

# Six Mile Post

The Student Voice

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Special Holiday  
Feature  
pages 6-7



Vol. 28, Number 4

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Floyd College - Rome, Georgia

December 1, 1998

## — News Briefs —

### ■ PTA to hold open house

The Physical Therapy Assistant Department will be holding an open house on Dec. 2 from 7 until 9 p.m. in room 272 at Heritage Hall. The open house will include a tour of the program facilities and give prospective students an opportunity to meet the faculty and current students. Attendees will also be able to obtain information on admissions and financial aid and will also be able to ask questions pertaining to the Physical Therapy Assistant Program. For more information call (706)-802-5017.

### ■ Luncheon held for Elifson

A luncheon was held on Nov. 17 in the Quiet Dining Room to celebrate the upcoming marriage of Dr. Joan Elifson, vice president of academic affairs. College employees were invited to the luncheon and brought covered dishes. Elifson was then presented with a book of recipes with her new initials on the cover.

Elifson married Dr. Gerald D. Lord on Nov. 29.

### ■ Cartersville students to hold book swap

The Cartersville campus of Floyd College will be offering a Student Book Swap on Dec. 17 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

If you are interested in the Cartersville book swap, go to [www.fc.peachnet.edu/sixmilepost/Main.html](http://www.fc.peachnet.edu/sixmilepost/Main.html), for the remainder of this exclusively online article by Valerie Gilbert.

## Johnson named Woman of Excellence

By Brittany Puckett  
Staff Writer

Dr. Alberta Johnson, Floyd College associate professor of psychology, was recently named *1998's Woman of Excellence* by the Women in Management Committee of the Rome Chamber of Commerce. "I was shocked, yet honored," said Johnson.

The award is presented annually to recognize and honor women who are actively involved in the community and excel both in personal and professional achievements.

Johnson, who has been at Floyd College since 1993, has written many publications dealing with child development, adolescence and parent education. One publication focused on television and how children are affected by the different shows they watch. It also gave advice to parents about how to limit their children's TV viewing. Many of these publications are used at local, state and national levels.

Johnson says that as a young person, she was taught to serve the community and to do it well. Johnson is responsible for the establishment of Psi Beta at Floyd College.

Psi Beta is the National Psychology Honor Society for community colleges. This was also the first Psi Beta chapter in Georgia.

As coordinator and faculty adviser of "Psych Insights" (an educational program at Heritage Hall), Johnson and others from the Rome area, along with high school counselors and psychology students from 16 other counties, were video taped and aired on FCTV.

Johnson organizes training sessions for Floyd College Continuing Education,



Photo by Matthew Curry

Dr. Alberta Johnson smiles beside her 1998 Woman of Excellence award.

the Georgia Association of Young Children, Conferences on Parent Education (Texas) and The National Institute on Teaching of Psychology (Florida). Johnson presents all of these programs on behalf of Floyd College.

Johnson is a certified family life educator and has been selected for *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*.

Within the local community, Johnson is also extensively involved. She is vice president of WIN (Women's Information Network). This program is designed to help women make intelligent decisions in their lives.

Johnson has also been an active participant in many other organizations, such as the Direct Services Committee (formerly Rape Response of Rome), the Child Abuse Committee and Rome/Floyd County Commission on Children and Youth.

Johnson is currently establishing Lean on Me. This particular program is

designed to educate and support victims of breast cancer immediately following their diagnosis.

As a survivor of breast cancer, Johnson says, "Knowledge is the most powerful tool for fighting this disease. Lean on Me will help women to take the first step in that fight." Johnson is actively pursuing this program on a local level with plans to implement it nationally.

This list of Johnson's community involvement and achievements is only a small part of her record.

She is very proud of the framed certificate hanging on her office wall. It reads, "Dr. Alberta Johnson—1998's Woman of Excellence."

Amazing, though, is her hesitation to eagerly accept this title. Johnson says, "I was so impressed with all of the other candidates and their accomplishments; I was shocked to hear my name announced as the winner."

## Model Middle School students tour Floyd College

By Matt Bowers  
Editor

"It was very interesting. A lot of kids asked a lot of questions, and many kids said they would like to attend Floyd College," said Sharrell McKnight, a tour guide for the Model Middle School students who toured Floyd College's central campus on Nov. 12.

The students on this tour were all members of Communities in Schools, a government funded organization for students who are in danger of dropping out of school. Floyd College's Service Learning Office, Office of Student Life, Student Government Association and

Ambassador Program, sponsored the tour.

Dr. Penny Wills, vice president for student development; Paul Clayton, SGA President; and Dondra Casey, coordinator of disabilities support, welcomed the students when they arrived on the central campus.

The students then went on a tour of the campus including the Office of Student Life, the office of the *Six Mile Post* and other locations. The tour also included geology demonstrations by Billy Morris, assistant professor of geology, and chemistry demonstrations by Dr. Harvey Moody, assistant professor of chemistry.

After convening for snacks, the students attended a computer demonstra-

tion by the chairperson of enrollment management services, Lynn Bacon. The students also participated in a sign language demonstration by the coordinator of Deaf and Hearing Support, Debbie Zeigler

Anitra Duke, mentor coordinator in the Office of Service Learning, stated that she wanted to "bring them [the students] to campus, and show them the fun side of college."

This tour was the first of two groups that toured Floyd College's central campus during this Fall Semester. The next group was from Pepperell Middle School and toured the central campus on Nov. 20. There are also plans for other schools to attend similar tours during the upcoming Spring Semester.

Photo by Kevin Barnes

Morris (left) and a Model student study samples.

# News

## FC ambassadors set example for all

By Elton Freeman  
Staff writer

According to Kellie Gilbert, director of the Ambassador Program, "The ambassador is like an information booth."

The ambassadors are a select group of students who keep up with things that are going on within the school, and they often inform visitors of what events are taking place.

Gilbert has plans to host the high school senior tour here at Floyd College on Dec. 11. High school seniors will get to ask questions about the school and find out more about our laptop program from our ambassadors. Gilbert stated that the ambassadors will always try to clear up confusions that future students might have.

Another event that the ambassadors help with is the college probe fair held at Mount Berry Square Mall.

Both of these events will allow the ambassadors to get to know

other people, exchange information about the school and try to answer any questions that may arise.

The ambassadors at Floyd College will also represent the school during the special activity sessions.

These are special programs that allow the middle school students who take tours of Floyd College to get an experience of what school is all about.

According to Gilbert, "Ambassadors are like roles models for students who are borderline in middle school."

Floyd College currently has four ambassadors who have signed up already. Jeffery Scott Guy, Jon Michael Boe, Kellie Odom and Candi Hubbard are all in the training phase of becoming ambassadors.

Most of the ambassadors were active in high school clubs like Beta Club, FBLA, Spanish Club, Senior Executive Council and sports.

Some of the ambassadors are

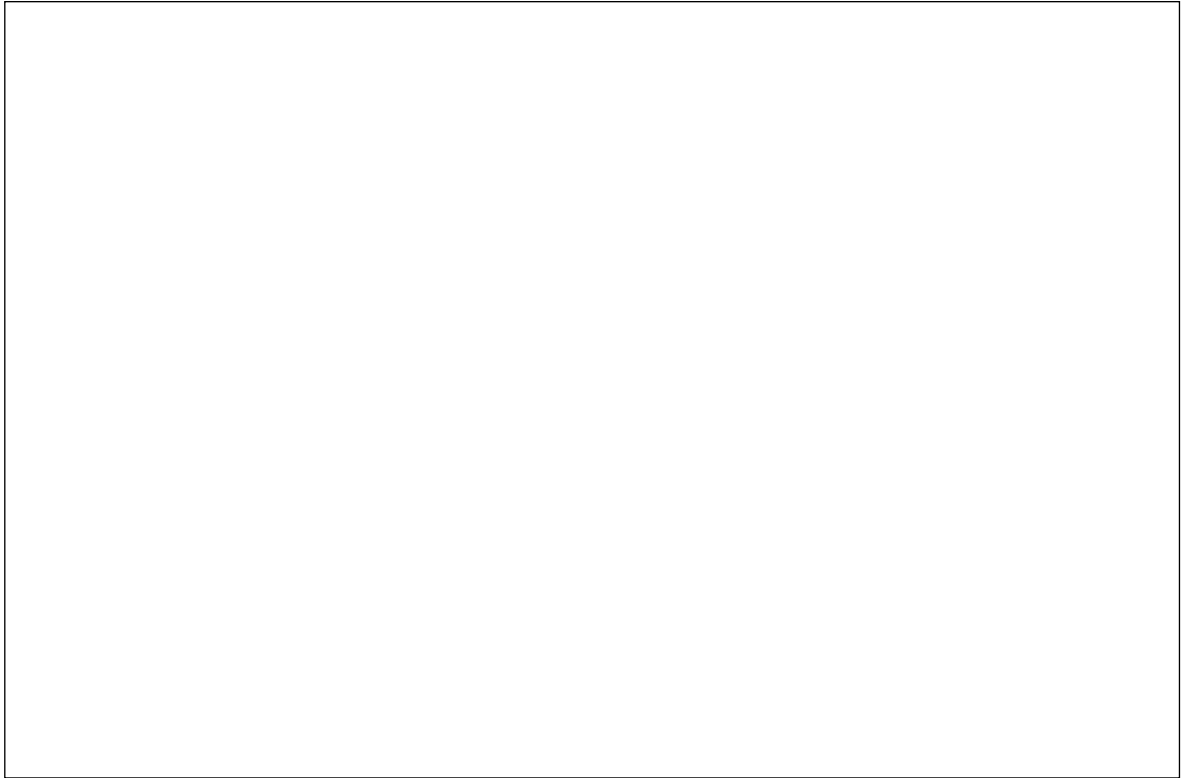


Photo by Kevin Barnes

From left (front row), Jon Boe, Jeffery Guy, Kellie Odom and Candy Hubbard are the ambassadors for the 1998 school year. Their adviser is Kelly Gilbert (back row).

currently in clubs like BSU, HPER and the *Six Mile Post*.

