgia

SIX MILE POLL

If you could sit down with anyone in the world, alive or dead, and ask him or her one question, who would it be and what question?



Brian Strickland
Rome Campus
Art Major

"Alexander the Great - Did you expect your empire to crumble as quickly as it did?"



Kenny Lee
Rome Campus
Political Science Major

"William Blake - What the hammer, what the chain?"



Barbara Jackson
Rome Campus
Nursing Major

"Albert Einstein - Can I pick your brain?"



Evelyn Joseph
Rome Campus
Nursing Major

"Michael Jordan - How did you play basketball so well and who was your role model?"



Ian Cipollini
Rome Campus
Business Major

"Alfred Hitchcock - Why'd you put yourself in all your movies when you could've gotten someone better looking?"

You too can take the **SIX MILE POLL** at the online SMP at www.floyd.edu/sixmilepost

Poll by Amanda Cordle



Jenn Smith
Rome Campus
Art Major

"Hannibal Lector - Did it taste like chicken?"



Lauren Wetzel
Rome Campus
Nursing Major

"Adolf Hitler - What in the world was going through your mind?"



Mike Davis
Rome Campus
Business Major

"Bush Jr. - Weapons of mass destruction?."

Brooks makes positive changes in FC security

By Rusty Causey
wcaus00@floyd.edu
Staff Writer

Floyd College has entrusted the security of its campuses and its fast growing student population to Howard Brooks.

Brooks, who has been with the FC security department for the past four years, became head of security in October 2002.

He started as a security specialist in December 1999 and is now in charge of 22 other security personnel, the security for all four campuses and two patrol cars.

His training includes a 10-week State Peace Officer School and yearly training in such areas as verbal judo, health and wellness, and domestic violence.

Since he has been in charge of security the department has seen many changes. Brooks has helped set up a computer system and a web page that allows the security personnel to track car tags, find students in classes in case of emergency and pass along important information.

The web page for the security department contains everything anybody would need to know about the department. There is a lost and found page that students can use if they have lost something, and there is a silent witness page, where somebody could report illegal activity without having to give his or her name. The web page is listed under "campus life" on the FC web page.

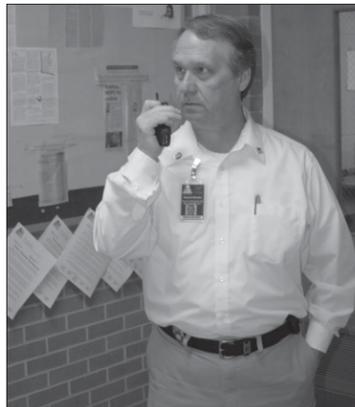


Photo by Ken Caruthers

Howard Brooks, who is head of security, calls to another officer on his portable radio.

Brooks also started requiring that security personnel receive monthly training and that all of them be familiar with what to do in case of a change in the national threat level. If the national threat level does change, the security department is in charge of making sure regulations are met on the Rome, Haralson, Heritage Hall

and Cartersville campuses. Local law enforcement officials handle security on the Acworth campus.

Brooks said that, "security is here to serve the students," and, "to try to develop a good system to help the flow around the campuses."

He has done this by equipping the department with a portable battery jump system, providing a kit for unlocking cars and upgrading all the first aid kits.

He also allows people who receive traffic tickets to pay only 50 percent of the fine if they pay it within two days.

Brooks notes that even if a person's car is not registered at the college, the department can still find out who owns the car. Once an unknown car has two or more tickets, the department runs the tag through the Floyd County Police Department to find the owner.

Brooks' next plans are to finish the information bulletin board outside the Security Office and to set up a security office at the new Bartow campus when it opens.



Photo by Ken Caruthers



Photo by Ken Caruthers

Security Officer Malcolm Avirett monitors illegal parking on the Rome campus.

Six Mile Post Online poll results

Do you agree with the new smoking policy?

Yes: 42%

No: 50%

Undecided: 8%

To check out this months poll visit www.floyd.edu/sixmilepost

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Floyd College honors Black History Month

By Jessica West
jwest05@floyd.edu
Staff Writer

In honor of Black History Month, several Floyd College organizations are planning February events.

On Feb. 11 and 12, Black History Theater was held in the Solarium at 10 a.m. and noon on both dates. The film shown was "Eyes on the Prize."

Curtis Adams, President of the 100 Black Men of Rome, spoke in the Solarium on Feb. 16.

