

# Six Mile Post

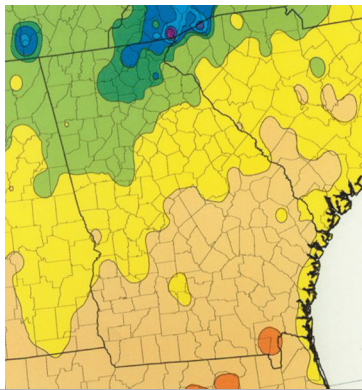
*The Student Voice*

Georgia Highlands College - Rome, Georgia

November 13, 2007

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Six Mile Post Online  
[www.highlands.edu/sixmilepost](http://www.highlands.edu/sixmilepost)



**Drought in Georgia continues relentlessly**  
**See Page 2**

## Cartersville campus undergoes realistic terror drill

By Jeff Capen

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Staff Writer

The hallways of the Cartersville Campus were filled with drama students portraying dead bodies, screams and gunshots. S.W.A.T. teams toting deadly M-4 rifles scoured the hallways, looking for their chance to take down the supposed gunmen. Route 20 was inaccessible as emergency helicopters circled overhead, waiting for a chance to evacuate the “wounded.”

In reality, the entire Oct. 11 event was a homeland security drill hosted by Georgia Highlands College, and coordinated by several law enforcement and emergency response agencies including the Bartow County Sheriff's Department, the FBI and the GBI.

Although notices and warnings were posted around campus a few weeks prior to the actual drill, some students were overwhelmed by the experience.

“It was so realistic,” said Susan Rowan, a general studies major from Roswell, “I didn't really like how it disrupted classes and traffic.” Rowan added that the drill was very well executed

on the part of the student actors.

Amy Casey, an admissions counselor at Georgia Highlands, was present in the first-floor HUB when the first shots were fired. “Although I was emotionally prepared for the drill, I must say I was very startled when I heard the first gunshot. We were told in a training session to immediately run down the hallway to a ‘safe’ area, though upon hearing the first shots I panicked and dropped to the ground to hide behind my office door. It was a very realistic experience for me,” Casey said.

Members of the Cass High School drama club were called upon to act as wounded and dead victims. The bloodied bodies could be found everywhere, from the chairs in the HUB (textbooks still in hand) to the vending machines, where a boy wounded by two gunshots to the chest was slouched against a snack machine.

The drill was originally proposed in early August by Lt. Mike Shinall of the Bartow County Sheriff's Office. Howard Brooks, director of Georgia Highlands Security, held a meeting with college administrators to discuss the idea.

“After the discussion, the decision was made that this exercise would be helpful both to the college and to the emergency agencies involved,” said Carolyn Hamrick, the director of campus operations in Cartersville. “The purpose of the exercise was to make sure that all agencies in Bartow County would be able to coordinate and respond effectively to a major emergency.”

Other organizations that contributed to the exercise included the Bartow County Emergency Management Agency, Bartow County Fire Department, Bartow County EMS, Georgia State Patrol and the Cartersville Police Department.

Hamrick has indicated that a complete analysis of the drill will be distributed to the faculty, staff and students soon. “While we would like to think that this type of emergency would never happen at GHC, this type of exercise helps the college to examine our safety procedures,” she said. “We want our campus to be as safe as possible, and completing exercises such as this one helps us to be better prepared.”

See additional photos on page 16



Photo by Eric Celler

**A “dead body” is dragged away during the terrorist drill.**

## Kamenetz exposes prevalence of student loan debt

By Amanda Stegall

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Staff Writer

Anya Kamenetz, former writer of the column “What's up with Our Generation?” for the Village Voice and current freelance writer for “Fast Company” financial magazine in New York, spoke to students and community members in the Lakeview Auditorium on Nov. 1 at 7 p.m.

Kamenetz researched debt issues among Americans and how to manage and reduce problems with debt. Throughout her lecture, Kamenetz presented problems to the audience and offered solutions and statistics to prove

the danger that young Americans face on a daily basis.

“College is more important than it ever has been in today's world,” said Kamenetz. “The advantage for the job market has gotten larger for getting a degree and the penalty [for not getting a degree] has also grown.” Due to the increase in education prices, debt has a profound impact on people's lives.

“The main form of debt that several young people are having trouble with is paying off student loans,” said Kamenetz, as she addressed the stressful methods of payment for higher education. “There are so many private and governmental agencies that offer

loans to students and it's incredibly easy to get money fast.”

With the astoundingly high number of offers for loans that are available, confusion is inevitable. “A lot of people are confused with the difference between subsidized and unsubsidized loans,” said Kamenetz. “What you have to keep in mind is that with a subsidized loan, the government pays your interest while you are still in school. Unsubsidized loans are given by private companies, so you not only have the loan itself to pay, but a high interest fee as well.”

“The government has begun to offer so many subsidies to students because the money is avail-

able and not much of it is required for the loan,” added Kamenetz. “It's the fastest growing form of student aid, and unaware students are getting into debt a lot more quickly.”

“Interest rates can be positive and negative,” said Kamenetz. “When saving money, you want an interest rate that will increase your savings. Save early in your life and the interest will add up to give you a higher end balance.”

The importance of credit plays a significant role in choosing the best way to get out of debt. “People have become obsessed with credit scores,” said Kamenetz, “but what most people don't realize is credit scores are

created by the credit companies to make people use and apply for credit.” Credit can be helpful or harmful and Kamenetz advised for everyone to know their own limits and make decisions involving credit based on a self evaluation. “Be careful and don't get in trouble,” cautioned Kamenetz, “if you have multiple cards don't transfer balances or spread a balance out over several cards. Having one or two cards for emergency purposes is a good idea, but

**Continued on page 3**



# North Georgia drought causes controversy

By Amy Shafer  
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Advertising Manager

Despite the light soaking parts of Northwest Georgia have received in recent weeks, our annual rainfall percentage is still 20" below average for this time of year, according to Joe Cook, the executive director of the Coosa River Basin Initiative.

The state government is attempting to receive federal assistance by declaring Georgia in a state of emergency due to drought conditions. Gov. Sonny Perdue, in recent reports, has stated that Metro-Atlanta area's water supply has dwindled down to roughly an 80 or 90 day supply for the three million plus Atlanta residents.

A drought occurs when there is an absence of precipitation over an extended period of time. Contrary to popular belief, a drought is not solely a natural event. Demands placed on the water supply by humanity exacerbate the effects of drought.

There are ways of measuring drought conditions that are similar to the Richter and Fujita scales used to measure the devastation of earthquakes and tornados.

The current conditions in the state of Georgia vary by location, but Floyd County is classified as D4, which is the most severe and indicates exceptional intensity on a broad scale of conditions.

According to Greg Taylor, a soil scientist for Coosa Soil Services, Georgia has been in a D3 state (extreme drought condition) for the past five years, and the severity of the drought this year is a byproduct of our failure to conserve the water available to us.

