

INSIDE



The Lady Cavs softball team has gotten off to a good start in the AAC tournament. Read the story on Page 6.



In his final issue as Feature Editor, Aaron Collier takes a closer look at The Devil Wears Prada's latest album. Read the review on Page 5.



This is senior Daniel Robinson's final issue as Editor-in-Chief. Read his last "From the Editor's Desk." on Page 3.

UPCOMING

Late Night Breakfast

The college's bi-annual Late Night Breakfast will be held on Monday, May 4 at 10 p.m. in the cafeteria. Faculty and staff will serve students during the event.

Textbook Buyback

Students wanting to sell back textbooks can begin doing so next week. A vendor will set up in the atrium of the Slomp Student Center on Monday, May 4 through Friday, May 8.

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College plans for commencement

By Daniel Robinson
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The college will host Commencement 2009 on Saturday, May 16 at 11 a.m. at Carl Smith Stadium.

Virginia Governor Tim Kaine is scheduled to deliver the keynote address while seniors Stephanie Ring and Andrew Maggard will give the moment of reflection and the challenge to the graduates, respectively.

Graduating seniors are asked to arrive by 10 a.m. with their cap, gown, tassel and any sashes or cords of distinction they have earned.

Guests, however, can show up earlier to reserve seating at the stadium, said Diane Cornett, director of commencement.

Guests can come believe it or

not as early as 8:30 [a.m.], Cornett said. "It's fine if the family wants to reserve an entire row. We frequently have people do that and that's allowed."

In the event of inclement weather, Cornett simply said, "If it rains, just plan to get wet." She said the ceremony would not be changed in the event of mild rain. However, if the weather turns severe to the point of being harmful to those in attendance, the ceremony may be altered somewhat.

"If it's dangerous, [Chancellor David] Prior would delay commencement," Cornett said. "If it looks like it is going to let up anytime soon we would just start late. But if it's like it's going to last for a while... [Prior] would just confer degrees in mass...and students can pick up their degrees at the gym."

Cornett said that despite some rain and even sleet at past commencement ceremonies, the college has never been forced to cancel the procession.

She said students and guests should check the college's com-

mencement Web site (<http://www.uvawise.edu/commencement>) for weather-related changes.

"There's all kinds of information on there," she said. "We always direct students and guests to check the Web site. And that's updated daily."

There will even be a streaming video on the Web site following commencement so others can still watch the ceremony even if they weren't in attendance.

Cornett said she hopes the campus community realizes what a major event commencement is.

"This is a joyous celebration," she said. "This is what everybody has been working [toward] for four years. We'd like for everybody to come out. It's usually a beautiful day at the stadium. Be down and watch the ceremony and support the students."

"It's very moving. There's no bad seat in the stadium. I hope it's meaningful for everybody who's there."

Student speakers selected for commencement

From Staff Reports

Seniors Stephanie Ring and Andrew Maggard have been chosen to deliver student speeches at the college's 40th commencement ceremony on May 16.

Ring, a Pound, Va. native, will offer a moment of reflection. Maggard, a Wise, Va. native, will speak on the challenges that the new graduates face and how they can prepare themselves to be effective leaders.

"I'm truly excited and honored that I was chosen to be a speaker," said Ring, a communication studies and biology double major. "I kind of hoped [that I would be chosen], but wasn't confident."

Graduating seniors who had at least a 3.75 GPA were placed on a ballot to be nominated by other seniors as possible student speakers at commencement, said Diane Cornett, director of commencement. Seniors then voted for speakers at the Senior Salute event on March 18.

see Speakers, page 2

SGA election results are announced

By Allie Robinson
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SGA senators for next year were elected last week. Returning to the organization will be president Travis Brannon, vice president Luke Parks, secretary Stephanie Lawson and treasurer Clint Tipton, who together form the SGA executive board.

Also returning to the SGA in the fall will be Senior Senator Justin Fitzgerald, Senator-at-Large junior Josh Vaughan, Junior Senator Leah Arthur and Sophomore Senators Ashlee Washburn and Luke Rasmick. Newly elected SGA members include Senior Senator Meagan Boyd, and Sophomore Senator James Tiffany.

In the fall, elections will be held to fill two Senator-at-Large seats, one Senior Senator seat, two Junior Senator Seats and three Freshman Senator Seats.

Dean of Students and SGA Advisor Jewell Worley wrote in an e-mail

see Election, page 4

Alumni host picnic for students

By Aaron Lee
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The 22nd Annual Student/Alumni Picnic was held Wednesday at 11 a.m. in the Betty J. Gilliam Sculpture Garden.

The UVa-Wise Alumni Association sponsored the picnic.

Students, faculty, staff and alumni were invited, and members of the Alumni Association prepared the food.

"The picnic began when Valerie Lawson joined the UVa-Wise Alumni staff 22 years ago and has been an ongoing success," said Pam Collie, director of alumni relations.

Students were able to meet with alumni and share stories and memories.

Members of the alumni association said the picnic was planned in part to make commuter students feel included in campus activities.

"The commuters were left out of everything," said alumna Sharon Daniels. "We wanted to have an event that everyone could attend; so that those that live on campus and those who come and go throughout the day would have a chance [to] stop by."

Some students said they attended the picnic to get a break from their classwork.

