

C THE HIGHLAND CAVALIER

Celebrating more than 50 years of student news at UVA-Wise

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THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA'S COLLEGE AT WISE

SEPTEMBER 13, 2006

Spanish students to get practice

By Ashley Hall
Staff Writer

The college's Spanish students now find themselves taking the language out of the classroom and into the caf. Known as Mesa Hispanola, or "the Spanish Table," lunches beginning last week and held across the next two months will offer students the opportunity to communicate solely in the Spanish language.

Attendance at the lunches is required for students enrolled in 100- and 200-level Spanish classes, but Susana Liso, an associate professor of Spanish, hopes that it will not seem as intimidating as the classroom.

The Mesa Hispanola lunches will provide "an environment where the students can use all the Spanish they know," Liso said.

The lunches, free to all Spanish students, will be held every Wednesday from 1 to 1:50 in the private dining room in Cantrell Hall.

By taking Spanish out of the classroom, Liso said she anticipates students' appreciation for the language and their desire to speak it will grow.

Even current Spanish students think the lunches will be beneficial.

"It connects the professor and the students, and the students with the students, on a more personal level," said Jenna Powers, a Spanish student, who is required to attend.

But Powers said that her lack of recent coursework in Spanish may make her nervous about the lunches.

"I think that it will be a good experience though and I do not think that the professors will expect too much out of the students the first couple of meetings," she said.

The Mesa Hispanola lunches will likely allow students to teach themselves in a fun way as well as provide additional awareness and experience with different cultures, Liso said.

Similar programs are already operating at other colleges across the country, Liso said.

Transportation options available for commuters

By Kate Baldwin
Opinions Editor

Beginning this semester students who usually drive from Buchanan, Dickenson, Tazewell and Russell Counties, and points in between, can catch a free ride to campus on a commuter bus sponsored by Four County Transit and the Dickenson County Board of Supervisors. And if this program is successful the college is considering additional transit options for the future.

"The more students who use this service the more direct routes we can plan to offer including [one] from Lebanon," said Leon Alder, director of Four County Transit.

This service is a once a day, one way, fixed route.

Alder said he hopes students will utilize this service and that it will help conserve fuel and reduce the impact on the environment.

The service is free for all UVA-Wise students with valid IDs. Seats are limited and must be booked in advance.

Mountain Empire Older Citizen Transit also provides transportation possibilities for students looking to save on fuel costs. Its service costs just \$1.50 per boarding. Routes operate in Wise, Lee, and Scott Counties and the city of Norton.

Sim Ewing, the college's vice chancellor for financial and government affairs, said he has been working with MEOC to develop additional routes for the college's students and the surrounding community.

"If we decide to go ahead with this [project] it would be funded in part by Student Activity fees and students would access it by displaying a valid student ID," he said.

Mike Henson, director of Mountain Empire Older Citizens Transit and a 1983 graduate of the college, said that while a direct route to campus doesn't currently exist, plans for future services are in the developmental stages.

"Having a [bus] service like this would help to tie everything together for the students," he said.

"Initially any service we implement will be a [designated] closed loop service to various student-

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Marching band debuts at game

By Jenna Powers
Staff Writer

The Marching Highland Cavaliers, the college's first marching band, debuted Saturday, Sept. 2, at the first home football game against North Greenville.

A group of about 30 student musicians, including band president Amanda Watson, were there to show off weeks of hard work.

Watson said she was both nervous and excited about the band's debut.

"I'm very confident in our skills, but you can't help but get nervous for a debut like this," Watson said.

Richard Galyean, instructor of music and director of bands, said he was also excited about the band's debut.

Besides being a positive influence for the college and its students, the marching band will "add spirit and enthusiasm to the games," Galyean said.

The marching band was first proposed in 2002. Over the past two years musical instruments have been purchased and more recently funding was made available for new uniforms.

"Everyone from the Chancellor's office down has been very supportive," Galyean said.

As to the future, "the sky is the limit," said Galyean. He said he hopes to increase band membership to 100 musicians or more within the next three years.

