

# THE HIGHLAND CAVALIER

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THIS WEEK

**In Addition:** More than 400 soldiers have been killed in Iraq, and the death toll continues to rise in Jake Johnston's war update. (Page 2)

**In Entertainment:** *Master and Commander* and *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King* are two of the year's final epic hits in theaters. (Page 3)

**In Sports:** The intramural flag football season for men and women has come to a close. More info on the champs inside. (Page 4)

## NIKKI GIOVANNI ATTENDS COFFEE NIGHT

### Award-Winning Poet, Essayist and Scholar Reads Selected Poetry, Presents Afternoon Lecture

Roger Hogg, Jr.

Editor-in-Chief

"Surgeons are crazy."

That was one of the many quoteworthy statements provided by Nikki Giovanni during her appearance as the featured poet of the College's autumnal Coffee Night, held Thursday night, Nov. 13 in the Chapel. Coffee Night also celebrated the release of the fall issue of the *Jimson Weed*, the College's official literary magazine, featuring poetry and prose by students, faculty and members of the community.

An award-winning poet, essayist and scholar, Giovanni was not only Coffee Night's featured poet but also taught a class in Zehmer 109 and presented a special afternoon lecture on Friday, Nov. 14, also in the Chapel. The lecture focused on Giovanni's new book, *Quilting the Black-Eyed Pea*, which was described by Gwendolyn Brooks as "remarkable for energy, venturesomeness, direct honesty and courage."

"Nikki Giovanni needs no introduction," said Dr. Gillian Huang-Tiller, a faculty advisor for the *Jimson Weed*. "Her name says it all through three

decades of racial and ethnic progress."

Indeed, Giovanni is a highly influential American writer. Giovanni was a powerful voice during the Civil Rights and Black Arts Movements of the 60's and has published 26 books of poetry and non-fiction. Her *Blues: For All the Changes and Love Poems* were honored with NAACP Image Awards. The recipient of the Rosa Parks Woman of Courage Award and the Langston Hughes Medal for Outstanding Poetry, Giovanni is also the most widely read living poet in the United States today.

"It's the best thing in the world for an English major when someone you've read and written papers about is staring right back at you," said Coffee Night co-host Stephanie Tolliver.

During Coffee Night, Giovanni read several of her own poems, which included "Possum Crossing" and "Twenty Reasons to Love Richard Williams," offering personal anecdotes and background stories to each selection. "Possum Crossing," for example, was humorously inspired by the poet's neighbors who often run over small animals when speeding in their

vehicles to work. "Twenty Reasons to Love Richard Williams," on the other hand, was Giovanni's praise for the father of tennis stars Venus and Serena Williams.

Giovanni's comment that "surgeons are crazy" was made while she told about her battle with lung cancer, which eventually led to a poem about how watching two birds outside her window helped the writer to recover from the deadly disease.

Born in Knoxville, Tenn., Giovanni now resides in Blacksburg, Va., where she is a University Distinguished Professor of English at Virginia Tech.

Giovanni was accompanied in her visit to the College by her best friend and fellow professor, Virginia Fowler, who helped arranged the poet's Coffee Night appearance and afternoon lecture.

On Friday, Giovanni and Fowler were also invited to a special luncheon in Bowers-Sturgill Hall with *Jimson Weed* staff members and advisors, as well as Dean Amelia Harris and other selected students.

After Giovanni's presentation at Coffee Night, hosts Stephanie Tolliver and Nick Vanover each read special dedications to the night's



Award-winning poet Nikki Giovanni reads one of her original poems during her featured appearance at the fall Coffee Night.

other lady of honor, Dr. Catherine Mahony, who retired from UVA-Wise earlier this year and to whom the fall *Jimson Weed* is dedicated.

"A visit from [Dr. Mahony] brightens everyone's day and forces a smile onto even the busiest of faces," Tolliver said. "UVA-Wise, like myself, is blessed and thankful for her having been here."

After the dedications, Dr. Mahony read a selection of her own fiction, followed by all student, faculty and community readers.

As for the latest *Jimson Weed*, Managing Editor Lacie Holmes said that she believes that it is the largest issue of the literary magazine ever released. Holmes was assisted in the completion of this volume of the *Jimson Weed* by Arts

and Graphics Editors Nick Vanover and Stephanie Tolliver, editorial staff members Danielle Benton, David Lobiondo and Amber Mann, and faculty advisors Andrew Harvey, Gillian Huang-Tiller and Kenneth Tiller.

For those interested in submitting their work to the *Jimson Weed*, submissions are accepted at any time. Contact Holmes, Dr. Huang-Tiller or another member of the *Jimson Weed* staff for more information.

Coffee Night was sponsored by the *Jimson Weed* and the College's Department of Language and Literature. Nikki Giovanni's special lecture was sponsored by the College Lecture Committee and the Department of Language and Literature.

