

THE HIGHLAND CAVALIER

"LOYALLY INFORMING UVA-WISE"

March 6, 2003

Volume 54, Number 5



This Week

The Oscars are coming up at the end of March, and the Cavalier predicts who will win at the 75th Academy Awards. Page 3.

In Union

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In Sports

The UVA-Wise men's basketball team triumphs over Union and progresses to the semifinals. Get all the details in Dan Deel's report. Page 4.

SNOW SPORTS PROVE TO BE IDEAL WAY TO ENJOY UNIQUE SPRING BREAK

Sascha Pope

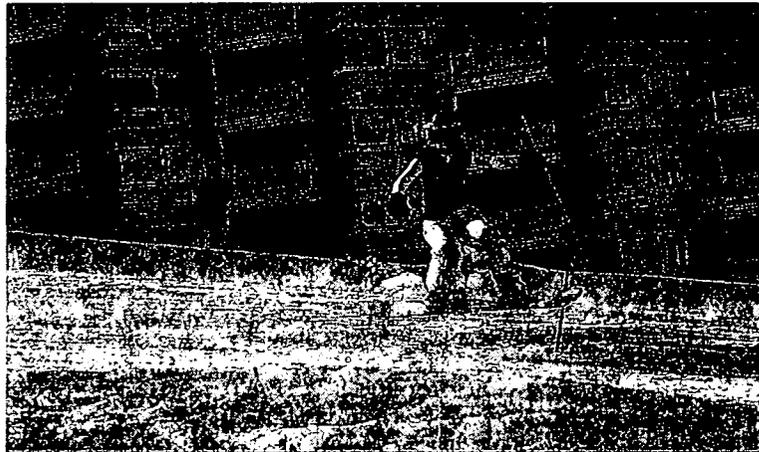
Contributor

For spring break, the majority of college students enjoy the warm, beautiful atmosphere of places such as Cancun, Panama City or Jamaica. I, on the other hand, choose the opposite climate—that of the cold weather—for one specific reason: snowboarding, my new, favorite pastime.

I first started snowboarding in my senior year in high school. Several of my friends talked about it constantly, so obviously I became intrigued by the sport, and went to Ober Gatlinburg over Christmas break with them to try it out. I knew going into it that it would be difficult my first time, but I honestly did not think it would be *that* difficult. When we got to the slopes, I buckled my boots into my bindings on the snowboard, psyched as ever to get started. As soon as I figured out how to stand up, I found myself right back down on the ground again. I fell more times that day than I cared to recount. As a result, my first snowboarding experience was not that encouraging.

However, I got over my discouragement, and every time I fell, I got right back up and tried it again. I knew that that was the only way I was going to learn, and it worked. I have been snowboarding several times since then, and each time I have picked up little things that help hone my skills and improve my performance. After tackling one difficulty and mastering it, I move on to the next obstacle until I conquer it, and so on.

I have gone snowboarding on several slopes, including Wintergreen in northern Virginia and



Sascha Pope pulls off a jump as she perfects her snowboarding techniques. Pope encourages students to try snowboarding as a thrilling and new spring break activity.

Sugar Mountain in North Carolina. If you love accents (which I am a sucker for), then you definitely want to check out the Wintergreen resort where the Australian workers are extremely funny and helpful. They will greet you with a "G' day!" while they help strap your boots in, and after thanking them for all their help, they will gladly reply, "No worries, mate." Although Wintergreen

is located about five to six hours from the UVA-Wise area, it is definitely worth the trip and the experience.

If you do not want to travel far to snowboard, however, Sugar Mountain in North Carolina is much closer, with only about a two-hour drive from the College. This is the place to go if you want a wide variety of slopes, ranging from beginning

bunny slopes to advanced black diamond slopes and a terrain park where you can perform tricks. Other resorts to check out are Ski Beach in North Carolina and Winterplace in West Virginia.

Whether you are an experienced snowboarder or have never tried it before in your life, it is definitely a thrilling sport. If you ever decide to try it out, do *not* have a defeatist attitude if you do not pick it up right away. Some people learn all the basics their first time; others may take a couple of times before they get a hold on everything. Once you pick it up though, you will get a great rush and will not want to stop. To give fair warning, every muscle will be sore in your body the next day, but when I asked my younger brother (who recently went for the first time and was very sore the day after snowboarding) if he wanted to try it again, he replied, "Absolutely!"

