

# SIX MILE POST

*The Student Voice*

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www.Sixmilepost.com

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Photo by Nick Godfrey

Economy Lane, located between Hwy. 411 and Chulio Road in Floyd County, is a reminder of the ongoing financial woes.

## **GHC Parking Fee Increase p. 2**

All GHC students will have an \$8 increase in parking fees.

## **Expulsion Overturned p. 3**

GHC student accused of hacking into college's computers returns after suspension.

## **Top 8 News Stories p. 8**

While students were enjoying their break, the economy was among the top stories making headlines.

Georgia Highlands College - Rome, Georgia

# Parking at GHC will increase by \$8

By Tyler Ashley  
Assistant Editor

Recently, Georgia Highlands's Student Engagement Council voted to pass a parking fee increase for GHC students.

Starting in the fall semester of 2009, GHC student's parking fee will increase from \$2 to \$10.

"The reason for this parking fee increase is so that we can move into a positive direction for all of our students, and all of our campuses," said Robert Whitaker, vice president of finance and administration.

Whitaker explained that the current parking fee of \$2 is inadequate and out of date now.

"When I got here, parking was operated through the state budget. It was operated on a \$2 per semester fee, and we've made some changes and put it in the auxiliary services

budget... We're not just moving expenditures out of the state budget and into the auxiliary budget. What we really want to do is enhance the parking program that we have," said Whitaker.

The parking program would be enhanced by safety upgrades.

John Upton, director of campus safety and security, explained that the fees are not going to just an empty parking lot, but to the students who use the parking lots every day.

With the new fee, security measures, such as call boxes, additional lighting and sirens, will be added to the current parking lots.

Whitaker describes the new fee addition as not just a parking fee, but rather a parking fee correlated with safety.

Another element that the fees cover is the expansion of the parking lot at the Carters-

ville campus.

During the SEC meeting, GHC student Spencer Musick, representing the Young Democrats and the Gay, Lesbian, Transgender and Straight Alliance, commented that the fees should not have to be paid by every student, but rather parking violators of GHC.

Whitaker and Upton explained that with the major plans that Georgia Highlands has to change parking and security, the fees should come from every student because the change will affect every student.

GHC students who attend classes on the Marietta campus will pay the fee to get the GHC



Photo by Chiara VanTubbergen

Amy Hightower (left) and Aly Proctor will soon see an \$8 dollar increase in their parking expenses at Georgia Highlands.

decal, and pay to get a Southern Poly decal.

As GHC students pay their tuition next fall semester, the

additional \$8 will be added to the bill to reflect the change made by new parking program.

## How to get GHC Connect

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## Texts connect GHC students to college

By Tyler Ashley  
Assistant Editor

Students at Georgia Highlands have the potential to receive text messages that announce information ranging from severe weather warnings to financial aid deadlines. With GHC Connect, which can be found on the college's website, a student can be notified of school closings and important deadlines.

GHC Connect was established after the Virginia Tech massacre in 2007, when the school realized that there was not a clear way to notify students about various issues in a timely matter.

The process is simple: a student sits at a computer, logs onto GHC, click on GHC Connect, enters a cell phone number, updates his or her personal account and is instantly accessible to notifications through Georgia Highlands College.

GHC Connect is located on the bottom right hand side of

the homepage near Student email and Banner SCORE.

"It's a very easy thing to do. You can change your password and manage your GHC account very easily with GHC Connect," said Dana Davis, director of college relations.

One of the drawbacks of the technical alert system is that if a student does not have a text messaging plan with his or her cell phone provider, the alert costs the price of a text message.

"What does a text message cost without a plan, 10 cents? I think that is definitely a fair price considering that the alert may save your life if it is announcing severe weather changes," said Davis.

Another drawback for the system is that many students may not know about the program.



Photo by Jordan Penson

Stephanie Boyd uses her cell phone to text message.

"Yeah, I think the program is great, but to be honest, I haven't set up my (GHC Connect) account yet. I think it is great feature for GHC to have, and it definitely should be used more," said Lacey Haney, second year dental hygiene major from Rome.

"I would encourage students and faculty to sign up for this as soon as they can, because it is a very valuable item that our school has," said Davis.



# Accused hacker to resume classes at GHC

By Nick Godfrey  
Assistant Editor

Christopher Fowler has been re-admitted into GHC after one semester of expulsion. Fowler was charged with violating academic and computer policies and is the alleged hacker of GHC's computer system.

The charges levied against Fowler were breaking the GHC Student Code of Conduct for computers by accessing or using college computers or computer networks on campus without authorization, adding computer viruses or other software or programming to a college computer that interfered with the use of the college's computer network without authorization and misusing college computers.

