

Six Mile Post

The Student Voice

Georgia Highlands College - Rome, Georgia

March 14, 2006

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Six Mile Post Online

www.highlands.edu/sixmilepost



**Suzie
Sunshine:
GHC student,
clown &
clogger**

Page 9

BSU participates in state conference

By Tempest Holbrook
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Staff Writer

The Baptist Student Union (BSU) attended a state-wide conference Feb. 24-26.

This conference occurs every year during the spring, and it consists of three days and nights of worship services, seminars and fellowship among other members of BSU.

This year the conference was held at the Georgia Baptist Conference Center in Toccoa, Ga. Around 1,200 college students gathered for this time of worship and fellowship.

The theme of the conference was "Life Calling." The main speaker was David Platt.

According to Frank Murphy, campus minister, members of BSU spent time looking into their spiritual lives and searched for ways that God can use them. They split into group sessions that focused on how God can take their specific gifts and talents, such as art or photography, and utilize them for His purpose.

Students involved in summer missions received recognition during the conference. BSU enjoyed the musical performance from the Christian band In Situ.

While on their trip, BSU also spent time enjoying scenery.

"We really did have a great time and were greatly inspired by the conference leaders and the fellowship among the students," said Murphy.



Photo by Sam Chapman

Zach Pease, art history major from Rome, Ga., makes a purchase at the Floyd campus bookstore.

Bookstore committed to better service

By Carolyn Grindrod
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Editor-in-Chief

When the Georgia Highlands College bookstore was privatized fall semester 2005, the bookstore staff and students as well faced many complications in the process of switching systems.

"We had to retrain the staff on the new Barnes and Nobles system," stated Jan Pearson, the manager of the bookstore. "The lines in the bookstore spring semester were a result, in that the retraining process using the new electronic filing didn't go as smoothly as we had hoped. However, we should have all the kinks sorted out by next semester."

Along with instituting a new system, the bookstore has also increased the number of items for sale in the store including more

snacks and more apparel.

"We thought it would be a good idea to bring in more convenience items, like you see in the gas stations, so the students, particularly night students, would have a greater snack collection when their classes run late," said Pearson.

Barnes and Noble now offers a new year-round book buyback system so that students can get fast cash for their books. "It used to be that we had buyback a few days after the semester ended, and that was the only time you could sell back books," said Pearson. "Now we can buy back the books for a retail value all year long. The more used books we have, then the more used books we can offer to the students."

According to Dr. Wilbur Shuler, vice president of finance,

the main obstacle the bookstore had to face was how to process loans and financial aid, excluding the Pell Grant and HOPE Scholarship. The problem arose when the bookstore was first bought out by a third party. The college now has to have authorization to give the student's loan money to the bookstore for a student to buy books.

"We had to make a way that students could authorize us the right to give the money to the bookstore since we can't take the student's money by national law and give it to the bookstore. So, we started the online authorization so the process would be all electronic, and in turn, more simplified, so the student wouldn't have to fill out several forms," stated Shuler. "This hadn't been a problem when we owned the bookstore, but now that we're

working with a third party, the process becomes more complicated."

The bookstore also wants to make the process of buying books simpler for students as well. According to Shuler, once a student registers online for classes, there will be a prompt that will ask if the student would like to buy his or her books now. "We're trying to make everything electronic and as simple as possible for students to get their books," stated Shuler.

**BOOKSTORE
continued on
page 3**

Spring Fling goes Vegas

By Kristen Gaylor
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Staff Writer

year's Fling will be Wayne Hoffman. Hoffman is a mentalist and an illusionist. "He is definitely a 'Vegas-style performer,'" said John Spranza, director of student life.

The event for both campuses will be held outside near the student centers, unless there are poor weather conditions. In case of bad weather, Spring Fling will be moved into the Lakeview Auditorium for Floyd and into the student center under the library for Cartersville.

There are still several things to be decided upon for this year's Spring Fling.

Spranza says students may keep a look out for postings about this upcoming event or contact the Offices of Student Life at both Floyd and Cartersville campuses for further information.

Casino games, free food and more mean that it must be time for Spring Fling.

The annual Georgia Highlands College spring festival is coming up on April 4 and 5. It will be held on the Cartersville campus April 4 and on the Floyd campus April 5. The event will be at 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. for both campuses.

The theme for this year's Spring Fling will be Las Vegas. The theme will go hand-in-hand with the slogan, "We BET you have a good time!"

In past Spring Flings, several student clubs and organizations have sponsored booths and tables containing games and food for the students of GHC. This year will be no different. However, the list of clubs that will be sponsoring tables has yet to be finalized.

The main performer for this

**"He is definitely
a 'Vegas-style performer.'
-John Spranza**

said John Spranza, director of student life. Hoffman's show will begin at noon at both the Floyd and Cartersville campuses.

Along with student-sponsored tables and a special performer, there will be a variety of casino games throughout the event.

All students will be able to play and make bets with fake money. There will also be a free lunch available to all students throughout the day.

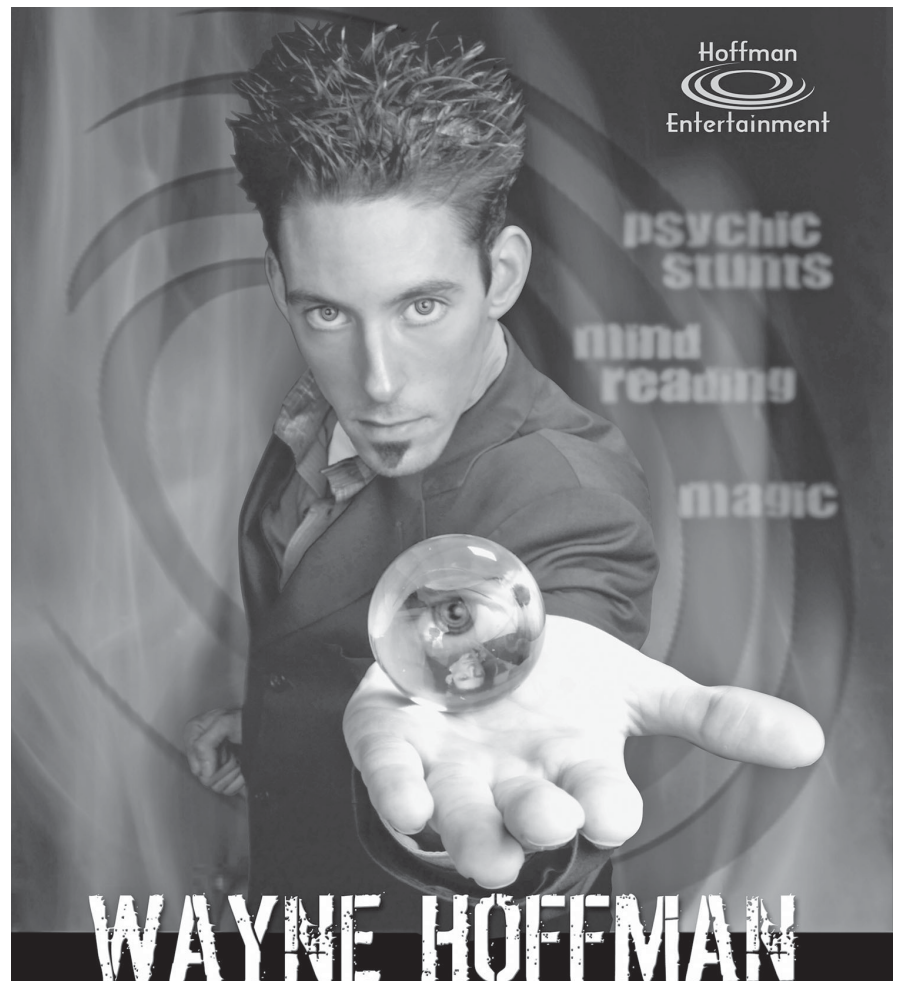


Photo courtesy of waynehoffman.com



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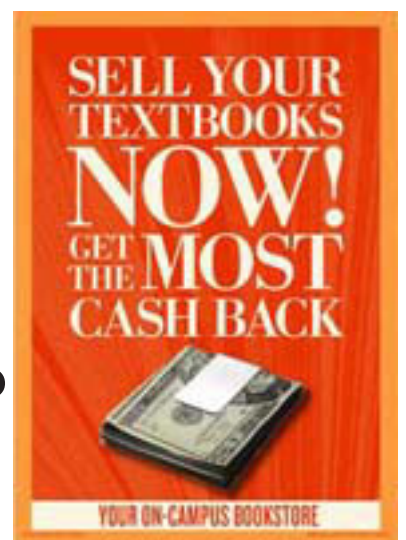
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GHC plans to extend wireless network

