

# Six Mile Post

*The Student Voice*

Georgia Highlands College - Rome, Georgia

February 19, 2008

Vol. 37, #5

Six Mile Post Online  
[www.highlands.edu/sixmilepost](http://www.highlands.edu/sixmilepost)



New study shows caffeine harmful during pregnancy. See page 10.

## College celebrates black history month

By LaTonya Burrell  
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Staff Writer

In honor of Black History Month, Georgia Highlands College offered many events throughout the month of February for students and faculty to enjoy.

“I hope that all students recognize the scope and talent that are revealed through the reading.”

-Jon Hershey  
BAS Adviser

On Feb. 4, Dr. Jon Hershey and students from the Black Awareness Society (BAS) sponsored their annual African-American Poetry and Literature Reading in the student center. Student and faculty readers included Irene Bell, nursing major, Dami Aina, occupational therapy major, Larry Stevens, assistant librarian; and Hershey.

Selections for the reading included works from Langston

Hughes, William Pickens and self-compositions.

“I hope all students recognize the scope of talent and experience that are revealed through the reading,” said Hershey, adviser of BAS.

The evening of Feb. 5 brought actor and author Michael Fosberg to perform his theatrical presentation of “Incognito.”

The play is an autobiographical account of Fosberg trying to find his biological father. “Incognito” addressed many issues such as race, family secrets and self-identity.

Following the performance, Fosberg engaged the audience in a question and answer session that covered many topics, including race in relation to school funding, the origin of racism and further details of his family.

The musical group Davis & Dow will perform in the student center on Feb. 20. Students will hear the sounds of jazz as they walk to and from class.

On Feb. 27, BAS will bring a Family Feud- style game called “Who? What? When? Where?” to the student center.

Students and faculty who participated in the events



Photo By Amanda Stegall

Michael Fosberg presents his one man play “Incognito” in Lakeview Auditorium on the Floyd Campus.

wanted to convey one important theme: diversity.

John Spranza, director of student life, worked in conjunction with BAS to book events that would ignite “another avenue for learning.” Ahna Dillard, a psy-

chology major and president of BAS said that she has experienced diversity throughout the events.

Aside from the major planned events, to commemorate Black History Month, BAS has filled its

school bulletin board with influential facts and stories of African-American people. Also, before the Fosberg play, BAS sponsored a cookout during which students and faculty were encouraged to meet and greet.

## Acworth site closing causes confusion among students

### Students concerned about future of new nursing program

By Jeffery Barwick  
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Assistant Editor

There are mixed emotions among students about the Georgia Highlands College extension at Acworth closing down at the beginning of the 2008 fall semester.

Recently an e-mail was sent out to all Acworth students asking what they thought about the closing.

Most students were very upset and worried about how they

are going to continue their education without having to move to Marietta, Cartersville or Rome.

Some of the nursing students at Acworth are worried that the nursing program will not transfer to Marietta and instead relocate all the students to the Heritage Hall location in Rome.

“My thoughts on leaving Acworth are mixed and confusing. I think it's unfortunate for the nursing students because we all signed a contract with Wellstar with the impression that our classes would be located

in Acworth,” said Patrick Casey, a nursing student at Acworth. “My friends have mentioned that they would like to break out of their contract with Wellstar if we relocate a place that is unacceptable to them. My personal hope is that we will relocate to Marietta,” Casey added.

A few students said that the will leave GHC when the Acworth extension of GHC officially shuts down.

Kimberly Davis, a business and accounting major from Acworth said, “I think it really

sucks that the Acworth extension is closing because that's where all of my classes are taken. I work a full-time job and every day I barely make it up to my classes in time. I don't know where I'll go for college. I guess I will have to quit my job and move up to Cartersville and find a new one.”

Bassel Rabah, a business major from Marietta said, “I can not believe that Acworth is closing. It is going to be a hassle for the students who live in the Marietta area. Gas is going to suck! Also, I think GHC is going

to lose some new students because its closing a location.”

Dr. Virginia Carson, vice president for academic affairs, said, “The nursing satellite program will continue unaffected by the move away from Acworth. The current first-year students will have second year classes beginning in August 2008, and a new cohort of first-year students will be accepted to begin in August 2008. The specific location of these classes will be announced soon and is expected to be in Cobb County.”



# New vice president of finance begins work at GHC

By John-Mark Millican  
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Staff Writer

Robert Whitaker is the new vice president of finance and administration at Georgia Highlands College.

On Jan. 1 Whitaker replaced Dr. Wilbur Shuler, who has retired.

Whitaker earned his undergraduate degree at Morehead State University in Kentucky and his master's degree from Georgia Southern. He also has a lot of hands-on experience. His first job involving finance was with the Legislative Budget Office at the Georgia State Capitol. After that he moved to the Department of Medical Assistance for a few years, before getting into the private sector.

His last position was at Southern Poly Technical College, where he worked for six years. He worked as director of business services before being hired by Georgia Highlands College.

Although Whitaker has many goals for the college, his biggest goal is to make Georgia Highlands more respected as a top institution in the education world. He also wants to make it easier for students and faculty to communicate, especially in regards to finance. He also hopes to eventually have a website to keep current students and prospective students up to date on what his office has accomplished.

Whitaker said, "I look forward to working with an institution that shows such signs of growth." He also said that it is his job to "maintain the fiscal integrity of this institution."

Whitaker likes to play golf in his spare time, but something that is even more important to him is his family.

He and his wife have been married for eight years and have a 12-year-old daughter named Taylor. While not at their home in Cherokee County, they enjoy playing tennis and spending time at the beach.



Robert Whitaker, GHC's new vice president of finance and administration

contributed photo

## CRBI to hold 8th Annual "Waterfest"

By Miranda Lockridge  
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Staff Writer

The Coosa River Basin Initiative will host the eight annual WATERFEST April 25-26 at Ridge Ferry Park in Rome.

