

# Six Mile Post

*The Student Voice*

Georgia Highlands College - Rome, Georgia

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Six Mile Post Online

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



Economic stimulus package may not be all that it is cracked up to be. See page 7.

## Former Gov. Roy Barnes to speak at Cartersville campus



Photo Courtesy of Georgia.gov

**Former Gov. Roy Barnes**

By M. Cunningham  
Staff Writer

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Roy Barnes, former governor of Georgia, is coming to the Cartersville campus of Georgia Highlands College on April 14.

His speech will be on "The Paradox of Affluence: Choices, Challenges and Consequences." He will provide information based on his experience in political and professional arenas.

Barnes was invited to speak by Phi Theta Kappa. The speech will begin at 12 p.m. in the Student Center. All staff and students of the college community are invited, and there is no cost to attend. However, PTK welcomes all donations to help with future events.

PTK hopes to have several other speakers in support of PTK's scholarship Hallmark.

Barnes served as governor of Georgia from 1999 until 2003, when he was unseated by Sonny Perdue.

## New bypass to cut through GHC campus

By Jeffery Barwick and  
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Part of the Rome Bypass will cut through the Georgia Highlands College golf course.

The part of the bypass plan affecting the GHC's Floyd Campus is the south Rome Bypass.

The south Rome Bypass will run from U.S. 27 along Booze Mountain Road to State Route 101.

Phillip Kimsey, director of plant operations at GHC, said, "The DOT is acquiring right-of-way from all affected property holders on Booze Mountain Road and beyond. No visible work has taken place on the other side of Booze Mountain."

According to Dr. Ken Weatherman, professor of physical education, the news of the bypass makes the future of the golf program at GHC uncertain, "though there are still means for the golf program at the college to continue."

Weatherman cites the golf program at the Cartersville campus, which uses an off-campus driving range for courses.

Mohamed Arafa, communications officer for the GDOT, said that the construction contract should be in place by mid 2009.



Photo By Andrew Cole

**Dr. Ken Weatherman, professor of physical education, putts on the GHC golf course, which will be bisected by the new bypass.**

## Carson accepts interim position at South Georgia College, effective March 3

By Spencer Musick  
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Editor

Dr. Virginia Carson, vice president for academic affairs, has accepted a position at South Georgia College in Douglas as interim president.

Carson, who has served as vice president for academic affairs at Georgia Highlands for six

years, says she has many fond memories of her tenure at GHC. Carson says that the college offers many unique resources to help its students succeed, such as the Tutorial Center.

"The culture of the institution is positive and supportive. In spite of the growth, we have been able to sustain a wonderful level of student support and encouragement at the college," Carson

said.

Carson feels strongly that a small student- to- teacher ratio equates to student success. "We have made an intentional effort to keep classes small during my tenure at GHC. The small class sizes are an attribute of GHC that sets the college apart from its post secondary counterparts in the University System of Georgia," she said.



Contributed Photo

**Dr. Virginia Carson**

# Mugleston plans to head to retirement after 41 years

By Jeff Capen  
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Staff Writer

Georgia Highlands College will soon be saying goodbye to one of its longest-tenured teachers. Dr. William Mugleston, professor of history, will be stepping down from his 41-year career and enjoying retirement.

Mugleston began teaching history at Northern Essex Community College, a small school in Massachusetts, in 1967. After working at various colleges, Mugleston eventually came to GHC in 1994. "When a good opportunity arose at Georgia Highlands (then Floyd College), it seemed like a natural fit," he says.

Mugleston's first position at Georgia Highlands College was as chair of the social and cultural studies division. He held the post for 11 years before becoming a teacher exclusively. For four months in 2001, Mugleston also held the position of academic vice

president.

"I've equally liked all of my positions at GHC," he said. "You see the college from a slightly different viewpoint in each position, but let's just say I always liked

**"Even with the occasional stresses and strains, there was never a morning where I didn't look forward to coming to work. For that I feel blessed."**

-W. Mugleston

what I saw."

During his tenure at GHC, Mugleston has also contributed a chapter to a history textbook entitled "United States of Change," which is a required text

in his American history course. His chapter deals with foreigners' views of the United States. Mugleston is also credited as co-author of a biography of a prominent 20th-century journalist. "I came out of the process convinced that writing a book is a difficult but fun process from beginning to end," he said.

With every teacher comes a favorite philosophy. Mugleston says his is to make history "both interesting and relevant to our lives now." He also wishes that students would always come to class prepared, adding that "it's a better learning experience for both student and teacher."

Mugleston says the one thing he'll miss about teaching is his passion for the work he does. "In all my years of administration and teaching, even with the occasional stresses and strains, there was never a morning where I didn't look forward to coming to work. For that I feel blessed."

Mugleston says he plans to teach part-time in retirement.



Dr. William Mugleston

Photo by Eric Celler

## Banner SCORE opens for registration for summer semester classes

By Desiree Knight  
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Staff Writer

Banner SCORE is open for registration for the summer semester, including "Maymester," on March 10.

"Maymester" begins on May 7 and continues through the 28th. The full summer semester begins on June 2 and continues through July 29. There are also classes available for June and July only.

Students may make a summer schedule by registering for any of these sessions.

If one thinks he or she needs to be a full-time student, 12 credit hours is considered a full-time schedule in the summer, but is not necessarily advised. For those that could not meet with an advisor on the early-bird registration day, they must contact an advisor. The person to contact at the Floyd campus is Eileen Walker, advising specialist, and

for Cartersville the advising specialist is Carolyn Hamrick.

If students need financial aid for the summer, they must file a FAFSA worksheet. The deadline to file FAFSA was March 1. It is a priority deadline, meaning that the entire worksheet is completed by March 1 to ensure their package is processed by the beginning of the summer semester.

