

Six Mile Post

The Student Voice

Georgia Highlands College - Rome, Georgia

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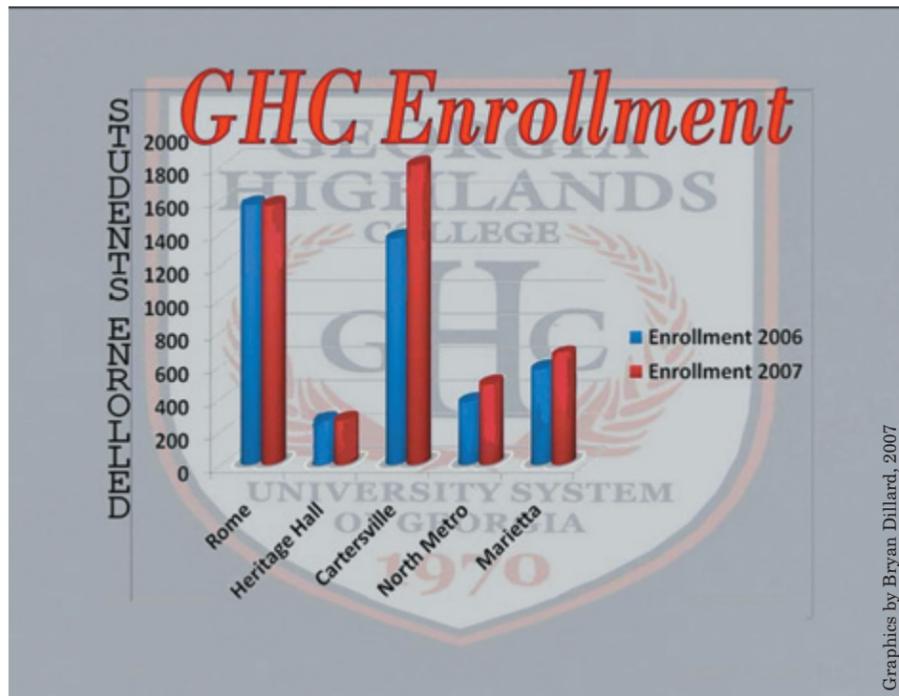
**Repairs continue
after flooding on
Floyd campus**

See Page 3



Photo by Eric Celler

Students at GHC's Cartersville campus make their way to the overcrowded parking lot.



Graph based on data posted online in September by GHC.

Graphics by Bryan Dillard, 2007

Enrollment at Cartersville campus surpasses Floyd

By Spencer Musick
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Editor

The enrollment figures for fall 2007 have changed significantly, most notably on Georgia Highlands' Cartersville campus.

Enrollment on the Cartersville campus increased by 442 students from last fall, while the headcount on the Floyd and Heri-

tage Hall campuses remained virtually unchanged, according to information posted online in September by the college.

Enrollment figures at the North Metro and Marietta sites have increased substantially (by 107 students and 83 students, respectively.)

According to Dr. Virginia Carson, vice-president for academic affairs, the increase in en-

rollment "should be opaque to students, as we in the administration have done our best to anticipate any issues that may arise from the increase."

According to Carson, the average class size has increased only marginally from last year. This term, the mean class size is 24.63 students, up from 23.65 from fall 2006.

Todd Jones, director of admis-

sions, notes that the enrollment increase will mean "a more flexible schedule will be offered, as the college increases the number of night and online classes."

Jones also said that "because of the recent growth, students should be mindful that classes will fill up very quickly." Jones said that students should be prepared to register for courses as soon as registration opens on

Banner / SCORE, to ensure a spot in the classes that they prefer before they fill up.

Joe Dan Worley, a biology major from Douglasville, thinks that the enrollment increase will have a positive effect on the college community. "More students means more participation in college activities, as well as a more diverse student population," said Worley.

SACS committee's October visit will evaluate college's new IC plan

By Amanda Stegall
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Staff Writer

The last phase of Georgia Highlands' routine re-accreditation process is scheduled for Oct. 15-17 with a visit from a Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) committee.

