

C THE HIGHLAND CAVALIER

VOLUME 59, NUMBER 27

THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA'S COLLEGE ALUMNI

MAY 2, 2005

SGA hosts Spring Formal at Norton Holiday Inn

By Kate Baldwin
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It was wall-to-wall people at this year's Spring Formal at the Norton Holiday Inn.

The theme of the event was "A Night on Bourbon Street" and people were invited to don glitter and feather masks. People came dressed in everything from formal attire to jeans and t-shirts.

"I tried to set a good example," said Jewel Worley, dean of students, who was in a full-length evening gown.

This year's king and queen were announced at the dance.

"I didn't even know that I won," said Rebecca Ford, who was crowned this year's Queen and a senior communication major. "Last year they [SGA] had a list of who had been nominated so that people could show up at the dance."

"I really had no idea at all that I would be voted as Spring Formal king," said senior Mark Moss. "I was certainly surprised when my name was called."

As in past years, there was a shuttle service from the campus to the dance location that ran every 30 minutes.

see Formal, page 2



Above: Senior Coby Bergum embraces the theme of "A Night on Bourbon Street" at the Spring Formal on April 25.

Below: Students dance on the 5th floor of the Holiday Inn Norton during SGA's Spring Formal.



Photos by Kate Baldwin

Soldiers reply to care packages sent by freshmen

By Allie Robinson
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A letter made its way across the ocean last month, destined for the class of freshmen in Southwest Virginia who had, not long before, sent a large care package the opposite direction.

Diane Silver's Freshman Seminar class received a thank-you letter and Comanche Certificate of Appreciation from the 237th Engineer Company, located at Camp Taji, Iraq. Earlier in the year, the class sent care packages of food, music and letters to some of the 115 soldiers in the company.

"The care packages were an outstanding contribution... and a welcome boost to morale during the Christmas season," reads the letter, written by Commanding Captain Robert P. Mason.

The letter concludes, "Again, thank you for your outstanding support and please keep the men of the 237th Engineer Company in your prayers as they continue to serve the greatest nation in the world."

Silver said that the class was dry-eyed throughout most of the reading of the letter.

"When I read the end, though, it got them," she said. "It touched them."

Freshman Fealita Prunty said that her class was excited when they got the letter.

"It touched our hearts that our class made a difference," she said. "The fact that the soldiers appreciated what we did for them is such a blessing."

Silver, an academic counselor in the Office of Advising and Retention said the class is responding to the letter by sending another package, which will be shipped during exam week. The package will contain music and cards, some of which will be birthday cards.

The birthday cards were Prunty's idea.

"Their birthdays might not be this month, but they will all have one," she said. "People write quotes in them,

see Soldiers, page 2

Jam4Man to be held this weekend

By Craig Rice
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The college kicks off its annual Jam4Man concert tonight at the intramural field behind Carl Smith Stadium at 6 p.m. and will also start again tomorrow at 5 p.m.

Admission to the event is \$5 or five cans of non-perishable food items. Money and food will go to benefit the local Hope House.

This year's events include a slip n' slide, a rock climbing wall and a Guitar Hero tournament with hopes to bring out students to support both a great local charity and a great night of music.

see Jam4Man, page 2

Spring art exhibit on display in student center

By Aaron Collier
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Starting on Friday, May 2, the Department of Visual and Performing Arts will present their Spring Exhibit on the fifth floor of the C. Bascom Slemp Student Center. The exhibit will continue through May 9.

The exhibit will include work from graduating seniors Cathleen Russ and Tyger Williams and juniors April Ashby, Joe Blessing, Daniel Burke and Caroline Mastbrook. Students enrolled in other art courses will also have their work displayed in the exhibit.

David Constable, an instructor who serves in an auxiliary capacity in the art department and the curator of the exhibit, said that unlike other subjects, art allows students to visibly show their work to the

public.

"It's [the exhibit] really showcasing vision...each individual student can basically share with the campus their vision and that's what the purpose of this is," he said.

Constable said that the art exhibit will help students on campus see what their fellow art majors have accomplished. Constable said that the students being able to show their work makes it easier for people to understand the art rather than a written presentation.

"Arguably it's easier for the art department to let you know what they're doing because we can just reveal," Constable said.

He said that a lot of hard work has been put into the spring edition of the exhibit. Seniors have not only completed their work for seminar, but set up for the event as well.

see Art Show, page 2

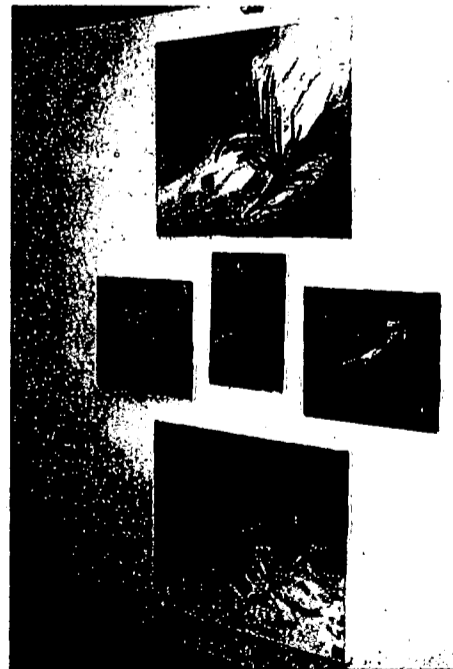


Photo by Kate Baldwin

Student art is displayed on the 5th floor of the Slemp Student Center. The art will be on display starting today and will continue to be until May 9.

