



# The Mountain Cavalier

Vol. 44, No. 9

April 9, 1997

## Gary Conrad places Clinch Valley in a trance

David Grimes  
Staff Writer

The month of March ended with a bang at CVC as hypnotist Gary Conrad once again brought his talents to the campus.

For a second year in a row, the self-proclaimed master of hypnotism came to CVC and proceeded to make believers out of the crowd.

Asking for volunteers, 15 people underwent the hypnotic trance in front of a crowd of 150 people.

Conrad then proceeded to make them do whatever he willed. This includes a vocal performance by Hasan Majied, a clogging showcase by Sarah Baker, and SGA President Mike Murrell-Fields screaming "I want nookie."

Before the show, Conrad explained the hypnotic trance saying that the subject is in between sleep and consciousness. He also stressed that the subjects would not do anything that they



HC photo by Heather Howard

Gary Conrad amazed the crowd with trances, and entertained them with the hypnotized students.

did not want to.

"It was really weird," said Baker of her experience, "I've never clogged before in my life! Now everyone is calling me 'Rocky Top.'"

"I just felt like I had been asleep for eight hours when I came to," said Fields.

Although there were many of the same skits from last year, Conrad did spice it up a little.

"I have about 200 skits," said Conrad, "but I choose which ones by the personality of the group."

Conrad can tell how receptive the group is to the suggestions as the show progresses.

Some of the strange actions and arm swirls he does is purely for him to test each persons receptiveness of the suggestions.

Although he felt this was a good show, Conrad believed that "last years crowd was more daring and receptive."

For Dawn Kiser, the highlight of the show for her was when Conrad made Curtis Bucholz believe he was Miss Piggy and Freddy Trent think he was Kermit the frog.

The fun began when Conrad begin to plant the hypnotic key word into the two men. Once placed, when ever the suggestive word was spoken, the fun enjoyment began.

"Kermy, Kermy, where are you Kermy?" bellowed Bucholz from the stage. Trent, returned "Here I am you luscious porker."

The two subjects then fought through the large crowd to embrace. As Conrad ended the trance, both men looked stumped to be in the positions that they found themselves.

Kiser was not the only one that enjoyed the show. "He really knows how to make a crowd laugh," said Majied.

For freshman Jon Biscoe, this was his first encounter with a hypnotist show. "I questioned its authenticity, but I still thought it was hilarious.", commented Biscoe.

Conrad began using hypnotism around 1980 as a way to better condition himself for bodybuilding competitions.

Since then, he has traveled across the US and has hypnotized everyone from bikers to New York Policemen.

Unlike other entertainers who take part of the year, Conrad works all year. CVC is one of his may stops as he travels around the nation and colleges making believers out of disbelievers.

## Hale-Bopp viewings held at Science building

Garry Hoffer  
Staff Writer

Many of the students have seen the Hale-Bopp in the night sky. It is the most visible comet to the naked eye that has passed the earth in some time.

Bob Van Gundy, astronomy professor, is hosting the viewing of Hale-Bopp from the observatory on top of the Science building.

These observations are held on Wednesdays and Fridays, weather and cloud cover permitting, from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. until April 16.

If you have never been to the

observatory, it is not hard to find.

Take the stairs from the lobby and follow the signs to the observatory on the roof. Once there you will see the dome to your left which houses the 25cm telescope.

Although you can see Hale-Bopp with the naked eye and very well through binoculars, you will be able to get a closer view through the telescope.

Not only will you have a better view, you will also have someone there to answer any questions you have about the comet or astronomy in general. The combination of a better view and some general knowledge given can enhance

the viewing itself.

The observatory has been open for viewing of the comet since March 26.

The first group of viewers were the students in Van Gundy's Astronomy class.

The next week many people from the local community were there to view the comet.

It would be a shame to miss such a rare opportunity to see the comet, while it is still so close to the Earth.

The comet becomes visible just after sundown in the NW sky, but the clarity and color of the phenomenon improves greatly by the end of the viewing time.



Clinch Valley College students participate in 3rd annual Campus Clean-up day. See related story on pg. 3.

<p><b>Stupid Star Wars fan tricks</b></p>	<p><b>OPINION</b></p>	<p><b>News</b></p> <p>Third annual CVC Clean-up</p>	<p><b>Sports</b></p> <p>Softball Season underway</p>	<p><b>Style</b></p> <p>Album reviews</p>	<p>E-Mail the Editor at josh.egner@clinch.com</p>
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# Opinion

**Student opinions will be taken weekly until Friday at 5 p.m. Submit all letters to the office or to CVC box #5637 for print.**

Vote for  
**Jason Lawrence**  
for  
**SGA Vice President**  
The future never looks so good!