"WATERFEST" is CRBI's major spring fundraiser and educational event. "We're looking to get 200 paddlers on the river and in our Tug-Of-War pool and have a great time doing it," said Executive Director and Riverkeeper Joe Cook.

CRBI encourages college students to participate in this year's festivities.

WATERFEST VIII will hold three competitive events: Tug-Of-War, Canoe-A-Thon and Race. Tug-Of-War will be organized into four-person teams, with an

entry fee of \$75 per team. CRBI anticipates 200 paddlers to participate in the Canoe-A-Thon. The Race will consist of 13 miles. Separate divisions exist for men and women, and a co-ed team will assemble for tandem canoe and kayak.

The prices for both the Canoe-A-Thon and Race are currently \$50 (tandem) and \$40 (solo), but will increase after April 18. Prizes will be awarded to winning teams.

Approximately 690 participants were present last year, raising more than \$20,000 for CRBI's water programs. CRBI's boards of directors and staff members wish to raise at least \$25,000 at this year's WATERFEST. They also anticipate increased participation along with doubling the engage-

ment of colleges and schools involved.

CRBI was formed in 1992 by concerned citizens who wanted to protect the air, water and land of the Upper Coosa River Basin. CRBI has a professional staff, but remains volunteer-based.

Cook stated, "WATERFEST pays for CRBI's advocacy, education, water monitoring and restoration programs and educates the public about the importance of our rivers and streams."

Anyone can become a member of CRBI. To sponsor, join or obtain more information, contact Cook at jcook@coosa.org or at 706-232-2724. Those who would like to participate may register online at www.coosa.org beginning this month or stop by CRBI office located by Schroeder's in downtown Rome.

## New building expected for Cartersville by 2010

By John-Mark Millican  
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Staff Writer

A new building is in the works for the Cartersville Campus according to Dr. Randy Pierce, president of Georgia Highlands College.

Cartersville already boasts a student population of over 1700 students and is still growing rapidly according to Pierce. Currently a single "L" shaped building on the Cartersville campus houses classrooms, the bookstore and faculty and ad-

ministrative offices. The new building will be of the same design as the existing building. Two of the corners will be open, allowing the two buildings to form a quad.

The new building will add additional academic space for the expanding student population.

In addition to academic space, the building will also incorporate a new student center, Pierce said.

Tentative plans indicate that the new building will be completed in 2010.

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# Six Mile Post receives 17 awards at GCPA convention in Macon

## SMP takes first place in Improvement category

Six Mile Post staff members returned from the Georgia College Press Association's annual Press Institute with 17 awards, including second place in the General Excellence category for two-year college newspapers.

Spencer Musick, SMP editor said, "I am very pleased with the awards that we won at GCPA. The SMP staff has invested a large amount of time and effort into the paper. I am especially proud that we won first place in the improvement category."

Individual winners from GHC in the Georgia College Press Association's Better Newspaper contest were Haley Smith, Josh Kelley, Amanda Stegall, Eric Celler, Eric Gregory, Joshua Owens, Jake Carter and Musick.

Both the individual awards and overall awards (based on four sample issues of the Six Mile

Post) were presented at a luncheon at the Ramada Plaza Hotel in Macon on Feb. 2.

Laura Geiger, of the Barnesville Herald-Gazette and treasurer of the Georgia Press Association, addressed the audience of newspaper students and advisers from around the state prior to the luncheon.

She spoke about the daily excitement of the newspaper business before handing out the awards.

Prior to the luncheon, the Six Mile Post staff attended workshops and critique sessions.

"I've learned more about writing feature stories and also about some great ideas for future issues," said Jeffery Barwick, assistant editor.

Rodney Ho and Mark Davis of the Atlanta Journal and Constitution were among the work-

shop presenters, as was Jack Smith, a public relations officer at Auburn University, and other media professionals.

"I thought that the workshops were especially well presented," said Cindy Wheeler, assistant adviser for the SMP. "The speakers were very interesting and informative," Wheeler added.

"I am proud of the awards the Six Mile Post has won," said Dr. Kristie Kemper, SMP adviser. "They are the result of a lot of hard work."

Dr. Virginia Carson, vice president for academic affairs, said that "the Six Mile Post is certainly one of the finest GHC traditions, and just keeps getting better!"

Attending the Press Institute from GHC were Sarah Colston, Colleen Fries, Musick, Barwick, Wheeler and Kemper.

## Celebrating Black History Month

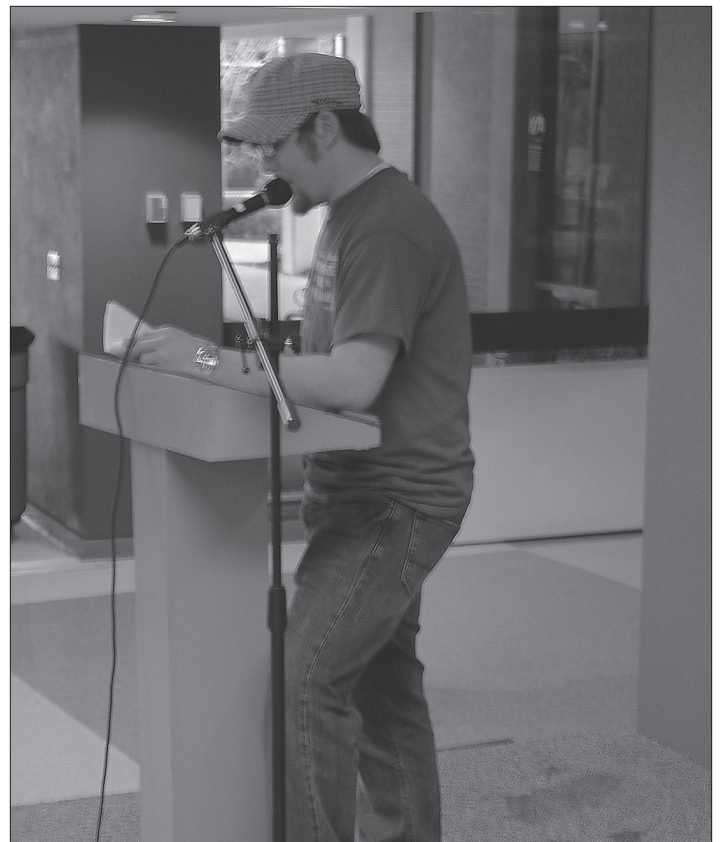


Photo By Spencer Musick

Matt Pharr reads a selection from Langston Hughes at the BAS sponsored reading on the Floyd campus.

