

SIX MILE POST

The Student Voice

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www.sixmilepost.com

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Photo by Scott Hale

March Madness comes to Floyd campus gym as the Sea Turtles (in blue) and True Grit (in white) face off in the intramural basketball championship game. Players are (from left) Junior Virgile, Caleb Freeman, Jason McFry, Jonathan Jean and Seth Ingram. See the full story on page 16.

Higher One Card

GHC to use a new method of distributing financial aid refunds through a debit card.

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Playwriting Competition

The winners have been decided and participants are rehearsing.

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Fulbright Scholar

GHC gets its first Fulbright scholar.

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Georgia Highlands College - Rome, Georgia

GHC to offer additional refund options

By Ross Rogers
Staff writer

Georgia Highlands is initiating a new refund program for students. Customarily, students have received checks through the mail for refunds or financial aid. The new Highlands Debit MasterCard will allow students to receive their money more quickly.

According to Jamie Petty, director of accounting, all refunds will be coming through Higher One, a financial services company that works exclusively with higher learning institutions, starting April 9.

Students may go to highlandscard.com to select their preferred method of receiving refunds, whether check, direct deposit or the Highlands Card.

Students who do not select a preferred method will automatically receive their refunds by check.

The Highlands Card operates through Higher One. Students will be receiving the Highlands Card from Higher One in the mail at their primary address on file at GHC.

Students should confirm their mailing address with Georgia Highlands and the U.S. Postal Service to ensure delivery. The Highlands Card will arrive in a lime green envelope.

Students who elect to

use the Highlands Card will have their money deposited directly into their OneAccount, a fully functioning FDIC insured checking account, through the Easy Refund method. Easy Refund allows students to access their money the same day that Georgia Highlands releases it.

There are fees associated with the OneAccount, including a fee for using the Higher One card in debit transactions. Other fees include \$2.50 for using a non-Higher One ATM, \$29.00 for a first-time overdraft, \$38.00 for additional overdrafts, and a \$10.00 Abandoned Account fee that is incurred when the Higher One account is not used for six months consecutively.

The Abandoned Account fee will be charged monthly unless students take the necessary steps to close the account.

Megan Davidson, bursar, said, "This account will not have a minimum balance requirement, but it should be noted that each pinned usage of the Highlands Card to make a purchase will cause the student to incur a charge of fifty cents.

Students who wish to utilize the Highlands Card but avoid pinned usage fees will have access to ATM's at the Cartersville and Floyd campuses for no-charge withdrawals."



Contributed

The HigherOne debit MasterCard will be available to GHC students next fall as an alternate means of receiving financial aid refunds.

A complete list of the fees associated with the OneAccount can be accessed at highlandscard.com by looking under fee schedules.

The Highlands Card is a debit card backed by the MasterCard Network, and can be used to make purchases anywhere that MasterCard is accepted. Students using the Highlands Card should keep in mind that the Highlands Card is not a credit card.

As a security feature, the card includes a photo of the student from their student ID card. Students without

a photo on file at the school will have the Georgia Highlands shield on their card instead.

The Higher One system is already in use at other Georgia colleges such as Kennesaw State University and Dalton State College.

Students may also choose to receive their refund or financial aid through direct deposit into an Automated Clearing House checking account, or continue to receive paper checks through the mail.

Petty said, "I expect students to really be pleased

with choosing to use Higher One or direct deposit." Use of the Highlands Card is not mandatory, however. Petty said, "We wanted to leave the option for students who want to receive a check. We're not mandating any choice. We hope students will like the card options, but students will have a choice. We're here for you, and your opinion matters to us."

Additional information and an activation demo for the Highlands Card may be found by visiting highlandscard.com.

The four-year nursing program is well underway

By Sarah Lane
Staff Writer

The implementation of Georgia Highlands College's baccalaureate (four-year) program in nursing is going as planned.

GHC is well on its way to having the program started by the fall semester of 2013.

Laura Musselwhite, as-

sociate vice president for academic and student affairs, says, "Right now we are working on two reports that are necessary for our four-year nursing program to proceed. One report is going to the Georgia Board of Nursing, and the other report is going to SACS (the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools)."

The report to the Georgia Board of Nursing has already been sent out.

These reports are designed to demonstrate to the accreditors that the college is well prepared to start the program in the fall semester of 2013.

Lucy Megginson has been hired as the new dean of the health and sciences

division. Megginson is a former Georgia Highlands nursing faculty member back. She received her doctorate and worked at the University West Georgia for a few years before being hired to come back to GHC. Megginson will start July 1, 2012, and she will helping guide the program's transition.