Galyean said students interested in joining, even at this late date, should contact him. Band members will receive three fine arts credit hours from the college.

Membership in the band is not limited to students from the college. Students who are able to play a musical instrument and are enrolled at Mountain Empire Community College, other neighboring community colleges and local high schools, are invited to audition for the band, Galyean said.

For more information regarding the Marching Highland Cavaliers Band, please contact Richard Galyean, director of bands, at (276) 328-0235, or by email rdg3y@uvawise.edu.



Culbertson Hall, the newest freshmen residence hall on campus, was completed during the summer of 2006. The building was dedicated on Sept. 9.

For Brooks, living with freshmen in Culbertson a learning experience

By Heather Powers
Staff Writers

Culbertson Hall is not the only thing new on campus this academic year.

Courtney Brooks takes over this semester as the new assistant director of Residence Life, and the new adviser for the Residence Hall Association (RHA).

Brooks said she hopes to bring a "pair of fresh eyes and ears to interpret things differently on campus."

"I want to make an honest effort to embrace diversity to everyone," she said. "It's happening and it hurts to see students still stifled by diversity."

"I want to see this school progress and not be the best kept little secret in the mountains."

Before coming to the college, Brooks held residence life positions at

Berea College, the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and East Tennessee State University.

And, she was no stranger to the college when she applied for the position—her brother attended Wise.

What also sets her apart—and has had students talking—is her dog, Clover, who lives with her in Culbertson.

She said she thinks her dog "is therapeutic to the students."

She said that while she has some concerns about students trying to harm Clover, the dog will be a "social tool" to help her in interactions with the hall's residents.

And while it might be difficult to live as an adult among the college's freshmen, Brooks said there are some benefits.

"It keeps me in touch with the students and is a constant reminder of being a student," she said.

Twinleaf Society dedicates campus clock



The completed Twinleaf Society Clock, dedicated on Aug. 22, was a gift of the college's Twinleaf Society of Retired Faculty and Staff. Organized in 2003, the Twinleaf Society represents all retirees of The University of Virginia's College at Wise. The clock stands in front of the C. Bascom Stemp Student Center.

From the Editor's Desk

Little "Lakes" and Lots of Algae

With all the renovations and improvements being done to our beloved campus one can't help but wonder why the college hasn't done anything to improve the pond, sorry, I mean the "lake."

When I walk by this thing I just get disgusted. Usually there is a thick layer of nasty, green algae floating on the top and trash at the edges. Sometimes when I drive by I will see something out in the middle and think, "Sweet Jesus! Is that an alligator swimming in there?" Of course, I then realize we don't have alligators in our ponds around here. And sure enough, upon further inspection I can clearly see that it is not in fact an alligator but a pile of cups and cans with algae growing on it.

I think the only times I have ever seen anyone cleaning this disgusting puddle is when there are events going on around it, and in the Spring when prospective students are coming with their schools or families for a tour of campus.

I think campus employees also clean it when they put the fish in for the fishing tournaments. Although, I honestly don't know why you would want to fish in that thing. God only knows what you might pull out of that pond. (I did it again, I mean to say lake, I really do.)

When I have seen people cleaning the LAKE, it's usually just a couple of guys with pool skimmers cleaning the algae off the top and picking up the trash that has floated over to the bank.

But really you guys, can you honestly reach very far with a pool skimmer? There is no way that you can get out into the middle of the lake with those things.

After seeing these people "clean" I often drive by and can still see big clumps of algae and trash floating out around the middle where no one could possibly reach.

Is there nothing that we can do to fix this eyesore? If one will look, you can see that there is nothing nasty floating around the fountain. The fountain pushes everything away, and algae can't grow where there is steadily moving water. It would also oxygenate the lake, so fish can live there constantly. Then the lake wouldn't have to be restocked each year for the tournaments.

Why not put in a fountain on the other end? Or perhaps stock it with some algae eaters so that it does not have time to pile up when it grows?

I'm not really an expert on man-made ponds or landscaping issues, but I do know that there has to be something that can be done to take care of our nasty little lake.