"One of the major negative effects of a drought of this magnitude is the lack of soil moisture," said Taylor. "That soil moisture will have to be replenished before you will see any runoff refilling the lakes and rivers." The lack of moisture in the soil has had a devastating affect on agriculture in the state.

A second negative effect of the drought is the health hazards due to PCB waste in the water supply.

According to Taylor, these PCBs, or Polychlorinated Biphenyls, have leaked into surrounding bodies of water. Since the PCBs are denser than the water, they sink to the bottom, which is currently the level at which we are forced to retrieve our water supply.

This means that water filtration will be more costly. PCBs are linked to numerous health issues including cancerous and non-cancer effects on the endocrine, reproductive and immune systems.

However, Joe Cook disagrees with Taylor stating, "I don't think we are in as dire straights as government officials are leading us to believe." He also went on record saying, "The crisis is not about the mussels, it's not fair to pick on the mussels."

According to Cook, the water supply will last longer than the aforementioned 80 or 90 days and Floyd County is in even bet-



Photo by Eric Celler

Paris Lake on the Floyd campus has dried up during the drought.

ter condition. Cook agrees that the drought is not strictly natural and states that two other major effects on this area include a lack of conservation methods and poor management of the releases at Lake Lanier and Lake Allatoona.

One of the major downfalls of the area was the killing of a bill that would have required all homes built in 1992 or before, to

be retrofitted with more efficient plumbing systems. In older homes toilets that have not been retrofitted require 5-6 gallons per flush whereas newer systems can flush with one and a half or two gallons.

According to Cook, Perdue is calling for a 10% decrease in water usage, state wide; the population should expect new watering restrictions.

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# Fall Frenzy goes on despite rainy weather on the Floyd campus

By Kayla Amos  
kamos3@highlands.edu  
Staff Writer

A mix of music, laughter, chatter and applause could be heard from outside Lakeview Auditorium on Wednesday, Oct. 24.

As students entered, they were greeted by sights of inflatables and tables set up by several campus organizations. The annual Fall Frenzy, sponsored by the Office of Student Life, was in full swing.

However, plans for Fall Frenzy had to be slightly altered due to a heavy and unexpected rainstorm. “The weather definitely affected our plans,” said John Spranza, director of Student Life and organizer of Fall Frenzy. “We had some different inflatables planned to come, so we had to change things last minute, but it still worked out.” Freshman Jin Takaya was excited about attending one of his first campus events and agreed

“it was a great success despite the weather.”

This year’s theme for Fall Frenzy was the circus. According to Spranza, the inspiration of the theme came from the main attraction, a performance by Team Rootberry, a two-man show full of juggling, sword swallowing and comedy. Students and staff gathered around the stage where the award-winning team’s performance was well received with laughs, applause and cheers.

Other attractions for students included two large inflatables. One, coined “the gladiator” by Takaya, featured two platforms where students could duke it out with padded sticks, and the other was a bull riding simulator, which attracted quite a crowd of both students and faculty. Many took advantage of free barbeque sandwiches and chips that were catered by Backyard BBQ.

Spranza noted, “Fall Frenzy is just a time for students to take a break from normal school life

and classes and get some social interaction with one another.”

But, in addition to providing students with a break, Fall Frenzy provides opportunity for them to also become more involved on campus.

Many clubs and organizations took advantage of the large gathering of students and set up tables and games for all to enjoy.

Students without Borders, for example, hosted a “sponge throw” – for just one dollar per throw, students got the chance to throw a wet sponge in the face of faculty members Susan Claxton, Donna Mantooth, Scott Akemon and Bronson Long. IC, Information Competency, raised funds through a bake sale.

Other groups such as Phi Theta Kappa sponsored Smart Art tattooing. Human Service Club gave students the opportunity to write letters of appreciation to soldiers and Peer Educators sponsored a “Toilet Toss” game to raise student awareness of driving under the influence.

# Kamenetz visit:students given financial advice

Continued from page 1

having multiple cards with high balances and high interest rates can cause a lot of damage to your credit report.”

“Credit cards are a plastic safety net,” said Kamenetz, “but managing your lifestyle without credit is not a bad idea.”

A problem with not building credit that Kamenetz addressed was applying for loans to buy a car or home and insurance.

When applying for a credit card Kamenetz advised to search for a card with low annual fees and no teaser low interest rate.

“Having a credit card is good,” said Kamenetz, “but never using it does not provide benefits. You should charge something to your card to build credit, but keep the balance low enough to pay off.”

To assist with financial management several websites are available for access. “I’ve met with the CEO of every website that I recommend, so there’s no confusion about legitimacy,” said Kamenetz.

“Another feature that I like other than the websites is banks will now send you a text message to let you know when you’ve overdrawn” she said.

Kamenetz stated that most

people have become influenced by marketing from the credit companies, but awareness should be constantly maintained when handling a situation involving finance.

“Credit card companies can change their regulations and terms at any given second and do not have to inform you of the change first,” she said, “so beware of interest rates and only paying the minimum balance.” Kamenetz stated, “Interest adds up and increases the length of time necessary to pay off a debt.”

“Now, because of debt, many students who have gone to college to become teachers are not able to take a teaching job because it doesn’t pay enough to clear their debt problems. This issue has caused an increase in enrollment in two-year colleges because the award of a well-paying job is immediate,” said Kamenetz in closing her lecture.

Kamenetz is the author of the book “Generation Debt” and is also a weekly columnist for the Yahoo Finance webpage and has her own blog at anyakamentz.blogspot.com

Look for Fall Frenzy pictures on page 16.

Turkey day walk Nov. 14 at 12:30 pm. For more info email dmathis@highlands.edu

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# Louisiana roots inspire English teaching career for Daniel

By Haley Smith  
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Staff Writer

Not every college has an English department headed by someone from the authentic Cajun country of Louisiana. LaNelle Daniel, associate professor of English and English department coordinator, recalls the place where she grew up and how that inspired her to teach English to college students.

Daniel grew up in a small Louisiana town 60 miles south-east of New Orleans. She lived in the country where she was raised on a farm.

“When you think of the stereotypes of Louisiana, that’s exactly where I was,” Daniel said. She explained that as a child, reading was the only form of entertainment. She grew to love it so much that she wanted to make a life out of it.