Fowler was also charged with damage to property by maliciously damaging, destroying, vandalizing or misusing property belonging to the college,

a member of the college community or visitor to the college, and occupying or accessing any college buildings, facilities or premises without authorization.

Along with the charges related to the Code of Conduct, Fowler also faced charges under the Academic Integrity Policy for giving false information in connection with the performance of any work or the procedures outlined in this code, altering grade, lab or attendance and participation records.

John Spranza, director of student life, said, "What was not levied was a count for each instance he committed the violation, since at the time, it was impossible to know how many times he committed the violations. However, given the time period he is suspected of having access to the network, the number of counts could have been in the dozens for each violation."

lation."

Fowler underwent the process set out in the GHC student handbook.

"Although he was charged with violations of both the Code of Conduct and the Academic Integrity Policy, the case was adjudicated as a whole following the judicial processes for the Code of Conduct," said Spranza.

Fowler was charged, and selected to have an administrative hearing. Dr. Rob Page, professor of history and chair of social sciences, was selected to be the administrative hearing officer. Following the hearing, expulsion was recommended.

Fowler then had the option to appeal to the vice president of student services, Dr. Ron Shade, who appointed a committee to review the hearing details and sanctions. Shade and the review committee upheld the decision of expulsion.

Fowler's second appeal was

to the president of the college. Dr. Randy Pierce decided to overturn the expulsion and instead levy a one-semester suspension (Fall 2008) which would allow Fowler to re-enroll as early as spring 2009 with a list of several conditions to be met both before and after re-enrollment.

"Had Dr. Pierce upheld the expulsion, Mr. Fowler's next option would have been to appeal to the executive secretary of the Board of Regents," Spranza said.

Pierce said that the general conditions for Fowler's readmittance are to check with college officials so that they may follow his academic progress, limit his use of college student computers to areas where there is supervision of labs and to make restitution to the college for the financial damages that resulted from having to address the computer breaches.

Pierce commented on his acceptance of Fowler's return by saying, "As for my decision, you need to understand that Mr. Fowler should be accorded all matters of due process and the presumption of innocence until he is formally charged with and tried for a crime. None of that has occurred. Action was taken in the matter related to his violation of academic and computer policies which resulted in the expulsion."

Pierce added, "I felt that a suspension was a more appropriate measure of his violations and thus permitted him to be readmitted based on his fall suspension."

The Six Mile Post was unable to reach Fowler for a comment. However, on his Facebook page Fowler posted on Wednesday Jan. 14, 2009, "Chris Fowler is lucky, but is still fed up with being crucified by people with a double digit IQ for something that happened seven months ago."

## Campus food still M.I.A. at GHC

By Sean Jepson  
Staff Writer

Georgia Highlands College is still in the hunt for a food service program for the Floyd campus.

Milano's had offered pizza in the cafeteria last year, but decided to close their business on campus before the start of fall semester 2008.

After Milano's left, the college offered vendors an opportunity to inspect the site and put out a package for vendors to bid on.

"No one was interested," said Rob Whitaker, vice president for finance and administration.

"Our school does not have student housing and does not carry a mandatory meal card program. The consistent theme among vendors after reviewing our campus was there would not be enough revenue generated to sustain a business," said Whitaker.

According to Whitaker, GHC is currently researching other two-year institutions that have a food service program to see how it works there.

One possible avenue being explored is putting in a snack shop run by the college. Another approach may be to contract a food service provider to set up a meal program.

However, the college's approach to the situation means it may be unlikely that students will see food service programs this semester.

"It's not a good situation," said Tray Patterson, a sophomore in computer science. "Last year I could eat, but now I have classes all day and go hungry."

"I have to drive to Rome if I want to eat a decent meal," said Richard Wagner, a sophomore English major.

"I'm not interested in making money, but I can't put a food service program out there that doesn't at least break even. We have to find a system that is fair to students, offers quality service, reasonably priced, and cost-neutral," Whitaker said.



Photo by Jordan Penson

GHC students (from left) Heather Bates, Cera Nealey and Daniel Fisher eat food brought from outside the campus.

### Student Reminder:

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# GHC takes 24th trip to Shakespeare Festival

By Sean Jepson  
Staff Writer

Georgia Highlands will be making its 24th annual trip to the Alabama Shakespeare Festival (ASF) on April 25-26. One of the featured plays this year will be "The Three Musketeers." Sign-up for the trip begins on Feb. 2 and the slots usually fill up fast.

The trip will begin on a chartered bus and after a lunch stop at a Montgomery mall, arrive at Fort Toulouse Park on Saturday. Fort Toulouse features a reconstruction of a 1700's French fort, as well as the remains of the American Fort Jackson.

