

THE HIGHLAND CAVALIER

LOYALY INFORMING UVA-WISE

Volume 55

No. 1

September 19, 2003

THIS WEEK

Living: The Greek organizations hold their annual Rush Week and invite potential members to join the sororities and fraternities. (Page 4)

Sports: The College's football and volleyball teams begin their seasons with success. You'll also find game schedules for both teams. (Page 5)

Entertainment: *Kill Bill* and *Intolerable Cruelty* are among October's biggest movies. Also, *Soul Calibur* returns to video games with a hit sequel. (Pages 6-7)

COLLEGE OPENS WITH RECORD FRESHMAN CLASS, PREPARES FOR GROWTH

Daniel Lechy

Staff Writer

With 360 students, this year's freshman class is the largest in the history of UVa-Wise, a four-percent increase from last year's freshman class. The new freshman class is also quite intelligent, with an average SAT score of 1100 and an average GPA of 3.4.

"Students are the best recruiters," said Rusty Necessary, Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management, adding that as long as the current students are happy, they continue to spread the word about UVa-Wise.

Also helping to spread the word is *US News & World Report*, which this year ranked the College eighth on their list of the nation's best public liberal arts colleges.

"This is important to parents; parents steer their kids to UVa-Wise," Necessary said. "UVa-Wise promotes quality academics in a rural environment... Students come with a

knowledge of the total package."

Necessary is also very proud of the ethnic diversity in the student population, with 17 percent of this year's freshman class being of minority status. Although most UVa-Wise students are Virginia residents, some students come from many places outside Virginia or even the United States. Necessary said that the name change from Clinch Valley College to the University of Virginia's College at Wise is a big reason for the increased interest.

As for the future of UVa-Wise, the Student Center is scheduled to open this year, and plans for a new dorm hall are in the works. Work on this new dorm is scheduled to begin after the spring 2004 graduation. The dorm hall is being planned to hold 115 new students, with about the same capacity as Henson Hall.

Ultimately, the future of UVa-Wise depends on the preservation of the College's established identity.

"It's important that we don't change who we are," Necessary said. "That's what makes us special."



The College has nearly completed the Student Center, after which plans for a new dorm hall on campus will be set into motion.

GIBSON BECOMES NEW WESLEY FOUNDATION MINISTER

Bridgette Stallard

Staff Writer

It's that time of year again, when school is back in session, and some new faces show up around campus. Among these additional faces at UVa-Wise is Mary Elizabeth Gibson, the new Campus Minister for the Wesley Foundation. The Foundation meets every Tuesday night at 6 p.m.,

when students can come to the Foundation for fellowship and fun, including home-cooked meals, Bible study, speakers, praise and worship.

Gibson is very excited about the upcoming year and wants to see plenty of new things happen. For one, Gibson would like to see the Wesley Foundation unite

with other campus ministries to further reach the UVa-Wise campus for Christ. Gibson also hopes to eventually install showers in the Wesley building so that the Foundation can host missions and missionaries. She hopes to receive support from the staff and faculty, as well, because she wants them to feel that

they are also a part of campus ministry, as well.

Gibson grew up traveling from place to place as a child because her father was in the military, but her family eventually settled in Big Stone Gap, where she graduated from Powell Valley High School.

Gibson went on to Lincoln Memorial

University, where she received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees and was a member of LMU'S Baptist Student Union. A United Methodist, Gibson felt led by God to do campus ministry, and the doors came open for her right after graduate school, when she was hired at UVa-Wise as the Wesley director.

COLLEGE CONVOCATION CELEBRATES NEW ACADEMIC YEAR

Jessica Lawson
Staff Writer

UVA-Wise once again officially launched the new academic year with the annual Fall Convocation at 10 a.m. on Aug. 26 in the Greear Gymnasium. Convocation is always commemorated as an event that celebrates the honors of present faculty and students and presents freshmen students with an early picture of the institution.

"Fall Convocation is an impressive way to open up the beginning of the school year, with talks and recognitions that are important to the school,"

said Dean Amelia Harris.