My perseverance has definitely paid off in the end, and although I have not mastered all the techniques of a great snowboarder, I can do tricks I would not have dreamed of doing before, such as riding the half-pipe and landing huge jumps, among others. I still want to be able to accomplish a 180° and 360°, ride the rails, perform tailgrabs and more. Though I was not able to achieve these stunts by this spring break, I am determined to do so next time. Perhaps on your spring break, instead of riding a surfboard at the beach, you can try a snowboard on the slopes. It could be well worth it.

UVA-WISE CELEBRATES WOMEN'S HISTORY

Jennifer Davis

Staff Writer

The month of March is Women's History Month, and the new UVA-Wise NOW chapter (organized and initiated by sophomore Tabitha Hackney and advised by Dr. Cindy Wilkey) and the Women's Concern Committee have joined forces and resources to pull off what could be one of the best Women's History Months yet. The overall theme for Women's History Month is "Women's Perseverance." In addition, each week will have an individual theme that will tie in with the overall theme of perseverance.

The first week of March will be dedicated to "Women We Admire." Students are encouraged to design a poster that includes women he or she admires. The posters can be turned in to Dr. Wilkey's office in Zehmer 221 and will be posted in the buildings throughout the campus and remain there throughout the month.

"Conquering Goals: Domestic Violence" will be the theme for the third week of March. A guest from the Hope House in Wise will speak at in the Chapel on Thursday, Mar. 20 at 8:00 p.m. A candlelight vigil will follow, in

honor of the victims of domestic violence. Also, there will be a clothing drive the whole week, the proceeds of which will be donated to the Hope House. Clothes for women and children are those most needed.

With all the present controversy over Title IX, the theme for the last week in March is "Women Getting Active." There will be a Title IX meeting during the week (time and location will be announced at a later time), and a "mystery woman" scavenger hunt is scheduled for Friday, Mar. 28. All teams will obtain clues that will lead them to other faculty members who will then give them another clue, until eventually the team figures out the mystery woman. The winning team will receive a prize. Teams wishing to participate need to register for the scavenger hunt by Mar. 19 with Dr. Wilkey.

Everyone is encouraged to participate in the activities for Women's History Month. Flyers and posters will be posted on campus with more details.

The UVA-Wise chapter of NOW meets Wednesdays at 1 p.m. in Zehmer 225, and everyone is invited to come.

SGA SPONSORS BEAUTY CONTEST

Martenne Plaster

Staff Writer

This year's Miss UVA-Wise pageant will be held on Mar. 28 at 8 p.m. in Smiddy 100A and is sponsored by the Student Government Association (SGA). Applications may be picked up outside the SGA office in Cantrell Hall and on the first-floor lobby of Darden Hall. The deadline for applications is Mar. 5, along with a ten-dollar entry fee.

The pageant will showcase formal wear, casual wear and an interview session.

The talent portion of the show is tentative depending upon participants' willingness. Following the event, an afterparty will be held in the McCrary game room.

According to pageant coordinator Christopher Smith, prizes are being discussed. Smith promises that the pageant will be like no other, and he and the SGA encourage all women to participate. If interested, contact Christopher Smith by telephone at 376-4152 or by e-mail at cws757@yahoo.com.

Now Playing



This month's new releases include Steve Martin, Queen Latifah and Eugene Levy in *Bringing Down the House* (top) and Tommy Lee Jones and Benicio Del Toro in *The Hunted*.

March Movies Offer Something for Everyone

Adam Chaffin

Staff Writer

Many moviegoers are probably so tired of snow that they will be jumping for joy to hear the word "spring." So go ahead and let the good times roll because this spring, the movies offer a little something for everyone.