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# National ID stirs controversy among Americans

By Kayla Amos  
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Staff Writer

For any that have read the famous George Orwell novel “1984,” “Big Brother” government is something that seems so completely and scarily invasive that it has to be fictional.

However, if some lawmakers and leaders of Homeland Security have their way, Orwell’s vision of a government power with the ability to monitor citizens’ every move may very well become a reality here in the United States with the passing of a piece of legislation called the REAL ID Act.

The REAL ID Act was first introduced to Congress in 2005 by Tom Ridge, leader of Homeland Security at the time. REAL ID would be a national form of identification, much like a state-issued driver’s license, listing a citizen’s name, date of birth, gender, etc, but in addition to this typical information, one’s social

security number and possibly a tracking device would be added to the card.

Supporters of a standard identification, with or without a tracking device, cite various advantages. In a post 9/11 United States, now more aware and fearful of terrorism, many think that the REAL ID Act would help to prevent terrorist attacks of any magnitude and keep American citizens safe. If added to the card, tracking devices could help the FBI and CIA more easily hunt down suspected terrorists or monitor suspicious activity.

REAL ID could also aid in the search for missing persons or fugitives. In many cases, it could also prove a person’s guilt or innocence in a crime, either proving an alibi or that a person was indeed present at the scene of a crime. Some sources also claim that REAL ID would help to discourage identity theft and help travel run much more smoothly.

However, arguments against REAL ID are also numerous. For

instance, when it comes to proving who committed a crime, a card could very easily be planted in an alternate location, while the carrier of the card commits the crime elsewhere. In such a situation, a case involving REAL ID tracking could very easily lead to an unjust arrest or no arrest at all.

Scott Akemon, instructor of political science, stated that though no First Amendment rights would be directly violated, REAL ID would curtail liberties guaranteed in the Bill of Rights and usurp the spirit of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. “Government is not in place to restrict liberty. It is there to protect it. Is the government becoming a caretaker or a giant warden?” Akemon said.

Akemon also stated that allowing the government to track American citizens’ every move “Would allow illegal immigrants more freedom than America’s own citizens.”

“It puts too much information

on one place and puts your identity at risk. Imagine what kind of damage a person could do if you misplace your card or it gets stolen, and a tracking device is a little too much like science fiction,” said sophomore Jessica Wesley.

Akemon does not understand how REAL ID would help travel or how it would help to reduce identity theft. He, like Wesley, points out that cards are “stealable,” and since they would list a citizen’s vital information in addition to his or her social security number, he believes identity theft would only rise.

When it comes to travel, Akemon asks, “Why do you need a passport, then? Why would state driver’s license not be sufficient? No one currently questions driver’s licenses.”

However, both Akemon and Scott Powell, instructor of history, cite numerous times in America’s past and present when the government would use wiretapping and other sources of

technology to monitor suspicious activity of citizens. They point out that “Big Brother” government is hardly new and wiretaps and other resources have been employed by some of America’s greatest leaders, including former presidents Kennedy, Carter and Nixon. America’s first form of national identification, the Social Security card, was put in place by Theodore Roosevelt.

Implementing REAL ID would ultimately be left up to the states individually. However, the system is expensive, and it would take years for the cards to actually be created and used.

Sources differ on the exact cost, but Akemon said over a period of 10 years, implementing and maintaining a REAL ID system could cost a single state up to \$23 billion dollars.

While there are many arguments for and against to REAL ID, Akemon said that he doesn’t believe that REAL ID will be a major national concern for the common citizen any time soon.

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Human Services program offers unique support for students

By Anthony Dion Blackwell  
ablackw1@Highlands.edu  
Guest Columnist

I am writing concerning the Human services program here at Georgia Highlands. Human Services program here is a wonderful training tool for the real world. The teachers are well knowledgeable and up to date on their subject. We have an awesome Human Service Club and president.

When I decided to come back to school, after 13 years, I was afraid that I would not be able to get back into the school mentality. I was undecided about my major, and was not sure what I wanted to do. I signed up for Introduction to Human Services, and after taking the first three classes, I became a Human Ser-

vice major. This is how effective this class and program are.

In taking Mrs. Claxton's class, I have learned a lot about human services. Being a non traditional student, I was having a problem adjusting to school. When I got to class, I found other students just like myself. Mrs. Claxton's class was a class that I could comprehend and understand.

The teaching skills were not like that of other teachers, but yet effective. Mrs. Claxton's classes make you apply your studies to everyday life. Her favorite motto is "save one starfish at a time." The Human Service club, to me, exemplifies this motto. The success stories of people that graduate and find jobs immediately are inspiring. In Human Services, we are all

one big family. When the students graduate, then they come back and lecture the class on their subjects. The president and staff of Georgia Highlands ought to be proud of the human service department and Mrs. Claxton.

Our Human Service Club has a lot going on this semester. The one thing I want to uplift is our newsletter. Our president Kelly Kuykendall and vice president Katrina Pearsey are working real hard to draw more people to Human Service Program. They have the started Felecia Claxton Scholarship Fund. This fund will be able to help Human Service majors with books and tuition. This scholarship is named after our advisor's daughter, and they thought of no better way to reward Mrs. Claxton for her labor of love towards her students.



