

# SIX MILE POST

*The Student Voice*

February 17, 2009

[www.Sixmilepost.com](http://www.Sixmilepost.com)

Vol. 38, #5



**Will this sign become a reality?**

Photo Illustration by Jordan Penson

## **Women's History Month**

GHC celebrates women's contribution to history.

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## **Proposed Merger**

Future GHC students face the possibility of no longer being part of the University System.

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## **A new beginning?**

Smithsonian Exhibit depicts Vietnamese life in America after the Vietnam War.

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**Georgia Highlands College - Rome, Georgia**



# GHC status threatened by state proposal

By Sean Jepson  
Staff Writer

A recent state proposal could potentially shift two-year colleges out of the University System of Georgia. The result could lead to two-year colleges being administered by the technical college board.

Gov. Sonny Perdue formed a committee last summer after the release of a national report entitled "Tough Choices or Tough Times." The committee was asked to find improvements in the state's education system. Dr. Charles Knapp, former president of the University of Georgia, was appointed to chair the committee.

On Dec. 15, the committee sent their draft proposal, "Georgia's Tough Choices or Tough Times," to the governor. The proposal recommends charging the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) with administering all technical and two-year academic programs and leaving the University System to focus exclusively on research, four-year programs and graduate programs.

The proposal has raised many concerns such as loss of tenure for faculty and students' ability to transfer credits to four-year colleges.

"We have a position on the tenure rights of faculty who



Photo by Jordan Penson

**Georgia Highlands College's seal may soon lose its University System of Georgia title.**

could be affected by such a merger," said Dr. Hugh Hudson, executive secretary of the Georgia chapter of the American Association of University Professors.

"Faculty in these institutions need professional conditions and academic protection in order to provide their students with the highest standards of instruction," said Hudson. "As for removing tenure rights without due process, that would have to be settled in court."

In January, Dr. Catherine

King, president of the GHC chapter of AAUP, sent an open letter to GHC students encouraging them to oppose a merger.

The letter encouraged students to ask how two-year colleges would maintain their accreditation and how students would be able to move into the University System under the proposal.

Currently, the governor has tasked Erroll B. Davis Jr., chancellor of the University System of Georgia, and Ron Jackson, commissioner of the

TCSG to investigate areas that may be underserved by accessing institutions.

"At this point," said Davis, "the Governor has asked us to study how we can best provide access to education in communities where we do not have an access institution, and if there are synergies to be gained between us and the technical colleges."

Davis said the questions and concerns being raised at this point are still "quite premature."

"If a merger were to oc-

cur, the biggest changes would probably occur at the administrative level. Students should still be able to transfer credits," said Dr. Randy Pierce, president of Georgia Highlands College.

Pierce understands the benefits of the University System of Georgia access institutions. "If it were not for a two-year college I wouldn't have been able to obtain an education," he said.

GHC has an ongoing relationship with local technical colleges, offering numerous cooperative programs while remaining in the University System and maintaining separate missions.

However, a Kentucky newspaper reported last March that after more than a decade since that state's technical colleges and community colleges merged fewer students were transferring.

According to the news report, reasons for the decline in transfer students included university requirements that make it difficult to transfer credits and universities' reluctant to recruit students from Kentucky's Community and Technical College System.

Discussions are still preliminary, and it remains uncertain if the proposed change will occur.

## Due to economy, enrollment could soon be capped

By Will Floyd  
Staff Writer

Errol B. Davis Jr., chancellor of the University system of Georgia, suggested in his annual "State of the University System" address that it may be time to cut enrollment at Georgia's public colleges in order to maintain quality, according to a report in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution on Jan. 4.

"We will recommend to you that we restrict access before we knowingly allow quality to degrade," said Davis, who was speaking to the State Board of Regents.

Davis was mainly speaking to the fact that budget cuts have cost the University System a great deal of money.

According to Davis, state colleges and universities have seen their budgets cut by \$182 million, while adding 23,000 students.

Dr. Randy Pierce, president of Georgia Highlands College, believes that cutting enrollment

should be a last resort.

"I think that would be the last thing that anybody would want to do because that defeats the whole purpose of what we're here for. We're here not to limit access, but to serve the students that want to further their education to whatever level they want to reach, and they should be allowed to do that," said Pierce.

Davis also expressed concern about faculty salaries in the University System.

He said the average salaries for four-year public faculty have fallen compared to those in other southern states.

Pierce states that nothing has changed in terms of salaries at Georgia Highlands.

Pierce says the faculty this year had signed a contract, and the contract was based on last year's salary plus at least 2.5 percent.

"There were a few positions we didn't fill at the beginning of the year when we knew the cuts were coming, but other than that, nothing has changed," said Pierce.

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Photo by Chiara VanTubbergen

LaTonya Burrell (right) accepts the SMP's first place award for news coverage.

## Six Mile Post wins awards

By Tyler Ashley  
Assistant Editor

The Six Mile Post brought home 16 awards from the Georgia College Press Association conference in Athens on Feb. 7.

Among the awards from the statewide contest were first place awards for best news and sports coverage and second place in the General Excellence category. Individual award winners included James Swift, Jordan Penson, LaTonya Burrell and Tyler Ashley, Jeff Capen and Andrew Cole.

"It's exciting. Winning the awards this weekend reaffirms the effort that the staff, photographers and editors put into

making the paper possible," said LaTonya Burrell, Six Mile Post editor.

Will Floyd, journalism major from Rome, was elected treasurer for the GCPA, and Swift, a journalism major from Cartersville, was elected as a two-year college board member.

