

Domestic Violence Awareness Week

Guest Speakers

2/9 - Angie Whittmore, Children's Advocate for Home-Safe Family Shelter & Domestic Violence. Caudill 104 @ 12:20

2/10 - Art Light, Art of Karate - Academy of Self Defense. Caudill 102 @ 12:35

2/11 - Valerie Craig, "You have the Power," Caudill 104 @ 12:20

The future of Social Security... Or is there a future?

Joni Tyler
Staff Reporter

"In 2018, the government will begin to pay out more in Social Security benefits than it takes in, in revenue", according to whitehouse.gov.

This probably does not mean a lot to college students who are more worried about paying for college than paying Florida property tax in some retirement community forty-five years from now.

However, President Bush's new Partial Privatization plan is specifically directed towards younger workers.

Many students may wonder why they should worry about it now when Social Security has been an issue in politics for years. Cody Lee 22, a sophomore majoring in University Studies at Vol State said he thought Social Security "would run out by the time I was in college."

With the first of the baby-boomer generation getting ready

to retire and birth rates low, the worker-to-beneficiary ratio will fall to unmanageable levels putting an incredible strain on the Social Security Administration.

In other words, if there are more people retired than there are people working (or paying payroll tax) at any given time, then somebody's going to get screwed.

President Bush believes his Partial Privatization plan will keep congress from having to make the choice between lowering benefits or raising taxes.

Under this plan younger workers may have the option to invest a portion of their tax obligation in private funds instead of investing in the Social Security fund.

Although the type of investing allowed under Bush's plan will be limited, many of the "younger workers" as Bush calls them, may not understand or feel confident investing in an often precarious market.

"How many people are going to be

educated enough to really choose what to invest in?" asked Kara Dawson 20, a chemistry major who will graduate this spring.

Dawson said she "doesn't think about [Social Security] much, even though I should since I'm paying into it through work."

A little research can help illuminate the choices. There are several web sites that can help explain Bush's plan, but nowhere does it give a guarantee that what is invested will be as secure as the current system.

The uncertainties of Social Security are difficult to grasp for anyone, but to a twenty-year-old college student, planning for retirement is probably not a priority, not while a half finished research paper, 2 unread chapters in World Civ., and seventy-five algebra problems are beckoning from a cluttered desk in the corner of the bedroom, but if Bush's plan goes through, Introduction to Investing may be the next mountain of homework that beckons.

Spring 2005 Baseball Schedule

Feb. 12	Bevill State-Fayette	Fayette, AL	1:00 (DH)
Feb. 13	Northwest Shoals	Muscle Shoals, AL	1:00 (DH)
Feb. 16	Wallace State-Hanceville	Hanceville, AL	2:00 (DH)
Feb. 18	Columbia State	Columbia, TN	2:00
Feb. 19	Columbia State	Columbia, TN	12:00 (DH)
Feb. 24	Lakeland College	Home	2:00 (DH)
Feb. 25	Dyersburg State	Home	2:00
Feb. 26	Dyersburg State	Home	12:00 (DH)
Feb. 27	Miami Hamilton	Home	12:00 (DH)
March 1	Columbia State	Home	3:00
March 4	Hiwassee College	Madisonville, TN	1:00
March 5	Hiwassee College	Madisonville, TN	12:00 (DH)
March 8	Motlow State	Home	3:00
March 11	Jackson State	Home	3:00
March 12	Jackson State	Home	12:00 (DH)
March 14	Lindsey Wilson Coll.	Home	3:00 (DH)
March 16	Joliet College	Home	3:00 (DH)
March 18	Motlow State	Tullahoma, TN	2:00
March 19	Motlow State	Tullahoma, TN	12:00 (DH)
March 23	St. Catharine College	St. Catharine, KY	12:00 (DH)
March 25	Roane State	Home	5:00
March 26	Roane State	Home	12:00 (DH)
March 29	Northwest Shoals	Home	4:00 (DH)
April 1	Southwest Tennessee	Memphis, TN	5:00
April 2	Southwest Tennessee	Memphis, TN	1:00 (DH)
April 5	Wallace State-Hanceville	Home	2:00 (DH)
April 9	St. Catharine College	Home	1:00 (DH)
April 12	Lindsey Wilson Coll.	Columbia, KY	3:00
April 15	Walters State	Home	5:00
April 16	Walters State	Home	12:00 (DH)
April 19	Bevill State-Fayette	Home	3:00
April 22	Chattanooga State	Chatt., TN	1:00
April 23	Chattanooga State	Chatt., TN	11:00 (DH)
April 29	Cleveland State	Home	5:00
April 30	Cleveland State	Home	12:00 (DH)

Your Rite to Squat!

Be a part of the "best new magazine on campus!"

Tamela Harris
Staff Reporter

Write works of fiction? Poetry? Like those works to be published? Then submit them to Squatter's Rites, Volunteer State's creative publication. "Squatter's Rites is the best new magazine for students to express their creativity in the written word," according to the flyer that has been handed out and posted around campus.

Cynthia Wyatt and Elkin Brown, the faculty advisers of Squatter's Rites, agree that this publication is an outlet of expression for students at Volunteer State.

"This publication will showcase the stories, poems and artwork that have been submitted," said Brown. "Squatter's Rites is my opportunity to glimpse the lives of students more candidly, to learn about what is at stake, and what is valuable to this creative community," said Wyatt.

Along with the advisers, Squatter's Rites has five people on its editorial staff. The editorial staff members are Holly Brown, Julia Bocker, Sam Green, and Kimberly Walker as submission editors, and Bart Gillespie as layout editor.

"Elkin [Brown] just came up to me and asked if I wanted to be a part of Squatter's Rites and I said sure," stated Holly Brown.

"This is an opportunity to work with creative writers and to be a part of something exciting. I've got a really good team and I think we can improve this magazine from earlier prints," continued Holly Brown.

"Judging from past issues, I expect taboo subjects to come up and judging from this year's editorial staff, I expect some profound questioning of what's considered 'conventional' these days," said Wyatt.

Squatter's Rites will be available "ideally at the end of March and will be \$1 to purchase," said Elkin Brown.

"Some day I hope to have it [Squatter's Rites] be more visible both on and off campus," stated Elkin Brown about what his goal is for this "best new magazine on campus."