

THE HIGHLAND CAVALIER

VOLUME 60, NUMBER 1

THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA'S COLLEGE AT WISE

SEPTEMBER 19, 2008

College seeks student input on campus safety

By Allie Robinson
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At Kmart blue lights indicate a sale, but on this campus blue lights are for safety.

Last Wednesday a mix of students, faculty, and law enforcement embarked on the college's first Blue Light Safety walk. Participants walked the length of campus, taking notes on the efficiency of the emergency call boxes located along sidewalks and in parking lots.

"We are increasing [safety] awareness of everyone on campus," said Chancellor David Prior, who suggested UVa-Wise incorporate an annual safety walk modeled after walks held when he worked in the University of Wisconsin system. "We tested that the equipment works properly, and also gave us as administrators a diverse set of eyes as to how safe this campus feels."

Lelia Bradshaw, assistant director of the Center for Student Development, said that the walk was held to get student input on how safe they feel on campus.

"We got a mix of students—males and females, residents and commuters—and we wanted to see where there are areas of concern for safety," Bradshaw said.

Sophomore Naana Denning said that as a Resident Advisor, she found the safety

see *Blue Light*, page 2

Swamp Things



Photo by Allyson Green

Last Friday, Sept. 12, students including members of the Environmental Society and Pi Lambda Phi ventured out to the Wetlands located between Martha Randolph Hall and the Chancellor's house and cleaned up the trails, cleared places for study areas, and picked trash out of the water.

"Last Lectures" return after ten years Brian Wills to deliver first talk Sept. 24

By Brittany Robinson
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The Student Activities Board (SAB) will reintroduce the college's Last Lecture Series on Sept. 24 when Brian Wills, the Kenneth Asbury Professor of History, delivers his "final" lecture on the importance of overcoming challenges. The lecture is based on a golden oldies song by the Five Man Electrical Band called "Signs."

The Lecture will be held at 7 p.m. in the Chapel of All Faiths.

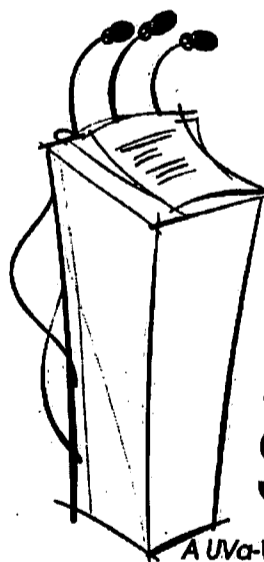
Faculty members are asked each month to deliver what would be their "last lecture." They respond to the question: "If this were the absolute last lecture you had to present, what would you discuss?"

"Signs," the song Wills will base his lecture on, is a song about a man defined by the signs he encounters in his life.

Wills said on the college website that the lyrics of the song speak to a message about himself he wishes to convey to others.

"Down through the years, those words have come to symbolize the message I have sought to convey to others about myself concerning the necessity of overcoming the challenges and limitations we all face and finding constructive ways to respond to them," he said.

A different faculty member will speak each month. This semester's speakers include: Rachel



Last Lecture Series

A UVa-Wise Student Activities Board event

Tighe, associate professor of communication (Oct. 14); John Adrian, assistant professor of English (Nov. 10); and Michael O'Donnell, assistant professor of French (Dec. 4).

It has been 10 years since the Last Lecture Series has been held on campus.

Chris Davis, associate director of

the Student Center, suggested the series be revived.

"The Last Lecture series is an excellent opportunity to get students engaged and for students and faculty to have meaningful discussions and thoughts about their lives and what is important to them," said Josh Justice,

assistant director of Student Activities

see *Last Lecture*, page 2

Silver Saber Competition to debut during homecoming

By Kasi Hubbard
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SGA is taking a new approach to homecoming this year by reaching out to students and hosting a new competition, the Silver Saber Spirit Competition. The competition will consist of three new events that will add to the previous homecoming traditions.

"We really want to make homecoming a great time to make memories," said President Travis Brannon. "We really tried to focus on the student side of homecoming and we let the Alumni Association focus on the alumni side."

The Silver Saber Spirit Competition will allow students to compete in teams to represent their organizations. The competition will include these events: "Roast the Eagles" banner contest, "Fear the Cheer," and "Cavalier Shuffle" will all be hosted on Sept. 25 after the Meet the Cavs pep rally. The annual "Sink or Swim" crazy boat contest will take place at 4:30, an hour before the pep rally. The Food Drive will take place throughout the week.

see *Homecoming*, page 4

INSIDE



THE LADY CAVS HAVE GOTTEN OFF TO A ROUGH START BUT ARE STILL LOOKING TO HAVE A GOOD SEASON. SEE THE STORY ON PAGE 6.



"STAR WARS: THE FORCE UNLEASHED" WAS RELEASED SEPT. 16. CAN YOU WIELD A LIGHTSABER? HONE YOUR SKILLS AS A JEDI AND READ THE REVIEW ON PAGE 5.

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SPORTS

Jimson Weed seeks student and faculty submissions for fall semester

By Sarah Seredni
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The Jimson Weed, the college's academic and creative writing journal, is accepting submissions for its 2008-2009 issues.