John Spranza, director of student life, said that Minority Achievement Program (MAP) will cosponsor Black History Month Reader's Forum with the Writer's Collaborative. Books by different African-American writers will be reviewed and discussed. This event will be held Feb. 23. Students, faculty, and staff are invited to sign up. For more information contact Dr. Jon Hershey, professor of English, at 368-7629.

The Student Engagement

Council will be holding an exhibition in which members of African-American sororities and fraternities from West Georgia will perform step show demonstrations.

On Feb. 28 MAP is sponsoring a trip to Atlanta to visit the CNN Center. The trip will include a guided tour of Headline News and The Weather Channel. Following the tour, students will eat lunch at the historic Paschal's restaurant and tour the Atlanta University Center. A maximum of 25 students may attend. The cost of the trip is \$9 for the tour and \$11 for the bus.

On Feb. 24, "Laughing To Keep From Crying", a play by local playwright Mrs. Willie Mae Samuels, will be presented in the student center at noon.

Tickets are also on sale for "The Life of Rosa Parks," a play that will be held at the Grand Theater in Cartersville. Tickets can be purchased in the Office of Student Life and at the Cartersville campus for \$5.

ICAPP study shows FC graduates have positive effects on economy

By Lindy Dugger
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Assistant Editor

A new report on higher education in Georgia shows that graduates with an associate degree from Floyd College in the workforce will earn an average of \$8,000 more than workers with only a high school diploma. In addition, the study shows that Floyd College graduates impact the Northwest Georgia economy by more than \$6 million annually.

Commissioned by the University System of Georgia's Intellectual Capital Partnership Program (ICAPP), researchers from the Georgia Institute of Technology analyzed data from nearly 90 thousand University System of Georgia students who graduated between 1993 and 1997.

The study, entitled "The Value of University System of Georgia Education," showed that a Floyd College graduate's average yearly salary is \$29,221, which is 25 percent higher than that of a worker with only a high school education. Graduates who hold bachelor's de-

grees on average earn up to 40 percent more than workers with only a high school diploma.

In addition, the study showed that during 1998—the most recent year the data was available—the increased earnings from those with college degrees added \$1.25 billion dollars to the Georgia economy.

"The region's major employers are beginning to realize the value of a high level of general educational background compared to a high level of skills training," said Dr. Randy Pierce, president of Floyd College. "Too often, skills training will limit the employee (and employer) to a certain set of skills, while a general educational background, such as an associate degree, provides a foundation that enables the employee to communicate, to read and comprehend, to work in teams, and to learn and adapt to ever-changing skills requirements. This report puts impressive dollar figures to that contention."

The research also projects that by 2010, nearly 50 percent of the jobs in the work force will require

an associate degree, while over 60 percent will require a bachelor's degree or higher.

According to the study, fields currently in very high demand for college graduates are elementary school teaching, healthcare and information technology (IT).

Of these, healthcare is the most in need of educationally qualified persons to fill openings. Roughly 32 percent of these openings are left unfilled each year, totaling to around 2,000 jobs. Three of the four occupations experiencing the greatest shortages are on an associate degree level— medical records and health information technicians, medical laboratory technicians and registered nurses.

"Floyd College has moved aggressively to meet the local demand for workers in these three areas," said Pierce. "In addition to associate degrees in nursing, education and IT, partnerships with senior University System of Georgia institutions have provided bachelor degree offerings at Floyd College in these critical areas."

This year Floyd College will award over 90 students an Asso-

ciate of Science Degree in Nursing.

The ICAPP study finds that those in the nursing profession with an associate degree earn \$10,000 more annually than those without a degree.

"Since the inception of the Nursing Program at Floyd College in the 1970s, community support has been essential in terms of increased capacity—to hire additional faculty, to increase class sizes—all an effort to meet the increasing demand for health care professionals," said Pierce. "We are also pleased with the current partnership with Darton College, which has allowed for us to offer an Associate Degree in Medical Laboratory Technology to meet the demand for yet another healthcare profession which is in high demand."

The Department of Labor forecasts that in the near future the top three occupations requiring higher-level education will be accounting and auditing, registered nursing and computer support specialization.

Rome campus gospel workshop a big success

By Jessica West
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Staff Writer

Rosita Mathews held her "Let's Sing Gospel" workshop in the student center on Feb. 3.