Gilbert is still looking for volunteers who want to be a part of

an "exciting team." She said, "A student must have a 2.5 GPA and must be flexible with their hours." According to Gilbert, students also

get a chance to sharpen up on their leadership skills, and being an ambassador will look great on a resume.

## Chancellor Portch to visit Floyd College on statewide tour

By Matt Bowers  
Editor

Dr. Stephen R. Portch, chancellor of the University System of Georgia, will be at Floyd College Dec. 1 as a part of his tour of all 34 institutions in the University System.

According to Sandy Briscar, director of public information, this tour was caused by "vast change

in state government," and its purpose is to "rally support behind the University System."

Portch will be arriving in Rome at 2:30 p.m.

He will meet with the *Rome News Tribune* editorial board at Center Stage at Floyd College's Heritage Hall campus.

At 3:30 p.m., he will address the faculty and staff of Floyd College.

Portch will dine with local legislators, school administrators and other guests on the central campus before leaving Rome at 6 p.m.

As chancellor, Portch is not a member of the Board of Regents, but rather its chief executive officer and the chief administrative officer of the entire University System.

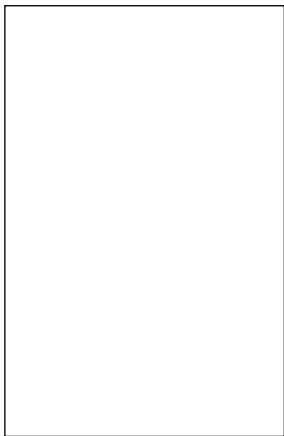
He is also responsible for all 34 institutions in the system and

all the students and budgets thereof.

Portch officially began his career as chancellor in the summer of 1994.

He previously worked for the University System of Wisconsin as vice president for academic affairs and as chancellor of the University of Wisconsin Centers.

Portch has a Ph.D. in English with a minor in higher education.



Guest photo

Dr. Stephen Portch

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Give us your input--  
Check out the *Six Mile Post* poll on the web at...  
[www.fc.peachnet.edu/sixmilepost/Main2.html](http://www.fc.peachnet.edu/sixmilepost/Main2.html)

# News

## Club News

### BSU

BSU will be putting together prison care packets; this will begin after Christmas break.

The club will collect socks, stamps, deodorant, paper and pens. More details about these packets will be provided at a later date.

For more information, contact Candi Hubbard, president of BSU, at [chubb00@mail.fc.peachnet.edu](mailto:chubb00@mail.fc.peachnet.edu).

### PTK

Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to take part in Phi Theta Kappa's Angel Tree Project to provide Christmas gifts for underprivileged children.

Those who want to help should take one (or more) of the paper ornaments from the Christmas tree in the student center and bring a wrapped gift for the child whose name appears on the ornament to the Office of Student Life by Dec. 4.

The paper ornament should be used as the gift tag. The Department of Family and Children Services will see that each gift gets to the appropriate child.

According to Pam Burgess, PTK vice president, about 140 names will eventually appear on the tree.

PTK is also collecting clean new and used clothing for children and teenagers. A collection box is located near the Angel Tree.

### Psi Beta

Psi Beta held its first meeting Nov. 13. The positions of vice-president, secretary and publicity chairs were filled. Deborah Lavoie will announce future meetings, through e-mail.

For more information, e-mail either Lavoie, president, at [dlavo00@mail.fc.peachnet.edu](mailto:dlavo00@mail.fc.peachnet.edu) or adviser Dr. Alberta Johnson at [alberta\\_johnson@mail.fc.peachnet.edu](mailto:alberta_johnson@mail.fc.peachnet.edu).

### SGA

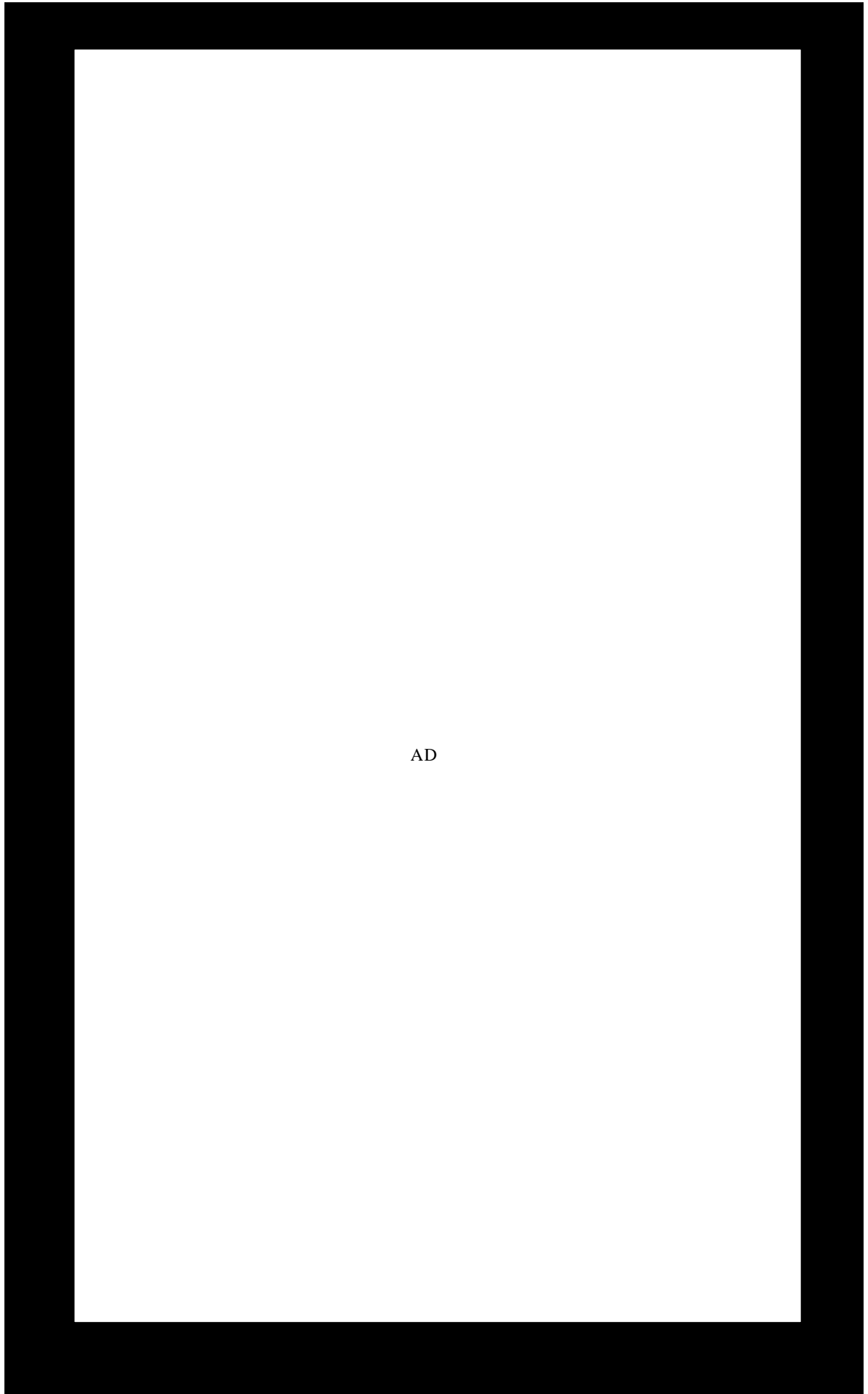
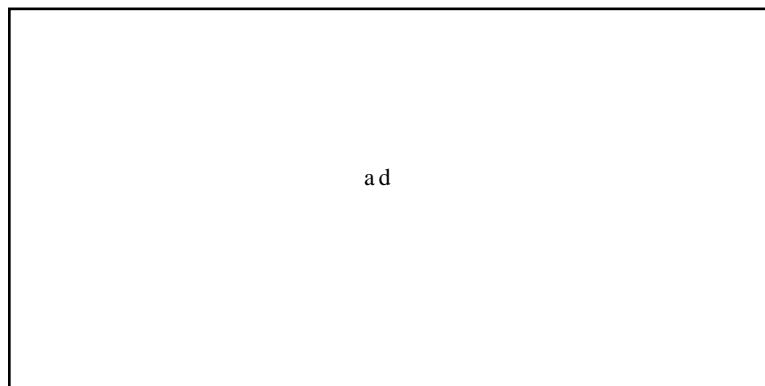
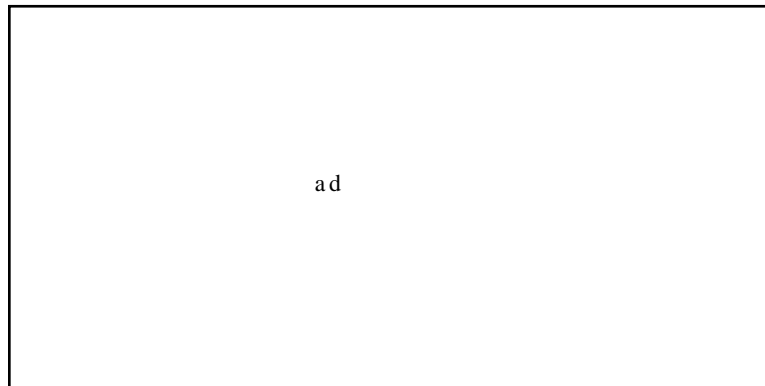
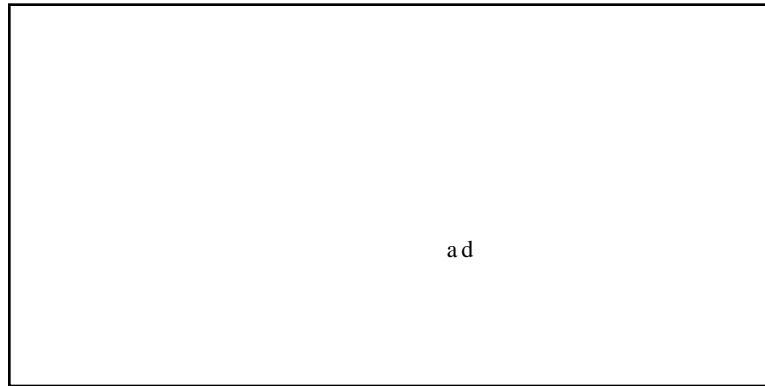
SGA is sponsoring a canned food drive for needy families in Rome through Dec. 18. Monetary donations and non-perishable foods are being collected at all Piggly Wiggly stores in Rome, all Suntrust locations, Sonny's Barbecue, GAS TV and Appliance and the YMCA.