The deadline for submissions for the fall issue is Sept. 22. The deadline for the spring 2009 issue will be announced at a later date.

The literary journal mainly prints original short stories, poems and artwork said Jimson Weed faculty adviser, Gillian Huang-Tiller said via e-mail.

She also said the journal might consider essays that have a suitably creative element.

Once work is submitted, the editorial staff goes through a process to choosing what submissions are to be published.

"The editorial staff is given tally sheets," said Assistant Managing Editor

and senior Mariah Redden.

"They mark either yes, no, or maybe and [we] will then tally the votes," Redden said. This means that all material accepted into the journal is via consensus," Redden said.

Huang-Tiller said she believes that Jimson Weed connects UVA-Wise to the community because the journal encourages writers/artists outside the college setting.

"The journal is always a bridge between the college and community, forging a common bond through art and poetry," Huang-Tiller said.

"The goal for Jimson Weed this year is to make not only more students, but individuals from the community to become involved with the journal," Redden said.

A common struggle that the journal has faced is sparking interest in individuals to submit their creative work.

"I think more people would submit

if they actually knew where to submit, it's hard to find things when this whole school is plastered with flyers," freshman Emily Nicole Baxter said.

"It's hard to sort through all of it, but a really 'out there' flyer would be a bit better than what they have out there now," she said.

Submissions can be sent through email to Jimson-weed@uvawise.edu. Or, sent by mail to the Jimson Weed, 131 Zehmer Hall, UVA-Wise, Wise, VA 24293.

There is no fee for submission. Huang-Tiller said the fall 2008 edition of Jimson Weed will be available on Nov. 43 at Coffee Night.

Copies can be picked up in locations throughout campus and in the surrounding community.

Last Lecture

Continued from page 1

and SAB faculty adviser, via e-mail.

The Last Lecture Series is a program sponsored by the Office of Student Activities and the Student Activities Board that provides faculty a means to connect with students in an environment outside of the classroom. All lectures will count as a cultural credit.

Justice said whether the topic deals directly with the faculty member's academic discipline, or if their lecture is based more on life lessons, students will find the lectures to be both meaningful and engaging.

"I think each professor will offer an exciting and engaging lecture that will encourage each of us to look at what's important in life and to learn a little more about each of them," he said. "It is our hope that this will become a popular series and that we can continue it in the spring and beyond."



Wills

Fruits and Veggies: 5-A-Day program to be held next week

Marshall Bradley
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The Center for Student Development will host its annual 5-A-Day program on Sept. 25 in the atrium of the Slemo Student Center. Students will be able to sample a variety of fruits and vegetables while learning proper eating habits that reduce health risks.

The atrium will have a buffet table with various fruits and vegetables for students to make snack bags. Tacked to the bags will be tips for healthy eating.

"The Center for Student Development uses this program to raise awareness of proper eating habits and [to] fight against the rising rate of obesity, specifically among college students," said Lelia Bradshaw, assistant director of the Center for Student Development.

"Since college students don't always have the best eating habits—with late night pizza and Huddle House visits—this program stresses the importance of eating healthy, explaining portion control and encouraging students to try fruits and vegetables they may have never tried," she said.

Bradshaw said she hopes this program will show students how easy it is to eat the proper daily servings of fruits and vegetables.

According to the national 5-A-Day website, "Consuming a minimum of five vegetables and fruits daily lowers the risk factor for heart disease, cancer, and stroke."

Bradshaw said she expects a good turnout.

"If you feed them, they will come," she said.

Blue Light

Continued from page 1

walk useful and practical.

"I didn't actually know where the phones were," she said. "It's good because I can tell my residents where they are. I think students should familiarize themselves with the location of the phones now instead of when they might need help."

Chief of Police Steve McCoy said that the push button on the call boxes will call the police with the location of the person needing help. Police will pick up and talk with the person in trouble through the microphone installed in the box.

Student Government President Travis Brannon said that the walk showed the campus administration that the small details, such as the amount of lighting along a sidewalk, really makes up the campus.

"Safety and comfort here should always be priority," he said. "I think [holding this safety walk] could end up helping people even just to give them peace of mind about campus security."

Jewel Worley, dean of students, said that she felt the walk was a great event because we live in a time when campus safety is particularly important.

"It's good to see what we're doing at Wise for safety," she said.

In the aftermath of the tragedy at Virginia Tech, many campuses nationwide are scrambling to get safety measures in place for their students. Chancellor Prior said that this is not the case here in Wise.

"A lot of the safety measures on this campus were in place before the Virginia Tech tragedy," Prior said. "This is a continuation of what we've been doing. We want students to know that if they need assistance, they can see the blue light and get help."



Photo by Allie Robinson

Assistant Director for the Center for Student Development Lelia Bradshaw tests an emergency call box in the commuter lot by the softball field. A group went out last week to test all emergency boxes and offer opinions concerning campus safety.

