

student-operated GPS

compass

Vol. XLIV No. 4

Nov. 23, 2009



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the compass
issue IV - Nov. 23, 2009

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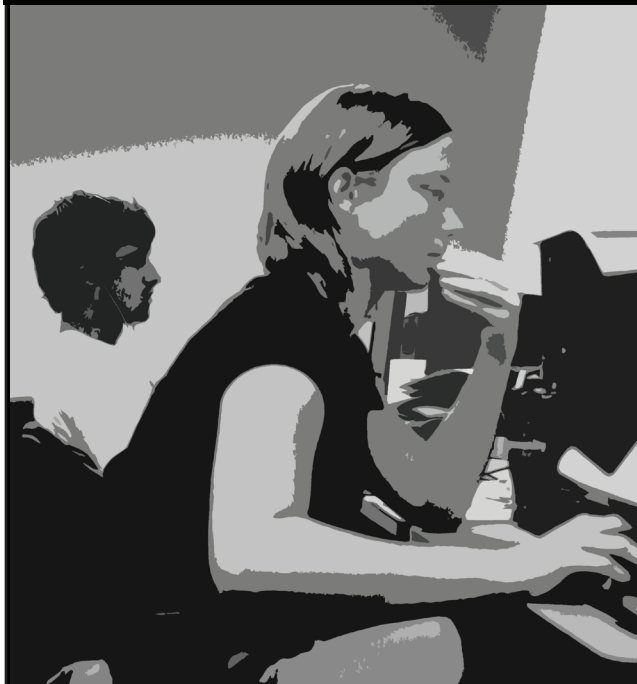


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Rachel Reed

The Compass newspaper staff re-examines past issues for potentially biased reporting.

The semester's winding down

Last summer I and four other members of The Compass met to talk about the state of our student newspaper. We wanted to change both the appearance of the paper and the way the we operated as a staff.

One of our biggest goals and challenges was redesigning the paper. We wanted to make it more visually appealing to students who live in the age of the internet. We strived for a design that was, well, a design. Not a hodge-podge of fonts and bad clip art, but consistent and well thought out, with attention to detail. We wanted larger photos and more faces. And

info boxes to pull readers in. The green logo needed a facelift. I mean, "AT&T" has been "at&t" for years now: All caps is old-fashioned.

As a staff we wanted to delegate tasks better so that things would get done more efficiently. So we totally re-organized and gave section editors more control over their sections.

Most of us are journalism majors, but very few have any sort of experience coming into the Compass class. Giving and receiving feedback, as well as improving communication, was at the top of our list of goals for improvement this semester.

It's hard to hear criticism, much less learn from it, but our staff has excelled in this. Their enthusiasm is inspiring, and I love working with them. Because of their passion, the content of our paper has improved with each printed edition.

One of the most disappointing and frustrating aspects of last year's paper was that we could not meet our deadlines. By the time the paper was printed, the articles were old news. We could not have timely content; all the stories had to be "evergreen" features. This year we've remedied some of this by decreasing the size

and frequency of printed issues during semester. We've also updated our Web site, gscCompass.com, every week. This has allowed us to publish content while it's still fresh and relevant.

We've taken a more GSC-focused approach to assigning stories for our newspaper. All but two or three of our more than 90 pieces have been about events, people or organizations on this campus. Now that we have a stronger foundation, next semester we will start to cover broader issues related to students that go extend beyond the Oakwood campus. But we will continue working to improve coverage on our campus and get more students' faces in the paper.

We have met almost all of our goals, but we want your feedback on how we're doing. On page 17 you'll find our Opinions section where we print Letters to the Editor. We encourage you to submit your thoughts on the newspaper, good or bad.

Lauren Blais
Editor-in-Chief
The Compass



Dave Ayers/Lauren Blais/Branden Lefty

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COVER DESIGN
LAUREN BLAIS
BEN WHITE

PHOTO
LISA CRONE

Featuring Luis Romero and Stephanie Martin, this year's nominees for the All-USA Community College Academic Team (see page 10)

9 confirmed cases of swine flu on campus



Jacob Hickman/Rachel Reed/Audrey Williams

Symptoms of H1N1 influenza are fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue.

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Not only is the swine flu pandemic, known as H1N1, growing across the nation, there are now students at GSC who have been infected.

"There have been 16 reported cases of students with flu-like symptoms, probable flu, seasonal flu and nine that are confirmed H1N1," Tom Walter, vice president for student development and enrollment management, said.

There are also students on the Oconee campus confirmed with H1N1.

"We have had reports of the swine flu," Michelle Brown, director of Student Development and Enrollment Management, said.

H1N1 has been sweeping through America since April.

"My younger brother actually has the swine flu," GSC student Tyler Ranta said. "Our family basically has to isolate ourselves from him."

The virus is said to be more severe in children under 5, elderly people over 75 and those with weak immune systems.

Symptoms of H1N1 influenza are fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. A more specific indicator of the H1N1 virus is the symptoms mentioned along with diarrhea.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggest that the best way to protect oneself

from the H1N1 virus is with a flu vaccination. Everyday preventative measures consist of regular hand washing with soap and water or an alcohol-based rub. People should also refrain from touching the eyes, nose or mouth and avoid contact with sick people.

If students are diagnosed with H1N1, they are advised to stay home.

"Dr. Nesbitt has asked faculty members to be understanding and help students to make up any work missed," Walter said. "If an individual student has questions or concerns about a particular situation, that student should discuss it with the faculty member in question. If still not satisfied, that student should contact the appropriate division head."

STAYING HEALTHY

Wash hands often with soap and warm water, especially before eating.

Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.

Visit www.gsc.edu for more tips/info

Class seeks 2,000 toys for needy kids this holiday season

Nick Williams
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There are new bins around campus, and we don't mean the ones for recycling. These bins are for a cause that's a little more fun: a toy drive.

George Danns, professor of sociology, has sparked an interest in his Social Problems class to take on the responsibility of a campus toy drive. And their aim is high. "Our goal is to raise 2,000 toys," Danns said.

Breanne King has taken charge of the drive as the student adviser.

"The bins are located in Academic II, the Hosch Library and the Dunlap-Mathis Building," she said.

Danns originally organized the toy drive as part of the famous "Toys for Tots" campaign, but copyright laws kept him from using the name.

Toys should be for kids from 2 years old all the way to 16 years old. Coloring books, crayons, action figures and puzzles are suggested for donors feeling the crunch of the economy. As for the 16-year-olds, you might consider a board game. And what teenage girl doesn't want some makeup?

Christmas is coming sooner than later, so why not get a jump on the season of giving?

CORRECTION

In the article "Great Conservative/Progressive Debate focuses on health-care" featured on page 4 of our last issue, we misattributed Brittany Perry's club affiliation. Perry is the president of the Black Student Association, not Students for a Progressive Society.

English prof gets national grant for book

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Brad Strickland can be described as a professor, writer, husband and father. Now you can add national award-winning author to the list.

Strickland won the 2009 Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators' Work-In-Progress award. He teaches English at GSC and spends his spare time writing.

SCBWI awards three work-in-progress grants each year. Strickland won the General Work-in-Progress award for his current book, "Young Ben Franklin and the Witch of Water Street," a young-adult murder mystery set during the 1700s and based on a girl who gets the help of a printer's apprentice, Ben Franklin, to solve a crime.

Competing against almost 400 other authors nationwide, Strickland had to submit the first 400 pages and an outline

for his novel in order to be eligible for the award, he said.

