

The Highland Cavalier

<http://www.wise.virginia.edu/cvc/hcavaller>

Vol. 53, No. 23

March 29, 2000

Amelia Harris New Dean of Faculty

Christy Smith
Staff Writer

"Surprise." That is what Amelia Harris said her reaction was to being named the new Dean of the Faculty. She also said that it was not something that she expected. A memorandum from George Culbertson, Senior Vice Chancellor and Provost, and Chancellor Jay Lemons to the faculty announced the news.

Dr. Harris said that it is an exciting as well as a big job. Faculty members already have been coming to her with ideas that they would like to see implemented. When asked what the job of Dean of the Faculty entails, Harris said that every past dean has made the position their own. She said that Dr. Glenn Blackburn, the current Dean of the Faculty, was responsible for many of the new faculty members that are here on campus. She said that her colleagues have been very supportive of her new position.

As far as her plans for new ideas for the future, Dr. Harris said that there will not be as many new faculty hired. This will mean more time for co-curricular activities and programs

which will make the academic programs stronger. An expansion of programming will also help to broaden students' horizons. One program that is in the beginning stages is an international studies program. Currently the program is open for foreign language majors and minors only but in the future could be opened to all students. This new program also includes several trips abroad including locations such as Spain and Germany. Dr. Harris said that in the future other departments will have their chance for expansion as well.

Amelia Harris has been a valuable member of the faculty at the College for nearly 20 years. In addition to serving as the chair of Department of Language and Literature, she has served on a number of committees affecting the academic program such as the Faculty Committee on Evaluation, the Academic Program Committee, and the General Education Committee. She has also undertake, quietly, significant scholarship that will result in a forthcoming book regarding the German poet, Thomas Murner.

Administration of Justice attends National Conference

Cassandra Perry
Staff Writer

The Administration of Justice club, *Psi Chi Omega Chapter* attended the 63rd American Criminal Justice Association-Lambda Alpha Epsilon National Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana on March 13-17, 2000.

There were over 430 students in attendance to this conference, 21 from the University of Virginia's College at Wise. According to the Assistant Professor of Administration of Justice, Shirley Miller, all UVA-Wise students competed in the academic competitions and some competed and placed in other competitions. Students winning awards included:

Chuck McCullough Upper Division/Police Management 1st place
Jason Moore Lower Division/Juvenile Justice 2nd place
Jason Jenkins Lower Division/Criminal Law 3rd place
Jamie Frank Upper Division/Corrections 3rd place
Kristi Carter Under 25 years/Physical Agility 3rd place
Deborah Smith Over 45 years/Physical Agility 3rd place
Ryan Mullins Talent/Original composition "Boogie Woogie Boy from Powell River" 1st place
Justin Brooks/Walter Shell Talent 2nd place

The club members raised money individually as well as in a group. The club raised about \$11,000 by selling sponsorships to local businesses. In return for purchasing sponsorships, the businesses' names were put onto the back of t-shirts which UVA-Wise students wore at the conference. Some of the people and businesses that purchased sponsorships include:

Asbury & Gilbert, Attys at Law, B-J Motor, Collingsworth Construction, Sheila Cox-Combs, Crutchfield Corp., Debbie's Hair Center, Gary & Brenda Dingus, Earls & Fleming Attys. at Law, Fannon Bros. Tire, John Hall, State Farm Insurance, Myrtle & Victor Hall, Doug Humphreys, Mike Jenkins Evangelic Assoc., Frank and Joyce Kilgore, Attys., Mark and Mary Kimbell, Lakeside Campground, Lebanon Equipment Co., Lions Club of Norton, Lonesome Pine Gun & Pawn Shop, M & R Gas & Grocery, Miners Exchange Bank, Morgan-McClure Chevrolet, Inc, Mullican Lumber & Mfg., Norton Kiwanis club, Chuck Odom, Pennington Pharmacy, Pound Kiwanis Club, Powers Construction, Powell Valley National Bank, Sheila Shad, David Shreve State Farm Ins., Heather Short, St. Mary's Hospital, Student Government Assoc., Terrock Corp, Gary Vanover Law Office, Wholesale Wheel & Tire, Inc., Brian Wills, Wise Kiwanis Club, Inc., Witt/Motors, Wolfe & Farmer, Attys. at Law