INSIDE



THE HIGHLAND CAVALIER PRESENTS A REVIEW OF THE SPRING WITH "THE SEMESTER IN PICTURES." RELIVE THE MOMENTS ON PAGE 4.



SPORTS EDITOR REID SALOMONSKY REVIEWS THE TOP SELLING ALBUM OF ALL TIME IN THIS MONTH'S "CLASSIC REVIEW." READ HIS THOUGHTS ON PAGE 5.

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College welcomes "Voices from Darfur" speakers

By Mariah Redden
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The presentation "Voices from Darfur" was held at UVA-Wise on April 30 at 1 p.m. in the Greer Gymnasium. "Voices from Darfur" is a national speaking tour and accompanying website sponsored by the Save Darfur Coalition featuring personal accounts from Darfuri refugees," Lauren Cary said. "Launched in the summer of 2007, 'Voices from Darfur' brings the genocide to America's doorstep in an effort to educate citizens and spur advocacy to make a difference for the people of Darfur. The event was sponsored by STAND: A Student Anti-Genocide Coalition."

Presented at the event was a documentary which featured survival stories from Darfur. Darfur is a region in western Sudan and borders Libya, Chad and the Central African Republic. The

crisis started in 2003 when two rebel groups instigated a movement towards Sudan's president Omar al-Bashir. In an attempt to defeat the rebel movement, a militia group known as the Janjaweed was formed. This group has killed, raped, and destroyed the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of Darfurians with the support of the Government of Sudan's armed forces.

"As many as 400,000 people have been killed and 2.5 million displaced," Cary said. "Participating in an event of this magnitude is extraordinary and it has motivated me even more towards putting an end to genocide all together."

The event included Darfur natives Ibrahim Adam and Moheamed Dufala Ishak. The guest speakers recounted what it was like living through the genocide.

Adam, who now lives in Illinois, lived in Northern Darfur. He lost over 20 family members when his village was burned by the Janjaweed militia and he

is currently waiting for a time when safe conditions will allow him to return to Darfur and rebuild. He said Darfur needs our voices to help this dire situation.

Ishak was a farmer in Darfur and lost everything to the Sudanese government when the Janjaweed attacked his village.

"We are fighting for a change," said Ishak.

President of the Black Student Union Emahunn Campbell said that he hoped the event would raise awareness to the issue of genocide in Darfur.

"Injustice anywhere is an injustice everywhere," Campbell said.

If you would like to join the student organization, STAND: A Student Anti-Genocide Coalition contact Lauren Cary at lnc2e@uvawise.edu or the Office of College Relations at 276-328-0130. For more information on Darfur visit the website www.voicesfromdarfur.com

Seminar class to build inflatable falcon

By Allie Robinson
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Students who have been reading "The Maltese Falcon" by Dashiell Hammett this semester might recognize the figure Ray Stratton's Freshman Seminar class is currently constructing.

The class, in response to the novel, is making an inflatable version of the falcon, which will debut next Monday, May 5 at 1 p.m.

"The inflatable will be about 20 feet tall, which is twice the size of the inflatable structures my 3-D design class usually makes in the fall," said Assistant Professor of Art Ray Stratton.

The bird will be placed near the area of the Jefferson statue at the top of the hill overlooking the lower part of campus. It should be fully inflated by around 1:20 p.m. Stratton said the falcon will probably only be inflated for 10 to 15 minutes.

Stratton said he teaches a somewhat artistically-inclined seminar class and that it usually involves a group project.

"This is the most engaged they've been all year," he said.

Stratton said that when his 3-D design class makes inflatable structures, they usually draw a bit of a crowd, but that this is the first time they have announced the event beforehand.

"We're trying to get people out to see it," he said.

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Formal: Students enjoy college's spring formal

Continued from page 1

"The SGA had a great turnout for the Spring Formal this year," said Travis Brannon, the newly sworn in SGA president. "The facilities and staff at Holiday Inn were excellent for our event and we will definitely consider them for next year's event as well."

Moss said he thought this year's formal was the best one since he's been here.

"The only thing I may have done different is to have the dance on Saturday night rather than Friday," he said. "As a whole, I had no complaints about the dance."

For student's who were interested in drinking alcohol there was a cash bar. Students had to show their ID and get "banded" before heading into the bar area.

"The check-in [process] worked well this year," Worley said.

The dance was hosted by the SGA and RHA. Everyone who attended had the opportunity to take home a commemorative glass or have a photograph taken by Stan Crabtree.

Although there was a police presence at the formal, there wasn't much for them to do.

"Everything went A-O-K," said officer Randy Wyatt of the campus police. "We had few problems even after the dance was over."

SGA encourages any students that would like to help plan the Spring Formal in 2009 to join the committee at the beginning of next year.

"We will try and make each dance a new and exciting experience for everyone next year," Brannon said.

