

THE HIGHLAND CAVALIER

LOYALTY INFORMING UVA-WISE

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We Can Do It!



This Week

As Women's History Month comes to a close, the Cavalier takes a look at the origins of Women's History Month as well as a look at the history of women in combat. Page 4.

In Sports

Carrie Griffith reports on the changes UVA-Wise is making to improve gender equality among athletes, which includes building a new softball field. Page 7.

In Op-Ed

In light of the recent media frenzy over a comment made by the lead singer of the Dixie Chicks against Pres. Bush, many Americans, including Kelly Muncy, are wondering what has happened to free speech. Page 8.

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM UNDERWAY



Above, an Iraqi government building erupts in flames after U.S. planes began bombing Baghdad on Wednesday, Mar. 19. Once President Bush's (left) 48-hour deadline demanding Saddam Hussein (right) and his sons exile themselves from Iraq expired, the United States commenced their attack on the country, beginning with bombing strikes on the Iraqi capital.

Bush Warns of 'Further Sacrifice' as Troops Near Baghdad

Roger Hays, Jr.
Editor-in-Chief

The United States initiated their war campaign against Iraq, dubbed Operation Iraqi Freedom, on the night of Wednesday, Mar. 19, following the lack of any Iraqi response to President Bush's 48-hour deadline demanding that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and his sons leave their home country. The war began with massive bombing strikes on

Iraq's capital in Baghdad, but now ground troops have crossed the border and are progressing toward the capital city.

As of Friday, Mar. 28, American and British ground troops have advanced on the Iraqi cities of Basra and Nasiriyah, and casualties are steadily increasing.

While ground troops proceed toward their ultimate destination in Baghdad, President Bush prepared the

U.S. for more casualties, saying, "Fierce fighting currently under way will demand further courage and further sacrifice."

In preparation for advancing ground troops, officials said that F/A-18s bombed an Iraqi fuel depot and missile facility south of Baghdad on Mar. 28. Other major events reported as of Mar. 28 included the arrival of U.S. troops via helicopters

near Najaf, where they overcame Iraqi paramilitary attacks. The U.S. Marines also successfully occupied the northern and southern sections of Nasiriyah, an important strategic city of 500,000 people, located on the Euphrates River.

Thus far, Iraq says that more than 4,000 civilians have been killed or wounded due to enemy attacks.

As for Saddam Hussein, many thought he was injured during the first night of bombing, although no reports of his condition or of his whereabouts can be confirmed. Hussein has appeared on Iraqi television since the war began, but officials have not been able to confirm whether or not his televised appearances were previously recorded.

(Source: AP)

SENIORS PREPARE FOR GRADUATION CEREMONY

Annalisa Hagerman
Staff Writer

UVa-Wise graduating seniors filtered in and out of the Chapel of all Faiths on Wed., Mar. 19, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., picking up their caps and gowns and ordering announcements.

Students were given nametags and key chains upon their arrival and then proceeded through a series of stations. The Alumni Association was the first stop for the seniors, where they were reminded that in May they would become a part of the elite group of nearly 7,000 alumni. The representative

reminded the students that any important events in their lives were of interest to the association and could be published in the alumni magazine, including marriages, births and anniversaries. They were also reminded to inform the association when they moved or changed addresses in order to keep in touch.

The Career Development Center sponsored the next stop, where students were asked to complete a questionnaire concerning their use of the services offered by the center. To many students

this station served as a reminder of the way in which the College can assist graduating seniors in preparing for life after college. They were given information about Career Information Week and ways they could utilize the event to their benefit.

The Registrar's Office was next, on hand to congratulate the seniors. Students were given a graduation clearance along with special instructions concerning the academic procession. Because there will be no rehearsal for the big day, students were encouraged to

arrive early that morning. Other reminders included tips to wear "comfortable shoes and lightweight clothing" and to eat well the morning of the big day. The most important reminder was for seniors to pick up their actual diploma at Cantrell Hall after the ceremony. Finally, they were given a print-out from the Cashier's Office to remind them of any remaining balances on their accounts.

Next in the line was a print-out of the exact way a graduate's name will appear on his or her diploma and a reminder of the dinner for the

graduates and their parents. The dinner will be held in Greear Gym and will be free to seniors and their families.

After ordering their graduation announcements and class rings, the seniors were fitted for their caps and gowns, which they received along with their tassels.

Refreshments were offered and free tee-shirts were given to the first 100 students.

The graduation ceremony will be held on May 17.