"The summer semester is different because students are also required fill out a summer aid packet, which is available online," stated Todd Jones, director of admissions. If anyone is confused about what kind of financial aid they can receive for the summer it is best they contact a person in their financial aid office. The person to contact at the Rome campus is Donna Childers, director of financial aid, and Cartersville students should contact Kelli Thomas.

"A person may be eligible for the HOPE Scholarship and student loans, but his or her Pell

Grant may be depleted if he or she were to be full time in the spring and fall semesters," stated Walker.

"Maymester" classes meet five days a week. June and July only classes meet four times a week, with no classes meeting on Fridays. June and July full summer classes meet two times a week.

Students on the Floyd campus should see Sandie Davis in the registrar's office and Cartersville students should visit the HUB to register for the upcoming "Maymester" and summer semester.

### Summer Sessions:

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**July- June 30-July 28**



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# SMP takes first place overall at regional press institute

By **Miranda Lockridge**  
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 Staff Writer

The Six Mile Post took first place in the two-year college newspaper completion in the annual contest sponsored by the Southern Regional Press Institute (SRPI). Abraham Baldwin College came in second.

The award was presented at a luncheon on the campus of Savannah State University, which hosts the SRPI.

A number of SMP staffers from both the Floyd and Cartersville campuses received recognition in the two-year college category.

James Swift (Cartersville) took first place in the editorial and column writing category, with Eric Gregory (Floyd) coming in second. Gregory also received the first place award in sports writing, with Jeff Capen (Cartersville) taking second place. Eric Celler (Cartersville) and Josh Kelley (Floyd) took first and second place, respectively, in

the photography competition.

The Six Mile Post Online took second place in the online newspaper competition, which was not divided by two- and four-year colleges.

The competition was based on work published in 2007, and the Savannah Morning News staff judged the contest entries.

The SRPI groups together college, high school and elementary school students who are interested in or are pursuing a career in journalism.

The theme this year was "Media Ethics and the Political Process."

On Thursday, Dawn Baker gave the opening speech to the crowd of young journalists. Baker is a news anchor for WOTC-Channel 11 in Savannah. She co-anchors both the 5 p.m. and 11 p.m. news.

Baker is a recipient of numerous awards and works with several companies and organizations that strive to benefit both the community and the world.

She received this year's Louis R. Lautier Award for Career

Achievement by the SRPI.

Baker is a recipient of numerous awards and accompanies several companies and organizations that strive to benefit both the community and the world.

Ken Paulson, who is currently editor and senior vice-president of news for USA Today and USATODAY.com, spoke at the Luetta Colvin Milledge/Louise Lautier Owens Awards Luncheon on Friday. The SRPI awarded him the Robert S. Abbott Memorial Award for Meritorious Service in Mass Communications.

Paulson is both a journalist and a lawyer. Paulson is renowned for informing Americans about First Amendment rights.

He was named Fellow of the Society of Professional Journalists.

Six Mile Post staff writers Melinda Lockridge and Kayla Amos attended the press institute, along with SMP advisers Dr. Kristie Kemper and Cindy Wheeler, who served as consultants and workshop presenters during the SRPI.



Contributed Photo

**Kayla Amos (left) and Miranda Lockridge show off awards won by the SMP in Savannah.**

## Smithsonian exhibit

### 'Beyond Baseball' set to begin at Floyd March 16

By **LaTonya Burrell**  
 lburrell@student.highlands.edu  
 Assistant Editor

Georgia Highlands College will begin its springtime exhibition from the Smithsonian Institute entitled, "Beyond Baseball: The Life of Roberto Clemente," on March 16 in the Lakeview Building art gallery on the Floyd campus.

The exhibition is in honor of the life and time of Clemente, a baseball Hall of Fame inductee, showcasing his career on the field and his humanitarian effort.

John Spranza, director of student life, says "Beyond Baseball" is part of a Smithsonian Institute's efforts to reach areas outside of Washington, D.C. GHC is the first college to present this exhibition sponsored by SITES (Smithsonian Institutes Traveling Exhibits).

According to information from the Smithsonian Insti-

tute, Clemente signed with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1954 and was later traded to the Pittsburgh Pirates. In 1960 Clemente made the All-Star team for the first time and was also on the winning team of the World Series. Clemente was the first Latin-American player to be the National League's MVP, World Series MVP and inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Clemente died in a plane crash delivering humanitarian aid to earthquake victims in Nicaragua.

The Office of Student Life is sponsoring the exhibit, which is open to students, faculty and the general public.

The exhibition will be presented in both English and Spanish. Hours for the gallery are Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. till 5 p.m. Friday 9 a.m. through 12 p.m. and Sunday 1 p.m. till 4 p.m. Groups are encouraged to visit the exhibit and may contact Spranza at 706-295-6363 to set an appointment.

Look for the next issue of the Six Mile Post on April 22.

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Contact GHC Counseling and Career Services to speak with the WIA Career Advisor for more information.

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## Many Spring Break activities found close to home

By Bryan Dillard  
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Staff Writer

With spring break around the corner and gas prices being so high, traveling a long distance may not be a reasonable option.

Luckily, the surrounding areas of Rome have plenty of enjoyable and economically priced options for spring break. From the High Museum to the Lost City, spring break will not be short of fun.



Two Atlanta area museums are currently offering some very exciting exhibits. **The High Museum of Art** is currently exhibiting great works of art on loan

from The Louvre Museum of Paris. Many of the pieces on display at the museum have not left Paris in more than 100 years. The Louvre exhibit will be in Atlanta for two more years. The exhibits change about every six months to be exchanged for new pieces from the Louvre.

The hours of operation at the High are: Monday-Wednesday, 10 A.M.-5 P.M., Thursday 10 a.m.-8 p.m., and Sunday 12 p.m.-5 p.m. Cost for adults is \$15, children \$10 and students \$12, children 5 years and younger are admitted free. For general information call 404-929-6300.