Nursing application deadlines

Fall 2012:
Apr. 1
Spring
2013:
Sept. 15

Winners of playwriting contest announced

By Joshua Fisher
Staff Writer

The four winners of the playwriting contest have been announced.

The winning writers and their respective plays are: "Oh Well" written by Nancy Coleman, "Crossroads" written by Rick Bombard, "The Jim Crow Car" written by Morgan A. Brown and "They Say I Am Crazy" written by Rachel C. Buckley.

There were originally 10 plays submitted by faculty, staff and students, and after a long judging process these four winners were picked in mid-February. Two winners were students and two winners were faculty.

Casting took place at the end of February and the beginning of March on the Douglasville and Cartersville campuses. These are the campuses Richard Stafford and Jeffrey Kozee

teach at, respectively, and these are the two professors who started this playwriting contest.

"They Say I Am Crazy," "Oh Well" and "Crossroads" will be performed on Monday, April 23, at noon in the library at the Cartersville campus and April 25 at noon in the auditorium at the Douglasville campus. "The Jim Crow Car" by GHC faculty member Brown will be recognized at both performances, but not produced.

Stafford said that he would have liked to do casting on all five campuses, but that it just did not seem practical for him, personally, with the distance of the campuses.

Attendance is free at both performances, which will conclude on both campuses by 1 p.m. A brief discussion will follow each of the three 10 minute one act plays.



Contributed

Theater students (from left) Adriana Shults, Brigitta Watts, and Kristin Putting rehearse Rachel Buckley's play, "They Say I Am Crazy," in Cartersville.

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Highlands Happenings

Memorial planned for Nancy Hague

A memorial for Nancy Hague, associate professor of psychology at the Cartersville campus, will be held April 1 at Dellinger Park.

Hague died in February after a struggle with cancer.

Rob Page, chair of the division of social science and business, said Hague indicated to her colleagues that she would like to be remembered at a picnic rather than a formal affair.

Students and college employees are invited, and members of Hague's family are expected to be in attendance.

The event will begin at 4 p.m. Dellinger Park is located at 100 Pine Grove Rd., Cartersville, GA 30120.

Attendees are asked to bring a side dish, drink or dessert. Burgers will be provided. Anyone planning to attend should email Krista Mazza, instructor of psychology, at kmazza@highlands.edu and indicate what he or she will be bringing.

Hague had been teaching at the college since 2003. Renva Watterson, vice president for academic and student affairs, said in an email to all college employees,

"Nancy Hague's work at Georgia Highlands College was remarkable. Her brand of caring for students and for all of us was unique and to be treasured."

Honors night to be hosted in Cartersville

By Jackson Walsh
Staff Writer

Student Life will be hosting the 40th annual Honors Night ceremony on April 5 at 6 p.m. at the Clarence Brown Center across the street from the Cartersville campus.

There will be a reception preceding the ceremony, which will begin promptly at 6:45 p.m.

Students will be recognized for academic achievements and leadership.

Award winners will be notified by letter and will receive an RSVP card to confirm their intent to attend and 2-3 invitation cards that they can give out to faculty members who they feel have impacted their experience at GHC.

The family of the recipients, whether parents, children, spouses or others, are invited to attend.

John Spranza, coordinator of student life at the Floyd campus, said, "It's our annual opportunity

to recognize our students' achievements and give them a chance to celebrate that with their family and friends and the faculty and staff at the college."

Spring Fling coming to Highlands in April

By Jesse Beard
Editor

A Mardi Gras theme will highlight Georgia Highlands College's annual Spring Fling in April.

The event is sponsored by the Office of Student Life. John Spranza, student life coordinator at the Floyd campus, said that "there will be a variety of activities" at each campus and that each event will have free food.

The Floyd and Cartersville campuses will have a performance by the band Blair Climmins and the Hookers.

The events will be on different days for each campus. Spring Fling will be April 9 at Paulding, April 10 at Douglasville, April 11 at Floyd, April 12 at Marietta and April 13 at Cartersville.

The Cartersville event will be in the evening and will be open to students and their families;

all other events will be during the day.

Student life coordinator wins national award

By Jesse Beard
Editor

John Spranza, student life coordinator at the Floyd campus, received the first annual Association for Promotion of Campus Activities (APCA) Regional Adviser Cup at the group's recent convention in Jacksonville, Fla.

APCA is a national organization which is divided into five regions. Spranza is the South East regional coordinator.

The APCA has a competition between the five regional coordinators for the Regional Adviser Cup. The cup is rotated yearly, so Spranza will be presenting the award to next year's winner.

The APCA convention was held March 13 through March 18 and was attended by Spranza as well as Lyric Burnett, student life coordinator at Douglasville and Paulding, and Megan Youngblood, student life coordinator at Cartersville.

