



C THE HIGHLAND CAVALIER

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This Week

The Lady Cavs' softball team has set a school record with their victorious 6-0 start to the season. Also, the basketball teams, cheerleading squad and Cavalette dance team say farewell to their graduating seniors at a special ceremony. Full coverage in Sports.

PAGES 2-3

Kaplan steps down as chancellor, accepts position at University of New Haven

By Daniel Leedy and Roger Nagy, Jr.

So the search for a new chancellor begins.

Steven H. Kaplan stepped down from his position as UVA-Wise chancellor on Wednesday, March 10, resigning after three years in the position. Kaplan is leaving the College to become the president of the University of New Haven (UNH) in West Haven, Conn., effective July 1.

Meeting with the UNH Board of Governors on March 10, Kaplan was not present when word of his resignation reached the Wise campus through a

letter written by University of Virginia President John Casteen III, addressed to faculty, staff and students. In Casteen's letter, Kaplan sent a message to the College community, announcing his departure "with pride in all we have accomplished over the past three years."

On March 12, at a meeting in the chapel open to students, faculty and staff, Kaplan said that UNH had been interested in hiring him for several years and that he had only applied to UNH and no other institution.

Kaplan's resignation comes at an awkward

time for UVA-Wise, as the College has begun the year-long celebration of its 50th anniversary, including last month's "kick-off" ceremony co-hosted by Kaplan. In his letter, Casteen credits the chancellor for launching the 2004 anniversary celebration.

Regardless, Kaplan said in the letter that he and his wife Anemone "will both look back on our time in Wise with fondness and appreciation."

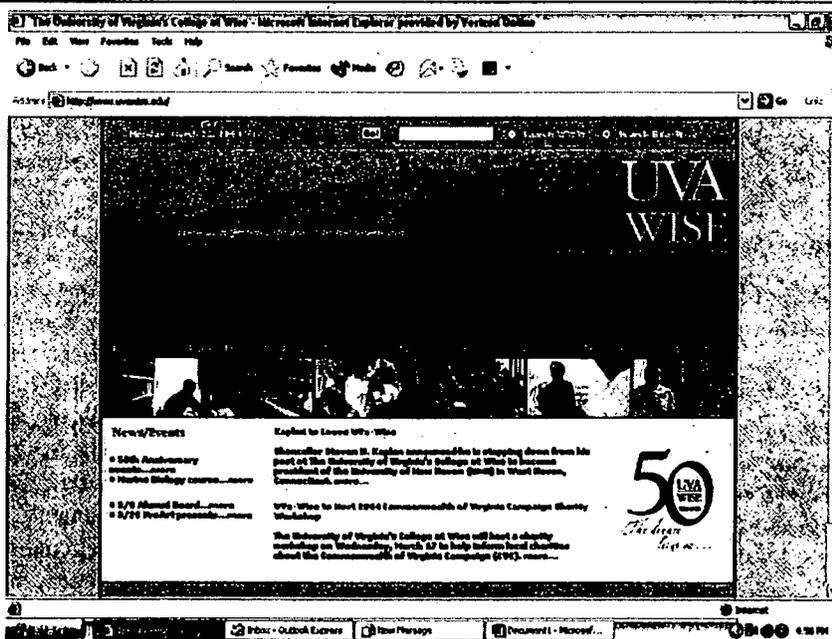
"I am very grateful to our faculty, staff and many constituents for their hard work, resourcefulness

CHANCELLOR, page 3



Steve Kaplan resigned as chancellor on March 10 and will become the president of the University of New Haven on July 1.

A Site to See



Upon returning from spring break this week, many students likely discovered the College's redesigned website at www.uvawise.edu. The home page features noteworthy announcements, as well as links that can be accessed by each type of visitor to the website. Web surfers can also find random assortments of photos featuring students, faculty and staff each time a page is loaded.

Lady Cavaliers' softball off to fast start

By Daniel Lecky and Heather Gentry Staff Writers

The Lady Cavs' softball team is off to a fast start. It all started with a two-game sweep over Emory and Henry College on Feb. 28, when the Cavs beat the Wasps 11-0 and 8-3.

On Wednesday, Mar. 3, the girls traveled to Pikeville College and once again had a dominant performance, beating the Bears 3-0 and 4-0. The Lady Cavs next played in the Tennessee Wesleyan College / Athens Spring Classic. The tournament was cut short due to weather, but the team came away with a win over Athens State College and Campbellsville.