The second museum that is a must see this year is the **Fernbank Museum of Natural History**. Their current must see exhibit is called, "In the Dark." Patrons will experience the sights, sounds, smells and sensations of unseen and dark environments through use of mechanical displays, life-sized animal models and information panels.

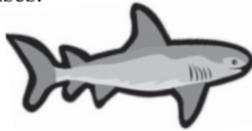
Other exhibits at the museum include, "Time in Georgia," "Gi-

ants of the Mesozoic" and "The World of Shells." While at the Fernbank do not forget to visit the I-Max Theater.

Hours of operation are Monday through Saturday 10 A.M.-5 P.M., and Sunday 12 P.M.-5 P.M., Hours for the I-Max Theater are Monday-Saturday 10 A.M.-5 P.M. Cost for adults is \$15, children \$13, students and seniors \$14, all special exhibits are included.

Atlanta also offers other exciting activities such as **The Georgia Aquarium** has the Ocean Voyager exhibit is the largest indoor exhibit of fish in the United States.

While visiting the aquarium you must see the show at the new 4-D Theater. The film is a three-dimensional type film with added surprises.



The Georgia Aquarium is open Sunday-Friday 10 A.M.-5

P.M. and Saturday 9 A.M.-6 P.M. To reserve tickets call 404-581-4000.

Atlanta also has **Six Flags over Georgia** which opens March 1<sup>st</sup> on weekends and adds more days open as the year progresses. Ticket prices for Six Flags over Georgia are \$39.99 for adults and \$29.99 for children. These prices are before tax and offered through online purchase.

For those who you like camping and hiking the **Grassy Mountain/Cohutta Wilderness** area is a great place to visit. Located northeast of Chatsworth, Georgia, Grassy Mountain offers camping, hiking and trout fishing.

More adventurous vacation goers may like the **Lost Sea**, located near Sweetwater, Tenn. Aside from the standard tour, the Lost Sea offers "Wild Tour Adventure."

The tour begins at 6 p.m., but you must check in by 5 p.m. In this tour, patrons are guided to areas not open to those taking the standard tour. During this over-

night tour you will see a lot of amazing formations and anomalies. You may be crawling around some so expect to get dirty.

Hours of operation for the standard tour are: March and April 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Cost for adults is \$14.95, children \$6.95, group rates (12 or more) adults \$12.95, children \$5.50. The Lost Sea also has a café and offer cabins for rent.

If you like to view wildlife then your best bet would be **Cades Cove in the Smoky Mountains**.

Located northeast of Townsend TN, Cades Cove offers camping, horseback rides, wagon rides and landscape and wildlife scenery. On the eleven mile drive through loop, visitors will see tons of wildlife and will experience the history of some of the first settlers in Tennessee.

With so much to do so close to home why worry about missing spring break? In fact, why travel so far away when there are so many exciting things to do, close to home?

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## Concerts for spring break will bring music to your ears

By Andrea Loveless  
alovele4@student.highlands.edu  
Staff Writer

If for some reason or another you are confined to Floyd County during Spring Break, here is a list of concerts going on in and around the Atlanta area that you can check out.

### Alternative Rock/Metal

- Devil Driver at the Masquerade on March 17 at 7 p.m.
- Airbourne at the Masquerade on March 17 at 7 p.m.
- The Riverboat Gamblers at the Masquerade on March 18 at 7 p.m.
- The Unseen, a Rome local band, at the Masquerade on March 19 at 7 p.m.
- Earth Crisis at the Masquerade on March 19 at 6:30 p.m.
- Emery at the Masquerade on March 20 at 6:30 p.m.
- Baroness at the Masquerade on March 20 at 7 p.m.
- Yellow Card featuring The Spill Canvas at the Masquerade on March 21 at 6 p.m.
- Goldie at the Masquerade on March 21 at 9 p.m.

### Rock/Pop

- The Most Serene Republic at Five Spot on March 17 at 8 p.m.
- Bob Mould at the Variety Playhouse on March 18 at 8 p.m.
- Osmond Brothers at Anderson Theater on March 21 at 8:30 p.m.
- Van Hunt at the Apache Cafe on March 21 and 22 at 8:30 p.m.
- The Gutter Twins at the Roxy Theatre on March 21 at 9 p.m.
- Snowden at the Masquerade on March 22 at 7 p.m.
- Jonathan Coulton at Variety Playhouse on March 22 at 8:30 p.m.

### Dance/electronic

- A Mystical Journey at the Gwinnett Center on March 17 at 8 p.m.

### Jazz and Blues

- 2008 Spring Jazz Festival at the Atlanta Civic Center on March 21 at 8 p.m.
- Blind Boys of Alabama at the Variety Playhouse on March 21st at 8:30 p.m.

### R&B/Urban Soul/Rap and Hip Hop

- Mic Club-Freestyle MC Battle at the Apace Cafe on March 18 at 10 p.m.
- Al Smith's Midtown Jam Session at the Apache Cafe on March 19 at 8 p.m.
- Van Hunt Live Internet Streaming at the Apach Cafe on March 22 at 8:30 p.m.



Artwork By Bryan Dillard

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# Musselwhite makes history an interesting endeavor for students

By **Andrea Loveless**  
[alovele4@student.highlands.edu](mailto:alovele4@student.highlands.edu)  
 Staff Writer

Dr. Laura Musselwhite, a professor of history at Georgia Highland College's Floyd campus, is a lively woman who seems to have no trouble engaging anyone in conversation.

She knew from a young age that she wanted to be a teacher, but it was not until her sophomore year at Roswell High School that she learned she wanted to teach history.

Musselwhite received her bachelors degree in history at

Berry College and began teaching part time here, at what used to be Floyd College, in 1991. After a year, the administrators asked her to become a full-time teacher.