According to Dr. Laura Musselwhite, professor of history and reaffirmation director, officials from SACS may interview

students at random about their experiences at the college and their knowledge of the QEP.

"The Quality Enhancement Plan, or QEP, is part of the SACS requirements for improvement," said Leslie Johnson, instructor of communication and this year's chair of the QEP Implementation Committee.

Georgia Highlands' QEP is Information Competency (IC). "IC is an active idea," said Johnson. "It is designed to teach

students how to gather information through research and how to identify scholarly sources as well as test the credibility of a website." IC also promotes an understanding of the different forms of source citation for research.

"I think the IC program is a good idea because it gives students more access to information that's credible," said Rachael Truitt, an education major from Thomaston.

Musselwhite said SACS "committees love students and will want to make sure they understand what the QEP is." Musselwhite encourages students not to be afraid. "Feel free to speak to them," she said. "They'll be wearing name tags and will be focusing on the QEP."

This year, the communications and FCCS classes in Area B are strongly including IC throughout the courses. "In the communication classes, two as-

essments are being conducted as a test of ICs efficiency: a pre- and post-test and a rubric to grade how well knowledge acquired through IC has been applied to a speech," Johnson said.

**Continued on
Page 2**

SACS committee visit: Focus will be on IC

Continued from Page 1

"FCCS classes are also being given a pre- and post-test as well as a take-home assignment and a library orientation that explains the use of GIL, GALILEO and the GHC homepage," said Johnson.

Musselwhite stated that the IC initiative is designed to be introduced into the total curriculum over the next five years.

"I haven't heard anything about IC, but I think it's a good idea and that students could really benefit from the program," said Chris Lopez, a general studies major from Rome.

According to Johnson, IC is being promoted in a variety of ways. Instructors have been encouraged to place information regarding the IC program in their syllabi, as well as to explain the program to students. An IC promotional booth was set up during Club Round-Up, and another will be designed for Fall



Photo by Amanda Stegall

Travice Obas (left), assistant professor of communication, helps Chris Duggan understand how to cite sources as part of the IC program.

Frenzy.

A website for IC at www.highlands.edu/ic has been

created to inform students of the QEPs mission, objectives and definition. Interactive activities,

including quizzes, are on the website, and students may win prizes by participating.

Calendar of Events

September

9/26-Banned Books Week reading (Cartersville) 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

9/23-12/2-Smithsonian Exhibit "Wondrous Cold" (Floyd, Lakeview Building)

October

10/8-Layman Lyrics performance (Floyd, Student Center) 12:15 p.m.

10/9-Layman Lyrics Poetry performance (Cartersville, Student Center) 12:15 p.m.

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Prolonged flood recovery continues at Floyd campus

By Haley Smith
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Staff Writer

F-Wing and the student center on the Floyd campus continue to recover from damage caused by roof leaks that started during a roofing project last March.

While roofers were trying to replace the F-Wing's roof, they triggered massive water damage to the inside of the building. The leaks caused damage to many offices and classrooms.

"The roofers were driving an anchor into the roof to attach the new roof on," stated Dr. Robert Page, chair of the social sciences division. Page explained that each time the roofers would drive the anchor into the roof, a new leak would form. The water came from initial rainfall.

Page had several areas in his division that received water damage. Overall, Page stated that his division was fairly lucky that there wasn't any more damage done.

"I had been out of town when I got a call that my office had been flooded," said Dr. Laura Musselwhite, professor of history. Musselwhite's office happened to be one of the offices most severely



Contributed Photo

Foreign language lab suffered severe damage during March flooding.

affected.

"When I got to my office, Mr. Kimsey, director of plant operations, was already in there. People had taken care of my belongings immediately after the leak was discovered," Musselwhite said. Her office had to be repainted the week of Sept. 3, and new carpet was installed. According to Musselwhite, the only belongings that were ruined were posters and an old chair.

