

When I see myself



"Self Portrait," a painting by Mariana Williams, can be seen as part of an art exhibit in the basement of Commonwealth Hall.

Residence on faculty row falls victim to break-ins

by Angela Markham
 Highland Cavalier Editor-in-Chief

A student residence on faculty row has been broken into three times since the start of the new year. The break-ins occurred between Saturday, Jan. 12, and Friday, Jan. 18.

"Somebody apparently forced their way into one or more of the bedrooms," said Todd Gambill, associate vice chancellor for student affairs.

Gambill said that what makes these break-ins unusual is that there was no forced outside entry into the residence.

"I'm assuming that the front door was left unlocked," he said. "There was no sign of forced entry, except into the bedrooms."

Gambill said that there are several theories about how the perpetrators may have gained access to the house.

"Someone could have gotten a key to the front door, then forced their way into one of the bedrooms," Gambill said. "Or they locked the bedroom doors but left

the front door open, and someone came in and forced their way into a bedroom."

For students worried that missing keys could result in their own rooms being broken into, Gambill said not to worry.

"Any time a key is reported lost, we immediately replace the lock," he said. "There are never any floating keys out there, so to speak."

Gambill added that every time a lock and set of keys is replaced, they are never used again.

"We don't take an old set of keys from McCrary and reuse them a few years later in another dorm," he said. "They are discarded completely."

According to Gambill, theft was a motive in the break-ins, but he says that the objects taken were of minimal value.

Gambill said the incidents appear isolated, and he doubts seriously that any similar incidents will happen again in the future.

"Every year for the past five years, we have been ranked either the safest or second safest in the state of Virginia,"

Gambill said.

However, Gambill warned students not to let the campus's safe reputation make them careless.

"I think that sometimes, because we're such a safe campus, we get lulled into thinking we can be careless," he said. "The only way we can remain the safest campus in Virginia is if we continue to encourage students to take responsibility for their own safety. This is a safe place, but it's not Mayberry."

Gambill stresses that students should not leave dorm rooms unlocked, regardless of whether a common living area is shared by a number of people. He also cautions students from walking around campus alone late at night, noting that campus police are available to escort students safely to their dorms if they do not wish to make the journey across campus alone. He said that students should not keep their keys, especially dorm keys, in plain sight where they are likely to be stolen.

McCoy stressed that the situation could have been much worse. Since the fire occurred on the first floor of the dorm, smoke and flames could have rapidly spread to the upper levels.

"Thankfully, most of the damage was confined to one room," McCoy said. "It was minimal to the rest of the hall."

McCoy hopes the fire will serve as a warning to other students. When he and the state fire inspector make their rounds on the college, they often find unsafe extension cords or disconnected smoke detectors. Though the residents may think that what they are doing is safe, McCoy notes that all the connections in the room that caught fire looked to be safely connected. The state fire marshal, who also inspected the room, agreed with McCoy's findings.

"All it takes is one spark," McCoy said. "No matter how safe something seems, it can still be dangerous. Items that are listed as fire hazards include extension cords, paper-type material hanging from the ceiling and some candles," McCoy said that he and the state fire marshal make rounds through the residence halls every three months to make certain there are no illegal

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Quick thinking stops spread of fire in McCrary Hall

by Angela Markham
 Highland Cavalier Editor-in-Chief

Quick thinking and fast response time averted a disaster that could have ended with many residents returning from winter break to find their dorm in ashes. A fire broke out in McCrary Hall during the last days of the vacation, but was quickly extinguished before any serious damage could be done.

"It could have been much worse," said Steve McCoy, chief of campus police. "The smoke was toxic. We had to go in on our knees to put the fire out. The room was black. It was terrible."

McCoy said that one of the hall's housekeepers, Nancy Sayers, noticed smoke coming from beneath a door on the women's side of the dorm. She immediately called campus police.

"Thanks to Nancy's quick actions, we were very lucky," McCoy said. "We could have been overtaken very quickly."

The cause of the fire was eventually traced to a short-circuit in a VCR. The room belonged to a member of the women's basketball team who had returned from vacation early for a game. She was at practice

when the fire began.

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Annual Alumni Phonathon sees increase in number of volunteers, first-time donations

by Angela Markham
 Highland Cavalier Editor-in-Chief

The Annual Alumni Phonathon was held from Sunday, Feb. 17, to Thursday, Feb. 21. According to Director of Alumni Relations Valerie Lawson, the event was a quite a success.