SMP wins awards at regional press institute

By Jesse Beard
Editor

Six Mile Post staff members attended the 61st annual Southern Regional Press Institute Feb. 16-17 at Savannah State University.

The institute is for students with an interest in the media. There were sessions for newspaper as well as workshops in radio and television broadcasting.

The institute also gives awards to publications who submit their work. The Six Mile Post and its staff won the following awards:

Outstanding Editorial and Column Writing: First Place, Michael Davis; Second Place, Jesse Beard. Outstanding Feature Writing: First Place, Ross Rogers; Second Place, Mike Geibel. Outstanding Photography: First Place, Davis; Second Place, Kaitlyn Hyde. Outstanding Sports Writing: First Place, Hyde; Second Place, Becky Crooks.

The staff members who attended the Press Institute were Beard, Hyde, Amanda Banks and Andrew West. Staff advisers Kristie Kemper and Cindy Wheeler also attended.



Photo by Kaitlyn Hyde

SMP staff members (from left) Kaitlyn Hyde, Andrew West and Amanda Banks display their awards from the Student Regional Press Institute.

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Parking still a problem at Cartersville



Photo by Tatiana Smithson

Students improvise by parking in the grass at the Cartersville campus.

By Rachel Buckley
Staff Writer

Construction of the new student center has reduced the available parking spaces for students and faculty at the Cartersville campus.

As the new building is reaching completion, the college is looking for a way to provide more parking spaces. It seems parking may endure yet another makeover.

According to Rob Watts, GHC interim president, the

college is "in discussion with the Board of Regents about building additional parking in time for the opening of the new student center." Rob Whitaker, vice president for finance and administration, said, "We are currently developing a redesign and expansion of the north parking lot at the Cartersville Campus. We hope to finalize funding for this project so that we can address the parking issues at this campus."

Currently, there are approximately 461 parking spots for students, 72 for faculty and staff, 5 for visitors and 4 for motorcycles. There are currently 2067 students enrolled at Cartersville

Christa Evans, a history major at the Cartersville campus, said, "Last fall semester, it was awful. People were parking in the grass. That's when they took off part of the parking lot. It's gotten better; it just depends on what time you're here."

Spots are still available in the 2012 Wyoming Geology summer class.

Contact Billy Morris at bmorris@highlands.edu for more information.

Students may appeal SAP violations if special criteria are met

By Christine Sisson
Staff Writer

The Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy (SAP) at GHC says that students must maintain a 2.0 or cumulative GPA of attempted hours each semester.

According to the Financial Aid website, students are allowed 150 percent of the total credit hours required for the program to complete all of their required courses. If the student does not keep up his or her grades, then financial aid will not continue to pay and the student must begin the appeals process.

To appeal, the student must have an extenuating circumstance that prevented him or her from meeting the SAP policy. A written financial aid appeal must be submitted in person, by

mail or by email to the director of the Office of Student Financial Aid.

A student may not appeal if he or she has exceeded the maximum time frame for his or her program of study.

In the appeal, the student must first address the extenuating circumstances that kept him or her from meeting the SAP policy and the actions that have been taken to change the circumstances to improve the student's academic status.

Students may only appeal once. The first appeal is reviewed within three weeks, and students are notified by mail or email.

Megan Simpson, director of financial aid, says, "Students are informed and can review this information on the financial aid website or in the catalog that is given during orientation."

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Green Highlands members celebrate Arbor Day

By Gayle Golden
Staff Writer

Members of Green Highlands Club met on Arbor Day, Feb. 17, to plant Leland Cypress trees at the Ragsdale Inn in Dallas, Ga.

Tommy Leonard, the director of the "Keep Paulding Beautiful" campaign, was on hand to video the planting. The video will be aired on Channel 23 to raise awareness of the program.

Jackie Crum and Fay and Joe Stacknik, co-owners of the Ragsdale Inn, were very appreciative of the efforts put forth by the group and provided lunch for everyone.

Leonard said, "The Great American Cleanup Project is the next big event and will run April 1 through May 31. During this time, we will sponsor several cleanup projects. One of those proj-

ects is the Silver Comet Trail Cleanup. Parents wanting to involve their younger children are welcome to bring them to this cleanup. There are plenty of safe ways they can help out. In the past, we have also had local Boy and Girl Scout troops participate."

Other opportunities to "Keep Paulding Beautiful" will be the clean up of two illegal dump sites as well as the New Hope Cemetery, which is the largest cemetery in Paulding County.

Leonard said, "For more information, you can contact me by phone 770-443-0119 or email Tleonard@paulding.gov. You can also check out our web page, www.keep-pauldingbeautiful.com."