By Dustin Taylor
dtayl06@highlands.edu
Staff Writer

A young man rushes into the student center of Georgia Highlands College's Floyd campus and huddles against the window, trying desperately to utilize the trickle of wireless internet coverage to check his mail on a laptop computer.

The scene is all too familiar, but Rob Laltrello, associate director of Georgia Highlands' information technology (IT) department, says it could be a thing of the past as early as summer.

Laltrello, who has essentially built the various campuses' wireless networks from the ground up, has been working with the college for nearly a decade.

"It's nice to see students who actually want to use the wireless," says Laltrello. "I didn't think the day would ever come, being the geek that I am."

In point of fact, that trickle of coverage that reaches the student center was wholly accidental. "What students are really doing is hitting the Walraven and administrative access points by huddling near the window," Laltrello said. "Once I put the F-Wing network there, you'll have full coverage up and down F-Wing and the student center will be booming."

Most of the wired internet ports in desks throughout F-Wing were removed during re-



Photo by Sarah Abercrombie

Joseph Bullard, computer science major from Cedar Bluff, Ala., works on his laptop in the student center.

cent renovations, a development that has some GHC students concerned.

"It sends the message that Georgia Highlands is inconsiderate of the students," remarked GHC biology major Latisha Stanley.

IT employees have been working on a campus-wide phone conversion that Laltrello says has detracted from the wireless endeavor. Fortunately, the phone issue is nearing resolution, and expanding the campuses' wireless coverage is next on the IT department's to-do list.

It is estimated that total wireless coverage of the Floyd campus should be done by this summer, or fall 2006 at the very lat-

est.

Students attending the Cartersville campus already have total wireless network coverage, and Chief Information Officer Jeff Patty says a small project is in the works for Heritage Hall.

As for access points at the Marietta and Acworth campuses, Laltrello says the school has yet to deploy any wireless network, adding that Marietta "is Southern Polytechnic's beast right now."

"We want the wireless in all the places that the students want the wireless just as bad as the students do," said Laltrello. "We want coverage and it's definitely a front burner issue."

SMP takes regional honors

By Sarah Abercrombie
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Assistant Editor

The "Six Mile Post" won nine awards at the 55th annual Southern Regional Press Institute Feb. 23-24.

The press institute was held at Savannah State University in Savannah, Ga.

This year's theme was "Ethics, Accuracy and Fairness in Mass Media." Workshops topics ranged from editorial writing, column and sports writing, cartooning and photography to starting your own magazine, to name a few.

Opening session speaker Rexanna Lester, columnist and

former executive editor for the "Savannah Morning News," received the Louis R. Lautier Award for her career achievement.

Kenneth F. Irby, visual journalism group leader and director of the diversity programs for The Poynter Institute, received the Robert S. Abbott award for Meritorious Service in Mass Communications. Irby spoke at the awards luncheon.

Adviser Kristie Kemper, professor of English; assistant Adviser Cindy Wheeler, instructor of English; Editor-in-Chief Carolyn Grindrod; and Assistant Editors Sarah Abercrombie and Jeff Denmon attended the press institute.

Southern Regional Press

Institute Award List

Best Newspaper

1st Place

Feature Writing

1st- Jason Trask

2nd- Carolyn Grindrod

Editorials & Columns

1st- Jason Trask

2nd- Sam Chapman

Sports Writing

1st- Becky Crooks

2nd- Bethany Holt

Photography

1st- Josh Grubb

2nd- Chelsea Perren

BOOKSTORE

continued from page 1

The college has also created a new bookstore committee that will give suggestions on how to make the bookstore more beneficial to students. "We hope to get suggestions from students and staff on how to better the bookstore," stated Shuler.

As for book prices being on the rise, Shuler and Pearson both agree that the books' prices naturally go up over time, and prices are set on the publishers' pricings, not set directly by Barnes and Nobles Booksellers.

"Overall, we're working trying to better the bookstore for our students. We hope to make the new bookstore as user-friendly as possible," stated Shuler. "However, the process will take time."



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News

Hip-Hop comics Alfred and Seymour return to Georgia Highlands College

Floyd campus
Monday, March 27, at 12:15 p.m.
Cartersville campus
Tuesday, March 28, at 12:15 p.m.



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Web CT saves Georgia Highlands
hundreds in non-printed pages

By Jake Carter
wcart04@highlands.edu
Staff Writer

The program known as Web CT Vista is saving instructors time and Georgia Highlands College money. The program is from the company Web CT and is available to all University System of Georgia professors and instructors.

Simon Grist, instructional technologist and associate professor of instructional technology, teaches the use of the program at the GHC campuses. "Vista is a course management system, or CMS," said Grist.

A course management system allows teachers to build an accessible multi-functional web-based course with documents, discussion boards, online chat and assignments.

There are only 15-20 teachers at GHC that currently use Vista.

Yet, an average of 2,600 sessions a week were recorded in January for GHC students. Grist stated that teachers told him their departments were saving hundreds of dollars on handouts and copies.

Web CT and rivals such as Blackboard have other programs

The ability to easily change their sites gives teachers greater freedom.

"Teachers do not have time to learn java script or other codes when they are trying to teach a class," said Grist. "Vista allows them to build a site without having to know any computer language."

Vista is complex, but there are surprisingly few problems. Every semester one or two students may have trouble logging on, but a comprehensive help wizard and a support team available 24/7

easily answer most questions.

Some users of Vista have expressed concern because Web CT and Blackboard are requesting permission to merge from the U.S. Department of Justice. However, both companies state they will maintain and keep up the two programs the way they are now.

"Teachers do not have time to learn java script or other codes when they are trying to teach a class...Vista allows them to build a site without having to know any computer language."

-Simon Grist

that have been used by colleges for years. Vista is set apart by the amount and variety of things it allows instructors to do.

Dr. Jon Hershey, professor of English, uses Vista in all but one of his classes. Hershey stated that he prefers to update assignments using Vista throughout the semester.



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Too many give up at midterm

The typical Georgia Highlands College student arrives on the first day of classes with new books, freshly sharpened pencils and with the intention of doing well and showing up to class every day.

As the semester passes the pencils seem to get lost, the books are never opened and the good intentions fade away.

By midterm the student realizes he or she has no chance of passing in most classes. The student decides to take a “W” in every class except bowling.

Next semester the student is back with the same books that have never been used, new pencils and the same good intentions.

While some students who have taken the easy way out one semester have learned their lesson, the old faithfuls (the students that retake the

same classes over and over) have not.

Colleges give these old faithfuls this option. They allow the students to be irresponsible without penalty as long as they hit the easy button BEFORE midterm.

“What would happen if students had to earn their ‘W’?”

What would happen if students had to earn their “W”? For instance, what if they had to demonstrate a real need for withdrawing from a class?