Boycott of Beijing Olympics a Bad Idea

By Justin Jurek

One of the hottest topics today is the issue of the 2008 Summer Olympics to be held in Beijing, China. The decision to allow China to host the games is, without really saying so, controversial, especially with regard to China's deplorable human rights record. Protestors on both sides of the debate have shown up in the streets, letting their voices be heard. The vast majority, it seems, are in favor of a total boycott of the Olympics, believing that the Chinese government's repressive policies mean China has no right to host the games.



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The protestors are forgetting, however, two very important factors: the Olympic athletes who have trained for years for this event and the people of China themselves.

Before I begin my argument, I have to say that I in no way, shape or form support the government of China, nor do I support its horrendous treatment of the people of Tibet or its own citizens. As a believer in freedom and liberty, I am morally bound to oppose such things. That being said, I do not believe that a boycott of the Olympic games by any nation is a good idea.

First off, a total boycott of the Games is an exercise in uselessness. We only have to look to the examples of the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow—which were boycotted by the United States and 61 other countries in protest of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979—and the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles—which were boycotted by the Soviet Union and 13 other countries in retaliation for the U.S.-led boycott of 1980. Both cases show that Olympic boycotts are futile. The 1980 boycott did not lead the Soviets to withdraw their forces from Afghanistan. That did not occur until 1988. And the 1984 games in Los Angeles went off without a hitch. Apparently, the Eastern bloc countries were not missed. In short, Olympic boycotts are purely symbolic and they never accomplish their purposes.

Another effect of a 2008 boycott that many have not considered is the effect on the athletes. Many of the athletes slated to participate in the Beijing Games are young people who spent their entire lives training to make their first Olympic appearance. Many are returning athletes who are looking forward to repeating their successes from earlier Olympics. Is it really fair to tell these athletes—who have trained and hardened themselves to be able to make their respective Olympic teams—that they will not be able to achieve their dream because their country decided not to participate due to a purely symbolic measure?

Also, what about the people of China? Most of them are not supportive of the communist regime and are opposed to the horrendous abuses committed by them. They are also intensely proud of their country and of the chance to host the Olympics and bring their country to prominence in the world. Is it truly fair to deny these proud people the opportunity to share their nation and their culture with the rest of the world, because of the actions of a government that they do not support?

Not even the Dalai Lama himself supports the idea of a boycott, believing it to be unfair to the Chinese people. I, for one, tend to agree with him.

In short, a boycott of the 2008 Olympics is a bad idea. It is not fair to the athletes or people of China and is likely not to achieve the goals its supporters espouse.

Students Need to Feel the Effects of Elections

By Travis Brannon

There has been some discussion recently in The Highland Cavalier concerning the "disappointing" voter turnout for campus Student Government and Honor Court elections.

The idea that students on campus are neglecting to vote due to apathy is most definitely false. Most students have a long list of complaints and concerns for our college and would like to see changes made a reality instead of speculation. Yet, every year there is a low turnout for elections that could drastically change the overall atmosphere of the college.

Students must feel and experience changes in the way things operate at UVA-Wise before a desire to participate can be fostered.

Students feel that voting for an SGA president or senator simply means someone that runs the check-in at dances or gives out t-shirts at Jam4Man.

Actually, SGA members are allocating student funds to groups and causes that they feel operate in the best interests of all UVA-Wise students. This past year, SGA operated

on a \$54,000.00 budget and helped to fund events ranging from homecoming activities and school dances to greek life conferences and Jam4Man.

Human selfishness explains how to inspire a civic duty in our students: We need only provide for a better student life and activities. The influence of elections will then be noted in the minds of all students and a regression in quality will never be tolerated.

Every student at UVA-Wise is recognized as a member of SGA. An open invitation is left for all students to attend SGA senatorial meetings and to provide input at any committee meetings, such as homecoming or Jam4Man.

The ability to be heard is not only with the vote, but also with direct participation in the planning process. While some view an uncontested victory as SGA president—in an election that saw fewer than 300 students vote—as "hardly worth winning," I see it as not only an honor, but also a call for transformations that will make an impact on the UVA-Wise student body to the point that they will have a vested interest in the next election.

We have a "perfect storm" type of

atmosphere right now at UVA-Wise, with a number of conditions coming together to make something extraordinary possible. The growth of our campus, physically, and the variety of students we attract from the United States and the world allows us access to a diverse and enriching community.

The life of the UVA-Wise student will constantly evolve. My goals are to create a connection between the campus leaders and local community leaders. There is a college night planned at the town's Fall Fling that will be co-sponsored by next year's SGA and feature a Battle of the Bands on Main Street in Wise.

Also, a student discount card featuring many local businesses is in the works by SGA.

Complete transformation in a year's time will be difficult, but hopefully there will be enough effect to show the importance of voting for your choice in the spring 2009 elections.

Brannon is a sophomore pre-law/political science major and the newly-elected SGA president.

Jam4Man: Line-up set for college's annual Jam4Man concert

Continued from page 1

Some students are excited about the change in venue to the intramural field along with a few of the bands scheduled to play.

"I'm looking forward to it being at the intramural field this year and I'm excited about the Dave Matthews cover band," said junior Jade Bolling.

Students also get the chance to let out some aggression on their peers.