CAREER INFO WEEK SET FOR APRIL

Annalisa Hagerman
Staff Writer

The Career Development Center will present Career Information Week from Apr. 7 to Apr. 11. This week-long event will provide information and assistance on finding a job.

A professional dress workshop in the Chapel from 10 to 11 a.m. on Monday begins the week, followed by an employer panel session in the Chapel on Tuesday, Apr. 8 from 5 to 6 p.m. Career Information Day will be held on Apr. 9 in the gym from 11

to 12 p.m. At Career Information Day, students will receive information from the Career Development Center and the Career Information Week staff. The Career Development Office will be open from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Apr. 8, and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Apr. 9. For more information, or if you have questions, contact Kathy Hillis in the Career Development Office at 328-0126.

NAPOLEON HILL SCHOLARS ATTEND CAMP BETHEL

Annalisa Hagerman
Staff Writer

The UVa-Wise Napoleon Hill Scholars participated in a winter camp at Camp Bethel on Feb. 28. The Virginia Workforce Network sponsored the event and the Lonesome Pine Office on Youth and the Napoleon Hill Scholars program helped plan and organize the camp.

The supervisors were Dr. Frank Frey, Paula Short, Paul Kaskov and Jeff Rolen. The counselors included Jimmy Adkins, Jesse DeLoach, Zeynep Kara, Basak Kaya, John Kidd, Evin Tezcanli and Jarod Vasold.

Almost all of the 25 campers in the camp, with ages ranging from 15 to 21, had suffered from a past of serious domestic problems, which eventually led to drug addictions or being left abandoned. Some of them had to start working at a very young age and lived alone for many years. Social Services eventually helped the youths to get an education, to be recognized in the community

and to build their hopes for the future.

One camp activity included a presentation by Paula Short involving R.E.A.L. (Rural Entrepreneurship through Action Learning) activities. The campers were asked to come up with a product and to create the marketing plan of their product, such as a newspaper advertisement or a commercial. After the declaration of the overall winner, all the groups were awarded, with several prizes such as gift cards and CDs.

The last exercise involved "learning from adversity and defeat," where everyone shared with the group a moment of their lives that they believed was a mistake. According to Jimmy Adkins, a former Napoleon Hill Scholar, the activity was the moment where "you may burst into tears or roll over the floor laughing."

After the camp's final activities, the counselors exchanged addresses and phone numbers with the campers to allow both groups to keep in touch.

EDUCATION STUDENTS HELP CHILDREN CELEBRATE DR. SEUSS' 99TH BIRTHDAY

Annalisa Hagerman
Staff Writer

Students both young and old gathered in Greear Gymnasium on Monday, Mar. 3 at 6:00 p.m. to celebrate the 99th birthday of literary legend Dr. Seuss. The event was produced by the UVa-Wise education students, who organized the games and crafts and acted out two of the doctor's famous books.

The first performance, "The Cat in the Hat," kept the youngsters' attention by improvising the ways in which a

"cat" can stand on a "ball." While the cat received most of the young audience's interest, the introduction of Thing One and Thing Two brought laughter and smiles from both the children and adults. The final act resulted in a spontaneous eruption of applause right on cue.

Anna Mullins, a mother and a student, said, "My little boy loves it." Her five-year-old son, Jacob, said he especially liked the talking fish.

The second performance, "Daisy-Head

Mayzie," captured even more attention from the children. Kensleigh Baker said that her favorite part was "when the flower grew in Daisy's head." As a result of the play many children rushed to the table to get their own Daisy-Head flower.

At the end of the second play, the lights were dimmed and all eyes were turned on the cake and its 99 burning candles. After the birthday chorus was sung, the younger students ran to play fish toss, foot bingo and the

matching game.

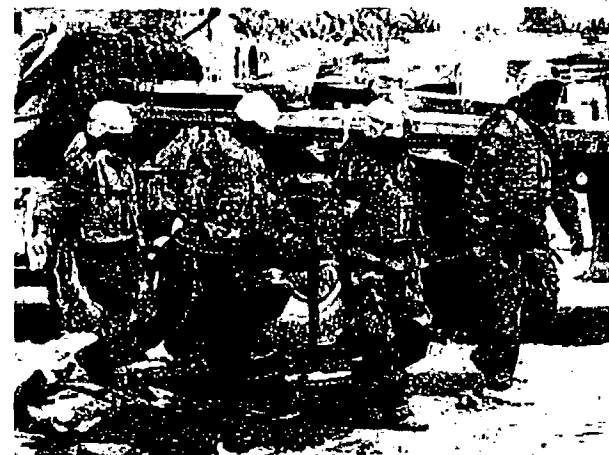
All the games and crafts followed the Dr. Seuss and there was also a reading center and a gift shop. The gift shop featured Dr. Seuss books, dolls and the classic Dr. Seuss hats. All the younger students were given a numbered fish to wear around their necks, which were used to give out door prizes.