Photo by Spencer Musick

Anthony Dion Blackwell, human services major from Rome

Early Bird Advising

Mon., March 3 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. Floyd- Student Center

Tues., March 4 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Cartersville- HUB

Wed., March 5 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Marietta- appoinment only

Thurs., March 6 1:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Acworth- room 212

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# Georgia water plan: nothing but empty promises

The biggest weakness of the Georgia legislature is its complete and utter inability to stop bickering and accomplish anything. Still, the legislators managed to agree on a new water plan that will be about as effective in alleviating the water shortage as was Gov. Perdue’s public prayer for rain.

This plan is simply too little, far too late.

Much of the plan’s criticism comes from those outside of metro Atlanta in areas such as Cartersville and Rome. Both communities have a lot to lose if metro Atlanta begins slurping away at the state water supply. The plan does nothing to regulate inter-ba-

sin transfers, essentially letting metro Atlanta drain our already strained state water supply.

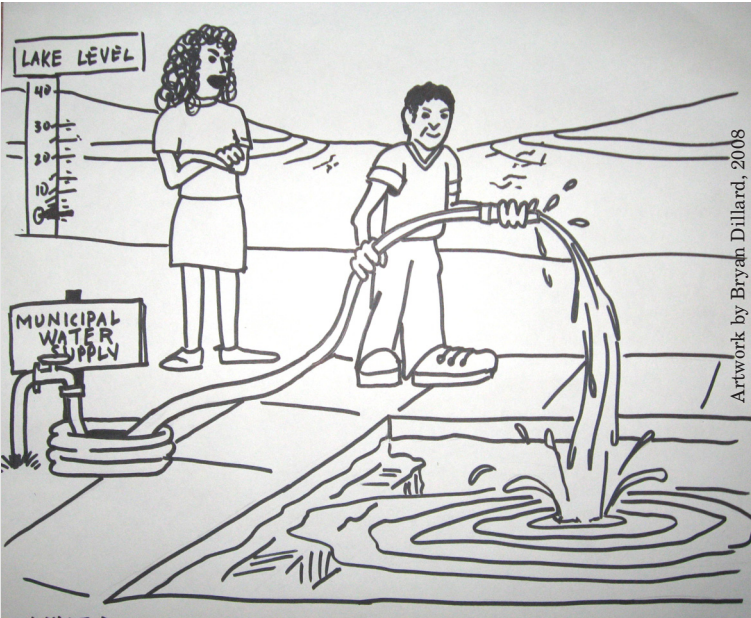
This is not a problem that appeared out of thin air last year: our lawmakers were warned about this problem for decades. It is inexcusable that they are just now getting around to developing a water plan.

The water plan does contain a few good policy proposals. It fails, however, at making the state accountable for implementing these policies. Essentially, the plan lacks the necessary teeth to force any action to help conserve our water supply.

There is a solution to this

problem. There is a means to both conserve our state water supply and solve the debacle that metro Atlanta finds itself in. Our lawmakers need to listen to the environmentalists who study the bodies of water in Georgia. Only then can a fair, environmentally friendly and effective solution to this problem be developed.

The Georgia Water Plan is exactly what its title implies: a plan, nothing more. It offers no promises for any real action. The Georgia legislature continues to live up to its reputation of being an ineffective, fractured and partisan body. Election cycles come and go, but the water crisis will continue until action is taken.



What? Do you think they will miss it?

## Hillary Rodham Clinton: a record of reform

As election season continues, let us examine the condition that our country is in.

As America nears the end of the disastrous presidency of George W. Bush, we are at 3943 American troop deaths and \$470,728,656,198 into an endless occupation of Iraq, our economy is in shambles, our schools are failing and our country is no safer than it was before September 11, 2001.

The legacy of the Bush administration speaks for itself. Whoever the next president is, she or he will have a mountain of problems to deal with from day one.

Think back to the end of the presidency of George Bush senior. He also left a great number of problems for the next president to deal with. When Bill Clinton took office, he rolled up his sleeves and started cleaning up Bush’s mess. As Clinton left office, our economy was strong, and the government was operating on a surplus. Clinton’s quick action and determination saved America from economic ruin. America is in desperate need of a candidate to clean up after a Bush again. This time, it just happens to be Bush Jr. who made the messes.

Our choices in the November 2008 election are beginning to shape up. A razor thin margin between Hillary Clinton and Barak Obama on the Demo-



### Editor’s Box

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**Editor-in-Chief**

cratic side will make for a race that may not be resolved before the party’s convention in June. On the Republican side, John McCain seems to be the inevitable nominee. While the GOP’s conservative base may not consider McCain to be a true conservative, they will certainly opt for him if the alternative is Hillary Clinton or Barak Obama.

Hillary Rodham Clinton is qualified to be commander in chief in several unique ways. She has unparalleled experience in both public service and in the private sector, as well as leadership skills that have set her above her colleagues in the senate. For example, Clinton was named to the Senate Armed Services Committee during her second year in office. Clinton has the foreign policy and intelligence experience to lead this country in uncertain times. Unlike President Bush, Clinton will not allow her attention to be diverted from the war on terror while the man

responsible for September 11, 2001, remains at large. Unlike her Democratic opponent who speaks in vague generalities, Clinton has been very specific about her positions on the issues, as well as the manner in which she will address the problems facing America.

Both she and her opponent speak about changing the failed policies of the Bush administration. However, the contrast between them is stark: while Obama has only two years of experience in the Senate, Clinton has a proven record that substantiates her promises to make change.

Clinton says it most articulately herself: “The challenges of change are always hard. It is important that we begin to unpack those challenges that confront this nation and realize that we each have a role that requires us to change and become more responsible for shaping our own future.”

## Six Mile Post

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# Why nice guys finish last in American politics

By Kyle Jones  
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Staff Writer

The time for electing a new president is upon us. And friends, I have good news. We have a candidate on the ballot that, if given the chance, is more than capable of leading this nation through these most turbulent times. This candidate is honest, courageous and possesses integrity and fortitude unparalleled by any of his peers.