"I feel very proud to be able to represent Georgia Highlands as treasurer for the GCPA board of directors. I am glad to gain the experience and the responsibility," said Floyd, Six Mile Post staff writer.

Throughout the day, the SMP participated in clinics and critique sessions at the Classic Center that were intended to better the newspaper.

Attendees from the SMP included Burrell, Chiara VanTubbergen, Ashley, Swift and Floyd, as well as advisers Dr. Kristie Kemper and Cindy Wheeler.

"Of the classes I attended, the most informative was the brainstorming class. The speaker shared two of her most helpful brainstorming techniques, webbing and observation/question and had us practice them by interacting with each other," said VanTubbergen.

"I was very proud of the showing the Six Mile Post made at this year's Press Institute. The staff worked very hard and certainly deserve the recognition," said Kemper.

## Students have concerns with conditions at Marietta

By Hanna Yu  
Staff Writer

Students have concerns regarding the GHC's Marietta site, including parking and issues with the classrooms.

The main issue with the Southern Poly campus, which houses the GHC classes, is its continuous lack of parking spaces.

The school is aware of this problem as it is currently in the process of building a much needed parking deck.

Brent Griffin, Marietta site director, enthusiastically says how the parking deck should be finished by the fall of 2009.

Current GHC student, Patrick Corcoran, jokes how students should "peel decals off cars so people get towed, consequently creating more parking

spaces."

Another issue is the temperature in the classrooms. Problems occur with the building's fluctuating temperature, which unpredictably varies from room to room.

Other complaints have been made about the size of the desks, seemingly fit for kindergartners, instead of college students.

Even though GHC faces issues with its building, Griffin proudly states that "the enrollment is the largest it's ever been, with about 880 students." He also mentioned how such a large student body can be quite a "strain on the facility."

In spite of everything, GHC student Felicia Gadberry said, "The priority of going to college is the education rather than the facility."



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# If it ain't broke, don't fix it

## Leave two-year colleges alone

There has been a lot of conversation lately about Gov. Sonny Perdue and the possibility of a merger of the two-year colleges in the University System of Georgia (USG) and the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG).

It is a pending decision left to the discretion of the governor and the legislators.

The origin of the pending merger started with the national report "Tough Times or Tough Choices."

The report mostly talks about how to make the primary and secondary public school systems better so the students will have a more competitive edge globally.

It talks about the deficiencies that the public school systems face.

Perdue took high interest in the report and commissioned a committee to investigate the role that two-year colleges have in the USG.

What Perdue failed to do, however, was place representatives of two-year schools on the committee.

This seemingly diminishes the importance of two-year colleges.

The merger, in wording, is quite simple.

The two-year colleges under the USG will be absorbed by the TCSG. The actions to complete the merger are complicated.

Issues concerning course curriculum and transferring grades have yet to be hammered out.

This would be a devastating outcome. This merger could hinder the possibilities of future students.

Instead of having two options of post-secondary education, students would only be allowed one.

The most unfortunate part about the prospect of this pending merger is that not only was there no two-year representation on the

committee, but there seems to be great effort in keeping this information behind closed doors.

If there was ever a time to voice our opinion, now is the time.

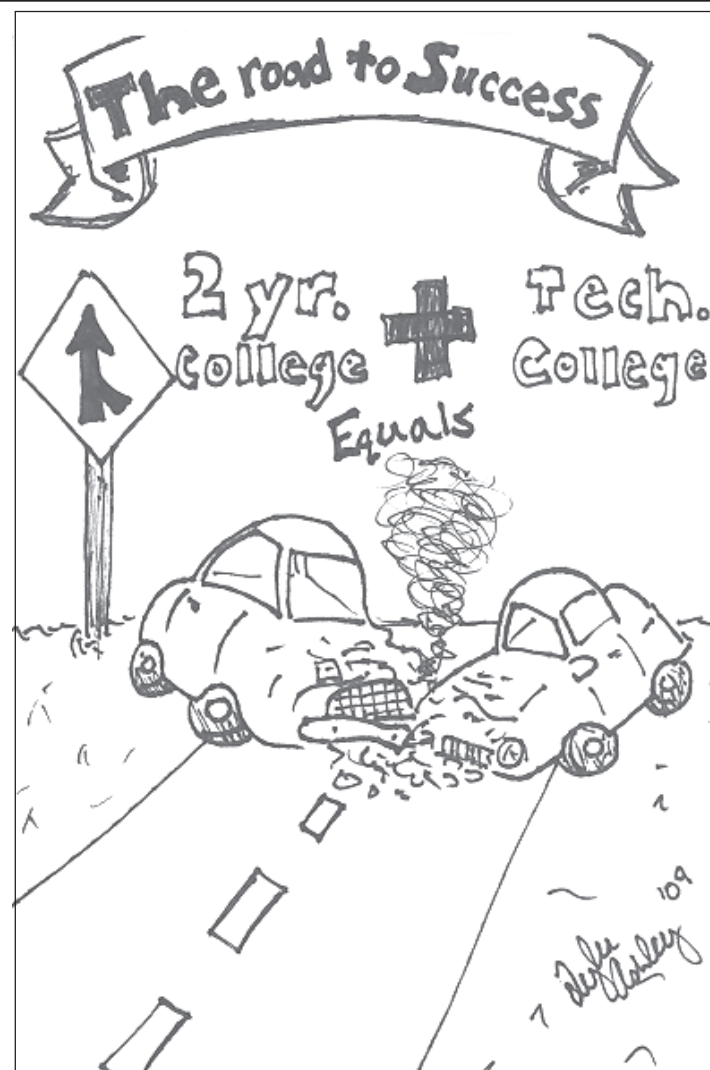
Let the governor and the legislators who represent us know our stance in this matter.