"I've got class in a bit," said pre-med student Todd Adams. "So I thought I'd stop by and get something to eat while I study. It's been a long semester and I'm looking forward to the break."



Photo by Daniel Robinson

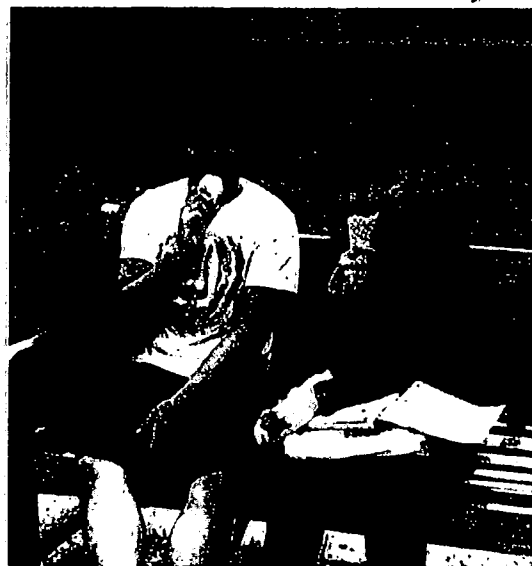
Students, faculty and staff fill their plates during the 22nd annual alumni picnic Wednesday, hosted by the UVa-Wise Alumni Association.

The final week of classes

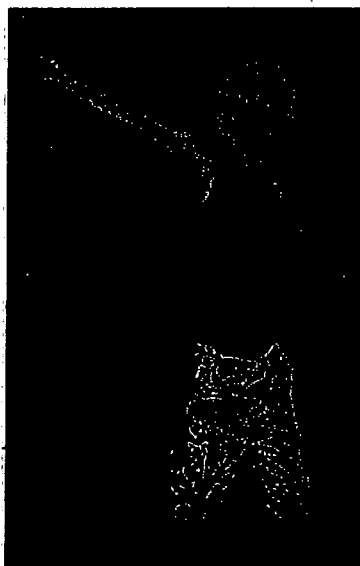
A "snapshot" of students' lives around campus



Michael Deel picks up trash Saturday during a campus clean-up.



Freshmen Allen Lee and Maria Heny enjoy ice cream provided by Career Services Wednesday.



Sophomore Sam Lovin participates in Tuesday's hypnotist show as Southpark's "Kenny."

Photos by Allie Robinson, Allyson Green & Daniel Robinson

Seniors begin making post-grad plans

By Marissa Jones
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After graduation Julie Fields, a chemistry major, plans on attending the Appalachian College of Pharmacy. Some students, such as theater major Emily Witucki, are focusing on the summer. Witucki is planning on a summer internship at Wolf Trap Center for Performing Arts in Vienna, Va.

Reagan Cecil, a music major, is "attending a Youth Leadership Forum conference" to discuss job and goal setting with sophomores and juniors with disabilities. "I am also going to be speaking for this conference on my experience not only on what the YLF taught me, but also on how I was able to overcome my disability," Cecil wrote in an e-mail.

Other students, have already found jobs in the surrounding area. Tucker Stapleton, a computer science and management information systems major, is already employed in Lebanon, Va. He is working for the computer company CGI.

Brittany Harris, an English literature major, is also already employed at the Alternative Education Center in Wise, Va., where she works as a full-time contracted English teacher. Harris also plans to pursue graduate school while working.

Harris wrote in an e-mail that she plans on "getting married on July 25 to my long-time friend and high school sweetheart" after graduation.

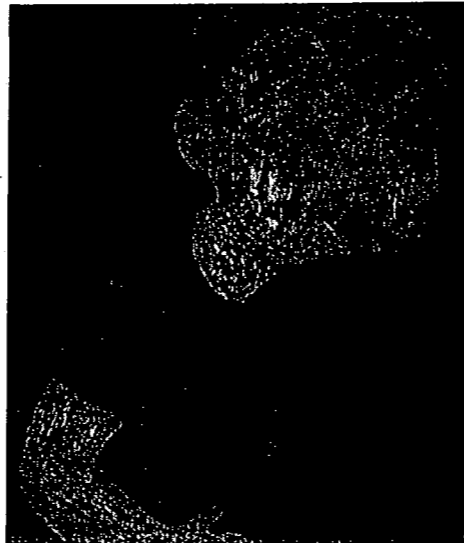
Some students however are already making plans to attend graduate school. Psychology major Jenna Haynes will attend Western Kentucky University in the fall where she plans to obtain a masters degree in counseling.

Out of the Basement

This week the student art show "Out of the Basement" opened in the Dogwood Room of the Slomp Student Center.

Art featured in the show includes a series of serial-killer portraits, a series exploring athletic ads and a series of paintings of children.

At right is Danielle Burke's oil painting "Jeanette" and below is "Tangible," a mixed-media piece by Joey Blessing.



Photos by Holly Kennedy



Jam4Man concert to begin tonight

By Craig Rice
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Stained, Alice in Chains, 10 Years, Three Days Grace, Flyleaf and Breaking Benjamin.

SGA will present the annual Jam4Man concert tonight and tomorrow night at the intramural field beside Carl Smith Stadium.