In the evening, the group will travel to Auburn University-Montgomery to view the play "Mother Courage and Her Children" by Bertolt Brecht.

On Sunday, the group will travel to ASF before the play to explore the Shakespeare Garden and its facilities. Sunday's play will be a professional production of "The Three Musketeers" based on the novel by Alexandre Dumas.

ASF, located in Montgomery, is set in a 250-acre park and operates year-round. The \$21.5 million Carolyn Blount Theatre houses two theatres: the 750-seat Festival Stage, and, for more intimate settings, the 225-seat Octagon. Accord-

ing to its website, ASF is the sixth largest Shakespeare festival in the world and attracts more than 300,000 visitors annually.

"This trip offers a chance to experience quality theater, and that's an opportunity few of us are afforded," said Dr. Kristie Kemper, English professor.

Kemper stated the rapid growth of the college has led to some disconnect among students across the various campuses. The ASF trip offers a chance to seal that unity and create a greater sense of camaraderie.

"It's a great bonding experience, and the trip is set at an awfully good price," said Kemper.

Additionally, many classes offer extra credit for the trip.

The cost of the trip begins at \$100 and includes transportation, motel, play tickets, some meals, the tour of Fort Toulouse and a packet of information on the plays. Some financial assistance will be available to those who qualify. Sign-up and ASF financial assistance forms will be available in Student Life or online at <http://www.highlands.edu/campus/travel/alabama/asf.htm>

For more information about the trip please contact the Student Life Office at the Floyd and Cartersville campuses, or the GHC Office at Marietta.



Contributed

The Alabama Shakespeare Festival Theater grounds sits in a 250-acre landscaped park.

## Old Red Kimono is now accepting for 2009

By Chiara VanTubbergen  
Staff Writer

The Old Red Kimono, created shortly after GHC was founded in 1970, is a fine arts literary magazine that is published every spring. It features poetry, art and short fiction by GHC students, faculty and members of the surrounding community.

Amanda Stegall and Sean Jepson, literary editors, alongside Patti Boxerman, art editor,

are working very hard to decide on which submissions will be published in the 2009 Old Red Kimono literary magazine.

Dr. Nancy Applegate, the faculty advisor for the Old Red Kimono, explained that half of the literary submissions come from outside the GHC community and half from GHC students, faculty and staff.

"Right now we're still reviewing submissions from people all over the country... we have published work from

people in other nations in the past," said Stegall.

"Any students that have ever thought of themselves as creative should consider participating," said Applegate.

The spring 2009 issue will be released in April accompanied by a reception.

The deadline to submit work for the spring 2009 issue is Feb. 20.

For more information, contact Dr. Applegate at [napplega@highlands.edu](mailto:napplega@highlands.edu).

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### Guidelines and Regulations for ORK submissions

1) Emailed submissions must be original work of submitter with maximum word count of 1800.

2) Provide name, mailing address and e-mail.

3) Send to Dr. Applegate via email at [napplega@highlands.edu](mailto:napplega@highlands.edu)

## GHC welcomes Black History Month

By Smith Holder  
Staff Writer

During February GHC will host a series of events as part of its participation in Black History Month.

The first event is a trivia-based game show known as Thinkfast.

The winners receive cash prizes.

Thinkfast is scheduled to take place on Feb. 2 at the Floyd campus and Feb. 3 on the Cartersville campus at 12:30 p.m.

As part of the GHC Speaker Series, the comedian Preacher Moss will be speaking at the "End of Racism" show/lecture.

His goal in speaking is to help people understand diverse cultures by eliminating and/or minimizing the stress of ignorance and speaking truthfully even when it does not seem possible.

Moss will be speaking on Feb. 11 in the library at the Cartersville campus and on Feb. 12 in the Lakeview

Auditorium at the Floyd campus. The scheduled time will be 7 p.m. for both campuses.

John Goode, who is best known for being featured on HBO's "Def Poetry" and reading his works on college campuses and venues, will also be performing.

Goode will appear on the Cartersville campus on Feb. 23 and the Floyd campus on Feb. 24.

The time for both campuses is 12:30 p.m. in the Student Center.

### Black History Month Fact

Black History Month originated in 1926 with Carter Godwin Woodson. The month of February was chosen in honor of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, both born in that month.

From [www.biography.com](http://www.biography.com)

### GHC's Annual

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# Student returns from Haiti with many lessons learned

By Lesley Mathis  
Staff Writer

While most students at GHC spent the week of Oct. 29 through Nov. 5 reading over English or math books, LaShay McBurnett, a general studies major from Rome, traveled to Haiti for a rewarding and exciting missionary trip.