She decided in 1999 that she was going to get her doctorate and began the grueling process of teaching and going back to school simultaneously.

After six years of hard work, in 2005 she was awarded her PhD. in history.

Musselwhite's teaching interest focuses mainly on early modern European history such as the Renaissance Era.

She enjoys traveling and has not only been to several locations within the United States, but also Europe.

"It helps in class to have some real life experiences. I can tell them what something really looks like, how big it is, and it really seems to help the students relate," says Musselwhite.

Musselwhite enjoys making history interesting and easy to understand. "I like teaching in a small two-year college. I feel like the students here need more than kids at a place like Harvard would. Many of the students that go here are first generation col-

lege students, and I like to help push and ease them to the point where they are ready to go to a four-year college."

In her spare time, Musselwhite enjoys cooking, singing in the choir at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Rome, gardening and, as she lovingly put it: "Dragging my 13-year-old son around with me everywhere I go."

Her husband is the choir director at Berry College and after retirement, they hope to move to the culturally rich and provocative Santa Fe, New Mexico, for some open skies and inviting atmosphere.



Photo by Andrew Cole

**Dr. Musselwhite grades papers in her office.**

# 'That can't be done': Going one day technology free at Marietta Campus

By **Jacob Sullins**  
 Instructor of English  
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 Guest Columnist

We spend a couple of classes in my English 1102 course discussing issues such as media saturation, online identities and new-media writing and research. The structure and content is very loosely based on some ideas that I pulled from a graduate course that is taught at Emory called Network Cultures.

Subsequent to those discussions, the students have two essay options: the first is a research

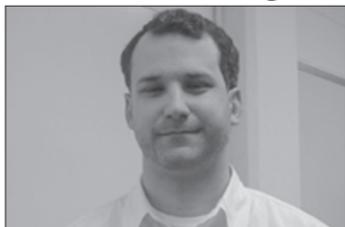


Photo by Rachel Huggins

**Jacob Sullins**

paper on a pop culture topic (recent work has included papers on the history and cultural influence of Barbie, MTV and social networking sites like Facebook); the second option is the 24-hour media fast.

For the fast, students go with-

out electronic media for 24 hours—no iPods, computers, cell phones, television, radios, etc. Their essay involves a mix of a journal of their fasting experience and the incorporation of some outside research, often some information about the electronic object that they missed the most during the fast.

When I offer this option, the classes are usually split about 50-50—some doing the pop culture research paper, others the fast.

I think some students opt for the traditional research paper simply because they can't bring themselves to go without their

electronics for a whole day—they've even told me as much. I had a student in the fall read the media fast assignment, then look up at me with shock in his eyes and say, "Are you serious? That can't be done."

Most of the students that I teach have grown up with the internet and in the digital age and it's hard for them to imagine a world not saturated by media.

The goal of the fast is not to turn them against electronic media, or to turn them into electronic hermits, but to make them aware of the extent of their usage and its influence and power

in their lives. And my feeling is that it seems to be working.

The essays that I get reflect what I believe is a very real increased awareness of how much of their lives and energy are invested in these worlds and that there are options, such as taking a walk, reading a book, or having face-to-face interactions. Then again, some of the students who do this just try to sleep as much as they can, too.

But even that suggests to them that they have difficulty imagining a world without some kind of electronic influence, which I think is helpful.

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**Spring Fling is April 8 at Floyd Campus, and April 9 at Cartersville Campus**

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# Healthier food choices: solution to obesity epidemic

Obesity is a deeply concerning epidemic in America. According to the Center for Disease Control, CDC, obesity is defined as being 30 percent above one's ideal body weight.

It is understandable that some people cannot help being overweight. Some people are naturally going to be obese due to their body structure, while others basically gorge themselves with food.

Obesity can cause high blood pressure and cholesterol, type-two diabetes, stroke and cardiovascular disease. Also, it has been associated with many types of can-

cer. Women who are obese are susceptible to endometrial cancer, cancer of the uterine lining.

Even though we have all been warned of these hazards we still flood the drive-thrus of McDonald's or Burger King.

People are constantly on the move, so therefore they never have the time to actually eat a healthy meal; instead the busyness of our lives forces us to make unhealthy food choices.

Eating fatty foods and not being engaged in routine physically active can greatly

increase an individual's chances for being obese.

There should be more talk about obesity in the media to raise awareness on this subject. Natural and organic foods should be sold at more affordable prices while fatty, unhealthy foods should be left off of the market.

Individuals should look for ways to increase physical activity, such as parking in less convenient parking spots.

If we really want to tackle this problem, then people should take this issue seriously and make healthier food choices.



Fast food transforms the American public into larger versions of themselves.

## Economic 'stimulus' package the wrong medicine to fix broken economy

By Kyle Jones  
Staff Writer  
kjones32@student.highlands.edu

The checks are in the mail, as they say. President Bush made it official after signing legislation to send rebates ranging from \$300 to \$1200 per household, as well provide tax breaks to businesses in hopes of giving the sputtering U.S. economy a boost.

According to an opinion poll by GenXFinance.com, 34 percent of those surveyed felt that the package would not help get the economy back on track, while another thirty-four percent replied that no government assistance was needed at all and that the economy should just fix itself. Only eight percent said the stimulus package would have a positive impact.

What is it about the stimulus package that has Americans so doubtful?

For starters, a few details of the plan are somewhat concerning, like the provision that allows people earning too little to pay taxes to still receive a rebate. Is this fair? In other words, how can we hand out a rebate to someone who has never paid into the tax system?

Washington is sending out these rebates in hopes that they will burn such a hole in consumers' pockets that people won't be able to resist spending them. However, there is some evi-

dence that suggests otherwise. A recent AP-Ipsos poll found that 45 percent said they would pay outstanding debts with their rebates, while 32 percent said they planned to invest the money. Only 19 percent of those surveyed said they planned to spend their rebate checks.