Dean Harris was one of the many UVA-Wise faculty members to speak at Convocation. During her moments to speak, Dean Harris addressed the significance of the academic regalia, which adorned the professors during the academic processional. The regalia signify the department and the highest academic degree awarded to each professor. Also recognized by Dean Harris during Convocation were those students who had earned Intermediate Honors, which are awarded to outstanding students who

have made the Dean's List for his or her first four semesters attending the college. Dean Harris also had the honor of installing Lora Wharton as the Honor Court Chair.

Also during convocation, Gerry Juhan, the vice chancellor of administration, had the honor of presenting the Buck Henson Student Life Award to Jim Collie, who has been an important advocate for students at the College. Chancellor Steve Kaplan took charge of installing Jennifer Davis as the newly elected president of the Student Government Association.



Dean Amelia Harris installs student Lora Wharton as the new Honor Court Chair during August's Fall Convocation.

Immediately following Convocation, students, faculty and guests were treated to an

activity fair and a picnic, compliments of the College.

UVA-WISE WELCOMES NEW FACULTY MEMBERS

Virginia Rothwell
Staff Writer

A new academic year always brings new people to the UVA-Wise campus, including new faculty throughout the various departments.

In the Business department, Irana Scott is a new teacher for cost and managerial accounting, auditing and information systems. Scott is originally from Castlewood but has also lived in Williamsburg. She received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from East Tennessee State University.

The Natural Science department welcomes two new faculty members this year. Aaron

Johnson teaches geology and geography for the department. After growing up on a Missouri cattle farm in the Ozarks, Johnson received his Bachelor's degree in geology from Southwest Missouri State University and received his Ph.D. in geochemistry from the University of Missouri in Columbia.

Matthew Maurer has also come to the staff as the new science educator in the department. Born and raised in northeastern Ohio, Maurer received his BS at Heidelberg College in Ohio. He then received his MA at Ohio State University, where he is currently completing his Ph.D. Maurer is currently

teaching Science 301 and Human Biology 160, and next semester, he will be responsible for the science methods, biodiversity and conservation courses.

Angela Wilson is a new instructor in the Nursing department, where she teaches nursing research and will eventually teach nursing theory, pediatric nursing and maternal child nursing. Wilson received her first degree at the Sentara Norfolk General Hospital School of Professional Nursing before receiving her BS and MS in Nursing from Old Dominion University. Wilson ultimately attended the University of Virginia, where she earned her Ph.D. in Nursing. Before

coming to UVA-Wise, Wilson was the Assistant Professor and Department Chair Nurse at Christopher Newport University. She is currently serving as the Region 13 coordinator for the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society for Nursing.

This year's new addition to the History department is Brian McKnight, who hails from Pennington Gap, Virginia. He earned his BA from UVA-Wise, his MA at Eastern Tennessee University and his Ph.D. at Mississippi State University. McKnight is teaching American history and western civilization this semester, and his specialty is Civil War history throughout the

southwestern Virginia and eastern Kentucky regions.

Todd Abel is the math department's newest faculty member, who received his undergraduate degree from King College and his graduate degree from Montana State University. Originally from Abingdon, Abel moved to Bozeman, Montana, before returning to Southwest Va. Abel enjoys hiking and tossing Frisbee and said that he would like to meet some people on campus who also enjoy such activities.

Editor's note: All other new faculty members were unfortunately unavailable for comment before going to press.

SGA PRESIDENT DAVIS HOPES FOR CAMPUS-WIDE CHANGES

Jessica Barnette
Staff Writer

Hoping to leave her mark at UVA-Wise and to be a positive voice for students, Student Government Association (SGA) President Jennifer Davis began her duties in office after being sworn in by Chancellor Steve Kaplan at the College's convocation ceremonies on Aug. 26. Davis and the SGA have several projects planned for the upcoming year.

"We do almost any event that you see on campus," Davis said, explaining the purpose of the SGA.

"We are allocated a budget for student fees. The organizations come to us if uniforms are needed, if they want to have a dance or an event, [and] we decide whether we should give them money to have that event."