## Tales from the Cafeteria: A Response

Dear Editor,  
I am writing in response to the article written by David Grimes in last week's Highland Cavalier. I have to say that I totally agree with him.  
It starts with breakfast. Every morning that I enter into the cafeteria I am so scared that I just grab a doughnut and go to class. It seems that every time I look at the breakfast bar it always has the same food on it, if it can be called food.  
It is really bad when a person eats cereal for all three meals because the food is so disgusting or because they are tired of eating the same food all the time.  
How many days a week can a person stand to eat mashed potatoes? Having them four times a week is too much.  
How many hints do we have to give the employers of the cafeteria before they understand that we, the students of Clinch Valley College, want better food.  
When everything that a person gets to eat stays on their trays, is that not a clue that the food on that particular day was horrible.  
I have ordered from Pizza

King and took a late night stroll to Hardees so many times that I almost get sick to my stomach when I just see these places.  
I still order from these places though because it tastes better than the cafeteria food.  
Papa Joe's is an alright place to eat occasionally, but they serve the same things almost everyday also.  
Variety would be a nice edition to the food that is served everyday of the week here at Clinch Valley College.  
In my opinion, I paid way too much money to be served the terrible food that I have received since the very first day that I came to Clinch Valley.  
I know that the employers of the cafeteria have changed the variety of the food to an extent, but a lot more could be done to better the food so that more students eat there.  
You cannot please the whole campus, but at least try to please the majority of the students here at CVC.  
Another hungry student,  
Melissa Boyd

## Construction: Making CVC a confusing place to live

Construction on campus is really getting me on my nerves. All of the noise that is heard in the classrooms is really distracting to students.  
I mean they said that the new building would be completed this month, but what happened? They moved the day up to August 1.  
If they keep moving up the date for completion I will never get to see it, and I have at least three more years here.  
The worst part of it is, that I can't even study in the library because of all of the noise. It is hard to find the materials that I need because of all of the rearrangement.  
I would like to see the completion of the library before my grandkids decide to come here.  
Another thing that really bothers me is, when are they going to build the sports complex?  
Oh I forgot. The way they are going, Armageddon will be here before that happens.  
I guess that the girls softball team will have to practice in McCrary field and hope that they don't hit the theatre building.  
I hear that construction in the cafe is going to start soon. O boy. I just hope they accept ID cards at Hardees. I really don't think that people want to eat in a construction field.  
There is a question regarding McCrary field. Should they do construction on it. My answer, HELL NO. Keep McCrary field just the way it is. I'm pretty sure that would be the only place not touched by construction.  
How come the chancellor's home is not being touched by construction? I am not trying to be mean to the chancellor, but should he not see what damage construction is causing?  
I'm tired of walking completely around the school to get to Zehmer. When are we going to get our stairs back? With the speed of construction, it won't matter, I will have graduated by then.  
A concerned student,  
Randolph Forest

## What would you do to see Star Wars?

Dear Editor,  
It was an ordinary night in Crockett Hall, if there really is such a thing, and there was a loud commotion coming from upstairs.  
Crocketers were gathering in the hallway all giving money to a resident. One resident yelled "Two more dollars."  
For what? "Grimes said he would shave his head for seven bucks!", yelled Josh Brooks down the hall. "Do ya wanna pitch in?"  
"Now, I'm an RA, you know I can't do that." I yelled back.  
David Grimes came down the hallway as others scurried to find money.  
"Are you really going to do this?" I asked. He said "I want to go see Star Wars."  
The money was collected and 50 cents more was found than expected. Everyone headed to the restroom as someone ran to get the clippers.  
The residents agreed that everyone who pitched in got to help shave his head.  
Moments later, as people looked on laughing with surprise. David's hair began disappearing... going, going, gone.  
In my opinion, this is definitely a dedicated, yet bald, Star Wars fan.  
Sarah Baker



David Grimes dreams of Star Wars while Josh Brooks and Shawn Lawson prepare the clippers for shaving.

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Editor: Jason Lawrence  
Managing Editor: David Grimes  
Assistant Editor: Sarah Baker  
CVC UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA  
CLINCH VALLEY COLLEGE  
1000 W. Main Street  
Clinch Valley, VA 22928  
Phone: (803) 400-2222  
Fax: (803) 400-2223  
E-mail: hca@clinchvalley.edu

# News

## CVC CALENDER

- Wednesday, April 9**  
-Intramural Softball
- Thursday, April 10**  
-Career Workshop (Advanced) -  
Career Development Center-2 p.m.
- Saturday, April 12**  
-Chancellor's Cup (Flag Football)
- Sunday, April 13**  
-Chancellor's Cup (Basketball)
- Monday, April 14**  
-Last Lecture Series  
-Ray Spenilla-1 p.m. Chapel  
-SGA Presidential Debate
- Tuesday, April 15**  
-FREE movie night-  
Wise Theater-7 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 16**  
-Intramural Softball