If everything goes according to plan, if consumers spend the rebates as intended and businesses do indeed see higher revenues, the benefits will only be short-term. A \$600 check can only last so long. Once they're all gone, consumers and businesses alike will be in just as big a crunch as before.

"This plan, under the current circumstances, will lead to inflation," said Dr. Dudley Salley, a professor of economics at the Georgia Highlands Cartersville campus, "which will ultimately off-set and even negate any immediate benefits." So while this plan would indeed stimulate the economy for a while, after a short period, inflation would set in. More inflation would mean continued rising gas and fuel prices and a deepening of the crisis of our sinking American dollar.

This plan is the economic equivalent of a caffeine rush, providing a temporary invigorating boost, but when the effects wear off, people are sure to be left feeling more sluggish and exhausted than before. This is not a healthy solution for our economy.

This stimulus plan also raises

a question of funding. One wonders, with 60 percent of our workforce slated to retire and begin collecting Social Security benefits within the next eight years and with a national deficit rapidly approaching the 10 trillion dollar mark, how will the U.S. government come up with the billions of dollars needed to afford this package? Well, the same way it's sustaining the billion-dollar per week Iraq War: foreign cash.

In order to cover the estimated \$168 billion cost of this package, the government will likely have to borrow more money from abroad, which will further inflate a budget deficit for which our children, through unprecedented tax-increases, will be picking up the tab.

This makes the stimulus package seem more like a loan with interest, and it places an unfair burden on a future generation that had little say in the mismanagement of trust-fund dollars by a gluttonous baby-boomer generation that's living decadently beyond its means.

"Free market economies are cyclical. Recessions and expansions are natural, and unavoidable," said Salley, who understands what Congress and the Bush administration seem to have forgotten: patience, fortitude and fiscal conservatism are what thrives the U.S. economy, not welfare.

## Six Mile Post

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# American healthcare: in critical condition

By Larry Stephens  
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Guest Columnist

In spite of the impending recession, the current crisis in American health care may be the single greatest domestic issue of concern to the public as we approach yet another Presidential Election.

The cost of health care has never been a big deal for most of us; that is, until we get sick or injured. All it takes is a car accident, a sudden diagnosis of cancer, a heart attack, or some other unforeseen tragedy to interrupt our blissful routine and health care shoots up to number one on our priority list.

This past summer, I turned 50 and went for a routine colonoscopy; something that we men are advised to get every five years or so after passing the golden-year mark. I assumed that, as a state employee, my insurance was good and that it would cover everything; not so.

Oh, sure, Blue Cross-Blue Shield covered the procedure and the brief hospital stay, but it did not pay for the anesthesiologist who charged me a whopping \$600 for his almost marginal role in my "Twenty Minutes on the Table."

Now, let's take a look at the average cost of something a bit more serious. According to the October 2007 issue of the **Journal of Financial Planning**, the

cost of a mastectomy could run as high as \$43,000; a hip replacement, up to \$63,000; and heart bypass surgery a whopping \$176,000. Now, for the really good news—your insurance may pick up one-third of the mastectomy, half of the hip replacement, and a little more than half of the heart bypass. You can do the math and see that you're still going to owe a huge chunk of money to the hospital! All it takes is a stroke (no pun intended) of bad luck, and you or your neighbor could be relegated to the poor house in no time at all. Health care costs are spiraling out of control, and millions of Americans have fallen out of the middle class as a result. By the way, did you know that over half a million of us opted to go to another country last year to get many of these same procedures done for less than half the cost?

I've never been a big fan of socialized medicine, but for the first time in my life, I would be willing to pay higher taxes (and, in the process, see my take-home pay drop rather substantially) just so everybody in this country could be covered by a universal health care plan. More importantly, I would be willing to pay higher taxes if we could get the cost of health care down to a more affordable level. The question is: can it be done?

After doing a bit more research, I discovered that the total cost of American health care



Photo By Andrew Cole

Larry Stephens

in 2006 came to \$1.8 trillion (or roughly \$6,000 for every man, woman, and child in the United States). In order for all of us to be covered, and to offset the high cost of health care, all 300 million of us would have to be working and paying \$500-a-month in premiums! In reality, less than half of us are even employed on a full-time basis, since folks under 18 and senior citizens compose nearly two-thirds of our population! I decided to look at corporate America, and discovered that in 2006, the entire list of Fortune 500 companies raked in a net profit of just under \$800 billion. Bottom line: Even if we forced corporate America to turn over all their net profits, and taxed the daylights out of every working American, we still could not make a dent in this system!

To my way of thinking, in order to attack this crisis, we have to get the cost of health care down and, therein, resides the problem. Consider these numbers: Americans spent over \$250 billion on pharmaceuticals last year, and yet 29% of all prescriptions still went unfilled simply because folks could not afford the cost. Big drug companies are making obscene profits, and we are the losers. The next time you go to the pharmacy to get a bottle of pills, here's something you might want to consider—35% of the price tag goes for marketing and advertising; 26% pays the salary of someone working for the drug manufacturer; 24% is pure profit; and only 15% of the cost actually goes into R&D (research and development). That explains why you can cross the border into Canada and pay only \$30 for a bottle of pills that would ordinarily run you about \$100 in the States.

Here's something else to consider: Out of the \$1.8 trillion spent on health care in 2006, approximately \$450 billion (or 25%) went for administrative costs. Let's not kid ourselves. The health care industry is a massive bureaucracy. I'm not really blaming doctors and nurses for this debacle, but I am pointing the finger at HMOs (Health Maintenance Organizations) which now run most hospital facilities with the idea of "maximizing profits and minimizing losses." Perhaps,

they should think about downsizing their own operations! At any rate, our insurance covers less and less, and we have to pick up more and more of the tab. It's all about the money thing, somebody's getting rich, and it's obviously not you, my friend. In reality, you are paying for a bloated, inefficient bureaucracy, driven by an insatiable lust for the Almighty Dollar, and it could care less whether you live or die.