"It was distracting enough

last spring," says Janna McDowell, early childhood education major from Rockmart. McDowell had a communications class last spring, during which it was hard to give a speech with all the hammering and water constantly dripping into trashcans. "I don't understand why they are still working on it when they had the whole summer," she said.

"It felt like existing in a toxic environment," said LaNelle



Photo By Colleen Fries

Renovation of the language lab continues in mid-September.

Daniel, English coordinator. "I would come in feeling good, and at the end of the day, I would have a headache and sinus problems," she explained. She does admit that the situation has improved since the summer. "I look forward to all of this being over because students need a stable learning environment, not a toxic dump," she said.

"In a perfect world, this would have been stopped in three weeks," said John Spranza, direc-

tor of student life. Despite the frustration, Spranza added, "It has been a long process, but there have been good efforts made."

The effect of the campus flooding is still being felt in September.

The foreign language lab is still under renovation, and jackhammers can still be heard on campus.

Daniel says that credit is due to "students and faculty who have stood this out."

College anticipates Angelou visit

By Spencer Musick
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Editor

On Sept. 27, Dr. Maya Angelou, a world renowned poet, civil rights activist and author, will discuss her book "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" to a sold out audience at the Rome Forum.

"Georgia Highlands is a part of a large group of institutions bringing Angelou here," said John Spranza, director of student life. According to Spranza, Berry College is the main institution sponsoring the visit. In addition to Berry and GHC, Shorter College, Darlington, the Rome Area Council for the Arts and the Rome News-Tribune have helped make her visit possible.

Many GHC teachers are offering extra credit to students who attend her oration. Dr. Jon Hershey, professor of English, notes that there are many community and campus events sur-



Photo by Colleen Fries

Frank Minor, associate professor of English, leads discussion on Angelou's book in the Solarium on Sept. 18.

rounding Angelou's visit.

A discussion of Angelou's book was held at GHC in the solarium on Tuesday, Sept. 18. On Thursday, Sept. 13, a town hall discussion of the racial issues raised by Angelou's visit was held.

"I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" was the school-wide re-

quired summer reading for all Darlington Upper School students.

According to Hershey, general admission tickets to Angelou's appearance sold out in 24 hours, indicating Romans are taking advantage of this rare opportunity to experience firsthand the unique voice of Angelou.

Be prepared, Cartersville Campus For Thursday, Oct. 11.

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Technology replaces personal contact

Perform a little experiment. Count the number of electronic devices that you use from the moment that you wake up to when you go to bed at night. Most of us would count over 150 gadgets that we use to make our lives a little less tedious.

It is hard to imagine that only 70 years ago, one had to write a letter to get in touch with a friend who lived in another state. Now, distant friends and family are only a phone call or an instant message away. Technology is transforming the world into a global village. Distance is no

longer an obstacle for communication.

All of us at GHC are old enough to remember the world without the Internet. Do you ever wonder how you lived without the tool that puts a seemingly infinite amount of information at your fingertips?

Contrary to popular belief, this vast library of data has not created a better informed world populace. In fact, because of it, the human race is becoming drastically misinformed. Websites like Wikipedia are places where anything, true or not, can be

presented as fact.

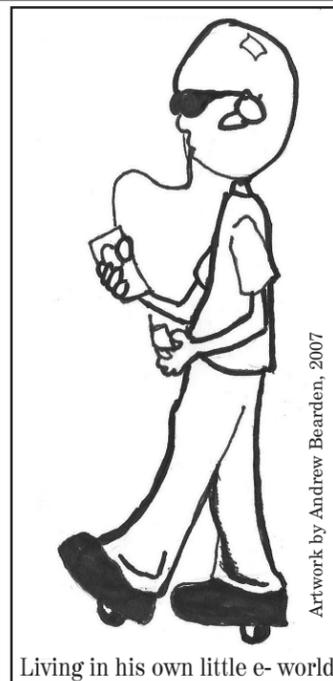
The Internet does have its benefits, and there are websites that keep standards for the information that they disseminate. The issue is that it is becoming increasingly difficult to distinguish these websites from those that purposely present ambiguities as truth.