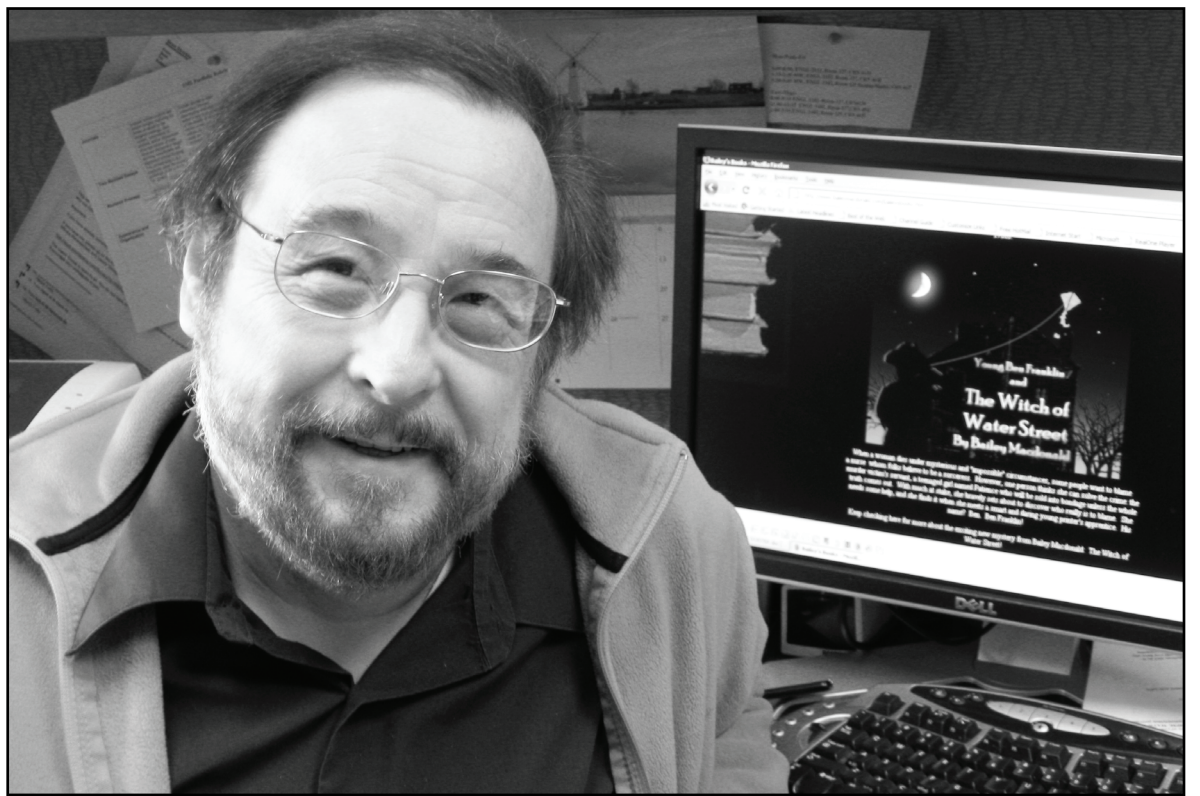
Strickland has won the Georgia Author of the Year award in the young-adult division for two previous novels, but he said this is his first national award.

When the novel hits bookstores next summer you won't find it under his name, though. Since publishing companies don't like selling competing books written by the same author, "Young Ben Franklin and the Witch of Water Street" is the second in a series of books under a different pen name, Strickland said.

"My newest pseudonym is Bailey Macdonald, who writes historical mystery novels for young people," Strickland said on his Web site.

"Wicked Will," based on William Shakespeare, was his first novel in the series.

No stranger to writing, Strickland "started fiddling with ('Young Ben') in January" of this year, received a contract for the book in May and "wrote all



Lauren Blais

Brad Strickland's children's book is expected to be published by July of next year.

summer to finish it up," he said.

But it's not that easy. His process begins with an outline for the story, and then he writes his first draft, edits and completes a second draft. His wife,

Barbara Strickland, reads the second draft, and from that he sends his editor the third draft. From his editor, he "fixes the little things," he said, and submits it back to her.

In all, it takes "five drafts before it goes to be printed," Strickland said.

His wife is a retired elementary school teacher and part-

see "Grant," page 4

Prof's first book recalls military career as part of Desert Storm

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Joey Smith, professor here at GSC, has just published his first book, "The Blender." It details his accounts of his military career during Operation Desert Storm.

Smith grew up in Loganville and was born in West Berlin, Germany. His father was in the armed forces as well, serving for 20 years in the army.

"I didn't think twice about joining, (but my dad) never pushed it on me," Smith said. "I remember him in uniform growing up... I knew it was something I wanted to do."

At age 18, he joined the U.S. Army. From there he draws his experiences: dangerous and surprisingly funny at times. Smith gives the reader in-depth detail of experiences during the Gulf War.

"I kept a journal while in the military, so I used that," said Smith.

It took Smith about 10 months to write his book. "But I had it brewing in my head for a while," he said.

Smith said that the most difficult part was making his memories readable. Some parts he felt were either not interesting enough or too personal. In "The Blender" he strived to give a balanced perspective.

"(I) tried to portray all sides of how people view the military," he

said.

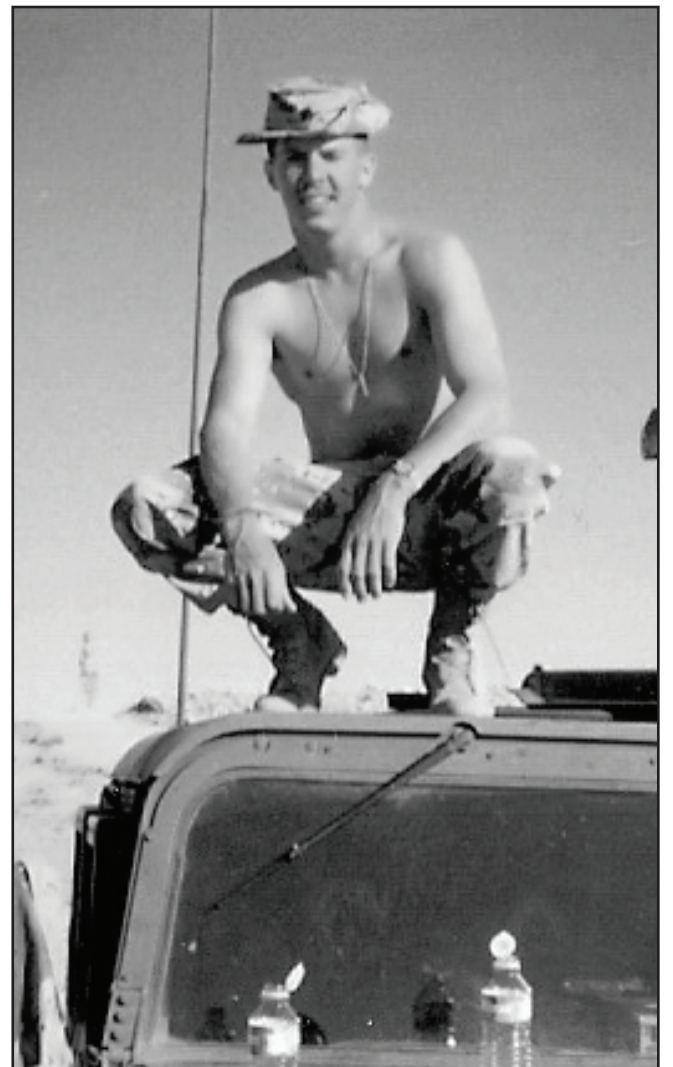
Smith hopes readers will take away a message of perseverance from his book.

"(N)o matter what you're going through now or have been through or problems you may have, just do the best you can with the tools you have... and you'll be good! It's okay to be uncertain."

Smith said he has several other writing projects currently in progress.

"I think there might be a western in me somewhere. I would also like to right a fiction next."

Excerpts from "The Blender," as well as pictures and other tidbits about Smith, can be found at www.joelblender.com.



Special

Joey Smith's book "The Blender" is based on his experiences as part of Operation Desert Storm.

"The military, at least the Army, is an amazing study in humanity. Mostly male-dominated, you find men from many walks of life, primarily middle and lower class. But regardless of civilian class distinctions, the uniform looks the same on everybody—a great equalizer. A poor guy who is smart can go farther than someone from a wealthy family who can't see beyond the next regulation."

- From "The Blender"

Iraqi photojournalist offers students new perspective on war

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Iraqi photojournalist Haider Hamza saw the aftermath of many car bombs while covering the Iraq war, but one stands out in particular.

That day he arrived on the scene of a bomb blast to see a 12-year-old, surrounded by bodies, collecting bullets and trying to sell them.

Scenes like that made Hamza realize the effects the war was having on the young people in Iraq.

"The teenage years of a person's life are critical," he said. "After seeing a kid collect bullets after a car bomb went off, and yelling 'two for one!' with dead bodies all around him, that's when you know it's not right."

Hamza spoke to GSC students about his experiences on both sides of the U.S.-led war in Iraq.

"The pictures were very dramatic," GSC student Andrew Woodrum said. "It made me look at both sides. Seeing our troops being killed and the effect it has on people makes you rethink your beliefs (on the war)."

The son of a diplomat, Hamza was born in Germany and grew up in East Africa and Europe.

At the age of 12 he moved back with his family to their hometown, Baghdad.

Hamza finished high school in Iraq and graduated from Baghdad University in 2006. He won a Fulbright scholarship and moved to the United States where he earned his master's degree in global security and conflict resolution.

During the war Hamza lived in Iraq, working as a journalist from several American military bases. He saw the reactions of the U.S. soldiers and the Iraqi civilians caused by the religious and cultural gaps between

the two countries.

"When the U.S. troops arrived in Iraq, most Iraqis were welcoming and on the same team. I saw the change of the Iraqi view on soldiers go to the complete opposite," Hamza said.

Haider Hamza was kidnapped twice during the war. The first time was by Saddam Hussein loyalists who captured him, his camera and equipment. The second time he was captured by an extreme religious group, prompting him to leave Iraq in 2007.

"It was harder for me to get out of this one, religious groups really allow no ground for communication. The U.S. troops rescued me from them," Hamza said.

As a journalist, Hamza ran toward the things he saw people running away from.

"I saw headless bodies, blood and violence every day, but when I noticed that people had become numb to it... I realized this damage was going to be deep."