I really don't think that it is a big enough body of water to be called a lake, but then, what do I know?

--ALLANA BARNETT, Editor-in-Chief

Jealousy, the "Green" Friend

By Steven Perez

Last October I was able to go see the Broadway musical *Wicked*. This musical is about the Wicked Witch of the West and how she became evil.

Well, as most people know she is green, and after watching the musical and then reading the book I have come to realize that she is not green from jealousy but that she was born green.

I wish people around this campus could wear their true colors on their skin. This would eliminate the whole process of trying to find a person that will match you because you would be able to see their character flaws on their skin. Finding a match whether it be a girlfriend or a boyfriend would be as simple as looking at the person's skin and asking yourself what problems you are willing to deal with.

For the most part I have always thought that your friends were in place to help you make decisions that would be in your best interest. Recent events, however, have caused me to rethink this point.

Apparently a friend's job is to use you to either better their own social status--because no one will talk to them without you being there--or to make sure that their own selfish whims are satisfied by you. This is the verbal contract that you signed when you agreed to be BF's forever.

This also means that instead of helping you feel better about a decision that you have made in your own best interests and those of your future, they are bound by contract to make you feel that your happiness comes second to their planned "Night of Fun," which normally involves a bunch of socially inept people approaching you and asking, "What is your life ambition?" or "What is your major?" because they want to look like they are truly interested in you by asking you everything except the obvious, "Your house or mine?"

Since these people believe they come straight out of the, "Pimpin' Ain't Easy: College Edition" they think these lines will help them get to their goal of the night. Let us be honest for a second: Who is honestly going to find their soul-mate at a party where more than likely both of you are drunk and won't remember the other

person's name in the morning.

Most of these friends are very insecure about themselves. This normally leads to mooching off of you and everything you do. This is not limited to the people that you date. Normally when a person is in a monogamous relationship they are secure in knowing that maybe the rest of the campus is out to steal the person they are with-- but that their friends will stand true by their side.

But, for this breed of jealous-ridden individuals there is no honor among thieves. They will go to parties, get your significant other drunk, and call you to tell you how it was. If that still isn't enough for you to ask all your friends to paint themselves, this group of people believe that they are entitled to your belongings due to the contract that was verbally agreed upon. These friends will take things that are yours such as clothing, cologne, and jewelry to pass it off as their own just to entice your friends into believing that they are you.

Back to the point. Some friends you might find are not the best friends for you. There is a saying that people always use about romance, "There are more fish in the sea." This also applies to friends.

So if you or anyone you know find yourself surrounded by these "green" friends please don't hesitate to go to your local Wal-Mart, purchase a gallon of water and dump it on your friend.

If they melt, they just might be a witch. If this fails, at the minimum they are wet and that's always funny.

Steven Perez is a senior and is majoring in administration of justice.

Do you have a reaction to this story or an opinion that you would like to share with the campus community? E-mail it to Opinions Editor Kate Baldwin at keb6d@uvawise.edu.

The failure of grades

By Andrew Miller
Iowa State Daily (Iowa State U.)

(U-WIRE) AMES, Iowa - After entering college, it didn't take me long to realize the most important lesson to be gleaned from the American higher education system: Grades, not learning, are meant to be the ultimate goal of the university experience.

Although it may sound cynical, this is the only sensible explanation for so many of the strange trials we face while striving for a degree. Why else would we be subjected to so many tests full of inane trivia? It's probable that every student here has, on occasion, gorged upon information just to be able to vomit it back up to pass an exam, though everything is forgotten in just days. Students are learning not to achieve, but instead to put forth the minimum effort required to make the grade and move on.

It is no wonder, then, that unprecedented numbers of college graduates are unprepared for the working world. Nor is the problem limited to higher education; the same issues are present for high school graduates. The numbers are striking: At one school that only accepts B-level students and higher, more than a third of the new students needed remedial math and almost half needed remedial English. If these are the A and B students, what does that say about "lower achievers"?

The problem is that grades increasingly are not representative of skill level, but instead of a student's ability to look good to the system. For example, good cheaters are more likely to reap rewards than hard workers--a fact reflected in a 2005 study that found that 70 percent of undergraduates admitted to cheating.