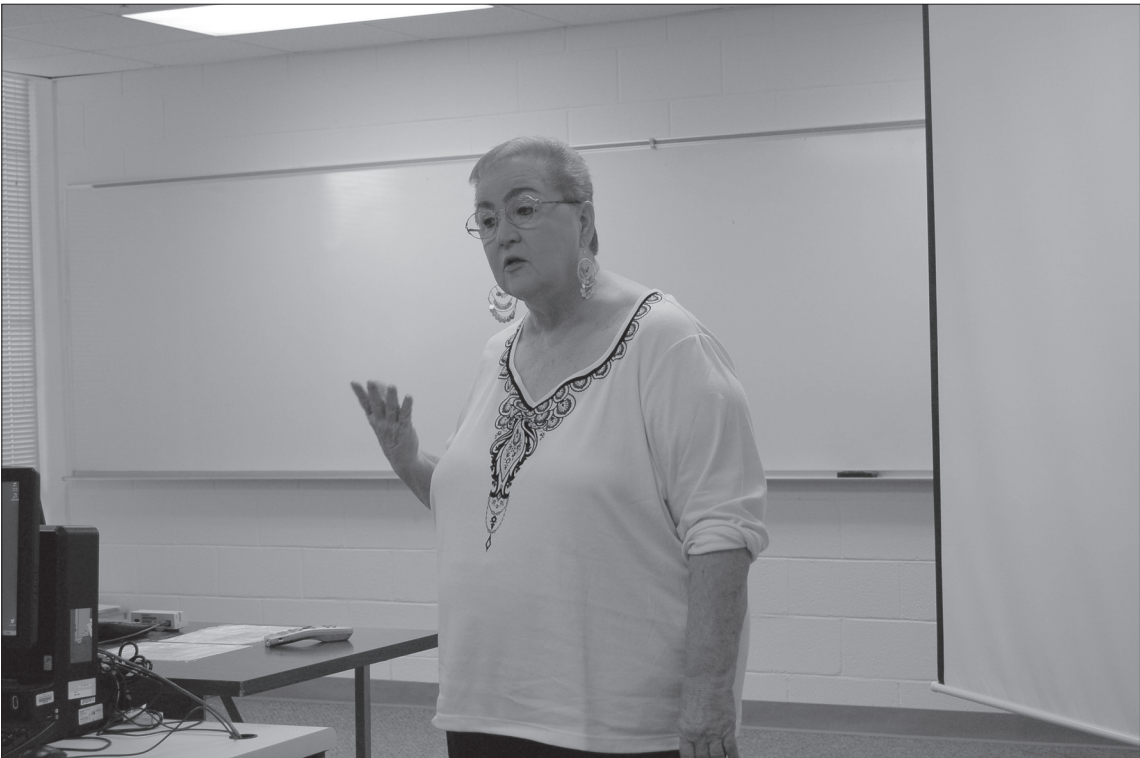
Daniel went to college to study English. “I wanted to share the desire and pleasure of read-

ing and writing,” said Daniel. She taught at colleges in Louisiana, Mississippi, Wyoming and now Georgia. She has been teaching for 20 years, 11 have been at Georgia Highlands College.

Daniel explained that reading and writing are crucial in today’s age. She noted that it has become “out of fad” to most students. She explained that people are judged on what they write.

Besides being an English teacher, Daniel is a mother of three daughters and a grandmother of one. Daniel stated that she is proud to say that two of her daughters earned their associate degree at Georgia Highlands.

In terms of retirement, Daniel said with a smile, “I’ll retire when it stops being fun, but right now it’s still fun.” She stated that she learns from her students every year and never gets tired of it. She hopes students take from her class “enthusiasm and the knowledge to transform writing into literature.”



LaNelle Daniel talks to her 9:30 a.m. Wednesday English class at the Floyd campus before they take a writing test.

Photo by Colleen Fries



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## Writer's Academy encourages elementary students' creativity

By Jeffery Barwick  
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Assistant Editor

The Writer's Academy is an after-school creative writing program in which Dr. Jon Hershey, professor of English, and Angela Hoskins, a former GHC student, go to different elementary schools and work with students on creative writing skills.

Currently the academy goes to two schools— Anna K. Davie and Southeast Elementary School. "The Writer's Academy has been a very successful program that connects the college to the community in many ways and has also been a great deal of fun," said Hershey.

The Academy teaches children to write stories and poetry by encouraging them to use their imagination and also uses exercises to improve writing skills. At the end of the writing program the children's writing will be published and a community reading will be held.

This year is the fourth year



File photo

Jon Hershey

for the program and if funds permit, the program hopes to expand to more schools giving it the opportunity to help more children. The money funded to run the program has been given as a grant from the Rome Area Council for the Arts and Communities in Schools.

Students can volunteer for the Academy for service learning in a class. The only requirement to be a volunteer is completing the brief hour to an hour and a half mentor training session. If anyone is interested in volunteering please e-mail Hershey at jhershey@highlands.edu.

## Old Red Kimono literary magazine will be accepting submissions until early spring

By Desiree Knight  
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Staff Writer

The Old Red Kimono is Georgia Highlands College's literary magazine. According to Dr. Nancy Applegate, professor of English and ORK adviser, "The Old Red Kimono was founded in 1972 and is one of the oldest literary magazines in the Southeast. Over time it has evolved from a slim, spiral-bound journal into a professionally printed, colorful magazine."

The publication features short stories and poetry and artwork from GHC students, as well as a limited number of non-student submissions from writers around the nation. However, more than half of the work is submitted by students and several pieces normally come from the creative writing classes taught by Dr. Jon Hershey and

Dr. Don Pardlow.

The magazine accepts submissions for publication based on merit. According to Applegate, ORK will be accepting submissions from September through early spring. Typed or e-mailed submissions are preferred, but handwritten pieces will be accepted as long as they are legible.

Writers and artists should include their names, addresses and e-mail addresses on each submission. All submissions must be original and plagiarism is unacceptable.

The ORK sponsors the Paris Lake poetry contest and includes the winning pieces in the publication. There is also a contest for best artwork in the ORK, judged by Brian Barr, associate professor of art, and best creative writing judged by English faculty.

The students who edit the publication will spend countless hours creating the literary maga-

zine before it will be printed in April 2008. Work began in September of the fall 2007 semester.

Positions for an art editor and second literary editor are available. Interested students should see or e-mail Applegate or Erica Simpson, co-adviser.

Students may e-mail submissions to Amanda Stegall, one of this year's student editors, at astegall1@student.highlands.edu, or send them to Applegate at nappleaga@highlands.edu, or e-mail submissions to Simpson at esimpson@highlands.edu. Submissions may also be deposited in the ORK box on the Floyd campus in the Office of Student Life or the Office of Social Sciences.

Mailed submissions should be sent to:

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# Lansky urges students to take a chance on world travel

By Amanda Stegall  
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Staff Writer

“The world is the greatest classroom,” said Doug Lansky, world traveler and journalist, as he encouraged his audience to create an individual experience and discover a new adventure when traveling.

Lansky encouraged students and community members to find their own adventure that cannot be replicated during his lecture in the Lakeview Auditorium on the Floyd campus Oct. 11.

“Traveling is like making love to the queen--it’s a great honor but nobody wants to do it,” Lansky said.