OPINION

The Return of Russian Imperialism

Most history textbooks recognize the year 1991 as the year the Soviet Union finally fell. Facing increased U.S. determination to stare the Soviet juggernaut down, the Soviets found themselves simply unable to keep up. The nation collapsed its people's own excesses.

At least that's what the history books say. Now, it seems as if Russia has begun to reassert itself as a major world power and not in a good way.

When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, the tiny Republic of Georgia was one of 15 former Soviet Republics to gain their independence from the former Communist super-state.

Recently, Georgia has made a commitment to democracy and has attempted to establish closer ties to the West—even going so far as to try and seek membership in NATO. All of this is to the apparent bane of the Russian leadership.

In August 2008 Russian tanks rumbled across the Georgian border, initiating what has become known as the 2008 South Ossetia War.

In order to aid Russian speaking citizens in the breakaway of the Georgian provinces of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, the Russians began a brutal military campaign against their tiny neighbor. Georgia was left devastated.

Russian leaders were quick to blame the Georgians for the entire conflict, attacking them for denying "self-determination" Russian speakers in breakaway provinces.

The true reason for the conflict, however, is much more sinister.

Russia, under President Vladimir Putin, made several disturbing leaps toward autocracy.

This is unsurprising, given the fact that Putin is a former Soviet and one-time member of the menacing KGB. Because of Putin's seeming disrespect for democracy during his presidency it would appear that Russia is seeking to once more impose its will on the tiny democracies that sprang forth from the ashes of the Soviet empire keeping them from becoming too close to the West.

Given the fact that Georgia was decidedly no threat to massive Russia—and that it was the Georgian government's duty to cease violent rebellions in Abkhazia and South Ossetia—it is morally reprehensible that Russia would attack Georgia.

It is also interesting to note that it was not until Georgia began to seek membership in NATO that Russia began to increase the rhetoric.

Furthermore, Russian forces entered strategic oil and natural gas ports after a cease-fire had been agreed to.

With these facts in hand, it is clear that Russia's military intervention in Georgia was nothing more than an attempt to push the tiny state into submission and prevent it from becoming too close to western allies.

It is the duty of every freedom-loving American to stand solidly with the Georgian people and oppose Russia's brutal invasion.



Justin Jurek
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Price Gouging at the Pumps

At 3 p. m. on Friday my telephone started ringing off the hook. My parents called and told me to go get gas. My grandparents called and told me to get gas. My friends even called and told me to—you guessed it—go get gas!

I was told by frantic voices that people were panicking because oil refineries had been shut down in Texas due to Hurricane Ike.

Campus police even sent out a friendly e-mail informing us to be careful about our gas situation and to fill up if we had less than half a tank. The rumor said gas was going up at least \$1 on Saturday, and many gas stations in my county were

limiting you to a \$30 purchase.

What did I do?

I filled up my vehicle and paid \$4.10 a gallon.

Needless to say, I was proud of my savings.

Then I started to question why so many people were panicking. The planet's gas supply wasn't going to disappear overnight. It was then that I remembered the two words being whispered among my family and friends once more - price gouging.

As if I'm not continually being ripped off every other time I fill up my car with ridiculously expensive gas, I had unintentionally ripped myself off again because I listened to the panic of the masses.

I had been a victim of intentional gas price gouging.

In my personal opinion, gas prices are getting out of hand. My freshman year of high school gas was being sold in the \$1 range, not the \$4 and \$5 range.

Now, several years later, I was proud at getting gas for only \$4.10 a gallon? I realized how crazy my happiness was.

Days later and prices are still posterously high and still rising. Because of this, I'm learning to be picky with my gas stations.

Price gouging is easy to spot.

If one gas station is advertising gas that's at least 20 cents over the normal price that you see everywhere else, you might be getting ripped off. If gas is \$1 or more over the price listed everywhere else, you're definitely getting ripped off.

Be wary of gas stations in the light of fluctuating prices and remember not to panic with the masses.

For the time being, oil isn't going anywhere.

Will oil still be here 50 years from now?

Well, that's another story...

From the "Other" Editor's Desk

SNL premiere - sexism and a swimmer Fey and Poehler's famed political skit examined

Read that byline again.

Yep, it's a Robinson, but perhaps not the one you were expecting.

I'm Allie, and I'm not related to Daniel at all. We just share the same stellar surname.

In an act of editorial benevolence, he decreed I would write this week's editorial. I dutifully scanned the news, combed campus, and kept an eye out for anything new and exciting. I was determined to debut with a platinum-quality column.

Unfortunately, this has been a rather dull week. With the exception of the Saturday Night Live skit last weekend in which Tina Fey and Amy Poehler impersonated Sarah Palin and Hillary Clinton, of course.

Where but SNL can you watch two famous people (even if they are merely being impersonated) bash each other good-naturedly on public television, hurting everyone's feelings and yet remaining politically ambivalent? The duo supposedly was paired up to demand that the media stop being so sexist in their portrayal of women. Naturally that led to comments about Palin's previous beauty contests, and Clinton's vicious tactics on her road to the White House.

According to nytimes.com, Palin actually found the impersonation humorous, not in the least because she once dressed up as Tina Fey for Halloween. Hey, if the two look so much alike, perhaps Fey could fill in from time to time...