"I like watching one of the RA's get

pie'd in the face," said freshman Merisiann Taylor.

Jam4Man is an alcohol-free event and anyone with a drink or backpack will not be admitted.

Some students said they enjoy the time that is left in the semester to be spent with friends before heading home for the summer.

"It's all about hanging out with friends and listening to good music,"

said freshman Sam Lovin.

Jam4Man committee head Cody Edwards said he expects this year to be a big year for the event.

"I think that compared to last year the students will be much happier," Edwards said. "We have a lot of very exciting activities planned for this year which I think will give this year's Jam4Man that extra component that it has lacked in the past."

Soldiers: Class receives letter from grateful soldiers

Continued from page 1

or talked about their exams. I wrote, 'You may not know this yet but you're my future husband.'"

Silver said that the box should get to the base around mid-May and that the company is scheduled to return home in July.

She said that anyone who wants to put something in the box has an opportunity to do so by contacting her office. She said she is looking for another group of soldiers for her incoming Freshman Seminar class to support.

"I'd be more than happy for anyone to suggest a group of soldiers that they know that we could support," she said.

Prunty said that her class has been supportive of the effort this past year.

"People might not support the war, but they support the troops," she said. "They all seem to want to help in any way they can."

Art Show: Students show art in student center

Continued from page 1

"It's a fairly exhaustive and rigorous process, an undertaking in responsibility on everybody's part," Constable said.

Constable said the students have responded in a commendable way to the pressure of exhibiting their work. He said that for art students to present their work as a final for their grades is hard to do.

"It isn't always necessary for an artist to be quite so conclusive...[as an artist] if we think conclusive and, who knows, that could go on for quite some period of time," Constable said. "Sometimes I think the majors are a little bit up against it because their being asked to conclude long before their being allowed to think conclusive...it's admirable."

Sponsored by the Highland Cavalier Club

Calling all Highland Cavaliers!

Highland Cavalier Appreciation Day
Monday, May 5th 12:00pm
Greer Gymnasium

Can you draw?
Do you take a lot of pictures?
Are you good at telling stories?

Then the Highland Cavalier wants your work.

Contact Editor-in-Chief
Daniel Robinson at
dsr8a@uvawise.edu to find out how you can get your work in the paper.

Password Change Needs Change in Direction

By Cody S. Dalton
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As I prepared for my last week of college here at UVA-Wise, I was greeted with an unfamiliar and uninviting friend. On Saturday, I logged in to my computer and much to my dismay, an e-mail read, "Your password expires soon."

Here I am, just weeks away from graduation, and I have to deal with this dreaded problem one last time.

I, as well as other students here at the college, have run into this same problem over and over again. Students have been prevented from logging in to their e-mail account.

I have a suggestion for the e-mail problem here at the college: Make the password change an optional feature. If you go under "options," you can change your password manually after logging in to your UVA-Wise account.

For me, personally, this has been a problem that has occurred many times over my four years here at Wise. Over winter break, I was unable to access my UVA-Wise account and couldn't reset the password over the phone. Because of the e-mail problem, I was barred from answering important e-mails about a job I held in the winter. This had the potential to hurt my résumé, future, and put an end to an employment opportunity.

Personally, if you feel that your password has been stolen, you should automatically go in and change your password. If not, then it's your own fault for not changing it on your own accord. College students have little time to get many things done, including homework, laundry, and going to the caf to get food. Trying to memorize eight billion passwords during your tenure here should not be a requirement.

Being locked out of important e-mails is also wrong, too. If students forget their passwords, they once again have to make the effort to try and go to the basement of

What are your plans for summer?

Garry Vlers
Freshman
Engineering
"Probably go to the house and work this summer."

Jade Skutt
Junior
Administrative Justice
"Serving subpoenas and working at a tanning bed."

George Lyles
Freshman
Biology
"Probably go home, work two jobs, go to summer school. Then I think in July I'm going to Europe on a mission trip."

Darden to get the passwords reset. Once again, there is not a lot of time for that.

So this goes out to anyone involved with the technology changes here on campus: Ditch the password change and make it optional. Otherwise, you are potentially hurting students for both time and important e-mails.