Tonight's lineup will feature the bands The Midnight Ramblers and Fold Soul Revival and artist Christ Janson. The headliner for the night will be Mel McDaniel, an American country music artist who was made famous with his hits "Louisiana Saturday Night," "Let it Roll," and "Baby's Got Her Blue Jeans On." McDaniel is also a member of the Grand Ole Opry.

Saturday night will feature hip-hop group Inflowential, and rock groups Hipslack, Adire and Raikas.

The set will be headlined by the Canadian band Evans Blue, whose members came together in early 2005, when all five musicians played in separate bands. They met through a local musician's message board. They have toured with Taproot,

"There's been a lot of work put into making this a really good show and a fun event," said Jam4Man committee member Whitney Bentley. "I really hope it all pays off and a lot of people turn out."

Some students say they see the concert as their last big event before summer arrives.

"I'm really looking forward to having fun outdoors with my friends," said sophomore Sam Lovia. "It's one last hurrah before we head off to home for the summer."

Admission is free to all UVA-Wise students who present their CAVS Card. General admission tickets cost \$10 and concert goers can purchase a two-day pass for \$15.

SGA will donate all proceeds to Family Crisis Support Services of Norton. In previous years, students had to donate canned foods in order to gain admission to the event.

Speakers

Continued from page 1

The results of the vote were passed on to Chancellor David Prior who "chooses some of the top vote getters and interviews them," Corbett said. Prior then made the final decision.

"Students didn't always have a voice in that process," Corbett said. "It used to be entirely up to the chancellor. A few years ago, I suggested to Chancellor [Ernie] Ern that we let students have a say in it. We came up with this process and it's been working well so far."

Ring and Maggard were selected "because of their stellar academic performance and their service to our college

community," Prior wrote in an e-mail. "They represent the Class of 2009 and UVA-Wise with distinction."

Although undecided about her immediate future, Ring said she will likely attend graduate school at James Madison University or the University of Tennessee where she will study audiology.

"I feel like the education I got at Wise is strong and will be the foundation for whatever I choose to do in life," Ring said.

Maggard said he plans to attend pharmacy school at Virginia Commonwealth University in the fall.

From the Editor's Desk

The Highland Cavalier's "Life Lessons"

Three years and 66 issues later, I'm down to my final issue as an editor for The Highland Cavalier.

I have to admit, it is pretty hard to believe I'll actually be graduating this month.

In thinking about what I would write for my final editorial in this newspaper, I decided I didn't want it to be a traditional farewell. I didn't want to bore you with my goodbyes to the other members of the staff or my offerings of thanks to the people who have had a positive effect on me.

Frankly, no one wants to read that.

And since I would actually like people to read my final editorial, I've decided to do something a little different.

I've learned a lot about journalism and newspapers over the past three years. What is interesting, however, is how some of the things I've learned can be applied to life.

So, as my last "From the Editor's Desk," I present the five life lessons I've learned from working on the staff of The Highland Cavalier. Enjoy.

1. You can't please everybody. Whether it's ticking off SGA with my editorial or forgetting to cover a sorority's latest charity event, it's impossible to make everyone happy.

No matter how hard I try, there's going to be someone on campus who does not like the newspaper. And a part of me is mad about that. Another part of me is just happy someone actually looks at the newspaper at all—even if they don't like it.

You'll never be able to please everyone so there's not much reason to try. Our lives are too short to focus on other's negative criticisms. So you might as well try to not take it personally and move on.

2. Mistakes happen...a lot. Anyone who looks at this paper for more than five minutes will realize that we make mistakes. It's almost impossible to look through the paper and not find a misspelled word or a missing period. That's one of the reasons why I never look at the paper when it first arrives on Friday morning—I'm too afraid to see all the mistakes I missed.

But over the years, I've realized that mistakes appear in each issue of every single newspaper all over the world, every day. Mistakes are a part of newspapers—just as they are a part of life.

You can't be so afraid of making mistakes in life that you don't keep living. Because guess what, you are going to screw up. Accept it and stop worrying and you'll probably be a happier person for it.

3. Having the right staff makes everything easier.



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I've been very lucky my last two years as editor-in-chief to have a hard-working and, most importantly, fun staff to work with. They know when to give me a hard time and also when it's time to get to work. Having people like that around makes life, in general, more fun to experience.

The relationships I've formed with these people will, hopefully, last me for the rest of my life.

To me, life is all about the relationships we form each and every day. Some we'll have for the rest of our lives. Others we'll only have for a few months. But each relationship will affect us in one way or another. Do not take them for granted.

4. Stay in the present by taking things one issue at a time.

One of the more important things working on this newspaper has taught me is "what's done is done." There's no going back. If I messed up something last issue, it can't be changed now. So, there's no point in worrying about it.

That being said, I also can't look too far ahead. There's no point in worrying about issue 25 when I'm still working on issue 24. Doing that will only make the quality of issue 24 suffer.

In other words, forget the past and don't dwell on the future. No matter what happened last week or last year, it can't be changed now. You might as well keep moving forward.

As for the future, it's most often out of your control. Why worry about something you have no control over? What will happen, will happen.

Stay grounded in the present or you'll miss out on the here and now.

5. Know if it's worth the effort.

Most people don't realize the time that goes into this paper every week. Between writing stories, editing others' stories, taking pictures at events, designing the paper's layout, making sure things fit just right and so on, there's not a whole lot of time left to do other things.

