



C THE HIGHLAND CAVALIER

April 2, 2004

Volume 55, Number 11

This Week



Grammy-winner John Mayer's performance at Freedom Hall in Johnson City was welcomed by hundreds of fans. Sarah Holcomb has the full story in Entertainment.

PAGE 2



PHOTO BY COURTNEY CONNER

Most photogenic contestant and first runner-up Emily Houchins, Miss UVA-Wise Emily Phipps and second runner-up Suna Oz join to hold their trophies after the pageant.

Phipps crowned Miss UVA-Wise 2004

By Michelle Brady & Courtney Conner
Staff Writers

The Student Government Association (SGA) presented the College's fourth-annual Miss UVA-Wise Woman of the Millennium pageant on Friday, March 26, in the Greear Gymnasium. Emily Phipps was the winner of the contest, receiving a \$300

scholarship from the school, as well as other small gifts donated by local businesses sponsoring the pageant.

As Miss UVA-Wise, Phipps plans to benefit the College by being active around campus in various organizations and by being a good role model to her fellow students. Phipps also said that the formal

MISS UVA-WISE, page 3

Poet Rita Quillen, 'Papa Joe' Smiddy to attend Coffee Night

By Roger Hays, Jr.
Editor-in-Chief

Coffee Night will return for the spring semester on Tuesday, April 6, featuring Appalachian poet Rita Sims Quillen and a special appearance by Chancellor Emeritus "Papa" Joe Smiddy. The

event will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Chapel.

Coffee Night will also introduce the newest issue of the *Jimson Weed*, the College's official literary journal, which includes poetry and prose from UVA-Wise students

COFFEE NIGHT, page 3

SGA elections begin next week

By Michelle Brady
Staff Writer

The Student Government Association (SGA) has been busy this year with several student events, but the year is not over yet. The first event is next week's elections for the 2004-05 officers, scheduled for Wednesday, April 7, and Thursday, April 8.

Also on the SGA agenda are the Spring Formal on April 17, "Jam4Man" on May 1 and the SGA's fall celebration

for the 50th anniversary.

"We are working very hard to put all of these things together," said sophomore senator Mark McNalley. "The committee for 'Jam4Man' is working to bring a larger variety of entertainment to the event...to attract more members of the community."

A few side projects are also in the works, but no definite plans have been made at this time.

Students invited to conversation, lecture with NPR host Noah Adams

National Public Radio (NPR) senior correspondent Noah Adams will visit the campus today, Apr. 2, for an informal gathering open to all students in the Student Center's Jefferson Lounge on the fourth floor. Adams and his wife, Neenah Ellis, will engage in a casual conversation with students in attendance. Adams will also present a lecture in the Chapel tonight at 7:30 p.m., as the inaugural event in the Chancellor's Lecture Series, a part of the College's 50th anniversary

celebration.

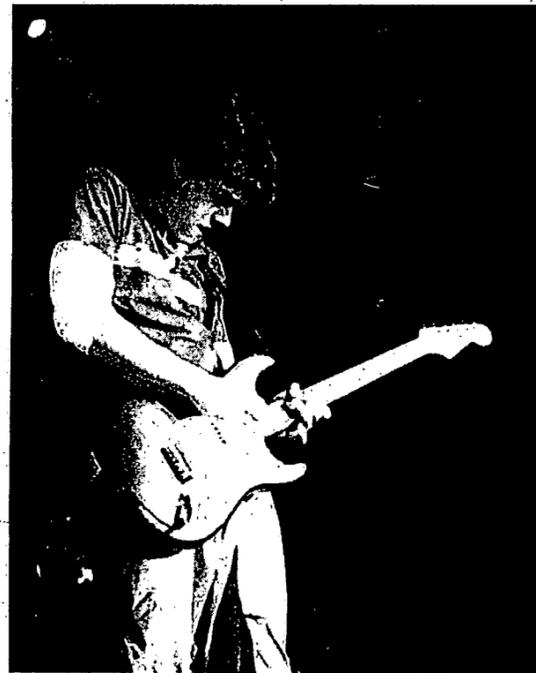
An award-winning commentator, Adams is a senior host of NPR's award-winning newsmagazine *All Things Considered* and has written several books,



including *Far Appalachia* and *The Flyers*, both of which will be focused upon during his lecture entitled "Flying to Appalachia."

Ellis, a freelance reporter and author of *If I Live to Be 100*, will appear with her husband at both events. Adams' and Ellis' books are available for purchase at the bookstore. Adams will also sign copies of his books following his lecture.

Adams' gathering this afternoon with students will be accompanied by an ice cream bar. All students are invited and encouraged to attend both events.



Grammy Award-winner John Mayer plays the guitar during a live performance at Freedom Hall in Johnson City.

John Mayer performs at Freedom Hall in Johnson City

By Sarah Holcomb
Staff Writer

Johnson City: a city filled with fancy restaurants, small businesses, car dealerships and a mall. But on March 9, Johnson City was the host of a concert by Grammy Award-winner John Mayer. Hundreds of local fans flocked to Freedom Hall to witness Mayer's musical talents.