Davis also said that the SGA is ready to help students who may have problems.

"We have the voice in our hands," Davis said. "We're the first people [students] come to whether it's a problem with one of the regulations or laws on campus or even it's a problem with the cafeteria."

When it comes to UVA-Wise, Davis believes that changes are needed, including more community involvement and better relations between commuters and residents.

"I would like for the students on campus, the commuters and residential students, to mesh more," Davis said. "Everyone knows that they don't hang out. I would like to see that happen more and I think with the new Student Center opening and some events that we have planned in the future, that it will happen."

The SGA has already begun planning for the

College's annual "JAM 4 MAN" concert that is held every spring on campus.

"It's probably one of the biggest events that's held on campus and that SGA sponsors," Davis said. "We're just trying to get that to be bigger this year, more organized."

Davis also said that the SGA hopes to host a larger variety of bands for the concert this year with more diverse types of music.

The SGA is also in charge of homecoming activities. Tonight there will be a concert at 8 p.m. with the Marauders, a local



Jennifer Davis officially accepts her duties as president of the Student Government Association by being sworn into office by Chancellor Steve Kaplan during Fall Convocation.

band, performing. Saturday will be game day for the football team, and tomorrow night the

SGA will host the Hawaiian-themed Homecoming Dance at Holiday Inn in Norton.

UVA-WISE HOSTING 17TH MEDIEVAL-RENAISSANCE CONFERENCE

Tiffany Hunter
Staff Writer

UVA-Wise is currently hosting the 17th Annual Medieval-Renaissance Conference from Thurs., Sept. 18 through Saturday, Sept. 20. The Conference includes a wide variety of presenters, including professors and students.

The conference is composed of three sessions per day, with each session running approximately 80 minutes.

Each session consists of three 20-minute papers on the same topic. The presentations are then followed by 20 minutes of questions geared toward

all three presenters. Approximately half of the sessions deal with literature, such as Shakespeare, Milton and Elizabethan drama. There are also two Medieval literature sessions, in addition to sessions on art and medieval history and language. Undergraduate

sessions will be held at the Baptist Student Union on Saturday, whereas other sessions are being held in the Chapel.

The Medieval-Renaissance Conference has been a fixture on campus for the past 17 years, providing a good opportunity to see and

hear professional papers. According to Conference Committee Chair Ken Tiller, the event serves as a "good first-time exposure to academic presentation" and "a good learning experience on important features in world history and literature."

SORORITY ENCOURAGES STUDENTS, FACULTY TO DONATE TO SOLDIERS OVERSEAS

U.S. soldiers stationed in the Middle East are asking for help from citizens back home in a very simple way.

Caria White, a Xi Gamma Zeta sister, has a brother stationed in the Middle East who has requested, on behalf of his division, for his sister and others to send things to help

keep their mind off of war during the soldiers' downtime. Xi Gamma Zeta, therefore, strongly encourages all UVA-Wise students and faculty to participate in

providing old movies, DVDs, magazines, food and other items to American men and women stationed overseas. Empty boxes will be placed on the ground floor of each dorm and

in Darden Hall. For further information, contact a member of Xi Gamma Zeta at 376-4003.

Roger Hogg, Jr.
Editor-in-Chief

Alternative Browsers

Most of you use Microsoft's Internet Explorer as your Internet browser of choice. And why not? It's included with practically every PC on the market, has an easy-to-understand interface and, of course, gives you that wonderful little "click" sound when you visit a link.

The few of you who do not use IE probably like Netscape 7.1 (or lower), the underdog of the mainstream browser world. Netscape practically has what Internet Explorer doesn't, with a sleek, attractive look and multi-tab browsing, which allows you to open new pages in separate tabs within the same browser window, saving space in your taskbar. Netscape suffers, however, from an annoyingly slow load time, taking several extra seconds to actually start up on your PC.

So, why not get the best of both worlds? Two independently made browsers that make excellent alternatives are available for download at CNET's Download.com. Anderson's Che's Avant Browser and Flash Peak's Slim Browser are both built around the IE architecture for fast load-times and easy surfing. The two browsers also feature multi-tab browsing like Netscape.