To start things off Antoine Fequa (director of *Training Day*) directs action star Bruce Willis in the drama *Tears of the Sun*. Shot in Hawaii, *Tears* focuses on a team of Navy SEALs that are dropped into the Nigerian jungle to rescue some military doctors who are helping the natives. Fequa wanted to shoot the entire film on location but the climate kept him and the crew stateside. (Mar. 7)

Steve Martin and Queen Latifah get together in the comedy *Bringing Down the House*. When a conservative white lawyer has a blind date with a lady he meets on the

Internet, everything comes crashing down. Latifah plays the felon who decides to help put his life back together. (Mar. 7)

Academy Award winners Tommy Lee Jones and Benicio Del Toro headline *The Hunted*. When a "psycho" soldier begins killing hunters in the wild, a special-ops killing instructor is brought in to track him down. Del Toro broke his hand during filming which led to a seven-month shut down of the film. He said it was worth it because this is a solid film with a good message. Let's hope so. (Mar. 14)

Steven King returns to the big screen with the alien-encounter thriller *Dreamcatcher*. Morgan Freeman and Thomas Jane star as friends who travel to Maine on a hunting trip only to discover that they had been there years earlier and had an alien encounter (and they may have another). Many of King's novels have been turned

into feature films, but let's hope that this one is closer to *Misery* than to his other screen adaptations. (Mar. 21)

Chris Rock returns to theaters after last summer's disappointing *Bad Company* in the presidential comedy *Head of State*. Rock plays a D.C. alderman who is drafted into running for U.S. president. Bernie Mac joins the fun as Rock's bigger brother and running mate. The two are said to have great on-screen chemistry. Your's truly also auditioned for a role in this comedy, which filmed on location this past fall in D.C., but didn't get a part. (Mar. 28)

John Travolta and Samuel L. Jackson are teaming up once again in the suspense drama *Basic*. Travolta plays a DEA agent who is sent to investigate if a special ops agent was really killed during a training exercise overseas. (Mar. 28)

CHILDREN'S 'NEIGHBORHOOD' STAR MR. ROGERS DIES OF CANCER

Adam Chaffin

Staff Writer

Fred Rogers, the creator and host of the children's public television show *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*, died on the morning of Thursday, Feb. 27, due to complications dealing with stomach cancer that was diagnosed after the Christmas

holiday. He was 74.

Rogers, who hosted the beloved program from 1968 to 2000, was also the main writer for the show and voiced and operated many of the puppets that lived in the "Neighborhood of Make-Believe." He also wrote many of the songs featured in the show as well.

Rogers' message

remained constant and simple throughout the show's 32-year run, which was to teach viewers to love others and themselves. In addition to having fun and encouraging the use of one's imagination, Rogers also taught children how to share, deal with anger and even why they shouldn't worry about going down the drain in the bathtub.

Many people, however, do not know the other wonderful things Fred Rogers did away from the television. He studied early childhood development at the University of Pittsburgh, volunteered at a state prison in Pittsburgh and was an ordained Presbyterian minister.

Mister Rogers'

Neighborhood won four Emmy Awards as well as the George Foster Peabody Award in 1993, which recognized a lifetime achievement of 25 years in the "Neighborhood."

Surviving are his wife, Joanne, two sons and two grandsons. Reruns of the show continue to air on PBS.

STEVENS PERFORMS 'PUPPETEER'S WAKE'

Michelle Stallard

Staff Writer

A one-person music drama, *In the Puppeteer's Wake*, will be presented by touring artist Claudia Stevens, Tuesday, Mar. 25 at 7:30 p.m. in the Goodloe Center at Mountain Empire Community College (MECC).

In the Puppeteer's Wake is a true account of Jewish "boat people" in the early years of World War II and includes the harrowing escape in 1939 by Stevens' father Max from Nazi Europe to Palestine on the illegal ship *Katina*.

The story also tells of his mother who followed a year later. The performance also tells of a

stricken man who created a marionette play out of a grisly fairy tale. For this performance, Stevens has recreated scenes from her father's play, using the original marionettes and performing to keyboard and tape accompaniments.

Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and \$5 for students

As a part of the W. Campbell Edmonds Memorial Concert Series, *In the Puppeteer's Wake* is presented by the Pro-Art Association, UVA-Wise and MECC. It is partially supported by the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Dell Dude 'Stephen' Arrested

Dan Deel

Staff Writer

Benjamin Curtis, the 22-year-old actor who portrays "Steven," the quirky commercial spokesman for Dell computers, was arrested Feb. 9 on a marijuana possession charge. According to police, Curtis was nabbed after authorities spotted him buying a "small bag of marijuana" from a dealer on Manhattan's Lower East Side. Curtis, who lives in

lower Manhattan, was charged with criminal possession of marijuana, while Omar Mendez, the 19-year-old alleged dealer, faces drug sale and possession charges.