In addition to these conferences and competitions Administration of Justice students can also apply for scholarships such as the American Criminal Justice Association Lambda Alpha Epsilon scholarship. Students can also enter the AJCA/LAE National Student Paper Competition.

Local Chapter of Phi Beta Lambda takes Top Honors at Virginia State Conference

Kara Williams
Staff Writer

Gamma Alpha Sigma, the University of Virginia's College at Wise's chapter of Phi Beta Lambda, recently participated in the 2000 Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) State Spring Conference. PBL is the collegiate extension of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA). The state conference was held March 24-26 in Natural Bridge, Virginia.

Those students who competed in individual and team competitive events included Lakesha Deamen-Business Communications (3rd place); Tabitha Falin and Maria Hibbitts-Business Plan (1st place); Tabitha Falin-Human Resource Management (1st place); Tabitha Falin-Impromptu Speaking (1st place); Andrey Kriger-(International Business (1st place); Kara Williams-Marketing (2nd place); Kara Williams-

Public Speaking (1st place) and Alesha Austin-Word Processing (1st place).

Gamma Alpha Sigma received several of the chapter competitive awards. They took first place in the Community Service project. Tabitha Falin presented the project, discussing the chapter's work with the Junior Achievement, an organization that educates youth on business-based principles such as free enterprise. The chapter also received First Place in the Local Chapter Annual Business Report, prepared by Tabitha Falin.

Gamma Alpha Sigma also received recognition as a Bronze Member of the Virginia FBLA-PBL Foundation. A chapter becomes a Bronze Member when a donation of \$100.00 or more is made. The chapter was also recognized by the Association for the Study of Childhood Cancer (ASK) for being a contributing member of PBL.

Tabitha Falin was recognized for her

service as Virginia State Phi Beta Lambda President for the 1999-2000 term. Falin, was honored with the award of Who's Who in Virginia Phi Beta Lambda and will represent the state at the national convention. Linda Rounsavall, President of Virginia Business Education Association, also presented Falin with the Mary B. McGinny Memorial Scholarship.

The chapter also won the Outstanding Chapter for 1999-2000. This is the highest award that a state chapter can win.

Chapter Advisor Dr. Gary Stratton, was recognized for 5 years of service as a PBL advisor. Dr. Stratton also received the Advisor of the Year award for 1999-2000, and will represent Virginia PBL at the National Convention.

For more information about Phi Beta Lambda contact Dr. Gary Stratton at (540) 328-0223.

Mrs. Virginia International Contestant

Elizabeth Stiltner
Staff Writer

A student of the University of Virginia's College at Wise has been chosen to represent Wise County in the Mrs. Virginia International Pageant. Amber Grear is not only a full time student but is also a full-time wife and mother of two toddler boys, Caleb, 3, and Canaan, 1. Juggling these two roles is demanding, but with determination, she is succeeding.



Amber Grear, Mrs. Virginia International contestant

Photo by: Martana Williams

Amber is energetic and friendly and shows that with discipline one can achieve what they desire. A sophomore majoring in Administrative Justice with a minor in Psychology, she plans on attending law school after graduation.

Amber will compete for the title of Mrs. Virginia International on June 2-4, at the Paramount Theatre in Bristol, VA. The winner will then go on to compete in the Mrs. International Pageant.

Sports

Style

Thomas Jones visits UVA-Wise

And the Oscar goes to...