## Clinch Valley College cleans up its act

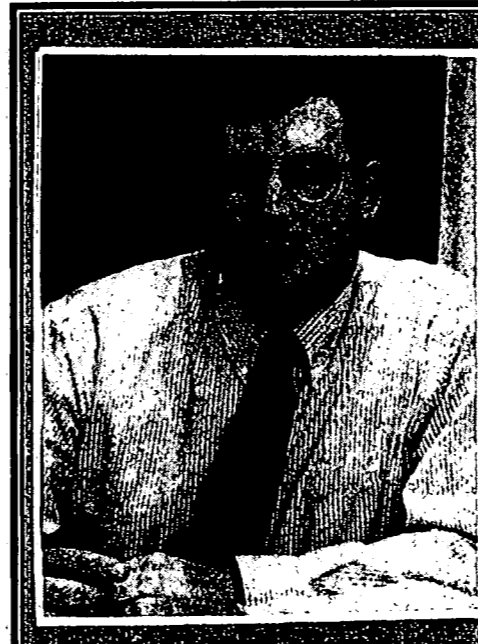
**Gary Hoffer**  
Staff Writer  
The Third Annual Clean-up Day was held April 2 on campus from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
About 165 participants from every area of the Clinch Valley population worked to clean-up and beautify the outside areas of the college.  
You may have noticed the swarm of people on the hill behind Bowers-Sturgill and around Greear Gymnasium.  
A rototiller was used to plant a bed of wildflowers, while others cleared the hill of brush and small trees.  
Mulch was spread and trees were planted around Martha Randolph, Thompson and Ashbury Halls.  
Yes, that was Chancellor Lemons spreading mulch alongside the other volunteers.  
He, as well as many other staff member, helped in large numbers for the clean up.  
The participants in the clean-up were rewarded with a cook-out on McCreary lawn after the work was completed around 5:30.  
Those that helped also received a Third Annual Clean-up Day T-shirt.  
"Since this is the third year of the clean-up, it gets a little easier," said Glenda Ewing, landscaping supervisor.  
"We are fortunate to have such a beautiful campus, with so many unspoiled areas."  
Glenda Ewing's department is also responsible for increasing the numbers of planters on the CVC campus by eight this year and by 10 last year.  
Five landscape benches are being installed around the residence halls, one at Crockett, two for McCreary, and two in the Honors area.  
We will have to wait for the beginning of May for the planting of flowers on campus, since the frost threat is over then, said Ewing.  
"After spending the effort to clean-up the campus, I encourage the students to keep it clean," said Ewing, "and to please not drive on the grass."

## Kunigelis offers trip to Gulf of Mexico

**Gary Hoffer**  
Staff Writer  
Dr. Stan Kunigelis is opening up the registration for his introductory marine biology course (Biol 275) to non-science majors.  
This is a three-credit course involving a hands-on experience with marine science in the environs of the north shore of the Gulf of Mexico along the Florida panhandle.  
Dr. Kunigelis needs to fill the course with five more students to be able to take this trip.  
"The experience you will receive in the class will be like none you can get in any other off-campus course here at Clinch Valley," said Kunigelis.  
The course will be offered from May 17, 1997 to May 27, 1997, which is just after finals are over and before summer classes begin.  
If you are strongly interested or even if you are just curious, you must get in contact with Dr. Kunigelis very soon, so he can decide whether the course will be offered.  
The students will be using the lecturers from FSU and the Florida Game and Fish Commission and Dept. of Environmental Protection.  
A trip to Wakula Springs State Park also gives the students a look at other aspects of the Florida's natural environment.  
The final cost has not been set for the course, but it includes everything needed by the students for the trip except any spending money they might want to take along.  
See Dr. Kunigelis in the science building or contact him at ext. 0202 by April 25.



A student examines a specimen as a part of Dr. Kunigelis's class last year.



Vote for  
**Will Gardner**  
SGA President  
"Make the most of your time at Clinch Valley College"

SGA Presidential Election  
to be held on  
April 14

### Eleventh Annual CVC Alumni Celebration

The Clinch Valley College Alumni Association will host the 11th Annual Cavalier Alumni Celebration on Saturday, May 10 at Lonesome Pine Country Club in Big Stone Gap.

The Celebration is the Alumni Association's primary fund-raiser for its annual operating budget.

Funds raised from the event are used throughout the year to host tailgate parties and athletic receptions, student picnics and dinners, Alumni Reunion Weekend and homecoming activities, and general support of various College activities.