A slideshow presentation ranging from photos of toilets to picturesque images on postcards accompanied Lansky’s lecture. As he clicked through the photos, Lansky reminded all in attendance that “there is no right place to go.” He said, “Make your own trip based on what you enjoy.”

“Use your trip as a chance to try something new,” encouraged Lansky, “Take lessons, try a new sport, travel by different means of transportation and experience the culture.”

Lansky noted methods of transportation vary from region

to region. As Lansky continued through his photography presentation, he pointed out the diverse modes of transportation that a traveler may encounter. “Yes, that is an ostrich and I rode it,” said Lansky, as the audience chuckled at the photo. “Transportation isn’t about getting from place to place quickly,” he said. “It’s about enjoying the scenery and the adventure of the journey.”



Photo contributed by John Spranza

**Roy Willingham (left) receives free EuroRail pass from Doug Lansky.**

Myths of travel were ad-

never know unless you try it.” “Fifty years ago travelers were guaranteed a culture shock when they visited a new country,” said Lansky. “Now, almost every country has become westernized

and there are McDonald’s and Hilton Hotels everywhere and people are too afraid to really experience the country they visit. Everyone wants comfort and familiar places, but you don’t benefit from travel if you stay with what you know.”

There are several things that prevent many people from traveling, noted Lansky. “A few years ago everyone was terrified of SARS and terrorism is still an issue,” Lansky said. He added health and safety issues “are important to consider, but I’m just waiting for someone to get creative with these acronyms and call an epidemic SAFE-Some Asian Foreign Epidemic. We’ll see how many people are afraid to travel to a country affected by the SAFE virus then.”

“The type of experience you have varies based on what you can afford,” said Lansky. “If you have a low budget and you’re traveling across the U.S., stop by universities. Walk into the student center, find a group of cool looking peers and offer to buy them dinner or a drink in exchange for crashing on their couch. Most people are willing to help out, and there are networks online that can establish a system of places to stay.”

As the presentation continued Lansky emphasized travel-

ing intelligently. “Don’t wear jewelry,” said Lansky, “and if you do, make sure that it’s cheap and looks cheap from a distance.” Designating a safe place to store money and important documents is also critical. “Take a fake wallet and use it as a decoy to trick thieves. Keep your real money and papers in a front pocket or passport pouch that can be hidden under clothing,” said Lansky. “You can also keep emergency cash taped to the inside of your belt or sew it into your backpack.”

Lansky closed his lecture by encouraging everyone to push themselves out of their comfort zone when traveling. “Don’t follow the ‘Gringo Trail’ as a trip and believe that you’re getting the best experience,” he said, while describing the typical routes that most travelers take around the world. “Remember, brochures are misleading and travel is beneficial for the places you visit,”

“Keep in mind that you are an ambassador for America at all times. Meet people in a normal way and be friendly, you might change their opinions about Americans,” Lansky said.

“I enjoyed the lecture, and I wish that I had seen him before I had gone on two trips,” said Cassie Taylor, an early childhood education major from Rome.

Look for the next issue of the Six Mile Post in January

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# Global warming: more than an inconvenient truth

Save perhaps the Iraq war and Healthcare, there is no issue on the American political scene that is more discussed, or indeed, more polarizing, than global climate change.

In anticipation of the 2008 presidential election, former Vice President Albert Gore has received the Nobel Peace Prize for his work on the issue of climate change.

Gore, who last year released a documentary about global warming titled “An Inconvenient Truth”, has made this issue a priority since leaving office. His film focuses on awareness, both of the issue of climate change and of Gore himself.

One does not have to think back very far to remember when the issue of climate change was not a topic of discussion amongst the second Bush administration.

It is both pathetic, and a sad reflection on the state political discourse in America that it required Gore making a movie about climate change to prompt real discussion amongst our political leaders. Proving what many like Neil Postman have predicted: the modern political climate is engulfed in influence by the world of Show Business.

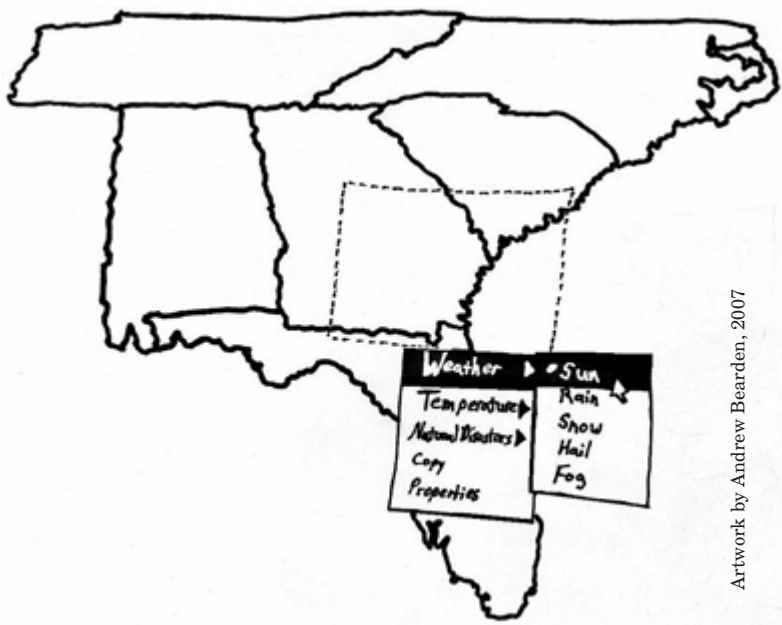
Global climate change is not a new problem. America had the opportunity to begin solving this issue years ago when it created the Environmental Protection Agency. Instead, we have let the EPA crumble under its own bureaucracy while our air gets dirtier, and our streams more toxic. The Bush administrations appointing of former oil company executives to run the agency has only exacerbated the problem.

Any sane person should be

asking: what can *I* do about climate change? Sadly, at this point there is nothing that individuals can do. Corporate and political change on a worldwide scale is the only action with the potential to solve this problem.

While some recent United Nations resolutions have offered the opportunity for global change to take place, they lack both teeth and the critical support of the United States. Thusly, they will not be implemented in the near future.

Humans have exploited the resources of our planet and pushed it to its limits. The opportunity for any solution to this problem at all may have already slipped through our fingers. This is the second, and indeed more unfortunate, inconvenient truth in regards to climate change.



Artwork by Andrew Bearden, 2007

God sets our weather conditions on his new mp3 player

## A good relationship requires true love

Don’t wall yourself off from others

I remember as a little girl I would force my brother to dress like a prince and I would dress as a princess. I pretended to be a distraught princess waiting on her prince to come rescue her. This came with a cost, because every time I played princess my brother made me play football or GI Joes with him in return.

As I got older, I stopped playing those games. However, I still longed to be a princess waiting for her prince to come in and save the day.