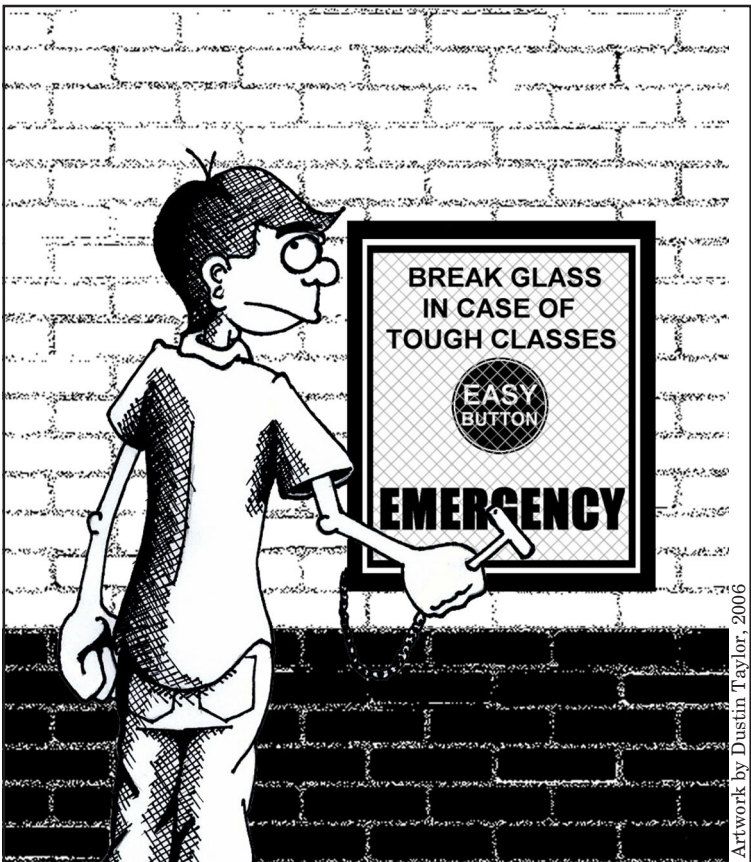
Students with legitimate problems, such as serious illness and childcare issues, would still be able to receive a “W.” However, those who

sign up for an 8 a.m. class knowing they never wake up until noon will just have to suck it up and go to bed earlier. This earned “W” policy would keep the students motivated.

But it’s not all the colleges’ fault. We as students have the ultimate responsibility.

Part of this responsibility is to come to class period, even if we are tired, even if a single snowflake seems to be blocking the driveway and even if we just don’t want to come. We did, after all, sign up for class.

Once we are there instead of sitting in class not asking questions and not participating, we should speak up. So what if we are not right all the time—that’s why we are here, to learn.



Artwork by Dustin Taylor, 2006

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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@highlands.edu, or mailed to Editor, “Six Mile Post,” 3175 Cedartown Highway Rome, GA 30161. Letters must be signed by the author. Publication and editing of letters will be at the discretion of the editors.

The one thing I would never want

As a child growing up in a house with two smokers, I never thought I would put a cigarette in my mouth.

Throughout my childhood and early teen years I hated the smell of cigarettes. I remember when I was in elementary school I hated that my mother smoked.

The summer before my junior year I smoked for the first time. It was so nasty. I just didn’t see how anyone would ever want to smoke. But that really didn’t stop me from smoking from time to time. I guess you could say I was a “social smoker.”

The strange thing is that now I smoke at times, but I hate it. I can feel my lungs—it’s like they become heavy and it’s harder to breathe.

Cigarettes are everywhere. It’s like you can’t escape them or the thought of them. I think the hardest thing is seeing people I care about smoke. My boyfriend smokes. His left hand smells like he washed his hand

in an ashtray. As of now, I have given up the battle with my mom. Now I just try when I am around her to not start stuff. You know, be nice.

The reason why I hate cigarettes so much is that I would never want to see anyone die of lung cancer.

For the past year I have lived with my aunt. Her husband died of lung cancer last year. A few weeks before he died my mom and I stopped by to show my aunt and my cousin what we had bought from Lenox Square. My mom went into the den to see my uncle, but I couldn’t go in.

I have never been good with dealing with death or sickness. I

can’t imagine what my aunt went through during that time my uncle was sick, but I KNOW I don’t ever want to have to go through it!! And no, I’m not saying that smoking is absolutely the cause of lung cancer, but why up the ante?

As I sit here at my computer crying my eyes out, all I can think about is my mom. She is so wonderful, and I know that sometimes I can be a witch. But I don’t know what I would do if she had cancer. I don’t know how I would handle her being sick like that. The hardest thing is that I would lose the one person I could tell everything to. My best friend.



Editor’s Box

By Sarah Abercrombie
saber01@highlands.edu
Assistant Editor

Renting: a drain on your wallet



Guest Column

By Stephanie McCombs
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Staff Writer

It was a typical afternoon and I was picking up my sister from school. I was listening to V-103, and the topic happened to be about why most women, over men, choose to pay mortgage rather than rent. The subject was rather ear catching and so were the responses.

One female caller stated that most women buy houses rather than renting because they have kids, and want to leave behind more than an insurance policy when they die.

A male caller said that guys often feel if they buy a house then they have no one to share it with; therefore, they'd rather pay rent for an apartment.

After hearing that guy's opinion I said to myself that he has his priorities mixed up. You don't buy a house to share it with people; you buy it because it's something you want for yourself. If you have a family, then it would be different; you'd be buying it for you and your family so that you all would have a place to call home.

Each and every caller had his or her own opinion about the topic, and for the most part, the women had better explanations

for why they choose to buy a house, whereas the men's explanations for renting were rather immature.

I spoke with a couple of my friends, men and women, and asked them their opinion about paying mortgage or rent. I wanted to find out which one they were doing and their reason for doing so.

One of the guys I talked to, a renter, said that it isn't as easy as I think it is to buy a home. I then asked him why he felt like it wasn't easy.

He said, "How can you save money if you're always dipping in it to pay bills?"

For starters, he has a point about saving money if you're always using it. But if you discipline yourself and really want a home bad enough you will go about the situation the right way.

In his case I don't think saving money is an issue. I think he's just content with living with his girlfriend, helping her pay her bills because he has no kids, no car, nothing of his own really to pay for. Therefore, he has no excuse unless he has bad credit.

I talked to my mom next, who happens to be buying a home. She

said that the reason she and my dad decided to buy a home was because "Our plan was to invest in a house that one day would be ours. Opposed to renting we felt that we were only helping the person that we were renting from purchase their property which was something that we'd never own. And we felt like it would be a waste of money."

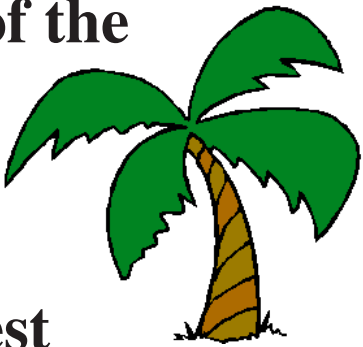
There's nothing wrong with renting, but I want to buy a home. I want to have something to show for all those hard days of working. When you rent, there are limits to what you can and can't do to the house. When you buy a home, you can do whatever you want, when you want.

Most people that rent get mad when the landlord won't fix a problem or takes too long to fix it. Then, the renter ends up moving and paying rent all over again.

What kind of sense does that make? If they had their own home they wouldn't have that problem.

I'm not saying people shouldn't rent, I'm simply saying they shouldn't rent all their lives.

The winner of the SMP's most memorable spring break writing contest



The spring break of 2004, some friends and I went down to Panama City Beach, Fla. The condos that my friend and I were staying at were full of college students that really wanted to party. A couple of nights went by, and the guys and girls that were above us were extremely loud, but nothing that we weren't doing.