Susan Claxton, associate professor of human services and sociology, and Paulette Jordan, lab technician, used their singing talents to help persuade the students to sing along.

"I think she did a good job encouraging audience participation," said Dr. Nancy Applegate, associate professor of English.

During the program Michelle Bruner, a PSO student from Cartersville said, "I've been enjoying it. I'm glad to have her here."

"It was wonderful. I loved it. To have church in school, it uplifted me," said Sonja Johnson, a human services major.

Misty White, a nursing major, remarked, "It was fun and it was good to know that we could talk about and sing about the Lord at a college campus. It was inspiring and finally everyone was included."

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Harvest Moon offers a variety of scrumptious choices

From appetizers to desserts, Harvest Moon offers delicious foods that are bound to satisfy anyone's taste.

With its bright murals, eclectic decorations and upbeat music, Harvest Moon Café feels like a little piece of Midtown on Broad Street. Offering a variety of tastes for a number of palates, Harvest Moon is a good place to join the lunch crowd.

For example, take a few of the sandwich options.

For vegetarians (or just those with a love of gooey, melted cheese), the Grecian grilled cheese sandwich—grilled onions, cheddar



The Joy of Not Cooking

By Daniel Klimek
 dklim00@floyd.edu
 Staff Writer

cheese and green and black olives on buttery herb bread—offers a rich and hearty meal with a kick.

Another delicious option is the apple, bacon and cheddar sandwich. Similar in basis to the standard grilled cheese, this sandwich includes granny smith apples and applewood-smoked bacon on your choice of grilled bread. (FYI: The honeywheat bread thrills.) This tangy, salty sandwich is amazing.

For those with more carnivorous tastes there is the roast beef sandwich. It's much more interesting than the name suggests: rare roast beef, caramelized Vidalia

onions and creamy boursin cheese are combined on a hoagie roll for a creamy, chewy, tasty combo.

There is also the option to build a sandwich with a variety of deli meats and cheeses, all on different kinds of bread (all made from scratch), including sourdough, honey wheat and nine grain.

Harvest Moon offers a variety of dinner options—but not all choices are even close in quality.

Excellent appetizers start the meal. The crostini appetizer is a heaping plate of olive tapenade, fresh Vermont goat cheese and ol-

ive-oil with crusty, warm bread. This hors d'oeuvre is enough for four people, but good enough for just one or two.

Another not-to-miss appetizer is the fried sweet potato chips. Crispy, thinly sliced sweet potato chips are served with a deliciously contrasting blue cheese dip.

For dinner itself, the specials often truly fit the name. Particularly memorable is the pecan-crusted chicken with veggies. There are also a number of burgers and personal pizzas, all made to order. (The menu includes suggested combinations.)

However, the doneness of the pizza or burger is often questionable—sometimes undercooked (in the case of the often-doughy pizza) and sometimes overcooked (in the case of the always well-done burger).

In fact, many of the dinner offerings often come across as if the kitchen is a little too lax in its preparation standards.

Harvest Moon is so good for lunch that I often wish they'd just stick with the lunch menu (and perhaps kitchen staff) for dinner—with the addition of the appetizers, perhaps.

Oh, for both lunch and dinner, though, I can't forget to mention the scrumptious desserts Harvest Moon offers. From the crusty-outside, gooey-inside pecan and chocolate tarts to the creamy, perfect Italian cream cake to the chewy, soft German chocolate cake, every bite of every dessert from Harvest Moon will enrich one's day.

Harvest Moon is located at 234 Broad Street in Rome. Reservations for large groups may be made by calling (706) 292-0099.

Authors' experience lends humor and satire to novel

By Amanda Cordle
 Acord00@floyd.edu
 Staff Writer

Book Review

"The Nanny Diaries," co-authored by Emma McLaughlin and Nicola Kraus, is a sidesplitting read.

McLaughlin and Kraus used their experience as nannies for over 30 New York families as inspiration for their novel.

Nanny is a senior at NYU preparing to graduate in the spring. Looking for a part-time babysitting job, she meets the well-to-do X family and is soon employed as the nanny for Grayer X. Her job description includes depriving the four-year-old Grayer of naps and any type of unnatural food, nurturing him through the croup, working 16-hour shifts and searching for the panties of Mr. X's mistress.