As the Lady Cavs sit at 6-0 (the best start by a softball team in the school's history), many players are having great seasons. Senior Jen Law is batting .588 with 1 homerun and 5 RBI's. Also, sophomore Krystal Showers is batting .313 with 1 homerun, 1 triple and 5 RBI's. The Cavs' pitching staff has also been great, with April Damron (0.50 ERA and 2 wins), Dani Benton (0.50 ERA and 2 wins) and Nicole Poore (1.75 ERA and 2 wins) all doing outstanding jobs.

In addition, two milestones have been accomplished early in the season. Senior Heather Gentry reached 100 runs batted-in (a team record) and junior Kendall Rainey made her 100th hit.



BATTER UP
Heather Gentry steps up to bat during a Lady Cavs softball game. The 2004 Lady Cavs are currently at 6-0, the best season start by a softball team in the College's history.

Men's and women's tennis teams welcome 8 freshmen

By Jake Johnston Staff Writer

Despite two early season losses, the UVa-Wise tennis teams have high

hopes for the future with eight talented freshmen.

Amanda Terry, a freshman walk-on, won both of her matches during

the last weekend in February and is the only undefeated player on either the women's or men's teams. David Wallis and

Davina Dishner, both freshmen, are number-one singles and doubles seeds for the men's and women's teams.

The men's tennis team, led by senior captain Steve McCoy, suffered two 9-0 losses to Mars Hill College and Tennessee Wesleyan.

The women's team, led by senior captain Jessica Bruce, lost to Mars Hill, 8-1. The team was also upset by Tennessee Wesleyan, 6-3, despite ending in a three-set match won by Bruce.

The women's team has two matches coming up against Lincoln Memorial

University and Virginia Intermont College in Bristol. The men's team will face Emory and Henry, Bethel College and Virginia Intermont, ranked eighth in the NAIA.

The women's roster includes Bruce, junior Erin Dorsey, and freshmen Dishner, Terry, Kate Daub, Laura King and Nicole Pilkenton.

The men's roster includes McCoy, junior Matt Carter, sophomore Jacob Johnston, and freshmen Wallis, Adam Meadows and Mark Meadows.

Ceremony honors graduating basketball players, cheerleaders, Cavalettes

By Courtney Conner Staff Writer

The UVa-Wise men's and women's basketball teams hosted and defeated King College on Feb. 19, to victoriously end the home game season for the Highland Cavaliers and many of the teams' seniors. A special farewell ceremony was held between the women's and men's games to recognize the

senior basketball players, as well as the senior cheerleaders and Cavalettes. The only senior this year for the women's basketball team was Jessica Owens, #34, from Council. The men's team, however, will see many departures by graduating seniors, including Jeremy Houseright, #00, from Gate City; Ricky Brown, #3, from Baxter, Tenn.; Bobby

Hedrick, #12, from Hampton; Matt Young, #21, from Dryden; Brandon Green, #33, from Clintwood; and Chris Papst, #44, from Aschura, Germany.

The cheerleading squad will see four seniors graduate, including Captain Ashley Humphreys from Gate City, Tere Chandler from Kentucky, Meredith Ness from Richmond and Captain Courtney Conner

from Richlands. The Cavalette dance team will lose three seniors in May, including Captain Danielle Sadler from northern Virginia, Amy Fonseca from Richmond and Sarah Marshall from Richmond.

The Highland Cavalier Student Activities Committee sponsored a celebration reception immediately following the men's game to honor the

members of the teams and their families.

As for the games, both teams took home victories, entering the men's and women's teams into the AAC tournament. The women defeated King College 62-53 and finished the regular season ranked 5th in the AAC. The men's team won 78-73 and finished the regular season ranked 4th in the conference.

IN ADDITION

Chancellor Kaplan resigns position, effective July 1

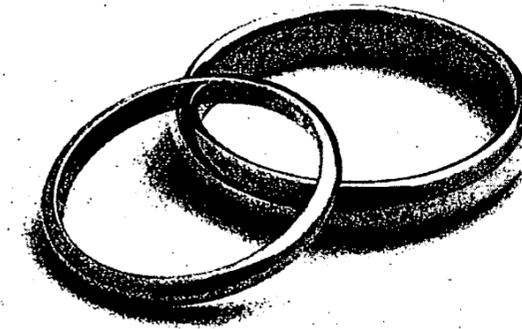
(continued from page one)

and dedication in the time I have been at the College," Kaplan was also quoted as saying in the letter.

During his time at the College, Kaplan introduced a campus beautification plan, plans for increased enrollment, higher admissions standards and new campus housing.

Casteen said that Kaplan also advanced the College's fund-raising capacity. According to the Coalfield Progress, Kaplan said that extensive fund-raising is one of his main goals when he arrives at UNH, hoping to raise the small university's \$6 million in endowed funds to at least \$50 million.