And Clinton once made a guest appearance on SNL with Poehler (both dressed in the same color pantsuit) to open the show last spring. I'm not sure she would have found last week's skit as humorous as skits about her while she was still a presidential contender, though, especially since Poehler concluded the session by saying, "I invite the media to grow a pair. And if you can't, I will lend you mine."

To add insult to injury (the injury naturally being the lack of interesting things happening this week), Poehler is pregnant and will be leaving the show after the election in



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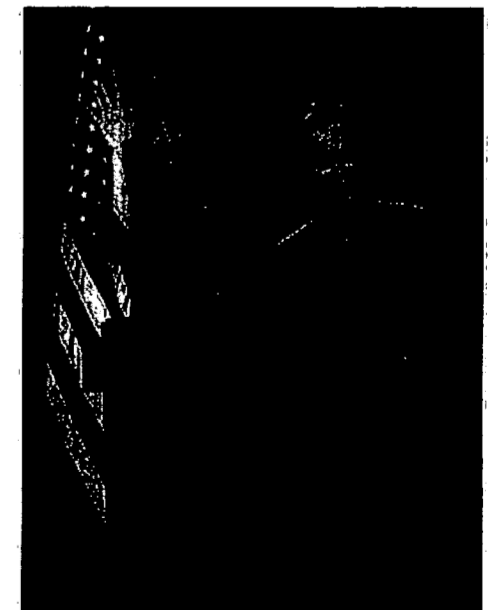


Photo obtained from NY Daily News.com

The SGA is proud to bring you a new tradition

Silver Saber Spirit Competition

Sept. 22-26
"Food Drive-ing Me Crazy" Contest

Sept. 25 - 5 p.m.
Pep Rally/Meet the Cavs

Sept. 25 - @ Pep Rally
"Roast the Eagles" Banner Contest

Sept. 25 - @ Pep Rally
"Fear the Cheer" Contest

Sept. 25 - @ Pep Rally
"Cavalier Shuffle" Dance Contest

Sept. 24 - Lake, 4 p.m.
"Sink or Swim" Crazy Boat Contest

Winning Organization
Will Receive
\$250

SHOUT OUT LOUD!

You write them on tee-shirts. You write them on Facebook. Now, write them in the Highland Cavalier!

Let your favorite football player, cheerleader, or friend know your care about them (this homecoming season)! The newspaper will be printing shout-outs in its annual Homecoming Issue next week. A mere \$3 donation will award you fifty characters, and a chance to send some love to your buds.

See Michael McGill, Daniel Robinson, or Allie Robinson (agr2q@uvawise.edu) for more information. Shout-outs and money must be submitted by WEDNESDAY, Sept. 24!

Rock the Vote Registration Drive



Voter Registration & Absentee Ballot Forms will be available on:

Monday, Sept. 22 & Tuesday, Sept. 23
10: a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Student Center Atrium

Can you draw?

The Highland Cavalier is looking for cartoonists to draw for the Opinion Page.

Contact Opinion Editor Marissa Jones at mlj4z@uvawise.edu to get your work in the paper!

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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 Slemo 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 (highlandcavalier@uvawise.edu).

Letters to the editor can also be e-mailed to Opinion Editor Marissa Jones (highlandcavalier@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.



Campus & Lifestyle

Comedian to visit campus during homecoming week

By Aaron Collier
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Comedian Johnny Walker will bring his blend of traditional stand-up, parody and original songs to campus on Sept. 23 at 8 p.m., as part of the college's homecoming week festivities. Walker will perform on the fifth floor of the Student Center.

The Los Angeles-based Walker has performed at the Hollywood Improv and the Laugh Factory, two legendary comedy clubs in the Los Angeles area. Walker also has studied improv at both the Second City Conservatory and The Groundlings.

In 2007 he visited more than 50 colleges nationwide and is currently in the middle of his "Unstoppable Tour," appearing in more than 70 shows in four months.

"The tour is going great," Walker said via email. "I've been on the road for over two months and going strong."

He said that being on stage is a mixture of emotions that provide the rush he needs to perform.

"It's a high sort of like a drug," he said. "It's also similar to being out on a field playing a sport, but even more electric. There's a mix of excitement, anticipation, [and] a little fear which is always good to keep your edge."

A graduate of Yale University—with degrees in history and political science—

Walker has become a voice in the political arena. He traveled to "battleground" states in 2004 to perform against re-electing President Bush. He released an album titled "Slamming Bush with Johnny Walker" the same year.

He said even though he is happy to see people paying attention to the current political climate, he feels that people are looking at the wrong things.

"I like that people are paying attention, but I worry that people are paying attention to the wrong things like personality instead of policy."

Walker's music has been heard on such radio stations as All Comedy Radio, National Public Radio (NPR), Air America and XM Radio. He said that he loves both comedy and songwriting equally even though the approaches to each are very different.

"I love both. They're very different processes," he said. "I feel the same way I do about chocolate chip cookies and hamburgers."