It may not affect our future plans, but our friends and family may suffer the consequences of this controversial merger.

Two-year colleges help bridge the gap between high school and college for most people.

Students are able to take the time and required classes needed without the hassle of wondering if their credits will transfer.

It is also the perfect venue for students who truly desire to go to college but because of a low GPA or financial reason are unable to start at a four-year college.



Cartoon by Tyler Ashley, 2009

## Trade in your mop bucket

Life comes at us fast.

Just last year, I escaped a two-and-a-half year long job working at a hometown grocery store. Stuck in that place, mopping and sweeping 16 aisles every night, I often felt as if I was suspended in life's cold purgatory. Don't get me wrong, I loved the people, but staying there was a rusty ball and chain that kept me stationary, always reaching for more.

I let a few opportunities to leave that place pass me by. I look back on it now and wonder what I was thinking.

Hundreds of opportunities pass us in a month, and the only thing that stops us from taking them is the fear of losing that comfort zone, fear of stepping out into the water and getting wet.



### Editor's Box

**Nick Godfrey**  
Assistant Editor

A great man once told me, "The world isn't waiting for you." And, I have come to notice that now more than ever.

The only person that can make anything happen in life is you. We have a hard time accepting that and often would just rather stay in a comfortable nothing's-ever-different life, but one day we all have to look back on our lives.

We all have to look back and ask ourselves, "Did I trade in

my mop bucket for an adventure?"

I challenge everyone, including myself, to take one or another step towards his or her dreams. This is our moment and our chance; because time never stops, we shouldn't waste it.

No matter how bad the weather (or economy) might get, let's try to push ourselves to achieve just a little more.

Carpe Diem.

## Six Mile Post

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The "Six Mile Post," a designated public forum named after the old railroad station and trading post that was once located near where the college was founded in Floyd County, publishes seven print and online issues a year and is funded through student activity fees and ad revenue.

Letters to the Editor may be brought to the SMP office, emailed to [6mpost@student.highlands.edu](mailto:6mpost@student.highlands.edu), or mailed to Editor, "Six Mile Post," 3175 Cedartown Highway Rome, GA 30161. Letter must be signed by the author. Publication and editing of letter will be at the editors.





## Voice of Reason

By James Swift  
Staff Writer

### Introducing the J. Swift Underdog Achievement Scholarship

As my tenure at this fine institute dwindles away as does the wick of a long-burning candelabrum, a rather demoralizing notion recently enveloped my cerebral formations as I scoured through potential scholarship literature.

There are, seemingly, scholarships for everything: sports ability, academic achievement, musical talent. Yet, for some unfathomable reason, the most important of human attributes is not deemed worthy of scholastic endowment: the gift of heart.

My stay at this facility, quite admittedly, has been an arduous, uphill battle from the get-go. I have wept, scrapped, and bled in order to obtain my associate degree, and sans formal financial aid (as my HOPE scholarship was revoked, rather commendably, the day tuition was due), I have had to rely on a keen sense of perseverance as my sole source of academic progression.

Why isn't such an admirable characteristic rewarded? I pondered that sentiment for

quite some time, and since no one seems to champion such a virtue...

...I decided to start my own scholarship program.

As of this printing, I am proud to announce the formation of the J. Swift Memorial Underdog Achievement Scholarship.

Granted, I am not quite dead enough to qualify for "memorial" stature, but the notion that I shall be dead enough someday is sufficient to compel me to place it within the official moniker.

The scholarship is available for ALL current Georgia Highlands students meeting the following criteria: he or she must have a GPA of at least a 3.0 and (for the fall 2009 semester) be ineligible for HOPE funding.

To apply, simply submit an essay (three page minimum) detailing why your hard work, persistence and determination are worth a \$623.13 allocation to [jswift@student.highlands.edu](mailto:jswift@student.highlands.edu). (The deadline is April 30,

2009, at midnight).

The recipient will be informed of his or her allotment before this year's graduation ceremonies. For those of you with inquisitive mentalities, that figure was arbitrarily selected because that was the amount I owed the school hours before my college tenure was to be truncated severely.

I suppose there must be some exposition for such an arrangement. It is often stated that within the frame of all philanthropists beats a heart clogged with guilt.

I guess there is some validity behind that statement, yet my rationale is focused upon one simple founding: At my most dire of times, my collegiate standing was kept afloat via outside contributions of a most generous nature.

Now, as my occupancy of this edifice comes to finality, I realize that it is now MY obligation to give someone else "a shot."

Consider this nothing more than tangible reaffirmation of The Golden Rule.

## Letters to the Editor

### Rebuttal to the Ping Pong editorial

Dear Editor,

In response to the editorial about the game room, I must say that the condition of gaming tables are a direct reflection of the behavior and treatment by the very student patrons you claim deserve better.

Two ping-pong tables have been broken in half by students sitting on them. Parts of the foosball table have been snapped off and the glass-top cracked by students propping themselves and books on its side. We spent nearly \$500 last year to repair the side rails on the pool tables that were broken off by – you guessed it – students sitting on them!

At the beginning of the semester, I equipped the game room on the Floyd Campus with four brand-new, fresh out of the package ping-pong paddles on Jan. 20. ALL FOUR paddles were broken by Jan. 23...not even lasting a week. These paddles, as those before it, are victims of the "devastating slams" into the side of the tables caused by a missed shot or failed point. The "zen" of ping-pong appears less calming

to some than you would infer.