"We received almost \$17,000 in pledges this year," Lawson said. "And even more exciting than that for us, was the increase in the number of first-time donations from alumni."

Lawson stresses that although she is happy with the amount of money raised, the phonathon's main goal is to increase the number of alumni who donate, not necessarily the final dollar amount.

The phones were manned by students who volunteered as part of a class or organization, or merely as a way to gain personal experience. These callers talked to almost 2,000 alumni and received almost 500 specific pledges. Another 500 callers were undecided about whether or not to pledge.

"Of those, I guarantee that at least 25 percent will send in a donation," Lawson said. "That's an impressive percentage."

What impressed Lawson the most was the amount of time students donated to the phonathon.

"We had almost 50 more students volunteer their time than last year," she said. "We made a lot more calls this year than



Kelsey Jennings (on phone) and grand prize winner Ashley Baker work the phones.

we have in the past. All in all, the students donated over 2,000 hours of their time to help the College."

Money donated by alumni can either go to specific causes or to a general-needs fund. Lawson said that among the individual contributions received were monies designated for the Crockett Hall renovation, baseball and football teams, fraternities and sororities and scholarships.

Prizes were awarded to the top fundraiser, Phi Sigma Sigma was the organization that topped the list of donations, and was rewarded with a pizza party for its fund-raising efforts. Individual winners were awarded according to the number of pledges received. Ashley Baker was the student who recorded the most pledges, with Brian Atkins and Jessica Cain competing for the top three. Another prize went to Billy Robinson, who had the highest amount pledged.

Tighe offers talks for women on the move

by Amanda Higginson
 Highland Cavalier Reporter

The occasion when the self-esteem member of her audience what they would like to take away from the lessons. She said she would alter her plans to cater to the desires of the students in attendance.

The remaining six meetings will touch on subjects such as: nonverbal communication, assertiveness and aggressiveness, personality traits and self-care.

The final session will teach table manners and will be an especially important one. Tighe said one of the most challenging types of job interviews is one that takes place in a restaurant, and that some applicants may not be sure how to conduct themselves during these interviews.

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The fire caused part of a radio to melt, turned a CD holder to ashes, and burned part of a dresser.

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Speeders beware: Campus police using radar

by Angela Markham
 Highland Cavalier Editor-in-Chief

Members of the UVa-Wise community who have taken to ignoring the College's posted 15 mile-per-hour speed limit may find themselves in for a surprise soon. The campus police are now using radar to track and ticket speeders.

"We've had numerous complaints about speeding," said Steve McCoy, chief of campus police.

McCoy said that most of the complaints have concerned the new road built beside the McCrary Hall parking lot. He says that cars have gone over 40 miles-per-hour on the straight stretch of road.

"Sometimes it's more like a raceway," McCoy said. "Eventually somebody's going to get hurt if it keeps up."

The average speed traveled on the road that passes the gym is 36 miles per hour, McCoy said. That average is twice the posted speed limit.

To make drivers more aware of their speeds, a portable radar device that records speeds and posts them for the

police have always had radar capabilities. "There have been times we used it in the past, but with all of the construction comes a need for increased caution, so we're really going to crack down and start enforcing the speed limits," McCoy said.

Currently, the campus speed limit is 15 miles per hour, but there is discussion underway that could raise that limit to 25.

McCoy said that the areas around Zehner and the new science building are prone to speeding, despite the heavy flow of construction materials coming in and out of the area.

"We haven't had any accidents yet," McCoy said, "but when the first one comes, it's too late."

McCoy urged drivers to leave at least five minutes earlier than usual in order to avoid any last-minute zipping to arrive at a destination on time.

McCoy wishes to remind students and faculty members that roads could be blocked to the Zehner parking lot, upper commuter lot and parts of the Crockett parking lot as items needed for construction are moved in and positioned.

Student center to be focus of campus

by Angela Markham
 Highland Cavalier Editor-in-Chief

By now, most people around the UVa-Wise campus are aware that a new student center is being constructed in the middle of campus, between Smiddy Hall and the library. What many do not know, however, is what types of student-centered things will be in the new building.

Recently, Todd Gambill, associate vice chancellor for student affairs, outlined exactly what will be located in the new five-story building, which is set to open in time for the 2003-04 school year.

"It's going to be the living room of the campus," Gambill said.

Perhaps the most visually impressive aspect of the student center will be an atrium-like complex that will be open from the ground floor all the way to the roof. Students will be able to look up and see what is going on above them.

When students enter the center, they will be greeted by a spacious gathering area, as well as the campus store and the first level of a multi-story fitness center.