Walker said to be a good comedian you have to go and practice your craft at every given opportunity. He said that constantly writing and learning from other comedians are two keys to become successful.

"Go out and perform as much as possible," he said. "Watch a lot of professionals to learn about what separates the pros from the amateurs. Write, write, and write."



Photo obtained from Myspace.com

You have to create a lot in order to create a tiny bit of really good material."

He said to surround yourself with family and friends that will support you, but always remember to be you.

"Surround yourself with supportive people, create opportunities for yourself, make other friends who are artists," he said. "Remember why you decided to get into [comedy] in the first place, and stay true to yourself."

Campus Calendar

Saturday, Sept. 20
SVEA Funtasia, Sculpture Garden, noon-4 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 21
INT Spades Tourney, SSC Game Room, 7 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 22
PO-PO Healthy Relationships & Domestic Violence, Culbertson Lobby, 8 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 23
SAB Comedian - Johnny Walker, SSC 5th Floor Student Center, 8 p.m.

INT Kickball Reg. Deadline SSC 3rd Floor, 5 p.m.

Wesley Fellowship Dinner, Wesley Foundation, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 24
BSM Super Supper, BSC, 5 p.m.

SAB Hump Days - Smoothies, SSC Atrium, 11 a.m.

INT Foosball Tourney, SSC, 1&6 p.m.

SAB Last Lecture Series, Chapel, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 25
CSD National 5-A-Day, SSC atrium, 9 a.m.

Campus Bulletin

"Battle of the Bands" will be held on Thursday, Oct. 2 from 5 to 9 p.m. on main street in Wise.

SGA would like to ask any band that would like to join to pick up a registration form from the SGA office on the 3rd floor of the Slemp Student Center.

This event will be co-sponsored by the SGA and the community.

Contact a member of the SGA for more information.

The BSU will host a "Shorts and Shades" Party on Saturday, Sept. 20 in the cafeteria.

This will be the BSU's first dance of the year and will be an after party for the Cavs first home game.

Wear your coolest shades and show up to the party.

The event will be from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.. Prices will be \$1 before 12 a.m. and \$2 after.

SAB has a jam-packed week for Homecoming!

Monday, Sept. 22—SAB Open Mic Night, Slemp Center Atrium, 8pm—musical acts, talent, comedy, are all welcomed. A \$25.00 Bookstore Gift Certificate is presented to the winner (Minimum of 5 participants required for Gift Card Giveaway).

Tuesday, Sept. 23—Comedian Johnny Walker, Slemp Student Center Rhododendron Room, 8 p.m. Sponsored by SAB.

Wednesday, Sept. 24—Free Smoothies by SAB, Jefferson Lounge, 11am-2pm (or while supplies last)

Wednesday, Sept. 24—Last Lecture Series, "Making Your Own Little Sign" by Brian Willis, 7 p.m. Chapel of All Faiths. This is a Cultural Credit event!

Friday, Sept. 26—Inflatables on Lawn by the Lake, sponsored by SAB & SGA

Saturday, Sept. 27—Balloons by Lester and Body Art by Susan—Carl Smith Stadium, 12 p.m.-4 p.m.

All events are sponsored by SAB. Contact SAB Advisor Josh Justice for more information.

All Freshmen/Sophomore vehicles must be moved to the main campus on Friday, Sept. 19th after 5:00 p.m. for the home football game.

Vehicles must be moved back to the stadium lot by Monday, Sept. 22 by 7 a.m. Stadium lot must be clear by 8:00 a.m. Saturday morning.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Parking is available at the softball field located behind the gym, Culbertson gravel lot, Commuter lot upper campus and McCrary parking lot.

Homecoming

Continued from page 1

In the "Roast the Eagles" banner contest organizations will make banners for the football team. "Fear the Cheer" will allow organizations to make up a cheer for the team. In the "Cavalier Shuffle," organizations can send their best dancer to represent them in a dance contest.

Brannon said he hopes that the new events will provide more opportunities for students to have fun and enrich their homecoming experience.

The organization that wins with the highest overall average will receive a \$250 prize, a sword trophy and a plaque with their name on it to be displayed in the student center. Organizations who want to participate should contact Brannon or Senator-at-Large Josh Vaughan.

Brannon said the new ideas came

from Chad Gentry, the college's director of bookstore operations. Gentry, who attended the University of Tennessee, said he suggested SGA bring homecoming traditions from their campus to ours.

SGA is also taking a new approach to the homecoming dance. This year they have hired an entertainment company instead of a DJ. 1st Klass Entertainment, from Louisville, Ky, will provide a DJ, a hype man and possibly a live performer. The dance will have a glow in the dark theme.

Josh Vaughan, senator-at-large, and homecoming coordinator, said he hopes this will take homecoming to a whole new level. He said he wants students and alumni to have a great experience.

Cavs

Continued from page 6

Wasem said that the "defense has been struggling," but that there is "great sense of [unity] on the defensive side."

Hippeard, Wasem said, has "carried a little bit more of a load than we wanted," because the running game needs so much work after losing Rashad Morgan.

Since Morgan graduated last year, the team has struggled to find a solid replacement for him.