Why should more money be put into the game room facilities for new tables if the students using them do not take care of the equipment? When you pitched a fit and broke a toy as a child, did your parents run right out and purchase a bigger and better new toy? Positive reinforcement of negative behavior is not our policy and will not be rewarded as such.

Grown adults should not need to be policed and babysat at all times to ensure compliance of the rules and respect of the facilities. In the past we were able to hire a student worker to serve as game room attendant, but recent budget cuts eliminated those funds. The posted rules declare that all users of the game room are responsible for the behavior of each other. But when no one is abiding by the rules, who is willing to take a stand and call out the misbehaviors? The apparent answer has been "no one."

Sincerely,

John Spranza

Director of Student Life

### Much is different the second time around

I am attending Georgia Highlands College as a 42 year old student, working full time and have one child in high school and one attending college at the University of Georgia.

This is my second time around at GHC, having once attended while it was known as Floyd Junior College in 1984-1985.

There are many things that are the same about the college, in that I see familiar faces in college professors, the Six Mile Post, The Old Red Kimono, and some of the same student organizations with their colorful flyers on the walls.

There are also many differences the second time around. Not just in my study habits either!

I see power point instructions, distance learning, online courses and College by DVD.

These were not options when I attended before; options

that give a variety of people with different backgrounds the opportunity to achieve or further their education.

The largest noticeable difference I see from 1984 and 2009 is the lack of hustle and bustle in the student center.

In 1984, we had to fight for a place to sit between classes and at lunch. We ate there, partly because we had a full service cafeteria, studied there and socialized there.

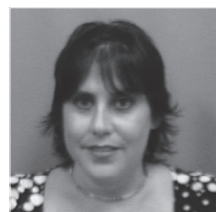
I guess with the newer options such as distance learning and more campuses elsewhere and no cafeteria, fewer students linger.

In any case, I am glad there are more options available now for someone like me to continue their delayed education.

Debbie McCullough  
Health Information  
Management  
Rome, Ga.

### The Six Mile Post

would like to express sympathy and sadness to the family and friends of



*Debra Melinda Nave*  
Feb. 13, 1970- Feb. 2, 2009

Go to [www.sixmilepost.com](http://www.sixmilepost.com) to read a tribute to Nave.



# From physics to cave diving, Pergrem explores it all

By Nick Godfrey  
Assistant Editor

Among Georgia Highlands' elite teaching force are professors from all walks of life. One of these is Mark Pergrem, assistant professor of physics.

Born in Mount Sterling, Ky. and raised in Illinois, Pergrem traveled from Kentucky to North and South Carolina before finally moving to Georgia.

"I was born in Kentucky, although at the time my folks were living in Illinois. Most of my family lived in Kentucky, so when my grandfather died, they had come back for the funeral," said Pergrem.

Pergrem attended Georgia Tech and obtained his master's degree in physics. He taught at Georgia Perimeter College and took a few years to teach high school in Adairsville. He now teaches physical science and physics at GHC.

He enjoys teaching these particular subjects, because it allows him to make the compli-

cated side of science simpler for students.

"I like to say complicated things in simple everyday English. My area is complicated techno-geek speak, sometimes. I like to figure out analogies or verbiage that allows me to say that in ordinary ways," Pergrem said.

Pergrem said he enjoys teaching at GHC more than at any other institution he has taught at, mainly because of the faculty and students.

He said that the multi-campus system is a blessing and a curse.

"It's certainly time consuming to be on the road as much as we have to, but then again it's a whole different vibe at each of the campuses. It can be tiresome, but then again you get to go to a lot of different places and do a lot of different things," said Pergrem.

In his spare time, Pergrem enjoys traveling to Mexico and North-Central Florida to cave dive.

"Cave diving is kind of my passion at the moment. There are a lot of places to go, but the world's center of cave diving is in North Central Florida. Almost any given weekend you go down, you'll find folks who have flown in from all over the world to train there," said Pergrem.

Pergrem hopes that his students will be able to learn a lot more than scientific facts in his course.

"Further down the road, later in life, it's not so much about regurgitating facts as it is to go back and figure stuff out on your own," Pergrem said.