The bad news: the American people don't usually go for that.

Think that sounds too cynical? Consider this: Congressman Ron Paul is an advocate of immigration-law enforcement and of a border fence – 89% of Americans feel that illegal immigration is a serious problem and 68% are in favor of a fence over our southern border, according to a recent poll from the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR).

Paul has openly and passionately come out against the Iraq war. As president, he promises he would end the wasteful blunder, and pull our troops out of Iraq immediately – as indicated by a

CNN/Opinion Research Poll, 63% of America opposes the Iraq debacle.

Paul was recently named the Taxpayers' Best Friend by the National Taxpayers Union. He has never voted to raise taxes during his service in Congress. He has pledged to cut federal spending and slash taxes dramatically, thus providing Americans with more disposable income – all Americans would like to see more cash in their pockets.

On paper, Paul looks too good to be true. But how can a person who is almost perfectly in tune with the collective sentiment of America, be the same person who is almost dead last in every national poll and state primary?

The answer is "likeability." This is a term that has made its way into the political vernacular in recent years. It is the reason George H. W. Bush lost the presidency to Bill Clinton in 1992, and the reason John Kerry failed to unseat George W. Bush in 2004. In 2008, Paul finds himself facing this same hurdle. And oh, what a high one it is. One doesn't even have to sit through an entire debate to understand Paul's deficiencies in the likeability de-

partment. The man's presence leaves much to be desired.

Paul lacks the slick, sharp tongue possessed by his contemporaries that impresses Americans, and his demeanor is unpolished and even quirky at times. This gives Paul a very low likeability factor and blinds voters to the content of his message.

This is a sharp contrast to the articulate and smarmy candidates like Mitt Romney, Mike Huckabee, and Rudy Giuliani. These candidates shamelessly lick their index fingers, hold them up to the wind and then adjust their "beliefs" accordingly. Unlike Paul, who stands on the same platform now as he did eighteen years ago.

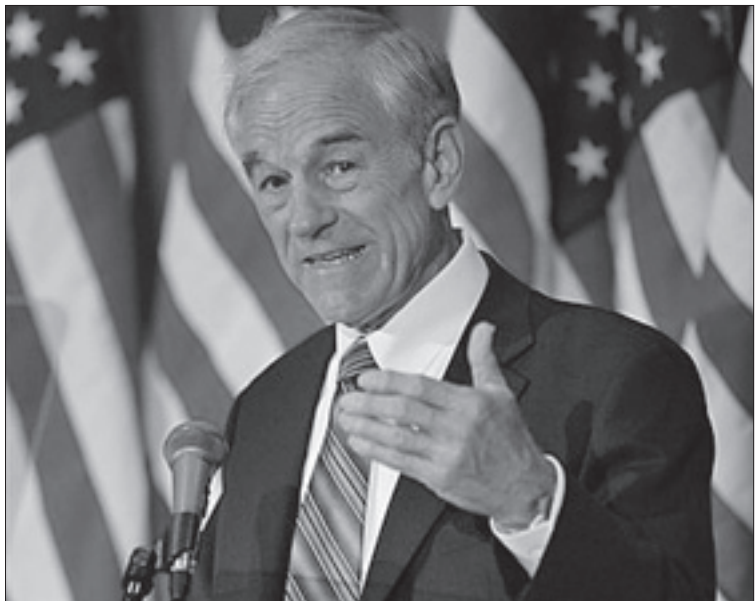
But again I ask why, in spite of all of this, has Paul failed to mount a serious push for the White House?

It pains me to admit that likeability has superseded honesty and policy as the foremost quality that attracts votes. If voters were still actually concerned with the principals and integrity of a candidate, wouldn't Paul, with all the above mentioned commonalities he shares with the American people, be the favorite

to win the election?

Friends, it's true America has not been well served by her leaders in recent years. As citizens we have a right and a responsibility to criticize this administration for its ineptitude, but we must ask ourselves this: with such a shallow and short-sighted approach to voting, are we not getting exactly the kind of leadership we deserve?

Personality should count for something. After all, we aren't electing a stack of policies and press releases for president. We're electing a living person, so it's necessary to a certain degree to take character and likeability into account. But voters please, consider substance over style when casting your ballot this year.



courtesy of thoughtmerchant.wordpress.com

Ron Paul

## Love: Factoring the equation

When one ponders exactly what the definition of the word "love" is, several supposed synonyms usually find their ways into the fray. "Care," "devotion," "like on steroids." However, none of these terms truly represent the actual sensation of mutual adoration. Love cannot be likened to any other human concept. It's the antidote to frustration, loneliness and depression, but it isn't akin to contentment, belonging or happiness, either.

My personal definition of the word can be abridged to binomial nomenclature. To me, love is quite simply "shared life." When one truly loves, he or she feels the physical and emotional necessity to be with their other of significance.

When the spiritual sharer is across the road, one is uncomfortable. If the spiritual sharer is on the floor above, the counter soul feels longing. When one



Somebody's got to say it

By James Swift  
jswift@student.highlands.edu  
Staff Writer

side of the equation does not e-mail the y factor for a day, y falls into the depths of near-anxiety attack levels.

Love enhances any and all emotions. When one is with their respective soul mate, light blithe transmogrifies into euphoria, and if one is sad in their presence, it turns into absolute heart-destroying misery. Love gives one an incentive to live, and alternately makes that life incredibly insufferable. Love is that alternately wonderful sense of ecstasy

and agony, from which there is no middle ground. Love is a goulash of all the emotions in the human psyche, yet is a feeling all its own.

How does one get through something like love? Frankly, it needs a future. Love requires planning and certainty. If it is true, both sides will agree on the course. Love is much like the domestication of a wild creature, for it needs taming, but not to the point that the creature becomes docile.

## Online Poll Results

Will you vote in the November Presidential election?

Yes: 95% No: 5%

## March online Poll

Do you think the national ID card is a good idea?