As Mayer's performance began, the crowd went wild as they watched a video of Mayer walking from his dressing room to the stage. Strapping his guitar on, Mayer and his band kicked the night off with "Clarity," the current hit from his latest album, *Heavier Things*. Mayer mixed the new with the old, balancing between his newest songs and songs from his first hit album, *Room for Squares*. He even gave his audience a sneak peek at his next album with

a song called "Hummingbird."

Mayer also talked to the audience between songs and established a commonality between them all when he admitted to falling asleep to his DVD menu on repeat and by telling them that he had went to the Wal-Mart Supercenter to purchase a Sonicare toothbrush. The conversation the audience seemed to love the most, however, was the one Mayer had with his guitar.

Like most famous singers, Mayer also did a "fake-out" exit, returning to the stage five minutes later with an encore of "Wheel" and "Back to You."

The concert's opening act was the three-man band, Guster, who played songs from their newest album *Keep It Together*, as well as older songs from as far back as 1996.

'21 Grams' a 'riveting' film

DVD Spotlight
By Heyren Water
Staff Writer

From director Alejandro Gonzalez comes *21 Grams*, a collection of quick, non-sequential scenes that slowly reveals the dramatic story of three individuals and the tragic car accident that brings them

together. Christina (Naomi Watts) is a mother of two and a former drug addict. Paul (Sean Penn) is a terminally ill math professor and Jack (Benicio Del Toro) is a deeply devoted Christian and ex-con. The actress and actors put on the best dramatic roles of their careers.

The film was shot with a handheld camera that allows for

an intimate feeling with the characters and the action in the movie. The editing techniques draw in the viewer and demand full attention to truly appreciate this riveting movie. This was definitely a dramatic movie that keeps a lump in the throat from beginning to end, but resulting to be an overall wonderful film.

Area concerts allow students to 'take a break' from essays and exams

By Joshua Powers
Staff Writer

It's that time of year again: time to get started on those term papers you've been putting off and to study for your final exams. But before you get underway, why not treat yourself to a concert for all the hard work you've already put in this semester?

Tonight, April 2, in Johnson City, singer/songwriter Matthew Ryan will be performing at the Sophisticated Otter. Showtime is 11:30 and tickets are \$2. Trapt, Smile Empty Soul and Finger Eleven will be in concert at Rafter's in Johnson City on May 5. Tickets are \$18 and

on sale now at all Dad's CDs locations in Wise, Kingsport and Johnson City. For more information, call Dad's CDs in Wise at 679-1515, or check out www.ansleyroberts.com.

If you don't mind driving a little further, be sure to check out some of the upcoming shows at the Orange Peel in Asheville, N.C., including the Crystal Method on April 16, Death Cab for Cutie with Pedro the Lion on April 18, and Leftover Salmon on April 20. For more information on these shows and others at the Orange Peel, call toll-free at (866) 468-7639, or visit them on the web at www.theorangepeel.net.

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PRESS PLAY

By Bree Bowling and
Audra Bowling
Press Play Columnists

**Metal Gear Solid:
The Twin Snakes**
Platform: Gamecube
Publisher: Konami
Genre: Stealth action
ESRB Rating: Mature

Metal Gear Solid: The Twin Snakes, the Gamecube remake of the first *Metal Gear Solid*, features the same storyline as that of the original Playstation version but also goes way beyond it in many aspects. The first *Metal Gear Solid* was praised as one of the best games of all time due to its gameplay, graphics and enjoyable storyline. The PlayStation 2 sequel *Metal Gear Solid 2: Sons of Liberty*, although possessing certain plot aspects that were frowned upon (such as the inclusion of a new main character named Raiden instead

of the first game's hero, Solid Snake), was considered even better in cinematic presentation, with improvements and added features to help make the game more involving and realistic. These features are present in the revamped *The Twin Snakes*, so that gamers can experience Snake's adventures to the fullest.

Metal Gear Solid: The Twin Snakes retains the same stealth theme that was present in the first game: players have to think tactically in order to survive stages, either by quietly sneaking up on an enemy to attack them before they alert others, or to conceal themselves while a group of enemies run past (à la *Sons of Liberty*). Snake can even hide the bodies of guards that he's killed or knocked unconscious, so that someone else doesn't happen upon them later and realize that something is amiss. The enemy A.I. has been improved, as well,

'Twin Snakes' revisits Metal Gear with new graphics, same storyline



Snake takes aim during his stealth operations in *The Twin Snakes*.

so a player will have to think more thoroughly about avoiding detection. Elements from *Sons of Liberty*, such as the first-person aiming and even some new weapons first introduced in the second game, are a nice touch for

those who have already played the original. Unfortunately, because *The Twin Snakes* is essentially a remake of *Metal Gear Solid*, there is very little that is new or original for players who have already

played through the first two titles of the series. The storyline remains unchanged, so the excitement of uncovering the strange but engaging plot is gone, and there are no innovations made to any of the gameplay elements to make them different or even tweaked from how they were in *Metal Gear Solid* and *Sons of Liberty*. And, while the graphics are vastly improved from the original, things are essentially the same as what was found in the first game.