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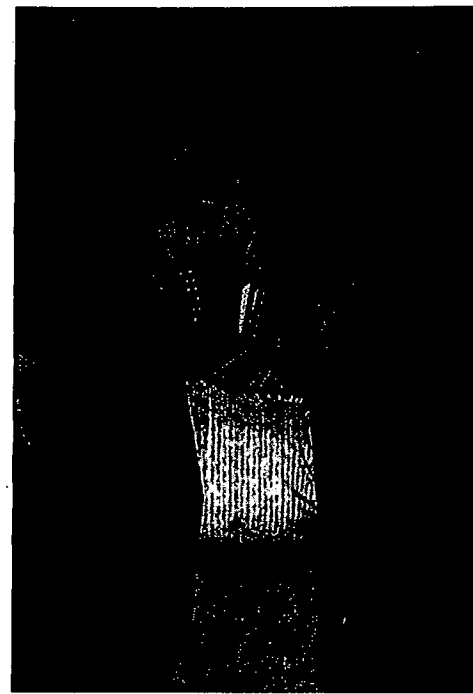
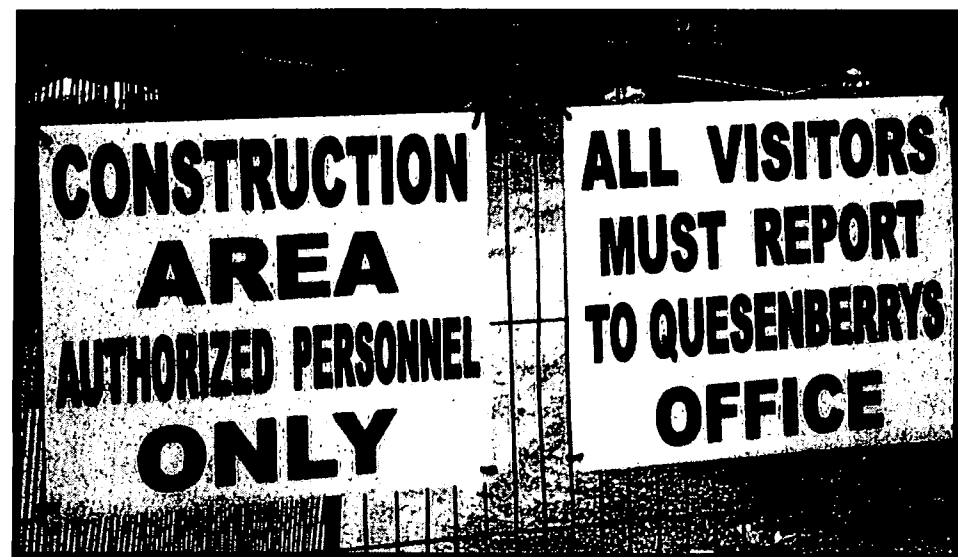
The Highland Cavalier is the official student newspaper of The University of Virginia's College at Wise. The newspaper is published weekly on Fridays. It functions to inform, educate and entertain readers accurately and responsibly. It does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the college's administration, faculty or staff. Also, the opinions expressed on the Opinion Page are those of the individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of newspaper editors and staff members.

The Highland Cavalier welcomes all contributions, which can be delivered to the Editor-in-Chief Daniel Robinson in person (317 Sleep Student Center), by standard mail (Campus Box 4682, The University of Virginia's College at Wise, 1 College Avenue, Wise, VA 24293), by phone (376-0170), or via e-mail (dsr8a@uvawise.edu).

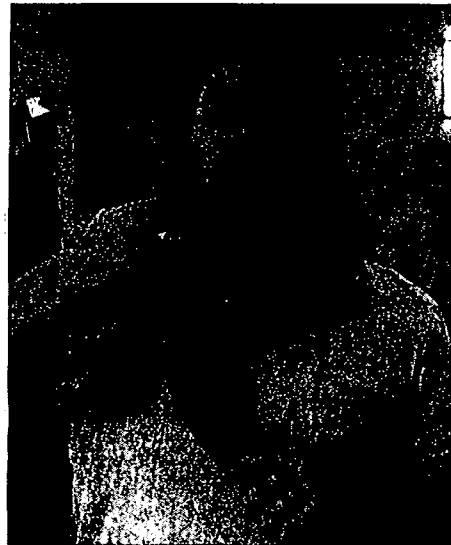
Letters to the editor can also be e-mailed to Opinion Editor Eric Vanover (ev3j@uvawise.edu). All letters to the editor must be signed—including the writer's department or major, address and telephone number. Letters may be edited for length, grammar, clarity and libel.



A SEMESTER IN PICTURES



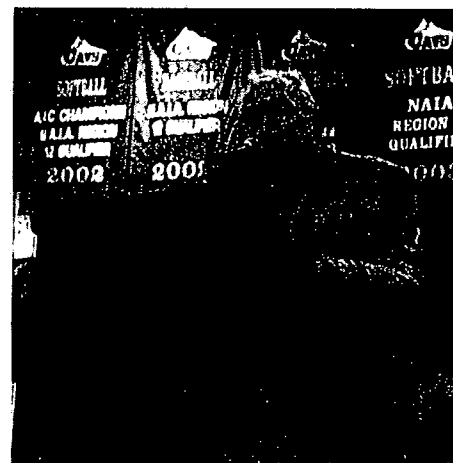
Gary Crum, the executive director of Graduate Medical Education Consortium, entertains the audience with his own brand of music in the Chapel of All Faiths during Coffee Night on April 15.



Junior Matt Grubb enjoys a giant snake around his neck during the Hump Day event, "Herps Alive" on April 9.



Lilies outside Zehmer Hall in early April signalled the coming of Spring.



Papa Joe Smiddy speaks to students and faculty during Founder's Day on April 9. The event celebrated Thomas Jefferson's birthday.

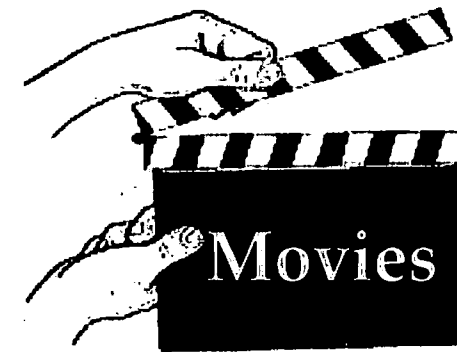


Escorts for contestants of the Miss UVA-Wise pageant-dress their best on April 12.