### SMP

The *Six Mile Post* staff will at-

tend the Georgia College Press Association's annual Press Institute in Macon, Jan. 30, 1999.

Applications for next semester are available from Dr. Kristie Kemper in F-136. Students may also submit applications online at [www.fc.peachnet.edu/sixmilepost/main2.html](http://www.fc.peachnet.edu/sixmilepost/main2.html). Just look under "Student Life" in the Student Union Building on the FC homepage. Then scroll down to "Publications," and click on "Six Mile Post."



## Editorials

### The Charger Card: \$17 down the toilet

The Charger Card is a waste of time and money. Does *anyone ever* use it? For the most part, no. It's just something to shell out cash for during orientation, and no one really needs it.

On the rare occasion that a student does try to use the card – perhaps to buy a Coke – the automated swipe-box goes nuts, beeps hysterically, and the person “using” the card stays thirsty.

It's good that Floyd College is trying to keep up with the times, and the school has an excellent technology program, but the Charger Card is silly. True, it seems flashy and futuristic, and yes, it has a nice, colorful design, but it's useless. As soon as it's bought, it quickly goes to its final resting-place in a person's wallet, amid the social security card and a few Dentyne wrappers ... and it never sees the light of day again.

It's inconvenient that students have to get a cheap, stupid piece of plastic made to begin with – but what's worse is that the card costs \$17 a semester!

It doesn't come in handy for I.D., as the brochure claimed. It doesn't seem to get anybody a SURGE, or some Cheetos when they're out of money, either. So just what *does* this expensive, hi-tech piece of plastic do for students? It doesn't do much. It's just a cute way to suck \$17 out of students' wallets.

### Visit Floyd College's wetlands

By **Raye Berry**  
Asst. Editor

The wetlands of Floyd College, located on the northeast side of Paris Lake, can now be explored with the help of a self-guided tour. The tour will allow the adventurer to walk through the wetlands at his/her own leisure.

The tour consists of 12 stations along the boardwalk. The tour guide is a detailed brochure that gives information on the sights and importance of the wetlands. It gives the history of and what to look for at each station. For example, busy beavers, hungry heron and hunting hawks may be glimpsed at some of the stations.

The self-guided tour exists with the help of many organizations and individuals, such as

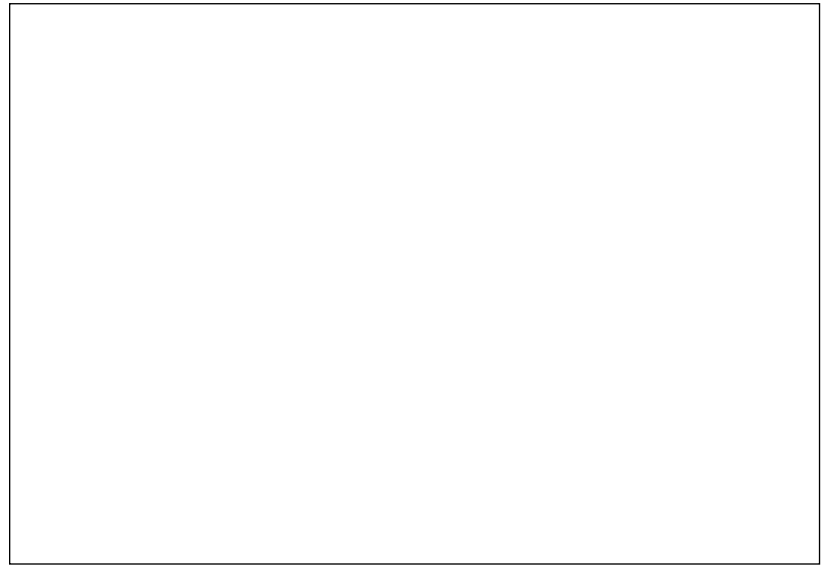


Photo by Kevin Barnes

**Just northwest of Paris Lake (above) lies Floyd College's beautiful 15 acre wetlands.**

Northwest Georgia RESA; Kim Mehaffey, environmental education coordinator of Floyd County schools; Dr. Michael Windelspecht, assistant professor of biology; and Leigh Callan, professor of biology.

The next step for the wetlands is to go online. With the new “cyber

swamp,” one will receive an interactive tour of the wetlands. It is being worked on now, and Windelspecht says that it will be ready “hopefully by early spring.”

The wetlands are a wonderful asset, and students should make an attempt to visit them.

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## Six Mile Post

The Student Voice

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The *Six Mile Post* (named after the old railroad station and trading post that was once located where the college is now) is published four times per semester and is funded through student activity fees and advertising revenue.

Letters to the Editor may be brought to the SMP office currently located next door to the Office of Student Life, sent via email to 6MPost@mail.fc.peachnet.edu, or sent through our website located at www.fc.peachnet.edu/sixmilepost/Main2.html. Although names will be withheld by request, letters must be signed by the author. Publication and editing of the letters will be at the discretion of the editors.

## I know what you did last semester

### Editor's Box

By **Matt Bowers**  
Editor

By **Matt Bowers**  
Editor

As the first semester ever at Floyd College winds down to an end, it seems a good time to look back over the semester and get a perspective on what it was like, from the standpoint of a college, as well as a student.

As far as the college is concerned, things seem to be business as usual, with a few bright spots along the way.

The technology program, although some would not call it a bright spot, has continued to help as well as confuse students in their daily journeys through their college classes. The complaints about pricing and hardware problems remain, but so does the undisputed usefulness of this program.

The Office of Student Life, as well as the Student Government Association, have provided some means of diversion and growth along the way with such activities as a student cookout, a Clubs and Organizations day, a candidate fo-

rum and let's not forget TOAST.

Students have attempted to become accustomed to the new semester system, and even though it may have been a struggle, most have succeeded. The classes have been all but taken, and finals loom just a little bit down the road. But after the finals and classes have been completed, and the halls of Floyd College echo emptily during Christmas vacation, what do we do next?

The first semester of Floyd College has almost passed us by, so what will we do with the semester to come?

Some students will remain here at Floyd to take a few more semesters worth of classes before earning their degrees or moving on to a four-year university. Some are already taking those steps and graduating or moving on. Some may have decided that college wasn't what they wanted, and they are now taking the step of moving into America's workforce. Yet, despite all these different choices that students must make, one question remains: what can

we, the students, do to improve Floyd College in the semester to come?

Although I am painfully aware that Floyd College is a commuter school, and it is therefore difficult to raise too much participation in student activities that are planned, I still steadfastly believe that there is A LOT of room for improvement in student participation. I mean, let's face it, when there's a decent live band playing on your campus where thousands of students attend classes throughout the day, there should be a heck of a lot more than just 25 students outside watching and listening.

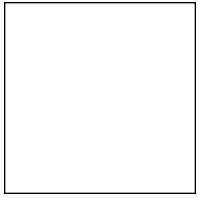
So, if this institution does something for you, the student, I believe that it is therefore your duty, as a good student, to attend at least a few of these outings if at all possible. That's what they are there for, after all.

So, as this semester draws to an end, and a new semester waits just over the horizon, keep in mind the decisions you are making. And if these decisions lead you to attend Floyd College for another semester, be sensitive to what the college is trying to do for you, and give a little back, by participating in these things.

It can only help to make a better semester for both you and Floyd College.