"The Celebration is like a reunion of alumni and friends who truly love Clinch Valley College and enjoy getting together every year to celebrate the College's existence," said Alumni Director Valerie Lawson.

"Participants enjoy the wonderful food, music and the opportunity to fellowship with fellow CVC supporters throughout the evening."

A reception and open bar begin at 7 p.m. Freddie Bradley ('72) will provide musical entertainment at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$100 to admit two people to the event. A limited number of tickets are available and may be purchased by calling the Alumni Office at (540) 328-0128 or toll free at (800) 468-3412.

Press Release

**Notice: The Highland Cavalier only has three issues left this year. If you would like a story run or an opinion expressed, you need to make arrangements soon.**

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# Sports

## Softball team prepares to start first season

Gary Hoffer Staff Writer

The Clinch Valley College softball team is more than ready to get on the field to show their talents. Rain and other circumstances have delayed the season opener until April 5 against Pikeville.

The tentative schedule that was given earlier mentioned up to ten games might be played this season. The realities of fitting a first year team into other conference team's existing schedules has limited the number of games CVC's women will be playing against TVAC opponents.

The team will travel to Emory and Henry on April 8. The games that were supposed to be played in

March against Tennessee Wesleyan and Walter State will be scheduled later in the season.

Coach Lisa Minton could not confirm any other dates for the team this season, but mentioned that the team will likely scrimmage some local high school teams.

Some early expectations like a fuller schedule and a new softball field have not been.

Coach Minton, however, would be disappointed if the program was thought of as anything but a success.

"The way the girls have practiced, and the enthusiasm they have shown for the team has been excellent," said coach Minton.

"They are improving every practiced, and I am just amazed at the

talent on this team," Minton added.

The team's roster includes Nicole Davidson, P/1B; Chrissy Street, P/2B; Christy Morgan, 1B; Ameer Duncan, SS; Brandy Harrington, 3B; Mylene Del Pilar, 3B/OF; Missy Gragg, C; Amy Silcox, OF; Brenna Derting, OF; Carla Ratliff, OF; Stephanie Price, OF; and Missy Puckett, OF.

The team's assistant coach is Jason Mann

"We have a good nucleus of a team for the future," said coach Minton.

With only one senior on the current team, they will be able to capitalize on the progress the team has made and will make this year.

Wish the girls luck as they enter their first season of play.

## Cavs lose doubleheader to Virginia Intermont

Darnell Carter Staff Writer

The TVAC's number one ranking was on the line Saturday as top ranked, Virginia Intermont (5-1) faced number two Clinch Valley (4-1).

The Cobras swept CVC in a doubleheader to extend their conference lead by two games.

Virginia Intermont turned a pair of wild pitches and stolen bases into four runs as they exploded to a 4-0 lead in the second inning of game one. They added three runs and held off a late CVC rally to earn a 7-4 win.

In game two the Cavs were done in by good pitching as Virginia Intermont's Denny Self registered 7 strike outs.

CVC went into the 7th inning with a 2-1 lead, but the Cobras scored 7 runs for an 8-1 win.

CVC hit well in game one but

stranded 5 runners in scoring position. "We couldn't get some big hits when we needed them," said Coach Hank Banner.

Virginia Intermont reached victory in game two on the bat of first baseman Tony Cassell, who delivered a three-run shot over the center field wall in the top half of the 7th.

"The pitcher had me with the same count the inning before (3-2). So I knew what to expect" Cassell added, "I just went with the pitch, and the wind did the rest."

Cassell was set up for the homer with a catching error.

"It wasn't the three-run homer that killed us. It was the little things" said Coach Banner.

"They really swing the bat well. They didn't come in here number one in the conference for nothing," said Banner.

The Cavs next action will be Wednesday at Alice Lloyd.

## Interleague play debuts this season

Jason Hulvey Sports Editor

This years Major League Baseball season will have something new.

In addition to the Regular schedule, there will also be interleague games.

For the first time ever in regular season play the New York Mets will play the New York Yankees, and the Chicago Cubs will play the Chicago White Sox.

Also the Cleveland Indians will play the Cincinnati Reds in the battle of bragging rights of Ohio. That should be very fun to watch this year.

This should bring about some very heated rivalries, and add some needed excitement to the game.

There will also be some big interleague games on the west coast.

The way this is set up is teams in the AL East will play teams from the NL East, teams in the AL Central will play teams in the NL Central, and teams from the AL West will play teams from the NL West.

There are many different feelings about this idea, however.

Some people like the idea, and some people disagree with the idea or interleague play saying that it would take away from the World Series in October.

All in all though, interleague play should help baseball.

There will be new rivalries born and it may even make the World Series more interesting since teams that play each other in these interleague games may possibly, end up playing in the World Series.