-Haider Hamza, Iraqi photojournalist

"Every morning at 6 a.m. we would drive around and take pictures," Hamza said. "If I saw smoke, people running, or heard banging or shooting, this meant I go there."

So far, between 200 and 250 journalists have been killed in the war. It is a very dangerous job in Iraq, Hamza said.

Hamza worked for ABC News and The New York Times for several years. At the age of 21, his photos made the front page of The New York Times several times in a row.

"The war gave me that opportunity," Hamza said. "Every day there were buildings being

blown up, it was like fireworks with random bombs going off around you. I realized at each scene, if I turned around and got shots of the reactions on people's faces, you see so much more."

At one point Hamza was arrested for taking pictures of U.S. casualties. The jail cell in Iraq was designed to hold eight people but there were 34, he said. They only got to use the restroom once every 24 hours because there were not enough

soldiers to escort the prisoners.

"People kept coming in and no one was going out, it is a one way flow," Hamza said. "There is no court system in Iraq; you can't get a lawyer to get you out."

One of his main topics was the teenage exposure to the war and its effects on future generations.

In Iraq young teenagers see their parents get killed and act out in revenge and end up in jail for three to four years on a

bare floor with nothing to do. They build up all of this anger then get out and want to do anything to get revenge. So, Hamza said, jail time in Iraq is a major contributor to terrorism.

There are many other side effects from the war that people in the U.S. don't see, he said. The sex and drug trafficking, divorce rate, domestic violence and child abuse rates all increased dramatically.

see "Journalist," page 7

Haider Hamza spoke to students as part of GSC's Colloquium Series.

Check out one our reporter's thoughts on the Iraqi journalist's visit. See page 19.

One in four women will be a victim of domestic violence, according to experts

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GSC students, faculty and community members were awakened by some very sobering facts at the Symposium on Domestic Violence.

"One in four women will be a victim of domestic violence at some point in their life," said Jessica Butler.

Butler is the executive director of Gateway Domestic Violence Center, which provides free and confidential emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence. Recently the organization co-sponsored a symposium at GSC on domestic violence, along with United Way of Hall County and GSC's Center for Research and Public Service.

Domestic violence is not only about physical abuse, but emotional and verbal abuse, which Butler said is often harder to bear, according to victims she has helped.

Most of the time is spent in a tension-building phase where no one wants to disturb the balance of the house. This leads to a violent episode. Then the relationship returns to the honeymoon

phase.

Butler said that domestic violence often begins with isolation, and victims tend to mistakenly feel they are somehow responsible for the abuse. Not seeking help can be deadly.

"Ninety-one percent of women murdered in America are murdered by someone they are in a relationship with," Stephanie Woodard, solicitor general for Hall County, told a crowd of over 300 people.

Nationally, the average age of a woman who dies as a result of domestic violence is 38, Woodard said.

Woodard's office handles domestic violence cases on a daily basis and she has seen how seemingly normal relationships can evolve into violence.

"When a relationship begins, it causes you to feel so important when your significant other texts you frequently wanting to know where you are and who you are with," Woodard said. "The line is so fine between that kind of dating relationship and stalking."

Woodard conducts assessments of cases brought to her by fellow panel member, Sgt. Bob Watterson of the Domestic Violence Unit in the Hall County

Sheriff's Office.

Watterson worked homicide in Hall County for four years before joining the DVU. He said he views working domestic cases as preventing homicides.

Although his team is geared toward handling cases of men assaulting women, Watterson said they are seeing an increase in women assaulting men and they are seeing an increase in violence cases overall.

Substance abuse is often a factor in calls answered.

"Probably 99.9 percent of our domestics have alcohol, illegal drugs or prescription drugs influencing what is happening in those situations," Watterson said. "I can't say that I have ever arrested somebody that was completely sober for a domestic case."

DVU officers make referrals to the

Gateway Domestic Violence Center following an arrest and Gateway steps in to provide shelter and counseling for women and children.

Robin Underwood, of the Occupational Therapy Department at Brenau University and Gateway, said women are typically controlled by money and when they come to Gateway, they find they don't know how to budget at all.

Underwood believes that whether or not a woman can support herself and her children is the single most significant factor in keeping a woman out of an abusive relationship. Getting an education is a big part of that.

"My take-home message to all of you is 'stay in school' because the higher your income and educational level, the greater chance you have of not entering an abusive relationship," she said.

Gateway provides a free and confidential emergency shelter for domestic violence victims. For more information, call Gateway's 24-hour crisis hotline: 770-536-5860, or visit their Web site at www.gatewayhousega.com.

Grant for Book

continued from page 5

time professor at GSC. She often helps him with his writings.

"Most of the books are all Brad's but I occasionally contribute ideas and suggestions," she said.

She proofreads his manuscripts, mostly looking for typos, but sometimes she gives some feedback, she said.

"I have an idea about what children enjoy and what might be beyond their understanding," she said.

After publishing 66 books, around three books a year, writing is in his blood.

"I come from a family of storytellers," Strickland said.

A magazine picked up his first short story when he was a 16-year-old high school student. Then he started writing science fiction, teens and children's novels. His works include five "Star Trek" books and 14 books written and co-written for the "Wishbone" series. He was the series' first writer, which stemmed from the children's television show, he said.

But getting your works published is not as easy as it seems, Strickland said.

"It's like a catch 22," he said. "It's hard to get published until you've been published."

His advice? Get together with other people to write, join writing clubs and go to literary conventions, he said.

"Learn to distinguish between good and bad criticism," he said. "If it rubs you the wrong way, you don't have to take it."

Journalist

continued from page 6

Though he could somewhat prepare himself for what he was going to see while covering events during the war, Hamza couldn't prepare for everything.

"When it comes to children, you just cannot get used to seeing young, innocent kids being in pain or killed. It's just wrong and each time it is like a new experience, you can't get numb from that."

Almost 1,300 children have been killed, and another thousand orphaned by the war.

Iraqi deaths caused by U.S. troops can cause funerals to become very public and full of anger directed towards the soldiers. Hamza became accustomed to seeing black banners hanging when he woke up in the morning, signifying that a death had occurred. The banners told the name, age and religion of the one killed.

The one thing he hated about his job was when he had to count the casualties at the start of curfew at 6 p.m. Hamza had to open black bags to check if the body was male or female, and their religion.

"I saw headless bodies, blood and violence every day," he said, "but when I noticed that people had become numb to it, showed no emotion and were having no nervous breakdowns, I realized this damage was going to be deep."

Hamza contrasted the government leadership between America and Iraq.

"In America, a president is elected to serve the country," Hamza said. "But in our country, a president is elected to own the country."

But it's not just the government that's different. An-

ger came from the cultural clashes between the civilians and the Americans.

Hamza said the U.S. soldiers had training with technology but not a lot of religious understanding. This drove a lot of anger from the Iraqi civilians and their views of the U.S. soldiers began to change, he said.

"The Iraqi culture is very conservative," Hamza said. "For anyone driving around and see a group of male Iraqis being searched while stripped naked, caused a lot of embarrassment and drove a lot of anger."

Iraqis started to realize they didn't like having a foreign object in their territory and the U.S. troops hated losing their soldiers while trying to help an ungrateful Iraq.

"Many American soldiers are close to 20 years old and have never been out of the U.S. in their lives. Then, they get put in Iraq where people are dressed differently, people are killing each other everywhere, and everyone speaks differently," he said. "You cannot expect them to come back to a controlled environment, U.S., and be the same."

Hamza was shot twice throughout his reporting during the war.

"When you get shot, the bullet is warmer than your body and you don't feel it right away," Hamza said. "When you take the bullet out, it starts to bleed heavily and there is much more pain, but this is the only way for your wound to heal."

"Same with the war in Iraq, it may get worse when the U.S. troops leave, but it is the only way its ever going to get better."



Special

Jose Gonzalez, Blake Duck, Clayton Mathis, Collier Cato, Laura Ropski, Ashley Crain and Kelli Blackstock pose for a photo after completing the Tumbling Creek Six-Hour Race.

Bike teams succeed despite muddy trails

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Who says girls are afraid of a little dirt and mud?

Though rain quickly turned SORBA's mountain bike race into a mud bogging competition, it didn't slow down the GSC women's team.

"It was hard but, since it was

so muddy, at the last minute we got to add a member," competitor Ashley Crain said. "The rain was the biggest obstacle..."

Kelli Blackstock and Laura Ropski also competed in the women's team, which finished first in the annual Tumbling Creek Six-Hour Endurance Race held Oct. 25.

The race was held on 6 miles of the trails surrounding the college. Bikers competed in several categories including two to three person teams, solo, expert

rider and children, to name a few.

Though the competition has been held for the past 13 years, this was the first year GSC had student teams represented at the event.

It was also Crain's first mountain bike race.

"I took Mr. Cato's class in July, and it was really scary, but the race was exciting," She said. "This was the first thing competitive thing I've done since competition cheerleading."

The men finished fourth in what proved to be a very competitive field.