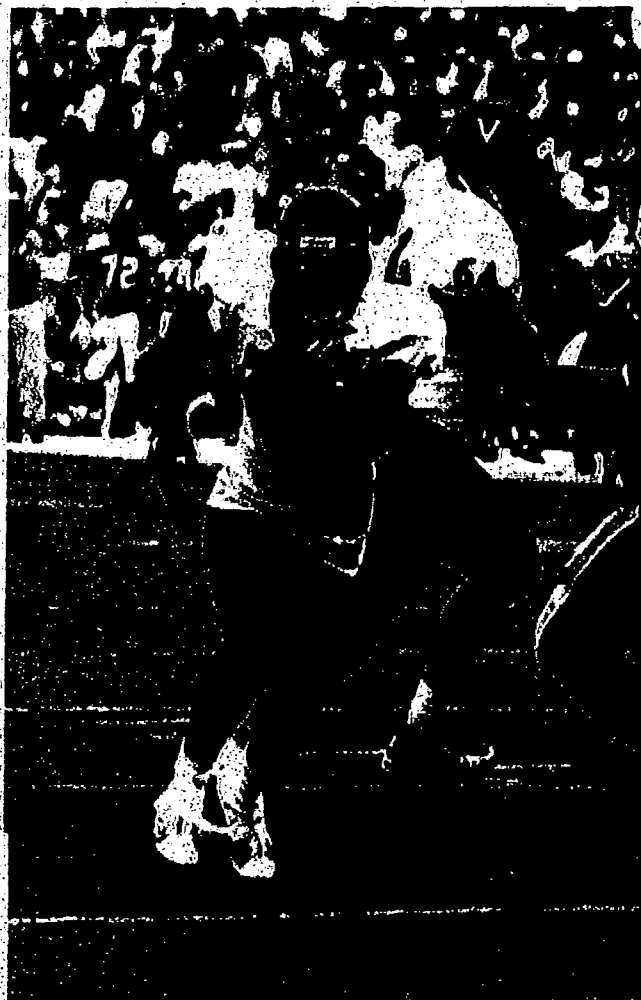
For more information about Phi Beta Lambda contact Dr. Gary Stratton at (540) 328-0223.

All-American Halfback Visits the College at Wise

Hilton Young and Wayne Kelley
Sports Editor and Staff Writer

On Friday, March 24, 2000 an All-American running back visited The University of Virginia's College at Wise. Unfortunately for the Highland Cavaliers, the player wasn't a blue chip recruit or a big school transfer.

Former Powell Valley and University of Virginia standout Thomas Jones paid a visit to Wise as a belated part of the college's Black History Month. Jones, who is considered by many to be the best running back in this year's National Football League (NFL) draft, was also the first player to score a touchdown in every game in a regular season since 1939. Thomas is a member of a family that seems to breed running backs with his younger brother Julius playing at Notre Dame and his cousin Travis Clark being a running back here at UVA-Wise.



Thomas breaks a run up the middle against North Carolina. Photo used by permission of M. Ingalls at www.theatre.com

The ceremony started with a heartfelt introduction by Chancellor Lemons in front of a packed audience at the Chapel of All Faiths. The Chancellor spoke of how things have changed at the college and of how Thomas's success at UVA coming from Big Stone Gap, VA has helped to better cement the relationship between the College and the University.

After the introduction, Jones gave a brief speech, in which he thanked the Lord and spoke of the hard work necessary to become a successful student athlete and of how good it felt for him to return home and see former teammates, friends and family.

At this point in the ceremony it began to become clear that Jones's crystal-clear image was true and genuine. Thomas exuded the values and morals of southwest Virginia as well as the intangibles for success as a big-time athlete. He also showed the patience and courtesy to stay and

sign autographs, take pictures, as well as participating in a Highland Cavalier interview.