There is a pretty good chance of that happening this year with the Atlanta Braves and New York Yankees. This will make the Series a lot more interesting if this does happen.

The teams will know more about each other and know what each opposing pitcher will throw at you when you step up to the plate.

All in all Interleague is a great idea.

I am sure that fans in the cities with two Major League Baseball teams in them will definitely enjoy it.

## Golf team finishes fifth in tournament

Gary Hoffer Staff Writer

The golf team competed in the King College Invitational on March 31 at the Bristol Country Club.

King College used its home-course advantage and won the tournament in a tie-breaker over

Mars Hill.

Our Cavaliers finished fifth out of seven teams with a score of 383 first round, 361 second round, total 744.

The next match on the schedule is Milligan on March 8 at the Buffalo Valley CC south of Johnson City.

Good luck Cavs.

## Tennis teams have up and down week

Gary Hoffer Staff Writer

The men's team played Bryan on March 29 and lost 5-2.

On April 1 King College fooled CVC into thinking they might get the win.

Four singles matches went to three sets but only Shane Philips could pull out his three-setter, 6-2, 3-6, 6-4. Rubink won his match 6-3, 7-5, and the final score was 5-2, King College.

Bryan came to Clinch Valley on March 29 and was defeated by the Lady Cavs by a score of 5-2. CVC scored the doubles point.

West and Gray sent the score to 3-0 after their singles wins. Bryan

battled back to score victories in the next two matches, but the wins by Collins and Meade clinched the victory.

Bella West and Misty Puckett narrowly missed handing the team a clean sweep against King College on April 1.

Their doubles team was edged out 9-7 in a close match that saw King come from behind to win. This lone loss wouldn't show up on the final score as the remaining doubles teams and every singles match went to CVC. The final score was a 7-0 rout of King.

LMU was in Wise on April 3 and showed its might in a 6-1 victory. The doubles point was the only one scored in the match by CVC.

Elect **Doug "DoorKnob" Arrington** Sophomore Representative

"Turning the sophomore class around"



## Intramurals big part of campus life

Jason Hulvey  
Sports Editor

Intramurals at a college are big part of campus life, and students should take advantage of these opportunities.

For those of you who have not participated in an intramural sport since you have been at Clinch Valley College, you are missing out on something exciting.

Todd Gambil has done a great job not only this year, but also my first year here, which was just last year.

He works very hard at what he does, and I am sure when he plans an intramural event, and nobody shows up, he must be wondering why there is nobody there.

If have any suggestions for Todd, I'm sure he would appreciate it.

There is a wide variety of intramurals that you can choose like flag football, basketball, volleyball, indoor soccer, softball, and so on.

There is really no reason why students should complain about there not being anything to do on campus because there is. You just have to look.

For those of you who participate in intramurals and don't like the rules, live with them.

Yes, I know that some of them

may be a little bit too strict, like in softball, you can only hit one home run in an inning, and if another one is hit, that is an out.

This rule and any other rule that is maybe a little too strict, it is there for a reason.

If everybody could go up and hit a homerun in softball, the game wouldn't be any fun, especially for the team that is getting hammered. Intramural sports are there for fun and for competition.

Just think if there were not any intramurals on campus. Then the campus would be BORING.

Would you do study, especially on the weekends. I don't see myself doing too much of that or anybody else on campus doing that.

Intramurals also help keep people out of trouble. If there were not any intramural sports offered on campus,

I'm sure a lot of people would sit around all the time and get drunk, and possibly end up in jail. Nobody wants that to happen to them. At least I hope not.

Todd has done a great job, and a lot of people take what he does for granted.

He can't please everybody, but he does the best he can do and that is all that he can do.

The next time that sign ups for an intramural sport or activity comes up, make an effort to participate.

Trust me, it would be worth your time and effort.

For information concerning intramurals contact the paper office or Todd Gambil. His office is in Cantrell Hall.

## Track and Field team prepares for Lynchburg meet

Gary Hoffer  
Staff Writer

Coach Jon South will be taking the largest Clinch Valley College team yet to its opening meet in Lynchburg on April 4 & 5.

This is the fifth year of competition for the team and South's third year with the team.

The team will be taking a wide variety of athletes to the non-scoring meet.

There will be no team trophy to compete for, so CVC will not be penalized for not having a participant in every event.

The athletes will be awarded prizes for each event, a meet sweatshirt for first place, and a T-shirt for second and third place.

With no pressure, the athletes can use this early meet as a tune up for next week's Cumberland College meet of April 12.

The team has scored up to 19 points in the past at the Cumberland meet and coach South sees no reason that the team should not at least equal that score again this year.

The runners and field athletes have been practicing on their own, with help from the coach whenever they needed it.

Until CVC gets own facilities that is the way it is going to be.