Then one particular night the guys and I went out for something to eat and to ride the strip. We found some girls and were going to bring them back to our condo. When we got back, the people that were upstairs were partying hard and the music was blaring. The girl that I brought back was sitting on the couch, and I asked her if she wanted to go on the balcony. She said she would like that, so that's where we went. We were leaning on the rail just talking and getting caught up in the moment.

On of the guys from upstairs had a little too much to drink and decided that he had to throw up, and when he did I was leaning with my arms over the rail. He threw up all over my head. I was so mad, but after it was all over it was pretty funny. The girl didn't stay long after I was puked on.

Zach Vines
Business Administration
Rome, Ga.

Letters to the Editor...

PowerPoint provides needed time for sleep

Dear Editor,

I would just like to say that these "PowerPoint Professors," in my eyes are somewhat slackers by not challenging their students. From my personal experience I have found that staying awake during during slide after slide is impossible. It tells me that the teacher has no originality or true intrest in what he or she teaches. Not saying that PowerPoint isn't a useful tool, but use it in moderation. Just the other day I was in class bored out of mind, after a ten min. nap, I woke up to realize that the rest of the class was out too. PowerPoint can be great, if not used as a crutch but as a teaching aid. To keep my interest I ask

only that teachers are more interesting.

Josh Park
General Studies
Summerville, Ga.

Americans just don't know how to help

Dear Editor,

I strongly agree with the article written by Jason Trask. It now seems that the world's poorest nations are forgotten. There is now so much focus on political issues such as war talk, and too much focus being placed oncatching criminals that are in high political offices.I think that more should be done for countries that are not as prosperous as the U.S., if nothing more than tele- vising relief efforts and ways that we as U.S. citizens can help .I really think that our society really

wants to come together as a whole especially with the times that we are now living in, but alot of us just don't know how. It has to start on an individual basis.

Donna Florence
Nursing
Dallas, Ga.

Atlanta's aquarium proves impressive

Dear Editor,

I was really impressed with the story on the aquarium. The article was well put together and made the aquarium seem like a very interesting place to visit. I had no idea that the place was as big as it is. All of the different types of fish and levels to visit makes me more willing to learn about things like that and actually take the time to go and see

what it is all about. The ocean has always been an interesting place to me, and to have one in my backyard makes it all the more better.

Miranda George
Nursing
Cedartown, Ga.

Cheney cartoon 'funny' and 'wicked'

Dear Editor,

As a Republican, the implications of the cartoon on Dick Cheney should outrage me, but as I read it I could do nothing but laugh. What can I say? What the cartoon states is true and it's ironic how Cheney claims he is a life-long pro-gun advocate and yet he accidentally shoots his friend on a hunting trip.

The comic was funny, true,

and wicked and I for one am applauding the 6 Mile Post for sharing this shocking cartoon with me and the rest of the school.

Kristina Adams
Physical Therapy
Carrollton, Ga.

SB website saves cash

Dear Editor,

Thank you so much for printing the article on Spring Break. It was a real big help to my friends and I. We are trying to plan a trip and save as much money as we possibly can. Springbreaktravel.com was a big help. Thanks again.

Natoshia Tyquiangco
Nursing
Rockmart, Ga.

Have you noticed?

The several signs in memory of FC around the Floyd Campus.

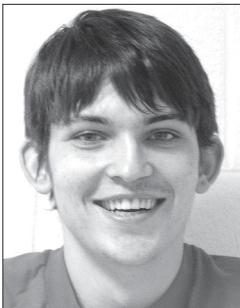


Photo by Josh Kelley

Online Poll Results How do you like PowerPoint?

- Love it. (7) 38.89%
- It's Okay. (8) 44.44%
- Hate it. (3) 16.67%
- Undecided (0) 0.00%

Something to think about



Joshua Owens likes to write and sometimes does by candlelight very late into the night. What an unusual sight! I've heard he'll rhyme anytime there's a need for humor, but it could be just a rumor. Journalism is his major, and he does refuse to plagiar...ize.

Have you seen that guy crutching around the halls of Floyd Campus recently? Yeah, that's me.

I broke my leg on Jan. 20 and life hasn't been the same since. You can't imagine how many trivial, mundane activities have been altered because of my newly acquired handicap. Opening doors is a hassle and so is carrying anything with any amount of thickness, like a book or a cup. And I still can't park in handicapped spaces!

Despite all the superficial inconveniences, though, this ordeal has actually served as a real teacher for me. I would make a list too long if I were to enumerate each of the lessons that I've learned through losing the ability to walk like a normal person, so I'll just give you the highlights.

Well, first off, now I know I'm not invincible. I can appreciate the delicateness of my body. Like David says in Psalms, I am "fearfully and



Photo by Carolyn Grindrod

wonderfully made." I knew that beforehand, but now this knowledge has come to life. For something as minor as a foot injury to completely change my lifestyle, I must admit that there is a fragile balance that can easily be thrown out of kilter.

I've learned it's good to slow down. Since I didn't choose to do it myself, it was done for me. Always a-go-go-goin' takes its toll, which I realized after remaining in a hospital bed for a couple days.

I don't recommend lying in bed for long periods of time, but I do suggest remembering to stop and smell the roses now and then.

Lastly, now I have empathy for a group of people I formerly was unable to relate to. I will certainly never look at someone on crutches the same way.

Hopefully when I'm back on my own two feet again, carrying my own plates and opening my own doors, I'll look back on my time as a cripple and not take those simple pleasures for granted.

SIX MILE POLL

What are you looking forward to the most about Spring Break?



Sheila Bozarth
Gadsden, Ala.
Nursing

"Time off from school and getting to sleep in."



Josh Pierce
Cedartown, Ga.
Criminal Justice

"Going to Savannah and partying for Saint Patrick's Day."



Tammy Clay
Rome, Ga.
Nursing

"Getting some time off for myself."



Matthew Payne
Rome, Ga.
Psychology

"Visiting with old friends from high school because they are all coming back in town."



Tonya Parker
Cedartown, Ga.
Nursing

"Just being home with my kids."

Cartoonist Smith makes state-wide impact

By Megan Van Meter
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Staff Writer

Georgia Highlands' own Jenn Smith has received the Impact Award for her editorial cartoons.

Every year the "Atlanta Journal-Constitution" judges submissions from both two and four-year college students to distinguish the state's finest editorial cartoonist. Smith was presented the award at the Georgia College Press Association awards luncheon on Feb. 4 in Macon, GA.

Around campus, Smith has been recognized for the past two years as the creative force behind many of the editorial cartoons in the "Six Mile Post." Her art has also appeared in "FC Bytes" as well as the "Old Red Kimono." She is currently assistant art editor for the "Old Red Kimono."

On any given day, one can find this 22-year-old art major lounging around the student center on the Floyd campus or tra-

versing the campus in a bandana, black leather jacket, boots to match and an abundance of jewelry.

Brian Barr, assistant professor of art, whom Smith credits for her marked improvement in artistic skill, gave Smith her first formal art training. Though drawing had always been an interest, she did not become seri-

what distinguishes her from her peers. He predicts a successful future for her in the art world so long as she maintains focus.

"He brought me out of my shell," Smith says of Barr.

"Jenn is an excellent artist. It is impressive that she was chosen for the Impact Award over all other two- and four-year Georgia college cartoonists," said Dr. Kristie Kemper, "Six Mile Post" adviser.

Smith hopes to transfer to Savannah College of Art and Design and then pursue a lucrative career in animation with a major company after completing her studies. Disney's animation, she feels, is too simplistic. She hopes to obtain employment with Pixar or Dreamworks, whose animation she finds more realistic. Eventually, she would like to open her own gallery, possibly overseas.

Since she also has experience designing tattoos, Smith says she would like to learn how to work the gun and open her own parlor sometime in the future.