If you think politicians are going to attack this problem, don't hold your breath. The "health industry lobby" contributes \$400 million-a-year to the re-election campaigns of incumbents who are, in essence, being paid to "maintain the status quo." That's almost \$800,000 for every Senator and Congressional Representative on Capitol Hill. Even if we elect a Democrat to the White House, he or she will be fighting a well-entrenched, special interest driven machine.

What we really need is a good old fashioned Jeffersonian revolution in this country, but, hey, you didn't hear me say that! I don't want to wind up on the Homeland Security hit list as a suspected terrorist! In all probability, the system, as it stands today, will eventually fall from within. Then, we'll have socialized medicine with its attendant problems . . . but, at least, we'll all be covered and, perhaps, the individual cost to each one of us will be a bit more affordable.

## Playing it smart for Spring Break

Many centuries ago, deprived Grecians would leave their horribly repressed and drab existences to partake in weeklong bouts of debauchery thinly veiled as festivals. These celebrations were, for better or worse, just an excuse for the downtrodden to engage in fervent alcohol consumption and promiscuous endeavors with the opposite gender (or possibly the same, since we are talking the ancient Greeks here.)

The point is this: modern, civilized citizens are far too advanced for the barbaric, animalistic sort of instant gratification



Somebody's got to say it

By James Swift  
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Staff Writer

and excess in this day and age, until Spring Break.

For some unbeknownst reason, that much-deserved week-off from collegiate duties has some-

how transmogrified from being a time of relaxation to being a synonym for liver pickling and venereal disease collecting. In fact, the sojourn from campus relega-

tion to the nearest sand-en-crusted landmass is not only an accepted part of college mythos, but an expected one at that.

There is absolutely nothing wrong with carefree road trips and the occasional loosening of one's collar. Unfortunately, a majority of college trekkers take that equation to its absolute limits, taking such souvenirs from their vacation as a criminal record and an unwanted starring role in the latest "Girls Gone Wild" video.

Perhaps the best advice one can collect prior to a Spring Break travel is this: Think, and

then do; in that order. Maybe it's not such a good idea to chug eight beers before attempting to wakeboard, and I assure you that it's not in one's best interest to accept a ride from a bearded gentlemen sporting red tinged axes in the backseat.

Above all else, Spring Break should be a time of rest. We live in a democracy, so however you choose to utilize your week is of your own design. That being said, if your blueprints prepare for seven days of hunching over a toilet bowl, perhaps your architect needs to be fired.

## Something to think about

### AJC pro takes time for journalism student



Photo by Spencer Musick

**Erin Spearman is a journalism major and a single mom. She has gotten a late start on college and hopes to eventually become a sports broadcaster.**

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Recently I had the pleasure of doing a one on one telephone interview with Cynthia Tucker of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. As an aspiring female journalist, I found Tucker to be a great inspiration. Sure her opinion column can tend to be quite controversial, but the

story behind the lady is one that should inspire.

At the time that Tucker came into journalism there were not many women working in the field, much less African-American women. She was lucky enough to be hired on at the Atlanta Journal straight out of college. She was hired under affirmative action. The editor actually suspended rules to hire her because he saw the potential that she had.

I asked Tucker if she found it difficult both then and now to be taken seriously as a woman in the field of journalism. She said definitely, in 1976 when she began her career, but things have changed immensely now. Even the editor of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution is a woman by the name of Julia Wallace.

The changes this world has seen over the past 50 years should make all people think and be grateful for the opportunities that young people are given.

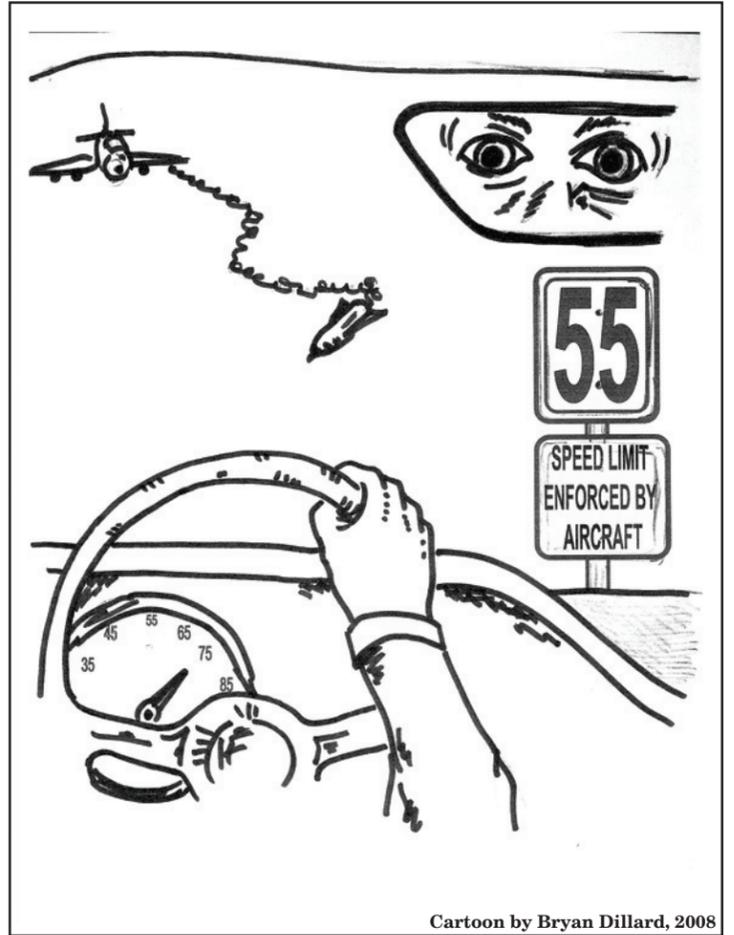
Tucker, no matter if you agree with the things that she writes in her column, should be an inspiration to all aspiring female

journalists. Whether one wants to go into journalism or any other male-dominated profession, she is proof that it can be done, and successfully I might add.