After Jones's speech was finished a question and answer session was held, emceed by UVA-Wise football coach Bill Ramseyer. The first question dealt with Jones representing southwest

Virginia while at UVA. Thomas spoke of how the solid work of coal miners in southwest Virginia helped him learn how to work hard to achieve success. Jones also helped to remove the stigma that athletes at small high schools were not as good as players from larger schools, while opening the door for other athletes in the area to get into big-time college programs.

Asked about academic life, Jones stressed the fact that time management is the key to success for college students. This advice has been well demonstrated by Jones, who graduated in just three years from UVA with a degree in psychology and is currently working on a master's degree. Time management was key to his academic success as well as Jones took 16-17 credits per semester and up to 9 hours of summer school courses in community college.

As far as his NFL future goes, Thomas has performed well in preseason camps and has many teams considering drafting him. He would prefer to play for an east coast team, however. Jones did also mention that he'd love to play against his brother and cousin one day in the NFL.

Although football experts have compared his running style to that of Dallas Cowboy's running back Emmitt Smith, Jones sees himself as similar to Marshall Faulk of the Saint Louis Rams. He sees Faulk as a role model as far as his accomplishments on the field.

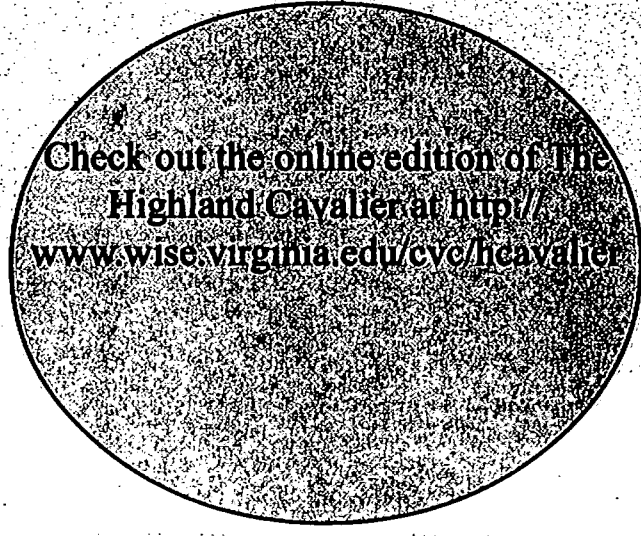
Throughout his experience in UVA, Jones has said that high points were being ranked number

six in the nation while his low point was his sophomore year, in which he struggled trying to fill the shoes of former UVA great Tiki Barber. He also confirmed some good news for UVA fans in the fact that Antione Womack (who split time with Jones two seasons ago and rushed for over 700 yards), would be back with the team this fall. Womack was also a highly regarded recruit out of high school, and will have two years of eligibility left. Even so, Thomas stated that sophomore Arlen Harris, his backup this season, has the best chance of taking over at running back. He also confirmed beliefs that Virginia quarterback Bryson Spinner has the potential to be the same kind of a player that Virginia Tech's Michael Vick is. Finally he mentioned that the toughest player he faced in ACC play was Florida State defensive tackle Corey Simon.

After the questions were all answered, coach Ramseyer again congratulated Thomas and spoke of how teams in the NFL perform background checks on players before they draft them. Thomas, he said, has the kind of character and work ethic that NFL teams look for.

Athletic Director Carole Dale closed the ceremony by presenting Jones with an autographed NFL football with the college's name emblazoned on it. He then challenged Thomas to try to take the next step and win a Super Bowl. Chancellor Lemons then thanked the Black History Committee for arranging the event and the crowd was dismissed after a short autograph and photo session.