I learned some of these lessons the hard way last semester in a particularly difficult course. My hours of de-

votion to homework and studying were paying off in earning me a respectable grade, and I toiled for days on a research paper. At semester's end, however, my paper was returned with a below-average grade and an entirely unfounded accusation of plagiarism. Still, I was afraid to press the point with the professor - what guarantee did I have that my grade wouldn't suffer because I disagreed with him? And the kicker was that several students had obtained the key to the final and cheated their way to As, surpassing my honest hard work. Here was the lesson, plain and clear: Cheat as long as you can get away with it.

In other courses I have experienced further proofs of good grades' superiority over integrity and education, such as the class in which people turn in their homework and shuffle out the door, or the class that experiences a temporary population boom on test day. It's no mystery why America is beginning to lag behind the rest of the world: Our youth are being taught that the least effort is adequate. Looking good is emphasized over being good.

Grades are what cause the current conditions, though it's not so much their existence as their interpretation. Much of the rest of the world has grades as well, but it is socially acceptable to be "average." Contrast this with the United States, where many companies would scoff at an applicant with a 2.00 GPA. Perhaps this is because higher grades signify an ability to follow directions, or to do unimportant menial tasks.

The days of learning for learning's sake are long past; it is rare to see students past their elementary years happy

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Campus News

SGA to hold elections

The Student Government Association will hold elections for the 2006-2007 school year on Sept. 12 and 13 in the lobby of the Slemm Student Center.

Seven positions are open for the academic year: two junior representatives, one sophomore representative, three freshman representatives, and one senator-at-large.

"I think the elections will go well to bring in new ideas for this year," said Kelly Maples, a returning representative.

If you have any questions you can stop by the SGA Office in 316 Slemm.

--KIM HUBBARD

Library goes wireless

The first phase of a wireless John Scott Wyllie library is now complete.

With the addition of a wireless network and nine wireless laptops over the summer, the college's students are now free to surf the web from anywhere in the building.

The staff is hoping that the wireless service will help facilitate student research, said Angie Widener, assistant director for public services.

Students can currently access the library's wireless network only by using laptops checked-out from the circulation desk.

And, the wireless network is not going to waste.

Students "are actively using it," said Amelia Vangundy, the library's assistant director for technical services.

--MIKE ARCHER

Sex and the Country: Summer Love

By Nancy Stickel
Staff Writer

Do the summer months leave couples feeling like they have been in a tropical paradise or stranded in a desert without any water?

College students come from all over the state, country and even the world. Come summertime, distance is an inevitable fact for most couples. Whether couples are five miles away from each other, or 500, distance can be a major factor in how a summer relationship plays out.

Nicole Williams, a junior, and her boyfriend, Scott, have endured two summers apart. Nicole says the success of their relationship over the summer months is due to "trust, communication, and talking daily on the phone." Nicole says the most difficult aspect of being apart from her boyfriend was "not being able to cuddle with him at night."

However, with little or no distance at all between you and your boyfriend, like senior Sarah Bowen experienced does not necessarily make things better. Sarah says that living close to her boyfriend during the summer meant that, "You get on each others nerves more because we are not as busy."

There is the saying that absence makes the heart grow fonder, but whoever originally wrote that obviously did not have the technology to see the Facebook message Sally Lou left on your man's wall saying what great beer pong partners they make together. Or the text message you sent to your old lady on your lunch break which she never responded to. These events just frustrate and anger couples when miles away. Those two components can be a recipe for disaster.

What about the students who go into summer single? What is to become of a "summer fling" after there are no

more warm summer nights?

When one thinks of a summer fling its easy to paint the image of the Abercrombie & Fitch-type singles coming together spending their days frolicking on the beach with sand sticking to their tan-toned bodies. Summer flings tend to consist of dating coworkers or the ever so tragic blurry night which blossoms into a blurry week until he goes off on family vacation or you find another person that looks good and is just so funny after a couple of Michelob Ultras. Of course, there is the rare occasion of staying at ones grandparents' lake house for a month, and, coincidentally, someone around your age is stuck doing the same thing, you hit things off instantly and that month is over before you know it.