"Jenn recognizes that while the most important tool in art is the human heart, the brain is a close second."

-Brian Barr

ous about painting until college. Through Barr's guidance, Smith was able to mature and hone her creative talents.

"Jenn recognizes that while the most important tool in art is the human heart, the brain is a close second. She works as hard at developing her skill as she does her awareness," Barr said.

He said that this, as well as her fierce desire to be worldly, is



Photo by Randie Mayo

Smith, Impact Award Winner, works on a painting in the Floyd campus art lab. She is a cartoonist for the "Six Mile Post" as well as assistant art editor for the "Old Red Kimono" literary magazine.

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Criminal Justice major goes undercover

Evans reveals how she became Suzie Sunshine

By Randie Mayo
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Staff Writer

Many may not know it, but Nicole Evans, a criminal justice major from Rome, goes by more than one name. At school she is known as Nicole, but at work she is known as Sunshine Suzie, the clown. Evans is also known to do a little clogging on the side.

What got her started in the clown business was when she volunteered to be a clown for the fall festivals hosted by her church, Silver Creek Baptist. Evans noted, "I just had fun doing it so I decided to continue to do it."

Many children around Marietta, Rome and Cartersville only know her as Suzie Sunshine. "You'd be surprised at how many kids recognize you," Evans said. "They're like 'I've seen you before!' or 'Do you remember me?' that kind of thing."

Suzie Sunshine has been seen performing in many areas of east Georgia. She has mainly performed at parties, picnics and church events. "I once did a grand opening at a Publix in Cartersville," Evans said.

Her performance includes

making balloon animals, doing magic tricks and face painting. "My dad gets a kick out of telling everyone his daughter is a clown," Evans said.

Another activity that Evans partakes in is clogging, which, according to Evans is "a

time. Since then, Evans has partaken in competitions and festivals with her clogging group.

"We dance at the Chiaha Arts and Crafts Festival at Ridge Ferry Park each year, but the Spring Fling in Gatlinburg, Tenn. is our big show," Evans said.

At the Spring Fling there are dance workshops in which groups from all over learn new routines over a two-day period. On the first day there is an exhibition, while on the second day a competition is held.

"We are taught by world-class instructors," Evans said. Members of the teams All That and Southern Bells, who instruct for the Spring Fling, have been on such shows as "Dance Fever."

This clowning clogger plans to continue doing both for a good while. "As long as I can find someone to pay me to be a clown I will. It's just so much fun," she said. Evans also continues to hone her clogging skills with her group at Shorter College, where they use the facilities to practice.

Above Left: Evans dons her Suzie Sunshine costume.

Right: Evans clogs with the Southern Style Sweethearts.



Nicole Evans models her Sweet-heart uniform.



Above: Evans (left) clogs with the Southern Style Sweethearts.

Below: Evans (center) entertains children.

All photos contributed



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Students coach young writers at local school



Journalism major Mary Lynn Ritch (right) coaches a young student in the Anna K. Davie after school program.

Photo by Josh Kelley

By John Bailey
jbail08@highlands.edu
Staff Writer

“The kids at Anna K. Davie don’t need help with their creativity,” said Randie Mayo, general studies major from Tallpoosa, Ga. “We just help the kids by keeping them focused.”

Mayo is just one of the Georgia Highlands students participating in a service learning program at Anna K. Davie elementary school.

Dr. Jon Hershey, professor of English, sponsors the creative writing program that takes place at the elementary school on Mondays.

The 10-week program puts Highlands’ students in charge of a small group of children that they help on a variety of writing projects.

These projects are then put together for publication in the annual “AKD Writer’s Academy” publication.

In addition to the journal, the children give a spoken public presentation of their work.

“The kids are enjoyable,” said Mayo. “We have a blast.”

GHC Creative Writing class students that take part in the service learning project are excused from certain class projects and don’t have to take the final exam. They do have to go through a small amount of mentor training, though.

Though all students in Hershey’s creative writing class have the service learning program as an option in the class, it is not limited to the class.

The Writer’s Academy project is funded through a grant by Rome Area Council of the Arts, and partners in the project include the 100 Black Men of Rome, and Community In Schools.

Jacki Padgett, general studies major from Lindale, Ga. and a student volunteering for the program, said, “I enjoy working with the kids. It gives me a chance to give back to our community. It’s really great.”

The after school writing program was started by Hershey in 2004. Students are selected for this program based on interest.



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Go to Mars for spring break with Armored Core 2 for Playstation2

By Jeff Denmon
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Assistant Editor

Video Game Review

Players can find a beautiful bargain bin gem of role-playing game elements, mech (giant robot) combat simulation and pure carnage in Agatec's "Armored Core 2."

"Armored Core 2" features two multiplayer modes, including two-player split screen and two-player via the Playstation2 link cable.

In single player mode, there are over 50 missions as well as an arena where players can participate in one-on-one battles against computer-controlled opponents

The player takes the role of a Raven, a mercenary who pilots a giant robot capable of mass destruction and general disarray.

A visually breathtaking game, "Armored Core 2" takes place in a post-apocalyptic future where the people of Earth have literally destroyed the planet with war and pollution. Although most of the player's time is spent in buildings, underground cav-

erns and deserted military bases, what the Raven does see is detailed textures of the rocks, water and metal.

eral exotic locations in order to trump the other corporations. However, the game loses its edge as the player slowly begins to upgrade his or her machine with the over 100 optional parts that can be bought from the shop.

The control scheme, which can be set to the player's own preferences, will at first be reminiscent of the older "mech" platformers with strafing buttons on the shoulders.

Once or twice in the game the player is presented with a mission that he or she must take for no pay at all.

In that mission the player is given little or no information on how to complete it. Players spend hours on end trying to figure out that they still have no clue as to what to do. Fortunately, there is an "abort mission" func-

The three major corporations that have taken hold of the governments from Earth have now moved their aspirations of power to the planet Mars.

The three corporations offer jobs and send the Raven to sev-

tion. "Armored Core 2" is a solid, inexpensive and addictive gem of a game that will keep the RPG/mech combat fan busy all spring break.



Photo courtesy of psreporter.com



Georgia Highlands College Final Financial Aid Deadlines

Summer 2006: July 1, 2006

Fall 2006: July 1, 2006

Spring 2007: November 1, 2006

To apply for Financial aid, complete the FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov

If you are attending summer 2006, you must complete the FAFSA for 2005-2006 (Using 2004 tax returns).

If you are attending Fall 2006, you must complete the FAFSA for 2006-2007 (using 2005 tax returns).

For detailed information on how to apply for financial aid and what types of financial aid are offered, please go to www.highlands.edu/currentstudents/financialaid/index.htm. Once you receive an award letter from GHC, you will be able to view your financial aid award and/or student loan status on this webpage.

Other good Spring Break budget games

- "Ratchet & Clank: up your arsenal" (PS2)
- "Crimson Skies: High Road to Revenge" (XBOX)
- "Super Smash Brothers Melee" (Gamecube)
- "Burnout 3: Takedown" (PS2, XBOX)
- "Simpsons Road Rage" (PS2, XBOX, Gamecube)
- "Xenosaga II" (PS2)
- "Fable" (XBOX, PC)
- "Demon Stone" (PS2, XBOX)

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‘Rent’: A Broadway smash comes home

By Crystal Hicks
chick00@highlands.edu
Staff Writer

Movie Review

The musical “Rent” by Jonathan Larson took Broadway by surprise ten years ago. Now this smash Broadway hit has been made into a movie and released on DVD so everyone can enjoy it at home. “Rent” is about the modern struggles of life in times of hardship and regret—from struggling to pay rent to coping with AIDS, drug addiction and the uncertainties of love. It shows how love can be

found in the darkest of times and friendships grow stronger as the end draws near. Although “Rent” is consistently upbeat, even with the given circumstances, complexity and drama are added to keep the musical grounded and realistic. This musical drama is meant to inspire people who are having personal hardships or are directly affected by them to embrace what they have today, to take pride in the place they call home and remember that love and friendship are the most important things that one may possess, especially in difficult times. This movie is definitely worth renting.