[www.highlands.edu/sixmilepost](http://www.highlands.edu/sixmilepost)

Last day to withdraw from classes Feb. 28



‘Futureproof’ for a captivating read

Book Review

By Ansley Fowler  
Staff Writer  
afowler8@studnet.highlands.edu

“Futureproof” by N. Frank Daniels is a gripping novel about growing up in America from the time someone enters high school until they reach adulthood. It is a novel that takes readers from the edge of their seats and pulls them right into the world Daniels creates.

It is a remarkable story about young adults trying to grow up in a time when parental control is completely turned off.

“Futureproof” is about teens that are gripping on to every ounce of hope they can gather to get to the end of the sometimes pitch-black tunnel of adolescence and into the light of being an adult.

The book opens with the main character, Luke, a nervous but eager fifteen-year-old, in his freshman year of high school. As

the story progresses Luke becomes more and more confident and distant from his almost dysfunctional family, so he tries to embark on the world with the help of his friends and girlfriend. Now, he must face the challenges of school, a job, friends and a girlfriend without any help or prior guidance from his family.

By the middle of the book Luke has moved a number of times, and he gets involved with the “wrong crowd.” He then struggles with keeping his friendships and his house, and keeping up his rapidly progressive drug addiction.

Although the story is dark at times, Daniels creates characters and situations that keep the reader cheering them on throughout the entire book.

On a scale of 1-5 “Futureproof” is without a doubt worthy of a number five rating. It is a book that can be enjoyed by both teen and adult readers.

It is currently only available on Amazon.com because Daniels recently signed with the publishing company Harper Perennial. The book should be widely available again by early 2009.

★★★★★

- ★ -Lost at the beginning
- ★ ★ -Didn't like it too much
- ★ ★ ★ -Not too bad
- ★ ★ ★ ★ -Read it once
- ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ -Would read it again

‘Last Crusade’ a classic well worth a second look



photo courtesy of imdb.com

Movie Review

By Colin Poe  
cpoe3@student.highlands.edu  
Staff Writer

When asked to identify the best movie ever created, many would reply with such movies as “Super Bad” or “Ben-Hur,” only to find that one can only take about an hour of Charlton Heston and about 30 minutes of crude sexual humor.

But when asked to identify the most masterful piece of cinematographic art, many might reply with “Indiana Jones and The Last Crusade.”

A movie from director/mastermind Steven Spielberg, the movie starts as Dr. Indiana Jones, portrayed faultlessly by

Harrison Ford, tries to find his father, a renowned archeologist much like himself who has gone missing in his search for the Holy Grail.

His son Indiana Jones must now find his father and stifle the attempts of the Nazis to steal the Holy Grail for their own devious motives.

This movie easily obtains five out of five stars.

It contains the perfect amounts of “movie perfection ingredients” such as action, drama, love and history. To have a movie that contains all of these “ingredients” is rare.

Maybe this movie could have gone for more Grail seeking action and more Nazi-slaying violence, but overall “Indiana Jones and The Last Crusade” is the best movie created to date.

The upcoming fourth and final sequel to the Indiana Jones “chronicles” is rumored to be just as good as “The Last Crusade” if not better.

In “Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull,” Ford does not try to appear young since the action takes place in the 1950s, whereas the three previous movies took place in the early 30s. Shia LeBeouf, better known as Louis Stevens from the Disney channel show “Even Stevens,” will play Ford’s young assistant.

The theatrical premier of “Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull” is set for May 22.

Musician Jennifer Daniels performs on March 3 at Cartersville and March 4 at Floyd, both at 12:30 p.m.

Community speaker series ‘Dolphins with Laura’ March 11 7 p.m. Floyd campus

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How much do you know about ‘House MD?’

1) What is Dr. Gregory House's specialty?

- A)Infectious disease, nephrology
- B)Infectious disease, immunology
- C)Infectious disease, neurology
- D) Infectious disease, oncology

2) What pharmaceutical does Dr. House go to rehab for?

- A) Xanax
- B)Morphine
- C)Vicodin
- D) Methadone

Answers:  
C B D A



# The ultimate monster film of the year so far

# The message of 1984 is still relevant in the 21st century



photo courtesy of imdb.com

By M. Cunningham  
mcunning4@studenthighlands.edu  
Staff Writer

Movie Review

This movie has all the charm of classic “monster” movies with good effects and an element of suspense. One thing that could have been better is the first fifteen to twenty minutes of the movie. It’s understandable for the writer to show character development, but it still leaves one with a nonchalant feeling for the people involved.

It was almost realistic except for the fact that not even an experienced cameraman could have held onto a camcorder throughout all the series of events that

transpired.

What kept me on the edge of my seat was waiting to see what the “monster” looked like. It almost had too much character and not enough “monster.” However, toward the end, the movie comes through and the audience gets what they’re asking for. Before watching it, one almost has to worry if this will be another “Blair Witch Project.” Thankfully, it was not.

The fact that it has the look of being filmed on a camcorder does add a touch of realism and suspense. It also adds a feeling of motion sickness. Be sure to take some Dramamine to avoid nausea if prone to this condition. The ending leaves a little something to be desired but I’m assuming that is because the producers are open to the possibility of sequels.

Overall, it was a decent movie. Probably best if seen in the theater because of sound and light effects that cannot usually be achieved at home. Just don’t expect to be blown away by the plot.

- ★ ★ ★
- ★ -Lost at the beginning
  - ★ ★ -Didn’t like it too much
  - ★ ★ ★ -Not too bad
  - ★ ★ ★ ★ -Saw it once
  - ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ -Would see it again

By Andrea Loveless  
aloveles4@studenthighlands.edu  
Staff Writer

Book Review

The novel “1984” by George Orwell is a classic tale depicting what life would be like if democracy was banished and political totalitarianism was given reign.

How would it be if we were told what to do and think, who we could marry and how often we could procreate, what jobs we could have and what we could watch on television? What if the government knew the thoughts in the apparent privacy of our own minds?