Which brings over the concluding thought of how the story ends, what happens once summer is over?

Ideally, you would stay together, make the grueling eight hour trip every chance you got, and visit one another at school.

Realistically, you would spend your first week back at school talking on the phone before bed, recapping fond memories of your summer together, as well as discussing the basics on how your classes are going.

Unfortunately, you can only talk about the same memories for so long. The time will come when you will miss that important phone call because the music is so loud at the party you are attending. Then the new voicemail icon pops up with a not-so-pleasant message from your significant other who has reached their own conclusion for why the call was not answered. Maybe you were busy with your ex, they think.

How summer relationships come to form and come to pass is different for all but come August if you are feeling any summertime blues take organic chemistry and that should help take your mind off it.

Savy shopper's guide to the supermarket

By Kimberly Lord Stewart
From Natural Home

Why buy organic?

The short answer is that organic foods are a better choice for your health and the environment because they're not subjected to pesticides, antibiotics or hormones, nor are they made from genetically modified plant or animal species. The issue gets a bit more complicated, however, as you wander through the supermarket aisles and start reading food labels. Here's the scoop on choosing good foods at the grocery store.

Vegetables and Fruits

Buying organic vegetables and fruits is the single easiest way to reduce your exposure to pesticides, antibiotic residues and genetically modified food. An Environmental Working Group study found an average of 200 industrial chemicals and pollutants in the umbilical-cord blood of newborns, some of which are pesticides that may have entered the bloodstream through the mother's diet. Adult levels exceeded 275 contaminants.

Fortunately, the United States has a national organic standards program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. According to the USDA, certified organic food "is produced without using most conventional pesticides; fertilizers made with synthetic ingredients or sewage sludge; bioengineering; or ionizing radiation." Before a product is labeled "USDA-certified organic," a third-party, government-approved certifier inspects the farm for compliance. Companies that handle or process organic food for the supermarket are also certified.

Look for the USDA green-and-white, "certified organic" symbol on organic fresh, frozen and canned fruits and vegetables. Also note the fresh-produce stickers: Organic produce always starts with a number 9, followed by the price code. Labels on genetically modified produce, which is not organic, begin with a number 8, followed by the price code.

Poultry and Eggs

The poultry and egg industries have dozens of terms that make their brands appear similar to organic even when they're not. Words that may appear on labels include "free roaming," "free range," "cage free," "no antibiotics," "no pesticides," "vegetarian fed" and "hormone free." (Hormones are never allowed in the poultry, egg and pork industries-organic or not.)

To be certified organic, poultry or eggs must meet all the above criteria and be raised using certified organic farming methods. One of the most significant differences between pseudo-organic brands and certified organic is the use of antibiotics on the bird, which may contribute to human antibiotic resistance.

Meat

Organic meats are from free-ranging animals that have been raised eating organically grown grass or feed and that have not been treated with antibiotics or hormones that speed up the animal's growth. Organic livestock rules also prohibit the use of animal byproducts in feed, which has been a primary contributor to bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) or mad cow disease.

The primary difference between "natural" meat (not a USDA classification) and certified organic meat is the feed. Though naturally raised livestock are customarily fed a vegetarian diet, the feed may have been grown with pesticides.

Organic Packaged Foods

Packaged foods may be categorized into three organic classifications: 100 percent organic; 95 percent organic with the remaining 5 percent from approved foods and substances; or 70 percent organic with the remaining ingredients also from an approved list. Only the first two classes may use the USDA's green-and-white organic certification symbol. Packaged foods in the 70 percent organic category may carry a "made with organic ingredients" along with a list of those that are organically grown.

(Excerpted from *Natural Home*, a national magazine that provides practical ideas, inspiring examples and expert opinions about healthy, ecologically sound, beautiful homes. Read the full story at www.NaturalHomeMagazine.com or call 800-340-5846 to subscribe. Copyright 2006 by Ogden Publications Inc.)