I think that as we get older we replace being a princess with being strong women (or men) who just want a deep relationship with another person. But what exactly makes a good, deep relationship? Is it physical contact, love notes or warm fuzzy feeling?

No, I think that it is none of those things. Noah Calhoun said it best when recalling his love for Allie in the *Notebook* “but in one respect I have succeeded as gloriously as anyone who’s ever lived: I’ve loved another with all my heart and soul, and to me this has always been enough!”



### Editor’s Box

**Sarah Colston**  
[scolston@student.highlands.edu](mailto:scolston@student.highlands.edu)  
Assistant Editor

That kind of love, true love, is what a relationship needs!

What does love really consist of? First, love or a relationship must also be a friendship. If two people cannot be best friends they will never be able to love one another.

There MUST always be an open line of communication that flows in both directions with no boundaries. There can never be secrets or the relationship will not last.

Communication builds bonds and with each piece of information that is shared a part of one’s heart and soul is given up to that person and cannot be replaced or repaired. However, you must always be careful with your heart when communicating. Allowing a wall to be constructed around one’s heart only creates boundaries to the capabilities of love

and increases a lack of trust as well as insecurities with oneself. Being open with emotions and thought allows for a much closer relationship.

Love should always make one feel complete and whole. Love should be a support through the hard and the good times in life. Love and a good relationship should create changes in ones life. Once you have experienced true love you should never be the same. Love is life changing and can increase awareness of one deepest desires and thoughts.

Love can enhance optimism about life and create more joyful experiences throughout life. Saint Augustine said it best “it is better to have loved and lost, than to have never loved at all.” Love equals a life filled with happiness.

## Six Mile Post

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



# Terrorist drill a waste of time and money

National Security becomes a reality show at GHC

On Oct. 11, the Cartersville campus underwent a Homeland Security drill that effectively shut down not only the school, but a major stretch of highway for several hours. That means I get to complain on two levels: first, as a student, and second, as an American taxpayer.

Now we all know that somewhere in the Pakistani mountainside, Osama bin Laden and his ilk are planning their next major terrorist act. Call me crazy, but I doubt “blowing up two year community colleges in the South” is in their blueprints.

That being said, even if Al Qaeda were to strike GHC, I’m certainly glad to see that with all of the state-of-the art technology our fine government is equipped with, the best advice they can



Somebody’s got to say it

By James Swift  
jswift@student.highlands.edu  
Staff Writer

give us in case some crazed, gun-toting lunatic storms the campus is “to lock the doors.”

So we’re *supposed* to create a barrier between us and the fire-arm- equipped madman? Thanks, United States government. I never would have thought of that strategy.

So we spend two hours in lockdown, and the Department of Homeland Security doesn’t even provide us with an adequate evacuation plan?

Sixty percent of our tax dol-

lars go towards funding national defense. This just in, our generation is not going to receive Social Security benefits. Not one dime. Why? Because Uncle Sam decided that it’s more worthwhile to blow money on funding half-hearted, poorly-managed bureaucracy that can’t even develop a fire-marshal worthy escape plan.

It seems from this drill that National Defense these days is a whole lot less Jack Bauer and a whole lot more MTV’s “Jackass.”

**Online Poll results:**  
**Have you had a good experience with the GHC office of Admissions/ Financial Aid?**  
**Total Votes: 80**

**Yes: 40%**

**No: 60%**

**Next Online Poll:**  
**Do you wish GHC were a four- year school?**  
**Vote online at**  
**www.highlands.edu/sixmilepost**

## Something to think about

Know who you are voting for!



**Haley Smith is a public relations major. She plans to pursue a career in public relations and in ministry.**

hsmith14@student.highlands.edu

It has been seven years since George W. Bush was first elected as President. Now with only one more year of his term, new candidates are whitening teeth, getting their Botox shots and preparing their speeches that they hope will win over American hearts.

You would think with all of this chaos, that there would be

an obvious concern over who will be taking over as president by both Bush supporters and haters. Unfortunately, this is not the case.

I was recently listening to a friend give her views on the war on terrorism. She began rambling on about how Bush is an uneducated hick and how she hopes whoever becomes the new President will pull our troops out of Iraq. Not very long after, she began talking about gay marriage and how she hopes it will never be legal in Georgia. For some reason these two issues just didn’t match up to me, so I politely asked her who she voted for last election.

She answered Bush, but then quickly explained that she didn’t know that he was going to make such stupid decisions. Then I asked her who she planned to support this election, and her response was, “I don’t know. I guess whoever doesn’t support the war. It doesn’t really matter.”

Actually, it does matter. Regardless of how liberal or conservative we may be, it is vital to know who could be running our country and what they plan to do. Campaigns have begun, but we barely know the candidates,

much less what they stand for. There are so many people who talk about how much they hate the way our government is being conducted, yet they either voted for the people they are complaining about or did not vote at all. Not knowing is inexcusable.

As Americans, we have endless resources that give us information on anything happening in our world. With as many opinions as there are on this war, abortion, gay marriage, taxes and any of the other major issues, it should be essential to research and find a candidate that is willing to fight for what we believe in, whatever that may be.

It is not my intention to tell you who to vote for but rather to urge you to understand the issues you are voting on before you turn in your ballot. Be informed. This is our homeland, and frankly our lives are at stake. I encourage you to research all the candidates running, not just the ones who are in the political party you associate yourself with. We are blessed to live in this country and we should be aware of who we elect to lead us.



Artwork by Andrew Bearden, 2007



A nontraditional student’s point of view

By Kelly Kuykendall  
skelly9822@aol.com  
Guest Columnist

When I was asked to do this piece on nontraditional students I thought long and hard about what it really meant to be just that. What really sets nontraditional students apart from the majority of the other college aged students?

I guess the biggest thing would have to be my age. I’m not old by any means, but I’m not fresh out of high school either. Another factor would have to be the fact that I have a son that is 17, and he will soon be a college student also.

During the time that most 18 year olds are thinking about college, I, on the other hand, had my son. This bundle of joy was the reason I entered the work force a little earlier: to make a living for the both of us.

It has been a hard road but it has been one heck of a ride up to this point. Although I have learned much during 17 years as a parent it doesn’t matter how



Kelly Kuykendall

Photo by Spencer Musick

many classes I may have under my belt. Classes can never give me the experience points that I have now.

Don’t get me wrong, I have the greatest teachers here at GHC and have learned a lot from them, but personal experience brings in another factor to the equation. It is because of these experiences that add a little more to the definition of nontraditional

student.

Nontraditional students bring in our unique perspectives and ideas to help enhance the traditional college student’s understanding of the world.

We do this because we have truly been there done that. As Vernon Sanders Law said, “Experience is a hard teacher because she gives the test first, the lesson afterwards.”



Photo by Spencer Musick

Don’t worry, the F-Wing is not flooding again  
Leak in F-Wing was luckily caused by condensation from the heating and air conditioning system.