"I am pleased with the hard work and determination that both teams put forward in their training, and it paid off for our first time out in competition," SORBA adviser Collier Cato said. "It's my hope that these types of events and representation will continue to promote mountain biking to our student community, both at the recreational and competitive levels."

In the past the event has drawn national attention. The number one ranked woman in the country, Krista Park, was the women's champion at Tumbling Creek last year.

SORBA still welcomes new members and still holds rides every Thursday for anyone who wants to join. Their vice-president, Cameron Spath, invites everyone to attend.

"This club is great to find and become friends with many other mountain bikers," Spath said.

Students & profs school each other in bowling tourney

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At first it looked like experience was going to win out over youth.

The all-faculty team, The Mills Gang, intimidated their opponents by rolling straight strikes in their first frame at the bowling tournament held Oct. 30.

"The teachers are probably better because they have more experience," Jonathan Baxter, student and member of the Dream Team, said.

Three teams competed in the tournament, held at the Gainesville Bowling

Center.

In addition to the all-faculty team, there were teams consisting of only students or faculty and students. Each team competed in three games to determine the champion.

In the end XXPinStrikerzXX edged out the second place team, the Mills Gang, to finish first in the tournament.

Brittany Meeler, another member of the Dream Team, also participated in the tournament.

"It's a nice way to relax away from school with fellow students," she said, "not to mention getting to play against teachers."

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Sportsmanship: The endangered art

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Okay, you know the drill. Let's line up and shake hands with the other team. A simple gesture we have been taught to do since the early days of little league.

"I think it helps to rid some of the aggression that they gain from having competed against the other group," GSC student Wendy Hewett said. "Basically it would allow for no hard feelings afterwards."

Recently, however, a terrible trend has developed where sportsmanship has dwindled away, becoming increasingly non-existent.

"Sportsmanlike conduct has declined over the past few years," GSC student David Parchert said.

This year North Hall students attended the White County game sporting rainbow attire, poking fun at the ACLU's 2007 lawsuit against White County. The suit was initiated by current GSC student Kerry Pacer over homosexual rights on school grounds.

"The parents and the student section were making fun of White County at the game by wearing rainbows and carrying rainbow banners," Emily Perry, Compass staff, said.

Banners boasted "Rainbow Warriors" in the stands, but the team kept its composure throughout the game.

Some students believe this is not only a decline in sportsmanship; it is a decline in morals.

"For there to be sportsmanship, there has to be a moral law in which the participants act by," GSC student Nick Marsh said, "but with so many going to universalism and relativism, a notion of a moral law is being laughed at."

You might even refer to the recent VMA debacle between Kanye West and Taylor Swift as unsportsmanlike conduct. But at least Beyonce showed some class.

"You could consider that extremely sportsmanlike," Parchert said, "because Beyonce gave her the microphone during her speech."

Perhaps the biggest example of this trend was Week One of college football.

Every year during the first week in college football, the teams shake hands before the game. It is a sign of brotherhood and understanding that whatever happens, happens and that there are no hard feelings. It is not mandatory, only suggested.

However, The University of Georgia and Oklahoma State did not shake hands prior to the opening game of their season for fear of a fight breaking out.

The decision was mutual, as Oklahoma head coach Mike Gundy said that the Cowboys outnumbered the Bulldogs, and it would only take one player smarting off to begin a fight.

He may have had a point; college football players are no strangers to fights. In fact, Week One sported a fight of its own.

When Oregon was defeated by Boise State, Boise's linebacker, Byron Hout, began to taunt the opposing players. He apparently went too far with Oregon's LeGarrette Blount when Blount took a swing and nailed Hout in the jaw, resulting in a one-year suspension.

Hout was left out of the suspension talks, much to the displeasure of many

Oregon fans.

However, sportsmanship isn't completely dead yet.

An excellent demonstration of sportsmanship came during, possibly, the most anticipated NFL game of the decade, Packers at Vikings.

Brett Favre defeated his old team and his quarterback replacement, Aaron Rodgers.

Immediately after the game, Favre headed through the crowd of green and yellow helmets and white helmets, to find his counterpart and congratulate him on a job well done, putting to rest any speculation over hatred toward his old team.

"Favre handled his situation after his game against the Packers very well," GSC student Marc Wise said. "He was accused of signing with the Vikings only because he wanted to get back at the general manager, Ted Thompson."

After the game Favre said "One game does not define my career good or bad. I know what I've done. I'm proud of what I've done. I know I can play. I wanted to do what it takes to win."

GSC sets records in swim meet

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Swimmers ranging from 18 years old all the way to 83 years old competed Oct. 7 in the GSC Fall Intramural Swim Meet.

Twenty-seven swimmers competed for medals in the backstroke, freestyle, breaststroke and butterfly stroke. The distances ranged from 25 yards (one pool length) to 200 yards (eight lengths).

Caroline Roloff, Maggie Shay, Felicia Adams and Lauren Mauldin dominated the women's 18- to 24-year-old category while Shelly Little took home first place in the women's 25- to 29-year-old category.

As for the men's division, Morgan

Lopes, Cory Howe, Wesley Newcomer and Mark Timis took home first place medals in the 18- to 24-year-old category.

Roloff, Timis, Shay and Alex Seburn received first place in the mixed medley relay.

Roloff, Shay, Mauldin and Newcomer all set new records for the event.

Dave Reesman took home the first place medal in the men's 80- to 84-year-old category. Many of his family members, friends and classmates were in attendance to cheer him on.

"Dave Reesman came with his own crowd of support," said Lisa Watson, event supervisor. "Everyone in the pool cheered him on as he finished his 25-yard back."

The Spring Intramural Swim Meet will be held Feb. 24.

gscCompass.com

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"THE SEQUEL IMPROVES ON EVERYTHING THAT MADE THE FIRST FILM GREAT."
- Ryan McLelland, AINTITCOOLNEWS

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GSC students nominated for national honors



Luis Romero and Stephanie Martin were both nominated for USA Today's Academic Team.

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The All-USA Community College Academic Team is an honor based on the merit and hard work of students attending community colleges. This year's nominees, Luis Romero and Stephanie Martin need no introduction.

"It was one of the most amazing things I've ever had happen to me," Martin said.

Both Romero and Martin have unique stories leading up to their prestigious nominations.

"When I graduated from high school, I actually began recording a music album," Martin said. "Music was my lifelong passion, and is something I wanted to do forever. Unfortunately that industry is so bad."

Martin has been making music since she was 14 and signed to a record label in Atlanta.

"After spending two years of my life fully dedicated to music," Martin said "saying 'I have to stop' was depressing."

"Starting all over again and going to school I thought 'What am I going to do?'"

What Martin did was become a prominent leader on the GSC campus, according to Katie Simmons, the GSC

professor who nominated her.

"She brings a really strong commitment to leadership and student service learning," Simmons said. "She is very interested in making Gainesville State better."

As for Romero, he asserts that his surroundings play a large role in his success.

"All the things that I have been nominated for, I haven't done it myself," said Romero. "I try to use my resources to the fullest."

"(Romero) is a great role model for other students," Romero's nominator, Valerie Havill, said.

"He was one of the top students in the class. Unlike many students who seem to be focused primarily on how to get a good grade, (Romero) was truly interested in the subject and was focused on learning and applying the course material."

"He has a strong academic record, received a Goizueta Leadership Scholarship and participated in many campus activities as part of that program," GSC President Martha T. Nesbitt said.

Romero has journeyed through his share of adversity as well. Born in Havana, Cuba, Romero had to move to Venezuela and then to Miami to escape oppression.

"My parents sacrificed everything for me. My dad was an electrical engineer in Cuba and my mom had a professional degree in economy," he said.

"When we left they had to give all that up... My dad's diplomas don't count anything here."

Romero's and Martin's nominations have affected their families and communities.

Martin said her family reacted to the nomination with joyful tears.

"My mom, fiancé and dad all cried," Martin laughed. "They were just so proud."

"The fact that (Martin and I) are both Hispanic Latinos, that means a lot to my family



"Being Latina, going to college, having a good future ahead of me, I guess I'm a good role model for other girls that are struggling."



Stephanie Martin and Luis Romero were both inspired by former GSC student (and current Georgia Tech student) Juan Llanes, who was selected one of the top 20 two-year students in the nation last year.

and the whole community," Romero said.

Both Romero and Martin already give back to the community through various volunteer works.

"(Romero) is currently volunteering in the emergency room at North East Georgia Hospital providing much-needed translating services for families and medical staff," Havill said.

Romero has also volunteered at the YMCA.

"I tell kids that intelligence is only a measure of hard

work," Romero said.

Martin also contributes to the community.

"(Martin) participated in a program called Capital Markets to teach high school students about becoming more financially literate," Simmons said.

The 20 students selected to the team will be featured in USA Today in April 2010. Last year, former GSC student Juan Llanes was selected for the All-USA Community College Academic Team, earning himself a position

as one of the top 20 two-year students in the nation.

"When I first heard the news that (Martin and Romero) were given the opportunity to represent the college (as the 2010 All-USA Academic Team representatives), I was thrilled and proud," Llanes said.