McBurnett went on this trip as mission work for her church, Calhoun Seventh-Day Adventist. The members of the congregation, along with her family, helped her raise the money to go.

While she was in Haiti, McBurnett participated in a variety of activities to help the people in the area.

"It was raining a lot. I was in a crew with nurses and doctors, so we set up a health clinic for people who needed it. We also went to homes and

asked the people if they needed medicine or if their children needed clothes. If they needed anything, we gave them a ticket that they took back to the mission facility to redeem for items," said McBurnett.

Since she was not a nurse, McBurnett played the biggest role in handing out clothes to children.

Spending time with the Haitian children was one of her favorite parts about the trip.

Another aspect of her travels is the gratitude that she encountered. "They are so grateful. Their moms and dads have to work constantly, so they don't get to play as often as American children. The kids loved spending time with us."

Seeing all the children in need touched McBurnett's heart deeply.

When she returned home, she started to reexamine her

life and how fortunate she truly is.

"Seeing those kids makes you think about how much money you waste on little things all the time. Even these small things that we buy from the dollar store could benefit the kids over there so much more than they benefit us," said McBurnett.

McBurnett said that she would love to go back to Haiti to continue doing missionary work.

This opportunity to help others is available for anyone. Although the cost may be a road block for some who wish to go and volunteer, McBurnett said, "If it's God's will for you to go, then there will always be a way to get there."

For more information on traveling to Haiti for mission work, check out the mission's website [www.nwhcm.org](http://www.nwhcm.org).



Contributed Photo

LaShay McBurnett spends time with native Haitian children.

Check out [sixmilepost.com](http://sixmilepost.com)

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# Sunset Carcrash rocks on

By Tyler Ashley  
Assistant Editor

I had the pleasure to go to Carrollton and watch Sunset Carcrash play live at Gallery Row Coffee Shop. The band, led by GHC student Tyler McSwain, was prodigiously amazing to be so young and seemed to feel extremely comfortable navigating around their musical instruments.

Closing your eyes and listening, a fan can tell that the band has what really matters, expression, not time.

The show included layered originals such as "City Lights and Flicker," and classic covers with a new twist like "All Along the Watchtower" and "Folsom Prison Blues."

After the show, I sat down with band members Tyler McSwain, Nathan Garner, Bain

Griffith and Sammy Bailey and discussed several of the elements that led to a great show.

Sunset Carcrash's sound is one that would not be normally heard in a garage like any other average garage band. Their sound is so unique and a breath of fresh air.

When asked who the influences were that helped shape their sound, lead singer and rhythm guitarist McSwain, second year English major from Bremen said, "It's hard to say, because all of the music we listen to just blends together to create a sound."

"We have talked about our sound before, and it is so hard to classify ourselves as a specific genre. I wouldn't dare label us as one sound, but if I had to, it would be Anti-funkadelic country-rock," adds lead guitarist Garner.

Although Sunset Carcrash's skill level is quite high, all of the members agreed that in order for them to become more distinguished, they have to get better.

"In order for us to ever get better, we have to just continue to be more open to different types of music. We also have to just play together as a band and let time develop us more," said bassist Griffith.

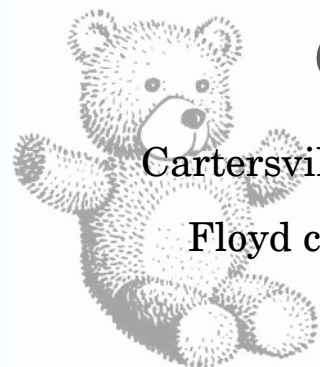
The band commented that there are several things they would like to accomplish soon. First and foremost is finishing their CD but also branching out to other venues across the south is something that drummer Bailey voiced strongly.

"We would love to go out and play shows at more places. Definitely playing in Athens, Atlanta and Birmingham are some goals," said Bailey.



Photos by Tyler Ashley

Members of Sunset Carcrash (clockwise from top right) Tyler McSwain, Bain Griffith, Sammy Bailey and Nathan Garner play live at Gallery Row in Carrollton.



## Create-A-Bear

Cartersville campus: Feb. 9, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Floyd campus: Feb. 10, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

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Marietta Campus - SPSU Building D - D-253

Ability is what you're capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it.

- - Lou Holtz

# Top 8 stories over 2008 holiday break

By LaTonya Burrell  
Editor

While students took a break from academic duties, the news throughout the country and around the world did not stop churning.

## Wall Street ends 2008 on a very low note

After months of terrible trading, Wall Street rang out its worst year since the Great Depression on Dec. 31, leaving shareholders about \$6.9 trillion poorer.