# U.S. SOLDIER DEATH TOLL BREAKS 400 IN IRAQI CAMPAIGN

Jake Johnston  
Staff Writer

The war in Iraq may technically be over, but the death toll of American soldiers continues to rise.

On May 1, after a 43-day campaign, President George W. Bush declared that the war in Iraq was over and America was victorious over Saddam Hussein's Iraqi regime. But now, even after six months, the U. S. has not been able to establish or maintain peace in Iraq.

During the Iraqi Freedom campaign, 170



A helicopter flies away as another copter burns after a crash in Tikrit on Oct. 25.

American soldiers were killed in Iraq, but since Bush declared America's victory

over the Iraqis, 285 more American troops have been killed by either friendly fire, accidents, suicide bombers or combat with Iraqi opposition.

The two most recent attacks on U. S. troops occurred just last week when two American helicopters were shot down. In one of the helicopter attacks, 16 soldiers were killed, the largest number of fatalities in one strike against American troops since Iraq was first invaded in March.

The Pentagon

announced on Nov. 6 that it will be sending 85,000 more GIs and Marines to Iraq for 12-month terms beginning early next year to help raise troop levels.

On Tuesday, Nov. 11, Bush summoned the top U.S. administrator in Iraq, Paul Bremer, from Baghdad to Washington for a meeting with the president and key officials about the increased number of attacks on troops, which has slowed the rebuilding process. Bremer had been sent to Iraq to set up a governing council.

Last week the president instructed Bremer to speed up the construction of a self-ruled government so that the Dec. 15 deadline for establishing a constitution and holding democratic elections in Iraq will be met.

The terrorist group al-Qaida has now joined Iraqi militants in attacking Americans in Iraq and the Middle East. Just recently al-Qaida has been blamed for a suicide car bombing in Saudi Arabia that targeted Americans.

## Cavaller Offers Christmas Gift Ideas for the Little Ones in Your Life

Breanna DeFran  
Staff Writer

Christmas brings joy to families all around the world, but there are a few headaches to endure before the actual day takes place. Holiday shopping can be as much of a headache as it can be a joy, but when you find that gift that you are sure will make that special person receiving it smile for days, all of the headaches are worth it. Buying the perfect gift is always a challenge because there are so many things to choose from. Here are some holiday hints to make your shopping a little easier this year.

If you are buying for

a little boy, you might check out the Mattel's Hot Wheels cars or LEGO's Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets building set. Both are sure to make a little boy's Christmas morning even more special.

Trying to find the perfect gift for a special little girl in your family? Try a Diva Starz Doll from Mattel, which is sure to be a winner this holiday season. Another hot item for girls this season is the Mattel's Barbie "Shop With Me" Cash Register, because Barbie items are a must-have for all little girls. For more information on the top ten toy choices for 2003, visit [www.ihavenet.com](http://www.ihavenet.com).

## WISE NATIVES ESTABLISH UVA-WISE SCHOLARSHIP FOR J. J. KELLY GRADS

Joel Burns  
Staff Writer

James and Martha Holyfield, graduates of Wise High School (now J.J. Kelly High School), donated \$520,000 to UVA-Wise to aid local high school students. The donation, in the form of the Martha Ann Roberts Holyfield Endowed Scholarship, will be based on financial need and merit, with preference given to J.J. Kelly High School graduates. The scholarship, which covers all areas of study, will be awarded for the first time to a student attending the College during the 2004-

2005 academic year.

The Holyfields moved to Denver more than 50 years ago but remain regular visitors to Wise and wished to show their gratefulness to the community in which they were raised.

"This is a lifetime goal for me to be able to help advance the educational opportunities of graduates from my high school and to show my appreciation to the residents of Wise," Mrs. Holyfield said.

Mrs. Holyfield, born and raised in Wise as the fourth of eight children, grew up with a deep respect for education and its

importance.

"My mother is a great part of my success," Mrs. Holyfield said. "She knew the importance of education. She even took a literature class at [Clinch Valley College] when she was in her fifties."

Though the Holyfields moved away from Wise before Clinch Valley College was founded, the decision to establish the scholarship was easy, as Holyfield attributes "a lifetime of success because of the concerned teaching staff and quality instruction at Wise High School."

## Cinema Scene

Jessica Smith  
Staff Writer

With Thanksgiving and Christmas just around the corner, you may be wondering what good movies will be in theaters during the holiday vacation from school. Hollywood studios continue to churn out epic blockbuster hopefuls even as the year nears its closing.

From Oscar-winner Russell Crowe comes *Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World*, a naval drama of epic magnitude. In this film, the *Gladiator* star takes on the role of "Lucky"

Jack Aubrey, the greatest naval fighting captain during the Napoleonic wars. When Aubrey's battleship, the H.M.S. Surprise, is badly damaged in a sudden attack, he is torn between duty and revenge as he pursues his rival across two oceans to "the far side of the world." The movie opened on Nov. 14 and is now playing in theaters.