Llanes is the fiancé of Martin. He is also an inspiration Romero. Like Romero, Llanes also came from Cuba.

"When I started here at Gainesville," he said, "I met Juan and he put hope in me."

"Being Latina, going to college, having a good future ahead of me, I guess I'm a good role model for other girls that are struggling," Martin said.

Romero and Martin continue to strive for excellence.

"My ultimate goal is to be a cardiologist," Romero said.

"After I finish at GSC, I want to study civil law and one day open my own firm," Martin said.

"I'm just so honored to represent my community as a whole," Romero said.



"I tell kids that intelligence is only a measure of hard work," Luis Romero said of his tutoring volunteer work at the YMCA.

ABOUT USA TODAY'S ALL-USA ACADEMIC TEAM

Annually awarded to 20 undergrads who excel in the classroom and beyond

Winners receive a trophy and \$2,500

Their photo, along with a list of their accomplishments, will be featured in USA Today

Top 9 Albums of '09

Animal Collective's sound is tricky to pin down. Since their initial release, *Spirit They've Gone*, *Spirit They've Vanished*, critics have described them as everything from pop rock to experimental noise to "freak folk." Describing their sound is like playing pin the tail on the donkey, but even without the blindfold, you still end up a little bit off. Merriweather Post Pavilion, however, is nothing more than a simple soul record; and a damn fine one at that.

This is soul music for the Information Age.



The Fuck Buttons are a two-piece, experimental, noise group from Bristol, England. Their previous effort, *Street Horrrsing*, received critical praise—but was largely inaccessible to the average listener, due to its chaotic tone, the drones of distorted guitars, and piercing shrieks of feedback.

However, their sophomore album, *Tarot Sport*, manages to take all these chaotic elements and channel them into something beautiful, cinematic and artistic. Gone are the indulgences of the dissonant, harsh, cacophony one would expect from this group. *Tarot Sport* is, above all other things, concise. It feels like a piece of living art—a movement, or event, rather than an album; every song flows into the other, creating an enormous, epic painting of sound.

While many post-rock groups, such as Godspeed You! Black Emperor and Mogwai, thrive off of these epic soundscapes and textures, most of these bands are lacking when it comes to a forward-driving momentum. This is something the Buttons have in surplus. Whether it's in the seizure-induced, nightmarish techno of the opener, "Surf Solar", or the banging, triumphant, arena-rock, throwback of the centerpiece, "Olympians"; the Fuck Buttons keep the momentum consistently pushing (at times hammering) forward.



There's a record store in downtown Athens called Wuxtry Records. You can find just about any album there (and if you can't then they'll order it for you). But more importantly, there you can find John Fernandes, one of the founding members of Circulatory System.

After Olivia Tremor Control disbanded in the early 00's, he and Will Cullen Hart, along with a few others from the Athens-based Elephant 6 Collective, formed Circulatory System. Shortly thereafter, they released their surreal, self-titled debut. They vanished just as quickly as they appeared, though, surfacing only to play scattered shows. That is, until they released their follow-up.

Signal Morning was well worth the wait. It's a sprawling, psychedelic cluster of Beatles-esque pop songs laced together with about every type of feedback and distortion imaginable. So, next time you're in Athens, drop by Wuxtry and support your (criminally underappreciated and unknown) local artists.



Dark Was the Night is a compilation album released by the Red Hot Organization, a charity dedicated to raising funds and spreading awareness about HIV and AIDS. The album features songs recorded by over 20 artists, including Spoon, Arcade Fire, Beirut, Grizzly Bear and Feist.

The songs are hopeful, folk-like, and poignant; however, the album still spans an enormous breadth in terms of variety...in other words, there's quite literally something for everyone. And with a titanic 31 track listing, there's more than enough potential to unearth some of the hidden gems for yourself.



Merriweather Post Pavilion
Animal Collective



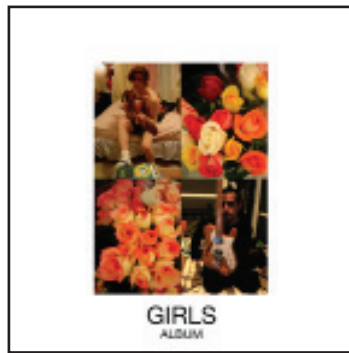
Tarot Sport
Fuck Buttons



Signal Morning
Circulatory System



Dark Was the Night
Various Artists



Incredibad
The Lonely Island



Only Built 4 Cuban Linx Pt. II
Raekwon



Embryonic
The Flaming Lips



Album
Girls



Raekwon released his groundbreaking debut album, *Only Built for Cuban Linx*, in the fall of 1995, paving the way for changing trends in New York hip-hop, as well as the rest of the country. Now, fourteen years later, the long awaited sequel is finally here—and trust us, it's good.

The album features some of the best production of the year from producers such as RZA, J. Dilla, Dr. Dre, and The Alchemist. There are several notable guest spots on the album as well, from Ghostface Killah (on virtually every other track), Busta Rhymes, Beanie Sigel, Inspectah Deck, Method Man, and GZA.

What makes this album stand apart from the barrage of uninspired hip-hop released this year is its cohesiveness. The album flows from song to song, seamlessly, as if you were immersed in a movie, much like the style of its predecessor—only updated for a more contemporary (and critical) audience.



Fever Ray is the side project from Karin Elisabeth Dreijer Andersson; one-half of the Swedish electronic band, The Knife. While The Knife is known for their dark, electronic pieces combined with a theatrical flair in their live shows, Fever Ray takes the idea a step further, making an album where the concept is king.

The album, while technically an electronic album, doesn't feel like it at all. In fact, it feels primitive, almost tribal. The drums are used effectively, at times they sound tropical, and at times they are almost nonexistent, like the subtle heartbeat of a kick-drum over Karin's shrill, lonely voice in *If I Had A Heart*. And even though the songs are so different in terms of styles—the consistent mood and tone of the album brings them all together. Like some tribe of lost souls, armed with synthesizers and glowsticks, dancing around some plasma-screened bonfire, sacrificing themselves to some unholy, electronic deity; in Fever Ray's world, darkness is king.



Embryonic is the 12th studio album from the Lips, but it sounds like a collection of demos. This is not a bad thing; compared to their last album, the glossy, obnoxious, politi-cheese that was *At War With the Mystics*, their new album feels new, fresh, and inspired... just as its title would suggest.

The songs feel woven together, as if connected by the multiple garage-inspired, psychedelic, spacey instrumentals that serve as their thread. This gives just enough space between the heavier songs, so the listener feels like an explorer—delving deep into the collective psyche of the band. This album marks a fresh start for a great band. While previously bogged down by the overwhelmingly different directions they've taken, it seems now they've truly come full circle, and maybe (maybe?) begun to relax a little.



Realistically, *Girls*, Chet "JR" White and Christopher Owens, a Children of God runaway who ultimately ended up in San Francisco after graduating with a "pharmaceutical degree" from the streets of Texas, should've never worked. Nothing on *Album* hasn't been done before and the nicest way I've found to describe Owens' voice is "just a lil' off-putting."

Fortunately, they did; and with a debut release date of Sept. 22, at the perfect time. Part rockabilly and part surf rock, *Girls'* sandy-shoed and salt-water-soaked *Album* arrived just in time for the annual post-Labor Day onset of summer nostalgia.



Nonsense, *Incredigood*.

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GTA brings new life to a blockbuster hit

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Most people know "The Wedding Singer" as the hilarious 1998 comedy starring Adam Sandler and Drew Barrymore. This year the Gainesville Theatre Alliance has introduced the favorite in a whole new light by bringing it to the stage.

The musical first hit Broadway in 2006 and because of its popularity, "great music," and "endearing story" Jim Hammond, artistic and managing director, decided to put on a production at GSC. "The Wedding Singer" was a match for GTA's casting pool and caught the interest of students, making it the ideal choice for this year's musical.

Preparation for the production started six months ago, casting began in September and there were seven weeks of rehearsal before the Nov. 10 opening.

"The audience loved the show and gave the cast a standing ovation," Hammond said.

The authentic 80's costumes and wigs, intricate dance numbers and the live band really pull the audience into the play.

One of the dance scenes even takes elements from the classic '80s video for Michael Jackson's "Thriller."

"Those who remember 1985 get a kick out of the costumes and 80's references," Hammond said.

The play is rated PG-15 due to some mature language, but there is something



Audrey Williams

This month the Gainesville Theatre Alliance brought "The Wedding Singer" to the stage. Trey Butler played the lead role of Robbie Hart and Marissa Druzbankski played Julia Sullivan.

for everyone to enjoy. Different ages will connect with different characters.

"Rosie, the Grandmother, is loved by our older audience members, and students immediately connect with Robbie and Julia," Hammond said.

The lead role of Robbie Hart was played by Trey Butler. The waitress Robbie pursues, Julia Sullivan, was played by

Marissa Druzbankski.

Seliatu King, a theatre student, saw the play as a class requirement, but ended up enjoying it all the same. "It was a little different from the movie, but it was still funny," she said.