Green Highlands President Tatiana Smithson stated, "One way students and faculty can support the club is by visiting Java Junction on the Cartersville campus



Photo by Tatiana Smithson

Green Highlands members (from left) Torie Haney, Rachel King, and Tamara Little plant trees at The Ragsdale Inn on Arbor Day.

to purchase a cup of coffee in a recyclable mug. All proceeds support the efforts of

Green Highlands."

Green Highlands is a registered student organiza-

tion at Georgia Highlands College with Alex MacMurdo as the faculty adviser.

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Could art be the next four-year program?

By Scott Hale
Assistant Print Editor

Now that GHC has been granted state college status for its Baccalaureate in Nursing program, the college is already looking for its next four-year program.

Renva Watterson, vice president of academic affairs, said, "There has been a committee formed to look at four-year programs to consider the needs in our geographic area where our students would need to seek a bachelor's degree and stay closer to home, but we have not made any determination about that. We are hoping, however, to eventually expand in the fine arts area."

GHC's art program has been around since 1970, and has only increased in size over the years. David Mott, who now teaches part time in his retirement, has been teaching in the art program since 1972. He remembers when the art program was housed in a storage room. He said, "We were across from what used to be the Natural Science offices, and beyond that was the Social Sciences office. Right across from that was a storage room for the lecture halls, and that's where we were at, in Walraven."

Since then, GHC's art program has flourished from meager beginnings to the well-established humanities program that it is today, offering a range of diverse classes from art history to 2D design to drawing and oil painting. Students can also take classes in art appreciation.

Now that the process of decentralization has taken effect, the art program is branching out to other campuses. Accord-

ing to Brian Barr, associate professor of art at GHC, "Russell Cook teaches Drawing I and II on the Marietta campus, and now that we have a presence there, we want to branch out to the Cartersville campus."

Barr will be teaching drawing for the first time at Cartersville in the fall. Unlike his predecessor, Mott, he will not have a designated classroom there at first. Barr said this Cartersville class could possibly show that there is a need for the art program in other geographical areas, and then the college would be able to determine whether to expand the program into its own studio space.

Pennie Schuh is a graduate of the RN program who is planning to continue with Georgia Highlands for her bachelor's degree. She is also taking art to reward herself for graduating with her RN. Schuh said, "I know it's frustrating that if you want a BA or a BFA you have to go to a bigger school. That was the appeal of me getting my RN here, because I can continue on. So I think it's great that the college is thinking of expanding into other areas like art. I think it would benefit by bringing money into the community and saving students gas."

Jon Hershey, dean of humanities at GHC said, "The art program is being considered for a four-year status. There are several other programs being considered. It is my impression that the new nursing degree will be given time to flourish before any additional programs will be added. But I do hope an art degree is in our future. I believe GHC can offer students an excellent art program that will be a good alternative to other colleges and art schools."



(Top) Becca Layson examines a work in progress, (Bottom) Liberty Grant practices figure drawing.

(Top) Still life display offer challenge for students to draw and paint. (Bottom) Thomas King sketches a model in the classroom.

Amanda Brendel works on her two dimensional design project.

John Carpenter does some oil painting

GHC recruiters seek out prospective students from northwest Georgia and Alabama

By Neen Snowball
Staff Writer

Each Georgia Highlands campus has a recruiter that travels almost every day to get information to potential students.

Although the main focus of the GHC Recruitment team is high school students, they travel to other facilities like nursing homes and hospitals to recruit for the LPN and RN bridge program and to the Georgia Chamber Club for job fairs. Recruiters also work with joint enrollment for students who wish to take college courses while still attending high school.

Joseph Johnson is the recruiter from the Floyd campus. He covers a wide area that ranges from Bremen to Cherokee County, Ala., and has recently picked up Ringgold.

Johnson feels that recruiters help to increase enrollment for the college.

The enrollment is up 7 percent since August. How-

ever, the number of students enrolled usually dwindles as a result of difficulties trying to get financial aid to attend.

“Recruitment is not just about getting new students. It’s also about keeping a good point of access or resource for students who do get enrolled as a result of you recruiting them.”

-Joseph Johnson
GHC Recruiter

“Recruitment is not just about getting new students. It’s also about keeping a good point of access or resource for students who do get enrolled as a result of you recruiting them,” John-

son said.

Johnson not only recruits, but he also likes to stay involved with students by engaging in activities like the intramural basketball games. He is also an adviser for the Brother-2-Brother organization.

Cara Kelly, the recruiter from the Cartersville campus, said, “I like the chance to get out and talk to different people every day and encourage some kids in high school that didn’t think that college was a possibility and kind of let them see that it is doable.”

Kelly covers Bartow County, Cherokee County, Cobb County and Gordon County.