"At the end of the day, what we hope is that students

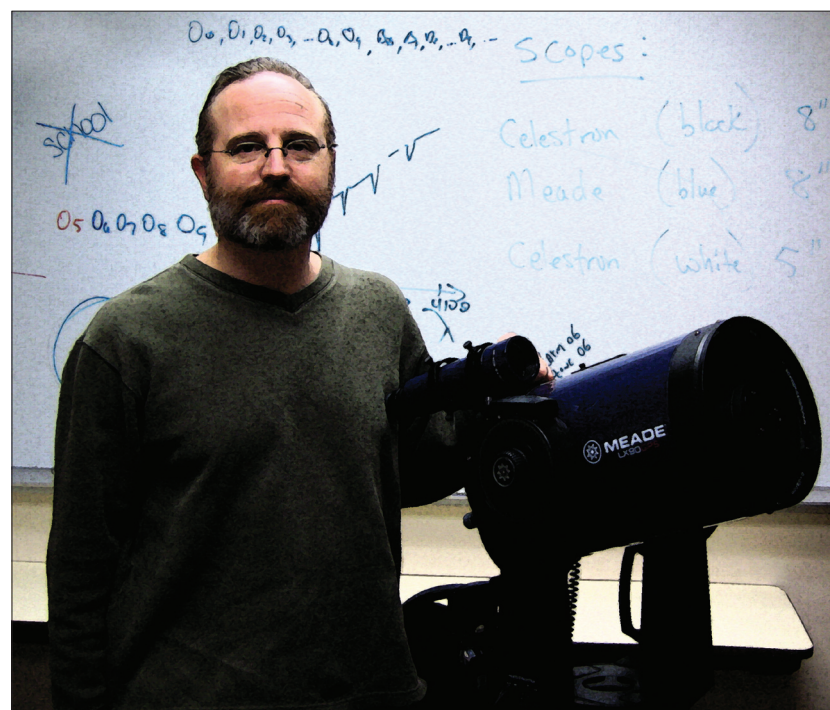


Photo by Chiara VanTubergen

**Pergrem describes the proper way to use a telescope to his classes.**

are able to figure stuff out for themselves. A lot of times there is a misconception that the faculty's job is to answer all the

questions, but really our job is to help folks get to the point that they can answer the questions," Pergrem said.

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## Thanh Nguyen passes the US citizenship test with ease

By Lesley Mathis  
Staff Writer

During her winter break from Georgia Highlands, Thanh Nguyen, biology major from Rome, became an American citizen after living in the United States for almost 10 years.

Nguyen was born in Malaysia. She moved back to her parents' home country, Vietnam, when she was seven. In 1999, her parents decided that America offered their family better opportunities, so they decided to cross the ocean to a new home. Nguyen, along with her mother, father, brother and sister all moved to California.

"My parents thought that the United States would have better living, more opportunities and a good education for all of us," Nguyen said.

The path to citizenship is not the easiest. There is a \$600 fee that applicants have to pay for their application just to be reviewed. Nguyen, however, was eligible to waive the fee because she is a student.

Potential citizens also have to take a test in order to officially receive their citizenship.

Nguyen said, "The test wasn't hard for me. I already knew English very well, so I could understand the questions easily. I did have to study a lot, though. There were a lot of questions about history from a long time ago."

Not everyone is able to get through the test so easily. Nguyen said that her parents failed twice before they were finally able to pass.

After going through the long process of filling out applications and taking the test, Nguyen became an American citizen on Jan. 8, 2009.

Nguyen enjoys her life in the United States very much.

"My favorite part about living in the United States is everything. The environment is so much better. I have better opportunities in all aspects of



Photo by Jordan Penson  
**Thanh Nguyen**

my life. I can have a higher education and a much better living style," said Nguyen.

Despite her love of the United States, Nguyen has not forgotten

ten her home in Vietnam. Just last month, she and her dad went to visit her sister who still lives in Vietnam. This was the first trip she made since moving to the United States.

"We went to Vietnam for her wedding. My sister is pregnant now, so my dad and I may go back next year to see her and my new niece," said Nguyen.



## GHC to celebrate Women's History Month with events on two campuses

By Chiara VanTubbergen  
Staff Writer

Maya Angelou, an African American poet, once said, "How important it is for us to recognize and celebrate our heroes and she-roes!"

March has been set aside to recognize the struggles and celebrate the accomplishments of women throughout history.

Female students, faculty and staff of GHC will come together and offer presentations about the "she-roes" throughout history from the ancient women of Mesopotamia to Kate Chopin, Mary Shelley and Catherine the Great.

These presentations will take place at the Floyd campus on Monday, Mar. 9, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Lakeview Art Gallery.

A different set of presentations will be offered at the Cartersville campus on Tuesday, Mar. 10, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. in the college library.

"I have six women presenting an array of exciting talks about women and multi-ethnic, global women's issues, from ancient times until today, encircling the planet. Several drama majors will be performing theatrical pieces. In addition, we will have women students

presenting their visual art," said Melissa Keith, English instructor and coordinator for the Women's History Month events in Cartersville.

"We very much want the event to be multidisciplinary and we are currently seeking students from science classes and social science classes to participate," said Keith.

Bethany Evans, Floyd campus student and participant in the presentations, said, "It will be fascinating to observe how the event pans out. I am optimistic about it."

"I'm really excited to see that the females of our generation truly care about our women's history and the accomplishments they have made! Now it is our turn to set the bar even higher for generations to come," said Colleen Fries, Floyd campus.

For more information regarding the events on the Floyd campus, please e-mail Carla Patterson, assistant professor of English, at [cpatters@highlands.edu](mailto:cpatters@highlands.edu) or Dr. Laura Musselwhite, professor of history, at [lmusselw@highlands.edu](mailto:lmusselw@highlands.edu).

For information regarding the events on the Cartersville campus, please e-mail Melissa Keith at [mkeith@highlands.edu](mailto:mkeith@highlands.edu) or Rachel Wall at [rwall@highlands.edu](mailto:rwall@highlands.edu).



Photo by Chiara VanTubbergen

### A New Beginning

Tiffani Holbrook views the Smithsonian exhibit in the Lakeview Art Gallery on the Floyd Campus. The exhibit offers an in-depth look at Vietnamese immigration to America. The exhibit will be on display until Mar. 2. The hours are Monday - Thursday 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m. until noon.

### Upcoming Events at GHC

Poet John Goode  
Feb. 23 Cartersville  
noon

Feb. 24 Floyd 12:15 p.m.

Musician Valerie Custer  
Mar. 9 Cartersville noon  
Mar. 10 Floyd 12:15p.m.