The celebration was part of the Read Across America campaign adopted four years ago by the education department at UVa-Wise.

According to Dr. Sandy Richardson, the faculty advisor of the event, fliers were sent to schools in Wise County and announcements were made on television, radio and in newspaper advertisements. Richardson is already energetic about next year's party which will be bigger and better considering it will be the 100th birthday of the treasured author.

The festivities lasted until 8:00 p.m. and hosted an estimated 150 Wise County children.

PHOTO COVERAGE OF OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM



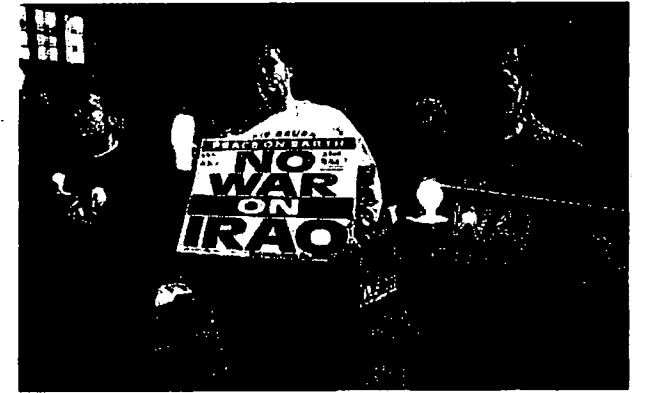
After fierce fighting in Nasiriyah, American soldiers (above) carry one of their dead comrades out of the battlefield. Right, a British armored combat vehicle plows through a picture of Saddam Hussein in Basra, Mar. 24.



Left, a British soldier fires at Iraqi enemies during the battle in Basra, Mar. 24. Above, a small group of Iraqi soldiers raise a white flag in surrender to American troops. Many Iraqis who surrendered were excited and relieved to meet the arrival of American and British troops.



Source for all photos: Yahoo! News



Left, U.S. military police guard a group of detained Iraqis who lie face down on the road near Nasiriyah, Mar. 24. Above, anti-war protesters in Jackson, Miss., say silent prayers during a candlelight ceremony, Mar. 23.

AMERICANS REFLECT ON HISTORY OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Kim Stallard
Staff Writer

In March 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued a presidential message to the American people, encouraging the recognition and celebration of women's historic accomplishments during the week of Mar. 8, launching Women's History Week. By the end of 1980, former

Representative Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) and Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) had co-sponsored the first Joint Congressional Resolution that declared the week of Mar. 8 in 1981 as National Women's History Week.

In 1980 the National Women's History Project (NWHP) was founded in Santa Rosa, California. The goal of

the project was to provide a national clearinghouse for general information about women's history and for specific information about National Women's History Week celebrations. With the support and curriculum materials generated by the National Women's History Project, many state departments of education promoted

programs for National Women's History Week as a means toward achieving a more balanced curriculum.

In 1987, at the request of women's organizations, museums, libraries, youth leaders and educators throughout the country, the National Women's History Project successfully petitioned

Congress to expand the national celebrations to the entire month of March. A National Women's History Month Resolution was quickly approved with strong bipartisan support in both the House and Senate. Since 1992, a presidential proclamation has carried the directive for what is now a major national and international celebration.

WOMEN IN COMBAT MAKE HISTORY THROUGH CULTURAL CHANGE

Christina Hicks-Coleman
Staff Writer

An article in the March 16th edition of *Time* magazine introduces American readers to the Richardsons, the "first husband and wife battalion commanders in the married-with-children military." According to *Time*, the Richardsons are likely to be the first married battalion commanders ever to fly into battle together. Like her predecessors in Operation Desert Storm, Lieutenant Colonel Laura Richardson leaves behind a family, and the image of a mother going into battle does not provide comfort in the political justifications for war.

organization of 25,000 women to fill clerical jobs previously reserved by the Army for men. In Jan. 1942, Congresswoman Rogers introduced another bill for a Women's Army Auxiliary Corps of 150,000 women for noncombatant duties, with an amendment giving the women military status and the right to be enlisted and appointed in the army on the same basis as men. Although many male congressmen opposed such a situation, President Franklin Roosevelt signed the bill into law in May 1942. Public Law 77-554 established the WAAC's without granting them military status.