The Cartersville campus has a lot of dual enrollment students Kelly assists. She is also involved with different things in the community like serving on the committee for a College and Career Center that Bartow County is hoping to open.

The other recruiters for



Photo by Brenda Escutia

Highlands recruiters like Joseph Johnson actively look for prospective GHC students.

Georgia Highlands are Julia Areh at the Douglasville campus, Charlotte Hall at

the Paulding campus and Chelsea Holley at the Marietta campus.

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Fulbright scholar assists GHC faculty

By Elisheva Ray
Staff Writer

Argentine native Ignacio Lau is learning about American culture while helping teach Spanish at Georgia Highlands College and Southern Polytechnic State University (SPSU).

Lau is currently working in the classroom as a teacher's assistant to GHC's Amanda Nichols, lecturer at Marietta. Last semester he assisted Kathryn Garcia, assistant professor of Spanish on the Cartersville campus.

At his home in Argentina, Lau teaches English to Argentineans who wish to acquire English as second language.

Lau is here on a grant provided through the Fulbright program and the Institute of National Education. The Fulbright program is a international educational exchange sponsored by the US government to promote understanding and cultural awareness.

With his help, GHC and SPSU are making collaborative efforts to enrich the foreign language experience for students.



Contributed

Ignacio Lau, GHC's Fulbright scholar, visits Seattle's waterfront on spring break.

Lau has served as a Spanish tutor, guest speaker in the Spanish Club and cultural ambassador. Lau is also taking American literature and history courses at SPSU while living on campus.

Lau says this opportunity is a great honor, and while he misses his family back in Argentina, he is excited to be here in America and hopes to get the most out of this opportunity.

"My cultural perspec-

tives have been greatly expanded, and although Americans are very different, I can see many similarities," Lau said.

Bronson Long, assistant professor of history and study abroad coordinator at

GHC, said, "Lau has been a great asset to the institution. Teachers are excited to have him, and his presence in the classroom has really helped to enrich the foreign language learning experience."

Lau's parents are both history teachers. As a child, Lau recalls loving the English language. He also grew to share his mother's love of the Beatles. This was among his first experiences translating language, though he never would have imagined it would bring him this far.

The application process for the Fulbright Program is extensive and highly competitive. Upon applying, participants must advance through two interviews, achieve a passing score on the Test of English as a Foreign Language and wait to be selected as the applicant's qualifications are compared with those of hundreds of other applicants. Lau recalls that the entire process lasted upwards of seven months.

He began his Fulbright program at the start of the fall 2011 semester and will continue his stay through the 2012 spring semester.

Summer classes offer students more options

By Kaitlyn Hyde
Chief Photographer

Summer classes are not just for those students who may be behind in classes, but also are open to every student that wants to get ahead and make the class load lighter during the regular semesters, according to Laura Musselwhite, associate vice president for academic and student affairs.

The summer semester consists of four sessions: Maymester, first session (June), second session (July) and full session (June and

July) and offers a variety of classes.

Typically, the number of students in summer classes is less than those in a regular semester. However, physical education and sciences tend to be popular, according to Musselwhite.

Because summer classes do offer students the chance to get ahead, students from other colleges and universities attend as transient students for an affordable way to stay on track.

Summer term courses have longer class sessions than spring and fall semes-

ter classes because the material is condensed into a few weeks instead of a few months.

"Disciplined students often do well in summer classes due to the fast pace and the amount of time dedicated to one class in the designated class time," said Joan Ledbetter, academic adviser/coordinator. Some students like the repetition of engaging in the same classwork every day.

However, according to Ledbetter, the key to being successful in summer term is balance within a student's

personal life. A student who works full time and goes to school full time is cautioned by Ledbetter due to the pace of the classes

Summer students are eligible for financial aid, and the summer term is treated like a full semester with 12 credit hours considered to be full-time status.

Students using financial aid should be sure to check with advisers because some financial aid requires students to take the 12 hours in order to be awarded the aid money, according to Ledbetter.

**Summer
registration
is
underway.**

**Register
early to get
your classes
while you
can .**

Dip into federal reserves to lower gas prices

As we all know, gas prices here in the U.S. have been rising steadily, and it appears as though they will continue to do just that as we head toward the summer season. But why are they rising this early in the year, and what can we do about it?

Iran has a lot to do with recent high gas prices. Any of us who have been keeping up with the news in 2012 know that the U.S., along with the European Union and other U.N. nations, is imposing sanctions on Iran

in hopes of averting the progress of their nuclear program.

According to Jacey Fortin of the International Business Times, "Multilateral sanctions on Iranian crude will raise fuel prices worldwide, and the situation isn't likely to reverse course anytime soon."