## Opinions

### THE LAND OF ODD



by  
Matthew  
Curry

#### What happened to Christmas?

For many of us, Christmas isn't the same as it was when we were kids. It's like somewhere along the way, it lost its sparkle; its magical quality faded.

I remember when I was a little snot-nosed tyke, Christmas was an *earth-shattering event*. It was all I could do to force myself to sleep on Christmas Eve night because I was so amazed that a big fat man was going to squeeze down my chimney and deliver He-Man figures.

Yet nowadays, if it weren't for TV commercials and those plastic, light-up wise men in my neighborhood, I probably wouldn't even know it's December.

People I've spoken with share these sentiments; Christmas used to mean so much more. What happened?

Obviously, some of it has to do with Santa and the fact that, in reality, overweight elves do not run around our homes at night in flamboyant red costumes. It's all a myth, and that does alter things a bit.

But I believe there's more to it than that. I think Peter Pan may have had a point: as we grow older, we see things differently than we did as kids. Our minds don't operate the same way.

Responsibilities and "important" things clutter our lives and bog us down. Car payments, insurance, jobs, tuition and rent can make us callous to the childish fun — chocolate and twinkling, colored lights don't do the trick anymore.

It's sad that this happens, because a kid's perspective of the holidays is much more exciting.

Christmas is something we should have *fun* with. We should get excited about it, we should gorge ourselves on chocolate and egg-nog and get horribly fat — and not give a damn about it! Christmas, like life itself, should be seized by the throat and enjoyed for all it's worth.

\*

Have a lovely holiday, and stay off the road if you get wasted.

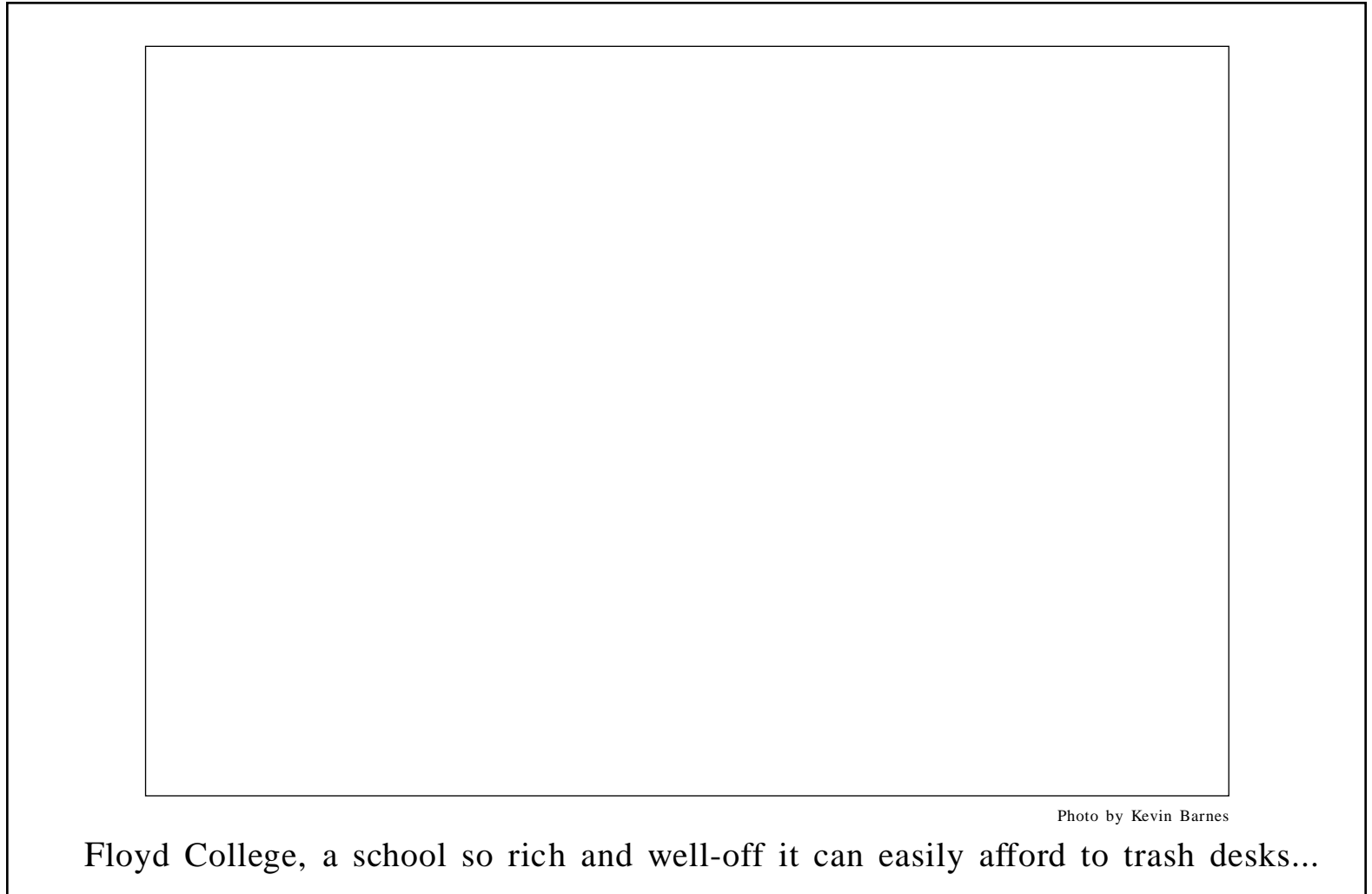


Photo by Kevin Barnes

Floyd College, a school so rich and well-off it can easily afford to trash desks...

## Letters to the Editor

### *Floyd professor passes away*

Dear Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to say something regarding the sad loss of Dr. Sybil Sanders. She was a great teacher and a friend. Floyd College lost one of its best.

I had Sanders for English 101 and 102 when I first came to Floyd College, and she was truly an inspiration to me.

Being an older student, Sanders was exactly whom I needed to get me started toward earning a degree. Many times I felt discouraged during those first two quarters of school, but she would always tell me that if I didn't keep trying, I'd never know what I was capable of doing. One time I told her that I thought I was too old to be in college, and she simply smiled her sweet smile, gave me a good hearty laugh and told me that no one was ever too old to learn. I also told her one time that she had taught me more than I thought was possible to learn in eight weeks and had made me believe that I could become more than I was. But she only laughed and said that she hadn't taught me all those things, that they were things that had happened to me as a person along the way to accepting the challenge that an education required of anyone who was willing to meet it head-on. I thank God for giving me the briefest of moments with this very wonderful, very intelligent, very giving lady. I will miss her.

Shirley Sentell

Editor's Note:

*Dr. Sybil Sanders, part-time assistant professor of English, died unexpectedly, Friday, Oct. 30, of a heart attack. Sanders taught at Floyd College for 25 years. She was teaching a delayed-start English 1101 class this semester. Dr. JoAnne Starnes, who recently retired from full-time teaching, has taken over Sanders' class.*

*Contributions to the North Broad Baptist Church are being accepted in Sanders' memory. Checks may be made payable to "Capture the Vision Fund" and mailed to North Broad Baptist Church, 1309 North Broad Street, Rome, GA 30161.*

### *Hershey's journal of Africa called 'informative and enlightening'*

Dear Editors,

I just finished reading the latest issue of the *Six Mile Post* and felt compelled to write to you concerning an article in the newspaper. Jon Hershey's journal excerpt, from his journey to South Africa, was informative and enlightening.

In the article, he alluded to other parts of the journey. Does this mean he will share further insights into the South African pilgrimage in a future issue of *Six Mile Post*? May this possibly be the first segment of an ongoing series? I look forward to hearing more about Hershey's developmental seminar; his words transported readers to another continent, with style and grace. It was a pleasure to go along for the ride.

Truly,  
Debbie Lavoie

the **SIX MILE POST**

welcomes  
your comments

6MPost@mail.fc.peachnet.edu

# Season's Greetings

## The secrets of Christmas

By **Raye Lynn Berry**  
Assistant Editor

Christmas, to many, is thought of as a season for Christian families to get together and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Today, this holiday is also celebrated by others as well as Christians as a time of large feasts, Christmas trees, lots of presents and, of course, jolly old St. Nick. But how did these things become a part of Christmas?

Mid-winter has been celebrated by people all over the world for thousands of years. An example was Saturnalia—a Roman festival where Romans decorated their living quarters in green to honor Saturn. It is also thought that even Druid priests hung golden apples on oak trees to celebrate mid-winter.

It is rumored that St. Boniface, a British missionary, thought up the actual Christmas tree idea. He cut down a large tree which, when it fell, knocked over every tree except for one small fir. He considered this a miracle and called this small tree "the tree of the Christ child."

Also, many scholars have proposed the idea that Jesus was not even born in winter. In the Bible,

Joseph and Mary were travelling to Joseph's origin to pay taxes. This would not have been done in the middle of winter. The tax collecting was thought to take place in spring.

So why celebrate Christmas in winter? Pope Julius I chose Dec. 25 to celebrate the birth of Jesus to add a Christian aspect to the many mid-winter festivals being celebrated. Keep in mind that Christmas was never celebrated in the Bible.

As for Santa Claus, he originated in the fourth century because of a Turkish bishop called St. Nicholas. He was famous for his kindness to children. His legend continued in Holland, where children would place shoes by the fireplace for "Saint Nick" and his horse. At the time, "Nick" had a little helper known as "Black Peter" who was actually the one to climb down the chimneys and leave gifts after "Santa" had already dropped candy down them. This custom was brought to North America by Dutch settlers.