Soon, the Navy Department asked for authority to enlist and appoint women in a women's section of the Naval Reserve, the Coast Guard Reserve and the Marine Corps Reserve. The bill became law (PL 77-689) on July 30, 1942. Within six months the Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service (WAVES), the Coast Guard's "Semper Paratus - Always Ready" (SPARS) and the Women's Marines were enlisting women and calling reservists to duty. Under the guidance of female aviator Jacqueline Cochran, the Women's Auxiliary Ferry Service (WAFS, and later the WASPS) became active in ferrying planes under non-military status.

March is Women's History month, a time for reflection on the feminine legacy in shaping the history of this country and the world. Lieutenant Laura Richardson is a part of cultural evolution, and her role in history is shaped by that legacy of twentieth-century women who were willing to "give their all" for their country in combat. This article recognizes their place in America's story.

Prior to Pearl Harbor, Congresswoman Edith Nourse Rogers introduced a bill in the House of Representatives to establish a Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC's). She proposed a quasi-military

Those early enlisted women endured environmental hardships, gender prejudice, and racial prejudice. They witnessed the atrocities of war with their male counterparts, while not achieving military status. These were the women who would later be considered a part of the "greatest generation;" they were there first - long before Desert Storm, Sept. 11 or Lieutenant Laura Richardson. They proved themselves to their doubting male counterparts, as exhibited in the demonstration of the B-29 bomber. After one of Boeing's top test pilots died in the B-29 aircraft, everyone deemed it



"Rosie the Riveter" has remained an enduring symbol of women's rights and progression throughout modern history.

unsafe. However, two highly trained, seasoned WASP pilots flew the craft with ease, demonstrating its safety maneuvers for a transfixed male audience. No one needed to doubt the B-29 again.

Few Americans welcome the onset of war, and few Americans relish the idea of women in combat. However, it must be noted that even America's enemies recognized the role of women in the

military. Hitler's Weapons Production Chief Albert Speer, observed the following:

"How wise you were to bring women into your military and into your labor force. Had we done that initially, as you did, it could well have affected the whole course of the war. We would have found out, as you did, that women were equally effective, and for some skills, superior to males."

INFORMATIVE DISCUSSION HELD TO EDUCATE STUDENTS ON TITLE IX

Jennifer Davis
Staff Writer

To better inform students about Title IX, a special discussion was held Mar. 27 in Alumni Hall at 6 p.m., including guest speakers and refreshments.

Title IX is part of the Education Amendments that were enacted in June 1972 and signed into law by President Nixon. Title IX applies to any institution that receives federal funds, including elementary schools and universities. The meaning of Title IX is that Americans should be treating girls, boys, women and men fairly and providing equal opportunities in educational programs, including athletic programs, and because Title IX demands equal opportunities for women in athletic programs, it has caused some controversy. Any school, college or university that receives federal funding must meet Title IX's athletic requirements, which consist of three components.

The first component is

"No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational programs or activity receiving federal financial assistance."
— Title IX

known as the "Three-Part Test", used to determine whether males and females are provided with equitable opportunities to play sports. A school, college or university has to meet only one of the three following criteria in order to pass the first component.

The first criterion of the "Three-Part Test" states that athletic participation should be reflective of the student body ratio. For example, if the student body were made up of 60% females and 40% males, then a school would meet this criterion if 60% of their athletes were female and 40% of their athletes were male.

The second criterion of the test states if a federal funded educational institution has a history of program expansion for the underrepresented gender, whether it is male or female,

and has added a sport program for the underrepresented gender and made future plans of expansion, then the federal funded educational institution has met the criteria.

The third criterion makes sure that the school, college or university has met the interests and abilities of the underrepresented gender.

Component two addresses the issue of athletic scholarships. It states that if athletic scholarships are being provided to student athletes, then they must be distributed in relation to the student-athlete population. For example, if females make up 50% of the student-athlete population, then females should receive 50% of the athletic scholarships.

The third component states that the services provided to male athletes should be

similar in quantity and quality to the services provided to female athletes. Title IX has 11 areas that must be examined in order to meet this component, including equipment and supplies; scheduling of games and practice times; travel and related expenses; availability of coaches and their compensation; locker rooms, practice, and competitive facilities; medical and training services; publicity; support services; recruitment of student athletes; housing and dining facilities and services; and availability of tutors.

The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) of the U.S. Department of Education enforces Title IX. If a school does not abide by Title IX then the withdrawal of the school's federal funding could result, and the OCR will demand that the school make changes in its

programs and pay the student damages for his or her lost opportunities.