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## Features

### Cartersville GHC student teaches service dog to aid autistic children through college exposure

By Gwen Hennessee  
Staff Writer

Caleb, a German shepherd, is in training with Georgia K9 Academy and is being socialized on the Cartersville campus.

Caleb is experiencing GHC as a lot of new students do. He has a lot to learn and sees so many new faces, while learning to adapt to new people and accomplishing his goals.

Service animals are used in a variety of ways and can be trained to retrieve mail, turn lights on and off, open doors, lead the blind and aid in helping people get up or down.

Service animals also alert the deaf and protect people who have seizures, making them an invaluable asset to adults and children with disabilities or special needs.

Jennifer Fair, a student on the Cartersville campus, is Ca-

leb's handler and is working to socialize him on the campus.

Caleb is trained to only trail the scent of Fair's nephews, James and Eric, who are four-year-old twin boys diagnosed with autism at eighteen months of age.

"Part of Caleb's training is to aid the boys in building social relationships. Autistic children have a hard time understanding physical boundaries and proper social etiquette. Since having Caleb, both boys have begun to behave in a proper manner at school and other public places," said Fair.

Caleb also provides a level of safety to the boys. Autistic individuals are known for being proficient escape artists. They have no sense of danger. Therefore when they get out of the house or wander away from the family, they have no realization that they are lost.

Scent increases when the fight or flight sympathetic nervous system reaction is activated.

However, the boys do not have an increase in scent due to their lack of fear. This makes Caleb's job harder, but because of his extensive training he will still be able to pick up and maintain their scent.

Service animals are not pets. They are working animals used to reduce barriers faced by the disabled in today's society. These animals are professional, determined and dedicated to their jobs. They spend their days helping those in need.

Because of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), service animals are always welcome in any establishment open to the public, including restaurants, hotels, taxis, stores, medical facilities, theaters, health clubs, and parks.



Photo by Gwen Hennessee

Caleb is being trained by GHC student Jennifer Fair to be a service dog for her autistic twin nephews.

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## Book Review

# Novel prevails against time

By Hanna Yu  
Staff Writer

Hunter S. Thompson began as a journalist, most recognized for being the founder of Gonzo Journalism, a style of reporting where the reporters are so involved with the actions that they become central figures in their stories. His articles soon became inspirations for his developing novels.

According to the Hunter S. Thompson, *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* was "a failed experiment in gonzo journalism."

Ironically, his supposed "failed experiment" became one of his most famous novels and was even made into a cult classic film, featuring movie giant Johnny Depp as Thompson's alter ego, Raoul Duke.

Depp, being a method ac-



tor, lived with Thompson in his basement to fully inhabit his unique and eccentric mannerisms. Depp's portrayal of the legendary Hunter S. Thompson is impressively accurate and

does well in satisfying Thompson's many fans.

"Fear and Loathing" is about Thompson's savage attempt to find the American Dream, yet along the way he and his attorney, Dr. Gonzo, find themselves in drug induced episodes laced with terror and paranoia.

"Fear and Loathing" is filled with scenes of pure genius; from the psychedelic hotel scene with Raoul Duke's vivid visions of ravaging reptiles, to the profound nightclub scene when Raoul Duke sees a haunting image of his older self, which then flashes to a quick cameo of the actual Hunter S. Thompson.

The success of this film further propelled Thompson's fame and evolution from a journalist to a novelist and eventually to a cult icon.

## Music Review

# 'Love Lockdown': a lyrical letdown

By Colin Poe  
Staff Writer

Kanye West has really let us down this time. Since the release of his new album '808 and Heartbreak,' many fans have taken a step back with comments such as, "It's not him," and "Why is he trying to sing?"

With remarks like these, it's no wonder this album has led to such disappointment in the fan department.

The album is riddled with whiny anecdotes of past women who apparently "did him wrong," wrong enough to inspire an entire album divulging his innermost anguish of such wrong doing.

With such radio hits as "Love Lockdown," "Heartless," and "Amazing" featuring artist Young Jeezy, we can safely assume that this

is definitely not the Kanye of the past with his cocky, arrogant attitude and "Gotti" materialistic tendencies.

This album's debut is a letdown for West's fans. If he

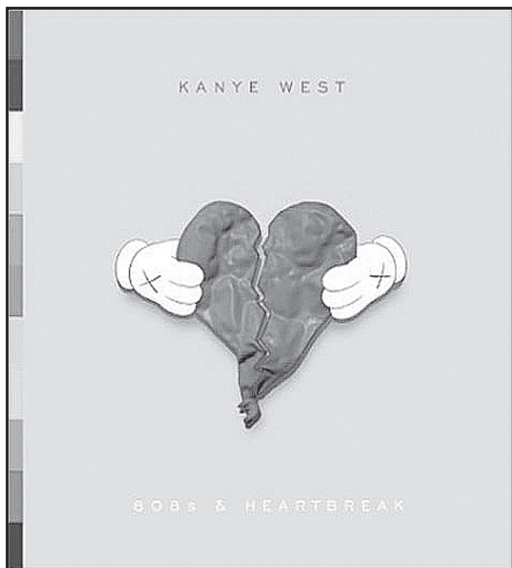
"Hot Chocolate Sadness."

Whatever the case, it is wholly disappointing. If his fans wanted an emotionally induced convulsion, they could have purchased a Hawthorne Heights album to which they could appropriately cry and/or whine.

It "808's and Heartbreak" consists of 12 heart-wrenching tracks with such hip-hop superstars as Lil' Wayne and Young Jeezy featured on the track, but not even the likes of two such talents could pull this album out of the sullen mood it seems to be stuck in.