It was here that the name "Santa Claus" was established. So, Christmas was not established solely to celebrate the birth of Christ. Christmas is a holiday that many cultures have played major parts in the creation and development of.

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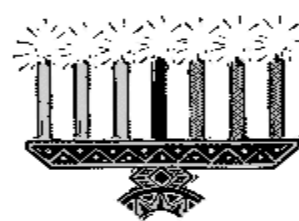
**Christmas Eternal**  
<http://member.carol.net/~asmsks/xrstm.htm>

Christmas Eternal is a web ministry of Latimer Memorial United Methodist Church located in Belton, S.C.

**CVC Christmas Page**  
<http://www.cvc.org/christmas/index.htm>

CVC Christmas Page is a designed by Central Valley Christian High School located in Visalia, Calif.

Original Art by **Matt Curry** and **Brittany Puckett**



By **Matt Bowers**  
Editor

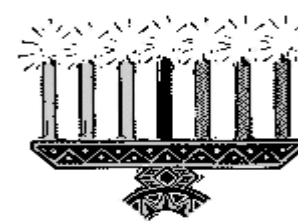
Kwanzaa is the African-American spiritual holiday celebrated Dec. 26 through Jan. 1. Kwanzaa means "the first fruits." The traditional colors of Kwanzaa are black for the face of the people, red for the blood they have shed, and green for the hope and the color of the motherland.

Kwanzaa has definite principles, practices and symbols, which are geared toward the social and spiritual needs of African-Americans. The reinforcing gestures are designed to strengthen a collective self-concept as a people, honor the past, critically evaluate the present and commit to a fuller, more productive future.

The focus of Kwanzaa is centered on the seven principles, or Nguzo Saba: **Umoja**--unity, **Kujichagulia**--self-determination, **Ujima**--collective work and responsibility, **Ujamaa**--cooperative economics, **Nia**--purpose, **Kuumba**--creativity and **Imani**--faith.

The Kinara, a candleholder, is

## A closer look at Kwanzaa



placed atop the Mkeka, a straw mat.

The Mishumaa Saba, the seven candles in the Kinara, represent the Nguzo Saba. Each candle represents a distinct principle beginning with Umoja, the black center candle. Candles are then lit each day alternately from left to right. Three green candles are placed on the left and three red candles are placed on the right, with the black candle in the middle.

Kwanzaa was designed and founded by Dr. Maulana Ron Karenga on Dec. 26, 1966. The holiday has no religious affiliation, and it is based on the cultural principles of a theory called Kawaida.

The concept of the Kawaida theory is that social revolutionary change for Black America can be achieved by the act of revealing and disclosing to individuals their cultural heritage.

Karenga utilized the concept of Kwanzaa as the framework to address major conditions of 1966 and to assist in the resolution of others.

One condition Karenga felt

was to be addressed was the exploitation of Black America during the months of October, November, December or the Christmas Season. Another condition was that during this time in history, Black Americans did not have a holiday.

Review of the major holidays celebrated by the American society would reveal that not one related to the growth and development or essence of Black Americans.

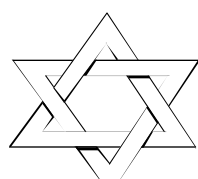
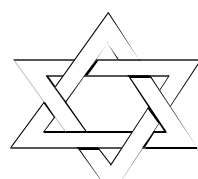
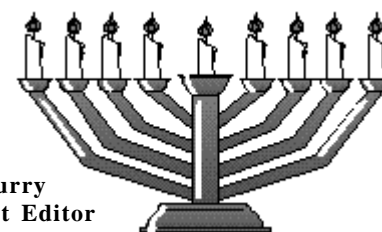
Therefore, Karenga founded the holiday of Kwanzaa to give Black Americans a time to reflect on their heritage, and take pride in it, as well as to help resolve the major issues of his time.

Kwanzaa puts particular emphasis on the unity of Black families. It is a time for the gathering of families, and for a rededication to manifesting the principles of Kwanzaa, Nguzo Saba, as a way of life for Black Americans.

*This article was based on information drawn from the T.I.K.E. homepage at [www.tike.com/celeb-kw.htm](http://www.tike.com/celeb-kw.htm).*

## The meaning of Hanukkah

By **Matt Curry**  
Assistant Editor



Hanukkah is a "festival of lights," and celebrates the Hebrew victory over Syrian forces in 165 B.C. and a miracle that occurred. The oil supply was low for the Eternal Light, a lamp that burned over the Torah in the temple.

There was only enough oil for a day, but instead it burned eight days.

Therefore, the holiday lasts eight days, and at sunset each evening, a candle is lit in the menorah. Children usually receive a gift each night as well.

One tradition is the dreidel, a small, clay top given to children. Originally, the toy was used in gambling games.

When Roman soldiers outlawed the religion, Jews often got together and pretended to be gambling, and whenever guards left, they would pray and study their Torahs in secret.

Another symbol is eating potato pancakes fried in oil – a reminder of the lamp miracle.

However, Hanukkah is a minor holiday on the Jewish calendar. Major ones include the Sabbath (Sunday), Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, a time of repentance.

*This article is based on information provided by Sam Hausfather, director of graduate studies in education at Berry College.*

## Student Poll

### What does the Holiday Season mean to you?

**Linda Wise**  
**Nursing Major**  
"A time to be with family and to share the things that we've been blessed to have."

**Steve Head**  
**Asst. Librarian for Public Services**  
"[It means] trips home, lots of food, little sleeping space and a few days of rest."

### What is your New Year's resolution?

**Regina Todd**  
**Biology Major**  
"To get a car, so I can stop driving my fiancé's Jeep."

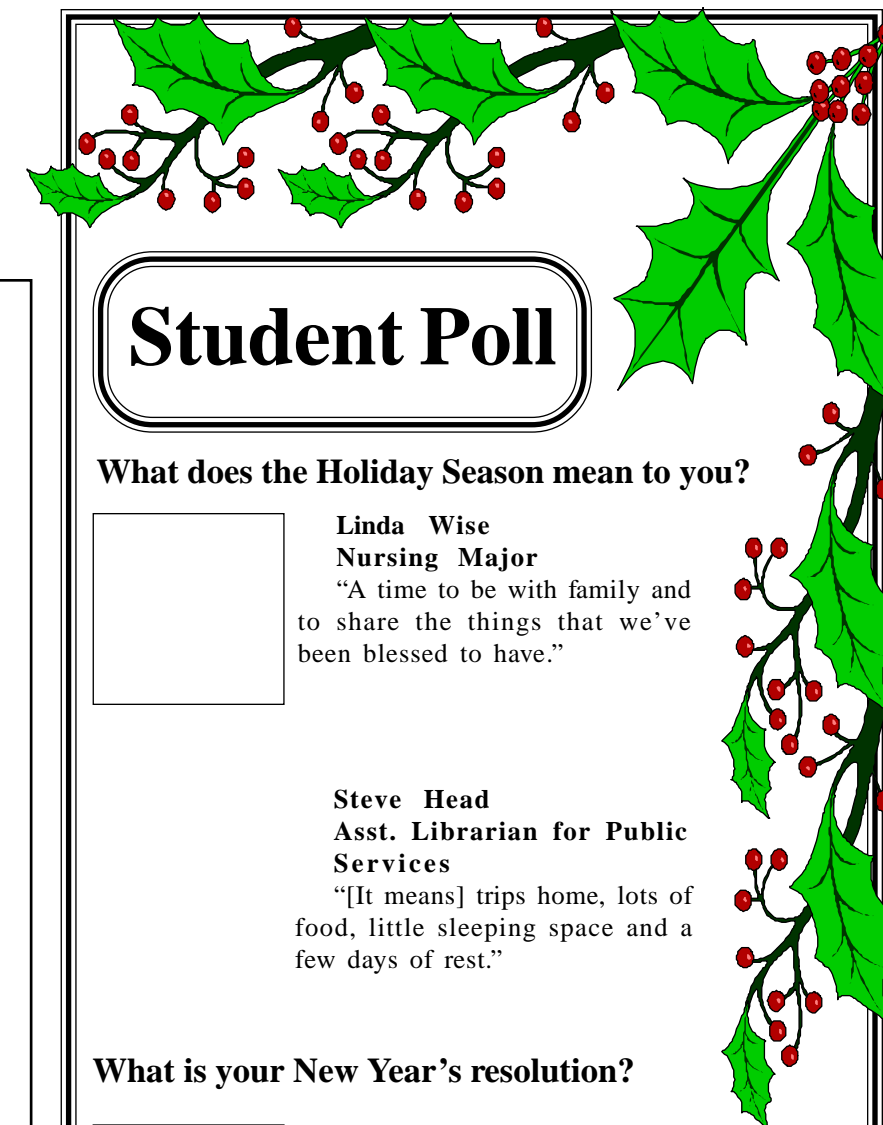
**Becky Grochmal**  
**Math Major**  
"To get some money, go to Canada, and find a man!"