Two running backs, though, have stood out so far this season—junior Hakeem Abdul-Saboor and sophomore Jyron Barclay.

Abdul-Saboor is "just getting back into the game as a running back" but they both have the potential to be great running backs, Wasem said.

Due to several small injuries during the summer and at the start of the pre-season, the team hasn't been able to practice together as much as Wasem said he would have liked. He said that as players heal, the practices they are able to participate in should help the team as a whole.

Hippeard received both the NAIA and Mid-South Offensive Player of the Week awards after his performance against Newport News Apprentice.

Wasem said that he's proud of Hippeard, but that his two awards are "compliments to the whole team."

The Cavaliers play the first home game of the season tomorrow at 6 p.m. against West Virginia Tech.

Entertainment

THE HIGHLAND CAVALIER SEPTEMBER 19, 2008

THIS WEEK IN ENTERTAINMENT

Movies

(All released on Sept. 19)

"Lakeview Terrace"

(Screen Gems)
Cast: Samuel L. Jackson, Patrick Wilson

Rating: PG-13
Genre: Thriller/Drama

Plot: An LAPD officer will stop at nothing to force out an interracial couple who just moved in next door. (IMDB.com)

"My Best Friend's Girl"

(Lionsgate)
Rating: R

Genre: Comedy
Cast: Kate Hudson, Dane Cook, Jason Biggs

Plot: Tank (Cook) is a womanizer for hire by guys who want their girlfriends and wives to reconsider leaving them. But what happens when his behavior has the opposite effect on Alexis (Hudson), the love of his best friend's (Biggs) life? (IMDB.com)

Music

(All released on Sept. 19)

Kings of Leon

"Only by the Night" (RCA)

Genre: Alternative Rock/Indie Rock

Old Crow Medicine Show

"Tennessee Pusher" (Nettwerk)

Genre: Folk/Bluegrass

Plain White T's

"Big Bad World" (Holl Records)

Genre: Punk/Pop

Video Games

Warib Land: Shake It!

(Nintendo)

(Sept. 22; Wii)

Synopsis: Warib returns to the Wii with this 2D adventure.

Sid Meier's Civilization IV: Colonization

(2K Games)

(Sept. 22; PC)

Synopsis: One of the greatest world conquering simulators is back and better than ever.

Lego Batman

(Warner Bros. Interactive)

(Sept. 23; Multiple Platforms)

Synopsis: Batman enters the Lego Universe along with Robin and all his classic villains.

"Star Wars: The Force Unleashed" lives up to hype despite problems

By Daniel Robinson
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Every kid—at one point or another—wants to be a Jedi.

Who hasn't wanted to use the "Jedi Mind Trick" on their least favorite teacher to raise that test grade?

Who wouldn't like to have their very own lightsaber?

But is that all there is to being a Jedi—move a few things around with your mind and carry an energy sword?

With the release of "Star Wars: The Force Unleashed," LucasArts has opened gamers' eyes to all kinds of new ways of using the Force.

Want to pick an enemy up and throw a lightsaber through his chest? OK.

Want to split Imperial Walkers in half? Sure.

Want to punt Jawas 50-plus yards? Go for it.

This game has had a lot of hype for a very long time. Does it live up to it? Yes and no. It does a lot of things right, but it let me down in ways as well.

The storyline and its presentation is easily the coolest thing about the game. Furthermore, the story has been approved by George Lucas as canon. You know you're getting classic Star Wars storytelling.

The game takes place between Episodes III and IV and bridges the gap perfectly between the two movies.

You play as Darth Vader's secret apprentice who has been trained for the specific purpose of helping him overthrow the Emperor.

It's obvious LucasArts took everything they did right with "Knights of the Old Republic" and applied it to this game. The customization of the apprentice is almost limitless—you increase basic stats like health and energy and even decide what combos and force powers he learns. The force powers in particular become stronger depending on how many points you put into them.

However, the entire game is not played as the apprentice. The first level has you controlling Darth Vader as he hunts Jedi on the planet Kashyyyk. It's amazing how cool this sequence actually is. Vader can kill most enemies with a single swipe



Photo obtained from IGN.com

of his lightsaber. The coolest aspect of the level may be Vader's body language. He doesn't run anywhere, like the apprentice would. He doesn't do any crazy jumps or dashes. He simply walks. Like he's stalking each enemy he kills.

During his mission, Vader finds the apprentice as a young boy. The story skips ahead to the apprentice in his late teens or early 20's. The rest of the game involves Vader sending you on missions to rid the galaxy of Jedi before taking on the Emperor.

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However, that's not all you can customize. You can find different lightsaber crystals to change the

color of your blade and give yourself special power-ups. You even have a good selection of uniforms and costumes to wear.

The graphics in the game are beautiful. While the levels are pretty straightforward, each one is made extremely well and with plenty of detail.

I guess that only leaves the bad stuff to talk about. The actual game play can get repetitive in the beginning. Once you've unlocked newer and cooler force powers, the action gets a little more interesting, but only for a short time. After a few hours of play, the coolest power was still being able to throw enemies across the room.