What if the suggested law about banning “baggy” pants was passed and it gave way to the government telling us that everyone must wear the same ugly outfit?



courtesy of amazon.com

In “1984” we follow the life of a man named Winston Smith who decides to take control. He falls for an attractive woman whom he meets at work. They go on outings to secluded areas, where the government’s cameras are very scarce and do what they want together. Eventually they are discovered and tormented. The government punishes them and puts them in isolation. No one knows where they are. No one cares where they are.

Smith is tortured and not allowed to see his love at all. Every day he is hurt in a more excruciating way than the day before until, finally, he breaks and falls right in line with the rulers of the country and the beliefs of “Big Brother” (the leading dictator).

He begins to believe everything he is told and becomes totally blind to the truth. The whole point of the novel is the key phrase “Ignorance is bliss.” But is turning a blind eye to the truth better than being aware of what is really going on in the world?

Everyone should read this excellent book and keep it in mind when casting a ballot in the next presidential election.

- ★ ★ ★ ★
- ★ -Lost at the beginning
  - ★ ★ -Didn’t like it too much
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  - ★ ★ ★ ★ -Read it once
  - ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ -Would read it again

Be sure to read the National ID story on page 4.




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# Caffeine contributes to miscarriages

By Desiree' Knight  
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Staff Writer

Recent scientific research shows caffeine could lead to a miscarriage, defined as a pregnancy loss before 20 weeks gestation. While a woman may not have to cut it completely out of her diet, its intake may need to be reduced during pregnancy. According to an article published in "Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology," expectant mothers who drank 200 milli-

grams or more of caffeine per day had about twice the miscarriage risk as women who drank none. Women who reported drinking less than 200 milligrams of caffeine per day were 40 percent more likely to miscarry than women who said they drank no caffeinated beverages. "My suggestion is women who are pregnant and women who are trying to become pregnant should consider stopping caffeine entirely," stated Dr. De- Kun Li, lead author and investigator with the Kaiser Permanente Di-

vision of Research. The Kaiser study, on the CNN website, looked at 1,063 women in the early stage of pregnancy. Among women who consumed no caffeine, the miscarriage rate was 12.5 percent. In comparison, 22.5 percent of women who consumed more than 200mg of caffeine a day miscarried. Some researchers claim the statistics cannot be scientifically accepted. They claim there is no significant correlation between miscarriage and caffeine con-

sumption. However, Dr. Jennifer Wu, a New York obstetrician, says the research is "accurate and has found a definitive correlation between caffeine consumption and miscarriage." According to Li, caffeine can cross through the placenta to the fetus and make it difficult for the fetus to metabolize the caffeine. Caffeine may slow cell development as well as reduce blood flow to the placenta, which can result in miscarriage. Researchers hope this study will raise awareness on the issue.

Amount of caffeine in these 8 oz drinks:

coffee104-192 mg

iced tea9-50 mg

soft drinks20-40 mg

hot chocolate3-32 mg

Source: American Beverage Association

# Rising cases of STDs in Northwest Georgia call for caution

By Sarah Abercrombie  
sabercro@student.highlands.edu  
Staff Writer

For most students college life represents a time of increasing independence and choices. New friends are made and freedoms are explored. As students become more independent and freer to make their own choices, risk taking is common. Risky sexual behaviors increase a person's odds for contracting sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including syphilis. Syphilis can cause life-threatening health problems if left untreated and is especially dangerous during pregnancy when in-

fection can cause birth defects and stillbirth. According to information from the Northwest Georgia Public Health Epidemiology Office, during 2006 Georgia ranked number three nationally in the reported syphilis case rates per 100,000 population and number five nationally in the actual number of reported syphilis cases. Public health officials are working in a cooperative national initiative aimed at reducing the rates of syphilis and other STDs. Syphilis is a major health concern in the South where nearly 50 percent of the nation's cases are diagnosed. Syphilis is most common in persons 20 to 39 years of age with

the highest rates in women 20 to 24 years of age, said Debra Abercrombie, Northwest Georgia Public Health's chief epidemiologist. In late 2007, Abercrombie developed the agency's "Syphilis Is Back - If You're At Risk, Get Tested" multi-media campaign using the internet, billboards, bumper stickers, posters and bookmarks to get the agency's STD risk reduction and testing message out to the ten counties in the northwest Georgia area. According to Abercrombie, the risk for contracting syphilis and other STDs, including gonorrhea and chlamydia, increases during unprotected sexual activity with partners whose STD sta-

tus is not known. Further, Abercrombie states that confidential, low-cost testing is available at all county health departments. Also, county health departments provide no-cost treatment to anyone testing positive for syphilis, gonorrhea and chlamydia and no-cost testing and treatment for referred partners of individuals with positive test results. Although effective and curative treatment is available for syphilis, gonorrhea and chlamydia, other STDs such as genital warts, genital herpes, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and some forms of infectious hepatitis can cause life-long health problems. HIV and hepa-

titis have the potential for fatal outcomes.

Related websites

For information on how to reduce your risk of contracting STDs, visit Northwest Georgia Public Health's syphilis campaign site at <http://www.GetTestedNWGeorgia.com>, the Georgia Public Health Syphilis Elimination Program site at <http://www.health.state.ga.us/programs/std/syphilis/index.asp> or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention STD site at <http://www.cdc.gov/std>.

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# Super Bowl reveals NFL’s least classiest coach



## The Extra Point

**Jeff Capen**  
[jcapen@student.highlands.edu](mailto:jcapen@student.highlands.edu)  
Staff Writer

Okay, so by now most of us know who Bill Belichick is. He’s the head coach of the New England Patriots, the team of the decade. He’s the proud bearer of—count ‘em-- five Super Bowl rings. He is widely considered the most ingenious coach in the National Football League. He’s also classless.

Before I go on, let me throw out a quick disclaimer. This particular column has nothing to do with the alleged

“Spygate.” I can give you a handful of reasons why I lack respect for Bill without delving into the cheating accusations brought against him by former Patriots employees.