On a scale of one to five stars, this album undoubtedly receives two stars, on the grounds that it is Kanye and it did have some pretty sick beats, but its subject matter is diluted and indeed a "lyrical letdown." Good

luck next time, Kanye.



wanted a warmer reception he should have possibly named it "Campfires and Crying" or

## Movie Reviews

# 'Slumdog': superhit

By Sana Hamid  
Staff Writer

"Slumdog Millionaire" proves to be a story not just of a hopeful contestant on a game show from poverty-stricken Mumbai, India, but of unexpected joys and friendships.

Despite the hardships shown in the film of being a young child going through life without food, shelter or money, an inspirational message is set forth.

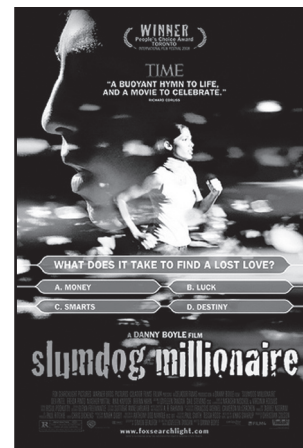
Seventeen-year-old orphan Jamal Malik becomes a contestant on India's version of "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire." Being an uneducated boy from the slums, he is accused of cheating and is sent into interrogation, where we discover how he actually knows his answers. Flashbacks from his childhood haunt his every move as he tries to capture the title of a millionaire.

Director Danny Boyle, who is known for movies such as "Trainspotting," definitely grasps the life of a boy grow-

ing up in the darkest of places. Although the cast of "Slumdog Millionaire" may not be well known across the globe, their deliverance is exhilarating, truly capturing the audience within the scene.

Though the characters in the film seem to develop very little, viewers can relate easily.

Not only does this movie revolve around the characters, but the great city of Mumbai and its progression to one of the busiest and colorful cities of the world is shown in the movie as



well.

The bittersweet film has already won the Golden Globe for best motion picture drama and best original score by A.R. Rahman, as well as the Screen Actors Guild Award for outstanding performance by a cast in a motion picture. The film has also been nominated for numerous Academy Award categories, including best picture.

"Slumdog Millionaire" is like a book the reader just can't put down.

# 'Underworld' rises above

By Zac Bodkin  
Staff Writer

Are you interested in stories and events that have to do with mythical creatures? Is your life in need of some action and suspense? If so then seeing "Underworld: Rise of the Lycans" is the perfect movie.

This intense film which outlines events concerning first Half-Human Lycan, Lucian (Michael Sheen) shows the struggle between loyalty to royalty and human rights.

The majority of this film takes place in the Middle Ages and shows the building of an

immortal army for Viktor (Bill Nighy) king of a land toiled by attacks on non-human werewolves.

All the while Viktor's daughter, Sonja (Rhona Mitra) and Lucian are involved in an intense and loving relationship, and if realized by Viktor will mean trouble to both his daughter and her lover.

This movie attracts fans and non-fans of Lycanthropy and Vampirism alike. Embedded with special effects, brilliant make-up, and scenes of love and sadness, this movie will ignite feelings audience members didn't know they had.



# Floyd vs. Benavidez: Who will win the NBA MVP?



## Lebron James

Will Floyd  
Staff Writer



## Kobe Bryant

Eric Benavidez  
Staff Writer

In the NBA, very few players are quality enough to be considered as most valuable player candidates. Lebron James is one of those select few.

In my eyes, he is consistently the most dominant and valuable player in the league.

He makes everyone around him better and is always ready to take the big shot in the last second with the game on the line.

He is able to take his team on his back and make things happen that seem so outlandish it is almost hard to not stop and say, "Did he really just do that?!"

During the Thanks-

giving holiday, I had the opportunity to see James and the Cavaliers play.

Most people have seen highlights of James's achievements on television, but watching him in person is a different thing altogether.

It becomes even clearer that he is on a completely different level than the other players around him.

The truly amazing thing, however, is the fact that he makes all his teammates so much better while averaging 27.8 points per game.

James spreads the ball around as well as any player in the game, averaging 7 assists a

game, while leading the Cavaliers to an NBA Eastern Conference second best record of 37 wins and 9 losses, and to an undefeated and NBA best of 22 wins and 0 losses at home.

Without James, I seriously doubt that the Cavaliers would even be in the playoff discussion, much less the discussion for the best team in the entire NBA.

Everything that happens for Cleveland goes through him, and without him, everything comes to a halt.

He means more to his team than any other player and should be named MVP at the end of the season.

Kobe Bryant, the reigning MVP, deserves the title for this season as well.

Bryant is a competitor, plain and simple.

In the game against the Cavaliers, on one of the first Cavalier possessions, Bryant went up against Lebron James and didn't back down, playing with a dislocated ring finger on his shooting hand and giving his team confidence.

In the overtime loss to the Charlotte Bobcats, Bryant fouled out, and the Lakers seemed to lose focus, thus losing the game.

He has the ability to dictate the game, and

it is clear that without Bryant in the game, the Lakers wouldn't be the top team in the West.

What Bryant has that no other MVP candidate has is the ability to close games.

Ask anybody the question, "Who'd you rather give the ball to in the last seconds of a close game?"

Most people would say Bryant, who has a better FG and 3-pt percentage than most MVP candidates. Just think of all the game-winning shots he has made.