Patrick Witten Faculty Advisor	Dawn Sells Ad Manager	Regina Duty Business Manager
Eliza Evans News Editor	Jarrod L. Williams Editor-in-Chief	Marianne Williams Photographer
Justin Crawford Associate Photographer	Danlon Garrison Copy Editor	Tara Rowland Entertainment Editor
Hilton Young Sports Editor		
Staff Writers:		
Nathan Clevinger, Jeremy Beverly, Kara Williams, Christy Smith, Angela Markham, Ashley Steffey, Cassandra Perry, Elizabeth Stillner, Wayne Kelley, Pat Ryan		



POOR QUALITY PRINT

UVA-Wise Tennis Continues to Dominate Opponents Student Activities at UVA-Wise

Jeremy Beverly
Sports Writer

What Highland Cavalier athletic program has earned the best winning record over the last two years? The surprising answer is both the men's and women's tennis teams. While most of the sports coverage focuses on football and basketball here at UVA-Wise the tennis programs continue to rack up the victories.

On Saturday The University of Virginia's College at Wise tennis programs traveled to Bryan College for a TVAC conference battle. At the end of the day both the men and women came away with important victories.

In the men's game every seed on the team notched a victory. Top seed Jon Hinchey took control of his match by winning 6-3, 6-0. Second seed Corey Blanton won 6-4, 6-2. Third seed Matt Hurley also received a victory by winning 6-0, 6-2. Forth seed Brad Hart continued the streak of wins by a score of 6-0, 6-4.

The toughest match of the day came for fifth seed Will Massey who after losing the first set

battle back to win the game 3-6, 6-2, 6-2. Sixth seed Brad Watson finished out the Cavs' undefeated singles games for the 6-1, 6-1 victory.

In men's doubles top seeds Hinchey and Blanton teamed up for the 8-2 victory. The duo of Matt Hurley and Brad Hart was also victorious 8-6. In the last match of the day for the men's team Brad Watson and Russell Street paired up to win 8-6.

With the unanimous victory the University of Virginia's College at Wise's men's team improves their record to 4-1.

The women's game would not prove so easy as several hard fought games took place throughout the day. The women's team struggled at times but still found a way to get the tough win.

Things got off to a rocky start for the Lady Cavs as top seed Kristen Dotson was defeated 4-6, 6-3, 3-6. After the loss the rest of the team came together and would not lose another singles match.

Second seed Stacie France received the first win of the day by a score of 6-2, 6-3. Third seed Amber Gunter continued the winning 6-4, 6-4. Forth seed

Wayne Kelley
Staff Writer

On March 27, 2000 in an interview with Ronnie Welch, he revealed some details about the UVA-Wise student activity programs on campus. When asked about the student participation in the programs he responded "Student participation has been very positive." The programs have experienced growth from both male and female students. Female participation has increased over the past three years by about 250%.

The only major team sport left this year is softball. There are currently 12 male teams and 3 female teams. Additions to these teams is still possible but the Captains meeting has already taken place.

Soon www.intramurals.com will allow students to obtain extracurricular information from the web. Teams will be able to view schedules, submit rosters, and view changes in scheduling from the internet. This is also expected to improve communication overall.

Also three teams from Mountain Empire will playing against the UVA-Wise, on March 29th at 6pm.

Furthermore, the intramural basketball champion will be going to Richlands to play against the Southwest Community College.

Ronnie Welch has recently scheduled a meeting with colleges in the local geographical area to construct an Extramural Consortium between the Colleges. This Consortium will allow students to compete with one another an extramural intercollegiate level. A consortium will allow student from UVA-Wise to compare their talent elsewhere and to also meet new people. A well rounded education is what a liberal arts college promises. According to Ronnie Welch other colleges seemed to be very enthusiastic about this endeavor.

Also on April 12th Comedian Spanky will be performing his Men are Sluts World Tour Two. Spanky has been on several television shows and performed last year.

On April 26th Banchek, a mentalist, will be performing. Banchek is considered a mind reader, spoon bender, and levitation artist. He has reportedly been able to tell how much change is in your pocket and who your girlfriend or boyfriend's name while being blindfolded with masking tape.

On April 19th, Student Alumni Commuter Appreciation Picnic Day. Numerous free gifts will be handed out. There will be live music and free food in the Zehmer lot. The event is sponsored by Student Activities, the Alumni Association, and a few others.