The best thing about Avant and Slim, however, is that they both allow you to block those annoying pop-up ads, as well as just about anything else you may want to block on the Internet.

So which one should you choose? Well, Avant Browser features a built-in Google search toolbar and is much prettier. Slim Browser, on the other hand, can automatically open any websites or mailboxes of your choice on startup.

To put it simple, Avant and Slim are both excellent browsers in their own right. Unless you're hard-pressed for disk space, then you should probably just download both browsers and see which one you like best, or just keep them both on your desktop and use each one when you need it.

To download Avant Browser and Slim Browser, visit Download.com and perform a search for each one.

GREEK ORGANIZATIONS CELEBRATE RUSH WEEK

Sororities and Fraternities Invite Potential Members

Michelle Brady & Melissa Danberg
Staff Writers

Three weeks into the new school year, the Greeks at UVa-Wise began fall Rush Week, a time for the Greek organizations (sororities and fraternities) on campus to scout potential members and for the student body to get a better look at what the Greeks are really about. There are six Greek organizations on campus. The three sororities are Alpha Delta Chi, Phi Sigma Sigma and Xi Gamma Zeta. The three fraternities are Gamma Chi Omega, Pi Kappa Phi and Pi Lambda Phi. The organizations engage in community service and

social events throughout the campus.

Rush Week opened with the annual Watermelon Welcome, a time for all Greeks to come together as one group before the individual Rush begins. The welcome allowed the presidents of each Greek organization to platform who they are and what their organization does.

The actual Rush began Monday, Sept. 8, during which all organizations held separate Rush events. Alpha Delta Chi hosted a "grill-out" at Alumni Hall, an annual dinner at Roma's and a cookout with the sisters. Phi Sigma Sigma tried something new called

"True Life," which detailed each aspect of their sorority. They also held their annual Phi Dye by the lake and a luau at the pool. Xi Gamma Zeta held events such as a "come-out-and-watch-the-girls" game, an ice cream social, a formal question-and-answer session and a remembrance night for the 9/11 victims and families, co-sponsored by ADX.

Gamma Chi Omega held many events, including a movie night, a barbecue, a game of "capture-the-flag" and roller-skating. Pi Kappa Phi dined out at an alumnus' pizza parlor to watch football, and they also had a cookout and a bowling night. Pi Lambda

Phi held a Monday-night get-together to eat pizza, hang out and watch football, as well as their annual "Smoker," which is a bonfire where the brothers talk about fraternity life.

Rush Week officially ended Thursday, after which it was up to the discretion of the Greek organizations when they were to hand out their bids, which are gestures from a fraternity or sorority to the rushers, inviting them to pledge. Those accepting an invitation to pledge will undergo an orientation period in which the associate is trained in the ways of the organization to become an active member.

AMERICAN EAGLE, WET SEAL OFFER UP FALL'S HOTTEST FASHIONS

Breanne Detson
Staff Writer

As the summer comes to an end, we ask ourselves, "What on earth am I supposed to wear?" As the fall season approaches, I find myself searching for a trendy outfit to make the perfect statement, but each and every day I feel disappointed because my fall fashion is just not up-to-date. This year I'm going to make a change, and with the new fall fashions already in stores, it's time to pull out the credit cards and get ready. We have some shopping to do and there's no time to waste!

Ladies, it won't be hard to be trendy this season. Hit the nearest mall and visit some of my favorite stores such as American Eagle and Wet Seal. The stores are awesome because you can find just the look you want without spending

outrageous amounts of money. American Eagle is the "jean factory" this season with a variety of new styles and the oh-so-popular vintage look.

From low-rise to relaxed fit, you will find the perfect jeans to complement your style. Also, pull out your corduroy because it's back and in popular demand. And finally, the graphic tee is a must-have. Add that with the classic mini and you have a style that will truly



top to complement your new pair of low-rise jeans or your perfect skirt. Also, accessories are absolutely necessary this season. Jewelry can make or break an outfit, so ladies, go

make a statement.

