

Six Mile Post

The Student Voice

Georgia Highlands College - Rome, Georgia

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Can cell phones make you sick?
Go to page six and read more about it.

Wetlands' educational potential untapped

By Tyler Ashley
Assistant Editor

Past Paris Lake, on the Floyd campus, sits the peculiarly nested wetlands. Oddly situated between an industrial park and a college, the wetlands at GHC hold environmental beauty, but beauty that is not utilized.

During the 1990s, Leigh Callan, former biology professor at GHC, began a major face lift on the once perceived insect-infested swamp, turning it into an educational site for wetlands learning. A boardwalk ventures inside the wetlands area.

More recently, the wetlands have gradually declined to the point of seldom usage. Signs are dated, boards are broken and many are unaware of its existence.

"Last time I went down to the wetlands, it really wasn't that impressive, and I didn't even know it was back there for a while," said Chad Gravley, computer science major from Rome.

Wayne Harrison, facility



Photo by Jordan Penson

GHC wetlands on the Floyd campus have been neglected for years.

and inventory analyst, believes that one of the most crucial reasons that the wetlands have been neglected over the years is a lack of time. "Nobody's got the time to fool with it, so it just sits," Harrison said.

At GHC, there are no employees who are paid to teach classes at the wetlands or prepare information about the wetlands, so it is simply overlooked.

Other reasons for the land

becoming idle were given by Joseph McCauley, lab coordinator, such as the fear of overutilization, lack of correlating courses at GHC and younger school groups not being able to travel to the wetlands for field trips.

GHC offers no courses that tie in with environmental sciences, and with gas prices and more intense curriculum, schools find it hard to make trips to Georgia Highlands.

"I would love to see more student groups go down to the wetlands, but it's simply out of our control," McCauley said.

One way that the wetlands might be further utilized in the future is through GHC event, Fabulous Fridays.

Through this event, area students are able to take short 30 minute classes in each field of study at GHC, but even this brings problems.

"The classes really wouldn't allow us much time to travel down to the wetlands, because with the short time frame, by the time we get to the wetlands, it would time to turn around and come back," said McCauley.

McCauley hopes the wetlands will be able to expand exposure and be an outlet for educational experiences.

"We're trying to repackage and reinvent ourselves," McCauley explains.

Concern exists about lack of recycling at Georgia Highlands

By Will Floyd
Staff Writer

Two thousand pounds every three weeks is a deceptively small number with huge implications. This statistic is the amount of recycling Georgia Highlands does, according to plant operations employee and recycling advocate Wayne Harrison.

When asked about the amount of recyclables GHC produces, Harrison said, "I'd estimate about 2000 pounds every three weeks. But this still is not enough. There is a lot that gets through, that just gets thrown away, especially cardboard."

Harrison, who has been em-



Photo by Jordan Penson

Patrick Ridge recycles a water bottle.

ployed by Georgia Highlands

for 15 years, has been pushing for greater interest in recycling for a long time.

Harrison believes a lack of interest explains the lack of recycling bins at Georgia Highlands.

"It's a very low priority item what with the budget cuts that are going on. When I first came here, the physical plant director at the time started the recycling here and it was important to him, but after that no one was really interested," said Harrison.

Dr. Randy Pierce, Georgia Highlands president for the last seven years, doesn't believe the budget cuts have affected recycling at all, but when given the estimate Harrison provided and

the information about the lack of recycling bins in classrooms, Pierce said he didn't know what to think.

Pierce added that recycling should definitely be present on campus and in classrooms. "I don't have any frame of reference as to whether it is enough, but we do have bins in all the offices. I'm not sure about the classrooms. I know we should be recycling as much as possible, and Floyd County comes to get the recyclables for free, so there is no reason that we shouldn't be doing it."

Jessica Johnstone, a freshman from Armuchee, agrees with Harrison.

Johnstone said, "I am extremely disappointed, especially

considering the wide variety of ages and backgrounds of Georgia Highlands' students. You would think that more people would be more concerned that Georgia Highlands is lagging behind the rest of the community."

Also, students at Cartersville have organized a group called Green Highlands, which was approved as an organization this summer and meets once a month to work on promoting recycling.

"I had some students come to me wanting to form a group that had the same ideas of living a 'green life,' said Libby Gore, co-adviser of Green Highlands and developmental math instructor at Cartersville.



Photo by Jordan Penson

Pumps at the Marathon, like some gas stations, are beginning to offer fuel again.

Gas prices cause concern

By Sean Jepson
Staff Writer

Tuition, teachers, grades and homework; these are some of the things that a typical college student worries about. Now there is a new growing concern—gas.

Gas prices have been on a steady rise over the last few years. In early October, gas was nearly impossible to find. The condition has left it hard for many to find ways to get to work. For some students, it's become a burdening cost they find harder to bear.

"I think it's harder to pay for and find gas. Teachers don't find that an acceptable excuse," said Sarah Grogan, a freshman biology major living in Calhoun.

Grogan said she balances her costs by carpooling as often as she can, and her parents help her out occasionally.

"I spend \$400 a month on gas," said Jenna Love, sophomore in criminal justice. Love is a non-traditional student

"I think it's harder to pay for and find gas. Teachers don't find that an acceptable excuse."

**-Sarah Grogan
Student**

who struggles with raising three small children and going to school.

"I would say as a non-traditional student I am dealing with the priority of spending money to be qualified to earn money. Not to mention I have to worry about a mortgage, car

payment and buying food," said Love.

Dr. John Reiners, business professor, said the recent gas shortages are a classic example of supply and demand.

"Hurricane Ike disrupted supply while demand stayed the same. Even as supplies began to stabilize people panicked. This caused a spike in demand that overwhelmed supplies," explained Reiners.

Some have found carpooling as a solution to the steep gas prices, but many students find it difficult to locate others with a similar class schedule and hometown.

"The college could consider increasing 'hybrid' classes offered. The school does offer DVD courses, but I think most teachers and students are more comfortable in person. Hybrid classes meet partly in person and partly online," said Reiners.

State budget problems affect work-study students and other student services

By Sean Jepson
Staff Writer

Recent budget cuts have temporarily hit work-study students financially.