"The first-floor fitness center will have three racquetball courts," Gambill said. Other gym facilities that will be available on upper the floors include a billiard type

Construction is underway on the back wall of the student center, set to open in 2003.

for students who have just taken the soon-to-be-built access corridor from the library. Another convenience of the center will be that all student organizations will have offices in one building.

Also available in the student center will be a spacious gallery for displaying art.

According to Gambill, the final cost of the building is estimated at between \$9 million and \$10 million. The building is being funded by student fees as well as a generous private donation.

Men's, women's basketball begin tournament

The regular seasons of both men's and women's basketball have come to a close. Though the teams have enjoyed mixed success this year, both were invited to play in the Appalachian Athletic Conference tournament.

Taking place in Bristol, Va., the AAC tournament kicked off on Wednesday, Feb. 20. The 10th-seeded Lady Cavaliers squared off against the 7th-ranked Milligan College Lady Buffs.

The Lady Cavaliers were defeated during this first round of play, with a final score of 40-54, despite having led for most of the first half of the game. Scoring for UVA-Wise was led by senior Lauren Carr with 17 points. The game was Carr's last with the team.

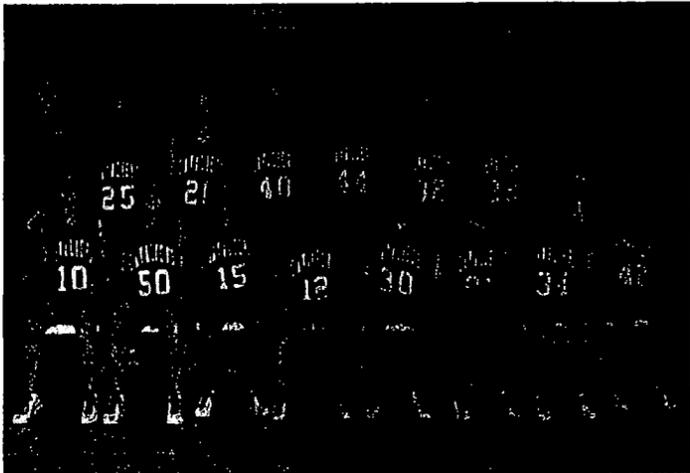
Other leading scorers for the Lady Cavs were Mandy Sexton and Kim Ratliff.

The men's team was ranked fifth in the tournament and defeated 4th-ranked Montreat College on Thursday, Feb. 21 to advance to the second round.

In what will probably prove to be one of the closest games in the tournament, the Cavaliers lost by only one point to the Bearcats during their second game. Junior forward Zack Moore led the scoring for the Cavs with 25 points. Tony McDonald averaged double-digits as well with 15 baskets.

The tournament appearance was the second in the College's history.

The men's team finished its regular season with



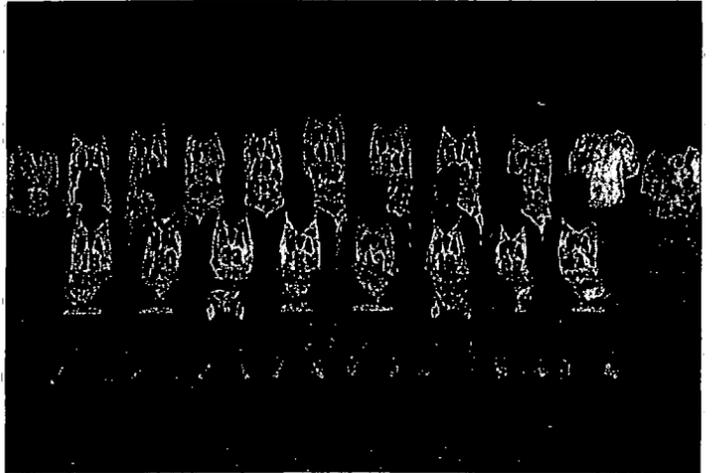
The 2001-2002 Highland Cavalier women's basketball team

a 15-12 record, and recorded most of its victories in conference games. Though some victories were quite close, such as an 84-83 win over Montreat College, others were quite decisive. Among the biggest Cavalier victories for the year were an 100-67 win over Covenant College and a 100-72 win over Alice Lloyd College.

Earlier in the season, Moore secured a spot in

College history during the Feb. 16 win over Bryan College. He contributed 17 points in the Cavs' 95-88 win, and moved to fourth place on UVA-Wise's all-time scoring list. Moore, a junior, averages more than 500 points per season and needs only 498 to become the College's all-time points leader.