Mr. and Mrs. X only bring more drama to the plot. Mr. X rarely has anything to do with Grayer. He spends his time at the office, avoid-

ing Mrs. X and enjoying his mistress, Ms. Chicago. Mrs. X, on the other hand, constantly yet indirectly involves herself in Grayer's life through a series of handwritten notes to Nanny, providing stringent instructions on Grayer's after school activities, play dates, foreign language lessons and music classes. She also requires Nanny do her personal shopping.

Nanny meeting her "Harvard Hottie" in the elevator of the X's building results in one of the few good things about her employment with the X's.

This novel is as much as a social commentary as it is a comedy. Nanny must endure being vomited on by the child and everyone else in this upper class society.

Some of the novel's plot seems to be a bit unfeasible, and there is even mention of the cliché teddy bear nanny cam.

Some of the characters like Nanny's friends, roommates and even her love interest seem to be a bit shallow.

While the book is poignant, it feels as if we are only accurately

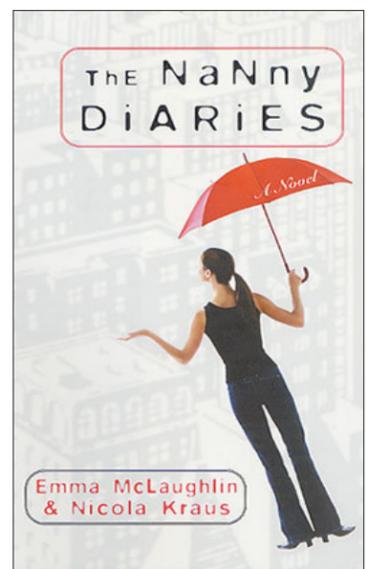


Photo courtesy of www.nannydiaries.net

introduced to the four-year-old Grayer. There really should be more detail in the other adult characters.

Despite these few faults "The Nanny Dairies" is an engaging and blissful triumph for these two young writers.

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Check out a new
 issue of the "Six
 Mile Post" on
 March 9!

Local artist reveals his personal life through art featured in display in Rome campus art gallery

By Kanard McCrary
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Staff Writer

Art Review

A local artist takes on the darker side of relationships by displaying scenes of his past relationships that have turned out for the worse. Select pieces of Jess Hinshaw's work were on display in the Lakeview Art Gallery Jan. 27-Feb. 2.

When people walked into the Lakeview Art Gallery, it was the red and the black that stood out the most.

Each piece was easily upsetting. One in particular that stood out was "But You Break Me In Two, And You Throw Me Away."

This was a picture of a dead man with several birds feasting on his body. The man appeared to have been dead for a while but his body was not badly decomposed. Loneliness and lack of happiness is displayed through this picture.

Throughout our lives we have been asked the same question as presented in the title "How do I feel? What kind of question is that?" We often want to reply, "Do you really want to know how I feel?" That's exactly what the picture with this title does. It explains what should have been said.

It is a picture of a man and woman standing on a staircase facing each other. They are not paying any attention to the crowd in the street, which in turn is paying no attention to them. The set-



Photo by Kanard McCrary

Artist Jess Hinshaw (right) explains his artwork to fifth grader Leah Mayo during the art gallery reception on Jan. 29.

ting suggests that one of them may already be involved with someone else, but does not care who sees them together.

One picture entitled "Heaven Too Close To Hell" definitely catches one's attention. The picture implies that a woman sitting on a step is waiting for someone to sin with her. Her legs are open and the red background express her boldness. The red symbolizes her willingness to satisfy every desire and fantasy.

Most of the art was in the style of monoprint, with a combination of etching and pencil. The monoprint was red while the etching was the color of a black ink pen. To create these monoprints the red images were painted onto a piece of plexi-glass and then run through a high-pressured press.

"Mono means one, which means it can't be duplicated; you only get one shot," said Brian Barr, assistant professor of art.

"The red is the cause and the black is the effect," said Hinshaw.

Allen Bell, director of the Rome Council for the Arts, said, "The paintings are edgy and gripping."

Yes, the work is edgy and it may even give the viewer a sense of sadness, but Hinshaw's theme "Convalescence" sums it up. All of his work was part of a healing process. Hinshaw was able to confront his feelings and at the same time disregard them.

Hinshaw has taken the dark side of his personal life and revealed it to the public, and for that he has gotten much support from his family and friends. "I don't know where he got his talent from because I can't draw two straight lines. I also hope he sells them all," said Creede Hinshaw, father of the artist.