With the amount of work we all put in every week, I have to ask myself, "Is it worth the effort?"

This also applies to pretty much everything in your life—your schoolwork, your marriage, your job. If you can't say for certain that the juice is worth the squeeze, then it's time to try something different.

So, was working on The Highland Cavalier worth the effort, time, sweat, harassment, belittlement, fun, laughter, aggravation, discouragement, amusement and drama?

Absolutely.

I would not trade my time working for this newspaper for a pair of Braves season tickets.

Working on this newspaper has been the greatest learning experience of my life and I will carry The Highland Cavalier's "life lessons" with me until the day I die.

Earth Week: what the radical greens really want

Earth Week has come and gone.

For most of us, Earth Week is a time to reflect on what we can do to help the Earth. And what an important task that is.

Indeed, the Earth's resources are ours to use and benefit from.

God gave us a wonderful gift when He gave us stewardship over the Earth.



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And yes, there have been those who have abused this gift, and they are decidedly in the wrong. Protecting our planet and caring for it is a virtue.

That being said, few who celebrate Earth Week or Earth Day realize the ideology that has injected itself into the celebrations. This ideology is dark and disturbing in its tenets and, if implemented, would spell disaster for humanity as a whole.

Radical environmentalism is not about protecting trees or saving baby seals. It goes much deeper than that. Radical environmentalism seeks to change the very way we live our lives through coercion and even violence, if necessary.

Radical environmentalists generally see humans not as just another species on Earth (although that view is certainly bad enough), but as a plague and blight upon Mother Earth, a cancer eating away at the very fragile global environment. They also see economic development as the worst of all possible environmental sins.

Paul Ehrlich, professor of population studies and biological sciences is known in most circles as the author of the book "The Population Bomb," published in 1968. In it he predicts an impending global hunger apocalypse caused by overpopulation if humans don't embark on his radical reforms. What reforms are those? Nothing less than full-scale population control.

"We must have population control at home, hopefully through a system of incentives and penalties, but by compulsion if voluntary methods fail," he declared in his book.

I especially love the last part. What is it with leftist environmentalists and the need for proposing coercion?

Ehrlich proposed adding "temporary sterilants" to the water supply and praised the brutal Chinese policy of forced abortion as "vigorous and effective" and a "grand experiment in the man-

agement of population." I prefer the words "violation of human rights," but that's just me.

Thankfully, none of his hair-brained predictions came true, and none of his ridiculous proposals were ever considered. But that hasn't stopped the good professor. More recently, he has uttered gems such as the following:

"Actually, the problem in the world is that there is [sic] too many rich people."

"Giving society cheap, abundant energy would be the equivalent of giving an idiot child a machine gun."

"We've already had too much economic growth in the United States. Economic growth in rich countries like ours is the disease, not the cure." And that's not the worst of it.

Radical environmentalism has reached its logical conclusion, it seems, in more recent decades.

The Underground Earth Liberation Front, a gang of balaclava-wearing thugs with a penchant for arson, has caused untold millions of dollars in property damage through arson and other crimes.

ELF spokesman Craig Rosebraugh doesn't seem to mind, however. In fact, he actively encourages such activity, even going so far as to urge his terrorist friends to actively target U.S. military installations in March 2003.

Barry Walters, an Australian professor in the School of Women's and Infants' Health, called childbearing "greenhouse unfriendly behavior," and openly supported measures like China's one-child-only policy, including forced abortions.

A British group called The Optimism Population Trust also called for coercive measures against Britons who stubbornly continued to procreate.

Dave Johnson, at that fount of idiocy, The Huffington Post, concurs: "One solution to the crisis (global warming) is for people to stop having so many babies," he wrote in a March 2007 post.

There's even a Voluntary Human Extinction Movement, which explains that "the hopeful alternative to the extinction of millions of species of plants and animals is the voluntary extinction of one species: Homo sapiens... us."

Yes, it's true folks. The left wing doesn't care about human life one single bit.

If we're going to reflect upon what we can do for the Earth, let's also reflect on what we shouldn't do; and upon the silly and frankly disgusting ideas proposed by the radicals.

Students prepare for spring semester exams

By Cortni Bailey
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The advent of spring weather brings with it three things: outdoor athletics, allergies, and final exams.

It seems like every student has a different way to study for their finals.

Freshman Josh Reed said he is using the "cramming technique." He said he plans to pull all-nighters this week to study for his exams.

"I work all week so the only time I have to study is at night after I'm off," he said. "I've managed to keep decent grades this year, so I think that it works well."

Junior Scott Downie said he is stressed out about his finals coming up next week. Downie said he currently has 12 Monster energy drinks in his refrigerator, which

have helped him through the major part of this week.

"I have learned which professors increase their workload over finals week," he said. "However, there isn't much you can do to prepare except keep up with your work throughout the semester."

Senior Nicolette Cox said she is stressing out over her last final—abnormal psychology. She said she thought she'd never be this worried about something.

Cox said she has not worked this hard since her freshman year.

"Graduation is very bittersweet for me," she said. "Wise is home for me so a whole new chapter will be opening up for me and I am so excited and scared at the same time because there is never a promise that things will work out to the best of their ability. I'm just ready to face the world and hope that the world is ready for me."