Recent opponents the men's team have faced include Milligan, a team that saw half of its 105



The 2001-2002 Highland Cavalier men's basketball team

points scored by one player. The Cavs saw strong play from Stacy Ervin, who scored 21 points, as well as Moore and Tony McDonald, who scored 16 and 11 points, respectively.

Overall, the Lady Cavaliers were 3-23 for the season and recorded two of their wins in conference games. Despite their records, the women won by at least eight points in each of their victories.

The Lady Cavs saw wins over Southern Wesleyan (71-63), Bluefield College (64-24) and King College (66-55).

The most recent games for the Lady Cavs include a 60-39 loss to Milligan College on Tuesday, Feb. 12, a win against King College on the home court on Valentine's Day, and a 72-87 loss to Bryan College on Saturday, Feb. 16.

ENTERTAINMENT

UVA-Wise theatre brings "Steel Magnolias" to the stage

"Steel Magnolias," the play made famous by the film starring Julia Roberts, Dolly Parton and a cast of famous women, will be coming to the stage of UVA-Wise this spring.

Though most people are familiar with the film, few are aware that the movie was adapted from a play that takes place entirely in the beauty salon owned by Truvy and has only six characters, all female.

"I wanted to do something that was well known," said director Jon Menick. "And I have such strong women involved in the theatre. I wanted to give them a chance to shine."

Nancy Wampler, who plays salon owner Truvy, says the role was not the one she expected. "It wasn't the role that I would have picked for myself," she said. "I wanted to play either M'Lynn or Ouiser." Wampler is a long-time fan of "Steel Magnolias," and even did her directing project on the play.

"The play is so much more intense than the movie," Wampler said. "When I heard that Jon was doing the play, I knew I had to be in it."

Community members Sharon Pigeon and Pamela Gilmer play the roles of social matron Calree and Shelby's protective mother M'Lynn, respectively. Fourteen-year-old high school student Jillian Kennedy portrays the new beautician Annelle.

Kennedy's story is particularly remarkable. She is too young to take acting classes at J.I. Burton High School in Norton, which she attends. She is instead enrolled in several acting classes at UVA-Wise. She also performed in Menick's last production, "The Rimers of Eldritch," which was performed in the fall.

The cast is completed by stage newcomer Emerald Robinson, who plays Shelby, the role made famous by Julia Roberts, and

Tanya Bartek, who plays the curmudgeonly Ouiser. According to Menick, Bartek's role was the most sought after.

"It was Ouiser this and Ouiser that," he said. "Everybody wanted that part. We had 47 people audition for Ouiser and only one for Shelby."

Menick said he became convinced Bartek was perfect for the role after seeing her fight on stage with her boyfriend. "She was beating him up unmercifully on the stage," Menick said. "I thought, that's as much Ouiser as I need to see. She got cast whether she liked it or not."

To encourage his performers to break away from the more familiar mold of the film and make the play their own, Menick asked them not to watch the film after they learned the were cast. The cast members, however, were allowed one or two viewings. Menick said the producers of the film were more worried about their stars than the integrity of the play, and that most of the play was lost as writers struggled to enhance the parts of each of the leading ladies, as well as to add parts for the male characters.

"This is a play about relationships," Menick said. "It is infinitely better structured than the movie, and I think the audiences will respond to that. It will be familiar enough for them to recognize, but so much more intense and complex."

Robinson echoes Menick's statement. "I'm certainly not trying to recreate Julia Roberts," she said. "There are so many aspects of Shelby's character that didn't get to come through in the movie."

Wampler agrees that the advantages of theatre bring new facets to characters the audience is already familiar with. "There is a lot more information in the play that didn't come across in



The cast of "Steel Magnolias" rehearses a scene in which Shelby (Robinson, sitting) is forced to drink juice to ease her diabetes.

the film because the cameras are panning this way and that way and you only see what they want you to see. With the play, you can see what's going on with other characters."

One difficulty the actresses have faced is adopting a truly Southern accent. Menick has allowed them a few liberties where their draws are concerned.

"We're talking about a small town in a Southern area," he says. "Are people going to sue if we use a little bit of Wise in there instead of Louisiana?"

Menick promises that the audience will see a few modern twists in his version of the play. "We have a few things in store no one will expect," he said. "It's going to be an experience."

Campus Calendar

Tuesday, March 5
Wesley Foundation Fashion Show. Time: TBA.

Wednesday, March 6
Applications due for December graduation.