A graduate with a BFA from Berry College, Hinshaw has had previous showings in Ireland, Atlanta and Floyd College.

'Polyester's' odorama card packs a punch and allows audience to interact with the twisted comedy

By Scott Hale
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Staff Writer

Movie Review

Directed by John Waters ("Serial Mom", "Crybaby" and "Hairspray") and starring Ned Divine ("Lust in the Dust"), "Polyester" is a raunchy and depraved look at an American family. Coupled with graphic surrealism and trashy humor, this film packs a punch you will not soon forget.

Divine plays the role of Francine Fishpaw, an upper middle class suburban housewife who is harrassed and embarrassed by her demented family. Her son is a glue sniffing foot-stomper, her husband is a porno king and the daughter is a sex crazed sociopath. Waters adds a special touch to the film with the introduction of odorama.

Each DVD comes with a scratch and sniff odorama card. When a number flashes on the screen you scratch the corresponding number on the card to smell what the characters smell. This gives the viewer a chance to interact with the film. Whether or not the smell of the card is a psychosomatic effect of the film I have yet to determine. Seeing the film with the odorama card is awesome; it would definitely take away from



Photo courtesy of www.rottentomatoes.com

the integrity of the film if you didn't have it.

This film is definitely not for everyone. If you enjoy cruel humor and twisted comedy that is over the top, check out this movie. "Polyester" pushes the boundaries of what is socially acceptable, so try not to let the kids get a hold of it. I would not recommend this film to anyone under 17.

The odorama card only comes with the DVD version of the movie, which also has the bonus film "Desperate Living" included. Anyone who enjoys dark humor should not pass up seeing this film. I give "Polyester" on DVD 4 out of 5. For more information on "Polyester" or John Waters, check out www.allwatchers.com.

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Intramural basketball off to an exciting start at FC

By Stephanie McCombs
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Staff Writer

They've done it again! Dane Styles and teammates have defeated another opponent on the court.

Styles, a physical therapy major, said, "There is no one that can guard my teammates, or myself. They are just out there for exercise."

Styles led with 25 points for the Dream Team Part II in the Feb. 3 game, while Neal Ragsdale led for the Sloppy Joes with 20 points as the Dream Team Part II came out on top 52-43.

Stepping fresh out of the box this season were the Pacers. Their first game was played Feb. 3 against the Sloppy Joes. Brandon Buford put in 24 points for the Pacers, while Mack Rolling scored 19 for the Sloppy Joes. But when the buzzer sounded at the end of the game, it was the Sloppy Joes on top, 48-42.

During the Jan. 27 pre-season games, Style's 24 points, along with teammate Charles Hill's 19 points, helped the Dream Team Part II clinch their first victory of the semester. Both are key players for the team and play a major role on the court.



Photo by Ken Caruthers

Mack Rolling of the Sloppy Joes jumps to pass a ball to his teammate during a game on Feb 3.

Hill, a computer science major, said, "I really don't see much competition and I really don't think that anyone can guard me."

As for their opponents, the Sloppy Joes were led by Neal Ragsdale, who had 17 points, while Ric Osbourne contributed 11 points.

Although the Dream Team Part II came out on top in the end, 62-52, the Sloppy Joes showed no signs of giving up. According to Osbourne, a business administration major, "5-on-5 is better than

3-on-3. We plan to take the championship from the Dream Team Part II."

The standings as of Feb. 3 are Dream Team Part II 1-0, Sloppy Joes 1-1 and Pacers 0-1.

Anyone interested in playing soccer may signup until Feb. 22. Games begin Feb. 26. Volleyball signups continue until March 1. Games begin March 18. Signups for the FIT program continue until March 28. More details about the program can be found at www.floyd.edu/intramurals.

Youth sports program wins national award— again

By Bobby Moore
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Staff Writer

For the first time in its 32 year history, Floyd College's National Youth Sports Program has repeated as one of 10 meritorious programs in the nation.

According to David Mathis, director of intramurals and the project administrator, "This award is the accumulation of a lot of hard work by 30 committed staff members, sponsors, volunteers and the entire FC family. Everyone on this campus influences this program in a positive way, and the entire campus community needs to be thanked after 32 years of service."

Mathis, who is approaching his 12th year with the program, said, "There is a lot of pride in being mentioned along with big name universities like Notre Dame and The University of Southern California."

Floyd College President Dr. Randy Pierce is proud of the recognition that this program is bringing to FC. He said, "NYSP has become a long standing tradi-

tion at Floyd College and is what being an institution of this community means."