Reuters reports that the losses in 2008 were so broad and deep that every sector in the Standard & Poor's 500-stock index took a double-digit hit, and the financial sector lost more than half of its value. The Dow Jones industrial average and the S&P, were down 34 percent and 38 percent, respectively, their deepest losses since the 1930s. The tech-heavy Nasdaq composite

index was down 41 percent, its worst year since the exchange was created in 1971.

## Unemployment Soars

The U.S. unemployment rate has surged to its highest level in almost 16 years, according to a U.S. government report.

A total of 2.6 million jobs were lost from the economy in 2008, the largest decline since 1945, the U.S. Labour Department says.

The unemployment rate climbed to 7.2 percent from 6.8 percent in November, with 1.9 million jobs being lost in the last four months of last year.

## Rod Blagojevich

Rod Blagojevich, impeached governor from Illinois, has faced many charges stemming from months of investigating. Blagojevich was also charged with trying to sell the Senate seat formerly held by President Barack Obama.

Through it all, Blagojevich, who said he is not guilty of the corruption charges, which have yet to be proved in court or even brought in a formal indictment, has seemed, at least publicly, to ignore his alienated circumstance.

## Bernard Madoff makes off with \$50 billion

Madoff, who remains in his Manhattan apartment under 24-hour house arrest, was released from jail on a \$10 million bail. If convicted by federal authorities, Madoff faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and a \$5 million fine.

Madoff's alleged Ponzi scheme has reached far and wide, touching major financial institutions overseas and members of Hollywood's elite, such as film director Steven Spielberg and actor Kevin Bacon.

The scandal has also crippled average Americans, hitting pension funds and individual investors.

## Israel attacks Gaza

After weeks of conflict, a ceasefire has been called between the two parties. An estimated 1,200 Palestinians were killed.

Reuters goes on to say that "the rockets caused few injuries in Israel, but Israeli leaders were under pressure to stop these attacks ahead of a Feb. 10 election which opinion polls show the right-wing opposition Likud party may win."

## Auto industry gets bailout

CNN reported that U.S. President George W. Bush announced the loans on Dec. 19, saying they were needed to prevent the collapse of the U.S. auto industry. The money comes from the \$700 billion fund set aside in October to bail out Wall Street firms and banks.

General Motors is to receive a second loan of \$5.4 billion on Jan. 16. If Congress gives its

blessing, General Motors could receive an additional \$4 billion loan on Feb. 17.

## No one likes a Burris

Senator Roland Burris had to fight hard for his seat in the Senate. Burris, who was appointed by impeached governor Rod Blagojevich, faced sharp criticism after accepting the senate seat by the corrupted governor. Burris is currently the only African-American in Congress.

## TVA ash spills in Tennessee

CNN reports that a billion gallons of the sludge, made up of water and fly ash from a coal-burning Tennessee Valley Authority steam plant in Kingston, Tenn., swamped nearly 300 acres of mostly private property when a dike on a retention pond collapsed Dec. 22. TVA is currently taking steps to clean up the mess.

# Movie ticket sales soar as people flock to the theaters

By Nick Godfrey  
Assistant Editor

"I am Legend," "The Day the Earth Stood Still" and the upcoming "2012" are but a few movies that depict the end of the world, and viewers love it.

The box office hasn't seen such a rise in ticket sales in years.

According to the lists on boxofficereport.com, 25 movies from 2008 successfully made well over \$100 million, the list almost doubling from 2006.

Why have so many flocked to the movies in the last few years?

With a deteriorating economy, some believe that people are using movies as a respite from reality.

Thomas Partain, general studies major from Rome, said, "People use movies just like T.V. shows and books, to escape reality. When you watch certain movies, you feel like the movie. In a sense, you feel like you're a part of that world."

As for so many movies playing out the end of the world, Partain said, "It's like when 'The Godfather' was made. It was made to be a part of its time.

"Now, directors use the end of the world, which is very debatable, to draw people in, because people can relate to those types of movies in more depressing times," says Partain.

Escaping one's own reality to be in one that is ending doesn't seem like a good medicine, but Danny Carver, psychology major from Rome, said, "People are so afraid of how the end of the world is going to happen that they want to see what they can do to survive."

Carver went on to say that people are caught up with how it's all going to end, and they feel like they need to be prepared.

Whether it's to escape depression or prepare for the worst, tickets continue to sell, and movies are grossing more now than ever.



Photo by Chiara VanTubbergen

Though holiday lines have dwindled, movie theaters continue to draw large crowds.