"Steven" can reboot and start from scratch again, however. The judge at the 22-year-old New York University drama student's arraignment said that his case would be dismissed and his record cleaned if he is not arrested during the next year.

BOWLING FOR COLUMBINE EXAMINES AMERICAN SOCIAL REFLECTION

Movie Spotlight

Chris Nickerson

One either loves or hates the Michael Moore experience. Moore is the scruffy, jowled filmmaker who constantly holds a mirror to the American societal reflection in hopes of illuminating his audience on our inconsistencies. One year ago, he was promoting both *Bowling for Columbine* at the Cannes Film Festival and his latest book, *Stupid White Men: and Other Sorry Excuses for the State of the Nation*. Obviously, Moore has an ideological perspective.

Columbine is thought-provoking, frightening, humorous and entertaining. The film opens with a chronicle of the events that took place across America and in the world on the morning of April 19, 1999 -- the morning that Dylan Klebold and Eric

Harris massacred their fellow high school students at Columbine High. The banality of every day existence is contrasted with American culture. The residents of Littleton, Colorado take pride in their clean streets and their "safe" neighborhoods. They work at the Lockheed defense plant, where they manufacture weapons of mass destruction. Moore questions the residents about the possibility of incongruity - they make bombs, but their children should not "play with guns."

Unfortunately, no one in Littleton seems "in" on the irony. Later, Moore discusses life in Littleton with a Columbine graduate, Matt Stone, who produces/creates the popular (and occasionally offensive) "South Park" series on Comedy Central. Stone seems to understand how the mundane aspects of Littleton might affect disturbed teens.

Moore continues his examination of America's gun culture - our "right to bear arms." His journey takes him to the NRA, K-Mart (where Klebold and Harris bought the ammunition), the streets where one can buy a gun illegally and even to an elementary school where one six year-old student shoots and kills another six year-old student in Moore's hometown of Flint, Michigan.

In the end, Moore's eternal question of why America's gun-toting population kills more than 11,000 people every year, versus other countries with similar laws regarding guns that have averages as low as 68 people per year, produces a possible answer: fear. The argument is that we are a country reinforced by fear. Fear produces irrational acts, and fear breeds more fear.

Along the way, Moore introduces the audience to Terry Nichols' brother who was

cleared of any involvement in the Oklahoma City bombing, classmates of Klebold and Harris, the welfare-to-working mother of the six year-old who shot his classmate, and two survivors of Columbine. The film is seamless, logically guiding us through the chaos of modern American existence. Perhaps the most chilling moments in the film are the actual surveillance footage from Columbine's cafeteria, in which Klebold and Harris stalk their classmates with assault rifles, and the audio consists of repeated 911 calls from students and a teacher trapped inside. As we the audience watch the two gunmen, an operator receives a call from a man who identifies himself as "Mr. Harris." He offers that he understands his son may have "been involved in a shooting."

Moore also focuses on Charleton Heston and the NRA. Heston makes an appearance in

Littleton merely two days after the shootings, and he makes a similar appearance in Flint following the death of the six year-old. Moore's implication is that Heston makes such appearances in order to counteract any negative coverage about gun ownership. By the film's conclusion, Moore has secured an interview with Heston. As Moore probes him about any responsibility he might have regarding his acts and support of America's gun culture, Heston gets up and leaves mid-interview.

Bowling for Columbine is not for the squeamish, nor is it for the person who blindly places a "United We Stand" sticker on his or her bumper without first examining our social reflection. The film was the first documentary to be nominated for the Palme d'Or, Cannes' highest honor, since 1956.

'AND THE WINNER IS:' CAVALIER PREDICTS THIS YEAR'S OSCAR WINNERS

Roger Hogg, Jr.

Editor-in-Chief

Hollywood's most celebrated and glamorous night of the year - the Academy Awards - is once again approaching. The ballots have been mailed to members, the Kodak Theatre is being lavishly decorated for its second year in operation as Oscar's home, and everyone is making their



The 75th Annual Academy Awards will be broadcast live, Mar. 23 at 8:30 ET, on ABC.

predictions about who will win the most coveted award in the entertainment industry.