The world that websites such as Myspace and Facebook have created is one drastically devoid of personal contact with those we love. Instead of visiting a friend or relative, one can simply "contact" them with the click of a

mouse. The Internet is widening the divisions of an already fractured society, readily trivializing every aspect of our culture.

We are a lazy species, to the point of not caring about what is happening to our culture. Talking, that beautiful, millennia-old form of communication may become a dying practice.

It will be a sad day indeed if this happens, not only because we have quit talking, but because we will not know why we have quit talking, and because thinking will be next to go.



Artwork by Andrew Bearden, 2007

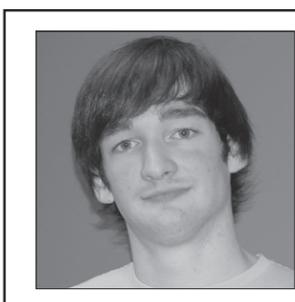
The war on the American intellect

In today's fast-paced, instant information culture where the Internet is king and cable news has a virtual monopoly over public discourse, what is the point of reading a newspaper? Why do newspaper journalists even bother writing an article about, for example, the Michael Vick case, or any other major news event for that matter?

A newspaper is incapable of showing the public an event. We are limited to giving you a picture and a story. Television news has the ability to cram a newspaper's worth of daily news into an hour or even less.

Almost certainly, more GHC students have watched television news in the last week than have read more than a page of a newspaper. Think about the last time you watched the news on television. Did you want to learn more about what was happening in the world? This is the intent of a majority of people when they view television news. In reality, they are not being informed in a meaningful or intellectually stimulating manner.

Television news is mind-numbing entertainment disguised as news. Everything on television news, be it the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan or the genocide in Darfur, is presented in a manner that defies context, meaning and relevance. One moment you are bombarded with stock quotes, then with whatever war we happen to be in, then you see Paris Hilton or



Editor's Box

Spencer Musick
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 Editor

Lindsay Lohan stumble out of a nightclub and then hear about a drug to cure baldness. None of these things are related, but they are presented so quickly that no viewer has time to fully comprehend any news event before something else replaces it.

You as a viewer have no time or context with which to analyze what you are seeing, thus everything on television seems to be credible. In short, television media does not report the news, it trivializes it.

Print media is a completely different animal. Print journalists do not seek to entertain. Our goal is to make the public more aware of the world around them, to stimulate their intellect, and encourage them to think for themselves.

If you ever read an article in the Six Mile Post and decide after reading it that you know everything you need to know about that topic, then we have not fulfilled our responsibilities as journalists. Conversely, if after reading an article you decide that you wish to learn more about what

you read, then we at the Post have done our duty as journalists.

America has a worldwide reputation of having a vastly ignorant populace. While this may not be completely true, the fusion of information and entertainment is certainly a reason for our lack of understanding of the world that we live in. I challenge readers of this publication to question what they are told and strive to learn more about the seemingly insurmountable problems facing our generation.

This publication is the voice of the students on each GHC campus. As such, it requires input from the larger college community. Please, let us know what is on your minds. E-mail us at 6mpost@student.highlands.edu

6MPost@highlands.edu

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@highlands.edu, or mailed to Editor, "Six Mile Post," 3175 Cedartown Highway Rome, GA 30161. Letters must be signed by the author. Publication and editing of letters will be at the discretion of the editors.

Something to think about

Shot glasses in a campus bookstore?



James Swift is a staff writer and a journalism major studying at the Cartersville campus. He is an aspiring mixed martial artist, a firm believer in the straight edge philosophy.

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After traversing my way past the massive human ocean that is the Cartersville campus front lobby, I arrived at my destination: the school bookstore. I had just sold a kidney and won the lottery, so I had finally accumulated sufficient funds to purchase my lab manual.

While waiting in the queue, my eyes veered to the miscellaneous section, and there I was confronted by GHC paraphernalia of every kind: there were Georgia Highlands emblazoned lanyards, key chains, pendants, shot glasses, coffee mugs...wait a minute, shot glasses?