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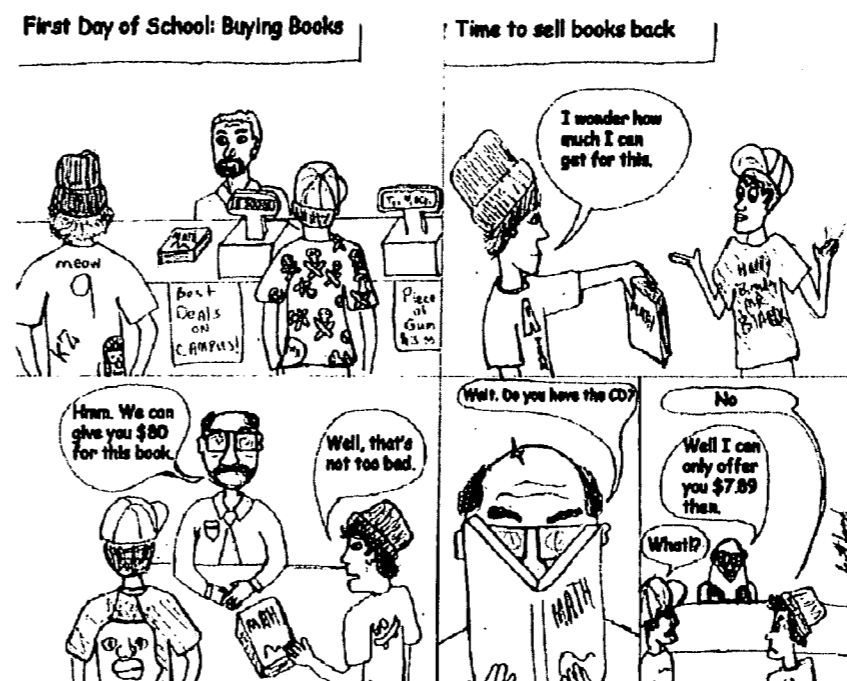
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The Highland Cavalier is the official student newspaper of The University of Virginia's College at Wise. The newspaper is published weekly on Fridays. It functions to inform, educate and entertain readers accurately and responsibly. It does not necessarily 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 Slomp Student Center); by standard mail (Campus Box 4682, The University of Virginia's College at Wise, 1 College Avenue, Wise, VA 24293); by phone (328-0170); 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.



The Devil Wears Prada proves writer wrong with newest album

By Aaron Collier
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A couple of weeks ago, I declared that the screamo genre had hit a creative wall. I even mentioned that a band needed to find a proverbial sledgehammer to break down the box of mediocrity the genre found itself in.

The Devil Wears Prada must have heard my declaration and decided to craft a destructive device to, not only break down the wall, but destroy it completely.

With their newest album, "With Roots Above and Branches Below" to be released on Ferret Records on May 5, the band has emerged as the new standard for the genre, a standard that no wall can stand against.

From the opening track titled "Sassafras," the band brings the raw, aggressive style that hasn't been seen since Underoath's 2004 release, "They're Only Chasing Safety." The vocals of lead singer Mike Hranica can still induce ear-bleeding, but he seems

to have adopted a bit of the hardcore style, which leads to the vocals being more understandable than they were on their sophomore release "Plagues." They don't just sound like one long scream, but instead they are more distinguishable to the listener.

The formula of rough-to-clean vocals the genre is predicated on has never been executed better, as guitarist and vocalist Jeremy Depoyster's smooth tones accompany Hranica's screams perfectly. The duo has cemented itself as the best in the genre with songs like "I Hate Buffering," "Danger: Wildman," and, what might possibly be the best track on the album, "Dez Moines."

The strongest part of the album are the choruses. The band throws hooks like a heavyweight boxing champ and I was glad to take all of them on the chin. Each chorus carries an epic sound that brings just as much energy as the heavy, and somewhat, chaotic verses that come before them. Songs such as "Ben Has a Kid," "Assistant to the Regional Manager" and "Gimme Half" all show the

band's ability to write catchy choruses that the listener will have in their head long after the headphones are unplugged.

The pleasant surprise on the album is the lone ballad, "Loud as Thunder." The track is stripped of screaming vocals and thrusters Depoyster's melodic vocals into the spotlight. The song's ambient sound leads it nicely into another big chorus that is nothing short of amazing and moving. The song serves as a great change from the aggressive nature the entire album is built on.

There are a couple of problems with the album that make it just less than perfect. The formulaic structure is still present, but the band does a good job of mixing things up with different intros and breakdowns. The screaming can still be a bit understandable at times. There are not enough instances for it to bring the album down a notch, but some might find it a bit frustrating.

After listening to the "With Roots Above and Branches Below" for free on Shock-Hound.com, I wish I had the album on my



iPod now instead of later. The short time I had to listen to the album, The Devil Wears Prada has put itself at the forefront of a genre that desperately needs a leader.

Walls beware, The Devil Wears Prada is bringing the hammer.

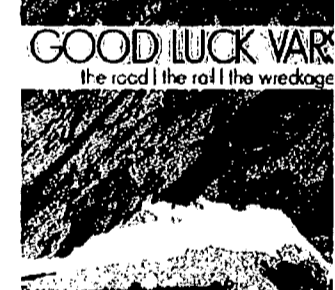
Good Luck Varsity "off to a good start" with Myspace release

By Aaron Collier
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Since the arrival of Myspace, the independent music scene has been easier to gain access to.