The targeting system is a bit off too. There is no lock-on system that allows you to select a certain item or enemy to throw. The game basically guesses what you're looking at and only lets you select that object until you move on to something else. This can be extremely frustrating in battles with multiple enemies.

The game has glitches in some parts. For instance, you'll be walking along and randomly run into an invisible wall.

Battles are a lot like this, too. There's no effective way for taking on multiple enemies. You simply have to take your licks and kill them one or two at a time.

On top of that, the camera isn't the best. It's mostly controlled by the right analog stick and, just like the targeting system, can be a pain in big battles.

Despite its flaws, this is still a very good game with a great storyline. If you can't get through the quirky gameplay, you should at least pick up the story in its novel version. Again, the storyline makes this game what it is.

"Star Wars: The Force Unleashed" introduced some really good ideas. The ability to use the Force in so many different ways should revitalize the Jedi simulation genre and give developers plenty to work with on upcoming Star Wars games.

Coen Brothers add to film legacy with "Burn After Reading"

By Aaron Collier
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The Coen Brothers are known for their great characters.

Whether it's the quirky cast in "Oh Brother, Where Art Thou" or the dark and disturbing characters featured in "No Country for Old Men," the brothers have a knack for developing characters that capture our attention, and more importantly, our imagination.

In their newest film, "Burn After Reading," the Coen Brothers continue their successful trend of crafting stories around intriguing characters who are played by great actors.

The story revolves around Osbourne Cox (John Malkovich), an ex-CIA agent and his lost memoirs. The memoirs fall into the hands of Linda Litzke (Frances McDormand) and Chad Feldheimer (Brad Pitt), two hapless gym employees who proceed to blackmail Cox for financial gain and in Litzke's case, a surgical makeover.

Even though the plot revolves around the memoirs, the story branches off into different directions and into other stories involving more characters.

Harry Pfarrer (George Clooney) is a sex addict who cheats on his wife with numerous women including Cox's wife, Katie (Tilda Swinton), and eventually Litzke. Pfarrer truly brings the story

full circle, as he inadvertently gets involved with the chaos caused by the memoirs. Even though the story takes many turns as it progresses, it surprisingly isn't hard to follow. Films that have multiple plots with numerous characters can get confusing and thus could cause viewers to become frustrated to watch.

But the Coen Brothers achieve a storyline that is easy for the average movie fan to pick up without alienating their core fans.

The comedy in the movie is subtle and comes principally from the eccentric characters and their reactions.

Whether it's Chad's over-the-top approach to fitness or Cox's profanity-laced explosions, the humor is more chuckle than laugh-out-loud. Some would see this as a bad thing—especially with the success of the

Jude Apatow movies. But it is still entertaining and will have you smiling throughout the film.

The most entertaining parts of the movie include the scenes involving the CIA Superior (J.K. Simmons) and the CIA Agent (David Rasche) as they monitor the situation of the lost memoirs. The scenes with the two provide some great, funny dialogue that offers instant comedy and steals the film away from the star-studded cast.

However, the film isn't for everybody. Some will find it boring and it does move slowly in some spots. The overshadowing of the main plot by the characters and their lives might be a problem for some as the lost memoirs becomes more of a background piece than a main plot point. The end might leave some with a perplexed look on their face, but its pure genius if you discover what the movie is really about.

In the end, "Burn After Reading" is an enjoyable film that will have audiences either loving or hating what they have just watched. It builds upon the Coen Brothers' legacy of being brilliant filmmakers and the movie entertained me all the way until the end.

If you're a fan of the Coen Brothers, you've probably already seen the film. However, if you're not and you are looking for an entertaining, smart film then this is the movie for you.



Girls & Sports

By Justin Borus & Andrew Feinstein



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Cavs to face tough challenge against West Va Tech

By Brittany Wichtendahl
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The Highland Cavalier football team has trumped the last two teams it has played, but head coach Bruce Wasem is hesitant to say that the team has few worries about upcoming games.

He said that the team can't rest on the two wins, but must continue to build on them.

Wasem also said the team has "lots of challenges" coming up in the season—including the season's first home game tomorrow against West Virginia Tech and next week's homecoming game against Lambuth.

"[West Virginia Tech] is different this year, especially with the team's new coaching staff," he said.

"We watched some of their videos and they have some good athletes," Wasem said.

He also said that he is doing everything he can to keep the players focused during practices, but that late night classes are getting in the way.

"We had a great practice [Tuesday], but we have to cut practices short because of six o'clock classes," he said.

He said the team has to worry about how vicious West Virginia Tech might be.

"You become a target when you become ranked higher," he said.

"Randy [Hippeard] becomes the guy that they want to sack. We become the team they want to beat."

The Cavs are ranked eighth in the division, a rank that Wasem said he's not sure they deserve.

He is confident, however, that the team this year is "more focused" and that they have "more incentive after last year."

The Cavs did not make the playoffs last year, despite a 9-2 season.

Wasem said that the team came into the season feeling that they should be a contender to win the East NAIA division.

He said that right now, the team is where it should be in order to meet the end of the season goals.