Title IX has made a strong impact on higher education for women and especially women athletes. According to the National Women's Law Center, there were 31,852 female college athletes in 1972, but by the year 2001, that number had grown to 150,916. Also in 1970, in every 27 females participated in high school varsity sports. Today that number is over 2.5 females.

Title IX does not force or demand that any school, college or university change its sports to accommodate women's sports or that these educational institutions need to meet quotas. Title IX prohibits sex discrimination in a federally funded educational institution and requires equal opportunities for men and women to play sports and participate in other educational programs.

NUTRITION MONTH A REMINDER TO EAT RIGHT

Jodie Kern
Staff Writer

March is National Nutrition Month, reminding people to reinforce the importance of nutrition as a major key of health and physical activity. College students should pay special attention to this subject. Students like to eat out as well as in the cafeteria, mostly because it is convenient and it also provides a social atmosphere. Here are some ways to eat right on and off-campus without overdoing it.

Slow down, eat small you eat satisfied, not stuffed. If you are going to have a big dinner, eat a big lunch and try to be more active in the days following. For a small meal, order an appetizer instead of a full meal. Order a salad as a meal and ask for dressing on the side. Do not order fried

foods; order foods that are broiled, roasted or baked. Avoid alcoholic beverages; instead order water or tea. Do not eat your entire meal at the restaurant; take some home for lunch the next day. Share large meals and skip super-sized meals.

Nutrition and physical activity go directly together. Remember when you start to eat a "heavy" meal that overeating increases your risk for diabetes, heart disease and

There are many ways for you to turn your everyday activities into physical activities. The idea is to spend more time moving and less time sitting. Try to do things you enjoy, such as walking, biking or running. Also remember to decrease your stress and eat healthy.

COLLEGE OFFERS SEVERAL AVENUES OF STRESS MANAGEMENT AND COUNSELING

Theresa Day
Staff Writer

When students are stressed and need someone to help them out or to simply talk to, UVA-Wise provides several important people throughout the campus, including College Counselor Jewell Worley, Academic Support Technician Whitney Wells, Narda Porter in Student Support Services and Kathy Elkins in Career Development.

For that extra someone who can be trusted and can give a few extra hugs of encouragement, College Counselor Jewell Worley welcomes all students to her office located on the bottom floor of Cantrell Hall. There is no pressure to talk until one has built up enough trust to talk, and Worley is always willing to listen when a student is ready. Worley is pleased to just "hang out" with students when they need a friend or a mother figure for guidance, offering both "regular" advice as well as Christian counseling.

Academic Support

Technician Whitney Wells offers various activities to help students relieve their stress, including a party before this year's spring break, where all those in attendance had to take a stress test before entering the room. Students were also asked to leave their stresses at the door and sign a Declaration of Stress Independence to be effective until the end of school. Wells also offers brochures describing ways to ease stressful situations so that one can focus on one's needs.

Narda Porter in Student Support Services works to encourage students and offers friendly advice, including advice on stress.

"The best way to deal with stress is to look at the small picture instead of the large one and deal with things one at a time, to where they do not look overwhelming," Porter said. "Exercise a lot, get plenty of sleep and be sure to not over-study as well as under-study."

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326 TAMM (300)

Now Playing

Adam Chaffin
Staff Writer

April serves as the last month for studios to release their less-than-blockbuster films to theaters as moviegoers anticipate the rush of "summer" movies to begin hitting in May.

Starting things off is *A Man Apart*, a thriller starring fast-rising action star Vin Diesel. Diesel plays a DEA agent who is seeking revenge on a drug lord who may have been involved in the death of his family. Originally titled "Diablo" (changed partly due to the video game of the same name), the film has been plagued with reshoots and a continuously changing opening date, keeping some people guessing as to how good the film will actually be. (Apr. 4)

After going independent in last fall's *Punch-Drunk Love*, Adam



Sandler returns to form with Jack Nicholson in *Anger Management*. After being sent into court-mandated therapy for apparently starting a fight on an airplane, Sandler's character is put into the care of a mad (not

crazy, just mad) psychiatrist (Nicholson) who uses unconventional methods to ease his stress. After Sandler's departure in *Punch-Drunk Love* and Nicholson's restrained role in *About Schmidt*, their new film seems to be

April Films Clear the Way for Summer Blockbusters



Vin Diesel (left) returns with yet another action thriller in *A Man Apart*, while Jack Nicholson and Adam Sandler team up for their "psychological" comedy *Anger Management*.

an outrageous movie that should please comedy lovers. (Apr. 11)

Chow Yun-Fat and Seann William Scott go old-school with the action-comedy *Bulletproof Monk*. Yun-Fat plays a monk who is

protecting an ancient scroll that, if in the wrong hands, is capable of unleashing a massive war. Yun-Fat's character decides to train a successor (William-Scott) to take over for him, but the successor needs a lot

of training in order to take over successfully. The film wrapped last June, but test audiences felt the film needed more "kick," so they reshot some of the action sequences and test audiences loved it. (Apr. 16)

PRO-ART TO PRESENT DIVERSE PUPPET SHOW

Michelle Stallard
Staff Writer

The Wood and Strings Puppet Theatre will present a magical tale of a smoke-breathing dragon at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, Apr. 10 at Coeburn Middle School.