This fact alone shows how dedicated these athletes are to themselves and to their sport.

Best of luck to the track team this season.

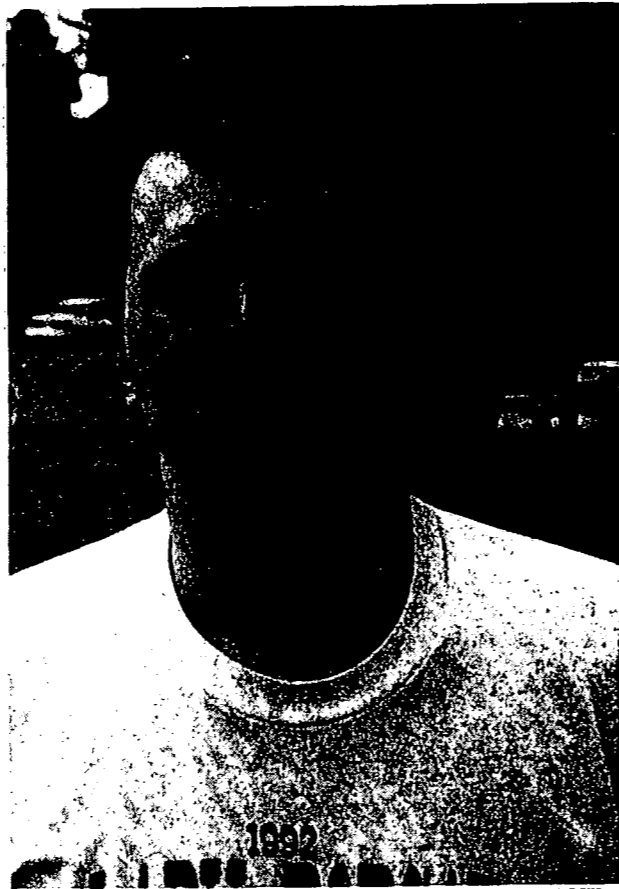


Photo by Dave McMillan

Third year head Track and Field coach Jon South will led his team into its fifth year of competition this spring. The team will participate in the Lynchburg meet on April 5. This meet will be a tune up for the Cumberland College meet on April 12.

# Entertainment

## Helmet experience bitter Aftertaste

By Jon Biscoe  
Entertainment Editor

Helmet have always been something of an anomaly on the face of popular music. Too heavy for the mainstream, too straight-laced for the metal set, too normal for the "alternative" scene.

Led by ex-Band of Susans guitarist Page Hamilton and ex-New Christs guitarist Peter Dinklage, Helmet first rose to prominence on indie noise label Amphetamine Reptile. Amrep, in the late 80s, released the *Dope Guns 'N' F---ing in the Streets* compilations.

These were Helmet's first exposures to the unwitting world, along with a series of singles. Their first release of any length, 1989's *Born Annoying* EP, was distortion-drenched and largely unremarkable.

Next came the *Strap It On* album. This was where the band discovered themselves. Their trademark sound—controlled, almost mechanical riffing and Hamilton's monotone vocal style had finally drawn together into a muscular whole.

After a heated major label bidding war, which landed the band on Interscope, they recorded their manifesto, 1992's *Meantime*.

For some reason or another, Helmet were saddled with the "next-Nirvana" tag, despite the fact that their sounds have nothing in common. Go figure.

MTV latched on to the video for "Unsung" and played it to death. This should've spelled instant stardom, and it did to an extent. The MTV crowd bought *Meantime*, but one has to wonder how many really understood it.

Helmet were still one of the oddest sights on the planet. Four skinny white guys in wrinkle-free Gap wear and other standard mall-issue clothes, quite a change from the grunge ethos popular at the time.

Hamilton is also a vegetarian, about as far from the alcohol and heroin-drenched excesses of other musicians as it gets. Another difference is the fact that Hamilton is well-trained in jazz, one of the harder styles of guitar to learn, a far cry from the Kurt Cobain power-chord-only approach.

Out of this seemingly normal mix comes one of the most dissonant, brutal aural assaults in existence. After the release of *Betty* in 1994, Helmet started to fall apart.

Mengede either quit or was forced out of the band, depending on whose account you believed. He

then sued his former bandmates for withholding royalties.

The two sides later settled on an undisclosed amount out of court. Mengede has since gone on to form another noisy band, Handsome.

Rob Echevarria became the new second guitarist in Helmet's lineup. Echevarria then quit to join Biohazard. Now the band has added Chris Traynor, formerly of up-and-comers Orange 9MM.

That Helmet have had a tremendous impact on today's scene is undisputed. They have been credited with the sounds of, among others, Pantera, Korn, Tool, and avowed Helmet-heads Silverchair.