Direct bus service a future possibility

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centered locations," Ewing said. "Before going ahead with this type of project we have to determine if there is a real need, whether the students would use it, and what locations should be included in any proposed route. Student input would be essential."

Both transit authorities provide service to persons who have mobility and accessibility concerns and both require at least 24 hours advance notice for reservations.

Funding for the Four County Transit bus service comes from a Federal Transit Administration grant, Dickenson County matching funds, and from the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transit, Alder said.

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Staff Writers

The Highland Cavalier is the official student newspaper of The University of Virginia's College at Wise. The newspaper is published bi-weekly on Fridays. It functions to inform, educate and entertain readers accurately and responsibly. It does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the college's administration, faculty or staff.

The Highland Cavalier welcomes all contributions, which can be delivered to the Editor-in-Chief in person, by standard mail or via e-mail. The Highland Cavalier's office is located in 317 Slemm Student Center.



Lady Cavs volleyball: New coach, new season

By Jarred Soles
Staff Writer

When looking for his next coaching home this past June, Coach Steven Dallman was looking for a growing school with good support for athletics, and a chance to win a national championship. He said he found all those qualities here at Wise.

"It's great that the school is growing, and the chance to be involved in that excited me," Dallman said.

When searching for a new home on the Internet, Dallman found the opening for the college's head coaching position.

He said he "didn't know a lot about Wise" in the beginning, but "really liked the people here, they seemed like they were really sincere."

Dallman held previous coaching positions at the University of Southern Mississippi, the University of Louisville, College of St. Francis, and Michigan Lutheran Seminary before ending up at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, a NCAA Division I program. Budget issues and reductions in scholarships were two reasons for his departure, Dallman said.

But in his nine seasons as the head coach at Missouri he amassed a 90-155 record-making him the school's all-time wins leader.

Dallman has a chance to be even more successful here at Wise.

This is "the best team I have ever inherited," Dallman said. The Lady Cavs are coming off a 17-9 season in which they finished third in the Appalachian Athletic Conference (AAC). They won the AAC Regular Season Title in 2004 and have been to the NAIA Region XII Playoffs in two of the last three seasons.

And while this year's squad is ranked third in the AAC preseason polls, Dallman said his team has a chance to finish even better.

The team is set to do just that with senior Stacey Ringhoffer and junior Natasha Viers who Dallman said are two of the best middle hitters he has ever had.

He said he also expects great efforts from seniors Davina Dishner and Kate Daub, as well as solid back row play from Cara Hamilton and Brittney Lawson.

In the Lady Cavs' win over Pikeville on Aug. 31, Viers, Ringhoffer, Daub and Kristen Salyer combined for 47 kills. Dishner led the team with 43 assists and Brittney Lawson lead the defensive effort with 20 digs.

The Lady Cavs managed to sweep the Lady Wasps of Emory & Henry in their home opener on Sept. 5, improving their record to 2-1.

But the Lady Cavs suffered on-the-road losses to King, Averett and McDaniel, before pulling off a win over



PHOTO FROM THE OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES
Steven Dallman takes over this season as the new head coach of the Lady Cavs volleyball team.