A student drives a golf kart while wearing "beer goggles" on McCrary Lawn during Student Development's "Drink and Drive" event on April 30.

Junior Matt Sullivan shows off his caricature from the "Hump Day" event on April 16. The artist completed each student's picture in less than 60 seconds.



Editor's Choice: Top 10 Most Anticipated Movies of the Summer

By Aaron Collier
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Black that trains to be a kung-fu warrior. 'Nuff said.

7. **Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Ball** (PG-13; Released Date: May 23)

As I sat on my royal throne in the Highland Cavalier office, I was wondering what kind of knowledge I would bestow on my adoring fans as the school year comes to an end.

After finishing lunch with my royal subjects, I decided I wanted to give the students something they could use for the summer season, something that they could take and store in their brain for later use.

I decided a list of the movies that I am most excited to see this summer would suffice. (What did you expect, an equation that would end the fuel crisis? Give me a break.)

So, without further ado, Aaron's Super Fantastic Summer Fun Movie Spectacle-2008 Edition.

10. **Speed Racer** (PG; Release Date: May 9)

Before you ask, no I am not a fan of the show. In fact, I found the original cartoon to be boring and lame. But the Wachowski Brothers (Directors of the "Matrix Trilogy") has my interest piqued after seeing the color-filled world they have produced on the big screen. The CGI looks amazing and it seems that the Wachowski's have captured the sense of speed that a movie with a main character named "Speed" would need to be successful.

9. **The Incredible Hulk** (PG-13; Release Date: June 13)

The first of the "comic book" movies to make my list is the return of the Hulk to the big screen. After the horrendous first installment of the Marvel Comics' hero (except for the smoking hot Jennifer Connelly as Betty Ross), I didn't think this movie would come anywhere near this hallowed list. But after hearing Edward Norton was playing Bruce Banner, I began second guessing myself. After seeing the preview of the movie online, I knew that this would be a must-see movie of the summer. Two words describe this film: "Hulk Smash."

8. **Kung Fu Panda** (PG; Release Date: June 6)

An animated Panda voiced by Jack

Black that trains to be a kung-fu warrior. 'Nuff said.

7. **Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Ball** (PG-13; Released Date: May 23)

The long awaited fourth installment of the Indiana Jones franchise is finally here and even though I am not a rabid fan of the franchise, I am excited to see Dr. Jones back on the big screen. With Steven Spielberg returning to the director's chair for the newest film I have more than high hopes for Dr. Jones and company.

6. **Hellboy 2: The Golden Army** (PG-13; Release Date: July 11)

After a surprisingly good first installment, I was excited to see that director Guillermo Del Toro's sequel was scheduled to be released this summer. If Hellboy's original creator Mick Mignola is as involved in this film as he was in the first one, then expect another action-packed, supernatural film on par with the first one.

5. **Wall-E** (PG; Release Date: June 27)

A trash-compacting robot looking for the meaning of life. Really, what else do you need from a movie?

Pixar throws its award-winning hat in the ring with its summer release of "Wall-E." When I saw the previews for this animated movie I was intrigued to see how Pixar was going to make this work since the robot seems to have no dialogue but electronic "beeps" and "boops." Can Pixar work their magic again? I wouldn't bet against them.

4. **Pineapple Express** (R; Release Date: August 8)

Apatow Production makes their debut on the list with what IMDB.com describes as "Superbad's raunchier big brother."

Seth Rogan stars as stoner who witnesses a corrupt cop commit murder. Along with his dealer (James Franco) he goes on the run from the cops that want to snuff him out.

Rogan and his "Superbad" co-writer Evan Goldberg penned the script for what is likely to be another hit for Apatow Productions. "Superbad" was one of the funniest movies of last year and "Pineapple Express" seems to be traveling in the

same direction as its predecessor. The new comedy golden-boys of Hollywood continue to roll.

3. **King of Kong** (PG-13; Release Date: June 1 on cable channel G4)

Technically, this film was released in 2007, but it will debut on the video-game themed channel "G4" in June, so, it counts. (It's my list; I can do whatever I want.)

The documentary follows two die-hard "Donkey Kong" players as they battle to see who is the best when it comes to the classic arcade game. When it was announced that this movie was going to be broadcasted on "G4," I was extremely excited. I had heard of the movie last year, but was disappointed when no local theaters were showing it. I can't wait to watch this geektastic tale of two gamers who simply want to be the best at the game they love.

2. **Iron Man** (PG-13; Release Date: May 2)

A part from Frank Miller's "Sin City," this might be the best-looking comic book adaptation yet. Whether or not that translates into a good movie, we'll have to wait and see.

What I do know is that Robert Downey Jr. is a dead ringer for Tony Stark and any doubts I had when it was first announced that he would be playing the billionaire playboy of the Marvel Universe died when he grew the goatee. Let's hope this film lives up to the hype.