**Anitra Duke**  
**Nursing Major**  
"To get my child into the first grade."

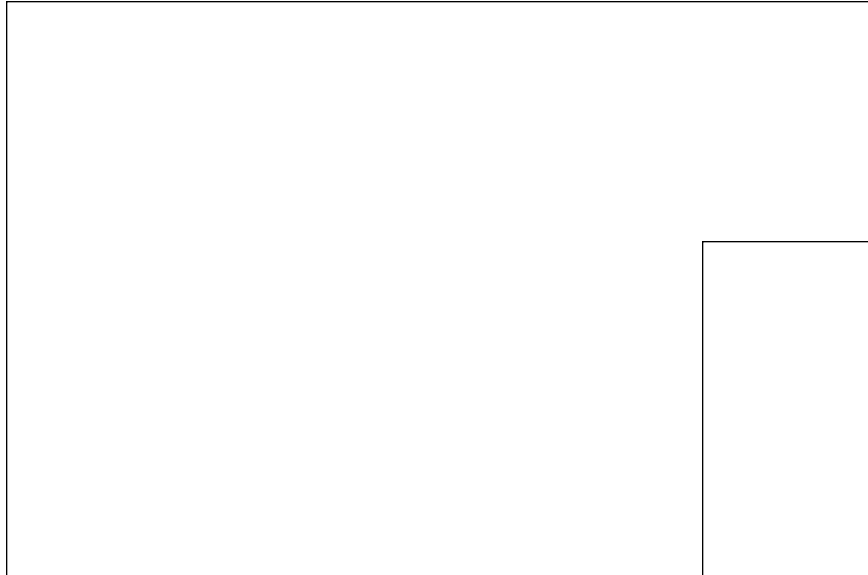
### What is the most embarrassing Christmas Gift you've ever received?

**Mike Garrett**  
**Education Major**  
"Two years ago, my little sister gave me a pair of Barney boxers...in front of my girlfriend and I had to wear them all day!"

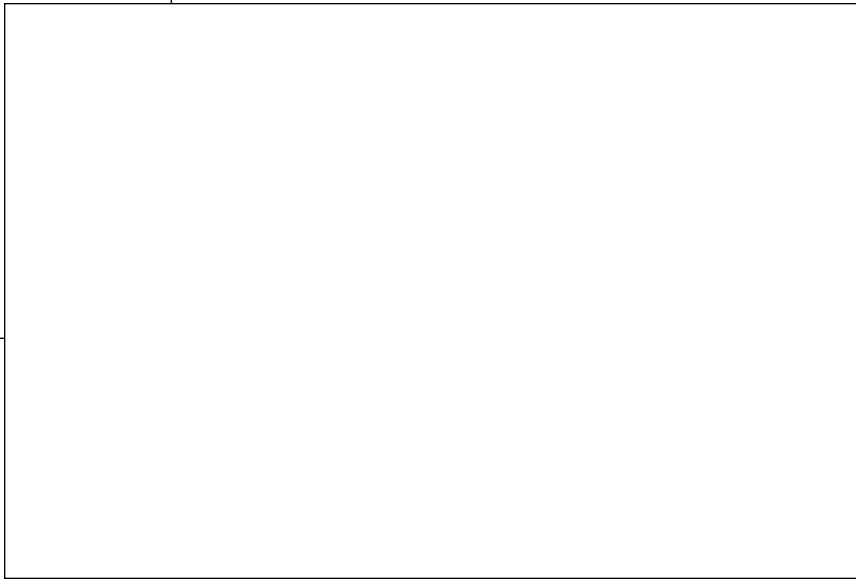
**Stacy Lancaster**  
**Early Childhood Education Major**  
"One time, my family gave me some really weird gold and black underwear and made me open it in front of everyone on Christmas Day."



## News/Features



LEFT: Debra Moss, veterinary assistant (left), and Dr. Barry Carr check a client's ears.



Photos by Raye Lynn Berry

RIGHT: Moss and Carr check a client's pulse.

# College refocuses

### Groups meet to discuss Floyd College's future; Cundiff promises student involvement.

By Nicole Blankenship  
Staff Writer

A series of forums that will result in a refocusing of the institution are currently underway at Floyd College. "The purpose of these meetings is to look at the future and to see what part we have to play in it as an institution," Dr. Lynn Cundiff, president of Floyd College, stated.

Some of the issues that will be addressed will include how the college spends its time, resources, budget and programs, in order to come to a consensus of which direction to move in as the 20th century comes to an end.

The vision for the future will cover the next 10 to 20 years with two to three year goals.

The fall forums will consist of groups of 15 to 20 members of the Floyd College faculty and staff. "After the beginning of the spring semester," Cundiff stated, "some student groups will be put together. I think this will be a good way to include our students in the decision making process by allowing them to state their opinions."

He added, "I am very proud of the accomplishments we've made as an institution. However, our society is changing, and we have to see where we stand and how we can become more effective for what we do in the future."

# Former student prospers as vet

By Raye Lynn Berry  
Assistant Editor

Dr. Barry Carr attended Floyd College for two years after graduating from Cedartown High School in 1973. Although he never actually went through the graduation process, Carr said that he did have enough credit hours to do so.

Carr stated that he owes much of his success to a certain teacher from Floyd College who helped him get into veterinary school.

At the time, Carr had long hair and, as he said, "didn't look very impressive." When Carr ap-

proached Dr. David Cook for the first time, Cook asked him what he was interested in. When Carr replied vet school, Cook suggested that he pick another career.

After taking Cook's biology class, Winter Quarter of his freshman year, Carr proved himself worthy of veterinary school. Cook approached Carr and gave him the inspiration and direction to pursue his dreams of becoming a veterinarian. Carr said, "He [Cook] took me up under his arm, I wouldn't have gotten into vet school without him."

There were times when Cook went as far as to take Carr to the University of Georgia to tour the veterinary school.

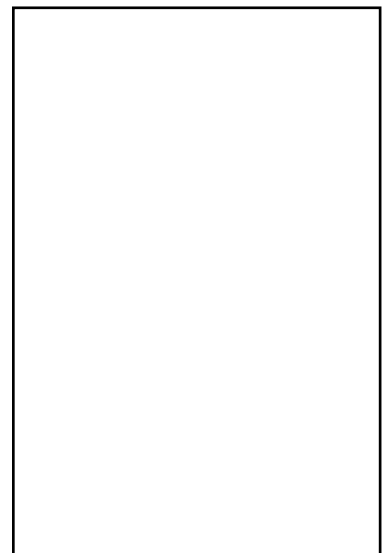
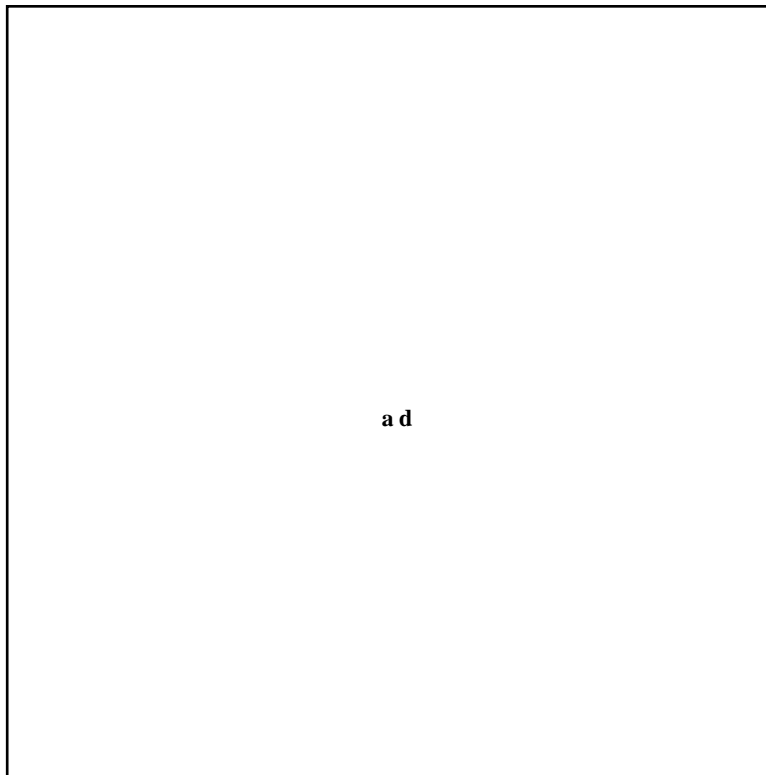
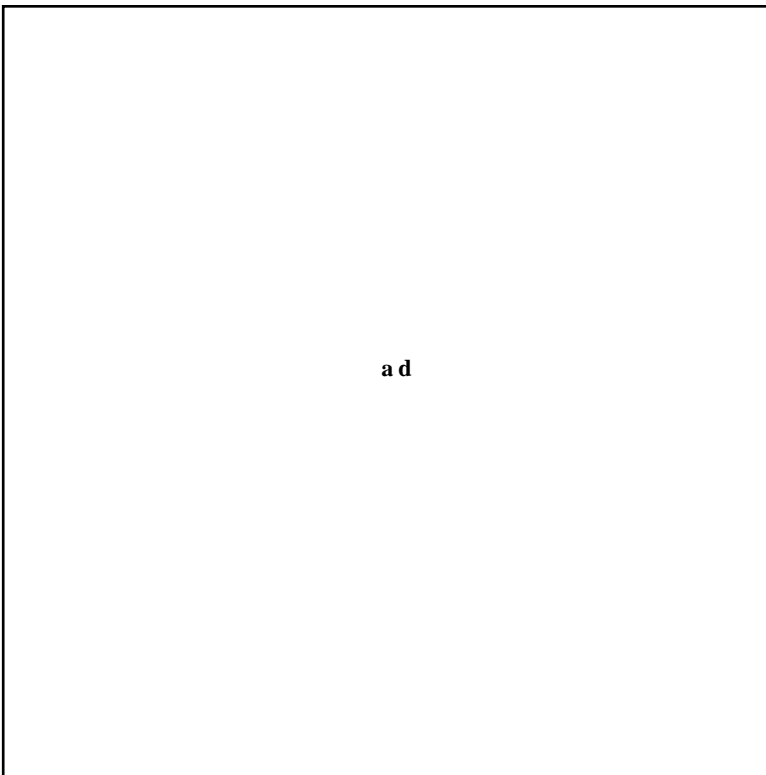
Carr does not really recall why exactly he chose the profession of veterinary medicine. He admits that he loves animals, as most people do; however, he states, "That is not the reason to become a vet." Carr said that he was very interested in the "hows" and "whys" of science.