The elegant production of "Out of a Mist, a Dragon" is written by the funny, wise and crazy antics of Ho-Ho, Doody, Charlie, McCarthy and the Muppets. Charissa Lega and Leon Fuller have produced a show which Lega, the artistic director, calls "a journey around the world of traditional folk puppetry."

The show uses carved masks of Native Americans, Dutch and Italy from Europe, shadow puppets from Indonesia and reproductions of the classical and exquisite Japanese puppets of a style known as Bunraku. The two male Bunraku puppets are four feet tall, and the lovely young princess is just over three feet tall.

The story takes place on an island in Japan, where a samurai warrior seeks a

suitable husband for his daughter, Lotus, but he is enraged when she falls in love with an humble fisherman. In his anger, he changes the fisherman into a nine-foot-long dragon. A kindly spirit tells the dragon that he can break the spell if he travels the world to obtain the keys of wisdom. On the long journey, the dragon encounters the purpose of the world. With new wisdom and knowledge, he is able to defeat the fisherman's will and seek Lotus' love.

Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and \$5 for students. Since the local government is a co-sponsor, residents of the Town of Coeburn may request half-price admission when they show identification with an address within Coeburn.

As a part of the W. Campbell Edmonds Memorial Concert Series, the show is co-sponsored by the Town of Coeburn. It is partially supported by the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

MARCOLIVIA PERFORMS TWICE IN AREA

Michelle Stallard
Staff Writer

Marcolivia performed duo concerts on Mar. 26 and 27 in Wise and Big Stone Gap. The first performance was Wednesday, Mar. 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the UVa-Wise Chapel of All Faiths. On Thursday, Mar. 27, Marcolivia performed at 12:15 p.m. in the Goodloe Center at Mountain Empire Community College (MECC).

Marcolivia takes its name from violinists Marc Ramirez and Olivia Hajioff and has concertized extensively both in the United States and abroad, including performances in Russia, Japan, Canada, Mexico and throughout Europe. Their performances have been

featured on radio and television programs broadcast throughout North America, Europe and Asia. They have been ensemble-in-residence at the Tokyo College of Music. Ramirez and Hajioff are on the faculty of the Las Vegas Summer Music Festival and the Dartington International Festival in Great Britain.

As a part of the Mountain Empire Cultural Arts Series, the events are sponsored by the Pro-Art Association, UVa-Wise, MECC and MECC Foundation, Inc. Marcolivia's performances were partially supported by the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.



Fans can now pick up the third season of the hit TV show *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* on DVD.

'BUFFY' SEASON THREE THE ONE TO OWN ON DVD

DVD Spotlight

Jesse Baker
Contributor

Considered by many to be the show's finest hour, the critically acclaimed third season of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* is now available on DVD. All 22 episodes are collected in this six-disc set, including the controversial episode "Earshot" and the season's explosive finale "Graduation Part 2".

After being tricked by her best friend Xander into killing her boyfriend-turned-enemy and being expelled from high school, one would think that Buffy's life cannot get any more

complicated than it already is. But it does when the mysterious Faith arrives on the scene as the newest Slayer to be called to defend humanity from the forces of evil. Unlike Buffy, Faith is a wild-child whose free-spirited attitude puts her at odds with Buffy and the rest of the Scooby Gang. But despite their differences, Buffy will need Faith's help to battle with the foes she will be facing, which include an evil, Mirror Universe version of Willow and the return of season two's bad boy, Spike, who kidnaps Willow in order to force her to create a love spell for regaining Spike's ex-girlfriend Drusilla.