Letters to the Editor

GHC gives student hope

Dear Editor,  
I wanted to send a thank you to Georgia Highlands college and everyone who works so hard to make this school the great success that it is. Not only does this college provide a great education and opportunities it also gives people a chance to do wonderful things. This college is far more than just a two year community college, this college is hope. It is hope for a better job, future, and even a better life. Thank you for being such a great school.

Katie Boliver  
Early Childhood Education  
Cartersville, Ga.

Change in Regents’ policy is for the best

Dear Editor,  
I am writing about the article in the October issue titled “Change in Regents’ test policy affects many freshmen.” I totally agree with the article and what

it was saying. In the article it stated that the change is very sudden, but in my opinion the freshmen do not know any better. We freshmen are not aware of the Regents’ Test until we enter college. To us it is just another test to get us to the next level. I do think it is a good idea to start requiring freshmen to take the Regents’ Test their first semester of college. It could possibly help students detect problems they might be having that they are unaware of. Also, by taking the test early and not passing it, can give them time to work on some problems they might be having. Therefore, this policy change could benefit some, and will not hold them back if they are planning to graduate with an associate’s degree.

Kristin Henderson  
Special Education  
Silver Creek, Ga.

Compliments to the SMP

Dear Editor,  
I am writing you to express how I feel about the Six Mile Post. I believe that you all do an out-

standing job with the paper! The paper really helps me out in knowing what is going on within and outside of our school, which can be very useful when you are a new freshman and completely confused about everything! I am sure I am not the only one that the paper helps. Keep up the great job!

Whitley Mckibben  
Occupational Therapy  
Cedartown, Ga.

Maya Angelou inspires student

Dear Editor,  
Maya Angelou is my favorite poetry writer in the entire world. I really enjoy reading the news article on her. I was so upset I was unable to attend because of my work schedule. They really gave really good detail of exactly what went on that day in the forum. When I was reading this article it made me feel like I was right there. I like when Maya Angelou stated in her speech “Each one of us has the possibility, probability and privilege to

be a rainbow in someone’s cloud. This makes me think that I can go out in the community and be a positive role model for children. They need to see something positive that can be done beside the entire negative they see from the media and internet from the famous people they look up too. This also makes me I feel like I can be the rainbow to the children.

Sophia Miller  
Undecided  
Bremen Ga.

Freshmen can benefit from Regents Test

Dear Editor,  
I am writing in response to the article in the newspaper titled “Change in Regents’ test policy affects many freshmen”. I think it is a good thing that the University System of Georgia Board of Regents decided to change the policy in order for freshmen to take the Regents Test. Even though the freshmen students have not had the oppor-

tunity to take any higher English classes than English 1101, it is a benefit to them because if the student passes the test the first time he or she will not have to take it again. As of now there is no penalty for failing the test if taken during English 1101. I think it is a great thing that this policy is intended to identify students who will need help with reading and writing skills in order to graduate on time. By starting early, maybe this will teach the students the material they need in order to pass the test before they have 45 hours so they will not feel as stressed about having to pass the test. All in all, I feel that giving the Regents’ test to the new freshmen is a positive thing.

Amanda Rosson  
Early childhood education  
Lindale, Ga.

Something on your mind?  
Email us at  
6mpost@studenthighlands.edu



## ‘What is sex?’

Poll of GHC students reveals a variety of answers to this question

By Amanda Stegall  
astegall@student.highlands.edu  
Staff Writer

What makes sex a difficult topic to discuss for people in today’s society? How can sex be defined? One hundred GHC students were polled, and their responses to these questions vary along a wide range of ideas and personal definitions.

More than one person commented that sex is difficult to discuss because some people “just don’t get none.”

Definitions are different for every individual in wide ranges along with specific reasons for sex.

Among the female population who participated in the survey, sexual intercourse is defined based on love. Most girls described intercourse as “an act of love,” or the “act of making love between two people who love one another.”

Another popular answer defined this “making of love” as “when passion between two lovers becomes physical and the two people become one union.”

Love, for women, consists of the physical and emotional connection between two people.

According to the survey, rape is not considered as a form of sex because it is without consent.

In contrast to the women, many of the men who responded described sex as “awesome!” and, simply, “intercourse” or “penetration.”

Although many women also defined sex as intercourse and penetration, most men did not include love as a factor in what sex truly, at its core concept, consists of.

However, in the Six Mile Post survey, more men in comparison with the women, did not write the words “penis” or “vagina” in their definitions. This lack of detail suggests either a sense of embarrassment, shyness or carelessness.

Although several guys did define sex as an act of intimacy and affection, several stated that it is “the best thing ever.” Technical responses from the male students were detailed enough to offer a definition of the “insertion of tab A into slot B, C, or D” or “when a man inserts his \_\_\_ into a woman’s \_\_\_.”

As the survey indicated, definitions are different for every individual in wide ranges along with specific reasons for sex.

## Creating healthy habits with consistency builds self-confidence, improves fitness

By Ryan Baswell  
rbaswel@student.highlands.edu  
Guest Columnist

It would seem with our increasingly sedentary lives produced by technology, there would be some way to remain healthy without doing anything. Sadly this is not possible. In order to remain healthy, a conscious effort must be made and reinforced by daily choices. One of those choices is exercise. The trick to exercise is consistency.

A smart way to help you be consistent is to choose activities that are appealing. If none are appealing, then chose the easiest. Establishing a habit is more important than starting off strong. Choosing a variety of activities helps to maintain interest in fitness. Guarding yourself from boredom (especially when beginning to be active) will make exercise less of a chore. For example, running and weight resistance can be alternated with racket ball, basketball, hiking, jumping rope or cycling.

Next, create a program of



Photo by Spencer Musick

Ryan Baswell

short-term goals. Write down on weekly basis the exercises that are planned. Organize the day and time, as well as the length of the workout. Know exactly what is to be accomplished on a short-term schedule. Persistent execution of the program you create is the only way to bring about results and keeping motivated is certainly affected by the results you achieve. However, do not expect immediate results. Allow your body time to adjust to the increased activity. When your mind and muscles react positively to exercise, it can be enjoyable, instead of just being tolerable. It takes three weeks to develop a habit, and in six weeks of exercise noticeable physical

change will occur. A tool to maintain these timeframes is perceived intensity.

Perceived intensity is a tool that can make the most of the time chosen to exercise. Perceived intensity is focusing and of understanding one’s capabilities and knowing when to push harder and

when to back off. This will allow you to be focused on a goal, opposed to stopping when you fell like it. It is important to maintain the proper intensity level and to take seriously the time set aside for exercise.

In time, there will be a recognizable physical change. Exercise can and will change the way you look and feel. The benefits, however, reach farther than just aesthetic change. Regular exercise can relieve anxiety, depression, addiction and help build plain old self confidence. Physical health is directly related to mental health. Choose to develop proper habits for a healthy lifestyle and you will create a better quality of living.