On April 18th there will be a Laser Arena on campus from twelve to six in the evening. This event is catered to those students who do not have reliable access to off-campus events.

Cavs Baseball Shocks Nationally Ranked Montreat

Jeremy Beverly
Sports Writer

On Saturday afternoon, The University of Virginia's College at Wise baseball team entertained undefeated and nationally ranked Montreat College in a Tennessee-Virginia Athletic Conference doubleheader.

Hank Banner's club upset Montreat in the opener 4-1 giving them their first TVAC win of the year. The Cavaliers dropped the second game by a score of 13-7.

Senior Kevin Dalton started on the mound for the Cavs to begin the twin bill. Dalton pitched a tremendous game by striking out 10 Montreat batters in a complete-game effort.

The University of Virginia's College at Wise got on the score board first in the bottom half of the third inning.

Chad Shaffner started off the inning with a single to short and Dalton followed with a double to score Shaffner.

Montreat received its only run

of the game by tying the score in the fourth inning with two doubles.

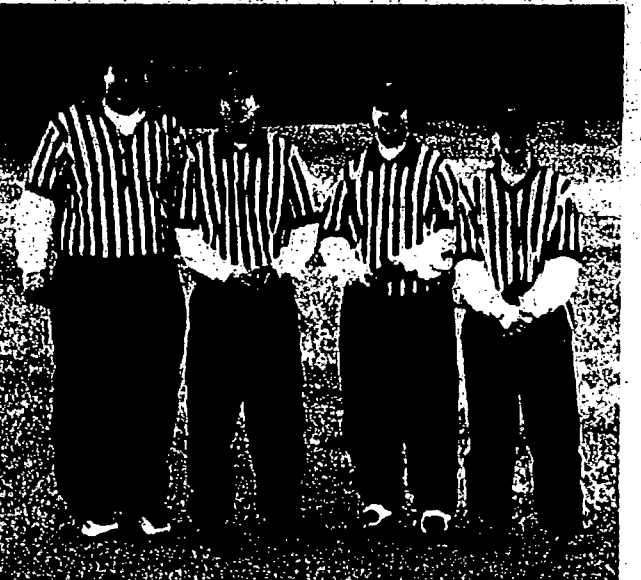
The Highland Cavaliers would then go on to pick up three more runs in the fifth and sixth innings to secure the victory.

"This was a big win and definitely a pitching performance" stated Coach Banner.

In the second game Montreat wasted no time by getting two runs off the Cavs starting pitcher Brad Robinson. UVA-Wise cut the deficit to one run with a first inning RBI double by Shaffner to score Mark Davis. Montreat added two more runs in the top of the second to increase their lead.

In the bottom half of the second inning Matt Walton took the first pitch of the inning deep over the fence to shorten Montreat's lead down to two runs.

From that point on the Cavalier's bats fell silent and the game started to slip away. Montreat hit five more runs off Robinson and then added four



more off reliever Jason Culbertson.

The Cavs tried to rally in the seventh inning by scoring five runs but it would not be enough to make up for the large deficit as The University of Virginia's College at Wise fell in the second game.

The Cavaliers record went to 3-3 in the TVAC and 9-13 overall. Montreat is now 6-1 in conference play. UVA-Wise is currently in fifth place in the TVAC while Montreat holds on to first place.

The men's baseball team plays a faces a host of road games before the April 29th TVAC conference tournament. Games this week include road trips to face Emory and Henry, and back to back dates with Milligan. The next home game will take place on Wednesday April 5th as the Cavaliers host a doubleheader against Union College. There are nice new bleachers at the ballpark for fans so come out and watch.

Entertainment

American Beauty Brings Home the Gold at Oscar 2000

Damien Garrison
Copy Editor

Oscar 2000 came in with a whisper, and went out with a BANG! The 72nd Academy Awards show was the most enjoyable one in years. The antics of this year's host Billy Crystal helped to keep the show from falling flat.