Photo courtesy of sonypictures.com

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Eisley is a modern-day Partridge family of indie-pop

By Mary Lynn Ritch
mritc00@highlands.edu
Staff Writer

Music Review

The childhood dream of starting a successful band is nothing but a fantasy for most people. But for the five members of the family Dupree that make up the indie-pop band Eisley, the determination to make their dreams a reality has led them to open for such megabands as Coldplay, Snow Patrol, Brand New and New Found Glory. A modern-day Partridge Family, Eisley consists of sisters Sherri and Stacy Dupree; both equipped with alluringly whimsical voices; sister Chauntelle on guitar; brother Weston on drums; and cousin Garron picking up the backend on the bass. Eisley’s first full album release, “Room Noises,” is a mini-

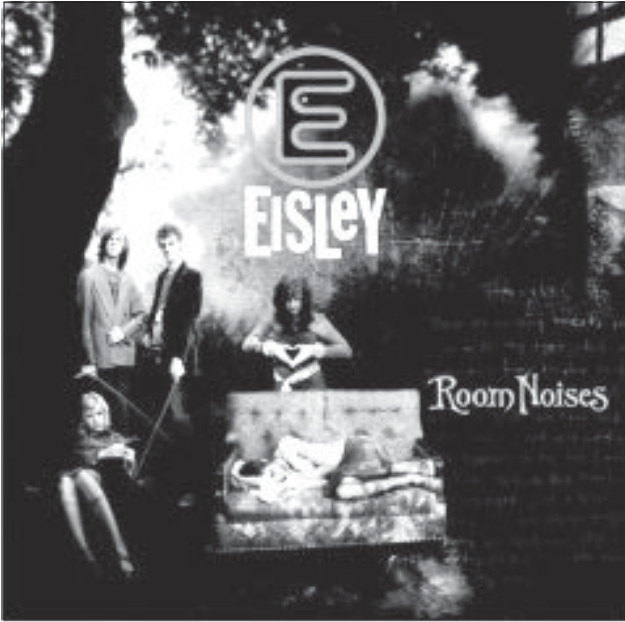


Photo courtesy of Amazon.com

mal departure from their previous EPs, yet remains a solid first release for a band that has potential to take a top spot amongst mainstream rock’s heavyweight contenders.

The album begins with the song “Memories,” a ballad about the death of a husband. The song is written in such a way that the audience can feel the pain from a lost love. Stacy does a remarkable job of portraying the pain with lyrics like “I’m always wondering where you are.” “I Wasn’t Prepared” is a song about falling in love unexpectedly and being unprepared for the relationship. Another song on the album, “Marvelous Things,” sounds like a lullaby that is worth singing to a three-year-old to try to get him or her to sleep. It has a very soothing sound that hypnotizes and soothes the nerves. The album ends with the song “Trolley Wood,” which has a very poetic and artsy vibe. It should be played at a poetry reading, in the trendiest of hipster hot spots. Overall, Eisley’s “Room Noises” is a solid offering from an up-and-coming band, with enough variety to captivate a vast majority of listeners while still appealing to the die-hard fans that led Eisley to where it is today.

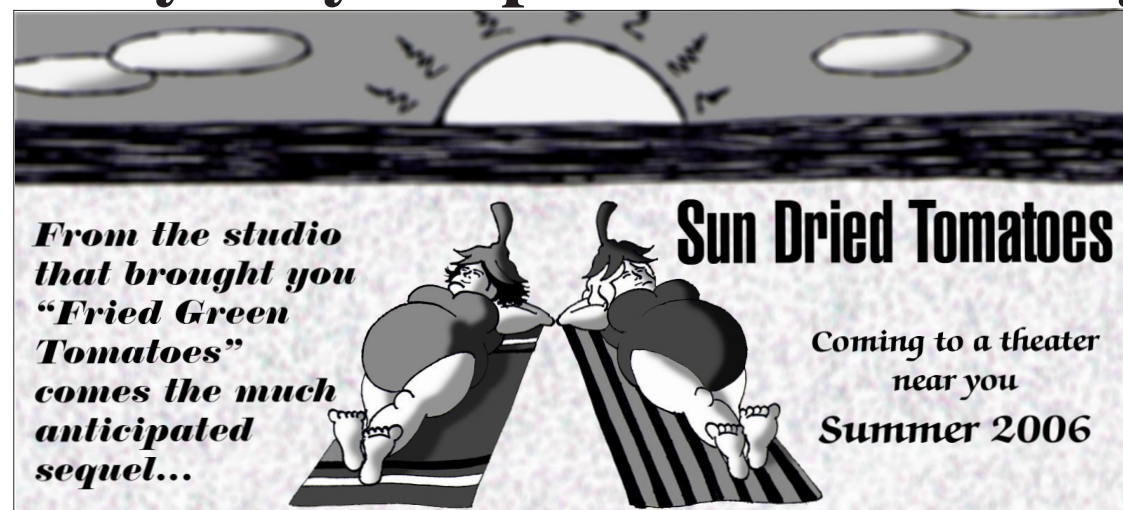
Using SPF today may keep skin cancer away tomorrow

By Leanna Gable
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Staff Writer

By this time during the semester, most college students are thinking about the warm, sandy beaches that they'll be visiting on spring break, but no one really considers the health risks of sun exposure when they are half-naked in the sun.

The leading cause of skin cancer is sun exposure, and most of the signs people associate with aging are due to the harmful UV rays projected by the sun. The best way to prevent skin cancer and unsightly wrinkles and age spots is to use sunscreen and wear protective clothing.

Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the United States, and 75 percent of skin cancer deaths are caused by the



malignant cancer melanoma, according to the website WebMD (www.webmd.com). There are two other types of skin cancer as well: basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma. All of these cancers are dangerous and un-

healthy, and, yes, skin cancer kills.

Cumulative sun-exposure is the leading cause of basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma, and the leading cause of melanoma is repeated, severe

sunburns, usually before the age of 18.

In checking for skin cancer, WebMD says most doctors rely on the ABCD method of identifying signs: Asymmetry—the two halves of a mole do not match;

Border—the edges of a mole are uneven or blurred; Color—uneven shades of red, brown, black, tan, white or blue; Diameter—a change in size of a mole.

Self-checks can help prevent skin cancer from becoming more severe.

The best methods for preventing skin cancer are applying sunscreen with an SPF-sun protection factor of 15 or greater, choosing cosmetics with sunscreen, wearing sunglasses with UV protection and avoiding direct sun exposure as much as possible.

Eighty percent of a person's sun exposure is attained before the age of 18, though skin cancer usually appears much later in life.

Spring breakers should protect themselves from the sun before they enjoy that warm sand between their toes.

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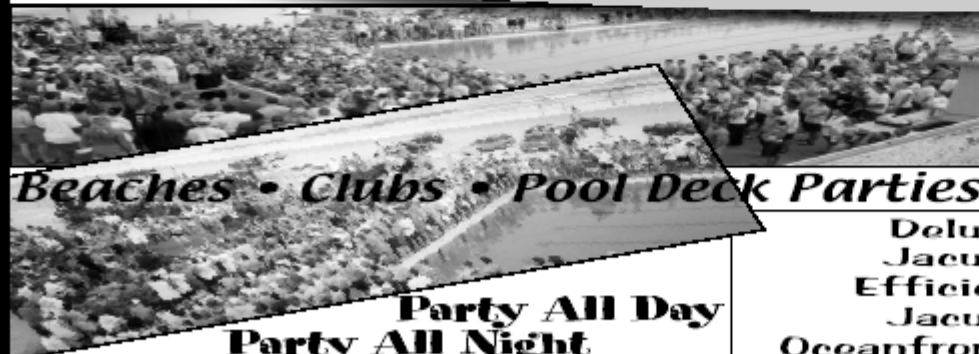
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Lack of sleep affects students

By Carolyn Grindrod
cgrin01@highlands.edu
Editor-in-Chief

Stuck on sheep number 693? According to Dr. Omar Burshtin of the New York University School of Medicine, 90 percent of college students don't get enough sleep.