"Four long, hard years" is how Carr described his experience in veterinary school. He stated that college is difficult, but nothing

compared to vet school. He said that not only is it extremely difficult to be accepted into the program; it is difficult to stick through it.

After graduation, Carr did some work with large animals, which he really enjoyed. He continues to work with them, but now mainly deals with the small animal population.

Carr came back to Rome in 1981 and met up with Dr. Jeff Culbreth. He has been working with him ever since at Culbreth-Carr-Watson Animal Clinic located on East Second Avenue.



## Features

### Greece: a journal entry by Robert Page

**Day three, 8/4/98:** The group mustered early in the morning for a day cruise that would take us

past a number of isolated, but active, monasteries on a peninsula called Mount Athos. The usual morning bus conversations were well engaged, and we had been in the bus about thirty minutes when—BOOM! A truck lost control, and its rear end fishtailed into the

front of our bus. We sat there stunned.

Fortunately, no one was seriously hurt, including the driver of the truck, which had ended up on its side about 20 yards behind the bus.

We were sure that our cruise was doomed. The front of our bus was smashed, and we had received our first lesson in crazy Greek driving. But we also received one of many lessons in Greek hospitality. One of the tour buses that had passed us just after the crash returned and collected our group, delivering us on time.

Interestingly enough, that very morning, Eric, one of our tour leaders, told us about roadside shrines in Greece. These shrines, which are made of quite durable materials and are often shaped like little houses or churches, are found on the side of the road, usually where an accident has taken place. (We soon realized that these shrines were *everywhere* on the side of the roads, particularly the curvy ones—Greeks by admission are not the world's best drivers.)

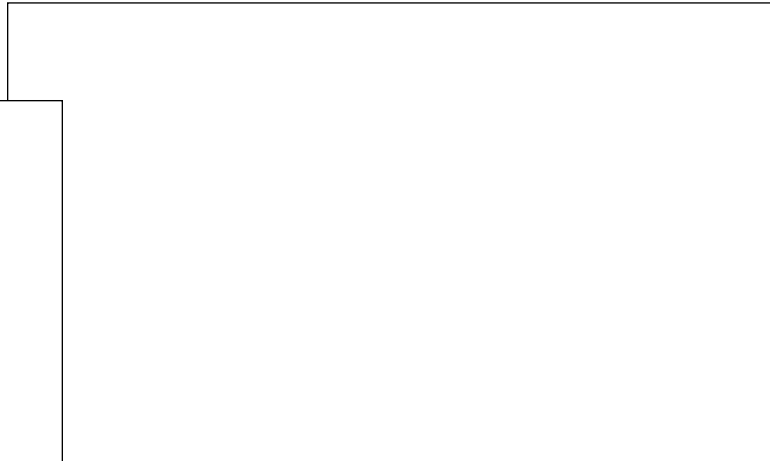
Families of the victims of these wrecks, or the people who survived the crash, build them. Their purpose is to either honor the memory of the dead, or thank God for their good fortune, depending on the case. The shrines are in effect boxes that hold memorabilia of the victims and candles or oil lamps. The ironic thing about them is that when the candles and lamps are lit, they often serve as a beacon that warns of a potentially dangerous part of the road ahead. You can really tell the most dangerous points on the road by the number of shrines found there.

Before we could blink, there we



Guest photo

**Dr. Robert Page visits Aristotle's School in Greece.**



Guest photo

**Small boats float leisurely near the coast of the Aegean Sea.**

were on a very crowded tour boat headed out on a five-hour tour ... (the theme song to *Gilligan's Island* came to mind at this point). A note on the weather ... sunny, hazy, hot! —repeat for the next eleven days—.

It was a gorgeous day to be on the Greek coast, the deep blue water, surrounded by a cacophony of languages—Greek, Spanish, German, English—we were on a floating tower of Babel....

We had learned the night before about the situation on Mount Athos. It is literally a “monks’ republic” that operates pretty much on its own outside of the jurisdiction of the Greek government. The roads stop back at the point where the peninsula starts. The only access is by boat.

Women are not allowed on the peninsula. In fact, our boat was not allowed to go within 500 meters of the shore because there were women on it. If it were all men, we could have moved to within 300 meters.

There are a number of monasteries on the peninsula in varying states of both use and repair. Monks come from various parts of the Greek Orthodox world. For example, the largest monastery is Russian....

Eventually we reached the peninsula. The monasteries were almost surreal: lone outcroppings on the peninsula, surrounded by mountains and wilderness. We cruised along the coast, with monasteries appearing, drifting by and disappearing again as cameras clicked and whirred. The boat visibly listed to the right because everyone had gone to one side to get a glimpse of the monks’ impressive abodes.

The cruise came to an end, and we were conveniently deposited at a little town called Ouranopoli at the neck of the peninsula, the last little bit of secular civilization before entering the wilderness that separated the monks from the rest

of Greece.

We had a huge meal at an outdoor café that served our food to us at long tables underneath large canopies. It was one of numerous magical moments that arose during this trip....

We had been promised a trip to the beach, and now we were going to get it. We also had a new bus. It was not as nice as our previous ride, but beggars can't be choosers. We were just glad to have wheels.

Another half-hour or so on the bus and we found ourselves at the “Golden Beach” on one of the three peninsulas that make up the area called Chalkidiki. The next peninsula to the north was Mount Athos.

We had been hot and sweaty, and my first dip in the Mediterranean was nothing short of fabulous. Some of us frolicked in the water for a couple of hours, clearly identifiable as Americans because we were the only ones throwing a Nerf football mindlessly to each other in the waist-deep, crystal-clear water. It was a nice release.

The day ended at a restaurant that Eric knew about. His wife is Greek, and part of his family lived nearby. There we sat on what would have passed for a movie set, again dining outside, in a restaurant perched on a cliff at the edge of the ocean. Hospitality, Retsina, a local wine, all kinds of wonderful Greek food (mostly seafood)—we ate, laughed, discussed our adventures and watched the sun die into the Aegean Sea.

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**Editor's Note: Robert Page, assistant professor of history, participated in the University System of Georgia's Faculty Development Seminar in Greece Aug. 1- Aug. 15. This article is based on one of his journal entries about his trip.**

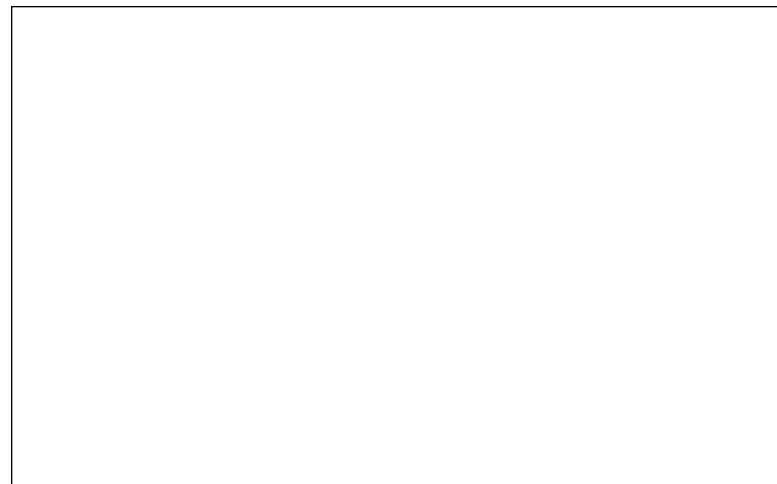
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## Sports

# Student excels in the saddle



Johnson sits on Ruffiane at the Cedartown Horse Show.

By Jon Boe  
Staff Writer

Ever wonder what it would be like to climb into the saddle of a quarter horse and race around barrels in an arena? Becky Johnson does it all the time.

Johnson, a second year student at Floyd College, rides competitively in horse shows throughout Northwest Georgia.

The 19-year-old graduate of Cedartown High School practices three evenings a week with her trainer, Pam Holder, for approximately two hours a session.

Johnson first became interested in barrel racing at a young age, but it wasn't until recently that she really began pursuing her

dream of competitive riding.

Barrel racing consists of three barrels set up in an arena in the form of a triangle. The object of barrel racing is for each competitor to successfully negotiate each barrel, in the least amount of time, without knocking them over.