These sanctions are limiting business transactions with Iran, including purchases of oil. As the U.S. and other countries seek to limit the amount of oil purchased from Iran,

new oil resources must be found in order to stifle the increase in fuel prices.

So where can America find oil to make up for this loss? Well, it seems as though the only way to keep prices from reaching close to five dollars per gallon this year is to dip into our own fuel reserves.

This would not be the first time our nation has done this, and it has proven to work in the past.

According to Rep. Ed Markey of Massachusetts, a member of the

Energy and Commerce Committee, "The first President Bush, President Clinton, the second President Bush and President Obama have each released the strategic petroleum reserve, and each time it has been released, it lowered the price of oil from 8 to 33 percent, so we know that it works."

With that being said, there is something that we all can do to help ease our wallets as gas prices soar. Of course, things such as carpooling, limiting driving time and even

investing in hybrid or electric vehicles can help us each individually.

However, if we take the time to write and ask our lawmakers to get behind legislation that supports tapping into our petroleum reserves, we could effect change at a broader level.

So, as we approach elections this season, let's consider taking a break from the politics and put some pressure on our legislators to do just that; legislate instead of playing the political game.

Government, citizens differ over piracy

Editor's Box
By Jesse Beard
Editor

In February, Congress tried to pass two acts to "fight" against online piracy.

For those readers who might not understand what online piracy really is, here is a simple definition.

Digital copies of media are made and shared for free between people on the internet. Currently the most popular pirated mediums are movies and music, but many other types of media are pirated, including video games, software and TV shows. These files are most often downloaded for personal use.

When Congress attempted to pass the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA) in February, the internet exploded in protest. Several websites shut down for a day, millions of social media users openly protested as well as contacted their representatives, and overnight many of the political and corporate sponsors of the bill dropped their support.

Not only is this a powerful example of the ability of

social media and the internet to effect political change, but it also proves that there is something very wrong with the way our government views intellectual property and how to protect it.

Many people who oppose online piracy call it "stealing." There is a definite difference between stealing and piracy which is very easy to demonstrate. If someone were to steal your laptop, not only would they now have your laptop, but you would no longer have it. If someone were to come along when you weren't looking and make a perfect copy of your laptop and then run away with it, you would still have your laptop and so would the person who "pirated" it.

Someone who is prosecuted for shoplifting in Georgia is fined a maximum of \$1,000. Let us say that this person has stolen a CD from a store. That store now can no longer sell that CD since they no longer have possession of it.

But in 2009, a Minnesota woman was fined 1.92 million dollars for downloading music; the fine was later reduced to \$54,000. This is still 54

times the maximum fine she would have paid if she had come to Georgia and shoplifted the CDs from a store.

There is something fundamentally wrong with this.

Now some companies are trending towards harsh digital rights management (DRM) methods that restrict the use of media after it has been purchased. Some music and movies can only be played on one device or service, and some video games can only be played if the game can connect to the internet to verify it has not been pirated. These measures actually make it easier for the person who pirates than the person who purchases digital media.

Because piracy is so rampant, and because it seems there is no way to stop it fairly, maybe companies should focus more on improving their revenues from things like the box office and live concerts.

As consumers, we can help support artists by going to their concerts and purchasing their CDs from them. We can also purchase DVDs and Blu-Rays instead of DRM protected digital files.

To comment on these stories and more, please go to our website at www.sixmilepost.com.

This month's Nursing Notes column can be found on our website.

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Substance abuse a big risk for college students



Soap Box

Mark Ewings
Staff Writer

On normal days, you don't think "Gene Simmons" and then instantly think "life philosophies," but I haven't had a normal day since I did.

In 2002, the host of NPR's Fresh Air, Terry Gross, interviewed the rock band "Kiss" front man Gene Simmons. After all the absurdities Simmons had spouted already, he went on to theorize about what would happen if he and Gross were to have a sexual encounter while she was intoxicated. He said, "You'd be out on your butt...if you don't want to experience me with all the senses God gave

you, you don't deserve to be with me."

Your next thought would most likely not lead you to think of drug and alcohol abuse on campus or in general, but for me, being exposed to and having experienced addiction for more than half my life, what Simmons said changed my perspective completely.

In 2007, the Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Colombia (CASA) reported that 49 percent or 3.8 million full-time college students in America binge drink or abuse prescription or illegal drugs. The same study found that 1.8 million

or 22.9 percent of full-time students "meet the medical criteria for substance abuse and dependence," which is nearly triple the national average of 8.4 percent.

I asked GHC interim president Rob Watts about substance abuse in colleges, and he said, "Substance abuse is a significant problem in society at large, and, unfortunately, college campuses are not immune to it.... The GHC counseling center reports that substance abuse is a factor in about 20 percent of the students they see. I am not aware of any college president who does not consider this a serious issue, given that the lives of students are at stake."