While fans of the first *Metal Gear Solid* may be disappointed at the lack of originality in this remake, they may still find enjoyment in getting to play through an improved version of Snake's adventure. Also, newcomers who have yet to experience the world of *Metal Gear Solid* will definitely find that *The Twin Snakes* showcases the best of this highly-acclaimed series.

IN ADDITION

Miss UVa-Wise pageant successful thanks to SGA 'group effort'

(continued from page one)
wear segment of the pageant was her favorite part because "it let all the contestants express their own style."

Emily Houchins, first runner-up and deemed most photogenic, enjoyed the talent portion of the pageant the most because "there was a wide variety of talent and everyone did a great job."
"It was so much fun!" said Sunia Oz, second runner-up. "The SGA is a great organization and was so good to help us."

Pageant coordinator James Pena thanked all of the people who helped present the event, including DJ John Preloh; Tabitha Hackney's mother for donations; Sarah Huggins and Vicki Guinta for gathering the trophies, banner,

crowns and judges; Aron Brown for being an escort; Jared Vasold for being an escort and for collecting donations; Sutton Polly for obtaining the suits for the escorts; Mark McNalley for getting food for the participants and volunteers; Jennifer Davis for stage setup; and Adam Cole for lights and setup.

"It was a big group effort and I could not have done it alone," Pena said. "I hope that everyone in attendance was well-entertained and that they will come out again next year."

"We had a great turnout and it was very entertaining," said SGA President Jennifer Davis. "Compared to the past, it is continuing to get better from year to year, and it's a great way to get the community involved."

Coffee Night to feature poet Quillen, 'Papa Joe' Smiddy

(continued from page one)
and faculty, as well as from members of the surrounding community.

The first Coffee Night and *Jimson Weed* of 2004 promise to celebrate the College's ongoing 50th anniversary.

An instructor at Mountain Empire Community College, Quillen has supported the College's Coffee Night since the fall of 2000. She is the author of two books of poetry, a book of literary

criticism and other works published in dozens of periodicals and anthologies.

Smiddy was the College's first chancellor when it opened as Clinch Valley College in 1954. At Coffee Night, Smiddy will likely tell stories and sing songs while playing his banjo, similar to his performance during February's 50th anniversary "kick-off" celebration.

Softball team achieves 7-game winning streak at Cocoa Beach

Heather Gentry
Staff Writer

With the best softball start in school history, the Lady Cavs have increased their winning record to 13, with only 2 losses. The Lady Cavaliers traveled to Cocoa Beach, Fla., during spring break and returned with a 7-game winning streak.

Led by their strong pitching staff and solid defense, the Lady Cavs have limited their opponents to only four runs in the past six games, proving that April Damron (4-1), Nichole Poore (5-1), Dani Benton (3-0) and Rustan Rainey (1-0) have all been working over-time on the mound.

Along with the dominating pitching staff, the bats have also been hot for the Lady Cavs. In the past 6 match-ups, the Cavaliers have put an amazing 52 runs on the board.

The Cavaliers opened their Appalachian Athletic Conference schedule on March 24, with

two wins over rival Bluefield College, 9-2 and 13-0. With those two games under their belt, the Lady Cavs will go on to face big-time conference foes Tennessee Wesleyan College, Brevard College and Virginia Intermont College within the next week.

Final four ready to fight for NCAA basketball championship

Duke Johnston
Staff Writer

The second week of the NCAA men's basketball tournament has concluded, and the field of 65 has been narrowed down to four teams.

Every year, a Cinderella team finds its way to the second and third round, and Xavier took that role for this year's tournament. Xavier, a seventh seed in the Atlanta bracket, knocked off second

seed Mississippi State and third seed Texas, before being denied a spot in the final four by losing in a nail-biter to first seed Duke, 63-66.

Duke, Georgia Tech, Oklahoma State and the University of Connecticut make up the final four set to play this weekend in San Antonio. Keeping with the trend, small universities such as Liberty and East

Tennessee State were knocked out in the early rounds, leaving the larger universities to fight for the national championship.

The selection committee did not expect the teams to be so evenly matched for the tournament this year. Two number-one seed teams, Kentucky and Stanford, fell in the second round of the tournament to eight- and nine-seeds. A third number-one, St. Joe's,

lost to fourth-ranked Wake Forest in the third round of the East Rutherford bracket.

The Atlantic Coast Conference proved to be the dominate conference in the 2004 tournament, sending six teams to the "Big Dance," and two, Georgia Tech and Duke, have advanced to the final four. Duke will meet Connecticut, and Georgia Tech will square off against Oklahoma State on April 3

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in San Antonio.

The tournament will conclude on April 5, when the two remaining teams will face off for the national championship.

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THE OUTPOST

the **OFFICIAL YEARBOOK** of the University of Virginia's College at Wise,
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