The musical runs through Nov. 22 and student tickets are five dollars.

Check out
www.gainesvilletheatrealliance.org for
showtimes and ticket
information.

Student composes and plays his own music

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Ryan Gray doesn't just play music; he composes it.

Some of his pieces have already made it to the stage. Recently his jazzy composition, "J.S. Bossa," was performed at the Fall Music Concert.

Gray picked up the trombone back in sixth grade, and he hasn't put it down since. Ever since he joined the middle school band, he's been fascinated with music theory and its applications.

He is an active member of the Jazz Band, the Jazz Combo, the Symphonic Band, and the Brass Ensemble. Even with all his extracurricular activities, he still finds time out of class to compose his own music, which he hopes to extend to his future career.

Some of Gray's biggest influences include the 16th century composer, Johann Sebastian Bach, The Beatles, Duke Ellington, and Led Zeppelin. His greatest influence on the trombone, however, is the jazz musician, Tommy Dorsey, a notable composer during the "Big Band" era in the 1930s.

Gray has expanded his musical prowess beyond the trombone, however, by teaching himself to play piano, as well as the guitar. He says his family, especially his grandfather, have been very (ahem) instrumental in his education, as well as extremely supportive of him and his goals.

In the future, Gray wants to write music for films, high school bands, and even video games. He says it doesn't matter what medium he composes for, as long as he is able to "write music and play jazz."



Lauren Blais

GSC student Ryan Gray performs "J.S. Bossa," which he composed himself.



Audrey Williams

Winterhawk Pottery hopes to bring the history of the Native southeastern people and their culture through storytelling and traditional music. John and Anne-Marie Winterhawk taught GSC students Robbie Kennedy and Josh Homiller how to use handmade Native American instruments made from animal skin, wood, and deer toes.

Finding a new beat

Students experience Native American culture



“This (demonstration) allows some students to tap into their roots again, while it helps others learn of a culture that many only know the sad parts about.”

- Anne-Marie Winterhawk

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There are dozens of flags hanging in the Student Center. But not every nation is represented.

“I notice a lot of flags from different cultures (in the Student Center), but you don’t see a Cherokee Flag,” said Anne-Marie Winterhawk.

Last week she and John Winterhawk allowed students a glimpse into the lives of Native Americans. Those in attendance in the Student Center heard stories, saw many visuals, and were treated to plenty of music from the Southeastern Native American culture.

“This is the coolest thing we had on campus,” Robbie Kennedy, a student, said. “I liked the props and learned a lot about a different type of culture honestly.”

The Winterhawks are part of the Muscogee-Creek tribe from Alabama. They want to educate people on a culture

that is often over-looked, but is still very much alive in parts of the country.

“Not many kids make contact with this culture. This (opportunity) was fantastic,” said John Winterhawk.

Participation was encouraged as many students took part in helping the Winterhawks showcase the Native American music.

“This was cool. I like the interaction with the student body,” said Kennedy, who joined on stage to help beat the drum.

Anne-Marie Winterhawk told the students how the drum symbolizes the heartbeat of the people and was used to attract mates. Derek Calloway and Josh Homiller were some other students who got a chance to participate in the music-making.

“I’m always up for some-

thing new,” Calloway said. “I thought it was cool.”

“It was wonderful. This was something I always wanted to try,” said Homiller, who is part Cherokee.

After the students were shown a turtle shell instrument and given insight on teepees, they joined in with the host to help sing the song Creek Water Blessing, which the Native Americans sang to thank the water for all it gave them.

Students were then allowed to talk to the Winterhawks one-on-one.

“I don’t want students to miss out on a vitality that still exists,” said Anne-Marie Winterhawk. “This allows some students to tap into their roots again, while it helps others learn of a culture that many only know the sad parts about.”

Learn more about the Winterhawks and Native American culture at www.winterhawkpottery.com

New club brings student Democrats together

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Now students who prefer the donkey to the elephant can get out of the zoo.

The Young Democrats of Gainesville College recently held their first meeting—advertized as “Straight from the Donkey’s Mouth.”

“Hall County is the third most Conservative county in the nation,” Andrew Wilkinson, president of YDGC, said. “It can be hard being a Democrat.”

The GSC chapter of the Young Democrats of America is a new organization created to help make student Democrats’ voices heard. Their first meeting was held Oct. 20, in the Robinson Ballroom. The GSC Young Democrats put signs around the school to let people know about the event and to represent their opinions.

To join or get more info, e-mail gscdemocrats@gmail.com or search “GSC Democrats” on Facebook

At the first meeting the club members and other students discussed health care reform and the proposed Affordable Health Choices for America Act of 2009. Students spoke their minds and asked questions about health care in the U.S. and what the best option is.

“This meeting will give students an open media about healthcare reform,” Wilkinson said.

The Health Choices Act is designed to provide affordable health care for all Americans and control health care cost growth.

“I really like the idea of the bill,” Jessica Pilgrim said. “I think it will help low-income personnel get the health care they need.”

The meeting had people standing up out of their seats to gather information about the new bill. After the meeting many students signed up for the new organization.

YDGC meets every Tuesday at 2 p.m. in Meeting Room 2 in the Student Center.

Teacher Feature

Lillian Welch, professor and alumni, retires

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Students that arrive early to one of Lillian Welch's dance classes receive the reward of learning a new dance step "at no extra charge!" This is just one reason many students enjoy her class.

"She is active and delightful and I can tell that she really likes what she is doing because she always has a smile on her face," GSC student Rhoda Dye said.

Brandy Jones said dance is her "favorite class of the semester."

The Compass had an opportunity to sit down with Welch recently and discuss her plans for retirement.

Compass: How long have you been teaching at GSC?

Welch: Full-time since 1989...(I) taught part-time for several years before that.

Compass: Which courses do you teach?

Welch: I've taught activity courses like dance, bait casting, CPR, water aerobics, beginner and interme-

mediate swim, aerobics, fitness walking, health, et cetera and for the last two years have taught some courses for the four-year degree programs in early childhood (education) and early childhood care.

Compass: Are you married?

Welch: Hubby and I just celebrated our 39th anniversary.

Compass: How long did it take you to get your degrees?

Welch: I graduated (East Hall) High



"I feel that I actually grew up on this campus."

-Lillian Welch
GSC professor and alumni

Jordan Crawford

Lillian Welch first came to GSC as a student, then returned as a teacher, first part time, then full time starting in 1989. She has taught many activities courses, including water aerobics, bait casting, and, pictured here, dancing.

empathy for students who have families, jobs, and educational goals.

Compass: What do you like about teaching at GSC?

Welch: Wonderful students and co-workers and the special memories I have here as a student, staff member (I taught many courses for Continuing Education

back in the day) and faculty member. I feel that I actually grew up on this campus.

Compass: We know you are retiring, are you excited?

Welch: Very excited...I have a pre-

see "Lillian Welch," page 16

The Wellness Center is your academic oasis

Alex Donnelly
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There is a place for you to chill out between studying for exams.

Dr. Joy Evans operates the Wellness Center. Her goal as guidance counselor "is to start a community composed of people interested in living together and growing together."

The Wellness Center offers a "holistic way of looking at the interaction between mind, body and soul," Evans said.

Resources there include a

trampoline, free weights, and a back stretcher to relieve tension, stress or anxiety. In the corner sits a chair with a bright light that shines over it. The purpose? One hour under this lamp is equivalent to a day of sunshine and is used to help those who suffer from seasonal depression. Across the room sits a folding massage table like you might see in a doctor's office.

The center can be a place of physical healing, but it also sets a spiritual undertone. The center is meant to "relate to anybody with any religious persua-

sion," Evans said.

There are books on the Buddhist way of living or Kabbalah practices as well as broad-based Christian philosophy from Billy Graham, Mother Theresa and many more. The room itself exudes a sense of spiritual inspiration and a yearning of self exploration.

Evans is a firm believer that GSC is "one of the most progressive wellness centers in the state (due to its) openness and multiple ways of healing."

For the students' knowledge and understanding, the room is also filled with brochures

and books covering any and every life issue, struggle or difficulty one could be experiencing.

However, "You don't have to have a problem to come in here," Evans said. It's a quiet place where there are always back and foot massagers to unwind with after a long day.

"The wellness center is of great benefit for students," office coordinator Debbie Pierce said. "The needs are quite varied, from education, information via the books, DVDs, CDs or brochures that are available."

"I admit that from time to

time I have used the trampoline, the biofeedback for stress, and checked out books and DVDs for my personal use," Pierce said.

However, the no. 1 reason students come in the Wellness Center is for test anxiety. The center exists so that "people can gain information and think through things on their own (and find out who they are)," Evans said.

The Wellness Center is located within the Career & Counseling Services Office in the Student Center, in room 117.

Lillian Welch

continued from page 15

scious grandson to enjoy now!

Compass: Do you plan to keep teaching after you retire?

Welch: Haven't made that decision yet...depends on how much I miss the students!