Looking forward to December, one movie seems to outweigh all others, *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*. In this third and final movie in the trilogy based

on J.R.R. Tolkien's classic novels, we find our hobbit hero Frodo and his companions poised to complete their harrowing journey to throw the One Ring into the fires at Mt. Doom. Be ready for plenty of edge-of-your-seat excitement as Frodo wrestles with the lure of the Ring. Gandalf finally wages war with Saruman, and Aragorn takes on the mantle of king to save Middle Earth from the grasp of the dark lord, Sauron. You can catch this spellbinding movie when it opens on Dec. 17 in theaters.



Russel Crowe stars as a naval captain in *Master and Commander* (left). Viggo Mortensen stars as Aragorn in *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*.



## VA. LATIN BALLET TO PRESENT LEGEND OF THE POINSETTIA

Jessica Lawson and  
Jackie Mullins  
Staff Writer

The Latin Ballet of Virginia will perform *The Legend of the Poinsettia* at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 13 at the J.W. Adams Center for the Performing Arts in Pound. The ballet will be presented on behalf of the Pro-Art Association, Mountain

Empire Community College and UVA-Wise as part of the W. Campbell Edmonds Memorial Concert Series.

*The Legend of the Poinsettia* is based on a Mexican legend and has become a traditional part of Latin American Christmas celebrations. The legend holds that a young girl,

unable to offer a gift of value to baby Jesus on Christmas Eve, picks a handful of weeds outside the church. She takes them to the altar, where the weeds magically transform into brilliant crimson flowers. From this humble offering came the custom of decorating with poinsettias at Christmas.

*The Legend of the Poinsettia* is directed by Ana Ines King and will include live music arranged by Kevin Davis and Marc Langelier and performed by the Ban Caribe Ensemble and soprano Audra Harvey. The production is co-sponsored by Best Western and Norton Community

Hospital and is partially supported by the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and \$5 for students. For more information, call the Pro-Art Association at 376-4520.

## JIM POST TO PERFORM MARK TWAIN TRIBUTE, CHRISTMAS SHOW

Tiffany Hunter  
Staff Writer

Artist and tenor Jim Post is scheduled to appear in two programs in December, presented by the Pro-Art Association, Mountain Empire Community College (MECC) and UVA-Wise.

On Tuesday, Dec. 2, Post will give two performances of *Mark Twain and the Laughing River*. The first performance will be at MECC's Goodloe Center at 12:15 p.m. as part

of the Mountain Empire Cultural Arts Series. The second performance will be at the UVA-Wise Chapel at 7:30 p.m. In the show, Post both educates and entertains as he discusses the "father of American literature," Mark Twain.

Post's wife, Janet, will join him on Thursday, Dec. 4 at 7:30 p.m. at the Virginia-Kentucky Opry in Norton, for a presentation of *Heart of Christmas*, co-sponsored by the City of Norton. *Heart of Christmas*

is the story of two boys, Daniel Christmas and Gypsy Toe, and the Christmas of 1980 in Galena, Ill.

Janet Post, the author of *Heart of Christmas*, accompanies Jim on the cello and the keyboard and also sings the banjo and the guitar and will sing both original and traditional Christmas music.

For more information, call Pro-Art at 376-4520.

## PRO-ART HOSTS VA. OPERA PERFORMANCES

Christie Stoddard  
Staff Writer

The Virginia Education Department brought its touring company to Southwest Virginia for two Pro-Art programs during the week of Nov. 14-20. All programs were sponsored by the Pro-Art Association, Mountain Empire Community College (MECC) and UVA-Wise.

On Saturday, Nov. 15, the Virginia Opera presented *Alice Through the Looking Glass*, which began at 3 p.m. at the Virginia-Kentucky Opry in Norton. The performance was co-sponsored by the City of Norton.

show was also presented on Tuesday, Nov. 18 in Big Stone Gap at MECC's Goodloe Center at 12:15 p.m., and on Nov. 20 at the UVA-Wise Chapel. Admission was free for all performances.

On Saturday, Nov. 15, the Virginia Opera presented *Alice Through the Looking Glass*, which began at 3 p.m. at the Virginia-Kentucky Opry in Norton. The performance was co-sponsored by the City of Norton.

## CAVS FOOTBALL ENDS LOSING STREAK WITH WIN AT UNION

Daniel Lechy

Staff Writer

The College ended their losing streak on Saturday, Oct. 18, when they traveled to Union College to take on the Bulldogs. The Cavs had lost five consecutive games before defeating Union with a score of 41-38. The Cavaliers were led by the return of quarterback Josh Mabe, the running of Ra Shad Morgan and last year's All-American, Dieontea

Stewart.