American Beauty went home with an amazing 5 statuettes. It won the coveted Best Picture Award formerly won by the likes of *Shakespeare In Love*, *Titanic*, and *The English Patient*. *American Beauty's* critical and box office success was a complete surprise to its parent studio Dreamworks and to viewers like myself who have constantly seen great intellectual movies go ignored year after



Kevin Spacey and Oscar.

year. *American Beauty* also won the best Director Oscar for first time director Sam Mendes who during his acceptance speech acknowledged just about everyone involved in the conception and the production of the film. Audience favorite Kevin Spacey finally received his long deserved Best Actor Award. Spacey, whom was a former Best Supporting

Actor winner, paid homage to Jack Lemmon during his acceptance speech and attributed his success to Lemmon's influence on him as an actor and a father figure.

American Beauty also took home Oscars for Best Original Screenplay, and an award for Cinematography.

Newcomer Hilary Swank took home the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress for her role in *Boys Don't Cry*. She portrayed Brandon Teena, a sexually confused young woman who lives

her life disguised as a man until her cover is blown and she is savagely murdered. Swank beat out the likes of Annette Bening for her role in the Academy darling *American Beauty*, and Meryl Streep for her role in *Music of the Heart*.

The Best Supporting Actor category was the most highly anticipated award of the night due to the overabundance of qualified and talented actors in this category. Despite Michael Caine's much lauded win for his performance in *The Cider House Rules*, Michael Clark Duncan's role in *The Green Mile*, Jude Law's role in *The Talented Mr. Ripley*, Tom Cruise's role in *Magnolia*, and Haley Jolie Osmond's role in *The Sixth Sense* all were equally deserving of this year's Best Supporting Actor Oscar.

The Best Supporting Actress category was less complicated in that it was made up of lesser known actresses. Angelina Jolie would go on to win the award for her role in the film *Girl Interrupted* and she gave a tear-jerking

acceptance speech where she gave extreme thanks to her brother "for all the love and support he has given her

The Keanu Reeves thriller beat-out *Star Wars: The Phantom Menace* among other highly big budget films.

The performances of the evening were also most enjoyable, especially Robin Williams' wacky rendition of *Blame Canada*, the Best Song nominee from the animated film *South Park: Bigger*



Hilary Swank takes Best Actress for her role in *Boys Don't Cry*.

throughout her career.

Best song was awarded to "You'll be in my Heart," from Disney's *Tarzan*.

The Matrix was the winner-up film of the year by receiving 4 Oscars during the evening for its technical achievements. It received the awards for Sound, Film Editing, Sound Effects, and Special Effects.

Longer, and Uncut.

Overall, the boisterous mood of host Billy Crystal, the abandonment of the traditional black-tie affair atmosphere, and the inclusion of Gen-X favorites like Keanu Reeves and L.L. Cool J as presenters made Oscar 2000 the best one ever.

The Highland Cavalier Oscar review will be back next year with new movies and fresh views.

God, The Devil and Bob is Devilishly Charming

Angela Markham
Staff Writer

God looks like Jerry Garcia. The Devil can figure skate. The man chosen to save humanity is one step above Beavis and Butt-head on the intellectual ladder. It's no wonder NBC's animated comedy, *God, The Devil, and Bob*, is surrounded by controversy. In fact, several of NBC's affiliates refuse to air the show. More than likely, the people responsible for this decision had never watched an episode. If they had, they would have found *GDB* to be one of the most intelligent and witty shows on the air.