No work-study students were employed at the midterm date in the semester.

"There's been a freeze on everything it seems. I have bills to pay and I need this experience," said sophomore Amanda Stegall.

"Right now we are re-examining how we disperse the money to departments due to the budget slashes," explains Kimberly Causby of the Financial Aid Office.

According to Causby, the financial aid budget, which is supplied from federal funds, was reduced by nearly a third, from \$46,000 to \$31,000.

"There are 29 students eligible for the work-study program," said Causby.

The Financial Aid Office plans to announce how many students each department may hire.

In the past, the Student Life office hired student assistants from state funds, but state budget reductions forced the college to make cuts of its own.

"Work-study students have become our only options for student workers now," said Jon Spranza, director of Student Life at Georgia Highlands.

Student Life would typically hire two to three students per semester, according to Spranza. The working students would

typically assist in office duties and with setting up activities.

"With that gone it tends to put more stuff back on our plates," said Spranza. The Student Life office has had to temporarily eliminate evening hours this semester.

"The library has been forced to cut three student workers on the Floyd campus and one in Cartersville," said Debbie Holmes, library director of Georgia Highlands.

One program that has been salvaged for now despite budget cuts is GIL Express. GIL Express is a statewide online resource that allows students to request books from any participating campus library statewide. Last year, 81,000 books were exchanged using GIL.

A GIL suspension was expected on Oct. 1, but the University System decided to continue offering the service through the end of fall semester "with the expressed intent of finding a way to support this service going forward," said Dr. Tom Maier, vice chancellor of the Board of Regents. This unexpected reversal was the result of concerns raised by faculty and students over the potential loss of GIL.

"I am happy that GIL is staying, but am wondering at what cost," said Holmes.

"It's been a difficult year. We have had to choose between what programs or services to cut, and laying off jobs. We are trying to limit the impact as much as we can."

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Read full Jenna Love interview on "Gas Prices cause concern" at

sixmilepost.com

Cartersville student accused of hacking into GHC computer

By Jeff Capen
Staff writer

An expelled Georgia Highlands College student is in big trouble after being accused of hacking into the college's computer and voice systems.

Christopher Fowler, 19, formerly a student at the Cartersville campus, is awaiting Federal sentencing on charges of computer trespass and unlawful eavesdropping. Fowler was arrested on July 25 and taken to Bartow County Jail. He was later released on \$10,000 bond. A Georgia Bureau of Investigation news release also notes that Fowler may face identity theft charges as well.

According to an e-mail sent to campus employees and students by GHC president, Dr. Randy Pierce, the college's information technology (IT) staff began to notice irregularities in the college's e-mail flow in the third week of July. IT launched a full investigation into the strange activity and determined that the college's systems had fallen victim to an intruder.

After an investigation by the college and law enforcement officials, Fowler was taken in for questioning. He was then accused of hacking into the system to change his grades and using keystroke logging to

attempt to steal other students' passwords. Authorities cannot yet determine whether or not his efforts were successful.

Fowler was also accused of having intruded into the college's Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP), which would have allowed him to eavesdrop on telephone conversations made inside the college.

"I would like to recognize the extraordinary efforts of GHC faculty and staff who have dealt with these difficult couple of days," Pierce's school-wide email read. "Here at GHC, we will also be conducting our own internal investigation into the violation of academic and computer policies. However, our activities of this type must obviously take a subordinate role to those of law enforcement agencies who are undertaking a thorough criminal investigation."

Dana Davis, Georgia Highlands College's public relations director, confirmed that Kennesaw State University officials, officials from the University System of Georgia and the Georgia and Federal Bureaus of Investigation have been assisting GHC in the ongoing investigation.

John Spranza, director of student life, said, "Fowler was charged with a wide variety of code of conduct issues, all deal-



Contributed Photo

Christopher Fowler

ing with technology. He went through the college's judicial process as given by the student handbook and is currently working to appeal."

Fowler is facing fewer charges than could have been filed against him. "GHC did not charge for multiple counts despite being able to," said Spranza.

In the aftermath of the cyber crime, Georgia Highlands College is making an effort to ensure that a scenario such as this one never happens again.

Davis said that the college's Voice Over Internet Protocol is now being encrypted for additional security. IT specialists are also working on more stringent security measures for the college's 2,000 plus computers.

McCain, Obama explain their plans for economy

By LaTonya Burrell
Editor

With the recent signing of a \$700 billion package to help out financial institutions and an election less than a month away, many may wonder how Barack Obama and John McCain plan to see America through these difficult times that have yet to come. While the candidates have many plans and ideas about how to stabilize the economy, few Americans understand how it will affect them.

Obama wants to provide a \$50 billion jump-start to the economy in hopes of reducing state and local budget cuts in areas, such as health care and education while preventing increases on property taxes.

Obama also wants to provide tax cuts for the middle class. He intends to do this by "restoring fairness to the tax code and provide 150 million workers the tax relief they need," the Obama website says.

Obama also has planned a "Making Work Pay" plan which will provide tax credit

of up to \$500 per person and \$1,000 per family. The website says, "The 'Making Work Pay' tax credit will completely eliminate income taxes for 10 million Americans." Obama also wants to relieve senior citizens making less than \$50,000 a year of income taxes and easier tax filling for the middle class.

McCain's main idea for economic relief is to "create millions of good American jobs, ensure our nation's energy security, get the government's budget and spending practices in order and bring relief to American consumers," the McCain website says.

McCain intends to do this by keeping tax rates low for entrepreneurs and small businesses and reducing the corporate tax rate from 35 to 25 percent.

McCain's website also says that he wants to bring tax cuts to the middle class by "raising the personal exemption for each dependent from \$3,500 to \$7,000." McCain also wants to form a simpler tax code with "a vastly less complicated system with two tax rates and a generous standard deduction."

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- - Lou Holtz

GHC welcomes new clubs on campus

By Stephanie McCombs
Staff writer

That Anime club, the Hispanic Student Association (HSA) and Young Libertarians Club are among the new organizations now being formed at GHC.

The Young Libertarians Club, which held its first meeting on Oct. 8, is an organized group based on supporting the Libertarian political philosophy.