This epidemic of sleep deprivation known as insomnia is defined by the American Insomnia Association (AIA) as trouble falling asleep or staying asleep and affects more than a third of American adults today.

But why is getting enough sleep so important to students? As stated by an article by Seema Agarwal, "The purpose of sleep is to allow the body to repair and rejuvenate. Sleep also reduces fatigue and stress. Dreaming helps to clear the nervous system."

Not getting enough sleep can affect students' performance in school and other activities. Studenthealth101.com says that students who do not get enough sleep are more likely to feel groggy during class and have

trouble concentrating and remembering for exams.

Insomnia comes in many different forms and can create restless nights for those who have it at all ages.

According to AIA, there are three main types of insomnia.

Transient insomnia is the inability to sleep for a short period, for example the day before a big test.

Short-term insomnia inhibits sleep for four to six weeks at a time and is usually caused by ongoing stress.

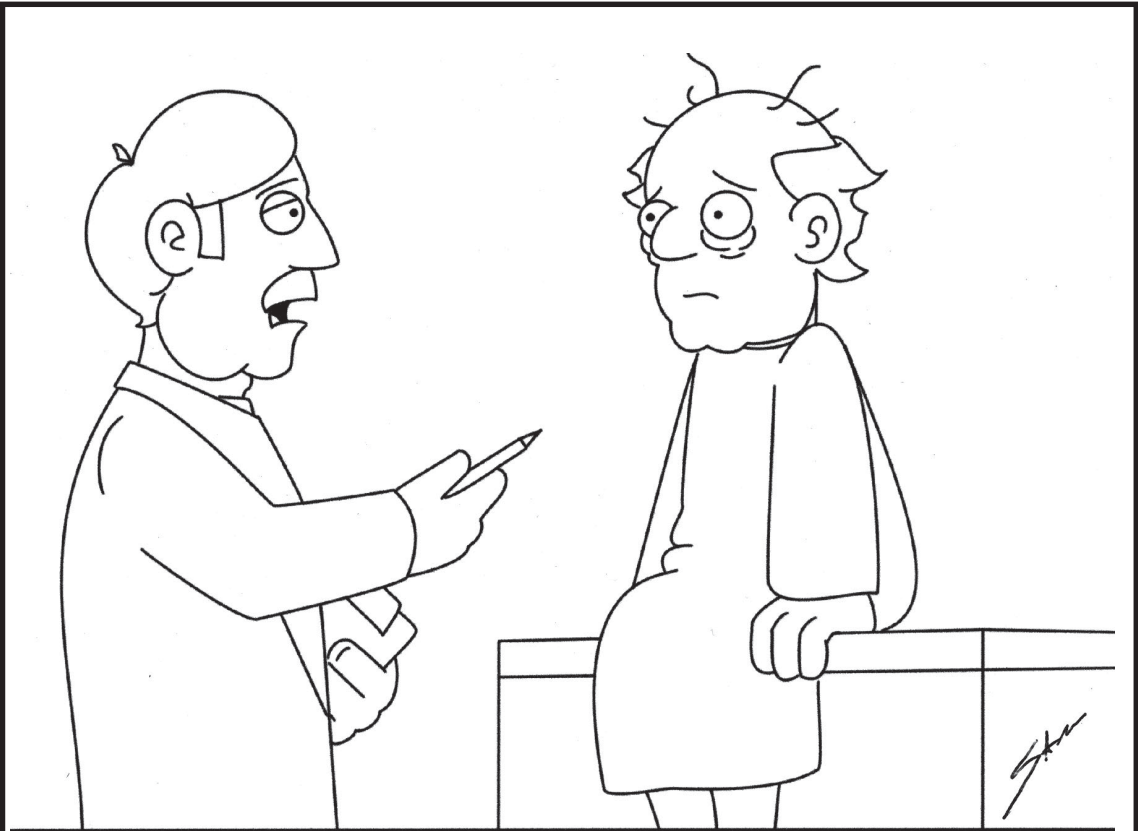
Chronic insomnia refers to the inability to sleep for more than a six-month period and can be caused by breathing ailments.

Insomnia can be caused by many different factors, including health problems and stress.

Different lifestyles can also make individuals more susceptible to insomnia, according to the AIA.

For example, those who smoke or drink alcohol usually are at higher risk for insomnia. Individuals who work odd-shift jobs are also at risk.

Other factors could be attrib-



Normally I don't suggest such a strong treatment, but in a case of insomnia like yours I'm afraid I'll have to recommend reality television.

Artwork by Sam Gaines, 2006

uted to one's environment, for example noise or air pollution.

There are many different methods of treatment for insomniacs. According to The Harbin Clinic Sleep Disorders Clinic, one

of the most common methods of treatment is counseling and therapy for stress-related problems; another common method is through prescription medicines such as Ambien and Sonata.

However, according to AIA, while these drugs can help with insomnia, they do not cure it.

The best treatment for insomnia is to seek help from a Medical professional.

TRASH survey finds more faculty than students wearing seat belts

Fewer Georgia Highlands College students are using their seat belts while driving than last semester, according to a recent observational seat-belt usage survey conducted by the TRASH Peer Educators.

The non-scientific survey was conducted on Feb. 15 from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Floyd campus. Members of TRASH recorded results from the cars entering and exiting the main parking lot in front of the McCorkle and Lakeview buildings.

Only 69 percent of students were wearing their seat belts, as compared to 70 percent of students observed wearing seat belts during a similar survey conducted during fall semester 2005.

In comparison, 82 percent of faculty/staff were complying with the mandatory state seat belt law in February, which was an 11 percent increase from the fall semester numbers.

"We were surprised with the number of students who were not wearing their seat belts," said

TRASH member Hannah Smith. "Everyone was looking at us wondering why we were standing out there, but only a few stopped to ask."

Georgia's seat belt law requires all front seat passengers over the age of 18 to wear a safety belt. Had the TRASH members been law enforcement officers, 34 percent of the cars coming into the GHC parking lot would have received tickets.

According to statistics provided by the Governor's Office of

Highway Safety, motor vehicle crashes are the number one killer of Americans up to age 34, and most crashes usually occur within 25 miles of home.

TRASH, which stands for Teaching Responsible Alcohol, Substance and Highway Safety, is a chapter of the international student peer education organization called The BACCHUS Network.

TRASH receives funding from a federal grant provided by the Governor's Office of Highway

Safety.

The mission of the peer educator group at GHC is to provide information to students regarding responsible decisions about alcohol and other drugs, automobile safety, sexual health and other lifestyle situations.

Students interested in joining the TRASH Peer Educators can contact John Spranza, co-adviser and director of student life, at jspranza@highlands.edu or Krista Mazza, co-adviser at kmazza@highlands.edu.

"Failure is success if we learn from it."
—Malcom S. Forbes



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Golf tourney set for April

By Sandy Watkins
cwatk00@highlands.edu
Staff Writer

It's time for the Georgia Highlands College 27th annual Dr. Wesley Walraven Golf Scramble.

"This is a great opportunity to come out and enjoy a great day of golf at a great rate and have the opportunity to win some great prizes," says GHC Intramural Coordinator David Mathis.