Are you ready for a night on the town? Visit Wet Seal for the outfit that will make you stand out in a crowd. The

signature tee is a must-have for fall, and Wet Seal is the place to find your initial designed to perfection. Wet Seal is also the perfect store to find just the right

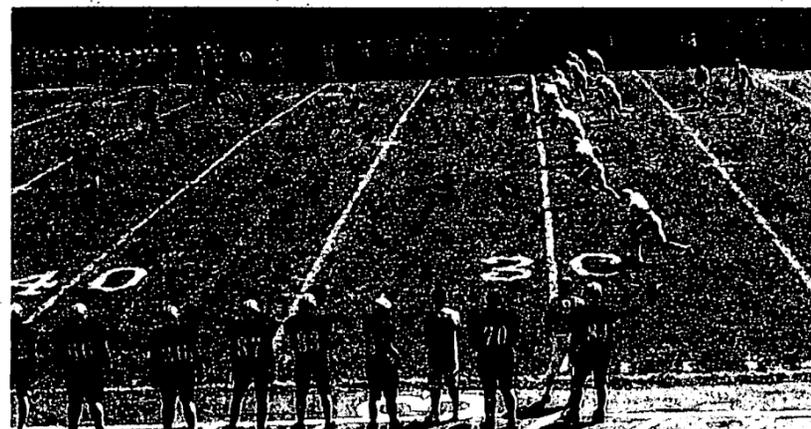
that extra mile and accessorize! For more information on the style that is right for you, visit www.ae.com or www.wetseal.com.

For the gentlemen, the rockstar look is totally in. American Eagle will be the place for you to find that perfect look to turn a few heads. Guys, you cannot go wrong with a pair of vintage jeans to custom-fit your style, and a graphic tee to send a message to your lovely viewers. For a night on the town, try a pair of American Eagle's cargo pants and a striped, button down shirt for the look that will surely be a hit.

If you want to find that perfect look online visit www.ae.com, or take a trip to the nearest mall and find the perfect outfit to bring out the rockstar in you.

(Photo by ae.com)

CAVS KICK OFF SEASON TO A WINNING START



The Cavs football team started the season off well, with a close victory over the West Liberty Hilltoppers.

Courtney Conner

Staff Writer

The UVa-Wise Cavaliers headed to West Liberty, W. Va., for the opening game of the 2003 football season, with the kickoff at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 6. After an uphill struggle during the first half, the Cavs pulled out a victory by the end of the game for a successful start to the season.

The West Liberty Hilltoppers came out strong in the first half of the game, leading the Cavaliers at halftime. However, the Cavs came out for the second half ready to play, and

the Hilltoppers struggled to stay strong. The fourth quarter opened with Wise's team trailing by 11, but the Cavs rallied together to bring home the victory with a 41-38 decision.

Josh Mabe, a freshman from Appalachia, began his UVa-Wise career with three touchdown passes and made a good first impression on the College's fans. Dieontea Stewart also had a great start, as well, with three touchdowns and 124 yards receiving. In addition, Josh Honaker, filling in for Robert Hammond as kicker, was three-for-three on his extra point attempts.

LADY CAVS PICKED FIFTH

Jessica Cain & Lori Hoffman
Staff Writers

Last season the Lady Cavs volleyball team was picked to finish eighth in the Appalachian Athletic Conference. The Cavs, however, shocked the conference with an impressive third-place finish in the AAC tournament. This season the Cavs were picked to finish fifth and they hope their success continues.

The Cavs have started the season off strong, with two conference wins versus one loss. The team is currently ranked seventh in the region, which is the first time the Lady Cavs have ever been ranked in this category.

This year's team

consists of five juniors, three sophomores and three freshmen. This year's juniors are returning players Kendall Rainey (setter), Kari Sparks (libero), Jessica Cain (middle hitter), Sara Stanley (outside hitter) and Kellie Burke (setter), who red-shirted last season after transferring within the conference.