"This can mean a lot of things," adviser Alan Nichols said. "For many libertarians, the proper function of the state is to protect its citizens from outside attack and to provide a mechanism for enforcing laws."

Nichols also talked about other important views of the club and its members.

He summed it up by saying, "I think many students are libertarian in their political leanings, but don't realize that they have an option beyond the Democrats and Republicans."

Speaking for That Anime Club, Christopher Abrams, said the purpose of the club is to find people with a common interest in anime and manga,

which are two prominent Japanese art forms.

"We try to watch an anime that none of us have seen yet each time we meet, to better enrich our knowledge and interest in anime," Abrams said.

He also mentioned the group is working on a website that can post members' comic strips done in the anime style.



Photo by Jordan Penson

Students from HSA make plans for Fall Frenzy.

The club meets at 1 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday.

Sherrie Sealock, an education major, said the That Anime Club is a good idea. "It will let students express themselves in creativity."

With roughly 15-20 members attending meetings, the HSA plans to raise awareness about Hispanic culture and people while trying to reach the

Hispanic community outside the campus.

HSA adviser, Mark Greger, said the club began coming together in September and had an active first month cosponsoring events associated with Hispanic Heritage Month, Sept. 15 through Oct. 15.

On Oct. 7 the club co-hosted an event with Student Life. Gabriela C. Medina, a poet from Latin America, was the speaker.

"HSA also has goals of becoming involved in community-oriented programs such as mentoring and other issues related to the Hispanic community," Greger said.

HSA has alternated meetings between Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Anyone interested in the Hispanic community is welcome to join.

Education major Kayla Cannon said the clubs will give students a chance to gather with people and make new friends.

Cannon added, "I believe the clubs will give students the ability to show how unique each person is. And I think they will be helpful at Georgia Highlands."

Fall Frenzy at GHC

This year's theme: Casino Day

*Floyd campus Oct. 27
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.*

*Cartersville campus Oct. 28
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.*

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With Halloween just around the corner, some may want to know what is planned in the area. Here are a few options:

Netherworld in Atlanta

Oct. 3- Nov. 2
\$18- \$25

Haunting of the Seven Hills in Rome

Thurs. - Sun.
Oct. 9- Nov. 1
7 p.m. - 11 p.m.
\$12

Creepers Haunted House in Atlanta

Oct. 16- Nov. 1
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For more Georgia listings on haunted houses, pumpkin patches and corn mazes, check out www.hauntworld.com.

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Elsen says, 'Every day you are living history'

By Nick Godfrey
Assistant Editor

Georgia Highlands College has brought in many new teachers this year. Every campus has come to know and meet new faces. One new face on the Floyd campus is Todd Elsen, a part-time American History teacher.

Not only is this Elsen's first year at GHC, it is also his first year teaching.

Elsen spent his college years at Fort Hayes State University, in Kansas, and wanted to pursue a career in history.

"When I was in college I



Photo by Jordan Penson

Todd Elsen

was a history major, and I went to my adviser and I said, you know, what can I do with history? He said 'you can either be a historian or you can teach.' And, when you're 18 years old, you don't want to be a histori-

an," Elsen said.

However, in Elsen's decision to become a teacher, he did not go straight into the profession after school. Instead, he started working for a radio station in Denver. He stayed in radio until being fired and wanting to get out of the business.

"I was working in Denver at a radio station, and then we (Elsen and his wife) moved down here to Georgia in 2000, and I started working for another radio station. I kind of got sick of the way the radio was. There was a lot of stabbing in the back and that wasn't something I really wanted to do. I

actually got fired for making too much money, which was nine dollars an hour," he said.

After leaving radio, Elsen finally landed a job at GHC. Elsen commented that his first time teaching was a lot of fun, but it was a little nerve racking.

Elsen went on to say that his favorite aspect of GHC is the size. "It's a smaller school, so you can get in contact with your students easier. Classes are smaller, and it makes it easy to recognize people and talk to them," he said.

Elsen's goal for his class and his students is for the students

to realize that history is important and that it is not just a bunch of dates and events that happened.

"No matter what you think history is, you are part of it, and the stuff you do with your life is going to affect it. You may not think that you're changing anything, but you're all a part of history. Every day you are living history," Elsen said.

Facts about Elsen

- Struggled in college, but didn't give up until he received his degree
- Enjoys studying alternate history

Early Bird Advising makes it easy for students to find their major and helpful programs

By Chiara VanTubbergen
Staff Writer

Early Bird Advising offers students the opportunity to discuss with an academic adviser information about classes on GHC various campuses.

"The academic adviser may recommend beneficial courses related to the student's program of study. The student then independently selects the

appropriate times and courses that best fit his lifestyle using the information provided by the academic adviser," explains Laura Ralston, lead advising specialist.

"One benefit of Early Bird Advising is the empowerment of the student to make informed choices regarding his or her program of study," said Ralston.

"Early registration gave

me time to think about what classes I wanted to take," said Erin Jenkins, Floyd campus student. "I felt I wasn't rushed into anything I didn't want to do."

Another student, Connie Hutchinson, said, "I found the program to be helpful and the advisers to be extremely knowledgeable. They were very informative about the teachers and the difficulty of the classes."

Early registration, for the spring semester, begins Monday, Nov. 10 at 8:30 a.m. Early Bird Advising will be held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the following dates and locations: Tuesday, Nov. 4 on the Floyd campus in the Student Center; Wednesday, Nov. 5 on the Marietta campus in D165; Thursday, Nov. 6 on the Cartersville campus in the HUB.

Appointments are neces-

sary only for the Marietta campus and may be scheduled in the main office area, D165. On the Floyd and Cartersville campuses, students will be served on a first come, first serve basis. Additionally, counseling and career services will be available to help students discover possible majors through an online computer program "which takes about 30 minutes to complete," said Ralston.

Upcoming activities

-Brian Brushwood lecture "Scams, Sasquatch and the Supernatural": Oct. 27 at Floyd and Oct. 28 at Cartersville

-Hajii Otto lecture "Master Stress 101": Nov. 5 at Floyd and Nov. 6 at Cartersville

-Comedian Roy Wood Jr.: Nov. 17 at Cartersville and Nov. 18 at Floyd

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Cell phones possibly more hazardous than anticipated

By Nick Godfrey
Assistant Editor

The one thing none of us could live without is our cell phone. Imagine not having a cell phone for a week. The world would end, right?