Pres. Casteen was also present during the College's general meeting on Friday, March 12, to discuss Kaplan's replacement for the vacant chancellor position. The new chancellor will be the sixth in the college's 50-year history.



For the best sex, slip on one of these.

According to statistics, married people experience the greatest quality and quantity of sex. That should come as no surprise. God created sex to be most enjoyable within a committed marriage relationship. If you want the best for your future, why settle for second best today? For some different ideas on love, sex and relationships, see the feature article "Sex and the Search for Intimacy" at www.EveryStudent.com.

EveryStudent.com

Paid for by Brian Ward of Wise, Va.

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Barter Theatre offers musicals, comedies and other live stage performances for 2004 season

By Lechada Thomas
Staff Writer

The 2004 season presented at Barter Theatre appears to a very interesting year for those who enjoy theatrical productions, offering a variety of stage performances.

This season, the Barter is presenting four very different musicals for anyone to enjoy. One musical production entitled "Girl of My Dreams" tells

the story of a grandfather as he unveils the story about meeting his wife during World War II. Another musical is "Fire on the Mountain," a song-filled tribute to Appalachian coal miners.

Barter Theatre is also offering several different comedies that will appeal to those with a soft spot for light-hearted antics. "Fully Committed" is a comedy now showing until

April 17, and stars Mike Ostroski portraying 40 different characters. Other comedies scheduled include "Arsenic And Old Lace," which tells the story of two old ladies that "populate their cellar with the remains of socially and religiously acceptable roomers," and "The Odd Couple," which tells the story of two friends that are complete opposites trying to co-exist in the same apartment without

losing their friendship or sanity.

Other plays include the "Sleuth," a comedy-thriller that is "an intriguing study of human conflict, jealousy and manipulation," as well as the presentation of "A Modern Christmas Carol," an updated version of Charles Dickens' classic Christmas story. The presentation of Victor Hugo's classic novel "The Hunchback of Notre Dame"

is a production that should please those who enjoy powerful stories of romance and drama. There is also a hint of mystery, betrayal, manipulation and action to keep everyone entertained.

For more information concerning scheduled show times and ticket prices, contact Barter Theatre at (276) 628-3991, or visit their website at www.barthertheatre.com.

PRESS PLAY

'Drakengard' offers beautiful cutscenes, repetitive gameplay

Rudra Bowling and
Bree Bowling
Staff Writers

Drakengard
Platform: PlayStation 2
Publisher: Square-Enix
Genre: Action-RPG
ESRB Rating: Mature

More or less an action-RPG, Square-Enix's *Drakengard* proves to be quite a fascinating and breathtaking tale. Two kingdoms, the Union and the Empire, are locked in a bitter war, the result of which could mean the annihilation of everything in the entire world. The player takes the role of Caim, a warrior on the side of the Union protecting his sister Furiae, who is wanted by the Empire. He makes a pact with a dragon for power, despite their hatred for each other, and reunites with his sister and her fiancé Inuart.

Now mute because of the pact's seal on his tongue, Caim travels with the other two characters in search of answers and meets more characters struggling in *Drakengard*'s war-torn world. He and the dragon must also come to an understanding as they journey onward together.

Though the story can get lost at times, *Drakengard* still has a great plot and, with a total of five endings, enough to keep gamers coming back for more. Players must be abreast of their storyline percentage during all of the eight chapters in order to be aware of which ending they will receive. Graphically, the in-game visuals are pretty, but nothing Square-Enix has not done before. The CG cutscenes, however, are simply beautiful to watch and

include some decent voice-acting.

Be prepared to fight the camera though, because it will be quite annoying at times. The dungeon-type playing areas are huge, but can become repetitive and boring. In battles the player can chose to fight on foot or to ride on the dragon, and Caim has access to a variety of weapons using the nifty "Weapon Wheel." Every enemy that is defeated adds to Caim's and the dragon's experience so that the team gets stronger



One of *Drakengard*'s computer-generated cutscenes showcases the filmmaking talents of Square-Enix, regardless of the game's repetitive hack-and-slash gameplay

with each fight.

Drakengard is a nice little addition to the small genre of action-RPGs, and while it is shorter than a lot of games out there (about 20 hours is necessary to complete one game), the multiple outcomes give the title some nice replay value.

That isn't to say that *Drakengard* does not have

any faults. The repetitive nature of the game's battles and fields will grate on even the most patient of gamers' nerves. However, with beautiful cinema scenes, an interesting plot and an array of weapons in Caim's arsenal, *Drakengard* more than makes up for its shortcomings.