Now, I am sure that there are people out there that only use shot glasses to imbibe soda, in the same way I am certain that there are people out there that only use water pipes for recreational tobacco usage. That being said, the

item, by its nature, is a relic tied to alcohol overconsumption.

I find it to be a bizarre and somewhat distasteful decision to sell such items in the school store. As someone that has lost several friends due to drunk driving, I know firsthand the ills of alcohol overconsumption all too well.

With binge drinking claiming lives across campuses nationwide, it only perplexes one further as to why the particular item is being sold, especially one brandishing the school insignia.

Even as simple decorum, it's an item that, at its most innocuous, harkens back to the party-obsessed collegiate stereotype, and as one of many students that survived the alcohol soaked bog of high school, it serves yet another painful purpose: as a reminder that revenue often trumps integrity.

An F- Wing survivor floats down the hall



Artwork By Andrew Bearden, 2007



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New assistant director of student life warmly welcomed



Photo by Eric Celler

Jennifer Wright prepares for her day outside the Office of Student Life on the Cartersville campus.

By Jeff Capen
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 Staff Writer

Jennifer Wright, the new assistant director of student life on the Cartersville campus, is no stranger to GHC.

"As a former student at Georgia Highlands, I know what it is like for students here. I love that the students are so candid and interesting," Wright said.

Originally from Rockmart, Wright graduated from Mercer University with a degree in sociology and marketing. Then she worked for a year as the director of the Community Partners Division at the Bartow County Chamber of Commerce.

Wright has now returned to the college scene and has already made an impact. "She's doing a great job," said Carolyn Hamrick, the director of campus operations at Cartersville. "She's trying to involve students in all types of activities, from making dog tags to flip flops. She's a wonderful addition to our campus."

Wright's main goal as the assistant director of student life is simple: "to give the students what they want." Wright notes that she works for the students. "If the students here aren't happy, I'm not doing my job," she

said.

Constructive criticism is also very important to Wright. "For a student to come up to me and say, 'Hey, I hated that activity,' I really do appreciate it and can build on it. Constructive criticism is always welcome."

Wright has appealed to students interested in volunteer work by holding a Volunteer Fair in the student center. Students were able to browse displays from organizations such as the Etowah Valley Humane Society and the United Way of Bartow County. Applications were handed out to students willing to offer their time and effort.

Noting that intramural sports are very popular at the Floyd campus as well as at other universities, Wright would like to get a program started at Cartersville.

"We have plenty of room to attempt an intramural sports program, whether it be ultimate Frisbee, flag football or softball," she said. "With as many students at Cartersville as there are at Floyd, we should have some of the same activities."

Wright arrives at the college at 8 a.m. and spends most of her day brainstorming and planning for activities. "Coordinating and promoting an event takes time,

and multi-tasking is very important," Wright said.

She must first get the event approved, making sure there are no conflicting events. Then she must send an email out to students and faculty promoting the event. Setting up for the event is the final step, and dedicated faculty members are usually willing to help.

Wright wishes every student at the Cartersville Campus would take the time to meet her. She said, "My door is always open, even if a student just wants to talk. I also encourage students here to add me as a friend on Facebook. There's also a group for the Office of Student Life, named 'Highlands Student Life.'"

"Since most college kids probably log into Facebook at least once a day, I see it as a great means of communication," she said.

Wright says she is a laid back, friendly person, even if she seems "Type-A" at activities. "I want everything to go like I planned it. I want all the events here at Georgia Highlands to be top notch," she said.

While not on campus, Wright enjoys taking care of her golden retriever, Marlowe. She is also a sports fan, enjoying Georgia Tech football.

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PREGNANCY CENTER of ROME

Annual festival offers wide variety of independent films

By Jeffery Barwick
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Assistant Editor

The fourth annual Rome International Film Festival, Sept. 6-9, offered attendees the opportunity to see a wide array of films ranging from animation, experimental shorts, strange shorts, documentaries, narrative shorts and literary shorts.

Barry Norman, founder and executive director of the RIFF, got the idea to start the festival after he entered his first film in a 1995 film festival.