You don't have to trade tapes of the newest indie sensation or struggle to find like-minded music fans to talk about your favorite underground acts.

You now have instant access to the indie side of music and the ground floor entry to bands that might be the next Fall Out Boy or Akerlika.



So, when the four-piece (five if you add the Mac-Book that supplies the bass) alternative rock/pop band, The Good Luck Varsity, took advantage of the Myspace music scene to post a bulletin for their new seven song EP titled "The Road/The Rail/The Wreckage," released today, asking newspapers and blogs to receive an advanced

copy of the EP for review, I jumped at the opportunity.

At the end of my jump, I found myself standing on a solid foundation made of uniqueness and a pop sensibility that breathes new life into the alternative/pop hybrid genre.

In short, it's pretty good.

The first song, and title-track, is a great blend of alternative rock with up-tempo 1980s synth pop that, admittedly, isn't usually my cup-of-tea. But the band does a good job of evening out the two sounds, not to mention adding a haunting semi-heavy guitar/synth melody to round out the song. That had me rethinking my choice of tea.

"Prelude to a Shipwreck" is the standout track on the EP and serves as the anthem of the album. The band continues to mix it's alternative pop sound with synth, but they lean more on driving guitar riffs more so than the rock/synth mix from the opening track. The track shows the band can go straight rock—and shine while doing it.

"...And With That We Braced for Impact" continues with the rock/synth mix, but unlike the first track, it doesn't resemble the 1980s synth sound, but instead, introduces a more modern pop sound. The change, again, shows the band can take the sound they created and stretch it farther than expected.

"Shipwrecked Safe and Sound" is the enjoyable curveball on the album. In it, the band goes acoustic pop mixed with a bit of country. Lead singer Evan Baker's vocals really shine on this track as he shows off his vocal range by going from a big, energetic style to a more stripped, melodic sound that fits the tone of the song perfectly.

The only hiccup on the album is the song "Hands in the Air" which comes across as a generic and forced pop song. That doesn't mean other listeners won't find it appealing to the ear, but it just doesn't have the creativity of the other tracks. It was the only track I found myself skipping over after just one listen.

The Good Luck Varsity is off to a good start with "The Road/The Rail/The Wreckage" and I'm excited to see where the band goes from here. The EP is both an enjoyable and quality release that fans of bands like Ok Go and indie band Jontetta will appreciate.

Now, if you'll excuse me, I have an elevator to catch to the ground floor of the Good Luck Varsity.

Saying goodnight: Last thoughts as feature editor

By Aaron Collier
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Once upon a time, there was a kid who viewed college as nothing more than a means to an end. As soon as he stepped foot on campus, he wanted to go home. He didn't want to meet new friends or make small talk with his classmates. All he wanted was to complete his work and escape the campus that made him feel awkward and uncomfortable.

The kid could have been the poster boy for the anti-social and relished the honor of being placed in such a position.

He continued this trend throughout the first semester of his sophomore year. Slipping in and out of class without so much as a word, hiding behind the music flowing from his iPod to his ears. Some may have characterized him as the angry, chip-on-the-shoulder brooder who hates the world and everything in it.

That assumption could not have been further from the truth. He didn't hate the people or the world around him, he made sure to be polite and respectful to all he came in contact with and would smile when something amused him.

He was happy in his sphere of reality. Or so he thought.

At the beginning of the second semester of his sophomore year, he found himself in Michael McGill's Advanced Print Journalism class. This wasn't the first time he had Professor McGill as a teacher—he took his Intro to Journalism class

and, even though he liked this McGill character, he didn't really know what to make of him. He was sort of a cartoon come to life, with his crazy hand movements and constant eye-rolling. But he was a good teacher and he would later become one of the kid's closest friends along with Daniel, tennis playing editor-in-chief and Reid, the crazy, maniacal sports editor. All of which shared his odd, sometimes warped, sense of humor.

He soon became a staff member of The Highland Cavalier. He was hired as feature editor and was expected to show up every Wednesday night to help put the paper together. Later the kid's dad would refer to his work as "putting the paper to bed," to which he would smile and respond: "Yeah, I guess so."

As each Wednesday came, the kid looked forward to working with his fellow editors until the early Thursday morning hours they all had grown accustomed to. With each Wednesday, he decided to open the door to his world a little more, until finally he stepped completely out of his protective bubble.

And after doing so, he found he didn't really need a sphere or bubble or any other circular-shaped protection unit.

He had finally found his niche, a niche that included a voice and friends who he thought he would never find. And he decided he would stay.

If you haven't guessed already, that kid's name is Aaron Collier, your friendly neighborhood feature editor.

From the time I walked on to this campus, I never thought I would dread leaving it behind. But the day I joined the staff of The Highland Cavalier, I knew that this piece you're reading now would be the hardest one I ever had to write.

Because this piece your reading now means no more Wednesday nights. No more cutting up on the "job." No more arguments about AP Style. No more all-nighters. No more looking forward to the middle of the week.

But with all that said, I know that I have gained so much more than having fun one night out of the week.

I've had an experience that I will never again. An experience that gave me a group of friends that allowed a short, pale, fuzzy-faced, sometimes obnoxious geek a way to escape his mundane college existence.

Friends that, unlike Wednesday nights, will always be there.