1. **The Dark Knight** (PG-13; Release Date: July 18)

From the first glimpse of Heath Ledger as the Joker, "The Dark Knight" ascended to the top of my list as not only my most-anticipated movie of the summer, but of 2008. From the previews this might be the best comic book movie since "Spider-Man 2." Ledger's portrayal of the Joker is the closest interpretation of the character's comic book roots. As a comic fan, this could quite possibly be the "Casablanca" of the genre.

And there you have it. My top ten most-anticipated movies of the summer. I hope everyone has a great summer, but a very special congratulation to all of the graduating seniors. It's been an honor and a privilege to be your friendly neighborhood feature editor.



Micheal Jackson's "Thriller" provides blueprint for pop music success

By Reid Salomonsky
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Before the bizarre lifestyle and controversial sleepovers, Michael Jackson was known for only one thing, "Thriller."

The album, which quite, possibly has the catchiest, most well-known pop hits ever, took the world by storm in 1982. "Thriller's" up-beat, tense, nearly obsessive sound complements lyrics took the world by storm.

"They're out to get you! Better leave while you can! Don't wanna be a boy! You wanna be a man?" Jackson's aggressive attitude gives "Thriller" a deeper, emotional urgency than any of his previous work and marks another emergence in the creative development of this once talented performer.

Take "Billie Jean," a lean, insistent funk number whose message couldn't be more blunt: "She says I am the one/But the kid is not my son." It's a sad, almost mournful song, but a thumping resolve underlies his feelings: "Billie Jean is not my lover" is incessantly repeated as the song fades out.

Billie Jean is mentioned in passing in "Thriller's" most combative track, the hyperactive "Wanna Be Startin' Somethin'." Here the emotions are so raw that the song nearly goes out of control. He laments "Somebody's always tryin' to start my baby crying."

The sense of quasi paranoia yields in the chorus. Where lesser artists need a string section or an aggressive blast from a synthesizer, Jackson needs only to sing to convey deep, heartfelt emotion. His raw ability and conviction make material like "Baby Be Mine" and "Wanna Be Startin' Somethin'" into first-class cuts.

Maybe the best song on the album is "Beat It." Jackson's voice soars all over the melody as Eddie Van Halen checks in with a blistering guitar solo. You could build a ten-story building on the beat and the result is one of the most popular songs of all time. So-called pop stars today should take note.

Perhaps Jackson's only failing is "P.Y.T. (Pretty Young Thing)." Of all the hits on the album, this is perhaps the only one that doesn't have the charisma of the other tracks.

Lastly, the title song, which at first sounds like a creepy radio show, degenerates into silly camp with a rap by Vincent Price. Despite this dysfunctional opening and unnecessary rap, this track has an incredible beat which began one of the most popular dances in American history. The song is one of the memorable in Jackson's career and a staple of the 1980s.

Jackson has made no secret of his affection for the spotlight and the glamour that goes with it. His talents, not just singing but dancing and acting, could make him a perfect mainstream performer. Perish the thought.

"The Final Season" treats audiences to a feel good sports movie

By Cody S. Dalton
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transitions into the story.

The big point in this movie is the merging of Norway into Madison Community High School and the town's disapproval of the consolidation. The school board denies Norway's petition against the joining of the schools, but finds out Norway will have one final season of Tigers baseball.

"The Final Season," which was recently released on DVD, is a heartfelt true story about a high school baseball team in Iowa that lives out its last season before merging with another school.

The movie stars Sean Astin ("Rudy," "Lord of the Rings" Trilogy) who plays Kent Stock, a former baseball player and now assistant coach for the Norway baseball team.

Despite some reviews of this movie, I had no problem with it. It was a well-told story, but many may not see Astin as a believable baseball manager. I, on the

other hand, believe that Astin did a great job with the role.

I also find it interesting how the movie is started off with the "feel good moment" rather than the sports movie cliché of holding the moment until the end.

Included on the DVD is commentary from the cast and producers of the movie, as well as the real-life people the movie is inspired by. It also has the non-movie version of the real-life final season at Norway and a "Making of..." feature.

Overall, this is a great "feel good" movie that tells a good story of a team that lives out a dream of a championship in their final season.

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Cavs Picture of the Year



Photo by Miranda Bradley

Junior Bryan Tolbert pumps up the crowd during the Cavs game on Nov. 3 against the University of the Columbians. The Cavs lost in overtime 41-38.

View From the Cheap Seats

Dare to Dream

About eight months ago, I wrote my first editorial emphasizing the importance and inevitability of change.

It seems as if that was the theme for the entire year in Cavs athletics.

We saw a football team that had never had national exposure, reach as high as seventh-place rank in the country.

The Lady Cavs volleyball team, which everyone had all but written off in the Region XII tournament (a tournament they had not qualified for in four seasons), defeated Bryan College to advance to the national tournament for the first time in school history.

The record books changed with dozens of records shattered this season, following incredible performances from the likes of senior Natasha Viers, junior Randy Hippeard, sophomore Jason Lovett and senior Ra'Shad Morgan, just to name a few.

Fans saw a change in philosophy on the softball field as the Lady Park stopped swinging for the fence and kept the ball in the park. This new strategy led to three players with batting averages more than .380.

Cavs fans saw coaches rely on young-blooded freshmen this season rather than the cagey veterans, making this year's recruiting class one of the greatest of all-time.