"The RIFF is a tremendous cultural event that works for and with the city of Rome," said Norman in the Rome City Auditorium on the opening night of the festival.

He thinks that the key to the RIFF's success is the quality of the films entered and the number of people attending. There were almost 700 film entries this year.

According to Norman, Rome was chosen to host the RIFF because of attractive venues and a nice downtown area. Also, Rome is centrally located, surrounded by Atlanta, Birmingham and

Chattanooga, giving the RIFF the opportunity to promote to more people.

The RIFF was abounding with film enthusiasts and filmmakers who wanted to share their love for films.

Before, during and after films, viewers and filmmakers gathered in groups all over discussing films, film gear and places of travel.

There was a very relaxed, friendly environment at all of the film screenings.

"The RIFF is a tremendous cultural event that works for and with the city of Rome..."

-Barry Norman

Before most films, the filmmaker stood in front of the audience giving a short biography of the film and afterwards had a session of questions and answers, during which anybody could ask questions about the film, how it was made and the inspiration behind it.

One of the more intriguing

films of the festival was "Born Again Buddhists" by filmmaker Lian Pak. It is a religious documentary about the Tibetan Buddhists' dilemma of multiple children claiming to be reincarnates of famous religious figures.

The movie tells the story from the political standpoint of the government on the unsuspected turn of events. The number of reincarnates is rising at an alarming rate. As a result, the Bhutanese government is being forced to step in and regulate the process of becoming a "trulkus," a reincarnate of a religious figure.

Judy Taylor, director of advancement at GHC and president of the RIFF board, stated, "As a representative of the college I am dedicated to the event because it directly benefits GHC, the students and the greater community."

This year there were approximately 200 volunteers from Georgia Highlands, Berry, and Shorter colleges helping at the festival.

At least 50 of the volunteers were students from GHC. Each volunteer worked four hours and received a free four-day pass.

Discovery Channel travel expert to speak at Floyd

By Desiree Knight
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Staff Writer

Travel expert and best-selling author Doug Lansky will be speaking in the Lakeview Auditorium on the Floyd campus at 7 p.m. on Oct. 11 as part of the Georgia Highlands College Community Speaker Series.

In a lecture entitled "The 60-minute World-Travel Survival Course," Lansky will share his extensive travel experiences.

Lansky, whose books include "The Last Trout in Venice" and "Up the Amazon without a Paddle," has served as a correspondent for National Geographic and has made appearances on both the Discovery Channel and the Travel Channel.

Lansky will give tips on how to travel internationally, without spending too much money, how to find odd jobs while abroad and other tricks of the trade that all travelers should be aware of.

According to John Spranza, director of student life, Lansky

will also give away a free Euro-rail pass to someone in the audience.

The GHC Community Speaker Series is a Student Life program that provides students with the opportunity to be exposed to a wide variety of subjects through the lectures of experts, Spranza said.

Lectures in the Georgia Highlands College Community Speaker Series are free to any student, faculty or staff member with their GHC ID card. Lansky's lecture is open to the community for a \$5 admission fee.

Lansky's visit is co-sponsored by GHC's Students without Borders club.

The study abroad program at GHC offers trips to Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Ireland and the Bahamas. Anyone interested in participating in GHC's study abroad program may contact Erica Simpson, instructor of communication and adviser of Students without Borders, at esimpson@highlands.edu for information.

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3-on-3 basketball season begins



Photo by Jessica Brumelow

Ashley Williams dribbles toward the basket for the Bulldogs in their game against the Shannon Warriors.

By Eric Gregory
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Staff Writer

The first 3-on-3 intramural basketball game of the season, which followed a hasty orientation and a little trouble finding a missing whistle, pitted the Panthers against the Butler Street Byrd Gang.

After overcoming a slow start synonymous with first games, the game went into high gear with a closely competitive first half. The game went back and forth, with neither team able to gain much of an advantage over the other.

In the second half, however, the Butler Street Byrd Gang was able to pull away, taking its lead from only four to double-digits.