The team's returning sophomores include Nikki Jessee (outside hitter), Lori Hoffman (defensive specialist) and Sarah Bowen (right side hitter). Three freshmen finish off this year's team, with Davina Dishner (setter / defensive specialist), Stacey Ringhoffer (middle hitter) and Kate Daub (right side hitter).

2003 CAVS VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time
Sept. 20	Union College (Homecoming)	11:00 a.m.
Sept. 23	at Montreat College	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 25	Bluefield College	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 27	Brevard College	Noon
Sept. 30	at Union College	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 3	at Bryan College	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 4	at Covenant College	10:30 a.m.
Oct. 4	at Tenn. Wesleyan College	4:00 p.m.
Oct. 14	King College	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 21	at Milligan College	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 23	at Bluefield College	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 28	at Brevard College	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 29	Montreat College	6:30 p.m.
Nov. 4	Emory & Henry College	6:30 p.m.
Nov. 7	Bryan College (Senior Night)	7:00 p.m.
Nov. 8	Tenn. Wesleyan College	10:30 a.m.
Nov. 8	Covenant College	4:30 p.m.
Nov. 14-15	AAC Conference Tourn.	TBA

2003 CAVS FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time
Sept. 20	Campbellsville University (KY) (Homecoming)	1:30 p.m.
Sept. 27	at Cumberland University (TN)	1:30 p.m.
Oct. 4	Georgetown College (KY)	1:30 p.m.
Oct. 9	at Pikeville College (KY)	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 18	Union College (KY)	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 25	Bethel College (TN)	1:30 p.m.
Nov. 1	at Cumberland College (KY)	1:30 p.m.
Nov. 8	Lambuth University (TN)	1:30 p.m.
Nov. 15	at Belhaven College	1:30 p.m.

DAVE MATTHEWS BAND GIVES UNIQUE PERFORMANCE EVERY TIME

Jake Johnston
Staff Writer

Dave Matthews never performs the same show twice.

In back-to-back sold-out performances in Manassas and Virginia Beach earlier this month, Matthews and his band displayed their versatility by putting on an entirely different show each night.

On Saturday night at the Nissan Pavilion, Matthews' band gave a structured performance that included a tribute to country music legend Johnny Cash who had died two days earlier. The following night at the Verizon Wireless Virginia Beach Amphitheatre, Matthews' concert was far

more spontaneous, almost a jam session.

Matthews, a South African native who grew up in Charlottesville, brought Saturday night's audience to its feet by opening with "Stay (Wasting Time)," one of the band's most popular concert tunes, and kept the crowd singing and dancing with "Ants Marching" and "Grey Street."

During a break between songs, Matthews strummed the chords to "Ring of Fire" by Johnny Cash, and with the accompaniment of drummer Carter Beauford, sang the first two verses and the chorus in honor of the country legend.

Matthews' band

finished Saturday's show with a solo by bassist Stefan Lessard, immediately followed by the climactic "All Along the Watchtower," a Bob Dylan song that is a frequent closer for the band.

Sunday night, the Dave Matthews Band took the stage with a completely different style and set list, repeating only two songs from the night before.

The night included solos by Charlottesville native Boyd Tinsley, who captured the crowd with his violin in "Rapunzel" and "Dancing Nancies." Saxophonist Leroi Moore blew the audience away with his improvisational

solos in "Warehouse" and "Satellite." Butch Taylor of Richmond, a longtime friend of the band and regular keyboardist for live shows, added his own flavor to the jams.

In addition, Drummer Carter Beauford left the crowd in awe with his complex drum solos that looked almost effortless. While blowing a bubble, his hands and feet went in four different directions at the same time. Beauford finished the weekend of Virginia concerts with a giant drum solo in "Two Step," leaving the crowd breathless.

Two days before the weekend began, the Dave Matthews Band

announced that they would be performing a concert in New York's Central Park on Sept. 24. More than 100,000 people are expected to attend. Proceeds from this concert will go to the Fund for Public Schools in New York City and the Music Resource Center in Charlottesville, birthplace and home of the Dave Matthews Band.