For everything The Highland Cavalier has given me, I say "thank you." To all the friends I have had the privilege to work with during my time here, thank you.

But most importantly, I would like to thank you, the reader, for allowing me to be your feature editor—for putting up with my constant barrage of reviews of bands that you've never heard of and for my unapologetic love of the comic medium. You've allowed me to serve as your editor and I hope I didn't disappoint.

Come on, Page 5. It's time for bed. And for me to say goodnight.

Election

Continued from page 1

that this year's election produced a strong group of executive board members, as all were returning to the positions they held this year.

She said that "Brannon, who was recently selected by the SGA as the Member of the Year for the second year in a row, has proved himself a strong, competent leader."

She said Parks has "proved himself as a strong leader with his own particular style of conducting business." And, Lawson and Tipton "bring both experience and knowledge to their offices."

Brannon said the SGA has

grown and strengthened itself this past year.

"As president I will work to expand the efforts and reputation of the SGA again next year," he said. "I feel confident in the returning members and the prospects I saw on the ballot."

Tipton said that he hopes next year will go as smoothly as this year has.

"We've figured out where to iron out our wrinkles," he said.

Worley said that next year's election process should run more smoothly.

"Next fall, elections will be conducted with the benefit of the new student information system, Jenzabar," she said.

She said that the SGA constitution and the election procedures were reviewed during a work session last winter.

"The results of that work session were the Amendments to the Constitution—both of which passed," she said. "Hopefully by next fall, the voting process will be refined so that more students will have easier access to online voting."

Lady Cavs start AAC Tourney off on the right foot

By Brittany Wichtendahl
Sports Editor
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The Lady Cavs softball team started the AAC tournament on Tuesday, April 28. The team played Tennessee Wesleyan, and won 1-0.

Junior Lauren Sneed, the conference's leader in strikeouts, allowed only two hits—a first inning double and a fifth inning single.

Sneed pitched her fifth shutout of the year, improving her record to 16-7. Sophomore Maddi Ridenour scored two singles while seniors Britney Lawson, Hannah Ellis and Mary Wilson each added a hit.

Head Coach Tori Raby-Gentry said the game against Tennessee Wesleyan was an important match up.

In the game against Wesleyan, "we faced the best pitcher other than our own in the conference," she said. "We showed a lot of improvement since the last time we faced her."

After the Lady Cavs defeated Tennessee Wesleyan, the team moved on to play King College on Wednesday.

King, which generally is regarded as the Lady Cavs' rival, was a "tough match" according to Raby-Gentry.

The Lady Cavs, however, came out on top and defeated the Lady Royals, 3-2.

Sneed again pulled out a victory for the team. She pitched the first five innings, allowing only one run, and earned her 17th win.

Sophomore Megan McCoy made her first save by pitching the last two innings.

Ellis singled twice and brought in the games deciding runs.

Raby-Gentry said based upon the games, the Lady Cavs need to work on offense.

"We've got to produce more runs," she said. "We are getting people on, but not scoring. On the upside, at one time we weren't even getting runners on [base]. We'll just keep trying."

As for the rest of the tournament, Raby-Gentry is confident in the player's abilities. She said she believes the team can make it to the end.

"All we have to do is take care of business and do the little things," she said. "As long as we score one more run than the other team, we're good."



Senior Hannah Ellis calls out to her fellow Lady Cavs after a play during the Tennessee Wesleyan game on April 28. The team won the game, 1-0.

This year, the team is losing six players to graduation, including Ellis, Lawson, Wilson, Bobbi Mihalarakis, Brittany Tunnell and Melanie Sutherland.

Raby-Gentry said she is grateful for their leadership on and off the field and that the six players will be missed.

"It has been an honor to coach such outstanding young ladies," she said. "We have had the best team chemistry this year of all my seasons here. They have been dedicated and played whatever role I have ever needed. They are true examples of team players. Individuals don't win games, teams do."

Cavs' tennis season ends at AAC tournament game against Covenant

By Kacie Jessee
Staff Writer
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The Cavs' men's tennis team ended its season Friday, falling to Covenant College 5-0 in the opening round of the AAC tournament in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Despite an overall record of 3-9, some players considered it to still be a productive season.

"Even though our record doesn't reflect a good season, we grew and that's a good thing," said junior Caleb Crowder.

Senior Daniel Robinson said he agreed that there were improvements made on the team throughout the season.

"It's always hard to have a season like we did," he said. "We didn't win a whole lot of matches, but I saw a lot of improvement out of the younger guys and that should be something they should be proud of."

However, the inexperience of young players was something the Cavs couldn't seem to completely eliminate this season.

Freshman Mark Collins said he didn't know how different playing in college would actually be until he got here.

"It's a much different style than in high school," Collins said. "The competition is tougher, there's more traveling, and even the way the matches are played is different."

But, the freshmen members of the team will now have an advantage as they go into next season, because they know what to expect from the other teams in the conference.

In order for the Cavs to improve before next season, many of the players said that practicing during the offseason was a necessity.

Lady Cavs wrap up season with loss

The Lady Cavs tennis team fell to Tennessee Wesleyan 5-1 Friday in an opening round loss in the AAC tournament in Chattanooga, Tenn. The Lady Cavs ended the season with a 4-8 record.