So, who will win? Who should win? Although a writer cannot honestly say who will actually win, predictions can be made based upon various sources, and opinions can also be given as to who should win (whether they do or not).

Best Actor

The lead male acting noms this year include four actors who have proven themselves before as Oscar-worthy performers and one actor who is a relative unknown. This "unknown" is Adrien Brody, the star of *The Pianist* who is probably the third pick of the bunch this year. Michael Caine (*The Quiet American*) has little to no chance of winning (many are still wondering why he was nominated), and Nicholas Cage's hype for *Adaptation* has quickly diminished. The two actors, therefore, who are neck-and-neck are three-time winner Jack Nicholson (*About Schmidt*) and Daniel Day-Lewis (*Gangs of New York*). Both seem to be very deserving of Oscars, but each has a notable weakness. Nicholson's role in *Schmidt* is very subdued compared to his other notable roles, whereas Day-Lewis' role in *Gangs* has often been considered more of a supporting role than a leading one. In the end, however, Nicholson will probably prevail, as he should, if only for the fact that he would go down

in the record books as the actor with the most Oscars. Who Should Win / Who Will Win: Jack Nicholson

Best Actress

The talk of the town this year is definitely Nicole Kidman's masterful performance in *The Hours*. And while she will most probably win the Oscar, there are two other nominees who can definitely give Kidman a run for her money: Julianne Moore (*Far From Heaven*) and Renee Zellweger (*Chicago*). The other actresses, Salma Hayek (*Frida*) and Diane Lane (*Unfaithful*) are definitely out of the running (especially Lane with a very "normal" role compared to the others). Regardless, Kidman will and should win, especially since she lost last year despite her brilliant performances in *The Others* and *Moulin Rouge*. Who Should Win / Who Will Win: Nicole Kidman

Best Supporting Actor

The supporting acting categories are perhaps this year's most competitive. In the actress category, and once again see Meryl Streep nominated (she is now the most Oscar-nominated actor/actress in history), this time for *Adaptation*. Despite her Golden Globe, however, she is probably not going to win for such a minor performance. About Schmidt's Kathy Bates is perhaps the weakest of all the nominees, mainly

because she has yet to top her Oscar-winning role in *Misery*. Julianne Moore (*The Hours*) has a chance for the "body of work" Oscar, since she is nominated in two acting categories this year. The two top contenders, however, are probably Catherine Zeta-Jones and Queen Latifah, both in *Chicago*. Although I feel that Latifah deserves an Oscar simply because of her screen presence (not to mention it would be nice to see a rap star win an Oscar), but Zeta-Jones will probably win thanks to her larger role in the film as well as her proven yet unrecognized talent in past movies. Who Should Win: Queen Latifah Who Will Win: Catherine Zeta-Jones

Best Supporting Actress

Like the Supporting Actor category, the Supporting Actress category also includes five talented and acclaimed actors. *The Hours'* Ed Harris and *Catch Me If You Can's* Christopher Walken are both great actors who have been nominated before, but their roles are probably not Oscar-worthy. My personal favorite, Paul Newman in *Road to Perdition*, has a very nuanced and subtle role in the film that should be awarded but will probably also be overlooked. Chris Cooper has been mentioned often for his role in *Adaptation*, but my guess is that John C. Reilly (*Chicago*) will win just because he has been in quite a few critically acclaimed films this year. By the way,

why didn't the Academy nominate Jude Law for his explosive performance in *Road to Perdition*? Who Should Win: Paul Newman Who Will Win: John C. Reilly

Best Director

It's been known that if a director wins an Oscar, then his film will also get Best Picture. In this case, my vote goes with Rob Marshall for *Chicago*. His only competitor, in my opinion, is Stephen Daldry for *The Hours*, although many people are going with Martin Scorsese and his *Gangs of New York*. Due to some controversial trouble with the law lately, Roman Polanski will probably not win for *The Pianist* and Pedro Almodovar is practically off the radar for *Talk to Her*. Who Should Win / Who Will Win: Rob Marshall, *Chicago*