The Panthers were never able to mount much of a comeback, only able to close the gap to single digits once. They lost the hard-fought game 41-55. Chris Hill, MVP from last year's 5-on-5 season, led the Byrd Gang with 18 points in the losing effort.

Dominique Carter, who scored 27 points to lead the Byrds, was confident about the team's chances at the champion-

ship after the win. "We're going to beat everybody. Fear the Byrds," he said.

In the second game of the doubleheader, the Shannon Warriors went against the Bulldogs.

Unlike in the first game, there was never much of a hint of competition. The Warriors shut out the Bulldogs for the first five minutes of the game.

For the Warriors, it was all about Jack Moss. From the very start of the game, his pinpoint accuracy with 3-pointers paved the way for a dominating performance.

After doubling the Bulldogs in points in the first half, the Warriors ended up closing it out 65-40 in an uneventful second half.

"If we stay together and work hard, we'll come out on top," said Moss, who accounted for over half of his team's points with 33.

One of the few bright spots for the Bulldogs was Ashley Williams, the lone female player in the league, who led her team in points with 15.

"I came here to play, even if I was the only girl, and give it my best," Williams said.

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Basketball scores Sept. 19

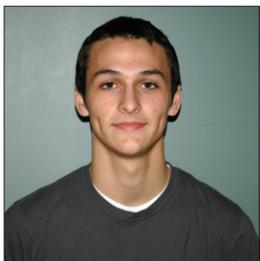
Butler Street Byrd Gang-97 vs. Bulldogs-31
Panthers-72 vs. Shannon Warriors-63

Are you enrolled in a Career program?

Do you receive public assistance or have you been laid off from a job recently?

You may qualify for financial help (tuition, books, transportation, and childcare) through the Workforce Investment Act. WIA is a federally funded program that assists eligible students who have been laid off from work or with low income.

Contact GHC Counseling and Career Services to speak with the WIA Career Advisor for more information.
(706) 295-6336
1-800-332-2406



View from the Sidelines

By Eric Gregory
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Unless you've been hiding beneath a rock for the past few months, you've undoubtedly heard about Michael Vick's indictment and subsequent guilty plea for dogfighting.

Once upon a time, back in 2001, which now seems like such an innocent time, when Vick was first drafted by the Atlanta Falcons, he injected hope and excitement into a city lacking both.

He was a new type of quarterback, a never-before-seen freak of athletic prowess. He was an electric player, and the fans responded by selling out nearly 60 straight games during his tenure with the Falcons.

However, back in April, all

that changed with Vick's indictment. The grisly details of his dogfighting enterprise destroyed his reputation, tarnished already by lackluster play and earlier incidents of questionable behavior.

Vick's fall was momentous. Within just a few months, he had been suspended from the league, pled guilty to his indictment, lost every advertising contract he had, and was forced to apologize for his behavior in front of the world on the day of his guilty plea.

However, throughout it all, some people have steadfastly remained Vick supporters. Dustin Ivey, a student at GHC, said that he felt Vick had been "unfairly

treated" and "didn't deserve what he got."

The sad fact is that Vick would perhaps have been better off if he killed a human being than what he did to those dogs. Americans have always been dog-lovers and the idea of torturing, murdering, and forcing dogs to fight each other struck a chord in millions of people. Even PETA, the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, who has so often been the subject of controversy, found innumerable allies in the American populace.

Vick said he was sorry and seemed sincere while doing so. He knows that he, and he alone, is to blame for his fall from grace.

His loss of millions of dollars, and maybe even years of his life, is his fault, and he knows this. People ask themselves why someone, who seemed to have so much going for him, would do such a thing. Perhaps it was the forbidden fruit appeal of it; perhaps it was simply a misguided attempt of Vick's to stay connected to his childhood friends.

Whatever the reason, when the December 10 sentencing comes around and Michael Vick is punished, he will know that his life will never be the same and the blame rests squarely on his shoulders. The stigma of this mistake will last much longer than his football career.

Vick's future looks dim... and it's his own fault