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# Happy Holidays!



## Families make holidays complete



By Ashley Thrash  
ashleythrash@netzero.com  
Staff Writer

Although I am blessed with gifts at Christmas and I enjoy many sweets on Halloween, my favorite holiday is Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving does not attract all the hype and commercialization that other holidays receive. It is a special holiday to give thanks and be with loved ones, and of course, enjoy college football.

One of my most favorite things about Thanksgiving is the wonderful aromas that come from my grandmother's kitchen. Every time that we say the blessing over Thanksgiving dinner, I can not help but to give thanks for my grandmother's dressing. Although it may be somewhat nostalgic, I am always truly thankful for having my family

around me. Now that I am older and loved ones have passed, I am becoming more thankful for all of those that left. With every Thanksgiving that passes, I miss those that are not there, but take joy in all the new additions to our family. I feel so blessed and thankful to have my family with me on Thanksgiving. It seems that Thanksgiving is the only holiday that we are all able to be together.

Besides my grandmother's wonderful cuisine, Thanksgiving at my house also means college football. When my parents purchased a big screen television, we quit having Thanksgiving dinner at my grandmothers, so that everyone could watch the games on the new T.V. After we had finished dinner, and sometimes before, we were all glued to see the latest scores. With the passing of

Thanksgiving means that we enter my favorite season of the year, college bowl season!

For all of those reasons, and many more, Thanksgiving has to be my favorite holiday. I feel so blessed to have my family around, especially if they want to watch the same ballgame that I do!



## Holiday Sudoku

						2		8
9	2				4			
			2		8		7	1
	3	6						
			7		9			
						6	4	
8	6		4		1			
			9				2	7
2		9						

© 2007 KrazyDad.com  
Fill in the blank squares so that each row, each column and each 3-by-3 block contain all of the digits 1 thru 9.  
If you use logic you can solve the puzzle without guesswork.

# ‘Across the Universe’ a mixed bag



Courtesy of wikipedia.com

By Andrew Bearden  
abeardel@student.highlands.edu  
Staff Writer

## Movie Review

It’s hard to think objectively about something that is close to your heart, and the film “Across the Universe” is something that will hit home in many hearts, spanning many countries and generations. Set in Vietnam era United States and Britain, “Across the Universe” is a retro, psychedelic look into the lives of

Jude, a dock worker from Liverpool, and his American friends Lucy and Max. Those three, along with all the other principle characters in the film, are named for aspects of various Beatles’ songs.

Yes, “Across the Universe” is a nod, nudge and a freight train of Beatles-laden references, characters and most prominently, songs. The film frequently bursts into renditions of familiar Lennon/McCartney and Harrison penned music, full of twists and turns that even a casual listener will recognize. It is also full of cameo appearances from pop stars, such as U2’s Bono (who was eerily reminiscent of a hippie Robin Williams) and comedian/actor Eddy Izzard.

As much as I love The Beatles and off-beat experimental films, I must say that I was rather disappointed with the movie. It simply felt like it was trying too hard; it was not quite “Forrest Gump”, not quite “Moulin Rouge”, and not quite “The Wall” (Pink Floyd’s classic).

Characters, such as the gui-

tar-playing Jojo, and the hip landlady Sadie, were lightly-disguised facsimiles of other 60’s rock icons that simply paled in comparison to the real things; Jojo looked the part, but he constantly reminded me that he was *not* Jimi Hendrix. Perhaps that is a good thing.

The well done renditions of the Lennon/McCartney and George Harrison compositions help to illustrate the strange difference between rock and roll and musical theatre.

The music doesn’t have the same energy in this format as a traditional musical. In a way that’s hard to pinpoint. It’s not such a loss, though, as hearing such powerful music on-screen with characters and faces that leave goosebumps on even the more jaded audience members.

Overall, “Across the Universe” didn’t live up to high expectations, but if taken with a grain of salt, it can be enjoyable and a lot of fun. It could be much, much worse. There was once a movie called “Sergeant Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band”...

# ‘Wincing the Night Away’ with The Shins



Courtesy of amazon.com

By Spencer Musick and  
Jeffery Barwick  
Editor and Asst. Editor

## CD Review

“Wincing the Night Away,” the newest album by the independent rock band The Shins, is a vibrant and whimsical album that highlights the versatility of the Albuquerque band. The album features a very fluid psychedelic texture reminiscent of more recent albums by the Flaming Lips.

The album opens with a stunning ballad called “Sleeping Lessons.” The song begins with a subdued synthesizer riff and slowly expands into a sound that is quintessential independent rock. The lyrics will remind The Shins

fans why they keep coming back for more: unrivaled originality.

“Sea Legs,” one of the album’s more quiet pieces, has a very different sound from anything previously produced by The Shins. With a mellow tone, relaxed vocal harmonies and a symphonic string section, Sea Legs introduces a new sound contrasting The Shins with the rest of the independent music industry.

Overall, “Wincing the Night Away” is a characteristic independent Rock album that manages to overcome the confines of the genre. Surpassing different and crossing into genius, this album will please those searching for an alternative to the top 10.



## Note System

- ♪ -Left at the warm-up
- ♪ -Don’t really like them
- ♪ -Not too bad
- ♪ -Bought the t-shirt
- ♪ -Dying for the album

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# Legion beat Cowboys in close final game

By Eric Gregory  
egregor1@student.highlands.edu  
Staff Writer

The Legion of Doom are the flag football champions of Georgia Highlands College.

On Nov. 5, the Legion of Doom went against the Cowboys to see who would walk home as intramural flag football champions. In a season of close games and exciting finishes, the championship lived up to the rest of the season.

The game opened up with a quick three play scoring drive by the Legion of Doom. With a missed extra point, they lead 6-0.

However, the Cowboys responded in the very next drive. They converted key fourth down plays and were able to punch it in, making the extra point, to take the lead 7-6.

The lead would switch hands once again, after the Legion of Doom marched down the field and scored. The runner was able to weave his way through several defenders, without any of them coming close to his flag.

At the end of the half, the score was 12-7, with the Legion of Doom holding the slim lead.

The Cowboys opened up the second half but ended up turning over the ball with a ill-advised interception. The Legion of Doom took advantage of the turnover and were able to punch it in for another score, even after suffering through a touchdown called back because of an offsides penalty.

Down 19-7, the Cowboys did not falter and drove the length of the field to close the lead to three with a rare three-point conversion to make it 19-16.

With less than five minutes to go, the Legion of Doom were hoping to score once more and end the game as soon as possible. However, they failed on a risky fourth-down conversion and turned the ball over to the Cowboys with two minutes to go.

Right after the turnover, the Cowboys capitalized with a long touchdown pass to bring them ahead 19-22.