Top three highest grossing movies of 2008	1 The Dark Knight	\$531.04 m
	2 Iron Man	\$318.30 m
	3 Indiana Jones 4	\$317.01 m
Information found on www.boxofficereport.com		



## Broken and unused game room tables could be replaced for something better

Ping-Pong tables take students' minds off the hardship and strains of college, not to mention a quick and sneaky fifty dollar fee just for going.

There are two unused, untouched air hockey and Foosball tables in the Floyd campus game room, and a broken hockey table at the Cartersville campus that could potentially make room for another relaxing Ping-Pong table.

With a little bit of switching around and removal of two deadwood tables, there could easily be another Ping-Pong table put in each of the game rooms.

If a student comes to the game room anytime after 8:00 a.m. or before 4:00 p.m., there are lines of people waiting to play table tennis.

Why are there so many people playing and wait-

ing to play? The swaying paddles, the small bouncing noise of the ball as it travels back and forth, and the yells of victory and cries of defeat are just a few reasons, but mainly, it's fun.

After a tough science or math class, the first stress relieving thing to do is to go play some table tennis. If it's a hard day, students can play hardcore and let all of their anger out in fast serves and devastating slams.

If it's a easy going day, students can hit the ball back and forth at incredibly slow speeds just talking. The point is, GHC needs another Ping-Pong table.

The tables that aren't used could be sold on EBay, possibly for fifty dollars a piece. Sounds like a good way to earn some money for another Ping-Pong table.

At the end of it all, every good or bad day at GHC, it's

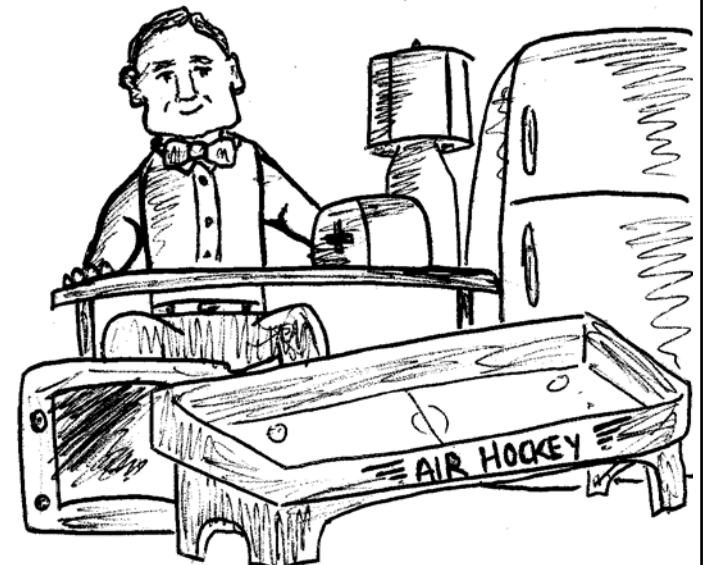
always a great way to finish things up before heading home. One or two Ping-Pong matches in the game room always let the built-up stress mellow away.

At the least, the old tables could use some nice and fresh new nets. It's kind of hard to play an actively competitive game of table tennis when the net is super saggy in the middle and everytime the ball hits the top of the net, it falls right over without being repelled back.

One or two more Ping-Pong tables would decrease lines and increase happiness at GHC, a small and simple task that could dramatically bring more smiles to the faces of GHC students everywhere.

Ping-Pong is our zen, our way of achieving higher happiness, our very pull that helps us come to college every day in the first place.

**GHC's  
Yard Sale**  
With President Dr. Randy Pierce



Artwork by Tyler Ashley, 2009

## Don't wait to make resolutions

It seems that the same raise and fall of intent always happens when New Year's Eve rolls around. Someone becomes aware of the New Year, makes all these ideas and plans about the future, and for a brief moment, actually believes that he or she can change. As always, however, the future comes. As quickly as the clock strikes 12, their hopes and dreams for him or her disappear.

I don't write this out of pessimism, but rather out of a new found belief that has set me free. Why would anyone wait till New Year's Eve to have faith in his or her self?

If you told yourself that you are worth your hopes and dreams every day, a New Year's Resolution would not be necessary because you



### Editor's Box

By LaTonya Burrell  
Editor

would be taking small steps every day to attain your goals. Therefore, there would be no need to make a list of pseudo-promises to change because you are evolving positively every day.

Moreover, there would be no need to beat yourself up because you failed to meet a goal that you thought up only three days ago. The pressure of trying to maintain a New Year's resolution is unfair to one's self.

I find that it is not our fear of failure that makes us crumble, but rather the fear that we are as wonderful as our possibilities. If Rome wasn't built in a day, why would you think you could change in a day?