There may be a problem growing with the safety of our cell phone necessity.

It may seem harmless, but according to recent research, the prolonged exposure to electromagnetic radiation emitted from cell phones and other appliances may be harming us more than we think.

Dr. Vini Gautam Khurana concludes in a highlighted sum-

mary of a 14-month objective research study, completed on Feb. 7, 2008, that the dangers of cell phone exposure is an emerging global public health concern.

Khurana explains that exposure to long-term continuous waves formed from cell phones, televisions, radios and other devices can lead to malignant brain tumors.

At least eight comprehensive clinical studies internationally and one long-term meta-analysis are evidence to a link between mobile phone usage and certain brain tumors.

However, many people think otherwise about danger-



Photo by Jordan Penson

Jordan Dodd uses her cell phone in the student center.

ous technology and whether the radiation is dangerous at all.

Charles Abend, a mechanical engineer major from Rome, said, "Who knows what causes tumors? The average cell phone puts out .7 rating on the Specific Absorbent Rate chart of radiation. In Comparison, your car puts out 6.3 on the same chart."

Abend further argues, "I really don't believe cell phones can cause any damage to you when they put out such a minuscule amount of radiation."

Whether or not cell phones are truly dangerous to our health is a continuing debate.

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First time voter's tips for survival

By Spencer Musick, Staff Writer

You can find your voting precinct on www.sos.ga.gov. Click on the quick link to the "Election Center." On the left, click on "Poll Locator." From here, you will be able to find your precinct.

Be sure to bring a form of photo identification to the polls. The following forms of photo identification are accepted: A Georgia driver's license (even if expired), a United States passport, any form of military identification, a valid tribal photo ID, or a valid employee ID from any state agency. If you need a form of photo identification, a free voter identification card is available at your local elections board.

You will be given a card that contains the ballot for the election. You will then be directed to one of the computerized voting machines used in Georgia voting precincts. Insert the card into the slot on the side of the machine. Follow the on-screen instructions to proceed to the ballot. At the top of the screen are the options to vote a straight party ticket (for example all Democrats or all Republicans). Indicate your choices by using the touch screen to place an "X" next to the candidates of your preference.

When finished, you are given the chance to review your ballot. When you are ready to cast your vote, touch "cast ballot" at the bottom of the screen.

You will be given an "I voted" sticker when leaving the polls. Wear it proudly!

The above information can be found on the Georgia Secretary of State's website, www.sos.ga.gov.

Walk a Mile in Her Shoes increases domestic violence awareness

By Chiara VanTubbergen
Staff Writer

Over 70 men and women marched down Broad Street, Friday Oct. 3, from the Forum to the City Auditorium wearing women's shoes to raise awareness of domestic violence.

"I cannot tell you how fabulous it is to have the community support us," says Anne Havron, coordinator of the event.

"This kind of tragedy is ongoing. I thought it was worth wearing heels for a couple of blocks, though my toes may object," says Dr. Jon Hershey, English professor and participant in the event.

Other participants included officers from the Rome city police force, representatives from local banks, local politicians and Rome City School and Floyd County School administrators.

In front of the City Auditorium at the end of the walk, the participants gathered to listen

to Amy Weaver, executive director of the Hospitality House.

Weaver said, "I'm very impressed with the turnout and am pleased we were able to get prominent people from the community to participate."

Both Havron and Weaver said that they are looking forward to next year's walk and hopefully a larger awareness of domestic violence.



Photo by Chiara VanTubbergen
Dr. Hershey tries on his heels before the walk.



Photo by Chiara VanTubbergen
Men and women start the walk at the Forum in Rome.

Domestic Violence Awareness

By LaTonya Burrell
Editor

The month of October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Here are some troubling statistics.

- Estimates range from 960,000 incidents of violence against a current or former spouse, boyfriend, or girlfriend per year
- Around the world, at least one in every three women has been beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused during her lifetime.
- While women are less likely than men to be victims of violent crimes overall, women are five to eight times more likely than men to be victimized by an intimate partner.
- In 2001, intimate partner violence made up 20 percent of violent crime against women. The same year, intimate partners committed 3 percent of all violent crime against men.
- Women of all races are about equally vulnerable to violence by an intimate.

All information was provided by the U.S. Department of Justice, Violence by Intimates and the Bureau of Justice Statistics Crime Data Brief, Intimate Partner Violence along with the Commonwealth Fund.

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Coping with student stress

With midterms uncomfortably present, I am starting to feel the burn of not having enough time. It is as though I am running around in a cruel and unforgiving circle. Days collide with one another. I am guilty of running to the right class, but on the wrong day. Schoolwork bleeds into homework, and it feels as though there is no end in sight.

Even worse, sometimes it feels like no one understands what I am going through. It is like before I had a chance to take a deep breath, the day is over and I have not even scratched the surface of things I need to do. There are some days I just want to admit defeat and stay in bed.

It is times like these, however, where my dreams and ambitions kick me into the extra gear that I need. The most important thing



Editor's Box

By LaTonya Burrell
Editor

about it, though, is that I want my goals so bad, I feel like I already have them. I picture myself at a four-year college taking classes and daydream about graduating with a double major. I dream about working at the United Nations or the World Health Organization. It is what I live for.

I think about all these things and a smile cannot help but spread across my face. Without my hopes and dreams, I would have no drive to succeed. Giving up is not an option and certainly out of the question.

To my fellow classmates, I

feel your suffering. I promise that it will not last forever.

I know for me, the best cure for burnout is taking time for you. Take a break from that term paper and go to the movies. Do not worry about the paper; it will be there when you get back. Just enjoy the cinematic adventure. Or treat yourself to a dinner when you did better than you thought on a midterm. Go ahead, you earned it.

Most importantly though, do not lose sight of your dreams. In most cases, they are the only reason you put your war paint on for school.