Thursday, March 7
APCA spring conference.

Friday, March 8
First half semester courses end.

Saturday, March 9
Residence halls close.

Tuesday, March 12
Alumni Board meeting, Alumni Hall, 6 p.m.

Monday, March 18
Classes resume plus: Second half semester courses begin.

Wednesday, March 20
Senior Salute, Chapel, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
plus: Career information day, Greear Gymnasium, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Continuing construction brings changes in roads around campus

As the campus lake nears completion, the science hall's exterior becomes more polished and the foundation is finally laid for the student center, members of UVA-Wise will see several changes in the way they travel to and from their destinations around campus.

As of Friday, Feb. 22, the road that ran past the Chapel and Cantrell Hall is permanently closed. The road had been partly gravelled for quite some time in an effort

to make its phasing out easier on those who travelled it. During the beginning of the construction, the road sometimes served as the only access to and from Thompson, Asbury, Martha Randolph and Henson halls.

"Students using this road to access the McCrayer lot will find themselves on a dead-end street," said Steve McCoy, chief of campus police. "From now on, all students will have to use the new road."

Speed bumps have also been placed in front of the Zehmer Hall parking lot. McCoy said that this addition was as much to slow traffic as it was to preserve the lot itself.

"There was a lot of talk about wanting to shut the lot down and use it to store materials," McCoy said.

He said that adding the speed bumps to make traffic travel with more caution through the area was one measure that had to be taken to keep the lot open to fac-

ulty and handicapped students.

"If slowing down to hit a speed bump is all it takes to keep the lot open, I don't think that's a great deal to ask," McCoy said.

These changes are a few of many that have been going on around campus. So far, a new road has been built that circles McCrayer Hall and connects to Faculty Row and the old road that ran in front of the hall has been removed and landscaped for the new campus lake.

Poet Patricia Johnson captivates audience during performance at Theatre

On Tuesday, Feb. 19, poet Patricia Johnson mesmerized her audience at the UVA-Wise Theatre. With resonating recitals and a remarkable singing voice, she addressed topics such as racism, growing up, religion and love.

The audience knew they were in for a unique performance when Johnson made her entrance not from the stage, but from amid the audience itself. Her voice boomed throughout the room as she made her way to the stage, and during her hour-long per-

formance, Johnson never lost the attention of the group she had immediately captivated.

Reciting excerpts from her book of poetry, "Stain My Days Blue," Johnson's poetic takes ranged from the spiritual "In My Father's House," a poem she said she wrote for God, to the emotional "Somebody's Child," where Johnson addresses the hate crimes of burning black churches by the countless reminding us that the vandals, despite their acts, were each some-

body's child.

Despite the serious topics that most of her poems addressed, Johnson infused the show with a dose of humor. During one recital, she asked the men in the audience to join her on stage. Johnson quickly taught them each a muscle-flexing routine that ended with a butt wiggle, which each man had to perform while she recited. The routine drew cheers of delight and screams of laughter from the women in the audience.



Poet Patricia Johnson

UVA-Wise's newly formed acting troupe hopes to entertain College, community

UVA-Wise has always had a strong theatre program. That program has recently grown to include the College's own acting troupe. The company started at the end of last semester and has quickly set out to make its presence known on campus and around the community.

Recently, the group hosted a coffee house and open-mic night on Valentine's Day. The entertainment included karaoke, slapstick comedy, music and stand-up. Attendance was small due to the romantic holiday and a basketball game being held

on the same evening, but those in attendance had an enormous amount of fun.

Currently the troupe is trying to raise money so that it can provide more offerings to both UVA-Wise and the surrounding community.

A second coffee house and karaoke night will be held on April 29. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three crooners.

Students may also immortalize themselves by stopping by to paint on the back-stage wall. Prices range from \$2.50 to \$5. Paints will be supplied to anyone wishing

to participate in the endeavor.

One of the things the troupe hopes to do with funds raised is travel around the community.

"We're organizing a touring group for next year that's going to do educational, entertaining performances at area schools," said troupe member Jillian Kennedy. They also hope to hold theatre camps for children.

"We want to address serious topics in a way people our age can relate to," said member Emerald Robinson. The group will

have a trained counselor with them in case anyone in the audience wants to more seriously discuss issues.

"You're going to hit on these subjects that are going to get through to at least one child," Robinson said. "We're glad that we'll have somebody on hand they can really talk to."

In addition to raising their own profile, the company hopes to bring more performers to the College. Its members are in the process of converting a theatre classroom to a second stage.

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