Furthermore, the Donavon Frankenreiter Band, the opening act for Matthews both nights, proved to be so popular with their spectacular percussion jams that the Southern California group received standing ovations at the conclusion of their performances.

Cinema Scene

TJ Peete
Staff Writer

The Hollywood movie scene is just beginning to gear up again this October as studios prepare the release of some of their year-end hopeful hits.

If you've been to the theater at all in the past few months, there is no doubt that you have seen the trailer for the remake of the 1974 cult classic *Texas Chainsaw Massacre*. The eerie preview promises a lot with sinister music, frantic chase scenes and terrifying images of "Leatherface" himself. The plot is pretty much the same as the original movie, as five bright-eyed teens pick up a hitch-hiker and eventually wind up in a house full of lunatics. The film will incorporate modern special effects that were not

available to its predecessor. *Texas Chainsaw Massacre* stars Jessica Biel, Eric Balfour, and Andrew Bryniarski as Leatherface. (Oct. 17)

Quentin Tarantino makes his directorial return with *Kill Bill: Volume One*, starring Uma Thurman, David Carradine and Lucy Liu. In the film we meet the Bride, played by Thurman, who is savagely attacked on her wedding day and left for dead. After awakening from a coma, she plans to exact her revenge on Bill (Carradine) and the rest of his associates. This movie will include plenty of samurai sword-fighting mixed with kung-fu. One notable problem, however, is that the studio does not know when the film's "other half," *Volume Two*, will be

released, suggesting that there may be a little wavering confidence in *Kill Bill's* box office ratings. (Oct. 10)

Enough of the violence and time for some laughs in the George Clooney and Catherine Zeta-Jones star vehicle *Intolerable Cruelty*. Clooney plays a divorce attorney and Jones is a money-grubbing collector of ex-husbands. Clooney's character rigs the trial so that Jones loses her alimony, and there's no need to ask: they do start to love each other. The main question is: will this Clooney film be box office gold like *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*, or will we as an audience end up with another *Solaris*? (Oct. 10)

John Grisham's crimeroom suspense is



George Clooney and Catherine Zeta-Jones star in October's new romantic comedy *Intolerable Cruelty*.

finally returning to theaters in mid-October, when *Runaway Jury* is released nationwide. The film stars John Cusack as the foreman of a jury for an important case against a gun manufacturer, whose girlfriend (Rachel Weisz)

tries to swindle the attorneys (Gene Hackman, Dustin Hoffman) into paying millions to get the jury to return a favorable verdict. (Oct. 17)

— Additional reporting by Roger Hagy, Jr.

Oct. Movies Fall Into Place

Press Play

Radra Bowling & Eric Bowling
Staff Writers

With the arrival of autumn comes the return to the indoors, and video game publishers have not let gamers down, providing the market with a strong collection of hit games.

Soul Calibur 2 (Platform(s): Gamecube, Playstation 2, Xbox; Publisher: Namco; Genre: Fighting) A multi-platform release, this weapon-based fighter created by the people behind *Tekken* should be a definite purchase or rental for fighting-game fans. Great visuals, control, storylines and various extras add to a solid playing experience whether playing alone or against friends. And, as an added bonus, besides getting to choose from a roster of familiar and unique characters (i.e. Taki and Voldo), each console's version of the game gets their very own hidden character. The PS2 features *Tekken's* villainous Heihachi, Gamecube owners can fight as the infamous Link from the *Legend of Zelda* franchise and the Xbox version sports Spawn of the Todd McFarland series of the same name.

Silent Hill 3 (Platform(s): Playstation 2; Publisher: Konami; Genre: Survival Horror) While not as well-known as Capcom's *Resident Evil* franchise, which created the video game industry's survival horror genre, *Silent Hill* offers just as many scares and can still disturb people to the core. With its dark atmosphere and variety of nightmarish creatures, some of which include demonic children and nurses, *Silent Hill 3* shall prove to be an experience one will have a hard time trying to forget. As in most survival horror games, there are puzzles, secrets and multiple endings to uncover, but a definite plus to the game's originality is the option for players to choose which type of weapons they'd prefer to use (either fire arms or melee). A downside to the

gameplay, however, is that the puzzles either range from extremely easy to incredibly difficult, with almost no middle ground. Basic knowledge of the plot in the series' first game would also be recommended, as this game most revolves around the events and characters from the original. Fans might be disappointed to note that this game is shorter than its predecessors, but your short stay in the town of Silent Hill should prove more than enough to make you sleep with your lights on.