The scramble is open to students and college employees and will take place on April 7 at the BEAA course located three miles north of the Floyd campus on Eden Valley Road, according to Dr. Ken Weatherman, physical education professor. Tee-off time is 12:30 p.m.

The cost of participation is \$21 for those wishing to ride and \$12 for those willing to walk. Participation fees will cover carts and green fees. Prizes of golf equipment will be awarded to first and second place teams. Refreshments will be provided to participants.

Registration is ongoing until 5 p.m. on Thursday, April 6 at the physical education department office, participants may call 706-295-6353 or email Weatherman at kweatherman@highlands.edu for more information.

The scramble format of the tournament is team oriented, which means that when golfers hit a shot, they can opt to use the best shot of any of the team members instead of their own. That means that golfers of all abilities and levels will have an opportunity to progress through the course rather quickly.

Teams will be assigned by Weatherman prior to tee-off and will be comprised of a mix of student and faculty golfers of all levels.

The tournament is named in honor of the late Dr. Wesley Walraven, vice president emeritus of academics at Floyd College because of his unfailing support and lifelong contribution to the development of the college.

"Because Dr. Walraven was such an avid golfer, we can think of no better way to honor him for his contributions to the community through the college," Weatherman said.

Student directs sales for Gladiators



Photo by Sam Chapman

Potts talks to the Gladiators sales staff about sponsorships for the team.

By Mary Prickett
mpric01@highlands.edu
Staff Writer

Tony Potts, a student at Georgia Highlands College, is now the director of sales for Rome's professional basketball team, the Gladiators.

Potts has worked in radio since he was 16 and had already been working with the Gladiators since last year as a stadium giveaway announcer.

Recently, the Gladiators head

coach, Harrold Ellis, called Potts. "We went to lunch, brainstormed and he loved the ideas that I had and gave me the job," Potts said. "I handle sales staff, marketing promotions, personal and media relations for the team. I have hired a Georgia Highlands student for sales."

Potts said, "I don't think attending college increased my chances of getting the job. I think the education that I learned has. I love my job. I'm 25 and I'm running a professional sports team."

Potts said.

The Gladiators are a developmental league team. Potts said, "Two of our players signed developmental contracts with NBA."

The team's head coach is an advance scout for the Atlanta Hawks and goes around the country finding players that don't get picked up by the NBA. "With his connections with the Hawks, we've got the cream of the crop. Also our owner, Theo Ratliff, is with the Portland Trailblazers and is an NBA leading shot

Potts is working two jobs while going to school. "It's tough, but I'm getting paid to do what I love to do," he said.

Potts estimates he work about 80 hours a week between the two jobs. "I work at the radio station every Saturday morning from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on the program called 'In the Zone,' which is Rome's number one ranked local sports talk show on FM 95.3 and AM 1470 WRGA,"

blocker," Potts said.

The goals of the Gladiators this year are to have a repeat of last year. "We won the 2005 Developmental League WBA Championship and are looking to repeat that win again this year," Potts said.

Potts is from Rome and is in his second year at GHC, where he is majoring in middle grade education. Potts has already received a Marketing Degree from Coosa Valley Technical College.

In his spare time Potts likes to go to sporting events and spend time with his girlfriend. "I have a loving girlfriend who is completely understanding of my time. I'm also a movie buff," he said.

Potts had some advice for students. "Never bite off more than you can handle, but never settle for anything less than you want to do. Just, if there's something else out there you want to do, go get it. Never think that you are too young or immature, just go out there, work hard and get it," he said.

"I plan on going wherever God leads me," Potts said. "I'm doing so many different things and whichever way He wants me to go is the way I'm going."

The Gladiators season starts on April 22 at Shorter College, where all their games will be held. The Gladiators will be playing against Arkansas at 7 p.m. For ticket information, Potts said, "You can go to romegladiators.com or call the office for tickets at 706-766-5924."



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Tru Ballas, All-Stars post wins in round three action



Photos by Josh Kelley
Left: Cyril Young dunks the ball for the All-Stars. Above: Cory Pitts dribbles the ball up court for the Tru Ballas.

By Zach Green
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Staff Writer

The Tru Ballas kicked off round three of intramural 5-on-5 action Feb. 22 with a win over Dem Boyz 54-34 in the 1:30 p.m. contest.

Led by Maddrick Long with 15 points, the Tru Ballas extended their undefeated record by dishing Dem Boyz their third straight loss of the season. Dem Boyz were led by Brandon Brown with 14 points.

At the 2:30 p.m. game between the All-Stars and C-Town, Jonathan Little took center stage for the All-Stars and made the game a clinic on how to drain three-pointers. Finishing the game with 17 total points, Little dropped five three-pointers within minutes near the end of the first half.

Because of his touch from behind the arch, he was given the nickname “The Truth” by teammate Dayne Styles. Styles also had two three-pointers in the contest. Little’s fellow leading scorer for the game was Terry Albert, who also served up five

three-pointers. The All-Stars had a commanding 38-15 lead at the half, and maintained dominance for the remainder of the contest. Leading by more than 20 points with less than five minutes left in the game results in a “called-contest.” This was the case in this battle, and the All-Stars recorded the win with a score of 56-30.

Leading scorers for C-Town included Drew Martin, Ryan Covington, DJ Little and Blake Landrum, all with six points.

After the third round of action, the Tru Ballas ranked number one with an undefeated record of 3-0.

The All-Stars were a close second, having been handed only one loss, and with a record of 2-1.

In third was C-Town, 1-2, and ranked fourth and still hungry for their first win was Dem Boyz, 0-3.

All 5-on-5 basketball games are held on Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m in the gymnasium on the Floyd Campus. For information on any intramural activity, contact David Mathis at dmathis@highlands.edu.

5-5 Scores for March 1

C-Town forfeited to Dem Boyz
All-Stars- 46 Ballas- 43

Leading scorers
Quantavious Martin (Ballas) 19
Cyril Young (All-Stars) 13

5-5 Scores for March 8

Dem Boyz forfeited to All-Stars
Ballas-63 C-Town- 48

Leading scorers
Quantavious Martin (Ballas) 15
James Mitchell (C-Town) 12

The ladies take center court

In 1997, the Women’s National Basketball Association was introduced to the world. The league is growing vigorously every year.

The ladies bring a lot of excitement to the court, and they give the younger girls a chance to continue their dream as professional basketball players.

Some of the women have even come out with their own line of shoes.

Lisa Leslie and Sheryl Swoopes both have shoe contracts through Nike. These ladies, along with many more in the league, even have basketball jerseys out.

To see a WNBA jersey on another person’s back makes me feel good. Because you used to hear little girls say, “I’m going to be the first girl to be in the NBA.”

Now that we have a league



Real Talk

By Stephanie McCombs
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Columnist

just for women, they no longer have to be the first lady in the NBA. They can be in a league of their own.

Every year the women compete against one another with one thing in mind, a championship title. The first team to win the title was the Houston Comets.

Swoopes and Cynthia Cooper are two of the main go-to girls for the Comets.

Cooper was the first female Most Valuable Player (MVP), and Swoopes played on the U.S. Olympic team in 1996.

Leslie was the first female to dunk, and she’s also a model. She was also the first to obtain all three MVP awards: Regular Season, All Star and Championship in one season.

When the league first started it only had eight teams; as of today there are 16 teams.

I think that female athletes have come a long way.

Personally, I never would’ve thought there would be a professional basketball league just for women. It took long enough.

I didn’t even think that they had an All-Star game until I read about it. I guess it’s not as big as the NBA All-Star game, at least not yet.

I’m glad that women get to continue their dreams as professional ball players.

Men get drafted right out of high school into the NBA, and they’re well on their way to stardom.

As for the women, they had to wait years for their league to develop. Now that it’s here, there’s no turning back.

Hey guys, you better watch out. You never know when we’re going to take over.



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