In short, make promises to evolve positively because that is what you want. Not because it was New Year's. Because of this new belief, I will never make another New Year's Resolution again.

Promise.

## 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 letters will be at the discretion of the editors, and letters may appear in print and/or online.



## Voice of Reason

By James Swift  
Staff Writer

### What does it really mean to support the troops in Iraq?

My 11th grade British literature class huddled around the glowing cathode ray tube as our commander-in-chief, bedecked in Top Gun regalia, pointed to the enormous "Mission: Accomplished" banner in the background.

The next day, every tree in my neighborhood was tied with a yellow ribbon. On my way to school, I heard the songs of Lee Greenwood playing on the radio ad nauseam. Gaudy American flags adorned every vehicle in the parking lot, accompanied by freshly sealed bumper stickers stating unwavering support for the troops.

Since the Iraq war was "won" in 2003, over 4,200 American sons and daughters have perished, and more than one million Iraqi citizens have died as a result of warfare.

I write this today, not as an ambassador of any political ideal, for the Iraq war is

not based upon the merits of ideology. I have now no choice but to state what should have been uttered six years ago en masse.

What does it mean to "support the troops?" Does it mean cutting health benefits mid session for active troops, wiretapping international calls, shuddering away from those that have been mutilated, sending soldiers into battle with ineffective gear, slashing funding for veterans hospitals, or sending recruiters into high schools to cajole impoverished youth into signing binding agreements via fraudulent means?

The same officials that claim to "support the troops," Republican and Democrat, have done all of the above. Suddenly, the lives of human beings have become just another jar of spilled juice in the game of "liberals vs. conservatives."

I often read of the exponential cost of the war in Iraq. The tangible figures estimate a toll somewhere in the trillions, but the true worth of the war, the authentic cost, can only be viewed through the eyes of a mother kissing her son's flag-draped coffin farewell; through the verboten footage of smoldering Iraqi children; through the returning U.S. soldier, lying in a urine drenched VA bed, unable to hold his wife's hand because his remains in Tikrit.

What if this war is to last another six years and beyond? Are we destined to refuel a machine that has done nothing but import and export death and misery?

Will there come a day in which our children will ask us why we are fighting and killing one another in some far-away land? Are we to respond, as our parents did, with political rhetoric?

In that regard, an epiphany occurred to me. Church and State are not separate to keep religion from tainting government, but rather, to keep government from tainting faith. The political climate that produced this horrendous war has done exactly that, finding a way to intermesh the two so much that we've overlooked the most important law of them all: Thou Shall Not Kill.

## Something to think about



Will Floyd is a sophomore Journalism major at the Floyd Campus. He hopes to do Sports Journalism when he graduates.

As a native Georgian and longtime Atlanta Braves fan, I will be the first to admit that I was a bit distressed by the news that John Smoltz would not be with the Braves this season, for the first time in his long, impressive, presumably Hall of Fame career.

Although it should bother most Braves' fans to see him wearing the uniform of another club, Smoltz deserves the respect and admiration of anyone who calls themselves a Braves fan. He is arguably the greatest pitcher to ever play for the Braves' franchise.

A first ballot Hall of Famer in my book, Smoltz was there when Atlanta went from worst to first, he was there when Sid slid and he was there when the Braves won their first World Series title against the Cleveland Indians in 1995.

I know that when Smoltz comes back to town with the Red Sox to play Atlanta in interleague play, I will be cheering for him. I certainly hope that I won't be the only one. He not only served the Braves

for 20 years with a prolific major league career in which he amassed over 3,000 strikeouts and is one of only 16 players to do so, he has gathered many other honors and awards.

Aside from his off the field accomplishments, he is also the founder of the John Smoltz foundation which has done many good things for Atlanta and Georgia as a whole, and has also won the Branch Rickey award, for exceptional community service, which he won in 2007.

I wish him the best of luck in Boston, and sincerely hope that he at least beats the Yankees a few times this season. I also hope that when he comes to Atlanta the Braves fans at Turner Field will cheer him just as if he still played for the Braves.

Let's keep it classy, and if you just can't get over the fact that he's gone to Boston, it should make you feel a little better to know that when he goes to Cooperstown, he will have an Atlanta Braves hat on his head.

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**Do you have...**

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**Questions? Comments?**

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Go to [sixmilepost.com](http://sixmilepost.com) to voice your opinion!

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## Floyd vs. Benavidez: Who will win Super Bowl XLIII?



### Pittsburgh Steelers

**Will Floyd**  
Staff Writer



### Arizona Cardinals

**Eric Benavidez**  
Staff Writer

For Pittsburgh to win the Super Bowl, I feel like they need to do what they've done all season, play smash mouth defense and force turnovers.