He's absolutely right. It's not just our physical lives that are at stake, but the what makes those lives worth living.

According to the GHC Biennial Alcohol and Other

Drug Awareness Report, 73 percent of students felt alcohol enhanced social activity, 64 percent said alcohol allows people to both have more fun and have something to do and 53 percent of students said alcohol facilitates sexual opportunities.

In other words, when we drink we do it because we have nothing better to do, like to party and have a hard time finding the right way to say, "Let's get it on."

Even more stunning, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reported in 2007 that in young adults that were heavy drinkers (five or more drinks on one occasion, five or more times in the past month) the STD rate was more than double that of those who didn't drink heavily.

That's what brings me back to Gene Simmons. I'm not saying you should go out there and "experience" him

by any means, but for Gene's sake, have sex when you're sober. Don't get stoned to make pizza taste better or eat acid to make Fantasia watchable.

Experience life with every sense you have, not some convoluted, numbed up, dumbed down version that getting high offers you.

There's so much life to live, and if you're not getting high just to pass time because you have issues with your life or yourself, take it from Gene again when he responded to Gross' observation, "You're just so deep into yourself."

Simmons said, "I think everybody should be...life is too short to have anything but delusional notions about yourself...you should really like yourself more than you deserve to, because the alternative isn't very good."

You wouldn't tell Gene Simmons he's wrong, would you?



Liberalism for sale

Artwork by Miya Graves, 2012

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

Letters to the Editor may be brought to the SMP office, emailed to 6mpost@student.highlands.edu, or mailed to Editor, "Six Mile Post," 3175 Cedartown Highway Rome, GA 30161. Letter must be signed by the author. Publication and editing of letters will be at the discretion of the editors, and letters may appear in print and/or online.

Comedian Amer's performance a hit at GHC



Contributed

Comic Mo Amer (left) and student Amera Samha hang out at the Floyd campus before his performance.

By Sarah Lane
Staff Writer

Mo Amer loves being a comedian because, as his favorite quote says, "Much truth is said in jest."

Standup comedian Amer performed for Floyd campus students in the student center on Feb. 16.

Originally from Kuwait, Amer and his family moved to Texas during the first Gulf War. It was there in Houston that Amer had his first experience with stand-up comedy.

"My brother took me to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo where Bill Cosby performed standup comedy. I had never seen any-

thing like that in my life, and from then on I knew standup comedy was what I wanted to do with my life," Amer said.

At the age of 14, Amer performed small gigs around town, and he has worked his way up ever since. Amer says "traveling and meeting new people" is his favorite part of being a comedian. He has been to 30 countries across five continents. He has performed for overseas U.S. troops and has been a part of the "Allah Made Me Funny: Official Muslim Comedy Tour."

Amer mixes his Arab descent with his Houston, Texas upbringing to give a unique flare to his standup

style.

When performing, he enjoys engaging his audience. During the Floyd performances, he would often stop in the middle of a joke to speak to a student passing by, asking if the student would pick a penny up off the floor. (Sadly, no one ever picked up the penny.)

GHC student Ty Mcarther said, "I enjoyed the whole show."

Another student, Caleb Paris, got pulled into Amer's routine over his choice to use the bathroom during the show. Paris said, "My favorite part was when he wouldn't let me go pee. It was really funny, but I had to pee really bad."

Paulding's Corner Cafe has good burgers, friendly staff

Restaurant Review

By Kevin Horan
Staff Writer

Leaving the second floor exit of the Paulding campus and taking a right will literally put the Corner Cafe right in front of students.

Located at 29 Courthouse Square, the Corner Café is a wonderful little burger joint in Paulding County that could not be more conveniently located. For students or teachers looking for a place to eat in a hurry without having to waste gas, the Corner Café is perhaps second to none.

It helps, of course, that the food is delicious. Perhaps more important to college students, however, are the reasonable prices (students of the Paulding campus get a 10 percent discount). Their chili cheese fries are great, their chicken fingers and sandwiches are excellent and their hamburgers are wonderful as well. The beverage options include coke, tea (sweetened and un-

sweetened) and water. Perhaps not an exciting list, but it certainly fits the menu.

Upon visiting the Corner Café, I found the atmosphere to be warm and friendly. The staff was always helpful and prompt, never rude and they provided their service with a smile. The food was always delivered quickly, and as mentioned previously, it was always delicious. Put simply, the service is excellent.

When asked what the best part of the Corner Café is, the waitress Darlene laughed and said "Me and Charlie (the chef) work here." Putting on a slightly more serious face, she changed her reply to "the atmosphere, and a good variation of customers. We see politicians, and the man who just left is a photographer, and we see students like yourself," a response with which Charlie certainly seemed to agree.