But as Buffy and the Scooby Gang deals with the standard monsters of the week, an evil threat looms from the shadows, a conspiracy that threatens everything and everyone Buffy holds dear. Sunnyday's sinister mayor wants to gain the power of a demon and has hatched an elaborate scheme to kill off the graduating class at Sunnydale High School in order to achieve his transformation. As Buffy slowly uncovers the mayor's scheme, she must also deal with Faith, who betrays Buffy and joins forces with the mayor in order to help him succeed with his grotesque plan of

death. The final season to feature the show's original cast, season three has the show's team hitting their creative zenith as Buffy is confronted with two of her greatest challenges to date: battling her evil counterpart in the form of Faith and having to find a way to save all of her classmates from being slaughtered at their graduation day ceremony. If you have to buy just one Buffy DVD set, therefore, this is the one to own. The show never again hit the creative highs of the third season nor has it had such vitality.

COLLEGE STRIVES FOR MORE EQUALITY FOR FEMALE ATHLETES

Carrie Griffith
Staff Writer

To go along with Women's History Month, Coach Ray Spenilla, director of athletic operations, has updated the efforts that he and other staff members have made this school year to increase the opportunities for female student-athletes at UVa-Wise. The department strongly believes in the importance of gender equity in athletics.

Coach Spenilla is continuously making efforts to provide for and help the student-athletes in any way possible, and he believes that gender equity is of the utmost importance.

The department hired a new volleyball coach, Ms. Kim

Mathes, this past year to allow more opportunities for volleyball and softball players. The reason behind the move was because previously, the same person had coached both sports and it didn't allow much time for practice during the off-season for each team. Not only did the adjustment allow for more development, but it also may have helped the volleyball team to achieve their first winning season.

"This move also afforded better academic monitoring," said Coach Spenilla. "I am pleased to report that UVa-Wise had 15 players on the AAC All-American Team and one player was named N.A.I.A. All-American Scholar

Athlete this past November." Along with hiring a new volleyball coach, the athletic department also hired a female athletic trainer, Ms. Karin Schult, to provide more service to student-athletes.

In addition, there are plans for a new softball field. After the completion of the baseball field, which was necessary because of safety issues, Coach Spenilla would like to begin working on a new softball field across from the tennis courts. Not only will there be a new softball field, but also a new parking lot, which will have 150 to 200 spaces, and Coach Spenilla believes that this will help the college in more ways than one.

MEN'S BASKETBALL WINS AAC, COMPETES IN NATIONALS

Carrie Griffith
Staff Writer

Nothing could stop the Cavs this season. Not only did the men's basketball team finish first in the AAC regular season, but they also won the Championship in the AAC Tournament.

Zack Moore led the Cavs and broke the school's record of career points with 2462 points. To add to that, he was chosen N.A.I.A. Player of the Week, AAC Player of the Year and recently named to the N.A.I.A. All-American First

Team. The Cavs also benefitted from the AAC Coach of the Year, Lee Clark. Coach Clark led the Cavs to their most successful year ever and led them to the nationals, a first for the College.

The Cavs lost their first game at the Nationals by five points.

With so many honors and only one graduating senior (although he was the leading scorer), the Cavs could come out just as strong -- or perhaps better -- next year.

REACTION TO DIXIE CHICKS LEADS TO QUESTIONS OF FREEDOM

Kelly Okunoy

Contributor

If I could describe my interest in the Dixie Chicks in one word, I would have to say "fanatic." I have followed the Texas trio for the last five years, and during that time their music has become like a drug to me. I crave the smoothness of their voices and long for that chill that moves up my spine as they play their instruments. I cannot think of a single day in the last five years that the Dixie Chicks' music has not been heard by my ears. I believe the Country Music Television biography of the Chicks describes them best: "Describing the Dixie Chicks as a country music band is like calling Dolly Parton a singer, Roy Rogers a cowboy or Ross Perot a millionaire. It doesn't come close to conveying the true essence of this dynamic trio."

The Chicks are currently on a world tour promoting their newest album *Home*. It would seem that the tour was appropriately named the "Top of the World Tour," because within the last few years, these girls have flown straight to the top of the world of country music. Some fans fear -- while others hope -- that recent comments made by one group member will send them on a landslide to the bottom. The lead singer of the Grammy-award-winning group, Natalie Maines, took public flack for one line she spoke during a recent tour stop in Europe. At a London concert, she said, "Just so you know, we are ashamed that the president of the United States is from Texas."

For many of you, this is the only line you heard or saw. As a communication student here at UVA-Wise, one of the first things I learned in media classes is that the media reports what they want you to hear. One of the jobs of the media is to get citizens worked up and voicing their opinions, especially in a time of war. All Maines did was exercise her right to freedom of speech and now a lot of Americans are not

happy with it. How many people have spoken out against our nation and the decisions of our president and legislators in the past, especially during war times? Hundreds? Thousands? There have been too many people to count, but how many were publicly criticized for their words? Not as many as you think.