When I asked her what advice she could give me about preparing myself for going into the field of broadcast journalism she simply said, "Any broadcast journalist should be up on current events. It is best to know how to write as well, be well-rounded." Then she gave me some examples of news magazines and broadcasts that I should look into.

Tucker took time out of her busy schedule to speak to an up and coming journalist simply because she cared enough to want to help, if she could, and for that I am very thankful.

I think that as students here at Georgia Highlands College we should reach for our dreams and should send an e-mail to a professional in our field of study. You just might find the inspiration you need to work harder to achieve your goals.



Cartoon by Bryan Dillard, 2008

# Six Mile Poll

## What are you doing for Spring Break?



**Daniel Burchette**  
Rome, Ga.  
Business

**"Party it up!"**



**Kayla Cannon**  
Rome, Ga.  
Nursing

**"Going to Panama City Beach with the girls."**



**Kayteleyne M. Renau**  
Brunswick, Maine  
Early Childhood Education

**"Hitting up Panama City Beach with the mom!"**



**Lillie Forsyth**  
Rockmart, Ga.  
Biology/Pre-vet

**"I will be at Universal Studios in Orlando, Fl."**



**Shannon Albert**  
Canton, Ga.  
Nursing

**"I will be going to Myrtle Beach with my boyfriend."**

# Jazz fills hallways of GHC Slightly Stoopid is slightly better

By Andrew Cole  
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 Chief Photographer

The classics of jazz are a delicacy these days. You won't hear it on the radio along with today's music and you won't be able to see Ella Fitzgerald and Peggy Lee on stage.

Jazz certainly isn't flying off the shelves in stores either and you will have a hard time finding an old classic 45 with the originals on it.

However, you can get close to the intensity, the emotion and the raw talent with Davis and Dow, in their production, "Great Jazz Divas."

As a multi-award winning jazz duo, they perform around the college circuit and have toured in New York, London and Japan. On Feb. 19 and 20 in Cartersville and Rome, they decided to stop by the Georgia Highland College student center.

They fused their sets with samples from jazz history and spoken word that pays homage to greats such as Count Basie and Duke Ellington.

They showed their incredible respect to the birth and origins of jazz music, and in light of Black History Month, they showed the



Photo by Spencer Musick

## Julie Davis

rich African-American tradition in the roots of jazz. The intimate setting provided students with the ability to experience, up close and personal, the incredible jazz odyssey.

They also paid respects to the strong women who made a name for their voice those who defined and pioneered what it means to be a "diva."

Vocalist Julie Davis and guitarist Kelly Dow, are a married

couple. The duo has incredible on-stage chemistry, leading the audience to snapping on the up-beat. Davis' voice can be compared to the likes of Peggy Lee and Ella Fitzgerald yet with an original twist.

They combine such a soothing voice with the pure technical skill of Dow and his guitar work; his influences range from Joe Pass, to Django Reinhardt and the great Jimmy Bruno.

To separate them and their accomplishments as jazz musicians would be a terrible mistake; they are inseparable as jazz masters. Their command of the notes and knowledge of what jazz is all about shows through: it's about everyone, their struggles and their victories, and most of all one must "respect one's ancestors."

Dow feels that much of today's music is "fast food music." Jazz takes an acquired taste. People might hear one style of jazz and decide, "Well, I don't like jazz music."

They hope to show students how to enjoy jazz music as the delicacy it is- comparable to the fast food music, jazz is a nice filet-mignon and Davis and Dow deliver it cooked slow, to perfection. For more information visit: [www.davisanddow.com](http://www.davisanddow.com).

By Colin Poe  
[cpoe3@student.highlands.edu](mailto:cpoe3@student.highlands.edu)  
 Staff Writer

## CD Review

If you are looking for smooth melodies, phat acid trance beats and a life is good reggae tune, then the newly released album by Slightly Stoopid, "Chronchitis," is the album for you.

Recently the punk-reggae acoustic hip-hop group Slightly Stoopid released their new album "Chronchitis" in August of 2007. It boasted an amazing 17 songs and sold 12,000 copies in the first week and a well deserved 55<sup>th</sup> spot on America's top 200 albums list.

The group originated from Ocean Beach, California and is comprised of guitar, bass and vocalists Miles Doughty, Kyle McDonald and drummer Ryan Moran. Percussion and other miscellaneous instruments are conducted by Oguer Ocon and

last but not least trumpet and key boardist C-money make up the group known as Slightly Stoopid.

The new album puts you into this sort of carefree trance. You can get lost in the complex textures of the acoustic and electric guitar, picking and low thumping beats, and the one could say it is the Frankenstein of musical composition offering many variances of sounds.

This CD offers a little slice of pie for every one. If you're not into punk music and wish to relax, turn on the song entitled "2 a.m." and just jam out. Or if you are looking for a hip-hop sound then check out the song entitled "Break Beat," in which you are held down by sick rhymes and radical fresh beats never before herd.

Overall, I would have to give this album four out of five stars. Purchasing this c.d. would be a good idea, and would expand your growing musical tastes.