GHC flushes water shortage away

Everybody goes to the bathroom, so bathrooms are a necessity in buildings. Georgia Highlands has bathrooms, and as in every bathroom, there are toilets. Toilets are vital to a successful bathroom visit, and water is vital to a successful toilet flush, but sometimes too much water is used, and that is unsuccessful.

It is a problem when someone goes into a bathroom at GHC and sits on an automatic toilet and the toilet flushes three times before one can begin business. Water is a scarce item in the Southeast, so this waste of water is a very serious issue.

Not too long ago, using water sparingly was a sacrifice that everyone practiced. There were prayers conducted by governors and pleas with neighboring states for water, so it is mind boggling how in just a few short months, wasting water is a tolerable practice again.

If GHC toilets were wast-

ing water every time someone used the restroom during the summer, there would have been alterations made to the automatic toilets very quickly. Now, in October, it must be acceptable that toilets are wasteful because this is still an ongoing problem.

Not only do the over-eager toilets hurt the waterlines of GHC. They hurt the pocketbooks of GHC as well. Water fills our lakes and rivers, and falls from the sky occasionally, but water is far from free. Water bills are expensive, and money that is going toward the water bills of GHC could easily be redirected to other expenses that the college faces in this time of an American fiscal fiasco.

So, next time Mother Nature calls and her calls are answered with a visit to GHC's profligate automatic toilets, remember that water being flushed repeatedly is water that was precious a few short months ago.

Letters to the editor

Dear Editor,

I am a current student at GHC. Although I took many years off after my completion of high school, I have found it a smooth transition back into student life. I thought at first that maybe I was too old, but after the first week of classes I began to realize that there was more out there just like me. Although there have been many advances in various areas, I feel that I am catching on quick. I underestimated the course work and signed up as a full-time student along with being a full-time mom and possessing a full-time job. I am now looking at decreasing my load at school due to the high rigor in nature of my classes, but I still feel good about going back to school. It really does broaden a person's mind. I have been in management positions without attending any college, and I believe now that college experience will add to what you have on your plate to offer to your employer. This is just a bird's eye view of what I have come to experience in the few weeks that I have been at GHC. I wanted to share this informa-

tion in case there is anyone else out there, like myself, having doubts about attending college after so many years have passed since graduating high school.

-Michelle Brewton
Nursing
Dallas

Dear Editor,

I enjoyed the article titled "Living on the Pale Blue Dot." It made me stop and think how vast the universe is. Earth is our home, and we tend to forget about the other planets and galaxies light years away. I am a Christian so to me when I think of all of this great creation, I can not help but sing praises to God. He gave His son to die for all. The article mentioned a quote from Carl Sagan that named all the people that have lived here. To think that Jesus died for them, us living now and for those in the future is amazing. Living in such a huge world does make one feel insecure at times, but also makes one feel privileged to be a part of something so great.

-Kandace Flores
Early Childhood Education
Cedartown

Dear Editor,

I am pleased to hear about the growth spurt, although I don't want the school to get over populated. I believe this shows how great of a school Georgia Highlands is, and I agree with Elizabeth Dewberry. Georgia Highlands is very hospitable, meaning that someone can always answer your questions and treats you with respect.

I wish Georgia Highlands would become a 4-year university. I would be so pleased if I could stay here and achieve a bachelor's and master's. The teachers are great and relate to the students very well. They are polite and make it their best interest to communicate with the students.

Also, I would like to bring attention to you about future concerns. Is it possible for Georgia Highlands to become a 4-year university and what are the requirements? And is there anyway to get involved in seeing that this happens?

-Erin Jenkins
Early Childhood Education
Dallas

Six Mile Post

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

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



Voice of Reason

By James Swift
Staff Writer

How long until the inevitable transpires at the Cartersville campus?

There's an old episode of "The Simpsons" in which a suicidal Homer contemplates throwing himself off a bridge. After his family is nearly run down by a speeding motorist, Homer quickly realizes his purpose in life: to get a stop sign erected at that particular cross section.

Although I never strolled down Springfield with a giant rock tied to my neck, I too share a predestined goal akin to Homer J. Simpson's: I shall not rest until a traffic light is

established at the Cartersville campus junction.

As of print, there have been several traffic accidents at the Cartersville campus. Fortuitously, none of these have proved fatal. That being stated, for proactive measures to be taken, the inevitable tragedy must ensue.

The crux of the traffic problem is this: the highway utilized only provides a right turning lane for campus access. That means that campus-goers attempting to enter the school via a left turn have to traverse across perpetual oncoming traffic to enter the school

grounds. One should note that this same highway produces a majority of I-75 exit ramp takers and is the primary route for ambulance, fire station and police personnel to respond to emergencies.

So, that means we have consistently busy traffic + speeding emergency vehicles + haphazard traffic maneuvering. Factor in a careless student driver, and the end product equates catastrophe.

Quite frankly, it's no longer a question of if, but when a traffic fatality is to occur on campus. With the annexation and further development of the campus, the risk of mortal injury only increases. At this juncture, the only viable option is to institute a traffic light fixture at the left bound turning area. Granted, bureaucratic measures such as these are inordinately expensive; but not as expensive as opening up a memorial highway.

Something to think about



Spencer Musick is a sophomore biology major at the Floyd campus. He is a former editor for the Six Mile Post.

Candidates' energy policies offer little choice

As the presidential campaign draws to a close, sadly, both major party candidates have given in to certain political gimmicks designed to woo voters.

A very telling example can be found in the party nominees' respective energy policy proposals. "Drill baby drill" is frequently heard chanted at rallies for Sen. John McCain. His energy plan includes drilling and nothing more.

Sen. Barack Obama's answer is no less of a farce. The crux of his proposed energy policy is to impose a windfall profits tax on the earnings of the oil companies above a certain margin.

Both of these proposals are equally idiotic and counterproductive in nature.

All of us have grown accustomed to emptying our wallets in order to fill up at the gas pump. What many in my generation are not accustomed to is the prospect of not being able to find any gas at all. The last major gas shortage took place during the 1970's. The federal government, eager to get its hands on the exorbitant profits of the oil companies, imposed a "windfall profits tax" on these earnings.