The show makes its premise very clear in the opening of every episode. God enters, wearing shades and holding our planet in his hands. During his opening monologue, he proceeds to treat Earth as though it is his cosmic basketball. "Hi, God here," He greets us in a smooth voice (supplied by veteran actor James Garner) "So, I was all set to destroy the world, but I thought hey, I'm not that kind of God. If just one soul could show me it's worth saving, I'd spare it; and being a sporting deity, I let the Devil choose. So folks, meet

your last chance for salvation." Cut to a shot of our hero, Bob (voiced by *Third Rock from the Sun's* French Stewart), stretched out on his couch at home, drinking a beer. A golden light shines down from Heaven and Bob begins to float upward. His reaction: "Wow! This is good beer." Cut back to God, saying exactly what's on the minds of the audience. "Oh, boy. Well, folks, I wouldn't make any long term plans."

If the show sounds blasphemous, it should. *GDB* is not sanitized religion. But it does hit the high points. For instance, in one show Bob's son, Andy, tells all his friends that God has chosen his dad as His personal messenger. Andy's school friends ridicule him but Andy promises them all that god will make an appearance in his garage. Bob tries desperately to persuade God to show up so that his son won't be made a fool of, but God refuses. He isn't about sideshow appearances or appearing to every single person who asks him to. Christianity, after all, is centered around faith, not knowledge. Andy is humiliated and runs away to Canada but by the end of the show all is forgiven.

In the same episode, God

convinces the Devil (deliciously played by Alan Cumming) to be a kinder, gentler Dark Prince. The Devil, deciding to give this approach a shot, goes frolicking through an amusement park with one of his goat-legged minions: Smeck. These scenes, portraying a Devil who is determined to bring joy to others, are deliriously funny.

In other episodes of the show, the Devil has tried to make Bob fear him by dating Bob's teenage daughter, Megan. God has tried to bring happiness to Detroit (the show's setting) by making the DMV a happy place and rescuing a girl who has fallen down a well. Martha Stewart has redecorated Hell, and God has forgotten the Devil's birthday.

The simple truth about the show is that *God, the Devil, and Bob* offers an innovative approach to tackling the tough subjects. Issues concerning faith, world suffering, love, and acceptance are all raised and dealt with in a serious manner.

This show works because it blends irony, humor, and issues that need addressing. The characters are well-rounded and believable, even if they don't exactly match their Biblical descriptions.

Mission to Mars is one to Rent Only

Nathan Clevinger
Staff Writer

Mission to Mars was released in theaters across America this week. The movie had excellent special effects which were killed by a weak sixties sci-fi sound track. NASA gave this movie a thumbs up due to its accurate use of technology. Ebert and the movies gave it a bad review. This writer's review isn't much better.

The movie has a slow moving plot, that makes it seem as long as *Titanic* though it only has a running time of about two hours. Luckily they did not disclose the plot, or lack of one in the trailer. A big boom to the movie is the fact that it stars Tim Robbins, ever so briefly, Gary Sinise, and Don Cheadle. These stars will probably be hoping to erase this experience from their memories though.

For the very religious this movie may seem a bit sac religious, and be an instant turnoff. It seems to take a Scientology approach to the creation of life on Earth, and from the implantation of life it turns to take a Darwinist stand.

This movie does have lots of weak points though. Like when

Commander McChonel is about to be saved, but instead commits suicide. Along with the fake burial of several deceased crew members. Then there's "The Force", no this isn't *Star Wars*, but there is a Force.

The Force is like a giant tornado thing that is sentient and kills selectively. The group wants to investigate instead of just going and rescuing the survivor from the first mission.

NASA doesn't really agree with their plan, but they do it anyway and make a shocking discovery. One that you'll have to see the movie to learn.

The movie is all downhill after they find the Legendary Martian Face though. Especially since they show the mysterious alien being that was trying to contact them. This ruins the movie's already cheesy ending.

If you are a big Brian De Palma fan you may want to check out this film, although he seems to be on a decline since his last film *Snake Eyes*. When it comes time for *Mission To Mars* on video, you may want to give it a try, otherwise save your money.

On a scale of 1 to 10, I would give it a 6.

Rated PG for language and violence.