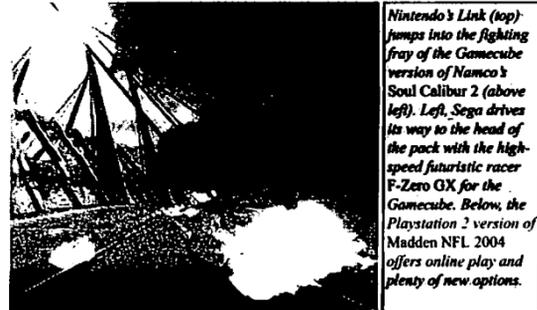
Chaos Legion (Platform(s): Playstation 2; Publisher: Capcom; Genre: Action-RPG) Besides the cult-classic *Breath of Fire* series, Capcom's claim to fame has never been in the RPG realm. The Japanese-based company has made its reputation on the ever-popular *Street Fighter* (fast approaching 25 years of gaming goodness) and *Resident Evil* series. *Chaos Legion* is Capcom's attempt at something akin to the *Legend of Zelda* series, in that action comes first, followed by a plot. As the main character, Sieg, players receive the help of various creatures known as Legions to fight through the game's difficulties. Emphasis should be placed on "difficulties," as this game is definitely a challenge, and even though there are four levels of difficulty from which to choose, you'll definitely get frustrated no matter what level you're playing. Players will have to come up with a good strategy for using the Legions as weapons and determining how to have them protect Sieg at the same time. While not exactly an RPG and not exactly an action game, *Chaos Legion* does have strong elements of both genres as well as some of the best graphics seen on the PS2.

F-Zero GX (Platform(s): Gamecube; Publisher: Nintendo; Genre: Racing) Nintendo and Sega's Amusement Vision have teamed

up for a beautiful, blindingly fast sequel to the definitive futuristic racing series. *F-Zero* games have always been about speed, and Sega delivers on this front, creating what is perhaps the fastest game ever made, without any slowdown whatsoever. With 30 vehicles on-screen at once, as well as subtle background effects that add to the game's stylish environments, *F-Zero GX* will keep your hands on the controller, your eyes on the screen and your palms sweaty. The game handles wonderfully, with a highly intuitive control scheme, which helps, since this is one of the hardest games made within the past few years. *GX* not only contains the requisite grand prix mode (with quite a few courses) but also features a deep story mode focusing on Captain Falcon and a variety of exciting racing challenges. *GX* also offers the option of connecting to *F-Zero AX*, the upcoming arcade game based on *GX's* engine.

Madden NFL 2004 (Platform(s): Gamecube, Playstation 2, Xbox; Publisher: EA; Genre: Sports) The gaming industry's most prominent and successful sports series has once again received an annual update in the form of *Madden NFL 2004*. This year's Madden includes all of the necessary updates to teams and stats and enhancements in performance, but the game also incorporates a few innovations that will change how fans play the game. A notable new feature is an ownership mode, which allows you to not only create and manage a team but also allows you to take charge of the team's stadium and location. Each console's version of the game has its own distinct feature. The PS2 version offers online play, the Gamecube version allows connectivity to the Game Boy Advance and the Xbox version sports a custom soundtrack option.

— Additional reporting by Roger Hagy, Jr.



Nintendo's Link (top) jumps into the fighting fray of the Gamecube version of Namco's *Soul Calibur 2* (above left). Left, Sega drives its way to the head of the pack with the high-speed futuristic racer *F-Zero GX* for the Gamecube. Below, the Playstation 2 version of *Madden NFL 2004* offers online play and plenty of new options.