The Cav offense was very successful running out of the shotgun, totaling 412 yards of total offense. The Cavs' defense also forced four Union turnovers. The Cavaliers made the score 17-14 in favor of the Bulldogs with a 59-yard scoring strike from Josh Mabe to Dieontea Stewart. The Bulldogs then fumbled on their next position, which set up a

quarterback sneak for a touchdown by Mabe.

With the Cavs in the lead 21-17, kicker Robert Hammond connected on a 33-yard field goal to make the lead 24-17. Hammond's field goal was the first for the Cavaliers since the 2001 season, and he later added a 43-yarder. Running back Ra Shad Morgan has moved in very nicely to the starting role and became the first Cavalier to rush for 100

yards in a game this season.

Overall, the Cavaliers' offense was led by quarterback Josh Mabe, who was 7 of 15 for 147 yards and two scores. Dieontea Stewart had four catches for 121 yards and a score. Running back Ra Shad Morgan had 15 carries for 121 yards and a touchdown. Kicker Robert Hammond added two field goals of 33 and 43. The Cavs' defense was led by

Kenneth Mitchell, who made 18 tackles and had a fumble recovery. Cornerback Tim Smith added an interception and one pass defended. Safety Haynes Morris added two passes defended.

This win moved the team to 2-5 overall and 1-4 in the Mid-South Conference. The Cavs' win was their first since their opening-day victory at West Liberty State College.

## WOMEN'S FLAG FOOTBALL COMES TO A CLOSE

Heather Gentry

Staff Writer

The Doobies took home the UVA-Wise intramural women's flag football championship on Wednesday, Nov. 12.

In addition to the regular season, the College hosted its seventh-annual flag football scramble on Nov. 9. Although there were only two women's teams - Pikeville College and UVA-Wise's Doobies - both teams put up a good fight, making for an action-packed day of flag pulling. Because of the lack of

teams, the hosting Doobies and Pikeville College had to go head-to-head three times throughout the day.

Pikeville edged out the Doobies in the first game, beating them by a touchdown with seconds remaining. The Doobies recovered, however, and came back to defeat Pikeville, with scores of 21-6 and 18-6 in the two final games.

The Doobies received a tournament trophy, and Keela Altizer was named the tournament's MVP.

## CAVS VOLLEYBALL ACHIEVES THREE-GAME SWEEP

Jessica Cain and  
Lori Hoffman

Staff Writers

During the weekend of Nov. 7-9, the Lady Cavaliers volleyball team came out on top with a three-game sweep against Bryan College, Tennessee Wesleyan College and Covenant College. These three wins secured the Cavs' third-place rank going into the Appalachian Athletic Conference Tournament.

On Friday, Nov. 7, the Lady Cavs defeated Bryan College's Lady Lions in four matches. The scores of the

matches were close, as the Cavs won the first, second and fourth matches with scores of 36-34, 30-25 and 30-27. The Lions won the third match with a score of 30-29.

On Nov. 8, the Cavs faced Tennessee Wesleyan College. The Cavs swept past their opponents in three matches with scores of 30-17, 30-15 and 30-22. Later that evening, the Cavs continued their winning streak at J.I. Burton High with a win over Covenant, and scores tallied as 30-19, 30-22 and 30-20.

## NATURALS DEFEAT GAMMA CHI OMEGA IN MEN'S FLAG FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Daniel Lechy

Staff Writer

The 2003 men's flag football season ended with Gray Division champs the Naturals winning the championship over Red Division champs Gamma Chi Omega. Both teams went into the championship with undefeated seasons.

The rainy weather neutralized both teams during the championship game.

"Neither team could utilize their weapons," said

Assistant Director of Recreation Chris Davis.

The Naturals won the game 18-13 with a touchdown pass from Kory Bostic to Nick Johnson with seconds to go in the game. Ironically, it was only Johnson's third catch of the season and his first touchdown catch.

"This was the most competitive season ever," Davis said.

Davis also said that the Naturals and Gamma would not have succeeded as

well as they did without players Blake Owens and Eric Johnson.

The Naturals and Gamma Chi Omega now have the opportunity to travel to Wilmington, N.C., to compete in the Flag Football Regional Championships with 36 other teams from all over the southeast region.

Chris Davis, Sonya Baden and Ronnie Welch will also organize the All-Star team for competition in New

Orleans. Twelve players from various teams will be selected to make up the All-Star team.

At the season's close, Kory Bostic of the Naturals led in touchdown passes (29), touchdowns (32) and interceptions (8). Ryan Howell of Gamma Chi Omega led the season with 18 sacks, Phi Lam's Danny Vagnerini had the most touchdown runs (with 13) and Blake Owens had the most touchdown receptions (with 12).

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