It was surprising to see a restaurant where the waitress and chef seemed so enthused about the customers, and it made the experience that much brighter.



Photo by Gayle Golden

The Corner Cafe, situated closely to the Paulding campus, offers a simple menu, friendly staff, and good food.

Gaffney encourages athletes to excel

By Becky Crooks
Staff Writer

One of the most difficult challenges that student-athletes on GHC's new intercollegiate basketball will face this fall is maintaining a balance between school and sports.

According to The National Junior College Athletic Association's website, athletes are required to attend school full-time and keep at least a cumulative 2.0 GPA.

They will also be required to earn a certain number of credit hours per year. After the first year, student-athletes should have at least 24 hours to be eligible to play.

Phillip Gaffney, GHC's athletics director, is adding on to what the NJCAA already requires of the players.

"Student' is the most important part of 'student-athlete,'" Gaffney stated. "We really want to put our best foot forward."

With that philosophy, Gaffney will be asking for progress reports every couple of weeks about the players.

He wants to make sure they are attending class and



Photo by Scott Hale

Phillip Gaffney watches players warm up before the intramural championship on March 20.

doing well.

Gaffney also expects the athletes to sit within the first two rows of classrooms, "instead of holding up the back wall."

If the players are not showing up and trying in

class, they will be held accountable and will sit out games.

Gaffney stressed the importance of grades and focusing on school because he wants the student-athletes to transfer to four-year col-

leges and do well.

For those who seem to be struggling with their studies, Gaffney wants to catch it early so that he can help them get help, from the Tutorial Center or elsewhere.

Gaffney's goal is to find

a women's basketball coach who will be in charge of an academic retention program, in which there will be study labs for the players.

The goal is to have the new coach be the one who is keeping an eye on the players and their academics.

Even though the GHC program is starting small with just the basketball players at first, Gaffney expects the athletics program will soon grow to more than 100 students as more sports are added.

Gaffney's goals are to make sure that the athletes get the most out of their college experiences, and he wants to make sure they take schoolwork seriously.

Time management is a huge part of the college experience, and even more so for athletes. Gaffney expects good things from the players.

"The worst thing we can do is be lazy right from the get go."

The players will have tougher requirements to maintain eligibility than at some four-year schools.

Gaffney will encourage them through challenges both on and off the court.

Who is your favorite athlete?



Sabrina Walker
Douglasville Campus
Criminal Justice

"Usain Bolt, Track & Field. Why? Because we are proud Jamaicans. He represents my country in such a positive way. He inspires me. I want to be like him."



Andrew Rudeseal
Floyd Campus
Nursing

"I like Cristiano Ronaldo. He plays soccer. He is a great athlete and has a broken a lot of goal-scoring records."



Wynema Rodgers
Douglasville Campus
Communications

"Basketball player, Dwyane Wade. Why? Because he is A Boss, and he is a team player because he carried his team to the championship."



Emily Copeland
Floyd Campus
Pre-Nursing

"My favorite athlete is David Beckham. He plays soccer. I love him because he is a certified hottie."

Sea Turtles claim 2012 championship

By Scott Hale
Assistant Print Editor

The Intramural Basketball season came to a close on Tuesday, March 20 with True Grit facing off against the Sea Turtles.

In the first half of the game, True Grit exhibited a good defense but was no match for the surging Sea Turtles.

Fabian Maciel led the charge and scored an impressive 9 points in the first half.

Trailing closely behind was Cody Shepherd with 7 points, followed by Cord Price with 3 points leading to a total of 19 points for the Sea Turtles in the first half.

True Grit answered with 8 points from DeMaurius Morgan. Caleb Freeman

trailed him with two points. Justin Tippet of True Grit said, "Our shots were bouncing off the rim. If we had got them in, we would have won."

In the second half of the game the Sea Turtles led the floor with Cody Price scoring 6 points and Junior Virgile scoring 2 points. Maciel and Jonathan Jean both scored 2 points with free throws.

True Grit racked up the penalties in the second half with a total of 11 fouls called against them, contributing to the Sea Turtles 31-24 win.

Price said, "We played good. Both teams really hustled. It was the hardest game of the season. We beat them after losing to them twice during the season, so it was a big victory for us."



Photo by Scott Hale

DeMaurius Morgan goes for a lay up as Cord Price blocks the shot.



Photo by Scott Hale

Sea Turtles (from left) Jonathan Jean, Adam Green, Fabian Maciel, Cody Shepherd, Junior Virgile, Cord Price and Hong Wong, winners of the 2012 Intramural Basketball Tournament, display their championship shirts.