So, now that they have the benefit of age and an elder-statesman status, what have they come up with? The answer is easy, to an extent—1997 has brought us *Aftertaste*, the latest sonic excursion from Page Hamilton and friends.

The hard part of the equation is understanding the implications that a new Helmet record carries. Are they washed up? Is *Aftertaste* merely a lackluster metal record, a sell out, as many critics have claimed?

True, the majority of press thus far has been negative. Critic

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## Natural Born Killers: The director's cut

By Jarred Williams  
Staff Writer

Surreal, violent, and tragically misunderstood by many, Oliver Stone's *Natural Born Killers* dissects 90s American society with the subtlety of a chain-saw.

With the release of the hard to find director's cut, this dissection is made even more shocking and poignant. Upon the film's initial release, over 150 cuts were made to appease the MPAA and earn an R rating.

With restoration of the cuts and some bonus scenes thrown in for good measure, the director's cut offers the version of the film the audience was meant to see. For those not familiar with the film, it chronicles the exploits of two mass murderers, Mickey (Woody Harrelson) and Mallory (Juliette Lewis).

In a bit of inspired casting, Tom Sizemore plays a crooked cop named Jack Scagnetti who is obsessed with Mickey and Mallory and Tommy Lee Jones joins the fray as sadistic prison warden Dwight McKinney.

The catalyst for Mickey and Mallory's rise to superstardom is a sensationalist television reporter, Wayne Gale (Robert Downey Jr.), who is the host of a show called "American Maniacs."

The film depicts a society totally obsessed with violence and violent figures. In the name of

money and ratings the media stokes the fire with tabloid-worthy descriptions and front page headlines detailing the exploits of Mickey and Mallory.

Mickey and Mallory undergo a gradual metamorphosis that starts out with desensitization and ends with realization. In more specific terms, it is a desensitization to violence and the repercussions thereof followed by a realization of the value of human life.

When the film begins Mickey and Mallory kill randomly and have no sense of the value of life. Through flashbacks we learn that the reason they have no appreciation for life is because when they were children they were abused and taught that they had no worth.

However, through the accidental killing of an Indian shaman who took them in and treated them as people they learn the value of life.

*Natural Born Killers* is at heart a satire, and as such hopes to put a mirror to our society and show us a reflection that shocks but eventually enlightens. The director's cut allows the audience to see the film as it was intended to be and to make its own decisions about it.

The director's cut is a two tape set that has the entire film with the three minutes of footage cut out by the censors on the first tape. On the second tape there is a music video to the Nine Inch Nails song

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## Allen Ginsberg: 1926-1997

Allen Ginsberg, a pioneer of the Beat movement in American literature and culture died of complications from liver cancer this past Saturday.

Excerpt from his poem Howl:  
... yet putting down here what might be left to say in time come after death,  
and rose reincarnate in the ghostly clothes of jazz in the goldhorn shadow of the band and blew the suffering of America's naked mind for love into an eli eli lamma lamma sabacthani saxophone cry that shivered the cities down to the last radio with the absolute heart of the poem of life butchered out of their own bodies good to eat a thousand years.



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# Dinosaur Jr.

By Jon Biscoe  
Entertainment Editor

Good criticism is supposed to be entirely objective. The critic must square himself from the object of his scrutiny. Well, that's how it should be, but is too often not.

For example, I just got the new Dinosaur Jr. album *Hand It Over*. Ten out of ten people could say that it's terrible, but I would disagree.

If J Mascis (the sole permanent member of Dinosaur Jr.) started selling his nosehairs, I would probably buy them. J is my guitar hero. I can play more of his songs than anyone else's.

He's my favorite songwriter and one of my favorite singers. Dinosaur Jr. is alone at the top of my list of favorite bands, aside from the Smudges. So, whenever a new Dinosaur record comes out, you can be sure that I'll have my hands on it, and that the critical eye I turn on it will be more than slightly biased.

Widely out of the way, I can unabashedly say that *Hand It Over* is one of the best releases of 1997. In all fairness, it's not as good as the two studio albums preceding it, 94's *Without A Sound* and 93's *Where You Become*.

For those uninitiated into the cult of Dinosaur Jr., there are a few things to consider. J's voice is...well...I thought I hate to admit it.

he just can't sing at all.

The most obvious comparison is to Neil Young, who can't really sing either, is a great guitarist, and writes perfect songs.

I always suspected that Young was one of J's primary influences, and my suspicions were confirmed when I read the liner notes to *Hand It Over*. Odi notables in that record are Sonny Boy, Soul Asylum, the Pixies, and Victoria Williams.

Just like Young, J is fond of guitar solos. So, if you're turned off by a bit of good, emotive guitar work in every song, Dinosaur Jr. is something you'd probably want to avoid.