Best Picture

With 13 nominations and a better box-office haul than *The Hours*, *Chicago* will probably reign as the night's Best Picture (and the first musical to win in a very long time). As for the other nominees, *Gangs of New York* has a small chance, whereas *The Pianist* and *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers* should not have high expectations. The Golden Globe winners will definitely have to duel it out this year: *Chicago* and *The Hours*. What Should Win: *The Hours* What Will Win: *Chicago*

PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED STUDENTS COPE WITH CAMPUS LIFE

Tarah Boy

Staff Writer

Imagine you are on the bottom level of Zehmer Hall and you simply want to go upstairs to talk to your professor. For some physically challenged people, it would mean that he or she would have to go outside in the rain or freezing cold, go to Darden Hall to catch an elevator, and upon reaching the top floor, go through a walkway and hopefully find the professor they are looking for. If the professor is not there, the student would have to take the long way around, through the hallway, down the elevator, outside in the freezing cold or rain to get to the next class and hope that he or she would not be

late.

A physically challenged student pays the same amount of tuition as a student without any disabilities, and needs should be met equally; in other words, every building on campus should have equal facilities.

One student who faces such challenges each day is Bobbi VanHuss, a positive, motivated young woman with Spina-bifida, which she has dealt with since birth. VanHuss, however, has never complained about not having an elevator in Zehmer or tried to use her disability for special recognition. One must wonder, however, why her and other students' needs have not been met regardless of their kind patience.

"Although some challenges are greater than others," VanHuss said, "I feel that I have been able to do everything that I have accomplished due to two important factors: the support of my family and my faith in God, believing that all things are possible and His grace will see me through the difficult moments."

VanHuss also sees great purpose in her disability and feels that there is a plan for her life in God's eyes and therefore accepts her physical challenge with honor in hopes of helping others.

"I hope that through my disability, I have been able to show someone along the way that even though times get rough, there is hope that anyone

can achieve his or her dream by the grace of God," VanHuss said. "He can heal both physically and emotionally as well as mentally and spiritually. I know I can do all things through Christ, Who strengthens me."

She hopes that others who are physically challenged will be encouraged by her own trials to continue their education and better themselves as well as overcome the mind state that can handicap one more than the physical challenge itself.

Despite the problem of indoor facilities for disabled persons, there are now more than two handicapped areas for the physically disabled in the public parking lots around campus.

AMERICANS ENCOURAGED TO PREPARE SURVIVAL KIT

Julia Maggard

Staff Writer

The tension is mounting and many Americans are growing nervous about the possibility of war. The latest breaking news and our country's involvement seem to be the topics of conversation in class and among peers outside of class. When it seems like there is nothing to do

but wait, however, students can prepare, and a very important item for preparation is a survival kit.

For a survival kit, it is important to keep plenty of water on hand. Also, store at least a two-week supply of nonperishable food as well as any medicines that are needed

by family members. Potassium iodide should also be included in a survival kit because it protects against radioactive iodine. A first-aid kit with a tube of antibiotic ointment to protect from infection is also a crucial item.

In addition, long burning candles with small wicks will

burn for at least 14 nights, but an oil lamp and flashlights with extra batteries are probably a better choice. A radio, necessary for communication, is also a good item for the survival kit. It is also suggested that one make an evacuation checklist and add items that are necessary for individual family members.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL ADVANCES TO SEMIFINALS

Dan Deel

Staff Writer

After claiming their first-ever conference title and clinching a spot in the NAIA Division II Men's Basketball Championship, the No. 1-seeded UVa-Wise men's basketball team (22-9) added another victory to their already impressive overall record last Thursday night in the AAC basketball tournament at Virginia High by once again defeating No. 8, Union, 83-68 in steady fashion.

The team looked sharp and consistent, shooting 52 percent in the second half, compiling 17 assists. Three players scored in the double digits: AAC Player of the Year candidate Zack Moore (22 points and 11 rebounds), junior Bobby Hedrick (20 points, 5 assists) and junior Brandon Green (19 points, 8 rebounds).

The event now shifts to King College Friday evening, where UVa-Wise will face No. 12, Covenant. Covenant surprised No. 4, Tennessee-Wesleyan, 74-71 Thursday morning.

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