Compass: What is your favorite class to teach?

Welch: I no longer teach aerobics and water aerobics, but I love all the classes I teach because they are, in my opinion, so pertinent. I suppose I enjoy the class most that I am teaching at that moment!

Compass: Do you plan on traveling after you retire and have time off?

Welch: I love to travel and plan to do even more after I retire and have fewer time restrictions. Bought new red (my favorite color) luggage recently so I can identify it easily as I travel.

Compass: Is this the only school you have taught at?

Welch: I returned to my high school

and taught for my first year, taught for four years at South Hall Middle (then Jr.) High, stayed out to be with my babies, and then came to GSC to teach.

I take great pride in being a Gainesville alumnus and know that many of our faculty/staff graduated here, so we appreciate the "hometown" atmosphere. I am honored to have been the first Homecoming Queen here back in the day when we had athletic teams, was selected Distinguished Alumnus in 2000, and Ann Matthews Purdy Award for Outstanding Faculty Member in 2003. The college has been very generous in honoring me over the many years I've spent here. If one of our students came to GSC to spend as many years here as I have stayed, it'll be 2051 before they leave. (I came here in Fall, 1967 as a student, I believe my calculations are correct.) I'll be taking a lifetime of (mostly wonderful) memories with me when I leave!



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Clearly You Crystals brings fun to GSC



Dave Ayers

Students broke into dance while waiting to have their likeness crystalized by Clearly You Crystals. The event was free to students and sponsored by CAB.



keep checking out gscCompass.com
through exams for updates

Letters to the Editor

As the elected representative of the student body at Gainesville State College, I am writing to express my disappointment with a recent depiction of the health care debate on campus in the Compass (Vol. XLIV, No. 3). I speak on behalf of students from both ends of the political and ideological spectrum in expressing that the Compass has exhibited a biased perspective and neglected to present students with the necessary facts to make a decision for themselves.

I would like to draw your attention to the title of this article in particular; "They want to put WHAT in my healthcare?!" The question in itself is accusatory towards the proponents of health care reform and implies a secret or underhanded agenda on their part. Asking a rhetorical question in order to subtly state a position is a well-known and often-used tactic by the biased media, both from the Left and Right.

The images, both on the front page and inside the article, further develop this biased reporting. The image spread across the front cover of the issue in question completely misrepresents the event; only one side of the debate takes up the overwhelming majority of the photo.

If the intention of the Compass was to show that the debate was even-handed and two-sided, then why did this paper choose not to photo-

graphically represent both sides of the debate?

Yet another example of bias in this article can be found in the photos printed alongside the article itself. There are no photos showing any of the pro-health care side speaking. However, there are two photos showing the anti-health care reform side speaking, as well as two photos of students posing questions of their own.

Whereas I understand this paper's want for controversy as a means of boosting readership, I feel that this particular article, and a front page article, no less, stepped over the line of accuracy and journalistic integrity and that the student body of Gainesville State College deserves better.

I also understand that in these United States we enjoy the freedom of the press. However, this freedom does not shield the media from criticism. As the official school newspaper, the Compass has an obligation to report on the issues fairly and evenly, without any hint of bias. I hope that in future issues this paper will re-examine this fundamental cornerstone of American journalism and promote a free, unbiased newspaper which lets the students and the facts speak for themselves.

Andrew Wilkinson
President, GSC Student Government

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compass

Vol. XLIV No. 3 Thursday, Oct. 22, 2009

You want to put WHAT in my health care?!

Fall music concerts blow GSC away... and all that jazz
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Newest club takes advantage of Lanier's full pool
PAGE 9

Response

As always, we strived to give each side the same amount of space in the story, or, in newspaper jargon, the same number of "inches." However, we understand your feelings regarding the cover headline. It's a constant challenge to grab the attention of readers without being cliché.

As for the photos, it was not immediately clear which side of the debate each panelist was on. We did not feel that the readers would be influenced one way or the other until they read the article for themselves. Our intention was to represent the passion and enthusiasm displayed by all the speakers.

We appreciate the input and we'll keep working on it.

The Compass Staff

4 news Oct. 22, 2009

U.S. health care reform prompts Great Conservative/Progressive Debate focuses on health care

Lauren Bliss, Editor-in-Chief, 924287752@gsc.edu

More than a hundred students, faculty and guests attended the Great Conservative/Progressive Debate on Health Care, which took place in the Continuing Education Building auditorium on Wednesday.

The event was sponsored by the Debate Club in conjunction with Students for a Progressive Society and Sigma Chi Eta.

"Today's debate is an issue that has aroused many passions," said Brittany Perry, president of Students for a Progressive Society.

There were eight students debating the topic. Students were either for or against the proposed reform, and they had five minutes each to defend their positions, which did not necessarily reflect their personal views.

"How many of you have read the health care plan?" Cameron McKinley asked the audience before dropping two thick stacks of paper onto the podium. McKinley was the first speaker representing the opposition of the debate.

The opposition speakers were wary of the cost of the health care reform, were suspicious of the politicians involved and worried of the dangers of big government.

"A government big enough to give everything you want is strong enough to take everything you have," he said.

David Lott also brought out the two stacks of paper, "2,000 pages, 2,000 pages," he said. "We were founded on 30 pages."

Carla Cherry said that people should stop deluding themselves that politicians have their best interests in mind.

"Come on GSC, it's time to wake up!" he said.

Cherry said that America could not afford to pay for the proposed health care reform. Taxes would have to be raised, hurting businesses and the middle class.

"We do have a problem," Cherry said. "Unfortunately we don't have a solution."

Philip Griffith said that America had a proven track record for failure when it came to government-owned systems. He listed several examples, including the Postal Service, the Social Security system, Medicare, Medicaid, concluding

with the most recent "Cash for Clunkers" program, which he said "helped stimulate the economy... of Japan."

"With a 100 percent perfect failure rate, how can anyone conceive that the government can run a health care system?" he said.

Several of those representing the other side devoted their speeches to clearing up misconceptions about current health care reform.

"First of all, this is not socialist medicine," said Lillian Clinton. The proposed reform would not harm the private health care options, she said. She also pointed out that public and private schools and businesses successfully co-exist.

Danney Moore pointed to the topic of the bill.

"I'd like to remind everyone that we're actually debating the public health care option," she said, stressing the word "option."

She said the point of the reform was to provide an alternative for those who are uninsured, underinsured, or who have been dropped by their provider. She also said that those who were happy with their current coverage could keep it.

"The problem is most people aren't happy with their current provider," she said.

Andrew Wilkinson also spoke for the pro side of the debate.

"A public insurance company would insure that we have competition, that we have options," he said. "We cannot afford to not have the options."

He said that the debate's opposition speakers were using the same tactics as the media to confuse the audience, bringing up issues not related to the reform.

"At the end of the day it's not a political debate -- it's a moral issue," Wilkinson said.

Afterward the audience was invited to address the panel with their questions and comments.

The adviser to the Debate Club, Tom Pearson, was pleased with the turnout of the event.

"This was one of the best audience debats I have witnessed in 27 years of teaching debate," he said in an e-mail thanking those involved.

Oct. 22, 2009 news 5

discussion, debate on campus Panel shares personal experiences with health care

Lauren Bliss, Editor-in-Chief, 924287752@gsc.edu

The nationwide deliberations concerning health care reform have prompted a number of forums and debates on campus.

Recently the Politically Incorrect Club hosted a panel of four students and two faculty members who shared their views concerning health care public and private in the Continuing Education Building auditorium.

"Health care offered here is amongst the best in the world," said Andrew Wilkinson, but only if you can get it."

Dr. Clayton Teem, professor of psychology and environmental studies and that lawyer, insurance companies, or others, were all creating a very one-sided, often-only market which made the public vulnerable.

"What we need to do is take the system and turn it into a non-profit system," he said.

A microphone was passed around as several audience members raised their hands to share their views on existing health care policies, or to comment on the panelist's stories.

Dr. Teem Williams, faculty member, said there is a misunderstanding about what an insurance company is. "An insurance company is someone who has decided to take on your risk," he said. "They're not the government; they can't print money when they run out."

The event lasted a half-hour longer than planned. Douglas Young, advisor to the Politically Incorrect Club, was pleased and said he counted more than eighty in attendance.

The participating faculty panelists were selected by the club members, and the student panelists volunteered.

"We tried to have a panel that was fairly evenly balanced," said Young.

Attendees of the forum were provided with a copy of the constitution and a packet outlining the status of the current health care reform. The packet also included the contact information of state representatives and links to several Web sites covering the issue.

Patricia Worral, professor of English, was born in a military hospital and received all of her care through her father's career with the Air Force.

"We were worried about health care, and for a family of six that was a real

Tell us what you think... good or bad!

Submit your Letters to the Editor to compass@gsc.edu

We reserve the right to edit letters for content or length. Not all letters may be printed.

Student walks in National Equality March

Joseph Beasley
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On the morning of October 11th, I along with 200,000 other gay rights advocates congregated along 15th and I streets in downtown Washington, D.C. to tell President Obama "We are tired of waiting. We have no more patience," as Stuart Applebaum said.