Those are the only two potential roadblocks to your enjoyment of Dinosaur Jr. If you can handle a somewhat nasal voice and lots of wanking, *Hand It Over* is well worth its price tag.

It begins with "Don't Think," a seemingly odd choice for an album opener. It's a good song, but J sings in a higher pitch than he normally does, a trick he's done on only a few songs before.

The second track, "Never Bought It," seems like sure-fire single material, adding delicate piccolo accompaniment to the vocal mix of guitars, not to mention a sweet little melody.

"I'm Insane" features a tranquil melody and a nifty melody and would be my second choice.

Further down the album, the sixth song, "Alone." It's a slow, sad tune in the tradition of some of Young's classics as "Coit's The Killer" or "Ukelele in the Rain." It's a slow, sad tune in the tradition of some of Young's classics as "Coit's The Killer" or "Ukelele in the Rain."

The rest of the album is solid, hook-heavy rock. Highlights include "Mick," and "Overtaken," where J sings along with the sound of what sounds like a baby.

His lyrics focus, as always, on women and his inability to communicate with them. The overall mood is still one of dejected wanting, but J sounds, like he's getting more comfortable with himself and his place in the world.

In this month's issue of *Guitar World*, J makes the comment that "most guitarists just get worse as time goes on, and I'd have to include myself."

I wouldn't agree with that at all, but at least he doesn't have a swelled head. That's a pity, still ruled by Yngwie Malmsteen.

The minority of *Hand It Over* was recorded in the basement of J's Amherst, Massachusetts home, where he leads the quiet existence of a hermit.

Helmet, From page 7  
Chris O'Neil called Hamilton a "strong contender for underdog of the year." Is this ungrounded or is it right on the money?

Well, as to me, there is no denial of such a statement. After the test shoots off in an entirely new direction.

It is, as Hamilton has admitted, a reaction to the experimental bent, a search to reclaim what the fan has traditionally been about. The result: tuneful, but mostly unremarkable duos.

Musically, it falls somewhere between Meantime and *Strap It On*. Not quite as accomplished as the former, but more polished than the latter.

Literally, Hamilton is still pretty pissed off at nodding in particular, at least not at nodding that I can do from the liner notes.

There are insightful phrases here and there though, bits and

However, 10 days were spent recording in England, at the home studio of My Bloody Valentine's Kevin Shields, according to J, the "most personal and interesting opinions about music I'm really interested in."

Shields also contributes some vocals. *Hand It Over* isn't the best Dinosaur Jr. album, nor is it the worst. It's a solid piece of work and I'm glad to be a part of it.

And no matter what, I can guarantee that it's better than the Silverchair record, but that goes without saying.

## Dinosaur Jr. Discography

Dinosaur (Homestead, 1985)

Yours Live! (Big Animal Over Me) (SST, 1987)

Dinosaur Jr. EP (SST, 1987)

Bug (SST, 1988)

Just Like Heaven EP (SST, 1989)

Fossils (SST, 1991)

Green Mind (Sire, 1991)

Whatever's Crying (WUHM) (Sire, 1992)

Where You Been (Sire, 1993)

Without A Sound (Sire, 1994)

Martfale & Me (Hefner, 1996)

Hand It Over (Reprise, 1997)

My favorite

big fan. In the past, I've

thought the band is the violence of the

pieces like "I let you down again, what's another harmless lie between friends? Now you can't be disappointed, I thought I gave you just exactly what you wanted," "I'd rather be insulted by you than someone I respect," and "Find something I can advocate, make up a theme I want to be, then always keep a finger on 'the pulse'."

He's marred by the same sarcasm and cynicism as always, pronounced perhaps even more coherently this time around.

There are songs just as good as any others in the Helmet canon, such as "Bxactly What You Wanted," "Birdie Defect," "Diet Aftertaste," "Pure," and "Insatiable."

The problem is, aside from these few, everything else starts to sound alarmingly similar. There is power, if quiet guitar work by the ton; unfortunately Hamilton's limited vocal presentation fits him in time.

He shrills his head off or mumbles his part and boring monotone. Aftertaste isn't the sell out that many have been quick to label it, but it is the weakest of Helmet's major label albums.

It tries to imitate the Meantime formula with limited success. The intensity is still as strong as ever, it just seems like they did something of a poor job in the songwriting department.

For the fans of this, despite the negative opinion voiced here, a must-have. It isn't so much of a let-down that I would abandon Page and the boys just yet.

Besides, a mediocre Helmet album is still head and shoulders above the rest of the field.

And, if nothing else, every time should have to listen to "Bxactly What You Wanted" at least once. It may be the best song Helmet has ever recorded, making it one of the best heavy guitar songs ever recorded as well.