One of the great privileges of living in the United States is having the freedom to express your opinion about controversial issues. If I am not mistaken, the First Amendment of the U.S. Bill of Rights states, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

Apparently to some Americans, this only applies if you support the American government. What about the protestors who voice their opinions and call our president a murderer? No one cares, because they're not famous. Susan Sarandon, Martin Sheen, Sheryl Crow and Fred Durst are just a few of the entertainment industry's biggest names who have spoken out against our nation's placement in the Middle East. Their faces weren't plastered all over the news when they did so.

On Mar. 13, Maines issued the following statement: "We've been overseas for several weeks and have been reading and following the news accounts of our government's position. The anti-American sentiment that has unfolded here is astounding. While we support our troops, there is nothing more frightening than the notion of going to war with Iraq and the prospect of all the innocent lives that will be lost." Maines further stated, "I feel the President is ignoring the opinions of many in the U.S. and alienating the rest of the world. My comments were made in frustration and one of

the privileges of being an American is you are free to voice your own point of view."

I agree with the frightening notion of going to war, but at this point I see no alternative to the ongoing war in Iraq. Sadaam Hussein has had 12 years to unarm and has failed to do so. Iraq supposedly has chemical and biological weapons that Hussein will use on anyone who gets in his way. Do people not remember the morning of Sept. 11, 2001? America was caught off-guard on 9/11. If we sit around and wait, it will happen again. It's about time our troops go in and take care of business. Hussein is a terrorist and must be overthrown. That's my opinion and the opinion of many other Americans. Then again, many people see it differently. I am proud of our president and support the decisions he has made so far.

Returning to the Dixie Chicks, many members of military families and other citizens have spoken out, demanding the banning of the group's music, breaking CDs and burning concert tickets. Did I criticize these people for doing so? No, because that is their right. That is freedom of speech. Plus, I have some of those tickets and if you want to burn 65 bucks a pop, more power to you.

Another controversy is that Maines' statement was said on foreign soil. Some British citizens support Prime Minister Tony Blair's cooperation with the United States' efforts to liberate Iraq, while others do not. I will acknowledge that the singer's statement did not need to be made in another country and that her timing was off, but any fan of the Dixie Chicks can attest that Maines is known for her sassy mouth and has, in the past, stuck her size-seven foot in it many times.

On Mar. 14, Maines issued an apology on the group's official website, www.dixiechicks.com: "As a concerned American citizen, I apologize to President Bush

because my remark was disrespectful. I feel that whoever holds that office should be treated with the utmost respect. We are currently in Europe and witnessing a huge anti-American sentiment as a result of the perceived rush to war. While war may remain a viable option, as a mother, I just want to see every possible alternative exhausted before children and American soldiers' lives are lost. I love my country. I am a proud American."

I accept this apology and now this whole situation is "forgive-and-forget" for me.

As an American, Natalie Maines had a free right to say what was on her mind. I as an American, on the other hand, have a free right to not agree with everything she says. I will defend anyone's right, famous or not, to free speech until the day I leave this earth.

After you read this, you may think differently of me. That is fine, but the next time you pass me in the hall and I am proudly wearing my Dixie Chicks shirt or you see my "Earl's in the trunk" bumper sticker, don't call me un-American or unpatriotic. Just smile and say "God bless our troops."

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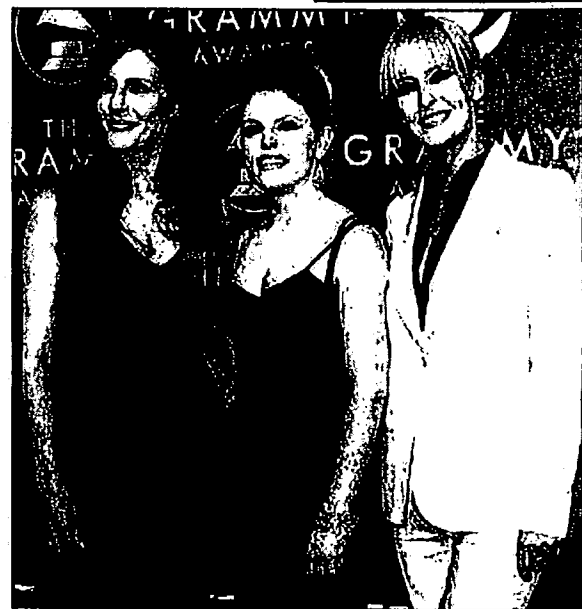
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The Dixie Chicks are seen here at this year's Grammy Awards in February. Maines, center, caused a stir in March with her comments against President Bush.