As a result, the oil companies simply raised the price at the pump to make up the difference. So when Americans could find gas, they were being drained even more as a result of an energy policy focused

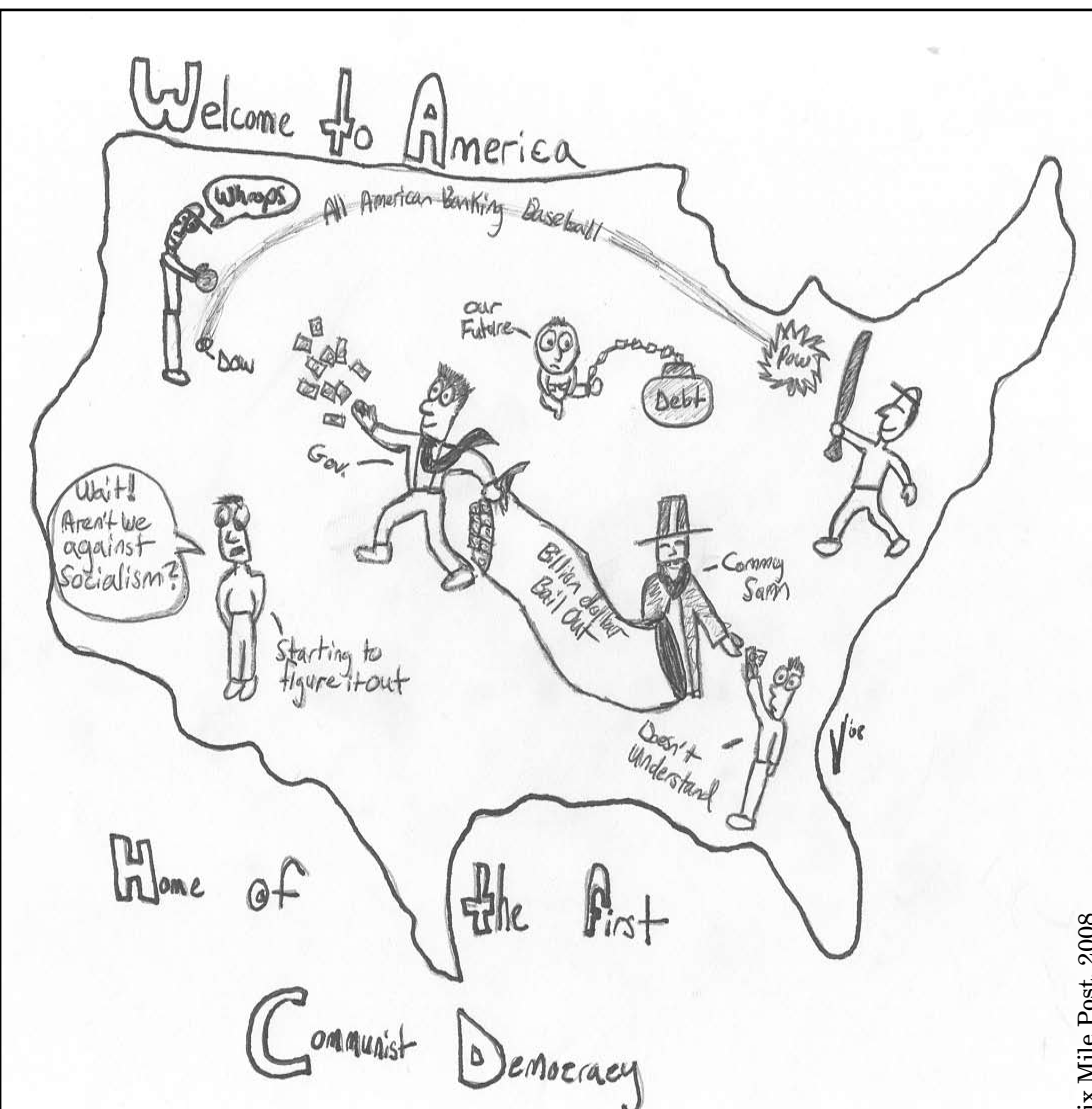
on generating revenue rather than helping consumers.

Obama is sadly mistaken if he thinks that the situation would be any different if he were to impose the same tax again. The oil companies, instead of absorbing the tax in their profit margin, would raise prices further. Obama has frequently said that we should not expect different results from the same failed policies.

McCain's plan is also a result of him drifting with the political winds.

His plan is to destroy our coasts looking for oil, while simultaneously giving a huge tax break to the oil companies to pay for this exploration. The problem with this proposal is similar to the issue with the windfall profits tax. Can we trust the oil companies to lower their prices if they strike black gold? If the last couple of decades of steady increases in the price of gas are any indication, we cannot.

Neither candidate seems to have an adequate plan to reduce our dependence on foreign oil in the short or long term. There are no quick fixes here. Discovering the solution will take a comprehensive energy plan that focuses on finding an alternative energy source that will not only save our wallets, but our planet as well. We must acknowledge that we can neither drill, nor tax, our way out of this problem.



Six Mile Post, 2008

Do you believe gas prices will rise again before the winter holidays?

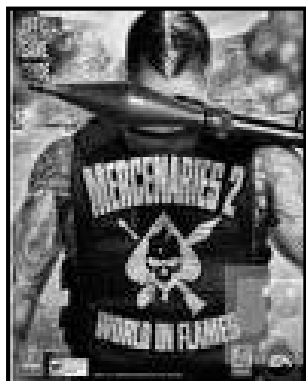
Go to www.sixmilepost.com and vote on the online poll.

9 out of 10 for 'Mercenaries 2' Classic album remains timeless

By Smith Holder
Staff Writer

Mercenaries 2: World In Flames for the Xbox 360 is a phenomenal game. The player is cast as a "gun for hire" that has been betrayed by his most recent client, a Venezuelan businessman (soon to be dictator) by the name of Ramon Solano. After nearly getting killed by Solano's men, the goal is to become friendly with the warring factions of Venezuela, as doing so will help one get closer to finding where Solano is hiding out and exert vengeance on him.

Getting on a faction's good side requires completing missions assigned by them. Completing the mission not only helps to form alliances with them but also earns the player extra cash in the process. Said cash gives the ability to purchase conveniences such as weapon drops, airstrikes and the chance to bribe factions



that have been angered. This is one of the many high points of *World In Flames*.