The program, which provides a safe learning environment for underprivileged children, is aided by student volunteers as well as former campers who donate items.

Activity director for NYSP, Mike Jenkins, said, "We are appreciative of Floyd College, from the president down to the students. Giving our facilities is huge for NYSP, and our professors, security guards and cooks are very kind for pitching in."

FC student Sandy House, who was a lifeguard in the program in 2003, commented, "It is a tough job, but it is very rewarding to see the difference made in kids' lives."

Jenkins said, "We appreciate the hard work of both the student volunteers, and also David Mathis. He works a good bit of the year promoting the six week camp voluntarily."

While most of the events are held on campus, a swimming pool is needed. Rome City Schools provide the pool located at Rome High School, making their participation

in the program significant to its success.

Mathis said, "Dr. Mike Buck and Dr. Gayland Cooper, who both represent Rome City Schools, deserve a lot of credit for this award so I would like to think them for their cooperation."

Mathis and NYSP math/science coordinator Carolyn Petty attended the award presentation in Washington, D.C., on Feb. 12. NYSP acknowledged both Mathis and Jenkins for their leadership and their outreach to children, including the growing Latino community.

Jenkins said, "If everyone does their job, the kids will have a good time, and that is the greatest award of all."

This year's camp dates are June 7 through July 9. The program is free of charge and includes meals. Transportation is available for the campers.

For more information about the NYSP, contact Mathis at dmathis@floyd.edu or visit the program's website on the Floyd College homepage at www.floyd.edu/nysp.

President Bush to athletes: Be my drug-free hero



Touching All Bases

By Bobby Moore
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Staff Writer

On January 20, during his State of the Union Address, President Bush laid out a challenge.

This challenge was not directed towards the military who are risking their lives overseas. It did not involve the economy. It was not even directed at NASA, who is spearheading Bush's "Plan 9 to Outer Space."

The leader of the free world challenged the professional sports leagues and their players to stop their use of performance-enhancing steroids.

The NBA and NFL are already handling substance abusers properly and have been doing so for years and their players face the consequences if they do not abide by the rules.

Only baseball has a perceived steroid problem, and as a former team owner Bush should know that baseball can police itself without any help from the government.

Bush led into the topic of steroids by saying, "To help children make right choices, they need good examples. Athletics play such an important role in our society, but, unfortunately, some in professional sports are not setting much of an example."

Not this again. I think Charles Barkley said it best in a Nike ad back in 1993 when he defiantly said, "I am not a role model."

Barkley was not trying to add street credibility to his image; he was merely using common sense. Parents, teachers, relatives and other adults are the real role models for children.

One baseball star that more than likely took his fair share of enhancing drugs was Jose Canseco. I know he's done a lot for charities, which is admirable, but if we are going to depend on Canseco to show our children how to behave as an adult, then this society has worse problems than the economy.

Sports figures may be on the big stage making millions, but

that does not make them role models. The greatest NFL player of all time in my opinion is Jim Brown. He was a great running back and also a legendary lacrosse player. That being said, who in their right mind would want to be remembered as a man who allegedly beat a woman?

Brown is not alone. Daryl Strawberry and Mike Tyson also come to mind when the subject of spousal abuse is brought up.

Evander Holyfield, Shawn Kemp and numerous other sports stars have fathered children with multiple women. Others like Ray Lewis and Pete Rose have faced the consequences of running with the wrong crowd.

My father, on the other hand, grew up as a sharecropper and has had to work hard all of his life to give my brother and me an opportunity to be successful. As a man who has followed in his very successful father's footsteps, I would think that Bush would share my philosophy about who the true role models are in this country.

Before the technological age dawned several years ago, it was possible to make sports stars into role models. Legendary University of Oklahoma head football coach Bud Wilkinson was admired by both adults and children in the 1950s, but in the age of the Internet and cable television his womanizing ways would be common knowledge.

If anyone should know about having their present and past vices viewed under a microscope for the entire world to see, it should be politicians. We all know about Lawrence Taylor and Kobe Bryant's legal woes, but we also know about Bush's DUIs and Bill Clinton's numerous sex scandals.

Punk rock pioneers The Stranglers once sang, "Whatever happened to the heroes?" There still are heroes in this world. They are the people who can make a difference, and sadly they are not on the playing field or in Washington.