From my standpoint, up here in the cheap seats, The Highland Cavalier went through some drastic and extraordinary changes for the better.

On the sports page, specifically, assistant sports editor Cody Dalton provided readers with great football previews during the entire season, making fans even more excited for the upcoming games.

Writer Craig Rice kept a close eye on the Cavs' cross country team and their outstanding season.

Baseball fans can thank staff writer Shannon Chapell for keeping them up to date with her weekly articles this semester, highlighting what's happening on Stallard Field.

But no matter how many people were dedicated enough to report the action, it all comes back to those on the field, who gave us something to report.

This has been one of the biggest years in Cavs sports history, and I feel honored to have been an integral part of that.

I feel that both Cavs athletics and The Highland Cavalier newspaper have both taken giant steps toward the future, and have set the bar for the future.

I look forward to reading next year's sports page, and I hope that you the reader are as well, as there should be even more exciting news to report then.

Ideally, I would end this, my final editorial with some sort of witty remark, or possibly even some words of inspiration.

However, aside from the fact that I'm just your run of the mill sportswriter whose opinions on life mean nothing, it's just not my style.

Instead, I will simply end with the same signature close that I have used from day one, because they are the only words that I can use to express my true love for this school:

Go Cavs!

Thanks for reading.



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Cavs Sports Year in Review

To recap the 2007-2008 year for the Cavs, the following are the final records and significant statistics for each sport.

Football

10-2 overall, 5-1 against the Mid-South Conference
Sophomore Jason Lovett became the first Cav to have 1,000 yards receiving.

Volleyball

25-13 overall, 11-5 against AAC opponents
Won the AAC Tournament and was invited to national championship tournament.

Cross Country

Men finished sixth in the region, women finished eighth in the region
Freshman Brittany Killough was invited to the NAIA National Championship Race.

Men's Basketball

14-17 overall, 8-10 against AAC opponents
Senior Jarred Soles and freshman Adam Hood were selected to the All-AAC team.

Women's Basketball

6-26 overall, 3-15 against AAC opponents
Adrienne Womack was selected to the AAC All-Freshman team.

Men's Tennis

5-7 overall, 1-3 against AAC opponents
Senior Henning Kuich finished 9-0 in singles competition.

Women's Tennis

4-5 overall, 1-3 against AAC opponents
Senior Autumn Lauzon finished 6-4 in singles competition.

Softball

25-15 overall, 13-3 against AAC opponents
Freshman Maddi Ridenour and senior Shelley Newton finished first and second respectively in the AAC in batting average.

Baseball

26-19 overall, 10-8 against AAC opponents
Junior Brad Robbins' 11 homers this season gives him 21 for his career. He is in third place for the all-time record.



Photo by Jessica Price

Senior Natasha Viers attempts a kill during the Lady Cavs 3-1 win over Tennessee-Wesleyan on Oct. 10. The Lady Cavs finished the regular season with a record of 25-13. Viers set the single season record for kills (733) and also set the career record (1574) this year.

A Sportswriter's Farewell

By Cody Dalton
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To quote the great sports figure, Lou Gehrig, "Today, I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of the Earth." Those words truly express how I feel as I write in The Highland Cavalier newspaper for the final time.

This has been an interesting ride for sure that I would not change it for any reason.

Sports really are a passion of mine and I've combined that with writing for four years to make myself a career in the process.

I would like to express my appreciation

to many people.

First, I'd like to thank the coaches. From Tori Raby-Gentry to Lee Clark to Steve Dallman to Bruce Wasem, every one of you has helped me create my work into what it is today. Without your quotes, thoughts and ideas, none of my articles could have been possible.

Second, I'd like to thank the student-athletes who took time away from their busy schedules to send me an instant message or an e-mail or sit down for an interview. Just like the coaches, your words helped to shape my articles.

Finally, I'd like to thank everyone on the staff of The Highland Cavalier, who has worked with me and my busy schedule. At

times, I'm sure it has been frustrating, but I respect each one of you for helping to make me not only a better writer, but also a better person in the process.

I am proud to have been a part of this paper for four years and see its slow, yet steady development, from a short bi-weekly to a six-page weekly paper with advertisements.

Just recently, we were named "Most Improved Student Organization." That really is an honor.

This is in part due to our current adviser and "Advisor of the Year," Michael McGill, and our Editor-in-Chief Daniel Robinson. These two individuals have helped to find sponsorship and community support for this paper to stay alive and grow, too.

Most importantly, I can't forget the paper's writers because the paper wouldn't have material if not for them.

So as I sign off for the final time, I'd just like to say a couple of words to those who go here. Find something you love and chase after it. Don't just throw that so-called dream away. Go out and make that dream a reality. This is your future and you make every minute of it.

Finally, in closing, I would just like to send out a final big "thank you" out to everyone. You have all left me with many memories that I will gladly cherish for many years to come. For me, this is the end of one road and the beginning of another successful one.

Thank you all and God Bless!

Players of the Year



Randy Hippeard
Receiver - Junior



Natasha Viers
Volleyball - Senior

- Shattered both the single season record for kills with (733) and the career record with (1574).
- Led the Lady Cavs to a 25-13 record, the AAC Championship, the Lady Cavs first national tournament appearance.