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Photo by Jessica Price
Juniors Hakeem Abdul-Saboor and Marvin White and freshman Lonell Parker Jr. run a play during the Cavs practice on Sept. 17. The Cavs will play their first home game tomorrow against West Virginia Tech.

Not Just A Man's World Football is back home again

Ah! It's that time of the year again. Football is back home.

For the past two weekends, the Cavs have played away games.

They won 56-12 against Kentucky Christian University on Aug. 28 and then again against Newport News Apprentice (42-0) on Sept. 13.

All I have to say is thank God that the Cavs football team is finally back home where it belongs.

After talking with coach Bruce Wasem, I have to say this—I'm a little worried about this home game.

I mean, sure, the Cavs have had great first two games, but it only takes one screw up to push us down and out.

Senior quarterback Randy Hippeard is doing an awesome job making sure we get touchdowns and he's passing the football to the right running backs.

The past two games have showed us that. The Cavs have outscored opponents 98-12.

Based on the performance against Newport News Apprentice, our defense is doing good, as well. It was the Cavs first shutout since 2001.

But Wasem knows that the defensive line is struggling, but he said they are working hard to pull it together.

Before my interview with Wasem, I was confident that the first home game would be an easy win.

But after the interview, my faith in our defense has faltered.

I'll be at the game, rooting for the Cavs, but worrying.

Every time the West Virginia Tech offense gets the football, my heart will be pounding.

I don't even want to think about homecoming. That just brings up a whole new group of questions, comments and concerns.

For now, I'll be biting my nails until that scoreboard flashes ":00" and the Cavs have won the game.

Man oh man, am I glad football is back home.



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Lady Cavs make changes to starting rosters, see improvement from freshmen

By Kacie Jessee
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Despite a rough start to their season (they are currently 4-10), the Lady Cavs volleyball team hasn't given up hope for success.

The team is currently playing without four of their six starters, forcing many to play out of position. Three of the starters, Mikaela Anders, Megan Funk, and Kelley Bumgarner, are out due to injuries, while another starter, who wishes to remain anonymous, is out for personal reasons.

Dallman said Bumgarner should be able to return later this week, but Funk is out indefinitely.

Despite being "down in bodies," the players have really stepped up to the challenge of playing in new positions, Dallman said.

Senior Britney Lawson was moved from her position of libero to outside hitter, a spot she hasn't played since high school. Freshman Amy Collier stepped into the role of middle hitter to replace Anders.

"All of the injuries are unfortunate, but we have to keep playing," Dallman said. "It seems like all of the bad stuff, as far as injuries go, that we avoided last year, is happening to us this year."

Though the cards appear stacked against the Lady Cavs, Dallman said he saw a lot of improvement this past weekend. He said that once he can get

everyone on the court, they will have a really good team.

"The girls are working hard," Dallman said. "They are trying to do what is expected of them and that's all a coach can ask for."

Freshman Samantha Brummette continues to show improvement after filling in for starting setter Bumgarner.

Dallman said even though she may not have as much experience, she continues to get better with each game.

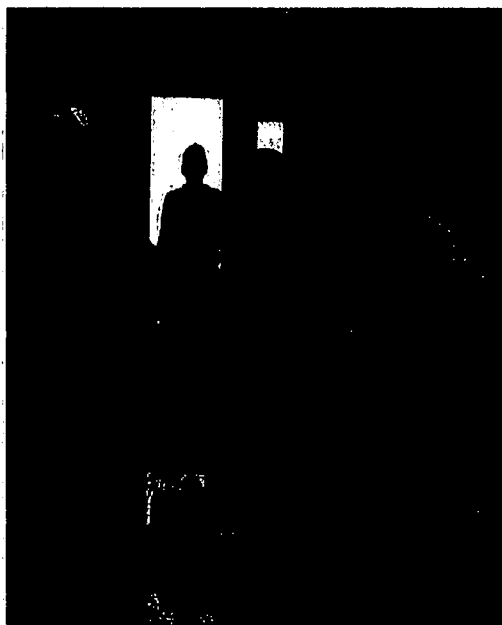
"Sam is probably one of the most coachable kids that I've had," Dallman said. "She's hard working and I think she's starting to understand the game a little better."

While Dallman said he is not happy that the team has a 4-10 season right now, he's no longer focusing on whether they are winning or losing. He said they have to look at the progress they are making and ask themselves if they are improving from week to week. And he said the answer to that question is "yes."

Dallman said he is really impressed with the players' effort and focus.

"I'm blessed to have them," Dallman said. "They're great and they're staying focused, so I couldn't ask for anything more from them right now."

The Lady Cavs will face the top two teams in the conference at home this weekend when they go up against Covenant College later today and Bryan College tomorrow.



Photos by Jessica Price

Above: Senior Britney Lawson records a dig while Junior Kayla Dougherty gets in position. The Cavs are currently 7th in the conference with a 1-3 record and 4-10 overall.

Right: Senior Leeza Dos Santos serves to the Union College Lady Bulldogs on Sept. 13. The Cavs lost the game 18-25, 15-25, 13-25.