The sole win in the tournament came from the doubles team of freshmen Amario Kvammen and Jessica Campbell.

While the season's outcome was not what the team had hoped for, players agreed that they saw improvement.

"We worked hard and improved in the overall game," Campbell said.

In order to build momentum for next year, the freshmen members of the team said they know they will have to practice a lot in the offseason.

"I'll be working sooner and playing all summer to get better," said freshman Annie Fritz.

Not Just a Man's World

The final farewell

This is it, the last issue of the paper for this school year.

Under "normal" circumstances, I would talk about how this year has been a great one and how proud I am of all our sports teams.

But, the circumstances are anything but normal.

For those of you who haven't heard, I'm transferring to Old Dominion University. There are a lot of factors that made me decide to leave Wise, but overall, I'm leaving for my future.

So, while I was trying to decide what to write about, I found myself reflecting on the two years I've had here at Wise.

During my freshmen year, I clearly remember going to homecoming and instantly feeling a part of the college's campus.

I remember the run the football team made for the championship and how we were all excited when Ra'Shad Morgan started making his way towards beating the school's record.

Basketball games were a new thing, and I was amazed at how passionate the players were, and still are.

Then the spring came, bringing softball and baseball with it.

All of the sports teams were amazing last year, and this year wasn't any different.

With Randy Hippeard leading them, the Cavs football team again came close to winning the championship.

While the basketball teams struggled during their seasons, they still played hard and delivered exciting games.

The softball team hasn't disappointed. As it works toward the AAC Championship, there's no doubt in my mind that the players will put up a fight in every game they play.

The Cavs baseball team has also struggled this season, however today, they start the AAC tournament and hopes are high.

My job as sports editor has been harder than expected. But with the support that the newspaper staff as provided, I made it through the year.

Our faculty adviser, Michael McGill, has put up with my sometimes horrid writing, the lack of experience and all the other mishaps that we've run into this year.

I think I speak for pretty much the entire staff when I say that without him, we would be nowhere near the level expected of us.

Daniel Robinson, our editor-in-chief, has been amazing. He's been one of the most helpful during the whole learning stage. He's a huge asset to the paper and he'll be missed.

Allie Robinson, the managing editor, has also been helpful to me and the paper as a whole. She'll make a great editor-in-chief next year.

But McGill and the Robinsons aren't the only ones who have been there for me. As I said before, the whole staff has been awesome, and I can honestly say that a majority of them have become friends that I wish to keep for the rest of my life.

I'll miss Wise.

I'll miss the long Wednesday nights when the staff puts the newspaper together, I'll miss the sports teams, the professors, but most of all I'll miss the people.

Thanks, you guys.

You have no idea how much it has meant to me.



Brittany Wichtendahl
Sports Editor
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Quick Hits

Cavs tennis players honored by AAC

Four Cavs tennis players have been recognized by the AAC for achievements as both athletes and students.

Freshman Arnuad Ba and junior Caleb Crowder were given All-Conference honorable mention.

Senior Daniel Robinson and junior Randall Maddie achieved All-Academic Team status for their achievements

as students.

In order to reach this status, a student athlete must be successful in the classroom, sophomore status or above, a contributor to their athletic team, on pace to graduate and have a compiled 3.25 grade point average or higher.

Robinson was also awarded the Sportsman of the Year award.

Lady Cavs Lawson and Ridenour selected for AAC All-Conference team

Senior Britney Lawson and sophomore Maddi Ridenour have been selected to the AAC All-Conference team.

Both Lawson and Ridenour have been essential to the Lady Cavs, with each scoring three or more runs in the last five games.

Lawson and Ridenour will join 16 players from other colleges in the area on the All-Conference team.



Sophomore Maddi Ridenour



Senior Britney Lawson

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Best wishes,
Chancellor David J. Prior

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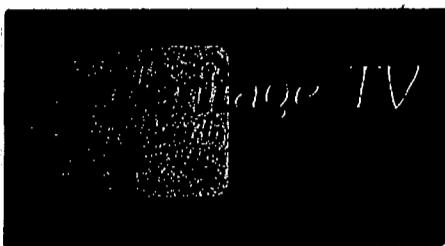
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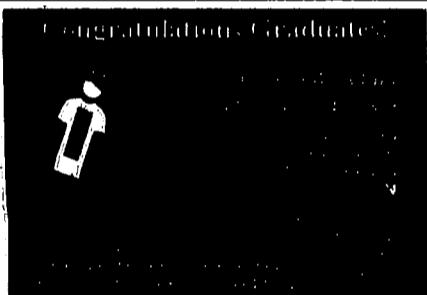
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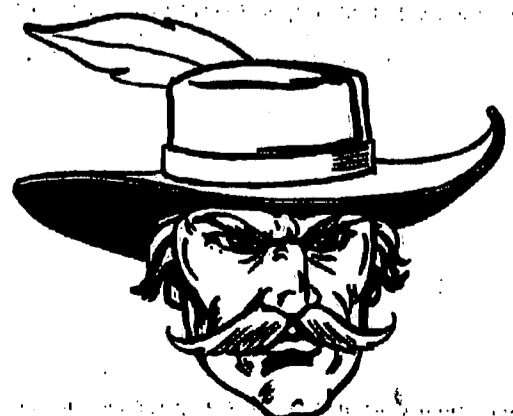
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