## What's on your Ipod, Dr. Pierce?

Carrie Newcomer  
 The Eagles  
 Crosby, Sills and Nash  
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# Atlanta Braves fans look forward to a good season



## The Extra Point

**Jeff Capen**  
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 Staff Writer

The hometown Atlanta Braves come into this year's spring training looking slightly more solid on paper than they did last season. The Braves battled poor starting pitching and inconsistent bullpen sup-

port last year, finishing the disappointing season with a 84-78 record, good enough only for fourth in the National League wild card race.

The upside to last season, however, was acquiring first

baseman Mark Teixeira from the Texas Rangers. The acquisition immediately paid dividends for the Braves, as Teixeira hit 17 home runs and drove in 56 runs in only 54 games with his new team. Atlanta enters the season feeling confident that it has one of the most lethal corner-infielder combos in the league with Teixeira and Chipper Jones. Both are switch hitters who should make the middle of this lineup a pitcher's nightmare.

This offseason saw the release of longtime fan favorite Andruw Jones. Many Braves fans think that it was a good move. Andruw

may be a phenomenal fielder, but he really struggled at the plate last season, striking out 138 times and hitting an ugly .222. Mark Kotsay, the Braves' new centerfielder, is by no means a star, but he is a capable veteran who can get the job done.

The big news over the off-season was the return of Tom Glavine to Atlanta. Glavine, a lock for the Hall of Fame, brings experience to a Braves rotation that was lacking last season. Hudson, Smoltz and Glavine pack a very solid 1-2-3 punch if they can stay healthy. Chuck James and Mike Hampton will be

returning from injury to round out the rotation.

With a more seasoned Francoeur, McCann, Johnson and Escobar, as well as a revamped pitching staff, the 2008 Braves should be better than last year's disappointment.

Whether or not they can hurdle the greatly improved Mets and Phillies remains to be seen. At this point, I wouldn't bet on it, but one key injury for either of these teams could change that. One thing looks certain; it should be an interesting year at Turner Field.

# Bulls and Hornets take wins in intramural basketball games

**By Daven White**  
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 Staff Writer

"We just weren't connecting. We couldn't get to the basket efficiently," said Luke Allmon of the Lancers after the 3-on-3 intramural basketball game between the Lancers and the Bulls on Wednesday, Feb. 20.

Shots were failing to go down for the Lancers, as their fatigue was obvious during the second half. Careless mistakes kept them from getting the victory they were hoping for and prevented them from overcoming the more than 10-point gap at the start of the fourth quarter.

They had six fouls in the second-half and would eventually fall short by one point despite Matt Gore's 28-point performance. Unfortunately, the enthusiasm from the crowd was not enough to get the rest of the Lancers going. The Bulls finished strong, and Hank Peppers was the star in this contest finishing with 19 points. "We keep winning because everyone on our team is unselfish and plays team ball," said Peppers. The Bulls came away victorious with a 40-39 win.

The second game of the day was between the Hornets and the Celtics. The Hornets started the game strong, hitting several three-pointers in the first half. The Celtics would make a second half run, only to fall short at the end.

The Hornets won by a score of 56-54. Nick Rucker led the Celtics with 20 points. Corey Pitts led the Hornets in scoring with 30 points.



Photo by Andrew Cole

Luke Allmon attempts a pass over Jack Moss to Terry Albert.



Photo by Andrew Cole

Matt Gore tries to get open for a pass from Nick Rucker.

Bulls VS Celtics		
0:00		
○ 3/5/08 ○		
49	Period 2	48
Bulls		Celtics

Lakers VS Hornets		
0:00		
○ 3/5/08 ○		
59	Period 2	57
Lakers		Hornets

# Volleyball sign-ups now underway, with matches to begin soon

**By Erin Spearman**  
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 Staff Writer

Individuals interested in intramural volleyball can sign-up as teams of four or as a single person to be placed on a team later. The matches will begin March 25. Sign-ups will go through March 20.

Students interested in participating should see or e-mail David Mathis, intramural coordinator, or Martha Kirkpatrick, secretary of the physical educa-

tion department at [dmathis@highlands.edu](mailto:dmathis@highlands.edu) and [mirkkpat@highlands.edu](mailto:mirkkpat@highlands.edu).

Intramural volleyball matches will be played outdoors on the volleyball field beside the tennis court on the Floyd campus.

There is also a tournament taking place right now in the volleyball classes.

These matches are played both days and evenings during class. The class teams consist of six players per team and are played indoors.

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# First dodgeball intramural game sees large turnout

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

Awesome Joe's Gym came out on top in GHC first intramural dodgeball competition on March 3.

Thirty people showed up, either participating or just

watching, as participants were split into four teams: the Bashers, Girl Scouts, Beatles and Awesome Joe's Gym.

Each week every team will play three matches against the other teams, and the two teams with the best record for the day will square off in a daily championship match.

The weekly winner gets 10 points and the second place team gets 5 points.

The points will be tallied up at the end of the season and the team with the most points total will be crowned champion.

The Beatles were the only winless team for the day, and their struggles were summed up

by team member Thuc Doan, who said, "Speed is nothing when it comes to dodgeball."

Girl Scouts team member Luke Allmon, excited about his team's one win performance, said, "Dodgeball is an amazing sport!"

The daily championship game was played between Joe's Gym

and The Bashers. This was a very intense contest with Joe's Gym, led by Josh Underwood, coming out victorious.

Underwood said, "Out of all the intramural sports, this is probably the most unique and challenging."

Games will be played at 1:30 on Mondays in the gymnasium.

## 'If you can dodge a wrench, you can dodge a ball!'



Photo By Andrew Cole

Spencer Musick (left) and Thuc Doan of the Beatles try to reverse their teams' unlucky streak.



Photo By Andrew Cole

Casey Smith attempts to clobber a member of the opposing team.



Photo By Andrew Cole

David Mathis (center) referees the first dodgeball match of the season.



Photo By Andrew Cole

Luke Allmon (left) shows his sense of humor in the midst of a competitive game.