While a student at Cedartown High School, Johnson lettered in two sports, basketball and softball. "I've always enjoyed athletic sports," stated Johnson. Her athletic prowess has transpired into an aspiration of becoming a champion barrel racer.

The two people she admires most are Holder, her trainer, and Kyle Vasser, a successful women's barrel racer from Oklahoma.

Johnson plans to attend a bar-

rel-racing clinic in Summerville hosted by Vasser later this month.

The sport of barrel racing is rapidly becoming a popular form of competition among women on the rodeo circuit. Johnson just recently finished fifth in a horse show competition on a horse named Ruffiane.

A history major at Floyd College, Johnson says, "Everyone should pursue their dreams and make them a reality."

Her favorite teachers, and those who have been a big influence in her academic career, are Dr. Kristie Kemper, professor of English, and Dr. Ralph Peters, associate professor of history.

Her hobbies include playing softball, basketball and, of course, riding.



Photo by Kevin Barnes

Becky Johnson

Upon graduation from Floyd College, Johnson plans to pursue her dream of one day riding professionally.

Johnson can usually found in the Social and Cultural Studies Division Office, where she is the student-assistant secretary.

## Annual Turkey Day Walk/Run Results

The Turkey Day Walk/Run was held Nov. 18 at Paris Lake. Twenty-six women and 8 men participated in the event.

The winners were Melanie Gravett and Jeff Kessler.

Gravett's estimated time was 26 minutes, and her actual time was 26 minutes and four seconds.

Kessler's estimated time was 26 minutes, and his actual time was 26 minutes and 23 seconds.

Each will receive a \$25 gift certificate for Hickory Hams.

## Ice hockey, a growing sport

Ice hockey is growing in popularity in the South; and Floyd College student Lori Pulliam is in the thick of it.

Pulliam, an electronics tech major who attends class at the North Metro Tech campus, has been playing ice hockey for about a year. "I find it fun and challenging," she said.

Pulliam competes in the Southern Ice Hockey Association (SIHA). There are four different leagues in SIHA. There is division one, for beginners; division two, for more advanced players; division three, for the most experienced players; and an over-35 league for the older players.

The leagues are for people 18 and over, and they are coed.

"The game of ice hockey is one of the most fast paced and physical games around. Aside from that, it's a fun game to play," Pulliam said.

Her team, the Jr. Blues, has a record of 4-1.

Pulliam said, "I think that SIHA is a great organization to start with. All players get an equal amount of ice time."

SIHA games are played at three different rinks—the Ice Forum at Town Center, the Ice Forum in Duluth and Parkarie Ice Arena in Marietta.

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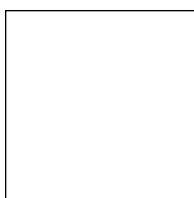
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# Sports

## More intercollegiate athletics needed

### Sports Column



by  
Jon  
Boe

Writing a sports column for the *Six Mile Post* at Floyd College can be a rather uneasy task, simply because Floyd College doesn't have many sports to write about. So the question at hand is, "What do I write about?" Well, to be honest, I'm rather perplexed by this question.

To fill the sports column with enough material or even to have a sports page is a challenge in itself. Oh sure, Floyd has intramural programs, and the PHED staff do a great job of running these programs, but do you really want to see a picture of someone by himself/herself shooting baskets in the gym in every edition of the *Six Mile Post*?

Oftentimes, the only sports stories are human-interest stories about people who participate in sports outside of school.

At the *Six Mile Post*, the question is "Why can't we get more sports writers?" The question should be "Why can't we have intercollegiate athletics here at Floyd?"

Remember when we were in high school and how pumped up you would get before a big game? Do you remember the pep rallies

on Friday afternoon? Didn't you feel a sense of spirit and pride in your school? Do you feel that same sense of school spirit at Floyd College?

I realize Floyd College is an institution of higher learning, but wouldn't it be nice to unwind and catch a ballgame on Saturday afternoon?

Athletics build character and promote unity as well as give students the opportunity to socialize with one another.

Intercollegiate athletics would also boost school revenue by increasing student enrollment. Building up the athletic programs will be difficult at first, but what is there that is good that wasn't difficult at first.

As the late great Roger Maris once said, "The hard is what makes it so good; if it were easy everyone would do it." In the long run, the positives would far outweigh the negatives.

One of these positives would include more stories for the sports page, which, in turn, would create more enthusiasm for students to get involved, while the downside would be writing about a valiant loss.

Now, wouldn't you rather pick up the paper and see a headline that reads "Chargers Blow out Opponents 35-6!" as opposed to seeing some lonely guy shooting lay-ups in the gym?

A positive point for me would be, I'd never have to ask myself that question again, "What do I write about?"

## Floyd beats Shorter 27-25 in all-star championship

By **Raye Lynn Berry**  
Asst. Editor

Floyd College beat Shorter College 27 to 25 in the flag football all-star championship game held on Nov. 18 at the central campus.

The game began with a kickoff to Shorter College. Shorter scored the first six points of the

game. Then they scored an extra point shortly after.

Jonathan Silver bumped the score to Floyd 6 - Shorter 7 after a 38 yard pass from Kerry Kell.

By half time, the score was Floyd 20 - Shorter 13.

The second half began with a kickoff to Floyd.

Shorter later scored another touchdown to make it Floyd 27 - Shorter 19 with two minutes and

21 seconds to go.

With two seconds to go, Shorter scored again to make it Floyd 27 - Shorter 25. Shorter attempted an extra point conversion and failed.

Playing for the Floyd College all-star team in addition to Silver and Kell were Jody Cantrell, Justin Rogers, Ryan Grogan, Melanie Gravett, Wes Maddux, Pete Dilorenzo, Seth Ingram and Irwin Reyes.

## Get a jump on next semester's activities

### 5 on 5 Basketball

Sign-ups will be Jan. 7 through 21.

Play will begin Jan. 26 and run through April 1.

The teams will play every Tuesday and Thursday at 1:30 p.m.

### Walk-Run Club

Sign-ups will begin on Jan. 7.

Sessions will begin Jan. 11 and will end on April 23.

### Bowling

Sign-ups begin Jan. 7 and will end Jan. 23.

Bowling will be held Monday nights at 6 p.m. at the Floyd County Lanes.

### Aerobics

Sign-ups begin Jan. 7 and will end Jan. 16.

Aerobics will begin on Jan. 19 and will end April 23.

It will be held in the gym from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursdays.

### Baseball

If interested, please see Pete Dilorenzo, assistant professor of physical education, in the HPER department for more details.

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## Entertainment

# Reviews for the eyes and ears

By Clint Frasier  
Staff Writer

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### Music

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#### *Mutations*, Beck

A new trip back to the beginning—this time without the electric sticks. Considered a collaboration of experiments by Beck, *Mutations* has taken a step away from the turntables.

The synthesized sounds of *Odelay* are replaced with a totally acoustic setup. The CD reeks of *Stereopathic Soul Manure* but with very cleaned up sound and more structure. A kind of sophisticated sound with the same mind numbing lyrics of previous CDs makes for a real feel good kind of CD.

Don't expect *Mutations* to be a follow-up to *Odelay*. It may be very disappointing. *Mutations* has

a kind of sound that, at times, seems a little country, a little blues, a little folk and a lot of something one can't quite put his/her finger on. It's another cold-ass fashion that could only be pulled off by Beck.

Mellow than *Mellow Gold*, *Mutations* seems to be far removed from the lo-fi and coffee-house/acid sound of Beck's other CDs.

Even though there are probably no chart crushing songs on the CD, *Mutations*' unique anti-electric sound still retains all of its Beckness and certainly has to be heard before being appreciated.

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### Movies

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#### *Practical Magic*

-Just a bunch of witches.

A kind passive comedy/love story, *Practical Magic* could probably be summed up as being

"cute." Although it does have more of a point than the movie *Something to Talk About*, it's probably not as satisfying as watching *Fried Green Tomatoes*.

Sandra Bullock and Nicole Kidman are sister witches that have a little trouble coping with a 300-year family curse that kills the men that fall in love with them.

The movie is a bit slow paced, but there is just enough magic to keep it interesting. It does, however, begin to fall apart in believability towards the end—even for witches.

If one likes witchcraft and liked *Steel Magnolias*, then *Practical Magic* is probably for him/her.

#### *What Dreams May Come*

-for someone who likes to cry a lot...

*What Dreams May Come* is a very interesting story about death, the afterlife and love.

Robin Williams plays a strong role as a father and husband who is killed and begins to experience the afterlife. The main conflict that arises is his connection with his wife.

Overall an excellent movie, it is sometimes hard to follow as scenes change rapidly making a kind of flow-of-consciousness effect.

The movie knows how to keep the audience crying by relentlessly showing each scene just a bit more touching than the last.

The movie could actually benefit from a few more scenes explaining the story and toning down a little bit on the touching aspect.

If one is a strongly religious person, then he/she might leave this movie with a kind of weird feeling towards it or it may even be offending. But keeping an open mind and just watching it for what it's worth should provide a good movie experience.

**Floyd College  
will hold its  
Holiday  
Festivities on  
Dec. 3 from 4 to  
7 p.m. The  
festivities will  
include  
refreshments.  
The lighting of  
the Christmas  
Tree will be held  
at 5:30 p.m. at  
the tree located  
between the  
Physical  
Education  
Building and the  
Walraven  
Building.**

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