Other high points include the opportunity to recruit people with special skills (i.e. quickly transporting the mercenary from one location to another, dropping supplies, bringing down airstrikes and fixing vehicles) and the player's ability to interact with everything in the environment.

Not only can buildings be blown up but it is also possible to destroy things such as trees

and other obstacles that present themselves. In addition, vehicles can be hijacked a la the *Grand Theft Auto* series. One highlight in particular is the open map. The player is not just confined to one area, and they can go wherever they want to, whenever they want to.

With all of the praise this game gets, there comes with it criticism.

For example, while the player is provided with the option to take weapons from dead enemies, expect to run out of ammo quite often. This is because the enemy will frequently attack from all sides unexpectedly, which leads to an unfortunate consequence. The character will die.... a lot.

These flaws are a minor nuisance considering the entertainment value of this game. To paraphrase Will Rogers, "I never played a *Mercenaries* game I didn't like". Overall, *Mercenaries 2: World In Flames* gets a 9 out of 10.

By Hanna Yu
Staff Writer

Pink Floyd uses a unique blend of genres but their main roots are in psychedelic rock. They started gaining popularity around the 70s and created many albums including the album "Wish You Were Here."

It was written as a tribute to Syd Barrett, the original singer/guitarist for Pink Floyd. His sudden disappearance to a reclusive life greatly affected the other band members.

The album starts with the two-part song, "Shine On You Crazy Diamond."

Part one begins with spacey psychedelic sounds intertwined with a rich guitar riff. The song builds up and continues with its long instrumental intro; the haunting lyrics about Syd begin eight minutes in, only to add

to the beauty of the song. The jazzy saxophone solo towards the end gives the song even more layers of genius; it slowly fades away and concludes part one of the song.



The second part is at the end of the CD after the acoustic ditty, "Wish You Were Here." The contrast of sounds in this album is what makes it memorable.

This characteristic is evident when the slow nostalgic song of "Wish You Were Here" transitions into the fast pace of "Shine On You Crazy Diamond Pt. VI-IX".

The peak of the song features screaming guitar solos, which develop into a recap of the solos in part one.

The overall feeling that this soothing album inspires is a total relaxing state of mind and remembrance of loved ones like the rock legend Syd Barrett.

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'Eagle Eye' is packed with action and suspense, bringing the fear of technology alive once again

By Nick Godfrey
Assistant Editor

One blockbuster to hit this fall is "Eagle Eye" starring Shia LaBeouf. "Eagle Eye" is an on-the-edge adventure with an intense pace.

Imagine receiving a call from an unknown caller and being "activated" or told what to do. If you refuse, you die.

This is where the film's

journey takes off.

Apparently, the film's goal is to express the dangers of our modern technology, to be more specific, technology that is used on an everyday basis that can be monitored by the government via cell phones, mp3 players and many more.

The plot centers on the basic principle of Big Brother and the control of "evil" technology over us.

The movie has a fantastic cast, a clear direction and a great story.

My only critique to the movie is it made me fear my cell phone. Of course, Steven Spielberg, writer and producer of the film, would probably say that is the point.

For a good sit down action thriller with a pretty fun and serious storyline, I recommend checking the movie out.

Play depicts struggles of voting equality

By Smith Holder
Staff Writer

The one act play, "The Fannie Lou Hamer Story," will be presented at Coosa Valley Technical College in Rome, GA. Features will be held on Saturday, Nov. 1 at 6 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 2 at 4 p.m.

Fannie Lou Hamer is played by MZuri and covers the life and times of the civil rights activist whose main focus was

in voting equality.

Hamer was inspired to become an activist after she attended a Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) meeting near her home.

In the last years of her life, Fannie Lou Hamer founded organizations such as the Delta Program and the Freedom Farms Corporation, both of which were designed for helping the community and

needy people. In addition, she was a member of the National Women's Political Caucus and the Martin Luther King Center for Nonviolent Social Change. She died of breast cancer on March 14, 1977.

The play is supported by the 100 Black Men of Northwest GA, Thankful Baptist Church, Coosa Valley Technical College, Georgia Highlands and many other organizations and individuals.

Championship game kicks off Warriors and Dawgs fight back; Untouchables stay untouched in the playoffs

By Eric Benavidez
Staff Writer

In a game full of trick plays, strong defense and good sportsmanship, the Untouchables won the flag football championship game with a score of 40-18 over the Warriors.

The Warriors kicked off to the Untouchables as the Oct. 27 contest began and after getting good field position, the Untouchables were able to get a touchdown as Ben Claytor connected with Michael Wright.

The Warriors tried to respond by trying a fourth down conversion that was intercepted by Wright, a biology major, who turned it into his second touchdown.

The Warriors tried to catch up, as Shawn Jones caught the ball for two touchdowns, and Chase Patterson grabbed an interception and later scored a touchdown.

By half-time the Untouchable's lead had been shrunk to 3 points.

In the second half, the Untouchables showed why they had been undefeated all season. They surprised the Warriors with an on-side kick, which the kicking team recovered.

After a quick touchdown,



Photo by Jordan Penson

Greg Hall prepares to kickoff the start of the game.

the Untouchable defense took over and clamped down on the Warrior offense, forcing two consecutive turnovers on downs.

After the game, Warriors captain, Brad Hobbs, a history major from the Floyd campus, said, "It was a good game. They surprised us with the on-side kick. Respect for them, they were the better team."

With the win, the Untouch-

ables earned the right to play against the winners of the Shorter College intramural flag football competition.

The GHC-Shorter game will be on Oct. 28 at 5:30 p.m. at the Floyd Campus. Luke Allmon, computer information systems major, summed up the GHC team's feelings about the game with Shorter when he said, "We'll really find out where we stand."

By Eric Benavidez
Staff Writer

With championship hopes on the line, the Warriors and the Dawgs headed into a must win playoff game on Tuesday, Sept. 30.

The game started off as both teams engaged into a slugfest, with both sputtering offenses not being able to create much. But as the temperature rose on the field, the offense for the Dawgs started heating up.