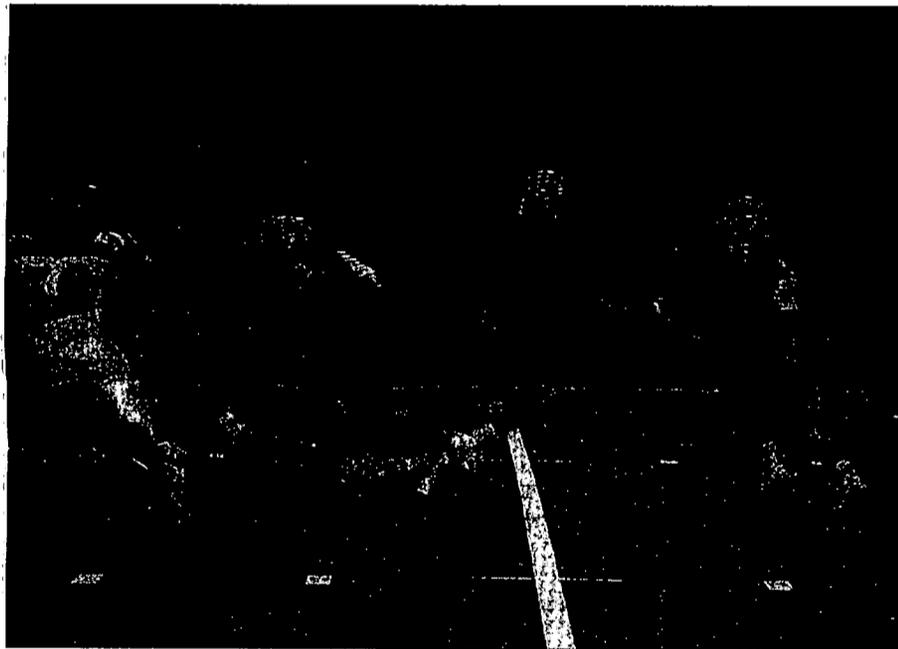
Southern Virginia at the Washington & Lee Tournament on Sept. 9. The Lady Cavs are currently 3-5, 0-1 in the AAC.

Fans can expect plenty of excitement this season, Dallman said.

"We might be picked third in the conference, but we plan on finishing first," Dallman said.

Upcoming Home Games:

Sept. 15: vs. Bryan (7 p.m.)
Sept. 16: vs. Tennessee Wesleyan (10:30 a.m.)
vs. Covenant (4:30 p.m.)



PHOTOS BY DAVE STRAUSS

Above: Sophomore quarterback Randy Hippeard (1) hands off to junior running back Ra'Shad Morgan (23) in the Cavs' 48-35 home win over North Greenville University on Sept. 2. Below: Morgan scored on the next play.



Two Cavs football players earn honors from Mid-South

By Daniel Robinson
Sports Editor

Juniors Ra'Shad Morgan and Reggie Dorsainvil were awarded Mid-South Conference Players of the Week honors earlier this week for their outstanding performances in Saturday's 48-35 win over North Greenville.

Morgan was named the Offensive Player of the Week while Dorsainvil earned the same honor for defense.

Morgan was the Cavs biggest asset in the game, accumulating over 150 yards of total offense and

scoring four rushing touchdowns. Morgan scored the game winning touchdown.

Dorsainvil was equally impressive against North Greenville—making six tackles in the open field and recording two sacks for a loss of 13 yards. He also managed to force two fumbles and make the pivotal interception with 1:07 remaining to set up Morgan's final touchdown.

After an off-week the Cavs return to action at home against Southern Virginia University this Saturday night.

Eliminating grades sounds crazy, worth thinking about

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to attend school, and it's no coincidence that school stops being fun when grades are introduced. Worse, under the force of No Child Left Behind, ever younger kids have information crammed down their throats to be regurgitated for the multiple-choice tests, and do not get to experience learning as a pleasant, interactive process. Seeing achievement levels fall lower and lower suggests that a solution lies in less regulation, not more.

It's easy to assume that a world without grades would be one where laziness rules and nobody is the best, but it has the potential to be one that begins to involve students in their education again. Everyone enrolled at Iowa State must pay huge tuition fees, yet we are often manipulated by the system that should be serving us. Eventually students would realize that they should try to get what they paid for, and professors would marvel at classrooms of eager learners.

Doing away with grades to improve education probably sounds crazy, and it will likely never be more than a pipe dream, but let the idea at least spark your thoughts. Remember that the university is in debt to its students, not the other way around. And most importantly, don't let your life be consumed by your GPA. Good grades are never worth the price of your individuality.

Andrew Miller is a junior in materials engineering from Ames.

Are you interested in joining the staff of *The Highland Cavalier*?

Staff meetings are held on Tuesdays in Zehmer 137 at 7 pm.

If you have any questions you can contact the editor-in-chief, Allana Barrett, by e-mail (acb3s@uvawise.edu) or by phone (328-0170).