He is often seen in a hoodie with cut-off sleeves. I realize that there are more important things than the way one dresses, but this man makes a Central Park hobo look classy. A head coach is generally considered the “face” of an organization. You’d figure this

would inspire Belichick to present himself in a professional manner. You’d be wrong.

Belichick is also known to run up scores on his opponents. Take, for example, week nine of the 2007 NFL season. Bill’s Patriots are up 38 points on the Washington Redskins late in the second half. Most coaches would be perfectly content in this situation to throw in second-stringers and run the ball to kill the clock. Not Belichick. He kept Tom Brady, Randy Moss and company on the field and continued tearing up the hopeless Skins with deep routes, leading to a colossal 52-7 victory.

A 45-point victory is, in my mind, unacceptable in the NFL. I know teams can come back quickly in today’s NFL, Bill, but seriously, there’s no way the Redskins were going to put up 39

unanswered in one quarter. You had the game well in hand...why continue to slaughter them?

What bothered me the most, though, was Belichick’s behavior during Super Bowl XLII. With two seconds left on the game clock at University of Phoenix Stadium, the New York Giants had stopped the Patriots’ final attempts to tie the score. Instead of watching the final play of his defeat, Belichick saw fit to quickly dash across the field to prematurely shake hands with Giants coach Tom Coughlin. He then slipped away into the locker-room along with most of his team, leaving the Giants to kneel the ball to officially end the game.

What Belichick did during Super Bowl XLII was nothing short of disgraceful. Never before have I seen such poor sportsman-

ship from a NFL coach. A coach should never leave the field early, win or lose. Nobody likes to lose, Bill Belichick can’t handle losing. He would rather leave the field early to go hide and wallow in his sorrow.

After the game, when Belichick was interviewed, he gave mainly two-word answers and never gave the Giants one word of credit or congratulations.

The New York Giants deserve more respect than that. Football fans deserve an opponent who doesn’t run up the score. The Patriots deserve a coach who doesn’t dress like a bum in the biggest game of their franchise history.

Belichick may be the most brilliant, influential coach in the league today, but he is far from the classiest.

# Motives vary for FIT participants

**By Erin Spearman**  
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Staff Writer

Josh Underwood, an Early Childhood Education major from Silver Creek, is just one of the many people participating in the FIT Program on the Floyd campus this semester.

His motivation was simple. “I looked in the mirror and I didn’t look like I did in high school,” Underwood said. He also said that when people have boyfriends or girlfriends, appearance makes a difference as well.

Underwood is a full-time student juggling work and school, but he says he finds it easy to make time for his six miles per week. “I run in between classes and at night,” he said. Underwood also pointed out that miles walked in the fitness walking class offered at GHC can count toward the FIT miles.

Also participating is Dr. Nancy Applegate, professor of English. This is her second semester in FIT, and she is definitely determined to surpass her

miles logged last semester. “There is just something about seeing your name on that paper with everyone else’s that really motivates you,” she says.


Applegate feels that more people should participate in this activity. She feels as though the convenience of this particular intramural program makes it a motivator.

There are approximately 198 participants in the walk-run and weightlifting segments of the FIT program this semester. There are 138 in the beginner walk-run category and 30 in the advanced category. Twenty people are participating in the beginner weightlifting and 10 in the advanced. The goal for the beginner walk-runner is 80 miles, while the goal for the advanced is to log 120 miles.

According to David Mathis, intramural sport coordinator, if participants go two weeks without logging in progress with Martha Kirkpatrick, senior secretary of physical education, their names will be removed from the log-in sheets.

# Volleyball Tournament Sign-Up through Feb. 22

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# Intramural 3X3 Basketball underway

By Hank Peppers  
Staff Writer  
lpeppers@student.highlands.edu

Two closely contested games began the 3-on-3 basketball season on Feb. 6.

In game one, the Bulls got off to a hot start and gained an early nine-point advantage. Though Nick Rucker brought the Celtics back with a barrage of three-point bombs, the Bulls held a slight advantage at the half.

The second half was very intense with several lead changes.

The Celtics had a chance to win at the end of regulation, but a three-point attempt by Rucker was off and Derrick Sams soared high to grab the rebound and sealed the 47-44 victory for the Bulls.

“Teamwork is all it takes to win,” stated Sams after the game.

Rucker, who led the Celtics with 23 points and hit five three-pointers in the losing effort, was still confident about his team.

“It was a good game, but the Bulls were just too much for us today,” he said.

The second game, between

the Hornets and Lakers, was also a heated contest with several long shots from downtown.

The Lakers came out strong, led by Terry Albert, who scored 14 of his team’s first 18 points. The Hornets, however, stayed tight and behind the hot shooting of Sarah Alford were able to gain an eight-point advantage by the half.

The Hornets were led in the second half by Beau Brown who had 14 points in the half, including one dunk. Brown finished with 22 points, helping the Hornets earn a 49-43 victory.

Alford, the lone girl in the action, enjoyed the win, stating, “It’s always fun to beat the guys.”

Albert, who scored 23 points, was not phased by the loss, saying, “It’s just one game, so I’m not worried.”

This season the teams were picked differently. To ensure a more competitive league, intramural director David Mathis held a draft prior to the games. Albert, Rucker, Hank Peppers and Corey Pitts were all assigned as captains and made picks until the teams were complete.

Intramural 3X3 Basketball games were canceled on Febuary 13 due to the 7-AA regional tournaments. Play will resume on February 20.

## Georgia Highlands hosts region 7- AA basketball tournaments



Photo by Amanda Stegall  
A player from the Chattooga Indians tries to score a two point shot.



Photo by Jessica Brumbelow  
Players line up for a foul shot during the tournaments at the Floyd campus.



Photo by Jessica Brumbelow  
The Adairsville team huddles during half time at the game against the Chattooga Indians.