While campaigning for the presidency, Obama made promises to the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) community, and we gave him 78 percent of our support.

Obama promised to add "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" to the Federal Hate Crimes Bill. He promised to add "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" to the Federal Employment Non Discrimination Act. He also promised to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell", which prohibits gays and lesbians from serving openly in the Military, and the repeal of the so called "Defense of Marriage Act".

In the nine months since Obama was sworn in as president, we haven't seen any movement on these issues.

Openly gay Congressman Barney Frank released a statement the day before the march saying that we should have patience, allow the president more time. But we remember the "have patience"

message all too well. That is what we were told all through the 1990s.

"(President Clinton) went to our parties, and took our check and wrote flowery proclamations..." said Cleve Jones. "What did we get out of that? We got

'Don't Ask, Don't tell' and the Defense of Marriage Act."

Which is why LGBT citizens form all corners of the country took to the streets of D.C. Marching past the White House to the steps of the Capitol Building, we held signs that read "Democrats use it or lose it" or "Where's our fierce advocate" and "I have my rights let my brother have them, too."

After the march, we gathered at the steps of the Capitol Building for the rally. March organizer David Mixner took to the stage, stating "Let us be clear to America. We are looking at a system of gay apartheid. One set of laws for gay citizens, and another for the rest of America. Oh no you don't!"

Winner of the Equality Idol Challenge Sam Sussman told the crowd that we are not alone in this fight. Young, straight Americans are fighting for our equality.

Sex and the City's Cynthia Nixon said this movement is not just about our right to marry, it is about demanding equal rights.

Lady Gaga addressed President Obama.

"Are you listening? We will continue to push you and your administration to bring your words of promise to a reality."

Spoken word performance artist Stacyann Chin called the protesters to arms and said "those of us who can speak must speak,

must march to recreate the arc of our own history. The future must become a door we all can walk through. So we have to be willing to fight for more than what makes us comfortable, because what makes us human is the acknowledge-

"Walking up Pennsylvania Avenue I realized that the march and rally had ushered in a whole new era in my life as well as the lives of the other 200,000 protesters."



Joseph Beasley/Jesse Morgan

The National Equality March took place on Oct. 11 in Washington DC.

ment of a universal humanity."

Chairman of the NAACP Julian Bond paralleled the Gay Rights Movement to the Civil Rights Movement and pledged his full support saying that we stood beside him throughout the 1960's and he is proud to now stand by us.

Walking up Pennsylvania Avenue I realized that the march and rally had ushered in a whole new era in my life as well as the lives of the other 200,000 protesters.

"Today I woke up a new man. You woke up new people. The LGBT movement woke up a whole new thang," as Derek Washington said.

No longer can we sit by and wait for politicians and lobbyists to do what needs to be done. If we take more grassroots proactive approach to these issues, I believe that in the not too distant future, the LGBT community will be granted full rights and protection under the eyes of the law, and I can say that I did my part.

Bummed because you didn't get all the classes you wanted for spring?

Here's your second chance!

You can register for spring semester classes Dec. 14-18.

The fee deadline is still Dec. 3.



A reporter's thoughts on the Iraqi journalist's visit

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To me the media is like a slow-burning cigarette. They have the ability to filter out anything they want and allow just enough of the "good stuff" to keep the masses coming back for more.

I was able to see an unfiltered view of the war on Iraq, courtesy of guest speaker Haider Hamza.

Students in attendance were given a slideshow presentation by the accomplished journalist, who accompanied the pictures he took with his point of view for each.

Everything I, like most of America, knew about the war was fed to me through Internet and television news services. While Hamza is still a part of the media, he offered a totally different perspective on the conflict.

The journalist has been living in New York City since 2007 and seems as American as the next person

with his proper English grammar and casual wardrobe. Just meeting him on the street you would never guess he was an Iraqi native who has lived through the invasion and most of the war.

He didn't have to turn on his television to learn about the war, he just needed to look out his window.

The Iraqi man has been shot, kidnapped and arrested in his line of work and this immediately established credibility for him with the students. His arrest was for violating the strict no photo policy for U.S. casualties.

Hamza showed pictures of his kidnapers and of his cell in Abu Ghraib prison, giving students a look inside Iraq that the American media could never present.

He demonstrated Iraqi people's views to the students, with pictures of teenagers wielding guns and men holding the dead bodies of friends and family. He sympathized with the young people of Iraq. "This is all they know," he said.

He worries that the war and death will cause "huge psychological damage" to this generation.

"The children will grow up thinking this is normal," Hamza said, as he showed a picture of a child selling bullets in a war zone with a burning car in the background.

The journalist even offered a unique point of view on the symbolic images

of Saddam Hussein's statue being pulled down. Like most Americans, I thought that was a glorious day for not only us, but Iraq. Hamza's view differed greatly.

He said the event "has no significance in Iraq. ... as they pulled down that statue there were several more right behind me." This was yet another example of the American media filtering the nicotine from the viewers.

Hamza uses his media influence to help others. He said he finds it "promising" that students are so open to listening.

The 24-year-old has accomplished a great deal, working for ABC News, The New York Times and many other news outlets across America.

Before the presentation I got to sit down with Hamza and discuss his views on the war.

"The longer the war is going on, students start to realize they should know more about it," he said. "In the beginning Iraqis were pleased to have the help of the U.S. soldiers," he said, but as time

went on the "cultural differences" lead to many heated disagreements from the two sides.

Not many Americans, including myself, look at things from this point of view. He likened the war to children in a playground. At first everything was great, but after a while the child who owned the playground wanted the other children to leave. He said that it is time for the U.S. to "get off the playground."

"Everything has been politicized," Hamza said. "From the economy, oil, judicial system (and even) the media. In his opinion, no one has benefitted from the war ... not Iraq, not U.S. soldiers and not the economy.

The Iraqi declares he does not align himself with any political party and his views are just that. He cannot even speak for his own family, much less any other Iraqis.

The presentation and interview allowed me to learn more about this war in two hours than I have in the past seven years. I now understand the differences and challenges that lie between the two cultures and I'm grateful for how clearly he presented the ideas.

There is no perfect solution to any war, but I have learned enough to believe that maybe Hamza is right, its time to leave the playground. The problem is, even I know, it's just not that simple.

"The presentation and interview allowed me to learn more about this war in two hours than I have in seven years."

<http://blast.viviti.com/>
BLAST!
by Audrey Williams

BREAKIN' DISHES

Undoubtedly, we all have days where we'd love nothing more than to punch some aggravating nut right in the kisser, but we also know that that may not land us in a pretty situation. If only it were okay to yell at your boss or to lock your professor into a dark closet, we'd all be calmer people. On the other hand, the bottling up of aggravations never leads to ideal situations either. It would seem that there is no happy medium for handling your stress unless you go see a psychologist for therapy, but who has that kind of money?

Luckily there's a rogue form of therapy spreading its way around the globe: Dish Breaking Therapy/Smash Therapy. Like I said before, throwing plates may not be a good idea if you're aiming them at somebody. In fact, I'm sure if your neighbor saw you throwing dishes, you might get a call from the local institution. Be that as it may, you can't deny how good it feels to smash something and hear it crack! Trust me... bad break up+ smashed iTouch=elation. [So what, it felt good to break it. It took about 5 hits with a hammer, but all was well in the end.]

It turns out that my little

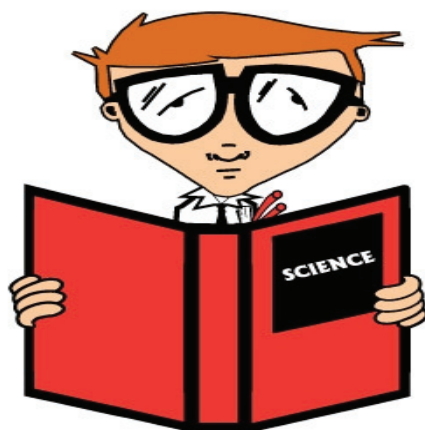
smash/vent wasn't so crazy because in Tokyo smash therapy is a booming new wave in the treatment of stress. In Japan there is a place, aptly named, The Venting Place, where people can go to break things. No one judges you. In fact, they supply you with things to break [at a cost] and with protective gear. Once you're dressed and armed, the power is yours. Throw a dish in honor of that chem test, smash a teacup for all the times you've had to say "Yes, m'am/sir" to that crazy boss. If you want, bring that stupid figurine an ex gave you. Smash it all.

America had its own version of The Venting Place in San Diego, Sarah's Smash Shack, [<http://www.smashshack.com/>] but it is currently closed. Fortunately, the site promises it will reopen again. If the sound of smash therapy appeals to you [I'm sure one day it will], go to your local dollar store, buy a couple of plates, go somewhere secluded and throw like crazy. Just be cautious; protect yourself...and don't aim at anything living.

Audrey Williams is the creator of Blast!, a blog at <http://blast.viviti.com>

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