By looking at his stats, one can clearly see that he plays better

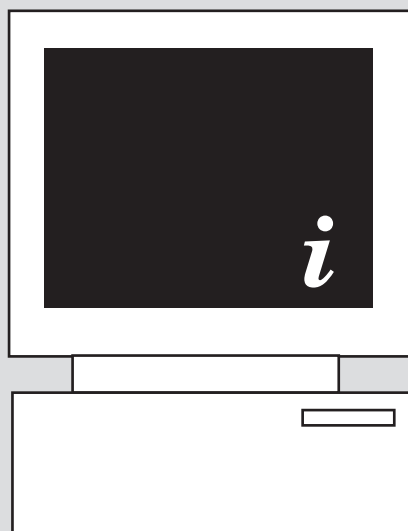
under pressure.

Without a healthy Bynum, the Lakers will be in more desperate need of Bryant, who is currently one of the top three scorers in the league.

He will have to carry his team to the playoffs once more, and one can see from his aggressive style of play that he wants his third NBA title, along with his second MVP award.

The crowds at the Staples Center and at Madison Square Garden, where Bryant dropped 61, agree that Bryant should win the Most Valuable Player award again this year.

## sixmilepost.com



Log onto our website for updated intramural basketball scores, a feature on Cartersville's Tellus Museum and more pictures and stories.

Locker rooms in the PE building will be closed at 2 p.m. Tuesday Feb. 17 through Feb. 21 for the Region 7-AA Basketball Tournament.

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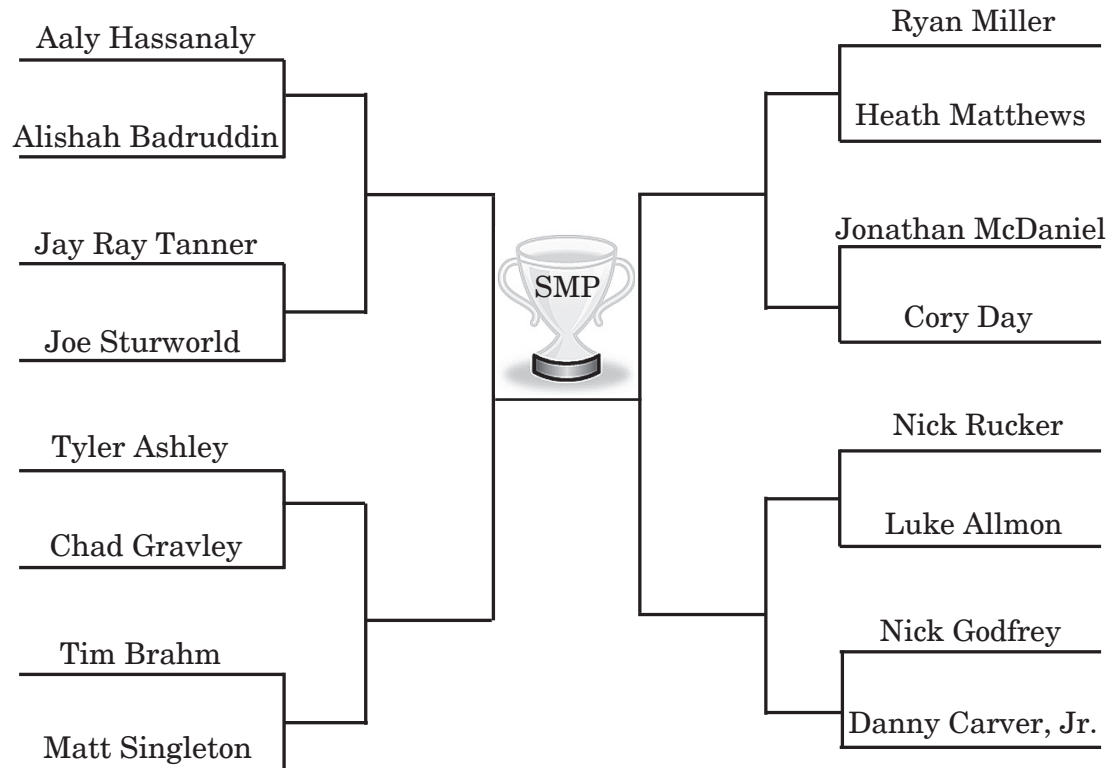
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## 2009 Six Mile Post ping-pong tournament bracket listings



## Rules and Regulations

- \* All games must be played by set deadline:  
first round, March 9; second round, March 23; final round, April 6
- \* All games will be played with an honor system, no cheating
- \* Games are played with a best two out of three system
- \* Match results must be sent to 6mpost@student.highlands.edu
- \* If opponent cannot be reached, notify SMP as quickly as possible, or both opponents will be eliminated
- \* After each deadline, bracket will be updated until final round
- \* Updated brackets can be found in gameroom, on SMP board in F-Wing and under "Sports" at sixmilepost.com

Interested in dodgeball or soccer?  
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Soccer deadline: Feb. 20

Play begins Feb. 16

Dodgeball deadline: Feb. 28

Play begins March 16

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# Intramural season starts at Georgia Highlands

Magic defeat Celtics 62-52; Untouchables defeat Hawks 95-63  
on opening day, Feb. 4



Zach Mathis (left) tries to get the rebound from teammate Greg Hall as Chavez Lundy fights for the ball.



Seth Funk (right) tries to dribble around Nate Hibbitts (center) with Justin Howell looking on.



Justin Howell throws a shot up.



Photos by Jordan Penson

Nate Hibbitts (center right) passes the ball to Dale Baker (center left) as Seth Funk (left) and Justin Howell (right) defend.



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