With under a minute left, the Legion drove down the field with



Photo by Spencer Musick

**Zorin Moore of the Legion of Doom steals the ball from Travis Sprayberry of the Cowboys.**

a focused mindset, rushing after every play to not waste a second.

It turned out that one second made all the difference.

On the 20 yard line, after a short pass, the Legion rushed to the scrimmage line. In a move that caused much controversy, they set the ball themselves and hiked it. The quarterback threw the ball to the left side of the end zone where it was brought down by a wide receiver to clinch the game 25-22.

Immediately, the Cowboys protested with accusations that the receiver had been off sides when the play begun.

“The player cannot set the ball and hike it,” said Chris Doogan, angry over the loss. “They had too many people in motion too.”

A few other Cowboys were also upset about the loss. “They got lucky,” said Nick Rucker. “They got really lucky.”

The controversy about the game was not enough to damper the Legion’s spirits however. The team cheered themselves for their heroic effort.

“It feels awesome,” said Ben Claytor, who was a key component in Legion’s effort to win the championship.

## Intramural basketball championship

In the semi-final game of the day the Panthers defeated the Shannon Warriors 37 – 35 to advance to the championship game. The panthers were led by leading scorer Nick Rucker with 21. The Shannon Warriors leading scorer was Matt Gore with 14.

The Panthers will receive their championship t-shirts at the Intramural awards luncheon Nov. 19 at 12:30 p.m. in the gym lobby.

In the championship finale the Panthers took on the Butler Street Byrd Gang. The Panthers upset the Butler Street Byrd Gang 33 – 30. The leading score for the Championship winning Panthers was Derrick Sams with 20 points. The leading score for the Butler Street Byrd Gang was Dominique Carter with 15.



Photo by Colleen Fries

**Terry Albert (center) of the Panthers attempts to block a pass from Matt Gore (right with ball) of the Shannon Warriors to Jack Moss.**



## View from the Sidelines

By Eric Gregory  
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Staff Writer

### What a difference a millennium makes

It's hard for me to believe that, not so long ago, Red Sox fans were downtrodden, defeated, and eternally pessimistic. Those decades of suffering, marked by names like Dent, Buckner, Boone, are, like the Red Sox championship drought, now over. They have been buried; they have been laid to rest.

Of course, the birth of the Red Sox curse is, as most of us know, 1918. When Babe Ruth was sold to the Yankees to finance a Broadway play, so started the Curse of the Bambino. For years, Red Sox fans spoke in his name in either agonized wails or hushed whispers.

The Curse was finally laid to rest three years ago, when the Red Sox won their first championship in 86 years. And now even the sad recollections of the curse, now robbed of its capital C, have been laid to rest with yet another Red Sox championship.

Like 2004, the World Series was not so much a contest between two teams as it was a contest between who would win the

MVP for the Sox. They trounced the Colorado Rockies in a lopsided affair that ended in a sweep. Domination is perhaps too light a word. It was such a one-sided series that people have already forgotten the incredible run that the Rockies were on when they entered the World Series. It's not every year a team wins 20 out of 21 games.

The Red Sox nation is now perhaps poised to form a dynasty that they've been forced to watch their hated Yankee rivals do over and over again. The Yankees are in turmoil, the Red Sox are on the rise. They have plenty of key players returning, and their young pitching staff will only get better.

Time seems to make fools of us all, and it has already made the older generations of Red Sox fans seem like a bunch of malcontent whiners. Perhaps, in future generations, people will look back on this first decade of the new millenium as not only the end of an era of losing, but the start of an era of dominance.

# Triathlete teaches math at GHC Cartersville campus

By Jeff Capen  
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Staff Writer

Andrea Burnes, a part-time math instructor at the Cartersville campus, spends a good deal of her free time training to compete in various triathlons around the country.

Students might know Burnes through the two Math 0099 classes she teaches. Not all students, however, know that she has competed in several triathlon events from Atlanta to Anchorage, Alaska.

Burnes ran in her first triathlon, in May of 2005. This particular triathlon, held in Anchorage, Alaska, is the largest women-only triathlon. Her husband sparked her interest in the triathlon, a sport rising in popularity and an alternative to normal daily workouts.

Burnes won her second triathlon at Elmendorf AFB, also located in Alaska, in July 2005. Burnes claims it was a "spur of the moment deal that paid off, and it was then that I was bitten by the bug." Since then, Burnes has won a couple other triathlons.

In Orlando in May 2007, Burnes finished a 1.2 mile swim, a 56 mile bike ride, and a 13.1 mile run event in 5 hours and 52 minutes.

For those not knowledgeable about the triathlon, there are several different types to test athletes' strength, agility and determination. Swims in a triathlon can range from 400 meters to over two miles. A cycling event can range from 12 miles all the way to 112 miles.

**"Mostly it's about having fun, staying healthy and making the most of the time you have. Once you try it you will be hooked."**

- Andrea Burnes

The running portion of a typical triathlon can be anywhere from a 5k to a marathon. By themselves, Burnes calls these tasks "tough," but when done consecutively without interruption, she explains that they are "daunting."

Triathletes can be as young as 70 years of age, and as old as seventy. "I personally train with

quite a few senior citizens who can run circles around me," Burnes confessed. "Some of these senior citizens have competed in many Ironman events, including Hawaii, and who also participated in the World Championships for the United States."

Not all triathletes need travel to faraway places such as Anchorage or Maui to show off their athletic prowess. Georgia is home to several races. One of the most popular is the "Tri the Parks Race Series," which is generally a series of six races in the state parks around Georgia.

Most races take place within three hours of the Atlanta area. Burnes, while having success in Alaska, tries to stay close to home in order to care for her two children.

As an experienced triathlete, Andrea Burnes has some helpful advice for readers interested in competing in the triathlon. She advises potential triathletes to find other to train with. According to Burnes, expensive equipment is not necessary.

"Mostly it's about having fun, staying healthy and making the most of the time you have. Once you try it you will be hooked."

## December Ski Trip

Every December, a ski trip to Boone, NC is offered by Dr. Ken Weatherman. The trip is a two credit hour class that is open to students of all skill levels. The credit hours are optional.



The deadline to sign up for the trip is Friday, Nov. 30. Both skiers and snowboarders are welcome.

If you are interested in participating, contact Ken Weatherman at [kweather@highlands.edu](mailto:kweather@highlands.edu)

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Photo Album



Photo by Colleen Fries  
**Dr. Nancy Applegate rides mechanical bull at Fall Frenzy on the Floyd Campus.**

Fall Frenzy



Photo by Eric Celler  
**Team Rootberry performs their famous juggling act at the Cartersville campus.**



Photo by Colleen Fries  
**Team Rootberry juggles swords on the Floyd campus.**

Terror Drill



Photo by Eric Celler  
**Students are held hostage on the Cartersville campus by the “terrorist.”**



Photo by Eric Celler  
**SWAT team prepares to enter building in pursuit of “terrorist” inside.**