If they can keep Larry Fitzgerald and Kurt Warner uncomfortable, I feel that they have a serious chance to win this football game. I believe that the Tampa 2 defense that Mike Tomlin learned in Tampa Bay as an assistant to Tony Dungy will help to maintain pressure on Kurt Warner's offensive line and receivers.

On the other side of the ball I don't think that

Arizona putting pressure on Big Ben Roethlisberger will be an issue. He's spent an awful lot of time on his backside this season, but the Steelers continue to win.

If Hines Ward can be completely healthy and effective, he and Santonio Holmes will be difficult for the Cardinals' safeties to defend.

In the end I feel this game may come down to a couple big plays by one team, and with Fast Willie Parker always a threat to take it to the house, I feel like it will be very difficult for Arizona to stop Pittsburgh.

As much as I like

what Arizona has done and feel like they are bound to dominate the NFC West for the next few years, I think Pittsburgh will win this game.

Ben Roethlisberger has won a Super Bowl before. Mike Tomlin is a fantastic head coach and will have his team prepared.

This defense is a machine led by Troy Polamalu and James Harrison, the 2008 AP Defensive player of the year.

Overall, I think that Pittsburgh's defense will be the difference. I like them to win 28-24.

I believe that the Cardinals will shock the number one Steel Curtain defense that the Steelers boast when they take the field in the Super Bowl.

For the Cardinals, it all starts with quarterback Kurt Warner and his offensive line.

The Steelers defense was able to rattle Ravens' rookie quarterback Joe Flacco, but Pittsburgh will now face Warner who is a veteran in his 11<sup>th</sup> NFL season.

Warner should be able to handle the Steelers for the most part, which is important if he wants to connect with

the dynamic wide receiver duo of Anquan Boldin and Larry Fitzgerald.

While the Cardinals don't have a very strong defense, they have been quick off the snap, as noted in their game against the Falcons.

Not only is this bad for Ben Roethlisberger, who has been sacked many times throughout the season, but he might have to play with a limited Hines Ward who had to leave the AFC Championship game with an apparent knee injury.

I also look for Arizona's Adrian Wilson to have a huge game and build on the 7 tackles,

2 sacks and the forced fumble that he had against the Eagles.

In the end, I feel that the Steelers' offense will be stagnant going up against a talented Cardinals' secondary.

An inspired Adrian Wilson and that the Steelers' defense won't be able to keep up with the explosiveness of Fitzgerald and Boldin.

Also, the healthy and revived Edgerrin James and the rookie Tim Hightower.

In a close game, I have the Cardinals winning their first Super Bowl in franchise history, 27 to 23.

### Spring 2009 Intramural Sports

- 5-on-5 Basketball, play begins Wednesday, Feb. 4
- Dodgeball, play begins Monday, March 16
- Soccer, play begins Thursday, Feb. 26
- FIT (Fitness Incentive Team), runs Jan. 26- April 5
- Wesley Walraven Golf Tournament, more info TBA

To sign up and for more information,  
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# NAIA National Championship finds home in Rome

By Eric Benavidez  
Staff Writer

The NAIA National Championship game was held at Rome's Barron Stadium on Dec. 20. Rome will be hosting next year's championship also.

The rematch between #1 Carroll College Saints and #2 Sioux Falls Cougars in the National Championship should've been called "the Dasani Bowl" because of the rainy weather.

The previously undefeated Carroll College (Mont.) fell to University of Sioux Falls (S.D.) 23-7 as the Cougars captured their second national title in three years.

The rain seemed to cause problems for both teams as they combined for four fumbles in the first quarter. However, the pouring rain did not appear to stop the fans, who covered themselves with anything from ponchos to umbrellas to garbage bags.

Before half-time and with his team down by 10 points, Pho Le, the father of last year's Championship Offensive MVP, Gabe Le, said, "We're a second half team." When asked if the bad weather was a factor in the first half shut-out, he replied, "We've played in Tennessee, same situation, last year. This is our type of game."

At first it seemed like the Saints were getting back on track by scoring a touchdown with 6:15 left in the fourth quarter, avoiding a possible shut-out.

With the score at 7-17, the Saints were running with the momentum on their side until QB Matt Ritter fumbled the ball, and it was recovered by Sioux Falls for a defensive touchdown putting the score at 23-7 in favor of the Cougars.

## Top Right:

Carroll College (in purple) attempts to block a University of Sioux Falls player (in white) with the help of his teammates.

## Bottom Right:

Two Carroll College teammates join in an enthusiastic embrace prior to the game.

## Bottom Left:

The Sioux Fall defense was too much for Carroll College.



Photos by LaTonya Burrell