By halftime, the Warriors, led by quarterback Chase Patterson, were forced with having to climb out of a 14-point deficit, as the Dawgs led 20-6.

During halftime, Brad Hobbs, the Warrior captain, was seen talking to his players about strategy. Chase Benton, a physical education major at the Floyd Campus, wasn't able to discuss the details of those conversations, but after the game he did say, "The team knew there was a problem. We needed to get more things going, and of course, we had to play with urgency."

Whether it was the break

during halftime, or the words of the team captain, the Warriors offense quickly scored twice, and the game was 20 to 14, with the Dawgs leading by one touchdown.

The Warriors made a defensive stop and got the ball back with a couple minutes left and scored a touchdown with a one-point conversion to take the lead.

The Dawgs, who managed to effectively move the ball close to the end zone, had a chance to score a game winning touchdown, but an interception by Patterson ended the game and capped off an impressive comeback by the Warriors.

The Untouchables headed into the second game to play against the Dawgs, who had already been eliminated. After making a noble stand, the Dawgs were downed by the Untouchables 26-0.

Final Game's Score

Dawgs: 0

Untouchables: 26

Atlanta Thrashers prepare for a possibly pivotal 2008-2009 campaign



The Extra Point

Jeff Capen
Staff Writer

The Atlanta Thrashers have accomplished two winning seasons in their franchise history. The one and only time our hometown hockey team managed to make the National Hockey League playoffs, they were unceremoniously manhandled by the New York Rangers.

That being said, it's not hard to see why expectations are a bit low entering the upcoming 2008-2009 season. Most self-proclaimed NHL "experts"

pick Atlanta's team to finish in the basement of the league this season as well.

On closer inspection of the team's acquisitions in the past six months, however, I find myself optimistic about the Thrashers' chances to compete in the Southeast Division.

It was clear last season that the Thrashers lacked the capacity to play defense. 266 goals allowed by the team was the second highest total in the entire league. It's no coincidence that

the Thrashers averaged 3.24 goals against per game, worst in the NHL, and finished with a dismal 34-40-8 record, third worst in NHL.

This offseason, the Thrashers focused on bolstering their terrible defensive corps by drafting highly-touted prospect Zach Bogosian with the third overall pick in the 2008 NHL draft. Second-year phenom Tobias Enstrom, who the franchise just re-signed to a multi-year deal, and Bogosian can make the Thrashers a very stout defensive team for years to come. Recent signings of veteran defensemen Ron Hainsey and Mathieu Schneider should trim down the goals allowed this season to an acceptable level.

Offensively, the Thrash-

ers are much as they were last season, in which they scored a middle-of-the-road 207 goals. Luckily, one of the league's most gifted forwards, Ilya Kovalchuk, still calls Atlanta home.

Are the Atlanta Thrashers going to be a Stanley Cup contender this season? Not a chance. Can they compete in a relatively weak Southeast Division and bring a third winning season to Atlanta along with a second Division title? Certainly. If this year ends up like the last, you can expect Kovalchuk, who is in the last year of his contract, to walk; something no Atlanta fan wants to see. Time will tell the outcome of the season, but one thing is certain, the 2008-2009 season is pivotal to the future of the franchise.

Come support
GHC's intramural champions
as they take on Shorter
College's flag football team.

The Untouchables
will play against Shorter
Oct. 28 at 5:30 p.m. on the
Floyd Campus.

i

Winner will be
announced online
sixmilepost.com

Oreos, Celtics dribble on with basketball victories

By Tyler Ashley
Assistant Editor

GHC Intramural 3-on-3 Basketball rolled along on Wednesday Oct.1.

First, the Oreos faced the Obama All-Stars, and then the Celtics matched up against the Spurs.

The Oreos and Obama All-Stars began the action, and as soon as seconds began to tick away on the score clock, Matt Gore of the Oreos threw two points up with a lay-up.

These first points could have been an indication of the outcome of the game, because the Oreos stayed on top of the All-Stars the entire game. At half, the score was 35 to 25, Oreos, and at the end, the Oreos topped the Obama All-Stars 79-60.

Without much hesitation, the second game was between the Celtics and Spurs.

Again, the Celtics appeared to have the upper hand the entire game, but the game was closer than what was expected. At half, the score was only an eight point margin, with the Celtics leading 25-17.

The Spurs used man to man defense to keep the Celtics points in sight. Eventually the Spurs' defense was still not able to compensate for the Celtics' scoring ability. Once more, the Spurs fell to the Celtics 62-37.

If GHC students and faculty are interested in seeing action packed basketball, games are played at the Floyd Campus gymnasium. Intramural 3-on-3 Basketball continues every Wednesday at 1:45 p.m.



Photo by Tyler Ashley

Matt Gore (left) of the Oreos jumps up for points as Nick Rucker (center left) and Maddrick Long (center right) of the Obama All-Stars attempt to block the shot.

Soccer at GHC

By Eric Benavidez
Staff Writer

In order for intramural soccer competition to be reinstated, students have to make their interest known. According to David Mathis, intramural director, not enough people signed up or showed up to play in the intramural soccer games that have been held in the past.

This year can be different if there are enough soccer players out on the field. Many students have shown interest but do not know where to sign up or where to find information.

Michael Williams, a computer science major at Floyd Campus, expressed his interest by saying, "I want to play, but I haven't heard anything yet. I'm ready and my squad is fired up so hopefully we have intramural soccer."

Williams, like many others, already has his team and is just waiting for an opportunity to show off his athleticism and soccer skills.

Interested students should contact Mathis at dmathis@highlands.edu or Eric Benavidez at ebenavid@student.highlands.edu.

*Interested in outcome of GHC intramural tennis?
Check progressive brackets in Floyd campus gym.*

GHC Hitting the Slopes

Trip Date: December 14-18, 2008

Students may enroll into this program for academic credit by registering for PHED 1420, PHED 1421, or Beginning Skiing/ Snowboarding. Credit is offered for Spring 2009.

Trip is available for non-credit students, faculty and their guests.

Deadline for registering:

Monday, Dec. 1, GHC students

Friday, Nov. 21, Public Service students

Contact:

Dr. Ken Weatherman, Dept. of PHED
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kweather@highlands.edu



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